A cold something rested on his forehead, and Akiharu Hino opened his eyes.

As I move my hand in front of my face to take shelter from the glare of the sun shining through the open curtains, I notice that there is something other than hair.

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"Oh, ...... towels .....?"
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When I picked it up with my fingertips, I found a well-worn towel with little moisture on its forehead and a polka-dot pattern.

At about the same time I realized that it was not my own property, a figure stepped into view from the side.

I think it probably started with the towel being placed on me, so it's reasonable to nod back if that's what Daichi did.

But Akiharu didn't. Instead, he said, "Hey, it's already morning. It seems like it's a bad time to wake up anyway.

(alt: But instead of doing that, Akiharu said, "Well, it's already morning.) The bright February morning view from the window and the fact that Daichi has already changed into his school uniform make me feel that it is much later than I usually wake up.

So Akiharu quickly washed his face and tried to get up to get ready for the morning, but Daichi put his shoulder down with his hand.

..... Sleep and stay. You shouldn't get up yet.

(alt: "... Go to sleep. It's better not to wake up yet.") Yes?" You shouldn't be up, it's already past 7:30 at

I groped for the alarm clock by my bedside and found that I was in danger of missing breakfast if I stayed up too late.

As Akiharu casts a questioning glance at Daichi, Daichi holds his shoulder while holding out his other hand.

In his hand was a thermometer?

"Measure. If your fever is not down, I will not allow you to get up.

He gave it to me as if to force it on me.

Akiharu, who had been looking at the thermometer in his hand for several seconds, nodded his head and said that he should do as he was told.

Then, turn on the ear thermometer, and press it against the ear, presumably somewhere around here.

Immediately "beep".

The thermometer was in front of me at to check the temperature. Before I could see the display, the thermometer was snatched away from me by a large hand.

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"..... thirty octaves one minute ....."
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(alt: "... Thirty eight degrees one minute...") is surprisingly expensive."

Still, it is lower than yesterday, and my body is feeling better.

I don't seem to be coughing, and I'm a little lightheaded, but I don't have a headache either, so I think I can take regular classes other than physical education.

When Akiharu decided to get up and go to school, Daichi gave him a stern look.

"Rest today. I'll let the teacher know."

What?" No, I'm fine. As long as you don't do anything crazy, you can at least go to school. "It's absurd to work with that heat," he said. Although the fever has gone down a little, it doesn't mean that I am back to normal. In fact, your physical strength should be declining, so I think it will only get worse rather than better."

If you have a problem, you can go to the infirmary and ask for a rest if necessary. It's not enough to decide to take a day off from the beginning.

I'm going to fall down again like I did yesterday."

The one word that interrupts our words makes Akiharu unable to respond in any way.

He is right when he says that the eye of Daichi is serious and will not yield a single inch of ground.

Especially when you bring up yesterday's abomination, any words you have to say are less convincing than flimsy paper.

In addition, there is a slight sense of déjà vu in this exchange.

You're on the wrong side of

Yes, that's right. "Yes, you should think back to what I said to you before I collapsed, and tell yourself that.

The day Daichi fell ill and collapsed in class is still fresh in our minds.

After all the nagging and lecturing I had done at the time, there seemed to be no point in blustering and bluffing.

So Akiharu let out a deep sigh of resignation and said, "........... I have no choice, or" Drop the head into the pillow and reposition the misaligned towel.

This is the first time I've called in sick since transferring to Hakuryo. But after thinking about it, after what happened yesterday, I'm a little hesitant to go to school.

(alt: It's the first time I've taken sick leave since I moved to the White Mausoleum, but... when I thought about it, I was a little hesitant about going to school because of what happened yesterday.) "Oh,, how can this be happening?"

"...... I don't give a shit, you idiot."

(alt: "... you know, you idiot.") When his roommate's bitterly harsh words came back to his unintentionally leaked mutter, Akiharu let out a big sigh.

Then, without saying it out loud, I whisper it in my heart.

I guess that was the result of yesterday's incident.

What does that mean?

With no service activities scheduled, the lunch break, which should have been a leisurely and relaxing time, turned out to be a very tense one.

She was called to the Director's office by an announcement right after the end of the class, and was made to stand upright in front of Fukayoshi, who was dressed in an indigo maid's uniform.

I don't know, so I don't know what's going on either. It's too obvious.

(alt: "Well, that's why I don't really understand either...it's too obvious, what's going on...") The explanation is not clear. "It's not an explanation.

"That's what they say, right?"

Although I am a party to this, I am the one who was set up, so I do not know enough about the process to be able to give a detailed explanation.

If or something like that were perfect, I wouldn't be so worried.

If I hadn't been called away, I probably wouldn't have been able to have a leisurely lunch. This morning's events were so shocking that my appetite has vanished.

And since I'm sure the girls I know and the whole obedience department would have been asking a lot of questions, it was nice to have a reason to run away from the teacher's call. (alt: Besides, I was bombarded with questions from my acquaintances and people in the secondary school, so in that sense I was glad that I had a reason to run away from being summoned by a teacher.) Well, that's good. Let's just say it here and now. Sensei, I've been curious about you ever since I heard the rumor!

..... Well, there is one person here who is no different from an onlooker.

Leaning over a large desk that has a strong presence in the spacious room, the president of the board of directors, JiFeng TianYao, is gleaming with excitement, which she does not try to hide.

His behavior made me wonder if he is really the same age as Fukayasu.

They look like they could pass for high school students without even trying very hard. Unless you are dressed in a neat white ladies' suit, you are a minor in the prime of your life. Oh my, Akiharu-san is such a puller, isn't he? Since you called me up here, please tell me information that even those in the know don't know.

..... Correction, not only in appearance, but also in mind.

Or perhaps he was summoned because of gossip about the president?

When Akiharu was coiled up in an uncontrollable knot, he said, "....., Mr. President, I'm so happy to see you here. Please keep your playfulness to that level."

I saw Shinka glare at Kaede through her silver-framed glasses before turning her gaze back to me and slowly opening her light red lips.

It is no one else who has called you. I'm calling you to see if you have a clear picture of what's going on, and to give you some advice."

"Shinkansan, Shinkansan, don't worry about that.

After another sharp glare, the president became frightened and hid under his desk, leaving no one to interrupt the conversation.

However, the situation is not at all reassuring, so Akiharu pulls herself together and asks a teacher of obedience in a maid's uniform.

Just to clarify, this has to do with this morning, right? Yes, it is.

Fukakan gave a small nod, and with her usual ice-cold expression, she said, "This morning, Ms. Hino confessed her feelings to Tomomi Saikyo.

He casually mentioned an incident that he wanted to forget but could not.

Tomomi's action happened too early in the morning, when less than half of the students were still in the classroom.

I don't think that Tomomi would kiss me without even looking me in the eye and ask me to go out with her.

I had never expected to be told that I had to do something like this.

If it was just the two of them, it could have been a joke, but since they were acting in front of their classmates, it was probably serious.

But it's not easy for Akiharu to accept that Tomomi really wants to go out with him.

As I said before, I really don't know what this means. That's right, I was getting along well with Tomomi, but I never imagined that she would confess to me.

(alt: "... Like I said earlier, I really don't know what's going on. Well, I thought I was on good terms with Tomomi, but I never imagined that he would confess to me...") You and Saikyo have known each other since childhood, haven't you? It's not like you've liked each other for a long time, is it?"

No, not at all. To them, I think it was and always will be a toy that they can make fun of."

But - I wouldn't confess to someone like that, would I?

It's quite natural for Kaede to say that, and Akiharu can't help but keep his mouth shut.

Since the confession in the morning, I had not had time to talk with Tomomi, so it was painful that I could not confirm her true intentions.

Well, it seems that up until now, even if I hadn't been called away, I wouldn't have had time to talk with them during my lunch break.

Tomomi was surrounded by a group of girls from the upper school education department every time she had a break, and since she felt like they were casually avoiding her, she would probably not be able to talk to them until after school at the earliest.

And is not the only problem with Tomomi.

Rumors were spreading everywhere, and even upperclassmen were looking at her with great interest when she moved to a special classroom, and some of the conversations were even overheard by Akiharu herself.

Apparently, there is a rumor going around that Tomomi Saikei has confessed to an obedience student.

There was one more thing that seemed to have contributed to the speed at which rumors were spreading.

I don't know how many rumors have reached the teachers, but the excited Chancellor seems to have forgotten her earlier fears and slumps down on her desk, "Also, there are eyewitnesses who say that Ms. Selnia was going to give you something like chocolate before you confessed to her. What's going on over there?"

"..... What do you mean, what do you mean?"

So, you see, it was like, "Which do you take? Or maybe you two were already together, and then he confessed to you and things got messy. Or maybe they were already in a relationship, and then he confessed his feelings for her, and things got messy?

You sound happy about it, but honestly, I want to say what's going on.

Especially the second one.

I don't know how you heard it, but that's not what happened. I don't know how you heard it, but that's not how it works. What's with this two-dimensional world that's invaded your head so much?

I'm not sure what you're talking about, Akiharu-san. If it was the game you were playing yesterday, the two of you would be having a field day in the gym equipment warehouse by now, right?"

You are the one who should be asking, "What are you talking about? Don't you dare say that educators should be talking about things that go beyond the bottom of the ocean and straight into the deep sea!"

Akiharu lets out a loud exhale of protest.

You're hopeless, Mr. Chairman.

Not as an adult or a teacher or anything like that, but as a person.

I'll let the president reflect on this later, but let's move on to the main issue. Is that all right with you?"

I'm sure you're right," he said. If I keep talking, I'm going to have to start my afternoon class." (alt: "... That's right. Afternoon classes are about to start if we're talking lazily.") There was plenty to say, but Akiharu nodded his head and said, "I'll let it slide.

Kaede, who had been laughing, said, "....., you should be very careful to reflect on what you've done, Fukakanchan!?"

I could see the anxiety quickly fading, which made me feel a little better about the situation.

Fukakan, who adjusted the position of his silver-framed spectacles as if to rearrange them, looked at Akiharu, completely ignoring the questioning gaze of the board chairperson.

"To summarize the facts, there are three points. "The first is that he asked me to go out with him, and the second is that I have not yet given him a reply.

Is there anything else?"

The third point is that - "there is already a rumor spreading in the academy".

"Oh, I see,, does that matter?"

Not only first-year students, but also upperclassmen, and even Kinkan and Kaede knew about it, so it must be well known by now.

However, less than ten people actually witnessed the event, and it is only a rumor that is circulating.

It doesn't mean anything has happened yet.

So, while it's not a problem for her to have a problem with the confession, Akiharu frowns because she doesn't understand the reason why Mikanaka would go to the trouble of mentioning it.

Perhaps anticipating our reaction to some extent, he wrinkled his brow slightly as if he had no choice but to say, "Now that the rumors have already spread, we can expect a chain of rumors that will spread again, as you and I attract attention just by being together.

"Oh, what? It's not that big of a deal, is it?"

I think that's true for normal high school students," he said. However, here at Hakuryo, Mr. Hino is one of the few male students in the school, and he is an education student. He would be perfect material for a topic of conversation.

When told, Akiharu finally understood.

Tomomi is a young lady in the upper secondary education course and I am a student in the lower secondary education course.

There is an overwhelming disparity in the number of students who cannot be grouped together.

A luxury sports car and a hand-pushed rear-wheel-drive car, both wheeled companions.

The difference is just as great as the fact that no one will ever be convinced by your insistence that you are a good person.

Of course, Akiharu personally does not have a mean attitude just because he is an obedience student, and he has no intention of humbling himself to upperclassmen in situations unrelated to class or service activities.

..... but I can at least understand what the problem is.

Tomomi Saikyo, who has a strong presence among the first-year students in the upper secondary education course, confessed her feelings to Hino, a student in the pre-school education course. And since a conclusion was not reached on the spot, there will be a lot of attention on what will happen next. I don't think it will come to an end, at least not within the third semester."

To or

Yes. And this should not be a topic that is whispered only among the students. It will probably leak out to the outside world within the next day or two, and parents and other well-heeled members of the upper class will find out. Unfortunately, there is no point in gagging a topic like this."

"And it's not pointless, is it? I mean, there are going to be guys who say it because they can't stand it, but it's better to than to do nothing at all."

No, I'm sure.

(alt: "No, you're right.") In response to our argument, Fukayoshi quietly shakes his head. Moreover, his usual expressionless face breaks down, and his eyes are downcast, as if he is laboring over something.

Oh, that's right, that happened in our generation, too. Mr. Kasagi and Ms. Shinozuka attempted to elope, and all the parents knew about it the next day. It was nostalgic, wasn't it?

I'm sorry to be so emotional, but teacher-student elopement? That's a big problem."

It was an attempt, so it shouldn't have been such a big deal. The elopement took place in a car they used to use, and the driver, who I guessed was on the lookout for them, made the call, and the getaway was over in a little over an hour.

..... what a mess. at least use the train."

(alt: "... what a waste... at least use the train.") Since both of them were rich young ladies, they didn't know how to buy a ticket or how to recharge their electronic money. Even though they can go to Nakano and Akihabara by train, there are many people who can't afford to buy a ticket.

Is that again, miss? Both of them?"

On the one hand, a girl with hair as soft as cotton candy and a lovely figure, and on the other, a tall, long-haired beauty. They were a good couple, even to the casual observer.

I thought it was a male teacher who couldn't take it anymore, but it turned out to be a shocking same-sex development.

And considering the fact that it was a poorly executed fugitive drama, it seems likely that even though it was a scandal, it would not become that big a problem.

..... and my personal impression is, "Hakuryo has always been such a chaotic school. I'm not sure I'd be able to do that.

(alt: I don't know what to do.) Anyway, you said that there was a gag order on the rumors, but they quickly spread outside of the university?

It's "It's me, yo. I didn't tell anyone, probably because I didn't have any friends outside.

The next time the president made a light remark, a fountain pen was thrown at him instead of a glare.

He was also sloppily resting his chin on the desk, his jaw tip stinging.

Kaede hides behind the desk three times, but Akiharu, who was watching her, is also quite scared.

Because both of them were in my line of sight, I could only see a slight movement of their right hands when Fukagan threw the ball.

How skilled are you at assassination if you can make a fountain pen fly like a lightning bolt with such a move?

Of course, the reason why Akiharu is scared is because he may have to accept the fountain pen without intimidation, depending on how this conversation goes.

I suddenly felt more tense and even had a mild headache.

However, I know that I will not be allowed to leave this meeting because I am not feeling well, so I have no choice but to be careful not to make any careless remarks.

Moreover, it is difficult to make a good case for the fact that even if they can come up with the right lines, as soon as they realize that they are just talking, they will be turned into a fountain pen stand.

As Akiharu prepared himself for an attack, Kikan said to him in a chilling voice, "I'm not going to let you do this to me.

Let's go back to There is no stopping rumors from leaking out of Hakuryo. And if it ends up being just a confession, but if it turns out to be a relationship, parents and alumni will not remain silent.

"So that's how it's going to be, huh?"

"It's a bit of a guess, but I'm pretty sure."

When Fukayoshi, who seems sharper than a great detective, says it, it has the power to convince us that it must be true.

This is a far cry from the President, whose head is sticking out from behind his desk, watching the situation from behind the desk.

So, in case this becomes a problem of such magnitude that it threatens the very existence of the Department of Education, please contact us at

(alt: "In the unlikely event that it becomes a big problem that affects the continuation of the secondary education course...") ".........."

(alt: \(\cap{\chi}\)....\) The tone of his voice did not change, but because of the content, it became more serious, and Akiharu unconsciously bit his back teeth.

If this happens, it should be addressed before it happens, rather than at

Of course, the least damaging method of detachment is the best.

Then, just as Akiharu began to think about what choice he should take before such a thing happens.

"Ah, you don't have to worry about it, do you, Akiharu-san?"

The voice sounded so cheerful, so light that I didn't feel the weight of any responsibility at all.

The speaker was, of course, the board chairman, and Akiharu stared at Kaede as if she were an idiot.

There is no reason to think that we don't have to worry about it.

Kaede smiled shyly and said, "I think that the true purpose of a student is to learn, play, and fall in love. They are also students, and it's wrong for adults to stop them or complain about them.

..... But isn't that impossible at Hakuryo?"

Tomomi's parents may not have said anything, but other parents may have said, "If the same thing happens to my daughter, I'm not going to let it happen to you."

There should be a possibility of transferring them to a different school because they think that they are not good enough.

Hakuryo's brand image and the trust it has built up over the years may all fall to the ground at once.

Even Kaede should know what Akiharu is worried about, no matter how crazy she is.

And yet, in his usual light tone, he said, "But you see, I am the current president of the board. As for the request for my resignation, there probably isn't anyone who could have the guts to do such a thing while your grandmother is still alive.

Is that because named you?"

I think it's because my grandmother would not be opposed to it. The coeducation and education systems were started at the request of your grandmother. Right, Fuka-chan?, and that's the extent of the problem we've factored in."

When asked by Kaede, Fukaba nodded her head gravely.

Of course, this is not recommended. It's just not something that teachers and management should be moving on.

"....., is that right?"

Yes. If this is an impure sexual relationship, which is unbecoming of a minor, that's a different story, but if it's just to have a relationship, we'll tolerate it. There is no prohibition of male-female relationships in the school rules.

"Yeah, because it's a prestigious school, right? You're supposed to have that kind of thing."

When Akiharu raised his voice at this very unexpected fact, the chairman of the board of directors, who is famous for being a very useless person, began to give an enthusiastic explanation.

It was a prestigious girl's school, so it's not here. In the past, nearly half of the students had wives as a matter of course. So, on the contrary, that kind of thing was not mentioned in the school rules.

When you put it that way, it makes sense somehow.

The word "muddy the waters" is perfect for this kind of situation.

It is safe to leave it in the gray zone without going into it too deeply.

However, this led to one thing that became even more confusing, and Akiharu frankly voiced his doubts.

"So what is this case you were talking about earlier about 'a major problem that could affect the survival of the Department of Education'?"

The ethical problem is that a male student has impregnated a female student, or is found to be in a relationship with more than one student at the same time. This is outrageous and, of course, the responsibility will be placed on the parties involved.

At this, his eyes turn cold.

Akiharu's back stiffened reflexively, but he immediately shook his head and said, "No, wait, I wouldn't do that, would I? I mean, it's too extreme!

I'm sure it's not necessarily because they're men and women of your age. Especially in Ms. Hino's case, the risk is high, including the potential risk.

(alt: "Since they're men and women of their age, it's not necessarily impossible, right? Especially in Mr. Hino's case, the risk is high, including latent parts.") "What's my reputation at?"

I heard that Flameheart almost received a gift from you as well. I can't ignore the many other rumors that have circulated about his relationships with other women."

Oh, by the way, last year, there is a rumor that they got lost in the snowy mountains and had a classic warming-up session.

Five fountain pens were thrust in front of him, and the president hid, restoring peace.

..... But if you look closely, you will notice that Fukayoshi's face is unusually a little red.

Her frozen, blank expression is her default, but I think she is a bit of a novice, and since she grew up in an all-girls' school and has little experience with men, she probably can't hide her embarrassment.

The gap between her and the other students is quite cute, but if she is found to have a guilty conscience, she may be forced to work so hard that she will lose her life, not to mention her troubles, in the next class.

Anyway...

He put his hand over his mouth as if he was clearing his throat to make up for it, and then he gave Akiharu a slightly less intense look than usual. It does not mean that she will be expelled directly because of it. However,"

"..... However?"

The results will tarnish Hakuryo's name to a greater or lesser degree. In that case, as a penalty, Mr. Hino will not be allowed to attend school or graduate with a half-paragraph grade.

"Well,, what does that mean?"

If you are going to be in a relationship while in school, you need to be prepared for that. The minimum requirements are to be in the top five in the regular school year and in the top three in the subjects of education at

Hearing these very harsh figures, Akiharu's brow wrinkles involuntarily.

"....., isn't that pretty tight?"

Of course. If you can't do that, you can't show the other students and other people involved what you can do. In fact, this is still a very generous offer.

And then he said, "Well, that's fair."

He added, "I am not a fan of the "new" way of doing things.

If you can have a relationship without anyone knowing about it, that's fine., but that may not be possible under your current situation. So, please think about it carefully.

(alt: "If you can have a relationship without anyone knowing, then that's fine.... However, in Hino-san's situation, it's already impossible. So, please think carefully.") "Think, or"

In other words, it's easy to say, "He confessed to me, so we're going out just to try it out. The "don't do anything like that," he said.

However, Akiharu could not nod his head in agreement.

I appreciate the advice, and I am even a little impressed by the determination on the part of the academy to take the risk.

Normally, there is no way they would go that far.

The reason we still can't shake our heads is simple. The bottom line is that we don't have a clear idea of what we want to do.

(alt: Even so, it's a simple story that I can't shake my head... The point is, I haven't decided what to do.) I am going to leave it at for now. If you have any questions or concerns,

please visit the Preparation Room in the next room, or if they are not there, please ask them to call me from the office or staff room. Are you ready?

Oh," he said. I'll try not to forget.

I hurriedly responded to the confirmation, but they probably saw right through me.

I was thinking about my own hesitation, immaturity, and many other things.

Akiharu again thanked the teacher in the maid's outfit, saying that he was truly sorry for all the trouble he had caused.

Still, the shadow of the confession issue, which had been cheerfully jumping back and forth from one corner of my head to the other, flickered and throbbed in my temples.

I am so disappointed that I have to work so hard in order to live up to the adults who are so tolerant of me.

After leaving the chancellor's office after lowering his head, Akiharu decided that he could no longer act in an uncool manner and thought hard without eating lunch, and then attended his afternoon class.

The first thing that comes to mind is what happened yesterday, and Akiharu twisted around in bed.

"...... I never thought I'd have to get ugly so soon...... huh"

I let out a sigh for the umpteenth time since this morning, and look at my alarm clock: it's already lunchtime.

I had a shift at the cafeteria today, but Daichi is going to take over for me.

I am truly indebted to Daichi for all the help I have received.

In the mornings, he would stay up until the very last minute to take care of me, and I was seriously considering taking the day off to take care of him.

I felt bad asking him to go that far, and although his head was foggy and his body was heavy, it wasn't as painful as it could have been, so I asked him to go to school.

Yesterday, even though I collapsed, I woke up immediately and was able to walk to the infirmary on my own, even though I had an escort.

The health doctor told me that "poor physical condition and fatigue were the main causes." I was told that I was not sick in any particular way.

Well, I was warned to be careful because it is easy to catch a cold or other illness when one's strength is low, so I guess it's a good thing I took this break.

In fact, I think my body needs rest because it has been taking several dozes and naps in the morning, even though I am not particularly sleepy.

I've had a lot of trouble sleeping lately, you know.

(alt: "I haven't been able to sleep much lately...") Muttering, recalling the specifics from when it started, Akiharu scratches her head in her sleep.

I can't believe that before the problem of Selnia's confession is solved, there will be another one of the same kind.

It is too much beyond the realm of expectation.

There are limits to the human imagination.

"Even if it's, since when did Tomomi's guy start?"

Even if you mutter in a room where only you are present, you will not get an answer, but since you probably cannot ask the person in question, you will have to figure it out on your own.

It's not something you can just talk to someone about and figure it out.

It's a bit of a misnomer to say, but it's been a while since I've had such a relaxing weekday afternoon, and it's a good opportunity to collect my thoughts.

If I continue as I am now, I may not be able to sleep for a while and then fall ill and collapse again, which would be endless.

So Akiharu looked up at the unlit lamp and placed the back of his left hand on his forehead, recalling the face of his childhood friend whom he had reunited with at Hakurei Ling.

I don't dislike Tomomi, and she's one of the few people I can easily go out with. If she had confessed to me in a different situation, I'm not sure, but I think I'd be about 70% sure of it. (alt: —— I don't hate Tomomi, and she's one of the few people I can get along with easily, and if she had confessed to me in a different situation... I'm not sure, but I feel like 70% of the time it would be okay.) There are many reasons for the 30% margin. Well, I don't have a quick answer.

(alt: There are various reasons for the 30% margin... well, but is there an immediate answer?) I could believe it because it was a surprise attack in public like that, but if it wasn't, I would definitely be suspicious of it.

And the reason I can't give you an easy answer right now is because there is another person who has already confessed to me.

However, Selnia says, "I like it."

However, no specific request has been made.

If you were able to get Valentine's Day chocolates yesterday, something may have happened then, but it is too late to tell.

It doesn't really matter whether he confessed first or not, or whether his request is clear or not. should have nothing to do with that, but I'm still curious about it.

(alt: It doesn't really matter if it's because he confessed to me first, or because it's a clear request, but it doesn't really matter.) It is too difficult to know what criteria to use to make a choice.

"....., oh, the fever's going to rise again."

(alt: "... Ah, it looks like my fever is going up again.") Even putting aside Shinkan's advice, it was a very difficult task.

I am so worried that the high fever that started yesterday might be a form of wisdom fever.

The towel that Daichi had left for me before I left for school and the ice pack that was tucked into it had long since become warm.

To cool it down, you have to do something on your own.

Well, it's not like I can't get up, and it's almost time for lunch.

I'm not too hungry, but I need to eat and sleep to get back in shape.

While pulling on a shirt to change his underwear, which was a little sticky with sweat, Akiharu sat down on the side of the bed and lowered his legs to make sure he wasn't wobbling

I heard the door of the room open with a bang.

Aki, Hal, are you there? How are you feeling?

Hey, Pina? Why"

Of course I came to visit you!

You put your hands on your hips like a big shot, but that's not what I'm asking.

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As Akiharu was being convinced, Pina came into the room without hesitation and sat dowr on the bed as if she were diving into the bed. Can you eat the gifts I brought for you?

Well, it's not that bad but that thing you're holding in your hand is inedible."

"No, why? Can't you accept my feelings for you?

I asked him, "How can you eat potato chips when you're not feeling well? And I haven't eaten anything since this morning. It's going to upset my stomach."

I don't think that potato chips would be a good idea as a gift for a friend, let alone for a visit to a friend's house.

(alt: Or rather, putting aside the presents that come to visit, I don't think potato chips are the kind of gift I'd like to give as a visit.) I guess she brought her favorite item because it has a cartoon character printed on it, but has this little girl not learned from yesterday's Valentine's Day chocolate debacle?

Since the feeling is appreciated, Akiharu accepts the bag of sweets for the time being, gets up and puts it on his desk.

"At this hour, you haven't had lunch yet, have you? If you don't mind eating at the school cafeteria, would you like to join us?"

Noooooo is it okay if I wake up? You'd better rest now, okay?

I'm feeling better, and I don't have to go out in the cafeteria, so I should be fine. Besides, I need to eat something to take my medicine.

"Well, in that case, I'll leave you in my company."

Pina then stands up with great energy.

Akiharu, wearing a knit parka over his nightgown, puts his cell phone in his pocket and is ready to go.

If Daichi contacts us, we'll be fine.

Well, then, let's go.

Mm-hmm. We must go before we are disturbed.

Oh. Wait. What do you mean, "disturbing?"

It's a strange way of putting it, since such a thing would not normally be included.

In response to our question, Pina folds her arms with an expression of some difficulty.

On the way here. I saw it.

Did you see?"

There were no special hints, but I had a bad premonition, and Akiharu's cheeks tensed up a bit as she asked.

Pina nodded her head, as if to say, "Tomomi and Selnia. They've been talking, and if the rumors are to be believed, well, it may not be all quiet and safe."

The report that the fever seemed to rise even more, and Akiharu was almost dizzy on his feet.

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..... So, what's your plan?
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Selnia's first question was a cold glare at the person who had stopped her and brought her to the unpopular flower garden.

While most opponents would be intimidated or distraught by this, Tomomi Saikei's clear smile at the sight of her eyes makes Selnia's frustration grow.

The commoner, who collapsed yesterday afternoon and was unable to talk to me after all, is taking today off to take care of an important matter, so after the morning classes, I headed to the school dormitory immediately On the way there, Selnia was approached by Tomomi.

I don't think they were chasing after me, but rather that they were probably aiming for the same place.

Normally, I would say, "I'd like to talk to you about something, but would you like to talk to me over there?"

When asked to speak, they simply say, "If you have something to say, talk here.

The reason I went all the way with her was because I had something to tell her that she didn't want people to hear.

So I ask again, a little more forcefully than before.

"You have something to tell me, don't you? If you're going to act like you don't have anything better to do, I'll be on my way.

"Oh, my God, which way? Are you at Akiharu-kun's place, by any chance?

..... This is the first one.

As usual, the manner of provocation is disgusting.

He must have been convinced, the way he said it.

This is a common occurrence in social gatherings, but it is rare for a student of Hakuryo's age to be able to behave in such an appropriate manner.

It was frustrating, but she knew that if she got angry, she would just give them what they wanted, so she put her hands on her hips and responded to Tomomi with an air of dignity.

Yes, it is. I'm going to see what kind of an abomination you are, since you seem to be in such a miserable state.

I was like, "Well, is that so? But even so, Akiharu-kun works out regularly and has good self-control, and yet he collapses. What is the cause, I wonder?

Not the shock of being confessed to in public by someone somewhere?

Tomomi's smile does not waver as she replies with her best effort at sarcasm.

He looked pleased with our words and said, "That may be one of the reasons, but I think you have been in a bad mood for a long time.

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"..... from earlier?"
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Yes. Maybe half a month ago.

.....!"

Selnia almost let out an audible gasp when she heard this.

I know exactly when Tomomi mentioned it.

About half a month ago, that is, from the end of January to the beginning of February.

I told Akiharu Hino, "Yes, that was right after Ms. Selnia confessed her feelings to Akiharu-kun, wasn't it?

The same voice, the same sudden words, shocked Selnia, as if she had been grabbed by the heart.

"Hey, how did you know about?

As soon as he asks a question, he tries to close in, but his legs don't move well, and he takes only one step forward.

It was fortunate that I was wearing leather shoes for school.

If I had been wearing high-heeled shoes, which I usually prefer, I probably would have fallen down.

It was as if my body was a different person and I had no freedom.

It is the thoughts that are confused.

Questions and doubts are swirling around me, and I can't really sort them out.

I have never told anyone about my confession, so how could they know about it? And she is right in front of me.

I don't think it's possible, but I heard that Akiharu was asking for advice or something and said, "Oh, I want to tell you first so you don't misunderstand me. I don't think even Akiharu-kun would be that careless."

As if to pierce a nail, he says at the right moment, "Did you read my mind?

Normally, I would have been offended by this behavior, as if he had everything under control. However, for the time being, Selnia regains some of her composure, as if she had been spared from the stimulus.

..... Yes, you have to calm down.

Tomomi Saikei is on the other end of the line, and if she is allowed to pick up the pace in a situation where she doesn't even know what her objective is, she will probably be pushed into a corner.

With a short white breath, Selnia folded her arms, not wanting to let her upset show any further.

Then how do you know? I haven't told anyone.

It's easy. I just happened to be passing by that day.

..... Hm. What a nasty coincidence.

(alt: "... Huh. It must have been an unpleasant coincidence.") Selnia replied sarcastically, but inwardly her heart was burning like a well-dried dead leaf on fire.

I'm so embarrassed that you saw my confession, which is almost the same as if I had said it on the spur of the moment, without thinking.! I'm not sure what to do with the money, but I'm not sure what to do with the money I've got.

(alt: —— It's embarrassing to have been watched a confession that is almost the same as a confession that I just said without thinking because of the momentum...! The embarrassment and regret that welled up when I was alone after confessing came back to life.) You could have chosen more graceful and acceptable words to express your feelings. That was a threat of sorts.

(alt: I should have been able to convey my feelings more elegantly, choosing words that would be easily accepted by the other person... but that was a kind of threat.) Or, it could have been taken as hysteria, I thought.

I don't understand the meaning of confessing to someone but not confirming their feelings or telling them what you want to do.

It was enough to make me wonder if it was really a confession.

At least none of the confession scenes in poetry books or movies were such a hit-and-run, throwaway affair.

The reason is that Selnia was not able to see Akiharu's face for a while, and in the end was unable to move until Valentine's Day,....., but she was seen.

...... was seen in such an abomination! I don't know the full extent of his confession, because I didn't hear everything from where I was.

(alt: I was being seen in such an abomination! "--Of course, I wasn't able to hear everything from where I was, so I don't know the full extent of the confession.") "Is that so?" Yes. I'm not sure if it's a good idea or not, but I'm sure it's a good idea. So, please don't worry, okay?"

"...."

(alt: ".....") He smiles at me and says a few unnecessary things.

Although I was angry, I still felt a little relieved, and I might dig a grave if I deny it badly.

So, I put my hands folded over my arms with enough force to make it hurt, and endure. We must be patient here. We must be patient.

I had a lot to think about because I witnessed such an extraordinary scene, even if it was only by chance. There was also the matter of the Christmas Eve ball.

"..... huh?"

Selnia, who had been trying as hard as she could to keep her facial expressions and emotions as blank as possible, heard something that she couldn't miss.

Last year's Christmas Eve Ball was both my birthday and the day of my pre-college exam.

On a day that was complicated for both good and bad, Tomomi was the chosen one.

Thinking that was what she was referring to, Selnia was slightly offended, but the next line she heard caused her to raise an eyebrow.

I don't want to make excuses, but I didn't know that Selnia was helping Akiharu-kun with his education exams. If I had known, I wouldn't have made such a tactless intervention."

"What does mean?"

As a result, I was chosen as the test partner. However, I think the reason why Ms. Selnia was not chosen by Akiharu-kun, who values gratitude and duty, is because she made a fair judgment based on the test subject, not on her feelings.

(alt: "In the end, I was the one who was chosen as the partner for the exam. It's because I made the right decision... I guess.") Selnia's surprise was almost palpable at how smoothly she spoke.

I am amazed that you can think so clearly.

Selnia is amused by Tomomi's analysis, which should have been negative for her, but she says, "That's why it's not an advantage for me. I was so embarrassed by my impolite behavior that I thought I would have to cancel the ball if it weren't for the exam. I am so sorry to Ms. Selnia and Mr. Akiharu for what I did to, but I am sorry now."

This time, Selnia could not hide her surprise at the unexpected apology, and her mouth dropped open.

Considering our track record, I'm tempted to think there's more to it than meets the eye, but I can't do anything about it because I know from the look of regret on your face that you really mean what you say.

As her surprise faded, she felt a sense of apology, and bit her lower lip lightly.

I'm sure it was unintentional, but I can't help but be sloppy in my tone, which makes it more difficult than usual.

(alt: I don't know if it was intentional, but it's unavoidable that it's making things more difficult than usual.) It's really too late for that. It's really too late to apologize for something that happened last year and has already passed.

Maybe so. But now is the time to apologize.

"What do you mean by?"

I was more wary of Selnia, wondering if she was up to something, when she asked, "Didn't I tell you the last time Selnia stayed over at my house?"

Tomomi Ayao put a faint smile back on her face and said without changing her tone of voice. "If you have something you really can't pass up, you don't hold back."

"..... What's wrong with that?"

If I don't make a clear distinction within myself, I feel guilty and hesitate.

Selnia's brow furrows as she doesn't quite understand the indirect implication.

It's not the first time that she's been talking in a clumsy manner, but since I can't clearly see her intention to tease me, I can't get mad at her this time.

While Selnia kept her mouth shut, Tomomi suddenly turned her head down and kept her face down.

I was so upset when I saw her confessing her feelings to me. I was wondering what Akiharu-kun was going to do, what Selnia wanted to do, and what I should do.

What do you mean by "..... 'inadvertently'?"

If you had heard her confession, the best thing to do would have been to act without hesitation. The words come back to me without hesitation and without looking down.

We didn't reach a conclusion on the spot," he said. Akiharu-kun seemed confused and I don't think Selnia will make her next move in the next day or two. So, taking advantage of the gap was definitely the best move I could have made. I was sure of it.

(alt: "At the time, no conclusion had been reached. Akiharu-kun seemed to be perplexed, and if Selnia-san is like that, I don't think he'll take the next action tomorrow or the day after tomorrow. If that's the case, then there's no doubt that taking advantage of that gap and making a move was the best move I could have taken as I was late to the game.... I was convinced of that.") Then why didn't you go to?"

Selnia naturally questioned the plan, which was the complete opposite of what she had done on the spur of the moment.

Yesterday's thing was quite serious, but if they had acted behind the scenes as they did, the results might have been more troubling.

...... I don't know what exactly will be the problem, because I don't want to imagine it.

(alt: I don't know what the problem is, because I don't want to imagine it specifically.)

Selnia was clenching her back teeth to keep her cheeks from twitching at the extremely complex and ambiguous feeling, when a voice came through and naturally drew her attention.

That's why I got lost. I wondered if it was really the right thing to do."

I don't understand what means.

One of them is the ball I mentioned earlier. I did not know that I had done it, but I did it, and now I have the audacity to knowingly intervene.

(alt: "To make it easy to understand, one is the matter of the ball I mentioned earlier. Although I didn't know about it, I imitated it, and this time it was shameful to consciously throw a side spear." Is it okay to...") Tomomi looks up and keeps her gaze on the ground.

And the other reason is that I could not find the determination and commitment to go that far.

I don't really know what it is, but is it necessary? I don't know, but do you need it?

Yes, for me. I'm not as honest as Selnia, so I can't help but think in a twisted way. So I couldn't make a move until I was sure if I really liked him or if I wanted to go out with him.

..... it is

(alt: "...... that is......") Selnia's eyes widen sharply as she mutters, "I'm not sure what I'm supposed to be doing here.

(alt: Muttering, Selnia sharpened her eyes.) Although I was almost confused by the difficult topic, I got the gist of it from the last word.

So you mean to say that you've decided you want to hang out with those folks?"

That's why I'm going to throw in a word of confirmation.

This may be too late to make sense of it, but just in case.

Tomomi looks up, looks straight at me, smiles, and says, "No, I'm not.

I was not expecting that he would deny it.

This stunned Selnia.

I don't understand the meaning of shaking one's head here when the conversation should have been in that vein.

"So, why?"

I don't actively want to be in a relationship. I don't want to be in a relationship with him. but when I think about him starting a relationship with another woman and me watching from the sidelines, it makes me very frustrated. It's very frustrating.

(alt: "I don't really want to go out with you... But when I think about how Akiharu-kun started going out with another woman and I'm watching from the side... It's frustrating.") "Yes, frustrating?!"

Yes, very much. I love Akiharu-kun, so it's impossible for me to have a special relationship with someone and only be considered by other people. There is no way I can accept it.

The voice is so strong, so intentional, that Selnia is almost confused.

The content of the conversation was the same, but the language used changed during the conversation.

Moreover, the eyes have a somewhat fearless look to them.

It is not the usual Tomomi Saikei that Selnia knows, but she vaguely remembers her.

The mood I sometimes felt at the critical moment of the game with her seemed to be similar to this.

Swallowing with spit from thirst, Selnia fearfully asked the question that had been popping into her head: "What is it that I want to do with my life?

Are you sure that's what you are?

If that is the case, then his attitude, which had been with me for more than three years since middle school, was all an act.

This is not possible in any sensible sense of the word.

..... It shouldn't be possible, and you're like, "Yeah, right. It shouldn't be possible, but you're like, "Yes, it is, but your tone is just a little different, isn't it?"

Tomomi Saikei nodded her head and readily admitted that she was a good friend.

For the first time today, Selnia feels almost dizzy, and she clutches her temples with her hands.

But he kept his eyes sharp and glared at his classmate who had just made the unbelievable revelation.

I'm just saying that the tone of voice is different in some ways. Such an overtly aggressive attitude, a habit you don't usually display, is!"

I'm sure you were pretty much as normal as you could be in front of her. And also in front of my family and Akiharu, who knew me in the past.

(alt: "Oh, putting aside the other people, I should have been relatively close to you in front of Mr. Selnia, right? After that, even in front of my family and Akiharu, who knew the old me.") That's why those people gave you such a scathing assessment of!

Finally, the question was answered.

In other words, the reason why Akiharu was overly cautious of his childhood friend was this "Tomomi Saikei".

I knew that I had to be careful about the number of people I was going to meet.

And he was frustratingly trusting because he knew that he was not being mendable in front of me.

Certainly, I feel much more at home now that my emotions are directly expressed in my voice and facial expressions, rather than the bland smiles I am used to.

How dare you deceive everyone, including me, for more than three years? I am beyond amazed.

"There was a little bit of danger in the beginning, you know? But I enjoyed playing the role myself, and as long as you are in Hakuryo, it is better to observe TPO. It's a little difficult for me, who grew up in a humble background, to behave as freely as Esther does.

"Hun, where is it? How dare you, after all the work you've done?

I like... - Letting go of the title? I was saving it, remember?

At the unexpected sound of her voice, Selnia falls silent and looks at Tomomi.

..... The expression on his face suggested that he was not joking.

Well, that's good. If we go on too long, someone might come in, so let's get back to the subject at hand."

..... What is your point, after all?"

I have already told you, I don't want to see Akiharu going out with someone else. No, that's not accurate. I don't want to see that happen without doing anything myself.

(alt: "Like I said earlier, I don't want to see Akiharu dating someone... No, that's not accurate. Seeing that happen without me doing anything." I don't want to.") Can't you speak a little more clearly?

....., but I think I've got it all figured out, don't you?

She sighs, as if to say, "Oh, well, there's nothing I can do about it." Irritated by Tomomi's sigh, Selnia bites her back teeth to control herself.

I am sure that with just a little more patience, just a little more patience, the story should be over.

I save it with the unladylike thought that if she does, I'll yell at her without reservation.

As Selnia held her ground, trying to concede at the very limit, Tomomi said in a subdued voice, "In other words..."

The first time I saw him, he was a little nervous.

I don't want to be envious or jealous of others with regrets about what I should have done back then. If Akiharu is going to be in a relationship with someone other than himself, he wants to be in the position of a loser at that time. There is no way I would tolerate being a bystander, watching with my fingers in my mouth without even getting up on stage.

(alt: "I absolutely hate envying and envying others while thinking, 'I wish I had done that at that time.' I can't forgive you for being a bystander and watching with your finger in your mouth without even going up on stage.") So that's why you confessed to me? In front of all those people.

I may look like this, but I'm a coward. If I don't do this, I might want to run away looking for an excuse.

The words sounded slightly funny, but Selnia could tell that they were directed at herself, so she silently looked at Tomomi.

I was so angry that I could not forgive myself and told her how I felt.

...... Well, I think I was too vigorous and blurted out too many things, but I was so busy trying not to run away that I didn't have time to choose the right words, so it was impossible to go any further.

Although the situation was different, the woman in front of me probably felt the same way. He didn't want to run away, so he deliberately created a situation where he couldn't run away from himself.

I think it's a bit much to call it a kiss, though.

I was also debating whether to use various leno techniques, but decided against it. I didn't want to feel guilty even if he chose me, and romantic relationships are more troublesome than I thought."

What did you intend to do, for example, with the lure of?"

She's been shaking up both Akiharu and Miss Selnia, and spreading rumors about them to other students. For example, "I don't think it's good for the world that the daughter of the Flameheart family is in love with a student who wants to be a butler, do you? I don't know.

In the middle of his speech, he changed his tone and reverted to his normal tone.

The inappropriate smile and meaningful gaze is exactly the same as when he usually provokes me.

Selnia, reflexively on the warpath, stared at her nemesis, her jaw set, and said, "What a stupid question! The House of Flameheart will bless you even if you are a servant. We respect character, ability, and the feelings of both parties.

Isn't that right? Your position is very, very subtle, isn't it?"

"What does mean?"

If you successfully graduate and go on to serve as a steward somewhere, it will mean that the house has a prospective son-in-law in the Flameheart family as a servant. Do you realize how ridiculous this would look to the upper classes?

It's"

If you were to fall in love with someone who served in your own family, that would be one thing, but to fall in love with someone who served in someone else's family would cause too much commotion to be gossiped about. On the other hand, if we were to hire her at the Flameharts' behest, there would be rumors about her "putting a noose around her lover's neck," or "giving up her lover who couldn't find a job. Did you even think about that?

....!"

When asked, Selnia clenches her fists.

Of course, I hadn't thought of that.

If I end up going out with Akiharu, I don't care if my reputation will suffer because of it.

I knew that I would never get to know someone who only understood me to that extent, and that I would be able to blow away any notoriety I might have gained in social circles with my own brilliance.

But what if it becomes a problem for the whole family? I am sure my father and grandfather would laugh and forgive me.

However, there was a good chance that her reputation would be damaged and her family name would be tarnished. Knowing that this would happen, Selnia wasn't sure if she could still be selfish.

(alt: However, there is a high possibility that her reputation will be tarnished and her family name will be tarnished.) If it were to happen, I'd say, "..... Yeah, that's a good idea. It's not going to happen, but..."

(alt: If that were to happen-- "...Yeah, it's like this. It's unlikely I'll actually do it.") Tomomi's open tone makes Selnia feel itchy as she opens her mouth to speak.

Why don't you do it? Maybe it's not my place to say, but the effect is"

No, it's no big deal. If you just calm down a little, you can easily realize that it's just a bluff that makes little sense.

"Yes, what's the point of?"

Yes. Because, if push comes to shove, you don't have to make Akiharu your butler, you just have to marry her and welcome her into the family.

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"..... aa"
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Stupefying.

The solution was so easy that it was just popped into my head.

Selnia, who had not thought of this, felt as if she had fallen into a trap.

Tomomi folded her fingers as if to show her, "If you want to be more formal, you could send her to work for Mr. Esteau for a few years. Even though it's a small country, if he's going to serve by the side of the princess, he's going to be considered a much better match than some of the rich people. And you don't have to be a butler, you could provide financial support and ask her to become a caregiver or a nursery school teacher. The main reason why Akiharu came to Hakuryo should be to get free job training to help those close to her. If we could only persuade him, he might even select one of the candidates if he is not a steward.

I am amazed that you can come up with such an idea so easily."

I said what I did, so I'll at least think about what to do about it. It's just a bluff that I can find an answer to if I think about it for a night."

Maybe so,, but I don't think it's that simple, Selnia thinks.

If it had been something that was said by another person, I might have been able to think a little more calmly, but it was Tomomi Saikei who told me.

Moreover, he used such a confident tone of voice, as if to say, "That's exactly what I'm going to do from now on.

I knew this, but I think about it again.

..... This classmate is truly out of the norm in many ways and has a bad personality.

As Selnia realized that this was what it felt like to have her "heart broken", Tomomi, who had been so proud of her successful attempt to be mean to her, suddenly looked very childish and said, "I won't play tricks like this. So, it's not like I'm offering an exchange, but I want to ask you to do one thing for me.

Her voice sounded somewhat serious, and Selnia's expression naturally tightened.

Apparently, they were finally able to talk about the purpose for which they were brought to this garden.

It depends on the content. If you are going to go out of your way to ask me for a favor, it is most likely to be a very unreasonable request.

I don't trust you. It's not that big a deal.

Just try to say it anyway. If you are not willing to do so, I will..."

Before you push me away and say, "Let's go.

Tomomi's voice came in at the perfect moment.

Please wait a little longer to give Akiharu an answer to his confession.

...... What is that? Did those folks send you?"

No, it's not. I just feel a little responsible. If I had missed yesterday's event, I would have lost the chance to confess my feelings, so I panicked. Akiharu was in a worse corner than I had imagined. I didn't expect her to collapse.

(alt: "That's not true. I just feel a little responsible. If I missed yesterday, I would lose the chance to confess, so I was in a hurry, but... If it was autumn, I would have been pushed further than I had imagined. I never thought I would fall.") Selnia agrees.

I was full of myself, but the clear autumn skies have been even more exhausting than this.

I was looking for a chance to talk to him, and he just collapsed and was sent to the infirmary. When I heard this, I thought it was a joke.

However, upon further questioning, it was clear that the fever was quite high and still had not gone away after a day.

If you put more pressure on him to give you an answer by today or tomorrow, he might not be able to get up for a while. As the person who created the opportunity, I would like to wait and see how things go for a while.

That's Well, that can't be helped.

Since Selnia was going to visit him in the first place, it was certainly not a good idea to do anything to aggravate his condition.

(alt: In the first place, Selnia was going to visit her, so it's certainly not a good idea to do something that would make her condition worse.) But then, "But, what are you going to do while you are giving Akiharu a reprieve? I know you've been saying that you won't do anything strange, but doesn't that mean that you will do something fair and square?"

Oh, that's a very unusual deduction, even for Ms. Selnia.

I won't say it to anyone! I just thought that since it was you, it might be possible!

You don't have to get so worked up about it. I'm just giving you a compliment."

She was about to say, "What's the point of that?" when Selnia panicked and held her tongue. If we get too heated up here, we will be putting them in a slick mood, which is frustrating, but we must be careful.

Tomomi's only response was to glare at him with an angry look on her shoulder, but he smiled and said, "I was in a tight spot yesterday, so I acted boldly, but in front of everyone I'm going to be an honor student, Tomomi Saikei. So I'm not going to show off or make a fait accompli as much as they expect me to."

I'll match you if you use At least for three semesters."

Yes, a reasonable period of time. It's enough.

Tomomi nodded in return, her expression so clear that we wondered if there was really no deeper motive.

So, after some hesitation, Selnia boldly asked her.

Tomomi, that, do you have absolute confidence that you will be chosen for Akiharu? If that is the case, I can understand his current attitude, which even seems to have some leeway.

But only with conviction.

I don't agree with that prediction for a single millimeter.

If she is so naive, Selnia is determined to make her regret it.

..... I can't think of a specific way to do it.

However, Tomomi shook her head in response to our question.

No," he said. No, just that this opportunity was enough for me.

Enough? You're being very, very charitable, aren't you?"

I mean, I had just witnessed the decisive moment of his confession, but I had been unable to make a move for over two weeks and they still weren't in a relationship. You should be happy that you had the chance, even if it was a last-minute decision. You won't regret it.

"....., if you get dumped, don't you regret it?"

Of course. But it should be much better than moldy regrets: "Why didn't I act at that time?" It should be much better than moldy regrets. That much, I can tell you with absolute certainty."

Saying this with eyes that show a strong will, Tomomi Saikei laughs as she relaxes.

That's all for now. Then, Ms. Selnia, let's do our best for each other.

Tomomi returned to her usual honor student routine, bowed neatly, and quickly walked away without looking at us.

Serunia watched the figure moving away from the flower garden, but did not try to detain it, instead sniffing and murmuring.

"Hun, you really do like to stir things up."

She had taken away all the energy I had to go visit Akiharu.

After school, I have plans to have tea with some of them, including my friend Feng.

With no time to spare for a lunch he had not taken, he would have to wait until another time.

But still, that's the naked Tomomi Saikei, isn't it?"

After all, they must be natural enemies.

In addition, they became involved in a relationship in which they were competing for one man.

I felt that I could still like him better than his usual clear-cut, made-up demeanor.

If you wake up in a desperate situation, will you be able to speak up?

Akiharu thought that he might be able to answer that question, without being able to make a single move.

I had lunch with Pina, who came to visit me, and then we chatted some more, and then I went back to my room and fell asleep peacefully.

As I recall, that should be the case.

I didn't wake up in the middle of the day.

So when I felt something softly brushing against the tip of my nose, I opened my eyes and was tickled to find that it was "....."

I can assure you that there is something absolutely wrong with the way we are now staring at each other at close range with a woman who was never supposed to be there.

It was dark inside the room, as if the sun had set or the curtains were tightly closed.

Even so, it was not pitch-dark, and my eyes, unaccustomed to the light of waking up from sleep, were able to see the other person's face dimly.

That's why I know that the current situation is even worse than before.

For some reason, Akiharu's eyes locked on the brownish eyes of Eiche-Hadim, a second-year senior in the education department, who was snuggled up in the same futon, and he was frozen, unable to move.

This is the second time I have allowed this man to invade my bed.

This is the third time, however, that I have been forced to share a room on a tropical island, and this is the third time that I have been forced to sleep with someone half in the same room.

The face, which is usually covered by a dark purple chaddle, is exposed, so it is impossible to mistake it for someone else.

I can assure you, even in this darkness.

Feeling a slight headache and wondering why this senior student, when he decides to take action, goes beyond boldness to surprise me, Akiharu casually tried to keep his distance by using his hands and feet to move backwards while sleeping, without panicking or making a fuss.

Immediately after that - I felt a cold sensation around my terminus.

No, sir, it's a narrow bed, and you will fall out if you move without care.

And then, a mysterious voice coming from behind.

No, I know who I'm dealing with.

Since Eiche is in front of me, it is a given that Hedier is there, and I remember her voice, so there is no doubt about it.

...... What puzzles me is that falling off a bed is called "falling out of bed."

Or is it, "You're going to be decapitated by a blade that seems to be held to your neck?" Which is the correct answer?

I don't want to think about it, but I can't help but feel that there is a 70% probability that it will be the latter.

In any case, if the cold, hard object you are touching is really a blade, the slightest thing can cause a catastrophe.

So Akiharu became motionless again, unable to even turn around, and asked the supposed Marder's maid of honor behind him.

"....., is this you again?"

He is a master who is no better than a bastard, and I can only say that he is the worst. If you answer with a hunch, I'll have to drop you right now.

As always, there is too much noise.

This is more than a threat, it's a murder threat.

There's no proof, but given Eiche's personality, it's impossible for her to have suddenly created a bedazzling scene, isn't it? The last time something like this happened, it was your plan.

He seems to remember a lot of strange details. You should make better use of your brain resources, so that you can be more useful than a spider mite.

I'm not feeling well today. I'm not feeling well today. Will you please go home quietly?

It is strange for us to bow down to them, but we know full well that there are things in this world that cannot be reasoned with, so we have no choice.

I don't think I can compete with or with my mouth against this bitter handmaiden.

I feel like my fever has gone down a bit after a good night's sleep, but I still don't have the extra energy to keep up with Hedier.

Even Pina, after having lunch with us, left quickly instead of staying, so I hope this pair of senior students, who are not usually so self-conscious, read the situation better.

I sincerely hope so.

Perhaps because Akiharu's earnest desire was understood, the cold metal feeling that had been touching his neck became distant, and he said, "You are so shameless to complain loudly about your poor health. And to tell Miss Aiche, who came to visit such a pathetic Master with a kindness that could fill the whole earth, to 'go home' - do you really want to die at last?"

...... They did not retreat, but rather, they meant to make a preliminary move to trigger the firing squad.

No, it's not like that!" Or, even if you meant it as it is, you're mistaken if you think you won't be told to go home after invading on your own?

If it should happen that she had to go to sleep permanently due to a mysterious trauma, she would not be able to bear it, so Akiharu hurriedly turned herself over on the bed.

The vision is still dim, but it's still a billion times better than being hit roughly from behind.

However, if Hedier were to take serious aim at me, I could easily lose even when I was at my best.

It's pathetic, but that's about the difference in specifications.

It doesn't look like they are going to attack us anytime soon. In other words, is this it? If we take it literally, he was threatening Aiche to reassure her.

Wiping her sweaty forehead with her hand, Akiharu looked at Hedier with the least amount of protest in her gaze.

However, the maid of honor does not seem to be bothered by this, and she glides to the entrance of the room.

A short distance away, the darkness made it hard to see what was going on, but this soon became a non-issue.

After a small crackling sound, the lights in the room come on, and Akiharu frowns at the glare.

I wanted to tell them to tell me first if they wanted to turn on the lights, but I knew from experience that such a statement would get me into trouble, so I didn't complain and waited for my eyes to get used to it.

It took me a few seconds to be able to open my eyes properly, and the next thing I knew, Hedier was out of my sight. I'm sure that tomorrow he'll be back to his normal self.

(alt: I wondered how many seconds it took until I was able to open my eyes properly. Before I knew it, Hedie, who should have been in my field of vision, had disappeared. Anyway, it's about the husband, and tomorrow he should be showing off his energetic appearance for no reason.")

I had moved between the beds of Akiharu and Daichi before I knew it.

How to do this without making a single sound is no longer a question.

If you keep being surprised at every little thing that this lady-in-waiting and Fukagan do, you're probably going to have heart failure or die of shock.

I was relieved to see that Aiche, who had been hiding under the comforter, came out fully clothed, not naked as in the past.

Hedier quickly put on a chaddle as she stood up, dressed in a loose indigo robe-like garment that covered her neck, and looked as familiar as ever.

Although Akiharu was expecting her to leave since she seemed to have accomplished her goal, Aiche's brownish eyes remained fixed on him and did not move.

At, Hedier, who was standing right behind his master, said, "I am sorry to have disturbed you while you were in a bad mood. I am sorry for the trouble I have caused you in your poor health. Please don't take it too far, for your daughter's words are too good to be true.

She still has a ladylike voice when she speaks on behalf of others, and she never makes any secret of her honest feelings, which is difficult to deal with.

However, this time it did not end there, as she stepped forward from behind her waiting position and offered a small vial of something.

When Akiharu received it reflexively, he said, "It is a kind of nutritional supplement that the Hadim family takes when they are recuperating. If you are just overworked, it should have an extraordinary effect, so please give it a try.

Although the black bottle was completely opaque, when I shook it, I could definitely feel that it contained liquid.

However, since it is not a commercially available product, the explanation still leaves some uncertainty.

As if he could see through Akiharu's state of mind, Hedier smiled only at the corners of his mouth with faded eyes and said, "Rest assured, there is nothing strange in this product. There is no love potion in this product. It has not been developed yet, so there is no reason for it to be in the product.

I'm rather afraid of the information that's being hidden in the that you're trying to develop." If you want something quicker, it's already been done. It is the best medicine that can make you a wonderful husband who will do whatever you ask him to do, even if it causes a little disintegration. It's a pity that you can't use it because of your daughter's wishes.

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Akiharu was deeply moved by the sight of Hedier sighing in distress as he twisted his body around.

I am really glad that Aiche has some common sense.

Sometimes I can't stop my outbursts, but if they had come at me at full throttle, I might have lost my ego by now.

I'm also wondering if I should really take the pills Hedier gave me, but the way Aiche stares at me with such clarity in her eyes, I don't think I can just dismiss her kindness out of hand. (alt: I'm worried about whether I should really take the medicine given to me by the too troublesome Hedie, but... Aishe's eyes were clear as she stared at me, so I didn't think I'd be able to let go of her kindness and throw it away. .) While thinking that they are illegal in many ways, Akiharu made sure to check the situation before leaving.

You said there's nothing weird in it, but there shouldn't be any side effects, right? I'm not allergic to it, but I'm sensitive to alcohol, so I can't drink it if it contains that kind of ingredient.

We are sure that you will be fine. It is a medicine used in weddings, so it may make some of you a little too energetic, but if you have a weak body, that's probably just fine.

"..... I don't know what you mean by 'that's about right', but"

(alt: "... No, I don't understand the meaning of 'that much is just right'...") Could that possibly be some kind of aphrodisiac? Or something like the red pit drink you sometimes see in pharmacies.

As Akiharu stared at the vial containing the medicine, a shadow suddenly appeared in his vision.

I look up in response and see Hedier staring down at me from a distance, "By the way, Mister Rotten? I heard there was something interesting going on yesterday, but I'm not sure what it was.

..... He said it in a somewhat cheerful voice, but with eyes that weren't smiling in the slightest.

It is more frightening than a good horror movie, but on the other hand, Akiharu says, "So that's how it is."

I am convinced.

Somewhere in the back of his mind, he knew that it was not right to allow his beloved master to go to a semi-invalid man.

But now I understand.

In other words, Aiche's purpose was to visit and Hedier's purpose was to confirm this fact.

As soon as he replies, the spoon that should have been stored away seems to reappear, and Akiharu is struck by the feeling of his stomach shrinking.

Why is it that when I'm not feeling well, I'm so ready for some peace and quiet that I can't help but wonder if this is a dead-end situation? Even if she wanted to ask for help, there is no one on her side, so Akiharu gives up and puts her hand to her right ear.

Since I had removed the safety pin before going to bed, I could not feel it, and I opened my mouth, feeling a little uneasy about it.

I don't know how it's being conveyed, but Tomomi has confessed to me and I haven't responded yet. That's all."

(alt: "I don't know how it got across, but Tomomi confessed to me, and I haven't gotten a reply yet. That's all.") "Oh, really? Hedier here tells me that you almost received a Valentine's gift from Flameheart as well.

I know you have a good ear for I know you have a good ear, but I'm still thinking about it, and I don't want to be asked what's going on or what I'm going to do about it.

I've been sick, so I haven't been able to think about it yet.

I was too preoccupied with my own ideas to even think about them.

I think it's true that when the body weakens, the mind weakens as well.

I wanted to escape to a snowy town on the Sea of Japan somewhere far away.

I see. Well, it's just as I imagined. I don't have high expectations for a husband who has little value in life, and I'm surprised that he makes quick decisions.

Even after one night, there is no concrete plan, and even if she feels better, it will still be difficult for her to attend school from tomorrow onward.

I personally am not interested in the love relationship of the rotten chicken Master, but as his handmaid, I would like to offer some advice.

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"..... what?"
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It's a roundabout way of speaking from the rooftop of a tower apartment building, but I'll just listen to what he has to say.

If they don't say anything significant, I want to do everything in my power to make them look like a fake.

However, I am afraid of being upset, so I will keep this in mind.

As Akiharu waited for the other woman to say something, Hedier slid her body to the side and pointed with her hand to Aiche standing in front of the door to the washroom, "If you marry the lovely and pure Miss Aiche, you will be able to transcend the walls of religion and nationality and be with more than one person at the same time. If you marry the lovely and pure Miss Eiche, you will be able to cross religious and national boundaries and be married to more than one person at the same time. Oh, what a wonderful plan!

(alt: While Akiharu was waiting for the other person's words while thinking about how he had failed, Hedier suddenly... slid his body to the side and took Aishe, who was standing in front of the door leading to the washroom, in his hand. "If you marry the pretty and pure Aishe lady, you'll be able to overcome the barriers of religion and nationality and marry multiple people at the same time. Ah, what a wonderful plan!") She clasped her hands together like a dreaming maiden and proposed a terrific bundling plan.

Sighing heavily, Akiharu scratches his head, which is still a little fuzzy, and turns his eyes toward Hedier.

"You know, it's not going to work out that way. We've already created a lot of trouble over whether or not to go out with each other, and if we get married, we'll have three or four holes in our stomachs.

"Well, your stomach is as flimsy as your husband's pride."

You are not married to me to take advantage of me like that. You should at least consider your partner's feelings.

Oh dear,, how dare Master speak such words to me, who is prepared to devote myself to Miss with all my heart and soul?

He didn't seem to like what we said, so he narrowed his eyes and said something like that.

To be honest, I'm so scared that it will shorten my life span, so I'd like you to stop that kind of intimidation.

I'm not in any way doubting your loyalty, but even so, there is a way of putting it. Aiche may not think anything of it, but I'm offended that he's listening.

I think it's a very arrogant thing to say, but I couldn't help it because I couldn't keep quiet about it.

Even if they brought up the blade, I would not be dexterous enough to keep this kind of opinion out of my life.

Hedier stares at Akiharu, who has burst into blue, without changing his expression, but suddenly turns his body and returns to the vicinity of Aiche.

As I looked at him, he turned to me again, and to my surprise, he bowed politely and said, "
— Please don't worry about me. I am very grateful for your kindness," was the too
good-for-nothing remark from Miss Aiche. I'm happy for you, Master, and I'm sure you will be
one of the best three in your life.

(alt: When I was wondering what was going on, Hedier turned to me again, and to my surprise, he bowed his head politely and said, ``Don't worry about me. Thank you for your thoughtfulness." Those were the words from Aishe Ojou-sama. It was a good thing, sir. It's a sure happiness to be among the top three in life.") "...... is one word of gratitude one of the top three blessings in a long life?"

If you want, we can finish this right now, but would you like to make a special offer for free?" I don't want your services even if you gave me 100 million!"

The first time I saw her, I was so excited to hear her say such a horrible thing with a pleasant smile, that I couldn't help but say it back out loud.

He was too noisy and energetic for a semi-sick person.

The responsibility lies with them, not with us, but since it is my body that will take the damage, I need to calm down a little more.

As Akiharu was reflecting on the situation, he said, "Well, miss, I think it's time for us to leave. I've already given you the medicine, and it would be a disaster if anything should happen to Miss Aiche, she might get pregnant if we stay here too long."

..... I really wonder what kind of a presence I have among these handmaidens.

I want to ask, but at the same time I don't feel like asking.

After watching Aiche bow politely and then leave the room, and Hedier, who follows her example but shows no consideration for anyone other than her husband,......, the door closes slightly, and the moment she realizes that she is finally alone, Akiharu, who lies on the bed as if he had run out of strength, mutters with a sigh, "I'll be fine.

"It's also unjust to ignore Aiche and think I don't know..."

(alt: "...Ignoring Aishe and thinking about it...it's unfair, isn't it...") I was now more and more confused about what to do, because I was clearly aware that there was another person who was bothering me.

After taking the medicine given to me by Aiche and his friends, who had taken me by surprise rather than visiting me, although I was quite unsure about it.

Lying in bed, Akiharu could no longer find sleep anywhere, so he spent the rest of the day mulling over various thoughts.

Since there was no immediate conclusion to be drawn, I turned over and over, my mind wandering between the fever and the medication, and, where I was having a quiet time without any progress, was forced to end by the sound of the door opening.

".....

Oh. You're awake?"

The roommate enters the room, takes off her coat, and walks straight up to the bed.

He is usually a simple guy who doesn't change his facial expression much, but since he is a kind guy, he seemed to be worried about me, and his face was clouded with anxiety.

Before I could ask him what was the matter, he moved his nose slightly, and his eyes grew stern. "I smell a woman's scent, and it's plural. This characteristic scent belongs to senior Hadim and his squire from the second year, or?

What kind of police dog are you?

After he lunged in unintentionally, Akiharu let out a small sigh, more in dismay than surprise. What kind of sense of smell does this roommate have?

It's true that when I get close to them, I can smell their perfume or aroma oil, but it's not so strong that it lingers in the room after just a short time.

Well, in Eiche's case, the sheets may have smelled because he was under the covers, but at least I didn't notice it at all.

Before passing before his eyes, Daichi, who had easily guessed that there was a pair of siblings, looked around without changing his expression and said, "I can faintly smell other unused shampoos. What do you mean, Hino?

I'd like to ask you what I'm sniffing at, but

If you are referring to Pina, she left right after lunch, which means more than six hours ago.

I mean, even though it was not ventilated, he could still smell the ventilation, which is really at the level of a police dog. This time around, when Akiharu was stunned, Daichi came at him, not hiding his displeasure.

Answer me, Hino. If you are accused of taking time off from class to bring a female student to school with you, you will not get away with it.

Don't say scary things. It's just that Pina came to visit around noon and Eiche and the others were snuck in while they were sleeping."

"Hey,, you're a night crawler,?

It's not like they did anything to me. Well, it was a visit to the hospital. They gave me something that looked like a nutritional drink.

(alt: "I didn't do anything in particular.... Well, that was a visit too. They gave me something like an energy drink.") "You sure there's nothing there?"

I nod in reply to my roommate's reminder that I am not guilty of anything.

..... understood. I'll take your word for it.

(alt: "...I understand. I'll believe you.") The person who was looking at us with a watchful eye was a big landowner, but he seemed to be convinced by that.

I could see the look of disapproval on their faces.

I finally put my coat on a hanger and said, "I'm going to get dressed.

After watching the large area disappear into the bathroom and the door close, Akiharu lets out a chuckle that he had been holding back.

He said, "I'm not interested in other people.

I guess I'm the type of person who can't leave someone I've become close to alone, while putting on a face like "I'm a good person, but I can't leave you alone.

They are worried, they are angry, and they seem to be interested in romantic relationships. Well, in short, they are a little strange, but they are not so different from ordinary high school students in Japan.

(alt: If you worry about me, I'll get angry, and it seems like you're interested in a romantic relationship... Well, in short, I've changed a bit, but Daichi isn't that big of a difference from the average high school student out there. I don't think so.) While they may have exceptional physical abilities and skills, they are not the heart and soul of a human being, and they are not the only ones.

It is much more important to be able to live together with someone you can feel secure with.

I was thinking about this in a daze when my cell phone, which I had left under my pillow, started ringing.

"What about email?"

I noticed after picking it up that the ringtone was different from when receiving a phone call. The screen showed that it was indeed a mail, and an envelope icon was displayed.

The wrinkles between his brows deepen as he frowns and wonders who it might be from.

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(alt: I wondered who it was from, while frowning and confirming... the wrinkles between my eyebrows deepened.) The email came from Selnia, one of the two people who had been bothering Akiharu.

That's good.

It's funny that Mr. Drill, who is known for his aggressiveness, didn't take any action between yesterday and here, even though the other party is lying low.

Therefore, the problem is not the person who sent the message, but the content of the message.

...... "Follow me if you feel any better." "Do I really have to pay this back?"

Then Akiharu scratched his head and said, "..... well, I guess I can't

The conclusion is a depressing one, as it is so typical of me.

Oka, a fellow education teacher, often says, "Hino-kun is the type of person who gets on your back.

But with the way things are going, I can't really argue with that.

"...... No, it must be because the fever is making you feel weak. That must be it." (alt: "... No, it's probably because I'm feeling weak from the fever... that must be it...") Mumbling and moving his finger, Akiharu said, "Maybe it's getting better. and send it quickly.

Still, it's a strange e-mail.

I understand that they are checking on your physical condition, but what is the point of that letter?

Tilting his head, Akiharu put down his cell phone when he was done with his business for the time being.

But before that, your cell phone started ringing again, and you were so surprised that you almost dropped it.

I grabbed it as quickly as I could to prevent it from falling, but I must have pressed some button on the spur of the moment, because the sound stopped and the screen displayed "Call".

The display showed "A" and "B".

Akiharu, still unprepared for what is about to happen, puts the cell phone to her ear and lets her voice out through her parched throat.

Also Hello?"

"How are you doing, how are you doing?"

The question, without greeting, was unmistakably in Selnia's voice.

Although we had not confirmed the other party, we had assumed that the timing would be such, so there were no additional surprises.

I'm not sure if I should or if I should be more surprised, but I think I'm going to have a high fever of over 40 degrees.

(alt: Or rather, if I was surprised any more, I feel like I might have a high fever of over 40 degrees.) At any rate, they may be concerned about me, despite my attitude.

It's a humane drill, and that's a very real possibility.

Thinking of this made her feel a little better, and she sat up in bed and opened her mouth.

"Ah, I still have a fever compared to usual, but it's much easier now, isn't it? At this rate, I should be able to go to school tomorrow.

If is so, then tomorrow is so.

Tomorrow? What's happening tomorrow?

I'm going to go tonow, after all. Are you sure you're okay?

"What? You mean in my room?

I was surprised at the obvious offer, but the person on the other end of the phone didn't wait for me. It's not too late, and at, I'll be right there.

No, wait, wa

Before we could say whether the call was good or bad, the call was forcibly terminated and Akiharu was at a loss with his phone still in his hand.

I'm not sure what I'm going to do now.

(alt: I don't want to be told that I'm going now.) The most annoying thing is that they don't know what they are coming for.

What about? I'm going to run away No, we can't help it if we run away!"

With no countermeasures in mind against the looming threat and in poor physical condition, there is no escape or hiding.

I can't do it because I'm suddenly not feeling well.

I think that if I send a text message to Selnia, she probably won't get it.

Akiharu, who had become restless, fidgeted and got up from bed and sat down, repeating this senseless repetition, when she heard a door open with a click.

She was surprised to see the bathroom door open, not the doorway, and breathed a sigh of relief.

As we watched, Daichi, who had just finished dressing and was wearing a dainty lintel over his samue, gave us a quizzical look and asked, "What's wrong with? He seemed to be talking about something.

"Oh, oh. I just got a call from asking me how I'm doing and I said"

I see. It's not good to worry everyone, and tomorrow you should be back to normal and ready to go to school. We need to eat well for that. Nutrition is very important."

Yes, but it's more than that.

Akiharu asked Daichi for advice about the drill-equipped monsters that are about to attack, but Daichi nodded his head with eyes full of determination and said, "I'm going to borrow the kitchen and make some porridge. I'll be back soon, so you stay here and rest.

The woman was a great liar, and she used a terrible trick to cut off all hope with words of good will.

Huh? No, wait! This is not the time for this.

If you neglect your diet, you will not be able to heal what cannot be healed. I'm going to use cooked white rice, so it shouldn't take too long.

No, I'm not worried about the time.

Just sleep it off, Hino, and stay.

Daichi, who would not listen to me, hurriedly left the room.

She rushed to her roommate's arm and reached out to grab it, but she was too impatient and hit the corner of the bed with her left pinky toe, and she crouched down there without even screaming.

The pain was so bad that I was almost in tears, but the injured area was only slightly reddened and did not appear to be seriously injured.

I have heard that the fingertips have a concentration of nerves, so I probably do not have a fracture or anything like that.

So now it's not my pinky finger that hurts so much I want to cry, but the fact that in the few seconds I was on the floor, Haechi unceremoniously left the ground.

"....., why, why the rush to!"

(alt: "... why... why are you in such a hurry...!") Daichi is usually a very fast and efficient worker, but his speed was by all accounts 30% faster than usual.

What was driving the cool roommate to do this when she didn't have to do so much? It's too mysterious and the timing is too bad.

She put on a thick parka to keep her body cool, and then sat down on the bed again.

And in the quiet room where I was alone, my mind was fully occupied.

Since we can neither run nor hide, we have no choice but to sit and wait. However, I am not bold enough to stand still without action, so I am not at ease.

(alt: Since I can't run away or hide, I have no choice but to sit and wait... But I don't have the courageous personality to be able to stand still without any measures, so I'm restless.) You can say you got sick after the phone call and cough No, you can't, you're not very good at acting, you'll be easily spotted Oh, yeah, and then say he fell asleep while we were waiting for him. But he'd probably get angry and wake you up.?

I think about it a lot, but I'm more nervous than I was right after the call, and I can't come up with any good ideas.

(alt: I think about various things, but I'm more nervous than I was right after the phone call, and I can't come up with a good idea.) In such a situation, the only thing we can rely on is Daichi.

If Daichi, who went to make porridge without knowing it, can come back earlier than Selnia with his usual efficiency, we can avoid the difficult situation of being left alone with only the two of us.

It is impossible to make porridge in the time it takes to get from the upper school dormitory to the lower school dormitory.

However, there is still hope for the Daichi class.

If you use pre-cooked rice and minimize the amount of soup stock, it will take less than 30 minutes.

If some secret technique could be used to further shorten the time, it could have been done in about 20 minutes.

Glancing at my watch, I see that it has been almost ten minutes since Daichi left.

I was so absorbed in my thoughts that the time passed very quickly.

....., but since he started looking at the clock, his progress has slowed to a crawl.

I looked at the clock, thinking that five minutes must have passed, but the hand did not move a muscle.

But the moment you think that, the long hand moves forward one minute, telling you that only one minute has passed, even though it felt like it had been that long.

My stomach feels as if it's itching and aching, and I'm on the verge of shaking my head

Rubbing his abdomen, Akiharu continued staring at the clock, then turned his head to the knocking sound, as if he had been hit by a bullet.

I don't think about whether it was Daichi or Selnia that came.

The answer has already been given.

It has been less than fifteen minutes since I was left alone, and if they brought me porridge, I should not have the luxury of knocking, since my hands are full with the tray and it is hard enough to open the door.

In other words, he visited the room and said, "I'm sorry to disturb you. How are you feeling?" Without waiting for our response, Selnia entered the room.

A warm yellow sweater and black stockings peeked out from under a white coat, and she seemed to be wearing a miniskirt in this cold weather, but it didn't matter.

It doesn't matter that the visitors' slippers are floating around in their clothes.

The problem is that we will have to struggle on our own from now until Daichi returns to us. With a mind and body weakened by heat.

"Top Three Most Awkward People to Meet Right Now."

The first place is Selnia, which is ranked second by a narrow margin from the first place in the Akiharu, who is already feeling like a loser, can only show a tense expression as he pulls himself together.

A weak laugh escaped from his mouth, and his eyes must have been vacant.

Selnia's expression is slightly clouded by this situation.

..... still looks pretty bad. You should lie down and try to stay awake.

(alt: "... It still looks pretty bad. You should just lie down and stay awake.") What? No, not that far.

The sick person should listen to what you say. Otherwise, you will not get well and you will have to take tomorrow off again.

It is unusual that they are genuinely concerned about our condition.

It seems that he thinks that his condition is a problem with his physical condition.

Like a hitter who should have swung at a pitch late but happened to time a change of pace and was lucky enough to get a potential hit, Akiharu did as he was told and slowly made his way to bed.

There should be no excuses.

The most peaceful way to end this is to have them leave with a misunderstanding.

This way, we could finish the job without having to wait for Daichi to come back to us.

From the looks of it, Selnia shouldn't have stayed long either.

Akiharu, who has changed from her predicament to a comfortable state where she can just relax in her seat until the end of the train, adjusts the position of the pillow so that it touches her back, and raises her upper body.

Once he was in a comfortable position, he spoke to his blue-eyed classmate.

Sorry. I wasn't in a very good mood. I'm sorry I came all the way here to see you."

(alt: "I'm sorry.) I don't mind. Originally, we were only going to say a word or two, and I was going to leave as soon as we were done.

As she had expected, she was able to get a word that she could leave early, and Akiharu almost smiled with joy.

The reason we were able to prevent it at the last minute was not because we were able to control ourselves

I was not sure what to make of Serunia's words, because I found them troubling. (alt: Because there was something in Selnia's words that caught her.) And there again, Akiharu wonders.

What is this guy doing here in the first place? I think it's most appropriate to visit him, but if so, it's a little strange for him to come empty-handed, given Selnia's personality.

I don't know, but if you bring a souvenir, like a piece of fruit in a paulownia wood box, and say, "Thank you very much for your gift!

(alt: For some reason, I would bring something like a fruit in a box made of paulownia wood as a gift and say, 'I'd appreciate it if you could accept it! \mathbb{J}) It would be nice to have something like this.

If it's not a sympathy visit, then what is it? The first thing that comes to mind is Tomomi's case yesterday,...... but it's not something that can be finished with just a word or two, so I think it's different.

The most important question was: If it was so easy to solve the problem, why didn't you tell them via e-mail or phone call?

I don't think there is much need to go to a semi-sick person's room to tell him or her in person, not to mention the efficiency issue.

As Akiharu's expression became more and more clouded, Selnia was further misled by her lack of understanding.

..... Are you sure you're okay? It is better to stay until Mr. Daichi comes back.

No, it's no big deal, and Daichi will be back soon! What do you want?

It was almost a long lost time, and Akiharu hurriedly prevented it from happening.

If that were to happen, you might feel really ill from the awkwardness.

Selnia's eyebrows twitched slightly, and she said, "Is that so?"

He muttered, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

(alt: I muttered, but it seems that I was convinced for the time being.) I remained about halfway between the entrance of the room and the bed where Akiharu was sleeping, and did not take off my coat to stay longer.

...... I'm glad to hear that, but please don't let your subtly averted gaze go to the empty earth bed.

It may be an act that has no particular meaning to them, but I can't help but think it is meaningful to a boy of their age.

When Akiharu remembers how awkward it was for nothing, she says, "I have something to say to Akiharu.

Without looking at me, Selnia said in a hushed tone of voice, "I'm not sure I'm going to be able to do this.

(alt: Without making eye contact, Selnia lowered the tone of her voice and said.) I was glad they weren't looking at me.

Even though she has a beautiful face, her expression of seriousness makes her look even more radiant than usual. If she stares straight at me like this, I don't have the confidence to keep my eyes averted.

(alt: Even though you already have a pretty face, you look like you're shining more than usual with a seriously serious expression... if you're staring straight at me like this, I don't have the confidence to keep my eyes off you.) The seriousness of the situation made Akiharu nervous, and he naturally switched to a serious mode, listening to her as she lay on the bed in an upright position.

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I told you how I felt about you last month, didn't I? Now it's your turn." "......"
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(alt: "... mine...") Even if you say so, I'm not sure what you want me to do without specific demands.

(alt: Even if I was told that, I don't know what to do without a specific request.) Selnia seemed to be watching us closely and moved her face closer to ours.

She was blushing slightly, and Akiharu wanted to tell her not to do that if she was embarrassed.

I have the confidence that I am several tens of times more embarrassed than that.

In reality, however, I couldn't say anything, couldn't even look away, and ended up face-to-face with Selnia at close range.

And then, her lips, which were unusually fresh and soft and peachy in the winter, opened and she said, "I'm telling you it's your turn to tell me what you think of me.

He threw a straight, no-fuss, no-holds-barred fastball with no escape.

The content was so straightforward that there was no way to think of any misunderstanding or hidden meaning, so Akiharu could not ask back immediately.

Because what I'm saying is too simple, but the amount of courage it takes to answer it is unbelievable.

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It is impossible to give an immediate answer when asked in a lying position. It's ....., uh, ......
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When Akiharu was clearly puzzled, Selnia smiled slightly and said, "I'm not asking you to answer right now. I'll give you some time to think about it so that it doesn't interfere with your classes or service activities.

"..... that would be helpful, but

When we questioned whether such loose conditions were acceptable, Selnia turned her head to the side with an obvious scowl on her face.

I've given you plenty of time to rot, but I know things have changed a bit. So I'm going to give you just a little more time. You will be very grateful!

....., well, thanks, but is still"

What is it? If you have something to say, say it clearly.

While he was wondering whether it was really appropriate for him to say such a delicately worded line, Selnia made a manly comment, and Akiharu decided to make up his mind.

"...... Tomomi was like, 'we're going out or not,' and you're okay with that?"

I don't mind. And there's no way I'm going to ask you for a relationship.

Mr. Drill puts his hand proudly on his chest and says something terrible.

Well, it is certainly an upper-class attitude, but Akiharu is dumbfounded.

I was supposed to be the one who was confessed to by this guy, but I was put in a lower position than a clerk apologizing to a customer for being out of stock.

Selnia, smiling with an air of elegance that made me think it would be better to have a large rose blooming in the background, said, "If Akiharu insists on going out with me, I'll have to consider it. But I have no intention of saying such a thing. I will never do anything to humble myself by changing my mind inspired by Tomomi.

The volume of his voice was not so loud, but it was filled with a firm will, and Akiharu was so engulfed by the air that he could not say anything.

What did Selnia think of this? She turned on her heel and said, "As I said before, I'll give you some time. In exchange, if you decide to go out with Tomomi, I'll make sure you give me a clear answer.

"Oh, oh, oh."

When Akiharu just shook his head as if it were a failed toy, Selnia let out a small breath and looked down at the wristwatch on her wrist.

..... I've overstayed my welcome. Well, in the meantime, I wish you all the best and hope you feel better soon.

(alt: "... You've stayed a little longer, haven't you? Well then, I'm praying for you to get better soon.") Then, as if as an afterthought, Selnia quickly turns on her heel and walks out of the room.

It was an action without hesitation, and at the same time, it seemed as if he had run away in a hurry, and Akiharu was too stunned to speak up and stop him.

Although it was predicted, the situation turned out to be stormy.

I think Selnia was probably trying to be considerate.

He is an impatient guy, but he didn't press for an answer on the spot, just said he would give me a period of time, and left.

However, I was so tired that I thought my fever might come back.

Even after being left alone, Akiharu could not immediately regain his composure and stared at the entrance of the room for a while, but then the door suddenly opened and he tensed up.

He thought that Selnia might have had something to say and had attacked again, so he clutched the futon tightly, but he was relieved and relaxed immediately.

Instead of an expensive coat and an upper-class education student, my roommate came in wearing a sloppy half-coat.

He was holding a tray with one hand, on top of which was a small earthenware pot.

Thanks for waiting, Hino. But it's worth it. I'm confident that the taste is good.

Daichi, who came back very early, had a rare smile on his face, but as soon as he saw it, it turned grim.

Before Akiharu could question him about it, he said, "...... I smell another woman. What does that mean?"

She looked at me like the mother-in-law I'd seen on a daytime TV drama series who was accusing her daughter-in-law of infidelity.

In a swarthy atmosphere, Akiharu hurriedly held up his response, as if a clay pot was about to fly out of his hand. She asked me how I was feeling, and after a short conversation, she left!

...... Really? Are you sure you're not engaging in any of these offenses?"

We didn't have time for this!

Despite his desperate pleas, Daichi's suspicions remain unabated.

I mean, why should I feel so uncomfortable? Certainly, for someone who brought me a pot of rice porridge, it must have been upsetting for him to be flirting with a woman while he was making love to a sick man.

But even so, he has that look in his eyes.

It has the same kind of eyes as Hedier's when he was serious.

In response to Daichi, who did not relax his expression at all, Akiharu continued his explanation.

However, there was not much response that seemed to be effective.

I was so impatient with the looming wonders of the clay pot that I tried to find a way to change the subject, and as a result, I said, "Well, can we talk about this later? You made it for me, but if we talk too long, it will get cold, right?"

"..... mu."

(alt: "..... nothing") When the focus turns to the contents of the clay pot, which was about to become a weapon, Daichi finally becomes lost in thought.

She shifts her gaze from Akiharu to the dish she has prepared, and silently stares at him with an expression of dissatisfaction. Akiharu asks, "Could it be that I failed?"

Just as I began to fidget with the thought, I heard a sigh escape my roommate's lips.

I'm going to go to and see what I can find. I can't go to the trouble of throwing away a meal I just made for you, so just eat it."

Oh, yeah. I mean, can I eat it?"

I made it for you. If Hino doesn't eat it, who will?

Daichi, which had placed a clay pot on the desk using a notebook as a pansheet, stared at me with frightening eyes.

..... You don't think Flameheart is going to feed you something and tell you you're full, do you?" I said, "I would never do such an embarrassing thing. I don't either, but it's not Selnia's character, and I don't think she would do such a thing.

If you want to eat, eat. If you leave any leftovers, I won't forgive you."

...... Usually, if you're dealing with a sick person, you say, "It doesn't matter what you leave behind, just eat as much as you can."

I think it's going to be like, "Oh, no, I'm not going to do that. I don't understand at all why she used such threatening words to a child whose meal was mixed with something she didn't like.

With a stern look on her face, Ochi takes off the lid of the pot and with a wooden spoon serves the porridge into a bowl she has brought with her, topped with crushed dried plums.

Then, in a full-blown sulk, he offered us a bowl of steaming water.

Akiharu accepted it gratefully and lightly mixed it with a spoon, saying, "Thank you for taking the trouble to do this. I'm sorry for causing you so much trouble.

(alt: Akiharu accepted it with gratitude, and while lightly mixing it with a spoon, said, "Thank you for all the trouble. Sorry for bothering you.") When I thanked my roommate for taking such good care of me, Daichi, who had been looking away, moved his eyebrows slightly.

........... Aside from the impure sexual intercourse, it can't be helped that she's not in good physical condition. I think this is what roommates are for."

Well, I guess you're right.

And, I was the one who caused you trouble the other day. I hope you can think of it as payback for what you did to me the other day."

Uh,"

Indeed, the other day, when Hachichi collapsed during class, Akiharu helped her and carried her to the infirmary.

I feel a bit sorry for them, since it is a natural thing for me to do.

I think it's right to think that way, but if you're roommates who trust each other, it seems to me that it's better to think simply.

So Akiharu made a smile while feeling embarrassed and said, "Well, whatever it is, I am thankful. I'll do my best so that it won't happen again, but if anything else happens, I'll be counting on you again.

I'm fine with that, but"

Perhaps the atmosphere here is contagious, because although they are trying to appear blunt. Daichi too has a somewhat sarcastic mood.

Although there is a strange feeling as to why two men are creating such a sweet and sour atmosphere, it is much better than if they were in a tense situation.

At least it wasn't a "kill or be strangled" kind of atmosphere.

Thinking that she has been saved, Akiharu brings the spoon to her mouth, blows on it to cool it down, and eats the porridge.

It's a simple egg, green onions, and pickled plums, but it's a good thing I'm not a ".....! This is delicious. Just the right amount of salt and refreshing.

"Oh, really? I'm glad it was in my mouth.

I knew Daichi was a good cook.

(alt: "As expected, Daichi is good at cooking...") Once again, I am amazed at the outstanding results they are able to achieve in everything they do.

He may not be the best communicator, but he's a very thoughtful guy, so you get your money's worth, and once you get to know him, it's easy to see that he's a friend.

While tasting two or three mouthfuls of porridge, Akiharu watches Daichi, who is sitting on the bed across from her and glancing at her.

She has a beautiful face that is different from Sanke in terms of vector, and it would be a shame to leave her as a man.

As I was so humbly recognizing my roommate, who has no complaints about both his interior and specifications, Daichi's lip quirked slightly, as if he was aware of the way we were looking at him.

"....., why are you staring at me?"

I kind of wish Daichi was a woman.

"What, what are you doing?

Perhaps because it was so out of the blue, Daichi was so flustered that even we were surprised to see him.

It may be that the person with whom you are sharing a room suddenly started saying things that made you feel uncomfortable, and you can't help it, but I want you to stop shrinking down to hug your own shoulder.

I'm not in any danger.

I don't think that's possible with someone of the same sex.

Since it would be a big problem if I don't clear up the misunderstanding, Akiharu lightly shook his hand holding the spoon to the side and said, "No, I didn't mean anything serious, I was just thinking about it. I'm sure you can do housework, exercise, and study at an average level, right?

She's got a good personality and a pretty face, so why are you coming on to me?"

For some reason, Daichi, who was sitting upright on the bed, was slowly moving closer to me, as if pushing me with his hand.

I find myself at the end of the bed with a reddened face.

It is quite a mystery to me how he can lean forward like that and not slide off the bed.

But the man in front of him looked so desperate that it didn't matter what he said, and with his eyes full of power and intensity he said, "It doesn't mean much, does it? You don't understand how important your words are, and I know you're that kind of man, but!

"..... No, I honestly think it was just a level of banter.?"

"Chit-chat, chit-chat. If you say it's just a chat, answer me. Then tell me why you think it's "better if it was a woman."

The tone is simple, but I think this is what it means to be "fierce.

It is much scarier than a bad yakuza.

To put it simply, it is like Hedier standing by with his fountain pen in both hands or Hedier with his spoon drawn.

In a situation similar to a game where if you make the wrong choice, you end up in splatters, Akiharu's mouth hangs open slightly and he says, "..... Well, that's it. If you are sick, having someone cook for you and take care of you is the ideal situation for a man, isn't it? Wouldn't you think it's better to have someone of the opposite sex to do that for you than someone of the same sex?"

", you mean, that, is that the kind of woman Hino likes?"
Ahh yes, maybe. Just the fact that he's so generous is a high point."
"So, what you're saying is, if you're going to go out with someone, it should be with someone
like me?"
Well, it's not that far off the mark

(alt: "......") For some reason, Daichi was very determined to ask me about it, even though I would normally be reluctant to say or ask.

It's only a little, but his eyes are bloodshot and it's a little scary.

Lying in bed, unable to act quickly and with nowhere to run, Akiharu tries to avoid stimulating Daichi as much as possible and soon realizes that this is more difficult than completing a full marathon.

I was so close to my roommate's face turned red, and her breathing, which is not easily disturbed even when running at full speed, was ragged.

I have no idea how distraught I should be.

The situation remains the same, and Akiharu eats porridge to cover up his inability to find the next move.

I can't taste the flavor at all, even though it tasted so good until a few minutes ago.
"....."
"....."

While Akiharu continues to eat his porridge silently, Daichi does not move around, but his gaze wanders around, and he is not at all at ease.

The awkwardness was so great that the bowl was empty for a long time before Akiharu decided to move on to the restroom.

"....., I'm going to ask you a weird question,, okay?"

Ah, ah. Don't hesitate to ask me anything.

Hino, which

"Oh, what?"

If I were a girl, would you want to go out with me?

"No, I don't have anything to do with that." Hey? Daichi, what's wrong?

When I reflexively responded to his enthusiastic question, for some reason Daichi fell backwards with a mighty thud.

Fortunately, there was a bed behind her so she could not be hurt, but the way she collapsed looked as if she had been hit in the head by an invisible bullet.

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"......なぜ.....?"
"Why, you know, it's not that simple, right?"
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"....., but"

(alt: "... but... but... the way you said it earlier...") No, well, I'm sure that the version of a woman in the big city would be ideal for a relationship, but right now I don't think it's the right time for that.

(alt: "Well, I'm sure the female version of Earth would be ideal for dating, but right now it's about that——") After that point, Akiharu was at a loss for the next word.

Like a cotton hat flying in a strong wind, I had no idea where the story was going, but thanks to you, I was able to realize one thing.

In a previous conversation with Hedier, he said, "I don't have the luxury of being in love right now.

I once said, "I am not a good person," and that hasn't changed.

It's one thing to go out with friends for fun, but I don't think it's possible to have a proper relationship with someone.

But I can't give an immediate answer to Tomomi's confession, because I don't know what to say to Selnia, who says that I only need to tell her how I feel. - And in the dark, deep sea of hesitation, I finally found what seemed to be a ray of light.

The faint murmur that came from the room brought Akiharu back to his senses and he saw Daichi slowly getting up in front of him.

The sight of the woman on her back, using her arms to raise her body up, drew gasps from the audience.

It's hard to describe, but he had an aura like a warrior from hell who had risen from the brink of death, fed by anger and hatred.

The atmosphere was so unusual that Akiharu unconsciously swallowed his spit and stiffened up.

I don't know what is making Daichi do this, but I do know this.

(alt: I don't know what makes Daichi so, but I do know this.) If you provoke them badly, you will be beaten.

This is definitely a life-threatening situation.! Looking down at Daichi, who stood motionless in the space between the beds, Akiharu tried to smile with an irresistible appeal, but failed.

(alt: Without a doubt, it would be a life-threatening situation...! Still unable to move, looking down at Daichi that stood swaying in the gap between the beds, Akiharu somehow managed to smile in a non-resisting appeal... but failed.) It is too much to laugh at such a situation.

Or, if the prospect of death becomes more intense, I might at least smile in resignation.

For now, we have to wait and see how Daichi responds, and then we have three choices: apologize for the time being, apologize with all our might, or apologize even though we don't know for sure.

In front of Akiharu, who was thinking so, Daichi clenched his fist tightly, which was hidden by his cloak, and glared at me with a strong look that would make even the first alien he encounters run away with a dash, "..... you are always, always

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"....., what did I say that you didn't like .....?"
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When I asked him, his eyebrows twitched with alarm, as if he had no idea what I was talking about.

He shook his right fist, which was still clenched, and said, "You'd better realize how much your words upset people's feelings, you idiot!

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"Oh. shit. .....?!"
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Akiharu's face received a strong impact along with the angry voice, and she collapsed onto the bed.

I felt my head spin and my vision went black, but I wasn't hit.

I could see it somehow, so I could understand it.

It was a pillow thrown by Daichi that hit him, so this is the extent of the damage.

If he had been hit, he would probably have been knocked out with a single blow, and his bones should have been broken easily.

While peeling the pillow from his face, Akiharu, who was unable to get up due to a light concussion, heard a hysterical voice in his ear.

"It's coming out a little bit! In the meantime, you need to cool down and reflect!"

The door was violently closed when Akiharu woke up with a wobbly head.

After a whirlwind series of earthly actions, the remaining Akiharu sat up in bed in the quiet room, rubbed his aching nose with a pillow attack, and asked, "What's wrong with?"

What's wrong with?"

I have no idea what's going on and I'm at a loss.

I can't think of anything in what he said earlier that made Daichi angry.

I was afraid that they might be taking it out on me or something.

I just think, "..... that Daichi is so emotionally angry with me, must be my fault." We've known each other less than a year, but I know that much.

That's why it bothered me that I couldn't quite pinpoint what I was supposed to have done wrong.

From the looks of it, Daichi's anger will not subside anytime soon.

I don't think it will be possible until we at least understand what the scales are that we have been exposed to.

Apparently, this is and in addition to the problems with Tomomi and Selnia, which finally seem to have been resolved, a new problem has arisen.

Moreover, the problem text was so holey that I couldn't read it properly.

"....., uh,, what's wrong with this"

(alt: "... Ah... I wonder what's wrong with this...") I muttered to myself and collapsed onto the bed, but I didn't feel at all better.

Although I feel much better than I did in the morning, the situation may have worsened. Especially since Daichi is sleeping in the same room, we need to solve this problem as soon as possible.

We can't leave any of these problems unresolved, so we have to solve them one by one.

I hope the fever goes down properly.

(alt: "... I hope the fever will go down properly...") He was so happy that he was able to get a job, and he was so happy that he was able to get a job.

I turned over, pressed my still sore face against the pillow, and closed my eyes.

There is no way that everything will be resolved when I wake up, so I thought about it a lot, while being bothered by some faces that appeared behind my eyelids. — In the end, no clear conclusion came out before I fell asleep.

(alt: It's impossible for me to have a sweet development where everything is solved when I wake up, so I'm tormented by the various faces that appear behind my eyelids and think about various things... — Until I finally fall asleep. without a clear conclusion.) Tomomi, who never said a word without making contact, Selnia, who was clearly avoiding us, and Daichi, who was even more avoidant and showed an attitude of absolute refusal to communicate, were in a tense, awkward situation. These days continued until the announcement of the last subject test for the first-year students a few days later.

(alt: Tomomi didn't make contact and didn't say anything, Selnia was clearly avoiding her, and Daichi was even more avoiding her and showed a firm refusal to communicate with her. Such

days would continue until the announcement of the first year's final secondary education exam was announced.)





