

Serunia = lori = Flameheart's morning begins by taking a shower and letting the sleepiness go away.

Her long, proud hair took a long time to set and dry, so she wrapped it in towels in the bathroom to prevent it from getting wet.

When the morning bath is over, the girls put on their bathrobes, prepare to curl their hair, and do a simple skin and nail trim.

I've been going out on the balcony for the past month to breathe in the fresh air before getting my hair done.

It was still early in the morning, just after 6:30 a.m., so the air was clear and chilly, but at the same time it was not warm.

The summer season was still good, but recently the wind blowing in through the cracks in my bathrobe has become so cold that I am beginning to be afraid of getting cold from the bath.

Well, if you're only out there for a few minutes, no problem.

I work out for my health and proportion, and I wear light clothing most of the time, so I should be able to handle the changes in my environment.

So, by gazing at the chapel with the cross shining in the sun, or listening to the cheerful birds singing early in the morning, you can get accustomed to the air of Hakuryo, which seems unchanging, but is changing day by day.

But today was really a little different from usual.

"..... is crazy.

(alt: ".....That's strange.....") Selnia frowns and mutters, folding her arms as if to embrace herself.

It should have been more than five minutes since you stepped out onto the balcony.

Maybe it has been long enough.

Considering the morning preparations still to come, there is still time to spare, but that's not the point.

Normally, you should be able to see it by now.

(alt: "Usually, it's about time to see it, but...") In my mind's eye, I see the faces of the boys in the pre-college education department who were cocky and had bad attitudes.

He is a commoner who has always been unable to distinguish between different positions, and he is also the childhood friend of his classmate Tomomi Saikyo, who is also his natural enemy, and who seems to have boiled down the worst possible thing.

The third floor of the castle, which is a Western European castle, is the south balcony of Selnia, where she lives, and where she runs every morning.

Since I happened to see him a little over a month ago, I have seen him every day at the same time except when I am busy with lodging or events, but not yet today.

".....?"

(alt: 「 ? 」) (alt: 「 」) (alt: 「 」) Since he is often running alone, it is not necessarily a routine for his education department.

I had assumed that the training was simply a wild, self-inflicted training program by those crude commoners.

..... I'm not worried because I can't see you, or because I wanted to see you, or anything like that.

I can say it with integrity, with honesty, and with integrity.

But even if it has somehow become a daily habit, and even if it is an insignificant thing, it is still something to be concerned about.

"..... Hmm, I bet he overslept."

(alt: "...Hmph, I must have overslept.") I don't know how long they were late, but if they were, they must have been in a hurry to come running.

(alt: I don't know how many minutes late, but if that's the case, I'm sure they'll come running in a hurry.) Perhaps you can even see them holding their sides because they paced themselves so inappropriately.

If such a thing happened, I'd make a big joke of it later in front of him, smiling graciously and fearlessly "..... I can't believe you're doing this!

After she finished getting ready, she glared at the mirror for a final check.

Perhaps because I packed so quickly, I feel as if my hair is somehow undone.

This was all due to Akiharu, who did not show up even though he had stayed on the balcony until the time was almost up.

He is a man who is a nuisance whether he is there or not.

She was wondering what she would say to him when she saw him in the classroom, and she was about to leave the room to go to the cafeteria when her hand on the doorknob stopped her movement.

Is this?"

The one that caught my eye was next to the door.

In the mail box, I found an envelope that should not have been there last night.

The grayish-brown, postcard-sized envelopes have been seen several times before.

This envelope is"

All of them were used for official notices from the Education Department.

..... "..... is kind of weird."

(alt: ◆ ◇ ◇ ``Well, it's strange...") Frowning and touching the safety pin attached to his right ear with his finger, Akiharu Hino muttered quietly, "I'm not sure if this is a good idea or not, but it's a good idea.

(alt: Akiharu Hino muttered softly while frowning and touching the safety pin attached to his right ear with his finger.) I looked behind me, but as I expected, no one was looking at me.

The after-school café terrace was filled with only a few customers and no one seemed to be paying attention to us.

I think it might have been my imagination.

I have had similar sensations several times today alone, and when I looked around to see if anyone was watching me, there was no one that I could think of.

In fact, if I do something wrong, the ladies in the upper school who are not close to me at all start whispering about it, and my reputation goes down for nothing, which makes me want to cry.

..... or maybe it's just not getting any better.

When I returned from overseas training the week before last, I found a man with a "taste for bondage exposure.

Last week, the label was slapped on a much larger-than-expected "A lot of people were forced to expose themselves and dress up in costumes in the cafeteria.

It was rumored that the company was going to be a "big player" in the market.

I wonder what kind of a person I will have turned into by the time I graduate.

I don't like the idea of becoming a legendary demon king class pervert.

I don't know that such a thing happened.

(alt: Even if that happened, it's okay.) Thanks to Tomomi's help in cleaning up the rumors, the level of esteem had returned to the same level as before this week.

No, well, that's sad enough.

But today, or rather, this morning, I felt someone's gaze on me again.

Hedier, who makes you want to say, "Oh, Daichi, the all-powerful one," or "Are you a killer?" would be able to identify who is watching, but unfortunately, Akiharu cannot do that.

I don't know what I could do that would give me the skills to detect infrared rays in the general population.

(alt: I wondered if it was possible for a commoner to have the skill to perceive even infrared rays.) "Even if it is, what is it about"

I don't think it was a mistake.

But I'm not even sure.

There is no reason that comes to mind.

..... Well, in a sense, the fact that you can be concerned about something like this is the end of you.

As usual, only the area in charge of Akiharu is completely empty, and I can think about unnecessary things because I have too much time on my hands, I guess.

I can understand the feelings of a salaryman who has been sent to a "quiet" job.

However, the biggest difference is that I don't have a job for personal reasons.

It's more like the situation where you are the only one who can't catch any fish and you are a monk, while everyone around you is catching fish like crazy.

I really wish someone I knew would come.

I was told during the afternoon class that the day after tomorrow, on Saturday, I would have to take an exam for the Education Department.

I don't know what I will be doing this time, but that is something I should consider only after I am able to participate.

(alt: I don't know what I'm going to do next time, but that's something I should think about for the first time after I'm able to participate.) Although we have been lucky enough to participate so far, there is no guarantee that we will have the same opportunities this time.

You may be in trouble if you don't actively negotiate to get a card.

The question is, who should we look for?

If I ask Tomomi to do it, even if she agrees, I'm afraid it's going to be a terrible thing in exchange, and Selnia is going to be very slick with her.

Perhaps because he had half forgotten about his work and was thinking about the exam, Akiharu said, "That's it.

I was a little late in noticing the

I was surprised to find him standing in my area of responsibility with his arms folded as if he were some kind of queen.

"What a bunch of unattentive commoners you always are. What are you doing standing there with your head held high while the guests are waiting for you?"

I'm sorry I didn't notice.

(alt: "Well, it's not my fault, I'm sorry I didn't notice.") If this had been just an accusation, I would have responded in defeat, but since it was a genuine opinion, Akiharu returned the apology in a straightforward manner.

Just as I was thinking about it, Selnia showed up, gave me a sullen glance, and then said, "It sends shivers down my spine to be talking to you in such a foul tone.

....., but we do use honorifics when we are serving.

(alt: "... However, honorifics are the principle during service activities.") Even that principle was violated when he was playing against Pina and Mina, who look like elementary school students.

When a child's innocent eyes are so disgusted with what they see, I have no choice but to break down.

As I recall, you're almost done with your duties for the day, aren't you?

Well,, yes, we'll be done in about 15 minutes.

If you want, you can wait until after we're done. I'll be sitting on the bench behind the café terrace, and you can come as soon as you're done. Do you understand?"

"..... Yes, I understand."

(alt: "..... Yes, I understand") Despite some hesitation, Akiharu nodded his head.

I don't really have any obligation to follow Selnia's superior instructions, but I can't talk back without thinking about it during service activities.

And one more thing... Although my language was not so different from usual, somehow my voice was strangely powerful.

If I refused or showed disgust, I was almost afraid that they would kick me in the face instantly.

While Akiharu was inwardly tilting his head and thinking, "I don't remember doing anything in particular," Selnia quickly turned on her heel and walked out of the café terrace.

Remembering the disappearing back, I asked myself, "....."

(alt: 「.....」) I tried muttering to myself, but there was no way I was going to get an answer.

After all, Akiharu spent more than ten minutes without any customers before the café terrace was closed and he hurried to the place where Selnia was supposed to be waiting for him.

It was only around five o'clock, but the sun was beginning to set.

The air is getting chilly, and if we wait too long, we'll be bombarded with a machine-gun barrage of verbal abuse.

..... No. Can I complain even if I don't have to wait? In any case, it would be a bad idea to keep them waiting, so I walked out behind the café terrace and looked at the benches nearby. was there.

Selnia's figure with her arms folded and legs crossed is frustratingly beautiful, partly due to the fact that it's dusk, but I'm not going to fall in love with her now.

It would have been better if we had met for the first time, but now that I am familiar with them and understand their personalities, I am not so sure.

It seems that they immediately noticed the arrival of Akiharu, and their gazes darted to him. Then, he gets up and walks over to us.

The elegant idea of sitting and waiting seems to be nowhere to be found.

Selnia, who approached with footsteps, stopped right in front of Akiharu and glared at her with sky-blue eyes.

It's late. How dare you keep a lady waiting?

'..... eh? You're waiting for me. No, it's nothing.'

The protest ended mid-sentence.

The reason was because my eyes were really serious.

..... I don't know what's going on, but today's driller has a different intensity.

(alt: I don't know what to say, but today's Drill-san has a different power.) There is a sense of intimidation that makes people refrain from confrontations, even when they are unreasonable.

Selnia, who had been glaring at Akiharu for some time, sniffed resignedly and said, "..... Hmmm, well, that's okay. It's not unusual for you, with your attitude toward life, to show up late.

What? What are you talking about? I've hardly ever been late.

I have been doing things regularly since I came to Hakuryo, even though I was absent from school for a while in junior high school, so it is quite surprising to hear that.

Excuses are just unlistenable. Because today..."

I am so glad that you were able to make it today. You're my classmate, you should know that.

"You made it to homeroom in time, but you didn't oversleep?"

No, I didn't. I just woke up earlier than usual."

There's no way that's true!

I'm not comfortable with or with being told that there is no such thing.

It is true, but there is no way to prove it here.

The roommate, the witness who can guarantee your alibi, should be in the dorm by now.

While wondering what was wrong, Akiharu said, "No, no, I'm serious. I woke up early enough that I invited Daichi, who was up before me, to go for a run around the back of the house.

"....."

"....., hmm?"

While I was trying to explain as much as I could, I noticed a change in Selnia's expression.

I thought he was frowning quizzically, but then he noticed something and turned over with his mouth open in surprise. What's with this reaction? As Akiharu stared at her in wonder, Selnia looked up as if waking from a dream and said, "You're confusing me, you know!

"Ugh, backhanded! I mean, how can you even be upset?

What's wrong with that? Oh, my God!

The sight of his face turning bright red as he began to stamp his feet on the ground made Akiharu want to raise the white flag in earnest.

I'm screwed. I don't get it at all.

The only other possibility I can think of is that the driller's instinct is to drill into the ground.

I was feeling a bit overwhelmed and unable to cope, when Selnia, breathing hard, glared at me with eyes that were several times more fiercely protective than before.

That's not the point! What's going on?

..... Please put a subject in there. What are you talking about?

It's a given, isn't it? I'm talking about the next pre-school exam!

"..... Uh."

(alt: "..... ah") The voice was so far away from the other player's tension that it came out low, but it could not be helped.

Because I didn't expect it at all.

And, "What's going on?"

But what exactly are they asking?

Although she lacked a variety of words, Akiharu somehow managed to compensate with her imagination and tried to give a response that seemed to fit the bill.

I haven't decided on a partner yet or rather, I haven't received a card. I don't know what I'm going to do this time either, and there are a lot of guys with afternoon plans on Saturdays.

(alt: "We haven't decided on a partner yet...or should I say, we haven't received a card yet.) I knew it, It can't be helped! No one would think that a notorious commoner could get a card so easily!

"....."

I can't deny that I've heard bad things about, but there's something else that bothers me even more.

What is this blonde driller's strange tension? And he seems strangely happy.

As Akiharu was worried that she might have eaten some bad mushrooms, Selnia brushed her proud hair.

He then put a smile on his face, as if he was trying to hide the fact that he was getting pretty good at this, and said, "Yes, that's right. I am not of noble blood, either. Even if you are a people who always complain and complain, I am willing to give you a favor if you ask me for it.

(alt: And when I tried to hide my pride, a smile that I couldn't hide floated on my lips, saying, "I see. For example, even if the people are always complaining and complaining, you wouldn't be hesitant to show them your kindness if they really asked you to.") For now, speak in Japanese.

(alt: ".....For now, please speak in Japanese.") It's all in Japanese!

Since it is true that she could not understand even half of what was being said, Akiharu could not help but throw a quizzical glance back at her.

After a few seconds of cold silence, Selnia opened her mouth with an exasperated brow.

I'm talking about the EDUCATION test! You haven't gotten your card yet, have you?

"Uh, yeah. huh? Is that what that means?"

I may not have understood his theatrical, pompous lines earlier, but I can understand what he's saying now.

In other words, if you don't have the partner card you need to participate in the exam, you can give it to us.

It's hard to understand because it's from a very high up position, but that's probably what it means.

If so, that's quite good news.

Not only have we not received one yet, but there is no guarantee that we will receive one from anyone in the future.

As Akiharu's cheeks relaxed at the unexpected offer, Selnia took a red card from her skirt pocket and said, "This is what you want, isn't it?"

"Oh, thank God for, hey?"

When Akiharu held out his hand, Selnia's hand holding the card fled upward.

It's more like they are being kept in the dark.

She looked at the card in front of her mouth, and her eyes narrowed as if she was pleased. Who said I was giving it to you?

"..... is it?"

Of course, we don't mind giving generously. Of course, it's fine to be generous with a gift. That's what a person living in the upper class is all about. However, I think that the recipient should have a certain attitude, you know?

Wow, what a happy voice.

They think they can torture us mentally from a higher position, but they are too happy about it.

Compared to Tomomi, the black-hearted demon, she's still cute. What's with this strangely high tension?

I understand the sense of superiority, but it seems a little strange.

As Akiharu was silent, feeling a sense of wonder, Selnia, who was in the best shape of her life at that moment, fluttered her cards and said, "Now, Akiharu, what are you going to do? I don't care if you want to turn down my kindness, but there's no guarantee that you'll still have a chance after this, is there?"

"....., maybe."

(alt: "... maybe so.") I am somewhat reluctant to nod my head, but you are absolutely right.

Tomomi also mentioned that she had something to do this Saturday, and the people with whom she has a close relationship are generally very busy, so their schedules may be full.

Hou, Yami and Minami are not the type to be so proactive about this kind of event, and Aiche seems to be willing to take care of it if I ask her, but I'm too afraid that Hedier will demand a few hundred times the money back afterwards.

So, is the best way to go.

The conclusion was reached in good order, and Akiharu raised his eyes to look straight at Selnia.

"Well, you should be worried about it. But since you don't know when I'll change my mind, it's best to think of it as a time limit, okay?"

Mr. Drill, who was in a state of bliss, still seemed to be in a state of high spirits, and his speech was finally getting ridiculous.

As a human being, I should wake him up from his dream as soon as possible.

Thinking this, Akiharu lightly scratched the back of his head and then asked, "What do you want me to do at"?

It's a given. You must bow down to me, and then make an entreaty to me to please give you my partner card!

Okay, I've got your word.

As soon as the right words were spoken, Akiharu turned to Selnia, whose cheeks were flushed with excitement, and said, "Please give me your partner card.

I said it without much emotion and lowered my head.

".....?"

Selnia, on the other hand, looked blank, her smile slightly cracked.

I'm sure he thought we would see the agony and pain he must be going through to bow down to us, but we are obedience students.

(alt: I'm sure it's about this guy, so he must have thought that bowing his head would cause a lot of conflict and anguish, but we're secondary school students.) They speak honorifics and bow when necessary.

Although he was the one who took the initiative, Akiharu, while basking in a slight sense of superiority, held out his hand to Selnia, who was on the verge of freezing, and said, "Do as you're told, will you? Can I have the card?"

Oh, hey, that's, of course, but!

Selnia reacted as if she had been expecting a movie to end in an unreasonable dream ending, and Akiharu decided to take advantage of the opportunity to attack her.

You know what I mean. It's not possible that Selnia, a noblewoman, would break her promise, is it?

"Of course! I will not go back on a promise I once made in the name and on the coat of arms of the Flameheart family!

I tried to use a light provocative tone, but it was very effective.

When I appealed to her to give me the card by moving my hand up and down, Selnia bit her teeth so hard she looked at me as if she were gnashing her teeth,, and handed the partner card she was holding into Akiharu's hand as if to slam it down on him.

"This is satisfactory, isn't it? Oh, my God, I'm so angry!

Thanks a lot. That really helps."

While thanking the drill partner, Akiharu is relieved that this is the right person to drill with.

It may be that he is stubborn, but to be honest, it is quite impressive that he keeps his promises even when he is in a bad mood.

If the other party is Tomomi, Hahaha, even if they keep their promise as a result, they will be left with a lot of psychological damage.

In that respect, I was also lucky to be dealing with Selnia, who is not capable of bad ideas.

While Akiharu, who had successfully obtained the card, was thinking about this with a glowing smile on his face, Selnia was glaring at him with a frown and folded arms, as if she was not convinced.

I think it's crazy and unreasonable. My perfect plan would never have ended up with such a bad ending.

(alt: "... It's strange, it's unreasonable. With my perfect plan, I can't believe I'm going to end up with such an incomplete combustion...") Selnia, who had been mumbling to herself, suddenly broke off and pressed her forehead and temples with her hands.

It was so sudden that Akiharu involuntarily looked into the face of his classmate in front of him and said, "Hey, what's going on?"

..... It's nothing. I'm just a little dizzy.

(alt: "...it's nothing. I'm just a little dizzy.") It's not nothing, is it? What do you want to do, go to the infirmary?

Since Hakuryo has an infirmary staffed 24 hours a day by a female doctor, it is best to go there without hesitation in times like these.

I can't believe I just heard the word "woman doctor" and my blood pressure went up!

But if you're a Selnia in the upper secondary school, you won't get that kind of treatment.

Selnia, who let out a small sigh with one eye closed, glanced at Akiharu, who was worried, and said, "You are not so weak that you need a doctor at this level, you know.

"Well, but what if he's sick somehow? You're always wearing such light clothes. It could be a cold.

And if that's the case, even more so!

No, I don't understand what you mean by "even more so" there.
Moreover, they glared at me intensely.

The killing intent seemed to be coming at her, but Akiharu was ready to run away at any moment.

Despite her irrational anger, Selnia says, "I can't help but think that we're being haunted by the kind of bad luck that comes along only once every few years or so. I think I'll take an early rest today.

"Yeah, yeah, do that. Tomorrow is a national holiday, and if you take it easy for one day, a mild cold will go away.

I'm sorry, but my schedule is full. It won't take more than half a day to recover from this level of indisposition.

(alt: "Unfortunately, my schedule is full. It takes less than half a day to recover from this level of poor physical condition.") She confidently said, "That's a little impossible," and walked away with a firm gait that one would not expect from a semi-sick person.

Akiharu, who was left behind, looked at Selnia's back for a while, but then said, "..... should I go home? I have to clean my room.

I muttered to myself, and as I was putting the card away in my pocket, I suddenly realized that I had been given a card.

Well, didn't I just hit my lip on this one:? I've seen the soft lips of Selnia at close range many times due to repeated accidents, and the scene of that time instantly comes to my mind.

It doesn't do anything in particular, and a card is still a card

Burned with embarrassment over what had happened, Akiharu violently put away his partner card and let out a big breath.

The weather on Saturday was a little too cold and rainy to go outside.

Because of the bad weather, the participants of the examination gathered inside the building instead of in front of the auditorium, and they were listening to the contents of the examination that Shenzhen was telling without any particular chatting.

Only Akiharu was more interested in Selnia, who was standing next to him.

"..... Hey, are you sure you're okay?"

I thought I told you there was no problem with It's so out of character for you to be concerned about me. Oh, God, I have the chills, I wish you'd stop."

"..... is probably not because of what I said."

(alt: "... It's probably not my fault.") It is not because he has time to spare that he is whispering quietly while Shinkan is talking.

Just a glare and I'm like, "Oh, is this what it's like to have a muzzle pressed between your eyes?"

I feel as if my life is being shortened by the intimidation of the "Mere Old Man" no matter how many times I have been subjected to it.

The reason why we are chatting secretly is because of the color of Selnia's face.

Perhaps because she is a Japanese-English quarter, her skin is supposed to be a little different from Japanese people's in terms of whiteness, but it was as red as if she had just finished taking a bath.

The auditorium is heated to a reasonable level, so it should not be too hot.

Today, Selnia wears a high-necked sweater and a mermaid skirt, which is not particularly heavy clothing.

But his cheeks are red and his breathing is shallow. It's a cold. It's a perfect cold.

..... No, it's not.

(alt: "... No. Even if that were the case, there's no way this Selnia = Iori = Flameheart would just succumb to a cold and break a promise!?") "..... and even if you're in such a good physical condition, you can still"

(alt: "... No, even if you do your best in such a physical condition...") I have been telling them to go home since the first time I saw them, but they never listen to me.

What stubbornness!

I suppose it can be a positive factor in some cases, but in times like this, I wish they would just back off.

How is it possible to allow a person who is clearly not in good health to participate in an examination, and yet the sick person in question doesn't even listen to me?

As Akiharu scratched the back of his head in annoyance, unable to help but sigh, he said, "I will now announce the contents of today's examination.

The deep, clear voice was piercing through my ears.

Akiharu decides that if this is the case, he has no choice.

After we are done talking about this, we will take Selnia to the infirmary, if we have to.

In my condition, I probably wouldn't be able to put up much of a fight anyway.

If we drag him away and throw him in bed, he'll probably calm down.

As I was thinking, "I have to be prepared for a few scratches," Mikan's lips opened solemnly and he said, "Originally, we were going to use Yan Suiou for the test, but due to the unfavorable weather conditions, we decided to change the content at short notice. So, even if there are cases in which a participant withdraws after the announcement, he or she will not be disqualified this time, but will receive the minimum score."

".....?"

Although the comment came unexpectedly, it is good news that we can rejoice with all hands in the current clear autumn weather.

It's too good to be true that I received this notice just when I was about to abstain.

But at the same time, it's like, "How could you let that happen?"

There was also the question, "What is the best way to get the most out of the system?"

At the very least, there is no precedent, and I can't imagine what a likely no-show test would entail.

So Akiharu frowned slightly and waited for the next words: "This time, the test will be to go to the room of your partner, a senior high school student, and take care of your personal needs.

I froze in place as I heard these startling words.

Does that mean that I'll be in Selnia's room? And by personal care, you don't mean helping her get dressed, giving her a massage, or running her back in the bath. No, I couldn't think of anything else I could do to help her. My head has to be restored somewhere.

Many people may agree to be a test partner, but may not feel comfortable letting you in the room. This is especially true for female students who are paired with male students. Therefore, we have decided that there will be no penalty for not participating.

I'll do something about my brain with the trouble-producing device sooner or later, but from what I've heard, I'm pretty sure I'm going to go to my partner's room in the dormitory at the school of higher education.

But, well, I guess it doesn't really matter.

All I had to do was announce my non-attendance and take Selnia to the infirmary.

Specific instructions will be left up to the partner's upper division students. After three hours of examination time, the student must leave the dormitory immediately and come to the office of the director to report to me.

After cutting off his speech, he then looks around the area as if taking a careful look around.

Despite some murmurs, perhaps because no one asked any questions, Fukakan slightly raised the narrow frames of the glasses he was wearing and said, "Well then, we will begin the test in about ten minutes. Those who are participating should move to their partner's room, and those who are not participating should come to me.

He bowed deeply and retreated to the back, where a number of upper division students immediately gathered.

Todoroki half clung to one of them and said, "Wait, wait! I won't do anything, and I won't mess with you."

They are making a fuss about it, but it's being shaken off like a golden nightshade. Well, I don't really care about that.

(alt: I'm making a fuss about it, but it's being shaken off like Golden Yasha... Well, it doesn't matter, that kind of thing.) Both Sanke and the grandparents were apologizing to their partners in higher education for not allowing boys in the room.

I think it's strange that even they are like that, so it's not right for me and Todoroki to be okay with it.

However, since Akiharu had a good reason for not taking the test, he decided to go ahead and poke Selnia in the shoulder, and said, "If you can get some free time around Deep quiet a little later, we should go and tell him that we are not participating, too, right?

I asked with the intention of just doing a routine check.

I know the result and, well, there is no problem.

It's just that there are times like this.

..... and we gave up and accepted it ahead of time.

Selnia glared at Akiharu with a strong gaze that could not be considered that of a person in poor physical condition.

I have no say in the affairs of the Flameheart family.

"What's?"

Once I have made a promise to you, I will keep it no matter what the test is, no matter if it is with a bunch of idiots like you or not.!

(alt: "Once I've made a promise, I'll keep it, no matter if it's against a worthless commoner like you, no matter what the test is...!") I just got a uselessly passionate comment:? Akiharu was stunned, but it only lasted for a few seconds before he came to his senses, staring into Selnia's eyes, "Hey, what? Did you listen to her explanation?

Of course. It's no big deal to simply let a servant into a room.

"That being said, is certainly true, but"

Even if she said it with dignity, Akiharu would be at a loss.

Normally, I would have to give some reason for turning down the test, but I don't see why I should force myself to take it when I'm in such a bad shape.

(alt: Normally, I would want to refuse the exam for some reason, but the need to overdo it while I was in poor physical condition was nowhere to be found.) Maybe he's more stubborn than usual because he's not feeling well.?

It's just an idea, but it makes sense.

He is the kind of guy who rebounds with a force that makes you wonder if he has even a strong spring inside him.

Moreover, since he was so stubborn that he would not admit he was not in good physical condition, my recommendation may have had the opposite effect, and he may have developed an attitude of never backing down.

In other words, they have become as unruly a creature as a crying child.

Selnia's eyes showed her determination, and Akiharu was at a loss as to what to do.

Is it right to force him to go to the infirmary as originally planned? Or should we pull back so as not to waste our strength? "What are you guys doing?"

"..... っ!"

(alt: "... Huh!?") A sudden voice made me turn around, and before I knew it, there was a statue of Fukakan standing nearby, looking like a statue made of ice.

And then, catching Selnia's cold eye, he said, "Mr. Flameheart, do I detect you are indisposed?"

There's nothing wrong with that. I wouldn't say that a newborn baby bird is out of shape at this level.

No, because that metaphor makes no sense at all.

I guess the heat is changing my thought process. Wait, maybe that's just a normal thing.

(alt: After all, the heat has changed my train of thought... Wait, that might be something that's always happening —— ``Huh!?") Akiharu, who had been seriously thinking about something unserious, suddenly feels a chill run down his spine and he stiffens up.

The cause was immediately apparent.

The gaze of the quiet man who should have been focused on Selnia until a moment ago is, as I thought, directed at us.

Mr. Hino. You shouldn't force your partner to do something like that.

I know that, but they don't listen to me.

(alt: "I know that too, but you didn't listen to me...") It sounds like a pretty poor excuse, but it's true, so there's no other way to put it.

The first thing to do is to make sure that you have a good understanding of what you're doing and what you need to do in order to get the most out of it.

"At, Mr. Flameheart will be taking part in the exam, correct?"

Of course. Of course, it was not for Akiharu's sake, but for my own pride.

I understand. But I would like to add one condition.

The words "unexpected permission" came out of his mouth that made me want to doubt my ears.

In front of Akiharu, who was looking at the cold teacher with suspicion, wondering if he might be suffering from a cold or something else that was impairing his judgment, Fukagan turned to Selnia with his usual expressionless face.

I will accompany you to your room. I will accompany you to your room, where you will undergo a brief medical examination, the results of which will determine whether or not you can participate.

Yes, that's fine. It's nothing to get worked up about.

Selnia says confidently, but from the outside, she looks like she deserves to make a fuss.

At least a doctor would say, "Sleep tight."

I am sure that you will say that.

But, a medical examination?

Does this maid-teacher even know anything about medicine?

Akiharu was impressed by how versatile he is, as usual, when he heard a message from "..... Hino-san".

I was so excited that I could not believe my eyes, and I was so excited that I could not believe my eyes.

It's probably just a cold. It depends on the fever, but it should not get worse as long as she stays in her room after taking medicine and nutrition. So you should do your best to keep Flameheart as calm as possible.

"..... got it. But are you sure?"

For now, though. But I would like to ask for the help of any available female students in the Education Department."

You mean you're worried about me being on my own?

I am not trying to say that this is outrageous, but rather, I am asking as a confirmation.

He quietly shook his head and said, "Spreading unnecessary rumors is not good not only for the Department of Education, but also for Hakuryo. It is just a way to diminish the possibility of a student being accepted, and has nothing to do with Ms. Hino's personal credibility.

If she were to say such a thing, there would be no reason for Akiharu to refuse.

Even just two people of the opposite sex alone in a room is a situation that can easily lead to unnecessary misunderstandings.

I know what it's like because I just recently learned about it firsthand in the case of Mt.

Add to that the element of caring for the sick, and who knows what kind of processing the gossipy ladies will do to their stories.

..... Yeah, makes me not want to think about it.

I let out a small breath, and then Akiharu nodded to Fukagan before saying, "He's a girl in the education department and he's not busy.?"

"Hey, it's autumn. How long are you going to stay here?"

Just as we begin to consider the few possibilities, we hear Selnia's angry voice, as if she had lost her patience.

Even though he is sick, he is still very energetic," thought Akiharu as he raised his hands in surrender and followed Selnia who started to walk towards the dormitory in a flying mood.

Yes, I will do my best!

The words, full of energy and overflowing with energy, were "..... Oh, yes, yes. I'll take it in moderation, okay?"

Akiharu responded in a slightly withdrawn manner, but there was a reason for this.

Rather than say, "We're nursing together," she said, "I'm with you because it's an exam, and I'm just nursing."

To prove her point, we asked her to stay with us because of Shikikagami's Hasegawa Hasegawa.

I knew that my sister was not participating in the exam today because of her modeling job, so I invited her, but I wanted to keep it moderate because if I went too hard, there was a good chance that she would run away.

Incidentally, she is currently outside of Selnia's room in the hallway of the women's dormitory of the upper secondary school.

Since the school announced that they would be holding the exam in the dormitory, we would like to think that we will not be immediately treated as a suspicious person if we are seen, but we cannot be assured of this.

You know, I still get knocked out by strange girls when I bump into them in the corner of the hallway.

Something like that would be a serious problem in the right place.

While Akiharu was standing there praying that everything would be all right, the door in front of him opened and out came Fukayoshi, who was examining the patient.

As for Flameheart's condition, it seems to be a cold. She has a fever, but she has already taken a fever reducer, so she should be fine as long as she stays in bed for a while.

Okay, what about the test?

The following is a brief description of the process. However, if your condition worsens in any way, please contact the medical office immediately. We will let you know so that you can come to the hospital immediately.

After a series of clerical words, Fukaba then looked at Shikikagami, but bowed without comment and said, "Then, please be mindful not to misplace your priorities.

I'll call you if I hear anything. If something happens, I'll call you.

I don't think she was reassured by his words, but she simply turned around and disappeared into the hallway.

The remaining Akiharu exhaled briefly to get rid of his hesitation and said, "Well then, I'll do my best. Let's go, Shikikagami.

Yes, let's go for it!

Akiharu knocked on the door and entered the room.

Since this was my first time to enter a women's dormitory, I was curious to see what it would be like, but I also thought, "..... seems like a very 'typical' room.

The room is much larger than the rooms used by the upper education department and Akiharu and his friends.

I envy them because they are using it for their own personal use.

Even so, the room does not feel very spacious, possibly due to the large number of furnishings.

The closet and posture mirror were so large we wanted to ask if they were really necessary, and the TV was at least 50 inches in size.

The bed is placed in the corner of the room.

That's definitely a double size.

I have no idea why they chose that size for sleeping alone.

However, Akiharu would not be able to ask that question until Selnia, who was sitting on the bed, was well again.

Still in plain clothes, Selnia looked somewhat dazed, but as soon as she noticed us, her eyes returned to their usual lively appearance and she said, "It's hard to say 'welcome. It's humiliating to have a man like you in my room, even for an exam.

"....., you could have just said no if you were going to go that far."

(alt: "... If you're going that far, I'm glad you declined.") Nobles who can't keep their promises are no better than common people. I am the one who should be the one to do such a thing.

.....

(alt: "Nobles who can't keep their promises are lower than commoners.) "Look, don't overdo it. Change your clothes quickly and start sleeping like a grown-up.

Selnia, who was perhaps disturbed by his attempt to speak out loud, turned over and held her forehead, but Akiharu told her so with all the tenderness he could muster.

Shikikagami should be able to help me change my clothes, but I'm still wondering, "So, where are my pajamas? And aren't you cold without a futon?"

I would have thrown my nightgown on the bed, but there are no such clothes on the bed where Selnia sits.

In fact, there were only silk sheets, and no sign of the fluffy, luxurious down comforter I had imagined would be there.

I don't need a futon. If you adjust the temperature in the air conditioner, a sheet will suffice in summer and winter.

What a waste of electricity but pajamas?

I told you one sheet is enough, didn't I? Of course I'm not wearing it.

Of course not! I've only seen that in Western movies!

What? Isn't it normal to sleep naked?"

Since even Shikikagami has said such a thing, Akiharu is now in the minority.

But no, that common sense is wrong.

And please try to refrain from saying things like "just sheets" or "naked" or anything that might stimulate the imagination in the specific space of the bed.! She did her best to stop her interest from going in the wrong direction and tried her best not to look at the combination of Selnia and the bed, and she said, "..... In case you're interested, there are pajamas in the lower section of the closet there. Shikikagami-san, can you get them for me?"

Yes. Let's see... Oh, Oh, this is it!

Saying this, Shikikagami pulls out a pair of pale lemon-colored pajamas with buttons on the front.

..... That's fine, but I want you to do something quickly because I can see what looks like folded underwear peeking out of the closet that has been left open.

Even though I make the utmost effort not to look at them, there is no way to avoid their gazes.

Since she might incur unreasonable wrath if she gave him a warning, Akiharu thought about it for a moment and then said, "W-Wait, should I bring him something to eat while he's changing?"

..... I don't have an appetite.

(alt: "...I have no appetite.") But if you don't eat anything, it's not good for your health. Can't I have some fruit or yogurt?"

"..... apples, at least."

(alt: "..... Apple, if it's about") After much hesitation, Akiharu muttered, "Okay.

And he gets up.

"Well then, Shikikagami. I'm sorry, but I need you to change my clothes.

(alt: "Then, Shikikagami. I'm sorry, but don't ask me to change clothes.") Yes. "Yes, I'll leave you in safe hands as if you were on a luxury cruise ship!"

I don't like the name of that ship, it sounds like the Titanic. Although she felt a little uneasy about Shikikagami still wearing her pajamas, Akiharu left the room she had just entered with a feeling of resignation, thinking that it was no use staying in the room as it was.

(alt: That ship's name sounds like the Titanic, and I don't like it... Although Shikikagami, still in her pajamas, feels a little uneasy, but with a feeling of half-give-up, thinking that it can't be helped if she stays like this, Akiharu I left the room I had just entered.) A short pause should cool your head down.

The closet was casually closed with a foot on the way out, so the hazardous materials were out of sight.

..... or if you haven't done anything yet.

(alt: ".....Or rather, I haven't done anything yet.....") Just being in the room makes me tired.

Although I was prepared for this to some extent, I still felt too much stimulation in the opposite sex's room.

The atmosphere is already different.

I am very glad that I called Shikikagami.

Though it was risky in many ways, if Akiharu was alone, she would have frozen as soon as she opened the closet.

I really don't want to see a site where underwear is lined up in a row.

The problem is where to get the apples, but I guess I'll just have to go around and see where I can find them.

Deciding that it would be easier than being alone with Selnia on the hospital bed, Akiharu started walking down the corridor.

"Hah! This room, right?"

I had thought that I might have to go outside Hakurei Ling to buy some food, but I was able to complete the task at the nearby cafeteria in the Upper School dormitory.

I went to the store to see if they might have some for dessert and explained the situation to them.

He also lent me a fruit knife, so I was able to finish my spending without much effort.

After repeatedly checking the room number next to the door, Akiharu grabbed the knob with the hand not holding the plastic bag containing the fruit, and just before he was about to open the door, he succeeded in stopping himself.

Not five minutes had passed since I had left the room.

In case she hasn't finished changing her clothes, she will be stigmatized as a voyeur, and that will be the end of her career.

Akiharu takes his hand off the door knob and presses the intercom switch.

After a few moments, "click" from the speaker.

A small sound was heard, and then, "Um, this is Ms. Selnia's room, is it?"

"Shikikagami, is it safe to come in now?"

Ah, you are Hino-san, right? I'm sure it's all right.

Akiharu breathes a sigh of relief when he hears Shikikagami's voice.

Well, if you think that you have saved yourself unnecessary trouble, this amount of time and effort is not at all regrettable.

If you step on a mine and then realize it's there, it's too late to do anything about it.

Telling herself that it is important to confirm each step like this, Akiharu opens the door once again.

Selnia was sitting on her bed, just as she had been before she left.

Tēm, you are not wearing anything on your upper body.



"How did you do that? ?

(alt: "--?!") Akiharu instantly closes the half-open door and crouches down with his back to the door.

..... Why, why, why aren't you wearing anything.....?

To be precise, I was wearing pajama pants in the bottom, but no underwear in the top.

Although the subtle angle of the side view meant that only the back was visible, the bust, which appeared to be well beyond the norm, was just barely visible.! I had only seen her for a split second, but it was so firmly etched in my mind that my heart was racing as if I had just dashed out of the car.

(alt: Because the angle was a bit off from the side, I could barely see her back, but the bulge of her chest, which seemed to slightly exceed the standard, was visible and hidden right up to the very last line...! Even though I only saw it for a brief moment, it was completely burned into my mind, and when my heart was as terrible as it was right after the dash, I said, "Um, what's wrong?") "Shikikagami?"

A voice came from behind me and I turned around to see Shikikagami looking down at me with her head sticking out of the door.

Akiharu stood up like a spring-loaded doll and said, "Oh, my God, nothing was okay! What do you mean?"

"Yes? What is it?"

I told you! Why are you letting me in when you're not dressed?

When I strongly questioned my classmate, who seemed to have no idea why we were in a panic, Shiki-Kagami tilted her head as if the headset on her head was going to fall off.

If you react like a child who doesn't understand why he was angry at you, it is difficult for Akiharu to be able to use his momentum to his advantage.

I thought I didn't need an explanation, but I don't know what happened.

(alt: I thought I didn't need an explanation, but what happened?) While I was struggling with my words, Shiki looked at me curiously and asked, "Um, is there something wrong with the fact that you haven't finished changing your clothes?"

I mean, that's, you know, I'm a guy and Selnia's a girl, so there's a problem."

I'm sure you have no problem with the servants seeing you change clothes during the test, right? If you try to peek, it might cause a problem.

I had intended to admonish him, but instead he said something like that as if he were admonishing me.

"..... isn't that just in your house?"

I think most houses are like that. But, if there is a special reason, such as Hadim's in the second grade, it might be different."

And then I say, "What do you think?"

Shikikagami tilts her head, and Akiharu again feels the difference in consciousness between the upper class and the upper class.

If someone of the same age were to see you changing clothes, no matter how much of a servant you are, wouldn't it be normal to make a big deal out of it? In fact, there's often a lot of rumors about such incidents. so if it was during an obedience class, would you be okay with it? If you were okay with it, you should have told us at the beginning.

It is certain at this point that regret is inevitable, but we must be careful because we have not yet received confirmation from the person in question.

..... For now, Shikikagami. For now, Shikikagami, please finish changing Selnia's clothes.

(alt: "... For now, Shikikagami. Please finish changing Selnia's clothes.") What? If Mr. Hino is back, you don't have to go to if you don't want me to."

Please, you do it.! Just let me know over the intercom when you're done."

"Got it...?"

Shikikagami returned to the room, though she didn't look like she understood much.

Akiharu crumbles to the ground again and sits down on the spot.

Time seems to pass much slower in the hallway of the women's dormitory, an extremely uncomfortable place, and perhaps because of the overly-special situation of having to change clothes in a room with a beautiful classmate with whom I have a more than reasonable relationship.

As Akiharu was trying to hold back the feeling of wanting to run away from the situation, and was writing "Noshi" on the floor with her fingers, she said, "Um, I'm done..."

..... finally or"

The long-awaited voice came over the speakers and I sat up with a big sigh.

Hence, if only my mental age could reach that level, I wouldn't have to agonize so much.

Akiharu reaches for the door knob and gently opens it with the intention of handling an explosive device.

Cautiously, you look around the room, preparing yourself to close the door and escape at any moment. You breathe a small sigh of relief.

(alt: Carefully, I look around the room, mentally prepared to close the door at any moment and escape... I let out a small sigh of relief.) Thank God, I was properly dressed in pajamas.

Dangerous sights that carpet-bombed the brain from sight were apparently far behind.

After receiving confirmation, Akiharu finally entered the room and said to Selnia, who was sitting on the bed with a blush on her face, "Yo, yo. How are you doing?"

"..... is not good, to my dismay."

(alt: "... unfortunately, it's not good.") I was relieved to hear that, although I thought it would be true.

Apparently, she did not realize that she had just seen the scene where she was left in the middle of changing her clothes.

A tingle of guilt ran through my chest, but Akiharu decided to ignore it and held up a plastic bag, "Look, I got a lot of stuff. Where are the dishes?

Over there, on the shelf at"

She points at him and tells him, but Selnia's face contorts in pain.

He puts his hand to his forehead, then lets out an oddly sexy exhale and says, "..... This is a little painful, isn't it"?

Don't be unreasonable and sleep peacefully. I'll peel you a fruit right now."

"I can't give you any orders. No, I have no choice."

(alt: "No instructions... No, it can't be helped...") As usual, she was about to respond with the words of a rebellious child or some other natural evil, but Selnia stopped her mid-sentence and lay back down on the bed.

Apparently, he is in real pain.

The way she was in the sheets was somewhat fragile, reminding me once again that I need to take good care of her.

(alt: There's something about him that looks weak when he's under the sheets... I'm reminded once again that I need to take good care of him.) Akiharu washes his hands in the

washroom, opens the shelf that Selnia had pointed to earlier, and takes a reasonably sized flat plate.

It looks expensive, but you have to use it.

Since there was no kitchen attached, Akiharu opened the mouth of the plastic bag containing the fruit and placed it on the desk.

Then, using a fruit knife, peel the apples so that the peels are well inside the plastic bag.

The knife is so sharp that it peels easily, which makes me feel good.

I turned the apple in my hand, slit it open, and put one bite-sized piece after another on my plate. Well, that's pretty much it.

(alt: Turn the apple in your hand, cut it into bite-sized pieces, and put them on a plate one after another... Well, it's roughly like this.) After cutting an apple, Akiharu went to see Selnia who was sleeping on the bed with a plate in her hand.

Here, apple. Would you like a fork or something?"

Forks can be found in the drawer of the shelf where the plates are and also at"

What's with the subtle face?

I tried to say something that would normally make her angry, but she just looked at me and said, "....., that's surprising. I didn't know you could use a knife.

I'm an obedience student, after all. I deserve this."

"Ugh I'm not that good at"

Shikikagami, standing across from me on the other side of the bed, had tears in her eyes. In this case, I was too scared to let him hold a knife before I knew if he could do it well or not.

But there was no way to say such a truthful statement, so Akiharu hurriedly fixed his smile and said, "Ah, no, you see, it's been only a short time since you started your career! In my case, I used to do housework and I've been cooking since I was in elementary school.

If that's the case, will I be able to peel like Hino-san in no time?

"..... maybe."

(alt: "..... perhaps") Really? I am looking forward to the cooking class!

Shikikagami was so pleased that she almost jumped up and down, and Akiharu's mouth started to curl.

..... I can't say.

"Maybe."

After the word "impossible," there is "impossible.

I can't believe that's what they were planning to say.

While firmly vowing not to tell the truth, Akiharu picks up a small fork and sticks it in an apple, handing it to Selnia.

Selnia, who had been sitting up and receiving the apple with an unsteady hand, looked at it for a moment before putting it to her lips and saying, "It's so fresh, but it doesn't taste very good at all.

This is probably because the heat has damaged their sense of taste.

The smell I detected while peeling it should have given it a very rich flavor.

Perhaps she knows this, but without further complaint, Selnia eats a piece, then lies back down and says, "..... I'm thirsty. Tea, Akiharu."

No, wait. It may be good for preventing colds, but after you catch a cold, you should stop drinking it. You need to drink water often, so drink plain water.

We're out of mineral water at

I can get water from outside, so there is no problem. It's not good for the stomach to be too cold, so it's probably just fine.

"Damn, we have no choice, don't we"

I mean, what is the idea of tea when you have a cold?

Akiharu removes his gaze from Selnia, who still seems to be complaining, and speaks to Shikikagami, who is staring at the apples while holding her index finger to her lips.

"I'm sorry, Shikikagami, but can you do me a favor? If you could borrow a jug or something from the cafeteria downstairs and fill it with water, that would be great."

Oh, yes! I'll take care of it!

Shiki answered with an enthusiastic smile, and fluttered out of the room.

I should probably stay in my room as a witness, but the chill I felt walking alone in the dormitory earlier was so great that I didn't want to go out.

Well, it only takes about five minutes to go to the cafeteria and back, plus five minutes to fetch water, so it should be no problem.

As long as Shikikagami doesn't get lost in the dormitory.

..... I'm afraid of what he might become, right?

Staring at the door through which Shikikagami had left, I felt a twinge of regret, but there was nothing I could do about it now, so I decided to stop thinking about it.

Now, is there anything else you want?

..... Nothing in particular.

(alt: "... nothing in particular.") At the sound of his tired voice, Akiharu says, "Got it.

He looked at Selnia's face.

Selnia's eyelids were closed, her forehead was sweating, and she looked quite uncomfortable.

He said he had already taken his medicine and wondered if there was anything else he could do,..... He nodded his head and said, "That's it after all.

As quietly as possible, he leaves Selnia's side and goes to the bathroom, looking for a towel.

It's nice that I found not long after since I use it a lot, but it's only available in large sizes.

There was also a bathrobe made of towels, which was too confusing.

I looked for a few minutes to see if there was anything in storage somewhere else, but I couldn't find anything as big as a hand towel.

"..... will do something about this."

(alt: "... what are you going to do with this?") He muttered to himself and produced a handkerchief, which he had not used yet today, in his inner pocket on his chest.

Towels would be more appropriate, but since this is the time of year, we can't afford the luxury.

After wetting it, wringing it out, and folding it into a palm-sized handkerchief with just the right amount of moisture, Akiharu returns to Selnia and says, "Hey"

When you try to speak to them, you notice a small discomfort.

Selnia, who had only closed her eyes a few moments earlier, was now falling asleep.

She is breathing slightly in shallow sleep, and her expression has become slightly calmer.

It was unbearable to wake him up, so Akiharu silently used a damp handkerchief to wipe the sweat from his face.

After wiping off the beads of perspiration that had been floating on his forehead, he placed them on his forehead as a poultice.

After completing the work without waking her up, Akiharu breathed a sigh of relief, and then she realized something unbelievable.

..... Is it a bad idea to be alone with a sleeping opposite sex

No, I'm not guilty of anything, not even thinking about it, but still, this situation is bad.

The difference between a newly built property and a 50-year-old property that has only undergone exterior renovation is as great as the difference between a newly built property and a 50-year-old property that has only undergone exterior renovation.

The situation had changed so drastically in just a few minutes that Akiharu couldn't help but break out in a cold sweat. "I'm back!

(alt: The situation had changed dramatically in just a few minutes.) ".....!"

(alt: 「..... ! 」) I almost had to strike a pose of guts at the sound of the mournful voice echoing through the room.

Turning toward the entrance, I saw Shikikagami returning from fetching water.

To say that it has been a long time coming would be a bit of an exaggeration, but I have never been so happy to see the appearance of this classmate who may reign supreme in the world of screw-ups.

Akiharu made a smile and to pleasantly greet Shikikagami as she approached, but it soon became hard and stiff.

Sorry to keep you waiting.

"What?"

The moment Shikikagami entered the room with Akiharu and the others, she slipped on an empty space.

Not wanting to avoid the ditzy girl who was rushing toward her, Akiharu held her arms out wide to catch her.

Fortunately, there was no great shock, but rather a soft sensation that enveloped the right arm that held him in place, which was mentally painful.

But I am glad that neither of them fell down or got hurt.

Since Shikikagami was able to get away with this level of performance, last week's training may have had at least a slight effect.

I'm not sure what to do.

(alt: — — thought Akiharu.) The person who made the mistake looked as if he or she had made a fatal mistake and said, "Mr. Hino,, I did a terrible thing

You're overreacting. I almost fell, and nothing else.

(alt: "That's an exaggeration. I just nearly fell, and nothing else...") I'm not sure what to say, but I'm sure you'll be able to find something that will help you.

(alt: While trying to smile along with words of encouragement, Akiharu saw something.) Shikikagami carried a crystal glass pitcher.

The water that should have been in there was almost gone.

I look over to see where the contents are, and I see "..... Oh!

It was hanging over Selnia, who was sleeping in her bed.

Akiharu hurriedly peels off the sheet covering his pajamas, but they are already very wet.

The bottom part of my jacket is safe, but my jacket is soaking wet that the fabric is sticking to my skin.

Oh, my God!

I'm pretty sure it's Hey? Shikikagami, where are you going?

I was so distracted by the devastation that by the time I responded, it was too late.

Shikikagami panicked and ran out of the room, and Akiharu's hand, which tried to grab her to stop her, flailed spectacularly.

Immediately there was a sound of a door opening, and then, after a moment, a discreet closing At this last minute, I was once again left alone with Selnia.

"..... Really,"

Then he returns his gaze to the bed once more.

Selnia was not getting up, even though she had been pelted with water.

Although I can hardly see my face, I am too deep in sleep, even though I haven't been asleep for very long.

If you're that type of person, I wouldn't worry about it, but if you're weak and need to rest, is not the place to do it.

Even if the air conditioner is set to the right temperature, if you are wearing wet clothes, it will be a different story.

A simple cold can turn into something more serious by depriving the body of heat.

In a situation like this, where something must be done immediately, the lack of female help is fatal.

I might be able to ask Fukaba, who told me to call him if something happens, but it takes time for him to come from the president's office to the dormitory, so I can't wait too long.

And then, "I'm going to do or"

Akiharu was almost dizzy at his own words.

To change clothes means....

".....?"

(alt: 「 ? 」) (alt: 「 」) My eyes were glued to his chest, which rose and fell as he breathed.

If one were to take a more grandiose deep breath, one would think that the button holding the front of the bag would pop off.

..... Changing clothes means taking them off, which means that the thing that you felt by accident, by touch and close contact, the thing that you could not see in the summer in Atami because it was too far away, even though you got rid of your bathing suit, will be exposed right in front of you without any obstacles. So, what's the point?

No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, that's too bad, that's too bad.
(alt: "No no no no, that's too dangerous...!") His head became hot, and Akiharu told himself to calm down.

Fortunately or unfortunately, I have some idea of what to change into.

When I opened the drawer in the closet where Shikikagami had put her pajamas out earlier, I found a pair of pajamas of a different color that seemed to be of the same brand as before.

Then go to the bathroom and get a bath towel.

Now we are ready to go.

..... except for the essential, mental preparation.

So, do we go to and wake him up, or do we go to one of the rooms and ask for help, or do we just...

Akiharu desperately ponders which choice is best for himself and Selnia.

Then a small moan was heard.

..... and

(alt: "..... hmm..... h.....") When we looked to see if he had woken up, he was unfortunately still asleep.

But - - the pained voice, the expression between the eyebrows wrinkled with heat, Akiharu felt as if he had been poured ice water on his head, and he clenched his back teeth.

I had forgotten about it until last week, when I experienced a similar situation.

When we had to take off wet clothes to dry them in the snowy mountains, Fukagan showed us the importance of prioritizing in an emergency.

And now, in a similar situation, the only person who can act immediately is myself.

"....., you can't afford to lose your way."

(alt: "... it's time to get lost...") I would never want to make a classmate with a cold worse right in front of me.

Even if Selnia later beats you up, or you lose the ability to talk to her for a while, it's still a lot better than the worst that could happen.

I was ready to do it.

Don't worry, even doctors undress sick people.

There is nothing wrong if you do it without feeling guilty.

After telling herself this, Akiharu once again stood in front of the double bed.

Staring at Selnia, who continues to sleep in agony, she swallows a small gulp of spit.

And then - "..... Okay."

He took his tie from his uniform, wrapped it around his head, and blindfolded himself.

I feel like I'm going to be cursed for being a chicken at this point in time, but I guess it's impossible to go for it out of the blue.

If he wants to laugh, he should laugh.

If it's around Todoroki, he'll say, "What a waste of time!

I may exclaim, "I can't do it!

With his vision completely blacked out, Akiharu cautiously reaches for Selnia.

I memorized the position of the buttons just before I put the blindfold on.

I can't see at all, but I think I should be able to figure it out.

You should trust your memory and imagination.

I can't spend much time on it.

Delicately and quickly, feeling like a doctor performing surgery, Akiharu tried to grab the button that was supposed to be there, but his fingertips buried themselves in the button.

"..... っ"

I almost shouted out at the feeling of knowing that this was clearly not a button, but a thing, even if it was through the fabric.

Even so, Akiharu did not move his hand as if stiffened by the sudden mistake.

..... No, no, no, it's just that your brain freezes at the softness of your fingertips and you never mean to do anything else.! You carefully move your hand to the side while making excuses to yourself.

(alt: No, it's just that my brain is frozen by the softness transmitted from my fingertips, and there is absolutely no ulterior motive...! While making excuses to himself, he carefully moved his hand to the side.) Then, on the pinky fingernail, I felt the hardness of the button, which had been the target.

Relieved by this, Akiharu begins to undo the button with both hands.

Even though it is not visible, it is difficult to remove it because it is absorbing moisture, even though I thought it would be easily finished

But that's not the only reason, because the elasticity of the chest, which cannot be touched in any way, disturbs the mind so much that the fingers don't move well.

While encouraging himself to "calm down," and "hang in there, self-control," Akiharu is releasing the buttons one by one from the top.

It's just that much work, and yet I'm sweating.

This is definitely damaging enough to shorten their lifespan.

Still, I managed to get to the very bottom of the button, and then I exhaled loudly and said, "..... and"

?

Selnia makes a strange voice at the perfect moment, and Akiharu hurriedly closes his mouth.

..... I was so surprised that my heart almost stopped.

Did your breath tickle your skin or something like that?!

Yes, it must be done quickly, no doubt about it.

I would have no regrets if Selnia had happened here, but it would have been better if it had ended peacefully.

Akiharu regains his strength and quickly wipes Selnia's body with a bath towel that he has placed within easy reach.

Towels are thicker than pajamas, so I didn't anguish as much as I thought I would.

The performance was still sufficiently destructive, but it was still good enough.

This wiped up all the wet areas.

The only thing left to do is to change into a new pair of pajamas, and the mission will be complete.

Even though she couldn't see him, the presence of a half-naked classmate at close range was too bad for her mind and body, and in order to hurry up and finish up, Akiharu reached for her pajamas and said, "..... Oh!

Finally, I realized something.

Just unbutton the button, pull out the front, and wipe it down.

I was able to do reasonably well.

But it is impossible to get them dressed while they are still in bed.

In order to take off your pajamas and put on new ones, you have to get up.

It is too difficult to do it alone.

Selnia would probably wake up, so it would be better to wake her up quickly and force her to get dressed.

I mean, taking off the clothes first and then waking them up is just not the right order of things.

Even if it doesn't happen, adhesion is essential because the body has to be woken up and supported.

It's absolutely impossible to do the whole process of undressing, putting on, and fastening the buttons again - all while blindfolded and in close contact.

I'm not sure what to do with What are you going to do? Maybe it would have been better to go to a neighbor or something?

She feels like despairing at her own lack of thought, but her impatience is stronger, and she is dismayed with her new pajamas still in her hands.

Since you've already taken them off, even if you want to ask someone for help, you'll need to put a new towel or something on top of them, and that's not a good idea.

(alt: I've already taken it off, so even if I wanted to ask someone for help, I'd have to put a new towel over it or something else.) Suddenly, I heard a voice saying, "Kappa Shiki! Thank God, you're back!

Feeling as if she is being saved from the bottom of her heart, Akiharu relaxes her shoulders.

I was wondering what was going to happen, but it all worked out.

I have never felt so grateful for the existence of Shikikagami.

He is the one who caused the problem in the first place, and he is also a felon for running away before the enemy, but I don't care about that anymore.

The important thing is now.

Feeling his energy returning to his body, Akiharu turned his head toward the entrance where he heard the voice, "..... Akiharu.....-kun? What on earth are you doing?

The new voice, which was heard again, froze the smile that had naturally appeared on his face.

..... Uh, that was If I'm not mistaken, it sounded like the voice of a black guy I know well.? Unable to take in the situation, yet feeling the air in the supposedly well-ventilated room suddenly dropped, Akiharu timidly asked, "..... and Tomomi? What, that, why?

I called for you.

I'm going to take the French test tomorrow, so I was studying for it when Shikikagami came to see me. I'm going to take the French proficiency test tomorrow, so I was studying for it when Shikikagami came to see me.

Tomomi's cold voice for some reason makes Akiharu want to tilt his head back.

Tomomi made an unexpected appearance, but if she was brought here by Shikikagami, she should be able to guess what the situation is like by looking at the current situation.

So why are you acting in such a stifled rage "By the way, though, what did Shikikagami say?"

"To sum it up, she was yelling in a panic, 'Mr. Selnia, who's got a cold and is very weak, was stripped in his sleep, and he's just...'"

"....."

(alt: 「.....」) That is a fact, and it is not wrong.

But who is being misled and why isn't being communicated, and that seems to be the cause of a terrible misunderstanding.! Akiharu, feeling that he was in serious trouble, put his hands behind his back to prevent his body from collapsing, which had become limp and slumped due to the shock, and said, "No, that's not it. You must have misunderstood.

(alt: But it seems that no one has been able to tell why it happened, and that's why there's an outrageous misunderstanding...! Akiharu, who felt that it was really bad, put his hands behind his body, which had been slanted from the shock, so as not to fall over, and said, "You're wrong. You must be misunderstanding.") Oh, really? How dare you say such a thing?"

That's why it's a misunderstanding. If you look at it properly, you'll see it, won't you?

"..... It's you who should really think about what kind of situation you are in.

".....?"

When asked, Akiharu took another look at the current situation.

One woman half-naked in bed with a cold - One man blindfolded - All of the above conditions were out of the question.

Also,, did you intentionally touch Ms. Selnia's breasts earlier"

"Ew! No, that's definitely not right! I mean, this is Selnia's"

"Forget the excuses, get your hands off me now! Oh, for God's sake, that's why men are"

When she was angered by her childhood friend's plain tone of voice, Akiharu jumped back and forth from the spot.

You're not doing any good at all anymore.

"No, I'm a yes, that's right, I'm a useless person."

Any attempt to make excuses was destroyed by a single glance, and Akiharu lowered his head meekly.

In bed, Selnia is now sleeping peacefully and without any signs of distress.

Tomomi pulled up a chair next to the bed and sat down, looking down at me with a weird look in her eyes.

The reason why I am looking at Tomomi from a lower position than her chair is because I am sitting on the floor.

"If you're sorry, show me your attitude."

I was told to do this, and this is how it naturally turned out.



The carpeted floor does not hurt her knees, but her chest throbs with pain from the stares, and Akiharu rolls her back and shrinks back.

The situation changed drastically when Shikikagami brought Tomomi with her, and the change of clothes and disposal of the wet sheets went without a hitch.

Selnia's condition seems to have stabilized, so we can breathe a sigh of relief.

Although they seemed to understand, what they had been told before was like a nail that kept sticking into my body and causing serious damage.

By the way, Shikikagami has already left.

I feel sorry for him, but we were dealing with a sick person, and he had screwed up and was in a bad way, so I had no choice.

So, there are three people in this room now.

Only two people are awake.

Tomomi looked at the owner of the room she was sleeping in and said, "..... Well, I guess I'd better get back.

Wait, are you serious?

After staring at Selnia's face for a while, he cut in somewhat abruptly, which made Akiharu panic.

The reason is that Shikikagami is no longer with us.

Without Tomomi, there would be no female students to watch over the students.

As a black-hearted honor student, he should have known that this is a situation that the boys in the education department would want to avoid, so why did he insist on leaving the room?

When Akiharu looked at her with questioning eyes, Tomomi said with a clear expression, "I told you, I have an exam coming up tomorrow. I don't want to expose myself to failing the first exam, so I want to study until I'm satisfied with my performance today.

"It's, then someone else will take its place."

I don't need it.

When we were told that they were going to cut off our proposal, Akiharu's mouth was agape and she couldn't even speak.

Tomomi's cheeks relaxed into a wry smile as she began to lose her ability to comprehend the situation.

I will give you my guarantee. So, don't do anything that will cause more people to bother you, and take care of Akiharu by yourself.

"....., that's very helpful, but"

(alt: "... Well, it's saved, but...") It is natural for people to want to ask what their previous attitude was.

At least Akiharu is in the midst of feeling like a villager who has been turned into a fox.

I couldn't say, "Come on, tell me what's going on," so I just looked at her and appealed to her, and Tomomi's smile changed to a different kind.

With a mischievous smile that suited her well, she said, "I don't think someone who went to the trouble of putting blindfolds on a beautiful Selnia, who is the envy of her gender, is going to do anything now, when she is conveniently sleeping and has a good reason to do whatever she wants to a certain extent. So I'll give you my word.

"....., that's a good boy."

(alt: "... that's domo") It wasn't a compliment at all, but all I could do was nod my head.

While Akiharu was playing with the safety pin in his right ear with his fingertip, Tomomi got up from her chair and walked toward the entrance of the room. If anything happens, call me on my cell phone. I'll be there in about three minutes.

"....., uh, please."

(alt: "... ah, please.") When you leave the room after the exam, you can ask for Feng-san in the next room. She is supposed to be out today, but she said she would be back in the evening.

Copy that. That's all.

Also, don't look too closely at his sleeping face. Also, don't pay too much attention to her sleeping face, and don't focus on her breasts just because they are an interesting size."

You're done! Go back to your room and study!

Tomomi waved her hands in the air and walked out of the room without showing any sign of concern.

At the sound of the door closing, Akiharu sighs heavily and says, "Damn, what's with all the credit?"

He mumbles and scratches the back of his head.

If I were to be told such a thing, I would never be able to do anything insolent.

I feel like I'm being played so well by that black-hearted childhood friend again.

And since they helped me this time, I can't say anything bitter about it.

Although he was left alone with Selnia for the third time, Akiharu sat down on the vacant chair, thinking that no more accidents would occur.

Not because Tomomi told me to, but because I was somehow embarrassed to see Selnia's face, I shifted my gaze to the other side of the window and said, "..... hmm...? ... ah... ..?"

"Oh, my God, did you wake up?"

The voice that leaked out was enough to make Selnia's eyes blink open, as it should have.

Looking at it again, the reddish, hot complexion has improved a little.

Although you are sweating, sweating during a fever should be a good sign that your body temperature is dropping.

As if to prove her imagination, Selnia, who looked distressed before going to bed, looked somewhat sleepy and relaxed and said, "..... Autumn: Haku? Why are you"

Still in the middle of a trial. Do you remember anything about that?"

I remember now, though only faintly, that I was in the middle of a "....." and I was in the middle of a ".....". As I recall, Shikikagami was there, too.

Yeah, until a little while ago. It was Shikikagami who changed my clothes and sheets.

Tomomi is actually responsible for half of it, but she asked me not to mention her name when she helped me, so I kept my mouth shut.

"If you stimulate it badly and the fever rises, that's a problem, right?"

It's hard to tell the truth when you're told to do so.

As Akiharu was feeling slightly hazy, Selnia blinked several times and seemed to become a little clearer, "So it's I'll have to thank you later, won't I?"

I think he'll be pleased. He was a little depressed because he screwed up.

I guess it's the Buddha's heart not to mention the specifics of what he did.

There is a risk of fire spreading in the bush, so they don't tell us.

In order not to be asked too many questions, Akiharu started the conversation before he could say anything.

I haven't measured it yet, but it looks like your fever has gone down a little. How are you feeling?"

It's not that bad. I'm not nauseous and I'm a little lazy, but..."

I can't help it because my physical strength is declining. I'm surprised to see how well you're doing after such a short time.

Of course. I used to run every morning until I was in middle school, and I still do it on my days off.

Hearing this, Akiharu was convinced from the bottom of his heart.

Is that why they are so full of energy?

She seems to use twice as many calories as the other girls at Hakuryo on a regular basis, yet she doesn't get tired, and her recovery must be quite strong.

"....., by the way."

(alt: "....., by the way") As Akiharu was getting a sense of satisfaction, as if he had just figured out the answer to a slightly twisted quiz, Selnia, for some reason, swept her gaze and said, "You must be working out on your own in the morning, right?"

"Why, did we ever talk about that?"

I feel like I told a similar story the day I got the card.

As I wondered what was wrong with her, Selnia turned her eyes toward me, a look so strong that I could hardly believe she was on a sickbed.

It pains me to admit it, but you're doing a great job. When you transferred in, I thought you would either turn tail and run away or do something insolent and be expelled.

That's a terrible assessment, man.

I'm amazed that you still belong to the Education Department. Is there some reason why you are so desperate?"

The question was so unexpected that Akiharu blinked his eyes and looked at his classmate lying on the bed.

I have never had such a serious conversation with this guy.

I should have just been making a lot of noise all the time.

I wondered if it was because I was sick, but at the same time, I wondered what was going on.

Should I just let it slide, or should I be embarrassed but answer seriously?

..... Well, it's not that much of a problem.

It would be boring to just sleep, and it's not like you'd be at a loss for an answer when asked.

After concluding this, Akiharu reached for the safety pin in his right ear and said, "They are not so different from the rest of them. I don't want to be a servant so much as a butler, but I wanted to be in a job where I could help people, so I joined this place. Well, I know my place, and if I don't work hard for my purpose, I won't be able to catch up.

..... If you're going to help someone, wouldn't it be better to be a doctor or a lawyer?"

I think I'll pass on the doctor. My mother was a nurse, and listening to her stories, I always thought that such a tough profession was not for me. Lawyers are not for me either.

As a high school student, you can understand the meaning of the word "appropriate.

And another thing: "Also, it takes money and time to become a doctor or a lawyer, right? On top of that, I think my aptitude is suited for something small like housekeeping, and more importantly, I'm desperate to get into a job training program that offers good conditions.

Unfortunately, they are not only losing out in terms of skill to the big cities, but also to the roar of the crowd.

I'd like to think that we've gone from the bottom of the group to the average level, but there's still too much missing.

It's not as if they are so relaxed that they can't do anything about it, so they have to work hard.

I am aware that I am a very competitive person, as is Selnia, who is right in front of me.

So, it is not something to be praised.

I have many things I want to do and many things I don't want to lose.

I'm sure Tomomi will understand.

(alt: If you're around Tomomi, I'm sure you'll understand.) He's the kind of guy who hates to lose and plays the role of an honorary young lady, so he's even more thorough than we are.

And - and this may not be the best way to put it - but thanks to Selnia, today I am reminded of that.

I guess I like taking care of other people. It's okay to babysit or something like that, but if possible, I want a job where I can be with a guy I get along with for five or ten years.

Well, it's just a job for hire, so there's a good chance you'll get fired and have to say goodbye, but it would be nice to be able to work there until the little ones are old enough to grow up.

Personally, I am quite happy in my job.

..... Even so, it's quite refreshing to have such a serious and calm talk with Selnia.

Perhaps the other side was in a similar state of mind, looking at us with quiet eyes that differed from the usual rich colors of joy, anger, sorrow, and pleasure. Unintentionally, Akiharu's gaze drifted elsewhere.

(alt: I wonder if the other side had a similar feeling, looking at me with quiet eyes that were different from the usual ones full of emotions... Unintentionally, Akiharu turned his gaze away.) I had already gotten used to her beauty, but it's not good to see her face different from usual.

I'm worried if my face is getting red.

Also, being silenced is bad for the heart.

The bright, heated, and boisterous exchanges were so frequent that I was slipping into a slump.

As Akiharu was thinking whether he should say something appropriate and go to wash his face, he said, "There is still some time left, but I will say this first before I fall asleep again.

Hmm? What?"

I was cut off first, but it was much better than being silenced.

I looked back at the bed and saw Selnia, who was lying on her side, deliberately getting up. Hey.

I'm not going to talk about this in my sleep.

Before I could tell him to stay awake and go back to sleep, his voice was firm and firm.

Although not overbearing, the sound of his voice made her feel as if she had to do as he said, and she naturally straightened her back to listen.

She still looked as if she was having a hard time, but Selnia turned her dignified expression toward us.

And then: "Thank you very much for taking care of me today. I would like to thank you for that."

..... I am at a loss as to how to express my surprise.

I think it's hard not to be surprised that Selnia was so open and honest about her gratitude, and not only that, but she even lowered her head.

Naturally, Akiharu was in a panic and said, "Well, uh, you know, it's not worth going out of your way to thank me, or rather, it's us who should be thanking you, isn't it? You're the one who asked me to sit in on your test."

Even if that is true, it is not a reason not to thank them. Akiharu, are you the kind of person who, when you see a doctor, doesn't thank him because it's his job?

No, I'd say thank you, but

I am sure you can see that I have not made a single error in my actions. A favor is something that is felt by the recipient.

"....."

(alt: 「.....」) This reminds Akiharu of the time when Selnia drowned in the sea in the summer.

I remember that time when he thanked me for my kindness.

..... Ah, yeah, this is the guy, right?

She was simple, emotional, and quick-tempered, but always reasonable.

The best way to relax is to look at it as a position like a friend in a fight,....., so it's not good to use unaware words that make you want to close the distance unintentionally,..... There are times when I am genuinely happy, but more complex emotions well up and swirl around inside my chest, so I could not give a good reply.

Selnia, who had no way of knowing how conflicted we were, attacked with an additional smile and said, "I will thank you again at a later date. Of course you will accept, won't you?"

"..... Uh, yeah. And there's no reason to say no."

(alt: "... ah, yeah. I have no reason to refuse.") Even I feel ashamed of my own inadequacy to say such witty words.

And there was still more than an hour left until the test was over.

I mean, what happened to the two-person group for over an hour after such a situation, where a simple test turned into something akin to torture?

..... No way, I can't stand many things.

I'll have to reset the system.

"Sleep a little longer. I'll be in the bathroom. Call me if you need anything."

I see. Then I'll take you up on your offer.

(alt: "That's right... In that case, I'll take your word for it.") Hearing Selnia's honest voice after all, Akiharu held his upset chest and ran to the bathroom.

After closing the door and shutting my eyes, I said to myself, "..... Oh, my God, what the hell was that? That's a little too much, don't you think?

I did the most inhumane thing I could, holding my head and yelling in a whisper.

After that, I just waited for the time to pass and said, "I must have lost my mind or something.

.....

(alt: After that, while waiting for the time to pass, I said, "I'm just lost or something...") The only thing she could do was try to calm her unresolved emotions.

I'll take your word for it if you'll let me

The fatigue was unbearable, so Selnia laid down on the bed where she had been sitting.

Then, as I close my eyes, I hear the bathroom door close.

Perhaps because he was rarely sick, he was not very resistant to this kind of situation. Still, I don't feel discouraged even though I am alone, perhaps because I know that Akiharu is waiting for me nearby.

When I recall the stunned look on his face when I thanked him, I almost smile.

I think he is a man who is really hard to tell whether he is twisted or pure.

I am often annoyed and irritated by the things they say and do.

..... But every once in a while, he shows us something that strikes a chord.

"You can't get sick at all, can you?

This is probably because they are weak.

I can't believe I care so much about such a coarse and impudent commoner.

When asked if I like it or not, I clearly say, "I don't like it.

I could have answered, "I'm not sure.

(alt: I could answer that.) And yet, when I left, I felt "refreshed."

Rather, I feel a slight tingle of loneliness.

No one has ever moved me like this before.

It is very similar to, yet far removed from, the feelings he has for Tomomi Saikei, whom he has acknowledged as his nemesis.

I could not understand, could not judge, and had no experience with the sensation.

If this happens, we will have to wait and see.

Fortunately, there are reasons to create opportunities.

If the timing is right, they should not be able to refuse.

It is not like me to sit on my knees, shutting myself away and worrying.

I decided that I would try to win as soon as I could after this cold was gone. Selnia slowly drifted off into a deep slumber.

(alt: I made up my mind to set up a match as soon as possible after this cold had healed... Selnia slowly fell into a slumber.)