

Hey, can I ask you something?

One day after school, when we were doing our usual after-school service in the cafeteria, there was no special event.

In the mild and comfortable atmosphere, Tomomi, the only customer in Akiharu's area, suddenly spoke to me.

When I saw my childhood friend's face with a mischievous smile around her mouth, which she only shows in front of me and Selnia, I had nothing but a bad premonition.

Even so, I think it is hard for waiters not to have to deal with them.

Wearing a morning coat, Akiharu sighs secretly and goes next to Tomomi, who beckons him to come closer.

..... What? I'm at work, so if it's none of my business, make it quick.

I wondered what he was going to say, and asked him in a low voice so that the other customers at the far table wouldn't hear me, "It just occurred to me that I forgot to ask you something. It was on the day of my freshman year promotion exam.

Heh. What did I forget to ask you?"

You got my answer to your confession that day, didn't you? With Miss Selnia."

The bad premonition grows even worse, but Akiharu tries to remain calm so as not to let her realize it and asks her again.

Tomomi, however, looked at me as if she could see through my hari-basho and said, "Akiharu told me this: ..... "I thought it might be a good idea to go out with you if you got first place in the exam," she said. It may not be exact, but it's pretty much right, isn't it?"

..... Oh, yeah. What about it?"

Thinking back on that time, it's quite embarrassing, but holding it in, Akiharu nodded and said, "If you had won first place, would you have thought, 'I don't care who I go out with'?"

..... He said a magic word that instantly froze the calm air in the cafeteria.

Akiharu, who received a direct hit, became rigid as a matter of course.

I never thought I would be asked such a question so many months later.

I feel like I've been hit in the vital spot by surprise.

I was certainly thinking about doing that if I had come out on top in the exam that day. So, I had made up my mind that if that happened, I would do what I had to do.

Just go to ..... and ask them now.

There's nothing special about it. It's just another day in the life of a service project.

The trouble is, you can't escape.

Tomomi's face is smiling, but her eyes are serious.

I? Ms. Selnia? Or were you just going to turn down the two guys who confessed to you and go for someone else?

"Hey, that's ....., that time, right? ....."

Come on, honestly answer me. It's okay, it's past. I won't be offended if you name another woman.

It is very difficult to answer that question.

If you had the courage, guts, and self-confidence to answer this question, you wouldn't have chosen not to go out with anyone because you can't stand being a small boy.

In reality, however, experience has shown that it is difficult to escape Tomomi's pursuit, as she is as powerful as a demon king.

I understood it all too well.

She was about to collapse and looked up to the heavens, ..... "You found it, didn't you? I finally found it!

The loud, high-pitched voice echoing throughout the area around her made her body tremble,....., but Akiharu immediately relaxed her shoulders.

"....., I'm sorry, I got interrupted."

(alt: "...Unfortunately, I got in the way." ) Tomomi's words were right, the conversation between the two of them would be terminated here.

The blonde, curly-haired, aristocratic young lady who enters the café at a dashing pace looks like a hero to me.

Selnia, who was by no means aware of our feelings, approached us at close range with her footsteps clicking, her beautiful blue eyes narrowed sharply and glared at us.

I've been looking for you. Wait, Akiharu, what's going on?

"What? What is .....?"

I heard that! Yesterday you had a date with Mr. Estou in the city? He was so proud of himself just now!"

"Uh, ....., well, we did go out together, but you were there with her, weren't you?"

"Both hands are flowers, aren't they? I just went on a trip with Shikikagami and his friends last time. ....!"

"No, I'm not traveling, I'm helping her with her work. Saori-san wanted us to be in the same magazine as sisters, so I had no choice but to follow her ....."

I should have given you the same explanation just the other day, but apparently that doesn't matter at times like this.

Selnia's eyebrows are raised and show no sign of abating.

The heated and misunderstood neighborhood has not changed at all from when we first met a year ago.

Well, but I think I have gained a lot in this long and short year.

It's been a very intense year, meeting and getting involved with a lot of people ....., and every single person I met had their own unique personality, so it was very difficult to be pushed around.

It was hard work and great fun, and I truly feel that I am glad to have come to Hakuryo.

But, it's only been a year.

There are nearly two years left until graduation.

Besides, graduation is not the end.

There should still be a connection to the future.

"Hey, it's autumn weather! Are you listening to me?"

"See, Akiharu-kun? If you don't take care of her, she'll get upset and start attacking you.

Who's going to sulk at .....? I would never do such a childish thing!

So, I think that these two noisy people will probably have a long relationship.

Of course, the other students in the upper secondary education department, my colleagues in the secondary education department, and the teachers I have come to know well should not be able to cut through the gap anytime soon.

I don't know what kind of relationship we will have in the future, but I don't know yet.

(alt: I don't know yet what kind of relationship our relationship will change in the future. ) Just as Tomomi reunited with someone she thought she would never see again, and Selnia, whom she thought made the worst first impression and was hated by everyone, came to like her, so many possibilities must be open to her.

In the meantime, we must grow up so that we don't run out of patience.

If I wanted to, I would go as far as to beat Kaoru.

..... It looks like it's going to take a long time.

In fact, it is doubtful that they will even make it to the foot of the mountain by the time they graduate from high school.

Akiharu couldn't help but laugh at the severity of the goal he had set for himself, and said, "..... Well, I guess I'll just have to do it."

I decided to go for it, and started to do something about the two of them who were quarreling in front of me.