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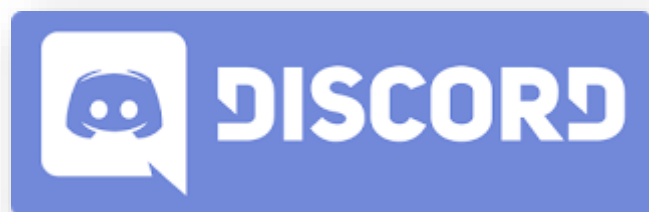
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Chapter 51 A Certain Saturday - Hiiragi-chan's Side

◆Hiiragi Haruka◆

"Hiiragi-sensei, please!"

With this, it was the 8th time Matsunaka-sensei had asked me.

Due to me normally being in her care, even if it's just a small drinking party, it's hard to refuse... It seemed like she was saying, I normally help you out with various things, it should be fine for you to accompany me in a drinking party, or something like that. I don't really like that. This and that, aren't they completely unrelated? Or at least, that's how I feel, but it's true that he does help me out...

The subject that she taught was modern literature, which was different from mine, but she was a fellow female teacher that I also respected.

"You don't have any particular plans on Saturday, right? If that's the case, then shouldn't it be okay?"

I was going to refuse her by saying that I had plans, but it seems she heard from somewhere that I didn't have any, and then it became like this.

"B-by the way, who is coming?"

When I asked that, Matsunaka-sensei seemed to misunderstand and think that I had an interest in it, and so she began to talk a lot.

"The teachers from Nishi High and Fuzoku High are going to be coming. They're all quite young teachers, so I think they'll be quite easy to talk with. There should also be teachers teaching world history I believe."

Hmm, I see. If that's the case, I might have a little bit of interest.

"Since it's just a social gathering with teachers from a nearby school, there's no need to be so on guard. They were just a bunch of teachers that I met while training after all."

"It's just girls, right...?"

"Nope, there are a few guy teachers. Hiiragi-sensei, if you don't have a boyfriend right now, maybe there'll be a nice encounter...!"

Ummm. That doesn't matter at all. Rather, doesn't that seem like what Matsunaka-sensei's goal is... She's currently single, and if I remember correctly, she was going to be 32 or 33 this year. I was going to ask what she meant by young, but if I did, it'll probably breakout into a fight, so I didn't say it.

There were two other teacher's around the same age group, but both of them had other plans and weren't participating. In the end, I was overwhelmed and forced to participate.

That night, I immediately let Seiji-kun know about it.

"Seiji-kun, you know... This Saturday, I was invited to a drinking party..."

"Aaah, is that so?"

It was a vague reply like usual.

"Simply speaking, it's drinking with teachers from another school. There are some other male teachers there that I happen to know personally."

"He—heeh..."

There are other males, you know, Seiji-kun? If he ended up saying absolutely not. If he were to say that he wanted to spend Saturday

with me, then I would do anything possible to be with him. And yet, all he said was "Heeh..." Doesn't he not like it. Having his girlfriend go to a drinking party with other guys.

"A teacher that I'm always indebted to told me, 'If you have no plans on Saturday, then please!' They had asked me about this last week..."

I'm not going because I want to go, okay? I'll make sure to explain that. If it seems like I'm excited to go, then he might hold back in trying to stop me.

However, it just couldn't be helped, for the sake of work, as a friend, I must reluctantly participate. If you don't like it, then why don't we just be together on Saturday, or maybe, if you don't want to then don't go, if he were to say anything like that to stop—

"Yeah. I got it. It's fine if you just go enjoy yourself."

Muuu.

"...Really? The people coming are just all the other teachers, so you don't have to worry."

There would be males working the same occupation as me, you know? Aren't you worried?

"... I'm not worried or anything so it's okay."

Muuu.

"I'll be late going home, maybe getting back around 10, okay?"

"Don't mind me and go enjoy yourself."

For him to tell me that he's not worried, to not worry about him, and enjoy myself, even if I might be called out to by some guy... The fact that he trusts me is nice, but it makes me a little sad...

Seiji-kun. Do you not get jealous? If that's the case, I'll make you jealous.

On the day of, I spent a lot of time with Seiji-kun preparing for the party. In the bedroom, I changed into my favorite set of clothes. During that time, the door was opened secretly as Seiji-kun peeked at my makeup.

When I put a little bit more effort into my makeup, he said,

"Your makeup, you're really doing it more carefully this time."

Ah. He noticed! That makes me a little happy.

"Eh? Isn't it always like this?"

But it's still no good. It wasn't him being jealous at all, it felt more like he was backing off. The clothes that I'm wearing are the ones that Seiji-kun had told me were cute too. I'm going to be wearing this in front of other males, you know? But he didn't touch on this at all. Maybe he didn't notice.

"If you get bored, it's fine if you just go home."

"Yeah. If that's the case, I'll make sure to lock the door."

With a bye, I left Seiji-kun at my house and went to the venue.

I might end up drinking, so I bike to the nearest station, and from there I went four stations over into the downtown area. It was just before the meeting time, and half the people had already arrived as I exchanged a light greeting. Certainly, I didn't talk that much with them, but from how I see it, they were all teachers, so I was slightly relieved.

There were more males there than I thought there would be, and in the end, it became 5 on 5. Everyone was dressed quite fashionably,

and if you look at it from the outside, it just looked like a mixer. There were many like Matsunaka-sensei, whose goals seemed to be getting intimate with someone else, but there were also people who just came for a mixer.

We moved to the restaurant and did a toast.

As I did the toast with oolong tea, a male teacher that sat across from me asked me, "Are you not drinking?"

He had just introduced himself earlier, but I don't remember his name.

For me, I was told by Seiji-kun that I didn't hold alcohol very well, so I was now aware of it, and decided to not drink outside in order to not cause anyone trouble.

"Yeah, well... I will have to refrain for today."

"Since it's such an occasion, wouldn't it be fine to drink a bit?"

"Nope, it's fine, really, I don't need any..."

Saying that, I was somehow able to avoid it. He's probably thinking that I'm quite the downer.

The people nearby were having casual conversation, but many of the teachers were just grumbling about their everyday work. It wasn't fun, but neither was it boring. While eating a little bit of food here and there, I made a few interjections at appropriate places and smiled.

"Hiiragi-sensei, do you have a boyfriend?"

"Ah. Looks like she would!"

As long as Matsunaka-sensei was watching, I couldn't say that I did...

"Umm, at the moment, I don't..."

After that, all the talk became completely unrelated to work. I didn't really like that, so I grabbed my shoes and went to the bathroom where I checked my phone.

A text came from Seiji-kun.

Moreover, five of them. The first one displayed a picture of the ramen he ate for dinner and his comment on how delicious it was. The next was about how the silly content of the variety show that we usually watch together. After that, it was about the movie being broadcasted on television. And after that one, he sent one-line texts.

[Watching alone, kind of makes it boring]

[You're going until 10 today, right? Don't drink too much, okay?]

... I'll go home now.

It's decided.

I want to see Seiji-kun.

I'm going home. It's only been an hour since the first toast though.

I don't care about the mood at all. Most likely, Seiji-kun is waiting at my house for me.

"Sorry, I have to head home right now— Ummm, there seems to be some trouble with my p-pet—"

I made a suitable lie, and then left 10000 yen on the table telling them that I'm fine without change.

As I looked at my room from the outside, I could see that the light was on.

"I'm back?"

Seiji-kun, who heard some noise, came to greet me at the front door.

"Ah. Welcome back. That was early."

"Yeah."

I can't really tell him that I basically ran away from the party.

"The drinking party, how was it? Did you have a good time?"

"Nope. Not at all."

My real feelings ended up spilling out.

"If Seiji-kun isn't there, it's not fun at all."

"I see. Then, I guess it was an unfortunate drinking party."

I was about to say something when I saw Seiji-kun smiling. Noticing that he was quite relieved, I also became happier.

"Did you not drink?"

"Yeah. I said that I wasn't good with it, so after the first toast, I just had oolong tea."

Seemingly unable to hold back, Seiji-kun gave me a hug. Charging me like this with Seiji-kun energy is quite fast, but I quickly end up running out. I was just like a battery with poor efficiency.

Trying to get him jealous. Who cares about any of that? Seeing a relieved smile from Seiji-kun was enough to make me satisfied.

Both of us were probably quite lonely. Seiji-kun, was probably lonely because I went out for a drinking party without him. And for me, it was also because I went out for that drinking party.

With his arms still around me, I grabbed onto both of Seiji-kun's hands. Then, as if both of us knew what was going to happen next, we kissed.

I thought that it was just me that didn't want to be separated, but that wasn't the case.

—Today, tomorrow, the day after tomorrow, and so on, I will always love him.

I put all those feelings into the slightly long kiss that we had.

Chapter 52 Ponky Game

"Last time, I was thinking that if I got this, what would I do?"

After finishing dinner, we were sitting on the sofa while eating snacks and watching TV, when Hiiragi-chan said that.

"If you got what?"

"This, this."

Hiiragi-chan held a Ponky between her fingers and waved it in front of me. [1] It was a long and thin rod-shaped snack coated with a layer of chocolate.

"Haah. What about the ponky?"

"Remember the last time I went to a drinking party, and I told you about how it seemed like a mixer and everything?"

Yeah, I nodded in confirmation. While I was spending time with her at the house drinking party afterwards, Hiiragi-chan told me about what actually happened at the get-together.

"I was wondering if they were going to do the King's Game or some other lewd game of some sort." [2]

"You left part way through though."

"It's because I thought Seiji-kun would be lonely."

Uuu. She's still saying that. It seemed that she had taken a liking to the text that I sent that day, so ever since that day, she would mention it whenever she had the chance. She's definitely just teasing me about that matter.

"And then. What about Ponky?"

"Doesn't it just give off the image of being a staple at mixers and stuff? The game where two people start off eating from either end."

Aaah, the Ponky game. Do you really do that at a mixer...?

"Rather than at a mixer, wouldn't it be more like a hostess bar?"

"Eh? What did you just say?"

"I said, you don't really do that kind of stuff at a mixer. Rather, that kind of stuff would be more often seen at a hostess bar—"

"Why do you know about something like that?"

Hiiragi-chan's eyes were serious.

"..."

This was a huge self-destruct on my part. In the present time, I had been taken along two or three times by my superiors. If I told her that, would she believe me?

There's no way...

"I have an older relative who's hooked on hostess bars and stuff. And so, sometimes I hear a little bit about it..."

"Ah, I see. You surprised me there! I almost thought that Seiji-kun had been before."

Pachin, Hiiragi-chan put her hands together in an accepting pose.

I patted my chest in relief.

Nice job, my relative. Who it is, I don't know.

"That can't possibly be the case. I'm still underaged after all."

"Even if you come of age, you can't, okay?"

Hiiragi-chan's eyes were serious.

"Y—yeah... t-that's obvious..."

Scared of the light in her eyes, I unconsciously became an Edokko. [3]

"And, thinking that you might be playing the Ponky game, were you scared, Haruka-san?"

"Yeah. I didn't think I would like it. I mean, it would be with a male that I didn't like."

I too wouldn't want that. I don't want to imagine it.

"In that case ♪"

Hiiragi-chan stuck a Ponky into my mouth.

"The two of us, let's try it?"

"Wait, it's fine but—"

"Hold still, let me join in."

Since Hiiragi-chan looked like she was having fun, I quietly listen to her. In the first place, how do you even determine who wins or loses for the game?

She ended up biting onto the other side. At such a close distance, our eyes met.

"" ... ""

Becoming embarrassed, the two of us diverted our gaze. Then, Hiiragi-chan made up her mind, looked this way, and took one bite forward.

"Fuu, fuun."

Most likely, she's trying to say something like, it's Seiji-kun's turn, or something like that. I was also quite embarrassed, but I still took my bite. Once again, the distance between our faces decreased.

"" ... ""

Becoming embarrassed, the two of us diverted our gaze. This is 100 times more embarrassing than just kissing. Do adults in this world really do this?

"!"

Saku saku. Hiiragi-chan continued to eat, while I too continued to eat.

Saku.

Saku.

What should I do...? It's so embarrassing. Hiiragi-chan's face is also red.

Saku saku.

Saku saku.

Saku. Saku.

Saku, saku.

We were already both quite embarrassed, but still focused.

Then.

Saku saku—chuu.

"Fuyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaan!? We kiissssssssssed."

"Uwaaaaaaaaah, we kisssssseeeeeed."

As our embarrassment exploded, we ended up shouting.

... Thinking about it a little more, just before we ate—while Hiiragi-chan was making preparing the meal, we had kissed multiple times in the kitchen.

However, this was completely different...

"Ponky game, it's quite an embarrassing game..."

"Yeah, I completely agree."

"Seiji-kun... there's still 5 sticks of Ponky..."

"Heeeeh, i-is that so?"

Neither Hiiragi-chan nor I were completely opposed to it. A situation in which both of us were waiting for the other to ask for a repeat continued for a bit.

"" ""

What is this atmosphere, where it seems like the person who says it loses? Probably, the person who responds will end up saying, *"Since you said that you wanted to do it, I'll just play along with you,"* and activate it as a defense card.

Hiiragi-chan stuck one stick in her mouth, and began to bite on it. I took a sidelong glance at her.

"Well, if Haruka-san wants to do it, then I wouldn't mind doing it."

"Me too, if Seiji-kun wants to do it, I'll play along, you know?"

"Ah, that's right, I really wanted to eat Ponky."

"That's a coincidence. I also wanted to eat want."

We ate one together.

Saku saku saku... saku...

Saku, saku, saku... saku.

..... saku.

Saku.

Saku saku saku.

Saku, saku, saku.

I could feel my body temperature increasing, and my whole entire face had turned hot. Hiiragi-chan was probably the same. She was red all the way to her ears.

Saku saku saku saku—

Saku. Chuu.

"Waaaaaaaaah. We kissssssssseeeed!?"

"Fuyaaaaaaaaaaaaaan, We kiissssssssssed!?"

It was a huge fuss.

"..."

Pausing for a moment, we both wondered what it is we were doing.

"Seiji-kun, despite all of what you said, you're enjoying it quite a bit. When all is said and done, I guess you really just want to kiss me."

"No, but, just now, you were the one who put it into the position where one bit would force us to kiss. So isn't it Haruka-san that wants to kiss?"

"Still, it was Seiji-kun that lost. You lost to your desire to kiss, so it's your loss."

"If that's the case, then it was Haruka-san that took more bites. If you count it based off of losing to your desires, then it's really my win."

"Nono, that's not true."

"Yes, it is."

"No, it isn't."

"Yes..."

During that time when we were pushing the blame onto each other—

Chuu.

Our faces closed in until we kissed.

"... This, wasn't that embarrassing was it?"

"Yeah. Not really."

"What's so different about it? Should we try and test it out again...?"

"You have a point... I'm also not opposed to that."

We both put ourselves on either end in order to set up.

Saku saku saku saku saku saku saku saku saku saku saku saku saku
saku, chuu.

""Fuwaaaaaaaaaah!?""

Once again turning red, we made a huge fuss about it.

"... T-that just now was because of Haruka-san."

"You're wrong, it's because of Seiji-kun. Completely your fault."

Ah. But I feel like I understand now why it's so embarrassing.

"S-since we don't know who won or loss... L-let's do it again...?"

"Isn't it because of that?"

"Fumun?"

Hiiragi-chan was already completely motivated and had held onto one end.

"When the roller coaster is going up, as you hear the rattling sounds for the ride together, the anticipation of when the drop is coming. Isn't that somewhat the same for the Ponky game?"

"Shtop shtop, don— that feeling?"

"Yeah. That feeling."

Simply speaking, it's the heart pounding feeling of the kiss that we were hooked on. As we were getting excited over the Ponky game together, we found a new way to flirt with each other.



TL Note:



1.

I have no doubt that Ponky is just supposed to be Pocky. I guess it was censored, but anyways, here's a picture of it just for anyone that doesn't know.

2. King's game is a drinking game. I believe the idea of it is that someone is chosen as king and everyone is assigned a number secretly using cards or any other sort of method. The king then gives out a task specifying the number of people involved and the people involved, named based off of number. And it should just continue on like that.
3. Edokko should refer to someone who is super assertive, maybe even confrontational.

Chapter 53 A Rainy Day

The rainy season was now in full swing, with the terribly hot days continuing on. Today as well, the whole day had high amounts of humidity. The clouds had worked hard until after school, before finally allowing rain to come down. I was stuck with no way out. The forecast had said that it was just going to be cloudy, so I hadn't brought an umbrella.

"What am I going to do?"

Pichon, pichon, I spoke to myself while watching the raindrops falling onto the roof. On a day where it looks like it's going to rain, Hiiragi-chan usually drives to work. Maybe she would give me a ride home, but I don't know when she gets off of work.

"Nii-san? Did you forget your umbrella?"

When I turned around, Sana was there.

"Rather than forgetting, I just thought that it wasn't going to rain, so I didn't bring it with me."

"Is that so..."

After fishing around inside her bag, she took out a fancy foldable umbrella with a bunny shaped handle.

Is this an elementary school excursion or something?

"Sana only packed one foldable umbrella, but if Nii-san really insists, then I would have no choice but to let you join in."

"I won't insist on it, now hurry up and go home. It might rain even harder in a bit, you know?"

"Y-you're quite stubborn, Nii-san. If you really want to join, you should just honestly say that you do."

"Bye. Sana. I'll go home when the rain gets lighter."

"Eh, wa—waaai... Mou, Nii-san is going to get soaked. Also, get home safe, okay!?"

So you're going to pray for my safety still?

Fuun, fuming from her nose, Sana took the bunny-chan umbrella which was common among elementary school girls, opened it up, and went home while taking large steps.

You know, a woman in her thirties wouldn't be able to use that umbrella. Foldable umbrellas are normally for just a single person to use. If I join you under it, you'll be the one completely soaked.

Guess I'll go to the library to kill some time.

I turned around and was walking down the hall when I saw Hiiragi-chan carrying some documents under her arm walking towards me.

"Seiji-kun, is something wrong?"

"Aaah, I have something to do in the library."

"Looking up something? You're quite studious as usual."

Hiiragi-chan showed me her teacher smile.

Seeing her smile normally is great, but her teacher smile at school is another thing altogether.

"No, well, the rain is coming down pretty hard right now, so I was planning on staying until the rain died down a bit."

"You didn't bring an umbrella? Well, I didn't bring one either."

I explained to her the same thing that I told Sana, and Hiiragi-chan accepted it.

She glanced at the watch on her left hand.

"Well, I still have time... wait for a little bit!"

She ran off and returned with a black umbrella.

"Here, it's the umbrella that's always left in the staff room."

"No, I can't use it. There's probably other teachers that didn't bring an umbrella. My house isn't that far, you see, I just need to wait for the rain to die down a bit."

"I see I see... Then, how about I send Seiji-kun home."

"By car?"

"Nope. Today I came on bike. So, it'll be on foot."

Hiiragi-chan made the proposal as if she was looking forward to it a lot. Sending me home on foot? And, Hiiragi-chan doesn't have an umbrella of her own... And, there's only one usable umbrella.

"Let's go let's go ♪"

She was happily bouncing around. I was waiting by the back gate, which we had designated as our meeting spot, until Hiiragi-chan appeared with the black umbrella.

"Come come, come in. It might be a little cramped for two people though."

"So that's how it is..."

I decided to join her, and ended up sharing the umbrella with Hiiragi-chan. It seems that's why she had purposely decided to meet at the back gate.

"You know, I've always longed to do this~ Sharing an umbrella with the person I like."

"Just like an elementary schooler."

"Eh!? Like an elementary schooler!?"

Hiiragi-chan's expression was one of complete shock.

"I-is this the so called ge-generation gap."

"Once you get to high school, I feel like you wouldn't necessarily long to do it."

"That's not true. Even Sana-chan, she asked you too, right? To share an umbrella."

"You were watching...? I don't really think she wanted to share an umbrella though..."

At a close distance, where our shoulders were touching, Hiiragi-chan brought her face closer to me. She touched her lips to my cheek.

"Hey, if we do this on the—"

"There's an umbrella hiding us, so it's safe. Sana-chan, she might've intended to kiss you like that..."

"She won't. Who do you think my little sister is anyways?"

"A super big brocon."

"..."

Putting aside the super big part, I can't really deny the brocon part.

"I was a little bit jealous of you two when I was watching, but then you didn't go back with her. And so, I thought in front of the troubled Seiji-kun, Haruka-san could appear quite gallantly."

From start to finish, she was watching the whole time.

"I see. And so, you decided to send me home while sharing an umbrella."

"It's not that far, so I could probably send you back and then come back to work."

Potsu, potsu, the sound of the raindrops smashing into the top of the umbrella could be heard. Since even the sound of the rain hitting the ground was really loud, the distance between us naturally closed in order to listen to what the other person was saying.

"Seiji-kun, your shoulder is getting wet."

Hiiragi-chan then tilted the umbrella towards me.

"Eh. Aaah. It's fine. It's only this much. I'm just going to go home and change anyways."

"No. You'll catch a cold."

I lost to her pushing and so the umbrella tilted my direction. Inevitably, the umbrella became unable to cover Hiiragi-chan's side fully.

"Haruka-san, you're getting wet."

"Just this much is fine."

"It's bad for a girl's body to get cold."

Or, so someone told me. Why it's bad, I don't really know though.

"Then, then, let's get closer together?"

She wrapped her arm around mine, and so we walked with intertwined arms. No one will recognize us due to the umbrella, and

since it's raining, there's probably not that many people around. We probably won't be found out.

"It hasn't been like this since our date in the city, right?"

"Really?"

"That's—myaa!? I stepped in a puddle by accident... now, my leg is all wet..."

Hiiragi-chan's mouth formed a frown.

I guess she had already thought up to sharing the umbrella and linking arms while doing it, but I guess she isn't the type to really plan this far ahead. However, even after getting soaked by the rain, and getting her shoe stuck in a puddle, Hiiragi-chan still looked like she was enjoying it all.

"Going home with the person I love like this, has always been one of my dreams. Just once would have been fine. Sorry, for being so forceful about it."

"It's okay. I was troubled since I didn't have an umbrella after all. Rather, it seems like it was just perfect."

Now that I think about it, I don't really know much about Hiiragi-chan's past. From what Natsumi-chan said last time, let alone a boyfriend, she didn't have any males that she was even close with, if I remember correctly.

"Haruka-san, when you were a student, were you popular?"

"Eeeh? Not popular, not at all."

"Really...? Among the boys, Hiiragi-sensei is admired by all as an Onee-san character though."

"Heeeh, is that so? So that means, the person that everyone admires was secretly stolen away by Seiji-kun."

"That's how it is."

"But you know, that makes me kind of happy."

Heheh, Hiiragi-chan giggled.

"If I look like I would be popular, despite my own self-assessment, that means in Seiji-kun's eyes, I'm quite attractive, right?"

Right, right? Hiiragi-chan used her elbow to poke my sides.

"If that wasn't the case, then I wouldn't have fallen in love."

"——— ... M-mouuuu, Seiji-kun, you Italian!"

I told you, I'm Japanese.

As we got closer and closer to my house, Hiiragi-chan's footsteps became heavier. Reluctant to let me go, she put a little more force into her arm that was entwined with my.

"..."

The amount of speaking lessened as she glanced at me from the side with her lips closed in a lonely manner.

"Why don't we take a slight detour?"

"No, it's okay. I-I need to go back to school since I still have work."

Though she said that, her footsteps got a little lighter. It was easy to read Hiiragi-chan as her expression suddenly became brighter.

We weren't really going anywhere, just taking a walk nearby. Having returned to our original state, we engaged in random conversations

here and there. It seems that we can do normal couple like things on rainy days like this.

"Is something wrong?"

I shook my head as Hiiragi-chan turned to look at me.

"Mou, I've been so wet, that the skin on my foot, is probably wrinkly by now..."

"Don't mind it."

"If that's the case, no matter how wet we get, it'll all be the same..."

Mufufu, laughing like that, Hiiragi-chan jumped into a puddle. The splash flew towards me.

"Uwah!? ——So childish!"

"Ahahahahah."

However, just walking back together under the same umbrella was enough to be happy with.

Chapter 54 Studying in the Library

Heading into July, we entered finals testing season. Just like with midterms, for a total of about 10 days, club activities with the exception of a few, were banned. All students were to go home and properly study during this time period.

The last time when my time leap was released, I was a high school teacher, and I had some income, but it wasn't enough for Hiiragi-chan's dad. However, it could've been because he hadn't met me before, and so he brought out the point of annual income because he didn't like me, and so he just decided to pick on me for that point.

Anyways, for Hiiragi-chan's happiness, I need to make sure I do my best in studying. I holed myself up in the library after school, and started to do a bunch of studying.

"Ah~, it's a lot cooler here than the staff room~"

Hiiragi-chan entered the library with a particularly loud statement. While carrying a laptop under her arm, she inconspicuously sat in a position where I could see her.

Did my effort in telling her not to bother me because I was going to study work, or did it not work at all?

Ahem, Hiiragi-chan cleared her throat.

"If it's for world history, I could help teach any of the students here..."

Glance.

Taking a look at me, she started to tap her keys.

Ahem, I cleared my throat and muttered to myself.

"I think I'm fine with knowing world history. Rather than that, Math B..."

"Math B...!? Ah, speaking of that, math after fractions was a little bit suspicious~, teaching someone might be a little hard."

I didn't say that I wanted you to teach me though. Rather, fractions are just part of simple arithmetic. You got stuck quite early on...

Hiiragi-chan kept looking at me to see how I was doing.

Since I told her not to bother me, it seems that she wasn't planning on talking to me directly, unless I spoke to her.

"Uuu... it's cold. The A/C... it's quite rough..."

Even though Hiiragi-chan was shaking, she stayed in her seat and continued to work.

"I wonder what I should put on the world history test? What should I do, if someone were to ask me, I might tell them."

It was a simple trap.

Hearing her talk to herself, I also did the same.

"Since I do the problem sets, I can work out most problems to a certain extent. I even properly listen to lecture, so I understand most of the important parts."

"Mou... why is he so efficient...!"

I ended up hearing her hidden thoughts.

I'm not afraid of world history. Subjects suited for memorization are my specialty after all. Moreover, this would be the second time I'm taking my final exams for the second year of high school. I can faintly remember where the tests went up to.

Uuu, it's cold, Hiiragi-chan once again shook as she searched for something she might be able to use as a jacket.

Today, I only had the physical education jersey that I was bringing home. I hardly wear it, so it shouldn't smell strange.

Suuu, I slid my jersey over the desk.

"Sensei. If it's cold, you can use that to cover your lap if you'd like."

"Ah... Thank you..."

She hugged my jersey to her chest and then spoke quietly.

"E-even if you're so kind to me... I won't tell you where the test is going to go up to, okay? "

Checking to make sure that no one was around, she brought it closer to her nose. Suun suun. Suun suun.

"Ah. Seiji-kun's smell..."

Hey, don't smell that in the library.

Then, she put on my jersey.

Why are you wearing it? Didn't I say to put it over your lap?

On the left side of the chest, my name, Sanada, was embroidered on it, marking it as my jersey. Having Hiiragi-chan wear it gave me a weird feeling.

"If you don't ask me anything, I won't be able to teach you..."

I still don't remember saying I wanted her to teach me.

For the Math B problem set, I have 20 minutes to solve it.

"For the part around page 72, it's really important, so for it to not come out on the test—"

So, in the end, she's still going to tell me.

"The A/C, it's still quite rough."

Without me understanding who she was trying to explain to with her mutterings, Hiiragi-chan moved towards me.

"It seems just fine around here ♪"

Ignore it. Ignore it. Since I came here to study, I don't intend to play around with her.

"If it's just right here, then please return my jersey."

"Ohon. It might be cold if I take it off, it might be better if I stay like this."

Until the end, Hiiragi-chan didn't want to pass the line that where she would be considered as bothering me, and so she made her declaration in monologue style.

"Ohon. Wearing another males jersey might be seen weirdly by other people."

"Ohon. This was given to me by a kind student, who wanted to avoid me getting a cold. I should probably wear this for a little longer."

It seems that she has no intention at all of taking off the jersey that I leant her.

Tsun tsun, I felt something from my leg.

When I looked at the person across, she averted her eyes. As I look below, I could see Hiiragi-chan's beautiful leg, slightly extended, in order to softly hit my foot.

"..."

Our eyes met and once again she averted them. However, her leg didn't move away.

... It seems that she intends to flirt even if it was just with her legs.

"Ohon... if you don't like it, just say it...? I'll stop immediately."

She said that in a quiet voice.

"Ohon... My legs are quite long, so it's probably easy to bump into the person across from me... Just this much doesn't really bother me though."

"Ohon... Being kind so suddenly. It isn't okay..."

Facing her own laptop, Hiiragi-chan had zero desire to let go with her legs. She continued to stick her legs close to mine. The toes on her stocking covered feet were stroking my leg. When I did the same thing back to her, Hiiragi-chan reacted by jumping up a bit.

"Wait, it tickles... Ah. Ohon."

That cough was too late.

"Ohon... I really can't concentrate on my work at all... what should I do?"

"Ohon. My studying isn't really making much progress..."

If you really wanted to concentrate on work, you could just do it in the staff room. For my studying, I could just do it at home.

... In other words, it's like that. Under the desk, where no one could see, our legs continued to play.

But, it strangely felt more calm this way. The two of us concentrating on work and studying without speaking.

Since it was during testing season, and the school was about to close, the only people in the library were the two of us and the librarian. Regardless, there were originally only two students other than me.

"I should go borrow a book..."

Standing up from my seat, I begin to browse the bindings of books located on the shelf. Hiiragi-chan followed me as well. Her mouth was loose, as if she was going to play a prank on me.

I checked the counter to make sure that the librarian wasn't moving at all, and walked into a blind spot. Under the shadows of the bookcase, we had a kiss against the rules that we had set for ourselves.

"I was pretty bothersome wasn't I... Sorry."

"It's okay. I can still study once I go home anyways."

"... Muuu... You always suddenly become nice like this..."

After having a secret conversation that couldn't be heard by anyone else, we once again quietly kissed each other.

"Good luck with work, Sensei."

"Sanada-kun as well, good luck with studying."

As our happiness gauge built up, both of us broke into smiles.

"It seems it's true when they say that if you have someone you love, you can really do your best..."

Hiiragi-chan quietly said those words.

On that note, I wholeheartedly agreed with her.

Chapter 55 Cooking Skill

◆Hiiragi Haruka◆

For the holiday, Seiji-kun decided to make dinner for me. It was for all the times that I made him meals and bentous.

As he continued calmly with his cooking, I could tell that his skill was pretty good. In the end, he served a salad, soup, and pasta. It seemed like a combination that would be commonly served as a café lunch set. I was quite happy, but at the same time, not happy.

I picked up some pasta with a fork and took a bite.

"How is it? I have a good amount of confidence in it."

I-it's good...! For a moment there, I thought I had actually gone to a café.

"Yeah. It's good."

Seiji-kun smiled in relief and then began to eat.

I had no complaints in good cooking, but personally, I was unhappy that Seiji-kun was good at cooking... The soup as well, wasn't something that was store bought, but something that he had made from scratch.

Mumumumu...

Generally speaking, I would say that I'm better, but Seiji-kun would have enough skill to be called as having a normal level.

A male who knows how to cook is popular—

That's what I would think. Having someone that can make food for you is something that is quite nice, and at the same time, it makes it

kind of hard to let go of them. I'm super worried about Seiji-kun attracting another woman because of this.

"Seiji-kun, this flashy cooking, where did you learn it? From your mother?"

"Umm... that..."

He was stuck, as if he had a hard time saying something.

I can't imagine Seiji-kun's mom making such flashy dishes like this. The bentou that I see him eat for lunch in the home economics room always had a homemade feel.

"My mother, has been quite into Italian recently... so..."

Pikiin, my woman's intuition was activated.

It's wrong. It's definitely not his mother.

Then, who is it? Sana-chan is terrible at cooking... If that's the case, then another woman——! That would be the only explanation for such flashy dishes.

"Seiji-kun, are you hiding something from me?"

"Ueeh!? W-why!? Why would you think that..."

His panic is quite suspicious...

"I can somehow feel it. Just a little."

"The soup is pretty good as well, right?"

"Ah, yeah. It's really tasty!"

"That's good."

This relieved smile that Seiji-kun had, it was a smile that I unbearably liked... His salad is good too. It was to the point where it might make me say that I actually wanted to eat vegetables!!

In truth, I really didn't know much about Seiji-kun. I believe that I wouldn't lose to anyone in knowing things about Seiji-kun after he became a second-year high schooler, but if it's about last year or about his middle school days, I haven't heard much. Without a doubt, he had mastered this cooking skill before he started dating me.

"You made this meal today to thank me, right?"

"Eh? Ahh, yeah."

"Do you do cooking at home?"

"My mother is at home, so if I just use ingredients in the fridge, she gets mad at me. She would scold me by saying that she was going to be using that meat or those vegetables tomorrow, and stuff like that."

"Ah. I get that. It's because most of the things in the refrigerator are probably planned out. If things are used all of a sudden, the menu for the week ends up getting messed up a bit."

"So it seems. She said the same thing to me."

He doesn't cook at home, yet he's so good...?

Ah, I got it!

"An ex-girlfriend!? It's that, right!? You were dating a beautiful, fashionable, and slightly older Onee-san!?"

"Haaah!? What are you talking about? Rather, isn't that more like the current situation?"

That's right. There isn't any proof that I'm Seiji-kun's first girlfriend.

"I don't have an ex-girlfriend. Haruka-san is my first."

He immediately refuted my thoughts.

Hmmm? Rather, isn't it more like the current situation...?

"A beautiful, fashionable, and slightly older Onee-san?"

I said, while pointing at myself.

"T-that's right..."

Ah. He's embarrassed. So cute... When he shows this side of himself, it makes me aware that he's a younger boy and it really makes my heart tighten. Normally, he wouldn't get flustered or hesitate as he settled everything perfectly.

"I'm sorry for being jealous of a nonexistent ex-girlfriend."

"No, it's fine."

He wasn't taught by an ex-girlfriend, nor was he taught by his mother. Then, who, and when...?

"Seiji-kun, do you like cafés?"

"Cafés? No, I don't really like them that much. I do like coffee though."

Mumumu.

So, it wasn't that he was imitating a lunch from some café somewhere.

"I mean, cafés are like, *'Having tea at a fashionable place this, it's so cute! I'm quite fashionable myself, right?'* Those are the types of girls that go there, right?"

"Uwah, that's quite a biased view!!"

"Am I wrong?"

"Girls just like that sort of place. The furniture, the interior, and the accessories are often really nice, and the store itself comes with a good atmosphere."

"Fuun. Why the sudden talk about cafes?"

"I was thinking that if it wasn't on a date, it's kind of hard to go to a place like that, right? So, I thought maybe that you liked it. The stuff you made is like the stuff that would be served at a café after all."

He doesn't like cafes... He isn't imitating the cooking of some place... Then, where did he get all of his cooking skills. Was he secretly practicing in the kitchen—?

"Were you thinking about thanking me today like this for a while?"

"I wouldn't say it was for a while, but you always treat me to things, and even make me bentous. That's why I thought I should pay you back."

What should I do? When I think that he might have been bad at it, and practiced cooking for my sake, it makes me want to love Seiji-kun even more...

Mou, I'll leave it like that then. Seiji-kun is grateful for everything that I do for him every day after all, and the cooking is also good.

"Are you really curious about my cooking, that you need to no matter what?"

"Eh? Yeah..."

He was trying to hide it earlier. What happened all of a sudden?

Seiji-kun peeked at me with a serious expression.

"I'm really 27 years old, and I came to this current time period by a time leap."

"... Ahahah, what's with that? No matter how I see it, you aren't 27."

"And so, I know how to cook because I remember it from college, when I was working part time at an Italian restaurant—"

"What? That's such a realistic college setting. Ahahaha."

"In college, I lived alone, so I had a lot of chances to cook. So now—"

"College student, living alone. That sounds so real!"

Tears felt like they were coming out of my eyes, so I wiped it with one of my fingers.

"Haaah, that was weird."

"..... I know, right?"

That's the smile that I like.

Then, I asked him something uneasily.

"Ummm... Tai-mu-lee-pu, what's that? What does it mean?"

Gakun, Seiji-kun hung his head.

"I-I see... I guess you wouldn't normally know. A word like that..."

And then, he explained to me what a time leap was, and I finally understood.

So, as we carried our own tableware to the sink, I tried asking him.

"Then, if the time leap was real, then the Seiji-kun here right now is 27 years old?"

"Aaah, the setting from earlier? That's how it would be."

With the water running, I washed the dishes with a sponge, and then handed them to Seiji-kun to rinse.

"Haruka-san... If that was the case, what would you do?"

"I don't think I would do anything? Seiji-kun, is Seiji-kun, right? If it was really someone else inside, then I would have to think about it though."

"I see."

Saying that, Seiji-kun smiled.

Afterwards, we flirted a little more than we usually would.

Chapter 56 Summer Festival 1

On the weekend of the third week in July, a summer festival is held every year in the neighboring town. Hiiragi-chan was super excited to go, and with the mysterious logic of, it's the neighboring town so it's safe, she urged me in going.

"I want to go..."

"If it's fireworks, we can see it from here though... If you think about the possibility of us being recognized——"

"..."

Hiiragi-chan was instantly depressed.

If it was guaranteed we wouldn't see anyone we knew, then even I would want to go. Although it was just the neighboring town, the scale of the summer festival was quite large. There would be many visitors from both inside and outside the prefecture. Naturally, the chances of meeting an acquaintance from high school or middle school is pretty high. It goes without saying, the chances of us being seen is also high.

"I was going to wear a yukata..."

... I want to see it.

"However, if Seiji-kun refuses so strongly... it can't be helped..."

"No, it's not that I refuse... I understand Haruka-san's excitement in wanting to go..."

"Then, let's go?"

As such, we ended up going to the summer festival in the neighboring town next Saturday.

We drove close to the venue, before walking the rest of the way. Karan, koron, the sound from Hiiragi-chan's geta rang out. [1] The hair that was usually done in a ponytail, was gathered in the back, and the white nape of her neck could be seen. The flower ornament in her hair also suited her very well.

"How is it? My yukata."

"Yeah. It's cute."

"R-really?"

Her expression loosened in happiness as she gave off the aura of wanting even more compliments.

"I think that the light blue color gives off a bright feeling and really suits you, Haruka-san."

"Eheheh. Thank you ♪"

The yukata was part of it, but the overall level of perfection is quite high. At first glance, her current atmosphere was quite removed from the "Hiiragi-sensei" image, so maybe it wasn't necessary to have a disguise. However, just in case, I was wearing a cap with a visor. There's a lot of people after all, and if we've gone this far, we shouldn't be noticed that easily.

As we got closer to the venue, people going to the festival could be seen everywhere. There were a lot of couples, and all of them could be seen holding hands. Seeing that, Hiiragi-chan casually touched the back of my hand. Seems like she wants to hold hands. Being so beautiful in her yukata, Hiiragi-chan also got a lot of attention from other men. If a capped male ends up holding her hand in that situation, it will definitely stand out.

"Muuu."

Since I didn't respond, Hiiragi-chan acted displeased.

"Ah. Wait a bit."

Now that I think about it, every year, there was a stall that sold masks.

It was still early in the evening, so the area where the stalls were lined up still didn't have that many people. It should be somewhere around there... There it is.

When I went to the stall that I found, there were masks of the Power Rangers, heroines of different kids-oriented anime, and many other faces. After buying a mask, I returned to where Hiiragi-chan was.

"Wear this. Like this, there shouldn't be anyone that would find out about us."

"Seiji-kun, are you perhaps a genius...?"

"Now we can hold hands."

"Yay ♪"

Hiiragi-chan wore the mask.

A clown appeared in front of me. [2]

Bufufufu.

W-what can I do... I thought to pick a pretty plain mask... but it became quite funny...

"We can walk while holding hands now, right?"

The clown said happily.

"Fu-fufufu-fu, y-yeah..."

"What is so funny?"

S-stop... a clown is talking with Hiiragi-chan's voice...

Bufu, since I was laughing, the clown noticed that something was wrong with me, and took off the mask in order to confirm what it was. Then, she put it back on.

"What is this!? Couldn't you have picked something cuter!?"

"I-i-it was... fuhaha... the most plain out of all them..."

"Aren't you laughing really hard!? The clown is meant to be funny! What were you thinking, Seiji-kun!?"

The clown, it's super angry! Bufufu.

"Wa, really, stop. I-I can't, brea, fuhahaha."

"Stop, didn't you buy this mask yourself!?"

I stepped on a landmine, and the clown became even angrier.

"I'll buy another one then. Until then, you have to put up with this."

Such a kind clown.

"Let's... hold hands?"

The clown was kind of embarrassed. T-this is bad, if I laugh even more, the clown's mood will worsen...

But, it's so funny. What can I do? Half forcing myself, we held hands as the clown and I went to the main venue. The main events were supposed to be held at the shrine, but most people thought of the fireworks as the main event, so until then, there wasn't going to be that many people.

Once we got to the stand that I just bought the mask, the clown bought a different mask. She bought a mask of Ranger Red. Entrusting me with the clown mask, Hiiragi-chan put on Red's mask, and faced me.

"... How is it?"

"Yeah, it's normal."

"I see... rather, the purpose of this isn't to make you laugh, okay!?"

I ended up putting on the clown mask, and until the fireworks started, we decided to walk around the stalls. We bought some yakisoba, and at the corner of one of the steps, the two of us shared it and ate it together.

"Seiji-kun, aaahn."

"Wait a second."

I moved my mask sideways a bit as she brought it to my mouth. Since I couldn't see with my mask off to the side like this, I found out earlier that doing this was for the best.

"This time, it's my turn. I'm ready."

"Aaahn."

This time, I fed her.

The masks were bothersome, but we needed to keep it on, since you never know when someone might see us.

"Let's go see the next stall!"

"You're quite energetic, Haruka-san."

"Once you become an adult, there aren't a lot of chances to let loose like this. That's why I'm like this."

She said that with Red's mask on. Even though it was such a serious statement, it really didn't enter my head at all.

While holding hands, I walked through the gradually growing crowd while being pulled along by Hiiragi-chan.

"Seiji-kun, that! Goldfish scooping! Let's do that?" [3]

Goldfish scooping, even if you end up keeping it, it'll only live for about a week before dying... And even if you don't end up scooping up any of them, they usually end up giving you a few as service...

She urged me on to the front of the stall.

"Fuwaah... there's so many small fish..."

"Small fish... well, it's Goldfish scooping after all."

"The red ones, and the black ones, are those also goldfish?"

"Eh?"

"Eh? What?"

Red was completely blanked out.

"You know, Red-san. It's not called goldfish because they're gold colored fish, you know?"

"..... I-I knew that."

Liar.

Hmm? More importantly... has she not seen goldfish before? You would think that as a child, you would've at least seen them once before.

"One try please."

Hiiragi-chan paid the money and received three scoops.

"Here!"

Basha.

"Now!"

Basha.

"It'll be decided with this!"

Basha.

It was all failures.

"Ugugugu... I wasn't even able to get one... The paper broke. Oji-san, I think there's a defect!"

"That's how it's supposed to be!"

She hasn't done it before...?

Next to her, I started with my own attempt. Jiii, I could feel Red focusing on my hand with an intense gaze.

Suu, I pulled the scoop sideways, trying to use the part closest to the edge to hook something.

"Alright."

One, two, goldfish entered the container one after the other.

"Amazing! Seiji-kun, you're amazing!!"

Clapping her hands, she was already quite moved.

"I'm not great at it, but I can at least do this much."

"Mou, if it's come to this, it's time to use my power as an adult—"

"What are you thinking of doing while wearing Red's mask?"

Red took out 5000 yen from her wallet.

"With this, all those easily broken nets, give them all to me!"

"Quit it! The little children are going to be playing after us."

"If I have enough money to match today's predicted sales, even the Oji-san will end up nodding—"

"Don't talk about money in front of the stall!"

Hiiragi-chan pitifully received her three goldfish, and we left the stall. By the way, the goldfish I scooped up were all released back into the pool.

"It was harder than I thought it would be..."

"There's a little bit of a trick to it after all."

We walked in a direction where there weren't any people and found a nice step to sit down on.

"I never really came to places like this. So, I ended up getting a little bit excited."

"I had a feeling that was the case."

At some point, it had already passed sunset, and the area became completely dark with no lights. It was dark enough, where it might be fine to not have masks on. After taking off the mask, she put her hand on top of mine.

"Next year, let's come again."

"Yeah. Of course."

While hearing the faraway sounds of the festival, the two of us kissed under the dim light.

TL Note:



1.

Geta are traditional sandals made of wood. They look something like this:



2.

It isn't a western clown. It was called Hyottoko (ひょっとこ), but I didn't like it leaving the Japanese in, so I changed it to clown to sound better. It refers to masks with large puckered lips or mouths off to the side. Something like this:

3. Some of you may know, but just in case. It's a traditional festival activity done by stalls where players are given paper scoops to scoop out goldfish from a pool of some sort. The paper scoops tend to be easy to break and so it takes a bit of skill to actually get goldfish

Chapter 57 Summer Festival 2

After having a flirting break in the dark, I walked around with Hiiragi-chan, aka Red, to look for a quiet place where the fireworks could be seen easily.

"Hmmm, there are couples everywhere."

"It's to be expected, everyone's probably thinking the same thing."

Yeah, Red chuckled to herself. She was holding a cup of lemon-flavored shaved ice as she brought a spoonful of it to the mask's mouth, only to have it spill all over it.

"Auu. I messed up again."

It seems Red has gotten completely used to the mask and sometimes forgets that it's there.

As it got closer to the start time for the fireworks, the number of people around rapidly increased. If we were to lose each other, it would probably be a pain to find each other.

"Ah. Nii-san!"

Ugeh, Sana!? Wearing yukatas, Sana and Kanata appeared directly in front of us.

Looking at Hiiragi-chan, she once again had the spoon crash into the mask. She once again failed to eat. A-alright... if she stays as Red, then it probably won't be found out. Panicking, I covered my face with the clown mask that was on top of my head.

"Nii-san still came in the end."

"No. I'm just a clown."

"... Nii-san, it's kind of late for that, you know? "

"... Seiji-kun, you can't escape Saa-chan with that level of a disguise."

I accepted that and returned the mask to the top of my head.

"Rather, Sana, you still ended up coming. Even though you said you weren't going to come."

"K-Kana-chan said she wanted to go, so Sana is just accompanying her..."

That's what she said, but it's probably the opposite in reality...

"Who's the woman next to you?"

"Eh? Aaah, this person is... just a lost Red."

Hiiragi-chan nodded along.

"Lost despite being the leader!?"

"... That's so sad."

"A-and so, we were just about to look for the other members. I wonder where they got separated..."

Like a cat that was fully on guard, Kanata continued to stare at Red.

"... I feel like I've seen someone with that body before..."

As Kanata tried to come around the side to get a closer look, Hiiragi-chan prevented her by holding her arms up in a guard.

"... As expected of Red... really capable...!"

What are they doing?

"W-we were going to go look for a good place to watch the fireworks right now ... Nii-san is probably just going to watch alone, right? I'll let you join us, though?"

"I'll have to pass. I more or less have a previous engagement."

"Eh... W-with who...? It can't be—with Red!?"

Red fidgeted around with embarrassment.

"Y-you can't, Nii-san! Red has to w-watch with the other members!"

That was just me trying to find an excuse though, there really aren't any other members.

"Isn't it fine? Stop being such a busybody."

"... Nii-san, stupid!"

"... Saa-chan, it's okay, it's okay."

Kanata patted Sana-chan, who was frowning.

They really are on such good terms with each other.

"As such, I'll be taking the lost Red to the festival's office—"

When I turned around, Red wasn't there anymore.

"H-hmmm? Where's Red?"

"Ah. You're right... did she get pulled away by the waves of people..."

"... Red... became lost again..."

"S-see you—!"

I waved my hand at the two of them, and pushed myself into the crowd.

Where did she go? She was probably just dazed off eating shaved ice, and then got lost in the crowd. Even when I tried to call her, she didn't answer the phone. Since her phone was in her bag, it can't be helped if she didn't notice.

Pushing my way through the crowd to search for Red, I arrived at a clearing by the stalls.

That's a relief, I found her. However, she was involved with 3 men. Could this be that, the—Onee-chan why don't you come hang out with us—kind of situation!? I-I have to pull myself together. I'm still an adult. I have to protect Hiiragi-chan.

"Ummm... this is a little troubling..."

"It's fine, right? It's just for a little bit!"

This is bad, it's just like the usual template!

"But, I'm with someone right now..."

Red looked very unhappy. I have to do something...!

"Then, how about until that person comes?"

"That's right. We have a lot of time right now."

"Just for a little. Really, just for a little bit."

In that moment, the three men put on three different kinds of masks.

""—Please become our Red!!""

What type of pickup line is that!!

"I'm Blue!"

Shakiin, he took a stance by himself.

"I'm Yellow!"

The next person went, shakiin, and took his own stance.

"And I'm—a clown!"

Can't you at least be a color! It seems, she got involved with people that liked special effects. I don't know about the clown though.

"Umm, Red is with me. Do you need something?"

I broke out in between the men and Hiiragi-chan.

"We just want to act as rangers together."

"It just so happens that we're missing a Red."

The clown nodded along. Then he looked at me closely and raised his voice, "Ooooh...! A comrade." He grabbed my hand firmly.

Ah. I was mistaken as an friend.

"No, that's not it. I just happened to buy this one."

As I tried my best to deny it, someone patted my shoulder.

"It's okay, it's okay, there's no need to be embarrassed."

What? Is showing tendencies of liking clowns something to be embarrassed about!? Is it treated like some sort of unpopular minor character!?

"A-anyways, we were trying to look for a place to watch fireworks when we got separated."

"If that's the case, comrade. Behind the shrine, there's a narrow path. If you go up that path, you'll come upon a small observation area. If you go, there probably won't be anyone there."

This clown, he ended up being a character that had important information in advancing the story.

"Ah. Thank you."

"Good luck, young clown."

"I'm telling you that I'm not a clown!"

I once again thanked the clown, and pulled Hiiragi-chan along as I began walking.

"I was really surprised since you suddenly disappeared."

"Aaah...I had a lot of incoming messages... Sorry. By the time I noticed, you guys were already gone. "

Hiiragi-chan once again held on to my hand, and at the same time linked arms with me.

"Thank you for earlier. They probably weren't bad people but... I was quite troubled so you really saved me."

"It's okay. It was good that I helped out before anything weird happened."

Kara koro, the sound of Hiiragi-chan's geta could be heard as we moved away from the hustle and bustle of the festival.

The shrine itself was quite deserted since the rituals had ended. It was only a few people going in and out of the office area.

I wonder where the path behind the shrine is?

"Seiji-kun, isn't this it?"

Where Hiiragi-chan was pointing, there was a narrow staircase that might be able to fit one person passing through. To keep from falling, we held hands as the two of us walked upwards. After a while, just like the clown had told us, there was a small observation platform.

Despite calling it an observation platform, it was really just a small alcove. It was only to the point of having a small roof, wooden table, and maybe a bench for two.

The lights from the stalls could be seen below, and a starlit sky spread out above. The wind blowing in felt comfortable.

Sitting down on the bench, we looked around. It didn't look like anyone was around.

"This is a great place."

"Who was that clown anyways...?"

Hiiragi-chan, who took off her mask, remembered what happened earlier and laughed to herself.

"Isn't he your friend?"

"No, that's not true."

Ahahah, Hiiragi-chan raised her voice in happiness. She treating it as someone else's problem.

While we continued on with such exchanges, the time came for the fireworks to start. Don, the dark night sky was lit up by colorfully blooming flowers.

"It's beautiful."

How long has it been since I've seen fireworks? As I was dazed off thinking about that, Hiiragi-chan closed the distance between us until our shoulders were touching. After I faced the palm of my hand upward, she put her hand on top of mine as if she was waiting for it. Between the fireworks, we secretly kissed each other.

"It's absolute, okay?"

"Eh? What is?"

"The promise to come back next year... It's absolute, okay...?"

"Yeah. I promise."

As I hugged Hiiragi-chan, who seemed anxious, she wrapped her arms around my back.

"Seiji-kun, I love you. I really really love you."

"Me too."

"Will you say it properly?"

She firmly grabbed my cheeks and stopped me from escaping. Her mouth was loosened into a satisfied smile.

No matter how many times I say it, I'll never get used to it...

"Haruka-san, I love you."

"Fuguu... T-thank you..."

Hiiragi-chan held her chest down.

"An embarrassed Seiji-kun is so cute that I want to see it, but if this happens, rather than you being embarrassed, I'm the one who ends up like that..."

What's with this person? She's so cute.

From start to finish, we were just like this, watching fireworks from the small observation platform where no one came while flirting with each other.

Chapter 58 The In-class Pinch

It happened during world history class. I was using a plastic sheet as a fan and looking up in hope. Just as I was opening my textbook, Hiiragi-chan just happened to be pass by.

"Seiji-kun, no matter how much you beg like that, it won't change, you know? It's hot, but do your best."

"Okay..."

Fun, Hiiragi-chan was currently aloof, passing by with an expression that said, *"Right now, we're teacher and student."*

She was wearing pants today. I wonder whether it's hot.

I really hate school during this time of year. The classrooms didn't have air conditioning, the ventilation is bad, and my notebook ends up sticking to my arm from all the sweat.

It should be noted that Fujimoto would usually be teasing my by now, but today, that was not the case. Looking out of the corner of my eyes, his back was turned towards me.

"Mufu. Gufu..."

"What's with that weird laugh, Fujimoto?"

"No, well..."

It's unusual for him to hide something like this. Well, even if I think about it, nothing will happen, so I decided to focus on Hiiragi-chan's world history class.

"Sensei, you're wearing pants today? It looks so hot!"

"It's already hot in a skirt. Did you not have anything else, Sensei?"

There were a few girls calling out to her in a friendly manner.

"Ah, these pants are quite cool. So, it's pretty much okay."

Hiiragi-chan pulled on her pants a bit to show it off. Are those like breathable pants? So that's what they were.

"Hiiragi-chan, it seems a little like a PK..."

"Yeah, somewhat, to a certain extent."

I heard a few girls secretly whispering to each other off to one side.

What do they mean, PK? A foul within the penalty area...? If that's the case, then once she's dating a student, it's already a foul on top of a foul. A red card all in one go.

After Hiiragi-chan turned her back to face us, she started to write down notes for the class on the blackboard.

"This is bad, I might get a nosebleed..."

With a loose face, Fujimoto was pinching his nose.

"What's been going on?"

"Did you not notice, Sanada?"

"What?"

Fujimoto shook his head in disappointment.

"You'll understand if you just look. Even you would be excited by seeing a girl's bra line, right?"

"Shut up."

"You wouldn't?"

"I would."

"It's like that. Though this... is a little more rare..."

"What are you talking about?"

Of course, the boys all like it. The slight transparency of blouses worn as a summer uniform. But if Hiiragi-chan were to notice, she would definitely get mad. Then Fujimoto's excitement was directed at another girl...?

Looking around, that didn't seem to be the case. There were majority of girls were wearing a second layer underneath the blouse. Since Hiiragi-chan isn't that strict, there would usually be a lot of people having private conversations. However, today, the boys were all quiet, and the girls would sometimes make a fuss over something.

Hiiragi-chan continued to write with her chalk. Seeing my girlfriend hard at work today— Seeing my girlfriend...

Nnnnaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!

I finally got what they meant by PK

It might also be the reason why Fujimoto is making such creepy laughs. No wonder all the boys are looking at Hiiragi-chan quietly.

W-what should I do?

I need to let her know somehow. Aah, but, Hiiragi-chan is in focusing on writing on the blackboard, so she's not likely to come by anytime soon. If I could hand her my jersey it might somehow work out, but I already brought mine home...

Hiiragi-chan is in a pinch. What am I going to do—

"Ummm, now then, I would like someone to help read from the textbook—"

It came.

Here it is.

"Yes! Me me me me me! Please!"

As if I was a kid visiting the school, I raised my hand in excitedly. Seeing me enthusiasm that I didn't normally show, Hiiragi-chan's expression instantly lit up.

"If that's the case, Sanada-kun! Starting from page 90 ♪"

"Yes... Venus de Milo is a Greek sculpture representative of the Hellenistic Period. It's characterized by the small eyes looking into the distance, and the tall nose——"

Alright, here.

"The cloth wrapped around the waist... is..."

"Sanada-kun? I don't think that's what's written?"

"Around the waist of Venus where the cloth is wrapped, or maybe on the butt, lines can be seen from the underwear..."

Everyone in the class suddenly understood and looked at me.

(Eh, you're going to say that now!?) was what the girls seemed to say. (Don't say it!) was what the boys seemed to say.

"Sanada-kun? I'm telling you, that's not what's written in the textbook..."

Notice iiiiiittttt!

I don't know if it's because the pants are thin or something, but the lines from your panties are super clear to seeeeee!

Alright, take two.

"Around Venus's butt, lines can be seen from the panties..."

"?"

PK probably referred to the panties are wedged. Probably. [1]

It's so clear to see that it's easy to understand!

Mou, now I'm the one that's embarrassed... You have to be more careful about these things, especially when the class's attention is normally focused on you! Do I need to say it even more clearly...!?

"Rather than Venus de Milo... maybe it could be my Venus..."

"??"

It's not going to work! She's not worried about it enough to notice!

"Ummm, I guess I'll read it then, instead?"

Hiiragi-chan then turned her back to face us.

Aaaaaahhh, it didn't worrrrk!

I can't allow Hiiragi-chan's butt be exposed any longer to the boys in this class! I need to try something more heavy-handed!

Taking off my dress shirt, I revealed my T-shirt. I rolled up my long sleeves a bit, but if she were to undo that, she should be able to tie it around her waist. I stand up from my seat and hurry over to Hiiragi-chan.

"Sensei, just a moment!"

"Eh, eh, eh— what is it...?"

Surprised that I came to the front, Hiiragi-chan widened her eyes.

I handed her my dress shirt.

"Use this, for your waist."

"Eh, why? What's going on...?"

I quietly whisper into her ear.

"Sensei, the lines from your panties can be seen..."

"No way!?"

Hiiragi-chan, who's face had turned red. She dropped her textbook and moved her hands to her butt. Her eyes became teary as she went into panic mode.

"That's why, you should use this."

"... Eh, ah, ah, yeah... T-thank you..."

She tied the sleeves of the dress shirt in front of her, and was able to guard her butt.

With this, I can feel a little relieved.

As I made a sigh, the girls began clapping.

"I was wondering whether I should tell her."

"Even for us, it's a little hard to say."

"Sanada-kun, such a gentleman..."

"Using his own shirt as a guard, that might make my heart skip a beat..."

Thank you, thank you.

(What did you just do, Sanada...!?) was what the boys seemed to say.

In the middle of class, Hiiragi-chan temporarily left the class, and came back after changing into an athletic jersey.

"Sanada-kun, thank you for the dress shirt."

Coming directly in front of my seat, she returned my dress shirt.

"I also, had my heart skip a beat there...!"

Teheh, Hiiragi-chan was embarrassed.

Hey hey hey hey. What are you saying? This is in class, you know?

"Aaah, I totally get that."

"Yup."

"Yeah, it was really that sort of timing."

The other girls all seemed to feel the same way, so it seems it wasn't taken in a weird meaning.

Once I saved Hiiragi-chan from her pinch, my value among the girls seemed to have gone up, while the value of the other boys dropped.

TL Note:

1. Didn't really translate well into English. But the Japanese was パンツ食い込んでる, which would be read as *pantsu kuikonderu*. That's why it's PK.

Chapter 59 Pool 1

"Natsumi was wondering whether you wanted to hang out. The three of us together."

Hiiragi-chan brought up such a proposal.

It seems that her little sister, Natsumi-chan, had asked how things were going with us. Hiiragi-chan assumed that it would be a good idea for Natsumi-chan and I to get closer, and so it ended up like this.

Tomorrow was going to be the start of summer vacation, so there was no shortage of places and timings for hanging out. Once I gave my consent, the siblings had already decided on what to do. We were going to the pool.

When I biked to Hiiragi-chan's place under the hot sun, Natsumi-chan, who was already there, waved hello at me. I casually returned her greeting and got into Hiiragi-chan's car.

Our destination was a pool located in a leisure facility built just a year ago. The pool was one that had artificial currents and large water slides, so both adults and children could enjoy it. Or at least, that's what the commercial said.

"It's my first time going to a place like this, so I'm a little nervous."

"A-actually, that goes for me to..."

Hey, hey, you girls. What are you guys getting scared of? It's just a pool. Hmm? Now that they mention it, it's also the same for me. Now I'm nervous...

Rather than the pool, I'm looking forward to Hiiragi-chan's swimsuit. Natsumi-chan, although inferior to Hiiragi-chan, was petite but still had her own curves. Somehow, the poolside goddess frolicking around with a town girl came into my imagination.

Maybe because it was a weekday, there weren't that many people yet. For summer vacation, it would be considered pretty empty. I quickly finished changing, and waited by the poolside for the two sisters.

The pool was larger than I thought it would be. It was to the point where it seemed that if there were a lot of people, there would be a lot of lost children.

"See, Natsumi, look. Seiji-kun's back. Isn't it just so pale and beautiful?"

"Haru-chan, do you have a fetish for that...?"

"T-that's not it."

The two of them came over.

Hiiragi-chan was wearing a white bikini that was modestly decorated with ribbon. My estimation was around D cup... b-but, it really is quite big... Do I see it that way because she's wearing swimsuit...? As she walks, it shakes and flutters around a bit like pudding. I won't say what it is though. What is it? Is it a weapon? She's carrying weapons.

The string located around her waist stirs up the desire to pull on it. If I saw her in this swimsuit at her place, then I would have definitely pulled on it... I somehow have confidence in that. A sexy neckline, and that little bit of extra meat on her stomach that was, on the contrary, quite erotic...

"How is it...?"

"Yeah, it really suits Haruka-san. It's good."

"Yay ♪"

Hiiragi-chan expressed her happiness in a small jump.

Furun, they shook once more.

I-it's good that there aren't that many people. If it's like this, she'll probably be hit on by some creepy man.

"Alright alright, let's stop acting all lovey-dovey. I'm also here, you know?"

Natsumi-chan said that teasingly.

Natsumi-chan's swimsuit was a two-piece type. The patterned stripes on it complemented her well.

Natsumi-chan was staring in my direction.

"W-what?"

"Haru-chan said that Mr. Thief had a decent body... I was just thinking that that was true..."

"Na-Natsumi."

Panicking, Hiiragi-chan stuck up her index finger and went, shhhh.

Hiiragi-chan, body fetish. Let's just jot that down.

Good thing this was my high school body. My body in the present time period, lacked exercise and proper care, and so it became all squishy and flabby.

"Over there. That one seems to have those artificial currents, let's go there!"

"Wait, Natsumi. First, you should properly do your warmups."

Hiiragi-chan said something teacher-like. Ah, she is a teacher.

"Isn't it fiiinnneee. It's not like we're swimming seriously anyways."

Yeah, I agree with Natsumi-chan. However, Hiiragi-chan said, "You have to do it properly!" so after doing some simple exercises, we jumped unto the donut shaped pool.

"It feels so good!"

Natsumi-chan, who popped her face out of the water, shook her head like a dog.

"Uwah. I kind of underestimated it. I thought it was going to be like the school's pool! It's not cold, neither is it hot. It's just right!"

"Yes yes, thanks for the commentary."

Looking like she was enjoying herself, Natsumi-chan began a light swim with the current.

Wait, this isn't supposed to be where you're supposed to swim...
Hmm, speaking of which, where's my goddess...?

She was holding onto handrails and oh so slowly soaking herself deeper into the water. Her movements were slow like that of an old lady.

"W-w-wait for me. I-I'll be there soon."

Ah. That's right, Hiiragi-chan can't swim.

Moving close to her, I hold out my hand. Being unable to swim means that just being in the water must already be scary.

"Hold on."

"Ah, yeah... ♡"

I held onto Hiiragi-chan as she dropped lower and lower. As usual, her body was soft and comes with an exceptional feeling when held. The person herself was clinging to my arm as if she would never let

go no matter what happened. Seems like she thinks of this as putting her life on the line. That's fine, but the soft feeling of her breasts... my arms...! Good thing it was inside the pool...

"Are you alright, Haruka-san? You can put your feet on the bottom and walk slowly."

"R-really...? D-don't let go, okay?"

Hiiragi-chan trembled in fear as if she was a small animal targeted by an eagle.

If she didn't know how to swim, why did she decide on going to the pool?

Still just going around the pool like this was still fun. It's probably because I'm walking around while holding the hand of my cute girlfriend.

I can't really complain about other normies now... Rather, this is what normies experience as they turn into adults...

—This is unfair!!

"Was it Natsumi-chan that asked to go to the pool?"

"No, it was me."

"Eh. Why?"

"Eehhhh....? Did you forget?"

"What? Did I say something?"

"When you had swim lessons, I said that I would buy a proper swimsuit and show it to you."

Aaah, now that she mentions it, I remember it now.

"Ah, that face says that you forgot about it, right?"

Which means, she purposely decided to go to the pool, knowing that she didn't know how to swim, just so that she could show me her swimsuit. She could've just showed me at home though, like a small fashion show.

"Puhah," Natsumi-chan poked her head out nearby, from the opposite side of where Hiiragi-chan was.

"Haru-chan, was suuuuper looking forward to this, you know? She put so much effort into picking a swimsuit."

"Nyah, Natsumi!"

While laughing, Natsumi-chan jumped back into the water.

What's with her? Is she a water person?

"Mou..."

"So you were looking forward to it?"

Hiiragi-chan, whose inner feelings were now exposed, turned red while biting her lips.

"...T-that's right! As long as it's with Seiji-kun, I'll look forward to anything! Even if I can't swim and we're going to the pool, I'll still look forward to it."

Ah, she turned aggressive.

"How about Seiji-kun? Were you looking forward to it?"

"I was looking forward to Haruka-san's swimsuit."

"How is it? I took a lot of time to pick it."

"It suits your very well."

Niheheh, she turned really embarrassed and in a quiet voice, she said, "What should I do? I really want to kiss him..."

"... Later."

"Eeehhh!? I said that out loud!?"

Hiiragi-chan covered her face with her hands.

After that, without being seen by Natsumi-chan, in a place where there weren't any people, we kissed a lot.

Chapter 60 Pool 2

"Haru-chan, you really won't leave Thief-kun's side at all... you're completely stuck to him."

"Eh? Really? Isn't it always like this?"

For me, it was also pretty normal, so until Natsumi-chan mentioned it, I didn't notice it at all. It's true though, she was clinging on to me.

Since we were tired from playing around, we bought yakisoba and takoyaki and were now eating it together at the poolside.

"I should've made some bentous for us..."

"This is also part of the experience, Haru-chan. It's cheapness of it that makes it so good."

Hiiragi-chan tilted her head while questioning that.

In terms of the quality of the yakisoba and the takoyaki, it could be better. However it's true that buying it in this way feels easier.

After standing up, I went to go throw out the trash, and as I turned the corner, I bumped into someone.

"Ouch!?"

"Kyahn"

"Sorry. Are you... okay...?"

In front of me, Sana was there, sitting down on her butt.

"N-n-n-no it's, my bad..."

Her shy mode in full throttle, she looked away from me. She was wearing a swimsuit that revealed her unblemished body.

Why is she here...!? Ah, if I remember correctly, she did say she was going out today...

Just as I was about to turn my back towards her, Sana took a sidelong glance at me and noticed.

"Nii-san?"

"You've got the wrong person..."

"It's Nii-san isn't it? The mole on your back, it's the same one as Nii-san's."

Resigning myself, I stopped my feet.

"What are you doing here?"

"Sana is here, hanging out with Kana-chan. What about Nii-san? What are you doing here when you don't even have friends?"

"What you said there was definitely an exaggeration."

That's right, I can technically say that Fujimoto is my friend. He's just barely over that line though. Ah, this is bad. I came with Hiiragi-chan and Natsumi-chan. Considering Hiiragi-chan, she didn't bring anything for a disguise—no, wait. I can just act as if I coincidentally met the Hiiragi sisters while I was here.

"W-who did you come with...? There's no way you came alone, right...?"

Sana looked at me with squinted eyes, as if doubting me.

"T-that's how it is though? I thought I would go out swimming on my own."

"H-hmmm... since Nii-san seems quite pitiful... as an exception, Sana will allow you to join us, okay? It's an exception, just an exception."

At this point, I really don't know if I can say that Sana was nice, or not. However, I have to stay firm and refuse here.

"It's fine. I'll take your thoughts though."

"D-don't just accept the thoughts. It wasn't meant in that weird way anyways, okay?"

Why is her face turning red?

"Thief-kun, what are you doing? Haru-chan is—"

Uuooooh!? In this situation, the most annoying person ended up coming!? It was a chance meeting between the younger sisters.

Looking at Sana, Natsumi-chan gave me a cold look.

"Who is this?"

"How.... H-how.... H-how about you? W-who are you...?"

Sana activated her shyness, and started speaking politely. During which, she moved to hide behind me.

"This girl is my little sister... we just happened to bump into each other."

"Ah, so that's what it was. That's a relief."

Natsumi-chan's smile returned.

She definitely misunderstood and thought I was cheating, right?

"Nii-san, this girl with a bad mouth, who is she? Didn't you come alone...?"

With my eyes, I tried signaling to Natsumi-chan.

I was trying to make sure that she knew that we couldn't let anyone else know of my relationship with Hiiragi-chan. She winked back at me twice as a signal of confirmation.

"I'm a third year at Shinjoukan Woman's High School, Hiiragi Natsumi."

Natsumi-chan had assumed the air of a refined lady, as she brushed her hair off her shoulders. Since she wasn't normally this sort of character, I can somehow understand that she was just putting up an act.

"Shinjoukan... it's where all those rich ladies go... Sanada Sana... N-nice to meet you. S-sana goes to... Hasumori High School... the same as Nii-san. It's my first year..."

While faltering multiple times, Sana was finally able to finish her self-introduction.

Nice nice, before, she wouldn't have been able to greet anyone she was meeting for the first time, nor could she talk properly. She really has grown a lot... Though her chest hasn't grown at all.

"Ummm, Natsumi-chan is Hiiragi-sensei's sister. It seems that the two of them came here together today. And so, after coming alone to swim, I ended up bumping into them."

What a coincidence, hahahaha, as I let out a laugh, Sana started to look at Natsumi-chan, who responded with her own fire.

"I see... With an intruder detecting infrared sensor like little sister like this, it's no wonder that Thief-kun can't get a girlfriend. Haru-chan really has it tough..."

"W-who are you calling an infrared sensor!?" This time, it was Hiiragi-chan who came, "Ah, it's Sana-chan! Hello. What are you doing today? Did you come with li-san?"

As Hiiragi-chan was walking, the parts that should be shaking continued to shake, causing Sana to shake.

"W-what's with that... Sensei... breasts... Eh. No way..."

Sana touched her own chest.

No matter how many times you touch it, Sana, I'm sorry to say, but what isn't there won't be there. Your breasts remain flat, paved over by a barren land, unable to allow for even a single weed to grow...

"Yeah, Imouto-chan, I also understand your feelings..."

Natsumi-chan also depressingly dropped her shoulders.

The sisters had faces that looked similar, but their bodies were not similar at all.

"Umm. Sana was planning on meeting up with Kana-chan later... currently, Sana is alone though..."

"You're currently alone?"

"I-it has nothing to do with Nii-san..."

While pouting, she looked the other way.

And here she was thinking that I was the one who was lonely. This girl...

"If Sana-chan wants to, why don't you come hangout with us?"

As if she understood my intentions, Hiiragi-chan invited Sana to join us.

After meeting my eyes with hers, Hiiragi-chan made a small smile. She really understands what it is that I want to do.

"If you're fine with it, then it's okay..."

"If Haru-chan is okay with it, then Imouto-chan should also come.
Let's play!"

Kaku kaku kaku, Sana nodded as if she was a tin toy. [1]

She's probably not used to hanging out like this. I mean, if I were in her position, I would probably be nervous as well.

Natsumi-chan grabbed Sana's hand as she walked away. During this, Hiiragi-chan looked over the two of them with a smile.

"Isn't that great, Sana-chan?"

"Sorry about this. It was our precious pool time too."

"Don't apologize. I know that Seiji-kun is a nice brother that cares for his little sister. That makes me happy to know that."

The two of us then followed after Sana and Natsumi.

"Caring for my little sister makes you happy?"

"Rather than caring for your little sister, it's more that seeing you cherish your family in that way makes you more likeable."

I don't really understand it very well, but I guess that's how it is.

We arrived at the water slide. It had quite a bit of height, and was the type with lots of different twists and turns. If there were a lot of people, there would probably be a decently long wait, but today, we were able to use it without anytime waiting. It was one where you go down in pairs while riding a vinyl boat.

"We... should split up among siblings... that would be good, right...?"

Sana came closer to me, and smoothly grabbed onto my arm.

Hiiragi-chan, on the other hand, made a slightly sad expression.

"What are you saying? We should group up as little sisters!"

Oooh, good one, nice thinking.

After I gave a push to Sana, Natsumi-chan grabbed onto her.

"T-this is the first time we met. We can't go down together. It's embarrassing."

"It's not embarrassing. It's okay, it's okay. I'll be gentle ♪"

"Sana feels her chastity is in danger."

It's not in danger. You're just going down the slide, what are you even imagining.

Natsumi-chan was grinning from ear to ear.

"Aaah, I see, I see. Then Imouto-chan wants to slide down with her beloved Onii-chan, right? I'm sorry about that, I can't really read the mood very well."

"F-fuun. It's not that Sana wants to do it with Nii-san. There's no way that's the case. It's just that Nii-san seemed like he wanted it like that, so Sana just made the suggestion first."

"If it's not true, then isn't it fine. Just come with me!"

Firmly grabbing onto Sana's thin arms, Natsumi-chan began to pull Sana along. Natsumi-chan was totally aiming for this. Such a sly person... However, as long as she's our ally, it really puts my heart at ease.

With eyes that seemed to say that she felt betrayed and sold out, Sana stared at me, but with Natsumi-chan's pressuring, she was

pushed onto the vinyl boat. Kyaah, Natsumi's enjoyable scream could be heard, overlapping with Sana's real scream.

Uwah. That's quite some speed...

The person in running the attraction then gave us a brief explanation, "Please sit down and hold on tight."

"Seiji-kun, which do you want? The front or the back?"

"Let's see..."

If I were to sit in front and brace myself while sitting... those weapons, those breasts would definitely touch my back. It'll become something that's not just about the water slide.

"Okay, I'll be in the back."

"Understood ♪"

Hiiragi-chan sat down at the front of the boat, and I sat down just behind her. The person running the attraction then told me to hold on tighter, so I hesitantly did as I was told. We were stuck quite close together. It was to the point where Hiiragi-chan's butt was touching between my thighs.

I failed! Like this, I fear Hiiragi-chan might be able to notice the changes within me! Holding my hands firmly, Hiiragi-chan spoke quietly to me.

"Since it's a water slide... even if there was some sort of, *accident*, then Sensei won't get mad, okay? There's nothing to worry about."

Accident...? What the heck? Just as I was tilting my head in wonder, the person running the attraction gave us a push, and all of a sudden, we started sliding down.

Uoooooh, it's faster than I thought it would be!? If it's like this, no wonder they were screaming earlier. My hands that were grabbing on tight, began to slip and move out of position.

This is bad, I might fall off the boat. However, I was somehow able to grab on to Hiiragi-chan.

Funi.

What?

Funi funi.

T-this feeling——!?

"Fuguu..."

Hiiragi-chan is writhing in embarrassment!?

censored

Ah. Am I going to die today? The moment I thought that, zabaaan, I was thrown out into the water.

Poking my head out of the water, I couldn't find Hiiragi-chan.

Where is she...? Ah, she's probably by the flipped over boat.

After diving down and moving in that direction, I found her there, just as I thought.

"Fuguu... Seiji-kun did so many things to me..."

While remembering everything that happened, she covered her face with both hands.

"Well. About that, sorry. About half of it was an accident... the other half, I believe was something that was unavoidable as a living being."

"The accident part was okay... B-but, I didn't think the accident would continue for that long. Even I was surprised... next time, Seiji-kun's in front!"

"Y-yeah... About my general, I'll do my best to hold it back..."

For the next time, her breasts ended up hitting me in the back a lot.

As for my general... as expected, I couldn't do anything about it.

TL Note:



1. The term that was used buriki no omocha (

ブリキのおもちゃ), which roughly translates to a tin toy. Here would be an example of a few which are shown at the Yokohama Museum of Tin Toys:

Chapter 61 Pool 3

After having calmed down my general, I somehow managed to get out of the pool.

"Why is it necessary for you touch Sana's chest!?"

"No weeeell, it was unavoidable. There's no need to get so mad."

The atmosphere was one of them arguing, but it seems that Sana and Natsumi-chan were both able to get along.

"Hmm... Haru-chan is significantly larger... I guess Thief-kun really likes his breasts larger."

Hey, stop with the weird analysis. When it comes to what I like about Hiiragi-chan, that isn't what's important, okay? Her breasts being big is just after the fact. Her skin being smooth, or pale, or even her legs being beautiful, all of those are also just after the fact. Those are not the reason I fell in love with her.

... Still... The fact that she's big, or that she's pretty, being happy about that as her lover is true, though.

"This time, Thief-kun, want to slide down with me?"

"Y-you..."

"Natsumi is fine, you know, Sana-chan?"

"Na-Natsu... Natsumi-chan has no relationship with Nii-san, right?"

Yeah, Sana, I get you, I really do. There's some resistance to calling someone you met for the first time by their first name. Even if the other person is fine with it.

"Then, Sensei is going with Sana-chan?"

"Eh, Sana should... with Nii-san... Aaaaaah—"

Hiiragi-chan forcefully brought Sana with her to the top of the slide.

"Haru-chan is also quite close with Sana-chan it seems."

Natsumi-chan laughed, and when we were about to decide who was to go in the front or in the back, she looked up at me.

"Then? How were Haru-chan's breasts?"

"Buuu!? How were they..."

Natsumi-chan laughed while watching my reaction.

This girl, she's teasing me.

An enjoyable scream could be heard as two people began to slide down the slide. Hiiragi-chan seemed like she was having fun, but for some reason, Sana seemed kind of depressed.

"Sana shouldn't have chosen to go in front... Sana was reminded of how inferior of a creature she really was ..."

It seems that for Sana, same as my second time with Hiiragi-chan, the breasts were completely pressed up against the back.

Then, after fitting in a short break, we ended up going to the pool with waves. This was a first for me, but it really was like the ocean, with waves that would push you back.

Hiiragi-chan, equipped with a rented floating ring, was enjoying it to her fullest.

"Let's go, Sei... Sanada-kun."

"Yeah, okay."

While pulling her along by the arm, I headed to the back with Hiiragi-chan.

"W-wait... S-sana as well..."

"It's fine. Just leave them be. Rather than that, I want to play with Sana-chan."

Oooh, support from the little sister acting like an older sister. Natsumi-chan filter was activated.

"If Na... Nacchan says so. It's not that Sana wants to play with you... It can't be helped, okay..."

That's what she said, but Sana seemed very happy from Natsumi-chan's friend-like words as she followed Natsumi-chan.

"I need to thank Natsumi later."

"Your right."

I caught up with Hiiragi-chan who was floating with her floating ring when an announcement came from a woman holding a megaphone.

"... There will be an incoming large wave..."

... It was a voice I've heard somewhere before... wait, isn't that Kanata. What is she doing? She's wearing a hat from this facility, and is even wearing a t-shirt... Ah, she didn't come to the pool as a customer, but for part-time work.

While glancing at the piece of paper in her hand that looked like a cheat sheet, she was working by announcing to the customer within the wave pool.

"... The wave coming is going to be a little bit rough. A little bit rougher than that of the Sea of Japan."

Why is it so intense?

"... The wave also exceeds 1 meter, that's why you're being notified beforehand. Also, the couples should get as far away from each other as possible. At least, that's my personal feeling."

The last part was your own desires, wasn't it?

"Well then, everyone... please enjoy... N-nyan..."

Uwah. That line was total forced!

"What should we do, Seiji-kun? It's li-san."

"It's okay, as long as we know where Kanata is, we can make sure to hide you, Haruka-san."

I started to push around Hிரagi-chan's floating ring, while focusing on hiding from Kanata.

"Seiji-kun, Seiji-kun!"

"What? I'm a little busy right now—"

"The wave."

Heh? By the time I noticed, it was too late. A large wave was already approaching us.

"Ugyah!?"

"Funyan!?"

Zabaaaaaan, I was mercilessly drowned by the water. Seeing something that looked like a butterfly, I grabbed it without thinking.

... It was a white bikini.

Huh, isn't this Hிரagi-chan's?

Pulling my face out of the water and looking around, the floating ring was gone.

"Fupu, apu, hoppu"

Hiiragi-chan was a bit away waving her arms back and forth a lot.

She's drowning!? Even though you can stand in this pool!?

"It's okay, calm down!"

As I approached her, I noticed that Hiiragi-chan wasn't wearing anything on her upper body.

Then maybe, the white bikini that's in my hand... Ah. Just now, I saw her naked breasts for a moment... This is Hiiragi-chan's!?

When the floating ring flew away, it probably caught one of the strings. Still, saving her from drowning comes first!? But wait, if I brought her out as is, Hiiragi-chan's breasts would be exposed in public...!

—It has to be at the same time!

I need to save Hiiragi-chan and her breasts!

I hugged Hiiragi-chan, who was flailing about and hitting the water. Then, I lifted her face slightly out of the water.

"Haruka-san, look at me."

"Au, hobo, apu... I love you."

Please don't proclaim your feelings while you're drowning. The hug was fine, but her bare breasts were clearly making me aware and focused on their existence.

This selfish body of mine!

What should I do?

How should I get her to wear the bikini!?

"No, not yet, until I've married Seiji-kun... I can't die...!"

"Mou, you can breathe normally, right? Take your breaths, suuu haaa, suuu haaa — Auun!?"

Because she was struggling so violently, something, whether it was Hiiragi-chan's knee or foot, ended up striking a critical hit on my crotch.

Goon, a loud sound rang in my head.

"Guuu..."

"H-huh? I can breathe?"

Hiiragi-chan made a blank expression. On the other hand, my energetic general gradually calmed down. The general giving me a thumbs up, slowly faded out of my mind. For some reason, my personification of the general was a hard-boiled old man.

"Se-sensei... If you've calmed down now, here... It's currently turned into a bit of a problem..."

With my eyes teared up from the pain, I handed her the bikini.

"Hyan!?"

Hiiragi-chan hugged her own body.

"S-s-somhow, it fell of it seems..."

"That's a relief, that the person who picked it up was Seiji-kun... And, huh? Why are you holding so many?"

"So many?"

Looking more closely, my arm was pulling on multiple bikinis as they fluttered around in the water. It was as colorful like carp streamers [1].

Who's are theeeeeeseee!?

T-this is bad...! It can be seen as me trying to do something mischievous...! How many bikinis did this wave pull off anyways? It almost feels like an evil act made by a perverted elementary schooler!

"Seiji-kun..."

"Wait, it's a misunderstanding! Don't look at me with those eyes!"

"The demon lurking in the pool... Top Snatcher."

"Don't give me a weird name!"

After explaining this and that, I was somehow able to get Hiiragi-chan to understand. Since having me do the returning would invite a lot of misunderstandings, Hiiragi-chan, after properly equipping her top, went out on her floating ring with her legs kicking to search for victims.

Hiiragi-chan... she seems cute like a small girl...

"Na-Na-Na-Nacchan... Sana's top, do you know where it is...?"

"Sana-chan, what is it? Did it get taken away?"

"Uuuuu..."

"It's okay, it's okay, Sana-chan's breasts, are almost like they don't exist, so even without a top, no one would notice."

"Sana does properly have them! Don't make it seem like they don't exist!"

With teary eyes, and a red face, Sana looked troubled.

Sana was also a victim of the indiscriminate perverted terrorism.

"Well, mine disappeared as well."

You should be panicking more!

Hiiragi-chan, equipped with the floating ring, was moving quite fast over the water. Since she was able to return them to their owners, it didn't end up being a big fuss.

Then, after healing away our fatigue at the spa corner, we left and went home.

"A lot of things happened, but it was really fun ♪"

In the car ride back home, Hiiragi-chan's statement represented what everyone wanted to say.

It was fun, but in the end, the only impression I had left in me was of Hiiragi-chan's breasts.



TL Note:

1. Carp streamers are those colorful koi-shaped kites, flown typically to celebrate Children's Day. They look like this:



Chapter 62 Summer Assignment

"How is it going?"

"Umm... well, so so I guess..."

"I see! Do your best!"

"... Yeah, thanks..."

While giving a half-hearted reply, I worked on the problems given for our summer assignment.

"Coffee? Or would you rather have tea?"

"For now, I'm okay. Thanks."

This situation originated yesterday. I told her that I was going to the library to work on my assignment since my house was hot. Hearing that, Hiiragi-chan offered for me to go to her place to work on it.

However, does she not need to go to work...?

"Ah. Seiji-kun, just now you were probably thinking something like, Haruka-san seems so free. Despite how it looks, I'm not free."

With a super smug expression, Hiiragi-chan brought out her laptop from her work bag and opened it across from me.

"Seiji-kun, it's Sunday, you know?"

"Aaah... I see."

While giving another unenthusiastic answer, I continued to solve my classical literature problems.

"Your reactions just now were all kind of weak... It makes me quite sad!"

"Be quiet."

"Okay..."

Pachi pachi, she started hitting on the keys, before jumping into explanation about the work she had as a teacher.

"Bringing out personal information from school isn't allowed, but if it's grading, making problems, or preparing materials and such, then doing it at home is fine."

"..."

"I-I was ignored... that's quite saddening..."

The problems consisted of 5 different subjects. Math, classical literature, English, and biology. There's nothing super troublesome like in elementary school where there were things like self-guided research, drawing pictures, or book reports. However, there was quite a large amount to work on.

There was a high amount of deviation between scores at our school. As such, just after the holiday there would be a talk about future career paths and there would also be a test on academic ability. At this point, I was thinking that there really weren't that many great things to return to in the second year of high school.

Since she was continuing to stare really hard at me, I unconsciously stopped my hand.

"Is something wrong?"

"No. I was just thinking that the serious look in your eyes was kind of cool."

"R-really...?"

"That's right."

Speaking of which, there were quite a few times where I also felt the same way about her. For instance, during world history class, as I'm watching her hard at work from my seat.

"By the way, Seiji-kun, are you good with laptops?"

"I wouldn't say I'm an expert at it, but I would say that I'm at an acceptable level."

Hiiragi-chan spun her laptop around to face me.

"It's about Excel though... I want to do this part of it a little better..."

Listening to her explanations, it seems that in preparing her materials, she wanted to input data in a certain way.

"Aah. If it's that..."

I returned the laptop to facing Hiiragi-chan and sit down next to her. Then, I begin pointing at the screen in order to give instructions.

"Ah. It's done! Seiji-kun, you're amazing!!"

"No, I'm not amazing at all. Excel is the one that's amazing."

"Now you're just being humble."

Hiiragi-chan started to teasingly poke my cheek.

"Stop it."

After showing my dislike, she became depressed.

"Ah... sorry."

Ah. This is bad. I might have said that kind of harshly... No, but, I was originally intending to go to the library to work on my assignment today... I came here today because I thought that Hiiragi-chan was

going to be at school working. It slipped my mind that she could be working at home. I did forget it was Sunday though.

Hiiragi-chan started grab at me, like she was a dog that wanted to be paid attention to. If this was in class, I would be really angry.

"..."

"..."

This is awkward...

In truth, I was going to invite her to hang out at night after finishing up a certain amount of my assignment. No, but, Hiiragi-chan is bothering me too much during my studying. She's also talking to much. For just a bit... I should have her repent. Just a tiny bit.

Every time I take glances at her, the depressed Hiiragi-chan seems to wither even further.

"..."

"..."

This is awkward...

However, I think it's wrong for me to apologize here... Eh, am I just being stubborn? No, that's not true. Definitely not. It's not that I don't want to apologize.

I take a glance at her once again, causing my mouth to turn into a frown.

...

Still, my way of saying things might be somewhat problematic.

Dammit. What's with this? I can't concentrate on my questions at all!

"... I'll be in the bedroom.... If something happens, just call out to me."

With a level of energy lower than ever seen before, Hiiragi-chan grabbed her laptop and disappeared into the bedroom.

Ugugugugu... This feeling of guilt...! At a time like this, the only person that I can really confide in is Natsumi-chan. However, I don't really know how to contact her...

[For a situation like this, is it the acquaintance that's in the wrong?]

Explaining the situation from the start, I sent a text as if I was just an acquaintance to the person involved.

Twenty seconds later, a reply came.

That was fast.

Fujimoto is totally free.

[Aaah, that's complex! Rather, going to your girlfriend's house over break to work on your assignment, that person should just die!]

Ah. This is bad. Fujimoto might once again fall to the darkside. I see though... for a person who doesn't have a girlfriend, this would be a luxurious worry...

Last time during the break of my second year of high school, I just did my assignment, and then played RPG's all day and night. Without even doing anything summer like, I holed up and filled my days with games. In a sense, you could say that's very much like a summer break. Well, a non-normie's summer break should be basically that. Thinking along those lines, this times break is already quite fulfilling.

[The girlfriend is an older beauty I heard.]

[Please die...]

Let's fan the flames a little more.

[Large breasts, beautiful legs, and a great body to be proud of.]

[Please die... Who is that guy anyways...]

It's me though.

[He was let into his girlfriend's place, where she lives alone.]

[A summer break filled with sex... I'll definitely kill him...]

We haven't gone that far yet though.

I waited a little bit for Fujimoto, who had seemed to hit a breaking point.

[The next time I see someone, I'm going to kill them by hand...]

Everyone around Fujimoto. Run.

I was now satisfied after being able to egg him on further. As expected, for a normal second year high school student, it is natural to envy a situation like this. It was enough to cool down my head.

[You know, if you were going to say something like, oh, I was actually talking about myself, you should stop it.]

...

"There's no way that would be the case, comrade."

[I know right. lolololol. There's no way a guy like you could ever get a girlfriend. Lololol.]

[This is the last warning that I am going to send you... when you go out walking at night, you should watch your back.]

[Bring it on! Come at me!]

Even as I make my way towards the bedroom behind me there wasn't a single sound that could be coming from it. Maybe, she's crying while hiding on her bed...? Well there's no way an older lady like that would do that, right?

Kon kon, I knock on the bedroom door.

"Haruka-san?"

"..."

I heard something from the other side of the door.

"Earlier, the way I worded things was bad... About that, sorry..."

The door opened a bit as Hiiragi-chan poked her head out.

"No... Me too, I'm sorry. I was probably a little bit annoying... You were in the middle of studying after all..."

Her eyes were a little bit red.

"Were you crying?"

"I-I wasn't crying..."

"The truth?"

"Just a little bit."

Just as I thought, she was crying.

At school, Hiiragi-chan seems to be a lady that has a good grip on her life. However, when it's around me, her mentality seems to become more immature.

"When I'm near Seiji-kun, I somehow end up just really wanting to talk to you, or wanting you to pay attention to me..."

"You're like an elementary schooler that found someone they liked."

"Muu~ I can't say anything against that though..."

While pouting a bit, Hiiragi-chan looked downwards.

"But, this is the first time I came to like someone like this... so becoming like an elementary schooler like that, forgive me for that...?"

Kuu. So cute...

If she were to open the door right now, it would instantly turn into flirting mode. I've got to endure it. Endure it.

"At night, I want to go somewhere with Haruka-san... But before that, I would like to complete a certain amount of my assignment."

"Eh? Where?"

"It's over on top of the mountain. During the summer, you can see the stars really clearly."

"So romantic! I want to go!"

"Then, until then we should each do our own work or assignment and finish, okay?"

"Yeah, I'll do my best! If it's like this, I can definitely give it my all!"

Hiiragi-chan is always so honest when it comes to hanging out with me.

Still, since I would get distracted, Hiiragi-chan stayed in the bedroom, while I was in the living room studying. When I finally was able to finish it, there was a feeling of liberation after settling such troublesome things, and so we ended up flirting more than usual.

"You really did your best, Seiji-kun. Now I need to reward you."

"No matter how you put it, it feels like I'm the one on the giving side though."

"Once again, your saying something so mean..."

"Do you hate it?"

With her lips that were pouting in complaint, Hiiragi-chan gave me a kiss on my cheek and on my neck.

"... I love it ♡"

As if we were animals marking our territory, we continued to give and receive kiss marks throughout the night. When I returned home, I was once again found by Sana, and was completely disinfected.

Chapter 63 Resting in a Private Room

Juwah juwah, juwah, jiiiii... It was now afternoon, with the screeching of the cicadas growing louder.

"Seiji-kun, it's hot..."

"Yeah. I'm in complete agreement."

Hiiragi-chan elegantly wiped of sweat with her handkerchief, then as if she was a surgeon or a nurse, she wiped the sweat off my forehead as well.

Going to a town far away would mean that we wouldn't need a disguise, but that was the only good thing about it. In this town that we did not know, the two of us wasted all our energy walking around for no reason at all.

"If only there was a café, or someplace that was cool..."

We were an hour early in saying that. While becoming covered in sweat, we walked around here and there.

"Seiji-kun, over there. Resting for two hours is 1900 yen!"

"What? Did you find a café?"

No, Hiiragi-chan shook her head and pointed, "It's that."

Just as Hiiragi-chan had said, there certainly was a sign that mentioned two hours for 1900 yen. However, isn't it weird that it's time-limited. It isn't a café, then...?

As we moved closer to the sign, we noticed other things written besides resting like free time, accommodations, and other systems that charged for more.

... Yeah, I thought so. Looking at our surroundings more closely, there were stores that looked like plain unnatural buildings and also stores that seemed to be built in a tropical look, however, the one thing in common between all of them was that it wasn't clear where the entrance or exit was.

"Haruka-san, around here..."

"??"

As expected, she doesn't get it.

"This isn't a place where you rest in the way that you are thinking of..."

"We haven't found a café, and it's cheaper here anyways. Let's go, let's go ♪"

She started pulling on my arm, making as if to enter the building with the sign. If you're talking about rest, then this is technically for rest, but it's more of an indirect way of saying, or rather, it's a break that causes you to expend a bunch of energy...

Once we found the difficult to find entrance, Hiiragi-chan plodded on forward. Well, it's probably fine since we have no intention of doing that anyways. It's a good thing that Hiiragi-chan didn't know some other devious man before me.

"Huh? There's no one working the store...?"

"That's the kind of store it is after all..."

"Is that so?"

"You can think of it as automated karaoke."

"I see!"

In this way, it became the first time I entered a store like this. Over there, there was the rumored panel that you use to choose rooms with.

"Haruka-san, it seems that you use this to choose what type of room you want to hang out in."

"Hoeeh~ there's a lot of different types... I wonder if the darkened rooms are ones that people are already in."

"I think that's what it is."

Out of the 30 rooms, half of them were already occupied. They were all in the middle of enjoying themselves I guess.

The reason we came here was to take a break, I am 100% certain that Hiiragi-chan didn't come in here with the other thing in mind. That's why, I never intended to get weirdly excited, but still, coming to a place like this with Hiiragi-chan, somehow makes my heart beat faster...

Then how about this one, Hiiragi-chan pushed a button, and picked up the key that dropped. Then, we got into the cramped elevator, and headed towards our room.

"Two hours for 1900 yen is cheap, right? Normally at a café, two people ordering a cake set and then maybe one more thing after that would come out to around that."

"You have a pretty good sense when it comes to money... is it because you live alone?"

"What's wrong?"

"Haruka-san, you're a teacher, but you don't really seem to have common sense."

"I dooooo!"

I'm sorry about making you pout like that, but seriously thinking that this is a place just for resting already shows that you lack common sense, Sensei.

Using the key, we entered the room. It was like a one-bedroom room at a business hotel with no suspicious feel to it.

I patted my chest in relief.

"Waaah! It's amazing! There's a bed here! It's even super big!"

Well, of course there would be one...

Hiiragi-chan became excited, like a child going on a trip.

"They even have a TV and games! Over here is..."

Gacha, she opened a door and confirmed what was inside.

"Fuwaaaaaah! It's a bath! It's really big, Seiji-kun!"

"No... well... of course they would have one..."

Is it better for me to actually tell her what this place is? As an adult. However, she came here thinking purely of taking a break, for now, not telling her is probably fine.

Bii, Hiiragi-chan grabbed the remote control and turned on the television.

"If it's at this time, they might be rebroadcasting the drama. I liked it quite a bit. Huh——"

"Ah, ah ♡Nn, nn, nn, aaahh ♡"

A woman was on the bed, looking in quite a disarray.

Bii.

At an incredible speed, I quickly turned it off.

"..."

Hiiragi-chan was frozen with a serious face.

"".....""

The atmosphere became really awkward.

If you look at the channel listing located on the bed, it was filled with R18 channels.

"T-that's right. We ended up sweating a lot... Maybe I'll take a shower..."

Unable to stand the air of this room, Hiiragi-chan disappeared towards the door.

Haaaaah...

Since she isn't too used to places like this, once she gets an explanation of it, it's unavoidable for her to faint. I'll properly explain it to her, but only after we leave this place.

Confirming that Hiiragi-chan wasn't coming back anytime soon, I once again turn on the television. I then change the channel until it was showing the rebroadcast of the drama that Hiiragi-chan was talking about. There we go, now if she were to turn on the television, it won't turn awkward.

...

Just waiting for her was a little boring, but when I think that it's because Hiiragi-chan is showering first, it for some reason makes me more excited.

Since Hiiragi-chan finding it would be troublesome, I should hide anything that might be suspicious and hide it first. The television can't be helped anymore, but everything else. There better not be any weird items...Vibrators for *that* or maybe massaging tools for instance.

I made sure to investigate all around the bed. This bed seemed to be the type with storage drawers below it. Pulling it out with my hand, I found clothes inside of it. Sailor uniform, policewoman, nurse, and so on and so forth...

Cosplay!!

Uwaaah... But, I want to see her wear it... I think that Hiiragi-chan would look good enough in a uniform.

Sneaking into the changing room, I quickly switch out the clothing. Will she get mad...? If that happens, I'll just honestly say that I wanted to see her wear it, and apologize.

"What!? My clothes... they turned into a uniform...!?"

Your clothes won't suddenly transform, okay?

"Ah. But it's a sailor uniform ♪ I had a blazer for mine, so I kind of always wanted to try one... fold the skirt a bit over here..."

So, it's alright. She's going to wear it. She didn't resist at all. As I was getting excited just imagining it by myself, the door opened.

"D-does it look weird...?"

Hiiragi-chan came out looking embarrassed.

Just as I thought. Even if she's in her early 20's, she can still do it.

"The sailor uniform looks good!"

"R-really!? Yay ♪"

The ponytailed beauty went pyon, and made a jump right there. Thin legs and white thighs. A miniskirt on her looks great as ever.

"Ah! Just now, you were probably thinking, what's with this old lady getting ahead of herself, right!?"

I unconsciously made a wry smile at the pouting JK Hiiragi-chan. [1]

"I wasn't thinking that, not at all."

Her skin is beautiful, and her hair was also bundled together, so it gave off a clean feel. The extraordinary fluffy cuteness and charm that Hiiragi-chan originally had, was now 50% more powerful.

"If you were to walk around on the street, there wouldn't be anything weird. You would be mistaken as a high school girl."

"Mo-moouuuuu, Seiji-kun, that's too much! There's no way someone would mistake me for that!"

Even though she seemed to be acting meek, Hiiragi-chan still seemed really happy.

Since this place was what it was, she looked so much like a high school girl, that it really felt amazingly out of place. The indecent feel to this was needlessly increased.

Spinning around in place, she smiled teasingly. With alluring eyes, she seemed to be inviting me to do something.

"Haruka-san?"

"Whaat?"

With a slightly sweet voice, she tilted her head slightly.

So cute...

"I hope that you don't do that in front of another guy... if you could..."

She closed in, and looked up at me.

"What do you mean by that? Wearing a uniform? Or do you mean, looking at them with eyes that seemed to be asking for a kiss while being tightly hugged?"

"Both of them."

"I wonder."

She turned her back towards me, and peeked over her shoulder at me.

When I hug her from behind, Hiiragi-chan patted me on the head.

"No need to be so greedy."

Even though you were the one who invited me like this. You...!

"Surprisingly, my desire to monopolize is quite strong."

"Yeah. It's okay. It's the same for me as well."

When I kissed Hiiragi-chan on the cheek, she faced her lips towards me, asking for my lips.

"You changed my clothes, right? You mischievous child."

"It's really cute, Haruka-san."

"Mou~ ... I'll forgive you ♡"

After that, we kissed on top of the bed. We kissed while watching television. The uniform dressed Hiiragi-chan and I fully enjoyed ourselves for the rest of our break time.



TL Note:

1. This is just in case you guys don't know. JK stands for joshikousei, which in Japanese means high school girl.

Chapter 64 The Secret Part-time Job

◆Hiiragi Haruka◆

Seiji-kun seems to have started a part-time job.

"Eeeeh? Did you want an allowance? If it's only about 30,000 yen a month, then I could give you one."

"Nononono! I won't accept that. Doing something like really makes it feel like you are seriously trying to make me into a useless person..."

When I told him that, Seiji-kun was amazed. I think that it's good for a student to diligently do part-time work, as it serves as good work experience, but... Is Seiji-kun troubled with money? Does he maybe have something that he wants?

"If that was the case, then he could have just mentioned it to me..."

"What's wrong, Haru-chan?"

Since it was now summer break, the frequency in which Natsumi would come over had increased. Today as well, she was eating dinner with me at my place.

"It's Seiji-kun, he started a part-time job... if there was something he wanted, he could have just told me though."

"Isn't it fine? Being a working student is better than spending summer break lazing about and doing nothing."

"How about you? Haven't you been coming over almost three times a week? What about your future?"

"I have a recommendation to go to college, so isn't it fine for me to play for a bit."

Muuu... She's the exact opposite of Seiji-kun.

"It's okay, Haru-chan."

"What is?"

"Thief-kun isn't the type of child to do something without thinking, right? I'm sure that there is some sort of reason for it."

"But still... even if that were the case... I'm worried..."

"Uwaaah... super protective."

Natsumi pulled back a bit.

The place that he works at is part of the food industry. It seems to be a small café.

"If you're that worried, just go to the store."

"..."

The place where Seiji-kun is working... I want to see it...!

"Uwaah... your face became so much like that of a maiden in love..."

"Let's go!"

... As such, over the weekend, I went with Natsumi to the café that Seiji-kun was working at.

Our school wasn't that strict when it came to working part-time. You would be given the okay as long as you tell your homeroom teacher beforehand and finish some simple paperwork. There were quite a few students that properly followed the proper procedures, but a large majority of them did not.

Driving to the shopping district in my car, we parked at a suitable parking lot, and arrived at a side street close to the station.

At night, the café was supposed to become an Italian restaurant and its outer appearance was quite fancy. Looking through the window, a lot of female customers could be seen.

"Thief-kun, isn't he wearing uniform for bartenders?"

"Oh my god. I need to take a picture."

"You're like his guardian. One of those super overprotective guardians!"

Within the store, there were also a lot of female workers carrying drinks and dishes. I understand... I understand it very well... it's super easy to get along with coworkers...! All of them are female college students that are younger than me...! They're so young...!

"Haru-chan, wait, can you stop letting out some weird aura. Specifically speaking, there's a bunch of that miasma like black smoke coming out of you. Also, don't start growling at people. Stop glaring at people as well."

Being told that, I took a huge breath.

A female waitress had come over with a notepad to ask for our order. After ordering two pasta lunches, we waited for it to finish cooking.

"Ah", hearing that sound come from Natsumi, I looked in her direction, and saw Seiji-kun.

"Hello, Thief-kun."

"..."

His expression was subtle as he stood there holding the salads for our sets. He was wearing a dress shirt, with black slacks and an apron wrapped around his waist.

"Here are your salads... What did you come here for?"

"I was just wondering whether Seiji-kun hard at work."

Also, observing the workplace.

"Thief-kun, you're in charge of carrying out the dishes?"

"No, there weren't enough people, so I'm just helping out for a bit. Normally, I'm in the kitchen... Also, I'll call you later, so when you're done just go home, okay?"

"Okaaay."

Turning around, Seiji-kun walked into the back.

"Haru-chan, are you satisfied with this?"

"I am satisfied... but my worries have increased."

As I was stabbing my salad with a fork, a different worker carried our pasta over. Muuu... it's different female worker again. (She's younger and cuter than me, and also college student probably.)

After we finished eating the delicious pasta, we conversing with each other while drinking iced coffee. It's a nice and quiet restaurant. The shops furniture and decorations are quite fashionable. I kind of get why a girl would want to work part-time here.

If I remember correctly, Seiji-kun gets off at around evening time.

"Maybe I should wait until he's done and then drive him home..."

"Haru-chan, that's really stalker like. You even found out when he gets off of work."

"I-I'm not a stalker."

"Even if you're his girlfriend, if you go overboard, you'll still be hated, you know?"

"Seiji-kun won't hate me just because of that...."

W-what would I do? What if he actually ends up hating me.

What if he goes out for food with his co-workers once they get off of work? *"Sanada-kun, you're a high schooler? You're so mature that it surprised me."* If he were praised by a female college student like that... they'll get on good terms... what am I going to do...?

Ugugugugu.

"Wait, Haru-chan. It's coming out again. The miasma. Keep it inside."

"What will I do if Seiji-kun goes out for food with another girl...?"

"It's fine if he goes though, right? Does he seem like the type to cheat on you, Haru-chan?"

"No, but..."

"Just trust him then. Thief-kun, really does love you, Haru-chan."

How nice would that be if I heard it from his own mouth. Recently, he's been quite embarrassed and hasn't said it as much to me...

He didn't tell me his reason for starting this job, and I feel like he's hiding something from me. If it's about Seiji-kun, I want to know everything. But that might be really annoying...

Becoming a little nervous, Natsumi spoke to me secretly.

"Hey hey... Have you had sex with Thief-kun yet...?"

"W-w-w-what's with that all of a sudden?"

"It looks like you still haven't then."

"... Isn't that fine, it has nothing to do with Natsumi. We told each other that until we were married, things like that are a no go..."

"Fufuun? Now then, here's the problem. Between a girl that's easy to talk to, cute, and OK with a physical relationship, and a girl that's cute, perfect at everything, but a NG on a physical relationship... which do you think a boy would like more?"

"The first person?"

"That's right. The more you treasure him, the easier it is for him to be stolen away, you know?"

"Seiji-kun said he was okay. He said he would endure it..."

"That would be good if that were the case."

Muuu, Natsumi is definitely having fun making me feel more anxious... She's definitely grinning right now.

"When he said he was okay, it's because he's okay using some other girl as a replacement, right?"

"Se-seiji-kun wouldn't do something like that!"

"Fufufu. Yeah, that's true. Sorry for teasing you like that."

B-but still, none of that till marriage, might be going too far...?

In the end, we didn't wait for Seiji-kun and went home. A little bit after I finished eating dinner, a call came from Seiji-kun.

"Sorry for bothering you today."

"No, it's okay. I was just a little surprised."

I should say it. The fact that I'm super worried.

"... Then, why did you end up coming? All of them have boyfriends it seems, so it's okay."

"Ah, is that so?"

My worries ended in vain.

"There is that, but the most important part would be why you started working part-time all of sudden... You didn't tell me anything at all."

"If I tell you, then the effect would be cut in half so I didn't tell you."

The effect would be cut in half?

While I remained unconvinced, the next day, Seiji-kun came to my house. He was holding a stuffed animal bear.

"W-what is that!?"

"What day is it today?"

"It isn't my birthday... Ah, anniversary!"

"Yeah. That's right. This... is an anniversary present."

I was handed the large and fluffy bear. It feels so nice to hug it...

"Then... the part-time work..."

"I've been thinking for a while that it would be nice, and so this time, I forcefully obtained a bit of money to buy it."

"Mo-mooouuuu, Seiji-kunnnnnnnnn."

I hugged the bear tight. It's so soft and nice.

"It was just as Natsumi said."

"Hmm? What about Natsumi-chan?"

"Fufuun, it's a secret ♪ Thank for you this. Let's decide a name together for it?"

Mou, he didn't need to give me a surprise like this...

With the stuffed animal, I hugged Seiji-kun.

"Wah, wait, we're still at the entrance."

It seems that since then, Natsumi had gone two to three more times and had decided that he was a good hard-working man.

Yeah yeah... a working Seiji-kun is super cool.

After going through this, I once again fell in love with Seiji-kun.



TN: Just a random thought, but it seems kinda excessive to be getting a part-time job just for a stuffed animal.

Chapter 65 A Round Trip

Mozo mozo, something within the warm blanket moved. I thought that maybe a cat or something had entered, but we don't own a cat at our place. Nor do we have any other animals.

Something smooth and soft was touching my face. What's happening in the morning...?

When I opened my eyes, I saw breasts.

"Hah?"

"Nnnn..."

The person who was letting out a calm and relaxed breath while sleeping was without a doubt, Hiiragi-chan.

What!? How and what is going on!? Wait, I'm completely naked!

"Nnnn... Ah. Seiji-kun, you're awake? Good morning..."

"Yeah, good morning..."

We were both naked. The morning sun peeking through the curtains was bright. A refreshing morning.

This can't be possible! What's with this situation? As I look around my surroundings, I realized that it was a bedroom that I did not recognize. We were sleeping on a slightly large bed.

It can't be...

It was there just as I thought. My smartphone. When I checked the date, it was late July ten years later.

The time leap was released.

Which means, this situation... It's the next morning after a night battle! I have no memory of such an important sceeeeneeee!

It's such a shame that I can't share memories between the present me and the me that had returned.

"You're making such a surprised face. What's wrong?"

The naked Hiiragi-chan hugged me.

"Waaaaaaaaaaaah!? The me right now is not the me from yesterday, so pleeeaaaaasse put on some clothes!"

If it's like this, last night was definitely not the first time! H-how many times have we done iiittt!?

"Whose house is this"

"Whose house...? Fufu. It's our house, you know? Are you still sleep talking?"

Ufufu, with a feminine smile, she poked at my nipples.

... Even after ten years, she still likes to poke me.

"Last night, you were even so vigorous. Did you also forget that?"

"Vi-vigorous...!?"

"Uwah. Such a straight face."

Since I was troubled with where to put my eyes, I had Hiiragi-chan, whose maturity had increased, wear a T-shirt.

Pretending that I had slight memory loss, I had her explain the current situation.

"At the moment, the two of us are living together in this apartment, you know? Do you remember?"

"N-now that you mention it, that's right..."

While I was amazed within myself, I tried to match her. The last time the time leap was released and I returned to this time period, we weren't able to live together. She came to my place after I became a teacher and made breakfast for me...

That's right. There was one reason for us being unable to live together. I was unable to gain the acceptance of Hiiragi-chan Papa.

"Being able to live together like this... it was hard, right?"

"Eeeh? You forgot that too? Well, it was three years ago."

We've lived together for three years. That's quite a long amount of time.

"You spoke with Otou-san many times and he had said no. But Natsumi ended up helping us convince him, and we were finally able to obtain consent."

Oooh... so it was Natsumi-chan. So it was right for me to get closer to Natsumi-chan and reveal our relationship to her. The next time I time leap, I should buy something for Natsumi-chan.

"Then, are we living together on the premise of getting married?"

"You were told that marriage was a completely different matter by Okaa-san, remember?"

"This time it's Hiiragi-chan Mama!?"

Hmmm. Since we were living together, I had the image of getting married, but it's not that.

"But, before when we were inside the tea room, we decided no sex until after marriage..."

"When you say before, that's really far in the past. Fufu... If it's about that, Sensei doesn't remember it..."

Pui, she turned and faced away from me. It seems like she's playing dumb. Saying that it's too far in the past and she can't remember.

"You couldn't endure it?"

"I-it's for the both of us. It wasn't just me."

"Heeeh. Leaving me aside, then it means that Haruka-san was unable to endure..."

"Moouuuuuuu, don't tease meeeee."

Using the pillow, Hiiragi-chan started to hit me. Even if she's more mature, she's still a cute person.

Anyways, summing it all up, we were able to get permission to live together and so we were now living together, but marriage was still put on hold.

"Does it look like we could get married?"

Hiiragi-chan became just a little bit depressed.

"When Natsumi-chan was persuading Otou-san, we were able to show how much we loved each other... but when were asked about when we had started dating... we ended up being forced to answer that..."

She explained the situation within the Hiiragi family one by one. It seems that Natsumi-chan was able to convince them to allow us to live together, but marriage was different, especially when it came to Hiiragi-chan Mama who was concerned about our public image.

She was shocked that her own daughter was dating an actual high school student. Thinking about it from a normal perspective, anyone

would feel that way. Even if I am an adult now, it seems that she still cannot let go of that point.

"Since we were allowed to live together, I think that convincing Okaa-san is just a matter of time though..."

Saying that, Hiiragi-chan was trying to reassure me, but it seems that the person herself was worried.

If we were living together, I would think that it would be unavoidable that we would do it at some point. However, if we were to forcefully get married, then a huge gap would form in Hiiragi-chan's relationship with her family. For our happiness, even if it's marriage, it needs to be one that is supported unanimously. Eloping could also be an option, but in the end, that's no different from running away.

"... Sorry... If only I waited for Seiji-kun to become a college student..."

Gusu, tears spilled out of Hiiragi-chan.

I tried to comfort her and hugged her.

"Thanks to that, I'm really happy right now. I was happy to be able to spend my high school life with the person that I love."

"Seiji-kunnn..."

Fumiiiiii, with her weird way of crying, Hiiragi-chan cried into my chest.

... If only I didn't confess, I thought for a moment. However, if I did that, I would once again be looking at Hiiragi-chan from a distance, and as I spend my days until graduation, I would lose the courage to convey my feelings and feel terrible.

Even if I were to be able to confess at graduation, the situation would have changed, and there would also be a possibility for Hiiragi-chan's reply to change. There's even the possibility of Hiiragi-chan falling in love with someone else and dating them.

Morally and ethically, we may have done something wrong. However, neither of us are lying to each other, and are only seriously and straightforwardly dating each other.

In this present time period, we were able to stay as lovers for ten years without separating. And so, we're now lovey dovey like this. That's why, the day where I confessed to her, and Hiiragi-chan had given her OK, was not wrong.

—Oh. It's here. The time leap feeling.

When I opened my eyes, Hiiragi-chan's face was right in front of me.

"Uwah!?"

"Wah. That surprised me..."

The air-conditioning was on, and I was at Hiiragi-chan's place which I was familiar with. The sound of cicadas crying outside could be heard.

Alright, I was able to come back again.

"It looked like you were sleep talking a bit, so I brought my ear closer."

"Ah, is that so?"

Although she didn't hear me very well, Hiiragi-chan gave me a lap pillow, and started patting my head.

"What dream did you dream about?"

The time leap feeling was one that I had felt many times already, it isn't a dream. That means that ten years from today, it'll become like that.

"Ummm, I dreamed about Haruka-san's mother being against our marriage."

"Eeeeh? Why a dream like that?"

Looking disappointed, Hiiragi-chan pouted.

"Let's have a bit of a serious conversation."

"Yeah."

"I will never ever regret the day that I confessed to you."

"Yeah. Me too, I won't regret saying OK to it."

"In the future, there might be people who are against us."

"I mean we do have a bit of an age different, and that's adding to the fact that we are a student and a teacher. So, the two of us together need to work hard."

"Do I need to reserve a right to propose to you?"

"There's no need for that. There isn't any other person after all. That's why... I'll wait. I'll wait for you, forever."

A smiling and embarrassed Hiiragi-chan is cute as expected.

As I hugged her tighter, her thin body quickly settled into my chest.

"Haruka-san, I love you."

"Yeah. Me too. I love you, forever."

After taking a round trip to the future and back, the bond between Hiiragi-chan and I grew even stronger.

Chapter 66 Home Economics Club Activities – First Part

"Hey, where are you two going?"

It was after school. As the two of us got into Hiiragi-chan's car to buy stuff for club activities, Sana found us.

"Uuuuu... we were so close..."

Hiiragi-chan muttered in a low voice.

"Right now? Some tools? Ingredients? I'm going out with Sensei to buy some."

"Then, Sana will come with."

Like this, it's almost everyone. Since it would be sad for Kanata to be the only one left out, we invited her as well, and went out as the four of us to buy stuff together.

"Sensei, what were you planning on buying?"

Sana poked her head over from the backseat.

"Last time we did cooking, right? So this time, we're doing handicrafts!"

"Han-dee-krafts...?"

With a face that said that she didn't understand at all, Sana turned towards Kanata.

"Handicrafts means stuff like sewing."

"Ah, so that's what it is!"

"At first, I thought that I would choose for everyone. But since everyone is here, you guys can freely choose what you want to make."

Once Hiiragi-chan said that, Sana whispered into my ear.

"What do you make with handicrafts anyways?"

"It's that, miscellaneous things like dust cloths, aprons, and stuff."

"W-what should Sana do...? Sana has never even made a dust cloth before..."

Natsumi had to submit a dust cloth one time for homework didn't she. She cheated and submitted one she bought at a 100-yen store though.

Based on the content of club activities, the home economics club has already turned into a bride training club.

"Ah, Sana-chan, are you perhaps bad at it?"

"Sana isn't bad at it! It's easy!"

Liar.

When we arrived at the nearest department store, we went to a handicrafts store that sold fabrics and other sundries.

"This will come out of club funds, so everyone should buy what they want, okay? If it's really expensive you need to ask first though."

Hiiragi-chan said.

Well, I'm technically still a club member, I should make something as well.

Chon chon, Kanata was pulling on my uniform, and dragged me towards the fabrics corner.

"What is it?"

"... Which one is good?"

Kanata had stuck out her finger in order to point at different colorful threads.

"Have you already decided on what you want to make, Kanata?"

"... Yeah."

... Then, why is she having me decide?

Then this one and this one, I randomly picked out blue and white colored threads.

"What are you making?"

"... Seiji-kun, do you want to make it too? Misanga." [1]

"That seems like something even I could make..."

"... Yeah. Let's make on together."

Piku, Hiiragi-chan and Sana, who were both close by, stopped moving.

"... Do you want to exchange?"

"Ah. That sounds kind of nice."

"Sana is also interested in a misanga."

"Then, maybe Sensei will also make a misanga."

It turned into all of us making one. However, that didn't seem to be the goal for the three girls.

"There's only one misanga made by Seiji-kun!"

"Then, Sana and Nii-san will end up exchanging misangas, right...?"

"What are you saying, Sana-chan. Sanada-kun is going to exchange with Sensei, you know?"

"... Sensei, that's not right. Seiji-kun is the one that will choose..."

The three of them looked at me.

"I-I'm going to choose?"

""That's right!""

It ended up being that I would exchange the misanga that I will make, with my favorite one out of the three that they will make. Isn't it fine for each of us to make our own misanga as we like it...? Of course, I had made that suggestion, but none of the other three people had lent me their ears.

"Isn't it okay if everyone enjoys making their own..."

"Handmade by Nii-san."

"... One made by Seiji-kun."

"Sei... Sanada-kun is going to make one."

""I want it!""

These guys are in sync when it comes to such weird things.

Together with the three ladies, I start comparing different types of thread. Since I was also making one, I picked a few different types of thread and bought them.

"Sana has the strongest weapon of sibling love."

"... On the other hand, you could say that there is only sibling love."

Kanata really doesn't hold back.

"Sensei has teacher and student love, or rather love itself——it's overflowing with love."

Hey, Hiiragi Haruka. Don't say any more than that.

Hiiragi-chan was immature as usual, as she quickly rushed to join the competition between fellow students. From a teacher's point of view, I would think that you would take a step, two steps, no, maybe even three steps back. However, she was moving forward with full acceleration. Bachi bachi, the three of them met each other's gazes and let out sparks.

"The deadline will be Thursday, three days from now. After school, we'll have Sanada-kun pick."

"... I have no objection."

"Just how I want it!"

Just like this, we were given three days to work on it.

As I was using the computer at home in order to look up videos on how to make it, I heard a loud voice from the kitchen.

"Okaa-saaan!? How do I do this!?"

Although she talked big, Sana is clumsy after all...

Rather, does Kaa-san even know if you ask her?

"Mou, why don't you know!? Sana doesn't know either!"

It seems that her plan had quickly come to a standstill.

As I continued steadily with my work, I felt a stare...

Sana was peering through the gap of the door at me.

"Uwah!? You surprised me... what is it?"

"Y-you seem to be progressing well? Sana was just looking at Nii-san's progress."

Okay okay. Since I seem to be doing well, you're probably coming to see how I did it. Seems like she caught an illness that prevents her from honestly asking for help.

"If you exchange with some weird person, Sana won't like it."

"Can you really talk about other people?"

Kotsun, Sana gave me a small headbutt.

"Let me see."

I borrowed the thread that Sana had made into a complete mess.

"Watch carefully, okay? With this, you do this, and over here it'll become like this. Then you do this..."

Sana put her hands on my lap and leaned forward, staring closely at my hands.

Her face is too close. White cheeks and long eyelashes, this girl... I use the same shampoo as her, but is it just me or does Sana smell better.

"It's just like braiding. Since you're a girl, can't you do it?"

"Sana hasn't done any braiding herself yet... There's rarely anything to braid in the first place."

Now that she mentions it, Sana's hair wasn't done in a braid. Most of the time it's let down straight. At most, it would be put into a ponytail. When she was small she sometimes had twin tails though.

"Now you try," I say as I returned it to Sana.

She tried to move her fingers in the right ways, but she was super clumsy and wasn't really progressing well.

"... Ni-Nii-san... Whose do you want?"

"...Eh?"

"N-nothing!"

Panicking, Sana left my room.

Once things start going smoothly, making a misanga can be surprisingly fun.

More importantly, why is it that she wants one that I made...? If you made one yourself, then you can make it however you like it...

"Well, Sana is stubborn and hates to lose... so she probably just joined in the heat of the moment."

That was probably Sana's number one motive.



TN:

1. A misanga is a braided bracelet, commonly used as good luck charms or friendship bracelets. I believe the word was originally Portuguese but the concept itself is relatively global. They can come with many different patterns but here's an example:



Chapter 67 Home Economics Club Activities – Second Part

"..."

"..."

"....."

".....Ah, made a mistake. Have to redo this part again..."

After school the next day, Kanata and I were both in the home economics room absorbed in working on making misangas. If we were on a radio broadcast, then incident must have occurred, since there was no conversation between us.

Every once in a while, she would take a glance at me, then return her eyes back to her hands. Kanata might not mind it, but it felt slightly awkward...

"Ka-Kanata, have you decided on what you want to do in the future?"

She shook her head slightly to indicate a no.

"I see."

"....."

"..."

"....."

Ku, this atmosphere is heavy... Even if I wanted to summon Sana, she had already gone straight home.

"Do you have an interest in... game companies?"

"Games?"

Oh. I finally got a reaction.

"Yeah, that's right. Since you like games, have you ever thought of making one before...?"

"... Liking something and working is different."

She said something so reasonable!? Isn't this the person who's supposed to be Sana's senior at a game company in the future?

Sana probably went home to work on her misanga, and Hiiragi-chan was probably going home after work to work on it as well.

"I will definitely win!!"

Yesterday, Hiiragi-chan was so enthusiastic when she called at night. She's twenty-four years old, and is completely serious in competing with high school students.

"Sensei will properly teach them the severity of such a competition. I'll teach them how real this is!"

Hiiragi-chan didn't even hold a fragment of maturity.

"... Seiji-kun... can I get your arm for a bit?"

"Arm?"

Kanata grabbed onto my left arm and started touching it.

"What is it?"

"Size... You're the same as Sana, pale... and thin."

Well I don't really do any sports or anything. It isn't white enough to call pale, but I don't really go outside and I don't really do any exercise, so my arms stay untanned and thin all year round.

Funi funi, Kanata was absorbed in touching my arm.

"Are you done?"

"... Can you make a fist?"

"Eh? Like this?"

As I gripped my palms, Kanata began tracing the muscle lines that formed on my arm.

"... It isn't strong, but it's pretty... And a little obscene."

"What are you imagining when all I'm doing is this?"

I would like you to stop looking at my arm as if it was something obscene.

After that, Kanata repeatedly touched my arm.

"... I got it."

What did you get?

As usual, the model student Kanata still had a lot of mysterious parts to her. When I asked Sana about what type of person Kanata was, I was given the reply of, "Kana-chan is a normal girl?" Rather, it seemed like Sana was making me out to be the weird person for asking such a question.

With me being me, producing the misanga took me about two days before I finally finished.

And then, three days later. After school, we gathered at the home economics club and presented the misangas that we made.

"Nii-san, in order for you to not know who made which one, turn and face the other way."

"Okay, okay."

I turned around and faced my back towards Hiiragi-chan, Sana, and Kanata.

Well, I did see Sana while she was making it, so I can probably easily tell which one is her's. The same for Kanata. Which means, by process of elimination I can also figure out which one is Hiiragi-chan's. Is there really a meaning in turning around?

"Sana's is this! It's perfect!"

"Sana-chan, you worked hard."

"Hehen. That's right, Sana worked really hard—Wait, Sensei, you were just making fun of me right weren't you!?"

"...I don't think she was making fun of you, just treating you like a child."

"Kana-chan. Please don't analyze the disrespect directed at Sana. Rather, how did Sensei's turn out anyways?"

"Hiiragi-sensei's is this one!"

"Eh!? This, it's cheating!"

"I didn't cheat. Please don't say bad things about other people."

Cheating? What did you do, Hiiragi-chan?"

"Then, is it fine now?"

As I was given the okay, I turned around to face the three of them.

On the left, was Sana's red, white, and blue French misanga. [1] Even if it looked a little bit awkward, it was well made. As I picked it up, Sana began to fidget, her eyes were swimming left and right. She's easy to understand... The one in the middle was Kanata's. It was

made carefully with the blue, white, and black colors that I had picked.

And, finally...

... No matter how I think of it, it's Hiiragi-chan's...

While fidgeting, Hiiragi-chan was looking at my reaction.

"Sowa sowa. Sowa sowa..." [2]

She's saying that out loud!?

"Sanada-kun. Pick one out of the three that you like the most, and then we'll exchange, okay?"

With a composed expression, Hiiragi-chan spoke. Essentially, Hiiragi-chan's misanaga was well, one, two, three... twenty in total. How much did you want my misanga?! If you make twenty, then of course there would be one or two that I would like!?

She's not mature at all. She was planning on dominating the battlefield with overwhelming numbers...

"Look, even Nii-san is drawing back. Making so much is cheating."

"It's not cheating. No one said you could only make one."

Are you a child?

However, since numbers were not brought up, there was reasonable logic behind it.

Hiiragi-chan's face had her pride written all over her face.

"... You said, there was only three days for making them...?"

"Mufufu, did you notice? This was Sensei's plan for complete victory ♪"

"Somehow, it's so serious that it's a little bit disgusting..."

"... Yeah, a little bit disgusting."

"Sensei, how about you pick on as a representative?"

"Eeeeeeeeeeeeeeh!?"

"Ah. That sounds good."

"... Yeah, that's reasonable."

Reluctantly, Hiiragi-chan picked her favorite one out of them as a representative.

"Nii-san, pick. No matter which you pick no complaints... complaints might be brought up but we will do our best."

As Sana said that, Hiiragi-chan and Kanata nodded.

"Then..."

I picked up Sana's misanga.

"Eh? Sa-sana's? You're fine with that one!?"

"Yeah. Exchange with me."

I handed her Sana's misanga from within my pocket.

"I-I'm happy... Wait. Nii-san, you can actually make it pretty well."

Sana was carefully looking at the misanga held in the palms of both her hands.

Even at a time like this, she doesn't forget to say rude words.

It was made mainly out of orange in order to match Sana's image.

This time, I grabbed Kanata's.

"... Didn't you exchange with Sana-chan...?"

"Isn't it fine to make multiple?"

I handed Kanata one that was made mainly out of green.

"... Th-thank you... I'll treasure it."

"Eh, eh? Then that means...!?"

The eyes of the dispirited Hiiragi-chan began to shine.

"I also have one for Sensei. Here."

"Thank you... Sensei will also treasure it..."

While being thrilled, Hiiragi-chan stared closely at the misanga in her hand.

"Everyone seemed to want one, so I thought it would be nice to make three. And so..."

Everyone was busy trying to put it on their arms and adjusting the length. None of them were listening at all. But, since they look happy, I'm glad that I worked hard to make them.

"Nii-san, by the way, who is first place...?"

"Eh? First place? ... Sensei for enthusiasm. Sana for effort. Kanata for degree of perfection... so a draw."

""Well, it's fine I guess...""

Seeming like they gave up on a decision, the three of them looked at the misanga on their arms in satisfaction.

TN:

1. Just for clarification... the colors represent the French flag. Normally I would say blue, white, and red, but since it's Japanese we go right to left 😊
2. This is the sound effect for fidgeting. I normally translate it fully since it's used interchangeably as the sound effect and the verb but I thought it would be better to leave this one as is.

Chapter 68 The Hiiragi Family's Circumstances - 1

Since Hiiragi-chan was heading back to her parent's house, her apartment would be empty for two days. She told me that I could freely use anything in her apartment, but the idea of going there without Hiiragi-chan being there gave me a weird feeling, so I decided to obediently wait for her to return to her tidy apartment.

We were keeping in contact through texts and phone like usual, but that day, the phone call that came was not from Hiiragi-chan.

"Hello? Thief-kun?"

"Eh? Natsumi-chan? Why are you calling from Haruka-san's cellphone...?"

"It's because I didn't know your phone number, so I borrowed Haru-chan's cellphone. More importantly, it's terrible!"

"What's wrong?"

"Haru-chan—she might be getting married!"

"Haaaaaaaaaaaaah!?"

What's with thaaaaat!?

"Ah. Is she marrying me?"

"Nope. That's completely wrong."

Well, of course.

"Wait. What's happening?"

"You knew that Haru-chan really didn't want to go back home, right?"

"Eh... What?"

"If you don't know, it's not really something I should be saying so I won't tell you... Anyways, it's been decided that there will be some marriage interview."

Hiiragi-chan never really seemed to want to talk about her family, or her parents. I didn't want to force her to tell me, since I believed the time would come where she would tell me about it. However, it seems that it came in an unexpected form.

"Still, she's with Thief-kun, so she strongly refused. However, she was forced to accept."

"What about Haruka-san? What is she doing right now? Is she close by?"

"No. Right now, she's under house arrest... I think she doesn't want Thief-kun to know about it."

House arrest? What is going on? She's like a damsel in distress.

Natsumi-chan's voice over the phone seemed more panicked than usual, as she repeated over and over again, *"What should I do!?"*.

"Calm down. The marriage meeting, when is it going to happen?"

"Tomorrow!"

Will it go from a forced marriage meeting into actual marriage? If I wait, Hiiragi-chan will some come back—No, but if she refused, wouldn't she normally be put under house arrest by her family again?

"I'll go tomorrow. Do you know where it is?"

"Y-yeah. I heard that the person was a servant that liked to talk."

Is Hiiragi-chan's family perhaps a really rich one? Natsumi is even going to a rich girl's school after all. She just said servant without any hesitation at all.

Now that I think about it, I don't know Hiiragi-chan's alma mater. Maybe it's the same as Natsumi-chan's...?

"The location is Youto Hotel, the 32nd floor. The time is noon at 12! Sorry, that's all I know."

"That's enough. Thank you."

Ending the call, I closed my cellphone.

Youto Hotel should be a luxury hotel in the next prefecture over. From here, it should take about 2 hours by train.

I said I would go, but what can I do by going there. Run off with Hiiragi-chan? Just like a hero in a story?

At a marriage interview, the parents of both sides would probably be there talking to each other. If I act as the bad guy and run off with Hiiragi-chan. What about after that—what about the future?

If the me right now were to say my greetings to Hiiragi-chan... There's no way for their impression of me is going to be good. There's the negative element of me being a high school student right now and her being my teacher.

Still, I can't just stand by and watch. These are parents, who even in this age, insist on having a marriage interview, and force a house arrest if refused. If I just leave it alone, I don't know what would happen to Hiiragi-chan.

Spending a sleepless night, I stuff as much money as possible into my wallet, and left the house.

It's a good thing I worked part time.

[Thief-kun, you're going to stop the marriage interview, and then what?]

I received a text message from Natsumi-chan. It seems that she copied my phone number that Hiiragi-chan had entered into her cellphone.

If I stop it here, in the end, the same thing might just repeat again.

[Even so, I can't just bite on my fingernails and watch.]

A specific way to counteract it really doesn't come up in my mind though.

I tried to refute Natsumi-chan as much as possible. My future with Hiiragi-chan would fall into a bad place, but if I don't do anything, it'll become even worse.

[That's nice. Haru-chan, is quite loved.]

Nishishi, Natsumi's laughing face floated into my mind.

[Thief-kun, do your best! I'll be cheering for you!]

After getting on the train and arriving at the closest station, I soon found the hotel that was set to be the venue.

It was a tall building that you would have to look up at, and once I entered, I looked at the hotel guide. At the top-most 32nd floor was a high-class restaurant. The view below was probably also really nice.

It's a good thing I didn't come in my school uniform. I knew that it was a hotel beforehand, so today, I secretly borrowed a suit to wear from my father. If you just take a quick look, it doesn't feel out of place. Looking at my face though, I can instantly be recognized as being too young.

I'll grab Hiiragi-chan before it starts and ask her about the situation.

While I looked around the lobby for my beloved goddess, even though the time was approaching, I couldn't see her at all.

She'll definitely pass through here though. It's now passed 12.

I hope not, but maybe there's some special path or elevator for VIP's... For instance, an elevator that would allow you to go from the underground parking lot to the top-most floor.

It's possible.

Panicking greatly, I get on an elevator and head to 32nd floor.

After getting off the elevator, I quickly entered the restaurant and had a host guide me to a seat.

Looking around for a bit, I found Hiiragi-chan.

Today, she was wearing a mature evening dress, her shoulders exposed, and a bit open around the chest. It's sexy and looks good on her, but I feel that it's not something that matches Hiiragi-chan's tastes.

She currently had on an awkward smile. Next to her were people that looked like Hiiragi-chan Papa and Mama. Across from her was today's marriage interview candidate and his parents.

The other man seemed to be in the first half of his thirties. He felt like a rich man with a good amount of age to him.

In order to ask about the situation in more detail, I first need to let Hiiragi-chan know that I was here. However, she probably didn't have her phone... How should I do it...?

I saw a waiter approach Hiiragi-chan's table and had an epiphany.

I raised my hand.

"A bottle of red for me please."

"Understood."

Since a cheap brand wouldn't be great, I got a slightly expensive one.

Maybe it seemed like I was used to ordering, maybe it was due to the suit I was wearing, or maybe it was because the atmosphere I had was like that of a middle-aged man, the waiter didn't mind my age and brought a bottle of red wine just as I had ordered. Unexpectedly, being a bit bold seems to make it harder to notice.

I wasn't going to drink this wine though.

Temporarily going to the restroom, I organize my dress to make it look like that of a waiter. I also change my hairstyle to match.

Holding the bottom of the bottle with my hand, I approached Hiiragi-chan's table with a composed face.

Bingo, they were going through a course dinner like I thought. Moreover, it was currently on the meat dish, the perfect timing for red wine.

With a solemn expression, I held the bottle of wine that I bought and said, "A 1996 bottle of Bordeaux red wine," or something like that. I had never dreamed that the knowledge that I learned during my part-time work in my university years would come in handy here.

With a waiter like attitude, I poured it into Hiiragi-chan's glass. The parents were all smiling, but since Hiiragi-chan continued to look down and depressed, not looking in my direction at all and so she didn't notice.

Kon, I struck the glass with the bottle. And at an easily heard volume, I apologize.

"My apologies."

She took a sidelong glance, and our eyes met.

"Ah."

"Rather than wine, would a beer have been more to your taste?"

"Yeah..."

Hiiragi-chan was struggling to keep her tears from falling.

"The restroom is located over there, please use it if you need to."

It better get through.

Whether or not my thoughts were transmitted, Hiiragi-chan nodded repeatedly.

Alright. Before I was found out, I made a small bow and distanced myself from the table.

Hiiragi-chan stood up from her seat, and headed towards the restroom. I hurriedly followed and chased after her.

"Seiji-kun."

Without going inside, Hiiragi-chan was waiting at the entrance, and when she saw me, she hugged me.

"Fumiiiiii... Seiji-kun... Seiji-kun..."

With a weird way of crying, Hiiragi-chan blew her nose and cried into my chest.

"Wai— —!? Stop. There are a lot of people here."

Well, it was inside a hotel. There were people everywhere.

I then found a set of emergency stairs, and pulled Hiiragi-chan's arm towards the deserted area.

"Are you working here...?"

While still hugging me tightly, Hiiragi-chan asked.

"Of course that isn't the case. It's because I heard about today from Natsumi-chan...Are you okay? Isn't it difficult?"

"Thank you for coming. Also, I'm sorry for worrying you, I'm fine. I was just kind of forced into the marriage interview this time. Of course, I feel bad for the other person, but I'm rejecting it."

"I see. That's good..."

Still, isn't it a bit too forced? Leaving me aside, if it's Hiiragi-chan, there would probably be many willing to take Hiiragi-chan as a bride even without a marriage interview.

"You came to help me, right?"

"It isn't that, but... No, it is, but..."

"Mou, which is it?"

It was the smile that I knew very well.

This time, it was my head that was petted.

"I'm fine. It won't get more than this. It'll turn into a walk after this, and it'll be super super boring, but I'll manage with a fake smile."

"You seem surprisingly okay."

She stroked my chest in her normal manner.

"Nope. It's because Seiji-kun came, you know?"

She smiled, and gave me a kiss on the cheek.

Chapter 69 The Hiiragi Family's Circumstances - 2

Once Hiiragi-chan and them had finished eating, they left the restaurant.

I then settle the bill and follow after them.

The plan that Hiiragi-chan had told me about was for them to head to the famous garden that I had even heard about, located on the rooftop. It would then be the feeling of, *"The rest is up to the two young ones,"* as they are left to go on a walk.

Even if I can't enjoy it, I have to stick with them until the end.

Chasing after Hiiragi-chan and the middle-aged man, I also entered the garden. The garden seemed to be made by a famous gardener. It overflowing with water, bright greenery, and colorful flowers. It almost seemed like I had entered a fantasy world.

"The garden, is really pretty..."

"Ah, yeah..."

The two people were having an awkward conversation. Hiiragi-chan was using a parasol so I couldn't see her expression.

While sneaking around, I followed the two of them.

"Thank you for today. I was surprised since you were so beautiful."

"No. It's nothing like that..."

Like a young lady, Hiiragi-chan showed a modest amount of humility.

However, Hiiragi-chan was pretty today, just like the middle aged man had said. It's just, if it's making a move like that, I wish he would let me do that?

"Aah, Don't worry about it. A man like me... I understand that I can't be popular, just looking at a woman's reaction, I can kind of guess..."

Uuu, that's painful...

Yeah yeah, I get it, I really do.

Sitting on a bench in the shadow of a tree, I observed the two of them at a distance at which I could hear them.

"That's not true. I think that Sanjou-san is quite a wonderful person..."

From Hiiragi-chan's tone, and the middle-aged Sanjou-san's appearance, I can tell that it was polite flattery. It seems like he had money, but definitely didn't look popular. His level of sociability is low, and he can't even talk very well.

So, the talk about being popular if you're an adult with money was a lie...!? I ended up getting shocked in a weird way.

"Wonderful...? Really?"

Hey hey, old man. That was just polite flattery. Don't take it so seriously. A spicy Japanese person that would say something like "Well, I guess you really don't seem to be the popular type," with that timing, really doesn't exist.

"Ummm... Uuhhh, yeah."

While being troubled, Hiiragi-chan nodded, and Sanjou-bocchan ended up closing the distance between the two of them.

I noticed that Hiiragi-chan's body had gone stiff.

In my mind, second-level battle station alerts sounded out.

From what I heard earlier, Sanjou-bocchan was the fourth inline at a well-known and well-established company. It means that this time's marriage interview, wasn't even something the Hiiragi family really wished for. That's why, whether or not she likes him, she wants it to be settled peacefully.

"W-what p-part of m-me is g-good...?"

"..."

Sanjou-bocchan brought his face closer to Hiiragi-chan.

He rested his hand on her lap, and started to stroke her thighs repeatedly over the skirt.

"Hey... what part? What part of me do you like?"

"... Umm, s-sorry... s-stop... please..."

I'm someone who settles things peacefully, so I've never gotten into fights with other people. If things can be settled uneventfully, then even if it's worse for me, I'm the type of weak person to lower my head and apologize.

"If you marry me, you can play quite a bit, you know? What are you referring to when you say, *"Please stop"*?"

"... I, ummm... have a person I like... a lover that I haven't even told my parents... that's why... sorry... I didn't say wonderful intending it in that way..."

Puchin, I, who had finally snapped, headed towards the bench the two of them were sitting on. Even for me, I haven't officially touched those thighs!!

Sanjou-bocchan, who seemed to be disappointed, grabbed Hiiragi-chan by the wrist.

"Then, then— isn't it fine if it's just one time! I got us a suite, let's go. If you let me do it, I'll wash today's rudeness away completely, okay? Let's go."

"——That's why you aren't popular!"

With my fist held so tight that my fingernails were digging into my skin, I struck Sanjou-bocchan in the face as hard as I could.

Gyuu, with a squeak that sounded like a squealing frog, he fell behind the bench with quite some force.

The scared Hiiragi-chan hid behind my back.

"That hurt... W-who are you...!?"

"I'm just a middle-aged man passing through while in the middle of a time leap. What about it?"

"Y-you're completely unrelated—this is assault! Police! I'll call the police."

"You're calling the police when you were the one trying to forcefully drag a woman into your room when she clearly hated it? Don't make me laugh!"

"Bufu..."

As I became more calm, I had a flash of inspiration. If I just act like some stranger passing by, then it wouldn't cause Hiiragi-chan any trouble.

However, Hiiragi-chan, who was still trembling even now, continued to hold onto my hand tightly. If I were to say, "*Well, bye,*" and gallantly dash off like this, there was bound to be problems.

"... Thank you, Seiji-kun."

She called me by name.

"A-a-anyways, don't just selfishly touch a woman like that. No matter where you touch, it's the same as being a molester! Also, you're already at this age and you still don't know what it means to be polite? At least learn to read the mood. That's why you aren't popular even though you money."

I just threw a huge murdering boomerang. However, I don't care about that. He was the one that was wrong.

"A person like you, there's no way you would understand my feelings...!"

"I get it, you idiot! That's why, I'll tell it to you. If you want to do something like that, go to the store!"

It was advice from a mature middle-aged man.

"Dammit... Gufuu... I just, I just wanted love..."

"Stop lying. You just wanted to do it."

I can't believe this old man. All he thinks about is his lower half.

"I-I'm going to tell my parents, and even Sanjou-san's parents as well. T-that you were trying to do something perverted to me!"

With teary eyes, Hiiragi-chan shouted out with a shrill voice. She was still hiding behind me though.

... A scared Hiiragi-chan who is trying her best is so cute.

"J-just that, please... please refrain from that."

Sanjou-bocchan rubbed his forehead into the ground and prostrated.

"Doing something perverted like that is only for the store, or with your lover!"

Supashiiin!

Hiiragi-chan had used her parasol and took a world class full swing at him. It seemed that she felt satisfied with that, and the matter was finally settled.

Chapter 70 The Hiiragi Family's Circumstances - 3

Since Hiiragi-chan and Sanjou-bocchan returned faster than expected, The parents were all suspicious of the two.

In the hotel lounge, the last tea party for today had just started.

Just like I did at the restaurant, I moved to a nearby table to watch over them. The parents from both families started a conversation, asking the two about how the garden had gone.

Hiiragi-chan herself had passed it off with an appropriate fake smile, but Sanjou-bocchan openly displayed his bad mood. The reason for that seems to be because he failed in bringing Hiiragi-chan to his room. That's just karma though. Rather, if he really thought he would succeed in that way he must be quite an optimistic person.

"Takafumi? Is something wrong?"

Sanjou-bocchan's father asked him. It seems that his name is Takafumi.

"Earlier, at the rooftop garden we were just talking."

Sanjou-bocchan played with his hair with an unhappy expression.

"... This person, she has a boyfriend or something. She has absolutely noooo interest at all in me."

This person...! He was the one with the sexual harassment and yet now he's acting all innocent...!

Hiiragi-chan's expression stiffened. Everyone at the table directed their eyes at her.

All she had to say was that it was a lie. Just tell them that it was a lie made to stop his sexual harassment. If you end up revealing the sexual harassment part, then he's the one that would be troubled.

"Haruka? Is that true?"

Hiiragi-chan Mama, who was sitting next to her, asked. Hiiragi-chan Mama was wearing black rimmed glasses and seemed to be a bit paranoid. It's just, her face looked similar in every way when compared with Hiiragi-chan.

I shook my head. It's fine to say it's a lie. He's the one that did something uncalled for after all. It's the same as saying a lie in order to dodge a colleague's question—

Understanding my intentions, Hiiragi-chan smiled, and shook her head.

"I'm sorry? I don't want to lie... I don't want to say that there isn't...!"

Most likely, Hiiragi-chan had even more resolve than me, in choosing to date me. She just didn't show it.

Being colleagues and talking about the presence or absence of a boyfriend it is a completely different matter when it involves parents at a marriage interview. The weight of it is completely different.

Even I felt a knot in my stomach. If you dream of getting married, it's a gateway that must be passed.

The table once again got loud.

"But, you never said anything about that...."

"You guys just didn't want to listen, right...!? You guys always selfishly decide on things like this! And so I thought I would at least endure for today!"

—You knew that Haru-chan really didn't want to go back home, right?"

I remembered what Natsumi-chan had said on the phone yesterday.

"When it came to my friends in high school and college! All of it! Even this time! I'm not just a tool!"

Letting out her tears, Hiiragi-chan stood up from her seat. The rift between Hiiragi-chan and her parents was deeper than I thought.

The last time my time leap was released and I returned to the present time, I wasn't able to gain approval to marry her. Maybe that was because Hiiragi-chan had taken me back to her home due to the circumstances right now.

Because I wasn't one picked by her parents, because I wasn't approved by them, I wasn't able to marry her—

The same applied when it came to the yearly income of over 10 million. He probably was exaggerating quite a bit at that time though. Hiiragi-chan had followed up with me telling me that it was just her father being surprised.

Worried about Hiiragi-chan, I also stood up from my seat. On the way, I put my hand on Sanjou-bocchan's back, as he was lounging about with his legs put up. I easily forced him to fall over, causing him to let out a sound.

"Oww... Gufuu..."

"Excuse me."

I walked away. Hiiragi-chan was crouching by the entrance to a nearby bathroom.

"Haruka-san."

"Seiji-kun... I'm sorry... If I lied, I probably would have been made to accept it I think..."

In respect to her being asked further, she did what she could to hide or misdirect them. However, Hiiragi-chan never said anything that would distort the truth of our relationship.

That's the type of person Hiiragi-chan is. A woman who 100% puts emotions first. If she properly thought about the future, she probably wouldn't have said OK to my confession.

Pulling on her hand, I walked towards the stairs where less people could see.

"I want to go somewhere far away with just the two of us..."

Hiiragi-chan once again cried into my chest.

There was probably nowhere that was okay for us to run to. If we didn't have friends or family, if that was the case then we would still be fine. However, in reality, there are Hiiragi-chan's parents and her little sister. I also have a home and family to return to. She has work. I have school. Real life is just like that, it's full of various obligations.

If I were a real immature high school student, I would have said that everything would be fine if we eloped. I love her that much after all.

But I want to make this person happy. I won't be satisfied unless our future was bright, the people that are involved with us are happy, and we have a stupidly sweet happy end.

"... Let's not run, and try for a little longer?"

Hiiragi-chan nodded without saying anything.

"Ah, it's this guy."

Sanjou-bocchan and Hiiragi-chan Papa had come chasing.

"He hit me in the garden!"

"... You are?"

Hiiragi-chan Papa was wearing frameless glasses and his suit look really expensive. He looked just like a capable businessman. A huge difference from my own father.

"I'm... My name is Sanada... Earlier in the garden, that person was trying to harass her, so I ended up stepping in to stop her."

Hiiragi-chan Papa's eyes turned towards Sanjou-bocchan.

"N-no, that's... Hahaha...."

"Otou-san, that's not a lie, you know? It's the truth. He tried to force me to go to his room and even touched my thighs..."

Sanjou-bocchan then ran away and fled the scene.

Seeing that, Hiiragi-chan Papa lowered his head a bit.

"Thank you for helping out my daughter."

"It's nothing..."

"And you are... Sanada-kun, you appeared in front of my crying daughter and comforted her. You're not just some sort of hero or something, right?"

His implied question was, who are you?

"You seem to be very young. A high school student?"

"Yes."

I just happened to be in the same place, passing by——

I tried to say that, but stopped.

Hiiragi-chan was straight about her relationship with me. She hid it until now, but she didn't lie about our relationship. Even if all she needed to say was one lie to avoid her situation, she didn't run away. That is true strength, sincerity, her resolve in dating me.

Even I should have the same resolve. I will hide, and misdirect. However, I don't want to distort anything. We haven't done anything to be ashamed of—

Hiiragi-chan Papa was asking me with a sincere look. Who are you?

I looked straight back at those eyes. Stuck out my chest. In order to encourage me, Hiiragi-chan held onto my hand.

"I am— My name is Sanada Seiji. I'm currently in a serious relationship with Haruka-san."

Chapter 71 The Hiiragi Family's Circumstances - 4

Hiiragi-chan Papa was speechless towards my coming out.

"... This is true. Earlier, I said I had a lover, right? That person is him, Sanada Seiji-kun."

We once again held each other's hands.

Then, Hiiragi-chan Papa slowly opened his mouth.

"B-but, Haru-chan... y-you work as a teacher, right...?"

Haru-chan? That's what Hiiragi-chan Papa calls her...? That's kind of unexpected.

More importantly, his voice has become quite restless.

"That's right... a world history teacher."

"Then, this Sanada-kun... which school is he..."

"He's a second year at the school that I work at."

"..."

Hiiragi-chan Papa took a step back looking quite shaken.

It's really troublesome, Hiiragi Papa.

"Currently, it's been four months since we have started dating—"

"I-I don't want to hear it!"

"Haaah...?"

Not understanding what was going on, I looked at Hiiragi-chan, whose eyes were shut with a bitter expression on her face.

"Even for me! This time's marriage interview was something I didn't like! But now it's a high school student!?"

While he was talking, he fixed his slightly misaligned glasses. The breath of the capable businessman Papa was starting to get disturbed.

"That's why I don't like it... going home..."

"Ah..."

Looking at Hiiragi Papa once, and returning back to Hiiragi-chan, I finally understood and nodded once.

"I'm thankful that you helped Haru-chan. It's good that she wasn't done by some vulgar fool. Besides, I would say that you are equipped with better looks."

"No... that's not..."

Sanjou-bocchan is like that, so being compared is a little...

"That's definitely true! Seiji-kun is cool!"

"That's not true."

"It's true ♪"

"Don't flirt in front of meeeeeeeee!"

As if he was trying to stop a headache, Hiiragi Papa grabbed his glasses with his empty hand.

"To be honest, I have to admit that you have the courage to be able to declare your relationship...!"

"Ah, thank you..."

"During lunch, the person who came to pour the red wine was Sanada-kun, right? He looked quite the part, and your gestures were also quite refined...!"

"T-thank you..."

Am I being given a good chance at this?

"However, dating is no good! Rather than you being the problem, it doesn't matter who it is, I won't forgive them!"

I guess Hiiragi Papa is an overprotective parent?

"Is it possible that for Natsumi-chan, it's also the same?"

"Yeah."

I finally understood why having Natsumi-chan as an ally allowed us to gain approval to live together.

"Whether you're rich, or a high school student, I won't give Haru-chan!"

"Even without Otou-san's permission, the two of us are doing just fine! We don't need your approval!"

Gufu, Hiiragi Papa took damage from her words.

Hiiragi-chan's overprotective thoughts towards me were very similar to Hiiragi Papa.

"Haruka-san, saying something like that is not okay. Papa-san is just trying to think for you."

"Those feelings are heavy, so I don't like it..."

"Young man, nice follow!"

"Yeah."

"Mou, Seiji-kun, whose side are you on anyways!?"

Turning mad, Hiiragi-chan stomped around with her legs.

It's cute and childish.

As I was grinning, Hiiragi Papa was also grinning. Ah... we might actually get along.

This person though... I feel like I've seen him before...? Is it just me?

"Anyways, a student dating a teacher, that envious—no—that scandalous situation is unforgivable...! If the teacher is Haru-chan, then it's even more unforgivable!"

Rather than it being me, it's more like any guy that gets close to Hiiragi-chan is out.

"Then, what could I do?"

Hiiragi Papa looked at me.

"Courage is good, looks are good, common sense, manners, finesse, all good..."

"Then it's not even a question. You've already approved 70% of him."

"However! No income. It has nothing to do with his title as a high school student. It is a well-grounded fact!"

"But, for a high school student (Seiji-kun), there's limitless potential!"

Hiiragi-chan's follow up for me was good.

"Courage is good, looks are good, common sense, manners, finesse, all good, future is acceptable..."

"See, there isn't anything to say. You've already approved 90%."

"Haru-chan, be quiet! An annual income of 10 million. If he can at least earn that much, it's fine for him to appear before me again! If he's at least capable, whether he's a high schooler, or a kappa, I'll recognize him. I don't think your relationship would last until then though!"

After saying that, Hiiragi Papa left.

"I'll wait. Our relationship will continue forever and ever! Even if you don't hit 10 million, I'm already really happy, okay?"

"Yeah. That's true, but..."

"What?"

"Currently, we're supposed to come back after I can earn 10 million, right? ... Doesn't that mean that our current relationship, is basically recognized? It's like tacit consent..."

"That's true!"

Hiiragi-chan put her hands together.

If we were to ask the person himself, he would probably insist that he hasn't recognized it. But he told me it was fine to appear before him again in the future. I don't know if it was a figure of speech, or just in the spur of the moment, but he did say it.

"Well, whether or not it's good, I won't be happy until it's completely open."

"Of course it's good! Otou-san only says what's really on his mind."

It's completely the opposite from how he feels, but he probably understands that Hiiragi-chan would one day separate from him. Even now, she has already left the house and become independent after all.

"Due to various circumstances, I lost the timing for it, but there were a lot of things I wanted to ask about you and your family."

"... That's true... For me, there are parts that are hard for me to say, so I didn't end up saying anything... but I'll tell you."

Maybe because things have now settled down, Hiiragi-chan went into girlfriend mode. It was written all over her face that she wanted to kiss while she was acting all impatient.

"Wait. First, let's make sure that today's marriage interview is settled. You're an adult, right?"

"Muuu... Seiji-kun is more of an adult than me, so it's a little bit troubling..."

Well, the inside is actually just that.

"It's okay to have reliable parts like that though. Being reliable but younger. That gap, always makes my heart skip a beat."

Saying that while embarrassed, Hiiragi-chan went back to the lounge without looking at me.

As a report, I send a grateful text to Natsumi-chan.

[I was somehow able to do it. Thanks. However, Papa-san ended up finding out about me.]

[Ueeh... Papa? How was that?]

[Complete rejection. It didn't even matter whether or not I was a high schooler.]

[Of course it's like that! Lol.]

After that, Hiiragi-chan returned as usual to her home where she lived alone. Apparently, the only reason she was locked up was due to the marriage meeting, after that she seemed to be free.

In order to understand the circumstances, I headed towards her place.

"I'm sorry for worrying you over various things this time. Also, thank you. It made me happy that you came. Thank you also for saving me when bad things were going to happen to me."

"That's nothing... Then, Haruka-san, what does your family do? Seems to be really rich."

"Aah... of course you would notice..."

With a wry smile, Hiiragi-chan continued speaking. The Hiiragi family was apparently one that originated from the Meiji era, and was a venerable family that made a fortune. It was purely informational. The explanation had no hesitation to it.

"Currently, the family just manages a company... have you heard of the HRG company? A high schooler might not know that much though."

"Eh. HRG!? Ah, it's because it's Hiiragi?"

That's right, Hiiragi-chan nodded.

HRG was where I worked just before the time leap. It was a huge company that worked with the internet and telecommunications.

"If you do know, then it'll be fast. Otou-san is the president of that company. And he ended up treasuring me and treasuring me so much, that it was planned that I would be given a place to work there after graduating. I came to hate it... and so I ended up becoming a teacher as that was my original dream."

Hiiragi Papa, was the president of my company... No wonder I thought that I've seen him before.

"For school, I went to the same combined middle and high school girls' school as Natsumi... college was also a girl's school. I had obediently listened to what my parents had decided and studied hard... but now the current situation, is the backlash to that."

"That was quite a lot to understand. Haruka-ojousama."

"Wait—— Stop that. I actually get called that at home!"

While inflating her cheeks, Hiiragi-chan lightly hit me on the shoulders.

The part about her being ignorant, and that the number of people she had dated until now was zero, I could accept that now.

"That's how it is, but... from now on as well, please take care of me."

"For me as well. Please take care of me."

Slightly lowering our heads, our eyes met. The two of us then went puu, and let out some air.

"Seiji-kun ♪"

Hiiragi-chan, who was unable to stay patient, clung to me and hugged me tightly. And of course, first time in three day, the two of us then enjoyed flirting with our lips enough to make them swollen.

Chapter 72 Home Visit During Summer Vacation - First Part

"During summer vacation,"

Hiiragi-chan spoke while washing dishes in the kitchen.

After turning the volume down on the TV, I turn my ears to listen.

"I want to do a home visit. What do you think?"

"What? Home visit? ... Haruka-san, you aren't my homeroom teacher though."

"That's true but..."

She stopped the water, untied the apron from her back and came towards me. For some reason, this type of gesture really seems to resonate with me these days.

Hiiragi-chan didn't end up sitting across from, but next to me.

"As an advisor, I would like to get a better grasp of Seiji-kun's home situation, or something like that?"

"Once you do that, then what?"

"Uuuu..."

Groaning a bit, Hiiragi-chan formed a single line with her lips.

"... You just want to hang out at my place, right?"

"T-that might or might not be the case?"

Fuu fuu, she blew out air in an attempt to whistle.

It's not that I don't understand her interest in my room. Looking back, I haven't ever invited Hiiragi-chan over even once.

"When you caught a cold, I ended up intruding just once."

"When I caught a cold? My place? You came after school?"

"Ah. Ummm... yeah, that's right. After school. However, it seems you were sleeping, so I left."

Why is she not saying that while looking at my eyes? Is she hiding something?

Oh well.

"Even if you do come, there's Sana and my parents at home, what are you going to do? You would only be there as an advisor."

"At that time, I, Hiiragi Haruka, will do her utmost in greeting Seiji-kun's Okaa-sama and Otou-sama! Of course, as an advisor."

Perhaps she was inspired by me reporting our dating relationship to Hiiragi Papa. However, our family is a completely normal and average household. If she were to do a coming out like I did last time, then both my parents and Sana would draw back. Since it'll turn into a complicated situation, I would rather her not do her greetings.

"Then... how about coming over today? There's no one home though."

"I'll go!"

And so. Hiiragi-chan was invited to my place.

My parents are both working, with Tou-san usually coming home late, and today was also a day where Kaa-san comes home late. Sana also went out with Kanata today, and she might also be home late.

When I brought her to my room, Hiiragi-chan looked all around the room.

"The manga is put into colored boxes, there are also several games...
Your study desk is also neatly organized..."

"It's nothing. It's mostly pretty random. Feel free to sit down on
either the bed or the sofa. I'll go make some tea."

"Ah, don't worry about that."

Even if she says that, she always makes some for me, so today, it's
my turn to make her some tea.

After making some barley tea in the kitchen, I return to my room.

"Thank you for wai...ting...?"

Hiiragi-chan's eyes were full of tears as she turned around to look at
me.

"Eh. What!? Is something wrong!?"

"Thiiissssss! What is thiiiiissssss!?"

Hiiragi-chan pointed at the magazine that she was holding.

Ugeh!? I thought I had put it as far into the back of my desk drawer
as possible! This is bad...

"Th-this perverted book...!"

Didn't I say only after you turn 20!? She would of course say that. [1]

Or maybe, this is what you like...? As she looks at me with a despising
expression.

I hurriedly grabbed the magazine.

"Aaah. This, aaah. That's right, of course. It's Fujimoto's! That guy
just forgot this here!"

Like a pro-wrestler performance, I finished it off with a dunk shot into the trash can.

"Well, if it's that, then it's fine..."

Fuu. I made it.

"If it was Seiji-kun's, I didn't know what I would do."

Thank you for your care, sorry... I secretly apologized to everything inside the trash can.

"There's no way that would be mine."

"I know right? I mean, Seiji-kun would never like a high school girl!"

... No, wait, isn't that fine?

"If it was about an Onee-san living next door in the apartment, or about a teacher, then it would be safe."

It's a question of genre!?

"Little sister ones are forever forbidden!"

"You're quite knowledgeable on genres!?"

This is bad... There are two other places... with hidden cards...

It was the correct decision to divide the risk up in order to deal with the worst-case scenario of when Sana or Kaa-san finds it. Packed into the back of the colored boxes with the manga, "*different manga*" is stored. Also, inside the game packages a "*different disc*" is inside it.

Neither are about Onee-sans, nor are they about teachers!!

If all of them are discovered, it would be 3 outs...

Then, why don't you just date a high school girl? There would be a high chance of her looking at me with those cold eyes!

Even though I thought we could have fun in my room and flirt around! For there to be a pitfall here...!

"Seiji-kun, you're sweating quite a bit, are you okay?"

"Eh, aah, yeah. I'm fine..."

I sit down next to Hiiragi-chan, and wrap my arms around her hips in order to stop her from moving.

"Mou, Seiji-kun... ♡"

Hiiragi-chan stuck closer to me like a spoiled cat. Yeah. I didn't mean it like that, but I guess it's okay.

"Ah. That manga. You said that that one was interesting before, right!?"

Hiiragi-chan pointed at one of the colored boxes.

Kuuuu! In the back of that one——!

"Is it fine to try reading just the first volume?"

"You can't! Definitely can't! Rather, it's not interesting at all! Sorry!"

If she even pulls out one volume, she'll notice the manga behind it...!

"Eh? But when I saw it at the bookstore before, something about over 20 million copies sold was written on the obi." [2]

"Th-that is, you probably just read it wrong, right?"

"Hmmm... But... I'm kind of interested in what Seiji-kun is reading..."

I'm sorry! Normally, I don't read the manga displayed in front, but rather passionately read the one behind it! By amount, I've probably read it at least 3 times more!

Since I can't very well introduce it to her, I desperately tried to distract her curiosity.

"Somehow your eyes seem a little bloodshot, are you okay?"

"I-I'm fine..."

I pulled a volume out of a separate shelf, and was somehow able to subdue Hiiragi-chan's curiosity. Of course, I picked it from a shelf where nothing was behind it.

"Seiji-kun, aren't you bored?"

"T-that's not true?"

"Then, let's read together?"

Hiiragi-chan handed me the right half of the manga. If I refused to read the manga at this point, it would turn into a problem. As such, I obediently obeyed.

"Seiji-kun, you read pretty fast."

"I know what's in it after all."

"Mou."

Reading the one volume while flirting took about 20 minutes.

We quickly read through it.

Now what should we do?

"Normally, what games do you play?"

"N-no, these are actually Sana's not mine. Until now, I haven't played games a single time."

"Really? Then now is a good chance. Let's play together ♪"

On all fours, Hiiragi-chan approached the shelf that the games were located on.

As my eyes were glued onto the butt that was facing towards me, and her thighs that were sticking out from her skirt, "Which one is interesting, I wonder...?" she picked up the game and looked at the back of the package.

Ah. That's—

"Wa-wait, that one—"

I quickly picked it up. Of all the ones, she had to pick out the correct one... that was close.

"Is that one interesting? Then, where's the machine? I'll turn on the switch."

Phew, as I patted my chest, I opened the package softly and checked the contents. Hmmm...? It's the same one as the package? Then, where's the "*other disc*"!? I made a mistake with the case!

Where is it, where is it, where is it...!?

I repeatedly pulled games down, opened it, closed it, and then returned it. However, they were all in their correct places.

In the right place? That shouldn't be the case...?

Uuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuuun, it was the sound of the game console turning one.

Shuuin, shuuin, shuuiiiiiiiiiiiiiin—

All the games on hand are properly stored, and yet the game console is still reading something. Inside of thaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaat!

It's set to resume at where it stopped, so if that's the case—

An image of a beautiful high school girl with a perverted expression came up——!

Faster than a ninja, I pulled out all the plugs from the outlet.

"Hmmm...? The TV won't turn on?"

With a blank expression, Hiiragi-chan tilted her head.

I didn't know which was which, so it was correct for me to pull them all out.

Phew, as I was wiping off sweat with the back of my hand, Hiiragi-chan started exploring behind the console.

"Have the wires been pulled out...? Ah, there's a game behind it..."

Pulling it out, she read the game's title out loud.

"'A 17 Year Old High School Girl's Real After School Life'..."

"....."

A bunch of cute girls in uniforms were looking back at Hiiragi-chan's smile.

"" ... ""

I thought that I had lost it, so that's where it waaaaaaaas!

"Seiji-kun, what is this?"

It was a coooold voice.

"I-i-i-i-it's a type of do-documentary. Ah, that's right, like those N○K documentaries that they make..."

"Documentary...?"

Hiiragi-chan turned her wrist around and looked at the back of the package.

Aaah— It's over... The image of a high school girl showing an anguished expression was shown in parts.

Hiiragi-chan was shaking in fury. She squeezed the case until it broke.

"Seiji-kun you idiooooooooooooooot!"

The case came flying at me at light speed.

Gan, a direct hit to my face.

"Ouch!?"

Is she Matsuzaka! [3]

"Why isn't it a teacher oooooooooooooooooonnnnnnnneeee!"

"That's what's wrong?"

Poi poi, she started to throw everything that around her at me as hard as she could. The things that were around her ended up coming from the manga corner, and in the end, the two cards that I had hidden were seen by her.

Holding the manga showing girls doing scandalous things, Hiiragi-chan trembled with rage.

"This toooooooooooooo!? Isn't this also high school girls!? The magazine from earlier was also Seiji-kun's, right!?"

"I'm soooooorrrrry!"

Hiiragi-chan was running rampant like a wind god, but once I hugged her and gave her a gentle kiss, Hiiragi-chan, who was in her super wind god mode, calmed down.

TN:

1. The age of 20 is the age where children are considered adults in Japanese culture. This means that it's the drinking age, and so on and so forth. The age is usually mentioned in a completely different way than the normal counting for age to show the significance of it. Instead of *niijuusai* it's normally called *hatachi*.
2. The obi in this case is the band of paper usually wrapped around the outside many books in Japan. It is often used as a way to advertise a series or other works by the author. From what I remember, it's not that popular in the US, but I'm not sure about elsewhere.
3. [Daisuke Matsuzaka](#), famous Japanese baseball player that has played in the MLB before.

Chapter 73 Home Visit During Summer Vacation - Second Part

When our state of loving each other and kissing ended, my face became covered in kiss marks.

As I was cleaning the now messed up room, Hiiragi-chan was reading the manga that I had lied and called boring, "As expected, Seiji-kun, this is actually pretty interesting."

I was happy that she was able to read a manga that I found interesting, and find it interesting as well. However, now that we were so focused on hanging out at home, I don't know what to do anymore.

Once I sat down, Hiiragi-chan moved directly in front of me, sitting down and reading manga while using me as a backrest. I ended up hugging her just like that.

"Haruka-san..."

"Whaat?"

Your smooth hair is ticklish. Also, your shampoo smells nice. It's a smell I know, but I can never get used to it and it always makes my heart beat faster.

Any part of Hiiragi-chan that I touched was soft without exception. I wonder why women always feel so soft.

"You should move. Or else..."

"Or else, what?"

I'll touch your breasts. Or so I thought to say, but I couldn't bring up the courage. Instead I kissed her on the neck and nape.

"Yaaan, wait, it's ticklish ♡"

Ki ki, the sound of a bicycle stopping outside could be heard.

"Nn? This is bad, Sana might have come back."

"Eh. Didn't you say she would be out until late?"

"That's what it was supposed to be—"

Moving Hiiragi-chan off of me, I looked outside and noticed that Sana was indeed back. Moreover, she brought Kanata with her. I guess that means they got bored of hanging out outside, and decided to come home for games? Dammit you Friendly Gamer Combo.

I hurried down to the first floor and collected the... mules, or sandals that Hiiragi-chan had worn. Just in time as the door opened at that moment.

"Hmmm? Nii-san, didn't you go out?"

"No, well... I just had some business, and came back after it was settled."

"... Sorry for the intrusion."

Kanata, who was polite as usual gave a bow.

"Yeah, welcome."

"Nii-san, are you hiding something? Like behind your back?"

"Ha-haah? I-I'm not hiding anything?"

I faced my back towards the wall and walked away like a crab.

"..."

Kanata continued to stare at me.

Am I being suspected?

"That's right. We're going to play games after this. Nii-san is probably free, right? It can't be helped, Sana will let you join us."

"Sorry. I'm not free."

"Muu. What's with the way you said that!? You're definitely just free."

"Be quiet—"

Walking away from the entrance, while they were taking off their sandals, I made my way up the stairs. I heard their exchange that they had at the entrance.

"Eeh? Right now? No way!"

"... That panicked look, it has to be it."

"Ni-Nii-san can't possibly have a g-g-g-girlfriend. T-there's no way."

"... Sa-chan. It's a high chance."

"B-but even still, coming over right now, there's no..."

Giku. That girl, Kanata, is way too sharp.

"If Kana-chan is going to go as far to say that, let's confirm it? T-there probably isn't though..."

"... Sa-chan, you're way too shaken."

Once I entered my room, I barricaded the entrance. I stacked up colored boxes, my dresser, and other stuff in front of the door.

"What's wrong, Seiji-kun?"

"Somehow, it seems I was found out."

"Eh? The fact that I'm here?"

"No. Rather than it being Haruka-san, it's more the fact that I have my girlfriend over right now."

"Wh-what should we do...?"

Contrary to her words, Hiiragi-chan seemed happy. Being recognized as my girlfriend, seems to have tickled her fancy.

"Haruka-san, get in the bed."

"Eh, Seiji-kun's bed? Can I really!?"

"What are you getting happy about?"

Hiiragi-chan dove into my bed.

"... It smells like Seiji-kun... Fufu."

It seems that she's having fun, so it's fine I guess.

Kon kon, a knock came from the door.

"Ni-nii-san? It's Sana... can Sana come in?"

"You can't, no. Definitely not! It's currently very messy."

On the other side of the door, the two had a conversation.

"... As expected, it's true."

"..... No way... Uuuuu..."

"... Sa-chan. It's okay."

There's no way those two powerless girls could break down this barricade. If I don't give them the opportunity to see the actual thing, I can stubbornly pass through this predicament...!

As I took a glance at the bed, I saw Hiiragi-chan wrapped up inside the towel blanket.

"This towel blanket... it smells like Seiji-kun... I want to take it home with me..."

Just inside the door and just outside the door, everything was super serious, and yet my goddess was completely carefree.

"Nii-san? Is it possible... that... if there's someone there that Sana can't talk about, then Sana wants you to please let her know... if not, Sana wants you to say that it clearly."

"——There's no one there."

"... He used polite language. He's definitely lying. If there isn't, it should be fine for him to open the door."

Dammit. Kanata is strong...!

"If... your g-girlfriend came, then please say it...?"

There's no way I can say it, right? If I do say it, then she'll ask, what kind of person is she? Let me see, let me in and introduce me——of course it'll become like that.

If I persist and say there isn't, this door won't open. I must defend this with my life.

"There's no such person. I was just rearranging things right now, so it's all messed up and you can't come in."

"... If he's being so stubborn, then there's a high possibility of his girlfriend being someone he can't introduce us to."

Giku.

"Eh? What do you mean by that?"

"... Seiji-kun, indirectly speaking, is taking summer break as a chance to bring elementary school girls to his room——"

"You're wrong!"

"That's right, Kana-chan. No matter how much Nii-san likes flat chests, that's different from lolis."

"Hey. Don't just selfishly call me as part of the flat chest faction."

"... Whether or not there's an elementary school girl, as long as you don't open the door, we won't know."

Dammit. It's sophism, but reasonable. I know it's wrong only because I'm inside.

"... As long as you don't open the door, there are two possibilities exist at the same time... Seiji-kun the lolicon and the Seiji-kun that isn't..."

"Ummm, if I remember correctly... it's Sugar Cat."

"Schrödinger's Cat. What are you doing, turning it into some sort of candy?"

Feeling a gaze, I turn around. Honyuun, honyuun, Hiiragi-chan was fondling her own breasts.

"Seiji-kun... you like flat chests?"

"That's not the case. Don't bite at everything, it'll become confusing."

"... Sa-chan, just now, there was a voice."

"... Yeah...Sana heard it too. ——Nii-san! Why are you hiding!? ... Even if Nii-san is a lolicon... Sana will endure."

What are you enduring? More importantly, that's not right.

"...A person that he is unable to introduce to us, it's decided... If it's not an elementary school girl..."

"If it's not...?"

"... There's a guy."

"If it's a guy, then isn't that fine?"

"... A guy that he can't introduce to us would mean—— Inside that room, roses are currently blooming."

It's not blooming at all. Also, don't use such an easily imaginable word.

"That means...!? ——Nii-san's lover is... a guy? That's why he can't introduce him to Kana-chan and Sana?"

"... it's highly likely."

"No, that's not it."

"Nii-san! Even if Nii-san likes guys, Sana will endure."

"As I was saying, what are you enduring?"

"Come out. Please..."

Sana, I'm sorry, but I can't do that. Even I have things I need to protect.

Since I haven't been paying attention to her, by the time I noticed, Hiiragi-chan has already fallen asleep. Her sleeping face is cute.

"... Sa-chan. Assuming the worst possibility... It can even be both."

"Both?"

"... The possibility that inside the room, there is an elementary school boy..."

"That means... it isn't a loli but a shota...!?"

This is bad. My pervertedness is slowly climbing.

"Before Nii-san becomes a criminal——!"

Don, after hearing a loud noise, the colored boxes moved.

H-hey hey hey, really, Imouto.

"... Sa-chan's, power of love..."

"T-t-that's not true. T-that isn't the case."

Don, another strong shock was applied to the door causing the barricade shook.

This isn't a joke! There's no way I would let her find out! Kuu... Sana's strength is stronger than the strength I put in to hold it back...!? Where was she hiding this ridiculous power?

"Sana, doesn't actually think of Nii-san in anyway, okaaaay?"

Don, the barricade shook again. It's only a matter of time before it's broken. Giving up on the barricade, I wake Hiiragi-chan up.

"A morning kiss..."

"Okay okay. Hold on tightly to the towel blanket. I'll be letting Haruka-san down outside."

"Hoeh?"

Having her wear the sandals, I brought her closer to the window.

"Eh, eeeeehhh!? I-I'm going down from here!? I can't I can't I can't."

"There's no time. Sana and Kanata are almost going to——"

"I-I got it. I'll see you later... Seiji-kun, I love you."

"Me too, Haruka-san."

Hugging each other, we kissed. It felt like a heroine and hero of a Hollywood movie.

While stepping on the windowsill, I slowly let Hiiragi-chan down as she was holding onto the towel blanket. Then, the weight suddenly disappeared, and when I looked down, Hiiragi-chan was waving her hand.

At the same time, baaan, the barricade was kicked apart as Sana and Kanata entered.

"Ah. What...?"

".....Seiji-kun, where's the elementary school girl or boy, or just boyfriend?"

Haah, I breathed a sigh of relief. The two of them probably also saw my sigh.

"I was saying that there was never that sort of person in the first place, right?"

The two of them were trying to search for a person that they thought should be in the room.

"Seee, didn't I tell you. Nii-san doesn't have a girlfriend."

She stuck out her flat chest with a smug face.

"... This is weird..."

Kanata didn't seem to be satisfied as she tilted her head.

"I was rearranging everything, so I gathered all the furniture by the door."

With such a reasonable reason, I was somehow able to succeed in getting away.

"Kana-chan, let's go? Let's go play the one that we just bought?"

".....Yeah."

Kanata, who was sitting on the bed, stood up, and was about to follow Sana out of the room, when she ended up closing the door.

"... The bed. There's the smell of a girl other than Sa-chan. The sheets were also a little bit warm."

Giku.

It's probably because Hiiragi-chan was sleeping there earlier.

"That's my smell. It's a nice smell, right? I was taking a nap until earlier."

"... *If*, you did have a girlfriend, please tell Sa-chan properly, okay?... Sa-chan really likes Onii-chan after all."

Just like how I came out with Natsumi-chan, to do that with Sana as well...? If I did that, would Sana support us just like Natsumi-chan did?

Kana-chan? Sana called for Kanata from her own room with a loud voice.

Kanata lowered her head slightly and exited the room.

Goron, I rolled around in my bed. It's true. It smells nice like Hiiragi-chan.

Kanata seems to suspect that I do have a girlfriend. She probably doesn't know who it is though.

"It somehow all worked out."

I called Hiiragi-chan.

"That's good. I ended up experiencing too many thrilling things. Ahaha.... Sorry for saying something selfish like wanting to go to Seiji-kun's house."

"It's okay. There wasn't actually supposed to be anyone home, so don't worry about it."

After deciding on the next time we meet, we ended the call.

Suun suun, when I sniff it, Hiiragi-chan's smell came from my sheets.

Will I be able to sleep tonight...?

I now kind of understand Hiiragi-chan's feelings when she said that she wanted to bring my towel blanket home with her.

Chapter 74 Deciding Match! Public Pool

"Buuheeyaaaa..."

"Yeah, that's good, you're doing well."

"Fuuhii, fuuiii..."

"You're starting to get better, Haruka-san."

"Fuuuun, hiiin..."

Hiiragi-chan was moving her legs with all her might, causing water to splash upwards. I was in the pool, pulling her along by the hand, while slowly backing up.

"Sei-ji-kun, my legs can't hold up..."

"Don't raise your head. Properly keep it down. Only raise your head to breath."

"I don't waaaant toooo... A strict Seiji-kun is no good..."

There was a reason for me to be teaching Hiiragi-chan swimming in such a Spartan way.

Three days earlier.

"Seiji-kun, let's go to the beach next time, the beach!"

"That's fine, but Haruka-san, you can't swim, right?"

"It's fine if I can't swim. As long as I have a floating ring and goggles, I'll be able to manage."

"That's what you say, but last time at the pool you were drowning after getting swallowed by a wave."

"T-that was an accident..."

"Not knowing how to swim will lead to an accident, so if you want to go, only go after you learn how to swim, okay?"

So I said to Hiiragi-chan who had changed into her dazzling bikini outfit, and was already equipped with her floating ring.

"I'm just going to be floating around so it's fine!"

"Don't underestimate the ocean!"

As such, I decided to teach her how to swim and that's the reason why the two of us here at the public pool today.

We're wearing caps and goggles, so there shouldn't be anyone that would recognize us.

After my recollection had ended, I realized that I couldn't hear the sound of splashing water. Hiiragi-chan, who was wearing a race use swimsuit was just floating there.

"Heeeeey, are you okay!?"

I hurriedly got the goddess out and onto the poolside. While breathing deeply, Hiiragi-chan took off her goggles and spoke.

"As expected, it's impossible... Isn't it fine if I can't swim...?"

Lying down, she got herself rounded and into a fetal position.

"I want to go... I want to hold hands while walking on the sandy beach dyed by the sunset...I want to play around in the ocean water."

Her sense of location is perfect. If it's really just that, then it's fine. I won't refuse to go to the beach. However, it's certainly better to know how to swim to prevent accidents. That's why, I decided that a bit of strict special training was necessary with the time that we had over summer break.

"Only after you learn to swim. If not, I'm not going. If my leg were to get a cramp and I were to start drowning, what would you do, Haruka-san?"

"That's obvious!"

The sight of her panicking and asking her surroundings for help comes to mind.

"I'll die with you!"

"Don't die. Live."

Haah, I sighed.

"If Haruka-san learns how to swim, then you can actually save me, you know?"

The race use swim suit really looked good Hiiragi-chan quite well. However, since she had curves here and there, it looked a bit tight. The area around her chest and her butt looked particularly stiff.

"Uuuuu..."

"Let's take a short break..."

Being too persistent and having her lose motivation wouldn't be good. Deciding that, I went over to the vending machine and bought a sports drink before coming back.

"Onee-san, can you not swim?"

"Ahaha... yeah, that's right."

Hiiragi-chan who was sitting on the bench, was surrounded from some kids (around fifth grade) that seemed to be taking swimming classes.

"The person that was with you was probably teaching you badly."

"Aha... I don't know about that."

"Onee-san, I'll teach you!"

"Thank you."

"Hey, you kids. Do you need something from my girlfriend?"

"Eeh!? This person, you're this old man's girlfriend?"

O-old man...!? But I'm supposed to be in my second year of high school...

"That's gotta be a lie!"

"If that's really the case, then Onee-san is getting tricked by him!"

Ahaha, Hiiragi-chan laughed.

"I'm not being tricked."

"Y-you guys... I'm in my second year of high school, not an old man at all. Moreover, I haven't tricked her at all."

""You're lying!""

"I'm telling you it's not a lie!"

"Stop getting so serious with children, you old man."

"Unsightly!"

"Onee-san, if you're really dating this old man, then you should break up with him."

Saying whatever you guys want...!

Still, calm down, Sanada Seiji. They're only children. A middle-aged man getting seriously mad at them isn't mature at all.

"That old man is bad at teaching, so we'll teach you."

"Stay out of this kids. Quickly get home and have Mama bake you a pie or something."

"You probably have some secret intentions for teaching this Oneesan, right?"

"If you can swim better than us, then I guess it's fine?"

"A competition, a competition!"

——I'll destroy you guys...!

"Just how I want it, come and get it!"

"Seiji-kun, do your best!"

"Yeah!"

"" ... ""

The kids had an interesting expression.

"Hmmm~? Did you guys think that maybe you guys would be the ones who would be encouraged?"

I tried my best to agitate them a bit.

The three people took their kickboards and started to attack me.

"Hey, using weapons is unfair—"

""Shut up, you old man!""

"Who's an old man! Hey! Fine then... bring it on!"

"Then, how about a 3 x 100 meter relay."

They were now selfishly deciding the rules.

That means, I'm going to swim 300 meters by myself...? Okay, fine. Justice overcoming unfair disadvantages is cool after all.

The first kid and I both take our positions.

"Don't complain if I take your self-proclaimed girlfriend, old man."

"Haah? You won't take her though? Rather, it's not self-proclaimed."

"—— Ready, go!"

Pachin, Hiiragi-chan clapped her hands behind us.

At that moment, we jumped. I looked out of the corners of my eyes. His dive was smooth and the form was clean. However, it's not good enough to matter! I don't care if it's not mature, I'll crush it with all my strength. I instantly widen the gap, and did my turn at 100 meters.

"Seiji-kun, you're so fast! Like a penguin!"

Kyah, kyah, I heard Hiiragi-chan cheering with a shrill voice from the poolside.

Isn't there another metaphor you could have picked? Thinking that, I continued to advance through the water.

... Ah. This is bad. I tried too hard at the start. As lactic acid began to build up, my arms and legs became heavier.

When I did my turn at 200 meters, "Just a little bit more! We can catch him!" I heard someone say that.

When I looked back for a moment, I could see that my lead had been cut in half.

I'm going to bet my whole existence on crushing these kids...!
Turning my negative emotions into energy, I raise my speed again.

After finishing my 300 meters, I raise my head and saw that the difference was about 10 meters until the goal.

"Seiji-kun, you're really fast!"

"W-well... yeah..."

While breathing hard, I pull myself onto the poolside.

"Good work ♪"

Hiiragi-chan came over while holding a towel like a manager.

"Old man, you're really fast."

"Right? Rather, stop calling me an old man."

"Can't you hold back a bit, old man."

"I'm telling you, stop calling me that."

"Going hard on a few kids as your opponent."

"You guys were fast too, though?"

Nishishi, laughing like that, the kids went, "See yeah, Onii-san," and left the pool.

"Aaaah, I'm so tired..."

Sitting down next to me, a smile came up on Hiiragi-chan's face.

"Fufufu. That looked really fun, you know? Seiji-kun, you might be the type that children like."

"That isn't true."

"Sometimes, I think about our future. If we had kids, Seiji-kun would probably make a good dad."

"I wonder about that one."

"Let's go back too?"

Hiiragi-chan stood up and walked towards the exit.

"Where are you going? You're training hasn't ended, you know?"

"Giku."

What are you doing, trying to make a good mood and then leaving.

"N-nooooooooo! I hate a strict Seiji-kun!"

"Yes yes, I'll be nice and gentle, okay?"

Pulling along the struggling Hiiragi-chan, we did another two hours of training after that. Thanks to my guidance, and Hiiragi-chan's efforts, she learned how to doggy paddle.

Chapter 75 The Power of an Image Change!

As the most fun and most interesting summer vacation of my left ended, I greeted the second school term. While watching familiar people come into the classroom, an unfamiliar gal-guy suddenly walked in. [1]

"Hey, Sanada, long time—"

"Ummm, who are you?"

"Hey hey, my man, forgetting mah face like that. What do yuh mean by that—"

Saying that, the gal-guy that was apparently my man sat down in Fujimoto's seat.

"That's Fujimoto's seat though. Quite the boring virgin at that."

"Who are you calling a boring virgin?"

"... Huh? Are you Fujimoto?"

"Aren't you way too late in noticing!?"

Hey hey, he said as he gave me a couple hits on my shoulder. He's troublingly excited.

"Boring virgin man, what happened to you? That appearance. Did you get a failed remodeling by some random doctor from who knows where?"

"Who are you calling boring virgin man? It isn't a failure. Rather, it's quite a success. I realized, you see..."

As Fujimoto looked off with far away eyes, he began to talk about something, but since it seems long so I'll omit it.

In short, the idiot Fujimoto decided to make his debut in his second year of high school during the second school term. It's not a second-year debut, or a second school term debut, but rather a late bloomer's debut after half of his high school life has ended.

Combining the fact that he thought of himself as good-looking, with his girlfriendless reality, it seems he decided over the summer break to change himself. He seems to think that this gal-guy look is what is good-looking, but that does not equal a cool and stylish Fujimoto.

I ended up bringing up that conversation with the three people gathered in the home economics room during lunch break.

"Hmmmm. Then, when is Nii-san debuting?"

"Haah? If I had to say, it would be an undebut."

"Sei... Sanada-kun is fine without a debut."

While eating bentous, the debut talk became official.

"... Hiiragi-sensei, when was your debut?"

"Eh? Me... I wonder... I feel like I was always like this."

Aaah. It does feel that way. Sana and Kanata were also able to accept it as they nodded repeatedly.

"Why doesn't Nii-san also try it out? You're probably going to still be dull anyways."

"He'll definitely be cool!"

Hiiragi-chan reacted even faster than me.

Losing to the two's stares, I held myself back and closed my mouth.

Going back to the timeline where the past wasn't altered, my debut was probably during my university time. It wasn't at the level of an image change, or a change in character, but I was more careful about my hairstyle and clothing.

"..... If a person is cool, then people close to them can be proud of them."

"T-that's how it is... Since Nii-san is messy like this, it's hard for Sanna to call him my brother."

"Was I really such an embarrassing existence?"

"I didn't say you were embarrassing! B-but, Nii-san... or, not that. If Sana were to have a cool family member then Sana would be very happy... so Sana was just thinking about that. That's all."

Hiiragi-chan, who was silent during this time, took a glance at me, and after thinking for a bit, she nodded.

"I understand what Sana-chan is trying to say. I don't think Sanada-kun is weird, but being particular about yourself and polishing yourself, really does add a bit to your appeal. It's better, appeal wise."

Seems like Hiiragi-chan wants to convey that I'm already charming enough, but being a little more polished would make her happier. On the other hand, if Hiiragi-chan's hair were to be all messed up while wearing a messed up shirt, her original charm would definitely be overshadowed—

I see, so that's how it is.

"Okay, I get it. I'll do it. I'll also start my debut in the second year of high school during the second school term."

The care that I put in when I entered college, I'll recreate it for you. That would seem to make Hiiragi-chan happier.

After school, I didn't go to the usual salon that I went to, but rather I brought my feet to a more fashionable one located within the city. It was a store with glass windows that would allow you to look inside, and it seems a bit more expensive than one that you would normally go to.

Browsing the magazine to find a good style, I tell the hairdresser "Something like this," and ask for a similar cut.

This would be the second time that I would be polishing myself, so it's not like I felt embarrassed or anything. I know what suits me.

Since I know how I polished myself in the modern times, I decided to go with something like that.

When I returned home, my mother was the first to speak to me with a suspicious look, "What happened to you?"

At the dinner table when Sana saw my face, she hid behind something.

"W-who...?"

"I haven't changed that much, have I?"

"If it's Nii-san... he should be more unfashionable, you are, a person I don't know..."

My change was enough to activate her shyness. I just picked something refreshing short hairstyle from the magazine, it shouldn't have been such a big change though.

"O-Okaa-san!? N-nii-san turned into an unknown person!"

"You already know who I am don't you?"

Still, if Sana is reacting like this, then my debut should be a success.

The next day, on the way to school, quite a few gazes gathered on me.

"The gazes towards upgraded Nii-san are quite amazing... especially from the girls."

"I don't feel the gazes of girls, at least not to the point that you are talking about."

"They're secretly glancing at you. Nii-san is insensitive..."

As expected, the version upgrade seems to have a considerable effect. I'm really looking forward to meeting with Hiiragi-chan.

"Sana should never have pushed for a debut..."

"W-why is that?"

"N-nnn-nothing! It has nothing to do with Nii-san!"

Looking away from me, Sana ran off towards her own shoe locker.

While tilting my head to Sana's reaction, I entered the classroom and the reaction was remarkable. Especially the from the girls.

The conversation topics about Fujimoto's debut from yesterday, moved to my one-day image change. The girls were making a fuss, similar to how boys would be during Valentine's Day.

Even when I distributed the homeroom printout to the girl behind me, she responded with a "T-thank you..." her face red face while looking down. Until yesterday, she had never even spoken a word of thanks.

Once break started, the girls from the class next door casually came over to peak through the door. It felt as if a beautiful girl had transferred into the protagonist's school.

"Sanada... you... you're standing out more than meeeeeeeeeee!"

The boring gal-guy next to my finally snapped.

Once it became time for first period, the teacher in charge came in.

"Alright, everyone take your seats. World history class... will... now be—gin..."

Taking a glance at me, Hiiragi-chan was surprised before taking another three glances.

"Sa-Sanada-kun... D-did something happen?"

Hiiragi-chan, who was looking at me, started turning shy. The effect of this polishing can't be underestimated. Hiiragi-chan was one who even pushed for this. It seems that my second school term debut has surpassed her expectations.

"No, it's nothing... just a little bit of a second school term debut."

"I-is that so...?"

The girls started to tease the shy Hiiragi-chan.

"Even Sensei is curious?"

"An existence is that even an adult female is interested in? Sanada-kun is kind of amazing."

"He looks kind of like that young actor..."

"I mean, there were about 20 girls that came to look after homeroom had ended..."

"People who move fast might even try to appeal after school."

Listening to the girls' evaluation, Hiiragi-chan's expression stiffened.

"T-today is s-self-study... S-sensei will be doing various things in the reference room."

Taking one last backwards glance at me, Hiiragi-chan walked out while carrying the attendance sheet and a textbook.

Going to the reference room... does that mean she wants me to go as well...

"Why is it all Sanada!?"

Baan, while hitting his desk Fujimoto began to cry.

"Hey hey, gal-guy man, calm down. Wipe your tears."

"Who's a gal-guy man!? My stomach is gonna hurt! You're making me look stuck up."

"Your character was quite outstanding. Don't complain to me just because you didn't stand out that much on the second day."

"Dammit! I can't say anything back...!"

Leaving aside the seriously crying gal-guy man, I stood up from my seat in order to go to the restroom. Making a slight detour, I arrived at the world history reference room. Then, after confirming that no one was around, I headed inside.

"Haruka-san, having a self-study so early in the second school term, is that okay?"

Hiiragi-chan was hiding behind things on the desk, while secretly peeking at me.

"... Seiji-kun, is fine, right?"

"Yeah. It's the Sanada that Haruka-san knows very well. Rather, I haven't changed enough for you to say that, have I?"

"Y-you did change! You became super cool! Didn't the girls from class also say it!?"

"Success in that part is good though, I thought."

"I-it's not good!"

"Why!?"

"I'm all for it if Seiji-kun becomes cooler, but I'm super against you getting more popular with the girls at school!!"

It was a loud voice that seemed like you would be able to hear it around the world.

Mou, Hiiragi-chan pouted.

"Certainly, I did say you could be more charming, but there's a limit. Didn't you become cooler than any other high school student?"

"Even if you make that claim... it was only a slight change in hairstyle. You're exaggerating."

"The feeling of confidence that's overflowing is amazing! There are like pheromones coming out!"

"R-really...?"

"That's right. It's unfair... For me, even now, meeting your eyes is a little embarrassing..."

Yeah. She hasn't been meeting my eyes at all for a while now.

Approaching her, I grab Hiiragi-chan and force her to look at me.

"... N-nooo..."

Her face shone and turned bright red.

"I'm normally worried already... so it's now even more worrying... a bunch of girls will probably end up liking Seiji-kun..."

Ah, I see. Since I have Hiiragi-chan, it's fine to not become popular. I tried going along with Hiiragi-chan and Sana by changing my hairstyle, but since they now know how it could be now, it should be fine to say that they're satisfied.

"Alright, I'll stop it."

I can't do anything about the hair that was cut, but if I just wash out the wax that is in my hair, the impression should revert back to the original.

"Yeah. Sorry, I went back on it even though I told you to do it."

"No. It's fine. I'm happy to get Haruka-san to compliment me by calling me cool."

"M-mouuu... Seiji-kun... I love you ♡"

I accepted a hug from Hiiragi-chan.

"I've always, always understood this from before. Seiji-kun is cool."

It's the usual foolish girlfriend, Hiiragi-chan.

After that, I went to the restroom and washed out my hair, returning it to the way it was before. Once I did that, I greeted the end of my popular period which disappeared instantly after just two hours.

TN:

1. Male version of a gal (or gyaru, however you would like to call it) character.

Chapter 76 Yukiko-san

On Sunday, I went to Hiiragi-chan's place. Because she was somehow ended up involved in a fall school event, she had a lot of work piled up and was even busy on Saturday. Anyways, today we'll probably just spend our time at her place until the day ends. While imagining expecting a home date like that, I rang the doorbell at Hiiragi-chan's place.

"Coming."

The person that came to open the door was an Onee-san with short hair. She had on glasses with thin black frames. Her appearance was a bit rough as she was wearing jeans and a t-shirt. She looked to be in the latter half of her twenties, so she should be about the same age as I actually was.

W-who is this...? Hiiragi-chan's friend...?

"Ummm, is Hiiragi Haruka-san not here... right now...?"

"Eh?Ah~"

The Onee-san continued to stare at me as she loosened her mouth. The feelings that I get from her eyes and her lips are similar to Hiiragi-chan. Ah. Maybe it's her sister?

"Ummmm, I'm Haruka's older sister... Yukiko. Come in, come in. Haruka-chan seems to have just gone out for a bit."

"Eh. But if she isn't here, I'll just go home..."

"It's fine, it's fine. Come on, hurry up."

Yukiko-san pulled my arm slightly forcibly, and so I ended up entering Hiiragi-chan's place. Maybe, she's heard about me from Natsumi-

chan or Hiiragi Papa. If that's the case, it wouldn't be a surprise for her to have an interest in me.

In order to gain another ally, I need to make sure to appeal to her. I'm seriously and sincerely, in a platonic relationship while dating Hiiiragi-chan. Kissing is very frequent though.

"Why don't you have a seat? I think Hiiragi-chan should be coming home soon."

"Ah. Okay... then, sorry for the intrusion."

Yukiko-san, who was sitting across from me, looked at me while smiling. She still didn't ask me anything yet, and continued to smile, making it impossible to read what she was thinking.

"Haruka-chan's boyfriend, right?"

I've already told Natsumi-chan, so there should be no problem in letting her know.

"Yes. My name is Sanada Seiji. I'm currently a high school student, and I'm also a student from Haruka-san's school, but we are currently seriously dating each other."

I start by answering in a similar manner as I would a job interview. Such a greeting, probably isn't possible from a normal high school student.

"I just have a small question. You're still a high school student, so how did you come to like Haruka-chan?"

"That... it has nothing to do with her being a teacher or anything like that... I do think her looks and her personality are quite cute though—"

"Gufuu, geho geho."

Yukiko-san choked after hearing my super straightforward answer. Maybe it was because of her cough, or maybe for some other reason, her face was red.

"I-I see... Ah, yeah, continue, continue?"

"Since she's older than me, and a teacher, I would've thought that she would have a good grasp of things, but she's sometimes a little bit out there, and somewhat airheaded."

"Airheaded...? Really?"

It seems she's unable to accept that. I don't know how Hiiragi-chan is as a little sister, but from Yukiko-san's point of view, my evaluation probably seemed off.

"Being older, but careless, sometimes even breaking down a bit makes her even cuter..."

I also started to get embarrassed at this point.

"Gufuu..."

Yukiko-san crouched over.

"A-are you okay?"

"C-c-continue..."

"Also... she tends to act as an older person, and likes to pamper me, she's also good at housework and cooking, her skin is also quite fair and beautiful..."

"M-mou, I can't stand listening to this..."

Standing up from the sofa, Yukiko-san said, "I'll go look for Haruka-chan!", and left the living room.

Hmmm... I guess I was boasting too much. However, she should know that I really do love Hiiragi-chan now. About five minutes later, Hiiragi-chan came into the living room.

"Ah, Seiji-kun, welcome."

"Yeah, sorry for the intrusion."

Hiiragi-chan was fanning her face with her hand.

"You're older sister was here earlier, she just said that she went out to go look for you. I guess you guys missed each other."

"Yeah, probably. I guess we missed each other."

Sitting next to me, she wrapped her arms around my neck and went into flirting mode.

"W-w-wait..."

"Mou, don't run away ♡"

"W-we don't know when your sister will come back..."

"Just a little bit is fine."

I wonder if she locked the door or anything like that.

While tilting my head, I finally went with the flow, hugged Hiiragi-chan back and gave her a kiss. If she were to just tell her that they missed each other using her cellphone, her sister would probably immediately comeback.

"Ah, maybe—?"

Between our lips, I stuck out my hand and accepted Hiiragi-chan's kiss with my hand.

"Fumyuu!? W-what...?"

"Are you on bad terms with your sister?"

"T-that's not true!"

"Maybe you thought that her coming here was quite troublesome. You aren't contacting her at all, nor are you going to go look for her after all."

"That's not the case at all! ... Onee-chan will probably come back soon."

"Really?"

"I'll, go to the bathroom for a bit..."

At that time, I noticed something off about Hiiragi-chan's butt.

... However, it could just be me?

After that, Yukiko-san quickly came back?

"Did Haruka-chan come back?"

"Yeah. She just went to the restroom."

I see I see, Yukiko-san looked at me happily.

"What should I ask about now? ... How about... is there anything you don't like about her? It's already been a while since you've started dating, right?"

While diverting her eyes from me, she crossed her legs. Her gestures being quite refined is also something that Natsumi-chan and Hiiragi-chan have.

"Parts I don't like... When she flips the switch, she'll lose sight of her surroundings and continue to run off."

"Eh? That's not..."

"That's not... what?"

"Nothing, c-continue?"

Yukiko-san covered up her panic with a smile.

"Also..."

"T-there's more...!?"

Even though she was the one who asked, Yukiko-san for some reason seemed to not like it. The eyes behind her glasses looked anxious as her mouth was shaped into a frown.

"Her chest often ends up touching me. Especially when she clings to me."

"You, don't like that?"

"I don't not like it. But I sometimes wonder why she wants that to happen..."

"It's because your embarrassed reactions are cute, so I sometimes just ends up doing it... or so she said."

"Is that so...? Still, Haruka-san is taking quite a while in the bathroom."

"T-that's true. I'll go check up on her."

Yukiko-san stood up and left the living room. Her butt came into view.

... Ah. It was just as I thought.

Hearing me stand up from my seat, Yukiko turned around.

"Eeeh!? W-where are you going...?"

"Nothing, I'm just going to go to the bathroom as well."

"J-just sit down. Haruka-chan is going to come back soon."

"And then? This time it's *Yukiko-san* that'll disappear?"

"..."

I hugged Yukiko-san, who was trying to run away, from behind and caught her.

"Uuuu... L-let go."

"It shouldn't be let go, right? Haruka-san."

"... H-how did you know?"

Yukiko-san turned around.

Taking off her glasses, I put it on myself. They were fake glasses.

"Which means, the hair..."

"This is, well... a wig..."

Haruka-chan took it off, and her own hair overflowed.

"When did you find out?"

"The shape of your jean pockets. The ones that Yukiko-san wore were the same as the one's Haruka-san wore. At first, I thought it might be a coincidence, but then I thought that for it to be dirtied in the same place was a little weird."

"Sorry. I just bought some new disguising tools, so I wanted to try them out... In the beginning, I just wanted to open the door and surprise you, but then, Seiji-kun, you didn't notice at all, so I just kept going with it."

Looking in the bathroom, I saw Hiiragi-chan's t-shirt that she had taken off.

"And so, you ended up asking questions that would normally be hard to ask."

"Yeah... sorry, I didn't mean to trick you."

I once again put the fake glasses on Hiiragi-chan.

"How is it? Do the glasses look good?"

"Your teacher-like feel increased."

"Muuu~ What do you mean by teacher-like? I'm an actual teacher."

After sulking a little bit jokingly, she laughed.

"Seiji-kun, you don't like it when my breasts touch you?"

While saying that, she had her breasts touch me. This person is a bad woman.

"It's not that I don't like it... Rather it's the reaction that is troubling... the fact that they touch is something... I like..."

While grinning, Hiiragi-chan's smile showed her full intent to tease me.

"It's a win-win relationship, so isn't it fine? Seiji-kun who's happy with them touching, and me wanting to see your cute reaction. You see, isn't it good?"

When she puts on her glasses, she looks like that, but her devilishness seems to increase.

"Just do what you want."

Ahaha, Hiiragi-chan laughed happily.

"How much Seiji-kun loves me, I now know veeery well. Sensei, can definitely work hard at work tomorrow. Thank you ♪"

Hiiragi-chan gave me a kiss on the cheek. When she wears glasses, it seems that she becomes a devilish and sexy woman.

Chapter 77 W Seiji

"Seiji-kun, you can't do that, you can't shake your hips like that over there? That's a pillar you know?"

.....

"Aaahh mou, Seij-kun, are you listening? Before you eat, you should——Fugyaaaah!? You can't pee over theeeeerrreeee!"

After looking at Hiiragi-chan, who was in a huge panic, from the corner of my eyes, I once again returned to watching the television

The dog that she was taking care of seems to have the name, Seiji, and to go along with it she called it with kun. [1] Since it's really confusing, I'd really like her to stop calling it Seiji-kun...

Seiji is a male miniature dachshund. As far as outer appearances, it's cute.

"Who exactly is the one that owns it? That dog that is."

When I came over during the weekend, the dog was sitting in a fixed position on the sofa that I normally sit at. Hiiragi-chan struggling alone with it.

"Joujima-sensei, she begged me to leave it in my care for a day... I can't keep it as a pet, but if it was for just one day, I thought it would be fine, so I said okay."

Contrary to her thoughts, Seiji was quite a struggle.

"Keeping a dog is really tough..."

"Did you not have a pet at home?"

"We did have a pet, but it was all cared for by helpers... All I did was take it on a walk every once in a while."

The Sanada family didn't keep any pets. We like dogs, but taking care of it would be quite a lot of work, so we didn't get one. When she was small, Sana had cried and complained about it just once, but we still didn't get one.

While Hiiragi-chan was looking away, Seiji took his chance and started eating the food in the container that she held.

"Aaaaaaah! I was told to not give it unless he properly did a handshake though! Mouu, Seiji-kun."

"What?"

"This one over here!"

"It's confusing."

Seiji on the other hand, looked like he was in a good mood, shaking his tail while eating dog food. Looking at just this appearance, it could be considered quite lovely. However, that was different for the caretaker's side. For Hiiragi-chan, it had only started Saturday morning, but she was already completely drained.

"Seiji-kun doesn't listen to anything I say..."

"It's confusing so can you stop adding on kun?"

But, my future plans for happiness included getting at least one dog.

... Hiiragi-chan, maybe she's more of a cat person, rather than a dog person?

While depressed, Hiiragi-chan wiped the floor with a rag.

"Haruka-san, do you perhaps not like dogs?"

"I'm a cat person."

I like both of them, but if I had to choose, it would have to be a dog.

"Then, if we were to get a pet in the future?"

"A cat, it has to be a cat!"

She seems to have been left with quite a scar after this case. Her push for cats is quite strong. I want to get a dog. So, I need to make sure to convert her somehow. At least to the point where she would consider a dog, that would make me happy.

"First, the good part about dogs is that you can teach them a lot of tricks. ——hand."

Fui, he looked at me, stuck out his short leg, and placed it on my hand.

... it's cute.

"Ah. When I was entrusted with him, I was also given a lot of toys. Here."

Hiiragi-chan brought out a ball that contained a bell within it.

"Ei!"

After throwing it, a ringing sound rang out, and Seiji reacted by jumping out. He then returned to Hiiragi-chan with the ball.

"Ah... Thank you."

"You just thought he was a little bit cute, didn't you?"

"Uuu... I-if you use a cat toy, you can also play with them."

"But, if they're not interested, they'll act annoyed and just walk away."

I haven't had a cat before, but I just have that sort of image. I often hear that they're tsundere like. On the other hand, dogs are completely deredere. [2]

I see... Hiiragi-chan is like a dog. Her personality that is. When she's with me, her excitement is always like, play with me, play with me, or pay attention to me, pay attention to me.

"I'm going to go do a bit of cleaning and laundry. Seiji-kun please take care of him."

"..."

"Seiji-kun?"

"Ah, you mean me."

That's why I said it was confusing.

I was handed the ball and made to play with Seiji for a bit. Seems like he's been disciplined to some extent as you can tell him to do a handshake, sit, and lie down. For Hiiragi-chan and I, I want to make her think that dogs might be good too.

"Haruka-san, want to go on a walk together?"

As I was putting on the collar, Hiiragi-chan said, "Give me a moment," before coming back dressed as Yukiko-san like before.

"Like this, no one would recognize me, right?"

"That's right, you originally bought it as a disguise."

While holding hands, the two of us and the dog left the house.

The appearance of it walking with its short legs was cute incarnate.

"See. It might take a lot of care, but it's cute, right?"

"Maybe?"

Before I came, it seems that she had suffered a lot, building up a lot of negative points for it.

"Wan wan!"

Suddenly barking, Seiji started running and pulled me along.

"Hey hey, where are you going?"

He ended up running and finally arrived in front of a vending machine.

"Wan!"

"Heh!? A dog!? W-what!?"

It looked like Sana was just about to buy a drink from the machine.

"Ah, Nii-san! What are you doing?"

"As you can see, walking a dog."

"Whose dog is it?"

"Ah... Ummm... It's the Yukiko-san's dog. I just got to know her."

While I was pointing with my index finger, Hiiragi-chan finally arrived after chasing with a ragged breath.

"Who's that...?"

"She's an office lady, normally she works at a manufacturing company."

I randomly picked a suitable setting for Yukiko-san.

Hah hah hah, with rough breathing, Seiji moved towards Sana's legs and started shaking his hip side to side.

"Wa-wait! Nii-san, what's it doing~!?"

"What are you doing getting heated over my little sister, you dog?"

I held on tight to the leash and pulled back, preventing him from moving another step. Power from sexual desire really can't be underestimated. Hugging him from behind, I was finally able to get him away from Sana.

"Garurururu."

He's really glaring at me.

Hiiragi-chan scolded him over what just happened.

"Seiji-kun? You can't shake your hips like that, okay? You did that multiple times this morning too."

Heeeeeeey! Don't call it by that name!

"Nii-san, you idiot! What were you doing shaking your hips in the morning!? You did that multiple times!?"

"Sana, it's not about me, it's the dog—"

"Be quiet! Perverted Nii-san that likes middle-aged woman! You're the lowest! Congrats on graduating from being a virgin!"

The canned drink that she just bought came flying at my face and landed a critical hit.

"Ouch!? What are you doing, listen to what other people are saying—"

"You were doing lewd things with the office lady since this morning, right!? I don't want to know any more!"

Sana ran off and left.

... Uwaaah. It's going to be hard going home...

I let down Seiji and sent Sana a follow up text as Hiiragi-chan became depressed.

"M-middle aged... D-do I really look that much older with this disguise..."

For a first-year high schooler, a woman in her twenties would probably be considered middle-aged. If I say that, she'll probably receive even more of a shock.

"If your age looks older than Hiiragi Haruka while wearing your disguise, then it's a huge success!"

"T-that's true...!"

Then, I remembered what we were talking about before. I handed Hiiragi-chan the leash and had her walk the dog.

"Well?"

"... I guess, I can kind of understand what Seiji-kun wants to say...?"

"Isn't it cute? The appearance of it waving its tail while walking."

"Y-yeah..."

It seems there's still hope for her to become a dog person.

"Well, if I had to choose it would be a dog, but I also like cats, so no matter what pet we get it's okay."

"That's true, but..."

Hiiragi-chan's answer wasn't clear-cut.

"Is something wrong?"

While looking down and fidgeting, she said something at a volume that I couldn't hear.

"Eh, what?"

」

"Ummm... Getting a dog or a cat... T-that's for after we get married or after we start living together I believe."

Saying that, this time, it was Hiiragi-chan that ran off.

"I guess it's still too early to talk about that..."

"Wau."

Seiji barked from my feet.

When I returned to Hiiragi-chan's place, she was already back.

"... Going on a walk together, we were able to get closer, and I thought it was very nice. I also got to understand a dog's cuteness."

Hiiragi-chan's thinking seems to have turned positive now.

"H-however, it's still too early for us to decide what pet to get, okay? We should only think about it after we get married or are living together... If we decide now... I can't help but have delusions about what would happen in two years, five years, or even ten years from now. I look forward to it so much that I end up being unable to feel with my hands..."

Seeing her say that while embarrassed, even I gave in. I once again was made to believe that Hiiragi-chan is the cutest.

TN:

1. When Sanada refers to the dog he it's written in katakana, while for Hiiragi-chan, she refers to the dog with the kanji, just like how Sanada's name is usually called.
2. Just in case, I'll leave this year, but tsundere, would be acts coldly even though they like you. Deredere would be all kind and caring.

Chapter 78 A Clean Slate - First Part

"Nii-san...? W-who was that person?"

Sunday night, once I returned home, Sana quickly showed up in my room. She probably wanted to ask about Yukiko-san, who she encountered on her walk.

"It's just a person I meet once in a while. Her dog is called Seiji, and so we ended up getting to know each other a bit more."

I once again told her the story that I made up in advance.

"Is that so... then it's fine, but... w-when you say close... close enough to do lewd things...?"

Stop asking if you're just going to turn red. Even I'm getting a little embarrassed now.

"Didn't I explain to you by text that that was a mistake?"

"... R-really?"

"Really, it's true. What's with you, after I come back, you're just asking the same thing over and over again..."

Seeing me shake my head back and forth, Sana began to shake as well.

"S-Sana doesn't care about anything when it comes to Nii-san!"

Sana threw a cushion at my face.

"Puhah!?"

Gon, with an excessive amount of momentum, I hit the back of my head on something. My eyesight turned black. It seems I've fainted.

◆Sanada Seiji◆

"Nii-san...? A-are you okay? T-that was a pretty loud sound..."

I woke up to my body being shaken. In front of me, was a beautiful girl with long black hair, looking at me worriedly.

"Ah, you woke up. T-that really surprised me."

"Ummm... Can I ask who you are?"

"What are you saying? Stop it with that. You're just joking, right? Sana won't bite on that one."

I look around the area, unable to recognize anything.

"Is your name Sana-san?"

"..... Nii-san?"

Since she looks at me and calls me Nii-san, I guess this girl is my little sister.

"Such a beautiful girl, is my little sister...?"

Sana-san's face turned red.

"B-b-beautiful... E-even if you say something like that, Sana won't be happy."

She looks really happy.

"Nii-san, what happened? Your name? What's your name?"

"My name... Hmmm?"

I don't know it at all. Who am I? What am I? Moratorium... [1]

"You don't even know that? M-memory loss..."

"Ah. That might be what happened."

"Fueeeeeeeeeeeeeeeh!? I-is it because of Sana!? B-but, if it's Nii-san that's been wiped clean, maybe Sana can be more honest..."

She's fidgeting and saying something. According to Sana-san, my name is Sanada Seiji. This place seems to be my room at home.

Sanada Seiji... Sanada Seiji... I feel like I've heard it before, or maybe not...

"A-and also. This next part is the most important. Nii-san is a helpless siscon older brother that loves Sana."

"Eeeh. Really? What was I doing? You certainly are beautiful though."

"M-moouuuuu, don't call Sana beautiful! I'll end up going crazy."

That's she says, but I was just saying what was on my mind.

"A-also... It's a secret, but we are blood-related siblings... and we're lovers..."

No way, that...

Kaaaa, Sana-san's face turned red.

"... Eh, for real?"

"F-for real."

I liked my little sister...!? I guess it couldn't be helped that I was called a siscon older brother though

"T-this is something no one, and of course not even Tou-san or Kaa-san know. No one other than us knows about this. That's why you shouldn't tell anyone else, okay? Do you understand?"

"Y-yeah. Well of course, if it was found out it would be terrible..."

"T-then, that's that!"

Then, Sana-san left my room.

I apparently go to school at the nearby Hasumori high school, and am currently in my second year. So the next morning, I was woken up by someone who seemed to be my mother, and went to school with Sana. Just like I was told, I sat down in what seemed to be my seat within the class B of the second year. Looking at my notebook, I saw various notes taken down.

After seriously taking a few different classes, it became time for world history class. It was taught by a young female teacher. She had a cute looking face, and her movements and gestures seemed refined. She was a bright person that looked good in a ponytail. Our eyes ended up meeting a few times, during which, my heart would start to beat faster.

What is this...? It's almost as if I can remember something...

The students call her Hiiragi-chan.

While holding a textbook, she did her explanation, and seemingly threaded her way through the seats towards me. Then, she crouched down, and picked up something near her feet.

"You dropped your eraser."

"This isn't mine though?"

"Eh!? Eh, what? No, I mean... I mean..."

While holding a new eraser in hand, Hiiragi-chan-sensei seemed to be at wit's end.

I don't recognize it. Is it really mine? I accepted the eraser while tilting my head. Sensei seemed relieved as she patted her chest.

There's something in the case...? A folded note came out with something written on it.

[For today's lunch break, I'll be waiting in the world history reference room ♪]

Wha.

What is thiiiiisssssss!?

Waiting. Who is she waiting for?

Trying to confirm it, I move my eyes towards Hiiragi-chan-sensei and see her wink back twice. Which means, that message was for me.

The reference room, am I supposed to help out with preparing for class...? No, but, if it was that, she could just ask me normally. The complicated manner in which she did this, the reference room where no one would be, and calling me out during lunch break...

—This, isn't it as if I was being confessed to!?

"Uwah. What should I do?"

"What do you mean, *what should I do?*"

Fujimoto, who was sitting next to me, called out to me.

"N-no, it's nothing."

Hmmm? Fujimoto...? I still remember Fujimoto. I forgot everything important, but I guess things or people that are not important, I still remember.

What am I going to do if I really am being confessed to? N-no, if you think about it normally, there's no way... There's no way a teacher

would come to like a student. It feels like something that happens in pop culture. It's a needless fear.

After the last class of the morning ended, Hiiragi-chan-sensei left the classroom. In the end, I'll probably be made to help out with something troublesome.

Kon kon, once I knocked on the door of the reference room, it opened.

"Come in, come in."

After urging me in, she immediately closed the door and she even locked it. W-what is she planning on doing...!?

"Seiji-kun? Troubling Sensei like that isn't very admirable, you know?"

Hmm? Her tone is different from before. I became like that of a girl my age.

"Refusing my eraser message. It really surprised me, you know?"

"Ah. About that, sorry... I didn't know that it was a message from Sensei..."

"Mou. When we're alone it's not Sensei, but Haruka-san, right?"

"Haruka-san!? Why with the first name...?"

"Why, well... it's because we're dating, right?"

Heeh. So Hiiragi-chan-sensei and I were dating.

"Dating!? But we're student and teacher!?"

"What's wrong, Seiji-kun? You're a little bit weird today."

While secretly dating my little sister, I'm also dating my teacher...!? Two-timing!? What was I doing? Moreover, both are people I really shouldn't be dating.

I explained to Sensei, that I had lost my memory.

"Eh... But... What about the memories of Seiji-kun and I dating for the past few months?"

"For a few months!? It's continued for quite a while!?"

"Polite speech is forbidden! It makes me feel distant... so can you stop..."

Seeing Sensei look at me with a painful expression, my chest also began to hurt. Why?

"We kissed a loooooooooot, you know? At school, at home, and other places."

"Sorry... I don't remember..."

"Uuu, polite speech... If that's the case..."

Sensei wrapped her arms around my head.

"Eh? Wait, what are you doing?"

"I'll make you remember how much I love Seiji-kun!"

Stretching forward, Sensei kissed my lips.

"Nuah!? What is it, all of a sudden!?"

"Umumu... Just this much, isn't enough. Ah, that's right. Do you want to see my panties!?"

"I don't want to see them! Are you a pervert, Sensei!? What are you suggesting...?"

"Your retorts are polite... but your snapbacks are strong."

"Please don't do some weird analysis."

"Seiji-kun, you said before that you wanted these panties, so I thought that you might remember if you saw them."

I wanted them!? Sensei's panties!? I'm the one who's a pervert theeeeen!

While looking over my reaction, Sensei started to lift her knee-length skirt.

Gokuri.

"As I thought, you do want to see!"

"Y-y-you're wrong."

"You were staring weren't you? You can't help but look, right? It's fine, it's okay. I've even let you touch my breasts before."

Fuaaaaaaaaaah!? I never thought that I would regret this much not having my memories!

Fugu, nuuu Focus my energy into my hands, at least the feeling... maybe I can remember it... Do your best... my ulterior motives!

"What are you doing, Seiji-kun?"

"No, it's nothing. I can't... I can't remember at all..."

"But, if I don't make you remember, I don't like it... We were completely a couple in love... It makes me sad."

Looking at Sensei's sad face, I once again felt pain run through me. Before I lost my memory, I liked Sensei, right? I didn't feel anything special when I was with Sana-san like when I'm with Sensei. I don't want to see Sensei's sad face. But, the reason is because of me...

"We'll running out of time, so why don't we eat?"

Sitting down on a picnic sheet, she patted her lap.

"Come over here? Or maybe since you don't have your memories, you won't want to...?"

"... Excuse me."

It seems to be true that we were dating.

After lying down and placing my head on Sensei's lap, I don't know the reason for it, but I felt at ease.

Aaahn, she started feeding me food.

"Ah. The karaage, it's really good."

"Right? I put a lot of effort into it today."

I understood after having my head petted while being fed lunch. We were probably dating, there's no doubt about it.

"You know? Last night, I made a special marinade and soaked the meat. I was so excited thinking about how happy you would be, Seiji-kun."

Sensei, really does love me. And, I don't have any proof, but Sanada Seiji probably also liked Hiiragi Haruka-san.

"Does it seem like you're going to remember?"


"Not at all."

"Mouuu! Until you remember I'm going to keep kissing you!"

"Wah, wait, stop it please—"

Sensei laughed, and I did too.

Regardless of whether I have my memories, I love Sensei.



TN:

1. This was written in katakana. I believe it's referring to him like being completely blank when it comes to his name, as that kind of makes sense in this context. I'm not too sure though.

Chapter 79 A Clean Slate — Second Part

It seems that I was a part of the home economics club, which was similar to the going home club. So after school, just as I was told by Sana-san, I went to the home economics room and waited. The me before I lost my memory, supposedly had a secret relationship with my little sister.

"What should I do...?"

"... Is something wrong?"

I heard a quiet monotonous voice come from Kanata.

As I thought, there are people that I do remember, and people that I don't remember. The placement of my seat in the classroom, the location of my shoe locker, and the location of the biology classroom, I unexpectedly remember all of that. My family or lovers, the more important they are, anything about our relationships, or the memories I've had with them are all gone.

Kanata sat in the seat across from me, and started up a cellphone game.

"... Ever since lunch, Sa-chan has been in a good mood. It's unusual..."

"Eh? Really?"

"... Yeah. I don't know why though."

Sana-san said that our relationship was a secret and not to tell anyone else. She probably didn't tell Kanata about it either. My relationship with Sensei is of course, also a secret.

Who can I ask for help...?

"Kanata, are you attracted at all by a forbidden romance?"

"... I don't have much interest in romance, so... sorry."

"It's okay... For example, if a little sister were to truly love her older brother, what should the older brother do?"

"Eh? Did Sa-chan say something to you?"

"Eh. Wait, what do you mean by something?"

".....It's nothing... As I said before, if you do end up liking a person of the opposite gender, make sure you properly make your rejection. Grinding it into pieces is what I believe to be an older brother's kindness."

After glancing at me, she once again returned her eyes to the screen that was in her hand.

She told me that before...?

"Ah. Nii-san, you're already here!"

"Ah, Sana-san."

"... Sana-san?"

Kanata furrowed her eyebrows.

"Let's go home. Let's play games in Sana's room today!"

"No, I still have something like a previous arrangement, so..."

"... Polite speech?"

Sana-san was pulling my arm to get me to stand. And at the same time, Kanata was pulling from the opposite side.

"Kana-chan?"

"... Seiji-kun, is kind of weird. Does it have anything to do with Sa-chan's good mood?"

"T-there's no way that's the case. It has nothing, absolutely nothing to do with Nii-san."

"... So, it does."

"Giku."

While shrugging her head, Sana-san gave up and sat down in a chair. Then, she told Kanata about the incident that happened to me yesterday.

"... I see. Then, polite speech and Sana-san.....Did you indoctrinate this pure Seiji-kun with something strange?"

"I-I didn't indoctrinate him with anything! M-more importantly, what do you mean by strange?"

"...Taking advantage of his memory loss, telling him something like you guys are actually dating, for instance..."

"Gikuun!"

Sana-san was easy to read as she turned rigid.

Indoctrinate? Dating? And, gikuun? Which means...?

"... Sa-chan, you can't lie... I do understand a little bit your feelings of wanting to be lovey-dovey with your beloved brother though."

"I don't want to be lovey-dovey with Nii-san! Why would Sana want to with Nii-san..."

"Which means that yesterday, the things she said were lies?"

Sana-san's expression contorted into bitterness.

"Sorry. Yesterday, that was a lie. I just wanted to tease you a bit. Nii-san easily believed me after all. It even surprised me. T-there's no way that would happen, right...?"

In conclusion, my little sister and I were not dating. That's a relief... I'm not actually two-timing.

Sana-san ran off and left the home economics room. I could see that her cheeks were wet. Maybe—she actually did like me—

As I was going to chase after her, Kanata shook her head.

"... You can't. Seiji-kun, you definitely can't go and comfort her."

"Why? It seems like I'm the reason for it after all, I can at least talk to her..."

"... You can't. If Seiji-kun has someone he likes... if you have a girlfriend, then it's even more so that you shouldn't chase after her."

Ugeh!? Does she know about my relationship with Sensei?

"I-I wonder what you mean by girlfriend..."

"... You're too shaken... I don't know the details, but I at least understand that you have a girlfriend."

Which means that she doesn't know that it's Sensei. That's a relief...

"... Sa-chan always plays the bad person. Even though she purely just likes you."

"If I do have someone I like, I... Sanada Seiji wouldn't be able to see her in that way."

I probably didn't even notice.

"... Yeah. That's truly how it is. However, Sa-chan is also in the wrong... Most likely, Sa-chan already understands, but she keeps taking it as you being dense and not being able to admit it, and her wounds just keep getting larger... Anyways, leave Sa-chan to me."

Grabbing her bag, Kanata left the home economics room.

"... Human relationships are quite a lot of work."

She muttered that at the very end.

Now that I think about it some more, my cellphone is full of texts from *Hiiragi Haruka*, even sent texts are the same. I thought that maybe because we lived in the same house, there was no need to contact each other in that way, but we're not dating nor are we lovers. I can accept that.

"Hmmm? Sanada-kun, your alone? There was supposed to be club activities today though..."

Sensei came in with a blank face. Just seeing her makes me happy. In reality, Sanada Seiji likes this teacher. Me too though.

"There were various things, and it seems they went home."

"I see, I see. I'll almost be done with work, so do you want to eat dinner together?"

"Eh. Is that okay?"

"Yeah."

I wonder if the me without memories is okay for Sensei.

While being on guard of everything around me as I walked home, Sensei, who just happened to be passing by in her car, picked me up.

On the car, I thought about things, as the rain continued to hit the front windshield.

"Sensei, we were actually dating, right? This situation, don't you not like it?"

"Hmmmm, if you ask whether your different, then I would say that you were very different. But, even if you don't have your memories,

Seiji-kun is Seiji-kun. I understood that during lunch. So, I don't hate it, you know?"

"Eh. What about me is similar?"

"The way you retort."

"That part!?"

"There's that, ufufu, but the rest is a secret. It just reminds of things before we started dating."

All in all, Sensei seemed to be having fun with all of this. If I can't return to how I was before, I wonder if she would become anxious.

By the time we arrived at a small nice apartment, the rain had stopped.

"Careful of the stairs, okay? After it rains, it becomes really easy to slip."

"Okay."

"Fugyah!?"

Hearing a yell that sounded like she was falling, I turned towards her, only to find her panicking and staring at one thing.

"Aaah~ My laundry is all soaked..."

At the end of her line of sight, there were shirts and t-shirts hanging on hangers.

In the middle of the stairs, there were what seemed to be Sensei's colorful underwear... S-so erotic... S-so she was wearing ones like that...

As I was distracted, my foot slipped and I fell down the stairs.

◆ Sanada Seiji ◆

"Oww..."

"Seiji-kun!? Are you okay!?"

Hiiragi-chan was looking at me worriedly.

... Hmmm? I'm at Hiiragi-chan's apartment?

"I'm okay, but... Haruka-san, what are you doing...?"

"What am I doing, well... Ah, just now you called me Haruka-san instead of Sensei!"

"Yeah, we're alone after all. Ah, sorry it was my mistake. Sensei."

"There's no need to correct it. It wasn't wrong! You were right! Mou, you're doing it on purpose, right?"

With a mad expression, Hiiragi-chan lightly poked my cheek.

I remember up to the point where Sana hit me with a cushion, but after that, I don't remember anything at all. I'm wearing my uniform, and I'm at Hiiragi-chan's apartment. I have no idea what's going on. Looking at my phone, the date has progressed about a day from when I last remember. I thought that maybe it was a time leap, but it doesn't seem to be that.

After being let into Hiiragi-chan's place, I asked her about what was going on.

"Memory loss... I can't believe it."

Though, it really isn't something I can say when I'm currently in a time leap.

Hiiragi-chan came over by the sofa.

"Having an innocent Seiji-kun return was nice. Every one of your reactions were so cute... ♡"

What are you getting so passionate about?

"Were you not worried? I might've not been able to return to how I was originally."

Kusu, she laughed. Hiiragi-chan entangled her arm with mine.

"You guys asked the same thing. Seiji-kun is Seiji-kun, after all. I had confidence that I would once again fall in love."

Saying something so straightforward like that, it's quite embarrassing...

"Seiji-kun, your getting embarrassed!"

"I am not!"

"Seiji-kun, you don't remember anything? Nothing until now?"

"Yeah. Not at all... However, even if I lost my memories, I am confident that I would once again fall in love with you, Haruka-san."

"Moouu,.. You immediately say something like that. It makes me happy to hear you say something like that."

Already, both her arms were around my neck, the distance between us became close enough for me to feel her breath, and we look into each other's eyes. I felt the warm and soft feeling of Hiiragi-chan's lips as we kissed.

"Which me was better? With or without memories?"

"The current Seiji-kun ♡"

Without noticing that the rain had once again began to fall, we flirted.

When I returned home, Sana was taking an unfriendly attitude for some reason, but overall, my life had returned to how it was before.

Chapter 80 The PE Storage Room Ninja

Since I had lost at rock paper scissors, at the beginning of October, I became a member of the organizing committee for the sports festival.

The last time I had my second-year sports festival, there wasn't anything particularly great about it. I didn't have any point where I appealed greatly, nor did I show shameful points as it passed over with no problems. Now, what about this time?

After school, organizing committee members gathered in the biology room, where I ended up seeing Hiiragi-chan. Come to think of it, she said that she became the teacher in charge of the sports festival.

"Ah. Sanada-kun is also part of the organizing committee?"

Hiiragi-chan was displaying a delighted aura... She's like a pet dog that just saw her owner.

"It's because I lost in rock paper scissors."

"Heeh, I see I see."

While grinning, her face seemed to want to say, "You became part of the organizing committee since I was the teacher in charge, right? I get it, I get it."

No, I'm sorry, but I only did this because I lost at rock paper scissors.

Once all of the committee members were ready, Hiiragi-chan started her explanation.

"Basically, you guys will be helping out by doing things to allow the program to run smoothly."

In simpler words, it would be preparing props, cleaning, or other miscellaneous jobs.

In the first place, the program was already decided, so we just went to the storage room outside, and as Hiiragi-chan confirmed with the printout in her hand, she explained the equipment and tools that would be required.

"—So, whenever you're done putting in the balls, you need to lower this big bar like thing over here."

Hiiragi-chan looked back at the students.

Please stop making a smug face that seems to say, "Seiji-kun, I'm hard at work right now!" every time you end an explanation.

We had the same printout as her, which had a map of the school grounds drawn, indicating the location of where things would be placed and installed. It was really easy to understand.

Hiiragi-chan had a tough time making the printout though, so about 70% of it was made by me.

From the nearby gymnasium, the basketball team and volleyball team began their practice with loud voices.

"It isn't anything very hard, so thank you for your help."

After Hiiragi-chan lowered her head slightly the rest of the organizing committee also returned an appropriate greeting.

"Sensei still has things she needs to confirm, so we'll end it here for today."

The other students left, leaving only me.

"Sanada-kun, things are done for today, you know?"

"I'll help. What do you need to confirm?"

"... I-if you do that you'll also have to be nice to other girls, right!? Just now, even Sensei had her heart skip a beat!"

What are you saying with such a loud voice? The door was closed, so I wasn't worried.

"To indiscriminately scatter heart throbbing excitement, Seiji-kun, that's one of your bad points."

"I basically don't talk to any of the girls in our class, so it's okay. I'm not making scattering heart throbbing excitement anywhere."

... Scattering heart throbbing excitement, what's with that? I turned my head after once again repeating that weird phrasing.

"I'll count the beanbags over here."

"Dodging the conversation like that, fine—Thank you for doing that."

I silently did the work, and when I finished checking, I noticed it. Come to think of it, the door, it's been closed for a while now...? It can't be... there's no way, right...?

Using a finger, I try pulling on the handle.

Gashan.

It won't even budge!

"Haruka-san, the door is locked. From the outside."

"Really? I guess the two of us are alone and can rest easy for a bit ♡"

"That positivity!?"

In here, there isn't any equipment used by the basketball team or volleyball team that are practicing right now. If anything, this place is

more of a warehouse than a storage room. If it stays like this... we'll be locked in here for a while.

Hiiragi-chan had the keys, but it's a key used to open the door from the outside, so even if she has it, the door won't open.

That means, seeing the organizing committee break for today, some thoughtful teacher decided to close the door that was slightly open...!? I was silently working in the dark, so I didn't even notice.

"Seiji-kun, it doesn't seem like anyone is coming..."

Petan, Hiiragi-chan sat down on some piled up mats.

It's fine that the two of us will be alone for a while, but being unable to leave is a little worrying.

"From now on... we can use this time when we're alone...!"

"That positivity!?"

"The mat is a little musty, but you can still lie down on them ♪"

Even now, she's fully intent on enjoying this...!

"My cellphone is left in my bag back at the biology room. What about Haruka-san?"

"Mine as well, is inside a drawer in the staff room."

It was a hopeless situation where we couldn't even ask for help. The window is too small, and it doesn't seem like anyone can get in or out of it. What can we do...?

"After we get out, we should dry the mats, and by some new sheets—"

"Stop getting so comfortable!"

"There will probably be a teacher that will notice that I didn't return, so they'll come looking for me... I wonder when that'll be."

Hiiragi-chan's tone was relaxed as usual. Lying down on her side, she pat down on a spot next to her.

"Come here. Let's sleep side by side ♪"

"No, this isn't the time to be..."

"... Don't want to?"

"..."

I ended up intruding next to Hiiragi-chan.

"What am I doing!?"

Hiiragi-chan's sweet kisses are the best thing in this world.

"There's no need to scream so loudly. It's okay, it's okay."

It is possible that another teacher could come, struggling right now is of no use... For now, I should wait for help, just like Hiiragi-chan while being held tight by her like a stuffed animal.

... It's so comforting.

"..."

"Is something wrong, Haruka-san?"

"N-nothing... it's just, I thought I would go to the restroom in here."

"Restroom... there's no way that exists here. It's a storage room."

"O-of course..."

Her voice wavered a bit.

—Ah. It can't be, she's barely holding on!?

Her expression stiffened, and the number of times she blinked increased unnaturally.

"... might..."

"Eh, what? Are you okay?"

Hiiragi-chan shook her head.

"It, might..."

"It might?"

"It might leak!"

Her face turned red, and Hiiragi-chan's eyes became slightly teary. She started fidgeting her legs.

"A-aaaaannnyoonnnnnneeee! Is anyone theeeeeerrrrreeeeee!"

I didn't say anything, rushed over to the door and started to pound on the door. I can't very well have a mature lady leak on herself. More so if it's my beloved girlfriend.

Even after desperately calling for help, I couldn't sense the presence of anyone.

"Se-Seiji-kun... D-don't call out so loudly, the ringing..."

"Ah, sorry."

"Ah..."

"Eh, what!?"

"I-I can't..."

Twitching her nose and with tearful eyes, her expression was already one that could not be revealed.

"After I leak, I'll kill Seiji-kun and then die myself!"

"Do your best! Also, don't just casually drag me into all of this."

"Fumiiiiiiiiieeeeeen, I-I can't keep going...."

Hiiragi-chan, who had seemed to reach her mental limit, finally started to cry. At that time, gacha gacha, a sound could be heard from the door.

"S-sana was waiting. Nii-san, never came to the entrance at all! Nii-san, you're there right!?"

Gara, the door opened.

Zuuunn...!

Demonstrating the agility of a ninja, Hiiragi-chan left the storage room in an instant and disappeared.

"Fuwaah!? W-what was that just now!? A ninja!?s"

"Sanaaaaaa! You saved us! Not me... mostly... the ninja."

I firmly hugged her.

"Yaaaaaaaah!? W-what are you doing!? Let go, Nii-san you idiot, pervert, siscon!"

Since she was violently struggling, I let go of Sana.

"Why do you let go so easily!?"

"What am I supposed to do?"

"It's fine now..."

Hmph, she swept her hair, adjusted it, and said, "Let's go home?" before walking away.

On the way home, I asked her, and apparently, she just happened to see us and the organizing committee enter the PE storage room. However, we weren't coming out at all, so she thought it was weird and went to borrow a key to open it.

"Mou, Nii-san is quite the handful. Be grateful, okay?"

"Yeah yeah, thank you."

Hiiragi-chan wouldn't be able to thank her enough. The texts that I received from Hiiragi-chan were filled only with smiley face emojis. Apparently, she made it in time.

"Sana, I'll treat you to a drink. Ice cream is fine to, you know?"

"What? That's unusual..."

Although Sana was suspicious of me, she didn't hold back at all. Ice cream, drinks, and snacks, I ended up treating her to a total of 500 yen worth.

Chapter 81 Sports Festival - Part 1

On the day of the sports festival, the normally empty school grounds was bustling with people. It was held on a holiday after all, and many local residents come to see it as a small festival of sorts.

After the end of the troubling opening ceremony and a word of thanks from the principal, the program officially began.

"Heeey, Thief-kun!"

A girl waved at me from a seat in the general audience. It was Natsumi-chan.

"Can a student in the process of taking exams really waste her time like this?"

"It's fine, it's fine. I'll be entering on a recommendation after all. Anyways, do your best today!"

Natsumi-chan grinned and showed her white teeth. She definitely came just to laugh at me, this girl...

"Nii-san? Did someone you know come?"

Sana came over in gym clothes with a red headband wrapped around her head.

"Aah. Sana-chan! Hello~"

"Ueh, Nacchan... A student from another school isn't supposed to come!"

There's no such rule.

"I came to see Sana do her best!"

"Hmph. Sana will just say this, but she's super athletic, so she'll show you. It's fine for you to just sit there and watch."

"Eh? You're lying."

"It's not a lie! Just watch. Sana will win first in all her events!"

After fuming from her nose, Sana returned towards her own class.

"Sana-chan is really funny because gets provoked more easily the more you push her."

"Natsumi-chan, please don't play with another person's little sister."

"But, I was really surprised. She has a flat chest so it was nice when she was in a swimsuit, but gym clothes with a headband really suit her."

Describing Sana, she would have a slender build. Whatever she wears would look nice. Or at least, that's what Fujimoto said.

After Saying goodbye to Natsumi-chan, I started my work as part of the organizing committee and while waiting for my turn. Since Hiiragi-chan was Hiiragi-chan, she was busy with work as the teacher in charge, and it would seem to be unlikely for her to watch any events.

The events that I'm in are the borrowed item race and the bread eating competition. Being a part of the organizing committee, I was in fewer events than other people, which to be honest, is quite a lot of help.

"The next event is the borrowed item race. Participants please take your positions and until the race starts, please—curse you—talk among yourselves."

In place of the normal broadcasting club announcer, it turned into a handsome guy's voice. There was a comment that I didn't really get, but anyways, it's my turn. Since I was first, I'm pretty nervous...

"—This time, the broadcast is brought to you by, second year class B's Fujimoto."

So it's you! What are you doing? You have a great voice!

... Was he part of the broadcasting club? Wasn't he part of track and field...?

Aaah, somehow, after going back and forth between now and ten years later has really changed things a bit.

Taking a short glance over, I noticed that Hiiragi-chan who was supposed to be over there just now, wasn't there anymore.

While tilting my head in confusion, I faced the starting point.

"Contestant Sanada, please move to the start point without tilting your head. Are you looking for someone you're interested in, YO?"

As Fujimoto's attractive male voice urged me, I lightly jogged over to the starting point. At that time, a black shadow appeared on the course, and left just as fast as the wind.

... That's Hiiragi-chan.

She seemed to be trying to communicate something to Fujimoto, who's at the broadcasting booth.

While I was thinking that it was weird, the starting pistol sounded out, and with the three people in the same group, I ran straight out into the course, arriving at a place with face down cards. From left to right, there was a normal card, a normal card, a heart shaped card, and a normal card, lined up. I-it's suspicious... Rather, there wasn't such a card included in the props.

"Do your best~!"

Hiiragi-chan was jumping and cheering me on. In her hand was a camcorder. She's taking videos again...

No matter how you think about it, anyone would avoid this weird card and so I tried to take a normal one. Kuu. I missed my chance to take a normal one...!

Everyone checked their cards.

"Eh? Something red?"

That's normal.

"A handsome guy? Who wrote this?"

That's normal.

"There's no way this exists——A person that's in the middle of a time leap and redoing his youth."

That's me.

And for me, this heart shaped card that I was forced to pick up...
Aaah, I have a terrible feeling about this.

*"Ooooooh, Contestant Sanada has picked up the special
caaaarrrrrddd!"*

While ignoring Fujimoto's annoying commentary, I confirm what's behind the card.

[The person you like ♡]

*"It's heeeeeeeeerrrrrrreeeeee! The person you like
caaaaaarrrrrddddd!"*

This is the card she set up!!

"Now, let's see, how's Contestant Sanada going to handle this—!? Will he take it as a joke, or will he bring something serious—!? If it's serious, it's the same as publicly confessing!"

Choosing Hiiragi-chan in a public situation, is as expected—

In this situation, I should choose the old lady teacher from the health room—no, the physical education teacher, Komada, might be funnier—

"Ooohhonn! Gohon, geho geho! Ooohonnn!"

Hiiragi-chan was coughing super obviously. Adding on to that, she was staring straight at me. It seems like she wants to say, "There's no one else other than me, right?"

Sensei, your serious face is kind of scary.

"Ah! Sana needs to prepare for the next event!"

Sana spoke in a monotone voice, taking one step at a time while glancing at me.

"Pufu—! Sana-chan, you're terrible at appealing! How much do you even want to be chosen? It's so funny."

Natsumi-chan, who was in the audience seats, was clapping and laughing loudly.

"I, Fujimoto, am his best friend! Therefore, I'm also included in his choices!"

✂ He isn't included.

As I was hesitating, the other three people found what they needed and came back.

You found a person who was in a time leap!? Alright. If it's come down to this—

I left the course, and ran towards Hiiragi-chan in a straight line.

"Sensei, please follow me!"

"B-but, it's kind of embarrassing..."

Didn't you prepare this? You even appealed so hard for this. And when it comes down to it, you get embarrassed!?

"Quickly."

"Yeah ♡"

Pulling on Hiiragi-chan's arm, I returned to the course.

"Contestant Sanada's choice was maaaaaadddeee! It's the talented Onee-san that is admired by all the boys, Hiiragi-sensei!"

Waaah, the venue got excited over this. Holding each others hands again, the two of us aimed for the course.

"I thought it was going to be me in the end! So it isn't me? Sanaaaaaaaddaaaaaa!"

What's with that confidence? More importantly, can you do your commentary properly? The speaker is already screeching, you know? Screeching.

Since Hiiragi-chan was really close by, we ended up splendidly in first place. I thought that we would be looked at with strange eyes, but that wasn't the case. A student and teacher dating each other would never be that bold and put it on display, so it ended up having the opposite effect. Also, Fujimoto using the phrase, *"admired by all the boys,"* gave the impression that the choice was a safe one.

"First place! This is probably the power of love, right!?"

"Isn't it because Sensei was nearby?"

"Mou, do you not dream at all...?"

It seems that my calm comment was too boring, as Hiiragi-chan pouted and puffed out her cheeks.

"Well, it's fine. I can edit the video later, and then I can get it to loop starting from when Seiji-kun was troubled and blushed, to when you started to head in my direction ♡. I'll just watch that and drink some alcohol."

Please don't use the video of me being embarrassed as entertainment.

Chapter 82 Sports Festival - Part 2

The program proceeded without any delays, and after a little while, it was time for the cheering contest between the red and the white team to begin.

The cheering contest was a program in which the organization committee wasn't particularly involved, so it was fine for us to just sit and play the spectator. After the guys from the red team took the stage, Kanata, wearing a male school uniform arrive with ten other guys in tow.

A uniform designed for males really doesn't suit Kanata...

Hmmm? If she's dressed like that, then that means...?

Dodon, the sound of the taiko drums could be heard as Kanata conducted maneuvers similar to that of a drummer.

"... Hoooraay, ... Hoooraay, ... Re—e—d Te—eam..."

Her voice is so low! It just feels like she's being forced to do it! Broadcasting club, please lend her the microphone!

Evidently, she's not quite suited for the job. Who was it that made her do it? More importantly, Kanata... Have the courage to refuse! People have things that they are suited for, and things that they aren't suited for, okay?

The cheering contest ended safely (?), and the lunch break finally came around.

"Thief-kun, what are you planning to do about lunch?"

As I was passing by the audience seats, Natsumi-chan called out to me and asked with an inquisitive tone.

"I'm going to eat lunch with Sana."

"Haru-chan made a bentou for me. How about we all eat together? Rather, after looking at the amount, I am certain that your portion was definitely included..."

Natsumi-chan held up the package. It was a four-storey box which looked to be quite heavy. It seems that Haruka-san really put in a lot of effort to make it.

Telling me that she was going to wait in the shade under the tree, Natsumi-chan left without even listening to my reply. I had no particular reason to refuse, so I looked for Sana and had her accompany me to the rendezvous point.

Kanata said, "... My parents came to watch my flashy stage performance, so we're eating together," and so we're eating separately.

Is it alright to call that a flashy performance...? As usual, Kanata is a mystery.

Natsumi-chan had laid out a picnic sheet that I was familiar with.

"Hey."

I received some tea in a paper cup.

"Yeah, thanks."

"..."

Sana hasn't spoken up for a while now.

"Sana-chan, what is it? What happened? Are you mad?"

"It's nothing... Sana isn't mad..."

Natsumi-chan laughed, while intentionally raising her voice, "I got it!"

"Sana-chan, you weren't picked as Onii-chan's person he likes, so now you're sulking, right?"

"T-that's not it. Why does Sana have to sulk because of something like that?"

Hiiragi-chan happened to arrive at the same time as when Sana averted her gaze to face the other way.

"Haaah, that was tiring... Being the teacher in charge of the sports festival really isn't something I can do... Mou..."

The exhausted Hiiragi-chan grabbed a cup of tea and gulped it down.

"Sensei, thanks for your hard work."

"Yeah, thank you."

Hiiragi-chan also noticed Sana's bad mood.

"Sana-chan, is something wrong?"

"..."

My little sister acted sullen, similar to how she had been for quite some time.

"It seems that she can't accept that Thief-kun chose Haru-chan and not her as the person he likes."

"S-Sana didn't say anything like that!"

"You're so easy to read. Mou..."

Beside a wryly smiling Natsumi-chan, and Sana, whose mouth had bent into a frown, Hiiragi-chan and I picked up our plates in anticipation and started to eat the bentou.

"How is it, Sanada-kun?"

"Yeah. Even though it's cold, it still tastes good."

"That's a relief ♡"

Ahahaha, ufufufu, while Hiiragi-chan was acting like her normal cheerful self, Sana finally snapped.

"Nii-san, showing such a lewd look is something that Sana can't tolerate!"

She started pulling out paper cups, and throwing them at me one after another.

Subooh. Pyuun.

"Ouch!?"

"What's with you? Having an expression that makes it seem like you aren't dissatisfied!"

Subooh. Pyuun.

Subooh. Pyuun.

"Waah. Hey, stop it, you idiot!"

"Why, what was up with that exchange earlier, 'It tastes good', 'That's a relief ♡'? Don't grin like that while having such a couple-like conversation!"

Subooh, subooh, subooh. Pyuun pyuun pyuun!

"Ouch, that hurt!"

It can't be helped since we are a couple.

The Hiiragi sisters were probably also thinking the same thing.

"Ah, I thought of something good!"

Alright alright, Natsumi-chan raised her hand.

I can tell that it definitely isn't 'something good'...

"Sana-chan, who can't accept it, VS, Haru-chan, who just 'happened' to be chosen. You just have to use the obstacle course that anyone can participate in as a competition!"

"Hey hey hey, don't egg them on..."

"I'll do it!!"

Waah, Sana took the bait right away. This girl really has no tolerance for being provoked.

"Eeeh? But I'm busy as the teacher in charge..."

"Sensei, are you running away?"

Sana was in battle mode, while Hiiragi-chan was making a troubled expression.

As a teacher, Hiiragi-chan had work, so without any problems, she should be able to avoid this competition.

It happened as I was patting my chest in relief.

"The winner, gets to ask Thief-kun to listen to one thing that they want him to do! How about this!?"

"I'll do it! Hiiragi Haruka will bring out her seriousness which she can only do once every four years...!"

It seems that Hiiragi-chan's seriousness functions in similar ways as the Olympics.

"Being able to have Nii-san do one thing that I ask of him, that doesn't have anything to do with this. Nothing at all... However, Sana will put all her effort into defeating Sensei...!"

Garururu, as Sana growled at Hiiragi-chan, sparks scattered between them.

Hiiragi-chan seems to be taking this seriously as well.

"Sana-chan, Sanada-kun just made a safe choice, so I don't think there's a need for you to get mad at it. Rather, I think it would be weirder for him to pick his younger sister. Siskon, disgusting, there might be people out there who would think that about him if he did do that, don't you agree?"

"Siskon and disgusting are both things that are true, so isn't that fine?"

"Hey, Imouto. If you keep lying and exaggerating like that, people will surely complain to JoRO" [1]

Pufufu, Natsumi-chan was rolling around laughing.

"I'm really looking forward to this."

She continues to fan the flames. This person... she really has a great personality.

"The obstacle course race is about to start. Anyone who wishes to participate, please gather at the starting point."

Immediately after the announcement, Sana and Hiiragi-chan stood up and made their way towards the starting point.

"It's okay to enjoy this, but please don't drag me into it."

"Isn't it fine? Even if Sana-chan wins, considering that personality, she'll probably hold up her pride and not ask for anything too bold."

"And if Sensei wins?"

"You might not be able to sleep at night..."

Hey hey.

The obstacle course race was like a side show during lunch, so about 20 people ended up participating. As the race was gradually progressing, it became Hiiragi-chan's and Sana's turn.

"Who are you cheering for?"

"Sana is relatively more athletic, so Sensei."

"Haru-chan is quite clumsy after all."

Pan, the pistol was fired, indicating the start.

As the race began, Sana ran out in a straight line.

"I definitely won't lose...!"

"Me too, I won't lose...!"

Hiiragi-chan was swinging her arms violently while running.

The distance between Sana and everyone else widened further.

"So slow!"

Hiiragi-chan was moving at a speed that could be written down in history.

Crawling through a net, walking across a balance beam, spinning around a bat, Sana continued to clear numerous obstacles with ease. It was a difference as wide as it would be if an athlete joined a competition among amateurs. Hiiragi-chan on the contrary, was stumbling over in the zone where you spin around the bat.

"Kyuuu~ ... Seiji-kun..."

"Pufu, fufu... Haru-chan, she's hilarious..."

Natsumi-chan was laughing while hitting the ground.

Why are their personalities so different even as siblings?

Hiiragi-chan was just in a bad matchup against her opponent.

Sana was the first one to reach the goal, as she attained victory, she made a serious guts pose.

"Sana-tan, you're so cool!"

"Today's Sana-tan is also super thin. Your legs are beautiful."

"As expected of Sana-tan!"

As the girls from her class called out to her, Sana gradually shrunk back. It seems she's called by others as Sana-tan.

"I-it's embarrassing so don't call Sana as Sana-tan..."

"The beautifully cute Sana-tan!"

"Be quiet."

"It's great, your tsundere retorts are in good form today!"

"W-who are you calling a tsundere!?"

To hide her embarrassment from getting mad, she returned back to where we were waiting.

Hiiragi-chan was somehow able to make it to the finish line while clumsily stumbling around.

"As expected, Sana won."

"Sana's specialty is sports after all. However, it may have been bad towards Sensei..."

"Sana-chan, what are you going to do? He'll listen to any one thing you ask, you know?"

I still haven't given my approval on listening to their wishes.

Hmmmm, after thinking about it for a bit, Sana smiled.

"I'll think about it.... Nii-san, prepare yourself, okay?"

I wonder what this girl is planning to make me do?

Hiiragi-chan, who was completely out of breath, somehow managed to make it back.

"Sana-chan, you're too fast..."

"Sensei, you're too slow."

"I'm not all that great at sports..."

Taking a deep breath, Hiiragi-chan sat down.

"Then, why did you accept it?"

"Umm, it's because I wished to get along with Sana-chan."

Hiiragi-chan smiled.

Sana averted her eyes.

"It's not like Sana hates you or anything, so it's fine to get along..."

"Thank you. Gyuuu~"

Hiiragi-chan wrapped her arms around Sana.

"Yaah, wait, what!? Stop it."

"No, I won't stop."

"Moou... I-It can't be helped..."

While looking at the two happily, Natsumi-chan spoke to me in a quiet voice.

"Haru-chan, she's invincible, right?"

"Yeah. She has no enemies." [2]

She did lose the battle, but Hiiragi-chan ended up winning the war.



TN:

1. The line was ジ○ロに訴えるぞ. I believe the censored part was supposed to say end up saying JARO. I believe it's supposed to refer to complaining when things to meet expectations.
2. This seems to be a pun on invincible. In Japanese, invincible is written as 無敵, the first word meaning none or nothing, while the second word means enemy.

Chapter 83 Sports Festival - Part 3

Being a member of the sports festival's organizing committee, I was already aware of the many details related to the bread-eating competition that I am competing in. To be exact, it's more of an obstacle course, that has the aspect of bread eating imbrued into it.

The first stage of the competition is looking for marshmallows. The goal is to stick your face in a vat of flour, find a marshmallow, and then eat it. The second stage involves drinking a can of milk as quickly as possible. Lastly, the final stage is eating bread that is tied to a string.

Compared to the relay race and other such serious competitions, the bread-eating race was a relatively low-profile and relaxing competition. During the race, there's usually lots of laughing and a nice and light-hearted atmosphere.

After a bit of waiting, it was finally the time for my group's turn to depart.

Fujimoto has been doing the role of commentaring for quite a while. He's doing it pretty seriously as well—just as I was thinking of such things, a mysterious shadow appeared on the course, and then it momentarily disappeared.

Rather, I am certain it was Hiiragi-chan. Did she tamper with something again?

I casually tried to whisper into Fujimoto's ear. But he kept saying, too close, too close, and showed a lewd face.

After taking my position, the pistol's sound reverberated throughout the field. Four people, including me, ran out towards the first stage and started looking for the marshmallows.

"Everyone had a nice clean start to the race. Now, let's see who will be the first one to overcome the first stage!"

The moment I was going to stick my face into the vat, I noticed a note placed on the side.

"Make sure to put on a lot of flour!"

The person who placed it was Hiiragi-chan, right? What does she mean? It should be over after eating a marshmallow though. It is also true that my face would turn white from the flour.

As I continued to look for marshmallows, I finally found one. Gunyuu, somehow, it has a certain flesh like feel to it...

"Haah?"

Giving in, I unconsciously placed my hand on it.

"W-what is thiiiiisssss!?"

It was chicken meat, carefully dusted with flour. It was probably thigh meat.

"Today's special course! Exclusively for the 4th outside lane, a special course has been prepared with other stages!"

Fujimoto started reading off from the notes in his hand.

"With the chicken meat that you found in the first stage, please proceed to the second stage!"

I would have been fine with a normal marshmallow though.

"Yaaah! Sei... You're face is white! It's covered in flour. It's so cute~!"

She was barely able to stop herself from calling out my name. Hiiragi-chan was jumping up and down with a video camera in her hand.

Dammit. I should finish this quickly...!

Ending up a bit delayed, I took the mysterious chicken meat, and hurried towards the second stage. Various things were prepared on top of a long table. From the inside lane out, there was milk, milk, milk, and hot oil on top of a portable stove.

This fourth lane on the outside, is clearly weird! The set of objects prepared are definitely the things I see when my mom is making fried food at home!

"Now then, for lane four—Contestant Sanada, please put the chicken meat that's in your hand, in to the hot salad oil!"

... I don't think it's possible, but is this...

I add in chicken thigh meat that I had. Pachi pachi, it started making a crispy sound.

It looks good...

Looking at the three other people, they were still drinking the milk by sucking it from a straw.

"Alright, so I'm good to go with just this, right!?"

"Contestant Sanada, there are a few other finishing touches you have to add, so please refrain from leaving your current location."

"Isn't this weird!? It's not even a competition at this point!? I'm on a way too different of a course!"

"Ummm, according to the materials I have in hand, you shouldn't depend just on your eyes. Use a thermometer to make sure the temperature at the center is about 65 degrees and you should be able to make tasty karaage."

That's what I thought!

"What are you making me do this bread-eating competition?!"

You guys made sure to prepare a thermometer, chopsticks, and even plates!!

Everyone else finished drinking their milk and started running away, and yet I was the only one left staring at the chicken being fried.

Ummm, using the thermometer... 65 degrees... Ah, it's still too low.

Pachi pachi...

"..."

People in the area began to cause a ruckus. They were most likely the people who couldn't hear the explanations very well.

""H-he's frying karaage in a bread-eating competition!?"""

It's not like I'm frying it because I want to, okay!?

Dammit... Ah, it's done.

"Ummm, Contestant Sanada, please bring that hot karaage with you and proceed to the third stage."

"Hasn't this already turned into something completely unrelated to a bread-eating competition!?"

"Please stop making these random claims, Contestant Sanada."

What's with this? Geez...

Placing the karaage on a plate, I ran without dropping it. The other three people were in the midst of jumping in order to reach the anpan that were hung up in a bag. [1]

"Ummm, aren't there are only three anpan?"

With dissatisfaction on full display, I turned back towards the announcer booth.

"Who said the anpan were the only bread there!? Please have a look over to the side."

Being told that, I looked over to the side of where the anpan were hung. On top of a desk typically seen inside classrooms, there was a hot dog bun and a container with a spoon in it.

"Contestant Sanada, please make some sort of a combination with the karaage and the hot dog bun!"

I have no clue. Anyways, I sat down on the chair, and looked at the hot dog bun. There was already a cut on its surface.

"So that's how it is!"

I insert the hot karaage into the crescent cut. Hot dog bun and karaage... but, this can't really be called a *tasty karaage sandwich*.

"Dammit! If it's only this, after eating that one piece, the only thing that will remain will be the hot dog bun...!"

"Ummm, according to the materials on hand, today is tartar sauce ♪"

Peeking into the container with the spoon stuck in it, it really was tartar sauce.

"With this, it could work!"

I pour all the tartar sauce into the cut. Alright, now then.

"T-the ka-ka-kaaaaaaaaraage sandwich is doooooooooonnnnnneeeee!"

Why are you the one that's most excited?

"Yay ☆!"

Hiiragi-chan, who was also filled with excitement, made a fist and jumped. A bread-eating competition isn't supposed to have someone

making their own sandwich and eating it, okay!?!? She's cute, so I'll forgive her though.

The people around the area once again got noisy.

""He's making his own sandwich in a bread-eating competition!?"""

Thanks to the tartar sauce that Hiiragi-chan had prepared, I gradually proceeded through the hot dog bun.

"Contestant Sanada, while eating the sandwich, turn into a heroine who is experiencing her first day transferring into the school! Imagine turning the corner and running into a boy and accidentally showing him your panties! Please aim for the goal like that!"

Just like I was told, I passed through the goal tape. I did it while thinking like a heroine transferring into the protagonist's class. Of course, I came in last place.

"Sanada-kun, how was the sandwich?"

Hiiragi-chan, acting optimistic yet shy, approached me.

"The tartar sauce was the best. It was really good."

"Right? I had a lot of confidence ♪"

"I wish you didn't tamper with things so weirdly though.


"But, compared to the normal store bought anpan, a freshly made warm sandwich tastes better, right? If you were going to eat it, I just thought that this one would definitely be better ♡"

I'm quite amazed that she put so much effort into this.

"Sensei, is it possible that you are the type to devote yourself to one person?"

"It's not a possibility, I already am."

Just like this, for my high school second year sports festival (the second one), I didn't have anywhere to show off, but it ended up with a happy ending.



TN:

1. Anpan is bread filled with red bean paste.

Chapter 84 HRG Company

When I woke up the next morning, I was in the present. After getting up and checking my smartphone, I realized that I had returned.

Rather, just finding a smartphone at the bedside is enough for me to figure out that this isn't my second-year of high school, even without checking the date.

Just to confirm, I checked the date, and it really was ten years later. Looking around the room, I noticed that it was the same room from when I was previously living with Hiiragi-chan, but I was now alone.

"Breakfast is done."

The door slightly opened and Natsumi-chan came in. Natsumi-chan, who was now an adult, had changed from a short-cut to a semi-long hairstyle. She now looked like a lady that was more mature and calm.

Natsumi-chan? Why is she here...?

"Is something wrong?"

"W-where's Haruka-san."

"If you're asking for Haru-chan, she's over there."

She pointed out to a space behind her with her thumb.

"Am I... not living together with Haruka-san?"

"Yeah. You are. I ended up begging Papa a lot, and got you guys approval for this. Be grateful, okay? "

Shishishi, Natsumi-chan laughed teasingly.

"Aah... Thank you so much for taking care of us during that time."

"No no, not at all... Now, we're the one who are being taken care of by you after all..."

Natsumi-chan seemed to feel a bit awkward, as she averted her eyes. Seeing Natsumi-chan's expression, which was completely alien to me, honestly made me feel a strange discomfort.

Natsumi? Hearing Hiiragi-chan call out, Natsumi-chan and I headed for the dining table. Hiiragi-chan ten years later didn't change much from my high school years, just as I expected. As for a ring... she still isn't wearing one. Which means that we haven't gotten married yet.

It seems like there hasn't been much progress from the situation that I know. Marrying and having children—That was the future that I was looking forward to, but it seems that events didn't go that well.

After quickly finishing breakfast that was prepared, Natsumi-chan stood up from her seat.

"I'm heading out for my part-time job."

"Yeah, have a safe trip."

"Have a safe... trip...?"

Part-time job!? ... She's one year older than me, so 28. Based on what was said before breakfast, she is probably living with us under the same roof.

After Natsumi-chan left, I asked Hiiragi-chan.

"Natsumi-chan has a part-time job? D-does she has some sort of goal?"

"No. I don't think that's it. Our company is in a bad spot right now, right?"

"Sorry, it seems like I kind of forgot... When you say 'our' company, you mean *HRG*? In a bad spot?"

What does that have to do with Natsumi-chan having a part-time job?

"Simply put, it collapsed due to poor performance."

"Eh!?"

"It was pretty big news, you know? And then, things involving money became quite a bit of trouble... You said you wanted to let Natsumi have a room in this house, remember?"

Aah, that's right, or that's what I said, but I have no idea.

Hiiragi-chan's family company collapsed...? Having the company for which I worked for before I time initially leaped collapse in this future, really gives a weird feeling. If they're in a financially tough spot, I wonder if it's a problem of debt. Since her family is in a bad spot, I would understand not wanting to marry.

"Natsumi probably believes that she's getting between us, so she's working hard in order to be financially stable and leave this place as fast as possible, however... Natsumi is working hard, but she is a girl from a rich family, she must be having quite a bit of trouble. It doesn't seem to be going that well."

She seems to have the image of being on top of everything but, in truth, she's just a pure and innocent lady. A girls only high school, girls only college, and even for her career path, she was walking on a route to remain a pampered young lady of her family.

"Seiji-kun, before this, you said you wanted '*a marriage to make everyone happy*', right?"

"Yeah."

I don't exactly remember saying it in the past, so it was probably said by me in the present. Still, I'm certain that I also hold the same feelings.

"Right now, everything is in chaos... and for my family, it seems that's just out of the question."

"It's okay. Don't worry about it."

The business performing badly, can it possibly due to that...?

"The summer of my second year of high school, I ended up interrupting Haruka-san's marriage interview, right?"

"How nostalgic."

"The company doing poorly, is it because I interrupted...?"

"Ahahah. It doesn't have anything to do with that. It only started getting bad about four years ago after all."

By the way, the current me is a salary man working at a company about 20 minutes driving distance from here. The average me. The deterioration in the company's performance wasn't something the average me could do anything about.

No... wait?

Me, a former employee of HRG... deteriorating performance... part-time job...

"Should the me who knows this future, once again join the company...?"

"Seiji-kun? What are you mumbling to yourself about?"

were having a party at Hiiragi-chan's place to celebrate the hard work we did at the sports festival, I changed and headed to her place.

Natsumi-chan said that she would come as well, but she still hadn't arrived. Since it was just right, in order to avoid the future situation that I had already experienced, I started to take measures against it.

Hiiragi-chan, who had entered her spoiling mode, let me sleep on her lap and petted me on the head like I was a pet cat. We started talking about the sports festival from yesterday, and when the conversation finally came to a breaking point, I interrupted.

"Haruka-san, I am working part-time at a café, you know that right?"

Even after summer break, I went to work part-time at the store about three days a week.

"Yeah, what about it?"

"I was thinking about quitting that one and doing a different part-time job."

"Eeeh? You're going to quit? You looked good in the uniform though."

"Really? Leaving that aside, I was thinking of quitting and working part-time at HRG."

"O-our company?"

HRG is a company with a wide range of businesses, including food manufacturing, mail-order sales, telecommunications, and insurance. They have a considerable amount of business partners and affiliated stores. That's the reason why, I still can't comprehend the fact that it went bankrupt.

Hiiragi-chan wouldn't joke around and say something unreasonable like that, so if everything were to continue like this, the chance of that future really occurring is pretty high.

"Yeah. Haruka-san's family's company. The telecommunications department is looking for workers, I think."

Rather, it's my department.

"Y-you're quite informed."

"I was wondering if they could have me work part-time there for just a bit."

"I got it. Then, I'll try asking."

"Thank you, Haruka-san."

"It's fine, don't worry about it... However, you're not planning something, are you?"

Muni muni, Hiiragi-chan poked my cheeks.

"I am not."

In the past, the me in my second year of high school didn't know of the company called HRG, so there's no way I would have worked part-time there. Just me being there, might not be enough to prevent the company from going bankrupt. However, if the past changes, the future should change due to the butterfly effect.

Getting up, I hugged Hiiragi-chan.

"Is something wrong?"

"It's nothing."

I want to make the person that I love happy. Towards the Hiiragi-chan who was making a dazed expression, I kissed her as if promising that.

"Ah. A kiss from Seiji-kun, that makes me happy... Then, from me as well, payback ♡"

Hiiragi-chan also kissed me. Marrying Hiiragi-chan is still something that will occur in the future, but this sweet relationship seems like it will continue for a while.

Chapter 85 Working Part-Time at the Company Where I Work 10 Years Later

I reluctantly parted from my part-time job at the café, and with an introductory word from Hiiragi-chan, I was hired to work part-time as an employee of the communications department of the HRG company.

As I was reminiscing about how I used to commute here every day prior to when I had my time leap, I got a weird sort of nostalgic feeling.

The overprotective Hiiragi-chan was adamant on giving me a ride to the company in her car, and in the reception room on the first floor, I encountered a familiar face. Kudou-san, a beautiful receptionist of unknown age. Even now, her face hasn't changed at all from what I remember from ten years in the future... It's like she's a demon.

Once I told her about the reason for my visit, she ended up guiding me around various places within the company building, and after that I was told to go to the all too familiar 5th floor.

As I walked passed the entrance, a vague presence could be felt lurking in the shadows. Rather, it was Hiiragi-chan. Over protective and often worrying, it seems that Hiiragi-chan was wondering whether I can actually get through my work.

"Lady Haruka?"

"Ukyah!?"

"Do you have some business with the president?"

"N-no, that's not it. Today, is a bit... umm, ahaha..."

Without concerning myself with the captured Hiiragi-chan, I got onto the elevator and departed for the communications department on the fifth floor.

On the fifth floor, there were a few people whom I recognized. Those people were people in important positions, ten years earlier, they didn't just give out orders, but also did work on-site.

It was nostalgic and yet somehow refreshing.

"Ah, so you're Sanada-kun? You're working part-time starting today, right?"

"Uwah, Muramatsu-san!"

"I-It's quite amazing that you know my name..."

Ah, that's right. Since it's ten years earlier, this would be the first time we meet. Since he was around 40 when I was working at HRG, he's currently in his 30's. His face is younger, and he wasn't missing most of his hair at the top. Muramatsu-san was originally my direct boss that took care of me, but he's probably a regular employee without a title right now.

"Sanada Seiji. Nice to meet you."

"Yeah. Nice to meet you. It's Muramatsu Kenta."

In order to receive an explanation of the job details, I was guided to a separate room.

"Sanada-kun, do you have experience as a phone operator?"

For the communications department, the only part-time job a student could really do was being a phone operator. When I joined the company, I did it so much I could die, so this will probably be easy.

"Yeah. It's okay. Product explanations or other customer service inquiries... Ah, I've done a lot of issues involving claims as well."

"Eh? A-as a high school student? Claim inquiries? T-that's quite amazing..."

Since customers order in-house health products via mail orders, the job was to pick up calls and guide customers.

After carefully explaining to me the work manual and the company rules, the serious Muramatsu-san returned to the fifth floor. I waited for Muramatsu-san at the designated seat.

The work environment is practically the same as 10 years ten years in the future. If it's like this, there shouldn't be any problems.

"Thief-kun?"

Sensing a tap on my shoulder, I looked at the seat next to me and found Natsumi-chan. She had a headset on her head as she fiddled around with the microphone hanging around her mouth.

"Uwah, what are you doing?"

"Can't you tell just by seeing? Working, okay? Working. I was free for summer break, so I'm doing it. It's going to be 3 months already since I started, you know? Shi shi shi. If you have something you don't know, feel free to ask me about it."

Even though you're just a spoiled lady, acting all arrogant like that...

"But still, three months. Natsumi-chan as well, if you have anything you don't know, feel free to ask me."

"Eh? Aaah, okay...?"

Natsumi-chan gave a vague response.

"I heard about it from Haru-chan, but you really are working part-time here. You knew that I was working here too, right? It seems that Haru-chan wasn't enough to satisfy you, you even decided to extend your claws towards her little sister..."

"That isn't true, okay?"

If I were to show any sort of gap, Natsumi-chan was bound to start teasing me.

Setting up the PC that was prepared for me, I started up the system. There was a note for the ID and the password at the corner of the display, so I entered that and the preparations were complete.

"Somehow, you seem used to this..."

"Well, yeah."

With the manual and various printouts, Muramatsu-san returned.

"Sanada-kun, here is the manual. First is the tutorial. I'll call you and act like a customer, and you will pick up the phone. Will you need to read the manual first?."

Ten years later, when I was doing this with the part-timers, none of them could do it.

"No, I don't need that. Let's just go with the real thing."

""Eeeeh?""

Natsumi-chan who was listening while sitting next to us, reacted as well.

"Thief-kun, you're underestimating this a little too much. It's surprisingly nerve-wracking and you'll start hesitating."

"Yeah. That's possible. As long as you aren't used to it."

"If you act like that, then it'll come to bite you later, you know?"

I am not acting like it, I actually am used to it.

I operate the PC and turn on the system. Like this, the phone-call capable system would automatically pick up calls from customers.

"Huh...? Did I teach you how to use the system...?"

"Yes. When I joined the company."

Muramatsu-san and Natsumi-chan both displayed confused expressions.

"I'm sure there are a lot of things you don't know, so if you might not know how to answer, quickly put it on hold."

"Understood."

After confirming the volume on my speaker and microphone the word, [Calling] came up on the screen. I then clicked on the call pick up button and the phone call came up.

"Thank you for your call. This is Sanada of the customer service center receiving your call."

It's been a while since I've said it, but I remember it, so I should be able to speak smoothly without the manual.

"Yeah? That was super fluent."

Casually, I wrote down a note, [Well?], and showed it to Natsumi-chan. Of course, while I was guiding the customer. It was probably the smuggest face I've made recently.

"That's amazing..."

Muramatsu-san gave me his note, [If you don't understand something, put it on hold.] Just like him in present times,

Muramatsu-san 10 years earlier was still a nice person. Because you're so considerate, you turned bald.

At that time, I did it while not particularly liking it, but this time wasn't like that at all. Most likely, I was just doing it without a goal at that time. But this time, there's the situation with Hiiragi-chan. For Hiiragi-chan, spending time with me was her reason for living, but that is the same for me. It's embarrassing to say it, however, now and in the future, I want to be with her, forever.

After finishing my guidance, I waited for the customer to hang up the call. Once the call was cut,

""Ooooh~!""

An exclamation rose up from the entire floor.

"That well on just the first day!?"

"It totally felt like a veteran."

"His sales talk was too good..."

"He was able to complete one contract just like that..."

Thank you thank you. I am a person from this line of work after all.

"Sanada-kun's conversation was really good, so I had everyone else listen."

Aaah, that's why. It's true that within the system, you can listen to the calls of other people.

"Continue on just like this!"

Muramatsu-san patted me on the back and returned to his own work.

Natsumi-chan kept staring at me.

"You were so good... that's frustrating... I'm even three months ahead of you..."

"Well, if you have anything you don't understand, feel free to ask me, Senpai."

"Dammit...!"

While pouting a little, Natsumi-chan returned to her own work, and began to speak, "Thank you for calling us."

I was also waiting with the system on, but there weren't very many calls coming in.

"Ummm, if you make this sort of call, it's... a little troubling..."

Natsumi-chan was in trouble.

[Are you okay?] I handed her a note.

Natsumi-chan made a circle with her fingers, signaling an OK.

I thought that it might have been a claim, but the customer doesn't seem to be impatient... I wonder what it is?

"... I'm going to hang up the phone, okay?"

With a strong tone, Natsumi-chan ended the call.

"A loafer... what are they doing coming to ask us, geez."

There were a lot of women that would answer toll-free numbers, so sometimes there are perverts that call them just to tease them. Asking if they have boyfriends, complimenting them on their cute voice, or even asking for the color of their underwear.

"Was it okay?"

"Ah, yeah. Thank you for worrying."

She didn't seem to be shaken so there probably wasn't any problems.

A call came from a customer to my system.

"Thank you for calling us. This is Sanada from the customer service center picking up the call."

"Ah, finally! A-are you working hard?"

".... Ah, haaah. I'm currently working hard."

"Your voice, is just a little low. It sounds cool..."

"Thank you...? What is the reason for your call, today may I ask?"

"Ummm... today for dinner... I was thinking of making hamburgers..."

"... Umm, did you happen to call the wrong number?"

"As expected, your voice is low and cool..."

"What is the reason for your call today?"

While thinking that it was a weird customer, I once again asked for their intentions.

"I was saying that I was thinking of making hamburgers for dinner today... However, I was wondering if you had anything you wanted to eat."

"... No, there isn't anything in particular..."

"Roger that ♡ Good luck with your work. This was your beloved Haruka-san ♪"

So it was you!?!?

"Ah, I forgot to say this, so don't end it until—"

I forcefully cut the line.

"Why is she calling?"

"Was it possibly, Haru-chan?"

I nodded in reply to Natsumi-chan's question.

"Since you guessed... the call that Natsumi-chan had earlier..."

"Yeah, from Haru-chan. She was curious about how Thief-kun was doing at work."

The two of us sighed together at the idiot girlfriend Hiiragi-chan.

"Earlier as well, she was loitering around the floor so I chased her out. Because the eldest daughter of the family that normally doesn't come showed up, everyone ends up being conscious of her. So she just got in the way of work."

When it comes to Natsumi-chan, thanks to her frankness, no one around is really wary of her and are able to interact with her normally.

"I chased her out, and after I chased her out..."

"She then resorted to calling."

"That's right."

Natsumi-chan was slightly mad.

Why do they have such different personalities when they are siblings?

Once the time to end work came around, Natsumi-chan found Hiiragi-chan as she was leaving and approached her.

"Haru-chan! Why did you call?"

"But, I wanted to hear Seiji-kun's work voice..."

Towards Natsumi-chan's angry look, Hiiragi-chan turned depressed.

"You can listen to that anytime, right?"

At that statement, Hiiragi-chan snapped back.

"Even if it's still over the phone, his work voice is different from the voice he uses in private!"

Natsumi-chan's logical argument was pushed back with Hiiragi-chan's overwhelming passion.

Once the two of them left the floor, I was stopped by other people due to my instant success as a rookie.

"Ummmm, Sanada-kun, right? You're amazing! You have experience?"

"Well, that's how it is."

"Thanks to you, there was less work and it became a lot easier! Thank you."

"No no, I'm the one who's in your care."

The two people who called out to me, were people that I knew, and I was often in their care before my time leap. On this timeline, they haven't done anything for me, so they made a confused expression.

"Well, anyways, continue on like this!"

"Yeah!"

'Thanks for your hard work', after giving my parting words to the people that are still working, I left the floor.

Was work supposed to be this fun? It was a fulfilling few hours. As I was immersing myself in my thoughts, I made my way towards the elevator when I heard Hiiragi-chan talking to Natsumi-chan.

"——If Natsumi also gets a boyfriend, you would understand! Seiji-kun is cool, so I get worried!"

"T-that's true, today... I really did think he was cool."

"Aaah, aaah! Just now! You meant that!"

"J-just be quiet already!"

"Fufu. Natsumi-chan should hurry and find a boyfriend like Seiji-kun."

"Doing that would make me seem weirdly proactive... Then fine. I'll date Thief-kun."

"You can't!"

"It was a joke. Don't worry about it."

"Mou, you're a little sister and yet you're teasing your older sister...!"

"What about it?"

"Muuuuu."

The siblings were waiting for the elevator while having a mysterious fight.

Chapter 86 A Secret Outing

Recently, I haven't been going anywhere with Hiiragi-chan except spending time at her place. Our relationship being a secret, we can't hang out outside very often. However, I wonder how she really feels about all this. If it's Hiiragi-chan, she would probably insist that it was fine like this.

"Recently, the amount of time we spend relaxing at home has increased, right?"

"Yeah, what about it?"

Across from me, Hiiragi-chan tilted her tea cup a bit, while looking at me with curious eyes.

"It's nothing... I was just wondering whether you felt bored."

"I like it, you know? This relaxing time that we have. At first, I said that I wanted to go places and have fun, but after getting used to it, this is nice in its own way."

She said quite a mature thing. If she had a place that she wanted to visit, she would have mentioned it, so it doesn't seem like she's particularly dissatisfied.

"Next Sunday, why don't we go somewhere fancy for a change?"

"Next week...? Ah. Sorry. That day is a little..."

"Ah, did you have plans?"

"Yeah... well... just a little..."

"What were you planning on doing?"

"Eeeh? It's nothing, nothing important."

Hiiragi-chan's eyes were swimming around. It was unusual for the Hiiragi-chan, who would immediately answer in the affirmative when I wanted to do something, to refuse. Rather, I was a little taken aback, because I didn't expect her to refuse.

"I-I see..."

"S-sorry!"

In the end, Hiiragi-chan clasped her hands together and apologized, but never told me about her plans. Maybe she's getting tired of me...? It's already been half a year since we started dating. Doesn't this happen a lot between couples? The end of the honeymoon phase!? She's been around me for too long and now she's tired of me...?

Since Hiiragi-chan is Hiiragi-chan, if the plan wasn't that big of a deal, I believe it should have been fine for her to tell me... Hmmmm? She didn't want to say it, so her saying that it wasn't a big deal was just an excuse?

Even when I asked her again, she just said, "It's just something trivial..."

Cheating...? No, my Hiiragi-chan would never do something like that...

Due to my extreme anxiety, I called Natsumi-chan in order to confide with her about it.

"Haru-chan, cheating? No no, that can't be possible, right?"

"No, but, even if I ask, she won't tell me at all."

"Well it's certain that she wants to keep something a secret from you."

"I was wondering whether that would be something like an affair or something along those lines... If you don't have anything to feel guilty about, then you don't need to hide it, right?"

"You have a point. But, if you're really that worried, why don't you just secretly follow along? If Haru-chan were in the same position, she would definitely do that, right? She's a stalker after all."

Natsumi-chan laughed as if remembering something.

"Why don't you tell Haru-chan what you're thinking right now. She would probably cry tears of joy, you know?"

"Is that really so...?"

"That feeling that Haru-chan gets when Thief-kun makes her heart skip a beat... That, I think I get it a little... Normally you look to be very composed, but when you show a weaker part of yourself, that gap, it's just a little... unfair..."

The last part was said quietly while mumbling.

It seems to be the thing that's called gap moe. I can understand it myself, but I couldn't help but tilt my head and wonder whether I was really like that.

"Natsumi-chan, are you like Sensei in liking gaps like that?"

"E-enough about me... Anyways, everything besides that matter is normal, right? It's fine, for sure."

Even if she tells me that it's fine, I still felt uneasy.

Sunday, I started my stakeout early in the morning from a position where I could see Hiiragi-chan's place. I observed for about an hour, but no one moved in or out. The car was parked in the parking lot, so I don't think she's left yet.

"Hello!"

Pon, someone tapped my shoulder from behind.

"Uwah, that scared me."

Natsumi-chan had arrived. The luxury car that seemed to have brought her here, drove off quietly down the road.

"Were there any movements?"

"Not at all."

At work yesterday, I had told her that I was going to do a stakeout, so she probably came out of curiosity.

"Thief-kun, buy me an anpan and milk."

"I don't want to. If you want it, buy it yourself."

"Then it won't match the atmosphere!"

"I don't care about that. Ah, she came out."

She wasn't wearing something as fancy as when she's going out on a date with me. Instead, her attire seemed a little rough and easy to move in, with a cap on her head.

"I wonder where she's going, Haru-chan."

She seemed to be in a good mood as she spun her keys with her finger and then got into her car.

"This is bad. She's planning on going somewhere far."

I grabbed the handles of my bike.

"Eh? You're planning on chasing after her on your bike?"

"It can't be helped, right?"

"Wait, just wait a moment. I'll call."

Call?

Natsumi-chan brought out her cell phone and called someone.

"... Hello? It's me. Can you bring a car around? Yeah, around Onee-sama's home... Yeah, yes. It's urgent, please hurry."

Her character had changed into one of a feminine lady.

"What? Why are you staring at me like that?"

"I was just thinking that you really were a lady."

"Talking like that is too stiff, so I don't really like it. But if I don't do that, everyone at home will treat me like a delinquent."

It seems that a lady has her own troubles.

In exchange of Hiiragi-chan's car, a black-painted luxury car that Natsumi-chan had summoned came by. The two of us then got on.

"Chase after Onee-sama's car."

Natsumii-chan pointed at Hiiragi-chan's car that was driving away in front of us. Her manner of speech, and the gestures were all that of a refined lady.

"What?"

"No, I was just thinking that this is also a sort of gap. It feels super refreshing."

"S-stupid..."

I was punched by Natsumi-oujou-sama in the shoulder.

Wondering whether she was going to meet another guy, I became worried as Hiiragi-chan's car entered a paid parking lot. In an upbeat

manner, she got out of the car and walked away. We also got out of the car, and followed behind her.

It was a lively area located near the train station. I felt like this area was a perfect place to meet up with a guy and have some tea or something...

"I wonder where she's going."

"Do you want to bet? I bet that she isn't meeting with another guy. If she wanted to keep it a secret from Thief-kun... it probably has something to do with her interests."

"Gambling. That isn't something Natsumi-oujou-sama would do, right?"

"S-shut up, idiot... Stop calling me with Ojou-sama."

When I teased her, Natsumi-oujou-sama once again gave me a punch in the shoulder.

"Wai— Ojou-sama, it hurts."

"It's because you keep poking fun at this Ojou-sama."

As we were taking jabs at each other, we saw Hiiragi-chan enter a multipurpose building.

Which store is she planning to go to...?

Taking a look at the tenants, there was a convenience store on the first floor, and from the second floor up, there were offices and an internet café. It was a lineup of stores with no unified purpose.

[Massage Main Hall] —My eyes stopped at this pink colored sign, it seems that Natsumi-chan was also interested in it.

"A massage...? Forty minutes for 10000 yen, isn't that expensive?"

It's probably not the massage that Nastumi-chan is thinking of...

"Natsumi-chan, it's not one of those normal ones..."

"Eh? If it's not normal, then what is it?"

Why is she always this dense when it comes to things like this?

"The pink color and cheaply designed sign——it's a store for perverted massages."

"Perverted... Eeeeeeeeeee!?"

Natsumi-chan's face turned red. While opening and closing her mouth, she pointed upwards at something her finger.

"The elevator, it stopped at that floor..."

"Eeeeeeeeeeeeeehhh!?"

No one else has gone into the elevator since Hiiragi-chan... Which means... what is this? A massage parlor for men. If Hiiragi-chan is entering it, then is she secretly working there...? The shock was so great that Natsumi-chan and I could only stand there stunned.

In front of our eyes, a person with eyes hidden by a cap quickly passed by. They pushed the button and waited for the elevator.

"Hmmm, Haru-chan?"

The person reacted with a twitch of their shoulders.

"Ah, no, this isn't Hiiragi Haruka."

As usual, she was terrible at lying.

"Haruka-san, where are you going?"

"Haaah~ I guess it was found out... I have something to do on the seventh floor of this building."

The seventh floor. There's the [Beauty Salon].

""So that's what it was...""

Natsumi-chan and I sat down right there.

Taking a closer look, Hiiragi-chan was holding a bag from the convenience store. The person that headed towards the massage shop wasn't Hiiragi-chan at all.

"It's an aesthetic shop that rumor has is really hard to get reservations for. I was finally able to make a reservation for today."

"If it's just that, then you could have just told me..."

"I just wanted Seiji-kun to say, *"Hmm? Haruka-san, did you become prettier?"* and so I kept silent."

"See. I told you it was fine," Natsumi-chan pounced on that statement.

She then explained to the confused Hiiragi-chan.

"Thief-kun was super worried whether Haru-chan was going to meet another guy."

"Heeeh~? Really? He was worried?"

Hiiragi-chan peeked at me happily.

"That's right, I was worried... just a little."

"Ufufu. It's almost time for my reservation, so I'll see you later."

She said that with a smile and got on to the elevator.

Nastumi-chan and I had accomplished our goal so we left.

After returning to Hiiragi-chan's place and relaxing for a bit, the owner returned.

"I'm home. How is it? This Haruka-san that came back from a beauty salon."

"... Yeah, it feels like your skin is a little shinier. It's pretty."

"The only reason that I went to the beauty salon because I wanted Seiji-kun to say that."

She hugged me tightly. Hearing her say that she wanted to get prettier for me, it really doesn't feel bad.

"That's a relief."

As I quietly muttered a statement of relief within my chest, I showed her the best smile that I could make.

Chapter 87 Advantage to the One Who Takes the Corner

Initially, it just started off as a way to kill time.

"Alright, with this, that's three wins in a row for me."

"Haruka-san, are you sure you didn't count wrong?"

"No, I am sure I didn't count wrong. In addition, isn't it obvious who won if we just look at the board?"

I glanced at the board in amazement, my black pieces had been completely overwhelmed by her white pieces.

"It's been a while since I've played Othello."

Haah, that was fun, Hiiragi-chan said as she stretched her hands.

However, I won't settle for just this. I bet my will and pride, no matter what, I want to win at least once...!

"O-one more time."

"Eeeh? Didn't you say the same thing earlier, Seiji-kun?"

"But, still, let's just do one more time..."

"Fufu, did losing against me frustrate you to that degree?"

While grinning, Hiiragi-chan glanced in my direction.

That's right, I'm frustrated. With the face of a man, I want to at least win once.

"I thought of something nice! Since just playing is kind of boring, how about the loser has play a penalty game?"

"That's fine. No take backs later, okay? It can't be changed."

"Seiji-kun, that's tying the noose around your neck, you know? How about we do this, if you lose you have to say ten things you like about the other person! Man... this is great!"

I'm sorry if you're just starting to get excited about this, but the person who will dominate the board next will be me. I know of a little trick.

—The person who takes the corner has an advantage! Or, so I just noticed.

Taking the pieces back into my hand, we started our fourth round.

You were able to take three straight wins from me as I was ignorant, but now that I understand everything, can you still win against me.

Pata, I turned over a white piece towards the black side.

"Ten things you like about the other person. Isn't that quite a lot?"

"It isn't that much. For me the number of things I like about Seiji-kun, is probably the same as the number of cells in your body."

"That's way too many, right?"

"I love you down to your cells ♡"

"That statement, is a little scary..."

Pata pata, Hiiragi-chan dyed my black pieces white.

... Ah, uhhh. T-the corners have been taken before I even noticed. The black pieces are super outnumbered.

"... Ha-Haruka-san, would you mind making some coffee?"

"Yeah. Wait a moment."

Hiiragi-chan stood up from her seat and headed in the direction of the kitchen. As she was turned away, I fiddled around with the board a bit.

"Seiji-kun, you really like coffee. I'm a black tea person, I don't really get why coffee could taste good—Here's your coffee."

"Ah, yeah, thanks."

While tilting the cup with coffee in it, I casually observed Hiiragi-chan.

"Ummmm, next is my turn, right...?"

Pata, she set down a white piece and turned over my piece.

What!? The piece that I secretly fixed earlier has all of a sudden turned back to white!? I put in so much effort to move the pieces without being noticed too!

"Haruka-san, you just moved that piece, right?"

"That's because Seiji-kun did it first, right?"

It'll become like that, so I can't point it out.

When did it happen...? She's too quick, that I didn't even realize it.

"Haruka-san, I think I would like some milk today..."

"Ah, sorry. I just thought that you usually want it black."

"It's fine, it's fine. Don't worry about it."

Hiiragi-chan once again stood up from her seat. Aiming for the moment that she turned away, I moved the pieces of the board to my advantage. Like this, I'll be able to make a comeback with my next move.

"Put as much as you want," Hiiragi-chan said as she brought three packages of creamer and set them on the table.

"Yeah, thanks."

Opening the cover, I dumped one into the cup.

"My turn is done, it's your turn."

Now then, my one turn come back... wait...? W-what!? It's already flipped back!? I don't remember losing sight of it...!

As I took a sidelong glance at Hiiragi-chan, she was smiling. However, it was weird. If she noticed, then wouldn't she point out that I was cheating. She normally says everything in a straightforward manner.

Under the table, Hiiragi-chan entangled her tights covered legs with mine.

"...Is something wrong?"

"N-no... it's nothing."

The board had cleanly returned to its original state. Does she have it completely memorized?

Suri suri, she secretly started rubbing her legs against mine. She does that when she wants to be spoiled, but now is a time to hold back.

We are currently at Hiiragi-chan's place.

There shouldn't be any issues, why should I need to hold back? Is it because we're in the middle of a game that I need to endure?

While nervous, I stretched out my hand, and placed down my piece. At that moment, I flipped a white piece below my palm and turned it black.

Alright. It wasn't found out.

"...That just now was the third time."

"!?"

Without speaking to anyone in particular, Hiiragi-chan spoke as if muttering, and then placed down a white piece while flipping a nearby black piece.

She knew about my trickery but didn't point it out...!? Why? Is there any merit in not pointing out my cheating?

It was my turn, but I couldn't overturn her lead and it ended in my fourth loss.

"Seiji-kun, three penalties."

I raised my hand in surrender.

"Sorry. I apologize for moving things out of turn."

"Fufun... since it's 3 penalties, 10 times 10 times 10, it becomes 1000 things you like about me."

"That's too many! If it's 3, then shouldn't it just be 10 times 3?"

Do you really want me to say 1000 things I like about you?

"Seiji-kun, do you really have complaints for me? You were the one who was cheating."

"Ku..."

"The first time was when I went to make coffee, you turned over 5 pieces near the corner so that it wouldn't look unnatural."

S-she's right...

"Sensei, but still, isn't 1000 too many?"

Hiiragi-chan, with her tights covered legs still entangled with my legs, started rubbing.

"You won't say it?"

"If it was at least 100..."

"The second time was four pieces in the top left, and the third time was when you put down your own piece, you flipped over an extra white piece."

"..."

She perfectly pointed all of them out. It seems that she can see through my cheating quite easily.

Even though you're usually a little airheaded and sometimes helpless, stop excelling in random places...

She stood up and came over to my side, and lay down on my thighs.

"Give me a princess carry like this."

"Eh. Like this?"

"What about it?"

"No, it's nothing."

So, she was aiming for this when she didn't point out my cheating. Since it can't be helped, I put in the effort and lifted Hiiragi-chan up.

"Seiji-kun, you're so strong."

With both my arms occupied, Hiiragi-chan was able to kiss me however much she wanted. Giving me love bites, kissing me, she was allowed to do anything she wanted to me. There's definitely going to be kiss marks left...

"What part of me do you like?"

Reluctantly, I did as I was told.

"The airheaded part of you."

"Am I really like that...? W-what else?"

"The helpless part of you."

"I'm not helpless."

"The part of you where you think of me too much and go too far."

"Uuu... sorry..."

"Also..."

"Enough is enough."

"Including all of that, I love you."

"Seiji-kun, geez!"

Even if I were to stop giving her a princess carry, Hiiragi-chan didn't seem like she would stop clinging on to me

"Giving me the carrot after the stick. Seiji-kun, you're such a tease..."

♡

I wasn't made to say a thousand things, but I wasn't given any right to refuse her kisses. In my heart, I swore that I would never again cheat at Othello.

Chapter 88 Love Letter

"What is this...?"

When I arrived at school this morning, I found something unexpected inside my shoe box. It was a cute envelope with pink colored edges and cat prints.

"?"

The opening of the envelope was sealed with a cat sticker.

"..."

Is this, no way—!? Isn't this a love letter!? N-no one saw, right...?

Taking a quick look around, there wasn't anyone that seemed to be interested in what I was up to. In a panicked state, I headed to the nearby restroom and locked myself in a stall. After undoing the seal, I opened the envelope. Maybe because the stationary used came along with the envelope as a set, there were a few cute deformed cats printed on it.

"T-this, it can't be, right...?"

There shouldn't be anyone who would write a love letter to me...

To Sanada-kun,

Sorry for this sudden letter. It came to this because I was unaware as to any of your contact information. We were in the same class in our first year, and talking with you was really enjoyable. Your looks are also my type. You might not remember me very well, but I have something I want to tell you. After school today, I'll be waiting behind the school building. If you do decide to come, it would make me really happy.

2-E Hamana Yui

—It's most definitely a love letter!? A hundred out of a hundred people would determine this to be a love letter. That's how much of a love letter it is!

Class E's Hamana-san...? Most of my memories involving my first year of high school have become quite vague, but I do remember Hamana-san. If I remember correctly, she was in the concert band. She was a free-spirited girl that talked frankly with everybody, and her smile gave the impression of a cute girl.

Staring closely at the paper, marks could be seen from using the eraser over and over again. It seems that while thinking of how she could convey her feelings, she had rewritten it multiple times. Since I don't have any female friends, even if she asked other girls, she wouldn't be able to find my mail address.

This was the first time I've received something like this since I was born. W-what should I do? I would normally be happy about this...

"Uuaaaaaaaaaah!? Is this really happening?"

Don don, I hit the door. Reading it over again, I can see that she might have had feelings for me since our first year. This would mean that Hamana-san favored me.

Of course, the previous time, I hadn't had an event like receiving a love letter, which is a perfect representation of youth. I guess this would be the thing where a sheep doesn't look attractive on its own, but when a wolf is aiming for it, its charm is suddenly raised.

Which means, me dating Hiiragi-chan, I don't really know, but is there some sort of pheromone that's associated with that? A-anyways, that doesn't matter. I have to turn down Hamana-san's feelings.

"... Is this really happening...?"

Even if I've been rejected before, I have never thought that I would be rejecting someone else.

If both people were put on scales, this would be obvious but Hiiragi-chan would stand out as the stronger.

My excitement cooled down in a moment.

I am going to respond to Hamana-san with sincerity. Tell her that I'm sorry.

I might make her cry. Other girls might also talk behind my back, calling me terrible for rejecting her.

"... Sanada-kun, you don't seem to have much energy. What's wrong?"

During lunch break, when the four of us gathered in the home economics room and ate our lunch boxes, Hiiragi-chan peered over at me worriedly.

"No... it's nothing."

If I tell her about the letter, Hiiragi-chan will definitely feel anxious and start to worry.

During the afternoon classes, the teacher's explanations came in one ear and out the other. Not even one bit of it entered my brain. As the end of school hours closed in, I became nervous. However, Hamana-san's nervousness was probably significantly higher than mine.

When I first confessed to Hiiragi-chan, I didn't know when I would return to the present time, so it was partially in the heat in the moment and a part of me that knew there was nothing to lose. I was embarrassed and nervous.

However, when a time and place is decided, a different feeling of nervousness overcomes you. Her preparing the letter, placing it into my shoe locker and then waiting for school to end. That is amazing.

The last bell of the day rang, and everyone left the classroom.

Now should be alright.

With my indoor shoes still equipped, I head towards the back of the school building. The area where the tea room was also located had no people around as usual. Under the eave of the tea room, Hamana-san was waiting.

When our eyes met, my heart rate suddenly increased.

A-as a guy, I should say something first.

"Umm. About the letter, thank you... I appreciate it."

"Yeah. Sorry for calling you out so, suddenly... I-if you have plans, w-we can finish this quickly."

Her voice and way of speaking was quieter and faster than I remember it to be. The tone conveyed her nervousness.

"No, it's okay. I don't mind since I didn't have anything planned."

What did you want to talk about? Should I start it off with something straight-forward like that...?

I'll just wait for Hamana-san to start talking...

"T-the sports festival, you had great success didn't you. I was watching."

"A-ahh... Yeah, it wasn't really that much of a success... There were just a lot of things that happened."

Hahaha, as I laughed dryly, I was troubled about where to look with my eyes and ended up looking down. I noticed Hamana-san tightly clutching her hand into a fist.

"U-ummm——During the borrowed item race... the person you like... you brought Hiiragi-sensei, right? About that——what does it mean...?"

"Aaah, that... I just thought that it would be safe to bring a teacher... Me included, everyone likes Hiiragi-sensei, right?"

It was a response that I had thought of beforehand in order to answer anyone's questioning. In reality, I was asked similar things by the girls in our class after that.

Whether she thought of it as a joke, or whether it was because of something else, Hamana-san's expression slightly softened.

"That's true... D-do you have anyone else you like?"

Why are you asking that——I won't say something dense like that. If I wasn't handed the letter, then I would think that it would be weird to have been asked that though.

"There's no one else."

Other than Hiiragi-chan, there is no one else that I like. That isn't a lie.

"...Umm, you know."

Dokin, my heart jumped.

Hamana-san cut off her words, and pursed her lips for a while.

"Ummm..."

"Yeah?"

"Since before... since our first year, I've always liked you."

Gripping the hem of her skirt, Hamana-san said that while looking straight at my eyes.

"Thank you."

This confession, if we were still in our first year, I would have easily answered her and dated her.

I mean, it's normally impossible for me to date a teacher.

It's impossible.

That's something that everyone knows as common sense. No matter how deep or shallow those feelings are, the chance of it happening is zero.

If a girl in front of me liked me, and that person was also a girl that I felt like I could like... there would be no reason for me to refuse—— There would probably be some jealousy directed at me from Fujimoto though I think.

Even if that is something that might happen, it's still just an if.

This time, I don't understand how it happened, but that supposedly impossible *if*, has now occurred.

After my word of thanks, I spoke again to Hamana-san who was waiting.

"However, I'm sorry. I'm really happy to receive your feelings, but I cannot reciprocate them..."

After a breathtaking silence, Hamana-san opened her mouth.

"I... I see... Your reason, can I ask you for it...? Is it because you don't have much interest in romance...?"

It seemed like she would cry at any moment, but still, she asked me straight on.

Just telling her that I have someone I like would just be passing it off. Thinking that, I didn't do it. Most likely, if I did, she would accept it, but after receiving a love letter for the first time, towards the girl who while nervous squeezed out her courage to confess to me. Running away from that with some vague statement? Is that really me being sincere?

"... Sorry. Earlier, when I said 'Everyone likes Hiiragi-sensei, right?' it was brushed over a bit, but... I was serious. I seriously like her. Hiiragi-sensei that is."

I left it with the nuance that I liked her one sidedly though.

"... Yeah... I thought that might be it... When we went on our school trip... you seemed to be really enjoying it after all."

Good luck, saying that with a tearful voice, Hamana-san ran off.

Haaah... as I let out a sigh, I sat down on the spot. This was good. However, my chest hurts. If I hide the fact that it's Hiiragi-chan and announce that I have a girlfriend, this probably wouldn't happen, right?

"... Sanada-kun."

"Aah... Sensei."

She might have been watching the whole thing from the start. Normally, Hiiragi-chan would tell me that she likes me, and look completely happy, but right now she had a slightly complicated expression.

Hiiragi-chan also sat down beside me.

"You were confessed to by Hamana-san?"

"Yeah. I rejected her though."

"I see... Last week, I was asked by Hamana-san. Do you like Sanada-kun? She held the determination of a maiden in love."

It seems that Hamana-san had asked her when Hiiragi-chan was alone. At that time, Hamana-san had apparently revealed that she liked me and declared war on Hiiragi-chan.

"How did you respond?"

"I like him, you know? I said it with a really light tone. I didn't lie. I don't know how Hamana-san interpreted it though."

"It seems that she somehow had a feeling that I liked you."

"You naturally end up chasing your eyes the person you like, and then you end up knowing a lot about them. And so, she was probably wondering what I thought of you I think."

That means, Hiiragi-chan knew that I would be confessed to at some point.

"Dating at school means that this type of thing would happen... You'll end up making every girl other than me cry."

"Every girl? That's an exaggeration. There probably won't be anything like this from now on."

"Is that really true? I can think of at least one more person."

Who would that be?

"... You know, I'm actually a little worried."

"That I would two-time?"

"That you would change to liking someone younger than me."

"Someone younger..."

I smiled wryly.

"The only person I like is Haruka-san."

Hiiragi-chan placed her hand on top of mine.

"Thank you. Me too."

That day, for dinner, I was called over by Hiiragi-chan. The number of words exchanged between us were few. However, it was just that the number of kisses we shared had increased.

Chapter 89 Hiiragi-chan's Consultation Room

One day during break.

As I passed by the AV room, I heard Hiiragi-chan's voice. It was her voice and it seems as though she's talking to someone else. The other person appears to be a girl.

I wonder what they're talking about.

As I secretly take a peek inside, I saw Hiiragi-chan with her arms crossed facing me, and across from her was a high school second year girl.

"If it's Sensei, you probably have a lot of romantic experience, so I wanted to ask you."

"Yeah, leave it to me! Sensei is very experienced in things like girls talk."

Seems like the girl is asking about romantic advice. More importantly, Hiiragi-chan has a lot of romantic experience?

I'm a little bit interested, so I'll just take intrude for a bit.

"So, what is it that you're worrying about?"

"My boyfriend and I haven't had sex recently. I was wondering if maybe he was tired of me?"

"....."

Kachiiin, Hiiragi-chan turned stiff.

She instantly froze! The confidence that she had earlier was blown away in an instant!? Even though she was very teacher-like and said that she was used to girls talk, all with a smug face!

"I'm worried about whether or not he might be cheating on me..."

"..."

"If it's Sensei, it feels like you would have a lot of experience, so I was wondering whether you might know what to do... Sensei?"

"Y-yeah... the stamen and pistil, combine... and so..."

Hiiragi-chan is in a state of complete panic.

"Sensei, we're not talking about plants, you know?"

... There's no way Hiiragi-chan would know. For the two of us, we're each other's first lovers. And, we haven't progressed any further than kissing. In other words, this sort of topic is a zone that Hiiragi-chan has no experience in. There's no way you could confide with her about this.

"T-that, I don't think it's cheating."

"Then, what should I do to get him interested in me again...?"

"....."

With her eyes swimming, Hiiragi-chan desperately tried to think of something.

What can she possibly say without knowing anything? The moment she talked big and asked to leave the matter to her, it had already become the point of no return.

"Nose, maybe you use that...?"

Nose!?

"Nose? Making him smell something?"

"... Something more, uhh, p-physical than that...?"

"Eh!? Using it like that, I've never done it before... Sensei, you have?"

"Yeah, I have."

Without even meeting the girl's gaze, Hiiragi-chan gave an instant response.

She is speaking as if she's an expert or something...

"How do I do it? Is there a way you can demonstrate... right now, nobody should be coming after all."

"Eh.... Umm... Ah. Sorry, this, this might be a little bit too early for a high schooler."

Leaving high schoolers aside, it's too early even for the human race. Just quickly tell her that you don't really have any real experience.

"Sorry."

Teheepero, she tried to pass it off in a cute manner. At the current moment, a solution hasn't been found, is everything going to be okay...?

"Then, Sensei, what would you do if you were in my situation?"

"Eh? D-doing something... so lewd, with my boyfriend?"

"No, I'm not talking about when you do it, but when you stop having sex."

"I-I wonder... I guess I w-wouldn't like it..."

She's completely red.

"I am not asking about your feelings, I wanted to ask about measures or ways to prevent it..."

With her face still red, Hiiragi-chan looked downward.

"Uuuu... T-that's right..."

Please stop already!

She proclaims that she has a lot of experience, but as far as I know, all of that is just her experiences with me. The teacher in front of your eyes is still a virgin.

"Ah, then, you should p-properly confirm your feelings with each other!"

"Sensei, you sometimes say things that are very middle schooler like."

Kusu kusu, the girl laughed.

Even though she was starting to settle down, Hiiragi-chan once again turned red. This can't go on.

Hiiragi-chan probably has an overwhelming advantage when it comes to girl power, but her level as a *woman* is too low.

The girl probably came to confide to Hiiragi-chan because she didn't seem like she would say something like, doing something like that as a high schooler isn't good.

What should I do here?

"What if, you try cheating on him...?"

What are you suggesting?

"I didn't think of that!"

I didn't think of that! Don't say that!

"I-if you're lonely then you should bury it with another guy—"

"It's a plan to attract your boyfriend, right!? Sensei, you're so smart!"

"Yeah, right!"

Please wait. You were clearly trying to say something terrible at first, right!? Why are you changing a student's view on things so lightly!?

"Sensei, how far do you think is okay, and how far do you think is cheating?"

"Ah, this debate. Let's talk about it."

You're a beginner, don't act like a veteran.

"For me... maybe it's when you're talking enjoyably with a person of the opposite gender?"

So strict!? I've definitely already crossed that line multiple times.

"Sensei, isn't that too strict? I could understand if you're in the same class, but if you were in a different class, or even went to a different school, you wouldn't actually know, right?"

"That's true, that's true. Then you just need to place a listening device in the pocket of their uniform."

"Listening device!?"

Listening device!?

Let's see, inside my uniform pockets... Ah, there isn't anything. That's a relief.

"There's a battery powered one that can send what it records over to your personal computer."

She so knowledgeable!?

"I guess I wouldn't go that far... I am lonely and I do suspect cheating, but... in the end, I still trust him."

"Yeah, me too. In the end, I still trust him, so I won't actually act on it."

Phew, I patted my chest in relief.

"Thank you, Sensei. Maybe I'll try by appealing with some lewder underwear!"

"...!?"

Don't make a face that says, ah, there was that, Sensei.

The girl was coming towards me, so I retreated.

After that day, Hiiragi-chan's underwear lineup increased in respect to those that were more erotic and had sheer lace. (Hiiragi-chan showed them to me happily.) If she were to close in on me while wearing that, my sense of reason would definitely crumble down, or so I thought.

Chapter 90 My Results

[The current me is a promising young employee of the HRG company. The company has not gone bankrupt yet, but it is a fact that it has started to fall.]

With my time leap released, when I tried to check the date, I noticed this note sandwiched in the cover of my notepad type smartphone. When I regained my consciousness, I found myself laying in bed, which was in what seemed to be my house, and Hiiragi-chan was sleeping soundly next to me. I've returned from ten years ago to the present time once again. And this note seems to be a message from the present me to the high-school me.

[Speaking of results, it wasn't wrong of me to join the HRG company and work part-time in my second year of high school. However, it seems there's another big reason for the company to go bankrupt. Of course, I don't know what that reason is.]

It was early in the morning and I had a serious expression as I got up out of bed.

It seems that even doing as much as I could as a part-time worker, I could only delay the bankruptcy, and not stop it.

[The company's 2500 employees and their families will be affected by this. I want to stop it no matter what.]

I know that. I really do. He's talking about how it would be fine as long as Hiiragi-chan and I were happy. Something like that may be fine in a romance between high schoolers, but it was now a romance between two adults. There are a lot of things that I need to consider.

[Hiiragi-chan... about Haruka-san, with the support of Natsumi-chan, we were able to live together, but marriage still seems to be difficult.]

This is way too early in the morning for something this depressing...

[Leaving Hiiragi Papa to Natsumi-chan was the right call, but as for her mother, she still hasn't accepted our relationship. I need to advance further within the company, or at least that's what I'm currently working hard towards at the present.]

I'm talking about doing my best, but there probably isn't much advancement in a company that's starting to fall.

[Rather than trying to do something from the inside, it might be better to do it as a person of the Hiiragi family.]

There is a limit to how much one can do as an employee.

In my second year of high school, I started working part time, I thought that with my knowledge and experience at the HRG company, I could prevent its bankruptcy, but it seems that it's hard for a mere employee to work towards avoiding it. However, the last time I returned to the present, the HRG company was already bankrupt, and Natsumi-chan was living with us as a freeloader, borrowing a room.

That's why it could be said that the worst of it was avoided, and that there were results.

[In that case, it shouldn't be Sanada Haruka, but rather Hiiragi Seiji.]

Sanada Haruka... The feeling of marriage closing in on becoming a reality, feel really good. However, Hiiragi Seiji... Ah, does that mean I should become the adopted son-in-law?

[With that, as the husband of the president's daughter, I should be able to gain some sort of authority within the company.]

The way it's mentioned makes it sound like becoming an adopted son in-law of Hiiragi-chan's family is just means for a career advancement.

[I'm not just saying this for the sake of career advancement.]

As expected of me. I really do understand my own thinking.

[I need to be officially recognized by the family as a fiancé by the time I graduate high school. If that doesn't happen, now, when I'm twenty-seven years old, the company has already started its downfall, and marriage is far from progressing.]

That was the last thing that was written in the note.

The difficulty of this hurdle is quite high.

This time and the last time, the company ended up doing badly, but before all of this, before I even made a time leap to my second year of high school, this wasn't the case. When I was living with Sana, and wasn't in a relationship with Hiiragi-chan, my workplace didn't changed at all. When I became a teacher, I wonder if the HRG company was already beginning its downfall.

If that's the case...

"No, but... there's no way Hiiragi-chan and I dating would be the trigger for the HRG company to fall..."

Even if that's the case, breaking up with Hiiragi-chan is not an option. Breaking up for that reason, would be mixing up priorities. I should quickly become officially on good terms with her family. That should take highest priority.

"... Seiji-kun... what is it, making such a scary face...?"

Hiiragi-chan who was sleeping next to me woke up, and wrapped her arms around my waist.

"Yeah. Just thinking about some things."

I stroked her lustrous hair.

Morning was laid-back, a time for just the two of us. Somehow, this feels like it would be enough to make me happy.

... Hiiragi-chan was topless... and I wasn't wearing any clothes either.

Looks like last night was quite a lot of fun!?

On her pale back, there were a few slight bruises.

"Haruka-san, your back, are you okay?"

"Yeah. It's fine. You did it, didn't you?"

Me!? No way...!?

"I said it was fine if you applied more force too..."

Did she become a masochist!?

"There's no need to think about such troublesome things. It'll be fine."

I didn't say anything, but Hiiragi-chan seemed to notice something and hugged me. As expected, having Hiiragi-chan do this to me is quite healing.

"Yeah. Thank you. However, if I have something I can do, I'll do my best."

"Choosing you was right. You were always amazing, but now, you've become even more of a wonderful man."

The "power of love" that Hiiragi-chan often mentioned, was at this moment something that even I wanted to believe in.

Fuwaah, the feeling of being involved in a time leap enveloped my body.

The next moment after I blinked, the scenery in front of me changed to Hiiragi-chan's place. It seemed to be around lunchtime, Hiiragi-chan was currently in the kitchen making something.

I moved around behind her back and lightly hugged her.

"Kyah!? ... Hey, it's dangerous while cooking."

While saying that, Hiiragi-chan quickly gave me a kiss. It seems that she's learned a weird skill called Fast Kiss.

"I'll do my best to become Haruka-san's fiancé."

I release my arms from her as she turns around to face me and opened her arms, making a pose as if to say, "Come here." I let myself be taken in and was hugged by Hiiragi-chan.

"It'll be fine even if you don't work too hard, you know?"

"No, even so, I want to do my best."

"... Seiji-kun, that's... basically a proposal, you know? Do you understand? You've already said something similar to that before though I guess."

Hmmmmmm? She peeked at me.

Of course, I know. There's only Hiiragi-chan for me, there isn't anyone else I can think of.

"Haruka-san."

As I was staring straight at her, Hiiragi-chan was able to sense something due to her good intuition.

With a tense face, she cleared her throat once.

"Yes."

"I'm still just a high schooler and nothing else... but I still love you, Haruka-san."

"... Yes... Me too... I love you."

Saying that with quivering lips, tears swelled up in Hiiragi-chan's eyes.

"Please marry me. From now on, I'd like to be with you forever."

"... Yes."

With tears spilling out, Hiiragi-chan smiled with all she could.

That's right. I didn't even think of it, but at a time like this, you're supposed to give a ring, but I didn't even prepare for that.

When I mentioned that, Hiiragi-chan didn't seem to mind at all, she said, "You can do it again after you graduate. It's okay."

Chapter 91 Manga Reenactment Play

"... Haruka-san, what did you purchase?"

We were on our way back from a book store. When I told her that I was going to go buy the new volume of a manga from the bookstore, Hiiragi-chan insisted on tagging along.

"Eh? I didn't buy anything, did I?"

Hmm? I saw her line up at the cash register, did she decide not to buy it...?

Once we returned to Hiiragi-chan's place, I immediately started to read the new volume, and Hiiragi-chan also pulled out something to read. Normally, she sticks close to me. However, while I was sitting on the sofa today, Hiiragi-chan ended up sitting at the dining table instead.

...That's suspicious.

As I sneakily peeked over, I saw that she was reading a cooking book. What's with that? It's not like she needs to hide something like that.

"Ah. It's already this late? I'll go make dinner, okay? Do you have any requests?"

"Maybe something Chinese?"

"Roger that ♪"

Hiiragi-chan equipped an apron and headed over to the kitchen.

Patan, as I closed my book, I noticed something weird. The cookbook is slightly expanded.... It was as if something was sandwiched inside of it... Ah. She was using the cookbook as a way to hide what she was actually reading...?

Without Hiiragi-chan noticing me, I went to the table, stretched out my arm, and grabbed the cookbook. As I thought, it's strangely thick. When I opened it, sure enough, another book fell out.

It had a brown covering that you would get from the book store, so I couldn't see the cover. Well, that's fine. If I just read it, I'll figure it out.

When I opened and looked inside, I realized that it was the fifth volume of a shoujo manga. This isn't something to be embarrassed about... then why...?

As I tilted my head and flipped through the pages, I finally understood why she wanted to hide it.

Even if it's a shoujo manga, I guess it would be one that is aimed towards the late teens? There were a few lewd scenes. I see. Haruka-ojousama is a lady that shouldn't be reading lewd mangas like this.

But wait? In her bedroom, weren't there multiple other books with the same cover? Is it possible...

Sneaking around so as to not be noticed, I went into the bedroom. I found a shelf with books for work and 2 or 3 self-improvement books. Apart from that, I found four books, with their book covers unremoved.

"... This is it."

I thought that maybe it was some sort of novel, but to think that inside of it was a shoujo manga aimed at those in their late teens. As I flipped through them, it was just as I thought. However, there were some tags in it.

One, two, three, four... seven places in total.

"Tagging a manga... it isn't a reference book though..."

While wryly smiling, I opened up to a tagged page. It was quite the erotic scene.

[Doki doki ♡]

That comment was written down on the tag as well.

"Ah. So, she tags the scenes she likes, and then writes down a thought about it?"

Well, people enjoy things differently.

The next tag had the comment, [I might die if Seiji-kun did this to me ♡]

...Is that? What you would call a katedon in modern times?

I opened it up to the page and it was quite the erotic scene.

"... It can't be."

Checking the tagged pages in other volumes, they were all quite erotic scenes.

S-she's completely interested! She was like a middle school boy that would look up sex in a dictionary and mark it!

The comments were all things like [Haaauuu], or [Kyuun ♡].

So she's been studying by reading things like this.

"Seiji-kun? Mapo tofu or eggplant, which..."

Ah. I was found out.

While repeatedly looking at the manga in my hand, Hiiragi-chan dropped the ladle in her hand.

"I-It's not... Seiji-kun, i-it's not that..."

"Eh? What is it not?"

While grinning, I opened up a tagged page and approached Hiiragi-chan while showing it to her. A weird switch inside of me flipped on.

"This scene, what's with this 'Kyuun ♡'? Heeeh, so this is the type of stuff you like, Haruka-san?"

"I-I'm telling you, it's not that!"

While panicking and blushing, Hiiragi-chan slowly backed off.

"Na-Na-Natsumi said that it was interesting, so I just bought it to try it..."

"Did Natsumi-chan also tell you to tag all the erotic scenes?"

"She said, Haru-chan needs to study too! That's why... the tags..."

"You're completely interested in this, Haruka-san."

Ugugugu... as her mouth turned into the shape of a frown, she ended up with teary eyes before I knew it.

Ah, this is bad. I overdid it.

"That's right! I am interested! But, it's forbidden to do something like that in reality right now, so I'm reading manga to study!"

"S-she turned defiant!"

While taking deep breaths, Hiiragi-chan appealed with teary eyes.

"While thinking about how I would die if Seiji-kun did this to me, I grinned while hiding myself in the futon! I know it's improper!"

"I-i-it's not like I said that it was bad..."

It was one of those 'a cornered rat will bite a cat' situations.

"Then, why don't we try doing it?"

"Hoeeeh?"

"The scenes that you have taken a liking to, Haruka-san and I..."

"Let's do it! Let's do it!"

Hiiragi-chan pulled the manga from me.

"Bufufu, bufu, gufu... w-what should I do? Which scene should we do..."

Letting out an eerie laugh, she turned the pages.

"Alright, I've decided! I'll change first, so Seiji-kun should get out."

"Eh!? You're putting this much effort into this?"

While pointing at the box with the scene, she handed the manga to me.

"It's over here. This one! Remember your lines, okay!?"

She's serious... I merely intended to do a slight imitation of it though.

This scene was one where the hero rushed towards the depressed main protagonist, hugged her from behind and whispered his love into her ear.

... That's a relief. It's not some erotic scene.

"I'm ready now!" After Hiiragi-chan called out, I opened the door.

It seems that the scene has already started, as Hiiragi-chan was on the bed, her arms around her knees.

She took glances at me, and since she already knows how this scene would unfold, she's grinning from ear to ear. Hey, this setting is supposed to be one where you're depressed.

Lightly coughing, I started acting out as the hero.

"... So you were in a place like this? I was looking for you."

"Why did you come looking for me? There's no need for you to care about me."

With the door still open, I made a loud audible sigh.

"Haaah... Of course, I'd look for you. Especially if you run away with a face like that."

"Don't come chasing after me. Seiji-kun, you probably like Sana-chan anyways, right!?"

Buu!?

Why is she using real names?

"I know about that... the fact that Seiji and Sana-chan had sex."

Buhah!? That technically is the correct line, but please don't insert real names.

"Haruka, haven't you misunderstood something? That was something that Sana ended up saying selfishly. It isn't true at all."

"Ha-Haruka..."

Seeming to have had her heart tighten, Hiiragi-chan held down her chest.

You're showing your real self you know?

"O-oh... Really?"

"Really."

I approached Hiiragi-chan from behind and hugged her.

And, the finishing line.

"Haruka is the only one that I love."

It's a somewhat embarrassing line...

The next line was supposed to be from the main protagonist, but Hiiragi-chan was silent. It seems that her heart had surpassed a critical point, and her whole body staggered with her ears red.

"Next line, next line."

I spoke into her ear with a quiet voice.

"Tha... that's right... Ohon.... I still can't believe that... I want to believe it, but I can't be made to believe it."

"Then, how about with this?"

I gently lifted her chin, and kissed her.

With this, the scene was over.

"C-can you call me Haruka one more time...?"

"You like those super confident types?"

"Fuguu... th-that's not it, but... I want Seiji-kun to say something like, '*You are mine, Haruka*'."

"Don't smoothly make a request like that?"

It didn't seem like she would take it back at all, so I could only answer her request, and whispered into her ear.

"You are mine, Haruka."

"Yes... ♡ I am yours..."

I don't know if it was because she was acting out a role or something, but Hiiragi-chan's limiter was in a state of release. Without even turning on the lights, we flirted in the dark.

Needless to say, dinner ended up not being homemade Chinese, but just some random takeout.

Chapter 92 The Calligraphy Plot

Our school gives a choice of an elective for students. You can choose your preferred arts subject among music, art, and calligraphy. The one that I chose was calligraphy.

Normally, there would be a specialized calligraphy teacher that led the class, but today was somewhat different.

"Iguchi-sensei is resting today, so today, I, Hiiragi Haruka, will be in charge of the class. Nice to meet everyone."

After Hiiragi-chan made her greetings, she lowered her head.

Hiiragi-chan, can you really do calligraphy? Although, I guess your handwriting on the blackboard is usually quite neat.

"Sensei, do you actually know any calligraphy?"

A boy asked in a teasing manner, to which Hiiragi-chan went ahem, and held her chest high.

"Even though I look like this, I'm really good at calligraphy, you know? I got to the fifth level in calligraphy after all!"

That somehow sounds amazing... The around twenty students in the calligraphy room all had the same reaction as me. It sounded amazing, but no one had any clue as to the way in which it was amazing.

"If you were to ask how amazing it is, well, it's good enough to open my own calligraphy class!"

""""That's amazing!""""

"I know, right?"

Ahem, Hiiragi-chan who was making a smug face was cute. She was quite knowledgeable when it came to tea ceremonies, so maybe things along this line are part of the etiquette taught to a refined lady.

"I think it'll probably be boring doing as the textbook says. Rather, Iguchi-sensei told me to freely have you guys write something. As such, the topic that you will write about is 'something you like'."

"Something you like", is it...?

As if Hiiragi-chan had just thought of it, she took a side glance at me and our eyes met.

"Ah, Sanada-kun, it's okay if you write my name, okay?"

Kusu kusu, the whole class had a good laugh.

Since I brought Hiiragi-chan as the *"person that I like"* in the borrowed item race, I have been teased by various people who had witnessed it. It was only ever meant as joking around, no one ever believed that I actually did like Hiiragi-chan.

More importantly, it was really convenient. The more people tease me about it, the more people recognize it as a joke.

"I won't write that."

"Weelll, that's too bad."

Hiiragi-chan smiled. The girls jokingly tried to comfort her saying stuff like, "Sensei was rejected," or "Sensei, cheer up."

...I was the only one that knew that she was seriously down after smiling like that though...

Taking the ink, I grinded it into the inkstone.

What should I write?

As I look around, there were some that wrote things about club activities, and even girls who straight up wrote 'boyfriend'. Taking it further, there were even some people who were writing the names of their favorite anime character.

Of course, I won't write girlfriend or anything like that.

"Sanada-kun, I heard from Iguchi-sensei that you were good."

Hiiragi-chan came over to see how I was doing.

"I'm not that good."

"Do you want to try writing a sentence? How about something like, 'The smell of spring, the life instilling breath of April'? Isn't that so elegant?"

Oooh... as expected of a Hiiragi-chan, who is at the fifth level. Such an elegant proposal.

"Then, I guess I'll try it."

"I'll write it out as an example."

As she holds my brush, she dips it into the inkstone, and wiped off any excess ink. Perhaps it was because of her splendid posture, Hiiragi-chan's movements felt high class. Her eyes portrayed the definition of seriousness. Her bangs seemed to be in the way, so she brushed them off to the side and behind her ear.

This might be the first time I've seen such a serious expression from her.

She wrote down a couple of characters.

[I ♥ Seiji]

Please do this seriously.

I was just thinking that I would once again fall in love with her and then she does this. Still, her handwriting was quite pretty.

I crumpled the calligraphy paper and shot it into the trash can.

"Ah. That was really nice too, what are you doing?"

Pukuu, Hiiragi-chan pouted.

Me liking Hiiragi-chan is being treated as a joke, but it doesn't work the other way around.

"Sensei, please properly write the example."

"Okaaay."

While being sullen she replied like a child and mumbled, "It's fine if I do it, right?" and once again dipped the brush into the inkstone.

Hey, weren't you the one that said that you would write it. Why does it feel like I am forcing you to do it?

Smoothly, she wrote out in beautiful handwriting, [The smell of spring, the life instilling breath of April].

"Amazing..."

"Ahem. Have you fallen in love again?"

If I did say yes, it would turn into a big fuss again, so I didn't say anything.

Putting her example next to me, I commanded the brush and tried to write it a few times. However, it could not be compared to the skill of someone of the fifth level. It was quite a high hurdle, for someone like me, who has never attended a calligraphy class.

After Hiiragi-chan provided advice to help other students and chatted with them, she returned to the struggling me.

"Fuun fuun. Are you struggling?"

Looking at my failed attempts, Hiiragi-chan grinned.

...Did she think of some sort of trick?

"It's hard to balance, as your words need to be small, right?"

Wrapping around from behind me, Hiiragi-chan grabbed my hand tightly. Like how pottery was done from some time ago, Hiiragi-chan looked over my shoulder.

"Wait, why are you sticking so close to me."

"It's easier to grasp the feel of things this way ♡ I've actually taught this before, you know?"

If we were alone, this would be a distance at which she would give me a kiss on the cheek. "The space between the characters should be something like this," is something she would use to explain.

"Over here, you do this ♪"

While holding onto my right hand that had the brush, Hiiragi-chan wrote the characters on the calligraphy paper.

"Oh... oohh..."

It's amazing. It was as if magic was used to create the neat words. It was basically Hiiragi-chan writing it, so of course it would be that way though.

"Sensei, can I just submit this?"

"Nope ♡"

It seems that she won't spoil me here.

"Sei... Sanada-kun, it needs to be something that you put your own heart into and write."

She shook her index finger back and forth and said something teacher like.

Since it couldn't be helped I practiced over and over again, over and over again, but I couldn't write it so easily.

"Do your best."

Hiiragi-chan secretly cheered me on.

Just hearing that really motivated me. I'm such a simple man. While trying to match the feel and the image, I put my heart into each stroke.

"..."

Yeah. This one is the best one. Since it was closing in on the end of class, I submitted it.

"Sanada-kun, you did pretty well. The characters being small make it hard too."

"I practiced quite a bit after all."

Mufufu, Hiiragi-chan smiled.

"This... if I scan it and edit it... mufufu..."

What is she talking about?

As I tilted my head in confusion, the next day, I finally understood what she meant.

I arrived at the staff room due to a small errand, and I just happened to look at the absent Hiiragi-chan's desk. The characters I wrote were stuck far in the back of her desk.

[Haruka's Life. Second Year Class B, Sanada Seiji] [1]

Ah. Aaaaaaaaaaahhhh! It was all a trap!! Having me write a sentence, making me work hard, all of it was for this!!

I tear apart and crumple the piece of paper and throw it into the trash can.

... Now, for the data. While trying to hide myself, I operated Hiiragi-chan's laptop and accessed a folder labelled [SS]. The pictures and videos she took with me were all put in here. Just as I thought, the scan of the thing I wrote yesterday and the edited version were saved here. I put both into the trashcan and empty it.

Hiiragi-chan's phone, which was left on the table, vibrated.

At that moment, I saw it.

[Haruka's Life. Second Year Class B, Sanada Seiji]

She's even using it as her wallpaper!!!!

I should delete it.

I operate the phone and delete it.

Phew. I erased her evildoings.

That night, when Hiiragi-chan called, she wasn't very energetic.

"Is something wrong?"

"Something a little shocking happened..." Needless to say, she her energy level was quite low. Of course, I didn't tell her what happened.



TN:

1. The original line that he was told to write was this: 『春香る
命芽吹く 四月』 . While the new line is this: 『春香命
二年B組真田誠治』 . As you can see, there are some similarities to the two
lines, but there were significant edits. I tried my best to translate them but
they're kind of meant to be poetic in some sense.

Chapter 93 Fujimoto

Hiiragi-chan, who was in close contact with me, moved around a bit.

"Sensei, you're too close..."

"I-I mean, it can't be helped... Also, it's Haruka-san right now."

We whispered to each other in low voices.

"Se-Seiji-kun too... y-you're thigh is hitting my groin... wait..."

"Eh, ah, sorry..."

We were both squeezed closely into a classroom's cleaning tool closet. Hiiragi-chan was pushing her breasts up against me. This time it wasn't intentional. It just happened to be like that. It was unavoidable for my general to turn into active mode. My body was still in puberty after all. It seems that Hiiragi-chan had noticed, as she said nothing and blushed.

"Why did it become like this...?"

This all started when Hiiragi-chan came into the classroom in order to flirt with me, who was in charge of cleaning duty.

"Sanada-kun? You're cleaning by yourself again, today?"

"Everyone was here until part way. They had club activities or other things, so no one stayed until the end."

After organizing the desks and chairs, closing the windows and curtains, cleaning was done.

Katan, Hiiragi-chan locked the door from inside.

"Seiji-kun~ there's still some work left for me to do..."

Hiiragi-chan, in her spoiled child mode, came close to me and hugged me.

"Just a little?"

"It's actually a lot..."

"Do your best, Haruka-san."

"Yeah, I'll do my best... so I came to replenish my Seiji-kun nutrients."

She puckered her lips, pleading for a kiss.

Without allowing it to escalate further, we had a few light kisses, until we heard voices coming from the hallway.

"Daidou, why does it have to be in a classroom after school? Let's go to a different place."

"Fine, it doesn't matter. Speaking in person rather than over text should prevent any misunderstandings."

Gatan, the door was pulled on, but since it was locked, it didn't open.

"Hmmm? The door is locked."

Hiiragi-chan had locked the door so it shouldn't open...

Ah. But the back door... doesn't that look unlocked?? Hiiragi-chan, did you forget to lock it??

I take a closer look.

—Ah, it's open!

Hiiragi-chan tilted her head with an innocent expression.

Dammit, stop making such a cute face. I just can't get angry at that.

"The one over here is..."

The two students moved towards the back.

"Se-Seiji-kun, this is bad."

"It's your fault, Haruka-san."

It would be easy to mislead if Hiiragi-chan was just helping out with cleaning, but having the door locked and the two of us being alone makes it suspicious no matter how you think about it. My case with the "*person that I like*" might then be considered serious.

Is there any place that we can hide—

I widened my eyes as it caught on something. The cleaning tool closet. Hiiragi-chan and I quickly packed in, and ended up in this really close state.

Gara, the door opened and the boy and girl student pair entered.

This reminds me of the time when we were trapped inside the closet during the school trip, but regardless of which one, it's a relief that we managed to hide somewhere.

However, it was already a state in which we couldn't come out even if we wanted to.

"What did you want to talk about?"

Oh? This direction, is it heading towards a confession...?

I was wondering who the guy was, and it turned out to be Fujimoto.

Congrats, Fujimoto.

Which means, the other person whose name Fujimoto had mentioned, would be one of the flashier girls in our class, Daidou-san. It's an unexpected combination.

Heeeh, I see, I see. So this is youth...

I narrowed my eyes in pleasure like an old man. Hiiragi-chan also became excited.

"I-it's a confession, right...?"

Shh, I placed my index finger in front of my lips and then listened to the conversation between the two people.

"No, well, it's true that I need to talk to you about something, but I also have something to ask."

"Oh, oooohh... W-what is it?"

Fujimoto, do you have someone you like? That's probably what Daidou-san would ask.

Uwaah. A confession scene involving other people is so nice since it's about other people. There's more excitement and enjoyment compared to watching a bad movie...!

"... Sanada-kun... him liking Hiiragi-chan, is that just a joke? Or is it serious?"

Dokin, my heart jumped.

Hiiragi-chan was also the same it seems, as my eyes met with the upturned eyes of hers.

"I don't call him with a suffix, so Sanada is Sanada-kun... So, that's how it is..."

Puhaah, letting out a huge sigh, Fujimoto sat down on a desk.

"That's how it is... so what? And, how is it really? You're the closest with him Fujimoto... I think you probably know something."

"What? If it's a joke, are you going to confess to Sanada?"

"...That has nothing to do with any of this, right? Besides, I'm not the one that wants to know."

Fujimoto shrugged his shoulders.

"That's right, Sanada and I are friends, best friends out of all friends. I even know how many hairs are on his butt."

You liar. Rather, I haven't grown any.

"Eh, you guys are close in that way!?"

See. You're inviting unnecessary misunderstandings.

"Close, really close..."

"That can't be..."

It's not true! Don't believe it, Daidou-san. Stop receiving shock from this.

"... Seiji-kun, is only growing a bit."

"Stop trying to compete. Rather, I'm not growing any."

The two of us shushed each other with our index finger in front of our lips.

"... That's all I have to say... So, how is it? Hiiragi-chan. I saw how she was during the school trip, so I just thought maybe it might be for real?"

"... Aaah, the school trip."

Keeping silent for a moment, Fujimoto took a glance in our direction. Why did he look this way?

"——Of course it was just a joke. It's the same sort of feeling as liking an idol. If you say you like the idol that's on the other side of a TV screen, do you think you can date them? Of course not."

"But, Hiiragi-chan didn't look too against it whether it was during the school trip or the borrowed item race..."

"It's that. It's because he had chosen Hiiragi-chan as *"the person he liked"* in such a public place, she acted seriously."

"But, wasn't Hiiragi-chan all over him?"

"Isn't it nice to be idolized by your students?"

"Is that so...?"

"At the very least, that's what it looked like to me. It can't be helped that there are people who would see that and come up with strange things, but from a teacher's perspective, goodwill which comes from a student can only really be thought of as *"idolizing"* I think."

I am an expert in analysis on Sanada, Fujimoto said with a wry smile.

"If that's the case, then all is good."

"Sanada, Sanada, Sanada. Sanada is such an idiot and annoying. Daidou, how about me?"

"Nothing much."

"I see. Let's hurry up and leave then. A teacher will probably come to close up."

Daidou-san agreed with him.

The two of them left the classroom, while Hiiragi-chan and I sneaked out of the cleaning tool closet.

"Was I really all over you?"

"I think so?"

"Y-you're lying...!?"

Were you not aware?

"Sorry... Starting tomorrow, I'll become the cool beauty Haruka-san."

Don't waste your effort on something like that, Hiiragi-chan. There's no problem with you becoming a beauty though.

Then, let's talk over the phone at night, Hiiragi-chan left those words as she quickly left the classroom.

I sat down on the desk where Fujimoto had done the same earlier.

"..."

There's quite a distance from here to the cleaning tool closet. He shouldn't have been able to hear Hiiragi-chan and I whispering.

Using the part about my but hair to misdirect the conversation, declaring that it was all a joke...

——Daidou, why does it have to be in a classroom after school? Let's go to a different place.

Why would he purposefully call out at a place like that. Moreover, in such a loud voice.

... Fujimoto. Do you, perhaps...

Chapter 94 Cool Beauty Haruka-san

The next day, I went to school, and Fujimoto acted just like usual. There was nothing unusual to say about him. If he did notice, he would secretly ask me about it while grinning, but he didn't do anything like that. It must've been me overthinking it.

The chime rang, and world history class started.

"Let's start class now."

Hiiragi-chan flipped her hair, which normally would be tied up, but was now let down. Today, she was wearing glasses and had a never-seen-before intelligent atmosphere around her.

...Is it possible, her cool beauty statement before, was serious...?

"Sensei, what happened today?"

"Nothing at all."

Hiiragi-chan pushed up her (probably) fake glasses.

"You look really smart, you know?"

"I really am smart though."

You're going to say that yourself?

Hiiragi-chan once again flipped the hair on her shoulders with her hand.

"..."

She looked over in my direction for a moment, and then proceeded to avert her gaze. It looks like she's doing her best to not show her flirting side.

"I would like someone to read from the textbook, though?"

This teacher, she definitely thinks adding "*though*" to the end of her sentences makes her sound cooler.

The capable version of Hiiragi-chan advanced through class in a more decisive fashion, and quickly reached the end of class. The girls ended up calling out casually to Hiiragi-chan, and when they asked her about today's attire, she said, "It's currently lunch," turned, and then walked down the hall.

"Hiiragi-chan, doesn't something seem to be off about her character?"

"She is off, but her trying her best like that is cute."

"Ah, I get you. It's quite charming, like you want to just watch over her."

I heard the girls say that while giggling to each other. When younger girls find you charming, or say that trying your best is cute, there's no way an older teacher thought of in that way would be seen as cool.

In order to spend lunch alone with her, I left the classroom and headed towards the world history reference room.

"Excuse me."

After saying that and entering, Hiiragi-chan was already waiting for me in her cool mode.

"Those are fake glasses, right? Did you put them on since you wanted to look cool?"

"It's not that I want to look cool, but that I was originally cool though."

There it is, "*though*". Somehow, Hiiragi-chan's image of cool, is a little different from the normal person's image of cool.

Hiiragi-chan insists that she was originally cool, but she had already prepared a leisure sheet and a meal.

...Your actions are super flirty. Well, I guess that's fine though.

"Seiji-san, if you don't eat soon, you'll run out of time."

Seiji-san... that's new.

Replying with a yeah, I sat down across from her.

"..."

Hiiragi-chan watched me, as if wanting to say something. Her line of sight slowly tilted down to her lap. It seems that she wants to do a lap pillow like we always do.

Acting like I didn't know, I started eating her homemade bento.

"Haruka-san, aaahhn."

I picked up the stewed pumpkin with chopsticks, and brought it towards Hiiragi-chan.

Bikun, her body showed a strong reaction. Her cool expression was instantly blown away as her mouth loosened in happiness, as if to say *"It's unusual for Seiji-kun to feed me."*

"...Haah."

Hiiragi-chan then shook her head as she remembered her concept for today.

"Without you doing something like that, I can eat myself though."

"Ah, I see. Then, I'll eat it myself."

My chopsticks make a U-turn, carrying the stewed pumpkin towards my own mouth. Yeah. Today is also perfect. It's delicious.

"..."

Feeling a gaze, I look in front of me, seeing Hiiragi-chan pouting with inflated cheeks.

"Is something wrong?"

"There's nothing wrong though."

As expected, she really did want me to feed her. To be cool or to be honest, I don't think they contradict to each other. But I guess, for her, to be fed would mean that she's acting flirty, so it seems she's exercising some self-control.

...I feel like a cool person wouldn't pout, but I wonder what she thinks about that.

As if she was unable to hold down her dissatisfaction, Hiiragi-chan started stuffing herself, and even eating my bentou. Heeeey. My lunch...

Her cheeks were currently inflated like a hamster.

"I don't think a cool person would be pouting just because they weren't fed, neither do I think it means that you can't be honest with your feelings."

"Does Seiji-san not like a cool beauty?"

It's not that I don't like it. Rather, it could be said that I do like it.

If that person was to be that kind of person, then I would like them. However, if that person were to force themselves to act like a cool beauty, and I was asked whether I liked that, then my answer would be no.

"Putting effort into changing your image as a plan against your flirtiness is something I think is good. "

"I-is that so..."

Her expression loosened in that moment.

Peshin, Hiiragi-chan slapped herself in the cheeks, and her expression once again returned.

Eeehhhh... there's no need to go that far!

"However, I think I like the normal Hiiragi-chan the most? I think cool is good too though."

"..."

Her cool mask was about to crumble, but it was once again rebuilt. It seems that she intends to stubbornly act cool.

My words were my true thoughts, and just as the girls in class had said, there were points where cool image was a bit off.

In order for her to return to normal Hiiragi-chan, what should I do...?

"You just have to stop yourself from being flirty when there's a third party around. When we're alone, you can just act like you normally do."

"...!"

Oh, she's shaking she's shaking.

"In this situation, we wouldn't even be able to kiss."

"!?"

Eh, no way, really!? That's what she seemed to want to say.

"E-even if I'm cool, it's fine for some short kisses though."

"Then, from now on, it'll only be for about two seconds and only one."

"!?"

Eh, no way, really!? That's what she seemed to want to say.

"Eh? Just that much? That's what your face is saying right now, Haruka-san."

"Y-you seem to be misunderstanding me. Even if I say it's a short kiss, I just mean kisses just long enough to stop before satisfaction though."

Aren't you basically satisfied at that point then?

"In the end, you just want to kiss like we usually do."

"I didn't say that though."

"Then, it's about time for me to go. Thanks for the bentou."

"W-wait—"

I turned around after being pulled back, and Hiiragi-chan's face was right in front of my eyes.

"Stop, being mean to me..."

"Even someone cool wants to be spoiled?"

"Yes."

Our lips met, twice, three times, in kisses.

"I wanted to do it... I couldn't hold back..."

Glasses Hiiragi-chan looked downwards with her lips pursed.

"Seiji-kun was being mean... so I ended up becoming stubborn..."

"Haruka-san, even wearing glasses you're still cute."

"Eheheh. Yay ♡"

The cool part of her had blown off somewhere as I responded to her kiss and flirted, and we became so entranced with each other that we didn't even notice the chime.

Chapter 95 Do You Pass the Psychological Test?

"...Please think of the person that you like..."

Kanata's mellow and quiet voice reverberated within the home economics room.

"T-the person I like... Got it..."

Sana glanced in my direction once, then closed her eyes.

"The person I like...!"

Hiiragi-chan turned her head in my direction, and when our eyes met, her cheeks turned red.

She's such an easy to understand person.

I also closed my eyes, and began to think. Think of Hiiragi-chan of course.

"...You, have the ability to stop time—"

Kanata spoke to the three of us.

"W-what's with that. What's with the supernatural ability!?"

"It's a psychological test. There shouldn't be an option like that."

After eating lunch, there was still time, so we started doing some psychological tests from a book she had borrowed from the library.

"... If you could stop time for the person that you like, which would be the first part of them that you would touch?"

Stopping time... being able to freely touch Hiiragi-chan...

No. I can't. I can only think of erotic things. Saying outright that I want to fondle her breasts would be too lewd.

When I opened my eyes, Sana was raising her hand.

"...Alright, Saa-chan. Where would you touch?"

"L-lips! It's just a random thing. Just a feeling, there isn't any deep meaning behind it."

"...For the Saa-chan that chose lips..."

Sana gulped.

"I-is it actually reciprocated love?"

"...It will end as just one-sided thoughts."

As I was about to ask Kanata why those are the results,

".....Ha—haha..."

A dry laugh came from the dazed Sana.

Ah! I can almost see a soul-like thing leaving from her mouth!?

"Hey, Sana! Come back."

Just as I grab Sana's shoulders and start shaking her, she started hitting the desk like a child.

"Sh-sh-shut up! Whose fault do you think this is... Ah, wait, no. Nii-san, you idiot!"

It seems that her soul has returned into her body, so I was able to pat my chest in relief.

"Ah, Kana-chan, actually, that wasn't right... Instead..."

"... Saa-chan, no cheating."

"Uuuu... Why are you so strict at times like these..."

This time, it was Hiiragi-chan's turn to raise her hand.

"... Alright, Sensei."

"For me... ummm..."

"What is it, Sensei? This should just be on instinct. So you should just go out with it and say the first place that comes to mind."

Hiiragi-chan peeked at my face, then made up her mind and her expression turned into a confident one.

"I would touch a man's precious spot."

"" ""

The two of them backed away slightly.

Well, but having it be a sexual part is the same as me. I guess maybe couples think alike? That in itself makes me a little happy.

"If you think of that as the first thing, I guess it would be something like hoping to be blessed with children?"

"...For that person, your relationship will end as just a physical one."

""!?"

Hiiragi-chan and I took an unexpected hit from that one.

Kanata explained it in a cold voice, but that explanation went in my right ear and came out my left.

B-b-b-but we haven't even proceeded past kissing? If it's only a physical relationship, then I believe that various things would have been done by now. What's up with that part?

"Puu Puu Puu. Sensei, don't worry. That means, your just aiming at playing around for their body, right?"

"!?"

Hiiragi-chan received an even bigger shock.

"There's no way that's true!"

I subconsciously denied it.

"Don't suddenly shout like that. It doesn't have anything to do with you anyways, Nii-san."

Hiiragi-chan was looking at me with teary eyes, so I forcefully shook my head. If that was really the case, then the deed would have already been done. There would be no need to hold back.

"Earlier, that was actually a lie..."

"No, you can't. No changes are accepted!"

Sana was lively. She was denied her own change when she wanted it after all.

"...Last one is Seiji-kun. What did you think of first?"

Where? Well I would like to fondle Hiiragi-chan's breasts... No, I want to support them from underneath... No, I want to poke them with my finger, no...

—Go somewhere else, you puberty driven libido!

It's completely filled with breasts!! I can't change my thoughts at all. No, that's wrong. It's not her breasts that I want to touch, it's what's behind. Her spirit—the so-called *heart*. [1]

I want to poke it, support it, fondle it...? Something like that?

"The *heart*. Or, the connection to her spirit? That's how I would wish to touch it."

As I said that while brushing away my bangs, Sana made a face of disbelief.

"What are you saying, Nii-san? Are you okay? It's like I just heard a poem from a middle school or younger person. I bet the results would just say something like a relationship ending as friends."

Kanata browsed through the pages of the book, and then nodded.

"...There isn't anything like *heart*, the closest thing would have to be the heart... If it's that, then it's likely that the person you like holds a passionate love for you."

"Alright!!"

I stood up and made an all-out guts pose.

"You see?"

I don't know what there is to see, but the me who was fully wanting to fondle some breasts, was now making a smug face while looking down upon Sana.

"Heeeh... I see... p-passionate love..."

Hmm? Why are you blushing?

"...That means even if you have obstacles, you can overcome it, right...?"

Glance. Fidget. Glance. Fidget.

"That's probably what it means."

Hiiragi-chan suddenly stood up, and walked out of the home economics room.

I wonder what happened? Well, it's okay.

"Without worrying about status and position, just continuing on in a straight line... right...?"

"That's what it would mean."

My relationship with Hiiragi-chan is exactly that. Man, I hit the jackpot!

"Nii-san, you pervert."

Dogon, I was hit in the shoulder with a pretty large amount of force.

"...Saa-chan. Calm down."

Sana, who was sticking closer to Kanata than me, her brother, calmed her breathing through her nose.

"I wonder where Sensei went? I'll go check for a bit."

While leaving those few words behind I exited the home economics room, and instantly found her. She was leaning on a pillar just outside the room, covering her face with both her hands. I thought that she was crying, but it seems that's not it. She might have been embarrassed since her ears were completely red.

"You love me, a lot... That means you love me so much that you can't hold back... Wow... A passionate love..."

I murmured into the red ears of Hiiragi-chan, who was blushing furiously.

"Still, Sensei, for you to think of something so erotic..."

"!?"

Hiiragi-chan raised her face all of a sudden.

"T-that's not it, Sei... Sanada-kun..."

She said herself to "*Wait until after marriage*" and that last line of defense seemed quite strong. Yet, in contrast to that, her interest was quite high.

"Then, what were you thinking of?"

"N-nothing... I wouldn't think of something so weird..."

"Is it something you can't say? Sensei, are you actually, quite the lecher?"

"Y-you're wrong... Sanada-kun... I'm not a lecher, I'm not but..."

Half crying, Hiiragi-chan began to quiver.

Ah, I teased her too much.

As I was just about to start reflecting, she spoke while blowing her nose.

"E-even I... sometimes think of perverted things..."

Gufuu...!? S-so cute... If you say such a thing with teary eyes, I'll end up hugging you and pushing you down. Whether or not I have the courage to do that is another story though.

"Ah! Just as I was thinking that you weren't coming back! Nii-san, you're making Sensei cry!"

"I'm not making her cry!"

Are you an elementary schooler?

"Sensei, what did Nii-san do to you? Are you okay?"

That makes it seem like she was attacked by some pervert or something, so can you please not ask in that way.

Saying that she was okay, Hiiragi-chan stood up.

I now understood that because of that final line of defense, both Hiiragi-chan and I had desires that couldn't be fulfilled.

Chapter 96 Do You Pass the Psychological Test? — Part 2

Following that incident, Hiiragi-chan became obsessed with these psychological tests. They were all romance oriented psychological tests, and especially those related to what your lover truly feels, as if trying to discern my true thoughts.

"Seiji-kun, you are on a large green grass field, making paper airplanes with friends."

"Alright."

Sana likes these psychological tests and fortune-telling type things as well, so maybe girls are just fond of them.

"When they were released, how many paper airplanes are seen flying far away?"

Well, if it's friends, the only one that comes to mind is Fujimoto... Mine should fly farther than his.

"One."

"Eh!? One!?"

W-what? What's with that reaction?

"H-heh, I see. Hmmm, so just one.... Mufufu, I get it, I get it ♪"

If I had something I was dissatisfied with, it would be this. Just like this, being all giddy, laughing, and enjoying all of it by herself.

"What did you discern with that answer?"

"A secret."

Why?

"Ummmm, for the next one..."

Being one-sidedly questioned by Hiiragi-chan, and having it result in her having fun. This type of psychological testing has continued for over two weeks, enough to make me sick of it.

It was then, one day over the weekend. Thinking of getting my revenge, I bought my own psychological test book, and headed to Hiiragi-chan's place.

"Haruka-san, you've only been asking me, but you never do one for yourself. Isn't that unfair?"

"It's not unfair. You were the one who told me to do what I wanted to do, when I bought the book."

"And so, it's my turn to do the questioning."

"Oh? In the end, Seiji-kun also likes this"

I do have to admit that psychological tests like these are easy to get good results at, but I definitely do want to know what Hiiragi-chan thinks.

She came over to me as I was sitting on the sofa, and intertwined her arms with mine.

"Then, let's begin?"

"Bring it on."

I flipped through the pages. Ah. This one seems interesting...

I read out the question in a way where Hiiragi-chan couldn't see it.

"Your lover is in front of you. That person is in a state of only wearing underwear."

"Fufu ♡ Seiji-kun, you'll catch a cold, you know?"

"Stop worrying about me in your imagination... And so, what is the first thing that you would have them wear?"

It was one of those multiple-choice types, so four choices were provided.

"Mumu... Seiji-kun... You have quite the nice body..."

"There's no need for those types of settings. Just pick one based on how you feel."

With this, I can find out——her S&M level! Is she normal, an S, or an M...?

"Ummm. Pants!"

"Hmmmmmm. Haaaaah. I seeeeeeee."

Hiiragi-chan is an M. I can somewhat accept that. Last time, in the future, she became quite the M. She's the type you really want to tease... Hmmmm? Me thinking that, does that make me an S?

"What, what what what!? What did you get from that!?"

Hiiragi-chan pulled on my arm like a child.

"It's a secret."

"Eeeeeeh!"

Fufufu. It's annoying, right? This is my revenge.

Since I was now satisfied, I ended up telling her the truth.

"I-I'm a masochist...?"

"Did you think of something?"

"Rather than just getting it right, that's all I can think of!"

How right was this, exactly?

"Seiji-kun, you're teasing me, right? I might actually kind of like that."

"That's an amazing coming out right there!"

"When I think that you love me enough to tease me, it makes it even more lovely..."

The thinking of a masochist is something I don't understand at all.

"Sometimes, you pinch my cheeks, right? I like that as well..."

"Ha-haaah..."

It's true that I do that sometimes, but she likes that?

"Hitting you is probably out though, right?"

"Safe."

"That's a wide range."

Is the Virgin Mary motherhood feel that comes from Hiiragi-chan, due to the fact that she is a masochist?

"Do you like pain...?"

Once you dig this deep, there's no way, right?

"...Yeah."

Don't answer so quickly while blushing. I wasn't that surprised about her being a masochist, but asking about the details is quite surprising.

"Ah, but if it's done by someone other than Seiji-kun I would hate it, get mad, and return it ten times."

"You'll allow it if it's the person you like?"

"Yeah."

I pinched Hiiragi-chan's cheeks and pulled on them.

"Owww."

"This is good?"

Once I let go of her cheeks, she rubbed her cheeks with her hand while nodding embarrassingly.

"... Yeah. It somehow feels pleasant..."

Eventually, it'll become, "It feels good." Hiiragi-chan is about to enter a weird world... because of me.

Let's move on to the next question. If we continue on with this conversation like this, it'll most likely cause even more change. I opened a random page in the book.

"Then, for the next question. Give me three types that you like of the opposite sex."

"Hmmm? I wonder?"

Hiiragi-chan, who had entered her spoiled child mode, stretched out her legs and rubbed the inside of mine. She then rested her head on my shoulder and became completely stuck to me.

"Just on first thought, intuition."

"Ummm, the first, would be for the body. A thin macho type. Next... someone fun to talk to. And for the last part..."

After thinking for a bit, she spoke out clearly.

"Seiji-kun."

"Hah? Type, okay? Type."

"It's fine, it's fine. Even if you say type, I can't think of much, so it's just those."

Well, with this, these seem to be the types that she likes. And, the important part is the third one.

...Me!? That's not a type but an actual person!?

"I-I see..."

"What is it? Seiji-kun, your face is red. What did you find out?"

"It gives me a better understanding of the type of person that you like..."

After I explained, Hiiragi-chan looked at me teasingly with a sidelong glance while grinning.

"And so you blushed because of that? You must have been happy about it then?"

Dammit... I can't say anything back!

After all, I secretly did it yesterday, and my third choice was also Hiiragi-chan herself.

"It seems to be the same for the both of us."

"Eh? Why's that?"

"... For me too, when I did it yesterday, the third one was also you, Haruka-san."

Hiiragi-chan's teasing immediately disappeared, as her face exploded in red.

"I-I see..."

"We have a passionate love for each other after all. Right, Haruka-san?"

"Kufuu... Don't mention it anymore... I'll end up melting..."

Slightly loosening her entangled arms, Hiiragi-chan then grabbed my hand in a lover's hold.

"That's what I thought anyways, Haruka-ojousama... such shamefulness."

"Pl-ease-stop. Don't say it anymore!"

She started hitting me.

Yeah, Hiiragi-chan really is easy to tease.

"If you don't block off this teasing mouth..."

While embarrassed, she closed her eyes and stuck out her lips. I smoothly dodged it. Hiiragi-chan continued on to kiss the back of the sofa.

"W-why did you dodge!? My feeling of wanting to kiss was at a max!"

Th-this person, is so funny...

"You can't run away."

Firmly using both her hands to hold my face, we exchanged a long kiss.

I tried a lot of various other things, but there weren't that many unexpected results that came out of it. It was just more confirmation that Hiiragi-chan loved me a lot. I was afraid of her stalker level, so I didn't test her on that though.

Chapter 97 Group Work

◆ Hiiragi Haruka ◆

Recently, the duration of my calls with Seiji-kun have gotten shorter. With me being me, I'm somewhat tired so during our conversations, I usually don't think about it too much and kind of just talk about random things. There isn't much to our conversations but he only responds with standard phrases like "Eeeeh", "Is that so", or "I see."

"Seiji-kun, do you not like calling at night like this?"

"Eh? Why do you ask?"

I was on the dark road back home from school. Autumn has deepened into a season that required cardigans and stoles. My breathing was slightly haggard from talking while riding a bike. While trying to hold it back and not let Seiji-kun sense my uneven breathing, I continued the conversation.

"I mean... the amount of time we spend in silence has increased... Seiji-kun, you also don't seem to be that interested in our conversations..."

"It's just that we see each other every day, so it's inevitable that I can't think of anything to say."

That's true, but... Having the late night calls that we've had since we started dating neglected makes me feel a little sad.

The wind blew by as I was riding on the bike. Today was especially cold.

Before, he seemed to enjoy it so much too...

"When we meet during the day, it's as Hiiragi-sensei and Sanada-kun, and it isn't me that's your girlfriend. Calling each other is, is..."

"Ah, sorry, wait—What are you doing? Barging in however you want."

"I already knocked multiple times and Nii-san didn't even respond."

Geez. Sana-chan. Don't butt in like this when we're trying to have a serious conversation.

Butsun.

"Ah."

He hung up. He probably hung up since he thought his talk with Sana-chan was going to take a while. But still, we weren't able to have a proper conversation in the end.

"Is this... because we've been stuck in a rut?"

Returning home, I turned on my laptop, and started a search on the internet.

[Boyfriend Stuck in a rut Countermeasures]

Oh. There are quite a few related sites that came up as a result. It isn't just me, but the other girls in the world are worrying over the same thing. I accessed a headline that interested me.

[Lessening contact! Phone calls are short and cold! A countermeasures manual for a situation like this ☆]

This is it!

First, do not make any complaints about your current interactions—
—

...Earlier, I even mentioned that meeting face to face and talking over the phone was different. It says that if you do something like that, your boyfriend will be even less willing to interact with you. Is that

so...? I guess similar to the situation where you're told to study by your mother while you're already trying to study.

—When we were dating, it wasn't like this. This is NG. You can't say that.

Uwaaaah, I was about to say that! If Sana-chan hadn't butt in there, I would have ended up saying it!

Other than that, there were more countermeasures that were worth some consideration.

I should write them down.

Alright! Now, all that's left is to put them into practice!



◆ Sanada Seiji ◆

During last night's phone call, Sana had forcefully barged into the room, so I accidentally hung up. Afterwards, I sent a text as a follow up. Her reply came back as [It's fine, I don't mind], but with the content of that phone call being what it was, I took a break from my part time work at the HRG company as an apology, bought some cake, and headed to Hiiragi-chan's place.

When I rang the doorbell, Hiiragi-chan stuck out her face.

"Welcome."

Hmmm...? Everything's normal. She had said that she didn't mind by text so that's what it would be, but it could also have been just obligatory politeness.

"Umm. I bought this, so how about we eat it together?"

"Eh, really? Thank you!"

Hiiragi-chan's expression shined like a child.

However, when I tried to enter, I was made to wait.

"Wait a bit. Let's go outside today! Home dates are forbidden for now."

"Eh? Why?"

"It's nothing! Let's have the cake later, okay? I'll stick it in the refrigerator."

Hiiragi-chan turned around and walked inside while holding the cake box.

Is she planning something...? If that's the case, she isn't really good at hiding things, so I should be able to notice it.

This time, Hiiragi-chan came out dressed in nicer clothing. She had lowered her hair that was tied in a ponytail and was now wearing her fake glasses.

"Here. Glasses and a hat for Seiji-kun as well."

As I put on the cap that I was handed, Hiiragi-chan put on the glasses for me.

"Yeah, it looks good on you."

"When you say outside, where are we going?"

"I think you'll like it, you know?"

Something I'll like? As I tilted my head, Hiiragi-chan walked out while taking my hand.

We piled into the car and left. She turned the steering wheel towards the city.

I wanted to talk about the contents of last night's half-hearted phone call, but it's hard to bring it up... Hiiragi-chan may have also thought that, as we were both silent in the car.

Once the car was parked stopped at coin parking and I got off, a game shop caught my eye.

"Something I like... Ah. Games?"

"Yeah! I've recently gotten a little bit interested in them."

I see, so that's what it was.

"Seiji-kun, you sometimes talk about games, right? So, I thought I might try it out a little bit."

"If that's the case, then leave it to me! But Haruka-san, without even considering the software, you don't even have the hardware, right?"

"I'll just buy them together, so it's fine."

Let's go, Hiiragi-chan said as we held hands and went inside the game shop.

"The last time we came, Haruka-san, you were secretly watching Sana and I from far away, right?"

"Ah, as I thought, you noticed?"

"You were letting out quite a lot of miasma after all."

"Miasma?"

It seems she wasn't aware. She was letting out enough miasma to let vegetation wither around her.

There were many middle and high schoolers in the store, but at first glance, there didn't seem to be anyone I recognize. We were wearing

disguises, so I don't think we would be found out, but I can't help being a little worried.

"Haruka-san, what type do you want to play?"

"What type of games are there in the first place?"

We're starting from there!? Aaah... well I guess she was a sheltered lady of sorts, so there probably wasn't many chances to touch something like it.

I picked up some gaming software in my hand and went from section to section while explaining each genre.

"Hmmm. I'm fine with Seiji-kun's recommendation."

After thinking about it for a bit, I grabbed two, and asked her to pick one. When that happened,

"Then, let's go with both!"

"Such an adult!"

"Fuufuun, I know, right?"

With a smug face, Hiiragi-chan lined up at the register, and bought the hardware along with the software.

Once I left the store and waited, she came out with a paper bag.

"Let's go home and play!"

"Two people can play cooperatively together, so I can even help you."

"Two people can play!? Then let's do it together ♪"

Walking she walked in an excited manner, I got into the car with a triumphant Hiiragi-chan.

But, why did she suddenly get interested in games? I've talked about games a few times before, but with this timing...?

As I was having those questions inside of myself, we arrived at her place, and entered her room.

While Hiiragi-chan was busy preparing the cake that I had bought with some tea, I prepared the gaming machine. At that time, I noticed a small piece of paper, caught underneath the laptop located on the table.

"?"

I tried pulling it out, and noticed that it was a memo written in Hiiragi-chan's handwriting.

[Escaping a rut with your boyfriend!]

I returned the note underneath the laptop, as if I hadn't seen it.

The weird feeling that I had today, was probably this. Let's act like I didn't see the memo. Even I want to get closer to Hiiragi-chan. I want to enjoy spending every day with her. I'll reflect on the fact that I've been a little cold over the phone.

"Seiji-kun? For the cake, which one do you want?"

"Haruka-san, you can pick first."

"Really!? Then, I'll help myself..."

After enjoying the cake and tea, we started playing the game. Hiiragi-chan, who seemed to be playing for the first time, raised her voice, going "Yaah! Hooh, haah!" while she tilted and moved her body as she held the controller.

Seeing such a picture-perfect beginner, I raised my voice and laughed.

"It's my first time, so it can't be helped, right?"

While inflating her cheeks and pouting, she now started to occupy the space right in front of me while staying engrossed with the game.

"Haruka-san, thank you."

"Eh? What are you saying? Fuwaa!? This is bad, this is bad!"

"You're so bad."

"Be quiet!"

Bishi bishi, Hiiragi-chan hit my lap.

"Why don't you help me?"

"Alright, alright."

"If you can't clear it, I'll kiss you."

"If I do clear it?"

"I'll kiss you."

In the end, we'll still do it.

This continued on for about two hours, but Hiiragi-chan, who had zero sense, seemed to make no improvement, and didn't seem to be able to clear anything without me.

Chapter 98 Hiiragi's Mother — Part 1

When I woke up, I somehow had the feeling that my time leap had been released. I thought I would do some cleaning, so I looked around the room. As I thought, I was right. My smartphone was located by the bedside, and I was alone on a slightly large bed.

Last time, the present me had written down a note, so I was able to understand the situation, but this time I didn't. After finding my most used business bag, I pulled out my business card holder and checked it.

"Seiji-kun? If you don't wake up, you'll be late, you know?"

I heard Hiiragi-chan's voice coming from outside the room.

Hiiragi-chan seemed to be used to this as her everyday life... the feeling of living together with her is really nice.

My business card had the name of a company that I didn't know written on it. Did I not enter the HRG company? Or is it, that I couldn't enter?

Anyways, what's important is that the me before my time leap, had the title of an employee at a large company. It was quite the black workplace, and the salary was also cheap, but having an official title was nice. Now that I think about it, it was a wonder that I was able to get the HRG company to hire me.

Whatever. I left the room in my pajamas, and headed to the dining room, and greeted Hiiragi-chan, who was preparing breakfast.

"Good morning, Haruka-san."

"Yeah, good morning."

She kissed me on the cheek. Waking up, having breakfast together, greeting each other with a kiss... so this is how nice a life living together is? However, it seems that we still weren't engaged yet as Hiiragi-chan didn't have a ring on her left ring finger.

This time, Natsumi-chan didn't seem to be living with us.

Once I took my seat, I started to work through the Japanese food. Itadakimasu, after I placed my hands together and started to eat the food, I asked Hiiragi-chan a question.

"About being added into the family... if it's going to be official, I'm going to need to greet your family."

"Ah... Yeah... however, just wait a little bit more. My home is in kind of a mess right now, why don't we do it after things settle down?"

Without saying any more than that, Hiiragi-chan told me that there wasn't much time and started to pester me to hurry up.

As expected, the HRG company's performance has probably declined.

"Your father is doing well?"

"Ummm... I don't think he's doing that well. Natsumi is also working hard at our company, but it seems to be bad."

She's the daughter of the president, so I think it's fine even if she doesn't work. Still, she really has everything together.

Based on the conversation, it seems that it's not bankrupt yet.

While we were eating, Hiiragi-chan quietly set her chopsticks down.

"Is something wrong?"

"This might be something that we shouldn't be talking about in the morning... but, I'm currently in a fight with my mother...

She was probably fighting with her about our future together.

"We might not have gotten them to accept it yet, but we have conveyed our will to both my parents... It should be alright without greeting them now."

"What do you mean?"

"What it means is that, talks probably won't succeed without having it be an approval after the fact."

"What are we going to do about the wedding?"

"No, it's alright without one. It's been my dream to be together with Seiji-kun ever since I started dating you."

Hiiragi-chan made a goddess like smile. Having her say that makes me happy, but is that really alright? By the time she's turned 27, she's probably been to one or two weddings, and celebrated the coming together of bride and groom. The appearance of a bride in her dress is beautiful, and even Hiiragi-chan must have dreamt of being in that position. I've even heard that the ceremony is done just for the girl.

"Why don't we follow the proper steps? Skipping steps, isn't like you."

Yeah. It really isn't like her at all. She's unusually negative.

"Really...?"

It's probably because she got in a fight with her mother over our future.

Our end goal is to marry and be together with each other, but I also want it to be a marriage blessed by everyone involved with Hiiragi-chan and I.

A wedding is also a place for showing off... Rather, I want to see Hiiragi-chan as a bride.

Fuwaah, the feeling of a time leap enveloped my whole body.

The next moment when I opened my eyes, I saw the familiar ceiling of my own room. Picking up my cell phone, I checked the date and time and realized that it was basically the same as when I time leaped. However, the time had advanced forward for about an hour.

Before my conviction cooled off, I called Hiiragi-chan.

After the ringtone repeated itself for a while, Hiiragi-chan answered with a sleepy voice.

"... He-hello..."

"Haruka-san, good morning."

"... Good morning..."

She probably woke up from my phone call. Her tone was quite hazy.

"I'll get everyone to accept our marriage, okay?"

"... The nattou... is in the refrigerator..."

She's still sleep talking...

"Sorry. I'm going to marry someone."

".....Eh!? What!?!? With who!?!?"

Ah, now she's awake.

"Sometime in the future."

"That's what you meant... that surprised me."

"As I was saying, I want to make sure we get your parents' approval."

"We're getting married, so please give me Haruka-san.' Something like that?"

"No, that is a little... The fact that we're dating has already been found out by your dad, so I was thinking of letting your mother know, and allowing her to get to know me as a person."

It's the same as the time with Natsumi-chan. If it's someone you don't recognize, nor know their name, your attitude towards them will probably be strong. However, once she knows me better, her attitude towards me should soften to some extent.

"So, I want you to also let Natsumi-chan know..."

"Natsumi? Wake up. It's Seiji-kun."

"Uuuu... It's impossible. I can't wake up..."

"She's next to you?"

"She came to play, and ended up staying over."

"Then, I'll head over to your place."

"Eh? Wait wait, I haven't prepared yet, so wait just— —."

Piii, I ended the call, and after changing, I headed over to Hiiragi-chan's place on my bike.

"...Thief-kun... what are you thinking suddenly coming over to someone's place like this... even if you're close, there are manners, you know?"

The normally energetic Natsumi-chan, seemed to be weak in the mornings as well, as her eyes were a bit hazy.

"Seiji-kun? If you haven't had breakfast yet, want to eat together?"

On the other hand, Hiiragi-chan had properly gotten dressed and was just like her usual self.

"Haru-chan... it's a good thing you hurried and made you preparations, right...?"

"Be quiet."

As Hiiragi-chan went into the kitchen, Natsumi-chan and I sat down in seats at the dining table. There, I let Natsumi-chan hear my thoughts.

"Then does that mean, you're going to come over to hang out?"

"For that, I'll be relying on you."

"Haru-chan is also coming back...?"

"Well... if Seiji-kun is going..."

Hiiragi-chan gave a reluctant reply, but after we ate breakfast, all three of us ended up heading over to Hiiragi house.

Chapter 99 Hiiragi's Mother — Part 2

As expected of a rich lady, when Natsumi-chan called for someone to pick us up, a luxurious black car arrived while seemingly gliding over the rough road.

"It would've been fine if we commuted using my car."

"Haru-chan, if you drive, then Mama will get mad, right?"

"I don't listen to anything Mom says anyway."

"Aaah, Haru-chan has really turned out for the worse."

Looking at Hiiragi-chan sulk, Natsumi-chan laughed. Now that she mentions it, Hiiragi-chan doesn't follow her parents' orders at all.

An old man wearing a driver's suit opened the door to the back seat.

"Haruka-ojousama, it has been a while."

"Yoshinaga-san. You seem in good health."

After showing a smile, Hiiragi-chan climbed into the car. Even an amateur such as myself could ascertain that the smile that Natsumi-chan and Hiiragi-chan showed were both a façade.

On the other hand, the driver, Yoshinaga-san, took a glance at me, and then brought his face closer.

"So, you're Sanada Seiji."

"Haaah... That's right."

"I heard from the master. I've been a driver, transporting Haruka-ojousama ever since she was thiiiiissss small."

He indicated the size with his index finger and thumb.

...How small was Hiiragi-chan? Was she some kind of midget?

"I watched over her growth more than anyone else. A kid like you suddenly dating Haruka-ojousama, I won't accept it."

Before I could say something, I was pulled from behind with Hiiragi-chan butting in.

"Seiji-san, is my lover. He's already recognized by Natsumi. It's not something that you, Yoshinaga-san, should be sticking your head into."

"But."

"But, but what? Insulting someone that I have recognized, is the same as insulting me. What is your job? Glaring at my lover? I get it. So, back off."

Ooooh... Hiiragi-chan, she's so cool. However, her tone is completely different from normal.

Natsumi-chan was looking over worriedly, but since nothing happened, she patted her chest in relief.

Yoshinaga-san kept quiet as he watched us take our seats in the back, and then closed the door.

"The main house will be coming up."

After telling us that one thing, he stepped on the accelerator.

Still, that was quite the reaction. Having her driver act like that toward her partner, just emphasizes the fact that Hiiragi-chan is treasured by other people.

"Haru-chan, doesn't appreciate that our house is like that."

As if she didn't hear Natsumi-chan's voice, Hiiragi-chan continued to hold my hand while dazedly gazing out the window. Noticing that, the face of the driver, Yoshinaga, that was displayed in the mirror, turned bitter for just a moment.

"Being too treasured, Haruka-san turned out for the worse I guess."

"I didn't turn out for the worse. Once you become an adult, you become independent, right?"

For a normal household, it would not be unusual for someone to begin living alone after college and starting work. But for a household that doesn't need to work like the Hiiragi family, they wouldn't fit within that normal frame.

Wanting to know how Hiiragi-chan's day-to-day life was, Yoshinaga asked a question, to which she gave a suitable reply with a forced smile.

After driving the car for about an hour, we arrived at our destination. It looked like a mansion that was made after cutting out a part of a mountain, and as such, it was quite big. From the main gate, there was still quite a distance to the front door.

"Well, how is it? Thief-kun."

"I can't say it's the mansion that I imagined."

I glanced at Hiiragi-chan, and noticed that she wasn't looking too good. Now that I think about it, ever since she got in the car, she hasn't said much.

"Are you okay, Haruka-san?"

"Last time... the house arrest..."

Did it end up as a trauma!?

When we were let off at the entrance, a young maid greeted us with a bow, "Haruka-ojousama, Natsumi-ojousama, welcome home" and then opened the large doors.

Of course, the maid had also taken several glances at me.

The maid stuck out her hand as Natsumi-chan naturally handed over her small bag.

"Natsumi-chan, did the people of this house know that I was coming?"

"I just told them that a friend of ours was coming."

If you say a friend, and bring a male, there will be various misunderstandings.

"There's nothing in Haru-chan's room, so let's go to mine first."

While walking on a carpet that muffled our footsteps like that of a luxurious hotel, Natsumi-chan guided us to her room on the second room. It was larger than Hiiragi-chan's room, and of course, my room as well. With a number of stuffed animals placed by the window, it really felt like a girl's room.

"Ojou-sama, should I bring some tea?"

"No. It's fine."

She had the maid go out, and it became just the three of us.

"Thief-kun, don't look around too much, okay?"

"I won't do anything rude."

I sat down on the sofa. next to the lower energy level Hiiragi-chan.

"Mama will come back in a little while, so I'll introduce you then. I think she wants me to introduce you to her without being told to."

"What type of person is your mother?"

"She's a little strict when it comes to courtesy, but other than that, she's pretty normal. Well, for Thief-kun it'll probably feel like a powerful upper-class lady."

I did catch a glimpse of her at the hotel restaurant, but since I didn't speak to her face to face, I can't help but feel anxious. I came in a slightly rough appearance, is that okay?

We decided on a few things after discussing plans on facing Hiiragi Mama. First, I would be introduced as Natsumi-chan's friend and exchange formalities and greetings. About me being her friend, well, it isn't a lie, so it should be fine. Then, we would look at how things go, and reveal the truth.

Based on what Natsumi-chan has said, Hiiragi Papa has already told Hiiragi Mama about me. I was also there that day on the marriage interview so there is a possibility they talked about me.

"Haru-chan, what will you do? Will you see Mama?"

"I..."

Hiiragi-chan has been quiet for a while now. Her energy level really is quite low.

"Haru-chan, there's no need for you to force yourself to meet her, right?"

Hmm? When I returned to the present, Hiiragi-chan had said that she was in the middle of a fight with Hiiragi Mama.

Was that... something that continued from now?

"You're fighting with your mother?"

"Yeah... that's how it is."

"Last time, when you came back, it was really unusual."

"For me as well... I thought after becoming an adult and learning some more common sense, I would properly have a conversation with mother, but she forced me into that marriage interview..."

As she was about to continue on to say something a knock came from the door. Once Natsumi-chan told them that they could come in, the maid from the entrance came in.

"The madam has returned. What will you do?"

...Thinking that it was about time, I ended up getting nervous. However, Hiiragi-chan had a stronger reaction than me. I don't have an impression of her mother as a scary person, but maybe it had something to do some trauma from the house arrest, or maybe it's because they are in the middle of a fight.

"Thank you. Let mother know that she should wait for us in the reception room."

"Understood."

The maid steps back and closed the door.

I'll first be introduced as Natsumi-chan's friend, and if Hiiragi-chan's present, then there will be various complications. That's what Natsumi-chan decided.

Having the unenergetic Hiiragi-chan wait here for a bit, the two of us left the room.

"Are they really on such terrible terms?"

"For Haru-chan, it's not that it's bad. It's just that she was super opposed to everything Haru-chan is doing. Secretly getting a

teacher's license to become independent, teaching at a school, living alone... that's all I know. "

As a result of that, Hiiragi-chan ended up fulfilling her own wishes. Since there isn't a reason for her to work, it's not like I don't understand the reason for opposition. But still, I don't think it's right to remain on bad terms like this.

If this is left unattended, Hiiragi-chan will continue to carry this burden in the future and end up marrying without her parent's consent at the end of the day. With that, it would be the same as elopement.

Once we arrived at the reception room, I sat down next to Nastumi-chan on the sofa. It really felt like a rich reception room. The sofa felt nice, and the walls were decorated with priceless looking paintings.

A maid soon opened the door, and then Hiiragi Mama came in.

I stood up and bowed.

"Thank you for allowing me to intrude today. My name is Sanada Seiji."

My business persona was on full throttle. This was something that a normal high schooler would be incapable of doing.

"Thank you for being so polite. Are you the friend that Natsumi was talking about?"

"Yes. We were able to meet on chance, and today, I was invited to visit."

"That's right."

She was a friendly-looking person, and her face had a similar atmosphere to Natsumi-chan, blended with the fluffy feeling of Hiiragi-chan.

Yeah. She really does seem like the mother of the two sisters. She seemed to be in her mid 40's and was covered from head to toe in elegant apparel.

Hiiragi Mama, wearing Japanese clothing, sat across from us. Being urged to sit down, I also took a seat.

"It isn't a friend from school, right?"

"Yes. A friend from outside of school."

"Boyfriend?"

When she was asked in such a teasing manner, Natsumi-chan shook her head.

"T-that's not it! Sanada-san just has a friendly relationship with me, having meals together or drinking tea."

"Oh? Is that so?"

The conversation turned towards me, so I firmly nodded my head.

"Yes. I had the opportunity to meet Natsumi-san multiple times outside, and so it became like this."

Natsumi-chan nodded along with blushing cheeks as I gave my supporting remark.

"Has Nastumi-chan done anything careless around you?"

"Mother."

"No no. That's not how it is. She's quite responsible.."

Just like this, Hiiragi Mama asked about how Natsumi-chan was outside.

Really. If you take out the fact that she's rich, it's just as Natsumi-chan had said, she's a normal mother. It's a bit disappointing.

If that's the case, however, I wonder if Hiiragi-chan can properly make up with her.

"Natsumi is responsible, that's unexpected."

"Since Onee-sama is so airheaded, it's natural that I would turn out like this, right?"

Even though she was calm, when Hiiragi-chan was mentioned, her gaze suddenly felt like it turned cold.

Natsumi-chan turned her line of sight towards me. She's probably going to say it.

"Mother, Sanada-san... you misunderstood and thought of him as my boyfriend, but he actually already has a lover."

"Oh? Natsumi, that's unfortunate then."

"A-as I was saying, that's not the reason that I am accompanying him... Aaaah, the reason I am with him here is purely as friends... ummm...."

Hiiragi Mama started laughing after seeing Natsumi-chan hesitate. It seems that even though she knows that Hiiragi-chan has a lover, she doesn't remember my name.

Receiving Natsumi-chan's pass, I started speaking about our true goal.

"The girl that I am dating is... Natsumi-san's sister, Haruka-san."

"Ah, I see. So, it's you..."

All she did was raise a surprised voice. There was no strong reaction like there was with Hiiragi Papa. When I looked into her eyes, the interest that she had when talking about Natsumi-chan's boyfriend was not present anymore.

"...There is a bit of an age difference, but we are seriously dating each other. S-someday, we will consider marrying each other."

"Eeeeeeeeeeh!? Reaaaaalllllyyyy!?"

Natsumi-chan turned over in surprise.

"Y-you guys are already at that—"

"Natsumi. Don't shout like that. It's shameful. Also, mind your words."

Yes, Natsumi-chan said and then sat down on the couch again.

When I looked fearfully at Hiiragi Mama, she nodded multiple times.

"Sanada-san, I have certainly heard your resolve. Please do as you will."

Eh?

Eeeeeeeeeehhhh!?

We got the okay!?

Chapter 100 Hiiragi's Mother — Part 3

"Eeeeeeeehhh!? You really agreed!?"

As a result of Natsumi-chan being surprised, she ended up shouted on top of her lungs yet again.

"Natsumi. How many times do I have to tell you to not shout shamefully like that?"

"Ah, yes... b-but, Mother, is it really okay...?"

"He's your friend, right? Wouldn't be weird of me to not trust you?"

"That is true, but..."

During the previous two or three times that I had my time leap released, Natsumi-chan in the future was the one who convinced Hiiragi Papa to let us live together. At that time, Hiiragi Mama was opposed to us. She was either using the convenient reason that a teacher and student dating was improper or the fact that I wasn't someone chosen by her as a reason.

I came back into the past in order to change that. So, it isn't that strange for Hiiragi Mama's thinking to change.

"That's great."

Natsumi-chan spoke in a quiet voice.

If you say it's good, well, it is good, but... somehow, something feels off. Hiiragi Mama, who says stuff like shouting is improper, is going to allow a teacher and student to date each other. Isn't it strange for her to entrust her precious daughter to someone she has only met for 4 maybe 5 minutes?

"Umm, is it really okay?"

"Sanada-san, if you don't need something like that, then there's no need to accept it, you know?"

"There's no way that's the case. From now on, I Ummm... want to be with her forever... She's a wonderful woman."

It's a good thing that the person herself was not present. I would probably hear to no end about my current embarrassment.

"Waaah... you really really love her..."

Even Natsumi-chan was embarrassed by my lines. Don't say it again, it's embarrassing.

"To be loved is also one part of a woman's status. Haruka has really met a good person."

Hiiragi Mama's smile was one that I knew very well. It was exactly the same as Hiiragi-chan's fake smile.

I don't know what's at the bottom of this, but let's get into the real topics.

"I heard that you were in a fight with Haruka-san... Do you not desire to make up with her?"

"There's no need."

I was firmly shot down. It seemed like she didn't want to talk about it anymore.

It's probably this. This is the weird feeling I had.

"I don't remember raising a daughter that doesn't listen to her parents. She can go anywhere she wants."

"... There's no need to go that—"

It's not because of me that she said okay to our relationship. It would have been fine with anyone. In other words, she doesn't care about Hiiragi-chan.

"Thief-kun... don't dig too deep..."

Natsumi pulled on my clothes and warned me in a small voice, but I still don't know a thing about how Hiiragi Mama feels about Hiiragi-chan.

"She would have graduated from college and then joined the HRG company to learn about society and form connections—it's strange for that child to go off alone."

"It's not strange. What Haruka-san is doing is normal."

"The Hiiragi family is not a normal family."

Dammit. Saying something so elegant.

"It almost seemed like she was going to make form a connection with the Sanjou family, and yet, she doesn't quit her current job, she won't do work for the HRG company, and she won't marry the partner that we decided on—none of that will work. The selfishness that I thought would settle down as she became an adult has only grown. The Hiiragi family does not need a daughter that refuses to do what she is told."

"Doesn't need"? Don't treat my Hiiragi-chan as an object.

I was about to snap, but even if I were to speak out, it wouldn't help them make up.

"I don't think that Haruka-san has regretted any of the decisions that she has made for herself. However, about the things that you guys have said and she has ignored, she has at least some sort of guilt. I believe that she wants to properly talk with you guys about it."

"Did Haruka say that? When she returned last time, it didn't seem that way though?"

"No, she... didn't say it directly."

Hiiragi Mama raised her chin as if to tell me to look at her.

"When we brought up the marriage interview, she suddenly said that she was leaving. That would be rude to the other party, so all we could do was to "keep her from leaving." There wasn't even a speck of willingness to talk in her behavior."

"Then, why did she come back? Isn't it because she thinks that her current relationship with her mother isn't right? "

I could feel my blood rise. My voice was louder than I thought it would be. However, I couldn't stop it.

"She probably feels a little bit bad for being rebellious towards her parents and going her own way, since she even came back today! She definitely wants to talk it out if given the opportunity. It's scary being rejected all the time. However, if you're always having that sort of attitude, of course, Hiiragi-chan wouldn't have the courage!"

Just as I was about to stand up, Natsumi-chan pulled on my clothes to stop me.

"Th-thief-kun... calm down. Take deep breaths, deep breaths. Ah, how about some more tea—"

"I'm good now. Sorry."

"O-of course..."

Fuuu, fuuu, I could hear myself letting out a haggard breath. Before I realized it, I had somehow gotten angry.

While being surprised Hiiragi Mama continued to look at me, and after taking a slight moment, she tilted her cup.

"She's already turned 24. A woman that has already been touched by another person is something that no one would want. The only way for her to be of use to the Hiiragi family, is to become a wife anyway."

"Stop treating her like an object! She's the daughter that you raised, right!? Thanks to you, sexual intercourse is banned until marriage... W-we haven't done anything yet though..."

"That last part was super quiet..."

Even in such a serious occurrence, Natsumi-chan was on the verge of snapping.

"Ummm, this is just for clarification, but I still intend to have a pure relationship..."

"Your voice is so quiet. It's like you were a different person earlier."

B-be quiet.

If I just leave this be, the future would just continue on like the Cold War, with no opportunity for them to talk. Hiiragi Mama knows nothing about Hiiragi-chan at all.

I finally regained my calm.

"You as her mother might not care too much about Haruka-san. However, that's not true for her. Please try to understand and talk with her face to face."

As if understanding something, Hiiragi Mama gave a calm smile.

"Even if I have no control over her, it seems that if you do something about it, Haruka will somehow end up listening."

That might be the case, but what are you saying with a smile like that?

As I felt a chill, Natsumi-chan banged on the table.

"—If you do that, I definitely won't allow it. It's fine if she's still on bad terms with Mama. It's fine if they don't make up. As long as Haru-chan is happy, I think that's fine. However, if you plan on getting in the way of that, no matter who it is, I won't forgive them."

"It's just a joke. Mind your words, also, your gaze. Stop it."

"Yes."

As Hiiragi Mama turned towards me, her mouth loosened.

"You really seem to have Natsumi all under control."

"It's for Haruka-san's happiness, right? Also, rather than under control, we're friends."

"I'm sorry if I made you feel bad. I just meant that you are thought of quite well by others."

Still, it was a line with a lot of thorns in it.

"About Haruka, if Sanada-san is serious, then, of course, I won't give any opposition. This is a decision made after proper thinking, different from before."

"For that, thank you very much."

As I bowed my head, her index finger stood up.

"I have one condition. You're persistence, appearance, courtesy, charisma—I have taken a liking to you... At some point, you will marry into the Hiiragi family. Or maybe adoption. That is the condition for dating and marrying Haruka."

"Wah. That's quite unreasonable..."

Natsumi-chan, with her eyes wide, looked at Hiiiragi Mama and me in turn.

"Ah. If it's just that, then it's fine."

"That was quick."

It's not like having her as a bride meant anything to the Sanada family anyways.

Well, I'll become a little bit like Masuo-san, and I might feel a little inferior, but if I can date Hiiiragi-chan, and marry her, then that's cheap. [1]

"It's fine if your partner is Natsumi too you know?"

"Mother!"

With a red face, Natsumi once again hit the table and voiced protest. It was a slightly quieter voice than earlier.

Like this, without knowing if it was of merit or not, Hiiiragi Mama had taken a liking to me.

TN:

1. Reference to [The Wonderful World of Sazae-san](#). Masuo-san is a character from the manga and also marries into his wife's family.

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