

PROLOGUE III - THE FIRE (MICHIKO'S SUPER-SECRET DIARY!)

November 30, 2510

Dear Diary,

Touma was SOOO cool today! We've been going on dates pretty much every week since the first time, and today was no exception. It's become part of our weekly routine to organize a little outing together, just the two of us. Today was a little different, however.

We were in the park and I wanted to get a drink, so Touma went ahead to a nearby vending machine. I took a seat on a park bench to wait for him, but guess what? As if they couldn't take a hint and realize I had a boyfriend, these three random guys came over to me. They looked like they were in their mid-twenties or something, and they were all like "hey girl, wanna come with us?" and stuff, and I was like "uhh, hell no?" and they were like "don't be like that!" and they took me by the arm. One of them tried to GROPE me! That's illegal! I told them that it was illegal but they just told me to "shut up and look pretty."

I was busy freaking out when Touma came called out to us. I don't know exactly how long it had been since he got back, but he had placed out drinks on the bench and had taken off his blazer (did I mention he was wearing this thin white blazer that looked just SOOO sexy I mean come on!). He was wearing this dark black tank top underneath. We've hugged a few times so I know that he's *strong* but like, holy shit! His muscles were INCREDIBLE! To think he'd been hiding all that underneath a baggy gym uniform...but anyways, he cracked his knuckles and was all like "let go of my girlfriend before I fuck you up!" One of the guys (the one trying to grope me) started shouting at him and eventually tried to hit him, but Touma gave him this crazy kick in the balls and grabbed him by the head. He then SLAMMED THE GUY INTO THE GROUND. I kid you not, I think he cracked the tiles on the park pathway! Thank God nobody else was there to see it or we'd be in some trouble with the police.

The second guy let go of me and tried to hit Touma too, but the same thing happened. It was just like WHAM! and there the guy was, sprawled across the floor (he told me that he broke both their noses, but that they were the *minor* casualties). He walked over and pried the third guy (who'd pissed himself at this point) away from me. The guy pulled out a knife and threatened us before lunging forward, but Touma just laughed and then he swung with his right arm and punched the dude in the gut, but here's the kicker (or rather, the punchline? I dunno): as he threw the punch, Touma's entire right arm LIT ON FIRE. The guy pretty much EXPLODED INTO FLAMES upon contact. It was like a fleshy fireworks show.

Most terrifying date of my life. I love it.

Touma was all like “you assholes stay away from *my* girl,” and we ran off before they could wake up or anything. He tells me the concussions the first two guys got would almost certainly give them amnesia, and that the last guy was dead. Well, no shit the last guy was DEAD, he EXPLODED.

Then he told me that he needed me to keep a secret. He told me he was born with a Patron Spirit. Awesome, right? Seishun has a reputation for being one of the few cities in the WORLD where people can be born with Patron Spirits. It lets them use a bunch of awesome powers that are borrowed from that spirit, y’know? And I’ve never met anyone like that before!

Anyways, he told me that if I was uncomfortable with dating someone like him, that we could just break up and be friends, but there was no WAY I’d do that! I loved him, and even if he’s a little scary with that crazy fire power and all, I still love him! So we promised never to keep secrets from each other again, and we agreed to keep loving each other. It was so romantic!

Afterwards, we snuck back and grabbed out drinks and Touma’s blazer. The whole thing took no more than like 20 minutes, but it felt so exciting! After that, we came home to my place. I hadn’t introduced him to my parents yet, so we did all that.

Mom and dad were cool with it, surprisingly. Yay!

Either way, it’s getting late. I should probably start preparing dinner. Mom and dad are still busy organizing the guestbook. It’s gonna be December soon so our inn’s gonna start getting lots of guests for the winter holiday, especially thanks to our hots springs. I should try and help out however I can.

~Michiko

P.S. I may invite Touma over and reserve us a hot spring...things could get steamy!