

VII

"You're kidding, right?" Nori laughed. "There's no way!"

"Oh, you know. *Under love's heavy burden do I sink*," Yuuto chuckled. "No, but seriously, this is unexpected..."

"Who the hell is it though?" Hanae wondered, leaning over and looking at the letter. "I don't recognize the handwriting, so it may be someone from a different class."

"I doubt it," Yuuto mumbled. "I haven't really talked with anyone from any other classes, and I just moved to this city this year, so the only one at our school who I've ever met before is Hanae, and she wouldn't bother writing a love letter. If I've learned anything about her, she'd just declare her love publicly."

"Precisely," Hanae nodded.

"It could be someone from another class who likes you for your looks," Nori suggested.

"Which isn't likely by any means," Yuuto said. "I'm nothing special in the looks department. Besides, if you read the contents of the letter, it doesn't seem like that. In other words, chances are, it's someone from our class."

"Do you think it coulda been Kaho?" Nori asked, raising an eyebrow curiously.

"That makes no sense at all. I've literally never talked to her prior to just now."

"Then who could it be?" Hanae mumbled.

"Well," Nori said, "think of it like this: our class has 26 students. Of them, 12 are girls. I know four of them from middle school and that handwriting doesn't belong to any of them. We know it's not Hanae, and assuming it's not Kaho, that automatically eliminates half of the possible candidates."

"True, but that's assuming the writer is both in our class *and* is a girl," Hanae reminded him. "You're assuming too much."

"Well, think about it. Yuuto is constantly hanging around *us*. You, his fiancée, are a girl and I, his best friend, is totally into girls. With the way the two of us act, it's pretty clear that he's straight. As for the part about being in our class, unless Yuuto has someone from his childhood who moved with him and is in a different class, there's no reason for anyone from another class to be into him. Or, well, at least not yet," Nori explained.

Yuuto and Hanae both stared at him in shock.

"Wow..." Hanae mumbled.

"That was...pretty friggin' good, actually. Damn," Yuuto laughed.

"Oh, it's nothing much," Nori smiled. "Just something I've picked up in my years. More importantly, we now have to figure out which one of the remaining six people sent that letter."

"So they're making a mystery of it?" Sayaka giggled.

"I don't think they're gonna get it right," Kaho said. "You *may* need to actually confess...and besides, I still don't see why you like *him*, on top of the fact that he already has a fiancée."

"I have faith that he'll figure it out. Worst case scenario, I'll come out and say it, right?" Sayaka smiled. "I like his determination and the way he deals with life, y'know? It's refreshing to see him be so sweet towards his friends while somehow managing to tease them all the same. I like how he has the will to overcome obstacles. And above all, I like how he shows respect and kindness to those around him."

"Wow. That's...kinda deep, actually," Kaho mumbled. "I guess that *is* rare nowadays, with all the lustful boys running around. But there's still one question: what about his fiancée?"

Sayaka smiled. "If I can't steal him from *her*, I don't *deserve* to be with him."

"Alright, all of our preparations are done and we've broken it down for you, dude," Nori said.

"We've analysed everyone's handwriting," Hanae smiled, "and we think we've found the girl who wrote you the letter."

"Thanks, you guys. I owe you both," he chuckled. "But now the question is simple: who is it?" Yuuto asked.

"Err...you're not gonna believe it," Nori said, "but after careful analysis, I conclude that the writer of that letter is..."