

## LX

Entering a fancily decorated shop, Raizo looked around at the numerous dresses on the racks. Each and every one of the dresses was eloquently designed, and was covered in frilly payers or flowery bows. The whole shop was laced with a gentle, soothing scent and lightly air conditioned room proved to be both comfortable and inviting.

Satomi stretched as she walked through the door, giving a casual yawn. "Damn, I figured this trip would be kinda boring, but this is pushing it."

"Well, this kinda shop isn't really your style, so I kinda get it," Raizo shrugged. "To be honest," he added quietly, "I think you'd look better in a blazer and some high waist leggings, y'know? Make 'em black with a white dress shirt underneath to let it contrast well with your hair. It'll accentuate your chest while giving off a relatively modest feel too."

"Oh? Are you hinting that you wanna see me wear something like that?" Satomi giggled playfully. "Too bad Dosia's girl's uniform doesn't have a blazer with it," she sighed. "Would you like me more if it did?"

"I dunno," Raizo shrugged, "you tell me."

"Hmm...well, this place is adequately classy for me, so I suppose it'll do," Hikari mumbled as she entered with Elizabeth, who was still covering herself with Raizo's blazer. "Y-yes, I suppose so," Elizabeth murmured silently, pressing her nose gently into Raizo's blazer and smiling as she took a little sniff.

"Quit being a perv," Hikari complained.

"I-I'm not!" Elizabeth shot back. "I'm just...feeling nervous, that's all."

"Right," Hikari sighed.

"Mistress, 'tis about time we got you a proper dress," Koharu commented. "Let's go pick one out, and when you're changing we can return Raizo's uniform to him."

"Y-yes, that sounds nice," Elizabeth replied with a blush. Taking her hand, Koharu lead her off towards one of the shelves, filled with beautifully crafted dresses, each embellished with many little gems and fancy bows.

"Oh, are you looking for anything in particular, miss?" an employee asks, rushing over to her side.

"N-no, well, not really," Elizabeth replied. "Well, actually, I kind of want to find a dress that could attract the attention of my dearest, but I don't want anything too revealing or anything..."

"I see," the employee answered quietly. "Oh, I get this sort of urge all the time. It's pretty frustrating trying to get the attention of somebody you like when they don't know it."

"Tell me about it," Elizabeth agreed.

"I wanna go get something to eat," Satomi complained.

"Quiet!" Hikari snapped. "I need all the reference points I can get!" she declared, pulling two dresses from the shelves. "I'm gonna go try these on. You two wait for me in front of the changerooms."

"Of course, young miss," Raizo answered.

"Say, I almost forgot to ask," Satomi whispered into his ear as Hikari left, "aren't you cold? I mean, after giving Lizzie your blazer, you've been standing around in a dress shirt...and with short sleeves, no less."

"It's the beginning of May," Raizo answered, "so that's basically summer. Why the hell would I be cold at this time of the year?"

"Uhh...*right*," Satomi laughed. "I just...I just wanted to know if you wanted me to cuddle a little closer to you to keep you warm, that's all."

"I wouldn't mind it," Raizo answered with a smirk, "but don't you think the young miss would flip out at us again?"

"Yeah, I guess so," Satomi shrugged. "C'mon, let's go meet her by the changerooms. She's gonna get angry if we don't. What a friggin' pain..."

"You can say that again," Raizo sighed.

"I'm dead certain he'll love these!" the employee assured Elizabeth.

"If I may, I do believe these dresses suit you, mistress," Koharu agreed.

"I must concur," Elizabeth nodded. "Alright then. I'll go give these two a quick try and then I'll decide," she said, clinging tightly to Raizo's blazer which was still draped over her shoulders.

"Certainly," the employee replied. "Feel free to come see me if you need any more help."

"Of course," Elizabeth answered. "I appreciate it." She smiled, looking at the dresses in her hand. *I do hope Raizo likes one of them*, she thought. *I suppose I'll get whichever one he prefers...they're both so cute, after all...maybe I'll even get both. These are wonderful selections, after all...*

"Mistress," Koharu called, "let's go! The changerooms are at the back of the store."

"Oh, of course!" Elizabeth answered, running after her.

"So? How do I look?" Hikari asked, sporting a bright red dress. Though plain in terms of design, the dress placed an emphasis on the chest area, padding it up with extra frills, and allowed the rest of the dress to look relatively simple.

*Is she trying to pad her B cups?* Raizo found himself thinking.

"Well, it looks *alright*, I suppose," Satomi said, "but I think the other one would probably look a lot better. Just saying."

"And you?" Hikari asked, turning to Raizo. *If he doesn't like this one, then I gotta change quickly*, she thought.

"Although you look absolutely gorgeous in any dress you choose, young miss," Raizo lied, "I do believe Satomi has a point. This one doesn't quite suit your grace."

"I-I see," Hikari answered. "Then allow me to try the other one," she said, turning around and walking straight back into the changeroom.

"Did you also wonder if she's trying to pad her boobs?" Satomi inquired quietly.

"Yeah, and you?" Raizo answered.

"Oh yeah, definitely," Satomi nodded.

"So you're both here already?" Koharu's voice called to them.

"Yeah, we are," Raizo replied as his friend walked over with a blushing Elizabeth standing behind her. "G-g-good day," she mumbled nervously. "S-s-so is Hikari already changing?"

"Yeah, she is," Satomi answered. "W-woah, those are some damn nice dresses," she said.

"D-do you really think so?" Elizabeth asked.

"Why certainly," Raizo smiled. "I can't wait to see you in them, Lady Elizabeth. They'll certainly compliment your complexion."

"O-oh! Th-thank you!" Elizabeth stammered in response. "I'm g-going to go change!" she said, running into the nearest unoccupied changeroom.

"God, why are you *such* a ladykiller?" Satomi laughed.

"What the hell do you mean?" Raizo asked, confused.

"Oh, forget it," Satomi sighed.

Minutes later, Elizabeth and Hikari walked out of the changerooms, virtually at the same time.

"So, how do I look? Just tell me already!" Hikari cried. "C'mon, Raizo, isn't this dress just *perfect*?"

"Oh, Raizo, my dear," Elizabeth cooed, "does this dress suit me well, or should I try the other?"

The two girls both paused and turned to stare at each other. Hikari's dress was made of smooth purple velvet and was, once again, extra frilly around the chest area. This one, however, also had various fancy designs along the shoulders and didn't look nearly as bland as the first. Elizabeth, on the other hand, had changed into a silk Chinese dress—a qipao—that was a dark shade of blue with a delicate gold pattern covering it.

"W-w-what the hell?" Hikari cried.

"If you'll excuse me, miss Hikari," Koharu commented, "I can't help but notice that your dress is heavily focused on the *upper* half."

"Isn't Elizabeth's dress Chinese though?" Hikari cried. "Weren't we going with western dresses? I woulda picked some kind of yukata if I knew this sorta thing was on the table!"

"First of all," Koharu answered, "we did not pick any theme for this particular outing. Second of all, I doubt this store carried yukatas at all, actually."

"No way!" Hikari cried. As the two started to argue, Satomi groaned. "Give me a minute," she said. "I'll try and break this up."

"Take your time," Raizo chuckled.

"R-Raizo, do I look weird?" Elizabeth asked. "I mean, after I came out, everyone was instantly focused on my dear sister...I can't help but feel a little neglected here..."

Turning to look at her, Raizo felt his own muscles tighten in an instant. *Holy crap*, he thought. *If not for the fact that Hikari was also here, I think I might've popped a boner just like that...damn.* "Y-you look wonderful, Lady Elizabeth!" he declared confidently. "That dress fits you absolutely flawlessly! It perfectly accentuates your curves without being too revealing in any way. There's a subtle, yet mature sort of charm that comes along with it too, and your hair contrasts wonderfully with the dark blue dress."

"O-oh!" Elizabeth blushed with a little smile. "Th-th-thank you for your kind words, my dearest—I mean...umm..."

"I speak only the truth, Lady Elizabeth," Raizo answered, bowing respectfully.

"Y-yes, of course," Elizabeth answered. "W-would you like to see the other dress I had picked out?"

"For sure," Raizo nodded. Elizabeth smiled again and nodded before returning to the changeroom. Hikari, having finally finished her argument, turned around to find that her sister had disappeared. "Aha! I knew it! She must've thought I looked better and went to change! I suppose this dress is superior! Correct, Raizo?"

"You look fine, young miss," Raizo answered calmly.

"Yeah, that's what I thought!" Hikari declared. "I suppose I'll buy this one then. I think it was called the 'stultus model?' I guess it means 'stunning' in some other language," she giggled as she walked back to the changeroom.

As she left earshot, Raizo nudged Satomi's arm. "I don't know if she realizes this," he whispered, signaling for Koharu to come closer too, "but I'm fairly certain that 'stultus' is Latin for 'stupid,' y'know?"

"W-wait, seriously?" Satomi asked, pulling out her phone to confirm his words. A moment later, she burst out laughing. "Oh my God, it really does!" she cried.

"I guess that dress suits miss Hikari more than we initially thought," Koharu shrugged.

"Hmm...I'd concur with that," Raizo chuckled.