

Satomi bit her lip gently, averting her eyes. She felt her own heart racing as she slowly breathed. She forced herself to avoid looking at Raizo, who sat in front of her, running a finger along her cheek. "You don't need to do this," he said finally, breaking the silence. Finishing his sentence, he reached over to Kasumi, loosening the reluctant puppet's grip on Satomi.

Kasumi sighed, letting go of Satomi completely. "Hubby...can we continue later then?" she asked.

Raizo nodded. "If you like," he replied.

Satomi's cheeks were bright red. She could feel her own heartbeat still on the rise, despite that fact that the tension had all but drained from the atmosphere. Raizo stood up from the hay, instead leaning against a wall. "Damnit, now I'm bored. I think the adrenaline from earlier today just wore off. Killing has...its own feeling to it, huh?" he mumbled to himself absent-mindedly.

Kasumi, having gotten up at some point or another since letting go of Satomi, strode over to her lover and kissed him. "Hubby...come back with me...I wanna...sleep together," she pleaded, her expression drowsy.

Raizo gently ruffled her hair. "Alright, alright," he said. Turning to Satomi, he smiled again. "You should get some rest too, alright?" he said.

Satomi nodded, her expression blank. Suddenly snapping back to attention, her eyes widened. "W-wait, where are you going?" she demanded.

"I think I don't need to spend tonight in the stables," Raizo laughed casually. "Let the young miss know I'll be out for the night. Otherwise, she'll end up wasting time and effort by making my share of dinner too." he said. *If you can even call that "dinner" a meal*, he added to himself.

"O-oh, r-right," Satomi replied. "Sure, just...leave that to me," she said.

"Thanks," Raizo smiled again, taking Kasumi's hand as they walked off.

*Damnit*, Satomi thought to herself as she watched them leave. *I just couldn't tell him...why am I getting like this all of a sudden? Why is my heart aching like this? Perhaps...this is real love? Or am I mistaken once more?* She sighed. *Well, whatever. If this is just an illusion, I just end up the same way I would have if I stayed with Naoki, right? Besides, this life of mine doesn't have that much value to me anyways...so I think I'll just take a gamble...and I'll bet on "love." Why not, right?* she asked herself.

"S-so, how was that?" Mariko asked, attentively watching the puppets before her finish their meal.

Kasumi giggled. "Wonderful," she answered honestly.

"Indeed," Raizo nodded. "Miss Nakano's cooking skills have improved again!"

"O-oh, you're just flattering me," Mariko giggled nervously. "Umm...so will you be staying the night?"

"Hubby will stay...in my room," Kasumi declared.

"R-right," Mariko replied. "Well, while you're here, do you mind if I ask you a few personal questions?" she asked Raizo.

"Go ahead," Raizo nodded. "I can't promise I that can or will answer everything, but I'll try."

"Good," Mariko replied. "Let's start with today. You don't need to tell me what but...am I correct in assuming something about today's match brought up a bit of your past?"

Raizo bit his lip. "Err...y-yeah," he replied heristantly.

"Can you tell me exactly what it was?" Mariko inquired.

"Death," Raizo replied, the single word lingering in the air. Moments later, he continued. "It reminded me of *my* death. And...there's no way in hell I'd die again before my job is complete."

"And what job is that?" Mariko asked, raising an eyebrow. *If my deductions are correct*, she thought to herself, *then this should provoke—*

"Please know that there are things I'd rather keep to myself," Raizo replied, his voice turning serious. His expression had shifted from a nervous smile to a prominent glare.

*Bullseye*, Mariko thought. "Sorry, dear," she said. "Would you mind if I took a guess then? At your... 'trigger?' It seems like nobody else can figure it out, after all."

"Take your best shot," Raizo said, his expression softening.

"It's that helpless feeling," Mariko said. "Even when on the losing side, such as against Kasumi, you still had a fighting change—and a terrifyingly good one, at that. However, in this situation, you were completely pinned. No good way out. It brought out the feeling of powerlessness you've felt at some point before." She smiled at her own deduction. "How close am I?" she asked.

"You're on the right track," Raizo said, "but I'm sorry to inform you that you haven't successfully guessed my... 'trigger,' as you put it. In fact, that's as far as most professional psychologists have gotten." He chuckled. "Guess that means you're as smart as anyone with a PhD...or maybe they don't have one after all..."

Mariko giggled. "I suppose that's as accurately as they can get it too," she nodded. "But I just can't seem to get it figured out. I assumed it had to be emotional," she analysed, "since it was such a strong reaction and all...interesting. Say...if I ever have any new guesses, would you mind if I tried to take a shot?"

"I'll invite you to guess away," Raizo replied. "I'll tell you if you got it right. Maybe."

"Aww...that's mean," Mariko joked, pretending to pout. "If you keep bullying girls like that, Kasumi's totally not gonna like you anymore..."

"Not true...hubby's very sweet to *me*...in bed," Kasumi smiled.

"That last part kinda concer—wait, y'know what? Never mind, that's a whole nother can of worms that I do NOT wanna open," Mariko sighed. *At least she didn't say that she was a natu—*

"Besides, I think...I'm a bit of a...natural born M," Kasumi giggled.

*Shit*, Mariko thought, giving the puppet a wry smile. "That a fact?" she asked, rubbing her forehead.

Kasumi nodded.

"Oh dear," Mariko mumbled.

Kasumi nuzzled her lover. She wrapped her arms around him, pressing her bare breasts against him. "Hubby...can we make love?" she asked.

Raizo took her right hand in one of his own. "Sure," he replied, kissing her passionately. The two held each other tight, their naked bodies pressing close together as they continued kissing.

Moving his hand, Raizo squeezed his girlfriend's right breast, causing her to moan softly. Placing her sensitive nipple in his mouth, he slowly sucked on her chest. With her free hand, the one that wasn't holding her lover, Kasumi held his head to her chest, enjoying the feeling of his tongue on her chest.

The two continued their foreplay.

Raizo pulled away from his girlfriend's chest, and kissed her once more, closing his eyes. Instinctively, his other senses quickly heightened to make up for the temporary loss of his sight. His nose immediately picked up the distinct smell of lavender in the air, and he heard a gentle thumping sound above him.

Chuckling to himself, he gave Kasumi a small push with the tips of his fingers, holding her down on the bed by placing his hand in the center of her chest. She didn't resist, instead slowly spreading her legs open. "Gently, hubby..." she whispered.

Raizo nodded as his girlfriend tugged at his boxers with her feet. She closed her eyes as he moved closer, pressing his dick against the opening of her vagina. "I'm gonna start, Kasumi," he said.

Kasumi nodded, her eyes opening a little, watching him. "Let's do it," she said.

Raizo slowly inserted his member into his lover's body. She moaned uncontrollably as he pressed on, kissing her passionately. Wrapping her legs around his waist, she smiled. "Fill me up...with your love, hubby," she begged innocently.

Raizo chuckled. "You really know how to please me, huh?" he asked.

Kasumi nodded enthusiastically.

Thrusting into her all the way, Raizo slowly began to move. Kasumi covered her mouth, trying to hide her voice to no avail. As Raizo sped up, she couldn't contain her own moans anymore, letting her own voice escape. Raizo, in turn, kissed her.

Wrapping her arms around him, she enjoyed the feeling as they passionately made love. Raizo massaged her breasts and gently stroked her butt, causing the embarrassed Kasumi to look away, only to have her gaze directed right back to her lover by a free hand of his.

"H-hubby...I think I'm cumming..." Kasumi whispered, her body instinctively tightening its muscles.

"Damn...me too," Raizo said, wrapping his arms around her.

The two kissed once more as they climaxed together.

Collapsing onto the bed, Kasumi took deep breaths and smiled, basking in the afterglow of sex. Looking over to her lover, she noticed that he had moved to her side, but was sitting up casually instead of lying down, his lower half covered by the blanket. "Hubby?" she called to him.

Raising a finger, Raizo smiled at her. "One moment," he said. Looking up at the roof, he chuckled. "You enjoying the show up there or something?" he demanded.

A scream rang through the room, followed by countless thumps. The grate in front of one of the massive room's air vents, located on the roof, flew open and Satomi tumbled out, landing face-first on the floor. Her cheeks were still flushed, and she nervously fidgeted on the spot. She wore a thin t-shirt and a pair of shorts, distinctly different from her school uniform.

Kasumi curiously raised an eyebrow and Raizo smiled at her knowingly. "So, what's up?" he asked calmly.