

XXVIII

Raizo entered the lecture hall, yawning to himself. He chuckled, a dopey expression plastered on his face. *I may say I'm not a sex machine, but after last night...I'm REALLY starting to question why I was rebuilt*, he thought. *I mean, how the hell did I manage to go three more rounds with each of those two after Mariko left? Jeez...I may have a problem...*

Stretching, he wandered around aimlessly for a moment before heading to his seat. As he sat down, he waved to Jiro, who had just entered the lecture hall. His friend waved back, heading in the direction of his seat. Behind Jiro, Fuyuko ran into the lecture hall.

"Hey, did you hear?" Jiro asked as he reached Raizo.

"What's up?" Raizo replied. "I didn't hear about anything too interesting recently myself."

"Well, apparently somebody's gonna try confessing to Ms. Oshiro," Jiro explained. Fuyuko nodded enthusiastically from behind him. "I wonder if it'll be as cute as when my honey confessed to me," she mumbled.

Jiro's face turned red. "H-hey, don't go around talking about *that*," he laughed. "It's embarrassing!"

"Oh?" Fuyuko laughed.

"Well, hey, I *did* confess to the girl I love," Jiro said, "but that doesn't make it less...you know what I'm talking about, right?" he asked Raizo.

"Oh boy, do I know," Raizo replied honestly. *Friggin' hell, I did it TWICE, after all*, he reminded himself. "W-wait, hold up a minute," he said, realization finally sinking in. "You said someone's gonna confess to Ms. Oshiro?"

"Oh, yeah," Jiro and Fuyuko nodded.

"Damn," Raizo mumbled.

"What, jealous?" Jiro laughed.

"Hardly, man," Raizo answered. "I mean, I'm surprised. I didn't think the young miss had any admire—"

"Oh, so *that's* why you reacted with so much shock," Jiro chuckled. "My bad, I probably should've specified. Someone's apparently planning to confess to Ms. Elizabeth Oshiro."

"Now *that* explains it," Raizo smirked. "So this is a rumor that's going around?"

"Well, sorta," Jiro replied. "Apparently someone put up a notice on the school's notice board asking her to meet them beneath the sakura tree on campus. It's a notorious confession spot here. In my first year alone, there were apparently over thirty confessions there. It's, like, on average one confession every dozen days!"

"It's April, and nine days until the end of the month, so you're trying to tell me we've pretty much had two confessions there already?" Raizo laughed.

"Unbelievable," he said. *I mean, after all, it would be double that amount if both my confessions happened there*, he thought.

"Yeah, actually," Jiro said, "this is supposed to be the second one. It's an interesting rumor, and the date specified on the notice is today."

"How's Lady Elizabeth reacting to all of this?" Raizo inquired.

"She says she wants to wait and see," Jiro said. "Lots of people are speculating that she's gonna reject the person though. Unless, of course, it's that playboy from hall 105. Apparently he's rich and popular, and he's supposedly some sort of champion athlete."

"That a fact?" Raizo mumbled. *Assuming that's true, and based off what I know about her...that kind of guy is probably the MOST likely to get rejected by someone like Elizabeth, he thought to himself, but I don't think I'll say that. It'll be giving away too much about her own life without her permission.* He sighed. *I'll tell Koharu to be careful, just in case it is him. After all, someone like that is likely to be prideful, and I don't need Elizabeth getting killed. That marks three deaths on campus in two days, and we just don't break even on the "deaths per day" count.*

Nodding, Raizo chuckled. "This is gonna be interesting," he said. "So, like, is this gonna be a public spectacle or something?"

"Technically, no," Fuyuko said, "but people tend to go watch anyways."

"We're pretty bad kids," Jiro agreed.

"Somehow, I'm not surprised," Raizo laughed. Noticing that the bell was about to ring, Jiro and Fuyuko headed back to their seats. Raizo pulled out his phone and pulled up Koharu's number, texting her a quick warning. 'Listen, the person whos gonna confess to lady elizabeth...'

'what about it' Koharu texted back.

'it could b a playboy...rich 2' Raizo explained.

'shit, k got it' Koharu responded.

'gl out there' Raizo texted.

'thx <3' Koharu texted back again, ending the conversation.

"Huh. Greater than three, eh?" Raizo muttered to himself bemusedly.

"Who're you texting?" Satomi's voice interrupted. "You cheating on us?"

"Oh, quiet," Raizo replied, flicking her on the cheek without looking up.

Satomi yelped in surprise. "Jeez," she laughed. "Oh, Mariko and Kasumi just got here too, by the way. Hikari's in the washroom again, but she should hopefully make it on time today."

"Let's hope," Raizo mumbled.

"I still can't believe I got locked out!" Hikari complained, stretching as she heard the sound of the bell signaling the end of class.

"You were ten minutes late, y'know," Satomi laughed. "I'm pretty sure the term 'powdering your nose' isn't supposed to mean doing your business then proceeding to put on fake lashes and loads of eyeliner."

"Oh, quiet," Hikari replied. "Apparently someone's gonna confess to me today, so I better look good for it. However, if they end up being *just some guy*, I'll have wasted the effort. Oh well, it's worth playing it safe."

"I hate to burst your bubble, young miss," Raizo interrupted, "but I've been informed that the confession is for Lady Elizabeth."

"W-wait, seriously?" Hikari inquired.

"Quite seriously, dear sister," Elizabeth interrupted, causing Hikari to jump. "How goes your day?" she asked Raizo and Satomi.

"Quite fine, Elizabeth!" Satomi replied.

"Oh, 'Lizzie' is fine," Elizabeth giggled.

"Our day has been splendid, Lady Elizabeth," Raizo said. "And yours?"

Elizabeth sighed. "You're not giving up on the 'Lady Elizabeth' thing, huh?" she laughed. "No matter, I do find it quite endearing. And as for my day...it's been troublesome. I assume you've heard the rumors already?"

"Yeah," Hikari replied spitefully. "What about it?"

Elizabeth sighed. "I'm just curious about who it is," she said.

"Let's go find out, then!" Satomi cried energetically, taking Elizabeth by the hand and virtually dragging her out of the classroom with Koharu chasing close behind them.