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Satomi and Naoki strolled through the campus, hand-in-hand. The two walked wordlessly and aimlessly, encountering the occasional student or hearing the sound of laughter in the distance.

"Y-y'know, it's r-really nice that you decided to t-take me out on a date so soon," Satomi stammered nervously.

"How could I resist?" Naoki asked cheerfully. "After all, you're just so...*beautiful*..."

Satomi blushed, covering her mouth to hide her gleeful smile. Naoki calmly chuckled to himself. He casually brushed his finger by his left ear and placed his right arm around Satomi's shoulders, gently stroking her arm.

Satomi smiled to herself. *Well...this is alright, I guess. We're close, and this IS what I wanted, after all. I mean...what else can I do? Forget being strong or whatever...I don't even know how I feel anymore. Naoki's sudden reappearance has thrown a monkey wrench right into this new life of mine but...I guess I can accommodate him...he was so sweet to me before, and I...I just want to be loved for the person I am—or, well, I WAS—and if this Naoki can give that to me...that's enough.* She leaned her head over towards him, resting it upon his shoulder as the two continued their stroll.

Raizo approached the front of the dorm where Hikari was waiting for him. "Young miss, we need to get moving."

"Hold on!" Hikari ordered, stepping back. "Exactly what's going on? Where's Satomi? Why did you call me out here out of the blue?"

How troublesome can you get? Raizo thought. "Young miss, Satomi may be in danger at the present moment," he explained as calmly as he could. "I suspect that she knows there is some element of danger around her, though I also doubt that she'll act to protect herself in this particular case, because—oh, you know what? It's a long story, I'll explain when we really have the time. Please just come with me in the meantime!"

"A-alright, alright," Hikari answered, "don't be so pushy..."

Satomi and Naoki stopped beneath a tree on the campus. "Listen, I know this kinda ruins the mood, but I need to use the washroom," Naoki said, chuckling. "Sorry."

"O-oh, it's fine! Go ahead, I'll wait right here!" Satomi answered.

"Awesome," Naoki replied. Turning, he walked off. "I'll be back as soon as I can."

"R-right—wait, do you know where the nearest washroom is?" Satomi asked.

"Yeah, don't worry about me," Naoki laughed.

"Okay," Satomi answered, leaning against the tree. *I hope he comes back soon, she thought. I don't like being alone...I wonder how Raizo's doing—wait, no! I shouldn't...he's happier without me...I shouldn't try to invade his life so much anymore...*

"So where do you think Satomi would go at a time like this?" Hikari asked, running closely behind Raizo.

"That literally doesn't matter," Raizo replied. "What matters is where 'he' would take her to do whatever it is that 'he' wants to do, and something tells me 'he' won't be very gentle or subtle about it..."

"Wait, who's this 'he?' That Naoki guy?" Hikari inquired.

"Who the hell else?" Raizo mumbled.

"Point taken," Hikari nodded. "I get hindsight is 20/20 but I still gotta say it...I knew there was something wrong with that guy!"

You're one to talk, Raizo thought to himself. In front of him, in the distance, he saw a figure walking towards the school building. The hell? Who'd go there at this time of day? he asked himself. Everyone else is either training or having dinner...some may be strolling around, but not towards the school building. That person's likely trying to go somewhere without people...a clever thought, but not good enough. It just makes 'em more suspicious. What's more, they're alone, so if that IS Naoki, then he may not be working alone...

"Well?" Hikari asked, bringing Raizo back to reality. "Why didn't you say anything?"

"Did you want me to?" Raizo replied. "I was a little preoccupied with planning out how I'm going to eavesdrop on that guy headed towards the school building."

"Wow, that's...a pretty rude thing to do," Hikari scolded.

"Like I give a damn," Raizo muttered under his breath. "Listen, if that is Naoki, then eavesdropping is also our best chance of finding Satomi. Now, take my hand. We're gonna figure out exactly what's going on." Finishing his sentence, Raizo offered his hand to Hikari.

Hikari blushed instinctively. *Oh my God, he's offering to hold my hand? she thought. I'm not prepared for this! It's dangerously close to being in b-b-bed! But...but we need to find Satomi so I guess... I can excuse it, just this once,* she thought. Nodding to herself, she took Raizo's outstretched hand.

Raizo smiled. Picking up his running pace, he began to approach the school building. "W-woah, you're going too fast!" Hikari cried, struggling to keep up. "H-hey, you're gonna run into the damn—"

Before she could continue, Raizo took a firm step forwards and pivoted on his heel. The swift twist conjoined with his running momentum. A faint sound resembling the firing of a gun rang through the area, and before she knew it, Hikari was soaring with him through the air, hand in hand. Moments later, the two landed atop the school building. "Pretty cool, eh?" Raizo asked quietly. "It's a little trick I learned. Doesn't normally work thanks to the laws of physics, but puppets seem to

be able to pull it off with enough practice.” Signaling for Hikari to be quiet, he waved her over to the door leading into the building. Following behind him, Hikari found herself on the second floor inside an unlocked classroom from where they listened to the conversation two stories below.

Raizo walked over to the window, opening it slightly. Hiding behind the curtain, he watched as Naoki appeared behind the school building. Pulling out his phone, he opened a voice recorder and pressed the “record” button. *This phone is pretty good, so it should be able to pick up their conversation. They probably won’t be whispering, and this recorder can certainly pick up something from about 6 meters away.*

Naoki examined his surroundings. “Looks like everything’s clear,” he said. “You can come out now, Noa.”

At his command, Noa opened a window from inside the first floor of the building, climbing out. “Good to see you, master,” she said. “Hiding inside the lecture hall is worse than hiding in a classroom...there’s a lot more security. We should be more careful next time.”

“Duly noted,” Naoki answered. Taking Noa in his arm, the two kissed passionately.

“W-what the hell?” Hikari whispered. “Isn’t he dating Satomi? And didn’t you say she was in *danger*? Did you mean ‘in danger of being cheated on’ or something?”

“Well, polygamy is legal so that’s not exactly the issue here,” Raizo replied quietly. “Listen, if my guess is right, we’ll have a field day here. Just be quiet and observe, please?”

Hikari sighed and nodded. *I can’t resist when he says “please!”* she thought. *That bully...Raizo’s being so unfair...*

Pulling away from Noa, Naoki smiled. “So, you’re not gonna ask anything?”

“How’s your date been, master?” Noa asked in response, giggling.

“Oh, it’s fine. I’ve got her wrapped around my pinky finger, it seems. I can’t stay out for too long though,” Naoki said, “or she’ll get suspicious.”

“Any girl would,” Noa agreed.

“Listen, I’ll make her nice and obedient and then we can just take her from that blonde. Then we’ll have a new little toy,” Naoki laughed.

“Master...you truly do just want that girl for her body, don’t you?” Noa joked.

“I won’t deny that,” Naoki replied. “I mean, no offense to you and your breasts but she had an E-cup back in high school! And hell, she’s undoubtedly grown since then...”

Noa rolled her eyes. “That girl and her body...serves her right. She’ll be made into a nice little sex toy for you, master, and you’ll be able to enjoy that body whenever you like. And besides that...she’s disposable and useless enough, isn’t she?”

"Damn right!" Naoki declared. "Now...I hate to cut our talk short, but I really can't have her suspecting anything so I'm gonna head back. I'm going to try and do her this evening. Hopefully, one sex session will be enough to convince her to be mine. Like, with a body like that she's *gotta* be some sorta bimbo, right? I mean hell, she fully trusts me, and she seems to really be in love with me, so she should be easy enough to take. I'll just remind her that I was the only one there for her before, then tell her I love her and ask her to be my partner, and bam! Easy mone—or, well, not money but you get the idea."

"Indeed. Then I'll await your triumphant return at the dorm, master," Noa answered, bowing and walking off. Naoki, smirking to himself, headed in the opposite direction. "Alright, time to make that slut mine!" he announced.

"Well that was...not subtle in the least," Hikari said. "How sexist is that asshole, anyways?"

"In all honest, it's not his misogyny that bothers me the most," Raizo said, "but rather the fact that he's taking advantage of Satomi's feelings." He sighed. *And boy, do I know how much that can suck*, he thought wistfully. *My parents trusted a lot of people, and where'd that get them? Killed, that's where*, he reminded himself. *I'm not letting anyone else I care about make that sorta mistake. Not now, not ever.*

"I agree, that really sucks," Hikari said. "I mean, it's bad enough that this Naoki guy is a total womanizer, but he's calling Satomi all those nasty names and wants to hurt her like that? Unforgivable!"

"Unfortunately, legally speaking I can't just cut him down," Raizo said, annoyed, "or so help me I would've leapt out the window and severed him and his stupid puppet at their necks."

"I think I know what you meant when you said Satomi was in danger," Hikari sighed.

"Good. Now that you get it, and now that we have evidence, what do you intend on doing about it?" Raizo asked.

"I...I wonder," Hikari said, her voice growing serious.

"I think I know what I wanna do," Raizo said, "and I have a way of getting it done without the law chasing my tail, but I'll need your approval first."

"Well, let's hear it," Hikari nodded.

Raizo smiled. "Alright, so here's the plan..."