

IV

"Crap, I failed!" Nori cried in despair, staring at his test. At the top of the page, written in red ink, was his mark: 47%.

Yuuto stared down at his own mark of 59% in exasperation. "Yeah, I didn't do too much better either," he muttered.

"You passed."

"Yeah."

"That's technically infinitely better since I FUCKING FAILED!"

"SHUT UP BACK THERE!" Ms. Adachi ordered, causing the two boys to freeze in place.

Hanae tapped Yuuto on the shoulder, snapping him out of his trance of terror. "Darling, how'd you do? If it's not much better than Nori then it could be a problem..."

"You're telling me?" Yuuto chuckled. "If this keeps up I'll have to repeat the grade!"

"Well, rest assured. If you do, I'll repeat it with you, darling!"

"W-wait a minute, that's going a *bit* too far, don't you think? Besides, I'd have Nori to accompany me already."

"HEY!" Nori cried, shooting out of his seat. "I WILL PASS A TEST...EVENTUALLY!"

"I SAID SHUT UP!" Ms. Adachi shouted, clearly frustrated. Nori jumped at the sound of her voice and sat back down.

"So how'd you do, Hanae?" Yuuto asked, ignoring his friend's mistake.

"I scored a solid 94%!" Hanae smiled. "Math is my strongest subject. I usually do bad in science though. I sometimes barely scrape the 70 percents."

"Oh, come on," Yuuto laughed. "That's still better than me. I'm barely better at academics than I am at my social life."

Hanae paused, looking deep in thought. Suddenly, she raised a finger as if she had just come up with an idea. "Then how about I tutor you, darling?" she asked enthusiastically. "I'm sure I can help with math, and I can still try and help you with other subjects!"

"W-won't that be too much trouble for you? I can't ask you to do all that for me!" Yuuto smiled. "I appreciate the offer, but I can't possibly make you do so much work!"

"It's fine, darling! We'll be spending the rest of our lives together, after all. This is nothing!" Hanae smiled back. "Besides, my 94% is nothing to scoff at."

"Well isn't that something?" Sayaka laughed, walking over. "I was wondering who scored the highest in our class."

"I did?" Hanae asked with excitement.

"I'm afraid not," Sayaka replied. "I did. I scored 99%. I got the last question wrong though," she mumbled.

"The LAST question?" Yuuto mumbled, turning to the last page of his test.
"Factor $2x^3 - 4x^2 - 3x + 6$...I got that one right, actually."

"YOU DID?" Sayaka and Nori cried together. "I MESSED IT UP!" Turning to each other, they screamed in unison.

"W-wait, class rep, you got it wrong too?" Nori cried.

"Sh-shut up! I got *everything* else right, asshole!" Sayaka retorted. "But anyways, what's the answer?"

"Good question," Hanae said. "I got it wrong too, so you may as well enlighten us, darling."

"I got $(x - 2)(2x^2 - 3)$. That one wasn't hard at all, actually. What did you all end up with?" Yuuto asked curiously.

"Ah, I see," Hanae mumbled. "See, I got $(2x - 3)$ for the second term. Small mistake. I need to be more attentive and work faster. This is all because I ran outta time!"

"I didn't even get close..." Nori mumbled. "I got $(x)(2x(x - 1))(3(1 + 2))$."

"HOW?" Yuuto asked, confused.

"Beats me," Nori replied.

Sayaka simply stood in silence, her hands shaking. She loosely held her own test, staring straight at her answer. Yuuto walked to her side and took a look. On her paper was the exact same thing Nori had written. She looked over to Yuuto tearfully. "P-please don't tell everyone..." she begged.

Yuuto sighed. "I won't," he assured her, "but seriously? *Seriously?*"

Sayaka hid her test, folding it in half and covering her answer. "Th-this never happened, do you hear me?"

"I'll take it to my grave," Yuuto laughed, sitting back down at his seat.

"By the way, class rep, did you just come over to make fun of Hanae's score?" Nori asked. "I mean, that's a pretty lame reason."

"Wha—that's not it at all" Sayaka cried. "I just got curious and wanted to see if anyone beat me, but it seems like I'm still at the top."

"It really seems so," Hanae muttered, poking at Sayaka's breasts. "I mean, jeez, what the hell do you eat to get 'em like this?"

"HEY!"

"What? It's breast appreciation day, y'know?"

"Really?" Nori asked with excitement. "Hey, class rep, you mind if I joi—"

"THAT'S NOT A REAL HOLIDAY!" Sayaka cried. Before Nori could finish his sentence, she cut him off and gave him a strong chop to the head, knocking him out cold. She then turned to Hanae to stop the constant poking of her chest.

Yuuto sighed to himself. *What kind of school life have I gotten myself into?* he wondered.