

XLV

Raizo strolled along the halls, heading to the lecture hall early. He sighed. *Friday morning. I should be sleeping in and barely making it to class, not dropping by half an hour before class starts...I wonder what motivated me to come THIS early...*

Noticing that he had reached his destination, he stretched sleepily and opened the door. Looking around, he noticed that the previously strong smell of blood had been eradicated from the room. The red strains on the carpet and walls from the dead bodies had also been removed. Looking carefully, he noticed that the carpet had been replaced. Running a finger along the wall, he felt an extraordinarily smooth texture. *Repainted, eh?* he thought. *And if you're not looking for any differences, you'd never notice any...they're nicely subtle. Clever sons of bitches.*

"Do you like what they did with the place?" Chinatsu's voice asked from the inside of the room. She sat at her desk, clearly a new one thanks to Raizo having smashed the previous one in two. "I heard you destroyed my old desk. Thanks. That thing was too fucking high, so this new one works much better. That and the old one was dented. Fuck that."

"Yeah I, uhh, *might* have split it," Raizo admitted, leaning against the doorway.

"Y'know what's interesting?" Chinatsu asked. "I asked, and when they inspected the corpses, *every single one* was killed with a single hit. Every attack you landed was lethal, without exception. Every human being's head was severed from their body, killing them instantly. And as for the puppets...the only wounds inflicted on their body were able to destroy their cores upon impact." She giggled. "Congrats. You're a fucking psycho."

"Yeah?" Raizo laughed. "I'm a psycho, eh?"

"Yeah," Chinatsu replied. "Just like me."

"And why's that?" Raizo inquired. "You been on *that* sorta killing spree before?"

"No," Chinatsu shrugged. "Lemme ask you something though. Does a sane woman quit high school halfway through and go assassinate people for a living?"

"Doubt it," Raizo said.

"Does a sane woman see herself die in her dreams every night?" Chinatsu pressed on.

"I hope not," Raizo chuckled.

"Does a sane woman fall in love with a psycho?" Chinatsu ask finally.

"You've done that?" Raizo laughed.

"Just answer the question," Chinatsu said with a smile.

"Not if she knows they're a psycho, I don't think," Raizo answered.

"Then clearly I'm not a sane woman," Chinatsu concluded, looking over towards her computer screen. Her eyes suddenly widening for a moment, she frantically moved her mouse around and clicked on something.

"What? Had to close a porn tab or something?" Raizo laughed.

"Sh-shut up!" Chinatsu replied. "L-listen kid, just...*don't* go rooting around in my search history, okay? I assure you, it's not porn, but..."

"How much worse is it then?" Raizo laughed.

"I'm not obligated to answer such inquiries," Chinatsu replied.

Staring at each other in silence for a few moments, Raizo suddenly felt a tap on his shoulder. Chinatsu, on the other hand, froze. "Oh, shit, not this again!" she cried, leaping from her desk. Get away from me, ya crazy pile of chest blubber!" she cried to the person behind Raizo at the door.

Turning around, the puppet found himself face-to-face with a black-haired woman. Behind her was another unfamiliar face, as well as an exasperated Marie. The woman smiled at him as he stepped aside and bowed respectfully. "Well, hello there," she said. "Excuse me for a moment." Entering the room, she immediately lost her formal composure and began to chase after Chinatsu while squealing with childish delight, her brown eyes virtually lighting up all the while.

Marie heaved a sigh as she entered. "I see you're early today," she said to Raizo. "That's good. Because uhh...Chinatsu may need some help escaping from the clutches of the principal and her goth loli fetish."

Raizo froze. "W-wait, the *principal*? Goth loli fetish? The hell?"

"You weren't at Dosia from the beginning of the year, were you?" the other woman asked, straightening the short black hair that was tied into a ponytail at the back of her head. "Then you surely missed the entrance ceremony, and puppets don't come with their owners to discuss enrollment with us, so you wouldn't have met there either. That is our principal, Ms. Oki Ueno. I am Juri, her puppet and the vice principal." Her orange eyes stared right at him as Raizo bowed. "It's an honor to meet you," he said.

Suddenly feeling a tugging coming from his sleeve, Raizo looked up to discover Chinatsu, virtually in tears, as she held onto him. In this state, she resembled nothing like a confident teacher being bothered by the principal, but rather a lost little girl asking a stranger if they'd seen her parents. "S-save me," she pleaded quietly. Raizo, looking past her, noticed the principal sprinting over with a goth loli outfit in her hands, her eyes virtually glowing with zeal. He shuddered.

Juri and Marie could only give him weary but understanding smiles.

Casually raising a hand, he held it out like a brick wall. The principal, completely unaware of her surroundings, ran straight into it, knocking herself out on impact as she dropped to the ground.

"Not bad," Juri commented. "I usually have harder time wrangling her when she does this."

"Th-that a fact?" Raizo chuckled nervously.