

3

義妹生活

三河ごーすと

illust Hiten

Days with my Step Sister

presented by
ghost mikawa

Short Story 1

Sandwiched by Step-sister and Senior at Work

Door opening

“Excuse me. Asamura-kun... is sleeping. He’s taking a nap during his short break. He must have been tired. I thought I would eat something while talking with him, but... hee hee. Well, whatever. I’d feel bad waking him up just for that. I need to get better at my job so that Asamura-kun doesn’t get as exhausted as he is right now. Even if I can take care of a customer and show them around, Asamura-kun can do that with two people in the same amount of time, so it makes sense for him to be tired. To be honest, I have nothing but respect.”

.....

“You’re not listening to me talking, are you? Well, whatever. I’ll just eat something.”

Door opening

“Good work~ Oh? It seems like we already have some visitors here. You were giving it your all during the shift, so that makes sense.”

“Good work.”

“Oh, Junior-kun is sleeping, huh? You sure have a lot of guts to sleep like a log next to your little sis.”

“He was already asleep when I entered.”

“Hmmm~ Wah, he’s sound asleep.”

“...Why are you sitting down like we’re sandwiching him?”

“I figured I’d give him a taste of what it means to have a flower in each hand in his dreams, see~”

“I’m sure he’d be happy.”

“You’re talking like it has nothing to do with you~ You’re a flower yourself, so you should at least be confident that you would appear in his dreams.”

“Are you sure he won’t wake up from smelling the food?”

“Haha, having a dream about being fed from both sides, huh? That’s what I’d call luxury.”

.....

“Have you gotten used to work already?”

“Thanks to your help.”

“Right, with how much work you do, you basically count for two people, Saki-chan.”

“If I count for two people, then you count for at least four people, Yomiuri-san.”

“Don’t just double it like that. You’re giving me too much credit.”

“It is the truth.”

“Even if it is, I wouldn’t want people to expect that much from me. I can’t handle all that pressure. The first step to failing is to over-evaluate your abilities, remember?”

“So then... I’ll go with me being worth one person.”

“That won’t do~ It’s the truth, after all.”

“Ehhh... You’re thinking of me too highly. I’m still not that good at answering questions about books. It takes quite some time for me.”

“That will change as you get more experienced. If you got the hang of that right away, I’d have lost my position as your senior.”

“Hmmm... Even so, I need to learn more tricks to help me get faster.”

“100 points! If you keep up that mentality, you’ll soon be a professional part-timer.”

“Ahaha... Thank you very much.”

“Ah, if we keep talking this loudly, we might wake Junior-kun up. We’ve gotta keep the volume down a bit... If I whisper into his ears, he might have some kind of reaction in his dream.”

“I don’t think that’s a very good idea..”

“It’s not?”

“They say that you shouldn’t respond to other people’s sleep talk, so Asamura-kun might respond in his sleep. Not to mention that we’d have our priorities backwards if we woke him up in the process.”

“Hmm... So you say, Saki-chan, but I wonder which one Junior-kun would be most delighted about?”

“Um...”

“This is just a bit of a reward for my hard-working Junior-kun, from your beloved senior. Open your mouth. Here, aaaaahn.”

“I don’t think there’s any guarantee that he’ll actually dream about food, though.”

“I’m trying to manipulate his dream by telling him things.”

“He might already be having a great dream right now...”

“Then... Why don’t we make it an even better dream? ... Sorry to suddenly call you out here, Junior-kun. I didn’t expect you to tag along with me to this mountain area on the weekend~ We have electricity here, but the wind is so strong...”

ShioriBlowingInYourEar.mp3

“W-What are you doing?”

“I was thinking of making it a bit more realistic~ If you’re somewhere deep in the mountains, the wind can be quite strong, right?”

“Ahh... That’s right.”

ShioriBlowingInYourEar.mp3

“I do think the wind is a bit too fierce.”

“Oh my? Thanks for coming as well, Saki-chan.”

“This is supposed to be deep in the mountains, right?”

“Indeed, just as the—well, not two of us anymore—but anyway. Why did you come here?”

“It’s dangerous for just the two of you, so I figured the more people the better.”

“Yes, that is true. You’re absolutely right about that. With a flower each of his hands, not to mention deep in the mountains, it’d be like he had managed to grab the unattainable flowers all for himself. What a lucky fellow he is.”

“I think that Asamura-kun would be happier if I weren’t around.”

“No no, there’s no way that’s true. But anyway... We made it, Junior-kun~ Let’s give you an experience you’ll never forget~”

“What are you planning on starting?”

“Something very special. Your first time needs a lot of courage, but if you just jump into the unknown, it’ll end in a flash.”

“Although it’s inside his dream, I don’t think you should be saying such weird things...”

“Even if you know of the danger, sometimes you have to take that first step and let yourself fall. Now that you’ve come all this way, you can’t go back anymore. Right, Junior-kun? Now... jump..... And enjoy the bungee jump.”

“Huh?”

“I was talking about bungee jumping! Hmm? What were you thinking about? Did you think I’d kiss him or something~?”

“Isn’t it dangerous to do bungee jumping on days with strong wind?”

“In reality, yes. That’s why we’re doing it inside of a dream. Who knows? Maybe he was jumping with a flower in both hands~?”

“Oh.”

“Ah, oops. I guess I was playing around a bit too much.”

“Asamura-kun looked like he almost woke up there.”

“He’ll probably get angry at me if he finds out I was playing tricks on him in his sleep,ahaha~ Anyway, I’ll be excusing myself now!”

Door opening

“She sure is quick to run away...”

Door closing

“Is she that afraid...? Don’t worry. Come on back. Ah, you’ve calmed down a bit, huh? Thanks for the food. I guess I should go as well. I did kind of contribute to Yomiuri-san’s prank, and it would probably be a bit awkward if he found out that I saw him sleeping. Thanks for everything, Asamura-kun.”

Door opening and closing

Short Story 2

It's an unstable time, with the rainy season possibly ending soon, and possibly not. It's been around a month since Ayase-san and Akiko-san moved in with me and my old man in the flat we were previously living in alone. After returning from my part-time job, I enjoyed the dinner Ayase-san had made and left for me. That evening, she made sweet and spicy cooked fish (I think it was flounder) with spinach in soy sauce, as well as a small bowl of natto. Naturally, you can't forget Ayase-san's signature miso soup.

"Yeah, this really is delicious..."

It sunk deep into my body. I think I've never gotten to enjoy the true taste of miso soup. Or so I was thinking as I ate. The door to the living room opened, and Ayase-san in her casual at-home clothes walked inside.

"Welcome back."

"Y-Yeah, I'm home."

The reason we kept our voices down was so that we wouldn't wake up my sleeping old man. As an average salaryman, he was usually asleep around 11pm. Ayase-san then turned on the electric kettle, taking out a cup and instant coffee from a drawer.

"Were you studying?"

"End-of-term exams are soon, after all."

“There’s still a week, though.”

“Only one week, yeah.”

Our gazes met, and we let out a faint snicker.

“Well, the topics covered in the first-term exam aren’t that broad, so it should be fine.”

“I... have a subject I’m not really good at, so I have to.”

The electric kettle notified her of the water boiling, and she quickly turned it off again. Her gaze wandered towards the bedroom where my old man was sleeping, most likely worried that she would wake him up.

“It’s fine, he won’t wake up from a noise as quiet as that.”

“I see.”

Just when I thought she was going to return to her room, she suddenly sat down at the table, facing me.

“Hm?”

“Um... I don’t have anything in particular to talk about, but... Is work going well for you?”

“I don’t have any shifts the week before the exams.”

“I see.”

“Thanks for worrying about me.”

“Yeah... It’s not that I thought you forgot, I was just... curious.” After saying this, she stood up and started acting like she was about to take the cup back to her room.

She had a somewhat awkward expression on her face. She really doesn't have to be this considerate. She shouldn't have to worry about me like that.

"Ah... Ayase-san, at the beginning of the new school term, you were probably sitting in the front, right?"

"Yeah, that's true." Ayase-san responded, looking confused as to why I would suddenly ask that.

"I was the same."

"Ahh, that's... I see."

Of course there's differences regionally and depending on the school, but generally when seats get shuffled right after changing classes, they are assigned in name order. Since both Ayase-san and I start with 'A', it would make sense that we'd sit in front of the class, by the hallway side.

"It's been that way since grade school. I've always sat in the front row," I said.

"I don't particularly like to sit right in front of the teacher. When it comes to subjects I'm not too interested in, I'd rather focus my time on something else."

"I never really hated it."

My response must have been surprising to her. She paused with the cup of coffee in her hand, her eyes opening wide.

"Why not?"

"It's the closest seat to the hallway door. Once class is over, you can dash right out of it, right?"

I explained it like it was obvious, but Ayase-san blinked a few times, then she let out an exhausted sigh.

“That’s why?”

“You didn’t expect that? We’re not normal siblings, so we don’t know much about each other. Recently, I started thinking that step-siblings should be close, but also far apart. That’s why I’m happy you told me about my work schedule.”

“I see... Okay, I understand. I’ll continue doing so, then.”

“Let’s tell each other what we want without any restraint.”

Ayase-san replied with a quiet ‘Thanks’, carrying the warm cup like it was something precious to her as she returned to her room.