

彼女
10.5

ペツト
さくら荘の



鴨志田 一

Hajime Kamoshida

イラスト 溝口ケージ

illustration Keji Mizoguchi





CONTENTS

長谷栞奈の突然な修学旅行	11
長谷栞奈の不器用な恋愛模様	81
まだ夢の途中	189
おまけ書き下ろし クリスマスに事件は起こる	265

皆様本当に
ありがとうございました。
ありがとうございます。



デザイン●T







Chapter 01: Hase Kanna's sudden farewell retreat

Prologue

Youth is not over.

When I noticed it was already late.

Tightly, there are many such feelings in this world.

I think that this feeling of mine is only one of myriads.

But for me, it's just one special thing.

Confused by the person I first knew.

So, I can't do anything

I can't give up

Because I can't regret it I become increasingly unable to stop that feeling.

Part 1

Hokkaido was blessed with fine weather.

Under the clear blue sky, the navy blue hybrid car in which Hase Kanna sits in the passenger seat speeding up on the national road towards Sapporo from Shin Chitose Airport.

In the driver seat next to the window, handling the steering wheel,

"Yahoo~! Hokkaido~! Hurray~!"

And an older woman is singing. Her name Misaki Mitaka. Kanna attends in a high school attached to Suimei University of Art As a graduate of Suiko, Misaki is currently a first-year student of the Video Faculty in Suimei University of Art. A former student in the dormitory where Kanna is living She is also a former resident of Sakurasou. In Room 201 where Kanna moved into, it was Misaki's room until three months ago.

In the back seat of the car that runs lightly west,

"Yahoo~! Hokkaido~! Hurray~!"

There is a figure of the boy student who is rolling up the tension too. Curly hair style is distinctive on a well-formed face.

Like Kanna, he is a freshman enters Suiko's music department this spring. Moreover, there are only ten students in the music department. He can't imagine the remarks he got, but for the moment it is the person selected through the narrow gate. As Kanna's impression, it is only an idiot chosen Iori is also a Sakurasou's resident and lives in room 103.

"Yeah! Hokkaido ~!"

"Yeah! Really~!"

In contrast to the high tension of Misaki and Iori, Kanna makes a long and

deep sigh at the front passenger seat "Haa".

Late May. Weekday. Of course, there are classes at school. In the afternoon of such a day, why is Kanna, who goes to school in the metropolitan area, is far away in Hokkaido? Kanna knows the answer naturally, but she was suffering to understand.

The incident occurred this morning.

Eight o'clock.

Third-grade residents who were leaving for the farewell retreat in front of the entrance of Sakurasou It was good until she saw four people, Kanda Sorata, Shiina Mashiro, Aoyama Nanami, Akasaka Ryuunosuke went out.

The problem is after that.

Where Sorata's appearance is completely hidden,

"Yes yes, get on, get on, get on!"

Then, Misaki who was standing with Iori and Kanna to see them off, push Iori in the car.

Misaki who is a graduate was in Sakurasou, a student dormitory from the morning. The answer is quite simple.

Simultaneously with graduation, Misaki seems to have built a house next to Sakurasou, and now she is a neighbor living there. Like almost every day, she came to Sakurasou, eating breakfast and meals, and playing in the game in room 101, Kanda Sorata's room. She even took a bath yesterday.

She could not believe that one college student built a house, she could not believe it was normal, but Kanna was strangely convinced by the name of Misaki.

A celebrity who is making noise on movie sites with voluntary anime for several years. Her clan seems to have changed since her marriage, but Kanna knew the name and work of "Kamiigusa Misaki" before entering Suiko, and

she also saw it. She remembered the goose bumps stood on the quality of drawing and production that she can't think it was made solo. She played it over and over again.

Misaki's works are also being commercialized, and the number of sold versions has exceeded 100000, or more It is enough to build a house.

The car that Misaki drives leaves Sakurasou and aims for Haneda Airport with full speed. There was no room to put in words of suspicion, Kanna and Iori were put on an airplane to New Chitose, They fastened the seat belt, took off, landed, removed the seatbelt, and noticed they were taken to Hokkaido..... That's why.

Because it was sudden, she doesn't have much luggage. It can be said that empty-hand. Because it is a dress that is not different from room dress, she does not feel comfortable. The only thing she has is a mobile phone.

She still doubts that this is a dream. When she woke up, she wondered if she were sleeping in bed in room 201 of Sakurasou

Sadly, there is no sign at all. In such a situation, Kanna could not do something but admit it was reality.

"No pan, you're not energetic! Get out loud~!"

"Who is no-pan!"

Pull the skirt of the clothes and stretch it around the thigh.

"Eh~, but, you do not have it, right?"

"Yes, I have it now!"

"You, thinking carefully is a perverted metamorphosis"

Iori nodded with his words many times while wearing headphones.

"I do not want to say it over and over, it is yours, isn't it?"

Kana also fought quickly.

"Where?"

In the room mirror, the stupid side that the Iori is not really understood is reflected.

"Who moved to Sakurasou because of getting caught while trying to see the girls having a bath?"

Sakurasou where Kanna and Iori live is a bit different from ordinary dormitories. Students who have problems in Suiko transfers to here like an exile.

"I have pantsu"

"....."

Therefore, Kanna must have some problems. That is "no pan" that Misaki and Iori say from the previous time.

Her beginning was truly bright. A novel based on a diary written in the secondary school achieved an award, but she was struggling to deal with the problem that she has no good enough idea to write the second novel. So that she wanted to do something to decrease her stress.

That's one day. School break time. When she went to the bathroom, the devil came. She came out of the toilet with her pantsu removed while wearing skirt.

She felt it was an another world immediately. Although the appearance inside the school has not changed at all, she felt excited and ended all worries, and she could completely forget the stress of not being able to write the second novel.

If she received a class as it is, that is unexpected ... But, it was outstandingly effective and she could not stop it. That was leaked the guard of the general dormitory, and as a result, Kanna was exiled to Sakurasou.

About three weeks ago It is a story during the Golden Week.

"Pantsu are important ~. Belly peel ~ it will get cold~!"

"Do not sing funny songs"

"No pantsu, no life, no pan!"

"So, please, stop it!"

Misaki will not listen to it at all. She's still singing a mysterious no-pan song.

"... ... I want to go home soon."

She spontaneously exposes her real intention.

Of course, there are classes on today.

However, she has no money to go home. She hasn't brought her wallet. In this way, she has no choice but to leave Misaki holding the handle to the destination.

"Come on, enjoy Hokkaido~! Let's make a full memorable farewell retreat"

Kanna's wish was also annulled, and it was not easy to return.

"It's awesome ~! Memories!"

Iori is also shouting at the back seat.

"My head hurts"

Her muttering voice is also drowned by Misaki's singing voice.

Part 2

Misaki's car entered Sapporo city passed through the famous Odori Park and passed around Sapporo TV tower. At that time, Iori raised some stupid cheers like "Ah~" or "Hya ~."

The car that turned U-shape to the direction of Sapporo station and goes into the one-way street ahead

As soon as possible, Misaki stopped the car at car park.

"Toucha!"

Pull up the side brake simultaneously with the voice.

"Come now, let's go, both of us"

Remove the seatbelt while getting out. Iori, who had gotten off the car first,

"Ohhhhh! Do that !!"

He starts running with excitement. Although he was brought to Hokkaido suddenly, Iori seems to be enjoying travel. There is no guilt feeling for embarrassment or skipping classes.

"How can you adapt to this situation?"

She has no ideas how many times she sighed.

"We will also go!"

Misaki is pulling her arms and walking out without any help.

"Where are you going?"

"Can't you see that!"

In the direction of Misaki's finger, there is a white building with a

characteristic roof. On it, she saw an extraordinarily large clockwork board.

"Oh, Clock Tower, is it?"

She's seen it somewhere, but it is her first time to see the actual thing. So, in addition to a sense of incongruity in being in the middle of such a city, she did not think it was real right away. But, as she approaches, the doubt fades away. The more she looks, the more real the clock tower is.

When they get into the front, the room of doubt is completely gone.

Kanna realizes that they are really in Hokkaido now.

But without taking a second, Kanna's consciousness left the clock tower. Naturally her eyes are heading for the person standing near the entrance.

A person who she saw in front of Sakurasou this morning.

Senpai resident in room 101, belong to regular department. Two years older senpai.

It is Kanda Sorata.

Height and appearance are average, studying is also normal. He is not particularly prominent in school.

She heard that he had come to live in Sakurasou because of raising an abandon pet in normal dormitory where it is prohibited to have pets.

It seems that he was originally a person who cannot abandon cats, he even picked up three kittens three weeks ago. Now under the Sakurasou roof there are ten cats.

On Sorata's side, it's Aoyama Nanami who lives in Sakurasou's room 203. The ponytail is soothed and swaying in the wind. She is next to Sorata and talking to Iori who came first.

There are no other third-grades figure on the side. Apparently, there are only two of them. The farewell retreat is based on group behavior isn't it? Are

these two different from high school students?

It seems like someone is dating somehow.

When Kanna is thinking about that,

"Are senpais on a farewell retreat date?"

Iori's question timing well.

"Well, that's different ... this is ..."

"Everyone in the group is selfish, so I happened to be alone with Kanda-kun! That is why this is not the case ..."

Their desperate excuses were somehow heard and it was not interesting.

"O, Kouhai-kun and Nanamin!"

Releasing Kanna's arm, Misaki ran towards to them.

Sorata and Nanami who noticed the appearance of Misaki were initially surprised, but they immediately look like there is nothing special. After that, they talk to Iori and Misaki as if nothing happened. Misaki could do it. The two are familiar with Misaki, so they are convinced.

"I will go, I'm in!"

Misaki rushes into the interior of the clock tower after putting an order. Iori also follows her obediently.

In Kanna's sight, only Sorata and Nanami left.

"..."

The two people standing side by side have a special atmosphere. It may be because there is a clock tower which is a famous sightseeing spot, but at least they did not look like just a classmate. It can be said that they are a couple.

And Kanna knows that it is not a mistake.

Although she didn't see it, but Nanami has confessed to Sorata. Now Nanami is waiting for Sorata's reply.....

So, the two of them that Kanna sees may be tomorrow's couple.

"I didn't expect Kanna-san would come"

Sorata calls her out and suddenly returns to her.

"I didn't want to come, after I saw off senpais, I got on the car without knowing any reason, and then I arrived at the airport ... With nothing With no wallet, I can't go back so I'm in now "

As she were saying excuses, she spoke so much. Even though she realized that it is somehow rebellious, she can't conceal that feeling well.

However, Sorata has not noticed a slight change in Kanna. He was worrying about how to take care of a cat.

While relieved, there was also a feeling that she was not interesting to him. But, the restless feeling this time is hide in her poker face.

"Shall we go, too?"

"Yup"

Nanami answers next to him

After Sorata paid the entrance fee, Kanna also follows the two.

The interior is an exhibition space, historical materials of Clock Tower and Hokkaido Pioneering era are organized and arranged.

Silence as it is in a library or an art museum.

Sorata and Nanami are walking side by side shortly before Kanna. Every time their shoulders seems to touch each other, the inside of her chest is a haze.

Every time she treads on an old boarded floor, it sounds a shameless and dangerous sound. That sound resembles something. At the moment she was thinking, Nanami gave her the answer.

"Somehow, I remember Sakurasou"

When she thought that it was so, she raises her face, Sorata is looking at Nanami with a gentle smile.

"Eh? What? Did I say some weird things?"

"No, I also thought about the same thing."

"What, is that so?"

Embarrassing air is wrapping around their surroundings. If putting a color, it is pink.

Sorata's eyes while glancing bumped into Kanna's

"What is it?"

Kanna notices that she has a wrong face.

Open her mouth trying to cheat.

"Is it okay to say?"

"It seems better not to listen"

"It is a conversation like lovers"

"What are you saying!"

"Next will be a romance novel, so it will be very helpful"

She thinks it is not cute attitude. But Kanna doesn't know what else to say.

Kanna passes through Sorata and put a foot on the stair leading to the second

floor, so as not to say anything further. She rushes up with little fun without turning around.

The second floor was a large space without a screen or a threshold. The ceiling is also high and there is a feeling of opening. Misaki who came in earlier stared at the clock tower, and Iori stuck to the window and looked at the outside scenery as "hohe~", "hou ~", etc. with a stupid face.

Kanna sat down in front of a monitor set to calm down. The streaming footage is a historical reference to the construction of the clock tower.

After a little bit, footsteps are coming from the stairs. It seems that Sorata and Nanami are coming up.

The two footsteps broke up on the way.

One of them comes to the side of Kana.

It was Nanami sitting next to her. Nanami was watching the image silently for a while,

"How is life at Sakurasou?"

She asks.

"It's more comfortable than I imagined and I can use the room alone."

"Oh, good."

She is truly happy smiling.

"It is quite different from rumors"

"What is it like?"

"There are students going to school in a bear's costume, students who a painting on the ground, students who raised fireworks at the cultural festival, or students who mentally sent the teacher to the hospital or something like that Such a rumor. "

"Haha"

Nanami laughs without power. Their eyes were directed toward Misaki who is staring at the full size material of the watch.

The identity of the rumor that she mentioned was all about Misaki. Now she knows it.

"Also, there are students who have dated with six people, some students are going home in the morning every day, and some students are always wearing kiss marks"

"That person is studying for becoming a screenwriter now at Osaka University. He has broken up with all of those women"

He is also known is Misaki's husband. A few days after moving to Sakurasou, Sorata told her. At that time, only "Ha", there was no word to say.

"Shiina-senpai was truly surprised"

"Mashiro ... I was really surprised at the beginning"

Nanami makes a smile like remembering old days.

"But, I guess she has improved a lot now"

"Really?"

"Yeah, as I heard from Kanda-kun, when she first arrived in Japan, if she went to a convenience store, she would eat the item before paying. On the way home from school, she seems to had always got lost."

"I cannot imagine her as a person"

"Right now, she can change clothes for herself ... but, socks may only have one side"

Nanami is smiling at the back of the throat.

"Shiina-senpai changed, is that because of Sorata-senpai?"

That Sorata is talking to Misaki and something in front of the full size material of the watch. What on earth are they talking about? It seems like they are talking seriously there.

"Yes. Kanda-kun is the cause"

Even though it is the same words, it seemed strangely meaningful when Nanami talks. Is it because Nanami knows a lot about Sorata and Mashiro that Kanna does not know. Kanna knows at best that Mashiro also confessed to Sorata, and waiting for that reply.

Somehow, she feels a little disappointing. Feeling like herself only an outsider... In fact, it is exactly

"Oh, can I ask you?"

"What?"

"Does Aoyama-senpai like Sorata-senpai?"

"T-That story!"

Half is surprises, and half is blurred. It is also pure. This attitude of Nanami can't be seen anywhere else, even if seen from the same sex, it seems to be cute.

"I'm sorry, I apologize if I am rude."

"No, that's not it, I was surprised because you were in a hurry, really."

When she finished talking, there were no surprises nor embarrassment in Nanami's expression. Instead, she looks somewhat gladly to Kanna. She thinks that it was a joy to be able to talk about the Sorata she likes.

"To tell one thing, is it an atmosphere?"

"... ... the atmosphere, is it?"

I project Kanata talking with Misaki in the sideways direction. Kota is not particularly facing well.

Sorata talking with Misaki aside. Sorata is not particularly well-equipped.

He is not active in the regular department. He can't do special study. He is not pulling all students as student council officials. He has a somewhat strange status of living in Sakurasou, but if passing through that point he is an ordinary boy student. If she looks at him from a certain point, he is a regular department third-year senpai.

In the first grade class, his name cannot be heard if it does not stick to rumors of Sakurasou. What she pays attention at is Sorata's sister Yuuko, who seems to have no choice but to love her older brother.

"How do I put the distance between people, or should I tell how to make a relationship?"

She feels like she could understand.

Kanna also felt that. Even though Sorata knew the circumstances in Kanna's skirt, he did not leave Kanna. There was no sudden change of attitude. Keeping the secret, standing by Kanna's side and thinking things up. On the contrary, he also helped Kanna who was suffering because she could not write a novel.

"I think there is energy involved in people. In some cases, it is thought that it is annoying, and it is possible to lose it terribly."

"I agree"

"But, Kanda-kun does not give up to anyone as much as he does not know the part of the loss.... But that is not going to be entrenched I wonder if I can do that"

Nanami smiles gently.

"It was Kanda-kun that I first confessed that I came here from Osaka alone because I was aiming to be a seiyuu, I was worried about various things, but

he was listening while smiling, saying it was amazing"

"Sorata-senpai is happy, isn't he?"

"Huh?"

"Aoyama-senpai thought so much"

"I hope I haven't bothered him"

It was embarrassment, and the embarrassing Nanami floated the grin. Even though, the atmosphere of a girl in love was fully open, and looked pretty to Kanna.

She seems to be jealous with Nanami who can laugh like that.

Misaki's words messes up the mood flew there.

"Well then, let's go, next to me, no pan!"

"T-That nickname, please stop!"

Rush Kanna rises from the chair and protests.

"Hey, drive a little to Asahikawa and meet with a white bear! Fuoromi ~, Iorin, no pan! Bear bear, white bear ~"

However, Misaki who is an alien to Sorata, is unable to reach by Kanna's voice.

Part 3

It's about an hour to drive by car. The car that went east arrived at Asahikawa.

Aiming at the straight line is a zoo where there are white bears what Misaki wants to see.

The interior of the garden is made innovation so that the ecology of the animal can be seen, and it was often introduced by TV programs. It is the place Misaki wanted to come at once.

But when stepped into the zoo, Kanna's emotions did not get excited so much.

"Yahoo~! White bear!"

She envies Misaki who passed by the gate and run away by herself.

More than she thought, her heart is dragging into figures of Sorata and Nanami who she saw on the Clock Tower. It did not leave her head while traveling by car. Although she tried to think about the novel, she could not concentrate at all, eventually she remembered the appearance of Sorata and Nanami.

She walked around the park and got to penguin's corner somehow.

Lean against the railing and look at the shape of the penguins walking in a blurred manner.

After a while, her sight suddenly got dark.

Iori came next to her.

"You do not sink anything?"

"..... Normal"

She replies with a little surprise.

"Is that so? Are you angry?"

"Why do you think so?"

"Face, scary"

"I am not mad"

"Oh, your face is always scary"

Carefree Iori laughs.

Anyway, she will step on his foot.

"Yaa! GO! You, you, what did you do! Terrible!"

Iori jumps while holding his legs.

"Exaggerated"

"You won't step on your little finger, right?"

Iori, who jumps again, has tearful eyes.

"Fu~n, I know that much."

"You, your personality is too bad? Are you alright? Is that all right? You, roots are bad and nasty, aren't you? "

She is anxious, so she doesn't reply. If she ignores him, Iori will go somewhere. that's what she thinks. However, Iori does not show signs of moving easily.

On the contrary, he starts to move his hands on the railings as if playing the piano.

Kanna's line of sight first heads to his finger, then Iori's face.

Noticed that, Iori says,

"Ah"

He hides both hands on his back with a reaction like when he saw something he did not want to see. She doesn't understand clearly, but she thought that it was the song interrupted at the May's piano contest.

It is supposed to be a thing that should not happen, such as stopping the performance because he didn't like the reaction of the audience. But when she heard the reason Iori stopped his hand, she felt like she could understand that feeling. Iori has a sister at the same age as Misaki. That older sister is also a graduate of Suiko, it seems that she was a music department like Iori. Moreover, the result is excellent. Currently she is studying abroad in Austria. Iori doesn't like to be compared with her sister so that he stopped playing when he felt the audience's atmosphere at that hall.

"Nee"

"Hmm?"

"What kind of person is your sister?"

When he heard it, Iori's eyes seem smiling. He scratches his head.

"Fine, beautiful"

This time it was Kanna's turning point.

"... You are amazing, aren't you?"

"What?"

"You can compliment your sister like that"

Kanna cannot imitate it very much. Is it different because of family environment? Already, Kanna has experienced divorce and remarriage of her parents. She thinks that there is no place for her at home. So, she chose Suiko which has a dormitory.

"I think that I am normal, but everyone says so"

Iori took out the mobile phone from his pants' pocket. When she is thinking what he is doing, he shows the screen to Kanna.

"This"

What is displayed is a woman who is wearing big headphones like Iori. A very short and fluffy face. Indeed, the only difference between them is their face. Her face is very beautiful. She is smiling in front of a foreign building.

"She's studying in Austria now, have a boyfriend"

"I know that."

Immediately after Kanna came to Sakurasou. She went to see Iori's competition and she met his boyfriend Tatebayashi Soichirou. He was a sincere and serious person.

"Afterwards, the piano is good."

"Yes"

"Yeah, the piano is good."

"I heard it."

"It's really good. A~a"

"What do you want?"

"Well, I will choose another partner. If I hug you, you have no tolerance. Mainly around the chest? "

Iori sighs sorrowfully and looks at Kanna's chest.

"Well, I'll ask Misaki-san later to take me to the ranch. Happy with Holstein "

"You better drink a lot of milk"

She doesn't expect such a thing, she drinks every day. However, there is no change in the body and doesn't reduce stress at all.

"Oh, I guess the penguin is ok?"

It was exactly the time that zookeepers come and throw fish. The penguins are skillfully catch it in the air.

"At least you should be worried"

"Eh~, what do you think?"

"That small one is having trouble with two females in triangular relationship, which one should be chosen. The big male behind it, yesterday his wife and an affair partner hustled together and the battle was in the middle. The female in the foreground recently got fat and she is struggling to diet and now she fell down is severe with low back pain and it is serious. "

"You are familiar with penguin's circumstances"

Even though it's a made-up story, Iori made his eyes bright.

"Everything is a lie"

"Have you cheated on me !?"

"You've been cheated on your own, ordinary, no one believes."

"I am not normal"

Iori is proud indeed.

"It's not a thing to say with your heart"

"It's good to be different from people"

"You may love what you think, but can you not stand next to me?"

"Why?"

"You're baka"

"Ugh!"

"Do you admit that you are baka?"

"The one who is saying another stupid is stupid, baka"

"As you said three times now, after all you write with kanji, you are a horse and a deer"

"Baka!"

"Yes, the fourth time"

"Oh my!"

"You have been arbitrarily used ... Just stay away from me"

"So, why?"

"I do not want to be misunderstood"

"Okay, what are you talking"

"I want to die if I get misunderstood whether we are a lover."

There are many couples in the surroundings. Perhaps, the combination of Kanna and Iori seems like that.

"That's certainly a problem."

Iori, who made a difficult face, is observing Kanna with a whiff.

"It is hopeless if they think that I like such a flat chest."

"Is there nothing else in your head?"

"Eh~, because, I'm curious and would like to touch"

"..."

"Wha, why do your eyes look at me like garbage?"

"Genuine, your eyes are trash"

"At least, please leave something like that!"

"Disgust"

"What are you, your whole body is malicious? You are a child of the devil!"

"..."

"What eyes do you see that child of Aho?"

"Genuine, eye to see the child of Aho"

"Come back, like!"

Then, there was a whispering voice heard.

"What, are you fighting during the date?"

"We used to do well before,"

A couple in mid-twenties said such a thing while watching Kanna and Iori.

"I am wrong. I like children with big chest!"

She wishes she could stop it, but Iori is still confirming his own feelings.

It becomes increasingly uncomfortable.

"Hey, you"

"Oh, what is it, with a face that is likely to kill people."

"Stay away from me 3 meters from now on"

As it is said, Kanna walks out without waiting for reply.

Then, with a gait like bouncing from the front, a stranger is running and come there.

"Oh, you, No-pan, Iorin!"

"Wait a minute, please stop here where there are a lot of such people"

"Okay, then, I will return to Sapporo"

"Eh? Why hurried? It has only been about 30 minutes since I came to Asahikawa.

"Oh, will you eat ramen? Asahikawa Ramen"

"No, it's not like that, isn't the zoo good enough?"

"I have enjoyed white bears!"

Misaki took a pose of intimidation, raising both hands When thinking about it, she feels freeze.

"Hey, Misaki-san !?"

She knew that Misaki was amazing from the appearance, but the elasticity of the chest is tremendous. Misaki has something that she does not have.

"Oh, I do not mind"

Iori is looking at Kanna.

"Please stay away"

Grasp the shoulder and leave Misaki.

"I think there are places in this zoo to see, there are many lions, leopards, horseshoe, etc."

"I will come again when I want to see you!"

Kanna lost her words, being forcefully dissected.

It was the first time she met someone has no sense of value. She really understands the meaning that Sorata said her an alien.

"Ah~, that's right, I have to buy clothes on the way!"

Misaki is already talking about another, apart from dropping Kanna.

After that, Kanna was treated with delicious Asahikawa Ramen, taken by Misaki's car and came back to Sapporo.

She was taken to an apparel shop inside a shopping station building, and was crushed in the fitting room by Misaki. She tried many clothes on. She was perfectly dressed as a doll. When choosing underwear, she felt a tremendously embarrassing feeling.

Thanks to that, by the time they arrived at the hotel, Kanna was completely exhausted. Today's event was too much for Kanna who does not usually travel far and does not challenge for new things. The mental fatigue resulting from the physical fatigue caused by the movement and the contact with the unknown life form of Misaki was not an end.

Misaki was surprised in the luxury of the Royal Deluxe Suite Room which she took, and ran into one of the four bedrooms, Kanna took off her glasses and fell from the front into the bed.

"Tired..."

With this, she finally can rest.

She thought that. The door opens vigorously. It is Misaki who came. What on earth is she doing? In spite of being always flying and bouncing, even though she was driving a car, she feels even more energetic, not to be tired.

"I'm going to the corridor! There is a public bath!"

"I can take a bath here."

The bathroom she entered has a pretty and fashionable jacuzzi.

"No, no-pan!"

For now it seems that her nickname is okay.

"Because the big public bath is the real pleasure of a farewell retreat! Let's mix up with me on my back! Let's compete swimming! Let's race in soap skating"

She does not want to go anymore.

"Oh, well, no-pan, you are a soap hockey pro!"

"I am not good at taking a bath in large numbers"

Somehow, she feels unprotected, it is uncomfortable. Besides, when entering bath with Misaki, it may be self-hatred.

"Well, then let's go!"

Misaki pulled her up and she was awaked.

".....Yes, I'll go"

Evil smile was shown, Kanna had no choice but to answer so.

Part 4

"Ha ... I'm really tired ..."

As she returned from the bath, she jumps to a big sofa placed in the living room while wearing a big yukata.

Anyway, it was hard to be mobbed by Misaki. It was her first experience in her life to go to such a place. Even just remembering, her face dyes red.

Today she was exhausted to follow Misaki's pace all the time from the beginning to the end. Her heart has never beat that fast. Especially recently, she has been trying to live a life that is quiet and not involved in any incidents, so that she doesn't feel uncomfortable with this situation.

"When will we come home ...?"

Sorata's farewell retreat is about four days and three nights.

If it matches the schedule, it will be three days to remain frightening.

With that in mind, the clouds of melancholy clogged over Kanna's head.

However, there was also things to say it was good, for a moment.

On the way back to the room from the public bath, she met Sorata at the hotel souvenir shop and him.

She was thrilled when she was praised for a face without glasses.

When raising her face from the sofa, Kanna's face is reflected on the window glass. She tries to fix her hair with her hand. But she did not wear glasses, so she could not see it well.

Instead, Kanna takes the paper packet that she has held all the way.

Sorata bought the strap which she was curious about at the souvenir shop.

Remove the tape and take out the contents.

Bear character. It is Hokkaido's limited "bear demon" white bear model.

She picks up the mobile phone from the basket she was changing clothes and decides to attach the strap.

It is a bit frustrating to put the weave in a small hole. Although it seems that it does not fit smoothly, but now it is somewhat comfortable.

When she touched the bear hanging on a mobile phone with her fingers, it swayed back and forth in a cute manner.

"Wow!"

Then, she heard a missing voice while expressing her feelings.

"Do not make funny voice"

"You made it out, right?"

"What is it, that?"

"Because, you are in good mood, are you ok?"

As it was pointed out, she realized that her mouth was loose. She was letting her feet stick.

"It was like a girl looking at the gifts she got for her boyfriend! Wake up!
You should not be such a pretty girl! Return home!"

"You guys ~!"

Leave it to frustration and curse Iori.

However, the bell rings so as to obstruct the following words.

It seems that someone has visited.

Kanna moved to the front door while correcting the eyelids of the yukata neatly.

With a little caution, open the door slowly.

It was a person who knew Kanna that stood in the corridor.

Sakurasou's next room to Kanna Third grade of Art department living in Room 202. Shiina Mashiro.

The skin is white as transparent as the starry sky in Hokkaido.

Delicate and thin body. Being fragile so that have a feeling want to protect her, a delicate atmosphere that seems to be broken drifts from the whole body. But, at the same time, she can feel the strength of the dignified core from the eyes.

In Kanna's encounter, it is definitely the person who seems to be the most chilling.

Even now three weeks have passed since she moved to Sakurasou, when she stands in front of her eyes, it makes her frightened when looking into Mashiro's eyes.

She has something in her hands. A white cloth. From the shape, is it a dress?

"Kanna"

Mashiro speaks with a voice like a bell.

"Oh, I'm sorry, just a moment"

"Where is Misaki?"

"She is inside, please."

As Kanna got into the wall so that it was easy for the street to pass, Mashiro came into the room without sound.

When returning to the living room, Misaki unexpectedly connected the game machine to the big TV screen, and started fighting with Iori in game. Where the hell did she bring that from?

"Misaki"

"Oh, Mashiron, come and join us?"

"Okay"

"Oh, I forgot to mention, but the rule is that the one who loses take off one by one, Iorin!"

"Is it true! Yahoo! What is it, instant killing!?"

On the screen KO is shown. The second round was also cleared up in seconds.

"Ashamed, Iorin!"

"Because I am a beginner, please be mercy"

"Well, it's OK! So let's take it off, Iorin!"

"Yes..."

Iori puts his hand on yukata band which from the bath. He tried to take it off without hesitation, so Kanna pulls the band with full force so that it will be a knot.

"Oh, you, what are you doing!"

"Do you understand that this is annoying if you take it off? It's almost impossible for you to understand?"

"Unlike you, I have pantsu, so I can still go, you're getting me down!"

Saying, Iori rolled up the yukata hem. He seems to have bought it at a souvenir shop, and shows off the trunks printed with a real bear.

"....."

Although she wants to complain as many as the number of stars, Kanna has reasons to be stuck in words. Perhaps Iori would just have blurred out, but Kanna is definitely not wearing pants now. Because it is a yukata There is also a reason. After that, she felt like wanting to dissipate the stress that she had today, so when she changed after bath, she was wearing a yukata without anything inside.

"Misaki-san, please give me time to practice!"

Large seriously Iori is lowering his head to Misaki. It is completely prostrated. She saw it for the first time in my life.

"Well!"

"Yoshi! Do my best, I, worship the boob until that day!"

Iori begins practicing the game with dignity by himself. However, when looking at the screen, the road to victory seems to be endless.

"So, what was Mashiron?"

"Tomorrow, Sorata and Otaru"

"Oh, Dating! I like it, I like it!"

"Clothes, do you think that's fine?"

She spreads the one piece she had in her hand and hit it on her body.

"Yeah, cute, Mashiron!"

"Oh, it was good."

Her expression softens slightly as if she was relieved.

"In addition, you should also wear a hat!"

Misaki takes out of a round box with a big hat in Kanna's clothes and puts it on Mashiro's head.

Match with the white dress, the impression has doubled.

"I want to ask Misaki a favor"

"What what?"

"Teach me to make up"

"Okay!"

In contrast to Kanna who was a little surprised by the words of Mashiro, Misaki accepts with zero thinking time.

"Well, here we are, Mashiron"

Misaki is pulling Mashiro's hand and goes into the room set beside the jacuzzi. Is it just like Royal Deluxe Suite just as it is separated from the usual toilet. Everything is built luxuriously, there are too many in vain.

She does not bother to understand why it is necessary.

Everything is for tomorrow. Because she will go around Otaru with Sorata

Therefore, she is trying to be beautiful even a little. From Kanna's point of view, Mashiro is very beautiful even if she doesn't make up. She's too beautiful, it's scary Still, for Sorata, she is still trying to be more beautiful.



Tightly, it is the feeling when falls in love. There is nothing to be safe with this, and always have something to worry somewhere.

When she is watching Mashiro's appearance who is enthusiastically receiving Mr. Misaki's lecture, Kanna feels her heart getting more and more cramped. She feels stuffy and has to divert her eyes.

"Absolutely winning Misaki-san!"

When turning around, there is the appearance of Iori who is doing special training of the game in desperate form.

Kept silent and turned off the game machine.

"Oh, what are you doing ... Are you going to stop my dream, I will destroy you from the outset, you flat!"

"Get out of the room"

"Eh? Why?"

"I will go to bed."

"What happens if you go to bed?"

"I can't sleep in the room with you. Go out now or I will contact the police."

She puts out a mobile phone and pushed "1", "1", "0". "Pi", "Pi", "Po" sounds in order.

"Hey, now you really pushed 110?"

"As expected of music department, only ears are good"

"I can't pass Suiko unless I have absolute pitch!"

"Okay, so please leave early and would you like me to press the call button?"

"Well, do not press, do not push it absolutely! Doesn't it sound like you are pushing it? "

"Yeah"

Set her finger to the call button.

"Wait, wait, wait - I want to go out - I wanted to go out, Damn it! Remember, you ..."

"I understand you understand"

Iori goes out of the room while becoming a little watery eyes. While sending a gaze that left nothing until the end to Kanna

As soon as Iori ceased, the surroundings becomes quiet.

In the make-up room, Mashiro who is putting out her forehead is challenging make-up. Kanna moves to the bedroom without seeing it to the end.

She is lying on her bed. She buries her face in a pillow.

It is a tantrums which is only unreasonable for Iori, but her mind has lightened more than she expected.

As it was a terrible treatment, let's try to make it a bit easier tomorrow. She thought about such a thing and closed her eyes, due to the exhaustion today, Kanna's consciousness fell into sleep.

Part 5

On the second morning in Hokkaido, Kanna was hugged by Misaki and awoke with breathlessness due to the heavy pressure from her chest. It is soft, smells nice and she doesn't know the reason why Iori is noisy. If she can, Kanna wanted to be born in style like Misaki.

Breakfast was done with room service, and after going to wake Iori in the room where Sorata stayed, Kanna was put in Misaki's car just like yesterday.

She was taken to beer factory.

Third grade students of Suiko are visiting a dairy factory, but they seem to have failed to make a reservation due to over capacity.

Three people, Kanna, Iori and Misaki, have no choice but to watch the beer production process. It is surprisingly popular, and a few people have been visiting since morning. It also has many adults. She figured out the best reason at the stage when they could finish watching it. They can taste fresh beer.

Underage like Kanna and others drinks juice instead of beer and the tour was over.

"Are you ready? You guys! To Otaru!"

After the tour at the beer factory, Kanna and company aimed for Otaru by car. The road by the sea has opening and comfortable feelings.

Hearing Misaki's mysterious song BGM and watching the beautiful scenery, the car arrived at Otaru. It was about an hour.

Stopped the car at the hotel parking lot and complete the early check-in. It is the top floor of the hotel to stay. A wasteful and extravagant room. It's half past one in the afternoon. In the parking area under the eyes, buses with Suiko's third grader arrive one by one. The students have arrived bringing luggage to the hotel. Among them, there is an eye-catching presence. That's

Mashiro.

Like she said yesterday, she will go around around Otaru with Sorata. She herself didn't say that, but it is a date, isn't it?

"..."

Kanna shook her head so as not to think too much.

"Since Kouhai-kun and friends seem to be free time after this, we will also do it"

Misaki has a bookmark of the farewell retreat, she got it from somewhere.

"Yes, this"

Handing out a travel guide book to Kanna, Iori. The cover was written with "Sapporo · Otaru" with big letters.

"Then, disband!"

Simultaneously, Misaki jumps out of the room.

"I want to eat crab!"

The soul cry moves away with footsteps.

Because there was something to worry about, Kanna decided to go out a bit later.

She goes down to the lobby on the first floor by elevator.

First check left and right. she can't find the person she wants. The third-grade students of Suiko may be relaxing in the room that they have just moved their luggage in.

Kanna leaned in the shadow of the pillar which is a blind spot from the flow line connecting the elevator hall and the entrance.

After waiting for about five minutes, several groups came down and went to Otaru. It was around five more minutes to the person Kanna was waiting for arrived.

She won't talk to Sorata. He will leave the hotel without waiting anyone. She was thinking that he was going to meet with Mashiro in the lobby, but she was wrong.

Kanna decides to follow his back, more than ten meters away from Sorata.

Because Sorata are walking while watching the surrounding scenery, he does not feel bad. While thinking about excuses when he turned around, she came in front of Otaru station.

Kanna avoids the road and hides behind a car.

Sorata stands near the station exit. It seems that he is checking the time by putting out a cell phone.

The clock at the station indicated two o'clock.

Apparently, it seems that he will with Mashiro at Otaru station. It seems more and more dating.

Maybe the appointed time is two o'clock.

She thought that Mashiro would come soon, Kanna turned her eyes towards the hotel. But, for now she cannot be seen. That appearance. Once she enters into sight, she will soon see her stands out.

But after waited five minutes, she did not get Mashiro even if it feels long enough. Fifteen minutes have passed, if notice it will be twenty minutes in ten seconds.

During that time, Sorata was not particularly haste or frustrated, but he had seen the mobile phone several times and only applied his mobile phone several times to his ear.

Suddenly someone hit her on the shoulder when it becomes thirty minutes of

waiting.

"Catch!"

Unexpectedly, screams rise.

"What are you doing?"

She turns around and Iori is standing.

"Besides, you now seem to be a girl! Is it also a fever?"

"You, your eyes are rotten? I am the most female girl"

"So, what are you doing?"

".....That is"

When she is confirming Sorata eyes, her eyes meet with Sorata that turned this way.

Hurry and squat down Iori's hand.

"Aaaaaaa! Assaulted, shuffling, futsu, futsu! "

She hurries and closes his mouth with both hands.

"Shut up"

"Futsu!"

Check Sorata again. For now, it doesn't seem to be bad. He hasn't looked this way anymore. Rather, he is looking to the hotel.

Mashiro may have arrived. As she thought so, turning her eyes.

And the moment she saw that, Kanna lost words.

A white dress, a big brim hat borrowed from Misaki yesterday. After fixing

sandals for a while, she rushed to Sorata.

"Oh, Sorata-senpai and Shiina-senpai,"

Sticking to the car glass, Iori is also chicken in appearance.

"Something wrong about Shiina-senpai today, isn't it? What, Fairy? Angel? Goddess!? Tenshi?"

It is no wonder Iori to get excited voice.

About that, Mashiro with thin make-up is truly beautiful. She cannot hear what the two are talking about, but it Sorata is hurried in front of Mashiro.

It is a feeling that he can't look directly to her face. Even from here she could see that his face was dyed red.

Sorata and Mashiro walks side by side. No, Mashiro is a bit late. There is embarrassment like a couple who just came out.

"So, what are you doing?"

Iori is seeing Kanna with slightly drawn eyes.

But she wonders what she is doing.

This is not normal. Should she return to the hotel now? She thinks about it in her head, but her mind does not toward that direction at all.

On the contrary, Kanna gets up and finds the backs of Sorata and Mashiro who are getting smaller and chased after that.

"Are you ignoring me? Is that right !?"

"Do not follow me!"

Sorata and Mashiro, who departed from Otaru Station, came to Otaru's famous tourist site, the canal. There are many other tourists as well.

Sorata sits on a nearby bench and watches Mashiro sketching in front of the fence.

Kanna sits on the bench next to so that not to get too close. He was able to get lost in a group of other tourists.

"So, are you doing that indeed?"

"Why are you following me?"

"I, you know

Iori is watching the direction of the day after tomorrow.

"What?"

"For a reason, I'm going to watching Sorata-senpai's date. It's hard, isn't it? I don't know what to do when dating"

"You do not need to worry like that"

"Well, well, I'll be able to do with the power of love."

"Because there is no day for you to date"

"Do not say scary things!"

"Do not make a loud voice"

Iori plainly draws ger body when finding the curse seriously.

"Ah~, I want her, I want you~"

Stunted, he's messing with the ground. He's annoying.

"I will teach you one good way"

"What what?"

"Be silent and play the piano, because your face is nice, an idiotic woman will be knitted"

"Breasts are good"

"So, you should not say that!"

"Shu ~! Senpais said too"

Kanna closes Iori's mouth by hand.

"Just a moment, please stop it."

Iori's hand shifts because of resistance. For a moment, his hands were on her chest.

"Ba, baka! Do not touch it!"

"Oh, it looks like they are going somewhere"

It is told to see the direction of Sorata and Mashiro. Sorata is standing up from the bench.

"Even then, you"

"What on earth?"

"Is there even an iron plate on your chest?"

"What do you mean?"

"It was not as concave as the keyboard"

"Dead"

Kanna expressionlessly struck down her knees Iori's crotch who stood up.

"Gyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

A cry from Iori's soul echos over the canal.

Sorata and Mashiro begin to move from the canal, walk towards the north where old buildings concentrate.

Kanna keeps track from distance. From behind, Iori comes with an abnormal gait.

"Have you not learned that people don't want to do something disgusting when they are hit by people?"

He points out protests while holding down his crotch.

"It's bad, but that pain, I do not know."

"Ok, that's why you can do that ... oh, it hurts, it still hurts, if you do not use it, take responsibility."

"What, it means you want to go out with me, don't you?"

"Oh no, no one said such a thing - it's a story when my descendants can not be left Oh, but is that what I mean?

Somehow, she gets herself in the middle and leave him alone.

Sorata and Mashiro stopped on the way.

After all, she cannot hear their voice because she's away. But the air is clearly stagnant. It wouldn't be dangerous, but she feels awkwardness in their interaction.

"Have they done a fight?"

Because Iori can understand it, it may be surprisingly serious. She never thought she would see a scene like this, so Kanna's mind could not immediately process the facts in front of her. Her heart beats fast.

Even though Sorata and Mashiro began to walk again, the air around them did not change.

After that, Sorata and Mashiro spent time at the glass workshop, they were eating Baumkuchen at a candy shop, watching the music box and candle shops.

Notably there was an incident. Mashiro had forgotten the sketch book at the souvenir shop where they got in. Since Sorata and Mashiro did not seem to notice anything, Kanna kept the sketch book from the clerk. She still gets it in her hands.

Until the end, Sorata and Mashiro were somewhat awkward. Whatever they were doing, cloudy and heavy clouds are above the heads of the two. That was the impression.

After all, with Mashiro beautiful like that in front, where is Sorata dissatisfied? She doesn't know what he thought. Kanna was not able to understand where Sorata's feelings were suitable.

"Sorry, you,"

"What?"

"I'm not the only one who gets tired to stalking. I think it's too strong as a pervert"

"Should I kick you one more?"

"NO!"

Iori leaping out in a hurry, left Kanna behind, Kanna also slowly follows Sorata and Mashiro returning to the hotel.

Part 6

As soon as she entered the lobby of the hotel, she could hear Sorata's shouting voice.

"Everything because you said strange things!"

Sorata stood in the middle of the lobby and faced Mashiro. Between the two are filled with a cold tension.

The surroundings were covered in silence.

As Sorata noticed his frustration,

"... ... Different, not angry"

Then, continue in small voice. However, there are still frustrated emotions in his voice.

"You are angry, lie."

So, Mashiro can not be convinced.

"It was you who was somewhat unhappy"

"Because of Sorata"

"What?"

"Clothes, did not compliment!"

Mashiro's cry spreads to the lobby. Everyone stops at that voice and turns consciousness towards Sorata and Mashiro. Everyone on the scene was audience. No once can deflect eyes from the two in the center.

"What, what's wrong?"

"Are they fighting?"

"That, is Shiina-san? Are they dating, two of them?"

The lobby is covered with hustle and bustle.

General tourists are also looking at the situation of their sudden occurrences with strange expressions. The woman at the reception consults with their face to see if it is better to stop them.

"I don't care about Sorata anymore!"

Mashiro throws the hat to Sorata. Leave as it is to the elevator hall. From somewhere, Mashiro's classmate, Shiho comes out and picks up the hat. She glances at Sorata and runs after Mashiro.

"Damn it!"

Sorata is frustrated and kicks the floor. But soon Sorata also disappears into the stairs and takes a big walk.

Somewhere in the lobby, rumors are blooming like flowers.

Noises cannot stop.

Sorata came back to the lobby after a while.

When she thought he would go downstair, he ran out of the hotel shouting something.

Without asking questions, Kanna chases Sorata.

"A, AI!"

She didn't listen to Iori voice.

Following Sorata, she goes around Otaru's street. However, once she lost Sorata's sight she couldn't find him easily.

She's going to give up already and go to the canal where he went to see first. Sorata was sitting on the bench under the light.

She approaches him slowly. But Sorata who turned down does not notice Kanna.

"Sorata-senpai"

He finally raises his face.

"In a place like this, it is coincidence, Kanna-san"

"It is not coincidence,"

"Hmm?"

"I saw Sorata-senpai and Shiina-senpai in the hotel lobby"

"Oh, sorry ... I wondered if you worried about me"

A bitter smile that does not suit Sorata's expression.

"No, that's not it I want to pass you this"

While feeling little uncomfortable, Kanna gives out the sketch book.

"Ah"

Sorata who is surprised reaches out.

"I was searching, this!"

"So, I came to deliver."

"Kanna-san were searching for it, thank you"

"No, that is"

Kanna avoids his sight as she lifted her hand from the sketch book.

"From the early afternoon, we were also in Otaru ... So we accidentally saw Sorata-senpai and Shiina-senpai ..."

Sorata seems to understand what Kanna is trying to confess.

"By chance, the direction to go is the same, I just realized that Shiina-senpai forgot it at souvenir shops."

She knows it is a forceful excuse. She also understands what she didn't have to say. But, as being in front of Sorata, her mouth got furious, so it was no help. She wonders if Sorata has the power to make Kanna a little straightforward.

"Well, at least if you called me, you didn't have to run all the way to Otaru, though."

"I don't have Sorata-senpai's number and mail"

It becomes a normal tone.

"Oh, is that so?"

He scratches his head.

"Now, let's exchange it"

Saying that, Sorata pulls out the mobile phone.

"Yes"

Her voice slightly bounces. While desperately killing the expression, she grabs the mobile phone in the bag. On that mobile phone, the strap that was bought by Sorata yesterday is hanging.

Because of that she cannot take it out from the bag. It is strange.

"Did you forget to bring it?"

"N-no. That....."

"Ah ~~ don't want to tell the number to a man?"

"Also not. Because compared to other men, I have more confidence in Sorata-senpai. "

While explaining so, she thought desperately what to do, but in the end Kanna decided to give out the cell phone gracefully.

"Ah, that I do not have any other reasons."

The white bear model 'demon bear' is hanging.

"So fast you hang it."

Sorata notices it immediately.

"C-Can't I?...."

She intended to pretend there was nothing, but she was scarred.

"No, faster is better"

Sorata really looks happy. He is delighted that Kanna likes it.

Skip blushing face and exchange number.

Kanna changes his address name from "Kanda Sorata" to "Sorata-senpai".

She just got nervous, although she just told him her phone number and email address. Her heart is beating fast. But, when she looks at the letters of "Sorata-senpai" that is registered, instead of having bad tension, her body feels somewhat floating.

She raises her face from the mobile phone, and her eyes meets Sorata. She is awkward and immediately diverts her eyes. Instead, she turns out and looks next to Sorata, where there is no one.

"... ... Can I sit next to you?"

"Of course"

"Excuse me"

She sits down slowly.

Then looking into the water surface of the canal in front.

"Sorata-senpai"

"Hmm?"

The next word gets out naturally.

"If you have been watching a person all the time, is it love?"

"I guess so"

There is no upset from Sorata when beings asked a sudden question.

"Is it also included every night before going to bed and keep thinking about that person?"

"I think so"

She stealthily looks at Sorata. Sorata is looking at the canal like Kanna. However, Kanna thinks that he is different from himself. Sorata is looking at the canal, but she feels that consciousness is aimed somewhere else.

It is tight, Mashiro, Nanami.

That is why Kanna had no choice but to continue to speak between the questions so as not to think about extra things.

"Do you think about that person before going to bed every night?"

"Aa"

In a quiet voice, Sorata goes on. Furthermore, when he stands up slowly,

"Even if you tightly fight with that person, even if you get angry with that

person, even if you think you do not want to see that person's face anymore, even if you do not want to talk about that person, after all if you have a lot of thoughts about people, that is love. "

He continues telling Kanna.

"Sorata-senpai's 'that person' "is Shiina senpai?"

"..."

"Or Aoyama-senpai?"

"..."

Sorata doesn't answer. But it is better not to answer. Because now she was worried because she could not imagine how she would react if something was said.

"I dislike what I dislike"

Without waiting for Sorata's reply, Kanna decides to shift the topic.

"I see"

"I can't forgive my fighting partner easily, it will last for a long time. I don't want to talk to the person that made me angry."

"It's tough"

"I do not like people who hurt me."

"..."

"So, when I heard what Sorata-senpai said, I feel jealous"

"Jealous?"

"Even if you fight or get angry, still like that person, I feel this is extraordinary"

"Is be so?"

"It's a little hypocritical"

"That might be so"

A bitter smile float on Sorata's mouth.

"But I think that person who is either good or bad can still be liked by Sorata-senpai, is a very lucky person"

It is real intention from the bottom of her heart. What is disappointing is that she can see the future that they can't be like that

She should not stay here any further. In her chest, the other one is shouting so. Kanna decides to follow that cry. Run away from things that hurt herself

"Well, I will return to the hotel"

"Shall I follow you to the hotel?"

"No, it's okay, because it's right there."

"Be careful."

"Yes"

When getting up, Kanna stretches her spine straight. By doing so, she wants to think that everything is done properly.

Go up the stairs, from the canal She left Sorata.

She can't see Sorata's appearance even if she turns around.

She thought about walking around Otaru a little at night and stepping forward onto every feeling. When raising her face and looking at the front,

"What!"

And Iori who reacts in an ugly way.

No, exactly, Iori is hiding behind the lamp road.

"Don't you get tired of just watching the girl's bath and stalking?"

"Say so, but it's already dark, if something happens, I feel bad about sleeping."

"You, you think I'm a kid? You are a child so much."

"Even if you are not a child, you are a girl."

"..."

"D-Did I say something wrong?"

"I am very surprised because you say something right."

"Oh, I see, hey!"

"Don't make loud voice, I don't want to stand out"

"Are you no-pan now?"

Iori shifts his eyes around in order to not make misunderstanding.

"You said I should not make a loud voice"

"Oh"

"... and, I'm warmed up. I feel like I want to take it off now."

Extra things. It seems to be burning more than she's aware.

"Oh, calm down, it is too pervertful as a person to take off here indeed?"

"Choose a place"

What on earth is Iori talking about?

"That's it"

Iori leans on the lamp. His face is good, so such a pose suits him.

"What?"

"Do you like Sorata-senpai?"

"Tsu!"

..."

"What are you talking about, you! I-It's not about Sorata-senpai ..."

"Sorata-senpai, although a little strange, but he's kind, a nice person, I understand that feeling~"

He seems to be convinced by himself, and Iori repeatedly stays in his own words.

"... ... I know that, that kind of thing"

Even though he knew Kanna's secret, he never saw it hard. Even if the dubut novel is a junior high school diary and read its content, there is nothing different between them. She thought it would be the end of the world if he knew. Sorata accepted it. Only Sorata can be that person.

"What?"

"I said I should have been born one year earlier."

"If so, did you have the confidence to win Shiina-senpai and Aoyama-senpai?"

It is not like winning or losing. At least she could have participated in the game.

She cannot do anything with the feeling that started to sprout, it is painful that she has no choice but to just pick it up. Even regret will not remain. It is sad

that Sorata doesn't notice her. Outsiders cannot do anything

"If you did, I could not speak to you."

"Well, yes. You might have grown up a little more in a year. "

Iori's line of sight is pouring into Kanna's chest without hesitation.

As Kanna approaches Iori without saying anything,

"Can you close your eyes for a moment?"

"What?"

'Good, close it'

"What, are you going to do?"

"Good thing"

"Okay, close!"

Iori obviously closes both eyes. Shortly after, Kanna had an intense kick.

"Gyaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!"

Iori crouches, crouching on the spot.

Regardless of returning, Kanna quickly starts walking towards the hotel.

"Wait, wait a moment!"

The resurrected Iori is chasing quickly.

"Why can you do such a terrible thing? Oh, it is a modern person who does not understand the pain of people, is it?"

"Hey you"

"What is it"

"Do not enter within 3 meters"

Watch out for smashing while staring, Iori jumps away.

After seeing it, Kanna starts walking again. Iori was coming after with distance.

After a short walk, Kanna stopped again.

"Nee"

"Wh, what is it?"

"Do not enter within 3 meters"

"It's not in!"

"But do not leave more than five meters"

"..."

"It's already night."

Iori comes up to fill the distance.

"Is this about?"

The distance between the two is about 4 meters.

"..."

Kanna started walking again when he stood silent. Iori comes with keeping a distance of 4 meters. It is bigger than Kanna's, a mysterious and rhythmical footstep. She feels comfortable in her ears, and while she was listening, she felt that my heart's pressure gradually became lighter.

"What?"

She stops by being called out.

"Is there something?"

"How about that area?"

Iori points to a narrow alley. There is little traffic and few lights.

"What are you talking about?"

She doesn't understand his intention.

Then, Iori makes a serious face

"Pantsu, take it off"

It has been said.

She is surprised and cannot say anything. She wonders why Iori is so stupid. How can such human beings be born?

"Would you please wait?"

Kanna makes a loud voice.

"Oh, OK. Why don't I wait until you take off? D-Don't be nervous"

"Because it's embarrassing, close your eyes"

"I can't see it because it's dark"

"No, please!"

"Oh, you, now, do not be ferocious!"

Despite excited voice, Iori closes his eyes.

It's really simple.

Kanna is getting closer to Iori. And the blind is visited without knowing anything.

"Gyaaaaaaaaaaa"

Kanna kicks Iori more, who became defenseless while screaming.

"AAAAAAAAAAA"

Iori's scream reverberates in the Hokkaido's skynight comfortably.

Chapter 2: Clumsy love pattern of Hase Kanna

The more I want to be honest, the more I feel...

Feelings that cannot be obedient are great.

Even though I know that I am no cute.

I act pretty well in front of him.

It is too selfish to say that I want him to understand it.

So, more and more, I hate myself.

Part 1

"Sorry, I have the girl that I like"

Hase Kanna hears the voice after she finished cleaning the courtyard and was on her way back to the classroom. When she cleaned up the cleaning tool and passed through the corridor following the gymnasium A couple was found on the side of the shrubbery where the principal taking water every morning.

His name is Himemiya Iori. He lives in the same dormitory as Kanna Sakurasou, the dormitory for troubled student in Suiko.

At first she intended to go straight. There is no hobby of plunging the neck into the circumstances of man and woman no matter how they look. But, as soon as she found out that Iori was there, Kanna's legs stopped unexpectedly indefinitely, concealing herself behind the pillar which supports the bridge between roofs. Hold her breath so that no sound is made.

For girls with Iori, Kanna was familiar with it. She is in first year which means she is 2 years smaller than Iori. A junior who belongs to cooking department. Her name is Hiyoshi Mikako. Although she doesn't know, she has heard that boys in the class saying "Her apron is unbearable" or "She is my number one pride", or something. Besides that, she had witnessed her good baked food for Iori's club. Perhaps it was then that she learned the name.

"Well, that is ... that ..."

Mikako who is falling down raised her face with a determined eyes. Iori is caught straight.

"You mean you cannot go out with me?"

The hands on her chest are trembling faintly.

"Sorry"

Iori apologizes again.

Pain runs over Kanna's chest who suddenly sees that scene. She wonders what is that pain.

"One thing, may I ask?"

"What?"

"Himemiya-senpai's favorite person are Hase-senpai living in the same dormitory?"

"Eh?"

Iori raises a surprise voice whether it is an unexpected question. Kanna is unlikely to make a voice aloud. She holds her mouth in a hurry with both hands. Her heart is beating faster. No way, she never thought that her name would come out here. Her heart is shaken terribly.

"Wait~, why do you know?"

As he was in trouble for a while, Iori asked back. His question is the same as affirming Mikako's question.

"I see you two often, so it seems like you were on good terms."

Kanna did not know that they were seen from the surroundings like that.

"Are you dating another?"

Furthermore Mikako hits a question.

Although Iori laughs as if he was shy,

"I confessed twice and I have been rejected twice"

He answers seriously.

"But still do you like her?"

"Yeah, I like her"

Kanna listens to the interchange, shrunk behind the pillars. She feels like wanting to escape into the school building quickly, but it is bad to be noticed by the two.

"Thank you. Thank you for saying clearly."

It seems he does not know what kind of face to respond to so Iori makes a complicated expression that seemed to be laughing bitterly.

"Sorry ... that, thanks"

"I, I can't cheer for senpai, but please do your best"

With a tough smile, Mikako ran away to the flower garden.

Iori left behind scratching his head. He is sorry that he could not meet her feelings.

Kanna feels uneasy because the reason is herself. It would be better to leave this place before it becomes more sentimental. If letting him to see her, the story will become more complicated.

After thought so, she stands up in the shade of the pillar. She hooks a blazer's pocket on the pillar with a rough surface.

"Kyatsu"

Suddenly feel like there is a force that pulls her down, and a surprised scream rises.

She thought that she was seen, but it's ok.

However, another problem is standing in front of Kanna.

The view becomes a little dark.

She wonders and raises her face, Iori aims at Kanna with the sound of doubt.

"What are you doing in such a place?"

"I'm going back to classroom after cleaning the courtyard"

She stands up pretending to be calm. But she could not look into Iori's eyes. The dialogue that Iori looked down and said "Yes, I do" got mixed up and disturbing Kanna's heart.

"Well, is that so"

Iori enters the schoolhouse without worrying about pursuing more reasons.

With this situation, Kanna is more concerned. Immediately chasing Iori, she lines up next to her.

Go straight on the first floor corridor.

"... ..."

"....."

Even if Kanna comes next to him, Iori does not say anything.

Kanna opens her mouth first.

"Why did you decline?"

Straight at heart.

"Hmm?"

Iori makes a face that she doesn't know. He looks like an innocent child. HE looks younger than his age.

"I heard the confession earlier"

"Why, have you heard it?"

A gaze sticks. But doesn't say any more complaints.

"That girl earlier, second-year Hiyoshi"

"Well, how do you know"

"..."

Even if her mouth is torn, she can't tell why she remembers her name. She sees Iori at the side of talking, but there is no sigh that he will ask in particular. He's looking forward.

"You did a wasteful thing"

Before being asked unnecessary things, Kanna advances the story.

"What?"

"She unlike someone, she is cute"

"Yeah, she's cute, I think."

"Unlike someone, her personality seems to be good as well"

"She often made sweets for club activities"

It was because she liked Iori.

"Unlike someone, her style is nice."

"I wanted to touch that chest once"

Even from the outside of her clothes that is big. It was impossible for Iori to not notice.

"Unlike someone"

"What? What is it today? You are more troublesome than usual. Don't get involved"

"Unlike someone, she will not be troublesome,"

In Kanna's words, Iori looks badly blatant. She thinks that she made remarks that she was really bothering now. But she regrets immediately after saying it. This is a daily routine for Kanna.

"I wish I could accompany them."

"Why?"

"You said you want me everyday"

"Once every two days"

She says that with a serious look.

"Last month, confession of two girls, refused it"

"Why do you know!? No way, did you see that either? "

"I have not seen it, don't think I'm stalking, Kanda-san told me."

Kanda Yuuko is a classmate of Kanna who lives together in Sakurasou. She is also Kanda Sorata's sister... who has graduated from Suiko.

"Aisune, I thought she was about to keep it secret"

"There is no secret between me and Kanda-san, because she will tell me all that happened before going to bed."

Of course, although Yuuko talks unilaterally, there are plenty of things Kanna does not talk to Yuuko. For example, it is her own honest feeling, she is suffering

"Well, I do not mind that."

"You, you are popular"

"Isn't that a thorn?"

"No, it's not a thorn"

"Moreover, your face is scary"

"Such a face from the beginning"

She plans to leave Iori and speeds up a little bit. However, the tall Iori has a large stride, so he easily gets next to her.

"Because you are popular, you should find a good girl and go out with her."

"If you say that, won't you go out with me?"

"I don't like you"

"Well, why am I so disgusted?"

"When you are together"

Kanna talks somewhere in the middle of it.

"When you are with me?"

Iori encourages with expectation eyes.

"..... I think you're baka before."

In order to cheat those words, she rushes out a lie.

"You, you baka, the one who tells someone baka is baka!"

Iori, who was fooled casually, fighting back.

"That is, you are a fool, Baka"

"In other words, you will be the one who told it four times."

"Oh!"

Iori was still saying something, but he was not in Kanna's ears.

In her mind is the continuation of the real sound that she was about to speak.

- When we are together, we stand out from our own bad character.

That's true.

Iori, who is cheerful to anyone, has the power to brighten the surroundings. However, he is carefree.

Through music, he has also been facing severe environments. He experienced the accident that he has spent his entire life in piano practice from early childhood and two years ago broke his right hand. That injury has been reset now. Even if he tried to throw out piano and music, it was unavoidable.

Still, Iori stood up on his feet and decided to face piano and music again. On top of the strength of that core, Iori's carefree established.

Although Iori behaves as if it is nothing, she thinks that is purely awesome thing. Even in front of an unreasonable setback, Iori was not distorted at all.

She thinks that facial expression became mature by the experience. Compared with the beginning of entrance, the spine grew steadily. If they walk side by side, she has to raise her eyes considerably to see his face.

With height difference from Kanna, perhaps, kiss will not reach even if she stretches out. For the moment, she does not have to worry about it..... Somehow, I understand why girls' eyes gather in Iori.

He is cool and tall, he is doing music seriously. He laughs like an innocent child, in spite of his painful experiences. It seems stupid when he opens his mouth, but it is almost like every boy seeing at girls. How about herself compared to it?

When she looked into the window, she saw a sober schoolgirl with glasses on. Her hair is heavy, and her face is not friendly. She doesn't have the style that most boys like. Even Iori is said to be "flat". As she graduated, she was hoping that it would grow a little bigger, but this year's physical examination did not show any growth. She thought that she can't have such charm as girls.

"..."

In the first place, for Iori, girls with big chest are perfect. That is exactly like Hiyoshi who confessed to Iori She was a girl who seemed to be a girl, wearing a true opposite from Kanna.

"Don't be silent suddenly"

She raises her face from the tiles, and Iori's face is right in front of her. He is looking down at Kanna's face. That distance is no more than ten centimeters.

She feels that body temperature rose sharply. Her face may be red.

In order not to distract the tension, Kanna pushes back Iori's body with both hands.

"Do not get too close"

Iori, which is far from the corridor wall, makes his nose a little closer.

"Something, you, smell good"

"Stop it, stop it, do something strange"

In the fifth period she played volleyball in physical education. Naturally, she is wearing sweat. Probably she thought it was the smell of the antiperspirant spray she used when changing clothes, but it was embarrassing pointed out by Iori.

"Hold your breath now. Just die"

"There are too many things in this world and I do not want to die yet, for example, I have never dated any girl and have not touched chest too."

"I will never go out and I will not let you touch."

"How can you date with me?"

Iori puts his foot on the stairs. It is the third floor which has third-year classrooms. Each other is empty-handed, so they need to get their bags from the classroom.

Kanna goes up the stairs with a little delay. Since that accident, Kanna was avoiding walking in front of Iori. Iori's fracture accident two years ago happened with when Iori caught Kanna who fall back from the stairs. It was an important hand to play the piano

"That's it"

"I will not answer if it's the question before"

Kanna cut off once and for all.

"No, it's not like that"

Iori, who is on the higher place, turns over a shoulder.

"What"

"Why do you always walking behind me when climbing the stairs?"

"Tsu!"

She never thought that he had noticed.

"So what?"

Calmly return the words.

"Did you mean, you ...?"

"..."

"Do you think I will peek at you?"

"that's right"

"I will not see!"

"How?"

"I am curious whether you're doing it or not"

Seriously Iori says that.

"Wa, Wait, how can you say something like that in this place?"

She gazes at Iori.

"By the way, what is the circumstance of those days lately?"

"... ... I did not do it"

Start walking again. She wants to finish the topic about a slightly unique style of stress dissipation as soon as possible.

But Iori's sight is concentrated around the hem of the skirt.

"Where are you watching, pervert"

"You, your legs, became thick?"

"....."

No longer, completely ignored Iori, Kanna climbs the stairs. She doesn't mind walking in front of Iori now.

But Iori comes next to her properly.

They arrive at the third floor with silence. It is a goodbye here because the classrooms are opposite between Kanna of regular department and Iori of music department.

To be honest, she was relieved.

Somehow, it is impossible to let someone see her with Iori. She was a bit curious as how they are being seen. In fact, Hiyoshi Mikako was doubting that the two might be going out She should take care in the future. She can't welcome rumors.

Although Kanna tries to leave while thinking about such a thing,

"Oh, wait"

Iori stops by.

"Still, are there any?"

"..."

Iori has serious eyes.

"Do it quickly"

There are also classmates who are still in school in the surroundings.

"I..."

".....So what?"

Iori closes his eyes and takes a deep breath slowly. After that,

"I entered the All Japan Competition"

He declares with a voice that passed well.

Her eyes are onto Iori's right hand. Just around the wrist. An important arm broke two years ago.

"This year, the main venue is the hall for the music hall Suimei"

Iori is slightly blessed.

"What is it?"

Somehow she could predict the next word. Still, Kanna's heart is beginning to bear excitement and mystery.

"Don't come to see?"

"... Why do I have to go."

"I want you to come"

"Generally, qualifying, from now on?"

How easy would it be if she could say honestly "un"? But Kanna cannot do that.

"Can you remain until the final round?"

"I do not know, I think I can break through the first one, but I do not have any practice for the second song yet"

"Then, after qualifying is over, please say"

She thinks she is not too cute.

"Well, if you think that, that's it."

Iori seriously, "That's right."

"Well, after qualifying, say again"

As he shook his hand with a carefree smile, Iori began to walk toward his classroom in the music department. She doesn't know what's so much fun but she has to skip it.

As Kanna watching his back,

"I have not advanced at all"

She cried out.

Part 2

- He will move forward rapidly by himself

In Sakurasou's bathroom, Kanna is driven into unconsciousness by herself. Recently, she has been feeling restless for a long time.

Two weeks ago, she was told that Iori would enter the All Japan Competition. Since then, like every day, Kanna repeats the same thought, like a curse in her head.

- He will move forward rapidly by himself

"But why, I"

When she is in a bathtub, there is a dull face on the surface of the water.

"Nothing has changed"

She is not good at opening her mind. She is not good at becoming obedient. For anyone, she makes a wall without permission and she is making distance from everyone.

She can't escape herself she does not like. She's not going ahead.

Although she wants to confidently express her feelings honestly, she's afraid of being hurt, after all she can't become honest. Even if she is invited to karaoke or shopping from a friend who tried to make friend with her in class, she often refuses with made-up reasons. She only gives her hand when Yuuko invited.

"Kanna-chan will go also"

"Ah, but I"

"Eh~, let's go"

"Yeah, well."

In that way, Yuuko pulled her forcibly

"Ha, how can I get better personality"

Exhaust with her thoughts, staring at the ceiling.

Unfortunately, the ceiling will not answer Kanna's deep trouble. Instead, suddenly the door of the bathroom opens from the outside.

"Life is a mountain, there is a valley!"

It is Kanda Yuuko, a classmate who is living with her at Sakurasou.

She is standing at the door naked.

Kanna who resists being able to see naked even among girls quickly soaked in the bathtub until shoulder. The reason why there is no surprise is this kind of situation is not unusual in Sakurasou. Apart from Yuuko, a married woman's college student living next door assaults Kanna's bathing time once a week.

"Kanda-san, I think I have said it over and over, but I don't want you to come in when I take a bath."

"Eh~, why not?"



She is surprised like hearing it for the first time.

"Of course, it's embarrassing"

She shrinks in a bathtub.

"Between me and Kanna-chan, don't have to be shy!"

Yuuko says such a thing with a full smile. Kanna doesn't want to enter this conversation. Of course, there are no signs that Yuuko will leave the bath.

"And speaking of consultation, I'm naked in the bath after all"

Yuuko was convinced by 'un un'.

"Consultation?"

"That's right!"

"..."

"Ah, now what do you mean 'that's right'"

It seems that it was not transmitted to Yuuko though Kanna has no reaction after she understood.

"Here, that's right, that's right!"

She persistently perseveres the whole body.

"Well, is that is?"

The slipped is erased from memory and Yuuko comes into the bathtub.

She can't see it because she has removed her glasses, but Yuuko has something in her hand. Is it a brochure or something?

"That is?"

Kanna listens attentively,

"It's this this!"

She sticks in front of Kanna's face with something in her hand. It is a pamphlet of Suimei University of Arts. Curriculums of each faculty and department is listed one by one.

"Which department is good~"

Yuuko turns over the page.

"Kanda-san, what do you want, have not figured out yet?"

Surprisingly rise the voice. It will be close to the end of May - and the closing deadline for submitting future's plan. No, she didn't think that there were students who have not decided yet.

"Where does Kanna-chan think is good?"

Yuuko asks her with comfort as if asking for a recommended lunch. To Kanna who submits her aspiration department more than a month ago, it is a thing that cannot be imitated very much.

"Because it's an important course, I think that Kanda-san should choose what you want to do in the future"

Speak frankly. There are no embarrassed or surprised feelings anymore. There is a little pleasure. Kanna is purely pleased that Yuuko consults her. Because it is also a moment when she realized that she thought her was a friend....

"What do you want to do in the future?"

"By far, it is a bride!"

She does not think that she is a high school third grader, but she can understand that Yuuko is serious if looking into her eyes.

"Who is the opponent?"

She can predict the answer, but Kanna inquires as the flow of conversation.

"Onii-chan!"

It is the answer she expected.

"I will tell if you might not know, but you can't marry Sorata-senpai, because you two are brother and sister"

"Okay, Onii-chan and Yuuko are connected by red blood"

The mysterious remark jumps out again.

"So, you can't get married because of that,"

"I want to do it!"

Yuuko grasps her shoulder with both hands.

"Even if I told you then, is it a career now?"

Important pamphlets are immersed in the bathtubs. In a hurry, Yuuko picks it up. But it is too late.

"Kanna-chan is Literature department, isn't it?"

Yuuko who gave up the pamphlet thought that she was close to Kanna, go next to her and put her back on the wall.

"Yes, that's right"

"Good, Kanna-chan ~. The future is all set"

"Not all"

"Eh~, because you decided to study in Literature department, isn't it in the future you will write a novel and it's your dream?"

"Even though I have decided so, I'm not sure."

"Is that so?"

Yuuko tilts her neck.

"Initially when I entered Suiko, I thought to go to university and get a job as usual."

"Uhy!?"

"..... I geel that I really want to be a novelist, but I haven't started writing, I haven't decided what to do"

"Eh~, that's a waste. Kanna-chan's novel is popular."

That is complicated again. Kanna herself didn't start writing because of interesting. She didn't plan to sell it. It has always been like that since the beginning.

The first novel is the extension of the diary and that feeling still remains now. She feels like she's writing to fill the gap of daily unfulfilled days. She thinks that it would be better if boring days are a little better, but they are merely describing the delusion that "I wish it would be nice".

She never thought that writing was fun. Continuing to diverge something simply by writing.

On the contrary, after debut as a novelist, the situation of having to write has also caused new stress. While thinking that she wanted to quit a number of times, but she managed to overcome it somehow.

She does not think that it would be nice if she loses the purpose of earning tuition. But, as long as she goes to university, she will have to live for another 4 years. Honestly, her parents divorce and remarried, and she doesn't in good term with them. Especially, she could hardly believe when she comes home there is a new father there.

So, she will try hard for only four more years.

Even though she knows that it is half-hearted determination

Various things are incomplete. It is also how to face novels, how to go out with others Anyway, the attitude towards Iori

"..."

"Kanna-chan?"

Yuuko looks Kanna's silent face.

"I'm sorry, I was distracted"

She scoops out the hot water of the bathtub and buries it on her face.

"If it was Yuuko's grades, where is the most suitable department?"

Seriously, Yuuko is watching the bulging pamphlet in water.

The thinking way is quite reasonable.

"Why don't you ask the teacher?"

"That's right, I will consult Koharu-sensei tomorrow"

Although she intended to be a joke, Yuuko is doing seriously. But she feels it would be fine if it is their homeroom teacher Shiroyama Koharu. Because she took charge of many Sakurasou's graduate who were unique in the difficult times as a third-grader so... And as far as Kanna knows, all of them are on their way. She will surely give adequate advice to Yuuko. When she thinks about the appropriate lessons of the same age day, her uncertainty is over her head

"I'm hot, so I will go out earlier"

"Yeah, thanks for taking the time to consult me, Kanna-chan!"

"You are welcome."

Because of embarrassment, she didn't see Yuuko's face, Kanna leaves the corridor.

After changing into pajamas, dry the hair firmly with a hair dryer, Kanna left the dressing room afterwards. While walking out of the door feeling Yuuko comes out late, she started walking back to her room.

On the way, when she passed the front door, the door opened and Iori came back.

Eyes meet Kanna stopped.

"Oh, Pajamas"

"Don't look at me".

She answers quickly.

"Eh~, since I'm doing my best to practice the piano, I think that it's okay to let me see."

Iori gives a spoiled voice.

The hand of the clock, which is placed above the shoe box, is turning around 9 o'clock in the evening.

"That, it does not matter to me"

"Heihei"

Iori who took off his shoes returns to the room with gaudy steps. While looking at his back, she regrets a little if she should say "Welcome back".

"Oh, welcome back, Iori"

Yuuko who came out of the bath late says loudly while wiping her hair.

"Oh, I'm home~"

Avert eyes from Yuuko and Iori who are still talking, Kanna puts a foot on the stairs to return to her room. Then, from the dining room, the teacher with signature beer comes out.

"You're a very difficult personality, aren't you?"

"What is that?"

"A woman who does not have a cuteness will only lose her life, so be careful."

After that, Chihiro goes into her room. As the door closed, she decides to go back to her room on the second floor.

It is the closest to the stairs. Room 201 in front is the Kanna's room. Room 202 next to is Yuuko's room. Room 203 is an empty room.

"I would like to be that if I can..."

Kanna's mutter was only going to be sucked into the annulled room.

Part 3

The end of June when the schedule of the final exam was announced. The long rainy season began, and in the blue sky there was a summer sun shining gently.

Even in the evening there was no indication that the heat would lose, and Kanna feels depressed day by day. She sweats just by moving a little. Unpleasant weather. She hates the rain, but Kanna also doesn't like sunny days.

"Haa... ..."

A sorry sigh is brought back on the way home from school. But it is not due to the summer sun or the damp air. Another thing has always been anxious since this morning. Kanna herself is also aware of the cause, which also amplifies frustration.

"Why didn't you contact me?"

On the way to the shopping street, Kanna mutters out without being patient. Unfortunately, the person to turn the word is not on her side. Now, Kanna is alone, and he did not go to school today.

Iori is going to the preliminary round of the All Japan Competition.

She confirms the time with the mobile phone. 4 PM.

It is the time when the performance is over, the result should have come out. But even one mail has not been sent. That is the reason for frustration in Kanna.

She gazes at the cell phone that stands silent. On the display where the backlight disappeared and it became dark, there was a fresh look of her face.

"..... I miss it that baka so much"

So regain calmness with her mouth.

Exactly when she caught a red light, there was an incoming message on her mobile.

The body reacts immediately.

The finger presses the button quickly.

- Don't you think there's a fine line between touch and pie?

She thought it was the result of the competition clearly, but when she reads it was such a text. Of course, Iori is the sender.

Continued another sent.

- I'm by far the pie-touch faction!

She stroked the word "dead" once. But in the end, she decided not to send and decided to ignore it.

About ten seconds later, another mail is sent.

At first, she confirms the contents.

- Ah, but I passed the preliminary round

The moment she sees it, Kanna's body suddenly comes out of power. Strong feelings also curl up from the tip.

She is relieved.

Just hit "congratulations" and think for a while.

Is this a good reply? She doesn't feel comfortable. Conversely, considering second time, going on with the final round, she feels it was too early to say "Congratulations". Iori's goal is to win the prize in the final round.

Erase the letters and start over. She types "Yes, I'm glad."

"..."

It is strangely amusing. She thinks that there would be a reply mail suitable for this occasion, Kanna writes and erases it, writes it, erases it and repeats it over and over.

In the meantime, five minutes have passed. The signal changed from red to blue and turned red and turned blue.

As time goes on, she feels like she can't help it even if she replies.

While thinking about that, the phone rings this time.

The name displayed is Himemiya Iori.

For a moment she thinks to use a pretense. But then, she feels like she is losing somewhat.

Place her finger on the call button.

"What?"

"Did you see the mail?"

"Do you want to sexually harass?"

"Preliminary round, passed through"

"..."

Words doesn't come out quickly and Kanna is silent.

"Eh? Did that expire?"

"... It is connected"

"I went through the preliminary examination"

"Well, I just saw it in the mail earlier. I don't bother to call you. I know"

Actually she doesn't want to say such a thing. But, if she opens her mouth it will be like this.

"Is that it?"

A sorry voice comes back.

"What do you want me to do?"

"I want you to compliment me"

"Do not say things like children, aren't you ashamed?"

"Not at all"

"I was stupid to expect ordinary sensitivity to you"

"Oh no, ~ normal, ~ ~ ~ ~, if you did well, don't you want a reward from your favorite person?"

"It's a matter of your personal sensitivity"

"Do you mean "I will kiss for celebration'?"

"No."

"Even if it's light on my cheeks~-

"No"

"At least you can say 'congratulations', isn't it?"

"Then you can love a girl who can do that. I will hang up"

Doesn't wait for a reply, and hangs up on the phone.

"Haa ..."

She just did it again. The waves of regret comes swiftly. Why does even a

word 'congratulations' come out while talking?

"What's wrong with that sigh?"

That voice is heard mostly in her ear.

"Tsu!"

I turn around in surprise while surprisingly.

"Ah....."

A woman is standing at a red light. A big tote bag on the shoulder. Thin make-up, the pants up to knee, the white blouse is fit. Inside is a cool camisole with gradation of blue and white.

"Aoyama-senpai"

"Long time no see"

Nanami raises one hand.

"Hase-san is also shopping?"

"Oh, yes"

If going straight from the school to Sakurasou, she will not go through this road leading to the station.

"Because I'm also going to the shopping district, can we do it together?"

"Yes of course"

Wait for the signal to turn blue, and walk out together. From Nanami's feet, a tough and rhythmical sound sounded. She is wearing sandals that are slightly raised in the heel. That is why she feels her taller than memory.

She looks like an adult. The short hair, which was briefly shortened at the time of Suiko graduation, stretched to the point where it touches the shoulder.

"Oh, this?"

Nanami who notices her eyes touches her hair with his fingers.

"After all, is it strange?"

"No, it is natural that has been over a year since sepia graduating from Suiko, but it seems that you were more mature and surprised...."

Emotions did not become words well, and Kanna finally added "I'm sorry".

"No, thank you. Yesterday I met with Kanda-kun at school canteen for the first time in about three months, he said the same thing."

Nanami is laughing whether she remembered the interaction at that time. Now, both Sorata and Nanami are students going to m Suimei University of Art.

The place where Nanami lives is surprisingly close to Sakurasou. It is an apartment where she can walk within 10 minutes.

After graduating from Suiko, Sorata who left Sakurasou rented an old house near the university and lives with Akasaka Ryuunosuke who was also a resident of Sakurasou. The place, looking from Sakurasou, is at the other side of the university's gate. It might take about thirty minutes to walk with Kanna's legs. Because of that, even if they live in the same little city, she never encounters accidentally.

"Is Sorata-senpai fine?"

It was about three or four months ago that Kanna met him. They came across the station after her novel meeting. It seems that Sorata was on his way home after going out for a game production meeting.

"He started off preparing for the launch of the game company last month, so he was so busy that keeping a book on entrepreneurs open when he was having lunch at school cafeteria."

"That seems tough"

Kanna doesn't care about what it is like to make a company. She has never done that, nor thought about making it. Even at school, she didn't learn at all in class.

"But, I don't feel like it is so tough and he looked lively"

"Is that so"

The sense of fulfillment of doing what you want to do is like that.

"How is the situation of Sakurasou recently?"

"Chihiro is still as usual, drinking just beer everyday ... Kanda-san decided her course as Literature department."

"Eh? Is that so?"

After all, she decided the course for the reason "I'd like to be with Kanna-chan."

"I do not know if she can obtain attached recommendations."

In an interview with the homeroom teacher Shiroyama Koharu, she seems to be getting a certificate with high possibility although she is not sure. Because Yuuko just looked at study in the middle or at the end of the term, her score was only high in those tests. In the third semester of the second year, the classmates surprised with top ten standing names on the corridor with their names listed on the corner.

"I hope you two can study at university together"

".....I agree"

To Kanna, Yuuko is her only friend to say. As Nanami says, she may studies with her at the university. If there is no Yuuko, she will be alone again.

"How about Iori-kun? How are he?"

"..... He's still a baka"

She intended to suppress it, but Kanna's tone was a prickly thorn.

"What happened?"

Nanami asks for a questionable situation.

"There is nothing"

If she is conscious of the usual, this time has become a defiantly attitude.

"I see"

Nanami smiles casually.

While they were talking about such things, they arrived at the shopping street. Go through the entrance.

"Ah"

As walking a little, Nanami cries out as if she noticed something.

Kanna understands the reason immediately. Because her eyes were attracted to the woman standing in front of the fish store

White skin. Long smooth hair that stretched to waist. In spite of the neat and clean appearance, she leaves a mysterious and strong presence.

She is also a former resident of Sakurasou. Shiina Mashiro who is the same year as Nanami. Now she lives with the foreign student Rita Ainsworth in an apartment about 5 minutes walking from Sakurasou.

After graduating from Suiko, Mashiro did not go on to university and chose the path devoted to work.

That profession is mangaka. She has a manga series on a manga magazine. In March last year she was awarded a big manga prize and now she has a magazine signed. She was on TV last month.

Mashiro lowers the basket for shopping in front with both hands and is

looking at the fish that was lined up at the shop front with expressionless face.

There are mackerel, sardine, also fine bonito.

Nanami's feet headed naturally to Mashiro.

"Mashiro"

While speaking out, Nanami is next to Mashiro. Kanna is standing behind a bit.

"Oh, Nanami Kanna too"

Instead of a greeting, Kanna bows a bit.

"Shopping?"

Nanami speaks in a natural way.

"Un"

"What are you going to buy?"

"Fish"

"Which fish?"

"Which is good?"

Despite the quality, Mashiro's eyes are obviously aiming for the big skipjack tuna.

"If you are with Rita-san why don't you ask her what does she want to eat?"

"That's right. Rita told me to stay with big fish"

"Ok"

Kanna is tense alone, with two of them keeping conversations normally. The relationship between the two is a bit complicated. It is more than just classmates who lived in Sakurasou. They all liked Yuuko's older brother, Kanda Sorata, and confessed at the same time, so to speak, they were rivals in love. Besides, Sorata was shaken and went out with Mashiro.

After that, Mashiro decided to separate from Sorata for the reason of their dreams, but she didn't think that their love at that time was completely gone. At least, if Kanna was her, she would definitely drag him back....

"I will take horse mackerel today"

"I think that is good"

The two are calm despite of Kanna's worry. There is no sign of rival. It is natural feelings. Two good friends.

"..."

"What's wrong?"

Nanami talks to Kanna whether she realized she was looking carefully. Mashiro is at the back of the shop, she is in the middle of accounting.

"No, nothing"

"It's about me and Mashiro?"

".....Yes, it is"

Kanna's tells her true thought.

"At first I had a lot of things to think about, there was a time when I was wondering how to get in touch with her"

Nanami's eyes are gentle. She is looking at Mashiro's back who taking out money from her wallet.

"But, occasionally ... is it? The number of times to think little by little, the

interval of remembering that is getting longer Before this, I met with Mashiro at the shopping district like this after months, but when I realized it, I noticed that the nostalgic feeling is already growing stronger. "

"Nostalgic....."

Kanna has no idea.

"Anyway, it's okay, so don't mind Hase-san."

"Aoyama-senpai is strong, aren't you?"

"There is not such a thing, there is not it, if I'm in front of Kanda-kun, I will still be scared."

Nanami makes a smile with self-tide feeling.

From behind, suddenly the shadow overshadowed.

"Nanamin, Hakke ~ n!"

"Kiyaaaaa"

Nanami's surprisingly screams. It is Mitaka Misaki, a married woman college student living next to Sakurasou who jumps out with her voice on her back.

"Mutsu! No-pan, Mashiron is also there! Well, it's a secret meeting! Why don't you call me!"

"C-come on, please get off!"

Nanami who is forced by Misaki is struggling.

However, Misaki will not leave it. She has her hands around Nanami's neck. She is touching her chest.

"Kyato, cha, senpai, chest, do not touch!"

"Mutsu, Nanamin, has grown again!"

"Did not!"

"That's what it means, what is it! What is that!! Why, everyone is gathering ~!"

"By chance, shopping time only overlaps, it is not a meeting."

Kanna replies instead of Nanami who seems to suffer.

"No-pan! I say it as fate! We're connected by red thread! Well, let's have a hot pot party for commemoration today if it's like this!"

Saying that, Misaki descends from Nanami's back with a sound. Nanami is breathless.

"Oh, hello, Rittan?"

Misaki is in contact on the phone.

"Today! Hot pot! My house! Six o'clock!"

Messages are somehow just a phrase.

"Oh, Ot-chan (note: seller)! Shall I get all the fish here?"

While keeping the mobile phone on her ear, she shouts outrageous towards the back of the store.

"You don't need everything!"

Nanami who resurrected desperately tries to stop.

"Ah, Misaki"

Mashiro seems to notice now.

"Mashiron, today hot pot!"

"I got it"

And she accepts it easily.

"Yes, no-pan!"

"Oh, yes."

Kanna who was stunned hardly got a splendid blur.

It's impossible to resist. Before the aliens' battle, helpless Earthling people have to be cleared away

Two hours later.

Six thirty in the afternoon.

Six girls and two cats are gathering at the large Mitaka House's dining room next to Sakurasou. Misaki, Mashiro, Nanami, Rita, Kanna, Yuuko And also, Tsubasa and Komachi.

Six girls surround the table. In the center is a pot.

It is boiling steadily. At their feet, Tsubasa and Komachi are eating.

"Oh, that's it, how about Iorin?"

"Today, he went to the contest's preliminary round"

"Did he pass!"

Misaki's voice while waving in the pot like the tact.

"He passed safely"

Honestly Kanna answers.

"Well, today is 'Iorin, congratulations' party!"

"There is no Iori"

Mashiro confirms left and right.

"It seems that the competition's venue seems to be close to his parents' house, so he will stay there today."

"Oh, that's right~ If it is, then it can't be helped."

"So sorry"

"Is this OK with this? Today, only girls I want to do a girls' association once."

Rita suddenly hits her hand. At her chest, a dolphin-shape necklace shines brightly

"Oh, is this?"

Rita, who noticed Kanna's eyes, lifts the silver dolphin with fancy fingers and shows it to everyone.

"Good, listen to me"

She has not asked anything yet, but Rita keeps talking in a good mood.

"Last month, I went out with my Ryuunosuke to the aquarium on my birthday and he gave it as a present."

A smile shines brilliantly.

"Eh ~, good ~. Yuuko will have Onii-chan buy something on my birthday!"

Munching and Yuuko's mouth is full of food in the pot.

"Rittan, you're doing well with Dragon ~"

"Yes, it's love"

"Before this, it seems quite different from what I heard from Akasaka-kun at school lunch Akasaka-kun, being told that it was the last request, he was

told that he was being forced? He was threatened to be hugged here if he did not buy a gift ... "

"Ryunosuke is shy"

"Um are you two going together?"

It is difficult to participate in conversation unless it is clear that point. There will be some wrong remarks.

"I'm in trouble because I'm not good enough for Ryuunosuke"

The bright expression of a little while ago is a lie, and Rita looks sad. It is a face that seldom shows.

"Misaki is happy. Have you already changed your clan?"

Rita leaks a sexy sigh.

"U~n, but it is sad that we can't see each other everyday, right?"

Contrary to her words, Misaki's facial expressions and tone do not have any shadow. She is shining like the sun. She thought that Misaki has a happy face because she is full of happiness.

"How is Nanamin recently!"

"Eh!? Me?"

Nanami seems to have been totally injured, is in the middle of catching fish in the pot. Only Maloney is served in the bowl.

"Is there no good story?"

Rita takes over quickly.

"No no"

Nanami makes shakes her hands, denying it as much as possible.

"Eh ~, boring!"

It is Misaki who tells her impression manly.

"It can be boring. Now I'm in university and training school, so there's nothing at all"

"Nah, Mashiro-san? Did you find a new love?"

Yuuko embarks.

"I....."

"Un un"

"I draw manga"

A statement ignoring the flow comes out.

"I have not talked about such a thing!"

"I draw manga"

"So, you are wrong!"

"Drawing manga"

"It's a truth, Mashiro-san. You're a mangaka ... Oh, please sign this!"

Yuuko who gave up the conversation hands out a colored paper from her back and hands it to Mashiro. Mashiro receives without complaining and signs with romanji(alphabet) type smoothly.

"Please also draw a picture"

Mashiro only nods in Yuuko's staggering orders. Her characteristic is very good, she responds to every order. Kanna thinks that she wants to be in her fingers' drawing world many times. Without thinking, hesitating, or stopping, the painting is finished.

"How about Kanna?"

Suddenly, when Rita asks, Kanna is shocked. Although she is fascinated with Mashiro's picture, she is suddenly returned to reality.

"I am"

"Is there any progress with Iori?"

"Why does that baka's name come out here?"

She should have calmly replied, Rita, Nanami, Misaki and Mashiro all look at Kanna, and then look at each other afterwards. There is no other way for the atmosphere to flow. It's the atmosphere that Kanna does not want. It is a little hot atmosphere.

"Well, Iori is a bit baka right~?"

While laughing a mischievous smile, Rita says that. She is somewhat calm. This is absolutely a face that plans something.

"I agree"

While wary, Kanna replies in small voice. She doesn't intend to be mad at Rita easily.

"You can't think of going out with him, isn't it?"

"..."

"He is very curious about women's chest"

Misaki and Nanami nods. Mashiro is just watching Kanna. But it also shakes Kanna more. When looking at her transparent eyes, it makes her feel like she is seeing the whole thing.

"At least, it's embarrassed to be together if he doesn't grow up a little more."

Rita's tone is pushing. It is blatantly provocative. Kanna sees she is inviting

her.

"Kanna has a more suitable boy. I'm sorry."

This is a trap. Absolutely. While knowing that, Kanna is not able to endure by being said bad about Iori.

"Nothing ..."

She mumbles.

"Yes?"

Rita had a joking face. When it comes to tossing the opponent, she can't be matched with. Kanna is not the opponent that can compete.

"He's not so much a child"

Once she puts her emotions out loud, she can't stop.

"I'm thinking about the other things properly

Even on course, he decided his major Media Faculty earliest, and continued to make games with Sorata-senpai and Akasaka-senpai. Although he is on holiday now because he prioritizes the competition practice, but he often went to senpais' houses and worked. Ah, that's why It is often misunderstood, but he thinks properly He is much more adult than other men at the same age."

When she finished talking and raised her face, Rita and Misaki laughed a lot. Nanami also can't hold it and smiles. As usual, Mashiro is just watching.

"We know that, no-pan"

"I agree"

Rita agrees.

"He's like recovering from that broken bone"

Mashiro is nodding deeply while Nanami continues.

"Why doesn't Kanna going out, even though continues to think about Iori like that?"

"That is....."

"I think that you two matches well"

Kanna's body responds to Nanami's remark.

"No such thing....."

Reflectively negative words come out.

After saying, Kanna is in a hurry. It's like she just said something to return to her bad side which is not good in her personality. However, it is already late where she noticed it.

"Anyway, I can't do it!"

The words that she gives to escape from the gaze gathering are also the real intention she wants to hide.



"..."

A momentary silence.

Immediately after, Mashiro opens her mouth.

"Kanna likes Iori, isn't it?"

Mashiro's weak appearance cannot be imagined.

"Well, it is wrong!"

In a hurry to deny.

"But, as it is today's story, there was only Kanna's own reason for not going out, right? Iori does not seem to complain."

"Well, that is"

"Kanna-chan, you should go out with him"

Yuuko says the good thing.

"No good....."

Kanna replies, shaking her neck left and right.

"Why?"

"Well, because ... I shake it over and over, I told him I dislike ... I can't say I like him now"

Just like a child.

There is not a piece of room left in the crossfire from everyone. The calmness of correcting the remark is also lost.

"Well, please stop this story"

It is all she can say.

"Well, I will tell you what you can say."

Rita stands up. When moving to Kanna's side, she has a face with a full smile. And Kanna hears what she says.

Part 4

- I will go out with you if you can win the first prize at the All Japan Competition

That's the best words that Rita taught her.

It feels easier to say that than to convey her feelings straight.

Rita says,

"Iori's feelings can't be helped ... by giving out the air of It is the two birds with one stone, holding the purpose after that."

There seems to be an effect.

However, this remark might be too looking at from the top indeed.

It seems that her personality is bad, won't she be hated?

Such worry is over her head.

Besides, it would suit well as a beautiful gorgeous girl like Rita speaks, but she doesn't think that those words suit her enough.

However, if she just steps on one place, she can't move forward.

In next Monday morning, before going to school, Kanna stood in front of the bathroom's mirror deciced to practice.

"If you win the prize ... I will go out with you ..."

She was defeated by embarrassment and she could not see the mirror in the end.

"Impossible impossible ..."

Her face reflected, her cheeks dyes red. Ears and neck are red.

"What is impossible?"

"Kyaa!"

At the bathroom's entrance, Iori stands. He was yawning loudly as "Fua ~".

"D-Did you hear?"

"Haa? I don't understand, but I understood that it is impossible."

"Did you hear it?"

"That's right, but?"

"Truly?"

"... ... what, you, from the morning, you said terribly amazing things !?"

"I have not said that"

Relieved Kanna tried to step on Iori's foot lightly However, she thinks that it would be difficult for the piano performance, she passes by his side without doing anything and left the bathroom.

She decides to take her bag at the entrance and go to school.

While on the way to school school, she tries as much as possible to not think about it. About hot pot party, remembering the washroom, it makes her face hot just by it.

She tries to be calm so that she would not seem to be funny from the surroundings.

It takes ten minutes to go to school. Go down the gentle slope, pass the front of the convenience store and look at the child park aside. Cross the traffic lights and go further and will catch up with the flow of students who go to school from the station. It is already school gate.

Like other students, Kanna also aims straight at the elevator.

The same morning as usual. So, she didn't think much.

The accident came when she opened the shoebox.

"..."

She doesn't know what happened for a moment.

There are no shoes that should be. But she may understand.

Blink twice.

To that question, Kanna remembered the nasty gaze she felt at school recently. Perhaps she could imagine this day may come.

Still, she suspects that she might have mistaken her shoebox. Nonetheless, there is no reason to make such a mistake at this time of the end of the first semester. There is no doubt that it is the shoebox that Kanna uses since April.

"..."

"Such that....."

Feeling a gaze, turn her eyes towards the corridor. A large pillar in front of the gate. In the shadow, she sees a small group of girls. Second grade. She remembers that she has been seeing Hiyoshi Mikako, who approached Iori, in that group before. However, Mikako doesn't appear.

"Such that....."

Perhaps, self-proclaiming classmates did it to revenge for Iori rejected Mikako. 'I feel sorry for her to be rejected', 'it's such a wonderful woman to be with Himemiya-senpai', 'it's uzzy', 'I'm pissed off... There are feelings of negative sense.

It is the most troublesome kind of story among girls.

Moreover, with the reason to do the right thing for their friend as a weapon, their character is bad.

When noticing that Kanna is looking, the second-year students left the place as if nothing had happened. The laughter moves away.

There is no point to standing their, so put the shoes that she took off in the shoebox.

At that time, there is someone speaks from behind.

"What's wrong?"

It is Iori that looking over her shoulder. It seems that he is already catching up even though she left Sakurasou first.

Kanna hurriedly closes the shoe box, because she doesn't want him to look ingto. Big sound echos.

"Wow, I was surprised I, said something bad?"

Apparently, he seems to misunderstand that she is angry.

"Nothing"

"I can't see that"

Iori's eyes were looking at Kanna's feet before she recognzied it it.

"Do you still forget something?"

"It's natural"

"Fu~n"

She can't read from his expression that whether he believes or not.

"Well, it's time for a piggyback"

In front of Kanna, Iori squat down.

"What kind of joke?"

"Because socks get dirty"

"I can wash that"

Kanna passes by Iori's side.

"What was that ..., it was a chance to be legitimately close"

She thought it was a joke, but apparently he was serious. While falling shoulder, Iori comes.

At the entrance for the guest next to the elevator, Kanna borrows slippers.

"That's it"

"What"

"Will you let me hug you?"

"..."

Everything is crowded now. Kanna completely ignores Iori and turns her feet to the classroom. Iori's footsteps came immediately next.

"Well, can't you do that after all second-year students did that to you?"

"Tsu!"

Because she did not think that Iori was aware of it, she can't hide her surprises.

"What are you talking about?"

Still, she continues so to cheat.

She doesn't want Iori to take extra care from the second preliminary of the piano competition. No, that is a lie. Her heart is slightly different. Kanna did not want to be known by Iori that she is dealing with such a thing. Because she feels miserable

"I have decided on a criminal who hidden the shoes"

Straight points out without escape place.

"What is it, I don't understand the meaning"

"That's right. Even I can understand. There are those guys who mingling to watch and laugh like that."

"Classes in the music department are destroyed"

Kanna resists to the very end to divert the topic, although knowing it wasteful.

"No, they don't have the spare to say bad people. I'm so full of myself. I'm going to drop out of the guy who cares about you. "

It is a cheerful tone like something else.

"You are part of that, too,"

Besides, Iori does not respond, keep on talking about her.

"Because I was an ordinary student until secondary school, I kept piano practice and completely floated away from the school classes, something disappears"

She thinks that Iori's classmates may be afraid of Iori. Because Iori, who already has the absolute focus on music, had a different way of living

After school he will go home to practice the piano, and the physical education lesson will be abandoned because it could injure his fingers. Iori mentioned before, the competition and the schedule overlapped so he was not even on a school trip.

By attacking Iori that was different from ordinary, it seems that middle school classmates wanted to be released from vague anxieties. In fact they turned their eyes away from the reality that they have to face. It was definitely Iori who was in a place close to the future

"Such unpleasant memories..... You can talk a lot with laughter. "

"Well, that's okay, well, it's not a fun memory, but I wish I could compare to my sister"

"Is that so?"

It is a little surprising. Iori's older sister who is Misaki and Jin's age ... Kanna is acquainted with Himemiya Saori. She was introduced by Iori while she was returning home from Austria where she went to study.

It was a beautiful person who seemed more grown-up than age. At first sight, though it is indifferent, she remember being panicked with her face turned red when she was talking about her boyfriend.

"Because, girls are more amazing. Truly"

She understands what he is trying to say.

"Certainly it was soon after I entered secondary school, that my sister has been using headphones for a long time, is that something like that?"

Her brother Iori also puts headphones on his head all the time. It is unusual when there is nothing.

"But she entered Suiko and changed, I remembered her smile when came back for the summer vacation, "There was an upper on the top".... Well, I guess it was about Misaki-san. "

"I think so too"

"Damn, I don't really want to talk about her."

"You are the one who started."

"It was also during the first qualifying session of the day, people who are talking about me like a bad man compared to my sister"

"...."

"I have bad feelings from 2 years ago, since that"

When climbing on the stairs, Iori stops.

The classroom of third-year is on the third floor.

Yet Iori's feet is going down the corridor on the second floor.

"Where are you going?"

Even if she does not ask the destination she knew it. But, there is nothing other than to call out.

"Stop"

Curse hard.

"Why?"

Iori seems dissatisfied.

"What do you think the result is to come down there?"

"My liking rate rises"

Proudly Iori turns a smile.

"It will go down to minus"

"Why, why?"

"Now, if you get caught up, you will buy their antipathy extra and escalate harassment to me"

"Why does it happen, isn't it just ordinary people to hate me?"

That is a boy's logic.

"Girls are such creatures"

"Toward!"

"So stop it."

"Jiya, what are you doing? Are you done?"

"If you leave me, you'll be tired of it anyway."

"Are you okay with that? I don't want to."

"It's not like a good or a sub-mind, but it's the best way to go."

"But....."

"But not that"

Kanna strongly speaks the words to Iori who seemed dissatisfied.

"Good? Don't do anything"

Further pains.

"..."

Iori doesn't nod. He has a defiant face.

"Because I won't speak again after you do something."

"..."

"All right?"

".....All right"

Iori is in a state like he seems reluctant. It was a look of a child that was not convinced at all.

In the HR time before class, the same question is asked from girl classmates many times.

"That, Hase-san, what about the shoes?"

"Yeah, I forgot"

"Yes, it is rare, isn't it?"

Repeat as many as the number of "Ohayo" greetings.

That barren time lasted until Yuuko is late for coming to school.

Classroom's window. The front Kanna's seat and the back is Yuuko's.

"It is terrible, Kanna-chan. I wish you woke me up!"

Yuuko is out of breath as if she has just run here. As she gets to the seat, she falls down holding a desk.

"Once, let me excuse you, you heard my voice then pulled the blanket, I shook your shoulders and lightly hit your cheeks. Still, rather than get up, saying "I will go to bed tomorrow", you did not wake up, Kanda-san"

"Is that so?"

"I don't remember exactly but it's like that"

"I'm sorry, Kanna-chan"

"You don't have to sorry"

"Tomorrow I will try my best to get up around where my cheeks were hit!"

It's okay to declare with determination, but hitting the cheek is a last solution.

Suddenly, Kanna's eyes stares at Yuuko's feet. Something happened, like Kanna, she wears slippers.

"What happened to your shoes?"

Kanna asked Yuuko a question that was strangely taken from a classmate.

"I thought about washing it at the weekend and I brought it home"

"You forgot to bring it back"

"Is it wrong?"

"I forgot to wash"

She remembers when being told, she remembers the slippers at the washroom's corner. It is a pink bag that seems to be using from elementary school. Written on it was "Kanda Yuuko" in the name tag carefully.

"According to Yuuko's reasoning, you ate hot pot at Misaki-san's house on the weekend and you borrowed a bath later, I think I forgot it there, don't you think?"

"Well, I think so"

"Did you forget Kanna-chan, too?"

Yuuko's line of sight is poured on her feet.

"We did it! We're matching things!"

She doesn't know what is happy, but Yuuko is smiling. Thanks to that, Kanna's depressed mood was saved a lot.

"Well"

She is really saved.

When the lesson begins, Kanna thinks about the missing shoes during the gap time to take notes.

First, what should she do tomorrow?

She will keep it conspicuous in slippers for two consecutive days.

Let's go buy it at the purchasing department later. But, in that case, it is

necessary to explain the reason why the shoes are new at this time. Because she cannot tell the truth, she will lie more. She do not feel guilty because she is not cheating someone else, but there may be some classmates who think it is strange. If possible, she wanted to avoid being scrutinized.

Besides, there is a possibility that it disappears once she bought it.

It is somewhat tolerable that new items disappear.

It is only one way is to find the vanished shoes, but it is not stupid to do it.

"Nee, Kanna-chan"

Along with a whispering voice, she is touched at her back.

Kanna turns silently behind the seat while the teacher is running the chalk on the blackboard. With eyes, "What?" asked.

Yuuko points outside the window.

She turns her eyes while thinking about something. She soon learns what Yuuko wanted to say.

Although in class time, Iori is walking outside the school building. Looking into shadows so as to search for something.

"..... That baka"

When opening the mobile under the desk, she avoids teacher's eyes and texts quickly.

- "Do not do anything unnecessary"

Iori seems to have noticed incoming mails confirming the mobile phone.

- Wow, how did you know?

- Turn around

Iori who raises his face opens a stupid mouth with "Ah".

- I'm sorry.

- Promise, don't remember?

If he does something extraneous, she will never speak again as she just talked this morning.

- I really am sorry!

Emails with Doge emotions arrives.

Mercilessly Kanna drops the mobile phone. Return consciousness to the blackboard. Mobile keeps informing of incoming mail frequently, but Kanna decided to concentrate on the lesson. She doesn't turn her eyes outside the window.

Because of Iori's actions, she doesn't fear that further disasters will fall to herself. It is somewhat painful for her to see do wrong things because of her.

In fact, the moment she realized that Iori was searching for the shoes, there was a warm feeling inside her chest However, Kanna doesn't think her obedient to that feeling.

At lunch break, Kanna goes into the hallway to buy a drink. A vending machine next to the stairs is her choice. It's a stone's throw from the classroom.

However, when she sees Iori's back going down the stairs, she stops at the place where she left the classroom. Turn right and walk towards another vending machine.

She comes across a vending machine near the purchase on the first floor. However, Kanna can't buy it here as well. She finds a group of second-grade students. Now, Hiyoshi Mikako is also with the group of four this morning.

Her body is stunned and her legs stops completely. At that time their eyes met. Then, she feels that the consciousness was contagious, the remaining

four sees Kanna. She can't hear their voice. However, only the laughter remains burning. It is a bad noise.

Kanna turns back without buying anything. She leaves the place quickly. She wants to be disappeared from the sight of those second-year students as quickly as a second.

Choosing somewhere with less people, Kanna has left the purchase anyway.

At that time, her footsteps with slippers sound badly. Her chest tightens.

There is no frustration or anger. There are only miserable and miserable feelings Just being just sad.

She has walked to the music room without thinking anything.

Desks and chairs in order. A grand piano settles in the front. It has a heavy black sparkle.

The carpet floor erases the footsteps of the slippers and it is quite relieved.

Soundproofing has been done, the bustle of lunch breaks sounds as if not heard.

She walked to the back of the classroom and sat down on the wall.

Her power comes out quickly As soon as that, tears come out suddenly. She doesn't understand herself either. Even if she tries, it will not stop.

Kanna's ears trying to cry, she hears a crush. It seems that the speaker has turned on.

Will it flow in the school broadcasting as well?

She thought so,

"Well, can you get along with this?"

She heard it.

"Can't you go?"

"Maybe, that's fine."

Voice of three male students.

The first one can be heard easily. Iori. She thinks that the rest of them are Kasukabe Shiyu and Takesato Naoya, third-graders of music department with Iori.

What on earth is Iori going to do? Even just listening to the brief interaction, she can imagine that it is not legitimate broadcast. Besides, this timing. Kanna doesn't think that he was irrelevant.

Raise her face and look at the speakers.

"Etto, I am,"

It was like speaking like a phone call.

It is rare that the tension is on his voice. Iori is more nervous than that Iori. The whole body is stiff and trembling.

"Who am I?"

Somewhat, a voice from his friends enters.

"Iori"

Another friend answers.

"Hey, you guys keep silent ... ah, well, you don't reply to mails, and no phone calls come out, and as I went to the classroom, I couldn't find you, so I will say it here."

What came to mind first is the slippery matter... She thought that Iori would like to say such things as being unconvinced.

However, Iori's words that followed next are contents that are far more from

the Kanna's expectation.

"I will confess once more if I win the first prize at the All Japan Competition"

"Tsu!?"

In the complete surprise, the inside of her head becomes pure white.

"Who is Iori saying?"

Others enter as to make fun.

"That's right, Hase Kanna.....chan"

Iori speaks her name like a baka.

Short silence.

Shiny air flows.

It is filled with peace.

"No, that's because I have already confessed."

With the exquisite interval between, speakers have come up with pointers.

The next moment she finds out that the school was boiling. The laughter turns swell, and it reverberates to the music room where Kanna is in.

"Hey, you, do not use the broadcast room by yourself!"

Voice of adults. Apparently the teachers came in. Air blown away comes from the speaker.

"Just come to the staff room!"

At the same time, three people's screams are delivered.

"I am serious!"

At the end of the voice of Iori who would have shouted away from the microphone, sudden in-school broadcasting is over.

"Haa ..."

Sighs spread to the music room.

"Thanks to that I can't return to the classroom ..."

Originally, she was not in the mood for receiving classes today. Kanna is a little pleased that the excuse to skip was made.

"Because he's baka, really ..."

Waiting for the bell to ring the classroom in the afternoon, Kanna moves to the health department.

"I'm sorry, my condition is bad"

And when she tells Kanna to lied down

"Well, it's embarrassing, isn't it?"

And the insurance teacher Hasuda Kayoko smiles.

Kanna left the public health room after more than an hour passed after HR on the way back. It's almost five o'clock.

Even though there are students remaining in club activities, the interior of the school building is quiet at this time. She moves through the hall without anyone, and takes the bag in the classroom where there was no one. And she goes to the shoebox without meeting anyone.

"..."

The finger touching the door is trembling. A bad imagination worries the mind that what to do if the shoes were gone.

With a feeling of praying, slowly opening the door.

"..."

Then, there is a sight different from her imagination. The upper row of two-tiered shoe box. There is shoes that should have disappeared. There is no question – it's the missing indoor shoes. It doesn't have thumbtacks stuck. It is not dirty with paint.

There is one reason that she can think of. It is Iori's broadcasting during lunch break. Maybe, they thought what they did was nonsense after hearing it. Surely, what they did seems stupid. But it's just that.....

Kanna returned the slippers to the guest shopping bag, wearing shoes and leaving the elevator.

At the same time, someone comes out from the next exit. Iori. He has a musical score and his bag in hands.

Iori who notices it looks at Kanna.

"Gou"

As looking at his face, she is attracted by his facial expressions. It is the face of a mischievous child.

"..."

"Well, are you angry?"

"Because of someone, I could not take classes in the afternoon."

"Sorry"

"From tomorrow, what kind of face should I use when attending school?"

"I'm sorry"

"Haa ..."

"Sorry, sorry"

"..."

Curse silently.

"Please, please forgive me!"

Together with both hands, Iori worships.

"... ... Competition"

Kanna slightly avoids his eyes.

"That voice?"

From his posture, Iori was staring at Kanna. A slight line of sight.

"If you can win the first prize, you can go out with me"

".....Eh?"

"..."

"Eh? Eh?! Really! Really!?"

Kanna slightly nods to not to reply with her voice.

Then, run away with her face down. She doesn't have the courage to stay here anymore. Iori's face is not seen properly either.

From behind,

"Yes~! ~ Yahoo ~ ~ Wait!!"

She hears the Iori's voice that explodes joy.

Part 5

Every day until the end of the first semester, it was far from the calm days that Kanna wanted. She started to collect the gaze of all the students as a result of Iori's broadcasting.

Iori, who is practicing for the second preliminary of the competition, did not seem to care at all, but Kanna cannot be so insensitive.

From the next day, she was centered on rumors and hot topics, and her hardship never ceased.

Almost every day,

"Hase-san, are you going out with me?"

"Would you like to reply?"

"Himemiya-kun, I guess that's the way it was, it was easy to see, right?"

"Hey, actually, what do you think about Himemiya-kun?"

"Do your best"

She was attacked by questions from girls in class, and they were cheering for mystery.

"It's not a confession yet"

Although she tried to make it that there was no problem,

"Again" ~

It was just being smacked, so that no one left Kanna alone.

She wonders why girls like this kind of romance story so much

As expected, when the final exam began, Kanna's surroundings returned to

calmness, but when that was over, the schedule for the second round of the All Japan Competition came close. Of course, everyone's interest is towards Iori greatly. In order to win in the final round, it is necessary to break through the second preliminary contest first.

She wants them to leave him alone if they can. Important time for Iori

She thought he should pay attention on practicing.

If she thinks about the annoying noise and thinks that he can't concentrate on the competition, the inside of her chest is awful.

However, apart from Kanna's concern, Iori didn't care about such reactions as much. For evidence, he passed the second round easily.

"I passed" ~

He is quite easily.

Originally, because his ability is enough to participate in the final round, it may not be surprising.

Nevertheless, in order to overcome the complex hand fracture injury and to stand on the stage of the competition again, he should have been strong prepared and efforts to continue daily practice.

She doesn't think it is possible for anyone.

On that night when the second preliminary round was over, Kanna was not able to go to bed.

It's two hours on the bed. After rolling around countless times, Kanna got up. She did not have to go to bed if she cannot sleep.

Anyway, summer vacation already. There is no need to go to school. She can sleep until noon so it didn't bother her.

As soon as she decided to get up, Kanna's stomach broke.

Leave the room to solve that hunger.

When she gets down to the first floor and goes to the dining room, there is a guest there.

"Oh"

Iori is finding something in the refrigerator. On the immediate side, with the cushion on the floor as the bed, the two cats are rounded and sleeping. Their names are Aoba and Asahi.

"Iya, I'm hungry"

Iori does not leave the refrigerator, because he cannot find something good.

"There are ingredients for pancake"

Just mix eggs and milk in powder and bake it deliciously.

"Oh good"

Iori, who gives out eggs and milk from the refrigerator, reaches out to the kitchen cupboard. Take out the ingredients of the pancake in the box.

"I've me. I will make it"

Take a box from Iori's hand. She puts a frying pan on the stove and prepares a bowl.

"Are you poisoining or something?"

"Don't mix it"

"The why?"

"Because it is annoying if you get burned"

"Do you think I'm clumsy?"

"Just in case"

She answers in a loud voice.

She never thought of Iori as clumsy. Clearly, his hand is dexterous than Kanna. Even cooking is better than Kanna.

"Sit down so please"

"Yes~"

After replying like an elementary school student, Iori arrives at the dining table. He holds a knife and a fork and is waiting for now.

Approximately ten minutes later, Kanna takes two completed pancakes and brings it before Iori.

Kanna also sits in the other chair.

"Yeah, it's delicious"

His mouth is full with just one bite.

"Nah"

"what"

"Final, will you come?"

"..."

"It's August 10th, but Do you have errands?"

"There is no but..."

"But?"

"Maybe I am back home..."

In truth, she doesn't feel like that. She doesn't want to come back to the house where her mother and her new father live. Besides, her mother is pregnant. After a few months from now, a younger brother or sister will be born. There is no place for Kanna.

"Well, it's summer vacation. Okay, then. If you want to feel better, come with me. "

".....Un"

An ambiguous reply, Kanna gets up.

"Push the dishes in. I will wash it tomorrow "

"I will do it"

"Take care a little until the final round of the competition."

Kanna's eyes glance naturally to Iori's long fingers. Her tone was a bit tight.

"After all, you, still mind it"

Those words are completely surprising.

"What?"

A surprise appears on her face.

"That I broke my arms"

She feels like she was caught in her heart. She can't move. Only the heartbeat is getting faster.

"..."

She thinks that she has something. She thinks that she should deny Iori's words. But, no words come up.

"I'll be fine"

"..."

"So, I want you to come to the final round"

He carries out the last piece of pancake to his mouth, and Iori goes out of the dining room saying 'Thank you for the meal'.

Only Kanna remains.

"How....."

She is exhausted by her feelings.

"How can't I not worry about that!"

She can't neither say out or swallow her feelings in her heart, Kanna just squeezes her feelings of regret and guilt...

Part 6

The third summer vacation to be greeted at Sakurasou, pleasant days repeated.

Ten days of August which seems to be unpredictable is ahead. It seems that it will be twenty days in the blink of eye till that day.

Today, at the music hall of Suimei University of Art, the final round of the All Japan Competition will be held.

Unfortunately the cloudy sky seems to reflects Kanna's mood. A heavy rain.

Even after she saw off Iori who departed from Sakurasou earlier, Kanna was still wondering whether she should go to the competition for cheering him.

Frankly speaking, she is strongly afraid to see Iori playing the piano. If one mistake comes out, she feels that she is responsible for it

Still, Kanna prepared for just getting ready. She changed into her uniform and came to the entrance. If she starts now, she can make it in time for the start.

"....."

She puts on shoes while worrying.

Just go and decide what to do in the immediate future.

Again, Kanna finally departs from Sakurasou.

She will go on a familiar school road.

Get through Suiko's gate, reach out to the university's premises. She enters from the main gate and walks straight ahead on a tree-lined avenue.

People are flowing thinly. Probably the destination is the same music hall as

Kanna.

There are many people with well-dressed clothes.

She gets in front of the music hall while walking with confusion.

When steps up the stairs several steps, there is a people line in front of the entrance. People go into it one after another.

Kanna diverts aside only a few meters and stands in front of the music hall. Repeat deep breathing. And after a minute thinking.

"... After all, let's return"

Then her conclusion is to return from this place. Line up and do the right thing. Then, she comes across someone she knows well.

"Oh, Kanna-san"

It is Sorata, Yuuko's older brother. Shirt with collar. The hem is in the pants neatly.

"Iori's support?"

"No, I....."

Then, a big voice from the music hall's entrance blocks Kanna who is trying to continue.

"Oh~, hello~, Kouhai-kun!"

Misaki is shaking his hands from the top of the stairs. There is also figure of Mitaka Jin who is her husband next to. In addition, two more. Saori, Iori's older sister, is next to her lover Tatebayashi Soichiro.

"Eh, Jin-san, you come here?"

It seems that Sorata did not know, he is completely surprised. Because Jin attends Osaka's Arts university, of course, he should be in Osaka.

"Because the former student council president really wants to show off his first bachelors with Hauhau. I'm reluctantly back."

"No one said such a thing"

"T-that's right, Mitaka. When did we said that?"

Soichiro and Saori protest in a row.

"You two will fight me"

"Well!"

Saori 's face turns red by Jin's light words.

"Let's join in, let's find some seats"

Jin gets through the entrance quickly. Soichiro and Saori continues behind with some excuse words repeated.

"Hora hora, Kouhai-kun and no-pan come!"

"Oh, I"

The word "return home" has withdrawn in the back of ther throat with the arm grasped by Misaki.

In the back of the hall, about two hundred seats are set for public use.

A tense sense floats.

They find a whole row and sit down in the order of Jin, Misaki, Saori, Souichiro, Sorata, Kanna.

About seventy percent of the seats is used. People are coming one after another, so it seems to be full before the competition starts.

"By the way, Iori seems to have declared an outrageous thing"

Sorata who sits next to speaks to her.

"No way?"

Saori reacts. She comes in front of them and turns her face toward Kurota and Kanna.

"He seems to told that at the school's broadcasting, if he win the first prize he will confess again with Kanna-san"

It is Sorata who explains.

"Wow, that baka ... I am sorry, Iori bothered you"

Saori has a serious expression on her face.

"No that, it was for a while, but it's okay now"

"Really, sorry"

Saori apologizes again after putting her hands on her face.

"No, it's okay"

Kanna herself does not understand well what is ok. However, in this case, she has no choice but to answer like that.

- The competition will start soon. Please find the seat if you are standing

Blocked by the announcement, the conversation is stopped.

She feels a little relieved. She doesn't want to pull the topic of school broadcasting any more.

Quietly waiting for the start ... about five minutes ... Finally, the introduction of the first performer announced. A girl wearing a gorgeous dress comes out on the stage while making dry footsteps.

She begins playing the piano while attracting attention of audiences and

judges.

Play all three songs.

As expected, the level is high as it is the final selection. It is clearly different in terms of expressive power from the dimension "can play piano". Each one had a bright performance.

From Kanna's amateur perspective, everyone seems to be professional.

Another one finishes the performance. Each time, clapping happens at the hall. Its size varies from one performer to another, and it appears to be a cruel difference. She's sure they should understand the meaning most. Indeed, that world of ability.

Iori appears as the ninth person.

The moment his name is called, the hall gets a little rough. When Iori wearing a tailed coat appears from the sleeve, the noise becomes bigger. It is not her imagination.

Iori is famous for two reasons. One thing is that he is Saori's younger who is sitting in the same row as Kanna now. Another thing is that he broke a bone two years ago and has disappeared from the front stage of the competition until today.

It is the reunion for the first time in two years for the regulars of the competition.

It cannot be helped to look towards the resurrection stage. At the same time, Kanna feels like there are several strict eyes at the venue that it is not that sweet.

Without being disturbed by those people consciousness, Iori walks to the piano without swaying his side. Adjust the height of the chair. He stretches out and sat down.

Then he exhales one.

It seems that his mind preparation completed just by that alone, and Iori starts to play the piano as he gets his hands on the keyboard. She is not yet ready for her heart. She is upset by the sound of the piano played by Iori.

A smooth and delicate melody. Fingers run smoothly on the keyboard. It's kind, but it's like a melody where innocence is left.

The wavy feelings calm down.

Consciousness is taken away.

She feels a certain intention to the song. That is Iori's will.

It is Iori's expressions while playing the piano that attracts Kanna most.

"..."

Laughing. He seems happy and laughing.

In contrast, the second song is a powerful song, opposing to the first one. Violent as a storm. He does it emotionally. The momentum turns into sound and pours down the whole body.

When the performance is finished, Iori takes a deep breath as if to arrange breathing.

Next and last. The hall is watching like burning.

To satisfy that expectation, enjoyable songs are played from Iori's hands.

Flying, bouncing, feeling like exciting meets the hall. It is because Iori is enjoying this situation, Kanna thinks.

Truly, Iori is playing the piano in a pleasant way

Finally, Iori has no big mistakes and finishes playing the last song. Lift the hands fromt the keyboard at the end with recoil. In a pose like manipulating a doll with threads, Iori stops.

Silence through the hall.

But at the next moment strong emotions explode and the crackling applause envelops the entire music hall.

"Bravo ~! Iorin!"

Misaki lost her voice from other audiences.

The standing Iori bows to the audience. He raises his face and do a mischievous pose towards Kanna and others.

While in applause, Iori disappears into sleeves with a gaudy gait.

Still, applause still does not stop.

"Applause like this, I never got it"

Saori says.

"Himemiya' seems to have graduated, isn't it?"

Sorata voices to no one.

No one says 'un' or 'yes it is' but Sorata's word is affirmed to the applause.

In such an enthusiasm, Kanna is fighting alone with the emotions that in the back her nose. She is about to crying.

It is four o'clock in the afternoon after all the performers finished playing.

Taking the time of discussion about thirty minutes, the winner's announcement is made immediately on the stage.

She thought that Iori can take the prize by the size of applause.

Kanna is waiting while expecting Iori's name to be called.

"- This concludes the announcement of the winner"

So, before Iori's name is called, she is not sure why a man with a microphone ends up so.

Iori has not come out of the waiting room even after more than 30 minutes passed after the award ceremony was over.

The audience have already gone. Contestants also have taken off their dresses and most of them have gone out.

Kanna is waiting for Iori in the lobby of the music hall with Sorata and others. Without conversation, they are settling down on a long chair.

"I'm coming in."

Since she heard that Iori was the only one remaining, Kanna opens the door with a voice.

At the back of the room, he is truly caught between the wall and the locker, Iori is sitting there holding his knees.

"People in operation are in trouble because the can't clean up"

"..."

Iori's like a stunted kid, hard lump a point on the floor with a finger

"Here, change your clothes soon"

"No"

"Don't say something like a child"

"..."

"What is that attitude, are you so sorry?"

"Wrong"

"Well then, what?"

"I wanted to win a prize ..."

Iori falls further. He is burying his face in his knees.

"Do you want to go out with me that much?"

"... That is"

Haa, Iori gives out a deep sigh.

"But that's not all."

"Then, what is it?"

"I wanted to win a prize ..."

"So, why?"

"I wanted to win the prize and prove it properly"

"..."

Iori, who raises his face, diverts his gaze to the ceiling.

"I've been worrying about you, so I really wanted to do it."

"... What ... that?"

Kanna is terribly shaken when she is told that she was the reason.

"Even though I do not care at all about broken bones You still think that it is your fault... "

"There is nothing like that ... That's right."

"So, I wanted you to understand that I am okay!"

He is complaining with the face which seems to start crying at any moment.

"Do you want to say it's for me?"

"Yes~"

"Then, what?"

"After all, I mean, that ... I wanted you to smile with my music!"

"What...that"

Embarrassed by the innocent bumping feelings, Kanna replies meaninglessly.

"Oh, shit, I do not know what to say anymore!"

Iori crumples his head like a limit of patience. Shaggy's head becomes more and more stormy.

"... ... What do you think about me?"

"Haa?"

"There is no reason to think so much"

"Wow, you, it's really troublesome"

"It was bad"

"I haven't said anything wrong"

As if weirdly, Iori sharpens his mouth. He throws his legs in front and it is kind of relaxing mood.

"Even if I didn't win the prize, it got through properly."

"....."

"That applause, have not you heard?"

"I was determined to have heard it, it's my first time, that's it."

"If"

"But what I want to know is what you thought"

Iori's eye catches Kanna again. When she remembers the performance, she feels that her body gets hotter. Then, her mouth moves freely.

"..... I thought that it will be nice to go out with you"

Coughing with a fading voice.

"Eh?"

Iori has a stupid face.

"What was that?"

"I will not say it again"

Somehow divert the gaze and cheat embarrassment.

"... ... Wait, really?"

Still doesn't believe it. Iori thinks,

"You don't have a fever, do you?"

He asks with a serious look.

"What? You don't like it?"

Kanna desperately fights back and glares at Iori.

"Because, you, dislike me, do you?"

"I haven't said that"

"No, I guess you have said one million times to now?"

"About a hundred times"

"Is it enough?"

"... If you don't like it. That's fine. Goodbye"

She turns around and turns her back to Iori. It is the door that is in the front. To be honest, she wants to escape from here as soon as possible with the limit of embarrassment.

"Well~, wait~! It is a lie! Please go out with me! Thank you~!"

Iori is prostrate without any pride.

"Please please ~! I am sorry ~!"

"Haa ... that kind of embarrassment, please stop it."

"Yes, I will."

Now stand up.

"So, please!"

"I now. I will go out with you"

"I did it!"

Iori jumps and explodes joy. Until then, she can hardly believe that he was sitting between the wall and the locker. He has changed completely

"I'm waiting outside, so change your clothes quickly"

Kanna leaves the waiting room with her red face down.

Close the door behind while dropping the line of sight.

"..."

She slowly takes a deep breath and gently raises her face. At that moment, Kanna's body stiffens.

"Ah..."

Before the waiting room, there are figures of Sorata, Misaki, Jin, Saori, Souichiro

"It's okay, I only heard about half of it, u, un."

Saori desperately follows it in a panicked state.

"T-That, I feel like I heard the important part, but we do not tell anyone, so yeah, that's fine."

"Saori, you're falling"

Souichiro holds her face.

"Well, leave the rest to young people"

Misaki says such a thing, putting her hands on her mouth at first glance.

"Yes, I do not want to disturb"

Early, Jin walks towards the exit.

"Eh, that Kanna-san, please have my best regards"

One word of Sorata, Misaki, Saori, Souichiro also begin to withdraw pleasantly.

She can't chase after making excuses. She is panicked.

There is no choice, Kanna keeps recalling a cramped feeling in front of the waiting room.

"You have not finished changing clothes yet?"

The accumulated dissatisfaction hits the indoor Iori.

"What? What is it!? Why are you mad!?"

About five minutes later, along with Iori who came out of the waiting room,

Kanna left the music hall. Indeed, Sorata and others seemed to have returned home earlier, and no one was around.

Kanna walks with Iori on their way home and it is approaching the evening.

"....."

"....."

Approximately five minutes have passed since they left the university gate, but there is no conversation between them.

"..... That's it"

Iori is afraid to call out.

"What?"

"You don't talk?"

"Why?"

"Well, two of us have started going out, so there are various things, right?"

"What do you mean?"

"There are various ..."

Iori's is getting smaller.

"..."

"..."

Again, silence wraps the two.

But this time it doesn't last so long.

"Well, Ok, can I call you by name?"

"Do as you like"

"Kanna...san"

She is a little shocked, but she is disappointed for being given a honorific name.

"Awkward"

"Have you noticed that your remarks are crushing my heart?"

"I have noticed it"

"You know what I mean! Personality is bad, really So, hand, can we or not"

What on earth is it? She can't believe what she just heard.

"Disgust"

Briefly convey intent.

"Why!?"

Iori is exaggeratedly surprised.

"Once I allow, you will be in touch and you will touch other places"

"What do you think I am?"

Leaning forward, Iori is able to looked her face.

"My boyfriend"

"O-Oh"

It seems not a bad name, Iori woke up.

"Face, red?"

As he points out, she returns her consciousness. Her face is hot. Continue the words to forget.

"Because, I, sometimes say the white thing is black"

"Yes?"

"Even if it is good, I say it's no good"

"That is, that not your boyfriend, I am your girlfriend!?"

Iori opens his eyes to amazement.

"No, it's not."

Kanna replies with a sigh.

"Good ~ Ah~, surprised"

"The story before that"

"What was that?"

"You said you want my hand, remember with responsibility"

"Oh, that's right ... is it okay?"

"Disgust"

Kanna turns away and replies the same as before.

A little late, her right hand is wrapped in warmth. Iori caught her hand.

"Large"

"Hmm?"

"Yours"

"Something, words, get excited"

"Because it's the story of your hand"

"Well, I know, will not you curse me?"

Iori is completely quiet. On the stage of the competition, he was playing the piano so dignified She cannot think it is the same person.

"I will tell you this, though"

"Anything please"

"I am, really troublesome"

"I already know really well"

"I also think I'm vindictive"

"Well, I do understand that as well"

"If you do suspicious actions, I might see your mobile phone"

"I will delete my treasure images later cryingly"

"If you change your mind and like other girls, I might stab you"

"Well, why not?"

Iori's face is attracted.

"I'm half joking."

"Means half serious!"

"So if you quit, you can do it now."

"I will never quit"

Iori answers immediately. He answers before Kanna finishes talking.

"Yes"

"But, that can I ask you one?"

"No"

"I haven't heard about what you think of me yet"

"That is decided so"

A short staircase appears in front of her. A staircase that has only about five steps.

Releasing Iori's hand, Kanna runs away earlier. And, looking back at that figure,

"I hate you"

And, tell him with her best smile.



Chapter 3: In the middle of the dream

Part 1

"Sorata-senpai, please tell me what a kiss is!"

The last Saturday of November when the cold begins to become tough.

Iori, who came to work, approaches Sorata with serious expression.

He lives in an old house. After graduating from Suiko, Sorata and Ryuunosuke rented a house so they can use it as development space. One room on the first floor, three rooms on the second floor, a 4LDK house. They used the sliding door separating the living room from the development room on the first floor.

There are four desks. Two in the back for Sorata and Ryuunosuke, one in front is the sound desk for Iori. The remaining one is a reserve when they need help for graphic staff.

There is a small table at the center of the room and there are chairs around it so they can have a meeting at any time. Iori punches his hand on the table and talks to Sorata who is turning around.

"Senpai, are you listening !?"

Snort roughly, Iori comes closer to his face.

"Wait, what did you say?"

Raise his sight from the proposal of 'Rhythm Battlers 2' that is being confirmed.

"Please teach me how to kiss!"

Iori's face, which is almost sitting on the table, is already in front of Sorata. A few centimeters away, the distance that even can be a kiss.

Naturally, there is no hobby of kissing a man, so Sorata backs off from the

chair.

"Kiss, you're in a hurry"

"It's not a hurry, I have been thinking for about a month now."

"Well, that's why the music speed has been going down lately"

The songs Iori makes depends largely on Iori's mental state. It has been like that since forever.

"Well, that's good... Innocence, but that means there's nothing you can teach me about kissing. "

There are some mistakes about it

Planning to cut off the story, Sorata puts his eyes on the proposal at hand. Company establishment schedules next spring. It's important to keep on with that first project.

With advices from Totsuka and Fujisawa Kazuki who helped them a lot in 'Game Camp', they decided to aim the first project as a title that is good enough for selling rate.

He wanted to launch a new title independently. He thought that it would be possible to launch it with the profit made from the game released in 'Game Camp'.

But, if he makes one mistake, it's over. Development fee to make the next one will be gone, the company will go bankrupt easily.

In the case of a small game company right after the establishment, it is not realistic to carry everything from development to sales. Besides development, advertisement and circulation are also required.

So, in that case, to have a major publisher present a plan and give out the development fee, and take part in advertising and selling part is good. For Sorata and other developers, they can concentrate on game development.

Their relationship with Totsuka has become closer,

"If you make a sequel to Rhythm Battlers, I can budget your company."

It is said that. Now they are talking about that direction.

"Sorata-senpai, are you listening?"

While reading the description page of the battle system, Sorata sees Iori again. Before noticing, he is sitting in his seat and spinning around Sorata.

"We're going out to celebrate our four months dating now."

The relationship between Iori and Kanna started in August. Sorata remembers well as it was on the day of the All Japan Competition.

"Don't you think it's soon to kiss if you come for four months?"

"Is that so? I don't know if there's a proper time for that"

He puts the proposal on the desk, and Sorata decides to focus on Iori's consultation. There is no guarantee that it can be solved, but he doesn't intend to stop talking to Iori

"How about Sorata-senpai? When and where did you kiss Shiina-senpai?"

"Etto~, I"

That is third-year in high school The last day of the farewell retreat. When he answered the confession from Mashiro at the church in Hokkaido If he answered Iori's question correctly, it means that it is just after confirming his feelings and beginning to going out

"..."

It's not good, but he can't tell the truth.

"Senpai?"

"Oh, well, I don't remember it well"

"Really Sorata-senpai. When you climb the adult's stairs, you forgot about kisses ~"

The truth is totally different, but let's leave it as it seems cheated. He doesn't want to tell people much about that moment. That's such an important memory.

"I want Sorata-senpai, a love master to tell me how should I kiss."

"Who is a love master?"

That is the proper title for Jin who was named as the king of overnight stay in the past. Now he has a cute bride

"I won't be able to help you"

"Eh~! Jiya, Dragon-senpai, please!"

Talk spreads to Ryuunosuke who is working silently.

"Do not shake that stupid story to me"

Ryuunosuke keeps his back. Source code is displays on two screens. A new source is written out one after another.

"But, Dragon-senpai seems to have been kissed many times from Rita-san?

"I don't remember how many"

An unpleasant sound rises in Ryuunosuke's voice.

"As far as I know, five times"

Twice while studying at Suiko. Three times since they entered university. She always robber his lips. Every time Ryuunosuke fainted, so Sorata was afraid that he would memorize the number even he didn't like it.

"Please tell me how to have a kiss girls ~"

Iori clings to Ryuunosuke's feet.

"Get out! Kanda, do something!"

"You don't say"

Again, it is wrong to ask Sorata for advice on this kind of thing. First of all, he does not think there is a winning strategy for kissing. He feels that it's more obvious when the opponent is Kanna.

"How about asking Kanna-san obediently?"

In Iori's case, it seems that it is the best. Or, he just comes up with only that idea.

"Once approached, it was totally thrown away!"

"Really..."

Truly Iori. It is a wonderful challenge spirit.

"On top of that, she bumped my head and looked down at me, said 'disgusting'!?"

Kanna's reaction is able to be imaged in his head even though he did not actually see it. Sorata was also seen with those eyes many times. That is pretty destructive.

"What are you doing now?"

Whining, Iori lie down on the carpet on the floor.

"Well, there are things in order, so how far are you going with Kanna-san?"

"I don't even understand it myself!"

Iori definitely tells them.

"Have you hold hands?"

"Oh, that's pretty good, she allowed me when I asked on that competition day"

"Is it so?"

It is a little surprising. It is a selfish image, but Kanna has made some fastidious impressions about that part

"After that, if there's no one around we would hold hands"

Is it because of his imagination that it sounds like they're getting along very well?

"If I were you, it'll be my pleasure"

"That's true!"

Iori flushes his upper body.

"Why don't you press closer, once again?"

Before they went out, Iori had said that he wanted to cool Kanna's discreet breasts, say things are good on the thighs, or to touch the chest. There won't be any trace marks now.

"If I can do that, I don't need this consultation!"

"Is that so?"

"Cause if I get rejected again, I'll be in shock?"

"Is that so?"

Considering what happened when it was no good for sure, he can't step on a roundabout. He understands that he has more courage in the first round.

"Then shouldn't I kiss her?"

"That's right."

"Mouth to mouth?"

"I know"

"Should I stop breathing?"

The story begins to shift.

"It depends on length?"

"Length! How many seconds should I have !?"

"I don't know it even if you ask me"

"Because you are an experienced person, please teach me not to be ruined"

Before rolling on the floor Iori reaches out to Sorata's legs and catches on the edge.

"It depends on the atmosphere at that time"

"You know I can't read the air, you know Sorata-senpai!"

Apparently, there seems to be awareness. He doesn't feel like improving

After that, even after a while saying "Please tell me", Iori is hugging Sorata's legs, but after a while he was tired of doing it, laying on the carpet. Then,

"Oh, I want to kiss, I want to kiss ~"

He keeps saying that.

"Kanda, noisy, shut him down"

Ryuunosuke has no mercy as usual.

"Because I think it is impossible, be patient"

Ryuunosuke who turns around over his shoulder has a blatant sigh.

"Oh, that's right, Sorata-senpai"

Swelling and Iori gets up.



"There is no more advice from me"

"No, it isn't... ... Sometimes an idol will start the ball at a professional baseball game right?"

"Oh, I don't know"

What on earth is this story?

"The 'no-ban's starting ball formula' on the headline of the sports newspaper of the next day will look like a 'no-pan starting ball formula'!"

Iori makes his eyes shine like a child in front of his favorite snack.

"That's right."

Anyway, he agrees.

"And I think recently"

"Are you still there?"

"If badminton players name Tetsuki and Tamaki pair up for double, what's going on? 'Kin X Tama' pair? Even if you swap back and forth, 'Tama x Kin' pair! "

"Perhaps, in anticipation of that, Tetsuki and Tamaki will never pair, so do not worry."

"I'm relieved to hear that"

Indeed, Iori is breathing quietly.

"Good"

"Ah, there is one more thing"

"What?"

Because he thinks it will be a bad idea, Sorata reaches out to the proposal on the desk. Look down on the description about cooperative play which is planned to be added in "2".

"Also ask Dragon-senpai!"

"..."

Ryuunosuke has no reply. He is typing as usual.

"When I graduate from Suiko, I can live here, isn't it?"

"..."

Sorata raises his face from the proposal silently.

"..."

Ryuunosuke's hands are also stopping completely.

"A company that will be established from April, please also put me in?"

Ryuunosuke who stopped working turns the chair and turns around. His eyes meet with Sorata's. He could understand that eyes talking, without confirmation.

So, Sorata said,

"Of course, we will welcome you"

He answers clearly.

"There is no reason to oppose"

It is Ryuunosuke who says so.

"Haa ~, it was nice ~ I was wondering what to do if you reject ~"

Whether it is relieved expression, Iori rolls over the carpet. He strokes his leg

against the chair's leg and said "Itetsu".

"What are you doing ...?"

He is surprised. When he tries to return the proposal to the desk, the mobile rings.

When looking at the name displayed on the display, Sorata's face froze for a moment.

A familiar name. The person who was in the topic earlier. But, rarely get a phone call.

On the screen it's 'Hase Kanna'.

"Yes, it is Kanda"

While thinking into suspicion, I answer the phone.

"It is Hase ..."

Somewhere Kanna's voice is crisp.

"Yeah What's wrong?"

"That baka, does he come there today?"

"Iori?"

"Yes"

"He's here, lying down on the carpet and reading a manga magazine."

That manga magazine serialized by Mashiro is open. Incidentally, what Sorata is buying every month, Iori reads it here as well.

"Oh, I reach for sweets now."

Iori is carrying a rice cracker on the table to his mouth.

"I don't have to hear more information about him"

"So, why do you call me?"

Sorata has noticed that it would not be necessary. If she has business with Iori, she can contact Iori from the beginning. They are dating. She knows his mobile number. There is no need to hold back.

"No, there's nothing"

Sure enough, Kanna's reply was NO.

"Yeah, is that it?"

What is Kanna contacting him for? She hasn't said why.

"Can you ask him if he will eat at Sakurasou or Sorata-senpai's house?"

"Good, but ... you should ask directly, don't you?"

Ask Kanna to explore her true intention.

"I will wait to listen from Sorata-senpai"

From that reply, he feels a tense atmosphere. He doesn't know the reason, but it seems that she has some problems against Iori. When in bad mood, she has a roundabout attitude.

"Wait a moment"

Sorata asks Iori after telling her to wait.

"Iori, Kanna-san calls Today's dinner, where to eat"

"I am hungry, I will eat here, then I will return."

"How about going home and eating there today?"

He wonder if Kanna wants it. Otherwise, she does not bother to make a

phone call.

"Eh~, here's fine, a delicious meal made by Sorata-senpai"

Iori is innocent to the last. He doesn't notice Sorata's concern.

"No, because Iori I think you better think a little why Kanna-san calls me. "

"Today, it's Saturday, so I'm going to stay overnight"

Carefree Iori says that.

Unavoidably, Sorata decides to deliver disappointing results to Kanna.

"Eh, Kanna-san?"

"Everything was heard"

"I see....."

"Please tell him that my food is worse than Sorata-senpai's"

"Ah, Kanna-san!"

Panicked. But, there's a sound, the sound of hung up.

"Iori"

Talking while returning the mobile phone to the desk.

"What is it?"

"Have you fight with Kanna-san?"

"So, there will be no kisses. Haven't I said that story before?"

"That's right ..."

While replying ambiguously, Sorata remembers a bit about Suiko time. He

did not get along well with Mashiro at first There was a time when Mashiro was making annoyed attitude.

"..."

Sorata stands up and heads for the kitchen to prepare dinner.

"In short, there is 'nothing' "

While peeling the onions, those words naturally come out.

Part 2

The third winter in high school life. The last December spent in Suiko.

When the lesson is over, Kanna comes to shopping alone.

Actually she was planning to come with Iori, but when she spoke to him,

"Oh, I will go straight to Sorata-senpai's house so I think I will return home after eating meal."

She was told so before invitation.

"Here, Kanna-chan. The yellowtail's fillet"

"Thank you"

Receive a plastic bag in exchange for money from the fish shop owner.

"Oh, is it only a lid?"

It is a beautiful person who looked into Kanna's hand from the side with her voice, blue eyes and blond hair. Rita Aisnworth is an international student from the UK.

"Welcome, Rita-chan is beautiful today, isn't it?"

"Heh, Thank you very much"

She receives the uncle's greetings with a shining smile. While thinking about it, she returns her eyes to Kanna.

"Are you doing a diet too?"

"Because Chihiro-sensei is going to eat outside today"

"Still, Kanna and Yuuko and Iori you don't have enough, right?"

"That baka is also eating out today with Sorata-senpai"

She was going to suppress it, but it was a stingy tone as she could understand herself. Rita, who is sensitively, cannot overlook Kanna's frustration.

"I see"

Rita smiles with medicine in the back of her throat, just as if she has seen everything.

"It's not a big deal"

This is the same as doing excuses.

"To say that there are only Kanna and Yuuko tonight, isn't it?"

"That's right"

"Would you like to come to my place? Because I met Misaki at the university earlier and we're supposed to eat a meal together."

"I have to ask Kanda-san"

Because Yuuko is doing cleaning duty, she is a little late on her way back.

As knew Kanna's hesitation, Rita brings the phone to her ear.

She doesn't need to listen to know the other side. It's Yuuko.

"Yuuko agrees too"

Rita who finished the phone turns out with a full smile. She can't go against this.

"Well then shall we go?"

"Yes..."

She can't refuse so much so Kanna has no choice but to reply so.

Rita's place is a seven-floor apartment located about five minutes to walk from Sakurasou. It should have been 10 years since the construction, but the appearance and interior are kept in a beautiful state.

Rita is living in the fifth floor.

"Please, go ahead"

"Excuse me"

Take off her shoes at the nice scented entrance, and go to the living room. Three cats are idle and playing.

2LDK layout.

"Please sit"

As she says, Kanna sits down on the sofa.

Simple design furniture is lined up in an organized room where bright light is inserted from a large window. On the wall, three pieces of postcard size pictures are decorated.

"Oh, that? It's what Mashiro drew for killing time."

While making tea in the back of the face-to-face kitchen, Rita tells.

Three drawings of cats. Three cats are still fashionable at the corner of the living room. Three cats, Mizuho, Tsubame, and Sakura, taken from Sorata when graduating from Suiko.

"..."

As the picture impression, words other than good are not coming out. Pictures that feel real like the real thing. Because she drew this in her free time, Mashiro's talent in painting is not normal as well.

"Here you go"

"Oh, sorry"

As she sees the tea, she notices that she should have helped.

"Sorry, Kanna is a guest"

"Sorry....."

Kanna repeats the same words without knowing how to reply. Rita's glitter smile aims at her somehow and she feels nervous.

While drinking tea, she looks around the interior. In front of the sofa, there is a 40-inch TV. There is game console besides it. There is also a package of "Rhythm Battlers".

"How about play game?"

When Rita lived in Sakurasou, sometimes Kanna played that game Sorata's room. But she did not expect to play until she bought it herself.

"Oh, that, it's Mashiro's."

"Eh?"

That is surprising, so surprise cries out unexpectedly.

"Sometimes, after finishing the manuscript for manga, she played it, perhaps Mashiro is cheering for Sorata"

"..."

What should she say in times like this?

She can't find the correct answer, Kanna takes a little long to think and ask for Mashiro.

"Shiina-senpai, is she working in the room?"

Two doors line up the living room's wall. At each door, the nameplates of

Mashiro and Rita, which they used when they lived in Sakurasou, are hung.

"Oh, I don't know"

"What?"

"Mashiro, she rented a room for work from three months ago separately"

"Eh? Did she go alone from then?"

"Yes, but it's just above here"

Rita points to the ceiling like a mischief.

"There is a 1LDK up there, she calls her two assistants too"

"Assistant?"

That's new, too. She thought that she was drawing alone. She didn't think that there's someone can catch up with Mashiro who is a genius. No matter how many the picture goes up, Mashiro will make a difference in the opponent. In that case, won't it be possible to keep the quality of the manga constantly?

"Well, assistant is almost like a nickname for convenience."

"What do you mean?"

"Both of Mashiro's assistants are children with mangaka dream, it seems normal to have experience as an assistant under a pro mangaka. So it's seems there are a lot of similarity with saying "Are you recruiting assistants at Shiina Mashiro-san?..... Ayano-san is in charge of editing consulted with Mashiro, but it is a challenge. "

In short, there seems to be a lot of people who want to work under Mashiro, and it seems that they took part of it.

"But it seems that Shiina-senpai did well"

"Mashiro, well, I think that there was something changed in her mind."

A slight puzzle is mixed in Rita's eyes who smile warmly. So, Kanna soon understands what the "change of mind" came from. Every day she spent in Suiko. People she met there. Although they were once bond, there are some who chose farewell at the end The time now is in the place that has continued since that time. It's a long time since then.

The door ring sounds so as to fill the silence in the room.

Misaki and Yuuko comes with ingredients in both hands.

"I've come ... Rita-san!"

Yuuko puts the ingredients on the table.

"Yes, you have a hard time. So, how was the long way?"

"She can't come because of the part-time job today"

It is Misaki who said that.

"It is disappointing, isn't it?"

"That~, is Mashiro-san is still working~?"

Yuuko opens Mashiro's bedroom door. She is looking into a room where no one was there.

"I think that she will be back in an hour."

"Well then~, then, until then, it's a game competition~! The rule is the loser announce the names of people she likes!"

About an hour after the start of the game competition, the entrance opens silently, and Mashiro comes back. She just came down from the upper floor, so the impression that she came back is small

"Oh, Mashiro-san, welcome back!"

"I'm home"

When Mashiro comes into the living room, three cats flock to her feet all at once. She is caught by the cats, moves to the side of the kitchen and pours cat food in their dishes. Crazy cats chew a cuckoo. Mashiro gently strokes their back one by one.

"Mashiro, have you finished your work yet?"

"Not yet"

If so, why did Mashiro come back to the room? The answer is told quickly from the mouth of Mashiro himself.

"Give them some food then I will go back"

Apparently, the cats' duty is Mashiro's role. And she seems to do it properly. When she knew about Mashiro's life in Sakurasou, Kanna could hardly believe that fact.

"Yeah, that's right"

Misaki gives a sorry voice. Her eyes are looking at the pot prepared on the dining table.

"You eat first"

Mashiro stands up and goes out of the living room to return to work.

"Oh, Mashiro-san, wait!"

Yuuko immediately follows.

"What is it?"

"Please let me see sensei's workplace!"

"Special"

"I did it~! Hura~! Go quickly, Mashiro-san!"

Pushing Mashiro's back, Yuuko goes out.

Will she distract her work ...? She doesn't have time to point out.

"Mashiro also said that, shall we start ahead?"

"I, will until Senior Shiina's work is over ..."

She was going to wait She was going to continue, but screaming hungry on the way, Kanna could not tell the last thing.

"Wait?"

Rita looks into Kanna's face despairingly.

"Nothing....."

"Humans, honesty is the best, no-pan!"

She thinks that it is true. She thinks, being obedient is difficult for Kanna than anything else.

After that, three people, Kanna, Misaki, Rita, surrounds the pot which makes a loud noise on the dining table.

Yuuko has not returned from Mashiro's workplace yet.

"Kanda-san, I hope you don't bother her... but ..."

She thinks it would be impossible. Yuuko is very annoying. She's annoying, but Mashiro does not think she is a nuisance. Such a situation could be easily imagined.

"Concerns about Yuuko are nice How about Kanna?"

"How about ...?"

"Of course, is it about Iori"

"Nothing, it's normal"

"But when we met at a shopping street, didn't you look like a new wife who could not conceal her frustration at her husband who is late?"

"I-I didn't have that kind of face"

Too precise indication, the voice turns inside out.

"Is that my mistake?"

"Yeah. W-what kind of face is that?"

She argues as she is sulky,

"That's exactly that kind of face, no-pan!"

She is touched by Misaki.

When she checks the black screen of Tv instead of a mirror, she is like a self-defended person there. Certainly "exactly that kind of face" is doing. With this, she cannot deny the arguments of Rita and Misaki.

"... If so, is it bad?"

She gives up to cheat and mutters out as if to refresh.

"It's about a month, after school every day, I want to tell him don't go to Sorata-senpai's place, but I can't say that ... I don't know ..."

Decisive words are shameful and does not become a voice.

" I want you to be a bit more concerned to me', it's what Kanna wants to say."

Being pointed out exactly, her face dyes red in a moment.

Can Rita read Kanna's heart?

"Well, it is wrong!"

Reflectively deny. But in that case it is wrong.

"Well then, 'I want you to know more about me', no pan!"

What Misaki says is correct so.

"Oh, I see. Kanna seems to have a strong desire for monopoly."

If she says so straight, there is no more to deny.

"Is it bad?"

Her voice is completely muted. She even doesn't feel that she will repair it anymore.

"Cute, no-pan!"

Misaki hugs from beside.

"Kiya!"

It is a sudden thing, so the scream comes out. Screaming like a girl. It also amplifies embarrassment.

"Something, I can't accept it"

Words come out, as an excuse.

"At first it is, that Even though I liked him I feel I like him more now "

"Fuufuu"

Misaki and Rita are listening intently.

"I feel that relation is not progressing too much"

"Kanna is uneasy, isn't it?"

"Well, how long do you think it's been for the first four months?"

"Is that the story of the love progress?"

To confirm Rita, Kanna nods downward. Not very much, but she can't raise her face. Her ears were red.

"For example, I wondered how long should it be waited for the first kiss..."

"In my case, I haven't been associating with Ryuunosuke, but I have already experienced kiss?"

Truly a British beauty. The way of thinking about kiss seems to be different from Kanna. It isn't too helpful.

"How about Misaki?"

Rita turns the question to Misaki.

"After that kiss a week, I issued the marriage notification!"

This is different from here in various ways.

Kanna notices now that she has completely mistaken the people she was listening to.

"In other words, Kanna wants to kiss Iori"

"I-It's wrong!"

"No wonder!"

Misaki denies it without hesitation.

"That ... It's not about I want to do it or not, but since it's been four months for our first relationship, I'm just wondering how it's going to be. "

"Iori is talking about chest isn't he~?"

"No, he talked about it once but ..."

"But?"

The two's suspicions overlap.

"Because it was sudden, I pushed him away unexpectedly There's nothing happened more since then"

It's not like she hates it. But she was just surprised, really. It was nothing but a date back. Before going to bed, they were casually talking about dining at Sakuraso, and she was thinking about going to bed soon so that she stood up first. She was not able to prepare her heart.

"Acha~"

Misaki makes a sorry voice.

"Kanna, that is no good"

Mr. Misaki nods to agree with Rita's opinion.

"I think when memory about that time faded away, I will have enough courage to approach Iori again"

"That's right ~"

"... I understand that, but..."

"So, here we have no choice but to take away Iorin's lips from the bare-bones"

Misaki sticks to the feet of crab and crab.

"I can't do it absolutely!"

"No, no-pan can do it!"

Misaki is pushing her a lot. Still, Kanna,

"It is impossible"

She murmurs.

"Why?"

"That is....."

"That is?"

Rita and Misaki are leaning forward.

"Even if I stand upright, I will not reach Iori"

She explains with small voice.

With the height difference with tall Iori, even if she tries her best, ten centimeters is not enough.

Rita and Misaki are looking at each other with confusion. It is a very unusual expression for two who rotated fast.

However, reasons seem to have caught up after a second, they laugh out loud.

"Wow, it is awful to laugh"

Strengthening and staring at Misaki and Rita.

"No problem, no-pan! I will not reach Jin's lips even with a toe, but I can get on his neck!"

"T-that can't be done!"

She thinks that it is a very pretty act if she is active and bright like Misaki. However, if Kanna is doing such a thing, Iori seems to be said 'What, are you trying to strangle me?'

"Well, you should do it when Iori is sitting"

It is Rita who took a plausible opinion.

"That is the case"

Kanna mutters.

Rita and Misaki tilts their heads as they seem to be curious about her reaction. But, immediately they said "Oh" together. It seems they got something.

"Indeed, is that something like that?"

"No-pan is a maiden!"

"What, is that?"

The warm eyes of the two are very uncomfortable. Indeed, this time she does not think they are not aware of the true feelings.....

"It's ideal for Kanna's first kiss to become toetip"

"Wow ..."

She doubts that if they can really read her mind when coming here. She can't say "no," no longer, and there is no choice but to make a red face.

"In that situation, it should be near school!"

"It's good! Isn't it !?"

Something is rising for some reason.

"Soon, near Sakurasou, stop suddenly!"

"Kanna will act like something happen, 'What's wrong?'"

" He will look back, and you say 'No, that, that, don't say it properly, no-pan will go closer to Iorin!"

"While saying 'It can't be help anymore', Kanna will kiss, won't you?"

"Well, I haven't thought about that!"

If she doesn't stop it, they are likely to go to an outrageous place.

"Jiya, what are you thinking?"

Rita comes up with a nasty counter.

"I'm not saying it, absolutely"

She pretends like being normal and replies.

"To say nothing, Kanna means that you have a detailed ideal?"

She notices that she dug a tomb hole and it is already late. It's all too late.

"I hope it will come true, your ideal"

"I will support you!"

"T-this story is over!"

In this way, the long night of girls only continued.

Part 3

Nanami is walking alone in the university which has completely changed into the scenery of winter in the place as there's only one month left to leave this year. The student's appearance is sparse around this time when the lecture of the afternoon has just started.

On the way to the school canteen, she passes the exhibition lobby. Notices something and stops naturally.

She felt as though the back behind which I knew in the sideways was reflected.

She feels like has seen something familiar with a glance.

Peeking into the interior of the building through the glass automatic door.

As she thought, she found a back of a male student.

It is Sorata.

He stands in front of a picture decorated on the front wall. The painting by Mashiro during class at Suiko. Things that the university side asked for and was donated and now it's still being display.

"..."

She wonders how many times she has seen Sorata's back in this place. She has not count properly, she thinks she has witnessed at least five times by the university's second year.

Every time, Nanami left this place without calling out.

"... Is it okay now?"

Unconsciously such words turn into sounds, Nanami's legs turns into the exhibition lobby. She stands in front of the automatic door and waits for it to

open completely before entering inside.

She comes next to Sorata. He hasn't noticed it yet. Sorata keeps watching that painting.

"It's a beautiful picture, isn't it?"

When she tells him, Sorata looks at Nanami with his eyes wide open. But, immediately turning to the front,

"That's right."

And smiles a little uncomfortable.

"I've been here a few time"

"Huh?"

"I saw Kanda-kun before"

"Oh, is that so?"

Sorata is convinced and has an embarrassing face. He doesn't want anyone to know that he was coming here.

"If you have seen me, I wish you could talk to me"

As he tries to cheat, he adds so.

"I thought I could interrupt you"

"It's much better than the fact that I've been spotted without knowing."

His excuse tells the reason why Sorata is going here.

He is coming to see Mashiro.

"If you want to see her, you could come and see her"

"That's true right"

She does not feel a strong intention in Sorata's voice while affirming it. Her impression is that he just replied.

She thinks that he doesn't want to actively seeing each other. She thinks that he doesn't want to meet Mashiro intently. If they encounter somewhere, that's good enough for him.

Nanami feels that the feeling for Mashiro "I would like to meet" in Sorata is totally different from a strong "I want to see you right now". Emotions in the back of his heart that warms up a little It is not a fiery violence but a very big feeling reminiscent of a quiet water surface.

Perhaps she thinks that people call it love.

Mashiro is still important for Sorata. Even after breaking up, Nanami feels that his feelings towards Mashiro is strong.

Young emotions in Suiko time are steadily growing into calm and deep gentleness.

The act of looking at Mashiro's painting certainly becomes mature. It is not because of his age. Sorata has grown up because of his experience.



She thinks it is good for Sorata to love like that.

She thinks from the bottom of her heart.

Although he was never tied, but she feels confident that he had a really good relationship.

"Aoyama, do you have a lecture this afternoon?"

"Un, it's a bit late but I had lunch with a cafeteria and after that my part-time job"

"Because I will meet with Akasaka with at the school meal, would you like to come with me? I think there is also Rita."

"Well, let's do it"

"Let's go"

Alongside Sorata who starts walking, Nanami leaves the exhibition lobby.

"Sorata, Nanami, here!"

As they entered the school meal, there is a voice from the sunny window seat.

"Here! Here!"

Shaking her hands, Rita calls them.

At this time when afternoon lecture begins, only about 20% of the seats are used. So, they were able to see Rita immediately. Next to that there is an adult Ryuunosuke sitting and quietly biting a tomato.

Sorata and Nanami put the meat udon and deep-fried rice cake udon they ordered on the tray, respectively, and bring it to the table where Rita and Ryuunosuke are waiting. Sorata sits in front of Ryuunosuke and Nanami is in front of Rita.

"Rita-san, I'm sorry I could not go before"

"No, it can't be helped if it's part-time job."

"What are you talking about?"

While sipping udon, Sorata asks.

"I called Misaki and Kanna the other day and ate hot pot with our place."

"And I couldn't go"

"Aa, yes, that's what Yuuko said when she came to play yesterday"

Nanami is softly looking at Sorata who is seasoning his udon. It was Rita's room. In other words, it is also Mashiro's room. Naturally, Sorata knows about that. However, Sorata's complexion did not change.

"What?"

Perhaps because she is staring too closely, Sorata turns his face.

"Nothing"

Saying, Nanami eats a fried-rice cake. Sorata doesn't ask anything specifically, just saying "Is that so".

"Kanda, finish the matter first"

"Oh, yes."

In response to Ryuunosuke's point, Sorata takes out the A4 file from the bag. About five papers in it and spreads it to the table so as to show it to Rita.

With a glance, she finds out that it is a game plan. She has seen the things that Sorata made several times before. However, this seems like in the middle stage. Pictures for explanation are affixed with "(temporary)" things that can not be said to be good flattery. The line is twitchy and she doesn't understand.

Sorata points on the papers with his finger to explain to Rita.

Apparently, it seems that it's the order for picture material for the proposal from Rita.

Rita takes notes with a red pen in the blank space of the received paper, and draws some simple strokes and confirmed "Are you OK with this?"

"Five pieces all ... I appreciate it if it will be ready by the 24th, because I want to see Totsuka-san once more time this year, and I'd like to have a meeting early next year.

"It is on the 24th"

Rita's voice is sorry....

"If you can, I want to date on that day, don't you think?"

A glance sends to Ryuunosuke. But immediately, Rita turns to Sorata.

"My friends in the Faculty of Art who I met at university all seem to have boyfriend to out on that day, I am the only one, only me, I don't even have a boyfriend, I don't even have a date promise for Christmas, don't you think that terrible?"

Riding ahead all the time, Rita appeals to Sorata and Nanami.

Ryuunosuke who sat next to doesn't seem to care

No, he is chewing a tomato with a slightly disgusting face.

"What does that story related to finish the material data by the 24th?"

"Nanami, if you have an enjoyable appointment, don't you ever feel like doing better until that day?"

Rita speaks to Nanami intentionally though it should be said directly to Ryuunosuke.

"Well, I guess that is often the case."

If something is okay, other things will go well.

"Well, then you should find a boyfriend, make an appointment on that day, for foreign girl like you, it should be easy."

"Nanami won't go out with someone you don't like, right?"

"Un"

"You do not date a person you don't like, do you?"

Apparently, it seems like she doesn't comment directly on Ryuunosuke.

"Yeah"

Only a bitter smile came out.

"I got some boys invited me to Gokon on Eve's day,"

Rita's smiling face still doesn't turn her eyes to Ryuunosuke. She will talk to Nanami till the end. She thinks Rita is a wonderful actress. She is wielding Ryuunosuke wonderfully. It is a trick that Nanami can't imitate very much.

"Kanda, do something"

Ryunosuke obviously frustrated asks Sorata for help. But, Sorata,

"I won't be able to do it"

He replies very quickly.

After thinking for a while, Ryuunosuke opens his mouth in the appearance of unwillingly.

"Are you gonna go?"

"Yes?"

Rita fonds.

"Gokon"

"It is surprising that those words come out from Ryuunosuke"

"Excellent comments are good"

"After all, would you mind?"

"Of course"

Rita's expression brightens. When she saw it, Nanami realizes that Rita really loves Ryuunosuke.

"Really?"

"It should have done before the end of this year like Kanda told us that we needed a 3D model to use for trial version, and it can't be convinced that we will take working hours for some boring event."

"... ... I thought it would be that way"

Rita makes a sigh of disappointment.

"Don't worry, I won't go to Gokon, I will reject the invitation."

"Really"

"Yes, to be honest, I would like to spend time with Ryuunosuke on Eve's night rather than with a boy I don't know well. I can come to your house, isn't it?"

"I don't object if I come to make graphic data"

Hearing Ryuunosuke's reply, Rita inflates his cheeks. Pushing the cheeks and turning towards Nanami,

"Do you think it's okay to let out?"

She asks for consent.

"It is difficult to expect it to Akasaka-kun"

"If you want to enjoy Christmas feeling, Kanda will prepare a cake for that day."

"What? Me!?"

Sorata who was concentrating on seeping udon lets out an unhappy voice.

"I understand. I'll put up with Sorata's cake. "

"You guys are actually devils ..."

While breaking down, he drinks up the udon soup.

"What will you do for Christmas, Nanami? If you haven't had any plans, would you come to eat cake?"

"Oh, that's good, Misaki said that she would go to Osaka the day before, Kanna will date with Iori, Mashiro will have a publisher's year-end party. If you don't have any plans"

"Oh, that day a bit"

"Is that a date?"

To Nanami to say it, Rita comes closer.

"Who is that person in the Theater department?"

"No, it's not like that ... Dad is supposed to come"

"Huh?"

There is a slight tension in Sorata's surprise. In Nanami's eyes, there is a kind of kindness of him to worry about her. It is a reaction because he knew that her father had opposed her before to aim to be a seiyuu.

"No, no! It's not like that. The next day... We will have a meeting with the office. "

"Meeting?"

Sorata and Ryuunosuke tilt their heads. Ryuunosuke who is watching the tablet PC also gives a little glance.

"I don't know exactly what will be told yet, but mainly at a meeting for my family I heard that it is the one to talk about the content of the work in detail and to understand how the seiyuu office is and the industry itself. You see, I'm twenty years old this year, but there are a lot of minors, so my family understands..... It's supposed to be a premise "

At first, it was Sorata who was vigilant, but while she was talking, he had a hard face and thought of "Huh". Still, there was something to think about, in a tone to make sure,

"Aoyama and your father will come to that meeting, won't you?"

He asks.

"Un I was thinking to say it properly, but in reality it's supposed to be 'belonging to the custody', so that the office can pick me up ..."

"That means you passed it, right?"

Voice that suppresses excitement. She feels that she is desperately restraining the momentum trying to jump out.

The swelling of that big emotion is released by Nanami's "un" nodding.

"You did it, Aoyama!"

Sorata stands up with excitement. Students nearby hears a sudden loud voice and have conspicuous looks.

"Okay, I'm glad you made it! Great, Aoyama!"

"Oh, exaggerate, Kanda-kun"

"I can't believe that. Yahoo, what a tear comes out!"

In Sorata's there are tears indeed. It falls on top of the table.

"I wish you could tell me soon."

"I'm sorry, I meant to say it after the meeting was over."

"No, but it's been true, I'm really impressed."

"Kanda, too noisy."

"It's a pleasure to have passed."

That is true. She did not imagine he would be pleased. She wished she had said this earlier.

"I can't stand this. We have to celebrate! Today Aoyama, after part-time job? Is it late at night? "

"I'm sorry, I think it's tough today, ah ... it's time ... I have to go."

Stands up with her bag. She lifts the tray.

"Well, the celebration party will do something new"

"Tell Misaki-senpai don't launch fireworks and other things"

"I'll just say it"

Sorata's wry smile, Nanami returns the tray to the return table and left school canteen.

Walk toward the main gate towards the avenue. Her feet are light.

As she thought, that is the real feeling after passing a huge obstacle. But this place is also a new starting point. It is true that she has tried hard until today

to get the office passed, but this is not the goal.

From now on, she would like to meet various roles. She wants to improve herself while working. Now she made the first step to make that goal come true. Finally she is able to get a chance.

She feels Sorata's joy taught her how big the meaning of that was.

That is why she thinks like this.

- Let 's keep trying hard from now on

In Nanami's sight who looks forward, there is a blue sky continuing forever.

Part 3

December 24th when the last lecture of college this year is over.

Christmas Eve to say to the world.

Rita is visiting an old house near the university where Sorata and Ryuunosuke live, under the pretext of delivering material data for the proposal and making graphic data for the trial version.

Wooden houses make her remember Sakurasou somehow. Rita thinks that they are quite similar, such as a boarded staircase. Somehow she feels understand why they chose this house.

Borrow one free computer and proceed silently. Time passed really fast, she started from early afternoon, but it is already 10 o'clock in the evening. Modeling work is done almost continuously without rest, except for eating cake after meal.

Thanks to that, Ryuunosuke has all the material for the trial version that had been asked.

Ryuunosuke is checking now.

"How is it?"

"No problem"

Ryuunosuke is manipulating the character model displayed on the screen with a controller. Motion is correctly played back.

"I'm tired, Rita. The material here is perfect, I guess that we can send the proposal to Totsuka-san today."

Sorata stretches while yawning. When twisting his neck, he hears a beeping sound.

"It's too late and I will send it halfway."

Sorata rises from the chair.

"No, it's okay."

"But ..."

"Because Ryuunosuke will send it"

Rita soaks quickly at Sorata, who is about to subside.

"I haven't said that"

"No way, are you trying to let me go home alone at night?"

"So you'd say Kanda would send it."

"Isn't that Sorata still has to modify the proposal? Currently it is more efficient if Ryuunosuke sends work"

"Huh"

Raising his face, Ryuunosuke gets silent.

"Nyaa, Akasaka, please buy me udon at the convenience store on the way back back"

"Why, me"

"Hey, Ryuunosuke, I will go."

"Okay so don't get close"

Waiting for Ryuunosuke to wear the coat, Rita heads for the entrance.

Rita is walking with Ryuunosuke like when they went around Suimei University. There are students in the daytime, as the sun goes down, the traffic is also going down. It is not a way to walk alone by night. Very quiet,

still only the footsteps of Rita and Ryuunosuke are heard except for the sound of a car running on a distant road.

So, when it got late like this, she decided to have some reason to tell Ryuunosuke. It is one of Rita's funs. Valuable time when there're only two...

Ryuunosuke who puts his hands into his coat's pockets breaths a white breath. Because of the cold, his nose's is red.

The two steps are hardly changed. Rita is tall for girls and Ryuunosuke a bit shorter for boys. She's slightly higher than Ryuunosuke. It's just a few centimeters apart.

"Does the project of 'Rhythm Butlers 2' pass safely?"

"Of course"

To the quietness of the night, the two voices melts away.

"You are a confident as ever, Ryuunosuke"

"Kanda and I are doing things properly"

"There is no objection on that point, because I think it's a little overworked."

Sorata and Ryuunosuke don't just make games. They're doing it while they have to go to the university, and they are preparing for company establishment as well.

"If you try, there are a lot of things you can do unexpectedly. Most people just give up before they do it. "

"That may be the case"

"Generally, you are not the one to tell that."

"Who is the one has been working with us while attending university, and is undertaking background work with Kamiigusa-senpai's work?"

"Since you are studying abroad, isn't it too much to do everything?"

"Care for your physical condition"

"At that time, Ryuunosuke will take care of me."

"Don't say something stupid"

"I am serious,"

Throwing frustration in her eyes. However, Ryuunosuke doesn't see that.

Eventually passes the front gate of the university. Slightly ahead they can see the main gate of Suiko. Passing that, the destination is the same route along the way back to Sakurasou.

"How is Sorata recently?"

".....What do you mean?"

Ryuunosuke looks somewhat strange. Perhaps, he understands the implicit meaning in Rita's question.

"Has he said something about Mashiro?"

"..."

Silence returns. It's not that he doesn't want to answer, but there is no story worth answering.

"They have broken up in love with each other.... They haven't met for a long time since they graduated from high school."

"Kanda and Shiina decided that it would not be a thing for others to talk about."

"Yes, but don't you mind Ryuunosuke?"

"I don't mind, it can't be helped even if I mind"

"..."

"What, that unsatisfying eyes"

"I am dissatisfied"

"What on earth are you expecting from me?"

"Isn't it sad that they're always like this?"

Sometimes looking at Mashiro side by side, she feels painful. She wants to hug her dedicated to continue drawing manga.

"..... Now, even if we try, we will only get the same result, Shiina has received more and more attention after achieving the manga award. After the drama adaptation, they decided to animate her manga too. She's exactly the center."

"That is indeed true, but If so, is there no way for her to go out? To her dream come true, she will be very busy, she must keep trying better to go well There is no help anywhere."

"Even so, she can calm her mind little by little, she can get used to work, she can't think about other things when she is busy."

"..."

Rita stars at Ryuunosuke who speaks calmly.

"What are that rude eyes?"

"Nothing, it's just I was surprised because I didn't think there would be a day to hear that from Ryuunosuke."

"It's enough to send you this far. I'm going home because I'm offended"

Ryuunosuke stops and turns around.

"Oh, please wait, can you take responsibility if I get something?"

"..."

"On this road, just the other day, there seems to have been a serious injury?"

"..."

Ryuunosuke turns around in silent and begins to walk quietly. Rita chases him on his back with a bouncing gait, comes up next to him.

"It may be as Ryuunosuke says, as long as doing things little by little, someday it may go well, not compromising or giving up She will be able to forgive herself and opponent. "

She thinks it is not easy anymore. She doesn't know how much time will it take. One year, three years, five years later Perhaps it may be ten years later, and it may not be ten years later. Still, there must be faith to go forward. Believing only that, Sorata and Mashiro may be doing their best now.

After all, Ryuunosuke is right. The problems of Sorata and Mashiro can only be solved by Sorata and Mashiro.

While talking about that, they approach the child park. The road to the apartment where Rita lives is safe now since the flow of people from the station joins and the street lights are also gleaming lightly.

"Here it is OK"

Saying so, Ryuunosuke's feet also stops a little behind Rita.

"Anyway, a little more, I will send you to the front of apartment"

Rita grasps Ryuunosuke's hand who starts walking.

"W-What, suddenly!?"

An upset voice rises. Ignoring that, Rita drags Ryuunosuke into an alley.

"Ba, baka, what are you doing??"

"Shh! Be quiet."

Hide themselves behind the telegraph pole and peep into the child park gently. Rita notices familiar man and woman. Iori and Kanna are walking from the station and trying to get in front of the children's park.

"O, oi, come on"

Ryuunosuke appeals with a flipped voice.

"Please be patient for a while"

Iori and Kanna in hand to hand seems to be on good terms. However, she feels a strange tension from Kanna. She looks at Iori many times and flickering, looking back, looking again and repeating.

"This, this is something"

"S, so, leave"

Rita's intuition is true. A short staircase in front of the park. Kanna who climbed ahead of Iori turns around at his head. And it is a short kiss when becoming a standing on tiptoe in front of the Iori which was under one step.

Immediately afterwards, Kanna runs away. Panickingly, Iori pursues. She thinks they could catch up with them, but both of them just could not see Kanna and Iori.

"Ryuunosuke"

"I will tell you, I won't do it"

Ryuunosuke who ran away from the shadow of the telegraph pole starts to be out of breath. Compared with the past, it seems his hate with woman is bigger. Or rather, the resistance to Rita has been attached. It is not going so in other girls.

"I haven't told you 'Shall we kiss too?'?"

"You said it now"

Ryuunosuke starts to walk alone. His legs towards the apartment where Rita lives. If he gets angry, she thinks he could return, but he anxiously said "I'll send you before the apartment."

"Ryuunosuke"

"I won't answer if the previous story continues"

"Oh, it's too bad, so shall we have an important story?"

"..."

Ryuunosuke's eyes are casting doubt.

"It's about the future of Ryuunosuke with me"

"There is no such future"

Regardless, Rita keeps on speaking.

"When I graduate from college, I'm going to return to England."

"..."

The alert color disappears from Ryuunosuke's expression.

"I'm going to teach children in painting classes while making works at my grandfather's atelier."

"Really"

Ryuunosuke looks forward with serious eyes.

"Is that the only thing?"

"What else is there"

"Heartless"

"What are you expecting from me?"

"For example, 'Shall you stay on my side forever?'"

"It is impossible"

"Ryuunosuke, please understand a little bit of a girl"

"Even if I say that, your intention to return to the UK will not be changed, yet why do I need to understand a girl's heart?"

"What?! That...."

Rita notices as it's pointed out.

She can't stop drawing. She doesn't mean to quit. It's her dream that to take over her grandfather's studio. So, when the university's four years are over, returning to the UK or not makes Rita confused.

"If Ryuunosuke holds me back, I may be shaken?"

"I will never say so, so don't worry"

"There is no wills"

"Besides, you absolutely will not be shaken"

"... ... that, it's sly"

She coughs to Ryuunosuke with a small voice that can't be heard.

If saying, she can't be shaken. Only for Ryuunosuke, she doesn't have to be seen with disappointing eyes....

"Arrived"

As she raises her face, they came in front of her apartment.

"Sorry, a fun date has ended."

"I will have to walk 30 minutes each way"

"If you feel tired, will you go up? Perhaps Mashiro has not returned from the year-end party yet."

"Stop joking"

"I'm quite serious?"

"If it is, then stop the face that makes fun of people."

"Yes, I did"

She makes a smirk.

"Indeed, you are"

Ryuunosuke makes a big deep breath as he is amazed.

"Even though Ryuunosuke always complains, you always send me in front of my apartment? Even if you say 'Here is all right'"

"Who is threatening all the time that I must take responsibility if there is something happens?"

"Don't you think you should ignore that?"

"..."

Ryuunosuke keeps silent, perhaps because Rita is staring with serious eyes.

"..."

"..."

"What do you think about me?"

She throws a question accompanied by tension.

"I have said that I hate women many times"

"How do you feel about my personality?"

"Not good"

"Still, you send me before my house"

Quiet. There was no room for jokes to enter. Eyes could not be diverted from each other either.

"Is it okay for me to expect?"

"..."

Silence falls between the two. A taxi comes in front of the apartment so as to fill it. Light illuminates Rita and Ryuunosuke violently.

The door opens and someone comes down. They cannot identify the face because of the light.

"Rita, and Ryuunosuke too"

They hear a loud noise from the engine and well-known voice. It's Mashiro.

When the taxi runs away, Mashiro approaches them. It seems that she came back from the publisher's year-end party.

"I sure sent you. I will go home."

"Ah, Ryuunosuke!"

He doesn't stop stopping even if she calls out. Ryuunosuke's back gets lost at night and gets out of sight.



"...Already"

Rita is unconsciously putting out a voice like a child that was discharged.

"Did I get in the way?"

"Not that. You save me"

"Hmm?"

Mashiro doesn't understand and tilts her head.

"I'm scared to hear the answer properly"

A smile of relief.

"Rita"

"Hora, it's cold so go inside now"

Taking the Mashiro's hands, Rita rushes into the apartment.

Meanwhile, Ryuunosuke has not left her head. It was her first time to that face ...

- I, can I expect it?

In front of the question, Ryuunosuke had a puzzled look.

Part 5

Sorata comes back to Geidaimae station about 4 o'clock in the afternoon.

The mobile phone rings when he is leaving the ticket gate.

The moment he sees the name displayed, tension runs slightly in his body.

It is a call from Fujisawa Kazuki.

Walking towards the shopping district, put his finger on the call button.

"Yes, it is Kanda"

"Thank you for your good work. It's Fujisawa."

"Thank you for your good work"

"Are you free now?"

"Yes. I just met Totsuka-san a while ago Now I'm back in the station."

"I got a contact from that Totsuka-kun a while ago, I heard about the collaboration of music."

"Eh?"

Special Chapter: The affair happens at christmas

Part 1

A year and nine months after graduating from Suimei University of Art.

It is about a few days left from 24th December to the new year.

Sorata, who turned 24 and graduated with appropriate calmness as a member of society, the moment he saw the mail sent from Maid,

"What!"

And a voice of a stupid surprise came out.

- Today, Totsuka-sama has an urgent message. It seems that a fatal bug in which the inability to go through stages occurs occurs in the Master ROM's debugging. As soon as possible, he'd like to revise the bug and resubmit the master ROM. From Maid-chan

"Muu"

From Sorata's side who is checking the mail, he hears a cute voice. Feeling disturbing Sorata, Sorata raises his face from the scary mobile screen. Although haven't talked anything yet, Mashiro seems to be in bad mood, and is flushing her cheeks.

The two are standing in front of the apartment where Mashiro continues to live after graduating Suiko.

Now Sorata sleeps here almost every day. Cohabitation state to say to the world. After Rita returned to the UK, Sorata came along for a while to take care of Mashiro, but the number of times they stayed increased, and when he noticed that feeling

"Yes, Mashiro-san"

"I do not want to hear that"

Mashiro, who is dressed adults for dating, closes her ears with childish gestures.

Still, thinking it would sound, and Sorata continues with the words.

"A fatal bug came out, I have to return to the development room now and have to fix it"

"..."

"So sorry, I can't date today"

"Sorata no baka"

Mashiro takes her hands off her ears. After all, it seems that she heard it properly.

"Sorry"

"Sora wa baka"

"That's right"

"Sorata na baka"

"I've been thinking about it before, what kind of baka is that?"

"..."

When relaxing the tense air a little, he was cursed by Mashiro.

"... ... I'm sorry, I regret it"

"If you don't date on Christmas Eve, you can't date anytime soon."

Mashiro's eyes are serious. He accepts the gaze just straight.

"..."

"..."

Tensioned air dominating the two.

Then, mobile phone ringtone interrupts.

It is not Sorata's. It's Mashiro's.

Mashiro takes out the mobile from her purse.

"From Ayano"

After muttering so, Mashiro answers the phone.

"Yes, I ... Un, unh 9 pages. Un, I understand ..."

The story seems to have ended in less than a minute. Mashiro returns the mobile phone to her purse.

"Ayano-san, what is it?"

"The manuscript I sent today, there's a problem"

"That must be fixed, isn't it?"

"Un"

"Hurry?"

"Ayano said that she wanted to make it in time for the flight at six o'clock."

Watch the clock. It is exactly five o'clock now. If going back to your room and work, she might be in time.

"If you don't worry"

"Sorata, you seem happy"

Sharp indications flew.

"You feel happy, although we can't date."

"No such thing"

If it is, it is a different emotion from "happy". HE's relieved a little. By Mashiro also has business, it became unnecessary to feel guilty unilaterally. Well, he is just feeling a little relaxed

"Enough"

Mashiro turns her back and go to the apartment with angry feet.

He sees off until it can't be seen and hurries back to the development room.

Part 2

The bug fixing is unexpectedly over. When he arrived at the development room, Ryuunosuke had found the cause, so he fixed it early and confirmed it. After that, he burned the master RoM again and sent it to Totsuka.

Still, he had to finish all his work and needed several hours before got back to the apartment. It is already around 2 o'clock in the morning.

When Sorata comes up to the room with a Christmas cake at convenience stores, the light in the living room is still on surprisingly.

Inside the twilight, Mashiro in the pajamas is sitting on the sofa.

"Did you send the manuscript?"

"I made it in time, what about Sorata?"

"Me too"

"Yes"

Mashiro doesn't even try to look at Sorata. Anyway, he puts out the cake which he bought on the dining table.

"Do you still bend the belly button?"

Sit next to her and talk. Mashiro touches her pajamas and confirms her belly button.

"It's not bent"

"It's an idiom ..."

"Christmas was bad again."

"Ah? Ah ... That's right."

Somehow, Sorata and Mashiro have nothing to do with Christmas. In high school days, Mashiro had a sudden job and the date was canceled. Last year it is the mastering time so Sorata had no room at all. And this year they are all like this.

"I feel like I can't spend Christmas with Sorata for the rest of my life"

Mashiro buries her mouth in her knees.

"You're with me now, right?"

"I wanted to have a date as normal"

"I think it's a good idea"

Sorata stands up from the sofa and sets a candle on the cake on the table. When lighting the fire, a fantastic light makes a big shadow on the wall of the room. Wavy to match the lambency of the flames.

"I was looking forward to date"

"Me too"

"...."

Mashiro's bad mood has not been better.

"I can take a day off tomorrow, what about Mashiro?"

"Ayano will come for lunch, it's fine at night."

"Let's go out together, tomorrow night."

"Where?"

"You can do today's revenge, we will go wherever Mashiro wants to"

"... Anywhere is okay?"

As he glances, she's turned turned eyes off.

"I will ask you within the common sense"

If he does not set an upper limit, she's likely to ask for ridiculous things.

"Then"

Mashiro who seated properly in the sofa gazes at Sorata with a serious face. Without diverting her line of sight as it is,

"Meet my parents"

Mashiro tells him.

"..."

"..."

For a moment the time has stopped.

"Mashiro-san, now what? Ah, no, you don't have to say it! Rather, please do not tell me! How can I meet them in England?"

It is likely to say if it's Mashiro. However, the returned word is accompanied by a further shock.

"They will come to Japan tomorrow."

"What?"

"Both will come, tomorrow"

"... It is sudden"

Squeeze out the voice.

"I heard it from about a month ago"

"That information, I havn't heard it?"

"They said they wanted to meet Sorata"

"I wonder if you can tell me such important things before!"

"So, I said now."

"Before it means more!"

"I told you they wanted to do it."

Mashiro flushes her cheeks.

"I asked within common sense, didn't I?"

"It is within the bounds of common sense that the boyfriend meets her parents"

"Surely so!"

"There's no deeper meaning than just meeting"

"It's deep in the bottomless!"

"Sorata, you dislike it?"

"There is nothing to dislike Iya, well, well, yeah, we live together without permission. I thought that I should give a greeting sometimes That, the event of seeing girl's parents is very nervous! I can hardly believe that my mind preparation is complete overnight! "

Even now, at this moment, he is more nervous than when he was presenting for the first time. His heart is beating like a BWM. What should he talk to Mashiro's parents?

"Muu"

Mashiro protrudes her lips and dissatisfies.

"Alright, I will go to bed"

Mashiro standing up from the sofa enters the bedroom. After chase and looking into the inside through the door opening, Mashiro is lying on her bed. She buries her face in a pillow and continues to cough a complaint to Sorata.

"Haa OK, I will meet Mashiro's parents tomorrow"

"Really?"

Mashiro who raises her face from the pillow turns around with expectation.

"ah, I promise, instead, I have a favor, too."

"What is it?"

"If you can take a day off, can you come to my parents' house in Fukuoka together?"

"..."

Mashiro's eyes are open to surprise.

"My mother, she is annoying to bring Mashiro"

"I will go"

Mashiro gets up from the bed.

A happy look somewhere. It seems that complaints previously have completely blown away. Briskly and comes out of the room and sits in front of the table where the cake is placed.

"Sorata, I will eat cake"

"Didn't you go to bed?"

"I sleep after eating"

"I don't know if it makes you fat"

"At that time, Sorata will take responsibility"

"That, what is the responsibility for that"

Considering the flow of conversation till then, he does not feel like laughing at all.

"Nee, Sorata"

"Hmm?"

"When I go to Fukuoka"

"Un"

"Greeting will be, Futsutsuka monodesugade ī?"

"Not good!"

In this way, Sorata and Mashiro who made reconciliation have a fun Christmas.