

Esper 641

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Chapter 641: Phone Call (ii)

SPLASH!

Rudy washed his face by slapping the water on his face. He splashed so much water that some of it got into his hair and rolled down his forehead with a trail.

He looked at his reflection in the mirror and let out a weary sigh.

'I fell asleep during the class. That's... weird. Sure, this is not my first time falling in the class, but that was always when I was tired, mentally or physically. I don't understand why I fell asleep now, especially in Rize's lecture.'

"Tch! I missed my precious time when I could stare at Rize without being interrupted. Also, I should get a haircut. Elena cut my hair the last time, and she actually did an excellent job at that.

Maybe I will ask her to cut my hair again after— eighteen years." Rudy let out a soft sigh and muttered, "There I go again... missing Elena. I will call her again after school—"

RING~! RING!

Rudy checked his phone and saw a familiar phone number as the caller.

"..." Rudy took a deep breath and answered the call, and then he let out his breath. Of course, it was Elena.

[Hello, who is this?] she asked.

"It's me."

'Does she not have my phone number added to her contact list? There is no way that's possible!'

[Umm... who? Is this a prank call?]

"No, no, it's me. Rudy!"

[Rudy? No, you can't be him. I have his contact ID, and this is not his phone number.]

"...oh! Right!" Rudy facepalmed himself and muttered, "I called her with the private number Maria had given me."

[Speak up, I can't hear you!]

"Where are you right now?" Rudy asked calmly.

[I am at the airport. My flight got delayed, so I am waiting for it to arrive.]

"Are you on your way home?"

[No, actually. I am flying to the neighboring city. It's like 5 AM here.]

"When will you arrive here? Are you busy tomorrow too?"

[I have five meetings today at different places in the surrounding cities. And then I have one more, which I don't need to attend physically. Why do you ask?]

Rudy ignored Elena's question and asked, "So you won't come home for a few days?"

[No, I will be home tomorrow at noon or evening. Why are you calling me to ask all that? Did Eric ask you to contact me to make sure about my whereabouts?] she chuckled.

"Huh?"

[I don't know. Don't boys usually invite their friends over for parties when they are home alone?]

"You and I both know that Eric is not that kind of boy."

[That's true. So why did you call me? It's so random. We haven't talked in the last few months. How are you doing? Is everything okay at school? How is Rebecca? She is taking care of herself, right? Keep an eye on her, so she doesn't force herself. She has a habit of overexerting herself.]

'It might have been a few months since you last saw or talked to Rudy, but I haven't seen the milf Elena in years.'

[Hello? Are you there?]

"Yes, mom is enjoying her life, thanks to you. And I am too. And judging by your voice, it seems you are enjoying yourself too," Rudy smiled distantly.

[What else can I do? Nothing.]

"I... I got the wallet from Eric..."

[...]

"Thank you for the wallet."

[Did you like it?]

"Yes. It was perfect. I needed it in my life."

[Do you... have you felt or remembered anything strange after receiving the wallet?]

"That depends on your definition of weird."

[Err... like, maybe you had a dream where you were living a normal life as a guardian of three girls?]

"Or having a romantic relationship with their school teacher?"

[And doing wild things with her,] she added.

"Or raising the kids together?"

[And dreaming of having their own kids in the future. And... and starting a...]

"...starting a family with her?"

[..Yes...]

Rudy could easily hear Elenor's voice breaking while speaking, as though she was trying to hold her tears.

"Hey... my pervert..."

[That title doesn't belong to me,] she chuckled.

"Are you okay? Your voice sounds a little..."

[Yeah, I just had to move to the corner because people were glancing at me.]

"I don't know if it applies, but... I am back."

[I will cancel all my meetings and catch the next flight to—]

"No, please. Do what you must."

[What are you saying? My work is not as important as you are. Nothing is more important than you.]

"Yes, I know. But what about the others? You said you have five meetings today, and there must be dozens, if not hundreds, of people gathered for the meeting. If you cancel, you might lose your chance to get the deals. And it will affect your business.

Moreover, even if you cancel and come here, you will eventually have to go back to the meetings sooner or later. So just finish your work, so we can meet and spend time together without worrying," he asserted calmly.

[You used to say the same thing to Rebecca and Jessica whenever their holidays started. You would ask them to finish their homework in the first week so they could enjoy the rest of the vacation without worrying.]

"Yes."

[So... we will meet tomorrow.]

"Yes. Time will pass by in no time."

[Okay. I will talk with you later. My flight has just been announced.]

"I don't think you need this, but take care."

BEEP~!

Rudy was talking with Elena on the phone while staring at his reflection in the mirror.

"I should—!"

DING~ DONG~!

"..."

'Rize is going to kill me!'

Rudy gulped down, but not in fear. He knew Rize wouldn't do anything to him. In fact, he was happy that he would get to spend some alone time with her.

Rudy rushed to his classroom to find it empty.

"What the—! The bell rang like twenty seconds ago. How the hell did everyone leave so quickly?"

"Because they all left a few minutes ago."

Rize was standing at the doorway with her arms folded below her bosom and a disappointed glare in her eyes.

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Chapter 642: In the Classroom

"Sometimes, I think you anger me on purpose, so I punish you, and you get to spend time with me," Rize remarked.

"That's indeed my goal, but I don't do anything on purpose. Also, thanks for waiting for me in the classroom."

"I wasn't waiting for you. I just came to check if you have returned or not."

"You could have just come and checked in the washroom," Rudy shrugged.

SIGH!

Rize let out a sigh and entered the classroom. She walked to the open glass window and leaned on it. Rudy did the same and leaned on the same window but on the opposite side.

They looked outside at the playground where the students were gathering for the sports tournament.

Rudy raised his brow and curiously asked, "You don't actually seem angry that I didn't return in two minutes. That would mean two things; either you are so disappointed in me that you don't care anymore, or you were also looking for a chance so we could spend alone time together."

Rize moved her gaze from the playground to Rudy without moving her head.

"Why would I need to spend time with you?"

"Because we are partners in crime... or rather, in cheating."

"You were lying about that too."

"Hmm?"

"When you were absent, I asked Alice the other day, and I found out that you are not dating her." Rize squinted her eyes and said, "You used her as an excuse to fool me into thinking I was committing a major sin."

"No, I didn't lie to you about that. I wouldn't do something like that, honestly."

"So you are saying that Alice lied to me?"

"What exactly did you ask her?"

"I asked, 'How is everything between you and Rudy?'. And she looked at me like I did something horrible to her. Then, she responded, 'Nothing is happening'. So what means you are not going out with her."

"I don't think that's what Alice was trying to say. It's a misunderstanding."

Alice was well aware that Rudy had a crush on Rize, and he wanted her to join his harem, so she would never try to oppose an idea that would repulse Rize.

'I know Alice doesn't like Rize because she thinks she is harsh and does power abuse on me, but that's not the case. I was hoping they would start to get along, but I guess it will take time.'

"If you are lying to me, then I swear, I will be angry at you and never talk with you again."

"I don't need to lie to the people I care about. Sure, I would hide things for the future, but that's not lying."

"I have never seen you and Alice behave like a couple, though. Like, there are many couples in the school, but you two just seem like normal friends," Rize remarked.

"Maybe because you want to see it that way?"

"What does that mean?"

"Perhaps, you just don't want to see Alice and me as a couple because you are jealous?" Rudy shrugged.

"Why would I be jealous? And if I was truly jealous of your relationship with Alice, then why would I help you practice kissing with me? In fact, I would try to ruin your relationship with her."

"I am cheating on her with you, which is considered ruining a relationship."

"But I am doing it to help you."

"Just curious, how far are you willing to go to help me?" he asked with a judging look on his face.

"Hmm?"

"We have kissed. But slowly, I will have to advance my relationship with Alice. We will do more things and ultimately have sex. Would you also let me practice sex with you?" he asked curiously but calmly.

"If... if that will help you get better at having sex with Alice, which would save your relationship... sure, I would do it..."

'She is just like Jane. Jane was using Rias' well-being as an excuse to be with me, and here Rize is using my relationship as an excuse to be with me. I would want them to be honest about their feelings, so I could too,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

"You know, I would have been happier to hear that if you wanted to have sex with me, not to save my relationship with Alice, but because you wanted to."

"..."

Rudy held Rize's hands in his hands and uttered, "Rize... I love you. I have confessed my love to you before, but maybe you thought that was a joke or an excuse, but it's not."

Rize's face flushed slightly after hearing that.

"I really do love you. What about you?"

"I can't." Rize tried to pull her hands from Rudy's grasp, saying, "I am a teacher, and you are my student! It's illegal for us to have a relationship."

"It's not illegal when you are not a full-time teacher yet. And you are ready to have sex with me as my teacher but not as my lover? Come on, Rize. Think of a better excuse if you want to convince me," he sighed wryly.

"What about Alice? Are you going to cheat on her?"

"Again, you were up for it to help me but not to be with me?"

"Are you going to dump Alice after using her? You can't do that."

"And you are okay with me dumping me after using you as a practice toy?"

"..."

"Rize, I am not going to dump anyone. I am not using anyone. And we are not going to cheat on anyone. I will tell you everything but answer me first. Do you love me?"

"But it's..."

"No buts or excuses. You only have two options, either to say yes or no. And no, I won't give you time to think about it. You already know the answer, but you are not being honest with your feelings.

I am sorry but I have no other choice but to push you— practically forcing you— to limit to answer my question. Don't think about anything else. Don't think about the circumstances or rules or whatever. Just think about yourself and be honest. Rize, do you love me or not?"

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Chapter 643: Daring Rize

"I..." Rize gulped down as she stuttered to answer. "I don't..."

Rudy clicked his tongue in anger when he heard footsteps approaching the classroom.

A second later, Andrew entered and saw Rize and Rudy alone in the classroom. He was checking each and every classroom to ensure they were properly locked, but he never expected to run into Rudy and Rize.

"What are you two doing? What's happening here?" he asked with a judging look on his face.

He glanced around the room to see if there was a third person somewhere.

"Miss Rize is helping me with my studies," Rudy responded.

Rudy's bag was in his room, and his books were on his desk as it was left untouched when Rudy went to the washroom. When he heard the footsteps, he rushed to his desk and sat there.

While Rize stayed by the board, which was also filled with mathematical equations and solutions as Rize was teaching the class before. Seemingly, Rudy and Rize were in a totally normal environment of the class, regardless of what was happening between them a few seconds ago.

"A male student and a young female teacher alone in the room, helping him study? That doesn't seem like an appropriate situation," he remarked.

"What's not appropriate? Teachers help students out even after the classes, right?"

"Yeah, but this is a different matter. There is no one in the class, or in the neighboring rooms to know or see what you two were truly doing. And why aren't you in the playground with the other students? I need to tell this scandal to the principal and—"

"And say what?" Rudy interrupted Andrew and asserted, "That a teacher was helping a student with his studies when everyone was busy with sports? I don't think there is anything wrong with that. Moreover, I have never participated in a sports event, even in the past, and every teacher in this school knows that.

Not to mention, I am utilizing that time in my studies instead of wasting it on doing something irrelevant and useless that would never help me out in my life. If you want to go to the principal or post this in the newspaper, go ahead and do it. But you are smart enough to know that you will be criticized instead."

Andrew gritted his teeth and said, "Don't act smart with me, you poor worm."

After saying that, Andrew left the classroom.

"Baldy," Rudy sighed.

Rudy looked at Rize and saw her staring at him with a judging look on her face.

"What?" he asked. "Please don't say something like 'you were rude to him.' because that shit deserves to be treated like that."

Rize shook her head and said, "I was just wondering."

"...?" Rudy raised his brow in response.

"That I wouldn't want you to treat me like you treat Andrew."

"My mood and personality change depending on the person I am talking to," Rudy shrugged.

Rize grinned a little and asked, "So if I reject your love confession, you would treat me like that?"

"Like the way you always treat me to get my attention?" Rudy grinned back.

Rize walked to Rudy's desk and stood in front of him with a judging glare in her eyes.

"I never knew you were so sassy."

"I wouldn't say that. Now..." Rudy leaned back and asked, "Would you be so kind as to solve the problem I am having? I can't solve it without your help."

"I will try to?" She nodded and looked at the book on Rudy's desk. "Which problem are you talking about?"

"The problem of my heart."

"..." Rize shook her head in disappointment and said, "I should have seen that coming."

"My answer, please."

Rize pondered for a while and said, "Okay. I will answer you if you manage to score the first rank in any of the sports activities happening out there."

"Oh..."

"What? Did you think I was so easy to be cornered? Well, no. If you want my answer, then you have to earn that," she said smugly.

"Well played," Rudy chuckled.

He packed his bag and got up from his seat.

"Let's go."

"Wait, I have to close the window first."

Rize rushed to the open window and closed it, but when she turned around, her lips were sealed by Rudy's lips.

Her eyes widened when she realized Rudy was kissing her, and when she opened her mouth a little in shock, Rudy inserted his tongue inside and started deep kissing her.

Rize tried to push him back, but she realized that this might be the last time she would get to kiss Rudy, so she started kissing him back. But that didn't last long.

A few seconds later, Rudy turned around and said, "Let's go. We are getting late."

"..."

Rize was angry as she didn't get to kiss him as much as he did. She pushed him against the wall and started kissing him aggressively.

"Do you think only you can initiate the kiss, huh? Well, I can too."

After a few kisses, Rudy touched and felt Rize's body with his hands and said, "Someone has been working out."

"I told you, I have started to go to the gym. I will soon start to take self-defense classes, so I can learn to defend myself."

"Oh? Let's see how much you have got."

Rudy turned and pushed Rize against the wall, but he didn't kiss her as Rize expected him to do. Of course, he wasn't using his power and relying on his human-level strength.

"Try to push me back, and I will do whatever you want."

Rize placed her hands on Rudy's shoulder and tried to push him back, but he didn't even budge. Then, she tried to break free from his grip, but that didn't work either.

"What's wrong?" he smirked.

Rize slowly moved her face close to Rudy and started kissing him. One would think she had given up, but she hadn't. She kissed Rudy because she wanted to get close to him.

Close enough to grab his family jewels and get a hold of them. She grasped them tightly and said, "If you don't let go, I will crush them."

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Chapter 644: Dad Advice

Rudy had cornered Rize and was dominating over her until Rize flipped the tables and dominated Rudy instead by clenching his precious pearls.

"You and I both know you won't do that."

"That's where you are wrong."

Rudy let go of Rize and said, "I am seeing the new side of you. It's refreshing and interesting."

Rize pulled Rudy by his collar and kissed him for the last time, and after saying, "The same goes for you."

"I guess I will have to change my strategy to make you fall in love with me," he chuckled. "I will have to be a little more aggressive since a normal approach won't work on you."

"You know I can hear you, right?"

"That's why I am saying it out loud. I am giving you an opportunity to guard your heart well, because I am dead set on stealing it and making it mine."

Rudy and Rize left the classroom and hastily walked through the hallway. Rize was walking behind Rudy on purpose, as she didn't want Rudy to tackle her again from behind.

Suddenly, Rudy stopped, and so did Rize.

He turned around and said, "You will either say yes or no to my confession. But regardless of your answer, you will still let me practice on you, right?"

Rize couldn't help but grin after hearing that.

"I will take that look as a yes."

"Does my answer to your love confession even matter if we are going to continue our fling anyway?" Rize asked curiously.

"Yes, it helps our heart and consciousness."

After leaving the school building, they went to the playground, where various sports activities were happening. At the entrance, there was a big board with a schedule poster pinned on it that showed the name and time of the sports.

Rudy glanced at Rize and asked, "So I can select any activity, right?"

"As long as you come first in any of them," Rize nodded.

'It's an easy task, but...'

As Rudy was pondering, Eric called him out from a distance.

"Hey! You are here!" he shouted.

Rudy signaled Eric to come over to him as he was the best person who had knowledge about the sports.

"I need to be on stage with other teachers, so I have to go. But best of luck to you. And don't try super hard, okay? I don't want you to get injured."

"Yes."

Rize moved her hand forward and said, "Give me your bag. I will hold onto it for you."

Rudy handed his school bag to Rize while saying, "Is this your way to look into my bag?"

"Maybe?" she shrugged with a grin.

"Don't freak out if you find something you weren't expecting."

"As long as there are no weapons or drugs inside, you are good."

After saying that, Rize left.

"..." Rudy raised his brow and muttered, "I am not sure if she was being serious or sarcastic."

"What's up?" Eric asked as he placed his hand over Rudy's shoulder.

"I have to participate in at least one of the activities, so can you tell me which one is the easiest and least time-consuming?"

"Every sport is easy for me, though," Eric responded with a smug look on his face.

"That's not helping."

"I don't know, dude. There are no shortcuts when it comes to success in winning. Yes, some may find quick success, but that stays temporary."

"As much as I appreciate that amazing thought, which you learned from your mother, help me out now."

"How did you know mom told me that?" Eric raised a brow.

"Isn't it obvious?"

"What do you mean?"

"There is no way you can think that of yourself, so obviously, you learned it from someone smart around you, which is your mother," Rudy scoffed.

"Ouch. That hurts."

"So...? Any easy sports activity from the list?"

"The second one, but you can't do it now because the first three activities on the list have already been finished," Eric stated.

"Oh? Who won?"

Eric simply smirked at Rudy in response. Seemingly, he had won in all three of them.

"Why did I even bother asking you," he sighed. "You know, you are so good at sports, ever thought of joining a sports league in the future as your career?"

"Nope."

"Why? They do pay well, actually. Although it requires talent and years of hard work, I am sure you can achieve that easily. Also, sports are one of the easiest ways to gain fame. A normal job won't give you anything in return except money," Rudy chuckled bitterly.

Rudy felt a sting in his heart as he said that because he said the exact opposite of what he said to Eric in his past life— when Eric came to Rudy for career advice, Rudy asked him to leave the sports dream behind.

'One of the biggest mistakes of my life. I hope I can change it now.'

Eric was athletic, but he was academically brilliant too. It wasn't as though Eric wholly followed Rudy's advice. He chose his career by himself and never once regretted it. He had become richer than Elenor and also met the love of his life because of that.

"Most of the sports are group activities—Football, cricket, baseball, volleyball, hockey, basketball, and many more. I know I am great, but I can't expect the same from my teammates. I can win a match because of them, or I can lose.

But I don't want to lose when I try my best; I would obviously blame my other team members even if they weren't at fault. Sure, there are other sports for individuals but let's be honest... They are all boring. No one cares that much about them, and the fan following, fame, and money is not much."

"I understand your concerns, and you made a valid point, but are you okay with those reasons letting you down? The Eric I know never backs down from a challenge and gives his best even if others never take it seriously."

"Heh!" Eric scoffed softly and jokingly said, "What are you, my dad?"

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Chapter 645: Participating in the Sports Tournament

Rudy wanted to participate and win in any of the sports activities as soon as possible, so he had to choose the sports activity that was going to happen next.

"Knowing you, you are most likely participating in all the sports activities..." Rudy muttered.

"That was my plan, but unfortunately, I am not Participating in one."

"Oh? Which one?" Rudy asked curiously.

"Which one do you think?"

Rudy checked the list and pointed his finger at one activity.

"Tug of war?"

"How did you figure it out?"

"Well... it's a team sport, and judging by what you said a while ago, this one makes sense."

'I don't think even I can participate in this one. Even if our team wins, I can't score 1st in team sports.'

"Alright, I need to go. I am participating in the 500-meter race."

"Wait, I will come too."

Rudy and Eric went to the starting point, but they got separated in the crowd.

"I need to write down my name in the list first," Rudy muttered.

He went to the stage where the teachers were commenting and writing down the names of the participating studies.

[Next, we have the 500-meter sprint race for boys. But there has been a mistake in the main poster where it says 500-meter race. However, this is 500 meters straight and 500 meters back. A total of 1000 meters race.

The participants would need to run 500 meters where the girls are waiting for them with a band in their hands. The boys would need to grab that band and run back to the starting point.

The first male student to grab the band would get two points, while the others would get one point. When the students reached the starting point, they would be ranked according to the positions they arrived at.

However, if the student who grabbed the band first and got two points reached first to the starting point as well, he would get three extra points in his total sports ranking. So get ready, students!

The race will start in five minutes. The students who changed their minds and want to participate can get their names added to the list. And the students who are having second thoughts and want to forfeit from the race can also get their names removed from the list!]

Rudy added his name to the list and winked at Rize, who was sitting in the lounge with other teachers.

[The race will start in three minutes. Participating students, please come to the starting point!]

After saying that, the anchorman started calling out the names of the participants.

Meanwhile, Alice was looking for Rudy, so they could spend time together while Janet was texting him to ask for his location. Rudy's phone was in his bag, which was with Rize.

When Alice and Janet heard Rudy's name being called as one of the participants in the race, they glanced at each other and handed their bags and belongings to their female friends.

Then, they rushed to the number 9 lane Rudy was given, seemingly wanting to replace with the girl who was standing there.

While Rudy participated in the race for Rize, Janet and Alice were racing for Rudy. The faster one from either would get the chance to welcome Rudy with the band.

Alice was closer to the number lane, so she was confident that she would win, but she celebrated too quickly and regretted it later when Janet beat her to it.

She tapped on the girl's shoulder and asked, "Do you mind if I stand in your stead?"

"No worries."

The girl handed the band to Janet and walked away.

Janet happily stood at the end of the number 9 lane and glanced at Alice, who was glaring at her from a safe distance.

"No hard feelings," Janet said while showing the band to Alice.

Alice sighed and stood by the tree to have a clear view at Rudy's lane.

'It doesn't matter, as I am still getting to spend more time with him.'

[Last minute left for batch A race!] The anchorman called out the names of the students who hadn't arrived at the starting point.

As there were so many students, it was impossible for all of them to sprint at the same time. The playground was indeed big, but not big enough to make space for everyone for the race.

Therefore, the school had randomly divided the students into batches, with one batch having 25 students. Rudy didn't want to race against Eric, so he was happy that he was in a different batch than him.

[The top three from each batch will enter the semifinals. And top five from the semifinals will enter the finals, where the student to score the first rank will be given an award and a trophy along with the other two rankers.

The school will also send a recommendation letter to the higher authorities and get a chance to participate in the district-level sports competition. But before that, let us get our winners.]

The students got into their position and prepared to shoot themselves forward.

'Janet changed places with the girl. I can see Alice glaring at her, but she earned that place, so she can't do anything. Enough about them, I have to focus on my race. I have to make myself look convincing to others.

I am the most unathletic student in the entire school, and everyone knows that. And if I score 1st, everyone would be surprised. However, I have to make it look like I struggled to score the top.

Of course, I am not going to use even a bit of my powers in this match. I will run as a human. It's not about cheating using my powers, but I want to earn Rize's answer with my own strength.

Regardless, my body is pretty fit and in good shape. I have been running a lot, so my stamina has naturally increased. However, I have never tried running without using my powers. I know for sure that I won't get tired, but I don't know my running speed.'

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Chapter 646: The Incident at the Sprint Race

All the 25 contestants dashed and raced to the 500-meter mark, where the girls were waiting for them. Of course, the athletes who were active in sports clubs were in the lead and dominated the race.

Rudy was at the 6th spot on his 9th lane, running without using his powers.

'I didn't put enough effort in the run-up. I am not used to doing that as I can easily achieve high speed without run-ups.'

Rudy had a bad start, but that wasn't the end of the race. He ran faster and left the number five behind, and continued catching up to the top three runners.

'There is no need to get the band first. The only advantage is that it will give two points, but I don't care about sports points as I am not going to participate in other activities. As long as I can reach the starting point, I am safe.'

Rudy was the third one to reach the 500-meter mark and get the band. Janet couldn't stop grinning when Rudy took the band from her, and she even thought of holding his hands, but of course, she didn't.

Once Rudy had gotten the band, he ran as fast as possible and surpassed the number two. Around 100 meters had left when Rudy and the number one— Mason Schaar, were running toe to toe.

Either of them could come first, or the tables could turn at the last moment.

Rudy was on lane number nine, while Mason was on lane number eight. They were running neck to neck and trying their best to overtake each other.

Just like Rudy and Mason, the students and teachers watching the race were also on the edge of their seats. They were curious to find out who would win the race.

Suddenly Mason stepped into Rudy's lane and bumped into Rudy, due to which Rudy stumbled and almost tripped on his way. While the Mason ran forward.

It might have seemed normal to the spectators, but it wasn't.

'If you are going to cheat, then there is no one to stop me from doing the same.'

Rudy activated 0.0000000000000001% of his power and simply pressed his feet against the ground, which gave him enough speed to catch up to Mason.

Just when Mason thought he had won, Rudy overtook him in the nick of time and won.

The audience started applauding and cheering Rudy's victory.

In the next minute, the remaining students also finished the race.

[Ladies and Gentlemen! We have our winners! The first place goes to Rudy, and cheers for him for putting us at the edge of our seats! The second place goes to Mason, well deserved. And the third place goes to Miles!

Please welcome them on the stage as they watch and wait for the other batches to finish their race.]

Rudy raised his hand and said, "Excuse me! May I have a second, please?"

[Yes, go ahead. Do you have something to say?]

"Yes, I do."

Rudy walked to the anchorman to get his mic and pointed his finger at Mason.

[This guy got into my lane and pushed me to the side so I would trip or stumble and lose my spot. I demand justice!]

The anchor took out another mic from under the table and turned it on as he said, [Oh, why, what do we have here? An accusation from our winner to our second winner!]

[He is no winner. Those who cheat are worse than the last ranker. I demand his disqualification from this year's sports tournament!]

"Why are you lying?!" Mason snatched the mic from the anchorman and said, [You are lying.]

[Everyone saw how you stepped into my lane to stop me from overtaking you!]

[What are you talking about? Nothing of that sort happened. He is making things up. Even though he won the race, he is making a whiner's excuses. I can't imagine how he would have acted if he ranked 2nd instead of 1st.]

Rudy turned to Anthony, who was sitting at the top of the stage, and asked, [The match was recorded, right?]

"Yes, all matches are recorded," Anthony nodded.

[Good. Can you replay the race from all the angles so the entire school can see what type of cheater Mason Schaar is.]

Mason gulped down in nervousness and said, [There is no need for that. Are you seriously going to cause all the drama for such a simple thing? What a loser. You don't deserve to win the race or any race.

Other batches and students are waiting for their turns, but you want to make a drama for no reason. And why do you even care about that if you won in the end? It doesn't matter, right?]

"That's enough. We will check the clips from all the angles and judge them by ourselves. Cheating will not be tolerated. Rather it is a school sports tournament or Olympics, cheating is cheating," Anthony asserted.

It took five minutes for the experts to gather and compile the race clip from all angles. And once everything was set, it was played on the large screen on the playground so everyone could see it.

The recording was from five angles, and everything was clearly seen.

[As you can see, he stepped into my lane and stopped for a split second to send me into a spiral. If that's not cheating, I don't know what is.]

After realizing he was in danger, Mason said, [I admit that I stepped into his lane, but that happens all the time. Even in official races of national-level leagues, such a thing occurs, but that doesn't mean you can defame them and call them a cheater.]

[True, but they don't stop or try to get in the other runner's way,] Rudy retorted. [They return to their lane in less than a second.]

[If anything, it's your fault for not being cautious. I am glad that you didn't score 2nd. Otherwise, who knows what you might be framing me for!]

"Enough!"

Anthony turned on his mic and said, [Everyone can see the clip and judge by themselves. We, teachers, have decided to refrain from judging, so we will leave it to our students. We just started the poll on the school's website. You all can vote, and we will take it as the final verdict.]

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Chapter 647: Karma

The authorities had decided to let the students vote and judge by themselves since they didn't want to be accused of favoring Rudy over Mason. However, Rudy wasn't happy with that decision.

'I don't have a fan following in the school. Yes, everyone knows me because I am a topper, but that's it. They don't personally know me or care about me. I am a friend to them when they need something with me, or it's study related, but outside of school, they won't even look at me.'

I am telling this because that's precisely what happened in my past life. I was in an illusion, thinking I was famous in school and that I was special, but that wasn't the case. I was over my head for thinking that. But oh well, that harsh realization taught me an important life lesson.

On the other hand, it's the opposite with Mason. I am sure that the results will be in his favor. What should I do? Hack into the system and change the voting? I want justice for myself and the others who Mason would be racing against in the future.'

Rudy decided to change the vote, but he stopped after noticing something.

'What? They are voting in my favor? So I wasn't exaggerating after all.'

The voting was live, and everyone could see the percentage of votes on the big screen in the playground. Once the voting had ended, the result was clear and in Rudy's favor.

[96.69% voted in Rudy's favor, so they have judged that Mason Schaar purposely did that. Not only did he use a cheap trick to win, but he also endangered the lives of other runners. Had they tripped at the speed they were running, they could have fractured their bones, which could have been a life-destroying incident.]

Mason Schaar, you are hereby disqualified from the sports ranking of this school, and you won't be allowed to participate in any other sports activity in this year's sports tournament. You will also be writing a handwritten apology letter to Rudy and the school.]

Anthony announced in front of the entire school.

Mason clenched the mic in his hand and gritted his teeth. He furiously glared at Rudy and said, "You are so petty. I miss bullying you."

After whispering that to Rudy, Mason tossed the mic to the group of teachers and walked down the stage.

'I got my revenge, I guess.'

Mason Schaar was one of the third-year senior students who used to bully Rudy and beat him whenever he was seen alone in the school or on the school grounds. The other students somehow managed to graduate, but Mason was too dumb for that and was forced to repeat a year.

After failing that term, too, he was sent to the lower grade as he didn't even remember the basics. Since everyone knew he was a bully, he couldn't make new friends— although he made friends with students similar to him.

However, after Anthony expelled a few students for bullying, the bullying in the school stopped, and no one tried to do it again.

Rudy didn't care about Mason as he was already living a pitiable life, but he hadn't forgiven him. But with what Mason tried to do today, Rudy thought it would be a perfect time to teach him a lesson and take his revenge.

As always, Rudy chose the best way to make his revenge sweet, and he humiliated Mason in front of the entire school and got him disqualified from the only thing he was good at— sports.

'I hadn't planned this at all. Everything just worked in my favor. I didn't know Mason was participating or that he was in the same batch. I was so focused on the girls that I didn't even pay attention to the contestants' names. I guess Karma had my back on this one.'

Rudy also left the stage after making an excuse, but he didn't forget to make a subtle gesture to Rize.

Rudy entered the school building and decided to head to his classroom since that's where they had made the deal.

"Wait, Rudy!" Rize called out to him.

She hurriedly walked over to him and violently whispered, "Don't signal me like that when everyone is around! What if someone got suspicious?!"

"You can just tell them the truth," Rudy shrugged.

"And that is?"

"That... you were teaching me... umm... sex education? I mean, you do teach that subject to the girls, right?"

Rize shook her head after letting out a disappointed sigh and said, "You are seriously going to get us in trouble someday."

Rudy pulled Rize to the side, hid behind the stairway wall, and asked, "I did what you asked me to do. Now it's time for my reward."

"What do you want as your reward, your majesty?"

"You already know it, your highness."

"Still, you can ask for something else. I will give you whatever you want."

"My main goal is you, so I need you. But once you give your answer, you will automatically belong to me and I to you."

Rize squinted her eyes and said, "Okay, close your eyes."

"Why?" Rudy asked with a confused and curious look on his face.

"Just do it."

"But why? I mean, we have already kissed, so if you plan to kiss me instead of answering, it won't have much impact, you know?"

Rize furrowed her brows and uttered, "Close your eyes, or I am walking away without giving you an answer."

"Okay, okay." Rudy closed his eyes and muttered, "I had no idea you were so wild."

Rudy waited for a few seconds, hoping to receive a kiss on the lips and his answer, but nothing happened. He assumed Rize must be nervous and taking her time to gather the courage to give an answer, so he waited for a minute, but nothing happened still.

When he opened his eyes, he found himself lying on the bed with curtains all over it.

"What the..."

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Chapter 648: Rize's Selfish Secret

'Where am I?' Rudy wondered.

He felt someone's presence around him, so he activated his see-through ability and saw Rize enter the room.

"Rize?" he called out to her.

"Rudy?!" Rize rushed to the bed and moved the curtains.

"What's going on? What is this place, and why am I here?"

"It's a school infirmary."

"Oh, no wonder it felt familiar..." he muttered.

"You passed out!"

"What?"

"I told you not to force yourself too much. You gave your all in the race to win. It's because I asked you to participate. It's all my fault!"

"Wait, wait, wait, wait. What do you mean I passed out? I fell to the ground?"

"No, but you weren't opening your eyes or responding to my voice."

'What's going on? Did I fall asleep again? But I only closed my eyes for a few seconds,' Rudy uttered inwardly.

"How long was I out?"

"Like... five minutes? I went to get a juice can for you for some energy, but the vending machine is yet to be refilled."

SIGH!

Rudy sighed in relief and muttered, "I am glad it hasn't been hours."

"Are you okay?" Rize asked with teary eyes.

"Yes. I am okay. Everything is perfectly fine, so don't worry, and don't blame yourself."

"..." Rize continued staring at Rudy with teary eyes and suddenly jumped on the bed.

"What are you—"

Before Rudy could even finish what he was saying, Rize pulled him close and kissed him on the lips. She pinned him down on the bed and continued kissing him aggressively.

After a few kisses, she started to unbutton his shirt, which surprised Rudy.

"What are you doing?" he asked.

"Don't be embarrassed now. I am sure you want the same thing."

"I do, but..." Rudy grabbed Rize's hands to stop her from taking his shirt off, "But not like this."

"Why are you stopping me? I bet you have fantasized about having sex with me in school. I am fulfilling your dream."

Rudy sat up and cuffed Rize's hand behind her waist.

"You are not wrong, but I don't want it to be like this. I don't want a relationship without a name. And you are just feeling guilty, aren't you? That's why you want to make up to me by doing this," he stated with a knowing look on his face.

"So what? It doesn't make a difference. You will get what I want, so why don't you let me—"

Rudy sharpened his gaze and uttered, "I don't want your body, I want your heart and love. If I wanted your body and simply wanted to have sex with you, believe me, I would have done that a long time ago. I had many chances to do that."

Rize stopped resisting and lowered her gaze.

"Then why do you care so much about my answer? It's not like we will really go out and have a relationship. You say you love me, but you also love Alice. Do you think a relationship like that can exist or stay the same for long?"

You will end up hurting all three of us. I am fine with continuing our fling, but I don't want to be in a serious relationship with you. We have no future together," she said with a gloomy face.

"What if I tell you Alice is aware of our fling, and she is okay with it?"

"Even if that's true, a relationship like that cannot last long. It's unhealthy. How long would you continue such a relationship? At one point, you will have to leave everything behind and think of a future.

Even if you are happy with such a relationship, it's purely based on pleasure. You will never be satisfied with it. I am sure, after some time, you want to have a fling with a third girl. You will keep chasing and chasing after the girls. You will never be truly happy."

Everything Rize said had a valid point, but that wasn't applicable to Rudy as he could satisfy the girls in every aspect.

"If that's the case, then shouldn't you stop me from having such a relationship instead? Here you are encouraging it instead and asking me to have sex with you. I want us to have a real relationship, but you want to keep it a fling instead," Rudy remarked with a judging look on his face.

"That's... well..." Rize's face flushed a little as she muttered, "Because I want... to... do it with you..."

"Oh? So you are doing it for yourself and not me?"

"I am doing this for both of us! It's a mutual pleasure. We both will get what we want."

"And what after that? We will continue having sex here and there whenever we are in the mood? After that, what? We will do it until I graduate?"

"..."

"Rize..." Rudy let go of Rize's cuffed hands and calmly said, "Please... be honest with your feelings. Don't force yourself to do all this. You are hurting yourself."

"But..." Rize bit her lips and continued speaking with a painful expression on her face:

"We can't have a relationship. We can't have a future. Even if I start dating you, we will eventually have to break up. I don't want to hurt you. I don't want you to get attached to me like that."

Rize was surely being selfish, but for Rudy's sake. She knew that she had no future, and she didn't want to drag Rudy's future down. She knew that her parents wouldn't let her marry the man she loved.

Even after that, she was more worried about Rudy than herself. She was afraid that Rudy would suffer the same fate her older sister— Emma's lover suffered. She was scared that her parents would use their connection and frame Rudy for a crime he didn't commit.

Of course, Rudy was well aware of what was going through Rize's mind and why she wasn't giving her answer— even though she loved him dearly. Undoubtedly, Rudy could save Rize from her fate, but what could he do if Rize herself didn't want to be saved?

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Chapter 649: Rize's Salvation

From the beginning, it was all part of Rudy's plan. He wanted Rize to stand up for herself and stop being her parent's slave. He wanted her to save herself, so he could save her from her evil parents.

It wasn't about Rize's answer to Rudy's confession, it was about the message, and the courage Rudy was trying to convey to Rize.

Rudy wanted Rize to speak for herself and be honest without being scared of her parents. That's why he hadn't told her anything about the harem yet. Because even if he had, Rize still wouldn't have answered.

She was sacrificing her love for Rudy for Rudy's well-being. She wanted Rudy to live a happy life instead of getting him involved in her matters.

"Just say the word, Rize. You know what you have to say. You know what you want. Just say it, and I will commence it."

Rize hugged Rudy tightly and muttered, "Save... me. I love you. I love you so so much. So save me. Give me an opportunity to love you. I will cherish you and never let you go away. So please... hold me tight and don't let them take me away."

"Your wish has been granted."

Rudy knew from the start what Rize's answer to his confession was. When he asked her in the classroom, he was holding her hand, and he could hear all the thoughts going through her mind.

Even before that, he was already aware of her feelings. After all, Rize had loved him in his past life, too, so even if he hadn't made moves on her, she would have fallen in love with him.

All Rudy did by making moves on Rize was just to speed up the process and make her fall in love with him at the earliest. And now that Rize had become honest and given her answer to Rudy, he no longer had to hide anything from her.

"Rize, I have something to tell you."

"You can do that later."

Rize kissed Rudy on the lips and started taking off his shirt, which she had unbuttoned.

"Wait, wait, wait." Rudy stopped her.

"What is it now? I even confessed my love to you!" Rize hissed, seemingly frustrated.

"Someone is coming."

"Huh?"

"Hide."

Rize had no time to react, and the person had entered the infirmary and moved the curtains to Rudy's bed.

The person was none other than Alice.

"Th-This is not what it looks like! I was just checking his heartbeat!"

Rize tried to get off Rudy, but her legs had gone numb after sitting in an awkward position.

When Rize had asked Rudy to close his eyes behind the stairs, and he didn't open his eyes again, Rize panicked and didn't know what to do. At the same time, she saw Alice and Janet passing by, while in truth, they had seen Rudy entering the school building after getting off the stage, and they followed him.

They were looking for Rudy in the school building and were headed towards their classroom since they assumed Rudy must have gone to take his bag as it wasn't with him when he left the stage.

On their way, they heard a faint voice calling Rudy's name, so they walked to the end of the hallway towards the stairway and saw Rudy and Rize under the stairs.

Alice realized what was going on, but Janet was furious and went to confront them, only to realize Rudy had passed out. At first, she even thought Rudy was pretending as if they were caught, but after realizing she was wrong, they all carried him to the infirmary.

The nurse was at the playground with a medical team, as it was natural for the students to get injured during sports tournaments.

Rize and Janet were panicking, but Alice wasn't as worried as the two as she was well aware that nothing could hurt Rudy. Then, they decided to get something to drink for Rudy, but the nearest vending machine was empty, so Rize sent Alice and Janet to search for juice in the other vending machine of the school.

Rize returned to the infirmary when Rudy called out her name, and then they shared a moment, which ended when Alice returned.

Alice knew that Rudy wanted to add Rize to his harem. Although she didn't want that to happen, she wasn't against it.

"Janet was right behind me, so she should be here at any given minute. Unless you have an explanation for what you two are doing, I suggest you get off the bed," Alice asserted with a straight face.

Rudy helped Rize get off the bed and buttoned his shirt.

A few seconds later, Janet returned with four juice cans in her hands, each having a different flavor. When she saw Rudy was awake, she rushed to him and asked:

"Are you okay?!"

Rudy lowered his gaze with a gloomy expression on his face and shook his head.

"I am not. I was trying to hide it because I didn't want to make anyone worry, but I guess it's time."

"Wha...t? What are you talking about?!" Janet panicked.

"He is lying." Alice placed her hand on Janet's shoulder and said, "He is okay and everything is fine."

"But... he said..." Janet stopped when she saw Rudy grinning at her.

"I can't believe you just did that to her," Rize scolded.

"He is always like this! I don't know why, but he always teases me like this!" Janet stated.

"You know why I do that."

Janet handed the juice can to everyone while glaring at Rudy.

"Huh? I don't like this flavor," Rudy said after looking at his can.

"But, I do. And it's one of my favorites."

Janet was holding Rudy's favorite flavor, so he said, "Then why do you have my favorite, and you gave me your favorite?"

"Because you don't like that flavor, and I want you to suffer while you drink every sip from it!"

"..."

'And then she wonders why I tease her.'

After drinking the juice, Rudy, Alice, and Janet left the school as they had nothing else to do on that day, and participating in the sports tournament wasn't compulsory.

Rize had to stay there until the school hours ended as she was a teacher. And Rudy told her to tell the school that he wouldn't be participating in the advanced sprint race because he wasn't feeling good.

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Chapter 650: Walking With Alice

Rudy and Alice dropped Janet at her house. While they both were walking back, Rudy slapped Alice's ass and grinned at her.

Alice glared at Rudy and yelled, "I told you not to do that. I don't like it!"

"I was just checking if they are ready or not."

"That's not an excuse!"

"I spank the other girls all the time during sex, though."

"Then spank them, not me."

A few seconds later when Alice had calmed down, Rudy asked, "Are you going home?"

"No. Dad has been working from home for the past few days, so I don't want to go home. So I would rather spend my time in school than stay home."

"Why is that?"

"It's boring, and I don't want to be alone. I am actually delighted that you brought your harem to this world. I can spend time with them, and it feels great," she smiled.

"What do you girls do, anyway?"

"Nothing much. Just how friends hang out, I guess? We watch a movie or talk about you." She scoffed and covered her mouth as she said, "I sometimes freak Jane out by mentioning sensitive things in front of Rias."

"I can see that happening. She is the only girl who doesn't know that Rias knows everything. And if any of my harem members end up saying something about harem, Jane knows that she would be in danger too."

"Yeah."

"As long as you all are getting along, I am okay with that. I don't want my harem members to fight each other."

"I haven't talked with Maria, Ruby, or Vriti that much. I know Reina and Rias from the start, while Jane tries to stay close to me because she is afraid I will tell everything to Rias."

"What about Niti?" Rudy asked curiously. "Is she getting along with everyone? To be honest, she is the one I am most worried about. She doesn't say much when I ask her, and she is the oldest one in the harem, so she can handle everything. But she also feels distant from everyone."

"I thought the other vampire was the oldest."

"Yes, Nyxia is the oldest, but she is not here, so I didn't count her."

Rudy and Alice continued walking while holding hands instead of flying.

"It seems everything went well with Rize," Alice remarked.

"You can say that," Rudy nodded. "She is officially part of my harem now."

"You added four new girls, five actually."

"Uhh... no?"

"Maria, Rize, Ruby, Vriti, and Janet."

"Maria and Rize are not new, and you know that. I have known them for long enough. And Ruby and Vriti are not part of my harem. They are just living with them as they have nowhere else to go."

Alice squinted her eyes and shot a judging glare at Rudy as she asked, "What about Janet? You are thinking of adding her to the harem?"

"You already know she loves me. I am just testing her to see if I should add her or not."

"..." Alice didn't say anything in response and continued staring at Rudy.

"I mean, she is hot. Her body is perfect, and you know she spends a lot on her appearance. I would totally want to fuck her, but that's the problem. I lust for her more than I love her. I will wait to fall in love with her more before adding her to my harem.

I am not going anywhere, and neither is she. In fact, I am giving her more time to change and love herself for what she is. Not to mention, she never confessed her love to me. But when she does, I will accept her without making any excuses. Until then, we will continue what we have been doing," Rudy responded calmly.

"What about the demon girl, then? You had sex with her and added her to your harem even though you didn't know her well," Alice remarked.

"That's a different matter. You see, Lilim and I, we both wanted to fuck, and there were little to no feelings involved. But with Janet, she loves me, and I don't want to play with her feelings when I am not sure about mine," he shrugged.

"If you put it like that... it makes sense."

Rudy smiled and looked up at the sky before glancing back at Alice.

"I am just taking it slowly. There is no need to hurry. Let things naturally play out how they were supposed to be. I will only get involved when it's necessary."

He chuckled softly and added, "And you will be surprised to know that Janet's love for me is different than the love you or any other of my harem members have for me."

"Do you mean... she loves you more than we do?"

"No, I am not talking about the quality or degree of love here."

"Then?" she asked with a glint of curiosity in her eyes.

"You will know when the time comes."

"Don't leave me hanging like that!"

"I will tell you if you manage to make me cum in five minutes when you blow me next time."

"Deal. But I want the answer now."

"That's not how business works."

"If you tell me now, you will get an unlimited 'finger me' pass, which you can use to finger me whenever and wherever you want." Alice proposed her deal.

"Whenever and wherever?"

"Yes."

"At the school too?"

"Yes."

"In the classroom too?"

"Yup."

"Your deal has been accepted," he said proudly.

"Good. Now tell me."

"I was referring to her personality of love."

"..." Alice raised her brows in confusion and asked, "What does that mean?"

"She is a... true yandere. I have to humble her first."

"Yandere..." Alice pondered for a while and muttered, "Isn't that the type of girl who gets violent and obsessed with her lover?"

"Yes. But luckily, I know how to humble her. I did it in my past life, where I was powerless, so I can surely do it in this life too."

"Please do. I don't want her to beat me once she catches us together."