

Ex Convict 3741

Chapter 3741

When Veronica went to work at the brokerage company in the afternoon, the manager of the personnel department said to her, "Veronica, there's a new employee today. Can you introduce him to the company and your usual work? He'll be working with you later."

Working with her, so he's also a part-time assistant?

"Okay!" Veronica agreed.

But when she saw the new employee, she was stunned.

It was Daniel, and if this was a coincidence, then the world was too small.

"Mr. Cross?" Veronica exclaimed, "What are you doing here?"

"I haven't found a suitable job yet, so I'm working part-time here," Daniel smiled, "But it's really a coincidence that you're here too."

"What about your delivery job?" Veronica asked.

"I quit. I couldn't juggle both jobs, so I quit the delivery job," Daniel replied.

"But why did you think of working at a brokerage company? It's not related to your major," Veronica asked in confusion.

"It's not related, but at least I can gain some work experience. And the assistant position I applied for seems to require a bit of everything, so maybe I can learn a lot here. And if I can also make some connections, that would be even better," Daniel explained.

"Then let me introduce you to the job here first," Veronica said to her senior.

"Don't call me 'senior' anymore. We're colleagues now. If you keep calling me that, it'll be awkward in the office. Just call me by my name instead."

Call him by his name? Veronica didn't like the idea at first, but she realized that calling him 'senior' in the office might not be appropriate. So she compromised and said, "Okay, Daniel."

Daniel smiled, "Veronica, it's been years since I heard you call me that. It feels good, like going back to the old days."

Veronica felt uneasy, as if there was some hidden meaning behind his words. Maybe she was overthinking it. She thought to herself that she had already made it clear to him last time.

"It's just a normal name. Don't people around you call you by your name?" Veronica asked.

"They do, but it feels different," Daniel replied.

"Let's talk about work first, or you might have trouble later,"

Veronica said.

"Okay," Daniel agreed.

Veronica introduced Daniel to his work and showed him around the company.

"That's about it. HR will prepare your desk soon. If you have any questions, you can come to me. I have other work to do now, so I'll leave first," Veronica said before turning around and leaving.

Daniel watched Veronica's back as the smile on his face gradually faded.

Coming here to work was just the first step. His whole life was ruined because of his relationship with Veronica years ago.

Chapter 3742

He used to feel guilty because he was the one who betrayed their relationship first.

But... after all these years, Veronica was going to be with Mason?!

Initially, Veronica claimed that she only had a brotherly affection for Mason! So, what's going on now?

If Veronica had started dating Mason from the beginning, he probably wouldn't have dated her, and maybe he wouldn't have ended up in his current situation.

He was like a stumbling block in the emotional world of Veronica and Mason, used and then discarded!

But why? Why should he become a stumbling block in someone else's relationship? Why is he the only one suffering among the three?

He is not willing to accept it, how could he be willing to accept it!

So now, he wants revenge! Even if Veronica and Mason are together, he will make them uncomfortable, especially Mason. He won't let him off easy!

When Veronica was about to finish work, Daniel walked over to her and said, "Veronica, there are still some things I don't understand. Can you teach me?"

"Ah, sure." Veronica looked at the time and replied. She had an appointment to have dinner with Mason in an hour. To avoid any misunderstandings at the company, she specifically told Mason not to send a driver to pick her up.

After all, there are some reporters who usually stake out the company's stars for photos. She was afraid that if a luxury car came to pick her up and was mistakenly photographed by those reporters, it would inevitably cause a stir.

Although she is not afraid of rumors, the company is not like school. If things go wrong, it will directly become hot gossip.

Half an hour should be enough. Veronica thought to herself that she would arrive at the dinner location in half an hour.

So she came to Daniel's new desk and began to explain everything that Daniel didn't understand. But every time she thought she had explained enough, Daniel would come up with a bunch of new questions. By the time they finished, it was almost time for dinner.

Oh my god, she's going to be late! Veronica secretly exclaimed in her heart. Even if she took a taxi to rush over there, she wouldn't

make it in time.

"Thank you, you've spent so much time on me." Daniel said

"No need to be polite." She hurriedly packed up her things and returned to her desk.

Just as she was about to leave, Daniel stopped her and said, "It's getting late. Why don't we have dinner together? You can also tell me more about the company since I just arrived today."

"No, I already made plans with someone else," Veronica refused. "I'll tell you about the company tomorrow when we're at work."

"Made plans with someone else? Is it Mason?" Daniel asked.

Veronica's face blushed slightly as she replied, "Yes, it is."

"Are you really dating him?" Daniel asked.

Veronica hesitated for a moment before nodding her head.

"Do you really like him or are you being forced?" Daniel stared

at Veronica.

She was taken aback for a moment before saying, "There's no force. It's voluntary, even... it's what I hoped for!"

"Hoped for?" Daniel frowned. "Do you love Mason?"

Veronica pursed her lips tightly. Love? This word... seemed a bit too heavy. But if she didn't love him, why did she always think of Mason over the years? Why did she regret her misunderstanding of him in the past? Even now, why did she take the initiative to kiss him and hope to date him?

"I think, yes, I love him! I just couldn't see my own feelings before," Veronica said.

And when she finally understood, it was a bit late.

No, it's not too late, because now she's already "trying to date" Mason. Even if he has forgotten the past feelings, she will try her best to make him fall in love with her again!

"Can't see clearly?" Daniel suddenly sneered, "When did you not see your own feelings clearly? When we were together, did you already not see your own feelings clearly?"

Her face turned pale, "I'm sorry, but... when I was with you, I was sincere. At that time, I really only saw Mason as a younger brother."

"But he's not your brother," Daniel said, "Do you really think you and Mason will have a future? After we broke up, he went abroad for so many years, while you still had to work hard to support yourself. If he really cared about you, shouldn't he have solved these problems for you? He's very rich, isn't he?"

"He is very rich, and he can easily solve these problems for me, but I don't want to rely on others. Isn't it better to work hard and get these things myself?" she said.

There was a mocking look on Daniel's face, "The so-called self-reliance is just because you don't dare to expect others to be your reliance for your whole life, and you're afraid that there will be a day when you will separate, right?"

Veronica was stunned, looking at him somewhat dazedly.

"You're afraid that one day Mason will leave you, and you won't be able to handle the blow, so you don't want to be a parasite?" Daniel said.

Veronica's eyelashes trembled slightly. Yes, parasite, a kind of parasitic plant. "The word 'parasite' is still somewhat poetic. If it sounds harsher, it can be called a leech."

The Barlow family had always been leeches, relying on the Reed family to survive.

"I don't want to be a leech, I don't want to rely on others. It's not because I think we will definitely separate. Why can't I rely on myself? I also hope that one day, I can be someone else's reliance. If it's hard and difficult now, and I want to get comfort without working hard, how can I become someone else's reliance

in the future?" Veronica said.

Her voice was not loud, but it made Daniel feel so strong and powerful, as if something had exploded in his ear.

“I’m really leaving now, goodbye.” Veronica finished speaking and hurriedly left the company.

Daniel stood there dumbfounded for a while before saying, “Veronica, you and Mason can’t have a future. That guy is just a dark manipulator who uses money to do whatever he wants. He doesn’t understand what love is!”

And he would be there in the end, witnessing the outcome of their relationship!

Veronica left the company and called Mason. Her conversation with Daniel had taken longer than expected, and she was now running late for their meeting. She wasn’t sure if Mason would still be waiting for her at the restaurant.

When Mason answered the phone, Veronica quickly apologized for being late and asked if he was still at the restaurant and if he could wait for her for half an hour. Mason agreed without any apparent displeasure in his voice, which relieved Veronica.

Chapter 3744

Mason asked if she wanted him to send a driver to pick her up, but Veronica declined, saying that taking the subway was convenient enough. After ending the call, Veronica hurried to the subway station. When she arrived at the restaurant, she saw Mason sitting at a table, holding a coffee cup and sipping from it.

He was wearing casual navy blue clothes, and his demeanor was both casual and aloof. His silence often gave people a sense of loneliness, which was not a deliberate facade but something he had carried with him since childhood.

It was like a lonely boat adrift on the sea, floating aimlessly without heading towards its own harbor. His world and that of others always seemed to be separated by a layer that could not be merged.

Although he had gradually integrated into the Reed family’s life over the years, that sense of loneliness still lingered. She used to be the only person who could break into his world, but later, she walked out of it herself.

This time, can she still enter his world?

Just as Veronica was thinking this, suddenly, as if he noticed her gaze, Mason lifted his eyes and looked at her.

Somehow, at this moment, Veronica felt that the loneliness on

him seemed to be lessened.

“Mason!” She walked up to him with a smile and looked at the table. He hadn’t ordered yet. “Why haven’t you ordered anything?”

“It’s not too late to order when you’re here,” Mason said, then called the waiter over and let Veronica order from the menu.

This restaurant is quite high-end, and the prices of the dishes on the menu are naturally not cheap.

Veronica looked at the price of each dish and felt a little distressed, but she also knew that this money was nothing to

Mason.

After ordering the dishes, just as Veronica was about to speak, her phone suddenly rang. She picked up the phone and saw that it was Daniel calling. She quickly answered, “Hello, this is Veronica.” Her tone was completely formal.

“Veronica, sorry to bother you with a phone call. I have a little problem and forgot to ask you today...” Daniel said, and the question he asked on the phone was completely trivial. In Veronica’s opinion, there was no need to call specifically to ask. He could just ask her tomorrow morning at the company.

Nevertheless, Veronica answered Daniel’s question carefully.

“Thank you, Veronica,” Daniel said.

After ending the call, Veronica looked up and saw Mason staring

at her.

“What’s wrong?”

“When did you save Daniel’s phone number in your phone? It’s not the person I know with the same name and surname, is it?” Mason asked.

“Today,” Veronica replied. “Daniel is now my new colleague. He came to my brokerage company for his first day today.”

Mason furrowed his brow, “So, he’s working at the same company as you now?”

“Yes,” Veronica replied.

“What’s his position?”

“Same as mine, part-time assistant,” Veronica said.

Mason pursed his lips. Daniel had already graduated from college, so there was no need for him to take on a part-time assistant job. Was there some other purpose behind Daniel taking this job?

Mason instinctively felt a dislike towards Daniel.

Even though his previous dislike towards Daniel was due to his relationship with Veronica, and the fact that Daniel was the person Veronica liked.

But after hypnosis helped him forget his feelings for Veronica,

his dislike towards Daniel remained indelible.

Chapter 3745

“Do you want me to have your company’s leader fire him tomorrow?” Mason asked after a moment of contemplation.

Veronica’s body stiffened as she stared at the person in front of her. His words reminded her of what he had done to the Cross family in the past.

Although Daniel’s father’s embezzlement was not Mason’s doing, he had used it as an opportunity to break up with Veronica.

This incident became the catalyst for their eventual separation.

Taking a deep breath, Veronica said seriously, “No.”

“Is it because he’s your ex-boyfriend?” Mason narrowed his eyes, his expression showing a hint of displeasure. “Do you still have feelings for him?”

“No, my feelings for him had already ended when we broke up years ago,” Veronica said.

“Was it out of pity?” he asked again.

“No, it wasn’t pity,” Veronica continued to deny.

“Then why do you want to work with him?” he asked.

“It’s not that I want to work with him, but rather I can

empathize with his helplessness,” Veronica said.

“Helplessness?”

“Maybe you don’t have this feeling, but as an ordinary person like me, I experience it quite often. Sometimes, even if I haven’t done anything wrong, I still have to bear all the blame and be forced to accept the other person’s demands just because they have a higher status, position, or money. Mason, I just don’t want you to use your wealth and status to oppress innocent people,” she said.

He looked at her with a heavy gaze. “Do you often get treated like this?”

His gaze made her heart beat faster, as if all the blood in her body rushed to her face.

"I wouldn't say often... but you know, I work at a talent agency now, and people there are under a lot of pressure, so sometimes they can't help but get angry and blame others," Veronica said.

"If that's the case, how about leaving the company? If you want to work, I can help you find another job," Mason said.

"No need, I've finally adapted to my current job, the salary is good, and I'm about to start my senior year. I can continue to intern at the company and gain work experience. It will make it easier for me to find a job after graduation," Veronica said.

"Why?" he asked.

She paused and looked at him in confusion.

"Why choose a more difficult path? There's no need for that," he said.

In Veronica's mind flashed the conversation she had with Daniel before leaving the company today. She licked her dry lips and said, "I just hope that my abilities can become stronger. I don't want to be a parasite. And...I hope that in the future, when I stand by your side and someone introduces me, they won't just say, 'I am so-and-so from Mason,' but can say my name!"

Chapter 3746

He looked at her with a stunned expression, as if surprised by what she had just said.

"And if I always choose the easy path, then I can't make myself stronger. Then in the future...um, I mean, if we really have a future, it will become a situation where only I rely on you, but you can't rely on me."

He frowned. Somehow, when he heard her say "if we really have a future," he felt unhappy. Did she think that they might not have a future together?

"Do you want to be my reliance?" he asked.

She pursed her lips. Actually, she had always wanted to be his reliance. "I...want to be someone like Auntie Grace," Veronica's face turned slightly red, feeling a bit embarrassed. "Although Uncle Reed is very powerful, Auntie Grace shines in her own field, and she has also handled many cases for Reed Group, which has reduced Uncle Reed's worries."

And she hoped that in the future, she could also be like Auntie Grace, and solve many troublesome things for the person in front of her.

Mason finally stopped asking and the food was served.

The two of them began to eat, and Veronica thought about

whether her words just now had made him unhappy. After all, he had frowned while she was speaking.

But she didn't want to hide anything from him and wanted to express her true thoughts.

This time, they had finally started to get along again, and she didn't want any misunderstandings!

Just then, a voice suddenly sounded, "Hey, isn't that Veronica? What a coincidence to meet you here!"

Veronica turned her head and saw that the person who had just spoken was Vanessa Thompson, one of her classmates. Vanessa was a rich second-generation, and her friends were also part of her clique because Vanessa was generous. In the class, these few people were considered a small group.

"Yes, it's a coincidence," Veronica said.

"You're having dinner with someone, at such a fancy restaurant. Aren't you still working hard to support yourself?" Vanessa said with a smile that seemed like a casual inquiry, but the tone of her voice easily revealed her ill intentions.

Veronica smiled faintly, "Well, I'm having dinner here with a friend. Working hard to support myself shouldn't conflict with having dinner here. After all, I didn't apply for any scholarships for impoverished students, and I work outside of school, not in the positions designated for impoverished students."

In other words, even if she only earns a few thousand yuan a

month, it's her own business if she wants to eat a meal worth tens of thousands of yuan. It's not up to others to judge

Veronica's words obviously made these people unhappy. Vanessa glared at Veronica. Recently, rumors had been circulating around the school that Veronica was often picked up by luxury cars at the school gate. Naturally, she had played a part in spreading these rumors.

The man who drove to pick up Veronica every time was at least 40 years old. It was obvious that Veronica was being kept by someone. But now, she was having dinner at such a high-end restaurant with such a handsome man. It was hard to look at.

In Vanessa's eyes, Veronica was just a poor person at the bottom of society. What did she have to dine at such a nice restaurant like her?

Chapter 3747

"Veronica, are you using the money you earned from selling yourself to support the little white face next to you? Does he know where the money for this meal came from?" Vanessa sarcastically said.

As soon as Veronica heard this, she knew that Vanessa had misunderstood. The rumors circulating around the school had made Vanessa think that Veronica was able to come to this restaurant because she was being kept by someone.

And...does Mason look like a little white face?

Veronica couldn't help but glance at Mason. Although his skin was fair and his appearance was delicate, has anyone ever dared

that Mason was a little white face?

to say

And to say that she was keeping a little white face...oh my god!

"Vanessa, don't talk nonsense!" Veronica scolded.

"You dare to do it but not let others talk about it?" Vanessa sneered, "Does this little white face know that you're being kept by someone? Or does he think he's found a rich woman?"

The other party kept calling Mason a "little white face", leaving Veronica speechless. As Mason's face grew darker, Veronica could only silently mourn for Vanessa in her heart. If the other party was smart, they would leave immediately.

"Am I a little white face?" Mason's voice slowly rang out.

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Vanessa smiled and walked up, "Your outfit isn't cheap. Did Veronica buy it for you? She's been with a rich old man lately. If you're not a little white face, then what are you? Why don't you follow me? I can buy you designer clothes too. And of course, if I think you're good enough, maybe I'll make you my boyfriend for real!"

Vanessa spoke in a condescending tone.

Veronica's headache grew worse. She could almost imagine the expression on Vanessa's face when she found out Mason's true identity!

So, as the saying goes, "loose lips sink ships". This statement was really not unfounded!

"Follow you?" Mason's gaze stared straight at Vanessa. "What do you have that can make me follow you?"

The other party's gaze made Vanessa inexplicably fearful. She felt like she was being watched by some terrifying presence.

Although this man had a beautiful face, when his eyes were fixed on someone, they exuded a strong pressure.

This pressure could even make people feel breathless, surpassing the pleasure brought by his handsome face.

Vanessa's group of girlfriends who were with her chimed in

when Vanessa didn't speak. "Our Vanessa is a rich young lady. Have you heard of Katyna Corporation? That's her family's company."

"There are over a thousand workers in her family's factory alone!"

"And in a few years, it might go public. By then, Vanessa's worth will be beyond what ordinary people can compare to."

"You're lucky to have caught Vanessa's eye. If you make her happy, you won't have to worry about anything in the future!"

Mason shrugged and turned to Veronica. "Is this your classmate? It seems like your school's admission standards are pretty low if someone like this can get in."

Veronica was sweating profusely, "This has nothing to do with the threshold, every school has such people."

Chapter 3748

"Veronica, what did you say?!" Vanessa glared angrily, "Do you know who you're talking to?!"

"So, do you think you're noble? Only you can criticize others, but others can't criticize you?" Veronica retorted.

"I am indeed more noble than you, so what?" Vanessa said, her eyes filled with not only anger but also disdain. In her eyes, people like Veronica were nothing but lowly dust.

Although she was being kept by someone now, once this kind of thing was exposed, she would never be able to hold her head up again!

She would see how unlucky Veronica would be then!

And now, the first thing she had to do was-"Manager, where is the manager of your restaurant?" Vanessa suddenly grabbed a

waiter.

The waiter went to find the manager, and after a moment, the manager walked over and asked, "Is there anything Miss Thompson needs?" After all, Vanessa was a regular here, and the manager knew her.

"Well, you see, I paid for their table today. After all, my classmate usually does compensated dating and brought her gigolo here to eat. The price is a bit too much for her to bear, so

as a classmate, I kindly helped her out."

Vanessa deliberately raised her voice when speaking, obviously wanting everyone around to hear, and the group of girlfriends, standing beside her even burst into mocking laughter.

After hearing Vanessa's words, the manager looked at Veronica's table and was completely stunned.

What...what is this woman talking about? Saying that the female companion brought by Mason from the Reed family is...doing compensated dating? And then saying that Mason is a gigolo?

Oh my god, if the Reed family really investigates, not only will this woman be in trouble, but even their restaurant will be implicated!

Thinking of this, the manager's face turned pale, and he immediately said to the waiter beside him, "Call the security guard over."

"Yes!" The waiter hurriedly ran off, and Vanessa's face flashed with surprise before turning into a smug expression. The manager must be planning to kick Veronica and that pretty boy out of the restaurant.

People like Veronica dining here only lower the restaurant's standards!

As for the pretty boy, if he apologizes properly, Vanessa wouldn't mind spending some time with him. After all, his face is quite to her liking.

However, what Vanessa didn't expect was that when several

security guards arrived, the manager pointed directly at her and said, "Kick her and her companions out of the restaurant."

"What?!" Vanessa and her friends were shocked. "Manager, what are you saying? You want us to leave?"

"Yes, this restaurant doesn't welcome you, and you will be permanently blacklisted." The manager scolded the security guards and urged them to take action.

The security guards then said to Vanessa and her friends, "Ladies, please come with us."

"I'm not leaving. What can you do? Your restaurant has no right to refuse customers. And I will go to the Consumer Council to sue you. If you don't give me an explanation today, you won't even be able to keep your restaurant open!" Vanessa said.

"Then you can try!" The manager said stubbornly, urging the security guards.

After all, the longer they stayed, the more they would anger

Mason.

Chapter 3749

This time, the security guards were not as polite as before. They directly grabbed Vanessa and her friends' hands and dragged them out of the restaurant.

"Stop it! Who do you think you are to drag me? Do you know who I am? You and your restaurant will pay for this..." Vanessa kept cursing and struggling, but it was useless. In just a moment, she was dragged out of the restaurant.

As for her group of friends, they naturally left obediently when they saw this scene. However, before leaving, one of them said to Veronica, "Veronica, don't be too happy. You'll have a hard time at school later!"

Mason's face darkened as he heard the threat from the girl to Veronica. He stared at her with his cold eyes.

The girl trembled and quickly avoided Mason's gaze before leaving.

After they left, the manager hurriedly approached Mason and apologized for the disturbance.

"It's fine. It's not your fault," Mason said calmly.

"Thank you, Mason. Let me comp your meal today," the manager tried to please him.

"No need," Mason declined.

The manager then left and the restaurant returned to its quiet state.

"Do you want me to take care of those girls for you?" Mason asked. The things they said disgusted him.

"No need," Veronica replied. "The truth will come out eventually. If we try to fight every rumor, we'll never catch up."

"How do you know we won't catch up?" Mason asked.

Veronica was taken aback. Well, with the Reed family's power, they could definitely catch up. But...

"Those girls you saw earlier, Vanessa, my classmate, clearly thinks her family's money gives her the right to bully others. I know you could bully her back, but I don't want you to become someone who uses money to bully others. Besides, they already got what they deserved," Veronica explained.

"Do unto others as they do unto you. Isn't that a good thing?" Mason asked.

"It's not that it's not good. Sometimes, society works that way. And sometimes, it's the most effective way. But I'm afraid that if we use this method, we'll lose ourselves," Veronica said.

"So, you don't like this method?" he asked.

"It's not that I don't like it. It's just that I'm afraid we'll lose

ourselves while punishing others.” Veronica replied.

“Just like earlier, the manager clearly kicked Vanessa and her friends out without hesitation because of your status,” she added.

Veronica understood all of this.

If it was to deal with bad people or for self-defense, she wouldn't mind, but she didn't want him to use this kind of method on innocent people.

Just like Daniel back then... he was actually innocent! Although in the end, it was Daniel's choice, if Mason hadn't made Daniel choose between money and love, maybe her breakup with Daniel wouldn't have been so unbearable.

“Anyway, if I'm really targeted at school and can't solve it, I'll let you know.” Veronica looked at Mason. “And... thank you for caring about me.”

His gaze met hers, and his expression suddenly seemed off as he lowered his head. His heart beat more violently than usual, and a feeling that he was once familiar with surged up.

Chapter 3750

Although Mason didn't have the driver pick her up from school much in the next two days, the rumors at school became more and more severe. Someone even posted a photo of the driver picking her up on the school forum and started a petition.

“Veronica, why don't you have your friend come to school and explain that it was just the driver picking you up? Some people at school are speaking too harshly.” Shirley advised.

After all, this kind of rumor is more harmful to women.

“I'll explain it to the forum administrator and have them delete the post.” Veronica said.

After all, her and Mason's relationship was only in the

ambiguous stage, and they weren't officially dating. If he came to school to explain anything, it might actually drag him down, and it could have a negative impact on his reputation.

In that case, would he feel that being with her is more trouble than it's worth?

During class in the afternoon, Veronica ran into Vanessa's group again. Vanessa, surrounded by her friends, walked up to Veronica and glared at her fiercely. “Don't get too cocky. Do you think I'm just going to let that incident go? Let me tell you, you won't graduate properly. Soon, you'll be expelled!”

“What are you talking about! Veronica is fine. Why should she be expelled!” Shirley spoke up for her friend.

“Why? Because she’s being kept by someone! She’s ruining the school’s reputation. Why shouldn’t she be expelled!” Vanessa said.

“That’s right! You should have dropped out a long time ago!”

“Veronica, you look so innocent, how could you do something so shameless?”

Her group of girlfriends chimed in agreement.

“Shameless? From my perspective, what you’re doing now is shameless!” Veronica retorted.

“What are we doing? You’re the one doing shameless things!” Vanessa said fiercely.

“What you’re doing now is bullying and being unrealistic in your words and actions,” Veronica stood her ground.

“Fine, say what you want. Your abilities are limited, I’m waiting to see you get expelled!” Vanessa and her group left.

Shirley looked at Veronica with concern, “Veronica, this seems like it’s going to get worse. Why do they suddenly hate you so much?”

Veronica knew the reason why Vanessa and her group hated her, but it wasn’t convenient to tell Shirley.

“They probably just don’t like me,” Veronica said.

She never really thought about dropping out...

But the next day, she was called into the school office by the school leaders. Besides her homeroom teacher, there was also the grade director and department head.