

Cote 111

Chapter 111: Professional Idol

As the final exams ended, Mashima Tomonari announced that next week they would be heading to the sea for a vacation.

A luxurious cruise ship would take the teachers and students on a wonderful holiday.

According to him, this was the school reward for the first-year students.

Though he said that, no one really believed it. Probably only the idiots in Class D would think the school was being so generous.

During this time, Kaoru Mitoma had been guiding Kamuro Masumi, though the latter attitude was somewhat cold.

After all, seeing certain scenes firsthand would naturally dampen a girl mood. He couldn't possibly guess what she was thinking.

Sometimes, even the person themselves didn't know what they were thinking.

However, the digital camera that had been left at the electronics store for repairs was finally fixed. When Kaoru Mitoma went to pick it up, he found that Mr. Tanaka had already quit.

The store manager complained a bit, saying that the otaku were useless, unable to handle even such an easy job.

Now that he had the digital camera, Kaoru Mitoma contacted Sakura Airi and invited her to meet at a café.

Of course, he didn't use his alternate account to invite her. Otherwise, Sakura Airi legs would have gone weak, and she would never have agreed.

...

Soon, Kaoru Mitoma saw Sakura Airi appear, dressed in layers as if she had just emerged from a burrow, constantly looking around warily.

"What's with this outfit?" Kaoru Mitoma naturally asked.

"N-nothing..." Sakura Airi timidly reached out her hand. "Um, my camera... can I have it now?"

Kaoru Mitoma looked at her. Not only was she wearing a mask, but she also had on an out-of-season jacket, as if she wanted to wrap herself up tightly.

It was summer, and the weather was scorching.

Wouldn't she feel stuffy in that outfit?

In fact, Kaoru Mitoma could already see fine beads of sweat near Sakura Airi neck, and a few strands of hair stuck to her forehead, clearly showing she was overheating.

"My treat today. Let's sit down first."

"The camera..."

"I'll give it to you in a moment." Sakura Airi eyes flickered with hesitation before she nervously sat down across from Kaoru Mitoma.

She instinctively lowered her gaze, her back slumping, too timid to meet his eyes. Her hands rested on her knees, tightly clenched into fists.

It seemed the previous incident had left a significant psychological shadow on her. Kaoru Mitoma couldn't help but ask.

"What would you like to drink?"

"Juice" she replied softly.

Kaoru Mitoma then ordered two glasses of juice and two servings of snacks.

After a while, the juice and snacks were placed before them.

"I recently took the camera to an electronics store for repairs. The staff said it wasn't a big issue—just needed some parts replaced" Kaoru Mitoma began, breaking the silence.

"The camera should be fine. I checked it several times, and the data inside wasn't lost."

At the mention of the camera, Sakura Airi expression shifted subtly, a flicker of fear crossing her eyes. When he mentioned the data, her pupils dilated in alarm.

"Y-you looked at the stuff inside?" she stammered, her voice trembling.

"I'm sorry. I didn't mean to invade your privacy, but the staff insisted on checking it, so I had to do it myself" Kaoru Mitoma apologized sincerely.

Sakura Airi lowered her head, her hands unconsciously twisting together.

She already had a poor impression of Tanaka, so she naturally believed Kaoru Mitoma explanation.

But now, she was preoccupied with something else.

"You're Shizuku-chan, right?"

Kaoru Mitoma indeed knew her identity, which made Sakura Airi feel even more awkward. Her eyes darted toward the door—she wanted to flee.

"Sorry, I didn't mean to pry into your identity. I've been following you for a while. I'm your fan" Kaoru Mitoma said without a hint of embarrassment.

He had immediately followed Sakura Airi Twitter account, so he could certainly claim to be a fan.

"My fan?" Sakura Airi looked utterly surprised, her unease growing.

"Yes, I noticed you from the first time you appeared in a magazine."

During the days he waited for the camera to be repaired, Kaoru Mitoma hadn't been idle.

He had researched everything about Sakura Airi—from her debut to the present. She had entered the entertainment industry in her second year of middle school, working as a gravure idol for magazines.

Later, she had registered her own personal account, updating her activities daily and accumulating nearly ten thousand followers.

Though her status was still modest, Sakura Airi had gained some fame among student circles.

It was only a matter of time before larger agencies would approach her for contracts.

For Kaoru Mitoma, this was right up his alley. He had once been a producer and was deeply familiar with Japan's entertainment industry.

Especially in the field of idol-making, he could be considered one of the top producers.

As Kaoru Mitoma spoke eloquently, even offering professional advice tailored to Sakura Airi current situation, she was utterly captivated.

Not only that, Kaoru Mitoma subtly guided the conversation, occasionally complimenting her photography skills and the quality of her photos.

Most people can't help but ramble on when discussing their area of expertise, and Sakura Airi was no exception.

After this series of conversational maneuvers, the young girl face flushed with excitement. For the first time, she felt that talking to someone could be so comfortable—their chemistry was simply perfect.

No matter what she said, Kaoru Mitoma could always keep up with her topics, even understanding her worries and insecurities as an idol, and offering comfort.

"Are you planning to enter the entertainment industry in the future?"

"Yes, I want to continue being an idol!"

"With your cuteness, Sakura-san, I think you'll definitely become popular."

"P-Please don't say such embarrassing things, I'm not as good as others..."

"But your photos are all very cute, right?" Kaoru Mitoma looked into her eyes seriously.

"Many fans like you, and that affection can't be fake. As long as you plan your future path well—like participating in some gravure idol contests, winning the championship easily, and then appearing on variety shows—you'll definitely gain recognition."

In Japan, the threshold to become an idol is quite low, which is why there are so-called underground idols who might struggle to even get a chance to appear in gravure shoots.

As for top agencies, they're almost out of reach.

Sakura Airi, however, is a surface-level idol, meaning she already has her debut work and has officially appeared in the public eye.

Whether she becomes popular or not depends on various connections and management.

That said, Sakura Airi is a gravure idol, different from other idols who sing, dance, or rap, as the talent requirements aren't as high.

"Mitoma-kun, you're exaggerating. I just like taking photos and documenting things."

Even as she said this, Sakura Airi still showed a faint smile, though it quickly faded as a shadow seemed to cross her face.

Chapter 112: This Pervert Isn't Me

Kaoru Mitoma didn't miss the change in her expression.

After a moment of thought, he naturally asked.

"Are you worried about the future?"

"N-No, I just thought of something unpleasant." Sakura Airi shook her head, hesitating over whether to tell him.

"Is it related to the comments section?"

Sakura Airi was momentarily stunned, then her expression turned gloomy.

After all, there was a pervert who not only harassed her in private messages and in real life but also frequently went wild in the comments section.

It was only natural that Kaoru Mitoma had seen the comments.

"Well... it's actually a worse situation." Sakura Airi had already noticed that Tanaka had deleted his account and fled overnight.

However, instead of feeling relieved, she felt even more depressed.

Even Tanaka had deleted his account, which clearly meant the new pervert was even more formidable.

It had gotten to the point where she now went out fully armed, afraid of being dragged into an alley halfway.

If it weren't for the lack of personal points, Sakura Airi would have considered installing surveillance cameras outside her dorm.

"obsessive fans?"

For idols, the most terrifying thing is probably obsessive fans.

They are everywhere, the most extreme type of fans, often lurking around the idol home and workplace.

I've heard they even rummage through trash bags, trying to find personal items belonging to the idol.

Hmm, in another context, it's like a stalker sniffing your shorts.

"How do you know so much about this?" Airi Sakura felt puzzled.

Not only was Kaoru Mitoma familiar with the entertainment industry, but he also seemed to know her situation well.

"I had a friend who used to be an idol, so I've been exposed to a lot of this stuff. That's why I'm somewhat familiar with it" Kaoru Mitoma said.

"Whether as your fan or as a student council member, if anyone harasses you or causes you trouble, please let me help."

Airi Sakura face turned bright red, and it took her a while to finally blurt out.

"It's too much trouble... and you've already helped me. This is just too presumptuous!"

She seemed incredibly nervous and flustered, her hands constantly rubbing against her thighs.

It was hard to imagine such a girl being an idol.

How did she even manage to get through filming?

"Sakura-san, I might be rambling, but I need to remind you of something."

Kaoru Mitoma expression turned serious, and his demeanor made Airi instinctively straighten her back and sit up properly.

"W-what is it?"

"You're really cute."

"Huh... why are you suddenly saying that?"

The girl in front of him was clearly stunned for a moment, staring at him blankly before a deep blush spread across her cheeks.

Her long eyelashes fluttered, revealing eyes shimmering with shyness.

Although she was well aware of her looks, this was probably the first time someone had praised her so directly and without hesitation.

Especially since Kaoru Mitoma was looking straight into her eyes, saying honestly.

"It's precisely because you're so cute that you've attracted an endless stream of fans. Humans are naturally drawn to beautiful people, and there's nothing wrong with that."

Airi covered her face with her hands. This felt different from the compliments she received online.

"But because of that, you'll also attract a lot of filth, like dark, slimy creatures drooling over you" Kaoru Mitoma continued.

"Most of them just watch, but a few might dare to take action, so your personal safety is very important."

Out in the world, idols are usually accompanied by security personnel.

But Airi Sakura was just a first-year high school student living in a dormitory, so naturally, she didn't have any security.

"Don't take chances. I know these kinds of perverts well. They'll harass you endlessly, follow you, take secret photos, steal your personal belongings, and monitor you constantly. Who knows, they might even do disgusting things to you at night."

Kaoru Mitoma glanced at Airi.

Her figure surpassed that of many mature women, her ample curves barely contained beneath her uniform, only the occasional slight tremble visible.

She could even rest them on the table, but she seemed too shy, always lowering her head, her chest pressing against the edge of the desk, creating a soft sensation.

Though she was wearing glasses now, her delicate features remained etched in Kaoru Mitoma memory.

Add to that the fact that she was a high school girl, her youthful and vibrant body was more than enough to attract many people. This is also the reason why Sakura Airi was able to appear in the magazine.

It's simple—she's beautiful, and the audience loves her.

"Actually, I know..." Sakura Airi paused for a moment.

"I'm really afraid of interacting with people. This is the only way I can stay connected, sharing my daily life with everyone online."

Since her debut, Sakura Airi has been consistently updating her Twitter and frequently engaging with her fans in high-intensity interactions.

"So, you don't have any friends either?" Kaoru Mitoma looked at her with a strange expression.

Why was he meeting yet another reclusive person?

"I-I definitely don't!" Sakura Airi face grew redder and redder.

"I've always been alone. Friends... I probably don't need them, and no one would ever take an interest in me anyway."

As she spoke, her voice gradually trailed off.

"But aren't we getting along just fine now?" Kaoru Mitoma blinked.

"I really hope to become friends with Sakura-san. It's the ultimate wish of a fan."

Sakura Airi mouth hung open in a dazed expression until Kaoru Mitoma repeated himself, at which point her eyes widened in surprise.

"Eh, eh, eh? Can I really agree to that?"

"Is this the latest way to reject someone?"

"I-I didn't mean it like that!" Sakura Airi stammered, her cheeks flushed.

"This is the first time someone has invited me..."

She seemed to mumble something else afterward, but it was too faint to hear.

"No, no, as the idol I support, you need to be more confident. Hold your head high, preferably with an expression like you're about to crush me."

"I'd never do something like that!"

Perhaps feeling that she had made a friend, Sakura Airi became a bit more animated.

"So, if you ever run into trouble, please give me a chance" Kaoru Mitoma said earnestly.

"Just the thought of the person I support being harassed by a creep makes me feel uncomfortable all over."

Sakura Airi was momentarily stunned, her heart suddenly racing as she nervously lowered her head.

After a while, she whispered. "What if I do get harassed?"

"Make them drop out of school or quit their job" Kaoru Mitoma thought for a moment.

"But I think calling the police would be more appropriate. Who knows if they'd seek revenge before leaving?"

Sakura Airi fell silent for a moment.

"Actually, there's a creep who seems to be harassing me."

"Who's that bold?"

Then, Kaoru Mitoma looked at her phone screen and fell into deep thought.

"He says goodnight to you every day, and 'I'm going to charge'?"

"Um... but I'm not really sure what 'charge' means."

"Has he sent you any disgusting photos?"

"No, but he's threatened me into sending him some photos."

"Aside from this guy, have you sent photos to anyone else?"

"He's the first one... Waaah, am I really that stupid?"

"..."

Chapter 113: Summer Vacation Trip

Since he didn't know the identity of the other person, Kaoru Mitoma could only promise to keep an eye out for suspicious individuals and ensure her safety.

Moreover, he told Sakura that if anything unexpected happened, she should inform him immediately, and he would rush to her side.

Sakura was clearly moved.

She already shared many common interests with Kaoru Mitoma, and now that they were newly acquainted friends, she felt that Kaoru Mitoma was indeed a good person.

Later, as she carried her digital camera back home, she seemed a bit reluctant to leave.

This girl has some self-awareness, but not much. Kaoru returned to his dormitory when his phone suddenly vibrated. Picking it up, he saw that Horikita Manabu had recommended someone contact information to him.

He casually added the person, and soon a few messages came through.

Kaoru looked puzzled—was this considered leaking information in advance?

However, it shouldn't be a problem since the other party hadn't mentioned anything crucial.

After some thought, Kaoru Mitoma invited the person to meet during the summer break, as he was about to head to a deserted island for vacation.

The other party acknowledged this and then stopped replying.

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August 1st

Crossing the narrow Tokyo Bay, a luxurious cruise ship carrying first-year students from ANHS slowly sailed across the azure sea under a clear sky.

The sunlight reflected brilliantly on the deep blue sea, creating a seamless view of the ocean and sky. As the city on the horizon gradually disappeared, only the endless expanse of the ocean remained.

Standing on the deck, the sea breeze blew incessantly, rustling his clothes.

Occasionally, a few seagulls could be seen circling in the distance.

Just looking at this scene, Kaoru couldn't help but think of a certain unsinkable cruise ship, though there shouldn't be any icebergs in the Pacific.

Otherwise, he'd have to start wondering where his Rose was.

Just as he was thinking this, Kaoru suddenly noticed two people hugging in front of him, their arms outstretched.

"The sea, ohhhh!"

"Jack, I'm flying!"

"No, Ike! At least do it with me in the car before you fly away!"

"Get lost!"

It seemed to be students from Class D.

Kaoru recognized them—two students from Horikita Suzune remedial class, one named Ike Kanji and the other Yamauchi Haruki.

As he recalled, he also noticed Ayanokouji Kiyotaka and Sudou Ken nearby.

Not only were the Class D students visibly excited, but many students from Class A and other classes also looked thrilled.

After all, for many, this might be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to vacation on a luxury cruise ship.

The ship was fully equipped, from top-tier restaurants to theaters for enjoying plays and high-end spas.

Under normal circumstances, this would cost hundreds of thousands of yen, but the school had announced that all facilities on the ship were free to use.

Upon hearing this, students from other classes managed to stay composed, but Class D had already gone wild.

After enduring months of hardship, surviving on the free cafeteria meals—specifically the vegetable set—they had finally reached their breaking point.

Departing at 5 a.m., the moment they boarded the ship, Class D students immediately stormed the restaurant.

This drew disdainful looks from many students, and Totsuka Yahiko even mocked them for it.

Kaoru Mitoma didn't mind, but judging from the state of the various classes, it seemed many were filled with anticipation and optimism.

According to the school, this extravagant trip would last two weeks.

There were even rumors that the first week would be spent enjoying the summer at a guesthouse built on a deserted island, while the second week would be spent on the cruise ship.

Even Class A students couldn't help but wonder—was this the legendary special exam?

Or had the school, considering it was their first semester, decided to go easy on them?

"Aren't you going to join in, Mitoma-kun?" Hearing the voice beside him, Kaoru glanced at a girl leaning on a crutch.

Due to the sea breeze, she had to hold onto her beret with one hand, her eyes slightly squinting.

Behind her, Kamuro Masumi, Hashimoto Masayoshi, and Kito Hayato followed like attendants.

When their eyes met, Hashimoto Masayoshi smiled and gave a slight nod in greeting, while Kamuro Masumi averted her gaze.

"Too many familiar faces, I'm scared."

From any angle, the girls he had crossed paths with were all gathered on this cruise ship. If they happened to run into each other, it would definitely be troublesome.

At this, Kamuro Masumi pursed her lips, clearly unimpressed by his words. There was no way this guy could actually be scared.

"It's a rare vacation, so it's fine to relax a little" Sakayanagi Arisu teased with a smile.

"Or is it that without a girl by your side, you lose all motivation?"

Kaoru Mitoma nodded. "That's why I've been waiting for you."

"How disgusting" Kamuro Masumi said, rubbing her arms as if she felt a chill, her goosebumps rising.

It's not like she was the one being talked about, so why was she reacting like that?

Sakayanagi, however, smiled softly and walked over to the railing, standing beside Kaoru Mitoma as they gazed at the horizon.

She spoke leisurely "I originally didn't plan to participate in this special exam, intending to leave the stage to you and Katsuragi-kun."

"And then you thought about it and realized I might single-handedly destroy all three classes, so you had to step in yourself?"

"No."

"...Could you not deny it so bluntly?"

"I've always been observing you from the sidelines, and I've grown a bit tired of it. So, I decided to see for myself what you would do" Sakayanagi Arisu blinked.

"If there's a chance, I won't hesitate to ruin your plans and see who's more capable."

Kaoru Mitoma recalled the scene from their date.

No wonder she had said those things—she had already made up her mind.

"Seems like you're very confident. Can I surrender now?"

"Hehe, surrendering now won't earn you any rewards. You wouldn't want to miss out on licking my feet, would you?"

As she spoke, the girl deliberately lifted her skirt, revealing the smooth, jade-like skin of her thighs, wrapped in white stockings, glowing with a delicate luster.

Further up, the depths of the mysterious valley could be glimpsed.

"Even more daring things are possible~"

Though her tone was teasing, she quickly lowered her skirt, leaving only a fleeting image in Kaoru Mitoma vision.

"Don't tempt me like that, or you might regret it soon."

"Fufufu, then please make me regret it, Mitoma-kun."

"..."

Sakayanagi Arisu wore a beaming smile, clearly brimming with pride and utterly convinced of her invincibility.

"I don't mind, but can your body handle it?" Kaoru Mitoma felt a bit exasperated.

"We're about to land on the island. If it's a survival situation, we won't be dragging along dead weight."

"Don't worry about that. After all, this trip will last two weeks. We'll have plenty of time to take it slow."

For some reason, Sakayanagi Arisu flashed a meaningful smile.

Chapter 114: A Wager Before the Exam

Her tone suggested she knew more than she let on.

Had she really not used her status as a second-generation elite?

Sakayanagi Arisu noticed Kaoru Mitoma suspicious gaze and frowned slightly in displeasure.

"I have my own sources of information. It's not like you're the only one with connections to upperclassmen."

"So why not share it with everyone?" Kaoru Mitoma asked quietly.

The question clearly touched on a sensitive issue between Sakayanagi Arisu and Class A.

She avoided answering and instead turned her gaze to the students nearby.

"I don't think they stand a chance against Class A. Ichinose from Class B is naive and sweet, while Ryuen from Class C is nothing special."

Kaoru Mitoma calmly watched the girl as she spoke with a tone that gradually carried a hint of amusement.

"Honestly, I'm not very interested until they defeat Katsuragi" Sakayanagi Arisu said softly.

"Reaching the top from the start makes life too dull. That's why I've been looking forward to your actions—and his."

It seemed she didn't even hold Katsuragi Kouhei in high regard. Fortunately, there were no Katsuragi faction students around to hear this, or it might have caused trouble.

But was it really okay for Hashimoto Masayoshi and the others to hear these words?

"It's frustrating to think that besides me, Sakayanagi-san has another plaything," Kaoru Mitoma said.

"Do I need to eliminate them for you to pay more attention to me?"

Sakayanagi Arisu looked at him with a faint smile, then whispered.

"You can only face me because I don't want anyone else to claim you first."

Kaoru Mitoma fell silent.

Was this her way of provoking him?

"Care to make a bet with me?"

"Haha, so you can get angry too?"

"For the upcoming special exam, I'm betting on Class A and the Katsuragi faction to win completely."

"You want me to help the other classes?"

"No, you can bet on a certain genius. If he can stop me, I'll willingly call you master" Kaoru Mitoma paused.

"If he can't, then you'll have to call me master instead."

Sakayanagi Arisu lips curled slightly, but she dismissed his proposal.

"Haha, that punishment won't do. Let's change it."

As she spoke, her gaze fell on Kamuro Masumi, and she added with a smile

"If you can truly surprise me, both Masumi and I will grant you one request."

Kamuro Masumi face darkened.

"How many times do I have to say it? Don't drag me into your rivalry!"

"Deal!" Kaoru Mitoma agreed without hesitation.

At that moment, the ship intercom suddenly crackled to life.

"Attention all students: If you have the time, please gather on the deck. The island is now visible ahead, and you're about to witness a truly significant sight."

As the broadcast ended, most of the students began to appear on the deck, curiously looking ahead.

Among them, Katsuragi finally came into view before Kaoru Mitoma.

However, the student beside him was a bit of a problem.

"Get lost, you inferior Class D trash!"

Kaoru Mitoma could see Totsuka Yahiko roughly shoving Kiyotaka Ayanokoji aside, arrogantly driving away the Class D students, and then securing the best spot for Katsuragi.

Seemingly annoyed by his subordinate behavior, Katsuragi scolded him a few words.

Soon after, Kaoru Mitoma glanced around and noticed that even Ichinose and Ryuen had appeared on the deck, while Suzune Horikita arrived late, wearing a jacket with her arms crossed.

"What a beautiful sight" Arisu Sakayanagi suddenly remarked.

It turned out that an island was gradually emerging on the horizon, and as the distance closed, the surroundings grew increasingly noisy.

Kaoru Mitoma looked out and saw a lush, uninhabited island come into view.

Its highest point seemed to be only about 200 meters, with a tall tower visible in the distance.

It appeared that the island had quite a few man-made structures.

For some reason, the cruise ship didn't dock immediately but instead circled the island.

"Attention, we will soon be docking at the uninhabited island owned by our school. Please change into your sports uniforms within the next half hour and check your designated luggage, backpacks, and other personal items. Bring your phones to the deck for assembly. All other personal items should remain in your rooms."

Following the broadcast instructions, the students excitedly headed back to change.

"It seems I'll have to wait here for your triumphant return" Sakayanagi sighed, her mobility issues preventing her from participating in such activities.

Kaoru Mitoma glanced at the girl calves.

Even through her white stockings, the slender lines of her legs were visible. Her soft, full calves didn't seem particularly weak, as she hadn't yet been reduced to using a wheelchair.

"It's quite rude to stare at a woman like that, Mitoma-kun" Sakayanagi said with a hint of displeasure.

"Just taking an early look at my spoils" Kaoru Mitoma replied, averting his gaze before turning to head back to his room.

"That guy's really arrogant" Masumi Kamuro chimed in, stirring the pot. "If it were me, I'd make him kneel and call me master."

Sakayanagi tapped Kamuro's calf with her cane and then turned to Masayoshi Hashimoto, instructing.

"I'll leave the rest to you, Hashimoto-kun."

Hashimoto clicked his tongue. "Since it's an order from the princess, I'll do my best. But I'm not sure I can handle him."

"Ha, I'm not asking you to handle him" Sakayanagi chuckled. "To be honest, I'm quite curious about what kind of surprise he'll give me."

Hashimoto thought for a moment.

He, too, was curious about Kaoru Mitoma capabilities.

But for now, they also needed to go back and change.

By the time Kaoru Mitoma returned to the deck, it was already bustling with activity.

The homeroom teachers were present, instructing the students to line up by class.

"Starting with Class A, we will disembark in order. Phones are prohibited on the island. Please hand them over to your homeroom teacher" a teacher announced through a handheld megaphone.

Just as Kaoru Mitoma was about to head toward Class A, someone bumped into his shoulder.

The other party seemed to feel the pain and looked up at Kaoru Mitoma with anger, only to suddenly pause, then smile and say.

"Sorry, sorry, I didn't notice you were here."

The girl voice was pleasant to the ear. Kaoru Mitoma glanced at her. She was wearing sportswear—a white short-sleeved shirt revealing a section of her snow-white arm, paired with long pants suitable for exercise, so her calves were not visible.

However, even so, it couldn't hide the fact that a steady stream of desires was emanating from her.

[Publicly humiliate Karuizawa Kei in front of everyone!]

[Threaten Karuizawa—you wouldn't want everyone to know you were bullied, would you?]

[Lick Karuizawa Kei delicate feet until they're ruined]

[You must make her cry]

[Rather than being a parasite, be a slave]

[Kei-chan, for you, I must personally put a collar on you]

[Rub her little belly]

[Hehe, Kei-chan was born to be devoured]

...

Although the girl outfit was different from usual, there was no doubt that she was Karuizawa Kei from Class D.

Chapter 115: Special Exam

In fact, this wasn't their first encounter, but in a sense, it could be considered their official meeting.

Kaoru Mitoma had an impression of Karuizawa Kei. She was the fashionable queen bee of Class D, standing at the top of the social hierarchy, with many girls surrounding her.

And now, she was followed by several girls, all sizing up Kaoru Mitoma, with some even lighting up with interest.

"Are you Kaoru Mitoma-kun from Class A?" Karuizawa Kei seemed quite interested in him.

"If no one has stolen my name without permission, then yes, I am Kaoru Mitoma from Class A."

Seeing his serious expression, Karuizawa Kei was momentarily stunned, then couldn't help but laugh.

"Hahaha, who would steal your name? You're quite amusing."

"May I ask—is it true that you're dating Sakayanagi-san?" one of the girls inquired.

Kaoru Mitoma paused for a moment. "Who told you that?"

"Everyone's saying it. And did you two break up recently?"

"Break up?"

"Yeah, Kamuro-san came in later."

"..."

It seemed that being too reckless in the library had attracted unnecessary attention.

Kaoru Mitoma cleared his throat and solemnly told the girls.

"I am pure and upright, and my relationship with Sakayanagi-san is completely innocent. There's nothing improper between us."

The girls were momentarily stunned.

Karuizawa Kei reacted the fastest and quickly apologized "Sorry, sorry, we said things we shouldn't have."

Although she held a high status in the class and was the center of the girls' circle, she still had to show some politeness when dealing with Kaoru Mitoma.

Well, it wasn't just because he was from Class A, but also because he was good-looking—these were all plus points.

"No, it's fine. I just don't want to be misunderstood" Kaoru Mitoma blinked.

"I'm still single and don't have a girlfriend."

Karuizawa Kei was slightly taken aback, then chuckled playfully.

"In that case, why don't we hang out sometime? Maybe Mitoma-kun will even find a girlfriend!"

"I'm always free."

"Hahaha, you're really something!"

Since they couldn't chat for too long, Karuizawa Kei led her group of friends back to her class.

One of the girls glanced subtly at Kaoru Mitoma before following Karuizawa Kei footsteps.

She had some interest, but not much.

Kaoru averted his gaze and walked to his class's queue when an unexpected remark came from beside him.

"I thought you'd keep pestering those girls."

"With you watching, I'm scared."

"Tch, smooth talker."

Kamuro Masumi placed one hand on her hip and slightly distanced herself from Kaoru Mitoma, her gaze drifting toward the side.

The cruise ship had already docked at the pier, and many staff members could be seen disembarking.

Under the direction of Mashima Tomonari, the students of Class A underwent inspections one by one before descending the gangway to gather on the beach.

Soon, students from all classes were assembled on the beach, facing a makeshift stage.

"It's so sunny. When can we start the free activities?" someone muttered under their breath.

At that moment, under everyone watchful eyes, Mashima Tomonari stood on the stage with a megaphone, addressing the crowd with a serious expression.

"First, I'm glad everyone has arrived here safely today. However, some are unfortunately absent due to health reasons."

Although Sakayanagi Arisu wasn't particularly enthusiastic about Class A and approached things with a somewhat playful attitude, she wouldn't push herself to the point of becoming a burden to everyone at this moment.

"Next, we will begin this year first special exam."

As Mashima Tomonari spoke, murmurs of confusion arose among the students, especially from Class D.

"Wait, what's a special exam?!"

Regarding the special exam, Class A was well-informed, Classes B and C had some idea, but Class D was completely in the dark.

"From today until the end of the exam, it will last for one week, ending at 12 PM on August 7th,"

Mashima Tomonari explained.

"During this time, you will learn to live collectively on this uninhabited island. This is the content of the exam. Additionally, this special exam is modeled after real corporate training and holds significant reference value and practical meaning."

Kaoru Mitoma felt exasperated.

In a certain Eastern country, there's a wolf-like corporate culture, and here in Japan, it's survival in the wild, huh?

"How could this be?" someone paled. "So, we're supposed to survive in the wild on this island?"

"Correct. During the exam, you are not allowed to board the ship without a valid reason. From sleeping arrangements to food and water, you'll need to prepare everything yourselves."

Under Mashima Tomonari explanation, the first-year students gradually grasped the situation.

The school would provide each class with two tents, two flashlights, and a box of matches. As for personal items, each student would receive a toothbrush, toothpaste, sunscreen, and unlimited access to sanitary products.

Hmm, clearly not enough.

"The theme of this special exam is freedom. Whether you want to swim at the beach or have a barbecue is entirely up to you."

"Wait, a free exam?!"

"Before the exam begins, the school will distribute 300 exam points to each class. We've also prepared a guide for you. Here, you can use these points to purchase daily necessities, including food and recreational items. As long as you use the points wisely, you can fully enjoy this vacation-like experience."

"Does that mean even if we spend it all, it won't affect us?"

"Not at all. These are exam points and won't deduct from your class points."

Hearing this, some people instinctively relaxed and smiled.

However, Mashima Tomonari quickly shattered some people's illusions.

"But at the end of the exam, any remaining exam points will be converted into class points at a one-to-one ratio."

The entire area fell silent, with only the sound of the sea breeze and the occasional rustle of sand on the beach.

Soon, discussions broke out among the various classes, and the students of Class A almost unanimously turned their gaze toward Katsuragi Kohei.

Katsuragi Kohei, however, instinctively glanced at Kaoru Mitoma, only to find him casually observing the other classes.

"In the special exam rules, if someone withdraws from the exam due to physical discomfort or other reasons, their class will be deducted 30 exam points as per the rules. Class A has one absence, so this exam will start with 270 points."

After explaining the penalty, Mashima Tomoya announced that the briefing was over, and the classes were free to move around.

Thus, the students of each class gathered around their respective homeroom teachers, and Class A was no exception.

"Does everything on the island have to be handled by us students?" Katsuragi Kohei asked.

"Yes, the school won't interfere. You can do whatever you want, and even if you encounter difficulties, figuring out how to solve them is part of the exam," Mashima Tomonari replied.

Many Class A students looked thoughtful.

If they used exam points to purchase necessary supplies, their class would be at a disadvantage with 30 fewer points than the others.

"Guess we'll have to make do with what's available here" Katsuragi Kohei murmured, glancing toward the distant mountains.

Since this was a place carefully arranged by the school, there should be plenty of food.

Chapter 116: The Leader

"This can monitor your physical condition at all times and is equipped with a positioning system. In case of an emergency, you can also contact the school immediately."

Mashima Tomonari took out a watch from a nearby box, one of the supplies brought down from the cruise ship.

"Are there dangerous wild animals here?" Totsuka Yahiko face turned pale.

"Are you scared?" Mashima Tomoya looked at Totsuka Yahiko flushed face and chuckled.

"Don't worry, this is just a precaution. There are no dangerous wild animals."

Soon, everyone was wearing a watch. Kaoru fiddled with his for a while, noticing it displayed heart rate and activity status.

It seemed the school wasn't new to organizing such outdoor activities.

Then, Mashima Tomonari handed the usage guide to Katsuragi Kohei.

"It contains more detailed exam content, including the key points of this special exam. You need to learn how to make the most of the rules."

The last page of the guide listed several points:

- If a student is deemed unable to continue the exam due to physical discomfort or severe injury, 30 points will be deducted, and the student will withdraw from the exam.

- Discovering environmental pollution behavior will result in a deduction of 20 points.
- Roll call will be conducted at 8 AM and 8 PM daily. For each absence, 5 points will be deducted.
- Any acts of violence, looting, or destruction of equipment against other classes will result in the immediate disqualification of the student's class and the confiscation of all personal points.

...

After they finished reading the exam rules, Tomonari Mashima spoke up again.

"If all your exam points are deducted, your points will remain at zero and won't go into negative numbers."

Katsuragi Kouhei nodded and then asked "Where will the roll call take place?"

"The school regulations require the homeroom teacher to accompany you, so once you've decided on the location of your camp, I'll set up a base there, and then we can proceed with the roll call. Additionally, once the camp is established, it cannot be changed without a valid reason, so please be cautious."

Next to Tomonari Mashima, there were various supplies and even a computer, presumably for monitoring the students at all times.

"If everything is clear, I'll now explain the additional rules."

Totsuka Yahiko eyes widened in surprise, and he exclaimed.

"There are more rules?"

"Because this is a reward segment prepared for you" Tomonari Mashima said calmly.

"There are several bases set up on this island. If you occupy one, you'll gain exclusive use of it for eight hours."

But it wasn't just about usage rights.

According to Tomonari Mashima explanation, each occupation would also earn you one reward point. However, these reward points couldn't be used during the exam and would be accumulated and calculated after the exam ended.

The usage guide provided more detailed instructions:

Occupying a base requires a special key card. Each occupation earns one reward point, and you can freely use the base.

Unauthorized use of a base occupied by another class will result in a deduction of 50 exam points. Only the leader can use the key card.

The leader cannot be changed without a valid reason.

The ownership of the base will be renewed every eight hours.

...

"You need to quickly decide on a leader, and I'll issue a key card engraved with the leader name," Tomonari Mashima said.

"On the final day, you can also guess the leaders of other classes."

If you guess correctly, you'll plunder 50 points from that class, and they'll lose all their reward points.

If you guess wrong, you'll lose 50 points.

According to these rules, protecting the leader is of utmost importance, and the leader shouldn't wander around aimlessly, risking exposure to other classes just to occupy a base.

"What happens if someone who isn't the leader forcibly uses the key card?" Kaoru suddenly asked.

Katsuragi Kouhei looked surprised, but Tomonari Mashima calmly replied.

"Any violation will result in a corresponding deduction of exam points. If someone forcibly uses the key card, you'll lose 50 points."

Kaoru acknowledged this and didn't speak further.

"Although there are still many questions, I think we should act quickly" Katsuragi Kouhei said.

"Standing here on the beach is too hot, and we might get heatstroke. Let's move forward while we continue to explain."

"But we're not familiar with the environment here" someone naturally asked.

Katsuragi Kouhei, holding the usage guide, explained.

"The guide has a simple map, and we can navigate as we go. Besides, I observed the terrain from the boat earlier, so it should be fine."

These words caused quite a bit of surprise among the group.

While others were admiring the scenery, Katsuragi Kohei was instead observing the terrain.

Truly, he was a man with leadership qualities.

At this, Totsuka Yahiko crossed his arms and let out a proud laugh.

"Hmph, see that? That's our boss Katsuragi for you!"

Katsuragi Kohei, long accustomed to his subordinate flattery, immediately began directing everyone to pick up the supplies on the ground—items like toiletries, cardboard boxes, and tents.

Soon after, Class A left the beach and began heading toward the forest.

At the same time, Kaoru noticed that Class C had also started moving, but strangely, they were heading in the opposite direction along the beach.

Class B, on the other hand, remained in place, discussing their next steps. Hoshinomiya Chie even ran over to Class D to pester Chabashira Sae, suggesting that the two classes would likely take a while before setting off.

Before Kaoru could observe for too long, Katsuragi Kohei quickly approached him.

"Mitoma, I want you to be the leader in charge of securing the checkpoints."

Hearing this, Kaoru felt many eyes fall on him, especially those from Katsuragi faction.

They seemed a bit confused.

After all, he had been closely associated with Sakayanagi Arisu and had long been labeled as part of her faction.

Even if he wasn't part of her faction now, he would inevitably become one of her people sooner or later.

"You want me to go and secure the checkpoints right now?" Kaoru immediately grasped Katsuragi Kohei intention.

"If you're unwilling, you can refuse, but then you'll have to take care of the camp duties" Katsuragi Kohei said.

His reasoning for wanting Kaoru to be the leader was simple—he didn't trust the key card in anyone else hands.

This key card could only be entrusted to someone he trusted.

Kaoru showed a troubled expression, not because the task was difficult, but because it was too coincidental.

Not long ago, he had just obtained something akin to a map hack.

"Alright, let me act as a scout first" Kaoru agreed without hesitation.

Before Katsuragi Kohei could respond, Hashimoto Masayoshi interjected.

"I'll go too. It's better to have someone else for support."

Katsuragi Kohei glanced at Kaoru and, seeing no sign of resistance, pondered for a moment before saying.

"Fine. Both of you, be careful. If you encounter members from other classes, leave the area immediately."

Both of them were associated with Sakayanagi Arisu, which made Totsuka Yahiko visibly displeased.

However, since Katsuragi Kohei had agreed, he couldn't say much.

Afterward, Katsuragi Kohei reported Kaoru name to Tomonari Mashima.

Chapter 117: Surrendering Before the Battle

"This map only records the size of the island, with no landmarks. I've roughly sketched a few based on memory, like this tower."

The map provided by the school was inherently simple, lacking any marked locations, likely to encourage students to fill in the details themselves.

Katsuragi Kohei had already drawn a few circles on it and labeled them with names, showing that he had a preliminary understanding of the uninhabited island.

"I want you to take this map and fill in as many blanks as possible."

Kaoru understood—this was about giving him the task of scouting and uncovering the full map, which was exactly the role of a scout.

"Where should we regroup?"

"The paths here seem to have been artificially altered. I plan to lead the entire class toward the direction of a water source, and I'll also leave marks along the way."

Water is the most critical resource for survival in the wild, especially during the scorching summer. If someone were to suffer from heatstroke due to thirst, the consequences could be severe.

Although Katsuragi Kohei could purchase drinking water using exam points, it would be too extravagant to use them for bathing and hygiene purposes, wouldn't it?

Not long after Kaoru received the map and pen, he saw Mashima Tomonari hand him the keycard.

He fiddled with it for a moment, noticing his name engraved on it.

Wouldn't this make it easier for others to spot?

"Hashimoto-kun, could you hold this for me?" Kaoru Mitoma promptly handed it to Hashimoto Masayoshi.

"Wait, I can't even use the keycard. Why are you giving it to me?" Hashimoto was puzzled.

"Exactly because you can't use it, that's why I'm giving it to you" Kaoru waved the map in his hand.

"As for me, I'll be holding onto this."

Hashimoto immediately understood—he was being used as a decoy.

Soon after, the two of them ventured deep into the forest, one after the other.

This uninhabited island clearly bore strong signs of human intervention.

The school had tidied up the forest, and there were no particularly difficult paths along the way.

Kaoru pretended to study the map at the front, but in his mind, he was silently calling out to the Wish Machine.

[Would you like to exchange for the "Marauder's Map"?]

[Please note, this item is a supernatural object and can be projected anywhere at any time!]

[Exchange successful. Enjoy using it!]

[The projection target has been locked. Generating corresponding materials...]

[Generation complete!]

As the Wish Machine prompts appeared, the simple map in Kaoru hand gradually revealed detailed content—forests, rivers, caves, cabins, towers, beaches, docks, and other landmarks were clearly marked.

It even thoughtfully indicated the paths, albeit only the main ones.

The effective range of the Marauder Map extended one kilometer outward from him, updating continuously as he moved, functioning like a mini-map in a game.

Thus, from the moment Kaoru activated the Marauder Map, the entire uninhabited island lay exposed before him like a naked maiden.

Not only that, but the Marauder Map could also mark the locations of nearby humans.

Kaoru saw the traces of Class A on the map, as well as the three classes still lingering on the beach.

Wait, three classes?

Aside from one class that had moved to the other side of the beach, two classes remained in their original spots, unmoving.

The one that left was likely Class C, meaning Classes B and D were still in their original positions.

What were they doing?

Though puzzled, Kaoru didn't show the slightest hint of it.

He gripped the pen and following the projection of the Marauder Map, began marking various reference points on the map.

The school designated bases probably wouldn't be placed randomly, especially since they involved setting up check-in devices.

Moreover, the focus of this special exam wasn't a treasure hunt, so there were likely conspicuous markers nearby.

Just as Kaoru was lost in thought, Hashimoto who had been following him, suddenly spoke up.

"Actually, I wanted to be the leader. I didn't expect Katsuragi to approach you first."

"If you had mentioned it earlier, I would have immediately given this position to you" Kaoru replied indifferently.

While the role of a leader is crucial, the person who assumes it isn't necessarily important.

Like puppeteers, everyone watches the puppet, not the person behind it.

"Hahaha, I wouldn't dare. You're someone both Katsuragi and the princess have high hopes for" Hashimoto initially laughed, but then his smile faded.

"If I got my hands on the key card, I might sell it to Ichinose or Ryuen."

He expected Kaoru to be surprised, even prepared himself for a barrage of questions.

However, Kaoru showed no reaction at all.

"Oh."

As if he hadn't heard a thing, Hashimoto Masayoshi was left utterly bewildered.

Watching Kaoru Mitoma lead the way, occasionally stopping to sketch a map, Hashimoto Masayoshi held back for a long time before finally saying helplessly.

"Aren't you curious about the reason?"

Betraying your own class—that's treachery!

Wouldn't any normal person get angry upon hearing such a thing?

"If you want to sell it, I can't stop you, whether it's your own idea or Sakayanagi orders" Kaoru Mitoma paused

"But since you've brought it up now, you must have a new plan. Why should I care about an idea you've already abandoned?"

Hashimoto was momentarily stunned, then couldn't help but laugh.

"As expected, nothing escapes you. The princess ordered me to monitor your every move and do my best to sabotage your plans."

"Is it really okay to say that out loud?"

"Well, it's not like I could hide it from someone as smart as you."

"So, should I treat you as an enemy now?"

"Enemy sounds too harsh. Think of me as just a passerby" Hashimoto Masayoshi smiled.

"I don't like trouble. I prefer to stick with the right person, so I won't get involved in your rivalry."

Initially, he thought the relationship between Katsuragi Kohei and Kaoru Mitoma was just average, but after witnessing the earlier scene, Hashimoto Masayoshi sensed something was off.

In the eyes of most, Katsuragi Kohei seemed to be trying to win Kaoru Mitoma over, hence the trust he placed in him.

But for someone as perceptive as Hashimoto Masayoshi, this didn't feel like an attempt to win someone over—it seemed more like a premeditated move?

Whatever it was, he decided to observe for a while longer.

As for Hashimoto overtures, Kaoru was fully aware otherwise he wouldn't have allowed the former to follow him.

To take down Sakayanagi Arisu, the first step was to dismantle her faction, leaving her isolated.

What could a lone, limping girl possibly stir up then?

Besides, it wasn't entirely Kaoru fault.

After all, she was the one insisting on remote control from the cruise ship.

Thinking this, Kaoru looked at the map in his hand and sighed.

How exactly was he supposed to lose?

Within less than an hour, guided by the Marauder Map, Kaoru Mitoma led Hashimoto Masayoshi cross the entire uninhabited island, securing most of the checkpoints before anyone else.

The only checkpoint they didn't secure was the one currently occupied by Class A.

In other words, aside from Class A, no one else could use the checkpoints now.

Chapter 118: Reconnaissance Like This?

'It's over. The princess is going to be furious.'

That was the only thought left in Hashimoto Masayoshi mind after the whole ordeal.

He couldn't help but be shocked because Kaoru performance was just too absurd.

Despite it being their first time on the uninhabited island, Kaoru moved around as if he were at home.

Most of the time, before Hashimoto could even figure out the direction, Kaoru would lead him down a side path, and suddenly a checkpoint would appear right before their eyes.

Not only that, but Hashimoto also noticed that Kaoru had a very clear route planned out.

The two of them swept from the outskirts of the uninhabited island all the way to its deepest parts without encountering any obstacles, covering the entire island at the fastest possible speed.

It was obvious that Kaoru had deliberately chosen the most convenient shortcuts.

It seemed like Kaoru hadn't left a single base for the other classes.

"Do you often go on outings?" Hashimoto asked subtly.

Kaoru knew he was being probed and casually deflected.

"When I was a kid, I lived at my grandfather place in the countryside. I used to run around the mountains a lot, so I'm somewhat familiar with the outdoors."

"I see. But come to think of it, I still don't know where you're from."

Hashimoto question stumped Kaoru Mitoma.

He couldn't very well talk about his past life, could he?

He had to ask the wish-granting machine what identity it had arranged for him.

Only after receiving the answer did Kaoru respond to Hashimoto question.

On the way back, the two of them chatted intermittently.

Although Hashimoto was clearly fishing for information, Kaoru didn't mind.

When they returned to Class A, they saw Katsuragi Kohei directing everyone to work together.

The two tents allocated by the school were nowhere to be seen, and makeshift toilets and showers made from cardboard boxes were being installed in an orderly fashion nearby.

Katsuragi Kohei quickly noticed their return and called out.

"You're back just in time. There's a cave here with a check-in device inside."

"Why set up camp here?" Hashimoto Masayoshi looked around, feeling puzzled.

The spot Katsuragi had chosen wasn't particularly ideal.

They were in a small valley deep in the forest, with a cave that looked like a monster's gaping mouth.

The toilets and showers were planned to be set up right at the cave entrance.

What was even stranger was that Katsuragi seemed to be planning to hang up some kind of barrier at the cave entrance, likely to block prying eyes.

"This place is hidden enough. Other classes won't be able to see what we're doing here" Katsuragi said with a strange expression.

"Not long after you left, Ryuen suddenly showed up, saying he wanted to cooperate with our Class A."

As long as someone saw the tents, toilets, showers, and other conspicuous items, it would be easy to deduce how many exam points Class A had used.

They could also observe who the suspected leader was.

This was probably why Katsuragi cautious nature had kicked in again.

However, there were also a tower and a cabin nearby, both very close, meaning Class A now directly occupied three bases.

At this point, Katsuragi Kohei still didn't know that Kaoru Mitoma had already checked in all the bases outside.

"What kind of cooperation does he want?" Kaoru Mitoma walked over to Katsuragi, casually handing the map back to him, his gaze falling on the busy campsite.

"Ryuuen wants to exchange exam points for personal points. He'll use the exam points to buy the supplies we need and then sell them to us..."

As he spoke, Katsuragi suddenly paused.

What was going on with this map in his hand?

Not only did it have landmarks, but it also marked out routes and bases, complete with a scale and compass directions.

Was he sure he hadn't just copied the school's map?

In fact, it wasn't just Katsuragi who was shocked.

Hashimoto had taken the opportunity to look at the map Kaoru had drawn on their way back, and he was completely dumbfounded.

While anyone could draw a map, creating one that was both accurate and easy to understand still required a certain level of skill from the cartographer.

"What's the scale?" Kaoru Mitoma asked.

"They're willing to transfer all their supplies to us, including daily necessities and food. However, each member of Class A will have to pay Class C 20,000 personal points every month until graduation"

Katsuragi Kohei replied without hesitation.

"Eighty thousand personal points a month, nearly three million over three years—that's no small sum"

Kaoru Mitoma said with a smile, looking at him.

"Have you already agreed to it?"

Katsuragi Kohei paused for a moment.

"I was waiting for you to return to discuss it. Whether we agree or refuse, it's best to give them an answer before roll call today."

Hearing this, Hashimoto couldn't help but feel a pang of curiosity.

What exactly was the relationship between these two?

"Let me see the guide."

At this, Katsuragi Kohei handed the usage guide to Kaoru Mitoma.

If Class A wanted to preserve their exam points while maintaining the minimum living standard, they only needed to prepare a week worth of food, drinking water, and essential daily supplies.

According to the guide, if they purchased food packages as a class, the cheapest meal would cost ten exam points.

Two meals a day would amount to twenty points, which included drinking water.

Thus, a week expenses would total 140 points.

However, since the school had stranded them on this uninhabited island, it was unlikely they'd have to rely solely on exam points for everything.

There were probably plenty of "wild resources" hidden around.

Kaoru Mitoma remembered seeing plenty of wild fruits along the way, and there seemed to be fish and shrimp in the river below.

Therefore, by making rational use of resources, they could significantly reduce their food expenses.

Once the food source was secured, the remaining expenses wouldn't amount to much.

An eight-person tent only cost ten exam points, and they could make do without a shower or toilet for a while.

Moreover, since Class A had occupied the cave, they didn't even need a tent. In extreme cases, they could just lay sanitary pads on the ground, as hygiene supplies were unlimited.

"We can trade with them, but we'll only pay for what we use. There's no reason to give them 20,000 personal points" Kaoru Mitoma said calmly.

Honestly, even if there were no food on the island, he could still find a way to get some.

Katsuragi Kohei frowned.

While he understood Kaoru Mitoma point, class points were the real priority, and losing some personal points wasn't a big deal.

However, since Kaoru Mitoma had made his stance clear, he silently put away the guide and the map.

"By the way, we've already checked all the external points."

Katsuragi Kohei nodded instinctively, then suddenly realized something was off.

Had he heard that correctly?

"All the points?"

"Yes, assuming nothing was missed."

Kaoru stroked his chin.

He planned to go back tonight, curious about what expression Horikita Suzune would show.

Meanwhile, Katsuragi Kohei nearly trembled.

He had thought Kaoru Mitoma had only discovered the points, but it turned out he had already checked all of them.

Wasn't that efficiency a bit too insane?

After all, they had just chosen their campsite, and they hadn't even finished assembling the toilet yet.

"No, is this how you usually conduct investigations?"

Chapter 119: Is the Entire Island Your Stronghold?

Leaving aside Class A camp, on the sandy beach by the sea, Horikita Suzune watched Class B depart and then turned her gaze back to the noisy Class D, feeling somewhat frustrated.

Not long ago, Ichinose Honami had suddenly approached them, expressing a desire to collaborate with Class D.

This unexpected proposal was so surprising that even Horikita Suzune was momentarily stunned.

With the special exam just beginning, Class B initiative to propose cooperation inevitably raised suspicions about their motives.

Ichinose Honami was well aware of their concerns, so her idea was a mutual non-aggression pact, where both classes would refrain from guessing each other leader.

After all, the school hadn't mandated that leaders must be guessed, and there would be no penalties for not doing so.

On this basis, Class B and Class D could potentially work together to identify the leaders of Class A and Class C and even collaborate further.

This was also why Kaoru Mitoma had seen Class B and Class D lingering on the beach on the Marauder's Map.

Regarding this proposal, Class D readily agreed, especially the boys like Ike Kanji, who seemed particularly excited about the points.

Horikita Suzune had some reservations, having been tricked by Kaoru Mitoma once before, which left her with little trust in others.

But faced with the high-spirited Class D, she had no room to interject and her thoughts were somewhat muddled for a certain reason.

However, Horikita Suzune could console herself with the thought that at least Class D was being a bit more proactive.

Soon after, Class D shattered her illusions.

As soon as Class B left the beach, Class D immediately started arguing.

It wasn't about how to win the special exam, they were simply arguing about how to handle bathroom needs.

The girls insisted on more comfortable living conditions, such as temporary toilets, showers, and tents, while the boys believed that enduring a bit wouldn't kill anyone and couldn't understand the girls' demands.

As a result, the two sides nearly came to blows.

Horikita Suzune was utterly exasperated.

If it hadn't been for Hirata Yosuke acting as a mediator, Class D might have argued all day.

It wasn't until an entire hour had passed, leaving Class D alone on the beach that they finally realized they needed to take action.

Seemingly annoyed by the delay, Ike Kanji rushed into the forest alone.

His friends, Sudou Ken and Yamauchi Haruki, seeing this quickly followed him into the forest.

Walking through the forest, Horikita Suzune occasionally rubbed her arms, lagging behind at the end of the group.

At this moment, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka for some reason also slowed his pace, deliberately matching her speed.

"Honestly, the school is a bit ridiculous, expecting us to live like savages on this island. I wonder if the other classes feel the same way?"

Faced with his seemingly complaining words, Horikita Suzune frowned slightly and said unhappily.

"We're not close enough to be each other's sounding boards, are we?"

"I know, so I'm just talking to myself" Ayanokouji Kiyotaka sighed.

"Class A is the fastest to act. It feels like they really understand the special exam. We just can't compare to them." Horikita Suzune paused for a moment, then glanced expressionlessly at Ayanokouji Kiyotaka.

"Acting quickly doesn't mean they can win the exam. The key points of this special exam are only two: how to preserve exam points and the leader along with the base."

"You really intend to advance to Class A?" Ayanokouji Kiyotaka showed a rather shocked expression, as if looking at an anomaly.

Horikita Suzune took a deep breath.

What was this guy deal?

Was he trying to provoke her on purpose?

"Heh, how I act is none of your business. But you, are you really going to just give up and stay in the lower class?"

"It doesn't matter what class I'm in, but it would be nice if my allowance could be a bit more. If I'm lucky, a trip to Class A wouldn't be bad."

"I see, so you're not like the others who don't care about Class A privileges."

"Are you after Class A privileges?"

Horikita Suzune shot a cold glance at Ayanokouji Kiyotaka, who promptly closed his mouth, sensing her displeasure.

After a while, their scout, Ike Kanji, returned to the main group his face brimming with excitement.

"Hey, Hirata! Come quick! There's a river up ahead, and nearby there's flat land we can use as a campsite! It's just a few minutes away!"

Upon hearing this news, Class D nearly shook with anticipation.

When they hurriedly followed Ike Kanji to the river, they found indeed a vast expanse of flat land, clearly a place the school had intentionally prepared, perfect for camping in the wild.

"Look, there's a checkpoint device here, and it shows that Class A... is occupying it?"

Ike Kanji, who had been pointing at a large rock, suddenly froze.

He had just seen this and rushed back to inform everyone without taking a closer look.

Hirata Yousuke walked beside him, following his finger to see a checkpoint device embedded in the rock, displaying that Class A was occupying this stronghold, with over six hours remaining.

"Why is Class A occupying it?" Ike Kanji couldn't comprehend the situation, he hadn't seen a single Class A student around!

"Class A is too quick to act" Hirata Yousuke muttered, then suddenly realized something.

"We need to leave here quickly, retreat to the forest!"

If he remembered correctly, using another class stronghold without permission would deduct 50 exam points!

If a Class A student suddenly appeared and accused them of illegally using their stronghold, Class D would be in serious trouble!

Thanks to Hirata Yousuke vigilance, Class D retreated to the river's edge, confused.

Minutes passed, and still no sign of Class A.

Only then did Hirata Yousuke finally relax.

It seemed Class A was merely seizing the opportunity to claim points and had no intention of ambushing them.

"What should we do next?"

Someone instinctively looked to Hirata Yousuke.

Hirata Yousuke replied steadily "No need to rush. With us here, Class A won't come back to check in. Once the time passes, we can claim the points ourselves."

As he spoke, his gaze swept over the people around him.

"Is there anyone who wants to be the leader?"

At that moment, Kushida Kikyo spoke up first.

"I think if Hirata-kun or me take on the leadership roles, it would be quite noticeable. How about we let Horikita-san take charge?"

Everyone eyes turned to the outermost Horikita Suzune, who was momentarily taken aback before returning to her usual demeanor, looking at Kushida Kikyo and Hirata Yousuke.

"Though it's just my personal feeling, I believe Horikita-san is very responsible. She helped Sudou-kun and the others get through the exam smoothly, this role would suit her well."

With Kushida Kikyo' explanation, many began to lower their resistance.

"I think that's a good suggestion too. If you're willing, Horikita-san, would you take on the leadership role?" Hirata Yousuke asked with a smile.

"I understand, I accept" Horikita Suzune nodded. It was just a leadership role, if it were someone else, she wouldn't feel as secure.

Seeing the leadership issue resolved, Hirata Yousuke was about to continue arranging the campsite and dispatch others to scout the uninhabited island.

However, fellow scout Sudou Ken and Yamauchi Haruki quickly returned with alarming news.

"This is bad! The entire uninhabited island has turned into Class A stronghold!"

Chapter 120: Ryuen Kakeru Ambitions

In reality, it wasn't that exaggerated.

Including the three strongholds near Class A campsite, Kaoru Mitoma had only checked in at eight strongholds, leaving plenty of usable places for other classes.

Sudou Ken and the others hadn't discovered all the strongholds, they had only seen information indicating that three strongholds were occupied by Class A, prompting them to rush back in a panic.

Although Hirata Yousuke knew their words were exaggerated, he couldn't help but feel a chill run down his spine.

Clearly, their class was lagging far behind.

More importantly, they would have to wait painfully for the stronghold ownership to update, wasting several more hours of camping time.

There was no choice, Hirata Yousuke could only choose to send out more students to gather information about the surroundings, such as food and potential campsites.

Aside from that, he also had to consider how to use their exam points.

For those points, the entire class began to argue again, which was incredibly frustrating.

"Why buy a bathroom? We can just bathe in the river!"

"Hey, hey, hey, you boys don't care, but we're girls!"

"That makes sense, so let's just drink river water!"

"Are you trying to make everyone sick?"

"Drinking natural water is a good thing, how could anyone get sick?"

"..."

Horikita Suzune watched this chaotic scene.

Could she really lead this group to Class A?

"Horikita-san, you seem a bit unwell?" Kushida Kikyo unexpectedly came to her side, showing a hint of concern.

"I'm fine" Horikita Suzune instinctively tightened her coat and stepped aside.

This small action didn't escape Kushida Kikyo notice. She smiled on the surface but felt even more resolute in her thoughts.

"Is it that time of the month?" Kushida Kikyo leaned closer, deliberately lowering her voice.

Horikita Suzune expression stiffened, then she quickly regained her calm demeanor.

"It passed a few days ago. Thank you for your concern."

Kushida Kikyo casually pouted.

It better be that way, otherwise her recommendation of Horikita Suzune as a leader would be meaningless.

Once she encountered Kaoru Mitoma, Horikita Suzune would be left to drown in this ridiculous Class A dream amidst the garbage.

Thinking this, Kushida Kikyo face broke into a radiant smile.

"If you're not feeling well, make sure to tell everyone early. Don't push yourself, okay?"

"Buy supplies according to the list you provided?"

"You can't just buy random things and try to fool us, right?"

"So, you plan to exchange personal points based on the value on the list?"

Facing the two from Class A, Ryuen gradually revealed a smile, especially as he scrutinized Kaoru Mitoma with amusement.

"Do you have a better proposal?" Kaoru Mitoma retorted.

"No, no, no, that's a very reasonable request. I have no reason to argue with you" Ryuen said quickly.

"I just didn't expect you to come forward to negotiate. I'm curious who in Class A is currently in charge."

At that moment, Katsuragi Kouhei stood beside Kaoru Mitoma and, sensing Ryuen probing, said in a low voice.

"I just brought Mitoma along and Class A internal matters are none of your concern."

Ryuen chuckled.

He didn't believe this excuse at all.

When Katsuragi Kouhei hadn't immediately agreed to him and instead told him to wait for a notification, he sensed something was off.

Moreover, he noticed that Class A seemed to lack the equipment to check in at the cave.

Class A wouldn't be so inept as to not even be able to choose a leader.

Glancing around Class A, Ryuen had basically come to a conclusion.

It must be said that Ryuen was indeed very perceptive, and it was precisely for this reason that Katsuragi Kouhei didn't let him stay in their camp waiting for Kaoru Mitoma to return.

If Ryuen suddenly pulled out his keycard and seized the cave while they weren't paying attention, accusing them of illegally occupying Class C stronghold, that would be a huge problem.

Class A certainly didn't want to go down with him.

"Since it's the buyer's proposal, I can certainly accept it, but I have an additional condition. I wonder what you think" Ryuen said slowly, glancing at the nearby Class C camp, where they had chosen to set up on the beach, bustling with activity.

"What additional condition?" Katsuragi frowned, unsure of what Ryuen was up to.

"If I provide you with a leader, how about a million personal points?" Ryuen said abruptly.

Katsuragi was taken aback.

Before he could respond, Kaoru interjected "That's too much, we can't afford it."

"A leader is worth fifty points, and you can deduct the opponent's points. It's a good deal for you."

"Whether it's a good deal or not isn't for you to decide, and how will you prove the leader authenticity?"

"I wouldn't say that unless I had my methods. Would photos work for you?" Ryuen began to grow impatient.

"Besides, I don't plan to ask for a deposit. Without photos, you can choose not to make this deal."

Katsuragi Kouhei glanced at Kaoru Mitoma, who blinked.

"Okay, I'll wait for your news."

Seeing this, Ryuen couldn't help but smirk slightly, then quickly smoothed his expression.

"Wait, to be safe, I need to add another condition" Kaoru Mitoma suddenly said.

"If the final result is incorrect, Class C must provide us with compensation."

Ryuen face darkened, and the veins on his forehead nearly bulged.

Was this guy overly cautious or deliberately trying to annoy him?

"Fine, fine, fine. If you're worried, should we sign a contract?"

After all, a contract was required for the exchange of supplies, so Ryuen didn't mind taking the time.

He was just very displeased with Kaoru Mitoma nitpicking, not wanting to take on any risk.

However, the more Kaoru Mitoma acted this way, the more Ryuen inwardly sneered.

He suspected that the leader of Class A was likely Kaoru Mitoma.

Thus, the two parties signed two contracts in the presence of Class C homeroom teacher.

One was regarding the exchange of supplies, and the other was about the leader.

The former stipulated that Class C must purchase supplies according to Class A list and after the exam, the total value of the supplies would be settled.

Following that, starting next month, every member of Class A would pay Class C 8500 personal points, with the deadline being until graduation.

For example, if Class C provided supplies worth one hundred points, then each member of Class A would need to pay 8,500 personal points, totaling 340,000 a month.

Yes, this was the result of Kaoru Mitoma negotiating with Ryuen.

The latter's terms were similar, except the compensation would be tripled.

If the result was incorrect, Class C would owe three million personal points.

Ryuen didn't notice any issues, as he wouldn't engage in anything he wasn't confident about.

Heh, according to his plan, Class C would definitely make a killing in this special exam!