

Cote 131

Chapter 131: Gather Information Before Taking Action

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka could somewhat guess Horikita Suzune thoughts because he was thinking the same thing.

Class B had proactively proposed cooperation, which even without immediate effect, could be beneficial for Class D in the future.

Meanwhile, Class C seemed to have truly withdrawn from the exam, with no trace of them all day and only school staff at their former beach camp.

Therefore, the only way for Class D to earn points was to target Class A.

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka felt a sense of helplessness.

His homeroom teacher, Chabashira Sae, had threatened to expel him if he didn't work hard to rise to Class A, a threat that was effective as he couldn't find another comfortable place to lay low.

So, adding Horikita Suzune to his plans wasn't a major concern.

He was more concerned about Kushida Kikyo, who had left the camp yesterday under a pretext and returned empty-handed, despite refusing help from friends.

The faint blush on her face solidified his suspicion that something was amiss.

He kept this thought to himself, waiting for the right moment to verify his guess.

Leaving the camp, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka soon heard the sound of waves.

He found a ladder at the edge of a cliff, which led to a small cabin with a check-in device.

He remembered seeing several other man-made structures around Class A base, including a tall tower.

With about four hours until the 2 PM update time, Class A leader would surely return to check in.

He decided not to wait at the narrow cliff area to avoid being discovered and instead returned to the ground to scout other locations.

He visited the tall tower, the river starting point and a wooden cabin, all occupied by Class A.

The check-in times for these bases indicated that Class A leader spent about an hour traveling between them.

Now aware of Class A routine, his next focus was how to ambush the leader, assuming they wouldn't come alone.

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka returned to Class D camp, gathering wild vegetables along the way to avoid suspicion.

"Good, we might actually be able to catch Class A leader" Horikita Suzune said, relieved after hearing his report.

"I just went to Class C camp to check. It seems they really are planning to give up on the exam. Only the school staff are left, so if we want to earn points, our only target is Class A" Ayanokouji Kiyotaka added.

"Earning points is great, but why are you so fixated on this?" he asked.

"What if we're wrong? We'd lose fifty points."

Horikita Suzune remained silent for a moment.

"Even if I told you, you wouldn't understand. We're not the same kind of people."

At that moment, Kushida Kikyo approached, smiling brightly.

"Horikita-san, Ayanokouji-kun, are you two discussing the exam again?"

Horikita Suzune glanced at her. "Yes. If you're willing to help, why don't you share your thoughts on what happened yesterday?"

"Thoughts on yesterday?" Kushida Kikyo was momentarily stunned.

"Who do you think is most likely to become the leader of Class A?" Horikita Suzune asked.

"You should know the situation in Class A, right? I've seen you interacting with them."

"Oh, that's what you mean. While I do interact with Class A occasionally, I'm not that knowledgeable. I can't really guess who their leader might be" Kushida Kikyo awkwardly smiled.

She then explained the dynamics of Class A to Horikita Suzune—the rivalry between the Sakayanagi faction and the Katsuragi faction, as well as a few notable students.

"It seems Class A isn't as impressive as he made it out to be" Horikita Suzune muttered.

Kushida Kikyo blinked. Was the "he" she was referring to the person she was thinking of?

"By the way, you haven't mentioned Kaoru Mitoma yet. Do you know him?" Horikita Suzune suddenly asked.

Kushida Kikyo expression turned strange.

"I don't know him."

Horikita Suzune frowned slightly.

In her opinion, Kaoru Mitoma was the most threatening person in Class A, not Katsuragi Kohei or Sakayanagi Arisu.

However, the immediate priority was to identify Class A leader.

Not only would it help her out of her current predicament, but it would also serve as a slap in the face to Kaoru Mitoma!

Meanwhile, Kaoru Mitoma was fiddling with the extraordinary reward he had just exchanged.

With a crisp shutter sound, a clear photograph instantly appeared in his hand.

Chapter 132: It's Already Over

A long time ago, Kaoru Mitoma had drawn a reward, which he had initially thought would be useful elsewhere.

But now, it seemed like the perfect time to test its effects.

The moment he pressed the shutter, the scene before him was instantly captured on the photograph that appeared in his hand.

In the picture, a boy stood in front of a small cabin at the base of a cliff, holding a key card and swiping it on a device. Beside him was the faint reflection of another person.

In the bottom right corner of the photo was a date: August 1st, 12:58 PM—the day they had arrived on the island.

It was obvious that the boy in the photo was Kaoru Mitoma himself and the other person could only be Hashimoto Masayoshi.

"If I had taken photos of all the checkpoints back then, the exam would've been over" Kaoru Mitoma mused as he played with the time-space camera.

It could capture images from up to a hundred years ago and even came with a handy timeline for users to adjust the time.

This kind of thing likely came from some extraordinary world, something like the Marauder's Map that shouldn't exist in a normal world.

Next, Kaoru Mitoma took several more photos of the checkpoint device and the surrounding environment, carefully examining each one.

From the first day until the end of the exam, nothing seemed out of the ordinary.

However, when he put down the camera, he couldn't help but gaze at the calm sea with a strange expression. Fortunately, he had prepared in advance, otherwise a sudden storm might have led to some unexpected incidents.

Kaoru Mitoma took his camera and walked around to other locations, eventually finding the photo he wanted in front of the tower.

As expected, Horikita Suzune hadn't given up on him.

Looking at Ayanokoji Kiyotaka beside the girl, Kaoru Mitoma fell into deep thought. Although he could see future scenes through the camera, he didn't know the plot.

How could he shape the future into something he desired?

After some consideration, Kaoru Mitoma spent some time walking alone to the edge of the pier, then adjusted the time to noon on August 7th.

Click—

The crisp sound of the shutter kept ringing as Kaoru Mitoma repeatedly checked the photos.

The images showed the four classes standing on the beach, with Tomonari Mashima announcing the exam results on the stage.

Since the photos had no sound, he couldn't hear Mashima voice.

However, the sheer joy of Class A was almost palpable and even a fool could guess the outcome.

Moreover, he could glean more information from the photos.

For instance, the reactions of Ayanokoji Kiyotaka, Horikita Suzune, and Ryuen Kakeru were quite intriguing.

Lost in thought, Kaoru Mitoma eventually calmed down and turned back into the forest, soon arriving at Class D campsite.

They had occupied the downstream area of the river, with four eight-person tents in sight.

Temporary toilets and a laundry area were nearby, and he could see Horikita Suzune chatting with Kushida Kikyo, while Ayanokoji Kiyotaka stood quietly behind them, keeping to himself.

Hirata Yosuke was directing the girls, while Sudo Ken and others were fishing by the river.

Many familiar faces were also present, such as Karuizawa Kei, Sakura Airi, and Ibuki Mio.

It seemed like Koenji Rokusuke was missing.

Had he gone back?

Without disturbing Class D, Kaoru Mitoma raised his camera from a distance and took some photos of the campsite.

Looking down, he confirmed what Katsuragi had said: during the check-in, Class D had deliberately formed a circle, making it impossible to see who was checking in.

Unfortunately, this camera could only reveal information through photos and without an exact time, it was like opening a blind box—what he saw depended entirely on luck.

Wait, luck?

If he remembered correctly, he still had four uses left.

Kaoru Mitoma took out the lucky dice again, tossed it into the air and it landed with a two facing up.

Doubling the original effect should be enough, right?

After some thought, he tossed the dice once more and this time it landed with a five facing up.

[The judgment condition is now in effect, and the "Lucky Dice" effect is immediately activated!]

[Your luck has increased fivefold!]

So, did the stacking effect succeed?

Kaoru Mitoma raised the camera and aiming it at Class D campsite, randomly adjusted the time forward.

With a click, the photo fell into his hands.

Hirata Yōsuke was smiling as he handed the key card to Horikita Suzune.

Although this scene wasn't enough to definitively conclude that Horikita Suzune was the leader, it significantly increased the credibility of what Kushida Kikyo had told him.

Adjusting the time further, he soon saw a combination of elements: a rainy day, a burning campsite, and fleeing girls.

Kaoru Mitoma expression turned peculiar.

Was Class D really this disaster-prone?

With the intelligence in hand, Kaoru Mitoma wasted no time and immediately headed towards Class B location.

Class B camp was set up near a well, surrounded by dense woods, offering excellent concealment. They also employed a human wave tactic, with several people guarding the check-in device near the well to protect their leader during the check-in process.

It took Kaoru Mitoma quite some time to finally spot a figure who seemed to be the leader.

Shiranami Chihiro.

This girl always showed signs of unease before checking in, frequently looking around nervously.

Without definitive evidence, Kaoru Mitoma had no choice but to patiently focus on Shiranami Chihiro, continuously taking photos.

After capturing around a hundred photos, he finally saw the other person take out a key card from their pocket before taking a shower.

No matter how cautious one is, there's always a moment of carelessness, especially when facing Kaoru Mitoma relentless methods.

Kaoru Mitoma checked the camera's battery level—it was about half full—and then stored it back into the wishing machine.

He also buried all the photos to ensure no one would find them.

After completing these tasks, he took out the Marauder's Map and began tracking someone trail through the forest.

In no time at all, a small dot could indeed be seen, isolated in a certain spot.

Hmm, that small dot was Ryuen Kakeru.

After recklessly squandering all the exam points, Class C promptly withdrew from the exam the next day, leaving Ryuen Kakeru to fight alone.

Of course, he still had two spies.

In fact, even if the time-space camera hadn't captured Ryuen Kakeru, Kaoru Mitoma could have guessed his intentions.

When the other party proactively proposed a deal regarding the leaders, it was clear to anyone with eyes that he would definitely stay on the island and would not withdraw from the exam.

It must be said, this guy is really tenacious.

Without any surprises, the leader of Class C should be Ryuen Kakeru, because keeping the key card on Ibuki Mio and the others would be unsafe, with the risk of being searched.

This way, he had already secured the identities of three leaders.

But was the exam really going to end so easily?

Kaoru Mitoma had always been skeptical about a certain "masterpiece," after all, the title was quite intimidating and Sakayanagi Arisu kept chanting about burying the other party like a chuunibyou.

How would the other party respond?

Kaoru Mitoma decided to provoke a bit, just in time to mess with Horikita Suzune again.

At that moment, a rustling sound suddenly came from beside him.

He instinctively turned his head and saw Amikura Mako standing behind him, holding a pile of corn, her face covered in dust.

The two of them locked eyes, both momentarily stunned.

Chapter 133: She's Not That Easy to Please

At this moment, should he say "long time no see"?

Kaoru Mitoma thoughts flickered for a moment, but he didn't risk saying it, as things were a bit awkward between them now.

"Do you need help?"

Amikura Mako was holding a pile of corn in her arms, her long hair tied into a high ponytail, with fine strands falling from her ears.

Her pretty face was inexplicably smeared with dust, her fair neck stained with mud, and her short-sleeved shirt was filthy, making her look like a piglet that had rolled in the mud.

Not only that, but her arm was also scraped, with bright red blood seeping from her fair skin.

Seeing his gaze, Amikura Mako instinctively tried to protect her corn, then remembered her injury and tried to block his view.

However, as soon as she moved, a few pieces of corn fell.

Seeing this, Amikura Mako quickly bent down to pick them up, but in doing so, more corn fell from her hands.

She kept picking and they kept falling, leaving her teary-eyed.

It wasn't because she looked silly, but because her arm really hurt.

Kaoru Mitoma silently crouched down and picked up the corn for her.

"I don't need your help, I can do it myself" Amikura Mako whispered.

"In that case, this corn is mine now. After all, it fell on the ground, and I picked it up" Kaoru Mitoma said, his eyes glancing at the girl chest a few times as he finished picking up the corn.

"This is food I found!" Amikura Mako tightly guarded the remaining corn in her arms, glaring at him with dissatisfaction.

"Give it back quickly, or I'll report you to the school for stealing other students' belongings."

So, Kaoru Mitoma returned the corn to her.

Amikura Mako instinctively reached out to take it and then all the corn in her hands fell.

She was stunned for a moment, then couldn't help but get angry.

"You're doing this on purpose, aren't you!"

"Isn't this what you asked me to do?" Kaoru Mitoma ignored her reaction. "Now that all these corn cobs have fallen to the ground, what proof do you have that they're yours?"

Amikura Mako retorted "They are mine! It's not like you found them!"

"How do you know I didn't discover them?"

"You're lying! I found these corn cobs with Himeno-san and I never saw you around!"

"Now it's just you here. Can you at least come up with a more convincing excuse?"

"It's not an excuse!" Amikura Mako was furious. "Because we didn't plan to take all the corn, she... she went back first..."

As she spoke, her voice gradually softened, as if she realized Kaoru Mitoma was trying to fish for information.

"So, that's how it is. You accidentally fell on your way back, so you let Himeno-san go ahead. Then, unwilling to wait alone for help, you decided to tough it out."

Hearing this, Amikura Mako was stunned.

How did he know her situation?

She fell silent for a moment before murmuring "Running into you is just my bad luck."

"Did I upset you?" Kaoru Mitoma asked.

Her aggressiveness reminded him of someone—someone full of awkwardness and gloom but who would never speak up directly.

If you happened to cross paths with them, you might just end up in their line of fire.

In any case, something was definitely off.

"Why would I be angry? Did you do something wrong to me? Probably not. We're not even close, so maybe I accidentally gave you the wrong impression. My bad."

Amikura Mako lowered her head nonchalantly, picking up her corn cobs one by one. Her expression was unreadable, but her tone felt strange.

She was feeling agitated and the worst part was, she didn't even know why.

Honestly, she wasn't really angry.

Amikura Mako had no plans to pursue a relationship with the opposite sex. Her impression of Kaoru Mitoma was simply that he was a very handsome guy.

So, even when she saw him out shopping with Sakayanagi Arisu, she didn't say anything.

After all, who he dated was his own business.

It just irked her a little that, despite already having someone, he still brought her along to the gym.

"Though it might be presumptuous of me, Sakayanagi-san and I are just friends. She wanted to recruit me as her subordinate at the time and I couldn't refuse."

For some reason, Kaoru Mitoma suddenly felt the need to explain himself.

Amikura Mako pursed her lips. "You're such a self-absorbed guy. I don't care about your business."

"But I care about you. If you don't treat your wound soon, there's a risk of bacterial infection." Kaoru Mitoma thought for a moment.

He had once drawn some healing items, but most of them were hard to explain to a girl.

After a brief pause, he simply picked up the remaining corn cobs and even snatched the ones from the dazed girl's hands.

"I'll help you take these corn cobs back. At a time like this, you really shouldn't be thinking about saving points. The guide has plenty of medicines you can buy."

Amikura Mako stared at him, her expression complicated, and softly uttered two words.

"Thank you..."

She wasn't particularly arrogant.

When faced with someone kindness, she couldn't bring herself to reject or ignore it.

Moreover, since Kaoru Mitoma had already spoken to this extent, it wouldn't hurt for her to agree.

Amikura Mako stood up, her gaze fixed on Kaoru Mitoma in front of her, silently watching his back as they walked back to Class B camp together.

"Later, I started going to the gym often. Honami-chan thought I was becoming a recluse, so she kept me company there. But I knew I no longer cared about Class C."

She blurted out something seemingly out of nowhere, making it hard for anyone to respond.

"I liked your Instagram posts."

The school prohibited students from sending messages to the outside world, so the students had resorted to creating alternate accounts, adding only their classmates as friends and updating their statuses, much like a social media feed.

Kaoru Mitoma had come across posts from Kushida Kikyo, Ichinose Honami, and Koenji Rokusuke more than once.

"I did notice your likes..."

"Maybe you'll develop abs and be able to punch through sandbags."

"I'm not some super-strong girl!"

Just as Kaoru Mitoma was about to continue teasing her, he heard a muffled voice from behind.

"I'm sorry... I shouldn't have just walked away back then..."

Kaoru Mitoma stopped in his tracks.

Amikura Mako, not expecting it, bumped into his back, covering her nose as tears welled up in her eyes.

"Why did you stop?"

"I thought I heard something just now. Do you know what it was?"

"No!"

Amikura Mako, flustered and annoyed, simply walked around him and ran ahead.

She didn't need him to lead the way anyway!

Kaoru Mitoma clicked his tongue.

If it had been Kamuro, she would have probably given him a cold sidelong glance, always seeming uninterested no matter what he did.

Girls should be a little easier to coax—that's what makes them cute.

Chapter 134: So, Was I the Third Wheel All Along?

Soon after, the two of them happened to run into Ichinose Honami, who had rushed over upon hearing the news.

"Mako-chan!"

She had run all the way here, her forehead glistening with sweat, her hair slightly disheveled, and her ample chest heaving like rapidly expanding cotton candy.

The white collar of her shirt was gradually dampened, clinging to her skin, faintly revealing the color beneath.

Her flushed cheeks and rapid breathing gave her an inexplicably alluring expression, especially since her figure was even better than Kushida Kikyo.

Kaoru Mitoma gaze fell on the items in her hands—band-aids, anti-inflammatory medicine, iodine, alcohol, gauze, and ointment.

Did she buy an entire first-aid kit?

"Honami-chan, it hurts, waaah..."

Perhaps finally seeing someone she could rely on, Amikura Mako no longer tried to keep up her composure.

With tears in her eyes, she hugged Ichinose Honami, completely forgetting about the bystander standing behind her.

"Where did you hurt yourself? Let me see. I heard from Himeno-san that you scraped your skin, so I hurried to buy all these medicines." Ichinose Honami anxiously examined the girl in front of her, her heart aching as she saw the scrape on her elbow.

"I was walking and suddenly tripped over a tree root. All the corn fell, and then I ran into..." Amikura Mako cried for a while before suddenly remembering someone and her sobbing abruptly stopped.

"Does it hurt a lot?" Ichinose Honami attention was entirely on her as she quickly picked out the medicine.

"Don't worry, I'll take care of it right away. It might sting a bit, so bear with it."

"I can do it myself!" Amikura Mako struggled out of her embrace, trying to keep a straight face, though for some reason, a faint blush crept onto her cheeks.

It seemed she had realized she couldn't act as spoiled as she usually did.

"Nice to see you again, Ichinose-san" Kaoru Mitoma greeted her proactively.

"I guess you don't need my help now, do you?"

It was only then that Ichinose Honami noticed he had been standing behind Amikura the whole time. Her expression froze for a moment and her pupils contracted slightly.

"I never needed your help in the first place" Amikura Mako retorted, even though his attitude was polite. She didn't feel like she required his interference.

"I'm starting to regret it. I should've taken the corn back to Class A earlier."

Amikura Mako let out a light hum, about to snatch the corn back from him, but a sharp pain from her wound made her wince involuntarily.

Not wanting to lose face in front of him, she casually tucked a strand of hair behind her ear and said.

"Since we've come this far, don't even think about going back."

"Not letting me go back? Are you suggesting I stay in Class B?" Kaoru Mitoma felt exasperated.

"Sorry, but our hammocks and tents are already full" Amako replied matter-of-factly.

"What I meant was for you to bring the corn to our class. Thanks for the trouble, Mitoma-kun."

"Could you at least ask nicely?"

"I'll give you a corn as a thank you."

"At that rate, you might as well just tell me where the corn is."

"..."

Ichinose Honami was momentarily stunned.

Watching the two of them banter back and forth, she couldn't help but feel like an unnecessary third wheel.

Even though his official girlfriend was right here, he didn't even spare her a second glance.

Sure, they had to keep their relationship a secret and it was only temporary, but couldn't he at least pretend a little?

Besides, hadn't they agreed that he wouldn't make moves on any other girls besides her?

Why was he acting all friendly and smiling with Mako-chan right in front of her?

He should know that Mako-chan was her friend, right?

If he knew that, then why was he doing this? Was he deliberately trying to send her a warning?

And wasn't Mako-chan supposed to dislike him?

Why did it seem like there was some kind of ambiguity between them now?

Even though she kept telling herself not to overthink things and that Kaoru Mitoma had probably just run into Mako by coincidence, Ichinose Honami couldn't shake off a strange sense of unease.

"What's wrong, Honami-chan?" Amikura Mako asked, puzzled by Ichinose obvious distraction.

Ichinose immediately snapped back to reality and forced an unnatural smile.

"It's better to take care of your injuries first. We can talk about the... corn later."

Amikura Mako eyed her suspiciously, keenly catching the slight oddity in her tone.

"Hey, Ichinose, you ran too fast. I almost couldn't catch up."

Just then, a voice of complaint came from behind Ichinose.

Kaoru Mitoma turned his gaze and saw Shiranami Chihiro and an unfamiliar girl walking towards them, one after the other.

The latter had long twin tails that swayed as she walked.

"Ahaha, sorry, Himeno-san. I was just too worried about Mako-chan."

"You didn't have to run that fast" the girl replied, her tone tinged with exasperation, her expression rather cold.

If he remembered correctly, this girl was Himeno Yuki, their classmate.

Kaoru Mitoma averted his gaze.

The amount of desire emanating from her wasn't particularly strong, probably on the same level as Amikura Mako and Shiranami Chihiro.

Speaking of Shiranami Chihiro, why had she been staring at him so intently?

Had she noticed something?

Soon after, Ichinose helped Mako tend to her wounds, discovering that not only was her elbow scraped, but her knee was also swollen.

With nothing else to do, Kaoru Mitoma tactfully handed the corn to Himeno Yuki and Shiranami Chihiro, preparing to leave.

"Wait!" Ichinose suddenly called out to him. "The cornfield Mako-chan found is quite large. We can share it equally with Class A."

Amikura Mako eyes lit up, though Himeno Yuki let out an inadvertent sigh.

Faced with this survival game, the idea of sharing food with their opponents left Kaoru Mitoma momentarily silent.

"No need, I was just joking earlier."

Watching him leave without hesitation, Ichinose bit her lip tightly, her thoughts in complete disarray.

She couldn't just chase after him and demand to know who his real girlfriend was, could she?

From a rational standpoint, she actually preferred that Kaoru Mitoma ignored her, since the two of them weren't truly a couple.

But her emotions told her she couldn't just sit back and do nothing.

She needed to flexibly use her "girlfriend" status to pressure him, or else she might end up facing situations she didn't want to see.

Thus, Ichinose had been constantly torn, unsure of how to interact with him.

"What's wrong, Honami-chan?" Amikura Mako asked, puzzled by Ichinose obvious distraction.

"Let's head back too" Himeno Yuki said, uninterested in Kaoru Mitoma departure.

If it weren't for Amikura Mako injury and the reluctance to abandon the corn, she wouldn't have made the trip again.

Ichinose held Mako hand and silently retraced their steps.

"Chihiro-chan, why are you looking at me like that?"

After walking for a while, Amikura Mako tilted her head slightly, glancing at the girl beside her.

"N-nothing!" Shiranami Chihiro quickly averted her gaze, her fingers tightly intertwined, her heart pounding.

Perhaps only she knew what had really happened earlier.

Ichinose and Mitoma were a couple, yet Mitoma seemed to have some ambiguous relationship with Mako.

Wasn't that just scummy?

What was even stranger was that seeing this scumbag made her recall that moment again—the person she secretly loved gasping, places she had never touched being kissed by a man.

It was enough to make her blush furiously.

The more she thought about it, the more she felt a lingering fear, as if an invisible hand had gripped her ankle.

No matter how she struggled or cried for help, she could only watch helplessly as the other person violated her.

No, no, no... it should be violating someone she cared about.

Shiranami Chihiro quickly rubbed her cheeks, which were too red and hot.

Chapter 135: This Guy Is Acting Strange

The special exam entered its fourth day.

Although Class A had some stored food, it was only worth about eighty points. They still needed to go out daily to search for more, or they wouldn't make it to the final day.

Even with careful rationing, according to Katsuragi Kohei's estimate, the stored food would run out by the sixth day, leaving them hungry on the seventh.

Fortunately, the exam would end at noon on the seventh day, and they could return to the cruise ship to feast.

Since the last failed attempt, Katsuragi Kohei had adopted a completely conservative approach, avoiding contact with any other class.

If Class A could hold out until the end, they would earn over three hundred points, enough to surpass the other classes.

If Ryuen Kakeru could bring back the leader's name, they might even approach four hundred points.

As for personal points, Katsuragi Kohei didn't mind giving them to Class C, though he was surprised that Kaoru Mitoma had managed to negotiate it.

On second thought, it seemed that Class C could only make deals with their Class A. It wasn't the seller's market he had imagined; due to certain factors, it had turned into a buyer's market.

Still, even so, no one knew what Ryuen Kakeru was thinking.

Katsuragi Kohei was about to lead his team out to search for food when, shortly after leaving the camp, he saw Kaoru Mitoma waiting for him.

"Aren't you going to check in?"

"I'll go later. There's something I need to discuss with you now."

As he spoke, Kaoru Mitoma glanced at Totsuka Yahiko, who was naturally following Katsuragi Kohei.

"What is it?" Katsuragi Kohei wanted to ask why he hadn't brought this up in the camp but then remembered that Class A wasn't exactly united at the moment, which gave him a headache.

"Whatever I do next, just go along with it, even if it means losing some points."

"What?!" Totsuka Yahiko immediately got worked up. "What do you think our points are? You can't just decide we'll cooperate with you!"

Kaoru Mitoma calmly replied, "If we don't do this, we might lose even more points—around two hundred, for example."

"Hey, hey, hey, are you threatening Katsuragi? Don't think you can act unreasonably just because you've helped us before!"

"Totsuka!" Katsuragi Kohei cut him off. "I can cooperate with you, but you have to tell me why."

"I'll explain later. The more people who know, the greater the risk." Kaoru Mitoma glanced meaningfully at Totsuka Yahiko.

Katsuragi Kohei pondered for a moment. "Alright, I'll wait for your explanation."

"Wait, Katsuragi, this isn't right! He's Sakayanagi's man. He might have already secretly leaked the leader's information to someone else!"

Totsuka Yahiko had always been suspicious of Kaoru Mitoma's motives. After all, how could someone who often hung out with Sakayanagi's faction and even chatted amiably with Sakayanagi Arisu herself genuinely help them?

The most likely scenario was that Kaoru Mitoma was a spy planted within their Katsuragi faction.

"Every time he goes out to check in, he refuses to let us follow him, and he even tells us not to linger at the base. It's obvious he plans to exchange information with someone there!"

As soon as the words left his mouth, Katsuragi Kohei punched Totsuka Yahiko on the head, instantly silencing his loud complaints.

"It's you who doesn't understand the situation, Totsuka. Quiet down!"

Unlike the clueless Totsuka Yahiko, Katsuragi Kohei was well aware that Kaoru Mitoma was about to make a big move, which was why he had deliberately bypassed most of Class A.

"Keep an eye on Hashimoto-kun. Don't let him idle around. Assign a few people to watch him," Kaoru Mitoma instructed.

He wasn't foolish enough to trust Hashimoto Masayoshi's verbal promises. A person's sincerity isn't measured by what they say, but by what they do.

After saying this, Kaoru Mitoma set off for the fateful base.

Not just Class A, but Class D had also finally settled down.

The arguments from the first day were no longer heard, and the noise had subsided.

Moreover, the points hadn't been consumed as much as expected. Including Koenji Rokuzo's mid-term withdrawal, Class D had only spent around 120 points.

At this rate, they should be able to save half of their points by the end, which was encouraging news.

However, some were far from satisfied with this outcome.

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka couldn't help but glance at Horikita Suzune beside him. She was still wearing her stuffy jacket, her complexion slightly pale, her lips a bit white, yet she walked silently along the forest path, keeping pace with him.

The midday sun shone overhead, its scattered rays filtering through the gaps in the treetops. The air was filled with fine particles, like rising mist slowly ascending from the canopy. The sky was cloudless, and in the distance, the shadow of a tower loomed faintly.

As they continued forward, a slope appeared before them, and at the top of the slope stood the base of the tower—a round tower about twenty to thirty meters tall.

A ladder was nearby, allowing one to climb to the top, where they could presumably gaze out at the endless sea.

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka quickly dismissed the thought, knowing that Horikita Suzune's goal wasn't the sea beyond.

"About half an hour left," Horikita Suzune checked the time on the wall. "They should be arriving soon. You hide on the other side later, making sure you can see the check-in device."

Staying together would make it easier for their view to be blocked, so Horikita Suzune decided to observe the Class A leader from different positions. That was why she had brought Ayanokouji Kiyotaka along.

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka nodded obediently and followed her to find the best observation spot.

Finally, Horikita Suzune added a warning.

"Be careful. Don't make any noise before you see the leader, or you might alert Class A."

Though it made sense, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka didn't think it would be so easy to catch the Class A leader.

However, the reality was unexpected.

Hidden in the woods beside the tower, he soon saw someone approaching.

In an instant, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka's pupils contracted. He only saw one person.

Why was there only one person?

This was too strange. Was Class A really that confident?

As the person drew closer, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka could barely conceal his shock.

There was no mistake. Even if this person turned to ash, he would recognize them.

Kaoru Mitoma!

Especially as he watched Kaoru Mitoma get closer and closer to the tower, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka unconsciously held his breath. For the first time in a long while, he felt a trace of nervousness.

He probably wasn't the leader. Kaoru Mitoma was likely here to inspect the situation, with the real leader still behind.

The view from the tower was too expansive, making it easy for anyone to spot the act of scanning the card. The risk was too great.

Under normal circumstances, Class A wouldn't send someone to openly scan the card here.

While maintaining his composure, Ayanokouji silently watched Kaoru Mitoma approach the tower and take out what appeared to be a key card.

Even the pinnacle of rationality couldn't help but fall silent at this moment.

Chapter 136: We'll Make Sure He Doesn't Return!

This shouldn't be happening. It was most likely a deliberate attempt to lure out any potential hidden observers, forcing them to reveal an inappropriate reaction.

The real leader was still behind.

Judging from Kaoru Mitoma usual behavior, he couldn't possibly be unaware of the consequences of this action.

Ayanokouji took a deep breath.

He trusted Mitoma abilities.

As the vice president of the student council and someone who had outsmarted Horikita Suzune, he wouldn't expose his class leader.

And so, under Ayanokouji slightly anxious gaze, Kaoru Mitoma silently aligned the key card with the scanning device.

Although he couldn't hear it, Ayanokouji felt as though he heard a click, indicating that the card had successfully refreshed its status on the machine.

Impossible.

Absolutely impossible.

Ayanokouji desperately looked toward the path behind, hoping to catch a glimpse of someone who might be the leader, but there wasn't a single person in sight.

No matter how he looked at it, the only person standing at the base of the tower was Kaoru Mitoma, and he was indeed a student of Class A.

Every action screamed to Ayanokouji that Kaoru Mitoma was undoubtedly the leader of Class A.

Ayanokouji felt a sense of absurdity.

Could it be that the opponent he had been constantly thinking about and guarding against was actually just an idiot?

No, there had to be something more to this.

This move was like raising a torch high in a dark forest while shouting to the surrounding people.

Either he was a child, or he was a master of deception.

Between the two, Ayanokouji was more inclined to believe that Kaoru Mitoma was luring someone out.

But who?

Ayanokouji instinctively glanced in Horikita Suzune direction. At this moment, what would her reaction be?

If it were Horikita Suzune, she might not be able to suppress the upward curve of her lips.

It was easy to imagine her eagerly writing his name down.

This was a normal reaction.

Most people, seeing their plan come to fruition, wouldn't think deeper and would instead sneer at their opponent stupidity.

However, Ayanokouji thought of a crucial question, one he had been pondering all along.

There was no legitimate reason to replace the leader.

From this rule, it seemed difficult to replace the leader, but the school hadn't completely closed off this path.

As long as there was a legitimate reason, the leader could be replaced. The only question was how the school defined a legitimate reason.

Kouenji Rokusuke excuse was that he wasn't feeling well and the school staff directly allowed him to return to the cruise ship.

So, could a leader also use this as an excuse to withdraw from the exam and then have the class elect a new leader?

Thinking this, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka finally understood Kaoru Mitoma plan.

Losing thirty points to make the opponent guess the wrong leader and gaining fifty points—no matter how you looked at it, it was a profitable move.

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka felt a chill in his heart.

As expected of someone suspected to be from the White Room—he was all too familiar with such tactics!

But would Horikita Suzune see through it?

Seeing a familiar figure appear before her, Horikita Suzune was also taken aback.

At first, she had the same doubts as Ayanokouji Kiyotaka, but when she saw Kaoru Mitoma place the key card on the machine, her doubts were completely dispelled.

As everyone knew, only the leader could operate the key card.

All she had to do was wait for Kaoru Mitoma to leave and she would immediately know the final answer.

To think she had actually lost to such a person back then—it was both shameful and laughable!

Horikita Suzune shook her head.

She felt her head was heavy, her body alternating between hot and cold, and she couldn't focus on anything else. Only one thought remained in her mind.

She was certain to win!

Next, Horikita Suzune felt she only needed to do two things.

First, fill in Kaoru Mitoma name before the exam ended and second, sell this information to Class B in exchange for enough personal points.

So, without making a sound, she quietly watched Kaoru Mitoma leave.

Strangely, before leaving, Kaoru Mitoma seemed to glance in Ayanokouji Kiyotaka direction.

Had he noticed something?

Horikita Suzune tried her best to stay alert.

Since the other party showed no reaction, it was likely they hadn't noticed her and Ayanokouji Kiyotaka.

After a few minutes, she emerged from the woods and approached the check-in device.

Sure enough, she saw the countdown on it, which had clearly been updated by Kaoru Mitoma.

"I didn't expect the leader of Class A to be so careless" Ayanokouji Kiyotaka appeared beside her.

"Generally, they would either station someone here or cautiously abandon this place."

Frowning slightly at his comment, Horikita Suzune calmly replied.

"Class A isn't an invincible entity. They make mistakes too. Overconfidence isn't necessarily a good thing."

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka silently watched her. Did she really understand what he meant?

Was his hint too subtle?

Originally, he thought Kaoru Mitoma was targeting Horikita Suzune, but upon further reflection, perhaps that wasn't the case.

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka recalled the moment earlier when he had also noticed Kaoru Mitoma gaze.

The other eyes were completely unguarded, as if they had pierced through the woods and instantly spotted his presence, revealing a hint of amusement.

Though it was just a fleeting moment, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka realized he had been exposed.

Not only had he been exposed, but the other party was actually targeting him.

It seemed he couldn't count on Horikita Suzune anymore.

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka mood grew heavy.

Speaking of which, there was still a bug in his room that he hadn't dealt with.

He didn't know who had installed it in his room, nor when it had appeared. By the time Ayanokouji Kiyotaka noticed it, it was already July.

He hadn't removed it immediately, not wanting to alert the person behind it.

Rumor has it that some listening devices can operate continuously for two to three months.

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka plans to dismantle it during the summer break to see if he can find any clues.

For now, he suspects it's Kaoru Mitoma doing.

"How's your body holding up?" Ayanokouji suddenly asked with concern.

"I'm perfectly fine, don't overthink it" Horikita Suzune replied with a calm demeanor, though fine beads of sweat were forming on her forehead.

Just half an hour hidden in the woods had already taken a toll on her body.

"You're not planning to tough it out until the exam ends, are you?" Ayanokouji pressed further.

Horikita fell silent for a moment. "If I give up now, wouldn't all my efforts so far be in vain?"

In other words, she really intended to endure until the exam was over.

Ayanokouji eyes gleamed as his mind raced at full speed, considering potential targets he could exploit in response to Kaoru Mitoma invitation.

The other party was suspected to be from the White Room, so he couldn't afford to let his guard down.

He even began to wonder if Chabashira Sae knew something, which was why she chose to threaten him at this moment.

"Let's head to Class B next. Ichinose-san will probably be happy to hear this news, though it's a shame we don't have any photos."

Horikita wanted to wrap up the deal quickly and return to the camp to rest.

Her body couldn't handle being active outside for too long.

Ayanokouji followed her in silence, gradually forming a rough plan in his mind.

Whether Kaoru Mitoma was from the White Room or not, Ayanokouji would make sure he wouldn't leave unscathed!

Chapter 137: The Turmoil in Class D

They had expected Class B to agree, but instead, they were met with refusal.

"While I'd like to believe you, asking us to take the risk of filling in Mitoma-kun name based solely on your word isn't enough to convince everyone" Ichinose Honami said with a hint of apology, though her real reason was something else.

"You can fill in his name before the exam ends and pay the personal points after the results come out" Horikita conceded, knowing her argument sounded weak.

There was no way around it—the school didn't allow students to bring phones to the island, so she couldn't possibly have any evidence.

Either they had to steal Kaoru Mitoma key card, or... wait, maybe she could bring Ichinose along next time?

"What if we're wrong?" Ichinose asked naturally.

Horikita countered "Based on the update schedule, he'll be back around 2 PM tomorrow. Why don't you join us in ambushing him again?"

Ichinose was momentarily taken aback, but the proposal seemed hard to refuse.

"I'll go with you" Kanzaki Ryuji, who had been silent until now, suddenly spoke up.

At this point, Ichinose had little choice but to nod in agreement.

Horikita didn't linger any longer.

Since Class B still had doubts, pushing for a discussion about compensation likely wouldn't yield good results.

Instead, it would be better to show them concrete evidence first and then demand payment.

Given Ichinose personality, she probably wouldn't intentionally delay the payment and Horikita request wasn't excessive—she just needed enough to clear her 400,000-point debt.

Returning to Class D camp, Horikita immediately retreated into her tent to rest.

After a busy afternoon, she was exhausted.

Ayanokouji continued to stroll leisurely around the campsite, his gaze inadvertently falling on Kushida Kikyo, who was chatting with her friends, her face full of smiles.

Although her academic ability and talent couldn't compare to Horikita Suzune, she was still a target worth paying attention to.

However, staying too close to Kushida Kikyo would make him too conspicuous, which is why he had kept his distance.

His gaze then shifted to another side, where a girl was sitting quietly under a tree at the edge of the campsite, watching Class D intently.

Ibuki Mio from Class C.

As far as he knew, Ayanokouji was the only one in the class who knew she had brought a camera, and only the two of them knew that the camera was broken.

In this situation, Ayanokouji felt that he and Ibuki Mio were on the same side.

The next morning, a scream erupted from the girls' tent of Class D.

Soon after, the girls, with an air of determination, gathered all the boys and delivered some shocking news.

"Ha???? Karuizawa socks were stolen?"

Ike Kanji and Yamauchi Haruki had initially thought it was something serious, but upon hearing this, they couldn't help but feel disappointed.

Hearing this news, Hirata Yousuke also showed a hint of surprise.

"Not only were her socks stolen, but the culprit also did something terrible to Karuizawa shoes. Right now, Kushida and the others are comforting her inside the tent" Shinohara Satsuki said coldly, seemingly unwilling to elaborate.

"We need to search the boys' luggage and tents."

"Wait, why should we be searched? Maybe she just lost them by accident" Ike protested.

"I remember you went to the bathroom very late last night and took quite a while" someone interjected.

"Idiot, how could it be me!"

Despite Ike fervent protests, they were in vain.

Shinohara, representing the girls, proposed the search to Hirata, who had no choice but to agree.

However, the girls were only responsible for checking the luggage and backpacks, while they asked Hirata to help search the boys for any hidden socks.

For the girls, Hirata was the only one they could trust now.

While waiting for his turn to be searched, Ike glanced at his backpack and suddenly looked panicked.

Yamauchi was the first to notice his companion unusual behavior and sneaked a peek, only to see several pairs of socks.

"So it really was you? You're actually interested in this kind of thing?" Yamauchi whispered, lowering his voice.

"Did you... you know... do it with the socks last night?"

"It wasn't me! I don't even know who put them there" Ike retorted, flustered.

"Anyway, you need to hide them now!"

"Wh-where should I hide them?"

"Ayanokouji!"

Without hesitation, they shoved the socks into Ayanokouji hands.

Is this what friends are supposed to do?

Ayanokouji sighed and had no choice but to stuff the socks into his pocket.

Soon, it was his turn to be searched.

The girls rummaged through his backpack, while Hirata, with an apologetic expression, patted him down.

For a brief moment, Hirata paused, but then he continued as if nothing had happened.

Was he letting him off the hook?

After the search was over, the girls looked at each other, puzzled that they hadn't found the culprit.

"You must have hidden them somewhere!"

"Hey, don't make baseless accusations! So what if a smelly sock is lost? It's not a big deal."

"Don't think I don't know about you guys' weird fetishes. Karuizawa shoes... they're a mess. I bet you took her socks to do something perverted!"

"Don't slander us like that! Not all of us are foot fetish freaks!"

"Anyway, until the culprit is found, no boys are allowed near the girls' tents, except for Hirata!"

"If that's the case, why don't you just move your tents to the other side and even use separate bathrooms!"

"Fine, why not!"

The class atmosphere, which had been gradually warming up, suddenly plummeted to freezing point.

The girls were suspicious of the boys and the boys felt unjustly accused.

Soon after, Class D was divided into two separate zones for boys and girls, with neither side allowed to cross into the other's territory.

In this tense atmosphere, Horikita Suzune felt utterly exhausted.

She was already in poor condition, and the constant shouting from both sides only added to her mental chaos.

How is this class supposed to climb to Class A?

Watching Ayanokouji Kiyotaka and Hirata Yousuke being dragged off to do manual labor for the girls, she silently got up and decided to head to Class B camp alone.

She hadn't forgotten her goal for today.

So, at the base of the tower, Horikita Suzune and Kanzaki Ryuuji once again spotted Kaoru Mitoma figure.

"Now do you believe me?"

"Sorry, it's not that we doubt you, but this whole thing is just too unbelievable" Kanzaki Ryuuji said with a serious expression.

"What do you want in return? I'll report it honestly to Ichinose."

Horikita Suzune was about to suggest paying Class D in installments with personal points, but then she changed her mind and said instead.

"After the exam, Class B must give me one million personal points in one go."

She felt it wasn't worth it to hand over a large sum of personal points to Class D.

Moreover, the reason she demanded cash was because she could only accept cash right now—she couldn't wait for installment payments.

If she didn't get personal points soon, she'd end up becoming Kaoru Mitoma "slave"!

Chapter 138: Foot Fetishists Aren't Perverts

With this good news, Kanzaki Ryuji quickly returned to the camp of Class B.

"Was he alone at the time?"

After listening to the report, Ichinose Honami couldn't help but fall into deep thought.

It was somewhat unbelievable that such a situation would occur with Kaoru Mitoma.

However, the facts were right before their eyes and no matter how absurd it seemed, they had no choice but to believe it.

"I saw it with my own eyes, there's no mistake" Shinzaki Ryuji said. "Horikita demanded one million personal points as compensation. I think we can continue cooperating with her."

While Class B could technically break the agreement—since it was only a verbal promise and no formal contract had been signed—doing so would damage their credibility.

Kanzaki Ryuji believed that there would be future opportunities for collaboration, so there was no need to be stingy with these personal points.

However, Ichinose Honami showed a hint of hesitation.

On one side was her class and on the other was her boyfriend.

Who should she choose now?

The reason she had rejected Horikita Suzune yesterday was precisely because Ichinose Honami had keenly sensed this dilemma and chose to escape reality.

Now, Kanzaki Ryuji had brought this issue back to her, forcing her to make a decision.

"Our personal points should still be enough to cover one million" Kanzaki Ryuji said, thinking she was worried about the personal points.

After being targeted by Class C, Class B personal points were indeed running low.

Ichinose Honami shook her head. "I'm not worried about that. But is Mitoma-kun really the leader of Class A?"

Kanzaki Ryuji was momentarily stunned, then replied seriously.

"According to the exam rules, once the leader is confirmed, there's no reason for them to be replaced. Moreover, the key card can only be used by the leader. Mitoma wouldn't violate the rules."

If he did, Class A would directly lose fifty points.

Besides, Horikita Suzune claimed that Kaoru Mitoma had already checked in once yesterday.

Adding it up, that would be a hundred points.

"I've dealt with Mitoma-kun before. With his mindset, he wouldn't make such a low-level mistake," Ichinose Honami pondered for a moment.

"Do you think someone who could check in at the base before us, forcing us to wait for eight hours, would do something like this?"

Kanzaki Ryuji fell silent for a while, then said "It seems we don't need to take the risk of filling in Mitoma name."

"It's probably a trap" Ichinose Honami thought for a moment. "We should also warn Horikita-san to avoid unknowingly falling into Mitoma-kun scheme again."

Although she hadn't yet considered withdrawing from the exam, her past experiences told her that Kaoru Mitoma was most likely fishing for something.

Moreover, this reasoning could also be seen as her being cautious, avoiding a direct confrontation with Kaoru Mitoma.

Soon, Ichinose Honami and Kanzaki Ryuji arrived at Class D, where the atmosphere seemed rather strange.

"You think this is a trap?" Horikita Suzune felt a sense of absurdity. She had worked hard for two days, only to receive such a response?

"Otherwise, it's hard to explain Mitoma-kun actions. Even if he himself was careless, Class A Katsuragi-kun wouldn't let him act recklessly. From what I know, that person is a very cautious leader."

Faced with Ichinose Honami reasoning, Horikita Suzune coldly stared at them.

"Whether you fill it in or not is up to you. Just don't regret it later."

After uttering these words, Horikita Suzune headed straight back to the girls' tent, leaving a slightly awkward Ichinose Honami and Kanzaki Ryuji behind.

"Sorry, she hasn't been feeling well lately, so her thoughts are a bit scattered" Ayanokouji Kiyotaka explained.

It wasn't just her physical condition, with the debt repayment deadline approaching, Horikita Suzune couldn't help but feel anxious.

In this state, the girl was clearly at her wit's end and unlikely to listen to anyone advice.

"Has she taken any medication? She should rest properly" Ichinose Honami asked with concern.

"We bought an emergency medical kit, which should have the necessary medicine. If you need it, we can send some over."

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka felt uneasy.

How did Class B even have a medical kit?

"It seems she's already taken some medicine."

"It's best to let Horikita rest in the tent and not let her move around anymore."

It wasn't just his imagination, the leader of Class B seemed like a little angel.

"By the way, I'm curious about your thoughts on Mitoma behavior" Ayanokouji Kiyotaka changed the subject.

"Why do you call it a trap?"

"It's hard to explain, but it feels strange. You can consider it my intuition" Ichinose Honami sighed slightly.

"Although 50 points are tempting, Class B can't afford to lose 50 points either."

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka thought for a moment, then shared his speculation with them, adding.

"Mitoma might replace the leader after the exam, luring us into writing the wrong answers."

Ichinose Honami was stunned.

Following this line of thought, everything made sense.

"Did you come up with this yourself?" Kanzaki Ryuji suddenly asked.

Without batting an eye, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka replied.

"Hirata asked me to tell you."

Kanzaki Ryuji instinctively glanced at Hirata Yousuke, who was surrounded by girls not far away, seemingly doing some manual labor.

"I see. But has something happened in your class?"

So, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka told them about the sock incident.

"Apparently, the shoes were soaked, covered in some suspicious sticky substance."

"That's... a very peculiar fetish. I didn't expect your class to have a foot fetishist."

Listening to their conversation, Ichinose Honami suddenly thought of herself, her earlobes gradually turning a warm red, as if sunlight had spread across her delicate face.

"L-Let's go back, Kanzaki-kun!"

Not daring to listen any further, Ichinose Honami fled the Class D camp as if escaping.

Kanzaki Ryuji found it strange but still bid farewell to Ayanokouji Kiyotaka.

"By the way, Hirata said he'd let me know if he finds any clues."

"Alright, see you next time."

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka watched them leave, then turned back to continue helping Hirata Yousuke with his work.

"What were you talking about just now?"

"Ichinose said they might have a lead on Class A leader and are currently tracking it. If they find anything, she'll let us know."

"She sounds like a good person" Hirata Yousuke remarked, feeling surprised but not doubting Ayanokouji Kiyotaka.

"Even though we're competitors, she's willing to cooperate with us. This school isn't entirely cold and cutthroat after all."

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka continued hammering the tent pegs with an expressionless face.

Since Horikita Suzune was out of the question, his options were limited to Hirata Yousuke, Kushida Kikyou, and Class B.

"Later, you'll come clean with me, Ayanokouji" Hirata Yousuke whispered, his gaze fixed intently on him as if encouraging him to confess.

"Although it's a shameful preference... there's nothing to be ashamed of. A man liking feet... shouldn't be considered perverted."

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka gritted his teeth.

If you're going to say it, don't hesitate at the end!

Chapter 139: I'm Not a Foot Fetishist

Regardless of the atmosphere in Class D, the uninhabited island exam was nearing its end.

At least in Class A camp, there were already many optimistic voices.

After all, once the exam was over, they would gain over 300 class points.

As night gradually fell, the absence of city noise allowed the sky to fill with countless stars, shimmering faintly through thin clouds.

The radiant moonlight filtered through the treetops, and the shadows of the campfire danced across the valley.

The heat of the day was cooling, and a gentle forest breeze occasionally rustled the plastic bag curtain at the cave entrance.

With nothing better to do, the students of Class A gathered in small groups. Some played truth or dare, while others began discussing their future plans.

Kaoru Mitoma, who had just finished bathing soon noticed Kamuro Masumi and Yamamura Miki crouching under a tree, seemingly observing something—one speaking while the other listened intently.

"What are you two doing?"

Kamuro Masumi, who had been sharing her insights, noticed someone approaching and glanced over.

"Nothing much, just watching ants."

"Watching ants?" Kaoru Mitoma crouched beside them, puzzled and indeed saw a line of worker ants busily carrying food.

There must be a nest nearby.

"There's a little lost ant. It's been trying to find its way home, but its companions don't seem to have noticed it's missing" Yamamura Miki explained softly, then subtly moved a bit further away.

At the same time, she carefully pointed out the ant location.

A tiny black ant was circling around fallen leaves, its antennae sometimes pointing upward, sometimes probing through the gaps in the leaves.

It was nearly thirty to forty centimeters away from the main group.

"It's simple. It's an idiot that didn't notice the pheromones left by its companions" Kamuro Masumi said.

"There are fools like this in society too—people who can't read others' hints and end up isolated from social circles."

Kaoru Mitoma fell silent.

Are you insulting yourself?

"Take back that look. You're no different" Kamuro Masumi glared at him without hesitation.

Kaoru Mitoma picked up a twig and drew a path in front of the ant, watching as it cautiously made its way back to the group.

"Sometimes, it just needs a little help."

Kamuro Masumi pursed her lips, while Yamamura Miki suddenly asked.

"What if no one helps it?"

Kaoru Mitoma then used the twig to nudge another ant and observed it with his hands in his sleeves.

After a while, the ant also returned to the group.

"It seems even without help, it'll eventually find its way home."

"If it doesn't, it'll probably die out there. That's just natural selection."

"Kamuro, what have you been reading lately?"

"Just some reflections, that's all."

At this moment, Yamamura Miki spoke with a hint of embarrassment.

"Actually, it's because I'm too clumsy. When we go out to gather food, everyone often forgets about me. By the time I realize it, they've already gone back. In the end, it was Kamuro-san who brought me back."

For some reason, her presence had always been very faint.

Normally, few people would notice her.

If it weren't for Kaoru Mitoma being able to see the wishes on her, he would probably have overlooked this girl as well.

"I just didn't want to see a classmate crying in the forest. It's annoying" Kamuro Masumi said with a cold expression.

"I wasn't crying... I could have found my way back soon enough and you even took the wrong path," Yamamura Miki retorted softly.

"I already said, I just remembered the wrong place at the time. Didn't I bring you back quickly afterward?" Kamuro Masumi pride was clearly hurt.

So that's how it was.

No wonder the two of them were together.

Kaoru Mitoma had found it strange, Kamuro was always alone, so why did she suddenly have a companion?

"Hey, how long are you going to stay here?" Kamuro Masumi turned her attention to Kaoru Mitoma.

A guy squeezing in between two girls looked odd no matter how you saw it.

Normally, Kamuro Masumi wouldn't care about such things, but with Yamamura Miki watching, it felt a bit awkward.

"Did you finish bathing?"

Kaoru Mitoma pretended not to hear her and instead looked at her.

At this moment, the warm glow of the firelight reflected on the girl delicate face, and the moonlight draped over her shoulders.

Her long hair seemed to emit a crystalline sheen, making her entire body sparkle.

Her soft chest was hidden beneath her short sleeves, not too revealing, but her entire body exuded a faint, elusive fragrance that only heightened one's appetite.

She wore a hair tie on her wrist.

Girls who had just finished bathing wouldn't tie their hair up immediately and sometimes they might not even put on their undergarments right away.

But Kamuro Masumi probably had hers on.

"Earlier than you."

For some reason, Kamuro Masumi glanced at him, muttered something and then quickly averted her gaze.

"Um, I still have something to do" Yamamura Miki cautiously stood up, feeling that she shouldn't disturb Kaoru Mitoma and Kamuro Masumi right now.

With that, Yamamura Miki hurriedly ran back to the vicinity of the bonfire.

Kaoru Mitoma watched her retreating figure.

The girl had also just bathed and he could still smell a fragrance different from Kamuro Masumi. He wondered if it was from a different brand of shower gel.

"Aren't you going to follow her?"

"Why should I follow her?"

"Yamamura feet are quite nice too. Are you sure you don't want to lick them?"

Faced with this soul-searching question, Kaoru Mitoma remained silent for a moment before speaking.

"I only believe what I see with my own eyes, and I'm not a foot fetishist."

Kamuro Masumi scoffed "Only an idiot would believe your words."

"Since we've known each other, have you ever seen me lick anyone feet?" Kaoru Mitoma asserted confidently.

It seemed he hadn't.

Kamuro Masumi hesitated for a moment, then quickly realized and glared at him, her cheeks slightly red with anger.

"Don't ever talk about your fetishes in front of me again!" Because she had almost let Kaoru Mitoma do it!

"Alright, but I still need to emphasize one thing—I'm not like those foot fetishists. I don't necessarily have to worship your feet, other parts are fine too." Kaoru Mitoma wanted to draw a clear line between himself and foot fetishists.

He truly didn't consider himself one of them.

Kamuro Masumi looked utterly stunned.

After a moment, she spoke in a low, complicated tone.

"I see. You're not someone who can be easily categorized as just a foot fetishist."

Kaoru Mitoma chuckled "Join me in action tomorrow. I need you, my good friend."

"Isn't the topic jumping way too fast?" Kamuro Masumi complained.

"And why should I join you? I'm not your slave."

"I thought we'd already established a master-servant relationship" Kaoru Mitoma said, somewhat disappointed.

"Stop talking nonsense! You'd be better off being my slave. Besides, you're still in a bet with Sakayanagi, and I don't want to lose!" Kamuro Masumi felt she was at a disadvantage.

After all, she was the prize in their competition.

Now, they wanted her, the prize, to step in and help directly.

Was that even fair?

"I know, so let's discuss this. I won't make any unreasonable demands."

"...You're not going to ask to lick my feet, are you?"

"No."

"You're not planning to take a peek down there, are you?"

"..."

"Why are you silent, you pervert!"

Chapter 140: Everyone, I Found a Key Card

The morning light was hazy, and the ground was wet, reflecting the dawn.

Dark clouds loomed in the distant sky, and the air carried a lingering chill from the night.

It seemed there had been a rainstorm in the early hours of yesterday, perhaps a prelude to an approaching tempest.

Ibuki Mio furrowed her brow.

It was already the sixth day of this special exam, and she still hadn't identified Class D leader.

She had secretly gone through the girls' luggage and backpacks but found nothing resembling a card.

In her search for the key card, Ibuki Mio even risked exposure by sneaking into the boys tents at night to thoroughly inspect their backpacks.

Yet, reality continued to disappoint her.

The leader was clearly smart and cautious, likely carrying the key card on their person at all times.

Moreover, Class D had deliberately formed a human wall during each check-in, with dozens of students mingling together, leaving Ibuki Mio utterly clueless.

She couldn't just join the crowd, so she could only watch from a distance.

Beyond this, there was something else that left Ibuki Mio uneasy.

Her digital camera had broken, inexplicably refusing to turn on.

It was a new camera that Ryuen Kakeru had bought for her and Kanda Satoru using exam points.

Surely, the quality couldn't be that bad?

If it weren't for the fact that no one had discovered her identity so far, Ibuki Mio would have suspected someone was deliberately targeting her.

But no matter how difficult it was, with the exam time running out, she had to take action.

So, yesterday, Ibuki Mio stole Karuizawa Kei socks.

Originally, she had considered stealing her underwear, but then she remembered the recent rumors about a foot fetishist at school.

Instead, she took the socks and deliberately poured leftover fish soup into Karuizawa Kei shoes, leaving them sticky and emitting a strange odor.

She then casually stuffed the socks into a boy backpack, hoping to force Class D to reveal some information that would benefit her.

Sure enough, the girls and boys ended up arguing.

Strangely, though, Karuizawa Kei, the usually arrogant and domineering girl was crying inside the tent.

Taking the opportunity to inspect the luggage again, Ibuki Mio carefully went through the boys' backpacks once more but still found no trace of the key card.

Watching Hirata Yosuke search the boys, she wanted to step in and help, but of course that was impossible.

Class D was in chaos and the trust crisis had created small cracks in their human wall strategy.

At least the boys and girls were keeping their distance, and the numbers had dwindled.

For instance, Karuizawa Kei and her group had refused to participate.

Ibuki Mio quietly ruled out some suspects, but today, she had to make her final move.

At this moment, the girl still sat under the tree at the edge of the camp, quietly observing the movements of Class D.

Hirata Yosuke began organizing the food groups for the day.

Some continued fishing by the river, while others chose to venture into the forest.

"Ibuki, would you like to join us?"

As he passed by Ibuki Mio, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka suddenly extended an invitation to her.

His invitation not only surprised Ibuki Mio but also caught Horikita Suzune, Kushida Kikyou, and Yamauchi Haruki off guard.

Ibuki Mio was momentarily stunned but then nodded calmly in agreement.

"I understand. Since I've been under the care of your class, I can lend a hand."

With that, she stood up from the ground and picked up her backpack.

"Suddenly, it feels like I'm building a harem. This is amazing!" Yamauchi Haruki, for some reason, got excited and started spouting all sorts of strange remarks.

Kushida Kikyou didn't reject Ibuki Mio's inclusion. Instead, she smiled warmly and welcomed her happily.

Meanwhile, Horikita Suzune was too preoccupied to care about such trivial matters. She forced herself to keep up with the group.

Gradually, Horikita Suzune fell to the back of the group, while Kushida Kikyou and the others chatted ahead.

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka also slowed his pace and said expressionlessly "You don't have to force yourself to keep up. It's the last day, after all."

"No, I've been in the tent for too long. If I don't participate in your activities, people will start to suspect me" Horikita Suzune replied, her pale lips pressed together.

"And don't bring this up again."

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka remained silent for a moment before asking.

"How do you usually keep the key card?"

"Why are you asking?" Horikita Suzune frowned.

"I suddenly thought of a way that might lure the other classes into making a mistake" Ayanokouji Kiyotaka explained.

"If possible, could you let me see it?"

Horikita Suzune hesitated for a while before taking out the key card from her person and asking.

"What's your plan?"

"Hand the key card to me regularly. You'll only take it back when it's time to use it. I can subtly reveal the key card, making the other classes mistakenly believe that I'm the leader."

Faced with Ayanokouji Kiyotaka words, Horikita Suzune instinctively fell into deep thought.

However, her mind was foggy and the more he spoke with conviction, the harder it was for her to discern the truth.

"You... what do you plan to do?"

"Let me see the key card first."

Taking advantage of Horikita Suzune momentary distraction, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka took the key card from her hand.

But at that moment, whether due to a slip or something else, the card fell from both of their hands.

"Ah!"

As Ayanokouji Kiyotaka let out an emotionless cry, the people walking at the front turned around to look.

"What happened?"

"Nothing, just saw a bug."

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka vaguely answered Kushida Kikyou question, but his gaze remained fixed on Horikita Suzune.

It was hard to believe that she could react so swiftly, immediately picking up the key card and putting it back in her pocket.

However, the plan should proceed without issues.

From the corner of his eye, he noticed Ibuki Mio silently averting her gaze.

"If you're this careless again, I'll kill you" Horikita Suzune whispered a warning to Ayanokouji Kiyotaka.

Ayanokouji Kiyotaka ignored her reaction and immediately approached Haruki Yamauchi, and the two boys began chatting happily.

As he had anticipated, Ibuki Mio indeed saw the keycard, and the girl was now somewhat bewildered.

After days of no progress, the keycard had come to her on her own?

Before she could think too long, Haruki Yamauchi scooped up a handful of mud and suddenly splashed it onto Horikita Suzune, leaving her completely covered in dirty mud.

Under Horikita Suzune murderous gaze, Haruki Yamauchi dashed back to the camp, shouting something about long live the harem.

Suddenly faced with this situation, the team seemed unable to move forward.

Even if they forced themselves to keep going, after searching the forest for an hour with no sign of food, they had no choice but to return to the camp.

Since there were many girls queuing for the shower room, Horikita Suzune decided to bathe in the river.

She put on her school swimsuit and went alone to a secluded corner before entering the water.

Thus, before noon, Ibuki Mio stared blankly at the backpack and clothes left in the tent by the other girl.

Although she wasn't sure what was going on... she could probably take them, right?