

Cote 16

Chapter 16 16: The Two Sides of Class A

"You've been here for a week now, so I think you should have a basic understanding of this school," Tomonari Mashima said. "As long as you don't break any school rules and both parties agree, you can use personal points to buy just about anything. That's the first thing I want to add."

Tomonari Mashima gaze swept over their faces, lingering for a moment on Kohei Katsuragi and Arisu Sakayanagi.

"So, my price is 500,000 personal points, and I won't guarantee it's worth it. Can you accept that?"

The school wouldn't allow teachers to reveal too much most things could only be touched on lightly. This was also to ensure fairness between classes. After all, if a teacher favored their own class and let slip a few extra hints, that class could easily pull far ahead of the others.

Katsuragi Kohei was pretty surprised, because the price was so low. Split among everyone, it was just a little over 10,000 points each, which was tempting.

But before he could say anything, Sakayanagi Arisu smiled slightly. "Let me pay for it. After all, I was the one who brought it up first." Katsuragi Kohei was stunned.

She had 500,000 personal points all by herself? When did that happen?

"You've got to be kidding. We all have 100,000 personal points, so how do you have 500,000"

Totsuka Yahiko didn't believe Sakayanagi Arisu had that much either.

"Heh, it's just a coincidence."

Since Sakayanagi Arisu had trouble moving, she handed her phone to Hashimoto Masayoshi and had him bring it over to Tomonari Mashima.

Tomonari Mashima glanced at it and said expressionlessly, "Alright, deal."

"No way, does this girl really have five hundred thousand personal points?"

Totsuka Yahiko couldn't help but shout. That was the question on everyone's mind in the class.

"You all have the school forum on your phones. Just open it and see for yourselves."

Masayoshi Hashimoto sounded a bit exasperated. Right after, most people saw the bounty post Arisu Sakayanagi had put up on the forum—it was basically unbeatable. No one had anything to say after that.

The way everyone looked at Arisu Sakayanagi was now filled with even more respect. Kohei Katsuragi still managed to keep a calm expression, but Totsuka Yahiko was still muttering under his breath.

"Quiet down. I'm not going to repeat myself," Tomonari Mashima said. "First of all, as students of Class A, you undoubtedly have the highest evaluation, but that's all it means. This school is all about meritocracy—your evaluation matches your abilities."

"In the next three years, you'll face countless challenges. I can't tell you the specifics, but they'll be a bit different from the exams you're used to."

"If you don't have the necessary abilities, you'll usually end up as a sacrifice—in other words, expelled. If you want to avoid expulsion, you either work hard to improve yourself or contribute to your class."

"From the looks of it, you should already know what being in Class A means, so I won't go into that. There are plenty of ways to earn personal points—club activities, personal deals, whatever—but class points can't be traded. As for the increase or decrease of class points, I think you all understand it well enough. It's just like exam scores—the final result depends on you, not the school."

There was nothing particularly surprising about this. With Sakayanagi Arisu and Kaoru Mitoma explanations, anyone could figure it out with a bit of thought. Tomonari Mashima was basically

confirming their suspicions, telling them that what they had guessed was pretty much correct, so they could rest assured. That's why he was selling the information for five hundred thousand private points.

"As a personal suggestion, it's best not to do it alone. The power of cooperation is much greater than you think."

Tomonari Mashima had already figured it out—he could keenly sense that there were two people in the class suited to be class leaders. But how could a class possibly have two leaders?

Most likely, the first test for Class A was to learn how to cooperate. Still, from beginning to end, Sakayanagi Arisu kept smiling. This was exactly the effect she wanted. If nothing unexpected happened, everyone was now raising their opinion of her, while their opinion of Katsuragi Kohei was plummeting.

After today, she would firmly have the upper hand over Katsuragi Kohei. Well, she wouldn't crush him right away. After all, the game was still on. Before the main course, you always had to start with an appetizer.

Katsuragi Kohei spoke in a low voice, "Excuse me, Mashima-sensei, are we already in the middle of the exam?"

Right now, all four classes had the same number of class points, so there was no way to tell the rankings. Unless next month brought some clarity.

"It won't be too hard. By next month, you'll all know."

He subtly confirmed and responded to Katsuragi Kohei question, then quickly changed the subject, clearly signaling to the surveillance that he didn't actually said anything. This homeroom teacher is pretty interesting. Kaoru Mitoma, who had been quietly observing the whole time, made another note in his notebook.

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Today classes went by quickly, but everyone stayed in the classroom, no one in a hurry to leave.

"In order to prevent any special situations in the future, I think it's necessary for us to save at least half of our personal points every month,"

Katsuragi Kohei calmly suggested. Right now, the situation in the class wasn't looking good for him. Sakayanagi Arisu had suddenly made a move and stolen all the attention. Before, a lot of people didn't care about who the class leader was.

Everyone just did their own thing, and it was normal for them not to get along, since their grades and backgrounds were all about the same—so why should they listen to anyone else?

Katsuragi Kohei circle... no, it should be called his faction now, only had about a dozen students at most.

At this point, quite a few people had already realized that the class needed a capable leader. Since they were the best, of course they needed the best leader. In just half a day, a considerable number of people had gathered around Sakayanagi Arisu, no fewer than those with Katsuragi Kōhei, and some had even defected from his faction.

Now, Class A had split into two factions. One was the Katsuragi faction, which Katsuragi Kohei had been building up for a week and had earned a certain level of trust. The other was the rising star Sakayanagi faction, with Sakayanagi Arisu at its core. At some point, Hashimoto Masayoshi and Kito Hayato had joined her. The rest of the students either remained hesitant or looked completely indifferent.

"Heh, Katsuragi-kun, who do you think should be in charge of these private points?"

Sakayanagi Arisu smiled slightly. This sharp question was really about who should hold the leadership of the class.

"Of course it should be our Katsuragi-san!"

Totsuka Yahiko was the first to jump in.

"Are you kidding? Sakayanagi should be the one managing our private points!"

The Sakayanagi faction was already showing signs of loyal followers.

"She's so tiny, she looks like a middle schooler at best. Katsuragi was the student council president before—he's definitely got more experience than her!"

"Hey, hey, who are you calling a middle schooler? Middle schoolers are the best, you know!"

Saying stuff like that, isn't he just asking to get herself killed by her?

Looks like even A Class students aren't immune to this kind of thing. When they argue, they sound just like old ladies at a market. No one can convince anyone else, so if this keeps going, everyone will just do their own thing.

"Mitoma-kun, you're not thinking of running away now, are you?"

Sakayanagi Arisu called out to someone with a sweet smile. He was already at the classroom door, but Kaoru Mitoma had no choice but to turn around and meet her gaze.

"Who do you think should be in charge of keeping the personal points?"

She actually tossed the ball to him, but it's not like he's some kind of referee.