

Cote 181

Chapter 181: You All Have Such a Good Relationship

As one of the most popular students in the first year, Honami Ichinose's personality played a significant role, aside from her good looks.

Not only did the students of Class B trust their leader, but students from other classes were also happy to spend time with her.

After all, no one would refuse a friend with such a good personality.

Some people referred to Kikyo Kushida and Honami Ichinose as the "angels" of the first year, with Honami Ichinose being the archangel and Kikyo Kushida the lesser angel.

The reason for this was precisely because of Honami Ichinose's usual demeanor.

People could see the spark of sincerity and kindness in her.

Therefore, Honami Ichinose was now leveraging this.

She wanted to achieve Outcome One within the group.

"Although I'd also like to agree with this suggestion, expecting the VIP to step forward on their own is clearly unrealistic," Hiyori Shiina said rationally.

"I can't deny that Ichinose-san, you have enough credibility to be trusted. But that doesn't mean everyone here can fully trust you."

Since the school guaranteed the anonymity of this exam and wouldn't reveal the names of the VIP or the correct answerer, even if someone betrayed the group, no one would know who the betrayer was.

In this situation, whether it was staking personal credibility or signing a contract, both came with significant risks, especially for the lower-ranked classes.

If they launched an attack, Class C and Class D might be able to surpass the upper-ranked classes in one fell swoop, with Class B being the first to bear the brunt.

"So we can take this opportunity to discuss together and get to know each other!" Honami Ichinose's face lit up with a smile.

As her gaze briefly caught Kaoru Mitoma, the tips of her ears turned slightly red, as if trying to hide something and her eyelashes fluttered.

"Are you suggesting we build trust through conversation?" Hiyori Shiina asked, puzzled.

"If we become friends, wouldn't that help lower our guard a bit?" Honami Ichinose's eyes began to wander.

"For example, getting to know each other better..."

Not only was Hiyori Shiina confused, but even the students from Class B were staring at her in bewilderment.

Kaoru Mitoma felt a sense of foreboding and then he heard Honami Ichinose's voice again.

"Although everyone has introduced themselves, it's only left a superficial impression. I think if we can break down the barriers and dispel suspicions, wouldn't that help us trust each other more?"

Faced with Honami Ichinose's proposal, the group exchanged glances and the atmosphere grew somewhat silent.

At that moment, Haruka Hasebe suddenly spoke up.

"Sorry, I don't mean to offend, but isn't it a bit absurd to think we can trust each other in just two or three days?"

To this, Honami Ichinose smiled gently.

"Hasebe-san, didn't you just agree that Outcome One would be the best result? In other words, as long as everyone who isn't the VIP Student can guarantee that, achieving this wouldn't be difficult at all."

Haruka Hasebe thought for a moment and realized she couldn't refute her.

"Since everyone can trust me and Class B, and with the class that has the VIP Student, that leaves only two classes with any suspicion of betrayal" Honami Ichinose said calmly.

"Before the exam ends, we can take our time to understand each other and decide in the final discussion whether to aim for Outcome One."

Instead of forcing an immediate decision, she gave everyone, whether they were the Privileged Student or not, ample time to think.

"So, what do you think, Mitoma-kun?"

At that moment, the girl playfully winked at Kaoru Mitoma.

Indeed, if she could also secure Class A's cooperation, achieving Outcome One in the Snake Group was a realistic possibility.

"I respect everyone's choice," Kaoru Mitoma didn't reject her words, which in a way was tacit approval of her suggestion.

Today's target wasn't the Snake Group; tomorrow it would likely be the Horse Group and the Sheep Group, or perhaps two unlucky groups chosen at random.

He was quite curious whether his girlfriend could succeed.

"If everyone can trust Mitoma-kun, then that's two classes agreeing not to betray. Does anyone have any other questions?" Honami Ichinose played a small trick.

"With the Privileged Student's class, that leaves only one more class."

Classes D and C began to exchange glances.

Komiya whispered "No, this is too fast. We need to go back and discuss this first."

Did that mean they needed to report to Ryuen and follow his instructions before proceeding?

Given Ryuen's style, he probably already knew who the VIP Student in their class was.

With this, there's one more person who might be able to crack the answer.

Could this end up turning into a race to answer first?

However, it's still within the acceptable range of the plan.

Kaoru Mitoma never expected to secure all the rewards with a hundred percent certainty.

As long as Class A believes that Kohei Katsuragi is a competent leader, more aligned with the interests of Class A than Arisu Sakayanagi, that's enough.

Now, even Masayoshi Hashimoto has wavered, let alone the other members of the Sakayanagi faction.

Speaking of which, what if most of the students in Class A are more radical than them and demand that the exam for the nine groups be concluded on the very first day?

Kaoru Mitoma didn't dwell on it further.

That's a problem for Arisu Sakayanagi to solve and has little to do with him.

"It's fine to discuss, but please carefully consider my suggestion. I think it's a good idea," Honami Ichinose said with a smile.

See, apart from competition, this school definitely has situations where cooperation leads to mutual benefit.

Threats, framing, sabotage, spreading rumors, betrayal...

It's supposed to be a wonderful high school life, and it shouldn't be tainted by such dark undertones.

Even if everyone is an opponent, at least we should face graduation with a smile in the end.

Honami Ichinose believes there are definitely people who think this way, and she's confident she can change some people's minds.

So, in the following moments, she actively steered the conversation, allowing the members of the Snake Group to gradually engage in the discussion.

With someone who's a social powerhouse here, the atmosphere never turned cold.

Moreover, Honami Ichinose seemed to have set aside the issue of the VIP student and was simply talking about everyday topics.

They even started making plans to play poker or truth or dare together in the evening, since it's quite boring here.

Unconsciously, the first group discussion came to a smooth conclusion.

Since there were no strict rules, everyone basically left when it was time.

Kaoru Mitoma was about to head back as well, but Hiyori Shiina suddenly called out to him.

"Hey, Mitoma-kun, are you going to the ship's library today?"

The girl stood gracefully beside him, holding a novel in her arms.

Due to their height difference, she slightly tilted her head up, revealing her fair and delicate neck.

Her eyes sparkled with a clear, deer-like glow, devoid of any shyness or reservation.

She extended the invitation naturally, as if the two of them were so familiar that there was no need for embarrassment.

If he remembered correctly, Hiyori Shiina had seen him do something strange to Masumi Kamuro.

Normally, wouldn't a girl avoid him after that?

Noticing their interaction, Honami Ichinose pressed her hand on the chair with an expressionless face, her fingertips exerting a slight force.

Chapter 182: Not Jealous at All, Right?

"Sorry, I'm planning to go back and rest."

"I see. Are you free tomorrow?"

"I am, but didn't you find the library here boring?"

"It's boring because the collection is too small and there aren't any books that interest me. But with Mitoma-kun around, it wouldn't feel boring."

"I've finished reading the books you gave me."

"That's great. Mitoma-kun has been taking good care of these children."

For some reason, Hiyori Shiina seemed increasingly happy, while Kaoru Mitoma felt the temperature around him drop significantly.

Masayoshi Hashimoto patted him on the shoulder, leaving him with a "good luck" look, then shook his head with a sigh and left the room with Miki Yamamura.

"Eh, so Shiina-san and Mitoma-kun are close?"

Like a curious child, Honami Ichinose quietly approached the two of them, smiling as she joined their conversation.

"Mitoma-kun is the only friend I can share my thoughts on books with" Hiyori Shiina replied straightforwardly, then realizing her words might have been a bit inappropriate, her face turned slightly red.

"We don't do anything besides reading books."

Her tone rose slightly at the end, emphasizing her relationship with Kaoru Mitoma, as she recalled what Mitoma had once done to Masumi Kamuro.

"Ahaha, so you're book buddies?" Honami Ichinose looked at the novel in Shiina's arms with interest.

"The Tragedy of X,' what kind of novel is this?"

"It's a classic mystery novel. Basically, a man is killed on a train, but the murderer can't be found, and a mystery unfolds from there. Readers can piece together the truth alongside the protagonist" Mitoma explained from the side.

Shiina showed a clear, bright smile.

Although it was just a simple summary, it was enough for her to know that Mitoma had read the novel in private.

"Can I ask what Mitoma-kun's thoughts on it are?"

"When I first started reading, I felt the descriptions were too lengthy and the author was too verbose. But as I got further in, I realized the author had planted a lot of foreshadowing and it all came together brilliantly in the end. It felt really satisfying, like a cathartic release."

"Ah, I felt the same way. Besides the brilliant story, the logic brought out by the rich details was also amazing."

Honami watched their interaction, though she normally wouldn't pay attention to such things, she felt a slight heaviness in her chest.

At that moment, Shiina suddenly spoke softly to her.

"Would you like to read it too, Ichinose-san?"

Caught off guard by this development, Honami was visibly startled.

"Did I make you uncomfortable?" Shiina tilted her head, thinking she had been too abrupt.

"N-no, it's just that I've never read a mystery novel before." To hide her expression, Honami forced an unnatural smile.

Kaoru chimed in "If you can't understand it, you can just skip to the last Chapter."

"Wait, wouldn't that spoil everything!" Honami was slightly annoyed, giving him a few light punches on the shoulder.

Besides, she wasn't an idiot; she could handle reading a novel.

"Please don't teach bad habits to newcomers, Mitoma-kun" Shiina said with a serious expression.

"A mystery without the process is meaningless."

Mitoma looked at her strangely.

If she knew this, why did she often let things slip herself?

"Please don't feel any pressure. It's a wonderful mystery novel and I'm sure you'll fall in love with the story" Shiina continued to persuade Honami, while handing the novel to her.

Clearly unused to seeing Shiina in such a serious state, Honami hesitated but accepted the novel.

"I-I'll do my best to finish it!"

"It's okay if you don't understand everything; don't force yourself. Oh, and you can always ask me or Mitoma-kun for help."

Honami glanced at Kaoru, who nodded and said.

"This book is part of her collection. You can take your time reading it."

Hiyori Shiina looked at Kaoru Mitoma, then at Honami Ichinose and suddenly her ears turned bright red.

"I think I got a little too excited."

Kaoru Mitoma looked at the girl who was softly murmuring, her cheeks flushed as she slightly lowered her head.

[Hiyori Shiina: Embarrassed, confused,...]

[It is recommended to comfort the target by patting their head, chest and offering verbal praise, which can effectively increase the target's favorability.]

"Honestly, every time I see you with that expression, I can't help but want to take a picture. It's rare to see Shiina-san like this," Kaoru Mitoma said.

"Besides, you recommended this book because you thought it would suit me and Ichinose, right?"

As he spoke, for experimental purposes, he patted Hiyori Shiina's head.

The texture was smooth and soft.

Seemingly surprised by his boldness, the girl was startled, her body stiffening slightly as she stared at him in a daze.

Similarly, Honami Ichinose was also stunned.

"I-I understand, please stop... this is so embarrassing..." Hiyori Shiina felt dizzy, her entire face turning red.

Yet, she didn't immediately swat his hand away, instead feeling a subtle, strange sensation in her heart.

As soon as Kaoru Mitoma withdrew his hand, she looked up, their eyes meeting briefly before she quickly averted her gaze, then whispered.

"The book... my book is in the library..."

Halfway through her sentence, Hiyori Shiina noticed her cheeks growing hotter, her words becoming incoherent.

So, she simply ran away.

"That's so unfair, you've never patted my head!" Honami Ichinose said with a hint of melancholy.

At this moment, the room was left with only her and Kaoru Mitoma, as the others had tactfully left earlier.

"What would you do if I had a significant other?" Kaoru Mitoma suddenly asked.

Honami Ichinose stared at him intently, then softly said.

"I don't know. I don't mean to be jealous of Shiina-san, but for a moment, I felt really upset."

"When a baby bird hatches, it becomes deeply attached to the first creature it sees" Kaoru Mitoma lifted her chin.

"You've never been in love, never had someone you liked and you've always been with me. Your body will get used to the feelings I give you."

Honami Ichinose looked directly into his eyes, her lips slightly pursed and suddenly, a glimmer of realization flashed in her eyes.

"No, you'll also get used to the feelings I give you."

The girl stood on her tiptoes and under his gaze, gently kissed his lips, a warm and cool sensation.

It was a conservative kiss, but her next words carried a hint of provocation.

"Kaoru-kun, you wouldn't want to see me kiss another man like this in the future, would you?"

Kaoru Mitoma looked at her and she met his gaze without backing down.

"I know very well that I might develop a possessive desire for you, but I don't believe you won't feel the same" Honami Ichinose warned him fiercely.

"Would you really want to see me with someone else? Want to see me in another man's arms? Don't you want me to keep rewarding you?"

Yes, if she couldn't break free from her attachment to Kaoru Mitoma, then he wouldn't be able to break free from her either.

In other words, the war between her and Kaoru Mitoma was about who would fall for the other first.

Chapter 183: So Big!

"Have you lost your mind?"

Kaoru Mitoma looked at the girl in front of him with a puzzled expression, the soft warmth of her kiss still lingering on his lips, her pretty face also flushed and hot.

"The one who's lost their mind is you! No one would stroke another girl's head in front of their girlfriend" Honami Ichinose said, feeling somewhat embarrassed.

"Even if I wouldn't get jealous, isn't it normal for a proper girlfriend to feel a bit possessive?"

Kaoru Mitoma gently patted her head.

The same gesture, but with a different person, felt smooth and warm, like jade.

"It's too late for that now" Honami squinted her eyes, unsure whether she was angry or enjoying his touch.

"No, I just wanted to tell you that what I've done to you, many other girls have experienced too."

"So many targets for my jealousy, huh?"

"To be honest, I only have lewd desires for you."

"I know that too. I've never seen a guy who could calmly lick... do that kind of thing with such a straight face. It's beyond just being lewd."

"It'll get worse from here on out."

"But you haven't forced me, have you?" Honami smiled, snuggling closer into his embrace.

"Even though I'm within your reach now, you haven't done anything too indecent."

"Is that an invitation for me to take advantage of you?" Kaoru asked.

"Don't put it so crudely. I don't think you'd let me off the hook, but it feels like your indecency is very calm and restrained" Honami raised her eyes, observing his reaction.

"It's just intuition, but you're clearly putting on an act."

Kaoru averted his gaze, haunted by the psychological scars left by the idols at the agency.

"Don't worry, I know exactly what I'm doing. If it weren't for you back then, Nagumo-senpai might have threatened me too," Honami murmured to herself.

"Compared to him, someone as straightforward as you doesn't seem entirely unacceptable."

However, Kaoru said.

"Stop trying to convince yourself. If you're unwilling, you're unwilling. If it hurts, it hurts. You were just taken advantage of by me."

Honami fell silent, unaware that her inner thoughts were completely exposed in Kaoru's eyes.

Kaoru lifted her chin, as if guiding her and suddenly kissed her.

His moist lips, soft and delicate tongue accompanied by the subtle sound of water and the girl's muffled whimpers.

The girl before him was as pure as a blank sheet of paper, having never even held a boy's hand before.

Last night had been her first kiss and today her lips were taken once again.

Kaoru gripped her shoulders, her body was so soft that it seemed it might slip away from his embrace if he wasn't careful.

Most girls would close their eyes at this moment, but Honami kept hers slightly open, staring intently at him.

Not only that, but the inexperienced girl even clumsily responded to Kaoru kiss.

A naive and awkward kiss.

Thinking this, Kaoru let her go, watching as she panted slightly, her chest rising and falling, her eyes already glazed with a faint mist, her face flushed and her originally pale neck now tinged with a red hue.

"Actually, I'm not holding back. The reason I haven't gone further is because I'm afraid you might bite something off."

With that, Kaoru took her hand and guided it to his erect dick.

After experiencing an intense kiss, it took a moment for Honami Ichinose to realize what she had touched.

In an instant, it felt as if steam was about to burst from her head.

Her face turned bright red and her voice became stuttering.

"W-wait, this is too big... I-I have no experience... Can you give me a moment to calm down!"

Any normal girl would inevitably have a strong reaction the first time they encountered something like this and Honami Ichinose was no exception, completely losing her composure.

"I'm not going to do anything to you here, I just wanted to remind you" Kaoru Mitoma whispered in her ear.

"Every time I hold you, I have to suppress this reaction and it's always been a struggle, so please don't tease me."

Honami Ichinose was thrown into complete confusion.

She didn't even dare to pull her hand back—this was just too terrifying.

She couldn't imagine how something like this could even fit.

Even through the clothes, she could feel the scorching heat, as if all of a man's vitality was concentrated in this one place.

"Doesn't this... feel uncomfortable?" Honami Ichinose asked, dazed.

Kaoru Mitoma fell silent.

How exactly should he answer her question?

And didn't she understand what he had just said?

Perhaps finally coming to her senses a bit, Honami Ichinose hurriedly withdrew her hand and said.

"We can't do this now. High school students can't get pregnant."

"Girlfriend-san, it seems you've forgotten something" Kaoru Mitoma said with a faint smile.

"There's something called safety measures in this world, and the school doesn't prohibit students from purchasing them."

Honami Ichinose whispered.

"Give me a moment to process this. My mind is a bit overwhelmed by the sudden mention of such a thing."

"Sure, but you should be quite clear about it now, right?" Kaoru Mitoma looked at her with a teasing expression.

"Do you want me to go further? For someone like me, a pervert, violating a girl is the ultimate glory, and I wouldn't feel a shred of regret."

Honami instinctively took half a step back, her heart pounding fiercely and then she saw him smile again.

"If I stay here any longer, someone might get suspicious. I'll head back first."

After Kaoru Mitoma left, Honami Ichinose pressed her hand against her chest.

"A pervert wouldn't call themselves a pervert..."

Her voice was extremely soft, filled with confusion, because she realized she wasn't scared at all.

Instead, she felt tense, a mix of instinctive curiosity and fear.

Not just that, Honami even started to let her imagination run wild.

She had seen Kaoru Mitoma's body, his muscles exuding a sense of strength, inexplicably giving her a feeling of comfort and security.

Then, she recalled the sensation from earlier, the sheer size of his weapon capable of piercing through any enemy, making her body instinctively tremble with fear.

Yet, she also felt a faint excitement and curiosity.

On one hand, Kaoru's reaction indicated that her body was quite alluring to him.

On the other hand, because she had never experienced such a thing, it was only natural to feel curious after the initial panic.

More importantly, Honami Ichinose noticed something unusual about Kaoru Mitoma.

"Was I just trying to convince myself?"

She pursed her lips, straightened her clothes and then left the room as well.

Chapter 184: Someone Else's Girlfriend

As Kaoru Mitoma walked back, the scene from earlier lingered in his mind.

If this continued, he might lose control.

Initially, he just wanted to lick her feet and fondle her breasts.

Rubbing against her wouldn't get her pregnant, right?

He couldn't let her go through high school with a big belly, could he?

However, Honami's words made him realize something.

Could he bear to see a girl he had been intimate with fall into another man embrace?

Sometimes, possessiveness doesn't just exist between couples; even children have a strong sense of ownership over their toys.

Ultimately, it's because the person's subconscious already considers it their own, not allowing anyone else to touch it.

It's just that adults can suppress this sense of exclusivity.

Kaoru Mitoma sighed deeply.

This had been evident in his previous world as well.

As a producer at the Agency, he faced various beautiful idol girls every day.

It was impossible for anyone to keep their composure.

Especially under the encouragement of the wish-granting machine, to fulfill his wishes, he inevitably had to have certain intimate interactions with the idols.

And these intimate interactions would also haunt him.

No normal man would want to see a girl who had just blushed in front of him, now submitting to someone else.

In other words, men are just that foolish.

Perhaps it was precisely because Kaoru Mitoma couldn't truly remain indifferent that he ended up with only one path left—hanging himself.

He wasn't some scumbag, just a simple pervert who would get excited by a girl's shyness, intrigued by strange desires and even find pleasure in being insulted.

Even though months had passed, his mind was still filled with these chaotic thoughts and Kaoru Mitoma couldn't help but reflect on himself.

Honestly, since his suicide attempt, he seemed to always be obsessing over the idols.

He really couldn't forget them.

"Can I go back?" Kaoru Mitoma couldn't help but entertain this thought, but then shook his head.

Coming back from the dead was too exaggerated, it would probably become a sensational news story worldwide.

Rather than thinking about that, it was better to consider what to do next.

As expected, Katsuragi should have informed the whole class about the VIP Student information.

Next would be Arisu Sakayanagi turn.

Would she tell the other classes?

With such a huge advantage, would someone take the risk and betray their class?

In the previous uninhabited island exam and this VIP Student exam, Class A could easily rake in hundreds of class points, leaving everyone else in the dust.

Faced with such results, Kaoru Mitoma thought it wasn't unreasonable for most Class A students to want to take it easy.

If someone really did betray the collective interest, it would mean the internal strife in Class A was more severe than he imagined.

In fact, Kaoru Mitoma was quite looking forward to this outcome.

Compared to gaining an advantage for nothing, losing something was more regrettable and infuriating, especially when it could have been obtained for free.

Even without evidence, he had ways to frame someone from Sakayanagi faction as the traitor.

For Arisu Sakayanagi now, if she didn't act, she could only watch as Katsuragi authority far surpassed hers.

But if she allied with other classes, she would only fall into Kaoru Mitoma's trap.

However, Kaoru Mitoma hadn't forgotten the potential risk.

Kakeru Ryuen.

If the other party could identify the VIP Student in their class, they might also deduce the answer.

Theoretically, Ryuen could disrupt his plans.

Should he minimize the risk and end the exam on the first day?

While pondering this, Kaoru Mitoma suddenly heard an argument.

"...Didn't you promise to protect me?"

"Of course, I will protect you, but we can't solve problems with violence."

"I already said it's impossible. I'm your girlfriend, how can you let them bully me?"

"I'll try to get Ibuki-san to apologize to you properly."

"She must apologize! And, Manabe and the others are threatening me too. Can you help me?"

"Manabe-san? It started with the friction between Karuizawa-san and Morofuji-san, right?"

"..."

The argument came from the emergency staircase next door.

Since everyone was using the elevators, the stairs were empty.

Also, since the group discussion had just ended, most students were out playing and few, like Kaoru Mitoma, had returned to their rooms.

The voices sounded familiar, it was probably Karuizawa Kei and Hirata Yosuke arguing.

If Kaoru Mitoma remembered correctly, they were Class D popular couple—one a handsome guy, the other a gal.

Since they were a couple, it was strange that Hirata Yosuke would refer to his girlfriend as "Karuizawa-san."

That was too formal.

Kaoru Mitoma instinctively reached for his phone to record, but after a moment's thought, he abandoned the idea.

"Regardless of the reason, Karuizawa-san is an important classmate to me. I will protect you, but I can't harm others for your sake, even if they are from Class C."

"Liar!"

"I told you from the start, I only pretended to be your boyfriend to protect you. That doesn't mean I'll only protect you."

Hearing this, Kaoru Mitoma's expression turned strange.

So, they were fake lovers?

"Enough! You're someone who can't even protect his own girlfriend, get out of here now, liar!"

As Karuizawa Kei shouted, the surroundings fell into silence, only the sound of footsteps could be heard.

Eavesdropping was not a good thing, so Kaoru Mitoma hid to the side, watching Hirata Yosuke emerge from the stairwell and leave the corridor.

After waiting for a while, he didn't see Karuizawa Kei appear, only faintly hearing the sound of sobbing and the girl's muttering.

He thought for a moment, then took the initiative to enter the stairwell.

Just as he expected, Karuizawa Kei was sitting on the stairs, hugging her knees, her head buried between them.

Occasionally, he could hear her softly cursing something, though it was unclear.

Seeming to sense someone approaching, she cautiously looked up and saw Kaoru Mitoma standing before her, a flash of panic crossing her face.

Kaoru Mitoma thought she would question what he was doing there, but she simply turned her head away, pretending not to see him.

Strange.... during the argument, she had seemed so strong, but now she felt like a helpless little rabbit.

Not knowing what to do, she chose to play dead, like an ostrich burying its head in the sand.

What should he do in such a situation?

Kaoru Mitoma walked behind her, positioning himself so she couldn't see what he was doing but could hear certain sounds.

Rustle rustle—

Already nervous, Karuizawa Kei suddenly heard strange sounds coming from behind, making her even more uneasy.

She glanced back out of the corner of her eye, only to see Kaoru Mitoma doing something, his hands on his belt.

Wait, why was he touching his belt?!

[BRUH]

Chapter 185: I Only Want Your Reward

A man and a woman, alone together.

Moreover, Karuizawa Kei was well aware of her own appearance and in such a situation, something terrifying might happen.

"W-what are you doing? I warn you, don't try anything funny!" Karuizawa Kei panicked, trying to distance herself from Kaoru Mitoma, her back accidentally hitting the wall.

Like a cornered rabbit, she tried to intimidate him, "If you dare do anything, I'll scream for help immediately!"

Hearing this, Kaoru Mitoma slowly raised his hands as if he were about to pull something out of his pocket.

This strange action made Karuizawa Kei even more nervous, especially with his calm gaze looking down at her, involuntarily reminding her of past scenes.

However, Kaoru Mitoma said something even stranger.

"Sorry, it seems I didn't bring any tissues."

Karuizawa Kei stared at him in confusion as he spread his hands, revealing nothing.

Until she noticed Kaoru Mitoma's gaze lingering on her, Karuizawa Kei suddenly snapped back to reality and quickly touched her cheek.

Her fingertips felt slightly cool, clearly a result of her recent tears.

No wonder he suddenly mentioned not having tissues or the like.

"D-don't stare at me, I wasn't crying!" Karuizawa Kei raised her hand as if to block his gaze, her expression a mix of embarrassment and annoyance.

Being witnessed at her most vulnerable and awkward moment made her feel like she wanted to die.

Moreover, what would Kaoru Mitoma think of her?

Would he think she was just like that, acting all high and mighty in class, but now showing a weak side?

Wait, she wasn't even in the same class as Kaoru Mitoma, so the worst-case scenario might not happen.

"I accidentally overheard your conversation with Hirata-kun earlier. I'm sorry," Kaoru Mitoma explained.

"I was going back to my room, but leaving you here didn't seem right."

Karuizawa Kei face turned pale.

He heard their argument?

That meant he already knew that she and Hirata were just a fake couple.

"Don't worry, I won't tell anyone. I'll forget about it after today," Kaoru Mitoma assured the girl, sitting down on the steps.

Karuizawa Kei found it hard to believe him, but there was no way to erase his memory now, so she muttered.

"So you just came to laugh at me?"

At this moment, the girl's pretty face still bore traces of tears, her eyes misty with a faint sheen of moisture, her voice slightly nasal and her lips pale, looking pitiful and making one want to tease her.

"No, I'm just a bit curious about you. You mentioned Ibuki-san and Manabe-san earlier, right?"

Karuizawa Kei was startled, her eyes suddenly glistening with tears again, her delicate shoulders trembling slightly.

"So, Mitoma-kun knows them too?" Her voice trembled as she looked at Kaoru Mitoma with a pitiful gaze.

"You probably don't know, but during the deserted island exam, our class took in Ibuki and then she deliberately ruined my shoes and stole my socks. Isn't that a bit too much?"

Faced with a cute girl, probably no one could ignore her pitiful appearance and would likely side with her to attack the despicable Mio Ibuki.

"Two months ago, Class C framed Class B students and the leaders were Ibuki-san and Manabe-san" Kaoru Mitoma brought up another matter.

Karuizawa Kei's eyes lit up, and she quickly agreed, "Yes, yes, they're so bad. Now Manabe is even threatening me, she's super mean!"

"What is she threatening you with?" Kaoru Mitoma asked.

For some reason, Karuizawa Kei suddenly stammered, "She wants me to bow down and apologize to them, trying to bully me..."

Her acting was a bit worse than Kushida's, but she was more fragile and helpless than imagined, instinctively seeking help from Kaoru Mitoma, an outsider.

Although Hirata Yosuke was her fake boyfriend, it shouldn't have come to this, right?

What was she afraid of?

Moreover, when faced with trouble, besides seeking help from others, she could only hide here and cry.

Did this girl not have the ability to solve problems by herself?

Since they usually had no interaction, Kaoru Mitoma found it difficult to determine the correct answer at this moment.

However, judging from Kei Karuizawa current behavior, her inner self didn't seem as strong as her outward appearance.

"Hey, why aren't you saying anything?" Kei Karuizawa cautiously scrutinized him.

[Kei Karuizawa: Frustrated, worried, confused, anxious, insecure...]

[It is recommended to comfort the target's emotions by gently stroking their chest and head, which can effectively reduce their sense of insecurity.]

Kaoru Mitoma pondered for a moment, then said, "This might be a bit presumptuous, but why are you pretending to be in a relationship with Hirata-kun?"

Unexpectedly, Kei Karuizawa suddenly stood up and walked straight towards the staircase.

"Where are you going?"

"I almost forgot, I'm supposed to meet Matsushita and the others at the café."

"Avoiding the problem won't solve anything. Hirata-kun, who you thought would protect you, rejected your proposal. If this continues, what you're afraid of will happen."

Kei Karuizawa stopped in her tracks, standing behind him and fell into complete silence, not uttering a word.

"Although you seem tough, Ibuki-san and Manabe-san aren't weak either. They might be quite skilled in fighting."

On one side, there's a delinquent girl and on the other, a fashionable gal.

It's clear who's stronger and who's weaker.

"D-don't think you can scare me like that! If they fight me at school, they'll be expelled immediately!" Kei Karuizawa stubbornly retorted.

"This is a cruise ship. There are plenty of places without surveillance," Kaoru Mitoma kindly reminded her.

Kei Karuizawa stood still, then slowly hugged her arms tightly, her expression grim.

After a while, she finally gave up.

"I hate this! Ibuki and Manabe, just go die! And you too, get out of here!"

Kaoru Mitoma turned around calmly and looked at the somewhat broken girl.

"Rather than leaving, I'd prefer to help you solve your problem."

No matter what happened in the previous world or what temptations he might face in the future, his focus now was solely on Kei Karuizawa's desires.

[My precious Kei, for you, I'll become Honami Ichinose hater!]

[Hehehe, now it's my turn to bully Karuizawa-san]

[I'll humiliate Karuizawa in front of everyone]

[I'll lick Karuizawa's delicate feet until they're ruined]

[Your breast is too small, needs a massage from me!]

[I'll manipulate Karuizawa]

[Pat her head]

...

Chapter 186: Is a Touch Enough?

Yes, from start to finish, he was a pervert.

No matter what reasons or excuses he used, the facts wouldn't change in the slightest.

[After all this time, this dude finally accept it.... i thought it was because of the system😏]

It was precisely because of this that Kaoru Mitoma agreed to the wish-granting machine, becoming the producer for the idols and eventually ending up at ANHS.

At this moment, Kei Karuizawa simply looked at him in confusion.

"You're going to help me?"

There was a hint of surprise in the girl's eyes, but also a trace of doubt.

Kaoru Mitoma wasn't a student of Class D and the two of them had no prior interaction.

Why would he help her?

Even if Kaoru Mitoma wanted to help, how exactly would he do it?

"Because I'm curious about your situation," Kaoru Mitoma paused, "But first, I need to know what's going on between you."

Kei Karuizawa gaze began to wander and she feigned ignorance as she replied, "Didn't I already say it? They want me to kneel and apologize, threatening to teach me a lesson if I don't."

"Why should you kneel and apologize?" Kaoru Mitoma continued to ask.

Kei Karuizawa whispered, "Probably because they hate me. They even wanted to ruin my face."

Kaoru Mitoma calmly gazed into her eyes and said, "You're afraid of Ibuki-san. Even though she's small, she looks tough, and you don't dare to provoke her. The same goes for Manabe-san. So, it was either Ibuki-san or Manabe-san who approached you first."

His gaze was so sharp that Kei Karuizawa couldn't help but avert her eyes.

"It was them who approached me first. I'm really troubled by this!"

"But they wouldn't cause trouble for no reason," Kaoru Mitoma said.

"Did you accidentally offend them somewhere? Did you talk behind their backs? Did you steal someone's boyfriend?"

"I just accidentally knocked over one of their friends!"

As soon as the words left her mouth, Kei Karuizawa immediately regretted it—she had spoken too loudly.

Kaoru Mitoma sighed, he already knew what had happened.

"Actually, I had no choice. There were other people present at the time, and I couldn't apologize to Class C in front of Shinohara and the others. I had to run away quickly," Kei Karuizawa tried to explain her actions and shift the blame.

"Why couldn't you apologize?" Kaoru Mitoma found her reasoning strange.

"B-because it would... make me seem weak..." Kei Karuizawa bit her lip. "I don't want people to think I'm easy to bully anymore. I don't want to be weak."

Was there a past she didn't want to revisit?

But—

"Because you don't want to be bullied, you decide to bully others?" Kaoru Mitoma said quietly.

"Has anyone ever told you that this is wrong?"

In an instant, Kei Karuizawa's expression turned panicked.

"N-no, I just wanted to protect myself..."

However, Kaoru Mitoma interrupted her.

"In the past, you must have hated people like this too, right? Because you were easy to bully, they took advantage of you. No matter how you explained or tried to get along with them, they wouldn't understand or sympathize with you. Instead, they would treat you even worse."

"At first, it might have been a joke, but it slowly turned into bullying. From one or two people to collective bullying. Your shoes would be stolen, your recorder hidden, your backpack rummaged through, your desk covered in graffiti.

You'd be forced to kneel in the bathroom, your uniform ruined. Sometimes you'd be yelled at, sometimes hit. You didn't dare tell your parents or the school. Everyone turned a blind eye."

"Anger, frustration, despair, numbness, escape. You didn't want to see them anymore. You even prayed in your heart for it all to end quickly, cursing them to hell..."

Before Kaoru Mitoma could finish, Kei Karuizawa suddenly pushed him and shouted loudly.

"Enough! Stop talking!"

The girl's expression had completely changed.

There was no trace of pride or confidence left—only fear and confusion.

Tears welled up in her eyes, likely recalling past events.

"Although I don't know what happened to you in the past, wanting to become the kind of person you once hated isn't a bad thing," Kaoru Mitoma thought for a moment.

"But I don't think you can do it because you're not suited for that role."

At this moment, Karuizawa Kei's thoughts were in disarray.

She hadn't expected that someone could see through her past with just a few words, completely stripping away the softest part of her heart and exposing it entirely.

In front of Kaoru Mitoma, she felt as if she were naked and she couldn't help but feel a bit scared.

"What exactly are you trying to say?" she asked, slightly out of breath, her breathing rapid, like a fish suddenly jumping onto the shore.

She felt utterly powerless, her face pale.

"Just as I said before, I'll help you solve your problem. In return, I'm very interested in you, so I want to experiment with some ideas on you."

"Experiment on me?"

"That's right. I want to touch your chest."

"So that's it... Wait, what did you say!?"

At first, she was a bit confused, but Karuizawa quickly realized what he meant.

She hurriedly covered her chest, flustered and tried to back away, only to accidentally bump into a corner.

Seeing Kaoru Mitoma so close, her entire body froze.

She suddenly realized there was nowhere to escape.

"Is your target my body?"

"You could say that, but if you don't want to, I won't force you."

Karuizawa was stunned.

He wasn't planning to assault her here?

Then, Kaoru Mitoma added, "Either step on me with stockings or let me see what's underneath your skirt. I don't mind either."

Karuizawa eyes widened slightly.

What kind of perverted requests were these?

"Are you threatening me?"

"It's not a threat. If you hate it, you don't have to do it. I said I'll forget about today's events, so you don't have to worry about me telling others," Kaoru Mitoma said softly. "However, you'll have to figure out how to deal with Manabe and the others on your own."

"Gulp..."

Karuizawa bit her lip tightly.

No matter how unwilling she was in her heart, it seemed she had no choice but to agree to this guy demands.

Because she absolutely had to maintain her outward persona—a strong, assertive girl who wouldn't bow down to a few delinquent girls.

Otherwise, her status in the class would also decline.

And on her own, she simply couldn't handle this.

That's why Karuizawa had asked Hirata to pretend to be in a relationship with her, hoping he would protect her and solve her problems.

But now, she couldn't rely on Hirata.

Unless she found another protector, she would have to face Manabe Shiho and the other delinquent girls alone.

"J-Just a touch, right?"

As soon as she said this, Karuizawa knew there was no turning back.

Her face flushed red and she couldn't bring herself to meet his gaze.

Chapter 187: Don't Touch There!

Although he had thought Karuizawa might agree, he hadn't expected it to be this easy.

It seemed her inner self wasn't as strong as her outward appearance.

"Is it really okay?" Kaoru Mitoma glanced at the girl's chest. "Or have you already gotten used to being groped?"

Perhaps because he had been staring, Karuizawa instinctively covered her chest again.

She immediately retorted, "Don't project your filthy thoughts onto me! I'm not some frivolous girl!"

"Aren't you and Hirata-kun a couple? Even if it's a fake relationship, wouldn't you do something?" Kaoru Mitoma was puzzled.

Even if they didn't go all the way, wouldn't there be kissing and holding hands in their daily lives?

Karuizawa subtly averted her gaze.

Was this reaction because they had done it, or because they hadn't?

"The... the first time... I want to give it to my real boyfriend..." She muttered something, her voice so soft it was almost inaudible.

"So, there's really nothing going on?" Kaoru Mitoma asked again.

Karuizawa seemed extremely irritated as she scratched her head and shouted at Kaoru Mitoma.

"How would I know? It was you pervert who brought this up in the first place. Why should I be the one to think about it?"

"Of course, it's to put your mind at ease. Think about it, isn't it strange that someone would suddenly volunteer to help you at a time like this, without asking for anything in return?"

"Well... I guess that's true..."

"Think about it again. You're so cute. The other person might be after your beauty or have fallen for you at first sight, wanting to get closer to you."

"Cu... cute? Wanting to get closer to me?!"

"Yes, especially after hearing that you and Hirata-kun are just pretending to be a couple, they might think, 'Great, my chance has come,' and eventually confess to you."

"That can't be, right?"

"But wouldn't you start to wonder? Like, does he like me because he's helping me? Or, he seems pretty nice, maybe I'm starting to like him."

"..."

For some reason, after saying all this, Karuizawa looked at him with disgust, as if he were some kind of unrecyclable trash.

"Absolutely not. How could I possibly have such thoughts about a perverted creep?" Karuizawa tone was resolute, and she made no effort to hide her disdain and contempt for Kaoru Mitoma.

Kaoru Mitoma nodded. "So, this should clear up any misunderstandings between us. I'm only interested in your body, with no extra emotions involved."

Karuizawa was momentarily stunned.

Was this to prevent her from misunderstanding him?

In this way, their relationship would indeed be limited to physical contact, with no deeper emotions involved.

Wait, wait—

"In the end, you're just a lecherous guy. You look so handsome and upright, but behind the scenes, you're sexually assaulting girls. How despicable!"

A flicker of disappointment crossed Karuizawa eyes.

Her initial impression of Kaoru Mitoma had been quite good, but she never expected him to be this kind of person.

"I already said it earlier, if you're not willing, then forget it. I won't force or threaten you."

Facing the calm Kaoru Mitoma, Karuizawa gritted her teeth, hesitated for a moment, then took a deep breath and looked at him as if she were marching to her death.

"You have to swear that you'll absolutely protect me and help me deal with Manabe. Otherwise, I'll bite you to death!"

After saying this, she closed her eyes, seemingly waiting for Kaoru Mitoma's next move, her body stiff and tense.

She thought Kaoru Mitoma would approach her immediately, but unexpectedly, he bluntly refused.

"This won't do. Your chest is a bit small and the feel through the clothes isn't great."

Chest... a bit small!?

Kei Karuizawa face turned red with anger and she almost rushed over to hit him.

After all, she was a C-cup, which could hardly be considered small!

"I-I understand. I just need to lift my clothes, right?"

Since she had already decided to let him touch her, making a little more sacrifice wasn't particularly hard to accept.

However, Kei Karuizawa placed her hands on the hem of her clothes but hesitated to move it.

"Don't be nervous. You'll forget about today's events soon. It'll be over in just a few minutes," Kaoru Mitoma verbally encouraged her.

Kei Karuizawa trembled all over, a trace of pain flashing across her face.

"Guh... I'll kill you sooner or later... How disgraceful... To end up like this..."

As if cursing Kaoru Mitoma, Kei Karuizawa kept muttering under her breath, but her hands slowly lifted her clothes, revealing her flat and smooth abdomen.

The slightly indented navel and the gentle curve of her waist made her youthful body even more breathtaking, as if one could hold her with just one hand.

However, Kaoru Mitoma noticed something strange.

Next to her abdomen was a shocking scar, not a birthmark, but likely from someone stabbing her there.

No wonder she hesitated for so long, it was because of this.

Further up, the girl's bra was also exposed to Kaoru Mitoma eyes.

"Enough, right?" Kei Karuizawa turned her face away, her voice low and despondent.

"Very beautiful, I'm deeply grateful," Kaoru Mitoma approached her. "But what's this here?"

"It's none of your business, just hurry up and touch it," Kei Karuizawa tried to avoid the topic, also doing her best to evade his gaze.

Kaoru Mitoma gently touched her scar, his fingertips feeling the rough texture of her skin.

Her body suddenly trembled and a sound akin to a sob escaped her throat, her chest heaving up and down.

"Don't touch there!"

Just as Kei Karuizawa tried to resist, Kaoru Mitoma moved his hand away from the scar and instead pressed on her chest.

"Don't get agitated, I won't touch anywhere beyond our agreement."

The soft and full sensation, not quite like Ichinose or Kushida's breast but it was just enough to fill his palm.

Pressing deeper, he could feel a bit of flesh trying to escape between his fingers, accompanied by the slightly stiff texture of her clothing.

It must have been the first time she experienced such stimulation, as Kei Karuizawa couldn't help but let out a sweet sound, her breathing becoming erratic.

How strange, she hadn't intended to pay attention to his actions, so why did it feel so good?

As Kaoru Mitoma gently kneaded her breast, Kei Karuizawa even began to twist her body slightly, her legs rubbing together occasionally.

A certain feeling deep within her gradually surfaced, like a kitten wanting to get closer to him, craving his touch.

"Alright, the experiment is over."

At that moment, Kaoru Mitoma withdrew his hands.

Kei Karuizawa stared at him blankly, completely unaware that a trickle of drool was escaping the corner of her mouth.

Chapter 188: Taming Skill

[Kei Karuizawa: Pleasure, pleasure, confusion, pleasure, pleasure...]

[Detected target entering a state of pleasure, suggest using the ultimate weapon.]

As expected, this skill was quite abnormal.

Moreover, Kaoru finally realized why he was repeatedly prompted to touch her chest.

At that time, he hadn't just gained "Emotion Perception" but also a "Lustful Massage Technique" which allowed him to draw out the deep-seated desires within someone through massage.

In short, Kaoru could now quickly bring a girl into what was known as a state of pleasure.

Looking at the dazed girl before him, he tentatively reached out and touched her head again.

He noticed her body tremble slightly as she narrowed her eyes, seemingly enjoying the caress.

Could this be some kind of taming skill?

Kaoru recalled the initial chin rub and couldn't help but associate it with the way one might treat a pet.

The chin, head and belly were all areas that felt particularly pleasant.

When applied to humans, the belly seemed to translate to the chest, as the fat there was softer and equally sensitive, areas that were rarely exposed to others.

"Make some noise, please?" Kaoru Mitoma ventured again.

"Mm... ah..." Kei Karuizawa was still immersed in some kind of trance, her face flushed as she looked at him, her red lips slightly parted, exhaling hot, rapid breaths.

Perhaps the effect of head caresses wasn't as strong as that of the chest.

After a while, Kei Karuizawa regained some clarity and, both embarrassed and annoyed, slapped his hand away.

"This is unbelievable. I actually... with someone as pervert as you... it's disgusting, so awful!"

Not only was she berating Kaoru Mitoma, but Kei Karuizawa also showed a look of self-loathing.

She couldn't understand what had just happened to her, her eyes filled with uncertainty.

Could she really be such a easy and loose woman?

She shouldn't have felt good, so why did it end up like this?

Kei Karuizawa could still feel the lingering sensations in her body, receding like a tide, yet there was a faint longing for more, for an even more intense.....

Moreover, the physical pleasure had brought a mental clarity, like taking a big gulp of iced soda on a hot summer day, the coolness spreading throughout her body, bringing a sense of relief.

[Kei Karuizawa: Embarrassed, self-loathing, confused, confused...]

[The target is entering a state of clarity, not suitable for capture.]

"Enough, I can't rely on a pervert like you, I can't take it anymore!"

Unable to comprehend her own state, Kei Karuizawa pushed Kaoru Mitoma away and decisively turned to flee.

She needed to calm down!

Kaoru Mitoma didn't chase after her.

Instead, he raised his hand and sniffed it lightly, catching a faint scent of milk.

So this is what someone else's girlfriend smells like?

It was somewhat exciting, but not as intense as he had imagined.

At this level, there shouldn't be too much trouble, right?

Speaking of which, what does Asahina Nazuna smell like?

As expected, after the first group discussion ended, Katsuragi announced the list of VIP Students and the specific rules to Class A.

"I know some of you don't follow my leadership, believing that someone else is more suited to be the leader. However, it was I who led you to victory in the uninhabited island exam, earning over 500 class points, making us the undisputed first place. Without me, could Class A have achieved such results?"

"Some might say, even with so many class points, Class A still has to transfer a large amount of personal points to Class C. Regarding this loss, that's why I specifically informed you of the answer to this exam today.

""Why didn't I choose to hide it? Why didn't I keep it concealed until the end? Because I believe that our Class A is a collective. In the coming years, we will be inseparable companions. To graduate together from Class A, it is inevitable that we must unite, cooperate, and strive for mutual success."

"If anyone reveals the answers to other classes, without a doubt, that person is a traitor to Class A, an enemy to us all. No matter the cost, I will ensure they are expelled immediately!"

After Kaoru Mitoma's revisions, Katsuragi delivered this speech.

Although it sounded like a mundane speech, as a leader, it was necessary to address the group and let everyone understand his thoughts.

Instead of targeting the students who followed Sakayanagi, he emphasized that they were all part of a collective group, clearly indicating a willingness to let bygones be bygones, which won the favor of Sakayanagi's faction.

In the two special exams, Katsuragi performance outshone Sakayanagi, an indisputable fact.

Therefore, reiterating their goal of graduating from Class A now urged Sakayanagi's faction and the neutral students to make a choice: to cooperate or to continue resisting.

As for the punishment for traitors, it was naturally a matter of bearing the consequences.

Without punishment, some might not take it seriously.

It's worth noting that declaring his intention to punish class members also demonstrated Katsuragi unwavering determination to lead.

Members of Sakayanagi's faction began to realize that Class A was approaching a critical moment.

Students who were previously on the fence, like Matoba Shinji, who had favored Sakayanagi, now found themselves more indecisive.

Some students had already switched sides, pledging allegiance to Katsuragi overnight.

As for Sakayanagi attitude—

"Hehe, mutual cooperation isn't bad. Why don't we collaborate with other classes?"

Instead of resisting Katsuragi, Sakayanagi offered her own suggestion: for the group members of Class A's VIP to cooperate and achieve Result One before the exam ended.

This way, Class A could not only gain 450 class points but also a significant amount of personal points.

Since it was her suggestion, Sakayanagi volunteered and the task was entrusted to her.

For a moment, it seemed that the leadership of Class A was about to be settled.

Provided that Arisu Sakayanagi had conceded.

"I didn't expect it to end so quickly. We might be the strongest Class A in history," Hashimoto Masayoshi remarked cheerfully, showing no regret for his princess.

"Hmph, Katsuragi-san is the best!" Totsuka Yahiko boasted with a smug expression, having long been dissatisfied with Sakayanagi's faction.

"Remember to keep it a secret. Don't let it slip," Hashimoto Masayoshi reminded him.

"There's no way I'd tell them. I'll just sit in my room playing with my phone, not talking to them at all!" Totsuka Yahiko declared confidently.

"You guys are the ones who need to watch your words. Anyone who betrays us will have to deal with me and I'll make sure they end up at the bottom of Tokyo Bay!"

Hashimoto Masayoshi shrugged, while Matoba Shinji looked both happy and worried.

"Mitoma, what should we do next?" Hashimoto Masayoshi suddenly looked at Kaoru Mitoma.

Both of them were members of the Snake Group, and now that they knew who the VIP student was, should they still participate in Honami Ichinose's plan?

"I don't know," Kaoru Mitoma shook his head.

As the evening approached, the second group discussion was about to begin.

Unlike last time, Kaoru Mitoma and Hashimoto Masayoshi arrived early at the Snake Group's room.

Most people hadn't arrived yet, only three people were there.

"I'm going to the restroom."

Shortly after sitting down, Hashimoto Masayoshi left again, leaving Kaoru Mitoma alone with them.

Without the presence of a social butterfly, the atmosphere became awkward and silent.

With more than twenty minutes left before the discussion, Kaoru Mitoma who didn't consider himself a social butterfly, planned to wait until others arrived.

However, Haruka Hasebe suddenly looked up, scrutinizing him as if confirming something.

"Is there something on my face?" Kaoru Mitoma asked.

"No, I just feel like you look familiar," Haruka Hasebe asked strangely, "I remember you're Kaoru Mitoma from Class A, right?"

"I also remember you're Haruka Hasebe from Class D," Kaoru Mitoma said half-jokingly.

Haruka Hasebe looked puzzled and sighed, "It must be my imagination. You look a lot like an idol, and your names are similar."

Was she indirectly complimenting him on his good looks?

"Although I don't know what you're thinking, I can tell you clearly that it's not what you think," as if losing interest in him, Haruka Hasebe lowered her head to play with her phone again.

The conversation ended there; it seemed she was a bit of a free spirit.

However, since the atmosphere had changed, Kaoru Mitoma turned to Himeno Yuki.

"Himeno-san, aren't you with Ichinose-san?"

The other party looked up in confusion, her eyes showing a lost expression until she saw Kaoru Mitoma across from her, then tilted her head.

"Who are you?"

What's going on? First Hasebe now her too? and also didn't we meet a few days ago?

Moreover, we're in the same group.

Is her memory that bad?

Kaoru Mitoma had to introduce himself again.

After listening, Himeno Yuki finally showed a look of realization.

"I don't know you," she said bluntly.

So, Class B also has such strong personalities?

Originally thinking that Class B was full of good students, Kaoru Mitoma was somewhat surprised.

"Himeno-san, are you reading a novel?" Kaoru Mitoma noticed she was holding a book.

Perhaps Himeno Yuki and Hiyori Shiina have common topics.

"It's not a novel, it's archaeological material," Himeno Yuki corrected his mistake.

Kaoru Mitoma fell silent, this girl was actually a history enthusiast.

Chapter 189: Your Circle is So Messy

Soon, the members of the Snake Group met again.

"Good evening, everyone!" Honami Ichinose greeted with a radiant smile, full of energy.

"Have you all thought things through regarding what happened during the day?"

Her words were primarily directed at the students of Class C.

Although their interaction had been brief, this group didn't have any overly dominant individuals, and Class D was even more leaderless.

If Class B and Class A were to join forces and address the issues with Class C, they could likely achieve Outcome One quite quickly.

As for Class D, aside from Hasebe Haruka who had a bit of initiative, the rest seemed to just follow the mainstream opinion.

"We plan to wait and see. If the VIP's identity is revealed at the end, Class C wouldn't mind helping to achieve Outcome One," Hiyori Shiina said in a gentle voice, her eyes unblinking, showing no sign of her deceptive talent.

However, Honami Ichinose was clearly delighted.

"I'm relieved that everyone feels this way," she said, already prepared as she pulled out a few decks of playing cards.

"Although it's just my personal suggestion, how about we play some cards? After all, it's boring just staying in the room, and we shouldn't waste an hour doing nothing."

Except for a few students like Miki Yamamura and Haruka Hasebe, most of the others joined Honami Ichinose's card game.

Due to the large number of participants, the usual rules didn't apply, so they had to adopt some special variations, such as Old Maid.

While shuffling the cards, Honami Ichinose casually suggested, "Isn't it a bit boring without some stakes?"

"Stakes?" Hiyori Shiina tilted her head. "But we can't bet money. The school might scold us if they find out."

"Of course, we wouldn't bet money. It's more like punishing the loser, making them do something, like truth or dare," Honami Ichinose said with a chuckle, her gaze occasionally flickering toward Kaoru Mitoma.

Kaoru Mitoma pretended not to notice and interjected, "Who decides the punishment?"

"The first one to finish their cards?" Masayoshi Hashimoto offered the most common answer.

"Ahaha, that's right. The winner decides the punishment for the loser," Honami Ichinose's smile grew wider.

"If that doesn't work, we can switch later."

"Is there no limit to the punishment?" Mei Yu Wang asked timidly.

"If it's too extreme, it's okay to refuse. We shouldn't make things difficult for our classmates. This is just a game," Honami Ichinose replied.

Since they had to draw cards, everyone rearranged their seats to form a circle and Honami Ichinose took the opportunity to sit next to Kaoru Mitoma.

Hiyori Shiina sat across from them, with Masayoshi Hashimoto and Mei Yu Wang beside her.

"Alright, let's start right away!" Honami Ichinose seemed eager as she cut the deck.

Kaoru Mitoma silently picked up his hand of cards.

Fortunately, he didn't draw the Joker.

Starting with Honami Ichinose, they proceeded clockwise and she was able to draw a card from Kaoru Mitoma's hand.

Kaoru Mitoma calmly watched the girl cheerful expression as she happily drew a card and then allowed him to draw from her hand.

Next, Kaoru Mitoma chose a card from the hand to his right and flipped it over—it was a Joker.

It seemed like an unlucky start and she was clearly prepared.

Kaoru Mitoma calmly organized his hand and then exchanged cards with Masayoshi Hashimoto.

After a while, Honami Ichinose's smile froze.

Because, in the end, she was the loser.

"What a shame, but what will Honami-chan do?" Himeno Yuki, as the winner, naturally had the right to command Honami Ichinose.

"Please, have mercy, Yuki-chan!"

"No way."

"Yuki-chan..."

"I've always been curious, how did you develop so well? Can you tell me?"

"Yu...Yuki-chan!?"

In the end, Honami Ichinose, blushing deeply, leaned in close to Himeno Yuki ear and whispered something.

"So that's how it is..."

Before Himeno Yuki could speak, Honami Ichinose hurriedly covered her mouth.

"You can't say that, Yuki-chan!"

It seemed the punishment was effective, as Kaoru Mitoma averted his gaze from the girl's chest.

Honami quickly regained her composure, took a deep breath and declared with renewed vigor that they would play another round.

"How could this be... It's impossible... I tried so hard... Why couldn't I catch him..."

As they played, Honami muttered to herself from time to time, unwilling to give up as she picked a card from Kaoru Mitoma's hand.

Without a doubt, she drew the Joker.

In an instant, Honami's body trembled slightly and a flash of despair crossed her eyes.

"It's Honami-chan again, are you really okay?"

"I-I'm fine, I don't care at all, it's just a game."

"..."

Although she still wore a smile on her surface, upon closer inspection, there was no joy in Honami Ichinose eyes.

This was probably what they called a forced smile.

After sixteen rounds, she had been the Joker seven times and each time she lost against Kaoru Mitoma.

Honami couldn't understand; she had observed Kaoru Mitoma's expressions, so why couldn't she catch him off guard?

During this time, she also suggested that the winner could command the second-to-last place, trying to turn the tables.

Unfortunately, Kaoru Mitoma managed to pass through steadily from beginning to end.

"It seems like it's about time," Hiyori Shiina checked the time.

After the tense and exciting game, her face was flushed and she seemed somewhat reluctant to leave.

"But it was quite fun, it's more comfortable with more people!" Masayoshi Hashimoto sighed.

He had been the Joker once and couldn't help but glare at Kaoru Mitoma.

"Speaking of which, you haven't been the Joker even once, I was planning to punish you!"

"Why would you punish me?" Kaoru Mitoma was puzzled.

'I could understand Honami's motives, but why were you getting involved?'

"Hey, hey, hey, don't you know what you've done?" Masayoshi Hashimoto's face darkened.

His little princess must have been tainted by this guy.

Kaoru Mitoma shook his head and then someone gently tugged at his sleeve.

"Why can't you let me win?" Honami looked at him with dissatisfaction, her voice very low.

"There's no need for that, whatever you want me to do, I'll satisfy you."

For some reason, when he said this, Honami started to feel shy.

"If you say it, will you do it?"

"Of course."

"Did you have a girlfriend before?"

"No."

Honami, who had been shy just a moment ago, suddenly stared at him intently.

Her entire demeanor underwent some kind of change.

Although she was still the same as usual, she felt different.

Kaoru Mitoma had to avert his gaze and softly asked, "Why are you asking this?"

"I don't know, it just feels like it's not your first time."

Since everyone was here, Honami didn't say much more and silently turned her head away.

Meanwhile, Hiyori Shiina across from them looked at the two with some confusion.

She had always been quite perceptive, having noticed Kaoru Mitoma and Kamuro Masumi's little actions in the library and this time was no exception.

However, she felt strange.

Aren't Kaoru Mitoma and Kamuro Masumi a couple?

Why does he seem to get along well with Honami Ichinose too?

It seemed a bit chaotic.

Hiyori Shiina thought for a moment and decided not to delve deeper into it.

After all, it wasn't her concern

Chapter 190: Hehe, It's Your Turn Now

"The exam for the Tiger Group has concluded. Students belonging to the Tiger Group no longer need to participate in the exam and are asked not to disturb other students taking the exam during the free activity period."

"The exam for the Monkey Group has concluded. Students belonging to the Monkey Group..."

After the group discussion ended, the school suddenly sent two notifications to all students, instantly causing the members of the Snake Group, who were about to leave the room, to stop in their tracks.

They looked at their phones in shock.

"The exam ended on the first day? Is that for real?"

Kaoru Mitoma heard someone mutter this and beside him, Hashimoto also put on a surprised expression, speculating.

"Maybe they acted impulsively and hastily initiated a betrayal?"

Outcome One and Outcome Two could only be achieved on the night the exam ended, while Outcome Three and Outcome Four, which involved betrayal, only required sending the answers to the school during the exam.

Therefore, faced with the results of the two groups, although the exact situation was unclear for now, it was either a hasty betrayal or a confident attack.

From the perspective of those outside Class A, due to the lack of information, others could only think this way.

"The two messages were sent only a few minutes apart, as if it was a coordinated action" Hiyori Shiina habitually fell into deep thought, her gaze wandering around the room.

"This doesn't really explain anything. It's just the exams of other groups, so it's none of our business," Haruka Hasebe yawned. "If you all want to keep talking, go ahead. I'm heading back."

"Me too!" Mei Yu Wang quickly followed Haruka Hasebe.

It seemed Class D wasn't particularly interested.

"Then I'll take my leave as well," Hiyori Shiina paused for a moment.

She had initially wanted to invite Kaoru Mitoma to the library tomorrow, but after reconsidering, it seemed a bit inappropriate.

She gave him a slight nod and prepared to leave the room.

"See you tomorrow, Shiina-san" Kaoru Mitoma said. "Next time you find a good book, remember to let me know."

Hiyori Shiina was momentarily stunned.

She glanced at Honami Ichinose a few times.

Wouldn't saying this so openly will make Ichinose angry?

"Sure, I'll let you know."

Perhaps recalling the events of the day, Hiyori Shiina's cheeks flushed slightly.

She stood still, afraid he might try to touch her again, but after taking a few steps, she felt her pace was too fast and unconsciously slowed down.

Her slender silhouette flowed gracefully under the light of the corridor, casting a delicate shadow on the wall.

Masayoshi Hashimoto thought that would be the end of it for today, but no one expected the school's notification to sound again.

"The exam for the Ox Group has concluded. Students belonging to the Ox Group..."

Wait, wasn't it supposed to be two groups per day?

Why did the Ox Group's exam end as well?

No matter how skilled Masayoshi Hashimoto was at controlling his expressions, he couldn't help but look at Kaoru Mitoma this time.

Kaoru Mitoma was also deep in thought.

The VIP of the Ox group was Yume Kobashi from Class B.

He had reviewed the list of members and excluding students from Class B and Class A, the rest shouldn't have the ability to identify the VIP.

The only person worth paying attention to was Chiaki Matsushita from Class D.

Hmm, she harbored a wish that was completely different from ordinary people.

Assuming that the VIP of the Ox group wasn't accidentally discovered by someone, it suggested that Arisu Sakayanagi had already taken action.

However, judging by the confused look on Masayoshi Hashimoto, it seemed she was acting alone?

No, perhaps it was Ryuen.

"Only one day has passed and three groups have already concluded their exams. If it just so happens that the VIPs are from the same class, then someone has already taken them all down," Honami Ichinose observed Kaoru Mitoma's expression.

"So, Mitoma-kun, who do you think did it?"

She knew who the VIPs in her class were.

As the most approachable leader in Class B, Honami Ichinose might have gathered information on all the VIPs in her class and it was highly likely that the VIPs had approached her themselves.

After all, the VIPs themselves were under a lot of pressure.

One wrong move and they could be exposed to other classes, leading to the termination of their exam.

The Ox and Monkey groups that concluded their exams tonight were both VIPs from Class B, which meant they only had the Dog group left.

"It's not such a coincidence. If someone could discover the VIPs of an entire class, it means they've already found the correct pattern."

Hearing Kaoru Mitoma's response, Masayoshi Hashimoto's eyes widened.

Wasn't this a blatant hint?

"That makes sense. If I had discovered the correct pattern, I would have ended all the group exams," Honami Ichinose smiled, also hinting at Kaoru Mitoma.

This was a normal competition and she wouldn't mind such tactics.

However, she also noticed Masayoshi Hashimoto's reaction earlier.

Faced with the notifications from the Tiger and Monkey groups, Masayoshi Hashimoto had only feigned surprise for a while.

But upon seeing the message from the Ox group, he instantly became unsettled, clearly encountering an unexpected situation.

Besides Class A, was there someone else who knew the answers to the exam?

Honami Ichinose immediately suspected Ryuen from Class C.

She was well aware of the situations in Class D and Class C.

Class D wasn't that capable, so it had to be Ryuen.

Then, she recalled Hiyori Shiina's words.

Class C could accept Result One in the Snake group, which was somewhat suspicious.

Lacking crucial information, Honami Ichinose couldn't quite figure out what Kakeru Ryuen was thinking.

"Let me ask directly, Mitoma-kun, you're not the VIP are you?"

"No."

"I'm not either," Honami Ichinose added. "Moreover, I can guarantee that Yuki-chan and Nakai-kun are not VIPs either."

Masayoshi Hashimoto looked at Kaoru Mitoma, then at Honami Ichinose.

Why had they suddenly jumped into a confession session? Should he confess too?

Kaoru Mitoma and Honami Ichinose exchanged glances, then instinctively looked away.

"It seems there won't be a notification for a fourth group. Let's head back, Hashimoto, Yamamura..."

Halfway through his sentence, Kaoru Mitoma suddenly realized that Miki Yamamura had disappeared at some point.

That girl presence was way too faint!

The faint moonlight floated on the sea surface and the cool air streamed down from the starry night sky.

The brightly lit deck was eerily silent, with only the occasional sound of the sea breeze whispering like the murmurs of night spirits.

At this moment, Kaoru Mitoma saw the girl emerge from the shadows.

Her white short-sleeved shirt clung to her chest, outlining a slightly ethereal curve under the moonlight.

As she approached, Kaoru Mitoma could clearly see her blushing face.

"Why are you dressed like this?"

"I have no choice. I need to sleep at night, and wearing my uniform to bed would wrinkle it. I don't have any casual clothes with me, so I had to wear this," Honami Ichinose replied, standing shyly in front of him.

The reason the two of them had met here in the middle of the night was due to their earlier unspoken agreement.

"Don't you have long pants?" Kaoru Mitoma found himself unable to look away.

Whether it was her upper body or her legs, his girlfriend's figure was simply too good.

"Aren't shorts usually only worn indoors?"

It couldn't be that her pants weren't dry—the cruise ship's rooms had dryers.

Honami Ichinose didn't respond.

She couldn't possibly tell Kaoru Mitoma that this was a little trick she had learned from a manga, could she?

A girl dressed in a thin short-sleeved shirt, with her fair legs exposed, inevitably exuded a mix of innocence and seduction, making one's heart race.

"Tonight, only the Monkey, Tiger, and Ox groups finished their exams," Honami Ichinose said with a serious expression.

"Why did you attack my class?"

As a leader, she naturally didn't mind fair competition between Class A and Class B.

But now, as his girlfriend, she also had the right to vent her dissatisfaction, didn't she?

"It wasn't just my idea. The entire Class A knew the answers to the exam," Kaoru Mitoma took the opportunity to step closer to her, taking her soft hand in his.

He could smell a faint citrus-like scent emanating from her.

Honami Ichinose looked at him in confusion.

What did he mean by the entire Class A knowing?

After Kaoru Mitoma's explanation, Honami Ichinose gradually understood the whole situation.

"You have a bet with Sakayanagi-san? If you win, you'll become her master?"

"If she wins, I'll become her slave," Kaoru Mitoma added the remaining part of the agreement, as he didn't mind either outcome.

Honami Ichinose fell silent.

She could sense the implicit meaning behind Kaoru Mitoma's words—she had a perverted boyfriend.

Wait, on second thought, if Kaoru Mitoma weren't a bit of a pervert, she probably wouldn't have become his girlfriend in the first place.

"Sakayanagi-san must have colluded with Class C. I think she used the surface-level group cooperation to reveal Class A's 'privileged student' to Ryuen under the guise of Result One. As long as Ryuen isn't stupid, deducing the exam answers would be simple," Kaoru Mitoma pondered.

"Since she didn't directly tell Ryuen and getting the Rat, Rooster and Pig groups to achieve Result One was everyone's idea, it's hard to criticize her on this point."

Even Hashimoto was surprised, which suggests that Arisu Sakayanagi was probably acting alone.

"But why didn't she end the exam for Class C right away? Doing so could have dealt a blow to you," Honami Ichinose wondered.

Since the attack was initiated by another class, Arisu Sakayanagi could have guided the class's public opinion and then shifted all the blame onto the Katsuragi faction.

By not ending the exam early, she gave the other classes an opportunity, causing Class A to lose a significant amount of class points.

Such a narrative would clearly direct the blame towards Katsuragi.

While the Katsuragi faction suffered a crushing defeat, Arisu Sakayanagi managed to preserve Class A VIPs, which would suddenly reverse the situation.

"Her intention was probably—" Kaoru Mitoma imitated the tone of a certain loli.

"Fufufu, now it's your turn, Mitoma-kun~"

As if she had seen something disgusting, Honami Ichinose instinctively took half a step back.