

## Cote 19

### Chapter 19 I Hope I Didn't Guess Right, Senpai

Third-year Class A, the current student council president, Horikita Manabu, was sizing up the new student in front of him. The other boy had movie-star good looks, black hair and black eyes, his gaze clear and bright.

His body was starting to fill out, with hardly any trace of immaturity left. Compared to Nagumo Miyabi, this guy might even have the edge. Even though he thought that way, Horikita Manabu could sense that the two had different auras.

Nagumo Miyabi gave off a frivolous, carefree vibe, and his usual behavior was like that of a playboy. But this other person made him feel as if he were facing an endless ocean—his first impression was that he couldn't see through what this freshman was thinking.

Since the start of the school year, this was the second freshman to knock on the door of the student council, and this one was even from Class A. Even so, Horikita Manabu face remained expressionless.

Beside him, as the student council secretary, Tachibana Akane was also quietly sizing up Kaoru Mitoma. Last time, when Horikita Manabu rejected Ichinose Honami, Tachibana Akane had been there too. She'd watched Ichinose Honami go from confident, to nervous, to disappointed and dejected.

This freshman from Class A would probably show the same expression soon.

"Kaoru Mitoma from Year 1, Class A, what's your reason for applying to join the student council"

With the same opening line, Tachibana Akane shifted her gaze from Horikita Manabu to Kaoru Mitoma, expecting the usual self-introduction or something similar to follow. Tachibana Akane found it a bit boring.

"As your support, after you retire, I'll help you deal with Nagumo. We can even make a deal while we're at it."

"Kh-kh-kh—"

As soon as he finished speaking, Kaoru Mitoma saw Tachibana Akane suddenly start coughing violently, like she'd choked on something. Weird, did she drink anything?

"Tachibana, what's wrong?"

Horikita Manabu asked.

"It's nothing, really, I'm fine. I just sneezed by accident!"

Tachibana Akane quickly tried to cover up her slip, not quite believing what she'd just heard. Horikita Manabu took his eyes off her and calmly looked at Kaoru Mitoma.

"What do you mean by that?"

"Exactly what I said. I saw some posts about you and Nagumo on the school forum. Nagumo seems really eager to challenge you, but you've never responded. Some people are even looking forward to a showdown between you two."

"He's my vice president, and also my junior. On what basis do you think we're enemies?"

"Because you turned down Ichinose."

"It's just rejecting a first-year student. If she doesn't meet the requirements of the student council, of course she can't join."

"So what exactly are the requirements for the student council?"

Kaoru Mitoma looked at the girl with her hair in a bun.

"Is it because she's not from Class A?"

"Sorry, first-year junior, whether someone meets the requirements is for President Horikita and us to decide, not you,"

Tachibana replied stiffly.

"So what are the requirements? You don't accept students who aren't from Class A?"

Kaoru Mitoma didn't let her words throw him off. Tachibana was getting annoyed. What was up with this first-year brat? Coming in with that attitude right from the start—so infuriating!

"Tachibana, let me handle this,"

Horikita Manabu stopped her.

"The requirements for joining the student council aren't based on class. It's only about the student's own excellence. Ichinose is an excellent student, which is why I rejected her."

"So you think she's not fit to survive at this school?"

Ichinose Honami is actually very capable. In a normal high school, she might have naturally become the student council president. Unfortunately, she's at Kouyuu now. Ichinose Honami personality just doesn't fit with this school. After all, competition itself is a cruel and heartless thing.

"She's not suitable right now,"

Horikita Manabu agreed with Kaoru Mitoma.

"But given some time, I believe she'll grow."

"And what if you still can't find the right person?"

Kaoru Mitoma asked. Horikita Manabu didn't answer that.

"Looks like you know a lot about the school now. Have you figured out the rules?"

"I've at least learned one thing, and I think it's pretty meaningful."

Kaoru Mitoma took out his phone and showed Horikita Manabu his personal balance.

"I have a million private points now. I want to buy a spot in the student council."

Tachibana Akane's eyes went wide.

"Wait, how could a first-year possibly have a million private points right now?"

Unless Kaoru Mitoma collected points from his classmates, there was no way he could have a million private points!

This school strictly forbids part-time jobs, and even if you could work, there's no way anyone could earn a million in just a few days after school started!

Tachibana Akane was very suspicious about where those points came from. She looked Kaoru Mitoma up and down, trying to spot any flaws. Horikita Manabu was also a little surprised, but he quickly returned to normal.

"If I remember correctly, you freshmen get a hundred thousand private points a month. Did you do something special?"

"I got a reward from an upperclassman. It doesn't have much to do with my class,"

Kaoru Mitoma said.

"If that's not enough, I can add more."

An upperclassman, huh... Horikita Manabu seemed to be thinking about something.

"Didn't you say you wanted to help me deal with Nagumo? So why are you spending points to buy a spot?"

"For the right people, I think you have to show the right amount of strength. Actions are more convincing than empty words."

"You're a pretty interesting freshman."

Horikita Manabu actually smiled a little.

"But I'm still curious—how did you notice all these little clues?"

"Even though the school forum lets us talk to upperclassmen, the second-years are really careful about sharing personal info on Nagumo. They don't say much. Honestly, I still know nothing about him."

Looking at the second-year class rankings, you can actually see that Nagumo Miyabi Class A has absolute control over the whole year. The class points for the four classes are way too obvious—they go down in perfect order. If no one was in charge, there's no way that would happen.

"The only thing I could find out is that Nagumo is about to take over the upperclassman's position. He's the future student council president, and he's in Class A. I think he's already at the top of this school."

Not only that, Nagumo Miyabi also has a huge amount of personal points. By the time he reaches third year, he'll probably have an astonishing twenty million personal points.

"If you lose your motivation to strive in your own year, it's only natural to start looking elsewhere out of boredom. Compared to first years, third years are more challenging, and it seems like Nagumo is interested in you. If someone like him starts clinging to you, it's definitely going to be a hassle."

Just as Horikita Manabu turned down Ichinose Honami, Nagumo Miyabi immediately went to find Ichinose Honami. It's hard not to believe that Nagumo did it on purpose.

"Not only do you have to deal with other classes in your own year, you also have to watch out for a junior. I think things are a bit tough for you, so I decided to step up and help."

It's because things are tough that Horikita Manabu would turn down Ichinose Honami. Otherwise, there's no reason for him to reject a student who ranked first in the entrance exam. With that, Kaoru Mitoma gave his final summary.

"I hope i didn't guess right, Senpai."