

Cote 191

Chapter 191: Wanting to Go Down with You

"You also think her way of speaking is strange, right?"

"No... do I have to say it out loud?"

"If it's about me, then there's no need."

Honami Ichinose sighed as if she had a headache, then raised another question.

"Actually, for Sakayanagi-san, ending it all at once would be the best outcome, right? If she stops now, wouldn't it be a wasted opportunity? As long as you end the exam quickly, Class C's offensive would be rendered moot."

She wasn't wrong.

This was indeed the best opportunity for Arisu Sakayanagi and Kakeru Ryuen to take advantage of Kaoru Mitoma's lack of response and seize control of the entire exam.

"Aside from Class A's VIPs, there are still six groups left," Kaoru Mitoma held up two fingers.

"Among them, the Snake Group and the Sheep Group are both Class C's VIPs. Tonight, Shiina-san agreed to your proposal, which means that Ryuen behind her wants to gain more benefits and doesn't want all the VIPs in his class to be wiped out."

The Snake Group's VIP is a Class C student?

Although it was a bit surprising, considering that even the entire Class A knew about it, it wasn't strange for Kaoru Mitoma to tell her this now.

The only thing that bothered her was that Kaoru Mitoma had been watching her efforts from the sidelines.

It was a bit embarrassing and somewhat frustrating.

"Sakayanagi-san's goal is probably to preserve Class A's VIPs, allowing Class C to act freely. Meanwhile, Ryuen, in order to make up for the losses from the uninhabited island exam, merely attacking Class B and Class D isn't enough. Especially knowing that Class A also knows the answers, he needs to protect the VIPs in his own class."

Kaoru Mitoma calmly analyzed the thought processes of the two.

Arisu Sakayanagi, out of caution, secretly conspired with Ryuen alone.

She must have understood the consequences of ending the entire exam on the first day.

If everyone was wiped out, only Class A's VIPs would remain until the end and achieving Outcome One would become significantly more difficult.

Whether it was due to internal suspicion within Class A or considering the presence of Class B and Class D, Arisu Sakayanagi clearly couldn't be so overt.

Therefore, she likely exchanged information about the VIPs for Ryuen's promise, ensuring that he wouldn't attack Class A and that they would cooperate to achieve Outcome One.

Ryuen must also be well aware that completely annihilating the opponent on the first day would lead to their alliance.

Therefore, he must have reached another agreement with Arisu Sakayanagi—to take it slow and pretend not to know about Class A's plan.

"Theoretically, their best opportunity should be during the final discussion, when Class A is completely unprepared. If someone beats them to it, they might not even have time to react," Kaoru Mitoma chuckled.

"But doing so is very risky. For Ryuen, he would have to endure Class A's attacks on Class C for the first two days and on the final day, he would have to race against Class A for time. It's too much to bear."

"So, Class C only attacked one group tonight, planning to act like bystanders?" Honami Ichinose was also pondering Ryuen Kakeru's intentions.

"Sakayanagi has no control over Class C. This idea must be Ryuen's own decision, at most, he might have informed her."

Hearing this, Honami Ichinose's expression turned strange.

If her class hadn't been attacked twice tonight, she would probably have dismissed it as a strange coincidence.

However, this had already alerted the enemy.

Kaoru Mitoma held her small hand as they walked to the railing of the deck.

The cool, slightly salty sea breeze brushed against their faces, tousling her long hair, while the scent of citrus grew stronger.

"Although Sakayanagi appears composed, it also shows that she has limited options. Because she was a bit slow, she's now in a passive position."

Honami Ichinose secretly glanced at his face and found that his serious expression seemed somewhat handsome.

Things like licking feet or playing with breasts were just too perverse for her to accept.

"Are you going to launch a counterattack now?"

"We could, but we could also ignore her," Kaoru Mitoma shook his head. "Apart from Katsuragi expressing concern to me, most of Class A's students don't care at all, treating it as just an unexpected incident."

Honami Ichinose was momentarily stunned, but then she realized that for Class A's students, who hadn't lost a single exam in months, it was inevitable that their vigilance would have waned.

"Given the current situation, countering her and Ryuen early could minimize losses..."

Seeing Kaoru Mitoma's thoughtful expression, Honami Ichinose also tried to help her boyfriend think of a strategy.

But as he said, if they didn't strike back now, would they just sit back and wait for Class C and Class A to compete for class points?

"Actually, it's not that complicated. The proposal to end one or two group exams each day, trying not to alert the enemy, was ours. Agreeing to let her attempt Result One was also our decision. Now, suddenly ending most group exams early would naturally disrupt her preparations for completing Result One."

As he spoke, Kaoru Mitoma gently caressed her small hand.

"Isn't that better?" Honami Ichinose blushed slightly.

It was the first time she had appeared before him in such a state and she couldn't help feeling nervous, yet also anticipating what he might do.

"Failing because of your own actions and failing because of someone else's actions are two different things," Kaoru Mitoma said. "The latter could allow her to take the victim's stance and potentially blame me and Katsuragi."

Due to the sudden termination of the group exam for classes other than Class A, it was bound to raise vigilance among the other classes, thereby preventing Arisu Sakayanagi from achieving Outcome One.

Therefore, Katsuragi had to provide a reason that would satisfy her.

Under these circumstances, it was not impossible to guide the class's public opinion and question Katsuragi based on the final prestige.

This was also what Arisu Sakayanagi referred to as a draw in chess, where a draw between both sides is a common occurrence.

"So, is this Sakayanagi-san's goal?" Honami Ichinose pursed her lips.

"Your class... it's so strange. There's really no need to treat your own classmates like this, right?"

The intense internal strife within Class A was something Honami Ichinose couldn't imagine.

She found it unbelievable.

Shouldn't everyone in the class work together?

"The strange one is you. The more Class A fights internally, the more advantageous it is for you, isn't it?"

"But this will create rifts among many Class A students. Just because they follow different leaders, they have to exclude and oppose each other. Isn't that painful?"

"Don't you have cliques in your class?"

"What?"

Seeing Honami Ichinose tilt her head, Kaoru Mitoma realized he had asked the wrong person.

For her, there couldn't possibly be any cliques in the class.

"Speaking of which, I just met Sakayanagi-san. She told me about her thoughts on the VIPs and Outcome One," Honami Ichinose suddenly said.

Kaoru Mitoma smiled faintly and asked, "Regardless of what she told you, after hearing all this, what do you think now?"

Honami Ichinose pouted.

From the class's perspective, of course, she her class to go down with you class A!

Chapter 192: The Bad Kid

Their Class B had already lost two key members.

Next, even if they fought to the death with you cunning guys, it would probably be more than justified.

However, when the words came to her mouth, they turned into something else.

"What else can I do? You already know the identity of the VIP Student. Even if I say I want to retaliate against you now, you can calmly stop my actions, right? Otherwise, you wouldn't have told me all this." Honami Ichinose seemed somewhat dejected.

Compared to Kaoru Mitoma or other leaders, her abilities seemed lacking.

"If you want to retaliate, then retaliate. I never said I would stop you," Kaoru Mitoma habitually patted her head.

"On the contrary, I'm surprised you're willing to listen to me say all this."

Although Honami Ichinose had joked during the day about wanting him to pat her head, when he actually did it, she felt a strong sense of strangeness, as if someone was tickling her, causing a fine layer of goosebumps all over her body, feeling somewhat ashamed.

She had always been the older sister.

Not to mention comforting her, usually, no one would make such a gesture towards her.

"But wouldn't this cause trouble for you?"

Compared to climbing to Class A, Honami Ichinose cared more about how the people around her would feel, even if they weren't members of her own class.

"No, it's precisely because I want you to act that I'm meeting you here," Kaoru Mitoma felt the situation was quite favorable, especially with the faint scent emanating from her, subtly stimulating his primal instincts.

"Sakayanagi believes I'll go all in, so her approach is similar to mine—deliberately luring the other side into acting impulsively. This trap is her way of returning the favor."

Kaoru Mitoma clearly understood what Arisu Sakayanagi was thinking.

Since the start of the term, she had been observing him, fully aware of his style.

Not long ago, she had even further deciphered his personality through a game of chess.

In her eyes, he was probably someone who enjoyed setting traps and taking risks.

Moreover, there was a certain... lustfulness.

Faced with the opportunity to turn Arisu Sakayanagi into a little maid, who wouldn't be tempted to charge right in?

Thus, Arisu Sakayanagi seized this moment to suddenly turn the tide into a draw.

Though it wasn't her victory, not losing meant there was still a chance.

Next time, she would get serious.

"What did Sakayanagi say to you?" Kaoru Mitoma asked.

"She wants to collaborate with Class B to achieve Result One in the Rat, Rooster, and Pig groups, but she didn't tell me who the VIP is," Honami Ichinose added, "I ran into her on my way back to my room after the evening group discussion."

In fact, Arisu Sakayanagi had already hinted at it.

Both Honami Ichinose and Kakeru Ryuen could grasp the situation of the VIPs in their classes.

They were most likely to deduce the pattern based on the existing information.

"Without a doubt, she'll also inform Class D and then wait for the situation to change. If we counterattack, she'll have an excuse to question us. If we don't, we'll have to watch the other classes compete with us for points and she can still question our decision."

At this point, Kaoru Mitoma couldn't even doubt Arisu Sakayanagi, because if she wanted to achieve Result One, she naturally had to interact with students from other classes.

Moreover, she hadn't revealed the identity of the VIP.

Now, Arisu Sakayanagi had presented two choices: to end the exam early before Class C or other classes could act, but this would lead to Class A itself being attacked, thereby undermining Result One, with all the responsibility falling on Katsuragi and Kaoru Mitoma.

And there was no way to explain it.

After all, the exam in the Ox group could also be the result of a student's individual actions, so there was no need to make a fuss.

The other option was not to counterattack, letting the other classes compete with Class A for points, and then being questioned by Arisu Sakayanagi—why, despite knowing the answer in advance, did they end up earning so little?

Furthermore, if she successfully achieved Result One, the situation in Class A would once again become a two-sided struggle.

"This is so troublesome. I suddenly regret listening to you," Honami Ichinose felt her thoughts were in disarray, unsure if it was because of what he said or the earlier strangeness.

"I also find it troublesome, but she's mistaken about one thing," Kaoru Mitoma said quietly.

"She, like others, thinks class points are very important to me."

Honami Ichinose looked at him in confusion.

Wasn't that the case?

To win the bet and lead Class A to gain more class points, wasn't that the natural thing to do?

"Did you agree to Sakayanagi-san's proposal?"

"No, I said I'd consider it."

"Good. When the time comes, your Class B will be responsible for attacking Class A's VIP."

"Wait, wait, what are you talking about?"

Honami Ichinose was completely dumbfounded.

Wouldn't this lead to even greater losses for Class A?

However, Kaoru Mitoma seemed indifferent.

"Only by comparing can we highlight the advantages. As long as Class A is in a better state than the other classes, there won't be too many complaints, and we can't just leave you alone anyway."

Since Honami Ichinose would eventually figure out the identity of the VIP student, it was better to let her act under his watch.

This way, the risks would be minimized.

Another reason was simpler: it would make Arisu Sakayanagi lose her composure.

For some reason, after hearing this, Honami Ichinose nervously averted her gaze.

After a while, she whispered, "Is it really okay?"

"Of course it is. In fact, I wanted to ask if it's okay with you, since I'm the one who requested it."

"Couldn't you ask someone from Class D to help?"

"No, only you can do it."

Perhaps Kaoru Mitoma felt the need to give a more detailed explanation, or perhaps it was because Honami Ichinose's slightly lowered eyebrows and exposed earlobes were too alluring.

He couldn't help but lean in closer, blowing a gentle breath near the girl's ear.

In an instant, Honami Ichinose was startled.

A faint blush crept up from her pale neck, coloring the delicate fuzz on her earlobes.

A look of panic flashed in her eyes, thinking he was about to do something indecent again.

She instinctively wanted to push him away, but then she heard him softly say a few words and she froze in place, dumbfounded.

"...That's the plan, so I'm counting on you, Honami-chan."

When he said "Honami-chan," Honami felt goosebumps rise all over her body.

It was as if someone was tickling her ears with a feather, the tingling sensation making her heart race uncontrollably.

Her cheeks were burning and her blood was rushing so fast that her head felt a little dizzy.

"You're... so sneaky, ugh..."

Kaoru Mitoma looked at her, puzzled.

Was she scolding him, or something else?

Noticing his strange gaze, Honami felt even more embarrassed.

"Did I make you feel uncomfortable?"

"N-no... I'm just a bit hot... It's fine, is this all you needed?"

It was such a cool evening, why would she feel hot?

Even Honami herself thought the excuse was lame.

She wanted to cover her face and hide somewhere no one could see her.

"Should I walk you back?" Kaoru Mitoma seemed oblivious to her awkwardness and instead seemed concerned about her well-being.

Honami stared at him blankly.

Was he telling her to go back and rest?

Wait, since when did you become so gentle?

Shouldn't you be pouncing on me like before and doing something indecent?

Although it was only occasional glances, as a beautiful girl who always attracted attention, Honami was fully aware of where Kaoru Mitoma was looking.

First, it was her chest, then her thighs and hips and sometimes he would even stare intently at her delicate feet, making her feel a little nervous every time.

While others might just look, Kaoru Mitoma would actually pounce.

She knew that boys often thought about indecent things.

Ever since she decided to use rewards to tempt Kaoru Mitoma, Honami had secretly read some manga.

She knew that couples inevitably did strange things and while blushing, she had learned quite a bit of new knowledge.

Including tonight's outfit.

Boys seemed to have a strange fascination with girls' shorts, especially student gym uniforms.

Seeing Kaoru Mitoma staring at her thighs, Honami thought he was about to do something indecent again, but instead, he simply held her hand.

Holding hands was nice, it showed that he was restraining himself and that he didn't just see Honami as an outlet for his desires.

But this actually left Honami feeling a bit dumbfounded.

Not that she liked doing indecent things with Kaoru Mitoma, but she wouldn't stop him from getting handsy either.

It didn't mean she wanted it okay!.

For no particular reason, girls were just complicated creatures, sometimes even they didn't know what they were thinking.

In any case, a Kaoru Mitoma who didn't do indecent things with her felt so awkward!

It was like a character in an anime had their personality completely changed, and Honami felt very uncomfortable with it.

"It's about time to go back... If I stay out too late, Mako-chan and the others will definitely suspect that I'm hiding something from them."

Since he didn't seem to have any intentions of getting intimate, Honami Ichinose saw no reason to stay any longer.

After all, her excuse wasn't strong enough to justify staying out for too long.

However, Kaoru Mitoma suddenly grabbed her hand just as she was about to turn away.

"If you take me back, someone might..."

Before she could finish her sentence, Honami Ichinose's voice abruptly stopped.

Kaoru Mitoma had wrapped his arm around her waist and gently pressed his lips against hers.

Honami didn't close her eyes.

Instead, she widened them in surprise, feeling as though she was melting into his embrace.

The warmth of his body made her eyelashes tremble slightly, and her breathing gradually became heavier.

A faint blush spread across her delicate cheeks, and the sound of their kiss made her ears burn.

"I almost forgot, I haven't touched your sports shorts yet."

His fingers mischievously slid down her slender waistline, landing on her perky ass.

Through the thin fabric, he could feel the slight contours beneath, unable to see the details but sensing a plump, alluring roundness.

"Mmm... P-please don't do this outside... What if someone sees us...?"

Honami's face turned bright red, but deep down, she felt a strange sense of relief.

This guy really hadn't changed at all.

"Honami-chan, you've been expecting this, haven't you?" Kaoru whispered in her ear.

"Wearing these clothes, taking a shower beforehand, and even sneaking glances at me... You wanted to do something naughty, didn't you? Such a naughty girl."

As he gently nibbled on her earlobe, Honami shuddered and a wave of intense shame washed over her.

She began to struggle against Kaoru's embrace as if she had been electrocuted.

Chapter 193: Address by Title in Private

[Lick Honami's thighs!],

[Do it in front of her]

[She's too much, guess I'll have to be Honami Ichinose's most loyal dog]

[Take her first kiss]

[Smell Honami Ichinose's sweat]

[Because she's a top student, I want to mess with her]

[I want to drink milk]

[Check Honami Ichinose's preferences]

[Leave my mark on every part of her]

...

Many desires still lingered around the girl, though some had faded away, like [Take her first kiss], which had long since turned into light and merged into Kaoru Mitoma's body, becoming a reward from the wish-granting machine.

The gentle sea breeze lightly brushed against the girl's hair and the soft, sweet scent of her body in his arms stimulated his senses.

Her firm, full breasts pressed against him and even though she wasn't completely naked, it was still incredibly arousing.

The thin fabric of their T-shirts was the only barrier between them, and even the slightest movement sent sensitive ripples through their bodies.

Kaoru Mitoma's hand rested on her waist and hips and at such a close distance, it was inevitable that his palm would brush against the smooth and delicate skin of her thighs, stirring up all sorts of thoughts.

Moreover, the soft and resilient curve of her bottom beneath his hand made him want to squeeze it a few more times, causing her to tremble slightly.

He could hear her let out a few soft moans, her lips parting slightly as warm air escaped.

Perhaps she hadn't expected her thoughts to be so easily read, as Honami Ichinose's entire face flushed red.

She bit her lower lip tightly, pushing against his chest with a mix of embarrassment and annoyance.

"Don't... don't talk nonsense! It's clearly you who's being handsy, you perverted creep!"

Ignoring the strange sensations in her body, Honami Ichinose wished she could disappear into the ground at that moment.

She pushed him away and took several steps back, meeting his teasing gaze.

Instinctively, she covered her bottom, her cheeks burning with heat.

Her first kiss was gone, her chest had been touched, he had even licked the back of her foot, and now he had groped her ass.

It felt like her entire body would eventually be devoured by him.

Although she had mentally prepared herself for this, it was still so lewd—so lewd that Honami Ichinose felt her own thoughts making her blush even more.

"Was I mistaken?" Kaoru Mitoma bowed apologetically. "I'm sorry, but when my girlfriend shows up in such a cute outfit, as a man, I just couldn't help myself."

"Hmph... Do you think apologizing like that will make me forgive you?" Honami Ichinose glared at him angrily.

Complimenting her cuteness while pretending to apologize—he was clearly just teasing her on purpose.

To be honest, even now she could still feel the warmth of Kaoru Mitoma's hand on her ass.

His bold groping had even brushed against a certain spot, more stimulating than tickling the sole of her foot, almost making her jump earlier.

"How about I let you touch me too?" Kaoru Mitoma offered, somewhat awkwardly.

"Who wants to touch you? A girl's... bottom... is different from a boy's..." Honami Ichinose's voice grew softer as she spoke.

Why was she even arguing with him about this?

"If you dare to be so handsy in a place like this again, I'll really get angry!"

Although it was nighttime and there weren't many people on the deck, and they were meeting in a secluded spot where they were unlikely to run into anyone, this kind of thing was still too embarrassing.

She wasn't mentally prepared for it yet.

However, seeing her like this, Kaoru Mitoma's expression turned strange.

Last time, someone had been even bolder than him at the pool.

Aside from the first kiss, which he had initiated, the next four times had been her doing.

Perhaps this was what they called a girl's heart.

She could do it, but you couldn't think about it.

Like a startled deer, Honami Ichinose fled back, her face still bright red.

Kaoru Mitoma had also planned to head back and rest, but considering the time, another person should have arrived by now.

"Aren't you coming out?"

At his calm voice, Kikyo Kushida soon emerged from the shadows of a nearby corner, her gaze dark and unreadable as she walked up to him.

"Tsk ts, so the pure and gentle Ichinose that everyone knows is actually being groped by you in private. Honestly, how many people have you made a move on?"

Kushida didn't get too close to Kaoru Mitoma.

To be on the safe side, she cautiously maintained a distance of two or three steps—close enough to avoid being suddenly attacked, yet far enough to prevent him from easily violating her.

Well, she just didn't want to be startled by him.

"When did you get here?"

Unlike Ichinose, Kushida was also wearing the short-sleeved shirt she usually wore for physical education classes, but she had on long pants that were convenient for movement.

Her legs were mostly covered, only faintly revealing the slender and straight lines of her figure, along with a slightly rounded and perky bottom.

Since it was nighttime, it was clear that both of them had already taken a shower.

Even without getting close, Kaoru could smell the faint scent of shower gel and shampoo on her, subtle yet seemingly capable of driving someone wild.

"Probably around the time you were hugging and kissing," Kushida made a lewd gesture, never expecting that even Honami Ichinose would fall into Kaoru Mitoma's hands.

She had thought that from now on, Honami would be the only angel left in the first year.

Great, it turns out that both angels are no longer pure.

This reassured her.

Seeing her grinning face, Kaoru Mitoma fell silent, feeling as though she was enjoying this, even though he himself had also been subjected to some indecent treatment.

However, Kushida hadn't forgotten her purpose for tonight.

This meeting was also initiated by her, mainly to report to Kaoru Mitoma about the situation with Ryuen's group and Horikita Suzune.

"Initially, Ryuen-kun proposed sharing information and working together, but Class A seems undecided on who to listen to, and Class B refused to cooperate," Kushida sneered.

"Horikita is still the same as always, wanting to check her teammates' messages, but I preemptively blocked her. She probably hasn't given up yet."

After Kaoru Mitoma told her about the contract between the two parties, she also clearly understood what Horikita Suzune was thinking.

Therefore, the rewards from this special exam would definitely not fall into Horikita's hands!

So, the aloof beauty thinks she can reject his invitation?

She'll soon be obediently serving as his star slave!

"Master, master, end Ryuuen's exam now, leave her with no way out. I've already prepared a secret weapon!"

Just thinking about a certain scene, Kushida smile bloomed like a summer flower.

Kaoru Mitoma wasn't concerned about her secret weapon.

Seeing the desire on her, he said, "Good, you know to call me master in private. You deserve a little reward."

Kushida had a bad feeling and sure enough, she heard his command the next second.

"Good girl, squat down."

Chapter 194: Damn it, woof woof woof!

"Huh? What do you mean? Wanting to do something weird in a place like this is just too perverted!"

Kushida blushed furiously, her eyes glaring at Kaoru Mitoma with anger.

This guy definitely wanted to vent his earlier lust on her.

Even though she had agreed to be his pet, it didn't mean she was willing to satisfy him in a place like this!

What if someone passed by?

Her image would be completely ruined!

She had only agreed to maintain her persona, so how could she possibly agree to do something indecent now!

"Don't worry, I just want to experiment with some ideas," Kaoru Mitoma thought for a moment.

"Why don't you look at it from a different angle? Maybe only by experiencing it firsthand will you understand the limits, making it easier for us to adjust in the future?"

"Hey, hey, I'm not a three-year-old! How can you say something like that?" Kushida's chest trembled with anger.

Did this guy think she was stupid?

"If you're not willing, let's switch it up," Kaoru Mitoma began rummaging through his belongings and actually pulled out a collar.

"I thought about preparing this a long time ago. Considering this trip, I bought this collar and plan to have some fun with you in a secluded place."

Not only did he plan to have fun with Kikyo Kushida, but also with Arisu Sakayanagi, Masumi Kamuro and Suzune Horikita.

He was fully prepared.

However, Kushida stared blankly at the collar in his hand, seemingly not processing what was happening.

It wasn't until Kaoru Mitoma shoved the collar into her hand that she came to her senses a bit.

"Are you an idiot?" Kushida couldn't comprehend his thoughts.

"This kind of thing should be used on Horikita! Besides, how could I possibly lead you around in a place like this? If you're crazy, don't drag me into it!"

"There's no one around now. Either you lead me, or I lead you. You choose."

Despite Kaoru Mitoma's nonchalant demeanor, Kushida still couldn't bring herself to trust him, unless he was some kind of masochist who enjoyed being stepped on by girls.

Wait, that actually seemed like something this pervert would do.

After much internal struggle and hesitation, Kushida stammered as she handed the collar back.

"You... you lead... you do it... but let's make it clear, tonight is the only time... if anyone sees... I won't hesitate to kill you."

Although she issued a final warning to Kaoru, Kushida didn't have much confidence.

Maybe this was just a test designed to examine her loyalty.

If she agreed without thinking, she might very well end up in a punishment phase.

"Aren't you afraid someone might see now?" Kaoru Mitoma was puzzled.

For once, he was actually considering Kushida's feelings, but she herself had refused.

Kushida flashed a bright smile, her voice incredibly gentle.

"Oh, Master, if you want to play, no matter where we are, I'll satisfy you. But let's try to keep it under a minute, or else there might be unfavorable rumors about you tomorrow, tarnishing your image."

Despite her smiling face, Kaoru Mitoma couldn't sense any genuine warmth in it.

"It's fine. Having such an adorable little dog like Kikyo, I'd be willing to drive luxury cars and live in mansions," Kaoru Mitoma said as he unfastened the collar.

"Don't worry, it'll be over soon."

"Grr... I'll kill you sooner or later..." Kushida stood still, a hint of disgust in her eyes, muttering under her breath.

However, the devil before her paid no heed.

The collar in his hand fell onto the girl's neck, accompanied by a crisp sound.

The girl couldn't help but close her eyes, as if she were a saint about to ascend the altar.

Just a few months ago, she could never have imagined such a fate fallen to her.

Clink, clink—

The chain of the collar trembled a few times.

Kushida opened her eyes and found that it wasn't as heavy as she had imagined, though it was still quite embarrassing.

"Kneel down."

The girl hesitated for only a second or two before slowly kneeling in front of him, her head slightly lowered, awaiting the next instruction.

The thick night enveloped the surroundings, the once golden sea now painted with a clear ink-like hue.

The entire world seemed to consist solely of this cruise ship.

Neon lights bathed the deck, also falling on the girl's hair, making it shimmer slightly.

The soft glow slid down her shoulders, her snow-white arms and her perky chest gently rising and falling.

Even with her head lowered, one could see her delicate face, like an angel under the moonlight.

Looking at her slightly pink lips, it was hard to imagine that the usually gentle and adorable little angel would now be kneeling on the ground like a puppy.

The collar around her neck was so conspicuous, the chain extending all the way to Kaoru Mitoma's hand, as if he were truly leading a little dog.

[Pick up Kikyo Kushida and help her pee]

[Kushida-san, please, please be my little puppy!]

[If you don't understand, just ask, shouldn't a little puppy go for a walk outside?]

[Sorry, I want to be her dog]

[If you don't obey, you'll get spanked]

[Start becoming the best dog trainer with Kikyo Kushida]

[Since she's already wearing a collar, it's time to hehehe]

...

"Bark twice?"

Hearing Kaoru Mitoma's voice, Kikyo Kushida clenched her teeth.

She knew she couldn't escape this.

Since things have already come to this, there's no choice but to go along with it.

The sooner it's done, the sooner the burden is lifted.

"Woof... woof woof woof!" Kushida had pretty much thrown caution to the wind, her face flushed red.

"I'll kill you sooner or later, I'll kill you sooner or later, I'll kill you sooner or later..."

As if comforting herself, she kept muttering these words over and over.

[Ding! Wish fully granted—Kushida-san, please, please be my little puppy!]

[Obtained...]

"You did well Kushida, but try to make your voice a bit more high-pitched," Kaoru Mitoma patted her head as encouragement.

If he hadn't touched her, it might have been fine, but now that he did, Kushida felt like she really was a little puppy, receiving her master's affection.

"D-don't move... If you have any more requests, you'd better say them quickly."

"Seems like you can't wag your tail."

"Idiot, how could a human have a tail?!"

"What should you call me?"

"Master, I'll wag my butt for you."

Though her cheeks were burning red, Kushida still wore a smile as she gently lowered herself to the ground, her round and perky little butt swaying slightly.

The movement wasn't too exaggerated, likely because she was forcing herself to stay composed.

However, this subtle motion was even more alluring, as if deliberately teasing Kaoru Mitoma.

Kushida seemed to know exactly what to do.

She tilted her pretty face upward, her eyes misty with shyness, yet she tried her best to look directly at Kaoru Mitoma.

Her lips parted slightly as she whispered.

"Is Master satisfied?"

She had already thrown all shame to the wind, so what else could Kaoru Mitoma do but nod?

"Where did you learn all this?"

"Of course, I learned it from Master. I think every day about how to satisfy you," Kushida smiled like a painting.

She would never reveal even a hint to Kaoru Mitoma—such extremely private matters were for her alone to know.

Kaoru Mitoma was very familiar with this smile of hers.

Most of the time, she would wear this expression, so perfect that it was almost impossible to tell it was fake.

"What would your classmates think if they saw you like this?"

"Mitoma!"

"As long as you behave, that won't happen."

Kaoru Mitoma gently tugged on the leash, signaling her to lie down.

No explanation was needed. Kushida understood instantly, glaring at him indignantly before placing her hands on the ground, her knees also kneeling, assuming a position on all fours.

Kaoru Mitoma fell silent.

This girl had probably seen her fair share of kinky stuff.

Instead of heading toward the brightly lit areas, Kaoru Mitoma led Kushida, strolling between the stars and the sea.

Their shadows fell one after the other on the deck.

Though he couldn't see the girl's expression, he occasionally caught glimpses of her shadow crawling forward, her ample chest swaying from time to time, her alluring curves drawing the man's gaze.

"E-enough, right?" Kushida entire body was burning up, letting the cool night breeze brush against her cheeks.

The surrounding silence eased her previously tense mood.

"Do you want to play too?" Kaoru Mitoma asked.

"... How could I possibly want to lead the master? It can only be the master leading his little, little puppy." Kushida Kikyo just wanted to end this quickly, it was too embarrassing, her heart was racing non-stop.

Just the act of walking while being led seemed to be too much for her to handle.

"Can you still stand up?"

Kaoru Mitoma then extended his hand to her.

Since he had already fulfilled two wishes, ending the night here wasn't bad.

Kushida originally didn't want his help, but her knees were aching.

Gritting her teeth, she eventually placed her hand in his.

Once Kushida was almost steady, Kaoru Mitoma began to remove the collar from her neck.

Looking into Kaoru Mitoma's calm eyes, Kushida felt a bit strange for some reason.

Was this it?

No need for her to kneel and then help with that kind of thing?

Wait, she remembered that Kaoru Mitoma didn't seem to have the reaction a man should have.

Could it be that this guy has some kind of illness?

Thinking this, Kushida face turned odd, but then she thought, this is just perfect, very advantageous for her!

However, before she could think further, Kaoru Mitoma suddenly tensed up, stopped removing the collar and instead grabbed her wrist, pulling her into a dark corner.

"I knew you were..." Kushida was furious, but before she could finish, Kaoru Mitoma covered her mouth.

Soon after, the sound of a conversation gradually approached from not far away.

"Wow, even though Mitoma-kun is one of the top students this year, Mashima-kun threw him into the Snake group, it's too much. He must be showing off because there are too many excellent students in Class A!"

"You've had too much to drink, Chie."

"I haven't drunk too much and you, Sae-chan, are also envious of Class A, aren't you?"

"Don't impose your thoughts on me."

Hearing the voices, Kushida who had wanted to bite him, stopped her action.

Chapter 195: Slightly Not Disliking ≠ Not Disliking

Sae Chabashira and Chie Hoshinomiya.

Although he noticed they had a good relationship, running into them at night was somewhat unexpected for Kaoru Mitoma.

Especially since, judging from their conversation, they must have had quite a bit to drink at a bar.

Kaoru Mitoma glanced in their direction and saw Chie Hoshinomiya, eyes blurred with alcohol, clinging to Sae Chabashira's arm, muttering things like "so annoying" and "so sly."

Hiss—

The hand that was covering Kushida mouth suddenly felt a cool, as if she had licked it.

Kaoru Mitoma looked down and met her slightly moist gaze, probably a sign of protest.

"Don't speak, wait until they leave before making a sound."

Thinking she was uncomfortable, Kaoru Mitoma slowly released his hand, though a cool sensation lingered on his palm.

Kushida face was slightly red, but she remained silent.

She couldn't very well say she had intended to bite him, could she?

"Don't just talk about Mashima-kun, didn't you also throw Ichinose into the Snake group?"

"Because I was curious, Class A scored over five hundred points on the uninhabited island, suddenly becoming unreachable. It's only natural to want to know who did it!"

"So you still care about Class A, Chie."

"Hehehe, as if you don't care at all."

Not only could Chabashira Sae hear the hint of sarcasm in Hoshinomiya Chie's tone, but even Kaoru Mitoma, who was hiding in the corner, could sense it.

"Hehe, think whatever you want. I've already let it go" Chabashira Sae's voice was icy cold.

"Besides, according to the usual practice of previous years, Mitoma and Ichinose should have been assigned to the Dragon Group. You two are really doing as you please."

"Well, there's no helping it. Ichinose still has a lot to learn, and the quality of this year's students is exceptionally high. With Katsuragi-kun, Mitoma-kun, and Sakayanagi-san in Class A, surpassing them is quite difficult. I've given up!" Hoshinomiya Chie poked her cheek with a smile, as if the stronger Class A became, the happier she was.

Chabashira Sae swatted away her mischievous hand, feeling extremely irritated.

She had forced Ayanokouji Kiyotaka to take things seriously, but he still seemed to be slacking off.

Was this passive resistance?

Moreover, three groups had been concluded in one night.

Although it wasn't a historical record, it was enough to raise Chabashira Sae's vigilance.

Based on her experience, it was likely that someone was taking action.

However, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka still acted as if he didn't care, which was making her increasingly frustrated.

The only silver lining was that Hoshinomiya Chie was still unaware of Ayanokouji Kiyotaka existence.

But thinking about the Kaoru Mitoma mentioned by Hoshinomiya Chie, Chabashira Sae felt another wave of anxiety.

From the students' perspective, most of them couldn't see the full picture of the exam, but for teachers like Chabashira Sae and Hoshinomiya Chie, every move of the students was basically under their watchful eyes.

If only... if only such a student could appear in Class D, Chabashira Sae sometimes fantasized with a sense of frustration.

Clink—

Suddenly, a faint sound came from the corner, immediately catching Chabashira Sae's attention.

It sounded like the clinking of a chain?

Just as Chabashira Sae had guessed, Kaoru Mitoma had already removed Kushida collar.

"Did they find us?" Kushida Kikyou whispered.

"Move further in, and do it quietly" Kaoru Mitoma thought calmly.

The corner where they were hiding was near a piece of equipment on the deck, and beyond that was the railing and the sea.

Kushida Kikyo took two steps forward but suddenly stopped.

"What's wrong?"

"My... my legs feel a bit weak."

The area ahead was narrow, with dim lighting and there wasn't much space to stand before the railing.

Naturally, a girl would feel instinctively scared.

So, Kaoru Mitoma took her hand.

"I'm behind you. No matter what happens, I'll hold onto you," Kaoru Mitoma's words sped up slightly as the sound behind them grew closer.

"They'll probably just take a quick look and won't linger here. We'll be out soon."

Kushida bit her lip lightly.

At this point, she was too embarrassed to mention that her knees were sore from crawling on the ground earlier.

However, his hand was indeed gripping hers tightly.

Thinking of this, her heartbeat quickened.

Kushida stiffly moved forward, circling to the back of the equipment, right next to the railing.

Kaoru Mitoma then squeezed in beside her and the two were almost pressed together, one in front of the other.

"Don't come closer if you're reeking of alcohol."

"Don't be so stingy, Sae-chan?"

"Get lost."

As they walked to a certain spot, Sae Chabashira inadvertently glanced towards the corner but saw no one there.

Strange, was she overthinking it?

As they walked further away, Kaoru Mitoma fell into deep thought.

From the conversation just now, he could discern a few things.

First, the teachers actually cared about Class A.

Second, it seemed that the teachers could manipulate this Exam, assigning members to different groups based on their own whims.

Considering the rules of the VIP Student, this special exam was more complicated than he had anticipated.

It seemed that the competition between classes also involved their respective homeroom teachers.

While Kaoru Mitoma was lost in thought, Kushida also felt a mix of emotions.

He had noticed someone passing by earlier than she did, immediately hiding with her and not deliberately embarrassing her in front of outsiders.

Although the crawling play was embarrassing and she didn't want to experience it a second time, he had specifically chosen the evening and a secluded place, seemingly taking Kushida's feelings into account.

She had been worried that he might make her lose composure in front of others, but now it seemed he had no such intention.

He hadn't let go of her hand yet and the collar around her neck had been removed.

Kushida could feel him behind her, his faint breath reaching her ears.

For some reason, Kushida's thoughts were in disarray.

"When... when did you notice Sae chan-sensei and Hoshinomiya-sensei?"

Kaoru Mitoma looked at her in confusion.

Were the students of Class D this close with their homeroom teacher?

"They appeared from behind you, so it's normal you didn't see them."

"O-oh, I see..." Kushida fell silent for a moment. "Do you want to play some more?"

As soon as the words left her mouth, she regretted it.

Why had she brought up the idea herself?

"No, I'm satisfied already. Besides, it would be troublesome if someone else passed by," Kaoru Mitoma replied straightforwardly.

Since they weren't facing each other, he naturally couldn't see Kushida's expression, which was like the sea under the moonlight—calm on the surface but with turbulent undercurrents beneath.

"Y-yeah, you're right!" Kushida's voice betrayed no abnormality, but she already knew one thing.

This guy wasn't just a simple pervert after all.

I'm starting to dislike him a little less.

As soon as this thought crossed Kushida mind, her nerves, which had been tense all along, quietly relaxed, leaving only the beating of her heart in her chest.

However, Kaoru Mitoma suddenly raised her right hand and brought his face close to her armpit.

Huh?

Chapter 196: So This Is the Smell

Caught off guard by his sudden move, Kushida was completely froze.

Her arm was lifted high, revealing the fair and delicate skin beneath her sleeve.

Her smooth armpit showed no trace of hair and the faint capillaries resembled light ink cherry blossoms, with the curved areas like buds, exuding a sweet fragrance, soft and tender.

Perhaps because she was wearing short sleeves, not only could her clean armpit be seen, but a glimpse of her breast base also appeared, with a hint of lace edging in pure white like snow.

Kaoru Mitoma moved closer, his hot breath hitting Kushida skin, causing her to tremble involuntarily.

She instinctively tried to break free from his grip.

"L-Let go, you perverted pig, lowly and filthy pervert! You're so disgusting, what are you even thinking?!"

No girl would ever like this kind of behavior.

At this moment, Kushida face was so red it seemed like it could drip blood, overwhelmed with shame.

However, her resistance didn't seem to faze Kaoru Mitoma.

Instead, he asked in confusion, "Strange, you're clearly sweating, so why is there no smell?"

After walking with Kushida for a while, she should have sweated a little.

Moreover, she happened to be wearing short sleeves tonight, making it convenient for him to lean in and smell her.

But oddly, Kaoru Mitoma sniffed carefully but didn't detect the expected sweat odor.

Instead, he smelled the natural scent of the girl's body, mixed with the fragrance of her shower gel, sweet and tempting, making him want to take a lick.

Wait, if I can't smell it, maybe I can taste it?

"I don't have that kind of thing on me!" Kushida was embarrassed and angry to care about being discovered by others as she shouted, "How could there possibly be a smell here, you perverted master? Let go of me right now, it's really disgusting..."

By the end, her voice turned into something akin to a wail, her body trembling uncontrollably, her arm shaking.

"W-Wait, what are you licking? This is... ugh... so gross... ugh..."

Unlike the feeling of having her breasts touched, having her armpit licked made Kushida entire body tense up, her skin crawling.

Seeing that he wasn't letting go, Kushida panicked and punched him in the chest.

"Ouch... but so.... its smells like this. It's not entirely unacceptable." After saying this, Kaoru Mitoma took a few more punches.

"Pervert! Pig! Filthy dog! Foot fetishist! Armpit fetishist! Your brain is full of nothing but perversion!" Kushida was furious.

Even when he made her wear a collar, she hadn't been this angry.

Not only did he sniff a girl's armpit, but he also kept talking about the smell.

It was so disgusting!

She couldn't take it anymore.

Didn't he know that girls were particularly sensitive about things like this?

"Stop hitting me, stop! If you keep going, I'll start bleeding internally." Kaoru Mitoma dodged her punches while noticing that yet another wish had disappeared.

"Then just die, you pervert!" Kushida mercilessly swung her fist.

Kaoru Mitoma caught her punch and cleared his throat, "Ahem, the lighting here isn't good. Let's talk outside."

Kushida snorted coldly but tacitly agreed to his suggestion.

It was indeed difficult to move freely here.

"Seriously, what else haven't you done to me? Don't tell me, besides all this, you're also into lingerie and naked apron!"

"Is that the image I have in your mind?"

"Tsk, who was it that just licked... sniffed... it's too disgusting, I can't even say it. In short, you're a pervert!"

Kaoru Mitoma felt somewhat depressed.

Why did it seem like she was even angrier than when she was wearing the collar?

Logically speaking, crawling on the ground like a little dog should be more embarrassing, right?

As they stepped out of the dim corner, the cool night air brushed against their cheeks.

Thick clouds obscured the moonlight and the stars had dimmed considerably.

"By the way, I have something to tell you."

Kaoru Mitoma turned around just in time to see Kushida walking out into the light.

The faint glow passed through the shadows, gently falling on her delicate, fair skin.

Her exquisite, pretty face was slightly flushed, whether from anger or the earlier shame.

Anyone who saw this scene would feel a ripple in their heart, involuntarily recalling her persona.

And just moments ago, Kaoru Mitoma not only made her wear a collar but also licked her armpit.

It was only natural for her to be angry.

"No licking my feet!" Kushida took two cautious steps back.

Compared to licking her armpit or feet, she'd rather continue wearing his collar and let him lead her around crawling.

After all, he wouldn't do anything too extreme.

Seeing her like this, Kaoru Mitoma didn't bother trying to salvage his image and simply said.

"You should know Karuizawa from your class, right? Keep an eye on her for me these next few days."

Kushida was stunned.

What was this? He wanted her to keep an eye on another girl?

"You're not planning to make a move on her, are you?"

Aside from this reason, Kushida couldn't think of why Kaoru Mitoma would be interested in Karuizawa Kei.

"Just a passing interest. She does have a boyfriend, after all." Kaoru Mitoma couldn't reveal the truth, so he had to be vague.

Kushida curled her lip and said disdainfully, "You're way too energetic. Horikita, Ichinose, Kamuro, and Sakayanagi—aren't they enough for you?"

Kaoru Mitoma's expression turned strange.

These people were all more troublesome than the last.

If he really tried to force anything, they might actually call the police.

Only you are the easiest to handle.

However, if he said that out loud, Kushida would probably bite him to death on the spot.

"I may be lustful, but I know how to control myself. I like to change things up occasionally."

He expected Kushida to mock him, but instead, she just glared at him with slight dissatisfaction.

"Don't say I didn't warn you. Karuizawa is definitely not simple. If you're deceived by her appearance, you can still turn back now."

Kushida had no evidence, just a woman's instinctive intuition.

"I have a rough idea about her situation," Kaoru Mitoma recalled the sensation of the girl's touch, the warmth and softness of her small breast and the scar on her abdomen.

"Although we are classmates, don't expect me to help you. My relationship with her is strictly within the bounds of ordinary friendship," Kushida paused, "If you plan to violate her, don't involve me."

Kaoru Mitoma's face darkened, "I want to make it very clear to you, from the start of the term until now, I have not violated any girl."

"Better be that way," Kushida continued to sneer on the surface, but inexplicably felt a sense of relief inside, a certain feeling growing stronger.

Kaoru Mitoma was about to go back to rest when he suddenly remembered something and added.

"Almost forgot, keep an eye on Hasebe-san for me too."

"Perverved breast lover!"

For some reason, Kushida directly cursed him.

The sun rose, and the sea sparkled with a brilliant light.

As the coffee shop came into view, Kamuro Masumi glanced at the girl beside her.

Her soft hair fell over her shoulders and her face, illuminated by the white light, displayed an indescribable purity and cuteness.

Along the way, people would occasionally steal glances at the girl and the whispers never ceased.

"So cute, I can't stand it!"

"I wish she would beat me hard with her cane, even if I die, I'd be willing!"

"This girl is only good for her looks, can't compare to our Katsuragi-san."

"Things should calm down next semester, after all, our Katsuragi faction won."

Since the end of the uninhabited island exam, Kamuro Masumi would always hear these voices around her, yet she remained indifferent, completely ignoring them.

"Hehe, Kamuro-san, are you thinking about Mitoma-kun again?"

"Not at all."

"So cold, is it really not because I'm delaying your meeting with Mitoma-kun?" Arisu Sakayanagi said somewhat sadly.

"Sorry, because of my inconvenient legs, I've been causing you trouble all along. You really don't have to take care of me."

So you do know you're causing trouble, huh?

Since you're well aware, then stop making me do your work!

"Clearly, it's you who's very concerned about that perverted foot fetishist, right?" Kamuro Masumi said expressionlessly, she had personally seen Arisu Sakayanagi mention Kaoru Mitoma countless times in her room.

"After all, he's the man who makes my heart flutter. Just thinking about him makes my heart want to jump out" Arisu Sakayanagi covered her chest, as if her heart was about to burst out the next second.

Kamuro Masumi pouted, this guy was just like Kaoru Mitoma, mostly talking nonsense.

The two entered the coffee shop and Arisu Sakayanagi leisurely took a seat, letting Kamuro Masumi place the order.

When Kamuro Masumi returned with two drinks, she slightly raised her head and used her little finger to tuck a strand of hair behind her ear.

"Sorry, it seems I've accidentally made you do my work again."

"As long as you don't end up becoming a perverted foot fetishist's maid."

"Kamuro-san, do you want me to give you a break so you can go see him now?"

"If you want me to follow him, just say it. Besides, haven't you already sent Yamamura over?"

Faced with the disgruntled Kamuro Masumi, Arisu Sakayanagi chuckled a few times, then sighed.

"I didn't expect I would become more interested in him."

She admitted that her competitive spirit had indeed flared up at that moment.

After all, who would have thought that as soon as she went to probe, the other party immediately revealed they already knew the answer.

Although after returning, Arisu Sakayanagi had also deduced the correct answer during the first group discussion through the self-introduction session.

However, she felt an inexplicable sense of loss in her heart.

The answer was simple; anyone could have deduced it just by looking at the list of participants.

It was just that some people were faster, and some were slower in this process of deduction.

If it weren't for Kaoru Mitoma, Arisu Sakayanagi could have deduced the answer on the very first day of the exam, which would have been considered exceptionally fast.

The difference of just a few hours between them had completely changed the situation.

She was now in a passive position, while Kaoru Mitoma held the initiative.

Chapter 197: Wanting to Understand Him More

"By the way, Kamuro-san, have you done anything bad with him?"

Faced with Arisu Sakayanagi's sudden question, Kamuro Masumi thought she was deliberately trying to tease her and felt both embarrassed and annoyed.

"Do I have to be as shameless as you?"

Although the two of them had indeed done some bad things, it was Kaoru Mitoma who had forced her, not her own initiative.

So, she glared at Arisu Sakayanagi with full confidence.

Arisu Sakayanagi leisurely added some sugar to her coffee and after stirring it evenly, the aroma of the coffee gradually wafted up.

"Kamuro-san, your word is too harsh. Even I would feel hurt."

"I'm sorry... I'm just really bothered when I think about him."

"Is it because he often plays with other girls?"

Kamuro Masumi subtly averted her gaze.

There were many things she hadn't reported to Arisu Sakayanagi, such as Kushida and Horikita.

The erotic scenes still lingered in her mind—Kushida blushing as she lifted her skirt and the scenes on the deserted island left a deep impression on her.

She couldn't understand what Kaoru Mitoma was thinking, daring to do such things in front of her.

Kamuro Masumi felt slightly uncomfortable.

"I see, I understand." Arisu Sakayanagi took a sip of her coffee. "In fact, I'm just as concerned about this as you are. Not to mention Morishita-san in our class, he seems to be quite interested in kids from other classes as well."

It wasn't just interest!

Kamuro Masumi felt that if things continued this way, they might not be far from the final step.

"Why bring this up suddenly?"

"Human talent is determined from the moment of birth. Postnatal learning is merely about continuously strengthening certain abilities." Arisu Sakayanagi looked at the steaming coffee in front of her.

"If he were to defeat me, I could accept that result because he is undoubtedly a genius, not some fraud."

Kamuro Masumi stared at her blankly.

Wasn't this topic a bit too heavy?

"Mitoma-kun hasn't exceeded my understanding, but sometimes he does leave me feeling quite puzzled."

At this point, Arisu Sakayanagi rarely showed a hesitant and bewildered expression.

"A pervert?" Kamuro Masumi ventured.

Arisu Sakayanagi nodded. "I can accept that he has some quirks, but he doesn't give me a sense of excitement. Instead, he seems very restrained and calm."

Anyone who sees a man earnestly holding his own ankle and then seriously licking it would naturally fall into self-doubt.

Because under normal circumstances, when encountering something they enjoy, even the most indifferent person would inevitably show excitement and happiness.

However, Kaoru Mitoma showed no sign of losing composure, as if he were treating it like a delicacy, meticulously consuming it clean.

It was too strange.

Arisu Sakayanagi couldn't quite put this feeling into words.

"So, I want to understand his heart," the girl whispered softly. "No one would do such things without a reason. I want to know why."

Kamuro Masumi was slightly taken aback, suddenly feeling a pang of something sour.

She had never thought about it this way, always assuming that Kaoru Mitoma was just inherently perverse.

"So, are you planning to surrender and become his maid?" Kamuro Masumi slightly teased her, as if trying to change the subject.

"Haha, it's too early to say that. Unpredictable things always happen in this world," Arisu Sakayanagi smiled faintly.

In fact, Kaoru Mitoma had guessed correctly.

She had presented two options, both of which forced a draw between the two sides.

It might sound a bit embarrassing, but preventing the other side from achieving their desired outcome could still be considered a victory, albeit a basic one.

After hearing about Honami Ichinose's thoughts from Masayoshi Hashimoto and Miki Yamamura, Arisu Sakayanagi quickly made her judgment.

Yes, with Honami Ichinose 'the good-natured person' around, achieving the first outcome wouldn't be difficult.

Therefore, Arisu Sakayanagi immediately approached Kakeru Ryuen.

Through an exchange of information, they secretly agreed on a contract.

If Class A sensed something was off and ended most of the group exams early, then as compensation, Class C would be free to attack Class A VIPs.

If everything went normally, Class C would not attack the groups with Class A's VIPs and would cooperate with Arisu Sakayanagi to achieve the first outcome.

The other groups would be free for Class C to attack.

Under this plan, both she and Kakeru Ryuen could get what they wanted.

However, Arisu Sakayanagi preferred the first outcome.

Originally expected gains that ended up being significant losses were even more frustrating.

But—

"No matter how I think about it, my heart keeps racing," Arisu Sakayanagi gently pressed her slightly raised chest, her face flushed.

"What will he do next? Why am i so nervous..."

Kamuro Masumi had a dark expression on her face.

She knew the most perverted one wasn't herself, but this seemingly innocent little girl in front of her!

And, most likely, a masochist too!

"Hahaha, Kamuro-san, I won't pretend I didn't hear that."

"I didn't say anything!"

"Because we're good friends."

"Ugh... why do you and that foot fetishist seem to have mind-reading abilities!"

After teasing Kamuro Masumi for a while, Arisu Sakayanagi finally saw the person she was waiting for appear at the café.

"Good morning, Hirata-kun."

Indeed, the person who appeared here was the nominal leader of Class D, Yosuke Hirata.

"Is there something you wanted to discuss with me by inviting me here?" Yosuke Hirata looked puzzled.

"I wanted to talk to you about the first outcome," Arisu Sakayanagi smiled faintly.

Class D could serve as a backup attacker.

"Sorry, although I personally want the first outcome too, I still don't know who the VIP in the group is," Yosuke Hirata smiled wryly, thinking she was referring to the Dragon group.

"No, that's not what I meant. Achieving the first outcome in the Dragon group would be good, but I have a more suitable plan."

Arisu Sakayanagi sat on the chair, her posture proper, her lips slightly curved and her gaze unwavering, making it hard for Yosuke Hirata to look away.

"I want to discuss the VIPs in other groups with Class D."

"Phew, finally finished reading. It really is a good novel."

On the other side, Kaoru Mitoma closed the novel in his hands.

Upon hearing his sentiments, Hiyori Shiina also smiled softly and said.

"Actually, you don't have to read so quickly. The stories of Detective Poirot are no less fascinating than those of Sherlock Holmes."

"Because they're so captivating, I want to know if the answer matches my own thoughts, so I have to read faster," Kaoru Mitoma replied. "But indeed, it's a great story."

Then, he began to share his thoughts on the book with Hiyori Shiina, discussing the characters and plot.

Shiina listened attentively.

In their entire grade, only Kaoru Mitoma didn't reject her interests and actively engaged with her.

Having a friend to share thoughts on books with felt wonderful.

Chapter 198: The Pure-hearted Literary Girl

Since it was just a cruise ship, the library here was far from the grandeur of ANHS library.

Most of the books on the shelves were common leisure reads.

Over the past few days, Hiyori Shiina had mostly been reading the novels she brought with her, while Kaoru Mitoma sometimes read the books she recommended and other times picked up some leisure reads.

After all, students couldn't bring much luggage on board.

Even though Hiyori had packed quite a few books in her suitcase, as Kaoru read through them, they gradually ran out.

Like the Detective Poirot she mentioned, the protagonist of Agatha Christie's works, who was no less remarkable than Sherlock Holmes, though the latter was more familiar to most people.

Hiyori had only brought "Death on the Nile" and "Murder on the Orient Express," and she didn't expect Kaoru to finish them both in one morning.

"There are many more exciting stories ahead. If you like her style, you can also check out Miss Marple."

Considering that Kaoru rarely read mystery novels, Hiyori patiently explained who Miss Marple was.

Miss Marple was another protagonist of Agatha Christie's, unlike Sherlock Holmes or Poirot.

She was just an ordinary old lady, and her cases were usually confined to her village.

Though she couldn't compare to the great detectives, her unique methods of deduction were refreshing, making one wonder how an old lady would solve the cases.

"You really are a mystery books fan."

At Kaoru's teasing, Hiyori blushed slightly, feeling a bit embarrassed.

"When I read, I can't help but immerse myself in the story. Every time I think about the characters and what they've done, they feel so vivid."

As she spoke, she suddenly became shy.

"And... when faced with the same case, I think along with them... and then, I want to solve the case faster than they do."

Although Hiyori lowered her voice in embarrassment, it was clear she was sincere, probably echoing the thoughts of every mystery fan.

After all, once the author presents a case, not only does the protagonist have to figure out how to solve it, but so does the reader.

Especially in classic mysteries, it's a battle of wits between the author and the reader.

It was evident that Hiyori loved classic mysteries, and such thoughts were quite natural.

Kaoru, on the other hand, was more fond of narrative tricks and anagrams.

"No wonder you always spot the key clues in the cases I've read before," Kaoru said curiously.

"But constantly thinking about how to solve cases, doesn't that get tiring?"

Hiyori shook her head and then gestured to the book in her hand.

"I'll take my time reading a book, it might take me a day or two."

"That's a very devout way to put it."

"Is it strange?" She tilted her head, seemingly recalling something, "Actually, besides mysteries, I also read other novels, not just mysteries!"

Kaoru Mitoma was quite surprised, unable to imagine what kind of novels a girl who had recommended hard-boiled mysteries to him usually read.

"Such a rude gaze!" Hiyori Shiina noticed his doubtful look, "Like Ryunosuke Akutagawa, Junichi Watanabe, Kobo Abe, I usually read them too."

"Junichi Watanabe?" Kaoru Mitoma's expression turned peculiar.

Originally, she didn't think much of it, but seeing his strange expression, Hiyori Shiina slowly realized, her face slightly reddening.

"Lewd."

It was the first time he heard this word from the girl's mouth, not like she was scolding someone, but with a somewhat light feeling.

Kaoru Mitoma suddenly understood why some people would willingly be scolded by a beautiful girl, because it really sounded pleasant.

"I haven't said anything yet."

"Anyway, it's lewd."

"Could it be that Shiina-san treats Watanabe novels as erotica?"

"Nonsense, not at all."

Hiyori Shiina raised the novel to cover her slightly flushed cheeks, because she not only thought of Junichi Watanabe's descriptions but also remembered what Kaoru Mitoma had done to Kamuro Masumi.

Now, the two were very close, and there weren't many people around, so he might do something to her.

Just thinking about this, Hiyori Shiina couldn't stop blushing.

She knew Kaoru Mitoma wouldn't make a move on her, after all, the two had been alone together for several days and Kaoru Mitoma had always been well-behaved.

But precisely because of this, she felt embarrassed.

Kaoru Mitoma shifted his gaze away from the girl, this reaction was too innocent.

After experiencing Kamuro Masumi's temper and Kikyō Kushida's two-facedness, a pure girl like Hiyori Shiina felt very fresh to him.

"Are there any other novels to read?" Kaoru Mitoma diverted his attention.

"No, I only brought a few books." Hiyori Shiina said with a bit of apology.

"Sorry, I read too fast." Kaoru Mitoma said, "Anyway, the trip is almost over, we can read more when we get back to school."

Hiyori Shiina smiled lightly, happily humming in agreement, because they would have another chance to exchange thoughts on novels.

"By the way, Shiina-san, what do you think of this exam?" Kaoru Mitoma suddenly asked.

Today was already the second day of the official exam, gradually entering the middle phase, and it would be over in one more day.

Hiyori Shiina thought for a moment, softly saying, "If possible, I'd like to achieve Outcome One."

She was the VIP of the Snake group, for her, Outcome One was the most ideal ending, also in line with Class C's interests, followed by Outcome Two.

But with Class A knowing the rules, achieving Outcome One was too difficult and even Outcome Two couldn't be guaranteed.

"It might be a bit presumptuous, but does Shiina-san also want to advance to Class A?" Kaoru Mitoma continued to ask.

Hiyori Shiina shook her head, giving a very clear answer.

"I prefer to read books quietly." As she spoke, she added, "If necessary, I will also participate in class actions."

In other words, she wouldn't participate in actions if it wasn't necessary.

Although most people aspire to graduate from Class A, there are exceptions like Hiyori Shiina.

For her, being able to peacefully complete her high school life and read her favorite books is already a source of happiness.

"If I can achieve Outcome One, I can buy the novels I love."

Hiyori Shiina was seriously contemplating which books to purchase, as her reading list was extensive.

The reward for the VIP was a million personal points, enough for her to buy many books.

However, Ryuen hadn't told her the truth, so she hadn't noticed anything unusual about Kaoru Mitoma.

"I remember your Class C has over five hundred class points. Don't tell me you usually spend all of them on books?"

"I'm not a fool. I do have necessary living expenses, but there's no need to keep the remaining personal points."

Seeing her pouting expression, Kaoru Mitoma fell silent.

Wasn't this still an obsession with books?

"But I also know that Outcome One is hard to achieve, so I won't dwell on it too much," Hiyori Shiina said.

"Do you want to achieve Outcome One, Mitoma-kun?"

She remembered the conversation between Kaoru Mitoma and Honami Ichinose and was curious about Kaoru Mitoma's thoughts.

"I do, but reality doesn't always go as planned. One VIP is worth 50 points," Kaoru Mitoma replied vaguely.

Hiyori Shiina slightly opened her mouth but ultimately didn't reveal her identity.

She now represented the interests of Class C and couldn't make decisions alone.

At 1 PM.

Kaoru Mitoma and Hiyori Shiina arrived at the Snake Group's room together.

After a while, the last member, Miki Yamamura, arrived late.

Thus, the third group discussion began.

Perhaps because the atmosphere last time was good, Honami Ichinose pulled everyone into playing cards again.

Since there was no attempt to continue targeting Kaoru Mitoma, Honami Ichinose received almost no punishment.

The ones who received the most punishments were Miki Yamamura and Kyogo Komiya.

It seemed as if they had forgotten about the VIP Student and everyone had a great time.

In the end, Honami Ichinose even suggested trying other games in the evening.

As the bell rang, the third group discussion ended peacefully.

Just as Kaoru Mitoma stepped out of the room, the voice of Kakeru Ryuen could be heard not far away.

"Tsk, I didn't expect you two to be in the Snake group."

Kakeru Ryuen casually walked up to Kaoru Mitoma, hands in his pockets, first locking eyes with Kaoru Mitoma before glancing at Honami Ichinose, who had yet to leave.

"Hahaha, Ichinose, you should be sitting in Kanzaki's spot. I didn't expect you to be assigned to such a hopeless trash team," Ryuen mocked Ichinose as if no one else was around.

"It seems you two are only capable of this level."

"The grouping was decided by the school. Rather than questioning why Mitoma-kun and I ended up in the Snake group, shouldn't you be pondering why Ryuen-kun wasn't assigned to the Snake group?" Honami Ichinose smiled.

"Or have you figured out the school's intentions, Ryuen-kun?"

Ryuen scoffed.

"It seems you don't understand anything."

"What do you mean by that?" Kaoru Mitoma didn't expose his thoughts, after all, it was somewhat of a trek to walk from the Dragon group's room to the Snake group's room.

Ryuen smiled, knowing that Mitoma must be aware of the VIP, but he also knew that Mitoma was unaware of the traitor in Class A.

Just thinking about that was enough to make Ryuen feel pleased.

"I heard from Hiyori about the VIP in the groups. It seems you haven't found your target yet," Ryuen proposed.

"I have a suggestion: how about we share information and collaborate to achieve Result One?"

Honami Ichinose glanced at Kaoru Mitoma, who looked puzzled.

"The exams are anonymous. What if someone betrays us?"

"Betray? Heh, I'm afraid someone has already betrayed us," Ryuen said ominously.

"Don't forget, three groups finished their exams last night. Someone might have taken action behind the scenes."

As he spoke, he deliberately cast a glance in Honami Ichinose's direction.

It was obvious that Ryuen wanted to stir up Ichinose's suspicions about someone.

Chapter 199: The Ambitions of Class C

Ryuen wanted to protect his class's VIP.

Rather than blindly attacking, it was better to prioritize maintaining his own base.

Although Class A attacked one of the groups, the remaining two groups could still yield significant benefits.

For instance, with Result One, the VIP could earn one million personal points, and others could earn five hundred thousand personal points.

Just from the Snake group, Class C could obtain two million personal points.

Including the Sheep group, Class C could accumulate four million personal points.

If we add Class A's Result One, just from this special exam, Class C would gain nearly ten million personal points.

It was precisely for this reason that Ryuen agreed to Sakayanagi Arisu's proposal.

Class points were certainly important, but they were not the top priority for Class C.

Personal points could accomplish things that class points could not, making them even more significant.

Moreover, Class A would send corresponding personal points to Class C every month.

Given time, Ryuen would hold twenty million personal points.

The premise was that he could protect his class's VIP.

"Are you doubting Class A?" Kaoru Mitoma directly addressed the earlier topic, his voice tinged with a hint of intimidation.

Seeing this, Ryuen couldn't help but break into a fearless smile, responding leisurely.

"I never said that. The one causing trouble knows best who they are."

The implication was clear: if it wasn't Class C and it wasn't Class B, then Class A was the only suspect left.

As for Class D, no one was likely to take them seriously.

Since Ryuen, representing Class C, had proactively proposed collaboration, it was unlikely he was the suspect.

Class B had suffered the most losses; they couldn't possibly be attacking themselves, could they?

Such matters couldn't be laid out plainly.

In Ryuen's eyes, only he and Class A understood the exam rules; Honami Ichinose might only grasp the internal situation of her class.

However, that was enough.

After all, Class B was the victim.

As long as Honami Ichinose suspected Class A, Ryuen's goal would be halfway accomplished.

"If someone has information about the VIP, why haven't they ended the exam in one go?" Kaoru Mitoma said flatly. "To be honest, I'm more curious about your sudden proposal for collaboration and what your true intentions are."

Ryuen remained unfazed, instead smiling.

"What a coincidence, I have the same question. That's why I plan to uncover this mastermind. As long as everyone shares information about the VIP, it will be clear which class was attacked and which was not."

Currently, the only classes that had been attacked were Class B and Class C, but he was certain that Kaoru Mitoma wouldn't comply easily, so he felt secure.

"What if two or more classes betray at the same time?" Kaoru Mitoma corrected him. "Once the notification is received, the remaining classes won't just sit idly by, it could turn into a chaotic free-for-all."

Ryuen spread his hands, chuckling, "Mitoma, don't you understand why I'm here?"

He then turned to Honami Ichinose.

"I heard you want Result One. If you can't even trust me, you'll just have to play cards with these trash teams, Ichinose."

"Sorry, but I think you haven't forgotten what you did to Class B, have you?" Honami Ichinose stood her ground, meeting Ryuen's gaze firmly.

"I can trust a certain student from Class C, but that doesn't include you."

"Oh, is that so? What a pity. But as a good Samaritan, let me remind you," Ryuen said, smacking his lips.

"The Tiger group that finished the exam last night is Class C's VIP. You should know his name."

When he mentioned the Tiger group, Kaoru Mitoma roughly understood his intentions.

From Ryuen's perspective, he should further provoke Class B's suspicions about Class A, making Class A more cautious, ideally leading them to accept his proposal.

Not wanting Class B or Class C to attack Class A's VIP, he could only compromise and align with Ryuen's thoughts to achieve Result One.

This way, he could prevent Class A from collecting more class points while also allowing Class C to gain a significant amount of personal points, which would be a win for Ryuen.

However, Ryuen had forgotten that this would also raise Class A's vigilance.

For instance, how would Class C know about the favored students' information?

Class A had only attacked two groups last night, who was causing trouble in the remaining group?

Ryuen probably hadn't realized this point.

After delivering his so-called reminder, he leisurely left the corridor.

"What should we do now?" Honami Ichinose looked at Kaoru Mitoma, her expression tinged with worry.

Mitoma glanced around.

To avoid disturbing their conversation, most members of the Snake group had left, leaving only a few students lingering in the corridor.

"Just as planned, you're my lifeline." He quietly squeezed the girl's small hand, the delicate sensation accompanied by a thrill that made it hard to let go.

"D-Don't say it like that." Honami Ichinose blushed, her eyes darting around to gauge the reactions of those nearby.

If Ryuen and Sakayanagi Arisu saw this scene, they would probably realize they had made a grave mistake.

From the beginning, it was never Sakayanagi Arisu or Ryuen making choices, it was Kaoru Mitoma allowing them to make the choices they wanted.

"Let's ask her out tonight," Kaoru Mitoma said, squeezing Honami Ichinose's palm again, seeming a bit nervous, warm and slightly damp.

"I prefer to slowly break her defenses in front of her."

Honami Ichinose wanted to pull her hand back, but he didn't immediately let go and whispered.

"I want to go too."

Kaoru Mitoma was somewhat surprised.

He noticed the girl slightly averted her gaze, and he vaguely guessed her thoughts, smiling slightly.

"I was planning to have you ask her out yourself. I was just thinking about how to ask you to stay."

Honami Ichinose was taken aback, then bit her lip.

"Is it really okay?"

Since becoming his girlfriend, she had occasionally inquired about his matters, which naturally included Sakayanagi Arisu and Kamuro Masumi.

Especially knowing about his bet with Sakayanagi Arisu, she felt inexplicably anxious and was reluctant to help him win the bet.

A maid... she could be a maid too!

As soon as this thought crossed her mind, Honami Ichinose felt her cheeks heat up.

How had she become so indecent?

Chapter 200: The Stalker

Considering the crowd around them, it was clearly not suitable for some couple-like actions, so the two waved goodbye and left the second-floor corridor.

In the afternoon, wispy clouds floated in the sky and the slightly warm sunlight fell on Kaoru Mitoma's shoulders as he picked up a drink from the vending machine.

On such a day, iced soda was undoubtedly a necessity for humanity.

Speaking of which, the cafeteria seemed to provide afternoon tea.

Kaoru Mitoma remembered seeing someone enjoying crisp, chilled watermelon yesterday.

As he pondered whether to have some watermelon, he noticed a few girls walking out of the nearby café, one of whom looked familiar.

Mako Amikura.

She first smiled and said goodbye to her friends, then walked towards Kaoru Mitoma.

However, after taking a few steps, she noticed him and her expression momentarily stiffened.

Kaoru Mitoma thought she would ignore him, but to his surprise, she quickly regained her composure, approaching him with an extremely serious expression, her little legs kicking as she came closer.

"Good afternoon, Amikura-san."

He took the initiative to greet her, after all, he couldn't ignore Mako Amikura, especially since she was already blushing to her neck.

"Are you wandering around alone again?" Mako Amikura feigned indifference. "It seems like it's been a while since I've seen you. I thought you were hiding in some corner, gathering dust."

"Sorry, I've been thinking about the exam lately," Kaoru Mitoma replied.

"Is it that tough? Our group finished the exam in no time. I wonder who discovered the VIP's of our class" Mako Amikura's group was the Tiger group, which had wrapped up the exam quickly.

"By the way, why you never sent me a message?"

Mako Amikura stared at the shameless guy in front of her, feeling both angry and amused.

"Please don't go too far. It's clearly you who never sent me a message, and even if you did, it was always something like 'show me your legs' or 'show me yours.' Don't you feel embarrassed?"

"Didn't you say that if I just asked, you'd send me photos?"

"T-That was because..." Mako Amikura's face turned red again, regretting that she shouldn't have sent those photos to Kaoru Mitoma.

"It was just to show you the effects of the spa, don't think too much about it, you pervert."

Kaoru Mitoma recalled her photos and then said, "The effects look great; your skin is so fair and smooth. I want to touch it."

Hearing this, Mako Amikura felt a little happy, but a shadow quickly crossed her eyes.

To hide her emotions, she punched the nearby vending machine, the loud sound momentarily silencing Kaoru Mitoma.

Not only that, but Mako Amikura herself seemed startled, but she quickly suppressed her surprise and warned Kaoru Mitoma.

"P-Please don't sexually harass girls anymore, or I'll get angry."

Had she gotten stronger after just a few days?

[Mako Amikura: Conflicted, troubled, melancholic, guilty...]

[Suggestion: Conduct life guidance, confess, grop her breast and engage in more intimate actions to effectively increase her favorability.]

It seemed Mako Amikura had encountered some deeply troubling issues.

"Sorry, I spoke my mind without thinking. I'll be more careful in the future," Kaoru Mitoma looked at her fist. "But just hitting the vending machine won't make it spit out coins. What do you want to drink?"

"Not only can't you say it out loud, but you can't even think it," Mako Amikura hid her hands behind her back, clearly in pain.

"I don't want anything; I'm going to hang out with Honami-chan later."

As she spoke, she suddenly revealed a hesitant expression, her inner turmoil so evident that Kaoru Mitoma could see it.

"Um, actually... I have something I want to tell you..." Mako Amikura stammered, her head slightly lowered, seemingly staring at her toes.

Seeing her like this, Kaoru Mitoma's gaze couldn't help but fall on the girl's slender legs.

Her thighs were slightly plump and they must feel nice to the touch.

"Are you going to confess to me?"

"W-Wait, who's confessing to you? Definitely not!" Mako Amikura suddenly raised her head, her face flushed.

"Besides, I have a crush!"

As soon as she finished speaking, she realized what she had said and quickly shut her mouth.

"Crush means someone you like, right?" Kaoru Mitoma said calmly.

At this point, Mako Amikura couldn't deny her feelings, even if her impression of her crush was quite vague; she would still try to remember.

"Yes, I have someone... I admire."

"A crush, huh?"

"He went to another school. I was planning to forget about him."

"Is that all you wanted to tell me?"

"Um, I'm sorry, but I might not be able to forget him for a while."

Looking at Mako Amikura's dejected expression, Kaoru Mitoma finally understood what she had been struggling with; she had been treating him as a potential romantic interest.

However, upon reflection, from Mako Amikura's perspective, he did indeed resemble a suitor.

"Since that's the case, why not confess to him?" Kaoru Mitoma thought for a moment. "The reason you came to ANHS was to advance to the university you want, right? Do you want to go to his university?"

"Not entirely for that reason." Mako Amikura unconsciously played with her hair, her gaze drifting.

At this point, the atmosphere between them grew a bit cold and Kaoru Mitoma wondered if he should show a sad expression.

"Hey, that person seems to be Mitoma-kun?"

A surprised voice came from not far away, followed by a flurry of chatter from several girls.

Kaoru Mitoma turned to look and saw several girls from Class D waving at him, with Karuizawa among them.

"Good afternoon, everyone."

Since it was a girl he had seen before, Kaoru Mitoma also greeted her.

"Yo, long time no see, Mitoma-kun."

For some reason, Kei Karuizawa greeted him very casually, showing no trace of her demeanor from yesterday.

Although she and Mako Amikura both had their hair tied up in high ponytails, Kei's gal-style outfit was particularly eye-catching.

In comparison, Mako appeared more pure and lively.

[Kei Karuizawa: Nervous, shy, anxious, uneasy, wanting to run away, furious, timid...]

[Suggestions: Bully the target face-to-face, touch the chest to effectively lower the target's guard.]

"Where are you guys planning to go?" Kaoru Mitoma asked proactively.

"It's too hot, so we're planning to go to a restaurant for afternoon tea. I heard they have ice-cold watermelon!" one of the girls replied.

Kaoru Mitoma looked surprised, "What a coincidence, I was planning to go eat watermelon too."

Hearing this, Kei Karuizawa's body suddenly stiffened.

"Hey, in that case, why don't you join us, Mitoma-kun?" the girl naturally invited.

Kaoru Mitoma glanced at Kei Karuizawa, who immediately averted her gaze.

It was obvious that even the strongest heart would feel somewhat awkward facing a man who had groped her breasts.

"Next time, I've already had some soda, so I'm pretty cool."

Hearing Kaoru Mitoma's refusal, Kei Karuizawa couldn't help but be taken aback.

"Ah, what a pity!"

"Forget it, since he doesn't want to, let's not force him. Let's go, Shinohara" Kei Karuizawa started ushering them away.

"If we're late, there might not be any watermelon left. Matsushita, hurry up and follow."

After they left, Kaoru Mitoma took another sip of his soda.

"Your popularity seems to be greater than I thought," Mako Amikura suddenly remarked.

"It's not really popularity. They think I look like a celebrity, so the girls in class occasionally strike up conversations with me," Kaoru Mitoma touched his chin. "If I had to say, it's definitely because of the celebrity effect."

There wasn't anything particularly complicated about it.

If a guy saw someone who looked like a famous person, they'd probably go up and take a photo too.

Mako Amikura gave him a strange look and hesitated before saying, "Is that girl who's been secretly watching you from behind also trying to strike up a conversation?"

Kaoru Mitoma was startled and couldn't help but turn around, just catching a glimpse of a figure hurriedly hiding behind a pillar.

Half a minute later, he looked expressionlessly at Miki Yamamura standing in front of him.

Perhaps sensing the awkward atmosphere, the girl timidly said.

"I... I got lost."

"Since when?" Kaoru Mitoma felt a headache coming on.

He really wasn't good at dealing with such low-profile girls.

Maybe it was because he was used to being in front of the camera, so he subconsciously ignored the gazes around him.

Miki Yamamura looked at him, then at Mako Amikura, seemingly deciding to be a brave captive who sacrifices herself, tightly closing her mouth.

"It seems she's been following you all along," Mako Amikura pondered for a moment. "When I saw you earlier, she was standing in the corner behind you."

Kaoru Mitoma was even more surprised and tentatively asked, "You saw her just like that?"

Mako Amikura looked at him strangely, as if it were obvious, "She's been watching you all the time, of course I would notice her."

Kaoru Mitoma fell silent.

Then, Mako Amikura snapped back to reality, her face flushed as she waved her hands repeatedly.

"I-I didn't mean it like that, I just thought she was suspicious!"

Setting her aside for now, Kaoru Mitoma continued to look at Miki Yamamura.

"You can remain silent, but I will tell Sakayanagi-san that Yamamura-san's tracking skills are terrible; I spotted her at a glance."

In an instant, Miki Yamamura showed a panicked expression and suddenly grabbed Kaoru Mitoma's sleeve.

"N-no, don't do that. I'll do anything, please don't tell her."

After saying this, she quickly withdrew her hand as if she had touched something she shouldn't have.

But Kaoru Mitoma could still see the anxiety in Miki Yamamura's eyes, her lips tightly pressed, cautiously looking at him.