

Cote 25

Chapter 25 25: You Should Drop Out

Even though she hadn't told anyone, she did have an older brother, and he just so happened to be at Advanced Nurturing High School too.

During the club orientation, Suzune Horikita had kept her eyes glued to her brother the entire time. A third-year senior, the student council president, Manabu Horikita. He was flawless, perfect in every way.

Watching Manabu Horikita up on stage, Suzune couldn't help but feel inferior. However, it wasn't a coincidence that the siblings met here. Ever since she found out that Horikita Manabu got into Advanced Nurturing High School, Horikita Suzune swore to follow in her brother footsteps.

As expected, Horikita Suzune successfully enrolled in Advanced Nurturing this year, becoming a fellow student at the same school as Horikita Manabu. With that, Horikita Suzune was satisfied. Whether it was joining the student council or anything else, she couldn't be bothered to care.

If it weren't for the fact that Ayanokouji Kiyotaka had some self-awareness, Horikita Suzune wouldn't have bothered with him either. Socializing was an extremely boring and tedious activity. No matter how unforgettable a friendship might seem, in the end, it was just a fleeting moment in life.

She had plenty of things to deal with and wanted to focus her precious energy on herself. That's why Horikita Suzune didn't need friends.

So when Kushida Kikyo came to her with a big smile, Horikita Suzune didn't even think about it and rejected her outright. Even with Ayanokouji Kiyotaka, Horikita Suzune had warned him not to count her as one of his friends

.No matter what happened, Suzune Horikita felt that nothing could shake her feelings for the two of them. Yeah, that's how it was supposed to be.

"To be honest, I'm a little surprised. I didn't expect you to have acquaintances at this school, Horikita-san." Kikyo Kushida smiled gently, all the while watching Suzune Horikita's reaction.

"You saw him?" Suzune Horikita tried her best to hide her expression.

"When did this happen? What did he say to you?"

That reaction was easy to read—Kikyo Kushida smile grew wider.

"Yesterday, after shopping for clothes with Mei and the others, I ran into Mitoma-kun on the way back to the dorm. If he hadn't told me, I wouldn't have known you two knew each other."

Huh, Mitoma-kun?

Suzune Horikita tense expression faltered for a moment. Who the hell is that?

Weren't they talking about her brother?

"I don't know him."

In an instant, Horikita Suzune returned to normal, her expression turning icy cold.

"Huh Isn't he your friend?"

Kushida Kikyo sounded a bit surprised.

"I've always been on my own. I don't have anything like that." Horikita Suzune replied flatly.

"Anyone like that is a liar. Please don't bother me with this again."

"But, Mitoma-kun said he's friends with your brother, and that he knows you too."

As soon as she finished speaking, Kushida Kikyo noticed Horikita Suzune freeze up again, her reaction even stronger than before. "

"... Do you know who my brother is?"

"Mitoma-kun said the student council president is your brother, right?"

Horikita Suzune fell silent, her hands unconsciously tightening around her book. Ayanokouji Kiyotaka, who was nearby, seemed to have overheard something. He shot a subtle glance in their direction, his thoughts unreadable.

"Horikita-san?" Kushida Kikyo called out tentatively, but saw Horikita Suzune suddenly close her book and look up at her with a blank expression.

"If I heard you right, you just said he wants to see me? When? Where? Did he say anything else?"

"Suzuki-kun didn't tell me much, but he said if you have time, you could meet him after school today. He'll be waiting for you behind the gym."

"Alright, tell him I'll be there as promised,"

Horikita Suzune replied, trying to sound calm.

"Horikita-san, can I go with you?"

"No."

Horikita Suzune shot her down almost without thinking. But Kushida Kikyo didn't get upset. Instead, she kept smiling.

"Alright, maybe next time, if you're free, we can hang out together."

....

Afternoon.

Walking alone on the way to the gym, Suzune Horikita kept telling herself to stay calm. It was just her brother friend, nothing special. Maybe it was just curiosity about her as his little sister—Suzune had run into similar situations a few times before.

After all, her brother was an outstanding person, so it was normal for people to be interested in his sister. Logically, Suzune shouldn't care about things like this. But ANHS was a closed-off school, and she had no idea how Manabu Horikita was doing here.

There was a two-year gap between them as siblings, with no contact at all. That's why Suzune wanted to know how her brother was doing here, wanted to learn more about him. Maybe because she was so eager, Suzune forgot to ask Kikyo Kushida a crucial question. Who exactly was this so-called Mitomakun?

And that was something Kikyo Kushida wanted to know, too.

In a corner where Horikita Suzune wasn't paying attention, two sneaky figures were quietly following in her footsteps. Kushida Kikyo and Ayanokouji Kiyotaka. There wasn't much to say—they both wanted to see what would happen next.

Especially Kushida Kikyo, who said she wanted to get to know Horikita better, and immediately dragged the seemingly unwilling Ayanokouji Kiyotaka along as the two of them hurried after her.

"Don't you think this is kind of unfair to Horikita?" Ayanokouji Kiyotaka said.

"She probably wouldn't be okay with us spying on her like this."

"It's fine, I already talked to Mitoma-kun. He's going to help me become friends with Horikita too."
Kushida Kikyo eyes sparkled.

'But if Horikita Suzune finds out we're following her, she'll definitely beat me up, not you.' Ayanokouji Kiyotaka wisely kept that thought to himself.

"By the way, who's Mitoma-kun?"

"Eh, Ayanokouji-kun, you don't know him?"

"Is it weird that I don't?"

"Ahaha, that's not what I meant. Actually, he's pretty famous among the girls. Everyone says he looks like some celebrity."

So he's another pretty boy, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka thought to himself. Just then, Kushida Kikyo suddenly pulled him into a corner and motioned for him to look ahead.

"See, that guy over there is Mitoma-kun." Ayanokouji Kiyotaka followed her gaze and saw a boy standing in front of Horikita Suzune. The boy had delicate features and a calm expression, showing no emotion at all—just like the cool, aloof type girls always talk about.

He looked like someone who'd be hard to approach, definitely not the kind of person you could easily be friends with. As Kiyotaka Ayanokouji was thinking this, the other person finally spoke.

"Do you have the president contact information?"

It was a strange question, but Suzune Horikita still answered.

"Not at the moment."

The other person nodded thoughtfully, then immediately said something that was utterly shocking.

"Suzune, you should drop out."

Kiyotaka Ayanokouji and Kikyo Kushida were both stunned, not to mention Suzune Horikita herself.

"Wait, what do you mean by that?"

Suzune Horikita frowned, not even caring about how he addressed her.

"Exactly what I said," Kaoru Mitoma replied calmly.

"As the president little sister, you've disappointed your brother too much. Instead of staying here and embarrassing yourself, it's better to drop out early. It's better for you and for the president."

Suzune Horikita stared at the boy in disbelief. How could he dare to say something like that?