

Cote 28

Chapter 28 You're Looking at me again

He originally wanted to get to know more of the students in Class D, but Kaoru Mitoma realized he just couldn't do it.

After observing for a while, he noticed that most of the students in Class D spent their time goofing off—shopping, karaoke, that sort of thing. Looks like this class is kind of hopeless.

The students in Class A had their fun too, but when it was time for class, they went to class. You'd often see a few of the more competitive Class A students in the library, and quite a few of them discussing whether or not to join a club.

Kamuro Masumi had already joined the art club, probably because Sakayanagi Arisu forced her into it. Otherwise, with her personality, art really had nothing to do with her.

It's been over a week since the start of school, and Kaoru Mitoma has already met quite a few first-year students. His notebook is so densely filled with notes that there are barely any blank pages left. But he doesn't know much about Class C.

He'd noticed a boy from Class C before—at the club orientation, the guy had a bruise on his face. Lately, he's also seen that same guy hanging around a big Black dude every now and then.

Kaoru Mitoma lets out a sigh. Things are way too calm—clearly, both Class C and Class D have no idea what's going on. Meanwhile, Class A and Class B are obviously more wary of each other now. If they weren't both so good at keeping quiet, the whole first year would probably know by now.

Just as Kaoru Mitoma is lost in thought, someone lightly kicks him in the back.

"Hey, it's almost your turn to swim." Kamuro Masumi looks at him, clearly bored.

Right now, Kamuro Masumi is wearing what they call a sukumizu—a sky-blue one-piece swimsuit that somehow makes her figure look even more curvy. Even though she's not showing much skin, there's still something strangely sexy about it.

"Doesn't matter if it's my turn. I can't swim anyway." Kaoru Mitoma glances at the pool, where Class A is doing a so-called 50-meter freestyle race in groups of five. Yeah, that's right—this is part of ANHS curriculum. It's just another segment of PE class: swimming.

Also, the school didn't force every student to participate. Students who weren't interested or weren't feeling well could just watch and learn from the sidelines. Even so, almost everyone showed up, except for Sakayanagi Arisu, the delicate and frail middle schooler.

he glanced over at the spectator seats not far away. Sakayanagi Arisu was sitting quietly in her neatly pressed school uniform, calmly watching everything unfold. Getting her to wear an elementary school swimsuit would definitely be a challenge.

Kaoru Mitoma felt pretty heavy-hearted about it.

"You can't even swim? Are you useless or something?" Kamuro Masumi seemed genuinely surprised.

"I was planning to just walk across the pool to the finish line, but now that you've said that, I'm kind of annoyed," Kaoru Mitoma replied.

"Can you teach me how to swim later?"

Kamuro Masumi thought he'd try to act tough, but she didn't expect such a surrender-like answer and was left speechless.

"Isn't there's a teacher for that?"

"The teacher looks like he could punch out a million horsepower of magnetic force. No way."

"Have you never been to the ocean before or something?"

I have, but only to shoot photos of idols on the beach. After the shoot, Higuchi Madoka would call me a pervert. Honestly, it didn't feel great.

"If you have time, help me tail Kushida from Class D." Kaoru Mitoma suddenly said.

"What, you want me to follow a girl for you?" Kamuro Masumi almost kicked him hard.

"Has your XP already leveled up from ordinary pervert to super pervert?"

"She's pretty interesting, but I can't read her at all. I'm not good at dealing with two-faced people like her, so I wanted to ask you to dig up some info on her."

Sometimes, people wishes can reveal a bit of information, but not too much. Kaoru Mitoma could see through Horikita Suzune personality because she never bothered to hide what she was thinking. Dealing with someone like that was easy—she was self-righteous, but still showed a bit of insecurity in front of Horikita Manabu.

With a little guidance, she'd probably follow his lead. That said, to avoid unnecessary trouble, he'd still have to tell Horikita Manabu afterward that he'd run into Horikita Suzune.

"Why are you ordering me around like it's the most natural thing in the world?" Kamuro Masumi was inexplicably irritated. Ever since Sakayanagi Arisu had caught her weakness, she'd been bossed around every day, told to do this and that. And now, just great, there was another random person who somehow knew her secret.

"Please." Kaoru Mitoma gently corrected her mistake.

"Don't even think about it. Why should I help you?"

"You're all I have left, Kamuro-san."

Kamuro Masumi was silent for a moment.

"Seriously, can I hit you right now?"

"No."

Even though he protested, she still kicked him. For the first time, Kaoru Mitoma felt insecure about his looks.

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Soon, it was Kaoru Mitoma turn to get in the water, and he was lucky enough to be in the same group as Hashimoto Masayoshi.

"Hahaha, Mitoma, let's do our best together!"

Hashimoto Masayoshi flashed him a bright smile, and then, at the sound of the teacher whistle, he suddenly dove straight into the water. Kaoru Mitoma sighed inwardly and followed right after. No surprise, he came in second to last. Back at his spot, Kaoru Mitoma could still see quite a few girls staring over at them, maybe feeling a bit disappointed.

"Your form is off," someone said seriously.

"You enter the water too slowly, and your breathing technique isn't smooth. You've got a great body, so you should practice more, Kaoru Mitoma."

For some reason, Morishita Ai had left the main group of girls and was standing next to him. Oh, right, just like Kamuro Masumi, she didn't really have any friends and didn't care much about socializing.

"Are you really good at swimming, Morishita?" Kaoru Mitoma asked.

"I just noticed your problem, that's all. It's just what I observed," Morishita Ai replied, saying something that was hard to understand.

So, was she good at swimming or not?

Kaoru Mitoma looked her over. She was a bit tall, with long, straight legs, her fair skin still a little youthful. Droplets of water clung to her body, sliding down her one-piece swimsuit and running along her thighs. She didn't seem to care at all about showing up in front of a guy like this. He could feel the glances from people around them, almost all of them focused on him.

"Why did you call my name back then?" Morishita Ai asked, as if it was the most natural thing in the world.

"We haven't really talked before, but I know you're always sneaking glances at me. You're curious about me, and that makes me curious about you." This girl really liked to talk in circles.

"It's weird. I don't see any pervy look in your eyes. You don't seem interested in my body, but you also don't look at me like you do other classmates. Your eyes are on me, but it always feels like you're looking at something else." Morishita Ai started guessing at what he was thinking. From that, it seemed like she didn't really understand the concept of personal space.

"Why should I be interested in your body?" Kaoru Mitoma glanced at her. Her chest wasn't very big, just starting to develop, like a budding lotus—full of promise for the future.

"You're staring again," Morishita Ai immediately caught his gaze.

"If you're not interested, then why are you looking?"

Because there are a few wishes on your chest, and they want me to reach out and press my hand there, Kaoru Mitoma thought to himself, but didn't say it out loud.