

Cote 29

Chapter 29 29: To be honest, can you step on me right now?

When it comes to peeking, Kaoru Mitoma just wants to make one thing clear: he's not targeting Morishita Ai specifically. In fact, he's the same with everyone. It's just a matter of degree, that's all.

For example, Sakayanagi Arisu and Katsuragi Kohei, or like Hashimoto Masayoshi and Totsuka Yahiko—he occasionally pays attention to other classmates too. The reason he noticed Morishita Ai was because her personality is interesting, and she has quite a few wishes. She might not compare to Sakayanagi Arisu, but she's second only to Kamuro Masumi.

"Coming over here all alone to talk to me, don't you care what other people think?" Kaoru Mitoma started to change the subject.

"Just now, Kamuro Masumi also came over to talk to you," Morishita Ai replied.

"That's different, she's my friend."

"So what do I have to do to become your friend?"

"You want to be friends with me?"

"Because you're a really weird person."

"You're weird too."

For some reason, Morishita Ai seemed a little annoyed, though he couldn't tell what had set her off.

"What do you want to do next?"

"Exchange contact info with you?"

"Sure."

Morishita Ai nodded, then shook her head.

"But that's not what I meant. Sakayanagi Arisu seems really interested in you, and Katsuragi Kohei has been acting a bit strange lately too. I'm wondering if it's because of something you did."

"Why do you think it's me?" Kaoru Mitoma found it pretty amusing.

"What did you write in that notebook? Can you tell me?" Morishita Ai asked him instead.

"Nope," Kaoru Mitoma said.

"I'm writing a diary in there. Diaries are for your own eyes only."

"But why are you writing your diary while sneaking peeks at me?"

Because I need to jot down your wishes—can't just rely on my memory, right?

"If I'm sneaking peeks at you, then you must be sneaking peeks at me too. Otherwise, how would you know I'm looking at you?"

Kaoru Mitoma shot back with a soul-searching question. Morishita Ai was stunned for a moment. She thought about it for a while, not sure how to answer such a fatal question. But before she could dwell on it too long, Kaoru Mitoma interrupted her thoughts again.

"How do you feel now, Morishita?" Kaoru Mitoma found a spot to sit down.

"Being able to see everyone's personal points—doesn't it feel like you've got all the power in your hands?"

"It just feels like a hassle. Did you push me out there because you didn't want to see Sakayanagi Arisu and Katsuragi Kohei split up too badly?"

Morishita Ai hesitated for a moment, then followed him, sitting down a little ways away—not too close, not too far. He could see the way her perky little butt pressed into the seat, leaving a slight dent. Her calves were tucked in, arms wrapped around her knees in a classic gym class pose. The soft, pale skin at the tops of her thighs was exposed, and her delicate little feet were pressed together, her small, round toes tinged with a faint blush.

"Do you like Katsuragi or Sakayanagi more?" Kaoru Mitoma asked.

"What do you think?"

Morishita Ai shot back. At the same time, as if she sensed his gaze, the girl toes twitched and moved a little closer, her arm blocking his line of sight.

"Do you not like either of them?" Kaoru Mitoma looked away from her thigh.

"Honestly, I don't like being ordered around by people either."

"I never said I didn't like them. It's just that with them around, I don't have to do anything, so it doesn't matter to me."

Morishita Ai argued seriously.

"I see. But what if they both lose?"

Kaoru Mitoma glanced at her profile again. A few strands of hair slipped from her smooth shoulder, falling onto her neck. Her earlobe was as clear and soft as jade.

"Before that happens, I'll put in a little effort."

Morishita Ai sounded a bit annoyed. His gaze was almost shameless, but there wasn't much lewdness in it.

"Does Kaoru Mitoma not have much confidence in them?"

"Maybe someone else could do better."

Morishita Ai stared at him, as if she could see right through his thoughts.

"Kaoru Mitoma, you're pretty ambitious, huh."

"If someone could help you graduate from Class A, you wouldn't really care about the details, right?"

"Yeah, I wouldn't care."

"And if you saw that person pay a huge price for it, how would you feel?" Kaoru Mitoma asked.

"Like, if it took twenty million personal points to get you to graduate from Class A, and someone spent that many points on you, what kind of person do you think they are?"

"Probably a really hardworking idiot."

"Why an idiot?" Kaoru Mitoma asked.

"Points should be spent on people who are worth it. I don't think I'm worth that many points,"

Morishita Ai replied as if it was obvious.

"Okay, but what if there were conditions attached to those points?"

Morishita Ai suddenly looked at him warily and shook her head.

"I know I'm cute, but I'm not thinking about dating anyone right now."

"It's just a hypothetical, and are you giving me the 'nice guy' card right now?" Kaoru Mitoma felt a little exasperated.

"It's because you've been staring at me," Morishita Ai curled her toes.

"I don't think a guy who keeps staring at a girl is going to ask for anything normal—especially a guy like Kaoru Mitoma, who keeps staring at my feet."

No, it's mainly because of the wish, so I subconsciously started thinking about how to lick your jade feet, or how I should be trampled under you.

"What kind of requests can you accept?" Kaoru Mitoma continued to ask.

"Nothing too extreme... I need to hear what your request is first."

"What if every request I make of you could benefit you and everyone else?" Kaoru Mitoma said.

"For example, if I asked you to be a spy and steal information from other classes, would you do it?"

"I'm not suited to be a spy. My personality is too strong, I'd attract too much attention."

... So you do know you're a bit weird.

"Give me your hand, Morishita-san," Kaoru Mitoma said to her.

Morishita Ai stared at him without moving, as if to say, I'm not stupid.

"It's a handshake between friends," Kaoru Mitoma added.

Hearing that, Morishita Ai finally stop hesitating, then reached out a hand—five pale, slender fingers—which he gently took in his own.

Very quickly, Kaoru Mitoma let go of her hand, just barely touching it like a dragonfly skimming the water.

"Just trust me like this, Morishita-san."

Morishita Ai pressed her lips together, looking like she wanted to laugh, but then she seriously reached out her hand again.

"Kaoru Mitoma, let's shake hands one more time."

He had no idea what she was thinking, but Kaoru Mitoma took her small hand again. A girl hand was so warm and soft.

"... You really are weird." Morishita Ai watched his reaction.

"Looks like I'll have to keep a close eye on you from now on, Kaoru Mitoma."

"My feet aren't as nice as yours, so I'd rather not," Kaoru Mitoma refused.

"That's not what I was observing."

"So what do you want to look at?"

"I want to... I'm not talking about that, you're the weird one here."

"To be honest, can you step on me right now?"

While the two of them were chatting, Sakayanagi Arisu, who was sitting in the spectator seats, was also watching the scene unfold.

his "performance", just about joking around and flirting with girls from your own class?