

Cote 46

Chapter 46 The Second Round

Very soon, Horikita Manabu came looking for Kaoru Mitoma.

"The school already knows about your plan to exchange personal points. Since you haven't started the transaction yet, this is just a warning."

In the student council office, Kaoru Mitoma sat obediently across from Horikita Manabu, with Tachibana Akane next to him, looking like she was enjoying the show.

"Are you gonna keep going to do it?" Horikita Manabu asked.

"Of course I am. Nagumo probably thinks I'm not up to his level right now. Can't let him down."

Kaoru Mitoma took out a few badges and placed them on the table.

"Next is the second round. Gotta get him to fall for it before he realizes what's happening."

"What are these?"

Tachibana Akane looked curiously at the badges on the table. They looked delicate and small, and she kind of liked them. Premium badges, junk he'd drawn ages ago. The only effect they had was making it impossible to resist breaking his impulse.

"Do you like them, senpai?" Kaoru Mitoma winked.

"Four million personal points for one badge."

Akane Tachibana eyes flew wide open, her voice full of disbelief.

"What kind of badge could possibly be worth four million personal points? Are you trying to rob me?!"

"What if I offer two million yen to buy the badge back?" Kaoru Mitoma gave a faint smile.

Suddenly, Akane realized she couldn't follow what he was saying anymore. She'd spend four million personal points to buy his badge, and then he'd spend two million yen to buy his own badge back—what the hell was going on?

Horikita Manabu mused, "I see. This way, you really can get around the school rules, but there's no guarantee the school won't step in anyway."

The whole process was actually pretty simple—Kaoru Mitoma had just added a middleman to the personal point transaction. Neither side was directly exchanging personal points or yen.

Instead, the thing being traded was this badge in front of them, neatly sidestepping the school ban on buying and selling personal points.

It was like how, in some games, the law forbids gambling or loot boxes, so they find a clever workaround: you can't use money to draw directly, you have to buy a special in-game item first, and then you can draw.

Arcade tokens work the same way—everyone, both the officials and the players, knows what's really going on. The process looked simple, but it actually cut down a lot of risk. It meant that if the school found out, instead of immediately cracking down, they'd hesitate, unsure if they should get involved.

Still, even so, there was always going to be some risk. After all, at its core, both sides are still trading personal points. As long as the school steps in to stop it, there's a good chance the whole thing will be shut down. Of course, Kaoru Mitoma had already thought about all this.

"That's why I need your help, President. You'll be in charge of selling the badges, and I'll be responsible for buying back the other party badges. The main parties in the transaction are different, so I don't think the school will have anything to say about it."

Horikita Manabu had to take another look at the man in front of him. You could say he was breaking the rules, but he cleverly avoided the areas the rules actually covered. Say he wasn't breaking the rules, but he really was.

Even Horikita Manabu was left speechless. His opinion of Kaoru Mitoma rose to an even higher level—bold, meticulous, and especially good at exploiting loopholes in the rules.

Thinking of this, Horikita Manabu let out a silent sigh. If only his foolish little sister had even half of Kaoru Mitoma ability, how great would that be?

"You... " Tachibana Akane speechless not sure what to say for a moment.

"Did you used to break the law a lot or something?"

"If I broke the law, would I still be sitting here chatting with you?"

Tachibana Akane cheeks flushed red, and she quickly shook her head.

"That's not what I meant! It's just, it feels like your brain was made for living in the gray areas!"

No kidding. If he wasn't a little smart, how else could he make his idols debut at the very top?

Back when they were trying to do publicity and PR, Kaoru Mitoma was so stressed his hair was about to fall out, and in the end, people still spread rumors that he was using a remote control on the idols from the audience.

"This approach shouldn't be a problem," Horikita Manabu said after thinking for a moment.

"To be honest, I'm not really sure about the school's stance either, but the biggest issue is whether you actually have the ability to pay in yen, Mitoma."

If you can't pay, it immediately becomes fraud.

"Don't worry, I won't do anything I can't handle," Kaoru Mitoma said.

"Kouenji from Class 1-D is the heir to a zaibatsu. I want to talk to him."

Heir to a zaibatsu?

Horikita Manabu was taken aback, then realized what he meant and nodded.

"If it's a zaibatsu, they definitely have the means to help you pay in yen. How are you going to make sure he'll actually help you?"

"He can't directly exchange for private points, and if he uses our method, he lacks credibility."

Kaoru Mitoma was getting a better grasp of the president personality—cautious, careful, and very serious. When it comes to large cash transactions, the more complicated the process, the more intimidating it is, making people hesitate and eventually give up.

On the other hand, the simpler the process, the easier it is for people to act on impulse, without even having time to hesitate, which actually makes the transaction more likely to succeed. Horikita Manabu thought it over and decided to trust Kaoru Mitoma.

"Alright, I'll help you this time."

"One is a contract regarding personal points, and the other is for yen. President, you can take a look first."

Horikita Manabu picked up the contract about yen first, while Tachibana Akane beside him leaned over curiously.

1. On a completely voluntary basis, Party A will purchase a badge from Party B, with the badge valued at two million yen;
2. Party B will make a one-time payment of two million yen to Party A upon graduation, with bank transfer as the preferred payment method;
3. In the event of any unforeseen circumstances, including the school intervening midway, or either party dropping out, each party will bear their own responsibility, and the contract will be automatically voided;
4. If Party B breaches the contract without reason, they must pay Party A three times the amount as a penalty, or compensate in any other way of equal value as designated by Party B;
5. If Party A breaches the contract without reason, they must compensate Party A, in the same manner and content as the previous clause.
6. Once both parties sign, the contract takes effect immediately and remains valid until Party B fulfills their promise.

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After reading through the contents, Horikita Manabu fell silent for a moment.

"Hey, hey, why do we each have to take responsibility? That sounds terrible!"

Tachibana Akane couldn't help but complain, as if it was every man for himself in a crisis.

"There's always risk in things like this."

Kaoru Mitoma looked at this upperclassman, clearly exasperated. Noticing his gaze, Tachibana Akane let out a little huff, but then felt something was off—why did he look at her like she was an idiot?

Horikita Manabu glanced at another contract. The contents were mostly the same, just with a few changes, like Party B having to pay four million private points within twelve hours.

"Is there any problem?" Kaoru Mitoma asked with a smile.

"Did you do this on purpose, or was it an accident?"

"If it wasn't on purpose, how could we set a trap for Nagumo?" Kaoru Mitoma blinked.

"Are you confident?"

"About eighty percent sure, but only if someone is willing to cooperate with us."

As for who that person would be, Kaoru Mitoma had already found them.