

Cote 571

Chapter 571: Hurry Up and Say It

On the way back, Kaoru had originally wanted to spend some time alone with Hasebe Haruka, but Sakura Airi gently tugged at his sleeve.

Seeing the girl's flushed face, Kaoru had no choice but to abandon his original plan and bid farewell to Hasebe Haruka and Yamamura Miki.

"Does Airi have something to tell me?"

"Um... thank you... it seems I've troubled you again this time."

"Don't say that. They were targeting me to begin with. I should be the one apologizing for involving you all."

After saying this, Kaoru suddenly realized his own problem - how many similar conversations had he already had?

However, unexpectedly, Sakura Airi mustered her courage and took his hand.

Raising her beautiful eyes as if summoning the greatest courage of her life, she cautiously asked.

"C-could you... come to my room?"

Kaoru was stunned for a moment.

The warmth from her small hand transmitted to him.

Beneath his non-prescription glasses, he could see her eyes sparkling with faint, vivid light.

As if suddenly realizing what she was doing, she released his hand as if startled, her cheeks blushing faintly.

The moment she lowered her head, her reddened earlobes were exposed.

Two braids fell over her chest, and the girl's full chest rose and fell.

Though so young and innocent, she gave off an incredibly alluring feeling.

Recalling her original appearance, he now only felt his eyes light up. She radiated a treasure-like glow that made it hard to look away.

"Nothing would please me more."

Kaoru couldn't help but laugh. "As a qualified fan, of course I'd want to see my idol's room."

Perhaps his teasing helped ease some of Sakura Airi's embarrassment.

She subconsciously pouted her lips and said in a small complaining voice, "Not at all, you're making fun of me again... You've already seen it last time..."

Actually, the girl had already realized she might have misunderstood Kaoru.

His behavior didn't resemble that of her fan at all, except when he used his alt account to harass her.

Kaoru pretended not to hear.

Though he didn't know what Sakura Airi was thinking, her room wasn't some kind of hell anyway - there was no harm in visiting.

Thus, the two silently walked back to the student dormitory.

Male students rarely appeared on the girls' floor since it was too conspicuous, let alone him going to Sakura Airi's room.

This child probably only had Hasebe Haruka and Yamamura Miki as visitors, not to mention male guests.

Just as he was about to enter Sakura Airi's room after so long, the latter suddenly remembered something and flusteredly stopped him, saying she needed to tidy up first.

When Kaoru entered the living room, he discovered several cardboard boxes that hadn't been there before, seemingly containing many items.

Sakura Airi had stuffed them full and tried to hide them in the corner.

Probably the girl's little secrets. Kaoru wasn't interested in these - everyone had their own little secrets.

"It seems cleaner than before."

Kaoru carelessly said something quite rude to a girl.

Sure enough, Sakura Airi's expression became subtle, somewhat dejected.

Her lips moved slightly as she murmured, "I-I've been cleaning up... The secretly taken photos... I hid them all..."

"What?" Kaoru asked in confusion.

"Never mind that!" Sakura Airi realized she had said something wrong.

Blushing crimson, she handed a bundle to Kaoru.

"Actually, I really want to thank you for doing so much for me. I never found the right moment to say it. If possible, I'd like to help you too. Please accept this!"

When he saw what she handed him, Kaoru nearly spat out his barley tea.

"Wait, why are you giving me your shoes?"

Indeed, Sakura Airi had inexplicably forced the little leather shoes she just took off into Kaoru's hands.

"I know!" Airi's voice rose several pitches. "This is something that will make you happy! Several times, you mentioned having indecent thoughts about my shoes and wanting me to wear them to class."

Kaoru stood frozen as if struck by lightning.

"Hold on, I don't remember saying anything like that!"

He panicked. Was he evolving from a foot fetishist to some next-level pervert? Ever since agreeing to that wish-granting machine, he felt his image was crumbling beyond repair.

He admitted his tastes were unconventional, but that didn't justify labeling him a foot fetishist!

"You did say it!" Despite her embarrassment, Airi was determined to speak her mind now. "You kept harassing me with your alt account about having ideas about my shoes!"

Kaoru remembered what he'd done and quickly backtracked. "No, I might be a bit lecherous, but..."

Before he could finish, Airi's expression fell, her head drooping in dejection.

"You didn't want my stockings last time either... I don't understand... Though it's perverted, I don't mind... After all, you're the pervert, and I don't dislike it... I want to help you too... Actually, I often use your photos..."

Since learning the truth, Airi sometimes—well, almost every night—would lie in bed looking at secretly taken photos of Kaoru while unable to resist moving her hand downward, softly moaning.

Sometimes she'd moan for half an hour, other times she'd toss and turn all night.

Each time she came to her senses, Airi would blush fiercely and hit her head with a pillow, wondering what she was doing!

But the more experience she gained, the more she understood why Kaoru acted crazy around her—it was about losing control of emotions.

Just as Kaoru used his alt account to harass her, Airi would bully Kaoru in her fantasies too, especially as more rumors about him surfaced, making her fantasies more intense.

She sometimes imagined confronting him with the alt account chat logs, threatening him, only to be overpowered by Kaoru.

No matter how much she cried or pleaded, he wouldn't let her go, pressing her against...

"I'm a useless good-for-nothing, waaah!"

Airi lay on the floor, covering her flushed face with both hands, rolling back and forth.

"Forget everything I just said, please! Pretend I never said anything!"

Kaoru watched silently as she rolled several times before saying, "So Airi already knows that was my alt account back then?"

Hearing this, Airi stopped rolling and mumbled sulkily, "Kaoru's a bad guy... a liar... a pervert who only bullies girls."

"Are you angry?"

Kaoru casually pushed aside her little leather shoes.

He wasn't actually a pervert - in some people's eyes, those shoes might as well be lunch boxes.

"O-of course I'm angry! I'm at the point where I want to say 'drop dead'!"

Sakura Airi didn't notice his action. "But you could have just told me. I was really scared at that time."

"The reason is complicated. Honestly, I didn't want to do it either."

Kaoru didn't know how to explain his behavior.

Back then, he hadn't anticipated today's situation - he was just focused on fulfilling his wish.

"Who... who cares... If Kaoru did it, there must be Kaoru's reason, right?"

Sakura Airi sat up, the lingering blush on her face proving how embarrassed she had been moments before.

She stared intently at Kaoru. "What I want to know is, do you actually have feelings for me?"

Kaoru froze.

Her glasses were gone, revealing a pair of exceptionally beautiful, moving eyes that reflected a single person's figure.

Just as this person was about to answer, the girl shrank back, emitting a particularly gloomy aura.

"I'm... I'm sorry... I got carried away... Recently, my alt account has been saying all these strange things to me, and my mind is all confused... I don't even know what I'm thinking anymore..."

Perhaps frightened by the possibility of being expelled, Sakura Airi was feeling somewhat insecure.

This insecurity connected to her feelings for Kaoru - she noticed more and more women around him while she had no place, not even able to advance their relationship.

"Airi."

Kaoru said, "I need to tell you two things."

Sakura Airi watched him anxiously, perhaps expecting him to say he already had a girlfriend.

"First, I'm not the person Airi imagines me to be. Like the messages I sent you from my alt account before, the real me is much darker and more despicable. For example, I've already slept with multiple girls."

It was completely scum-like talk. Sakura Airi whispered, "At least I know that much about you."

"Second, what you just did was dangerous."

Kaoru said, "I might think you're intentionally tempting me, and then I'd pin you to the ground."

Sakura Airi blinked in surprise, then heard him continue.

"Have you considered consequences you might not be able to handle?"

Whether considering Ichinose Honami and the others, or following his own conscience, Kaoru now had to take proper responsibility for this girl.

If this were before, he would have just pinned Sakura Airi to the ground and focused only on fulfilling his wish.

Sakura Airi tilted her head, seemingly realizing the seriousness of the situation. Her eyes widened slightly.

Just as Kaoru sighed inwardly, he saw the girl pick up her little leather shoes and hold them up before him again, her eyes sparkling with excitement.

"So that means you really do have feelings for me, right!"

Sakura Airi acted as if she hadn't heard what he just said, a smile spreading across her face.

"Since that's the case, let's hurry up!"

Kaoru fell silent.

"Did you hear anything I just said?"

"Hiks... I know... this is really embarrassing... But the fact that you're saying these things means you've already considered the consequences for me... Don't look at me with that expression... I've been thinking seriously about this all along, and I realized I can't hold back anymore!"

"You're getting a bit worked up, Airi. Calm down."

"C-calm, I am calm, but you never came looking for me hiks... I've seen it... They often go to the second floor..."

Since long ago, Kaoru had noticed that Sakura Airi tended to let her guard down in relaxed environments, which was exactly why she had brought Kaoru back to her room.

Some words and actions couldn't be done outside, but in her own territory, she became completely uninhibited.

Now, the young girl was pressing closer, holding her little leather shoes while threatening Kaoru fiercely.

"Hurry up and finish! I'll definitely fulfill your wish!"

There's no saving her - this idol would definitely end up exploiting her fans in the future.

Chapter 572: Really Disgusting

"Airi, don't you think this is shameful?"

"Sh-shameful... but I've already confessed everything... so stop resisting."

"Fine, even if I'm a pervert, this will just make a mess."

"N-no, it's okay, actually I'm a pervert too... Every time I use your photos... N-never mind, don't pay attention to that!"

"..."

Accompanied by a strange sensation, Kaoru let out a heavy breath, feeling the young girl's small hand still gently but firmly holding him, unwilling to let go.

Sakura Airi's breathing was equally rapid, her cheeks flushed with a faint crimson.

Her full chest rose and fell as if something wanted to burst out, causing her body to unconsciously lean toward Kaoru until they were almost pressed together.

A small section of collarbone was visible beneath her collar, her pink skin as clean and translucent as white snow.

The soft-textured shirt clung to her body, outlining the girl's figure with a subtle charm that still retained a youthful innocence.

Moreover, her earlier actions had been like opening Pandora's box.

Kaoru unconsciously wrapped his arm around her slender waist.

She trembled slightly but showed no resistance.

Her previously tightly shut eyes slowly opened, revealing a slightly moist timidity.

The moment their eyes met, her face was already completely flushed.

"Hiks... Did I do something bad?"

Sakura Airi saw that she was still holding her little leather shoes - the same shoes she had been wearing not long ago, now looking so dirty.

She had acted like a villain earlier, fiercely threatening Kaoru, even taking the initiative to grab him, personally staining her own shoes.

"What do you think?"

Kaoru exhaled deeply, "But making you only think of such things today is my fault."

Even though he had fulfilled a wish through Sakura Airi.

"I... I don't really understand... I just feel happy that I can make you have those thoughts too."

Sakura Airi whispered, as if clarifying something, "I think, uh, I mean, there might be friends in this world who do this too, so don't mind me..."

Kaoru interrupted her with action, easily pulling the girl into his embrace and gently pecking her lips.

The kiss was very light.

Kaoru pressed her shoulders, a faint smile playing on his lips as he spoke.

"Actually, I've thought about it—Airi isn't good at handling forceful people. If I were to get rough and take you by force, you wouldn't possibly resist me. Even if I made you bear seven or eight children, you'd agree with tears in your eyes."

Sakura Airi felt a bit angry. Was her image really that pathetic?

But upon second thought, she realized Kaoru had a point—she really was that kind of useless person.

Sakura Airi felt slightly sad: "So, you don't even want to force yourself on me."

Kaoru couldn't be bothered to follow her train of thought and flicked her forehead.

"I even dared to use an Alt account. Do you think there's anything I wouldn't dare to do?"

At this point, the matter of the Alt account was beyond explanation, so Kaoru simply admitted to it.

"But, but you..." Sakura Airi tearfully covered her forehead, "You've never cared about me... I mean, not like with Ichinose-san... that kind of attitude and concern."

Ever since Ichinose Honami became his girlfriend, all their rivals had turned into Ichinose Honami.

"Do you want to be my girlfriend, Airi?"

Kaoru looked at her with a teasing grin.

Sakura Airi flushed red, stammering and unable to form a response.

"I, I think Haruka-chan... and the others like you..."

"Changing the subject at a time like this? Is my question really that hard to answer?"

"Wah... I don't know, I feel like I'm not normal anymore. There's this uncontrollable voice in my heart that thinks of you every day, and it hurts so much when I see you with someone else."

Kaoru fell silent for a moment, staring into her eyes before slowly saying.

"Actually, I feel the same way. That's why I had Yamauchi expelled. If anyone else sets their sights on you, I'll make sure they get expelled too."

Her previously tense nerves relaxed involuntarily.

Sakura Airi bit her lip, suddenly remembering that had been her first kiss, and she abruptly panicked, feeling like a little deer was about to crash to death in her heart.

In her fluster, she pushed Kaoru away and dizzily picked up her second little leather shoe.

"What does this mean?"

Kaoru's face darkened.

"The, the atmosphere feels wrong!" Sakura Airi stammered, "I... I'm not prepared yet! I'm not wearing anything cute today, and I might smell! You should use this instead!"

Kaoru's face darkened even more. He really didn't have that kind of special preference.

However, the fact that the girl would say such things indicated that, on some level, she believed the natural progression would be for him to "devour" her, the idol.

Realizing this, Kaoru felt his spirits lift.

Though terribly nervous, Sakura Airi immediately noticed his reaction.

As a proper idol, the girl naturally grabbed hold of him and began treating her fan with enthusiasm once more.

At this moment, Kaoru couldn't muster any seemingly reasonable words.

Humans classify themselves as Earth's only advanced creatures, yet their essence is no different from common beasts.

So-called rationality often yields to bodily desires—expecting humans to remain perpetually rational is itself an extravagant hope.

Sakura Airi, with her hair tied in two braids, had removed her glasses, leaving almost none of her usual plainness.

Her delicate and adorable face was fully displayed before Kaoru.

Her lively eyes shifted between staring at her own hands and observing Kaoru's expression.

A blush born of shyness had spread all the way to her neck, staining her fair skin with an enticing hue that made one want to take a bite.

Just thinking about her identity, just imagining this idol helping her own fan, filled Kaoru with an uncontrollable sense of pride and satisfaction, driving him to want to defile the girl before him.

The girl understood his thoughts perfectly—her flushed face was the clearest proof—yet she didn't shy away. Instead, she actively helped him realize those desires.

Before long, Kaoru released her.

Sakura Airi stood up, her face still red as she tried to slip on her little leather shoes.

Her slender legs, clad in black thigh-high socks, carefully slid into the shoes, her cute feet nestling inside.

A faint, glistening sheen appeared on the black fabric at her ankles, quickly soaking into the skin beneath the stockings.

Squelch, squelch—

The girl spun around a few times in front of him, gazing at him expectantly as she asked.

"Is this okay?"

"It'll leave a smell."

Kaoru looked up at the ceiling. "This is going to make it hard for me to hold back."

"Hold it in!"

Sakura Airi patted her flushed cheeks, a little embarrassed. "I feel like I've become such a shameless woman now..."

Her once-pristine little leather shoes now felt strange, reminding her of mochi.

She remembered how mochi had that sticky, clingy texture, often sticking to her teeth—just like how it now clung to her delicate feet, pressing against her skin and making her slightly uncomfortable.

But she didn't mind.

After all, it wasn't as if she only had this one pair of shoes.

Still, she felt too embarrassed to go out like this.

Kaoru felt he could no longer restrain himself.

With what little rationality remained, he kissed Sakura Airi a few times before leaving the room, now thick with an ambiguous atmosphere.

"Next time, I won't let you off so easily."

After he left, Sakura Airi stood frozen for a long moment before her face flushed crimson and she threw herself onto her bed, rolling back and forth while clutching her pillow, burying her face in it.

'What have I done?!'

Recalling the earlier scene, she repeatedly tapped her head in frustration, yet Kaoru's words echoed incessantly in her ears.

'Next time... I'll wear something cute... Next time... he definitely won't let me off...'

Unconsciously, her shoes slipped off and fell to the floor.

Her face burning, she curled up and let out a soft whimper.

Then, she took off her stockings, holding them in her hands and savoring the lingering scent of Kaoru.

Like a creature accustomed to dark, damp places instinctively yearning for sunlight, it felt warm and comforting, filling her with a sense of security.

It wasn't until Hasebe Haruka called her that Sakura Airi snapped out of her daze.

Glancing at her phone, her face turned even redder—she had zoned out for two whole hours!

"Airi, are you in your room?"

"I didn't do anything!"

"Huh?"

Chapter 573: The Junior Senpai's Maid Mode.

Kaoru returned to his dorm.

The moment he opened the door, two girls who had been waiting for him immediately grabbed him.

"There's a woman's scent on you!"

Kushida Kikyo clutched his clothes, sniffing him all over. "It's a scent I haven't smelled before. Who have you been with this time?"

"Another thieving cat!"

Karuizawa Kei glared at him displeasedly. "And here I've been waiting for you all this time. You're so mean to your girlfriend—aren't you worried I might run away?"

Kaoru raised both hands, his expression unchanged: "I just hung out with Airi and the others."

His situation with Tachibana Akane was currently somewhat awkward.

If he were to mention Sakura Airi to them, it would likely trigger another wave of jealousy.

"Tch, no wonder someone targeted her. Whoever you get close to ends up suffering. If I weren't in so deep already, I'd want to run away right now."

Kushida Kikyo accepted his explanation, then let her thoughts wander. "Hey, will I be next? You care about us too much, making it completely obvious to others."

Karuizawa Kei felt somewhat sour.

Perhaps this was exactly why Kaoru had given the Protection Points to Kushida Kikyo.

"It'll be over soon. Nagumo won't be student council president next semester."

Kaoru tried to reassure them. "Now we just need one opportunity - one chance to take down Nagumo in one fell swoop."

Karuizawa Kei wasn't particularly interested in this topic, but Kushida Kikyo's eyes lit up.

"Things would definitely be easier without Nagumo, but what about Ryuen?"

Just as Kaoru was about to ask why they cared about Ryuen, another girl walked out from the living room.

"Um, hello, Kaoru-kun."

For some reason, Tachibana Akane had appeared here.

With a somewhat restrained smile, she greeted Kaoru lightly.

Kaoru froze immediately, because this underclassman senior was actually wearing a maid uniform - the same style that Kushida Kikyo and the others had worn before.

The black and white color scheme wasn't particularly revealing, but the low-cut design revealed a expanse of pale skin from the girl's full chest, plump and swelling, drawing Kaoru's gaze.

The corset made her figure appear even more slender, with the skirt hem only reaching her knees, revealing calves wrapped in white stockings below.

Since they were indoors, she wasn't wearing shoes, allowing a rare glimpse of her delicate feet.

Wrapped tightly in the sheer stockings, only her ankles showed a hint of tender pink, perfectly illustrating what it meant to be white with a rosy glow.

Though she appeared petite and delicate, this underclassman senior had one of the best body proportions Kaoru had ever seen in a girl - developed quite fully yet very well-balanced, neither too plump nor too thin.

Especially the proportion between her chest and her overall figure, even her calves had a slight R-rated appeal.

Recalling it now, he could still remember how excellent the texture felt.

But why was she here? Had Kushida Kikyo convinced her to participate in the Sound party?

Perhaps accustomed to such thought patterns, Kaoru's first reaction was that Tachibana Akane wanted to join the Sound party.

"Your relationship is really subtle, still using that form of address."

Kushida Kikyo teased Tachibana Akane with a giggle.

She had been eyeing this underclassman senior, secretly hinting at Kaoru with her eyes.

"I-I'm not really used to it yet."

Tachibana Akane tried hard to conceal her expression. "I heard your exams were over, so I thought I'd come ask about the situation. I'm relieved to see you're all safe and sound."

The latter part seemed like an explanation to Kaoru about why she was here - that she hadn't just shown up without reason.

"If we hadn't come to check, this senior would probably have been waiting pitifully downstairs for hours."

Karuizawa Kei took the opportunity to criticize Kaoru, complaining that someone had returned too late.

"That's not true! I was waiting in the café, wondering whether I should call or not!" Tachibana Akane wanted to prove that she, as their senior, wasn't a fool.

"So cute~"

Kushida Kikyo ran over and hugged Tachibana Akane.

Watching her senior blush crimson only made Kushida like her more, nuzzling against her repeatedly.

"Hey, someone~ Doesn't Akane-senpai look great in this outfit?"

He hadn't expected their relationship to become so harmonious, especially since their last meeting had been quite awkward.

What could Kaoru say? Other than nodding in agreement, he had no objections.

Fortunately, he was currently in a state of post-nut clarity.

"Senpai, are you wearing this to play house with me?"

Tachibana Akane blushed and quickly pushed Kushida Kikyo away.

"Kikyou-chan forced me to wear this!"

"That's right, it was me!" Kushida Kikyo patted her chest proudly, "Just as I imagined, Akane-senpai looks absolutely adorable in it!"

"Super adorable!"

Karuizawa Kei inexplicably got excited too, "Now quickly put on the cat ears! Let's take photos together!"

"No way! It's too embarrassing!"

Tachibana Akane covered her face.

The reason she had been dawdling and hadn't come out immediately to see Kaoru was precisely because she found this outfit utterly mortifying.

"Didn't we agree you'd all wear outfits too? Why am I the only one dressed like this?"

"Because there are only two maid uniforms. You're wearing one, so we can't have one of us going naked, can we?"

Kushida Kikyo replied as if it were the most natural thing in the world.

Kaoru understood - the two girls had set up Tachibana Akane.

He hadn't expected the young senior to actually fall for it.

Though, this level of trickery wasn't particularly excessive - just typical playful banter between girls.

Returning to his living room, Kaoru noticed Horikita Suzune was absent.

She was probably on her period.

Strange, she usually still visited during this time. Why was she avoiding him now?

Even during her period, he wouldn't be that depraved, would he?

After the girls played around for a while, their stomachs began to growl.

Karuizawa Kei volunteered to prepare dinner, wanting to showcase her domestic skills.

Kaoru initially tried to help but was shooed out by Karuizawa Kei.

"That's weird. Why aren't you getting horny over Akane-senpai today?"

Kushida Kikyo felt his forehead as if suspecting he was sick, wearing an extremely puzzled expression.

Tachibana Akane stared at her in shock.

Even senior students had probably heard about the first-year "little angel," but discovering her dual personalities in public versus private must be utterly bewildering.

"Don't make me sound like some kind of sex-crazed animal."

Kaoru grabbed her hand. "The day after tomorrow is Kei's birthday. I wanted to discuss it with all of you."

"If it's about gifts, I can help!"

Kushida Kikyo immediately offered, "But I want compensation!"

Kaoru flicked her forehead: "I've already decided what to give her."

Kushida pouted pitifully: "Then why did you ask me? I'm such a convenient woman - just give me a little treat and I'll work three hundred percent harder."

He didn't need her to spell it out - Kaoru knew exactly what kind of "compensation" she meant.

"I plan to spend a day alone with Kei."

Kaoru thought for a moment. "The day after tomorrow is exam day, so I'm thinking of taking her out tomorrow."

Kushida Kikyo clicked her tongue: "That plan probably won't work."

"Why not?"

Kaoru asked curiously.

"Because Kei and Honami-chan already have plans. You just need to be their tool man."

Kushida Kikyo offered no further explanation, instead gazing at the ceiling with a melancholic expression before slowly crawling onto Tachibana Akane's lap.

"Only Akane-senpai can understand my feelings now. Ah, these couples..."

Kaoru was bewildered.

What were his two girlfriends secretly planning behind his back?

It seemed like everyone knew something he didn't?

"I think this is quite nice," Tachibana Akane whispered, "When the time comes, I'll give Kei a gift too."

Kushida Kikyo chuckled, "It feels like we're taking advantage of Akane-senpai. Both times it's been you giving us gifts."

"What's wrong with that? I'm your senior!" Tachibana Akane began to boast, though it was unclear what she had to be proud of.

"No, we need to return the favor to Akane-senpai too." Kushida Kikyo pointed at Kaoru, "Hurry up and kiss her! She's been waiting for you so long - you should pin her to the ground right now!"

Tachibana Akane flushed with embarrassment.

This little angel was completely a little devil! The true angel would have to be Ichinose Honami!

Wait, no - what Ichinose Honami did wasn't much better than Kushida Kikyo.

As a student council officer, she actually did such naughty things in the student council office...

Tachibana Akane could only look to Kaoru, thinking he would be normal, but he actually leaned in and kissed her.

The moment their lips met, he grasped the girl's shoulders.

The resistance she had been about to offer stopped there, and she obediently let him have his way.

Below them, Kushida Kikyo revealed a triumphant smile. She had skillfully opened Pandora's box.

Kaoru shifted slightly, unsure what expression to wear.

He looked at Tachibana Akane before him - she clearly felt the same way he did, face completely red, eyelashes fluttering, gazing at him softly and vulnerably.

"It's okay... you can think of me as a cup," Tachibana Akane mustered her courage.

Both Kaoru and Kushida Kikyo nearly choked, the latter widening her eyes in shock.

"Wait, Akane-senpai, do you actually know what that means?"

This was too absurd - had he already conditioned Tachibana Akane this quickly?

"O-Of course I know!" Tachibana Akane couldn't stand their looks, "It's... it's a vulgar meaning... Anyway... anyway I'm your girlfriend, what's wrong with helping my boyfriend?"

She'd probably get along well with Horikita Suzune, though Horikita Suzune saw her relationship with Kaoru as one of user and being used.

That way, Horikita Suzune wouldn't count as having fallen for Kaoru and she was often mocked by Kushida Kikyo for self-deception.

As for Tachibana Akane's meaning - she knew the true implication, but she didn't care. Instead, she considered this as one of a girlfriend's duties.

"Akane-senpai, you're spoiling this guy too much," Kushida Kikyo said with a resentful tone, having understood Tachibana Akane's meaning.

"When you become a mother someday, you'll definitely be the kind who can't bear to scold her children."

"Who's going to become a mother!" Tachibana Akane denied, her face red.

Kaoru covered Kushida Kikyo's mouth to keep her from speaking any further.

If this continued, Tachibana Akane would run away - the young senpai couldn't handle such teasing.

"Mmmpfh!" Kushida Kikyo glared at him, cheeks puffed in anger.

Faced with Kaoru's fierce expression, Tachibana Akane didn't dare move, probably recalling the scene from the office.

"Wah! What are you all doing!" Kei Karuizawa pointed at them with a soup ladle, fuming with anger.

"At least wait until I finish cooking before doing something like this! Sneaking food behind my back... I'm not into that kind of cuckoldry nonsense!"

Kaoru and Tachibana Akane exchanged glances.

So it wasn't about their relationship that she cared about, but rather them eating without her?

Chapter 574: Student Council Election

On August 7th, on the eve of the first-year exams, the school finally began intervening in the recent controversy surrounding Nagumo.

"If you are dissatisfied with the current student council president, you may decide for yourselves through free voting to elect the student you deem most suitable for the position of president."

These were the exact words of the acting principal.

Each homeroom teacher faithfully conveyed the new leader's instructions, which were also posted on the school forum and bulletin boards, taking everyone by surprise.

They hadn't expected their casual complaints to actually persuade the school. Although student council elections were customary, the school's approach didn't break any traditions.

The student council was responsible for supervising this vote.

They would collect all ballots and ensure complete fairness and transparency throughout the process.

The school wouldn't participate, granting significant freedom.

Thus, the student council had their hands full this time.

Considering that some might face retaliatory actions, student council vice president Kaoru Mitoma specifically set up ballot boxes on the first floor of the school building.

Students could vote at any time without worrying about being watched.

For this election, students could write up to three names and had to include their own signature.

Unsigned ballots would be considered invalid.

Of course, third-year students only had voting rights and were not eligible to run for election.

When the election was announced, Nagumo was reportedly livid and almost no one in his class dared approach him.

Meanwhile, Kaoru learned about Iijima Ryota accidentally revealing his identity.

Thanks to this, Nagumo was again trying to uncover more spies in Class 2-A, exhausting everyone.

Even Asahina Nazuna couldn't take it anymore, unusually complaining to Kaoru over the phone about what this childhood friend of hers was doing.

"I'll vote for you!"

Hearing this, Kaoru hesitated slightly.

Logically speaking, Katsuragi was more suitable for the student council president position—he himself didn't have that much time.

Therefore, Kaoru evaded the topic vaguely.

...

"Ugh, seriously! Why did they have to bring this up on a day off? They're not considering our feelings at all!"

In the student council office, Ichinose Honami finally finished all her work and lay motionless on the sofa like an exhausted panda.

If she knew the truth, she'd probably beat him to death, so Kaoru kept silent.

However, he was indeed responsible—he had forgotten to ask Tsukishiro for a few days' delay.

Tsukishiro would naturally handle matters with the highest efficiency.

If they didn't hurry, the third-years would graduate soon.

"So far, we've received twenty-seven ballots, mostly from second-year students."

Katsuragi had already tallied today's votes and handed the form to Kaoru.

"When should we start campaigning?"

The student council currently had only one decision-maker.

Even Kiriya and Tonokawa were now looking at Kaoru.

As the student council president, Nagumo should have been giving orders here, but he considered this place a den of thieves.

This morning, he even attempted to announce the dismissal of everyone's positions.

However, Kaoru countered him with the school's official announcement, which required the student council to supervise this election.

If the student council were dissolved, who would be responsible for overseeing the election?

Frustrated and angry, Nagumo returned to his grade.

He planned to canvass for votes among the second-years—or rather, it was less about gaining new support and more about securing his existing voter base.

"This timing is somewhat delicate. All grades are preparing for exams, so it's not advisable to act rashly," Kaoru set the forms aside.

"Let's call it a day for now. Everyone, you can head back."

Katsuragi Kohei nodded. Since it had been stated that way, he had no objections.

"It feels like a dream. I never thought I'd actually see the day Nagumo-kun steps down," Tonokawa looked at Kaoru with a complicated expression.

Turning back was no longer an option for him, as Nagumo intended to expel both him and Mizowaki.

The only way to avoid expulsion was to take down Nagumo.

"Heh, this is the power of the younger generation," Kiriya chuckled, a glint of shrewdness hidden in his eyes, feeling a stir of ambition.

If it was an election, he wasn't without a chance himself.

After all this time, Kiriya gradually realized that the previous agreement was just Kaoru's excuse to drag him onto this pirate ship.

Once aboard, could he still escape?

Kiriya had also considered sending Kiryuin Fuka over as a package deal, but since he couldn't defeat her in a fight, he had to abandon that idea.

If Kaoru didn't help, Kiriya planned to rely on his own strength.

Unconsciously, a slight crack formed within the faction that had gathered around Kaoru.

After they all left the student council office, only Kaoru and Ichinose Honami remained.

"Are you hesitant about running for election?" Ichinose Honami looked up at Kaoru, a posture that accentuated the girl's ample chest.

"During the days Nagumo was absent, I thought about him every day. If he were still here, I wouldn't have to rush to the student council office every day," he said.

Hearing his words, the girl burst into a soft laugh.

"So, you're thinking you should spend more time with them instead?"

"I feel like I'm being torn apart," Kaoru sighed.

Back at the agency, he was a producer, which naturally gave him various reasons to interact with the idols—even to inspect their rooms.

"To be honest, I find it incredible that you all get along so harmoniously, without any arguments or fights."

How to maintain harmony in a harem is a problem even emperors struggled with.

Yet, Kaoru found that he didn't need to put in much effort—they had already done the internal work themselves.

"Although I'm happy you praise us like that, I think it's best not to hold such idealistic views. Actually, we have our own subtle thoughts too. It's inevitable for girls to engage in some rivalry, but we just keep it hidden from you," Ichinose Honami sat up, smoothing her skirt as she revealed a faint smile.

"This is me being honest too. I'll help Kaoru-kun work hard to maintain good relationships among everyone, and Kaoru-kun must also put in effort. Girls have fragile hearts—they need Kaoru-kun's full attention, or they could easily break."

"That doesn't sound like my responsibility."

"Do you want to treat girls roughly, Kaoru? Do you want to bully girls harshly?"

"I've already changed my impossibilities for you."

Kaoru saw the girl walk toward him, gently embrace his head against her soft chest and tenderly stroke his hair.

"Even before that, I had already fallen for you."

Despite having experienced many things, Kaoru was still shaken.

This was the most direct attack he had never heard from idols.

In that instant, Kaoru wanted to confess his past.

"Oh no, I almost forgot! Kei is waiting for us!"

Ichinose Honami frantically pulled out her phone, relieved to see the time, then noticed Kaoru sighing.

"What's wrong with you?"

"I just feel like teasing you a bit." Kaoru patted her perky bottom.

"You really are a pervert."

A blush spread across Ichinose Honami's face.

She clearly also knew what content Kaoru had written in the notebook for Horikita Suzune.

Kaoru didn't argue with her, rising from the chair intending to leave the office.

Seeing this, Ichinose Honami's lips curved slightly upward before she quickly followed him.

Chapter 575: I'm Afraid of Archangels

Kaoru thought they had some secret, but it turned out they were just discussing what clothes to buy at a women's clothing store.

Girls are always very interested in clothes.

Even though they wear school uniforms more often at school, they still find ways to dress up.

Being different during adolescence is girls' way of survival.

Especially Kei Karuizawa.

As a qualified hot girl, she has to keep up with all kinds of fashion trends.

If she and her girlfriends aren't talking about makeup and skirts, what would they talk about? Studying?

Kaoru remembered she privately bought fashion magazines.

Boys just need to admire the models, but girls have to consider many more aspects.

"Does this look good?"

Kei Karuizawa was wearing a light-colored long-sleeved dress with a bow tied at the collar, resting on her slightly raised chest.

The skirt had a light, floating feeling, tightly cinched at the waist to accentuate her slender figure.

Holding the hem, she spun around in front of Kaoru and Ichinose Honami, her black stockings flashing briefly, swaying with a faint, ethereal charm.

"It looks great! It gives off a young lady vibe!"

Ichinose Honami's eyes sparkled as she pushed Kei Karuizawa in front of the mirror.

"If you let your hair down and style it in big waves, you'd look even more like a young lady!"

"Isn't that too mature? I'm just a high school student!"

Kei Karuizawa complained while examining herself in the mirror.

"This style is different from my usual look. I feel this set would suit little Honami better."

"Eh, why?"

"Because you're usually very gentle, giving off a big sister feeling."

"Don't say that, it's embarrassing."

Kei Karuizawa pouted, showing no sign of actual embarrassment.

"Let me try other clothes."

"Wait!"

Just as she was about to change, Ichinose Honami stopped her and suddenly pushed her in front of Kaoru.

"We still don't know what this person thinks. Shouldn't we ask him if he thinks it looks good?"

Kaoru met Kei Karuizawa's gaze.

Her slender, petite figure carried a different strength than usual, like a willow branch swaying in the wind, inexplicably giving the illusion of the girl next door.

Her fair, clean skin looked so delicate it seemed it might break at a touch.

He had to admit the girl successfully blurred his rational thinking about emotions.

"You look good in anything."

Facing the girl's slightly expectant gaze, Kaoru didn't disappoint her.

"W-what kind of answer is that? So sneaky." Kei Karuizawa was easy to placate, though she wouldn't admit it verbally.

"I've heard you boys often play dating sims. Did those games teach you to say such things?"

"Indeed, the game's strategy taught me to speak my true feelings to girls."

Kaoru's expression made it impossible to tell whether he was humoring Kei Karuizawa or being completely serious.

Kei pouted, wanting to say something but feeling too embarrassed.

She sensed these were genuine words.

"Alright, let's ignore him and continue."

Ichinose Honami laughed and led Kei away to browse clothes.

After all, Kaoru's only role was to keep them happy—such was the nature of accompanying one's girlfriend shopping.

When a girl asks for your opinion, she simply wants compliments.

How exactly you praise her doesn't matter to her.

Standing casually by the clothing rack, Kaoru nonchalantly accepted the surrounding attention.

Besides the shop assistants, other students were naturally present too.

He was the only boy wandering through the entire women's clothing store, drawing everyone's notice.

"Good morning~"

At that moment, someone covered his eyes from behind.

"Planning to peek at girls changing clothes in the women's clothing store today?"

"I don't peek. If I wanted to watch, I'd just push the door open and go in."

Kaoru grabbed her wrist. "Senpai, is this your standard entrance routine?"

"Ahaha, not at all. Only with you."

Asahina Nazuna released him, but he didn't let go of her small hand.

Belatedly, she grew somewhat shy. "I saw you here with little Honami and the others, so I sneaked over."

"I thought you might want to complain to me about Nagumo."

Kaoru turned around to see his tall senpai standing behind him.

His sudden turn nearly made him bump into her chest.

"Why are you still bringing him up?"

Asahina Nazuna took a small step back, realizing she had been standing rather close.

"I was thinking tomorrow is Kei-chan's birthday, so I came to check things out."

"Honami-chan told you?"

Kaoru instinctively recalled the sound party, then found the thought ridiculous and shook his head with a light laugh.

"To be precise, I asked Tachibana-senpai."

Asahina's voice inexplicably grew quieter. "I... I'm a bit scared of little Honami now."

The impression Ichinose Honami had left on her in the Student Council office days ago was too vivid - her mind had completely blanked out on the spot.

Who would have thought the first-year archangel could have that side to her?

The corner of Kaoru's mouth twitched.

He could understand her fear of Ichinose Honami - even he sometimes felt intimidated by these succubi.

"Senpai, are you afraid we might do something S&M to you?"

"Wah!"

Asahina quickly covered his mouth, her face flushing.

"Don't, don't just say that out loud here! Someone might hear!"

Kaoru licked her hand - a girl's hand really was fragrant and sweet.

"You, you, you..."

Asahina was speechless, pulling her hand back as if electrocuted.

"I couldn't help myself."

Kaoru said, "Actually, I wouldn't force you to do anything strange, senpai. I haven't touched you before, have I?"

"I, I know. It's not your problem, though you can be quite perverted sometimes."

Asahina's pretty face reddened slightly before she grew somewhat serious, lowering her voice.

"I'm just a bit scared of Honami. She seems even more stubborn and perverted than you."

Seeing Kaoru's confused expression, Asahina suddenly bit her lip, realizing she shouldn't have said that, and quickly changed the subject.

"Are you all planning to buy clothes?"

"Yes. Would you like to join us, senpai?"

Kaoru extended the invitation.

Asahina shook her head: "I'm just passing by. My friends are waiting outside. Just pretend you didn't see me. And whatever Kei-chan wants to buy, I'll pay for it. Consider it my birthday gift to her this time."

"Why are you avoiding them?"

Kaoru found it strange.

Asahina opened her mouth, then said with slight annoyance: "I'm scared of the sound party, okay!"

It was Kaoru's turn to be speechless, while Asahina also closed her mouth, her face bright red.

After a long moment, she whispered: "Anyway, it's not that I'm scared of doing H things with you. I just... don't really... that kind of... with many people together... it's too indecent."

She covered her face with her hands.

What was she even saying?

Seeing this, Kaoru chuckled, "In your eyes, am I only about throwing parties?"

He naturally understood why some girls would mind such things—otherwise why would Asahina Nazuna keep rejecting Nagumo Miyabi's advances while holding onto her reservations?

"I believe you."

Asahina Nazuna patted her slightly flushed cheeks, though she didn't trust Ichinose Honami—the other girl was definitely scheming to drag her into those parties.

How terrifying.

This archangel might just end up luring her into bed.

Despite her frustration, Asahina didn't feel much disgust.

After all, the person involved was someone she liked.

Even if Kaoru forced himself on her, the worst outcome would be her staying angry for a few days before things returned to normal.

Beyond that, she was actually quite curious about Ichinose Honami's true intentions.

After Asahina left, Kaoru accidentally wandered into the lingerie section and had to quickly retreat.

Just then, he saw Karuizawa and Ichinose emerging from the fitting room together.

"Kaoru, how about this one!"

Kaoru glanced over and instinctively replied, "Too lewd."

"Huh?"

Both girls froze for a moment, not understanding what he meant.

Soon, Ichinose caught on, wearing a mischievous grin identical to Kushida Kikyo's, her eyes gleaming like a cat spotting prey.

"I see~ So Kaoru likes this kind of vibe~ A bit naughty, huh~"

"No, I meant it's too revealing."

Kaoru pointed at her soft lower abdomen, "Even your navel is visible, and the skirt is too short."

"I know! I'm already embarrassed enough, but doesn't Kaoru have a peeping habit?"

Ichinose originally wanted to tease him longer, but his pointing made her genuinely shy.

"Peeping?"

Kaoru pointed at himself, "You mean me?"

Did he really look that perverted?

"Yeah, you wrote it in your notebook."

Karuizawa Kei naturally backed up Ichinose, "You like watching girls' skirts, enjoy seeing girls..."

"Wait, stop!"

Kaoru cut her off. Having shaken off his obsession with the wish-granting device, he now felt an inexplicable sense of shame.

No wonder the wish-granter dared only outsource such perverted desires—if others found out, they'd probably die laughing.

Chapter 576: Hurry Up and Kiss Her

Truth be told, Kaoru felt these days were a mix of pleasure and suffering.

The girls willingly invested time and energy into their dress-up game, experimenting with various styles like chirping little birds, utterly absorbed without considering Kaoru's feelings.

Of course, it wasn't pure torture.

Seeing the two girls in outfits different from their usual wear was refreshing.

Like the skin-tight jeans that perfectly outlined Ichinose's plump thighs and even revealed her perky round bottom, paired with a crop top that exposed her pale, soft stomach right before Kaoru's eyes.

This bold styling clearly wasn't her own choice—Karuizawa had pushed the blushing girl out of the fitting room, obviously the instigator.

Kaoru lamented that this was summer fashion.

However, even if summer arrived, Ichinose Honami would probably never wear such clothes—they were too revealing of her figure for her taste.

Karuizawa Kei, on the other hand, wanted to pair shorts with a crop top.

In her imagination, this was the quintessential summer style for a hot girl, ideally tanned to a wheatish complexion on a sun-drenched beach.

After they finished trying on clothes, Kaoru noticed them heading toward the lingerie section.

He was considering whether to follow when they promptly shooed him out of the store.

How strange—he could watch them try on regular clothes, but lingerie was off-limits?

Standing idle outside the store entrance, Kaoru watched the mall's bustling crowd.

Someone recognized him and excitedly waved hello.

Ever since he'd stopped hiding his abilities, more people had come to believe he possessed supernatural powers—hypnosis, for instance.

Some boys already regarded him as a deity rather than just some Harem Overlord.

Rumors spread like wildfire, reminiscent of the media scrutiny he'd faced before.

Shūkan Bunshun even claimed to have exposed him as an evil sorcerer who enslaved the souls of composers like Beethoven, Mozart, and Chopin to write music for him.

They alleged he'd made backroom deals with the president of a certain talent agency, forcing idols to perform with questionable props and privately bullying junior idols.

If a heavyweight magazine could fabricate such absurd rumors, one could only imagine what lesser outlets were circulating.

"Feeling down?"

At some point, Karuizawa Kei had quietly appeared behind him.

"Not really. Are you done trying things on?"

Kaoru didn't see Ichinose Honami emerge—only Kei stood there elegantly beside him.

"Almost. It's mainly Honami-chan who wants to buy lingerie."

Kei walked over to the railing, overlooking the first-floor hall below and watching the escalators trace their paths up and down.

"Sorry for making you accompany us shopping when you've been so busy lately. I suddenly feel a bit guilty."

"Actually, I'd planned to spend the whole day with you."

Ignoring their surroundings, Kaoru took her small hand in his. "Tomorrow's your birthday—is there anything you want?"

"Eh, so direct?" Kei blushed slightly but didn't pull her hand away, instead tightening her grip quietly.

Kaoru nodded. "Birthdays are for granting wishes. Whatever you want, I'll make it happen."

Though he'd been granting quite a few wishes lately, with some people less than cooperative.

"Grant wishes... No way..."

Kei first muttered his words softly, then pouted at him. "There's no way you could fulfill my wish."

"Keep underestimating your boyfriend, and you're done for."

Kaoru felt slightly irritated. He was, after all, a professional—if he couldn't fulfill a mere girl's wish, he might as well resign.

Unexpectedly, Kei burst into giggles, her shoulders shaking like a amused little white duck quacking mockingly at her boyfriend.

"Is it that funny?"

Kaoru grumbled.

Stifling her laughter, Kei managed between breaths, "N-no, it's just... There's no way Kaoru could ever do it, hahaha..."

"How would I know if I can do it if you don't tell me?"

Kaoru already had an inkling but stubbornly pressed the point.

Kei stopped laughing and gazed at him quietly for a moment before whispering.

"Be with me, only with me, just the two of us."

He couldn't do it.

It was already impossible, and it had been from the very start—he couldn't meet her demand.

Not just this girl before him, but Kaoru believed that even Ichinose Honami harbored similar thoughts in her heart.

It was human nature—when you fall for someone, you instinctively want to possess them.

No one could escape this selfish instinct.

Kei Karuizawa knew all too well that Kaoru couldn't answer.

She had held onto a sliver of hope initially, but the moment he fell silent, she too quieted down.

"My second wish."

A faint smile touched Kei Karuizawa's lips, though her eyes held a plea, "Please take responsibility for me, for my entire life."

"No, let me add a little more to that."

Kaoru said, "I'll make you genuinely happy and joyful. That's my life's goal."

"In others' eyes, our relationship might seem twisted, you know?"

Kei Karuizawa murmured, "I've completely given up on thinking. My dream is actually just to be a proper full-time housewife."

"At this point, am I the one convincing you, or are you convincing me?"

Kaoru didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Kei Karuizawa was essentially telling him, "Here's a foolishly adorable girl, free for the taking, ready to marry anytime—come quick!"

"I... I'm a little afraid you'll leave me. There are many women around you, and I don't seem to have anything particularly noteworthy to catch your attention."

Kei Karuizawa fell silent for a brief moment, unconsciously touching her stomach.

"You saw Honami's belly earlier, right? I can't wear clothes like that."

Aside from her scheme against Ichinose Honami, Kei Karuizawa also felt a twinge of envy that Honami could wear such outfits.

Moreover, her first encounter with Kaoru hadn't been pleasant, so it was no surprise she felt this insecurity.

"I don't care, and I never said I didn't have a solution."

Kaoru chuckled, "Since Kei doubts me, I'll confess to you every day then."

Kei Karuizawa was pondering the meaning of his earlier words when she heard the latter part about confessing.

She let out a soft "Eh?", her small head sprouting a giant question mark.

"I like you, Kei." Kaoru said, "Maybe no one believes a lecher could have sincere feelings, but I believe that right now, at this moment, this lecher has feelings of affection for you. I like you."

The question mark vanished, replaced by steam practically rising from Kei Karuizawa's head.

Her face flushed bright red, and she stared at Kaoru in a fluster.

With her small hand trapped in his, she had no room to evade or escape.

She could only stand there, utterly exposed, absorbing the impact of his words.

It felt like the heart-pounding thrill of a first confession, leaving her momentarily dazed.

Looking at Kaoru's face, the first thought that popped into her mind was to kiss him!

Aside from kissing him, Kei Karuizawa couldn't think of any other response.

"Smack, smack! Hurry up and kiss him!"

Kei Karuizawa's expression froze.

She turned her head dazedly to see Ichinose Honami cheering her on, having been eavesdropping for who knows how long.

Chapter 577: Prelude to a Miracle.

With Ichinose watching so assertively from the sidelines, Kei certainly wasn't going to kiss him.

Kaoru didn't know what they had bought, but he faithfully conveyed Asahina Nazuna's message nonetheless.

They were initially surprised, then promptly blamed Kaoru for not informing them earlier, saying he should have brought Asahina Nazuna back with him.

Considering certain factors, Kaoru chose not to mention that Asahina Nazuna was afraid of Ichinose Honami.

The two girls cheerfully started heading back to the dormitory, leaving Kaoru somewhat confused. He had no choice but to follow them.

Just as expected, they simultaneously pressed the button for the second floor in the elevator.

Kaoru had a premonition that something was up.

The moment the door opened, Kushida Kikyo and Tachibana Akane were standing in the entranceway.

With lightning speed, they placed a sparkling crown on Kei Karuizawa's head.

"Though it's simple, happy birthday!"

Kushida Kikyo raised both hands, though the gesture wasn't exactly one of celebration.

"A birthday that comes one day early is still a birthday! That's life!"

"Happy birthday."

Tachibana Akane, lacking Kushida's exuberance, simply smiled gently at Kei Karuizawa.

Kei was stunned for a good while. Her gaze fell upon Ichinose Honami beside her, as if asking "Shouldn't it be tomorrow?"

"I was actually quite surprised too."

Ichinose Honami looked somewhat embarrassed. "It was a last-minute decision. They thought this would be better."

"Today is our surprise for you. We won't interfere with your tomorrow."

Kushida pulled Kaoru inside from the doorway.

"We all thought tomorrow should be reserved for you and him, so you should come in quickly too."

The last remark was directed at Kaoru.

With an air of finality, she grabbed hold of him and closed the dormitory door.

"Couldn't you have discussed this with me?"

Kaoru sounded somewhat displeased. "I can understand keeping it from Kei, but why was I kept in the dark too?"

"Didn't you say you were preparing a gift yourself?"

Kushida stated matter-of-factly. "In that case, there was no need for us to consult with you."

"..."

That wasn't what had been said originally, but Kaoru decided not to argue with her about it.

"This is my gift. I wasn't sure what to get you, so please forgive its simplicity."

Tachibana had already handed her gift box to Kei Karuizawa.

It was clear she wanted to build a good relationship with them.

Kei carefully accepted the gift.

Perhaps from nervousness, her voice came out slightly airy. "I-I'll treasure it properly."

"Ehehe, I have one too!"

Kushida moved close to Kei's face, attaching a cute hair clip to the side of her bangs.

It transformed Kei's appearance like the final stroke that brings a dragon to life.

"Wow! You look even cuter now!"

Tachibana's eyes lit up. "It feels like I'm facing a kouhai!" She is your junior though," Kaoru internally complained.

Still, the hair clip indeed made Kei Karuizawa appear more like a junior student, softening her usually strong demeanor and adding a delicate, dependent quality to her presence.

Unable to see her own appearance, Kei took out her phone and finally saw the hair clip beside her bangs reflected in the screen, a slight smile touching her lips.

"Is it cute?" Kushida asked.

"It's cute, but... does it really suit me?"

Kei sounded somewhat concerned.

"As long as it's cute, that's all that matters." Kushida Kikyo didn't mind, "No one would say anything about you. If you don't believe me, ask him."

Under her pointing finger, Kaoru nodded, which made Karuizawa Kei feel much more at ease.

"Ahem, let's continue inside!"

Ichinose Honami pushed a few people toward the direction of the living room.

Seeing them enter, Horikita Suzune said to Karuizawa Kei, "Happy birthday, Kei."

Karuizawa Kei whispered, "It sounds so awkward. I suddenly understand why you all had such stiff expressions back then."

"You'll get used to it next time. After all, our relationship is just too twisted."

Kushida Kikyo sat down next to Horikita Suzune, "Thinking about it carefully, we were all originally enemies. I could never get along with this person here, yet now we're sitting together, dropping all pretenses, celebrating another's birthday. In the past, this would have been utterly unimaginable."

Yes, indeed everyone present were originally love rivals.

They all knew this—their relationship shouldn't be this friendly and harmonious.

This was exactly what made Karuizawa Kei feel uncomfortable.

"I prepared a gift for you. I hope you'll like it."

Horikita Suzune gave her a book, "I'm sorry, I didn't know what you'd like."

As Karuizawa Kei accepted her gift, she noticed the cake and delicious food on the table and couldn't help calling out her name.

"Suzune..."

No words followed; she didn't know what to say.

"The one who should apologize is me. Today and tomorrow should both be my responsibility."

Kaoru spoke up, "It feels like you've all been accommodating me all along."

Tachibana Akane looked at him, then at the others beside her.

Was the topic getting a bit off track?

"Hey, don't say things like that now. You're ruining the mood."

Kushida Kikyo was very displeased, "I'm going to hit you with cake later, you foot fetish pervert."

"I was just subtly reminding you all—can you include me in the future?"

Karuizawa Kei and Tachibana Akane couldn't hold back their laughter.

Even though he wasn't joking, why was it so funny?

"Someone didn't include us either."

Kushida Kikyo snorted, "Now you should stand up and sing. The Happy Birthday song."

Since they had all heard Kaoru's singing before, this task could only fall to him.

"Can I request a song?"

Ichinose Honami eagerly raised her hand.

"No."

Kaoru refused without a second thought.

He wasn't a jukebox.

"Yes, you will!"

Ichinose Honami's attitude was firm, "Otherwise, I'll hit you with cake too."

Kaoru had no choice but to yield and asked, "What song do you want?"

However, Ichinose Honami named a song he hadn't expected.

"Can't sing it? Do you need to practice for a bit?"

"I know a little."

"As expected, nothing can stump my boyfriend."

Facing her smile, Kaoru felt a bit creeped out.

How did she notice this song?

No, this song was popular; it wasn't strange for her to have heard it.

Still, Kaoru couldn't help overthinking it because he was the composer and lyricist of this song.

The performers were ALSTROEMERIA, the idol group that a certain pair of twin sisters belonged to, and this was one of their representative works.

Kaoru sang the Happy Birthday song full of anxiety.

After he finished, Kushida Kikyo offered one comment.

"So amazing! You can even do a fake voice!"

Next, under Ichinose Honami's faintly melancholic gaze, he got hit by a cake.

...

"Your singing is really beautiful."

In the steam-filled bathroom, Karuizawa Kei sat in Kaoru's embrace, both soaking in the water.

The narrow bathtub bubbled as a little yellow duck floated before her.

At this point, they had already returned, saying they wanted to leave time for Kei Karuizawa and Kaoru.

Before they left, the look in Tachibana Akane's eyes made Kaoru realize this girl was here for the Sound party.

Damn, Ichinose Honami had given this junior some strange ideas.

"Kei's voice is more pleasant than mine. With a little practice, she could master singing techniques."

Kaoru held her slender waist, no longer dwelling on what had just happened.

The girl's bare skin was like milk, and glimpsing her smooth back involuntarily made him think of cupping therapy.

"You're just flattering me again."

Kei Karuizawa felt somewhat shy, then her expression turned serious.

"With your level, you could definitely become a celebrity, really."

"Why would you say that?" Kaoru felt a bit frustrated.

"You're good-looking and sing well. Aren't all celebrities like that?"

Kei Karuizawa began fantasizing about the future. "When you become a celebrity, I'll be the celebrity's girlfriend."

Kaoru had to dismiss her unrealistic fantasy. "Celebrities aren't allowed to date. It's an industry rule."

"Hah, what kind of stupid rule is that?"

Kei Karuizawa deflated immediately.

The person beside her would never follow rules, and truth be told, she wouldn't let him either.

Kaoru quietly held her, enjoying the tranquil moment.

The feel was exquisite—her fair, delicate skin tinged with a faint blush, her soft body pressing against his chest, her round and full petite bottom perfectly fitting against his thighs.

"I really like you."

Kei Karuizawa suddenly spoke, her voice very soft. "Just like you said, I don't know if I'll like you as much in the future as I do now, but I really like you right now."

Finally, she added another sentence.

"I've started liking Honami and the others too now, though I still want to have you all to myself."

A parasite falling for its host was reason enough—she had no room left for doubt.

"I have something to give you."

These were Kaoru's words after a moment of silence.

Chapter 578: An Unordinary Miracle.

After finishing their bath, Kaoru brought her to sit by the bed.

She was only wrapped in a thin towel, her face slightly flushed as she looked at him curiously.

"I contacted a top pharmaceutical company. They have a product that hasn't been released to the market yet."

Kaoru carefully chose his words—he rarely displayed this other level of capability in front of others.

"Though it's not on the market, they've conducted numerous experiments. The product is very safe and effective."

Kei Karuizawa blinked, not understanding what he was talking about.

"Shouldn't the school prevent us from contacting outsiders?"

Surprisingly, even usually airheaded her noticed this loophole.

Kaoru had to add an explanation. "I asked the chairman. Before he left the school, he promised me he'd have them send the product to me."

Kei Karuizawa didn't overthink it and asked, "What is it?"

"A medical product with beautifying effects."

Kaoru's expression turned serious. "Many biomedical companies are researching technologies in this area—like whitening, spot removal, fat reduction, breast augmentation, etc. What they gave me falls within these categories."

Kei Karuizawa began to overthink—why suddenly give her a beauty product? Could it be that he thought she wasn't pretty enough?

Soon, she dismissed that thought. Because Kaoru took out something resembling a band-aid.

It was actually a [Wound Removal Patch], whose effect was to clear all wounds including scars.

The moment he obtained it, Kaoru had already planned to use it on Kei Karuizawa.

"This?"

Kei Karuizawa tilted her head, "I'm not injured though?"

"No, this is a [Wound Removal Patch] specifically designed to repair scarred skin. Just apply it to the area, and it should improve in about two or three days."

Kaoru knew she had always been conscious of the scar on her stomach.

Both Kushida Kikyo and Ichinose Honami had secretly asked him about it, wanting to know the story behind this scar.

After learning the truth, they tacitly never brought up the matter again, always pretending not to see it.

Moreover, whenever they were present, Karuizawa would insist on wearing clothes - even if they got dirty, she wouldn't take them off.

"Kaoru... so you do care about this part of me after all?"

Unexpectedly, Kei Karuizawa seemed quite disappointed.

She didn't believe anything could repair scars, thinking instead that Kaoru was disgusted by her.

"Yes, I care about it immensely."

Kaoru's expression turned serious. "Every time I see you unwilling to undress completely, it bothers me."

Kei Karuizawa froze for a moment before feeling her clothes being lifted up.

A sudden force made her lean backward, falling onto the soft bed.

"Huh?"

She found Kaoru looking down at her from above, particularly staring at her lower abdomen.

"If you think I'm disgusted by you, you're completely mistaken. For a cute beauty like you, I'd love to hold you in my hands and kiss every part of you."

To be honest, her repeated behavior had been irritating Kaoru somewhat.

Perhaps tired of being patient, tired of dealing with her hesitation, he decided to shatter her misconceptions through action.

Before Kei Karuizawa could react, she was already pinned down.

Seemingly unprepared for Kaoru's sudden assault, a flash of panic appeared in her eyes, especially when she noticed his expression - her own expression becoming extremely unsettled.

The next moment, Kaoru poked her stomach, his fingertip lingering on her scar.

The moment her skin made contact with the air, goosebumps appeared all over her body, and her pretty face turned bright red.

"W-wait, what are you doing?!"

"Proving how much I care about this place. I've always thought it was cute, and Kei's reactions are even cuter."

"Wah... I, I know I was wrong... hurry... stop it now!"

Kei Karuizawa's legs kicked wildly as she struggled intensely.

Kaoru had no choice but to release her hands, upon which she threw a flurry of punches at him, glaring at him with a completely red face.

"Why are you looking at me like that? Did I do something wrong?"

"Who, who would kiss... pervert! You're a total pervert!"

"Because Kei cares so much about it."

Kei Karuizawa had nothing to say to that.

She snorted heavily, turned her pretty face away, and used her small hands to pull the bath towel over her lower abdomen, blocking Kaoru's view.

"Stop messing around. This thing is really expensive - I'm applying it for you."

Ignoring her glare, Kaoru applied the [Wound Removal Patch] while talking to himself, completely covering the scar on her lower abdomen.

"Pervert." Kei Karuizawa whispered softly, touching what she thought was a bandage, feeling a warm sensation.

"Is this the birthday gift you gave me?"

[Effect detected, repair successful!]

Kaoru was momentarily stunned by the text that flashed before his eyes—it ended in less than five seconds?

"Uh, yes, this thing can get wet, no need to worry."

"Really?"

"Really."

Kaoru felt a bit guilty, he had thought it might take some time, but it was over in just a few seconds.

[[Bloodstained Chalice has accumulated one Miracle Power!]

[Progress toward Divine Miracle: 1/7]

Kaoru froze in place—could repairing a scar really count as a miracle?

It shouldn't be, right?

With current human medical technology, repairing scars is... no, it's impossible.

Current technology can only lighten or fade scars, not completely eliminate them.

The [Wound Removal Patch] most likely directly erased Kei Karuizawa's scar—something beyond current human capabilities.

In other words, anything humans can't achieve can be considered a miracle.

Kaoru thought of all the rewards he had received so far—things that seemed unbelievable to ordinary people were, to him, just a matter of receiving a reward.

"Kaoru?"

Kei Karuizawa waved her hand in front of his face, perhaps thinking he was angry, and looked a bit dejected.

"Mmm, I won't dislike the gift you gave me. It was my fault earlier—because... because of various reasons, I've been feeling uncomfortable here, so I had strange thoughts. I won't do it again."

Kaoru snapped back to reality and simply hugged the girl in front of him, whispering.

"I won."

"Huh? Huh?"

Kei Karuizawa's mind went blank, she was dazedly held in Kaoru's embrace, not even noticing that her bath towel had fallen to the floor.

"Kei, let me give you a massage."

Kaoru was a bit excited.

He pressed the girl's shoulders, his gaze involuntarily falling on her well-proportioned, plump thighs.

Kei Karuizawa tried to escape, but as soon as she turned around, Kaoru grabbed her calves.

Her small feet kicked wildly in the air, like a little rabbit encountering a big bad wolf, and she could only plead for mercy.

"No, no, not tonight. You have to hold back. The massage... the massage will break me... Aww..."

Kaoru grabbed her feet and skillfully pressed into the soles.

Her cries of distress didn't stop for a moment.

"It's breaking! It's going to break! Pleeease... I'm begging you, at least... at least... gah..."

Kaoru pinned her hands and covered her mouth—she was being too loud and might disturb the neighbors.

"Mmmpf!"

Kei Karuizawa's resistance grew even more intense; she absolutely refused, making it quite a struggle for Kaoru.

Just as he was about to say something, she bit him.

It hurt.

Kaoru reflexively let go of her, and then he saw her seize the opportunity to retreat to the corner, her face flushed as she glared at him.

"No massages!"

Kei Karuizawa couldn't handle it—it was pure torture, every time leaving her drained of energy.

Kaoru was stunned for a while, making Kei a bit puzzled. Following his gaze, she noticed something at her feet.

The [Wound Removal Patch] had fallen onto the bed.

"Ahem, let's go to sleep quickly." Kaoru nonchalantly stood up, preparing to turn off the lights and sleep.

"Wait!"

Karuizawa Kei called out to him, staring intently at her lower abdomen.

"What's going on here?"

The once shocking scar had completely vanished, leaving her skin flawless as if a miracle had occurred!

"Just now... I clearly... wasn't there a scar here?"

The impact was so overwhelming that Karuizawa Kei temporarily lost her ability to think.

"Strange, strange, strange. Did I see wrong? Is this an illusion?"

She pinched her cheek, and the pain made her realize this was reality.

Thus, Karuizawa Kei looked at Kaoru as if she'd seen a ghost.

"This is a high-tech product. We need to keep it secret."

Kaoru raised a finger to his lips, shushing her.

Karuizawa covered her face: "Do you think I'm an idiot? Right now, if you told me you were a magician, I'd believe you. How could something like this be possible!"

'Damn, the truth is exposed.'

Although he had mentally prepared for this, he still felt a hint of nervousness.

However, Kaoru didn't expect Karuizawa Kei's next move.

She lifted her face, then came before Kaoru, her forehead touching his.

"Even if you're a magician, can I still like you, right?"

Kaoru gently touched her cheek - truth be told, she was something of a magician herself, especially in moments like these.

Then, just as he was about to kiss her, she shyly pulled back.

"No, not tonight, really not allowed."

Karuizawa whispered, "Today's portion must all be saved for tomorrow. Let's wait until tomorrow to talk about it!"

What kind of outrageous talk was this?

Kaoru couldn't take it anymore.

He didn't know if they learned this themselves or if Kushida Kikyo had been deliberately instilling these ideas in them.

"I, we'll give you a surprise tomorrow!"

Karuizawa quickly wrapped herself in a towel, pattered down from the bed, and headed to the bathroom to change into her nightgown.

Closing the bathroom door, Karuizawa leaned against the wall, breathing somewhat rapidly.

Her small hand rested on her stomach - so miracles really do exist in this world, magical magic is real.

Although the scar's disappearance made her happy, the key point was that Kaoru had actually been thinking about this matter, which amazed her even more.

Some might think Kaoru deliberately waited until today to bring out the [Wound Removal Patch], or that he just happened to remember about it recently.

Impossible.

Karuizawa was certain of her thoughts - he must have obtained this thing only recently.

No particular reason, just a woman's intuition and her understanding of him.

Like Ichinose Honami, at this moment Karuizawa felt a strong impulse - she desperately wanted to understand everything about Kaoru, including his past and his entire soul!

Chapter 579: Selection Project Exam

Because of Karuizawa Kei's words, Kaoru spent the entire next day pondering her meaning.

Even though today was exam day, he couldn't help but imagine what the so-called surprise might be, especially since she had specifically forbidden him from doing anything naughty.

"What disgusting things are you thinking about?"

Kamuro Masumi shot him a particularly disdainful look from nearby, as if regarding non-recyclable trash.

"I'm secretly watching Morishita-san. Don't disturb me."

Kaoru had long given up on salvaging his image.

After all, in their eyes, he was just a pervert.

In front, Morishita Ai suddenly straightened her posture.

Having been dozing off, she lifted her head, pressed her legs together, and smoothed down her skirt.

However, she didn't maintain this for long.

Perhaps thinking that Kaoru peeked at her every day anyway, she might as well ignore him, so she went back to sleep.

"Don't say things like that while staring at people. Starting off with sexual harassment just makes you seem disgusting."

Kamuro Masumi was exasperated.

Morishita Ai's seat was very close, only two seats away, so she could definitely hear their conversation.

"I'd peek at you too."

Kaoru glanced at her thighs.

One of the benefits of attending high school in Japan was probably getting to see high school girls' thighs.

Kamuro Masumi glared at him.

Even after all they'd been through, he was still the same as always—every time, she looked at him like he was trash.

After a while, Mashima slowly entered the classroom, stepping in right as the class bell rang.

"I assume you're all prepared. The final exam of this school year will officially begin today."

Mashima handed the materials in his hand to the students in the front row.

"This Special Exam will reflect everything you've learned over the past year—knowledge, physical ability, teamwork, luck, and so on. In short, it's a test of your comprehensive abilities, not just those of the entire class."

Kaoru received the materials passed down from the front row and saw a line written at the top: Selection Item Exam.

"Before you look at the materials, let me explain a few points."

Mashima said, "The nature of this exam is quite similar to the previous Partner Exam and Sports Festival. You will determine your opponents according to the rules."

'Another exam where we compete against each other,' Kaoru thought, having already seen the rules on the materials.

"First, you must decide the content of the exam yourselves. Each class has 10 exam items. These blanks are for you to fill in. For example, if someone wants to play soccer, you can list soccer as an exam item and compete against the opposing class. The specific rules are also up to you to decide."

In other words, each class has 10 exam items they can decide on their own.

The exam content consists of these items, and the specific rules, or victory conditions, are also determined by the students, giving them a great deal of freedom.

"Excuse me, will all 20 exam items be conducted simultaneously?"

Someone raised their hand. "Wouldn't that be too troublesome?"

Even in a one-on-one competition, with each side having 10 exam items, that adds up to 20.

It easily brings to mind the Sports Festival, or even something worse.

"No. At that time, you will need to select the actual exam items from your 10 proposed items, and the opposing class will do the same."

Mashima added, "Also, your exam items cannot be repeated. If there are duplicate items, only one of them can be used."

Kaoru looked over the materials.

The school had given considerable freedom in choosing exam items but had also imposed many restrictions.

For instance, if someone intentionally proposed obscure, extremely rare items known only to themselves, such items would be canceled by the school.

Similarly, items with no time limit or those with excessively long competition times would also be disqualified.

"The rules for the exam items must be simple, easy to understand, fair, and impartial. Otherwise, the school will not accept them."

Mashima turned and wrote the exam dates on the blackboard.

"After you submit the actual exam items, the school will randomly select 7 from them. These will be your final competition items."

March 8th - Special Exam announcement day, with competing classes determined on the same day;

March 15th - Finalization of 10 exam items, competing classes announce their respective 10 exam items and rules;

March 22nd - Selection Item Exam day.

In addition to the exam dates, Mashima thoughtfully wrote out the subsequent schedule.

The holiday would begin the day after the exam ended, followed by the graduation ceremony on March 24th, with the final closing ceremony on the 25th.

"So you're saying our items might not all be selected?" Katsuragi Kohei pondered thoughtfully.

"About half of them are smoke screens then?"

He understood why Mashima had brought up the sports festival - this format was indeed somewhat similar, where the key had been the participation roster.

"If you fail to decide on your exam items by the 15th, the school will supplement them for you. However, I don't think you'll make such a basic mistake."

Mashima scanned the classroom.

This class was probably the most outstanding one he had encountered so far.

To reach the pinnacle of two thousand points before the end of first year - if they could maintain this, they would be the best Class A, even surpassing Nagumo Miyabi.

Second-year Class A was already declining, while third-year Class A was locked in fierce competition with third-year Class B, not yet guaranteed victory.

Kaoru continued reading the materials in hand.

Besides the exam items, he noticed the documents mentioned a specific term.

[On Special Exam day, the Command Tower will conduct exam items in the multipurpose classroom. Additionally, school facilities including the gymnasium, playground, music room, and science classrooms can basically be used, though there are some exceptions.]

[The required number of participants for exam items, excluding substitutes, must be completely different across all ten applied items.]

[Including substitutes, a class can register a maximum of two items with over ten participants.]

[The minimum number is one person, maximum is twenty people (including substitutes, not to exceed twenty).]

[Each student can participate in one exam item and cannot join two or more items; however, only when all classmates have participated in exam items can students participate in multiple items.]

[The Command Tower has authority to intervene in seven items. How to intervene will be determined by the class that decides the items, and interventions will only be adopted after school approval.]

Just as Kaoru Kaoru was pondering what this meant, someone else noticed the term and quickly raised their hand.

"Mashima-sensei, what does Command Tower mean?"

"To coordinate the large number of students, this Special Exam requires a Command Tower. The student serving as Command Tower cannot directly participate in exam items."

"If they can't take the exam, what about this intervention?"

"For each exam item, the Command Tower has one opportunity to intervene, such as substituting players. What specific intervention to use is also for you to decide."

Most people generally understood - this Command Tower could intervene in seven exam items, providing emergency response capability.

If used well, it could catch opponents off guard.

"However, if we lose the exam, the student serving as the Command Tower will be expelled."

Mashima's words immediately dampened most people's enthusiasm for the Command Tower position, as Class A of the first year couldn't produce another twenty million Personal points at the moment.

At this moment, only Sakayanagi Arisu possessed the ability to avoid expulsion—Protection Points.

Thus, everyone's gaze focused on her.

Sakayanagi Arisu naturally asked, "How will the opposing class be determined this time?"

It seemed she also believed that only she was suited to be the Command Tower, whether considering the consequences of losing or the responsibilities of the Command Tower itself, both tailored for her.

Kaoru suddenly felt a mischievous urge—what would Sakayanagi Arisu's reaction be if he snatched the Command Tower position away?

Chapter 580: Go Ahead and Try.

"After school today, the student serving as the Command Tower must gather in the multipurpose classroom, where one person will be selected by lottery."

As expected, it was the same as before, except this time the lottery method had been optimized.

Instead of mutual nominations, one person would be selected by lottery, and that person would be given the choice to select the opposing class from any of the classes.

The remaining two classes would face off against each other—this was Mashima's final explanation.

"Regarding the rewards for this exam, is it only what's written in the materials?"

Sakayanagi Arisu had already read through all the content, her finger unconsciously resting on the rewards section.

Unlike the lengthy explanations of the past, this time the rewards and penalties were extremely simple and easy to understand.

The class that lost the exam would see its Command Tower student expelled and would have to pay the corresponding Class Points to the winning class.

The exact amount would depend on how many events were lost.

According to the rules, for each event lost, 30 Class Points would be paid to the winning side, and vice versa.

If one side won all seven events consecutively, the winning class could plunder 210 Class Points from the opponent.

Additionally, the school would award the winning class 100 Class Points as a reward. In other words, this exam could yield a maximum of 310 points.

310 points—this was the perfect score for this Special Exam.

"Yes, this exam will continue until the final event. If you can achieve seven consecutive victories, you can absolutely achieve a perfect score."

Mashima paused, "If the opposing class lacks sufficient Class Points, the school will temporarily cover the shortfall, after which the opposing class will repay the school."

It seemed the situation with Class 1-D had left a deep impression on the school, as this statement was now mentioned in every exam.

Kaoru's expression turned odd.

What could he say? In the final semester, Class 1-D couldn't even afford the cost of losing.

"310 points?"

Sakayanagi Arisu fell into deep thought.

The situation was clear now—she needed to determine 10 exam events, five of which would be Smoke Screens.

On the day of submission, the school would randomly select 7 events from Class 1-A and the opponent's proposed events, leaving no room for cheating.

After thinking for a while, Sakayanagi Arisu felt that Smoke Screens were ultimately unimportant.

Their only purpose was to conceal the real events in advance, preventing premature exposure.

The key lay in the real events and the Command Tower.

Essentially, it tested her personal ability—whether she could fully utilize the class's true potential and defeat the opponent appropriately.

"After reviewing the materials, do any of you have questions?" Mashima asked.

No one raised their hand.

In the end, it was Sakayanagi Arisu who smiled faintly.

"Thank you for the explanation, Mashima-sensei. I believe everyone should have no further questions."

"Good. Students responsible for serving as the Command Tower, please gather in the multipurpose classroom after school."

Mashima didn't take up too much of the homeroom time.

He left the remaining time to the students and returned to the staff office.

After he left, everyone's gaze focused on Katsuragi and Sakayanagi, with a few people looking toward Kaoru.

"I'll take the role of Command Tower this time, Katsuragi-kun."

Sakayanagi Arisu spoke first, "The Protection Points from last time are with me. Even if we fail, I won't be expelled. This is the best choice."

Students from Katsuragi's faction unanimously looked toward their leader.

Even as the Command Tower, the authority to interfere with exam projects shouldn't be underestimated.

"I agree with your idea."

Katsuragi had no reason to oppose.

He was inherently conservative and would always consider the worst-case scenario first when facing any situation.

Sakayanagi Arisu revealed a gentle smile like spring breeze, her adorable appearance making some students' hearts flutter.

"I'd like to designate Class B."

She said this, "Although Classes C and D would be the best choices from an overall level perspective, our current level allows for higher error tolerance."

Facing the dissatisfaction from Katsuragi's faction, Sakayanagi Arisu seemed to be both contemplating and persuading.

"If we designate Class D, Classes B and C will compete against each other. For example, if we win and Class B also wins, the gap between us and Class B remains unchanged."

"They might not necessarily win, right?"

Totsuka Yahiko couldn't help but shout.

What qualifications did this girl have to give orders here?

"I'll note your opinion, but what if they do win?"

Sakayanagi Arisu shook her head, "Our Class A only needs to consider one thing - surpassing Class B. Crushing Class B is our goal, regardless of who Class B is."

Her meaning was simple to understand - Class 1-A didn't need to care about the survival of lower classes.

Whether Class 1-D or Class 1-C won their matchup, it wouldn't affect the upper classes.

Only Class 1-B couldn't be allowed to advance further, even though they were thousands of points behind Class 1-A.

"Kaoru-kun, what's your opinion?"

Sakayanagi Arisu skipped over Katsuragi Kohei and looked directly at Kaoru behind him.

Many people's expressions turned somewhat peculiar.

Everyone had witnessed Kaoru's relationship with Ichinose Honami.

"If you think you can lead us to victory against Class B, I actually don't mind."

Kaoru showed a smile.

If she was taking command, of course he would sabotage her plans.

Sakayanagi Arisu completely understood his smile and similarly revealed a faint smile of her own.

Although the girl said nothing, Kaoru also understood her meaning.

'Fine, go ahead and try.'

During the last training camp exam, Kaoru had obtained most of the boys' points plus a small portion of the girls' points, earning Class 1-A 300 points.

Following them were Ichinose Honami's group, who earned 246 points with the advantage of being first in the girls' division, while Sakayanagi Arisu's group placed third.

Regarding this matter, Kaoru suspected Sakayanagi Arisu had been severely holding back.

However, even so, for Sakayanagi Arisu to surpass him, she would need a perfect score.

Kaoru found this somewhat amusing.

He only needed to sabotage one of Sakayanagi Arisu's projects, and according to their bet, Sakayanagi Arisu would have to become his little maid.

The current situation is extremely unfair to Sakayanagi Arisu.

Even Kaoru isn't confident he could guarantee victory if he were in her position.

Sakayanagi Arisu should understand this, yet she didn't choose the weaker Class D as her target, instead intending to nominate Class B.

This clearly reveals the pride in her heart.

This girl simply doesn't believe she can lose.

Or perhaps she's holding back her frustration, wanting to prove herself.

Even if Kaoru wanted to modify their wager, she probably wouldn't agree, likely thinking he's looking down on her.

Therefore, Kaoru only has one choice left.

He's selecting rewards.

From the rewards drawn in the past, he'll choose the final six that can perform miracles, allowing the [Bloodstained Holy Grail] to manifest a Divine Miracle and completely cure Sakayanagi Arisu's heart condition.

After she's healed, Kaoru believes he should teach this maid a lesson.

Sakayanagi Arisu often takes advantage of his consideration for her health to speak harshly.

Some Conditioning is necessary—simply spanking her is no longer enough.

However, before that, Kaoru is curious about today's surprise, so much so that he's lost interest in listening to the subsequent discussions.