

Cote 621

Chapter 621: Who's on Top Matters

After seven consecutive matches, dusk gradually approached.

Kaoru saw Sakayanagi Arisu sitting on a bench, a sliver of sunlight slanting across her calves, her white suspender socks thick and textured.

He sat beside the girl, quietly watching as the campus slowly enveloped itself in twilight.

A faint, elusive fragrance drifted from the girl, reminiscent of a child's milky scent—something he had hardly ever noticed on anyone else, as if it were a scent unique to her.

After waiting a while, Sakayanagi Arisu spoke, "As you wished, I lost."

She had won five matches in a row but lost the last two.

For Texas Hold'em, she had chosen Morishita Ai.

Morishita Ai had a peculiar personality and an unconventional thought process, ordinary people rarely guessed what she was thinking, making her the perfect choice.

But she lost.

Ichinose Honami sent out Amikura Mako—a girl who usually panicked easily, yet under Ichinose's direction, she performed beyond her usual ability, keeping an almost stern expression throughout, her acting superb.

Sakayanagi Arisu thought her Cold Reading Technique would work, but even the best situation couldn't compete with sheer luck.

Fate truly is a mysterious thing.

"Are you going to mock me for overestimating myself?"

Sakayanagi said, "Thinking I could achieve a grand slam, only to overestimate my abilities and underestimate my opponents, ending up like this—I brought it upon myself."

"You sent out Masumi because you wanted to believe she could do it too, right?"

Sakayanagi paused slightly, her gaze flickering toward him with an inexplicable light, swirling briefly before she quickly revealed a self-deprecating smile.

"How difficult it must be for you to even notice that angle of approach."

The girl sat up straight, "It's a pity, though—I'm not Ichinose-san."

"So, are you going to keep wallowing in self-pity here?"

Kaoru said, "The Arisu I know isn't like this. She'd be laughing lightly while calmly saying, 'Heh, what an interesting fellow. I'll look forward to your next performance.'"

Sakayanagi Arisu was silent at first, then her expression cooled.

"A bet is a bet. I'll be your maid."

"Is that so?"

Kaoru grabbed her small hand, feeling her whole body tense up instantly.

"Does Arisu know what a maid has to do?"

"Isn't it just doing bad things?" Sakayanagi Arisu was still stubborn, "If you don't mind my physical condition, you can do whatever you want with me. You have that kind of medicine anyway, don't you?"

The medicine she referred to was the [Nano Regeneration Fluid] that had saved her last time.

Kaoru had used one dose on her and currently had one remaining.

However, Kaoru noticed the girl's body trembling slightly.

Her eyes were narrowed, long eyelashes fluttering faintly.

No matter how stubborn her words were, the little princess had never experienced such a devastating defeat. Any young girl would instinctively feel fear.

Kaoru pressed further, pushing the girl down onto the chair. Her white hat fell off, revealing cascading silver-white hair.

Her shoulders were extremely slender, with barely budding chest still carrying a youthful innocence.

Beneath her skirt lay smooth, delicate thighs, while white thigh-high socks enveloped her entire calves, the straps disappearing deep under her skirt, arousing curiosity.

His fingertips traced her delicate face, observing her eyes shifting slightly.

Her cute nose seemed to quicken its rhythm, and faint panting sounds could barely be heard.

Though the girl remained silent, her eyes clearly questioned: "Are you really going to do it here?"

"You're my trophy now."

Kaoru looked down at her from above. "Even if you regret it now, thinking you should have dealt with me earlier... you'd better abandon those thoughts. Losing means losing."

Sakayanagi Arisu bit her lip.

Was losing really just losing?

But how could she possibly accept such a casual dismissal?

"Ichinose... did you really not interfere?"

Unaware she was using hopeful eyes, Sakayanagi asked, "You did something to make her like this, didn't you?"

"No, I did nothing."

Kaoru crushed her expectations. "You simply lost two matches to her fair and square."

Though she'd considered this possibility, Sakayanagi felt a dull ache in her chest, as if something were twisting her heart and stomach.

A sour taste spread through her mouth, making her expression contort slightly in pain.

She had lost to someone she looked down upon.

"Are you jealous of Honami?"

Kaoru's palm rested on her thigh, stroking like soft silk, gently teasing the girl's sensitive nerves.

"Jealous?"

Sakayanagi's emotions surged, as if hearing something unbelievable. "What do you think I'm jealous of? Envious of her voluptuous figure? Or her foolish simplicity?"

Kaoru merely smiled faintly, his fingertips tracing the girl's exceptionally soft, warm skin, making her instinctively tighten her legs.

Perhaps due to previous experiences, Sakayanagi vaguely understood matters between men and women.

Her breathing quickened as she pushed against Kaoru with both hands, trying to stop his movements.

Even if this lecher was impatient, couldn't he at least not do it here?

The girl's body was so soft - her smooth skin, barely developed breasts, gradually reddening face, and tightly pressed lips - everything was filled with temptation.

The next moment, Sakayanagi's pushing hands turned into grasping ones.

Just as a whimper escaped her throat, Kaoru captured her lips.

As numbing sweetness spread throughout her body, Sakayanagi's heartbeat accelerated, like ragged cloth wrapping around thunderous drumbeats that threatened to tear her fragile being apart at any moment.

At that moment, Kaoru gently grasped the sound of her heartbeat, the warmth of a man's body heat transmitting through her chest.

"I will cure your illness, then give you two choices."

Kaoru whispered softly, "First, become my maid, dedicate everything of yourself to me, always be prepared to be used by me, just like now."

His fingers traced a path, and Sakayanagi Arisu felt a surge of electricity pass through her, her entire body going limp.

Compared to last time, this seemed even more intense.

"Second, you endure the humiliation for now."

Kaoru revealed a faint smile, "Someday in the future, defeat me, and then redefine the relationship between us."

Sakayanagi Arisu panted slightly, redefining her relationship with him?

"Do you want to be on top, or underneath? The choice is yours now."

Kaoru withdrew his finger, placing it before her, "If you agree, give it a lick."

A flicker of anger flashed in Sakayanagi Arisu's eyes.

How could she possibly willingly accept this guy's humiliation!

"You don't—mmph..."

Before she could refuse, Kaoru had already forcibly sealed her lips, touching a petal-like tip of her tongue, and then she bit down on Kaoru's finger.

"Arisu."

Kaoru seemed completely unfazed, instead smiling at her, "I'll look forward to your performance, in every sense."

Sakayanagi Arisu disdainfully spat out his finger, spitting a few times.

Looking at his expression, she originally wanted to get angry, but found herself unable to speak.

Even if he wanted to lift her spirits, did he have to go this far?

Any girl would hate this kind of guy. Sakayanagi Arisu kept a stern face, of course, she was no exception.

But, do it all over again?

Chapter 622: The Long Spring Break.

Ryuen Kakeru looked at the bulletin board.

The final battle of the first year had already concluded.

First Year Class A vs. First Year Class B, the former defeated the latter with five wins and two losses, successfully seizing 190 Class Points.

As for their First Year Class C, they lost to First Year Class D, with three wins and four losses. Although it was a close fight, a loss was still a loss.

Including the losses before the exam, First Year Class C lost a total of 230 Class Points, dropping from the original 494 to 264.

Thus, the class rankings changed.

First Year Class A: 2246.

First Year Class B: 922.

First Year Class C: 321.

First Year Class D: 264.

...

"No way, we actually became Class D!?"

Ishizaki stared at the bulletin board in disbelief.

At this moment, even Ibuki Mio showed emotional fluctuation.

"Ryuen, don't you think you owe us an explanation now?"

This girl couldn't accept this outcome at all.

She had trusted Ryuen so much, enduring his behavior all along, yet the Class Points hadn't increased—instead, they had dropped significantly.

She now doubted what she had been busy with all year. Why did the harder she try, the worse her luck became?

Her class's points kept falling, while Class A's points kept rising, reaching an outrageous level. Ibuki Mio was almost driven to despair.

When would they ever catch up to Class A's dust?

"Class Points are only temporary. Whether in Class C or Class D, the result is the same." Ryuen casually slipped his trembling hand into his pocket.

"Why are you all so anxious? It's something we can recover in a single Special Exam."

Ibuki said angrily, "Don't joke around! We need 2,000 points to surpass Class A. Are we just going to keep giving away our Class Points like this?"

At this point, Ishizaki had to step in to defend Ryuen.

"Ibuki, don't say that. It's actually my fault—I was the one who carelessly gave away the points. Blame me if you must."

Ryuen taking the responsibility for him moved him deeply.

Though he couldn't figure out why he had been at the café, he had already resolved to follow Ryuen for life.

Seeing the sincere and guilty expression on Ishizaki's face, and then glancing at Ryuen, Ibuki couldn't help but say resentfully.

"Fine! Do whatever you want!"

With that, Ibuki strode straight out of the school building.

Ishizaki looked worried. "She seems really angry."

"Don't mind her. She'll get over it soon."

Ryuen wasn't the least bit concerned about Ibuki, she was just frustrated with him.

However, what Ryuen hadn't anticipated was that Ibuki had recently found another target for her resentment.

Ibuki had already planned how to get back at Kaoru, but her own side's failure left her with no face to carry out her revenge.

How could she not be furious?

Sooner or later, she would pay him back fiercely!

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"Should we throw a celebration party?"

Kushida looked enthusiastically at Ichinose Honami and Horikita Suzune.

"We've finally made it to Class C, fulfilling Horikita's delusion. I think we should do something fun, don't you?"

Horikita Suzune's lips twitched slightly.

What did she mean by "fulfilling her delusion"?

"Can I join too?"

Ichinose Honami was pleasantly surprised.

She didn't mind hanging out with students from other classes, and if Kushida invited her, she'd be happy to come.

Kushida Kikyo knew she had misunderstood but still grinned cheerfully. "Of course! If the others find out Honami-chan is joining, they'll be thrilled."

Ichinose felt a bit embarrassed.

She wasn't from Class D, so attending their celebration might seem a bit presumptuous.

"But that's not what I meant just now."

Kushida chuckled mischievously. "I meant a small party with just the few of us—with Horikita as the star."

Horikita Suzune turned her face away, pretending not to hear.

"Huh? Why do you say that?"

Ichinose looked a bit confused.

"Ahem, because Horikita worked really hard?"

As she spoke, Kushida moved closer to Horikita and gently took her hand, her innocent eyes sparkling.

"Horikita, even though I'm not exactly happy with you, I trust your character. You'll keep the promise you made to me before, right?"

Interrupted from her reading, Horikita had no choice but to meet Kushida's sly gaze and sighed helplessly.

"I haven't forgotten what I said. Do whatever you want."

"Great!"

Kushida's smile widened, and then she promptly released Horikita's hand with a look of distaste.

"What are you two talking about?"

Ichinose watched them, completely lost, unsure what they were scheming.

"Hehe, with Spring Break being so long, of course we need to find something to do."

Kushida turned and pressed close to Ichinose, showing her the screen on her phone. "Look, with this many Personal points, shouldn't we buy something?" Ichinose Honami immediately became interested—cosmetics and clothes were timeless fashion topics for girls!

"Is this the compensation Ryūen-kun recently paid you?"

"That's right, but sudden windfalls can be troublesome. I need to find an opportunity to treat the class to something, otherwise someone might get jealous, and I'll probably have people asking to borrow money."

"Eh?"

"So I have to buy something quickly now."

When Ichinose Honami saw what Kushida Kikyo had bought, her eyes widened in surprise. A blush crept onto the girl's lovely face, spreading all the way down her fair neck.

"Uwa... K-Kikyo... these things... you, you..."

She couldn't bring herself to say it—it was really too lewd. "That celebration you mentioned earlier, it couldn't be..."

Kushida Kikyo blinked, confirming it meant exactly what she imagined.

In that instant, Ichinose Honami recalled the notebook Kushida Kikyo had shown her recently, claiming it contained Kaoru's preferences, and suddenly panicked.

She didn't mind parties, but the things Kushida intended to use were really... too disgusting.

"Ahaha, I just remembered I have something to do! Let's talk later!"

Ichinose Honami tried to escape.

This girl didn't just want to turn herself into a cream puff—she wanted to see others become cream puffs too.

As soon as she stood up, she immediately felt someone firmly grab her clothes.

"Wait a minute! Horikita is the main focus. She promised me we'd just cheer from the sidelines."

Kushida Kikyo wrapped an arm around her waist. "If you agree, Tachibana-senpai will come too. Let's all play together!"

"N-no... I-I can't do that!"

Ichinose Honami's face was completely red.

She didn't believe Kushida Kikyo's lies for a second—if Kaorugot carried away, there was no way they'd just be watching from the sidelines.

They'd probably join in directly.

Just then, the sound of the entrance door opening came from the genkan.

"Ya-hoo, we're back!"

Following Karuizawa Kei's cheerful voice, she appeared clinging to Kaoru's arm, practically glued to him, while smiling and greeting the girls in the room.

Kushida Kikyo's face lit up with wild joy—her teammate was back.

Karuizawa Kei would definitely agree to the party invitation since only she and Karuizawa had such strange ideas in their heads.

"W-welcome back!"

Ichinose Honami sounded somewhat flustered, perhaps thinking about the fate awaiting her, her voice pitching higher.

"Eh, where's Sakayanagi-san?"

Kaoru, unaware of their earlier conversation, casually replied, "She's still brooding over today's events. Probably hard for her to swallow her pride. Let her cool off for a while."

Karuizawa Kei pouted discontentedly. "Why care about her? I'll just pin her down for you—one round of conditioning and she'll behave."

"That's too violent."

As Kaoru entered the room, he noticed Horikita Suzune had inexplicably turned away, refusing to even face him.

"Violent is fine! I'll definitely help you."

Karuizawa Kei wished he'd be even more violent—that way no one would dare steal her man.

Kaoru didn't overthink it, only subconsciously feeling his room might be getting too crowded.

If they added Sakayanagi Arisu too, he wouldn't know where to put her.

"Now, now, let's not talk about that. She's just a loser anyway." Kushida Kikyo seized the opportunity to sidle up to Kaoru.

"What are your plans for Spring Break, Master?"

Her intense hints made Ichinose Honami feel dizzy—the world of this notebook was truly terrifying!

"I'll just carry on as usual," Kaoru replied. "It's only a week. The day after tomorrow is the graduation ceremony, followed by our closing ceremony, and then new student orientation right after. Everything's moving too fast."

Kushida Kikyo nodded in agreement, sighing regretfully. "Ah, the time really is short. There's not much worth visiting at Keyaki Mall anyway. We'll have to settle for playing small games in the room."

Kaoru snapped back to attention and saw her flashing an angelic smile.

"Hey, hey, hey~ I think we should take this chance to deepen our bond, Master," she said, respectfully handing her phone to Kaoru.

Ichinose Honami's face instantly turned ashen.

Kaoru glanced at it and froze for a long moment.

Had she immediately splurged on these things after becoming wealthy?

Chapter 623: Graduation Ceremony

Horikita Suzune had ultimately cut her long hair, transforming from straight black locks to a shoulder-length bob.

Just as Kushida Kikyo had mentioned, the experience was indeed uniquely refreshing—especially when dressing Horikita Suzune in androgynous clothing, which gave Kaoru a novel sensation.

Of course, there were plenty of unconventional outfits too.

It seemed to trigger a curious chemical reaction that greatly interested Kaoru, leading to many such sessions.

However, today was the third-years' graduation ceremony, so they needed to exercise some restraint.

Kaoru shifted his gaze from Class 1-D, where quite a commotion had erupted because of Horikita Suzune.

Due to an unexpected transition in the Student Council during the final Special Exam, although Nagumo Miyabi would still deliver a speech, everyone knew this would be his final appearance.

Nagumo Miyabi was scheduled to announce the new Student Council president at the end.

Kaoru would appear before the entire school for the first time and then succeed Nagumo's position.

Now, all teachers and students were gathered in the gymnasium, with the rarely seen principal and board chairman present before the students.

"Next, we invite the class representative from the group that fought relentlessly over the past three years to graduate from Class A to deliver a speech."

After the administrators' addresses, it was finally time for the day's main event.

Kaoru heard an expected name and watched as the person walked confidently toward the podium under everyone's gaze.

"On this vibrant spring day, we welcome the graduation ceremony..."

A year ago, Kaoru had listened here as Horikita Manabu explained the Student Council.

Now, the content had shifted to farewells.

Kaoru could still see the wishes swirling around him, but as he spoke, they dimmed one by one, soon leaving him an ordinary person.

Wishes have expiration dates.

In specific times and settings, certain individuals suddenly manifest wishes—like Hasebe Haruka, who was just an ordinary person back then, so she hadn't caught Kaoru's attention.

Perhaps before that, Hasebe Haruka hadn't yet become the protagonist of any story.

Kaoru looked toward the third-year ranks, where a petite figure stood. The wishes belonging to her were fading away.

Every story must eventually conclude—which was why he had bid farewell to the agency back then.

"I hereby swear that what you have learned at this school will become treasures, providing support for your future lives."

Horikita Manabu spoke his final words, "I believe that next year and two years from now, the person delivering the graduation address here will inevitably understand the meaning of these words at some moment."

Many people instinctively glanced toward Nagumo Miyabi.

After Horikita Manabu's departure, he was the most likely candidate to deliver his own graduation address on stage next year.

However, those slightly more informed turned their attention to Kaoru.

Kaoru maintained a calm expression as he watched Nagumo Miyabi step onto the stage.

As the Student Council President, Nagumo Miyabi would represent the underclassmen in bidding farewell to the graduates.

Some anticipated whether Nagumo Miyabi would attack Kaoru in his final speech, wondering if their conflict would erupt today.

Holding such expectations, many soon felt disappointed, as Nagumo Miyabi made no mention of Kaoru whatsoever, expressing only profound regret over Horikita Manabu's departure.

"Heh, now let's welcome our new president to the stage."

Nagumo Miyabi cast a challenging look toward Kaoru.

Their conflict needed no further emphasis - he knew when words became superfluous.

Before ascending the stage, Kaoru glanced briefly at Tsukishiro Kazunari, who responded with a smiling applause.

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Since the graduates needed to bid farewell to the teachers afterward, Horikita Suzune waited outside the gymnasium for quite some time.

Among others, Sudo Ken attempted to strike up a conversation with her, naturally curious about her decision to cut off her long black hair.

Fortunately, Kushida Kikyo helped fend off many approaching students, preventing her from being surrounded by classmates.

Staring toward the gymnasium, Horikita Suzune felt time dragging unbearably slow. She began regretting her decision, even considering whether to seek out Kaoru.

"Speaking of which, I don't think I've ever properly greeted Horikita-san's brother," Kushida Kikyo remarked beside her.

"My brother doesn't care for people like you," Horikita Suzune instinctively resisted her presence, feeling somewhat embarrassed.

"Wasn't Horikita-senpai also a student at our school before?" Kushida continued, seemingly oblivious to her resistance.

"I heard he was an remarkable senior. Truly impressive - managing to graduate from Class A here and even serving as Student Council President."

The more she spoke, the more agitated Horikita Suzune became.

The confidence she'd painstakingly built gradually crumbled, though she struggled to maintain an indifferent facade.

Despite having made some changes, whenever she thought about facing Horikita Manabu, an inevitable sense of inferiority welled up inside her.

Would her brother be satisfied with such results?

Horikita Suzune felt deeply unsettled, especially with Kushida Kikyo insistently remaining by her side, creating a looming sense of impending humiliation.

"Look! Horikita-senpai is coming out!" Kushida suddenly waved toward the entrance, giving Horikita Suzune no time to react.

"Horikita-senpai! Your sister has something to tell you!"

"You!" Horikita Suzune felt certain Kushida simply wanted to watch her struggle.

Noticing the surrounding gazes, her cheeks burned with embarrassment.

Sure enough, Horikita Manabu immediately spotted the bouncing Kushida Kikyo.

Then, surprise flickered in his eyes.

When Horikita Manabu approached, Kushida Kikyo smiled and took the initiative to greet him.

"Hello, Horikita-senpai. I'm a friend of Horikita-san. You can call me Kikyo-chan."

Noticing Horikita Manabu's slightly surprised gaze, Horikita Suzune's face burned even hotter as she quickly said.

"N-no... it's not like that... we're just ordinary classmates."

"Eh? After going through so much together, we're still not friends?"

What did she mean by "going through so much together"?

Did she mean being played with while lying together in bed?

Horikita Suzune really wanted to chase Kushida Kikyo away, but this girl was thick-skinned and pretended not to read the atmosphere.

"You seem to have changed, Suzune."

Horikita Manabu suddenly said, "It seems you've started learning to enjoy your high school life."

Horikita Suzune was slightly taken aback, then heard Horikita Manabu's nostalgic voice.

"This hairstyle reminds me of how you used to be. It's really nostalgic."

"I... I only realized this now. Have I disappointed you, brother?"

Horikita Suzune's expression was complicated.

Horikita Manabu smiled slightly, "During the sports festival, the Suzune I knew had already started to return. I'm really happy you could change in such a short time."

Perhaps never expecting her brother to praise her, Horikita Suzune became somewhat flustered.

"Having broken free from your past self, what do you plan to do now?" Horikita Manabu asked.

Horikita Suzune calmed down a bit.

She had already understood that she couldn't blindly chase after someone's shadow anymore - she needed to find her own path.

"I want to lead everyone forward together."

The girl said, "I want to continue studying here, and think about how to defeat that guy."

At this moment, Kushida Kikyo interjected, "Thanks to Horikita-san's efforts, we're already in Class C now!"

Horikita Manabu was momentarily stunned, then showed a relieved smile.

What he cared about wasn't the class ranking, but that Horikita Suzune seemed to have integrated into her class.

However, the "that guy" mentioned by Horikita Suzune made Horikita Manabu's expression somewhat complicated.

Horikita Suzune pursed her lips and said softly: "I won't be satisfied until I defeat him."

Horikita Manabu came back to his senses and sighed, "What if you lose?"

"Then I'll just try again."

Horikita Suzune remembered Kaoru Mitoma's words and unconsciously showed a slight smile, "I can lose many times, but he can only lose once."

Seeing this, Horikita Manabu felt extremely helpless.

Just what kind of magic had Kaoru used on his sister?

"It seems I really don't need to worry about you anymore." Horikita Manabu said with some emotion.

The current Horikita Suzune had not only broken free from her past restraints but also had her own goals.

Wait, Horikita Manabu suddenly realized a problem.

While his sister might be free from psychological barriers, there was a more serious issue!

"Where's Mitoma-kun?" Horikita Manabu asked seriously, "I need to talk to him."

High school students can date, but they need to exercise restraint!

Don't let any accidents happen!

Horikita Suzune was clearly taken aback, then became somewhat nervous.

Had her brother discovered something?

"He's not here." Kushida Kikyo answered, "It seems he ran off from the start. Probably thought it would be troublesome."

Horikita Manabu slightly frowned.

As the older brother, he planned to have a frank conversation with Kaoru in a few days - at the very least, he couldn't hand over his sister to him without clarity.

Chapter 624: Umu!

"I'm graduating soon, you know. Even if a junior like you cries and begs, this senpai won't stay. Ah, it can't be helped when trash fish never know how to cherish what's right in front of them."

Kaoru held her small hand.

Though her entire body was soft, her mouth remained stubbornly tough.

She kept tightly gripping Kaoru's hand—who was the one on the verge of tears, really?

"It's fine. I'll soon get to play with a college senior." Kaoru said, "After all, I'm already tired of high school seniors."

Tachibana Akane was a step slow to react.

By the time she understood what Kaoru meant, a blush had already spread across her pretty face.

"Pervert!"

Although the two had been through some things together, such straightforward teasing still made her feel shy.

She even glanced around guiltily, worried that someone might have overheard the perverted remark.

"When you get to college, you'll understand. Maybe someone will even envy you for being able to play with a high schooler like me."

Kaoru wore an expression that said, "You're the one benefiting here."

"Shameless! You're the one freeloading!"

Tachibana Akane spat out a few sounds of disgust, her face full of disdain.

"Trash like you are everywhere—don't get so full of yourself."

How dare he imply she was an older woman preying on a younger man?

Was there any senior as cute as her?

"A senior who gets caught by trash like me must be trash herself."

Kaoru raised their still-interlocked hands, the gleam of a ring visible on her finger.

"Impossible! Clearly, I caught you. As trash, you're going to be my slave for life."

Tachibana Akane proudly tightened her grip on Kaoru's hand. "From now on, you're my trash slave, bound to serve me until death!"

Kaoru found it somewhat amusing. Where had she picked up this bratty, domineering tone?

"So, will you be it or not?"

Noticing his expression, Tachibana Akane pouted, slightly displeased.

"No."

Kaoru said, "I'm your master."

"No, you're not! I'm your master!"

Tachibana Akane grew angry. "You have to listen to me."

"This isn't the feudal era. If you want me to be your slave, what can you offer me?" Kaoru asked.

Tachibana Akane thought for a moment, then declared confidently, "You'll have a very cute master."

Kaoru glanced at her chest.

Her face instantly flushed, but she asked in a seductive tone, "Want to touch it?"

Since she'd invited him, Kaoru naturally wouldn't hold back.

After all, if she believed herself to be such a cute master, how could he know without touching?

True to his nature, he reached out, making Tachibana Akane's ears burn red with heat.

She only felt a warm, tingling sensation under his touch.

"Call me master." Tachibana Akane said shyly, "I'll reward you in the future, too."

"Just touching?"

Kaoru was clearly upping his demands.

"No going too far!"

Tachibana Akane glared at him. Just who was the master here?

"A master who can't even satisfy her slave isn't worth pledging to."

Kaoru shook his head repeatedly. "Come back when you can afford the price."

Tachibana Akane's face flushed with anger.

She initially wanted to raise her fist and hit him but suddenly thought of something and merely snorted.

"You foot fetishist pervert!"

Kaoru's face darkened.

She seemed to have misunderstood something!

"Hmph, not that I care about a foot fetishist pervert like you anyway."

Tachibana Akane believed he was just lusting after her jade feet and refused to let him succeed.

Kaoru knew that explaining would only make things worse, so he simply skipped the topic.

Silence was the best form of resistance.

Clearly, Tachibana Akane didn't grasp his intention at all. Instead, a trace of sadness flickered across her expression.

"Hey, we're really graduating. Don't you have anything to say?"

Tachibana Akane immediately went looking for Kaoru after the graduation ceremony ended.

She was still immersed in the melancholy of graduation, especially seeing the blooming flowers lining both sides of the path - the annual cherry blossoms seemed to be bidding her farewell.

Kaoru held her small hand and suddenly said, "Want to visit the office?"

Tachibana Akane was taken aback, then realized they had unconsciously arrived at the familiar building.

She sharply turned to look at Kaoru, her eyes shimmering with emotion.

"Hmph, my time is precious."

Despite saying this, Tachibana Akane eagerly led Kaoruback to the Student Council she knew so well.

However, since Nagumo Miyabi had renovated the office, it was destined to disappoint her.

"What's this? It's completely changed. Such terrible taste!"

Tachibana Akane was extremely dissatisfied with Nagumo's actions.

"The Student Council isn't his! He's ruined other people's chances to reminisce properly!"

"Ahem, I'm the president now." Kaoru sat in the president's chair. "Don't you have anything you want to say to me?"

Back in the day, he used to stand opposite like a nobody, not even daring to breathe heavily.

The lofty Tachibana Akane had once made him feel inferior...

"No, you're not my president."

Tachibana Akane shattered his fantasy.

"If you were my secretary, I'd spank your butt until it was sore." Kaoru said expressionlessly.

Tachibana Akane quickly covered her small, perky bottom, then thought of a serious problem and complained.

"Who do you want to be your secretary?"

The implied meaning: whose bottom do you want to spank?

"The current secretary is Denkawa-senpai." Kaoru said calmly.

Tachibana Akane stared at him.

Even an idiot would know the president's authority - he definitely had the power to change the secretary position.

"Do I need to report to you whose bottom I want to spank?"

Kaoru spread his hands. "If you were my secretary, yours would definitely be the first."

Tachibana Akane felt both happy and frustrated.

"I can't control it anyway, since I'm graduating." The girl's voice was sulky.

Seeing this, Kaoru couldn't help but wrap his arm around her waist and have her sit in his lap.

She initially wanted to resist, but soon settled down.

"In a few days, I'll go out with you."

Tachibana Akane was somewhat surprised, then remembered he had said he could leave the school.

Her eyes suddenly softened.

"Why would you come with me?"

The girl said, "I'm going home. You're not allowed to follow me."

"Because I want to reserve senpai's life. The first step is dealing with senpai's parents."

"Hey, that's too exaggerated. I was just playing with you."

"Then forget it."

"Hmph!"

Seeing her puff up her cheeks angrily, Kaoru couldn't resist poking her cheek.

"Just kidding. Actually, I've even thought of the second step."

Tachibana Akane reluctantly forgave his audacity and asked, "What's the second step?"

"Being with you like this." Kaoru held her waist. "I've always wanted to hold you here."

Hearing this, Tachibana Akane felt her whole body grow warm.

She leaned softly against his chest and whispered, "Y-you really are a lecherous junior."

Kaoru caressed her soft belly, feeling the warmth of the girl in his arms.

Her perky bottom pressed against his thighs, her pliant body stirring certain desires within him.

"Is this alright?"

Tachibana Akane's ears flushed red again, unable to withstand his warm breath.

Though she knew this wasn't the place, she couldn't help recalling recent intimate moments, making her wonder if it might actually be acceptable.

Yet his desire to take advantage of her here suggested he must have entertained similar thoughts before - perhaps considering pinning her against the desk every time she turned away.

Akane's face burned crimson, not just because of his pervertedness, but even more so because she found herself understanding his twisted thoughts.

"D-don't ask me... I'm yours anyway..."

Akane whispered softly, as if speaking those words had drained all her strength, leaving only her burning cheeks.

Though he wasn't her student council president anymore, their relationship had transcended the boundaries of president and secretary.

Whatever he wanted, Akane would never refuse him - any kind of play was permissible.

Chapter 625: The Promise

During the office renovation, the previously installed surveillance cameras had been removed - the only good deed Nagumo Miyabi had ever done.

Therefore, Kaoru could now hold her boldly in his arms, enjoying the girl's unique softness.

On such a spring-filled day, he couldn't bear to let her go.

Akane sat on his lap, her chin resting on his shoulder, breathing in his masculine scent that filled her with warmth.

Her body melted softly into his embrace, the earlier activities having drained most of her strength, leaving her capable only of faint murmurs.

"Stay with me these few days?"

Kaoru took a deep breath, sensing Akane's attachment to him. Since they had crossed that final boundary, she had frequently clung to him.

More importantly, no girl would willingly degrade herself like this.

Akane had been constantly fulfilling his desires, probably thinking their time together was limited, which was why she responded to him every time.

"No way."

Akane muttered softly, "Do you think I'm a little girl? We're only separating briefly, it's not like we'll never see each other again."

Though she had been the worried one earlier, now that Kaoru showed concern for her, she felt somewhat embarrassed, not wanting to appear vulnerable before him.

Kaoru truly felt he needed to cure her stubborn mouth.

He grabbed her and kissed her deeply.

The method seemed effective!

Though Akane struggled briefly, she soon gave up resistance, pitifully accepting Kaoru's "lesson."

"Heh, you're so cute, senpai. Do you really think I'd let you go?"

Kaoru whispered, "These next few days, your responsibility is to satisfy me."

Akane only felt her entire body burning, her limbs soft and weak.

Her white teeth lightly bit her rosy lips, her eyes veiled with thick shame.

Her breathing grew rapid, warm puffs of air spraying against his earlobe.

Their positions remained intimately close - Kaoru holding her tightly while she sat in his embrace, completely unable to escape his grasp.

At this moment, Tachibana Akane could feel something swelling within her.

Her heart was beating fiercely, her eyelashes fluttering lightly as she dared not meet Kaoru's gaze, her thoughts in disarray.

Kaoru lifted the girl into his arms. Instinctively, she hooked her hands around his neck, immediately flustered.

"W-wait, what are you trying to do now?"

"Nothing much. I noticed my senpai seemed distracted and wanted to help you recall something."

"Pervert! Put me down right now!"

Not daring to struggle too hard, Tachibana Akane could only let him hold her, her face completely flushed.

She felt both embarrassed and angry, yet somewhat grateful that today was graduation ceremony day—no one would pay attention to this area.

The Student Council—no, the entire building—should only have her and Kaoru at this moment.

The teachers' office downstairs had already locked its doors, and likely no teachers would return.

Still, being treated like this on the verge of graduation made Tachibana Akane somewhat resentful, even though she knew his intentions were good.

Soon, Kaoru set her down, though she struggled to stand steadily.

"Even if you beg me, I won't live with you."

Tachibana Akane put on a fierce expression, "You didn't know how to cherish things before—it's too late now, you small fry!"

Kaoru raised an eyebrow: "Do you need a spanking?"

Tachibana Akane hurriedly covered her petite bottom, but before she could escape, Kaoru had already grabbed her hands, turned her around, and pressed her against the desk.

"Can't you stop being so stubborn?"

Kaoru felt like pinching her cheeks, "Spring Break is only a few days. I can stay with you, just the two of us."

Tachibana Akane, who had been about to bite him, stopped her movement.

He then released her hands, simply holding her slender waist gently.

"I... I... I know!"

Tachibana Akane thought to herself, thankful he couldn't see her expression now, "But if I keep being with you, I'll really find it hard to leave."

The girl worried that spending every day with Kaoru would make her too attached, not even daring to imagine how she'd feel when the day to part finally arrived.

Kaoru paused slightly: "You're not thinking of sneaking away someday, are you?"

"N-no, I'm not!"

Tachibana Akane immediately denied it, but as the desk began to shake, she had to admit.

"Alright, alright, I did think about it!"

Kaoru fell silent.

His reaction made Tachibana Akane extremely nervous, and having been standing on her toes for so long, she had to grip the edge of the desk tightly, nearly in tears.

"I... I just thought it would be better this way. You wouldn't want to see a girl cry, right?"

Tachibana Akane tried to justify herself, biting her lip firmly.

Soon, Tachibana Akane felt the whole world grow quiet, a familiar sensation flowing through her entire body.

She saw a beam of sunlight filtering through the curtains outside, carrying the rich essence of spring, flooding her vision.

She'd actually forgotten to close the window!

Tachibana Akane wanted to cover her pretty face, then felt somewhat angry—if she were still in the Student Council, she'd never forget to close the windows.

These new students really couldn't be relied on!

"Senpai, let's make a promise."

Kaoru seemed to have regained his composure.

"What promise?" Akane felt rather sulky and didn't want to pay this person any mind.

She had chosen to leave without saying goodbye out of concern, yet he hadn't listened to a word she said at all.

"At most six months." Kaoru said, "After six months, I can meet you anytime."

Akane was taken aback.

Her first thought was that he must be joking.

The school allowing him to go out was already unprecedented—how could he even think about leaving whenever he wanted?

Even the teachers couldn't do that!

"If I fail, senpai can ask me to do anything."

Kaoru had seen through her thoughts.

Akane suddenly grew wary.

He was the first student permitted to leave campus—perhaps he really had some method.

"Ahem, if—I mean, hypothetically—you could actually do it, what would you want me to do?"

Only a fool would agree right away, and Akane was no fool.

She suspected Kaoru might have ulterior motives.

"Nothing." Kaoru smiled. "If I can do it, I just want senpai to spend some time with me when you're free."

Akane felt her heart stir intensely.

This person cared deeply about her feelings—his goal was simply to have more time together.

"That's... so sneaky."

Akane slumped over the desk, hiding her expression from him, trying hard to keep it concealed.

"You're just a mediocre underclassman... Why say things like that... You idiot, always thinking about girls!"

"So, shall we make a promise?" Kaoru asked.

Akane hurriedly wiped her tears, turned around, and pointed a stern finger at Kaoru.

"You... you'd better keep your word, or I'll make you do something really perverted!"

"That day will never come."

Kaoru hooked his finger with hers.

"Hmph, a pinky promise is forever. Break it, and you're a dog."

Akane grumbled for a while.

When Kaoru tried to let go of her finger, she grabbed his hand instead.

Putting on a brave face to hide her shyness, she whispered, "One more time... You can do this to me as many times as you want..."

Kaoru could bear it no longer.

He simply tossed her onto the sofa and grabbed her legs.

"Hey, hey, hey!"

Akane blushed. "I was just joking, you foot fetishist!"

Soon, the girl's small feet were dangling in the air.

Chapter 626: Shattering the Boyfriend Filter.

Although he had taught his little senpai a thorough lesson, she still hadn't moved in with Kaoru.

The reason she gave afterward was too justified: she needed to properly say goodbye to her classmates and friends.

Kaoru didn't interfere with her social circle.

He couldn't expect her to cut off all contact with others just because they were together.

However, perhaps because they were about to part, Akane had been clinging to Kaoru constantly, resulting in her little belly being full even before she attended her gatherings.

Every time, Akane would pat her slightly rounded stomach.

She seemed especially expectant, as if she had agreed without hesitation earlier—she didn't resist this at all. Instead, she found Kaoru's presence comforting and safe, and she quite liked it.

Kaoru didn't know if accidents would happen, so he decided to let nature take its course.

At worst, he would take responsibility himself.

The day after the graduation ceremony was the closing ceremony.

Like the previous two closing ceremonies, this one also had nothing particularly noteworthy.

Thus, as soon as the morning closing ceremony ended, the first-year students' Spring Break officially began.

Kushida Kikyo planned to hold a celebration party, originally intended only for Class D of the first year.

However, it seemed that after hearing Ichinose Honami would also attend, students from other classes became equally interested.

Before she knew it, the celebration party for her own class had transformed into a celebration party for the entire first year.

With two angels present, how could it not be popular?

Kaoru naturally followed along, and the scene was indeed impressive. Someone with good social skills could thrive anywhere, especially someone like Ichinose Honami.

However, this time everyone's attention was more focused on him.

Because this time, he didn't even bother pretending—with a little angel on his left and a great angel on his right, he didn't even spare Karuizawa Kei, essentially acknowledging that he had formed a harem.

Apart from a few boys like Sudo Ken who complained a bit, everyone else was already numb to it and didn't find it surprising anymore.

If they were to find out that Kaoru even took the time to stroke Amikura Mako's thigh, they might become even more desensitized.

The nickname "Harem Overlord" was now unshakable.

...

"It seems they're being pestered by others."

By the time the celebration party ended, Kaoru had already returned to the dormitory with Ichinose Honami, and only the two of them were there.

"Now everyone is calling you the Harem Overlord."

Ichinose Honami suppressed a laugh and showed him her phone. "Kikyo and Kei are in trouble, they probably won't come over tonight."

Not long ago, Kushida Kikyo and Karuizawa Kei had just cleared themselves of suspicions of colluding with Kaoru, only to end up becoming his girlfriends.

Their friend circles were likely in an uproar.

Gossip is human nature, especially among their friends, which is why Ichinose Honami said they were being pestered.

"Aren't you angry about being called a harem?"

Kaoru felt a bit strange inside.

He normally wouldn't care about such rumors, nor would he care about her feelings.

At this point, it was hard to say who had tamed whom.

"If I got angry over something like this, wouldn't I be angry every day?"

Ichinose Honami put away her phone and playfully bumped his shoulder. "Instead, I'd like to interview the Harem Overlord and ask how he's feeling right now."

"Like I'm living in constant fear and anxiety." Kaoru sighed.

"Why do you say that?"

Ichinose Honami sat on the bed, tilting her head to look at him. "I think most guys would be happy to have so many girls like them."

"Honami, sometimes I find it hard to say the words 'I like you' to any of you."

Kaoru said, "It feels like I'm knowingly telling a lie but have no choice but to lie to you."

Ichinose Honami's gaze sharpened instantly: "A lie? Do you dislike us?"

"That's not what I mean. It's just that I feel like I'm saying the same thing to each of you, and it makes me feel a bit hypocritical, like a fraud."

In the past, Kaoru would never have had such worries.

No—perhaps he had foreseen this and that's why he chose to hang himself with purple sand.

"Do you like me?" Ichinose Honami asked.

"I do."

Kaoru replied, "I can't let go of you anymore."

Ichinose Honami smiled: "That's enough, why overthink it? I like you, and I like everyone else too. So even if you're the Harem Overlord, I don't really mind. As long as everyone is happy, I'm satisfied."

Kaoru looked at her for a moment, then took her small hand in his.

"No wonder everyone says you're the gentle great angel. You care too much about my feelings—I almost wish you'd scold me instead."

Ichinose Honami shot him an annoyed glare. Why reject kind words and insist on hearing something unpleasant?

"Kei, Kikyo, Suzune, Arisu, Masumi, Mako, Airi, Nazuna-senpai, Akane..."

Kaoru suddenly rattled off their names like reciting a menu, leaving Ichinose Honami utterly stunned.

"Counting carefully, the number has already exceeded double digits. Calling you a stud wouldn't be an exaggeration."

"Ugh, what stud."

Ichinose Honami knew this term—a stallion responsible for breeding mares—and found it unpleasant.

"Although it's a bit exaggerated and shocked me, I only have one requirement: don't force girls. Kaoru has managed that, so it's fine."

"Force?"

Kaoru reminded her, "Don't forget how I initially treated you. Would that count as forcing?"

Ichinose Honami put on a stern face: "No, Kaoru was just joking and wouldn't do anything to me."

It seemed her filter for her boyfriend was particularly strong.

Kaoru didn't believe his past self was joking, though in hindsight, Ichinose Honami only felt he was trying to scare her.

After some thought, Kaoru decided to break her filter.

"As agreed, Arisu has become my maid."

Ichinose Honami remained unmoved, even looking at him with a hint of confusion.

"However, she seems a bit unwilling."

Kaoru said, "So I plan to condition her a little. Do you want to watch from the side?"

"Huh?"

Ichinose Honami's brain short-circuited for a moment. "Me watching from the side?"

"With you there, it'll probably shatter her self-esteem and make it easier for me to condition her."

A little maid who resents her master isn't a good maid."

Sakayanagi Arisu was somewhat proud; without giving her a taste of hardship, she'd likely try to dominate Kaoru.

To condition her, the first step was to crush her self-importance and make her understand she wasn't all that special.

What could be more humiliating than having an audience while losing face?

Ichinose Honami initially wanted to persuade with a word or two, but she thought if she watched from the side, she could intervene immediately if anything went wrong, so she dismissed the idea of persuading.

"Don't go too far, okay?"

Ichinose Honami was utterly naive, still unaware that her boyfriend was trying to kill two birds with one stone—shattering her special filter of him.

However, her innocence made Kaoru wonder if he was overreacting.

Kaoru quickly reaffirmed his decision; without doing this, he didn't know how to tell Ichinose Honami about his past.

For now, Sakayanagi Arisu would have to endure a little grievance.

Chapter 627: Strip!

Five wins and two losses—in the eyes of Class A first-years, the recently concluded Special Exam wasn't a failure at all.

Thus, no one paid attention to Sakayanagi Arisu's two consecutive defeats at the end, nor did it spark any discussion.

Even Totsuka Yahiko, a staunch Katsuragi supporter, didn't criticize Sakayanagi Arisu.

The graduation ceremony, the first-year's conclusion, Spring Break, and the upcoming second-year life were the main focuses of everyone's attention.

It wasn't until Kaoru took the stage as president that Sakayanagi Arisu would hear a word or two of discussion about herself.

It seemed she hadn't left a deep enough impression on these people.

Heh, that's true.

No one knows about her bet with Kaoru, so naturally no one would care about the details of a Special Exam, let alone understand what kind of blow Ichinose Honami dealt her at the last moment.

Sakayanagi Arisu couldn't accept this outcome.

She knew winning seven matches was difficult—perhaps even Kaoru couldn't achieve it—which was why he allowed her to act freely.

For instance, while she could take over the Chess game at any time, Kaoru could have secretly helped Kanzaki Ryuji expand his advantage.

But he didn't do that.

Sakayanagi Arisu couldn't help but suspect he was pitying her.

This situation—where he clearly had the ability to interfere but chose not to—was infuriating, as if he were offering her charity.

Putting that aside, even if she lost to him in the end, Sakayanagi Arisu could have accepted it, given his undeniable skill.

But why didn't he intervene? Why was it Ichinose Honami who faced her moves?

Losing to Ichinose Honami was unacceptable to Sakayanagi Arisu, especially knowing that in games like Sketching and Texas Hold'em, she could have won with a little more effort.

And even if she had lost, why did Kaoru comfort her?

At the time, it seemed like he was bullying Sakayanagi Arisu, but she knew full well he was just trying to lift her spirits.

Once she realized this, her chest tightened with frustration—she didn't want this kind of consolation.

She would have preferred Kaoru Conditioning her rather than treating her like this, as if she couldn't handle defeat.

...

'What's wrong? Surprised to see Honami here?'

Kaoru looked at the girl before him.

The moment she entered, her body seemed to freeze in place.

'I just thought I might see something I shouldn't.'

Sakayanagi Arisu shifted her gaze away from Ichinose Honami.

The other girl was dressed neatly, so they probably hadn't done anything.

'What do you want me to do?'

Kaoru examined her current appearance. She had changed into casual clothes—her petite figure, a chest that swelled like two small buns, a slender waist exuding youthful vitality.

Yet, she leaned on a cane, looking incredibly fragile.

No wonder some called her an elementary schooler.

Her skirt couldn't quite conceal the slight curve of her hips, and her lovely calves beneath the hem radiated a delicate, tender glow.

His gaze was undisguised, so Sakayanagi Arisu knew what he was looking at.

She felt no disgust, only a faint hostility toward Ichinose Honami beside him.

What was Ichinose Honami doing here?

From the moment she arrived, the other girl had remained silent, making Sakayanagi Arisu frown with growing unease and dark suspicions.

"Come here."

Kaoru beckoned her as if calling a small dog.

Sakayanagi Arisu walked expressionlessly to stand before him, then heard another command.

"Sit."

Though mobility was difficult, it didn't stop her from sitting in front of Kaoru—and in a seiza-like pose.

However, once seated, the position made Sakayanagi Arisu feel as if she were kneeling at Kaoru's feet, having to tilt her head up slightly to see his face.

"Not bad."

Kaoru reached out and lifted her chin. "Have you entered maid mode already?"

"Are you asking me to serve you in front of her?"

Sakayanagi Arisu said coldly, "A bet is a bet. Just get on with whatever you want to do."

Ichinose Honami glanced at Kaoru, then at Sakayanagi Arisu, hesitating to speak.

Kaoru smiled faintly, "No rush. Do you know what a maid's duties are?"

"If you're expecting domestic skills from me, you'll be disappointed."

Sakayanagi Arisu thought for a moment, "Though if it's about making boxed lunches, I wouldn't mind you trying."

"What about misbehaving?" Kaoru asked.

Sakayanagi Arisu showed a slight smile as if she had anticipated this, almost taunting.

"Preferring my underdeveloped figure over more voluptuous women - I'm almost flattered, Kaoru-kun."

Ichinose Honami knew she was referring to herself, but surprisingly felt no panic, earning a hint of admiration from Ichinose.

"Just flattered?"

Kaoru said, "Since you know what I like, take off your clothes now."

Sakayanagi Arisu stiffened slightly.

She stared directly at Kaoru, forcing a smile as she gritted her teeth.

"If that's your command..."

"From today on, call me Master."

Kaoru interrupted her, firmly gripping her jaw, "Master is my everything. Master's words are my commands. My only master is Kaoru."

It hurt somewhat. Sakayanagi Arisu's breathing gradually quickened as she met Kaoru's gaze, an inexplicable fear welling up inside her.

"Every night before sleep and every morning after waking, you'll repeat this to me one hundred times over the phone."

"I... I understand..."

Sakayanagi Arisu spoke haltingly. He soon released her, allowing her to catch her breath.

"Now say it once for me."

Hearing his cold voice, Sakayanagi Arisu bit her lower lip.

If they were alone, this conditioning might have been acceptable.

However, Sakayanagi Arisu could feel Ichinose Honami's gaze.

Not long ago, she had spoken those words to Ichinose Honami, yet now she was receiving Kaoru's conditioning right here.

Just thinking about this made Sakayanagi Arisu feel blood rushing throughout her body, her cheeks burning with heat as something called humiliation began dominating her heart.

"Kaoru, maybe we should stop. She looks..."

Perhaps unable to bear watching any longer, Ichinose Honami decided to intervene, but this immediately triggered an extreme reaction from Sakayanagi Arisu.

"I'll say it!"

The girl gritted her teeth, "M-Master is my everything... Master... Master's words are my commands. My only master is... is Kaoru... is Kaoru."

Ichinose Honami looked somewhat stunned, making the girl even more ashamed.

After she finished, Kaoru reached out to stroke her cheek and said calmly.

"Who told you to use that tone? Be more resolute, more fervent in your eyes. Treat me as your god, the master who can grant you everything, desperate enough to lick my toes. Can you do that?"

Anger flashed in Sakayanagi Arisu's eyes as she sneered.

"Heh, it seems you're quite experienced in playing with women."

"Can't say it?"

Kaoru withdrew his hand, "It appears your so-called 'a bet is a bet' doesn't amount to much. Let's end the wager here."

Sakayanagi Arisu looked at him for a moment before saying coldly: "Reverse psychology doesn't work on me."

"It's not a provocation. Compared to you, I prefer Honami and the others. With better options available, why should I fixate on you?"

Kaoru glanced at her small chest. "I don't have any particular preferences. Whether you become this maid or not makes no difference to me. Besides, when it comes to maids, I already have Kikyo."

Sakayanagi Arisu stiffened.

She tried to detect any trace of deception in Kaoru's expression but could only see a calm demeanor.

"You went through all that trouble to make me your maid, and now you don't want me anymore?"

Sakayanagi Arisu wasn't flustered; she didn't believe him. "Heh, is that really what you think?"

"Because you don't want to. Why should I force someone who's unwilling?"

Kaoru said, "I never had high expectations for this bet to begin with."

She had nothing special about her, and he had no reason to particularly care about her.

Sakayanagi Arisu understood this implication, her smile growing more strained.

"No... I never said I was unwilling..."

The girl took a deep breath. "This is a bet between us. I will be your maid until this agreement expires."

"Good. Take off your clothes and say it again, then I'll let you continue."

Kaoru didn't hold back, as if failing to do this would make him send Sakayanagi Arisu back.

Sakayanagi Arisu remained silent for a moment before beginning to undo the buttons on her clothes.

Chapter 628: Speaking Her True Feelings

Sakayanagi Arisu gave the impression of a girl who feared nothing, someone without weaknesses, making it hard to imagine what her vulnerabilities might be.

Not only that, it was rare to see her display reactions typical of a normal girl.

It seemed even when discussing risqué topics, she would show more interest than the person involved rather than embarrassment.

However, Kaoru knew she wasn't an impeccable saint.

When he spanked her, he clearly felt her shock and humiliated anger—emotional responses any girl would have.

Without a doubt, once her layers of disguise were broken through, her feminine side would emerge, revealing her truest self.

Understanding this, Kaoru methodically shattered her mask.

The more emotional fluctuations she showed, the harder it became for her to maintain her composure and stubbornness.

First, Kaoru needed to strip away her exterior.

Sakayanagi Arisu's fingers trembled slightly.

Being as intelligent as she was, she could easily guess what Kaoru intended to do to her. But what could she do even if she guessed?

As each button came undone, a faint sense of humiliation welled up in Sakayanagi Arisu's heart. When had she ever done something like this?

Knowing full well the other person was humiliating her, yet having to cooperate so they could humiliate her more effectively.

His actions were one thing, but what Sakayanagi Arisu cared about more was Ichinose Honami.

Would she have to reveal her wretched side in front of her as well?

Would it always be like this from now on?

Sakayanagi Arisu gradually lost control of her emotions.

The more she thought about it, the more stifled she felt.

She refused to sink to the level of those other girls!

"Continue."

Kaoru watched her.

Her underdeveloped chest offered little to see—too youthful, giving off the impression of a little girl, more like an exquisite porcelain doll that made one instinctively want to cherish her.

Sakayanagi Arisu pursed her lips tightly, her slender and smooth shoulders already exposed before his eyes.

Her delicate collarbones framed a patch of snow-white skin, and though petite, she possessed all the curves a young girl should have—subtly outlined in a breathtaking silhouette, like little red beans bursting from their pods.

She appeared tender and adorable, glowing with a faint blush born of shyness.

Ichinose Honami hesitated, unsure whether she should intervene.

Kaoru hooked his finger under Sakayanagi Arisu's chin.

She obediently raised her eyes, lightly biting her lip as she murmured, "My master is my everything. My master's words are my commands. My only master is Kaoru."

What must Sakayanagi Arisu be feeling at this moment, speaking such words before him and revealing this posture under Ichinose Honami's watchful gaze?

"Not bad."

Kaoru's fingers trailed downward, his fingertips grazing her skin and sending shivers across her body.

"As a reward, you may now freely express your feelings. What does it feel like to be cherished by me?"

She had thought Kaoru wouldn't dare do much to her—at most, something like last time.

But then Sakayanagi Arisu remembered: the medicine that had restored her then might still be in his possession now.

Kaoru began to knead gently, and her breathing gradually grew uneven.

Her eyes closed as she spoke, her voice slightly hurried, "I will repay you double in the future."

It seemed she believed Kaoru was forcing her to make a choice, so she chose to endure for now, intending to challenge him again later to reclaim her dignity.

"I wasn't asking about that."

Kaoru increased the pressure slightly. "When your master grants you a blessing, what should you say?"

His technique was skillful; even someone as emotionally restrained as Sakayanagi Arisu couldn't help but feel a tingling sensation coursing through her.

Sakayanagi Arisu couldn't comprehend this feeling.

She struggled to control her reactions, but Kaoru's fingers pried her teeth apart somewhat roughly.

"It seems our understanding of a maid differs slightly."

Kaoru remarked, "To me, a maid is merely a convenient tool, whose sole purpose is to please me. It appears you're failing at that."

Sakayanagi Arisu felt deeply uncomfortable. His tone held no fluctuation; even if she tried to leave now, he wouldn't stop her.

Yet, this only fueled Sakayanagi Arisu's competitive spirit.

"It's... it's very pleasurable... Master's hands..."

Even if these were insincere words, speaking such lines for the first time filled Sakayanagi Arisu with intense shame.

She no longer dared to look at Ichinose Honami, her voice breaking intermittently, "If this is enough to please my master... please continue with me..."

"Be more detailed."

With every slight movement Kaoru made, her body would reflexively tremble.

"What does this feel like?"

As if under some irresistible spell, Sakayanagi Arisu felt her rationality slipping away bit by bit.

She hadn't known her body could react this way—like a tuner adjusting the tones of an instrument, each touch elicited an instinctive response.

Her body moved in sync with his actions on its own, as if eager to become something that belonged solely to him.

"It's... a bit unbearable... My body feels inexplicably hot..." Sakayanagi Arisu held onto his thigh, gradually beginning to pant, "It feels... a bit strange... ah..."

She forcibly held back, not letting out any embarrassing sounds.

Just as she was growing increasingly uncomfortable, Kaoru stopped his movements.

The blazing flames that were about to surge up and burn her crimson suddenly extinguished, leaving her alone staring at Kaoru in utter bewilderment.

"There's a collar over there. Put it on yourself."

Kaoru pointed to the box in the corner. "By the way, wear the cat ears too."

Sakayanagi Arisu widened her eyes—he had even prepared a collar? Was he really planning to treat her like a pet?

"I understand."

Sakayanagi Arisu still carried an air of composure, as if she were in a superior position.

"It seems the master enjoys this kind of Game quite a lot. Did you prepare this in advance?"

"No, it's Kikyo's."

Kaoru denied it. "I want to see how you're different from Kikyo."

Sakayanagi Arisu fell silent.

She couldn't tell whether Kaoru was trying to provoke her or not, but his indifferent attitude irritated her.

"Hehe, there might be fewer things I can do compared to her."

The girl grabbed Kaoru's hand and placed it against her cheek, looking into his eyes. "But you want me, and I've been waiting for you to conquer me."

Kaoru didn't respond. Sakayanagi Arisu smiled faintly, feeling as though she had regained the upper hand.

She was clever enough to realize that Kaoru was Conditioning her.

If the one being Conditioned was fully aware of it, could the Conditioning still succeed?

"Before that, I'm more than happy to cooperate with you."

A trace of a smile appeared on Sakayanagi Arisu's face. "But, can you really conquer me?"

Ichinose Honami swallowed nervously.

Her worries seemed unnecessary—the two of them appeared to be engaged in a battle of wits, far from the scenario she had imagined.

Kaoru withdrew his hand, and Sakayanagi Arisu didn't mind.

She stood up decisively and began rummaging through the box in the corner for the items he had mentioned.

It was natural for her to think this way, as it was the result of Kaoru's deliberate guidance.

While Sakayanagi Arisu thought he was using reverse psychology, Kaoru had already hinted that she could withdraw at any time—this so-called Conditioning was nothing more than a [Game].

A [Game] she could quit anytime—naturally, Sakayanagi Arisu would assume she was one of the players, even if her role was somewhat humiliating.

Combined with what he had said to her earlier, Sakayanagi Arisu would interpret the meaning of Conditioning on her own and conclude that Kaoru was letting her make the decision.

Thus, Sakayanagi Arisu decided to challenge Kaoru once again.

This Conditioning Game was also seen by her as one of her challenges to Kaoru.

Kaoru knew very well that mere Conditioning wouldn't spark much interest in her.

She only felt frustrated and wasn't necessarily willing to cooperate deep down.

However, if she took the initiative to participate, the situation would be different.

The more unwilling she was, the more she wanted to turn the tables and become the master, the more easily she would immerse herself in it and become consumed by it.

Kaoru only needed to slowly implant hints and suggestions deep into her heart, engraving them onto her soul.

A targeted PUA tailored specifically for her would likely succeed.

Like the repeated hints just now—if he recited them hundreds of times every day, even if she could see through their meaning, her brain wouldn't listen to her.

Habit is a terrifying disease.

Humans are also animals.

To tame a person, whether through simple or complex techniques, all must be employed.

Phenomena like Pavlov's experiments and Stockholm Syndrome prove that humans can also be domesticated.

Kaoru watched her back—the girl's perky buttocks and slightly flushed earlobes.

Chapter 629: Confession Leniency.

'A cat-eared, collar-wearing, flat-chested girl.'

Kaoru stared at her without restraint.

The small flower bud seemed shy and timid, slightly raised yet exuding a delicate warmth and fragrance.

A plum-like center resembled the blush on her face that she desperately tried to conceal. Her snow-white arms hung down, partially blocking his view.

"Quite unique taste. Do you usually play like this?" Sakayanagi Arisu feigned composure.

Had it not been for this situation, the cat ears she now wore would surely have earned Ichinose Honami's approval—they were simply too adorable!

"I didn't ask you to speak," Kaoru stated.

Sakayanagi Arisu closed her mouth, though her eyes still shifted slightly.

She continued to hold her neck high with an air of superiority, as if believing she stood on equal footing with Kaoru.

"Since you're wearing cat ears, you are now a cat. Aside from meowing, you have no other sounds. Understood?" Kaoru said. "If you can't manage that, I'll call Kikyo over. She'd likely be very interested in you."

At these words, Sakayanagi Arisu's expression shifted—whether due to the meowing or the mention of Kushida Kikyo remained unclear.

"Understood?" Kaoru asked.

Sakayanagi Arisu recovered quickly, her eyes glistening as she gave a slight nod.

She neither spoke, avoiding Kaoru's trap, nor meowed to satisfy his twisted whims.

Instead, she looked at Kaoru with a hint of provocative smile, as if challenging him.

"What can you do about it?"

Soon, her smile froze.

"Now, let me hear you meow."

"Meow..."

Sakayanagi Arisu reluctantly forced out a sound, "Meow, meow, meow."

"So cute."

Ichinose Honami couldn't help but murmur softly.

Ignoring the voice from the side, Kaoru made Sakayanagi Arisu meow more seductively, as there was no hint of a kitten-like feeling in her previous attempts.

Taming someone essentially means forcing them to accept your commands.

And now, Kaoru could forcibly impose his will on Sakayanagi Arisu.

She couldn't refuse and had no choice but to endure and comply with his orders.

Some things have always worked through gradual influence.

Kaoru wasn't the least bit impatient.

Without meeting Sakayanagi Arisu's furious gaze, he commanded, "Move your hands away. Everything about a pet should be visible to its owner. There's no need to hide."

Sakayanagi Arisu's face flushed red.

Though she tried to maintain her composure, she still felt a basic sense of shame, which was why she had been subtly blocking Kaoru's line of sight.

By telling her to move her hands away, Kaoru was clearly stripping away another layer of her defenses, leaving her completely exposed to his gaze.

At this moment, the humiliation and shame she had barely suppressed erupted once again.

"Can't do it?"

Kaoru's voice seemed to come from a distant sky.

Sakayanagi Arisu remained silent for a moment before slowly moving her hands away.

However, she hadn't expected Kaoru's voice to grow even colder.

"Spread your legs too."

....

After Sakayanagi Arisu left, Kaoru shifted his gaze to Ichinose Honami, who seemed deeply hesitant.

"Just now... you seemed like a different person. It was really scary."

Ichinose Honami had witnessed the entire process. No one could have felt a stronger sense of dissonance than she did.

"I've always been like this." Kaoru thought of the agency. He had once manipulated a few idols and wondered how they were doing now.

Ichinose Honami stared at him for a long moment before saying, "I can kind of see it. When you threatened me... bullied me before, your eyes were like that—like you could see right through me, but I could never figure you out."

Of course.

His real age wasn't that of a high school student. How could he not see through the thoughts of a few kids?

"You'll understand when you grow up."

Kaoru said casually, "You didn't stop me earlier. Did you think it wasn't forceful enough?"

Ichinose Honami froze for a moment, unsure how to respond.

Perhaps, seeing Sakayanagi Arisu's defiant attitude, she had actively participated, so she didn't know whether it counted as coercion.

"This kind of play is dangerous. Even though there's no Hypnosis App in this world, there are methods with similar effects."

Kaoru said, "Some scammers can manipulate people effortlessly, not because they're smarter than the average person, but because some people are overly confident in their own intelligence, making them easier to deceive."

Why can scams that should be easily exposed still trick people?

Perhaps it's because there are too many overconfident people.

"Arisu thinks she's clever and has confidence in herself. She believes that even with Conditioning, she won't fall, which is why she didn't resist my methods—she wants to retaliate against me in the future."

Kaoru spread his hands, "But the more confident she is, the more I can take advantage of her. In fact, it works even better than a Hypnosis App."

Ichinose Honami looked at him and whispered softly, "So, Kaoru is a very skilled liar?"

"I might have deceived you before."

Kaoru met the girl's gaze calmly. "Do you think someone who gets handsy with you upon first meeting could be a good person?"

Unconsciously, the girls around him seemed to have developed a beautiful misunderstanding, viewing him through a strange boyfriend filter.

Kaoru wanted to tell Ichinose Honami that he didn't possess such a filter.

Therefore, he let Ichinose Honami witness a strange Conditioning.

To the young girl, it was undoubtedly strange Conditioning.

Because Kaoru's relationships with Kushida Kikyo, Horikita Suzune, or Karuizawa Kei weren't like this - they were purely master-servant relationships.

Sakayanagi Arisu had merely been a little slave girl he had used moments ago.

She couldn't even speak normally, only meowing like a cat.

Ichinose Honami had witnessed everything. What kind of emotions must she be feeling now?

Kaoru waited quietly for her.

There were some things he needed to tell her.

However, Ichinose Honami didn't show the expression he had anticipated.

"Actually, I never said Kaoru was a good person?"

The girl tilted her head. "How should I put it? I think Kaoru is a bad person who isn't bad enough, but not purely good either. You play tricks on girls but also protect them - like a hero with two sides."

That's too high of an evaluation, Kaoru averted his gaze.

"Moreover, I never demanded that Kaoru must be a good person. What I like is Kaoru himself, not the concept of a good person."

Ichinose Honami cupped his face. "Hehe, and also, I really like how you get shy when your girlfriend praises you!"

Kaoru once again experienced the maternal warmth radiating from the girl.

This girl is too gentle, no wonder people call her an angel.

"By the way, I need to add something to what you said earlier."

Ichinose Honami put on a serious face. "Although I don't fully understand Sakayanagi-san's feelings, for a girl to be willing to accept your Conditioning means she has already fallen for you."

Kaoru was slightly taken aback.

"How could any girl be willing to let a boy see her body like that!"

Ichinose Honami puffed her cheeks, thinking both Kaoru and Sakayanagi Arisu were stubborn in their denial.

The fact that Sakayanagi Arisu could accept Kaoru's [Game] certainly had an extremely important prerequisite!

Even Sakayanagi Arisu herself had overlooked it!

As an observer, Ichinose Honami could see everything clearly.

This was why she hadn't stopped Kaoru.

Kaoru finally understood, his expression turning peculiar before he sighed.

"It seems this is still my problem. You're right to scold me, Honami."

Ichinose Honami showed a triumphant expression, as if saying "Aren't you going to praise me?"

Kaoru remained silent for a moment. "I have something to tell you."

Perhaps because his expression was very serious, combined with tonight's events, Ichinose Honami seemed to sense something and composed herself, watching him intently.

"A year ago, I was a producer at an agency."

Kaoru revealed the explanation he had prepared for a long time. "The reason people say I resemble a certain celebrity is because I've appeared on several variety shows and interviews."

"The genius composer with the same name as you?" Ichinose Honami asked.

"That's right, at first I thought you were complimenting my looks..."

Mid-sentence, Kaoru suddenly realized something, "You've looked into me?"

Knowing about someone with the same name naturally meant she'd seen his videos and photos, and probably knew about 283 Agency too.

"I've heard these discussions before, but I never paid them much attention."

Ichinose Honami looked somewhat embarrassed, "It wasn't until after the training camp exam that Sakayanagi told me about your situation."

Kaoru was surprised and asked, "Don't... don't you have anything you want to ask me?"

Ichinose Honami lowered her head, "I didn't know how to bring it up. I felt like if I asked, you wouldn't be the Kaoru I know anymore."

An middle-aged man turning into a high school student, a producer who should have died by hanging suddenly coming back to life - who would believe such a story if told?

This situation was beyond what Ichinose Honami could handle.

That she could endure until today showed she had stronger mental fortitude than most people.

"Do you think I'm a ghost or human?"

Chapter 630: Superhuman

Ichinose Honami pouted, "Of course you're human! You have body warmth, and I can touch you!"

She felt Kaoru was teasing her, though she had indeed thought about it.

"Actually, I'm a superhuman."

Kaoru said seriously, "The reason I hanged myself and became this young is because my superpower has limitations - I need to reset my body periodically."

Ichinose Honami was stunned for a long moment, unable to tell if he was lying or not.

"What... what is your superpower?"

The girl asked timidly.

Kaoru extended his empty hands toward her, formed one into a fist, and placed it before her, saying, "Open it and see."

With anxious anticipation, Ichinose Honami slowly opened Kaoru Tōru's fist, immediately spotting a piece of candy inside.

"I can materialize things that shouldn't exist."

Actually, Kaoru had just exchanged for a [Recharge Candy] - he had saved up over a hundred rewards by now.

Ichinose Honami picked up the [Recharge Candy], trying to see what made it special.

"So, the shares in the Shijin Group - did you materialize those too?"

"Correct."

"And the songs you wrote before - were those materialized too?"

"No, those were my original creations, but the ability to write songs was something I materialized."

"This superpower is so convenient!"

Ichinose Honami's eyes sparkled, "Can you materialize anything you want!?"

Kaoru tested her, "Don't you find this strange?"

"Eh, strange?"

Ichinose Honami seemed not to understand what he meant.

"I have superpowers."

Kaoru reminded her, "I might even pull out a Hypnosis App next."

The girl had accepted the superpower premise too quickly, as if she wouldn't doubt him at all.

"Even with superpowers, you're still my boyfriend!"

Ichinose Honami emphasized this point strongly, "Even if you want to use a Hypnosis App, you can only use it on me!"

Kaoru Tōru's expression became complicated. This unquestioning attitude caused subtle changes in his state of mind.

"Wait! Am I the only person you've told?"

Ichinose Honami suddenly realized something.

"You're the only one who knows. Even my former idols don't know." Kaoru began to feel more at ease. Perhaps it was precisely because of her attitude that he decided to tell her.

"Ehehe, so I'm the only one who knows."

Ichinose Honami was very happy. She held the [Recharge Candy] in her hand, refusing to let go as if it were a treasure. It was obvious how much she liked it.

Seeing her accept it so quickly, Kaoru didn't know what to say.

"Are you recovering now, Kaoru?"

Ichinose Honami asked.

Kaoru was stunned for a long time. "Recovery" probably referred to the excuse he had just made up about needing to reset periodically.

"I'm fine now."

"Will it always be like this in the future?"

"I don't know, but I won't hang myself anymore."

Hearing this, Ichinose Honami visibly relaxed. She had been particularly concerned about Kaoru's suicidal tendencies.

"I'm sorry for keeping it from you all this time."

Kaoru felt somewhat heavy-hearted. His situation was too complicated, and if he wanted to continue being with them, he couldn't keep hiding it.

Ichinose Honami fell silent. Her boyfriend claimed to be a superhuman and was suspected to be an older man—what kind of expression was she supposed to have?

"What happened just now could be considered the reason why you kept it from us. But, Kaoru, you didn't have to tell me. Why did you suddenly decide to share all this?"

Kaoru swallowed nervously. The part about the system could be brushed off as superpowers, but the matter of the agency wasn't so easy to explain.

...

"I spent two years at the agency. My relationships with them, especially with some people, have already crossed the final line."

Kaoru met Ichinose Honami's gaze and sighed. "Now, because of my sudden departure, they've tracked me here and could show up at any time."

Yes, that was the information Tsukishiro Kazunari had given him.

Next month, people from the 283 Agency would come in person to verify whether Kaoru was their producer.

Ichinose Honami's body trembled slightly. This was exactly why she hadn't wanted to know about Kaoru's past—it felt like she was about to lose him.

"I won't leave."

Kaoru's eyes were firm. "I won't let go of any of you."

This was how selfish people were—even if he ended up battered and bruised, he wouldn't let a single one of them go.

"Being a producer is in the past. Now, I'm just an ordinary high school student."

Kaoru held her in his arms. "I'll handle things with them. Even if it makes me seem like a scumbag, I don't care anymore."

Ichinose Honami gripped his clothes tightly. Even though she had already made a decision, her heart still ached, making it hard to breathe and bringing her to the verge of tears.

"What if... what if they really take you away?"

This was Ichinose Honami's greatest fear. She couldn't bear to face such a reality. Could her relationship with Kaoru compare to his bonds with the idols at the agency?

"They won't. They were the main characters in the last story, but you're the main character in this one."

Kaoru comforted her. "I'll explain things clearly to them. Actually, Kaoru and Hana are quite easy to talk to."

It felt like telling his current girlfriend that his ex-girlfriends were nice and that they should all get along. Kaoru felt like he was becoming more and more of a scumbag.

"Will there be another story after this?"

However, Ichinose Honami had latched onto another key point.

"P-probably not, right?" Kaoru felt quite guilty, as he was struggling to manage even his current Harem.

"Mmm!"

Ichinose Honami seemed to regret her decision, "I shouldn't have let you have a Harem in the first place. Everyone is fighting over you."

Kaoru could only pretend not to hear.

"Actually, I was mentally prepared for this," Ichinose Honami whispered. "From the moment I found out about your identity, I knew there would be trouble. You definitely wouldn't let us go, and you wouldn't let go of your former idols either. Everyone is part of your Harem, everyone is your cup."

By the end, her tone had taken on a sulky edge.

"I know, and I'm grateful that Honami isn't holding it against me," Kaoru said, patting her head. "That's why I hope all of you can get along and be my cups together."

Ichinose Honami's ears turned bright red. She hadn't expected him to take her sulky words seriously and quickly protested, "Don't make fun of me!"

Kaoru smiled. "Not angry anymore?"

Ichinose Honami bumped her head against him several times, clearly still upset.

"Fine, for your sake, let them come over!"

After a moment, Ichinose Honami lifted her pretty face, having shed her earlier timidity and insecurity. She was determined to see what these little idols were made of.

What was there to be afraid of?

She trusted her boyfriend. At worst, it would just mean a few more members in the Harem!

Seeing this, Kaoru breathed a sigh of relief while also feeling fortunate.

Having such an understanding girlfriend who could even comfort herself was a blessing. She wasn't like some other girls who would sneak away or outright refuse to be part of a Harem.

Though, refusing to be in a Harem was actually the normal reaction.

A girlfriend like Ichinose Honami was an extreme exception and couldn't be taken as a reference.

As Kaoru reminisced about the past, he wondered who would be joining them next month.

"Don't think about anyone but me," Ichinose Honami said, forcibly turning his face toward her so he could see only her. "Right now, I'm your girlfriend. You're not even allowed to think about Kei!"

Before Kaoru could respond, she leaned in and kissed him.

Her lips were soft and tender, and Kaoru instinctively wrapped his arms around her slender waist. They lay on the bed, with her on top of him.

"You have to do to me what you did to Sakayanagi earlier," Ichinose Honami murmured, biting her lip with a seductive gaze. "And... no protection..."

Kaoru didn't reply, simply continuing to kiss her.