

Cote 69

Chapter 69: I'll Make a Peace Sign

Even though Horikita Suzune's actions had a hint of coercion and were a bit unpleasant, her drive and sincerity made it hard to turn her down.

As soon as Sudou Ken and the others agreed, she immediately started organizing their daily study tasks.

This made Kushida Kikyo feel a vague sense of unease and crisis, so she quickly volunteered Horikita Suzune's tutoring sessions to the mix.

Horikita Suzune didn't turn anyone away. Not only Kushida Kikyo, but she also insisted on dragging Ayanokouji Kiyotaka into her study group. By the afternoon, the group had gathered in the library.

Even when she saw Kaoru Mitoma still sitting in the same spot as yesterday, she didn't flinch. If she hesitated even a little, she'd probably end up as nothing more than his plaything. Her plan was to beat this guy and make it to Class A fair and square. Unlike last time, no matter how clueless they looked, Horikita Suzune was patient enough to guide them.

This change made everyone pretty uncomfortable, even though Horikita Suzune still threw out a few biting remarks now and then. The whole study session lasted about an hour and a half, and then Horikita Suzune called it a day, not taking up too much of their time.

Sudou Ken let out a sigh of relief. With this pace, he could still catch the tail end of training—worst case, he'd just practice on his own until six or seven in the evening.

Other than Ayanokouji Kiyotaka, it seemed like no one noticed that Horikita Suzune kept glancing over at Kaoru Mitoma and Class C. Was she planning to expand her business to other classes?

This woman is way too persistent, Ayanokouji Kiyotaka silently complained in his heart.

In reality, Horikita Suzune was even more desperate than Ayanokouji Kiyotaka had imagined.

....

Morning.

Hearing the doorbell ring, Kaoru Mitoma couldn't help but feel puzzled. No one should be looking for him at this hour. As soon as he opened the door, the cool and pretty face of a girl appeared before his eyes.

"You said things outside the list would count too, right?"

Horikita Suzune stood in front of him, the morning sunlight faintly shining through her hair, revealing a delicate, jade-like earlobe. Under her long lashes were a pair of clear, bright eyes. Her skin looked like fresh snow under the warm sun, pure as a painting. Her slender body had a waist that could be held in one hand, and her skirt barely covered her knees. Her straight legs were still clad in knee-high black stockings, the snowy white absolute territory completely exposed.

Just standing at the dorm entrance, the girl gave off the vibe of a first love, like the childhood friend next door. Yeah, especially with that bento in her hands.

"Is the list still not enough to satisfy you?" Kaoru Mitoma realized what she was up to, a faint smile appearing at the corner of his mouth.

Horikita Suzune kept her face stiff, her voice cold. "Most of the stuff on there is just tacky. All it does is show how much of a pervert you really are."

"But Suzune, you can't really do anything except offer your body, can you?" Kaoru said quietly.

"No, you just haven't noticed." Horikita Suzune handed the bento to him.

"How many personal points can making you a bento offset the debt" Kaoru took the bento and opened it, surprised to see how plentiful the dishes were.

"You still have personal points to buy ingredients?"

"The supermarket has free ingredients. Making an extra portion doesn't matter to me."

"The student council president little sister, making a bento for a guy—don't you think that's a bit inappropriate?"

"Heh, you don't have to try so hard to get under my skin. I don't care about something that trivial."

Kaoru eyed the icy girl with amusement. The curve of her chest outlined a body that was growing more mature by the day, with hardly any trace of girlish awkwardness left—enough to catch plenty of people's attention.

"One hundred personal points." Horikita Suzune froze for a second, then glared at him in disbelief, annoyed.

"Even the cheapest bento set at the convenience store costs at least five hundred personal points!"

"I know, but your ingredients were free, so you didn't have to spend anything extra. For what it's worth, that's about all it's valued at." Kaoru grinned.

Horikita Suzune felt stifled. Was bullying her the only thing this guy knew how to do?

"Don't look at me like that, Suzune." Kaoru sighed.

"If you just followed the list, you'd be out of debt in no time. Why bother with all this?"

"Disgusting,"

Horikita Suzune said coldly. Kaoru nodded. He never denied what people thought of him—just like Higuchi Madoka back then.

If he deserves to be scolded, then scold him. If he deserves to be hated, then hate him. He'll still keep working toward his wish.

"Do you want to join my study group?" Horikita Suzune suddenly asked.

Kaoru was a little surprised and probed, "You want someone from Class A to join your study group?"

"Aren't you already tutoring kamuro in the library?" Horikita Suzune said.

"If you find it troublesome, you can hand her over to me."

Wait, judging by your expression, you're not joking?

"Even though the student council work is a pain, I still have time to tutor someone like Kamuro."

"I see..." Horikita Suzune didn't press the issue any further. She gripped the hem of her skirt with both hands and looked at him expressionlessly.

"Do you still want to look at my panties?" Beneath the girl skirt were pale thighs, delicate as flowers, the edge of her socks faintly squeezing a ring into her flesh, looking soft and inviting.

At the dorm entrance, watching the girl lift her own skirt on her own initiative, it was clearly a pretty thrilling game.

"No." Kaoru calmly refused her. "Each request on the list only gets done once, and you're wearing safety shorts today, aren't you?"

Horikita Suzune expression stiffened for a moment, but then she quickly returned to her usual calm, letting go of her skirt.

"I thought you were a hopeless pervert who'd do anything." She really was wearing safety shorts—after all, Kaoru hadn't specified what exactly he wanted to see underneath.

"Don't overestimate my patience, Suzune." Kaoru glanced at her thighs. "Next time, I might just make you go commando to class."

A faint blush flashed across Horikita Suzune face, her full chest heaving for a moment before she gritted her teeth and said, "I picked out the things I'm willing to do, and that's not one of them."

She was being surprisingly cooperative, which caught Kaoru off guard. "So, what do you want to do?"

Horikita Suzune hesitated for a moment, then looked at Kaoru with determination. She raised both hands to her face, made a peace sign, and stuck out her little tongue, the soft pink tip appearing right in front of Kaoru eyes.

"What about rolling your eyes?"

Horikita Suzune face turned bright red as she tried her best to roll her eyes. But for some reason, instead of looking sexy at all, she just seemed like a goofy idiot.

"Is that all?"

"No, I can do other things too, like lap pillows, stepping on you, pretending to exercise while talking on the phone..."

Looking at her serious expression, Kaoru couldn't tell if this girl really didn't get it, or was just pretending not to.

"To be honest, making a peace sign doesn't mean that..."

Horikita Suzune put her hands down and frowned, not really understanding what he meant. Isn't a peace sign just 'V for victory'?

Although sticking out her tongue and rolling her eyes was a bit weird, she knew a lot of people liked to make peace signs in photos, so it probably didn't mean anything special.

"No matter what you say, I've already done it. Five thousand points." If it weren't for the price, Horikita Suzune would never have made such an embarrassing pose just now.

"Usually, people only make that face during the final sprint, but whatever... " Kaoru changed the subject.

"Send me the options you picked, and we'll find a time to finish them together."

"I already sent most of them to you before I came over." Horikita Suzune glanced away slightly, and she'd even checked off the foot-licking option.

She didn't know if Kaoru Mitoma was into feet, and she couldn't really picture a guy willingly licking someone's feet.

It was said that in ancient times, bowing down and kissing the top of someone's foot was a sign of submission.

Horikita Suzune felt weird about it. Every time she saw his face, she couldn't help but imagine him kneeling on the ground, holding her feet and gently kissing them. Then, as if an electric current ran through her body, her pretty face started to blush.

"Just so you know, the list is based on what I want. Your opinion doesn't matter. Either do it or don't." Kaoru told her calmly.

That peace sign she tried earlier obviously didn't count as fulfilling the request. After all, it was a pretty specific expression, not something you could just fake.

"Fine, but you have to explain it clearly. I'll decide after that." Horikita Suzune was on high alert—she could only accept a very limited level of perversion. Things like wearing a collar, groping boobs, or acting like a couple were definitely out of the question.

She couldn't accept any of that.

"I'll explain it to you. I don't want you messing it up." Kaoru glanced at her again.

"How long are you planning to stand here? If someone sees you hanging around, my reputation might take a hit."

"..."

Horikita Suzune fell silent. This guy actually cares about his reputation?

Besides, she was the girl here. Shouldn't she be the one worried about her reputation?

"I'll bring you lunch again tomorrow." As she was about to leave, she heard him ask,

"By the way, how did you know my dorm was here?"

Horikita Suzune paused, then replied coolly, "I just asked the dorm manager. He told me right away."

Kaoru couldn't help but feel a bit speechless when he heard that. So, guys aren't allowed near the girls' dorms on the upper floors, but it's totally fine to give out the guys' dorm info to the girls?

What he didn't know was that the convenience store actually had extra security measures, and the school restrictions on students weren't as strict as he thought.

Watching Horikita Suzune leave, Kaoru went back to his dorm to tidy up a bit, then stuffed his bento into his bag and headed to class right on time, just like always. But for some reason, he kept feeling like someone was watching him.

"Morning, Kamuro," Kaoru greeted the girl next to him.

"Don't talk to me," Kamuro Masumi replied with a cold face, clearly not in the mood to respond.

Noticing that a lot of eyes in the class were on him and Kamuro Masumi, Kaoru seemed to realize something, then gave a small smile.

"Looks like everyone got the wrong idea about us. Honestly, I just see you as one of the guys."

Kamuro Masumi almost lost it, barely stopping herself from kicking him. So being 'one of the guys' means you get to grope my thigh every day, huh?

"Someone saw us in the library and just happened to catch you lying on top of me... "

Kamuro Masumi trailed off, suddenly feeling awkward.

"Whatever, it's not like anything happened between us. Let them say whatever they want!"

Hesitating and keeping her distance just wasn't her style.

"If you don't like it, we won't do it in the library next time," Kaoru said seriously, looking at her. Masumi Kamuro didn't hesitate at all and aimed a kick at him, but he dodged just in time, catching her ankle in his hand.

"How do you always manage to dodge?" Masumi Kamuro was baffled.

Because someone used to kick even harder than you.

"Why do you always want to kick people?"

"That's how you deal with perverts," Masumi Kamuro said smugly.

Kaoru looked at the girl calf, her black knee-high sock warm and delicate in his hand. It didn't just feel like a stocking—it was soft, like a girl. In short, it felt good. He wanted to touch it again. But before he could do anything, Masumi Kamuro quickly pulled her leg back. Looking over again, the girl was already sitting up straight, ready for the start of class.

"Heh, pervert."

Kaoru looked away. This good buddy of his was getting bolder by the day. As the bell rang, today's lessons began. Maybe it was all the recent tutoring, but Kamuro Masumi seemed to be getting a lot out of it.

She no longer stared at the blackboard with that lost look she used to have.

Instead, she looked thoughtful, as if she was really thinking things through. Before long, it was finally lunchtime. Kaoru didn't leave the classroom. He took out his bento from his bag, and that immediately caught Kamuro Masumi attention.

"This is... wait, no, the convenience store doesn't sell this set. Where did you get it?" Seeing the dishes in the bento, Kamuro Masumi couldn't keep her cool.

"I spent some personal points to ask someone to make it for me." Kaoru picked up a piece of chicken; the lunchbox was still a little warm. It felt like someone had made him a bento before—was it Tomori, or Madoka?

Probably neither.

"A girl?" Kamuro Masumi suddenly asked.

"If you want, I can ask her to make one for you too." Kaoru didn't seem flustered at all. Kamuro Masumi gave him a suspicious look, but didn't dwell on it.

Instead, she seemed interested.

"It looks pretty good. Now I want to buy a bento too."

"Alright, I'll ask her to make an extra one."

"How much does it cost?"

"It's cheap, you don't have to pay."

True, you're basically carrying the whole class by yourself now.

"What's Sakayanagi been up to lately?"

"I'm not your spy. And seriously, why are you two acting like you're enemies?"

"If I got into a fight with her, whose side would you take?"

"Hey, hey, hey, what's with this whole 'parents fighting and then asking the kid to pick a side' vibe!?"

After chatting for a bit, Kamishiro Masumi started feeling really hungry, so she left the classroom right away to grab some food at the cafeteria.

Kaoru spent the whole lunch break just chilling. Honestly, this kind of laid-back life should be reserved for A Class and the student council vice president, right?

No need to work hard to move up a class, no need to worry about the threat of expulsion.

No wonder when Katsuragi Kohei suggested they just sit back and watch, a lot of people in A Class agreed with him.

As the initial winners, they really did have the right to just observe what the other three classes were doing before deciding whether to get involved.

In fact, even after A Class split into two factions, there were still people in the class who stayed neutral and didn't care about either side.

He had no idea when the class below would start making their move, Kaoru thought to himself.