

葵せきな



白石の学園生徒会議事録
王石陽学園生徒会議事録

せいなとあいのいらいら
へんやうがくせんせいとあいのいらいら

1

生徒会の
存



富士見ファンタジア文庫

DISCLAIMER: The work translated here is the legal property of its original copyright holder. It is translated here without monetary incentive solely for the purposes of promoting domestic interest in the work and improving personal language proficiency. Should the work be licensed for English translation or upon request by the original copyright holders, please stop distribution of this document at once.

Please send any and all comments to NanoDesuTranslations@gmail.com

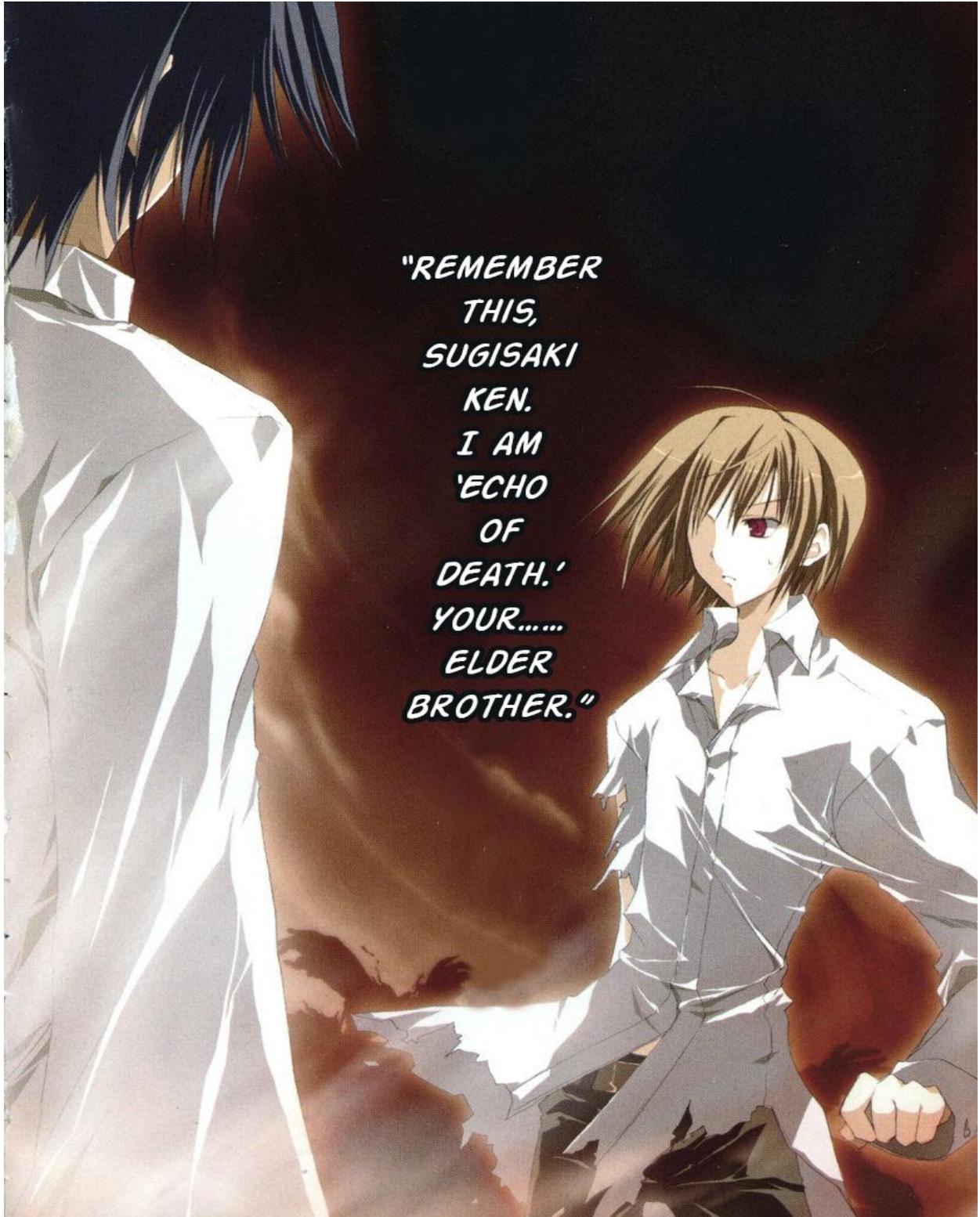


生徒会の存続

「み、皆しゃん! あ、か、囁んじやった
ん。み、皆さん。ごきげん
よう。気候もめっき
り夏らしく……。
新緑が……。
ええと……。
そ、それはさ
で。さ、最近っ。
そ、そのっ! こ
こ、校内で
は、**破廉恥**な
行為が目についま
す! よ、良くないとお
もいまひゅっ! ひゃ
ん。と、とにかく良
くない
です
! み、
皆さん、
健全な
お付き合
いをお願いし
ます! ぺこり!!



*SOF
SOFT
BODIES
SQUISHED
ME
FROM
THREE
DIRECTIONS.....*



**"REMEMBER
THIS,
SUGISAKI
KEN.
I AM
'ECHO
OF
DEATH.'
YOUR.....
ELDER
BROTHER."**

(1) The kanji written for his name is “Zankyou Shimetsu” meaning “Annihilation Echo” while the furigana (how to pronounce it) written is “Echo of Death.” Basically, his “name” is read in English but still written out in Japanese.

[Nonexistent Prologue]

Rule 1 We will accept the existence of gods

Rule 2 We must not contact these gods directly

Rule 3 We are friend's friends. That is the closest we can be

Rule 4 The purpose of the "business" is priority

Rule 5 "The staff" must not have strong individual thoughts

Rule 6 The disclosure of information is the greatest and worst taboo

Rule 7 Do not forget that we deceive not people, but gods

Rule 8 In this project morals are unnecessary. Everything is for the profit of the "business"

Rule 9 Fundamentally, our greatest belief is the "preservation" of the "school"

Additional Rule Beware of this year's student council

[1st Discussion ~ The Chatty Student Council]

“There is nothing boring in the world. It is you who have become boring!”

As usual, the president stuck out her small chest and proudly spoke as if she were reciting something she probably read in some book.

However this time left me with a deep impression. I see, that’s it.

As I gained more experience, I became a boring person who had trouble finding anything fun.

In this world, nothing is more fun than “firsts.”

First love.

First true friend.

First time getting in trouble.

First success.

First..... eroge?

Well even so, whenever I think about fun things, I return to those thoughts.

“Those were fun times.”

When I entered nursery school, it didn’t matter that I was physically the same as all the others.

When I was in primary school, I was so happy to carry my little backpack.

When I advanced to middle school, I felt like an adult when I showed my bus pass.

When I was accepted into high school, I remember enjoying myself scoring higher others and seizing victory.

Well, that sort of meaning, or so I’d like to say.....

“So, are you saying virgins aren’t that bad?”

“Puh-!”

My question caused the president to choke, spitting out her tea at full force and making her cough violently. As usual, she was extremely susceptible to my ad lib. Because it was just us two today, I could tease her a lot.

The president was teary-eyed. She wiped the table in front of her with tissues and glared at me.

“How did you arrive at that conclusion from what I just said?”

“How naïve Prez. My train of thought leads directly to that!”

“What pride! Be more aware of your position as vice president, Sugisaki.....”

“I am aware. I am perfectly aware that this student council is my harem –”

“Excuse me. Enough with your awareness of being vice president, but why don’t you start by discarding that other self-awareness.”

The president was sincere in her retorts toward me today, as well. Like I thought, the president is cute.

Compared to me, she was small and short. In addition, she tried to compensate for her childish appearance by standing on her toes, and ran around desperately trying to deal with being student council president, both of which made her even more moe.

Yes, moe. The number of girls that can be described with that word are few. That cuteness was already recognized by all the students in the school. She was too cute. Once they saw the president in person, they no longer could feel attracted to moe anime or manga characters.

“Prezzz.”

“What is it?”

The president rolled up the tissues that she used to wipe the tea, and aimed, trying to shoot them into the trash bin in the corner of the student council room. She was too cute, seriously aiming with one eye closed.

I sat my elbow on the desk, and decided to inform this president.

“I like you. Please go out with me.”

“Nyawa!”

The bundle of tissues flew spectacularly in the opposite direction.

The president glared at me once again, teary-eyed.

“Sugisaki, how can you just superficially confess like that?”

“Because I’m serious.”

“That’s a lie!”

“Prez, ‘Hi**rashi’ material is really old”(1)

Even though her teary eyes trembled, she said it without a hint of tragedy.

“Sugisaki, don’t you dare say you’ve forgotten what you said when you first showed up in this student council!”

“What was it? Umm..... ‘Don’t bother, go on without me!’ was it?”

“What kind of situation did the student council start out in?! That wasn’t it!”

“Huh? Then... ‘I have no interest in ordinary humans. Aliens, Time travelers –’”(2)

“That’s dangerous, Sugisaki! In many ways!”

“It’s fine. I prefer the original work.”

(1) Higurashi, as in Higurashi no Naku Koro ni (Higurashi: When They Cry).

(2) Reference to Suzumiya Haruhi no Yuuutsu (The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya).

“What kind of reassurance is that?! Also, the anime was godly!”

The president seems to have also seen it..... No, isn't it bad if we delve deeper into this topic? Have I labeled her wrong? Let's quickly remember that time.

..... Right, right. I am certain, that at that time, when the members of the student council gathered..... I faced four beautiful girls, and made an announcement.



“I love you all. I love you all very much. All of you, go out with me. Because I will absolutely make you happy.”

“That’s right! From that time, you were well known to this student council for your irresponsibility! Who in the world are you saying would be swayed by a person who says, ‘I don’t care who, just go out with me?!’”

“How rude. I do care who. As they say in S**aker Bunko, ‘I have no interests except for beautiful girls.’”(3)

“So you’re saying anyone is fine as long as they’re cute right?! If you’re going with that, why don’t you at least go compare with something like Fujimi Fantasia Bunko!”(4)

“I am wholehearted! For beautiful girls!”

“Such a broad criteria!”

“Beautiful girls are a rare species.”

“That’s not the issue! It isn’t sincere when you confess to several people at once!”

“Eeh? Isn’t that better than an indecisive protagonist? Starting with a bang from ‘I’ll aim for the harem route!’ would be a manly declaration, right?”

“Unfortunately your specs are different from a popular galge protagonist!”

“Then what kind of protagonist would you say I am?! Even though I like girls this much!”

“Basically, you aren’t a protagonist, you’re a villain! You’re on the side that gets weeded out! Either that or the unimportant best friend of the protagonist! You’re necessary to give a good reaction to gags!”

The president was very well-informed on the subject.

(3) The Sneaker, the company that serialized the Suzumiya Haruhi novels, among others.

(4) Guess who published Seitokai no Ichizon.

“But my face is nice-”

“That’s just because the artist is good!”

So says the beautiful girl-character president..... was what I thought, but well, whatever.

While I was speaking, I went and picked up the president’s missed tissue, shooting it a short distance into the trash bin.

“.....”

The president gave me a complex look as she sat down. I returned to my own seat and tilted my head.

“What’s wrong, prez?”

“..... Sugisaki, you say sometimes your nature is effective, affectionate..... unconsciously.”

“Yeah. That sort of gap lets my affection level increase at a high rate right?”

“That’s your aim!? Damn it! How much has my affection level already increased by?!”

“Fufufu..... Well, that was an exaggeration, but more or less it’s definitely what my aim is. But it’s an old habit. Because I’m popular with women. Now it’s mostly unconscious.”

“Hmm..... This ero power isn’t common.”

“Yes, it isn’t common, this power of mine. When I arrive at the end of the harem route, I’ll need a lot of stamina after all.”

“Ahhh, don’t tell me why you need stamina! “

In accordance with the President’s loli appearance, she couldn’t handle this sort of story. She blocked her ears..... So cute.

However.....

“Prez. That reaction is proof that you already know what I was about to say.”

“.....hau.”

She turned red. She fidgeted..... How cute. She really is cute, the president. Ahhh, now I remember that the president was such a huge part of making me want to join...

And as I continued to tease the president for that reason, it really is a shame that as if to interrupt our time, someone opened the student council room door.

“Key-kun. It’s bad to tease Aka-chan too much.”

The one who just spoke was Chizuru-san, the female secretary and a third-year like the president, who just entered the room.

By the way, ‘Key-kun’ refers to me. My name is written with the kanji for ‘key’ and pronounced as ‘Ken,’ therefore, Key-kun.

Also, ‘Aka-chan’ refers to the president. This is also because the president’s name is ‘Kurimu,’ and kurimuzon = crimson, so Aka-chan.(5) Both are very simple nicknames, but ones which pleased Chizuru-san. The president herself would cry out “I’m not a baby!”(6) and get angry, but when she told us with her loli face, Chizuru-san and I couldn’t help but just think “it fits her exactly.”

It’s just, fundamentally, she’s the type of person who refers to classmates by last names and underclassmen by first names.(7) To that end, I am honored for her to call me by a nickname, but according to Chizuru-san, “It’s not like it means I like you more or something.” Girls are mysteries.

(5) Aka = Red = Crimson.

(6) Aka-chan = Baby. Because the best thing to call a loli high schooler is a child.

(7) Just as a general note, older/more experienced people usually referred to with titles while younger/less experienced people are referred to by name or nickname. Social hierarchy and things like that.

Now then, Chizuru-san was the opposite type of person from the president. She was tall, with a body that was filled out and slender in the right places. She had natural long black hair that was fluid and silky, with an entrancing adult charm. She also had a cool personality, but was kind at the same time.....

In a different sense than the president, it could be said that she is an ideal girl. No, rather than an ideal girl, one might say she's a beautiful woman.

Watching as she sat down across from me, I rebutted.

"I'm not teasing her or anything. I'm only embarrassing her."

"In a way, isn't that also a pretty terrible thing to do?"

"It's alright. We've agreed on it."

As I explained myself, the president shouted "That's a lie!" again, which I ignored.

In that pause, the president sulked, so I spoke to Chizuru-san.

"However, it seems like my harem is having trouble gathering today."

"It's the student council, not your harem. But isn't this alright? It's not like we're having an event or planning anything. Lately, at these meetings, all we do is eat snacks and chat.

As she said this, Chizuru-san quickly pulled out a bottle of mineral water from her bag and drank from it.

"You just don't get it, Chizuru-san. If we don't meet, my affection level won't increase. Look, in galge, don't you choose heroines based on different places?"

"That's still pretty troubling, even if you say that as if it's the most obvious fact in the world."

"Basically, if they don't come to the student council room, I can't raise their affection, so even if there isn't an event, they should come here--"

"Rather, that's why they aren't coming."

I was hit with a swift and harsh retort. Chizuru-san..... she wasn't a straightforward tsun like the president, but occasionally was a bit cruel. The psychological damage she could do was pretty high.

I cleared my throat with a cough and tried to think positively.

"But, Chizuru-san, you came to nurture your love for me, right?!"

"..... Ah, yeah, sure."

It was worse than getting rejected. Such incredible inattentiveness. She had pulled out a snack from her bag and started her homework while crunching away.

"Ku..... But when this type of cool character falls in love, they will definitely, without a doubt be passionate about it!"

"Ah, that's true. I will be passionate. In primary school I sent three hundred letters everyday to my first love saying only 'I like you.' In the end, his mind broke. Because he was unexpectedly fragile, since then I've lost interest in love..... I wonder if you're the same."

She watched me with narrowed eyes, and a thin smile appeared on her lips.

It was significantly more scary than the president's "Hi**rashi" joke.

It can't be helped.....

"I understand."

"Eh, after hearing that story, are you prepared? You'll accept all of me? You're getting lots of points for that, Key-kun. I'm sure that my flag is somewhat –"

"I'm only looking for a physical relationship with you, Chizuru-san! We don't need love!"

"..... So, the next homework problem,"

I was splendidly ignored. Oh well. But..... “only looking for a physical relationship.” In the worst case scenario, wouldn’t that be even harder than getting a girlfriend? Mu.

While thinking that, I suddenly noticed that the president had reached out and took one of Chizuru-san’s snacks. Right before she ate it, I warned her.

“You’ll get fat.”

“Uguu.....I- it’s fine. The nutrition will go to my height and chest!”

“Yes, but the risk of it going to your stomach is also pretty high.”

“I-it’s fine! Because it’s hard for me to get fat!”

“It’s also hard for your height and chest to grow.”

“..... Hyah! Chomp!”

Ah, she ate it.

“The next answer to the next question is..... alright ‘metabolic syndrome.’”

“.....”

Chizuru-san said something cruel while looking at her notebook. Did she really have a question like that?

But from eating just one piece, the president’s excitement lessened..... But in the end, despite the worry, she still continued to eat.

I placed my hand on the president’s softly trembling shoulder.

“It’s okay, prez. If no one will accept you.....”

“Eh? You don’t mean..... even if I get fat, you would still like me? Even if I’m not a beautiful girl anymore? Sugisaki..... you.....”

Tears welled up in the president’s eyes. I smiled at her.

“If no one will accept you..... please dedicate yourself to your job.”

“Realistic advice?!”

“I’ll support you from the shadows!”

“Why from the shadows?! Basically, you’ll abandon me! I have no value if I’m fat!”

“Well, that’s why I’m encouraging you to work hard to not become fat.”

“Auu.”

The president’s shoulders dropped. In reality if it were her, becoming a little pudgy was cute in its own right..... but even then, as a member of my harem, it would be an issue if she got careless with herself. For example, you can’t survive if you stop paying attention to your feminine side after you become a mother!

“Work hard to stay in my harem!”

“Ah, somehow I suddenly feel like it’s ok to be fat.”

“.....”

Why does it seem like everyone is so tsun? If I couldn’t get even one of them to be dere to me soon, I would die of loneliness. There is nothing as miserable as a galge protagonist who wasn’t popular with girls. Furthermore, a more miserable life would be one where you have a lot of chances, but you end up in the “best friends” ending.

-

Chizuru-san started taking out things to genuinely work on her homework, and the president seriously started eating snacks as if in a trance.

Unbelievably bored, I was thinking of another topic to talk about, when the door rattled open and two girls entered.

“Ahh, sorry for being laaaate~~!”

“E-excuse us.”

Two people with contrasting personalities entered.

The energetic girl walking in front was Shiina Minatsu, a vice president like me, as well as my classmate.

Her long hair was tied in twintails, and because she was in “this student council” it was a given that she was a beautiful girl.

She hadn’t joined any specific clubs, but had good reflexes and was boyish..... actually, her way of speaking was also masculine. Because she was refreshing and cheerful, she was popular with guys, but also had high popularity with girls. Furthermore, she had a rare yuri feeling about her, so her popularity skyrocketed because of that.

It’s just..... from that, she seemed to hate men like me, helped by the fact that we were both vice president in the same class, and tended to be hostile to me. A textbook tsundere..... but the problem was she wasn’t dere.

And in the background, the girl who’s bowing her head behind us, and who looked away the minute I made eye contact with her was Shiina Mafuyu. She was Minatsu’s younger sister and a first year. She was the treasurer, but well, in this student council there wasn’t much of a distinction between one position and another.

It almost was as if all her energy had been sucked out by her older sister before she had been born. She was also bad with guys, and that did endear her to some of the boys in the school. Well..... the cause of her hate of guys definitely comes from her sister (I believe her sister’s yuri preference convinced her that men were something to be feared).

She had white skin and was easy to recognize from the charming little ribbon she wore in her straight, light-colored hair. She also refers to herself as “Mafuyu” which is also very fitting. Due to that childishness and cuteness, everyone adds “-chan” to her name. For some reason, adding “-san” or not using an honorific didn’t seem right. Only her sister Minatsu called her “Mafuyu,” which strangely fit.

When the Shiina sisters took their places, I spoke to them.

“Oh yeah, Minatsu and Mafuyu-chan, did you have a ‘something that started out very fun’?”

I decided to return to the original topic.

“What is this, out of nowhere?”

Minatsu, who was sitting next to me looked at me with suspicion.

“Well, the president finally said something interesting: the world doesn’t become boring, but you yourself become boring. So something good that happened a long time ago.”

“What do you mean ‘finally’?!”

The president made a fuss again, but she was ignored. The Shiina sisters thought seriously.

Mafuyu-chan, who was sitting diagonally from me, was the first to answer.

“Fo-for Mafuyu, it was.....cosmetics?”

“Make-up?”

“Yes. When Mafuyu was little, Mafuyu watched mother use it and couldn’t help but want to do the same. So then in middle school, Mafuyu bought her first cosmetics and was unbearably happy..... But now that Mafuyu thinks about it, Mafuyu doesn’t really like to dress up. Like recently, Mafuyu only wants to do the bare minimum.”

“Ah, I see. That’s so like Mafuyu-chan. It’s alright Mafuyu-chan! You’re already cute enough without make-up! Make-up hides your natural beauty, so it’s better to not use it!”

“Th-thank you.....”

“Hey, Ken! Don’t hit on my sister in front of me!”

At my words, Mafuyu-chan's cheeks flushed and she shyly shrunk back, while Minatsu lashed out. The same as ever. I sighed and put a hand on Minatsu's shoulder.

"Now now. Don't be jealous, Minatsu..... You're pretty charming yourself!"

"No no, I'm not jealous!"

"After all Minatsu, if we were to get married, Mafuyu-chan would become my sister-in-law which is also a charming –"

"That's not even my own charm!"

Minatsu was really angry..... such a cute girl. She doesn't need to be so jealous.....

"I said I'm not burning with jealousy!"

"Oh! You can even tell what I'm thinking! I can see the finish line!"

"Geez, you're scaring me! Somehow you're just scary! Your crazy delusions are too scary!"

"Delusions?... Well, alright, if you want, I'll pretend they're delusions. You're so shy♪♪"

"I-I want to kill him....."

Minatsu shook at my words while Mafuyu-chan desperately tried to calm her down.

Well, it seemed that the student council members have all gathered today.

I saw myself surrounded by four beautiful girls, and I rejoiced to myself.

"Yes, harem banzai. I always love seeing this sight. I'm really glad I worked so hard to get into the student council."

At my words, Chizuru-san responded with "Now that you mention it,"

“Key-kun, you entered through the ‘Excellence Program.’ even though you don’t seem like the type of person who would be able to do that.”

“Yeah, that’s true. No matter how you look at him, he’s just an idiot pervert.”

Minatsu agreed and Mafuyu-chan smiled awkwardly.

As I tried to object, the president slammed her hands down on the desk.

“It’s terrible to say, but the way this school selects student council members is definitely odd! The popularity vote is odd, but the ‘Excellence Program’ is too! Rather than just grades, they should include looking at mental stability!”

I don’t know how many times the president has already complained about this. I gave my usual response.

“But I think this system is the best.”

Student council member selection at this school is very different from the process at other schools.

First off, members are chosen by a pure ‘popularity vote.’ However, people almost always chose by physical appearance, which resulted in cute-looking girls always being elected. Frankly, it’s a beauty contest.

Both guys and girls yearn for the thing known as the beautiful woman. Male beauty occasionally draws objection from other boys. As I thought, cuteness is rightness.

Moreover, this system actually made sense. Although they chose based on appearance, because there was no campaigning, students just ended up picking the people they admire from their everyday lives.

Due to that, if the “admired students” stood up there, everyone actually listens to what the student council has to say. Besides..... frankly, you can elect anybody into the student council, and they’ll manage to figure their job out one way or another. Choosing by appearance isn’t a big problem. As long as they have charisma it’s fine.

As a result, the student council became a gathering place for beautiful girls.

However, there is a compromise. That is the “Excellence Program.” Each year, the highest scoring student..... the highest scoring student of the end of the year exam, if they wanted to, could enter the student council. From this, the official reason is so excellent and talented people are also brought in. Normally, the smart ones are the ones who spend their time studying, so there aren’t many people who join that way.

However, at the end of the year, there was someone at the top who expressed his wish to enter the student council..... Me, Sugisaki Ken. The reason was simple. That is.....

“But I have to admit, what Ken did was impressive. That power isn’t common.”

Minatsu looked astonished at me. The president also muttered “indeed” with a sigh.

“I’ll do anything to enter the ‘All-Beautiful-Girls-Except-for-Me Community.’ Yes. Even though I entered with the lowest grades, it was a piece of cake to get to the top in a year.”

“So- somehow, to Mafuyu, Sugisaki-senpai sometimes seems very impressive.....”

“Mafuyu! It’s an illusion! Don’t admire someone like Ken!”

Minatsu said something extremely rude.

“I actually am smart, Minatsu.”

“And your motives are impure! To think you wanted to enter the student council that governs the entire student body with this mindset”

“Even politicians tend to have scandals with women trouble right? In fact, it’s easier for the more perverted humans to stand on top. I too, even when I become old, do not want to let go of the hungry spirit that lets me peep up a high school girl’s skirt with a hand mirror.”

“Don’t bring out your bad habits here!”

After hearing Minatsu’s remark, , the president seized her chance to interject with a “Yeah!”

“Like I thought, to let them join with just good grades is weird! Due to that, a problem child such as Sugisaki joined.....”

“I do think it’s bad that all the members of the student council fell in madly in love with me.....”

“Not a single one of us has!”

“Eeh?!”

“What’s with that vivid surprise?! Your overconfidence is also terrible!”

“No way..... that’s..... only Prez has fallen for me so far.....?”

“I haven’t fallen for you!

“Eeeh?!”

“How about you stop that Masuo-san-style surprise?” (8)

“No way..... Prez. Then, are you saying that night never happened.....?”

“Wha- what are you talking about?”

The president grew quiet and started to search her memory.

While everyone was paying attention, I said it.

“That night, didn’t you passionately ask for me countless times in my dreams, Prez?!”

“We have a criminal waiting to happen here! He has the makings of a stalker!”

(8) Reference to Sazae-san, basically the longest running anime series, at almost 7000 episodes

“So cruel! You toyed with my pure heart!”

“More like you toyed with mine!”

The president cried out exhaustedly as she breathed heavily as she took her seat. Since she was petite, she had no strength. If you brought her into a little fight, you could beat her down easily.

Unable to watch the situation any longer, Chizuru-san closed her notebook and spoke to me.

“Key-kun. It’s not like I hate you, but don’t you think it’s smarter to act a little more sincere? If you want to make a harem, you shouldn’t declare it openly. Rather, wouldn’t going about it sincerely be the correct path?”

“Hmmm..... Chizuru-san’s reasoning makes sense..... However, it doesn’t matter how you smooth it over, because this is me! Because this body full of desire is the true me! Because I am awkward! And because I am devoted to my libido!”

“You really are rotten to the core.”

Minatsu gave me a cold look. Ah, so tsun. Everyone is still in their tsun period.

That’s fine. Galge serves as my life’s bible..... no, eroge (please don’t say anything about age limits) does as well. It never starts out as a harem, and the best part is when tsun people eventually turn dere. In that sense, I’m in a really lucky position right now.

“Fufufu..... now one by one, the members of the student council will fall into my clutches.”

“He’s even started to call it his clutches.....”

Mafuyu-chan gave a bitter smile.

“Well, if you aren’t dere, I could easily change plans to sexually harass you in school.”

“That’s some damn refreshing heresy, bastard.”

Minatsu's tsun level went off the charts.

I waved my finger at her with a "tsk tsk tsk."

"It's alright, Minatsu. I'll make sure it won't come to that. In reality, instead of gradually raising everyone's affection levels in one story, I'll follow the 'One person, one story' format."

"What?"

"Not just in galge, but in school dramas too, right? The teacher solves the problems of each student one episode at a time, eventually blending in with the class.(9) Then in the final episode, all the students of the class express their gratitude to the teacher, which in a way, is a harem end."

"You splendidly ruined the feeling of a school drama final episode."

"Yeah..... starting with Mafuyu-chan who has the most affection for me now, then Prez, Minatsu, and then Chizuru-san, gradually increasing in difficulty and making an impression by solving their problems, until, oh, how strange, everyone 's become my captive....."

"Not that it matters, but saying that I'm easier to capture than Chizuru-san annoys me."

"Mafuyu..... is the first one to be captured.....?"

For some reason, Mafuyu-chan was seriously trembling. With excitement, I hope.

The president, still exhausted, lashed out at me.

"Why am I the next easiest to capture after Mafuyu-chan?! You can't convince me of that!"

(9) So, I'm pretty sure this is a reference to GTO.

“Eh? Well Prez..... aren't you already at the point where you start to have me on your mind? For example, when I walk with another beautiful girl, you get annoyed, right?”

“When you walk with another beautiful girl, I immediately contact the police and request for her protection!”

“Prez is really jealous.”

“.....Ahhh, I want to send you to the cruelest bad end.”

The president's eyes were dark. She seemed to be shaking with anger, so I averted my eyes.

It seemed that I had run out of allies, I decided to change the subject.

“But you know, the thing I fear most, is what Prez said first.”

“...? What? What do you mean?”

“Becoming a boring person..... basically, you mean there are people who are in blessed circumstances and who don't realize it right? Talking about now, I..... I have been a part of the student council for a month, and I can't help but feel that this harem situation is fun. But one day..... what if one day I start to feel like it's not unusual at all?”

“Ahh. Well, I guess I understand that.”

Unusually, the president agreed with my opinion. Then I sighed.

“Like you said, something like that isn't something you can just consciously do something about. Same goes for your rank in life. Even when the income of a person with a once prosperous life drops, he wouldn't be able to tolerate a lower standard of living.”

“Also, that isn't really a beautiful-loli-girl-like example.”

“It was like that for me. Because my father is a manager. I'm saying that income changes, for better or for worse,.”

“I see. So Prez, if you don’t stop that hobby of using money to have pretty boys serve you.....”

“Don’t lump me together with you! What hobby? I’m not a wicked woman!”

“And then, the habit of slapping men’s cheeks with wads of money, that needs to change.....”

“What kind of rich noblewoman do you think I am?! No matter what, the scale doesn’t go that far!”

“You’re just a penniless woman whose only purpose in life is picking up home-invading ants by their limbs.....”

“I’m not a dark-natured woman! This isn’t an issue about money!”

Screaming with all her might, the president had tired herself out again..... It was unusual to find a senpai who was so easy to tease.

However, certainly, if you go up a rank, it seems you can’t go back down. Basically, that is what it means to become a boring human.

You suddenly lose sight of the happiness right in front of you. You go higher and higher, but you want to go higher still. But one day, you will reach your limit..... and when you find yourself standing still, you may very well become a ‘boring person’ who finds everything in the world to be boring.”

But.....

“Ma, Mafuyu also does not want to become that..... But Mafuyu doesn’t really understand how to avoid such a thing.”

Mafuyu-chan became discouraged. That was exactly it. Wishing for more is a natural human desire, so it is difficult to keep it in check. Chizuru-san had once put it nicely, saying “In the end, we won’t have any choice but to aim for a final state of enlightenment.”

“Ehh, That’s kinda boring.”

Minatsu was irritated..... It was certainly boring. Anyways..... It's probably because I'm still young, but I had no intentions of aiming for enlightenment, and just wanted to spend my days to the fullest.

Chizuru-san continued.

“Well, some people..... the people called winners, keep moving up steadily. Most people compromise somewhere, and are fairly happy.

“Fairly happy.....”

Will I also, in the end, be buried in the average?

I'll go to a not-so-major company.

I'll get an upper-middle salary.

I'll work in an unremarkable job.

Even if I try my hardest to get promoted, I won't get any further than section chief.

No matter how much I work, I won't be able change the world at all.

Even if I disappear, there will be plenty of people who can replace me.

But without the courage or willpower to escape from that environment, I resign myself to it, with a “Well, I guess this is nice, isn't it?”

.....

“Well that's no good.”

“Eh?”

At my muttering, everyone looked towards me. I took in everyone's stares..... and stood up with all my strength!

“I will create a harem of beautiful girls!”

I declared that loudly!

Minatsu said with amazement “Even if he says that as if he were announcing, ‘I’m going to be King of the Pirates’.....”(10) The others gave me looks that said “again?”, but nevertheless, I continued.

“Even if I have to compromise, I’ll compromise high! I’ll have beautiful girls serve me, and someday, I’ll reach the point and say “Ah, I’m bored of beautiful girls,” and then I’ll compromise!”

(10) One Piece reference.



“..... I see. So, you just want to keep going and see how far you get. Well, that’s not bad at all. I like that idea.”

Chizuru-san smiled for some reason. Oh, did her affection points go up? As usual, I received appreciation where it wasn’t intended.

Minatsu also said with a smile, “Well, aside from the harem, that stance isn’t bad.” Mafuyu-chan, smiling gently said “That’s true..... Rather than be troubled, it might be better to go on for the time being.”

And then the president spoke.....

“Eh, I’m too tired to work...”

A hopeless person.

She hadn’t reached enlightenment and wasn’t aiming to go up further, but seemed to have already compromised.

She seemed satisfied with just being the student council president.

While she stuffed her mouth and crunched on snacks, she had some sort of happy face on.

..... Well, that’s fine.

Yeah, it’s fine as long as she’s happy. It was sweet and simple.

The president finished the snacks (even though they were Chizuru-san’s.....), and let out a cute burp, and made it known that she was satisfied.

“With that, shall we disband for today?”

“.....”

Everyone thought she was an amazingly hopeless person.

Well, because of that, we all disbanded anyway.

..... I also really had to get to work. ***

[1st Discussion: Part 2]

“..... And Sugisaki is still in the student council room.”

Kurimu faced the student council members who met again in front of the school gates and smiled bitterly. The girls also softened their faces and smiled.

Minatsu cracked her shoulder and snorted.

“Geez, that guy really troubles himself to support us..... So he could chat with us for a long time, he handles all of the student council duties himself and acts as if it’s nothing.....”

“S-so Mafuyu likes Sugisaki-senpai?”

At Mafuyu’s words, everyone let out a sigh, and Kurimu spoke for everyone.

“In this school, there isn’t a single person who actually hates that guy. Geez..... If he stopped going around talking about harems and whatnot, he could easily get a girlfriend or two.....”

“Hmm, Aka-chan, would you be fine with Key-kun?”

“Wh- What are you talking about Chizuru?! There’s no way!”

Of course, Chizuru laughed seeing Kurimu so panicked, and Minatsu and Mafuyu joined in..... Everyone understood. They certainly each had their own favorable impressions of Sugisaki Ken. However, they were kept in check well..... by none other than Sugisaki Ken himself.

By emphasizing that he wanted a harem, he was preventing himself from getting close with any particular person. Despite that, he truly and sincerely loved everyone in the student council, and Kurimu and the others had trouble dealing with it. They had trouble but.....

Chizuru looked up towards the student council room and muttered.

“As you could expect from someone who talks about harems like that, he..... is our central pillar.”

“Central pillar?”

“Yes. It might be pretty late to be saying this, but we all have had pretty complicated pasts. Scars, you could call them.”

At Chizuru’s words, Kurimu, Minatsu, and Mafuyu’s faces clouded. Indeed, they each had their own private issues. They never talked about them with each other, and of course Sugisaki Ken would also not know the details.

Chizuru continued.

“But the time we spend chatting in the student council really helps us. We just sit there and enjoy ourselves. Even if it’s fake..... The warmth like that of a family dinner table is there.

Without a doubt, Key-kun created that. That’s why..... he is the central pillar. Not only is he the central pillar of the student council, but also the central pillar of this school”

Kurimu took Chizuru’s words and turned to look toward the student council room.

“Geez. He said it himself. That’s like the role of a teacher in a school drama.”

“The difference is, he doesn’t come out and solve our problems, but just gives us a place to rest for the day.”

“B-but Mafuyu is really, really grateful for that.”

At Mafuyu’s words, everyone gave a bitter smile. That was because they all agreed. When all was said and done, no matter what plans people had, they almost always showed up to the student council room. This was ultimately because Sugisaki Ken was there and so a fun atmosphere was created.

Kurimu moved on with a “Now then.”

“Let’s go home already!”

“B-but is that really alright? Mafuyu-”

“It’s fine. Actually, I think Sugisaki wanted it to be this way. In that case, we have to respect his wishes.”

“.....”

“In return, when Sugisaki is troubled by something, we should do everything we can to help him.”

“Prez-san.....”

Mafuyu was so moved that tears came to her eyes. And then she continued with a
“But.....”

“But Prez-san, we won’t go out with him, right?”

“This and that are separate things. What kind of person would go out with a serial adulterer like him.....?”

She gave an immediate reply.

Kurimu took that opportunity to end the conversation and said “Well, see you tomorrow,” and ran off. The other members also said their farewells and went their ways home.

In the evening, Kurimu again thought about Sugisaki and the girls and muttered to herself.

“Being a boring human, may not be so bad.....”

If you gather people who think their lives are boring, it’s possible that instead, a lot of fun would happen.

Hekiyou Private Academy student council.

Every day, boring people gather there to have fun conversations.

[2nd Discussion ~ The Ghost-story Telling Student Council]

“The truly scary things aren’t ghosts or monsters! It’s humans themselves!”

As usual, the president stuck out her small chest and proudly spoke as if she were reciting something she probably read in some book.

Honestly, I agreed, but because that was a way too obvious way to answer, I gave a half-assed response instead.

“Ah, yeah. Sure.”

“It’s true! Besides, both ghosts and monsters were created by humans!”

“No, I feel like that explanation is a bit off.....”

When people say “humans are scary,” I don’t think that’s what they mean. However, the president really looked satisfied as she reclined in her chair..... I’ve always thought about it, but why does this person get a kick from flagrantly ripping off wise sayings and presenting them seriously?

Not only I, but Chizuru-san, Minatsu, and Mafuyu-chan also didn’t have any particular reaction, and each gave their own half-hearted agreements.

The president started talking about this, probably because among the students, the rumors of “the seven wonders” started to increase.

The seven wonders. If you knew all seven, you would be cursed. But when I thought about it, somehow I came up with 21. It’s overkill. If a curse were to befall me, I wouldn’t be the only one in trouble; another unrelated person could be dragged into it and die.

Considering I wasn’t even that interested in the rumors yet I still knew so many, I could pretty much guess what the present situation in school was... if people on average knew more than 21 of these wonders, and the curse were real, then not just the school, but the entire town would blow up.

“The situation is already urgent!”

The president was enthusiastic. On the whiteboard in thick, thick, thiiiiiiick writing, she wrote “Today’s Agenda – Regarding the overly widespread condition of ghost stories.”

I don’t know why, but it seemed that the president didn’t like the current situation. It couldn’t be that she actually feared Resident Evil-like dangers, could it?(1)

Next to me, Minatsu stealthily whispered into my ear.

“(Why is Prez-san this enthusiastic?)”

“(Who knows..... maybe she’s actually a coward? Especially with that type of body.)”

“(Oh, that makes sense. Hey, how about we test it out?)”

Minatsu informed me, and with a sadistic smile, raised her hand upright at the president who was continuing her fervent speech.

“Hey Prez-san!”

“Yes, Minatsu.”

“Prez-san, do you know this story? The story of a girl who went into a certain bathroom –”

“Wa, ahahh! Wh, why are you suddenly telling a story like that?! Don’t go off topic!”

“It’s not off topic. Look, to deal with things, shouldn’t you first learn about them in depth?”

“Ugu..... Anyway! It’s fine if I don’t hear it!”

We watched over the president’s confused state.

(1) The text gives “Biohazard,” the Japanese name for the Resident Evil series.

All of the student council members' eyes gleamed with a suspicious sparkle.

“(This could be interesting!)”

Even Mafuyu-chan was tempted to do something. Aah..... Mafuyu-chan did like things like scary stories, didn't she? And because she usually took the role of being made fun of, she welcomed this situation with open arms.

Acting like they hadn't noticed her cowardice, everyone except the president began to discreetly shift the conversation towards avenues the president didn't want it to go down.

Chizuru-san moved first.

“It's as Minatsu said. Yes, it's exactly that. First you have to identify the circulating ghost stories one by one, and then you need to verify them.”

“Eh, eeehh?!”

The president was clearly upset.

I saw an opportunity to jump in and I pounced.

“That's right. We should talk about each of the ghost stories we know here.”

“Wha-, Sugisaki! There's no need to do something like—”

“Ma, Mafuyu also thinks we should do it!”

“Even Mafuyu-chan.....”

The president winced. At this point, I delivered my finisher.

“Ohh? Prez..... could it be that you're scared?”

“Wha —”

At my finisher, Chizuru-san followed up with her own final blow.

“Oh, there’s no way Key-kun. There’s just no way that the student council president of all people would be frightened of the school’s ghost stories. Now, aren’t you belittling her too much? Right, Aka-chan?”

“Uh, uuuhh?”

At that, even the Shiina sisters gave pursuit.

“As if anyone is afraid of ghost stories at this age!”

“Ma, Mafuyu has also loved scary stories..... since primary school.”

“Ugu.”

The president began sweating profusely. The ends of her mouth bent downward, tears welled up in her eyes, and her face became extremely pitiful. However..... the president crossed her arms and reclined in her chair. She declared confidently, “Hu, humph!”

“A, as an adult, I wouldn’t be afraid of something like ghost stories.”

She took the bait..... This is bad. I might awaken my inner sadist. This was too fun. Teasing the president felt too good. If I were to go out with her, would I be able to stand not seeing her troubled face once a day?

I looked at Chizuru-san, and she also had a look of light ecstasy..... A sadist. This person was a genuine sadist. Even though her personality was completely different from the president, I now understand why she was close to her.

While we watched, the president seemed to prepare herself for the worst. She slammed her hands onto the long table with a bang. Chizuru-san and I were even more thrilled as we realized how much those hands were trembling.

“A, alright then, let’s tell them. Ghost stories. B, but since we don’t have a lot of time, how about we keep it to one person per story?”

“Awesome! Then we’ll start with me.”

“Hu, huh? Already?”

“It’s better to get this done quick right? Hm? Prez..... are you scared?”

“Go ahead Minatsu.”

The president acted as brave as she could. As everyone nonchalantly watched, Minatsu readily leaned in close and began her ghost story.

“So, since I’m up first, I’m fired up and ready to go! Prepare yourself.”

“..... In this school’s home economics room, there are no kitchen knives. Do you know why that is? That is because they are all kept in a cupboard in the home ec prep room. But, remember this well. Under the home ec room’s kitchen table, there is a space set for kitchen knives. Normally they would be kept there. If you were to practice cooking, it’s a utensil you would almost definitely need to use, and to prepare them one by one every time from the prep room would be very troublesome, wouldn’t it?”

“So then why are the knives in the prep room? That was because there was a knife in the home ec room, but because of that a certain tragedy struck.”

Minatsu erased her usual energetic-girl manner and built up her story with a low voice. Considering how Minatsu usually acted, when she seriously spoke, the atmosphere grew increasingly heavier.

The president gulped down her saliva. She seemed fine earlier, but her eyes flit around restlessly, she repeatedly crossed and uncrossed her arms, and she looked to be restless.

Minatsu grinned lightly at the president’s condition. At Minatsu’s expression, the president became even more terrified.

“Once there was a certain schoolgirl..... for now we’ll call her Kurimu-chan.....”

“Why do we have to call her Kurimu-chan?!”

The president screamed with tears in her eyes. Minatsu splendidly ignored her.

“Kurimu-chan was a charming young girl. Even though she was short and her body wasn’t quite filled out in various places, well, her face was really pretty, and that got her a bit of attention”

“..... Somehow, I feel like you’re saying mean things about her on purpose.”

“So back to Kurimu-chan. This Kurimu-chan who could only eat half of a banana.”

“It’s like Kurimu-chan came out of a nursery rhyme.”

“One day, she forgot something at school. Even though she realized this in the middle of the night, she needed it that day no matter what, and since her home was actually in the same neighborhood, she went to school to get it. “

“Even though the school at night was definitely scary, because Kurimu-chan has done this several times before, she was already used to it.”

“That day also, as usual, Kurimu-chan was going back to get something she forgot.”

“And then.”

“The next day, her cold body was found.”

“Eek.”

The president reacted with surprise..... It was good narration. A sudden development. I don’t know exactly what happened, but for now, I just know something extremely bad happened. Minatsu..... Minatsu was unexpectedly used to telling stories.

“Kurimu-chan..... died in the home ec room. Her whole body was completely stabbed.”

“For some reason, I more and more don’t want the setting to have the name Kurimu-chan in it.....”

Kurimu-chan (the real one) became pale. However, Minatsu just blatantly ignored that as well.

“The criminal was caught immediately. Lately, that degenerate had been frequently appearing in the outskirts of town. Kurimu-chan happened to come across him just where he was gloating after being able to trespass into the school. It was then that she became easy prey.

Of course, Kurimu-chan ran, but was steadily driven to her end. In the end, she took refuge in the home ec room. However..... that was a mistake. The man noticed that it was the home ec room, took a kitchen knife out from the space under the kitchen table, and then –“

“.....”

The president was silent. When I looked closely at her, she looked as if she was trying to block reality out, so I clapped my hands in front of her face to bring her back.(2)

The president cleared her throat with a cough and stared at Minatsu.

“O-Oh, so that’s it? After that sort of murder incident, the kitchen knives were just moved to a different place, big deal.....”

“No, that’s not it Prez-san. That wasn’t the real reason the knives were moved to the prep room.”

“Eh?”

“Something terrible happened..... After the incident, a student who stayed in the home ec room after school.....”

“Wh..... what happened?”

The president gulped down her saliva. The story was getting closer to its climax.

(2) The term used was “nekodamashi.” A literal translation gives “cat deception” but it’s actually a sumo technique where one claps their hands in front of their opponent’s face to disorient them. But putting all that in the sentence wouldn’t work.

“After the incident, a student who stayed in the home ec room after school also died..... This time –”

“This time?”

Minatsu waited a painfully long time and told us.

-

“All the knives in the home ec room were stabbed into him.”

-

“...!”

The president was scared stiff. Even we were all a bit nervous from the overwhelming atmosphere. However..... everyone understood.

(There’s no way that’s real.)

Aside from the president, everyone properly understood. If such a bizarre incident happened, there’s no way we wouldn’t have heard about it up until now.

However..... it seemed to have an immediate effect on the president. With a serious look, she asked Minatsu “A, and the criminal?” Well, that’s what Minatsu was waiting to be asked.

“Isn’t it obvious? It was.....”

“It was.....?”

“It was.....”

Minatsu went silent for a moment and the student council room quieted down.

And then.

-

“You!”

“Eeeeeek!”

Minatsu suddenly pointed at the president and shouted. That also gave us a bit of a scare, but because we expected her to use that sort of end, the shock wasn't as much as it could've been.

But the president.....

“.....”

Her soul slightly slipped out her mouth..... This person was horrified. Everyone waited with grins for the president's revival. The president regained consciousness after a while and, for some reason, angrily said “Wh, why would you do that?!”

“Th, there's no way that I'm the criminal! D, don't make fun of me!”

Minatsu smiled wryly at the president's remark.

“No, no, that wasn't it at all. Basically, the criminal was the one we wanted to call Kurimu-chan. Yeah..... the Kurimu-chan who became a ghost.”

“Ooh.....”

The president once again became speechless at the word “ghost.”

Minatsu wrapped up her story.

“That way of dying really couldn't be done by human hands. The knives stabbed the entire body almost simultaneously. It's like..... as if all the knives floated in the air and flew all at once.

..... So, after that. That was how knives came to be strictly stored in the prep room and are no longer in the home ec room..... Prez-san. The student council activities have run late, so be careful. Suppose someone left behind their knife from class in the home ec room..... and if for some reason you enter the home ec room..... I can't guarantee your safety.”

“.....”

Once again, the president's soul floated out of her mouth..... She seemed considerably afraid. After taking a short trip to the other side, she returned to her own body and gave a completely unconvincing bluff, saying "Th, that sure is some worthless gossip there."

.....The president gave some amusing reactions. Chizuru-san, Minatsu, Mafuyu-chan and I all grinned.

Even after that, we continued to tell ghost stories to the president. Of course, for all of the stories, we named the protagonist Kurimu-chan. We're so kind.

Mafuyu-chan scared the president by vividly telling a story about an evil spirit that would enter a person's body and cause them to commit suicide, known as the "It's Inside You" ghost. Chizuru-san developed a cruel story of the truth of the "flayed face" serial killing incident from several years ago, and made everything clear by interpreting it as the work of ghosts. Although the story was fantasy, the fact that she used logic and theory in it made it convincing. The president was pushed down to the bottom of the pit of fear.

And as for me –

"There once was a girl named Kurimu-chan. She..... was hired as a maid for a boy named Sugisaki Ken. The end."

"Eeeeeeeek!"

Just that one sentence scared the president the most.

For some reason it felt like everyone's eyes were saying "Are you satisfied now?," but I didn't care.

After coming all this way, I was going to continue telling all these short stories.

"Kurimu-chan dropped a required class."

"Eek!"

“Kurimu-chan was forced to resign from being student council president because she said something inappropriate.”

“Aaah!”

“Kurimu-chan fruitlessly prayed and afterwards she did not grow taller.”

“Nooooo!”

“Sugisaki Ken licked Kurimu-chan’s toothbrush all over and secretly put it back.”

“Gaaaaaaaah!”

“Kurimu-chan’s last words were ‘pew, that was close.’”

“That was careless!”

“Kurimu-chan’s life was all just a dream.”

“Whose?!”

“Kurimu-chan was called ‘That airheaded dunce’ behind her back and never realized.”

“So cruel!”

“Kurimu-chan actually wasn’t Kurimu-chan at all.”

“Somehow that’s the scariest one!”

One after another I told “scary stories” to Kurimu-chan..... I mean the president, until she was completely knocked down. Also, she even forgot to stay calm and keep up her appearance.

For some reason, even Chizuru-san and the Shiina sisters were afraid of my stories. The three of them muttered things like “That’s terrifying.....” or “Ma, Mafuyu can’t stop trembling.....” or “Such cruel ideas.....” My stories were big hits.

Fully satisfied with teasing the president, we took a break for an hour.

Now that the president was no longer any use to us, I talked to Chizuru-san.

“But you know, everyone loves scary stories. I wonder why that is. No matter how you say it, ‘scary’ has a negative connotation.”

Chizuru-san ran her fingers through her hair and smiled.

“There’s also the word ‘thrill.’ It’s like enjoying danger even though you know you will be safe. Maybe like a roller coaster?”

“But even that ‘thrill’ is a fairly mysterious feeling. No matter how many times they guarantee safety, it’s somehow backwards to have something scary become something fun. Because everyone naturally enjoys it, no one says anything, but isn’t that certain outlook very twisted? If the world were different, I get the feeling that those people who had fun with those kinds of things wouldn’t be able to avoid being called strange.

At my words, with a nod, Mafuyu-chan said “That does seem to be true.” Chizuru-san thought about it with a “Hmm,” and Minatsu crossed her arms and said, “Well, it looks that way when you think about it.”

While I watched the president who was the only one still trembling, I felt that if anything, the president was the only honest person here. It’s normal to dislike and be afraid of scary stories..... the majority of people like scary stories, but isn’t the side that thinks “fear is amusing,” really strange and twisted?

“When you put it that way..... It makes me feel as if the current situation in school itself is somehow really scary.”

“Yes..... That does seem to be the case.”

Chizuru-san agreed.

“If it is strange to truly enjoy scary stories..... This school..... no, this planet is bustling with communities of strange humans. If you think about it, it’s really scary.”

“B, both of you, stop thinking like that.”

Minatsu was a bit scared. However, Mafuyu-chan muttered “That’s true.....”

“Mafuyu loves scary stories, but..... But Mafuyu can’t find an explanation as to why Mafuyu loves them so much. Is it maybe... could it be that that in itself is a scary, inexplicable thing?”

We went silent..... I felt that it was fundamentally impossible to suppress an inexplicable sense of enjoyment. Changing this school’s situation was... very difficult.

During this silence, an unexpected person raised her voice..... it was the president.

“See, that’s what I was saying! The scariest things are humans!”

For some reason, the president was very proudly sticking her chest out. Even though we smiled bitterly..... somewhere in our hearts we definitely felt that what she said was true.

“Humans..... they sure are scary. I just don’t understand ‘em.”

Minatsu’s mutter strangely resounded through the student council room.

The conclusion of today’s agenda:

-

Stopping the circulation of scary stories is simply impossible.

-

..... However. We came to this conclusion, but I was worried about the dejected and worn-out president..... Did we do something bad? Did we tease her too much? People who didn’t like scary stories..... *really* didn’t like them.

Moreover, if you looked at it from the view of people like the president, scary stories themselves are of course scary, but seeing people around them having fun telling scary stories might also have been scary.

.....

A way to stop scary stories, huh?

[2nd Discussion: Part 2]

“Somehow all of a sudden, we stopped hearing about ghost stories in class. This must be also a gift of the student council president’s popularity!”

For the first time since the meeting two days ago, the president delightfully spoke to me. It’s been a while since it’s just been the two of us, and so I ignored her with a “that’s nice.”

The president’s complexion had completely recovered. Apparently not hearing anymore scary stories made her considerably glad.

“But..... I wonder why it calmed down so suddenly. It really is mysterious.”

“Calmed down..... huh?”

“...?”

“No, it’s nothing.”

I secretly breathed out a sigh.

In fact..... this calm is only temporary. If you’re asking why I know that, it’s because I made this situation.

Scary stories. They sink into people with their mysterious charm, and even when you want to stop listening to them, you can’t.

Something that could stop scary stories.

Something like...

There’s only scary stories, is there not?

“Aah, it really is great. All that bad behavior calmed down.”

“Yeah. Great, great.”

As I looked at the president's smile, I was hit with a complicated feeling. Was what I did really right?..... When I saw her innocent smile, I really couldn't tell the difference anymore.

..... Because.

I made a new wonder for the seven wonders.

In her good mood, the president hummed. In my very complicated mood, I sighed.

What I did was simple. Based on what I felt at the meeting the day before yesterday, I just sent out a new convenient-for-the-president-seven-wonders that I made.

The contents of the story in summary, was basically "The curse that befalls those who know all of the seven wonders definitely exists, and evolves like the ghost stories of the world." Even if someone knows more than seven wonders and nothing has happened to them yet... a heavier punishment awaits them down the line... that was the kind of ghost story I spread.

The last line of that ghost story is this:

"Who said anything about being safe if you discover more than seven?!"

This is the prototype of the story I made. Right now..... it's spread around and it's been refined to be even more frightening.

But through all the changes, the foundation of the story still remained intact. Yes, if the "Curse of the Complete Seven Wonders" and "Seeing more than seven is far from just unsafe, worse will happen" fundamental parts remained intact in the rumor, then that would be fine.

The result: With this story, there were many people who became scared, if only slightly, and the ghost story boom died down soon after.

So.....

"Like I thought, fun topics are just the best aren't they?"

I stared at the good-humored president.

Did I really do the right thing? As a result I was able to see her smile. However.....

“But it really is strange. Everyone was talking so much about ghost stories up until yesterday weren’t they?”

I motionlessly stared at the president who innocently tilted her head in wonder.

Humans.

Humans who want to hear ghost stories.

Humans who want to tell ghost stories.

Humans who are scared of ghost stories.

Humans who hate ghost stories.

And.

Humans like me, who make ghost stories for their own benefit.

“Prezz.”

“Hm. What iis it Sugisaki?”

I laid myself across the table and smiled widely.

“It’s exactly like you said Prez, the scariest things are humans. I definitely learned that.”

“...? A, ahem! That’s right! It looks like you finally understand, Sugisaki!”

The president stuck out her chest and I smiled at her.

I had circulated that terrible ghost story.

I had circulated that terrible ghost story that the president would have hated.

And I had used fear to restrain all the people.

The president smiled at me.

I smiled back at the president.

What's with us?

(Ahh, no no. This role is too degrading. I won't do it anymore.)

In order to distract myself, I checked tomorrow's schedule. Oh, home ec is tomorrow. We should be doing some cooking practice. In that case.....

"....."

I remembered Minatsu's ghost story.

I was just a little scared to hold a kitchen knife.

But at the same time.

I definitely considered trying to leave a knife in the home ec room.

..... *Humans sure are scary*, I thought.

[3rd Discussion ~ The Broadcasting Student Council]

“Having connections and conflicts with other people allows a person to grow!”

As usual, the president stuck out her small chest and proudly spoke as if she were reciting something she probably read in some book.

“What do you mean by that?”

Since I didn’t really get what she meant, I asked back. When I asked, the President scribbled the discussion topic on the whiteboard. She slammed on the board with a bang and said “This!”

“Umm..... radio broadcast?”

It was clearly noted on the whiteboard..... but since I still didn’t understand, I questioningly tilted my head. When I looked at them, even Chizuru-san and the Shiina sisters were making curious faces.

Alone, the president still stuck out her chest and continued.

“That right! I think the student council should do a radio show from now on!”

“Ra, radio show.....?”

As if it were an unpleasant premonition, the timid and shy Mafuyu-chan asked with a hint of fear.

“Umm..... a radio show? Like, playing music and talking?”

“That’s right. That’s a radio show.”

“..... Um. That..... um, why does the student council have to do that? Mafuyu thought that was the job of the broadcasting club.....”

That’s completely right Mafuyu-chan. Not just Mafuyu-chan, but everyone thought that. However..... There was a single person here who did not have that common sense.

“What are you talking about?! The student council is an organization that stands to bring the students together! Even we have to do things like political broadcasts sometimes!”

“So you know things like political broadcasts, Aka-chan. What a big girl you are!”

Chizuru-san comfortingly patted the president’s head as if she were a child. For just a second, the president half shut her eyes in comfort, but she came back to herself with a “Ha!” and pushed away Chizuru-san’s hand with a “Gahh!”

“I at least know about political broadcasts! Don’t treat me like a child!”

“Oh that’s right, Aka-chan. I’m sorry.”

“A, as long as you understand.”

“Yes..... That reminds me, yesterday, that highly rated quiz show had asked question with the theme ‘Political Broadcasts’ but..... No, nevermind.”

“..... A, anyways! Political broadcasts!”

It seemed that’s how she got the idea. It looked like she was totally inspired by the television show.

However, once the president said something, she wouldn’t listen to anyone else. Next to me, Minatsu spoke with hints of a sigh.

“Well, even if we complain we’ll still do it..... But why the radio? Wouldn’t using visuals be better?”

“I did think about that..... but when I went to the broadcasting club, they cried ‘This is the only equipment we could give you right now.....,’ and so, radio.”

As she said this, the president quickly began preparations. As if she had gotten the broadcasting club to do it, it seemed that all the wiring was finished behind the scenes long ago, and the president set up microphones in front of each of us.

..... I feel bad for the broadcasting club.

“E, everything was already completely prepared.....”

Mafuyu-chan grew disheartened. Well..... by nature she isn't the type of girl who likes to stand out. My condolences.

While everyone was pulled in and resigned to the situation, the president alone opened her mouth in high spirits.

“Look, haven't more and more voice actors been on the radio lately? If lots of pretty girls get together and talk everyone would be greatly satisfied.”

“Prez, you shouldn't underestimate voice actors, radio personalities or even the listeners.”

I retorted. However, the president seemed to want to keep pushing for her plan.

“All it takes is talking cutely in a cute voice to deceive male listeners.”

“Apologize! Apologize to all males aside from me!”

“So Sugisaki would be deceived..... Well anyway, with five people, we won't run out of things to talk about. It'll be fine, it'll be fine. Just chat like we usually do.”

“You say like we usually do but.....”

“Ah, Sugisaki, don't talk too much. You don't want to get arrested for breaking the broadcasting code.”

“So cruel!”

Well, I did understand. My usual insistence on erotic proposals would definitely be dangerous. But I had no intention of staying quiet.

It seemed during the bustling, the setting was completely set up. It looked like the laptop in the corner of the room was started up. It seemed that voice data was recorded on it. Basically, we weren't doing it live, but making a pre-recorded broadcast. Just that was..... well, I could live with that. Even if we had a problem, we could deal with it.

Even though Mafuyu-chan was dejected, seemed to have already also given in to this. Wearily, she cheerlessly tapped the mic.

On the other hand, With a cough Chizuru-san checked and cleared her throat. It was as if she had already decided she was going to do this, so she was going to give it her all. That was very like Chizuru-san.

Speaking of acting like themselves, Minatsu was already calm, crossed her arms, and confidently leaned back in her chair. Well, she *was* always chatting in the middle of class. She probably wasn't nervous about something like an in-school broadcast.

“So, let's begin!”

The president raised her voice, and on an installed switch-laden remote, pushed a single button.

-

..... Now then. It can't be helped. If we're going to do this, I'll also properly deal with it.

[3rd Discussion: Part 2]

ON AIR

-

Prez: “Sakurano Kurimu’s! All-Night Anytime-Anywhere!”

Sugisaki: “That broadcasting range is huge!”

-

♪Opening BGM♪

-

Prez: “Now, let’s get this started. Sakurano Kurimu’s All-Night Anytime-Anywhere.”

Chizuru: “But it isn’t night.”

Prez: “This program was brought to you by Fujimi Shobo.”(1)

Minatsu: “Why Fujimi Shobo.....? Oi, that’s a pointless investment, not to mention excessive.....”

Prez: “Well, our pay is nothing, we got the equipment and broadcasting slot for nothing, and we get nothing from the sponsor either.”

Mafuyu: “Then why did you read out a sponsor.....?”

Prez: “Doesn’t it make the broadcast seem real? Yeah, that just now was very radio-like.”

Mafuyu: “..... Haa. But it doesn’t matter...”

(1) Fujimi Shobo is the publishing company that distributes SeiZon.

Prez: “Hey Mafuyu-chan! That kind of attitude is wrong! The listeners want more of an energetic girl conversation, like this!”

Mafuyu: “I, is that how it is.....?”

Prez: “Yeah. Male listeners are like that.”

Sugisaki: “Hey hey hey hey! Why are you saying these insults to the listeners?! Are you trying to pick a fight with the students?!”

Prez: “Listeners exist because there’s a radio personality.”

Sugisaki: “Radio personalities exist because of listeners!”

Minatsu: “Oh, Ken said something extremely legitimate! Amazing! The radio’s effect is amazing!”

Prez: “.....I guess. Looks like I was wrong, Sugisaki.”

Sugisaki: “It’s fine, as long as you understand.....”

Prez: “Yes. As I thought, a certain amount of flattery is beneficial. Alright, I’m an adult!”

Sugisaki: “Like I said, saying something like that so boldly is –”

Prez: “The Letter Segment!”

Sugisaki: “She ignored me?! Even though we’re on the radio she refused to argue back and forth with me?!”(2)

Chizuru: “That’s the Aka-chan Quality.”

Sugisaki: “Why do you only say things at crucial moments like that?! Take the lead more often please!”

(2) Sugisaki: used the phrase “Kotoba no kyacchibooru” which basically means “playing catch with words,” but that’s not really something we say in English.

Chizuru: “.....”

Sugisaki: “Stop keeping silent while we’re on the radio!”

Prez: “Now then, let’s look at a letter.”

Sugisaki: “Moving on is more important?! Are you ignoring how the conversation is going?!”

Prez: “‘Everyone in the student council, guud ebening!’ Yes, guud ebening!”(3)

Sugisaki: “Eh? What’s with that embarrassing greeting?! Is that a normal thing to do?”

The female group: “‘Guud ebening!’”

Sugisaki: “Is this some common knowledge that I didn’t know?”

Prez: “‘I always enjoy listening to All-Night Anytime-Anywhere.’ Thanks!”

Sugisaki: “That’s a lie! This is supposed to be the first broadcast!”

Prez: “Chronological order is just a minor issue, Sugisaki. Especially for the radio.”

Sugisaki: “It really is ‘Anytime-Anywhere!’”

Prez: “Oh, and I forgot to mention, but just in case, this is a live broadcast. We probably don’t have too many listeners, but you’ll hear us broadcast again tomorrow during lunch.”

Sugisaki: “No wonder we were able to get mail! Also, please be more careful with what you say!”

(3) So, this theoretical letter writer wrote “konbappaa!” which is a (supposedly) cutesy twist on “konbanwa” or “good evening.” Thus... that.

Prez: “Yes yes. Now, continuing with the mail. ‘By the way, I have a question for everyone. What sort of confession would make you happy? Right now, I’m in love, but I’m lost on how to confess. Kuri-nee, please give me some advice.’”(4)

Sugisaki: “He just called you ‘Kuri-nee!’ Even though you’re such a loli!”

Prez: “Well now..... This is a pretty hard problem. But, since you asked me, who’s experienced in love –”

Sugisaki: “Even though you haven’t even held hands with a guy before.....”

Prez: “I think a normal confession should work fine.”

Sugisaki: “She gave some halfassed advice!!!!!!”

Prez: “What do you think Chizuru?”

Chizuru: “Well now.....He should do as he sees fit. I have nothing to do with it.”

Sugisaki: “The radio personality was cold to the listener!!!!!!”

Prez: “What about you Mafuyu-chan?”

Mafuyu: “Eh? L, let’s see..... Um..... Mafuyu..... Doesn’t really know.

Sugisaki: “And there’s the unthinkable ‘I don’t know!!!!!!”

Prez: “And Minatsu?”

Minatsu: “Just go for it! That’s all!”

Sugisaki: “Treat the listener’s hearts more carefully!”

(4) The writer refers to Kurimu as “Kuri-nee” which implies both familiarity and respect as an older person. Basically, it’s making Kurimu seem reliable and respectably mature. Whether or not she really is has yet to be seen...

-
♪ “Sister Won’t Come Home Anymore” Full Playback ♪

-
Prez: “Now then, that was the highly acclaimed single ‘Sister Won’t Come Home Anymore,’ now on sale! Enjoy the debut single ‘Brother Became a Skeleton’ that is included as well!”

Sugisaki: “What the hell happened in your past?!”

Prez: “Now, this usual segment. ‘The Shiina Sisters and their Sisterly Yuriyuri♪!’”

Sugisaki: “..... Th, that I kinda want to listen to.”

Mafuyu: “Senpai?! Please properly retort at that!”

Minatsu: “Yeah! I never heard anything about that!”

Prez: “In this segment, listeners send in embarrassing yuri-like scenarios for the Shiina sisters to act out. It’s a popular segment.”

Sugisaki: “It’s a popular setup..... I shouldn’t be saying this, but are the students here right in the head?”

Prez: “I personally don’t like it but..... Look, we have to please them, alright? If you do it, the students should be satisfied for the time being.”

Sugisaki: “Like I said, please don’t say things like that while we’re on air!”

Prez: “Well, take it away, Shiina sisters. Here’s the script.”

Mafuyu: “O, oooh..... do we really have to do it?”

Minatsu: “Whoa, what’s with this?! There’s no way I’m readin’ this!”

Prez: “Hey Minatsu! Don’t run away! A real vice-president can overcome this!”

Sugisaki: “That has nothing to do with the requirements of a vice-president.....”

Minatsu: “.....Looks like I don’t have a choice.”

Sugisaki: “Why did you agree with her?!”

Mafuyu: “Mafuyu also..... made up Mafuyu’s mind.”

Sugisaki: “What made you do that?!”

Chizuru: “Hmph..... that’s why they’re the Shiina sisters.”

Sugisaki: “Why do you only ever remember to say things at the weird parts?!”

Prez: “Well then, go for it!”

-

♪**Atmospheric BGM**♪

“Mafuyu..... I can’t.....”

“Aah, Onee-chan..... Hn! Ah, haahaa...”(5)

“Mafuyu..... you’re so cute Mafuyu.....”

“Onee.....-cha.....Hnn!”

-

Sugisaki: “Wait wait wait wait wait! Personally, this excites me, but isn’t this a bit much for an in-school broadcast?!”

Prez: “Y, yeah..... Th, that’s true. Th, this was, going a bit far.”

Mafuyu: “Eeeehh?! Let us do just a bit more!”

Minatsu: “So cruel! If you give us that sort of reaction, it’ll *really* make us want to run away!”

(5) Mafuyu refers to Minatsu as “Onee-chan” which is a somewhat familiar way of referring to an older sister.

Chizuru: “The Shiina sisters’ relationship is a violation against the broadcasting code. I wonder if you two could keep that relationship more private?”

Minatsu: “Don’t say something that can cause a misunderstanding! Our private lives aren’t like that!”

Mafuyu: “Th, that’s right! All the listeners, please don’t believe her!”

Chizuru: “..... I see. Yes, let’s go with that for now. I said something careless, I’m sorry you two.”

Shiina Sisters: “Just stop alreadyyyyyyy!”

Prez: “W, well, now, the next segment! Sugisaki Ken’s ‘If You’re Going to Hit Someone, Hit Me!’”

Sugisaki: “What the hell is *THIS* segment?!”

Prez: “In this segment, if someone in the school is so angry that he or she wants to punch someone, that person should use Sugisaki as a target and vent on him instead.”

Sugisaki: “What about my human rights?!”

Prez: “Settling student quarrels is also part of the student council’s job. Therefore, if you have any people troubles today, class 2-B’s Sugisaki Ken can help, so –”

Sugisaki: “Don’t call me!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”(6)

Prez: “I guess it can’t be helped..... Since we have no applicants, today we’ll skip this segment.”

(6) A lot of the issue with translating is realizing that verbs are always at the very end in Japanese. In this case, Kurimu was intending to say “Gorenraku wo suru” which means “(do) contact him.” However, Sugisaki interrupts and finishes her sentence as “Gorenraku wo suru na!” which changes it to “don’t contact him!” The trouble here was bringing the negative to Sugisaki’s line which would make things awkward.

Sugisaki: “Why is it that the segment I’m responsible for is the only one like that?”

Prez: “Well, next up is my segment! ‘Fan Letters to Sakurano Kurimu!’”

Sugisaki: “An obvious differentiation?! This segment is extremely different isn’t it?!”

Prez: “A letter from someone who wants to be kept anonymous. Ahem. ‘Sakurano Kurimu-sama. Whenever I see your cuteness, my heart skips a beat –”

Sugisaki: “Rather than a fan letter, isn’t that a love letter?! Who?! Who’s this guy making a pass at my woman?! He’s got some nerve! Get out here! I’ll make sure he – guh!”

Prez: “Wh, what the hell are you blurting out?!”

Sugisaki: “B, but, there’s a guy sending love letters to my girlfriend……”

Prez: “I’m not your girlfriend! Don’t say weird things during a radio broadcast!”

Sugisaki: “Forgive me. I just lost my cool. But I did nothing wrong.”

Prez: “Why are you so shameless?!”

Sugisaki: “Oooh…… B, but, umm, give me a break. I can’t bear this ‘Letters to the Prez’ segment. I’ll go mad with jealousy.”

Prez: “Ooh……”

Minatsu: “……. Not that it matters, but could you quit flirting and move on already?”

Prez: “W, we’re not flirting! Minatsu, you also stop saying weird things! G, geez…… Now the mood’s all messed up. Ahem…… Well, the next segment……”

Mafuyu: “Ah, but when all is said and done, it seems you did listen to Senpai and stop reading letters.”

Prez: “Ooh…… A, anyways, next! ‘Academy 5-7-5.’”(7)

Sugisaki: “..... Somehow, it’s suddenly a normal, standard segment.”

Prez: “Yeah, because I ran out of ideas.”

Sugisaki: “She said it!”

Prez: “In this segment, we will introduce amusing haikus related to the school that listeners have thought up.

Sugisaki: “Conversely, it’s such a normal segment that it feels dangerous.”

Prez: “Ahem. Now then, let’s go. A haiku from someone who wants to remain anonymous.”

-

“Burn up to ashes
Blaze and be consumed by flame
Sugisaki’s house” (8)

-

Prez: “..... That was a splendid poem. It was as if the scene were actually before my eyes.”

Sugisaki: “.....”

Prez: “...? Umm..... Sugisaki? It might be weird for me to say this but..... you won’t retort this?”

Sugisaki: “No..... Forgive me. I can feel a real sense of physical danger, so I can’t really get into it.”

Prez: “Ahhh.....”

(7) 5-7-5 refers to a haiku. 3 lines with 5, 7, then 5 syllables each.

(8) The more literal translation of the poem is “Burn away/burst into flame and burn/the Sugisaki house,” but I wanted to try and keep the syllable count.

Minatsu: “.....That one was crossing the line.....”

Mafuyu: “Mafuyu was also taken aback a bit.”

Chizuru: “Well, however, that is true. In essence, this is the position that Key-kun is in. Not only is he a part of the group where everyone’s admired beauties gather, but he himself talks about “capturing” and “harems” and the like..... you reap what you sow.”

Sugisaki: “Ooh, ooooh..... Y, yaah! Who cares?! This is my harem! You got a problem with that? If you want a fight you’ve got it! So –”

Prez: “So?”

-

Sugisaki: “If you’re going to use fire please just spare me. I am sorry.”

-

Prez: “.....While Sugisaki is crying and prostrating himself even though he’s on the radio, how about we look at the next letter. Looks like..... this one also wants to be anonymous. Ahem.”

-

“No money at all
But an excess of spirit
I’m the kidnapper”(9)

-

Sugisaki: “It’s the kidnapper!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Prez: “Eh? What? What are you talking about?”

(9) Same thing with the syllable count. Literal translation: “No money/excess influence/kidnapper.”

Sugisaki: “Well, I mean, that the kidnapping case from earlier – N, no, before that, that guy’s name and address! Did he write it down?!”

Prez: “He didn’t but..... in he wrote a P.S. saying ‘I also demanded 20,000 yen!’”
(10)

Sugisaki: “20,000 yen?! That’s a cheap ransom for the sister of a fellow student! Why aren’t both parents able to prepare that?!”

Prez: “Even if you ask me..... Sugisaki. In this world, there are many people who aren’t blessed.”

Sugisaki: “Th, that’s true but.....! Somehow this incident..... feels relatively silly.”

Prez: “Everyone realized that from the start. Anyway, I’m going to continue with the radio.”

Sugisaki: “And so while we were recording... or maybe I should say broadcasting... we seem to have settled the kidnapping incident...”

Prez: “Now then, the last haiku. Ahem.”

-

“Now seriously
Properly do all your work
You student council”(11)

-

Sugisaki: “And there’s the true opinion of the students!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Prez: “Really now, that’s just rude.”

(10) At this time, that equals about 199 USD. Also, this kidnapper has some cheap demands.

(11) Same for the other poems. Translation: “Come diligently/do your work/student council.”

Sugisaki: “No.....It’s a bit weird for me to say it, but I really understand where this guy is coming from.”

Minatsu: “I also understand.”

Mafuyu: “Mafuyu also understands.”

Prez: “What?! If we need to work, we work properly!”

Chizuru: “We’ve also been doing a lot of things that we don’t need to do.”

Prez: “I don’t like this. This segment is done.”

Sugisaki: “I don’t think that kind of attitude is appropriate!”

Prez: “Now then..... so, we seem to be getting close to the end, so how about we talk freely?”

Sugisaki: “Even though we’ve had plenty freedom up till now.....”

Minatsu: “Oh, Prez-san. Looks like some mail came in.”

Prez: “Eh? What is it?”

Mafuyu: “Well, let’s see. It seems like, ‘The aforementioned kidnapping of my sister had been resolved safely.’ That’s good!”

Sugisaki: “Ohh..... It’s been resolved. Good good.”

Chizuru: “.....tch.”

Sugisaki: “That was really loud, Chizuru-san. That tongue click of yours just now.”

Chizuru: “I have no idea what you could be talking about.”

Sugisaki: “To say that while recording & broadcasting, what’s with that confident denial?!”

Chizuru: “But..... it was resolved surprisingly quickly. What was the culprit like?”

Mafuyu: “Umm..... Mafuyu doesn’t really know, but it looks like the kidnapped sister beat down the culprit herself. Right now the culprit is..... in critical condition.”

Sugisaki: “The culprit who only wanted 20,000 yen!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Mafuyu: “It looks like the sister was also just basically hanging out with the culprit of her own accord. But..... she happened to be listening to this broadcast, realized herself that she’d been kidnapped, and in panic, beat up the culprit.....”

Sugisaki: “It’s our fault?!”

Minatsu: “In the end, why did the guy need 20,000 yen.....?”

Minatsu: “Umm..... Let’s see. According to the mail..... alright, it looks like, before the culprit lost consciousness he said, ‘I only..... wanted to return..... The 20,000 yen I borrowed..... from this girl’s older sister. *Gack*’ and collapsed.”

Sugisaki: “Are you kidding me!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I mean, the root of evil was the older sister?! The listener?!”

Mafuyu: “At the end of the mail, that listener had sent the message ‘Evil will be punished! Ahaha!’”

Sugisaki: “These listeners are really irresponsible!”

Mafuyu: “N, now now. The case was settled.....”

Sugisaki: “..... when this broadcast ends, I will go visit the culprit at the hospital. Please be okay.....”

Prez: “A, ahem. Um..... A lot of things happened, but it looks like the time for this broadcast to end has come.”

Sugisaki: “At long last..... these short programs were pretty surprisingly deep.....”

Prez: “Finally, we will end with ‘Today’s Chizuru’s Fortune-Telling.’ With that, see you next week everyone!”

♪Mysterious BGM♪

Chizuru: “And now, for Today’s Chizuru’s Fortune-Telling.

To this school’s Leos. In a few days, you will find yourselves involved in a situation like that of a very bizarre story. Please be advised. Should you see the TATARI, please run away with all your might.(12)

Your lucky color is ‘murderous intent.’(13) Whether it’s dusky or deep red, or something else, I’ll let each of you imagine it for yourself.

Your lucky item is ‘a nuke.’ It’s better for you to always carry it around. If you’re a Metal Gear, then that should be possible.(14)

Finally, one piece of advice.

-

Don’t die

-

That is all for Chizuru’s Fortune-Telling.”

-

Sugisaki: “That’s scary! All the Leos will be anxious till the end of today!”

(12) A being from Melty Blood, the fighting game spinoff of the visual novel series Tsukihime.

(13) She really did say “satsui no iro” or “the color of the intent to kill.”

(14) Seeing as she straight up says “Metal Gear,” I probably don’t need to explain this.

Chizuru: "We shall meet again this time next week..... except the Leos."

Sugisaki: "Noooooooooo! The Leooooooooooooooooooooooooooooos!"

-

♪ED Music "Brother Became a Skeleton" ♪

-

[3rd Discussion: Part 3]

“Today’s broadcast was really popular wasn’t it?!”

It was after school, after the aforementioned program had been broadcasted. With a large, satisfied look, the president reclined in her chair in the student council room. Chizuru-san also had a smile of enjoyment.

However..... the Shiina sisters and I were completely worn out.

So that the president wouldn’t hear, Minatsu and I spoke with hushed voices.

“(Hey Minatsu..... Did..... it seem popular to you?)”

“(No..... at least, my class was taken aback by it.)”

“(Ahh..... for me, everyone suddenly stopped moving their chopsticks, lost their appetites, and went without lunch in the end.)”

“(What makes Prez-san think it was really popular?)”

“(Maybe..... in Prez and Chizuru-san’s class, everyone was considerate of them and gave forced smiles?)”

“(Ahh, I see.....)”

While Minatsu was convinced, the president glanced over at us. We jumped and stiffened.

“How was it in your classes? Everyone must’ve been crazy about it!”

“Ooh.....”

When you look at me with such pure eyes like that..... it’s hard to say the truth. Even Minatsu couldn’t look her in the eyes.

I forced a smile.

“Y, yeah..... It was really popular.”

“Of course it was!”

This is bad. If she gets worked up over this, it'll be a problem.

"Yeah..... that's right. It was just as popular as 'accounting' in the primary school rankings for most desired profession."

"That's popular?!"

The president tilted her head questioningly..... alright, I think we got away with that one. Minatsu congratulated me with a "good job!"

However, the president's sights were soon set on Mafuyu-chan.

"And I'm sure it was popular in your class, right Mafuyu-chan?"

"Eh?"

Mafuyu froze solid..... Ahh, her class..... was probably the same as mine.

After a very, very distorted smile, Mafuyu-chan answered while trembling.

"Y, yes. I, it was..... like upside down Buzzy Beetles from Super **rio Brothers, it was very popular!" (1)

"Can you seriously call those popular?!"

Mafuyu also dodged with something clever(?).....We didn't lie. We didn't.

The president, however, was completely unaware, saying "I see, I see," and looked quite satisfied..... This is really bad. At this rate, she might –"

"Well then, we should go for a second show!"

"....."

(1) If you haven't figured it out by now, try adding "Ma" to the blanks. Also, apparently Buzzy Beetles are called "Metto" in Japanese.

Everyone aside from the president..... this time, even including Chizuru-san, sighed. Chizuru-san had gotten on board with the first one, but doing it twice, three times, or making it a series seemed to be a different story.

Everyone made eye contact and started a meeting on the matter.

(What should we do.....? Prez is still motivated for it.)

(Even though it's Aka-chan, she's pretty obsessed about this..... I had expected her to be satisfied with just doing it once. Our careless classmates were considerate of her, but it seems to have had the opposite effect.)

(What are we gonna do..... I can't handle doing more of that.)

(Mafuyu is also already at her limit.....)

We all thought with a "hmmm." the president alone was in a good mood, working on the next plans.

Since it couldn't be helped..... I tried to suggest a compromise.

"Prez."

"Hm? What is it, Sugisaki~~?"

"Well..... You see. Things like this, I mean, don't they feel more fun precisely because you only do them occasionally?"

"...? What do you mean?"

"Well it's like this. Even if there is a second time around, isn't it better to not do it for a bit.....?"

"....."

The president thought about my proposal. During that break, everyone looked at me and all gave me an enthusiastic thumbs up..... Yes. The president was the type of person who quickly gets carried away by trends. If we convince her to hold off on this for a while, she'll probably forget about it completely.

The president agonized over it for a good few seconds..... and then, with a smile, she gave her answer.

“That’s right! Quality over quantity!”

“Y, yeah.”

Although the quality was relatively and surprisingly low.

“I understand, Sugisaki! Next is..... yeah. Let’s do it a month from now!”

“Alright.”

Everyone felt relieved.

Thus, it was decided that we wouldn’t do this overly dangerous program’s second show, at least for a month.

With this, the future was stable –

-

“So next, we shoot the student council’s PR video!(2) I just got this video equipment too!”

With a bang, she placed a large video camera on top of the desk.

.....

“Eh?”

As if we saw something unbelievable, we all froze.

The president..... she alone gleefully smiled.

“Now, this is just the beginning~!”

(2) PR = Public Relations

“.....”

-

.....

-

“NOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!”

-

Even though we weren't Leos, we were caught up in a very bizarre tragedy.

[4th Discussion ~ The Reform of the Student Council]

“It’s never too late to turn over a new leaf!”

As usual, the president stuck out her small chest and proudly spoke as if she were reciting something she probably read in some book.

That was a saying I had heard time and time again, but I personally liked it quite a bit, so I gave the president a smile.

“Yeah, that’s true.”

And when I did that,

“I’m talking to you, Sugisaki!”

For some reason, the president firmly pointed her index finger at me. I blinked with surprise. Minatsu was sitting next to me, and she wrapped her healthy-looking arms that came out of her short-sleeved shirt around my neck, constricting me. I could faintly feel her breasts on my cheek... what a wonderful time to be male.

“I agree, this guy really needs to turn over a new leaf right away.”

Minatsu responded to the president like that, and then put more strength into her hold... ugh. My neck’s starting to hurt.

In front of me, Chizuru gave a smile as she watched me. This girl had already established that she was a huge sadist a few days ago...

“Isn’t that nice? Key-kun is fine as he is now, but I’m also a bit interested in what the reformed Key-kun would be like.”

“Hey-, reformed?! I’ve been a really serious person from the very start and-“

When I got to that point, I felt the force constricting my neck increase even more. This wasn’t funny anymore... I tried to tap Minatsu’s arm and tell her that I give up, but she completely ignored me... ugh, this is-

“Mafuyu also... wants to see it. Ma, Mafuyu thinks it would be really nice if Sugisaki-senpai could become more diligent...”

Mafuyu-chan was sitting next to Chizuru-san, and even she agreed.

C, Cough! “I, I feel like I just got rejected by everyone right there.”

As I struggled and tried to get out of Minatsu’s grasp, I turned my gaze to Mafuyu-chan.

Mafuyu-chan looked away from me and looked towards her sister. “O, Onee-chan, you should probably let go of him soon...” Was this her way of atoning?

And then, having gotten such a request from her cute little sister...

“Sorry, Mafuyu. For the very first time since I’ve been born... I refuse Mafuyu’s request!”

“Why do you do that now all of a sudden?!”

I retorted, and at the same time I felt the pressure on my neck increase even more. Ah... wait... at this point, this is starting to feel good. What is this? Am I a masochist?



Oh? This wasn't the student council room at all... but a flower garden? Ah, look, there's a pretty river over there. And then on the opposite sure was...

"Ken-kuuuun~~! Come over here~~~. I'll give you aaaaaaall the love you want~~~!"

Ahh, there was a group of lovely onesamas on the other side wearing swimsuits! What was that?! Was Utopia over there?! Well, I guess I have to go! Let's get going, Sugisaki Ken!

"I, I'm coming over!"

I began running at full speed. I was going so fast I might as well have been a manga character! I was going so fast that normal people probably couldn't even see me! I was the wind! No, I was light! I suddenly understood the Theory of Relativity with my own body! I was already simply a weapon!

Yes... I felt stronger than I've ever felt. Having been raised in an environment filled with only tsun, my sexual desires had already broken through their critical point! And because of that...

"Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaahhh?!"

I drove right into them. Right into the group of onesamas. No, not even that. I blew everything away. The world on the other side of the river. Utopia. By the time I came back to myself, everything around me had already turned to scorched earth.

"What the hell. So that group of very pretty onesamas weren't enough to match my desires?! ... Well, there's no helping that."

And that was that.

I crossed the river, and returned to the place I originally was.

-

.....

-
..... It's was dark. Am I sleeping...? Hm. I think I can hear voices...

"... Hey? Ken? Hm? Is he dead?"

"What do you mean 'is he dead'?! Onee-chan?!"

"Hey, Minatsu! I might have told Sugisaki to reform his life, but I never told you to end it... what am I going to do? If this gets blamed on me as the student council president... oohh..."

"And so the first casualty in the student council room has come... I never expected that things would turn out like this... well, there's no helping it. Let's hide the body. All four of us. Let's go ahead and do what those four women did in Kirino Natsuo's "O*t" to get more readers..... Fufufu, I can't wait to show you what I can do."(1)

"Wait wait wait, Chizuru? This is probably the first time I've seen you look so lively like that..."

"Alright, Aka-chan. First you have to cut off the arms and legs..."

-

"ARGHHHHHHHHHH AS IF I'D LET YOU DO THAT!!!!!"

-

Panicking, I woke up. I wouldn't let myself die quietly.

My chair almost got knocked over as I forcefully stood up. It seemed that I was unconscious and sprawled out over the desk. Everyone watched me, dumbfounded.

(1) Reference to a rather famous (and freaky) novel *Out*, in which four housewives have to help one of them cover up the murder of her husband. Lots of cutlery involved.

Minatsu muttered something.

“Ah, he came back to life... that’s pretty boring.”

“What the hell?! My life is that unimportant to you?!”

“I was pretty confident we could have gotten rid of your body and kept this hushed up too...”

Looking very disappointed, Chizuru-san put the saw she was holding back onto the shelf. Wait... why exactly was there a saw in the student council room in the first place? And why did Chizuru-san seem to know so naturally where that saw was supposed to go?

“M, Mafuyu is relieved...”

In the end, Mafuyu-chan was the only one who teared up and breathed a sigh of relief for me... ahh, Mafuyu-chan sure is nice, isn’t she? Being so worried for me like this-

“I’m so relieved that onee-chan didn’t become a murderer~~.”

“That’s what you’re relieved about?!”

As always, she was an innocent yet cruel girl. In a certain sense, the most villainous character in this entire student council was none other than Mafuyu-chan.

I turned my gaze towards the president. She was... looking at me with quite a serious expression.

Oh, this is... was this her being dere? I see! Certainly, once she saw that someone she had always treated so rudely was on the verge of death, she became even more aware of how precious that someone was! It was that kind of pattern! Great! Risking my life was completely worth it!

I looked right back at the president.

“Prez...”

“Sugisaki...”

“... Do not worry. I won't die. I love you after all.”

“..... Sugisaki.....”

The president stared fixedly at my face... h, hey hey, Prez... no, Kurimu. Are you going to kiss me now? Seriously? Well, I don't know... wouldn't it be embarrassing to do it in front of everyone like this? But if Kurimu-chan says she wants to, I would be ready and willing...

..... *Sigh.*

“Hm?”

When I puckered my lips, the president sighed. And then, she clunked back down into her seat, giving out another sigh.

I didn't really know what had just happened, so I just cocked my head to the side in puzzlement.

“Ah, so I guess you decided that you would rather save our first kiss for when we're completely alone?”

“... *Sigh.* I had a bit of hope back there too...”

“Hm? You mean about a kiss? No, I was completely ready to do that back there...”

“... I had just a bit of hope. Haven't you heard people say 'you can't cure an idiot without killing him'?”

“Huh?”

At long last, I came to realize that the president wasn't really being dere towards me right now.

The president once again pointed her index finger at me.

“I was hoping that if you went through a near-death experience, you would become a normal human being!!”

“... Ahh, so it was that. It’s okay, Prez!”

“What’s okay?”

“I’m an incredibly normal human being!”

“That’s not something a normal human being would ever say!”

It seemed that just saying it out loud like that wouldn’t work. Seeing no other choice, I checked to see if any of the others agreed.

“Everyone, I’m completely normal, aren’t I?!”

”.....”

And then, it finally hit me like a pile of falling bricks when everyone awkwardly turned their faces away from me.

.....

..... And this is the episode where Sugisaki Ken is depressed.

When I finally calmed down from my near-death experience, I sat down heavily in my chair, feeling glum. The president cleared her throat and looked like she was about to start again. How un-loli-like.

“In any case, I think Sugisaki needs to change. Yes. After all, he is the vice president, so it wouldn’t do if he didn’t have the dignity fit for the role.”

“... Dignity, huh...”

I took a good look at how loli the president was and sighed. Everyone else also let out strained laughs.

Realizing she was being stared at, the president once again cleared her throat.

“In. Any. Case! Let’s improve Sugisaki’s personality today! That’s what I want to do!”

“What’s this all of a sudden? Saying something like that...”

At my question, the president began to fish through her bag, and grabbed something out. "Look at this!"

It seemed to be one of the wall posters that the Newspaper Club occasionally put on the school's bulletin board at irregular intervals. The president always was pretty interested by it and would often bring it up during meetings, but... today it seemed a bit different.

Minatsu went out of her way to begin reading it aloud.

"Oh oh, what is it? **Breaking News! The student council vice president Sugisaki Ken may have once been a two-timer!**This one?"

"Oh my, oh my, I'm sorry for you, Key-kun."

Chizuru-san said she was sorry for me, but she seemed to be having fun. Geez... these people were just...

Mafuyu-chan was the only one who backed me up.

"That's a terrible article! We have to go and scold them! S, Sugisaki-senpai is not the kind of person who would... who would..... sorry."

And she apologized... she seemed to have started backing me up, but then after thinking about it, realized that I wasn't trustworthy at all when it came to women.

After gauging everyone's reactions, the president placed the newspaper back on the desk and once again pointed at me.

"To think that such an article could be written about someone who's a part of the student council!"

"... well, that Newspaper Club really enjoys stories like this after all."

I picked up the newspaper in question and read the contents... the headline sure was flashy, but there wasn't much there otherwise. There were almost no details written. Even after I read the entire article, there was almost no information past the statement that "Kugisaki Ken may have been a two-timer."

What had probably happened was that they had only gotten vague information from random witnesses and friends and written those down... I have to admit, it was definitely something I would expect the president of the Newspaper Club to do.

I knew the Newspaper Club president personally (she was a pretty girl, after all), but she told me “Well, I’ll leave reporting the truth to someone else. Isn’t the job of the school newspaper also to entertain everyone with stories that are based on facts? Oh hoh hoh hoh!” Considering she said all of that with a straight face, even I came to the conclusion that she had a troubled personality and was a bit hesitant to try and capture her.

I had given her a lot of leeway up until now because she was so pretty... but when I became the target, of course it didn’t leave me feeling very happy. And the worst thing was...

“Sugisaki! First, you better make clear whether or not the contents of that article are true!”

The president seemed incredibly offended. I scratched my head, and tried to get out of this.

“Ah, Prez, is it that you’re jealous? You can’t help thinking about the girls in my past-“

“Don’t think you can get out of this just by saying things like that!”

When the president got into her “President Mode” like she did now, it was pretty hard to tease her.

I didn’t really know what to do, and Chizuru-san came at me with another attack.

“Key-kun. When Aka-chan gets like this, she won’t stop raising a fuss until she gets all the facts. You know that, right? So just give up.”

“I know that, but...”

What the hell was this? Ugh... well, it’s not like I have to go into too many details.

Alright... looks like I'm out of options. I'll go for a compromise.

I looked the president in the eyes. I gave her a serious look. She might be in President Mode, but when I looked at her seriously like this, she would definitely listen to whatever I had to say no matter the topic. And even if this was hard to say, I had to say it clearly and precisely.

-

"Well, starting from the end, it's the truth. I did two-time once."

-

At my words, the president... didn't flare up or come at me at all. If I had said that casually, she probably would have said something like "Sugisaki! This is why you're so..." but because I had said it completely seriously this time, she showed no signs of getting like that.

And Chizuru-san, Minatsu, and Mafuyu-chan were the same. Nobody hurled abuse at me like they usually did.

The president sighed and took her seat. "I see. And then?"

"Is Sugisaki going to give us a few more details about what happened?"

"No. Please, just let me off the hook for now."

Even for me, there were one or two events in my past that I didn't want to talk about. And this incident was the most extreme of those events.

At my words, the president sighed. And then, she continued.

"But it really was the truth..."

"Yes."

"Are you going to justify yourself?"

"No."

“Really?”

“Yes.”

“... Hm, I got it. Let’s close the book on this incident then!”

After the president said that, she stretched and seemed quite refreshed.

And then, she returned to her usual energetic demeanor and came at me.

“Now then, Sugisaki! There are a lot of things to be done if we’re going to reform you quickly! It would be bad if stories like this kept coming out about you, after all!”

“... That’s true. Well, rather than saying we’re going to reform me, let’s just try and patch things up a bit on the surface.”

I said that and then smiled... as I thought, she was a good girl. The student council president, Sakurano Kurimu. She wouldn’t blame me for my past. In return, she would work for the sake of my present and future.

... If we were just talking about pretty girls, there were plenty more of those. If we were talking about simple ability, Chizuru-san had plenty of that to spare. However, even though Chizuru-san was also pretty, the majority of the student body voted for Sakurano Kurimu as the student council president. And that reason was... well, if you just spent a few minutes by her side, it became abundantly clear.

The other members of the student council saw her appeal as well. Before I realized it, everyone else had already returned to their normal selves. Chizuru-san, Minatsu, and Mafuyu-chan all had gone back to their usual expressions.

“M, Mafuyu also thinks that Sugisaki-senpai should be a bit more careful!”

“That’s right, Ken. You chase pretty girls all the time, don’t you? It’s not just here, is it? It’s no wonder people have been gossiping about you.”

“Seeing you get caught up with something like this is quite disappointing, Key-kun. If you want to get and keep a harem, you have to be a bit more on your guard.”

Everyone seemed to have agreed to not press me for more information on my two-timing... you could say they were being considerate, but that was a bit wrong. Rather, the minute I said that I didn’t want to touch the topic, they no longer touched it. Talking about it was no longer even an option.

In other words, this was the type of group the student council was. If someone refused to do something, nobody would try to pry too deep. It was an implicit understanding amongst us in the student council. That was precisely why I could always feel comfortable here. It was like being in warm water. And what was wrong with that? Warm water, escapism... it was all perfectly fine, wasn’t it? In fact, I’ve been saved by that kind of comfort time and time again.

In the midst of a harsh and cruel world, this student council was a nice source of warmth.

I gave the others a smile and spoke in my usual way.

“Well, looks like you got me. If everyone wants me that badly, then I’ll try not to trip up on boring things like this.”

“No, it’s not like we mind if Sugisaki disappears. It’s more about the student council’s image.”

“Fufufu, I know exactly what you mean, Prez. I’m all too aware of how much of a tsun you-“

“No, I’m completely serious.”

“.....”

U, Umm... everyone is supposed to be a nice person here, right? It wasn’t just my imagination, right?

Everyone had dark glints in their eyes... u, um, I'm needed here, right? At the end of the day, we had good relationships with each other... and relied on each other, right? This wasn't just my optimism... right? This was a warm place, right? This feeling that I had just stumbled into the women's bathroom and was getting chased out... it was just my imagination, right?

I was getting pretty scared, so I hurriedly continued talking.

"Well, for this reform... exactly what are we going to do?"

At my question, the president crossed her arms. How cute. When a loli girl acted like she was an adult by crossing her arms and thinking deeply about something... it didn't get me aroused, but ... it was definitely moe!

Ahh, why was the only word that could describe what I was feeling right now such an otaku word?! I couldn't help but get frustrated at that!

"Sugisaki. First, we have to get rid of that stupid expression you put on when you're thinking about something perverted."

The president looked at me with scornful eyes.

"But I'm always thinking about things seriously!"

"And the things you think about so seriously are always perverted!"

"H-How do you know what I think about?!"

"Rather, it'd be strange if we didn't know about it! It's pretty clearly written on your face!"

"W-What did you say?! You're saying that my perfectly handsome facial expression broke down?!"

"Stop acting like you're overly self-conscious!"

"Eeehh?!"

"And cut it out with the Masuo-san reactions!"(2)

“Joder!”(3)

“Don’t just start randomly acting like a foreigner!!”

“Oh, woe is me!”

“Stop making it overly dramatic!”

“... But... I’m the protagonist...”

“Protagonist of what?!”

“This eroge... *Conquest of the Harem Student Council: Vice President~~, Eat~, Me~, Please~~!*”

“You think this world is the setting to *that* kind of game?!”

“Yeah, and I’m on the Prez’s route right now. You have to start with the one who seems like the main heroine, right?”

“... T, Those kinds of insane ideas are also forbidden!”

“What?! But if you do that, this story gets really normal!”

“Exactly what have you been worrying about all this time?!”

The president ran out of steam. She collapsed onto the table. She sure wore herself out today.

Having defeated the president, I was now faced with the main event. It was Chizuru-san’s turn. She brushed a hand through her long hair and looked at me with belligerent eyes. Crap... those were the eyes of a sadist.

“Reforming Key-kun will definitely not be an easy task.”

(2) See Chapter 1-1 of this volume, note 8.

(3) He says “shit,” but in English. Considering this translation is in English, I went with a Spanish swear word instead.

“U, Umm... Ch, Chizuru-san, do you have any good ideas?”

“Yes. First... well, alright. We’ll modify these ‘Line of Sight Detector’ glasses I had the Science Club make and I’ll have you wear them. Every time Key-kun looks at a girl’s breasts, he’ll be immediately shocked...”

“What time period did that method of torture come from?!”

“It was ancient Greece, in a certain place...”

“Sparta, right?! That’s from Sparta, isn’t it?!”

“Oh my, how upsetting. I’d rather you see it as love’s whip. It’s a whip, you know, a whip. A pretty girl’s whip.”

“Even I wouldn’t get aroused by something like that!!”

“Well, I suppose there’s no helping it then..... shall we move onto my second idea?”

“Is there a second idea?”

“Yes. First, we hypnotize you so that you feel an indescribable sense of terror every time you look at a girl, and-“

“Let’s move onto the third idea!”

“Well, then we start by castrating you-“

“Uwaaah! These are getting more inhumane by the second!”

I crumbled to the floor... scary! Chizuru-san was scary!

Seeming completely satisfied with having tormented me to pieces, Chizuru-san let out a sigh of pleasure, took out a textbook, and began to study. To be honest, more than anybody else in this student council, Chizuru-san just did what she wanted.

When Chizuru-san backed off, the Shiina sisters’ eyes began to sparkle, almost as if they had been waiting for this moment.

“M, Mafuyu also has a few ideas!”

“I got some too! I call them the Sugisaki Ken Reform Plan!”

The Shiina sisters leaned in towards me. No matter what they were going to say, I wasn't the type of person who could refuse pretty girls. Half-resigned, I opened my mouth.

“Well, I guess I can use them as a reference...”

Suddenly, the Shiina sisters began to alternate and shoot ideas at me.

“I, I think that first, Sugisaki-senpai should make his schoolbag pink!”

“Exactly what kind of character is Mafuyu-chan trying to turn me into?!”

“Nah, he should be more macho-like. You know, get a schoolbag with iron plating and wear schoolboy uniforms with the long jackets.”(4)

“I really think Minatsu has the wrong idea of what it means to be ‘macho’!”

“Alright... done! I attached a lot of cell phone straps on your cell phone!”

“Why are they all from Hello K*tty?! Is this really the right way to go if you want to reform me?!”

“Hey, Ken! From now on, you should call yourself ‘banchou!’”(5)

“That doesn't even count as reform anymore!”

“... Alright... done! Senpai, ahem. Mafuyu is pretty confident in her sewing skills!”

“Hey, why did you go and sew a bear into my uniform without asking me?!”

(4) [Something like this.](#)

(5) Couldn't find a concise English equivalent, but “banchou” refers to a sort of “gang leader” type of person in a school.

“... Ah, great, please do that. Alright... hey Ken! I did it! You’re going to be fighting the banchou of Otobuki High School next Tuesday!”

“How can you tell me that as if I was going to a practice basketball match?! I don’t want to! Also, trying to get me to fight people from other schools is like anti-reform!”

“Senpai senpai! Please read this! It’ll help a lot!”

“What is it? ‘Private Bishounen(6) High School ~I’m the seme and he’s the Uke~’ ... (7) Seriously, exactly what kind of character is Mafuyu-chan trying to turn me into?!”

“Hey, Ken, what should we do about your logo? For now, all I’ve decided is that we’re going to be called the ‘Keyboard Alliance,’(8) but...”

“Exactly what are you trying to do to me?! Stop it with the ‘Keyboard Alliance’ and all that! You might look pretty pleased with yourself, but just because ‘Ken’ is the ‘banchou’ is not a good reason to name it the ‘Keyboard Alliance’!”

“..... Wah.”

“You over there, stop reading the ‘Private Bishounen High School’ book you brought here and getting aroused!”

“Ahh, looks like we’re going to need a bigger budget. We’ll need an original set of brass knuckles, and some group flags...”

“You, get out of the student council!”

(6) Pretty boys.

(7) In homosexual relationships, uke means “receive” and seme translates literally as “attack.” You do the math.

(8) The first kanji in “keyboard” is in fact the same kanji you write “Ken” with. The second kanji in keyboard is “ban,” which obviously refers to “banchou.” Thus, this is a pun on “Ken is Banchou -> Kenban.

“Mafuyu thinks... Mafuyu thinks that Sugisaki-senpai would be nice as an uke!”

“What?! Mafuyu-chan, don’t you think you’re getting off track?!”

And then, after all that, I finally ran out of steam. My breathing became labored and I sprawled out on top of the table... those Shiina sisters... even one of them was bad enough, but when both of them went on the offensive at the same time, nobody could stop them. And what’s more, even though their personalities were the complete opposites of each other, they seemed strangely in synch... I really doubted there was a single person on this Earth who could survive retorting back and forth from one to the other like they were riding some pendulum from hell.

The two sisters were still going on and on, but I just left them alone and took a break... Mafuyu-chan had gotten out a laptop, and began writing something “Sugisaki-senpai’s... heart began to beat... faster...” she started to mumble, but I ignored her. As for Minatsu, she had begun to measure my waist... she seemed incredibly intent on making me one of those schoolboy uniforms... but I ignored her too.

In the end, my conclusion was this:

-

“Whether or not you reform me or whatever, isn’t everyone else in this student council a weirdo anyways...?”

-

Only the president ended up reacting to my words. Seeming to have regained her energy, she sprung up from the desk.

“That’s not funny! I’m completely normal!”

“Prez, it doesn’t count if you say that yourself.”

“Ugh... E-Everyone! I’m normal, right?!”

And the student council president, Sakurano Kurimu, went and asked everyone the same question that I, Sugisaki Ken, had asked just a while ago!

And in the end, the result was...!

“.....”

A minute later, the president sunk into despair. Well, that’s how the world worked. The people who thought of themselves as normal appeared to be strange to the people around them.

And vice versa, the people who thought they stood out amongst the crowd were really the least likely to be noticed.

... Reform, huh?

I mumbled haltingly.

“If being reformed means losing your individuality... then I’m starting to feel that it’s fine to just stay the way I am.”

“.....”

The president looked at me with dead eyes. Chizuru-san also looked up from her textbook, and the Shiina sisters stopped their rampage and looked at me.

I continued.

“It’s not just me. All the people in this student council are a bit weird in the head, aren’t they?”

“Hey, wait, I just told you I’m normal...”

The president stood up, and began to voice her objections, but I looked around at all the other members with a full smile on my face.

-

“But I love each and every one of the weird people here.”

-
“.....”

The president faltered, almost as if she had gotten the wind knocked out of her. And then, for some reason, she blushed and cleared her throat. She then sat back down.

Chizuru-san and the Shiina sisters also gave me warm looks... yup, this felt nice. Now here's my chance to attack!

“Even if the people in my harem have personality issues, as long as they have the looks there's no problem at all! Ahh, look how generous I am! Alright, everyone! Don't hesitate, and just leap into my chest!”

”.....”

... Wha? Before I realized it, everyone had once again returned to what they were doing. The president still seemed as depressed as ever, Chizuru-san was reading her textbook, Minatsu was drawing the logo for the “Keyboard Association” on a piece of paper, and Mafuyu-chan was reading “Private Bishounen High School” with her cheeks flushed.

.....

... My my, they're just not admitting it. G, Geez. This is why tsuns are so...

I let out a sigh... and then, I heard the president mumbling softly.

“... It's fine. Sugisaki... is fine like he is.”

“? What did you say?”

“..... Nothing.”

The president sighed once more and sprawled herself back onto the desk. “Ahh, do other people really think I'm weird...?” I heard her mumble... hm? What had just happened? She said something back there but I couldn't really hear it...

Ah, right. We had been talking about that article that the Newspaper Club had written, and I was being told to be more careful. But in the end, we couldn't really come up with a plan...

"Umm, so exactly what should I do from now on?"

In response to my question, all the others glanced at me.

And then... everyone gave me a slight smile, but ignored my question and returned to what they had been doing.

... U, Umm... were they angry at me or something?

-

And in the end, on that day, we never came back to the topic of my reform again.

[4th Discussion: Part 2]

The next day during our break time, I was walking down the hall when I happened to meet the Newspaper Club president just as she was diligently pasting another newspaper on the bulletin board.

I called out to this very conspicuous blond. On a random note, she was half-Japanese.

“Hey, Lilia. It’s pretty rare to see you personally putting up those things.”

“Hm? Ahh, if it isn’t Sugisaki Ken. How do you do? I’m much obliged to you for yesterday’s article.”

The Newspaper Club president Toudou Lilia gave me a confident, elegant smile... she honestly doesn’t think she did anything wrong... geez.

In terms of nationality, Toudou Lilia was Japanese through and through. In fact, she hadn’t even ever left Japan, and she was as Japanese as they came. Her worst subject was English.

She was pretty enough that it wouldn’t be strange at all if she made it into the student council, but there were many problems with her personality, so it’s not surprising that nobody voted for her. That was the kind of girl she was.

I waited for her to finish pasting up the newspaper and then called out to her.

“So, you’re already switching out the one that was up there yesterday?”

“Yeah. Because I found something a lot more interesting than that stupid, pointless stuff that was on here yesterday.”

“.....”

My past was just called stupid and pointless... that was cruel.

When I looked at the newspaper on the wall, I saw the headline: **Ghost in the Infirmary?! A Nurse Ghost Spotted Wanting to Treat Patients!...** was this Tokyo Sports or something?(1)

“And my past lost to a headline like that...”

“What do you think? Isn’t it interesting? To someone like Toudou Lilia, it’s a piece of cake to put something like this together in a night! Oh hoh hoh hoh!”

“Eh? You made this in a night?”

I looked back at the newspaper on the wall. I was used to seeing her put up newspapers that really exceeded the quality you would expect from students, but I never thought that she would be able to pull this off in a single night.

Toudou Lilia responded right away.

“Yes, that’s right. Freshness is the lifeblood of these stories. If I couldn’t report something that happened yesterday by today, then it would have already gotten around by word of mouth. And then, there wouldn’t be any point anymore. After all, it’s only after this Toudou Lilia reports these stories in the most interesting way that they can be laid to rest.”

“... Hmm... but the Newspaper Club sure has been working hard. They just finished writing that story on me, but then you had to call them all together for an emergency meeting, right? It’s pretty rare to be able to so easily get people to me-“

“No, we didn’t meet at all.”

“Huh?”

(1) A newspaper that is somewhat notorious for being a bit loose with the facts. They’re famous for reporting things like kappa sightings.

“I already said it, right? Freshness is the lifeblood of these stories. This event occurred yesterday after school. And when I heard about it, pretty much everyone else had already left for home. It would have been annoying to try to assemble everyone again, so I did an all-nighter alone to get it done.”

“.....”

Having been told that, I realized that even though most of it was hidden behind her makeup, I could lightly make out wrinkles under her eyes... this person was just...

I looked back and forth between her and the newspaper on the wall, and asked another question.

“Why does Lilicia-san have to go that far? Isn’t this just a bit overboard for a lady’s hobby...?”

“My my. What’s so wrong about devoting yourself to your hobbies?”

“Huh?”

“Having fun is not a prerequisite for life. Aren’t your attempts to make a harem like that too? Even if you didn’t do that, you would be able to live. However, humans are creatures that can never be satisfied with just living. At least, as long as they aren’t driven into an extreme situation.”

“Let me tell you something, Sugisaki Ken. I hate getting attention just because my appearance and my name are different from those of most people. However, I can’t do anything about that. I can only bite the bullet and accept it.”

“However, if that’s the case... I wanted to at least get revenge. I wanted people to feel the pain of those who are in the spotlight. The first article I wrote exposed a scandal involving someone who had badmouthed me in the past, and he was suspended from school. It gave me a huge sense of pleasure.”

“Uwaah...”

That had begun as a good story, but it really was just the worst.

“That was the motive behind my starting to do this, but I soon found other joys in this business, and that is why I am still making newspapers. Certainly, if you think about it objectively, this isn’t something that I should be pulling all nighters to do. However... the people I write about in my articles are the same... humans are strange, and therefore they are interesting. Being hard to understand is a key part of being human.”

“A, Ahh...”

I really couldn’t fully understand what Lilia-san was trying to say. However, I also couldn’t help but think *“Ah, so that’s how it is...”* Lilia-san was difficult to understand, and it may have been precisely that which made her an interesting human being. After all, even if it was in a bad way, people like her became the center of attention, came up in conversation, and then occasionally brought smiles to people’s faces.

It was a peculiarity that really wasn’t necessary to survive, and it was a pretty bothersome personality trait as well.

But even so...

“Oh no, look at the time. Well then, Sugisaki Ken. Farewell. I’ll be doing a follow-up investigation on you, so I hope you will be accommodating when that time comes!”

“Ah... h, hey! Wait a second!”

Lilia ignored my attempts to stop her and briskly walked away. Geez...

I looked at the newspaper pasted on the wall... it was the type of ghost story that the president would hate.

In normal circumstances, as a member of the student council, I should probably tear this thing down quickly so those ghost stories don’t spread around the school again.

However...

-

“Toudou Lilia is a pretty girl, so I’ll allow it.”

-

I announced that, and then walked away from the bulletin board.

-

After all.

-

That was the kind of person Sugisaki Ken was.

[5th Discussion ~ The Love-struck Student Council]

“Affection is not enough! True love requires that affection to become love!”(1)

As always, the president stuck out her tiny chest and spoke as if she were reading a line out of some book.

It was difficult to say why, but those sharp words seemed directed at me, and so I turned away. But the president took that opportunity to turn the conversation towards me. “Don’t you think so, Sugisaki?!” she proceeded to say... dammit. This damn president who liked her witty sayings so much...

“Q, Quite true. Yes, you’ve really gotta have love.”

“Yeah, I know right?”

“Y, Yeah...”

“Right?”

“... Yeah.”

What the hell?! What was up with this?! Alright, I admit it, I’m pretty shallow! I’m going for a harem! I’m just not sincere at all!

The president seemed incredibly pleased with herself and leaned back comfortably on her chair... d, dammit! Getting teased by the president was really frustrating!

“Ken~~, how strange seeing you lose to the president.” *Snicker.*

Right next to me, Minatsu gave me a rather unpleasant smirk as she whispered in my ear. Her face was really close to mine. I would usually be really happy about that, but... ugh, I just couldn’t enjoy it right now!

(1) There is a bit of a pun here. True love here is “renai,” affection is “ren,” and love is “ai.” So she’s saying that to have “renai,” you need both “ren” and “ai.”

“That loli president always tries to take the moral high ground, and sometimes I just can’t argue back...”

“Ah, I know what you mean. The moral high ground is a pretty annoying place, isn’t it?”

“Yeah, it’s like, ‘I know I’m wrong, but that’s not the problem!’ It’s because there are people who always try to act superior and take the moral high ground against you. And then those people lean back in their chairs and act all smug about it... exactly like what she’s doing.”

Both Minatsu and I looked at the president. She was sticking out her small chest and was giving off a pretty arrogant look... there were times when I would think that she looked cute when she was like that... but right now it just got on my nerves.

Mafuyu-chan, who was sitting diagonally across from me, added her opinion in with a low voice.

“Mafuyu also knows what you mean. Umm umm, it’s like how Mafuyu likes video games, but Mafuyu’s parents scold her. ‘Is there a point of beating that game and just ruin your eyes?’ they ask. I know they’re right, but... umm...”

“Ah, yeah. As long as I’m not causing anybody any trouble, I really don’t want to be told something like that. After all, I know that they’re right.”

“Y, Yes, exactly! Exactly!”

“Ah, I’ve gone through things like that too. For me... when I see no cars are coming across a street, I cross anyways even if the light is red...”

“Certainly, from a legal perspective, that’s against the rules. But... it’s pretty ridiculous, isn’t it? Especially since my home town is in a rural place, and I have 30-20 vision... even if I look right and left, there are times when I can’t see any cars whatsoever all the way out to the horizon. But to wait at a traffic light even despite that... it just feels really empty and pointless, doesn’t it?”

“But if someone scolds you for it, you know they’re right, so you have no choice but to listen to their scolding, right? Ahh, yeah, I was wrong. I was wrong, but...”

As the Shiina sisters and I had our strange moment of harmony, Chizuru-san stopped her studying and chuckled.

“But violating the rules is no good at all.”

”Oogh...”

“Playing video games makes your eyes go bad, so you shouldn’t play too much.”

“Agh...”

“And you shouldn’t go across a crosswalk unless you check that the light is green.”

“Ugh...”

“Granted, I also play games in the dark, and I trust my own vision more than a streetlight. My own vision, which has gotten ruined by games!”

”You’re worse than all of us!”

People who preached what was right but made exceptions for themselves were the worst type of people. Chizuru-san... as always, you’re just... ugh, how should I put it...

At that point, the president finally recovered from her drunken state of self-congratulation. “Hyah,” she went as she got out of her chair.

And then, she wrote today’s agenda on the white board.

“Regarding the disturbance of moral order in this school’... well, that seems like an unusually standard topic.”

Hearing me mutter that, the president spun to face me and gave me a smile.

“The fact that it’s standard is all the more reason for the student council to always take it seriously!”

“Ugh...”

Once again, she took the moral high ground... dammit, I seem to be at quite a disadvantage today. My horoscope must have been really terrible today. My blood type also probably had the worst fortune too.(2)

Chizuru looked at the whiteboard and cocked her head to the side.

“But, shouldn’t we leave this type of thing to the Moral’s Committee? Also, the students at this school are relatively well-behaved, aren’t they? At least, when you compare them to the students at other schools, I think they definitely come up on top.”

Certainly, that was the case. There was Otobuki High School nearby, and I’ve heard that school was incredibly screwed up. Even when it came to other schools, I very rarely heard any good rumors about them.

And in the middle of all that, Hekiyou Private Academy stood as a blessed school. Maybe our traditional student council system had succeeded, but everyone seemed to have some semblance of morals even with little or no pressure from our side. There was a strong sense amongst the people here that the students should cooperate to improve the school.

That’s why the Moral’s Committee and the student council weren’t really that busy. The problems that did end up occurring were generally rather amusing ones, like those ghost story and Newspaper Club incidents from before.

And in a school like this, I really didn’t really think that there was any moral problem that the student council had to go out of its way to have an entire meeting about...

But, as if she was trying to breath life back into this topic, the president spoke loudly.

(2) [Hilarious.](#)

“What are you saying?! There are definitely moral problems! In particular... there’s... uhh... boy and girl problems...”

“Boy and girl?”

I watched the loli president get red in the face while talking about those things, and I asked her to explain herself. She tried to keep calm on the outside before continuing. “Y, Yes, that’s right.”

“You probably don’t know just because you’re the vice president, but lately, I feel like I’ve started to see a lot more seducing and stuff going on in the hallways! You know... like... when a boy and a girl hold hands...”

“? Is holding hands really that much of a problem?”

“I, It’s definitely a problem! It would be fine if they were alone, but... umm... to think they do that and walk down the hallway in front of a lot of other students... it’s improper! School is a place for study!”

“Hah...”

Thinking that maybe my love for eroge had made me insensitive to this kind of stuff, I looked around the room. However, as expected, Chizuru-san and the Shiina sisters didn’t look on board either. In the end, I felt that the president was definitely being a bit oversensitive.

Minatsu raised her hand, looking like she wanted to say something. It’s not like she really had to raise her hand... but the president pointed at her. “Go ahead, Minatsu-san,” she said, acting as if she was a teacher. Minatsu then spoke quite indifferently.

“Prez might not know this, but there are much worse things that happen around here, ya know? Just take a look in the school building after school. If you go to some of the more isolated places, you’ll probably not only find people kissing, but also people doing ****.”

“Wha-“

“Well, there’s no helping that!”

“..... Aka-chan. It’s important for the student council president to try and fix moral issues, but she has to think about the needs of the students first. After all, she’s the president of the *student* council.”

“Oogh.....”

Chizuru-san was being extraordinarily mature. The president also faltered... ugh. Why was my argument shot down so quickly...? The president’s tsun side sure was cruel.

“No, anybody and everybody would shoot you down.”

Once again, Minatsu retorted to me as if she knew exactly what I had been thinking. Ooogh... even though I love all the students here so much...

But the president seemed to not give in, even in the face of Chizuru-san’s argument. “No, it’s still not okay!” she yelled a second time. Chizuru-san seemed resigned. She put both her hands up in the air, and shook her head at us... almost as if she was saying “When Aka-chan gets like this, there’s just no stopping her.” The Shiina sisters and I sighed.

And then, having kept quiet this entire time, Mafuyu-chan timidly raised her hands. “Yes, Mafuyu-san,” said the president, and Mafuyu-chan began to speak quietly.

“M, Mafuyu isn’t really good when it comes to things like that, but... umm... I think maybe if people want to do it, we should let them...”

“People who want to do it?”

“N, No, I didn’t mean it like that!!”

At my question, Mafuyu flushed even redder than the president had. Her skin had always been almost sickly pale, so when she blushed, it was incredibly obvious. And also... sometimes, even for a moment, she was *even more moe* than the president... Ahh, how pleasant.



“Ya know, at times like these, I really feel like I want to kill Ken...”

Minatsu was mumbling something incredibly frightening, but I didn’t mind her.

“No, not good at all!” the president yelled. It was rare to see the president yelling at Mafuyu-chan, and Mafuyu-chan teared up in response..... Ahh, how moe.

“This is exactly why everyone says so much that young people are too into this kind of stuff! We have to stop it while we have the chance! If this gets any worse, kids will start getting pregnant left and right!”(3)

“But in the past, I think people got married at even younger ages...”

“A, Anyways!! Such things cannot happen in this school!!”

“And why is that?”

“Because I’m the president!”

”..... Ah...”

At that point, everyone seemed strangely convinced. Staring at this loli president, it seemed to make sense. Certainly, such things shouldn’t happen here. A school that was managed by a president like this should be more pure and childlike. Certainly, we all couldn’t help but think htat.

However...

“You might say that, but... Chizuru-san already mentioned this, but if you try to crack down on this kind of thing from above, it’s just going to get worse. There really is just no good way to deal with this, I think. Think about it, the reason that people actually do **** in school is because it’s taboo, right?”

“Huh?”

(3) Lol.

“It’s the same as it was with the ghost stories. Those people just want a thrill. So actually, if the student council gets worked up and tries to control this stuff, there’s always the risk that it’s going to have the opposite effect.”

“H, Hmm... that’s quite an unexpectedly decent point coming from Sugisaki...”

“It’s absolutely true! To not be able to do **** at school, that’s just ripping our dreams from us! Even though we’re finally in an eroge with a high school setting! If there aren’t any school situations in the ero CG, that would just be the worst!”

“... Although, I do get the feeling that if we expel Sugisaki, a lot of things about this school would get better...”

The president put a hand on her forehead. How rude. Nobody else loves this school as much as I do! ... I mean in a sexual way though.

However, the president seemed really serious about this. Everyone in the room exchanged glances.

Hmm... I didn’t think we could get through this with our usual tricks...

I toned down my voice a bit and asked another question.

“But don’t you plan on falling in love?”

I was going add “with me” to the end of that, but the president seemed really serious about this, so I decided to omit that.

“Hmm, let’s see...” the president mumbled.

“Even if I do, it would have to be a relationship where we know what is appropriate and what is not.”

“Well, that’s probably the technically correct thing to do...”

However... I get the feeling that “love” is precisely “love” because you lose sight of things like that. Well, granted, these things might differ from person to person, so there really wasn’t a right answer... it was a pretty difficult problem.

I've always thought this, but the types of problems this student council dealt with were primarily human problems, so there were never any clear answers. So really, anybody was qualified to be a member of the student council, but anybody who did it was going to have a hard time. Yeah... it was quite a problem.

I gave out a small groan, and Mafuyu-chan opened her mouth.

"B, But, umm... if they're not flirting in the middle of class, I think that's not crossing the line... they might be doing that inside of the school, but, umm, when school ends, everyone is free to do what they want, I think..."

"Is that so? For me, I think that people should act as students as long as they are in their uniforms. Improper fraternization with the opposite sex is no good..."

"Ooo..."

That was also technically correct. It was exactly as she said. There was definitely a big difference between making problems while you had a uniform on and making problems when you had your street clothes on.

Improper fraternization with the opposite sex... huh? But who was the one who decided that it was improper? And if young boys and girls loved each other, then it was natural that they would crave each other's bodies. Why was that necessarily always improper?

... Well, on the other hand, it's true that a lot of people did it half for fun, so I couldn't take that stance too much. And it's not like I could be sure whether someone was really doing it for fun or not.

"So, what does Prez want to do? You want to make love illegal or something?"

"I, I don't want to go that far..."

The president faltered at my words. Well, maybe that was a bit of a mean thing to say... I was going to extremes too much.

"I just want people to know wrong from right..."

“.....”

... Well... I guess I got a bit carried away with my joking around back there, but even I wouldn't recommend that people flirt at school. Seriously. However... I do understand the other side's arguments as well. That they aren't causing trouble to anyone, so there's no reason to try and restrain them.

Was there no good way to compromise here?

As I thought that, Chizuru-san suggested something while twirling a pen.

“Well, what if we hand out an official flyer from the student council warning people to be careful? Aka-chan, are you still unsatisfied with that?”

“H, Hmm...”

However, the president still didn't seem satisfied. She crossed her arms and moaned.

“I don't want to warn people... I want to ban it.”

“If you want to ban it, then that's already covered by the school rules. If you get caught by the teacher in the act, you might get suspended even under the current set of rules.”

“B, But but, everyone just pretends that rule doesn't exist!”

“But even if Aka-chan makes a new rule, wouldn't it end the same way?”

“U, Uuuu...”

Pinned down by Chizuru-san's argument, the president teared up.

The Shiina sisters and I both felt a tinge of sympathy for the president. Chizuru-san herself also seemed a bit troubled... I failed. I had pushed an unpleasant role onto Chizuru-san. I'll have to go and reflect long and hard about this. It was unbecoming of a harem leader.

I took back control of the situation.

“Prez already said it at the beginning, right? That affection is only worthwhile when it becomes love. That’s where the problem is. Does Prez really want to crack down on people who honestly have romantic feelings for each other?”

“Uuu... T, That’s not what I want. B, But, I think there aren’t many students like that right now! They’re just having fun flirting, and I don’t see any love at all!”

“... Well, that’s true...”

The president might look and act like a child, but that gave her a measure of purity and innocence that allowed her to see the true nature of things. Certainly, there were very few couples at this school whose relationships could actually be called “love.”

And also, it’s not as if a couple had free reign to do anything just because they were truly in love. There was definite meaning to the phrase “rules are rules.” But despite all that, just like with Minatsu’s traffic light example, I did understand how it could be frustrating to be not allowed to do something, even though you’re not causing anybody any harm.

What should we do? The president seemed really serious this time, so it was a difficult problem. We couldn’t just deal with it the same way we dealt with the ghost stories problem or the newspaper problem.

Perhaps she was trying to change the mood a bit, but Minatsu suddenly began to talk.

“Y, You know, I heard that the soccer team captain and the manager are going out. But that couple, they’ve already been going out for two months, but they still don’t even hold hands.”

“..... That sounds like quite a healthy relationship.”

The president mumbled. It seemed like that was her idea of an ideal relationship. Well... it’s not like I didn’t understand where she was coming from.

“Alright then...” I began.

“Prez, for example, do you think that it’s okay for college students to do ecchi things?”

“..... hmm... L, Let’s see... I still think that it’s not good to do stuff like that in school. That applies to people who work for companies too. Doing things like that at your school or your workplace... that isn’t good.”

“Even holding hands?”

“Not good.”

“What about after they go home?”

“That’s fine.”

“What about for high schoolers?”

“... Even after they go home, it’s a bit not good.”

“But for college students?”

“..... Yeah, that’s fine, I think.”

“I see.”

I think I pretty much understood what the president’s standards were. She was a prototypical serious person, but because of that she also had some pretty typical sensibilities.

“M, Mafuyu also thinks the same way as Prez... but, but but, there are people who don’t think like that, so, I mean, I think trying to force them is... is not good...”

In a rare turn of events, Mafuyu put out her opinion clearly towards the president. In response, the president once again sunk deep into thought with a pained expression.

Ah... this... this wasn’t good. This topic of discussion... was just not good. We weren’t getting anywhere. Sometimes we would have these types of discussions,

and they would just take up a lot of time and end without anything ever being concluded. If that's the case...

I made eye contact with Chizuru-san. And after that, I moved to act.

"I understand what Prez is trying to say. I think she's absolutely right. What she's saying is morally correct."

"Y, Yeah, I know right?"

As if my support had restored her confidence, the president's eyes sparkled and she puffed out her chest. And then, Chizuru-san also came into the discussion.

"That's true. Aka-chan's opinion is absolutely correct. Let's pass out a flyer, and urge caution at the next schoolwide assembly. We'll call the staff room too and ask them to be a bit more strict in policing this matter."

"O, Okay..."

The president gave us a smile... but somehow, somewhere, she still didn't look perfectly happy. Ah... dammit. She had heard too many different opinions, so that even though we had agreed with her original opinion, she now had her doubts about it... that was one of her good traits though.

The Shiina sisters also seemed quite sensitive to what was going on, and backed me and Chizuru-san up.

"I, I agree. There are certainly parts of it that just can't be overlooked, so we should be more stern about it."

"Y, yes. M, Mafuyu also doesn't want to see things that are too weird..."

Hearing what those two had to say, the president seemed to slowly recover her strength.

"I, I know, right?! Everyone is just too sloppy these days! We have to be more stern!"

"Uwah, Prez is so cool!"

“Ahem! We’ll definitely be more stern about it at the next assembly!”

“.....”

That got me thinking. At an assembly... this pure and innocent president... was going to talk about sexual indecency...

-

“E, Eberywaaan! Ah, I, I bit my tongue... ahem. E, Everyone. How are you? Isn’t the weather right now so nice and summer-like...? Just look at all that green... umm... n, nevermind that.”

“Y, You know, lately... umm... ahem. Lately, h, h, here at this school, I’ve seen some p, pretty shameless things! I, It’s not good I thinksh! ... I thrinsh. A, Anyways, it’s not good!”

“E, Everyone, please make sure your relationships are healthy and wholesome!” *Quick bow.*

-

.....

If I could describe that in one word, I would say that it felt really pink. I could just see everyone in the audience falling into a happy daze.(4)

That just wouldn’t do. Chizuru-san and the Shiina sisters seemed to have been imagining the same thing, and they were sweating.

Panicking, I suggested a plan.

“Y, You know, at the next school assembly! Umm... could I be the one to give the address?!”

(4) He uses a weird sound effect here, which is probably best encapsulated by the following emoticon:

(▽)

“Fueh? Sugisaki? What’s wrong all of a sudden? Getting all worked up like that...”

The president stared at me blankly. I stood up from my seat and continued.

“I, It’s not like that! I mean, if someone like me does it, then actually, I think an appeal like that would be much more effective! I mean, come on, if some harem idiot like me lectures you about this, wouldn’t you feel more serious about it?!”

“I, Is that so?”

“It is!”

The president faltered, and I drew close. Seeming to lose to the pressure, she gave me a “A, Alright, I got it,” and entrusted the next student assembly to me.

-

And thus, as all the people in the room sighed a sigh of relief, we came to the chaotic conclusion that for some reason, the person with the most improper mindset in this school would be the one to inspire the students who were engrossed in their lovey-dovey relationships.

And so.

That brings us to the end of this episode.

Well then, next is the student council vice president, Sugisaki Ken-san.

-

“Ah, everyone. This is the vice president, Sugisaki Ken... hey, you people over there! Don't boo just because I'm not the president! Is there something about having a bishounen up here like me that doesn't satisfy you?! ... Hey, why is everyone booing me at once?! You all have got some nerve! If you just think I'm just that guy who likes eroge, you couldn't be more wrong! I'll cut you all down at once with these mighty arms I honed by playing Dynasty Warriors(1)... ah, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, please stop! Don't throw things! I'm sorry! The vice president is your humble, obedient servant!

Sigh... W, Well, I'll leave that around there for today, hmph.

Anyways, here's what I really want to talk about... come on, stop booing! Also, class B from year 2, stop covering your ears! Hey, Minatsu, why the hell are you egging them on?!

Alright, alright, quiet down! Quiet down, you idiots... uwaah?! W, Who the hell just threw a shuriken?! I could feel that through my hair! Also, that was a real shuriken, wasn't it?! What the hell kind of characters do we have in this student body?! We even have ninjas in here?!

If the ninja's a pretty girl, then I'm fine with it, but if that's not the case I'll kill you! Prepare yourself... uwaah! What the hell is this? A lightning bolt?! Using a lightning bolt indoors is just way past common sense! How much damn chakra do you have?! Are you possessed by a nine-tailed fox or something?!(2)

(1) Sugisaki actually says the “Musou series.” The original name is Shin – Sangoku Musou (True – Unrivaled Three Kingdoms), but all the spinoffs like Dynasty Warriors: Gundam, Warriors Orochi, and others all use “Musou” in the title, since they're all the same type of game.

(2) Pretty obviously a reference to... nevermind.

A, Ahem. Hey, you assholes. The president is glaring at you. Let me get on with what I have to say.

.....

... So all it takes is mentioning the president for you lot to calm down? ... Well, whatever.

Lately, there has been a moral problem inside this school. In particular, morals in sexual matters.

... Alright. I completely expected you all to give me that look. Ahh, it doesn't hurt at all! My heart isn't hurting at all!

Listen up, you lot! It's true, I love eroge! But think about it in reverse! I love eroge precisely because my sexual desires can't be satisfied in real life! Do you understand?! So my body is actually quite pure and chaste! No matter how sad that is to say!

... Hey. Just stop it. Don't give me those sympathetic looks. It hurts. It actually hurts.

Ahem.

Well, anyways, even for someone like me, seeing too many people flirting in school is a bother. It just makes me want to kill something. You guys too... even people who are dating, doesn't it annoy you even a bit when you see other people flirting? You can't say it absolutely doesn't, right?

This doesn't only apply to matters of love. You should show moderation in everything you do. I know how you feel. I know that you want to flirt. After all, my own goal is to do stuff like thaaaaaaat and thiiiiiiis in the student council room with the four others.

.....

Hey, cut it out, ninja. Isn't aiming a throwing knife at my forehead overdoing it?! You, if I didn't have the reflexes I have, that would have been a direct hit, you know!

Tch. Well, whatever, it's fine. It's really not fine, but it's fine. I'll deal with the ninja later. I'll be sure to deal with you, so you better get all your chakra ready.

In any case. If things continue the way they are, we won't like it, but even the student council can't just continue to ignore things. We'll have no choice but to make new rules to keep things in check. You might not be able to even stay in the school building afterschool unless it's for a club or for some committee business. We might even have to regulate how close boys and girls can get to each other.

If something like that happened... nobody would be happy, right? Wouldn't you rather it end with just a change in habits?

So, I apologize, but please try to show a bit more self control.

Just think about it like this. Having self-control is just another way to earn your freedom.

And you'll be able to burn much more passionately precisely because you've restrained yourselves.

You've seen kitchen ranges before, right? Kitchen ranges make excellent cooking tools precisely because they release heat into a limited amount of space, in a specific direction. It's quite different from a bonfire, which just sends fire everywhere.

So if you want to play with fire, do it like the kitchen range. It's fine to occasionally burn up like a campfire, but if you're always like that, you'll burn out pretty quickly. Don't you know that love is interesting precisely because it doesn't always go how you want?

Don't just do whatever you want, whenever you want. I know that you want to do it, but please try to be a bit more restrained. This is not because of some rule. This

is for yourselves. This goes the same for the people who just want to flirt, and for the people who want that flirting to turn into love.

Don't you want the fun things in life to continue for a long time? You don't want people to find fault with you and for that fun to come to an end, right? If that's the case, show some self control. Before others try to control you, try to control yourself. That would be a much better way of doing things. Let me make an assertion. When you become a high school student, it gets annoying when other people tell you what to do, right? It's pretty annoying, isn't it? Especially if you know that you're the one who's wrong.

Well, things like morals are boring no matter what time period you live in. And the smartest way to evade such boring issues is to protect those morals in the first place.

It's not like I think that we should forbid you from cutting loose every once in a while. It's just that you should never forget the word "moderation." Love is a fever, so there are a lot of things about it that you can't control, but whether you try your best to or not is an important crossroads. If you want to also be a student, then try your best. If you think you can quit school in the name of love, then feel free to run wild. I leave that decision to your discretion.

... Well, I guess that's all I wanted to say... hey, stop looking so serious. Just act like you always do and ignore me... geez, this just feels so off.

Hey, you lot, stop clapping! What the hell?! I said stop! What is this?! It's really embarrassing! Hey, you ninja! What the hell are you throwing a flower bouquet on stage for?! Why does it suddenly feel like I just gave a graduation speech?! What's up with this pleasant feeling?! Ugh dammit... I, I'll make you all pay for this later!"

-

And that was a message from the student council, delivered by the student council vice president, Sugisaki Ken.

[6th Discussion ~ The Playing Student Council]

“What’s important isn’t whether you win or lose! It’s whether you try your best!”

Just as always, the president stuck out her little chest and spoke arrogantly as if she were reciting a passage out from some book.

However... this time, her words didn’t faze anybody.

Why, you ask?

“Aka-chan. That’s just painful to watch.”

“Uguu...”

The president stiffened at Chizuru-san’s cold treatment. And quite expectedly, she couldn’t argue back today.

The president sent an annoyed glare at the mountain of playing cards on the long table... when she did this, she really seemed like a child. It was pretty rare to see someone in high school with so much childlike innocence that they would still get so frustrated after losing a game.

Usually, the implicit understanding was that the person who lost would collect and shuffle the cards, but since the president seemed to have become completely crippled, I took it on myself to collect the scattered cards, and I began to carefully shuffle them. We were playing Old Maid(1), so because the game ended with a bunch of pairs getting clumped together, we had to shuffle the deck well or else it would have a negative effect on the next game.

I neatly cut the deck into two, and then used my fingers to combine the two half-decks back into one. As I was doing that, Minatsu began to speak. “Are we still doing this?”

(1) The Japanese variant on Old Maid, called “baba-nuki,” is played with an extra joker in the deck. Whoever gets left with the joker at the end loses.

Mafuyu-chan answered.

“Yes... we’ve definitely done a lot already...”

Chizuru-san sighed.

“That’s true. Because of a certain someone who just hates to lose, I get the feeling that we’ve gone through almost every major card game in existence. We even ended up playing Old Maid, which might just be the oldest card game in the world...”

After Chizuru-san said that, everyone turned to look at the president. And the president just let out a small moan.

How did we get to this point, you ask?

Well, today there really wasn’t anything that could count as real work, and nothing worth putting on the agenda. We probably would have just made small talk like usual, but today was one of those days where Mafuyu-chan just happened to have brought a deck of cards, so we decided to chat while playing with those...

But we were still in the student council room. And the president, the prototypical “serious person,” objected to the idea. “No matter how not busy we are, it seems just a bit inappropriate to do that here...” she had said with a hesitant tone. However, I retorted with a casual suggestion. “Well, what if we keep on playing until Prez wins a game? Then we’ll stop.” But because of that, we had been trapped in this endless sequence of card games.

Let me just start from the end.

“... You’re just desperately bad at this, aren’t you Prez...?”

“Uuuuuuuuuuuuu...”

At my muttering, the president hung her head, seeming even more depressed.

For some random reason, the president was just terrible at card games. Well, no, there were definitely some realistic reasons. She had a terrible poker face, and she didn't ever think about strategy, for example. But even when you took those into account, she was really bad. Even if we tried games where luck played a major factor, she would come in dead last every time.

So at this point, considering how much she hated to lose, the president had already forgotten about her original objections against playing games, and each time a game ended, she would just end up saying something like this:

“O-One more game!”

”.....”

And then, my harem members would all wearily look at the president, even though they didn't dare show their weariness on their faces. No matter how much everyone liked to have fun, there was just a point where people got sick of playing cards. And also, the more the president lost, the more a weird sense of tension would linger in the air during a game. It really wasn't an environment that was conducive to having fun.

“So... what should we do next...?” I asked without much energy as I continued to shuffle the cards. Sitting next to me and hearing me say that, Minatsu began to poke my butt under the table. I could interpret this as a sign of her going “I. Love. You!” but I don't think Minatsu and I can stay like we are no matter how many years pass, so that was probably wrong (although, I'm a bit worried that the younger readers might not get that reference).(2)

(2) And he should be worried. This is a reference to the lyrics from the song 未来予想図 II, from the band Dreams Come True. The album was released in 1995, and the relevant lyrics approximately translate to: “After you let me off (the motorcycle), and watched over me until I turned the next corner, you would always blink your brake lights five times. It was a sign of you saying “I. Love. You” (note: “I love you” in Japanese has 5 syllables). // I'm sure that no matter how many years past, I will be able to live with the same feelings which will never change, because I'm with you.” I had an epic battle with Google to find this one out.

I took a look at Minatsu, and we began to have a hushed conversation.

“(Hey... shouldn’t we just let her win already?)”

“(Chizuru-san and I already thought about that, but...)”

But the result of my “Eye Contact Meeting” with Chizuru-san was that we probably shouldn’t follow through with that plan. I told that to Minatsu, and she looked clearly displeased.

“(What? Why not? I’m getting tired too, ya know.)”

“(Just think about it Minatsu. It’s fine if it goes well, but if we get found out...)”

“(..... She’d be in a really bad mood for a long time, wouldn’t she?)”

“(Exactly. And Prez is really stubborn when it comes to stuff like this. So which would you pick? Suffering through all the card games today or tolerating a few weeks of gloom with Prez in a bad mood?)”

“(I definitely would choose the card games.)”

“(So just give it up. Pray that the president wins even as you exhaust all your strength!)”

“(U, Uuuuu..... This makes me kinda sad. Almost like a soldier in love with someone in the enemy army.)”

“(So you finally realized it, Minatsu. This classroom... it’s a battlefield!)”

“(I really can’t tell who’s on the good side and who’s on the evil side anymore....)”

“(That’s how the world works. Each and every person fights for their own sense of good!)”

“(Ahh, to think this novel would go into deep things like that!)”

“(This is the destiny of light novels. Just accept it, Minatsu!)”

“(Ku..... being an eroge character is bad enough, but living in a light novel is pretty bad too!)”

“(Perhaps. But Minatsu... in light novels, even if the world is destroyed, there’s a high chance that the hero and the heroine both survive. How does that sound? Getting nice and cozy with me...)”

“(Absolutely not. I’d rather just be destroyed along with the world.)”

“(Why are you treating that as so much of a bad end, my love?!)”

After that, Minatsu seemed completely intent on focusing on the battle at hand, and began to prepare herself for the next game. Finding no other choice, I continued to shuffle silently.

On the other hand, the president, Chizuru-san, and Mafuyu-chan began to discuss what game to play next.

“Mafuyu... doesn’t want to get too worked up. M, Maybe we can go with something relaxing like Daifugou.”(3)

Ah, right. If we played Daifugou, then we could let the president win (without her getting suspicious) if we enacted a Revolution(4). It was rare to see Mafuyu-chan giving an opinion on things, but the president was uncooperative.

“Daifugou huh...? That’s certainly a game that’s hard to get tired of, but... I just can’t be satisfied by something like that right now!”

“Ah, eh, umm... w, why is that?”

“It’s just too relaxed! Daifugou... that game is just way too much like ‘let’s all play together in harmony and get along’!”

(3) Literally “Big Millionaire,” but is quite similar to the Western game Asshole.

(4) A “Revolution” occurs when someone plays a four-of-a-kind, thereby reversing the value of all the cards.

“M, Mafuyu thinks something like that is nice...”

“No! I mean, Daifugou is a nice game... but it just doesn’t fit my mood right now! Right now I want to... you know, match skill against skill, see strategy battle strategy in showers of sparks, have a component of luck that adds a nice flavor to the game and a sense of chaos... I want to emerge triumphant in a heated battle like that!”

... The only reason we were in a situation like this right now was because the president had such bad skill, strategy, and luck... but the person herself seemed to not have noticed that fact... what a bothersome person this Sakurano Kurimu was.

As expected, this was an obstacle that was far too heavy for Mafuyu-chan to move alone. “S, Sorry...” apologized Mafuyu-chan as she shrunk into herself. I felt sorry for her... she had completely withered away.

Perhaps she couldn’t just stand by and watch all this, but Chizuru-san, the one person in this universe that might be able to stop the president when she was running wild like this, moved to action.

“Well, Aka-chan. How about poker?”

“Poker?”

Poker? The president and I both cocked our heads to the side in confusion. Why poker, Chizuru-san? I don’t think with the president’s current luck that poker would get us anywhere.

It’s not like we were betting any money in our form of poker, and so we couldn’t fold our hands either. It was just normal poker. The person with the strongest hand won. That was all.

Because of that, there was almost no point in trying to read your opponents’ hands. You did have to choose which card in your hand to switch out... but the game was pretty much all luck. Considering how terrible the president’s luck had been today, her chances of winning were zero to none. So why in the world would Chizuru-san pick that game...?

.....

... Wait, don't tell me... this is...

“(Is that why you're doing this, Chizuru-san?!)”

(... *Nod.*)

As time flowed on lazily in a fashion that reminded me of *Ka*ji*(5), Chizuru-san sent me a nod back with her brow running with sweat.

... What a gambler this Akaba Chizuru was! What... what a man's man!

I understood what was going on. This was... this was a Copernican revolution!(6)

In short!

We wouldn't make the president win!

-

We just wouldn't win ourselves!

-

Yes, it was simple! If it's poker, all we had to do was to make sure our hands were useless!

(5) *Kaiji*, a series about gambling.

(6) For those who need a refresher, Copernicus is most famous for postulating that the earth revolved around the sun.

We could have cheated with any game! We could have just tried to get Prez to win with Daifugou as well! But... but! There was a huge difference in terms of which swindle was easier to detect! For example, if we played Daifugou, just one look at your starting hand and you would more or less be able to guess how well you were going to do! If all you had were weak cards in your hands, and if you couldn't aim for a Revolution, then you might as well just give up.

Considering how the president was now, there was a high possibility that she would get crappy cards. But... if we were clearly trying to hold back on our good cards... if we tried to make the president win... Daifugou was a long game. There was quite a large chance that we would get caught. There were too many opportunities for her to get suspicious!

However! Poker was short and lasted a single round! There was a very low chance that she would figure us out during the game! After all, by our rules, we didn't check what cards every player threw away!

To sum up, it was like this: we would do everything in our power to destroy our own hands.

Of course, there was no way to predict what cards we would draw, so there was a chance that we would accidentally make a hand. But even then, at most we would get one pair. Most of the time we would get a completely useless hand.(7)

But, if the president at least got a somewhat useful hand like a pair, she could win!

However... this was still a gamble.

Even if it was poker, if we played too many games, the possibility that the president would realize something was strange went up.

(7) It's interesting to note that a completely useless hand in poker is literally called a "pig" in Japanese.

If nobody could do get anything higher than a pair for game after game after game, eventually even the childlike president would get suspicious. And then if she decided to check which cards we were throwing away and figured out that we had been trying to destroy our own hands, it would be game over.

It was a dangerous gamble. But even then... Chizuru-san proposed it.

Hm... I think I'm in love, Akaba Chizuru. I... I entrust my life to your capable hands!

And so, within a second, everyone excluding the president came to a mutual understanding. Mafuyu-chan and Minatsu nodded silently.

... The trap was set.

And in that student council room, the biggest battle ever fought was about to begin.

However... we weren't fighting to win that battle.

Yes, this was a sacred battle waged to allow our opponent to win.

Has there ever been a sadder battle than this in human history?

We knew all too well.

If this president... if she won, she would definitely get cocky about it.

And, considering she was a child inside, her bragging would definitely get on our nerves.

She would endlessly praise herself, and would treat us like small fry.

No matter how mature Chizuru-san and I were, those were magical words that could easily make us unhappy.

And faced with this ecstatic but completely oblivious president, we would only be able to clench our fists under the table.

However!

We had chosen to walk down that path!

I looked at Chizuru-san. Her eyes were firm with determination. Those were the eyes of a commander who was prepared to face our childish president's harsh words.

I looked at Minatsu. Her eyes were fierce. Those were the eyes of a warrior who was willing to sacrifice herself for the good of mankind's future.

I looked at Mafuyu-chan. Her eyes overflowed with love. Those were the eyes of a saint prepared to die for her cause.

I saw everyone's determination.

Time was flowing lazily onwards (my thoughts and our eye contact meeting had taken less than a second), but I broke the silence and backed Chizuru-san up.

"Let's play poker, Prez."

"Sugisaki... also, what's wrong Sugisaki?! Why do you look so dramatic right now?!"

"Don't worry about it, Prez. Well then... let the battle begin."

"No, let nothing begin! Why did it suddenly become a battle?!"

"Oogh...."

This was painful. Unconsciously, I averted my gaze. Looking next to me, I saw that Chizuru-san and the Shiina sisters were also looking down with pained expressions.

This was... what kind of battle was this?!

All of us have gone through such suffering here... and yet without knowing anything, the president still responded like this?!

This... what kind of injustice was this?!

Life... life was unfair. God, why have you forsaken us?



The president and the president alone stared at us in bewilderment. “E, Everyone, what’s wrong?”

Ugh..... just tough it out, Sugisaki Ken. It’ll all be alright.

It was poker. If everything went well, it would all be over in a minute. A single minute. Just bear with it for only a minute!

-

The One-Minute War.(8) I am sure that this battle will be dubbed that, and its legend will live on from student council to student council.

-

Alright then. Let’s show them what we’ve got. Show them the potential of the current student council!

Match start!

“My turn! Draw!”

“Wha-, Sugisaki?! Why are you starting the game so suddenly?! Also, poker isn’t that kind of game!”

“... That was merely a greeting. It is common courtesy for one who was a duelist long ago.”(9)

“I, I see... w, well, alright, I guess poker is fine.”

(8) Most likely a reference to Kidou Senshi Gundam (Mobile Suit Gundam). As in the original, with it’s “One-Year War.”

(9) A Yu-Gi-Oh! Reference. Sugisaki says “Ore no taan! Doroo!” (My turn! Draw!) which became sort of a Yu-Gi-Oh! meme of sorts. Also, the actual line was “I was written down as a ‘keitousha’ but called a ‘duelist.’” Duelist is the English word, while keitousha is just the Japanese word for duelist. In a lot of Japanese works, the kanji is used in print but the pronunciation is changed deliberately to the English or quasi-English pronunciation, and that is what he is referring to. It’s something that is impossible to translate into English.

The president seemed to be the only person confused. I shuffled the cards carefully one more time, and took a single deep breath. And then, I took a look around at all the other members... and began to deal the cards out with emotion filling every flick of my wrist.

The student council room was filled with nothing but the pleasant sounds of the cards being dealt. As for the president, she seemed to have already switched off of being suspicious of this atmosphere, and was now mentally steeling herself for the next match. She would immediately check each card that she was dealt, and then sit there with a serious expression, waiting for the next card.

I finished dealing out five cards to each person. We each began to check the hands that we had been dealt.

By the way, the rules of this game were simple.

We look at our hands, and then we had one chance to exchange cards with the cards in the deck. There was no turn order. If we looked at our cards and wanted to switch some out, we could do so immediately. We throw away the cards we don't want, drew the same number of cards from the deck, and that ended the game.

The president acted without delay.

She threw her entire hand away.

"?!?!"

Everyone else immediately looked nervous.

(What... what was the meaning of this?!)

She changed all her cards?

Was she making fun of poker?

Considering how the president usually was, to think that she couldn't see any patterns in the hand she was dealt was... it was hard to imagine.

An idea popped into my head, and I timidly spoke up to the president.

“H-Hey, Prez.”

“What is it, Sugisaki?”

“Well... just for my own information, could I see what cards you threw away?”

“Hm? I guess it’s fine. Ah, you’re not trying to cheat, are you?”

“N, Not at all! Actually, let me play my hand first!”

I said that and hurriedly exchanged a few cards of my own. After making sure that my hand had become complete trash, I checked the five cards that the president had thrown away.

And then... I finally realized exactly how terrifying this war was.

-

“Wha-... this is... this is impossible... God... how could you let such a thing happen...?”

-

I crumbled in despair. The other members seemed startled at my response, and snatched the president’s hand away from me. “Show me!” “Me too!” “M, Mafuyu wants to see too!”

And then... each and every person reeled from the shock.

“Huh? W, What happened?” the president questioned, seeming puzzled... but we had all already been reduced to empty husks.

We... we had not been prepared for this. Not for this kind of war.

To think... to think war could be such a cruel and heartless mistress...

How... how could something like this be allowed to happen?

Each and every one of us had been knocked down cold.

Mafuyu-chan was the last to take a look at the president's cards, and they slowly fluttered down to the table from her hands.

I didn't want to look at those cards anymore... but I couldn't help myself.

A, A, K, K, K.

Yes.

A full house.

She had gotten a full house on the first try.

And then.

This president.

This president had thrown that away.

All of it.

And I could guess what was coming next...

"Alright, let's show our cards!"

The president announced that loudly!

And then, all of us showed our hands to the others.

Trash, trash, trash, trash, trash.

Everyone had trash.

Everyone. Yes, including the president.

And then, the president said the one thing she shouldn't have said... the one thing that hit us with the force of a nuclear bomb.

"Hm. I thought I would hit it... a royal straight flush."

"....."

Everyone was thinking the same thing.

(This girl... she's just a genuine...)

We finally realized it.

Realized that in this world, there are things that are *absolutely* true.

For example, even if there should come a day when the sun did not rise...

Our president would *absolutely* never win a card game.

I looked at Chizuru-san. Her eyes were filled with despair. The enemy... the enemy was weak way beyond expectations. No matter how much we went easy on the president, she would never win... it was like telling a level 99 hero to attack a single sl*me(10) but to not beat it. It was impossible. We just couldn't bring ourselves down to that low a level.

We were... we were powerless. No, that wasn't it. The president was powerless. Too powerless.

As we all were being enveloped by despair, the president began gathering up the cards of her own accord. And then...

"So, what should we do next?"

"?!"

-

Shiver, shiver, shiver.(11)

-

Our terror was almost audible.

(10) Dragon Quest reference.

(11) Also a Kaiji reference.

Mafuyu-chan and Minatsu's eyes trembled from the force of her question. Chizuru-san seemed to be calm on the outside, but she was grabbing her chest.

And I... I looked at the president with a frightened expression.

What... did she say? Next? The next game, she said? And she also asked what it should be... so we're not playing poker anymore? That's... that's so...!! We had fought that war with such determination, and then... and then... she wanted to lay that war to rest and start a new one?!

"Fu... Fuha... Fuhahahahaha"

"S, Sugisaki?"

I suddenly began to laugh. The president stared at me blankly.

"Nothing. Nothing is wrong, Prez. No... Berserker."

"I have no idea what you mean! I'm not a Berserker!"

"Hmph... well then, let me try again. Shura."(12)

"It's Prez or Sakurano Kurimu! How did it become Shura?!"

"Shura, how is it that you can like war so much?!"

"I don't like it! How in the world did you come to that conclusion?!"

"It's fine. If you are so thirsty for blood, then we'll happily be your human sacrifices!"

"I have no idea what you're saying or why you're getting so worked up!"

"Alright, everyone! To war! To war!"

"Hurrah!!"

(12) Reference to Asura, an Indian ogreish God.

“Why is everyone joining in?! What’s with this unpleasant atmosphere?!”

The president saw Chizuru-san and the Shiina sisters jumping in to back me up, and her face twitched.

Like that, we embarked upon a long, long battle.

It was the start of a war that would later come to be called “The Crimson Tragedy.”

[6th Discussion: Part 2]

On that day, everyone except for the president came to a mutual understanding on how terrible war was. And now it was the day after.

We all were waiting for the president, who was running a bit late, and the atmosphere was heavy.

Chizuru-san broke the silence.

“Well then... we managed to stall that war from yesterday by mentioning how late it had gotten... but you probably saw that look in Aka-chan’s eyes. She looked like she still had the motivation to continue this battle. In other words... today the war will continue. The war still has not come to a close.”

The Shiina sisters dropped their shoulders at Chizuru-san’s words. An unusually deep sense of darkness filled the student council room.

How did it all come to this? How did it all...

“Mafuyu... this is all because you brought cards.”

Minatsu said something she shouldn’t have said. Mafuyu-chan teared up, but she counterattacked at me instead of her sister.

“I, If you put it like that, then S, Sugisaki-senpai was the one who suggested that we play until the president won, so...”

“Hey, Mafuyu-chan, that’s not fair at all! Also, the only reason the battle lasted so long was because Chizuru-san gambled by suggesting we play poker...”

“O, Oh? I was the one in the wrong? But I think what I did was better than the people who just stood by and did nothing... like Minatsu, who never really tried to help!”

“Wha-... yeah, sure, I didn’t do much, but I didn’t make things worse either! In the end, the ones who got it to this point were definitely just you three!”

“T, That’s mean, oneechan! Well, let me just say something in response...”

... And so, the student council room had now sunk into chaos. This was an incredibly uncomfortable harem to be a part of. War really seemed to throw people's hearts out of order.

We were supposed to be here talking about how to deal with what was going to happen today, but right now we were in no condition to be discussing tactics.

What the hell... given how things are, maybe we should just change the title of this chapter.

And so, here is the new title I made up:

-

[(The True) 6th Discussion ~ The Collapse of the Student Council]

-

This was bad. This might be the last chapter. Or maybe the second to last.

Also, my plans were to get everyone to gradually come together and eventually become members of my harem. But what the hell was this? Didn't it seem like we were even worse off than we were in the first chapter?

This was a light novel, so this was the perfect place for the protagonist to act.

"Listen, my women!"

"Key-kun (Senpai, Ken), shut up! Don't talk until Hter x Hunter finishes!(1)**

"When is that?!"

And for that reason, I withdrew from the battle in low spirits.

And the conclusion...

Sorry, readers, but I guess this really does seem like a bad end.

(1) Hunter x Hunter.

To those who were really hoping for more fan service... for those who wanted to see more risqué scenes... and for those who at least wanted to see a kiss scene... I'm very sorry. I really should have looked at a walkthrough before playing this game.

I'll capitalize on my experience here and make sure that the next time I play this game, I won't enter into the "Playing Student Council" route when we get to the sixth chapter. Once I see Mafuyu-chan taking out a deck of cards, I'll pick the option to yell "Stop!" Yes, that's what I'll do. That's exactly what I'll do.

.....

This is a light novel, so I was hoping that there would be some convenient time-reversal mechanism that would kick in about now, but my hopes were completely betrayed. The argument just escalated. It escalated to a level where I didn't even want to describe it anymore.

Alrighty then, what should I do? I had seen that this was a bad end, so what should I do?

Ah, right.

Should I die? It's a dead end. So I should turn the power switch off for a bit.

And for that reason...

"Everyone, goodbye. I'm going to the next world."

"What?"

"I'm dead."

I thrust a box cutter at my neck. And then...

"Wah!!"

Even though Chizuru-san and the Shiina sisters had been arguing up until now, they panicked and leapt at me.

The three of them then lost their balance and tumbled down.

And in the end...

”.....”

Rejoice, readers.

Here’s that fan service scene! This scene might even make it into the color illustrations! Give it a full look!

Chizuru-san, Minatsu, and Mafuyu-chan had fallen on top of me.

I had been pushed to the floor by three girls.

Unfortunately, we hadn’t fallen a position where I could accidentally grab one of their breasts... but it was still a happy situation.

Soft. Soft bodies squished me from three directions.....

This was...

This was... the harem route, right?!

I was enlightened. To think that life could be as wonderful as this...

How sweet! How... how joyous this occasion was!

I understood now.

I would not give up! If it meant obtaining such wonderful, wonderful happiness, I would do anything!

And yes! What was war?! I would blow things like war away with a single breath!

Even if I had to use that technique I used in games and anime... even if I had to use my last resort!

“..... O, Oww...”

Chizuru-san moaned, and the three girls began to try to stand up. But I... I jerked them right back down! In an instant, the girls once again lost their balances and toppled right on top of me!

“Hey, Ken, what the hell are you doing?!”

“S, Senpai, that hurts!”

I ignored the Shiina sisters’ complaints, and continued to hold them tight.

I checked the time! Yup, it was almost here! In just a bit...

In the next moment, I heard the sound of the student council room door opening. And then...

-

“Well then, let’s get ready to have lots of fun again with card games today~~... ah.”

-

It was the president’s voice. Unfortunately, I couldn’t see her from this position, but... she probably had seen us and was trying her best to think of what to do.

“U, Umm...”

It seemed that she couldn’t figure out how to respond.

She hesitated for a moment. And then... she seemed to come to a conclusion.

“Su. Gi. Sa. Kiiii~!!”

It seemed that she had decided to get angry.

It was exactly what I was expecting.

At the same time, the three girls had also slipped out of my hold and started to raise a fuss.

“W, What do you think you’re doing, Key-kun?! To think you have so little control over your sex drive... ugh. This Akaba Chizuru really misread you!”

“Dammit, go and die! So you finally reveal what kind of person you really are!”

“*Sob*..... Sugisaki-senpai... I really misjudged you...”

Everyone was staring at me with hatred.

And then...

The president reached a decision.

-

“Sit right there, Sugisaki! You’re going to get a long lecture today!”

[6th Discussion: Part 3]

And so, the Crimson Tragedy came to a rather hazy conclusion after a certain young man took it upon himself to become humanity's common enemy.

-

And after that, this "common enemy" was remembered for three hundred years as a terrible, terrible man. However, after his book "Seitokai no Ichizon" was discovered, the interpretation of that incident began to swing in completely different directions.

A scholar soon popped up with a different theory. *"Perhaps he was really not an enemy, but was actually the world's savior." "He sacrificed himself in order to stop the war, did he not?"*

But that interpretation was judged as heresy by most, and that scholar also soon died from a mysterious disease, so his theory was never fully accepted by the world and soon vanished into obscurity.

And even to this day, the truth of the matter remained shrouded in darkness.

-

.....

-

Although, to be honest, it's not like many people actually cared.

[Last Discussion ~ The Retrospective Student Council]

“It’s bad to be wrapped up in the past! You should focus on the future and walk toward it!”

As usual, the president stuck out her small chest and proudly spoke as if she were reciting something she probably read in some book.

I didn’t really understand, but once again, I was being stared at..... I’ve got a bad feeling about this...

“U, umm...?”

I glanced upward at the standing president. After staring at me for a while, she seemed to have thought of something, and this time she began sending looks at the Shiina sisters and even Chizuru-san that they also didn’t understand. Of course, everyone tilted their heads in confusion.

The president briefly made eye contact with each of us, then loudly made a declaration.

“The first, chiki chiki ‘let’s deepen our friendship’ meeting~!”(1)

“.....huh?”

On her own, the president jumped around trying to raise the excitement. As for us, we were totally hung out to dry. Minatsu’s jaw dropped unconsciously.

“Wh, whut?”

“Hey Minatsu! You’re the mood maker, so get everyone excited!”

“Uh, hm. Y, ya~y?”

“Mafuyu-chan too.”

(1) Reference to Ureshino Akihiko’s Chiki Chiki series. The title of each work in the series starts with “Chiki Chiki,” much like how Kurimu used it.

“Eeh? U, um um..... clap clap.”(2)

Mafuyu-chan timidly clapped.

Those two..... Even though they didn’t understand what she meant, for the time being they went along with the president’s orders.

I made eye contact with Chizuru-san. However, even though those two couldn’t recognize the situation, in the end, as usual, the consensus was to watch over her until she calmed down.

When the president was satisfied with the Shiina sisters’ attempt at creating excitement, she finally began writing up today’s agenda on the whiteboard. Only the sound of the felt-tip marker squeaking echoed throughout the room.

And then.....

“Social congregation?”

Chizuru-san stared at the board and muttered. The president said “That’s right!” as she energetically turned around.

“I think we should have a social congregation today!”

On the board behind the president brimming with confidence, clearly written in big letters was “social congragashon.” It looked like she didn’t know how to spell “congregation.”(3) Her odd way of writing it quelled the tense atmosphere.

“Again, why is it a social congregation now of all times?”

(2) She said “pachi pachi” which is the sound of clapping. So yes, she actually is saying clapping noises. While clapping.

(3) The second sentence seems redundant, seeing as its clearly spelled wrong, but the Japanese was somewhat different. The word was “shinbokukai” written as “親睦会” normally. However, Kurimu wrote the “睦” as “ぼく”(boku). The second sentence says how she probably didn’t know how to write the kanji for it, so she just spelled it out in hiragana instead.

Chizuru-san placed a hand on her forehead and sighed. Originally there was probably work piling up that needed to be done. Well even so, she didn't unsparingly deny the president, but that was Chizuru-san's way of doing things.

Speaking of the president, she acted as if she completely missed Chizuru-san's distress, and with a smile on her face, began talking about her plan. Her expression seemed to say "Isn't it a great idea?"

"I happened to think about it, but we student council members here don't really know anything about each other, do we?"

"Don't know anything? But aren't we always chattin' together?"

Minatsu tilted her head in curiosity. The president waved her index finger with a "Tsk tsk tsk."

"How naïve, Minatsu. Indeed, we do chat a lot. But, think again. We can make simple judgments on each other's characters, but we don't really understand each other."

"What do you mean?"

"Basically, the one I know as 'Minatsu' is Shiina Minatsu, the athletic high school second year who speaks like a guy. That's all I know."

"So what's the problem? Isn't that normal?"

At Minatsu's remark, Chizuru-san, Mafuyu-chan, and I all nodded. In reality, to be friends with someone, you don't really need any more information than that. Not only with just the student council members but also with the classmates I've been with for the past year, I don't really have any more information than that. At best, I also know at least their hobbies, likes, family structure, and blood type. However, only having that degree of information wasn't any problem in human relationships.

However, the president wouldn't give up on it. She hit the desk hard. She tried to convince us while saying things like "social congregation."

“That’s no good at all! If it’s a regular friendship, then its fine! But we’re the student council! We’re the elite group who stand and carry the school! The chosen warriors! In short we’re comrades-in-arms!(4)”

“What are we even fighting?”

“Things like strife in society and rules made by adults!”

“Wow, we’re fighting such a hot-blooded youth-like battle.”

That’s the first I’ve heard of it. Apparently the student council was such a heated group.

“That’s right! That’s why, when covering each other’s backs as fellow comrades-in-arms, not knowing each other well enough is a huge problem! So we’ll have a social congregation now!”

“.....”

The president declared loudly, and we each sighed in our minds. In the meantime, I ran a simulation of whether or not I could finish up today’s work alone, and asked the president a question.

“So? What do you want to know about everyone Prez.....? Wait, I see! I get it!”

“...? What do you get, Sugisaki?”

“Prez, I greatly approve of this plan!”

I was so excited that I forgot about my simulation. This time the president was the one who seemed curious.

“Ah, yeah. I’m glad you approve but..... umm?”

(4) In Japanese “senyuu (comrades-in-arms)” is shorter than “erabareta senshi-tachi (chosen warriors),” rather than the same length.

“Prez! Basically..... basically it’s alright for me to ask about your measurements, what kind of men you like, and things like that right?! Such a great plan!”

“That’s not it! Why would it be that way?!”

“So things like, ‘What would be the best place for a first date?’ or, ‘How do you expect a confession? Do you want to be the one to confess?’ right?”

“Rather than a social congregation, isn’t that just Feeling Couple?(5) Moreover this is one to four!”

“If you say so, I’ll also work my pants off!”

“You don’t need to! For numerous reasons!”(6)

“Eehh?”

Crestfallen, I dropped my shoulders. The president looked at my sorry state, and wearily continued.

“So basically it’s totally not how Sugisaki said it was..... As for me, it’s..... yeah, talking together about things like our pasts –”

Just as the president had said it, the student council room was suddenly wrapped in a sense of tension. Chizuru-san looked down, the Shiina sisters hid their expressions, and I looked away from the president. Soon the president realized her own slip up and hurriedly started to smooth it over.

“Ah, w, well, th, there’s no need to talk about things *that* deep.”

(5) Feeling Couple is, in essence, a Japanese matchmaking site. More specifically, it’s apparently an online game in which lets people find a match.

(6) The original was a pun. Sugisaki says “hitohadanugimasu” which means “I’ll help out,” to which Kurimu responds “nuganakute kekkou yo!” meaning “it’s fine if you don’t!” At the same time, the verb “nugu” used in part in both sentences also means “to undress.” So the double entendre is “I’ll help/strip,” hence the translation.

The panicking president was hard to look at. Everyone else and I understood that we should back her up, but no one said anything immediately.

We..... never talked about it properly, but it seemed like we each had our own pasts we didn't want to go into. It wasn't just us, but most people probably had one or two things that they didn't want to talk to anyone about. But in the case of these student council members, it looked like more than a few were more painful than average.

I'm sure the president knew about that too, so she probably said it by accident. The social congregation also probably wasn't meant to pry deeply into that particular area.

I managed to convince myself of that, and forced out an awkward grin.

The president also tried to give a reassuring smile but..... the atmosphere wouldn't easily go back once it stiffened like this. Everyone thought that they needed to quickly reassure the president, but no matter what they couldn't bring themselves to.

The president looked like she was about to cry, and I sighed..... The president, in her own way, planned this social congregation so that she could become better friends with all of us. And yet it turned into this situation..... It was a bit too much.

(I guess it can't be helped.....)

As the harem lead, I had to do something about this. For now, if I could buy some time I'll get everyone to relax again.

To break through this awkward atmosphere, I stood up with full force.

"Sugi.....saki?"

While the president, then everyone watched me closely..... I cracked a smile, and then..... I began to speak.

-

“In truth, I have a beautiful younger stepsister and a beautiful childhood friend!
That’s right..... see, my supposed two timing was with them. Ahaha.....”

-

For the time being, the atmosphere changed..... into a delicate situation.

[Last Discussion: Part 2]

“Now wait just a second.”

At my speech, the president’s face grew stern as she waited for my answer.

“What is it?”

“It’s not ‘what is it?!’ What was that?! You weren’t just imagining it were you?!”

“How rude. Do I look like the type of person who would imagine such –”

“You most certainly do!”

“..... I guess I do.”

I looked back on my own actions and thought, “Indeed I do.” But.....

“But having said that, the truth is the truth.....”

I muttered that while I sat back in my chair and reclined. Everyone stared at me, dumbfounded.

In place of the flabbergasted president, Chizuru-san sighed and asked for confirmation.

“Umm..... Key-kun. That, um, wasn’t you lying to do something about the situation..... or should I say, that wasn’t some sort of joke, was it?”

“Hmph, how rude. I’m always serious.”

“But I just can’t believe that statement.....”

“Please believe me, Chizuru-san. My words are as truthful as what a politician would officially publish and use for an election, so that should be enough to believe it!”

“On the contrary, I believe you less now.”

Chizuru-san muttered this and brought her hand to her head.

Apparently, even though she was still quite amazed, it seemed like she believed me.

After all that had happened, this time Minatsu called out, “Now wait a sec!” while standing from her chair with a rattle and peering at me.

“That’s just ridiculous, Ken.”

“...? What is?”

“I mean you..... If that’s really the case, you wouldn’t have worked yourself like this until now, after all..... wouldn’t you be in a situation where you’ve been blessed with women? Why do you feel the need to aim for something like a harem? ”

“Aah, well about that.”

“Ah, no, I get it. Wow, I guess even those two dumped you.”

“That’s not it! They were full of love for me! I mean, one of them was my sister! She’s family! She wouldn’t reject me!”

“Eeehh...”

Her eyes gave a look that didn’t believe me at all. Not just Minatsu, but everyone else was the same.

I snorted a “hmph.”

“Since I have the chance, I’ll say this. I am very much an underestimated part of this student council. I may get treated like this, but if I leave and go to the right places, I’ll be significantly more popular!”

“Like at an O**ma Bar?”(1)

(1) She mentions an Okama Bar. Okama is slang for a gay, crossdressing man, which makes an okama bar a bar where the employees are gay crossdressers.

“There’s no appeal of such a limited special place!”

“A senior citizens’ home?”

“I don’t get what you mean!”

“If you were scattered to the wind?”

“I haven’t died or anything!”

“..... Then who would you be popular with.....?”

“I’ll normally be popular! With girls of the same age!

“.....”

Minatsu blinked at me in shock. Even Mafuyu-chan looked surprised and muttered in amazement.

“Ma, Mafuyu had no idea.....”

“No idea?! Isn’t that the very first thing you would normally assume?!”

“So there are some things in this world that just can’t be explained by science...”

“So cruel! As usual Mafuyu-chan, you’re unhesitatingly cruel!”

With all my strength I heatedly told the student council members in what ways I was popular. While I was going off, as if to interrupt me, the president said, “So then,” and carried on.

“As for whether Sugisaki is popular or not..... let’s just leave it at how he says it is. Why did things turn out like that with the conversation?”

“Ah, I forgot. Umm..... why did it?”

“If you didn’t talk about things like harems, it wouldn’t have.”

“Aahh, right right.”

I stopped there, and since I was thirsty, I made my way to the other side of the student council room where the equipment was, and made a pot of instant tea. The room was well equipped, like how a conveyor sushi shop was. It felt like a school rule violation, typical of the president's hobbies, but we could drink tea here. The reason was something like, "In order to advance a discussion smoothly, you need fluid."

Even though I called out to the others if they wanted a drink, no one in particular seemed to want one, so I made just my share and returned to my seat.

Taking a sip, I restarted my story.

"Well, It's true that during middle school I didn't really have an interest in women..... while that may be misleading, Asuka and Ringo..... I took no notice of other girls than my childhood friend and stepsister."

"Eh? Sugisaki, you didn't give the same impression during middle school than you do now?"

"Hmm, well, yeah. If you take away the things like my erotic element or my odd excitement, I would be the me from middle school."

"What's with that ideal Sugisaki? After entering high school, you've clearly degraded."

Looks like she said something cruel. Well..... It's not like I can object. Even so, when it was said by the ringleader that started all of this, I was a bit offended.

While fiddling with her hair, the president asked.

"So, we're talking about how that cool Sugisaki two-timed his childhood friend and stepsister and failed, right?"

"That feels like a really crude way of putting it..... but now that you say it, yeah."

"Then, from the shock of getting dumped, you retreated to eroge."

"Yes."

“And now you enthusiastically want to form a new harem.”

“That’s exactly it.”

“Isn’t that just a stereotypical useless man?!”

“.....Oh.”

“You just realized?!”

“I just realized.”

“Just how far do you plan to degrade yourself?!”

“Ah, well, this might be hard to believe, but if you abbreviate the truth and look at the big picture, aren’t I just the worst type of person?”

“What are you so cheerful for?! What would we do if the vice president were the worst type of person?!”

“Here’s a toast to the broad-minded student council.”

“What’s worst type of person putting on airs with tea for?!”

I was unreasonably criticized. If she realized, the president would know that everyone else had already backed off from me. Their affection for me seriously dropped all around.

Since it couldn’t be helped, after I took one more gulp of tea, I added a bit more information.

“Actually, I definitely was the worst kind of guy. At any rate..... I hurt the girls, those two, whom I valued more than my own life.....”

“.....”

At my submissive face, the president kept quiet. The entire student council had fallen deathly silent.

A few seconds later, Mafuyu-chan timidly opened her mouth.

“B, but, um, umm! Mafuyu..... Mafuyu doesn’t think that Sugisaki-senpai is that bad a person!”

“Mafuyu-chan?”

I stared blankly at Mafuyu-chan who wholeheartedly backed me up.

“You see, well, it’s true that Sugisaki-senpai does like to chase girls..... but, but that’s exactly why Mafuyu thinks he definitely isn’t the type of person who would hurt a girl!”

“..... Thank you, Mafuyu-chan. But you see..... it is true that I hurt them.”

“Senpai.....”

Mafuyu-chan looked saddened. I felt a pang of pain in my chest, but since it was the truth, I couldn’t keep looking away from it, and so I continued the story.

“Well, you see..... For me, those two were very important..... they were more important than my parents to me. Rather than just family..... they were especially important people within my family..... or something like that. Precisely because it was them two..... the fact that I hurt them... yeah, I just can’t forget it.

“Senpai..... B, but...”

Seeing how Mafuyu-chan was at a loss for words, Minatsu stepped in to help from the side.

“Ken. I also agree with Mafuyu. I..... since I don’t have faith in the things called men, I already know your irresponsibility well enough. But even so, I believe that you at least aren’t the type of lowlife who insincerely hurts a woman without a reason. “

“Minatsu.....”

“I’m not asking you to tell us the reason you were so involved, but..... at least give some sort of excuse. At least, don’t you know, the people here are people who can understand your feelings?”

At the same time Minatsu said that, the president, Chizuru-san, and Mafuyu-chan nodded.

I smiled at the understanding these kind members gave me..... then opened my mouth.

“For me, those two were..... more important than anything. It wouldn’t be an exaggeration to say that I loved the two of them more than anything else in the world.

So, one time, I..... was confessed to by my childhood friend, by Asuka. Since I also liked her, of course I went out with her. That much was fine.

But my sister..... my stepsister, she wouldn’t let that slide. A bit of an incident happened.”

“Incident?”

The president tilted her head. However, I just said “sorry,” and shook my head.

“Please let me keep the full details to myself.”

“Ah, sorry.....”

“No worries. Anyway, things happened..... you see, my sister became mentally unstable. Due to that, she had to be hospitalized.”

“.....”

“To me, my sister was also a very important girl..... So I began to constantly attend to Ringo by her sickbed. See, Asuka was supposed to be my girlfriend, but I began to neglect her. That was.....”

“Your two-timing..... that’s why others called it that.”

“That’s right.”

At my response, all of a sudden the president indignantly stood up.

“What the hell’s with that?! That’s not two-timing, it’s not!”

“No, it’s definitely two-timing.”

“How so?! I mean, you were just worried about your hospitalized sister.....”

“Even if that was the only thing I did. Since at that time..... my heart was definitely divided. Asuka and Ringo..... Even though they were both precious to me at the same time, I failed. Due to that, I think, that was definitely what would be called two-timing.”

“No way.....”

The president looked dejected.

Seeing the delicate atmosphere of the student council, Chizuru-san pushed forward with skillfully chosen words.

“So what became of all of you in the end?”

“Ahh..... it’s simple. It was the typical path of an unfaithful man. I was at the mercy of a ‘you can’t have your cake and eat it too’ situation, and in the end.....”
(2)

“.....”

Even Chizuru-san looked away from student council that sunk into silence..... I smiled bitterly and told them.

-

“Bascially, I, Sugisaki Ken, as the protagonist of this love comedy, have once hit a heroic bad end..... that’s the story. Part one of the story of my past, the end~”

-

“.....”

(2) The translation of the original equivalent idiom was “If you stand there then you’re not standing here.”

“Ooh.”

Crap. Somehow..... the student council atmosphere grew extremely heavier.

I, I have to do something!

“Ah, don’t worry everyone! Even though I said I went out with Asuka, I never got past only holding hands with her! Unfortunately! In the end we were always completely childhood friends!”

“No, no one cared about that.....”

Not discouraged by the president’s disinterested retort, I continued.

“Ah, besides look, by going through that incident, I decided to become the me that I am now! And I mean, it became a good lesson.....”

“What do you mean, ‘lesson.....’”

I looked at the president who sighed..... I only slightly gave a serious face..... and responded.

-

“I won’t assign unreasonable priorities to people important to me. No matter how painful or unbearable. I decided..... to become a man..... who could carry everything important to me with my own hands.”

-

“_____”

The president gave a confused expression and looked towards me.

“Sugisaki..... you don’t mean... you... that’s why... a harem.....”

“..... ah, um...”

Oh, ooh, now I’ve done it. If she says it, wouldn’t it be uncool?

It seemed like everyone was giving me sympathetic looks..... ooh.....

I, in that case, I'll forcibly change the topic! That's what I'll do!

"Part two!"

"Huh?"

"The story of Sugisaki Ken, part two! Chance Meetings with the Student Council Members Arc, start~!"

"Huuh?"

The president was completely left behind and stared blankly.

A few seconds later, the president finally caught back up with the topic.

"W, wait just a second Sugisaki. Chance meeting arc or whatever, all of our first meetings with you were this year in spring, when we came to the student council room, wasn't –"

Just as the president started to say that, Minatsu interrupted her with "no, that's wrong."

Minatsu looked back and forth, between the president and I.

"At least, I did, a year ago..... was it early in the summer? Anyway, I met Ken a year ago. If I recall, the Ken back then wasn't like the bundle of eros he is now, yeah."

"Eh, ehh? Really?"

It seemed like that was the first the president heard of it. While the president was completely confused, Chizuru-san added on her own part.

"I also met him once last year in the fall, in the infirmary."

"Th, the infirmary?"

"Yes..... With Key-kun, there I..... made him into a man."

"Eh, Eeeehhh?!"

The president's scream echoed..... not just in the student council room, but also probably all the way down the corridor.

Now that I think about it..... at that time, this person probably couldn't see my face properly.

“Wait, what do you mean by that?!”

The president grabbed me by the neck and shook me hard.

-

I let out a single sigh..... and told the story of Sugisaki Ken, part 2, Chance Meeting arc.

[Last Discussion: Part 3]

“So, Prez, it looks like you are really curious about how we met.”

I turned and glanced toward the president. For some reason, she sat in her seat, her back rigid and with a nervous look.

“My meeting with Prez was in the school corridors.”

“The corridors? You don’t mean we just passed by each other, do you?”

“That’s not it. We even had a proper conversation.”

“Eeh? I can’t remember a thing.”

“I thought so. Because Prez, at that time, you couldn’t see my face.”

“...? We met in the corridor, even had a conversation, yet I couldn’t see your face?”

The president tilted her head. When I looked, the other members who didn’t know about the meeting between the president and I leaned in to listen to my story with great interest.....Yeah, looks like the atmosphere went back to normal. That’s a good sign.

I took a sip of tea and began to explain in detail from the beginning.

“In the first place, at that time, you see the circumstances during middle school happened, and I had lost my temper a bit..... though I say that, it’s not like I had done anything violent. I exuded a lone wolf aura, or maybe a ‘don’t come near me,’ aura.”

“Thinking back about the previous topic... that didn’t really tell me anything, did it?”

“Asuka left for her hometown, my sister was restricted from seeing any visitors, and I too was pretty much in a breakdown.(1) When I had lost both things precious to me at once, I, as a human, quickly fell into despair.

“So, I was living a completely ruined life, but..... at that time, that’s when I met you. That’s right.....”

“Oh, so my appearance!”

“The book monster.”

“Who?!”

“You are, Prez. Because this is the story of how you and I met.”

“I’m not a ‘book monster’!”

The president denied it with all her might. However..... she definitely was the book monster.

I continued.

“To be specific, I met a tiny senpai holding a lot of books that hid her upper half. After school, at the end of the corridor, something like that walked over. Of course, I was startled, and thought it was a book monster.”

“Ooh..... now that you mention it, last year, it seemed like I often had to do those sorts of odd jobs as the vice president.....”

“So, even though I had completely lost interest in people and had gone rogue, even I couldn’t overlook this. I involuntarily called out, ‘A, are you alright?’ and that’s how we met.”

“Th, that’s how it happened..... huh? But, in that case, why can’t I remember it?”

(1) The word used was “kekko,” which can be really hard to translate. Generally it means something like “satisfactory,” “pretty good,” or “sufficient.” In this case, Sugisaki says something along the lines of he’s in a state of “I’ve had enough.”

“In the end, even though I helped out and took half the books, since Prez was really small, and due to her stack of books, it seemed like she couldn’t see my face at all. Also, after we finished carrying the books, I left immediately. In the end, you didn’t get to see my face.”

“Ooh.....”

She seemed to be hurt at my pointing out that she was small. The president moaned and held her chest.

I leaned back in my chair, and with a sigh of exasperation, I looked back on those days.

“At any rate Prez, if you were in the middle of carrying materials from the third floor library to the student council room on the same floor, why were you wandering around the first floor?”

“Oooh...”

“Normally your stride is so small, and due to being careful where you walked, you only managed to get to the stairs, and that took you ten minutes.”

“Ooooh.....”

“Because of that, when I saw you and couldn’t help but call out, ‘Should I do it all for you?’ you said something stubborn like, ‘D, don’t underestimate the vice president!’ Thanks to that, a ton of my own time was also wasted.”

“Ooooooh.....”

“When we climbed the stairs, my arms and legs were all shaky and hurt.”

“Ah, last year I.....”

The president dejectedly hung her head..... That’s not it Prez. The Prez now hasn’t evolved much from that time.

Since teasing her any more would be pitiful, I continued the story.

“So then, unexpectedly, I ended up accompanying her for a long time. Even though I was upset, I unintentionally loosened up and ended up telling Prez various things. I wasn’t too casual though, just grumbled some things like..... how I two-timed and hurt two girls, and what I should do. And then Prez.....”

“What’s wrong?”

The president tilted her head..... Like I thought, she didn’t remember. Haah...

-

“Prez, you said this: ‘Go play love simulation games! You don’t act enough like a protagonist!’”

-

“Huh?”

Not just the president, but everyone in the student council looked shocked.(2)

The president hastily objected with, “Th, there’s no way I’d say that!” but it didn’t matter because it was the truth.

“Prez, it seemed like right at that time, you played a love simulation game, and afterwards was deeply moved by it. It was recommended to you by a friend, who said he pathetically cried when he played it, but.....”

“Ah.”

It seemed that finally rang a bell..... but well, that’s since this person gets caught up in the flow..... After that, more obsessions came and she probably just forgot.

“Of course, I was hooked. Back then, I wasn’t interested in that type of game at all, so I didn’t think I would hear those words from someone like Prez.”

(2) Sugisaki used a very different phrase. He said “Everyone’s eyes became dots.” In short, everyone probably had had this kind of face -> ._.

“Ahh.....”

“But, Prez had said it very seriously. She said, ‘Ah, look at the game’s protagonist! Even though he’s popular, in the end, didn’t he make everyone happy? You should use it as a reference! That much should be enough!’”

“L, last year I.....”

The president grew more and more depressed..... I felt bad about it, but I followed it up anyway.

“That wild idea unexpectedly stuck deeply in my mind. From then on I’ve immersed myself into galge and eroge.”(3)

“It was my fault the whole time!”

The president was unbearably shocked to learn that she was the reason for my current character. She looked down, as if the world had ended. Chizuru-san and the Shiina sisters also gave awkward, sarcastic laughs.

In that situation, I also laughed sarcastically..... But I decided I would tie everything together with a single sentence.

“But..... but due to that, I was saved. Thank you so much, Prez.”

“Eh?”

“In those days, I really didn’t do anything. But..... Prez gave me guidance.”

“..... It was galge though.”

It seems like the president became depressed again. I smiled bitterly.

(3) Galge is short for “Gal games,” also known as Bishoujo games (pretty girl games). Eroge is short for “erotic game.” The content of each should be pretty clear.

“You did say that, but the me from back then was shaken up pretty good. The..... development of a harem especially was a culture shock. I thought, ‘Ah, this sort of thing happens too.’ I thought, ‘It’s absurd, but a future where everyone is smiling can actually exist.’”

“.....Sugisaki.....”

“In particular, for one reason or another, the galge’s protagonists had a lot of situations that were similar to my own. There was a step-sister and a childhood friend. It became a love triangle. Things got slightly troublesome.”

“.....”

“However..... it was frustrating, but with the protagonists, eight or nine times out of ten they would just grasp happiness in the end. Really..... how many times did I cry? ‘Ah, why couldn’t I be like that?’ I thought. ‘Why can’t I..... properly make those two happy? I’m so pathetic,’ I thought. That’s why I made my decision. I..... would become a protagonist. I would join the ranks of those who could make many girls happy with a composed face.”

“.....”

I instinctively clenched my fist. However..... I saw everyone staring me down, and went back to my usual self with a laugh.

“I’m not the me from a year ago anymore. I met Prez in the spring and got a chance. I was given life by Minatsu in the summer, I was healed by Chizuru-san in autumn, and I was encouraged by Mafuyu in the winter.(4) I put all my effort to my job, studies, and galge. I continued to improve myself that way for a year..... I wasn’t the old me anymore. When I came to this student council, I was able to say it with confidence.”

(4) Each of the girls’ names happens to relate to the season they met Sugisaki. Sakurano Kurimu has the kanji for “sakura” (cherry blossoms) which bloom in the spring. Minatsu has the kanji for “natsu” (summer). Akaba Chizuru has the kanji for “akaba” (red leaves) that fall in autumn. Mafuyu has the kanji for “fuyu” (winter).

-
I took a brief pause. Once again, I told them those words.

-
“I love you all. I love you all very much. All of you, go out with me. Because I will absolutely make you happy.”

-
I looked around at everyone’s faces.

The president crossed her arms and said, “Good grief,” with a soft smile.

Chizuru-san seemed to wholeheartedly enjoy it as she mischievously laughed and narrowed her eyes.

Minatsu laughed sarcastically and said, “Even though I feel like your idea of an ideal guy is totally off.”

Mafayu said, “In a way, senpai is really sincere..... maybe?” with a laugh.

Seeing how everyone was, I was convinced again.

Ah, I really do love this student council.

Since it’s sounds weaker to say it aloud, I whispered in my heart.

-
(To me, everyone is also..... already as precious to me as my family.)

-
..... I wonder why today felt strangely embarrassing.

[Last Discussion: Part 4]

“Now that I think about it, how did your meetings with Chizuru, Minatsu, and Mafuyu-chan go in the end?”

We were having such a good time while talking about my past, but it was time to end the meeting, so I had to put talking about the other’s stories for another time. The president asked the question as she put her bag on the desk and prepared to get going.

As she pushed out of her chair, Chizuru-san responded, “Indeed, we didn’t talk about it, did we?”

“Aka-chan, are you curious?”

“N, not really. I was mostly just interested in hearing about my own meeting with Sugisaki. It’s not something I want to listen to that I end up going home really la-”

“My meeting with Key-kun..... it was a year ago, when the cold winter winds were just starting to blow.....”

“She began telling it! Why with this timing?! I don’t mind if you don’t tell it!”

“Eh? Are you sure? It’s a love scene from here on out you know.....”

“A love scene?! There’s a love scene in the story of Chizuru and Sugisaki’s meeting?!”

“It’s 81+ restricted.”(1)

“How extreme is it?!”

“It’s the kind of story where a normal person would die if they don’t hang on for two minutes.”

(1) Chizuru actually did say its 81+ restricted, rather than the usual 18+ restricted. Makes you wonder what went on...

“Then fine! I don’t need to hear it! Even though I’m really curious!”

“That’s disappointing.”

With a completely not-disappointed expression, Chizuru-san looked towards the Shiina sisters. It seemed like she implied “What about your stories?” by this.

The two sisters looked at each other, and then looked once at me. Minatsu gave her conclusion first. She turned towards the president.

“it’s not an episode I would want to waste so much time on that we get home late.....”

“Is that so?”

“If I had to say, it’s just a story of how I made Ken from a ‘guy’ to a ‘Man.’”(2)

“Even though that sounds really deep.....”

“Yes..... for example, it’s the story of a slight change, like how the power gain jumps from the original to Z to GT.”(3)

“Isn’t that a huge change?!(4) What happened to Sugisaki?!”

“Well, like I thought, it I don’t want to waste time so that we get home late.”

“It doesn’t seem that way to me!”

The president screamed in vain, and Minatsu continued preparing her bag to go home. It seemed like she was unwilling to talk.

(2) Minatsu uses 2 different kanji with the same reading. The first one she uses is “otoko” which means man. The second one is also pronounced “otoko,” but the kanji means “honorable man” or “man among men.”

(3) So at this point, it’s pretty clear Minatsu is making a Dragonball reference. Before that though, Kurimu mentions how it’s “really deep” using the phrase “sungoku” for the “really.” This sounds similar to “Son Goku” who is... well I probably don’t need to explain it. Also, power levels from the original to Z to GT... can that be defined as a “small change?”

(4) I guess it can’t.

Seeing how Minatsu acted, the president gave up, and this time turned toward Mafuyu-chan. “Umm...” Mafuyu-chan groaned.

“My meeting with Sugisaki-senpai.....Like with my sister, I guess it isn’t an amazing story?”(5)

“No, if it’s like your sister’s story then I’m sure it’ll be plenty amazing.....”

“All I did was rescue Sugisaki-senpai who collapsed in a park in the winter.....”

“That’s the most extraordinary situation so far! I want to know about that!”

“That was troublesome back then..... I mean, that’s because it was my first experience with a man.”

“Experience with a-”

The president’s face flushed red. Mafuyu-chan gently added onto that.

“Yes. Since Mafuyu grew up going to all-girl schools, it was Mafuyu’s first time lending Mafuyu’s shoulder to a man.....”

“Stop saying things in ways that can be misunderstood! I mean, don’t call something like that an experience with a man!”

“Then, Mafuyu almost got infected.”

“Why?! Was it bio-terrorism?!”

“At that time, Mafuyu was the kind of girl who believed that if a girl touched a boy they would get infected.”

“What kind of girl is that?!”

(5) Oddly, from here Mafuyu starts referring to herself in the first person, up until she starts using the third person again a few lines later.

That was the truth, so it's troubling..... it was very troublesome. Well, it was all due to the stupid sister who acted like she wasn't related to the event.....

Minatsu.

"Well, it wasn't a very important story. Let's hurry home already, Prez-san♪"

"Ehh?! It totally was important! I mean, Chizuru, Minatsu, Mafuyu-chan, I want to know about all of your episodes!"

"That's all for today!"

"Ah, Chizuru! Don't just end the meeting when you feel like it!"

With a backward glance at the fussing president, we each left the student council room. By the way, it looked like I could handle today's work at home, so I left with everyone too.

"Ah, waiiiit~! D, don't leave me behind!"

It seemed like she was a bit scared to be left alone in the clubroom late at night. The president followed after us with tears in her eyes. As everyone saw the president, we all happily laughed.

..... Yes. "Meetings" are very important, but maybe "how we meet" isn't really an important thing at all. I can say for sure. If it's these members..... even if we met differently, I would definitely come to love them like I do now.

"Hey, Chizuru! You can shorten it, so tell me how you met!"

"Now then, what should I do...?"

While wearing a malicious smile, Chizuru-san locked the student council room door.

The president gave up on asking Chizuru-san, and this time pouted at me.

"Sugisaki....."

"Ooh....."

I unexpectedly was affected by the president's moe.

"There's no helping it, how about I tell you....."

"R, really? Thanks Sugisaki!"

"Don't mention it."

After I was satisfied with seeing the president's innocent, delighted face, I gazed out of the window at the twilight. I looked at the backs of Chizuru-san and the Shiina sisters who had already walked ahead, and I was suddenly hit by a strong sense of nostalgia. At my suggestive expression, the president's expectations just seemed to grow.

This single day known as today had already ended.

As I faced and walked through the corridor toward the exit, looking off into the distance with a sad expression. I began speaking.

-

"Yeah..... this was fifteen years ago. On the night of a fierce storm, a man in a hood appeared. He had a single magnificent sword and a crying infant, while bearing a severe wound."

"Eeh?! This is going to be a grand story, isn't it?! I'm so excited!"

-

.....As usual, this became a story to trick the president.

-

For this last time, I had to make it into something that I could see Fujimi Fantasia doing, right? Yep.

[Nonexistent Epilogue]

<Staff Activity Report – Part Ninety-seven>

-

- Project to Incite Suspicion via the Circulation of Ghost Stories: Failed
- Investigation of Lunchtime Trends: Failed due to a disturbance caused by a strange in-school broadcast
- Using a Student Council Scandal as a Restraint Maneuver: No Observed Effect
- Interference in School Affairs with Methods Proportionate to Sugisaki Ken's Ideas: Failed.
- Staff Strategy Meeting: The end result was increased agitation. (Our surveillance of the student council room backfired.)
- Current State of the Student Council: Apparent increase in their strength of unity. They have become unpredictable.

-

General Impression in Relation to this Year's Student Council

-

In a word, they're extremely bad.

We will watch over them in the mean time, but this year's student council definitely seems to be troublesome.

The silver lining seems to be that the people in question lack self-awareness. But you could say that their lack of self-awareness makes them even more terrible.

-In any case, we must treat this seriously and urgently consider a method to deal with this.

-If you look at just the outcome, our results this year are wretched.

Even without <The Staff>'s censoring of ideas, we have begun to detect distortions."

-

As previously thought, that student council is dangerous.

For the future of <The Company>, they must be eliminated.

-

That said, if we directly act too much, it goes against <The Rules>.

How frustrating. This frustration leads to <the Staff's> dissonance, which allows the student council to operate without restriction, which in turn leads to more irritation for <the Staff>.

A perfect, vicious cycle.

There's already no way to delay it.

-

..... Soon, we will have to crush that student council.

“Don’t write with your head! Draw with your heart!”

As usual, the president stuck out her small chest and proudly spoke as if she were reciting something she probably read in some book.

I groaned with an, “Ugh,” and held my forehead. I was tired. Even though I could handle all the work, studying, and eroge that come up in a year, this task alone was too much.

I glared at the blank laptop screen.

If you were to watch someone as they only faced a monitor and clacked away on a keyboard, you would think, “That looks tiring.”

Furthermore, it’s even more tiring when it’s “writing.” What I mean is..... rather than your brain or body, it’ll exhaust your mind. It would be fine if you were writing about something you liked or a hobby, like Mafuyu’s recent fascination with “Writing Boy’s Love using People She Knows.” As it is for me now, I would call having the president force me into spitting out a story an emotional insult.

For example, the real me idolizes eroge. But when I’m narrating this story, I would be the very serious youth, “Vice President: Sugisaki Ken.” I would be the seriously serious student Sugisaki Ken.

Why must I..... I, who shouldn't have any literary talent, have a false personality that shares only my full name..... Moreover, I have to write in the first person as a character who has the opposite way of thinking I normally have.

However, I couldn't afford to stop writing. That was because.....

"Hey Sugisaki! Your hands stopped! Let's see..... wait, isn't this is still 'First Discussion: The Debating Student Council?!' What are you doing?! Everyone else is already thinking about what to put in the Final Discussion 'The Very Kind Student Council!'"

"Ooh..... I know already..."

While on the verge of crying, my fingers tapped away. The Story of "Sugisaki Ken."

<I had a thought. Illicit sexual relationships and the like are inexcusable. As my heart burned crimson with the flames of justice, I felt that I couldn't overlook such deeds.>

I wrote up to that and let out another sigh..... It's tiring. What is this? What is this bullying? What is this torture? This is too new. Writing torture. If I were a writer I probably wouldn't mind, but I am an amateur, the protagonist was the complete opposite of me, and I had to write endlessly about his mental state..... Tomorrow, would I start talking like the character? (1) Would I cast aside all of my eroge?

As I shed bitter tears in my heart, everyone in the student council continued their discussion..... Everyone besides the president showed a disconcerted expression.

“As for the Last Discussion, ‘The Very Kind Student Council,’ let’s make it completely different from the serious stuff we’ve been writing about up until now. Let’s show people that in reality, the student council is actually broad-minded and relatable to the common people. That’s what will really let us capture the people’s hearts!”

The president outrageously proclaimed this. The Shiina sisters and Chizuru-san looked at each other for a moment, and then, with dead eyes, gave their response.

“Sure...”

This isn’t good. She’s already going to try to pass this onto me. Her eyes told me she wouldn’t let the rampage stop.

Everyone seemed to pretend to agree; moreover, the president stuck her chest out.

1. What Ken said here was significantly different in Japanese. The character in his story refers to himself with the personal pronoun “boku” which is a masculine version of “I.” However, Ken uses the considerably more masculine version “ore.” In this line, Ken worries if he’ll change and end up referring to himself with “boku.”

“Specifically I mean..... that’s right. Things like how the student council also plays games and reads manga are good! But if you can also add parts that show how we don’t take things too far, that’s even better!”

“Sure...”

(Liar! Who was the one who took the initiative in wanting to playing card games in the student council room not long ago?!)

As I retorted in my mind, I wrote the First Discussion.

-

<The president spoke to the delinquent student council members.

“Stop it. When you hit a person, you hurt..... your own heart.”

The delinquent student council members were strongly moved by the president’s words, and they swore absolute obedience to the student council. My, Sugisaki Ken’s heart was also deeply moved. I was glad to work under this president, and I, from the heart –”>

-

I felt somewhat sick at what I wrote, but I ignored it. I was a writing machine. I cut off my own way of thinking. I imagined a different person who only shared my name. If I didn't think that..... do you think I'd be able to keep going?

Wait, who's this "President" person? The specifications the president told me to write for her appearance was, "Depict her with a filled out body line, with slender, long and voluptuous beautiful legs. Her face should overflow with refinement and she should be the embodiment of a young woman," but.....

..... No, forget it. Her name may be Sakurano Kurimu, but even so, she only shares her name.

As I continued writing, the discussion about the Last Discussion..... that is, the president pushing forward her opinions, continued.

"It'd be good if the last sentence were 'Today as well, the Hekiyou Private Academy student council splendidly did their activities.'"

"Yes, indeed it would be..."

(Ahhh..... I can't feel any life from Chizuru-san or the Shiina Sisters. As the writer, I was also pretty pitiful, but those girls who continued to endlessly listen to a plot they couldn't agree with really were.....)



It was the same as the time with the card games, but the president's rampage really was awful. It tears away "motivation," "energy," and "kindness" from other people.

In the first place, this time was different from "The Crimson Tragedy," because it was completely the president's fault. If the president weren't to blame, who should be?

"Isn't there a way to attack this newspaper club problem.....?"

A few days ago, the president muttered something like that. Now that I think about it, it was a "great foreshadowing," but I don't worry about everyday foreshadowing in my daily life.

That's why when the president said:

"We're going to make a publication! That's right! We should fight paper with paper!"

We were just surprised at first, but afterward, we thought, "Ah, damn it....." when we looked back to the foreshadowing and regretted not noticing it earlier. Chizuru-san especially seemed frustrated as she said, "We should've taken measures against this....."

The president's words were as such:

“We have no chance of winning with a similar newspaper. That’s why we’ll compete with a club activity that we can completely win.”

Indeed, with Toudou Lilia leading, the true ability of the newspaper club is bona fide. That’s why what the president said seemed plausible, but.....

“Now then, we instead will battle it out with stories! We will make known to all the students of the entire school our, the student council’s excellence by illustrating the activities of our daily lives in a half-documentary.”

Everyone thought, “What the hell’s a half-documentary?” But since the president’s face was already determined, we gave up.

And so..... we have this situation.

I was used to handling computers, and I was chosen to be the writer solely because my typing speed was faster. Aside from that, everyone else was meeting about the plot.

By the way, it seems like this book was seriously intended to be published. Some time ago the president talked with some publishing company called Fujimi Shobo. Apparently they were a light novel publishing company. (2)

2. Apparently there is also no fourth wall here.

“.....”

I looked at the story I wrote.

<The president is a wonderful woman. Under this lovely and unrivaled leader, this school would be the greatest school..... at this time, I, Sugisaki Ken, was convinced of this. It was the spring of my sixteenth year.>

“.....”

What demographic was this intended for? What kind of person would find this interesting? I can't imagine what the reader's face would be like at all. This wasn't even the slightest bit entertaining.

The title was “Ah, The Wonderful Student Council” or something like that. From here on, the students of this school were obligated to buy this with their textbooks..... It was cruel. In many ways, it was cruel.

While I exhaustedly continued writing, it seemed like the meeting had come to a stopping point. Maybe she wanted a change of pace or she wanted to share her pain, but Minatsu talked to me.

“Ken..... are you alright?”

“Well..... I’ve lived recklessly since last year, but today, it’s so painful that it looks like my heart may finally break.”

“For just this time, even I really sympathize with you. Let’s see, what’ve you written..... You really hung in there.”

Minatsu looked at me with respect. I was insanely glad, but I really didn’t have the energy to rejoice. Instead, I responded with a weak laugh. Minatsu looked at me with clouded eyes, as if I were a terminal cancer patient..... My face looked that bad huh?

“By the way Minatsu. About your portrayal –”

“Ah, I don’t care, as long as it’s fitting.”

“Well then, I’ll go with.....”

“Just be sure to include the words, ‘beautiful,’ ‘stylish,’ ‘dependable,’ ‘elegant,’ ‘the strongest,’ ‘magnificent yet delicate,’ ‘worthy of the title of war maiden,’ ‘Rising Air,’ (3) and things like that.....”

3. Minatsu says the words “Rising Air,” but the kanji she attached to it means “glittering wind god.”

“That’s not leaving it to me at all! Also, what’s with the last two that sounded like titles?!”

“They sound like something from a light novel, don’t they? Don’t they? For recent light novels, if there aren’t any strange powers or fancy names, don’t they die out?”

“I don’t need that! This isn’t even that genre!”

“Eeh? Then have special power users appear from chapter two. Come on, make it a fantasy~”

“You don’t know how to work on a story at all! I can’t even come up with how we would get there from the natural flow of the student council’s story! Damn it, the readers would say ‘Plot changed too much lolz.’” (4)

“Also, if you have the strongest being appear at the start, doesn’t it just get you fired up?”

“I don’t care! This isn’t a story of how he was before he became the strongest!”

“The last boss is ‘Echo of Death’ (5) who has the power to control death.”

“Isn’t that just Jakigan?! (6) But that does sound like he would be the strongest though! I wouldn’t want to fight him!”

“Ken’s power is ‘Chicken Chicken!’ (7) Its ability is –”

“Without your explanation, I can already tell it’s weak!”

“Readers are moved more intensely when a weak power beats a strong power you know.”

“I get the feeling that resourcefulness wouldn’t be able to make up for that gap!”

“The protagonist is the one who’s supposed to do something about that! I mean the writer!”

“That’s impossible! With my brain, I can’t think of any solutions aside from the protagonist suddenly leveling up!”

4. The forum slang used here was “warota,” which is the “past tense” of “warosu” which is the equivalent to “lol.” Apparently chatspeak can still follow basic conjugation rules.

5. See TL note 1 in the [Color Illustrations](#) section.

6. So, “jakigan” generally refers to a third “evil eye” that a character possesses, which is, well, evil and powerful. In this case, it’s a sort of subgenre where characters have similar abilities, like the power over death.

7. Minatsu says, “Chicken Chicken,” but the kanji she uses means “escape group chicken.” Doesn’t that just sound all powerful?

“That’s no good. That’s just a killjoy. It’s not awesome if you don’t end up winning under the starting conditions.”

“Then you think of something! You be the combat choreography supervisor!”

“No way, that’s a pain.”

“..... You...”

“By the way, Prez-san’s power is ‘All Cancel.’”(8)

“..... Ah, for some reason those two words are the only ones I don’t want to include in the novel.”

“I know, right?”

While speaking with Minatsu, I started writing the Second Discussion.

-

8. Once again, Minatsu says, “All Cancel,” but the kanji used means “arguing is pointless.” She already has that power though...

<It happened in an instant.

“... Eh?”

“You probably don’t even realize it. What my power is, I mean.”

“That’s..... im... possible...”

Before my very eyes, a mountain of corpses was created in an instant.

However..... My fear... was not... due to that sight.

I didn’t understand it. I couldn’t see it.

Before I could realize it, there was a mountain of corpses. No.

A mountain of corpses? Was it strange for many people to die? That’s not it.

There hadn’t even been any living beings around just a second ago.

Only...

"I can't do this anymooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooore!"

I stopped typing, threw my hands into the air and yelled. Minatsu pouted with a "Boo."

"Just work harder. Isn't this actually pretty good? Something like this, yeah."

"I'm tired! I'm just tired! Moreover, why is he the brother?!"

"You chose to do that yourself....."

"Yahh! This Second Discussion is rejected! This fantasy angle is rejected!"

"Eehh? So you're also throwing out all the excitement...?"

"In the first place, I don't see the point in making the student council the theme and then trying to make it intense!"

"If you say it like that, I don't get why we have to write a story of the student council."

"Ooh....."

That was true. But..... this and that were different issues. A setting with special power users is absolutely denied. I was seriously tired from all this writing.

Mafuyu must have seen Minatsu's and my exchange, because this time she came over to join in our conversation.

"Senpai, senpai."

"What is it Mafuyu-chan? Do you also have an idea?"

"Yes! Please include Mafuyu's idea too!"

"Alright, alright. Of course I, Sugisaki Ken, would listen to all beautiful girls' requests, so I will hear out your proposal with all my heart."

"Thank you very much! Now then..."

Mafuyu-chan began her proposal for the Second Discussion. As I listened, I resumed writing.

-

<I did not understand the true meaning of the violent throbbing I felt in my chest.

“Nii.....-san?” (9)

“Little brother.”

Thump. (10)

Huh? What is this? This tightening pain..... what is it?

Those flawless muscles. That refined yet dependable chest. And those graceful features.

At my brother’s entirety, my heart ached.

“Little brother..... I’ve missed you.....”

“Echo of Death Nii-san.....” (11)

“..... Little brother.”

Squeeze. (12)

Echo of Death Nii-san embraced me.

Instantly, my cheeks flushed red.

“Ah..... Nii.....-san.”

“..... Little..... brother.”

The distance between us two shortened.

From within the mountain of corpses, we then shouted our love with our hearts.

Our two faces grew closer. Aah..... Nii-san.

“.....”

9. Sugisaki (story ver.) here is referring to his “brother” as “Nii-san,” a somewhat familiar way to refer to one’s older brother.

10. The actual sound used was “kyun” which more or less is the “sound” of the tightening of one’s chest. You know what I mean. We just don’t have a sound for it.

11. Ok, so, outside of the BL context, I would love to have a brother named Echo of Death. It wouldn’t matter if he happened to be a failure at life or something, he’d still have the name Echo of Death.

12. These single word onomatopoeia... anyway, “gashi” is a sound implying a firm grasp.

“.....”

And then..... as if filled with desire, our lips- > (13)

-

“What’s with this developmeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeent?!”

“You wrote quite a bit before retorting..... you’re good with drama senpai!”

“I don’t need that kind of praise!”

I shouted at Mafuyu-chan. Normally I would never take this attitude towards her, but in this case I was just about at my limit.

But I guess this was something that Mafuyu-chan wouldn’t let go this time, and she fearlessly opposed me.

“Isn’t that good?! You have talent, senpai!”

13. Not so much a translation note, but a text note. As the sentence continued on, kanji stopped appearing, showing how Sugisaki never even finished typing. Usually, you would hit a key (in my case, the spacebar) to convert typed character combinations to their respective kanji when you are done typing the sentence.

“It’s also unusual to have a talent that you’ve been afraid to develop up until now!”

“Just a little more! At least until the two of them get into bed!”

“Stop it! I’ve been trying to separate myself from him, but here, sharing the same exact name is incredibly painful! Someone save me from this!”

“Get used to it! It’s the same in eroge, senpai! If you overcome this resistance, you won’t think it’s embarrassing anymore!”

“I don’t even want to come near overcoming my resistance!”

“Being selfish is a no-no, senpai!” (14)

“Damn it, you’re always too cute!”

-

<The two of them got into bed. It was an exciting night.>

14. The phrase Mafuyu uses is usually used by parents to scold children and pets. The youngest member of the student council is treating Sugisaki like a bad child.

-

“Thank you senpai!”

“You are welcome!”

I wrote as I cried..... I’ve been defiled. I..... have been defiled, Asuka, Ringo. By the hands of the student council, I have been defiled. I don’t mean my body. My heart, by Mafuyu-chan of all people, has been recoated. In jet black. No, in a way, in pink.

I was completely burnt out, and it seemed like Chizuru-san and the president’s meeting had ended.

The two of them came over to see how I was doing.

The peered over at the computer. And then..... the two third years became stiff.

“K, Key-kun..... this is.....”

“Sugisaki..... you.....”

“Don’t look! Don’t look at it! Don’t..... I’ve been defiled! Don’t look at me with those eyes!”

I hugged the laptop to myself while crying. Chizuru-san consoled me with a, “There there.” There was warmth in those words, like that time in the infirmary.

“Ooh..... Chizuru-san, Chizuru-san!”

“Yes, it was scary..... it’s alright..... you’re fine now, Key-kun.”

“Chizuru-san~ I..... I.....”

“It’s alright, Key-kun..... after all, back when we first met, you were already sullied beyond all hope.”

“CHIZURU-
SAAANN!”

I was stabbed by her final blow. The secretary was not on my side after all.

To the broken-hearted me, the president whispered something in my ear.

I continued writing as she spoke to me.

-

<Hooray for the president. Hooray for the president. Hooray for the president.
Hooray for the president. Hooray for the president. Hooray for the president.
Hooray for the president. Hooray for the president. Hooray for the president.
Hooray for the president. Hooray for the president. Hooray for the president.
Hooray for the president. Hooray for the president.

The president was our pride. The president was our life.

Without the president, there is no world.

A world without the president is worthless.

Through my brother's embrace...

I felt that.>

-

"Fufufu..... looking good, Sugisaki."

"Hehe..... You're already our puppet..... Hehehe."

“Key-Kun. Don’t lose sight of yourself!”

“Chizuru-san!”

“Remember, Key-kun... Your true self.....”

“Chizuru-san.....”

Life began returning to my eyes. Chizuru-san gently smiled at me.

“Now remember, Key-kun..... Remember the time that you were my servant!”

“CHIZURU-
SAAANN!”

It seems like a new, strange past was imprinted into my memories.

<After my honeymoon with nii-san, I proceeded to the student council room. Waiting for me there..... comfortably lounging in a large red sofa, was Chizuru-san. Her legs crossed, she gazed at me with enchanting eyes.



“Key-kun. If you were to abandon your student council duties... if you were to do that, would you be prepared for the consequences?”

“F, forgive me, Chizuru-san.”

“‘Chizuru-san?’ Call me ‘Your Highness!’”

“Yes, Your Highness!” (15)

“Good boy, Key-kun.

“Auu...”

I was embarrassed. For me, getting praised by Her Highness was the greatest pleasure.

Chizuru-san smiled and laughed with a “fufufu.”

“Now listen up, Key-kun. As you always do..... Lick my shoes!”

15. When Chizuru said it, it had the kanji “hidenka” attached to it, meaning “Her Royal Highness.” Also, if you’ve seen Code Geass, then you’ve heard this phrase plenty of times.

“Yes..... Your Highness!”

I simply could not help but love being kicked by her!

I served at Her Highness’s feet, taking her shoes and leisurely ->

-

“Gaga, gagagagaga – ”(16)

“Oh my. It seems Key-kun broke before the computer did.”

“Gaga, gagagaga, gagagagaga – ”

“Hm..... It can’t be helped. Key-kun. I’m going to count down from three, and you’re going to return to your usual self. Here we go..... 3, 2, 1, now!”

“GaGaGaBun – ha!? Just what was I.....?” (17)

16. Presumably the sound of gears grinding. Or some other sound of machinery breaking and not working.

17. GaGaGaBun is another light novel publishing company. Some of their more recently known series are Sasami-san@Ganbaranai, Oregairu, and GJ-bu, just to name a few. Do some of those sound familiar? Even in a state of mental disarray, Sugisaki manages to make a reference.

I felt like time suddenly jumped forward.

What was I doing..... all this time.....?

Chizuru-san gently smiled at me.

“No need to worry, Key-kun. I will always..... be on your side.”

“Chizuru-san.....You really are a saint!”

“Fufufu, I am no such thing..”

Chizuru-san was being modest. Next to me, Minatsu and Mafuyu-chan muttered things like, “That..... that’s the true power of the secretary?” and, “In a way, you’re already like an evil mastermind..... Chizuru-senpai...” I paid no mind.

In all the chatter, I wondered how the Second Discussion was mysteriously completed without me noticing. The content..... I didn’t dare to read. For some reason, my survival instinct was warning me not to look. I didn’t understand why, but I obediently did as I was warned.

I continued writing, beginning the Third Discussion. As I did that, the other members immediately squealed their ideas to me, but I was already furious so I shouted loudly in response.

“No!”

“...!”

“So far I’ve painfully listened to all of your ideas! Just let me do what I want for the Third Discussion!”

“Su, Sugisaki! Are you ignoring a presidential order – ?!”

“This is a compromise, Prez. Let me have the Third Discussion..... you can do what you want for the rest. Otherwise, I’ll be selfish and drop writing this. Those are your two options.”

“Kuh..... I get it, Sugisaki. Do as you like for just the Third Discussion.”

With a frustrated face, the president withdrew. Likewise, the other members had sour looks on their faces. (18) Most likely, they had an idea of what would happen if they left me to do as I pleased.

I took pleasure in their expressions, and as I began writing, a twisted smile came to my face.

18. The actual phrase used by Sugisaki said, “They made faces as if they had bitten into a bitter bug.”

-

<Currently in the student council room, four beautiful girls were gathered.

Sakurano Kurimu, Akaba Chizuru, Shiina Minatsu, Shiina Mafuyu.

All together, they turned their passionate gaze toward me..... Sugisaki Ken.

She must not have been able to take it anymore, because the most passionate one of them, Minatsu, raised her voice.”

“Aaah, Ken! I..... I can’t take it anymore! I..... I...!

“Now wait, Minatsu. I love everyone. I can’t do that..... to only one specific person.”

At my nihilistic smile, Minatsu shivered with a moan.

“No way..... I, I already can’t stop my love for you!”

“Now now, don’t look at me with such passionate eyes, Minatsu. If you do that.....”

“That’s not fair onee-chan! E, even though Mafuyu has also always loved Sugisaki-senpai!”

Suddenly, Mafuyu-chan who always fidgeted to herself, declared loudly with a red face. For an instant, Minatsu’s eyes trembled, but the next moment she voiced her objection to her sister.

“Sorry, Mafuyu. But..... that is the one thing I won’t forgive!”

“Ma, Mafuyu also won’t lose this to onee-chan!”

“Mafuyu.....”

“Onee-chan.....”

The Shiina sisters fought over me. It was a warzone.

I watched over them with a composed smile and nonchalantly checked to see what was poking my knee from under my desk.

Reflexively, I looked forward. Chizuru-san impishly winked at me.

At the same time, we made eye contact.

(Key-kun..... I also..... I also feel the same way about you..... So..... would you please.....)

(Whoa there, you can't do that, Chizuru-san.)

(Wh, why...?)

(That's called being unfair, Chizuru-san. You aren't the only one..... who has fallen in love with me.)

(But Key-kun! I..... I.....!)

(Whoa, I said no! You're making me angry Chizuru-san! She'll..... find out about our eye contact.)

(Eh?)

In confusion, Chizuru-san looked side to side. There..... was the president, frowning.

It seemed like she was jealous of Chizuru-san and I..... Such a cute girl.

“Chizuru and Sugisaki..... What are you doing, staring at each other?”

“Wha, n, no way. Aka-chan, you’re over thinking... it...”

Chizuru-san stumbled over out-of-character lines. With a bored expression she glanced at Chizuru-san, and then looked over at me.

Looking at me, she awkwardly spoke.

“Th, this is a presidential order, Sugisaki.”

“What is it, Prez?”

“Go..... go out with me!”

“Prez.....”

The president flushed red with her confession and I looked into her eyes.

With that..... this time Chizuru-san and the Shiina sisters voice their complaints →

-

“Rejected.”

“AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!”

Just as I was getting into the swing of things, the president who had gotten a hold of the mouse without me realizing deleted everything I had written up to that point. While the president voiced her complaints, Chizuru-san typed away, making it impossible to recover my writing.

For some reason, the Shiina sisters held a hand to their chests and breathed a sigh of relief. I was enraged!

“Wha, what have you done?! You monster!”

“No matter how you look at it, that’s my line!”

The president snapped at me. But for the sake of my personal masterpiece, I fought back this time.

“Even though up until now, you’ve all been strictly doing just what you want!”

“We’re different from your depiction by a whole dimension!” (19)

“That’s not true! Isn’t that depiction based mostly on reality?!”

“It’s a storm of fiction! I didn’t see even a single element of reality in there!”

“Echo of Death and boy’s love aren’t from reality either!”

“No! In the worst case scenario, this is even more terrible!”

To think she would insult my work so much...

I felt depressed, and for some reason Minatsu also looked down, saying, “C’mon, don’t use the Echo of Death stuff as an example.....” Mafuyu-chan also sulked, saying, “Ooh..... Mafuyu believes that somewhere in this world, there is definitely real boy’s love...”

Chizuru-san, the only one who was calm among the exhausted rest of us, let out a sigh and spoke.

19. 2D vs. 3D, Fiction vs. Reality. That’s what she means.

“In any case..... Since I also fooled around, I probably don’t have the right to say this, but..... At the very least..... as we are now, we’ll never be able to surpass that newspaper club.”

“.....”

Those words were enough to throw us into deeper depression. After all, everyone..... already knew that perfectly well.

I took over where Chizuru-san left off.

“That newspaper club..... may be rotten, but it’s our school’s proud newspaper club..... right? Its..... its club activities, wouldn’t lose to mere clumps of delusions like this.”

At my words, the president said:

“Hmph! Of course! Our school’s newspaper club is amazing after all!”

And for some reason she sided with the newspaper club..... No, everyone expected that reaction from the start.

The president..... the president who was loved more than any other in this school, simultaneously valued the student's activities more than anyone. And the newspaper club was one of those activities.

But, that is exactly why she would put her full effort in.

Because she didn't want the newspaper club to write strange stories and trip people up.

That is exactly why, for the sake of a single club, she would have the entire student council put forth their effort into an activity.

Minatsu laughed.

"For amateurs to want to beat that newspaper club by just writing about their hobbies aren't we taking this a little too lightly?"

Following that, Mafuyu-chan muttered.

"The newspaper club..... is amazing. Reporting interesting truths..... not fantasies, but certain truths that people enjoy..... They're different from full publications, but that's why they're amazing. Was it..... called an editorial.....? For us to not acknowledge that..... isn't that a bit..... blasphemous?"

At Mafuyu-chan's words, we all kept silent.

It's not like..... anyone would think their own fantasies were boring. In a sense, these fantasies were plenty fun, and I'm sure they would be able to please someone.

But.

It was also true that this kind of writing would probably never beat the writing of a person who seriously invested himself or herself in the craft.

In short...

"I guess my proposal..... kind of missed the point, huh.....?"

It was obvious that we would end up at that conclusion.

The president lost her energy and looked down.

But..... I spoke.

"No..... Prez, your suggestion... wasn't... wrong."

“Sugisaki?”

I felt that this person hadn't made a mistake.

After all, this person was the person who considered the newspaper club..... who thought about this school and stood up for this plan.

Her mentioning this a few days ago is proof of this.

At the very least, the president carefully considered her options over the span of a few days.

That's why, even if everyone was taken aback by the president's rampage, no one would interfere no one would deny the plan. Even if everyone weren't in high spirits, they would accept what the president said.

That's how it was.

But we lost sight of our goal and went in a weird direction.

The feelings we held from the start were definitely not wrong.

At least, no matter who rejects her, I, as that person's constant subordinate..... her ally..... her support..... I would want to be with her as the one she considers her "vice president."

That is why.

For this child president, I will smile.

"I accept that the newspaper club is better, but on the other hand, it's true that they sometimes take things too far. It's fine if it's just at the level where the student council is paying attention, but at some point..... for example if they made enemies of the teachers or the PTA, it would be a serious issue."

"Sugisaki....."

"For that reason, as Prez says, we have to break their nose at least once. Someone has to point out their super-extended nose." (20)

"Though I say that, if we talk down to them, that newspaper club probably won't listen."

20. If you're overly self-absorbed, proud, things like that, you get a long nose. That's apparently how it works in Japan. You could say it's a representation of an overinflated ego. Yeah, we'll go with that.

“In that case, they would notice us best on an equal playing field..... in the medium of writing. It’s as Prez proposed. With our writing..... let’s remember our original goal and beat them.”

At my words, Chizuru-san and the Shiina sisters smiled, and I looked at the president.

Just a little bit, the president..... for just a moment her eyes watered, but the next instant she was back to her usual energetic self, and then gave me an order.

“Alright! Now, Sugisaki! This is a presidential order!”

“What is it, Prez?”

-

“Depict the student council as you see fit!”

-

“.....Eh?”

Her words surprised me, and I looked back at her. For some reason, all the other members also gave me approving looks.

“Wai, I, I’ll end up writing something like the last one, and –”

“Nope. It’s alright. Sugisaki, if it’s you, its fine.”

“.....”

“You know, I just thought..... to write about this student council..... to write about this splendid student council as it is, would be just fine.”

“Prez.....”

So... probably..... the only one who could depict the student council as we are, is you, Sugisaki. So..... yeah. Sugisaki. I leave the writing... to you.”

“Prez.....”

I muttered that. As I looked around at everyone, I asked.

“Is it alright for me to?”

At my question, Minatsu, Mafuyu-chan and Chizuru-san answered.

“Of course, Ken.”

“Mafuyu also thinks that Sugisaki-senpai’s writing is good.”

“Rather, no one aside from Key-kun could depict this student council. That, I declare. That, I guarantee.”

“Everyone.....”

I felt their looks of trust throughout my body.

And then...

I looked straight into the president’s eyes and gave her my answer.

-

“Roger that, Prez. I’ll depict this student council with all I’ve got.”

-

At my words, the president looked glad.

“Good, please do..... Ah, I just have one request!”

“...? What is it?”

“When you’re all set and done writing, let us do a little revision.”

“...? Umm..... that’s fine, but why?”

“Ehehe, that’s a secret.”

As the president muttered that, for some reason everyone else, as if they knew what the president was talking about, laughed with a big grin..... What? Am I the only one who doesn’t get it?

As I was confused, Chizuru-san and the Shiina sisters backed up the president.

“That’s right. Then, how about after the first and last chapter, we add in own scenes? After all, there are also times we talk without Key-kun around.”

“Oh, that sounds good! Leave the start and end to us!”

“Ma, Mafuyu will also work hard! There’s..... there’s something that Mafuyu really wants to add in!”

At everyone’s excitement, I gulped. Kuh..... It can’t be helped.

“I understand..... yeah, I understand I’ll leave all of the first chapter and the end of the book to you.”

With a sigh, I said that, and the president nodded with an, “Alright then!”

Good grief.

And so, just like that, I came to write this story. Aah... so tired.

There were a lot of meta remarks, and that's basically because I'm the writer. But in reality, that's the usual impression we give off. If the "full scale" of ourselves got through because of that, then that's good.

Now then, this should be about the end of the first volume. Finally, we catch up chronologically..... I'm completely exhausted. Well, recalling student council activities isn't really troubling or anything. Thanks to the "Activity Log" that Chizuru-san had put together at some point, it was pretty easy to accurately describe those times.

Well anyways, it was fun. Yeah..... I had fun, but I guess the real question is whether the readers had fun with it. Hell, I really don't care. In any case, the only people who this would be sold to are the students here. And do you really think I would be able to stand giving a crap about you readers (students)?"

..... So now, at the end, I have one thing to say to you students.

-

My women are more than just their appearances! So be sure to look carefully!

-

..... Well, that's it.

-

Ah. I forgot an important notice! That was close!

Ahem. I, Sugisaki Ken am in the middle of recruiting highly praised girlfriends! Students (restricted to beautiful girls) who have fallen in love with me due to this book are welcome to come to the student council room. You will receive a warm welcome. If that's too embarrassing, a letter is also OK!

We look forward to having you..... no, really. Seriously, no need to hold back. Come on down with everything you've got, because we won't refuse anyone. And if you have free time, by all means contact the student council room. Ah, in the case that you're not a student from here, please write your school address and telephone number –

-

* Due to the page limit, this has been cut down. (Editorial Staff)

So, I guess Chizuru is forcing me to do this. Ooh..... She could've just left this to the Shiina sisters. I have no idea what I should write here..... you know what, I'll just write about Sugisaki. I mean, the guy is such a coward. The book is written in the first person point of view, but he didn't write about himself at all!

Moreover, considering Sugisaki wrote this, I thought he would just depict himself exactly like he is..... as just a guy who clowns around..... and it was exactly like I expected. When I read the manuscript, I saw he wrote himself in like he was seriously just some skirt-chaser. Geez.....

Since we had no other choice, we thought we would take this chance to help him out a bit. That's what we meant when we said we wanted to write this no matter what.

Ah, don't get me wrong! It was for the sake of the student council's popularity! It's not like we were worried about Sugisaki personally or something. It's not like that! Seriously!

-

Now then...

Um, you probably understood this when we were talking about the past.

Sugisaki Ken is, well..... a good guy.

Ah, it really is embarrassing to write this. But I have to write it. Around the time of the First Discussion, I told Chizuru that it would be nice if we wrote a novel but..... N, no. Like I thought, as the president, I have to be the representative and say this. Yeah.

Since we were told to just write about the way things were, we just wrote everything down that we were thinking, so umm... I want you to forgive us. Sorry if it was hard to read.

Well, um...

You see, the person known as Sugisaki Ken is, as he appears and as you imagine, the person who is described in this book.

He's an idiot, he's a pervert, he truly thinks harems are the best, his weakness is girls.....

..... Just writing that down really is enough to annoy me. Why do I have to do something like back him up..... Well, it can't be helped anyway.

Well, Sugisaki definitely is "that kind of guy," you know?

Though really..... he's not "just that," I guess. Yeah.

This was referenced back in Chizuru's part, but he truly is our support.

Take me personally for example.

This is just between us..... umm..... I really had no confidence at all that I was fit to be the president.

But you know, to keep going as the president..... although it pains me to admit it, it's definitely thanks to Sugisaki that I was filled with self-confidence.

Because he is there, I can be there as the president.

Because he, as the vice president supports me, Sakurano Kurimu is the student council president.

Moreover..... I guess in the end, as a girl, I truly am happy.

We ended up winning that "popularity contest." During that..... Sugisaki unconditionally accepted us just based on appearance..... and I'm thankful for that. Truly.

This didn't just apply to me either. This is probably something that every girl on the student council worries about.

That was how this system worked... of course, there were lots of people supporting us..... but there were definitely a few people who didn't like us.

-
"Acting so proud even though you were only chosen based off of looks..."

Those heartless words..... we definitely heard them.

Because that much was obvious, we didn't have the urge to object to that. So people wouldn't tell us that anymore, we decided to work hard.

But..... painful things are painful after all.

Sometimes..... I felt like crying. I felt like giving up.

But you know, at those times, when I go to the student council room, Sugisaki is there and he'd say something like this:

-
"Today Prez is as cute as ever~ Ah, really, so moe! Damn it, I want you all to myself! I adore you! Seriously, seriously! I love you Prez!"

-
It really was a laughable, stupid thing to say...

But.

I laughed. No matter how I felt. No matter how hard a day it had been.

That guy, really...

He's the type of idiot whose head is only filled with lewd things, things for the sake of being popular, things to make people smile...

But that's exactly why...

-
He only had happiness in his head.
-

It was the happiness of others, and also his own happiness.

I've only just recently noticed this, but somehow, it seems like he has his own set of rules he follows.

With people he seriously dislikes, he doesn't act stupid around them in the slightest.

Despite him going on about harems and things, he never looks down on women (Rather, it's more like he worships them).

You may think he's chivalrous, but he surprisingly takes care of the guys too.

..... Wait, why did I end up supporting him with all of this.....? Ah, great, now I ended up writing something weird! But Chizuru told me not to erase anything once I wrote it..... Ooh.....

Ahem.

Back to the story. Sugisaki is..... in many ways, a person who makes other people smile. (1)

Sometimes I wonder, "If that guy became president, wouldn't it be interesting?"

By my own efforts, I now also have confidence in myself.

However, I'm sure the school he would create would, somehow or another, be pretty fun.

He just talks about getting a harem, but it seems like Sugisaki loves making lots of other people happy.

Really..... it wouldn't surprise me if Sugisaki became an important person someday.

Not just in the student council.

(1) Literally said "me ga waratteiru," meaning "her eyes were laughing."

Once before, I tried to peek into his classroom. The place was overflowing with happiness.

Sugisaki and Minatsu were together, and they were both making everyone smile.

But..... it was frustrating. Sure, at that time I was..... probably jealous. I guess..... I guess at that point, I had the feeling that Sugisaki had stopped being *only our* Sugisaki.

Ah, d, don't get me wrong! I'm not saying that I, um, li, li, li, like Sugisaki, alright!

Hoo..... Do I really need to write all of it this honestly..... really?

Chizuru said that, "Aka-chan writing it like that would definitely make it more interesting."

It bothered me that she seemed to be laughing at me on the inside.

..... Whatever.

Anyways, we don't want to think of him as just a simple fool..... although, he really is just a simple fool in reality.

I wonder why..... we make a lot of harsh complaints about Sugisaki, but when other people badmouth him, we surprisingly get annoyed.

..... Right, that was it. I ended up writing all of this junk because of that thing from before.

So then... I'll explain.

This one time, I happened to run into Mafuyu-chan while we were both shopping in town. At that time, she was being hit on by guys from another school.

Mafuyu-chan still cowers in front of men who aren't Sugisaki, so she was scared stiff and I had to confront them.

Then, one of them, as if trying to figure out a common topic to talk about said this:

-

“Hekiyou, isn’t that where Sugisaki is the vice-president? I went to the same middle school as the guy.

“Haha, did you know? That guy, he two-timed when he was in middle school, and then stopped coming to school when his step-sister got hospitalized. He got what he deserved, and on top of that, he skipped class? That pissed us off, so we used him as a pretty good punching bag for those three years.

“That’s not even the funny part. No matter how much we hit him, the guy wouldn’t complain at all! Seriously, he that was some good stress relief. I told others, and in the end, people from other schools also came to hit him.

“Even then, he didn’t resist at all! In fact, he was letting himself get hit! He was always muttering high and mighty things like, “I hurt those two..... this much doesn’t even compare.....”

“Ah, you should too! If you’ve built up stress, you should take it out on him! You’re in the same school right? How about next time, we’ll get you to –”

-

That’s all I heard from that guy about Sugisaki.

The next moment, Mafuyu-chan..... the Mafuyu-chan who was terribly afraid of men and was nervous around girls... the same Mafuyu-chan who used to firmly believe that coming in contact with men would taint her...

With all her might, she slapped the man standing in front of me in the face.

Then...

I saw that, and a second later...

From the opposite side I also reflexively smacked him.

Yeah, that’s right, I tightly, *tightly* clenched my hand and smacked him! I even added a spin to it!

Well of course, right after, Mafuyu-chan and I ran like hell as the guys stared blankly at us.

..... It's not just Mafuyu-chan and I. I'm sure that if they were in the same situation, Minatsu and Chizuru would definitely do the same thing.

..... What was I trying to say again?

.....

Th, this kinda makes it sound like we're in love with Sugisaki, doesn't it.....?

A, ahem!

Th, that is not the case!

Ah, geez!

A, anyway.

As I was saying, Sugisaki is a good guy! Just understand that!

Don't worry about us, if you've read this book and have come to like Sugisaki, then we're glad.

Now, if you're a student at Hekiyou Academy...

Please, in the next election, vote for Sugisaki as president.

I'm sure of it.

I'm sure that he would give you an entertaining school life!

That is..... the only thing we want to tell you.

-

By the way, this afterward has become something that Sugisaki isn't allowed to read. So no one is allowed to show him, alright?! I mean, if Sugisaki saw this, it's obvious that he'd quickly start to get ideas and say things like, "Prez! Jump into my arms! No, let me hug you!"

..... Well, I guess I would like a hug.....

A, ahem!

-

Now then...

-

Th, that is all! Great, now that it looks like I've dug my own grave, I won't say anymore.

-

Umm, purezentido bai student council president, Sakurano Kurimu! (2)

Teh end! (3)

-

*

-

Note:

The last misspelling somehow ended up like something Aka-chan would do, so I sent it to the publisher as is.

-

Akaba Chizuru

(2) This one bugged me for a while because it was written in hiragana, but she's speaking in English (really badly). She's saying "presented by" if you haven't figured it out.

(3) As Chizuru mentions, this is a spelling mistake made by Kurimu herself. The effect is pretty much lost in translation however. Normally she would have written "owari!" meaning "the end!" But she seems to have missed a key. She ended up typing "owati" (which would come up as "owachi" because Japanese lacks the exact sound for "ti") which in Japanese sounds like a cute/childish way to say it, much like how Kurimu probably would.

For those of you who know of me from this book, it is nice to meet you. For those of you who already know me from my previous web novels, my blog, or elsewhere, it is good to see you again. Aoi Sekina here.

This may be sudden, but for some reason, there was a seven page afterword this time... whoops.

“What was troublesome?” you ask? The content of my last work, “Material Ghost,” had a comparatively serious tone, so the afterword was absurd in contrast.

-

The content of the work this time is absurd, so I had no idea what to write.

-

So what should I do? Like in the main part of this volume, should I have tried to make it up by having a one-man argument about the afterword?

In the first place, I wonder how someone who learned of my work through this book would think about the author.

And then I wonder what impression the people who have continued reading since Material Ghost have.

To help explain, my previous series, “Material Ghost,” was a pretty serious story. It had gags and love comedy moments too, but from the start it was the type of story where the protagonist attempted suicide and the heroine was a ghost, and the setting just got heavier from there (But even then it had slice of life and gag parts too).

Since I debuted with such a series, I find it interesting to think about how well this work, “Seitokai no Ichizon,” attracted the readers of my last work.

Oops.

I forgot to consider the people browsing in the store who haven't read the contents yet (Or otherwise the people who read the afterword first).

If I were to describe this work, "The Student Council's Discretion – Hekiyou Academy Student Council's Minutes 1," in one word ...

-

A joke. That is all.

-

.....Well. To be specific, it's a work of loosely related short stories that's 90% jokes and less than 10% serious. For those that know MateGho, (1) please think about that work, "seeing as I extracted the daily life and joke elements and expanded on them."

As an author, I tried to make it feel like a "four-panel novel" sort of genre. (2)

For now, allow me to give a short, detailed synopsis.

The setting is the student council room. Almost no other places appear. There, we get the story of four beautiful girls and one perverted boy (the protagonist) who, every time, talk about a given topic, digress from it, then digress from that, and then digress from that. It is a novel of idle chatter..... the hell's with this genre?

Because this is a work of loosely connected stories, it doesn't really matter where you start reading. But since once in a while there'll be a line that seems to reference a previous part, I would greatly prefer it if you normally read it from the beginning. The book is in chronological order.

For you who want to read while jumping around, I won't stop you, so do as you please. (3) My recommendation is to "read while fighting with the fate of the world at stake." For maximum thrill. If the mankind is one step away from annihilation but you can save the world while reading a light novel in your spare time, you're too cool.

-

Now then, as for why I went and created this novel...

For one thing, the main reason I wrote it is because I've always loved "day-to-day type" stories.

If you think about it, having no particular danger, being nonchalant and slowly passing time is a pretty appealing theme.

Of course, I also like the opposite, with intense development. With this work, I tried to specialize in daily life and gags.

So, I have one more reason for suddenly changing from MateGho to gag specialization.

Before this work, the new work I was planning followed in MateGho's footsteps as a super serious and intense fantasy work (Modern Day x Alternate World) (4), but thanks to that, it ended up too intense and became a pretty dark work.

As a test, I got the idea, "Well, let's try writing the opposite, a work that is light and makes you laugh from beginning to end." After writing several chapters and sending them to the previous manager, I was surprised to find out that the thing I had tried out was good, and so I decided to continue in this direction.

(1) In case you couldn't tell, that's how he abbreviates "MATERial GHOS.t."

(2) Referencing four-panel (4koma) manga, where each strip is 4 panels long for a quick joke. If you're familiar with them, you could probably notice how this series almost does read like that.

(3) The term he used was "akurobatto na yomikata," which literally translate to "acrobatic way of reading."

(4) He means to say that its setting was the crossing of our modern-day world with that of an alternate world.

When it came to this point, I also went with the flow and threw a bunch of random jokes into the novel. But in addition, since the editorial department got carried away and gave it the OK, as an author I got even more carried away..... and so it ended up as the beginning of an epic series of getting carried away that makes you say, “Is this for real?” It might be a bit late to ask this, but is it alright for this novel to be like this?

Because both the author and editors take this attitude, we would prefer that rather than the “seriously read word for word without missing a beat” approach, you read with a sort of “I’m free so I’ll read a chapter and have a laugh” sort of attitude.

-

In regards to the series elements, there were various developments here and there, but since the story is definitely “talking about pointless things in the student council room,” please keep that in the back of your mind. As the people themselves have stated, the final chapter won’t be something like, “The Student Council Jumps into Space for the Super Final Battle!” Probably (because almost anything can happen here).

-

Well, now to talk about what happens after this. I had written this with the intention of making it into a series, so it will continue.

At the moment the second volume..... is “The Student Council’s Duplicity – Hekiyou Academy Student Council’s Minutes 2,” and is planned to take place in the Spring.

The contents will be the same as usual..... or should I say it will get even more carried away even faster. I guess you could say the engine’s been revved.

For the second volume, I also added in something that will make readers of my previous work grin, so please look forward to it. Of course, even if you haven’t read my previous work, that’s not a problem. If you’ve already read this volume,

you probably understand that this is *that* kind of book (smirk). You won't lose out on the story if you don't know, so don't worry about it.

-

..... Somehow, it feels like it's been a while since I've seriously written an afterword. I'm thinking that next time I'll write a silly afterword again. After all, the explanation is over now. Or rather, when writing a novel with this sort of content, I feel like I need to pretend to be serious at least at some point.

Oh right, in this work there are many manga and novel references that appear. But those are simply works that I like, so if you could understand them, then I am glad.

..... But even so, those guys at the Fujimi Shobo editorial department. They don't appreciate them. "That reference made sense....." How many times did I get praised like that while writing this work? They're some interesting adults (laughs).

-

For that reason, this work especially is made up by the support of various people.

In this work that continually calls out "beautiful girl," the illustrations of these exceptional "beautiful girls" were provided by Inugami Kira-san. I can't express my thanks enough. When I first saw the illustration for Prez, I approved and said, "She would be elected president."

And then, the manager and former manager, with whom it was a pleasure getting carried away and making this adventure of a work. Ever since my last work they let me be quite selfish.

By the way, there are improvements everywhere in this work from "the manager's ideas." In that sense, this book is by no means made up from just my ideas. Thank you all so much.

To everyone in the editorial department, for kindly letting this project go through, you have my sincere gratitude.

And now to you readers who have picked up this book. Because there are many different novels out there, for just choosing this one, you have my gratitude. (5) Thank you very much.

To those who have finished reading this volume, I don't know what else to say to you. I wonder if this book was able to make you sniffle or smile, even for an instant. If even one thing was able to entertain you, then I am glad.

-

Now then, if possible, until the next volume,

-

-

Aoi Sekina

(5) This includes you people who didn't give this brilliant man your money.



9784829132524

ISBN978-4-8291-3252-4

C0193 ¥560E

定価：本体560円(税別)



1920193005608

富士見書房

生徒会の一存

碧陽学園生徒会議事録1

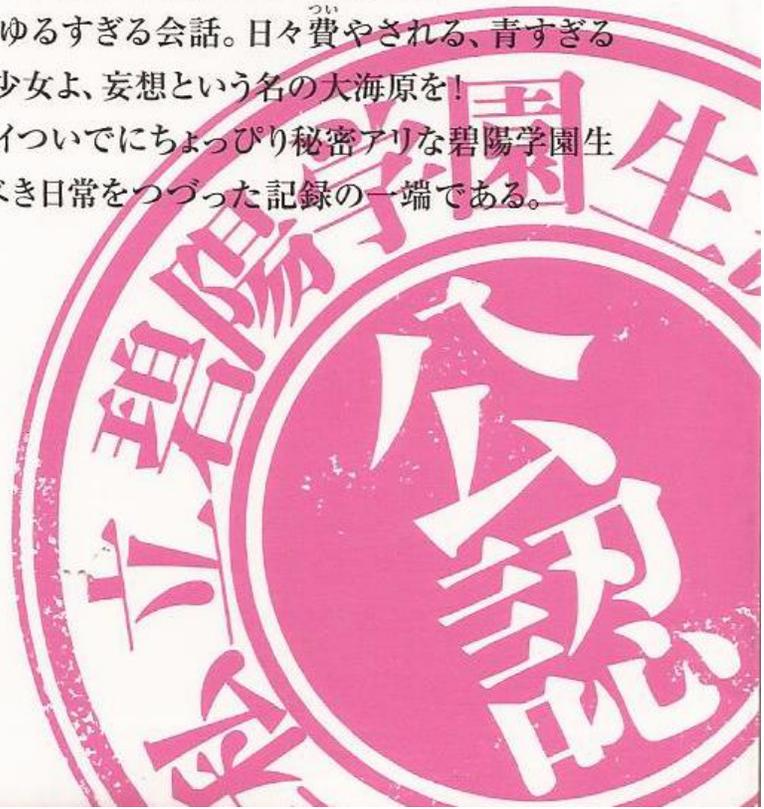
私立碧陽学園生徒会室——そこは、選ばれし者だけが入室を許される聖域にして楽園。

生徒会メンバー中、唯一の男性である副会長・杉崎鍵は、今日も生徒会室の中心で愛を叫ぶ。「俺は美少女ハーレムを作る！」

そして、お子さま生徒会長・桜野くりむは、今日も生徒会室の中心で身勝手を叫ぶ。「ただの人間には興味あ(自主規制)」

日々くり広げられる、ゆるすぎる会話。日々費やされる、青すぎる青春。いざ行かん少年少女よ、妄想という名の大海原を！

これは、ユカイツーカイついでにちよっぴり秘密アリな碧陽学園生徒会メンバーの、愛すべき日常をつづった記録の一端である。



Seitokai no Ichizon – Hekiyou Gakuen Seitokai Gijiroku 1

The Student Council’s Discretion – Hekiyou Academy Student Council’s Minutes 1
(1)

The Hekiyou Private Academy student council room – only a select few are allowed to enter this sacred paradise.

Within the student council members, The single male student, vice president Sugisaki Ken once again shouted his love in the student council room. “I will make a harem of beautiful girls!”

And then, little miss student council president Sakurano Kurimu once again shouted her egoism in the student council room. “I have no interest in ordinary hu(self-restraint).”(2)

Days are passed with overly idle talk. Days are spent in overly youthful youth. Now go forth boys and girls, to the ocean known as delusions!

This is a pleasant, thrilling, and somewhat secret look at a piece of the Hekiyou Academy student council members’ written records of their beloved days.(3)

(1)So a fun note about this series’s volume titles: each volume’s title has the character for which number in the series it is. The first one has the word “Ichizon” which contains the character for “one.” And guess what? It’s the first volume. You’ll see by the second volume the pattern it plays.

(2) A Suzumiya Haruhi reference that’ll show up again later.

(3) So the “pleasant, thrilling” part is actually a reference. The words used were “yukai tsuukai” witten to mimic the opening theme of the old 80s anime Kaibutsu-kun. The title of the theme is “Yukai Tsuukai Kaibutsu-kun,” meaning “Pleasant and Thrilling Monster-kun.”

Project Leader and Translator : Jet Zanber

Supervisor : Hantsuki

Editor : mbamg, wongbbw

Typesetter : Yon Devil Hands

Translation Group : NanoDesu Translations