

Bookmark of Demise Novel 2: Common Heroes (在り来たりヒーローズ) & Claim of Responsibility (犯行声明)

 amesubs.tumblr.com/post/64388752963/bookmark-of-demise-novel-2-common-heroes

Prologue for the second novel in the series. [Masterpost](#).

“I saw a dream again”

“So this is the same as always too, huh...”

Will you continue?

Yes / No

Prologue 1: Common Heroes (在り来たりヒーローズ)

In the school building that was supposed to be deserted, the sound of footsteps resounded. The wooden floor made unpleasant, creaking noises. It has become completely dark outside.

The sound of water slowly dripping from a tap somewhere could be heard. As well as the window clattering as the wind hit it.

It was the same as always.
An unchanging result, one seen many times.

D-ne had killed B-ko.
And after that D-ne also died.
And A-ya had killed C-ta.
Finally A-ya had committed suicide here.

No one was left.
This time as well, not a single person was left.
With this, this time's pattern had finished.
Game Over.
Ahh, I've done it again.
How boring how boring how boring how boring.

I've had enough of this B-grade outcome.
Come on, lets put an end to this already.

No matter how many times it happens, it'll be the same.
Somewhere in my heart, I wished for an irregular outcome that should never happen.
The result of a story that fled to a worn out, extremely common, incredibly boring parallel world.

And then, opening the “ordinary” old school building's music room's door.....

Prologue 2: Claim of Responsibility (犯行声明)

The story's continuation, a curtain that can't be closed...

Just like the cloudy sky beyond the window, it stirs up uneasiness once again.
Summer has yet to begin. In this season, there was a single rumor that never disappeared.

No one knows the details. No, they mustn't ever be known.

All that was told was that even if the blank book and the cat bookmark should be found, no one must ever touch them.

For that was the Bookmark of Demise.

Bookmark of Demise 2: Rules of the Demise Game

 renna-translations.tumblr.com/post/64398769047/bookmark-of-demise-2-rules-of-the-demise-game

The third prologue page from the novel preview. Not much different from when they were first written in the previous novel, but if you needed a reminder of how this game works—

The translation masterpost can be found [HERE](#).

Rules of the Demise Game

A game with a single traitor, a “fox”, has begun.

If you wish to escape, pay attention to the following conditions, and seek the end.

—Now, let this a fun Demise Game begin.

- To reach the end of the game, the “fox” must be killed.
- If the “fox” cannot be found, everyone else will die.
- While searching for the “fox”, Kokkuri-san’s demands must be met.
- Kokkuri-san’s demands will be sent via letter.
- You will be given one week to fulfill Kokkuri-san’s demands.
- If the demands are ignored, you will die.
- If the demands are shown to someone outside of the game, that person will die.
- Until the end of the game is reached, you absolutely cannot escape. Absolutely not.

“This is a news flash—”

Part 1 of the Secret and Seek chapter from the Shuen no Shiori 2 novel.

(Note: if you're curious about the "person who committed suicide while laughing" urban legend, [I have it roughly translated](#))

Novel 2 Masterpost

".....Speaking of which, do you know any other rumors like this?"

The aging, now almost unused wooden two-storied old school building.

On the second floor, in the music room, the four of us were gathered.

"It's a story I just learned about recently, but there's an urban legend about a "person who committed suicide while laughing"."

The one who was showing off about rumors he'd heard from somewhere like usual was A-ya.

As his hair hadn't been styled, his slightly long hair was bouncing here and there. Under his eyes were dark circles, and it's hard to say that he was a good looking youth, by any standard.

With a menial smile ghosting over his expression, A-ya continued.

"It's a story about a certain skilled cameraman, but that day, he thought to take some pictures of a nice scenery, and it seems that he was taking pictures on a mountain."

"Mhmm."

"When he opened the view, he could see a cliff just in front of him, and he set up his camera to take pictures of the cliff, but when he tried to look through the lens, it seems that he saw something."

".....Something?"

".....Yes, on top of the cliff, there was a person. A young girl, wearing a white one-piece. He had a bad feeling, but since he couldn't look away from the finder, as he continued to snap pictures—"

".....You don't mean..."

"—That girl jumped off the cliff."

".....!"

"He thought that he'd captured something terrible. After all, up until she disappeared from view, his camera had been continually snapping shots. But, that wasn't all. When he gingerly looked at those photos to confirm what he'd seen, in a single one of them, somehow, a strange image was there."

".....S-strange.....you say?"

".....When he tried to enlarge the image....."

"....."

"—The girl was definitely looking at the camera and laughing."

".....Eep!!"

".....Well, it's just a rumor."

A-ya's menial grin twisted even further as he spoke.

"Hahah, there were a lot of scary stories today, too, weren't there."

The one who spoke to A-ya while grinning as if he hadn't been affected by the scary stories just now, was C-ta.

Light-colored hair that was thin and soft-looking, with droopy, friendly-looking eyes, with an appearance that could

generally be called ikemen.

“Is that so? I thought they were really interesting stories, though.”

“Y-you.....it’s your usual bad tastes, huh.....”

After raising a cute scream, the one who finally opened her mouth was B-ko. Her prettily maintained short-cut hair was light-colored, and looking at us from below that, with well-endowed facial features, was, without a doubt, the beauty in the top class of our school. Normally, she was tidy and mature, and friendly to everyone, but in this classroom, that mask of a honors student with clean-cut features loosened slightly, and now she slung around curses with expressions usually not shown.

I very much loved that expression.

“.....I think B-ko-chan’s dual personality is equivalent to having bad tastes?”

I said with a humored expression.

“Dual personality.....someone like you who acts like you have multiple-personality disorder shouldn’t be saying that.”

“Well, to be honest, it’s at a level where it really seems you might?”

“.....D-ne.....You.....”

B-ko seemed as if she was going to say something, but stopped and sat back in her chair with a sigh.

–D-ne.

That is my name.

Just one of the usual faces gathered in this classroom.

Long, heavy black hair, the opposite of B-ko. I can’t very well say I make many facial expressions. Otherwise, it’s not like I particularly have all that many features, I’m just a normal girl.

.....Well, no matter how you look at it, it may be that I’m like A-ya, giving off an impression of being pessimistic.

“About other stories, especially ones like that one, there’s this story.”



A-ya continued with a grin.

“.....Th-there’s still more?”

“Yeah. It’s a story about “a girl near the window”, though.....? A certain student, returning from cram school, came back on a narrow street, and when he inadvertently looked at a mansion on the side of the road, there was a girl looking his way and smiling from the window.“

“Hmm, it seems like a pretty great story, huh?”

C-ta said with a smile.

“.....Yeah, it really is. And then, on that day, he just went home like that, but the next day, and the next day after that, she was there by the window at the same time. But even if he waved his hand, there was no response whatsoever, and she just merely kept standing by the window.....”

“.....Mhmm.”

“One day, he, having become curious as to why she was always there, tried to go up that path during the day. When he did that, on that day, too, that girl was by the window again.....”

“.....What do you mean.....?”

“He thought that it was strange that she was always, aaaalways by the window, and he strained his eyes, trying to look at the girl. And when he did so.....”

“—It was a corpse hanged by the neck.”

“.....!”

“She hadn’t been looking at anyone, and had remained like that for a while, looking this way with empty eyes. When the student sent a report and the police went to investigate, it seems that the body was already hopelessly decomposed to a point where they couldn’t do anything.....”

The classroom was wrapped in silence in an instant.

A-ya held his laughter, hiding his face with the palm of his hand as he did so.

.....Really, it’s disgusting. But, A-ya’s rumors were always superb.

We always talked urban legends and rumors of that sort like this.

It was something like an occult research club, but it wasn’t a club or anything like that, we simply gathered here just to talk.

Even if we decided on dates, there wasn’t anything like a quota to fulfill.

Speaking honestly, I didn’t have all that much particular interest in the occult, but B-ko seemed to be enjoying herself very much when she came here, and more than anything, the only place in the school where I could talk to someone as popular as B-ko, was here.

I was only here because I wanted to be together with B-ko.

It was really just only that.

“Ah, it’s about time I went home.”

After a bit of time had passed, C-ta said that and picked up his bag.

“It’s about time for me too.....ah, but, that doll, I’m curious about it after all.”

B-ko said while pointing to a doll in C-ta’s bag.

“Ehh, even though it’s cute? D-ne-chan, you think so too, don’t you?”

“No, I don’t think it’s cute at all?”

I said, smiling.

Even so, C-ta, without breaking his smile,

“Ahaha, that sounds like something D-ne would say.”

replied so.

“.....Speaking of dolls, in the urban legend "hide and seek alone", dolls are used.“

A-ya also picked up his bag to go home.

“Hide and seek alone?”

“Yeah, a doll or stuffed toy is used, it’s kind of something like a kind of necromancy. At the very end you’ll have to stab it, though.”

“.....Huh. Ah, speaking of stuffed dolls, I remembered something from when A-ya and I were small.”

“.....Hm?”

“Nah, it’s nothing. Just, even if you ever do "hide and seek alone", I’d like it if you didn’t use that doll.“

”.....What do you mean?“

“It’s nothing.”

C-ta was smiling.

—Childhood, a doll.....

What’s this, certainly, when I, was young, I had a precious, precious doll.

That’s right, her name was, Ririka. Even though she had been my friend, and I had loved her so, so much.....

—I wonder where she is right now?

“D-ne? Aren’t you going home?”

“!”

Renna's Translations

 renna-translations.tumblr.com/post/65729366605/secret-and-see-i-d%C3%A9j%C3%A0-vu-template-pages-29

The rest of Part 1 of the Secret and Seek chapter from the Shuen no Shiori 2 novel. Read from the beginning of Part 1 [here](#) if you haven't yet!

Novel 2 Masterpost

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When I came back to my senses, B-ko was calling to me from the doorway of the classroom.

“..... Ah, yes, I am! Sorry about that.”

“.....?”

Grabbing my bag, I jogged out into the hallway.

The entire time that we walked home, and even after everyone went their separate ways, I couldn't stop thinking about it.

The doll that I had loved when I was young.....

Why had I loved Ririka so much?

And, where could she be now?

... Why... had I stopped playing with her?

I felt that I was very close to remembering, but in the end, I couldn't.

What was tingling feeling in my chest.....?

Once I reached home, I searched in all the places where the doll might be.

In the back of my closet, in the storeroom.....However, no matter where I looked, I wasn't able to find her.

—Where in the world could Ririka have gone.....?

*

The following day after school, I met up with B-ko and headed for the old school building as usual.

Going up to the second floor and opening the door to what had originally been the music room, we saw that someone had already arrived.

“..... Oh? You seem awfully angry today.”

It was C-ta. He was probably talking about B-ko looking angry.

B-ko *did* seem rather uptight due of the rumor that had spread throughout the school today.

“.....Can't you do something about that childhood friend of yours?”

B-ko and I put down our bags and sat down in our usual seats.

“Ahh, that rumor, you mean? Isn't it a masterpiece? As usual, it's the best.”

“....Why you....”

The moment B-ko stood up, we heard the sound of the door opening again.

“.... Hey.”

——It was A-ya.

“No, it's not just 'hey'....I don't really care about your bad tastes, but would you stop using people as your topics?”

“....What're you talking about?”

“..... Just like yesterday, don't act you like don't know. The rumors are only getting worse!”

B-ko was desperately trying to suppress her anger.

“Look, don't call smoke where there's no fire. I only meant it as a little prank.”

“....Why you...”

“If someone happened to see you right now, won't they think you're an impostor?”

“I'm serious, if you don't stop now.....”

“..... Anyway, there's something that I've been thinking about recently.”

Just as B-ko was closing in on A-ya, he suddenly spoke up.

“It might just be my imagination, though, or it might actually be an unnatural phenomenon.”

“....Unnatural phenomenon?”

B-ko, who has risen from her seat, sat back down again, facing A-ya.

“That's right... Lately, when I wake up in the morning, I'm certain that I can feel someone's gaze on me.”

“Are you sure... it's not just your family?”

“My parents leave early in the morning, so it can't be them.”

“Then, is it like someone's watching from outside?”

“That's not it... How should I put it—I can feel the gaze of a third party... It's almost as if someone's looking down at

me from outside of this world..... Of course, when I turn around, there's no one there. This kind of thing has been happening frequently."

".....Huh..."

"Maybe it's something like a 'zashiki-warashi'...."

"If it's 'Mearry-san,' you'd be getting phone calls, right?"

"Hmmm..."

A-ya took a breath, and then continued.

"There's something else that's also been on my mind."

"What is it?"

"The other day, we did Kokkuri-san, didn't we? The three of us: B-ko, C-ta, and I..."

"Yeah...."

"—The following day, I started to feel someone's gaze on me.... That's why... Perhaps this has something to do with the "Bookmark of Demise, is what I've been thinking.

"....."

"....."

"....."

"....."

—"The Bookmark of Demise."

According to what we'd heard from A-ya, the "Book of Demise" and the "Bookmark of Demise" seemed to be hidden somewhere within this school. In the book, each and every urban legend in this world is written down, and when the book is opened to the page the bookmark is placed on, that urban legend is said to become a reality.

It didn't seem possible from just the rumors. However, to us, there was an important reason why this rumor was different compared to others.

—It would seem that this book and bookmark really do exist.

About ten years ago, the year that this old building had become unused, an inexplicable serial murder case occurred at this school.

This is a fact that can even be found in newspapers from that time.

No matter which teacher you ask, they'll only give a vague answer about it.

However, among the students of this school, it's a famous story that everyone has heard at least once.

The reason why most students know about this incident, despite it being from so long ago, is because it's been handed down like a ghost story.

—That incident...It is because they had obtained the “Bookmark of Demise.”

In this way, the rumor about the Bookmark of Demise is often talked about along with the incident from ten years ago.

But, in the wake of A-ya's discovery of the diary, our activities had suddenly become lively.

—That discovery was “a diary from ten years ago.”

An exchange diary belonging to the students from ten years ago, who had gathered “occult stories” in this old school building, just like us. Many of those stories were ones we had never heard before.

And within those were mentions of the “Book of Demise” and “Bookmark of Demise,” urban legends that have been told in this school.

They had obtained these two items, and —died.

Before this, we'd only get together about once a week, sometimes not even meet at all, but lately, almost every day, there was at least one person in this classroom.

A few days ago, it seemed that they had actually tried doing Kokkuri-san, according to the rules written in the diary.

Although I hadn't been there at the time, just when they started to try it out, they were hit by a very strange sensation and stopped halfway because of their fear.

Today, all the members in the old building were gathered.

“..... Anyway, the last attempt at ‘Kokkuri-san’ failed.”

A-ya spoke those words and continued further.

“Failed?”

“We weren't able to obtain the “Book of Demise” or the “Bookmark of Demise,” right?”

“..... It's true that we didn't do it as it said in the rules... but ...”

The classroom was filled with silence.

I expected what his next words would be, and simply thought them to be truly irritating.

“..... Let's do it one more time.”

Renna's Translations

 renna-translations.tumblr.com/post/65938174674/secret-and-see-ii-the-usual-extraordinary

Part 2 of the Secret and Seek chapter from the Shuen no Shiori 2 novel.

[Novel 2 Masterpost](#)

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The following day, I felt absolutely terrible upon waking up.

The fact that something like *that* had happened in the old building yesterday was part of the reason, but at the time, I had yet to even understand what true fear was.

*

“..... Let's do it one more time.”

According to A-ya's suggestion, we began the ritual of “Kokkuri-san,” as was written in the diary.

The way to perform it didn't differ much from the Kokkuri-san that is commonly performed.

On a piece of paper that's about A3 size, draw a shrine gate in the center, and on either side of the gate, “yes” and “no.” Below that, write the fifty hiragana characters, and the numbers one through ten.

For the coin, we used the ten-yen coin that A-ya had.

Everyone placed their index finger on the coin. Because there were a lot of people, it was slightly difficult to keep all our fingers on it at the same time.

We closed the curtains, and with the only light in the pitch dark classroom coming from the television that we had turned on, we began.

“Kokkuri-san, Kokkuri-san, if you have come, please proceed to ‘yes.’”

The ten-yen coin slowly moved to where the word “yes” was written.

It seemed that this was as far as they'd gone last time, being too afraid to go any further.

“Next, everyone will ask each other questions in turn. First is..... D-ne.....”

“Okay, does D-ne have a crush on anyone?”

“Are you fine with it being such a boring question?”

I answered B-ko's mischievous question without changing my expression.

“Ah, it moved.”

“..... It says ‘yes’.....”

“D-ne! So there is someone!?”

“Eh? That’s because I love B-ko.”

I answered with a broad grin. B-ko shrugged her shoulders, as if not convinced by that answer.

“Pfft, as usual, B-ko has a soft spot for D-ne, huh?”

“Oh, shut up.”

It seemed like we were just fooling around, but I could feel a tension that couldn’t be put into words.

Everyone probably had the same contradictory feelings of hoping something would happen and at the same time, hoping that nothing would.

“Next, does B-ko have a crush on anyone?”

Going along with the light mood, I returned that question to B-ko.

“Wait! D-ne! Why’re you asking that!?”

“Fufufu, it’s payback.”

The ten-yen coin moved slowly from the shrine gate.

“.... Ah, ahhh geez ...”

B-ko seemed upset.

Thinking that she looked cute when she was like this, too, I watched her.

And so, the ten-yen stopped at “yes.”

..... Well, of course it would.

“So it’s ‘yes?’” Huh ...”

“A-ya! Wh-what’s with that reaction, acting like you’re not interested at all!?”

“..... No, I was just thinking, it’s pointless if we ask questions where we don’t know if the answer is correct or not.”

A-ya said this as if disappointed.

”..... W-well, that’s true, but....”

B-ko looked a little offended, but quickly asked a different question to change the topic.

“Ah, h-how about this, then? A-ya’s dinner last night was fish!”

“..... What’s up with that?”

A-ya made an almost amazed face at B-ko’s question.

between a laughing, troubled, crying and angry expression.

—And then, the incoming silence.

“..... Wh-what was that..... j-just now.....?”

“..... I don't know.”

“..... 'Fox'? 'Traitor'.....?”

“I-it's just a really bad joke, right.....?”

“.....”

We all fell silent at the same time, and looked at each other.

In the dim classroom, all of us had pale faces.

A long period of time passed..... In reality, it might not even have been longer than a minute, but.... The silence dragged on. Someone spoke up, saying, “.... Anyway, let's just go home for today...” and on their suggestion, we left the school.

Even after I reached home, I felt an indescribable sense of unease, and hoping that it had all been a dream, I climbed into bed.

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—The following day, I learned that it was not a dream, but the beginning of true fear.

Or perhaps it was that I'd become trapped in a never-ending, continuous nightmare.

In the middle of my morning slumber, I felt something strange on one part of my bed.

A sensation like being pressed down by something..... Sleep paralysis? No, that wasn't it..... There was something on top of me. Something light.

Very slowly, I moved the covers away, and the thing fell off the bed with a heavy thump.

It had a pitch black cover.

Bigger than a dictionary, the cover of an old book.

..... And inside of it..... a bookmark.

“..... Eek!”

I immediately knew that it was something bad.

I could tell by the sensation on my skin. This wasn't any kind of joke or trick.

—It was the real “Book of Demise” and “Bookmark of Demise.”

“..... Wh-why.....!?”

My voice couldn't have sounded more scared and upset.

For the longest time, I stayed in my bed, staring at the book.

How much time had passed?

After I'd calmed down mentally, I put the book in my bag.

I got ready quickly and hurried to school.

Perhaps it was because I'd already panicked once, but I felt strangely calm.

I had to get rid of this book somehow.

I had yet to receive the letter. If I could get rid of the book and bookmark before the letter arrived, then wouldn't the game end without starting? I found myself thinking lightly about this idea.

If I could just get rid of the book..... If I could just.....!!

“Huh? D-ne-chan, good morning~!”

When I arrived at the shoe lockers, I suddenly heard a voice call out to me from behind.

It was a female classmate, affiliated with the track club, the type of girl that that was always the center of the class, and kind and cheerful to everyone. Because of that, she would occasionally even talk to me, as well.

I wasn't so servile that I would show resentment towards her kindness, but I did think that her behavior was very hypocritical.

In reality, I'd rather she not force herself to talk to me if she didn't even like me at all.

“You're sure here early~ I have morning practice, so I always get here at about this time.....”

“..... I see..... I'm, in a hurry, so.....”

Dismissing the conversation, I opened my shoe locker so that I could leave.

But at that moment, I caught sight of something that shouldn't have been there.

Inside of the shoe locker was a single letter.

“That” image, together with a chill, ran through my body.

“.....ah!”

“Hm? Oh? D-ne-chan, what’s that letter~? Hey, could it be..... a love letter?”

Because of her personality, she would probably want to see the contents of the letter, but, this was.....

- If the demands are shown to someone outside of the game, that person will die.

No, it couldn’t be. But, if that were really true, then this wasn’t good.....!

While these various thoughts spun around in my head, she suddenly reached for the letter.

“..... Ah!”

“It’s fine, don’t worry! It’s best to ask your friends for advice for these kinds of things~”

This was bad, but.... No, it wasn’t possible..... I wasn’t even sure if it was really “that letter,” after all..... But, if it really were the real thing, then.....!”

“..... No—”

“.....
..... What is this?”

“—Ah!”

Having already opened the letter, all of the emotion drained from her face, and she spoke with a completely empty expression.

Afterwards, she glared at me as if I were something filthy, and walked off into the school building, muttering incoherently with the letter still in hand.

I was too horrified to move from that spot.

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After school, having not yet seen the contents of the letter, nor found the chance to get rid of the book and bookmark, I went to the old building. Once there, I found that everyone had already gathered.

“.....!”

B-ko looked in my direction for a moment, but then quickly turned in the other direction.

What was wrong? Perhaps something strange had already happened to her, as well.

I tried to act calm, and joined their conversation.

“..... About yesterday..... In the end, I wonder what that was all about.”

“..... It’s hard to tell at this point..... I hate to admit it, but there’s a chance it might’ve just been an elaborate prank.....”

B-ko seemed slightly relieved at A-ya’s words and raised her face.

I couldn’t say it. I couldn’t tell them that the “Bookmark of Demise” had come to me.

“..... But, if it’s true, then one of us is.....”

“——*Stop it!*”

B-ko suddenly yelled, holding her head as if covering her ears.

I thought her to look very cute like this.

Most likely, my mental state wasn’t very stable at the moment, either.

However, I wasn’t able to outwardly express emotions like fear very well. I felt that the B-ko who I loved, was acting scared in my place instead, and it made me happy.

With my better judgment at a degraded state as well, I silently pulled out the camera app on my phone to secretly take a picture of B-ko like I usually would.

Looking at B-ko through the screen, the afternoon sun was streaming in through the classroom window, creating a lovely backlight.

The moment I pressed the shutter button, I felt uneasy for some reason.

——**THUD!!!**

There was a sudden loud noise, and a shadow appeared outside of the glass room of the old building music room we were all in.

——It was a person.

“Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

My memories after that were vague.

After the teachers arrived at the scene, and we briefly explained the situation to the police as well, we were told to go home early.

From what little information we'd heard from the police, along with what we heard afterwards, it seemed that this incident clearly had too many uncertain points.

In the first place, the roof of the old school building wasn't openly accessible, and even when they went to the roof after the incident, the only door remained firmly shut with a padlock.

Furthermore, the roof could be clearly seen from the fourth floor veranda of the new building, and at the time of the incident, several members of the brass band club had been there, but none of them recalled seeing anyone on the roof.

The rope had been tied tightly to the tip of a three-meter pole that extended beyond the fence on the roof.

It would have been difficult unless they scaled the fence first and then climbed the pole.

If they'd tried to tie a rope in such a place, someone from the new building would definitely have noticed.

In other words, this was an impossible murder..... No, an impossible suicide.

In the evening, the media came to do coverage on the mysterious incident, and afterwards, the school was closed for a week.

I couldn't remember how I'd gotten home, but even upon reaching my home, I still felt like I was being watched by those vacant eyes and couldn't relax at all.

With my head completely blank, I made to put down my bag, and that was when I noticed something unusual.

..... My bag was strangely light.

When I slowly checked the contents of my bag, the "Book of Demise" and "Bookmark of Demise" had vanished without my noticing.

In its place, was the "letter" that that female student had taken with her.

".....ah!"

- Kokkuri-san's demands will be sent via letter.
- You will be given one week to fulfill Kokkuri-san's demands.
- If the demands are ignored, you will die.
- Until the end of the game is reached, you absolutely cannot escape. Absolutely not.

I couldn't run away.....

I couldn't run away from this "letter".....

Preparing myself, I slowly took the paper out of the envelope and unfolded it.

——One-Man Hide and Seek Author: D-ne——

"..... I knew it....."

The despair which I had expected struck me.

Because of me, because I hadn't stopped her, she had been killed by the "fox."

It was my fault, my fault.....

The memories from several hours ago flashed before me.

That girl, who had always been cheerful and never a bad person—had looked at me for the last time with such a horrible expression.

I closed my eyes and covered my ears, trying desperately to forget that look on her face, but no matter what, I couldn't. And also, those eyes that looked in from outside of the old building—those, those, those vacant eyes.....!

I immediately took out my cell phone, deciding that I had to tell B-ko and the others that the girl's death had been my fault.

However, realizing that I couldn't tell anyone else about the letter, I stopped.

I didn't want to involve any more people than I already had.

I decided that I'd try to at least mentally calm down by looking at the pictures that I'd secretly taken of B-ko.

Looking through the photos, I found the ones that I had taken of B-ko earlier.

However, for some reason, there were five of the same photo.

No, they weren't the same.

I remembered the uneasiness I'd felt when I'd taken them. It was because it had, for some reason, changed into continuous shooting mode.

Without thinking too deeply about it, I enlarged each photo and viewed them one by one.

..... Reasonably speaking, my judgment had been low at the time.

In every photo, B-ko's fearful expression was captured wonderfully.

As if being drawn in, or influenced by something, I viewed the first, second, third, and fourth photo, and when I reached the last and fifth photo, I screamed a silent scream.

“.....!”

There, smiling in my direction, was my classmate from the track club.

Even though she was hanging, she was, without a doubt, facing me with a smile.

In her right hand..... she held the “letter.”

I remembered the stories that A-ya had told. “The girl by the window.” “The person who committed suicide while laughing.”

“..... Nooooooooooooooooooooo!!”

The fear gouged my heart and replayed the tragic scene over and over as a flashback.

My mind was unable to process it, and stimulating my lacrimal glands, the tears and sobs spilled forth.

*

I had no idea how much time had passed after that.

In reality..... This fiction-like reality didn't change, and the “letter” was still there before me.

Whether it was because my spirit had already exceeded its limits or because it had finally reached some kind of resolve, I settled on one course of action, although still facing anxiety.

I was already involved in this game.

Once more, I recalled the rules of the game.

- To reach the end of the game, the “fox” must be killed.

Kill? How was I going to do that? It was impossible.....

However, unless I found the “fox,” I would be killed, without a doubt.....

An ordinary tragedy suddenly struck me.

“..... Why.....”

But, in any case, I had to do something.....

As I let out small screams at odd intervals, caught between the feelings of wanting to run away and the despair of knowing there was nowhere to run, I decided that I would first, seek out the “fox”.....

Renna's Translations

 renna-translations.tumblr.com/post/66499081472/secret-and-see-iii-a-rumor-of-early-summer

Part 3 of the Secret and Seek chapter from the Shuen no Shiori 2 novel.

[Novel 2 Masterpost](#)

—

Beginning the following day, I started to immediately make my move.

Firstly, I began from gathering information.

In particular, information concerning “the incident from ten years ago.”

Going by what I had heard from A-ya, along with the rumors told within the school, ten years ago, the bodies of the four students who had gathered at the old school building had been discovered under strange circumstances. According to the rumors, they had died after acquiring the “Bookmark of Demise.”

However, if it was an incident that had actually occurred, there should be additional information recorded about it somewhere.

I made to first go to the school library, and set out into the streets.

It was hot outside, and when I walked briskly, my clothes stuck to my skin a bit because of the sweat, bringing about a peculiar discomfort.

When I passed by the shopping mall that was between my house and the school, I spotted several people I knew there.

To them, their classmate’s suicide, and even the mysterious cause of death, must have seemed like something completely fictional; even with the school closing for an entire week, they probably only saw it as a long holiday.

Inside, I could see pairs of boys and girls, most likely couples.

As I looked them, I felt more uncomfortable than I usually would.

... However, I then saw someone that I hadn’t expected.

There was so mistake; it was the ribbon that I was always looking at.

That loveliness which stood out even in a crowd.

—It was B-ko.

Why was she here?

I quickly hid myself in the shadows and observed her.

She seemed to be looking for someone.

..... Could it be that even B-ko was..... Even in a situation like this.....? It couldn't be. There was no way that could be true..... No! Impossible!

She seemed to have found who she was looking for, and took off.

When I tried to see who that "someone" was, the wind suddenly blew.

".....nn!"

Something had entered between my eye and my contact, causing pain to my eye. I looked away from B-ko for a couple seconds to take out my contact for now.

With only one contact on, my focus was unfocused, but B-ko, and the person she had been waiting for, were already nowhere in sight.

"..... B-ko?"

—Had they disappeared? No..... had they run away? Why? For what reason? Could it be that they'd noticed I was watching them?

I started to think about the "fox."

Of the ones who had been in the old building, one of them was the traitor. But, perhaps it wasn't only one person.

There was the possibility that everyone other than me was a traitor.....

I shook my head to dispel those thoughts and headed for the washroom inside of the shopping mall to put my contact back on.

No matter how much I thought about it right now, I wouldn't be able to find an answer.....

".....Okay."

After readjusting the contact, I looked at my reflection in the mirror.



..... Huh? My eye color.....

For a very brief moment, I thought my eyes had turned the same light brown color as B-ko's, but when I looked again, they were black, as they always were.....

..... Had I... been imagining it?

I left the shopping mall and headed for the school.

Because of the fact that the school was currently closed, it didn't feel like there was anyone around.

It looked like reporters and cameramen from the media had been here for a few days, but presently, they were no longer here.

I entered through the back gate and headed towards the school building.

I considered the possibility that the school building might not be open, but even at a time like this, there still seemed to be a few teachers that stayed.

As I headed for the school library and reference room, I realized that I wouldn't be able to go in without borrowing the key.

..... Would it be unlocked, or not?

I started thinking about those things as I neared the library and reference room, but decided I'd go and see first.

Although I immediately thought, "It's not open after all, is it?", contrary to my expectations, the door to the library was unlocked.

..... Had it been left open even during the break.....?

I entered slowly, walked towards the reference room, and to the corner where all the local newspapers and such were kept.

I searched for the binders that collected all the newspapers by decades.

Rather than keeping every page of all the newspapers, it seemed that the newspaper club clipped out articles of interest from local and international newspapers and organized them according to the decade they were from.

If the gruesome incident that was told in the rumors at school had actually happened, then it was certain to be filed somewhere.

I took out of the binder from ten years ago, and laying it open on a nearby desk, I began to search for an article relating to that.

However, no matter how many pages I flipped through, I couldn't find anything like it.

But on the contrary, there were traces of some missing articles on the pages.

No matter how you looked at it, the article about "the incident from ten years ago" must have been here.

Had it been hidden? Or.....?"

"....."

I suddenly felt someone's gaze on me and stood up. However, there was no one.....

Deciding that nothing would come out of staying here much longer, I headed for the local city library.

This library was located a short distance away from the school area. Because it was a smaller library, along with it being past noon on a weekday, there didn't seem to be any other visitors besides me.

There was one staff person at the counter, but because I was sitting at a table in the very back of the bookshelves, I was completely alone.

Just as I had done before, I opened the binder they had of the local newspaper clippings.

There were many more different articles here than in the binder at the school library, and therefore, it took some time to find the one I was looking for.

However, I eventually found that the articles concerning the incident from ten years ago still remained.

"..... Here it is....."

An Accident During School Club Activities Results in 4 Deaths —

So this incident really had occurred.....

While I felt dizzy from the sudden reality of everything, I began to search desperately through the other articles for more detailed information, and becoming so lost in doing so, I failed to notice that there was someone right behind me.

—Tap.

"..... Eek!"

I was surprised by the sudden tap on my shoulder, and when I turned around, I saw someone I recognized was standing there. It was B-ko. Her expression was, for some reason, full of something that resembled disgust.

"..... Wh-what's wrong.....? Why are you h—"

"What've you been doing?"

"..... What?"

"I asked you, what've you been doing all this time?"

"....."

B-ko was a very special person to me. I was sure that I liked her more than just a friend. Because of that, I definitely did not want to get her involved.

And more than anything, I didn't want her to hate me.

“..... Aha, what’s wrong? B-ko-chan, you seem angry about some——”

“Earlier, too! You were looking for someone at the shopping mall, weren’t you?”

“..... What?”

“Were you looking for me.....? Did you think that you would corner me here?”

“B-ko-chan, what’re you talking about.....”

My thoughts were thrown into confusion. What was B-ko afraid of? What was she thinking? It was if, she was trying to say that I——

“I saw it, you know!”

“..... What?”

“..... That day, at the shoe lockers...”

The worst scenario I could have imagined flashed through my head. Please, no, anything but that!

“I saw you show her the ‘letter’..... You killed that girl, didn’t you!”

“..... N-no, that’s.... not.....”

“Enough already, just stop it! I’ve started to think that you might really be the ‘fox,’ and..... If that’s really true, if you really are then..... Just put an end to this nightmare already.....!”

“..... B-ko-chan, you’re wrong..... I’m.....”

I started to say something, but then fell silent again.

No matter what I said, I wouldn’t be able to reassure her.

The fact that I’d been at the shopping mall earlier, too.....

I realized that this was the best that I could do.

No matter what I said now, she probably wouldn’t believe me.

——In that case, there was only one thing that I could possibly do.

“..... B-ko-chan.”

“..... Wh-what is it.....”

“I said that I liked you, B-ko-chan.....”

“..... What?”

After saying this, I brought out my best smile, the same as I usually would.

“.... When I said that before.... It wasn't a lie.”

Walking past B-ko's motionless figure, I left the library.

No matter what happened now, I no longer had any doubts.

*

On the way home, I saw someone I recognized again, near the shrine.

“..... D-ne-chan?”

It was C-ta. He tried to smile like usual, but it seemed forced.

I walked into the shrine a bit and spoke to him.

“..... C-ta-san, what's wrong?”

“..... No, it's... nothing.....”

“.....?”

“..... This may sound weird, but... You haven't.... met 'me' today, right?”

“.....? I've... only just met you with right now... haven't I?”

“..... Yeah, you're right...”

C-ta continued, seeming to have relaxed a bit.

“..... Everyone's... been acting weird.....”

“..... What's wrong? When I met with B-ko-chan earlier, she also seemed... different from usual..... Like it was an imposter.”

An imposter..... Was I also one, as well?

It shouldn't be possible that I was so calm in a situation like this.

“..... An imposter... huh.....”

“..... Are you really alright?”

“..... Yeah, I’m fine... is what I’d like to say, anyway.....”

“..... That’s... true.....”

There was a brief silence.

“..... C-ta-san, who do you think... the ‘fox’ is?”

“..... I don’t know.....”

“B-ko-chan told me that... she thinks I might be the traitor.....”

“..... B-ko did.....?”

“..... Yes.....”

“It wouldn’t be surprising... Everyone’s feeling on edge right now..... Even I think that you could be the ‘fox,’ but B-ko’s also suspicious to have told you that. I’m not sure about A-ya, though.....”

C-ta seemed even more fatigued as he faced me and said this.

“..... But, if—just if it does happen, you know? If you ever find out the identity of the ‘fox,’ and you’re able to end this game, D-ne-chan..... I want to you end it, instantly, without any hesitation.”

End the game.....

I didn’t know who the ‘fox’ was.

But there was one thing that I could do—the one thing that I could do to prove that I wasn’t the traitor.....

Would we be able to understand something after my next actions, or.....?


“..... Alright,”

I answered after a silence.

We exchanged no further words, and left the shrine.

——I had to end this game, and soon.

translation blog

 re-missedcall.tumblr.com/post/66627585021/secret-and-seeq-iv-re-starting-now-i-will

Part 4 of the Secret and Seek chapter from the Shuen no Shiori 2 novel.

[Novel 2 Masterpost](#)

—

I returned home, and when I entered my room, I placed the “letter” on top of my desk. I’d decided that, starting now, I would perform the urban legend written in the “letter”.

- You will be given one week to fulfill Kokkuri-san’s demands.
- If the demands are ignored, you will die.
- If the demands are not met, you will die.

It didn’t seem like I would understand anything about the “fox” by meeting Kokkuri-san’s demands, in accordance to the rules of the game.

However, I felt that, if I performed this, then I’d be able to come a little closer to understanding the truth of the “Bookmark of Demise”.

No matter how unfair the rules of this game were, I could do nothing but follow those rules.

Inside of the “letter”, it had been written that the author of the urban legend called “one-man hide and seek” was me. On my way home, I had tried to look up that urban legend. A-ya had said it was a form of necromancy, but it was a famous urban legend, so I had been able to investigate even the tiny details of the procedure.

“.....Alright.”

I strengthened my resolve, and took off my contacts, putting on my glasses. My vision blurred momentarily. When my regular vision returned to me.....

—THUMP!!

“.....Eep!”

Something fell from on top of my desk.

It was that doll that, no matter how much I searched and searched for it but would not appear, Ririka.

Ririka had a ribbon tied around her neck, and was suspended in midair from on top of the desk.

At this unbelievable reality, goosebumps arose from deep within. Ririka’s empty eyes linked with the girl from the track club, and my memories flashed back.

My thoughts only paused for a moment, but, taking advantage of Ririka’s appearance, my resolve grew even stronger.

“.....I am.....not a traitor.....!”

I took out my cell phone, and sent a text to B-ko.

『Re:Starting now, I will prove to you that I am not the traitor.』

Once I confirmed that the text had finished sending, I finally began to perform “one-man hide and seek”.

※

Firstly, prepare a stuffed toy or doll with limbs. For this, I “carefully prepared” Ririka to be used for this. Certainly, I had very much loved her, and wanted to become close to her.

Although my emotions had been peculiar as a child, I had most certainly considered Ririka as a friend. I always spoke with her, and when I thought of how good of friends we'd been, at the thought of the things I would have to do to her from after this, my chest hurt. Next, I had to prepare the rice. When I went into the kitchen, it seemed that none of my family was there. In that manner, I prepared a cup of salt water in the kitchen, and headed towards the living room.

And, I obtained a sewing needle and red thread, as well as a pair of scissors and a cutter knife. Starting here was the phase before the game's start.

I whispered, "Sorry....." to Ririka, and slashed open her stomach.

And then, I placed rice and some of my own nail clippings into the opening, and sewed it shut.

The whole time while I worked, I felt as if I was being watched by someone, and so could not work carefully.

I tried to sew up the doll's arms and legs, and even the mouth with the red thread, and just by looking, it appeared to be an extremely grotesque object.

".....It's as if, they were blood vessels....."

I whispered softly, and, carrying the salt water, took the cup deep inside the closet in my parents' room. This seemed to be something I had to place in my hiding place.

".....Decide on the stuffed toy's name....."

With this, all of the preparations were finished.

".....Let's begin....."

I turned off all the lights in my home, and closed the curtains, leaving only the television on. I set the television to a static screen.

"D-ne is first to be it. D-ne is first to be it. D-ne is first to be it—"

I told her with a blank expression, and heading to the bathtub, I submerged Ririka in the water.

In the pitch black darkness, the water reflected only a little light, as if distorting Ririka's expression like she was living.

Her expression looked like she was sad, as well as angry.

I felt slightly guilty.

Ririka's eyes were looking at me, and I was also looking at her eyes.

Returning to the bedroom, I took out my cutter knife, closed my eyes, and counted to ten.

Ooone, twooo, threeee, foooour, fiiiive, siiix, seeeven, eiiiight, niiiiine.....

While my eyes were closed, right behind me, I felt as if someone were there, and as I counted, I felt it come even closer, and fear wrapped around me on my arms, legs, and neck.

—Ten.

"Are you ready?"

I said, and set off for the bathroom, opened the tub, and took out Ririka.....

——I stabbed her stomach.

Again, and again, and again.....! Messily, messily, messily.

Water had probably gotten in from the gap in her clumsily sewn-up stomach, hadn't it.

Together with an eerie sound, liquid flowed out from the gap.

Because it was so dark, I couldn't be sure of the color, and the liquid looked like as if it were blood.

Water droplets pooled in her empty eyes, and she looked at me, as if she were a living thing, and the water droplets ran down her cheeks.

“Next is Ririka’s turn to be it. Next is Ririka’s turn to be it. Next is Ririka’s turn to be it……!”



My voice wavered as I said that, and after returning once more to the kitchen to put down the cutter knife, I returned to the bedroom where I’d placed the salt water, and hid far behind the sliding doors of the closet.

After this, I just had to wait for a while, pour some of the salt water into my mouth when I exited the closet, search for the doll, pour the remaining salt water in the cup and spit out what was in my mouth one by one over the doll, and declare “It’s my win!” three times, in order to finish the ritual.

In the depths of the closet, I thought of various things.

Of that girl classmate from the track club, and of Ririka’s appearance.

It’s still feasible that that broadcast from when we did Kokkuri-san was just a prank, but……

Could it be, could it be that……the identity of the “fox” was……

Creak. Creak.

In the corridor, the sound of footsteps echoed about.

In the corridor that no one should be in.....why?!

I held my breath and hid myself.

The footsteps seemed to gradually, gradually come closer to where I was.

Creak. Creak. Creak. Creak.

Could it be that, Ririka was.....?!

I imagined a future of being stabbed in the stomach in the same way.

Ririka would take my internal organs out from inside of my stomach, and declare thus:

“.....It’s my win.”

No, no, I’m scared, I’m scared, I’m scared, I’m scared, I’m scared, I’m scared, I’m scared, I’m scared, I’m scared, I’m scared, I’m scared, I’m scared!

Creak. Creak. Creak. Creak. Creak. Creak. Creak. Creak.

Without thinking, my voice slipped out, and while I covered my mouth with the palm of my hand, I slowly, slowly peeked through the gap in the sliding door of the closet.

—There, peeking at me in the same way, was an “eye”.

“Nooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooooo!!”

“.....!!”

I threw the sliding doors open and flew out, and something that I had not expected was there.

The instant I tried to run away, my wrist was grasped. Without thinking, I lost my balance, and hit the ground.

Confused, I frantically tried to calm my mind, and looked at those eyes.

“ x x x x x x x x !!”

The voice that rang out next to my ears rapidly cooled my head, and stole the strength from my body.

“ x x x x x x ght, t x x x x x x x x o x .”

—I said, and laughed with my final breath.

Part 1 of the Shadow Stepping Gänger chapter from the Shuen no Shiori 2 novel.

Part 1

[Part 2](#)

[Part 3](#)

[Part 4](#)

[Novel 2 Masterpost](#)

—

“Seriously, can’t you do something about that childhood friend of yours?!”

In the music room on the second floor of a two-storied wooden old school building, an angry shout rang out. The one speaking in an angry voice was the one rumored to be the number one prettiest girl in the whole school, B-ko.

Gifted with both brains and beauty, with clean-cut facial features, she had good relations with people as well, and was kind to everyone.....but that seemed like it was just for public appearances. In this music room in the old school building, she was rather hot tempered.

Behind B-ko, smiling while watching her being all irritated, was D-ne. Long hair and a slender body. No matter how you looked at it, she gave off an impression of being “pessimistic”.

The two of them placed their bags around where they usually placed them, and sat down in their chairs.

“Ahh, that rumor? Isn’t it a masterpiece?”

I laughed, feigning innocence.

“.....Why, you.....”

Just as B-ko moved closer towards me, the sound of the classroom’s door opening again was heard.

“.....Hey.”

——It was A-ya.

A-ya was my childhood friend, and one of the members who assembled together in this old school building.

His hair was unstyled, and it stuck up on its own. Under his eyes were dark circles, and he had slight sanpaku eyes*, and for the most part, he had a blank expression. From an outsider’s point of view, it would be hard to say that he was a good looking youth by any standard.

“It’s not just “Hey”.....I don’t really care about your bad tastes, but would you stop using people as topics for your stories?”

”.....What’re you talking about?”

”.....Don’t act like you don’t know!”

B-ko glared and approached A-ya while she desperately tried to suppress her anger. Her anger was most likely over the rumor A-ya had spread.

The rumor in question was that B-ko’s impostor had been spotted wandering around. No, perhaps it would be more accurate to say that it was a doppelganger?

Anyways, spreading those kinds of rumors was A-ya’s hobby, and on top of that, he was quite good at it, too.

However, when I thought about it, A-ya had never spread any rumors about me.

Maybe it’s because we’ve always been together as childhood friends.....?

”.....Haah...well, I’m used to it, so it’s fine, but you know.....“

B-ko had moved to approach A-ya, but she sighed and sat back in her chair.

”.....By the way, about that rumor that you spread, what is a doppelganger?”

D-ne asked.

".....Ah."

One corner of A-ya's mouth turned up slightly, and he replied to her question.

"In German, it means "double goer", and as the word implies, a specific person is seen in two completely different places at the exact same time.....the point is, an imposter appears. It's a kind of supernatural phenomena."

Impostor.....huh.

"This phenomena's been reported all over the world, from eyewitness accounts, so it's quite famous. It's been said that even people like Lincoln or Ryuunosuke Akutagawa have experienced this. As for commonly mentioned details, the impostor is often sighted in places that have to do with the original person, and the impostor does not talk with any surrounding people at all.....and, if the person meets with their impostor.....it's said that the person will be killed....."

".....Killed, you say, b-but what happens after that.....?"

"Who knows. There's theories about it, but the impostor takes the place of the person, and no one around them notices it.....it's probably something like that."

The room was immediately wrapped in silence.

".....Hey, I, I'm the real thing, okay?! And while we're at it, why don't you stop with those bad rumors.....they're creepy!"

For the person who the rumor had been spread about, the tale just now would definitely have been creepy.

The final ending, for no one to notice. As a story, a tale like that would be second-rate.

However, it may be that, even more than an ordinary ending, that definitely had more of a sense of reality to it.

Well, anyway, we always collected "rumors" together like this.

Rumors.....actually, the contents of those could almost be classified as things like the occult or urban legends.

Like the "Slit-mouthed woman", or "Human faced dog".....

As we talked about those kinds of rumors, we gradually came to gather here at the old school building.

Additionally, it was A-ya who had gotten most of us together.

In the first place, D-ne and I had no interest in things like the occult, and like we'd just seen, B-ko was actually pretty cowardly, so even if we got curious, we couldn't look into it ourselves.

".....Speaking of which, do you know any other rumors like this? It's a story I just learned about recently, but there's an urban legend about a "person who committed suicide while laughing"."

Once again, A-ya gleefully began to speak about his collection of urban legends.

Outside, the sun's angle was quite low in the sky, and the sunset stained the sky bright red.

It's pretty, but such a sinister color, I thought as I listened to the story.

"Ah, it's about time I went home."

After a bit of time had passed, I said that and picked up my bag.

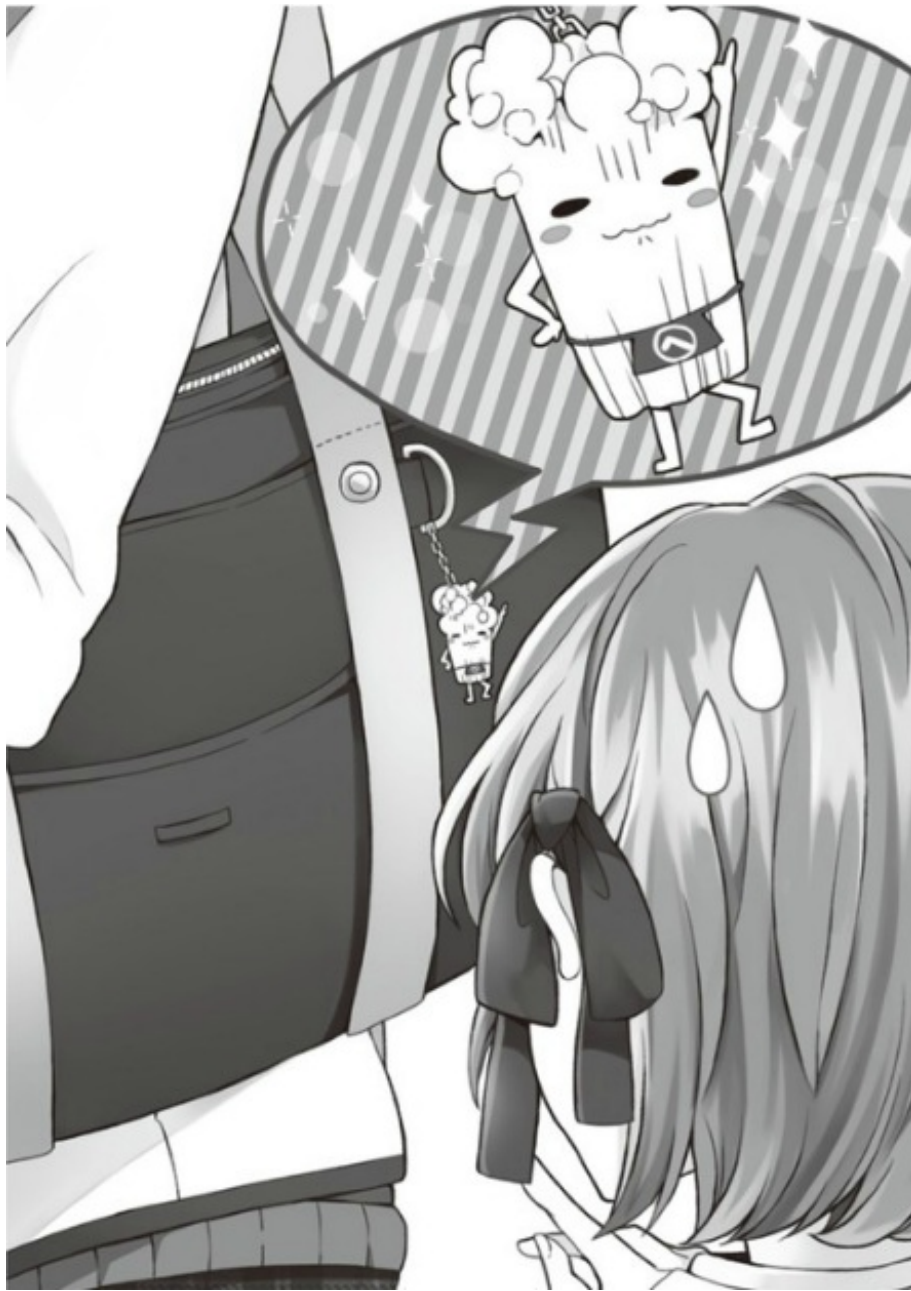
"It's about time for me too.....ah, but, that doll, I'm curious about it after all."

B-ko said while pointing to a doll on my bag.

"Ehh, even though it's cute? D-ne-chan, you think so too, don't you?"

A "Motreevational Treenoki"*** doll I'd put there in place of a keyholder.

It was an enoki mushroom character with a face on it, but that expression was, contrary to the name, downright unmotivated, and I thought it was very cute. When more closely inspected, it also felt like it slightly resembled A-ya. It wasn't a popular character or anything, so certainly, in my class, or even in the school, I hadn't seen anyone with this figure besides myself.



After all, at the time when I'd bought it, I'd found it at a relatively unknown general store, and it had been the last one left.

"No, I don't think it's cute at all?"

D-ne said, smiling.

Even so, without breaking my smile,

"Ahaha, that sounds like something D-ne would say."

I replied.

".....Speaking of dolls, in the urban legend "hide and seek alone", dolls are used."

A-ya also picked up his bag to go home.

"Hide and seek alone?"

"Yeah, a doll or stuffed toy is used, it's kind of something like a kind of necromancy. At the very end you'll have to stab it, though."

".....Huh. Ah, speaking of stuffed toys, I remembered something from when A-ya and I were small."

".....Hm?"

I remembered the stuffed rabbit I had given to A-ya long ago.

That doll had made me want to remain good friends with A-ya for life, no matter what.

If that doll were to be stabbed, I don't think I'd be able to bear it.

"Nah, it's nothing. Just, even if you ever do "hide and seek alone", I'd like it if you didn't use that doll."

".....What do you mean?"

"It's nothing."

I smiled at A-ya, and just like that, left the question unanswered.

※

The next day, after school, I headed to the old school building's music room once again.

It seemed as if none of the other members had arrived yet, and I was alone in the classroom.

After a while, the classroom door suddenly opened a bit, and those two appeared.

".....Oh? You seem awfully angry today."

It was B-ko and D-ne. B-ko seemed like she was even more uncontrollably angry than she was yesterday.

Most likely, it was about the rumor that had been spread around in the school today.

Yesterday's talk had added further feasibility to the story, and it spread around as something that could actually have happened.

".....Can't you do something about that childhood friend of yours?"

D-ne and B-ko put down their bags and sat down in their usual seats.

"Ahh, that rumor, you mean? Isn't it a masterpiece? As usual, it's the best."

The moment B-ko stood up, we heard the sound of the door opening again.

".....Hey."

—It was A-ya.

"No, it's not just "hey".....I don't really care about your bad tastes, but would you stop using people as your topics?"

".....What're you talking about?"

".....Don't act you like don't know, just like yesterday. The rumors are only getting worse!"

B-ko was desperately trying to suppress her anger.

"Look, don't call smoke where there's no fire. I only meant it as a little prank."

".....Why you....."

"If someone happened to see you right now, won't they think you're an impostor?"

"I'm serious, if you don't stop now.....!"

"..... Anyway, there's something that I've been thinking about recently."

Just as B-ko was closing in on A-ya, he suddenly spoke up.

"It might just be my imagination, though, or it might actually be an unnatural phenomenon."

".....Unnatural phenomenon?"

B-ko, who has risen from her seat, sat back down again, facing A-ya.

"That's right.....Lately, when I wake up in the morning, I'm certain that I can feel someone's gaze on me."

"Are you sure.....it's not just your family?"

"My parents leave early in the morning, so it can't be them."

"Then, is it like someone's watching from outside?"

"That's not it.....How should I say it, I can feel the gaze of a third party.....It's almost as if someone's looking down at me from outside of this world.....Of course, when I turn around, there's no one there. This kind of thing's been happening often."

.....Someone's gaze.....huh.

".....Huh."

"Maybe it's something like a 'zashiki-warashi'....."

"If was Mearry-san, you'd be getting phone calls, right?"

"Mmm....."

A-ya took a breath, and then continued.

“There’s something else that’s also been on my mind.”

“What is it?”

“The other day, we did Kokkuri-san, didn’t we? The three of us, B-ko, C-ta, and I.....”

“Yeah.....”

“—The following day, I started to feel someone’s gaze on me.....That’s why, ‘Perhaps this has something to do with the “Bookmark of Demise”, is what I’ve been thinking.“

”.....“

”.....“

”.....“

”.....“

—“The Bookmark of Demise.”

This was one of the “rumors” that A-ya was currently most excited about. In all honesty, I was okay with whatever when it came to the occult, but if a mysterious incident really had occurred ten years ago, then my interest was slightly piqued.

“.....Anyway, the last attempt at ‘Kokkuri-san’ failed.”

A-ya spoke those words and continued further.

“Failed.....?”

“We weren’t able to obtain the “Book of Demise” or the “Bookmark of Demise”, right?”

”.....It’s true that we didn’t do it as it said in the rules.....but.....“

The classroom was filled with silence.

I expected what his next words would be, and simply thought them to be very like him.

”.....Let’s do it one more time.“

And thus, we became involved, in the worst Demise Game.....

—

T/N:

***Sanpaku eyes** (三白眼) - eyes where the sclera is visible on three sides of the iris (left, right and bottom) rather than only two sides (left and right). In Chinese/Japanese superstition, they’re said to be an ill omen related to death, as they remind people of a dead body’s eyes rolling into the back of one’s skull, and white is the color of death in Japan.

**Motreevational Treenoki: the character is called やる気への木さん (yaruki e no ki-san). Yaruki = motivation. Ki = tree. e no ki = enoki mushroom. When said out loud, it sounds like “motivational enoki”.

It started when I had placed a tiny microphone, so small that no one would notice, in the depths of a pocket inside of A-ya's bag.

This so-called interest of examining people's lifestyles had persisted for A-ya's sake, and had escalated from there.

In the first place, since our families were close, I also knew where the spare key was hidden.

Among the things I had discovered in his house, there was nothing suspicious.

That's right! It's because I'm A-ya's one and only best friend!

With those feelings in mind, I prepared my hidden camera and recording device, and began to monitor A-ya.

"Can feel a gaze..... huh."

In all likelihood, A-ya had probably completely failed to notice that that was my gaze.

When A-ya returned to his room, he sat beside his bed in a fetal position, hugging his knees, and crept into the futon while shivering. However, he came out of the futon to check his surroundings multiple times and repeatedly turned the TV on and off.

To be honest, I had been shaking since just earlier, and wasn't able to stop.

While watching A-ya do those things, I whispered to myself, and somehow managed to remain calm.

".....Y-you're really just.....so helpless, A-ya."

That's right, if I thought calmly about it, there should be no way this would really happen.

Dying and killing.....Could those things be done?

I have to do this right, because I'm the only one who can save A-ya.

.....Although, my mental fatigue seemed to be reaching its peak.

I turned off the PC, and got into bed.

*

And, the next day, after classes had ended, I met up with A-ya and headed towards the old school building.

B-ko was already waiting for us there.

".....!"

B-ko looked this way, and opened her mouth as if she wanted to say something.

".....What's wrong? B-ko-chan."

"....."

".....B-ko?"

".....Y-yesterday.....w-was just a prank.....right.....?"

B-ko was extremely upset. Certainly, yesterday's events had been shocking, but even so, that response was too much.

Could it be that something had happened?

".....kh,"

—Clatter.

".....!"

Just as B-ko was going to say something, the classroom door opened, and D-ne appeared.

As soon as B-ko saw D-ne, she averted her eyes and clammed up.

".....About yesterday.....In the end, I wonder what that was all about."

".....It's hard to tell at this point.....I hate to admit it, but there's a chance it might've just been an elaborate prank....."

B-ko seemed slightly relieved at A-ya's words and raised her face.

".....But, if it's true, then one of us is....."

"—Stop it!"

B-ko suddenly yelled, holding her head so as to cover her ears.
And it was at that moment—

—**THUD!!!!**

There was a sudden loud noise, and a shadow appeared outside of the glass room of the old building music room we were all in.

—It was a person.

“Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!”

We heard B-ko scream a moment too late.

In the midst of my surprise, my thoughts were still frozen.

When I looked at A-ya, he seemed to be paralyzed by his fear and unable to stand up.

Right now, the person was dangling in the air at the second floor, staring into the classroom.

The rope that hung down from the roof held her up by the neck.

“.....I-it's the 'girl by the window'.....”

A-ya was trembling in fear, with a tight, half-smile on his face.

“.....W-we.....have to go call someone.....”

When I was finally able to understand the situation, I spoke up and tried to move.

However, it was obvious to anyone that it was clearly already too late.

Call someone.....? Just who would you call?

In the end, my head was far too full of confusion, and I was unable to move at all.

My memories after that were vague.

After the teachers arrived at the scene, and we briefly explained the situation to the police as well, we were told to go home early.

From what little information we'd heard from the police, along with what we heard afterwards, it seemed that this incident clearly had too many uncertain points.

“.....That kind of thing...is just impossible.....”

Those words that A-ya whispered somehow lingered in my ears.

*

When I returned home, perhaps because I had finally begun to understand the reality of the situation, I was suddenly attacked by a wave of fear.

Whatever I had thought was fear before this was just a mere shock; when you really felt afraid, you couldn't tell if you were cold or hot, or if you were in pain, or if you were itchy, and panic would arise in your chest.

I hugged my blankets while shrinking in on myself.

“.....Those eyes, those eyes were looking at me.....”

I, who enjoyed observing other people, was currently experiencing the feeling of being watched by a higher being.

The gaze that wrapped itself around me was extremely unpleasant and disgusting.

I couldn't get that dead student's eyes from earlier out of my head.

I wonder if I'm the only one feeling this scared?

Am I the only one feeling this fear.....?!

Without standing up from where I was, I turned on the PC.

Right now, how was A-ya, how as A-ya dealing with this.....?!

The screen came up, and A-ya's room, the same as always, was displayed on the screen—

—Or so it should've.

For a moment, just only that tiny moment, someone else that was clearly not A-ya came up on the camera, and then vanished.

“.....?!”

.....Exactly who, was that, just now?

It wasn't anyone in A-ya's family, and there were no friends that A-ya would call to his house, other than me. Since A-ya was facing his desk and doing something, I couldn't see his expression.



The worst case scenario came up in my mind. Could it be, that A-ya was being targeted by the “fox”.....?!

“.....A-yaa!!”

The instant I called out his name, A-ya turned around.....

—And faced this way.

Almost exactly in the camera's direction, right now, he was looking past the screen and making eye contact with me.It couldn't be, had he noticed the lens.....? That's impossible.....that kind of thing...

For a while, I stayed silent for no real reason, waiting for time to pass without even the slightest of movements.

A-ya stared in this direction without changing his expression at all, but after that, he moved his head to look around the room, and then went straight to bed, hugged his knees and fell asleep.

.....Was it just my imagination? That silhouette from earlier.....and A-ya's gaze too.....?

For a while, I examined A-ya's room, but nothing really happened.

More importantly, when A-ya had looked this way, the image quality of his eyes hadn't been all that good, so I'd felt abnormally scared. I remembered those eyes once again.

I turned off my PC's power, and, deciding to get into bed, stood up from my chair.

—When I turned around—.....

“Uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!!”

On top of my bed was an object I had never seen before.

An old-looking book with a bookmark inserted into it.

The goosebumps on my skin told me:

—This is the real thing.

What do you mean by this?! What do you mean by this?!!

More importantly, it came to me first?!

To think that kind of thing existed, that kind of thing.....!

It's scary! Scary! What should I do! What should I do?! What am I supposed to do?!


My heart's beating increased in tempo.

Leaning on my heavily trembling feet, I grabbed the book so its pages would not flip open.

Firstly, I have to get rid of this.....

In the meantime, I stowed it away in my bag, and just like A-ya had done earlier, tucked myself under the futon and closed my eyes while hugging my knees.

translation blog

 re-missedcall.tumblr.com/post/77447707788/shadow-stepping-g%C3%A4nger-iii-the-strategy-meeting

Part 3 of the Shadow Stepping Gänger chapter from the Shuen no Shiori 2 novel.

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(Apologies for the long delay!)

—

The next day came.

I'd hardly slept at all, doing nothing but staring at the bag in which *that* was in from inside the futon.

Thinking about how I had to quickly do something about that, I made up my mind and got out of the futon.

When I gingerly picked up the bag, I noticed something amidst the feeling of unease that I could not help but feel.

—The bag was extremely light.

What does this.....mean?

Gulping, when I gingerly opened my bag, the 'Book' and 'Bookmark of Demise' that had definitely been in there yesterday were gone.

In exchange, a letter that I had never seen before was placed there.

· Kokkuri-san's demands will be sent via letter.

“.....Eep!”

Yesterday, I'd definitely been looking at the bag the whole time. It's true that I'd gotten tired, but at the very least, I would definitely have been able to tell if someone had entered my room.

There's no way this should be able to happen in reality...this is.....this is.....!

I returned the letter to the bag a little violently.

It was impossible to understand, so, right now, I have to do something about this letter.

There's no way I can let anyone read it, so in the meantime, I have to throw it away somehow.

Still confused, I changed my clothes so I could go outside, picked up my bag and phone and made to leave my room.

It was at that time.

—*Pirorin.*

“.....!”

Almost immediately after I picked up my phone, the sound of a notification rang out.

Just when had my phone been turned off from silent mode?

While getting up warily, when I looked at the screen, it was a notification from Twitter, informing me of a direct message from my classmate.

<<I foouuuuuund you! What're you doing at the shrine?>>

.....?

What is this guy saying?

<<I'm actually home alone right now, though?>>

I returned a direct message, asking if he'd mistaken someone else for me.

<<Huh? But, aren't you over there, ah, you're not?>>

<<Maybe I made a mistake? Sorryyyy, it's just that yesterday, it was pretty bad for you, and you were all alone so I kept thinking about you~ If it's just a mistake then it's fine, sorry about thattttt~>>

I closed the Twitter screen.

I thought it was a mistake, but it felt eerie.

After all, the shrine.....?

It's true that I often went to the shrine close to school. Especially when I was younger, I used to go there to play together with A-ya.

.....No, could it be.....

—♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪!!

“—!”

My phone rang out again. This time, it seemed to be an alert for a text. Even though I'd definitely put it on silent mode.....rather, when I looked at the screen of my phone, it was on silent. Just what is this supposed to mean.....?

While my face twisted up in fear, I opened up my phone, and lined up there were rows of letters I didn't want to see.

<<C-ta, what're you doing at school?>>

“.....!!!!”

What the hell is this? From a completely different person, at the almost exact same time?

When I confirmed the details of the text, they said they'd seen me near the school while driving by in their parent's car. They'd soon passed me, but they'd definitely also been seen by me.

It was unimaginable that two people would both lie to me.

A mistake?

Or.....

—Had I really been sighted?

While beginning to feel creeped out, I went outside.

Just what are you saying?!

What's going on?!

In my memories, an image of A-ya, with the corner of his mouth just slightly turned up, drifted into my head.

Then, in that case, that was a doppelganger?

“In German, it means "double goer", and as the word implies, a specific person is seen in two completely different places at the exact same time.....the point is, an imposter appears. It's a kind of supernatural phenomena.”

But this was a rumor about B-ko. Besides, A-ya had definitely never spread a rumor about me before, right?!

"This phenomena's been reported all over the world, from eyewitness accounts, so it's quite famous. It's been said that even people like Lincoln or Ryuunosuke Akutagawa have experienced this. As for commonly mentioned details,

the impostor is often sighted in places that have to do with the original person, and the impostor does not talk with any surrounding people at all.....and, if the person meets with their impostor.....it's said that the person will be killed.....”

Killed?

Could it be.....everything is A-ya's doing.....?

It was like that with the “Girl at the Window”, and the story of “doppelgangers”, too; in the first place, the one who suggested we should do Kokkuri-san was A-ya, too, wasn't it?

What if it was the same for yesterday, when he'd noticed me?

No, what if A-ya had always known until now, but had always just ignored it?

What if, I, who'd thought I'd been observing him, had in reality been played by upon his hands?

No, that.....that kind of thing is impossible!

Was it really? I need to make sure.

I made to walk towards A-ya's house.

—♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪!!

Just then, my phone made a familiar noise.

This time, it was the sound of a phonecall.

What do you mean, one after another?!

My feelings changed from fear to irritation.

When I looked at the screen, the call was from a guy at school.

He was often around A-ya, and he was the kind of guy who spread rumors around once he'd gotten his hands on them.

Once again feeling confusion enter my mind, I accepted the call.

“.....Hello?”

『Oi~! C-ta! This way, this way! Behind you.....!』

—**Click.**

The call was suddenly cut off.

When I turned around, there was no one there.

Behind me.....? What did he mean?

—♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪♪!!

That classmate called back again.

“.....Yes?”

『Oi~! Don't hang up on me~!』

“No.....more importantly.....”

『Ah, right now, you're at the shopping mall, right? I'm there too, but I saw you earlier so I called you.』

“.....Why?”

『Well, 』

“.....No, I mean, why did you think it was me?”

『.....Eh?』

“It was from behind, right? You might've mistaken someone else for me.”

『Nonono! That was definitely you!』

“Like I said, why are you saying that.....!”

『That gross doll was hanging from your bag, you know?』

–Click.

The call was cut off once again.
This time, he didn't call back.

.....Gross doll?

Certainly, every time that guy hung around me, he'd make fun of the doll hanging from my bag, laughing and calling it gross.

But, he saw it?

Maybe it was someone other than me that had one.....?

Seriously, knock it off. He said the shopping mall, right?

I'll expose you. If there's a culprit, I'll expose you.

If you say the original will die if they meet their doppelganger, then I'll kill you first!

I'd made to head towards A-ya's house, but I changed my direction and headed for the shopping mall.

*

When I reached the shopping mall, I searched everywhere around me.

In the cafe and shops, and even in the central square, I looked around.

However, there was no one like that anywhere.

Whether because of fatigue or lack of sleep, I felt lightheaded, and sat down on a bench.

".....C-ta?"

".....!"

Standing there was the classmate who had called me just earlier.

"What the hell~! You were here after all~!"

".....That's not,"

"You suddenly hung up on me earlier, and I couldn't reach you after that, so I thought, maybe you were getting creeped out."

".....Sorry.....I don't feel that well right now."

".....Oh yeah, weren't you with A-ya?"

".....Eh?"

What did he say just now?

"Hm? I feel like I saw A-ya earlier, too, but.....maybe it was just my imagination? Ah, I also met with....."

.....A-ya was here? In this shopping mall?

In my confusion, I couldn't pay attention to the conversation after that.

.....So, after all.....A-ya was.....?

".....Nah, I came by myself today."

I said, smiling, and left from that place.

*

After resting at the park, I returned home.

If there's a possibility that A-ya is the 'fox', there is also a chance that I'd be able to question him soon, and I thought that firstly, I had to get proof.

To do that, I need to monitor him intensely.

If he's at home, then it's possible to do so. He'd already noticed the camera, and there was also a chance that he'd retrieved it, but there were more cameras other than that one.

I'm going to bring this kind of shit game to an end.....!

In the middle of returning home, I passed by the shrine where I had been seen. I tried to go in to investigate for a bit, but there wasn't anything as strange as that. When I looked to the exit to go outside, there stood a figure I'd often seen.

—It was D-ne.

“.....D-ne-chan?”

Raising a smile like usual, I spoke up.

D-ne entered the park a bit.

“.....C-ta-san, what's wrong?”

“.....No, it's...nothing.....”

“.....?”

“.....This may sound weird, but...You haven't...met 'me' today, right?”

“.....? I've.....only just met you with right now.....haven't I?”

“.....Yeah, you're right.....”

I listened to her answer, and continued on.

“.....Everyone's...been acting weird.....”

“.....What's wrong? When I met with B-ko-chan earlier, she also seemed...different from usual.....almost like it was an imposter.”

Imposter.....my...imposter.

Just what is that “me” that's been going around today?

Does this have to do with the “Demise Game” too?

And A-ya, who might be with the imposter, is.....

I felt my expression grow dark.

“..... An imposter...huh.....”

“.....Are you really alright?”

“.....Yeah, I'm fine...at least, that's what I'd like to say, anyway.....”

“.....That's...true.....”

There was a brief silence.

“.....C-ta-san, who do you think...the 'fox' is?”

“.....I don't know.....”

“B-ko-chan told me that...she thinks I might be the traitor.....”

“.....B-ko did.....?”

“.....Yes.....”

“It wouldn't be surprising...Everyone's feeling on edge right now.....Even I think that you could be the 'fox', but B-ko's also suspicious to have told you that.I'm not sure about A-ya, though.....”

Seriously, just who is the 'fox'?

Is that someone who showed up in A-ya's room, the culprit? Or could it be that A-ya himself is the 'fox', and he's cooperating with someone else.....?

If A-ya is the fox, I.....wonder if I can even end this game.....?

“.....But, if...just if it does happen, you know? If you ever find out the identity of the 'fox', and you're able to end this game, D-ne-chan.....I want you to end it, instantly, without any hesitation.”

After a brief silence, D-ne slowly answered.

“.....Alright.”

From here on out, I'll act for the sake of ending this game.

If there was a time where I failed, D-ne too would be killed if she didn't take action.

D-ne has surely also noticed something.

We exchanged no further words, and left the shrine.

—I have to end this game, and soon.

Part 4 of the Shadow Stepping Gänger chapter from the Shuen no Shiori 2 novel.

[Part 1](#)

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—

When I arrived home, I took out the 'letter' from inside my bag.

No matter what is written in there, I won't change my mind. My determination resolved, I slowly opened the 'letter'.

—Doppelgängers Author: C-ta—

Don't encounter any doppelgängers.

That was all that was written inside the letter.

Even if this was some kind of warning, right now, I'd already decided to prioritize ending this game.

I turned on the PC's power.

As always, it was to observe A-ya's room.

After starting up the operation software, I immediately opened the window.

There, A-ya's room, the same as always, was displayed on the screen—

—Or so it should've.

“.....?!”

On the screen, the image that, until now, was the furthest from reality, was displayed.

In A-ya's room, in front of his desk.....

—My back was on the screen.

I'd never seen myself from behind before, but I immediately recognized it as myself.

Beyond the camera, on my bag, the “Motreevational Treenoki” was hanging there.

I confirmed by looking at the bag in my room, and sure enough, that doll that definitely should've been on my bag until now, was gone.

A-ya looked to be sitting at his desk, but my back was in the way, so I couldn't confirm it.

And when I looked further, I was gripping a pair of scissors in my hand.

“.....A-yaaaaa!!!”

I flew out of my room and headed for A-ya's place.

What if A-ya was the culprit? What if this is a trap?

.....No! I get it now.

If I'm right, then the culprit, the 'fox' is definitely.....!

“A-yaa!”

My hand fell upon the door of his house.

—Ker-chak! Ker-chak ker-chak ker-chak!!

It seemed to be locked.

I took out the extra key from the hiding place that had never changed since long ago, opened the door, and stepped inside.

“A-yaaa! Where are you?!”

I entered his house, and moved forward while checking in each room.

Even though I'd run here, no sweat came forth. Was it because of my extreme mental state? I didn't feel fatigued or afraid, either. All I could feel was a feeling that could be called a sense of responsibility.

For some reason, a cutter knife was placed in the kitchen.

I took that into my hands, and with a small click-click-click, pushed out the blade and gripped the knife.

I then proceeded towards A-ya's room.

Gulping, I gripped the knife again, and quickly opened the door.


—Bang!

.....No one was there.

Neither my imposter who had definitely just been on screen in the camera, nor A-ya, were there.

Where are they? Just where did they go?!

Thinking of going to search every nook and cranny in the room, I stepped inside.

—!!

“.....?!”

It was at that moment, my phone suddenly rang out loudly.

My body momentarily froze from surprise, but I soon opened up my phone.

There, a text had arrived.

“.....This is.....!”

I scanned the text. The contents left me confused, but I immediately remembered an abnormal sensation.

—In this room that no one for sure should've been in, I felt a sign.

I quickly turned around.

“.....!!!!”

From the scene that had appeared behind me, and this text, I finally understood everything.

No, I hadn't understood, but I had no choice but to comply.

“ x x I th x x ght, t x x x x w x s x o x .”

—I said, and laughed with my final breath.

Renna's Translations

 renna-translations.tumblr.com/post/77638581178/corrupted-byeb-call-i-noise-noise-noise-pages

Part 1 of the Corrupted Byeb Call chapter from the Shuen no Shiori 2 novel.

[Novel 2 Masterpost](#)

If you can, please consider purchasing the novel from [Amazon](#) or [Cdjapan](#) to support the series and its creators!

—
“Honestly, can’t you do something about that childhood friend of yours!?”

In the music room on the second floor of the wooden, two-storied old school building, angry shouts rang out.

And the owner of those shouts was, of course, me.

“Ahh, that rumor, you mean? Isn’t it a masterpiece?”

The one that answered teasingly with a wide grin was C-ta.

Light-colored hair that was thin and soft-looking, and droopy, friendly-looking eyes—the typical appearance of an ikemen. If you were to ask me, I couldn’t stand him.

“....Why you....”

Just as I started to draw closer to C-ta, we heard the sound of the door sliding open again.

“.... Hey.”

—It was A-ya.

“No, it’s not just ‘hey’.... I don’t really care about your bad tastes, but would you stop using people as your topics?”

“.... What’re you talking about?”

“.... Don’t act like you don’t know!”

Desperately trying to suppress my anger, I glared at A-ya.

The reason for my anger was a rumor that had most likely been spread by him.

The rumor in question said that my imposter was roaming around.

I got annoyed every single time I was sure that he spread another rumor about time, but because A-ya always looked so calm while I was fuming with anger, I felt like I was the one being immature.

“.....Haah...well, I’m used to it, so it’s fine, but you know.....”

I sighed, and sat back down in my seat.

“.....By the way, about that rumor that you spread, what is a doppelganger?”

D-ne asked.

“.....Ah.”

One corner of A-ya’s mouth turned up slightly, and he replied to her question.

“In German, it means ‘double goer’, and as the word implies, a specific person is seen in two completely different places at the exact same time.....The point is, an imposter appears. It’s a kind of supernatural phenomena.”

Impostor.....huh.

I thought it was cruel to spread that kind of rumor about someone like me, who lived off of mirroring other people’s reactions.

Well, it wasn’t the first time I’d heard this kind of story so it wasn’t like I was particularly shocked, but.....

Well, in any case, just like this, we always did this activity of gathering “rumors.”

At first, it was only because I was hounding A-ya, to sure he didn’t spread any more weird rumors, but in doing so, I realized something.

I realized that I liked things that had to do with the “occult.”

Although I have never shown passion towards anything in my life before, when I heard things about the occult, I felt a tingling feeling of excitement in the depths of my heart.

When I had heard about how in the past, there was an incident at this school where students died an unnatural death, I got goose bumps from the feelings of being both afraid and interested.

“.....Speaking of which, do you know any other rumors like this? It’s a story I just learned about recently, but there’s an urban legend about ‘The Person Who Committed Suicide While Laughing’.”

Once again, A-ya gleefully began to speak about his collection of urban legends.

Outside, the sun’s angle was quite low in the sky, and the sunset stained the sky bright red.

It’s pretty, but such a sinister color, I thought as I listened to the story.

“Ah, it’s about time I went home.”

After a bit of time had passed, C-ta said this and picked up his bag. The weird doll attached to his bag swayed.

It was an enoki mushroom striking a flashy pose, but because of its unmotivated face, it wasn’t even cute in the slightest.

Also, apparently its name was “Motreevational Treenoki,” some phonetic combination that doesn’t make much sense.

“It’s about time for me, too.....Ah, but, that doll, it bothers me, after all,”

I said while pointing to the doll on his bag.

“Ehh, even though it’s cute? D-ne-chan, you think so too, don’t you?”

“No, I don’t think it’s cute at all?”

D-ne said, smiling.

Even so, without breaking his smile,

“Ahaha, that sounds like something D-ne would say,”

C-ta replied.

“.....Speaking of dolls, in the urban legend ‘Hide and Seek Alone’, dolls are used.”

A-ya also picked up his bag to go home. Even on the way home, we continued to talk about urban legends.

*

The next day, I was angry again.

Despite all that I’d said yesterday, the rumors had gotten even worse.

Among them, there was even someone who claimed they had sighted my imposter.

There was a limit to how far mischief could go. I had a feeling I wouldn’t be satisfied until I punched A-ya today, once and for all.

After school, I went to the old school building with D-ne and threw open the door.

“.....Oh? You seem awfully angry today.”

C-ta, as usual, grinned as if he had no idea what was going on.

“.....Can’t you do something about that childhood friend of yours?”

D-ne and I put down our bags and sat down in our usual seats.

“Ahh, that rumor, you mean? Isn’t it a masterpiece? As usual, it’s the best.”

.....The nerve of this guy! Even though I was so sure that he was just like me—acting nice to other people while having a lousy personality on the inside!

“....Why you....”

The moment I jumped up from my seat, we heard the sound of the door sliding open again.

“.... Hey.”

——It was A-ya.

“No, it’s not just ‘hey’....I don’t really care about your bad tastes, but would you stop using people as your topics?”

“....What’re you talking about?”

“.....Just like yesterday, don’t act you like don’t know. The rumors are only getting worse!”


I was desperately trying to suppress my anger.

“Look, don’t call smoke where there’s no fire. I only meant it as a little prank.”

“....Why you...”

“If someone happened to see you right now, won’t they think you’re an impostor?”

Renna's Translations

 renna-translations.tumblr.com/post/78276166858/corrupted-byeb-call-ii-hanging-advisory-pages

Part 2 of the Corrupted Byeb Call chapter from the Shuen no Shiori 2 novel.

[Novel 2 Masterpost](#)

If you can, please consider purchasing the novel from [Amazon](#) or [Cdjapan](#) to support the series and its creators!

—

The following day, I headed for school early in the morning.

I couldn't bear having to deal with all that fear on my own.

As I quickly entered the school building, I saw someone I recognized in front of the shoe lockers.

—It was D-ne.

I was relieved to have found someone I could share my experiences with, and started to call out to her.

“.....D—“

Right when I was about to say her name, I realized that there was someone else with her.

..... It was a girl from D-ne's class, and if I remembered correctly, she was associated with the track club, and the type of girl that was always the center of attention in class.

We knew each other well enough to greet one another whenever we passed by in the hallways.

What could she be talking to D-ne about.....?

I hid myself somewhere that was a blind spot for both of them, but still close enough to eavesdrop.

“.....early.....practice.....I....here.....”

“.....see.....hurry.....”

I couldn't really catch what they were saying. For some reason, it looked that D-ne was paying extra attention to her surroundings.

I held my breath, and watched the two of them.

And then, D-ne suddenly opened her shoe locker.

“.....ah!”

I clamped my hand over my mouth to keep from accidentally making any sounds.

Even from a distance, although I wasn't entirely sure since it had only been for a second, if I wasn't mistaken, there had been something unwanted in that shoe locker.

It was a single letter.

Even if it had only been for a second, it had given off an unpleasant feeling—a letter that was clearly not normal.

Although I couldn't see D-ne face from where I was, why had that been in her shoe locker?

With my hand still clamped over my mouth, I leaned forward to try and hear their conversation again.

And when I did, I saw that the letter was now in the hand of the girl from the track club.

I recalled the eerie voice of the announcer.

- Kokkuri-san's demands will be sent via letter.
- You will be given one week to fulfill Kokkuri-san's demands.
- If the demands are ignored, you will die.
- If the demands are shown to someone outside of the game, that person will die.

D-ne! No, it can't be! It couldn't possibly be, right!?

If D-ne has received the letter, and that girl sees the contents, she'll die, you know?

D-ne would never do something like that.....!

She wouldn't, right!?

My thoughts didn't seem to reach at all, and the girl from the track club began to open the letter.

Her hand almost seemed to be moving in slow motion.

You can't..... But.....If you do that.....!

“.....
..... What is this?”

“—Ah!”

The track girl's face turned in my direction for a split second.

Her face was completely expressionless, lifeless, and her eyes had lost all light from them.....!

I felt like crying because of how terrifying her face was.

—What could possibly have been written in that letter?

Afterwards, the track girl walked off into the school building, muttering incoherently with the letter still in hand.

I was too horrified to move from that spot.

D-ne also stood motionless for a while, but then disappeared into the school building, as well.

That day, I didn't feel like going to class at all, and merely went up to the roof, hugging my knees to my chest and waited for the time to pass.

*

After school, while still filled with fear, I headed up to the music room in the old school building.

I must have come too early, because no one else was there yet.

Once A-ya gets here, should I talk to him about what had happened this morning.....?

But, it wasn't certain yet if that "letter" had been the real thing.

What was I supposed to do.....?

As I thought this over, the door of the classroom suddenly opened.

—Clatter.

".....!"

It was A-ya and C-ta. I felt relieved that I wouldn't have to be alone with D-ne.

".....What's wrong? B-ko-chan."

"....."

".....B-ko?"

".....Y-yesterday.....w-was just a prank.....right.....?"

Right, the things that had happened yesterday might have just been a prank.

However, A-ya and C-ta's expression showed that they thought otherwise.

If all of that had been true, then soon.....someone would.....

".....kh"

—Clatter.

".....!"

Just as I was about to talk about D-ne and this morning's events, the classroom door opened, and D-ne appeared.

I suddenly got scared, averted my eyes from her, and clammed up.

".....About yesterday.....In the end, I wonder what that was all about."

D-ne didn't seem to notice my reaction, and joined the conversation.

".....It's hard to tell at this point.....I hate to admit it, but there's a chance it might've just been an elaborate prank....."

I felt slightly relieved by A-ya saying it was a prank, and raised my face.

".....But, if it's true, then one of us is....."

One of us is the traitor.

"——Stop it!"

I yelled to interrupt those words, and held my head so as to cover my ears.

I didn't want to hear those words. After all, we didn't still know yet.

What if... What if that girl from the track club was going to die.....?

No, that's not possible! People don't just die, or get killed so easily! That kind of unrealistic thing wouldn't just simply —!

——**THUD!!!!**

There was a sudden loud noise, and a shadow appeared outside of the glass room of the old building music room we were all in.

——It was a person.

"Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!"

I screamed, and a moment later, I understood. Every bad thing that I had imagined had become an even more terrible reality, bringing on a steady dizzy sensation.

——That person, was the girl from the track club.

In the midst of my fear, I couldn't take my eyes off of her.

Right now, she was dangling in the air at the second floor, staring into the classroom.

The rope that hung from the roof held her up by the neck, and her vacant eyes met with mine.

"..... I-it's 'The Girl By The Window'....."

A-ya was trembling in fear, with a tight, half-smile on his face.

"..... W-we..... have to go call someone....."

C-ta was scared, too.

But they didn't understand. None of you... Not a single one of you could even begin to understand my fear right now.....!

.....D-ne.....!!

· If the demands are shown to someone outside of the game, that person will die.

This game was real.

No matter how unrealistic it had seemed, all of it was real.

I couldn't take my eyes off of the vacant eyes in front of me, making me unable to see what D-ne's face looked like at

that time.

My memories after that were vague.

After the teachers arrived at the scene, and we briefly explained the situation to the police as well, we were told to go home early.

From what little information we'd heard from the police, along with what we heard afterwards, it seemed that this incident clearly had too many uncertain points.

That only made sense, because this was..... The killer was.....

*

I arrived home, and just as I went into my room, my cell phone vibrated.

It was a mobile chat from a girl I got along with in class.

"B-ko, are you okay? That was really scary, huh?"

It would seem that she'd heard from someone about how I had been there to witness the suicide.

She must have sent me a message out of concern for me.

I sat down on my bed and began typing back on my phone.

".....Yeah. Sorry, I'm still pretty shocked right now....."

I felt bad for my friend who was worried about me, but I didn't feel like talking much today.

"I see... Sorry to bother you, then. But feel better, okay?"

"Mhm. Thanks."

"I'm sure it's the same for the other two that saw it, but try not to let it get to you too much....."

.....Two? What did she mean by that? At that time, other than me, there should have been three other people in the old school building.

".....Wait, what do you mean by two?"

"Eh? Oh..... Well I've kinda figured out the four of you always hang out together, you know?"

"Eh? Sorry, but what do you mean exactly?"

"Hm? I mean, C-ta-kun was somewhere else at that time, wasn't he?"

.....What was she talking about?

"There's always the four of you, so including you, it must've been three altogether."

".....I see."

".....? Um, are you really okay? If there's something you need, you can tell me anytime, okay?"

".....Yeah, thanks."

“Okay, talk to you later, then.”

I put aside my cell phone and thought for a while.

C-ta...had been somewhere else?

There was a possibility that she'd mistaken someone else for him, but..... What could that mean exactly?

「——Due to a single traitor, a “fox”, the game has begun.」

There was a single traitor.

What if D-ne had simply received the letter, and it was nothing more than that.....?

But, since it was said that something would happen if the contents of the letter were seen, would D-ne really show it to someone so easily?

As I thought about it even more, my thoughts became stuck somewhere, as if I'd walked into a marsh.

The more the struggled, the more I got stuck, and I came to a point where my thoughts were far from being logically consistent.

By the time I realized it, the morning light was streaming in through my windows.

I felt confusion, fear, unease, and an amount of fatigue that I had never felt before.

.....Hey, help meee.....

No longer able to tell if I was thinking or not anymore, I cried out like a small child, and dialed his phone number.....

Renna's Translations

 renna-translations.tumblr.com/post/79027609153/corrupted-byeb-call-iii-a-nameless-rumor-pages

Part 3 of the Corrupted Byeb Call chapter from the Shuen no Shiori 2 novel.

[Novel 2 Masterpost](#)

If you can, please consider purchasing the novel from [Amazon](#) or [Cdjapan](#) to support the series and its creators!

—

“.....Hello?”

The moment I heard that familiar voice, all the emotions that I'd had bottled up came rushing forward all at once.

“.....A-yaaa.....”

I think that may have been the first I'd ever let anyone hear me cry.

However, I didn't have the time to be feeling embarrassed about that.

“.....Help me.....”

I told A-ya about all the things I knew.

About D-ne receiving the letter, and about C-ta being sighted.

A-ya didn't say anything particular about how I spoke between sobs, and simply listened to me talk as he usually did.

After I'd finished telling him everything, A-ya was silent for a while, and then said,

“.....This case is just full of impossible things...”

A-ya's voice sounded somewhat angry.

“It's all of the urban legends that I talked about. 'The Person Who Committed Suicide While Laughing,' 'The Girl By The Window,'For C-ta, I guess it'd be 'doppelgangers'?”

“.....What do you mean?”

“In this world, there are only things that seem like the truth, and things that seem like lies.”

“.....Eh?”

“Only a second-rate playwright would feel the need to have them actually brought to life.”

“.....A-ya? What are you.....talking about?”

Although I couldn't see his expression over the phone, it was then that I finally realized that A-ya was laughing.

“.....I'll end this game.....”

Hearing A-ya's firm voice, I felt like all my fear had been blown away.

End it? But...how?

- To reach the end of the game, the "fox" must be killed.

As if he'd read my mind, A-ya continued speaking.

".....The rules of this game are too unreasonable. In the first place, I think it's doubtful whether or not the 'fox' is really even one of us four."

".....Eh?"

".....There has to be another way to track down the culprit, besides following these rules."

".....A way.....to track them down?"

For me, that seemed almost unthinkable.

If the first place, we'd never doubted that the 'fox' could be among the four of us, and even now, there was still that suspicion.....

".....But, how are we supposed to find a way to....."

".....That incident from ten years ago feels suspicious to me. But if we can find out more about it, maybe we'll be able to learn something."

".....That incident....from ten years ago....."

".....To begin with, that diary was odd..... So if we can just figure it out, then maybe....."

A-ya seemed to be thinking of something as he mumbled to himself.

.....What...What was I supposed to do...?

Keep cowering and wait for A-ya to solve this.....?

No, I...I didn't want that. But, I didn't know what else I could do.....

While I thought about these things, A-ya spoke up again.

".....Let's investigate it together."

".....Eh?"

"Let's investigate the incident from ten years ago together....."

".....But....."

"I might not be able to do it all on my own.... So lend me a hand. And then, we'll bring an end to this game.....!"

Even in a situation like this one, I thought of those words as kind.

*



“.....Haa.....”

After ending the call, I went to go take a shower.

The water washed away at least some of the anxieties piled up on my body, distracting me from them.

I went over what I had talked about with A-ya.

We had decided to split up searching the libraries between the two of us.

In order to gather more detailed information about the incident from ten years ago, we would investigate the newspaper articles and such from that time.

First, we agreed to meet up and discuss what kind of information we should be looking for.

There were two libraries nearby, the school library room and the local city library.

And right in the middle of the two libraries was a shopping mall.

We would meet there, and after going over the plan, we would each go to our assigned library.

I got out of the shower, got dressed, and headed for the shopping mall.

It was hot outside, and when I walked briskly, it was enough to make me sweat a bit.

When I neared the shopping mall, I spotted several people I knew there.

Inside, I could see pairs of boys and girls, most likely couples.

I remained out of sight, and headed towards our specified meeting location.

Once I got there, I took out my cell phone which I'd turned off.

This morning, there had once again been a bunch of chats, texts, replies, and direct messages that my classmates and people I got along with had sent out of concern for me.

Since I kept receiving so many notifications, I had turned off my phone until I'd reached the meeting place.

Just in case A-ya might be trying to call, I turned the power back on.

“.....Eh?”

There was an unbelievable amount of new notifications.

There were texts from my classmates, but for some reason, I'd received a DM on Twitter from an ID I didn't recognize.

It was a mysterious locked account, “meary1713.”

Even though you couldn't send a DM to someone unless you were following them.....On that account that I couldn't remember seeing before, they were following one person and had one follower.....In other words, they were linked only to me.

Very slowly, I opened up one of the DMs they'd sent.

『I'm always watching you.』

.....What is this.....?

Although I was honestly still scared by the incomprehensible events that kept happening around me, I didn't fall into a panic like I would before.

Instead, I thought about how I could hurry up and end this game.

What was taking A-ya so long.....!?

“.....ah!”

Right when I was about to lift my face up and look around, I felt a powerful gaze.

There was no mistake, I was positively sure that it had been directed at me just now.

Pretending that I hadn't noticed the gaze, I turned to look in the direction it had come from.

“!”

—Although it'd only been for a moment, I felt like D-ne had been there.

A-ya had said that he didn't know, but... What if D-ne was the 'fox'.....?

My phone vibrated again, notifying me that I'd received a DM.

I slowly opened it up.

『I'm watching you right now, too.』

“.....B-ko.....?”

“.....!”

The moment I tried to check which direction I felt the gaze come from, someone suddenly called to me from a short distance away.It was A-ya.

I realized that I could no longer feel the gaze from earlier, and walked over to where A-ya was.

“.....What's wrong?”

“.....No, it's nothing....”

“.....Alright, then.”

A-ya nodded, and didn't question any further.

“So, what're we gonna do? Should we sit down somewhere first?”

“No, let's just talk as we go. The basis is simple—ten years ago, the season being about the same as right now. I want to check out the local newspapers from that time. If we can find out any small detail about the incident... Like the causes of death, or what happened when the bodies were discovered, that'd be great.”

“.....Yeah.”

“I'll head to the school library room, so B-ko, I want you to go to the city library.”

“.....Alright.”

“Afterwards, even if we don't find any clues, we'll meet up again.”

“Got it.....!”

—Instead of thinking so hard about everything, right now, I had to do whatever I could.....!

After parting with A-ya, I started to head straight for the city library.

However, just when I was about to leave the shopping mall, I was seen by a classmate, and they called out to me.

“B-ko-chan!”

It was a high and clear voice that travelled far.

When I turned around, I saw that it was A-ya’s classmate.

He had a cheerful, sociable personality, and often spread around rumors that he heard from A-ya.

To be honest, I kind of didn’t like him.

“B-ko-chan, you sure went through a lot yesterday.....Are you okay now?”

“.....Ah, yeah, I’m fine,”

Even in a time like this, I couldn’t take off my mask, and answered back with a friendly smile.

“I was really worried, you know!”

He continued rambling about things he didn’t really mean.

Thinking that I’d better get going, I interrupted him.

“.....Um, I have to go soon.....”

“——By the way, C-ta’s been acting weird.”

.....What?

“.....Wait, ‘weird’?”

“Yeah. I saw him today from behind, so I decided to call him, since he was walking a bit of a distance away. And when I did, C-ta responded in a weird way and hung up on me.”

“.....Was it really him.....?”

“I mean, he even had that gross doll, you know?”

C-ta’s.....imposter?

I tried hard to think.

What if...What if C-ta really had an imposter?

Would that be related to whether or not the traitor was among the four of us.....?

In that case, maybe D-ne had an imposter, as well.

What if it had been D-ne’s imposter who was watching me, and chasing after me?

「——Due to a single traitor, a “fox”, the game has begun.」

There was still something that didn't quite make sense.

I ended the conversation with A-ya's classmate, and went around the whole shopping mall once, searching for C-ta's, or possibly even D-ne's imposter, before heading for the city library.

Renna's Translations

 renna-translations.tumblr.com/post/80724275039/corrupted-byeb-call-iv-secret-mission-side-b

Part 4 of the Corrupted Byeb Call chapter from the Shuen no Shiori 2 novel.

[Novel 2 Masterpost](#)

If you can, please consider purchasing the novel from [Amazon](#) or [Cdjapan](#) to support the series and its creators!

—

By the time I made it to the city library, it was already late into the afternoon. It would seem that I'd spent more time at the shopping mall than I'd planned to. I had to hurry and investigate the incident from ten years ago.

The city library was located a short distance away from the school area. Because it was a smaller library, it looked like there was only one staff person at the counter, and no other visitors besides me.

I headed for the reference corner in the back, where there were old books and technical books that looked thicker than dictionaries, and other collections of reference materials that had been specifically organized.

There were many thick books, so it would take a while to find what I was looking for.

After looking through several bookshelves, I suddenly noticed that there was a book lying on the small table in the back.

Had someone just left it there after looking through it?

With that light-hearted thought, I peered at the cover.

.....It was a pitch black book, and stuck inside was a bookmark with a black cat drawn on it.

“.....ah!”

An extremely ominous feeling swept over me.

My heart pounded as if it was striking a bell, and my breathing became so harsh that I could hear it with my own ears.

I leaned back against a nearby bookshelf, and at that moment, something fell down from above me.

.....It was...a single letter.

I fought hard to not go into flight mode, and slowly opened the letter, for the sake of ending this game.

—Request from Mearry-san Author: B-ko—

Don't answer the call from Mearry-san.

The moment I looked at the letter, my phone vibrated.

“.....ah!”

I pressed a hand over my mouth before a scream could escape, and checked the screen on my phone.

It was a DM from the account from earlier.

Feeling a little relieved that it hadn't been a phone call, I opened up the DM.

『I was at the shopping mall earlier.』

.....Eh?

As I finished reading that DM, the next one came immediately after.

『——Right now, I'm already in front of the library.』

——!!!!!!!

At that very moment, I heard the sound of someone entering the library.

I hid behind a nearby shelf and held my breath.

I don't know how many times I'd felt fear during these past few days.

But during that time, it was clear that the true fear was slowly coming, one step at a time.

The person that had come into the library headed straight for the reference corner.

And after looking through the shelves for a while, they took several reference materials and seemed to be heading towards the tables.

While still feeling very afraid, I peeked out to look at that person from behind.

——It was D-ne.

“.....is.....”

Although I couldn't see her expression from where I was, she seemed to be looking for something, as well.

Was she...really the 'fox,' after all? Was she...trying to find information...about ten years ago?

No, that...that can't be, right.....!? D-ne.....!

Slowly, very slowly, I crept up to her.

D-ne seemed so engrossed in what she was doing that she didn't notice me at all.

With determination, and still a bit of hope, I tapped her on the shoulder.

——Tap.

“.....Eek!”

Surprised by the sudden tap on her shoulder, D-ne turned around.

I'd already noticed it once I'd come up close, but it seemed that she really was investigating that incident from ten years ago.

D-ne leaned forward slightly, as if trying to hide it from view.

“.....Wh-what's wrong.....? Why are you h——”

“What've you been doing?”

“.....What?”

“I asked you, what've you been doing all this time?”

“.....”

I don't think I was able to hide my feelings of disgust and despair.

“.....Aha, what's wrong? B-ko-chan, you seem angry about some——”

But even still, D-ne continued to play dumb.

“Earlier, too! You were looking for someone at the shopping mall, weren't you?”

“.....What?”

“Were you looking for me.....? Did you think that you would corner me here?”

“B-ko-chan, what're you talking about.....”

What was I saying, really? It was if, I was trying to say that D-ne was——

“I saw it, you know!”

“.....What?”

“.....That day, at the shoe lockers...”

There was no going back once I'd said this.

Even though I knew this, I couldn't stop myself from doing so.

“I saw you show her the 'letter'.....You killed that girl, didn't you!?”

“.....N-no, that's....not.....”

“Enough already, just stop it! I've started to think that you might really be the 'fox,' and.....If that's really true, if you really are then.....Just put an end to this nightmare already.....!”

I was distraught from being caught up in all the confusion.

“.....B-ko-chan, you're wrong.....I'm.....”

D-ne started to say something, but then fell silent again.

A long silence followed. I thought about how I wouldn't care even if I was killed right then and then.

However, I never expected to hear the next thing that D-ne said.

".....B-ko-chan."

".....Wh-what is it....."

"I said that I liked you, B-ko-chan....."

".....What?"

After saying this, she brought out her best smile, the same as she usually would.

"....When I said that before.... It wasn't a lie."

Walking past my motionless figure, D-ne left the library.

Even after D-ne had left, for a long time, I could only continue standing there, dumbfounded.....

*

I was regretting it now.

If D-ne wasn't actually the 'fox,' then I might have said something really terrible just now.

".....We have to...hurry and end this game....."

I stood up, and went over to the material that D-ne had left open.

From here, I could see the table where the "Book of Demise" had been earlier, but the book had already disappeared without a trace.I felt like no matter what happened now, nothing could really faze me anymore,.

I scanned the material that D-ne had been looking at.

Written there were the details about that incident of unnatural deaths that had taken place at our school ten years ago.

Four Students from the Film Club Die of Unnatural Causes.

An Accident During School Club Activities? Evidence May Show Possibility of Murder.

.....Film Club?

That was strange. Such a thing hadn't been mentioned at all in the diary from ten years ago.

I was certain that they had been in the Occult Research Club, or something similar, just like us.... So what did this mean.....?

I tried looking around for other useful articles.

After comparing several of them, I noticed something strange about how they were presented.

In the majority of the articles, there was no mention of the causes of death, among other important facts. "Details are currently unknown" was written in most of them, and as if the entire incident had been forgotten about thereafter, no

further articles were published.

Thinking that I had to tell A-ya about this as soon as possible, I took out my cell phone. However, no matter how many times I pressed the call button, there was only a monotone voice informing me of poor reception.

Becoming anxious, I decided to leave the library with the materials that I'd gathered up.

Just as I was thinking that I'd better hurry to the school, my phone vibrated again.

I glanced at the screen, thinking that A-ya had returned my call, but instead, it was a text from D-ne.

In the body of the text, the only thing written was this:

『Re: Starting now, I will prove to you that I am not the traitor.』

.....D-ne.....!

I had a bad feeling.

What if... she really wasn't the traitor, and she had received a letter, as well? What if...what she'd told me.....hadn't been a lie, after all.....!?

——I changed my mind about heading to the school, and started to break into a run.

And at that moment, my phone vibrated again.

I hurriedly checked the screen....and saw that it was an incoming call from **.

『You have one missed call.』


Staring at the screen, I left out a single sigh. And at the same time, the phone vibrated again.

My fingers shook, but not because of the phone's vibrations.

“A x I th x x ght, t x e x x x w x s x o x .”

——I said, and laughed with my final breath.

translation blog

 re-missedcall.tumblr.com/post/81155348097/a-dream-come-true-monkey-hand-i-underdog

Part 1 of the A Dream-Come-True Monkey Hand chapter from the Shuen no Shiori 2 novel.

Part 1

[Part 2](#)

[Part 3](#)

[Novel 2 Masterpost](#)

—

Let me tell you about a dream. A dream I had not too long ago.
A dream where I became what I wanted to become as a child.

In that dream, I became a hero.
It's a childish dream, right?

But, I think that, ever since long ago, I've been kind of cynical, so I was a nihilistic hero.
Intellectual, and carrying many secrets.
A so-called dark hero.
My signature phrase was this:

“I'll solve them all for you.”

Appearing gallantly, solving mysteries, and defeating evil!



It's cool, right?

.....But, the real world doesn't go that well.
On the day I had that dream, I overslept.

Rather than being a hero, I'm nothing but an idiot.

Sometimes, I'll think that this kind of thing exists:

In this world, I'm just a background character in someone else's dreams.

So I can't become a main character. And because of that, I'm not a hero.

Well, I'm past the age of admiring heroes, anyway, so it's fine.

On the contrary, my views became distorted as I grew up; or rather, I allowed those abnormalities to amplify. As a result, I became a negative high school student with interest in rumors and the occult.

Well, in the end, it's all just a dream.

Dreams are things that will one day end.....

*

I walked towards the music room on the second floor of a two-storied wooden old school building. I'd fallen asleep in class without being noticed by the teacher, and because of that, I was slightly zoned out. It was because I'd looked for sites about urban legends and read up on materials again yesterday. I sighed a little, and opened the door to the classroom.

".....Hey."

—The other three were already inside the classroom.

"It's not just 'Hey'.....I don't really care about your bad tastes, but would you stop using people as topics for your stories?"

".....What're you talking about?"

".....Don't act like you don't know!"

B-ko glared and approached me.

Her anger was most likely over the rumor I'd spread.

Jeez, even though I've already spread rumors about her so many times, she still gets mad as usual...

".....Haah...well, I'm used to it, so it's fine, but you know....."

B-ko had been glaring at me for a while, but maybe because I hadn't really had much of a reaction, she sighed and sat back in her chair.

".....By the way, about that rumor that you spread, what is a doppelganger?"

D-ne asked.

".....Ah."

I answered her with a look of triumph.

We always did this activity of gathering 'rumors'.

At first glance, it may seem like we're all over the place, and although these people and I aren't compatible, we have just one thing in common.

All of us love extreme rumors.

Rumors.....to be more exact, most of the rumors could be categorized as occult or urban legends.

Like the "Slit-Mouthed Woman" or "Human-Faced Dog".....

As we talked about those kinds of rumors, we gradually started to meet in this old school building.

It wasn't a club or association or anything. We just got together to talk.

We didn't set specific dates to get together, and it wasn't even a regular thing.

From an outsider's point of view, it might have seemed odd that we got together even if we weren't good friends or anything, but as for me, I was perfectly fine with it being nothing more than that.

".....Speaking of which, do you know any other rumors like this? It's a story I've known about just recently, but there's an urban legend about a 'person who committed suicide while laughing'."

I once again began to speak about the urban legends I'd collected.

*

"Ah, it's about time I went home."

After some time had passed, C-ta said that and picked up his bag.

"It's about time for me too.....ah, but, that doll bothers me after all."

B-ko said while pointing to a doll on C-ta's bag.

Ever since long ago, C-ta's opinion of what was cute had been different from what other people thought.

"Ehh, even though it's cute? D-ne-chan, you think so too, don't you?"

"No, I don't think it's cute at all?"

D-ne said, smiling.

Even so, without breaking his smile,

"Ahaha, that sounds like something D-ne would say."

C-ta replied.

“I-it’s just a really bad joke, right.....?”

“.....”

We all fell silent at the same time, and looked at each other.

In the dim classroom, all of us had pale faces.

A long period of time passed..... In reality, it might not even have been longer than a minute, but..... The silence dragged on. Someone spoke up, saying, “.....Anyway, let’s just go home for today...” and on their suggestion, we left the school.

In the end, I went home together with C-ta, but neither of us said a word.

When I got back home, I felt like the gaze was stronger than usual.

I went to my room straight away, and crawled into the futon, hugging my knees in a fetal position.

When I did this, I actually felt the gaze get even closer than before, so I got out of bed to check my surroundings, turn on the TV, turn it off again, and get back in bed. I ended up repeating this cycle several times.

—Before I realized it, it was morning.

*

The next day, after classes had ended, I met up with C-ta and headed towards the old school building.

B-ko was already waiting for us there.

“.....!”

B-ko looked this way, and opened her mouth as if she wanted to say something.

“.....What’s wrong? B-ko-chan.”

“.....”

“.....B-ko?”

“.....Y-yesterday.....w-was just a prank...right.....?”

B-ko was extremely upset.

Besides, could you even say yesterday’s events were a prank? It wasn’t all that far-fetched of an idea, but a prank of that level would’ve required a considerable amount of preparation.....

“.....ah,”

—Clatter.

“.....!”

Just as B-ko was going to say something, the classroom door opened, and D-ne appeared.

As soon as B-ko saw D-ne, she averted her eyes and clammed up.

“.....About yesterday.....In the end, I wonder what that was all about.”

“.....It’s hard to tell at this point.....I hate to admit it, but there’s a chance it might’ve just been an elaborate prank.....”

B-ko seemed slightly relieved at my words, and raised her face.

“.....But, if it’s true, then one of us is.....”

“—Stop it!”

B-ko suddenly yelled, holding her head so as to cover her ears.

And it was at that moment—

—THUD!!!!

There was a sudden loud noise, and a shadow appeared outside of the glass room of the old building music room we were all in.

—It was a person.

“Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaah!!!”

We heard B-ko scream a moment too late.

Surprised at this occurrence, I sat down.

Right now, the person was dangling in the air at the second floor, staring into the classroom.

The rope that hung down from the roof held her up by the neck.

“.....I-it's the 'girl by the window'.....”

I felt a fear as if the story I'd told had been brought to reality.

In the midst of my fear, my face twisted into an expression where I couldn't speak.

“.....W-we...have to go call someone.....”

C-ta spoke up and tried to move.

However, it was obvious to anyone that it was clearly already too late.

In the end, after having said that, C-ta was unable to move at all.

After a while, teachers arrived at the scene, and after we briefly explained the situation to the police as well, we were told to go home early.

From what little information we'd heard from the police, along with what we heard afterwards, it seemed that this incident clearly had too many uncertain points.

An incident that shouldn't be able to occur in reality.

My head wasn't spinning around with fear or dread, but I felt that the contradiction of something that shouldn't have been able to happen in reality actually happening, was giving me a clue.

“.....That kind of thing...is just impossible.....”

.....I whispered those words.

translation blog

 re-missedcall.tumblr.com/post/81744305535/a-dream-come-true-monkey-hand-ii-secret-mission

Part 2 of the A Dream-Come-True Monkey Hand chapter from the Shuuen no Shiori 2 novel.

[Part 1](#)

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—

When I returned home, perhaps because I had finally begun to understand the reality of the situation, I felt my thoughts coming together.

Whatever I had thought was fear until now had shock added to it, and wasn't pure fear.

Certainly, this was the first time I'd ever seen a dead body in front of me, and even when I remembered those eyes now, I shuddered, but even more importantly, I felt a huge sense of unease becoming rooted inside me.

Just as always, I sat down at my desk, took out my phone, and opened up the new message screen.

It was a habit that had never changed.

I just wrote down my thoughts in a draft without ever sending them.

The broadcast that had occurred after Kokkuri-san.

And, that incident that had seemed to replicate the urban legend I'd talked about.

No matter how I thought about it, it was too well done.

I became absorbed in typing.

The key to solving the mystery was the 'Book' and 'Bookmark of Demise', and the 'fox's existence.....

As I desperately typed into my phone, I suddenly felt a chill on the back of my neck, as if a knife was being pressed there.

".....ah!"

I quickly turned around.

But, naturally, there was nothing there.

For a while, I stared in the direction where I felt a presence.

This stare I always felt, this déjà vu.

Being watched by someone..... it couldn't be something of that level, could it.....?

I wandered in a maze of my thoughts as I stared at a single point.

How I should think about this.....

Is there a correct answer to this question.....?



I thought about it for a while, but I thought that I couldn't come to any other conclusion, and stopped thinking about it.

After that, I looked around my room as a precaution, and just like that, crawled under the covers, hugged my knees and fell asleep.

*

“Hello?”

The next morning, I got a call from an unknown number.

I answered the phone in my usual grumpy voice.

『.....A-yaa.....』

It was B-ko. Her voice was somewhat different from what I was used to hearing, so for a brief moment, I was surprised.

I say 'used to hearing', but when I thought about it, this was pretty much the first time I'd ever talked to her over the phone.In any case, B-ko seemed to be crying.

『.....Help me.....』

I merely listened to B-ko talk, just as I usually would.

About how a letter had been sent to D-ne, and about how C-ta's imposter had been sighted.

Although B-ko occasionally choked up, she tried to inform me about everything she knew as accurately as possible. And after she had finished speaking and I'd thought about it for a while, I said this:

".....This case is just full of impossible things..."

I think my voice contained a bit of anger.

"They're all the urban legends that I talked about. 'The Person who Committed Suicide while Laughing', 'The Girl by the Window,'For C-ta, I guess it'd be 'doppelgangers'?"

".....What do you mean?"

"In this world, there are only things that seem like the truth, and things that seem like lies."

".....Eh?"

"Only a second-rate playwright would feel the need to have them actually brought to life."

".....A-ya? What are you.....talking about?"

Before I knew it, I realized that the corner of my mouth had turned up.

".....I'll end this game....."

From the other side of the phone, I could sense a hint of B-ko's dismay.

I wonder if I was even thinking about killing a specific person.

".....The rules of this game are too unreasonable. In the first place, I think it's doubtful whether or not the 'fox' is really even one of us four."

".....Eh?"

".....There has to be another way to track down the culprit, besides following these rules."

".....A way...to track them down?"

That's right, there's no need to go ahead and hijack the rules made by others. More than anything, I felt that the way things were going along too conveniently was odd.

—The only determined fact had been the female student's suicide.

That was a grand demonstration to show that this game was definitely real. It seemed to be for the sake of creating an illusion that if one rule was right, then all the others were as well.

Because of one impact, other contradictions would be drowned out; that kind of thing was an old trick.

".....But, how are we supposed to find a way to....."

That's it, right there. I still don't have enough information.

Something absolute should be hidden somewhere.

In the first place, the 'Book' and 'Bookmark of Demise's' secret was like that.....!

".....That incident from ten years ago feels suspicious to me. But if we can find out more about it, maybe we'll be able to learn something."

".....That incident...from ten years ago....."

".....To begin with, that diary was odd..... So if we can just figure it out, then maybe....."

I thought as I muttered quietly.

Right now, B-ko was probably pretty scared.

But, I might not be able to end this game by myself.

".....Let's investigate it together."

".....Eh?"

"Let's investigate the incident from ten years ago together....."

".....But....."

"I might not be able to do it all on my own..... So lend me a hand. And then, we'll bring an end to this game.....!"

I put forth the most positive voice I could, and told that to B-ko.

*

From there, we decided to split up our work and search at the library.
There were two libraries nearby, the school library room and the local city library.
And right in between them was a shopping mall.
We would meet there after this, and after talking about it, we'd each head towards a library.
I quickly got ready, and left the house.

It was humid when I went outside, and the clammy air gathered around me.
As usual, there were dark circles under my eyes, and my hair was unkempt.
I wasn't looking down as I usually did; instead, I steadily faced forwards and walked quickly.
When I went into the shopping mall, I was able to find B-ko, restlessly paying close attention to her surroundings with suspicion.
Because she was hiding in the shadows, it had been hard to find her.

".....B-ko.....?"

".....!"

I spoke up from a little distance away.
B-ko seemed to pick up on that and walked up to me.

".....What's wrong?"

".....No, it's nothing..."

".....Alright, then."

B-ko seemed to be in a situation of considerable emotional disturbance, but she was desperately pretending that nothing was wrong.

"So, what're we gonna do? Should we sit down somewhere first?"

"No, let's just talk as we go. The basic idea is simple – ten years ago, the season being about the same as right now. I want to check out the local newspapers from that time. If we can find out any small detail about the incident... Like the causes of death, or what happened when the bodies were discovered, that'd be great."

".....Yeah."

"I'll head to the school library room, so, B-ko, I want you to go to the city library."

".....Alright."

"Afterwards, even if we don't find any clues, we'll meet up again."

"Got it.....!"

After saying all that, the two of us split up, but it seemed like B-ko was reaching her limit.
According to what I'd heard from her earlier, D-ne's mental state also seemed pretty unstable.
And C-ta, too, if a letter has already reached him, the imposter may be a consequence of that.
No matter what kind of situation everyone is in right now, there's only one thing I can do.
I'm going to end this Demise Game.....!

—I exited the shopping mall, and began to run towards the school.

Part 3 of the A Dream-Come-True Monkey Hand chapter from the Shuuen no Shiori 2 novel.

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

Part 3

[Novel 2 Masterpost](#)

—

Because of the fact that the school was currently closed, it didn't feel like there was anyone around. It looked like reporters and cameramen from the media had been here for a few days, but presently, they were no longer here.

Just in case, I went in through the back gate and headed for the staff room in the new school building.

The staff there at the time were surprised that I was at school, but once I'd said some suitable things like how I didn't want to be home alone, maybe because the situation was the way it was, they lent me the key to the library.

After that, I headed to the library and library material room.

I unlocked the door. and slowly went inside, heading towards the corner of the material room where things like newspapers of the region were collected.

I looked for binders containing the newspapers, sorted by age.

It wasn't like every page of the newspapers had been kept; it seemed like the newspaper club just cut out articles and things from regional and national newspapers that had interested them, arranging them by age.

I took a binder from exactly ten years ago, and as I opened it up on a desk nearby, I searched for articles similar to *that*.

For a while, I turned pages, and there, was a set of articles similar to it.

An Accident In A School Club? Four Dead,One In Serious Condition.

.....!

At once, it stood out as being inconsistent with the rumor told within the school.

And, it was different from the diary I had.

In the diary, there had been no one other than the four.

Then, just who was this extra person.....?

Maybe as a memo from the news club at the time, written on the article in pencil was this:

A Bizarre Murder Has Occurred In The Film Club?!

Film club, murder incident.....huh.

And also, it was different from the diary I had.

There hadn't been a single word in that diary mentioning a film club at all.

They should've been members of an occult research club, just like us.....

I took the set of articles out of the binder, and, packing it into the bag I'd brought, returned the binder to its original shelf.

.....**Clatter.**

".....ah!"

At that moment, I heard the sound of the library's door opening.
I hid myself instantly, and entering the room was a person that I recognized.

.....It was D-ne.

For a while, I held my breath, and she also began to examine the newspaper articles.

Just like B-ko did, I considered asking for her cooperation, but judging from her current circumstances, she was sure to have already received the 'Book of Demise' once.

If that happens, and my thinking is right, then after this.....!

“.....!”

Instantly, D-ne stood up and looked this way.

I remained hidden, holding my breath, and perhaps because she'd given up, D-ne left the library.

“.....Hahh.....”

I let out a big sigh.

But, I can't be doing this. If my predictions are correct, then after this, D-ne will try to carry out what is written in the 'letter'.

Thinking that, in the meantime, I had to contact B-ko, I took out my cell phone while sitting down.

But, no matter how many times I phoned B-ko, the signal didn't seem to reach so there was no sign of the call connecting.

.....Crap.

As it is right now, it's dangerous.

Moving to firstly get out of the school, I stood up.

And when I looked to the desk where all my materials had been spread out on just earlier, something that shouldn't have been there was placed right in the open.

A pitch-black cover. And, a cat bookmark.

As if I'd been reading it just earlier, that book was placed there.

.....Finally, it's here.....!

—The 'Book' and 'Bookmark of Demise'.

“—It really exists.”

I wonder what kind of expression I was making at that moment.

This book and bookmark that I've thought of wanting to see countless times are, right now, right in front of my eyes. In that abnormal atmosphere, it seemed to surpass understanding and emotion, and it felt like I'd be swallowed up.

.....As expected, my body is shaking.

I opened my bag to put away the book.

But in there, was something that had definitely not been there earlier.

“.....ah!”

A letter, and — something like a small, mummified hand.

That thing, which was only from the wrist up, had five fingers firmly attached to it, and was half open.

It looked like it was about the size of the hand of an elementary schooler.

It had a fairly grotesque appearance.

.....Just, what is.....?!

I took the letter out of my bag, and slowly opened it.
In it, only this was written:

—The Monkey's Paw Author: A-ya—
Use the Monkey's Paw, and defy fate.

.....The Monkey's Paw, huh..... Certainly, it was an item that appeared in a short story from overseas.....
It should be an item that is able to grant wishes, just one for each finger.

—If this really can grant any wish, then.....!

“As I thought, the fox was you.”

—I said, and laughed with my final breath.

translation blog

 re-missedcall.tumblr.com/post/83448047447/a-dream-come-true-monkey-hand-iv-repeatragedy

Part 4 of the A Dream-Come-True Monkey Hand chapter from the Shuuen no Shiori 2 novel.

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

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Part 4

[Novel 2 Masterpost](#)

—

—This is yet again just one conclusion.
Piled up possibilities, without an ending.
The one true form of the Demise Game.
.....This game is filled with nothing but traps to raise suspicion of each other.

In the midst of all this, there is a single ‘traitor’.
Together with those words, comes an unfolding, unrealistic tragedy.

I’m going to be killed next, aren’t I?
That guy’s suspicious! He’s the traitor!

Negative feelings, spreading like in that manner, soon confirm the need to kill the ‘fox’.
If I don’t kill him, I’ll be killed.....!
Humans convinced of that, are fools.

*

Having left the school, I continued to try and contact B-ko as I returned home.
I called her again and again.
After the tenth redial, B-ko finally answered her phone. But, at that moment, I realized that the worst possible outcome I had predicted had become a reality.

『.....Hello.』
“Hello! B-ko?”
『.....』
“.....B-ko.....?”
『.....B-ko-chan is.....』
“.....! D-ne.....?”
『B-ko-chan, said I was the ‘fox’.....』
“D-ne, calm down for a minute.....”
『B-ko-chan, suddenly, attacked me.....could it be, that she meant to.....help me.....?』
“.....!”
『I...I...might be the ‘fox’, after all.....in that case.....』
“D-ne.....?”

—Click.

Leaving me with those words, the call cut off.

B-ko knew that D-ne was going to carry out what was written in the letter, and went to stop her.....
And then, D-ne.....!

.....This, this is.....!

I realized that my own choice had been a bad move.
The bile began to rise in my throat, and while feeling like I was about to throw up, I called C-ta.

—He's not picking up.

I had a bad feeling.
I sent a text to C-ta, saying, "There's something I want to talk to you about, so can you wait for me in front of my house?" and hurried home.

And then, I reached my home, but C-ta wasn't in front of my house.
But, as I reached for the front door, I heard a noise from inside.
When I placed my hand on the door, it was unlocked.

Slowly, in order to not make a sound, I entered my house.
The noise seemed to be coming from my room.

Gingerly, as I approached my room, I prayed my last prayers in my heart, and sent a text to C-ta.

『C-ta? You aren't in my room, right?』

Immediately after it switched to the message sent screen, the sound of a text notification rang out from inside my room.

As I thought, C-ta was there.
I slowly peered into my room.

At that moment, C-ta, with cutter knife in hand, attacked me.

"As I thought, the fox was you."

—C-ta said, and laughed with his final breath.

*

—For a while, I remained in a daze, in the middle of that room that had been dyed bright red, covered in tears, vomit, and all sorts of body fluids as I wept.

In my hand, I gripped a pair of scissors that were the same color as the room, and C-ta, who I'd been together with ever since I was young, lay asleep in front of me.

I...I've.....

And so, the tale comes to an end.

The same as always, heading to an ordinary 'conclusion'.

Bookmark of Demise Novel 2: Revenge Heroes (報復ヒーローズ)

 amesubs.tumblr.com/post/95850703423/bookmark-of-demise-novel-2-revenge-heroes

Sorry for the delay! Here's chapter 5 from the second Bookmark of Demise novel. [Novel 2 Masterpost](#)

In the school building that's supposed to be deserted, the sound of footsteps resounds.
The wooden floor makes unpleasant, creaking noises.
It's become completely dark outside.

The sound of water slowly dripping from a tap somewhere could be heard.
As well as the window clattering as the wind hit it.

It's the same as always.
An unchanging result, one seen many times.

D-ne had killed B-ko.
And after that D-ne also died.
Then A-ya had killed C-ta.

Finally A-ya had committed suicide here.

No one is left.
This time as well, not a single person is left.

With this, this round's pattern has finished.
Game Over.
Ahh, I've done it again.
How boring, boring, boring, boring!

I've had enough of this B-grade outcome.
Come on, lets put an end to this already.

No matter how many times it happens, it'll be the same.
Somewhere in my heart, I wish for an irregular outcome that should never happen.
The result of a story that fled to a worn out, extremely common, incredibly boring parallel world.

And then, opening the "ordinary" old school building's music room's door.....



——!?

I couldn't understand the scene that appeared before my eyes.

Standing along with A-ya, in the former music room in the old school building, B-ko, C-ta and D-ne, all of whom should have been dead, were present. Gathered just as they always did, in the uniforms they always wore, just as always...!

And then, all of them point at me.

.....What in the world was this?

".....At long last, I understand this game's plot."

A-ya tells me.

"This game is one that's impossible to beat. Ever since the beginning, I thought it was strange, that such a game was impossible."

"That's right."

Then, B-ko continues.

"For example, the announcer's voice after we did Kokkuri-san. We can't deny the possibility of that being just a prank. Because it's also feasible in "reality"."

.....!

"Next was that classmate's hanging incident."

D-ne thrusts on further.

"It's an unlikely incident.....But, even so, it's not like it is *completely* impossible....."

C-ta continues.

"But, the directing was so over the top.....almost as if, it was **'s world's doing."

.....So, what are you trying to say.....?!

"Why are we alive? The face you're making seems to be asking that. D-ne, B-ko and C-ta die, and then I die here – isn't that was how it was meant to be.....? But what you saw earlier, "that" was one possible conclusion. But it's different this time. In a world of possibilities, we're in a state of both being dead and alive at the same time. Almost

like Schrödinger's cat.....After you observe us, you first assume a conclusion. But that kind of thing is impossible.....Perhaps, this world is close to something like the Brain in a Vat Hypothesis-----“

A-ya continues to speak.

“But, we're definitely here. And in this world, “reality” does exist.”

As A-ya speaks, he brings out a small mummified hand from his pocket.
It was in its original condition - not a single finger broken.

“I'll solve it for you”

.....!

“This ‘Monkey's Paw’ is an almost dream-like item.”

Grasping the “Bookmark of Demise”, A-ya holds up the mummified hand and continues.

“As you can see, I didn't use the ‘Monkey's Paw’ even once. Of course, I know exactly what kind of item this is. It's a dream-like item, but as the same time, it's not like you can create 1 from 0 by using this item: creating a condition where whatever you wish for using this, something of the same value will be lost to give you that “something”, or it'll be taken from “somewhere” from someone's possession. There was a couple that wished to the Monkey's Paw that they wanted money, and the next day, they heard that their son had died in an accident at work, and because of that, just as they'd wished, they received money from the company – I think that story is the most popular? Supposing I was in front of a vending machine, and I wished that I wanted juice, a one bottle of juice would disappear from within that vending machine, and in exchange, would the respective amount of money disappear from my wallet? But if it's going to be like that, I could've just put in money and pressed the button.”

Putting down the ‘Monkey's Paw’, A-ya continues further.

“The contents of the wish aren't important. The main point is, the knowledge that the ‘Monkey's Paw’ isn't even needed.....”

.....W-what are you saying.....?

“What you saw till now was just a common Bad End. An elaborate prank.”

With those eyes full of conviction, those eyes that corner me.....!

“To put it simply, no matter what's written on a CD's jacket, no one knows what genre of music it is until they listen to it themselves. There's a chance that it's classical, or that it's rock, or that it's jazz, and so on.....Of course, there's also a possibility that it's empty and has no audio.....The menu for dinner, or the popcorn in theatre, or even the content of that movie are all the same in that they all reach a conclusion in the presence of onlookers, observers, the audience in the theatre, and readers. In other words, the ones who know the conclusion are the participants and the witnesses. However, the witnesses already have a preconceived notion of what this conclusion is. Thinking, “it's probably going to turn out like this”, or “it's surely that”.....Once you have an image in your head, you can't run away from it. Isn't there something like that in your head too? Of our Bad End.....”

As A-ya says that, he puts his arm up and says this.

“The decisive evidence was the proposition by the mastermind. That one of us is the traitor...the ‘fox’. I read this in a book once. That no matter how absurd the choices are, once you've considered and eliminated all the other possibilities, if that's the only one left, without doubt, it must be the truth. In other words, if you eliminate all everyone other than the ‘fox’, the only person left must be the ‘fox’.....To be honest, I was suspicious of one of us...to be exact, the definition of “one of us”.....we just decided that it meant the 4 of us and no one else. But you know, when I think about it, that's wrong.”

A newspaper article clipping is thrown at me.

“It’s indirect, but I noticed it in the incident that happened 10 years ago. 4 dead, and 1 in critical condition.....This isn’t the most direct piece of evidence. However, the more I researched, the parallels between the Demise Game and this incident increased. It was almost as though the Demise Game was created using that incident as a reference. That’s why, the only difference was the existence of one more person, and it showed me of the possibility of another person outside the 4 of us.”

“That’s why, A-ya first told me that the “fox” was someone other than the 4 of us. And then, he told me to go to where D-ne was.”

B-ko said.

“After that, he told me the same thing by email, and joined me when I was at his house.....”

C-ta looks at A-ya and smiles.

“I knew that I wasn’t the “fox”. And then, that all 4 of us thought the same.....”

D-ne looks at B-ko and continues further.....!

“.....Therefore, the only one who knew about this had to be there, have “witnessed” Kokkuri-san...Hey, you were there, you witnessed Kokkuri-san, knew about it and were always with us, right? Because, if that’s not true, there’s no way you could know, right? It didn’t say anywhere in the rules that the “fox” was one of us four. It was just that, all of us decided by ourselves that the culprit was one of us four. Even you did. ...The fourth wall has, already...a trick that could be used because the fourth wall was a level surface, has already broken apart. If the “Monkey’s Paw” can really grant wishes, then let’s put an end to this game, this pointless charade.”

Tearing the Book of Demise apart and pointing his finger this way, his mouth warped, he pronounced so.

“Like I said earlier, no matter how improbable it is, after eliminating all the other possibilities, this is the only one that remained. There’s also a possibility that the unseen culprit is the first to be excluded...”

A-ya swallows his breath. And then, tells me——.

“This time, the “fox” of the Demise Game is...you!”

“.....And, this may also be another Bad End. For the participants——“

From then on, I couldn’t hear a thing. My vision shook violently, and as I moved, I notice sense of discomfort.

Inside my pocket, there was a single “letter”.

I slowly open it.

There, very plainly, was written.....

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Bookmark of Demise Novel 2: Demise Revival (終焉リヴァイバル)

 amesubs.tumblr.com/post/114985781483/bookmark-of-demise-novel-2-demise-revival

Here's chapter 6, the final chapter from the second Bookmark of Demise novel. Sorry for the delay!

[Novel 2 Masterpost.](#)

I could smell antiseptic.

A solution flowed down into my body through the tubes connected to it.

Am I alive? Am I being kept alive?

A completely white world. I was already feeling sleepy, and the steady rhythm I could hear lulled me into a deeper state of drowsiness.

Apparently humans can go crazy just from being confined in a white room.

If that's true, I wonder if I've already gone crazy.....

What was the "Bookmark of Demise" in the first place.....?

It felt like something that had happened so far in the past that I could no longer remember the details, but a feeling of regret stabbed at my heart.

At any rate, there was no way anyone could be satisfied with that kind of answer.

It was so idiotic.

The steady rhythm I had been hearing began to echo.

Ah, I wonder if it'll start again.....

*

"E-ki! See ya!"

"See you tomorrow, E-ki!"

After school, while my classmates were in the midst of going to club activities, I did not head for home, but instead walked towards a place that was completely clear of people.

Every time I passed by a classmate in the halls, they would call out my name.

As I returned each and every one of their greetings, I headed for my destination.

A two-story, deteriorating wooden building. My destination was one of the rooms on the second floor.

—And so, "as usual," I opened the door to the music room.

"Yo!"

—Apparently, for each person, there's an answer that can score full marks in a self-analysis.

For me, E-ki, the answer to such a self-analysis would probably be "Energetic!"

Actually, even outside of a self-analysis, I was sure of that.

The energetic aura radiating from me was incredible.

In any case, I was a man with energy as his strong point!

"Oh, it's E-ki~! Hey there!"

The one who called out my name while raising a hand in greeting was A-no.

Her skin was a little tanned, and she wore gymnastic shorts underneath her skirt to make moving around easier. Her short, trimmed hair also gave off a lively and refreshing impression.

In truth, she was a fan of retro games, or so I'd heard, but you wouldn't be able to guess that at all from her appearance. Overall, she was a female student that gave off an impression of being a "speed type," with her

lightweight body that lacked any excess fat.... Especially around her chest area.... you know....?

“Die!”

“Uwah?!”

Suddenly, A-no aimed an incredibly sharp punch at my face.

No, seriously, I just barely dodged that one! What’s with her all of a sudden?!

“...Wh-What do you think you’re doing?!”

“You’re the one that was looking at my chest while sighing and muttering, ‘Lightweight.... haa.....!’”

“...Eh?! Are you psychic?!”

“So you admit it!! Lose one life and die!”

Another lethal punch was thrown at me, barely skimming my ear.

Wait, hold on, seriously! She’s not holding back at all!

Unlike that mustachioed man in the video game, I only have one life here....!

“....U-Uh, um, err.... Please... d-don’t fight....”

A small figure walked up between us.

It was B-ka, looking flustered and worried.

He was smaller than A-no, and his face even more feminine than hers, but though he was timid, his charm point was his snaggletooth that peeked out whenever he smiled. Despite being so feminine in all areas, his name included, he was a male student.

Saying that he’d grow into it before long, he wore a loose uniform that he’d bought a size too big, but it was obvious that his overly-long sleeves were just another moe point in the end.

“...As I thought, in terms of being girly, it’s A-no’s loss by a landslide—”

“Dieeeeeee!!”

“Again?!”

This was no good; it looked like I’d accidentally said my thoughts out loud once again.

This time, A-no’s attack hit me right in the ribs.

The pain for this one was going to come little by little.

Anyway, what’s B-ka blushing for?! What are you, a girl?!

“...Noisy as usual, I see.”

The female student that was reading in the back of the classroom shut her book and looked over at us.

Her name was C-na. With glasses that made her look studious, and straight bangs, everything about her screamed “Committee President!” Or “Prodigy!” But in reality, her grades weren’t really that good, and she read geeky magazines profusely. In other words, she was an otaku-type girl.

She was even shorter than B-ka, and if she were to stand next to me, she’d look like a pretty petite girl.

Well, height-wise, she’s on the small side, but.... when it comes to her chest and the excess fat there, she actually... had quite... a bit of it? I would say....

“Die!! Die and don’t ever choose continue!”

“You’re terrible—!”

“Again?! You too?!”

A-no attacked me for the third time, and for some reason, B-ka was hitting me as well.

Wait, hold on, this isn’t normal!

There’s never been a “continue” in life in the first place....! This isn’t the sequel of some B-grade movie...!!

And as all this went on, C-na went back to reading her book.

“Ahaha~ E-ki, you’re so funny as always~ (crunch crunch)”

I heard a slow, drawling voice say from behind me.

D-suke laughed while munching noisily on a bag of snacks.

His long hair was tied back loosely, but even then, his bangs were still long enough to cover his eyes. Since you could never see what his entire face looked like, he always gave the impression that he was spacing out. He was taller than me, stooped over when he walked, and was usually eating some kind of snack.

....The introduction got a little long, but basically, the five of us always gathered in this music room.

We had all just started our second year of high school.

Although we met in the music room, we weren't part of the Brass Band Club, or even the Light Music Club.

We were actually! The Film Club!

....That said, the club had actually been on the verge of being abolished, but since it seemed interesting, I dragged the others along. Since we had only just recently revived it, we had yet to do anything in terms of club activities.

"However, it must not stay that way!"

"...Hm? What was that, all of a sudden?"

"Well, since we're in the Film Club, it'd make the most sense for us to film a movie! And anyway, doesn't making our own movie sound like fun?!"

"...I only joined... because.... I wanted to make movies.... you know. (crunch crunch)"

"Right, you even own a video camera!"

"...I'm interested as long as it's horror. Also, I can help out with editing using a computer."

"I'd expect no less from you, C-na! Oh, by the way, that horror movie I borrowed from you the other day was really scary!"

"...Ah~ I borrowed it too, but I didn't really get the ending."

"To have to rely on a philosophical thought experiment like Schrodinger's Cat, the writer had to have been a third- or second-rate screenwriter at best."

As D-suke and C-na carried on with their own separate conversation, A-no piped up.

"As long as I can do a role that's full of energy, I'm fine with anything. I think filmmaking sounds like a lot of fun!"

"How about you, B-ka?"

"...I-I, um, if... everyone else is doing it, I'll... help out, too...."

Just as I had expected, everyone agreed on making the movie.

The elites that I had handpicked didn't disappoint!

"So, this is what I've come up with! I'll be the director, screenwriter, and producer! And the four of you will be the cast and staff for this project...! Let's aim to get it done by this summer! So, how's that sound for an initial plan, guys?"

I asked, and looked around at everyone.

"Well, that depends on what kind of movie it'll be, but.... It sounds good so far."

"...I'm really.... looking forward to it...."

"...I think that sounds fine."

"Okay~"

Everyone reacted like they usually would, but I could tell that they were all really excited.

".....Now then, the premise, which you've all been waiting for..."

I picked up a piece of chalk, and wrote out the long title on the blackboard in big letters.

"The movie will be about us creating a new urban legend.... And as for the title, I thought it'd be best to make it sound grandiose and dramatic, so this is what I came up with!"

In the classroom illuminated by the sunset, our long-awaited summer began.....

"—The title will be Bookmark of Demise."

