

# ネットゲの嫁が 人気アイドルだった

My wife in the web  
game is a popular idol.

~クール系の彼女は  
現実でも嫁の  
つもりでいる~

# 1

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OVERLAP

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その手にはマイクが  
力強く握られており、  
顔には珍しくも  
情熱的な表情が浮かんでいる。

# Prologue

"Kazuto-kun. What does this mean?" (Rinka)

After school. In the room of a high school girl idol.

In a corner of the neat and tidy room, I was forced to sit on the floor.

Standing in front of me was Mizuki Rinka, a beautiful girl with long hair.

She was looking down at me with frozen eyes, a silent menacing aura was emitted from her whole body.

"Kazuto-kun, I ask you one more time, Who are these girls?" (Rinka)

Rinka showed the screen of a smartphone in her palm.

What displayed there was friend list of a certain MMO.

There was a list of amusing names of online game players (only 5).

"They are... just ordinary players. We just happened to be together in a dungeon the other day and then we became friends." (Kazuto)

"Is that so. then you cheated on me while I was logged out." (Rinka)

"Absolutely no! Because those people are hode! The avatar of theirs are beautiful girls, but they are actually old men(?)" (Kazuto)

I hurriedly excuse myself when I was glared at by her beautiful yet sharp eyes.

But Rinka wasn't convinced, she scraped her hair up and said, *"Don't make any excuses"*.

"Excuses eh... You think I have a strange relationship with old men?" (Kazuto)

"It was what I think." (Rinka)

"Why! It's really shocking to me that you answered immediately without hesitation..." (Kazuto)

"Kazuto-kun might have a fetish for Hodes." (Rinka)

"I don't have such a tendency, absolutely don't have!"  
(Kazuto)

Let me affirm. **Absolutely impossible!**

Let me affirm one more thing! They are not hodes!

They simply just men who were playing using beautiful girl characters.

"Is that really the case? I can't deny the possibility that Kazuto-kun will get tired of me and run for an oldie hode."  
(Rinka)

"I want you to deny that possibility! Even if I get tired of Rinka, I absolutely won't run to some random old men!"  
(Kazuto)

"...That so. As I thought, you tired of me after all." (Rinka)  
Rinka sadly hung her face down.

She looked like she was about to shed tears.

"For example! Suppose that Rinka and I are friends from middle school? It's not like I will getting tired or anything like that." (Kazuto)

"... Prove it." (Rinka)

"What?" (Kazuto)

"Prove to me that Kazuto-kun pledged his eternal-undying love to me." (Rinka)

"N, no no...." (Kazuto)

Th, that's exaggeratedly heavy. To pledge eternal-undying love, was quite a problem.

*Because we are...*

"We're married, aren't we? On the internet, though." (Rinka)

"Y-yeah, I guess so, but in real life, we're-----." (Kazuto)

"In real life.... what was it?" (Rinka)

Rinka asked with a cold and powerful tone.

This is as if you are being confronted with choices that will take you straight to the bad end.



**A or B.** *(PTW/N: ERABE!!!! XD,, somehow I remember anime NouCome)*

It is a hellish game that does not even have load option, let alone save.

I carefully chose the words while breaking out in a cold sweat.

"In real life... we're close and get along well. Very close and get along very well." (Kazuto)

"Yup, we are. We also have fostered an absolute bond, like a mature couple." (Rinka)

"..." (Kazuto)

We were *not* even dating, though.

It's not even a month since we met in real life.

"Surely, I've been busy with my idol activities. Still, I've never forgotten Kazuto-kun even a second." (Rinka)

"E-ee....." (Kazuto)

"So, don't forget about me okay, Kazuto-kun." (Rinka)

"O-of course." (Kazuto)

"Thank you..... So I'm going to delete all your friends except me." (Rinka)

"Okay——no, why! Even though they are nice people!" (Kazuto)

"Then, let's do this. Next time, I'll talk to them one-on-one. If I find out that they don't have any ill feelings with Kazuto-kun, I'll approve them to be friends." (Rinka)

"If you do that much, I'll be very embarrassed, you know." (Kazuto)

"This is the lowest line I can make concessions. If you don't, please give up on friends other than me." (Rinka)

"Seriously. I'd like to ask you to review the minimum line..." (Kazuto)

"I can't." (Rinka)

The plea was rejected with a snap.

Apparently, Rinka is serious.

Haaaa...

*Why did this happen?*

It was two weeks ago, that my entire life took a drastic turn. An online friend who I got married with in the game, actually was a popular idol and even my classmate.

# Chapter 1 - I am, Mizuki Rinka

"I knew it, after all Mizuki-san was beautiful and cute."  
(Kazuto)

As I relaxed on my bed in my room, I was watching the music video of "**Star☆Mines**" on my phone.

There are five members of Star☆Mines. All of them were high school girls.

They were wearing cute dresses and dancing cheerfully.

They are a rather popular idol group in the world.

However, I'm only paying attention to Mizuki Rinka.

Rather than being a fan of Star☆Mines, I was a fan of Mizuki Rinka.

The reason I became a fan of her was that we were in the same class.

Her outstanding appearance and cool demeanor caught my attention.

Looking back, I think this was the first time I clearly felt the existence of Idol.

I was not interested in idols before I met Mizuki-san.....

But in the classroom, Mizuki-san stood out with a slightly cold attitude.

She always had a crisp expression and a serious attitude, which made some of the classmates distance themselves from her.

Still, she is a beautiful idol and is terrifyingly popular among boys.



But instead of talking to a particular boy, she had only the bare minimum of conversation with her classmates.

*Perhaps she hates men?* Such a rumor was flowing.

Well, thinking normally, I guess she was just trying to avoid any scandal (?).

If the public knew that she was getting along with a certain guy, her fans would probably leave her at once.

Then, when you asked if she was on good terms with the girls, that seemed not the case.

In fact, Mizuki-san was rather isolated in the classroom.

Even so, she seemed to get along well with certain girls, and I would occasionally see her talking with girls from her idol group.

One of the reasons why Mizuki-san tends to be isolated is probably because her air is different from that of ordinary people.

The aura she wore was clearly different from us ordinary people.

Even I, who is called a man who can't read the atmosphere by others, can only watch Mizuki-san's back from the corner of the classroom.

Just talking to her makes me nervous.

It's hard to talk to her because of the tense atmosphere she exudes.

"But I want to at least greet her. And then hear her reply 'good morning' in her beautiful voice.....!" (Kazuto)

People said that Mizuki-san is the best singer in the group. And I strongly agree with that.

"Gather your courage, and try to greet her tomorrow morning...!" (Kazuto)

I don't have romantic feelings for her, but I want to be able to greet her as a classmate at least.

It had already been a few weeks since I had this with.

I'm too much of a slacker.

*\*Ping\*.*

A notification sounded from my phone.

It was from a voice chat application for a game.

The name of the message sender is "**Rin**".

[I've logged in ya know~] (Rin)

"Ah, already the time, huh?" (Kazuto)

The time now is 21:07.

The meeting time is 21:00, so I'm already late.

I was so engrossed in Mizuki-san that I forgot the time I was supposed to meet my friend.

[I'm sorry. I'll be in soon.]

I replied, then booted up my computer.

I started an MMO called "**Black Plains**", which boasts an overwhelming degree of freedom.

This open-world game with realistic graphics is a great web game that allows you to enjoy all kinds of role-playing, from battles to daily life.

One of its features is you can play it from smartphone.

By the way, my player name is "**Kazu**".

The origin of it is my real name.

My real name is Ayanokouji Kazuto.

In other words, I just took the first two letters of my name.

As soon as I logged in, I received a chat from Rin.

[I've been waiting for you~. It's been a long time, yes~]

(Rin)

[It's been a long time? Haven't we met just last Sunday?]

(Kazu)

[Then it's been a week! I've been looking forward to playing games with you all week, Kazu!] (Rin)

[Hey hey] (Kazu)

She's as excited as ever, The tension is high.

This player, "Rin", is a friend of mine from a web game that I've been friends with since we were in the second grade of middle school.

I'm in my second grade of high school now, so..... we've been friends for four years now.

I guess you could call us best friends on the Internet.

Well, maybe more than best friends, since we're married, albeit in-game.

At least Rin treats me casually and without hesitation.

[What are we doing today? By the way, I think I want to go fishing~] (Rin)

[I want to go to the mine to collect ore and improve my mining skills.] (Kazu)

[What are we doing today? By the way, I think I want to go fishing~] (Rin)

[Are you a bot!? My demand didn't even convey!] (Kazu)

[Let's go fishing.] (Rin)

[It's already a compulsion, huh.] (Kazu)

*If that's the case, don't ask me "What are we doing today?"...*

I'm not going to send it, though.

It's just a way to say hello to each other.

Rin also understands that.

We don't know anything about each other's real-life situations, but we've built up a certain amount of trust.

"I wonder what the real Rin is like." (Kazuto)

In the past, I had casually asked her about her real life.

But she said she didn't want to talk about real life, so I didn't pursue the subject any further.

She told me that she didn't want to talk about real-life because it would ruin the purity the relationship of us.

I understand what she means.

I know it's extreme, but if Rin actually was a yakuza, I'll uninstall Black Plains, destroy my computer, and thoroughly distance myself.

Well, anything is fine.

It doesn't matter to me who Rin is (as long as she's not a yakuza).

It's fun to play games together.

That fact is the most important thing ...

I enjoy playing games with her.

That fact is the most important thing.....



[Hey, Kazu. Let's go out to sea on my boat.] (Rin)

[I don't want to, because it'll sink.] (Kazu)

[Why do you say that? It's absolutely gonna be okay!] (Rin)

[That's the third time I've heard that line. And I always have to help you gather materials to repair the boat.] (Kazu)

[It's going to be okay this time! I've been looking up how to operate a boat better on video site.] (Rin)

Rin, whose avatar dressed as a cute elf on the screen, showed guts pose with her fist clasped.

[I'm counting on you, okay? It's really hard to repair a boat you know.] (Kazu)

[Leave it to me! I feel like I can do anything right now!] (Rin)

And so, with such mysterious confidence, I followed Rin out to sea in a boat that was maybe a little bigger than a small boat.

If we got too far from land, we'll be attacked by pirate ships, so we had to be careful.

We stopped the boat and began fishing.

I enjoyed casually chatting with this friend of mine while waiting for any fish to bite.

[Hey Kazu. I still haven't heard your apology for being late.] (Rin)

[I'm sorry.] (Kazu)

[Why were you late?] (Rin)

[I was watching an idol music video.] (Kazu)

[Hee. So Kazu was interested in idols.] (Rin)

[Well, sort of.] (Kazu)

I replied, and then a few seconds of silence followed.

I was in a daze, looking at the fishing line hanging from the boat into the sea.

Rin didn't seem to be catching any fish either.

[What is the name of the idol?] (Rin)

[I thought we weren't allowed to talk about real life?] (Kazu)

[This time is different. So tell me.] (Rin)

Don't bite into it.

You're not a fish, you're Rin, aren't you.

[It's a group called Star☆Mines. Do you know them?] (Kazu)

[Yea.] (Rin)

[I'm a fan of Mizuki Rinka, so I watch them a lot.] (Kazu)

[Is that so.] (Rin)

[Yeah. I'm, actually in the same class as Mizuki-san you know. How's it, Isn't it amazing?] (Kazu)

I was a little proud of myself.

Then she stopped replying.

One minute, two minutes, three minutes..... of silence followed.

This silence is the bad kind of silence.

And even though Rin's fishing rod was shaking, indicating that the fish was biting, Rin didn't seem to be catching anything.

*Is she AFK?*

*What, at this timing?*

*It's too abrupt.*

*Did I say something wrong?*

Maybe I shouldn't have boasted that I was in the same class as Mizuki-san.

[I'm sorry, Rin. I was in a good mood and said unnecessary things. I'm sorry if I offended you.] (Kazu)

I apologized for now.

I sweated my hands a little and moistened the mouse while waiting for a response.

The chat finally came back just as the fish escaped from Rin's fishing rod.

[I'm, Mizuki Rinka.] (Rin)

.....

.....Hmm?

[Haha. What are you saying out of the blue? I can clearly tell that it's a lie.] (Kazu)

[Second year, third class. The homeroom teacher is Sato-sensei. The seat I'm sitting in is the second row from the window, the very front seat.] (Rin)

What flowed into the text window was information about Mizuki Rinka.

.....Th, that's a joke, isn't that.

Those completely hitting right.

No, but it's not necessarily Mizuki-san herself.

It could be one of her classmates.

[Who is Kazu?] (Rin)

*What should I do? Is it okay to tell her?*

But I don't think "Rin" would lie to me.

If that's the case, then Rin is Mizuki-san.....

[Can't you believe me?] (Rin)

When I was asked that, I felt a little guilty and my chest hurt.

I couldn't help but type in the chat.

[I'm the guy who sits at the back seat of the near window row.] (Kazu)

I answer a little blur.

Immediately, there was a reply came in.

[Ayanokouji Kazuto-kun, right?] (Rin)

[.....It's a bingo.] (Kazu)

Now, whether she's Mizuki-san or not, This made it more likely that Rin was a classmate of mine.

[I'm sorry. It's already time to log out.] (Rin)

[Okay.] (Kazu)

Rin disappears from the boat.

*Was she disappointed to find out that it was me by any chance?*

If so, I'm very very shocked here.

I shouldn't have talked about real-life if this was going to happen.

Oh no, although Rin had told me once.

That bringing real-life situations would distort the online relationship between us.

I should have thought more deeply about what that meant.

"I've done it....." (Kazuto)

*What would I do if I couldn't play with Rin anymore?*



When I was holding my head and regretting my shallowness, I heard a notification from my smartphone.

It was from Rin.

The content is, *"Would you like to go to the cafeteria with me tomorrow during lunch break?"*.

Then I replied with, "Yes", even though I was shaking with nervousness.

*What if it's really Mizuki-san?*

It's not half bad, though.

.....No, think about it calmly.

There's still a possibility that Rin is not Mizuki-san.

Because, "The bright and innocent Rin" and "The cool character Mizuki Rinka" have completely different personalities.

Yes, it's a fake. It must be a fake.

I'm sure one of my classmates is playing a joke on me.

*\*Ping\**

I received another message from Rin.

The title is "I'll prove I'm real".

When I tapped to open the message, I found a selfie of Mizuki-san with a computer screen in the background.

I tried an image search on the Internet, but got no hits.

In other words, it wasn't a picture that she had picked up from the internet.

"Se-seriously? She is the real one...!" (Kazuto)

My hand holding the smartphone shook unusually.

I felt a small panic in my head.

"M-my wife in the web game is... a popular idol ...!" (Kazuto)

# **Chapter 2 - The Bell Pepper's and Probabilities are Astounding**

The classroom in the morning is noisy with students chatting and laughing.

I was still nervous as I sit alone in my seat.

My heart had been pounding since last night.

Thanks to this, I couldn't eat my breakfast properly.

"..." (Kazuto)

Sitting at the very back seat of the row by the window, I looked around at the entire classroom.

There were girls sitting next to each other chatting happily, and a group of boys from the athletic club.....

And there were also some flashy girls who were making a lot of noise.

Of course, I perfectly could see the back of Mizuki-san sitting in the front seat.

I took out my smartphone from my pants pocket.

And launched the voice chat application for the game.

I hadn't received any messages from Rin..... no, from Mizuki-san.

I wanted to send her a chat, but I couldn't think of what to write.

I wanted to get a chat from her, anything is fine.

With that in mind, I looked at Mizuki-san's back.

She was sitting with a beautiful posture like a model, reading a book without caring about the hustle and bustle

around her.

*What kind of book is it?* I wondered.

It's a selfish image, but I have a feeling that Mizuki prefers difficult stories written by foreign authors.

By the way, I love light novels with completely hard stories. In particular, I had recently become addicted to web novels.

"...Mizuki-san." (Kazuto)

Just looking at her back was soothing.

I still couldn't believe that I've been playing games with Mizuki-san.

It's been since middle school.....

As I leaned my elbows on the desk and stared at Mizuki-san, she suddenly looked back.

Our eyes met.

"—————" (Kazuto)

My heart jumped with a thump.

My body froze at the suddenness of the situation.

The next moment, Mizuki-san waved her right hand in a small wave with no expression.

I immediately waved back.

Perhaps satisfied with that, Mizuki-san turned forward again and resumed reading.

"O-oh man...!" (Kazuto)





I can't even begin to describe how impressed I am.

I waved my own hand to a popular idol, to Mizuki Rinka!

And we even made eye contact!

I looked at the students around me.

No one seemed to have noticed the exchange between the two of us.

If they had noticed, there would have been a bit of a commotion.

After all, Mizuki-san is an idol who is rumored to hate men. They would be heavily astonished to find out that she was interacting with such a dull boy.

"... Rin is really really Mizuki-san, huh?" (Kazuto)

I revise again the fact that was confirmed as of yesterday.

So such a miracle is, actually exists.

□

The fourth hour was over and now was the lunch break.

The students of the cafeteria group got up and left the classroom.

The remaining students were divided into two groups: those who were sharing desks with their friends, and those who were quietly unfolding their lunches in their seats.

I belong to the lunchbox group, but this time I had an appointment.

"Sup, Ayanokouji. Let's eat together."

"Hey, Ayanokouji-kun. I'm here again today."

Just as I was about to get up from my seat, two boys came over.

One was a chubby boy and the other was a smart-looking boy with glasses.

The chubby one is Tachibana, and the one with glasses is Saito.

The three of us usually spend our break time together.

We're familiar with each other.

I put my hands together and apologized to them.

"Sorry. I have an appointment today." (Kazuto)

"Huh? What are you talking about? Is there anyone else you can spend your lunch break with? There's none, am I right?" (Tachibana)

"I don't like the way you said that..... Well, it's true, though." (Kazuto)

"Ayanokouji-kun, please don't waste the time by saying strange things. According to my calculations, the lunch break is only 40 minutes. Why don't we finish our meal quickly and discuss this month's light novels?" (Saito)  
Saito said as he raised his glasses.

.....Whatever, but you don't even need to calculate to know that lunch break is 40 minutes.

Rather, *what exactly did you calculate?*

"I'm serious you know, I have an appointment. So I'll be off." (Kazuto)

"Wait a minute." (Tachibana)

Tachibana grabbed me by the arm.

I turned around wondering why, Then Tachibana asked me in a small voice.

"You're not.....with a girl by any chance, are you?" (Tachibana)

"....." (Kazuto)

"Hey, Ayanokouji?" (Tachibana)

I shut my mouth because of the strange power of his threat. Although Tachibana is chubby and short, his eyesight is surprisingly strong.

So I was a little overwhelmed.

"Wait, Tachibana-kun. According to my calculations, the probability of Ayanokouji-kun having a female friend is only 0.4%. There's no need to ask." (Saito)

"What, that's too low! Even having a mere female friend is hopeless.....!" (Kazuto)

Can you give me 10% at least?

There's still a reasonable chance for me to make a female friend, aren't there.

"Then who you made the promise with?" (Tachibana)

".....with Mizuki-san." (Kazuto)

I muttered to myself in a shrinking voice.

Then Tachibana and Saito looked at each other and laughed happily.

"Hahahaha! What are you trying to say, Ayanokouji! You and Mizuki are going to spend lunch together?" (Tachibana)

"Well, that is, right. I was invited to the cafeteria." (Kazuto)

"That's not possible! Don't be so delusional!" (Tachibana)

"That's right, Ayanokouji-kun. According to my calculations, the probability of you being asked out by Mizuki-san is astronomical." (Saito)

"What the h\*ll do you mean by that astronomical thing?

Don't make it sound so clever." (Kazuto)

He laughed so loudly making fun of me, and it was just plain annoying.

*Should I slap him?*

"Hahahaha! You've made me laugh, Ayanokouji. I'll give you one of my bell peppers as a thank you." (Tachibana)

"No thanks. Eat it yourself." (Kazuto)

"Calm down, Ayanokouji-kun, Calm down. Here, I'll give you an eggplant." (Saito)

"Oh, really? Thank you——there's no way I'll say that! You're just forcing a food you don't like on me, guys." (Kazu)

These assholes.....!

But, understandably, they can't believe it.

I'm myself even not sure I believe it either.

"Do you have a minute?"

"Eh———?" (Kazuto)

I turned around when someone called out to me from behind.

And it was Mizuki-san.

She was standing behind me with a blank expression on her face that some people might take her as cold-hearted.

"Kazuto-kun. You haven't forgotten the appointment with me, have you?" (Rinka)

"N-no, I haven't forgotten. I was just about to go." (Kazuto)

"Really. I'm glad. Then let's go to the cafeteria as soon as possible. It will get crowded if we stay here too long."

(Rinka)

After saying that, Mizuki-san turned her back on us and walked to the exit of the classroom.

As expected of a cool idol.

From the way she spoke to the way she walked, she was so magnificent.

"H-he-hey.... Ayanokouji....?" (Tachibana)

"N-no way..... My calculations are....." (Saito)

Tachibana and Saito, who were watching our exchange, were gaping their mouths like goldfish.

Those were very dumb faces.

"E-ermm. That's why, I'm.....off." (Kazuto)

"Ayanokouji! What kind of magic trick did you use? An online game nerd like you, there's absolutely no way you can go having lunch with an idol, right!" (Tachibana)

"According to my calculations, it's going to rain meteorites tomorrow." (Saito)

".....You guys, you'll have to remember that later." (Kazuto)  
I've been told a lot of terrible things.

And please stop calling me an online game nerd.

Even though I intend to keep it in the realm of a hobby.

The next thing I knew, I had been attracting attention not only from them, but also from the remaining students in the classroom.

*.....This is really annoying. I hate to stand out.*

I chased after Mizuki-san as if to escape.

# Chapter 3 - A Cool Popular Idol and the Cafeteria

When we arrived at the cafeteria, we ordered the A set meal.

There was an empty table in the corner, so I sat down facing Mizuki-san.

I was expecting to attract a lot of attention from the people around me, but it turned out to be not so much.

I guess it's hard to stand out in a noisy cafeteria full of people.

I could feel the occasional glance, but not enough to cause a commotion.

Maybe I was being a little too sensitive.

"I can't believe Kazu was Kazuto-kun. I'm surprised." (Rinka)

"I'm surprised too." (Kazuto)

I was probably a hundred times more surprised than Mizuki-san.

I was slightly confused by that and the fact that she called me by my first name as a matter of course.

It was probably reasonable, considering how close we were in the game.

I think I'll call her Rinka-san too.

.....

*Absolutely impossible.*

If I had the courage to do so, I could have made a hundred female friends.

"You use Kazu as player name because your name is Kazuto, don't you? I think it's too simple." (Rinka)



"I don't think you have the right to say it either, Mizuki-san. Since you just like me, you use Rin because your name is Rinka, am I wrong?" (Kazuto)

"That's right..... I wonder if we are in sync with each other. We have the same naming taste." (Rinka)

"M-maybe." (Kazuto)

Oh man, I was so nervous about something.

I was furiously happy to hear Mizuki-san say that we were in sync.

I poked at the grilled fish with my chopsticks, tore, and brought it to my mouth.

.....I can't taste it.

I was so nervous that my tongue had lost its sense.

"It's like a dream come true to be able to eat like this with Kazu." (Rinka)

"I-is that so? I'm sorry, because that friend is someone like me." (Kazuto)

"You don't have to be so down on yourself. I'm relieved that Kazu's real identity is Kazuto Ayanokouji." (Rinka)

"Relieved?" (Kazuto)

"Eerm. Because he's even nicer than I expected." (Rinka)

"....." (Kazuto)

*Can I die now?*

It's definitely flattery, but I'm moved to tears.

I don't have a single regret in this life!

I thought, but I still wanna play online game.

I was a greedy person.

"I wonder how likely is the chances of me getting married to a classmate." (Rinka)

"About the chances of a meteorite raining down on us, I guess. W-well, even if you say marriage, it's on the internet, though." (Kazuto)

When I said that, Mizuki-san quietly put down her chopsticks.

"Kazuto-kun. Just because it's on the Internet doesn't mean it's inferior to the real thing." (Rinka)

"Ee?" (Kazuto)

"This is my opinion, but I think that it is because on the internet, where you can't tell what a person looks like or who they are, that you can find out more about their mind and their nature." (Rinka)

"Y-yeah, I see...?" (Kazuto)

"I'll tell you the truth, out of all the players I've met, Kazu is the most sincere and pure." (Rinka)

"...I-is that so?" (Kazuto)

Whether I was sincere or not, I was definitely enjoying it with a pure heart.

There were no impure feelings when interacted with Rin.

"When my idol career wasn't going well at all and I was going through a tough time, Kazu encouraged me many times." (Rinka)

"Ah... that reminds me, something like that had happened, yes." (Kazuto)

At one point in time, Rin had been having hard times.

It was so obvious even through text chatting.

I wondered if something bad had happened to her in real life, so I tried not to ask what was going on and just followed up.....

"If I hadn't met Kazuto-kun online, I would have retired from being an idol before I reached high school." (Rinka)

"You're exaggerating me." (Kazuto)

"It's not an exaggeration. In fact, it was at the beginning of the first year of high school that we, Star☆Mines, started to gain popularity. It was really really tough until then." (Rinka)

Mizuki-san added, *"Well, it always has been tough even after we started selling"*.

According to the information on the official website, Star☆Mines was formed when the members were in the second year of middle school.

However, in the first few months after its formation, the group's popularity was low, and they were even considering disbanding at one point.

From that situation, they grew into the very popular idol group that they are today.

It must have been a lot of blood and sweat that I can't even imagine as I'm known as an "online game nerd".

If I was even a little bit of support to Mizuki-san, I would be very happy about that.

"In reality, a lot of people with ulterior motives come to me, and most of the male players change their attitude when they found out I was a woman on the internet." (Rinka)

"That sounds much of troubles, yes." (Kazuto)

I'd never been popular with anyone, but I could sympathize a little bit with Mizuki-san when she spoke bitterly.

"Kazu was the only one in that situation. He was the only one who was consistent in his attitude toward me no matter what....." (Rinka)

Mizuki-san smiled nostalgically as if she was cherishing a precious memory.

Looking at her, memories of the time when I first met Rin suddenly revived.

[My name is Rin. I'm a beginner, please take care of me.]  
(Rin)

[I understand. Well, it's a game, so let's have fun and don't get too formal.] (Kazu)

After a week.

[Kazu-san. If you don't mind, would you like to dive into the dungeon with me again today?] (Rin)

[Sure.] (Kazu)

[I would be grateful if you could teach me some other things.] (Rin)

[Okay. Then, after diving into the dungeon, let's go mining.]  
(Kazu)

[Thank you very much.] (Rin)

Another month later.

[Kazu. What are we going today? Anything is fine~] (Rin)

[Hmm. Shall we do some mining today?] (Kazu)

[Let's!] (Rin)

And half a year passed.....

[I wanna go fishing!] (Rin)

[Ee, I want to mine today.] (Kazu)

[I wanna go fishing!] (Rin)

[Ummm.] (Kazu)

[I wanna go fishing!] (Rin)

[How pushy you are.] (Kazu)

.....

Rather, wasn't it Rin who changed!

She's getting bolder and bolder!

"Kazuto-kun. Are you listening to me?" (Rinka)

"Y-yeah, of course." (Kazuto)

I nodded greatly when asked suspiciously.

It seemed that she knew that I just wasn't listening, and

Mizuki-san's lips twitched in dissatisfaction.

"Haa~.... well. I mean, I'm not going to marry just anyone, even on the Internet. No, I think it's because of the Internet that a person's mind is more more important than being captivated by superfluous information." (Rinka)

"Ha haa..." (Kazuto)

"Or, you do think in a different way, Kazuto-kun?" (Rinka)

"No, I'm the same way. Marriage is an important event even in the online games." (Kazuto)

For the time being, I tried to keep the conversation on track, but frankly speaking, I think everyone has their own way of thinking about in-game marriage.

It's not bad to aim for the benefits of marriage, and I think it's wonderful to get married with a special feeling like Mizuki-san's did.

"It was good. I'm glad to hear that you feel the same way as I do, Kazuto-kun." (Rinka)

"Y-yeah." (Kazuto)

Mizuki-san patted her chest as if relieved.

.....I wonder what this buzzing feeling is.

I feel like something is definitely off with her.

I interpreted this as Mizuki-san and I being "close enough" to get married in the game.

However, in the case of Mizuki-san, I feel like the orientation seems to be different from that of.....?

"Oh, Rin-chan! It's rare for you to come to the cafeteria."

I heard a cute girl's voice that seemed to be a condensation of cheerfulness.

Then, a girl who's the owner of the voice, came over to Mizuki-san.

"Oh my, Nana. Today you're also cheerful, yes." (Rinka)

"Well, yeah! Because I've eaten a lot of food!" (Nana)

She had slightly long hair and her name seemed to be Nana. Her unordinary lovely face, had a bright, friendly look on it.

—————No, wait a minute!

Don't tell me this girl is.....!

"Eh? This boy over here, is he Rin-chan's acquaintance?"

(Nana)

"Eerm. He's Ayanokouji Kazuto-kun." (Rinka)

"I see. My name is Kurumizaka Nana! I'm one of the Star☆Mines members like Rin-chan! It's nice to meet you~!"

(Nana)

With a carefree smile, she————Kurumizaka Nana asked me for a handshake.

She was a popular idol who is said to be the closest friend of Mizuki Rinka, and Star☆Mines' center.



# Chapter 4 - Sign and Glimpse

"I've never seen Rin-chan having lunch with a boy~" (Nana)

"It's the first time in fact. I was a little weak with men."

(Rinka)

Kurumizaka-san sit next to Mizuki-san.

As expected, having two popular idols gathered in one place attracted a lot of attention from the people around.

I could hear them whispering to each other.

I didn't want to stand out, so I kept quiet and concentrated on keeping my presence to an absolute minimum.

"But You're not afraid with Ayanokouji-kun?" (Nana)

"I'm not... In fact, it's the opposite. This is the first time I've talked to him in real life, but we've known each other for a long time online." (Rinka)

"Hee~ ... oh, maybe this person is Kazu-kun!?" (Nana)

"He is." (Rinka)

"So that is it! Waaa, being able to talk to Kazu-kun in person is really exciting!" (Nana)

Kurumizaka-san, who was making her eyes glitter, expresses her joy as if she's in front of a celebrity.

*.....What kind of an online game nerd is appreciated by an idol?*

Thinking so, I opened my mouth.

"You know me." (Kazuto)

"Yea. I've heard a lot about you from Rin-chan. You're a very attractive boy, aren't you?" (Nana)

"No, even if you ask me..." (Kazuto)

If I nodded here, it'll be really really embarrassing.

"Nana. Please don't bother Kazuto-kun too much." (Rinka)

"Eh? I want to hear more from Kazu-kun. I'm really curious about what Rin-chan looks like on the internet!" (Nana)

"It's not so different from real life." (Rinka)

*Lie, it's totally different!*

*If anything, your personalities are complete opposites!*

I think the *Rin* on the internet is more like Kurumizaka-san than Mizuki-san.

"How nice~. To have a boy that gets along with so well and even marry him in-game." (Nana)

"Nana talks with boys too, don't you?" (Rinka)

"I do, but it just a mere talk, though. I wonder if there's a boy who is close enough to be my friend." (Nana)

She said regretfully, and plopped down on the table.

If she wants to, she could easily build a reverse harem, let alone a friend.

"I wish I could have a friend like Kazu-kun." (Nana)

"It's difficult. There are many strange people on the internet as well as in the real world." (Rinka)

After saying that, Mizuki-san resumed eating.

Watching from the side, Kurumizaka-san spoke to me.

"I don't really know what to say right now,..... but I really thank you, Kazu-kun." (Nana)

"For what?" (Kazuto)

"For the fact that you've been supporting Rin-chan throughout the years. Rin-chan is fine now, but at one point I was so worried about her that she was pushing herself too hard....." (Nana)

So that was it.

No, if I thought back to the past, I could think of a few things.

Bad to say, but there was a time when Rin was emotionally unstable while online.

"Nana. Please stop talking about that in front of him... It's embarrassing." (Rinka)

Mizuki-san muttered as she dyed her cheeks red.

*.....She's so cute.*

*Why the h\*ll is a girl's blush damn so attractive?*

"Hey hey. Can I join the game next time? Ah, Is it okay if I bother you...." (Nana)

"I don't mind. I mean, you've asked me before, haven't you?" (Rinka)

"T-that's... I've always had a scary image of online games, so I couldn't get myself into them....." (Nana)

"It's okay. Certainly there are some insolent people who don't follow etiquette, but not everyone is like that. Even if something happens, I and Kazuto-kun will protect you." (Rinka)

"Thank you Rin-chan! Then, what should I do first?" (Nana)

"I'll tell you what. First, open the official website from your computer and play the game———." (Rinka)

As Mizuki-san explained matter-of-factly, Kurumizaka-san nodded her head in understanding.

*I don't think it's possible, but are the three of us going to play online game together?*

*Two idols and me alone?*

What should I do, I was so nervous that I feel like I'm going to cry just by imagining it.

"Hey, Rin-chan. I can't understand if you just saying it, so please come to my house and teach me." (Nana)

"I wonder where all my hard work of struggling to explain went..... Oh well, it'll be quicker that way." (Rinka)

"Ahaha, Sorry Rin-chan. But I'm looking forward to it now. I can't believe we, three of us can play together with that Kazu-kun." (Nana).

*Which Kazu-kun is 'that Kazu-kun'?*

I'm curious as to what kind of evaluation is actually being made between the two of them.

But I didn't have the guts to ask.

I mean, I couldn't even able to enter into their conversation.

"Rin-chan and Kazu-kun are very close friends on the Internet, aren't they?" (Nana)

"Yup yup, we are so close that the word *"close"* doesn't even begin to cover it." (Rinka)

"How nice. Then you guys can get along well in real life too, yes?" (Nana)

"Yup." (Rinka).

Mizuki-san nodded her head in satisfaction.

And she happily loosened her cheeks and continued her words.

"———— From now on, we can stay together even in real life too." (Rinka)

....

.....?

*What do you mean by that?*

In the midst of my tilting my head, my eyes suddenly met with Kurumizaka-san's.

She also seemed to have a question mark above her head.

Mizuki-san, oblivious to us, proceeded to eat quietly.

In an instant, silence took over the place, and I remembered the hustle and bustle in the cafeteria to my ears.

"A-ah... I'll be off. Because my friends are waiting for me in the classroom." (Nana)

Kurumizaka-san stood up with some awkwardness.

"That so. Then, see you again after school." (Rinka)

"Yeah. Let's do our best in today's lesson." (Nana)

Kurumizaka-san concluded with a smile and walked to the doorway of the cafeteria.

She looked back only once on the way, smiled lightly at us, and then left.

At that time, I had no clue what that smile meant.....

*Nor* did I have any idea.

# **Chapter 5 - The Attack of Bell Pepper and Probability**

The day passed by peacefully, somehow.

After the classes ended, the students rushed out of the classroom.

They were probably busy with club activities or going out with friends.

I, who had nothing of interest to do, sat in my seat in a relaxed manner.

I looked at Mizuki-san's back with a vague feeling.

Mizuki-san waved lightly at me as she left the classroom.

I tried to resist the urge to grin and waved back.

After that, Mizuki-san left with Kurumizaka-san, who had come to pick her up in the hallway.

I didn't know the details, but I guess they're going to idol activities.

They may practice singing and dancing, or they may work hard on some kind of recording.....

I wonder what kind of day student idols spend.

I'm starting to wonder about things I hadn't paid attention to before.

I want to know a little more about Mizuki-san.

She didn't want to touch on real-life topics, though.

I guess I'll just have to put up with this.

I was sitting in a daze on the chair for a while, but as I got up about to leave.



"Ayanokouji-kuuu~n.....! Where do you think you're going?"  
(Tachibana)

"According to my calculations, the probabilities of you escaping from us are 0%." (Saito)

".....you guys." (Kazuto)

Tachibana spread his arms out to block the way.

And Saito, he was even holding my bag.

These guys were deadly serious.

"I-i-it can't be, you're not going to spend ..... private time with Mizuki Rinka, are you?" (Tachibana)

"I'm not. I'm just going to go home and play online games."  
(Kazuto)

"Really!? Is it true!?" (Tachibana)

"Of course." (Kazuto)

..... Let's not talk about what happened in the cafeteria.

I didn't know what these two would do if they knew that Kurumizaka-san was also get involved.

"Well well, calm down, Tachibana-kun. Ayanokouji-kun, you should also sit down." (Saito)

"No, I want to go home." (Kazuto)

"Sit down now... before my glasses catch fire." (Saito)



"..." (Kazuto)

I reluctantly sat down after being threatened incomprehensibly.

I really didn't understand why.

It was probably just me, but I'd like to see his glasses catch fire.

"Let's get straight, Ayanokouji. I want you to tell me everything here." (Tachibana)

"What you want me to tell?" (Kazuto)

"It's obvious, isn't it! It's about how you became close with Mizuki!" (Tachibana)

"Aah....." (Kazuto)

"And I heard you even talked with Nana-chan at the cafeteria! You fucking extravagant bastard!" (Tachibana)

"Speaking of extravagant, isn't it belong to your body." (Kazuto)

I said while looking at Tachibana's fat belly.

"What you say, Dumbass!" (Tachibana)

"Pffft! That's a perfect counter-attack score according to my calculations! ....Pfffftt." (Saito)

"Saito too...! Enough about my body shape! We're talking with Ayanokouji now! How did you become close with Mizuki?" (Tachibana)

"More than that, Mizuki-san calls you by surname, but Kurumizaka-san calls you by given name." (Saito) *(PTW/N: "Mizuki calls by myouji[surname], but Kurumizaka calls by namae[name/given name]"; Didn't Rinka call him by given name, and Nana by nickname? □□)*

"Yeah, it doesn't match their images, does it? Mizuki isn't a type that so casually calls someone by name..... And Nana-chan should have a sense of intimacy." (Tachibana)

"I can kind of understand that feeling. Well, that's why....." (Kazuto)

"You're not very good at diverting the topic, are you? Just tell to me." (Tachibana)

"Hmm....." (Kazuto)

*What should I do?*

*If the fact Mizuki-san is an online gamer being known...*

*Then, isn't the public will be heavily shocked?*

I don't mean to belittle the game, but it's an image that doesn't fit Mizuki-san at all.

It may be too much to say that her character will be ruined. Even so, it's not a good thing to be known.

"Hey Ayanokouji! Hurry up and tell me, or I won't give you bell peppers from now on!" (Tachibana)

"I don't like bell peppers. I don't hate them, but I don't like them." (Kazuto)

"Okay! Then I'll give you 1000 yen, so tell me!" (Tachibana)

Tachibana and Saito put their hands together and begged.

They're so desperate that I can't stand them.....

If possible, I would like to ignore them.

But if I don't say anything, they might make a fuss over it.

I made a decision with sorrow heart.

"... Don't tell anyone, okay?" (Kazuto)

"I know! We're friends, remember? We will definitely keep our promise!" (Tachibana)

"According to my calculations, we have a 2000% chance of keeping our words!" (Saito)

"It all smells like a lie..... I met Mizuki-san through an online game." (Kazuto)

"Really? How did that happen?" (Tachibana)

"The story is..... Two years ago, I got married to Mizuki-san on an online game." (Kazuto)

""S-seriously!?" (Tachibana, Saito)

Both of them were surprised harmoniously.

Well, it's a normal reaction.

"Hey Saito! What's the probability that one's wife in a game is a popular idol?" (Tachibana)

"Well, according to my calculations, it's about 30%." (Saito)

"That's pretty high!" (Tachibana)

Tachibana and Saito made a lot of noise.

The classmates who were still in the classroom looked at us, wondering what was going on.

"Hey you guys, don't make a fuss. If the others find out about this, we'll be in serious trouble." (Kazuto)

"Huh? What's the trouble about?" (Tachibana)

"It'll affect Mizuki-san's image. And maybe, Mizuki-san will stop playing game if the public finds out about her hobby." (Kazuto)

I was not sure, though.

I hadn't heard anything about it from her.

It was just a hunch I had as a long-time friend.

"... I think it might be. According to my calculations, there's a 99% chance that Mizuki-san's gaming hobby will cause a public stir. And a lot of people will start playing games to meet Mizuki in the game. It will definitely cause a grand commotion." (Saito)

Whether it was a calculation or a prediction, but I think it's quite accurate.

At least it will definitely affect Mizuki's mental health.

"That's why, can you please not tell anyone about this?" (Kazuto)

"..."

I didn't know what they were thinking, but they kept their mouths shut and didn't say anything.

I was a little frustrated, so I continued my words.

"I want to protect Mizuki-san's place. It's my selfish guess, but I think that the online game world is.....the only world where she can play without worrying about the eyes around her. Please, don't tell anyone." (Kazuto)

I appealed to them with a seriousness that is unlike me.

The two looked at each other and put their hands on my shoulders.

"Ayanokouji..... There's nothing to worry about. Your feelings have been fully conveyed to me.." (Tachibana)

"Tachibana....." (Kazuto)

*Is this the power of friendship?*

Tachibana, who had a sincere atmosphere, was looking straight at my eyes.

"———So I'll let you have my bell peppers." (Tachibana)

"We're a friend, but I'll tell you. You'll taste some tasty pain, you know." (Kazuto)

*How can you blurt out a cringey joke like that to a friend who has been talking so seriously?*

I felt the urge to kill him as if it was normal.

"Hahaha! I'm kidding, Ayanokouji! As for Mizuki's case, it's a secret between just the three of us!" (Tachibana)

"..." (Kazuto)

"I'm really sorry. I'm scared when Ayanokouji, who is usually quiet, glares at me." (Tachibana)

I gave Tachibana a look that was filled with murderous intent.

Tachibana's mouth twitched and he hid behind Saito.

"Well well, Ayanokouji-kun. This is Tachibana-kun after all, so let's forgive him. Ah, of course, I'll keep my promise as well, so don't worry." (Saito)

"Haa~... Okay then." (Kazuto)

It's no use getting angry over it.

And I understand that they are not the kind of people who break their promises.

That's why I decided to tell them.

**\*Ping\***. A notification sounded from my smartphone.

I took it out of my pants pocket and checked the contents.

The sender is Rin.

*[Would you like to play a game for a while tonight?]* It was what was written there.

"Heee..."

Saito and Tachibana peeked into my smartphone from the side.

"W-what is it?" (Kazuto)

"Can we go too?" (Saito)

"Obviously the answer is a NO. Mizuki-san maybe is innocent in the game, but she's a shy person in reality...."

She's wary of everyone except those she's been allowed."  
(Kazuto)

In fact, I've never seen her be friendly with anyone other than me.

Mizuki-san's social relationships in the online game can be described as somewhat exclusive.

"Somehow she's kind of like a cat..... Well, if Ayanokouji-kun says so, it can't be helped then. We'll shut our mouths."

(Saito)

"That's right. I think I'll go back to playing online games for a while. I might even be able to marry an idol!" (Tachibana)

The two talked to each other in a relaxed atmosphere.

With this, Mizuki-san's case seemed to be settled.

While I was hearing their conversation, I replied to Rin,

*[Okay, I'll be there around 9 pm.]*

While I was looking forward to tonight, my heart was racing with uncontrollable nervousness.

# Chapter 6 - Online Game Nerd and Cool Idol

"... It's almost time for the appointment." (Kazuto)

It was only a few minutes to 21.00.

I had already logged in and was staring at my computer screen.

What was shown on the screen was a young warrior-looking man fishing at the beach.

That's the character I'm controlling. The occupation is Warrior.

He is a nice guy who uses his sword and shield to fight in close quarters.

However, due to his unusually high mining skills, he has become a man who looks better with a pickaxe than a sword. *(PTW/N: Obviously)*

And now he's fishing.

It was no longer a miner's day off.

"Ah... I caught a fish. No, dāmn, it's a boot." (Kazuto)

I Immediately discarded the boot from my inventory.

It was just worthless trash.

I regained my composure and started fishing again.

Probably I will be able to chat with Rin while fishing today.

Basically, I rarely play with Rin on weekdays.

Even if we did, it was limited to 20 to 30 minutes.

Before, I just thought that she was busy with her real life.

But now, I could understand why I could only play with her on holidays.



I guess Mizuki-san was so busy with her idol activities so she didn't have much free time left on weekdays.

"... It's more normal than I thought." (Kazuto)

I was expecting to be more nervous, but I was surprised at how relaxed I became.

When I thought about it, it was only natural.

I had just found out who Rin actually was.

But it was not that she became a different person.

After all, the environment of online game led me to normalcy.

"Rin, I can't wait for you to get here." (Kazuto)

I waited for a few minutes while fishing, and then.

*[Rin-san has logged in]*, that notification is displayed in the chatbox at the bottom of the screen.

I decided to send her a quick chat.

[Thanks for your hard work~. I'm fishing right now.] (Kazu)

[Hee~, that's unusual! I can't believe Kazu is fishing!] (Rin)

O-oh, it's the usual Rin.

I was wondering "*which*" one she would come with, but I guess she came with Rin.

[I'm going over there now~] (Rin)

[Okay.] (Kazu)

I continued fishing on the beach.

Soon, Rin appeared riding on a horse.

After dismounting from the horse, Rin walked along the beach and came next to me.

She is an elf in a rather revealing outfit.

*After all this time, I wonder if this is Mizuki-san's hobby.....?*

I guessed it somehow, but immediately continued the chat.

[It's unusual for you to invite me on Monday.] (Kazu)

[You know, after what happened today, I just wanted to play with you, even if only for a little while.] (Rin)

[I see.] (Kazu)

I Involuntarily loosened my cheeks.

I was genuinely happy.

Regardless of whether she was Mizuki-san or not.

Rin was holding a fishing rod, then threw the lure toward the sea.

The two of us began fishing side by side.

It had been a scene I had seen often over the past few years.

Even on the day when we confirmed each other's identities, nothing had changed on the screen.

[I guess I can tell you this now. I was actually nervous the whole time I was at school~] (Rin)

[Nervous? Why?] (Kazu)

[Wasn't it natural for me to be nervous when I thought I was going to meet Kazu in person.] (Rin)

[You didn't look like that at all. What I could see you were reading a book during this morning.] (Kazu)

[I just acted like I wasn't. I didn't even remember anything about the contents of the book.] (Rin)

So that was what happened.

It seemed I wasn't the only one who was nervous.

[So when my eyes met Kazuto-kun's, I didn't know what to do, so I waved my hand.] (Rin)

[Aah, so that was it.] (Kazu)

[I was so happy that you waved back. Was Kazuto-kun not nervous?] (Rin)

[I was really really nervous, you know. I was so nervous that I had to go to the lavatory in the morning.] (Kazu)

[That's too much. Kazuto-kun didn't seem to be nervous though.] (Rin)

No, I was deadly nervous, you know.

If anything, I think I was more "*nervous*" more than anyone else on the planet at that moment.

[At lunch break, when I tried to talk to Kazuto-kun, my voice trembled just a little..... I was so embarrassed and my face became hot, I thought fire would burst out of my face.] (Rin)

[Did you tremble? I think you were normal.] (Kazu)

[No. My voice was definitely trembling.] (Rin)

Speaking of which.....

At that time, Mizuki-san just said a few words and left the classroom immediately.

She had always been looked so cool, so it was hard to understand her emotions, but when she told me what was on her mind, I found it very cute.

We continued to talk about our day.

The conversation went on without a break, and the chat flowed smoothly.

And when I realized,

[Oh, it's so late already.....] (Rin)

An hour had passed in the blink of an eye.

It was now 22:12.

Up until now, Rin had always made sure to log out by 22:00. She'd gone a little over.

[Are you going to get bed soon?] (Kazu)

I asked casually, and after a few seconds, a short reply came, *[Yes]*.

"...?" (Kazuto)

An awkward silence followed.

*Should I try to chat her more?*

As I pondered for a while, I received a chat from Rin.

[Do you have a headphone with microphone?] (Rin)

[I have, but why?] (Kazu)

[Why don't we do voice chat next time?] (Rin)

[Sure. Let's do that.] (Kazu)

I see, she didn't have to hide her identity anymore, *so why don't we just chat with our voice?*

I couldn't find any reason to refuse this proposal.

[And also, are you free next Saturday night? I'm sure Nana and I can arrange it.] (Rin)

[I'm free. I'll make it free, no matter what.] (Kazu)

[That's a relief then. I won't be able to log in until Saturday, so you'll have to bear with it okay.] (Rin)

[That's too bad. If so I'll just play by myself.] (Kazu)

[Ahaha, Then..... Good night, Kazuto-kun. I'll see you at school tomorrow.] (Rin)

[Yeah, good night. See you tomorrow.] (Kazu)

Rin disappeared from the screen.

*[Rin-san has logged out]* notification was displayed in the chat column.

"... Shall I go to bed too?" (Kazuto)

Normally, I would have stayed online until 23.00.

However, I was filled with a mysterious sense of fulfillment now.

I just wanted to lie down in bed while soaking in this pleasant lingering feeling.

"Today was a great day, yes...." (Kazuto)

To put it more precisely, my daily life had changed since last night.

I wondered what would happen from now on.

As I fell into bed, I thought about Mizuki-san until the moment I fell asleep.

# Chapter 7 - The Cool Idol who Hates Men

A few days had already passed since I found out that Rin's real identity was Mizuki-san.

The next thing I knew, it was already Thursday.

The day after tomorrow, the three of us, including Kurumizaka-san, were going to play an online game.

"Hey hey, Ayanokouji. Cheer up, will ya?" (Tachibana)

"He's right, Ayanokouji-kun. You should thank God that you were able to go to the cafeteria with Mizuki-san even if it was just once." (Saito)

"... I'm not depressed, though." (Kazuto)

It was lunch break, and the classroom was filled with a peaceful atmosphere.

I was having lunch with my two friends as usual.

I hadn't talked to Mizuki-san in the school since that Monday.

The reason was that a little rumor spread in the school after Mizuki-san and I went to the cafeteria together.

Considering her idol activity, it would be better not to get involved in public anymore.

In the end, we had only spent one lunch break together.

"So Ayanokouji's popularity period is only so far huh?" (Tachibana)

"Popularity period eh..... I've told you guys, it's just that my friend was a popular idol, haven't I?" (Kazuto)

"Even so, it's still a pretty amazing story." (Tachibana)

Tachibana said while biting yakisoba bread.

.....Damn, this guy spilled his yakisoba on my desk.

"But you were chatting with Mizuki-san during breaks, right?" (Saito)

"Well, it's true." (Kazuto)

As Saito said, during lunch break, I was having a nice conversation with Mizuki-san via my smartphone.

By the way, Mizuki's tones were that of Rin.

*Does she naturally change her character in text chat?*

"Well, there, Ayanokouji." (Tachibana)

"What's that, Tachibana. Next time you spill food on my desk, I'll get angry." (Kazuto)

"Don't worry, I'll lick it off." (Tachibana)

"If you do that, I'll seriously beat you down, okay?" (Kazuto)

I felt sick imagining Tachibana licking my desk.

"Haha, I'm kidding. Why Ayanokouji didn't call Mizuki by her given name?" (Tachibana)

"W-why the h\*ll did you suddenly ask me that? I don't have the courage to do that, you know?" (Kazuto)

"But Mizuki calls you Kazuto-kun, right?" (Tachibana)

"Well... yeah" (Kazuto)

When I think about it, she called me by my given name from the beginning, right?

I thought it was due to Mizuki-san's personality, but.....

"It's not normal for that Mizuki to call a man by name, you know." (Tachibana)

"Is that so?" (Kazuto)

"Yeah, this is a story I heard half a year ago.... I heard a handsome guy called Mizuki by her given name when he was trying to approach her." (Tachibana)

"Hee, and then?" (Kazuto)

"I heard he was treated coldly.." (Tachibana)

"... that's a scene that comes to mind." (Kazuto)

"But do you know what did that handsome guy misunderstand? He misunderstood that Mizuki was

telephoning and lightheartedly hugged her from behind."  
(Tachibana)

"T-then?" (Kazuto)

"She threw him on his back and knocked him to the floor.....!" (Tachibana)

"O-oh man...!" (Kazuto)

Well, as far as I can tell, that guy was the worst.

It's great sexual harassment if you call someone by their name out of the blue and then hug them from behind.

"Fortunately, the handsome guy only suffered bruises, but ... Mizuki's dislike of men proved to be considerable."

(Tachibana)

"It's not that she hates men, it's just self-defense, right?"

(Kazuto)

"But, such Mizuki was calling Ayanokouji by his given name?" (Tachibana)

Ignoring my words, Tachibana continued the conversation.

"...So, what are you trying to say?" (Kazuto)

"That's you, that thing." (Tachibana)

Tachibana said with an air of mystery.

Saito also smirked following him.

"According to my calculation, the probability that Mizuki-san is in love with Ayanokouji-kun is 84%!" (Saito)

"Huuuh!? W-w-wh-what are you talking about!?" (Kazuto)

Saito told me with so much confidence that I couldn't help but get up from my chair and shouted.

At that moment, I felt eyes on me from all over the classroom.

"....." (Kazuto)

My face was so hot that it was almost boiling.

I hurriedly sat back in my chair.

"Pfffft! Ayanokouji-kun, you're getting impatient." (Saito)

"I-It's because you say strange things! T-that someone like Mizuki-san is in love with me ...!" (Kazuto)

"No, Ayanokouji-kun, I think it's quite possible." (Saito)

"No, it's not. I and Mizuki-san are just online game friends. Nothing more, nothing less." (Kazuto)

"Is that so? I've been observing Mizuki-san lately, and she seemed to be rather interested in Ayanokoji-kun." (Saito)

"Again, doing something inappropriate..." (Kazuto)

I said in astonishment and reached for the white rice in my lunch box with my chopsticks.

*Ah, shoot, my hands are trembling and I can't grab the white rice...!*

I still hadn't gotten over my upset!

"Ayanokouji-kun doesn't seem to be aware of it, but Mizuki-san is watching Ayanokoji-kun every chance she gets."

(Saito)

"Yeah, I'm pretty sure I've seen it too." (Tachibana)

".....N-no way." (Kazuto)

*That popular idol, Mizuki Rinka, is in love with me, who is called the online game nerd...?*

It was not a very believable story.

"What would you do if I said that?" (Saito)

"It is a lie! I was a little happy, though!" (Kazuto)

"No, it's the truth." (Saito)

"What the h\*ll is that..." (Kazuto)

That was not good. I was being toyed by Saito and Tachibana.

I would take a deep breath and tried to regain my normal mind.

"If you are so suspicious, why don't you call Mizuki by her name?" (Tachibana)

"...If she ignores or throws me, I'll never be able to recover." (Kazuto)

"Hey Saito. How much is the probability that Ayanokouji's name-calling challenge will succeed?" (Tachibana)

"According to my calculations, it's about 70%." (Saito)



"It's a probability I'm afraid to try. And it's even lower than the probability of she's in love with me." (Kazuto)

Saito's calculations continued to make no sense to me.

I gave Saito a half-hearted grin and took a piece of his omelet into my mouth.

—*Ouch. I bit my tongue.*

*Mizuki-san is having crush on me.*

I was imagining such a fairytale-like development, and my mind was in turmoil.

"Hey, are you Ayakoji Kazuto-kun?"

"Ee----?" (Kazuto)

I turned my head to the side as someone called out to me.

An unfamiliar female student was standing there.

She was not a classmate.

But from the color of her scarf, I could confirm that she was in the same grade.

"Can you go out with me for a moment?"

"Umm, I'm in the middle of eating..." (Kazuto)

"Ah, I'm sorry, give it up. I'm in trouble if it's not right now."

She did not withdraw her request, even though she bowed her head apologetically.

She had a gentle atmosphere, but she didn't seem to have any intention of giving me a veto.

"H-hey hey hey...! I knew it, Ayanokouji is going to be popular...!" (Tachibana)

"I-it's not like that. And I have a boyfriend."

While Tachibana shuddered exaggeratedly, the girl said it as if it was natural.

I put down my chopsticks and asked her.

"I don't mind, but can you tell me what your business is?"  
(Kazuto)

"I can't say it out loud, but Nana-chan is calling you."

"Kurumizaka-san is?" (Kazuto)

*What kind of business is it?* I wondered.

Anyway, if Kurumizaka-san is the other party, I couldn't just ignore her.

I quickly put my lunch away and stood up.

"Then let's go there." (Kazuto)

"Okay."

When I tried to follow her, Tachibana and Saito opened their eyes wide and showed surprise on their faces.

"N-no way, After Mizuki, now is Nana-chan!? You, you are a monster...!" (Tachibana)

"A-according to my calculations, the probability of Ayanokouji-kun being popular is.....100%!" (Saito)

.....

What are you saying, these people.

I walked out of the classroom, feeling their eyes on my back.

## Chapter 8 - "What were you doing with that woman?"

I was brought to the rooftop's landing stairs.  
It was a place that was not popular and it would be difficult to be overheard.

I was sure I wouldn't be noticed here.

"Ah, it's Kazu-kun! Long time no see, yes!" (Nana)

Noticing me coming, Kurumizaka-san jumped off the stairs in a low jump.

At that time, her skirt fluttered up—I quickly turned my face away.

"Hmm? What's wrong, Kazu-kun?" (Nana)

"N-no, it's nothing." (Kazuto)

"Is that so, thank you for coming all the way, Kazu-kun!"  
(Nana)

Kurumizaka-san's face broke out in happiness, and she grabbed my hands vigorously.

*It's soft...*

I enjoyed the happiness of having this ticketless handshake event.

"Is this the end of my role?"

"Yup, thank you Kotone-chan!" (Nana)

A girl called Kotone was about to leave.

Just before that, she looked back at Kurumizaka-san and said something like this.

"Ah~. Maybe he's a sincere and kind guy." (Kotone)

"Yup, I know, right?" (Nana)

Kurumizaka-san reacted as if it was obvious.

And also, she was still holding my hand...!

"Hmm, I see." (Kotone)



The girl, Kotone, turned her face to me and gave me a look as if she was trying to assess me.

It was uncomfortable.

After a while, Kotone seemed to be convinced of something and nodded her head in satisfaction before disappearing down the stairs.

"W-what was that?" (Kazuto)

"I wonder what it was. Kotone-chan speaks and acts things for no reason, so maybe we shouldn't worry too much about it." (Nana)

I don't really understand it, but if that was what Kurumizaka-san said, then let's just forget it.

.....Anyway, that's it.

"Umm, Kurumizaka-san...?" (Kazuto)

I looked down at my still-clasped hands and tried to make a confused appeal.

My embarrassment was outweighed by my happiness.

"Ah, I'm sorry!" (Nana)

Kurumizaka-san stepped back with a blush on her cheeks.

I was sure I had a similar expression on my face.

"... So what is your business, Kurumizaka-san?" (Kazuto)

"Ah, yeah. You know.... I have a favor to ask of you, Kazu-kun." (Nana)

"A favor?" (Kazuto)

*What is it?*

I don't think I, as an online game nerd, can fulfill an idol's request.

*What if I was asked to buy 100 CDs with handshake tickets?*

Somewhat anxiously, I waited for Kurumizaka-san to speak.

"Please get along better.....with Rin-chan!" (Nana)

Kurumizaka-san said that, and lowered her head briskly.

"Get along... I think Mizuki-san and I are pretty good getting along in the game." (Kazuto)

"That's not what I meant. I want you two to get along in real life, not only in the game." (Nana)

"Even if you say that..." (Kazuto)

If possible, I would like to have a conversation with Mizuki-san daily.

But that would be a bad idea.

"Of course, we're idols, so if we're close with a certain boy, there will be a bit of a stir...." (Nana)

"I don't think it's a bit, but that's why I and Mizuki-san talked and decided not to talk at school." (Kazuto)

"I see. That's why Rin-chan looks so happy but also lonely these days." (Nana)

"...?" (Kazuto)

*Looks happy yet lonely?*

That was an expression I don't understand.

"Can Kazu walk up to Rin-chan? I think Rin-chan will be very happy with that." (Nana)

"If possible, I would like to do that ... but if I had a nice conversation with her in public, wouldn't it be rumored at school or in the public?" (Kazuto)

"Then... let's just get along in secret so that no one knows!" (Nana)

"Eeh....." (Kazuto)

Kurumizaka-san's eyes sparkled as if it was a good idea.

I couldn't hide my confusion at this mysterious push of her.

"Or does Kazu-kun hate Rin-chan?" (Nana)

"No, that's not the case...." (Kazuto)

"Please! Please get along with Rin-chan!" (Nana)

Kurumizaka-san was desperately asking me.

When I saw her like that, I decided to ask her a simple question.

".....Why does Kurumizaka-san want me and Mizuki-san to get along?" (Kazuto)

It would be very risky from the standpoint of an idol.

If anything, she would give me money and said, "*Stay away from Rin-chan!*", Isn't it okay to say that?

It might be an exaggerated idea, but I did think the issue of idols and men should be handled with that much sensitivity.

Especially in this very day and age.

"T-that is.... I can't tell you about it, or rather, I must not tell you..." (Nana)

Averting her gaze away from me awkwardly, Kurumizaka-san was putting her fingers together and fidgeted

"Did Mizuki-san ask you to do something by any chance?" (Kazuto)

"No! Rin-chan did not ask anything! I'm just doing it on my own!" (Nana)

"Ah, I see..." (Kazuto)

She denied it greatly. She was a little impatient.

"I want to, I want Rin-chan to be happier, because she has been through a lot of tough times up until now..." (Nana)

"..." (Kazuto)

She didn't mean it as a student idol.

I had a feeling she was using the word "tough" differently.

"I want Rin-chan to be happy as an idol and as a girl. I don't want her to give up on either one." (Nana)

"I see....." (Kazuto)

I didn't understand the situation at all.

However, I could feel Kurumizaka-san's seriousness painfully transmitted to my heart.

"Can you get along with Rin-chan in real life too?" (Nana)

"Well, yeah... I also wish I can get along and get to know with Mizuki-san better than I do now..." (Kazuto)

"Really? Thank goodness, I'm glad." (Nana)

Kurumizaka-san let out a sigh of relief.

She really cares about Mizuki-san.

"What should I do specifically to get along with her?" (Kazuto)

"Umm... First of all, how about changing the way you call her?" (Nana)

"Change the way I call her?" (Kazuto)

"Yes. Actually, Rin-chan doesn't like it when Kazu-kun calls her in a stranger's manner." (Nana)

"Huh? Is that so?" (Kazuto)



"Yeah. So you better call her Rinka, Kazu-kun." (Nana)

"Seriously? Wait, that's a bit..." (Kazuto)

That was a very high hurdle.

As I said to Tachibana and Saito, I didn't have the slightest bit of courage to do that.

"Are you nervous after all?" (Nana)

"Yeah, I am." (Kazuto)

*How could I not be?*

Just thinking about it made my heart flutter.

"Next Saturday is a good chance. I think you should start by calling her by given name in the game, and then you can get used to it in real life." (Nana)

"I wonder if I can get used to.....?" (Kazuto)

There was a big difference between calling her

*"Rin"* and *"Rinka"*.

The significance of it changed.

"I'll follow you implicitly, so do your best to call Rin-chan by her name, kay!" (Nana)

".....Okay." (Kazuto)

I nodded my head in agreement with Kurumizaka-san's somewhat forceful tone.

This attitude of her was somehow similar to Mizuki-san's.

"Thank you Kazu-kun! You're the best!" (Nana)

"...Kurumizaka-san is, pushier than I thought, yes..."

(Kazuto)

What I was asked to do was to be Mizuki-san's real and close friend.

I had a common hobby of online gaming, so I wanted to believe that it was not so difficult.

"That's why Kazu-kun. Please exchange contacts with me." (Nana)

"Ee, is that okay?" (Kazuto)

"Of course! It's to get Rin-chan and Kazu-kun together———no, We need to discuss a strategy for you two to get along, right? So it's a good idea to know each

other's contact and it's also more convenient. Of course, We can't let Rin-chan know about this." (Nana)

"Well, I guess so..." (Kazuto)

If Mizuki-san found out about this secret meeting, she would definitely get angry.

So it was necessary to keep it secret in order to protect Kurumizaka-san's position.

"Shall we exchange it right away?" (Nana)

I took out my phone as she asked me to.

We finished exchanging our contacts without any problem.

"Okay, all done!" (Nana)

With this, the contacts of two popular idols had been registered on my smartphone.

.....This smartphone might be the most valuable in the world.

"Rin-chan and Kazu-kun's good friendship mission, begins!" (Nana)

"...O-ooh!?" (Kazuto)

I wonder what this is.

It felt like there were moats around, and they were already filled.

Before I could think of anything else, I felt like Kurumizaka-san was forcing me to proceed.

But, if I could get to know Mizuki-san better than I did now, I'd be happy.

The problem was if the public found out about this.....

Fortunately, we had a common world that was separated from the real world.

I was sure it will be fine as long as I didn't screw up too badly.

□

That evening.

Mizuki-san called me when I was online at home.

"...?" (Kazuto)

While thinking that it was rare she phone called me, I stopped mining and picked up my smartphone.

"Hello." (Kazuto)

"Hello, Kazuto-kun, yes? I'm sorry to call you out of blue."

(Rinka)

"No, don't mind about it." (Kazuto)

In addition to Mizuki-san's voice, I could hear the voices of a group of girls busily talking on my smartphone.

The voice quality is idol-like.

*Is Mizuki-san calling me in the middle of something?*

"The break is almost over, so I can't talk for too long, but... I had one thing I really wanted to ask Kazuto-kun." (Rinka)

"What is it?" (Kazuto)

I replied without thinking deeply.

.....And that turned out to be a mistake.

Mizuki-san asked the question in a chill tone, different from her usual.

"————What were you doing with that woman during today's lunch break?" (Rinka) (**PTW/N: Yandere vibe ga KITTTAAAAA~**)

# Chapter 9 - The Probability God Only Know

"———What were you doing with that woman during today's lunch break?" (Rinka)

The moment I heard the voice, I felt a chill run down my spine.

I wondered if this was called intuition.

I felt that if I answered wrongly, it would directly affect my life.

As I clutched my phone and remained silent, I could hear Mizuki-san's cold voice.

"Of course I trust Kazuto-kun. Yes, I deeply trust. There is no room for suspicion in a boy as sincere as Kazuto-kun."

(Rinka)

"H-huh...?" (Kazuto)

"So, this is a suspicion born of my weakness of mind. I'm sorry for Kazuto-kun, but I wonder if I can confirm it just in case." (Rinka)

———*What were you doing with that woman?*

Mizuki-san's heavy and cold words broke through my eardrum and shook my brain.

This is dangerous.

I didn't know what she meant by "suspicion" or "confirmation".

However, I think this is absolutely a dangerous thing.

My instinct as a man was blowing the alarm loudly.

"Kazuto-kun? Why are you keep silent?" (Rinka)

"Umm, that's..." (Kazuto)

Actually, Kotone-san guided me to meet with Kurumizaka-san.

Eh, what did we talk about?

It's about Mizuki-san and I's Befriending Operation!

I absolutely can't say that.

If I screwed up, a crack will happen between Kurumizaka-san and Mizuki-san relationship.

I didn't want them to have a bad relationship because of me.

"Kazuto-kun. If you betrayed me, I'll take legal action."

(Rinka)

"L-legal action, what it is? And what do you mean by that?"

(Kazuto)

I felt as if I was the husband being accused of cheating.

"Explain it to me. I'm still in time now." (Rinka)

I-I don't get it at all!

*Mizuki-san just wants to know what I and Kotone-san were doing, right?*

*It's just that, right? but suspicion, confirmation, betrayal, legal action.... what the heck is all of that?*

"Rinka. We'll resume practicing."

A distant voice came from my smartphone.

I knew that voice.

It was the voice one of the members of Star☆Mines.

"Okay, I'll be there right away.... Kazuto-kun, continue our conversation tonight." (Rinka)

"No, um, wait a" (Kazuto)

**\*Beep\*♪**

The phone was mercilessly hung up.....

"What is this, what is this. What the h\*ll is this situation...?"

(Kazuto)

I don't understand what's going on at all.

Someone explain the situation to me, please!

"What should I do, I'm confused...!" (Kazuto)

In times like this, you need to rely on your friends.

I launched the chat app on my smartphone.

I entered a group that was created by Tachibana, Saito, and me.

[Please listen to me for a moment. I just got a call from Mizuki-san.] (Kazuto)

A few minutes later, I heard two notification sounds from my phone.

I quickly checked.

[You're bragging, I'll make you eat bell peppers, you know.] (Tachibana)

[According to my calculations, the probability of you're just bragging is 100000000%.] (Saito)

Their replies were too ruthless and heartless.

.....This is terrible.

[I'm not! I can't tell you the details, but I was asked about what I did during lunch break in a very very scary way!] (Kazuto)

[Really. I mean, you didn't even tell us what happened during the lunch break, did you?] (Tachibana)

[Sorry! I can't say it!] (Kazuto)

They asked me many times at school, but I didn't say anything because of Kurumizaka-san's position.

And it was genuinely embarrassing to tell them about Befriending Operation.

[Ayanokouji-kun. We have no idea what's going on, because there's so much information being withheld.] (Saito)

Saito told me and I realized it.

He's absolutely right.

I made them promise to keep this to ourselves and briefly tell them about my conversation with Mizuki-san.

Then Tachibana sent me a cute Shinigami sticker and a chat.

[Ayanokouji. Yandere always have a bad ending, you know?] (Tachibana)

[You want me to get stabbed, huh!? And Mizuki-san is not a yandere!] (Kazuto)

[According to my calculations, the probability that Mizuki-san is a yandere is 120%.] (Saito)

Saito sent it along with a glasses sticker. *(PTW/N: insert "anime glasses guy.jpg" here)*

.....*What sticker is this?*

It's just a normal pair of glasses.

There's nothing funny about it.

[If Mizuki-san is a yandere, that means she's in love with me?] (Kazuto)

[Right.] (Tachibana)

[That's right.] (Saito)

Both of them immediately affirmed at the same time.

I was surprised at how quickly they replied.

[... Nono, there's no way, right?] (Kazuto)

[If you think about it, Mizuki must be feeling jealous, right?] (Tachibana)

The popular idol Mizuki Rinka is jealous .....?

That's ridiculous.

[I can't say absolutely, but there is no doubt that Mizuki is conscious of Ayanokouji.] (Tachibana)

[Yeah, that's right. Mizuki-san's eyes are special when she looks at Ayanokouji-kun.] (Saito)

[...] (Kazuto)

Even though the two of them had told me this much, I couldn't honestly believe it.

It's not that I'm being stubborn.

For me, Mizuki Rinka is a wonderful person who gives people dreams and hopes.

For me, as an ordinary person, it's like looking up at the stars and waving my hand.

An online game nerd and a popular idol.....

No matter how you look at it, we're not a good match.

As I was thinking about this, Saito sent me a long and unusually serious message.

[The rest is up to you, Ayanokouji-kun, what you want to be with Mizuki-san. If you want to keep the relationship as it is, you don't have to take any action, and if you want to respond to her wishes, you can gently approach her at your

own pace. Whichever you choose, if it is the result of your serious consideration, Ayanokouji-kun, we will respect it.] (Saito)

"Saito....." (Kazuto)

*You're such a good guy.....!*

*I was kind of touched!*

*You were easily to be forgotten because of your weird calculations, but Saito, you were a kind man who cares about his friends!*

[By the way, according to my calculations, the probability that Ayanokouji-kun and Mizuki-san's relationship will work out is .....0.12% or in other words, only God knows!] (Saito)

*(PTW/N: 0.12% with furigana: "kaminomizoshiru".)*

"Heyyyyyy! That's the lowest probability ever!" (Kazuto)

And he puts a bunch of words that make no sense.....!

I feel like everything has been ruined.

Give me back the emotion and respect I gave earlier.

[So Ayanokouji. Do well with Mizuki. And introduce us to other idols!] (Tachibana)

[That's great! I'll be looking forward to your cooperation as well, Ayanokouji-kun!] (Saito)

"..." (Kazuto)

I silently closed the app without replying.

It might have been the biggest mistake of my life to consult with them.

I threw my smartphone to bed while sitting on the chair.

I exhaled and looked up at the ceiling.

"Haaa~ ... I'm so nervous."

*Mizuki-san might like me.*

*Assuming it was true,*

*So, what can I do then?*

"Speaking about it, I haven't found a solution tonight...!"

(Kazuto)

I should work on the immediate problem now, huh.

If don't, we won't be able to do befriending operation on Saturday.



In preparation for tonight, I imagined (or fantasized) a conversation with Mizuki-san in my mind.

# Chapter 10 - The Cool Girl, Intends to be my Wife in Real Life.

The time was 21:24.

It was almost time for Mizuki-san to call me.

"..." (Kazuto)

Restlessly, I walked around in my small room.

*Is there a way to convince Mizuki-san without telling her about the meeting with Kurumizaka-san?*

In the first place, I didn't want to lie to Mizuki-san.

If it was going to be like this, I should have turned down Kurumizaka-san's request.

Well, no one could have predicted this development, but.....

"Why am I so impatient ...?" (Kazuto)

I didn't really know myself.

But I didn't want Mizuki-san to interpret it in a strange way.

As I was pacing around holding my head, the smartphone on my computer desk rang.

It was a phone call. It was from Mizuki-san.

After a slight hesitation, I picked up my smartphone.

I tapped the incoming call button, accepting the call.

"Good evening, Kazuto-kun" (Rinka)

"Good evening..." (Kazuto)

It was Mizuki-san's voice, the same as always.

I concentrated on the conversation in my quiet room, where there was not a single noise.

"It was about today... I'm sorry for the harsh way I spoke."  
(Rinka)

"Eh, no..." (Kazuto)

I was surprised at her sudden apology.

It was really unexpected.

"I can't help but be curious about Kazuto-kun's behavior.  
Wondering about who he's with, where he's going, and what  
he's doing..... Of course, I believe in you, but I can't get rid  
of this anxiety..... Can you tell me?" (Rinka)

"Umm, maybe." (Kazuto)

"I understand that Kazuto-kun is a wonderful boy and that  
many different women are after him. That's why I feel  
insecure about him." (Rinka)

"Insecure?" (Kazuto)

"Yes. I'm worried that you'll run to other women." (Rinka)

*Run to other women?*

Mizuki-san was talking as if she and I were dating.

"I know. Kazuto-kun will be popular, so you'll be courted by a  
lot of women." (Rinka)

"No, I'm not popular at all! And I've never talked to a female  
student before!" (Kazuto)

It really made me hurt to hear myself say it.

Looking back on my life, Mizuki-san's was the first girl's  
contact I got.

The second was Kurumizaka-san's.

*.....Isn't this pretty amazing?*

"Really? It's hard to believe. It's abnormal that Kazuto-kun  
isn't popular." (Rinka)

"It's normal. I'm just a gamer..." (Kazuto)

"That's how it is. Then it can't be helped." (Rinka)

"It can't be helped?" (Kazuto)

"Yes. There is too much unnecessary information in this day  
and age. Maybe it's because of the Internet and the  
increasing number of rules in the world. It's funny for me to  
say this as an idol, but people who dress up and appeal to

others are more accepted than those who act naturally.....

That's what human society is all about." (Rinka)

"That's..... maybe somehow understandable." (Kazuto)

This is something that you can feel when you are in school.

For example, as a result of being quiet and trying to live a natural life, your classmates may label you as.... a loner or a dark-gloomy guy.

I was one of them.

It may have been a long time ago, but in this day and age, there is a tendency for quiet people to be considered inferior to cheerful people.

That was why some young people forced themselves to act cheerful, and in some cases, they ended up suffering from mental illness.

Given that, what Mizuki-san said probably was right, that the online game world was a world where you can live more seriously and naturally than in the real world.

"I think about it a lot, especially when I'm a student idol. I realize how humans are lustful creatures....." (Rinka)

"..." (Kazuto)

I couldn't even make a sound.

I could feel the hardship in her beautiful voice that I couldn't even imagine.

"Of course, if there are bad people, there are good people...

And Kazuto-kun is one of those good people. He's a very wonderful boy." (Rinka)

"How can you be so sure? It's been less than a week since we've interacted in real life." (Kazuto)

"We've been together on the internet for almost four years. We have a pure relationship where both parties are unencumbered by unnecessary information." (Rinka)

"..." (Kazuto)

I felt a surge of emotion in my chest.

I could tell that Mizuki-san very valued her online game life with me.

"Moreover, I and Kazuto-kun are even married. I want you to stop talking casually with women other than me." (Rinka)

"... It's only in-game, though." (Kazuto)

"Yes, that's right. We're married in a world free of impure information, so we're a better couple than those who married in real life." (Rinka)

"..." (Kazuto)

.....

.....

*Hmm?*

"I know we've gotten off topic, so let's get back to the main subject. What were you doing with that woman?" (Rinka)

"Please wait a minute. From my point of view, it was more important than that." (Kazuto)

"What are you talking about? What else could be more problematic for a married couple than an affair?" (Rinka)

"Yes, isn't it strange! What do you mean, by married couple? I and Mizuki-san are just online game friends, right?" (Kazuto)

"Yes, that's right. We are friends on the Internet, and since we're married, we're also husband and wife." (Rinka)

"Ah, yeah. Right, that's right. But not in real life, right?" (Kazuto)

The sense of discomfort I had felt so far was rapidly building up.

I swallowed my saliva and waited for Mizuki-san to speak.

"Kazuto-kun" (Rinka)

".....Yes." (Kazuto)

"I've told you, right? Even though it's in the game, I'm not going to marry just anyone." (Rinka)

"You've." (Kazuto)

"I think it's because it's in the game that does not involve real information, we can have a real and true heart-to-heart relationship." (Rinka)

"Yeah. I won't deny it either." (Kazuto)

"We get married in such a world, right?" (Rinka)

—————*Even in real life, I'm Kazuto-kun's wife, right?*

"..." (Kazuto)

I was too shocked to utter anything.

I stood stunned in the middle of my room and froze in a position clutching my phone.

Saito and Tachibana had told me that Mizuki-san liked me. But the reality was different.

No.

It already beyond reality!!

She was.....

The idol named Mizuki Rinka is—————intending to be my wife!

"What's wrong, Kazuto-kun? Did I say something strange?" (Rinka)

"...U-umm... Marriage is a bit..." (Kazuto)

It's too much for me.

I want to think about it.

She was a very popular idol and I was a mediocre online game nerd.

It's enough to say that we're like a moon and a turtle.

"Marriage is a bit, what? You're not going to say it's a mistake now, are you?" (Rinka)

"... What would you do if I said that?" (Kazuto)

"I have no choice but to die." (Rinka)

"Eh!" (Kazuto)

"With Kazuto-kun." (Rinka)

"Whaaat!?" (Kazuto)

*You're going to take me to die with you, Dear popular idol!?*

"I can't imagine a life without Kazuto-kun. Ever since I met him in real life, I can see my love for him growing even stronger." (Rinka)

"L-love... you said?..." (Kazuto)

I was astonished, it was beyond the feelings of happiness or embarrassment.

The word *"love"* seemed unrealistic to me as a high school student who was an online game nerd.

"Tell me honestly, Kazuto-kun. If you've been unfaithful, it can't be helped. I don't think I can monopolize a charming boy like Kazuto-kun from the beginning. The truth is, I'm very sad and I hate it, but..... I can overlook a little cheating." (Rinka)

"Wa-wait, can you please not proceed with the conversation by yourself!? I can't keep up with the conversation in any way!" (Kazuto)

I asked for a pause in the conversation and gave her strong straight words.

But Mizuki-san changed her beautiful voice tone into a fragile impression and continued speaking.

"Yes, so that's what it meant." (Rinka)

"....What?" (Kazuto)

"I've heard it before. I've heard that men who have cheated on their wives are good at playing dumb." (Rinka)

"It's different! I'm really not catching up with what you're talking about!!" (Kazuto)

"It's okay, Kazuto-kun. If you can keep me by your side and not abandon me, .....but I don't want many others." (Rinka)

"Mizuki-san!? Are your brake off!?" (Kazuto)

I felt that this conversation was going in a dangerous direction.

It was not like the brakes were broken.

It was more like a train run off the tracks and was crashing through the city.

"Kazuto-kun, remember this. Your wife is... me." (Rinka)

"Wait, Mizuki-sa—————" (Kazuto)

**\*Shut\*** ♪

.....The call was hung up.

Mizuki-san's words, which were released one after another like a torrent, continued to spin around and around in my head.

"Ha, haha..... What the heck is that?" (Kazuto)

There was only one thing I understood.

She, a cool girl is, intending to be my wife in real life\_\_\_\_\_.



# Chapter 11 - Changing Daily Life

"...Hoaa~m." (Kazuto)

Morning. I woke up in my bed at home.

I recognized the morning sun shining through the curtains and grabbed my phone, which I had left on my bedside table.

Two e-mails had come in.

The sender of both messages was Mizuki-san.

"This's unusual." (Kazuto)

This was the first time I've received an email in the morning. Remembering what happened last night, I started to get a little nervous.

I tapped the screen to check the contents.

[Good morning, Kazuto-kun. It's another beautiful day. Don't be late, okay?] (Rinka)

.....It was normal.

No, it wasn't normal to get a wake-up email from a popular idol.

The content was quite decent.

Then check the second one.

[I love you, Kazuto-kun] (Rinka)

"! W-wh-wh-...-wha...!" (Kazuto)

It's too straightforward!

My sleepiness was blown away at once.

I see, so this is the power of morning email.....!

"She has never done anything like this before..... Is this because of what happened yesterday?" (Kazuto)

Maybe some kind of switch was turned on in Mizuki-san.

In any case, it was bad for my heart this morning.

"The reply... what should I do?" (Kazuto)

Do I have to reply "I love you" too?

"No, no, no, it's impossible! It's too embarrassing!" (Kazuto)

I didn't know whether I like Mizuki-san or not.

I just had feelings of admiration and respect for her.

Of course, as a high school boy of my age, I had delusions of becoming her lover and having a lovey-dovey relationship with her.

But if you ask me if that's a romantic feeling, I'd have to tilt my head again.....

".....For now, I'll just reply with, Good morning, it's indeed another beautiful day." (Kazuto)

From the day I learned of Rin's true identity, a series of unbelievable and ridiculous events hit me.

My mind and heart were not in order because of the fast-changing daily life.

"What's going to happen to me, from now on,.....? How many times exactly have I said this line?" (Kazuto)

□

"Sup, Ayanokouji." (Tachibana)

"Good morning Ayanokouji-kun." (Saito)

As soon as I arrived at school and took my seat, the two of them immediately started talking to me.

Both of them had an expectant look on their faces, as if they wanted to ask me something.

"Good morning... and, what?" (Kazuto)

"Hey hey, isn't the tension is low..... What happened with Mizuki?" (Tachibana)

I knew it, after all, it was the main subject.

Saito was also looking at me with sparkles in his eyes behind his glasses.

"What happened, huh... I'm myself also wondering about it." (Kazuto)

I didn't know where to start.

So, I answered vaguely.

If I had to give them an explanation, it would be that Mizuki-san didn't just like me, she wanted to be my wife.

It was a very simple explanation.

However, I had to be mentally prepared to give such a simple explanation.

As I kept my mouth shut, Tachibana narrowed his eyes and made an assertion.

"Ayanokouji, you..... you've been rejected!?" (Tachibana)

"What?" (Kazuto)

"You failed the name-calling challenge, didn't you!?" (Tachibana)

"No, I haven't tried the name-calling challenge yet....." (Kazuto)

"Wait a minute, Ayanokouji-kun! Are you trying to say that you were rejected before you do the name-calling challenge!?" (Saito)

Saito said wildly as if to say, "That's ridiculous!"

..... And I also use it, but what is the name-calling challenge?

"Well, about it ... it was my bad, Ayanokouji. We really thought Mizuki really liked you ..." (Tachibana)

"He's right. I'm sorry about it too..... I'm really sorry." (Saito)

The two apologized to me, their earlier cheerful energy dissipating.

I was misunderstood in the opposite sense.

"Mizuki rejected you after giving you so much hope, that must have lowered your spirits." (Tachibana)

"No, that's not it. I'm not sure if you'll believe me even if I explain it to you..... I can't say it well either....." (Kazuto)

"You don't have to force yourself, Ayanokouji-kun. As an apology, I'll give you some of the light novels I've collected since I was in middle school." (Saito)

"Oh, in that case, I'll give you three bell peppers." (Tachibana)

"What!? Then I'll give you five eggplants!" (Saito)

"Then seven!" "Ten!" "Twelve!" "Twenty!" "Hundred!"

"Who are you guys, a greengrocer!? You're collecting too many vegetables, guys!" (Kazuto)

Really, these guys...!

As I stared at them with cold eyes, Tachibana and Saito, who had some kind of gentle expressions, put their hands on my shoulders.

"You're finally becoming the Ayanokouji you were meant to be." (Tachibana)

"What?" (Kazuto)

"According to my calculation, the probability that Ayanokouji-kun is getting better is 97%. That snappy comment you just made is the best proof of that." (Saito)

..... What's wrong with these two?

You're not going to tell me that you've made a bad joke like an elementary school student to cheer me up?

"If you think about it, there's no way a popular idol like Mizuki would fall in love with Ayanokoji, who is an online game nerd." (Tachibana)

"That's right. According to my calculations, there is a 79% chance that Mizuki-san saw Ayanokouji-kun as a rare animal. It was never about romantic feelings." (Saito)

"You guys are saying dāmn too much as you like..... Okay, I get it. I'll say, I'll say it." (Kazuto)

If I was made fun of this much, I had no choice but to tell the truth.

Since Tachibana and Saito were listening to me, I'll tell them the truth.

"Mizuki-san is... she was intending to be my wife even in real life." (Kazuto)

""What?"" (Tachibana; Saito)

This is exactly what it means when one's eyes turn into dots. (PTW/N: 点々点々 (megatenninaru).)

They let out a dumb voice and blinked at each other as they looked at each other.

And.....

"Hu-huahahaha! That's not it, Ayakoji! No matter how delusional you are, it is terribly too much! Huahahaha!"

"Pffft! A-Ayanokouji-kun! No matter how... Pffft!" (Saito)

"..." (Kazuto)

The two were laughing with their stomachs.

I knew they wouldn't believe me, but I never expected them to laugh so hard.

Well, I guess it's normal.

It was really unbelievable that a popular idol, Mizuki Rinka, would not only take a liking to an online game nerd, but also consider herself to be his wife.....

"Phew~. I haven't laughed at that since Monday."

(Tachibana)

"Yeah, I know it..... I laughed so hard I had to go to the bathroom." (Saito)

"M-me too. Do you want to go with us, Ayanokouji?"

(Tachibana)

"No way I'm going." (Kazuto)

I wondered if I can go to the lavatory with them laughing at me like this.

As I sat in my chair, I watched the two giggling people leave the classroom.

"...Geez." (Kazuto)

I'm serious here.

I'm not going to consult with them about anything anymore.

"U-umm.... Ayanokouji-kun. Is this a good time?"

A small girl spoke to me as if she was asking me a question fearfully.

It was Himekawa-san from my class.

With her hairstyle tied in pigtails, her overall atmosphere was reminiscent of small animals.

She has a rather cute appearance, but she has a reserved personality and is not the type to stand out.

I had the strong impression that she was in the corner of the classroom, having a conversation with her quiet friends.

"It's okay now. What's wrong, Himekawa-san?" (Kazuto)

"Th-that is.... This is out of the blue, but can you pull my finger.....?" (Himekawa)

"finger?"

Himekawa-san lightly opened her small right hand into the palm and held it out to me.

It's really out of the blue.

*What is this?*

"A-any one of these..." (Himekawa)

"For what it is?" (Kazuto)

"Um, that is..." (Himekawa)

Himekawa-san mumbled her mouth and stammered.

She was shyly shaking her petite body, unable to say anything.

In addition, her cheeks were slightly red.

As I watched her, I noticed something.

Behind Himekawa-san.

One of the girls sitting in the row by the hallway was watching us with a grin on her face.

I guessed that I was being played some kind of game or prank on.

When I thought about it, I felt a slightly competitive spirit.

.....Anyway, I guess I should choose a finger.

So, I lightly pulled Himekawa-san's middle finger.

"Ah... the middle finger, huh..." (Himekawa)

"Eh? Did I do something wrong?" (Kazuto)

"No, Y-yeah. It's good..." (Himekawa)

Sorry? Sadness? I can't read it, but she went back to her friend, wearing some kind of negative emotion.

Occasionally, she skipped a glance at me and whispered to each other.

".....what is that?" (Kazuto)

I tilted my head, didn't understand the meaning of their actions.

———— I learned this a few days later, but it seemed that I had been subjected to "finger fortune-telling".

The idea was that you could tell what the other person thought of you by which finger they pulled.  
The meaning changed depending on whether the other person was of the same sex or the opposite sex.  
By the way, if you are pulled by the opposite sex, it means

□ Thumb: A trusted advisor.

□ Index finger: Business partner.

□ Middle finger: Normal friend.

□ Ring finger: Someone you would like to marry.

□ Pinky finger: Ideal lover.

I've heard that people think like that (It's just fortune-telling).

In this case, I pulled her middle finger, which means I think of Himekawa-san as a normal friend———.

"... Maybe it's the first time I've ever held a girl's finger."  
(Kazuto)

An inexplicable sensation enveloped my whole body.

It was small and soft———Wha!

I turned around as I felt killing intent.

It was from Mizuki-san's direction.

But she was touching her phone.

Was it my imagination?

Right after that, I heard a notification sound from my smartphone in my pants pocket.

I checked to see if it was.....

[It seems we do need to talk again tonight, yes?] (Rinka)

I wasn't sure, but I felt like I should apologize.

[I'm sorry.] (Kazuto)

[Today's lunch break. Please come to the back of the school so that no one can find. It's okay if you come after you finished your lunch.] (Rinka)

[Umm, can I veto?] (Kazuto)

[What a terrible husband. Your wife wants to spend lunch with you, and you're going to turn her down?] (Rinka)

We had become a couple as a matter of course.

[.....I'll go.] (Kazuto)

[Good. I've never looked forward to a lunch break so much.]

(Rinka)

Is it pleasure, or is it a desire that comes from black emotions? I don't know either.

But, it is pure joy to be invited by Mizuki-san.

However, this time it is.....

"I'm a little scared." (Kazuto)



# Chapter 12 - Fortune Telling is...

Lunch break. After finishing my meal, I went to the back of the school building.

Saito and Tachibana asked me where I was going, but I deceived them appropriately.

"My, Kazuto-kun. I'm glad you came." (Rinka)

".....Hello." (Kazuto)

Mizuki-san, who had arrived before me, smiled thinly at me. I responded, feeling a little embarrassed as I averted my gaze.

Nevertheless, the air in the back of the school building is nice and fresh.

Just standing there, the soft breeze caressed my whole body. Even so, there were few people around, so no one could see us.

Isn't this a perfect place for a secret meeting?

"It's about this morning..." (Rinka)

"No, I don't even know about that either. I was suddenly asked to choose a finger. Well, Himekawa-san's friend was watching with a grin, so it was probably just a prank."

(Kazuto)

"...you don't you know about that?" (Rinka)

"That?" (Kazuto)

I asked back with a question.

Mizuki-san put her hand on her chin and made a face of thinking.

"I see, it's okay. If you don't know that, it might be convenient." (Rinka)

"Huh...?" (Kazuto)

She interpreted it in her own way and convinced herself in her own way.

What the h\*ll is going on here?

"Yeah, that's right..... Then, how about you choose my finger this time?" (Rinka)

As she said that, Mizuki-san pointed her beautiful, thin, feminine fingers at me.

"What's the point of this, really? Somehow, it's kind of creepy....." (Kazuto)

"You don't have to think too much about it, it's just no big deal, a little fortune-telling. Just go with your intuition and pick my finger." (Rinka)

"..." (Kazuto)

"...Perhaps, you're saying that you'll touch Himekawa-san's finger but won't touch mine?" (Rinka)

Mizuki-san asked me somewhat anxiously.

I hurriedly shook my head.

"Th-that's not the case." (Kazuto)

I was even more nervous than I was with Himekawa-san.

The psychological burden of holding the finger of an ordinary classmate and that of a popular idol was incredibly different.

"This is my advice to you, but I suggest you choose the ring finger." (Rinka)

"The ring finger?" (Kazuto)

It seemed that depending on the finger you chose, the meaning would be different.

I pretended to choose her middle finger.

"...!" (Rinka)

Mizuki-san bent her eyebrows slightly and her face became tense.

Her face even changed to that of someone who is about to cry.

"Umm, Mizuki-san?" (Kazuto)

"Kazuto-kun. Though, I do believe in you....." (Rinka)

She gave me a strange feeling of tension and a desperate craving.

Though, she said it was no big deal fortune-telling before.....

I'm sure I've heard of it, that girls do tend to love spiritual(?) things.

I read on an online dating forum that many guys were dumped by their girlfriends because they were incompatible through fortune-telling.

It was such a horrible story.

*Will Mizuki-san hate me too if I choose the middle finger?*

As I was thinking about this, I unconsciously gently picked her ring finger.

At that moment, Mizuki-san smiled as if she was a flower blossomed with a poof.

—————*Eeh?*

"I did it!..... Ahem. No, I should say that this result is natural. Since we've been married for years, so we didn't need to confirm it by fortune-telling, yes." (Rinka)

Mizuki cleared her throat and returned to her normal cool mode, but she spoke quickly.

It was unusual to see her like that, but the smile she had just shown me had left a strong impression.

She was known as a cool beautiful girl idol by the public, and a neat cold-blooded doll by some haters...

I didn't expect her to have such a defenseless smile on her face.

Somehow, it was reminiscent of Rin in the online game.

"I don't know what this fortune-telling thing means, but I'm glad Mizuki-san is happy about it." (Kazuto)

"It's not like I'm happy. I was just simply confirming a fact." (Rinka)

"Are you going to be a 'tsun' here.....?" (Kazuto)

Mizuki-san said with a crisp expression.

For better or worse, she was her normal self.

"There's a lot more I want to tell you, but if it's too late we might get some suspicion." (Rinka)

"I guess so. Tachibana and Saito were also suspicious."  
(Kazuto)

"Real-world is still inconvenient, yes. It's hard to just talk to someone you love." (Rinka)

"..." (Kazuto)

My heart bounced when she was said such words very naturally.

From Mizuki-san's point of view, it probably natural enough to say it.

"But it's exciting in its own way." (Rinka)

"Exciting?" (Kazuto)

"Yes. Stealing a moment from the public eyes and exchanging a few words with the person you love in a small amount of time. It's like an old-fashioned love story, isn't it?"  
(Rinka)

"I-I guess so....?" (Kazuto)

I gave her a vague answer.

I was too embarrassed to keep up the conversation.

"I'll go back to class first." (Rinka)

"O-okay." (Kazuto)

".....I wonder if it would be fun to meet up somewhere else next time." (Rinka)

While muttering such a thing, Mizuki-san turned her back and left.

"..." (Kazuto)

The back of the school building had become quiet.

The only sound that reached my ears was the pleasant sound of the wind.

"I think I'll stay here a little longer." (Kazuto)

It seemed that it would take a while for the burning in my cheeks to subside.

"...Mizuki-san's innocent smile, huh?" (Kazuto)

When it comes to the "Rin" in the game, I understand her so deeply that there is no room for doubt about her personal nature.

However, I probably still have no understanding of the inner workings of "Mizuki Rinka", who acts as a popular idol.

"I wonder if something will change if we play online games together tomorrow." (Kazuto)

*I'll be able to call her Rinka.*

*Then I can finally take my first step in real life.*

Somehow, that was what I thought.

# Chapter 13 - The Starting Line

"I guess it's time to go home." (Kazuto)

The view of the cityscape from the window was getting darker.

I had come to Saito's house for a visit, and I told the two that I was about to go home.

This information might be unnecessary, but Saito's room was really dirty.

There were so many light novels and mangas scattered about that it was hard to find a place to step.

If you say it's a typical high school boy's room, then yes, it is.....

"What? Isn't it too early to go home? You usually stay up later than this to have fun." (Saito)

"Ah, I have an appointment tonight." (Kazuto)

I said to Saito, who was lying on his bed reading a light novel.

Today was Saturday.

I was going to play an online game with Mizuki-san and Kurumizaka-san tonight.

"What do you mean by 'appointment'? Who else can you play with other than us?" (Tachibana)

"I've heard that line a few days ago..... it's with Mizuki-san." (Kazuto)

"Didn't you get rejected by Mizuki?" (Tachibana)

"No, I didn't. It's kind of a pain in the ass to explain..... I'll show you the authentic proof, guys." (Kazuto)

I took out my smartphone and showed them the chat I had with Mizuki-san.

What was displayed on the screen was the exchange that started with the morning greet (I love you) the other day, recognizing ourselves as a husband and wife.

"Is this, for real.....?" (Tachibana)

"This is for real. Don't tell anyone, okay? I still can't believe it, either....." (Kazuto)

""....."" (Tachibana, Saito)

Saito and Tachibana stared at my smartphone and started to tremble like crazy.

When I was wondering what was going on, they suddenly screamed.

"N-no, no no, it's a lie, isn't it! Life is too UNFAIIIIIRRRR!" (Tachibana)

"A-aa-ac-according to my calculations, .....

AAAAAARRRRRGGGGHHHH!!" (Saito)

Both of them were unsightly and screaming strangely.

I'm sorry to say, but the appearance of them holding their heads, their eyes turning white, spitting, and screaming was extremely ugly.

My cheeks tensed up, I tried to escape as I put my hand on the doorknob.

"Wait, AYANOKOUJIIIIIII!" (Tachibana)

"Whoa, what the h\*ll!" (Kazuto)

Tachibana clung to my waist and said with a zombie-like voice.

"I'm not going to let you go like this! While you play husband and wife with a popular idol, we have to play with each other, huh, bastard?" (Tachibana)

"Well, yeah ... It can't be helped, right." (Kazuto)

I have no choice in the matter, do I?

I tried to open the door and get out of the room, but

Tachibana tightened his grip on my waist.

"I'm not going to let you go!" (Tachibana)

"Ugh, seriously, let me go! If you don't, I'll be in trouble with Kurumizaka-san———ah." (Kazuto)

The moment I said it, I knew I had dug my own grave.

I was so impatient that I was leaking unnecessary information.

"Y-you, no way..... you'll play online game with Nana-chan, too?" (Tachibana)

"..." (Kazuto)

"So you will? I'll take your silence as an affirmation!" (Tachibana)

"...N-no, it's different, you know?" (Kazuto)

"It's no different! Ayanokouji, you're a terrible liar, I can tell right away! Aaah DAMMITTT, you have a flower in each hand!? I'm so f-kin' jealous!" (Tachibana)

"... According to my calculations, the probability of us going insane with jealousy is——1000%!!" (Saito)

The next moment, even Saito, with his bloodshot eyes, jumped on me.

The two of them were coming at me.....!

"Wa- stop iiiiiiitttttttt~!" (Kazuto)

□

[It's too late, Kazu!

What have you been doing before ㄅ(□`^´□)ㄆ ] (Rin)

As soon as I logged in to the game, I received such an angry message from Rin.

It was kinda cute and made my cheeks loosened.

In the end, because of Saito and Tachibana, I was about twenty minutes late.

I replied, "I'm sorry", and then launched the voice chat app on my computer.

I selected the chat room that I had created with Rin and clicked on the voice channel to enter the room.

There were three players in the room.

"Kazu," "Rin," and "Sturmangriff."

.....Who?



There was a player with its username contain some awesome characters.

"You were late, Kazu. We've been waiting for you for a long time, you know?" (Rin)

Rin, who dressed in a cool outfit, said to me.

It had a very different atmosphere from the cute chat that was sent to me just a few minutes ago.

.....Well, it's not like I'm going to go into it.

I was sure she had her own reasons.

I was more interested in Sturmangriff.

I'd known who it was, but I couldn't help but ask.

"Umm, who is Sturmangriff?" (Kazu)

"Hey, hey! It's me! Kurumizaka Nana, y'know!"

(Sturmangriff)

A cheerful and lively voice echoed from the headphones.

And it was quite loud.

"Hey Nana. You're talking too loud. Keep your voice down."

(Rin)

"Ah, Sorry~." (Sturmangriff)

It appeared that Kurumizaka-san, who usually made a lively voice, was in the same boat in voice chat.

I casually ask her about the origin of her name.

"Kurumizaka-san. Why is your username Sturmangriff?"

(Kazu)

"Umm, y'know.... It's the name of a cat I have! What do you think? Ain't it a cute name?" (Sturmangriff)

For a moment, I thought it was a joke waiting for a retort, but the cheerful tone of Kurumizaka-san's voice made me realize that she was serious.

As I was struggling for words to reply, Rin took over the conversation.

"Nana's sense of naming is different compared to most people. Don't let it bother you." (Rin)

"That's not true! I'm normal, y'know!" (Sturmangriff)

..... Absolutely not normal.

Also, I just looked up the meaning of "Sturmangriff" on the Internet, and it appeared to mean "Assault" in Deutsch. I wonder what Kurumizaka-san is going to make her cat do. "Sturm———Nana has already finished the tutorial. I'm sorry, Kazu, but could you please come to the first village?" (Rin)

"Okay. I'll be right there." (Kazu)

It seemed that calling her by her player's name was becoming annoying. (**PTW/N:** *Poor Nana-chan*)

Mizuki-san called her by her real name. So, I would do the same.

As I was told, I got on my horse and took a few minutes to arrive at the first village.

On the way to the village, I talked to Kurumizaka-san, who had finished the tutorial but still wasn't used to the controls. That's why, until she was getting used to the controls, we had to fight the small monsters around the village.

I walked my character to the central square of the peaceful village to gather with the girls.

There, what awaited me was a lovely blonde elf carrying a bow on her back, "Rin", and a burly macho oldman beastman carrying a great ax, "Sturmangriff". (**PTW/N:**  $0 \times 0$ )

.....

"... Hey, Kurumizaka-san. You're definitely playing for gag-play, aren't you?" (Kazu)

On the Black Plains, you can make your character in a rather detailed way.

The character that Kurumizaka-san had created was a muscular daruma that seemed to have all the parameters raised to the max.

"Gag-play? Emm this character, Ain't it cute?" (Sturmangriff)

"I have to say it. Kurumizaka-san, your taste is crazy." (Kazu)

"EEEEEEHH? Even Kazu-kun too?" (Sturmangriff)

I think anyone would say that.

Everyone would say that it's cute, because it's obvious that the character design is a joke.

"Now that we've confirmed Nana's crazy taste, let's go hunting right away." (Rin)



"Boo~, Rin-chan and Kazu-kun are so mean." (Sturmangriff)  
Even though she was pouting her lips and leaking out a dissatisfied voice, Kurumizaka-san followed Rin out of the village.

Not long after, we came to a grassland area inhabited by monsters.

"Oh, look! There's a big and cute cat over there!"

(Sturmangriff)

"That's a Serval Cat. Be careful, it's the strongest monster around here. Nana will never be able to beat it right now, so stay away from it———" (Rin)

"It's so cute! Look at it, it's having so much fun pouncing on me!" (Sturmangriff)

"No, Nana! You're being attacked! Run, quickly!" (Rin)

"What? I don't know how to run———ah." (Sturmangriff)

[Party member: Sturmangriff has fallen]

A death announcement was mercilessly displayed in the chatbox.

It happened less than five minutes after we left the village. Instead of charging in, she died standing on the spot.

"Nana....." (Rin)

"I'm sorry. Rin-chan" (Sturmangriff)

Rin grumbled Kurumizaka-san's name in annoyance.

I guess I'll take care of the enemy for now.

"Kazu", who had maxed his level, swung his sword and killed the Serval Cat.

By the way, the Serval Cats were not cute at all.

They looked like cats, but had physiques as big as humans and had vicious looks.

They even had huge fangs coming out of their jaws.

"Let's get ourselves together and proceed. Kazu, please." (Rin)

"Yeah." (Kazu)

I guessed the meaning of her words, and went around in circles, killing only the monsters that might give Kurumizaka-san trouble.

"Ah, with this, I may be able to win!" (Sturmangriff)

An oldman beastman with a huge body was swinging a great ax that matched its physique and trying to tear apart a small weasel.

However, Kurumizaka-san seemed to be unfamiliar with even normal attacks, and the weasel occasionally ducked her attacks.

It wasn't a click-and-choose target, so it might be hard for the novice Kurumizaka-san.

".....Nana is more than I imagined..... No, let's not say any more." (Rin)

I knew what Rin was thinking..

Kurumizaka-san probably was a person who had no sense of game.

Well, I'm sure she's just purely a lack of gaming experience. While Kurumizaka-san was struggling with the weakest monster, Rin and I continued to hunt the monsters around us.

It was not satisfying at all, but just being able to listen to the sound of Kurumizaka-san's happy voice was enough for us.

"Y'two are in perfect synch, ain't ya?" (Sturmangriff)

Suddenly, Kurumizaka-san said such a thing.

"What do you mean?" (Rin)

"You two were giving each other instructions by just calling name, right?" (Sturmangriff)

"Well yeah... The monsters around here are weak, so there's no need for complicated coordination....." (Rin)

"Rin and I have been together for a long time. So we can understand what the other person wants without thinking about it." (Kazu)

"That's right. It's what we call 'heart-to-heart communication'." (Rin)

Rin said a little proud.

Kurumizaka-san was impressed and said, "Hee~, it's amazing, yes".

And so we hunted for a few dozen minutes, while conversing randomly.

"Sorry. I've got something to do. I'll leave for a bit, kay."

(Sturmangriff)

After stopping her hunting, Kurumizaka-san left, even though she still logged in.

Since she was also still online in the voice channel, I was sure she was planning to come back soon.

As I was thinking this, I heard a notification from the smartphone on my desk.

I checked it.

There was a message from Kurumizaka-san.

[The place has been warmed up with a good feeling! Now that it's just both of you, it's your chance!] (Nana)

Needless to say what the chance is.

Probably it was about the name-calling.

She requested me to call Mizuki-san "Rinka".

I replied to Kurumizaka-san.

[It's too sudden. I'm not ready for this.] (Kazuto)

[It's okay! You could call her "Rin" normally, right?] (Nana)

Now that she'd pointed it out, I realized.

Certainly, I used to call Mizuki-san "Rin".

[All you've to do is add the "Ka"! It's easy peasy, right!]

(Nana)

Like h\*ll, it's easy peasy.

The more I became aware of it, the more nervous I became to even call Rin.

"What's wrong, Kazu? Suddenly became silent." (Rin)

"A-ah, umm... Rin, ka... Kakapos are flying." (Kazu)

"Kakapo? Where are they? Are there Kakapos in the Black Plains?" (Rin)

(**PTW/N**: better you'd skipped this~.... It's originally

"Kamome" or **Seagull**. I hesitate to pick

"Kakatoo/Cockatoo" or "Kakapo".... but in the end, I chose "Kakapo"; I tried to do a little joke here, Kakapo is

actually [from what I read] a 'flightless' parrot. ~~Awoka~~---  
sorry, LoL)

[.....] (Nana)

A silent taunt is sent from Kurumizaka-san.  
I can't say anything back.

.....

I didn't know what is this.  
I've always had this strange feeling.  
This vague feeling had swirled in my chest.  
Probably I would be able to get along with Mizuki-san  
without Kurumizaka-san's encouragement.....  
In addition, Mizuki-san liked me so much that she wanted to  
be my wife in real life as well.....

"Yeah. That's right." (Kazu)

"Kazu? What really happened?" (Rin)

I ignored Mizuki-san's suspicious and set my thoughts.  
All the events that had happened in the past week and the  
memories with Mizuki-san flow through my mind.

It'd been a really intense week.

It'd been so hectic, and my daily life had easily been  
drastically changed.....

And Mizuki-san was always in the center of it.

If she was really thinking of me, I should be able to give her  
my true feelings fairly and honestly.

That was what it meant to be equal.

A heart-to-heart relationship where there were no  
impurities, it was the kind of relationship that Rin, Mizuki  
Rinka wanted.....

I readied myself, and then I slowly opened my mouth.

"Rin... No, Mizuki-san. Can you listen to me for a second?"  
(Kazu)

"... What it is, yes?" (Rin)

She seemed to have sensed something from the serious  
tone of my voice.

I could feel the tension in Mizuki's voice.



"...Actually, I only thought of Mizuki-san as a good friend on the internet." (Kazu)

"—————" (Rin)

I could hear her breath catching through my headphones.

Then I could hear my smartphone rang.

It was from Mr. Kurumizaka.

She is still listening to the conversation, huh?

I could guess what she was about to talk.

But there was no need to respond to her.

I turned off my smartphone and continued talking.

"I have feelings of admiration for Mizuki-san, but I don't know whether this is a romantic feeling or not." (Kazu)

"So... it was...." (Rin)

Mizuki replies with a shaky voice.

I felt like he was about to fall into a stupor.

But my talk didn't end here.

I haven't gotten all of my true feelings out yet.

"But I want to respond to Mizuki-san's feelings. No, I want to know more about Mizuki-san, and I want to be closer to her than I already am. I want to face Mizuki-san properly in real life as well." (Kazu)

".....eh?" (Rin)

"So, as a first step ... Can I call Mizuki-san 'Rinka'?" (Kazu)

I was able to say it smoothly despite my nervousness.

There was a brief silence.

The moment the possibility of being rejected crossed my mind, I heard Mizuki-san's voice.

".....Of course, I'm fine, but that is....." (Rin)

"What it is?" (Kazu)

"As far as I've heard, I think Kazuto-kun likes me too." (Rin)

"That... I can't deny the feelings of admiration that one have for an idol..... You don't like it either, do you Mizuki-san? I was confessed by an idol, then I said accepted." (Kazu)

"That's very unpleasant. I think it's because I'm inside a game world that there's no unnecessary information involved, I can have a pure heart-to-heart relationship. But I

absolutely refuse to go out with someone who accepted me because of my position as an idol." (Rin)

The tone of Mizuki-san's voice was a little rough, and she spoke up at once.

However, her next words were in a softer tone.

"... But I'm convinced, knowing that Kazuto-kun likes me." (Rin)

".....huh?" (Kazu)

"You're still confused and can't figure out your own emotions. It's okay. I understand you better than yourself, Kazuto-kun. So you have nothing to worry about." (Rin)

"..." (Kazu)

H-hey.....

Somehow, the direction of the conversation is turning into a strange way.

"I've heard it all before. That some men don't realize they had become husbands even after marriage." (Rin)

"That's not what I'm talking about. In my case, my closest gaming friend and the popular idol I admired were the same one person, so I'm confused in various ways..." (Kazu)

In addition to that, both also had an extraordinary fondness for me.

It would be impossible not to be confused.

"If so, I'll wait." (Rin)

"W-wait, eh?" (Kazu)

"Yes. I'll wait until Kazuto-kun sorts out his feelings and accepts his relationship with me." (Rin)

"Th-thank you.....?" (Kazu)

It was probably the most reassuring words I had ever heard. I needed time to properly face my emotions.

"I was surprised at first, though. I don't know whether Kazuto-kun likes me or not." (Rin)

"Uh, well..." (Kazu)

"But what he said after that made me understand. Kazuto-kun really likes me." (Rin)

"Umm, Mizuki-san? Isn't this conversation getting looping?"  
(Kazu)

It was more precise to a contradiction rather than a loop.  
I insisted that I don't know if I like her, but I want to get along with her even in real life.

For that reason, I asked her to let me call her Rinka.

However, Mizuki-san interpreted this as a sign of liking, even if I meant it.

"Well....., Even if Kazuto-kun's feelings were that of a friend or respect instead of love, it wouldn't matter."

"Huh?" (Kazu)

"It's a simple matter, you know. 'I'm a wife', all I have to do is become a woman that Kazuto-kun will fall in love with."

(Rin)

"Ummm, sorry, I don't know what you just said." (Kazu)

"It's not difficult. In short, since you got married before you fell in love with me, you just have to fall in love with me now." (Rin)

Ah... So that's it.

I see, i see.

I could just about understand it even though my head was in a little panic.

Mizuki-san was still "thinking of herself as a wife" even in this situation.

"I'm glad that Kazuto-kun confided his true feelings. It's true that it wasn't the answer I wanted, but..... I was able to find out what Kazuto-kun really felt without any falsehoods."

(Rin)

"Mizuki-san..." (Kazu)

"My, did I hear you wrong? I thought you would call me by my name from now on." (Rin)

".....Rinka." (Kazu)

"....." (Rin)

I called out to her in a whisper.

But I didn't hear a reply.

"Hmm, Rinka? You suddenly became silent... I knew it, you didn't like it huh?" (Kazu)

"No, I'm sorry. I was so happy that I couldn't even breathe." (Rin)

"W-what the h\*ll is that..." (Kazu)

I'd never heard of anyone who couldn't breathe because they were so happy just because someone called their name.

Does that mean she likes me very much?

.....I was embarrassed just thinking about it.

"Kazuto-kun. You've been worried about me all the time, haven't you?" (Rin)

"It's not that I'm worried....." (Kazu)

"No, If you've come this far, you are." (Rin)

"....." (Kazu)

I couldn't say anything back.

Rinka clearly expressed her feelings to such a pathetic me.

"You don't have to think too much about it. It's just that.....

I'm falling in love with Kazuto-kun on my own." (Rin)

"—————" (Kazu)

Just falling in love with me on her own.....

Does she know how precious those words are?

It was not a matter of calculating, nor was it a matter of being attracted by looks or status.

It was just that she was in love with me in person.

"And..... I wonder if Nana is listening to this conversation, though she's pretending not to." (Rin)

"Ahahaha. Did I get caught?" (Sturmangriff)

Kurumizaka-san reappeared with an unassuming laugh.

She seemed to have surrendered from making a convincing statement.

"There was a little noise. I don't know, but I sense some kind of conspiracy." (Rin)

Sharp. She was as smart as she looked cool.

I didn't think she knew everything, but she likely knew about the connection between me and Kurumizaka-san.

"Sorry, Rin-chan. I wasn't doing this with any ill intentions."  
(Sturmangriff)

"It's okay. Whenever Nana did strange things, it was always for my sake." (Rin)

"Rin-chan.....!" (Sturmangriff)

Kurumizaka-san raised her voice emotionally.

"But I don't like it when she plays silent and sneaky." (Rin)

"Rin-chan..." (Sturmangriff)

Kurumizaka-san's voice now became apologetic.....

"But, right. If you are planning to apologize,... I wonder if you can be just a little tactful." (Rin)

Be a little tactful?

I wondered what it meant.

I didn't know, but Kurumizaka-san seemed to understand that.

"Of course! I'd be happy if both of you became much closer than you are now. So ... Kazu-kun, please take care of Rin-chan." (Sturmangriff)

"Eh, what do you mean by taking care of———" (Kazu)

\*Ping\*♪

***Sturmangriff has left the chat room.....***

Apparently, idols have a habit of hanging up without listening to the end.

"Now, Kazuto-kun. At the same time Nana deliberately left the room, you confided your true feelings to me. This didn't seem like a coincidence." (Rin)

"N-no... that's." (Kazu)

"I'll have you spit it all out. What kind of interaction did you have with Nana behind the scenes... all of it, okay?" (Rin)

"...Umm, can we talk about it in the text chat?" (Kazu)

"Why?" (Rin)

The reason was, that "Rin" was more friendly and easy to talk to.

But I couldn't say that, though.....

"I thought it would be easier to explain in writing." (Kazu)

"...Well, it can't be helped. Let's do that." (Rin)

The chat was immediately sent through the game.

[Kazu! we've come this far, so don't hide anything from me, okay!] (Rin)

Ah, yes.

This is it.

It's more comfortable this way.

All right, I'll tell her everything.

I'm sure now is the right time.

[It was the lunch break the other day, I was called by Kurumizaka-san.] (Kazu)

[Nana!? No way, you're cheating on me with my best friend.....?] (Rin)

[No! Don't tie it to cheating right away!] (Kazu)

Cheating was a.....

Rinka was thinking of herself as my wife, no matter what.

I thought it was strange, but strangely enough, I didn't hate it.

Nowadays, I even felt relieved.

Maybe it's because I told her all my feelings.....?

I might not carry much value, as I was an online game nerd.

But there was one thing I was sure of.

Peoples would be able to understand each other without conflict if they stripped away the unnecessary information and told each other their true feelings.....

[So you had nothing with a girl named Kotone. Then, nothing had happened with Nana as well, right?] (Rin)

[.....she was the first one to hold my hand.] (Kazu)

[KAZUUUUUUUU!!] (Rin)

I retracted my previous words.

I shouldn't say anything else.

[I haven't held hands with you yet.....

Nana robs Kazu's first

°(´nωn`)°. ] (Rin)

[You're overreacting! Don't worry, it was just a lighthearted attempt of her to hold a fan's hand.] (Kazu)

[I've already decided! I'll manage Kazu's relationships from now on! I'll also check your friend list and you'll have to submit your daily schedule to me!] (Rin)

[Is this a controlled society, huh! I'll choke and suffocate to death!] (Kazu)

If I have such a wife in real life, my life will probably be very difficult.

Ah, she thinks she's my wife in real life, too?

Isn't this seriously bad.

While thinking such things, I typed a reply to Rin's chat.

While we were connected via voice chat, we were still communicating with each other in the same way we used to.

Even years from now, we will be together forever, I'm sure of it——

# Chapter 14 - "The Episode of Mizuki Family's Turmoil"

It would be good if we could have ended the conversation in a good mood.

"Hey, Kazuto-kun. Are you listening to what I'm saying?"

(Rinka)

"Yeah, I'm listening. I was just a little reminiscing." (Kazuto)

As I was forced to sit on the floor in Rinka's room, I finished my reverie and came back to reality.

A week has already elapsed since the day I confided my true feelings to her.

In other words, two weeks have already passed since I found out that Rin's real identity was Mizuki Rinka.

And today, Sunday. In the daytime.

An incident(?) happened again.

"Certainly, I did say that I would wait until Kazuto-kun could sort out his feelings. But I didn't say that I would overlook a cheating, did I?" (Rinka)

"..... Didn't say that you would forgive a little cheating?"

(Kazuto)

"Of course you'd be upset if you found out your partner was cheating on you, am I wrong? What? did you purposely cheat on me because you thought it would be forgiven, huh?" (Rinka)

"I didn't, I didn't! It was a misunderstanding! I'm sorry for saying unnecessary things!" (Kazuto)

I quickly bow my head and apologize to her, as she looks at me with ruthless eyes reminiscent of an assassin.



*Aah, really, how did this happen?*

Two days ago, Rinka told me, *"It's next Sunday, my family won't be home until the evening. Why don't you come over to my house around noon? I want to talk to you about something important. Ah, If you refuse..... let's better not to talk about it anymore."* I was invited (or rather, threatened) to come to Rinka's home, my legs were trembling greatly.

Relying on the address I was given, I arrived at a standard apartment building.

I walked into the building, somewhat wary of my surroundings, and stood in front of the room where the Mizuki family lived.

I pressed the doorbell and was greeted by Rinka, who dressed simply in a white T-shirt and shorts.

It was an attractive outfit that gave off a refreshing vibe but also showed off her slender figure.

Her long, slender, beautiful legs were so.....beautiful.

*I still can't sort out my emotions and my worries are increasing, but is it okay if I go up to Rinka's room?*

*But I'd like to see the room of the popular idol I admired.*

With a bit of hesitation, I stepped my foot into her beautiful room that was enveloped in wonderful girlish scents.....

**(PTW/N:** *how wonderful is it? I'd like to smell too... (◡‿◡) .)*

"Let's thoroughly clean up Kazuto-kun's female relationships today, shall we." (Rinka)

"....." (Kazuto)

This is it, after all.

The illusions and ideals shattered fleetingly.

No, I like Rinka! I think it would be a good solution if I could say it.....but,

I don't think I'm at that stage yet, or at least it's what I think.

I felt like I was in a dilemma.

Perhaps it was because of my realistic concerns, that caused I couldn't tell her or myself that I liked Rinka.

"Kazuto-kun, you need to be aware that you're popular. Once you do, you'll be able to deal with girls." (Rinka)

"I'm aware of it, that I've never been popular. and I've even never been approached by a girl." (Kazuto)

"Don't tell me you've forgotten about the incident with Himekawa-san." (Rinka)

"Ah....." (Kazuto)

*Ah, the finger fortune-telling thing, huh?*

When I found out the meaning of fortune-telling, I was so surprised that I lost my waist.

I was surprised to find out that a girl in my class had taken a liking to me, even though I was just a nerd gamer.....

Well, since that day, Himekawa-san hadn't taken any action against me.

It was very likely that she was made to do a punishment game by her friends.

I'm not a popular type to begin with, you know.

It seems that I'm popular to Rinka, but it's the online game that triggered it.

*.....How can this me is a popular person in real life, man?*

"Umm, then. If you're serious decide to clean up my game friend lists. I'll, end up becoming a loner....." (Kazuto)

"But you have me, don't you?" (Rinka)

"Rinka can only log in for a few hours on weekends, right?

So, during weekdays, I usually play with them." (Kazuto)

"I see.... So you're telling me to quit being an idol?" (Rinka)

"I'm not saying that! I understand that you were working hard as an idol and I support you! I'm a big fan of Mizuki Rinka, and I'm not interested in any other idols besides Rinka." (Kazuto)

"I-is that, so..... Thank you." (Rinka)

Rinka, with a light blush running down her cheeks, thanking me.

I'm not lying about my words.

In fact, when I watched **Star☆Mines'** music videos, I only pay attention to Rinka.

This was even before I knew who "Rin" actually was.

"I want you to continue and enjoy being an idol, and I want you to let my friends off the hook." (Kazuto)

"I don't wanna." (Rinka)

"What a quick answer! Why not, at least a friend?" (Kazuto)

"I've heard it before, men who put women off their guard like this have mistresses all over the place." (Rinka)

"Who told you that?..... The sources of it, is absolutely twisted." (Kazuto)

"It's Satoko-san, Satoko-san the '*Batsu 8*'." (Rinka)

"Really, who the h\*ll is that person! Moreover, *Batsu 8*, what the....." (Rinka) (**PTW/N**: I have no idea about "*Batsu 8*"

[*バツ8*]; *batsu hachi*??; Things i know: "*batsu*" + game = "*penalty game*", and *Batsu* = *バツ*.)

*It's stuck in my mind for days, I tried to browse using its kana, but the result wasn't satisfying, tried again and found some articles about "batsu-ichi". It turned out that "batsu" is a slang and has a meaning about divorcement. **Batsu: divorced; ichi: one/once.** So~ the "Batsu-hachi", Surely you know the meaning of it, right?☺)*

*Gosh, what a wealth of life experience she has.*

"I'm home! Rinka-sis, are you home~?"

Suddenly I heard a cute girl's voice from outside the room.

"Oh no, Nonoa is back.....! She said she was going to play with her friends until the evening." (Rinka)

Rinka's face quickly turned pale.

An unexpected thing happened, *her family came home.*

"Your younger sister?" (Kazuto)

"Yes. I have an older sister who is a college student and a younger sister who is in the first grade——. No, this is not the time to discuss such things! Hurry up hiding!" (Rinka)

"I don't know if it's your parents, but if it's your younger sister, it's okay if she finds out, isn't it?" (Kazuto)

"I don't want to take unnecessary risks! Besides, Nonoa is so innocent that her mouth is light..... Kazuto-kun, hurry up and hide." (Rinka)

"W-where I've to?" (Kazuto)

I look around quickly.

But there is no place to hide in a tidy room.

Under the desk, the bed, inside the closet, or bookshelf...

If I have to choose, I'd go for the closet.

It has a door so I can hide in it, but.....

"Hiding on my bed!" (Rinka)

"What, It's not the right place to hide, is it? The closet is more———" (Kazuto)

"It's okay, just hurry up!" (Rinka)

I don't know if it's due to Rinka is in a panic, but her judgment is impaired, or if she has a reason for wanting to avoid the closet.....

I was pushed onto the bed.

Furthermore, she covers me with a quilt.

..... Somehow, it smells really nice.

Don't think of me as a pervert, okay.

This is a girl's bed, and moreover, she's a popular idol

It would be terrible to tell me not to be aware of it.

As I was making excuses in my mind, I heard the door is opened with a bang.

"Ah, Rinka-sis! Are you at home today?" (Nonoa)

"Yes, I am. Anyway, Nonoa, what's wrong? You're going to play with your friends until the evening, aren't you?" (Rinka)

"That's right, but Aki-chan had to leave right away for an errand! So, Rinka-sis, please play with me." (Nonoa)

"S-so that's it..... I'm a little busy right now, so go to the living room, okay." (Rinka)

"Kaayyy~." (Nonoa)

I can't see them because I'm hiding on the bed, but it looks like she was able to keep her little sister away.

*Alright, save for now...*

"Ah, by the way, I saw a pair of shoes in the doorway, is Rinka-sis' friend coming to visit?" (Nonoa)

"———" (Rinka)

*Oh bad! That was a blind spot.*

*What a complete blunder.*

"U-umm..... It's none of Nonoa's business. You don't have to worry about the shoes———" (Rinka)

"Ah! Someone is sleeping on my sister's bed!" (Nonoa)

"Tsk, Nonoa, wait!" (Rinka)

"I want to play hide and seek too!" (Nonoa)

Rinka calls her impatiently.

And then the sound of footsteps approaching.

The next moment, the quilt is pulled off with a bang.

"Ah." (Nonoa)

"Ah." (Kazuto)

My eyes meet perfectly with the person who pulled off the quilt.

It's a little girl.

I can see my face reflected in her big and round eyes.

She, Rinka's little sister is terrifyingly cute.

The image of her appearance is that of a young Rinka, who has abandoned her cool elements and specialized in innocent cuteness.

Her hairstyle is pigtails (short twin-tail), and she uses her youthfulness to her advantage to create a sense of cuteness.

"..." (Nonoa)

"..." (Kazuto)

Nonoa-chan stares at my face and is stunned.

She probably didn't expect a man to be there.

I guess I have to introduce myself for now.

"Are you Nonoa-chan? Nice to meet you, I'm Ayanokouji Kazuto." (Kazuto)

Yeah, greetings are very important.

It's even more important when you're meeting someone for the first time.

"My." (Nonoa)

"My?" (Kazuto)

"My sister has brought home a MAAAAAAAANNNNN!"  
(Nonoa)

A sweet and lovely shout echoed loudly in the room.

# Chapter 15 - Mizuki Nonoa

"Hey, Kazuto-bro! this time, be a horse!" (Nonoa)

—————she becomes attached to me very much.

It as if as fast as two panels comic.

At first, Nonoa-chan looked surprised, but she probably observed me and decided that I was not a dangerous person.

She started messing around with me as if she was checking my humanity.

I've always liked children, so I'd like to play with them.

"Horsey, horsey!" (Nonoa)

"Yes, yes. Hold on to me tight, okay." (Kazuto)

She's so taken with me.

With Nonoa-chan on my back, I go around the room on all fours.

This is surprisingly fun, and troublesome as well.

"I was wondering what'd happen at first, but..... Kazuto-kun is actually good at dealing with children, yes." (Rinka)

"I wonder about it. I'm just having fun with them, though....." (Kazuto)

There's also a fact that Nonoa-chan is unusually friendly.

Suddenly I remembered the nostalgic memories of my middle school days.

When I went to a nursery school for school lessons, the children gathered around me.

The kid's snot was wiped to my uniform, boys kicked my leg, girls hugged me, etc...

It was really messy, but fun in its own way.

However, my classmate at that time laughed at me and saying, "*Ayanokouji's mental age is the same as that of a kid.*"

Then the night, I created a character using that of my classmate (*I registered it with just the first half of the last name for privacy reasons*) in the game and got killed on purpose by a small fry monster.

It was insidious, even for me.....

"Big bro, I want to have an arm swing this time!" (Nonoa)

"Ah, that. It's okay, but as an exchange, don't tell anyone I'm here, okay?" (Kazuto)

"Okay!" (Nonoa)

Nonoa-chan replied cheerfully on my back.

I'm back from a horse to a bipedal human, and I hang

Nonoa-chan on my right arm and swing her gently.

She's much lighter than I expected.

"Amazing... Kazuto-kun, you have strength, yes." (Rinka)

"Because Nonoa-chan is small, so if it just this much, I can afford.....uh" (Kazuto)

While saying that, I swing her whole body and trying my best to do the arm swing.

Nonoa-chan is lighter than her age, but it's still a little tough for me as a nerd gamer and an indoor person.

I'm going to have sore muscles, for sure!

"Ahahaha! Big bro, you're amazing!" (Nonoa)

"R-right.....!?" (Kazuto)

I suddenly catch my face reflected in the window.

Somehow I have a great expression.

□

"Now, I want to play online games!" (Nonoa)

"No, Nonoa. It's too early for you." (Rinka)

"It's not!" (Nonoa)

Perhaps Nonoa-chan has tired of playing with me as a plaything, now she demands to play online games.

"Nonoa, you're still in the first grade of elementary school, aren't you? At least when you reach middle school." (Rinka)



"Not fair, it's only Rinka-sis! I want to play too!" (Nonoa)

"No means no." (Rinka)

"Mmm~~~.....Kazuto, big bro, please." (Nonoa)

"Eh, me?" (Kazuto)

The subject of the conversation suddenly changes.

Nonoa-chan turns her gaze at me expectantly.

"No, Kazuto-kun. It's too early for Nonoa." (Rinka)

Too early huh, I wonder if there's an age limit on online games.

No, it's not my place to interfere with the Mizuki family's way of thinking.

"Kazuto-bro...!" (Nonoa)

"..." (Kazuto)

Little girl + upturned eyes + teary eyes = Angel.

The obvious answer comes out in my mind.

"Rinka, shouldn't it be okay if it's just a little?" (Kazuto)

"Haa~, you're too soft.....just a little, okay?" (Rinka)

"I did it! Thank you Rinka-sis!" (Nonoa)

Rinka looks reluctant when she sees Nonoa-chan jumping up and down happily.

Well, surely it may not be good to get hooked on online games at this age.

But her little sister will inevitably be intrigued when she sees her sister playing games happily.

Rather than forcing her to endure it, I think it's better to let her experience it even just a little.....

Rinka starts up her computer and launches **Black Plains**.

She sits Nonoa-chan on the chair and opens the character creation menu.

It seems she's going to start playing from scratch.

"Hmm? Let's see..." (Nonoa)

Nonoa-chan's fiddling with her character's form with poor control.

Rinka explains in a gentle tone from the side.

I could tell that the two sisters were close.

I sit down on Rinka's bed and watch their backs.

From the looks of them, it's going to take some time. Eventually, after nearly thirty minutes, Nonoa's first character is completed.

She was a small girl wearing a black robe.

Her name is "Nonoa".

It's named "Nonoa" to resemble her real self.

"Look, look, big brother Kazuto! Is this girl cute?" (Nonoa)

"Yeah, it's so cute." (Kazuto)

"Ehehe." (Nonoa)

When I praise her, Nonoa-chan smiles with satisfaction.

Then the tutorial begins.

"Umm, is this the button...to move?" (Nonoa)

"Yes, it is. Then if you press the space bar....." (Rinka)

*Does she have it hard with her first mouse-keyboard operation?*

Nonoa-chan is struggling to control the character on the screen.

When she manages to complete the walking mission, The Old Whitebeard, who is like a master in the game, says, **[Well done! It's amazing, Nonoa!]** He clapped his hands and praised her.

"Hehe, I was praised. Hey, Kazuto-bro, am I great?" (Nonoa)

"Yeah, you're great!" (Kazuto)

She asks me happily, so I give her a head pat and praise her.

Children are really cute and innocent.

If it was me, *"Stop talking nonsense and get on with the tutorial. Why there's no skip button?"* or something like that.

"...Even I can do that too." (Rinka)

*Eh? I heard something muttered.*

*Did I hear it wrong?*

I stand behind Nonoa-chan and look at the screen without worrying about it.

This time the tutorial for fighting monsters begins.

It's a battle that I can definitely win, since the HP won't decrease even if being attacked.

Nonoa-chan makes an adorable voice saying, "*Ei, Ei,*" as she repeatedly fires fireballs at the monsters with poor control. Winning the game with plenty of time left(?).

**[Hmm, as expected of you, Nonoa! It's amazing!]**

"I did it! I'm amazing!" (Nonoa)

Nonoa-chan, who made her eyes shine, pulls my sleeves to show off the praise she got.

"You're amazing, Nonoa-chan." (Kazuto)

I gently pat Nonoa-chan's head.

She's really innocent and cute.

***O God, I really want a little sister from the bottom of my heart!***

"I've never had Kazuto-kun praise me for something like that before." (Rinka)

"...Umm, Rinka-san?" (Kazuto)

"What is it, yes?" (Rinka)

"Are you possibly, competing against your own sister?" (Kazuto)

"I'm not. I'm just talking to myself. Don't get the wrong idea." (Rinka)

Rinka denies while maintaining her cool demeanor.

.....What the heck is that.

While wondering, I continue to praise Nonoa-chan for an hour and a half while keeping an eye on her gameplay.



During this time, I'd like to note that Rinka, who's next to me, was muttering things like, *"I'm pretty good for my first time, but is that really something to praise?"* or *"Even if it's for a child, isn't that a low standard of praise?"*.

"My eyes are getting dizzy. I'm sleepy." (Nonoa)

Stopping the mouse, Nonoa-chan rubs her eyelids and murmurs.

"You've been playing the game a little too much. So your eyes are tired. Let's call it a day." (Rinka)

"Mmkay. Kazuto-bro, carry me~." (Nonoa)

The sleepy Nonoa-chan throws her arms around me.

"You can't do that, Nonoa. Don't cause too much trouble for Kazuto-kun." (Rinka)

"Mmm~. Carry~." (Nonoa)

"Cut it ....." (Rinka)

"I'll be fine. Come here, Nonoa-chan." (Kazuto)

As if to restrain Rinka, who's beginning to speak harshly, I carry Nonoa-chan in my arms.

She's light and warm.

"Even though she's already in first grade....." (Rinka)

"That's normal. Even I was still begging my mother to carry me when I was in third grade." (Kazuto)

"You're a spoiled kid, yes? .....Kazuto-kun when he was little eh.....!" (Rinka)

"....." (Rinka)

*Hey hey, you had the look of a criminal for a second, are you okay?*

I shift my consciousness from Rinka to Nonoa-chan.

Her eyes look so tired that she's about to fall asleep at any moment.

She had been fooling around with me before she started playing games.

It seems that she had been playing with her friends before that.....

"Kazuto-kun, you like children, don't you?" (Rinka)

"That's right. I won't deny it. Do you hate them, Rinka?"

(Kazuto)

"I like them, because children have no ulterior motive."

(Rinka)

That's right.

Children don't think about the other person's looks or status at all.

There may be some exceptions, but basically, children are pure.

You can communicate with them in the same way that you can communicate in the game.

"Speaking of which, Rinka. It's already getting dark, are you sure you don't want me to go home?" (Kazuto)

"Yes. My mother won't be home until late at night. And my father won't be home for work, so don't worry about it."

(Rinka)

"That's a lot of work for a Sunday. Does your mother have work too?" (Kazuto)

"No, She's on a day trip with her high school friends. She went out of the house with a skipping step." (Rinka)

"You have a cheerful mom, yea... How about your college older sister?" (Kazuto)

"She's been staying at her friend's place. I'm sure she won't come back today either." (Rinka)

Rinka says, looking a little sad.

She must really love her family.

I don't really understand.

In the end, I never got a hug. *(PTW/N: not sure about this part, "kekkyoku, dakko[hug/carry] wa ichido mo shite moraenakattashi".)*

"Zzz~, Zzz~....." (Nonoa)

I can hear the sound of peaceful sleeping breath coming from my chest.

She really has fallen asleep.

Her sleeping face is very cute.

*Is she an angel? (PTW/N: Always has been)*

As I'm enjoying the cuteness of Nonoa-chan, Rinka gives me a poke on my left shoulder.

"Mm, what's wrong?" (Kazuto)

"That's, I'm very happy that you're fond of my little sister, but..... I think you're giving her a little too much attention."  
(Rinka)

Rinka, who dyes her cheeks in vermilion, says in a small voice while averting her gaze in a shy manner.

*.....Could it be, you're jealous?*

*Eh? Seriously?*

".....Rinka?" (Kazuto)

"I want you to pay attention to me too....even if only for a second." (Rinka)

"—————" (Kazuto)

Rinka appeals to me with her upturned eyes, somewhat embarrassed.

What should I do, she looks damn so cute.

It's very different from the cuteness I've felt so far.

It's a lovely cuteness that spreads warmth in my chest.....

"Rinka....." (Kazuto)

"Kazuto-kun....." (Rinka)

The setting sun shining through the window creates a shadow on Rinka's neat face.

In the space where I can only hear Nonoa-chan's sleeping breath, the consciousness of me and Rinka are concentrated only on each other.

"....." (Kazuto)

We stare at each other at such a close distance that our lips can almost touch if we take a step forward.

I have the sensation that the flow of time is melting away, but at that very moment———.

"It's been a while since I've been home! Seems, Rinka and Nonoa are... Eh, whose shoes are these!?"

A feminine but lively voice echoed through the door.

"N-no way.... my sister is back for the first time in a few weeks.....!" (Rinka)

Rinka's face turned pale again.

The sweet and warm atmosphere vanishes in an instant.

.....*That was dangerous.*

I've been unintentionally swallowed by Rinka's charm.

We haven't even officially dated yet.....

"What do we do, have I hide on your bed again?" (Kazuto)

"It's too late for that..... Haa~" (Rinka)

It seems that she has already reached the point of giving up.

Rinka, who exhales a heavy sigh, has a distant eye.

"Why it must be today...!" (Rinka)

Ah right.

There are days like today.



# Chapter 16 - Mizuki Kasumi

"That's why, I'd like you guys to explain your relationship to me." (Kasumi)

We were taken into the living room and made to sit on chairs, where we were being questioned by "Mizuki Kasumi"-san, who was sitting across the table from us.

Kasumi-san glares at us with her arms crossed, distorting her good-looking eyes into slight anger.

According to Rinka, Kasumi-san has a carefree personality and she seems to be a woman who doesn't care about the details.

But still, she gets angry if she is irritated, it's her nature to be reasonable.

"....." (Kazuto)

My eyes are downcast, but I covertly raise my head to look at Kasumi-san

She is very beautiful.

Her hair, which stretches to below her shoulders, seems to have been carefully groomed, and it looks shiny and silky.

Naturally, her face was also in excellent shape.

The overall atmosphere of her is that of a big sister.

The three Mizuki sisters have wonderfully disparate personalities, really.

"Hmm? Is there something on my face?" (Kasumi)

"No, there's nothing." (Kazuto)

I was about to joke that she has beautiful eyes and nose on her face, but I decide to stop immediately.

I feel like I'm going to get punched if I make a little joke.  
By the way, Nonoa-chan is sleeping in Rinka's room.

"So Rinka. Who is this guy?" (Kasumi)

"Ayanokouji Kazuto-kun. A boy in the same class as me."  
(Rinka)

"Hmm. Are you guys dating?" (Kasumi)

"....." (Rinka)

Rinka falls silent.

I'm expecting her will say something like, *"We're not just dating, we're a married couple."*

Rinka looks down and doesn't try to make eye contact with her sister.

It's a rare sight.

"I can guess your relationship, but... Rinka, it's not a good idea to bring a man home, you know?" (Kasumi)

"Yes, I know." (Rinka)

"What will you do if the public finds out? You'll get everyone in trouble." (Kasumi)

"....." (Rinka)

Rinka couldn't say a word as her right argument is piled on top of another right argument.

*What a heavy atmosphere.*

As I'm thinking that, Kasumi-san asks us something surprising in a whispered voice.

"I'm going to ask you guys, have you had sexual intercourse yet?" (Kasumi)

""Buffffffff!"" (Rinka, Kazuto) (**PTW/N:** *if you have a better onomatopoeia, please let me know, ehee~*)

Rinka and I both simultaneously spurt out.

*What the h\*ll is this person asking us with a straight face?*

"W-wait, Sister...!" (Rinka)

"Oh, not yet. So what about the kiss?" (Kasumi)

""....."" (Rinka, Kazuto)

"What, you haven't? So what kind of relationship do you guys have?" (Kasumi)

*We're just a couple in the game.*

As I look at the surprised Kasumi-san, I mutter it in my mind.

"Erm, so you guys are dating, right?" (Kasumi)

"We're more of a couple rather than dating." (Rinka)

".....Huh?" (Kasumi)

Finally, Rinka says it.

Kasumi-san makes her eyes round.

I feel like holding my head.

"We got to know each other through an internet game called **Black Plains**." (Rinka)

"Ah~ right, Rinka had been into internet games since middle school." (Kasumi)

"That's right. That's where Kazuto-kun and I got married." (Rinka)

"Hmmm." (Kasumi)

"....." (Rinka)

"Eh, that's all?" (Kasumi)

"That is." (Rinka)

Rinka nods nonchalantly to Kasumi-san, who asks with blinks.

I can understand what Kasumi-san thinks.

Perhaps she thought that Rinka and I were dating behind her back and that we were secretly having encounters.

But.

When she opened the lid, it turned out that we were just friends on an online game.

It's no wonder that Kasumi-san was surprised.

"So, about it. Are you guys dating in real life too?" (Kasumi)

"We're married in the game, so of course, we're a married couple even in real life, right?" (Rinka)

"I don't know what this little sister of mine is talking about." (Kasumi)

.....I think this might have been the first time I've ever heard such a common reaction.

It is the normal reaction that should be.

"Sister wouldn't understand. How much the world of online games can transcend the real world in terms of heart-to-

heart interaction." (Rinka)

"..... Ayanokouji-kun, right? What do you think about it?"

(Kasumi)

She changed the subject of the conversation to me.

It seems she decides that she can't have a proper conversation with Rinka.

"For me..... If I can get along with Rin——with Mizuki-san, then..." (Kazuto)

"Hmm. Well, my Rinka is so cute and an idol, yea." (Kasumi)

"That's not what I meant. Even if Mizuki-san is plain or an ordinary person, I believe I still would have been here."

(Kazuto)

I don't want to be denied this one thing.

Although I have to admit that I question Rinka's over-the-top way of thinking, the years that Kazu and Rin have spent together are real.

It's not a bond that can be easily faded by real information.

"Kazuto-kun..." (Rinka)

I can feel a feeling similar to respect from Rinka, who sits next to me.

*.....Maybe I've said something pretty embarrassing?*

"Hmm. Well, I don't know what kind of world the online game is..... but it seems pretty serious." (Kasumi)

Kasumi-san nods as if she's convinced while folding her arms.

"Sister. If Kazuto-kun wasn't there, I wouldn't have been able to continue as an idol. So....." (Rinka)

"So?" (Kasumi)

"Can you please admit our relationship?" (Rinka)

"...Your husband-wife relationship thing?" (Kasumi)

"Yes." (Rinka)

*.....Hmm?*

I don't even remember us officially dating yet, let alone being a couple.....

No, but I have a feeling that this straightforward-looking big sister will say, *"Don't say stupid things!"* and reject——

"It can't be helped then. Let's admit it with my authority as a sister!" (Kasumi)

*Eh, you do admit it?*

*What happened to your intimidation earlier?*

"Sister..... Thank you." (Rinka)

"Well, rather than giving Rinka to a flirtatious man, it's better to give her to that humble handsome guy over there." (Kasumi)

"H-handsome guy, I'm not such a....." (Kazuto)

I quickly deny it.

Seeing me like that, Kasumi-san smirks.

"Man maaan, You're being humble. You do indeed not look like the type of person who would attract a lot of attention, but I've seen that you're a modestly popular guy. You seem to have a personality that can clearly express your own opinions." (Kasumi)

"That's..... No, I don't mind about me. But, it's bad for a popular idol like Rinka to be dating a guy, isn't it?" (Kazuto)

"It is. But, you know, every idols have gone out with men in secret. In the worst cases, they have physical relations with multiple men, including their managers." (Kasumi)

What a dream-destroying story...

I'm stunned, but I say back.

"You were also negative about it at first, weren't you, Kasumi-san? I think you have said, '*What would you do if you get everyone in trouble?*' or something like that."

(Kazuto)

"Ah, that was just acting" (Kasumi)

"A-acting?" (Kazuto)

"Well, you know, I was longing for that kind of thing. *When the daughter brought her marriage partner home, the father felt like to flip over the table in anger, right?* Aah~ I've always wanted to do something like that." (Kasumi)

"..." (Kazuto)

Kasumi-san laughs happily.

*What a woman she is!*

"It's usually impossible for Rinka, who has a hard time making friends even of the same sex, to bring a man home. So, this is the first as well as the last chance I have."

(Kasumi)

"...If the public finds out about her relationship with me, I don't think she'll be able to continue being an idol." (Kazuto)

"Isn't it okay? She has worked hard enough. Now she has to find her own happiness as a girl." (Kasumi)

"....." (Kazuto)

It's an appropriate way to say it, yet it's also thoughtful of Rinka's happiness.

"I'm glad my sister said that, but I don't want to cause any trouble for everyone in **Star☆Mines**. So, can you please keep it secret." (Rinka)

"Of course. They're good girls, too. Even though they're popular, they're not getting carried away." (Kasumi)

It seems that Kasumi-san has met the members of **Star☆Mines**.

There's nothing strange about that.

"I think we're done here. So, Ayanokouji Kazuto-kun."

(Kasumi)

"Y-yes?" (Kazuto)

Kasumi-san with a meaningful smile stares at us.

"Next is————let's say *hello* to our mother." (Kasumi)

.....*Seriously.*

It's no longer possible to say that Rinka and I are not officially dating.

I feel that the obstacles in my way are removed at a rapid pace. (**PTW/N:** originally, "I feel that 'the outer moat is being filled' in at a rapid pace"; 外堀埋まる (the outer moat is filled) is an idiom that has the meaning "to remove obstacles in the way of one's objective".)

# Chapter 17 - S-sis!?

"Next is————let's say hello to our mother." (Kasumi)

Kasumi-san says with an air of calmness

What the h\*ll did this person say.

When I get to that point, there's no turning back.

"Sis. I think it's too early to say hello to mother." (Rinka)

"What? You guys are supposed to be husband and wife, right? Then why not?" (Kasumi)

"That is....." (Rinka)

Rinka glances at me with a sideways glance.

I know what she is hesitating about.

Rinka, who is waiting for my answer, is behaving like she is my wife, but she doesn't want this to develop into something that important.

"Both of you like each other, don't you?" (Kasumi)

"....." (Rinka)

"Hmm, what's wrong?" (Kasumi)

When she sees us shutting our mouths, Kasumi-san tilts her head.

"Actually, that is..... Kazuto-kun isn't yet aware that he's my husband. Now I'm waiting for him to sort out his emotions." (Rinka)

"A-ah..... I see. In other words, Ayanokouji Kazuto-kun is halfway there." (Kasumi)

The way she says it, makes Rinka look like a weird person.  
.....But I can't deny it.

"But don't worry. It's just because Kazuto-kun just doesn't realize it yet, that he loves me." (Rinka)

"..... My little sister is getting gloomier without me knowing it." (Kasumi)

Kasumi-san looks at me as if she's asking for help.

*There's nothing I can do about it, you know.*

If I think back, it's been like this since the first day.

"L-let's see. Let me get this straight again. Rinka is thinking you two as a married couple, right?"

"Eermm..." (Rinka)

"Then what about you, Ayanokouji-kun?" (Kasumi)

".....She's a gaming friend..... And a classmate who I've recently started interacting with in real life." (Kazuto)

"Do you like Rinka?" (Kasumi)

"Talking about '*like*'..... I can't say for sure if it's a romantic feeling. But, I've always admired Mizuki-san as an idol for a long time." (Kazuto)

"Ah, this is becoming a very troublesome situation, isn't it? And the one who complicates the situation the most is Rinka." (Kasumi)

"That, what do you mean by that?" (Rinka)

"It doesn't mean anything. It just means what it means." (Kasumi)

"Just because Kazuto-kun is unsure, it doesn't change the fact that we're married." (Rinka)

".....Eh, is this the so-called *Yandere*? Or is it a *Stalker*?" (Kasumi)

"Please don't say anything rude. I'm going to get angry regardless you're my big sister." (Rinka)

Rinka says with a hint of anger in her words.

"I'm starting to see the relationship between you guys. At first I thought you were both in love and acting like a married couple, but..... Isn't this just Rinka following Ayanokouji-kun around?" (Kasumi)

That statement sounds correct, but also incorrect.

I'm kind of accepting of it for some reason.....

I don't admit us as a couple, though.



"I'm not. It's natural for a couple to be together, right?"  
(Rinka)

".....Rinka....." (Kasumi)

Kasumi-san finally holds her head.

Or maybe "*lost for words*" will be more suitable.

Then she raises her head and looks at me.

"Ayanokouji-kun....." (Kasumi)

"Yes." (Kazuto)

"Our Rinka..... Please take care of her." (Kasumi)

".....Pardon!?" (Kazuto)

"I mean, You're the one and only one, who can accept this kid's deep love." (Kasumi)

"W-what are you talking about!?" (Kazuto)

"Look, Rinka is super cute, isn't she? I think she's one of the best looking women in the country, aside from her family. In addition to that, she is smart, a good singer, a good cook, and a cool idol who is called a superbly beautiful girl.....

Yes, she's perfect, right?" (Kasumi)

"You're talking like you're pushing a bad debt." (Kazuto)

"Aaaah! Enough! Rinka who was never interested in men, even I once had thought "*Huh? Is this kid a l\*sbian?*" or so! Brought a guy home, you know!? This is the last chance!"  
(Kasumi)

"Eeh....." (Kazuto)

Kasumi-san spits out a desperate rant and pushes me.

What the h\*ll is this.....

"I don't know what Ayanokouji-kun is worried about, but there is also a love that begins after dating. As the first step of all, why not try *crossing the line* with Rinka?" (Kasumi)

(**PTW/N:** My my... (°\_°) )

"I see, there is such a way of thinking————No way I will do! It's a *fait accompli*, isn't it!" (Kazuto)

"That's fine! Or, are you dissatisfied with Rinka!?" (Kasumi)

"It's not that I'm dissatisfied or anything....." (Kazuto)

"I'm glad you're thinking seriously about Rinka, but isn't it possible to act with momentum like a young man?" (Kasumi)

"Kasumi-san....." (Kazuto)

I'm surprised when she says that.

I've been thinking about it too much, and I've been getting hung up on it.

"Just simply leave it to the overflowing libido, right."

(Kasumi) (**PTW/N:** *what the...* 😊)

"....." (Kazuto)

She's the worst.

This person, she's said something indecent from the very beginning, she may be a pretty dangerous person.

"That's why I'm going to contact my mother~. Well, why don't you have dinner with us." (Kasumi)

As she says it, Kasumi-san takes out her smartphone and starts calling.

From the sound of the conversation I hear, the other person seems to be her mother.

She's moving things along at an incredible pace, Kasumi-san is.

I thought she was a carefree woman by appearance, but she has exceeded my imagination by a long shot.

"I'm sorry, Kazuto-kun. Before I know it, this has happened." (Rinka)

"D-don't mind it....." (Kazuto)

Rinka, who is sitting next to me, apologizes sincerely.

It's not her fault, probably.

I have no choice but to prepare myself for the worst.

*Aah, I want to play online games.....*

Is that wishing of mine just now a manifestation of my escapism, I wonder.

# Chapter 18 - Mizuki Family Gathering

"Gosh, Kazuto-kun is an interesting boy, yea~!" (Kasumi)

"I-is that so?" (Kazuto)

"Yea yea. It's fun talking with you." (Kasumi)

While waiting for their mother to return, I'm forced to deal with Kasumi-san and Nonoa-chan.

As we relaxing in the living room, I become Kasumi-san's conversation partner and Nonoa-chan's playmate...

It's a lot of work to be taken care of.

Rinka is standing in the kitchen and preparing for dinner.

She wears an apron with her hair is tied in a ponytail.

I can see her back from here, and just only looking at her made my heart pound.

"Eee, what's wrong, are you fascinated by Rinka?" (Kasumi)

"W-well... I am." (Kazuto)

It's rude to deny it, so I admit it vaguely.

My gosh, she's really cute.

I'm probably the first '*ordinary*' person to see a cool idol at home.

"Today we're going to have curry! Does Kazuto-bro like curry?" (Nonoa)

"I like it..... Oucchh-." (Kazuto)

Nonoa-chan pulls my bangs lightly.

*What would you do if I became a young bald?*

"Today's curry is sweet, you know." (Nonoa)

"I see. It's been years since I've had sweet curry. I wonder if she's making it sweet to suit Nonoa-chan." (Kazuto)

"Umm, She's not. I love spicy food." (Nonoa)

"What a great elementary schooler you're, your palate is crazy..... Ah, then it's sweet to suit Kasumi-san?" (Kazuto)

"Hahaha, Kazuto Boy. Do you think I'd satisfied with something sweetness?" (Kasumi)

"What's with the 'Boy' thing?..... No, in my image Kasumi-san's palate is dry." (Kazuto)

"Right? So, the reason why it's sweet..." (Kasumi)

"Rinka?" (Kazuto)

"Correct!" (Kasumi)

I-I'm surprised. I didn't know that Rinka is a sweet tooth..... I'm under the impression that she'll be fine even if she eats very spicy food.

"Rinka-sis is not good with spicy food! Yesterday, She was crying just by licking the chili pepper on the udon!" (Nonoa)

"She is really not that good at it? Those things on udon are less pungent, aren't them?" (Kazuto)

I don't know why, but I'm a little happy to learn about an unexpected side of Rinka.

For some reason, I feel like I'm on the winner side.

"We wanna eat spicy food, but since Rinka is the only one who can cook, so we can't go against her." (Kasumi)

"*Heeh~*. Are you not good at cooking, Kasumi-san?" (Kazuto)

"No, no, no, it's impossible for me! Just the other day, I tried to make boiled eggs in the microwave and they exploded. Ahahahaha." (Kasumi)

"Yaay~! Explosion~ explosion~!" (Nonoa) (***PTW/N: is she going to grow up to be an explosion maniac??!***)

"That's not something to be laughed at. It's a serious problem, seriously." (Kazuto)

If it is a game, it'll be as bad as selling your main weapon by mistake after spending several weeks raising the enhancement value.

In this day and age, it's common knowledge that you can't cook an egg in the microwave.

"Kazuto Boy. This is a proverb you should remember."

(Kasumi)

".....What's it?" (Kazuto)

Kasumi-san, who is sitting opposite me, grins and pulls her face close to mine.

*"Life is————an explosion."* (Kasumi) (**PTW/N:** *is she a pupil of some **Crimson Archwizard** or some **Clay Artist**??*)

"Art is an explosion, isn't it should be? If life explodes, everything is over, you know?" (Kazuto)

If Saito is here, he'll probably say something like this,

*'According to my calculations, there is a 1000% chance that the Mizuki family is crazy!'*

As I was looking at the giggling Kasumi-san with half-lidded eyes, I heard the sound of the front door opening with a bang.

It seems their mother has arrived.

"It's mommy~." (Nonoa)

Nonoa-chan rushes to the door, with adorable steps.

*What is she doing, it's overly cute.*

I'm a high schooler, but I really want a daughter right now.

Then Nonoa-chan drags her in, and Rinka's mother finally appeared————.

*"Pheewhhhaaaa~. Ah, it's dangerous. The floor is shaking."*

(Mom)

.....She's drunk as h\*ll.

Rinka's mother, her face is dyed bright red, staggered dizzily.

Oh, by the way, Kasumi-san told me before.

That she's having a little drink with her friends before she went home.

*Is it.....just a little bit?*

"Hey, Mom. I'm embarrassed. Please pull yourself together."

(Rinka)

"Ahaha, sorry Rinka." (Mom)

Rinka, who rushes in from the kitchen, hands a glass of water to her mother then she chugs it down.

.....*What is this feeling?*

I don't know how to describe it, but it's totally different from what I imagined.

*She is the mother who raised Rinka, isn't she?*

I've imagined her to be more strict.

No, considering Nonoa-chan's and Kasumi-san's personalities, it would be strange if she's rather strict.

*Does that mean that Rinka, who grew up to a cool personal, a heretic?*

But if it's Rin, it's not so strange.

"Yo-u a-re, Ayanokouji..... Kazuto-kun, riiiiigght?" (Mom)

"I-I am." (Kazuto)

My voice is inarticulately.

Rinka's mother comes up to me, smelling of alcohol.

She also grabs my face with both hands.

"My my. You've got a cute face. Are you a boy from Johnnys?" (Mizuki Mama) (**PTW/N:** *Johnnys* (ジャニーズ, Janīzu) was a Japanese boy band, formed in April 1962.)

"N-no, I'm not." (Kazuto)

"Really? What a waste. Why don't you apply now?" (Mizuki Mama)

*What is she talking about?*

She's too drunk.

"Come on, Mom. Don't bother Kazuto-kun." (Rinka)

"Mmm Rinkaaa." (Mizuki Mama)

Mizuki Mama is dragged by Rinka to sit on the sofa.

She doesn't look like a woman with a daughter of a popular idol.

"Kufufu, It's a surprise, isn't it, Kazuto Boy?" (Kasumi)

"It is..... Also, what's with that 'Boy' thing again?" (Kazuto)

"Our mom is usually terribly serious, but when she gets a little alcohol, she turns into someone else." (Kasumi)

"I-I see....." (Kazuto)

I wonder how she's usually like.

Watching her being cared for by Rinka on the sofa, I can't help but think she doesn't seem like a very serious person in

general.

I somehow continue to watch them from the sidelines.

Rinka exchanges some kind of conversation with her mother, and for some reason, she walks up to me.

"Umm, Kazuto-kun. My mother asked me to give this to you." (Rinka)

"What?" (Kazuto)

Rinka somewhat hesitantly holds out her smartphone to me.

I receive it naturally.

But I immediately regretted it.

The smartphone is on a video call, and the man on the screen is a sturdy-looking man with glasses.

It's not hard to guess who this man is.

"Good evening. You must be Ayanokouji Kazuto-kun. I'm Mizuki Mikio, Rinka's father." (Mizuki Papa)

".....Good evening." (Kazuto)

*What a mad rush.*

Little Sister → Big Sister → Mother → Father.

It's a full course of the Mizuki family.

I've them all in one day.

"I'm sorry to greet you like this. I couldn't come home from work." (Mizuki Papa)

"N-no, please don't worry about it." (Kazuto)

I'd like to not meet him, even by phone if possible.

"I heard that you and Rinka are dating....." (Mizuki Papa)

"U-umm, That is..... There's a little misunderstanding about that....." (Kazuto)

"A misunderstanding?" (Mizuki Papa)

Mikio Papa lifts his glasses quickly and makes a heavy voice sound.

The pressure is unbearable.

If it's going to turn out like this, I definitely will be forced to go home.

"Actually, I've known Rinka-san for years through the online game. In real life, we are just friends(?) who have recently started interacting." (Kazuto)

I confess everything honestly.

I've come this far because I've been swept along with everything else, but I think it's better to be clear with her father.

He's the one who scares me the most, and that's why I should be honest with him.

Even if he despises me, I should tell him.....

"Ayanokouji-kun." (Mizuki Papa)

".....Yes." (Kazuto)

"So, in other words, you're saying that my family is getting carried away on their own, is that what you're saying?"

(Mizuki Papa)

"I-I'm sorry! It's..... just the impression I get!" (Kazuto)

It's not a wrong expression.

I mean, it's the fact.

"....." (Mizuki Papa)

"....." (Kazuto)

A heavy silence hung in the air.

Mikio Papa puts his hand on his chin and pretends to think.

".....Ayanokouji-kun." (Mizuki Papa)

"Y-yes." (Kazuto)

"I understand your situation. Perhaps my prediction is correct." (Mizuki Papa)

".....?" (Kazuto)

*What does that mean?*

I listen to Mikio Papa's words.

"Ayanokouji-kun. I've been down that road before." (Mizuki Papa)

"W-what?" (Kazuto)

"Do your best." (Mizuki Papa)

"W-what do you mean? Why you've got such a philosophical look in your eyes!" (Kazuto)

"I'll give you some advice from a veteran. *Dare to pick a job that requires a lot of business trip!*" (Mizuki Papa)

"What?" (Kazuto)

Mikio Papa says with a mysterious and heavy voice.



I don't know what the h\*ll he's talking about.

"My wife is a lovestruck. But it's exhausting to be stuck around all the time, every day. I can't get rid of my tiredness even in the morning." (Mizuki Papa)

"So what are you talking about? I don't know what you're talking about!" (Kazuto)

*"Love sometimes drives a person to the path of despair..... Engrave these words to your heart."* (Mizuki Papa)

"Please wai-" (Kazuto)

Beep~, beep~. (**PTW/N:** *I'm really really not good in onomatopoeia* ☺.)

The video call ended.

"....." (Kazuto)

*Why do they always ignore my words and hang up halfway through the call?*

"Mikio Papa....., what the h\*ll happened to you?" (Kazuto)

This might have been the moment I caught a glimpse of the darkness in the Mizuki family.

Perhaps he had something with Rinka's mother.

That something is something that has been going on for a long time and is still going on.

Mikio Papa has warned me about something in a short video call.

"Are you done, Kazuto-kun?" (Rinka)

"Y-yeah." (Kazuto)

I return the smartphone to Rinka with my right hand, which for some reason hasn't stopped trembling.

Maybe I'm, already in a bottomless pit that I can't get out of. Yes, it's as if I've wandered into a death game where the logout function has disappeared.....

"What's wrong, Kazuto-kun?" (Rinka)

"It's nothing....." (Kazuto)

Rinka in her apron with her hair in a ponytail is very cute.

I didn't understand what Mikio Papa was talking about, but let's just enjoy the moment.

Escapism is my forte.

# Chapter 19 - Mizuki Kasumi (2)

"You know, you could've just stayed overnight if you wanted to." (Kasumi)

"As expected, that's....." (Kazuto)

"Ahahaha, just kidding, just kidding." (Kasumi)

Kasumi-san, who is sitting in the driver's seat and holding the steering wheel, smiles mischievously at me.

I don't think it's kidding.

As I sit in the passenger seat, I gaze out the window at the changing nighttime cityscape.

I remember what happened just a few minutes ago.

After a lively dinner with the Mizuki family.

It was late in the day for students to be wandering around.

The Mizuki family, concerned for my safety, suggested I stay overnight, but I politely declined.

Tomorrow is Monday and I have a normal school day.

.....I don't dare stay overnight even if it's a holiday.

When I told them I was going home, Kasumi-san said she would give me a ride home.

By the way, Rinka stays at home to take care of Nonoa-chan and her mother.

She is such a kind girl.

"Like this, I wanted to talk to my little sister's boyfriend alone~" (Kasumi)

"I'm not her boyfriend yet, though." (Kazuto)

"Ooh? 'not yet', ye~s." (Kasumi)

".....That's not what I meant." (Kazuto)

The car slowly comes to a stop as the traffic light signal changes.

I don't mean to be rude, but I think that Kasumi-san is the type of person who will boldly ignore traffic lights.

Well, it's a normal violation, so she won't do it.

"Hey, Kazuto-kun" (Kasumi)

"What is it?" (Kazuto)

"If you are going to cross the line with Rinka, make sure you use c\*nt\*rac\*tion, okaay." (Kasumi) (**PTW/N:** (° 5°) )

"Buffs—! Wh-what are you talking about!?" (Kazuto)

"The pregnancy scandal is indeed a big problem, isn't it? You see, Rinka is a popular idol after all." (Kasumi)

"Th-that's true.....!" (Kazuto)

*How can you say such words calmly, Kasumi-san!*

*Does one's sense of sexuality change when one becomes a college student.....?*

*Am I just not used to it?*

*Or it just Kasumi-san's personality is.*

"Ah, I'm still inexperienced by the way." (Kasumi)

"I-I didn't ask it....." (Kazuto)

"Really? But you have a face that looks like you did?" (Kasumi)

".....Can we not talk about it any further? I don't know what kind of face to put on." (Kazuto)

"Ahaha, you're so innocent, yes." (Kasumi)

".....Sorry." (Kazuto)

I don't know why I'm apologizing.

The light turns green and the car starts running again.

I don't know how to describe it, but driving in the city at night has a mysterious feel.

Inside the car is enveloped in a quiet atmosphere, with only the sound of the car running echoing through the cabin.

"Kazuto-kun, is there someone else you like?" (Kasumi)

"There isn't..... why?" (Kazuto)

"No, it just you're still keeping your reason even though Rinka is approaching and compelling you so much, aren't

you? So I wonder if there is anyone you really like." (Kasumi)  
".....I don't have anyone I like." (Kazuto)



"Hmm. Then, you're very popular? Like you're too popular to be satisfied with just Rinka." (Kasumi)

"I'm not popular at all." (Kazuto)

"Isn't it just that you don't realize it, Kazuto-kun? If I'm in the same class as you, I'll never leave you alone." (Kasumi)

"I'm glad to hear you say that, Kasumi-san. Even if just a joke." (Kazuto)

"Ahaha, It's not a joke. I'm actually a little envious of Rinka." (Kasumi)

"....." (Kazuto)

*I'm a little envious of Rinka.*

I feel that those words she just said contain many different meanings.

*.....What should I say in response to?*

I'm not confident in my communication skills, so I don't have any idea at all.

*Why don't you try jumping out of a car like in an action movie? aiming for her laughs.*

.....I must be crazy.

What kind of thinking I have here.

"I know I said a lot today, but if you really don't like Rinka, just tell me honestly. I'll take care of it." (Kasumi)

".....I don't hate Rinka, It's just that I haven't made up my mind yet." (Kazuto)

"I see..... well, think about it carefully okay. I'm glad you're not one of those boys who mess with girls without thinking twice." (Kasumi)

Kasumi-san smiles at me with a sense of security.

She behaves like she's joking around, but I guess she's serious at heart.

I think I've been able to understand a little more about Kasumi-san's personality in this short time we've been together.

In a calm atmosphere, I continue talking with Kasumi-san for a few minutes.

Then the car arrives at a square near the station.

"Are you sure you want to be dropped off here? I can give you a ride to front of your house, you know." (Kasumi)

"No, I'm fine. My house is just a short walk from here."

(Kazuto)

"Really? You don't have to hesitate, you know." (Kasumi)

"I feel like walking a little, So thank you very much."

(Kazuto)

I get out of the car and bow to Kasumi-san.

She opens the car window and speaks to me.

"I know I'm being insistent, but Rinka and Kazuto-kun seem to be a good match, so I'm sure you two will somehow make it." (Kasumi)

"Thank you very much. I will try my best to become a man worthy of Rinka." (Kazuto)

"Ahaha. You are fine as you are, Kazuto-kun. You should have more confidence in yourself." (Kasumi)

"Y-yes." (Kazuto)

Smiling gently, Kasumi-san encourages me.

I guess this is what so-called the charm of older people.

It makes me a little nervous.

"See you, Kazuto-kun. Good night." (Kasumi)

"Likewise, good night." (Kazuto)

After waving lightly at me, Kasumi-san starts the car and drives away.

"....." (Kazuto)

Perhaps this is because the lingering effects of my conversation with Kasumi-san are still in my heart.

My heart is thumping soothingly.

"In many ways, college students are amazing, yes." (Kazuto)

It's like a first-grader looking up at a sixth-grader and realizing the huge difference between them.

"Now, shall I head home?" (Kazuto)

It's surprisingly fun to take a walk in the city at night while recalling what has happened on the day.

With that thought in mind, I head home.



Tomorrow will be the start of another extraordinary day with a popular idol, I thought with a little smile on my face———.

# Chapter 20 - Confession

"I love you, Kazu-kun. Please go out with me."

On a clear, sunny day as far as the eye can see.

On the rooftop of the school that is bathed in pleasant sunlight.

I, Ayanokouji Kazuto, am.....

———*being confessed to by Kurumizaka Nana.*

She has dyed her face bright red and is clasping her skirt forcefully with both hands that are trembling in shyness.

I can see the seriousness of her feelings in her determined eyes.

"Kurumizaka-san....." (Kazuto)

"I don't want to betray Rin-chan. but I just can't control these feelings of mine anymore....." (Nana)

Perhaps she's wavering between her feelings for her precious friend or her own love interest.

With tears in her eyes, Kurumizaka-san lets out her true feelings.

"I don't care if I have to throw everything away..... So, Kazu-kun, please go out with me." (Nana)

"....." (Kazuto)

*What should I do? No, I don't need to worry about it.*

*Because to me———*

"Kazu-kun!" (Nana)

"———" (Kazuto)

As if catching me off guard, Kurumizaka-san jumps into my chest.

I can't help but accept her.

What a soft and small body she has.

"What if..... Kazu-kun had met me before with Rin-chan, what would..... have happened?" (Nana)

"That is....." (Kazuto)

Clinging to my chest, Kurumizaka-san looks up at me with moist eyes.

I'm at a loss for words in the face of such tremendous charm and fragility.

"Kazu-kun....." (Nana)

Kurumizaka-san is standing on tiptoe stretching herself and bringing her face to mine.

She's going to kiss me.

"....." (Kazuto)

I try to escape reflexively, but for some reason, my body doesn't move as if I'm paralyzed.

If don't do anything, my very first kiss will be robbed.

But I can't resist, and just as my lips are about to overlap with Kurumizaka-san's————

***Beep, Beep, Beep, Beep, Beep!***

The loud sound of my alarm immediately made the world in front of me dissipate.

I slowly open my eyelids to see the familiar ceiling in my field of vision.

I'm waking up on the bed in my room.

".....A dream, huh?" (Kazuto)

*Of course, obviously it is, isn't it~?*

There's no way an extremely popular idol like Kurumizaka-san will fall in love with me.

"I wonder if this dream is also counted as an affair in Rinka's eyes.....?" (Kazuto)

*I guess she will.*

While feeling chill runs through my spine, I stop the alarm clock on my smartphone.

I wonder why I had such a dream of being confessed to by Kurumizaka-san.

She even tried to kiss me.

*Do I subconsciously harboring such a desire.....?*

"Ah, it's from Rinka." (Kazuto)

I receive a message from Rinka on my smartphone.

The content is a normal morning greeting message starting with *"Good morning"*.

However, this time there is a nice bonus.

There is attached a two-shot image of Rinka and Nonoa-chan with a big smile on her face.

"S-so cute! This's really precious.....!" (Kazuto)

*Okay, I'll use this as a lock screen.*

Well, Rinka's face looks weird, like she failed to smile, but I don't mind it.

"Well, let's go to school today with high spirits~" (Kazuto)

It's already been a month since I found out that my wife in the game is Mizuki Rinka.

I am starting to get used to the drastic changes in this daily life of mine.

In other words, I'm having a peaceful day.

It'll be nice if everything can go on without a hitch.....

Well, I don't think anything more than the big event of finding out that your wife in the game is actually a popular idol will happen in the future, though.

□

Now, I'm waiting for my morning homeroom.

As I sit in the rearmost seat by the window, I stare at the back of Rinka, who is sitting in the front row.

She seems to be reading a book as usual.

Her posture is as beautiful as ever, and her back is straight gracefully.

The hair that hangs down her back is really shiny, and just looking at it makes me fall to her.

*.....I'm getting a lot of fondness from that beautiful girl, aren't I?*

It's a great fact to reconsider.

"I have to, settle it....." (Kazuto)

It's not good to take advantage of Rinka's fondness forever.

I have to sort out my feelings and thoughts and give an honest answer as soon as possible.

"Even so, ..... am I a man worthy enough for a popular idol like her?" (Kazuto)

I was told by Kasumi-san that it was fine to stay as I was, but it didn't make me feel any better.

I think I'll try my best to exercise and study first.

It may be a good idea to try and get some kind of result and gain some confidence.

When I'm thinking about it while looking at Rinka's back.

I feel a slight vibration in my pants pocket.

It comes from my smartphone.

I take out my smartphone and check it.

There's a chat from Kurumizaka-san.

[There's something I want to talk to you about during the lunch break today. Please come to the rooftop's landing alone.] (Nana)

..... I wonder what it's about.

I suddenly remember my dream from this morning.

Kurumizaka-san staring at me with her moist eyes, leaning into my chest and bringing her face to kiss——.

"N-no, no,....., what am I thinking about?" (Kazuto)

I feel guilty about Rinka, and my chest starts to sting and hurt.

I should not think about this.

Kurumizaka-san is Rinka's best friend.

Not even delusions are allowed.

I reply "*Okay*" to her and pocketed back my smartphone.

I have a pretty good prediction of what Kurumizaka-san wants to talk about.

I'm sure it's a talk about Mizuki-san and I's befriending operation or something like that.

And after that..... surely she's going to ask me about how far our relationship has progressed.

I've been asked a few times via chat before, but I've always given vague and unclear answers.

I'm sure she unsatisfied with it and decides to ask me directly in real life.

The other day, she was grumbling *"Kazu-kun and Rin-chan won't tell me anything"* to me.

"....." (Kazuto)

I guess I'll have to report to Rinka that I will meet Kurumizaka-san during the lunch break.

If she suspects me of cheating on her like before, I'll have a pit in my stomach.

# Chapter 21 - The Energetic Idol, Kurumizaka Nana

Lunch break arrives without incident.

In response to Kurumizaka-san's call, I come to the rooftop landing.

"Kurumizaka-san is.....not here yet, huh?" (Kazuto)

Maybe I'm a little too hasty.

I sit down on the stairs and wait for Kurumizaka-san to arrive.

I think I'd read a web novel while I wait for her.

Just as I take out my phone, I hear footsteps coming up the stairs.

"Ah, Kazu-kun. Sorry~. Did I make you wait?" (Nana)

"No, I just got here." (Kazuto)

A cheerful smile appears on Kurumizaka-san's face.

She's sweating slightly.

She also seems to have come here in a hurry.

"I told Rinka that we're going to meet, was that okay?"  
(Kazuto)

"Yes, it was okay. I'm also afraid that Rin-chan will be angry with me." (Nana)

The way she said it, sounds like she's been through this a few times.

Then, Kurumizaka-san immediately asks me.

"So, Kazu-kun. How far have you and Rin-chan progressed?  
I'm very curious because neither of you has told me anything at all!" (Nana)

"It as I said on the smartphone, we're getting reasonably close." (Kazuto)

"What do you mean by *"reasonably close"*? It's too vague, Kazu-kun!" (Nana)

She seems to want to know more about our relationship. She approaches me with excitement.

Not good, I'm starting to remember and become conscious of the dream I have this morning.

"I'm sorry, but I'll be in trouble if you get too close to me....." (Kazuto)

"Hmm, why? Ah,..... do I smell?" (Nana)

"No, you don't. You smell great as usual." (Kazuto)

".....The way you said it sounds like a pervert." (Nana)

"....." (Kazuto)

Kurumizaka-san stares at me with half-lidded eyes.

I guess I have made a mistake in my choice of words.

"You went to Rin-chan's house last week, didn't you?" (Nana)

"How do you know?" (Kazuto)

"Kasumi-san reported it to me!" (Nana)

*Seriously? I don't know that they had a connection.....*

No, it won't be strange if they had.

Rinka and Kurumizaka-san seem to have been getting along for a long time, and it's not strange if Kurumizaka-san and Kasumi-san get along as well.

"If so, I think you should ask Kasumi-san ....." (Kazuto)

"Eeeeh, Why I should to when I can directly ask the person in question anyway?" (Nana)

"I don't know if I can understand what you mean, but.....

It's embarrassing if I tell you myself." (Kazuto)

"As the commander of Kazu-kun and Rin-chan's befriending operation, so I have to keep track of their relationship! Now, come tell me!" (Nana)

"You're really getting into it, yes....." (Kazuto)

I've heard that girls love to hear about other people's love lives, and it seems that this popular idol, Kurumizaka Nana, is no exception.



I decide to tell her about my day at the Mizuki's home.  
Starting with the younger sister, Nonoa-chan, getting tangled up with the eldest sister, Kasumi-san, about the drunken mother who just coming home.

Most importantly, I must not forget Mikio Papa.

Mikio Papa left a strong impression on me, both for better and worse.

In the end, I wondered what he was trying to tell me.

After I finish telling everything, Kurumizaka-san, who has been nodding her head enthusiastically, speaks up with a straight face.

"You've been getting all the family members approvals. So, why you two aren't dating yet?" (Nana)

"Ugh!" (Kazuto)

"Do you not see Rin-chan as a girl, Kazu-kun?" (Nana)

"No, that's not the case." (Kazuto)

I see her as a very very attractive girl.

Even if she is a bit odd girl who tried to act like a wife in real life.

"Speaking of which, did you two ever go on a date?" (Nana)

".....No, we haven't, We're even not officially dating yet."  
(Kazuto)

"Even so, it'll be nice to go have fun with her at least once, won't it?" (Nana)

"We're always having fun a lot together in the online game."  
(Kazuto)

"That's not what I mean..... You know what I mean about, right?" (Nana)

".....Yes." (Kazuto)

She raises her eyebrows a little and gives me a threatening look.

However, because her original face is too cute, I don't feel scared, but more feel fascinated.

It's like a tiny squirrel trying its best to intimidate you.

"Okay, it's decided. Next time, the two of you have to go out together." (Nana)

"..... Are you serious? Wouldn't it cause an uproar if people around found out? What if someone takes a picture and spread it on social media...." (Kazuto)

"Hmm, it'll be fine in disguise then." (Nana)

"Wouldn't they still able to recognize even if in disguise? The aura of a popular idol is not something that can be easily concealed, Rinka and Kurumozaka-san shine brightly."

(Kazuto)

"Ahaha, You're exaggerating, Kazu-kun. We're just ordinary girls, you know." (Nana)

*You're absolutely not ordinary, you know.*

It's not that she's being modest, but she seems to be saying it from the bottom of her heart.

I guess this sarcastic feeling is the secret to her popularity. Her cheerfulness and friendliness made it easy for me to interact with her as a normal person.

"Surprisingly, if you wear a hat, glasses, and a mask, you won't be recognized. Also, it's important to change your atmosphere. It's pretty hard to put into words, but more or less it's like that." (Nana)

"I see." (Kazuto)

*It's the so-called "**price of fame**", huh.*

Seems like being idols make them have hard times spending their daily life.

"This week and next week are..... I'm afraid our schedule is full. If we can have a day off, I'll let Kazu know, so you have to invite Rin-chan that time then!" (Nana)

"Even if you say that..... I've never gone out with any girl before, so I don't know what I've to do." (Kazuto)

"Just leave it to me! I'll follow you to make sure your date goes well!" (Nana)

Kurumizaka-san responds confidently while putting her hand on her chest.

Her breasts are rather large, so I have it hard where I have to look.

".....Has Kurumizaka-san ever been to go out with boys?"  
(Kazuto)

"Haven't?" (Nana)

"Whaaat....." (Kazuto)

I don't think I can rely on someone who has no experience.  
When I'm feeling skeptical, Kurumizaka-san, who seems to  
have sensed that my inner feelings, hurriedly made an  
excuse.

"D-don't worry! I watch a lot of romantic dramas and  
movies! Also, I even like romantic comedy anime!" (Nana)

".....So?" (Kazuto)

"That is..., I don't have any experience, but I think I have a  
lot of.....knowledge." (Nana)

"Can that knowledge be applied to real life?" (Kazuto)

"I-it can, maybe..... During the other night, I was able to  
complete a game where boys get along with each other in  
one night." (Nana)

"Isn't that a BL game? That's not helpful at all. Moreover,  
you've been up all overnight just to clear it?" (Kazuto)  
Unimaginable, but Kurumozaka-san is such a person.

*Well, I don't mind it, though.*

Everyone has their own hobbies and interests.

But there's no such information written in her official profile.

*So, she's hiding it, huh?*

"D-don't concern yourself with me. Kazu-kun, you're going to  
do your best to respond to Rin-chan's feelings, ain't you?  
You said you wanted to face Rin-chan in real life too, didn't  
you?" (Nana)

".....I've indeed told that." (Kazuto)

"You can at least go on a date with her then, am I right?"  
(Nana)

Kurumizaka-san has crushed my escape route just as a  
counterattack.

What a terrifying idol she is.

Whether it is for the sake of disguising her interest or for her  
best friend Rinka, she's aggressively pushing me.

*..... No, it's not good for me to keep dithering.  
I still can't make a decision even after all this supports from  
the people around me.....*

"I think you don't have to think too hard of it. Do you hate the idea of having fun with Rin-chan?" (Nana)

"No..... I don't hate it." (Kazuto)

"I'm glad. .... Oh, it's almost time. I have to get back to class." (Nana)

"You're right." (Kazuto)

"Then I'll contact you if we have a day off!" (Nana)

Kurumizaka-san smiles in relief and waves at me before walking down the stairs.

The sound of her light footsteps echoing off the walls as she moves away.

She really is an energetic girl.

She is a caring person, or rather, she is straightforward to her goals.....

"Why is Kurumizaka-san working so hard for the sake of Rinka?" (Kazuto)

She's not just meddling.

She had previously said she wanted Rinka to be happy.

But I think the words she had spoken were not as a friend, but out of a deeper emotion.

It's not something I can figure out by thinking about it.

What I should be thinking about now is the *"date"*, the normies event that I don't seem to have anything to do with.

# Chapter 22 - Determination

After about thirty minutes of running through the city at night, I go home drenched in sweat, take a shower, and go up to my room.

I've done some muscle training before my run, so my stamina is pretty tough.

Though, it's just a little tough for a guy like me, who is known as a *"Nerd Gamer"*.

"I guess I'll get used to it if I keep at it every day." (Kazuto)  
Continuity is the key.

Perhaps it's because I'm being aware of the popular idols, I'm becoming hungry for some kind of efforts.

After taking a short break, I turn on my computer and sit down on the chair.

Then I search for *"high schooler date plans"*.

A list of sites with recommendations for places to go on dates and what to wear is displayed.

*.....I don't know where I should to start.*

I look at them in order from the top, but all I can think is, *"Heeh, I see, so that's it,"* but I can't really grasp it.

*I, Am I really okay?*

I stare at the computer screen for a few minutes.

I have an image of what should to do on the date.

The only thing left to do is to do some image training.

"..... Should I, confess my feelings to her?" (Kazuto)

*~"(This is a Translation Content of pemudatunawisata.my.id. so, read only on my site)"~*

It's something I've been thinking about for a long time.  
It'll not be good for my health to continue our current relationship.

*Am I now really worthy for Mizuki Rinka?*

I've been thinking about that a lot.

"But, it's different....." (Kazuto)

Rinka has repeatedly said that she loves me as I am.

Then, I should take that feeling seriously and make a move on her.

"That's a good opportunity." (Kazuto)

At the end of the date, I'll confess my feelings to her.....

*Ooh, somehow it's kinda nice.*

We've been together for a few years in a game, then I'm going to confess on our first date in real life.

Thinking that way, I'm starting to feel it romantic.

Well, there may be many other problems.

But I'll take the next date as a new step and confess to Rinka then become officially dating.

I have to stop being dithering.

I should be proud of myself for telling Rinka that I like her.

~"(This is a Translation Content of [pemudatunawisata.my.id](http://pemudatunawisata.my.id). so, read only on my site)"~

"Okay.....!" (Kazuto)

Holding my smartphone in my hand, I send a chat to Kurumizaka-san with unwavering determination.

[I'm going to confess my feelings to Rinka at the end of our upcoming date.] (Kazuto)

.....There's no turning back now.

I've declared it to Rinka's best friend, so later an excuse like

*"As I thought, It's impossible"* won't work.

"Now that I think about it, I just didn't feel confident in myself from the beginning." (Kazuto)

I made a lot of excuses, but in the end, that was it.

The answer came a few weeks ago, when I started calling her 'Rinka'.

"I love Rin..... **I love Mizuki Rinka!**" (Kazuto)

Kurumizaka-san, Kasumi-san, and above all, Rinka had affirmed me.

If that's the case, then I should just clash my feelings with her openly.

It would be disrespectful to them to deny myself.

After our upcoming date, our daily life will change again.

# Chapter 23 - The First Date of the Couple In-Game

The day of the date is here.

It's a beautiful day with a clear blue sky.

The meeting place is at a square in front of the station.

I'm there before Rinka, and sit on a bench waiting for the appointed time to arrive.

"..... My gosh, I definitely came too early." (Kazuto)

I check the time on my phone and it's showing 11:02.

By the way, the appointed time is 12:00.

It's an hour early. There's a reason for this.

It's Kurumizaka-san's instruction.

Considering Rinka's personality, she will come early, so I was told that I should come earlier and surprise her.

*.....Is she really coming early?*

As I'm mindlessly watching people pass by in the square, I hear an incoming call from the smartphone in my pocket.

I confirm that it's come from Kurumizaka-san and accept the call.

"Hello, Kurumizaka-san?" (Kazuto)

"Mornin~, Kazu-kun! You're there really early, yes~, thank you!" (Nana)

"Well, I am. If this is the kind of thing that makes Rinka happy, then..... I mean, are you watching me somewhere?" (Kazuto)



*"I am. Look closely at the apartment building behind you."*  
(Nana)

*".....Apartment?"* (Kazuto)

As I turn around, I see a scene of buildings standing in a row. I notice a pure white apartment building in the middle of them.

I strain my eyes to get a better look.

On the landing of the upper floor, I can see a girl dressed in black, looking at me with binoculars.

*"..... is that you, Kurumizaka-san?"* (Kazuto)

*"Yahhoo~!"* (Nana)

Kurumizaka-san, a girl in black, waving her hand with such a cheerful voice.

.....It's a very suspicious appearance.

She may have thought if she's wearing a disguise so that her true identity will not be revealed, but contrarily, she appears terribly conspicuous and suspicious.

If she is going to appear in a mystery drama, she'll be so suspicious that she'll be eliminated from the list of criminal candidates.

I've always had a thought that Kurumizaka-san may be a rather unique person.

*"Hey, Kurumizaka-san. Are you sure Rinka will be here an hour early?"* (Kazuto)

*"Yup, she'll definitely~. Because even last night on the phone, she said with great happiness, 'It's like a dream to be able to hang out with Kazuto-kun in real-life'."* (Nana)

*"Huuuuh....."* (Kazuto)

I can kind of see her face at that moment, somehow.

*"Moreover, she was smiling and worrying about not being able to sleep at all because she was looking forward to it so much."* (Nana)

*"Somehow it looks like an elementary school student preparing for an excursion, she is."* (Kazuto)

By the way, I was a part of who thinks that school excursion is annoying.

When I was in elementary school, I wanted to play online games rather than excursions.

When I think about it, I had a glimpse of being a nerd gamer from that time.

*"Rin-chan still hasn't arrived there yet?"* (Nana)

*"I don't know..... Ah, isn't that the one?"* (Kazuto)

*"Eh, which one, which one?"* (Nana)

I tell Kurumizaka-san what she looks like to me who seems to be looking for her with binoculars.

*"A girl wearing a cap walks from the street, you know?"*

*"That's Rinka."* (Kazuto)

*"I need a little more specific information. There are several girls with caps and I don't know which one she is....."*

(Nana)

*"You see, she's wearing glasses and a mask..... She's wearing a shirt and a long skirt."* (Kazuto)

*"..... Ah, I found her. If you carefully look at, she indeed looks like Rin-chan. If Kazu-kun hadn't told me, I wouldn't have recognized her at all....."* (Nana)

She certainly doesn't look like the usual Rinka.

In a word, she's plain.

Her face is thoroughly concealed, yet her atmosphere is somehow reserved.

Probably her natural face is a little cuter, However, what I can only see is a normal girl who can be found anywhere.

But that's when you just rely on your eyes.

I can't compare it well, but something hid deep within that human atmosphere clearly belonged to Mizuki Rinka.

Even in the current situation where there is crowded with people, I can recognize her just by a quick glance.

*"You're here early, yes, Kazuto-kun..... too early, I think."* (Rinka)

As I sit on the bench, Rinka walks up to me and says, somewhat a bit dejectedly.

*"I don't think you can say that about others. Rinka is here early too."* (Kazuto)

"I was planning to come first and enjoy the time waiting for Kazuto-kun. But I never thought I was overtaken ..... After all, we sync each other." (Rinka)

Rinka's voice is a little fluttery.

It seems that Kurumizaka-san's plan is a success.

She sits down next to me and speaks quietly to me.

"Did you notice me right away?" (Rinka)

"Yeah I did. When you came out of the corner." (Kazuto)

"..... That's amazing, Kazuto-kun. I was confident that no one would recognize me in this outfit, though." (Rinka)

*(PTW/N: Sasuga her dear husband...)*

Rinka looks down at her outfit.

In fact, even her best friend, Kurumizaka-san, hadn't been able to see through her disguise.

It is the same for the people around her.

There is no one to make a fuss about *"It's Mizuki Rinka!"* and passing her without even has a glance.

*Is it that the people are too dull to notice a change in clothing and atmosphere, or is it that Rinka is incredible at changing the atmosphere.....?*

I don't really know either.

As I'm conversing with Rinka in a natural flow, I unexpectedly hear a sound from my smartphone.

I excuse myself to Rinka and check it.

It's a message from Kurumizaka-san.

The content is short, **[Compliment her on her outfit]**.

*..... Is it okay to compliment a disguise?*

*I can understand if it's a compliment to a fancy outfit, but.....*

*I really don't know how to compliment it in the first place.*

*Please give me more detailed guidance on that, Guru Kurumizaka.*

"What's wrong, Kazuto-kun?" (Rinka)

Rinka asks me, curiously tilting her head.

Most of her face is hidden by her glasses and mask, but her gestures and voice are so cute.

She has a different kind of charm than usual.

I think I'll just go ahead and say what I'm thinking.

"Today's Rinka has a different atmosphere than usual, doesn't she?" (Kazuto)

"Yep I do. Personally, I wanted to meet Kazuto-kun in more fashionable clothes, but ... As I thought, this's weird, isn't this?" (Rinka)

"No, not at all. You have a different charm from your usual cool atmosphere. It's very cute." (Kazuto)

"....." (Rinka)



I try to speak my mind frankly and honestly.

Then Rinka turns her head away from me and looks down.

Her cheeks are red.

"Rinka?" (Kazuto)

"N-no, ..... There's something different about you today as well, Kazuto-kun." (Rinka)

"Is that so?" (Kazuto)

"Eerm, he looks calm. I believe it's better to say he's becoming more confident." (Rinka)

I won't deny that.

Since I decided to face my feelings and Rinka a few days ago, my heart has been strangely filled with contentment. At the very least, I've been recognized by Rinka in a game where heart-to-heart communication is very important to her.

*So, don't be afraid to let out your honest feelings, me.*

It took me almost a month to finally reach this point.

While I'm smiling at Rinka, who is strangely nervous and fidgety, I receive another message from Kurumizaka-san.

The content of the message is———[**Kiss her**].

*That's impossible!*

*I mean, more like, it's all about the steps and all that stuff, then above all, the atmosphere! it is a very important point to pay attention to!*

*Kissing her the moment you meet her on the first date is just too bad, you know.*

*What on earth are you referring to when you send me such advice, Kurumizaka-san?*

"Hey, Kazuto-kun. It's time to go to....." (Rinka)

"Ah, sure you're right. Let's get going." (Kazuto)

We get up from the bench together.

Suddenly, Rinka pulls my sleeve.

"Mm, what's wrong?" (Kazuto)

"That is..... we're a married couple who got married in the game, aren't we?" (Rinka)

"Yes, sure we are." (Kazuto)

*Except in real life, though (planned to be a lover).*

"Holding hands, I wonder if it's good enough." (Rinka)

"....." (Kazuto)

"No, if Kazuto-kun doesn't want to, that's fine———."

(Rinka)

"I'm fine." (Kazuto)

I don't wait for Rinka to say any further, then I immediately hold her hand. (**PTW/N: L-L-LE-LEWDNESS OVERLOAD!!!**)

This is the first time I've touched Rinka's hand in all the years we've been interacting.

"———Ka-Kazuto-kun!?" (Rinka)

Rinka's eyes widen and her face turns red in surprise.

She is no longer even a glimpse of a cool person.

Her reaction is cute and innocent, even a little juvenile.

The very before my eyes is not a cool idol, rather, the real Mizuki Rinka.

"Mm, what is wrong? Is it not good to hold hands?" (Kazuto)

"N-no, I don't say it's not good..... Kazuto-kun, what happened to you, actually?..... Normally, you'll refuse by saying, '*In real life, we're not a couple, let alone dating*'....." (Rinka)

*That absolutely sounds like a line I'll say.*

"Are you by any chance a fake Kazuto-kun? No, this atmosphere,..... **sniff sniff**, and this smell also belong to the real Kazuto-kun." (Rinka)

Rinka brings her nose closer and sniffs me just like a dog.

You're able to identify people by their smell, huh.....!

"Let's hang out for a while, and then have lunch together." (Kazuto)

"Y-yes....." (Rinka)

She seems to be really taken aback and nods at me with a slightly downcast look in her eyes.

Even though she's acting like she's my wife in real life, but she seems to be embarrassed when I approach her.

I've always been swayed by Rinka, but since it's our first date, I think I'll take the initiative today.

# Chapter 24 - Home Date Flag

"....." (Rinka)

I've been walking around town hand in hand with Rinka since a while ago, but we have been in silence which is a bit sweet and sour.

This is because Rinka is not saying a single word.

I can tell that she's embarrassed because her face, which I can see through the mask, is stained red.

She usually says that she isn't ashamed saying '*stuff becoming wife*', but it seems that she becomes a innocent maiden just by holding hands with me.

*Is this really an atmosphere for a date?*

I may have been too aggressive from the very beginning.

Also, I can feel eyes on me from behind.

I don't have to look back to know who it is.

I'm pretty sure it's Kurumizaka-san.

Somehow I have a feeling that she's grinning.

"Say, Rinka." (Kazuto)

"Wh-what is it....." (Rinka)

"I'm going to ask you straight out, are you okay? If this's too much for you, you don't have to strain yourself, you know."

(Kazuto)

"No, I'm fine. I probably have been waiting for this day for a few years. Ever since I was playing with Kazu in the

game....." (Rinka)

Rinka mutters sincerely, as if she was chewing on her current happiness.



If that's what she says, then I'm not going to say anything.  
It's fun even if you don't talk about anything.

I'll be happy to just walk around with her, admiring the city,  
but it'll also be a shame to end the date just with that.

Looking at the time, we decide to go to a store.

It's almost time for the stores to start getting crowded, so  
we should head for the café we've been eyeing.

"Hey, Kazuto-kun. Is that child okay?" (Rinka)

"What?" (Kazuto)

I look in the direction that Rinka pointed.

A little girl is standing at the edge of the sidewalk, looking  
anxious.

Judging by her figure, she is probably no more than an  
elementary school student.

"I have a feeling that.....she's a lost child. She was  
separated from his parents and didn't know what to do."  
(Rinka)

"When you put it that way, it does seem that way." (Kazuto)  
She isn't crying, so she isn't attracting attention.

The people around her pass by without paying any attention  
to the lost girl.

"Do you mind if I go talk to her for a minute? If she's not  
lost, I'll be right back." (Rinka)

"No problem. I mean, I'm coming with you too." (Kazuto)  
If she's really lost, we can't just leave her there.

We went to the girl who's standing there in a daze.

"May I have a minute?" (Rinka)

".....?"

Rinka crouches down to meet the child's gaze and calls her  
out.

"I'm sorry for talking to you out of the blue. I was worried  
that you might be lost." (Rinka)

"....."

The child seems to be wary, looks at Rinka in the eyes, and  
fell silent.

Well, it can't be helped.

Rinka is now wearing a full set of disguising gear including a hat, glasses, and mask.

It's no wonder she looks a little suspicious.

"Or are you waiting for someone?" (Rinka)

".....Mommy is, lost."

"Mommy, yes?" (Rinka)

The girl nods her head.

It seems that in this child's mind, her mother is the one who is lost.

I almost giggle.

"So....., when did your mother get lost?" (Rinka)

"A while ago."

"So that's it....." (Rinka)

Rinka nods gently as she stands up.

She shows a slight gesture of distress and speaks to me.

"Kazuto-kun, should we take her to the police station?."

(Rinka)

"Let's see. If it was just a while ago, I'm sure her mother will come looking for her, so it'd be better if we wait here."

(Kazuto)

It's better to wait at the point where the child got lost than to take her around.

The police station will be the last resort.

"Mommy had.... told me to wait there and not follow anyone when I got separated from her."

"I see. Then let's do this. Wait here for a while, and if mommy doesn't come for you, we'll go to the police station then. Are you okay with it?" (Rinka)

"....."

After a few seconds of silence, the lost girl gives a small nod.

"Is that okay with you, Kazuto-kun?" (Rinka)

"Yeah." (Kazuto)

We decide to wait until his mother came to pick her up, just in case.

It's a reasonable decision.

I take a quick look around.

I don't see anyone who looks like this kid's parents.

Most of the people walking around are young people.

There are also some families..... Ah, There's

Kurumizaka-san who is hiding behind a telephone pole.

She's completely seen through.

As I watch in amazement, she takes her smartphone out of her pocket and starts to make a call.

Sure enough, my smartphone starts ringing.

"Sorry, Rinka. I just got a call." (Kazuto)

"I understand....." (Rinka)

I pick up the phone, keeping a little distance from Rinka, who stares at me suspiciously.

*"What is it, Kurumizaka-san?"* (Kazuto)

*"Kazu-kun, what's going on?"* (Nana)

*"She's lost. She's waiting for her mother to come back."*

(Kazuto)

*"That sounds terrible. But you're on a date, remember?"*

(Nana)

*"Even if you say that....., I can't just leave her alone. Rinka also seems to feel the same way."* (Kazuto)

*"..... You're both so kind, yes~."* (Nana)

*"It's normal, isn't it."* (Kazuto)

It's nothing special.

I look at the girls as I make the call.

In this short time, Rinka seems to have loosened the girl's alertness.

The girl is conversing with Rinka with a relaxed expression on her face.

"Are you his lover, sister?"

"No, we are not lovers, you know? We are a couple. I am Kazuto-kun's wife." (Rinka)

*Rinka-san?*

*What are you trying to infusing a young child?*

"Woooooow. Have you kissed him yet?"

".....O-of course.....!" (Rinka)

"How many times did you do it?"

"Th-that is already..... uncountable....." (Rinka)

Rinka shakes her voice subtly.

*Why are you acting so tough there.....*

*You were able to answer that we were husband and wife before, yet you weren't able to answer that you had never kissed?*

"Do you already have a child?"

"No, not yet. But ideally, I would like to have about **ten**."

(Rinka) (**PTW/N:** *oww boiii~, it's a sign that you have to do more exercises and stamina trainings~*)

*That's a lot! Isn't it already like a baseball team!*

It seems Rinka wants a big family.

*.....That reminds me, Mikio Papa has ever told me about it.*

He said that his wife had always been clinging to him all the time every day and that he felt exhausted in the morning.

To put it more bluntly, for a sophomore high schooler, Rinka, having a little sister, Nonoa-chan, who is a first-grader,

It means that..... her parents are still in *great spirits* at night

*"What's wrong Kazu-kun. Are you listening to my befriending strategy?"* (Nana)

*"..... I'll choose a job that requires a lot of business trips."*

(Kazuto)

*"What's wrong with you all of a sudden? Your voice sounds distant somehow."* (Nana)

*"It's nice to be desired, but too much of it can kill a man."*

(Kazuto)

*"I don't know what you're talking about, but I can tell it's very heavy."* (Nana)

I'm flattered, but there is a limit.

That a man is.

I feel like I understand Mikio Papa's struggle a little better now.

*"I'll hang up the phone then."* (Kazuto)

*"Okay. Good luck then."* (Nana)

I hang up the phone and pocket it.

I return to Rinka and the little girl.

"Hey, big bro."

"Hmm, what's it?" (Kazuto)

"Is it true that after you married big sis, you went deep into the dungeons to stop the Grand Priest from destroying the world instead of going on a honeymoon? And then defeating the Evil God by just you two?"

"....." (Kazuto)

That's the story of the game.

But for a child of less than elementary school age, everything adults say seems to be true.

The lost girl is looking at me with a sparkling look of admiration.

*Seriously, Rinka-san, what have you been infusing to her.....*

□

"I'm really thankful to you."

"Bye-bye."

A few minutes later, her mother came to pick her up.

The girl, being pulled by her mother, smiles and waved at us cheerfully as she leaves.

It's good to be a parent and a child, yeah.

"Children are wonderful, yes." (Rinka)

"I-I guess so." (Kazuto)

"What's wrong, Kazuto-kun? Your cheeks are tight." (Rinka)

"It's probably just your imagination." (Kazuto)

*I like children, but I want a limit on the number of children.*

I earnestly hope so in my heart.

"What do you want to do after this, Kazuto-kun?" (Rinka)

"What I want to do, huh. I was planning to go to a popular café or something like that." (Kazuto)

"But at this time, all the stores seem to be crowded." (Rinka)

"Yeah, I guess so....." (Kazuto)

The plan is screwed up.

I don't think it's the lost girl's fault in the slightest, but I should have thought about making a reservation at a store if this was going to happen.

However, The me who is a '*Nerd Gamer*' and not even a beginner at love, of course, there's no way I can't arrange a perfect plan for us.

It can't be helped then, at a time like this, I need to rely on Guru Kurumizaka.

"Umm, Kazuto-kun. If you're fine.....why don't you come to my house?" (Rinka)

"What?" (Kazuto)

"I'm sure there are some ingredients left in the fridge at home, and no one will be home until this evening..... How it sounds to you?" (Rinka)

"T-then, please." (Kazuto)

"Eerm....." (Rinka)

Rinka seems to be nervous.

I can feel her nervousness and it makes me feel weird.

I visited her house only once before, but the situation now is different from that time.

Moreover, the conversation we just had (about the kids) is still lingering in my mind, and I'm starting to have some naughty thoughts.

This is not good.

It's healthy, but it's also not.

"..... Kazuto-kun, let's go." (Rinka)

"Y-yes." (Kazuto)

I quietly follow Rinka who holds my hand somewhat shyly.

*Kurumizaka-san..... What should I do?*

## Chapter 25 - It's Love, Isn't?

"Kazuto-kun. I'm going to prepare the lunch now, so just relax in the living room, kay." (Rinka)

"Okay." (Kazuto)

I'm led to the living room, and Rinka urges me to sit on the couch.

This is the second time I've come to this house.

The whole room smells so good.

"You can turn on the TV if you want." (Rinka)

Rinka, standing in the kitchen, tells me so.

She has her hair in a ponytail and is wearing an apron, just like before.

*What a pretty precious sight, there.*

".....For now, let's turn on the TV." (Kazuto)

I pick up the remote control on the table in front of me and turn on the TV.

A daytime variety show is on.

Moreover, the show is featuring idols, and there is a conversation going on about **Star☆Mines**.

The idol group that keeps evolving and progressing with the tremendous energy of Kurumizaka-san as its center..... and so on.

There's also an evaluation of Mizuki Rinka as a girl who can be called a diva.

"After all, they are amazing." (Kazuto)

*Can you believe it?*

*I play online games with these girls every days off, you know?*

*And even now, now I'm coming over to Rinka's house.*

".....?" (Kazuto)

I pick my smartphone up as I receive a call from Kurumizaka-san.

*"Hello, Kurumizaka-san?"* (Kazuto)

*"Ah, Did you decide to have lunch at Rin-chan's house?"*

(Nana)

*"Yeah. What are you going to do for lunch, Kurumizaka-san?"*

(Kazuto)

*"What should I do, yes..... I'd like to eat Rin-chan's home-cooked food too, so can you somehow deliver it to me?"*

(Nana)

*"Of course I can't....."* (Kazuto)

She didn't say it in a joking tone.

But rather, in a serious one.

*"I'm hungry, .....Right now, I'm looking up at Rin-chan's room from behind a telephone pole with binoculars."* (Nana)

*"Are you dressed all in black? You'd better stop it, because you will definitely get reported."* (Kazuto)

It's been almost a month since I've known Kurumizaka-san for whatever reason.

I've come to understand her to some extent.

It's not that she's ruining her image on TV, but she's going in a bit of a weird direction.

For better or worse, she's energetic and foolhardy.

*"I'm gonna the convenience store to get some Anpan and milk!"* (Nana)

"You should go home, really....." (Kazuto)

*"Then, See yaa~!"* (Nana)

She ends the talk with an unnecessarily cheerful voice and hangs up the call.

.....Well, she seems like a good match for the cool type of Rinka.

A few minutes later, Rinka calls me for lunch.



I get up from the couch and take a seat at the dining room table.

When I first look at the table, I find that a bowl of mouthwatering fried rice has been prepared.

It has a savory smell that makes my stomach growl.

Carefully chopped green onions and boiled pork were mixed in, and the overall color of the dish, including the rice, is wonderful.

If it's only for its appearance, it'll be on par with what is served in restaurants.

"This is amazing, Rinka. Absolutely this will be so delicious."  
(Kazuto)

"Of course. I've loved cooking since I was a kid, so I'm pretty confident in my abilities." (Rinka)

Rinka says it without any modesty.

This dignified behavior is something only a cool idol can do. Suddenly, Rinka sits down next to me with her own bowl of fried rice.

She seems to want to eat next to me.

"Let's eat, Kazuto-kun." (Rinka)

"Y-yeah..... Let's dig in." (Kazuto)

After putting my hands together, I take the prepared spoon in my right hand and scoop up a bite of the dome-shaped fried rice.

Bring it to my mouth and chew.....

"So delicious.....!" (Kazuto)

I'm not a gourmet food critic, so I can't describe exactly how really delicious it is.

*It's just damn so delicious.*

That's all I can say.

This's the first time I have eaten a girl's home cooking.

Even if it was burnt to char, I'll have definitely enjoyed it.

"I'm glad. It seems to have suited your palate." (Rinka)

"It's really delicious. It's the best fried rice I've ever had."  
(Kazuto)

"Fufu..... Actually, I've put something special in that fried rice." (Rinka)

"..... something special?" (Kazuto)

I stop the spoon and look at Rinka's face.

For some reason, she has a suspicious smile on her face and her eyes were glowing.

"Yup, something special. Fufu." (Rinka)

"....." (Kazuto)

*..... Is this fried rice okay to eat?*

I guess it's just a matter of feeling, but I suddenly feel like my stomach is starting to feel sick.

*N-no, no.*

*There's nothing weird in it.*

*Probably I just want her to say something cute like "it's a love~"!*

*That must be it!*

*No, please let it be true!*

"What's wrong, Kazuto-kun? Aren't you going to eat?"  
(Rinka)

"Ah, yeah....." (Kazuto)

"I'll give you mine if you want." (Rinka)

"I can't let you do that. Rinka has to eat well too." (Kazuto)

"I don't mind. I'm happy just to see you eating deliciously, Kazuto-kun....." (Rinka)

Rinka smiles, looking truly happy.

I have no choice but to eat it.

I shake off the bad premonition that is sticking in my brain and continue to bring Rinka's special fried rice to my mouth.

***A/N: That "something special" does not contain any materials that are harmful to the health. Please be assured.***

# Chapter 26 - The Cool Idol's Closet

"Whew..... that felt so good." (Kazuto)

After finishing my dubious lunch, I excuse to Rinka to the bathroom.

Let me tell you something.

I don't come here to throw up.

I just wanted to do a little thing.

I come out of the bathroom and wash my hands in the washroom.

And when I want to return to Rinka, my smartphone rings.

*..... How many times have been today?*

Sorry to say, but your advice is completely useless, Kurumizaka-san.

*"Well, I can't just ignore her..... Hello?"* (Kazuto)

*"Ah, Kazu-kun. What's going on there now?"* (Nana)

*"I just finished a bowl of fried rice that had something special in it."* (Kazuto)

*"Something special, what is it?"* (Nana)

*"I want to know about it..... No, I definitely don't want to know."* (Kazuto)

Once you know, there may be no turning back.

Let's just remember it as the fried rice that was damn so good.

*"What are you going to do now?"* (Nana)

*"Right..... I don't feel like going out right now, so I might just stay in this room."* (Kazuto)

*"No waay~. How long do I have to stay behind the telephone pole?" (Nana)*

*"Why don't you just go home already? You're not doing anything there, are you?" (Kazuto)*

*"Uuu. I want to do something that will make Rin-chan happy, even if only a little. Please cooperate with me." (Nana)*

*"..... I've been wanting to ask you this for a while now, why do you work so hard for the sake of Rinka, Kurumizaka-san?" (Kazuto)*

*"That is....." (Nana)*

*"You do it not just as a friend. And It's not just for fun either." (Kazuto)*

*"....." (Nana)*

A heavy silence drifted from my phone.

After all, there seems to be something.

I've been feeling the desperation in the actions of Kurumizaka-san for some time now.

No matter how much energy she has, it's too much.

*.....Well, if that's her personality, I can't say anything about it.*

*"Actually, I'm the one who invited Rin-chan to be an idol." (Nana)*

*"So that's it, huh." (Kazuto)*

*"Yes..... But you know, I made Rin-chan go through a very difficult time." (Nana)*

*"It's not your fault, Kurumizaka-san. Besides, you two are successful now." (Kazuto)*

*"That's not true. If it weren't for Kazu-kun, I'm sure Rin-chan would have been broken. I feel that all the responsibilities are on me..... I made Rin-chan suffer a lot by getting her involved in order to make my own dreams come true." (Nana)*

It's not her usual cheerful tone of voice.

I can feel the guilt painfully coming from the painful words of Kurumizaka-san.

I don't know the past of the two.

A few weeks ago, I had asked Rinka about when she started working as an idol.

But Rinka blatantly muddled the subject and diverted it to another topic.

*Even I, who is dull, can tell.*

It must be a past that she doesn't want to be touched.

And it's the same for Kurumizaka-san.

*"So, if it's for Rin-chan's sake, then I'll————"* (Nana)

"Ah! That's Kurumizaka Nana-chan over there, right?"

"You're right! Gosh, she's real! .....Why are you dressed like a prowler?"

Voices that seem to be that of ordinary women are heard.

It seems that Kurumizaka-san's identity has been exposed.

"Nana-chan! I'm a fan of yours! Please shake my hand!"

"Eeeh!? N-no, that is..... Ahahaha." (Nana)

"Why are you dressed all in black? Are you returning from some kind of event?"

An ordinary female fan seems unable to stop her excitement.

Of course, she does.

She's met the center of the most popular idol group in the world, after all.

"Eh, Nana-chan's here?"

"I heard that Kurumizaka Nana of StarMines is sneaking around behind a telephone pole!"

The commotion is getting worse and worse.

The voices coming from my phone are getting louder and louder.

*"Kurumizaka-san, are you okay?"* (Kazuto)

"Haha, thanks for the support~ ..... *I think I'm a little not okay.*" (Nana)

*"I don't know what I can do, but should I go help you?"*

(Kazuto)

*"No. Kazu-kun, you stay with Rin-chan."* (Nana)

*"But....."* (Kazuto)

*"I'm fine! Please take care of Rin-chan, yes!"* (Nana)

**Beep!♪**

"....." (Kazuto)

I stare at my smartphone, which has been disconnected, and I'm enveloped in an indescribable feeling.

"Kurumizaka-san..... she didn't give me decent advice until the very end." (Kazuto)

Well, let's hope she can get over the fuss safely.

That's all I can do.

□

"Sorry to make you wait. Is there anything you want to do?" (Kazuto)

I come to Rinka's room and ask her who is sitting on her bed.

"I want to do, yes? .....I don't mind anything as long as I can be with Kazuto-kun....." (Rinka)

"I-I see....." (Kazuto)

She says it in such a direct way that I feel embarrassed by just hear it.

*If we're officially lovers, what should we do in these situations?*

*.....After all, is it such a thing or that thing?*

I'm so focused on planning outside that I haven't thought about the pattern if we move into a home date.

"I'll be frank with you. I want to make out with you, Kazuto-kun." (Rinka)

"That's too frank .....!" (Kazuto)

Even though she'd get blushed if I held her hand, yet she's just amazing with her statements.

I thought, but Rinka's cheeks had faintly dyed in cherry blossom.

Even so, it does not break the cool atmosphere she has.

"Kazuto-kun, you feel the same way I do, don't you? Even though it was Nana's suggestion, you invited me on a date." (Rinka)

".....So you know it, huh." (Kazuto)

"Rather than 'knowing', I think 'noticing' is the right word. And besides, Nana was following us around in a strange outfit." (Rinka)

Everything seemed to be completely seen through. I tend to forget this because of her usual wifely behavior, but the original Rinka is a cool idol who behaves coolly and perfectly.

It's hard to fool Rinka's eyes with just me and Kurumizaka-san.

"Probably, that you brought me to your home to get slipped of Kurumizaka-san?" (Kazuto)

"It's also one of it. I want Kazuto-kun to eat my home-cooked food, besides, there was no way could concentrate on the date if Nana was following around in that weird outfit." (Rinka)

"Indeed." (Kazuto)

"It'd have been nice if, including Nana, the three of us could have hung out together, but ..... I'm sure that's not what you two are after, right." (Rinka)

".....Yes." (Kazuto)

*How far are you seeing through?*

*This cool idol, scary.....!*

"That's why Kazuto-kun..... Do you want to do something like a married couple?" (Rinka)

"—————" (Kazuto)

Rinka, with her enchanting eyes, gets up from the bed and leans against my chest.





She's as aggressive as ever when it comes to attacking.  
But I haven't confessed my love to her yet.

"That's right, Rinka! I've been wanting to ask you something for a while." (Kazuto)

"..... What do you want to ask?" (Rinka)

Rinka's lips pouted in annoyance at being interrupted.

The slightly grumpy look on his face is also cute.

*.....Then, what should I do?*

It was something I had said to get the place back on track, but in reality, there was not a single thing I wanted to ask.

Is there, or is there not..... no, there is one.

I decided to ask the questions I had when I came to this room before.

"Rinka. What's in that closet?" (Kazuto)

"Why..... are you asking me that?" (Rinka)

"The other day, when Nonoa-chan came home, you made me hide on the bed, right? But if you really don't want me to be found out, wouldn't it be better to hide me in the closet?" (Kazuto)

In the end, I was exposed by my shoes, but the closet was the only place I could find a suitable place to hide.

An intelligent girl like Rinka must understand this.

"The reason why did you go to the trouble of pushing me onto bed..... I was just wondering if there was anything in the closet." (Kazuto)

"..... There, was. As Kazuto-kun is looking at, I have something hidden in the closet." (Rinka)

"Have something?" (Kazuto)

"Eerm." (Rinka)

Rinka nods with a mysterious look on her face.

"It bothers me when you say it like that." (Kazuto)

"..... I don't want to show it too much. If I show it to Kazuto-kun, he'll definitely think I'm a weird girl." (Rinka)

"That's not true. I'll accept whatever Rinka is doing." (Kazuto)

"Really?" (Rinka)

I nod confidently to Rinka, who is anxious to confirm.

"... I understand. I'll show you." (Rinka)

Rinka walks away from me and heads towards the closet. She puts her hand on the handle of the closet, glances at me once, and hesitantly opens it.

"....." (Kazuto)

The clothes in the closet are gorgeous, ranging from casual clothes to idol costumes.

There is nothing wrong inside.....

Wait, there are four felt dolls underneath.

They're slightly smaller than a human head.

The felt dolls look familiar to me.

No, it's not just that they look familiar.

If you look in the mirror, you will always see the reflection of.....

Yes, that's me.

There are four cute deformed felt dolls of Ayanokouji

Kazuto———sitting proudly in Rinka's closet.

"Th-these are.....?" (Kazuto)

"Kazuto-kun dolls." (Rinka)

"....." (Kazuto)

I remain silent as I look at the four adorably made Kazuto-kun dolls.

*Are they made by Rinka herself?*

Even though I am the subject, I can tell that they really well made.

"That's, you know. I always hug my Kazuto-kun doll whenever I go to bed....." (Rinka)

"O-oh." (Kazuto)

"Recently, The desire to be wrapped up in more Kazuto-kun dolls has been developing..... Even Kazuto-kun, as expected, will be repulsed, right?" (Rinka)

Rinka asks me fearfully, her face is red and she looks embarrassed as she's fidgeting with her left and right hands intertwined.

# Chapter 27 - Kazuto-kun Goods

"Even Kazuto-kun will find it creepy, as expected..... I made Kazuto-kun dolls and sleeps with them in my arms every day....." (Rinka)

"Th-that's not true." (Kazuto)

"Really?" (Rinka)

"Yeah." (Kazuto)

When I nod, Rinka's expression changes from teary-eyed to smiling.

She regains her smile as if she has blossomed.

*.....Well, I'm surprised, though.*

If it's just one doll, I'll have smiled, but as expected, four dolls are scary.

*How long does it take to make a felt doll?*

*It's only been a month and a few weeks since Rinka and I met.*

*Isn't that a pretty fast pace?*

"Actually, there are more." (Rinka)

"What, More Kazuto-kun doll?" (Kazuto)

"No. It's the second set of Kazuto-kun goods." (Rinka)

Rinka says a little proudly.

As I watch to see what she's going to do, Rinka flips through a poster of **Star☆Mines** on the wall.

What emerges there is———a mini-poster with a cut-out scene of me eating in a classroom.....!

"How do you think? Don't you think he's really cute?"  
(Rinka)

"I don't think so. I mean, isn't that a voyeur shot.....? I'm not looking at the camera, and I don't remember being shot in the first place." (Kazuto)

"It's not a voyeur shot. There's nothing voyeuristic about taking a picture of your dear husband, isn't there? (Rinka)

"....." (Kazuto)

*This is high level.*

*I never think my first date can be so tumultuous.....!*

"Every night before I go to bed, I hug Kazuto-kun dolls and look at Kazuto-kun poster.....Fufu." (Rinka)

"Rinka shouldn't be the one looking at the poster, she should be the one being looked at, right." (Kazuto)

A very popular idol is making dolls of me, taking a voyeur shot, and making it into a poster.

*Oh man, this is terrific. (PTW/N: read; yabee~ yo yabee~ yo)*

"I'm sorry, Kazuto-kun. I'm slightly aware that what I'm doing is weird." (Rinka)

"Eh, just slightly aware?" (Kazuto)

"But I just can't stop my feeling..... If I can live under the same roof with Kazuto-kun, my desires would be more or less satisfied." (Rinka)

"I-is that so.....?" (Kazuto)

I'm speechless.

I've never expected that Rinka's desire will be this much.

*.....Wait, speaking of which.*

"You did mention the second Kazuto-kun goods, didn't you? Perhaps, there is also a third one?" (Kazuto)

"Of course." (Rinka)

Rinka opens the pencil case on her desk and takes out her eraser.

"I've got a picture of Kazuto-kun's face pasted on the eraser's cover." (Rinka)

"—————" (Kazuto)

"This way, I can feel close to Kazuto-kun's presence even while studying. Don't you think it's groundbreaking?" (Rinka)

"..... I guess, so....." (Kazuto)

I don't know what face to make anymore.

And even I don't know if I should laugh, be surprised, or be shocked.....

*Which one is the right reaction I should have?*

For the time being, I decide to be pleased.

*To be treated like an idol by a super popular cool idol, isn't it a wonderful thing!*

"W-well, ..... as a man, I'm very happy to be liked this much." (Kazuto)

"Really? I'm worried that even though you are a gentleman, you might be repulsed to me, Kazuto-kun." (Rinka)

"No, no, no. Think about it. It's not that different from the way idols have always sold their goods, isn't it? So, this's not so different from that." (Kazuto)

"You're right. Thank you, Kazuto-kun. For accepting such a me." (Rinka)

.....Well, there's a difference between having consent and not having.

"I'll ask you, but you don't have any goods about me more, do you?" (Kazuto)

".....It's not goods, though....." (Rinka)

Rinka opens a drawer in her desk and takes out a sheet of paper.

"That is?" (Kazuto)

"This is our marriage registration. It has both of our names on it." (Rinka)

"Yes, you've crossed the lineeee~! This is dangerous! And it even has Ayanokouji's seal on it!" (Kazuto) (**PTW/N:** *Learn more about marriage registration (Kon'in-todoke):*

[https://www.la.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_en/m02\\_04\\_02.htm/](https://www.la.us.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_en/m02_04_02.htm/))  
*It's a crime.*

"Don't worry. I made this marriage registration myself, and I've left off the necessary fields, like the registered domicile, so it won't be accepted even if I submit it." (Rinka)

"I-is that so?" (Kazuto)

"Please rest assured, I know what I'm doing." (Rinka)

"Y-you're..... sure you know..... what you're doing?"

(Kazuto)

I'm confused.

"Every time I see this marriage registration, my heart is filled. It's right, I and Kazuto-kun are a married couple."

(Rinka)

"O-oh....." (Kazuto)

Rinka hugs the marriage registration and smiles with satisfaction.

On the other hand, I'm confused.

"Real-world is inconvenient. There is an age limit for marriage and such..... But don't worry. Even if we are not recognized as husband and wife here, our hearts tied up in the game world are real." (Rinka)

"..... Y-yea." (Kazuto)

What a surprise.

Shocking facts are revealed one after another.

It's not that her love is heavy.

But, she's already entered the realm of perversion!

".....This is creepy after all, isn't this?" (Rinka)

"What?" (Kazuto)

As I tremble in trepidation, an anxious, downcast Rinka asks me in a quiet voice,

"From an objective point of view, my behavior is beyond the limit. Aside from dolls, erasers, posters,..... marriage registration are weird, right." (Rinka)

"....." (Kazuto)

*Objectively speaking, everything is weird.*

"No matter how gentleman you are, Kazuto-kun, you sure don't like a girl who does weird things like this, do you....." (Rinka)

"That is not true." (Kazuto)

Rinka keeps talking while looking down, even though I've given an immediate answer.

"It's okay, you don't have to force yourself. If you think I'm creepy..... you can cut me out of your life." (Rinka)

"What are you talking about?" (Kazuto)

"I love you from the bottom of my heart, Kazuto-kun. That's why, I wish and priorities for Kazuto-kun's happiness."

(Rinka)

"Rinka....." (Kazuto)

"If I become a burden to Kazuto-kun, ..... You can divorce me." (Rinka)

.....*Divorce.*

*We're not even in a relationship yet.*

"I'm sure you'll meet a better woman than me, Kazuto-kun. So if I interfere with your happiness, I———." (Rinka)

"Rinka." (Kazuto)

I call her name to interrupt her words.

She raises her face that looks as if she's about to cry and stares back at me.

"As I said before, I will accept Rinka as she is." (Kazuto)

"But didn't you think my behavior is going too far, did you?" (Rinka)

"Yup." (Kazuto)

"..... See, I knew it." (Rinka)

Rinka snorts.

When I look at her closely, I can see her eyes are moist.

I think she might really cry if I treat her badly here.

"If it bothers you so much, why did you tell me about Kazuto-kun goods?" (Kazuto)

"... I value the relationship with my heart. That's why I decided that I should say it when Kazuto-kun asks me. To let him know the real me I've hidden until now..... " (Rinka)

If I never asked, she would have kept it to herself forever?

.....No, it's not.

It's a secret that Rinka, who believes in the supremacy of the pure heart, is so afraid of being exposed.

"Please be honest with me. If you can't keep up with me any longer..... please don't force yourself to do. I don't want to

be a burden to you, Kazuto-kun....." (Rinka)

She turns her eyes away from mine and says such a thing with a slightly quivering voice.

For her, her closet is a **Pandora Box**.

If you open it, disasters and incidents will spurt out.

.....*However.*

However, still.

Hope still remains at the bottom of the box.

Everyone has a secret they don't want to be exposed to.

It's no different even for a very popular idol.

But Rinka is prepared to be hated and told me.

Thinking of her own beliefs and my happiness, she chose to tell me.....

*So, to answer her determination, what can I do for her?*

.....*Haha, there's only one thing I can do for her.*

*I'll tell her how I really feel without hiding anything.*

*Because we've—————been interacting with each other in the world of online games for several years.*

"Rinka." (Kazuto)

".....Kazuto-kun.....?" (Rinka)

With tears in her eyes, I confidently answer Rinka as she waits for my response.

"I, whatever Rinka is, will accept her as she is." (Kazuto)

".....Really?" (Rinka)

"Yeah, because I'm..... deeply in love with the very existence of Mizuki Rinka." (Kazuto)

"—————" (Rinka)

Rinka's eyes widen and she takes a breath.

Without paying attention to her, I slowly begin to speak.

"Even if Rinka isn't an idol, I'll still be in love with her. I know my words will be harsh, but even if Rinka is surprisingly ugly, it won't change my mind." (Kazuto)

".....Kazuto-kun....." (Rinka)

"Well, if *she* is actually a man, I'd like to make him taste one punch. Haha." (Kazuto)

I try to laugh and say something to make her laugh.



However, Rinka, whose cheeks are dyed bright red, only holds her mouth with both hands.

She gazes at me with eyes so moist that tears about to spill. I want to take away her anxiety and turn it into joy.

And now, is the very right time to say.

**"I——love Rinka."** (Kazuto)

I say it clearly.

I say the words I haven't been able to say before.

I don't need courage or anything.

I just say what is obvious, as if it's natural.

That's all.

"Kazuto-kun ....., even if I'm like this, are you really okay?"  
(Rinka)

"It must be Rinka for me. What you're worried about? If it's about voyeurism and dolls, I'll just have to laugh and accept them, won't I? Well, if I notice them, I'll make some comments, though, but it won't make me hate you, even for the slightest." (Kazuto)

".....Kazuto-kun....." (Rinka)

"I guess, liking someone means accepting everything about them. It's never about having expectations or imposing ideals." (Kazuto)

If I hate Rinka after learning her secrets, it isn't because I love her, it's because I love Rinka with the cool idol label on her.

It is not about liking Rinka the way she is.

And that was something that Rinka had said many times before.

*In the online game, you can throw away the labels and expectations imposed by the public.*

It's the only place where you can face others genuinely and purely.

"I'm sorry it took me so long to say this. *I've been in love with 'Rin' for years.*" (Kazuto)

"....." (Rinka)

"Even after I found out who she actually is, my feelings won't change. It's not about your status as an idol or your beautiful looks, I love Mizuki Rinka. Even in real life..... please go out with me on the premise of the marriage."  
(Kazuto)

*I said it. I've said everything.*

Finally, Rinka burst into tears and slumps down, holding her mouth.

".....A-are you sure? I definitely will continue to..... cause troubles for you, Kazuto-kun....." (Rinka)

"Yeah, Bring them to me. I won't lose either." (Kazuto)

I squat down beside Rinka and pat her head gently.

"Kazuto-kun....." (Rinka)

"Rinka....." (Kazuto)

We stare at each other's faces from a very close distance. Our gazes intertwine, and my attention is focused solely on the lovely being in front of me.

"....." (Kazuto/Rinka)

"....." (Rinka/Kazuto) (**PTW/N:** ☺)

It doesn't need any cue.

I put my hand on Rinka's cheek and she quietly closes her eyes and raises her chin.

It's obvious what we're going to do now.

I slowly bring my own lips close to the fresh lips before me. And finally, just before our lips overlap—————

"I'm home~! .....Eeh~ Here we have Kazuto-bro's shoes?

Ah, maybe Kazuto-bro is coming to play!? Yaay~!" (Nonoa)

(**PTW/N:** AAAAARRGH!!!! \$:##((@(#-&?!!!!!! AGAIN,

HUUUUUHHH!?!?!?!? Well, at least Nonoa-chan, NMT

~Nonoa Maji Tenshi~ comes into the page. So, you have my forgiveness, thor.)

.....

.....

"I thought your family wasn't coming home until this evening?" (Kazuto)

I question Rinka with half-lidded eyes.

*What is the meaning of this?*

".....It was supposed to....., kid is sure whimsical, after all."

(Rinka)

"I can't help it then..... Well, that's also convenient."

(Kazuto)

"Convenient? What do you mean by that?" (Rinka)

Rinka tilts her head.

I chuckle lightly and say.

"It means we can immediately report this to Rinka's family, right? That we've officially been dating." (Kazuto)

"Kazuto-kun.....!" (Rinka)

She calls my name in a voice that sounds like she's overcome with emotion.

*It's very cute.....*

As I'm enjoying Rinka's charm, she opens her mouth as if she has thought of something.

"Then, we should officially submit our marriage registration———" (Rinka)

"It's too early for that. I'm only 17 years old. I can't get married until I'm 18." (Kazuto)

"That means it's okay next year." (Rinka)

"Right, right, next year is okay, no way I'll say it, won't I? It'll be a scandal and your career would be ruined." (Kazuto)

"Don't worry. Nothing is impossible in absolute marital love." (Rinka)

".....Haa~. We're not officially married yet, you know....." (Kazuto)

Rinka has never wavered.

I'm sure she will continue to act like a wife.

Even though we've become lovers, my daily life still doesn't seem to be able restoring its composure.

*Aah, seriously .....huh?*

I wonder, what's going to happen from now on.

Rinka smiles happily, but I have no choice except to let out a bitter smile———

# Credits

## **EPUB/PDF:**

<https://animestuff.me>

## **Translation:**

<https://www.scribblehub.com/>



