

その花びらにくちづけを

コミックマーケット84 おまけ本



A Kiss For The Petals
Comic Market 84 Bonus Story

Caution:

This book has no connection whatsoever to the main story.

As usual, please don't sweat the minor details and just enjoy the story.

Steamy Secret Talk

"Th- That's Mai... With Kirishima Shizuku."

It was after school one day. Unable to find her girlfriend in the classroom, Kawamura Reo searched the campus high and low for her, only to finally discover her in the central courtyard. She started to speak up, but then froze. Mai was not alone. Next to her was the recent graduate of St. Michael's and current student at the adjacent St. Michael's Junior College, Kirishima Shizuku. It was nothing unusual for Shizuku, along with her fellow graduate Eris, to come to St. Michael's every now and again to pay a visit to their underclassmen. But something seemed different this time... They seemed to be discussing something in rather grave tones.

"Hmmm... I wonder what they're talking about..."

Mai's expression looked particularly serious.

I- Is it possible... that they're actually going out? Do they have a "special" relationship?

Mai and Shizuku were fairly close friends. So close in fact, that Reo had once suspected Mai of cheating on her with Shizuku. That had all turned out to be a mere misunderstanding on Reo's part though, and everything had worked out in the end.

But she's acting way more suspicious right now than she ever did before. Too suspicious, in fact. What are they whispering about all the way back here?

Reo stealthily moved closer to the two girls so she could better hear what they were discussing, but they were speaking in such hushed voices, perhaps to prevent anyone else from overhearing, that she couldn't make anything out.

"Grr... If I get any closer they'll notice me..."

Despite her concern, Reo couldn't stand it any longer. "You really don't have any self-control, Reo... You're always so quick to crank up the A/C on hot days," Mai would often say. But that was just Reo's nature.

Steeling herself, and with her heart pounding, Reo slowly crept closer to the two, inch by inch. But just then...

"Waah!!"

Suddenly there came from behind a loud voice, and at that same moment she felt a shove against her back.

"Aiiiiieeeeeee!!"

Reo's magnificent shriek echoed throughout the courtyard. It should come as no surprise that Mai and Shizuku took notice at that point.

"Wh- Who's there?!" Turning to look behind her, she found Eris looking unapologetic and cackling gleefully.

"Hahaha, you totally didn't even see me coming, Reo! Looks like it's Eris 1, Reo nothing!"

"...Hrr."

"What's that Japanese saying? 'Carelessness is one's greatest enemy?'"

"L- Like I would know... Hmph."

Reo held a sort of one-sided rivalry with Eris, and just about everything became a competition between them. Eris had never instigated anything herself like this before though, so Reo wasn't really sure how to respond.

Darn it Eris... I was almost close enough to hear them!

"Eris, what are you doing with Reo-san over there?"

"Why, I came to see you, of course. And then I found Reo here, so I decided to have a little fun with her."

"That's not what I would call fun..."

"And Reo, you came here to see Mai, right?"

"Y- Yeah... Uh-huh, I sure did."

Although she had actually just been trying to eavesdrop on their conversation, she decided to go along with Eris's story. Eris didn't seem to give any indication that she had noticed the serious manner in which the two had been conversing.

"Then I'm afraid we must be taking our leave now," Shizuku said to Mai with a polite little bow of her head.

"Sure thing, Shizuku-sama. I'll see you around."

"And I you... We must continue our earlier discussion before long..."

"...Right."

After that final, seemingly significant exchange, Shizuku took off alongside Eris. Meanwhile, it only served to further fuel Reo's suspicions.

* * *

Several days later...

Reo was resting her head in Mai's lap while in a deep quandary over what to have Mai make her for dinner.

"Come on, Reo, just hurry up and decide already!"

"Hmmm... I had fried chicken two days ago, and Salisbury steak yesterday... Okay, today I want meatloaf."

"Going a little heavy on the meat there three days in a row, aren't you Reo? Shouldn't you eat a more balanced diet?"

"But...! Hnnn... Maybe a rice omelette or spaghetti Napolitan might be okay..."

The thought of chicken and rice dripping with ketchup floated into Reo's head. And of course they were topped with fluffy, golden eggs. Her mouth began to water at just the thought of it.

"All right, I've got it! Today I want an omelette with... huh?"

Just as she was about to issue her decree, Mai's phone went off.

"Hold that thought, Reo."

Mai noisily fiddled with her phone on top of Reo's head. She had apparently received a text rather than a phone call.

"Maaaaai, aren't you done yet?"

"....."

After reading the text message, Mai's demeanor instantly changed.

"I'm sorry, Reo... I have to go out for a bit."

"Aiee! W- Wait! Mai!"

Reo was suddenly ejected from Mai's lap. They had been sitting on the couch rather than the floor, so it didn't hurt, but Reo was not amused. That was why she had made such a show of raising her voice to shout. But having arisen in such a hurry, Mai had

already stuffed her phone into her purse and was getting ready to leave without giving Reo so much as a second thought.

"I'll be back in time for dinner, Reo," Mai said, and then sped out of the room.

"Grrr... There's something fishy about this... Something *very* fishy!" Reo shouted at the empty room as she leapt to her feet in a rare display for someone as lazy as she typically was.

"I'm going to follow her and find out where she's going..."

Gathering her things in a hurry, Reo too fled from the room.

* * *

"Is this... a spa?"

Mai had made a bee-line straight to her destination, so Reo had been able to tail her unnoticed. The building Mai had entered was a newly opened spa at the shopping center in front of the train station.

"This is that place with all those great big baths... Did Mai come here to bathe?"

Reo muttered something under her breath to the effect of having a bathtub at her house if Mai had wanted to use one so badly. Still not fully grasping what was going on, Reo followed in after her. The moment she set foot inside, she spotted a very familiar face.

"It's Kirishima Shizuku..."

Mai had come here to meet with Shizuku.

"I apologize for having you travel this far out, Mai-san."

"It's all right... It's better if no one sees us."

After greeting each other at the entrance, the two disappeared into the spa.

"I should've known... Grrr... I finally caught you in the act, you sneaking cheat!!"

And having their little dalliance at a spa of all places... It's so perverted it makes me sick!

As Reo tried to follow in after them, the spa's receptionist called out to her.

"Excuse me, miss? You shouldn't be in here without a grown up... Did you get separated from your mommy?"

"Huh? What're you talking about?"

"Don't you worry. If you're lost, we can page her on the PA system for you. Just come with me."

"H- Hey, hold on..."

She was on the verge of being dragged away.

"I- I am *not* some little kid!!"

* * *

"Haah, haah, haah... That sucked big time."

Thankfully, Reo, who had been mistaken for a lost child, happened to have her student ID from St. Michael's on her, otherwise things could have gotten ugly.

"I don't know what I would've done if I'd lost sight of Mai and Shizuku... Hehehe."

Out of all the tubs in the bathing area, Mai and Shizuku were bathing in the largest.

"I may not be the best swimmer, but even I can go underwater."

Not to mention, in a spacious bath hall like this, even the quietest whisper echoes louder than you would expect. Reo submerged herself below the surface and made her way toward the two girls...

Yeah... This is good, now I can hear everything they say.

Unsurprisingly, the girls' conversation had a certain somber air about it.

"You really are the only one, Mai-san... Won't you please...?"

"Shizuku-sama... I'm thrilled that you'd ask, but I can't possibly..."

"I mean it, though. There really is no one but you, Mai-san. Please..."

Their words burned white-hot. How would this conflict play out...? Reo suddenly found her heart racing, despite still having no clue what they were talking about. At long last, Mai was the one to break the silence.

"...I understand. I know you wouldn't say that unless you truly meant it, Shizuku-sama..."

"So then you mean...?"

"Yes... I... will become your successor, Shizuku-sama."

"I can't possibly thank you enough, Mai-san!!"

And at that, the mood instantly lightened. Shizuku smiled as though a great weight had been lifted from her shoulders, and Mai smiled in return. Just what in the world was going on here...?

What's she so happy about...? God, I can't take much more of this...

Starting to feel lightheaded from the bathwater, finding it difficult to breathe, and irritated that she was still no closer to discovering what it was Mai and Shizuku were discussing, something in Reo finally snapped.

Ker-splooosh!

Reo leapt out of the water with a tremendous splash.

"Just what the hell is going on here, you two?!"

"Eeeee!"

"R- Reo?! Wh- What are you doing here?!"

Reo's entrance had not only taken Mai and Shizuku by surprise, but the other girls enjoying the baths around them let out several shrieks as well. The whole spa fell into brief turmoil...

* * *

"Reo, what's wrong with you?! Scaring everyone in the room like that!"

"But, but...!"

"Now, now, Mai-san, that's quite enough."

Reo had thought for sure she was about to get chewed out by Mai, but out of nowhere Shizuku intervened on her behalf.

"I think it's high time we explain to Reo-san what's been going on."

"Well, I guess if you think we should."

Mai acquiesced to Shizuku's suggestion, although she looked as though she still had a few choice words for Reo.

I still have no idea what's going on... But I owe you big time!

Breathing a silent sigh of relief, Reo turned her attention to Shizuku.

"I want to be honest with you, Reo-san..."

"Y- Yes...?"

Reo's nervousness had cowed her slightly.

"Mai-san has just been named the 50th president of the secret *Black Hair Society* of St. Michael's.

".....Huuuh??" Reo cried out in bafflement, still completely lost.

"Oh, well you see, Shizuku-sama was the 49th president, Reo."

Reo was about to respond, "Yeah, and?" but became distracted by the fact that Mai seemed to be embarrassed for some reason.

So she's going to be the 50th president... Is this really something to get that embarrassed over?

Reo felt like she understood less and less by the minute.

"I honestly can't tell you how happy this makes me."

Shizuku was looking extremely pleased. But in the end, Reo never did have the slightest clue what they were talking about...

* * *

After parting ways with Shizuku at the spa, Reo and Mai headed back home.

"Whooh, a great big bath like that every now and then sure hits the spot, don't you think, Reo?"

"Yeah... Um, I still don't really get what you guys were talking about before, but... Way to go, Mai."

Seeing how happy it had made Shizuku left the impression that this was probably cause for celebration, so Reo went ahead and offered her congratulations.

"Hehehe, thanks, Reo," Mai said, grinning bashfully from ear to ear.

"So... What is this *Black Hair Society* anyway? She said it's some kind of secret society, but what do you do there? C'mon, tell me."

Mai just smirked at Reo.

"I'm afraid I can't do that."

"How come? Why not?"

"Because it's a *secret* society, Reo... Heh, hehehe."

Mai's creepy smile sent a shiver up Reo's spine.

I think maybe... There are some things I'm better off not knowing...

Watching Mai walk on ahead, it seemed Reo had come to realize a number of things that summer of 20XX.

* * *

Several more days later...

"Oh Reo, you know that new spa down by the train station?"

"I'm not an idiot, Eris. Of course I know about it."

"Oh, so you do know... So I heard little kids aren't allowed in there right now."

"...Huh?"

"Well, you see, the way I heard it was there was this little kid saying she was a grown-up who came in by herself the other day, and this little kid was going under water and scaring everyone, and it turned out to be like this huge ordeal."

..... **twitch**

"And so now little kids aren't allowed in there for a while. It's too bad you won't be able to go either, since you're so little."

..... **twitch-twitch**

"Hey, Reo, are you listening to me?"

"Gaaah!! I am *not* some little kid!!"

The End

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