その花びらにくちづけを
コミックマーケット86 おまけ本
A Kiss For The Petals
Comic Market 86 Bonus Story
Caution:

This book has no connection whatsoever to the main story. Any similarity to actual persons or organizations is purely coincidental. The personalities of the characters appearing herein may be exaggerated or deviate from that of the main story. It’s all by design.

As usual, please don’t sweat the minor details and just enjoy the story.
The Working Woman

“Certainly, one Wac Burger combo with a cola, coming right up. Thank you very much.”

For some reason when I smiled, the customer blushed a little. I recalled Eris telling me earlier, “Geeze, how can you show people that precious smile of yours free of charge? You’re practically giving away the store!” I felt thoroughly embarrassed remembering that (Eris does have a tendency to exaggerate...)

As I hurried to prepare the customer’s order, another smile spread across my face. When I first started, I was so unaccustomed to the work, I couldn’t even think about smiling. But now I was pretty used to it... actually, I was very used to it. It was practically second nature. And although it went against the handbook, I had received positive comments praising the “Japanese courtesy” of the speech I used when serving the customers, so the manager had allowed me to continue.

“I appreciate the positive recognition at any rate...”

“Here are the fries for the combo, Shizuku.”

“Thank you.”

Eris and I shared a smile as I took the french fries from her. I then promptly handed them to the customer.

“Thank you for your patience. Here is your Wac Burger combo.”

You see... Eris is currently working at the same restaurant as me. So all I have to do is turn around for us to be together. It makes me extremely happy.

“It did come as a shock, though...”

“It’s too lonesome not being able to spend time with you after school, plus seeing you hard at work kinda made me want to get a part time job too.”

“I still can’t believe she actually went in for an interview just because of that, without telling me...”

However... There was one small problem with all this.

“Shitogi-san! What’re you doing?!”

A loud voice rang out from the kitchen. It belonged to our superior, Nadeko-san. Nadeko-san was in charge of training the new hires, and she had been the one to look after me when I started. At the moment, she was primarily in charge of supervising Eris... (What had Eris done this time...? Haah~)

* * *

Eris had thought working a part-time job would be impossible for someone with such a refined upbringing as myself, and at first I was considerably worried.

“In terms of naiveté though, Eris isn’t all that different from me...”

Every time I heard Nadeko-san’s voice, I got knots in my own stomach. For example...

“Shitogi-san, what do you think you’re doing eating the food you’re making?!?”

“Huuh? I was just giving it a little taste test. Besides, I thought you said the food was free to employees, so don’t the people who work here get to eat it?”
“Why are you putting the cheese and onions for the burgers on top of the french fries?”
“I’m being creative. Come on, boss, doesn’t it look delicious?”
“The product developers at corporate are the ones who come up with that stuff. Please just stick to your job, Shitogi-san.”

“All right, why don’t we try having you serve customers, Shitogi-san.”
“You got it. That’s my specialty.”
“I- Is it now... Just stick to the manual, okay?”
“Oh!”
“Hey, hey, miss, that uniform is adorable. You go to the school next to the station, right?”
“No way, it’s not that cute... Say, do you always work this same shift?”
“Me? Um... I work whatever shift Shizuku is working...”
“Shitogi-san! How long are you going to stand there yakking with the customers?!”

“Haah... That Eris...”
Just thinking about it, Eris had been nothing but trouble for Nadeko-san. It has just gotten to be break time, so I decided to go to the locker room (which doubled as our break room). There sat Nadeko-san, looking utterly exhausted.
“Um... Pardon me...”
“Oh, Kirishima-san... Nice work today.”
“You’ve worked quite hard yourself, Nadeko-san.”
“Yeah, you can say that again. Can I bug you about something?”
“Yes... It’s about Eris, isn’t it?”
I was accustomed to hearing Nadeko-san complain about Eris at this point. As Eris’s girlfriend, I had mixed feelings about it all. (I had caused Nadeko-san a great deal of trouble when I first started as well...) With a forced smile, I lent her my ear (perhaps this would just be about the pains of middle management).

“Good work today.”
With work over for the day, I had changed clothes and was waiting for Eris.
“She’s running awfully late... Perhaps something happened?”
I returned to the kitchen only to find Eris toiling away at something.
“If I put this between these, then it should be a finished Wac Burger... Huh? That doesn’t look right...”
“...Eris?”
“Oh, Shizuku. I was trying to make a Wac Burger, but I don’t think it came out right.”
“Oh? Ah, I see. I believe you have too many pickles.”
“Ohh~ So less pickles then...”
“Um, what are you doing back here this late?”
“Can’t you tell? I’m practicing making the food.”
“You’re what?!”
“It’s all right, you don’t need to worry. I paid for these ingredients with my own money. And I’m going to eat the finished product myself... Oh, or I might give it to Reo.”
“No, it’s not that...”
Why was Eris staying overtime to work on something like this? It was true she had been yelled at, but Eris had worked hard all day today in her own Eris-like way.
“Nnnn... It’s just that when I compare myself to you, I still don’t come anywhere close.”
“But you’ve only just started, Eris. It isn’t fair to compare yourself to me.”
“I know that, but... I really want to learn this stuff fast.”
“Eris...”
“So... I need to do this.”
“What?!”
Asking her to clarify, Eris blushed hard and began speaking rapidly.
“It’s just that, I wanted to use the first paycheck from my part time job to get you a present, just like you did for me.”
“Oh... Eris...”
Her confession simultaneously filled me with both shock and joy. I found myself spontaneously embracing her.
“Sh- Shizuku...”
“Thank you, Eris. Just knowing you feel that way is more than enough to make me happy♪”
“Y- Yeah... But that’s not enough. I need for you to have a real present.”
“Yes, of course, Eris.”
Buying a present for the person you love with your own hard-earned money. I knew exactly how she felt. Even if I told Eris she didn’t need to go to all that trouble, she would do it anyway.
“So like I said already, I need to work harder, now more than ever!”
She wore a look of extreme embarrassment as she spoke, and then went back to cooking.
“Eris... Let me help you.”
“Are you sure you’re okay? It’s gonna be a while before I get out of here.”
“I don’t mind. You can walk me home.”
“Thank you, Shizuku~♪”
“Uh... Ahem.”
“Huh?!”
I jumped at the sound of someone suddenly clearing their throat, and spun around in surprise to see...
“Ah, Nadeko-san! Excellent work today.”
“Same to you... Hehehe, you two really are close, aren’t you?”
“W- Well...”
“You bet we are. Me and Shizuku are super in love♪”

“H- Honestly, Eris...”

“Ugh, you guys are nauseating.”

Eris with no sense of restraint, and me in a sweat; Nadeko-san regarded the both of us looking somewhat amused.

“Don’t stay too late, you two. Kirishima-san, are you good to lock up once you’re done?”

“Of course.”

“I’ve leave it to you then. Thanks again for today... I’m taking off.”

“Certainly. Thank you, as well.”

Still smiling, Nadeko-san went home for the night.

“All right, time to get down to business, Shizuku.”


“And then next come the fries.”

“Hnnn... I really don’t think I’m cut out for this.”

“That has nothing to do with it. Here, just do as I do.”

“But you’re already a vet at this stuff... Argh, I just can’t get the oil to drain right~”

“Do it like this.”

I put my arms around Eris from behind and separated the oil with her.

“There... You see?”

“Yeah... Hehehe, thanks, Shizuku... *smooch*”

“G- Good grief... Do you understand it now, Eris?”

“Yep, now I get it. So what comes next?”

“Now you lightly sprinkle on some salt.”

“Salt... Now where did I put that?”

“Look, it’s right in front of you. Right there.”

As I extended my hand for the salt shaker, Eris reached out at the same time and the two of us touched.

*squeeze!*

“Ah... Honestly, Eris...”

She was gripping my hand tightly.

“Hehehe♪”

“What am I going to do with you... Well, as long as there isn’t anyone else here, I may as well repay you for earlier... *smooch*”

“*chrp* Mmm... Thank you, Shizuku... *chp* mmm... Ahh, Shizukuuu♪”

“Eris, this kissing is all well and good, but we haven’t finished with the french fries yet...”

“Oh yeah... So once I sprinkle on the salt, they’ll be ready... How’s that?”

“They look good to me. Let’s see how they taste.”

“Sure thing. Here, say ‘Ahhh~’:”

“You too, Eris... Here you go.”

We each fed one another a french fry.

“Mmm, delicious♪”
“They really are... You’ve done an excellent job.”
“Thanks. But I owe it all to you... *smooch*”

We each grinned broadly at one another and shared another kiss. Unlike our usual sweet kisses, it tasted ever so slightly of salt... But it was wonderful all the same.

“Here, Shizuku, have some more.”
“Okay, okay. Yes, they really are quite good.”

“Awesome, now I’m all set to become a master of my craft.”
“I’m rooting for you, Eris.”
I’d support my beloved Eris to the ends of the earth. ♪

* * *

“Welcome to WacDonald’s”
Thanks to Eris’s hard work at her nightly training sessions, the number of reprimands she received from Nadeko-san quickly diminished. It wasn’t long before she was able to handle the work as quickly I was. And then, before we knew it, Eris’s payday had arrived.

“Shizuku... Here’s your present, as promised.”
“Thank you, Eris. I’m certain I’ll cherish it.”

She handed me a paper bag. Whatever it was, Eris had bought it with her hard-earned first paycheck. I was certain I would treasure it more than anything.

“Go on, hurry up and open it.”
“Wait just a moment... Let me guess... is it clothing?”
“Yep, and I think they’re absolutely perfect for you.”

What kind of clothes could she have gotten me? I withdrew them from the bag and unfolded them to discover...

“I- Is this... underwear?”
“Aren’t they like, crazy cute? Go ahead, try them on~”
“Eris... I wouldn’t call this underwear...”
“You wouldn’t?”

“This is more like a string!”
“Aww, but I picked them out especially for you...”
“Y- You thought these would be perfect for me...?”

“Plus, you just got done saying you’d cherish them.”
“Yes... I did say that, but... Nnnh...”
“Come on, hurry up and try them on~”
“O- Out of the question... I’m afraid you must forgive me...”

“Wh- She ran away!”

“Though they may be a gift from my beloved Eris, I could never wear something so racy~!”

The End
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