

Every time I See an Alarm Clock I Remember Something Vol 1:

Chapter 1: The Time Traveler That Partially Took My Interest

It's the second day of classes. As a part of my lifestyle, of course I always woke up late. But somehow, it's like this time is really different compared from any other days. It's because I really cannot sleep after all. This isn't an insomnia or something. This is just a natural occurrence. My day would have been peaceful if that girl never came.

I was holding my toothbrush while facing a large mirror. I can see my drowsy weird looking face that time, I tried to wink two times, but then I was shocked.., it's because I still find myself cute and charming after all. But that girl can be twice or trice cuter and more beautiful than me. Yeah right.., now there is someone who can be classified as cuter than me in this house. She said that her name is Airi Ichinose. She's a time traveler; so far from being an alien that I'm expecting. And now, it's kind of unbelievable but, she's staying on my grandma's house together with me.

"Onee-chan.., are you finished already?"

Wow!! That was a sudden call.., Onee-chan? Why is she addressing me like that already.

[[NOTE] the word [Onee-chan] refers to a big sister. It means that Airi suddenly addressed Sora [MC] as her sister.]

"Grr..,"

I felt like irritated again while on the middle of brushing my teeth. She was still on the bath that's why we can have a somehow efficient conversation.

I sigh for a second then I gargled some water after finishing.

Whether you believe it or not, but there have been so many adjustments that came to happen last night. Yes; the night when that time traveler came.



[FLASH BACK]

I was already on the way home after crossing that weird girl. The sun had set already thanks' to her, I'm coming home at this dark hour. The street lights already lighted the entire city. I feel like someone's stalking me..., could it be someone from our class, or perhaps that girl again. I tried to turn my head and looked behind me.

"Hmmp.,"

This is really kind of annoying. I narrow my eyes with a slight head tilt. It's obviously her, that girl who's claiming as a time traveler.

"Hey.., what do you want?"

I asked as I can't help myself. This charade will never be over unless I make a move. Of course I don't want her to reach my grandma's house. Hence, that girl is only hiding from a street light pillar.

"Can I have a place to stay.., please I'm begging you."

"..."

That was too sudden favor to handle. That girl is serious indeed as she bows her head. I think the Japanese traditions is still there even in the future, somehow I felt relieved for some reason. But no matter how much she beg, of course my answer will be a quick:

"No way.., you can't."

I bluntly said to her while walking briskly.

I need to leave that place as soon as possible. She's asking a very hard favor. She really is weird. Are the people on the future that kind of pathetic?

At last.., I took a deep breath as I watches my home in front of me.

"Please..,"

"..."

That voice quite startled me. So she really did followed me all the way here. She's kind of desperate.

Then, so sudden; Grandma came to welcome me for my first day on high school. This is absolutely a wrong timing. She would think that this girl behind me is my friend. No; I don't want a weird friend like that. Well; I may also be weird but, who cares.., That girl just made me disappointed about my expectations that's why I would say that I hate her.

"Welcome home, Sora-chan."

"I'm home."

My Grandma delightfully said to me as I quickly replied. Upon hearing this; I already knew the next scenario that will come up. Of course it's like this:

"Oh is she your friend?.. I'm glad that you've had one on your first day."

Geez, there's nothing I can do about this, okay; it's time to settle things in here.

"Actually, I wouldn't say that she's a friend or anything else. The truth is.., uhmm; I've only met her just a while ago that's why maybe I can definitely call her as a stranger by now."

That could really be the best that I can do. I will deny everything because it really is the truth.

“Oh!! Really; you don’t have a place to stay?”

Grandma absolutely ignored my statement!! This is gonna be over. I know that my Grandma can’t take that kind of situation as nothing. She will do her best to prevent any worse cases as long as she can give her proper assistance. That’s why; I concluded that it’s over now. The flag has been set. That time traveler is declared as a victor.

But anyway; that girl has no shame of herself. She didn’t even know me and my Grandmother on the first place. She’s way too straightforward.

I just let them talk outside as I entered our Japanese style house. I removed the shoes that I’m wearing as I entered and headed to my bed room. Once I opened the door, I quickly dive in to my bed while still holding my bag with a telescope as I closed my eyes.

“I’m so tired...”

I opened my eyes as I thought of what happened a while ago.

“So; what’s gonna happen starting tomorrow.”

That girl, what does she really up to. If she’s a real time traveler, then of course she has a goal of coming in this current time line. She first asked me the exact date today and just by watching the sunset she felt the extreme happiness. Does that mean that the world is in chaos 26 years from now? [sigh] I can’t just think of that anymore. It only makes me feel sick.

I turned my body around and looked at the ceiling while that topic is still written all over my face.

“If I can come and see myself in the future, what and who will I be?”

I just tightly closed my eyes and pressed both of my palms to my cheeks.

“Thinking something like that just makes me worry.”

Thus, someone came to knock the door of my room. Hopefully it’s not that girl. I quickly get up as I slowly look what’s behind it by sneaking the small hole of my door. This is bad! It’s the weird girl again. What should I do this time, will I let her in or not. I have to think fast before she approach Grandma.



In the end I let her in and let her sit on the kotatsu near my bed. There’s nothing that I can do about this that’s why I guess I just need to forcibly enjoy the ride. As to enjoy myself for every once in a while, I tried to tease that weird girl a little.

I kept on glaring at her. More likely, I was trying to convey a message to her that I hate her seeing in my room and this house either.

Her facial expression changed, she was kind of worried. I guess I need to keep this up until she surrender.

[AFTER SEVERAL SECONDS]

“I give up!!!”

I give up.., her expression is as is; nothing have changed since then. I don’t even know that glaring for so long can make your eyes terribly hurt. My eyes turned red as some tears just can’t stop from falling from it. Unexpectedly, the girl was bothered by my unnecessary action.

“Are you alright..., Uhhh, oh, I don’t know your name yet.”

The girl asked so while still bothered of my current state. I wiped out that teary eye of mine as I replied.

“You don’t need to know..”

The girl seemed a little bit lonely upon hearing my answer.

“Setting that aside, why did you came here in the first place.”

After hearing my question, the girl was quite surprised. It seems like she wasn’t expecting that question to suddenly come up.

“I-it’s.., “

Before she reply, I crossed her out with another question.

“You’re a time traveler right? Then tell me what your goal is? Did you came here to pick someone up in order to save your future?”

“It’s not exactly like that. The truth is, my one and only goal of coming in this place is to see my father. I haven’t seen him since I was a child, that’s why I took this once in a lifetime chance to meet and find him. Even seeing his face from a far distance is enough, I’ll be contented with it as long as I can say to myself that I’ve finally met him.”

I suddenly stopped as my eyes wide-opened unknowingly, it’s not that I really cared so much to what she said. It’s just that I remembered a similar situation from her. Somehow that sudden feeling had given me the chills down my spine. It’s feels nostalgic and kind of depressing.

Then I suddenly came back to my senses as I heard her asking for my suggestion; maybe?

“So; what do you think, do you think I can find him in this areas.”

“Wait, How come you’re so sure that he is from this place?”

“Ah, that; it’s because I asked my aunt before leaving. She said that my father came from the same school as you’re enrolled in.”

“Oh; I see. So now you can assume that you can find him on our school right?”

“Yeah I’m positive of it.”

She says so in a cheered up way.

Wait a minute. Why am I having a straight conversation with that girl? Perhaps she took my interest or something? No., no., no., no., no., no., absolutely not. Never; I’m never gonna cooperate with the mess that that girl will do in the near future. I don’t have time to help her with her goal, I’m busy on observing aliens.

“Uhhh.., w-would you..,”

Don’t ever finish what you will say.

“-help me?”

She said it for real. But why am I affected harshly by that? It’s like my other self is pushing me all the way to accept her favor. Why am I thinking about this? I can just bluntly say her that I won’t help, but why am I hesitating like this?

Why___? Why___? Why___? Why___?

Why___?

Why___?

Why___?

Is this some kind of a sympathy for her? Or perhaps; is it for that reason?

I suddenly lowered down my head as I replied.

“It’s okay.”

I don’t know what I’m talking anymore, but when I suddenly saw her face filled with a real and overwhelming smile, I just can’t help myself but to smile back. Somehow; I remember myself from her.

Yeah;

That could be the reason behind that decision.

“By the way; what’s your name?”

I confidently asked this while pretending as a cool character with the help of my smile.

“I’m Airi; Ichinose Airi.”

“So; starting this time, I’m gonna call you Ichinose-san.”

“Okay;”

She said while seemingly convinced.

“Let’s work hard to achieve that goal together; Ichinose-san.”

I said as I held my hand towards her to have a hand shake as a symbol of our agreement.

“So; let’s do our best uhmm. I still don’t know your name yet.”

“It’s okay, I’ll tell you after we shake hands.”

Thus, we shake our hands freely in the air as our covenant commenced.

“So; Ichinose-san, let’s meet again on dinner. I’m preparing the bath.”

“But; what about your name..”

I quickly ignored her last words as I headed down to the bathroom as she watches me still until I close my room’s door and left her there.



The time suddenly runs fast as dinner started. Grandma prepared curry for the four of us. Well; I guess Gramps is having a business trip that’s why he’s not gonna stay home for the time being, but I guess grandma will not be sad just by that. After all; she’s busy for taking care of our literally special guest. I’m gonna taste again one of her best delicacies. Actually Grandma were supposedly an owner of a seemingly popular restaurant in Tokyo, but then she decided to take a rest in her peaceful home. She let her daughters manage that business, and somehow; it’s still popular until now. Given that information, it’s definitely clear that this dish will place me again into cloud nine.

“Here.., Ichinose-san, help yourself.”

Grandma says so as she tries to assess Ichinose-san a little.

“Thank you so much.”

Ichinose-san was suddenly delighted as she take some of the curry together with rice. She tasted it as her facial expression became ever delightful.

“Hmnm, Grandma it’s delicious. By the way; what kind of dish is this?”

So she have no idea what food she’s eating at all. Perhaps curry never existed on the time where she came into, or maybe that dish were totally excluded in their world. Now; it feels like I’m becoming curious about the world that she’s been living for the whole time. So; time travelers could also be interesting I guess.

“Oh; Sora-chan.., you haven’t even touched your food yet. You don’t like it?”

Exactly the moment Grandma said that to me, Ichinose-san happens to face my direction with a wondering facial expression.

Hearing these words directly from Grandma startled me for a bit.

“No, that’s not right! It’s delicious, I’m just thinking of something that’s why I became spaced out. I’m sorry for my bad manners.”

“Sora-chan?”

That word that Ichinose-san said didn’t just startled me for a bit. Hence, it startled me for the worst as I can’t help myself but to shout as a reaction.

“Sora-chan!?”

Sora-chan? How come she calls me by my first name were not even close! Only Grandma and Gramps have the right to address me by that name. We’ve only met for some hours ago yet she addresses me that way?

Thus; her glance was about to show a smile.

“So your name is Sora-chan. Well; I guess that’s a great name right. It literally means sky..,”

“Your right Sora-chan was named by her father.....”

This is bad. It’s like my name became the main topic until dinner time is finished. Their conversation continued as I feel the embarrassment taking over my entire emotion. The only thing that I should do is to quickly finish eating in order to get rid of this nonsense talk.

I quickly eat as fast as I could while these words never stops to play in my mind.

I really hate that girl. I really hate that girl.

“Thanks’ for the food.”

I loudly said it to them as I grabbed both side’s attention. It seemed like they just stopped talking about that embarrassing topic.

“Oh..”

“..”

Surprisingly both of them were quite speechless. Then, I quickly headed to my room as I took the stairs upwards.

“It seemed like something’s bothering her.”

“Grandma, I guess; I’m the reason behind some of it.”

I heard those words coming from them while I’m treading. That’s it! I’m irritated. That girl said that she’s the reason behind some of it, well; is that really correct? Because if I’m the one to answer, I will say that she’s not the reason behind some of it, but for all of it indeed. She’s the real airhead to start with; not me.



And so; I get rid of that topic as fast as I could, but honestly; what is this feeling. It seemed like I’ve lost for something. More apparently; I’ve lost against her. I slowly opened the door with my heads down, I suddenly closed it as I lean. I really can’t understand this feeling. But my guess is, maybe this is the term that they call “jealousy”? Maybe that’s the answer behind it, it’s because the only persons that are left to me are Grandma and Gramps.

I decided to sit on my bed and hold my plushie turtle.

Then, someone suddenly knocked my door.

“Can I come in?”

Just by hearing that voice makes me irritated. It’s that annoying girl again.

“What do you want.”

I said in a seemingly loud voice that can be enough for her to comprehend despite that distance.

“Uhhh, actually Grandma said that I should sleep at that room temporarily.”

My eyes suddenly widened together with some tears that are about to come out as I was about to explode.

Wait!

This isn't right., How come I've reached this kind of negative emotion. Grandma and Gramps never taught me that kind of thing. First; I need to stay calm., this is nothing compared to those days. This should be a piece of cake for me to handle.

I take a deep breath as I finally stayed calm. I stood up, walked straight and opened the door. For now I've only realized that my room was all dark that time. I watched Ichinose-san's worrisome facial expression. It seemed like she's really worried about me, she's weird indeed. I faced her with my eyes half-closed while trying to convey a smile as hard as I could. I was still holding the door that very moment. Why did I only realized this just now?

Ichinose-san is only a girl with a goal that she wants to achieve. It doesn't really involve such personal matters regarding the two of us. I'm sure that this is also hard for her, and yet she decided to go on just to achieve her certain ideal. She made a very hard decision to herself, after all I guess time traveling isn't that simple to attain. I really don't know; maybe she had a tough training just to be qualified of using a time machine.

At first look, I think she really is desperate. For a sixteen years old girl like her to travel alone to a different world in which anyone from her generation have never witnessed is certainly a gamble regarding to her safety. Perhaps Grandma is really fated to meet Ichinose-san.

"It's okay; we can share with the same bed for now right?"

After hearing what I've said, Ichinose-san smiled wryly.

"It's okay for you to enter."

"Thank you...,"

She formally said together with a bow of respect. As I heard this, she slowly entered my room while I switched on the lights.

“Again; pardon for the intrusion.”

“You don’t need to be so formal.”

I said this while holding a grin on my face. Somehow, I guess she’s kind; at least.

“Sora-chan, I really wanted to make an apology. I’m sorry.”

“Well; I guess you need to stop calling me by my first name before I accept that apology.”

My grin were still as the right side of my eyebrows suddenly curled.

“So; what should I call you then?”

“Hana-san is fine.”

“Ah.., so I’ll call you by your surname starting this time. “Hana-san”; how’s that sound?”

“Yeah; it’s better to leave it that way.”

Just a while ago, I guess I unknowingly learned a lesson personally to myself. Ichinose-san is just a simple girl. She may be weird at my first impression, but I guess she could be an exception in this state because she came from a different time. I learned that jumping to conclusions can just make simple things worse.

After that, it feels like it’s a bit heartwarming to myself that I’ve come to unexpectedly learn things from time to time. At least I’m sure to myself that I’m still growing up no matter what.



We've finally prepared blankets for each of us as I turned off the light. It's about time to sleep in order to have a given strength for tomorrow morning. I still have school, it really is a long way to go before this school year will finish. Tomorrow is just the second day yet there are already so many things that happened regardless if it's involved with studying.

We're lying down the same bed. It's really unparticular that Ichinose-san is never saying a single word from the moment we rest our bodies. The scene is quite silent. Even if Ichinose-san is well behaved while sleeping together with me, I still can't get to sleep. Perhaps I'm not really comfortable with this kinds of situation, honestly, this is the first time that I've slept with someone. I tried to look at her to know if she's asleep already.

I first assumed that she might be sleeping well because of that properly-behaved condition. But I was mistaken, she isn't that kind of drowsy at all. Perhaps she's just reminiscing about the past or somehow thinking about her plans for tomorrow.

This silence is getting to the point of boredom. I need to be released from this atmosphere.

That's it;

An idea suddenly came up to my mind. I suddenly came up for a reasonable question that can be linked to my daily alien observation. Yes; what you heard is right. I still haven't given up that there are extraterrestrials.

"Hey Ichinose-san I have a question."

Ichinose-san turned her neck towards me with a curious facial expression.

“In the year that you came from, are there already big discoveries about aliens that have given a sufficient proof?”

Upon hearing so, she then faced the ceiling as she tried to remember regarding my question if there really is.

“Uhhh. I’m not sure but, I think there isn’t. So far the scientists and experts from my timeline hasn’t given proper attention to the concept of aliens. Maybe I guess that they had given up for finding strong evidences in accordance to those. First of all, scientists and experts focused on the development of the LEAF project that tackles about the...,”

Ichinose-san suddenly stopped from explaining as her eyes slightly widened for about half a second.

Then I decided to turn my body to the opposite direction from her. That action somehow bothered Ichinose-san.

“Uhhmn.., is something wrong. I’m sorry because I suddenly stopped.”

I slightly bended my neck to look at her.

“Nope; I heard what I need to know, thanks.”

Then, I turned again my face to the opposite direction from her as I tightly cover myself with my blanket with my eyes half closed.

I feel sad about it.

[END OF FLASHBACK]



And soon that sudden agreement happened. I'm already wearing my uniform as I was combing my hair. I guess this length of hair is the best for me, this shoulder length haircut makes me comfortable especially when summer comes.

Summer huh.., believe it or not, that's my most hated season every year. I just can't stay calm when summer heat comes to pass by. Though that season are composed of best days to enjoy things such as insanely great adventures, it's just unnatural for me to handle such haze.

Wait, why am I already thinking of summer. This is just the second day of classes yet I'm already thinking about those things. I tried to look at the calendar posted on the wall near the main door's entrance. The exact date was April 07, 2015.

Why did I suddenly had a feeling that something's wrong?

Ah..,

I get it. That is the date that I exactly said to Ichinose-san yesterday. Wow! Perhaps I time traveled to the past. Of course not!! I'm just mistaken from what I've answered to her.

But really I've come to realize, why did I answered the wrong date to her despite the reason that I'm making my daily observation about aliens? What's make it worse is that yesterday was the first day of classes, I should have never forgotten that exact day regarding it.

Sigh* somehow I'm being carried away with excitement upon seeing an alien for the first time. Thinking about that makes me again frustrated to myself. How come she'd became a time traveler instead of an alien that I'm expecting of?

"Hana-san; look."

Upon hearing that girl's voice behind me, I can't help myself but to look back.

What?

She's wearing a school uniform same as mine? What is she really plotting. She is way too overboard rather than calling her as well prepared. So that's the reason why she took a bath so early in the morning.

"Sora-chan, you'll be her guide at school okay?"

Hearing that from Grandma makes me worry as my eyebrows curled together with my displeased facial expression.

"O-Okay;"

What else can I say; really.

I just can't really imagine Ichinose-san wearing a school uniform the same as mine. Her cheerfulness is kind of doubled this day. Happiness is printed all over her face. Well; at least she didn't address me as her big sister this time. I guess I don't have a choice, we need to go or else we'll be late.

At least; I think not probably this day. It's because I miraculously woke up so early in the morning. It's not like I'm complimenting Ichinose-san about that. I will never ever praise her or else she'll turn into a spoiled girl.

I suddenly closed my eyes as I sigh and step outside with my complete uniform together with my bag and my long telescope.

I turned around and faced Grandma with a smile.

"I'm going now."

“Okay; be safe you two.”

“Yes.”

The two of us answered at the same time as we took a stroll heading to our school.

By the way; after all this time I haven't formally introduced myself yet. I am Hana Sora. Actually that name given to me is a bit embarrassing. It's because it literally means “Sky Flower”. Sora means “sky” while Hana means “flower”. What makes that name completely embarrassing is every time a new school year happens and each of our names are called by our teacher. For most of the time, each moment my teachers who have encountered that name for the first time happens to tease me. In the end I always became the class's first topic to talk about.

But that feeling unknowingly became familiar for me. Probably I became used to it. Just like what happened yesterday, despite my name became again the introduction of class, I surprisingly never felt that kind of embarrassed compared from before.

This is my first year on high school. Hopefully there's something new and exciting that will happen on my life this time. I suddenly felt dissatisfied as my facial expression can clearly visualize what I'm feeling. It's because I've thought, after all there's one thing that is absolutely considered as new in my life, and that one is about Ichinose-san. I was really hoping for an alien yet a time traveler came. She's really kind of annoying especially that time when she ruined my expectations about her. And the worst of it is that I agreed with her on finding her father.

I have a fine distance from her while we are still heading to school. She was so happy, to be specific I can just say that she's on cloud nine just by watching these pretty plain environment that I've been crossing for almost every day. I carefully looked at her face from that distance, and I've felt like her face reminds me of someone. Perhaps I've already met her on the past, nothing is impossible about that for the reason that she's a time traveler right?

Yeah; there's no doubt of it, her face looks familiar.

Ichinose-san smiled wide as she watches the blue sky. For my own point of view, that scenery is nothing but a cliché', but for her, it's like that sky is her first and last treasure of experiencing this timeline.

While she's just standing still and thoroughly staring at that sky, I decided to walk closely to her.

"Is this view that good getting to the point that it's turning yourself to be obviously obsessed just by looking at it?"

I questioned her while still walking.

Then she faced my direction; while still smiling of course.

"Yes; for me this is one of the best scenery on my entire life. Now I can say to myself that I have no regrets with my decision. Returning to this time is the best."

She say's so as a reply to my question. Of course I really can't understand her after all, but the only thing that I'm sure, is that I took pity for her. Maybe that future is way too lonely that it also saddens me.

"Hey; Hana-san, those out there are flowers right?"

Ichinose-san said while she's pointing at those sunflowers.

"Yes; those are."

Wait. This is also the same place where her time machine landed. That machine still right there. Maybe the sunflowers in front still kept it hidden for all this time. And somehow, I think the owner of that field hasn't found it yet.

"Your time machine is over there right? Better try to check it out?"

After hearing what I've said, Ichinose-san runs fast to that site.

"Wait!!"

It's not like I'm kind of interested about the concept of time machines, I'm just curious of it.



My experience with this girl is really the worst. Even if we left home so early, still we were late. She began doing things regarding her time machine, I can't even comprehend on what's she's doing. That's why, it led me into boredom. It's like she's doing her maintenance to that time machine where it took for about an hour before she finish. Of course we'll be late because of that. I can't even have a will to leave her on that state because of my agreement with Grandma.

Such a drag. This is really a hassle. The two of us are running wildly as I watches the school's wide entrance.

Whew..!!

Fortunately we still made it. But I am way too exhausted because of that. I'm already tired even if the classes haven't started yet. So my first period became P.E huh.., and the lesson happens to be about running. Both of us were breathing heavily, I can't say that I'm the one behind of it, it's because she's the one who stayed so long at that site. I only reminded her about her time machine and that's it; that's why it's absolutely not my fault.

"H-Hana-sa., I t-think it's your faul-t because you reminded me about my t-time machine."

She says so why still breathing heavily with exhaustion all over her body.

She's dumbfounded, it makes me irritated. So she's blaming me after she stayed right there for about an hour.., this makes me feel sick. She's so fortunate, even though she went too overboard and really makes me angry at her, I just can't make a certain counter because I'm going to be late.

That's right;

I'm the only person that's going to be late.

"Hey; Ichinose-san, have you already enrolled in this school?"

"Huh?"

Upon saying that simple "huh" as her answer in a form of a question, I became certainly sure to myself that she haven't registered yet. I can't admit it to myself, but after knowing that, I felt kind of happy. This is the countercharge that I'm expecting from all her debts to me.

I suddenly turned around as I smiled sinisterly against her.

At last; she found her consequence.

"Bye; Ichinose-san..."

After saying so; I treaded to the freshmen's school building and headed to the second floor where my classroom is located. Ichinose-san just can't make further steps to follow me because she's kind of afraid if the faculties found out that she's not enrolled.

I entered my room and seated at the last seat located nearby the window. I watched her from that spot with my cheeks resting on my palm. Ichinose-san's standing still, and then she looked to the ground; and left in a matter of seconds. She's kind of depressed, well; she deserves it. This really sounds like I don't care anymore no matter what reaction Grandma could have, but rather I thought that she'll never talk about this to Grandma. It's because if she does, then my agreement with her will be over.

Of course she's smart enough to also come up to that conclusion. I'm her only hope if it comes to having interactions to any students in this school, that's why I'm relaxed that she'll never tell anyone at home about this.

“Hey; hey.., did you heard about the rumors, they said that there’s going to be a late enrollee on our class.”

“Wait.., is that person a boy or a girl?”

“Actually I’m not really sure; but probably it’s a boy.”

“Why do you say so?”

“No reason..,”

“Stop making fun okay?”

That’s what one group of my classmates have been talking about. Ehh.., so there’s going to be a late enrollee. Hopefully it’s not Ichinose-san. But I think that topic is quite cliché’ all this time. That new enrollee will just be another boring one.

I’m sure of it.



The first period is about to start. Gladly I still made it. I wonder what Ichinose-san’s doing now, I’m just curious of the stupid things that she’ll do just to kill some time.

“I wonder who that new enrollee is..”

That is still the topic for this early morning, the class just can’t get over with it..., this is kind of annoying, I just hope that this will be over. How come this class is still focused on that boring topic. What would that new enrollee do in order to change this daily life of mine? Of course

there isn't. That's why I came up to a conclusion that everything doesn't matter anymore. I just don't care; that's all.

"Okay class; the homeroom is going to start."

That was from our homeroom teacher speaking in front of our class.

"-But first; we have a late enrollee. Please come in..,"

I didn't particularly look on what's happening, I just kept on staring at the room's window. This is the first time that I have taken this seat, that's why it feels kind of new and different. The scene that I'm in is like a way of appreciating the world. The view beyond that window is great that it enthralled me; making my attention fully diverted. Well; perhaps that scenery is much more worth watching than that late enrollee's formal introduction.

"I'm Kyouhei Koudai; I initially came from Shiori but suddenly transferred here because of my parent's work. I'm happy to meet you all."

Instantly; that name grabbed my senses as I quickly as I can comprehend. That name is obviously an interesting one. It's because I've known someone with the exact name as him during my first half of middle school before we transfer to Kyoto.

I can't help my eyes to be wide-opened as I quickly looked in front where that late enrollee is having his formal introduction. This is one worst timing, it's because he was bowing his head that time that's why I can't even see his face.

Not for long, he slowly lifted his head and stand still. It matched.., that Kyouhei Koudai that I've known is the way I'm exactly seeing through that late enrollee. Perhaps this time I could admit to myself that I'm wrong. That new student isn't a boring one, he's a little interesting.

At last; this is something new that' gonna change my life. Kyouhei Koudai is my middle school friend with the same interest as mine, he is also doing his daily observations regarding any signs of extraterrestrial occurrences. To sums things up; he is considered to be a type of person whom I can get along with.

This feels nostalgic; I still remembered our last summer and how hard the two of us get through for each of our farewells on the train station.

This time I may say to him the words – “Welcome Back.”

Kyouhei-san finished his formal introduction as our homeroom teacher erased his written name in kanji on the wide black-board.

Kyouhei-san finally looked around for an available seat as he can't help himself but to have to face my direction. Fortunately, the seat right on my front is still free. I guess that is really a perfect spot for the two of us. That way, I'm sure that we can look back with the stories of each of our past since we part ways.

Finally, our eyes met..., but it's like he doesn't recognize me at all as it took for him to straightly walk forward while looking downwards until he reaches his seat right in front of me. I was straightly looking at him, perhaps that's the reason why he suddenly looked down the floor. Why couldn't he recognize me at all? I was merely expecting for him so say something to me. Does my looks really changed compared back then, the only difference that I can see compared from before is my shoulder length haircut. Honestly I decided to trim my hair short right after we part ways because I found out to myself that it's kind of distracting especially in summer.

There's no other thing that have changed except for that! So; how come. Whether it's quite embarrassing but, even the size of my breasts haven't changed at all despite my normal height! I'm a high school student right now, but that doesn't mean that I've changed from who I really am right?

Thus, the first period seriously started without the two of us having even a simple conversation.

This is starting to become awkward before I knew it. My head is resting right at my palm as I'm taking a glance at him. It's not like he's gonna see me from this perspective, it's just that my classmates would have doubt about me regarding that continuous unnecessary action. If I keep on looking at him, my classmates would suspect that I have some direct feelings with him. Which is; certainly not that thing that I wanted them to misinterpret. I have no feelings for him after all; I'm just interested.

Lunch break was a bit of a sudden. I never even remembered what happened during those lecture hours. I'm way too distracted by his presence. As a new student, of course my classmates will look after him to have a useless little chat until they use all of that free time. This is clearly not a right time to confront him.

As I was heading towards the shades of the tree to have my box lunch that Grandma prepared, I felt like I've forgotten someone or something.

Yeah right, it seemed like I've forgotten about her. It seemed like I've forgotten about Ichinose-san. I wonder what she's doing, have she already eaten lunch?

I guess this is the right time to look for her, but really; where should I start?

Ah...,

I suddenly have a guess where she will go inside this quadrilateral shaped school. A perfect place for her eyes to take the deepest appreciation.



I'm certainly right. This is a perfect place for a total tourist to go if it comes to attractions. Without a doubt; this season is spring. The temperature is just right, it's not so cold; yet it's not so warm. Despite the fall season happens to be my favorite one, spring also leads me into tranquil state. A fresh breeze comes by together with the delightful scent and aroma that came from those petals. Yeah right; those petals that have been carried along every time a strong winds comes by. Those pink petals that symbolizes spring as well as the entire country of Japan.

It's the cherry blossom [sakura] trees that have completely enthralled her.

I was watching a partially interesting scenery.

"A scene of a beautiful girl under the shades of the sakura trees. The girl was eating her grandma's prepared box lunch as her face is obviously conveying how good and delicious that food is."

Each of those pink petals are kept on falling down the ground, and whenever a strong wind passes by, those petals happens to spread over. The scent of those petals are so pleasant for anyone's smell. In which; that girl has given a radiating aura, it's definitely clear that she's enjoying that moment.

I came to approach her while walking slowly.

"Hey; Ichinose-san,"

She face my direction from a seemingly far distance as she heard my slightly light-hearted voice. Seems like she didn't took my arrogance in a serious method, Ichinose-san still faced me with a smile.

"Isn't this view one of the greatest?"

I questioned her in a cool approach; maybe?

“Hmmh..”

She says so as she nodded. Am I getting used to her? Or like, maybe I'm only trying to find for someone who can I talk with during lunch. If so; then could this mean that I need her? Does this mean that I'm alone? Does this mean that I don't have friends? Does this mean that I'm a loner?

Who cares really..., honestly; I'm not sad at all. Some people are trying to say that if you are alone, then you're probably sad and wants to find a friend that can hang out with, is that really true? Because for me, being alone isn't lonely. I'm alone not because I don't have friends, it's because I love it and free on doing all that I want. No one will care for me, and no one will hate me. That's right; I may want to find someone to talk with sometimes, but that doesn't mean that I'm lonely if I'm alone. I enjoy being alone..., yeah; I enjoy every second of it.

But this time, it's like I'm having a different mood. I was surprised even to myself. Maybe I could say that this time traveler partially took my interest.

“Let's eat together; Ichinose-san.”

“Yes;”

Probably she wasn't that affected after she found out that her first day of her mission would have a failed resolution. I think there's so much time left for her.

“Ichinose-san., are you not upset because your first day of searching for your father would probably be unsuccessful?”

“Of course I'm a little upset, but we can't help it right? First of all it's my fault because I haven't looked forward to it. It's my fault because I haven't enrolled right? But tomorrow is always a beginning, I sure that someday I'll see him.”

Where does that optimism come from. She's truthfully smiling while saying those words that time. Well somehow, it's kind of weird but I also believe that she'll see her father.

I close my eyes with a smile while my face is pointed to the ground. Then I opened my eyes and looked up the sky as I confidently said.

"I believe that you can do it Ichinose-san, it's because you're a time traveler. I'm sure that you have plenty of time."

Ichinose-san averted her eyes from me after hearing those words coming from mine. Then she also looked to the ground with her eyes half-closed;

Thus unexpectedly she smiled while the sakura petals were still falling.

"You're right, I don't need to worry about it."

Afterwards the topic had suddenly changed.

"Hey; Hana-san, can you talk about me other things that you know about sakura trees?"

"Do you know that the speed at which the sakura petals fall is supposedly five centimeters per second?"

Probably; actually I'm not really sure from what I've heard. I only knew something about it from watching anime.

"Really..,"

But her reaction seemed a way too overboard.

And thus, our conversation continued observing ourselves seemingly enjoying the talk. For what I think, that scenery could be compared to the word “fun”. This happens again after somehow a long time. And that moment reminded me of Kyouhei-san.

Right; it’s exactly like this. The fun that I’m feeling each time I’m having a conversation with him is exactly like this. More likely Ichinose-san and Kyouhei-san are in common with each other. Perhaps I may also call Ichinose-san as a “friend”.



The afternoon session was about to start as I was heading to my class from the rest room. Ichinose-san could really be related to Kyouhei-san. Perhaps Kyouhei-san is Ichinose-san’s real father!!!

Of course not.

Sigh*

It’s kind of weird but I think someone’s staring at me. I can really sense it as I just can’t stay calm.

Wait.., a student is like glaring at several distances in front of me. I was continuously walking and tries to ignore him, then when I was about to cross, that student suddenly spoke.

“Hana-san; can I speak to you for a moment.”

That boy knows my name as it startled me. What did I do to him? Not that I’m scared of that. If he have something he wants to talk about then I’m free to say so if I want to or not. And by judging my personality by myself of course I will decline. But I think answering him wouldn’t make sense that’s why I just ignored his presence.

I don’t care if he knows my name. The only thing for sure is that he’s going to be a trouble.

But suddenly, I unknowingly looked back.

I was starting to be sarcastic just by looking his weird face. I was showing a totally unsatisfied facial expression.

Another weird person who'll cling on my daily life; I guess.

It's like he's overdoing a pitiful facial expression getting to the point that it's irritating. He's not cute at all, it doesn't even make my heart pound a little; hence, it makes me feel awkward.

"Please don't ignore me."

He suddenly said it as fast as he could.



There it goes. Before I knew it, I was behind the school building, I was alone with him.

What's going on?

This is just the second day of school..., right? This is such a big mess that I've gone with. This might be even worse compared to my agreement with Ichinose-san. This is the best place for most of the students to c-confe....

Absolutely not., hopefully my face didn't turn red. I need to stay calm., that's all.

"Ichinose-san., about that lunch."

About that lunch.., what's that supposed to mean..? Is he making things up in order to make a move or something?

"Who is that.., "

What?

"W-Who is that..."

This is certainly no fun at all. He can't even finish speaking, it's just like the first time I met Ichinose-san. And clearly that uncertain action led to my sudden disappointment. He need to clearly speak or else I'll leave him.

"W-Who.."

That's it..!!

"Okay, I'm leaving. I'll be late from school so.."

"Wait!"

Wow! He suddenly crossed, perhaps this is a serious conversation to talk about.

"We can just go together."

What did he mean by.., <<we can just go together>> I can't get him at all.

"So for now, I want to know who that girl is."

He quickly says so while scratching his head with his eyes averted from me.

I finally understands his objective.

I took a long sigh.....,

“What does that supposed to mean..”

Upon hearing those from him with an annoying facial expression, I can finally breathe any further, and it's like he's not satisfied by my reaction because it only means that I'm relieved for knowing that he's not gonna confess to me. I know that he assumed that long sigh as an insult. I really don't have interest in a guy like him. And if somehow he really did confess to me, of course I'll bluntly dump him. I would never risk my life to someone whom I've only just met., really; who is the fool who will say yes under that situation.

And so I continued...,

“So you drag me all the way here to know about Ichinose-san.”

“So her name's Ichinose-san huh..,”

He said with his furrowed brows and narrowed eyes while pressing his lips together.

So he took quite interest on Ichinose-san. Ichinose-san is without a doubt like an elegant damsel in distress. For sure once she enrolled she's going to be popular. And later maybe an Ichinose-san fan club will be born. Thanks' to her she saved me from this weird student.

“Say Hana-san, in which class is she in?”

“She doesn't take classes..”

That's student's face seemed a bit surprised at first, but then he suddenly felt dissatisfied as if I'm lying to him.

"Hey.."

"I'm telling the truth.., she forgot to enroll in this school."

"Please.... stop making fun of me,"

He's certainly begging... This is kind of fun in a different point of view. Time to enjoy this opportunity.

"You know, whether you believe me or not but it really is the truth. You can go and see her under the shades of the sakura trees if you want. If you have the will to ditch class then do so and try to observe her if she enters a classroom."

He seemed slightly convinced by my straightforward answer as I turned around and heads to my class.

"..."

He's suddenly at loss for words as I suddenly remembered one very important detail in accordance to the girl which he took interest in.

After I commenced for about two steps, I turned around again as I faces his unknowingly blank facial expression.

I smiled as I make a sinister-like facial expression. More likely I possesses the characteristics of a smiling villain that time as I said.

“Do you want to know her most important secret.., she’s not yet enrolled because she just came here... literally to this worldline. In other words, she’s a time traveler.”

“-fu fu fu.”

Those words of mine were suddenly replaced by a little laughter.

“You’re really enjoying this.. Please be serious.”

I was merely expecting that reaction. A so very dumbfounded reaction coming from a dumbfounded boy. Of course I’m really enjoying this. This is the first time that I’ve said a truth were in it is absolutely treated as a joke. It’s certain that no one will believe upon my statement. Even if I try to push it over to him, still he’ll never believe. That is also the same as before, just like my middle schoolmates who never took my statement about aliens in a serious way.

“So.., I need to go.”

Actually I was already walking away from him while saying those. I left him totally disappointed..., and that disappointment had given me joy.



And so; the afternoon session began. As our teacher comes in, that student hurriedly entered while still panting. So this is the reason why he knew my name, I don’t even recognize his presence although were in the same class. I don’t even know his name, not even his initials.

I think maybe he knew me despite my lack of presence is because of my weird name that happens to be the first topic on our class.

So; at least everything’s clear from now on. I guess I will recognize him starting today. So those words that he said “We can just go together” was meant like this.

He was holding a tight glance at me since the class started. It's kind of annoying, getting to the point that I can't take it. His gaze just can't keep me still, but I decided to not show him that kind of attention, it's obvious that he'll do even more of that if I show him that I'm too affected. In the end I just ignored him.

But really, he isn't the right person who needs to be given attention with. What I need to comprehend is the reason of Kyouhei-san why he still keeps on ignoring me. Am I that different compared from before, he almost removed my existence in his life though we were meant to be friends.

This isn't fun at all.



The class was suddenly over just like that. Huh., I'm tired again., wait,

I was watching Kyouhei-san quickly leaving the room. Is he really ignoring me on purpose? If it is., then I won't let him. He get out of the classroom as I quickly stands up from my seat and tries to follow his footsteps. He was treading, he's really quick, and somehow... it really makes me feel bad. It irritates me...if he don't want to be friends with me then I'll leave him. It's not that I really care so much about our friendship, it's just that I can't really stay calm as long as we haven't confront with each other.

Whatever his reason will be, I'll take it no matter what.

"Kyouhei-san!!"

I shouted his name while we were in the school's hallway.

He quickly looks back., tried to find the direction where that voice come from.

And so., he looked at me.

At last; this is the confrontation that I'm waiting since the class started.

But what's this.., I was suddenly at loss for words. What will I say to him?

"..."

He was quite speechless while his eyes were kept averted from my face. More likely he was looking down with his head tilted.

"Uhhmm.."

"-have you forgotten about me?"

Upon hearing the words that I've said, he suddenly smiled as his mouth opened a little. Perhaps he's waiting for my approach? Really..., is that what it really is? Maybe he doesn't have the will to confront me.

"So it's really you Hana-san."

"huh..,"

So he really have some doubts about that. Well; at least I'm relieved that he's still a friend of mine.

I walk nearby him. Then I slightly hit him by my elbow..,

"Why did you ignored me all along."

"Uhhmmnh.., that; it's because I'm really not used on approaching other people especially those who looks like a friend of mine or somehow a person whom I know."

"-and why's that?"

After I crossed him, he suddenly averted his eyes from me and seemed a bit embarrassed. It's like he is hesitating to reply on my question.

"I-It's because; [sigh*] how could I explain this. It happened during my last year on middle school. I happen so see my old friend and quickly welcomed her. That's not all, actually I invited her to my house and play video games. Then suddenly she refused, and somehow it's like her voice changed."

Kyouhei-san stopped; then he continued.

"Do you know what that mean?"

"..."

I can't answer. I really can't comprehend from what he's saying.

"I've only misinterpreted that person from someone I know. What do you think about that?! And unfortunately that person whom I mistook for someone else is you Hana-san. I was totally embarrassed of myself that time, that's why, probably it's the reason why I can't approach you at all. Well; it's thanks' to you because you initiatively came to talk to me."

That was a very unparticular explanation behind it. Well; not like I care about that now. Finally my first mission is over. I can't wait for tomorrow.., hopefully it's going to be interesting just like the good old times.

"Hey; Kyouhei-san.., are you still interested in aliens? You know; I'm still making my daily observation regarding it, well I don't have evidences yet but somehow I can call myself as productive."

"A-About that Hana-san; can we talk tomorrow, It's because mom really wants me to quickly head home, you know; I'm gonna help her on transferring our things."

He said while his face and his eyes were pointed to the ground. He seemed a bit lonely.

“O-Okay;”

He’s too blunt; maybe? But still, I’ll respect that decision of his, who am I to interfere with his personal life?

“Let’s just walk together until we part ways okay?”

“Okay;”

Once I agreed, we strolled together, and after reaching the school’s wide entrance, I suddenly think about Ichinose-san.

That’s right, Ichinose-san said that she’ll wait for me after school. She’s supposedly still waiting for me from the sakura trees landscape.

“Oh, Kyouhei-san, I forgot something, you can go on first. Let’s finish our conversation tomorrow okay?”

“Well; yeah. See you tomorrow, Hana-san.”

“Same to you..,”

As I said this, I was walking away from him while heading to the sakura trees spot inside the campus.



I was watching again a beautiful scenery from a beautiful girl. It’s really funny, how come she can stay still at that same spot for about eight hours? She’s impressive, she didn’t even get bored despite that same view. It’s because for me, even if the cherry blossom flower watching is really a beautiful sight, I can still admit to myself that I can’t stay there for hours,

perhaps after an hour pass by, I may be bored getting to the situation where I will fall to deep slumber. Somehow, that resolution never happened to Ichinose-san. That's why I did say that she's impressive.

I came closely to approach her....

"Oh.., you really is still here Ichinose-san."

"Actually I fall asleep right after you go to your class, this place later makes me feel bored. But it really feels good. The fresh air and the spring breeze feels great."

I suddenly become dissatisfied. I take back my compliments regarding Ichinose-san. She isn't really impressive. So she also fell asleep just like the way I would feel huh..,

"Let's go home Ichinose-san."

"Yeah; that would be great."

She replied as she nods while smiling.

"I wonder what Grandma will cook this time."

"She won't give you any.."

"No.., she can't mean it right?"

And so; we walked together heading to our home. Life is really full of surprises, I guess I can say to myself that I'm wrong. This life of mine will never be boring, even if I mostly became dissatisfied of things and life events, still; there are quite some new and interesting just like this day. Probably I can conclude to myself that this day is great.

I looked at Ichinose-san's ever cheerful face. Then I said to myself...

She's a time traveler that partially took my interest.

And so; the next mission will begin.

----- END OF CHAPTER 1 -----