

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

Chapter 3: I Really Hate Alarm Clocks!

Alarm clocks; such annoying things. Why would humans create a bothersome device? They said that its purpose is for you to wake up on the time that you desire. It would just ring whenever you set its timer..., and when that happens, I would say that it's beyond troublesome. You'll be forced to stretch out your muscles that you really don't want to move in the first place. Do you know why...? It's only to stop that loud unpleasant ringing sound! Alarm clocks are most likely used so that the person who set its timer will never be late from school or work or other appointments. Actually it's a thing that most lazy people relies on., so it also implies for me after all. But no matter how lazy I am, I will never ever rely on any alarm clocks. That device will just ruin my entire day, it will force me to wake up, in other words, it'll force me to change my mood. I'm not really fond of things like that.

Though its purpose is something very important for a high school student like me, in which it'll prevent me from being late, still; I'll never rely on it. Those things are only used by the scaredy-cats who's afraid to be late and scolded by their teachers. I'm not a kind of person like that. "Sleeping" is better than "Studying".

After all "Studying" is a combination of two words. Those words are "Student" + "dying".

"Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnnggggggggg!!!!!!! - Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnnggggggggg!!!!!!! - Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnnggggggggg!!!!!!!"

What was that sound? An extremely irritating sound that plays continuously inside my head that is slowly making my ears numb.

"Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnnggggggggg!!!!!!! - Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnnggggggggg!!!!!!! - Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnnggggggggg!!!!!!! - Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnnggggggggg!!!!!!! - Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnnggggggggg!!!!!!! - Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnnggggggggg!!!!!!! - Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnnggggggggg!!!!!!!"

That sound..., an absolutely annoying sound coming from an absolutely annoying thing. Honestly this consistent sound is starting to kill me softly. Please don't tell me that it's the device that I hate the most. What a very bothersome loud sound...,

"Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnngggggggg!!!!!!!!!"

It's still playing nonstop....,

"Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnngggggggg!!!!!!!!!"

What's happening....,

"Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnngggggggg!!!!!!!!!"

This really has no end....,

"Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnngggggggg!!!!!!!!!"

Just shut up! Already!!!

"Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnngggggggg!!!!!!!!!"

I said shut up!!!

"Kriiiiiiiiiinnnnnnnnnnngggggggg!!!!!!!!!"

Will you please....,

"Stop!!!!!"

As I shouted, I quickly get up just to kill that very irritatingly super troublesome and extremely bothersome device. The ringing stopped the same time as the alarm clock falls to the ground. This is just what I said a while ago...., the terrible effect of the worst invention ever created. Now for sure my entire day is ruined!!!

Just who's the person behind that alarm clock? For sure it's Ichinose-san..., she really doesn't care about by good night rest. And seriously..., it's only 6:03AM yet the clock already rung its alarm. I can say that she's beyond troublesome compared to what trouble the alarm clocks can bring. For sure I'll really get mad at you Ichinose-san once I found you.

I quickly get up and opens my door. And heads to Ichinose-san's new room which is right next from mine. I strongly knocked her door while my hair is still really messed up. I'm really mad..., really really mad.

A loud sound was produced by my strong knocking...,

"Ichinose-san!!! I know you're in there!!!"

"Sora-chan?"

Upon hearing that voice coming from Grandma..., I suddenly stayed calm. I looked at her while she's standing near the steps of the stairs. For sure she's bothered about my loud voice.

"What's wrong?"

I just came back to my senses..., so that anger comes from me being spaced out. Now..., I'm thinking to myself, why did I do such nasty and arrogant actions? That could seriously be the foul effects of the alarm clocks that's why I really hate them. Just in an instant it totally changed my mood as I was really out of character. Alarm clocks really are scary things...

"Where's Ichinose-san?"

I questioned., I'm sure that Ichinose-san isn't inside her room anymore for the reason that she hasn't responded even if I really knocked the door hard.

"Airi-chan..., she left already. She said that there's something that she'll do for this so early time of the day. She also said that she knew that you'll follow her."

"Huh..,"

I really don't understand. Is her task that urgent for her to wake up so early? She also have the intent of making me follow her..., it's kind of fishy.



Guess I've got no other choice..., I entered the bathroom, and I was quite surprised because my bath is already prepared, there could be a possibility that Grandma was the one who prepared it. But in this case, I'm sure it's Ichinose-san. She exactly prepared the bath for me.

I soaked my entire body at the warm water from the bathtub. It's kind of rejuvenating, it really feels great. By the way, from up until now, I'm still thinking of Ichinose-san. Perhaps she'd overheard what I said regarding the maintenance of her time machine.

But wait.., I didn't recall on saying that aloud in the first place. Does she possess psychic powers getting to the point that she can read my thoughts? Or else..., did I really said it like anyone could hear. It's kind of hard doing an assumption...

Anyway; I must hurry up so that I can follow Ichinose-san.., no matter how serious she is..., I'll never gonna let her be in exception towards her misdeeds to me. Does it really take a use of a stupid gadget just to force me to wake up so that I can help her? Of course not!

She'll gonna pay the consequences!



I was already wearing my school uniform. Now; the only thing that I'll do before leaving is to give permission to Grandma. I can have a view of her at kitchen when I addressed her.

"Grandma..., I'm leaving...,"

I said to her while slightly waving my hand.

"Wait! Sora-chan."

I suddenly stopped upon hearing those words which directly came from her calm yet a little worried facial expression. I know that Ichinose-san's sudden actions bothers her, Ichinose-san...., you really are a nuisance if you know it.

She was holding a box lunch. I already have one inside my bag that's why..., that lunch must belong to the troublesome Ichinose Airi-san.

"Here..,"

I took the box lunch that she's holding.

"Sora-chan; this is only a favor but..., I know that you're mad, but please..., would you take it easy towards her?"

That was so sudden.

"Of course, I will; Grandma, Ichinose-san and I isn't a kid anymore, so don't worry about us okay?"

I quickly replied as I didn't have the time to think about what I will say. Actually that answer is just a jolt in my tongue, because the truth is, I really can't assure Grandma if I can still go easy on Ichinose-san. Today, she's way too overboard, and I really hate that kind of personality inside her.

I treaded as fast as I could. I really wanted to get over from this, and I know, that a confrontation is the best solution. I wanted to find her, I wanted to seek for her, I wanted to lecture her. She really gets down to my nerves this time.

As I reached the sunflower fields, I quickly headed to the site where the time machine crash-landed. It's still kind of early for being late, that's why I still have plenty of time to have a long chat with her. This'll gonna be your worst lecture Ichinose-san!

I finally had a vision of her while I was running and headed to her direction. Her face is casted downwards as she consistently wears a serious facial expression. Then; she turned her neck towards me, which was the first time I've witnessed that kind of facial expression. It's like she just doesn't care about anything that I'll do to her. The appropriate word for that feeling might be "depression", I guess?

Like I would care!

Finally I came close to her.

“Ichinose-san..., you certainly owe me an apology!”

I shouted right straight on her face.

...but it seemed like she doesn't really care. I would really take that as a grave insult towards my presence!!!

“Hey!!”

I shouted, then she responded with a gloomy tone of voice.

“My time machine...,”

I suddenly stopped as I noticed that what she is gonna say is something very important.

“Someone really messed up with my time machine... that person totally broke it for good. Now; I have no chance to return back home.”

That really is a serious one..., but somehow; though I really hate to admit. But her sadness had given me a little delight. This sounds like I'm the absolute villain but, I guess that's the compensation that I wanted to have. She really deserves that kind of consequence.

But really...

How could I really fool myself?

Sounds like I really have changed since she came here.

Really; that's not the true reason why I felt happiness right after she said that her time machine is totally broken or cannot be fixed anymore. Actually the true reason behind that happiness is for knowing the fact that she's not gonna bid farewell anymore. With those words, does it really mean that I've become attached to her?

It could really be, but maybe the other reason is that Ichinose-san's mystery behind her real father really grabbed my attention and kicked my curiosity.

I suddenly calmed down..., for a bit; I took a deep breath and analyzed the situation.

After thinking so, I just realized to myself that I overreacted from the moment I woke up. It's really weird, but I think every people can also experience that feeling were in your entire character changes the time you're about to explode in anger. And of course; for sure that feeling often strikes if you're being interrupted while sleeping. Psychology is also kind of interesting that way.

I suddenly changed my composure and replied her with an approach.

"Ichinose-san; are you okay?"

I just can't think of anything to say..,

"I decided to wake up early to have a watch of my time machine. Actually I placed an alarm clock to your room so that I'm gonna be sure that you'll follow me but...,"

Please don't remind me of the alarm clock again...

My left eyebrows curled as I was holding a grin while saying those words inside my head.

"When I came here, I found out that some parts of it is already gone. And when I tried to look at it in the inside, I observed that its interior is intentionally damaged. Some of the devices inside it were destroyed."

She said with a gloomy and down facial expression.

“Is there really no solution for it to be repaired to its perfect condition?”

“It’s sad to say but, I guess it would be hard for amateurs. If an expert or a professional will repair it, it would take up to eight months to finish if there are already prepared materials that can be replaced to the destroyed ones. And for what I see; in this time, I guess those required materials for the time machine have never existed yet.”

“Say Ichinose-san; is it impossible to repair it?”

That’s the question that I’m really pointing out from the start.

“I wouldn’t say it’s impossible but; just like what I said a while ago, the parts needed for the time machine might haven’t existed yet.”

“-then we can make one right?”

I quickly replied; as she suddenly paused.

“Are you serious? Hana-san.., the best mechanical engineers throughout the globe are the ones who created it.”

“-then I’ll give it my all to be like one of them.”

I followed with all my confidence.

Then she replied me with her eyebrows curled. More like she’s clueless from my apathetic answer.

“Easier said than done.”

Actually making her believe that I’ll help her repair her time machine is only to hide what I am really feeling right now. Of course, if I’ll just reply to her to get over with it, then simply she’ll think that I really liked the situation that she placed into. At least right now, I believed

that she'll never have that assumption towards me. This time; she'll treat me as a friend that she can trust, and that way; I can easily maintain this atmosphere until we finally reach our goal.

Thus; it suddenly came again in my mind...

If everything's over?

No; I must never think of it!

"So for now; what are we gonna do Ichinose-san?"

"Actually I have no idea either. But first; are you really serious about what you're saying. This'll be a hard job you know? I thought that you hate trouble...., but this time; why are you helping me this much?"

So you actually know that I hate to be in trouble from the start but why didn't you ever make me feel that?

"Actually my only reason of giving a hand is for knowing some things about the time machine. After all, the concept of time travelers, parallel worlds, time paradox, world lines and anything else which involves time travel is also written under my curiosity list. I've only come to think of it this time; but I think it's easier to adapt in the future if you possess the beginning knowledge from it right?"

Ichinose-san sighed in return and replied:

"I guess you've got a point in there."

Then she suddenly looked at me with a serious mood.

"-but Hana-san, this is just a message from a person who lived in the future."

She paused.... Then she continued.

“-please change the future.”

She said with a smiling facial expression where in anyone could took pity towards her.

I’m sure there’s a great meaning behind those words. That’s why; I must never stay and keep quiet. I must go with the flow and ask her a follow up question.

“What do you mean by changing the future?”

She suddenly lowered her head, perhaps she’s reminiscing about her past.

“You know; this isn’t absolutely the same as our world back home. Perhaps we can say; that that place isn’t considered as a world anymore.”

Finally! Certainly I’ve longed enough for this. At last she’ll give me some backgrounds about her world 26 years from now.

“I would say that we’re all living in the sky.”

Is she making fun of me?

“That world; on that particular time; we call the world as an artificial earth. All people are resided to a levitating giant..., no; how could I explain this. I just couldn’t describe that thing as giant, it’s because it’s far bigger than that.”

She’s getting blurry... I certainly cannot connect from what she’s saying.

“It might be hard for you to understand but...”

How nice of you Ichinose-san....

“Let’s just imagine this situation. Imagine a supergiant levitating spaceship enclosed in a thick transparent glass that could be as wide as an entire nation or continent. Then assume that an entire civilization is living there.”

That really helped at little, but still...

“You see, I know that you might wondered why I was totally amazed by the scenery of the sunset as well as the sunrise. It’s because the place where I resided is pretty far from those two big events which happens every day. Actually we are living at that place because there’s no earth that we can call anymore. The entire surface of the world can already be classified as a trash site. The surface of the earth happens to be the peoples dump site of their waste. Honestly; everything might already be destroyed if my father didn’t make a move. Those are certainly just some stories from my Mom but, for me; my Dad is already a hero inside my heart. He was the one who started the Living Environment Artificial Form Project or LEAF Project for short. The LEAF’s aim is to produce and recreate a new world artificially. He first started his research by developing an artificial tree. Actually my Mom still have the prototype photo of it. It’s like a simple metal rod with different solar-panel-like parts. Its function is actually kind of obvious. Converting carbon dioxide into oxygen just like any plants or trees does. But unfortunately, he proposed that invention when the time that the people doesn’t need it yet. Of course, how could someone mass produce a product if it doesn’t benefit anyone? Actually it’s kind of funny, my Mom told me that even if my father’s invention is already needed by the people during the time of crisis, still; my father became stubborn and rejected the country’s leaders approach. But after the authority’s consistent persuasion, Dad accepted. But then again, no matter how strong the persuasion that the government will take; still; all of it is too late.”

“That is the future that I wanted for you to change Hana-san. Hopefully in this world line, something different will happen. Hopefully the future invention of my Dad will never be ignored by the authority. Hopefully they’ll realize how precious the world that they are living.”

So that’s her background.

More likely a background of her father though. But really, saying something about her Dad could clarify more things.

Then suddenly; her eyes wide-opened as if she figured something out.

“Ah..., I get it now; so that might be the reason why I fell after travelling through time. It could be for the reason that the place where I came from is levitating.”

She said with a convincing tone of voice.

What she said just makes sense. Of course her time machine will crash, it doesn't even have the capability to have a flight nor levitate in the air in the first place.

But really; is that interesting?

Suddenly, she swapped her recently down facial expression into a happy and cheerful side.

"Hana-san thanks, now I'm a little relieved. Somehow I can really trust you on attaining this goal of mine."

"Right; let's continue on achieving that goal Ichinose-san."

"Hmn!"

She quickly nodded while smiling in which it also serves as her reply.

Together; the two of us took a stroll heading to school. But before that, I reminded her....,

"Ichinose-san; can I throw away that recently bought alarm clock to your face?"

She just showed me a very uncomfortable grin on her face. It's like she's trying to convey the words "please spare me." That reply really did pissed me off. That's why as a consequence....

"Don't worry Ichinose-san, I indeed fight fair and square. You just ruined my psychological aspects that's why I'll give you the same consequence in return. For the next hours, you'll be the person who will make the first approach towards the remaining "Ichinose's". Hopefully you'll easily get the job done. Good luck Ichinose-san."

Then I walked faster than her... leaving her behind while having multiple thoughts. Actually she insisted to need my help for that reason. She really take it hard to interact with other people specially her upperclassmen.

So; this'll gonna be fun. I'm sure of it.

There's only one serious possibility that kept playing inside my mind. That's the idea for me to come up to a conclusion that she's hiding something from me.

Now this time I'm sure..., that the reason behind her loneliness when I kept reminding her that she have plenty of time remaining in this world doesn't involve with the capabilities of her time machine. Because if it were so, then she wouldn't be okay by now. There must be a bigger reason behind it, and that thing is what I'll investigate in the near future.



And so, for the reason that we managed to enter the campus so early in the morning, we decided to search if there are already "Ichinose's" inside. I'm happy to say that we've met at least one, though I'm not really sure if we can spot more of them. The "Ichinose" that we looked for and fortunately found was "Ichinose Haru-san" of the survival game club.

As we agreed in the morning; no! That's not the right term for it.

As her punishment this day (that sounds better), Ichinose-san will be the one to approach every single "Ichinose's" that we will talk to.

"Ah...,e-ec-cuse me..., can can I to to I-Ichinose Haru?"

Ichinose-san said in a very gibberish manner.

Yeah! Serves you right Ichinose!

But wait.., why is she so straightforward when it comes to me? Did she find me as weird as nobody else?

She finally returned to my post as it was followed with a continuous shaking of her head from left to right indicating that the conversation wasn't successful. But really; there's nothing else that we can do. I guess it's better to never expect anything starting this time. Thus; our search

continued with its consistent failure in hand. Every failure definitely decreases the percentage of success, which is why I can really admit to myself that maybe there's no "Ichinose Kyouhei" wandering around the school premises. But also based on that fact, my doubts in regards with Kyouhei-san's true identity is starting to reach its realization.

As far as any of us could comprehend, but then we suddenly realized that the bell just rung, time really flew fast, it felt like we weren't inside the campus right after the sun rises. After entering the classroom, the two of us realized that there are only two remaining "Ichinose's" currently enrolled on our school. Those are "Ichinose Futaba" from the broadcasting club and "Ichinose Momo" of the world's discovery club.

We planned to have a little chat with them after school. So now, the only thing that I need to think of is about studying and nothing else.



Lunch was about to start as Kyouhei-san invited me again to eat together at the rooftop. Of course I would certainly want to accept that offer, but then he also insisted to invite Ichinose-san. I first assumed that she would accept without any second thoughts, but it seemed like she's a little shy while she's trying to talk with Kyouhei-san, it could be the reason why she did her absolute refusal that time. But really! That scenario was actually under my favor. This is going to be the right time for the "Ichinose Kyouhei" investigation.

"Why do you think Ichinose-san is a little bit shy towards me?"

Little bit? Is it really little bit?

"I think she really is weird. Tell me Kyouhei-san, what are the girls that you prefer?"

I said to him out of nowhere.

"What's that all about...,"

He replied with his seemingly blushing face.

“What is your ideal girl?”

“H-How could I really answer that right in front of you?”

-stare-

I really made a very intimidating gaze towards him as he just cannot make a proper eye contact.

Sigh*

I sighed; then afterwards continued:

“Okay; let’s proceed to the next question. Is your family related to the “Ichinose’s”?”

His eyes suddenly wide-opened for a split second. For sure he knows something, that half a second unnecessary reaction of his is a direct hint that he is familiar to the Ichinose family, it’s like he had his doubts all along of his following answer. And even though his body language already served as the answer I’m waiting for, still he replied:

“No, not really.., tell me how come you suddenly come up to that question?”

An absolute denial. That’s expected though..., but what made it more suspicious is that his tone of voice changed. So to add some additional conflict, I continued:

“-You’re lying...,”

His eyes wide-opened once more, and before he acts different and become mad at me, I quickly followed my words with a smile.

“Just joking..., Kyouhei-san..,”

I lowered my head after that cross over.

Now; I’m sure that those two are keeping some secrets from me..., even if I’m the type of person who’s not interested on digging upon other people’s privacy, still; doing that crucial part is included on the goal of finding for Ichinose-san’s father. This is starting to give me the thrill that I’m looking for. Now that I think about it, in most Sci-Fi movies which involves time travel most likely becomes a complicated plot. What if everything turns out that way..., by thinking so, I must never remove the possibility that there are other persons in this area that had knowledge about time travels. I should never remove the possibility that there could be

two persons with the same identity in this world line (perhaps two Ichinose-san I guess?). Or maybe; there are two “me”? I may also come up to a situation wherein I will turn back time to correct my mistakes.

Thinking about it just made my expectations higher.., but I certainly do not fully believe my very own assumptions, first of all, this isn't a Sci-Fi movie to begin with. But still, it's giving me the interesting concept that I'm looking forward.



After school....

Time passed quickly before I knew it. As scheduled, the task that we'll do after school is to find the two remaining “Ichinose's”. We are about to go to the broadcasting room when Kyouhei-san suddenly called my name.

“Hana-san, where are you headed?”

He said as it was loud enough for the two of us to clearly hear what he spoke within our set distance. He was still on his seat which is located near the window while he is preparing to leave right away.

So that's how you wanted to play, Kyouhei-san. He starts to become aware of my intention on knowing his true family backgrounds. I know that from now on..., he will observe me in his very own pace. This feeling is honestly making me excited. Kyouhei-san let's play fair okay?

-But do you really think I will tell you the truth? Of course not..., you're the person who lied to me just a while ago, that's why this time, I'm just trying to return the favor. Who do you really think I am to make an honest answer to the person whom I will not trust this time? No personal hurt feelings Kyouhei-san, this is just work. You managed to lie to me, so now-

“We're searching for the “Ichinose's”.”

Oh..., I certainly forgot about her existence right at my side. I forgot that "Ichinose-san" was there. But that wasn't really the case, I know all along that Ichinose-san will not have the will to answer Kyouhei-san. Yet, this time she really did it..., did she overcome her shyness towards Kyouhei-san right after lunch? That's really unbelievable. She just destroyed the momentum of my winning streak. What an unpredictable personality that only Ichinose-san could have.

Oh..., I almost forgot..., Kyouhei-san's reaction-

"-Okay now..., I'm leaving."

That was a really calm reaction coming from him. Indeed..., he really is predictable from that sudden change of behavior. Now he's trying to become calm, that would be an obvious form of keeping a secret, and honestly; not only his behavior made it suspicious, the other thing is that he just ignored Ichinose-san's answer with a very quick reply..., his reaction wasn't even natural, the way he walks is kind of fast right after he gets outside the door.

Oh! Now that I think about it, though this isn't really a compliment, but Ichinose-san's answer seemed a little help. I should thank her..., but for sure once I do so..., she will just end to a wondering state, and the worst is, it might also lead to misunderstanding. I guess I'll leave her be this time.

"So, Hana-san; how did it go...?"

Ichinose-san says so out of the blue.

"You're doing great Ichinose-san."

"Hopefully I will be his friend someday."

She replied; seemed like a little worried.



Directly headed to the broadcasting club room, I suddenly come up to a question.

“I we happens to fail after these two “Ichinose’s”; what’ll you do now?”

“hmmm...?”

That reaction though, it felt like she doesn’t come up with a follow up plan once everything fails after this day.

“Uhhh..., I really don’t think about it but, for sure even if this day would be made up of failures, still next day there’s something that’ll happen.”

She says so while wearing a bright smile.

Optimistic? Yesterday she was kind of down after some failures, I think she finally came to her senses that anything just cannot go the way you are expecting. Maybe she finally admitted that fact to herself. Well; at least she’s calm this time and there’s nothing to worry about.

Encompassing the third floor of the second year school building, we finally arrived to the broadcasting club. “Ichinose Futaba” is supposed to be our target for the time being. Just like the way we’ve agreed since morning, Ichinose-san will be the one who’ll approach her.

Hmm, it seemed like she’s starting to have confidence on herself, the way she quickly approached that group composed of three girls were quite unexpected for me. I wonder who Ichinose Futaba is....,

But luckily; before that train of thought runs off trail, Ichinose-san finally talked with Futaba-senpai. Ichinose Futaba; she is a second year student, so she has a short grape-colored hair huh..., that actually looks nice to her. Based on her presence, it seemed like she’s a kind of girl who doesn’t usually stand out, but despite that, I guess she is as talented as anyone from that club.

Actually; I was only watching them from the clubroom’s entrance..., I can clearly see Ichinose-san struggling little by little upon that seemingly continuous chat. But unfortunately in the end, she did really failed.

“She wasn’t the “Ichinose” that we are looking for.”

She said, while a little sad to herself.

So to sum things up, there is only a single chance that is left. The last remaining “Ichinose”; the girl named “Ichinose Momo!!!!”

“Ichinose Momo” of the world’s discovery club. She is literally the last resort. If this one still fails, then so be it. We really have no options left, if this happens to be a failure, then there’s no other choice but to try another shot. Perhaps we’ll come up with another plan? Though I still admit it that we haven’t thought any succeeding actions on the next day. So in other words, we’re beyond the bottom, we will start over.

The clubroom was located on the third floor of the same building. It’s only within five rooms of distance from the broadcasting club actually. Ichinose-san opened the door, and then, we witnessed a girl sole inside that room while looking beyond the glass window. It really feels quite odd, it seemed like this is one sad solitary club.

As we slowly entered, I observed the entire interior of that room and witnessed several pictures posted all over its walls. Those are pictures related to the histories around the world. The images represents different culture from other countries that are still likely a tradition until now. How to think of it, it seemed like this club is quite interesting in a different way than I’ve thought.

“Uhhmm...,”

With a hesitating voice, Ichinose-san continued.

“-are.., are you Ichinose Momo?”

The girl turns around and looked at us, more specifically; towards Ichinose-san. With a wondering facial expression, she answered with a smile:

“You’re right, I’m Ichinose Momo. What can I do for the two of you? Are you interested of joining the club?”

That was suddenly followed up with an invitation. Why does it turned again into a misinterpretation? People these days often jumps t conclusions. No; that might not be a proper term for it. They are only making their assumptions and nothing else matters.

“Ah, no; not really.., not actually.”

Ichinose-san is starting to become jumbled.

“Do you know someone with the name Ichinose Kyouhei?”

-that is why I decided to get straight to the point.

“Ichinose Kyouhei? Hmmm, as I recall, I’ve really heard that name before...”

-is this for real..., is Ichinose Momo-senpai will be the answer to our hopes? It seemed like she knows something. Then she smiled;

“Just joking..., honestly I haven’t even heard that name...”

It’s an irritating answer. So we are just being fooled by her? I really can’t believe it! This is absurd.

That answer triggered our loss, the failure that we are expecting..., that girl triggered it like a firing bullet. As the same time as hearing that answer, Ichinose-san’s face looked down.

“We really can’t do anything about it Ichinose-san; so cheer up okay. It’s not the end of the world yet.”

I says so for her to feel calm a little.

As soon as the two of us are about to leave, that girl named Momo-senpai called for us.

“Hey you..., you’re interested about this club right?”

-that was specifically addressed towards me actually.

“-uhmm..., I admit that this club might be a little interesting, but I have more important jobs to do than supporting your activities.”

I said to make an initial excuse.

“You’re interested on aliens right?”

As she says those words, it certainly given me the attention that I wanted.

“...”

I suddenly paused; I really cannot make a follow up answer. But in the end, I decided to turn around. My action is definitely meant for a refusal.

“-I’m happy for the invitation, but I think I’ll refuse for now.”

After hearing my answer, she smiled as she continued:

“Then there’s nothing that I do anymore, but don’t worry, you’re welcome to join for anytime you want.”

I decided to ignore her last words as the two of us heads out of the room. So; the ending is like this..., how unfortunate. So we’re out of luck all along.

After that; it’s a little sad to say but, Ichinose-san had kept quiet since then. I know that she’s upset, but I think she can get over with it for tomorrow.

Ah.,

I suddenly had an idea.

Of course Ichinose-san doesn’t have it on her world-line.

“Hey Ichinose-san..., let’s go somewhere to cool our head off okay?”

Ichinose-san nodded. It’s like she doesn’t really care at all.



But suddenly her mood had changed.

“This is so fun!”

She shouted.

We are currently on the game center playing with the steering wheels from an arcade racing game. I really can't get it, Why is she always the winner!

I already lost three times to her. And the worse is, I'm actually the one paying for the two of us. This is really one sided, do I really deserve this? I'm the one who invited her to have fun and yet it seemed like I'm not enjoying anything. Finishing our race game indicated my defeat for four consecutive times, I didn't even win.

The next game was crane game. She really wanted to have a plushy rabbit. Now that I think about it, this is actually the same game center where I obtained my plushy turtle from my Dad. Ichinose-san already failed five times, that's why, I decided to take over. It's not that I'm good on this kind of game, it's just that I just wanted to give her my assistance.

Luck is really on my side that time, on my first attempt, I already won the game as the plushy was tightly gripped by the crane machine and falls to the hole from that box. Ichinose-san was overly delighted as her eyes sparkled. She's obviously having fun, and I think that's great. She felt like I suddenly became the cool character in this scene.

Everything is wonderful. In the end, my attempt to cheer her up happens to be a success.



On our way home, Ichinose-san suddenly spotted a cat. Honestly, I'm not really fond of pets, and cats are no exception. What is this?

Ichinose-san's eyes were so pitiful towards that white cat. I know the route that this is going through., as she turned her head around towards me, her cute pleasing facial expression reach straight to my heart.

-just what is really happening to me?!

And so, before I could fully explain, but as expected she really did brought that cat to our home.

"Her name is going to be "Gin"."

She says so as she brings that cat towards my room.

"Gin"- it directly means silver. So she found the color of that cat as silver huh., because honestly for me, I really thought its color is white. But who cares really...,

Uhgh., now it turns out that she's beyond having fun getting to the point that she's starting to become annoying. Not just her, but also her cat as well.

"WEaowwWW!!!"

-that was absolutely as very loud sound that a cat could convey.

-and it's really killing down my ears.

"Ichinose-san, can you have fun with "Gin" at your own room...,"

I bluntly said to her.

"Okay, here we go "Gin" ..."

-it seemed like she really got used to my personality in such very short time. She headed out of my room as she carries "Gin" by her both hands.

I was straightly looking at her in front of my door but suddenly...,

[I sensed that her head suddenly felt hurt as she lets go of “Gin” so that she can touch her forehead.]

“...”

I was spaced out..., what was I worried again?

It’s really kind of weird, why are my eyes wide-opens when I was staring at that empty opened door?

-cat?

-Gin?

Those words suddenly came up to my thoughts, but certainly..., it is a bit strange. I'm trying to visualize something inside my head..., but I just can't remember it clearly. Why is the words "cat" and "Gin" came down streaming around my mind? There is obviously nothing interesting from my room's entrance, but why am I still looking at it despite that fact?

-I-chi-no-...,

-what?

I really cannot understand myself. This only happened for the first time. There is actually nothing to see from my room's entrance, but it seemed like I was missing something. Missing someone; perhaps? Yes..., though I don't have any basis, I know to myself that I'm forgetting something so important.

But in the end, I decided to leave everything unanswered and headed to the table that Grandma prepared for dinner.

-I just cannot fully remove the cause of my train of thought.

Right after I stepped outside of my room, I stopped for a sudden.

-there's really something wrong..., I'm certain of it. And so, I decided to write those two words that I remembered inside my head to a piece of paper before I head down for dinner. I have written the words: "cat" and "Gin" and placed it on my desk. I really have no idea what I am going through., but listing the important details is really a big help for sure.

As I heads down the stairs with my smooth footsteps, those words again came to my mindset. "cat" and "Gin"; if I try to analyze it, it might mean a silver colored cat. Perhaps that cat was named Gin? I really don't know, but that is supposedly my first assumption.

“Sora-chan..., the dinner is ready.”

My Grandma said as her words fully diverted my attention. Better leave those information behind, I’m eating this ever delicious cuisine first.

As I sit down, Grandma suddenly called:

“What about Ichinose-san, is something wrong with her?”

My eyes wide-opened for a split second. Ichinose-san suddenly come up to my mind.

Oh..., what did happened before I head down the stairs in the first place? No idea..., maybe I’m being spaced out for a higher level this time. More like I had a black-out inside my head. But certainly, I really forgotten about Ichinose-san. That’s why, I must call for her.

I stand up and took the stairs towards Ichinose-san’s room. I knocked her room’s door.

“Ichinose-san, the dinner is ready.”

I said with a moderately loud tone of voice.

“-okay; I’m coming.”

She said in a low tone of voice. She might still be depressed because of the failure in regards with her mission of finding her father. I think she needs to take her time for a while.

“Okay; we’ll just wait you there.”

I replied. She needs to be alone with herself this time. I know that she’s the type of person that takes on all of her problems alone. She used to be alone, that’s why leaving her be from that pace is the best option that I could take. I know that she’ll get over it soon, she’s a strong girl that came all the way here all by herself at such a young age after all.

The dinner started and somehow was quickly finished together with the consistent silence. I really can’t understand, is Ichinose-san really that kind of down and depressed because of what happened? It’s obvious that there is a big problem, but I just can’t come up to any idea.

This is really a mess!

I just don't get any of it. Ichinose-san., what's wrong with you?

Now, she was already inside her room, for sure Grandma was worried about her, that's why; I don't have to simply stay inside my room and do nothing. I must confirm this problem, I must confirm her problem. No matter how difficult it is, I will face it for her sake as well as for Grandma's. I stand up from my seat, actually I was on my bed that time while preparing to sleep. But certainly I cannot fall to my slumber because of this situation. I opened the door from the inside, and then I headed towards Ichinose-san's room right beside from mine.

I knocked her door twice, and then....,

"..."

My eyes wide-opened for a split second.

What was I saying again?

Though everything is strange, but what is really this feeling? I'm feeling like I've just experienced this just a while ago.

This strange feeling like I've totally forgotten someone. That someone..., not matter how hard I try to remember..., I just cannot get anything to my head. This is so mysterious, and just thinking about it saddens me. Is she that important to my life?

Wait?

"She?" what does it mean by "she?"

This is getting crazy I am getting crazy...

"..."

Oh.., Ichinose-san. Now that I think about it, I've felt like I had again a total black-out in my mind. I haven't remembered anything from the previous minutes. I'm sure to myself that I came here in front of her room's door to have an efficient chat. But I just cannot think on how long I've been standing on her front door. This black-out..., it really sounds fishy, this never happened before, that's why.....,

-I've come up again to another theory or assumption. The continuous black-outs must be again related to Ichinose-san. But really, how could I explain this..., of course I won't come up to an appropriate answer because I haven't even remembered what happen during those black-outs. I don't have any clue to begin with, will I question her in regards to this incident?

No..., I just can't. I'll solve this myself.., I still cannot place my full trust towards her all along. Who knows.., maybe she'll come up with a lie that might deceive me till the end of this mission. And of course I don't want to take that route as my final outcome.

So- what will I do this time?

Sigh*

This isn't a sigh of relief., this is a sigh that proves that I'm out of options. I guess there's really nothing that I can do this time. Perhaps waiting for what will happen tomorrow is the best solution right now.

It's time to sleep. I returned to my room and suddenly witnessed something very unparticular. I saw a piece of paper on my desk and read the written words "cat" and "Gin". This is obviously my hand writing, but just when did I ever written those words? This is beyond mysterious! This is beyond strange! Am I getting old to forget such things? But certainly the words "cat" and "Gin" is something that doesn't even grab my interest in the first place. I'm not interested on Ichinose-san's pet. So how come I've written it?

Wait...!

This is an important detail. The black-out..., I'm sure it's all interconnected.

My eyes widened as I found something out.

This could be a message from my other self. Of course, during the black-out, I can't remember anything. Could it mean that my other self is taking over this body of mine? There could be a possibility on that theory., but certainly all of it are still mere speculations. This is starting to become interesting in a different way, first of all, I felt like I was dead..., I felt like I have no existence by the time I had those black-outs. I may not be a hundred percent certain, but I'm sure that my assumptions and deductions may have a possibility.

Does the words "cat" and "Gin" really means something? Though I hate to admit it to myself, but I honestly cannot get it. That message might be a hint or a clue..., but I just can't understand what my other self (if there really is) is trying to convey to me.

"Arrggh!!"

I shouted while lying down my bed as I continuously messes up my hair by my two hands.

Everything's so messed up!!! Should I ask for Ichinose-san some information?

No! That's absolutely my last resort..., so it's way too early to take that option.



[April 09, 2015]

We are heading to the school while proceeding to our next option of finding Ichinose-san's father. But really.., last night was something that I'm not expecting myself. Should I still question her about my black-outs? Nuhhh..., not happening..., this is maybe because of my pride all along. But honestly; could I really blame myself? Of course not.

And so; we decided to come up to our new plan. I've questioned her a while ago anything about "Ichinose Kyouhei" and whether you believe it or not..., what she just said simply strengthen my doubts. She said that her father is a researcher about his personal inventions. And just yesterday I've directly found out from her that her father is somehow the personality behind the "Living Environment Artificial Form Project" or LEAF Project. In other words, her father have interest on the functions of the plants and trees..., to simplify things, "Ichinose Kyouhei" is interested in botany.

Of course it's impossible for it to become a coincidence. How come "Ichinose Kyouhei" and "Koudai Kyouhei" have the same interest? The best answer for it is that they are simply pertaining to a single person. "Koudai Kyouhei" is Ichinose-san's father; though that might be true but, I don't have any evidences yet. Ichinose-san might believe my assumption yet I don't think Kyouhei-san will do so. I need a concrete proof or evidence that will convince him that he is Ichinose-san's father.

But actually..., what will be that proof? That is another problem in regards with it.

My plan might be something absurd but..., I think this is the only option that I could think of for now.

Yeah right! This is the only option that I could think of.

I believe that he's a realist, that's why perhaps he will take my proposition as a way of fun. He might even laugh at me..., It might be absolutely frustrating... but-----

-----I guess this is what it means by saying to yourself that "you're out of ideas".

Right....

During lunch...,

-I will explain everything to him. I will explain to him the true identity of Ichinose-san. I will make him believe that she's a time traveler.

I barely imagine my plan to turn into a success. This is absolutely a laughing matter for everyone. I guess only the people that is having an eight-grader-syndrome will believe my absurd and apathetic explanations.

I don't even know how to make everything as convincing as possible. This isn't a manga..., this isn't even a novel. That's why..., my proposition is going to be a real pain in the head.

But first this is a sudden question. How can I prove to her that Ichinose-san is a time traveler?

As a realist; I'm sure that he knows the saying "to see is to believe". Of course I believe that Ichinose-san is a time traveler because I've found out her secrets on the spot. But there is no way Kyouhei-san will witness the same incident that I've seen. There is no way that he'll saw Ichinose-san traveling through time. Most importantly, Ichinose-san's time machine is already broken. Will showing the physical appearance of the time machine be enough to make him believe in me?

Who knows...,

It's better to give it a try; I think?

I was without a doubt carefully thinking about it. But I think this time, I've gone way too overboard.

As we entered the classroom, I started to hear several rumors from my classmates. I first assumed that it's something that doesn't involve anything about us. I assumed that it's some kind of a nonsense form of conversation. But still, I was quite mistaken.

Initially, I won't really bother it, but it's like this is something different. This is may be a serious matter.

Soon after, most of my classmates gazed at me the moment they felt my presence. Of course "The Wicked Eye" is no exception.

What is this atmosphere? I'm feeling like I'm getting accused from crime that I haven't done. Ichinose-san was also worried by my classmates' weird actions, then suddenly-

-"The Wicked Eye" came to approach me.

"Can we talk for a moment?"

He said..., he is indeed serious as his eyebrows are sharply pointed within each other.

I would really like to refuse..., but because of this heavy atmosphere, I just cannot show my arrogant and cynical side. It's like this crowd will swallow me if I make an unnecessary answer. But really; that's not the actual problem that I've come up..., the reason for my further acceptance to his favor is because someone is missing inside this room. Someone who is very important on the accomplishment of Ichinose-san's goal.

Right; Kyouhei Koudai isn't here yet. And by judging from my classmates reaction, it's seemed like something wrong just happened and it really involves me all along.

Plus, “The Wicked Eye’s” facial expression is something serious.

I nodded as a sign that I have decided to have a conversation with him.



As the usual, we went again to his favorite spot. Of course it is the behind the school building.

“So; what’s the fuss all about?”

With a serious look on his face, “The Wicked Eye” answered half-heartedly:

“Koudai-san will have a leave in our school.”

What he just said made me confused as I furrowed my eyebrows.

“One of our classmate heard it from our homeroom teacher. He said that Koudai-san’s mother fell into a car accident last night. That’s why, for the mean time, he is going to be the one who will look after to his mother.”

“So that’s why he is going to leave for a while?”

I followed a question just to make things clear.

“Yeah..., that’s why; we won’t be seeing him for now.”

This is really one wrong timing. If he just came, I might’ve explained Ichinose-san’s identity during lunch break.

Ah...

Am I really this stone-hearted? Kyouhei-san is already in a great trouble and yet here I am thinking about my selfish resolves. This is perhaps beyond arrogance... Kyouhei-san..., will you be alright?

Wait!

<< I remembered the moment when we are still kids. And that also includes the time when we had a lonely farewell in the train station>>

He will leave again right?

Right?

-right?

Kyouhei-san..., it hasn't been a while since we part ways.

Unexpectedly., these thoughts suddenly came to my mind.

What if we will never meet again? What if he decided to never return?

For only this time I've reflected to what I've done on the past few days. We haven't even hang out. The worse of it is that..., I've started to dig on his personal life. I'm the worst person..., I'm sure the reason behind my classmate's stares at me is meant to make me look back and think about my misdeeds.

I started to reminisce about our past as "The Wicked Eye" suddenly crossed:

"..."

Seemed like he's trying to say something.

He straightforwardly faced my direction as he makes a bow of apology.

“I’m sorry..., Ichinose-san!”

I don’t get it..., is he retarded or something?

Even so, he still continued:

“-I’m sorry for spreading the rumors!”

“-rumors?”

I says so in a tone of a question. Rumors? What rumors?

“-I’m so sorry for spreading some rumors that you’re having direct feelings towards Koudai-san!”

“...”

I was bereft of speech. So what I assumed was true, he actually spreaded rumors so that he can furtherly black-mail me and force me to help him on courting Ichinose-san.

So everything is my very own misinterpretation. My boring classmates didn’t had their intimidating gaze towards me because I’ve gone personal on Kyouhei-san’s life. The reason behind their actions is because of thinking that I have feelings towards Kyouhei-san. They are assuming that I will be the one to be most affected the moment Kyouhei-san finally leaves.

This will take me to nowhere... No; this will actually place me somewhere. This will certainly place me to total anger and madness!

Bursting out of anger, I loudly said:

“You..., you don’t just deserve the title ‘The Wicked Eye’. ‘The Wicked Mouth’ also definitely suits you!”

Thus “The Wicked Eye” was mixed up from what I said.

“-‘The Wicked Eye’? ‘The Wicked Mouth?’.... What?”

Then I crossed bluntly:

“You’re ‘The Wicked Eye’ because you’re so skilled on stalking someone. You’re ‘The Wicked Mouth’ because you’re wicked on spreading rumors!”

“...”

He was speechless.

But I ignored him as I continued:

“-Are you a girl or something? Spreading around rumors isn’t just fit to be done by boys.”

I was about to continue, yet he suddenly crossed.

He bowed his head for a second time as he said again an apology.

“-that is why I really mean it. I’m sorry..., I promise you it’ll never happen again. So please..., please give me one other chance.”

Those words..., though never indicates a lie, still; it had given me humiliation.

“I will absolutely never forgive you!”

Then he turned silent as he slowly said:

“I think I’m actually not in the position to say this but..., you actually need to stop..,”

“-what?”

He just ignored my reaction as he continued:

“-Koudai-san!..”

He paused, as that name really grabbed my attention.

“-Koudai-san will leave Kyoto for today... no? He will leave just right now. I know that my rumors are merely just “rumors”. But I’m sure that you actually wanted to see him off right? He just said to me earlier that he will wait for you.”

My eyes wide-opened upon hearing those words.

“-I really can’t understand him but; he said that he wanted to see your tears.”

Those words struck down to me as it made my heart pound.

“Tell me where he is...,”

I asked as fast as I could.

“He’s at the...,”

As I carefully listens to his direction, I’m also starting to remember my summer days with Kyouhei-san while we are still kids. This time, I will do it right!

After hearing Kyouhei-san’s current location I swiftly replied:

“Thanks’ ‘The wicked Eye’.”

-then I started running away and headed to the nearest train station.

“The Wicked Eye” then crossed my statement as he said:

“My name isn’t ‘Wicked Eye’; its Satoshi..., ‘Michiru Satoshi’!!!”

And then he smiled while looking at my back perspective. He must've thought that I really treasure Kyouhei-san that much. So his name is 'Michiru Satoshi'.

I finally crossed the school's gate at the same time as the class was about to start. I think it's okay to ditch class for a while. Most importantly, Kyouhei-san is the one that we are talking about. Of course he's a different matter.

I kept on running.

I kept on running.

I kept on running.

I kept on running.

Perhaps I started to run after knowing that the train station is only a walking distance from our school. I believe Kyouhei-san's home is really close to the train station that is supposedly far from our school. I wonder..., maybe Kyouhei-san intended to come over to this train station to make sure that I will follow him. If it is his plan all along, then I guess it worked.

Kyouhei-san..., this time, I will really do it. This time, this time for sure I will never hold back.

My sweat starts to spread over at the same time as I am being tired. Sports doesn't really suit me. It's for Kyouhei-san's sake, I will continue on running..., just to tell him that one important thing.

And so; the next mission will begin.

----- END OF CHAPTER 3 -----