

TOP SECRET CONTENT

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THIS CONTENT EXCLUSIVE.
SHARING WITHOUT PERMISSION
HURTS ME AS A CREATOR.**

OKLUVUBYE

the gentle way

柔道

story & art by True

...MAYBE...

Mr. Compassion

Mr. Biased Towards Jun Ishihara (And Anyone Who Resembles Her)

Mr. Not Shy But Definitely An Introvert

...MAYBE WE SHOULD BE LETTING OUR FEELINGS BE A PART OF OUR CONSCIOUS DECISIONS.

Mr. Critical Thinking

NO. ABSOLUTELY NOT.

EMOTIONAL THINKING IS RISKY.

Mr. Logic

IT'S COMPLETELY UNRELIABLE.

LOGIC IS RIGHT. AND YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT HOW WE DO THINGS AROUND HERE.

CRIT'... OUR FORMULA FOR SUCCESS HAS ALWAYS BEEN LOGIC-BASED.

"SUCCESS", MAYBE...

BUT WHAT IF "SUCCESS" HAS A DIFFERENT FORMULA FROM "HAPPINESS"?

I KNOW IT'S BEEN HARD FOR YOU TO GRASP THIS... BUT OUR COMPANY POLICY HAS CHANGED.

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE MAKING DECISIONS BASED ON WHAT WE "WANT".

Mr. Critical Thinking

WHY SHOULDN'T WE BE CONSULTING THE EMOTIONAL TEAM?

AFTER ALL, THEY'RE THE ONES WHO KICKSTARTED THE IDEA TO QUIT RYLUSEI.

...!

BACK THEN... NONE OF YOU SAID ANYTHING, BUT YOU WERE ALL SECRETLY UNHAPPY, RIGHT?

...

Mr. Logic

CONFERENCE ROOM 1

...

...WELL...

CROSS

...I'LL ALWAYS HAVE MY RESERVATIONS ABOUT EMOTIONAL-BASED THINKING. BUT...

...FOR THE SAKE OF COMPANY POLICY, I'LL ENTERTAIN THEIR CORRUPT IDEAS.

CONFERENCE ROOM 1

HEY, ALL I'M SAYING IS WE'RE A MAN WITH NEEDS.

ARE YOU SAYING THAT'S ALL YOU WANT FROM A SIGNIFICANT OTHER?

IF THAT'S THE CASE, WE SHOULD PROTECT OUR HIGH-VALUE FRIENDSHIP WITH ISHIHARA AND PURSUE SOMEONE ELSE FOR YOUR "NEEDS".

Mr. Serious Workaholic

BUT, CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, THE CASUAL "PLAYBOY" STYLE ISN'T OUR TASTE.

IF WE DATE ANYONE, THEN IT'S GONNA BE A SERIOUS THING WITH A GOAL IN MIND.

CONFERENCE ROOM 1

WHAT "GOAL"?

STAND

GOOD QUESTION.

UNROLL

Current Collective Comprehension: The Purpose of a Girlfriend

CLICK

LET'S REVIEW THE FACTS, SHALL WE?

BASED ON PAST COLLECTED DATA, THERE ARE TWO WAYS WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE GOAL OF A RELATIONSHIP.

Perspective 1: Business Oriented

According to Ryyujiro Hayashi (2009), "The sole purpose of marriage is to create successors and increase your status. For now, you should be focusing only on judo. You don't need to concern yourself with relationships. Don't get distracted by what anyone else says" (p. 27).

Perspective 2: Recreational

Kaoru Hinamori (2014) once stated, "Duuude... She's totally into you. Why don't you ask her out? ... Marriage?! Pffffit! We're young, we don't need to worry about that love and marriage mumbo jumbo. The point is to have fun and feel good!! Y'know, going out every weekend, flirting with a bunch of cute girls!!" (p. 130).

WE'VE ALREADY ESTABLISHED THAT THE RECREATIONAL PERSPECTIVE DOESN'T APPEAL TO US, CONSIDERING OUR INVERTED NATURE AND GENERAL DISTASTE FOR PEOPLE DUE TO LACK OF TRUST.

THAT LEAVES US WITH PERSPECTIVE 1: THE PURPOSE OF A SIGNIFICANT OTHER IS ULTIMATELY FOR INCREASING STATUS AND SECURING A FUTURE HEIR.

"A FUTURE HEIR"? HOW IS THAT RELEVANT?

WE DON'T EVEN WORK FOR RYLUSEI ANYMORE.

EXACTLY.

WE'RE FREE. A GIRLFRIEND IS JUST ANOTHER PERSON TO TIE US DOWN.

WEEDING THROUGH CANDIDATES. DATES. GIFTS. GIVING SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL ATTENTION...

...THE ENERGY EXPENDITURE TO MAINTAIN A GIRLFRIEND FAR OUTWEIGHS ANY OF THE BENEFITS.

ISHIHARA'S FRIENDSHIP ALREADY FULFILLS OUR SOCIAL NEEDS. OUR PHYSICAL NEEDS ARE MANAGABLE, AND WE HAVE NO DESIRE FOR A STATUS INCREASE OR AN HEIR.

...IN CONCLUSION, HAVING A GIRLFRIEND IS A COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME AND ENERGY.

AGREED.

AGREED.

...

Mr. Seiryoku Zenyo
nods firmly, but not too firmly

Mr. Critical Thinking

...I SUPPOSE

ACTUALLY...

...CAN I SAY SOMETHING?

Mr. Not Shy But Definitely An Introvert
Mr. Love
Mr. Not Shy But Definitely An Introvert

...!

LATELY, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS IDEA...

STEP
STEP

WAIT, WHO IS THIS GUY? I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HE EXISTED.

UH, HE'S NOT AS ACTIVE AS THE REST OF US. I'VE SEEN HIM AROUND MUGEN OR UNCLE.

UH, SOMETIMES, I'LL GET THESE DREAMS RANDOMLY...

HE BROUGHT A TRIPOD!

--BUT, LISTEN...

Basic Components of a Relationship

Time/Money
⌚ \$

Affection
❤️

Marriage
💍

Offspring
👨👩👧

THIS IS OUR BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF A RELATIONSHIP, CORRECT?

...THIS GUY IS NUTS, ISN'T HE?

ARE WE REALLY LISTENING TO A GUY STILL IN HIS PAJAMAS?

PLEASE DON'T ASK ME TO REGRET WHAT I SAID EARLIER.

...UH-HUH?

WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN ULTIMATELY INDEPENDENT--

SO SPENDING TIME, MONEY, AND ENERGY TAKING CARE OF A "GIRLFRIEND"

Offspring

SEEMS LIKE AN UNNECESSARY EXPENSE, RIGHT?

AND IN THE PAST,
WE WERE ALWAYS
CHASED BY PEOPLE
WHO WERE SHALLOW
OR OBSESSED WITH
STATUS...

Affection



TURN...

...SO A
RELATIONSHIP HAS
ALWAYS SEEMED
LIKE MORE OF AN
ANNOYING
OBLIGATION.

BUT IF
YOU LOOK AT
IT THIS WAY...

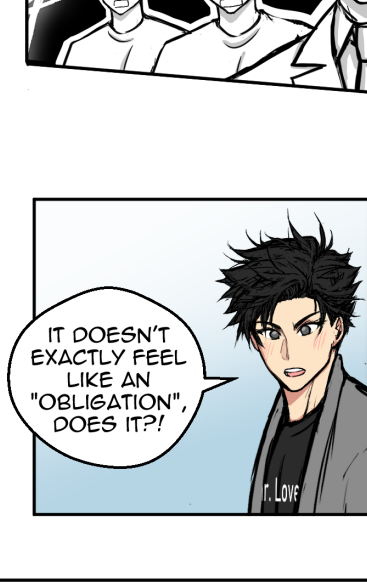
FLIP

Affection



MADE FROM HIS
IMAGINATION

...IT FEELS
DIFFERENT,
DOESN'T IT?



IT DOESN'T
EXACTLY FEEL
LIKE AN
"OBLIGATION",
DOES IT?!



...WHERE THE
H^{bee} DID YOU
GET THAT
PHOTO?

HEY RAINDROP!

SORRY, THIS UPDATE IS SHORTER
THAN USUAL :(I DID THE MOST I
COULD DO <3.

[edited on 12/30/23: this was the last chapter I worked on before my most recent hiatus. i was unwell at the time, so it's shorter >.< sorry!]

Special Thanks to
My RAINDROPS

THESE ARE MY RAINDROPS, WHO FORM THE RAIN THAT WATERS THE ACORN OF A COMIC THAT THIS IS.

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and my anonymous raindrops ♡♡♡