KOGAKU JOSHI

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I had a crush on my cram school teacher.

It was fun seeing my grades go up like crazy.

He said I could aim for the engineering department. I was thrilled that he had high expectations for me, so I took the test.

That's why...
I didn’t mind anything as long as I got in.

A few months later, in Spring...

Um...

Excuse me!

Lim...
Um... Is Professor Hashimoto here? ...What?

There's something I wanted to ask him about the orientation.

The professor's not coming today.

Oh...

What? You got something else?

"Quantum Computing Lab"

Um, this lab...
Quantum computing is great. It's a field that's definitely going to become huge.

I didn't know quantum computers looked like that.

You access to a thing called D-wave on the internet.

I didn't know quantum computers looked like that.

Oh...

I had the image that there were going to be these huge computers all over the place.

"Become huge"...?

Quantum computing is great. It's a field that's definitely going to become huge.
Anyway! It's a really hot field right now....hey!

Oh, hi...

You're Akane Uchiyama, a first-year, right?

I'm Aoi Haneda. I'm a first-year, too.

And this is Himawari.

I'm Himawari Go-to!

I'm Aoi Haneda. I'm a first-year, too.

Oh, hi...
Oh... Yeah...

There aren't many girls in our department, right?
So I thought it'd be better to get to know each other.

Oh...

Cute, right?

That doll...

Oh, um... Yeah...
But I kind of had my own reasons and decided to come back to university and study again.

Hey, could it be that I'm the oldest one here?

Yup, I think so.

You're twenty-if you say anything about my age, I'll kill you!

Haha...

I may not look like it, but I was actually doing sales at a major construction company, you know.

But I kind of had my own reasons and decided to come back to university and study again.

I see...

We had orientation, right?

Orientation?

What's the matter? Seems like something's bugging you.

Oh, um...
I took the exam for the engineering department and got in...

But it's not because I had something I wanted to do or accomplish.

We were told to write about what we think are the problems in society, but...

How about you, Himawari? What did you write?

We were told to write about what we think are the problems in society, but...

Oh, is that why you were looking so worried?

Aoi.

You can't just say things like that.

How about you, Himawari? What did you write?

My bad. But it's still our first day. You don't have to stress out like that.

Well...I guess so, but...
But I want to approach body augmentation and support amputees from an engineering standpoint. I'm not sure if I would be able to help you in any way...

Simply put, I want to work around prosthetic limbs and things like that.

This doll is actually a test model.

Well...

I'm not sure if I would be able to help you in any way...

But I want to approach body augmentation and support amputees from an engineering standpoint.

This doll is actually a test model.

Well...

How about you, Aoi? Why did you return to university?

Oh...wow...
When I was in high school, a friend committed suicide.

People were calling her ugly and all sorts of stuff on social media, and she got really depressed.

You'd think, "Who cares what people say about you when you don't even know each other in real life?", right?

But for kids who've never been out in the real world, the online world is everything to them.

I used to tell myself that these kinds of things just happen, and that it'll be fine if people just didn't look at their social media accounts.
Huh?

I want the internet to be a safe and kind place. I think it's amazing!

But I found out that I can change this reality...

Through computer science!

...I want the internet to be a safe and kind place.

If I can make that happen through engineering, I want to be a part of it. I want to change the world.

But okay, that was kind of embarrassing, wasn't it?

I think it's amazing!

Huh?
I want to be like you guys! I want to find something, too!

A solution for a problem that can change this world!

Hey, first-year.

...?
I forgot to ask your name.

Oh, I'm Akane. Akane Uchiyama.

We were talking about quantum computers, remember?

I'm Haijima, a senior engineering student.

I wasn't able to put it into words on the spot earlier, but...

Oh, right...

Huh?
Quantum have fluctuations. That's why they're full of possibilities.

Huh? Computers make mistakes, too?

Even quantum computers aren't always correct.

If the setting is just even a little bit off, the quantum bits get moody.

They're just like humans!

Oh, I see.

Hm?

"Exploring the possible potential and application of quantum computing..."

"Under the presumption that the probability of errors are finite."
That was when I thought... quantum computing and I were somewhat similar.

I was a nobody... and quantum computing was a field with so much hidden potential.

I might be able to make a difference in this world, too!

That's my research topic.

I think I might have found it.

Huh?
I don't know anything... about engineering yet.

But still!

I'm going to make a change in this world from here, the engineering department!