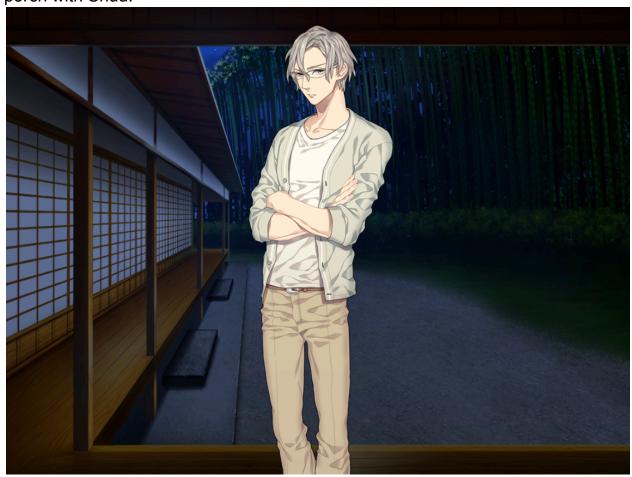
Game: Kintouka MC: Souta Suzumura Route: Shuu Watari

Notes: This scene takes place on the back porch of the Watari household while Souta is staying with their family temporarily. This happens the night after Tsumori (Souta's senpai from college who has been causing a lot of problems on the island) demanded an audience with Shuu and threatened him, Souta, and Kyou with a knife. In an act of brave heroism, Souta tried to disarm him, but ended up getting the palm of his hand cut in the process. After seeing a doctor, Souta talked with Kyou for a bit before being invited to drink and chat on the porch with Shuu.



広間の傍らの広縁に、愁さんはいた。 Shuu was in the veranda next to the reception room.

青白い月明かりが射し込む。目の前には、幻想的な竹林の風景が広がっている。 Pale moonlight shone in. A breathtaking bamboo landscape spread before me.

広縁に座した彼の傍には、誰かが用意した膳が置かれていた。 Sitting beside Shuu on the veranda, someone had prepared a small serving tray.

## 肴と杯が二人分。座布団も用意されている。

There were snacks and sake cups for two. Two flat cushions had also been prepared.

## 夏の月見の風情だ。

The perfect scene for a summer moon viewing.

## 鈴村颯太「きれいな眺めだな」

"What a lovely view."

## 渡利愁「そうだな」

"Agreed."



空には朧月。目の前には涼しげな竹林。虫の声と、遠くの川のせせらぎ......。 The sky held a hazy moon. The yard was surrounded by a bamboo thicket. The singing of insects, the babbling of a distant brook...

夜風の心地よさに、深呼吸した。京都の由緒正しい茶屋でもなければ、こんな風情は味わえないだろう。

I breathed in the refreshing night breeze. You couldn't get a view like this even at the most renowned teahouse in Kyoto.

贅沢な景色を楽しんでから、俺は彼の隣に腰を下ろした。 Having taken in the gorgeous scenery, I sat down next to him.

愁さんの表情は掴みどころがない。夏の夜の透明な風のようだ。 I couldn't interpret his facial expression. It was as transparent as the summer night air.

彼が話を切り出さないので、俺から口を開いた。 He hadn't said anything yet, so I broke the ice.

鈴村颯太「さっきは心配させてごめん。恭にも叱られたよ。3ワードごとに、馬鹿だと言われてさすがに反省した」

"I'm sorry for making you worried today. And boy, did I get an earful from Kyou. Every third word out of his mouth was 'moron', so of course, I repented for the error of my ways."

愁さんが視線を向ける。 Shuu turned to look at me.

彼は物悲しい月の光が、似合う男だった。 He was a man who suited the melancholy moonlight.

渡利愁「縫ったのか」 "Did you need stitches?"

鈴村颯太「縫わなかった。切断面がきれいだから、くっつくのも早いだろうって」 "Nope. The cut was pretty clean, so they said it should heal fine on its own."

渡利愁「おまえは時折、過激だ」 "You're quite drastic sometimes."

鈴村颯太「反省してるよ」 "I said I'm already repenting!"

さわさわと竹の葉をそよがせて、風が吹き抜けていく。 The wind blew through the yard and rustled the bamboo leaves.

心地よい緊張は、まだ胸にあった。ガードレールの上を慎重に歩くような感じ。

There was still a nervous feeling in my chest. I felt like I was walking a tightrope.

子どもの時は危険なことをしたがった。大人に叱られても、チャレンジ精神や、好奇心を止められなかった。

I always tried to do dangerous stuff when I was a kid. Even when I'd get scolded for it, my curiosity and spirit couldn't be stopped.

どきどき、息を潜めながら、どんな物の上でも歩けると思っていた。
With a pounding heart and bated breath, I thought I could do anything.

彼もそうだろうか? Did he also use to be like that?

渡利愁「先程伝えたことだ」 "Now, the matter from earlier."

鈴村颯太「……え?」 "… The what?"

渡利愁「おまえを呼んだ用件。おまえの育った環境について、詳しく話してもらうと言った だろう」

"The matter I called you out here for. Regarding the circumstances you grew up in, didn't I ask you to tell me in detail?"

俺は弱く眉を寄せた。期待したものとは違う、憂鬱な予感がする。 I forced a weak smile. Our expectations were different, and I had a hunch this wasn't gonna be a pleasant conversation.



鈴村颯太「.....さっき言った通りだ。話したくない」
"... Like I said earlier, I don't want to talk about it."

渡利愁「だとしても」 "Still, though."

愁さんは俺の顔を見ずに、きれいな手つきで冷酒の瓶を持ち上げた。 Without looking at my face, Shuu elegantly raised the bottle of cold alcohol.

俺も杯を手に取って、彼のお酌を受ける。 I took one of the cups in my hand and he poured it in.

鈴村颯太「もったいぶって隠してるわけじゃない。話せば重たい空気になる。俺はもう何も気にしていないのに」

"It's not that I'm trying to hide behind some self-important mask. I just know that if I talk about it, it'll only weigh down the atmosphere. Besides, it doesn't even bother me anymore."

鈴村颯太「あなたとそんな時間を過ごすのは、もったいないよ。他のことを話したい」 "It feels like a waste to spend my time with you that way. I'd rather talk about other things."

渡利愁「例えば」 "Such as?"

今度は俺が彼の杯にお酌をしながら、話題を考えた。

As I was pouring his sake this time, I pondered a conversation topic.

神隠し事件の真相は?

What's the truth behind your disappearance?

宗定さんのお母さんに誘拐された? Were you kidnapped by Munesada's mother?

一番聞きたいことが、喉まで出かける。だが、尋ねたのはありふれた質問だった。 The things I most wanted to ask were about to leave my throat. But the thing I ended up asking turned out to be something mundane.

鈴村颯太「彼女はいるの?」 "Do you have a girlfriend?"

愁さんは肩を竦めた。 Shuu shrugged.

渡利愁「合コン慣れした男らしい質問だ」

"That sounds like the kind of question a guy who frequents mixers would ask."

鈴村颯太「慣れてないし、今はそんなに行ってないよ。......付き合ってる人は?」
"I don't frequent mixers. I don't even go to stuff like that anymore! ... But anyway, is there anyone you're going out with?"

渡利愁「おまえは?」 "What about you?"

鈴村颯太「いないよ」 "Nope!"

渡利愁「想う相手も?」 "Anyone you're interested in?"

鈴村颯太「いない……。ああ、ほら。俺が質問したのに俺が答えてる。教えて」

"Nah... Hey, wait a second. I'm the one who asked and yet I'm the only one who's answering. Tell me!"

渡利愁「いない」 "No one."

鈴村颯太「一度もいなかったわけじゃないだろう」 "But it's not like you've never had anyone, right?"

渡利愁「何故そう思う。童貞かもしれないだろ」 "What makes you think that? I could be a virgin."

鈴村颯太「童貞は童貞かもしれないだろなんて、平気な顔で口に出来ない。どんな人を あなたは好きになるんだ」

"A virgin wouldn't be able to say they might be a virgin with a straight face. What's your type?"

渡利愁「どんなというのはない。縁のあった女が数人いただけだ」 "I don't have a type. There are but few women out there that I've had a connection with."

通り過ぎ去った駅のように、彼は恋人のことを話す。

He talked about past lovers like a train station that he just passed straight through.

俺は杯を口に運んだ。清酒かと思っていたら、果実酒だった。匂いはないが、甘い味がする。

I brought the sake cup to my mouth. I thought it might've been refined sake, but it was some kind of fruit wine. It was scentless, but tasted sweet.

鈴村颯太「これは何のお酒?」 "What kind of alcohol is this?"

渡利愁「アケビ酒だ。鎮痛作用がある」 "Akebia wine. It has a pain relief effect."

鈴村颯太「アケビ? はじめて聞いた」 "Akebia? I've never heard of that."

渡利愁「都会の人間には馴染みがないかもな。薬酒は花さんもよく作っていたぞ。床下を 覗いてみるといい」

"I suppose a city boy wouldn't be acquainted with it. Hana often made medicinal alcohol. You should have a look under the floor."

鈴村颯太「へえ……」 "Whoa…"

渡利愁「おまえもはぐらかすのが上手いな。俺の女や酒の話ではなく、おまえの家の話だ。何故、親戚の家を出た」

"You're also quite good at dodging questions. This conversation is about your home life, not my past girlfriends or my alcohol. Now why did you leave your relative's house?"

鈴村颯太「あなたの口説き文句を先に教えて」 "Tell me your favorite pick-up line first."

渡利愁「あなたのことが知りたい」 "I want to know all of you."

不意打ちの台詞に、どきりとした。 His immediate response caught me off guard.

急に酔いが回ったように、顔がほてる。 My face flushed like I was already tipsy.

竹林から吹く風が、俺の頬を撫でた。

The wind blowing from the bamboo grove brushed my face.



鈴村颯太「.....ストレートなんだな」 "... It's very direct."

渡利愁「話す気になったか」 "Did I convince you to talk?"

鈴村颯太「なんだ。俺に言ってたのか?口説き文句を聞いたんだよ」 "Hold on. Were you using it on me? I was just asking for your pick-up line!"

渡利愁「兼用した。おまえは?」 "It was multipurpose. And your line is?"

鈴村颯太「何が……」 "What do you…"

渡利愁「何と言って、口説き落とす」 "Say something to win me over." 静けさに包まれながら、俺の動悸は早いままだった。 Wrapped in silence, my pounding heart stayed rapid.

夕涼みの空気が、不確かな、危ういものに変わっていく

The cool evening air was becoming an uncertain and dangerous atmosphere.

果実酒のせいか、吐息が甘い。

Perhaps the fault of the fruit wine, my sigh was sweet.

鈴村颯太「嫌なことは何もしないから.....」
"You don't treat me badly, so..."

消えそうな声だった。

My voice seemed like it might vanish.

鈴村颯太「傍にいて欲しい」

"I want you to stay beside me."

愁さんは観察するように、双眸を眇めた。

Shuu squinted his eyes like he was studying me.

渡利愁「懇願か。おまえは物乞いのように人を乞う」

"Is that a petition? You sound like a beggar."

鈴村颯太「……辛辣なコメントだな」

"... What a scathing comment."

渡利愁「孤独な育ちが影響しているんだろう。どんな日々を送ってきた」

"Perhaps your isolated upbringing contributed to it. What was your day-to-day life like?"

**鈴村颯太「普通だよ。本当にネタになるほど、不幸だったわけじゃないんだ」** 

"Normal! It really was routine, it's not like my life was a constant disaster."

渡利愁「軽薄な言い方をするな」

"Don't trivialize it."

鈴村颯太「......ごめん。だけど、でも、本当にそうなんだ。俺より不幸な人はたくさんいる」

"... Sorry. But seriously, it's the honest truth. There are tons of people out there with more unfortunate lives than mine."

渡利愁「颯太。幸せと同じように、不幸は他人と比べるものじゃない」

"Souta. It's the same way with happiness, misfortune isn't something you can measure against other people."

鈴村颯太「.....」 "....."

渡利愁「他人から見て重かろうと軽かろうと、その人にしかわからない致命傷がある」 "Whether or not something seems like a heavy burden from an outside perspective, only the person experiencing it can tell if it's a fatal wound."

渡利愁「ものさしは人それぞれだ。なのに、人は周囲に合わせようとする。そして、自分を 見失っていく」

"The benchmark depends on the person. Despite that, people try to adapt to their surroundings. And so they lose sight of their own wound."

渡利愁「不安を覚えながら、怒り、震えるほど怒りながら、笑う。疲弊しながら、丈夫そうに振る舞う」

"They feel angry when they remember things that made them anxious, or smile when they're mad. When they're exhausted, they pretend that everything is fine."

渡利愁「臆病な己や、人を憎む己を認めることが、その者にとっては恐ろしいからだ。それでは、永遠に胸が晴れることはない」

"They might resign themselves to being a coward or just anti-social. Because from that person's perspective, it's just too terrifying. If that happens, their heart will never, ever be cleared."

渡利愁「ついには心が歪み、固まり、壊れていく。どれほど楽になりたいと願っても、肩の 重荷が降りる時はない」

"Finally their heart will bend, harden, and shatter. No matter how much they wish for it, the burden on their shoulders will never go away."

鈴村颯太「……怖い話だな……」 "… What a terrifying story…"

渡利愁「おまえも同じだ」 "You're the same way."

鈴村颯太「……俺も感情を間違えてるって?そう言いたいのか?」

"... You mean I'm confusing my own emotions? Is that what you're trying to say?"

渡利愁「そうだ。おまえの正体を教えてやろうか」

"Precisely. Now, would you show me your true colors?"

鈴村颯太「なんだよ……」 "What is this…"

渡利愁「おまえは孤独中毒だ」 "You're a loneliness addict."

夏の虫が鳴き声をとめた。

The cries of the summer insects stopped.

あんまりな解答に、俺は絶句していた。 I was speechless at his harsh answer.

鈴村颯太「……孤独中毒? ひどい名前だ……」 "… Loneliness addict? That's a horrible name to call someone…"

渡利愁「俺が名付けた」 "Well, I gave it to you."

鈴村颯太「ひどい名前だよ。気が滅入る……。俺はそんな呼ばれ方は嫌だ」 "It's a horrible name! It's just depressing... I refuse to be called that."

渡利愁「おまえは死を思い、孤独を思いすぎた。死や孤独から救われようとするために」 "You think about death and solitude too much. In order to try to save yourself from them."

鈴村颯太「.....」 "....."

渡利愁「だが、人が死や孤独に叶う術などない。叶うことの出来ない恐怖に対峙した時、 人はそれを、愛する」

"However, people don't have a way to handle death and solitude. When people face the fear of things they can't handle, they start to get attached to it instead."

渡利愁「死や孤独を愛し、受け入れ、救いを得る。そうやって一人で死んでいく老人を、この島で何人も見てきた」

"First you get attached to death and solitude. Then you accept them, and then you can gain salvation. That's the way I've seen many of the elderly on this island pass."

渡利愁「おまえは愛ですらない。俺の煙草と一緒だ。思いすぎて、中毒を起こしているだけ。死中毒、孤独中毒.....」

"It's the same as my cigarettes. You think about it too much and it becomes an addiction. And solitude can be deadly."

寂しげな眼差しで、愁さんは笑った。 With a lonely gaze, Shuu smiled.

渡利愁「.....確かに、ひどい言葉だ。止めようとしても止められない孤独中毒。 課税されないだけましか......

"It certainly is a horrible thing to say. Try as you might, you cannot stop being a loneliness addict. But on the bright side, at least you don't get taxed for it."

渡利愁「おまえは憐れな孤独の常習者。だが、矯正しなくてはならない。酒や煙草と同じく、孤独は人を害して殺す」

"You are a pitiable repeat offender. But you have to try to get better. Just like alcohol and tobacco, solitude can kill a person."

渡利愁「それらは必ず、おまえの元にやって来る。だが、おまえは恐れるあまり、知らず 自らのうちに近づいているんだ」

"Without fail, those around you will come to your side. But you're so afraid that you don't realize they're right there."

渡利愁「苦しいだろう。そんな生き方は......」 "It's painful, isn't it? Living that way..."

穏やかに囁く声が、胸を苦くした。

His gentle whisper stirred a bitter feeling in my heart.

渡利愁「もっと、いい付き合い方をしろ。死や、孤独とは」 "Make more close connections. For death and solitude."

彼の言葉が、心に沁み込んでいく。致死の毒のように苦しく、万病薬のように救いを携えて。

His words began to soak into my heart. Suffering is like a deadly poison, salvation like a panacea.

いい付き合い方って何だろう? What did he mean by close connections?

束縛をしない? 貸し借りを作らない? No restrictions? No give-and-take?

死や孤独の気配を思うだけで胸が震える。なのに、思わずにいられない。 My chest shivered at the thought of death and solitude alone, but I couldn't help but think about them. 友人と食事をしている時、ベッドで彼女と眠っている時に、ふいに、それらは俺の目の前に現れた。

Memories of sharing meals with friends or sleeping beside a girlfriend in bed suddenly appeared in my mind.

死や孤独。彼らはいつも、穏やかに俺を見つめていた。 Death and solitude. They were always quietly staring at me.

俺は震えながら、安らぎを覚えていたのだ。 While trembling, I felt tranquility.

渡利愁「何故、そうなった?」 "Why did you become like this?"

どうして、そうなったんだろう。 Why, indeed.

渡利愁「俺が知っているおまえは、無邪気で天真爛漫な子どもだった」 "The Souta I remember was an innocent and naive child."

渡利愁「愛されることを疑いもせず、叱られても物怖じしない、甘えん坊だった。......目 隠し鬼を覚えているか?」

"He didn't doubt that he was loved, he was fearless even when scolded, and loved attention. ... Do you remember Mekakushi-Oni?"

目隠し鬼。

Mekakushi-Oni.

俺ははっと顔を上げた。 I looked up in surprise.

彼と目隠し鬼をした記憶を、昨夜、思い出したばかりだった。 I had just recalled a memory of playing Mekakushi-Oni with him last night.

遠い日の懐かしさに、愁さんが瞼を伏せる。 Basking in the nostalgia of bygone days, Shuu lowered his eyelids.



渡利愁「目隠しをされながら、おまえは無垢に恐怖を楽しんだ。周りの人間を信頼しきっていたからだ」

"You were able to enjoy the fear of being blindfolded because you trusted the people around you."

渡利愁「本当に怖い目にあった時には、おまえの伸ばした手を、誰かが必ず掴むと、身 近な人に身を任せていた」

"When you were really frightened, your outstretched hand would surely find someone to grab onto. You were able to surrender yourself to the people around you."

失ったものを探すように、愁さんは眩しそうに俺を見つめた。 As if he was searching for something he had lost, Shuu's gaze bore into me.

後ろめたさに、息が細くなる。 My guilt made my breaths short.

彼が探している子どもは、たぶん、俺の中にはもういない。

That child he was looking for probably wasn't inside me anymore.

申し訳なさを覚えながら、恭の言葉を思い出して、また切なくなった。 Feeling remorse, I recalled Kyou's words and felt suffocated again.

おまえを気に入ってるんだよ。 Shuu's taken a liking to you.

彼の気に入っている自分は、夏の幻のようなもの。 But the Souta that he's taken a liking to was some kind of summer apparition.

今の自分に、ここまでしてもらう価値はない。 My current self doesn't deserve that much.

鈴村颯太「ごめん……」 "I'm sorry…"

渡利愁「何を謝る。ほら、そういうところだ」 "What are you apologizing for? See, this is exactly what I mean."

鈴村颯太「.....だって、わからないよ。昔の自分がどうだったとか、どうすれば、愁さんが喜ぶのかとか.....」

"Sure, but I don't know what to do about it. How I was in the old days, how to please you..."

渡利愁「喜ばせろと言ってるわけじゃない。頼れと言っているんだ」 "I'm not telling you to please me. I'm telling you to rely on me."

優しいため息をつきながら、愁さんが俺の顔を覗きこむ。 Breathing a gentle sigh, Shuu peered into my face.

人を頼って生きていけ。誰かの声が、頭の奥で繰り返している。 Rely on other people and keep living. Someone's voice repeated that from somewhere in my head.

それは、どういうことなんだろう? What does that even mean?

どんな生き方だったんだろう? What way of life even is that?

ふいに、歯を食いしばって泣いていた、澄雄くんのことを思い出した。 Suddenly, I remembered the image of Sumio crying through clenched teeth.



あの子のことを、愁さんに相談してみようか? Maybe he should get advice from Shuu?

だけど、話さないで欲しいと、澄雄くんは言っていた。おまけに、彼の性は逢己だ。 But he said I couldn't tell anyone about him. And what's more, he's from the Oumi family.

逢己のことに、渡利は口出し出来ないと言っていたし......。 It's been said that Watari cannot meddle in the affairs of Oumi...

渡利愁「祖父母の家で、父親の悪口を言うまで、食事を貰えなかったというのは、本当か?」

"Is it true that at your grandparents' house, you could not eat until you spoke poorly of your father?"

唐突な愁さんの言葉に、俺は息を止めて、大きく目を見開いた。 My breathing stopped and my eyes shot wide open at Shuu's abrupt question. 竹の葉擦れの音が、遠くに聞こえる。

I could hear the distant sound of rustling bamboo leaves.

音を失くした世界の月が、雲に覆われていった。

The moon was obscured by clouds in a world devoid of sound.

鈴村颯太「……誰が言った?」

"... Who told you that?"

尋ねた愁さんまで、何故か絶句していた。

Even Shuu, who asked the question, was at a loss for words.

亡霊のような白い手で、彼が額を覆う。苦々しげに首を振って、声を絞り出した。 The hand that covered his forehead looked as pale as a ghost. He shook his head in disbelief and choked out a reply.

渡利愁「.....なんてことだ......。まさか、おまえのことだったとは......。彼の記憶の方だとばかり......」

"... My god... So it really was about you... The person in his memories..."

不明瞭な呟きを気にする余裕もなかった。激しい動揺に、ばくばくと心臓が早まる。 I didn't have the capacity to mind his incoherent muttering. Feeling intensely shaken, my pounding heart became rapid.

鈴村颯太「誰……、誰が言ったんだ、そんなこと……。 ばあちゃんから聞いたのか? ばあちゃんは誰から聞いたんだ?」

"Who... Who on earth told you something like that... Did you hear it from my grandma? Who did she hear it from?"

鈴村颯太「俺は誰にも言ってない……。母方の親戚と連絡を取り合ってたのか?」 "I've never told anyone... Have you been in contact with my mom's side of the family?"

愁さんは問いかけを無視して、叱るような目つきで、俺を睨み据えた。 Shuu ignored my interrogation and fixed his eyes on me with a look like he was about to reprimand me.

渡利愁「.....何故言わなかった。花さんに相談くらい出来ただろう」 "... Why didn't you say anything? You could have at least consulted Hana for advice."

鈴村颯太「相談なんて、そんな大げさな話じゃない。毎回だったわけでもない。俺の態度が悪かっただけなんだ」

"Needing a consultation is an exaggeration. It wasn't like it happened every time, just when I had a bad attitude."

渡利愁「おまえの東京の祖父母は、娘を嫁がせたおまえの父親が、最初から気に食わなかったんだろう」

"Your grandparents in Tokyo were displeased with their daughter marrying your father from the beginning, yes?"

話し始めた彼に、俺は青ざめた。

I went pale as he started to speak.

渡利愁「だから、運転していたのが、父親だと知って.....」

"Consequently, when they found out your father was the one driving at the time..."

鈴村颯太「止めて、愁さん。本当にこの話はしたくない」

"Shuu, stop it! I really don't want to talk about this!"

渡利愁「おまえの父親が、母親を殺したも同然だと教えた。おまえが反論するたびに ......」

"Your grandparents decided that was the same as killing your mother. Every time you objected..."

鈴村颯太「止めろって言ってるじゃないか!」

"I'm serious, I'm telling you to cut it out!"



渡利愁「父親のせいで母親が死んだ。そう口にするまで、食事をさせてもらえなかった」 "It was your father's fault that your mother died. They would not feed you until you spoke those words."

俺は七歳の子どもの頃のように、両手で耳を塞いだ。 I covered my ears like a seven-year-old kid.

死んだ父さんの悪口を言った、罪悪感と悲しみが、昨日のことのように蘇る。
The guilt and grief of saying such awful things about my dead father resurfaced like it had just happened yesterday.

恐ろしい感情の波に飲み込まれる前に、俺は高い堤防で自分を守った。 I felt like I had been guarding a tall levee to contain a wave of terrifying emotions.

平静を装って、愁さんに別れを告げる。 Feigning composure, I tried to get out of there.

鈴村颯太「ああ、ごめん。用事を思い出した。悪いけど家に帰るね」

"Oh my gosh, Shuu, I'm so sorry. I just remembered I have something I need to do. My bad, but I need to head home."

渡利愁「颯太……」 "Souta…"

鈴村颯太「心配しないで。傷もひどくなかったし。ところで、本当に誰から聞いたのかな?誰が......」

"Don't worry about it, the emotional scars aren't that deep or anything. Seriously though, did you hear that from somebody? Did someone..."

はっとして、俺は彼を凝視した。

I stopped myself and stared at him.

鈴村颯太「……父さんの幽霊を見たのか?父さんは悲しんでいた? 怒ってた……?」 "… Wait, did you see my father's ghost? Was he upset? Or angry, maybe…?"

渡利愁「俺は霊媒師じゃない。生きている人間の、おまえの話しか聞けない」 "I'm not a medium. I could only have heard your story from a living person."

鈴村颯太「話なんかなにもないよ.....」 "It's not much of a story..."

堪えるように、愁さんは唇を引き結ぶ。表情の少ない彼の目に、哀切が浮かんでいる。 Shuu pursed his lips like he was trying to hold something back. There was a marked plaintiveness in his eyes that was rare for him.

しとしと、雨音が聞こえ始めた。

I started to hear the sound of drizzling rain.

光る月は闇に隠れて、やわらかな夜の雨が、竹林を濡らしていく。

The shining moon was obscured by darkness and the soft nighttime rain soaked the bamboo grove.

天に昇った、誰かの涙のように。 Like the tears of an angel.

渡利愁「.....この雨では帰れまい。颯太。よく聞きなさい」 "... You can't go home in this rain, Souta. Listen to me closely."

渡利愁「先ほどの話はある人が教えてくれたんだ。名前を告げることはできないが、おまえをとても大事に思っていた人だ」

"One of the people we were talking about earlier is the one who told me. I cannot say their name, but it's someone who cared about you very dearly."

鈴村颯太「……俺を……?」 "… About me…?"

渡利愁「俺と宗定は、その人におまえのことを頼まれている」 "This person entrusted you to Munesada and me."

鈴村颯太「……ばあちゃんのこと?別に足長おじさんがいるのか?」
"… You mean, my grandma? Or do I have some other mysterious benefactor?"

愁さんは寂しそうに笑った。 Shuu wore a lonely smile.



渡利愁「いたんだよ」 "You did."

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渡利愁「その人が昔話をしてくれたんだ。つらい人生を送っていた、その人自身の過去だろうと思っていた」

"That person shared an old tale with me. It was about living a painful life, and I had assumed it was their own experience."

渡利愁「.....まさか、おまえがそんな目にあっていたとは.....」
"... But to think it was actually you who had gone through such things..."

愁さんは深いため息を吐いた。それは六月の雨よりも、憂いに満ちている。 Shuu took a deep sigh. It was more gloomy than the June rain.

渡利愁「全部話しなさい。聞くことくらいしか、俺は出来ない」 "Tell me everything. The very least I can do is listen."

鈴村颯太「いいよ、そんなの......。もう終わったことなんだ。今さら......」 "It's fine, don't worry about it... It's already over, so to rehash it at this point would just be..."

渡利愁「怖がらなくていい」 "You don't have to be afraid."

鈴村颯太「怖がってなんか.....」 "Afraid...?"

愁さんはそっと、手を取って告げた。 Shuu gently took my hand and spoke.



渡利愁「これは目隠し鬼だ」 "This is Mekakushi-Oni."

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渡利愁「最後にはおまえが勝つ遊びだ。恐れるものはない」 "It's a game that you always win in the end. So there's no reason to be afraid."

薄い雨の膜が、呼吸を細くしていく。

The thin film of rain made my breathing shallow.

やるせない雨音。繋がった指の体温。

The miserable sound of rainfall. The warmth of our overlapping fingers.

結んだ手は気恥ずかしさよりも、郷愁の切なさで、胸を焦がした。

Rather than feeling embarrassed about our joined hands, a suffocating nostalgia scorched my chest.

肺の奥にしみこむ雨の気配に、けだるい笑みが浮かぶ。 The sensation of rain permeating the depths of my lungs, I smiled weakly.

鈴村颯太「.....嘘ばっかり。あなたは一度も捕まえさせてくれなかった」 "... That's a damn lie. You never once let me catch you."

鈴村颯太「宗定さんや、司兄は手を伸ばすと、おまけしてくれたのに、あなたはいつも最後まで逃げていた」

"Munesada and Tsukasa-nii would hold out their hands to let me catch them, but you always ran away until the very end."

渡利愁「そういう遊びだろう」 "Isn't that just the nature of the game?"

鈴村颯太「捕まえたかったよ」 "I really wanted to catch you."

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ゆっくりと息を吐き出した。指を折り曲げて、ぎこちなく彼の手を掴む。 I exhaled slowly. Bending my fingers, I clumsily grasped his hand.

行儀悪く膝を抱えながら、俺はもう一度、おねだりをした。 Feeling greedy, I hugged my knees and pestered him once more.

鈴村颯太「……口説いてくれよ、もう一度」 "… Win me over, one more time."

愁さんが両眼を細める。 Shuu narrowed his eyes.

優しい雨に羽化する虫たちのように、俺たちは息を潜めている。 Like the insects that emerged in the gentle rain, we both held our breath.

鈴村颯太「その気にさせて」 "Convince me to talk."

ぱらぱらと、雨音が沈黙を埋める。 The sound of rain filled the silence.

ぬるいシャワーのような夏の雨の温度が、俺たちを小さな世界に閉じ込めていた。

The temperature of the summer rain felt like a lukewarm shower and confined us to our own tiny world.

臆病なほど、慎重に、彼の唇が動いた。 His lips moved carefully, almost timidly.

渡利愁「.....おまえのことが知りたい」 "... I want to know all of you."

要求通り、素直に繰り返された台詞。 Just as I requested, he repeated his line obediently.

眉を下げて、俺は笑った。 I relaxed my eyebrows and laughed.

鈴村颯太「はは……。いいよ。口説き落とされた。あなたの戦歴に追加して」 "Haha… Alright. Consider me won over. You can add this to your list of conquests."

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愁さんが窮屈そうに黙り込む。笑い声のようなため息をついて、俺は肩をすくめた。 Shuu fell into a cramped silence. My sigh came out like a laugh and I shrugged my shoulders.

鈴村颯太「はあ……。何から話せばいいかな……」 "Hahhh... Where do I even begin...?"

雨の庭を眺めながら、過去を遡っていく。 Looking out into the rainy garden, I traced back to bygone memories.

この島を立ち去った、十数年前の夏……。両親の事故死……。病院で目が覚めた朝……。

I left this island a dozen or so summers ago... My parents' accident... The morning I woke up in the hospital...

二十三年間の日々の暮らし。 My life for the past 23 years.

鈴村颯太「交通事故にあって……。俺の意識が戻ったのは半年後だったんだ」
"There was the car accident… I actually didn't regain consciousness until about half a year later."

鈴村颯太「両親のお葬式も終わって、住んでいた家も売り払われてた。いきなり世界が変わってびっくりしたよ」

"My parents' funeral had already happened and our house had already been sold. I was shocked by how much the world changed for me in an instant."

鈴村颯太「一番最初に引き取ってくれたのは、母方の祖父母だった。母さんとは仲が良くなかったみたいだった」

"The first people to take me in were my grandparents on my mother's side. I could tell they didn't have a very good relationship with my mom."

知らない家で暮らし始めた時の、戸惑いを覚えてる。

I remembered how disorienting it was to live in an unknown house for the first time.

俺は一人息子で、両親に愛されて育ったから、同じように、大人はみんな、俺が好きなんだと思ってた。

I was raised as an only child by loving parents, so I assumed all adults would treat me the same way.

寂しい時には傍にいて、転んで泣いている時には、駆けつけてくれるものだと。 That they would comfort me when I was lonely or come running when I fell down crying.

すすり泣きの声を、うるさいと祖父に叱られてから、一人で隠れて泣くことを学んだ。 After my grandpa told me to shut up as I sobbed, I learned to cry in private.

鈴村颯太「その後、何度も親族会議をして……。 最終的に母さんのお兄さんの家が、俺を引き取ってくれることになった」

"After that, all my relatives met together again... Eventually it was decided that my mom's brother's family would take me in."

鈴村颯太「そこで中学半ばまで暮らしてたよ」

"I lived there until halfway through middle school."

渡利愁「……どんな家だった?」

"... What kind of home was it?"

鈴村颯太「どんな家......。普通だよ。叔父さんと叔母さんがいて、お兄さんとお姉さんがいる四人家族だ」

"What kind of home...? I mean, it was normal. My aunt, uncle, their daughter and son made a family of four."

鈴村颯太「お姉さんは俺より七つ年上で、お兄さんは俺より五つ年上だった。.....なんとなく、宗定さんに似てる人だった」

"My sister was seven years older than me, and my brother was 5 years older. ... Somehow, he looked kind of like Munesada."

渡利愁「.....それで」 "... Go on."

鈴村颯太「あまり、仲のいい家族じゃなかった」

"They weren't a particularly happy family."

鈴村颯太「叔父さんは社長さんで忙しかったんだ。叔母さんはそれが不満だった。二人がけんかする声がよく聞こえた」

"My uncle was a company director, so he was always busy with work. My aunt was unhappy about it. I could always hear their arguments."

鈴村颯太「余っている部屋がなかったから、俺は庭にプレハブ小屋を建ててもらった。そこが俺の部屋だった」

"There weren't enough bedrooms in the house, so they set up a prefab hut for me in the yard. That was my room."

渡利愁「本当に犬小屋と呼ばれていたのか」

"Did they really call it a doghouse?"

俺は苦笑を浮かべた。

I gave him a strained smile.

鈴村颯太「そう呼ばれてただけで、立派な部屋だったよ。 机もあったし、ご飯を食べる小さなテーブルも」

"They did call it that, but I swear it really was a nice room. There was a desk and a small table to eat at."

渡利愁「一人で食事していたのか」

"Did you always eat by yourself?"

鈴村颯太「ダイニングテーブルの椅子が、足りなかったからさ」

"Well, there weren't enough chairs at the dining table, so..."

渡利愁「買い足せばいい話だ」

"What I'm hearing is that they could have just bought more."

鈴村颯太「悪いよ、そんなの。事情もあっただろうし。それに、トイレと、お風呂の時は、家の中に入ることを許してくれたんだよ」

"Well, don't say it like that. There were lots of reasons. Besides, they would let me go inside to use the bathroom and take baths."

鈴村颯太「映画もたまに観せてくれた。スプラッタや怖い映画が好きでさ。俺は怖かったけど、みんなは笑ってたな」

"Sometimes they would even let me watch a movie with them. They loved splatter films and scary movies. I was always scared, but everyone would smile in those moments."

鈴村颯太「けんかの多い家だったけれど、俺がいると、みんな仲良く笑ってた。笑っちゃうけど、ある時......」

"There were a lot of arguments in that house, but when I was there, everyone smiled and got along. But there was that one time..."

鈴村颯太「女の人が悲鳴を上げて、長い時間をかけて殺されるシーンを観たんだ」 "There was a scene we watched where a woman lets out blood curdling screams and has a really drawn out death."

鈴村颯太「お腹が血塗れになって、内蔵が飛び出して。当時の俺は怖くてたまらなくって さ。今は慣れたから大丈夫なんだけど」

"Her stomach is covered in blood and she flees a storeroom. At the time I was so scared that I said I couldn't stand to watch it. But I'm used to it enough now that it would be fine."

鈴村颯太「見ないように観る振りをしてたら、叔父さんがあれはレバーだから怖くない。レバーを食わしてやるって」

"While I watched the screen through my fingers, my uncle said it was only liver so it shouldn't be that scary. He said he would feed me liver."

鈴村颯太「わざわざ炒めて持ってきてくれたんだ。ところが、スプラッタを観た後だろ。戻しちゃってさ」

"He went through the trouble of making some for me. But that was after I had already seen the splatter film, right? There was no going back."

鈴村颯太「それ以来、食べられないんだ。今でも会うと、そのネタで笑われる」 "Since then, I haven't been able to eat liver. Even now when I encounter it, that story makes me laugh."

眉を下げながら、愁さんに笑いかけた。 Lowering my eyebrows, I grinned at Shuu.

彼は笑いもしなかった。あの家で起きた笑えるエピソードは、このくらいしかないのに。

He didn't even smile. That was basically the only funny story I had from that house.

渡利愁「それで」

"And then?"

鈴村颯太「………。……一人が怖かった」

"....... It was scary to be left alone."

俺は観念して、本音を話した。

I steeled myself and said what I actually felt.

鈴村颯太「テレビもラジオもないから、近所の人の声しか聞こえてこない。パソコンだって もちろんないし......」

"I didn't even have a TV or radio, so I could only listen to the neighbors' voices. And of course, I didn't have a computer or anything..."

鈴村颯太「何の話をしてるんだろうって、いつも人の声に耳を澄ませていた」
"I was always straining my ears to hear what people were talking about."

鈴村颯太「耳を澄ましてると、俺を笑う声や、俺に怒ってる声が家から聞こえてきた。だから、そのうち、外の話を聞くのは止めた」

"When I listened closely once, I heard voices from the house, mocking me. That's why, at a certain point, I stopped listening to people's voices entirely."

鈴村颯太「友達の家に遊びに行くのも、面倒ごとを起こすからって禁止されてた。だから、放課後が長くて、長くて.....」

"I was also forbidden from going to play at friends' houses because I would just be a hassle to them. So my afternoons everyday dragged on and on and on..."

鈴村颯太「夜はいつまでたっても終わらなかった」 "And the nights felt endless."

渡利愁「……一人で何をしていたんだ」

"... What did you do when you were by yourself?"

苦笑して、俺は髪を掻いた。

I smiled bitterly and scratched my hair.

鈴村颯太「いやだな、笑うと思うよ」

"It's pretty dumb, so you'll probably just laugh at me."

渡利愁「笑わない」

"I won't laugh."

鈴村颯太「……空想をしていた。両親に会ったり、島に遊びに行って、あなたたちと遊ぶ 空想だ」

"... I would daydream. About meeting my parents, going back to the island, fantasies of playing with all of you guys..."

鈴村颯太「父さんも母さんもばあちゃんもいて、司兄や、宗定さんや、あなたや、恭がいて、ずっと、ずっと、遊び回ってるんだ」

"My mom and dad, Tsukasa-nii, Munesada, you, and Kyou were all there, and we all played together forever and ever."

鈴村颯太「俺が意識を取り戻した時、家や両親の持ち物は全部片づいてて、残っていた のは写真だけだったんだよ」

"When I first regained consciousness in the hospital, everything from my house had already been disposed of and the only thing I had left were photos."

鈴村颯太「島に行った時の写真だ。だから、アルバムを何度もめくって、思い出と空想で遊んでた」

"They were photos of when I last came to the island. So I would leaf through the album over and over, playing in my daydreams."

俺は愁さんの顔を見て笑った。

I looked at Shuu and smiled.

鈴村颯太「あなたの子どもの頃の顔、俺の方が見てると思う」
"I think I've spent more time looking at your childhood face."

彼はとても悲しい顔をしていた。

He was making such a sad expression.

そのことが、俺の気を滅入らせていく。悪い病気を伝染させてしまったような、申し訳ない 気持ちになる。

Seeing that made me depressed, like we were passing around a contagious disease.

先輩や友人に話した時には、こんな気持ちにはならなかったのに。

Even though I didn't feel like this when I talked to Tsumori-senpai and his friend about it.

彼といた時、俺は幸福だった。

When I was with him, I was happy.

無邪気で天真爛漫な......。きっと、俺は、そう呼ばれ続けていたかったのだ。 Innocent and naive... Certainly, I still wanted to be able to say that about my present self.

輝かしい素敵な思い出に、余計なものを付着させて汚したくなかった。 I didn't want to pollute my wonderful memories by attaching something unnecessary to them.

渡利愁「一番、つらかった思い出は?」 "What was the most painful memory?"

鈴村颯太「.....、ひどい質問だなあ.....」 "..... What a horrible question..."

渡利愁「わかっている」 "I know."

愁さんも苦しげに、この儀式を続けていく。どちらも得をしていないのに、淡々と、奇妙な対話だけが続いていく。

We continued this ritual, both in anguish. Though neither of us was benefiting from it, the strange, detached dialogue continued.

夏の夜の雨だけが美しかった。

The only beautiful thing was the summer night's rain.



俺たちは夜光虫のように、ひっそりと羽を震わせる。 We were like bioluminescent microorganisms, our wings silently vibrating.

鈴村颯太「……引き取られたばかりの頃、真夜中に、泥棒が入ったことがあるんだ」 "… Shortly after I was in their custody, there was a break-in in the middle of the night."

渡利愁「泥棒?」 "Break-in?"

鈴村颯太「電気のついたプレハブ小屋だったから、何かいいものがあると思ったんだろう。眠っていたら、突然、窓ガラスが割れて......」

"Since it was a prefab hut with electricity, they probably thought there was something valuable inside. While I was sleeping one night, the window glass suddenly shattered."

鈴村颯太「心臓が飛び出るかと思った。ああいう時って、叫び声も出ないんだな」

"I thought my heart was going to jump out of my chest. You don't even think to scream in a situation like that."

鈴村颯太「泥棒は部屋に入ってきてから、俺がいることに気づいたみたいだ。向こうも きっと、びっくりしたんだろう」

"After the burglar entered my room, he noticed me there. He honestly looked equally shocked."

鈴村颯太「持ってたガムテープで、ぐるぐる巻きにされたんだよ。殺されるんじゃないかと怖くって.....」

"He bound me up with the packing tape he brought. I was afraid that he might kill me."

渡利愁「……だから、縛ろうとした時に、あんなに悲鳴を上げたのか」
"… Is that why when I tried to restrain you at the funeral, you screamed so much?"

鈴村颯太「そうなのかな......。覚えてないけど.......それに、ぐるぐる巻きにされながら、俺はどこかで安心もしてたんだ」

"I wonder... I don't really recall, but..... Honestly, part of me was comforted by being bound like that."

鈴村颯太「ああ、これでやっと、母さんたちに会える……」
"Ah, this way, I can finally see my mom and everyone again..."

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鈴村颯太「泥棒が出ていった後も、俺はそのままだった。あんな長い夜は後にも先にもない。いつ死ぬんだろうと、ずっと考えていた」

"Even after the burglar left, I felt that way. I'd never felt a night as long as that one. The whole time, I kept wondering when I might die."

鈴村颯太「朝が来て.....。家の人が気がついて.....。警察の人たちなんかが来て大騒ぎだった。俺はその時、家に入れてもらってさ」

"Morning came, the people in the house noticed... There was a big clamor when the police came. They let me inside the house during that time."

鈴村颯太「嬉しかったな。一人でいるのが怖かったから……」 "I was really happy. Since I was so afraid to be alone…"

鈴村颯太「泥棒が来たし、窓ガラスも壊れたし、これからは一緒の家で眠れると思った」

"I thought I would get to sleep inside from then on, since a burglar had gotten in and the window was broken."

鈴村颯太「……でも、違ったんだ。警察の人に怒られないようにするために、一時的な体 裁だったんだ」

"... But I was wrong. They were just putting on a show temporarily so the police wouldn't get mad."

鈴村颯太「また外に出されそうになった時、俺は泣いて、泣きまくったよ」 "When they decided I would go outside again, I cried and cried."

鈴村颯太「玄関に座り込んでさ。お願いだから家に入れてくださいって。あの小屋に一人 でいるのは嫌ですって」

"I sat in the entryway in protest. I pleaded with them. I'm begging you, please let me stay inside! I hate being in that tiny room all by myself!"

鈴村颯太「そしたらさ、お姉さんが部屋に入れてくれたんだ」 "When I said that, my older sister let me go in her room."

鈴村颯太「叔父さんたちはいい顔しなかったけど、お姉さんはその晩、自分の部屋に入れて、一緒に眠ってくれたんだよ」

"Everyone else looked unhappy about it, but that night, my sister let me sleep in her room with her."

鈴村颯太「あんなに嬉しかったことはないなあ.....」
"I had never felt so happy before..."

鈴村颯太「口が悪い人でちょっと怖かったんだけど、一番優しくしてくれたんだ。内緒だよって、たまにお菓子や本をくれて」

"She had a sharp tongue which was a little scary, but she showed me the most kindness. She would also sometimes give me snacks and books in secret."

鈴村颯太「子どもだった俺に、大真面目に言うんだ。早く大きくなって、こんな家出ていけって。裁判起こして遺産を取り戻せって」

"Once, she said something to me with dead seriousness in her eyes. She told me to grow up fast and get out of that house. Go to court and get my inheritance back."

鈴村颯太「俺は彼女が話しかけてくれるだけで幸せだったから、そんなことは考えてなかったけど......」

"I was just happy that she was kind enough to talk to me at all, so I hadn't thought about that kind of thing before..."

鈴村颯太「彼女の方は考えてたんだろうな。 高校を卒業したきり、戻ってこなかった」 "She was really looking out for me more than I was. As soon as she graduated high school, she never came back."

渡利愁「家出したのか?」

"She ran away from home?"

鈴村颯太「わからない……。聞いちゃいけないような雰囲気だったから、俺も聞けなかったんだ」

"I'm not sure... It was the kind of thing where you shouldn't ask questions, so I never asked."

鈴村颯太「別れの朝は今でも忘れられないよ。彼女は大きな荷物を抱えて、その日も叔父さんたちと怒鳴りあっていた」

"But I'll never forget the morning that we said goodbye. She was carrying a huge suitcase, and that whole day my aunt and uncle yelled a lot."

鈴村颯太「俺の部屋に来た途端、ぼろぼろ泣き出して......。あげるって言って、たくさんの文房具や、おもちゃや本やおかしをくれた」

"As soon as she entered my room, she started sobbing... She gave me a ton of stationery, toys, books, and snacks as a gift."

鈴村颯太「俺は彼女がサンタクロースに見えた。感激する俺を抱きしめて、彼女は泣いていた」

"She looked like Santa Claus to me. She hugged me tightly as she cried."

鈴村颯太「助けてあげられなくてごめんね......。置いていっちゃってごめんね。.....謝ることなんか、全然ないのにな」

"I'm so sorry I couldn't save you... I'm sorry for leaving you behind, she told me. ... But she had nothing to apologize for."

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鈴村颯太「それが彼女とのお別れだった。泥棒遊びよりも、一番つらい思い出はそれだよ。もう一度会いたいけど、どこにいるのか......」

"It was my last farewell with her. Even more than the burglar game, that was the most painful memory. I'd love to see her again, but I don't know where she is anymore..."

渡利愁「泥棒遊び?」

"Burglar game?"

鈴村颯太「泥棒が来てから流行ったんだ。俺とお兄さんの間でだけど」
"Something that started after the burglar broke in. But it was just between me and my brother."

渡利愁「どんな遊びだ」 "What kind of game?"

鈴村颯太「真夜中にお兄さんが俺の部屋に忍び込んで、俺をぐるぐる巻きにする遊びだよ」

"My brother would sneak into my room in the middle of the night, and play a game where he would bind me with tape like the burglar did."

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愁さんは怖い顔になった。俺は両手を上げて、彼を制する。 Shuu's face was horrified. I held up both my hands and made a defense.

鈴村颯太「怒らないで。今は不謹慎だとわかってるよ」 "Don't get mad. I know now that it was in poor taste."

渡利愁「おまえに怒ってるんじゃない」 "It's not you I'm mad at."



鈴村颯太「お兄さんも子どもだったんだ。子どもってたまに過激なことしたがるだろ?」 "My brother was a kid too, you know. Don't kids just do crazy things sometimes?"

渡利愁「その遊び、おまえは楽しかったのか」 "Did you think that game was fun too?"

鈴村颯太「あんまり……」 "Well, not really…"

渡利愁「だろうな」 "I wonder why."

鈴村颯太「びっくりして目が覚めるし、怖いし、眠れないし......。動けないまま、放って置かれるのはしんどいし」

"He would startle me awake, scare me, and I couldn't sleep afterwards... I was sick of being left in a position where I couldn't move."

渡利愁「何故、嫌だと言わなかった。言えないような環境にいたのか?」

"Why didn't you tell him you didn't like it? Was it the kind of situation where you couldn't object?"

鈴村颯太「遊んで貰えるのが嬉しかったんだ」

"I was just happy that someone played with me."

渡利愁「遊び? どこが遊びだ」

"Played? Where was the playing in that situation?"

鈴村颯太「お兄さんが笑ってれば遊びだと思えた。一緒に笑ってれば、友達みたいだったし.....」

"I thought it was playing as long as my brother was smiling. If we smiled together, it felt like we were friends..."

鈴村颯太「誰かと家で話したかったんだ。どうしても。どうしても、人と話したかった」 "I wanted to talk to anyone I could in the house. At any cost... At any cost, I just wanted to talk to people."

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鈴村颯太「一人でいるよりは、スプラッタ映画や、泥棒遊びの方がましだった。レバーも、 ぐるぐる巻きも、一人よりましだ」

"Anything was better than being alone, even the splatter films or the burglar game. Even eating liver or being bound by packing tape. Anything was better."

鈴村颯太「……だけど、ぐるぐる巻きにされながら、ある夜気がついたんだ」 "… But, while being tied up one night, I realized something."

鈴村颯太「この人はきっと、俺がどれだけ頑張っても、この遊びを続けても、この遊びを 止めても、俺を好きにはならないだろう......」

"This person, no matter how hard I try and whether or not this game keeps going, will definitely never actually like me."

鈴村颯太「叔父さんや叔母さんも。俺がどれだけ家事が出来るようになっても、好きにはなってくれないんだろうって」

"My aunt and uncle too. No matter how much housework I could do, I realized they'd probably never really love me."

鈴村颯太「とても悲しかったよ.....。俺は泣き出して、お兄さんは嬉しそうだった。口を塞がれて、死ぬかと思ったけど」

"I was really sad about it... When I cried, my brother looked happy. He taped my mouth shut, and I wondered if I'd die."

渡利愁「ひとつだけ言っていいか」 "Can I say just one thing?"

鈴村颯太「いやだ」

"Please don't."

渡利愁「それは遊びじゃない。いじめだ。俺や宗定が一度だって、そんな風におまえを 扱ったことがあるか」

"That's not a game. It's bullying. Did Munesada or I ever treat you like that, even once?"

鈴村颯太「わかってるんだよ、そんなこと」 "Look, I know that, okay?"

怒りを含んだ愁さんの声に、俺は額を押さえたまま、かすかに笑った。

Pressing my brow, I laughed weakly at Shuu's voice that was trying so hard to contain his anger.

鈴村颯太「……それでも、ひとりぼっちは嫌だった。優しくして欲しくて、構って欲しくて、 なりふり構わず色々やってきたんだ」

"... But still, I hated being left alone. I wanted to be treated kindly, cared about, and live my life without caring about appearances."

渡利愁「他に何をした」

"What else did you do?"

口を開きかけた瞬間、やるせない疲労を覚えて顔が歪んだ。首を振りながら、肩を落と す。

The moment I opened my mouth to speak, a miserable fatigue washed over my face. Shaking my head, my shoulder fell."

鈴村颯太「もういい……。もう十分だろう……。これ以上は話したくないよ……」 "Enough already… I've said plenty now, right? I don't want to talk about it any more…"

偽りではなく、過去の記憶で胸焼けがしそうだった。 Digging up the past felt like heartburn."

人に焦がれ続けた夜。

The night I continued to yearn for someone.

期待しながら、諦めていた夕暮れ。

The evening I gave up my expectations.

ひとりきりの朝。

The morning I was all alone.

鈴村颯太「.....なにをしたって報われなかった。どれだけ思っても、好いて貰えない。どれだけ好いていても、去っていってしまう」

"I wasn't rewarded no matter what I did. No matter how much I thought about it, I wouldn't be loved. And no matter how much people did like me, they would always leave in the end."

鈴村颯太「新しく出来た友達も、彼女もそうだった。一秒でも長く、続けていたかったのに、いつの間にか終わってしまう」

"New friends and girlfriends were the same way. Even though I wished for my relationships to continue for even one second longer, they would be over before I knew it."

鈴村颯太「さよならするために出会うようなものだ。俺が孤独中毒だからかな?そうじゃない人もいるんだろうけれど......」

"It's like I meet people in order to say goodbye. Maybe because I'm a loneliness addict? I guess there are probably people who aren't like that..."

鈴村颯太「……俺はうまく出来ない……。あなたの言う通り、物乞いみたいに、人を欲しがるばかりで、いつも……」

"I'm just no good at connecting with people... Like you said, I'm just a beggar."

正直に口に出すたびに、胸の奥に悲しみの波が押し寄せてくる。

Every time I said something frankly, a wave of sorrow crashed somewhere in my chest.

ああ、その通りだ。俺はうまく人と一緒にいられない。

Ah, that's just how it is. I'm just no good at being with other people.

こんなに人を求めているのに、いざ誰かがいると、不安でたまらなくなる。

Even though I'm always wishing for people this much, once someone is there, my insecurity is unbearable.

今度の別れはいつ?

When will we separate this time?

いつまで、一緒にいてくれる?

How long will you stay with me?

どうすれば、永遠にここにいてくれる? How can I get you to be with me forever?

俺の声は迷子のように頼りない。

My voice sounded as helpless as a lost child.

鈴村颯太「……もう誰も失いたくない……」 "… I just don't want to lose anyone anymore…"

鈴村颯太「誰とでもうまくやりたいなんて、そこまで贅沢なことは言わないよ......。立ち去る背中を、引き止める力が欲しいんだ」

"Speaking of wanting to be good at being with people, I can't even say something so generous... I just want the power to stop people as they turn to leave."

鈴村颯太「つらい別れはもうたくさんだ。別れが怖くて、大事な人が欲しいのに、大事な 人を作れないまま......」

"I already have so many painful farewells. Saying goodbye scares me, and even though I want to have someone important, it doesn't matter if I can't make that connection..."

鈴村颯太「こうして、生きてる。冷たい人だと言われたこともある。でも、どうすればいいのか、わからないんだ」

"So I live this way. I've been called a cold person before, but I don't know what else I should be doing."

渡利愁「颯太……」 "Souta…"

やるせなく名前を呼ぶ声に、俺は愁さんを見つめて、必死に訴えた。 Hearing his downhearted voice, I looked at Shuu and frantically backpedaled.

鈴村颯太「頼ってくれって、愁さんが言ってくれて、嬉しかったんだよ。それは本当だよ」 "I was really happy when you said I could rely on you. That's the truth."

鈴村颯太「でも、わからないんだ......。 愁さんに負担をかけてると思うと、胃の奥が石みたいに重くなる」

"But, I don't know... When I think about putting a burden on you, the weight feels like a stone in the pit of my stomach."

鈴村颯太「早くなんとかして、あなたを解放しなきゃ、自分でしなきゃって、気持ちが焦っていくんだ。とても悪いことをしてる気になって.....」

"Sooner or later, I'll have to set you free and do things for myself, and it makes me anxious. I'll feel like I've done something terrible to you..."

渡利愁「俺は怒ったりしない。迷惑だとも思っていない」
"I won't get angry with you. And I've never thought you were a burden."

鈴村颯太「わかってる。でも.....」
"I know that. But..."

渡利愁「わかっていない。肝心なことをおまえが忘れているからだ」 "No, you don't get it. Because you've forgotten a crucial piece."

鈴村颯太「……何……」 "… What are…"

か細く震えた声に、愁さんが目を眇める。 Shuu scrutinized my fragile voice.

俺は何を忘れているんだろう。愁さんを失望させているんだろうか。 What could I have forgotten? Maybe Shuu is disappointed in me?

怯える俺の背に、そっと、彼の手が触れた。 He gently put his hand on my frightened back.

魂を寄り添わせるように。 As if to bring my soul close to his.



渡利愁「おまえが愛される価値のある、人間だということだ」 "That you are a human being who is worthy of being loved."

鈴村颯太「.....」 "....."

渡利愁「心無い人間に軽んじられたからといって、おまえの存在が軽くなることはない」 "Cruel people may look down on you, but it will never make your existence less valuable."

渡利愁「おまえは素直で優しい、素晴らしい人間だ。だから、おまえを助けたいとみなが望む」

"You are an honest, kind, and wonderful person. That's why everyone around here wants to help you."

ぐっ、と息が詰まって、瞼が熱くなった。 Choked up a bit, my eyelids started to feel hot.

真剣な彼の眼差しが、胸に突き刺さる。 His earnest gaze pierced my chest.

愛される価値.....。

Worthy of being loved...

渡利愁「おまえが好きだから助けたいんだ。心苦しく思う必要はない。......わかるか」 "I want to help you because I like you. I don't need to feel sorry for you. ... Do you get it now?"

鈴村颯太「.....でも.....」 "... But..."

臆病に声がかすれた。情けなく首を振って、目を伏せる。 My timid voice was husky. I pathetically shook my head and looked down.

鈴村颯太「誰かの役に立つことをしてない。.....出来てないよ」 "But I'm not useful to anyone. ...I've never been able to."

俺の背をさすりながら、愁さんは囁くように、そっと呟いた。 Rubbing my back, Shuu muttered a whisper.

渡利愁「人の役に立たない人間などいない。おまえが笑えば、誰かが救われ......。おまえが何か言えば、誰かが慰められる」

"There is no such thing as not being useful to anyone. If you laugh, you might brighten someone's day... If you say something kind, someone could be consoled."

渡利愁「街角に咲く花のように、たった一言の挨拶が、死にかけた人を救うこともあるんだ」

"Like a flower blooming on a street corner, there are times when nothing more than a brief greeting can save someone from the verge of death."

包帯をした俺の手の甲を撫でて、愁さんが問いかけた。

Caressing my bandaged hand, Shuu started to ask a question.

渡利愁「おまえはナイフを掴んで、俺を危険から守ろうとしてくれた。心から感謝している」

"You grabbed the knife and tried to protect me from harm. I am grateful from the bottom of my heart."

渡利愁「だが、おまえが血を流さずとも、おまえが俺を案じてくれただけで、俺は嬉しい」 "But even if you hadn't shed blood, just the fact that you thought of me in the moment was enough to make me happy."

渡利愁「おまえも俺が謝礼金を渡さなくとも、俺の無事を喜んでくれただろう?」 "And likewise, you were delighted just to see me safe, even if you didn't get a reward for it, right?"

小さく、俺は頷いた。 I nodded a little bit.

愁さんが笑みを浮かべる。 Shuu smiled.



薄明かりに浮かび上がる、優しい微笑に、俺は目を奪われていた。 Standing out against the twilight, my eyes were stolen by his tender smile.

渡利愁「そういうことなんだ。おまえの周りに立ち止まった者たちは、みな、素直に、おまえの幸福を望む」

"That's the truth. Everyone around you honestly wishes for your happiness."

渡利愁「力になれたことを喜び合えるんだ」

"We are grateful just to be able to stand by each other."

鈴村颯太「.....」 "....."

渡利愁「ろくでなしのことは忘れてしまえ。おまえが暮らしていた相手は人じゃない。人はもっと、当たり前に優しいもの.....」

"Forget the good-for-nothings. The ones you lived with in the past couldn't even be called human. Humans are naturally far more kind..."

渡利愁「情愛を知るものだ。手負いの傷を癒して、どうか、もう一度、人を信じてくれ」 "They are creatures that understand love. So please, heal your wounds and scars, and somehow, try to believe in people again."

鈴村颯太「愁さん.....」 "Shuu..."

渡利愁「都会の生活が合わないのなら、家を引き払って、この島で暮らせばいい」 "If the city life doesn't suit you, you could always leave and come live on this island."

緩やかに指を曲げて、愁さんがそっと、俺の手を握りしめた。 Gently curling his fingers, Shuu grasped my hand.

傷に響かないように、重なる手のひらは、固い握手よりも彼の真心を感じた。 Drowning out the pain, the sincerity I felt in the palm of his hand was stronger than a firm handshake.

夢見るように瞼を細めて、彼が囁く。 He lowered his eyelids as if in a dream, and whispered to me.

渡利愁「……どこにも行くな」 "… Don't go anywhere."



求愛するみたいな台詞に、どきりとした。 I was startled by his line that sounded like he was courting me.

まるで、俺を引き止めるように、彼は真摯な視線で覗き込む。 As though he was trying to stop me in my tracks, his sincere gaze peered into me.

沖に流されていく船を、必死に、留めようとする碇のように、胸の奥に突き刺さる眼差し。 Like an anchor desperately trying to ground a ship rushing in the open sea, his gaze pierced somewhere in the depths of my chest.

どこにも行くな。 Don't go anywhere.

どこに行くというんだろう。 Where would I be going?

真夜中に、さまよい歩く、俺は。

I might wander around in the middle of the night.

渡利愁「人の世に、失望しないでくれ。誰かに寄りかかるのが恐ろしいのなら、俺に取り すがればいい」

"Please don't lose faith in human society. If relying on people is too terrifying, you can just cling to me."

渡利愁「おまえは俺の命の恩人。.....そうだろう」

"You are the angel who saved my life. ... Is how I see it."

愁さんが指を伸ばして、優しく、慎重に、俺の頭を抱き寄せた。 Shuu reached his fingers out and gently, carefully, brought my head close.

こめかみを触れ合わせながら、俺の呼吸が少しずつ、速くなっていく。 With our temples meeting, my breathing gradually became quicker.

知らないうちに、小雨は止んでいる。 Without realizing it, the rain has slowed down.

雲間から顔を見せたのは、朧月だ。

The hazy moon made its appearance in the rift between clouds.

あやふやな光の輪郭を滲ませて、虹色に輝く。 Blurred by the vague light, a rainbow shone.

はかない美しさに目を細めた。 I narrowed my eyes at the fleeting beauty.

鈴村颯太「.....ありがとう.....」 "... Thank you..."

どうして、そこまで、俺にしてくれるんだろう。

I wondered why he would go to such lengths for me.

疑問を抱きながらも、しみじみと感謝の気持ちを伝えた。

In spite of the doubts I was harboring, I tried to honestly convey my feelings of gratitude.

愁さんはわざと、冗談めかして笑う。 Shuu smiled sarcastically

渡利愁「おまえに親切にする価値は他にもあるぞ。宗定に自慢できるし、恭に見直してもらえる。モデルを紹介してもらえるかもしれない」

"And your worth extends even further than that. You can boost Munesada's ego or turn Kyou into a fixer-upper. Perhaps you could introduce him to a model."



鈴村颯太「はは……。 頑張って、美人と知り合うよ」 "Haha… I'll do my best to find a really gorgeous one."

愁さんは笑いかけて、ふいに笑顔を消した。 Shuu grinned, but his smile quickly disappeared.

渡利愁「.....そうだな」 "... Right."

そのまま、じっと月を見上げている。 With that expression, he motionlessly admired the moon.

彼の軽口に笑った後で、胸が軽くなっていることに気づいた。 After smiling from our banter, I noticed a light feeling in my chest.

長い年月をかけてこびりついた、錆がとれたような、清々しい気持ちだった。

It was a refreshing feeling, like a years-old rust was finally coming off.

彼の言葉に何度も救われている。

I had been saved by his words countless times.

弱さも、儚さも、善であり美徳。

Even weakness and transience are virtues.

俺にも愛される価値がある。

I am also worthy of being loved.

優しい人だ。人の心を知る、思いやりのある人。

He was kind. He was a compassionate person who understood others' hearts.

知らずに微笑みながら、ふと頭によぎった。

Smiling unaffectedly, it suddenly crossed my mind.

なのに、何故、その反面――

For all that, then why, on the other hand—

彼は人を遠ざけようとするんだろう。

— does he keep other people at a distance?

深い関わりを、避けているんだろう。

Why does he avoid deep connections?

鈴村颯太「......あなたの......」

"I want..."

近い距離に、気が大きくなったのかもしれない。

Maybe I gained some courage from the short distance between us.

普段なら、聞けないことを尋ねていた。

I was saying something that I normally wouldn't be able to.

鈴村颯太「.....あなたのことが知りたい」

"... I want to know all of you."

愁さんは笑った。

Shuu smiled.

渡利愁「俺の口説き文句がどうした」

"How did it feel to use my pick-up line?"

真剣な俺の眼差しに気づいて、彼が真顔になる。 Noticing my earnest gaze, his face became serious.
渡利愁「神隠しのことか?」 "… About my disappearance?
鈴村颯太「あ。違う。神隠しのこと覚えてるのか?」 "Ah… Not that But since you mention it, have you remembered anything about the incident?
渡利愁「いや。 何が知りたいんだ?」 "No… Then what is it you want to know?
鈴村颯太「」 "
素直に聞き返されて、頭が真っ白になった。聞きたいことは、たくさんあった気がするの
に。 Being asked in such a straightforward way made my mind go blank. Even though I felt like there were so many things I wanted to know.
まだ濡れている睫を擦りながら、俺は思いつくまま、愁さんに尋ねた。 Brushing my still-wet eyelashes, I asked Shuu a question as it popped into my head.
鈴村颯太「あなたは一人が好きなのか?」 "… Do you like to be alone?
渡利愁「」 "
愁さんは苦笑を浮かべて、すっ、と俺から体を離した。 Wearing a wry smile, he quietly distanced from my body.
渡利愁「そうだな。俺は薄情な人間だから」 "I suppose so Since I'm a cold-hearted person.
鈴村颯太「あなたを薄情なんて、思ったことはないよ」 "I've never once thought that you were cold-hearted.
渡利愁「」 "

鈴村颯太「優しい人だ……。だから、どうして、一人が好きなのか、不思議に思うんだ」 "You're such a kind person… So, why? I thought it would be odd if you enjoyed always being alone.

一度、体を寄り添わせた分だけ、離れた距離を寂しく感じた。 Compared to when he held me close last time, I felt the loneliness of our distance.

愁さんは腕をさすりながら、やるせない苦笑を浮かべている。 Rubbing his arm, Shuu wore a cheerless, bitter smile.

月明かりに透き通る、人形のような、その横顔。 His profile looked transparent like a doll in the moonlight.

夜の風が、彼の髪をなびかせていく。 The night wind rustled his hair.

渡利愁「……一人が好きなわけじゃない」 "… It's not that I like to be alone.

小さな笑みを浮かべる彼は、青白い月の光に消えてしまいそうなほど、孤独だった。 With a faint smile, to the point that I thought he might disappear into the pale moonlight, he looked lonely.

渡利愁「人の人生を巻き込んで、破滅させるより、ましだと思うだけだ」 "I just think it's better this way. So I don't drag people's lives down and ruin them.

鈴村颯太「.....破滅させる.....?」 "... Ruin them?

銀色の蜘蛛の糸のような月の光が、渡利の家の庭に差し込む。 The moonlight flowed into the Watari garden like silver spider's threads.

秘密を隠す竹林が、幻想的に輝いていた。 The bamboo grove that held our secrets was shining wondrously.

人の人生を巻き込んで、破滅させる。 Drag people's lives down and ruin them.

まるで、呪いだ。 Like a curse. 鈴村颯太「……巻き込んだことがあるのか?」 "… Have you ever dragged people down?

渡利愁「二人」

"Twice.

ぽつりと愁さんは答えた。

Shuu answered with a single word.

渡利愁「一人は人生を滅茶苦茶にして、もう一人は地獄に落とした」
"The first person's life, I made a mess of. The second, I let fall into hell.

闇に抱かれながら、朧月夜が輝く。

While being embraced by darkness, the misty, moonlit night glittered.

まるで黒いドレスの女。

Like The Lady in a Black Dress. (T/L note: This could be a reference to a Japanese yakuza film by the same name, but I haven't seen it so I have no idea what it means. Sorry.)

渡利愁「三人目とは心中するしかない」

"At this point, a third person could be nothing else but lovers' suicide.

俺は息をひそめて、彼の手を掴んだ。

I held my breath and grabbed his hand.

目隠し鬼のように。

Like Mekakushi-Oni.

何かを言おうとして、唇を開く。何故、そんなことを聞いたのか、自分でもわからない。 Trying to say something, I opened my lips. Why I asked such a thing, I didn't understand myself.

鈴村颯太「一番……、つらかったことは」

"What... was the most painful thing?

愁さんの瞳に、真綿に包まれたような傷心がよぎった。 Shuu's eyes looked shrouded in a silk of grief.

渡利愁「……ひどいことを聞く」

"... You ask a cruel question.

わかっている。

I knew that.

雨上がりの空気が朧月に滲む。不思議な虹色の光を、月の輪にかかげて。 The hazy moon bled through the air after the rain. The miraculous rainbow hung over the moon's ring.

ふてぶてしいほど動揺を知らない彼は、その時、迷子の子どもみたいだった。 In that moment, Shuu, who had never shown such a level of discomposure, looked like a lost child.

伏せた瞼に、物悲しい色気がある。 His downcast eyes had a melancholy hue.

消えてしまいそうだ。 Like he might disappear.

神様の手に攫われて。

Swept away by the hand of god. (T/L note: This is a reference to what many islanders said about his disappearance)

渡利愁「……友人を、見捨てた……」 "… I abandoned… my friend…

かすかな声で、愁さんはそう告げた。 In a frail voice, Shuu told me that.

顔を上げて、俺の顔を見ることもない。 Lifting his face, he didn't even look at me.

とても、重大な秘密なのだ。

This was his incredibly grave secret.

動かない首筋の緊張と、あたりに張り詰めた悲しみが、そう伝えていた。 The stagnant tension in the nape of my neck and my strained sadness told me that.

竹林が闇にざわめく。

The bamboo grove rustled in the darkness.

愁さんが、友達を見捨てた。 Shuu abandoned his friend.

驚きは後から、じわじわと胸に広がった。

After the initial shock, his words gradually permeated through my chest.

渡利愁「……軽蔑したか」

"... Do you resent me?

鈴村颯太「......軽蔑なんて.....」

"...... Resent...?

言葉を探しているうちに、愁さんは軽く肩を竦めて、一方的に密やかな空気を終わらせてしまった。

While I searched for the right words, Shuu shrugged slightly and unilaterally broke the silent atmosphere.

渡利愁「……そろそろ、床につくか。夏とはいえ、夜風も冷えてきた」

"... Anyhow, shall we get to bed soon? It may be summer, but the night wind has gotten chilly.

鈴村颯太「あ……、うん……」

"Ah... Yeah...

戸惑いながら、彼に従って杯を置く。膳を片付けようとすると、そのままでいいと、愁さんが告げた。

Disoriented, I set my sake cup down. When I tried to tidy up the serving tray, Shuu told me to leave it as is.

友人を見捨てた。

Abandoned his friend.

それが、彼の孤独の理由。

That is the reason for his solitude.

見捨てた友人って?俺の知っている人? 知らない人?

Speaking of a friend he abandoned, who was it? Someone I know? Someone I don't know?

一体、どんなことがあって?

What on earth could have happened?

質問を聞く前よりも、無数のクエスチョンが膨れ上がっていく。

Compared to when I tried to ask him something earlier, I now had countless questions swirling in my mind.

謎めいた彼には、疑問が尽きない。

I had endless questions for such an enigmatic person.

だけど、どんな謎よりも、彼が垣間見せた弱い表情が、俺の心を揺らしていた。 But more than some kind of enigma, what really shook my heart was his frail look that revealed the gap in his defenses.

彼の秘密を打ち明けてくれた、感動があふれていく。 The fact that he disclosed such a secret caused my emotions to overflow.

渡利愁「行くぞ」 "Let's go.

立ち去ろうとする愁さんの背中に、どくん、と胸が高鳴った。 Watching Shuu's back as he tried to leave made my chest throb.

引き止めなきゃ。引き止めて、何か言わなければ。 I had to stop him. What could I say to stop him?

軽蔑したか? Did I resent him?

そうじゃない。なのに、うまい返答が見つからなかった。 That wasn't true. Despite that, I couldn't find a good reply.

今もちゃんと、伝えられるかわからない。それでも、どうしても、知って欲しい。 Even now, I don't know how to properly communicate. Nevertheless, I wanted him to know at any cost.

軽蔑なんかじゃない驚きと、打ち明け話の喜びと、彼の悲しい過去に触れた胸の震えを。

I wanted him to know my surprise wasn't resentment, the joy I felt from his confession, and the trembling in my chest from his tragic past.

なんて言えばいいのか、わからないけど。 But I didn't know how to tell him all that.

鈴村颯太「あ、あの……!」 "W-wait…!



愁さんが肩越しに振り返る。 Shuu looked over his shoulder.

鈴村颯太「は……、話してくれてありがとう。嬉しかった。嬉しかったって言うと、誤解があるけど、その……」

"Th-thank you for telling me your story. I was really happy. Oh, but when I say happy, you might misunderstand, but, um...

愁さんは怪訝そうに眉を上げた。

Shuu looked puzzled and raised his eyebrows.

鈴村颯太「愁さんの不幸を喜んでるわけじゃない。その、言いにくいことを、話してくれて、嬉しかったんだ」

"Not that I'm celebrating your misfortune. This is hard to put into words, but... I was happy that you talked to me about it.

鈴村颯太「それと、軽蔑したかなんて、あなたに聞かせてごめんなさい。うまい返事がすぐに返せなくてごめん」

"And, when you asked if I resented you, I'm sorry for making you think that. I'm sorry I didn't give you a proper reply right away.

鈴村颯太「軽蔑なんかしてないよ。びっくりしたけど、なんていうか......、愁さんは優しい 人だから」

"I really don't feel anything like that. I was surprised, but... How should I say it... I know you're a kind person, Shuu.

鈴村颯太「あなたがそうしなきゃいけないくらい、ひどいことがあったんだろうなって、悲し く思ってるよ」

"I thought it was sad that there was something so horrible in your life that forced you to do something like that.

渡利愁「							١
"							

目を見開いて、愁さんが俺を見つめる。 Shuu looked at me with wide eyes.

鈴村颯太「う、嬉しかったって言いながら、悲しいなんて、矛盾してるかもしれないけど、 本当なんだ。つまり、なんていうか......」

"Oh, I was saying I was happy and now I'm saying I'm sad... It sounds contradictory, but it's true. In other words, what I'm trying to say...

無言の視線に焦りながら、俺はしっちゃかめっちゃかな言葉で、全部伝えようとした。 Panicking in his silent line of sight, making a complete mess of my words, I tried to convey everything I was feeling.

鈴村颯太「あなたに近づけたみたいで、感激してるんだ。......感激? 感激って言うと軽薄かも? あなたの心に......」

"I got the impression that I got a bit closer to you. ... Impression? Does that sound kind of insincere? I got the feeling...

ふいに、愁さんが俺に近づいた。 Suddenly, Shuu drew closer to me.

怒られるような気がして、顎を引きながら、必死に言葉を重ねる。

Getting the feeling I had made him angry, I frantically piled on more words while drawing my chin in.

鈴村颯太「……触れた気がして……」 "… That I touched your heart… 愁さんは勢いよく、腕を伸ばした。

Shuu reached his arms out with great force.

胸倉を掴まれるのかと思った瞬間、彼の腕は、俺の体を抱きしめていた。

The moment I thought he was about to grab me by the collar, his arms embraced my body instead.

ぎゅっと抱き寄せられて、彼のぬくもりが、体に伝わってくる。 He held me tightly and I felt his warmth.

鈴村颯太「……つ、伝わった?」

"... Did- did I get my feelings across?

びっくりしながら、少しほっとして、俺は頬を緩めた。

Still startled, I breathed a small sigh of relief and relaxed my face.

端正な彼の顔が、すぐ傍に見える。

I could see his handsome face directly beside me.

ガラス玉のような綺麗な瞳と、目があって、どきりとした。

His pupils were beautiful like glass beads, and as they met my eyes, I was surprised.

その顔が近づいてくる。

That face was getting closer.

風に揺れる竹林の頭上には、朧月。

Above the bamboo grove rustling in the wind, a hazy moon.

秘密を隠して滲む、銀の虹の魂。

The spirit of the silver rainbow obscured our secrets.

鈴村颯太「……し、……」

"... Shu-...

名前を呼ぼうとした声が、塞がれた。

My voice that was about to call his name was stifled.

彼の唇が、俺の唇に触れる。

His lips met my lips.

キスみたいな感じで。

In something that felt like a kiss.



鈴村颯太「.....っ、......あ.....」 "... Mh--... Ah..."

俺はぎくっとして、全身を緊張させた。そのくせ、そうっと息をして、彼の顔を伺う。 I was so startled that it made my entire body tense. Even so, I carefully took a breath and read his face.

瞼を伏せて、愁さんは俺を見ていた。 With hooded eyes, Shuu was looking at me.

彼の手のひらが頬に触れる。一気に顔が熱くなる。 The palm of his hand touched my cheek. Heat rushed to my face.

キスみたいなことをしてしまった。
We had done something like a kiss.

どうしよう。 Ah, what should I do?