

BUDDYBOOK



WELCOME TO ROME!

CHAPTER 1: The arrival.

I don't feel it. What's 'it'? It's a good question. I have long forgotten what 'it' is. Maybe... love? No, that's not it. Hatred? Not that either. Everything, perhaps...? Yes, that was it. That's what 'it' means. I don't feel anything. But there's something I feel. For once, I feel like the words I'm pronouncing are not a waste, for someone will read them. Who might that be? Or those? That's a question I do not have an answer for. Hold on a moment... I can feel 'something'. I don't know how to describe it. What is this...?

Suddenly, my vision turned from complete black to white. The light came to rescue me. Who am I? Why was this happening to me? If only I knew...

???: Hello! Hey!! HELLO!!!

What...? Why do I hear someone? Have I been freed from my prison?

???: I'M TALKING TO YOU!

I can now see. A blond and short woman stands in front of me. I'm leaning on a wall, looking at nothing.

???: Umu, at least you opened your eyes! Do your ears or mouth work too? Or do only your eyes function?

I look at her in the eyes.

Me: Who... where am I?

???: Woah there! Seems like I found another one!

Me: Another one...?

???: Tell me, what's your name?

Me: My name...?

???: Umu, this is a severe one. I should present myself first! I am Nero Claudius, your Emperor! Nice to meet a new servant!

Me: A new what...?

Her words confuse me. All of them. I want to say something, but I should let her finish her introduc-

Nero: You spaced out for a second there again! So, tell me, what's your name?

Me: My... name? I... I don't remember.

Nero: Okay, that's new. You don't remember your own name? Do I really have to come up with one? Ugh... You see, I'll call you... Servant 42069!

Me: Could you even consider that a name...? It's simply a title with a bunch of numbers...

Nero: EXCUSE YOU? YOU DON'T FEEL HONORED TO RECEIVE A NAME FROM YOUR MIGHTY EMPEROR?

Me: Ah- Ehm... sorry all mighty emperor, for the name you have chosen is a suitable one for me.

Nero: Umu, you actually believed me. I am not like that. Your new name will be... Buddy!

Buddy: Buddy? Why is that?

Nero: Cause you are in the “Buddyverse”! Here we are all buddies, but you’ll be Buddy!

Buddy: I guess I’m okay with it...

Nero: Umu! Do you remember something?

Buddy: No... Well, I do remember something. Pure black. No thoughts. No nothing. Words no one would hear. But then, suddenly... I was here.

Nero: Umu, so a situation that’s similar to the rest, but your past is blurry... I’ll inform it in due time!

Buddy: To the rest? There are more like me?

Nero: A lot! Come, I’ll show you the way!

I had a different opinion about her at the start. She really changed her attitude mid conversation... I do not dislike it. She started being assertive, since she didn’t know who I was. But she then changed to a more... Kind way to express herself. Ah, I’m not paying attention to the way. This city is very big. I see a lot of buildings, this seems to be the residential area.

Nero: Umu, we’re here! Since I am your emperor, I have things to do! Eris, would you mind guiding this individual?

Eris: Of course, Nero!

This Eris was a woman is standing in reception. I guess that’s her job. She is blond with long hair, and a decently pretty face.

Eris: Come here, will you? *She starts checking me from afar. I’m short black haired, with some old clothes, yet they are not in a bad state. I seem to be a man but... I cannot confirm.*

Eris: So, could you tell me your name?

Buddy: I’m Buddy. The emperor just named me.

Eris: You don’t need to call her ‘The emperor’, that sounds very bad... Call her Nero! So, Buddy... I’m guessing you are a male?

Buddy: I don’t know. I’d say I’m just something.

Eris: I can’t put ‘Gender: Something’ on your papers! Ugh, I’ll just use Unknown, like for species without gender... So, your pronouns will be they/them then, since you don’t know what gender you are.

Buddy: I’m completely okay with that. I don’t fully understand this ‘gender’ thing, so I guess it’s fine to just be some kind of neutral gender.

Eris: Okay! I’ll call the leader then...

She left. I don’t know how long it’ll take for her to bring that leader... I see some chairs. I’ll sit down on one and start reading something from the table in front of them... Huh, a newspaper whose big news is “Man throws bean soup at a homeless man and escapes from police”. A bean soup does definitely sound like a weird food to throw at a homeless man...

?: Are you the new one?

I heard this voice coming from the reception's direction. My guess is that it's the leader, since Eris is already sitting down...

Buddy: Ah- Yes, sorry.

: Good then! Your name's Buddy then, and your gender is unknown... Ah yes, that's what Eris told me. Ah, sorry, my manners! The name's Ichigo, leader of the city!

Buddy: Leader of the city...?

: Yes! It's just that I used to be a leader, and so I wanted to preserve my title. What did you use to be?

Buddy: I... have no recollection of that. I woke up just now after what I felt was an eternity.

: Well, that's a one in a million then. With all that information... welcome to the Buddyverse introduction center! I am one of many coordinates you could've gotten. It'll be a pleasure to help you! *She offers her hand, and I of course accept it*

Buddy: So this city is the Buddyverse...

: Ah- Ehm, no. The Buddyverse is where we live in. We noticed that we all come from different places, even some of them have the same name, a lot of us come from a different Earth... We've called this universe the Buddyverse, because we all appeared here for no particular reason. You however... I'm getting out of topic, sorry! This city is called Rome.

Buddy: Rome...? Why does it ring a bell...

: I've heard some say that this was an actual potency in their planets.

It's actually scary how familiar that name sounds. But why...? I don't even remember anything... Why would something so niche be so familiar...?

: Hey, you spaced out there for a second. I really should teach you some things... Come! Let's get out of this place.

Buddy: Ah? Ah yeah sure...

We came out of the... wait they never actually mentioned its name.

Buddy: Oh yeah, just making sure... This place we were in just now... What is its name?

: It's the SPQR, or Special Project Quarter for Romanization!

Why does that also sound familiar...? The SPQR...

: Hey!! I just explained to you what it was! Were you even listening?! Ugh...

Buddy: Ah- Sorry...

: I know where I should get you first. Let's go to the Garden of Recollection.

Buddy: Then what are we going to collect? Flowers?

: You truly don't know anything eh...? It's the place that keeps the memories of everyone. That's wh-

Buddy: What are you waiting for?! Move! Guide me!

Ichigo: H-h-hold on! I go as fast as I can!

I ended up pushing her. I really didn't want to, but I felt like I could find something in that place. After a while, we ended up getting to another very similar building to that of the SPQR. It took around 10 minutes.

Ichigo: Black Swan! Hello!

???: Ah, Ichigo. Are you coming from the SPQR?

Ichigo: I absolutely am!

Before us was a woman. She dressed similar to a nun, but with darker tones. The main color in her outfit was a really pretty purple that combined really well with the black accents and silver hair. Although I don't see why she's a Swa-

???: They really do dismiss reality quickly...

Buddy: Ah what? Sorry... This is happening a lot...

???: No worries. You may have heard that my name is Black Swan.

Buddy: And I guess you own the Garden of Collection...?

Black Swan: I am the 'Memekeeper' of the 'Garden of Recollection', yes. If that's what you wanted to say, that is.

Buddy: Yes it was. I've heard that there are a lot of memories here?

Black Swan: But of course! We have the biggest stash of memories in all of Rome.

Buddy: Would you mind showing me my memories?

Black Swan: I would most certainly not mind. Everything for the newbies. Come with me.

She guided me towards a very beautiful garden that was inside the building. There is no ceiling, the sky is as clear as it can be. There are a lot of small balls moving around. I guess they are those memories. I hope I can find mine...

Black Swan: Okay... so let's see... Buddy... No. Buddy... Neither. Buddy... Ichigo isn't Buddy. Wait... I haven't ever seen one so small...

Ah, I see it too! It's a ball that's absurdly small. All of the others are bigger than a soccer ball, while this one is barely comparable to that of an olive.

Black Swan: Huh... This is yours, Buddy.

Buddy: ...Huh?

Black Swan: This is so weird... You have almost no memories. They started just a few hours ago...

CHAPTER 2: New people.

Well... That was weird. After Black Swan helped me, Ichigo guided me to my provisional home. It's small, but comfy and accessible. It's inside the SPQR. I'll have to start to work... Ah, I did see an announcement for a coffee shop... I guess it's not that hard, no? Its name... Let me see, the newspaper was over here, on the table... Ah yes, its name was "Bean soups express". For some reason... I'll just go out the building and ask Eris...

Buddy: Sorry, Eris?

Eris: Ah, it's Buddy! How was everything? You didn't answer anything I asked when you came.

Buddy: I guess I just spaced out like always... Well, Black Swan tried to help, but I have no memories.

Eris: As expected.

Buddy: But I really like the room! For being provisional... It has everything I could ask for!

Eris: It's "provisional".

Why would she do a comma sign with her hands?

Buddy: What do you mean?

Eris: I don't think anyone that's come in here has left. Nero is just that kind.

Buddy: Oh. Well, I wanted to ask you something. Where is the "Bean soups express"?

Eris: You don't have a map, right...

She reached below the counter and took something that was akin to a phone. She gave it to me and explained how it works.

Eris: And lastly, here's the map app. Here you can look for whatever you need.

Buddy: Wow, thanks Eris! You've been of great help!

Suddenly, Nero appeared at the front door

Nero: You must thank me! Your emperor! Umu!

I proceeded to bow before her.

Buddy: Thank you, emperor, for your kindness

Nero: Umu, you really don't learn. Don't treat me like that! We're equals here!

Wow... So what Eris said is true... She does her job very well, and makes people around her at ease...

Nero: You haven't lost your manners it seems, umu.

Buddy: Ah, sorry, I was already leaving...

Nero: Bye Buddy!

Eris: Good luck! You'll need it!

"You'll need it"? It's a damn coffee shop! Okay, let's see... So, take a turn to the left... And you'll find the coffee shop to the right... Huh. It's close to the SPQR at the very least. Its sign is very well cared for. There is no one close. I guess people have enough coffee at home right now...

???: How many times do I have to repeat this?! BLACK COFFEE GOES IN THE BLACK COFFEE SIDE!

Buddy: Uhm... excuse me...

???: Ah, a client! Sorry, I was scolding one of the employees. Can I help you with something?

Buddy: Actually, I didn't-

???: We have every coffee you could think of! Black coffee, normal coffee, sweet coffee...

He just kept talking about all the variety. This person definitely isn't human. They are purple with white... clothes? I'll call them clothes. They also have dark blue accents. I'll just interrupt them...

Buddy: Sorry, but I didn't come to buy.

???: Oh. THEN GET OUT OF MY SHOP! YOU'RE MAKING US LOSE TIME!

Buddy: Wait no! I came here looking for a job!

???: You should've said that earlier! Then there's no problem! My name's Cooler, and I'll be your boss!

He went to the cash register and started to look for something. It was a notebook.

Cooler: Okay... I'll need a name, gender, age and job experience!

Buddy: I'm Buddy. I don't know my gender nor my age, and I haven't worked before.

He stopped for a second and looked at me.

Cooler: I guess I'm no one to ask questions... How are you registered in the SPQR? If you come from there, that is.

Buddy: My gender is unknown.

Cooler: Okay... and so I'll have to teach you how to work... Okay! Welcome to the Bean Soups Express, newbie!

Buddy: Actually, I wanted to ask something. Why the name?

Cooler: Isn't it obvious?! Coffee is bean soup by the end of the day! You take the beans, and make them soup!

I gave him a look that maybe I shouldn't have given... He then explained to me how everything in the shop works. The highlight is my new mates. Their names are Heizou and V1. A funny robot guy and a working little man. Seems like the job is okay...

Cooler: Okay, any doubts?

Buddy: No-

Cooler: Perfect! You start working tomorrow morning. Monday-Friday 8-4 shift. You have some free time from 12:00-12:30. See you!

He patted me in the back as if he wanted me to leave. That wasn't a very good impression... But he's doing his job as boss, I guess. I'll just go home for the time being...

???: Ooooh! I haven't seen you here before! Are you new?

A woman approached me with a smile. Her eyes were red and her hair was silver.

???: Hey?! I'm talking to you!

She just started touching me... With a brick!?

Buddy: I'm alive! *I tried moving her hand away from me*

???: Of course you are! Say, you're new right?

Buddy: Yeah...

???: So then you haven't visited my shop! Visit Yatta and Co. Sometime!

Buddy: Excuse me, and you are...?

???: You don't know me!? When I find your mentor... The name's Senti! *She handed over a paper of some sorts with her contact.*

Buddy: Okay, I'll make sure to go if I ever need something.

Senti: YATTA!

Buddy: Huh...?

Senti: Oh so you really are new... not YATTA!

Buddy: Uhm... okay?

Well... that was weird... I'll just go home and rest for a bit... I need to get ready for tomorrow. It doesn't seem like the job will be that easy.

Eris: Hello Buddy!

Buddy: Evening Eris, I wanted to ask you, what is Yatta?

Eris: So you met her...

Buddy: Yes.

Eris: It's just a catchphrase. But a lot of people actually use it! It's just YATTA! If you say it, at least say it well.

Buddy: YATTA! Like that?

Eris: Exactly! Something else?

Buddy: No not-

Eris: Actually, someone wanted to meet you.

Huh? Meet me? Why?

???: Ya-hallo!

Buddy: Hey...?

Before me was a short woman. She had brown hair and twin tails. Her eyes sparked red and so did her clothes.

????: YA-HALLO! *She was already touching my face.*

Eris: Don't mind it, it happens a lot to them.

????: Could it be because they're new...? *She looked all around me, with a very curious face.*

Buddy: Sorry... may I ask who you are?

????: AH I FORGOT! I DIDN'T TELL YOU! My name's Hanabi!

Eris: Wasn't it Sparkle?

Hanabi: Yes it was! Hehe! So, you are the famous Buddy, aren't you?

Buddy: Famous...? And yes, I am. Why did you want to see me?

Ichigo entered the SPQR through the main door.

Ichigo: She's your new roommate.

Buddy: Roommate? But the room is very small...

Ichigo: There have been a few... adjustments.

Buddy: I left for a few hours, what happened?!

Eris: If only you knew the people of the Buddyverse...

Hanabi: Hey! I wanted to say it myself! I also wanted to meet you since you've already met my sister!

Ichigo: Here we go again...

Eris: Well, I'll come back when she's done. *Eris left the room*

Hanabi: That's very rude you know?!

Buddy: What is going on...?

Hanabi: Ah, right! Well, my sister is Black Swan! She's very pretty, isn't she?! And smart! It's a family thing, hehe! She is more of a shut-in, but I'm the complete opposite!

She just kept rambling about how great she and her sister are. At one point I turned to Ichigo, who decided to stay to share the suffering. I whispered to her.

Buddy: Is she always like this?

Ichigo: All the time.

Buddy: Well, I'm going to my room.

Hanabi: Eh? I'm coming with you!

In the end, we both went to our new room together. On our way there, she didn't stop saying how amazing her sister and family are. Oh god...

CHAPTER 3: Visit to the Narukami Shrine

We finally arrived at our room. Ichigo wasn't wrong, it was completely changed. It used to have one big room and a bathroom, but now we have 3. Me and Hanabi's room are the same room, but we do have separate beds. We now have a kitchen and a living room, so I guess that if we want to invite someone over, we can. And everything seems to be equipped too!

Hanabi: I'll be taking a bath right now. Don't peek!

Buddy: Why would I...? I'm not like that!

Hanabi: Just making sure!

She actually had that image of me... I don't believe it... Ugh, whatever. I'll just turn on the TV and see what's on... Huh, there's only one channel. "Mementos" huh... "New person arrives at the Buddyverse!" Oh hey that's me! I wonder who runs this chain...

Hanabi: Oh you turned on the TV? Then you're on my sister's channel! You know, she has her own chain! No one else decided to have one!

And there she goes again... Rumbling in the bathroom... I'll just ignore her...

Hanabi: Hey! Were you even listening?! *She came out the shower with only a towel*

Buddy: H-huh?! Put on some clothes, will you?

Hanabi: Get used to seeing your roommate like this! Not like we can do anything, now can we?

Buddy: I guess...

Hanabi: You are getting out of topic!

Buddy: Ah, yes. I started listening to you, but since it's more or less the same you said down there, I ignored you.

Hanabi: Why do all people do the same?! At least you're being honest I guess... Just know that it's Black Swan's chain.

Buddy: I heard that.

Hanabi: i HeaRD tHAt

Now she's just laughing at me... I guess I'll have to try and understand her... She definitely seems like a fun person. Maybe I should just go more with the flow around her...?

Hanabi: Aren't you taking a shower too? *She now came out clothed.*

Buddy: Yes, I just didn't know you were done.

Hanabi: Well, I am.

Buddy: Yes, thank you. *I stood up and took some clothes I had already prepared* Oh, by the way, sorry.

Hanabi: What for?

Buddy: I may have started with the wrong foot.

Hanabi: Ah, that! Don't worry Buddy! We have to get along by the end of the day, don't we?

Buddy: Yes, I guess, but if one makes a mistake, I think it's fair that they accept it.

Hanabi: Hm... I like that mentality!

Buddy: Thanks.

Well, I went and took a shower. Nothing else to talk about. The shower was really nice. The water temperature worked well. I don't know. It's a shower.

Hanabi: I was actually thinking about going to the Narukami Shrine. Want to come with me?

Buddy: The Narukami Shrine?

Hanabi: Yes! Lady Yae is there. I have some things pending with her. Maybe you could meet her too!

Buddy: Uh, sure. Not like I have anything else to do.

Hanabi: Nice! Want to have lunch first?

Buddy: Yes, I actually haven't eaten in all day.

We then went to a restaurant called "Adventureine's". Hanabi knew the owner, it seems. A blond guy with very scandalous clothes. He seemed like a nice guy! The food was really good too. A little bit too expensive for my liking, though.

Hanabi: Well, let's get going! Did you like the food?

Buddy: Yeah, it seemed like a nice place.

Hanabi: Then let's go to the Shrine!

It took quite a long time to get there, but we used that time to talk for a bit. We mostly talked about what she likes, since I have no idea what I do. She really does look like a really fun person. The problem is when she starts talking about her sister... It becomes really annoying after a while. Just don't bring the topic up and you're more than okay.

Hanabi: Here we are! The shrine maidens already know me, so they won't do anything, but if you were to come alone, they'd probably ask you a lot of questions.

???: Ara~ Who do we have here, miss Hanabi~

Hanabi: Lady Yae! It's nice to see you!

Yae: It's nice to see you too, dear~ And who might this be~? Is this the famous Buddy~?

Buddy: Correct. It's a pleasure. *I vowed to her*

Yae: Ara~ You seem to be new yet have your manners~

Buddy: Thanks.

Hanabi: I wanted to introduce you to them! Oh, we also did have to talk about one thing didn't we?

Yae: Of course I remember dear~ Are you okay with Buddy hearing us~? *I just shrugged at their comment*

Hanabi: Of course I am!

Yae: That new shrine maiden you recommended to me is doing great~ You truly have a great eye~

Buddy: Shrine maiden?

Yae: Are you curious~? You probably have seen some on your way here~ They work at the Narukami Shrine and help keep it safe and clean it~ They also serve me~

Hanabi: Hehe~ *She had a smug and proud face*

Buddy: If I didn't sign up for a work today I would pay more attention to the specifics.

Yae: You already have a job~?

Hanabi: Someone hired you?!

Buddy: So funny Hanabi. Yes, I got hired. Mr Cooler did.

Hanabi: YOU'RE GOING TO WORK AT BEANS SOUPS EXPRESS?!

Yae: Ara~ What a brave person~

Buddy: Everyone just keeps saying it like it's a really hard job... Is it that bad?

Hanabi: Yeah. Customers have it easy, but I hear V1 and Heizou complaining AAAAALLL day long. You've met them, haven't you?

Buddy: Kind of... Mr Cooler told me about them.

Yae: Of course he wouldn't let you talk to them~ They would warn you~

Buddy: I seriously don't think that it is THAAT bad.

Hanabi: You'll come home tomorrow complaining...

Buddy: Want to bet something?

Hanabi: Sure~ *She looked at me very cheeky* If you come back complaining, you have to invite me over to Adventureine's~

Buddy: And what if I don't complain?

Hanabi: That won't happen, but I'll introduce you to the masked fools.

Buddy: I don't know them, but I'm sure it'll be nice to meet new people.

Hanabi: That's why I'm offering that!

As we spoke, a woman approached us. Her hair was purple and ended in a long ponytail.

???: Greetings.

Yae: Oh my~ Look at who's here~ *They hugged each other.*

???: Do we have guests?

Hanabi: Ya-hallo Raiden!

Buddy: Salutations. *I vowed to this "Raiden"*

Raiden: Oh. Is this perhaps the new person?

Yae: Indeed it is my dear~

Buddy: It is a pleasure to meet you.

Hanabi then whispered at me.

Hanabi: Do you know her?

Buddy: Of course I don't. Who is she?

Hanabi: She's Raiden Ei, the archon of Electro!

Buddy: Archon?

Hanabi: You don't even know that? Archons are really powerful people that master a certain element from Teyvat.

Buddy: Oh so she's like... Extremely strong.

Hanabi: Yes. A LOT.

Yae: What are you talking about loves~?

Hanabi: Oh nothing Lady Yae, don't worry about it.

Yae: Well then~ Did any other matter concern you other than the Shrine Maiden~?

Hanabi: Not really. We'll get going then! See you later, Alligators!

Buddy: Until next time.

Yae and Raiden: See you~

Once we left the Narukami Shrine, Hanabi wanted to talk about today.

Hanabi: So, did you like the visit?

Buddy: Yeah, it was okay.

Hanabi: Hey, I also noticed something before... *She got in front of me and turned her head sideways*
Hasn't your speech gotten a bit freer ever since you apologized...?

Fuck... She caught me...

Buddy: Has it?

Hanabi: Seems like I found out didn't I~?

I just simply decided to not even answer. We ended up going home and going to sleep.

CHAPTER 4: Beans Soup Express

After a good night, I thought I was ready for whatever came to me today. We went to sleep early last night, mainly because I don't want to lose my bet with Hanabi. But I don't think it's too hard either. Like, really. It's just a coffee shop. Mr Cooler just wants his business to continue... right? Ah, great. Now they are knocking on the door...

Buddy: Hanabi, can you please open the door?

Hanabi: I'm too busy right now!

She's been in the bathroom for... 40 minutes.

Buddy: How long can you take to prepare to go out!?

Hanabi: You never ask a girl those questions!

Buddy: Okay, I'll go... Not like I can check if you're saying the truth either...

Hanabi: Victory~

Well, since my roommate doesn't seem very cooperative I'll just open the door myself. Oh!

Nero: Umu! Hello Buddy!

Buddy: Hi Nero! What brings you here?

Hanabi: Nero's here!?

Buddy: Weren't you getting ready?

Hanabi: I was! Correct! *She came out of the bathroom, completely ready.*

Nero: Umu! Hello to you too Hanabi! I was simply checking on how the people like the new adjustments. We think that it's way better to be in pairs!

Buddy: It's okay. I like it.

Hanabi: I like it too! It's definitely better than being by myself... I have someone to talk to!

Nero: Umu! Seems like you're getting along too!

Buddy and **Hanabi:** Well...

Nero: Ah yes, Buddy! Cooler was looking for you, umu.

Buddy: Cooler? But it's... *I glanced over at the alarm clock 7 A.M...*

Nero: Umu, don't ask me. He's at the entrance.

Buddy: Thanks Nero.

I heard how they talked for a bit. But I guess not for long, since Nero wanted to know everyone's feedback. Or at the very least so she said. It's not like I don't trust her, it's just that it sounds very tedious. Aaand here he is.

Buddy: What did I do wrong already? My shift starts in an hour.

Cooler: I know I know! Don't worry! I came here to talk something with you. Come on, we'll go to the shop for now.

It's not like I could say no. I guess getting there earlier is also good. Now that I think about it... I haven't met my co-workers really well either...

Cooler: A lot of people have been saying bad stuff about me, right?

Buddy: Oh, so you know?

Cooler: Yeah, I've heard something. I'll try and change my methodology, so if you see any issues from now on just let me know! A happy worker is a happy customer too!

Buddy: I like that way of thinking.

Cooler: And a happy customer is credits for me!

...of course.

Buddy: Are V1 and Heizou there yet?

Cooler: Nah, they usually come exactly at o' clock. Want a coffee? It's on the house!

Buddy: Ah, yes please. I haven't had time to eat anything yet.

Cooler: I think we have a bit of leftovers too... We ordered donuts yesterday.

Buddy: It's really kind of you, boss.

Cooler: Don't call me boss! That sounds like I'm better than you!

Buddy: Sorry, mr Cooler.

Cooler: And quit the mr too! We'll be seeing us very often won't we?

Buddy: Okay then... Thanks Cooler.

Cooler then put his arms behind his head and smiled. We had a quick breakfast and he explained to me some things he hadn't told me the other day. I didn't like it much, but it was necessary. Then, eventually came V1 and Heizou.

V1: Oh, it's the new one.

Heizou: Oh...

Cooler: Hey boys!

V1: You are having breakfast?! If I had something to eat with I'd steal something. *He put his hand over the box of leftover donuts as it transformed into a sort of vacuum, taking one donut.*

Heizou: ...You just did though...

V1: *Muffled* No I didn't. You did!

These are my co-workers, huh...? As I said, this V1 is a robot. It is true that I don't see a mouth. The Heizou guy is human though. He's quite short. I hope we do our job well...

V1: Newbie, what's your name?

Buddy: I'm Buddy. Nice to meet you.

Heizou: So Cooler wasn't lying... It is true that the rare one was our co-worker...

Cooler: Why'd I lie to you? *He took the last donut and ate it whole.*

V1: I dunno.

Cooler: Well then, let's get started! *He stood up and put up the "Open" sign.*

I was right! It couldn't be that hard. The job was going pretty smoothly. I mean, it wasn't enjoyable by any means, but I couldn't ask more having no knowledge about anything whatsoever. I remember we had a little break from 12:00 to 12:30... What time is it? Uh... 11:00 already!? Time flies by, doesn't it? We've had quite a few clients. I saw Ichigo came over here... Eris too I think...

????: Hello. Ah, are you Buddy?

Buddy: Uhh... Yes, I am. What can I help you with, miss?

????: Just give me a packet of black coffee. *I went to get one as she headed to the cash register*

Buddy: Here you go... That's 500 credits. Miss, how do you know my name?

????: Oh, Nero didn't tell you about me? I'm Bronya, Nero's wife.

Buddy: A pleasure, miss Bronya.

Bronya: You really should quit the miss... I think very few people like it. I'm not one of them.

Buddy: Yes, but I may get in trouble if I don't use it when I should.

Bronya: You are right. *She took her phone and paid with it* So, how are things faring?

Cooler then started receiving another customer. Since I wasn't actually working but talking with Bronya, I decided to get off the cash register and move a bit.

Buddy: Really well. Thanks for asking. Do you know something about the adjustments in the SPQR?

Bronya: Of course, I was the designer.

Buddy: Ah, were you? Really good job then. I like our room very much.

Bronya: Who are you with?

Buddy: Hanabi.

Bronya: Her...? Just don't mention Black Swan before her.

Buddy: I already learnt that the hard way, don't worry. *We both chuckled* Well, it was nice to meet you Bronya but I have to go back to working. See you another time!

Bronya: Until next time! *She left*

V1: *He hit me in the shoulder* Already going for it, king?

Buddy: Huh?

V1: Aw come on! Don't tell me you weren't trying to hit on her!

Buddy: Why would I...? I just met her. Plus, she is the emperor's wife, isn't she?

V1: Well yes. But... I don't know. Get back to work!

Buddy: I don't think I've seen you receive a single customer...

V1: Yes you have! I haven't seen you receive one!

Okay now he's just playing with me. He just saw me receive Bronya. Ah, another customer. V1 just left, and Cooler's talking with Heizou.

Buddy: Welcome miss. What will you have today?

???: I'll have 50 packets of your most basic coffee, as always.

...what.

Buddy: I think I heard you wrong... How many did you say, miss?

???: Fifty.

Buddy: Uh... Cooler! Do we have plastic bags?

Cooler: Of course we do! They are under the counter! 20 Credits!

Buddy: Alright... *I took the bag and started taking coffee* You must really like coffee miss.

???: I don't.

Buddy: Then why'd you buy 50 packets?!

???: Oh has no one mentioned you to me? You are the new one right? I am Clorinde. All of this coffee is for my children.

Buddy: All of it?! Then they must really like coffee.

Clorinde: Not really, only 63 do.

Buddy: ...excuse me?

Clorinde: Oh. I have 78.

Buddy: ...I won't ask any questions. Here you go. *I put the plastic bag with all the packets on the counter. I didn't even have to tell her the price, she paid it with her phone.* Have a great day miss.

Well, that was weird. The rest of the day went on smoothly. Nothing else to highlight, honestly. The only thing is what happened in our rest...

Heizou: Do you have a minute, Buddy?

Buddy: Of course.

Heizou: I thought I should mention this. Cooler has changed way too much. Did you do anything to him?

Buddy: What? No.

Heizou: Hm, sorry for doubting you.

And as quickly as he came, he left. Wow. Those are my co-workers for you. He did do a great job though. The people he attended seemed to be very happy.

CHAPTER 5: The beginning of the end, and the end of the beginning.

After an easy day at work, I finally got home. Hanabi was patiently waiting for me. I mean, of course she would. This is the result of our bet, by the end of the day.

Hanabi: Soooo...~?

Buddy: A really nice day at work. No complains.

Hanabi: What.

Buddy: You heard me. It was a really nice time.

Hanabi: W-what about uhm... Cooler! Didn't he scold you a lot?

Buddy: No. Not at all. Not me nor my co-workers.

Hanabi: T-that's impossible! T-there has to be something to complain about!

Buddy: To me, it seems like you are desperate, Hanabi.

Hanabi: ...

Buddy: Any counter argument?

Hanabi: ...you win!

D-did she just pout at me?

Buddy: Ah... As I expected~ Well then, Hanabi, you'll have to get me to meet the masked fools~ *I give her a bit of her own medicine by changing my tone and personality to be more like hers*

Hanabi: Y-your speech!

Buddy: What's wrong with it~?

Hanabi: N-nothing...

Ah... It feels good. I hope she doesn't hold a grudge for this... I hope this can be a way to show her that I'm not always that serious. Well, I could really use a nap right now... I just had an 8 hour shift... I'll just lay in bed and go to sleep...

Huh...? Where am I...? Didn't I just go to sleep...? Why can't I talk...? This place is weird... I'm in the middle of nothing... It's like when I came here for the first time...

???: Hmm... I see...! This...! The knowledge you are bringing me doesn't even have a value!

What...? I don't understand a thing he's saying. Knowledge...?

Before me stood a tall man. He was wearing a white scientific coat, which only remarked his red eyes and hair. This last one is extremely long. And I'm not talking about long for a man... even long for a woman.

???: You don't understand a thing, do you? It seems you don't remember anything of your past life... Don't worry, it won't be lost. I'll unearth it. All of this that you know...! It can't go to waste!

All that I know!? Do I actually have a past self?! I tried mumbling, but nothing came out of my mouth.

???: Don't worry, I won't hurt you. Maybe you should learn my name... No one knows me either way. I am Alexander. And I am one with the imaginary tree. Don't think you can escape from me.

This guy is crazy! I tried moving but nothing works.

???: Buddy! BUDDY!

Suddenly, I felt someone shaking me. I tried to open my eyes, but it was really hard.

Buddy: That's me... Who calls me...?

Hanabi: WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHO CALLS YOU!? ARE YOU STUPID!?

Buddy: Oh... Hanabi... Why are you insulting me all of a sudden?

Hanabi: YOU HAD ME WORRIED!

Buddy: Worried...? Why?

Hanabi: WHAT DO YOU MEAN WHY?! YOU WERE HAVING A REALLY BAD NIGHTMARE WEREN'T YOU?!

Was I...? I don't remember a thing... I just went to sleep...

Buddy: *I sit down on the bed* No...?

Hanabi: What do you mean no!? You quite literally just started moving a lot in bed and were crying for help!

Buddy: You must be imagining things, Hanabi.

Hanabi: And this is my imagination!? *She pointed at a certain spot in my bed. It was wet, as if tears had fallen on it*

Buddy: ...huh.

Hanabi: Don't "huh" me! I was genuinely worried! If you don't want to tell me that's one thing, but don't behave like that!

Buddy: It's not that I don't want to tell you, I just don't remember a nightmare.

Hanabi: Oh great. No, that's just perfect. Seriously! Will I have to deal with this every time we go to sleep...?

Buddy: Well, you haven't complained about last night.

Hanabi: You're right, it didn't happen... And don't say it like that please, people will get the wrong idea...

Buddy: You think?

Hanabi: Hell yeah I think! They definitely will!

Guess I just have to be more careful with my words from now on... But seriously, did I have a nightmare?

Buddy: Hanabi, turn on the TV please, I haven't seen the news today.

Hanabi: You still have me worried but okay...

Let's see... "Research discovers a so called Imaginary Tree--"

Hanabi: BUDDY!

Buddy: Fuck...

Hanabi: You are not okay. I'll take you to the doctor.

I just passed out... That name... I don't even want to remember it... Hanabi took me by my hand and found someone she knew. He did know some healing magic.

???: Good evening. Feeling better?

Buddy: Yeah... I no longer have a headache...

???: It's nice to be helpful. Hanabi, when did this start?

They just kept on talking without asking me anything. I guess it makes sense, I don't know a thing. A third party knows more than I do.

???: Excuse me, I haven't introduced myself. My name's Luocha. *He gave me his hand to shake, and so I did.*

Buddy: A pleasure to meet you, and thanks mr Luocha.

Luocha: You'll need this. *He handed me a card with his information* Come by my clinic. I may be an errant traveler, but I still help the people. Your condition is most certainly not the best. See you, Hanabi.

Hanabi: See you Luocha! And thanks! A lot! Buddy, are you seriously feeling better?

Buddy: Yeah... It was those words... That one name... Why did it sound so familiar...?

Hanabi: What do you mean? The one in the news? The tree?

Buddy: Yes... Don't even mention its name, please...

Hanabi: I won't. Maybe they know something more about this... Wait are those...? No way! Today's our lucky day! IX! Nanook! *She waved at two people*

There was a purple man with the face of a slime. The other was a dark skinned man with... a floating body and hands?

???: Oh hey Hanabi! What's good?

???: Oh. It's Hanabi. And this is Buddy, I'm guessing.

Hanabi: *Whispering* They are IX and Nanook. You better respect them. They are aeons.

Buddy: So... the same respect as Raiden?

Hanabi: No, even more!

Buddy: It's truly a pleasure to meet both of you. *I kneeled*

Hanabi: *Whispering loudly* Not like that, dumbass!

IX: They sure have manners. Stand up, you don't need to do that.

Nanook: Did you simply want to introduce them to us? Or is there something else you want?

Hanabi: Actually, yes. We just talked with Luocha, Buddy wasn't feeling well at all. They passed out after... *She whispered at both of them so I couldn't hear it. You can already guess what she said.*

IX: That new from today you mean? I do remember something about that tree.

Nanook: We'll have to ask Black Swan to look if we know something. It does seem weird that one would simply pass out from that.

Hanabi: Do you think you'll be able to do something about it?!

IX: Not really... Buddy's body is strange. We haven't really seen something like them... All of us were talking about it yesterday.

Buddy: It's okay, you don't have to worry about me.

They all looked at me really weird. I shouldn't have said that, should I?

Hanabi: Look Buddy... You are a buddy. And buddies help buddies. Got that?

Buddy: Uhm... I think?

Hanabi: Good! Thanks for the help anyways, Aeons!

IX and Nanook: We really didn't do anything...

Hanabi took me by my hand and started walking.

Hanabi: I'll show you something. You need to relax right now. *She stopped grabbing my hand once we were far away from the Aeons.*

She's right... Just now I want to relax. I've gone through a lot within hours...

We walked for quite a while, and had to go a bit up a mountain. But when we got up there... It was all worth it.

Hanabi: You could call this my special place. I come here when I feel down. Right about this time, the sun sets, and you can perfectly see the Horizon. The orange sky, fused with the dark of the night...

Buddy: This is beautiful, Hanabi. When did you discover this?

Hanabi: Uhm... A few days ago? I've shown it to my sister and a few of my close friends already. I haven't had time for much. They don't come here because they understand that this is a very special place.

Buddy: I see... Thanks for sharing it with me, Hana.

Hanabi: It's nothing, you were really feeling down! That's why this place is the be- Did you just call me Hana!?

Buddy: Sorry... I got carried away...

Hanabi: No, keep it like that. All my friends call me like that~

In the end, we went home after a bit of staying there. I was really relieved.

Hey to all the readers! This is Ichigo/Siesta/Nagisa. I hope you liked the book! All the feedback is appreciated. Just be constructive please! Everything you say about the book will be useful, seriously. I'm taking up this bit of space to tell you that I'm accepting petitions! If you want your character to show up in one of the following books, then you can dm me. Yes, there will be more books. I'll be launching 5 chapters each time. I do have quite a lot of people that wanted to be introduced here, but I couldn't fit everyone. If you are one of this people, then don't worry. I already have you. If you didn't contact me, please do. This is an example of what you have to tell me:

Name of the character	Franchise	Characteristics
Black Swan	Hoyoverse, Star Rail	<p>Memokeeper of the Garden of Recollection. Mysterious, elegant, loves collecting memories. A Memokeeper of the Garden of Recollection. An indolent, mysterious, and elegant soothsayer.</p> <p>Bears a warm smile and is willing to patiently heed the words of another, and thus uses such means as a pretext to enter "memories" and gain a comprehension over the flow of all information. Feels strongly about collecting unique memories, yet the thoughts that guide her are hard to glean.</p>

All of this will help me greatly! It's really important that you describe your character. I've only played star rail and Genshin, and genshin not all the way, so there's a lot of characters I don't know well. Even in star rail, I don't usually play character's quests or pay attention to them, so I probably understand them way worse than you do. That being said, thanks so much for reading!