



K - ONE YEAR LATER:

CHAPTER 4: NEKO. BEFORE THE TEST. CANNED (BY TATSUKI MIYAZAWA)

TRANSLATION: NARU-KUN / K-PROJECT WORLD

A year has passed since then.

Neko was determined.

She said that she would not go anywhere all day and would continue studying.

She has been a year since she transferred to Ashinaka High School. She managed to keep up with the class itself, but she still wasn't good at studying.

Also, recently, she went out for a picnic with Shiro and Kuro, she went shopping with her friends in Shizume (although she was terrified of the Strain manipulating mud there), and she played a lot.

Therefore, before the final exam, on the last Sunday, Neko rejected various temptations and invitations to play and decided to stay at home for a whole day.

The necessary preparations for that were made from the day before, and she was in a good mood and physical condition.

First, she got up early at 6 am.

Normally, on holidays, Neko would rumble in bed until 10 o'clock, but that day, in addition to the alarm clock she usually uses, she also set an alarm on the PDA, rubbed her sleepy eyes, and left the room.

Surprisingly, even though it was so early in the morning, Kuro had already done all the housework and was about to leave the house.

"What, Neko. You really got up."

Kuro said as if he was slightly surprised. She then got a friendly look.

"That's good, that's right. The sandwiches I made are in the fridge, so eat them later. And don't get too rooted."

He told her that and left. Kuro was busy with various things because he was approaching the tournament of the Kendo club, which he was taking care of as a temporary advisor.

Neko waved her hand at him, saying that he should go, and Kuro again thought that it was weird.

She then returned to the living room and began to eat the breakfast that Kuro had prepared for her.

She thought that she would wait for Shiro to wake up, but she wanted to get something in her stomach early.

Neko was the type that she couldn't think of anything when she was hungry.

After flattening the white rice, miso soup, pickles, and salmon fillets, she takes the dishes to the sink and gives them a light wash. She then boiled water, added green tea, placed textbooks and notebooks in the chabudai and a timer, which was an essential item for Neko to study.

"Ok, I will!"

She raised her arms and began.

The timer sounded.

It meant that quite a bit of time had passed. Neko stretched, craned her neck and twisted her wrist. Then she yawned, she drank tea and looked at the textbook exactly three minutes later.

Concentrate enough.

And take a three-minute break. At that time, be sure to drink a sip of tea.

This was Neko's study routine.

It wasn't something she had created herself, but it was the optimal on-off rhythm created by Shiro, who took the trouble to take her to a specialized research facility and thoroughly analyze the trend of Neko's brain waves and her DNA.

Neko transferred to high school a year ago, but until then she had barely received a school education.

As a bonus, Neko who had just entered school was not bad at all, but she was tired and lacked concentration.

Therefore, Shiro first gave her a comprehensive lecture on how to study, and then taught her the knowledge one by one following the fields and stages of elementary and middle school students.

Shiro's lesson policy is:

"Efficient iteration and clear choice."

Shiro, who is in the genius category, spent a considerable amount of time acting as Neko's exclusive tutor.

As a result, she had managed to reach the level of academic ability to study on her own for high school exams.

Of course, Shiro's guidance was good, but this result was obtained because Neko was desperately eating.

When rang the third bell and suddenly raised her face, Shiro was smiling.

"Shiro!"

Neko happily raised her voice.

He was already up, and he was changing out of his nightwear for a nice jacket.

He must have been gently killing the sound and preparing not to interfere with Neko's study.

"Good morning, Neko. It's a good concentration. If you do six sets correctly, you'll rest for thirty minutes."

"Yes, that's fine."

Neko gave a thumbs up. And three minutes later, she went back to lawfully studying.

Shiro continued to observe the situation from the other side of the chabudai.

Then, when Neko finished six sets of study time focused on math review, Shiro had breakfast at the end of the break.

At that time, Neko also took out Kuro's special rice cake from the refrigerator and ate it as a snack. She was happy to feel that the sugar had settled on her tired head.

Shiro had a friendly chat with Neko, and when he finished eating the rice, he washed the dishes in the sink and walked out as Kuro.

Neko did the same as when Kuro left.

"Iterasshai!" (See you later!)

She saw him leave. Now Shiro is not only a teacher at Ashinaka High School, but he also has various responsibilities and is busy every day.

Neko knew that he was in frequent contact with "Scepter 4" and the "Tokijikuin" hospital to do a great job.

She doesn't know the details, but she believes that it is very important for the future of this world.

And Shiro had postponed starting the big business until she got acquainted with the school, filling in the academic ability that Neko lacked.

Of course Shiro never said that, but Neko intuitively realized that.

That's one of the reasons why Neko makes an effort to study.

(Shiro, do your best at work. I'll do my best to study so you don't worry about it!)

This is how Neko wants to thank him.

Even after Shiro left, Neko continued to make her way to the desk, but the tension didn't last long after all.

Especially the environment where there was only one person in the house, shook her concentration.

If there is something she doesn't understand or is difficult to understand, the number of yawns will inevitably increase, her sitting posture will collapse, and she will eventually fall on the chabudai.

And she began to sleep as she was.

It was then that,

"Neko, what are you doing?"

The door opened and a girl entered the room.

"Hmmm, Nya?"

Neko woke up with sleepy eyes, she wiped the drool from her mouth with the back of her hand and looked at the other person's face.

Immediately, Neko's face suddenly lit up.

"Haru-chan!"

She is Harumi Nakayama, a classmate of Neko, who became a great friend of her.

She is quite tall and has a slender body. Her eyes are sharp and her hair is dyed a color close to gold, so at first glance it may seem awkward and scary, but in reality she was a naive and kind girl who loved reading and camping in solitary.

"Hmm."

Nakayama pushed the paper box in her hand towards Neko.

"Here. Cake. Let's eat it together later."

"Wow, thanks. I love Haru-chan."

When Neko came over and hugged her, Nakayama seemed to push her away, but her cheeks were a little red. After,

"There is no time, I will do it immediately."

She put the cake in the refrigerator as if it were her own room, made instant coffee, and spread out the study tools on the chabudai.

"Is it okay to start with Japanese history?"

She confirms that. Neko nodded with a smile.

Then the two of them silently dove into their textbooks. Like Neko, Nakayama doesn't like to study at all, so she agreed to hold a study session to help each other not skip study.

Every time Neko was about to fall asleep, Nakayama would stab her with her finger and wake her up, and every time Nakayama was about to lose focus, Neko would encourage her to do her best.

And so about two hours passed.

Once she had a break, Nakayama stopped in the kitchen and made fried rice and egg drop soup. She prepared food for two people and they took a break.

Meanwhile, Nakayama asked:

"No teachers today?"

"Yes, they both went out."

Nakayama nodded when Neko answered like this.

"These two seem to be busy as usual."

Nakayama is a close friend of Shiro and Kuro. She is not just a person from the school. For Nakayama, Shiro, Kuro and Neko are benefactors.

She is a student at Ashinaka High School and at the same time one of the Strains who awakened the power of a different ability in the incident caused by the Green clan and continued to have that power even after that.

Nakayama's unique ability is that her body expels toxic gases when emotions run high.

Nakayama was depressed enough to think about committing suicide since she once endangered the people around her with that power. Shiro, Kuro and Neko took care of it, taught her how to control her different abilities and learned how to deal with society.

And at that time, Neko told Nakayama everything without hiding her half-life.

As a result, Nakayama, who was desperate and confused for "having such extraordinary power", was able to gain great courage.

Neko, who has lived a much more terrible life than her, is making bright and positive efforts and trying to enjoy her school life.

She thought that she couldn't lose, so she accepted Strain's power and decided to live.

Since then, the two have become close friends.

After the break, they started studying again. After another break, they ate the cake Nakayama brought and went back to looking at the textbooks and notebooks, and was completely dark.

Nakayama, then,

"I will be back soon."

Saying that, she stood up. She was not a dorm student, but a commuting student with a house near Shizume. Neko walked out the front door.

Nakayama finished putting on her shoes, looked back slowly,

"Neko is..."

With flushed cheeks, she said half-shyly.

"I think you're really amazing."

That's what she said.

In just one year of the harsh environment of little education, she was keeping up with the studies of high school students.

Nakayama praised her efforts in a forceful tone. but Neko...

"Nya?"

She didn't understand and just tilted her neck. Nakayama smiled bitterly.

"Well, no. Anyway, we'll do our best to help each other pass."

After saying that, she went home.

Neko no longer studied after Nakayama returned home. Shiro pointed out that learning for more than a certain amount of time would be inefficient, so she completely put away her study tools and turned around on the couch.

She had finished her quota for the day, and she was tired. She would take a nap anyway.

As she was about to fall asleep, the rang doorbell with a ping pong tone. Neko hurriedly got up and headed for the front door. It was neither Shiro nor Kuro.

They should have used the key to enter normally.

Takkyubin?

(Note: It is a very common courier service in Japan that consists of sending packages from one place to another in the country.)

No.

(Haru-chan? Did you forget something?)

Neko opened the door without suspecting anything.

The one who was there was...

"Oh? Miyabi-chan? Good evening. Is Kuro-chan home?"

A tall and brilliant man.

It was Yukari Mishakuji, Kuroh Yatogami's brother. Neko yelled, "Nya!".

It continues in the fifth episode: "Beauty Drifter".