

Cherry Blossom Petals 2: First Date

Amusement Park Chaos and Sweet Sparks

Ages 16+



Ren checked his watch for the fourteenth time in two minutes. Today was officially Date Number One.



On the train, Ren tried practicing his smoothest smile in the window reflection. Hana caught him immediately.



The gates of Wonder Kingdom loomed tall, bursting with neon flags, balloon arches, and the distant sound of screaming coaster fans.



Ren reached for his wallet to play the chivalrous hero, only to drop his transit card, coins, and coupon clippings across the pavement.



They stepped onto the bustling midway filled with the scent of buttered popcorn and the chime of carnival bells.



Determined to impress her, Ren stepped up to the High Striker hammer game, puffed out his chest, and swung with all his might.



Hana casually stepped up next, flipped the mallet, and sent the puck rocketing straight into the bell with a deafening DING!



Hana pointed toward the park's scariest mega-coaster: 'The Thunder Dragon.' Ren gulped so hard his throat clicked.



Locked into the front row seats, the coaster car slowly clicked upward. Hana threw her hands in the air; Ren squeezed his safety bar until his knuckles turned chalk-white.



Over the edge they plunged! Hana let out a joyful shout, while Ren made noises human ears had never heard before.



Safe on solid ground, Ren discovered his knees had temporarily transformed into warm pudding.



'Let’s do something relaxing next,' Ren suggested. He had forgotten the laws of teacup physics.



Hana spun the wheel like a Formula 1 mechanic. The world dissolved into a glorious pastel blur.



To restore Ren's equilibrium, Hana bought a mountain of pink cotton candy bigger than both of their heads combined.



Ren took a bite, and half the sugary cloud attached itself to his nose and upper lip like a fluffy pink beard.



Hana reached over with a napkin to wipe his nose. For three silent seconds, neither of them breathed.



'Look! The Spooky Manor dark ride!' Hana announced. Ren swallowed his fear: how scary could a plastic skeleton really be?



The cart clicked through the swinging doors into pitch-black darkness, filled with eerie organ music and rattling chains.



BOO! A spring-loaded skeleton leapt from a crypt, and Ren heroically jumped directly into Hana's lap.



At the ride photo counter, the souvenir snapshot immortalized Ren’s look of absolute despair. Hana immediately bought three copies.



Time for payback. Ren strapped into a slick blue bumper car, determined to assert his driving supremacy.



Before Ren could even turn his steering wheel, Hana executed a tactical drift and slammed bumper-to-bumper with a mighty BAM!



Seeking peace after the bumper demolition derby, they boarded the slow, gentle antique steam train encircling the park.



The little engine chugged over a wooden trestle bridge while the late afternoon sun bathed the park in amber gold.



As twilight fell, the grand Merry-Go-Round lit up with three thousand incandescent bulbs and sparkling mirrors.



Ren pulled out his phone and snapped a photo of Hana bathed in carousel light. It was the prettiest picture he had ever taken.



Their final ride was the Grand Ferris Wheel, rising high against the purple evening sky like a glowing galaxy.



At the very peak of the rotation, the gondola paused. Below them, the evening fireworks began with a shower of gold and crimson sparks.



Hana turned to find him looking at her. Slowly, without a word, she slid her fingers between his.



They walked back to the station beneath glowing paper lanterns, their steps naturally falling into rhythm together.



At the platform, Hana's train arrived with a gentle chime. She stepped onto the train car, turning back one last time.



Through the train window, Hana tapped the glass and drew a little steamed heart with her finger, mouthing: 'Best first date ever.'