

VI

"Ah, crap!" Yuuto cried, putting his bag down.

"What happened?" Nori laughed. "Did you lose your textbook or something?"

"No, it's not that. For God's sake, Ms. Adachi would kill me for *that*. I just forgot my lunch at home."

"So are you gonna go to the cafeteria then?"

"I don't have any money on me, smartass," Yuuto said. "The little bit of cash I make for helping my parents at the restaurant sits safely at home, not on my person. This way, if I get mugged, all they'll take is my phone which has a twenty letter password on it."

"Then what's the plan?" Nori chuckled. "If you can't *buy* lunch and you didn't *bring* it, what're you gonna eat?"

"I could always skip a meal. Never killed me before."

"Fair enough."

Yuuto yawned as he leaned back in his chair. He felt a finger gently tapping on his shoulder. Turning around, his eyes met with Hanae's. She smiled and leaned forward, poking him on the nose. "Darling, I *couldn't help* but overhear, but did you happen to forget your lunch?" she asked.

"Yeah," Yuuto replied with a nod. "But I coulda *sworn* I packed it. Heck, I made it myself, so you'd think I would have remembered."

"Aww...that's a shame. I wanted to try some of my darling's cooking too..." Hanae's voice trailed off. "Well, no worries. I made you something to eat anyways, but since you forgot your lunch it may not be enough..."

"Th-that's fine!" Yuuto laughed. "I'm honored!"

"And I'm friggin' jealous!" Nori cried.

"Nobody asked you," Yuuto retorted.

"So I can't try some?"

"I DON'T HAVE A FRIGGIN' LUNCH, YOU MORON!"

Sayaka tapped her desk impatiently as she watched the three of them out of the corner of her eye. She bit her lip gently. "Dammit," she muttered to herself.

"What is it?" the girl beside her asked.

"N-nothing important, Kaho, I'm just thinking to myself, that's all."

"But Sayaka, you know you can tell me *anything*, right? I'd never tell anyone your secrets..."

"It's not that...you're best best friend and I believe you, but still..."

"Oh come on! Do you have a crush on someone or something?"

"I—" Sayaka stopped, looking at her friend in shock. "Wait, how'd you know?"

"I guessed. You just confirmed it though," Kaho laughed.

"What the—you're kidding, right?"

"Not at all! So...who is it?"

Sayaka took a deep breath. "Well, can you keep a secret?"

"Heck yeah!" Kaho smiled.

"My crush is...it's..."

"*Oh, I am fortune's fool!* This is amazing!" Yuuto laughed.

"Glad to hear it, darling!" Hanae winked.

"I'm still jealous, man," Nori said. "You get a pretty girl who'll cook for you and take care of you, and here I am still trying to fabricate my li—"

"Err...you *may* wanna keep that one under wraps, dude," Yuuto laughed, cutting him off.

"Wait, you're right! What am I doing all of a sudden?" Nori cried.

"Being an idiot?" a voice suggested.

"Yeah, possibl—HEY, HOLD ON JUST A MINUTE!" Nori shouted, turning around. He looked up, only to see Kaho looking down upon him rather menacingly, her bright red hair matching the flair of anger she was giving off. "U-uhh...hi?"

"Yeah, *hi*. I'm not here for you, smartass," Kaho said.

"Alright, alright, don't get your panties in a twist!" Nori cried.

"The only thing that'll end up in a twist is *you* if you don't shut up," Kaho sighed. "Either way, I'm here for Ishikawa."

"Me?" Yuuto asked as he finished the lunch Hanae had prepared for him.

"What the hell could you possibly need *me* for? If you're trying to get a pack mule for shopping or something, I'd recommend Nori. He's better and hard labour and will do it for free."

"Wait, WHAT?" Nori objected.

"I'm joking, chill," Yuuto said.

"Even so, I think I'll keep that in mind for next time," Kaho mumbled. "But anyways, I'm here to deliver a letter to you. Sayaka and I found it sitting around in the shoe locker area at the beginning of the day, but it was addressed to you. I just almost forgot about it until now." She reached into her shirt pocket and pulled out an envelope, folded neatly in two, and handed it to Yuuto. "That'll be all," she said, turning and leaving.

"That was weird," Nori mumbled. "C'mon, open it! It could be a love letter!"

"Who DARES?" Hanae cried. "This is *my* fiancé we're talking about here!"

"Chill, I doubt it's a love letter...probably." Yuuto sighed, unfolding the envelope. It was a classic white envelope, sealed with a small piece of clear tape. Opening it, he found a single sheet of paper, folded carefully into three. Taking it out, he unfolded it.

"What does it say?" Nori asked, confused.

Hanae, who was leaning back out of respect for Yuuto's privacy, nodded with curiosity. "Yes, darling, what does it say?"

Yuuto sat in place, surprised. "U-uhh...you two..."

"What's wrong?" Nori asked.

“Say something, darling!” Hanae cried.

“It’s...a love letter,” Yuuto declared.