

XIX

"Why the hell do you have darling's lunch anyways?" Hanae inquired, raising an eyebrow. "And how did you know where he left his lunch in the first place?"

"What the hell were you doing yesterday?" Sayaka added. "I thought you were going to deliver a letter!"

"I was, but it started raining really hard yesterday so his father invited me to stay over for the night, and my father was alright with it, so I spent the night in his room."

"YOU WHAT?" Hanae and Sayaka cried together.

"Yeah, he even spent some time with me last night," Yuina added, ignoring Yuuto's desperate attempts to silently signal her to stop speaking. "His arm was very warm and nice to cuddle with," Yuina proclaimed. "You should try it sometime."

Yuuto facepalmed. *Holy shit, I tried to tell you to stop, dammit!* he thought.

Turning to Yuuto, Sayaka put on a serious expression. "Is this true, Yuuto?" she demanded.

"It...well...kinda? Yes? No? Listen, I can explain—" he began, trying to wiggle his way out of the situation he was placed into. "N-Nori, you believe me, right?"

"I'd love to say yes," Nori answered, "but if I side with you on this, I think the girls are gonna tear me a new one."

"Son of a—"

"Explain yourself, darling!" Hanae cried. "Did she seduce you with that timid nature of hers—oh wait a minute, WHAT? Wasn't she supposed to be really timid?"

"Yeah, she just managed to take pretty much everything out of context though...somehow," Yuuto replied. "To summarize, Pops decided that Yuina should stay over to avoid the rain yesterday, so I cleared out of my room to provide her a bed, but she was scared of the lightning so I went back to comfort her for a bit. She ended up clinging to me and falling asleep, and it took me a while to get free and go to bed myself. That on top of my apparent insomnia resulted in me sleeping around three in the morning."

"W-wasn't that what I just said?" Yuina asked, confused.

"No, not even close," Sayaka told her. "The way you put it, it sounded like you chose to sleep in Yuuto's room with him, and you ended up cuddling in bed together like you just...y'know..."

"Huh?" Yuina tilted her head in confusion. "W-w-wait, REALLY? I didn't mean it like *that*, oh my God! I'm so sorry for that!"

"And *there's* the timid nature again," Hanae laughed. "So it was just a misunderstanding, huh?"

"N-not quite," Sayaka said. "She still ended up cuddling with him in some way...so spill it! What happened? Don't you leave out a single detail, or so help me, I'll—"

"I see you and your mother have some serious similarities between you, hmm?" Yuuto chuckled.

"I-I...oops..."

"I also wanna know!" Hanae declared.

"Well, it was nothing," Yuuto explained, "I just sat at her bedside while she clung to my arm. That's about it."

"Oh. That was...a lot more innocent than I expected," Sayaka mumbled.

"Indeed," Hanae agreed. "Alright, you're off the hook. And here I was, thinking all my work was for naught..."

"Work?" Yuuto asked.

"O-oh, it's nothing, really...it's just...I've worked hard all these years so I could try to impress you when we met again, darling," Hanae explained. "All that studying to become smarter and less of an airhead...all that exercise to become fit and beautiful...twas all for you, my beloved," she said dramatically, raising a finger and pointing straight at Yuuto with a smile on her face.

"W-wait, you did *all that* just to impress a guy who you'd barely known?" Sayaka asked.

"No, I did all that just to impress my beloved fiancé, and clearly it's worked pretty well."

"You...are still an airhead, you know that?"

"Yeah, I get that a lot," Hanae laughed.

"Of course you do," Sayaka sighed.

"The effort is pretty impressive in and of itself, y'know," Yuuto smiled.

"Oh, I'm so happy to hear that, darling!" Hanae cried, throwing her arms around him.

"HEY! Morality rules, you two!" Sayaka cried, prying Hanae off of Yuuto.

Yuina bit her lip nervously. "Yeah, don't wanna be breaking those, now do we?" she giggled.

Hanae glared at her. "R-right..."