

## XLVII

Raizo felt himself dozing off as the class finally ended. He found his eyes being virtually glued to his own teacher's hands as she finished her lecture. Her short stature made it difficult to him to look at any other part of her without feeling too awkward about himself. He blinked sleepily.

"Have you been sleeping alright?" Satomi inquired. "You look completely out of it," she laughed.

"Yeah. I'm pretty sure killing a hundred guys did quite a number on my fatigue levels," Raizo answered. "I'll take a nap in a little bit. That'll do it."

Satomi nodded, placing a finger on her chin. "I see," she mumbled. "Alright then."

"What're you planning?" Raizo asked, raising an eyebrow.

"Nothing," Satomi answered casually. "Just thinking to myself."

*Note to self: make sure she can't sneak into the stable when I'm asleep,* Raizo told himself silently. Realizing that class had ended, he grabbed his bag and stood up, preparing to leave the room. Shooting one more glance towards the front of the lecture hall, he noticed his teacher watching him out of the corner of her eye. *The hell?* he thought.

"I'm heading off," he said, ruffling Satomi's hair. Leaving the desk, he blew a kiss across the room towards Kasumi and gave Jiro a fistbump as he passed by. Stretching, he looked around quickly, only to notice a hand reaching out for his shoulder from behind him. Spinning himself around, he found himself face to face with a blushing Ayane. *Crap...so much for a nap,* he thought.

"S-so...umm...y'know, the other day...we didn't really get to finish our conversation," Ayane said nervously, "so...umm...i you wouldn't mind too much, could you come by my dorm room later? I...I just wanted to talk a little. I feel like there's so much for us catch up on and...well, you get the idea..."

*Well, if I wanna nap then there's only one real solution here,* Raizo thought.

"Sure," he said. "Gimme your cell phone number and I'll give you a call when I'm free."

Ayane blinked for a moment, as if she was dazed. Her expression was filled with joy. She excitedly pulled out her phone and held it out to him. "A-alright, let's exchange numbers!" she giggled.

Raizo smiled gently as pulled his own phone out. Pressing the sensors on the top of the phones together, both felt a quick buzz on their phones as their info was exchanged electronically. Glancing at his contacts list, Raizo chuckled. *Alright, that makes five contacts: Hikari, Satomi, Koharu, Lady Elizabeth and Ayane—wait only five? Damn, I'm a loner...and crap, why don't I have Kasumi's number yet? The hell's up with that?*

Putting his phone away, he cleared this throat. "Alright, I'll give you a call later," he said, giving Ayane a pat on the head.

"O-okay!" Ayane replied excitedly. "Please do!"

Across the room, Kasumi pouted to herself.

"What's wrong?" Mariko inquired.

"I just remembered...that I don't have hubby's number yet," Kasumi answered.

"Oh, crap! Neither do I!" Mariko cried. "We...we should get that fixed real quick..."

Kasumi nodded, getting up and making a beeline towards Satomi.

"W-wait, where're you going?" Mariko called after her in confusion.

Raizo lay on a pile of hay in the stables. *Come to think of it*, he thought, *I should get Mariko's number when I ask for Kasumi's...and I should probably go ask for Jiro's number too. He may not be much of a fighter, but he's clearly academically superior to us all, especially in terms of strategy, so being able to contact him at any time could prove extremely valuable...*

Sighing, he picked himself up. *Alright, I'll ask tomorrow*, he told himself. *Better sooner than later.* Checking his watch, he noticed that an hour had passed since classes had finished. *I'll finish the homework now, I suppose*, he thought.

Sitting down, he suddenly felt his phone buzz in his pocket. Pulling it out, he noticed that Satomi had texted him. Confused, he read the message.

'come 2 my room pls <3' it read.

'not now, got work' he texted back.

'come rn its urgent' Satomi's text answered.

"I'm sure it must be if you're forgetting basic punctuation," Raizo mumbled sarcastically, getting up. "Oh well, if it's nonsense then I'll just come right back," he said to himself as he walked out of the stables.

Walked up to the door labelled '#334' in the girl's dorms, Raizo casually knocked twice. Leaning back against the wall, he waited for a few moments before Satomi threw the door open. "Great timing!" she cried. "Come in."

As Raizo entered, he noticed a faint scent of strawberries in the room. "Hey, Satomi, did you buy fruits recently?" he inquired.

"Not particularly," Satomi answered. "I got apples last week though. Want one?"

"I'll pass for now," Raizo replied. "Is Kasumi here? I think I'm smelling her shampoo."

"Dear God, how can you even smell that?" Mariko voice asked as she entered the living room. "I was beside her and I could barely pick up on it."

"Animal instinct," Raizo replied. "Wait, why'd you call me here? It better not be what I think it is."

"If you're thinking 'we're having an orgy!' then, well, I considered it but the idea got shot down, so I'm afraid not," Satomi answered. "I just got too lazy to wait or

tomorrow, so I decided to get this out of the way. How do you not have Mariko's number yet? And what about Kasumi?"

"Oh, jeez," Raizo mumbled.

"Well, don't worry, I've got you covered!" Satomi declared. "I've given them your number. I assume you don't mind."

"No, that's fine," Raizo answered.

"Jiro also wanted your number so I handed that off to him," Satomi added. "In turn, he gave me a slip to hand to you with his own number on it. I figured it couldn't hurt. You two are good friends, and besides, having a strategist around is handy, saying the least."

"My thoughts exactly," Raizo said, taking the slip from Satomi and inputting the info into his phone. "Well, this takes care of what I was thinking about a little while ago. While I'm here, I'll go ahead and get Mariko and Kasumi's numbers too."

"That's why we called you here," Mariko sighed.

"Hubby is...dense," Kasumi commented, entering the room while munching on a cookie.

Raizo shrugged. "Sorry, can't fix *that* problem," he laughed.

"Oh, by the way," Satomi inquired, "what did Ayane want from you? Is she trying to push that whole 'marrying her' thing?"

"Marry?" Kasumi inquired, almost as if to herself, tilting her head in confusion.

"I'd assume that's her intention," Raizo answered. "She didn't explicitly say it, but it's a safe assumption. I'm gonna go see her later today, but don't worry. I'll keep my guard up."

"You better," Mariko said. "You have a bit of a habit of getting into a girl's panties, y'know?"

"Hubby is...a natural playboy," Kasumi commented.

"Why does that *never* feel like a compliment?" Raizo groaned. "Well in any case, this may sound weird but do you mind if I have a little vial of your perfume?" he inquired, prodding Satomi's arm.

"Uhh...sure, but *why*?" Satomi asked.

"Just in case I miss you later," Raizo answered casually.