

you call the shots, babe (i just wanna be yours)

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by [catgamer](#)

Summary

"I want you to use me, Miko," Ei starts, feeling a tickle in the lower part of her belly as soon as the words leave her mouth. "Use me for your own desire and satisfaction. You know that I can take anything, so I want you to do whatever you want with me throughout your heat."

Ei feels free after spitting all that out, like she's taking the weight of the entire world off her shoulders. Her eyes drop to her lap as she takes a gasp of air, and when she looks up again, she witnesses Miko looking completely stunned.

Or, where Ei just wants to be a good friend, Miko constantly struggles with self-restraint and feelings are getting harder to ignore every time they sleep together.

used to being used

Chapter Notes

happy belated birthday to ei and miko <3 i know it's been almost a month, but my mind was blank last month until something hit me two weeks ago and my sub top ei/dom bottom miko brainrot come back

this fic is just an excuse to write dirty rough sex and possessive miko, but ei and miko are still cute. basically, this is 70% smut 30% ei and miko being idiots

this chapter is more of an introduction and does not have so much smut, but hope you enjoy it :)

(title is from i wanna be yours by arctic monkeys)

See the end of the chapter for [more notes](#)

It's a beautiful surprise how, despite the snowfall that hit this week, children still play outside and people walk down the street. There is a warm atmosphere this winter, which is funny considering that it's so cold outside that Ei's body is still shivering after her walk.

Ei is sure she looks like a mess right now— strands of purple hair are stuck to her face in a messy way and her nose is red just like her cheeks are incredibly flushed. She can barely feel her hands and her body is cold despite the wool coat and stockings and boots that were created to her size.

Fortunately, the Narukami Grand Shrine is really warm inside and the hot cup of tea she's holding in her hands is slowly warming the cold on her fingers.

As soon as Ei stepped into the shrine entrance, shivering from the cold, Miko quickly walked over to her to take her cold hands. Her expression was a mix of confusion and concern, but she didn't question her visit, she just sent one of the shrine maidens to bring her a blanket and a cup of tea. Of course, not before letting out a sigh and scolding her about how dumb it was to come walking in this cold.

Ei just gave her an embarrassed look as she took off her coat.

To be honest, she wasn't thinking when she came here. Her mind has been anywhere these weeks, and walking helps her to stop for a moment the gears turning in her head and clear her mind. It's definitely more effective than locking herself up to reflect and get lost in her own thoughts.

Ei is aware that Miko definitely noticed her strange behavior these days, but she probably preferred not to mention it. She must not want to pressure her to speak, or most likely she is

waiting for Ei to take the courage to tell her about her problem.

"So," Miko begins and stops to take a sip of her own tea before looking with a raised eyebrow at Ei. "What is the reason of your sudden visit?"

Ei swallows hard.

The problem with this question is that the reason she decided to come here is at the same time the reason she has been so distracted and lost in her own thoughts these past few days.

Deep down, Ei knows it's dumb to think so deeply about it, but it has to do with Miko. Somehow, everything that has to do with Miko is important to her. The proposal that she has for Miko is important, it plays a role in the ties they have built over the years, in the mutual trust they have. She is putting all that on the line.

"Ei," Miko calls her out, and Ei snaps out of the spiral she's gotten herself into to find Miko staring at her with a frown.

Miko's eyes are so full of concern. Even if she tries to hide it as much as she can, her eyes have always betrayed the feelings she tries so hard to suppress, the vulnerability Ei knows Miko hates to show.

Ei clears her throat and allows herself to seem embarrassed. If she's going to propose the following idea to Miko the less she can do is show her own vulnerability. It's more fair like that. "Sorry. I... uh, surely you've noticed that I'd been distracted these days, right?"

"Of course I do," Miko replies bluntly. Her brow furrows slightly, and her lips press into a straight line. "You seem so deep in your thoughts, like something is eating your head from the inside. What's wrong?"

"Nothing. I just," Ei pauses to take a deep breath.

Oh, she's really going to do this.

Miko quirks her eyebrows, patiently waiting for her to continue.

Ei swallows a second time and clears her throat to try to keep her tone steady and confident. "I have had this idea in my mind these days, and it was hard for me to decide if what I want to propose to you right now is correct."

There is a trace of surprise on Miko's face at first, but then her expression remains static and calm as she hums, nodding. "And what conclusion you came to?"

"I consider it's correct." Ei says confidently, her hands moving to rest firmly on her own thighs.

Miko looks at her with amusement. "Interesting," she says and takes another sip of her tea. "May I know what is this proposal of yours that you have for me?"

Here comes the hard part.

Ei lifts her chin, showing the determination she came to, and then utters, "I want to help you with your heat this winter season."

The silence that follows is deafening.

Miko looks stunned, as if she had literally expected anything but this. She remains frozen in her place for a few seconds, and then, an incredulous giggle escapes through her lips. "You're kidding, right?" she finally asks, raising an eyebrow. "Is this some kind of payback for all the times I teased you? Because if so, good job, Ei."

Ei presses her lips together, showing no sign of hesitation. "I am not kidding. I really want to help you with your heat."

Miko seems horrified when she realizes that Ei is serious. "Ei, this is ridiculous. Why do you want to do it?"

"I know how much you suffer when you are in heat." Ei explains, frowning. Only in mating season, Miko can show herself vulnerable in the crudest way possible, and Ei knows that Miko hates not having control over herself.

"Heat can be a hassle sometimes, but it's not like I'm going to be alone through it, so it's no big deal." Miko refutes, crossing her arms.

"I know." Ei huffs out. Of course, she knows that during heat Miko usually sleeps with girls, usually her temple maidens. Ei doesn't understand why that thought bothers her so much, but she ignores it. "I don't mean that it's a problem because no one is willing to please you, but because no one manages to do it properly."

There's a threatening glow in Miko's eyes, as if she is warning her to stop right there, and Miko doesn't usually use that look with her. She only looks at her like that in special occasions where Ei is being a pain in the ass or in this case when she's talking too much about something that bothers her.

Ei rushes to explain her words before Miko jumps over the table to kill her. "I know that when you have sex with humans, you have enough self-control to not hurt them, but that only leaves you unsatisfied and frustrated because you're focusing more in them than in yourself."

The fierce look in Miko's eyes softens, and Ei takes advantage of that to drop the big bombshell, the proposal she's been thinking about for so long.

"I want you to use me, Miko," Ei starts, feeling a tickle in the lower part of her belly as soon as the words leave her mouth. "Use me for your own desire and satisfaction. You know that I can take anything, so I want you to do whatever you want with me throughout your heat."

Ei feels free after spitting all that out, like she's taking the weight of the entire world off her shoulders. Her eyes drop to her lap as she takes a gasp of air, and when she looks up again, she witnesses Miko looking completely stunned.

Miko opens her mouth to say something but nothing comes out, she seems speechless and Ei doesn't understand why her heart sinks in her chest for that. Maybe it's because Miko's cheeks are flushed, and right now she looks really different from the confident and cunning girl that Ei knows. It's almost cute.

"Ei," Miko utters weakly before shaking her head. "I can't do that."

Ei's brow furrows quickly. "Why not?"

"Why?" Miko repeats, looking at her like she has lost her mind. "Because I can't use my God and friend to gratify my sexual desires."

"As your God and friend, I can assure you that I don't mind," Ei assures her, shrugging. "Think of this as having me as a heat partner during this mating season."

Miko seems to consider the proposal for a moment, just for a moment though, because then she purses her lips and shakes her head again.

"I don't know if that's a good idea," she murmurs, looking away.

"*Miko*," Ei pronounces in a soft, warm voice as she takes Miko's hands on the table and squeezes them tenderly.

Miko hesitates, but finally lets their gazes meet again.

"I just want to help you and be there for you," Ei continues, looking their hands with regret. "I haven't been with you for the last five hundred years, and more than a familiar, you are my closest and most loyal friend and... I just want to give you back everything you have done for me."

"You really flatter me, but you don't have to do anything for me. I've told you that so many times, and you still don't listen to me," Miko gently scolds her, lacing her fingers with Ei's. "You'll never really change, huh? You are still so stubborn."

"I know I'm stubborn and dumb," Ei admits, staring at the ground with impotence and frustration, "but let me do this for you."

Miko seems to understand how much this matters to Ei because she sighs. "Are you sure about this?" she asks again, and there's still a trace of insecurity as she looks at her.

Ei is too sure.

She has thought about this for a long time, wondering if she should propose this to Miko or not. She knows that Miko doesn't hold any grudge against her for abandoning her for five hundred years. Despite her teasing comments, Miko made it clear too many times that she doesn't need to do anything for her other than stay by her side. Ei can do that, and that's exactly why she finally decided to do this. She's just being a good friend.

"Really sure." Ei affirms with determination. Miko still looks unsure, and Ei huffs out. "You know how I am when I have something on my mind."

"Yes, unfortunately, I know how hard-headed you can be." Miko smiles and her gaze is soft when they make eye contact. "Then, are you *really* determined to do this?"

"Yes," Ei confirms again, sticking to her decision.

Miko sighs for the fourth time in the conversation. "Fine. If that's your wish, I'm okay with this."

"Really?" Ei asks, looking at her with wide eyes. "Are you really okay with this?"

"Yes. I mean, as long as you're aware of what this means," Miko squeezes Ei's hands and throws her a look. "We are going to have sex, Ei. Do you understand that?"

Ei huffs out, feeling a mortified flush creeping over her cheeks. "Of course I know. Do you think I would have proposed this to you without being aware that we're going to, you know, doing that?"

Miko returns to her usual teasing expression. "You can't even say sex, how are you so sure about this?"

"Shut up," Ei murmurs. "I know we're going to have... sex," she feels the heat rising all over her face after she says that.

"I'm glad you can say it out loud," Miko scoffs, "but have you thought that maybe, well, having sex can make things weird between us?"

Ei draws her eyebrows together and cocks her head in confusion. "Why? It's just... sex. There won't be any feelings involved, you're only going to use me when you need to."

Miko frowns and there's an unknown feeling in her eyes. Ei can't figure out what it means, but she knows it's bad from the way Miko brushes her hand away from hers and her expression suddenly becomes serious, thoughtful, like a lot is going on in her head right now.

Guilt churns Ei's stomach, did she say something wrong?

Before she can apologize or think about her words, Miko clears her throat. "You're right, it's a simple thing."

Ei looks at her and wants to bring the previous topic to the table, but Miko cuts her off.

"Anyway," she starts, and whatever was on her eyes before is gone now. "Having cleared that up, my heat starts in two weeks, so I think we should have a long conversation about this thing to reach a mutual agreement."

Ei blinks, furrowing her brows. "A conversation? Oh, sure. That sounds reasonable."

"Great, then how about we talk about this more calmly tomorrow?" Miko proposes, getting up to stand. "Right now I have some things to do."

Ei follows her action, getting up to follow Miko who heads to the door without looking at her.

"Tomorrow," Ei repeats, stopping in front of the door. "Okay, we'll talk tomorrow."

"Got it. Now, I really do have things to do, so," Miko opens the door and shoves Ei by her shoulders out of the room, "see you tomorrow." There's an eyeless grin before Miko closes the door in her face.

And as simple as that, Ei is standing alone outside with a lot to process and a pending conversation for tomorrow.

To the surprise of many, winter has always been Ei's favorite season. She loves the freshly fallen snow and fuzzy clothes just like she loves the pink noses, cold fingers and staticky hat hair. The deeply comforting feeling of stepping into a warm room after having been out in the cold. Only now, Ei realizes how much she missed all these little things. After spending so many years in the lonely darkness of the plane of Euthymia, spending this winter in Inazuma again feels refreshing and comforting.

The snow-covered trees look the same as they did five hundred years ago and for a moment, Ei feels as if everything is still the same as it was in those years, even though she is aware that many things have changed since the last winter. Like the fact that Miko is not longer the naive and shy girl she was before, the same one who sought her attention with silly things. Now she's shrewd, confident and *beautiful*, and Ei has always thought that Miko is beautiful, but over the years she has become prettier every century.

Some things have changed, Ei has noticed, and she is fine with that.

Ei pushes her thoughts aside and clears her throat to unsuccessfully gain Miko's attention. They've decided to meet at the Tenshukaku to discuss the details as they agreed yesterday, but they'd been sitting in silence drinking tea since then and Ei thinks she's going to lose her mind if they continue like this.

"What do we need to talk about?" Ei finally asks, breaking the silence in the room.

"Oh right. We are here to talk about our deal." Miko sets the cup down in the table and looks at her like she just remembers Ei is here. "I just wanted to discuss some things about, you know, that fact that we are going to have sex."

Ei is thankful that she isn't drinking anything because otherwise she would have choked. She clears her throat and ignores the heat rising in her cheeks. "What kind of things?"

"Well, there are a few things you need to know about my heat, so you have an idea of what are you accepting," Miko explains, looking at her nails. "For example, I'll probably be a little aggressive."

Ei nods understandingly. "Oh, that's fine."

"I can't promise to have control over myself," Miko insists. "If I don't hold back, I'm probably going to be wild and feral."

"That's the point of this thing, that you don't have to hold back."

Miko frowns. "But, I may hurt you, are you aware of that?"

"*Miko*," Ei says, giving her a soft look. "I know. Do you think I would have proposed this to you without knowing it?"

"No," Miko presses her lips into a straight line, still unsure.

"Stop worrying, you know better than anyone that I don't break easily," Ei huffs out. Miko looks at her for a few seconds, hesitating, and Ei gives her a reassuring look. "Seriously, it's fine."

Miko sighs, resigned. "Okay, you're fine with me being aggressive. However, I have to warn you about something more," she looks down at her feet for a moment and takes a breath before she looks up. "I might be a bit possessive. Usually I should only be possessive of my partner, but if we're going to sleep during my entire heat, I'll probably unconsciously see you as mine."

Oh.

Ei feels her head spinning and her stomach churning. It's not nerves or discomfort, on the contrary; it's a hot and overwhelming feeling bubbling up inside her from the fact that she will be Miko's. "Oh... that's, uh, fine."

Miko looks at her with a raised eyebrow. "Really? Are you okay with me being possessive?"

Ei nods, scratching her cheek with her fingernail. "Yes," she confirms, but she honestly doesn't know what to do with that information.

It's not like she's going to do anything to make Miko jealous, so probably she shouldn't worry about it.

Miko hums. "Fine. So, done with my warnings, you don't have any conditions about this?"

"Not really," Ei responds calmly. "This deal is about you, so you can do what you want with me. I guess my only condition is that you need to think only of yourself and not worry about me."

Miko rolls her eyes at that. "I get that, but... don't you really have any question or concern about this?"

"Umh," Ei tries to think and when she finds something, embarrassment washes over her. "Is it okay if I kiss you?"

"We're going to have sex and that's your question?" Miko looks at her with a mixture of disbelief and embarrassment. Ei nods shyly and Miko's cheeks slightly blushes. "Sure, of course we'll kiss."

Ei swallows. Kissing Miko— that's something new and scary, but at the same, it's almost... exciting. It's confusing, and she pushes that thought away before it opens a black hole in her mind and swallows her. "Well, that's all I could think of."

"Wow, you're terrible at this," Miko scoffs, and somehow her teasing calms down Ei. "Okay, we'll do this. But I want you to promise me something."

Ei looks at her curiously. "What?"

Miko settles into her seat and takes a breath before looking at her with a serious expression. "I don't want this to change anything in our friendship."

"Nothing will change. I promise it," Ei swears because she really doesn't understand how their friendship could change for something as simple as sex. "However. I also want you to promise me something."

Miko quirks her eyebrows, nodding for her to continue.

"I don't want you to hold back in any way during your heat," Ei says seriously. "Whatever you need, whatever you want to do, just do it."

Miko purses her lips, but resignedly, sighs and nods. "Fine."

Simple as that, Ei just agreed to have sex with Miko in two weeks.

The rest of the week goes by as normal, but with only a few days left for Miko's heat, Ei begins to feeling a bit insecure. It's not that she regrets her decision or wants to take it back, she's just scared of not being able to properly satisfy Miko. It's been so long since she has had sex with someone, probably hundreds of years or even more. Concepts like pleasure and lust are things she forgot long ago.

And what complicates things is that it's not a mere mortal that she has to please, it is *Miko*— Miko in her hungriest and most needy state.

With that in mind, Ei has been distracted and thoughtful again, so here she is, walking in the cold to cool her mind, *again*.

"What are you thinking about?"

Only this time, she's not alone. Miko found her when she was about to leave the Tenshukaku for a walk and decided to tag along, following her the rest of the way.

Their shoulders touching as they walk down the snow-filled path and Miko gives her a questioning look. "It's rude not to answer people's questions, Ei."

Ei gulps and just shrugs, feigning nonchalance. "I am not thinking about anything."

Miko pushes her body against hers, looking at Ei as if she doesn't believe her. "You're obviously thinking about something. You're spacing out like you do when you have something on your mind."

She does that? Ei frowns at that, but remains expressionless. "You're imagining things."

Ei can see out of the corner of her eye how Miko stops and stands with her arms on her waist, but she ignores her, continuing to walk until she feels something cold hitting her back. Ei turns slowly to look at Miko and blinks. "Did you just hit me with a snowball?"

"What are you thinking about?" Miko repeats, ignoring her question. Ei remains in silent, and Miko picks up more snow from the ground and forms another ball, trying to threaten her. "I know you're thinking of something, tell me."

Ei scoffs. "I am not scared of a snow—" her words are cut off when she feels a snowball hit her. Ei shudders, brushing the snow off her clothes with a huff. "Honestly... you're too old to act like a child, Miko."

Miko just smiles playfully. "Are you going to tell me what you were thinking, or do I need to hit you with another snowball?"

Ei shoots Miko a death glare. "Don't you dare."

"Or what?" Miko provokes her, making another snowball.

Ei rolls her eyes, crossing her arms. "I know what you're trying to do. I will not fall on your silly games—" the last word can barely get out of her mouth when another snowball hits her, followed by a giggle from Miko. "Okay, that's it."

Miko throws her another snowball when Ei starts walking towards her, but she dodges it this time, smiling arrogantly when Miko clicks her tongue at that. She takes advantage of the fact that Miko is distracted to grab some snow and throwing it at her. Miko manages to dodge it, grinning at her before starting to run, and Ei frowns at that as she runs after Miko until she caught her, grabbing her around the waist.

"Got you," Ei whispers in her ear as she wraps her arms around Miko's waist.

Miko flinches at that, but turns in her grasp to face her. "I don't think so," she mutters derisively before jumping and wrapping her limbs around Ei's body, pushing her down into the snow.

Ei growls as her body falls into a pile of snow, covering her almost completely. Her hands move to remove the snow on her face, and when she opens her eyes, she looks at Miko with a frown. "That was playing dirty."

Miko just laughs, sitting on her legs. "You're just a sore loser," she shrugs with a smile. "In my opinion, that was a smart move."

"No, it was not." Ei says between her teeth, leaning her weight on her forearms to lift her upper body. When she tries to lift her legs to stand up, Miko's weight pushes her down again. "Can you move?"

Miko just wraps her arms around Ei's neck in a death grip in response. "I'm not letting you go until you tell me what you were thinking about."

"I told you I wasn't thinking about anything." Ei says, ignoring the heat rising to her cheeks from how close she is to Miko.

Miko narrows her eyes suspiciously at her and then wraps her legs around Ei's waist tight enough for Ei to groan. "I guess we'll stay here for a while."

Ei huffs out and, putting enough strength into her arms and legs, she lifts her body along with Miko's extra weight and stand up with Miko still clinging to her body.

Miko looks at her in disbelief. "I can't believe you did that."

Ei shrugs the best she can. "It wasn't a big deal, actually."

"Oh right, you are literally a God, of course this is nothing to you. Sometimes you are so... *you* that I forget that detail." Miko remarks, her voice slightly mocking.

"I'm pretty sure you just insulted me in that comment, but I don't know how." Ei wrinkles her nose, drawing her eyebrows together. Miko giggles and Ei ignores that and adds with a huff, "Besides, it's really not a big deal. You are quite light, I feel like I'm carrying a feather."

Miko snorts, hiding her face in the crook of Ei's neck. "I am going to take that as a compliment."

Ei swallows. "Aren't you going to get down?"

"I don't want to walk, carry me." Miko whispers against her skin. Ei winces at that, breath caught in her throat.

"I didn't even ask you to walk with me." Ei complains in a stutter. Miko just tightens her grip on her legs around her and Ei feels like she's going to melt down in the ground if Miko keeps breathing down on her neck, so she quickly spits, "At least let me carry you in a more comfortable position."

Miko seems to agree with that because she gets off and looks at her expectantly. Ei rolls her eyes and gets down on one knee, keeping her back open. It doesn't take long for Miko to wrap her arms around Ei's shoulders and chest, and Ei immediately picks her up, placing her hands firmly on Miko's thighs.

"This would be easier if you turned into your fox form, you know?" Ei suggests once she starts walking.

"I want you to carry me like this," Miko answers as if that was enough. "And a moment ago you said that I'm light as a feather, so I doubt this will be a problem for you, right, almighty Shogun?"

Damn cunning fox.

Ei sighs and, resigned, carries her the rest of the way. Miko's breath is hot against the back of her head, and sometimes she feels Miko smelling her hair, but she doesn't question it too much. Ei just keeps walking until they're back at the Tenshukaku, and they take off their coats and boots at the entrance before going to her bedroom.

The heat from within melts the remaining snow in her hair, making frozen water drip to her face. It's a bit uncomfortable and once they're inside the bedroom, Ei starts feeling wet, cold and tired.

"Your hair is soaking wet," Miko comments with a laugh, grabbing a towel from the closet to gently dry Ei's hair.

"Whose fault is it?" Ei complains, suddenly shy for the way Miko dries her hair so gently.

"Don't be such a crybaby, your excellency," Miko scoffs, ruffling Ei's hair once it's dry. Her hands slide up Ei's arms and her brow furrows when she realizes Ei is shivering. "You should change your clothes. You're going to catch a cold."

Ei shakes her head softly. "There's no need. I'm fine."

Miko clicks her tongue, looking at her reproachfully. "Can you listen to me for once?"

Ei resists the urge to contradict Miko because she is too tired, and defeated, she begins to remove off her kimono. When she's about to take off the rest of her clothes, her eyes goes to Miko, catching her staring at her.

"Stop staring at me." Ei spits out in embarrassment.

Miko frowns and crosses her arms. "What's wrong with it? We're going to have sex, that means I'm going to see you naked."

"But we're not having sex right now, so I would be happy if you stopped staring at me." Ei replies, pretty sure her face must be red.

Miko rolls her eyes but nods, turning around. "Fine."

Ei clutches her clothing tightly and when she sees that Miko isn't really looking, she sighs in relief and gets rid of the rest of her clothes. She changes into a black long-sleeved shirt and stays only in her underwear, wrapping herself in a blanket to warm her body.

"Done," Ei announces as she sits on the bed. Her hands are still cold, as is her entire body, but at least she's comfortable now. "Are you happy now?"

Mike turns around to look at her and nods with satisfaction. "Yes, I am," she answers with a smile. Her eyes lower for a moment and Ei curiously follows her gaze, only to notice that Miko is indiscreetly staring at her crotch. Ei quickly covers her lower part with the blanket, gulping, and Miko looks away. "I wasn't looking at it."

"I didn't accuse you of anything." Ei rushes to reply with flushed cheeks.

"Good because I wasn't looking at anything."

"Great."

"I just thought it was an interesting choice of underwear. It is seen that it is an expensive silk."

Ei groans, feeling so embarrassed she might die. "Oh, please, just stop talking."

"I'm sorry, but you're half naked from the bottom, how do you expect me not to comment on it?"

"You're the one who told me to change my clothes!"

"I didn't tell you to stay almost naked!"

"I have clothes on! Archons, I don't know what are we doing arguing. Just... be quiet for a moment, please." Ei hides her face in her hands, wanting the ground to swallow her.

Miko obeys and falls silent— at least for ten seconds and then, she clears her throat and says, "You still haven't told me what you were thinking about."

Ei shudders at that and hangs her head. "I told you it's nothing."

The room is silent for a few seconds before footsteps are hearing heading towards the bed and then, the next thing Ei feels is a lap full of Miko.

"I don't believe you." Miko utters, her gaze glued to Ei as she straddles her thighs and loops her arms loosely around Ei's neck.

Ei swallows hard, keeping eye contact for a second until it's too much, and she has to look away. It doesn't last long through, because Miko's hands slides in her face and lift it up so their eyes meet.

"Are you already regretting our agreement?" Miko frowns. Her hands on Ei's skin are a gentle, glowing burn, and it's not unpleasant in this cold temperature. "You don't have to do it

if you don't want to."

Ei quickly shakes her head, not sure what to do with her own hands. "No. It's not that, really."

"Then what's wrong?" Miko asks beneath her breath, her thumb stroking Ei's cheek.

Ei lets out a shaky laugh, melting under Miko's touch. "I guess I'm just nervous," she admits, and she doesn't know what she's doing saying this. She should be strong and confident, not insecure and fearful, but with Miko on top of her it's hard to hide her emotions.

Miko stares at her with a fervent intensity, eyes shining full of something hard to understand, and then she confesses, "I'm nervous too."

Ei hums, more relieved now that she heard that— at least they both feel the same way.

Her hands that were hanging at her sides not knowing where to go timidly moves to Miko's waist and when Miko shudders at the contact, Ei pulls her hands away in a panic.

"No, it's okay," Miko soothes her, breathing heavily. "My body feels more sensitive the week before the heat, but you can touch me."

Ei nods and, hesitatingly, moves her hands back to Miko's waist, fingers barely brushing her body as if she's afraid of breaking Miko with her touch. "Then, umh, what do you usually do when you are in heat?"

Miko buries her face in Ei's shoulder. "Most of the time I suppress it. It's not healthy, but there's not much I can do more than, you know, sleep with someone."

Ei frowns, ignoring the bitter feeling that the last part leaves in her. "Do you suppress it?"

Miko makes a confirmation sound. "I can't do it for a long time, though. At some point, I need to have sex to calm the unbearable heat."

"I see," Ei replies, and she can't help but wonder how Miko managed to go through this alone for so long. However, she gets distracted in the midst of the thought when Miko settles further into her lap, hugging her tighter as she buries her nose into her neck.

Ei swallows a strangled groan at that, feeling her mind go blank for a moment when Miko accidentally rubs her cock through her underwear. The contact lasts only a few seconds, but it's electric and overwhelms her so much that she has to take a breath to recover.

"Sorry," Miko apologizes, pressing her nose against Ei's skin. "The week before heat also makes me so clingy and needy of physical contact. I hate it."

Ei exhales heavily. "Oh," she exclaims, and suddenly Miko's behavior today makes sense. "You can stay like this if you want."

Miko nods against her neck, breathing shakily, and Ei knows Miko is probably embarrassed to show herself like this in front of her, so in an attempt to comfort her, she moves her hand up to Miko's back. She spins her hands in circles as she spirals down the center of Miko's

back to relax her, and it seems to work because of the way Miko slumps under her touch and sighs contentedly into her neck.

"You smell really good," Miko mentions, sniffing her, and Ei giggles when Miko's nose tickles her.

"What do I smell like?" Ei asks with a discreet smile.

"I don't know. It's sweet and familiar, like the essence you smell when you just come back from a long trip and realize you're home. That's how you smell," Miko sighs into her neck. "You smell like home."

Ei's chest tightens around her lungs and her heart rises into her throat. It's bewildering, overwhelming and yet, *familiar*. It makes her realize that if anything hasn't changed over the years, it's the strange and confusing sensations Miko makes her feel when she's around. It's almost comforting to know.

"Sorry. I don't know what I'm saying," Miko lets out a nervous giggle against her skin.

"Don't apologize," Ei murmurs, hugging her tightly and resting her own forehead on Miko's shoulder. "It's true. I'm here. So you don't have to worry about anything, Miko, you are not alone anymore."

Miko trembles under her, but doesn't say anything and honestly, Ei wasn't expecting an answer. Right now, she only feels happy that at least Miko knows that she is no longer alone.

Ei is here— alive, solid and more determined and confident than before. Who cares if she is inexperienced and nervous, she needs to do this. She wants to do this. She is dying to do this.

The week goes by, the temperature stays cold and just like Miko said, her heat is supposed to come around these days.

"It's pretty clockwork, it just happens," Miko explains one afternoon where they are talking outdoors the shrine. Ei has been a bit anxious the past days, wanting to be by Miko's side all the time. Miko of course noticed it and is there to reassure her every time. "I can feel it coming, but I can't predict when it will be."

"Oh," Ei frowns, nodding. She still feels impatient and scared, and Miko's response doesn't improve her constant nervous state because what if Miko isn't near her when her heat starts? Ei swallows at the thought, and before she can think it through properly, she says, "You should sleep with me this week."

Miko looks around to check that none of the maidens around them heard their conversation, and then grabs Ei's wrist and drags her to an empty place.

"Be more careful with your words in public, you fool," Miko scolds her, releasing her wrist. Ei mumbles an apology in response, feeling her cheeks flushing, and Miko crosses her arms as she raises an eyebrow. "Why do you want me to sleep with you anyway?"

Ei brings a hand to her neck. "Just in case. We don't know when your heat is going to come, so it would be better if you sleep in the same place as me. I can set a room up in the Tenshukaku for you if you want."

Miko seems thoughtful about that for a moment, but then she nods understandingly. "It makes sense, I guess. There's always the chance the heat will come early, and when that happens I'm going to be desperate for you to fuck me, so you should be near me at that moment."

Ei chokes on nothing. "Oh. Right."

Right.

She's going to fuck Miko.

Ei feels her head spinning and a strange heat going down to her belly. It's weird, and she shifts uncomfortably in place, suddenly nervous and hot.

Miko obviously notices that, and leans against the wall behind her with a curious, playful look. "What?"

Ei gulps and trying to look tough, she says, "You just scolded me for not being careful with my words in public, but you're saying out loud that I'm going to... to—"

"That you're going to fuck me?" Miko cuts her off with a grin.

Ei feels another wave of heat hit her stomach and groans. "Stop saying it out loud," she shrieks, embarrassed at how high-pitched her voice sounds. Miko seems even more amused, and Ei coughs and fixes her tone. "Someone can hear it. Stop it."

Mike looks around with feigned ignorance. "There's no one near us, so I don't see the problem in saying it out loud. Besides, I'm trying to talk about something serious here."

Ei grits her teeth, but nods. "Fine, then keep talking."

"Thanks. So as I was saying, I'm going to want you to *fuck me*—" Miko continues while maintaining eye contact with her, obviously teasing her on purpose like the damn tease she is. Ei clenches her fists with her face heating up and ignores the heat bubbling up in the lower part of her stomach.

After that, they keep talking all afternoon about minor details that Ei doesn't remember because she was too distracted repeating Miko's words in her head.

By the time she's in the solitude of her bedroom, and she lets the words *I'm going to want you to fuck me* fully invade her head, Ei feels her heart hammering in her ears.

At this point, the fact that she's going to fuck with Miko shouldn't affect her, but it does. Her blood is pumping faster and the heat in her belly becomes more painful and then, she realizes that, to her horror, her cock is half-hard. Ei freezes on her bed for a moment and when she processes that she just got a boner thinking about her friend, she feels embarrassed of herself.

Ei takes a breath and wanting to get rid of her boner fast, she slides her hand into her underwear, feeling her cock thicken fully in her fist as she slips her shaky fist up and down the length of it.

Suddenly, her mind is clouded with pleasure and a lot of images come together. Miko sitting on her lap, rubbing her cock through her clothes. Miko breathing hot air against her neck. Miko saying that she is going to want her to fuck her. *Miko. Miko.* Just Miko. It makes her cock jerks in her fist, her breath hitch as she runs her fist down to the base of her cock, imagining how would it feel to be inside Miko. Her pretty face panting and her mouth demanding more.

Demanding.

Ei breathes heavily, working her hand faster around herself, now fully hard. Her grip is tight, keeping a steady rhythm as she imagines Miko throwing her on the bed, feral and needy. Miko being aggressive, tearing up her clothes and manhandling her. Eyes full of desire and desperation, taking all she can of her as she uses her for her own pleasure, riding her cock. Ei whimpers at the thought and speed up the rhythm of her hand. Her skin buzz and then she lets out a choked noise when the orgasm hit her, and she comes all over her fist.

Ei tries to catch her breath back and then, she goes in trembling steps to the restroom.

Feeling dazed, confused and embarrassed because she just jerked off thinking of Miko, she washes the cum off of her hands and goes back to her room with her head down and many thoughts running through her head. Like, is it normal for her to have these thoughts about her friend? Is it normal that she came imagining Miko being aggressive and wild?

There are many things that Ei doesn't understand right now, but one thing's for sure, somehow she feels even more terrified at the idea of having sex with Miko than before, except now she's *excited* too.

Ei sends some servants to prepare a room for Miko in the Tenshukaku and by the next day, Miko is already sleeping just a room away from her.

Nothing happens the first night, which is fine. Miko leaves in the afternoon to do her chores at the shrine and take care of some Yae publishing house business, and Ei does her own duties too. The second night arrives and nothing happens again. In the third night, Ei hardly sleeps a wink from the anxiety and anticipation bubbling up in her stomach.

On the fourth night, she resigns herself that she is not going to sleep and her feet moves by themselves to the front of the door of Miko's room to check everything is fine. She's been doing this these days, stand in front of Miko's door in case something happens. It's ridiculous, unnecessary and almost embarrassing, but she is nervous and doesn't know what to do.

Ei stays there for a few minutes and when she is about to go back to her room, the door suddenly opens.

Miko walks out of the room and looks at her in surprise. "Oh, you're here."

Ei gulps and nods, shy now that she's been caught. "Oh, yes. I... I got up to go to the bathroom," she lies. "And you?"

Miko's breath is heavy and only then does Ei notice her flushed cheeks, the way her nails are digging into her thighs hard and her legs are pressed together. "I was about to go looking for you."

Ei feels a short circuit in her head

"Oh," she says, feeling she might die from the way Miko is staring at her, with so much desire and hunger. There are sparks floating up into her eyes, burning brightly in her skull, and she just wants to dive right down and swim through the fire all the way down to her soul. Ei breathes and takes a small step forward, noting the way Miko's hands shake with need. "Well, I'm here."

Miko bites her own bottom lip, digging her nails deeper in her skin, and Ei walks like Miko has her on a leash, pulling her closer and closer until their bodies are only a breath apart.

Ei swallows hard and licks her lips, noticing the way Miko tracks the motion. "What are you waiting for?"

She watches as Miko's self-control crumbles. Her eyes darken, her jaw settles and then, she breaks out, dragging Ei by her clothes into the room and closing the door behind her before long pushing her body hard against the wall. Ei's back makes a sound as it hits the material, and her gasp is muffled against Miko's mouth when Miko closes the gap between them, pressing her lips in need against hers.

Somehow, the realization that she's kissing her friend and servant Miko and in fact she's enjoying it, comes late—mainly because Ei is too lost in the feel of Miko's full, pink lips. So she just does as her body asks and allows her mouth to open, fitting perfectly against Miko's.

It's more desperation than passion, more violence than affection. Miko seems impatient, desperately seeking to feel her; her fingers curl into the soft material of Ei's clothes, pulling her closer and keeping her anchored in her place between the wall and Miko.

Ei doesn't remember the last time she was kissed like this. It's been so long that she can't even remember the face of the person nor the way she felt. However, she knows that it didn't feel that good. She knows that no one who kissed her filled her with the desperation that wells up from Miko's touch right now.

Miko lets her hand go up and threads her fingers through Ei's hair, tugging hard so she can kiss her deeper. It's raw and wild, and it feels like she's being devoured as Miko's tongue pushes into her mouth and her teeth graze Ei's lips. It's almost like Miko is melting into her. Ei can barely return the kiss because her head is buzzing, and her arms are weak.

The thought makes her realize that she hasn't touched Miko yet. And in a momentary panic, remembering that the reason she is here is to satisfy Miko, she puts her hands on Miko's waist, pulling her close. Then the pressure of their lips becomes insistent and Ei forgets herself when Miko's tongue darts out to swipe across her bottom lip before the next kiss.

The only sound in the room is the smacking of their lips and when they part to take a breath, Ei lifts her head to meet Miko's eyes, her breath hitching. She can only imagine how wide and dazed her eyes are; in contrast with Miko's, who are dark and narrowed and fix on her with a hunger that nearly makes her shiver.

Ei can hardly take a moment to breathe when Miko is already on her again. She gasps, sinking against the wall and loosely grasping Miko's hips as she bows her head, exposing her bared neck. Then, Miko begins nibbling at the sensitive spot right on Ei's neck, fangs biting into her skin hard.

There's no shame left in Miko, only instinct. She grips the back of Ei's neck firmly in one hand, manhandling her more close so she can sit on her knee. Ei arches her back and keens when teeth sink in the side of her neck. The grip on Miko's waist tightens as Miko starts to rub against Ei's knee, leaving her little time to adjust.

Ei's fingers digs bruises into Miko's hips as Miko sucks and releases her skin with a wet snap, leaving the skin along the line of her throat sensitive before biting her like an animal would bite her prey.

Ei is barely aware of her own moans until she feels her cock getting fat in her underwear.

Oh, no.

She's already hard. So damn quickly.

It was obvious that so many years in which she was not touched were going to culminate in this way, but it's still humiliating.

Ei wants to ignore that detail and continue with what they are doing, but Miko seems to notice it too because the next thing she feels is Miko dragging her onto the bed. Miko pushes

her down, and Ei can barely register the moment her back hits the bed before Miko wraps her leg over her, straddling her. And honestly, she doesn't understand how Miko can continue to act so graceful even at times like this, but there she is.

The thought does not last long when Miko's butt fits over her bulge and Ei moans at the contact. Miko leans in for another kiss then, capturing Ei's bottom lip between her teeth. She bites down hard— so hard Ei can feel the blood trickle slightly, mingling with the saliva of the kiss until all she tastes is the metallic taste on her tongue. Ei's cock trembles from the built-up arousal and the sharp pain, growing hard and hot against Miko's ass even through two layers of cloth. And fuck, why does Ei still have clothes on? Why is Miko not naked? Why is her cock so fucking hard? Why Ei is so desperate as Miko, who is in heat?

Fuck.

Ei separates her lips from Miko's and pulls her closer, as if she wants to breathe Miko right into her lungs, as if she wants to swallow her. She wants Miko in a holy, violent way that makes her hands tremble where they're twisted in the sheets.

"Touch me," Miko demands against her lips, and Ei follows the command immediately, grabbing Miko's ass between her hands and giving it a good squeeze.

Ei gasps as Miko grinds roughly against her cock, and that's it. She loses control of herself. Shit, she wants to touch Miko everywhere, she wants to pat her ass and run her fingers down her back and plunge her hand into her hair. She wants it so bad she can't breathe.

Miko manages to get rid of her clothes on top of her and tugging Ei's clothing, she growls, "Off."

Ei nods and when Miko steps aside, she obediently takes off her clothes until she's just in her underwear. She looks at Miko, waiting for her to tell her what to do next, and the answer is clear when Miko hooks her fingers into the waistband of her underwear, letting Ei's cock hit her abdomen.

Miko's hungry gaze falls on her hard cock for a moment and then, she pulls her underwear down further until Ei is naked. Miko sits on the edge of the bed after that, running her hand up Ei's thigh, and the moan that comes from Ei's mouth sounds strangled when Miko takes her cock in her fist.

Ei squirms under her touch and her body arches, begging for more contact. Embarrassment makes her cheeks heat up as arousal stings through her body. She feels so hypersensitive, it's the first time in years that someone touches her like this, and it's all happening so fast. Her head is spinning, and she needs to breathe to process all the overwhelming and sudden arouse she's feeling.

Something in Miko seems to awake by Ei's trembling and panting expression because for a moment she comes back to her senses and looks at her with concern. *Concern.*

Ei opens her eyes and before Miko can say anything, she flips them over so easily that Miko lets out a small gasp when her body is lying on the bed.

"I'm okay," Ei assures, hovering over Miko. "I'm yours tonight, Miko – yours to use me and command me. Don't worry about the rest, just tell me what to do, and I will do it."

Something burns in Miko's eyes at her words, a new fire more devastating than the previous one. Miko is looking at her in a way that she never looked at her ever, and Ei just wants to see that look for the rest of her life.

"I want you to fuck me," Miko finally says, needy and demanding. "Fuck me, Ei."

Ei feels her body catch fire and then her hands move on its own to Miko's thighs, gripping them tightly before spreading her legs. Miko breathes out thinly through her teeth as she eases herself down, letting Ei's cock slowly split her open. Ei sucks in a breath as the tip of her cock slides in easy and when she feels Miko's walls flutter around her, she can't hold back the groan that tears from her throat.

Miko is tight, hot and wet, and her whole body shivers as Ei's cock slips inside her. "Fuck," she grinds out, back arched and mouth open in relief as she fully takes Ei's cock.

"Yes," Ei gasps, dropping her head to Miko's shoulder, knees skidding against the bedsheets as she begins to move in short, quick snaps of her hips. "Fuck, yes."

Ei bites her lip, gripping Miko's thighs tightly as she buries deep inside her, fucking her slowly at first. Miko moves her hands to Ei's shoulders, nails digging into Ei's skin as she gasps a near constant stream of breath sounds, high-pitched and desperate.

"Fuck me harder," Miko growls, digging her nails into Ei's skin even deeper, and Ei does the only thing she's been doing this whole time: obey Miko.

Ei fucks her harder and Miko moans in her ear, loud and needy, her hands struggling to hold onto Ei's shoulder before finding themselves in Ei's hair, pulling hard enough for Ei to moan.

"Fuck me," Miko breathes. "Harder, dammit."

Ei fucks her as hard as she can in a brutal rhythm, and more moans come out of Miko's mouth when she starts to thrusting herself faster.

"Ei," Miko moans, moving her hands to Ei's back and digging her claws into the skin.

The arousal is no longer just static, but an all-out force that works its way through her system. The churning sensation in Ei's belly runs up to her spine making her heart race and her chest feeling tight with a moan that she can't let out.

"Ei," Miko says and sounds breathless and aroused, very different from her usual self. "Ei, kiss me," she murmurs, brushing her lips over Ei's cheek. Ei's breathing is heavy, and moans quickly fall into Miko's waiting mouth.

The moment they connect, Ei feels lost with a breathy moan in Miko's mouth and that's all it takes for her to thrust herself faster, lost in the heat. Miko's unrestrained moans are muffled by Ei's mouth and Ei just feels desperate, a little addicted. All her senses are shattered, fragmented, she can only feel perfectly.

Fuck.

Ei is close. Her cock is full and aching, and she's desperate for relief, but more than that, she feels dizzy with the want and need to make Miko come. After all, this night is about Miko, her own orgasm is the last thing that matters.

"Ah, fuck," Miko gasps nonsensically against Ei's mouth as she keeps kissing her, running her mouth over Ei's in rough messy kisses.

Ei's thrusts start to get faster as Miko's body tenses and jerks violently against her, tightening and loosening her body around her cock over and over again. Miko's nails dig into Ei's back so hard that it bleeds, and with the sensation of sharp pain and a muffled moan in her mouth, she feels Miko coming around her cock. Miko's body relaxes inside hers and only then, she allows herself to come in an overstimulated rush. Her cock pulsing inside Miko, filling her up with cum until she's dry.

Miko's head drops back against the bed, sighing heavily, and Ei pulls out her cock off of her and collapses at Miko's side, completely exhausted.

Both of them are breathing heavily, and neither seems to want to speak. Still, the silence is comfortable enough that not a word needs to be uttered.

Miko shivers a bit, probably still affected by the heat, and there is this strange but undeniable urge within her to protect Miko, a voice telling her to protect her in her vulnerable state. Ei listen to the voice and covers Miko with her limbs, keeping her warm and safe wrapped around her arms.

Ei probably shouldn't fall asleep like this, but with her gloriously wasted body and Miko's face caressing a hollow in her neck, she can't help but fall asleep.

Two hours later, Ei wakes up and for some reason she expects to see the normal Miko she has known for hundreds of years. But instead, she's greeted again by her friend's lustful face as she swings her legs over Ei's hips and grinds herself down. Her gaze is dark, heavy and penetrating, and everything about her conveys desire.

"Oh... again?" Ei asks sheepishly.

Miko answers the question by kissing her with energy and desperation, bringing her bodies together until there is no space between them. Ei's hands lock around Miko's waist, feeling sweat dripping down the small of her back. After breaking the kiss, Miko buries her teeth in Ei's shoulder hard enough to break the skin.

Ei's cock gets hard incredibly fast, which is a surprise considering that it should be worn out because of the fuck they had before. Apparently she can handle another round because her cock is fucking hard, and it hurts.

Miko looks as desperate as before while she lifts herself and slides in easily inside Ei's cock, sighing with relief when she's riding her. There aren't any words this time, just quiet gasps as Ei tosses her head back, digging her fingers into Miko's hips.

The second round lasts longer than the first, and Ei feels a little more in control this time, being able to set her own pace now that she's used to the wild and bestial rhythm of Miko. Despite that, she still obeys Miko all the time, letting her take as much as she wants.

The second time Ei gets up is in the morning. Daylight filters through the curtain in the room and her warm body is pressed against Miko's as her hand rests on Miko's soft abdomen. Ei inhales and exhales soft breaths against Miko's back, and Miko turns around and buries her face in Ei's neck.

"Good morning," Ei murmurs over Miko's head, her voice sounding sleepy and a little hoarse.

"Morning," Miko murmurs into her neck, giggling when Ei wraps an arm around her waist and pulls her closer. "I didn't think you were the clingy type in the mornings after sex."

After sex.

Oh, right. Last night she had sex with Miko.

Ei opens her eyes and immediately pulls her body away from Miko, feeling the embarrassment wash over her.

Miko looks at her reproachfully and slides closer to her, locking their feet together as she wraps her arm around Ei's waist. "I didn't tell you to pull away."

Ei swallows hard, but instead of complaining about it, just stays in her place, letting Miko hug her even if they're naked and dirty. Everything is new: their naked bodies pressed together, the lack of distance, the physical displays of affection, and still, it's the kind of new stuff Ei could get used to. Miko has always had this effect of making her feel comfy all the time, even in moments like these, so actually, this feels good.

Besides, Miko surely needs attention and physical contact after last night.

Last night.

"So... did I do a good job last night?" Ei asks sheepishly, realizing they still haven't talked about the fact they had sex. "Did you feel satisfied?"

Miko pretends to be thinking. "Hmm, I don't know. What do you think?"

"I think I did it well, decent at least." Ei feels her cheeks burn. "What do you think?"

Miko tilts her face to Ei's, lowering her gaze to Ei's lips, and Ei involuntarily licks her own lips, feeling a sharp pain in the flesh of her bottom lip as she tastes the dried blood.

"You did it great, Ei," Miko studies her face carefully. "Just look at you... your lip," her thumb gently traces Ei's busted lip. "The hickeys and bites on your neck and shoulders," she looks at Ei's skin painted with purple and red colors. "The scratches on your back," she runs her fingers over the wounds on Ei's back, and only now Ei registers the simultaneous pain all over her body. "It's all proof that your body was mine last night, Ei."

Somehow, her words makes Ei feel a heat building up in her stomach, running down to her cock and— fuck, no. She can't get hard just for this.

"That's good," Ei clears her throat, laughing nervously. "If this is the way I can help you, I'm fine with this."

"Good," Miko purrs as she traces the wounds on Ei's back with her fingers gently. Ei hisses and winces when Miko accidentally presses a sensitive wound. "I'm sorry."

Ei shakes her head, carefree. "No problem."

Miko bites her own lip. "No, I—" she takes a shaky breath. "Sorry about last night. I was aggressive, right? I don't think straight when I'm, you know, like that." Oh, there it is, that trace of vulnerability and insecurity. "You know it's only going to get worse, right? I don't promise to behave myself in the next few weeks."

"I know, Miko," Ei soothes, giving her a reassuring look. "It didn't bother me at all what happened last night," in fact, it was almost... hot. "Besides, it's not a kind of pain I can't bear. I've been through worse things."

"Smug." Miko huffs out, without managing to bite the smile that slips on her lips.

Ei laughs, tracing circles on Miko's bare back, almost doubting if it's okay. When she confirms that Miko doesn't seem uncomfortable about it, she keeps her hand there. "I already told you to not worry about me. This thing is about you. I'll be fine with whatever you want in the next few weeks."

Miko sighs, burying her head in Ei's neck again. "I would like to tell you that you can stop me when you don't want to do something, but I know telling you that is useless. You probably wouldn't stop me for worrying about satisfying me, right?"

"Right," Ei affirms without hesitation.

Miko takes a deep breath and shakes her head letting out an incredulous laugh. "You're such a fool, thinking of me over you," she leaves a kiss on one of the hickeys in Ei's neck, "a kind and cute fool." Ei shudders at that, feeling something warm and tingly churning her stomach. It's not arouse this time, it's something else – a feeling digging deep into her chest. "Those are some reasons I..." she pauses like she's struggling with her words, "I... chose to be by your side faithfully."

Ei breathes, ignoring whatever is going on inside her. "Just as you chose to be devotedly by my side the last years, now I am the one who choose to be by yours during your heat regardless of my needs but your desires. I hope you can understand me and let me do this for you."

"Sly girl, using my words to justify your foolish ideas." Miko narrows her eyes at her.

Ei just shrugs without shame or remorse. "I'm just doing this because I want to be a good friend."

Miko is silent for a moment, looking at her that way again, as if Ei had said something terrible.

Ei doesn't understand why Miko looks at her that way sometimes, as if her words hurts her. She hates not understanding what that look in her eyes means, and hates even more how it disappears as fast as it appeared when Miko lets out a laugh as she sits up on the bed.

"A good friend? Only you could think something like that." Miko lets out another laugh, loud and exaggerated.

Ei swallows hard, frowning in confusion. "Is there something wrong with that? I'm sorry if you misunderstood my words, I just..." she tries to find the words to fix the above. "I-I consider you my closest friend– my only friend, actually," she corrects with a shaky laugh. "And you have always been there for me, all the time, either to scold me or take care of me. And you always bring me desserts and listen to me when I talk, and you're always teaching me new things every day, and... I'm getting off-topic. What I'm trying to say is that I really appreciate all the things you do for me. I-I really appreciate you, Miko, and that's why I'm doing this."

Ei is usually quite a verbal and eloquent person, so she finds herself surprised by her embarrassing stutter and lack of words. Still, Miko is looking at her as if she has said the most beautiful and devastating words ever spoken, and that's... overwhelming. Miko's cheeks are flushed, and she looks away as if looking into Ei's eyes hurts.

"Is this a special day? You're never this sentimental, Ei," Miko remarks in an overacted mocking voice as she stands up and smoothes her hair, revealing her body covered with some marks and bruises in her skin. "It's good to hear that you're finally appreciating my doings," she says condescendingly as she grabs her panties and clothes off the floor and hastily puts them on. "Anyway, is it ok if I take a shower first?"

Ei blinks and a little dazed, she nods dumbly even though she knows Miko isn't looking at her. "Uh, yes, it's okay."

"Perfect," Miko claps her hands and doesn't wait another second to run away, slamming the door behind her with a bang.

Ei stands still in place for a moment, and then she throws herself on her back, feeling confused and frustrated, but mostly cold now that she's alone in bed.

Chapter End Notes

technically the second and third chapters are already finished, but i still have to add some parts and edit a lot of things, so it's going to take a while hehe

anyway, feel free to leave a comment about this first chapter if you want!!

keep it together

Chapter Notes

I'M FREEEEE editing this chapter was the worst experience of my life and actually, i'm not even free. this chapter was so long that i have to divided into two chapters, so now, as you can see, this fic has 4 chapters. and i haven't edited the other half yet *crying noises*

as a lazy person (who also has a life), editing long chapters is a pain in the ass so i gave up and post this half which is long enough (10k words, that's a normal number instead of the 20k word mess that this chapter could have been. and honestly, it would have taken me a whole month to edit this whole chapter, so this is the better for me and you, dear reader)

ah, i'm complaining a lot. you're here only for the porn, so here's the chapter. that's the only thing that matters

if you see typos, ignore them for my own good pls hehe

See the end of the chapter for [more notes](#)

Ei stretches her arms above her shoulders, feeling a warm, light ache in her body that doesn't hurt so much.

Her skin is now free of marks and hickeys after she healed her own wounds, but Miko's fingerprints are a phantom pain throbbing with warmth in the places where she touched her; her neck, her hips, her thighs. Ei just feels everything perfectly, and she thought a shower would remove that ticklish feeling off her skin, but not even the water can get rid of it.

Ei closes her eyes, sinking into the hot water, and the burry flashbacks of last night come back to her mind like if everything it's happening again. The way Miko pushed her against the wall and kissed her with so much desire, how she looked at her with need and fucked her. Ei takes a breath and tries really hard to ignore the heat coming down to her cock because she's not in the mood to get a boner right now after whatever happened with Miko.

Miko.

Ei sighs.

Certainly the bath is helping her wind down after her time with Miko this morning, but she still doesn't really understand what happened. She doesn't quite understand Miko sometimes.

Ei stops thinking for a moment and gets out of the tub to come back to her bedroom wrapped in a towel, finding Miko standing in the room now fully dressed. She grabs her towel tightly,

noticing the way Miko immediately looks at her as she walks into the room.

Miko sighs and turns around. "I'm not going to look at you."

"Thanks," Ei mutters as she searches for her neatly folded clothes inside her closet to start dressing up.

The awkward beat of silence that follows is nearly unbearable. It feels heavy and deafening, and after a few tortuous seconds, Ei gulps, feeling obliged to be the first to speak. "Are you okay now? I mean, don't you want to have, uh, sex?"

Miko lets out a laugh. "Well, my body aches, and I'm hotter than usual, but at least my mind isn't clouded with the need to be fucked. In short, I don't want to have sex if that's what you're wondering."

"Oh. Good," Ei says as she finishes tying the knot around her kimono. "You can turn around now."

Miko turns around and scoffs when she sees her fully dressed. "This is so funny, your dick was literally inside me last night and yet you still don't want me to see you naked?"

Ei chokes, feeling her face turn completely red. "How can you say things like that without any shame?"

"What kind of things? That your dick was inside me?" Miko repeats and smiles when Ei visibly stutters. "Sex is not taboo anymore Ei, some of us can talk about it without feeling ashamed. You're the one who get flustered easily at the mention of sex, and that's hilarious considering last night you seemed like you knew what you were doing."

Ei frowns at first, but then her eyebrows go up in curiosity and a proud smile grows on her lips at the last part. "Is that a compliment?"

"Yes, but don't get cocky about it, you can definitely do it better." Miko narrows her eyes at her.

Ei huffs out in response, but certainly knows she can do it better. Last night was her first time in years, so it was a bit rushed, overwhelming, and almost new. She's a bit rusty, but she definitely can improve. "I admit that I could have done better. I'll try my best to improve for the next time."

Miko lets out another laugh. "Ah, you don't have to take it so seriously. I was joking. But I'm curious what your ways to improve next time will be."

Ei rolls her eyes with her cheeks completely blushed, but now that Miko is teasing her like always, she feels more relieved than before. That means that everything is fine, that nothing has changed. The strange and heavy atmosphere from before is gone.

"Oh, now that we are talking about the topic..." Ei starts, bringing a hand to her neck. "I froze last night when we were about to do it. You worried about me, right? I saw it in your gaze,

how you came to your senses when you saw me like that," she says, looking down in embarrassment. "I won't do it again. Sorry."

Miko takes a step towards her and gives her a comforting smile. "Forget about it, you made me feel good, that's all that matters," she reassures, and her smile turns into a playful one as she elbows Ei. "And honestly, I think it was one of the best fucks I've had in the last five hundred years, so don't worry about that detail."

Ei smiles weakly at that, clamping down on the bitter surge that comes with the mention of Miko with other girls. For some reason, it feels wrong and bad, and she buries the picture of Miko fucking with someone else down because it bothers her more than it should. "I'm glad I helped you in some way."

"I'm glad too." Miko smiles softly, smoothing her own hair. "Anyway, I have to leave now. The publishing house needs me to read some manuscripts and decide which ones are publishable, so it will be a busy afternoon."

Ei frowns. "Are you sure? What if—"

"What if I'm in heat, and you're not around?" Miko cuts her off. "I'll be fine. I can't spend every afternoon with you during my heat, we're going to have to be apart at some point."

"But what if you want to fuck? I can go with you if you want and—"

"It's okay, Ei," Miko interrupts her again. "I've been through my heat alone for a lot of centuries. I think I can survive an afternoon without you."

"Oh, right." Ei clenches her fists and swallows the lump that forms in her throat. Right, Miko was alone for so many years. It's not like an afternoon without her means anything.

"Hey, stop thinking about whatever you're thinking about. I can see the gears turning in your head." Miko scolds her as she takes another step and cups Ei's face with one hand, her thumb gently tracing Ei's jaw. "I didn't mean it that way, okay? Sorry if I sounded rude."

Ei blinks and nods slowly because she can't even remember what she was thinking now that Miko is so close.

"I don't want to have sex all the time, so it's fine if I spend more than one hour without you," she continues explaining. "Besides, I have work to do and probably you too."

"Oh, yes, that's right," Ei says, still a little unsure, but too distracted enjoying Miko's touch to complain about it.

Miko smiles— the warm, secret kind of smile that softens her eyes. "Are you less worried now?"

Ei nods again, a bit shy. "Mmmh."

Miko bites her smile as she takes a step back, and it's weird, but Ei misses the warmth of Miko's hand on her skin too quickly. "I didn't think you would take this so seriously, but that

was dumb of me. Of course you would take this seriously, you're always like this."

"I'm only like this with things that are important to me. *You* are important to me." Ei says with honesty, speaking from deep within her.

"You're really sentimental this morning, huh?" Miko looks away, letting out a weak laugh. Ei expects Miko to ignore her words and run away again, but surprisingly, she just presses a small, wet kiss to her cheek. "You're important to me too, Ei. You have no idea how important you're in my life."

Ei freezes in her place. Her chest aches in a way that's become painfully familiar the past days, and she balks, jaw opening and closing uselessly, trying to find something to say. *Just say something*. Why can't she answer anything? Why don't the words come out of her mouth? Why does she feel so weird all of a sudden?

Miko gives her one last smile before walking to the door. "See you later. Don't worry too much, fool."

"I am—" Ei starts, but Miko doesn't let her finish before walking out the door. "I am not a fool," she murmurs, letting out a sigh as she sits up on the bed.

At least let me finish talking before you go, she grumbles in her mind, bringing a hand to her cheek and touching the spot where Miko kissed her. It feels warm and tingly, and she finds herself smiling, inexplicably happy.

Later at night, when the moon is shining brightly over her, Ei stands in front of Yae's publishing house, ignoring the curious looks of the people around her as she waits for Miko. People's voices are heard inside the place and then, the door opens and Ei finds Miko looking at her with a mixture of disbelief, anger and affection. An odd combination.

Ei straightens up in place when Miko starts walking towards her while taking a breath, as if she's calming herself, so she doesn't explode.

"You." Miko hisses once they are face to face, hiding her anger in a polite smile. "What are you doing here?"

Ei clears her throat and lifts her chin. "I was taking a walk around the city and then, I remembered that the publishing house was near, so I stopped by to see the new light novels on display." It's a lie. She just wanted to check that everything was okay and maybe look for Miko, so they can walk back together.

"That's so convincing," Miko mocks and crosses her arms, narrowing her eyes at her like she didn't believe a single word. "I think you were just being dramatic, worrying about me, just like I told you not to do. Seriously, why are you like this?"

Ei feels the shame take over her body, but hides it as best she can with a huff. "I wasn't worried. *Anyway*, since I'm here, we can walk back together."

Miko quirks her eyebrows at that and smiles. "Oh, so that's why you're here."

Ei tries to ignore the heat rising to her face and keeps her expression nonchalant. "I don't know what you're talking about."

Miko rolls her eyes, amused. "I'm leaving in about ten minutes. Do you want to go inside and wait?"

Ei shakes her head. "I'm fine here, I can wait outside."

Miko stares at her for a few seconds and then sighs and turns around. "Follow me, let's go inside."

"Why did you even ask me what I want if we're going to do what you want anyway?" Ei complains, walking behind Miko.

"I was just trying to be nice, it's obvious I'm not going to leave you out here in this cold. Now come on, follow me inside."

Ei huffs again, but follows Miko inside anyway.

Bustle, that's the first thing she registers as soon as she's inside. Lots of noise, employees running from one place to another and some people arguing in the corners. Miko stands in the middle of the room and clears her throat, and everyone immediately looks at her, freezing when they notice Ei's presence behind her.

"I'm just here to watch, keep working like I'm not here." Ei says vaguely, and everyone present nods, but they don't look any calmer, working harder and definitely neater than before.

Ei looks around and realizes it's her first time in Miko's workplace. She takes a look at the place, more specifically at the shelves with light novels, curiously flipping through some interesting titles and frowning as she keeps reading more of them. Even though Miko has recommended to her some popular light novels and explained the plots, there are still many things that are confusing for Ei.

"Take off your coat and hang it on the hanger. You can read something while you wait for me," Miko offers, leaning into Ei's ear so only they both hear. "But stay here, quietly, without distracting me. Understood?"

Ei resists the urge to roll her eyes at the way Miko talks to her like she's just a child. Sometimes it seems that she forgets her place, a familiar talking to her God like that, how ridiculous. It's even more ridiculous that Ei doesn't actually care about things like these. They

have always acted like this, as equivalents who have mutual respect and trust for each other. Close friends, that's the most correct title to describe their relationship.

"Understood." Ei replies reluctantly as she takes off her woolen coat.

Miko gives her one last look before walking over to a group of people to discuss something about a new story.

Ei grabs a light novel and leans against the wall, flipping through a few pages. The story is about an Archon reincarnation into a slime, and she gets bored pretty quickly, so she looks up, shifting her gaze to Miko. She looks serious, focused on her work while she gives instructions and orders to the employees, and everyone around her respects her, almost like they are scared of her.

It's a funny scene.

Ei knows for sure that Miko can be scary at times, but for her, who has seen her in her tiny fox form throwing tantrums like a child, it's hilarious that she can cause this fear in people. Ei can't help but giggle out loud.

The room falls silent at that, and Ei panics when Miko stops talking and glances at her, rising her eyebrow at her like she's asking her what's the cause of her laughter.

Ei immediately points at the light novel. "Ha, this novel is so funny," she remarks with a nervous laugh, quickly returning her gaze to the light novel. Seconds later, when she hears everyone around her talking again, she looks up only to catch a warning look from Miko before she returns to her previous conversation.

Ei decides to focus on the novel, but when the words stop making sense in her head, she sighs and inevitably her gaze falls on Miko again. From her place Miko's profile is a wonderful sight; her sharp jaw, her upturned nose, her lips wrapped in the quill she's holding, teeth biting lightly the material.

Miko sighs and keeps talking to one of her employees, and Ei tries really hard not to look at her, but her eyes aren't listening to her. Every time they go off on their own and drift across the room, she tries telling herself to look away, but her eyes are stubborn.

It doesn't make sense and yet, her fingers around the novel goes weak every time Miko does something simple as fixing her hair, sighing or making a condescending expression whenever one of her employees comes up with a bad idea.

Ei feels weird, she always feels weird when she's with Miko, and it's not just because of everything that happened with Miko in the last few weeks. It has been like this always, even five hundred years ago. Ei remembers the sweaty palms and dry throat, the way her heart beat fast every time Miko was near her. It's almost the same she's feeling right now, but stronger, like a wave of sensations she held up over the past five hundred years that's now exploding.

Keep it together, she scolds herself internally. It's just Miko. Miko, her friend and servant, the girl that makes her feel comfy and good.

Ei takes a breath. Everything is fine.

At least everything is fine until Miko smiles at something someone says— bright and easy, her eyes crinkling at the corners in a way that's unfairly cute, and Ei's breath hitches and the novel falls from her hands.

Her dazed state is gone when the sound of the book hitting the floor catches everyone's attention.

Miko shoots her a scolding look and Ei reaches down to grab the book quickly, accidentally hitting the shelf behind her, causing more light novels to fall out. "Sorry," she mutters, mentally berating herself because why is she acting like this? She's never this clumsy and flustered.

Ei hears footsteps heading towards her and then, Miko's hand is on the same book she is grabbing. She looks up, only to find Miko crouched in front of her, and her grip on the book weakens as Miko snatches it from her.

Miko helps her pick up some light novels, and then she stands, putting them back on the shelf. Ei follows the movement, and after she finishes arranging the remaining novels in their place, she stands nervously in front of Miko while pretending to shake invisible dust from her clothes.

"Can I steal you for a moment, your excellency? I want to talk to you about something," Miko smiles, eyeless and with a menacing aura around her. Ei swallows, suddenly understanding why everyone here is so terrified of her.

"Of course," she answers, but the only thing she wants to do right now is run. Still, she just silently follows Miko, who leads her to what appears to be her office.

"What are you doing?" Miko asks as soon as they're inside. "I thought I told you not to distract me."

Ei looks away. "I am sorry, but I really liked the book. I couldn't help it." Another cheeky lie.

Miko quirks her eyebrows, curious and amused at the same time. "Are you telling me that you liked *The Reincarnation of an Archon in a slime?*"

"Uh, yes. It was a really good light novel. Very interesting and deep, but funny and unpredictable at the same time." Ei explains, waving her hands around to prove her point. "It made me laugh and, uh, the ending was so amazing that I couldn't help but drop the book."

Miko shakes her head, incredulous. "Sure," she says sarcastically as she leans against the wall. "Well, I'm glad you can get this deep into a light novel. Even if your literary tastes are questionable."

Ei snorts. "Do you know that you are talking about one of the light novels under your publishing house, right?"

"That doesn't mean I can't be objective." Miko shrugs, breathing a bit heavy. She closes her eyes and brings a hand to her forehead as if she has a headache.

"Are you okay?" Ei asks, worried.

Miko backs further into the wall when Ei steps closer to her. "I'm okay," she replies, but it's like she's trying to make herself believe it.

Ei swallows and, slowly, walks up to face Miko. "Are you sure about that?"

Miko looks up, eyes dark and heavy breath. "If you keep getting so close to me, I don't think so," she lets out a breathless laugh, trying to sound playful.

"Do you want me to get closer to you?" Ei asks, licking her lips.

"Mhm," is the only thing Miko answers as she brings her hands to Ei's clothes. Her fingers play with the ribbon around Ei's neck for a while, nails leaving a trail of goosebumps on the bare skin of her breasts, before her hands pull Ei closer by her clothes to press her nose against her neck. "Ah, your smell drives me completely crazy."

Ei breathes heavily, realizing what's happening. "Are you...?"

"Mmh. I'm just a bit hot." Miko answers before Ei can finish the question. "I don't know how I'm going to wait all the way to the bedroom."

"You don't have to wait," Ei answers under her breath.

Miko lets out a shaky laugh and her grip on Ei's clothing tightens. "I'm trying to control myself, and you're just tempting me like this?"

Ei frowns at that. "Why are you controlling yourself? Just let it go, don't hold back."

"I don't think you want that."

"This is not about whether I want to or not, I already told you that—"

"—this is about me, I know," Miko finishes the sentence, snorting. "And since it's about me, I can assure you that this is not the moment to lose control of myself," she blurts out in a shaky but firm voice. "But I think you're right about something. I don't think I can wait for the bedroom."

Ei opens her mouth, but can't pronounce a word before Miko's hands are clasping on her hips, tugging like she's trying to force Ei inside her immediately. Ei gasps and the next thing she feels is Miko dragging her around her office and shoving her into her desk chair before climbing onto her lap, straddling her. Ei lets out another soft gasp at that, but immediately places her palms on Miko's torso, big hands curling around her waist.

Miko's chest rises and falls as she backs up on her lap, eyes studying Ei from head to toe— her breathless expression, the muscles under her bodysuit, her thick thighs. Miko licks her lips, as if she's admiring the food before eating it and then, her face returns to Ei's neck. Her tongue

leaves a trail, swirling against her neck from one end of her collarbone to right beneath her left ear. Her hand flies to the back of Ei's neck, tangling her fingers in the hair before closing the gap between them, leaning in and pressing her lips to Ei's.

Kissing Miko is dangerous, she realizes. Dangerous because it feels too good, and she doesn't know if that's correct considering the lips she likes kissing are Miko's.

The realization of kissing Miko always hits her momentarily, the fact she's doing this with her friend, but like last time, Ei is too lost to care about that. She forgets herself. She forgets she's doing this just like a favor to Miko. She forgets that this is Miko, her friend, the one she's kissing. She forgets about everything for a moment. All she can think about is how good it feels to have Miko in her lap, how good it feels to be kissing her.

"Ei, touch me," Miko breaths before diving back into another kiss, tugging Ei's hair harder to hurry her up.

Ei realizes that her hands are still on her waist and acts fast, licking into Miko's mouth as she slides her hands upward underneath Miko's clothes, reverently up her side. Her fingers brush over Miko's nipples, and Miko's entire body shivers when she takes her tits in her hands, massaging them while continuing to kiss Miko. Ei is so focused on her hands, on the way Miko feels beneath them, that when they separate to breathe, and she looks up, her breath is knocked away by how focused Miko is on her.

Miko doesn't let her think about it too much before kissing her again, taking Ei's bottom lip between her teeth

"Fuck me with your fingers," she breathes into her mouth, grinding her hips against Ei's.

Ei breathes and nods, sliding her right hand down between Miko's legs and dragging her fingers along the insides of her thighs. She moves a hand down, running a finger above the elastic of her panties, making their way to the front, right against the source of radiating heat and presses her fingers to the warm wetness. Miko pushes herself against the source of pressure, wanting more, and Ei scratches her nails against Miko through the fabric, pressing her knuckles against her and rubbing small circles.

"More." Miko shudders, fucking herself into the ring of Ei's hand, seeking more of that excruciatingly friction. Pleased to give it to her, Ei slips her fingers into her panties, immediately stumbling upon Miko's clit. Slowly, she presses her thumb against it, drawing lazy circles. Miko hisses, but Ei keeps working around her clit, softly playing with her hood until she occasionally brushes the nub itself. "Fuck— I want your fingers inside me, Ei. Now."

Ei looks up, meeting Miko's needy, demanding gaze.

Hot, that's the only thing she thinks while she obeys, making one slick finger find its way inside of her.

Miko immediately lets out a pleased sigh, her muscles clenching around the finger. "Oh, God," she breaks into a moan when Ei curls that finger inside of her, brushes along her slick inner walls.

"Calling me?" Ei manages to let out an attempted joke that turns into a whimper when Miko tugs her hair a little rougher.

"Shut your mouth," Miko snarls quietly, rolling down onto the finger in a heady need to chase the heat that flares under her skin. "More, give me more," she demands and when Ei complies, slipping a second digit in, she rides on Ei's fingers, hips rocking quickly against those rough fingers, the ones rubbing all along her hot insides and ramming in deep.

Miko lifts a hand to hold Ei close with a loose grip on the back of her neck, and Ei allows her head to fall forward then, collapsing into Miko's neck, letting kisses and deep inhales in her skin. The wet sounds and shaky breaths of Miko make Ei's head spin. Her vision becomes fuzzy when two fingers become three, and Miko rides them generously with relief, bouncing over them.

Their eyes meet and Ei swears she feels her face flush hotter. Miko still looks relatively put-together and collected. It's ridiculous how even at times like these she still has self-control, but at least the bright flush high on her cheeks and gasps of pleasure give her away how much she's enjoying this.

Ei tightens her fingers slowly, and she knows Miko is about to come by the way her body arches and muscles clench around her fingers.

Miko pulls at Ei's hair as she comes closer, squeezing her eyes shut, her mouth open with a silent moan. Her toes curl and she throws her head back, murmuring Ei's name as her muscles tighten around Ei's fingers and she rode out her orgasm.

Ei watches Miko as she comes down from her high, cheeks flushed pink and warm skin to the touch. Ei slides her fingers out of her and Miko slows her breathing, taking her hands out of Ei's hair as she climbs off her lap a bit shaky.

"Are you okay now?" Ei asks, standing up from the chair to help Miko stand.

"I am okay." Miko confirms, trying to catch her breath. "I think I can hold on for a while, but, umh, what about you?"

Ei blinks. "What do you mean?"

Miko pointedly glances at her crotch and licks her lips. "You're hard."

Ei blinks again and only then realizes that she is indeed hard. Fuck, why is she hard? At what moment that happened? "I'm sorry. I don't know how that happened."

Miko stares at her, speechless, jaw slack. "Why are you apologizing?"

"I... don't know. I just—I really don't know why I'm hard." Ei babbles because she doesn't even know what's going on right now.

This time Miko is the one who blinks, almost incredulous of her words and then, sighs. "Don't worry about that. The only problem right now is that your erection is visible and if you go out like this everyone will see it. You should, uh, take care of that."

Ei swallows, lowering her gaze to her obvious erection marked through her clothes. "Correct."

Beginning to feel ashamed for having to jerk off because of Miko a second time, she waits for Miko to leave the room, so she can get this over with.

Unexpectedly, instead of leaving, Miko takes a step towards her and says, "Do you want me to help you with that?"

Flustered, Ei takes a step back, and finds her back just bumping into the wall, trapped. "W-what?" she stutters, looking at Miko again to check that she really said that. Her blush grows as she realizes that Miko is serious about it. "You don't have to do it if you don't want—"

"I want to." Miko quickly assures her, and clears her throat before continuing. "Consider this like I'm returning you the favor," she shrugs, indifferent. Ei hesitates and that's probably notorious because a smile grows on Miko's lips. "Let me be a good friend too. Don't you think it would be fair if I helped you with this, like you're doing with my heat?"

A friend in need is a friend in need, she supposes. Miko is just returning her the favor for what she's doing.

This is fine.

Ei takes a deep breath. "Okay."

"Okay?" Miko asks softly, voice barely above a whisper, as her hand finds Ei's thigh, sliding inwards. Ei meets Miko's eye and finds her gazing at her expectantly, as if waiting for permission.

Ei nods, giving her permission to touch the steadily-growing bulge peeking through her clothes, breath hitching when Miko's hand brushes over it.

"Do you jerk off regularly?" Miko asks as she feels her up.

Ei tilts her head back and squeezes her eyes shut, feeling blush spreading across her face at the memory of when she jerked off thinking about Miko. "I am not going to answer that," she mutters under her breath.

"Boring," Miko says with a huff. "Masturbation is a normal thing, Ei. You shouldn't be ashamed of it, I masturbate too."

Ei stays still, imagining Miko touching herself— her mouth open, dropping silent moans as her fingers play with herself. Her cock hardens further under her clothes and, quickly, she pushes the thought away for her own good.

"I didn't need to know that formation," she grumbles in a stutter. "Why are you even curious about that anyway?"

"I'm just asking." Miko shrugs. She presses timid touches into her cock, and Ei holds her breath, struggling to not buck up into Miko's hand. "What about sex?"

Ei huffs out. "Do you really think I have time for that?"

Miko lets out a laugh. "Are you telling me you're too busy chasing eternity to have sex?"

"Mmm," Ei nods, breathing heavily for each Miko's touch through her clothes. "It's been centuries since I've had intimate contact with anyone. Too long, in fact."

Miko blinks, looking at her a little surprised. "Oh," she says. Her gaze is bright and a little bit shy, but that goes away quickly when her fingers trail up and push Ei's kimono aside for more access to her throbbing boner. Miko tentatively cups her through her underwear, and Ei's face burns with the force of the sun. "Can I?"

Ei nods quickly before she can think too hard about what's happening, sucking her bottom lip between her teeth. Miko pulls her underwear down and Ei's cock bobs out, curving up towards her stomach. She's so hard it hurts, something she hadn't realized until now.

Miko wraps her fingers around Ei's cock and stares at it unabashedly. "I've been wondering all this time. How does arousal feel in your body?"

"I feel it everywhere. I just feel." Ei breathes.

"I see," Miko says softly. Ei sighs through her nose when Miko's nimble fingers wrap around her neglected cock, hand gripping nearly more than half of her length when she pumps, once, twice. Miko strokes over the sensitive head before dragging her fist back down, milking a thick bead of pre-come on the upstroke. "What about this? Does this feel good?"

Ei doesn't know how this feels. Good? Of course, but it's also new and overwhelming, different from when she masturbates on her own. Definitely, she doesn't feel anywhere near this much excitement when she's just getting off by herself— these butterflies in her stomach. It's even different from last night because now there is not a cloud of lust in her head. She's aware of everything that's happening and that makes her feel a bit dizzy.

"Aren't you going to answer me?" Miko raises an eyebrow at her, stopping the movement of her hand.

Ei can't help but whimper at the lack of friction. "Good," she blurts out quickly, her cock twitching sporadically under Miko's hand. "It feels good."

"Mmh," Miko hums, starting to pump her up again while maintaining eye contact. Fucking eye contact.

Overwhelmed by Miko's eyes boring into her and the fact that she's being masturbated by an aware Miko, Ei hides her face in Miko's neck with an embarrassed groan. Her skin is on fire with the feeling of one of Miko's arms holding firmly around her waist and the other working her cock.

"Feeling shy?" Miko whispers teasingly in her ear.

Ei squirms, feeling her head spinning with Miko's hot breath on her ear. "Shut up," she responds, trying not to desperately thrust herself into Miko's hand, wishing she'd pump her

harder, tighter, faster.

"Cute." Miko scoffs, laughing in her ear.

Ei buries her nose in Miko's shoulder to muffle a grunt of complaint.

Miko just smiles, she fucking smiles and then, she thumbs the leaking tip and trails the precum down the shaft, making a loud, high-pitched whine slip out of Ei's throat.

"Lower your voice," she has the nerve to scold her, giving her a look.

Ei swallows a strangled groan at that, resting her head on Miko's shoulder to take a deep breath. She feels so embarrassed. Miko can control herself so easily, but when Miko is the one touching her, she becomes a mess.

It must be because Miko has more experience than her. All these years must have made her learn to be silent and hide her desperation. She has probably done this countless times, fuck secretly with girls in her office.

Ei grits her teeth, feeling a heavy, bitter sensation in her throat, and when she realizes what she's doing, she wants to hit herself. What's wrong with her? Why does she keep thinking about these kinds of things? She pushes the thoughts away and focuses on Miko's hand on her cock, just on that.

She shuts her eyes, swallowing the heavy lump in her throat from restricting all the moans that wants to come out as Miko pumps her up. Ei knows her throat will be sore after this, from all that tensing, but right now she doesn't mind. She can feel her orgasm building up, really close to coming, until a knock on the door startles them both and Miko blocks her mouth with a hand before she can gasp in surprise.

Miko looks at the door with a frown. "We are busy, what happened?"

"Sorry to bother you, Lady Guuji, but we need you for one last detail on the light novel." The trembling voice of a man is heard on the other side of the door.

Ei relaxes for a moment, breathing against Miko's hand as she tries to keep her composure. Her cock is still hard and drooling, desperate to come, and Ei can't feel frustrated properly before Miko starts jerking her off again.

"I'm discussing something important to her excellency and you come to interrupt us?" Miko almost growls, one hand pumping languidly Ei's cock and the other drowning out her moans. "I'm sure you can wait a few minutes."

Ei's breath picks up to heavy panting, the ones that get more audible with each thrust into Miko's fist, even if her palm continues to drown them. Miko winds her fingers around Ei's drooling cock and shoves her thumb into the sensitive slit, and Ei jolt with a loud, audible gasp.

There is no way that the man behind the door can't hear them. It's all so risky, so fucking chancy, and yet here she is, falling apart right in the palm of Miko's hand.

"Yes, I can. I'm sorry, Lady Guuji."

Miko licks her lips and looks directly at Ei, who is squirming in her place, holding back more moans. "Don't worry though. I'm sure we'll get this over more quickly than I thought."

"Take your time with the Shogun! We'll wait for you." He replies, sounding terrified. *Poor man*, Ei thinks for a moment, but the thought is silenced when Miko touches the tip of her cock and she has to bite her tongue to keep from moaning loudly. "I'm going to leave."

Rushing footsteps are heard and when the place falls silent, Miko moves her hand away from Ei's mouth.

A moan of complaint comes from Ei's mouth as soon as she's free, back arching as she braces herself with a hand on Miko's shoulder. "You little shit—"

"Don't complain. If I had stopped, this would get even longer." Miko defends herself with a laugh, tightening her hold on Ei's cock and pumping her harder, faster.

Ei doesn't have the energy to argue right now, so she just lets her head fall forward onto her shoulder, hands clutching the fabric of Miko's clothes while Miko twists her hand over her.

She presses her nose into Miko's neck, sweat mixing together from the clammy heat between them. Her cock humping in shameless desperation to get off as she puts her mouth just inches from Miko's ear and lets out more whimpers, already close.

Ei braces herself once more with a hand on Miko's shoulder, hunching over her and cursing under her breath as Miko jerks her off hard and fast. "Fuck, fuck, I'm—" her words morph into a moan as she squeezes her eyes shut tightly, stomach fluttering as she comes hard into Miko's fist, shooting hot, white fluid. Her hips twitch as the rest of her warm release drips down Miko's hands.

Ei blinks her eyes open blearily, light-headed, and slowly looks at Miko with her breath heavy. She feels embarrassed and speechless, suddenly very self-conscious as she comes down from the high of desperately chasing her pleasure.

For a moment, they say nothing. Ei doesn't know what she's supposed to say until Miko removes her hand from her cock, wincing at the cum between her fingers.

"You made a mess in my hand," is the first thing Miko says, looking at her with a frown.

"Sorry," Ei apologizes, glancing around and leaning forward, grabbing the tissue box on Miko's office table and offering it to her.

"Thank you," Miko mumbles shyly, wiping her hands clean and passing Ei a few so she can wipe her cock off before hastily shoving it back in her underwear.

There's another beat of silence until Ei looks up and finds Miko trying to get rid of the cum on her clothes that obviously belongs to her.

"Oh— I'm so sorry," Ei panics, pulling out more towels to help Miko clean it up.

Miko lets out a laugh, a genuine laugh, and Ei feels a wave of relief wash over her at the sound. "Don't panic. I have another set of clothes in my office, you know, just in case."

Ei backs toward the door with her cheeks flushed. "Oh, yes, then, uh, I'll wait."

"Okay." Miko says, looking away. "I'll probably finish my work in five minutes."

Ei nods. "Perfect. In the meantime, I'll be outside."

Miko frowns at that. "No. I told you to not—" she starts, but Ei doesn't let her finish before walking out the door. At any other time, she would listen to Miko, but right now she's hot and needs to cool down her mind and body. "Let me finish talking!"

Ei smiles when she hears the angry voice on the other side of the door.

The rest of the way passes in silence. Only heavy footsteps on the snow, making footprints against the thin layer of white on the floor. There's no wind or storm tonight, just the biting cold of the winter and Ei knows for sure that it will be a gray, slushy mess by tomorrow morning, but for now it's beautiful and kind of peaceful.

As soon as they arrive at the Tenshukaku, she pulls off her coat as she steps inside. Miko does the same, and as they go upstairs, Ei realizes that she and Miko have spent too many nights together in the last few weeks. Actually, there has not been a day in which they have not seen each other. It's not like that bothers her; on the contrary, she likes spending time with Miko. Even though she never says it out loud, she really likes to be with Miko, either to walk in silence or just to drink tea together and talk about anything.

Ei just likes being around Miko, anytime, anywhere. There are so many things that they can talk about, so much that they can do together. It feels good—no, it feels amazing to have Miko like this in her life again.

No matter if they argue over nonsense or have awkward moments, she will always think, just like Miko said, that being around her is like being close to home.

Which reminds her that her body still feels cold after waiting for Miko during those five minutes that turned into twenty. Ei hasn't shown signs of feeling cold because she's not going to give Miko the satisfaction of knowing she was right, but right now she really wants Miko to ask her to sleep with her and cuddle her.

Ei wonders if that's something weird to want, but she cannot think too deeply about it when Miko stops in the middle of the corridor, making her turn just in time to see her trip and

collide with her, nearly knocking her over. Ei stands her ground, steadying her with hands on Miko's waist as Miko's come to rest on her upper arms.

"Are you okay?" Ei asks, looking with concern at Miko.

Miko staggers and closes her eyes, holding tightly Ei's arm, almost afraid to move and falls down. "Yes. I'm okay."

"I can see it," Ei says sarcastically and shakes her head chidingly. "You're not okay. Need me to carry you?"

"Wow, *you* are offering to carry me? That's a nice surprise." Miko manages to joke and it's honestly amazing how even at times like this she still acts like a tease.

Ei rolls her eyes and squats down to grab Miko under her back and knees, hoisting her up into her arms bridal style. It's really easy, and Miko yelps as she's lifted into Ei's arms.

"What are you doing?" Miko shrieks, embarrassed.

"Carrying you to your bedroom." Ei replies, holding her body firmly as she begins to walk towards Miko's bedroom.

"Your hands are cold." Miko complains, wrapping her arms around Ei's neck.

"You should be more grateful." Ei grumbles with a huff. She's aware her hands are indeed cold, but the heat radiating from Miko's warm skin is slowly warming them. "Your skin is so warm."

"It's hot in here," Miko replies, but even if she tries really hard to act nonchalantly, Ei can still see the blush on Miko's cheeks out of the corner of her eye.

Cute.

Ei stops in front of the door. "Can you open the door?"

Miko sighs, pretending to be irritated, but opens the door for her anyway.

"Thanks," Ei says, entering the bedroom and kicking the door shut with her foot. She walks across the room and set Miko down gently on the bed. "Are you really fine? I should leave or do you want me to—" she starts, but her words catch in her throat as Miko grabs her by her wrist and pulls her down as well. She falls on top of Miko with a loud huff, slightly taken aback by the sudden proximity. Her limbs feel awkward and stiff, but Miko doesn't seem to be bothered. "Does this mean I have to stay?"

"Yes." Miko groans, digging her nails into Ei's shoulders.

"Oh, wow, you really don't look good." Ei remarks, frowning.

Miko closes her eyes and breathes heavily. "Ah, it's because another heat wave hit me before you came, like five hours before. But since I was at work, I suppressed it so now I feel worse

than last night."

Ei clenches her jaw. "You should have gone looking for me."

Miko averts her gaze. "You were probably busy."

"Not if it comes to this."

"I have done this many times, I'm already used to suppressed it. It's not a big deal, seriously."

"It is a big deal," Ei says, frowning. "I thought we both knew that I'm helping you with your heat so you don't have to suppress it. That's the whole point of this."

"I don't want to have this conversation right now, okay?"

Well, Ei wants to. She wants to have this conversation right now and scold Miko for being so stubborn.

Miko must know what she's thinking about because she rolls her eyes and says, "Can you just shut up and fuck me, Ei?"

Ei chokes, fixing her eyes on Miko, unnaturally beautiful beneath her, and admires her. Her stunning facial structure, her downy skin, her frightening desperation. The way she squirms minutely and gasps with a hot breath that reaches Ei's face and tickles her skin. Her pretty, pink lips looking inviting.

Maybe this is not the time to talk.

Ei forgets everything else for a moment and swallows before leaning down and let her mouth press to the bow Miko's upper lip.

Miko doesn't seem to have patience for soft kisses because she fists a hand into Ei's hair, angling her head to kiss her deeper. Ei doesn't mind that, she just finds herself gulping Miko down desperately like she's drowning.

The kiss is as addictive and good as the previous ones. There's a lot of teeth and spit, and Ei's moans come out shaky and soft and uncontrollable at the way Miko wrenches her mouth apart with her own.

Miko's fingers tugs on Ei's kimono, unraveling the bow, and then she fumbles, removing the rest of Ei's clothes until they fall to the side. Her hands go down to Ei's underwear, tugging it down until she can't pull them any farther.

Somehow, Ei manages to pull off Miko's clothes as well and discards it off the side of the bed. Her panties come off as well, and then there's no more fabric between them anymore. It's just skin sliding on skin, soft and warm.

Miko is eager to kiss, and to touch, so that's what they do. Ei is there to please and satisfy, so she complies and follows Miko's lead, feeling the arousal circling through her system making her feel already desperate.

Ei just lets the kissing and the grasping happen for a while before she presses Miko's back to the mattress. The first time they did it was violent and rough, but now Miko just seems desperate and stiff, almost as if she wants to rush everything so it ends quickly. Ei doesn't think this is the time to discuss this, so she just exhales a deep sigh into Miko's skin as she slips inside, unwilling and unable to do anything but satisfy Miko.

Everything happens faster than the first time. It's less wild, less passionate. Miko just wants to calm her heat, which is fine, but for some reason, it's not as hot as the sex they had last night.

After the two of them finish, Ei collapses on top of her, gathering Miko's in her arms. They both fall asleep immediately and wake once again when Miko fidgets and sits on top of her, waking her up as she buries her mouth on her neck.

The night goes just like this, fucking and cuddling and sleeping, then fucking again. At some point, Ei loses count of the rounds, but she doesn't think that's a bad thing. She doesn't really mind Miko using her body for her own pleasure. She likes to satisfy Miko, especially the part where it's she herself who is making her feel good, and not any other girl. That little detail is particularly nice.

However, she knows Miko well enough to know she has been holding back tonight. There wasn't wildness or roughness and she hates it, firstly because it means that something is obviously going through Miko's mind and she didn't tell her about it, and secondly because maybe Ei wants Miko to be rough with her again. Whatever it means, she's too tired to analyze it.

Exhaustion drags her, and Ei concludes that all of this is a problem for her morning self.

Ei wakes up in the middle of the night and the first thing she looks for is the warmth of Miko. But when she turns around to hug her, she only finds herself hugging a pillow. The bed feels strangely empty and cold, and slowly, she opens her eyes, only to notice that she's alone.

She looks around for Miko, beginning to feel worry when she realizes the room is empty too. Fortunately, her concern is relieved when Miko enters the room, almost naked if it weren't for the kimono she's wearing, that obviously belongs to Ei. The clothes are too big for Miko so it falls a bit, revealing her bare shoulder, her hair is a fluffy mess and she looks *adorable*. Ei just wants to get up and wrap Miko in a hug, maybe run her fingers through her hair and kiss her sleepy face.

Miko yawns and rubs her eyes. As soon she notices that Ei is looking at her, her cheeks turn red. "Oh, you're awake. Hope you don't mind that I'm wearing your clothes. I didn't want to change just to go to the bathroom."

Ei doesn't care. In fact, she would like to see Miko wearing her clothes more often. It just feels right.

"I don't mind. You look good on it," Ei answers with honesty. Miko's ears perk up at the compliment, and Ei bites a smile, patting the spot next to her. "Come back to bed, I'm cold."

"Do you think I'm your personal pillow to warm you up?" Miko huffs out, taking off her clothing. She shuffles to get under the covers, and suddenly the bed dips with Miko's weight.

Ei is too sleepy to pay attention to the fact that Miko is naked, too tired to notice that everything about this moment is too intimate. "Mmmh. I think I just like to hug you. You're really warm and soft."

Miko doesn't say anything about it, she just snuggles closer and throws her leg over Ei's thigh. "Lucky for you, right now I really want to be hugged, so I guess it's okay," she mumbles, eyelids fluttering closed.

"How lucky I am," Ei scoffs softly.

Miko just hums, resting her hand on top of her. Ei turns her palm upward, letting her fingers lace with Miko's slender ones, and surprisingly Miko squeezes back.

This is fine, physical contact has never been weird between them. Maybe a lot of things they are doing the past days are new, but holding hands or touching each other every chance they get has always been a habit for them. Her touches have never been timid, and Miko's eyes have always been a little too warm even on the coldest nights.

"Good night," Ei says softly.

"Good night," Miko murmurs, drifting off.

Ei is the first one to wake up in the morning, keeping eyes closed despite being conscious.

Miko's body tucked in her arms squirms with a quiet huffed noise, small feet digging between her ankles. Ei tightens her left arm's hold around Miko and the motion deepens their spoon, her chin digging in on the crook of Miko's neck and their bodies fitting together.

They are motionless and silent for a long beat. Their breaths syncing up and their chests expanding and touching for each inhale or exhale.

Everything feels comfortable and good, but eventually Ei starts to feel a little in need of a hug. Even though it's sudden, she doesn't question the thought much and turns around to be the little spoon.

Miko, still asleep beside her, unconsciously moves one arm over Ei's waist and rests her chin on Ei's shoulder. Miko's skin feels ridiculous warm, and Ei makes a satisfied sound before blinking her eyes open, adjusting them to the light coming through the window.

Her gaze goes to the window to check out the weather, only to find wet, fluffy snowflakes swirling in the half-light. Her eyes sparkle with fascination when she realizes it's snowing and she can't help but disentangle from Miko's grasp, sit down on the bed and jump on top of Miko to wake her up.

"Miko, wake up," Ei calls her softly, resting her legs on the sides of Miko's body as she gently shakes her awake.

Miko barely opens her eyes, squinting at the sudden light. "What do you want?" she murmurs hoarsely before rubbing her eyes. Once she seems a bit more awake, she lifts her weight with her forearms and sits up on the bed, looking at Ei with a frown. "Why did you wake me up?"

"It's snowing." Ei remarks excitedly as she gets off Miko and stands up to pick up her clothes lying on the floor.

Mike blinks twice. "Did you wake me up early just because of that?"

Ei nods, slipping her underwear down the leg holes quickly and managing to put on her bodysuit at the same speed. "Let's go outside. I want to see the snow falling."

Miko sighs and pulls the blanket to her chest, her long hair falling to her shoulders. "Oh, right, it's your first winter in years. Of course you're as excited as a child over something like snow."

Ei rolls her eyes, about to respond to defend her dignity, but she's easily distracted by the way the blanket barely covers Miko's breasts, letting her collarbones exposed. Her skin still has some marks and she looks pretty even with rumpled hair and dark circles under her eyes.

Ei sees a fallen eyelash under Miko's eye and reaches out, rubbing with her thumb to take it off. "Here," she utters, and her eyes soften when she looks at Miko's pretty face. "*Pretty*," the word slips out of her mouth and honestly, who cares. Miko is pretty, she deserves to know it. "You're so pretty, Miko."

Miko's face heats up and her ears perks up, again.

Ei raises her eyebrows at that, not trying to hide the smile on her face this time. Miko notices that and brings her hands to her ears, lowering them back to their place with an expression somewhere between embarrassment and frustration. "What do you expect me to answer when you say things like these?"

Ei cocks her head in confusion. "Nothing? I don't really think when I talk."

"Well, I can tell you don't think at all." Miko huffs out, crossing her arms, as if acting condescending can make the blush on her cheeks disappear.

"I just say what I want to say and I do what I want to do. It's simple," Ei explains, ignoring Miko's taunts. "You should do the same. Don't you think so?"

"I don't know what are you talking about." Miko answers, obviously taking the hint, but deciding to play the fool.

Ei sits next to Miko on the bed. "Do you think I didn't notice that you practically held back all day yesterday? First you decided to suppress your heat instead of looking for me and then you held back everytime we had sex."

Miko purses her lips and fixes her messy hair. "You are imagining things."

"No, I am not. I just want to help you and you don't let me. Are you worried about something? Are you afraid of something? Why did you hold back yesterday? I already told you that this is about you and—" her words are cut off when she feels Miko's hand on the back of her neck, pulling her in a kiss. It's short and sloppy, but Ei feels her head go blank as Miko draws back, leaving a wet, ticklish trail on her lips. Ei blinks. "Uh, what was that?"

"You wouldn't shut up, so I kissed you." Miko shrugs, wiping her mouth. "It worked, right?"

Ei snaps out of her daze and looks at Miko with blushed cheeks and a frown. "You— *ugh*. Don't distract me!"

"Do my kisses distract you?" Miko raises an eyebrow playfully.

Yes. Kissing Miko feels too fucking good and maybe it's her new weakness, just like desserts. Ei discovered that Miko's kisses can be sweeter than any candy. Whatever that means is unknown to her and she prefers not to think about it much. "Just... stop doing that. You're trying to get rid of this conversation and I'm not going to let that happen."

Miko rolls her eyes. "I'm not doing anything. Can you drop the subject?"

Ei clenches her fists, feeling frustrated. Doesn't Miko not trust her enough to talk about everything with her? She's always acting like this, avoiding some conversations and running away from her. "No. Did something happen yesterday? I thought we had reached an agreement. I told you not to hold back. Did something make you feel like you should?"

"No. I told you it's nothing."

"I know you too well to know that it's something. Do you want something from me? Is that?" Ei asks with genuine concern, taking Miko's hand. "Just tell me what to do and I can do it, you don't have to be ashamed or hide it."

Miko blinks and moves back in bed, almost panicking. "I don't want anything from you. I don't know why you are asking this kind of questions."

"You're holding back, so you're obviously embarrassed about something. You must have a reason for not wanting to untie yourself." Ei frowns. "What are you ashamed to tell me?"

Miko lets out a nervous laugh. "What kind of conversation is this? How did we even get to this? I'm not ashamed of anything."

"But you're holding back," Ei presses her lips into a straight line. "You promised you wouldn't hold back and now you're breaking that promise so fast?"

"Okay, yes! Maybe I'm holding back, but it's because...because I'm scared of doing or saying something that might ruin everything." Miko takes a breath, running a hand through her hair. "I guess it's because you're my friend and I don't want to make things awkward between us. I'm fine with the way we are— I've always been fine with it. I don't want anything more from you, okay? I just... I think the first night I did a lot of things that could have ruined everything, and now I'm scared of doing something stupid and lose you. That's it. I'm just worried about ruining our friendship."

Ei blinks, processing everything, and then looks at Miko with sympathy and affection. "Miko..."

"Don't say anything. It's embarrassing to talk about this, and that's why I've avoided having this conversation." Miko sighs, looking down. "Maybe this is easy for you, but it's not for me. What if I do something stupid and I ruin our... our friendship?"

"There's no way you can ruin our friendship," Ei reassures her, squeezing her hands. "I trust you and if something happened I know it won't be your fault. You don't have to hold back with me, just forget self-control and do what your body wants."

Miko takes a breath. "It's not that easy. I don't really think when I'm in heat. I act like a fucking animal and i just want to fuck, and I realized that night that when I am with you, I want to take you, hard and rough. I want to bite you hard and mark you, hold you in place and... and I want to hear you say you're mine. I especially want everyone to hear that you're mine. Ah, I guess it's just the heat, but I feel so possessive and wild when you're around me and that terrifies me. I don't want to hurt you, even if you tell me you don't care."

"Oh, uh. I—" Ei swallows, feeling her throat go dry and her cock trembling at Miko's words. Suddenly it's throbbing everywhere: her cock, her temples, the place deep and low in her belly where arousal aches. Ei grabs a pillow and puts it on her lap, really happy to be wearing clothes right now. "Okay, since we're being honest, I... I like when you are rough. Don't think that manhandling me or marking me will make me uncomfortable, it probably causes the opposite of that."

Ei feels her cheeks flush after her confession.

"Oh," Miko utters, looking really surprised. "I really didn't expect that. Are you telling me that you like when girls are rough with you in bed?"

No. She only likes when Miko is rough with her, and honestly, she never thought she would be interested in this kind of thing. Everything is just so confusing and new.

"It's complicated," Ei sighs, scratching her neck. "What I'm trying to say is that you shouldn't worry about me. Like I told you, I like it."

"Mmmh, I see," Miko says, looking at her with a little more confidence than before. "I'm sorry about yesterday, you're just trying to help me and I'm here, feeling insecure about it."

"Don't apologize. It's okay to feel insecure. I also feel insecure sometimes," Ei laughs weakly. Of course she feels insecure too; about her inexperience and about the fact that Miko definitely has more experience than her in this kind of thing. Maybe the part about feeling weird over the fact that Miko have had sleep with other girls is the only thing she can't talk to Miko about. It would imply a lot of things that Ei doesn't fully understand. "But it's okay. At least we had this conversation and now everything is fine, right?"

"Mmh," Miko nods, reaching out to intertwine their fingers together. "Everything's fine."

Ei smiles at the gesture. "You're not going to hold back anymore, are you?"

Miko rolls her eyes again, more amused than annoyed. "No, I am not going to hold back. Now you can stop being annoying."

Ei opens her mouth, offended. "Annoying? I had to insist so you stop being so hard-headed and finally talk to me. I think you should be thanking me."

"Yeah, now you finally understand how it feels to be in my place." Miko scoffs, coming back to her light and teasing personality. She gets up from the bed and pulls Ei up as well. "I'm hungry. Let's get something to eat and then we can go see the snow."

Ei nods enthusiastically, gripping Miko's hand tighter. "But shouldn't you take a shower first?"

"Right," Miko lowers her shoulders and studies her naked body. "I feel gross."

Ei ignores the way her cheeks heat up at the fact that Miko is naked and says, "I feel gross too. Uh, how about we shower together?"

Miko raises an eyebrow at her. "Oh?"

"Don't think too much about it. I just think it would be faster if we showered together," Ei looks away from her. "Okay?"

Miko laughs softly. "Okay."

Ei can't help but smile a little, feeling warm and relieved.

Everything is okay.

Chapter End Notes

it will probably take me another month to edit the other chapter, so be patient with me (and with eimiko on this fic, they are really dumb)

that's it!! comments are always welcome and see you next month!

all of us intertwined

Chapter Notes

damn, it's been two months but [insert long excuse...]

now being serious, i was busy with my studies. good thing: i pass all my exams. well, i have a final exam in two weeks, but i'm surviving

the truth is that this chapter took me a lot because somehow it turned into a chapter of almost 24k words... obviously i'm not able to edit something so long and again i divided it into two parts (again) lol. this is the last time i'm adding another chapter, this fic is only going to have 5 chapters, i promise

and it's funny, but even if this chapter is 14k words long i feel like it's really short lol. anyway, i hope everything makes sense because seriously this chapter was so messy to edit, it literally gave me a headache. and i'm not even 100% satisfied with this but whatever. hope it's worth the wait

damn this note is too long, sorry. that's it. u can read now

See the end of the chapter for [more notes](#)

"Wake up," Miko says, sitting in her lap and wiggling her hips. "*Ei*."

Ei wakes up, feeling her body sweaty and spent. She groans beneath her and tries to roll over, but the entirety of Miko's weight is pinning her down. Miko has her knees digging into the mattress on either side of her, and she rubs herself down onto Ei's crotch.

"W-what—*fuck*." Ei stifles a moan that turns into a groan of pain when Miko's knee digs harshly into the side of her thigh. "Okay! I woke up!"

"*Ngh*— I need you. Right now." Miko groans and grinds her hips down again, pressing her ass firmly against Ei's crotch, her hands flying out onto Ei's body to catch herself from falling forward.

Ei's eyes flutters open, her tongue lazily licking her dry lips and once her gaze falls on Miko's face, she immediately wakes up.

There's a dark, burning, predatory look in Miko's face. Her ears peek out from beneath her sleep-wrought hair, those loose, sweaty strands falling over her forehead and sticking to the sides of her face. Her tail swish impatiently behind her and there's a terrible flush pinking her cheeks, her hot skin burning all over.

Ei knows that Miko's biological clock makes her heat always hit at night, but for some reason it keeps taking her by surprise to wake up with this view of Miko so different from what she is in the day. Ironical that she continues to react like this when this is not the first round they have at night, but even if her body already knows the routine of waking up and fucking Miko, her mind still goes blank when she sees Miko like *this*.

It's only for a moment though, because as soon she realizes what's happening, she quickly brings her hands to Miko's hips, adding some solid fluidity to the erratic motion. A pleased sigh escapes Miko's throat, but that doesn't seem to be enough because her brow furrows and a moan of complaint escapes her mouth.

"Fuck me." Miko growls, rolling her hips and grinding frantically herself down into Ei's cock like she's dying for it. Her palms rub over Ei's abs, and then she fucking buries her nails along her skin, drawing some blood and making Ei gasp out an incoherent sound. A sparkle of desired and desperation appears in Miko's eyes when Ei moans with pleasure at the pain and her cock gets semi-hard. "Fuck me right *now*. Seriously, if you don't bury your cock inside me and fuck my brains out right now, I'm going to sit on it and ride it myself."

The words go straight to Ei's dick, and she's definitely awake right now. Her cock is certainly awake too, inflated in just milliseconds.

Archons, there is something really wrong with her.

The thing is, if there's one thing she's discovered in the past few days, it's that she likes having sex with Miko. It's something that has been growing since she masturbated thinking about Miko for the first time. She likes to have sex with Miko, especially when she wakes her up in the middle of the night, needy and desperate, and rough her up. Maybe Ei just has masochistic tendencies, or Miko just arouses things in her that she thought she'd never enjoy. But Ei definitely enjoys the roughness that comes with sex with Miko when she's in heat.

Their previous conversation about boundaries and self-restraint certainly change some things. Now there's an element of savagery and instinct to it that Miko is no longer holding back. Her aggressive hands on her body and her sharp teeth sinking into the skin of her shoulder right now are the proof of that.

Miko lets Ei lay her down on the bed, hips shuddering forward instinctively as she wraps her legs around Ei's waist, forcing her cock to slide into her soaked entrance. She sinks down easily on Ei's cock with a moan, and Ei flinches when she feels Miko's walls clamping down on her cock, already wet and loose just for her.

Ei starts thrusting into her and Miko shudders in relief, her tongue lapping gently at the mark her teeth left on her shoulder before her mouth slides down Ei's neck and nuzzles her throat.

It's all a routine now: having sex, kissing and spending their days together. It's okay, it never takes long for them to fall into a routine. Five hundred years ago, they used to have their own routines too: like spending time with their friends and sneaking out at night to spend time together. Now their routines consist of having sex, having tea while they talk, walking through the snow together and watching the flakes fall, having more sex, and oh, having *more* sex.

It should be weird but it isn't. They just settle in with each other just like breathing, and it's always been as easy as that.

"Are you satisfied now?" Ei asks, fucking Miko with shallow, vicious thrusts.

"No. Fuck me harder," Miko pushes herself into her cock, legs wrapping around Ei's waist in a death grip. "Harder. Faster. I want you to destroy me."

Ei thrusts deep into her, hard enough to Miko to feel the push of her throbbing cock through her skin. "Mmh, like this?"

Miko stifles a loud moan at that, looking more than satisfied. "Ah— like that."

Everything feels natural. Miko demands and Ei obeys; that's another one of their new routines and Ei can't be more than pleased to get used to it.

Ei gives one last look to the lunch in her hand and takes a deep breath before she walks through the door, coming to an abrupt stop when she sees Miko is not alone in her office. There's a group of people scattered around, and they all shut the moment they look at her with surprised. Ei doesn't care too much about it, her eyes are only laid on Miko. She looks unusually stressed, a furrow between her eyebrows and shoulders tense. Ei resists the urge to rush over, get into Miko's space and ask her what's wrong, only because suddenly she feels a bit out of place.

Miko shifts her gaze to her, showing no sign of surprise. "Do you need anything?"

"No. I just came to visit you." Ei admits and doesn't miss the way a shy smile peeks out through Miko's lips and her body loses the tension from before. "But you look busy, I'm going to wait outside for you to finish."

"We're almost done here." Miko comments, resting half of her face on her hand.

"Don't worry, take your time." Ei reassures her, giving her a soft smile. She briefly looks at the employees, who stood in silence throughout their exchange of words, before she walks away to wait beside the door. After that she can't hear much, just quiet murmurs and Miko's voice, dipping into that business voice she takes when she deals with work.

She's not sure how long she hangs outside, looking at her feet while she waits until she hears the door open and all the employees file out of the office, giving her a nod as they pass her.

"You can enter now."

Ei walks into the office and closes the door behind her before turning her gaze to where Miko is sitting.

She is still reading the papers on her desk, glasses slipping down the bridge of her nose. And Ei would never have imagined that the glasses would look so good on her, but strangely Miko looks even more breathtaking than usual. It makes her stop in her place only to have some seconds to admire her. She looks so damn alluring doing absolutely nothing at all. It's unfair. Unfair for everyone and to Ei.

The thing is, yeah, she has always thought Miko is beautiful, but now it's been getting worse recently. It used to be an occasional thought, like, *wow Miko is pretty*. Just that. Now Ei feels something cold and tough in her chest every time she's in the same room as Miko, and that's a bit worrying.

"What?" Miko asks, looking at her with confusion when she lifts her gaze and Ei is still frozen in front of the door, wide-eyed and awkward. "Why are you looking at me like that?"

It takes Ei a second to come back to her senses, but at the moment she realizes she's been standing like a fool all this time, she panics and shakes her thoughts away. Maybe this issue is something to worry about later. In a place where the cause of her problem is not literally in front of her.

"It's nothing," Ei mumbles and glances away. "I just got lost in my thoughts for a moment."

"Like always," Miko scoffs softly and shakes her head. "So, you came to visit me?" she changes the topic, quirked an eyebrow. "You're starting to come here often."

"I brought you lunch," Ei comments, gesturing to the lunch perfectly wrapped in her hand. "This morning, you told me you were going to be busy, so I thought maybe you wouldn't have time to eat."

Ei remembers the morning: she woke up to the feeling of Miko hugging her from behind, her tail on her thigh and her breath on her neck. The memory makes her feel a warm and comforting sensation in her chest. It's just something so every day and almost domestic, in the same way that it is Miko changing in front of her while complaining and unburdening herself with her.

"Lunch?" Miko repeats, biting back a smile. "I'm not going to ask if you are the one who made it."

Ei huffs out, amused. "Let's say someone else made it, but I made sure it has all your favorite foods. Hope that's enough."

"Anything you do is enough," Miko smiles at her.

Ei's cheeks flush, and she feels something flutter in her belly, a type of warmth she's familiar with but now feels more intense than ever. "Thanks."

Miko sighs before leaning back against the chair. "But you know, the employees here are very gossipy. I think they're misunderstanding why you come here often. They love putting together stories in their heads, and that's something good sometimes, but not when it comes about me."

Ei frowns, heading over to Miko's desk. "What are you talking about?"

"They think there's something going on between you and me," she lets out a laugh. "Ridiculous, right?"

Ei's mind goes blank for a moment, and then she tilts her head. "What does that mean? I visit you because I want to see you, there is nothing weird about that."

"I know. Just... never mind. Like I said, it's ridiculous," Miko clears her throat and looks down at the stack of papers on her desk. Ei blinks, pretty sure something just happened, and she doesn't understand what was. Oh, this is getting frustrating. "Anyway, do you want to sit down with me?"

Ei stares at Miko for a long moment. "I don't see another chair."

Miko gives her lap a suggestive look and then pats it, giving her a mischievous smile. Ei stands still for a moment, but instead of feeling shy, she just goes with the flow and climbs into Miko's lap, leaving the box with lunch on the desk.

"Wow," Miko utters, looking at her in disbelief. "I didn't think you would actually do it."

"I don't want to be standing and there are no other chairs," Ei shrugs like it's no big deal, but she can't lie and say she feels a little embarrassed now that she's sitting on Miko's lap. Just a little, because it's actually really comfortable. "Besides, you suggested it, or is that you want me to get up?"

"No," Miko shakes her head, wrapping a hand around her waist, "It's okay."

Ei just hums, looking at the stack of sheets on Miko's desk. "I see you are working hard."

"Yes." Miko sighs heavily through her nose. "I feel more stressed than usual in heat and honestly, today I don't have the patience to deal with incompetent writers. I still have manuscripts to review, and I'm tired."

Ei frowns. "I don't like to see you like this. Do you need me to do something about it?"

Miko lets out a laugh. "No, I'm fine. This is a normal part of my job," she assures, rubbing Ei's thighs and offering her a smile.

Ei still can't wipe the scowl off her face as she wraps her arms around Miko's shoulders. "I still want to do something for you. Is there anything I can do for you?"

"Something you can do for me, huh?" Miko coos.

Ei nods and inevitably her gaze falls on Miko's mouth, making her swallow. Her pink and full lips are shining brighter than usual, and they look tempting, *inviting*.

Oh, no. She's doing it again. Looking at Miko's mouth.

She's been doing it all week, and she knows it's wrong but can't help it. It's not her fault when Miko's lips are heart-shaped and plump and so desirable. It's probably a guilty pleasure, something she shouldn't like, but she does, just like sex.

"What are you willing to do for me?" Miko teases, pink tongue swiping over her upper lip.

Ei follows the movement of Miko's tongue with her gaze. She feels her own lips dry and wets them. "I'd probably do anything you asked of me."

"Really?" Miko murmurs, pulling Ei closer by her waist until they're mere inches away. "Anything?"

Ei nods again, mesmerized by the proximity and the way Miko's breath is bathing her face. The warmth inside her growing hotter. "Anything."

Miko gives a little tilt of her chin, licking her lips one last time before her gaze falls on Ei's mouth. "Then kiss me."

Ei definitely doesn't need to be told twice, ducking in slowly to press their lips together, her lips closing around Miko's top lip.

Miko breathes out through her nose, warm air fanning Ei's face, before she slides a hot, wet tongue beneath her upper lip. The feeling of Miko's warm tongue brushing hers has heat coiling in the pit of her stomach, her tongue curling up slightly to meet it.

The kiss heats up slowly. Ei breathes out a shaky sigh, sliding an arm around Miko's neck. Her fingers slip back through the thick of Miko's hair as the little flicks of her tongue turn into wet sucks and broad licks.

It's a favor.

Miko was the one who asked her to kiss her and Ei just wants to make Miko feel good and if kissing her can achieve it, she's happy to oblige. Plus, it definitely feels good, partly because making Miko feel good feels amazing and partly because kissing Miko is always so fucking amazing. Makes her chest feel all light and good, and Ei can't lie to herself and say she wasn't craving for this.

Ei breathes against Miko's mouth. "I want to make you feel good. What should I do now?"

"Hmhm, kiss my neck."

Ei leaves one last kiss on her mouth, and her lips detach themselves from Miko's mouth and find their way onto her jaw. Her lips trail down to her neck, kissing softly and nibbling at the wet skin here and there, leaving no visible traces other than the goosebumps on Miko's skin.

Miko's eyes close automatically, muscles finally completely relaxing while she holds Ei's body against her own.

They are so close to each other, bodies almost merging into one, and Ei feels herself melting against Miko's chest, subconsciously craving the warmth radiating from the other.

The grip of Miko's hands on her waist tightens, carefully squeezing and pressing Ei against her. One hand remains right there on Ei's waist, while the other hand moves to Ei's thigh. The touch is light and teasing and raises goosebumps over Ei's skin.

"Keep going." Miko murmurs, hand now bunched under Ei's kimono, nails biting into the terse muscle of her thigh.

Ei exhales before she obeys, pressing an open-mouthed kiss lower on Miko's throat, closing her lips around the skin and pulling lightly. Miko breathes out a shaky sigh while Ei keeps licking her neck and sucking lightly before her tongue slips out to flick over the vein near Miko's jugular, enjoying the way Miko shudders and a soft moan comes from her mouth.

Miko gives another squeeze to the firm muscle of her thigh, softly caressing the skin, and Ei sighs contentedly. Her nose pressing against Miko's skin as she lets her hands wander, caressing Miko and enjoying the faint feeling of muscles and the softness of her skin.

"That's enough, you can stop now." Miko finally stops her, squeezing her thigh as a signal.

Ei hums and rests her head on Miko's shoulder, placing one last kiss there before pulling back to get a look at Miko's face.

Her hair is hanging into her eyes in strands, and there's a slight blush on her cheeks. Her breath is heavy, and her lips are red and swollen just like her neck painted with wet trails and marks, making her look like a really hot mess.

"That was a really good kiss." Miko compliments her. "Really good."

Ei's chest fills with pride and satisfaction. At the same time, there's a tickle on her lips and a strange but undeniable desire to continue kissing Miko.

Oh, no— her kiss addiction is getting definitely worse.

"Are you less stressed now?" Ei asks, ignoring the voice that wants to press forward into Miko and meet her mouth again. Hands sliding to Miko's shoulders and giving them a squeeze.

"Yes," Miko confirms with a soft smile. "That definitely made me forget about all the work I have to do."

Ei stares at her with fascination. "You know, I realized this the first time I saw you working, but you're really dedicated to this *Yae publishing house* thing. Every time you work, you look so focused and shrewd. You've changed so much in these years."

"I've changed," Miko affirms, nodding in agreement. "Is that a good thing for you?"

"Yes. I like this version of you" Ei admits and corrects herself by adding, "I used to like you before too. I guess I just like all versions of you."

Miko looks at her with bright eyes, something dancing behind them— something really intense and deep and mesmerizing. Ei is starting to want Miko to look at her like that all the time. "That's good," she says, her cheeks suddenly red and embarrassment painting her face. She clears her throat. "But why are you thinking about that now?"

"I haven't been with you for a long time, I'm just curious about you. About a lot of things, actually," Ei explains. She remembers her worries about Miko with other girls and dares to ask, "Like, how do you usually behave with the girls you sleep with?" *Is it the same or different from the way you're with me?* For some reason, she is too scared of asking that.

"I only slept with them," Miko says vaguely. "There's not much more to it than that. Why are you asking?"

"You've probably lived through a lot in those last five hundred years. I'm just curious about your life," Ei pretends to be indifferent, as if her stomach wasn't churning. "So, among all the girls you've slept with, have you ever had anything other than sex with any of them?"

Miko blinks twice. "Are you asking me if I've been in a relationship?"

That's definitely not the word Ei was looking for.

Miko in a relationship with someone else?

Ei hasn't thought about that. She was always aware of Miko's active sex life, but it never crossed her mind that in all those years, Miko could have been in a relationship with someone.

But the thing is, Miko has never been interested in that way for anyone. For as long as Ei has known Miko, she has heard her complain about how stupid love is more times than she had heard her say that she is in love. In fact, Ei doesn't think Miko has ever told her that she's romantically interested in anyone. She would remember if Miko had told her.

But years have passed since then, and maybe Miko changed her mind. Perhaps she has lived fleeting romances throughout these five hundred years. Perhaps she has kissed and held hands with countless people and whispered words of love to more people than she can count.

It's strange, but imagining Miko having that bond with someone makes her chest contort with an unbearable ache. It feels painful and terrible, and Ei hates how now it's not just the idea of Miko sexually with someone else is making her feel like this, but also the idea of her romantically with someone else. That's so much worse.

"Yes," Ei swallows hard, afraid of the answer and already regretting her previous question. "Have you ever been in a relationship in these five hundred years?"

Miko looks at her suspiciously. "Why are you curious about that?"

"Why couldn't I be? I'm just curious." Ei responds with a shrug. She tries to act nonchalant, as if the answer that Miko'll give her will not define if her world is going to fall apart with just a simple yes or no.

Miko eyes her appraisingly for a moment before she selflessly replies, "No. I haven't."

Ei isn't entirely sure why she's so relieved, but damn she's definitely relieved. "Oh."

"I've always had casual sex. I slept with some maidens from the sanctuary, with one or another tengu, although they are too rigid and boring for my taste, and more people whose face and name I can't remember," Miko starts to explain. "I haven't had anything serious with any of them, and I don't really care. I find it really annoying when they pick up feelings and expect me to give them something I can't give them."

Ei swallows the lump in her throat, feeling a heartburn going down to her stomach. People picking up feelings for Miko sounds almost impossible when Miko has a difficult temper and isn't really kind to anyone, but at the same it seems easy because Miko is actually fun and charming and pretty. She's actually easy to love, and for some reason it doesn't feel good. "Oh, wow."

"Relationships aren't my thing, I guess." Miko ends her explanation with a small shrug.

"I get it," Ei nods slowly. "That must be hard."

"Not that much." Miko shrugs. Then she clears her throat. "But let's stop talking about me. How was your day?"

Ei decides to stop worrying about the previous topic and puts a hand to her chin, remembering everything she did today. Her morning started with Miko, and then she spent the whole afternoon working until now that she took a break to visit Miko.

Damn. All she does is be with Miko.

It's kinda sad that she is the only person in her life, but Ei doesn't really care that much either. She likes to spend time with Miko more than with anyone else.

"It was good, I guess," Ei starts. "I talk to the tri-commission and oh, I'm going to practice sparring with general Kujou. We have already talked a couple of times, and today I ran into her, so when the topic of sparring popped out, I offered to practice with her. She seemed excited by the idea and I think it would be good for me, I feel rusty."

Miko frowns. "General Kujou?"

"There's something wrong about it?" Ei asks, confused.

Miko is silent for a moment, almost hesitating to answer, and then, she answers with brutal honesty, "I don't like her."

Ei opens her mouth, stuttering. "May I know why?"

"I have my reasons," Miko shrugs. "But ignoring the fact it's her, it's good to know you're trying to make new friends."

"That's what you think so?" Ei scratches her neck. "I didn't have in mind to make a friend when I accepted."

"Better yet." Miko jokes.

Ei rolls her eyes, a bit amused, but then, her gaze falls on the manuscripts on the desk, and she makes a face. "I am interrupting your work, right? I should go."

Ei wants to get up, but Miko grabs her around the waist and pulls her onto her lap again. "It's okay. If you stay quiet, I can work with you here."

"Do you want me here with you?"

Miko nods, soft eyes looking at her. "I want you here."

"Oh, good," Ei says, feeling a smile creep onto her face and her cheeks heat up. "I could help you with some manuscripts, then."

Miko raises her eyebrows in challenge, looking interesting in the idea. "And how would you do that?"

"I don't know, reading them with you. I can give you my opinion," Ei offers.

"That sounds good, but I honestly don't trust your literary judgment after you told you liked that slime novel."

Ei looks at Miko offended. "You're not the indicated to talk about that. It had to go through your approval to be published."

"Honestly, I don't remember approved that light novel." Miko's eyebrows furrow as she thinks. "Maybe I had a couple of drinks when I accepted it. Most likely it was that."

Ei lets out a laugh. "Do you often drink?"

"On special occasions." Miko replies. "I'm not going to brag, but I have a very good resistance to alcohol."

"Mmh," Ei answers. "We could drink together tonight. Maybe dinner and sake. That sounds good?"

"It sounds incredible." Miko smiles.

"Perfect," Ei utters, biting the inside of her cheek so hard she fears she might draw blood, but she's afraid if she starts smiling she won't be able to stop. "Then let me be your co-editor-in-chief."

Miko lets out a laugh. "That term doesn't even exist."

"I can make it exist, can't I?"

Miko rolls her eyes, eyes lighting up with amusement. "Shut up and help me read this, co-editor."

"Alright, chief editor," Ei jokes as she gets up. "But let's change places. Surely your legs are already tired."

Miko's smirk becomes even more pronounced as she gets up. "You think of everything, huh?"

Ei sits on the chair and pats her lap with a playful look. "I do, actually."

Miko giggles and sits on her lap, letting Ei wrap a hand around her waist protectively. And as simple as that, they start working together like as if they had done it all their lives.

Later at night, the table in the main room is piled messily with handmade dishes and two bottles of sake next to two cups. They're wearing casual clothes this time and Miko is crowded against her side. Her eyes are bright and happy, and Ei feels happy only because Miko is happy. A kind of contagious happiness.

"Can I have some more of the—" Miko starts, and Ei barely thinks before reaching across a few plates with her chopsticks and grabbing a fried tofu, offering it out silently.

Miko gives her a thankful smile and leans in to eat it out of the air. Her lips close around the end of Ei's chopsticks, and she starts chewing the food, seemingly oblivious to the fact Ei's entire face blushes by that.

Ei looks away, bringing her cold hands to her face in an attempt to cool them down, and jumps when Miko gently nudges her, making her look back at her. "What?"

Miko frowns. "You are not eating. Didn't you like the food?"

Ei blinks, realizing all this time she's been more distracted looking at Miko than eating. "Oh, yes. I liked the food."

"Then eat before I eat it all by myself," Miko reaches for some fried tofu and brings it to Ei's mouth. "Take some."

Ei can feel embarrassment engulf her body, but under the expectant look of Miko, she takes the food in her mouth and chews it slowly.

"It's delicious, right?" Miko asks with sparkling eyes and her smile still wide.

Ei swallows the food and makes a satisfied sound. "It is, but I still prefer sweet things."

"Of course," Miko scoffs and pushes herself closer, pressing her body against Ei's, hand falling on top of her thigh.

Miko is so close.

And they are doing nothing, nothing that requires Ei to feel this way. Miko just innocently touches her thigh for a short moment before she pats her thigh, just above the knee, a light and friendly gesture.

The hand on her thigh is gone, but Ei feels the imprint, the lingering heat, and it's almost pathetic how quickly she misses it. There's no reason for her to feel so awkward and nervous and starved of Miko's touch, but she wishes her chest could think the same thing. She wishes she didn't want Miko's hand to touch her thigh again, but the problem is, maybe she wants Miko's hands on her all the time.

Ei grits her teeth and tries not to think about it, about the warmth of Miko's body and how her weight would feel on top of her. How Miko could just move and push Ei onto her back, settle over her and easily press her lips on her own. Just the sharp scrape of her teeth, her firm body pressing over Ei's, legs slotting between her thighs.

At this moment she really wishes she wasn't thinking about kissing Miko, but just like these days, her mind wanders and yearns for it.

Ei breathes hard through her nose, trying to calm down, but Miko's scent fills her nostrils. Miko's smooth and clean scent.

It's frustrating, but for some reason the confused sensations Miko makes her feel outside bed has become too much to handle.

Ei casts around for something to think about, anything that isn't Miko's scent and the softness of her hair and skin, and the phantom mark of the gentle press of Miko's hand on the outside of her thigh.

Her eyes wander outside the window. There's a pitch black darkness outside and the snow is covering the mountains, thick snowflakes still coming down onto the plants. It's almost terrifying how the snow finds a way to cover even the most uneven surfaces. The few plants that could withstand even the harshest of winters, are cover in a thick blanket of snow which is steadily growing.

It kinda remembers her of the plane of Euthymia in a certain way. Lonely and dark. Ei wonders what it would be like if she was still there, and a feeling of loneliness and helplessness washes over her.

In the right moment, Miko's arm wraps around her waist and Ei remembers where she is.

Right. She's not alone anymore.

Miko looks at her with a slight smile. "I think we should start drinking, don't you think so?"

Ei nods, already missing Miko's hand on her waist when she takes her out of there to pour the sake in both cups.

It's been a long time since Ei drank alcohol, so she shakes the glass slightly and looks curiously at the liquid before drinking it. A wince appear on her face as soon as she swallows it. "I just remembered that I never liked alcohol so much."

Miko laughs and takes a sip of her own cup, the drink sliding down through her throat as a satisfied smile spreads across her face. "What? Do you want me to bring you dango milk, *baby?*"

Ei rolls her eyes at Miko's teasing tone, ignoring the way the nickname shakes her insides a bit. "No, but thanks for asking," she replies sarcastically.

Miko giggles and then, she's quiet for a moment. Her gaze losing in some point of the room. "You know, it's been a while since we drank together like this," she comments, and it sounds a bit melancholic.

Ei looks at her, catching Miko merely gazing at her, her eyes soft the way they sometimes are.

"Are you already getting nostalgic? You barely had a single drink." Ei jokes softly, but it's honestly true. It has been a long time since they have relaxed together like this.

"Shut up," Miko says with a snort. "I just think it's been a long time since we have been so relax like this. The last time we did this, well, you know, it was five hundred years ago." Her gaze seems far away, glued to a corner of the room. "This would probably sound too melancholy, but at times I felt that I could never live a moment like this again, so I am glad to share something like this with you again. Even if it's only the two of us."

Ei's jaw drops and her eyes widen.

I'm an idiot, she thinks as she realizes that five hundred years have passed since they did this. It was not a year or a few days, nor it wasn't just a long time. It has so much time ago in which Miko was alone, with the absence of the old friends that she also lost.

"Sorry, you're right." Ei says quickly and then adds wistfully, "It's been a while since I've been with a friend like this. Just a relaxing moment and a casual conversation."

For a moment, she allows herself to reminisce about the old times with her friends. They hurt in a good way, a way that makes Ei want to treasure those moments in her memory for eternity along with this moment.

"Miko, you... have you felt alone during these years?" Ei asks carefully. It may be something that is not correct to ask. Maybe Miko doesn't want to talk about it, or of her feelings in general, but Ei feels this is the time right time to ask this question, even if the answer may leave her with a worse feeling of guilt. "It's probably a stupid question. I know you've met a lot of people over the years, and you're always busy, but I mean," *have you missed me? Did*

my absence hurt you? "I just want to know if..." *If you have felt lonely without me.* "If you ever felt lonely in all those years."

"It's not a stupid question. If I'm honest, sometimes I felt lonely," Miko admits to her surprise. "I was surrounded by people during these years, but you can still feel lonely even when there are people around you, you know? Sometimes the presence of people you don't really care just makes you realize that you really don't have anyone you care about."

"Oh," Ei says, not really sure what to say.

Oh, definitely, I'm an idiot.

"But why we always end up talking about me?" Miko looks at her and shakes her head, her gaze suddenly intense. "What about you? You felt lonely in the plane of Euthymia?"

"I—" Ei tries to find the words, the courage to answer the truth. *Yes, I felt so fucking lonely.* It's hard to admit when she doesn't like to talk about her feelings. It feels as if she's taking off the most deep and hidden shit out of her inside, only to show others the mess she actually is.

"Don't try to avoid the question. I know you too damn well, and I know you don't like to talk about this kind of things, just like me. But you know me too, and you probably know that we were eventually going to have this conversation. Just please. Talk to me." Miko *begs* and her voice sounds so weak and broken and— fuck, Miko never begs.

How did the conversation end up in something like this in such a short time? Really. Ei is not quite sure how they went from a totally normal and chill night to this. Whatever this is.

Ei takes a breath that sounds shaky, her gaze on the ground, refusing to look directly at Miko. "I felt quite lonely," she finally admits, and it's a truth she's never said out loud. "Maybe I convinced myself that it was okay at first, but eventually I felt more and more alone as the time passed." Her hands fall on her own lap, clenched into fists. It's ironic and sad how both of them felt so alone. In different ways, but alone anyway.

"Hey, it's okay." Miko reassures her, bringing her hand to the back of Ei's neck and pushing her head against her own chest. Ei presses her face into Miko's clothes, nosing at the soft fabric. Miko slides her fingers through her hair, scratching through the long strands and twirling them around her fingers. Ei unconsciously leans into the fingers, eyes falling shut when Miko coos. "Sorry. I shouldn't have pressured you to answer that."

"No, you're right." Ei sighs against her clothes. "I can't keep running away from this conversation. You probably also want me to talk about my life during these last five hundred years."

"Actually yes. I'm curious about that, but I guess I was hoping you'd tell me about it on your own. Obviously you never would, but I was still hopeful."

"Go ahead then. Ask me whatever you want."

"Seriously? Anything?" Miko asks and sounds a bit nervous, not as confident as she usually is.

"Anything." Ei responds, relaxing as Miko's hand continues to scratch her scalp.

"Fine," Miko takes a deep breath. "Maybe this is a selfish question, but I really want to know it... In all those years, did you ever think of me? Did I ever cross your mind?"

Ei feels her mind go blank at first. A little surprised by the question and really shy to answering it, but it's not like she can't run away. Not anymore. "Of course I thought of you. More times than I'm proud of," she confesses, grateful that Miko can't see her face right now.

Maybe that's why Miko pushed her head against her chest, because she knew this would be the only way in which she could feel comfortable having this conversation.

Miko knows her so well in everything, it's obvious from the way he remembers the smallest things and always does everything for her own good. And she's always taking care of her— in the way sometimes she brings her food when she's busy or fulfills her childish whims and is patient at her old habits that coalesce along with her difficult personality. Miko has such unconditional devotion to her, something so pure, that Ei feels everything inside her aching because she has never feel so... *loved*.

That's the word?

Miko makes her feel loved. All the time. In all moments. Even with the smallest gestures and words. Loved in a way Ei can't really explain.

"I missed you so much, Miko." Ei blurts out the words, and it's another truth. All these years without Miko felt bad, and now that she's with her again, her world feels a little more bright. There are more colors around her. Gods, these three weeks with Miko have made her feel more alive than she has felt in all these five hundred years. "I really missed you. I missed you just like I missed the bright sky over me and the breeze of the wind on my face. I missed you like I would miss a limb of my own body."

Ei eyes open when Miko doesn't say anything for a long moment, fingers stilling in her hair, and Ei's eyebrows tug together anxiously when she looks up to see Miko's reaction. "Miko?"

Miko stares down at her with such an intense, yet fond look that it makes Ei shudder. "I never thought I would hear these words coming out of your mouth. I imagined this moment, a lot of times, but I thought it was just an absurd fantasy."

"Is it so hard to believe that I missed you?" Ei groans softly, pulling away to look at Miko for the first time in this entire conversation. "I missed you."

"Sorry. I'm just not used to these kinds of words." Miko admits, flushed cheeks and downcast eyes. "I also missed you. You don't understand how bad I missed you and how much I like to be with you."

Ei offers her hand down to Miko, which she snaps up immediately, fingers soft beneath her own. "It's good to know we're on the same page. I like to spend my days with you."

"I like this too," Miko smiles softly after all this tense conversation. "I needed a drinking partner."

"Don't you really have any other friends besides me?" Ei asks, raising an eyebrow. "I don't mean it in a bad way. It's a genuine question."

"What kind of question is that?" Miko narrows her eyes menacingly at her and then huffs out. "It offends me that you're even asking me this."

"You haven't answered me yet." Ei smirks.

Miko crosses her arms. "I obviously have more friends besides you. One of them is from Liyue, her name is Ganyu. There's also this girl, Kokomi from Watatsumi Island. We are pen pals and share the same literature taste. She's also really cute."

"*Cute*?" Ei repeats and presses her lips together into a straight line. "Well, good for you. It's great you have more friends."

Miko notices her attitude change, and the shit eating grin that appears on her lips makes Ei feel more angry. Wait—angry? In what moment she got angry?

Oh, probably in the *she's really cute* part. It still makes her feel mad every time she repeats the words in her mind. *Cute*? If she's the girl Ei thinks she is, she's not even that cute. Maybe in a certain way she's cute, but it's not a big deal. Miko also calls her cute, so it shouldn't matter, except the fact that Miko calls other girls cute is actually annoying. It's probably unfair, but Miko have a lot of female friends and she seems quite popular with girls and—

"Jealous, Ei?"

Jealous?

Ei isn't jealous.

Just... the thought of Miko calling other girls cute pisses her off, and thinking about Miko with someone else makes her feel kind of angry and sad.

Which, she admits, it's a little weird, but she doesn't know how to explain this red, hot, uncomfortable feeling that keeps worming its way under her skin, setting her blood boiling and her stomach twist.

Ei has never considered that the uncomfortable feelings she feels when she thinks of Miko with someone else could be *jealousy*. It's just simply ridiculous because she doesn't own Miko. Even if she's her Archon, God and friend, she has not right to deny Miko to fuck with girls, or *romancing*, or whatever. That's none of her business, but the thing is, it bothers her—the idea of Miko fucking *and* romancing with someone else bothers her so much that it's unbearable.

She catches herself on the last thought, because she has never been a possessive person, but something about Miko just makes Ei want to keep her for herself.

Maybe it's the fear of not being important to Miko anymore and stop being her most close friend. But the problem is, it's not just friendship jealousy. Ei is sure of that. This is something else, more complicated.

So, when she thinks about it— really thinks about it, she has no excuse. Ei has no reasonable justification for her own feelings more than her own insecurity and possessiveness, and something more— something that makes her want Miko to be hers. Only hers.

That thought is terrifying.

"Ei?" Miko calls her, looking at her with suspicious, and Ei panics when she realizes she's been silent for a long time.

For some reason, the idea of Miko finding out about her feelings terrifies her more than the fact that she might be jealous.

"Of course I am not jealous," Ei snaps hastily. "Don't be ridiculous. I am not jealous. I have no reason to be jealous. The concept of jealousy is complicated and covers many things, so actually—"

"Okay, I get it," Miko cuts her off, dryly. "You don't have to act like I just say I killed someone."

Ei panics even more at that. Oh no, she ruined the moment. "I didn't mean it in a rude way. I—" she stumbles over her words, trying to find quickly something to say to fix this. "Maybe it does make me feel weird that you have more friends besides me."

That's a half-truth actually, because Miko having more friends besides her is kinda weird, but that wasn't what made her feel angry.

What really made her feel angry was the tiny detail of Miko thinking her friend is cute. But she definitely doesn't need to know that.

"A lot of things have changed, and I guess it's just something else I need to get used to." Ei finishes explaining and Miko just stares at her in blank. It's hard to tell if she's still upset, so Ei sighs and adds, "And okay, maybe I am a bit jealous that you have more friends than me."

Ei knows it's not truth— she knows this isn't about Miko having another friend, but only at this time, she allows herself to think this for the sake of this conversation and the entire night.

"Oh." Miko utters, a bit surprised, and her expression becomes calmer. "Don't worry. I can have many friends, but unfortunately, you are still my closest one."

"What do you mean unfortunately?"

"Nothing." Miko grins teasingly, patting her shoulder. "We should just drop the deep talks and drink, don't you think?"

"Definitely," Ei answers, because even if she isn't a drinker for pleasure and dislikes the taste, right now she really needs the alcohol down for the effects. She's having a crisis. It's allowed.

A few minutes later, they start drinking while murmuring around the rim of the cups. The conversation flows easily like always and the uncomfortable coil in Ei's stomach dissipates and something light and soft replaces it when Miko scoots a little closer.

As they slowly empty the first bottle, it's fair to say they're getting drunk. They are both buzzy and giggling as they sit on the floor.

Miko keeps laughing about something, and Ei joins her after a second, not even entirely sure what she's laughing at. She feels bubbly and relaxed, and it's not exactly from the alcohol. Miko makes her feel happy and out of her senses.

Soon the second bottle gets empty, and they are beyond drunk. Miko keeps talking about something that doesn't make sense, and Ei's mind is calm and dreamy. Her gaze is glued to a blank spot in the room, trying to get used to the way everything around her is spinning and afraid she'll fall if she moves too much.

Ei settles the bottle on the side and Miko's head falls over her thighs. Her clothes are untidy, revealing her bare skin and part of her breasts, and Ei forces herself to look away. She's probably red in the face right now, but if Miko notices, she can just blame it on the booze.

"I feel dizzy," Miko complains, slurring and pressing her cheek into Ei's thigh. She rolls over onto her back to stare up at the ceiling with her head cradled in Ei's lap. "And the bottle is already empty," she groans, looking at Ei with red cheeks and an over-dramatic sad expression, "And I am *sooo* dizzy. What a shame, really."

Ei huffs out, knowing exactly what Miko is trying to do. "I am not getting another bottle for you."

"But I'm dizzy," Miko whines. "I can't get up."

"I thought you said you had a good resistance to alcohol."

"I have."

"Then get up and get another bottle. You're probably not even dizzy."

Miko's lips purse out in a pout and her eyes become pleading. "Ei," she utters in a soft voice, holding Ei's hands in her own – and of course she knows exactly what she's doing, but Ei will not fall into her trap. "Can you please get another bottle? *Please*, Ei."

Damn it.

Maybe she's a weaker woman than she thought she was.

"Your head is in my lap, do you really want me to move?"

Miko's brow furrows, like she hadn't thought of that. She opens her mouth, closes it again, and makes a little *hmph* noise that has Ei biting back a laugh.

"Forget about that, I don't want sake anymore." Miko says, reaching out her hand to pat Ei's cheek lightly.

Ei just hums and looks down, admiring Miko's face.

Her hand moves before she can think what she's doing and brushes along the bow of Miko's lips, their gazes meeting quietly. Miko's eyes are gentle and fond as she snuggles closer, and Ei smiles softly at that, fingers reaching down to touch the tip of Miko's nose. The action makes Miko laugh and her eyes scrunch up until they're small. Which makes Ei smile wider.

"Your hands are so gentle," Miko mumbles, making no move to get up at all. "I like it."

Well, Ei likes to touch, likes to feel Miko's warm skin, so soft and real. "Good to know."

Miko reaches for one of Ei's hands and places it on her head, a silent request for her scalp to be scratched. Ei gives into Miko's request and sweeps Miko's hair away from her forehead before she scratches gently behind her ears, making Miko's eyes flutter shut once more.

"There are a lot of things I like about you, actually." Miko continues, soft drunken voice.

"Mmh, is that so?" Ei asks, her mind too dizzy to fully process what she is saying.

"Mmh," Miko confirms. "Do you want me to tell you?"

"What?" Ei snaps back to reality and frowns in confusion. "Can you repeat it?"

"Do you want me to name the things I like about you?"

Ei goes blank for a moment.

It should be easy to answer, because a part of her really wants to know what Miko likes about her, why despite all these years she's still here with her. But on the other hand, the answer scares her because Ei doesn't know what she's going to find there. It's like a surprise box that can cause chaos depending on what's inside. Something dangerous and intriguing.

But the thing is, she has never been the type to think of danger when she's sober. Now that she's drunk, she couldn't care less.

"Mmh," Ei makes an affirmative sound, glancing Miko and finding that she's staring at her now. "Tell me."

Miko smiles prettily, lolling her head to the side to look at her. Ei's hands cater to her, starting to scratch her scalp.

"Well, first of all, I like your hands. They are big and gentle." Miko starts, analyzing her from the top to the bottom. "I also like your arms," she comments, reaching her hands out to touch the length of one of Ei's arms. "They are so strong. I really like when you carry me."

Ei swallows hard. "Oh, well. They are strong because—"

"And you have very good proportions." Miko cuts her off.

"Proportions?"

"Yes. Really good proportions." Miko lifts her head from her lap and sits straight, fixing her messy hair while licking her lips.

Ei reluctantly rests her hands on her thighs, feeling a bit intimidated when Miko scoots closer, facing her.

Miko's hand lands on her shoulder this time. "You have very nice shoulders," she continues, running her hand along her shoulders and brushing fingers over the side of Ei's nape. "And the mitsudomoe mark on your nape is so hot. I want to bite it all the time."

"Oh, wow." Ei lets out a shaky laugh.

Miko laughs as well, cupping the back of Ei's nape with a hand. "I also like the way you smell. It's so soft and sweet."

"Well, maybe it's because—"

"Shhh, let me finish." Miko squeezes her nape and Ei swallows thickly, snapping her mouth shut. "I like that you are always nice to me, even if you don't realize it. And I like talking to you and the way you always listen to me. It's adorable the way you are attentive to every detail and always react to everything. I also like the cute little sounds you make when you're eating something you like, and the way your voice sometimes softens when you say my name. It's such a private thing, just reserved for me, and I find that so sweet. You're also sweet, sweeter than you think."

Miko runs a second hand across Ei's chest, making her tense up and straighten her posture.

"You're so cute too," she continues. "Maybe that's why I love provoking you and make you feel nervous, because your cheeks get flushed and you look so helpless and flustered. I like that. I just want to eat you up."

Ei opens her mouth and closes it uselessly, not knowing what to say and suddenly too overwhelmed by a lot of feelings. "That's—"

"Wait, I'm not done yet," Miko says and then, Ei feels a weight climb over her lap and Miko's ass settle over her thighs. Ei doesn't know what to do with her hands, so she leaves them limp at her sides. "Your face is so pretty. Your features are delicate like a doll and your eyes are so deep and dark. Sometimes I feel like I can get lost in them. You're... you're just beautiful, and there are so many things I like about you. I think I just like you."

Ei's head starts spinning and there's a very warm and tingly feeling inside her and maybe that's from the alcohol, but it could also very well be something else, *unnamed*.

Ei tries to talk, but the words die in her mouth.

"What about me?" Miko asks, seeming indifferent to the lack of response. Alcohol thick on her breath, making Ei think she underestimated how drunk Miko is. She thought that Miko was just tipsy, but she's more cheeky than usual. Too honest and shameless. "What do you think about me, Ei? Do you like me?"

Ei wets her lips, swallows thickly. "You are... drunk. So drunk right now."

"I am not," Miko murmurs, shifting forward. Ei fears she might pop a boner if Miko keeps moving across her lap, so she slips her hand over Miko's folded calf to hold her still. "Answer my question."

Ei lowers her head, feeling her throat dry, so dry she wishes there was more sake.

Miko cups her cheek in her warm, soft hand and lifts Ei's chin ever so slightly, tipping her face up and forcing her to meet her eyes. Miko's eyes are bright and full of desire, and she holds Ei's gaze intently. It makes Ei feel a bit like a prey caught by its predator, incoming threat and nowhere to run. "Didn't I tell you to answer me?"

"Of course I like you," Ei finally responds in a whisper, breathing in the air she's been holding all this time. "I mean, of course I like you, isn't that obvious?"

There's a glint in Miko's eyes— playful and borderline flirty, the kind that makes Ei shy and weak. "It really is?" And it's in her voice, the torture that she wants to place upon Ei. "Do you really like me? Like, *like* me?"

"I already told you yes," Ei complains. "Do you want me to tell you why? I will do it. First of all, you're pretty. All the damn time, and—"

"All the time?" Miko raises an eyebrow, a grin spreading across her lips. When she leans closer, Ei holds very still.

"All the time." Ei replies quietly, her eyes anywhere but on Miko. "Probably the prettiest person I ever saw."

"You flatter me." Miko murmurs as she snuggles into Ei's lap, wiggling her ass against her crotch. Ei swallows and squeezes her eyes shut. "Do I make you feel nervous?"

"No," Ei breathes.

"Liar," Miko coos and brushes her nose against Ei's. Ei can smell the alcohol in her breath, feel the heat of her fingers hook over her shoulders. "I'm going to ignore it for now. Please continue."

Ei turns her face away, avoiding eye contact. "As I was saying, you are pretty, but also funny. I actually enjoy when you tease me. I like that you treat me like your friend more than your Archon. Things are simple with you. And I genuinely enjoy hearing you talk all the time, you're so smart and interesting."

"I am," Miko agrees, nodding. "Keep going."

"I like how you make me feel. Comfortable and warm all the time," Ei continues, ignoring Miko's comment. "Maybe that's why I enjoy spending time with you. It feels good, and the minutes turn into hours by your side. Sometimes I wish I could freeze time to stay with you longer when you have to leave. I like that you are so gentle and kind to me, and you always care about me. And recently I discovered I like to sleep with you and wake up at your side and—" *and kiss you*. Ei stops before she can say anything because what the hell is she doing. Miko shouldn't know that. "And... that's all I have to say."

A silence falls in the room for a moment, and then, Miko turns her face gently by the cheek. Their noses brush and Miko nuzzles Ei, her soft, warm lips brushing over Ei's. "That's a lot."

"You also said a lot of things."

"I did," Miko breaths against her mouth, her eyes are big, her pupils dilated. "We are in tune, right?"

"Yes," Ei whispers back, eyes flick down to Miko's mouth, only mere centimeters away. "We are."

For a second, they're just looking at each other, not saying anything.

Ei is not thinking right now— not like the other times. She doesn't question what is happening, mainly because she doesn't even understand what's happening. It's as if everything in this night had happened so fast and blurry, like a lucid dream. None of this feels real, so Ei lets her jumbled, vibrating mind die down and just enjoy the way their mouths gets closer and closer until her breath isn't her own anymore.

Then everything freezes. Eyes locked. Bodies connected in the most intimate way possible.

And it's just so simple. Everything feels simple for a moment.

She likes Miko. Miko likes her. It's so easy, like everything makes sense.

Maybe that's why this time Ei doesn't overthink anything when she closes the distance between them, sealing their lips together.

It's just meant to be a chaste, quick kiss, but Miko's not having that, her slick mouth chasing Ei's own as soon as she moves to pull back. Both hands gripping either side of Ei's jaw, keeping her there. Ei doesn't complain about it, just snakes an arm around Miko's waist in response, feeling Miko smile against her mouth.

Miko's lips are a little sticky and her mouth tastes like alcohol. Again, Ei has never been a fan of alcohol, but something about the taste in Miko's mouth drives her crazy, suddenly addicted to the taste of alcohol on her tongue and drunk of Miko. Ei just gets easily lost. It's sort of like the rest of the world ceases to exist, and it's just Miko. Miko's taste, Miko's tongue, Miko's touch. Just Miko. Everywhere. Like she's existing only in Miko's mouth. Like nothing matters more like the feel of Miko under her fingertips and against her lips— her hands wrapping around her neck and her ass settling on her crotch, giving just enough pressure to have Ei whimpering into Miko's mouth for more friction.

Ei has felt Miko many times these days, but this is different from the other times— it's not a favor nor part of a deal. They are kissing because they want to kiss— or that's what she's interpreting by the way they both seem so desperate for this.

Miko breathes her name, something like a groan against her lips and as simple as that, Ei forgets everything. It's different, but at the same time it's Miko's tongue and Miko's touch, and it feels as good as the other times, so it's okay. Ei just takes it— she takes whatever Miko is giving her right now because that's easier.

Ei groans into her mouth when Miko grinds down into her lap, barely realizing she's half hard. Half hard from kissing and grinding.

Great.

Ei feels Miko's nails dig into her nape a little, hears her sigh into the kiss, tastes her tongue as it gets messier, more desperate. And at this point, Ei doesn't even care if she's half hard— she's needy and almost delirious with lust, rocking her hips against Miko's as much as she can while pinned under Miko's weight

They kiss until their lips are numb and until Ei has to actively think to keep her teeth from chattering in the midst of it. They kiss until Ei's head is nothing but a haze of Miko, and need, and just so much desire for the girl in her lap that she doesn't think she can last fifteen seconds more of this without coming in her underwear.

Miko must feel it as well while she continues to grind down into her lap in small rocking motions. But the thing is, Miko seems just as needy as she is. Ei can feel the wetness of her panties against her crotch, the way she moans with pleasure in her mouth with each movement of her hips— the way she knows how to grind and hit the correct spots for her own pleasure, the way she can literally build her own orgasm just like this.

Both can cum only from the friction, here, right now. But Ei doesn't want just this. She wants it all, and she's sure Miko thinks the same as her.

"*Ei. Room.*" Miko mutters and her words are somewhat lost in her mouth, but Ei understands what she means really quickly.

Ei gets up immediately, guiding them both throughout the hallway while they continue kissing desperately in the way, stumbling and nearly falling several times.

Once they inside the room, she lets Miko shove her roughly against the wall and lets Miko kiss her for long, heady stretches of time, one minute spiralling into the next with each dream-hazy hot press of Miko's mouth against her. They continue like this for a long moment before Ei is flipping them over, caging Miko back against the wall, hands under her thighs, lifting her. Miko moans wantonly against her mouth and instinctively curls her legs around Ei's middle, ending up with Ei's body pressed into hers as they continue to kiss. Miko's hands find their way to Ei's neck and Ei's hands settles on her ass, spreading out and covering each cheek.

Ei grinds against her as well as she can in their current position, pressing her cock against Miko's stomach. It elicits a moan from Miko which becomes more lascivious when Ei squeezes her ass, enjoying the feel of the mounds of flesh within her palms.

Then Miko's hands are wandering everywhere: running over Ei's bare, muscular back underneath her clothes, squeezing her shoulders, scratching marks on the back of her neck. There is no place where Miko could touch without igniting a fire in her skin.

They keep kissing like they are dying for it— they kiss until their lips are swollen and sore, and they have to break apart to breath.

"*Ei*," Miko pants hotly and desperately. "You're so— ah, fuck," she babbles, looking at Ei like she's the most exquisite thing in the world. It's intoxicating. "I wanted this for— for so—"

"Miko," Ei interrupts her breathlessly. "*Bed*— we need to go to bed. Right now."

"Yes— bed," Miko nods, coming back to her senses a bit, or at least as much she can while being drunk. "Take us to bed. Quickly."

Ei just obeys and moves both of them to the bed, trying to not trip over her feet until they both fall carelessly into it.

Her hands unconsciously go to Miko's body like it's a second nature. The last thing Ei sees is the earnest little crinkles at the edges of Miko's closed eyes before pressing their mouths into a deep kiss again, hearing the way Miko lets out the tiniest sigh against her mouth.

Miko's body is so warm. Ei just wants to melt into her— so she does, leaning closer to Miko until she slides into her lap. She continues kissing her desperately then, pushing herself against Miko and aligning their hips. Miko squeezes her ass and drags her closer, the pull making Ei choke on a low whine and her cock hit Miko's belly.

Ei unconsciously pushes her hips forward, giving her leverage to really grind down, cock rutting against Miko's stomach again. After that, she starts whimpering and tangles her hand into the back of Miko's hair, bowing her head to press their foreheads together.

It's everything and too much all at once. Ei is so overwhelmed by so many sensations and the adrenaline rush of the moment and just— all the desire she's feeling, that she could cry. She could literally cry from the desire and feelings she's feeling for Miko. Tears are already forming in her eyes, her body squirming in Miko's lap.

"I need you—need you so fucking much," Ei blabbers, sounding completely broken and already panting. "I— I have never needed anyone like this in my life. What are you doing to me?"

"I don't know," Miko answers breathlessly, brushing their mouths again. "What am I doing to you, Ei? What do you think is the answer?"

Ei freezes for a moment and thinks about it deeply, about everything that's going on with her, about the fact that she always felt that way, but now it's only getting worse. There are a lot of

feelings going on inside her every time she's near to Miko. Happiness. Desire. Affection. Jealousy.

It's too much, and she's not sure what to do about it— how to start to put together all this shit and come to a conclusion that isn't going to scare her or—

"You know what? Think about that tomorrow." Miko interrupts her, tangling her hands in Ei's hair and tugging hard enough to bring Ei back to reality. "Where we were? Oh, right."

Miko doesn't let her have a single thought before she's tugging her in for another kiss, teeth capturing Ei's bottom lip and biting down.

Ei whimpers a little into Miko's mouth, forgetting about everything she was concerned before and just craving more of Miko.

Miko smiles teasingly against her mouth and Ei growls softly, rolling her hips forward, cock bumping against her belly. The motions quickly gets desperate, too worked up for her own good and soon, her cock, painfully hard and leaking, smears pre-cum all over the insides of the thin fabric of her underwear.

"This is pissing me off, why are you the only one rubbing yourself?" Miko complains, squeezing the strands of hair between her fingers. "You're making me feel hot. Do something about it," she says against her mouth. "Com'on. Right now."

"Bossy." Ei scoffs in a ragged breath before her hands are everywhere, fingers curving around Miko's hip and nudging Miko's legs apart, so she can settle in between them and rock forward, grinding sweet and dirty against her.

"I didn't tell you to do something? What are you waiting for? Touch me."

Ei huffs out, but moves her hands to shuck off Miko's clothes, palms sliding reverently up Miko's side, scratching the smooth skin. Her fingers brush over Miko's nipples as she presses sloppy kisses up to Miko's jaw, massaging Miko's chest and thumbing over her nipples, while her free palm smooths down Miko's back.

"Seriously, you're so damn bossy." Ei murmurs against Miko's skin, making Miko shake beneath her.

"Don't act like you don't like it," Miko snaps back. Ei opens her mouth to refute that, but her voice cracks weakly as Miko palms at her crotch. "Look, you're so hard."

"How could I not be hard?" Ei growls in response, a little disappointed when Miko takes her hand away from her boner. "I'm starting to miss when you didn't talk too much and were just aggressive."

"I'm a demanding girl all the time, get used to it." Miko brings her hand back down to stroke Ei's cock through her underwear. Then she cups her hand around her dick and squeezes slightly. In response, Ei's hips bucks forward abruptly, trying to rut into the short pleasure of Miko's grip through the fabric.

Ei groans. "Just shut up." .

Miko raises her chin up and grins. "Make me."

Ei puts a hand on the back of Miko's neck and drags her in a messy and sharp kiss, biting her lip and tugging at it. Miko leaves her mouth open for Ei's tongue, groaning in the kiss, hips shifting against hers. Ei wraps her hands around Miko's waist, pulling her closer and Miko seems pleased, sliding a hand down to cup her through her clothes again, making Ei moans into the kiss.

The atmosphere feels hot and electric. Ei can feel the sparks all around her, tickling her sweaty body.

"Take off my clothes. Quickly." Ei grows impatient, feeling too hot and already uncomfortable wearing her too-tight underwear, wet with precum.

"Who's the bossy now?" Miko murmurs, but her hands carefully start taking off Ei's clothes anyway.

"It's still you." Ei says after Miko throws her clothes to the side.

Miko's gaze falls on Ei's underwear, where there's a stain in the middle. "Do you want me to take it off too?" she says wickedly with a playful, lustful gleam in her eyes.

Ei just gives her a nod, too needy to use her words.

Three seconds later, she feels her mind short-circuit when instead of using her hands, Miko leans over, mouth falling open until the outline of Ei's cock is pressed against her lips. She mouths at the shaft through the fabric, feels it thick on her tongue, and sucks on the tip.

Ei moans and presses a hand against Miko's shoulder. "Miko," she says in a whisper, whimpering loudly when Miko licks the precum off her underwear, her tongue licking up all across the soaked fabric. Ei tips her head back, her eyes teary from being holding back to not cum just for this. Miko looks so good under her and— "*Fuck*. Miko, please. I can't anymore."

Miko seems to understand what she means and take pity on her, finally stepping back a bit, so her teeth can catch on the waistband of her underwear and pull down slowly. At this point Ei is squirming enough to make things difficult, but somehow, her entire body freezes when Miko releases the waistband and her darkened eyes go up, shooting her a glare.

"Hold still," Miko demands under her voice, placing a cool hand on her hip. Ei nods quickly and manages to keep stills, shivering as Miko starts to drag her underwear down her thighs with the help of her teeth until Ei's dick hits her stomach.

Miko pulls her underwear down further, and Ei lifts herself up a bit and wrestles her underwear over her feet until she's completely bare. Miko sits on the bed and runs a hand up Ei's thigh, making Ei shuts her eyes.

"Cute," she says softly when Ei squirms under her touch and, Gods, that only makes the mess inside Ei worse. "I really wanted to suck your cock before, but let's save that for another time,

okay?" she says and more than a question, it sounds like a statement. However, Ei is too drunk to understand, too aroused and lost to fully process that Miko wanted to *suck* her cock. "Now I can't wait for you to be inside me."

Ei opens her eyes and all she sees is Miko staring at her, pupils blown but fond. It's too much to handle and Ei is beyond her senses, so hard that it feels like if she doesn't fuck Miko right now, she's going to come at the slightest friction.

"How do you want me?" Ei manages to ask without stuttering. "How do you want me to take you?"

"Asking me what I want? Nice." Miko coos, grinning. "There are so many ways you can take me. You can hold me against the mattress and fuck me until I see stars, or maybe fuck me against the wall in the position we were before. However, right now what I want is," she pauses and then pushes herself forwards until she's sitting on Ei, "*this*. I want this," she settles herself in a way that Ei's cock is almost pressed up against her entrance. "I want to see you while I ride you. I want to see the pretty expression on your face as your cock fills me up."

Ei almost cums.

Those simple words have the power to make her cum in less than ten seconds. Maybe it's Miko's voice or the way she says it, or maybe it's that her dick just loves when Miko is verbal and vulgar. Maybe it's all of that.

"Don't get me wrong, that doesn't mean I'm going to do all the work. You still have to fuck me properly. Do you think you can do that? Or are you going to come just for seeing me like this?" Miko teases.

"Seriously, just shut up." Ei grits.

"Okay," Miko grins and tilts Ei's face up with a hand under the chin, kissing her open and sloppy. Ei parts her lips and lets Miko desperately lick into her mouth, moving her hands to Miko's hips and steadying her as Miko scrambles up, doing her best to steady herself and line up Ei's cock inside her, rubbing the tip against her slick heat.

"*Miko*," Ei groans and involuntarily bucks her hips upward, pushing slightly into Miko's entrance. "Stop teasing."

"Fine." Miko gives her one last smile before sinking down slowly. Her tight, wet cunt opening up to swallow Ei's cock.

Ei groans, eyes hooded and head tilted back but gaze never leaving Miko. Then Miko bottoms out and Ei feels her own body quivering as she relaxes with the feeling of Miko's walls stretching around her cock.

Miko's lips are parted wide, breath hitching as she leans back on her hands splayed against Ei's thighs. She lets out a shaky gasp, looking back at Ei with a faint smile, before she wiggles her hips. Her gaze is confident, lips reddened and puffy, and there's a delightful tint of red over her cheeks.

Miko tilts her head back in pleasure for a moment, her fingertips digging into Ei's torso.

"Fuck," Ei whimpers, fingers scratching down Miko's sides. Desperate. "You're so..."

Miko tilts her head to the side and licks her lips, her ears perked up. "What I am?"

"You're so beautiful." Ei's voice cracks.

Miko's smile widens as she answers with a soft roll of hips. "I like the sound of that, say it again."

"You're beautiful, Miko. So beautiful—" Ei repeats, but the last word sounds choked because Miko starts riding her in earnest, biting her lips to contain a smile. "Oh, *God*."

"It's only me," Miko teases again, sounding a little breathless. Ei can't even complain about the stupid joke, her chest heaving every time Miko's hips ruts down, fucking herself onto Ei's cock. "Do you like this, Ei? Do you like me to fuck myself with your cock?"

Ei makes a strangled sound, a shiver running down her spine. Suddenly she's not so sure if she can hold on until Miko's orgasm if Miko keeps talking. "*Ah*— yes. I like it," she confesses, deciding that right now honesty is the best option so this doesn't end soon. "I like that you use my cock to fuck yourself."

Miko clicks her tongue, shaking her head in disappointment. "Too bad. I told you I wasn't going to do all the work. Come on, don't be lazy. Fuck me."

She's playing around, obviously being a tease *again*. But Ei doesn't care, she plants her feet on the mattress and ruts her hips up, fucking into Miko as hard as she's able.

"Gods, yes, that feels—*ah*, that feels so good." Miko moans out loud and after a *puff* her tail appears, swishing behind her.

One of Ei's hands moves down Miko's hips, grabbing her tail right near the base. Miko holds back a strangled moan at that, but doesn't complain, so Ei takes it as a sign of approval. She drags her hand over its length before reaching the tip and toying with the soft, thicker tuft of fur at the tip.

"*Ngh*—I like that." Miko mumbles, and that's all Ei needs to keep petting along Miko's tail, running her fingers through the fur of the thrashing tail. Miko just keeps bouncing back on Ei's cock, matching Ei's brutal rhythm and moaning high in her throat every time Ei lifts her hip up and buries herself deep into her.

Then, in the midst of the haze of lust in Ei's mind, something wakes for a moment and a fleeting thought runs through her head: something about this is different compared to other times.

Maybe her mind is buzzing and lost, but she still has the senses to rethink what they are doing for a moment.

Then she realizes why this is different.

Miko is not in heat right now, Ei would know if she was. This isn't like the other times: fucking out of necessity. No, right now they're just fucking for no apparent reason. For fun maybe, or because they are hot and drunk. Whatever it is, this was not part of the deal. Ei was only going to help Miko, not to have sex with her for fun. What does all this thing means?

"Miko," Ei calls out to her softly, moaning as Miko continues to bounce on her cock. "W-what are we doing?"

Miko who had her eyes narrowed opens them, digging her nails into Ei's torso. "Fucking, isn't it obvious?"

Ei stifles a strangled moan. "No, but what are we doing? Like, what does this mean?"

Miko finally seems to understand what she means, her eyes closing and her mouth falling open as the cock hits a sensitive spot. "Ei, I'm drunk and close to cumming, can we talk about this tomorrow? Just don't think about anything and shut up, okay? I'm all yours for tonight. Forget about everything."

I'm all yours.

That sounds good.

I'm all yours.

I like you.

All these words sounds so good coming from Miko's mouth. And it should mean something to worry about, but Ei is too aroused and close to come to really care. Far too drunk to think about what's happening and if all of this means something– too drunk to say no to Miko when she's riding her, willing and beautiful, and Ei wants her so fucking bad.

"Then I'm all yours for tonight too." Ei mumbles and that sounds as good. "Only yours."

"Mine," Miko repeats against her mouth. "I like that."

Ei likes it too.

Maybe she should start thinking about all this sex thing and what it's meaning for her, but she's going to do it in the morning, most likely, when she's not fucking Miko.

Yes, she's going to think about it in the morning.

"Fuck me, Ei. Fuck me harder," Miko breathes out, setting a faster pace this time. Ei whines and forgets about everything, hands clenching before planting her feet on the bed, thrusting up.

Miko falls forward on Ei's chest, hiccupping a moan. Ei sucks in a breath, realizing she must have found a good spot and slamming her hips in the same manner.

"*Ah*, Ei—*there*, that feels so good. *Oh*— fuck, you look so pretty filling me up, Ei." Miko groans and Ei looks up to see Miko and— oh fuck, she looks so ruined. Her eyes are glossy and mouth parted as she rolls her hips against Ei's, eyelids fluttering with every thrust.

Miko slowly sits up, eyes both absent and focused on Ei as she slams back down to meet Ei's powerful thrusts. The pace is unrelenting, both of them struggling to breathe. There's sweat dripping from their temples and obscenities coming out of their mouths that neither of them cares about right now.

"*Ngh*— I'm close. Ei, I'm close—" Miko warns, moaning Ei's name one last time before coming, hips rutting back and forth frantically.

That's all Ei needs to finally releases herself with a final, brutal thrust. Miko moans in satisfaction and snaps her hips downward, burying herself deep and feeling the pulsing of Ei's cock as she blows her cum right into her, gritting her teeth and groaning.

Miko circles her hips the slightest bit, revelling by the way their fluids are dripping between her thighs.

Ei winces, growling at the overstimulation, still breathing hard from her orgasm. "Miko," she complains, gently patted her waist. "Get down."

"Sorry," Miko says with a gentle smile. Her thighs shake as she gets off, pulling Ei's cock out of her and grimacing at the mild discomfort of being so empty. She flops down next to Ei and sighs.

Ei can't feel her legs and for a moment all she can do is breathe. "Wow," it's the first thing she says.

Miko laughs breathlessly. "Yes, wow," she says. "I'm so tired. My head hurts, and I want to throw up."

"Please don't do it in my bedroom."

"I'll be okay," Miko arms wrap around Ei's middle, her eyelids closing. "I'm going to close my eyes for a moment. Hug me."

Ei curls around her instantly, arm looping over Miko's middle and closes her eyes as well, hands smooth up the curve of Miko's back. "If you vomit on me, I'll—"

"I told you I'm fine. Just shut up for the rest of the night."

This time, Ei is the one who laughs.

This night feels so unreal and crazy, and tomorrow she's going to be in so much trouble, but for now she doesn't care. All she does is shut up and hugs Miko, feeling like the happiest person alive.

Maybe she's more fucked up than she thought.

"Wake up. *Ei*."

Ei listens Miko's voice calling her and opens her eyes slightly, noticing that it's still night. She huffs and turns her head to the side to smush her cheek into her pillow. Her hands reach for Miko and bat her weakly. "Go to sleep. It's still late."

"I can't," Miko complains, slipping between her legs. Ei jumps, finally showing some form of response. "I am so— I need you. I am so hot."

Ei finally opens her eyes and the image in front of her is the same as every night: Miko is on her, purple eyes glowing fiercely, right in front of her face.

"Ei" Miko calls her in a voice all low and rumble, grazing Ei's jaw with her teeth, stinging slightly. "*Heat*. I'm so hot."

Oh, she is in heat.

Which is inconvenient because Ei's head hurts awfully, and the whole room is spinning right now, and she's not in her senses to do anything about it at the moment.

Miko takes matters into her own hands when Ei doesn't react in less than ten seconds and grabs Ei's hands, forcing her to touch her. Her breath is hot and heavy in Ei's ear, and there's need and desperation in each of her movements. It's ironic, but for a moment, Ei misses the teasing and playful Miko from before. It's only for a moment though, because just a second after Miko whispers in her ear *mine*, and Ei has to blink to confirm that she is not dreaming.

The confirmation that this is definitely not a dream comes when Miko growls again, "*Mine*." And like that's not enough, she reaffirms this by biting Ei's neck hard, not that hard to draw blood but enough to leave a visible mark of her teeth. Ei hisses, moaning under her breath as her cock trembles. "Mine. Mine. Mine."

Miko had never been like this in all these nights— so possessive and full of teeth, capable of breaking bones and ripping flesh and— and so damn hot.

Ei just loses all coherent thought. As easy as that, she simply forgets about her headache and her body instantly reacts.

She's *so* easy, and maybe she actually likes both sides of Miko: the primal, wild one and the teasing, playfully one.

And that's probably another thing she needs to think about. But for now, she just wants to survive this night and be alive to wake up in the morning.

Chapter End Notes

yeah, as you can see though this whole chapter, my personal and favorite love language it's physical contact. it's going to keep happening!

pray for my soul so i can finish this fic before the year ends... i'll try to update before december ends but i don't promise anything hehe

easy to love

Chapter Notes

heeeey... in my defense i never promised to update before the year ends, that was just an unrealistic goal i knew i was not going to achieve. jk, sorry about the late update, i was too busy and sad these months to do something, but now everything's cool so here i am

here's the thing: as u can see this fic now has 6 chapters because im a liar and i can't control myself. it just happens, every time i sit down i keep writing until the chapters got really long. like, this chapter was 27k words long and i even consider for a moment posting this chapter as a 27k long monster, but then i realized that would be too much, so now this fic has 6 chapters. this is seriously the last time im doing this, i promise

btw i know im late but happy new year and hope u enjoy this!

See the end of the chapter for [more notes](#)

Ei opens her eyes and the first thing she sees is the sun dipping in through the window, unusually bright.

Then, the first thing on her mind when she wakes up is that everything aches. From the pounding behind her forehead to the tight muscles in her legs. The hangover is so painful that it seems like her head is made of metal, so heavy it's impossible to lift it off the pillow. Her stomach sloshes like she had swallowed an ocean, and any slightly sound makes the thudding of her headache rush to her temples. It's terrible.

Ei groans in complaint, shutting her eyes tightly and burying her face into her warm and soft pillow.

Her pillow laughs and Ei freezes, processing what just happened until she finally realizes that her face is laying down on Miko's chest and her legs are tangled with Miko's, one thrown possessively over her hip.

Blinking her eyes open, she finds Miko looking at her, her hair is a mess but her eyes are soft and her smile is tender. The light filtering in through the curtains makes her look bright and ethereal, and Ei's chest hurts too early in the morning.

"Morning," Miko murmurs, her voice is hardly more than a whisper.

"Morning," Ei replies softly, and her voice vibrates against Miko's skin, making Miko shiver under her. Ei swallows at that, trying to get up off Miko's chest with the room spinning around her and her stomach thrusting up into her throat. "Sorry— I'm gonna, uh, sit down—"

"No, come back here," Miko whines, pulling Ei back down. Ei lands half on top of her, nose squished into Miko's chest. "You're warm, stay here."

"Oh, fine," Ei mutters because it's not like she has the ability to move either, and honestly she prefers to stay here, lying on top of Miko. "Does your head hurt too?"

"I literally feel like I'm about to die right now, does that answer anything?"

Ei laughs softly, but the sound drills through her head and the dizziness worse. "I think I'm never going to drink again."

Miko giggles, resting her head on the pillow. "I wish I could promise the same, but that would be a lie. I love to drink, and I have to confess that every time I do it I always wake up with a terrible hangover. I never can control myself."

Ei huffs against Miko's skin. "So you always get drunk until you're dying of hangover in the morning?"

"Listen, in my defense I only get drunk on special occasions, so all those times I drink enough to be satisfied for at least a hundred years. It makes sense." Miko explains, pretending to be serious. "You heard me, I only do this every hundred years, so you should feel lucky because last night was a special occasion. Now you have to wait a hundred years to get drunk with me again"

Ei snorts a laugh. "You're an idiot," she says, but it sounds tenderly and her gaze is too soft as she looks at Miko. "Don't worry. I won't get drunk again for at least, uh, two hundred years."

"That's too much. Let's reduce it to a hundred."

"Mmmh," Ei pretends to think. "Nah. Two hundred years is a good number," she teases, breathing down Miko's neck and giggling when Miko tickles her rib. "If you continue with that, it will be three hundred years."

Miko whines, pinching Ei's side and causing her to chuckle. "You're an idiot. A big idiot. Are you listening to me?"

"Very clear." Ei answers, smiling. "I still stand by my decision."

Miko rolls her eyes. "Honestly, we both know that if tomorrow I ask you to drink, you would probably do it."

Ei hums. "If I told you no, I'd be lying."

Miko grins, victorious and happy, and Ei can't help but smile too, diverting her gaze to the floor where all the clothes are lying on the floor.

Her body freezes then, feeling suddenly awake when the events of last night flood back into her mind. Ei's head aches as the flashbacks flicker painfully clear in her mind: the conversations, the feelings, the words, the good rounds of sex and everything that happened in the middle of dirty drunken sex. All the messy confessions and realizations.

Right. That happened.

Oh. Oh, God.

Ei wonders for a moment if they should talk about it, about what all those moments and words really meant, or if she should let it slide.

The problem is that she doesn't want to let it go, because everything about last night felt intimate and different— in a good way. Ei still doesn't quite understand what it meant, but she's sure it has to do with something deeper than sex. It probably has to do with all the mess she's had on her mind about Miko in the last few weeks and all those overwhelming, intense and warm feelings that only awakens with Miko. Whatever it's, Ei is sure of only one thing: no one has ever made her feel the way Miko makes her feel, and that must mean something. That *has* to mean something.

"Miko?" Ei calls carefully.

"Mhm?" Miko hums, sliding her hand down Ei's back to caress her skin.

Ei pauses, enjoying the touch of Miko's warm palm, before she works up the courage to say the following, "We should talk about what happened last night, right?"

Miko's fingers freeze at her back, and she looks up, staring at Ei carefully, uncertainly. After a few seconds of silence that feels like pure torture, she replies, "What should we talk about?"

Ei gulps, averting her gaze and breathing against Miko's skin. "Umh, well, probably about everything that happened last night. I mean, you told me last night that we could talk today."

"Oh, yes. Right." Miko says and then clears her throat. "Umh, what part? I mean, what should we talk about *specifically*?"

Ei frowns and glances at Miko. Under her, she looks wide awake, almost alarmed and scared, but mostly *lost*, like someone who suddenly doesn't know where she's standing. There's pure terror and confusion in her gaze and— Oh no.

"You... you remember what happened last night, right?" Ei asks, unsure and suddenly scared.

Miko is silent for a moment. "Yes, of course I remember, but, uh, just in case my memories are not that good, can you tell me exactly what happened last night?"

"You have a good memory." Ei frowns, and not caring about the hangover or the headache, she sits up in bed and shoots a glare at Miko. "That means you don't remember?"

"No! I remember, I swear!" Miko panics and sits up as well, wincing at the quicky motion. Her hand flies to her forehead, and she closes her eyes for a moment. "I remember everything in flashbacks and fuzzy memories, like, me asking you for more alcohol and then me feeling hot and waking you up to have sex. But if you ask me for the exact details in the middle of both moments, I might not remember."

Ei clenches her jaw, feeling a little upset and not quite understanding why. "You told me you had a good resistance to alcohol, how do you not remember?"

"Okay, maybe I exaggerated a little about that." Miko answers with a nervous chuckle. "You know I like to brag. And honestly, I have a good resistance, but two bottles can take anybody down."

"What? That's bullshit! I never drink and I still clearly remember everything that happened! My alcohol resistance should be worse than yours."

"You're literally a God!"

"That doesn't erase the fact that you forgot about everything that happened last night with only two bottles!"

"Okay, sorry for having a shitty alcohol resistance, but if what happened last night is so important, then just tell me what happened!"

Ei swallows, replaying everything that happened in her mind and trying to find the right words to explain all the events without being too explicit. "Umh, well, firstly we started drinking."

Miko rolls her eyes. "Of course I remember that part. What happened after we started drinking?"

Ei pauses, feeling tongue-tied and with a blush rising in her ears. "Mhm, after we finished the second bottle we were both drunk, and you started saying a lot of things and—"

"What did I say?" Miko cuts her off, in panic.

Ei opens her mouth and closes it, feeling her entire face heating up because there's no way she's going to repeat all the things Miko said. Fuck, this is more embarrassing than she thought it would be. "Uh... I think I don't remember what you said either."

"You remember," Miko affirms, looking far too serious. Then she demands, "Tell me. Tell me what I said."

Ei falls silent and wants to look away, but something keeps her gaze glued to Miko. The eye contact is so intense that it makes Ei dizzy and keeps her frozen and unable to even move her gaze.

Miko gulps and purses her lips, looking worried. "Is what I said so bad that you can't repeat it?"

"No! It isn't! Don't worry." Ei reassures her, but Miko doesn't look calmer at all. "It was really sweet everything you said, really nice. And uh, well, I think you were too drunk because you just suddenly started naming me the things you like about me, like physically stuff and about my personality and... that's it. Don't ask me to repeat everything you said because I'll probably pass out right here— and uh, you look like you're about to pass out, so for the sake of both of us I'm going to stop here."

Miko groans as she plants her hands to her face. "Kill me."

"Don't feel ashamed. I have to confess that I enjoyed it. I really enjoyed hearing you say all the things you like about me." Ei calms her down, and Miko's entire face blushes in shame.

She looks adorable like this, and Ei thinks that she would like to see Miko like this more times, with a blush on her cheeks and shyness in her expression. It takes her back to the past, to the old days where sometimes Ei used to get lost looking at Miko and then revel in the blush that grew on Miko's cheeks when she caught her staring at her. Miko is still as cute as she was before. Sure, now she's also an attractive, smart and confident woman, but she is also cute and sometimes a bit spoiled and bratty. Ei likes both parts of Miko, but right now she especially likes to see Miko so shy and embarrassed. Call her an idiot for enjoying this, but Ei thinks she deserves it after being Miko's new butt of jokes these months.

Miko seems to notice her amusement and growls. "If you start acting cocky about it, I'm going to end you," she threatens her, poking Ei's bare chest with her finger.

Ei smiles playfully. "Why? I'm flattered that you like it so much," she teases, feeling suddenly bold. Miko looks ready to start a fight, but Ei just licks her lips, unsure, and then adds, "I mean, you liked me, right? That's... good. I like that you like me. It's good to know how, despite the years, you like me. How, for some reason I can't understand, you're still here with me."

Miko huffs out and softens her expression. "Do you really think that the years would make my feelings for you change? They never have. It's unfortunate, but there's no place I would like to be more than this. There's no one I'd like to be with more than you. Being like this, by your side, is enough. It always has been and probably always will be."

Ei draws in a shaky breath, not quite sure what to say, but touched by the words. Again, there is that feeling, the feeling of being loved in such an unconditional way. Miko always makes her feel like this, and Ei wants to feel like this all the time. She wants to be loved all the time.

"And of course I like you," Miko continues, taking a deep breath. "It's normal, you know? I just never say it out loud because it's embarrassing. There are many things I never tell you because they are embarrassing and Gods, even confessing you that makes me feel ashamed and exposed. And... what I'm trying to say is of course I like you, you are my friend after all."

Friend.

Ei feels a bitter lump rising in her throat, nausea churning in her stomach. Of course Miko is her friend, that's something she has known it from the beginning— and she's always been fine with it, really. This all started because Miko is her closest friend and Ei cares about her all the time, and she was fool enough to think sleeping with Miko would be easy. Apparently she was wrong because now she's a mess, she's a mess all the time since she told Miko she wanted to help her in her heat.

She's the problem here, the one who is confused by all this, and Miko is her friend. Miko is only her friend, and that's amazing. Ei is happy to have her as her friend because Miko is the person she trusts the most. Miko is just... a lot of things. She's charming, funny and easy to

talk to. She's also beautiful and has a bright, radiant smile, the kind that makes Ei smile too. Miko is the most special person in her life, so important that the thought of losing her fills Ei with a feeling of emptiness and helplessness.

Miko is so many things. Miko makes her feel so many things, so many latent and overwhelming feelings that are so strong that they weren't even able to disappear in five hundred years.

So many years and Ei still feels the same way about Miko. So many years keeping all her feelings inside her as if they were a curse. So many years being weak and easy for Miko, only for Miko. Ei can't deny it anymore, how now she feels like the word friend isn't enough. Confining Miko to just a friend would almost feel like an offense to her.

Maybe a few weeks ago, Ei was fine just calling her a friend, but if these days with Miko have taught her anything, it's that Miko has a bigger effect on her than Ei thought she had. Spending each of her days with Miko brought something new into her life, something she doesn't want to go away, something warm and homey. Being with Miko all the time taught her what it's like to feel loved and full of affection, and what it's like to take care of someone and worry about them all the time. Being with Miko is different, different from being with a friend.

Now she's aware of it, as if Ei had opened her eyes after last night. Miko is more than a friend— she's in that undefined space where she means much more than a friend, but somehow something stops her from crossing the line into something else.

Ei doesn't know how blurry that line is right now. She really doesn't know where Miko is, but it certainly is a place reserved just for her.

The word friend has always made her feel that her relationship with Miko is safe and mutual— a relationship about mutual respect and trust.

In this point, Ei doesn't feel like whatever is happening is mutual. Right now, the word friend is not enough to explain what happened last night. At least not for her.

Ei purses her lips and remains silent, not quite sure what to say. Disappointed, but not angry enough to act brave and demand a different explanation for last night. It's not like she's in a position to demand something that Miko obviously can't give her.

It meant nothing to Miko. She's only a friend. That's fine.

"I just say dumb things when I'm drunk," Miko finishes with a shrug. "Isn't such a big deal."

It's so nonsensical it almost makes Ei let out a hysterical laughter. Inside her, there's a mix of disbelief and disappointment, an awful heaviness in her chest that she can't shake. It's ironic, how Miko obviously didn't take seriously what happened last night, while it meant everything to Ei.

"You're right," Ei finally murmurs. "I just wanted to remind you of it because it was nice to hear those things from you."

Miko smiles at her, grabbing her hand to squeeze. The gesture is as comforting as it is painful because it is a gesture of *pity*. "Oh, so you really enjoy when I praise you?"

It's a provocation. Miko is probably waiting for a reaction, perhaps an equally teasing response. Something playfully.

Ei is not in the mood, so she only smiles weakly. "Maybe."

Miko hums. "Noted," she says and squeezes her hand again. Her gaze suddenly becomes a bit more serious again. "Is there anything else you want to talk about that I don't remember?"

Yes. Maybe the fact that they had sex last night and they both seemed to agree on it, and it seemed to meant *something*. Ei isn't sure to talk about it now because maybe that meant something to her, but nothing to Miko. Ei doesn't want to hear it coming out of Miko's mouth, how it meant nothing to her the fact they literally had sex because they seemed to want it.

Maybe it was just a one night thing, a special drunken occasion to make bad decisions. Maybe every time Miko gets drunk she fucks the first girl she sees and Ei was just lucky to be in front of her at that moment.

Ei grits her teeth and thinks, *whatever*. Who cares if Miko fucks someone else or if it meant nothing. Who cares if Miko only wants her as a friend to fuck. That's her job, fucking Miko and satisfying her, to be her toy until the heat ends and Miko throws her away as something that is no longer useful. Ei has no say in this, never had it from the start. She just has to shut up and be useful to Miko, lend Miko her body to use and mistreat as much as she wants. Nothing more.

The concept of being used is as hot as it's painful— a cruel reminder that this means nothing, like a ghost mark on her skin that burns, painful and present.

"No," Ei finally replies, pretending disinterest. "Nothing else happened."

"Oh, really?"

"Yes. I just..." Ei takes a breath and makes a dismissive gesture. "I just wanted to make fun of you for a moment for having said all that stuff last night. Nothing more."

Miko frowns at that and snorts, hitting Ei's shoulder. "You are so annoying."

Ei chuckles weakly at that. Somehow, Miko still looks cute even now. That lifts her spirits a bit.

"So, everything's fine?" Miko asks after a moment, looking a bit unsure.

Everything's fine. Except, Ei doesn't feel like the other times. She doesn't feel that kind of calmness that she usually feels after her talks with Miko about the complications of sleeping with her, she doesn't feel that liberating feeling of taking a load off her shoulders. Instead, she feels something heavy settle inside her, filling the room with tension and taking the air out of the place. Ei can feel it in the silence, through her skin and deep inside her: something has changed. She can't put it into words, but she knows that she doesn't feel the same as she did

before. Looking at Miko feels different, feeling the warmth of her hand is different. It's as if a veil has been removed from her face and now she sees everything clearly.

"Everything's fine." Ei confirms in a murmur.

Miko sighs, relief. "Good. Then I'm going to take a shower, do you want to go with me?"

Another time she would go, but now she needs to think and being around Miko is distracting, especially if she's naked. So Ei shakes her head and gives Miko a soft smile. "I'm fine. My head still hurts, so I want to get some rest."

Miko nods, ruffling Ei's hair before getting out of bed. "Okay, rest a bit."

Ei nods, giving to Miko one last look before she walks out the door.

Her body falls back on the bed and she sighs, rolling over and burying her face in her pillow to groan into the plush. Her mind is a mess and everything that happened with Miko last night is playing over and over again in her head. Her words, the way her body felt, the connection they felt, the warmth in her chest burning and turning into an intense fire.

Miko is making her realize things she's not ready to accept yet.

Ei remembers her words, *what am I doing to you?*

The answer feels far and near at the same time.

Ei doesn't know why she's here.

Well, she knows, actually.

Miko dragged her here because Ei has a lot of bad habits and one of the worst is that she can never say no to Miko— no when she makes that pleading and cute expression and softens her voice like she always does when she wants something from her.

Her hidden intentions are always obvious, but Ei is still weak enough to fall into her trap every time. That's the reason now she's here in some kind of restaurant.

Miko told her that she frequents this place often to drink and eat. The restaurant is pretty good and any other day Ei would be fine with this idea, but there are a lot of people around them, and she would rather eat with Miko in a more private place where it's just both of them.

It's definitely not because Ei wants an excuse so she can touch Miko in private. She just likes to be alone with Miko so they can act like they always do without people looking at them. Whenever they are in front of more people, they have to keep up their appearances for some reason that Ei doesn't understand. Miko is the one who does that most of the time, and Ei finds that a bit unfair, but she plays along anyway. Ei just lets Miko treat her like a friend, as if she hadn't moaned her name over and over last night when Ei fucked her hard and fast against the mattress, as if Ei's back is not full of her fingernail marks.

Anyway. Miko insisted that it's boring spending all their days indoors, but Ei thinks it's fun to spend her days together like that. If Miko wants to go out, they can just wait until winter is done to hang out outside. Because right now the only thing that sounds right in Ei's mind is cuddling with Miko on her bed, just them warming each other with their bodies heat. The cold calls for it.

Ei has stopped questioning these kinds of thoughts these last few weeks after that night with Miko.

It's not like things had become awkward between the two of them after that conversation in the morning, they both just went on with their lives as if that hadn't happened. The usual routine just keeps repeating itself as if it hadn't affected their relationship at all. Miko keeps having these intense heat waves and Ei keeps helping her every night.

Nothing changed.

Ei is not angry or resentful about it, just confused but slowly coming to terms with whatever is going on inside her. She's just still the same, but she's also a bit... different. Something has definitely shifted, maybe now she's just a little more aware of the feelings that flutter in her belly every time Miko is around.

"Can you at least put on a happier face and pretend you want to be here?" Miko says with a huff.

Ei supports half of her face in her hand and looks at Miko with a frown. "There are a lot of people," she grumbles. "If the food is that good, we could have brought it to my room."

"It's boring! I want a little more excitement in my life than being in your room." Miko complains. "I'm going to take you outside more often, so get used to it."

"It's not that I don't like going outside, I just—"

"Don't end that sentence. I don't want to hear you whining anymore!" Miko cuts her off, resting her forearms on the table and reaching out her hand to touch Ei's nose. The action makes Ei wrinkle her nose and Miko giggles at that. "In spring, I'm going to force you to go out every day with me."

Ei bites her lip to prevent a smile to spread on her face. That sounds like a good idea, a very good idea actually, and honestly, any place is good with Miko, even one like this. "Sounds good for me. I will wait for it. Don't forget."

"I will not do it." Miko promises her, holding out her pinky.

"You're so childish." Ei scoffs.

"Just do it. Don't be so boring."

Ei rolls her eyes, but gives up anyway, extending her pinky and intertwining hers with Miko's. "Are you happy?"

Miko smiles widely. "Very much," she says, dropping her hand onto the table. Ei hums and her own hand falls close to Miko's, their pinkies barely touching.

Ei glances sideways and sees a couple sitting a few chairs away from them, talking with one hand resting protectively on the other.

Her gaze falls back on Miko and she gulps. She wants to hold Miko's hand, here and now. Is that okay? Isn't it too risky? Maybe Miko doesn't enjoy this kind of public displays. Maybe this is something they shouldn't do— something intimate, almost only reserved for *lovers*. Or maybe Ei is just overthinking something as simple as holding Miko's hand in public, right where anyone can see it.

After a few minutes of questioning whether it's right or not, Ei listens to her feelings and tentatively, she reaches out a hand and tangles her fingers with Miko's, carefully watching Miko's features as she does. When Miko's smile only brightens, she relaxes.

Maybe she's definitely thinking too much.

Miko's thumb rubs her skin in a comforting gesture and Ei enjoys it. It's such a simple gesture, but it means everything to her. Even things as simple as holding hands feel good with Miko. It's something that she believes she will never tire of.

Ei is still not quite sure what's happening inside her, but she wouldn't mind just hold Miko's hand until she figures it out.

"They are taking a long time to bring the food." Miko frowns and releases her hand to stand up. Ei's downcast expression at the lack of contact must be embarrassingly noticeable because Miko smiles gently at her and ruffles her hair.

Ei huffs out, moving her own hand to fix her hair. Ruffling her hair is becoming a new habit of Miko that Ei isn't very happy with. It's a bit sweet, Ei doesn't deny that, but it's also childish and embarrassing to do in public. Besides, she doesn't really enjoy having her hair disheveled.

"Don't be impatient. It's only been like ten minutes." Ei scolds her. "I thought I was the one who whines about everything here."

"Yes, you still are." Miko corrects her and then crosses her arms. "Usually they never take that long to bring me the food. I have special privileges, and you are here! That should give us more privileges. The longest they can take to bring the food to the Shogun is one minute."

Ei laughs. "I don't care, honestly. I'm not very hungry."

"Good for you, but I *am* hungry. So I'm going to complain."

"So you tend to abuse your authority, huh? Do you do this often in all the places you frequent?" Ei asks, amusement in her eyes as she cocks her head.

"I don't abuse of my authority. I just say the right words in the right tone to make people succumb and do what I want. Is that so bad?"

"Oh, wow. I feel bad for everyone who has had the misfortune to meet you."

Miko huffs out, changing her tone to one more arrogant and full of herself. "It's a privilege to meet me, actually. And if you'll excuse me, your excellency, I'm going to talk to the chef."

"At least be nice and don't make a scene." Ei pleads.

"I've been here many times, Ei. The chef already knows me and not to brag, but she admires me quite a bit. She always goes to Yae's pushing house to ask me for recommendations for novels." Miko explains smugly.

Ei quirks her eyebrows at that, picking up the chopsticks on the table to toy with them and pretend she's not as curious as she really is. "Really? Are you two close?"

"Sort of. She knows my face and the dishes I always order, so I am within my rights to complain." Miko shrugs, oblivious to the way Ei seems attentive to her every word. Ei frowns at that and is about to ask more questions about Miko's relationship with this woman, but Miko cuts her off at that, saying, "Look, more minutes have already passed. I'll go there. I can't believe it, this is unacceptable."

Ei can't utter a single word before Miko left her with her mouth open and an uncomfortable and bitter feeling inside her. It shouldn't matter to her so much that Miko is close to other people. That borders on weird and extremely possessive because of course Miko can be close to other people.

It's normal, just as it's totally normal for Ei's gaze to follow Miko.

It doesn't take long for Miko to reach the kitchen space and start talking to a woman. Ei barely can see them and she can't hear what they're talking about, but they seem close by the way the woman seems calm next to Miko even if Miko is throwing a silly tantrum and probably saying some nonsensical shit.

And maybe there wouldn't be a problem if the woman who admires Miko and goes to Yae's publishing house for recommendations was a kind old woman who likes to cook. The fucking problem is that this is an adult woman who is painfully *beautiful*. Ei has eyes and can't deny something undeniable. That woman is beautiful and talks so kindly to Miko, attentive to her words and ready to do whatever she wants, even rush the staff in the kitchen so they finish their orders firstly than those of all those who were waiting before them.

Ei grits her teeth, feeling an inexplicable anger bubbling in the pit of her stomach. Even if she tries, she can't look away, her eyes are glued on the interaction, on the way Miko talks so freely with that woman. Is it so terrible to feel angry about this? Is it so bad to hate that woman pay attention to Miko like that?

Miko directs her gaze towards Ei and the woman follows her gaze, as if Ei has been mentioned in their conversation. They only make eye contact for a moment before Ei looks away immediately, scared that she's been caught.

After a couple of seconds, she turns her gaze back to Miko and the woman, relaxing when she realizes that they are not looking at her anymore. They seem immersed in a new conversation and Miko seems to be telling something simple and funny from the way the woman smiles at her. It's a torture to watch.

Ei has always liked to think she's a fairly patient, even-tempered person, but there's something undeniably close to pure rage going up her throat as she watches this woman tenderly brush her hair behind her ear and flutter her eyelashes at Miko.

The woman giggles at something Miko say, and Ei's hand tightens around the chopsticks she's holding so hard they break. Ei isn't even sure if the woman is interested in Miko or if she *wants* her in a sexual and romantic way, but she doesn't care. There is a desire within Ei to get up and go to wrap her arms around Miko's waist, mark her up right there and pull her into a kiss until they can't breathe any more just to show that woman that Miko is...

Miko is *not* hers.

What is she supposed to prove? Ei doesn't want people to think they can flirt and lust for Miko, but she can't do anything about it. Miko is her friend.

Shit.

Ei presses her lips hard and gets up from the chair. She needs fresh air, to cool her mind and think this through clearly. So she walks out of the restaurant and walks to a short bridge, leaning against the railing to look into the darkness of the night, the snow barely visible.

Ei sighs and the hot breath coming out like smoke. What is she doing? Why is she feeling this way? It's frustrating not to be able to control her feelings, and it's even more frustrating to feel like those feelings shouldn't be there.

Miko is loved and attracts people with her appearance like moths are drawn to light, and Ei should get used to that, to the fact that people want her. However, thinking about it is easier than doing it. It's hard to ignore the bitter feeling that turns her stomach and makes her feel dizzy, angry and upset. Perhaps what really makes her feel this way is the thought that Miko could be interested in someone else, that she might *want* someone else. Or perhaps it's just the fear that Miko will get tired of her and want to fuck someone, or even worse, that she'll become romantically interested in someone and spend her days with that person instead of Ei.

It isn't long for Ei to lose herself in her own thoughts and get used to the cold on her skin. A few minutes later, she feels a presence walking towards her and a tap on her shoulder.

Ei looks to her side and jerks when she sees Miko standing there, looking at her curiously as she rests her body against the railing of the bridge. She doesn't seem upset, and that's good considering Ei left her alone in the restaurant.

"What are you doing here?" Miko asks calmly. "When I came back, you weren't there."

"I got bored by waiting for you, and I wanted to go out to get fresh air." Ei answers selflessly.

"Seriously, how many times do I have to tell you not to go out in this cold?" Miko scolds her, shaking her head. Ei just giggles about it, losing the tension on her body, the bubbles of anger slowly disappearing from her stomach now that Miko is with her. "And are you so impatient that you can't wait ten minutes?"

"You're not the best to talk about being impatient, you know."

Miko huffs out and crosses her arms over her chest, shivering from the cold even if she is wearing a wool coat. Ei moves a little closer at that and rest her body next to Miko's, letting their arms touch. She hopes she can at least warm Miko's arm like this.

"I just did what I had to do for our food." Miko answers.

Right. This all started for some food.

Suddenly, Ei remembers why she's here.

"For someone who was starving, you took your time to talk to that woman." Ei remarks bitterly, and she hopes the anger doesn't show in her voice. These feelings feel more justified than they did before, as if there was some part of Ei that feels that after everything they went through together, it's right to call Miko hers. The problem is, Miko is not hers, not really.

Miko quirks her eyebrows and lifts her chin, showing the purpled skin of her throat. It's one of the hickeys that Ei left her the night before, and there it is, uncovered and telling. Ei likes it a bit too much, how Miko made no effort to cover it up. It sure is a petty wish, but Ei hopes the woman from the restaurant saw it.

"There is a problem with that? I just wanted to talk to her, she's a really nice woman."

Ei can't help to let out a dry laugh at that. "I don't have any problem with that. I just felt impatient, nothing more. I thought we had come to spend time together, but if you want to talk with her so much, you can just invite her to have dinner."

As soon as the words leave her mouth, Ei feels the shame engulfing her body. That's such a petty and childish thing to say. What the hell is she doing? She shouldn't have let anger take control of her mouth. Fuck, how does she still have skin, Ei thinks as her face burns.

Miko shakes her head, giggling with amusement. "Maybe I will. At least she won't complain so much about going out."

Ei grits her teeth and feels the anger bubbling in her stomach again, intense and unbearable. "Then do it. If you want, you can leave me and spend the rest of the night with her."

Miko laughs out loud, and Ei clenches her fists and almost asks in a demanding voice, *why are you laughing?* But Miko is faster and says between laughs, "You are so easy to provoke. I don't want to have dinner with anyone but you, idiot. Why are you so jealous?"

Ei's first instinct is to feel embarrassed about how easily Miko found out about her jealousy. Then she only feels more anger and frowns.

Miko's cocky tone annoys her, but she is even more annoyed by the fact that thinking about that woman having dinner with Miko or going on a date with her. Ei hopes it never happens because she wants to be the only one for Miko— even if they're not really together and they're just friends fucking, or whatever. Ei is just angry because she doesn't have a right to ask Miko to be *exclusive* with her, and she doesn't even know what the hell means that she wants their relationship to be exclusive. Whatever it is, the damn problem is that Ei just can't admit out loud that she hates the idea of Miko with someone else because then she'd have to tell Miko about these confusing feelings she's having for her.

"I am not jealous. That's ridiculous, why would I be jealous of a human?" Ei huffs out, crossing her arms. Miko doesn't seem satisfied with the answer, and this time it's Ei who laughs and says, "What? Do you want me to be jealous?"

"Mhm." Miko admits without hesitation. Her eyes heavy as her teeth slip over her bottom lip and she reaches up, grabbing Ei's jaw with two fingers under her chin and one opening out Ei's mouth.

As simple as that, Ei is gone.

Miko has an innocent look, but Ei knows she's just *torturing* her. That's what she loves to do all the time: torture her.

"I just think it would be funny if an Archon had got jealous of a human for such a silly reason. It would be *hilarious*, actually. Imagine how riled up you got if you had been jealous," Miko murmurs and moves her fingers down to Ei's chest, eyes flickering up to her face for a moment. "But in order to be jealous, you'd have to like me, right?"

Ei doesn't understand what Miko is referring to.

Oh, well, maybe she *does* and she's just running from the answer because she doesn't want to accept it yet. Maybe there are indeed many things that Ei is aware of, but she prefers not to think too deeply because she is afraid of finding something she doesn't want in them.

There are a lot of things Ei should stop denying. Like, her feelings for Miko and the fact that, *yes*, she's jealous. She's so jealous all the damn time. She's jealous every time Miko talks about her past sex relationships with other women, or every time she imagines Miko in a relationship with someone else.

Ei thinks about what Miko said when they started this, about how maybe things could change between them and this thing might ruin everything. Miko was right and wrong at the same time, because yes, a lot of things have changed between them, like the fact they are closer than ever and their relationship is slowly blooming into something new. But at the same time, things aren't that different from the past, like the fact they always have been this close and Ei has always had these feelings for Miko. Because she didn't start feeling this way for Miko since they started to sleep together; these feelings have always been present, but since she started helping Miko with her heat, she has slowly realized how intense and notorious they are.

But what they have it's intimate. Ei wouldn't do this for anyone more than Miko. She would never sleep with anyone other than Miko and doubts she would enjoy kissing anyone other than Miko. Ei hasn't really ever been interested this way in anyone other than Miko.

"Right." Ei finally answers, voice weak and barely audible.

"But you don't like me, do you?" Miko asks, quirking up a brow. Her voice isn't deep with seduction now, but seriousness.

Ei goes still, mouth hanging open, and then lets out a laugh, panicking. She knows her laugh sounds awkward, but she doesn't know how to stop it. "Of course I like you, Miko. You're my friend."

Surprisingly, Miko frowns at that. It isn't the reaction Ei was expecting and she isn't sure what to make of it. Miko's hand slips down her torso and Ei tenses, but experience tells her Miko touches when she wants, and Ei can't help but let her.

"Right," Miko says, smiling brightly and pushing Ei's body back a bit harshly. "That's good."

"Yes, really good." Ei agrees miserably. It's real great that they're friends.

For a moment, they stare at each other without saying anything.

Miko's gaze is intense and when she licks her dry lips, Ei can't help but fall into her bad habit of looking at Miko's mouth. She finds herself wanting to press Miko against the railing and lean, letting their lips just barely brush before they slot together. She wants to kiss Miko just to break this awkward tension between them. Fuck— she really wants to kiss Miko, want to kiss her so desperately like that night where they were drunk. She wants to kiss her until they get warm and the cold is gone, until her lips are wet and sore. She wants to kiss Miko here under the moonlight and inside the restaurant, in front of that woman and the rest of all the people there. She just wants to kiss Miko so bad.

Ei almost does it.

Almost.

But she doesn't kiss Miko, and she knows that this heat in her belly is going to be all day, craving and yearning for kissing her. Ei knows this need will stay inside her until they got home to fuck and only then Ei would have an excuse to kiss Miko.

"You know, you wouldn't have to be jealous anyway." Miko is the first one to break the silence.

Ei snaps out of the thought spiral she was in and looks at Miko, confused.

"I don't like fucking humans that much, so I only do it on special occasions," Miko explains, lifting her eyes as she plays with Ei's fleece jacket and pulls her closer by her clothes. "I mean, that woman is certainly attractive, but I only fuck one person at a time. Especially when they fuck me as good as you do."

Ei chokes with her own saliva, ignoring the pang of anger she feels because Miko admitted that she finds that woman attractive. "Oh, that's good, but it's really none of my business who you fuck with."

What a lie. What a damn lie.

Miko hums, loosening her grip on Ei's coat. "Great, that means I can still fuck whoever I want. Good to know."

No, that's not what she wanted to say. Ei doesn't want Miko to fuck with anyone but her.

Unfortunately, all that comes out of her mouth is a poor hum. It makes her feel miserable, how cowardly she is.

"Anyway. It's cold in here and surely our food is ready, so let's go." Miko straightens up from her slouch against the railing and claps her hands. "Don't worry, crybaby, I won't pay attention to anyone but you if that bothers you."

Ei feels a blush rise on her cheeks at that, but she can't complain before Miko grabs her wrist and drags her back to the restaurant.

Miko's hand plants on Ei's waist as they walk and Ei sighs, wrapping her arm around Miko's shoulder. Neither of them say anything about it and soon they are sitting on the same table again.

Ei can't help it, but puts her hand on Miko's thigh as the same chef from before brings them their meals. She can see from the corner of her eye how Miko holds back a smile and raises an eyebrow at her playfully, but Ei ignores that and starts eating her food.

She may be having more than one crisis tonight.

Being confused about her feelings for the person she spends most of her time with is really hard for Ei— hard because that means she has almost no alone time to think.

The only moments where Miko is not around her is when she goes to Yae's publishing house to work or when she takes care of her jobs at the shrine. Sometimes Miko also likes to have time for herself and Ei is fine with that because she also enjoys having her own time. Besides, she also has her own jobs and life outside of Miko.

But the thing is, Miko is still an indispensable person in her life; she is her only friend and the first person Ei thinks of when she is bored and wants to spend time with someone. Like, yes, she has been in constant interaction with people the last months, but she isn't really friend of neither of these people. All Ei needs is someone to talk to and have fun together, but the only person who fills that role is Miko.

So, her routine consists of working, spending quality time with Miko and, recently added to her schedule a few weeks ago, having sparring sessions with General Kujou Sara. Which is a nice change and works as a good distraction these days to not think about whatever is going on with Miko and her feelings.

Ei is not going to lie, the tengu is a bit stoic and awkward when she's with her, too serious to joke around. But in her defense, they've only struck up a conversation a few times and Ei isn't expecting her to feel comfortable speaking informally with the Shogun so easily, so it makes sense.

However, Ei is trying her best to make the general loosen up with her. Maybe after she starts feeling comfortable around her, they can strike up a conversation of more than ten words. It's the objective that Ei has been set in her mind these days, to become closer to Sara with each sparring session.

Ei knows that Miko doesn't really like Sara, but Miko also told her that she should get more friends, so Ei is trying her best to make at least one new friend. She knows that even if Miko is going to complain about her friendship with Sara at first, she's also probably going to feel proud of her.

It's not like she's doing this just to make Miko proud. Ei just thinks that her personality and Sara's personality could work well to form a friendship bond— they share an enthusiasm about sparring. That's something. Ei just needs to find more things they have in common. Maybe they both like the same sweets, or maybe she can ask Sara if she reads something.

Talking with Miko is easy because she is the one who makes all the job and is always teaching her about something new; like, something about literature or things related to the world that Ei missed in the last centuries or sometimes just gossip about people. Gossiping with Miko is really fun— but that's not the point.

The real problem is that Ei doesn't really know what to talk about with Sara. Maybe blacksmithing would be a good first topic of conversation, or maybe she can ask Sara why Miko doesn't like her. Although, maybe telling Sara that Miko doesn't like her isn't a good idea.

Ah. Making friends is hard.

Maybe she's fine having Miko as her only friend, but again, Miko feels like more than a friend. So now Ei has in mind the same crisis she's avoiding to think about.

This is the reason why it would be nice to have someone else to talk about things she can't talk about with Miko, like her recent feelings for her.

Though, it's not like she's going to talk about this problem even with someone she's close with. Ei hasn't even sat down to think deeply about her feelings. She refuses. She's not ready yet. So Ei runs away from it like she always does when something scares her and instead, she decides to just distract herself and takes her frustration out on something else, like sparring with Sara. That's a good way to not think about Miko and concentrate on something that makes her feel another kind of feeling— the kind of excitement that keeps her alive, energetic and focused.

It feels good to do these kind of things with someone after so many years. Ei enjoys the feel of her arm and leg muscles tightening and the cooling breeze on her face as she pushes herself towards Sara.

Here, she doesn't need to over-think anything. She just feels loose and free, letting her body do all the work while she turns her mind off. Ei swears she could be all her life here, but Sara looks tired after a few hours. She's breathing heavy and her grip on the wooden sword she's holding is shaky, and Ei knows she's tired, but she doesn't want to stop this so soon.

"I think we can finish this here. I'm already tired." Ei lies, squeezing Sara's shoulder with a gentle smile.

Sara looks as awkward as always, and she shudders at the contact, seeming more nervous than usual.

Oh, this is going to be hard, Ei thinks.

This girl is really rigid, but again, she understands that people usually feels like this next to her. It's normal not everyone can talk to her the way Miko talks to her because they have spent too much time together to be close like this.

It's not like Ei wants more people to treat her the way Miko treats her anyway. That's something only reserved for Miko, something intimate that only both of them can do. Probably if someone else talked to her the way Miko talks to her, it would piss her off, but since it's Miko, even her teasing feels good.

Miko is special, and the rest of the people are just normal people who treat her with respect, which is okay.

Oh, no.

She's thinking about Miko, *again*.

This is bad.

Ei shakes her head to shuck out of the daze she'd momentarily spiraled into and approaches Sara before she releases the wooden sword. "Actually, I'm not that tired. I feel like I can still go on. Do you want another round?"

It's a dirty move because Ei knows Sara can't tell her no, but right now she doesn't mind abusing a bit of a position of authority. She needs a distraction to avoid thinking about Miko and this is all she has.

"Yes." Sara answers too quickly and then clears her throat, adding. "Of course I can continue, your excellency."

"Oh, great." Ei says with a kind smile.

Good, now she just needs to stop thinking about Miko.

I am doomed, Ei thinks as the wind pushes her hair and she feels a shiver dance across the back of her neck. It's really cold outside, but she likes it. The feeling of being cold reminds her that she's in a body and keeps her grounded.

The thing is, Ei thinks about Miko too much. A lot, actually, and it has become a terrible habit to take walks in the cold when she's overthinking something, but she can't help it. Ei has feeling lost these last days and since she can't spend all the time sparring with Sara, she wants something to distract herself from everything going on inside her head. The problem is that Miko lingers at the back of her mind even in moments like these.

Sometimes Ei allows herself to think about things from the past, just sometimes. Miko is her friend, but not in the same way her past friends were. Ei wants to kiss her and keep her close all the time, and okay, maybe Ei doesn't understand a lot of things, but she knows she didn't want to kiss her other friends, or anyone who is not Miko. Which brings her to other thoughts she's had recently, the ones that make her feel confused because she doesn't know what to do about these feelings. It's frustrating, and it makes Ei wonder if things could be more simply if Makoto were here to give her advice or help.

There's too many feelings and things swirling around in Ei's head to pick out just one. Miko. Makoto. Her friends. Somehow, that's the breaking point that drags Ei from tolerably confusion and frustrating in a normal way to completely and totally freaking-out. Before Ei can stop herself, she finds herself feeling the weight of a wailing sob crawling up her throat like something dead clawing itself out of a grave.

With a lurch that sends her stumbling, she staggers on heavy legs to any place. She wants to hide and find some private place to hyperventilate and break down for a moment. All Ei

wants is to run away somewhere to get away from these feelings and all this mess she has inside her.

But she doesn't want to run away from Miko, not again. Maybe that's what leads her to Miko like a kid coming back to home to be comforted. Anywhere with Miko feels like a safe place, and surely that's what leads her to sit inside the shrine with her whole body shaking and a cup of hot tea in her hands.

At the end, she always comes back to Miko.

Pressing her hands to her cup, Miko offers Ei a concerned look. "Are you cold?"

Ei curls her hands around her own cup. The cold air still pricks at her skin even through her clothes, but it also makes the tea taste better and feel hotter when it hits her tongue. "I'm okay."

Miko hums and takes a sip of her own tea. After that they fall into a silent where Ei revels in the moment of quiet. This is the first moment of silence she's had since days. No thoughts, just the silence accompanied by the comfy presence of Miko.

Times like these makes everything feel so simple.

"What's wrong?"

Ei looks up from her cup of tea to Miko, who slides next to her, pushing her body against Ei's. The contact feels as good as ever.

"You look like you've something in your mind, and you don't know what to do about it." Miko remarks with a frown of concern. It's almost scary how she knows her so well.

Ei swallows hard, looking down again. "It's nothing," she murmurs, and when she notices from the corner of her eye Miko's sharp look, she hastens to add, "I'm thinking about an important meeting I have in some weeks. Just that."

"Mmm," Miko buzzes and doesn't seem convinced. "Really? Because you're cold, and that means you were probably out for a walk, a thing you always do when you're worried."

Ei swallows and looks down again. Sometimes she hates how transparent she is when it comes to Miko. It's almost like she can see right through her soul and know all her secrets. Ei always feels exposed and ashamed every time it happens.

For a moment, neither of them says anything. A kind of silence that is not tense, but not comfortable either.

Miko clears her throat. "Okay, this is suddenly awkward."

Ei makes a face. "Sorry. I'm just worried about personal stuff. It doesn't matter, really."

"No, it's okay. You don't need to talk about it with me if you don't want. I'm just being nosy." Miko says and shakes her awkward expression from earlier to a calm one. Then she looks

gently at her and rests her hand on Ei's thigh. "Let's forget about this. Give me another topic for conversation."

Ei thinks about something to talk about, but honestly, right now all she can think about is that Miko looks really soft and warm right now, and she really wants Miko to card her fingers through her hair and pamper her.

So instead of verbally answer, Ei slides closer to Miko, turning around in a way that her leg is on top of Miko's thigh and she's able to rest her chin on Miko's shoulder.

"I don't know." Ei answers softly, pressing her nose against the skin of Miko's neck and enjoying the contrast between her cold nose and the warmth emanating from Miko's body.

"What's up with you today, mmh?" Miko asks, giggling quietly when Ei starts nuzzling against her neck.

"Nothing," Ei says, breathing in Miko's scent— it smells like worn book pages and sakura leaves. Miko always smells so good, so clean and addictive. It's such a comforting smell. Everything about Miko is comforting and soft. "I just want to..."

"Just want to...?"

"I want to touch." Ei admits. She's craving this— she's dying for being like this with Miko after this tired day. She just wants to forget about everything and feel Miko a bit. Just a bit is enough.

"You're feeling cold or something?" Miko asks, reaching out her arm to take Ei's hand, fingers intertwining. "Oh God, you're so cold. How long have you been outside?"

Ei thinks for a bit, pressing herself closer to Miko and burying her nose in the crook of Miko's neck. At times like this, closer is not close enough. Sometimes all she wants to do is melt into Miko, plunge her head into Miko and penetrate into her until their bones intertwine. "Mmmh, I don't know. Maybe a few hours. I can't really remember, I've been a bit distracted today."

Miko raises her other hand and runs it up Ei's arm, squeezing her shoulder, before she grabs Ei's cheek and lifts her head to meet her eyes. Ei shudders at that and feels all her being aching when she looks into Miko's eyes.

"Feeling needy?" Miko asks, brushing her bangs aside and pressing her lips against her forehead. It's not a kiss but it's close to it, and Ei feels the back of her neck tickle.

Ei sighs, defeated. "A little. I... I don't know. I just *really* want to touch you," she admits. "Maybe it's weird, but I don't know how to explain this urge. I just want to have you as close as possible today."

"I see." Miko says softly. "Do you want to get on my lap?"

At that, Ei opens her eyes and stares at Miko with surprise and embarrassment. "Is it okay?"

"Of course." Miko confirms, blushing hard. "Don't make it sound like it's weird. You already did it once, so I thought it could be okay."

"It's not weird, just unexpected." Ei clarifies quickly, and looks at Miko a bit unsure. "So it is okay?"

"Yes, it really is." Miko assures her.

Ei nods, shyly, and Miko grabs her waist, helping her to straddle her thighs and sit on her lap. After that, Ei tucks once again her face in the crook of Miko's neck, sighing in satisfaction as Miko's hands rub her back in circles.

"Are you really okay?" Miko asks her at some point, voice quiet.

Ei sighs again, enjoying all the affection and physical contact. "Right now, I'm feeling great."

"And before?"

"Not as great. But it doesn't matter because now I'm fine. I just— I don't know, it's nothing." Ei gives up, unable to find the right words. "I just want to touch you."

"Okay, if that's what you want." Miko mumbles, scratching Ei's back. "There's anything else you need?"

"Not really. I'm already fine. Although... you know, I might be feeling needy, but you're being quite compliant." Ei comments and giggles against Miko's neck. "It's weird, you're never this obedient."

Miko huffs out. "It's not like you're asking me to murder somebody. You just want to touch me, I'm fine with that."

"Thanks." Ei murmurs, sounding sleepy and happy. She had a very tiring and rough day, so it's normal for her to be relaxing like this in Miko's arms.

Miko seems to realize Ei is about to fall sleep because she taps her back. "If you don't mind walking, we can go to my bedroom to sleep, or cuddle. Whatever you want."

Ei isn't too happy about parting ways with Miko, but she's sleepy and the idea of sleeping with Miko sounds tempting. So she gives up and nods, getting up and letting Miko grab her hand to drag her out. They pass through the shrine and Miko's grip on her hand is firm and determined. Ei likes it, the feel of Miko's warm hand on hers and the way everyone looks at them and Miko doesn't seem to care that there are a lot of eyes on them. It feels good.

They are good together.

Once they reach Miko's bedroom and Ei closes the door behind her, Miko drags her to her bed. She drops on the bed first and then pulls Ei so she can lie down on her. Miko quickly puts her legs on either side of Ei's hips and lets a hand caress her back as Ei rests her face on Miko's chest.

"It's been too long since I've been in my bedroom," Miko comments softly. "I've been sleeping with you almost the whole winter."

"Mmh, it's true." Ei murmurs, closing her eyes. She can't even remember how it felt to sleep alone before winter. "But this is better, right?"

"It is." Miko agrees, and Ei feels Miko's fingers grazing her nape, sending a few shivers down her spine. "I know you're feeling clingy, but you're kinda heavy."

"I am not, you're just weak." Ei scoffs, feeling comfortable and happy now that they are like this. Miko pinches her side and Ei just chuckles, without regretting anything. "Sorry, but it's true."

"Shut up."

Ei hums, relaxing on top of Miko and resting all her full weight on her. Miko groans in complaint, but she doesn't really make an effort to push her away, which makes Ei feel relieved because honestly, she's fucking delighted right now, pure bliss right here. This morning, she woke up feeling restless and anxious and now she feels...

Warm.

Safe.

"This is the best." Ei murmurs and her words come out as a sigh.

Miko shoots her a smile. "What's the best?"

Ei smiles back, unable to control it. Miko just looks so bright-eyed and lovely, devoting all of her attention to Ei and whatever she's anticipating to come from her mouth.

Her eyes are warm as she waits for the response – her attention always so distinct, so focused on Ei. Even though they're the only ones in the room, in moments like these, Miko makes it feel like they're the only ones who exist outside of it, too.

Ei swallows, but the words come easily. "Moments like theses with you," she confesses. "I like to be with you like this."

For a second, she's tempted to say more. She's tempted to let out all the thoughts she's been having lately, ones that express how worried and confused she has been these days.

She just wants to tell Miko that she feels a lot of feelings when she's around her. That she misses her when they don't get enough time alone. That moments like these are the ones she wishes she knew how to keep forever. That she wants to do everything she can to make sure for them to always be like this— close and getting closer. That it'd break her apart to have her any further away.

Ei even considers for a moment telling Miko that sometimes she just wants to be able to kiss her where and whenever, in front of everyone. That sometimes all she wants is Miko to be hers.

But the reality is that she doesn't say anything of that.

Miko's hand moves to Ei's forearm and for a second, she looks like she wants to say something. Her soft, pink lips purse and her eyebrows move ever so faintly up her forehead. But she says nothing, at least, nothing of consequence. Her smile wavers for a moment and then she leaves a kiss on Ei's head. "I like to be like this with you, too."

"It's good to know we both feel the same way." Ei murmurs, and for a moment she wishes to know if Miko is feeling the same way as her about all this thing. She wonders if Miko also thinks about her before she sleeps and in the morning. If sometimes she can't sleep because she's too confused about their relationship like Ei is.

Whatever it is, in moments like these is simple to look into Miko's eyes and pretend she's hers.

Ei lets out a small sigh and closes her eyes again, enjoying the attention of Miko's fingers for a moment before she feels her eyelids more heavy and tired.

Ei wakes with her head tucked under Miko's chin, her face pressed to Miko's chest and her nose brushing the fabric of Miko's clothing.

She doesn't know how long it's been or how long she's slept, but she doesn't care much when she feels how Miko is stroking her back, one thumb brushing back and forth across Ei's spine, feather-light. Their legs are hooked together and Miko's arm is draped across her waist, one hand stroking her back while the other gently scratches Ei's head. Is Miko awake or did she fall sleep too?

Carefully, Ei closes her eyes again and waits almost a full minute, hyper aware of Miko's gentle touch. Then she makes a quiet, sleepy, about-to-wake-up noise. Just to see what happens.

Miko's hand goes still, as if she had been found out.

Oh. Miko is awake.

Miko has Ei wrapped up in her arms, and she's stroking her back so, so gently, and taking care of her even when she's sleeping. That's so sweet. Ei can't help but keep her breaths slow, pretending she's still asleep, just to enjoy this moment for more time.

After a few long minutes, Miko's thumb starts moving again and Ei snuffles a little and presses closer, like she's asleep and seeking warmth. Like she's asleep and can get away with anything.

Miko's skin is soft, and when Ei moves closer, the hand on her back skims up and down the curve of her spine while the other hand cups the back of Ei's head, fingers in her hair.

Everything is too much. Too intimate and comfortable.

For a moment there's no bed and there's no pillow, and they're not lying down, they are just floating somewhere, somehow, and there's no room or world existing outside them. It's all just Miko. All encompassing Miko.

Ei can't feel anything but Miko's skin and she can't hear anything but her breath. Miko is just so warm and solid, and Ei realizes that she wouldn't mind waking up like this a thousand times, maybe more. She wouldn't mind spending the rest of her life with Miko like this. She wouldn't mind spending the rest of her life *loving* Miko.

Something bursts open inside her chest, a quiet, contained eruption of color and growth. It's this consuming sense of being overwhelmed when she's wrapped up with Miko like this. She just feels... full. So full of love. And the more she thinks about it, the more she realizes that this feeling has always been there, just simmering under the surface waiting for her to notice.

It's terrifying, but it also feels correct somehow.

Ei just feels so comfortable with Miko, so comfortable with her in every aspect of her life. Miko fits so seamlessly into everything, like they were made to slot together. And Ei has been in deny about these feelings the last weeks, has avoided thinking about it and run screaming in the other direction every single time her mind has moved towards her feelings for Miko. She's been too afraid to come to a conclusion about her feelings for so many times, but now it just feels natural and right, so she stops running away.

Ei sighs into Miko's warm skin, Miko smooths a hand over her hair and all she can think about is, *oh, I am so in love*.

It's a truth so loud she can't ignore it anymore. She's in love with Miko. Ei loves Miko. She loves her so much it hurts.

Oh, fuck, I love Miko, she thinks. Then she tastes the words in her tongue, *I love Miko*, and it feels correct, like something she can repeat her whole life. *I love Miko. I love Miko. I love Miko*. Ei doesn't think she can get tired of repeating it. *I love Miko. I'm in love with Miko*.

Ei is almost surprised about how quickly she got used to that phrase, but her love for Miko it's not even a revelation— she's just finally accepting something that has been dormant inside her for years now. It's almost funny how it has taken so many centuries for her to realize the love beyond friendship that she feels for Miko.

Looking back, it was impossible to have realized her feelings before— almost like if all the events in her life have prepared her for this. Because Ei fell in love gradually, through little things building up over the years and taking a shape until they formed a monster massive enough to swallow Ei whole. She fell in love to the blush on Miko's face every time she looked at her. Fell to their nights together and the conversations under the moonlight. Fell to the first realization, when she glanced over at Miko and realize that the slope of her nose has

the most delicate subtle curve and that her mouth is pink like a gemstone, and that she's the prettiest girl she ever saw.

Maybe the change happened when Ei was in the plane of Euthymia and she spent a lot of time looking to her left only to remember no one was there. In moments where all used to do was thinking about Miko.

Ei learned to live with the longing without even knowing it was there. It became a constant, something she can't hear clearly, but buzzes into her low enough to know it's there. Loving Miko is just a part of who she is, like her name or the lines that ran across her palms. She just hadn't known what to call it yet.

But she also fell in love abruptly, like a slap to the face, sharp and stinging, that left her reeling until now. Ei fell in love through raw and rough sex, through stolen kisses and hot nights. She fell in love with Miko through the violence that heat brings to Miko, through backs hitting the wall, sharp teeth and claws. She fell in love through cold mornings where all they did was cuddling. She fell in love through naps, sweet moments and late night confessions.

Ei fell in love naturally, unconsciously. She had no say in the matter, not when Miko is always so gentle and cares about her so much. Not when Miko always knows how to make her smile. Not when Miko makes her feel loved all the time.

I love Miko, Ei admits to herself as she breathes against Miko's neck. It was never a passing fascination for the cute, shy maiden of the shrine or a friendly love for her closest friend. It's *love*.

The revelation is not very exciting or relieving; it's a simple truth.

Ei loves Miko.

Chapter End Notes

i know, there's no smut in this chapter but it's because all the smut was in the second part of this chapter, so expect a dirty and degenerate next chapter

good news: i have almost the whole next chapter written. like, i only need to finish two scenes and edit them. so i'll try to update before the month ends

anyway, comments are always welcome and im going to kiss u if u do it ;)

tender like a bruise

Chapter Notes

i know, i disappeared for like a lot of months. sorry about that, im a certified liar and tbh the last months i was lazy and i kinda lost connection to writing and i was also obsessing over other stuff besides genshin. so there were many factors that made me not update, but here i am. i edited this and finish the 2 scenes that took me 6 months to write in one night haha that's so crazy

warnings to this chapter: there's some gross stuff, cock-stepping, a lot of saliva and cum, MASOCHISM because the whole point of this fic is me pushing the subby masochist ei agenda, some pain play, slaps, a brief feetjob (because im nasty), and feral possessive domme miko which is the Real reason i wrote this fic. i already said it from the beginning, this fic is 70% smut and 30% feelings. and this chapter has all the smut the previous one didn't have, so u can guess how this goes. im serious!! i have never written a smut as long as the one in this chapter

btw, fun fact time!! the name of this chapter is from the next quote: "a lover? maybe. something tender, anyway. but tender like a bruise". im sharing it because i think the quote suits eimiko's relationship in this fic really well

that's it, if you're as nasty as me, hope u enjoy this and if you're not, then sorry. don't expect anything from me, i forgot how to write

See the end of the chapter for [more notes](#)

Even if Ei wants it, time doesn't stop for her to process her feelings.

The world keeps turning and she keeps loving Miko every day. It's almost natural, but that doesn't erase the fact that now that Ei realized she loves Miko, she can't stop thinking about it. Everything, all the tiny details she used to overlook, she's hyper aware of them all now. She's incredibly conscious of how much she enjoys the lack of distance between them, and how her fingers always tingle after she touches Miko.

Now Ei understand why she craves Miko's touch so much. The realization in part is good for her – because she feels more in peace with herself and with one less weight off her shoulders now that she understands her feelings for Miko – and in part is bad – because now her perspective about her relationship with Miko has changed. It's as if now Ei doesn't know what things cross the line between friendly and *something else*.

Holding hands, kissing, having sex. Ei is not sure how to feel about it, and she thought she would get used to her feelings for Miko easily, but then a day passed and then two, and then almost a week passed and every time they have sex Ei feels more and more overwhelmed.

The ideal would be to put some distance between them – just a little, so she can process her feelings and get used to everything – but it's impossible. It's a necessity to be close to Miko, both for Miko who is still in heat and needs her, just like for Ei who is too weak for Miko. Because all Miko has to do is walk into a room and Ei's body moves unconsciously, automatically needing to be in Miko's space like a second nature.

The smell of Miko's hair, the taste of her mouth, the feeling of her skin, all that have got inside Ei and into the air all round her to the point Miko has become a physical necessity.

Sometimes Ei really feels like she needs Miko just like people need oxygen to live, something indispensable and vital.

Sometimes, though.

"Miko, I really need to go." Ei pleads, but it's useless. Miko has her in a firm grip, arms wrapped around her waist, pressing Ei against her body. "Do you remember when I mentioned that I'm practicing sparring with General Kujou? Well, I promised her we'd have a session now."

"Do you really have to go?" Miko complains in a slightly hoarse voice, holding her tight. She squints her eyes to get used to the sudden light of the morning and then she whines, still sleepy. "This is ridiculous, why don't you cancel it and stay here with me all the morning? It's early and cold."

Ei almost got convinced by those words, but it's not her fault that she is a weak woman and Miko is really warm. Besides, mornings with Miko are always her favorite time of the day and Miko is right that it's cold.

Oh, no. Ei cannot fall into this temptation so easily, she needs to stay strong.

"You just want to use me as a pillow?" Ei huffs out, pretending to be indifferent as she tries to push Miko away.

"That's the point of sleeping with you." Miko grumbles and then pouts. "Cancel it."

Ei knows it's a trick, but she can't help but feel warm inside. It's not just the fact that Miko is holding her so tight in her arms, but she also looks adorable right now.

"I already told her that I'd be there. I can't let her waiting in the cold." Ei argues, trying to wriggle out of Miko's grasp again and failing.

"You can apologize later. I really don't think she'd mind if you stood her up." Miko insists as she buries her face in Ei's neck, her nose tickling Ei and making her squirm in her arms.

"I can't. I'm serious Miko—" Ei's words are cut off in a shaky squeak when Miko moves her leg a bit and accidentally rubs her knee against Ei's cock. The brief contact sends electricity down her spine and tickling in the lower part of her belly, and Ei knows that nothing good can come from that. "Okay, umh, I'm going to get up."

Miko groans, oblivious to the blush on Ei's cheeks and before Ei can get up, Miko lifts her body a little and pushes Ei's weight down, sitting on her thighs and pressing her hands against the bed with a strong grip.

Ei is the stronger of the two, but her muscles deflate and become useless when it comes to Miko. So, no matter how much she tries to break free of Miko's grasp, she can only move her wrists uselessly and fall backwards every time she tries to move, but the weight of Miko in her lap pushes her down again, pinning her to the bed.

"*Miko*," Ei whines, looking up at Miko. The position gives her a perfect view of Miko's naked body. Ei can see the smooth skin of Miko's abdomen, the bruises on her hips and her tail wagging from behind. Her eyes slide up to Miko's tits and collarbones and then up to the hickeys and love bites on her neck, skin mottled with purple and red. Miko looks more hot than usual and Ei swallows hard, feeling her throat go dry and the heat in her belly intensifies, making her squeeze her eyes shut. "I really have to go."

Miko just hums and release one of her hands to plant a hand on Ei's abdomen, caressing her skin before she traces her way up to Ei's chest. Her hands stay there, touching tentatively, almost hesitating, and then without warning, Miko strokes over a perked bud and pinches the tip of Ei's nipple between her fingers, drawing a moan out of Ei's mouth. Miko raises an eyebrow at that, and Ei snaps her mouth shut, feeling embarrassed.

"Can I touch you?" Miko asks carefully, brushing Ei's nipples as she licks her lips.

"You didn't ask permission a moment before." Ei squeaks, her voice at least an octave higher than normal.

"Sorry. I just... I just wanted to touch you. I couldn't help it, you look so soft. It was something unconscious, you can't blame me when you're naked under me." Miko explains quickly, her voice full of panic. Ei wants to complain and refute that Miko was the one who put them in this position, but Miko clears her throat and her other hand falls on Ei's abdomen again. Her voice sounds a little less nervous than before when she adds, "But you still haven't answered my question."

Ei swallows, but shrugs as best she can lie down. "Sure," she answers, acting nonchalant, as if Miko's touch don't make her ridiculously easily and weak. As if this isn't making the butterflies in her stomach flutter. "You can touch me."

Why not? Ei is still a bit sleepy and in her defense, she's not really thinking— not when Miko's fingers caress her abdomen and Miko's weight is on her thighs.

Miko nods and then her hand squeezes Ei's tit experimentally, as if she only wants to feel the softness under her palm. Her other hand takes care of teasing Ei's nipple until its puffy and sticking out.

Ei breathes heavily and closes her eyes, biting her lip to hold back the moans that threaten to escape from her mouth. Miko catches the swollen bud between her knuckles, squeezing harshly and the pain that bursts through Ei's nerves at the harsh pinch is enough to make her eyes fly right back open again.

Ei whimpers loudly, gritting her teeth together reflexively.

"Sorry. Did that hurt?" Miko asks with concern.

It did, but Ei can't deny that she also felt a brutal tug of arousal in her pelvis at the pain. "Yes, but you can do it again," she says and tries to sound calm but this time, she really hopes that Miko can see through her and find out how much she wants Miko to do it again.

Miko hums a confirmation sound and starts playing with her hard and sensitive nipples, flicking them back and forth and rolling them between the pads of her fingers. Then Miko pinches Ei's bud and curls her fingers, twisting her nipple meanly until it hurts so much that Ei feels her cock fully hard. It should be a bad sign, but Ei can't correctly process her growing arousal before Miko leans in and catches her swollen nipple between her teeth.

Miko sucks and bites down on hard, making Ei whimper and curl her toes as a delicious pain blossoms in her chest.

Her nipples are tender and abused, and it feels good— so good that Ei's cock is already messily dribbling pre-come all over her abs and pressing itself hard against Miko's abdomen.

Miko seems to realize it because she pulls back and Ei almost groans at that, if it weren't for the fact that the look that Miko directs at her cock makes her realize what they're doing. Oh, fuck— what the hell are they doing? Ei was supposed to leave, why is she hard and with Miko still sitting on her thighs?

"Miko— I— I need to go." Ei weakly insists, managing to formulate the words without stuttering.

Miko catches her bottom lip between her teeth and moves her hand down to her crotch, where the arousal begins to take effect on Ei, making her cock notoriously hard.

"Really?" Miko asks in a playful tone. Embarrassment makes Ei blush, but at the same time the way Miko stares at her, so cheeky and daring, makes Ei more aroused. "Are you really going to leave like this? But you're so hard," she remarks in a sweet voice. To emphasize her point, she grabs the base of Ei's cock, and the moan that escapes from Ei's mouth is embarrassingly and pathetically loud. "And you're already dripping so much. Poor thing."

Ei closes her eyes tight, feeling scared of coming only with Miko's words. That's the power Miko has over her. Just two mean words disguised as a sweet tone are capable of literally rocking her world. "Don't act like you're innocent. This happened because of you."

Miko licks her lips and grins. "Yes, I know. I overstepped a bit, I admit it. But I was curious and it's not my fault that you like pain and got hard so easily. That was not my intention."

"It's still your fault. I never asked you to touch me." Ei grits her teeth, without the willpower to deny anything. Anyway, denying that she enjoys being in pain it's almost like denying that she's in love with Miko: impossible.

"But you gave me your permission," Miko slyly replies, and then she sighs. "I think you're right, though. It's my fault, so I guess I should help you with this, right? To return the favor you're doing for me, you know. I also like to help you."

Returning the favor. Right. Almost all their sexual moments derive from the fact that she is being a good friend by helping Miko with her heat.

Maybe she was a fool for doing that.

Maybe she *is* a fool because after all the problems that decision brought, she still doesn't regret anything.

Ei quirks her eyebrows. "How are you going to help me?"

Miko smiles devilishly, and Ei doesn't really get what Miko means until she crawls down and suddenly her face is between her legs. Miko's nose brush against her hard cock and her hot breath hits her head, making Ei shudders.

"Oh, fuck." Ei screeches, pretty sure a fuse just blew in her brain. Miko is about to suck her cock. That's new, that's— oh Gods, no.

Ei tries to move away, but Miko digs her nails into Ei's hips to immobilize her.

"Why are you still trying to run away?" Miko looks up with a frown.

"Nothing. It's just—" Ei tries to explain with a blush creeping up her neck. "It's just, ah, I, well..." she clamps her mouth shut, feeling like an idiot and leaving nothing but awkwardness in the room. This is incredible. This is really amazing. Ei feels so pathetic right now because she already fucked Miko more times than she can count, but somehow this scares her. Maybe it's inexperience giving her a hard time, like always.

"Okay, what's wrong?" Miko asks, looking worried as she lifts her body.

Ei rushes to reassure her. "It's nothing serious."

"Then what it is?" Miko frowns. "Do you want to go hang out with that tengu so much? Do you want to leave?"

"No. It's not that. I mean, I have to go, but I'm not feeling like this because of that." Ei runs a hand over her face, feeling frustrated. "It's just new. This. I've never, uh, had my dick sucked before. I mean, I've had sex, like a couple of times in the past, but not this. And it's not that I'm afraid, this is just new, and I don't know if I'm going to do it right," she admits sheepishly, feeling her face heat up in embarrassment.

Her gaze is fixed on the wall, wanting the sheets to swallow her and spit her out in another place. How is she supposed to look straight into Miko's eyes after this? Her God is so inexperienced that she's panicking over something as simple as this. It's so ridiculous and sad that it's almost funny.

"Ei, look at me." Miko demands in a soft tone after a moment. Ei takes a while, but she ends up obeying, turning her gaze to Miko, who is looking at her with affectionate and playful eyes. "It would be an honor to be the first person to suck your dick."

"Oh, fuck." Ei utters on a shaky breath, feeling her cock trembling beneath her because *fuck*, Miko is hot.

"What? You don't want it?" Miko asks and raises an eyebrow.

"No! I mean, yes. I mean, *ugh*." Ei groans and Miko giggles. "I want it. I really want you to be the first one."

This time it's Miko the one who blushes and looks shy for a moment. It barely lasts a second, though, because then she clears her throat and her expression changes to a calm one.

"Then it's okay?" Miko asks softly, seeking her approval as she lowers her gaze back to Ei's hard cock.

"It's okay," Ei confirms with a shaky breath. "But I really don't know what to do."

"Don't worry. Let me do all the work and just enjoy it." Miko says as she steps back between Ei's legs and gives her an exaggerated wink. "Now, are you ready for your world to blow up?"

Ei rolls her eyes, trying to appear nonchalant, but it's hard when she feels her cheeks heat up again and her stomach twists uncontrollably. "Just do it."

Miko smiles cheekily before she bows her head down, starting to leave kisses on Ei's thighs and biting slightly the skin. Ei shudders as Miko's mouth leaves a wet trail of kisses, until she lifts her head a little and places a kiss on the tip of her cock.

Ei swallows, but can't stop the way her breathing picks up when Miko wraps a hand around her cock. Miko strokes over experimentally, pulling down the foreskin to thumb over the slit, and Ei exhales sharply, fingers tightening around the bedsheets.

Miko pulls back to glance at the head and the pool of pre-come collecting at the slit. Then she grins at Ei and after giving her one last look, her body slides down, a hand gripping down on the bed to give her balance.

The realization of what Miko is doing comes as a gasp and a sharp *fuck* leaving Ei's lips when Miko lowers her head and licks the pre-cum. Miko hesitates for a moment, but then she finds a proper position and begins to leave licks on the head of her cock and the veins, followed by smirks each time Ei jerks in response. Miko is a tease, of course she is, even at times like this she's a little shit.

"Oh-fuck." Ei grunts when Miko takes the tip of her cock into her mouth, and the loud moan that escapes from her mouth so quickly makes her feel pathetic and desperate.

Miko hums, eager, and suckles at the head, tongue dragging over the tip to tease. One hand of Ei keeps gripping the sheets and the other slips over the back of Miko's head, fingers

threading through her hair carefully and tugging gently, a way to tell Miko that she is enjoying it and a warning that she is impatient. Miko ignores her signals, continuing to lick only the tip, and Ei holds back really hard to keep from thrusting her hips up or pushing Miko's mouth any deeper with her hand.

Ei knows that Miko is taking her time for a reason and even though she is impatient and wants to feel Miko's mouth taking it completely, she still wants to be good and see what Miko will do. Patience is a virtue, and Ei knows she will be rewarded if she doesn't lose control of herself.

The reward comes faster than Ei thought because soon Miko gives her a hot look full of desire and Ei knows she's done.

Miko keeps her eyes locked on her as her mouth slides over her cock. It's too much and Ei makes a noise she can't even place, something between a moan and a sob, when Miko takes her as deep as she can— throat relaxing and constricting when Ei hits the back of it.

Miko's mouth feels like heaven, so hot and wet. Her mouth goes up and down on her cock, letting Ei hit the back of her throat every time. It's a new experience, a new kind of pleasure, and it feels fucking wonderful.

Ei shudders with the overwhelming pleasure, and Miko takes her hand and laces her fingers over the bed, giving her a reassuring squeeze. Which makes Ei feel overwhelming in a different and disconcerting way. Loving Miko is so strange, Ei thinks, because somehow she manages to make her feel safe and comfortable even while she sucks her cock for the first time and has her completely at the mercy of her tongue. It's something that probably only Miko can do.

The hot suction from Miko's mouth feels too good. All of this is too much. Ei's breathing is getting heavier, one hand tugging Miko's hair gently while the other holds her hand tightly.

Ei can feel her orgasm building, closer and closer, until Miko pulls back. It's not even a surprise, but that doesn't stop the groan of complaint that escapes from Ei's mouth. Miko manages a harsh breath, mouth forming into a smirk and the expression on her face changing to a cocky and amused one.

"Are you going to come so quickly?" Miko breathes out, voice hoarse. Ei feels embarrassed, but she can't help it. The pleasure is so intense and new that it's hard not to come. "I know this is your first time and I'm doing an amazing job, but that's boring. Barely a few minutes have passed, you know you can last longer."

"I know," Ei grunts and hips jerk up as if to chase Miko's mouth. "I'll take care not to cum. I promise. Just keep going."

"Sounds good for me." Miko winks at her and Ei is about to roll her eyes, but her mouth opens in surprise and disbelief when Miko slowly spits into Ei's cock, a line of saliva falling on the tip.

Ei shudders at the sensation, but apparently her cock finds the action hot because her slit leaks more precum after that. Miko spreads the saliva all over her cock, pumping a few times, and Ei lets out a helpless moan when Miko leans down again and swirls her tongue around the head, licking the precum with one hand gripped firm at the base.

Ei presses a hand against Miko's nape, feeling in need of the warmth of Miko's mouth. It's more a suggestion than a demand, but Miko seems to understand what she wants and pleases her, sinking until Ei's cock is sliding back down her throat.

"Ah, fuck— *Miko*." Ei gasps as Miko takes her back into her mouth, breathing growing more labored when her cock hits the back of Miko's throat again and the heat of her mouth envelops her cock completely.

Ei whimpers hard and loud when Miko slurps loudly and chokes as she sinks lower. Miko moans around her cock, the spit collecting over her lips and dripping onto Ei's thighs. She's such a mess right now, but Ei doesn't think she's much better, whimpering under her breath and clinging to the sheets.

"Fuck, that feels so good—*ah*, your mouth feels like heaven, Miko. Ah, *Miko*—" Ei moans, shutting her eyes in pleasure for a moment. When she opens them again, she can't help but moan out loud at the image in front of her.

Miko looks so hot and broken. There's saliva running down her pretty pink lips and obscene sounds coming out of her mouth, her cheeks are flushed and tears brim her eyes as she inhales through her nose, throat constricting.

"Oh, Gods, you look..." Ei tries, but it's weak. "Like a dream. You're a dream, Miko."

Miko lifts her gaze and they make eye contact for a few seconds. Her hair is messy, falling down her shoulders, and her ears are perk up. Her lips are wet and shiny, and her eyes sparkle with tears and something else. There's a fire there, full of desire and lust. It makes her look hotter. That's unfair. Miko looks good even when she's getting ruined by her cock.

"I wish you could see yourself." Ei grits out breathlessly, releasing the grip on Miko's hair and moving her hand to rub over Miko's back. "You look so pretty right now, Miko. Such a pretty mess— *oh, fuck*. Miko," she gasps when Miko takes her cock completely one last time before she pulls off to catch her breath.

There's drool all over Miko's mouth and she rubs her wet lips down Ei's length to make it messier and wet her cock more in saliva. The moan Ei lets out is loud and her hand keeps Miko there for a moment before Miko lifts back up.

"Thanks about the praising. I thought you'd be a speechless mess, but you surprised me. You're not that bad at this." Miko rasps, tightening her grip on the base of Ei's cock and placing a kiss on Ei's head again.

Ei gets happy about Miko's flattery, but she can only shudder when she feels Miko's breath against her cock— hypersensitive and aware that she's going to come soon, already leaking so

much. "Miko," she whines, resting her head against the pillow and looking with pleading eyes at Miko. "I'm close."

"Really?" Miko plays the fool, batting her lashes at her with feigned innocence, as if she hadn't been sucking on her cock five seconds ago. "And what do you want me to do about it, pretty girl?"

Ei whimpers at that, partly feeling her inside warm because Miko called her *pretty girl*, and partly feeling her inside burn with need and despair. "You know what I want, idiot."

"If you want me to make you come, you must be nicer." Miko huffs out and leans down to slightly bite down on Ei's tip. It makes more precum to spurt out and Ei squirm, helpless as Miko edges her again. "I mean, you were doing a good job calling me a dream. You can do it better if you want to come."

Ei grits her teeth, feeling her frustration growing and her determination slowly disappearing. "What do you want me to say?"

Miko grins as if she had expected Ei to say that. "Beg for it," she demands as she curls her tongue and presses it beneath the head of Ei's cock.

"Really?" Ei groans desperately as she slides her hands to grab the sheets again.

"I'll would love to hear the sound of a desperate plead coming out of your mouth. There's something hot about having the privilege to see the always composed and powerless almighty Shogun break down." Miko admits, and then she wets her lips before she adds, "Maybe I just want to see you broken and begging."

Ei feels a wave of arousal hit her as soon as she hears the words. Miko was right— she is such a demanding girl all the time, like a demon who knows the art of seduction and domination. Ei likes that part of Miko more than she should because she wouldn't mind falling into her perverse temptations. She really wouldn't mind submit to Miko and let her boss her around, let Miko be the little bossy and exigent shit she is.

"But if you don't want to beg, then I can just stop here." Miko murmurs after a moment, pretending to pull back.

"No! Okay! I will beg." Ei gives up, and stifles a moan when Miko stares at her with deep and serious eyes, expectantly at her next words. Swallowing hard, Ei finally mutters, "Please make me come, Miko."

Miko smiles and leans in to exhale over the tip of Ei's cock. "Louder. I can't hear you."

Ei groans in complaint and with a broken voice she pleads, "*Please*, Miko. Please make me come."

Miko pretends to be thinking about it and then gives a quick lick to the tip of her cock. "Again. Say it again."

Ei whines pathetically, but she knows that fighting is useless. "Please. Please, Miko, make me come."

Miko smirks at Ei, looking amused— like a demon who is reveling in her suffering. "Again."

Ei grips the sheets so tightly she knows her knuckles must be white. "Please, Miko."

"Again."

Ei breaks into a whimper, thighs trembling and her cock full and desperate to come. "Please, Miko."

"Again."

"Please. Please, Miko. Please, let me come. Please, *please* —" Ei cries out loud, stumbling over her words as her voice broke.

"Hmm," Miko murmurs as her lips wrap around her, and she laps at the pre-come dripping from her cock before pulling back. Ei's thighs spread, jerk out like she can't help it. "I like how that sounded. Fine, I'll make you come."

Ei wants to complain about it, but the only sound that leaves her mouth is a whimper when Miko leans down and wraps her pretty mouth around Ei's cock, swiveling her tongue along her bulging veins. Miko engulfs her entire length with a wet warmth, making little sucking noises as she goes down and up. Her eyes begin to tear up again as she fucks her throat with Ei's cock and Ei finds it funny how even when Miko is a ruined mess, she still manages to stay composed and be in charge.

Everything feels good, but Miko is fucking slow, taking her time to tease her and draw sweet little whines out of her mouth. Ei is aware that Miko wants to break her, and at any other time she would be fine with that, but she promised Sara that they were going to have another sparring session today and—

Oh, fuck. How long has it been? She's fucking late.

"Miko—*ah*, could you hurry up? I'm running late— oh, fuck." Ei arches off the mattress, eyes tight, fingers twitching in the sheets as Miko releases the head of her cock with a wet smack.

"Do you want to shut up?" Miko mutters as she abruptly pulls away from her, a line of saliva running down the corner of her mouth.

Ei watches a little breathlessly how Miko's tongue comes out to lick it.

"I'm in the middle of something," Miko grunts as she slows her movements to just teasing over her, pressing a finger against the slit, around the crown. Ghosting her nail lightly down the side. "Don't interrupt me, or you're going to go to that stupid sparring session without coming. Do you want that?"

Ei squirms as Miko's hand lazily pumps her cock. "No, but—" her body rises from the bed again as she feels Miko's mouth closing around her cock again. "Oh, fuck," she moans, her

breath coming in gasps. "Just hurry up and don't tease."

Miko backs away from her long enough to roll her eyes. "You're such an impatient thing. I can't even have fun."

"Please, Miko." Ei begs, sounding broken and beyond frustration, with tears already collecting in her eyes. Desperate to come. "Did I mention you look pretty sucking my dick? You look beautiful taking a dick, Miko."

"Nice try, but I know what are you trying to do." Miko scoffs. "But you look like a mess and I'm feeling nice today, so I'm going to be good and stop playing with you."

Ei is not quite sure what Miko's definition of nice is, but she can't answer with some sarcastic comment before Miko ducks her head and gulps her, starting from the head and sliding down along her length, down to the base.

Miko seems to finish playing with her because she sinks down and begins to suck on Ei's cock in earnest. Her mouth moving up and down in movements fast enough to send out a rush of pleasure so intense that Ei feels sparks of electricity running up and down her spine and a thick heat growing in the lower part of her belly.

Ei gasps in response and this time Miko doesn't tease, relaxing her throat as she sinks down, lips stretched. It's too much— the pressure of her cock in Miko's throat, the stretch of Miko's lips, the way Miko *allows* Ei to lose control of her hips and fuck her throat, seeking for her own release. It's too much stimulation and soon, without warning, Ei is convulsing with pleasure as she cums down Miko's throat.

"Oh, fuck. *Miko*." Ei cries out breathlessly, chest heaving as she pants for air. The orgasm feels liberating after being close to the edge so many times. It's definitely a different kind of pleasure and Ei finds out that she likes it.

Miko doesn't even take a moment to breath before she crawls up her body and takes Ei by surprise, pressing her mouth against hers. Miko is kissing her, and Ei loses her mind a bit as Miko parts her lips and her tongue seamlessly slides into Ei's, passing a ball of spit, mouth-to-mouth. Except, as Ei tastes the salty and stale fluid, it dawns on her that it's not spit but something more.

Something more.

Ei's eyes widen at the realization, but she can't make anything but swallow it.

Miko breaks apart to gasp for air and as soon as she catches her breath, she rests her chin on Ei's chest, smiling smugly with swollen lips and a drop of cum staining the corner of her lips.

Ei tries to steady her breathing and get used to the sudden fall of the overwhelming arousal. It needs her a second to process everything that happened.

After her mind is clear and awareness, Ei makes a face. "Did you just make me swallow my own cum?"

Miko laughs and licks the cum off of her lips. "Yes. There's a problem with that?"

"That's disgusting! Why did you do that?" Ei wrinkles her nose, outraged.

"I wanted to share it with you so you can taste your cum along with me on your first time. Sweet, right? I'm so nice."

Ei stares at Miko and then huffs out. "No, you're just disgusting."

"It came from you anyway. I don't see the problem with returning it to your system." Miko shrugs and lies down her body on top of Ei, resting her head on her chest and breathing against her skin.

Ei shakes her head, too tired to argue against that logic. Then there's a moment of silence where she caresses Miko's bare back and enjoys the sweet and simple moment. And then Ei opens her eyes and taps Miko's back. "I still need to leave."

Miko groans as she reluctantly gets off of Ei and drops on her side of the bed. "Ugh. Why are you suddenly spending so much time with that girl?"

Ei gets up from the bed and picks up her clothes from the floor to put them on. "You said it was a good thing that I was trying to make more friends. That's what I'm doing."

"Did I really say that? Well, now I'm regretting it."

Ei rolls her eyes as she runs back and forth across the room and puts on her clothes under Miko's obvious gaze on her. As soon as she finishes changing, she turns around to leave the room, but Miko's voice interrupts her.

"Wait, Ei. I think you forgot something." Miko comments, leaning against the headboard.

Ei looks at Miko confused and approaches to the bed innocently, leaning toward Miko a little. Then she realizes that she fell into Miko's trap ridiculously easy when Miko grabs her clothes and pulls her down.

"You forgot to say goodbye to me." Miko smiles coquettishly.

Blushing furiously, Ei swallows. "Oh..." she exclaims in embarrassment. "Umh, then see you later, Miko."

Miko sighs. "I didn't mean that kind of goodbye."

Ei blinks, feeling even more confused. "What kind of—" she starts, but her words die in her mouth as Miko points to her cheek and Ei falls into realization. "Oh."

"I'm waiting."

Ei gulps and after a sigh, pretending to surrender, she leans forward and plants a quick kiss on Miko's cheek, leaving a wet mark on her skin.

Miko smiles victoriously as Ei pulls away from her. "Okay, that was a good goodbye. I'm satisfied now."

Ei feels her cheeks heating up even more and clears her throat as she looks away. "If that was all, then I'm leaving," she murmurs and turns around without waiting for an answer. "See you later, Miko."

"Wait, Ei." Miko calls her again.

Ei stops in front of the doors and with a sigh turns around to look at Miko tiredly. "What?"

"I'm going to go with you," Miko declares as she gets up from the bed and walks past Ei, stretching her arms over her head. "I'm free today and I'm going to be bored here alone, so I'd rather be by your side. You wouldn't mind if I come with you, right? Oh, of course you won't."

"Wait, what?" Ei asks, feeling lost.

Miko puts a finger in Ei's mouth, silencing her. "Wait for me while I change clothes. That's fine?"

"No!"

"Good to know you're fine with that."

"I never agreed to this!" Ei complains.

"Are you telling me that you don't want me to spend the day with you?" Miko looks at her with pleading eyes.

Ei tries to be firm, but gives up after ten seconds. It's impossible to deny that she doesn't want to have Miko around all the time. Damn it, being in love of Miko makes her so weak.

"You have three minutes to put clothes on." Ei says as she crosses her arms.

"But I want to take a shower."

"No! I'm already running late."

"Excuse me, but I smell like sex. I can't leave like this, I need to take a shower."

"I also smell like sex and I didn't take a shower. You can go out like this." Ei argues.

"And you had the nerve to call me disgusting?" Miko shakes her head in disappointment and clicks her tongue. "Go and take a shower."

"No! Just change your clothes and let's get out of here quick."

"But—"

"No!"

"Forgive me for the delay." Ei apologizes as soon as she arrives at the same place where she usually uses with Sara.

The ground is covered in snow and the cold air hits her face. Ei likes to practice outside, away from everyone and there is a perfect place in the forest where she likes to spend her time, so they usually see each other here.

"Some problems arose and I had to stay a while longer in the Tenshukaku," and those problems are *Miko*, only Miko. "I hope you haven't waited too long."

"No, not at all! Don't feel the need to apologize. I've only been here for almost forty minutes. It's not a big deal."

Oh, Ei feels so ashamed of herself.

But at least she has the decency to be embarrassed. Not like Miko, who doesn't look embarrassed at all, standing behind her with a smile. As if it wasn't her fault that they are so late because she can't take a no as an answer and convinced Ei to shower after they discussed over that for at least ten minutes.

Ei knows she also should take the blame for being so weak for Miko and always give up easily, but with that logic, technically this is the fault of her feelings for Miko. Stupid feelings.

Nevertheless, even if she hates to admit it, Miko was right about them needing to take a bath. Ei not only reeked of sex and sweat, but she also had dry cum sticking to her abdomen and her thighs wet on various fluids— all very gross and messy.

Ei even had to change her clothes because the ones from last night were torn and stained with more questionable fluids, and oh, she's thankful that Miko didn't let her leave. So, in a certain way, Miko did the right thing, forcing her to take a bath. However, that doesn't erase the fact that they arrived really late and Sara is shivering from the cold. Ei feels a stitch of guilt and shoots a death glare at Miko, who just yawns behind her.

Sara looks behind Ei and frowns when she notices Miko's presence. "Oh, hello, Lady Guuji. It's weird seeing you here."

Miko waves and grins at her. "Oh, hello, general. I forget to greet you."

"Mmh, yes. But what are you doing here?" Sara asks, going straight to the point.

"Curiosity. I wanted to see what you two do here so much." Miko explains calmly and rests a hand on Ei's shoulder, squeezing it. A fake smile appears on Miko's face as she adds, "This is fine, right?"

Sara presses her lips together in a straight line, almost annoyed, and follows with her gaze the way Miko's hand goes down and caresses Ei's arm. "I guess. If you're here, it's because the Shogun wants it that way."

"You're correct." Miko hums and then pushes herself a little closer to Ei, grabbing her arm. Sara's gaze continues on both of them, surprised, indignant and almost angry. "I am more than sure that my presence is more than welcome here."

Ei swallows, not quite sure what's going on, but already feeling uncomfortable with this weird and awkward moment. Of course, something like this would happen. This isn't even a surprise, Miko obviously doesn't like Sara, so of course she would try to annoy her on purpose. Ei just didn't think it would happen so soon, like, after ten seconds of seeing each other and less than ten words exchanged.

"Okay, enough talk. Can we start, Sara?" Ei clears her throat, wanting to end the tense moment.

Apparently, her words have the opposite effect because the silent that follows is quite enough that Ei only hears the cold breeze blowing her hair and the sound of the snow crushing under her feet.

Ei panics and looks to Miko, trying to find an answer that explains whatever this is. But Miko just tightens her grip on her arm and frowns without reacting at all. Ei gives up with Miko and looks at Sara, but she's worse than Miko— she looks speechless, with a blush growing on her cheeks that Ei assumes is from the cold.

"What happened?" Ei hisses at Miko, leaning closer to her, so only Miko can hear her.

"Did you call her by her name?" Miko asks after a moment, her voice coming out as barely a whisper.

Oh.

Ei swallows. "We're spending a lot of time together. I think it would be weird not to call her by her name," she explains in a whisper. "Friends call each other by their names and I'm trying to get closer to her."

It's kind of obvious. Ei finds nothing unusual in that logic.

Miko closes her mouth and presses her lips together, letting go of her arm. "Mmh, is that so?"

Ei feels a little nervous, a little off-kilter. Miko is staring at her like whatever she will say next is going to be either incredibly important or incredibly profound, and frankly she feels like Miko's question is tricky and whatever she answers is going to either way screw up

everything. Ei is so not prepared for this weirdly intense conversation, and she's not quite sure how they went from a good and hot morning to this. Whatever this is.

"Yes." Ei dares to answer after a moment, sounding a bit uncertain. Miko raises an eyebrow at that, and Ei swallows, feeling the need to clarify her words. "I mean, I want to be her friend. That's the reason I called her by her name. I want to get closer to her, in a friendly way."

Miko wets her lips and hums. "Good for you," she says, and Ei stays quiet, almost frozen. Oh, fuck— she definitely said something wrong. "Anyway. I'm going to stop distracting you two and just watch from the distance."

"Oh, yes. Good." Ei nods, not quite sure what happened and feeling like she did something bad even if she knows she didn't anything bad. Miko gives both of them a last glare and walks away to rest her back against a tree. Ei sighs and looks at Sara, who is still processing everything. "So, uh, we should start, right?"

"Oh, yes. Of course." Sara snaps out of the trance she got herself into and nods quickly, looking almost embarrassed.

Ei tries to concentrate at first, but it's almost impossible when she knows Miko's eyes are on her. Her presence is intimidating and imponent, having control over Ei even from the distance where she is standing and looking at her.

But the thing is that Miko's gaze is intense, like a predator staring in the distance, attentive to all her moves.

For a moment Ei thinks Miko is staring at her so intensely because of what happened earlier and that sends a wave of worry through her body and makes her wonder what she did wrong. But then, Ei gives Miko another look over her shoulder and notices that Miko's gaze is not full of anger. No... what's in Miko's eyes is *desire*. Ei can recognize it even in the distance. She can see the way Miko glances in her direction and follows the lines of her body— the way she catches her bottom lip between her teeth and sticks her finger to her mouth to bite down on it.

Ei tightens her grip on the wooden sword she's holding and, in a careless and rude movement, makes Sara fall hard to the ground. Ei widens her eyes at that and mutters an apology, holding out a hand for her to grab. Sara stares at her for a moment, and Ei gives her a soft smile, helping her up when she takes her hand. Sara's gaze is timid and her body shakes a little when she stands up.

Ei frowns in worry. "Are you okay?" she asks, releasing her hand and bringing it to Sara's shoulder to give her a reassuring squeeze.

"I am." Sara quickly confirms and her cheeks blushes furiously, making Ei worry more and squeezes Sara's shoulder again.

Ei is about to ask Sara again if she's okay, but she gets distracted the moment she senses another presence behind her. Ei glances over her shoulder again and finds Miko's face behind

her. Her eyes are no longer filled with desire; in its place, there is something intense and angry in them, like there's a fire in her belly and the sparks are floating up into the darkness of her eyes. Miko looks fucking furious. Ei can feel it from the way she breathes through her nose and her fists are clenched tightly.

"Excuse me, general, but I need to talk with her excellency about something for a moment." Miko tells to Sara, but the words are muttered, almost grudgingly, as if Miko is controlling herself so as not to lose her temper.

Ei licks her lips, feeling anxious and already *anticipating* something when Miko grabs her wrist and pulls her, removing her hand from Sara's shoulder. Ei isn't quite sure what's going on or why Miko looks so angry, but she knows that either something incredibly terrible or incredible hot is going to happen from the way Miko drags her a fair distance from Sara.

After leading her behind some trees, Miko releases her grip on her wrist, pushing Ei forward and making her stumble backwards a bit.

"Why did you bring me here?" Ei asks, frowning as she rubbed her wrist. She gives a short glance at Sara, who is awkwardly standing in the distance, and then she looks at Miko. "I was in the middle of something."

Miko takes a step forward, beyond anger, and Ei's confidence crumbles as she takes a step back. "Why did you touch her?"

Ei blinks, looking at Miko in confusion. "What?"

"Why did you touch her?" Miko repeats, clenching her teeth, jaw tense.

Ei stays processing Miko's question for a moment and after a couple of seconds, she realizes that Miko is referring to when Ei touched Sara's shoulder.

"Oh, well, I always touch her like that. There's nothing weird on it." Ei explains as if it's obvious. In her mind, it makes sense— it's obvious that when she doesn't control herself and uses too much strength, she always helps Sara to get up. Physical contact is inevitable in a sparring session.

Apparently that was the worst possible response she could have made because Miko looks even angrier than before. Ei opens her mouth to explain herself, but her voice dies in her throat, turning to a gasp when Miko pushes her against the tree behind her. Ei's back slams into the solid material, making her groan, and Miko presses her knee between her legs, causing Ei to let out a strangled moan at the sudden pressure.

Miko looks at her with burning anger— her breathing is ragged and the grip she has on Ei's clothes is so strong her knuckles are white. Ei has never seen Miko like this, with so much fury in her eyes, so angry that she looks like she's going to tear her apart alive, like a hungry predator.

Ei licks her lips and looks directly into Miko's eyes like she can get lost in them. Then, the words that Miko said to her at the beginning slip through her mind. *I'm going to get*

possessive over you. The rest suddenly clicks.

Oh.

"Oh, you got jealous—" Ei can't finish her question when Miko presses her knee into her crotch, more painfully than pleasantly. Ei groans, grabbing Miko's shoulders to steady herself, and Miko takes advantage of that, leaning towards Ei's exposed neck to bite hard. "*Miko.*"

"Don't say a word," Miko growls against her skin, licking over the bite mark and sucking hard till Ei knows there's going to be a mark— something prominent and angry and telling.

Ei whimpers and jolts, hips rutting against the painful pressure of Miko's knee. It hurts, but Ei is never going to get enough of that warm pain that spreads through her, less of a shock and more of a molten spill of pleasure, leaving her trembling and wanting for *more*.

She just feels so weak when it comes to Miko. All the power and authority she has collapses easily, but surprisingly, she enjoys the change, the way Miko is the one doing the handling. Ei's muscles are toned for the fight, strength out of necessity and endurance to withstand all the pain her body can. But when Miko shoves her against the wall, she gives in with a sigh, muscles losing their tension and knees feeling weak, giving in without a fair fight.

Her head unconscious tips back to allow Miko better access to her neck. Her breathing heavy and heat pooling in her lower belly.

Miko's hands and teeth are possessive and frantic, digging bruises into her hips and leaving marks on her neck.

Miko presses the lightest squeeze over a bruise and Ei bucks her hips, pressing her cock against Miko's knee, creating more friction. The muscles of her abs tense and her cock twitches, quickly filling with blood, heavy and hot between her legs. A shuddering moan slips through Ei's lips and the next thing she feels is Miko's breath against her mouth before Miko crashes their lips together, forcing her tongue into Ei's mouth without warning.

The mouth that meets her isn't a gentle one like it was the previous kisses. It's like she's being devoured, heat so invasive that it feels like her head is going to explode. Miko all lips and teeth and insistent tongue.

It's too much stimulation at once, too much pain. The bruises are a pulsing ache and Miko's fingers digs into the worst spots on her waist. It's not intentional, but every time Miko presses a bruise, her hips twitch and knees feeling weak. Her sides ache and Ei loves it, whimpering into Miko's mouth as Miko presses her knee against her cock harder and sends hot bursts of pain through Ei's body

Ei feels like she's losing her mind. She isn't even confused anymore, just woozy and hot, so damn hot. The arousal is no longer static, but runs throughout her whole system.

Her cock drips against the fabric of her underwear and her hands hold onto Miko's shoulders, grasping at her frantically and crashing her body against Miko's. Ei just needs Miko closer,

she needs her so desperately.

Miko pulls away from her to gasp for air, but Ei can't control herself and smacks their lips together again immediately, scraping her teeth against Miko's and catching her bottom lip between her teeth. Ei accidentally bites her bottom lip *hard* and Miko hisses, pulling away as blood comes out of her lip.

Ei opens her eyes at that. "Sorry. I—*ah, fuck*," she can't even finish her apologize before Miko presses her knee hard enough to has her seeing stars. Ei gasps, but her groan is swallowed by Miko's lips wet with blood and spit when Miko reclaimers her own and growls into her mouth, biting down on Ei's tongue between her teeth hard enough to draw blood. It must be payback for the lip bite, Ei is sure, but she doesn't care at the moment Miko's got her in a deep kiss once again. Mouths melding together, hot saliva and the iron taste of blood.

Her tongue stings and Miko licks at the blood coming from it, making the small wound sting. Ei immediately feels dizzy, her jaw going slack as she moans in Miko's mouth and pushes her hips forward, forcing more friction against Miko's knee.

They're not even kissing anymore. It's just hot and frantic and gross.

The mild salty-sweet blood mixes with the saliva, making the kiss messier and when Ei pulls apart and opens her mouth to catch her breath, she leaves a trail of slightly red saliva connecting her mouth to Miko's.

Ei feels so out of breath, blitzed from this need for release. Her entire body aches, a pain so intense it has her writhing, but she doesn't care. Ei wants the blood and the scratches and the blotchy bruises. She loves all this aggression and violence as much as she loves Miko and her soft hands and gentle caresses.

All of this is so different of how they usually are with each other. But there's something appealing about the savagery that unleashes this possessiveness on Miko, making her act like a feral and untamed animal that takes without asking permission.

Ei knows she loves Miko in a devoting and caring way, but moments like these makes her realize she also wants Miko in some primal, wild way in which animals want each other—bloody and full of teeth.

It makes sense in her mind. This is easier than expressing with words. Much easier than saying *you are mine*, there is something intimate in marking someone, a subtle way of letting everyone knows you belong to someone. The purple bruises, the burning wounds, the teeth marks with fresh blood— all of it makes Ei feel like she belongs to Miko.

Sometimes Ei wishes she could be a little more like Miko and just take without asking first. Sometimes she wishes she would stop being a coward and start being a little more selfish and let that part of her that thinks Miko is hers come out. Maybe she should have done something like this when that woman was with Miko— show the world that Miko is hers, even if she doesn't have the right to do so.

But the thing is, there is a difference between Miko and her: Miko is in heat and she is not. Ei has no excuse to act without thinking and claim Miko as hers just like Miko is claiming her right now.

Miko is doing this unconsciously, as a consequence of the heat and without a real intention. If Ei thinks about it that way, she feels a surge of disappointment and emptiness. It's kind of silly, but a part of her wants Miko to do these kinds of things because she *really* wants her to be hers.

Ei is lost in her own thoughts for a moment and whimpers softly as Miko's pressure on her cock becomes painful again. The friction is too much and Ei makes an unhappy noise when she feels her cock throbs, pre-cum dripping from it and soaking into her underwear.

Miko gives her cock an unsubtle glance and presses her knee a little harder, almost experimentally, and another whimper of pain escapes from Ei's mouth.

Miko takes a pause and then presses her knee again, *harder*, and Ei bites her tongue to not moan out loud so hard it bleeds more. She has to remind herself that Sara is a fair distance away and could hear them to avoid making loud sounds, but that gets harder and harder. Ei just can't take it anymore – her cock is hard and dripping, and she thinks she's going to die if she doesn't cum in less than three minutes.

Apparently, Miko also realizes that, and it doesn't take her less than three seconds to drop to kneel in front of her.

Ei barely has time to process what's happening before Miko yanks her underwear and frees her hard cock, letting the cold air hit her crotch and make her shiver. Ei opens her mouth to ask what she is doing, but she's silenced by Miko curling her hand around the base of her cock and getting her mouth on her. "W-what–"

The words die with a strained sound as Miko sucks on her swollen cock head. Ei moans out loud, taken by surprise, and Miko looks up at her through dark eyes and darker eyelashes, looking like the definition of utter sin. Her lips stretch around Ei's cock and her pink tongue sticks out to slap Ei's cock head, letting her spit drool over it.

One of Ei's hands flies to her mouth to muffle all her sounds, and the other grabs onto the tree to steady herself.

Miko gathers Ei's pre-cum on her tongue and slowly spits it back onto her cock, sticky liquid and spit dripping from her mouth to coat Ei's length even more. Miko spreads it down her with a fist, and the warmth spreading through her cock makes Ei choke out another moan and knocks her head back against the tree. Miko's hand starts pumping her cock, and the only thing Ei can hear is the slick sound of pre-come and spit.

Ei lets out soft moans, too overwhelmed by Miko's hand on her wet cock.

Miko's mouth returns to the tip of Ei's cock as her hand continues to jerk her off, twisting her hand up and sucking Ei down. "This is mine," she says against her cock, tongue rubbing under the head and stroking the glans. "Only mine."

Ei can only nod, feeling numb from pleasure. Miko lifts her arms and drags Ei closer by the ass, swallowing her cock as she goes. She makes Ei fuck her mouth, controlling her hips as her cock slides over her hot little tongue again and again. Ei can only moan, overwhelmed by the heat of Miko's mouth for the second time that day.

"Fuck." Ei grunts under her breath when Miko's lips stretch tightly around her.

Ei twitches and her legs spasm as Miko gargles around her cock. The sound is too obscene and Ei feels her mind spinning— pleasure shooting through her body as her hips buck up so her cock pushes against the roof of Miko's mouth.

It's not long before Ei feels herself almost reaching her orgasm. "Miko, I'm close" she warns as Miko's tongue runs over the head of her cock. "*Miko*— I'm going to come."

Miko doesn't seem to care about that and keeps sucking her back down, moaning around her cock as she sucks on her like she's starved for it.

The heat builds in Ei's joints, balls starting to get tight and tension rising inside her. Ei can feel her orgasm building, but the moment she's about to cum, Miko pulls her mouth away from her cock.

Ei wants to complain, but she's already over the edge, coming into nothing. The lack of stimulation is more than unsatisfying, and her cock bounces up and down, dropping cum over herself. It's definitely the most frustrating orgasm Ei has ever had, so much so that she can't help but whimper and look at Miko in frustration, wanting more even if her cock is soft now.

"*Miko*." Ei whines, squirming as Miko buries her face back into her neck and her knee slides between her thighs again.

"Did that feel bad?" Miko asks against her ear, biting her earlobe slightly.

"Yes." Ei answers, hating how pathetic she sounds, voice broken and more raspy than it needs to be. Miko hums, rubbing circles with her knee on Ei's cock. Even though the friction is overstimulating her soft cock, Ei accepts it, moaning under her breath.

Miko suddenly keeps quiet, stopping the movement of her knee and brushing her nose against Ei's jaw. "Do you want to fuck me, Ei? Would that feel good? That would make you feel satisfied?"

Ei bites her lip and looks at Miko with flushed cheeks and need in her eyes. Yes, she *wants* to fuck Miko, she needs it. But Ei is not sure if that's something she should admit so easily.

However, the look Miko is giving her clearly wants the same thing Ei wants.

"Yes." Ei admits in a mutter, too embarrassed to look Miko in the eye.

Miko hums again and trails her mouth from Ei's jaw down her neck to lick one of the bite marks on her skin. "If you want to fuck me, then maybe you need to come back like this so that girl knows who is the only person who can turn you into a mess," she whispers against

her skin. "I want to see you whimpering and crying about fucking me so she knows who you belong to, and maybe after that, I'll consider let you fuck me in front of her."

Ei's cock trembles, red with anger and aching from the overstimulation. She closes her eyes and holds back a groan, imagining for a moment what would happen if Sara saw the mess she is right now— all desperate and needy and pathetically weak. Ei imagines what Sara would think if she saw how Miko degrades and manhandles her, bending a God to her will. That would be embarrassing, almost humiliating, to let an ordinary person see the way the almighty Shogun loses all her power so easily when Miko presses her against a tree and completely dominates her.

Ei imagines what could happen and surprisingly, she enjoys every scenario that she projects in her mind.

It's embarrassing how much she likes the idea of being humiliated and demeaned by Miko in front of someone else. But maybe the hot thing about it, it's showing someone that she is Miko's— hers to do anything she wants with her body, personal image and soul.

There's something hot about people knowing she belongs to Miko.

"Miko. I—" Ei starts softly, but after a moment of thinking about it, she shakes her head. "I— I don't know. I... I am not sure."

The idea sounds tempting, but something stops her. Ei isn't sure what it is, but it makes her feel ashamed and disappointed by herself. This is what she wants, so why is she passing up this opportunity? Maybe a part of her still feels petty about Miko just being possessive of her because of her heat. Maybe she just wants Miko to *want* her to be hers. Not an illusion, but more her pure will.

There is a moment of silence and then Miko separates from her.

Ei looks at her, waiting for an answer, but Miko avoids her gaze and just walks away from her without saying a single word, leaving her alone and with a growing frustration and arousal.

Leaning back against the tree behind her, Ei exhales sharply. Somehow, she managed to fucked up things and ruin their hot moment at the same time. Great.

Ei understands the concept of Miko being possessive over her.

They are not lovers, but they have been sleeping regularly, so Miko's scent is probably imprint on her and over the course of these weeks Miko's brain convinced that Ei is somehow

hers and no one else can touch her. That's fine. It's something really simple to understand.

What Ei doesn't understand is why Miko is running from her. She expected Miko to stand by Sara's side and proudly look at the way Sara flinched when she saw her return a mess, with her hair disheveled and neck stained with reddish marks that soon are going to turn purple. At least she expected for a smirk on Miko's face.

But what happened is that Miko wasn't there and Ei had to offer a lame excuse to Sara to explain why she suddenly came back as if a wild animal had tried to kill her. It's not something very far from reality, but it still feels wrong.

Ei knows that she did something wrong and she knows that Miko probably ran away due to her rejection. She feels guilty about it, angry with himself for letting her feelings take control of her decisions. Ei feels angry for wanting more than what they have. This is fine, the simple fact of being able to be so close with Miko should already be enough.

Ei doesn't last long pretending things are fine before apologizing to Sara and making an excuse to run off. She doesn't know where she's going or what she's supposed to tell Miko, but she knows that she wants to apologize to Miko— even for a reason as silly as having touched someone else. It's almost an instinct that Ei doesn't question and just accepts as she runs off to where she senses Miko will be.

When she walks into Yae's publishing house, Ei barely greets the people at the entrance and just goes straight to Miko's office. After opening the door, she walks in without asking for permission and finds Miko reading something on a comfortable sofa near her desk.

Miko doesn't even look up to check who entered without her permission. It's probably obvious that the only person who has the authority to do so is Ei.

"What are you doing here, Ei?"

"Why did you leave?" Ei ignores her question and walks over to the sofa where Miko is sitting.

Miko shrugs. "I got bored. I have better things to do than watching you and that tengu fighting with swords," she sneers weakly, without too much energy. Miko looks dejected, different from the same girl who cornered her and marked her as hers— diferente from the same girl who wanted Sara to see that she is hers.

"Is this about what happened in the forest?" Ei asks, running a hand on her hair, feeling anxious and restless. "Sorry about that. I should have said yes. I just... I don't know. I guess I felt overwhelmed all of a sudden, but I should—"

Miko sighs and closes her book, interrupting her sentence. "No. I should be the one apologizing. I feel ashamed of myself. I can't control it, you know? It just happened. I smelled her on you, I hated the way she touched you and I completely lost my mind. I'm sorry if I made you uncomfortable. It won't happen again. Just forget it."

Miko tries to look composed, with her chin up and her gaze on her, but Ei can see right through her how ashamed and regretful she is of had lose control like that.

Maybe Ei was wrong about a few things.

Miko only takes without permission when she loses all her senses, but then, she regrets it later once she's conscious. Miko isn't selfish, she really isn't, because if Miko had really wanted it, she wouldn't have had self control and just have fucked her in front of Sara without without hesitation.

Ei finally understands it: Miko is as scared to ruin their relationship just like she is.

Maybe they're both just as cowards after all.

"No. I won't forget it." Ei answers firmly. Miko seems to want to argue against that, but Ei doesn't even let her open her mouth before she adds, "I told you that you don't have to control yourself. I don't care if you want to mark me in front of someone to prove something or fuck in front of the whole world. I really don't care. I freaked out for a moment, but that doesn't mean I didn't want it."

Miko just purses her lips, unconvinced, and Ei takes that as a signal to continue.

"You don't need to apologize," Ei assures Miko, maintaining eye contact with her. "You hated it, right? The way I put my hand on her shoulder like we are close."

"I wasn't thinking. It was a stupid reason—"

"No, it wasn't a stupid reason." Ei cuts her off and takes a step closer to Miko until her legs collide with Miko's knees. "Does the idea of me touching someone else upset you so much, Miko? If right now I went and put my hands on Sara's body, that would make you go crazy, right? Imagine the way you'd lose your mind if I touched her the way I touch you."

Miko grits her teeth, looking *furious*, and that's exactly what Ei wanted. She wants to rile Miko up till she gets violent—wants Miko's hot mouth on her throat, sucking hickies into her skin, teeth scraping the reddened spots afterward, just to assert the point that Ei is hers. Everything aggressive and possessive. Ei wants *Miko*, wants the pain and the sex and the feeling of being Miko's.

"You don't even like me calling Sara by her name, do you?" Ei asks rhetorically, remembering Miko's frown when she called Sara by name. Miko digs her nails into the sofa at that and Ei smirks. "See? You hate it."

"Ei," Miko warns in a soft but dangerous tone. It's a way of saying *stop it* before she does something stupid. But Ei ignores her warning because the truth is that she really wants Miko to do something stupid.

"Not that you need to feel jealous anyway. The only name I love to pronounce is yours and it's the only one that I pronounced every time I moan and whimper. That's the difference between you and her. You have me." Ei assures her, sounding seductive and confident.

Miko brings one hand to her mouth and bites one of her fingers. Her cheeks are tinged with a reddish hue and she's squeezing her thighs together like she's aroused and hot.

Ei smiles even more. Miko is definitely enjoying it.

"You don't have to worry anymore, I wouldn't touch her again if that's what you want," Ei continues and falls on her knees in front of Miko, who towers over her sitting on the couch where she looks down at her. "I admit it was my mistake to let another woman touch me. I'm sorry, it won't happen again. I won't let anyone else touch me if that's what you want."

Ei can see the way Miko's breath hitches, how her legs shake and her teeth bite her finger so hard that she is sure it will leave a mark. Ei can also see the way panic comes to life in Miko's eyes.

"Ei, what are you doing—"

"You probably thinking that it's ridiculous to have me on my knees asking for your forgiveness over something so foolish," Ei murmurs in a soft tone and then her lips rises in a grin. "But I know there's other part of you that feels delighted about this, glad to have me on my knees asking for your forgiveness, isn't it? I'm sure deep down you're enjoying it just like you enjoyed marking me up right where you knew Sara could listen."

Miko seems to be in an internal conflict, fighting against her impulses.

Ei wants to end that conflict. That's why she moves a little closer until her forehead hits Miko's knees.

"You probably felt so angry the whole way here. Frustrated, trying to ignore that annoying feeling of jealousy. But you shouldn't feel worry, you should have seen the way Sara saw what you did to me." Ei rubs her face against Miko's leg and looks up, giving Miko a provocative look. "I'm sure she knows I'm yours."

Miko's breathing becomes ragged and she spreads her legs, giving Ei access to her thighs, her fleshy milky thighs. Ei quickly understands what Miko wants and presses her mouth against her inner thighs, leaving soft and wet kisses in her skin.

"Sorry I made you feel that way." Ei murmurs against her skin, looking up from between Miko's legs to look at her. "I will never touch anyone else if that's what you want. My hands, my body, my soul— there is no part of me that is not yours. I'm all yours."

Ei wonders for a second if she's saying this because this is what Miko needs to hear right now or because this is something she wanted to say since so long.

Definitely this is what she feels. Definitely this is what she thinks all the time, but it's scared of saying it out loud.

It feels good to say it out loud. Ei just feels so light, like she's finally being honest with herself and Miko for the first time in a long time.

Miko's breath becomes heavy and Ei takes it as encouragement to continue.

"You don't even have to be possessive of me because at the end of the day you are the only woman who has me on my knees begging for you." Ei mutters, lightly biting the skin of Miko's thigh and sucking on the mark. "Maybe you should have just pushed me to my limits in front of Sara so she see that I can be anything you want, even a whimpering mess. Because I can be everything you want if you put your mind to it. I can fuck you every night, hard and fast, or I can cry and beg for you to let me cum. Isn't this what I told you since the beginning? I can be your toy to break and use as much as you want. There are no limits, I'm all yours to do whatever you want with me, even the most demeaning and disgusting things you can think of."

Ei is really okay with that. There's a possibility of Miko don't feeling the same way as her, but Ei is still fine with giving Miko absolute power over her. That should be enough, being useful to Miko for a short period of time should be enough. At least that way Ei has Miko— at least she can kiss her and fuck her and spend her nights at her side, even if it's just an excuse and Miko isn't really hers.

Miko takes a pause to breath and then lets out a breathless laugh, bringing a hand to her face. "You seriously continue to amaze me each day, Ei. It's funny, how your presence screams dominance and power, but all I can see when I'm with you is submission and obedience. You're so docile."

Ei knows Miko is right. She never thought it could be so easy for someone to dominate her, but of course Miko was going to be the first one. It's just that Miko makes it seem so easily— she makes Ei melt into submission like it's something already programmed in her brain. It comes naturally to submit with Miko.

"For you. I'm only docile for you." Ei affirms, without feeling ashamed of the confession. "You should be more smart and take advantage of it."

"I should." Miko agrees, looking directly and intensely into Ei's eyes. "Sometimes I think you really would do anything I ask."

"I would. I really would do anything you ask me, even kiss the ground you walk on." Ei confesses and Miko lets out a breathless *fuck*, digging her nails into the sofa again.

Ei smiles at that. So, this is the effect her words have on Miko? She likes that, likes to know that she still has some kind of power over Miko.

"I love how you submit to me." Miko confesses, lowering a hand to stroke Ei's head as if she were a puppy. "I can be nice and gentle to you," she caresses Ei's hair and scratches her scalp softly. "But I can also be rough and mean," she entangles her fingers through Ei's hair and tugs hard, lifting Ei's head up so she looks into her eyes. "And you would like both, right?"

"Mmh." Ei agrees, holding back a whimper at the way Miko pulls at her hair and forces her head forward. "I like the feeling of giving up control, of letting you use me and mistreat me. I like when you hurt me."

Miko brushes a lock of Ei's hair off her forehead with a gentle touch. It's ironic considering her other hand still maintains a painfully strong grip on Ei's hair.

"I know," Miko murmurs and then she grabs Ei's jawline and lifts her chin up so they're looking right at each other. Ei holds her breath, feeling like she's not allowed to move. "I like to have control over you. It makes me feel special to be able to have a God so surrendered to me. Because I know you've got all this power and strength, but I also know you wouldn't use it against me."

Ei just hums, enjoying the pain in her scalp. "You're correct. I am weak for you, Miko. So command me. Tell me what you want from me and I'll do it. This time I wouldn't get scared. I promise it."

Ei locks eyes with Miko and is almost shocked at how dark Miko's eyes have become, just as dark and feral as they were before. Miko is really getting into this and that's so fucking hot.

There's a beat of silence and then, Miko licks her lips and says, "I want you to fuck me."

Ei doesn't need more words to make a move to get up. However, before she can stand Miko's foot pushes her back to the ground by her chest, making her fall into her knees again. Miko holds her feet in Ei's chest, just far enough that Ei can't touch Miko in the way she wants.

"Let me finish." Miko snaps in a fierce tone and smacks her foot against Ei's cheek.

Ei feels the side of her face sting from the slap and her cock quivers, hardening against her underwear. The heat that had built up during their entire conversation finally taking effect on her.

Miko presses her feet to each of Ei's shoulders like she's holding her down and continues, ignoring the blush on Ei's stunned face. "As I was saying. I want you to fuck me, but even more I want to have you on your knees under me. Seems like that's where you belong, down below me."

Ei's cock throbs at that tone, that attitude. The bite to Miko's pretty voice. It's too much.

Miko holds Ei's gaze and slowly pushes her foot against Ei's cock, smirking when she feels it twitch and fatten up more through the fabric. Miko's foot rubs her cock and Ei feels fifteen seconds away from cumming if Miko continues with the move.

"Look at you, already hard because of a couple of words. I wish people could see you like this, on your knees and writhing against the sole of my shoe. I would love to show you off—you know, everyone always looks at you, everywhere we go, and sometimes I want to give them something to really look at." Miko's tone darkens as she stomps on her cock a little too hard, causing a helpless moan to escape Ei's mouth.

And Ei could easily press her lips together and swallow any sound that wants to escape from her mouth, but what's the point of trying to keep quiet? Ei doesn't give a fuck about things like dignity and proud anymore. She wants to be *loud*, she wants Miko to delight in every sound she makes.

They both probably want it that way from the way Miko's eyes light up at the sounds coming out from Ei's mouth.

"Sometimes I imagine parading you around as my pet, collared and leashed, bared for everyone to see the marks and bruises I left all over your body." Miko comments in a relaxed manner, as if she isn't uttering the dirtiest thing Ei has ever heard. "It would be nice, right? Everyone would know that their archon is nothing but my toy."

Ei's cock twitches and drips out pre-cum. Fuck, fuck— it's so hard to not come. "Oh—*Gods*. Keep talking."

"Don't tell me what to do." Miko grunts and smacks her foot against Ei's cheek harder than the first time. The sting makes Ei dizzy with pleasure and her cock bucks hard against her underwear.

"*Ah*—fuck." Ei groans, feeling how the pain slowly becomes an overwhelming but pleasantly buzz.

Miko raises her eyebrows at that. "I bet you'd love to get slapped again. You love this, right? All this pain."

Ei furiously nods. "Mmh."

Miko smiles and smacks her foot against Ei's cheek again— hard and fast, not giving Ei time to process the earlier pain before leaving her writhing and panting again.

"You know, Ei," Miko starts, slowly lowering her foot down Ei's shoulder and breasts to reach her lap and settle on her cock again. "Having you like this reminds me of something. On the first day of my heat, I had a dirty dream where I had you like this, all desperate and weak for me. I woke up sweaty and *hot*, and in that morning I touched myself thinking of you."

Ei takes a deep breath, feeling her cock tremble at the image of Miko touching herself thinking of her.

"You've always been so calm and serious. And that it's okay, but I've spent most of my life waiting to see you without that composure of yours." Miko continues, putting more pressure on Ei's cock with her shoe.

Ei makes a pleased noise. A deep hum that teeters on the edge of being a groan.

Part of her is enamored at the sheer trust in Miko's smiling eyes and the other part of her is dizzy with how badly she wants to fucking rail Miko. But she wants to be good, so she waits. And waits. Until she lifts her gaze and finds Miko looking do needy as her.

"Should I?" Ei asks softly, reaching up with her hand to play with the waistband of Miko's panties. She's asking permission to do something.

"Just do it." Miko demands in a mutter as she lowers her hand and threads her hand through Ei's hair.

It doesn't take long for Ei to get rid of Miko's panties and drag Miko's hips forward so only her butt rests against the sofa seat.

Ei lowers her head to press a soft, open-mouthed kiss on Miko's inner thigh, and Miko growls, impatient. Ei laughs, but she finally leans forward and gently drags her tongue between Miko's folds, licking from Miko's slit to her clit.

After a pause, she places her lips around Miko's clit and sucks on it, getting quickly rewarded by a gasp from Miko.

Miko's hips rise a little and her cunt bumps into Ei's face, staining her chin with her wetness. Ei takes that as encouragement, winding her hands up to grab Miko's hips and roughly pull her against her mouth.

"Oh, you're doing a good job. You're— you're so good, Ei." Miko praises her between moans, and the words makes Ei feel all warm and proud of herself.

Miko really seems to be pleased with her, because she downs her foot again and rubs over Ei's cock through the material of underwear. Light touches, tracing over the length, thumbing at the head.

Ei wants to take her cock out and jerk off, but she doesn't want to do something without Miko's permission. So she keeps her hands on Miko's hips and just rubs against Miko's shoe to seek her own release as she keeps eating out Miko.

"Fuck—" Miko groans, throwing her head back as Ei alternates between flattening her tongue against Miko's cunt and giving her slow, easy licks. Ei's tongue flicks hard against her clit, making Miko jerk, and God—having Miko like this for nothing but her tongue is a new kind of pleasure.

Miko tastes so good, so good that Ei wants to stay with her head between Miko's thighs for the rest of her life. But Miko won't let her go if she doesn't make her come, so Ei pushes her tongue further and maintains an even rhythm as she fucks Miko with her tongue.

"Ei," Miko gasps, and she barely gets the syllable out before she breaks into a guttural moan. Her body arches in pleasure, desperate to come, and Ei feels the same way, humping against Miko's shoe.

Ei moves her tongue against her, faster than before, and Miko lets out a moan, pinning her thighs around Ei's head. And Ei knows Miko is about to come by the way her chest rises and falls, and that's what makes her licking to become more and more insistent, all of her attention now focused on Miko's clit.

"Oh— fuck, *Ei*." Miko cries as she rocks her hips against Ei's mouth. Her foot presses down on Ei's cock harder, rubbing fast and roughly, and Ei feels like she can't hold it anymore. The orgasm goes through her strongly at the same time that she feels Miko's entire body trembling as she comes.

When Miko stops shaking, Ei leaves a few last kisses on Miko's thighs before turning away from her and looking shyly at Miko hoping for a compliment. "Well...was that good?"

"God— of course that was good." Miko says, her breath ragged from her as she frowns.
"Come and sit with me."

Ei stands up on shaky legs and sits next to her, feeling the adrenaline rushing through every part of her body. Obeying feels almost like a second nature. It's like she's programmed only to follow Miko, to see her, to feel her, to love her. Ei just wants to be with Miko.

Miko stares at her for a moment. Then she lowers her gaze to Ei's crotch and then she runs her hand over the sticky, sodden fabric, pressing two of her fingers together and drenching them in cum.

Ei gulps and she's not sure what Miko is really doing till she leaves her sticky fingers in front of Ei's mouth and tilts her head. "Open your mouth."

Oh, fuck it.

Ei knows what Miko wants her to do, and, to be honest, she's not ashamed of doing these nasty things anymore. So she opens her mouth and takes Miko's fingers in her mouth, sticks out her tongue and licks between them, tastes her own cum in her mouth. Ei separates her mouth from Miko's fingers, leaving a line of saliva. And Miko laughs at that and pulls her in for a kiss, feeling her thick saliva on Ei's mouth and breathing against it.

"Next time you feel like you have to be possessive, don't hold back." Ei whispers against her mouth.

Miko huffs out, moving her head back slightly. "Are you scolding me about that again?"

"Yes." Ei says firmly. "The next time you get possessive, do whatever you want without holding back."

"Look at you, is this holding back?" Miko rolls her eyes, tracing her fingers over the bruises on Ei's neck. "You look like you get back from war."

"I can take a bit of pain. You're underestimating me if you think bruises and bites can hurt me."

Miko hums. "So are you allowing me to do whatever I want?"

"I'm not allowing you, it's an order." Ei's eyes glisten a little as puts her hand on Miko's face and thumbs along her neck and cheek. "Probably the only order I'll ever give you. Do what you want with me."

Miko bites her lip, looking a bit embarrassed. "You're giving me a lot of power with that order. Do you know that?"

At the sight of Miko getting bashful, Ei merely laughs and smiles, wrapping an arm around Miko's waist to pull her closer – comfortable, happy, fingers digging playfully into Miko's side. "I am aware."

Miko sighs, meeting Ei's eyes again. "Just so you know, I still worry about you and I really don't like hurting you. But..."

"But?" Ei raises an eyebrow.

"But I also like to see you *like this*. I like to see you surrendered to me and under my control, desperate and helpless. I like to bite you, mark you with my claws like I'm claiming you. God, I like to taste your blood on my tongue. I want to consume you, Ei."

Ei licks her mouth, feeling her cock trembling. There's no way she can get hard again. It's almost painful the way Miko still can get her hard after coming six minutes ago. "I think I want that as much as you."

Ei almost ask for it. *Consume me. Let's fuck again.* Ei wants to fuck till her body hurts and her cock is soft. Until it hurts to cum and their bodies are worn. Ei almost proposes Miko to fuck till her sofa gets wet with fluids and the room smells like pheromones and sex and the air feels hot, and tense and suffocating. Until everyone in Miko's publishing house can hear them.

Ei wants it all.

Miko looks at her for a moment without saying anything. "Oh."

And neither of them says anything, but there is a warmth that hangs in the air, something that has never existed between them before. But there's also a lot of unspoken words, cold and untouched.

Ei feels like she should say something else. She actually feels like both of them actually have a lot of things to say. But words don't come this time.

Miko rests her hand on Ei's thigh and squeezes gently. It's comforting for a moment, and all Ei can do is intertwine their fingers, as if that connection would allow her thoughts to flow through her body into Miko, as if a simple touch would do better than words ever could.

Sometimes Ei wishes her hands were capable of telling her feelings to Miko.

It's been relatively peaceful since the two of them talked things out. The days go on. The sex is as good as ever. Winter is still as cold as ever, except that the snow is slowly melting. That's why Ei decided to take the initiative for the first time and proposed a date with Miko. Well, something like a date. Ei isn't sure how to call it. It's hard to give a name to a lot of things they do. Ei tries to not think about it too much.

Miko was curious during the thirty-minute walk up, but Ei insisted that she needed to keep her eyes closed.

"Really, where are we going, Ei." Miko complains about the third time in five minutes.

Ei just laughs. "We are arriving. Be patient."

Miko huffs out and Ei smiles softly, squeezing Miko's hand as they walk up the hill. A few minutes pass, and then they finally reach the top of the mountain.

"Okay, you can open your eyes."

"Finally." Miko murmurs before opening her eyes. And then surprise covers her face as she sees the sight in front of her eyes and the blanket and a basket on the floor. "You... you did this for me?"

Ei puts a hand to the back of her neck and looks at Miko with her cheeks beginning to blush. "Well, these weeks have been rough, and you're always the one that forces me out, so I thought it was my turn to take you to a nice place."

Also, Ei thinks there's nothing better than enjoying the view of Inazuma while talking to Miko about whatever. It sounds perfect. More than perfect.

Miko opens her mouth and shakes her head in disbelief. Then her look turns affectionate. "Thank you, this is a nice detail."

Ei looks away and clears her throat. "Well... let's sit down."

Miko nods and sits down. Ei settles next to her and rolls her neck to the side to find Miko staring at the sky. There is fascination in her eyes, a gleam of excitement, a discreet but excited smile painted on her lips. She looks alluring with her hair blowing in the wind and the light of the moon making her sparkle. It makes Ei's breath catch. Miko has always been beautiful, but right now bathed in the moonlight she looks *really* beautiful.

Ei hasn't even looked at the stars yet, but she's also not interesting in them when she has Miko in front of her.

It takes her back to when they used to always visit Chinju forest just to lie down and see the stars along with the fluorescent flowers around them. Miko has always been a distraction because Ei can't remember ever looking at the stars on none of those nights out.

Ei shakes her head, snapping out of her trance when she feels Miko shivering besides her. "Are you cold?"

Miko gives her a shy look. "A little."

"I have a blanket, let me get it—" Ei moves to get the blanket out of her basket, but Miko stops her, grabbing her by her wrist.

"A blanket sounds nice, but right now I'd rather you hug me." Miko admits under her breath, and there is that tone of voice; soft and tender. Ei starts wanting to listen to it all the time. Another thing she's getting addicted to.

"Oh, fine."

Miko waits expectantly for her to do something, and Ei finally moves to her side, sitting close to her. Miko slides between her legs and settles on her lap, head falling to rest on her shoulder and her hot breath against her neck. Ei wraps her arms around her and Miko's warm body presses against her.

They fall into a silent again, the kind of comfortable silence they are used to.

The moment feels different from usual, more important, more intimate. It's so warm that Ei forgets about the cold of winter. Her chest feels tight, and she tries to control the butterflies inside her, tries to slow her breathing.

In moments like these, she thinks they've always been meant to fit together so perfectly like this. With no space between them, just physical contact and comfortable silence.

It feels familiar and easy.

Sometimes Ei feels like Miko is the most important thing she has. *No*. Miko is definitely the most important thing in her life. Imagining being without her is painful and brings back bad memories and fears still latent. Ei doesn't want to lose the only important person she has, she doesn't want to lose Miko, not after spending so much time without her and finally having her like this.

Gods, after so long she finally feels at peace, a little bit at least. After so long, she can finally feel *happy* and Miko is the one who makes her feel like that. Miko is the cause of her mornings smiles and her constant laughs and all the good feelings she feels.

Miko is definitely special, so fucking special that sometimes it hurts.

Ei closes her eyes and decides to get distracted resting her head against Miko's chest, lips pressed to Miko's bare skin. Her fingers tangle in Miko's soft hair and her other hand explores Miko's back. She presses her forehead against Miko's neck, feeling her soft skin, so soft that Ei doesn't even think when she moves the fabric aside and kisses Miko's ribs and then the tender part of her breast, over her heart.

"Didn't we come to enjoy the view, or was there a sudden change of plans?" Miko asks in a purr, gasping for breath as Ei's hands caress her hips as she leaves kisses along her neck.

"Can't I enjoy you too?" Ei murmurs against her skin before raising her head and looking at Miko through the moonlight.

Miko shakes her head gently and brushes Ei's bangs away from her forehead with her fingers. She lets her hands slide down Ei's face to rest on her cheeks.

"You sure your idea wasn't to fuck me under the stars from the start?" Miko scoffs softly, her thumb under Ei's chin.

Ei doesn't answer. She just stares at Miko for a few long seconds because she actually doesn't want to see anything but Miko right now. She gets stuck—glued to Miko's eyes, to her mouth, to all of her.

Gods.

She really wants to kiss Miko right now. She always wants to kiss Miko but right now she *really* wants to kiss her, her bones are aching for it.

Miko licks her lips; her faces are so close that her foreheads barely touch. "What are you waiting for?" she mutters as if she knows she's going through Ei's head.

Ei swallows thickly, but doesn't expect anything else to close the gap between them, joining her lips. She presses her lips over Miko's more squarely this time. Miko's hand comes up and cups Ei's cheek, and Ei presses her lips over Miko's a third time, gentle and slow.

Ei parts her lips with a shuddery breath, and Miko smiles against her lips. Her hands hold Miko on her lap as she kisses Miko softly, slowly, taking the time to breathe against her mouth and leave small kisses on her lips. Then, she lightly bites Miko's lip before she starts trailing kisses down Miko's cheeks, her chin, her nose. She kisses the edge of Miko's jaw, hearing her breathe out as she tilts her head to the side to welcome more. Ei kisses around the lobe of her ear, pulling on the damp, soft skin.

"You make me want to kiss you all the time," Ei confesses and drops a wet kiss to the corner of Miko's mouth, feeling her heart clench again, it's a tender, comfortable ache. "I can't seem to get enough of you."

Miko takes a shaky breath, and it seems like she chokes on her words for a moment, until she seals her mouth in a deep kiss before the words can twist around her tongue again. Ei wasn't expecting an answer anyway. God, she doesn't even know why she said all that, but this is surely better than some words.

Ei is dizzy before she knows it, drowning in the taste, the heat, the smooth glide of Miko's mouth over hers. It's overwhelming. She doesn't know what to do. She feels lost for a moment, struggling to find her way back with her hands splayed on Miko's skin, her hips rolling, her body already reacting to the thigh slipping between her legs.

Ei separates from Miko to breathe. "I can't believe you're distracting me from all the stars," she laughs incredulously. The view is really beautiful here, and all she can see is Miko.

"Shut up," Miko murmurs against her mouth, her cheeks flushed and her breathing quickened. "You started this."

"You're right." Ei murmurs.

Miko huffs out and slides off her lap. "Seriously, the view is beautiful. What are we doing? Let's watch the stars."

"Oh, yes. You're right." Ei agrees and rolls slowly to Miko's side again.

Watch the stars, Ei tells herself.

A minute passes before Ei's self-control vanishes and she turns her gaze to her side.

Miko has her eyes on the stars again, and she looks like a mess right now— her chest is heaving up and down trying to regulate her breathing, her neck is full of reddish wet marks, the collar of her kimono is open revealing more marks and her cheeks are tinted pink. Miko looks like the epitome of rakish and beautiful, and Ei just stares at her for a while, wishing she could tattoo this image on her memory forever.

"You're staring. You look creepy," Miko comments with a quiet laugh, only moving her eyes to meet Ei's. Then, she pats the blanket next to her. "Come."

"I'm not creepy." Ei refutes with a snort as she slides in next to Miko.

Miko smiles softly and nuzzles her face into Ei's ribs, sliding closer to her. She runs her hand up Ei's sleeve to feel the skin on her forearm. Her fingertips on Ei's goosebumps.

"It's a shame it's cold, I'd like to take off your clothes and see how your skin shines in the moonlight." Miko comments in a playful tone.

"Maybe when spring comes, you can do it." Ei replies, letting Miko's fingers warm her cold arms.

"In spring?" Miko asks softly with the entire universe lit up above them, her full weight presses into Ei's chest.

Ei frowns and feels her heart sink when the realization comes. Right, she was going to help Miko during her heat. After winter it's over and Miko doesn't need her anymore, all this kind of moments—the sex, the kisses, the morning together— everything is going to end.

"Oh, right." Ei lets out a nervous laugh. "I mean, you can still touch me when your heat is over. Nothing is supposed to change, right? I promised it."

Ei remembers it. She promised it. Things aren't supposed to change after Miko's heat is over.

What does that even mean? That means they're going to come back to be like they were before? Like just friends. Or that means they can still act this way, almost like lovers?

The lines are getting blurrier and Ei feels like she's about to lose her mind.

Miko stays like that for a moment, paused with her hand on Ei's arm. She's wavering, but they both are. Maybe this is the new version of their push and pull.

"Right." Miko says, and Ei can tell she's trying particularly hard to make sure her voice stays calm.

"Things aren't supposed to change, right?" Ei asks again, and it sounds too desperate. She hates to sound like that, almost asking for something— maybe for another answer. "That's what you asked me when this thing started."

A part of Ei wants Miko to tell her it's okay if things change. Something that will reassure her.

But Miko just laughs. She laughs like Ei is being silly, like she should have nothing to worry about. It sounds fake and hollow, like everything that Miko isn't.

"Don't worry. I've done this countless winters with countless people. Believe me, things aren't going to change. We are going to be fine." Miko smiles at her, and Ei feels like everything about this is wrong.

Everything is already fucked up. Complicated.

Ei is feeling a lot of things right now. Jealousy. Frustration. And a lot of anger with herself because even right now words can't come out of her mouth. But above all, an inexplicable anger with Miko because Ei hasn't been the first one to Miko and she probably won't be the last.

This is ridiculous. It's ridiculous how Miko can manage to have Ei's heart rattling in her chest like her ribs are a cage – dying to push past and break free. And it's even more ridiculous how it never happens, how she can never let her feelings get out completely.

Ei just laughs.

Tonight didn't turn out the way she hoped it would.

Chapter End Notes

i love y'all, see u in 2089 for that last chapter!!

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