### **Spinner Grows a Pair**

The lizardboy in front of him trembled.

"If you don't move out of the way, I'll cut you down too," Stain said. he didn't particularly want to kill Iguchi, but it was different if the boy was going to get in his way like this.

"I-I can't let you kill him," Spinner said, determinedly standing between Stain and his target.

He sighed, because he already asked nicely and now he had two targets. Well, it didn't make that much of a difference to him, ultimately. He sighed as he pulled out his dagger.

"I-I won't let you trample over Helmet's hard work." He shook his head hard, looking as though he was going to take himself out, "I won't."

The words echoed inside of Stain.

"...What do you mean?"

"B-because Helmet dragged him in," he stuttered out, but Stain couldn't help but feel a little impressed. To stand up in despite your fears becomes exponentially harder as someone becomes an adult. "And if Helmet worked that hard to keep him alive, isn't it because there's a reason for that? So I don't... I don't want that to be a waste."

And suddenly faced with the decision of being himself or being someone trustworthy to Helmet, Stain hesitated. He stared at Spinner, who looked at him, equal parts frightened and determined, and he gave a long sigh.

Indeed, the things that was most important to him would be contradicting to the person that he saved him. Regardless of what he choose, he would be a liar. However, it was a matter of lying to himself or lying to others. Faced with this decision, he made a choice.

Action or acceptance.

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"Jeez," Spinner sighed as he fell onto his bottom. Staring Stain down was intense on a bad day. His hands still trembled, even after the man left. He looked to the side, where Best Jeanist didn't even stir. "Man, must be nice. You know how many years I've lost to make sure "

### **Motto**