

CHAPTER 4

LUNCHTIME

Yash and Sunny were waiting in the canteen for Sunny's teammates to arrive.

The Power Theory building was located west of the central library, from where they had run off, evading the guards. The canteen, located to the south of the central library, was circular in shape and spacious enough to accommodate many students during lunch and free-time meals.

It was the first time visiting the canteen for both of them. They glanced around, noticing the steady stream of students entering as lunchtime began. Most of the newcomers seemed to be first-year students, as different years had staggered lunch schedules. However, the timings of two or three years overlapped, creating a bustling atmosphere. The canteen had a counter for grabbing meals, similar to the mess hall. Large elliptical tables with chairs scattered around provided ample seating.

"This place is pretty nice," Yash said, trying to take in everything at once.

"Yeah, it's not bad," Sunny replied.

Yash's attention was drawn to the many cute girls walking in, his eyes following their movements with interest. Sunny, on the other hand, seemed less focused on the girls. Instead, he was examining a fridge near the counter that stocked various nutritious drinks, mostly made from milk.

While Yash was enjoying the view, he heard a familiar voice, "Just stop ogling the girls, bro." It was Ram.

"Hey, what's up, buddy? How's the day been?" Yash asked, enjoying the moment.

"Nothing much, just finished a weapons class. How about you?" Ram replied.

“Had a Power Theory class and got into a bit of action on the way here,” Yash said with a laugh.

At that moment, Sunny returned with a bottle of some drink from the fridge. “Meet him, he’s Sunny, from our year,” Yash introduced Sunny to Ram.

“Hello bro, I’m Ram,” Ram said, extending a hand to Sunny.

“Hello, I’m Sunny,” Sunny replied, shaking hands.

“And meet them, guys,” Ram continued, “this is my team: Srushti and Levi.”

“Hello there!” Srushti and Levi greeted warmly.

Just then, Prathamesh entered with a boy and a girl. “Over here!” Sunny shouted, waving them over. Seeing Yash, Prathamesh waved as well, and they all came near Yash’s table.

Sunny introduced his teammates, “This is Kaustubh and she is Misa, my teammates,” he said, indicating the boy and girl who came with Prathamesh.

“And he is Prathamesh, my teammate,” Yash said, placing a hand on Prathamesh’s shoulder.

Everyone was getting familiar with each other when Gojo arrived, energetically, with a girl by his side, his arm around her waist. “Hello guys, you must be the friends of my teammates Yash and Prathamesh. I’m Gojo, the leader of our team. And meet Umiki, we just became friends,” Gojo announced in his usual exuberant manner.

Everyone exchanged glances, a bit taken aback by Gojo’s flamboyant entrance.

"So guys, I'm heading out now, see you later," Gojo said, waving as he walked off with Umiki.

"Yeah, and he's our third teammate," Yash whispered with a sigh, shaking his head slightly.

After the unexpected and slightly awkward encounter, everyone started laughing, the tension quickly dissipating. They shared stories, jokes, and got to know each other better, turning the lunchtime into a lively and enjoyable gathering.

This new circle of friends got off to a good start, each member bringing their unique attributes to the group. Yash, with his funny and slightly childish demeanor, hadn't shown his full personality yet. Prathamesh was kind-hearted and always ready to help, embodying a genuine warmth. Sunny, calm and mature, displayed strength and boldness when necessary.

Kaustubh, tall and handsome with a fair complexion, had a friendly and calm nature that made him a perfect match as Sunny's teammate. Ram, on the other hand, was a big, muscular guy with an aggressive streak, but his playful nature made him approachable and fun to be around. Levi was quiet and slightly shorter but toned, exuding an air of trustworthiness despite his reserved demeanor.

Then there were the two girls, Srushti and Misa. Srushti was short and cute, with a very friendly and loud personality. She was kind, playful, and mischievous, often cracking jokes and teasing their new friends, bringing a lively energy to the group. Misa, a few inches taller than Srushti, had a quieter demeanor but still exuded playfulness and a happy disposition. Though she might not have been as outwardly cute as Srushti, her actions had a subtle charm that particularly caught Yash's attention.

As they were just about to finish up their lunch, they heard a voice, "Oh, looks like the new kids formed a solid circle pretty quickly." It was Vedant, accompanied by Utkarsh and Mikasa, who had just entered the canteen for lunch.

"Oh, hello!" Yash called out, standing to greet them. "Guys, these are our seniors from the hostel: Vedant, Utkarsh, and Mikasa," he said, gesturing towards them.

"Hello, everyone!" the group chorused, greeting the seniors with respect.

Vedant smiled, "Nice to meet you all. It's great to see you've already made friends."

Utkarsh nodded, adding, "Consider us part of your circle too. If you ever need anything, don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to help."

Mikasa gave a small nod and a smile, her presence quiet but reassuring.

"Thank you! We appreciate it," Sunny said, speaking for the group.

"Alright then, enjoy your lunch. We'll see you around," Vedant said, giving a friendly wave as the trio moved on to find their own seats.

With this, three new members were welcomed into the circle. Tall and fair, Utkarsh was mature, practical, and friendly, always ready with sound advice. Vedant, equally tall and slightly toned, brought energy and humor to the group with his lively and funny nature. Lastly, Mikasa, though quiet and reserved, exuded kindness and a willingness to help, making her presence a reassuring addition to the team.

Friend circle:

- Yash, Prathamesh, Gojo
 - Sunny, Kaustubh, Misa
 - Ram, Srushti, Levi
 - Utkarsh, Vedant, Mikasa (one year ups)
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As the playful lunch hour drew to a close, everyone wrapped up their meals and headed off to complete their remaining schedules. The bustling canteen gradually emptied, leaving behind the echo of laughter and new friendships.

The rest of the day passed smoothly, with each student attending their respective lectures and absorbing the day's lessons. As the sun began to set, casting a warm glow over the campus, Yash and his friends reconvened in their hostel.

"That was an amazing first day," Yash said, a satisfied smile on his face as they entered their room.

"Yeah, we made some great friends," Prathamesh agreed, stretching his arms after the long day.

"Definitely a day to remember," Yash whispered, feeling a sense of excitement for the days to come.