

The Bet

Or such a thing called Love

Von mie-van-cha

Kapitel 10: Chapter 10

"Oy, Tegoshi! We're gonna be late!" Ryo knocked on the bathroom-door.

"Go ahead." Was the dimmed answer, a scratchy un-tesshi-like voice.

"Are you okay?"

Silence.

Ryo sighed. He could have slapped himself for blabbing out his confession without considering his position and situation. He so wished to take it back, but words can't be made unspoken. He wished he could at least apologize but he wouldn't be sincere when he would say he was sorry. And anyway, sorry for what? For loving him? Never. For saying out loud? He would have done so sooner or later anyway.

"Come on, Tegoshi." He said and knocked again. "You can't stay in there forever. And you will see me downstairs at the latest. No matter what, you can't escape." Ryo thought for a moment. "Sorry, I didn't mean to scare you." He added and made a grimace. If he would be Tegoshi he would definitely be scared right now. "Ne...Are you listening?"

Again there was a big silence before there came a low "Yes..."

Ryo sighed, then he cleared his throat: "Do you need some time?"

"Think so."

"Shall I really go ahead?"

"Yes, please."

"Are you okay?" Ryo asked again and this time Tegoshi answered. "I hope so."

This wasn't the thing Ryo hoped for either. "If you need something I'll be there, ne...Though I'm probably the person you want to be there for you the least." Then he

turned around and wanted to leave, but the sound of a door clicking made him stop. He whirled around to see if Tegoshi would come out after all, but the door was just opened a little crack. "Don't get me wrong" Tegoshi's voice was nearly a whisper. "I don't hate you or something like that. And I won't avoid you. I just need a moment for me to get over it, okay?" Ryo nodded till he realized that Tegoshi couldn't see it. "Yes, I understand."

"Thanks..."

"I am the one who should say that." And with that Ryo left the room to give Tegoshi the time he needed.

"You're so different today." Yamapi said and Tegoshi looked up. They were driving in the van to the airport for the next location of their concert tour, sitting in the same order as two days before. Koyama was listening to music, Shige, Ryo and Massu in the front-row were playing cards. Tegoshi sat next to Yamapi and hasn't lost a word till now. He seemed so far away with his mind, and when his eyes met Yamapi's it looked like they needed a second to find back the way into the van. "Are you okay?" Yamapi asked with a little worry in his voice.

Tegoshi thought for a moment, struggling with him whether he should say the truth or not, and then he sighed. "I'm not sure..." he admitted. With a distressed gate he tousled through his hair.

"Headache?"

"A bit."

"You often have one recently."

"How do you know?" Tegoshi asked. Yamapi chuckled gently. "It's not hard to tell with your open-hearted baby-face." He answered and poked Tegoshi's nose. "It's nothing easier than reading you facial expression."

"What do you read now?" Tegoshi wanted to know since he didn't know himself how he really felt.

"Problems. Something's troubling you."

Tegoshi's eyes went down. With a deep sigh he fold his hands in his lap.

"You don't need to tell me if you don't want to." Yamapi said insightfully and smiled gently. Tegoshi lifted his head to look into his friendly face. "I think I need to tell it somebody." He answered quietly and threw a nervous gaze to the front-row, but the guys were still completely attracted by their game. Ryo grinned happily when he won and made a peace-sign, winking at Koyama.

"Shige lost." Tegoshi whispered and smiled a bit. It felt good to smile. These guys could always rise up his mood. "Probably because of Ryo-chan, ne~"

"Yeah, he's such a sleeky cheater-kid when it comes to scoring Shige off." Yamapi replied. "I hope they don't play about stripping or something like that again."

"Are you worried we'll have to endure a half-naked Shige again?" Tegoshi asked with amusement and Yamapi chuckled. "Yeah, I'm fearing he will get used to it. Next concert tour he will demand that his striptease becomes a regular. If that's gonna happen I will stand up as the leader first time, I swear. Haha..." Yamapi stopped laughing and looked down at Tegoshi, who was back to his previous self. "Ah~" he sighed and tousled through the younger ones soft hair. "Don't be so gloomy. It makes me sad, Tesshi."

"I'm sorry, Yamashita-kun."

"Pi-chan."

"Pi-chan?"

"I'm Pi-chan for you. Did you forget?" With his gentle dark eyes he fixed Tegoshi's worried face. "Are you gonna tell me what troubles you?" he asked innocently and with an utterly peacefully voice.

Tegoshi sighed. "I don't know whether your are the right person to talk to about that..." he admitted and blushed a bit.

"Why?"

"Personal matter..?"

"Mmmh..."

"Don't get me wrong. I won't mean it in a bad way."

"It's okay. You have your reason. Everyone has."

"Maah~" Tegoshi let out a whiny whim. "You're always so understanding and nice."

"Sounds full of reproach..." Yamapi said with a little pout.

"You don't make it easier for me that way."

"What easier? I can't follow you."

"Ryo..."

"What did Ryo do to you?" Yamapi suddenly sounded angry and looked as if he was in his Kurosagi-Role again.

"He did nothing to me." Tegoshi tried to calm Yamapi down. "Not directly. He just...said...said that he loves me...?" He couldn't prevent that it turned out in a question. "I'm not sure how he meant it."

"What do you think how he meant it?"

"I said I don't know, deshou? That's why I am so confused..."

Yamapi looked down at Tegoshi who was despondent and let out a deep sigh again. You can fill a whole CD with the sighs he let out the last few days...Yamapi thought ironically and he said: "And how do you feel about it?"

"About what?"

"His confession."

"If I would know that I wouldn't be so confused. It somehow – well, I think it's the wrong word, but it makes me happy." Yamapi stopped breathing. "But on the other hand...I already have one I love..."

Yamapi couldn't help but gasping. "You do?" he asked with a deep shock in his voice. He already thought that Ryo was a hard concurrent. But another one? He felt panic slowly rising up within him.

"I do..." Tegoshi blushed, half of his face hidden by his fluffy soft hair. Yamapi feared the question, but he had to ask though: "Who?"