

Forgotten memory

“A memory long forgotten comes back to haunt me”

A light novel
By Karim Ahmed

Chapter 1 : An incredible encounter with an angel

My name is Kyoku Boukyaku, I am a first year in highschool. People say that your teen years are the most colorful times of your life but unfortunately for me I can hardly say that there is any color in my life. My life is just empty. I am but a husk of my old self.

People say that everyone has a purpose in life and they need to find it, I see that that's far from the truth because I have been searching for my purpose for so long yet I haven't found a single clue to what my purpose in life really is. Maybe my old self had a purpose but I can no longer remember what that was.

“Kyokuuuuuu!”

As I opened the door of my house and stepped out to head to school I heard a familiar voice yelling my name from behind me, and before even trying to look behind me to see who was yelling my name I knew that the one yelling was none other than my best friend Akira Kojima.

“Hi Akira”

“Did you watch the Yakuza band's concert yesterday, it was breathtaking!”

“No I didn't”

“Why not ? there music is incredible”

“I am not really interested in music”

“You are really odd Kyoku I don't think that there is anyone in our grade that doesn't like any type of music”

“What is so odd abo-”

“Akiraaaa!”

The voice of a girl yelling Akira's name stopped me in the middle of my sentence, she was Ami Kinoshita from class 1-B. She is in Akira's class and she is also Akira's girlfriend. I don't think that I could call her a friend. She is more of an acquaintance.

“Hi Ami”

“Akira it’s been way too long”

“Ami it has hardly been a day since the last time we saw each other”

“One day is a day too long”

Ami’s name is actually quite an interesting name, I had read recently that it comes from french origin and that it means friend in french, wait since when did I become interested in etymology.

“Oh I didn’t see there, hi Boukyaku”

It is more like you didn’t pay attention to me but that is okay I don’t really care

“Yeah sure hi”

“So Akira are you free this Saturday”

“What’s that? Are you asking Akira out on a date, Ami ?”

Another one of their friends showed up, her name was Chika Tamura and she was in class 1-B with Akira and Kinoshita , but she seems to be having a blast teasing Kinoshita.

“I am Sorry but I actually have plans this Saturday”

“Really ? With who?”

“I am actually going to a karaoke place with Kyoku”

What ? Since when ?

“Can I come? please”

“Can I come too?”

“What about Kyoku do you mind them coming?”

Why is he taking my permission? Either way I don’t care.

“Sure they can come”

“Thanks”

“Thanks a lot Boukyaku”

Why are they both thanking me? It's not like I could have said no even if I wanted to, I would have looked like a jerk if I did that, not that I care about people's perception of me.

As we were nearing school Akira started walking beside me and he approached me and whispered something into my ear “Kyoku you better study up on some songs”.

So that was his plan from the beginning. It isn't actually a bad plan and it would've worked if he was dealing with someone other than me unfortunately for him I don't plan on wasting a second of my time with memorising songs. I'll just tell them that I can't go, problem solved.

As we finally reached school Ami Kinoshita asked “So guys does anyone of you know why this highschool was named Sakura Highschool”

“No”

“I actually never thought about that”

What kind of question is that why would anyone waste their time on a subject as stupid as this, it's not like it matters to me I am practically a stranger standing with a group of friends I don't think that I could exactly say that I am included in this stupid conversation.

“Boukyaku do you know the answer to my question ? I bet you do”

“No I don't know the answer”

“Really ? but you look so smart”

I hate people who make prejudice assumptions that are not based on any kind of fact or logical factor.

“Yeah Kyoku is actually really smart!”

Akira could you please stop giving them the wrong idea about me, you know that I am not that smart.

“Boukyaku could you please try and guess the answer”

I really don't want to waste my time on a matter as trivial as this.

“I really don't know the answer to your question”

“Please just try and guess”

It doesn't seem that she'll be satisfied with I don't know as an answer; she'll just keep asking me. This is such a pain, I'll just have to guess the answer. What could be a logical answer for this question ? maybe there's sakura in the school's name because the person who built it liked sakura's or maybe it's the name of someone important. No, all of these answers aren't based on any logical factor.

As I raised my head up to look at the sky I saw the petals of a sakura flying in the air, they looked so beautiful, and suddenly I knew the answer for her question.

“Could it be that there's sakura in the name of this school because the Nara prefecture has a lot of sakuras”

“That's a really good guess Boukyaku, I am impressed”

“So Ami what's the right answer” Akira asked

“Huh! I don't know”

What ? She asked a question that she didn't know the answer for. What kind of idiot does that ?

“Hahahaha!”

In a normal situation stupidity would be faced with judgment and criticism but in Modern society if a cute girl says something stupid it's faced with laughter and humor, this is truly stupid.

Finally I've reached my destination after such an exhausting start to my day. I'm very glad that I will be able to sit at my desk at the back of the class and enjoy some relaxing time before that class starts.

my first class was math, it was honestly really boring but I knew that as long as I concentrated in class I wouldn't have to study that much at home which is why I try to concentrate in most classes, but today I don't know why my mind was blurry and I couldn't concentrate at all on what the teacher was saying, so I started sketching in some pieces of paper.

As lunch time was about to begin a strong breeze of wind came through the open window beside my desk and all of my sketches went flying all over the floor, as I quickly started picking them up of the floor I saw a hand reach to the floor to pick them up with me as I looked up word I saw a beautiful girl surrounded by the sakura petals that were carried by the wind, and as the wind coming from the window blowed her hair she looked even more beautiful, then she said "incredible you're drawings look really good" as she was holding my sketch in her hand.

For a second there I saw a lot of vibrant colors pour into my life it felt amazing it was a feeling that felt familiar but at the same time it felt so new, but that feeling was followed by a feeling of pain in my chest and a glimpse of the past that I had long forgotten after that I woke up in the infirmary room and there she was the girl that brought color into my life for the first time in a long time even if it was just for a second.

"What happened?" I immediately asked her

"You suddenly started crying and then blacked out in class"

I froze still in my place. I didn't know how to react to what she just said.

"Are you serious?"

"Yes I am a hundred percent serious"

"Did I do anything else before I blacked out?"

"No"

"Are you sure that I didn't do anything at all other than crying?"

“Yes I am a hundred percent sure that you didn’t do anything else”

I am still unable to comprehend what had happened to me. I suddenly realised that I am yet to ask for her name.

“Oh I am sorry I didn’t ask for your name yet”

“Seriously, we’ve been together in class 1-A for almost two months now, how could you not know my name?!” she told me that as she directed her sight away from me and gave me her back

“I am really really really sorry, could you please forgive me?”

This is so frickin awkward I probably should have asked someone else for her name.

“Heehaa” she sighed as she redirected her sights towards my face “I will forgive you this time, my name is Hayami Matsui and don’t you dare forget it”

“You bet I won’t”

As I looked at the clock that placed above the door of the infirmary I realised that the school day was almost over. Alright I’ve decided I am going to take my chances and ask her if she would want to walk home with me, I want to see those colors again even if it is just for a little bit.

“Would you like to walk home with me?”

“I am sorry but I have work to do today I can’t”

“No that is okay” I said that but the truth is that her rejection actually made me feel kind of sad.

“So where do you work?”

“I work in bakery near the school”

“What’s it’s name maybe I’ll drop by sometime”

“It’s name is Sakura Bakery, and our Melonpan is our specialty it’s a hundred percent more delicious than any other Melonpan I ever tasted”

“I will be sure to try it”

“Okay I’ll be leaving now bye”

“Yeah sure bye”

As she left and closed the infirmary door behind her I started thinking about what had happened to me today it doesn’t make any sense why would I just start crying and then blackout and what was that old memory that I saw while blacking out I can’t remember what it was not even a single detail about. This incident is really weird. Anyway I better start heading home now.

As I walked out of the school building and looked to my right I saw Akira in his soccer practise so I waved and started heading home.

While walking home and observing the clouds roaming freely in the sky I began thinking about what had happened to day could that memory that I saw of been the cause of me crying and blacking out but what kind of memory could do that and what made me even remember it in the first place I have a lot of unanswered questions and I have no way of answering them. But at least today something incredible happened to me. I was able to see the color in life for the first time in a long time even if it was just for a second. I will work hard so that I can see those colors again now that I know that I am capable of seeing them.

The next day as I was walking in the hall going to my first class a girl approached me and asked me as she giggled “aren’t you the crazy first year that blacked out yesterday in class?”

Of course everyone is going to be talking about yesterday's incident. Why did I even consider that everyone will just disregard what had happened yesterday ?

“Yes” I replied to her question quickly so that I could get into class before being approached by anyone else

As soon as I entered the classroom everyone started chanting “Crazy Boukyaku! Crazy Boukyaku! Crazy Boukyaku! Crazy Boukyaku!”

I decided to not say anything and to just go sit on my desk.

While I was waiting for class to start Akira entered the classroom and he immediately headed my way and asked me “Hey Kyoku are you okay? What happened yesterday ?”

“I honestly have nearly no recollection of what happened everything that I remember is really vague”

“Are you better now”

“Yeah I am okay”

“Alright I am going to go to my class now see you later”

After enduring through the first couple of periods lunchtime had finally come and I was prepared to eat in a quiet and relaxing spot and enjoy a delicious lunch. But just as I was getting out of class to find a quiet place to eat Hayami Matsui grabbed my arm but she instantly let go of it and said “Sorry!”

So I replied “No it’s okay you don’t have to be sorry. So what did you wan-”

“Kyoku, how unusual” Akira stopped me as I was about to ask Hayami Matsui about what she wanted from me.

“What’s unusual”

“Nothing, it’s just that I don’t normally see you talking to a girl by yourself. is there something going on between you two?”

I didn’t really care about Akira’s dumb joke but as I looked to Hayami Matsui I felt that his joke made her uncomfortable, not that I care, but honestly Akira’s jokes are sometimes too much.

“Will you ever stop with your dumb jokes Akira”

“Sorry”

As I looked back at Hayami Matsui I felt that the uncomfort that she was feeling was gone.

“Akiraaa! Where have you been? I’ve been looking for you, let’s go eat lunch together”
Ami Kinoshita yelled as she barged into my class

“Yeah sure let’s go. Hey Kyoku and Matsui, would you like to come eat lunch with us?”

“I would love to!” Hayami Matsui quickly replied

As they all went out of class to eat lunch to who knows where I was going to go eat lunch alone in a quiet and relaxing place but as I tried to go in the opposite direction that the group was going in in hopes to find a quiet place Hayami Matsui grabbed my arm and practically dragged me to come with them.

“Hey guys where are you going” I asked

“Were going to the roof it’s the best place to eat lunch”

“But isn’t that against the school policies”

“Well yeah technically but who cares if we don’t get caught then there’s nothing wrong”

I am not sure that I agree with that statement, and why are we going through this much trouble just to eat lunch? That’s why I like to eat my lunches solo.

“Were finally here”

“And how are you going to unlock the door to the roof genius”

“That’s easy, I am a pro at this” Akira replied proudly as he grabbed a tool picking lock from his pocket

I can’t really say that picking locks is a skill that you should be proud of.

“Akira do you even know how to open locks using that tool”

“Actually I don’t, but it doesn’t seem that hard”

I should’ve expected him to say something as stupid as that

He’s been trying to open the door for five minutes now. I don’t think that he’ll be able to open it, I just want to eat lunch.

“Why don’t we just get back to class to eat lunch”

“Boukyaku were almost there I am positive that Akira will be able to open the lock”

“I actually want to try eating lunch on the roof so I’ll stick a little longer”

It doesn’t seem that anyone of them is going to give up on eating lunch on the roof, this is such a pain.

“Akira can you give me the tension wrench”

“What, what’s a tension wrench”

What kind of idiot buys a tool and doesn’t even know it’s name, I should’ve figured that he’d say something as stupid as this, I hate stupidity, actually hate isn’t a strong enough word I despise stupidity.

“Akira it’s the tool that you’re holding”

“Oh! So this is a tension wrench,huh”

How could he say that with such a straight face doesn’t he feel embarrassed at all that he doesn’t know the name of the tool he’s using, anyway I don’t care.

“Yes this is a tension wrench, can you give to me so that we could finally eat lunch”

“Yeah sure, but do you know how to use it ? it’s a pretty complicated tool you know”

How could he be so confident while saying that he literally bought a tool and didn’t even bother to know it’s name.

“Yes I am sure, there was a time in my life where I was interested in things like this”

“Really, Boukyaku there was a time in your where you were interested in burglary”

where did she get that idea from? I didn’t mean that I was interested in burglary. I just happened to try and learn how to open locks once because I couldn’t open my house's lock and I had forgotten the key.

“No, it’s nothing like that”

“So why do you know how to open locks”

“It is a long story”

I don’t have the energy to tell her about my entire life story, and I am really hungry. I just want to eat lunch. So I quickly took the tool from Akira and I opened the door lock so that I could finally eat my lunch.

“Wow the door actually opened”

“Great job Boukyaku”

It’s really nothing I didn’t do much, I just opened the door to the roof, I didn’t do some kind of heroic act to be praised for, it’s actually on the contrary I shouldn’t be praised for doing things against school policies I should be scolded.

“Boukyaku you’re incredible” As Hayami Matsui praised me, something inside me just moved. I felt as if my heart was going to explode, the adrenaline levels in my blood were getting as high as they could possibly go.

“Guys let’s hurry lunch is about to end”

“Akira you’re right we don’t have much time left”

I won’t have enough time to enjoy my lunch, group lunches are such a pain.

As everyone opened their lunch boxes to start eating I tried taking a glimpse of what everyone brought to lunch.

“So what did you guys bring to lunch, I have some onigiri”

“Akira can I have one”

“Sure you can”

“Can you feed it to me”

“Ami stop being a weirdo”

It's good to know that I am not the only one who thinks Ami is a little bit weird.

"No fair"

"So Hayami and Kyoku what did you bring"

"I brought a bento"

"Oh! I brought a bento too"

"So what's in your bento's"

As we opened our bentos I looked at Hayami Matsui's bento, and it looked exactly like my bento. It seems that we had bought them from the same store, but the store that I bought this bento from is so close to my home. Could it be that we were actually neighbours ? should I ask her ?

"Your bento's look great"

It seems that no one came to the conclusion I had, that me and Hayami Matsui could be neighbours, it doesn't matter anyway, even if she's my neighbour it doesn't affect me in any way.

The school bell rang and lunch was over, now we should start heading to class, but as we were leaving the roof, Hayami Matsui grabbed my hand and whispered into my ears "it seems that we're neighbours". So I wasn't the only one to come to this conclusion that's good to know.

The school day finally ended and I was preparing my stuff so that I could head home. As I was getting out of class I took a glimpse to my left and I saw Hayami Matsui she was walking alone so I went to her and asked "Hey Matsui Me, Akira, Kinoshita and Tamura are going to a karaoke place this saturday would you like to come with us?"

"Yeah sure!" she replied eagerly

Chapter 2 : First team meet up

It is Saturday morning and the time has come. I have been memorising songs for the past week. For this moment I will be sure to not embarrass myself in front of Hayami Matsui. We all decided to meet up in front of the train station and to head to the karaoke place from there.

I made sure to get there exactly on time but everyone is yet to show up. As I opened my phone to look at the time I heard the voice of Hayami Matsui saying my name “Boukyaku!” so I replied to her and said “Hi Matsui”

“So where’s everyone?” she asked

“Everyone is yet to show up”

Me and Hayami Matsui waited silently for someone else to show up for what seemed to be an eternity but after looking at my phone I realised that only five minutes had passed. This situation is extremely uncomfortable. I wish that I would of come a little later so that this awkward situation would of never happened.

“Hayamiiii!” the sound of Ami Kinoshita’s voice ricocheted off the light poles and after hearing it I sighed in relief because this awkward situation was finally over.

As I looked closer I realised that Akira was with Ami Kinoshita. That’s great now we only have one more person left so that we could get going.

“Let’s get going guys”

“We’re still waiting for Chika”

“She’s still not here, what a pain I am going to get a heatstroke if I wait any longer”

Considering that you came late yourself and don’t think that you are in any position to be complaining, that’s what I would like to say but I obviously can’t say that outloud.

As I looked into the distance I saw Chika Tamura approaching us we were finally all here and it was time to head to the karaoke place. We took a 15 minute train ride to reach the karaoke place and as soon as we were we got in and everyone started singing.

“Guys how about each one of us bets on who is the best singer between all of us, and then we will all take turns to sing a song of our choice and we’ll finally vote on who had the best voice” Akira proposed

“Yeah sure why not”

“So Ami who are you going to bet on”

“I am obviously going to bet on you Akira. So are you going to bet on me Akira?”

“No”

“Why not?”

“I heard your singing before it’s terrible” Akira replied bluntly

“You’re a meany Akira”

“I am just saying the truth”

“So then who are you going to bet on?”

“I will bet on my good friend Kyoku”

“Seriously?! He doesn’t seem that good at singing”

“Kyoku is one hell of a singer his voice is incredible I reassure you”

“Really?!” Matsui said in surprise

“I don’t think that I could believe that”

I quickly grabbed Akira and whispered into his ear “what are you doing?”

“You better not let them down”

“Alright if Akira sais that you’re a good singer then I guess that I will bet on you instead of him” Kinoshita said with a little bit of anger in her voice

“I will bet on you too Boukyaku”

“I think that I will bet on Hayami” Tamura said

“So who will you bet on Kyoku?”

“I’ll bet on Matsui”

“Ok then that settles all the bets lets start singing”

“I’ll start first and I’ll prove you wrong Akira” Kinoshita said confidently

As Kinoshita started singing I realised that Akira was actually telling the truth for once and I accidentally blurted out “Akira wasn’t kidding when he said that her voice was terrible”

“Hahaha” everyone started laughing except Kinoshita who seemed really embarrassed

“I am really sorry I didn’t mean to say that out loud Kinoshita, you’re singing isn’t actually that bad”

“No, you don’t need to apologise Akira was right I am terrible at singing” As she said that I saw some tears in her eyes but Akira immediately said “Ami you might not be the best in singing but your great at many other things so you shouldn't let that bother your” he was capable of calming her down.

“Ok guys it’s my turn now to sing”

“Akira you’re singing is even worse than Ami’s”

“Chika that’s a bit harsh don’t you think”

“You made fun of Ami so you deserve it, now it’s my turn to sing”

Chika Tamura’s singing wasn’t as bad as Ami’s and Akira’s singing but it wasn;t great either but I guess that I am not in any position to critique there singing considering that I hardly know any song lyrics and that my singing will probably be as bad as there’s if not even worse.

“Kyoku, it’s your turn to sing”

“Yeah sure I’ll try”

Singing in front a group of people is more embarrassing than I could've ever imagined I guess that I can't run away now I am the one who decided to come so I might as well give it a shot, all the studying that I have done over the past week is for this very moment and I will use it to the fullest I'll put all of my soul into this song.

After finishing my song everyone started clapping and for a second there I thought that I was actually good at singing but then they all started laughing

"I didn't know people could be that bad at singing"

"Ami I don't think that you could call that singing"

"Yeah your right Chika it's too bad to be called singing"

"Akira didn't you say that Boukyaku was an incredible singer were you lying" He obviously was lying, after what you have all just witnessed I don't think that you need to ask this question it's clear that I am a terrible singer.

People say that songs bring color into their life but that has never been true in my case even now I don't think that any of the songs that we sang has given me a single glimpse of color maybe that's why my singing is so bad.

"Hey Hayami it's your turn"

"Okay I'll give it a hundred percent of my singing ability"

"Do your best"

As Hayami Matsui started singing everyone went into a state of silence everyone was mesmerized by her angelic voice her singing was incredible it was divine it felt like she was practising singing for a long time it was surprising I know that I betted on her but I didn't think that she was that good to be honest.

After the song ended everyone stayed silent for about 3 minutes trying to comprehend what they had just witnessed and then everyone including me started clapping but unlike my performance the clapping after her performance wasn't followed by laughter it was followed by a feeling of astonishment from all of us.

"How was my singing, was it good?"

“It was incredible!”

“Hayami you should really try pursuing being a professional singer your voice is amazing”

“Are you all serious I don’t think that my singing was actually that good”

“Yeah it was incredible!”

“Thanks a lot”

“It seems that Kyoku and Chika won on our bet”

“Yeah it seems so”

Hayami Matsui was capable of once more bringing color into my life, during her performance my life overflowed with color even the air seemed colorful she’s incredible I was genuinely happy but more than that there was a feeling that I was unfamiliar with overflowing my body I don’t what that feeling is but it feels great. The happiness that I feeling was followed by an unbearable pain in my chest and then I felt tears dripping from my eyes as In looked upward I saw that everyone's attention was on me and there expressions showed concern for me and exactly like the last time I blacked out after seeing the glimpse of an old memory.

I woke up in my bed in my house and all of them were sitting in my room, I lifted myself from my sleeping position on my bed and sat on the bed and I quickly asked them about what had happened “what happened to me”

“We don’t know you suddenly started crying and then you screamed and blacked out”

Was it because of that memory that I still can’t remember?

“Boukyaku are you okay now”

“Yes I am fine”

“This is the second time that this has happened to you don’t you have any clue on what could be the cause of this?”

“The only thing that I know is that before blacking out I see some kind of memories but when I wake up I can no longer remember it, so my theory is that this memory is somehow the cause of these incidents”

“Guys, how about we work as a team to figure out the cause of Kyoku’s incidents and help him solve it?”

“I’m i!”

“I am a hundred percent in!”

“Yeah I’ll join you”

“Then it’s settled were all going to help Kyoku solve his problem”

“How about we have our first meeting tomorrow in my house and discuss what were going to do to solve Boukyaku’s problem”

“I’m in”

“Yeah I am free tomorrow I can come”

“I am also free tomorrow so I’ll come”

“Thank you a lot everyone!”

“You don’t need to thank us Kyoku were your friends and friends help each other out”

“It’s getting late guys we better start heading home”

“Yeah I need to head home now”

“Me too”

“Alright bye Boukyaku”

“See you tomorrow Kyoku”

“Bye”

“Be sure to not be late tomorrow”

“Sure”

As everyone got out of my room and closed the door I sighed in relief that this exhausting day has finally got to an end.

Today is going to be our first team meetup to discuss my problem, it makes me happy that everyone is putting so much effort to help me but I hope that their effort doesn't go to waste and that they could actually help me solve my problem. Hayami Matsui's house is close to my house so I didn't have to wake up early and I am now walking to her house. Her house was about a ten minute walk from my house but I have finally reached it.

As I was about knock on the door of her house I thought of yesterday's awkward situation and I decided to wait on a nearby bench and text Akira if he has come or not so that I wouldn't have to deal with another awkward situation, Akira replied to my text and told that everyone has showed up and that they're waiting for me so I went to the door of Hayami Matsui's house and I knocked, she quickly opened the door and let me in and we headed to her room where everyone was sitting.

“Hi everyone”

“Hi”

“Good to see you”

“You showed up late Boukyaku” Chika Tamura said with a bit of anger in her voice

“Yeah sorry about that”

“Alright what will we discuss first?”

“I have an idea, Kyoku what about you tell us everything that you know about this problem and then will discuss what we should from there”

“Sure”

“Don't leave any details out”

Honestly it's a bit embarrassing talking about this problem with everyone but I owe them the truth considering all the effort that they're putting in to try and help me.

"Okay, in both of the incidents I had a good feeling inside me that made me feel happy and the involved Matsui but I honestly don't know what that feeling was, and then that feeling is followed by a pain in my chest and by me remembering a memory that I think could be the cause of me crying and then I blacked out"

"So what's the memory that you remember before blacking out?"

"I had forgotten after waking up in both incidents"

"Hmmm, this problem is really complicated"

"Okay let's put everything into context, it seems that the catalyst that causes you to remember that memory involves Hayami and an emotion that you can't identify but that makes you happy, and then that memory seems to be the cause of your problem"

"Correct"

"But can a memory really be capable of making someone black out?"

"Well it's our only clue so we don't much choice but to follow it"

"Guys I think that I have a good plan of action, first we're going to help Kyoku remember the memory that is causing this problem then we'll help him overcome that memory"

"Akira it's a good idea but I think that it's too vague to be called a plan of action"

"You're right Boukyaku your plan is way too vague Akira"

"For now Boukyaku why don't you try and look through your old things when you get home maybe something will help you remember this mysterious memory"

"Ok I'll be sure to look through my old things and if I find anything new that could help us solve this problem I will be sure to tell you guys immediately"

Someone knocked on the door and then Matsui said "come in" it was her mother and she was holding a tray that had on it some green tea and some cake, as she placed down the tray on the table we all thanked her and then she left the room.

I didn't eat breakfast today so I was really but I didn't want them to realise how hungry I am because it's embarrassing so I ate my piece of cake slowly it was really painful considering how hungry I was and how delicious the cake was I just wanted to stuff it in my face but I decided that it wasn't worth letting them laugh at me.

"This cake is delicious Hayami, did your mother make it?"

"No, I am actually the one who made it"

"Really that's amazing you're an incredible baker Hayami"

Considering that she bought a convenience store bento I didn't think that she would be good at cooking but damn I was wrong, really wrong her cake is absolutely delicious.

"I'll be leaving now" Chika Tamura said

"Okay, bye"

"I think that I'll be leaving as well there's nothing else that we could do now, we'll just have to wait until that Boukyaku searches through his old stuff and tries to remember that mysterious memory"

Akira approached me and whispered into my ear "Kyoku let's leave now, I think that I've figured out something about your problem but no one else should hear it"

"Sure" I replied quietly

"Okay Hayami me and Kyoku we'll be leaving now"

"Bye, see you later"

"Sure"

After leaving Matsui's house me and Akira headed to a nearby park.

"So what did you find out about my problem ? And why couldn't you say it in front of the others?"

"I think that I now what was the unknown emotion that you were feeling"

“Really, what is it?”

“It’s called love”

“Are you implying that I love Matsui”

“Yes I am, I sure that you love her”

“How could you be so certain”

“I’ve suspected that you loved her for a long time now”

“What gave you the impression that I love her?”

“The way you look at her makes it clear that you love her”

“To be honest I don’t what that kind of love feels like so even if I did love her I wouldn’t know”

“Then let me ask you this, does her being in your life give you a new meaning of life? Does she bring color to life?”

“Well yes but friends are also capable of bringing color into your life, so I might like but as a friend”

“Has anyone of your friends ever given you as much happiness as being with Hayami gave you?”

“Wel-” Akira cut me off before that I could reply and said “You don’t need to answer this question because I know that the answer is no I know that no one including me has ever made you as happy as being with Hayami at least not in a long time that is”

As much as I wanted to tell him that he was crazy and that I could never have this kind of love towards Matsui I felt that his words held some truth so I couldn’t neglect them.

“I just want you to think about it a little ask yourself if you love Hayami and when you come to a conclusion tell me”

“Sure”

“I’ll be heading home now, see you later”

“Sure, see you later”

As I walked back home I kept thinking about what Akira said. Could I really be in love with Matsui ? But why would feelings of love towards Matsui make me remember a painful memory ? Why would loving Matsui cause me so much pain ? It doesn’t make sense, but it’s true that Matsui has filled my life with color that I haven’t seen in a long time, I’ll to a conclusion for tomorrow and tell Akira about how I really feel towards Matsui he’s right I need to face my emotions head on to understand them.

Chapter 3 : Akira's sad past

The school day has ended and I decided to head to Akira's class to tell him the truth about my feelings for Matsui, the truth that I had just recently discovered, upon reaching his classroom I realised that he had already left so I decided to head home.

While walking home I texted Akira to tell him to meet me in the park at 8 PM so that I could tell him my response to his question.

It is 8 PM and I am sitting on a bench in the park waiting for Akira, and unlike everytime we decide to meet up this time he actually came on time.

"Hi Akira"

"So what's your answer?"

"It seems that you were right I love Matsui"

"I see, well it's good to see that you've confronted your feelings, alright I'll have to go now"

"Wait a second, I want you to help me find out if she feels the same way about me"

"I am sorry but I can't do that"

"Why can't you!" I said with a loud tone of voice

"I just can't" he replied quietly as he gave me his back and walked away

"Don't tell anyone about this, at least not yet" he waved back at to reassure me that he won't tell anyone and he left

As I walked back home from the park I thought to myself. What kind of reaction was that ? Why doesn't he want to help me ? but I couldn't find an answer that seemed logical. For now I will have to discover the relation between my love for Matsui and my problem.

That day I had a nightmare that made me wake up screaming, I couldn't remember anything that had happened in that nightmare but I had a feeling that it was because of that mysterious memory that haunts me, honestly it's incredible how a painful memory

that I can hardly remember could affect me this much it's incredible how much it could still cause me.

Today is a Saturday and I have nothing to do so I guess that I'll look through my old stuff. Maybe Matsui was right and I could find something that could help me remember that mysterious memory.

I went to the storage room on the first floor of my house, it was dark and dusty and had many old documents and objects, it was a total mess.

As I looked around I saw a box in the corner of the room that seemed familiar and sure enough when I opened it I found a lot of my old stuff which included my old journal that I had written when I was about 8 or 9 years old.

I took that journal to my room and I quickly opened it and something fell out of it, it was a photo and there was something written on it's back. I need to show this to the rest of the group. I think that this journal is going to help me a lot in solving my problem.

The next day as lunch started I quickly went to Matsui to tell her that I found something important that could help us solve my problem.

"Matsui"

"Yes Boukyaku"

"Yesterday as I was looking into my old stuff I found something important that could be the key to solving my problem"

"Really!" Matsui screamed in excitement

"Could we do a group meeting now to discuss?"

"Yeah sure I have nothing to do right now"

"let's head to class 1-B to Akira, Kinoshita and Tamura"

"Okay"

Me and Matsui headed quickly to Akira's class to tell them about the meeting.

“Guys Boukyaku has found something important that could help us solve his problem let’s all have a group meeting now”

“Sure I am in”

“Yeah let’s go”

“I am sorry guys but I am busy now I can’t come”

“Oh! That’s okay”

“I’ll be sure to tell you about what we discover today Akira” Kinoshita said

This was our first group meeting without Akira I am afraid that it’s going to be odd without Akira being here with me should I call it off”

“Let’s go Boukyaku” Matsui grabbed my hand and dragged me with them before that I could call the meeting off

As we were leaving class 1-B I looked behind and I made eye contact with Akira and i don’t know why but he seemed both angry and sad.

We all sat in a circular position and started our group meeting.

“So what did you find Boukyaku”

“Just wait a moment before taking I forgot to ask you something important in our last meeting but don’t you have any memories that you suspect of being the mysterious memory”

“I think that the mysterious memory was a memory of 9 year old me and unfortunately I can’t remember most of the things that happened in my life before the age of 11 years old”

“So anyway yesterday as I was looking through my old stuff I found my old journal that I had written when I was about 8 or 9, and it had this photo in it” I said that as I grabbed the photo from my pocket and showed it to everyone it was my class photo but I had ripped the face of someone of it.

“This seems to be a class photo”

“Yes”

“But why is the face of someone ripped from the photo”

“I don’t know”

I then showed them the back of the photo where something was written in english.

“Why is ‘regret love’ written on the back of the photo”

“I don’t now”

“This problem has a lot of unknown variables”

“The question now is who did the young you regret loving maybe that could give us a clue about the mysterious memory”

“I really don’t know”

“Are you in contact with anyone of the kids who are in this photo”

“Unfortunately no I haven’t contacted anyone of those kids since probably 6 years”

“We’ve hit another dead end”

“Hey did you black out anytime in the last week?”

“No I didn’t but I had a nightmare that I think involved that mysterious”

“This problem is hard”

“Yeah it’s hard but a hard problem is a hundred percent more interesting than an easy problem”

“Yeah I am with Hayami on this one his problem is super interesting it would make for an interesting plot a mysterious memory haunts a high school boy after him forgetting it for a long time”

“I guess that you are all right”

“Hahahaha” they all started laughing

Why do I feel like they are enjoying this a little too much?

As I was leaving the classroom as the school ended I saw Chika Tamura approaching me I thought that she wanted to get into the classroom so I moved to the side.

“What are you doing?”

“Don’t you want to go into the classroom?”

“No, I have something to ask you”

“What is it?”

“We can’t talk about it here, how about we go to the nearby park?”

“Yeah sure”

As me and Tamura walked to the nearby park I kept asking myself, what could she want to talk about?

“Alright were here what did you want to talk about?”

“Let’s sit on the bench first”

“Ok”

“Did you notice how Akira has been acting lately?”

Akira has been acting weird since I told him that I loved Matsui and I don’t know why, it’s so frustrating.

“Yes he’s been acting a little bit weird lately”

“Why do you think that is?”

“I don’t know”

Should I tell her that this sudden change happened right after I told him that I love Matsui ? No, I can't tell her that I love Matsui at least not yet it's too embarrassing

"Oh! by the way Akira told me about your conversation"

He told her but he had promised me that he wouldn't tell anyone! I'll have to talk to him later about this so he better have a good explanation.

"Okay, it seems that you know everything, after telling that I love Matsui Akira started acting weird"

"Really! By the way I didn't know anything you're the one who exposed yourself Akira didn't tell me a thing"

"You tricked me!"

"Yes I did"

Honestly Chika Tamura didn't seem like the intelligent type but it seems that I was wrong she was capable of tricking me into confessing.

"So you love Hayami huh!"

"Yes I do and what about it"

There's no use in denying it now she has already figured me out.

"Nothing I just didn't expect it"

"Alright then, after making me tell you about my last conversation with Akira do you have an idea on why Akira seems different lately?"

"Wait don't you know? Didn't he tell you?"

"Didn't he tell me what ?"

"Oh, never mind I thought that he would of at least told his best friend"

"Told me what?"

“If he didn’t tell you then it’s not my place to tell you go ask him yourself”

“Oh! You mean that, yeah, yeah he told me but can you help me remember?”

“That trick isn’t going to work on me”

“Damn”

“Alright then I’ll be going now”

“Hey did you seriously solve it, do you know why Akira is different lately?”

“Yes I do”

“Are you serious?”

“Yes I am”

“Then could you please tell me? Him changing has made me extremely frustrated I need to know why that is”

“If you want to know you’ll have to confront him yourself”

“Please, please I am begging you please tell me what has cause that sudden change in Akira”

“If you were smart then you would’ve already figured it out but considering that your stupid you’ll have to go ask him yourself”

“Thanks for nothing!” I yelled as I ran passed her and headed for my house

Tamura yelled from behind me and said “Hey I’ll give you a clue, the reason Akira changed is strongly related to a painful memory he had with Matsui” but I didn’t stop running and I didn’t face her.

Akira’s sudden change in behavior has been bothering me for the last couple of days and I still don’t know what is it’s cause I’ve thought of every possible solution but I still can’t come to a logical conclusion that would explain Akira’s sudden change. Tamura said that it had something to do with Matsui maybe I should go ask her, yes that’s what I am going to do exactly I’ll discover what was the painful memory that Akira had with

Matsui, knowing what that memory was will surely lead to uncovering the reason behind Akira's change.

It was lunch time so I took my chance and went to Matsui and asked her "Matsui could you please tell what painful memory did you have with Akira?"

"What!?" she said in surprise

"Tamura told me that Akira had a painful memory with you and I need to know what that painful memory was to discover the reason behind Akira's sudden change"

"Ok"

"Could you please tell me what that memory was?"

"I honestly don't know what you are talking about"

"Are sure?"

"I am a hundred percent sure"

Could Tamura have tricked me, yeah that's probably it.

"Okay, sorry for bothering you"

"No, you don't need to be sorry you didn't bother me at all"

I quickly retreated to my desk after that embarrassing encounter and I began eating my lunch. As I ate my lunch I kept thinking about what my next step would be and I decided that I was going to confront Tamura and ask her why she tricked me after school.

As soon as school ended I headed directly to class 1-B.

"Tamura we need to talk"

"Sure"

I then grabbed Tamura by her hand and dragged her out of class and out of school I then let go of her hand until we reached the park and sat on the same bench that we sat on the last time.

“What do you want?”

“Why did you trick me?”

“Trick you? What do you mean?”

“You told me that Akira had a painful memory with Matsui”

“Yes I did”

“Well when I asked Matsui about it she told me that nothing like that has ever happened”

“Really! You went and asked her I didn’t think that you were brave enough to go ask her directly” she said as she giggled

“This is no time for jokes I am serious Akira’s sudden change is really frustrating me I can’t concentrate on anything other then finding it’s cause”

“I didn’t lie”

“But when I asked Matsui she told me that she never had a painful incident with Akira”

“How could you be sure that Matsui isn’t lying?”

“ ... ”

“Why aren’t you talking? You are too fast in coming to conclusions, and your conclusions are nearly always wrong that’s why you can’t solve this problem if you don’t go and ask Akira directly, your not smart enough to solve it alone”

“I’ll show you I’ll prove to you that I am smart enough to solve this problem and I’ll solve it”

“If that’s everything I’ll be going now”

As she left I stayed sitting on the bench feeling stupid and frustrated.

I am sick of this, I am still unable to understand why Akira has changed, it seems that I don't have another choice. I'll have to go ask directly, I opened my phone and texted Akira to tell him to meet me at the park right now.

I went to the park and I sat on the bench and I waited, after 30 minutes Akira showed.

"Akira why have you been weird lately?"

"What do you mean?"

"You haven't been your normal self for the past two weeks"

"I don't know what you're talking about"

"Then let me ask you this, what is the painful memory that you had with Matsui?"

"Who told you about it?"

"It doesn't matter who told about it? Right now all that matters is that you tell me the reason for your sudden change in behavior I need to know"

"If that's all you have to say I'll be leaving now" Akira said that as he was preparing to leave

"Did you love Matsui?" I yelled

He immediately looked back to me and said "you're crazy why would I love Matsui?" he said that but the look on his face confirmed my suspicion.

"You don't need to lie I already know I am a sure that you loved Matsui and that you still have feelings for her and that's why you got upset when you knew that I loved her, isn't that right?"

"No it isn't" he screamed

"I know that that's the truth would you please confess already?"

"What you have just said is far from the truth, I never loved nor will I ever love Matsui again"

“Again! Huh it seems that your tongue slipped”

“Shit”

“Akira you don’t have to worry I understand your situation even if you once loved Matsui or even if you still love her now I’ll always be your friend so please tell me the truth”

After a moment of silence Akira finally said “Okay I’ll tell you the truth, the truth is that I did love Hayami before that I started dating Ami and I proposed to her but she rejected me”

“Oh, I am really sorry I didn’t know”

“You have nothing to be sorry about I am the one who should be sorry I am the one who acted like a coward and refused to help my best friend I am the the selfish one who didn’t want you to date the person that you love and was planning on making her hate you I am the one who needs to be sorry” Akira said that as he broke down in tears.

“Well Akira it seems that you are not that different from me I was selfish as well I wanted to know why you were acting differently but that wasn’t out of concern for you it was out of curiosity from me it seems that I am equally as selfish as you are”

We both stood there quietly for a little while and I finally broke the silence and said “Hey, there’s a bakery nearby here it’s called Sakura Bakery it’s where Matsui works would you like to go get something from there?”

“Yeah sure, why not!?”

Our walk to the bakery couldn't have been more awkward Akira was still wiping his tears of and I didn’t say a single word until we reached the bakery.

“Hi Matsui!” I yelled as we barged into the bakery and then one of the employees said “Are you looking for Matsui ? she’s not here today”

It was super embarrassing so we quickly made an order of two Melonpan and got out of there.

“Well that was embarrassing!” Akira said while laughing

“It sure was” I replied while also laughing

“So anyway I am really sorry”

“No you don’t have to be I am the one who should be apologising, you’re my best friend and you had a big problem and I didn’t even consider your feelings”

“Hey, about what you asked me to do, I’ll be glad to do it”

“What are you talking about?”

“I’ll help you discover how Hayami feels towards you”

“Are you sure?”

“Yes I am, anyway I owe this because because of you I could now finally get over my love for Hayami”

“Well that’s good to hear”

“I have an idea on how you could discover how Matsui feels about you”

“What is it?”

“This Saturday we will all go to an amusement park as a group and at the end of the day you and Hayami will ride the ferris wheel together and you’ll ask her out, this is the best way for you to discover how she really feels about you, are you okay with this plan ?”

“Yes for sure”

“Alright I’ll be heading home now see you later”

“Yeah sure bye”

Today was an exhausting day but damn Matsui wasn’t kidding when she said that there Melonpan was delicious.

Chapter 4 : A trip to the amusement park

It's Saturday and today we have decided that today we will all go to the amusement park and I have also decided that I am going to tell Matsui the truth about my feelings today.

It's 3 PM and everyone came on time, as we went through the amusement park's gates I was faced with a giant ferris wheel and as soon as I saw it I couldn't help but ask myself. Will I really be capable of confessing my love today or will I chicken out at the last moment?

"Guys start moving we have a lot of places to visit before the end of the day"

"Sure let's go"

After a long day of playing with everyone, me and Matsui entered the ferris wheel's cabin alone a feeling of happiness started steaming inside me and I began seeing colors that I never saw before and they were beautiful.

"Wow! Boukyaku the view from here is incredible" Matsui sai in excitement

"Yeah it really is incredible"

As we began to approach the top of the ferris wheel I decided that I was going to confess.

"Hey Matsui"

"Yes Boukyaku"

"There's something important that I want to tell you"

"What is it boukyaku?"

"Hayami I love you"

I don't know if it was because of the sunset or because she was embarrassed but Matsui's face glowed bright red upon hearing my confession.

"Kyoku I love you as well"

“Are you serious?”

“I am a hundred percent serious”

As soon as she said that both of us got closer and we hugged for a moment and as her face came closer to my face I started seeing colors brighter than any colors that I had seen in my life up to this point an overwhelming feeling of happiness overcame my body but it was soon interrupted by an unbearable pain in my chest unlike any pain I have ever felt it's so painful. Why now? Why now? Why would a beautiful moment like this make me remember a memory that causes me this much pain? It doesn't make any sense.

“Kyoku are you okay”

“Ahhhhhh!” I screamed in pain to the point that all the people in the cabins that were close to us heard me and directed their attention toward our cabin, I began screaming in pain and crying but after a couple minutes of struggling I blacked out as I saw Hayami's face.

I woke up on a bed and as I began to look around me I realised that it was a hospital and my mother, father and my friends surrounded me and there was also a doctor that they called upon seeing me waking up.

“So doctor how is my son doing what happened to him?” my mother asked with fear and sadness in her voice

“I honestly don't know what could of caused your son to black out out of nowhere as his friend explained”

“So what should we do now”

“You should visit a psychologist the cause of your child blacking out and crying out of nowhere could be a mental disorder”

“Alright thank you doctor we'll call you if anything happens”

“Kyoku you've woken up are you okay?” Hayami asked with concern on her face

“Yes Hayami I am a hundred percent okay” I said as I laughed

“Kyoku what happened?” my mother asked

“I am not sure mom but it’s nothing serious”

“Nothing serious!” my mother yeller with irony in her voice “Your friends told me that this has happened to you three times now”

Guys really why did you have to snitch?

“Anyway you will start going to psychologist starting tomorrow”

“But mom I don’t need a psychologist trust me this is nothing serious”

“You will be going and that’s that”

“Okay, mum”

“Me and your father have some paperwork to sign concerning the hospital so stay still until we come back”

“Okay”

As my father and mother got out of the room I immediately yelled at my friends and told them “Why did you guys snitch!?”

“It’s for your own good Kyoku”

“No doctor will be capable of helping me solve this problem, this is a problem that I need to solve on my own, the psychologist won’t be capable of helping and I am sure of it”

“Why don’t you try going tomorrow maybe you’ll change your opinion”

“Sure I’ll go not like I have a choice considering that my mother has told me to go”

“Alright we will be going now see you later Kyoku”

“Hey Kyoku send a us a text tomorrow after your visit to the psychologist tell us what happened”

“Yeah sure”

Today I will have to go to a psychologist. My parents are forcing me to go even though I am certain that he won't be able to help me solve my problem.

As I sit on that weird chair in every psychologist office and begin to be asked questions from the psychologist I realise how utterly stupid this really is.

After that the psychologist finished asking me questions he let my parents into the office and said “It seems that your son has had a traumatic experience in his past and that he remembers memories of that traumatic experience when certain conditions are met which leads to him crying and blacking out”

“What is that traumatic experience doctor?”

“Unfortunately I don't know because after blacking out your son's memory of that experience gets erased so I have no way of knowing what is that memory”

“So what's the solution to this doctor?”

“I'll have to have a couple more sessions with your son before that I could decide on a suitable solution”

My suspicions have been confirmed this guy will not be capable of helping me solve my problem at all.

“Alright we will come again next Sunday”

“Okay bye”

As we left the hospital I looked in my phone and I saw that Hayami had sent me a text asking about what happened with the psychologist so I told “he was useless I knew that he wasn't going to be capable of helping me solve my problem but my parents have now forced me to come see him every Sunday”

This problem is really getting on my nerves.

