Free Fall

Yoonworks

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About this edition

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Chapter 1

Max's POV

"Cali, let's go! Zaya was alone," I mumble in worry as we slowly went out of the stage to head back to our dressing room.

After so many years of training, the four of us, Zanaya, California, Tokyo and I finally debuted as a girl group under the name WHISTLE.

It wasn't an easy feat and being a celebrity is really hard. In an industry where girl groups get to debut from other big and small agencies, we were lucky enough to survive on our own.

BP Entertainment, our agency is known to be one of the biggest agencies in the country. That is probably the reason why it is even harder to debut because you get to train with a lot more people making the competition even more harsh.

For years, I had to send a few of my friends' home because they failed the producer's evaluation. That is how hard to be an idol and artist.

And now that we've finally debuted and we have fans starting to support us, trying to survive and compete with other groups is what's making our lives harder now. We have to work harder and sleep lesser.

We just finished the recording and all of us except Zanaya stayed a little to greet our fans. Zanaya needed to head back to the dressing room because wasn't really feeling very well.

Zanaya looks so pale earlier, I felt bad she had to go through all of this. The sad reality of being a rookie like us and even every other senior idol, most often, we pretend to be okay though we're physically, sometimes emotionally, not fine.

And this time, Zanaya had a fever.

Zanaya was feeling really dizzy earlier but she still insisted on going to the stage because she doesn't want to ruin our performance. She said she doesn't want to disappoint the fans who came to watch and see us perform.

And I understand her. We don't really have a lot of chance to meet our fans. And we're still rookies. We need to grab every chance that we have so we can prove ourselves and let people see us especially since we're under BP where artists normally stay mysterious.

Right when I opened the door on our dressing room, my jaw almost landed on the floor at the sight before us.

Seth, one-seventh of SHADOW- a group even more famous than us, was brushing Zanaya's locks, and I was quite startled by the way he looked at Zanaya.

He was gazing at her with, was it love in his eyes?

I wasn't even sure if they know each other. I mean, SHADOW is a group that even us idols admire. They have fans around the world and they have won numerous awards. They are not someone that one can just eat and talk with. They are like, standing on a pedestal that not everyone can reach. So the fact that he was with my group member startled me.

I just so confused.

Zanaya was sleeping peacefully on the couch, her head over a pillow while her lower part was covered by what seemed to be Seth's jacket.

My brows furrowed. This is really so confusing.

Do they know each other personally?

But what grabs my attention was another member of SHADOW trying on him what seemed to be a very familiar piece of accessory.

Oh no, you didn't.

My blood boiled at the sight of it.

He was trying on him my favorite GUCCI original canvass baseball hat.

Not my baby, please.

"Excuse me?" I can't help but snicker, my voice coming out a little strong, I felt Cali nudging me by the shoulders. I understand her reaction though. Again, we were facing some of the respected seniors in the industry. One wrong move and it cause our downfall. But that isn't any of my concern right now. The man was messing with my favorite GUCCI.

Nobody touches my GUCCI.

"What?" I looked at her as if I did nothing wrong but the way her eyes widened tells me otherwise.

"Be nice," she whispered and I rolled my eyes at Tokyo's reaction. She seemed to be having fun after realizing the reason for my sudden annoyance.

I always share my belongings with the girls but my GUCCI babies are of a different case.

Just then, both members of SHADOW turned their attention to us.

I am just as curious what a famous group like them is doing in our dressing room.

Seth stood up immediately and I noticed his cheeks flushing maybe because we caught him staring at Zanaya.

I raised an eyebrow at him.

"Sorry, she almost fainted earlier so we decided to bring her in your dressing room," he stated and Cali rushed over Zanaya but my eyes followed the movements of the other guy inside the room.

He was smirking at Seth as if something interesting actually happened. They are weird.

I would have found his smirk appealing and hot, to be honest, but the sight of my baseball hat dangling loosely over his head makes my hand want to pull it off of him. To be honest, any other girl will be intimidated with just looking at him.

Sky of SHADOW is known to have a lot of fans. A lot of girls, even famous celebrities admits that he is their ideal man. Damn, I saw one of his performance once and I must say, he really has a strong stage presence, not to mention that his face looks like it was carved by God into perfection. His lips were all so red and alluring too.

I can't help but gulp as I stop myself from staring at him. For a second, I tilted my head a little to keep myself calm.

Nobody touches my GUCCI. Not even Sky of SHADOW. At this point, I don't even care if he's famous.

"Excuse but I believe that is actually mine," I told him, pointing on my precious hat over his head. I tried to stop myself from raising my voice but it came out a little stern instead,

Don't judge okay? I was just protecting my baby GUCCI over there.

However, I was a little surprised after his face lightened up, his adorable boxy smile showing. The way his eyes shined makes me want to regret snapping at him earlier.

Okay, he's definitely cute, and hot, I admit to myself.

"This is yours?" he stated, and in an instant, he was standing in front of me, grinning like he had found his soulmate or something.

My eyebrows raised at his reaction. His appearance and the way he acts is a little contrasting. He looks so intimidating from a far but the man in front of me seems soft and a bit childish and playful, if I must say.

Is he like high or something? Why does he seem too happy about it?

"Yeah. It's a gift from my parents," I tried acting casually but deep inside, I'm feeling a little nervous. I don't usually get affected by someone's looks because let's face it, the industry that I

currently am with is too is full of good-looking people. Seeing my seniors and other artists in person should have made me get used to it already.

But this guy, he's reeking with sex appeal and all. Talk about perfection.

Seth is also a looker. But I guess his aura is not something that interest me. The girls and I sometimes talks about our crushes and I am not saying I like this man in front of me but I can say, his looks fits my taste the most.

My eyes caught his soft blonde locks which complimented his skin too much that it feels like he's glowing. His nose seemed like it was sculpted into perfection, his lips flattering his features even more.

All in all, he's perfect. He looks goddamn perfect.

Calm down, Max. He's just a human like you. I told to myself.

"Do you like GUCCI?" he asked and a soft smile escaped my lips. I see where this is getting.

So he actually liked the brand like me.

Seeing how he was staring at me intently, I nodded in response, my heart rate increasing.

Wait, what?

My hand landed on my chest and for a moment, I thought I was palpitating.

Did I eat something weird earlier? I was sure I also did not drink any coffee.

"By the way, you guys were awesome earlier. I'm a fan!" he exclaimed and I stopped for a moment, captivated by the boxy smile in front of me.

"Huh?" I whispered, unsure how to react considering this is the first time a senior had praised our performance. I mean, it's because we just started. I am very confident with myself but I know there are a lot more talented artist out there. And a praise coming from someone who's undeniably well rounded on this craft makes me feel embarrass a bit.

I watch as his tongue started running over his lower lip.

"Holy shit," I whispered and my eyes widened when I realized I had spoken that out loud, my hands covering my mouth in an instant. I quickly turned around to check if the others have heard but thankfully, no one is paying attention.

Once I turned my attention back to him, I noticed his eyes looking amused.

"That's not very nice young lady. If I'm with Raze, you're going to get an earful of scolding," he smirked before brushing the locks of my hair on the side and then poof, my heart goes wild!

"Sky, let's go!"

He took a glance behind me and I guess Seth had called for him but I wasn't paying attention. I was just mesmerized by him and the moment his hands touched my cheeks, pinching them gently, I nearly lost it.

"You're quite adorable, it makes me want to protect you," he whispered before messing my hair.

In a swift, he was already out of my sight but the warmth of his touch lingers on my cheeks and it's burning me inside.

What the heck just happened?

"Max?" Tokyo called for my attention and that's when I realized that I was gawking in front of me with nothingness.

"You okay?" she asked and I nodded. But before I can even utter another word, a groan escaped my lips once I realized something.

Stupid Max.

I was too engrossed into checking out his beautiful face, I totally forgot the very reason why I was even talking to him in the first place.

Sky just took my goddamn GUCCI.

And I fucking hate him for that.

Chapter 2

Max's POV

"Can you stop pouting like that Max? I swear your lips will fall off any minute if you keep that antics of yours," I heard Cali stated and I unwillingly stomped my feet in frustration about to cry as I head straight to my room but she laughed at my reaction.

It's been two days and I haven't gotten my GUCCI back.

Well, how am I supposed to get it back when I don't even know how to reach him. My only hope was if Seth would be kind enough to remind Sky about it after Seth visited Zanaya when she was sick. Which reminds me, we never knew Zanaya's and Seth's family were close.

You can't expect me to go around asking for his number because I'll end up looking someone desperate for attention.

I should have asked when Seth was here. But then he was too focused on attending Zanaya and we were shocked about it, it slipped my mind.

Besides, Sky isn't just a rookie idol like me but a world-famous one.

If someone finds out that I was even asking about him, I might end up being on gossip magazines and our boss might kill me for that. WHISTLE is still in a dating ban and even if we aren't, it's not like it's easy to be associated with some famous idol. It's like you and him against the world.

Also, I've had enough drama even from my trainee days, I don't want to experience another.

It was when I did a featuring for one of our senior that I was swept up with bullying rumors. I cried for weeks and the girls kept on consoling me. I'm just so thankful it was properly dealt with and I have a lot of friends who were there to make me feel better.

My mom was so worried and she asked me if I wanted to continue being an idol and I said yes. I've trained so hard for this and I know I'd probably face a few more scandals and challenges but who cares? I should know myself better than anyone else.

But then again sometimes, there are things about your own self that you yourself is unaware of and only the closest towards you notices.

And then I was startled when I heard my phone beep.

A long sigh escaped my lips. It's probably one of my friends, or maybe Naia. We agreed to hang out one of these days. I should be happy but the image of my cap keeps flashing in my mind that I always end up getting in low spirits.

With little interest, I slowly reached for my phone that was resting on my bedside table, not even bothering to move from being sprawled on my soft bed. And soon as I opened the message, my eyes widened and I felt the rush of adrenaline eating me alive.

Unknown: Hey GUCCI :)

Immediately, my body bolted up from my bed, sitting with my legs crossed, my hands immediately tapping to type a response.

Me: Please tell me you did not do anything bad to my baby, I'm begging you.

I was already able to hit send when I remember that I did not bother speaking to him formally.

Me: I mean; can I have my cap back?

I bite my lower lip. Anyone can see through my poor attempt into trying not to be too disrespectful but hey, I had been too anxious for two days. The least thing I could do is to spare him from my wrath because honestly speaking, I had never in my lifetime wanted to hate someone until now.

So what if he looks handsome as fuck?

It will be too petty of me if I'd say I'm acting like these just because it was GUCCI, I was anxious because it has a sentimental value, a gift that I cherish among all of my possession. But I don't need to tell him that because he probably won't understand anyway.

Unknown: Wow, you calling me seemed force Maxie. Should I keep your beloved cap instead? *grins You know I love GUCCI, oh wait, you're GUCCI.

A low growl escaped my lips.

"This bitch," I grunted. I knew he was trouble the first time I laid my eyes on him. Does he think it would be fun to mess with me like this?

But somehow, I knew deep inside that it was partly my fault for being enthralled by his boxy smile the first time so ever since that day, I had sworn not to pay attention with anything that relates to that wicked man.

Me: No. I'm sorry I got too comfortable in speaking towards you.

"Calm down Max. At least you got his number," I whispered to myself and if someone sees me, they'll think I was texting with my boyfriend because I was too focused on waiting for his reply.

Unknown: How did you even know it was me? By the way, call me, my GUCCI 😉

"Arrrghhhh!" A frustrated sigh escaped me as I lay my body back on the bed. Exchanging messages with him feels so tiring and it wasn't even a good five minutes.

"Of course I'd know it was you, idiot. You called me GUCCI. And what do you mean? Like I'd call you that," I started ranting once again. I would have sent that as a response but I stopped myself.

But then I started typing something different.

Me: Of course. I was actually waiting for your message since you've accidentally taken my cap. How can I get it back?

I told him and I cringed at the sight of my message. It felt so weird telling those words to him. I mean, Sky is definitely attractive but that's just that. Attraction isn't the only answer to everything.

It has been five minutes and he hasn't replied.

Lord, give me enough patience for this mane, please. I whispered.

The next message I received made my jaw drop down straight on the floor.

Unknown: Suck my balls, baby.

What the fuck?

My blood boils in instant.

How dare he?

How did he even think about saying those words to a girl like me?

My inside was fuming and I have never felt so bothered like this all my life. I felt all my blood getting stuck on my heard and a realization hit me - Sky is a big-ass jerk.

Before I knew it, I was typing furiously on my phone and just right after I hit send, his message comes in.

Unknown: Sorry, Max. That was Mono. I left my phone on the table and he thought I changed Seth's name to GUCCI. Sorry, really.

I felt my stomach churn.

Holy fuck. What did I just do?

I stared at the message that I just sent after I had gotten mad at him.

Me: Really? Prepare then because I'm going to crash those fucking balls into pieces, you fucker!

Can someone kill me now?

Immediately, I started typing on my phone.

Me: Sorry, OMG.

I dropped my phone on my bed and grab the pillow near me before covering my face with it as I muffle a loud scream.

How can I ever show myself to him now after I had said those embarrassing words?

"Max, you are so stupid!!!!" I screeched on my bed as I started kicking an invisible Sky in the air.

What will he think of me now?

He'd probably think I was a pretty stuck-up bitch that is so full of herself.

"No...." I whispered almost crying.

But it isn't my fault that I got mad because of it right?

And then I heard another message and with hands shaking, I slowly took my cellphone once again, my other eye close as I take a sneak on what the message says.

Unknown: I didn't know you're that wild my Maxie. Anyways, if you're sorry and you want to have your cap back, meet me at the cafe near your dorm in ten minutes. I'll be waiting GUCCI. *winks

My mouth hangs wide open at his statement.

"Does he want to meet in a cafe at three in the afternoon? Is he actually insane?" I whispered to myself.

He's probably looking for trouble because there's no way we'll get away with seeing each other in broad daylight like this. Because I'm actually ninety percent sure that our face will both end up in front of every social media platforms two minutes after we step inside the cafe.

What is wrong with him?

As if he knew what I was thinking, I heard my phone beeping once again.

Unknown: I meant it, Max. I need your ass here in ten minutes or say goodbye to your baby. BTW, for the record, I don't mind if you actually suck my balls, baby.

That's it. I'm going to kill you, Sky.

Chapter 3

Max's POV

"This fucker better be here or I'm going to kick those goddamn balls," I whispered as I swiftly made my entrance on the cafe near us.

Surprisingly, there aren't a lot of people inside. Inside was a pair of old couple who seemed like a foreigner having a serious conversation in the middle of the cafe, and some guy sitting in the far corner of the room.

It doesn't need a second for me to realize that the weird looking man whose face was covered by a black mask was him.

From where I was standing, I can recognize the GUCCY logo from the back of his denim jacket.

A groan escaped my lips. I had always wanted that item.

After gathering all the confidence, I can muster, I swiftly made my way towards his direction.

It wasn't long before he felt my presence. The moment our eyes met, I was startled when he suddenly stood up and offered me a hug like we're some best of friends.

"Huh?" my body stiffen for a moment and by the time he pulled away, my eyes noticed how his eyes glint mischievousness.

Oh no. This man better not be planning something crazy.

"Hello," I tried greeting him respectfully but God knows how I was so trying not to smack his beautiful face.

"We're back to being formal I see," he chuckled before guiding me towards an empty seat. I was kinda surprise that he pulled a chair for me.

So he's still a gentleman despite being a total ass jerk huh.

Though I prefer to get straight to what we need to talk about, I decided it will be easier to carry on with his stupid mini drama.

After sitting down, I was quite surprise when a waiter immediately served us a drink and two slices of cakes.

"I do hope you're not on a diet because they are seriously so good," he stated and I looked at him amused.

"How did you know? Are you near this place to know what dessert tasted the best out of their menu?" I asked and he chuckled.

"Feisty, I see but you have a fair point hunn," he stated and I can no longer take it. i looked at him with a scowl hidden behind my mask.

"I'd really like this if you can give me back my cap," I told him straight to the point and he looked at me a little startled.

"Wow, it didn't even take us three minutes," he stated and I grunted. There's no point in acting differently towards him. The guy irks me to bits and I'm not even sure why I hated his guts.

Maybe because it was because he had taken my cap.

That should be it because I never really had encountered him before apart from that. And to be honest, I jam real hard to their songs and I admire him as an artist but I will never tell him that. Not now especially after these events.

My eyes widened after he pulled out my cap from behind.

"My baby," I can't help but whisper before taking it from his hands hugging it along the process.

I miss you.

He looked at my reaction amused and I tried acting cool but keeping my composure.

"Since you have your cap back, eat your cake because it'll be a waste not to," he stated and my cheeks blushed.

Thankful that he actually gave it to me that easily, I pulled my mask a little so I can devour this sweet slice of cake. I'm famished actually since I don't really have no appetite these past days because of this.

Now, I can finally eat all I want.

I put down the cap on the table and took the spork on my side. As soon as I tasted the cake, a smile immediately plastered on my face.

"Oh gosh, this taste really good," I can't help but moan totally forgetting the presence of a beautiful man beside me until I heard him giggle, my cheeks blushing in instant.

"You look really adorable," he stated and that's when he removed his own mask.

I almost choked on my own saliva the moment he showed me his boxy grin.

Before I even knew it, I was already staring at his beautiful face.

Goddamn it.

Why does his boxy smile get me every time?

Just then, I felt a hand gently wiping the corner of my lips, removing the graze of icing left on it.

I gulped.

Good Lord.

"I like the fact that you're not trying to be cute when eating. I mean, most girls eat timidly in front of a man which isn't bad by the way. I just, prefer girls who shows their real self on the first date," and that's what hit me real hard.

I started coughing really bad until I felt the water forming at the corner of my eyes. He was quick enough to give me a glass of water while he rubs my back to make me clam down.

The moment my cough died down a little, I looked at him incredulously.

"Date?" I asked, my mouth hanging wide open. I don't even care if there are bits of cake left in between my teeth.

What the heck is he saying?

And then I noticed how he was trying to hold back his laughter.

This jerk. Is he really making fun of me?

He must have noticed the smug expression on my face and tried to keep his laughter.

"Sorry, you just really looked so adorable wide your eyes open wide like that," he stated and the thought of being mad at him is getting back on my already peaceful emotion.

"Sorry, I don't really want to play this game with you," I told him a little pissed off.

How dare he make fun of me?

At that, I stood up from my seat and put back my mask on my face.

"I think this is enough. Let's not bother each other again," I told him and bowed.

He looked taken aback at my action and wasn't able to speak. That made it easier to leave him alone.

In a flash, I had already turn my back on him. I was walking back, still fuming when I felt someone grab me gently, turning me in a pivot. My eyes were greeted by his already covered face but I was more startled when he put something on my head.

"You forgot your cap, Max. Or do you want another date that's why you left it?" he stated but the seriousness showing on his eyes didn't go unnoticed.

He then started fixing my locks of hair under the cap but what he said next made me stood frozen that I was already was.

"I was being too playful. I'm sorry," he stated while still fixing my hair and I was so sure that was my heart hammering inside my chest.

Did he just apologize to me?

"There. The cap really suits you, angel. Send me a message once you're home so I'd know you've arrived safe. Now go before someone sees the two of us," he stated and before turning my body around once again and I'm not sure what happened but my feet started moving on its own until I realized that I was already walking away from that very confusing guy.

I don't even know how I managed to get home and when I do, my hand started acting on its own and before I knew it, I had already sent him a message.

Me: I'm home.

My body plopped on my bed, all the energy that I have now seemed lost altogether.

My eyes landed on the cap now resting on my bed.

"Baby, I'm so glad you're back with mom," I whispered before closing my eyes.

However, the sound of him saying sorry towards me kept ringing on my ears.

Was I too harsh on him?

Chapter 4

Max's POV

"Okay, I give up. Can you please stay away from for like at least five seconds? You're seriously starting to suffocate me," I scowled at the SHADOW member who did nothing but followed me around the house. After we found out that Zanaya and Seth were actually dating, the rest of the SHADOW boys seemed to think that it's okay to hang out our dorm like it's the most natural thing to do.

But it shouldn't be because we're girls - celebrities, and if a word comes out about guys, specifically celebrities too, camping in our dorm, there's a chance we can kiss goodbye to our career, after being in the industry for only a year.

Now we don't really want that, right?

However, seeing how Zanaya's cheeks are blushing, I love the poor girl too much to let her happiness be short-lived.

I'm okay. I'll live. But not if this guy with that adorable boxy smile keeps on pestering me like it's the only thing that matters.

I mean, why me?

He'd taken my GUCCI canvass cap once, made me lose my shit with those "accidental" messages about sucking some balls, pissed me off while I was eating a goddamn cake.

What more does he want to do to finally make me lose like a canon?

A long sigh escaped my lips as I watch him gawking at me.

There's one thing I have decided though. That from now on, Sky isn't a senior artist to me but an enemy, a nemesis I will surely make sure to avoid. However, he's proving it impossible to do since the moment they came inside our dorm, he'd been following me around like some pet or something, like I have something he practically needs.

And it's annoying me.

"No can do," he smirked as he tries to help me get some stuffs in the kitchen.

"You know what," I put down the stacks of glasses from my hands to the kitchen counter and faced him, his all too ready boxy-smile caught me off-guard a bit but that doesn't stop me from spilling

all the dirt I have. "This isn't going to work. You can't follow me around. I don't like it. I don't like you," as much harsh that sounded, I need to clear that up with him.

Whether he was surprised or taken aback, I wasn't sure because he was still smiling like nothing ever happened. I'm starting to think that my words, or my voice itself doesn't carry much conviction.

"You shouldn't dislike your friends," his soft smile almost melted the wall I had purposely built. "And you should smile more," he added which caught me off-guard a bit.

"I am smiling. I always smile," I told him, appalled at his words.

I am always smiling, right? Or not?

He looked at me amused, clearly having a good time seeing my internal conflict about what he just said.

"Not to me though,"

"Because you're annoying me!"

"I am not!"

"You are!"

My teeth gritted in frustration.

"You are! And you are doing it again! Ugh!!!" I rolled my eyes at him and he chuckled at my reaction.

"Seeing how both our members can't seem to control eating each other's faces, I truly believe that you're going to get stuck with me," he beamed and I had never wanted to scream so bad until now.

I am normally calm and collected. The most level headed within the group. I have trained the longest and throughout out those years, I have learned not to give a fuck to those people who brings bad vibes around me. Maybe that's also the reason why I am very much protective of my members, too much protective like what Cali normally says.

But I don't really think that's a problem. We've trained so hard to be able to debut and now that we did, being in a relationship will only cause serious trouble.

In all honesty, I am very much against Zanaya's relationship. We are on a dating ban and what they are doing will cost us in the future, and that's what I am scared with.

Besides, SHADOW had already made a name of their own. Fans flock around them. They fill concert arenas all over the world. They make girls swoon by their hip thrusts and raspy voice.

Eye candies, talented eye candies, that's what they are.

If people finds out about their relationship, Zanaya will take the bigger blow, because she's the girl and more importantly, the rookie.

People doesn't care about every scandal's backstory. They wouldn't give a fuck if it was Seth who chased Zanaya - not that I was sure about it. They will believe what they want to believe and in this situation, the most possible outcome is Zanaya getting a huge amount of hate for allegedly trying to gain popularity through them.

It is unfair.

It has always been even before we debut.

People haven't met us but they are judging us because we're from BP.

Some of them thinks we got stardom easy.

They forgot to remember that coming from BP Entertainment is an achievement itself.

And I am goddamn proud.

Everyone knows BP doesn't just debut people. We have to choose between crashing other trainees dreams in order to achieve our own, or give up so we don't lose our new found friends.

It's not an easy choice and even now, it isn't. They don't even know half the pain I get every time I meet my former trainees' eyes.

It's either they look proud and happy of what we have become and will become, or their eyes screams envy and hatred for crashing their dreams of becoming someone else.

And it kills us, me, Zanaya, Tokyo and Cali - especially her.

Cali had struggled the most during training mostly because she can't keep up easily with our routines. But everyone admires her passion for it because she fills up the gap by practicing the most.

After remembering every pain, every suffering, my eyes locked with his beautiful eyes, a new resolve burning within me, "That maybe the case but them eating each other's faces isn't my concern. Instead, tell your friend to be careful for if Zanaya ever, God forbid, get hurt in any way because of him or this relationship, I won't hesitate to kill," I told him. Of course I wasn't being literal but fuck, even I isn't sure I can hold back if that happens.

Again, his eyes were wide, lips parted and a glint of fear seeping through his reaction,

"I won't hesitate Sky," I murmured, not minding to call him honorifics, "Not at all" I whispered before turning my back on him with all the utensils on my hands.

Chapter 5

Max's POV

"Do you think she'll be in trouble?" Tokyo asked in panic, her index finger in between her teeth.

We were outside of our boss' office, waiting for Zanaya to come out.

Last night was almost a disaster. Zanaya and Seth almost got into trouble, if not for the measures made by our management.

I can't blame Seth though. Apparently, Zanaya almost fell on the platform and he helped her. Apart from that, the incident with the old man could have been the biggest problem we would face after Seth almost hurt the man.

He thought the man was doing something bad to Zanaya.

Now, the problem was, our boss found out and we're scared for her. As far as everyone knows, we are not allowed to date. We're rookies and even our senior artists' experienced the same.

Moreover, Zanaya is a certified crybaby. And it will kill the three of us if she ever comes out with a bad news.

"Aww, Tokyo, stop pinching my arms!" Cali scowled at the younger girl and I shake my head at the sight of them.

Tokyo and Zanaya are the youngest amongst us with just a month old difference and for some reason, the two clashes the most. However, even I knew that their bond is more than that.

They love each other too much even I think that their constant bickering is their way of showing how they care.

All three of us snapped our attention towards the door when it opened and we all came rushing towards her.

"Are you okay?"

"Did he scold you?"

"Hey, did you do that puppy eyes technique that I told you? I swear, Chan used that once on our boss and it worked!"

Zanaya chuckled at Tokyo's words and I did the same.

The moment I saw her smiling, I felt relieved.

I was startled when Zanaya pulled us in a hug but we did the same for her.

I laugh as Cali hit Zanaya on the shoulders "Hey, are you crazy?! We signed a contract and one of those is we're not allowed to date." she said.

"But it says we can if he allows it." I chimed in.

Yeah, that was part of the clause and we were so thankful for it.

"So, did he allowed it?" Tokyo asked.

Zanaya closed her eyes and sigh, all three of us anticipating for her answer

"I'm not sure?" she answered and before I can stop myself, I smacked the back of her head lightly.

This kid. Doesn't she know where nervous too?

"That hurts," she pouted and Tokyo rolled her eyes.

"Really? Here we are getting so worried and you end up not knowing anything? Did you and our boss really had a talk or you ended up like Sancho who stood up and hour and left?"

My eyes widened when she smiled awkwardly to us.

"Oh God." Cali 's hand landed on her forehead.

"Hey, let's go back to the dorm. It's afternoon and I'm starving." Tokyo hit her stomach like the gangster that she is and I tried to stop myself from groaning.

"Tokyo, can you like act like a girl sometimes especially when we're out? Our fans call you man, you know?" I rolled my eyes as we walk outside of the building.

"We? I'm your man, !" Tokyo locked arms with me and muffles of protest escaped my lips.

Once we arrived at our dorm, we all went inside our room to shower and change our clothes.

Surprisingly, almost every one of us finished before her and the moment I stepped out of my room, I was startled when my eyes landed at the seven boys who seemed to be getting too comfortable in our living room.

"Hello GUCCI!" Sky greeted and I just rolled my eyes at him before plopping my body on an empty seat beside Raze.

By this time, the boys are no longer amused at how I treat Sky. The guy was practically begging for it.

He moved closer and waved his hands in front of my face.

How does he never gets tired?

My cheeks blushed a little when I saw his boxy grin.

Damn.

"Keep it down, Sky. What happened to surprising Zanaya?" Demo mumbled.

"Huh?" I was left confused and just then, we heard some rumbling noise coming from Zanaya's room and the boys immediately hide behind the cushions.

I tried to stifle my laughter when I saw Mono 's butt hitting the floor creating a loud thud, Seth pulling him back to hide.

After a minute, a suspecting Zanaya came out and walked towards us. She must have heard the loud noises earlier but she didn't utter a word.

A smirk escaped my lips when her eyes landed on Cali.

"Oh my God. Stop with the poker face. Your face looks like a chicken." Zanaya teased and Cali pouted.

I turned my face to Tokyo signaling her to say something

"Zanaya, did you see the comments, they said they ship Irene or Sally with Seth more."

I almost laughed at loud when Zanaya's brows furrowed.

"That's right. Besides, Zanaya is so ugly so I'd understand if Seth will like another girl." Tokyo added. At that, Sky can't help but giggle and Zanaya's eyes landed on Tokyo's direction.

When she realized Tokyo isn't laughing, she shakes her head and I wanted to hug her at how adorable she looked.

"Hey, Zanaya, what did you like about Seth, there's nothing special about him anyways." By this time, it's basically obvious that Cali was pushing it and it's working since Zanaya seemed triggered.

Once again, a set of muffled sounds came from the back of the cushion and somehow, I was quite surprise how I was able to identify that once again, it was of Sky's.

To cover what just happened, Cali tried laughing it off but anyone can see through her act. Or not.

Zanaya sat down on an empty couched and glared at us.

"What?" Tokyo said innocently. "Seth isn't handsome."

At that, Zanaya snapped.

"Yah!" she snickered and threw a pillow at Tokyo which she caught before giggling.

"He's handsome and he's hot so shut up!" she screeched and I cringed at her words.

Tokyo wiggled her eyebrows. And I decided to push her even more.

"Are you sure he is? Wow, do you like him that much?" I raised my eyebrows at her. Somehow, I am curious about how much Zanaya is into him.

Though I am slowly realizing how they really love each other, there always this warning at the back of my mind and I can't help but think of ways on how to protect my members.

She looked confused about our sudden pressing but answered anyways.

"I like him. So don't talk bad things about him because I don't like it." she crossed her arms on her chest, fuming in anger. "I like him so much that I can kiss him if I see him this instant."

My mouth hangs wide open.

You're dead Zanaya.

At her words, Seth came out of his hiding and gave Zanaya the shocker of her life.

"So, can I have that kiss right now?"

Zanaya's jaw almost dropped on the floor in shock.

We all laughed at Zanaya's adorable reaction especially when the rest of SHADOW came out of their hiding.

But my brows furrowed at Sky's frantic reaction.

"Yah! yah! Grey, there's a spider!" Sky screamed as he jumped around the room.

Demo heard what he said and jumped as well. "Remove it!!!!" he screamed as he looks at Sky's back where the spider is crawling.

"Ahhhhhh!!!!!"

My eyes widened, chaos invaded the house as the rest of the boys started jumping around.

I tried to move a bit, not really wanting to get involved with their spider experience.

My eyes caught Sky's expression his eyes were wide and even though I hate the guy, he still looks so cute looking so panicked.

Okay Max, hold up a little.

"Grey, help!" but Grey was already sitting on the ground laughing his ass off.

As Sky wiggle his body, his right feet slipped on the floor which made him get off balanced and everybody screamed.

His eyes met mine as his face moves closer to where I am.

No! I mentally screamed.

And before I can even move away, he already fell pulling me along with him.

My back hit the floor in a thud but that doesn't concern me as I felt a pair of hands landing on my body.

My boobs.

Everyone went silent and from the corner of my eyes, I saw everyone backing away including my friends.

The boys stopped from moving and Seth walked backwards.

Eyes closed, Sky grunted and moved a little hitting my chest even more.

My eyes closed and I felt the rage building up within, my lips quivering in anger.

The moment he opened his eyes, I also did the same until our eyes locked, my eyes turning bloodshot red.

And that's when he realized that tonight is probably the last night he's ever be able to use those fucking hands.

"What the f-"

"Fuck," I continued his sentence and I saw his face getting pale, his hands off from my chest.

"You're dead to me Sky," I told him before pushing him.

With my eyes blurry from anger and my mind a little clouded, I headed staright to my room to find my weapon.

My baseball bat.

I don't care if he's Sky or a member of SHADOW.

He fucking touched my boobs.

"I'm going to kill that idiot," I growled.

This is war Sky.

Chapter 6

Max's POV

"Come here, Sky. I'm going to split your head into two," I told him the moment I came out of my room. The guys were in a panic and my eyes saw how Sky's face paled in horror.

I no longer care who he is or if I'm going to be in trouble for what I am about to do.

The fact that he touched my chest makes me lose my shit and if I wasn't fuming in anger right now, I might go locked myself in my room and cry. I know it was an accident and I know he wouldn't do it intentionally. But it's my body and it's normal for a human being to uncomfortable if touched unwantedly, whether due to accident or any other circumstance.

A negative touch.

And I am sensitive with that.

Did you ever have a time when you feel like everything is unfair that no matter what you do, you're still the one who lost?

That's what I'm feeling.

It's unfair that he was able to touch me like that but I can't do anything about it.

I know that even though I might hurt him physically, my insides felt I was what, violated? I'm not sure if that's the right term but it's not a positive feeling. And I'm feeling so helpless.

He didn't mean it, and he's not that kind of person - I know but it's me. It's a personal feeling, like a grudge I can't take away from myself.

I am just so mad right now. Not with him but with what happened and I hate myself for not being careful.

With all the anger within me, I found myself running around the room while I chase Sky who was screaming for help.

Too bad, no one’s going to help you right now.

"Yah, Seth, do something!" I heard Zanaya screaming but I don't care. My mind has blacked out.

"Yah, Max, wait! Oh my God!" My eyes saw Raze trying to block my way but I just pushed him.

"I will kill you Sky!!!!!" I growled in anger.

I have never been this mad my life. From the corner of my eyes, I saw Demo hiding behind Grey who was laughing his ass off.

They think it's funny?

"Yah, Max, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to do that!" Sky screamed in panic while I still chase him. My eyes locked into his and he turned into the table, our eyes meeting.

I stopped running and he did the same.

He was looking at me helplessly; his eyes bore into mine.

Sincerity...

I saw it.

His eyes scream sincerity and perhaps it was regret and I understand him. I understand what he was trying to say but the stubborn me refused to give up easily.

I knew I understand what happened even before I went berserk earlier but I can't help it.

"I'm sorry. I'll kneel in front of you if that's what it will make you feel better. I'm really sorry,"

My heart leaped out of my chest for a moment and somehow, it made me calm down a bit. I can feel the desperation and sincerity in his voice.

His eyes, it looks like he was hurting, in pain.

Why?

"I know," I whispered, my glance landing on the floor unable to handle the emotion I was seeing on his own. "But let me hit you at least once," I told him before looking back to his scared face.

"GUCCI, I think you're forgetting but that's a baseball bat, kitten. A baseball bat. You can kill me with that," he said bewildered but I shake my head. By this time, I can feel the anger subsiding.

I shake my head at his words.

"Na-ah. It will be as sweet as a candy. C'mon hunn. Just one hit," I smiled at him and I saw the movement of his Adam's apple, my smile getting even wider.

"Max, let's be good and give me the baseball bat okay?" I heard Raze from behind me and I almost forgot we have other people in the room.

I turned on my back and saw Mono watching us from the couch and Demo now sitting beside him. My eyebrow raised at the sight of Storm lying on the couch, his head resting on Cali 's lap while other have her cheek red like a tomato.

Tokyo and Grey were both sitting in the corner, watching everything and even laughing.

I swear this two are going to get it someday.

"Max, I'm really sorry, Ice cream, milk ice cream, I'll treat you with that. What do you say?" I heard Sky being hopeful and I rolled my eyes on him.

"Treating me with an ice cream won't help you get away from my anger, idiot," I told him.

"Yah, how can you be that cheap!" Grey laughed and I wanted to agree but I want to keep my facade of being angry. Honestly, I knew I would give in eventually. Even when Tokyo often annoys me with her cutesy voice and constant teasing, my anger subsides easily.

"Sky, how about you treat her on a date?" My head snapped into Tokyo's direction, my eyes widening in instant.

"What?!" I asked confused and she just shrugged her shoulders, a cheeky grin showing on her face.

This fucker. I swear Tokyo is going to get it someday.

"Well that can be arranged," Sky stated and now he's smirking as if feeling that everything is now under control. But I won't let him get away with that so easily.

"You know what? Let me just go hit you instead," I snickered before rushing towards his direction.

I was trying to catch him so bad I didn't notice the pillow on the floor causing my body to slip forward. My eyes caught Sky's panic face as he moved forward in order to catch me.

Too late, I'll fall. With that in mind, my eyes closed as I wait for my body to hit the ground.

However, what happened next caught me off-guard.

The feeling of my body hitting the floor never came. Instead, I felt something wrapped around my waist stopping my body into crashing from what's below me, a loud thud echoing on the floor, along with a whole lot screaming.

My heart started beating rapidly.

No.

My eyes were still closed but my body hasn't numbed yet as I realized that my lips are in contact with something.

No! No!

My eyes opened in instant, only to be greeted by an equally wide eye. And my world felt like twirling the moment I realize what just happened.

Our lips were touching.

Shit.

"Holy f-"

My body was frozen, unable to move.

We're practically kissing. Our lips aren't moving but it was in contact.

Like, what the actual fuck.

"Ten seconds..."

"It's fifteen. Don't you know how to count?"

I heard laughing, must be Grey and Tokyo but it was Demo and Mono speaking.

The sound of a phone ringing came but I wasn't able to move.

His lips, it was soft and inviting. If I wasn't stuck due to shock, I am afraid I would have move my lips and starred kissing him for real.

What?

My body bolted up immediately, pulling my lips away from his.

I'm not even sure what's happening around me anymore. All I am aware of is the loud sound of my heart beating and the lingering touch that had stayed on my lips.

I just had my first kiss.

We kissed.

Sky and I, we kissed.

I don't know how to break down that fact in my mind but even after all the words hitting me like a damn truck, my mind is still giddy about everything.

I was too out of focus that I didn't even realize that I was already standing, Sky's arms around me in support.

I was in a daze and confused.

"Max.."

I heard my name being called, my eyes focusing on the man in front of me.

Sky.

He kissed me.

"Max, are you okay?" I heard the concerned tone in his voice.

He was looking at me softly and somehow; it touches my heart how he seemed to care a lot.

No, I kissed him.

I fucking kissed him. You, dumb fuck Max.

It's as if my mind was going crazy.

How can you be so stupid?

My cheeks were flushing with embarrassment, the severity of my own mistake dawning in front of me.

You just kissed Sky Max. The Sky!

Before I even knew it, my fist lunged before him hitting him square in the jaw. Screams echoed the whole room as he slowly fell down, knocked out on the floor and I watch as the rest of SHADOW rushed towards him.

My eyes widened, my hands covering my mouth in shock.

"Sky!" I heard Tokyo exclaimed.

Oh, my God.

"Yah, why did he passed out?"

"Max, you hit like a truck, do you?"

I don't even know who's who. My eyes focused on Sky's who's still lying on the floor.

"I think it's because he was exhausted, he hasn't been getting enough sleep lately,"

My heart dropped at the last statement.

Is he having a hard time lately?

I gulped.

He's okay, right?

Max, what have you done?

Chapter 7

Max's POV

"Max, stop screeching every five minutes, I'm going to throw all your GUCCI outside!" Cali scowled and I pouted.

My eyes locked with Tokyo who was grinning at me like crazy.

"Tokyo come here for a second. Let me just smack you one time for laughing at me yesterday," I told her and she just stuck her tongue out, her cheeky grin didn't get passed through me.

"Max, I took a picture of your first kiss. You want to see?" she grinned, waving her phone at me and I felt my cheeks flushed red.

"Yahhh!" I screamed at her and before I can even reach her, she had already bolted real fast and headed straight to her room, her laughter echoing across the hall.

Cali grunted and Zanaya forcefully smiled.

A long sigh escaped my lips as I stare at my own phone.

Settling myself in the far corner of the couch, I started staring blankly at the stupid device.

Why doesn't it beep when I was waiting for it?

Should I message him first?

After SHADOW went out of their dorm, I patiently waited for Sky to send me a message like how he had been doing these past few days.

There are times that I respond out of boredom and sometimes I don't.

I know he was just trying to be friendly but as much as I hate to admit it, he brings out different emotions within me.

The Max who's normally calm and collected turns into a beast due to his unintentional provoking.

There are also times when I find myself smiling over his silly remarks but I try to hide it in instant, afraid someone would notice.

And those things, me being unable to control my emotions means trouble. Sky simply spells trouble for me - Max. And I won't allow that. I refuse to do so.

He never said he likes me but I am trying to put a force field as my shield so I won't get associated with any male idol.

I know I am being shipped with some of them but I wouldn't do anything to prove the false speculations to be true nor give them the idea that it might be the case.

Zanaya dating is enough. I have nothing against her relationship. That's her feelings and her decision so I am deciding for myself.

Focus. That's what I need to do. But having Sky around makes that simple task be the hardest.

The image of him lying flat on the ground after I hit him flashed before me and I groan internally, guilt slowly eating my system.

I didn't mean to hurt the guy. I was shocked and that was my first kiss.

How are they expecting me to react when in one single day, I lost my first kiss and my boobs were touched, all by the same person.

Surrendering with my conscience, I started typing on my phone, careful enough to write the most decent, like not caring but still caring type of message. If that's even possible.

Me: Sorry.

Yep. That's the best thing I can do.

I was startled when I saw a sign of him typing in a response.

fromSHADOW: Nope. You knocked me out. You have to do something for me.

As expected, he's still a pain in the ass. I changed his name to something I can easily remember.

Me: Nope. Not going to happen. It's your fault, not mine.

fromSHADOW: nanananana. Not listening. You owe me.

Here we go again.

Me: Whatever. What do you want?

There's no point in fighting with him. He won't surrender so that means I have to give up.

I saw how he was typing quickly.

fromSHADOW: Great. Do you have somewhere to go today? Any schedule?

Me: None that I'm aware of. Why?

It took him a minute to respond and I'm almost willing to drop the conversation this early but I saw him typing once again.

fromSHADOW: Message you later.

After seeing his response, I shrugged my shoulders and just headed straight to my room.

It's still early, might as well get some sleep. So I did. I don't know how long I was sleeping but the sound of my phone ringing woke me up from my deep slumber.

Uninterested, my hands lazily moved towards my bedside table as I try to get my phone. The moment my hands took a hold of it, my eyes squinted as I try to check who the caller is.

A groan escaped my lips the moment my eyes caught the name reflecting on the screen. With an annoyed demeanor, I answered the call.

"What?" I scowled. If he wasn't aware that I was annoyed, he probably knew now because I didn't bother masking my emotion through my voice.

I heard him chuckling in the background.

"Sorry for waking you up princess, but can I have that thing you owe me?" he answered and I turned around, my eyes now focusing on the ceiling.

"What?" I asked once again.

"Calm down sweetie. I'm here on your dorm's rooftop. I'll wait for you here," he mumbled and I wasn't even able to respond.

"Ugh!" I hissed.

After releasing a long sigh, I went ahead and went to my bathroom to brush my teeth and wash my face. I didn't bother changing my pajamas into something else.

"It's just Sky..." I whispered to myself. I'm not sure how it happened and as much as I hate to admit it, I already feel comfortable with his presence. I no longer care how I look and it doesn't bother one bit if he sees me with my bare face.

Again, it's just Sky...

With my system still groggy, I headed out of the dorm and headed straight to the rooftop. Zanaya saw me going out but didn't bother asking any question. She seemed bothered herself.

The moment I opened the door on the rooftop, my hands immediately wrapped around my body when the cold breeze hit me. I was already wearing a jacket but it's still a little cold.

My eyes wandered to the almost empty place.

What did he want from me anyways?

I walked a little as I try to search for him, and just when I turned on a corner, I saw him smiling cheekily at me. He was standing in the middle of the rooftop, a blanket spread on the ground with lots of food around it.

My brows furrowed as I walk closer to him.

He was smiling like a madman like he's proud or something.

My eyes landed on the food he brought and the sound of my stomach grumbling made him laugh.

However, I was caught off-guard when he moved closer and covered my shoulder with a blanket that I didn't even notice he has. With his hands on my shoulders, he gently leads me closer until we were both sitting on the blanket on the ground.

I was startled when he removed his cap and put it on my head instead.

For some reason, my heart started beating faster than it usually does.

And then, his boxy-grin greeted before me.

Shoot.

"I didn't know what's your favorite food so I brought everything I like instead." he started and I just stared at him, unable to comprehend what he just said.

I hit him in the face, run around the house chasing him with a baseball bat, rolled my eyes and cursed at him even though he's my senior, so why is he still doing this instead of making me suffer for what I did?

"Why?" I can't help but ask, but I amused when he still greeted me with a smile, the sincerest I ever saw in my life.

"Because I want to be close to you?" he mumbled and I was left in a daze.

"Again, why?" I asked him.

Why are you doing this? I wanted to ask but I stopped myself. Instead, I watched him scratch the back of his head looking like he's some nervous guy trying to confess to his crush.

My eyes widened at the thought.

Impossible.

"Just, let's be friends?" he asked offering his right hand for a handshake. My eyes landed on his hand, then back up to his nervous looking face.

"Truce?" he added, a lopsided grin showing and a long sigh escaped my lips. The next thing I knew, my hand reached for his.

And I didn't know the way our hands fitting perfectly with each other meant something.

I didn't know that handshake meant him playing a big role in my life.

Chapter 8

Max's POV

"Max, I am not Seth. Why are you venting out your anger with him on me?" for the umpteenth time, I heard Sky sighing on the other line. He sounded so exhausted but the angry me can't see that because of what happened.

Zanaya had been crying after reading an article about Seth and Sally dating. And it kills me.

Zanaya may be a crybaby but it's different if she's crying not because she was too happy.

"I told you. I told you a million times to keep your fucking friend on a leash before I kill him. I specifically told you that I am ready to kill once Zanaya gets hurt!" I growled.

Not only did she saw the article but she and Tokyo saw them on a date.

Zanaya saw her with her own eyes.

"You know what, if you didn't keep me awake until dawn, I should have gone with them. And from there, I swear I don't care if we're outside but I will make sure he'll be begging on his knees once my hands take a hold of him. And Sally. I can't believe her. We're friends!" I exclaimed and Sky kept listening on the other line which what normally happens every time I vents out my frustrations to him.

The day Zanaya went home with her eyes swollen from all the tears, it took me an hour to calm down and stop sending out curses to Sky and that is me asking him to deliver every fucking word I say to that jerk.

"I know, GUCCI. Trust me. Seth isn't all that giddy about everything that's happening. I can't tell you anything but trust me, he loves your friend more than anything," he stated and my breath hitch at the sound of his voice.

I gulped.

"Sky..." I called for his name as I turned from my bed. And I mentally scolded myself when I heard him humming in response from the other line. He sounded so tired and the sound of his breathing tells me he's just trying to keep up with me.

I have been talking for an hour and I forgot that he may be exhausted. From what I know, they have a tight schedule and I'm taking his very little time to rest.

"Have you eaten?" I asked, suddenly concerned at his wellbeing.

Ever since that rooftop incident, my views on him had turned on a hundred eighty degrees. I still hate his guts sometimes but talking with him on the rooftop made me realize that no matter what I do, he might be staying for God knows how long in my life. Whether for good or not, I don't know but my guts tell me he will.

"Ow, is my sweet GUCCI concern about her Sky?" the sound of his low voice while chuckling gave me goosebumps.

Good Lord, he sounded amazing.

But of course, I tried to mask the smile slowly creeping on my face when I heard him chuckle.

"You wish. But you sounded so tired. I'm sorry for throwing everything at you," I pouted. I may be mean but I know I'm crossing the line. Looking closely, I may have overboard a bit. Or not just a bit but I sure did. "Sorry, I'm taking too much of your time," I added and I'm surprised he didn't answer.

Did I vent out too much?

In nervousness, I started biting my index finger while I wait for his answer.

"It's fine Max. You know I'll always listen to whatever you say. And besides, I understand. I know why you're fuming. But give my friend a chance too," he mumbled and I can't help but sigh.

Should I?

It's not your relationship Max. You can't meddle in their lives. My conscience started bugging me.

And then I remember what he just said. "Why?" The question in my head getting out of my lips. He sounded surprised a bit or maybe that was just my imagination but he then I heard his laughter from the other line.

"Because you're my GUCCI? Honestly, Max, I would listen to your every cute babbling but I can't promise that I'll always agree," he told me and I know he may be teasing but I understand his point.

"I know and thanks for listening," I chuckled myself. I can't believe I'm agreeing with his words.

Then, everything went silent between the two of us and all the while, I was smiling.

It wasn't an awkward silence but rather, a silence with a mutual understanding with each other. For once, it's I feel like silence is fine, and I'm actually enjoying it.

My eyes landed on the clock on my bedside table. It's past midnight.

"Hey..." I called for his attention and like earlier, he just hummed in response and I can't help but close my eyes. I can't help but notice how the sound of him humming brings comfort not only to my ears but also to my insides, like, it's calming my nerves.

"You want to sleep? It's late," I told him as I pull my blanket even more after feeling a little cold.

"Well, I want to, but I have a little problem," he stated and my brows furrowed.

"What?" I asked confused.

"Nothing, go to sleep GUCCI or you'll have dark bags tomorrow, I know you don't want that," he whispered and it sent chills all over me.

What the heck.

I shrugged that weird feeling but knowing that something is bothering him started to bother me too.

All he did was listen to my words, I guess it's only fair I listen to his.

"Tell me Sky. Just try, maybe I can help," I told him and he was silent for a moment.

"I'm having a hard time sleeping. I don't know, I just-" I heard him sigh, the sound of his breathing catching me off-guard. It was heavy like he was having a bad time. "Just, go to sleep. This will pass," he stated and I felt my stomach churning. He must have been so stressed about a lot of things for him to have a hard time like this.

Now I'm feeling more and more apologetic for taking all of his time when he's having a battle of his own.

"Is something bothering you Sky? You know I'm willing to listen like how you listen to me, right?" I told him, my eyes softening and for once, I wish I was seeing him in person.

He started giggling and the more he does, the more I find his laughter appealing.

"You're being a softie, Max. I'm not used to this. Oh my God!" he squealed and I laughed really loud.

"Shut up. I'm being nice to you now but don't get used to it," I teased and his laughter soon stopped.

"Hmm, okay then. How about a favor?" he asked and I raised one of my eyebrows though he can't really see me.

"Hmm?"

"Can you sing for me?" he tried cooing and I almost choked on my saliva.

"What?"

He laughed once again.

"Relax, it's just a song. Just one song and I promise I'll sleep..." he whispered and my heart softened at the sound of his voice breaking.

Just once song Max. That won't hurt.

"Okay, but this will be the first and last Sky. I'm not a pushover, you know," I told him, my voice almost coming out a threat.

"Wow, are you for real? One second I think I might cry. Max is willing to sing for her Sky, I am legit about to cry," he started rambling and I can't help but smile, my heart fluttering a little.

Did he just indirectly say that he's mine?

Calm down, Max.

"Stop being overly dramatic about it Sky or I might change my mind," I rolled my eyes before moving a little to adjust my position. When was the last time I actually spent more than ten minutes over the phone? I actually can't even remember.

He stopped teasing and for a moment, I thought about asking him to request something apart from me singing but I remember how hard he had been breathing earlier and my heart automatically waver.

A long sigh escaped my lips before starting to sing one of my favorite songs.

Snow isn't a person... She's a persona made to be someone what her readers want her to be... Snow isn't a human... She's a creative output built by her readers' imagination... Snow isn't real... She's just a dream, an escape for other people... Snow isn't perfect... She's just a perfect character built in her readers' mind... Snow is You... A persona, a creative output, a dream, an image, a character... But who is the real Snow? Who are you? You always smile, tells them everything is okay... You always crack jokes, making their feelings lighter when they're down... You always give advice, to help them get through with everything... You always put them first... But I'd like to know, who are you? Are you happy? Are you hurting? Do you feel loved? Do you feel safe? Do you want to be Snow? Or do you want to be someone else? Do you need to hide to be you? Do you need to be alone to be happy? Do you need to turn your back to stop hurting? Do you need to close your eyes to feel loved? Do you need to shut yourself to feel safe? Do you want to be Snow? Or do you want to be you? But regardless of who you want to be, please know... that all I want is for you to be happy... Whether you are Snow, or you are your true self... Because your happiness is my happiness... Because you are my own snow...

Smiling to myself for a job well done, I whispered before falling asleep myself, "Goodnight Sky..."

"GUCCI..." I managed to mumble before my eyes closed until I was also drifting into a deep slumber.

Chapter 9

Max's POV

"What?" Sky asked confused and I rolled my eyes at him before sitting on the blanket he's spread once again in the ground at the rooftop.

"Why did you call me here? I don't owe anything to you," I snickered and he laughed at my words.

"But I owe you one for singing to me that night. I actually had the best sleep," he stated, his boxy grin showing which made my resolve shake a little. I had to remind myself that I shouldn't be all too friendly to him again, not after the recent incident with Zanaya being sent to the hospital.

It wasn't Sky's fault, I know but every time I see him, I always remember his friend, Seth, who apparently had no better thing to do but break Zanaya's heart.

With that in thought, I avoided my glance at him and had my arms crossed over my chest.

He was silent for a moment before a loud sigh escaped his lips.

"I know you're mad at Seth but we promised to be friends. And right now I'm here to hang out with a friend. Can't we just do that?" he mumbled and I can recognize the frustration in his voice.

My lips puckered at his words.

"Well, I'm sorry Sky but I want you to know that I am not someone who can easily hang out when I'm goddamn worried about my friend. She's almost a sister to me!" I snarled and he pouted.

"I know, Max, okay? But you keep forgetting the fact that I am not Seth and I am in no way involved with whatever is happening between them," he explained and somehow, my heart waver at the sound of his voice. He was obviously exhausted.

Without intending to, I looked at him in worry, "You sounded tired. Why are you even here? You should have taken a nap in your dorm instead. I will head back to the hospital anyway to check on Zanaya,"

Tokyo is currently at the hospital as we take turns in spending the night with Zanaya.

He looked at my direction, his lips still pouting and I had to admit that he looked really adorable.

"You know I can't sleep easily," he muttered like a kid and I can't help but smile.

"So you head down to me instead? Sky, I won't be singing to you again if that's what you're aiming for," I told him before grabbing a sandwich on the basket before me.

"Well," he smiled at me cheekily. And my heart started to beat rapidly, the way his smile tells me he's up into something I wouldn't really like. Or will I?

"Stop smiling at me like that," I scoffed and he raised an eyebrow.

"Why? Is it working?" he wiggled his eyebrow even more and to my surprise. he started putting his hands underneath his chin sending me chills all over.

"Ugh" Hey!" I screamed at him as I cringed. "Stop! I'm going to kick you," I told him, my hands landing on my chest, the loud beating of my heart inevitable - something she's been noticing ever since he started hanging out with him.

Shit. What the hell?

Max, that's because he's annoying you. I told to myself. There should be no reason for my heart to hammer inside my chest like this.

My eyes closed automatically when he started leaning forward, doing flowery actions.

Good Lord, I can't handle this.

"Is my GUCCI getting affected by Sky's cuteness?" he started teasing and I started waving my hands in front so he won't come any closer - his laughter booming at my reaction.

"Woah, I'm hurt, Max. How dare you deny my cuteness?" he said, and the moment I opened my eyes, I was greeted by his face still close to mine. His hands were leaning on the ground. He was so close I was afraid our lips might touch if either of us moved.

I gulped. This is probably the closest I have ever been to a guy.

My breath hitches at the close proximity and the way his breath hits my face sends shivers all throughout my body.

Fuck.

How was he able to smile at me like this? Like, everything was so simple, like he wasn't in anyway fazed that our lips are almost touching.

And I didn't know how it happened but it felt like the time suddenly stopped.

Was this possible?

My heart, it felt like it wanted to jump out of my chest yet I feel like I was floating. It's weird.

And right then, my eyes noticed every small detail. I know his face is so beautiful but I didn't know it is this perfect. His prominent nose gives him more appeal. And those lips.

Damn.

Our eyes locked and the moment it did, the smile on his face slowly faded until I realized how his eyes landed on my lips.

Unconsciously, I bite my lower lip without me intending. It was a reflex and if it wasn't for the sudden sound of some music blaring, I'm not sure what would have happened.

In instant, he started coughing before he's desperately searching for his phone. "Ahm, where is it?" he started rambling on himself and I noticed his cheeks tinted red.

My eyes saw his phone resting beside the basket so I grabbed it in attempt to give it to him but he also did the same. The problem was, he was able to take a hold of it first which results in me ending up holding his hand.

I gulped.

'Ahm" I stuttered, pulling my hands in an instant, my cheeks blushing as I avoid his glance. "Sorry," we mumbled at the same time and I almost choked on my saliva.

What the hell?

He looked taken aback too but he decided to answer his phone first since it kept on ringing.

"Hello? Yeah. No, I'll be home soon," he mumbled and I can feel his gaze towards my direction but I pretended to look at the stars before us, pulling my cardigan a little as I feel the cold breeze hitting my body.

It was cold yet I feel like my body is burning with all that had happened.

"I know. Don't worry," I heard him spoke and I started rubbing in my hands together because my hands kept on fidgeting.

The call must have ended because, from the corner of my eyes, I saw him put down his phone on the blanket beside him.

"I'm sorry, Grey was looking for me. Where are we again? Oh right, the ki-ah! I mean, the sandwich, yeah!" he exclaimed and my eyes almost widened at his words.

I totally forgot about the sandwich after what happened.

It was then that we realized that it has been squashed already.

How did it happen? I don't want to know.

Our eyes locked once again and a sheepish smile started to creep on his lips and I found myself acting the same.

"Did you make these? Because I don't just eat any food, you know?" I started teasing. My cheeks are still blushing and I know it's still awkward but I find myself enjoying my time with him.

He grinned at me at my words.

"GUCCI, prepare yourself because you're about to taste the best sandwich ever!" he exclaimed and we both laugh at our silliness.

Yeah, it was probably just a spur of the moment.

There's no way Sky would feel something about me, or me feeling something about him.

Focus Max.

Chapter 10

Max's POV

"Hey, are you okay? Talk to me, please..." I heard Sky mumbled but I was too shocked to even respond, and what just happened haven't sunk in yet.

After Zanaya had a breakdown, it didn't take long for me to realize that her boyfriend once again fucked up and the sight of one of my best friend bawling in tears wrecked me. She was in pain and so are we.

Zanaya is so precious, so pure and seeing her losing herself for a man is something I can't easily accept, not because I think lowly of her but because I want to believe that she is stronger than how she thinks she is.

Seeing her so helpless like that made me snap and in an instant, I have sent thousands of curses towards Sky in hopes that he will deliver the message to the devil itself. However, they had the decency to show themselves on our doorstep.

I was so ready to kill Seth Devon the moment I saw him, Sky and Storm coming in but before I can each reach the guy, Sky pulled me into a hug which shook my entire system into a frenzy.

Before I can even understand what is happening, he had already pulled me inside of my bedroom, I'm not even sure how he knew where my room is because I don't remember telling it to him.

And why would I?

Too shocked at what Sky did, I found myself sitting in the corner of my bed with him facing me. My rocked state is fully aware how his soft hands were cupping my cheeks.

And it surprises me.

I am surprised at how my body is reacting to his touch. It was like an electric current suddenly hit my body, traveling my very veins until it reaches a specific focal point within me but I'm not sure where and how. The only thing I am aware of is how fast my heart is pounding inside my chest and how my inside went frenzy when he hugged me, the tingling sensation within me leaving me all lost and confused.

"Why?" I whispered and my hands reached for his. He looked surprised at the sudden contact but I'm pretty sure it wasn't even close to half what I am feeling right this moment.

Our position probably looked so weird from afar. He was cupping my cheeks while my hands rested on his.

"Huh? He asked and I gulped.

"Why did you hug me?" I asked him and I can't determine if I was expecting to hear something from him or I just wanted to know the reason why he did it. Nevertheless, I need to have an answer. because if I don't. I'm not even sure I can let this incident pass.

"Ahm," he was avoiding my gaze and for some reason, I was starting to be pissed off.

It's just a hug, Max. Don't be too overly sensitive about it.

His eyes were all confused and I don't want to be burden with something like this. I got it. He probably did it because of Seth. And it made my blood boil even more.

Before he can even think of an excuse, I decided to cut him off. "Never mind. You don't need to explain," I snapped at him and I heard him sigh.

"Max, this is their problem. You can't always meddle with them. They have to talk it out and settle it on their own," he mumbles and I know he's right. I know that it's their problem and it's there to fix but the stubborn me refused to accept that fact.

I know and I understand his point. But it's hard for me to take it in especially every time I see my friends hurting like that. It's killing me and if I can, I'd take all those pain away.

From the very start, I have been against their relationship. But Zanaya loves him and I can't take away that little happiness that she's feeling. I'd rather keep my anger to myself than see Zanaya be broken.

"I told you to tell your friend to keep his shits together. You're not the one seeing Zanaya breaking down. You didn't see her almost fainting because of the pain she's feeling. You didn't see her lose her appetite because all she thinks about is how your friend had hurt her. You don't know anything!" I painfully released all of my stress to him and his eyes softened at my words.

"Max, I know that she is hurting and please trust me when I say I also hate what's happening. But I know Seth loves your friend so much. Please give them a chance," he whispered and I can't help it, my lips started quivering, the corners of my eyes started getting teary.

"We all work so hard for this," I told him. All my worries now dawning in front of me. The truth is, I was scared. I was scared that my friends wouldn't be able to handle everything and I would end up being alone. This, WHISTLE, I can't see myself being without them. They are my family and seeing my family hurting feels like I'm dying inside.

I didn't know I was already shaking until I felt him pulling me, his arms wrapped around my body and his hand was rubbing my back as he tries to calm me down.

I don't want to cry.

The Max everyone knows never shows her weak side. The Max they know was sassy, strong and independent. And I'm determined to keep it that way.

But these fucking tears won't stop. And it scares me even more.

He pulled away a little while he gently brushes the tears continually streaming down my cheeks. My eyes will definitely be swollen tomorrow.

Normally, I don't let people see me like this. I don't want them to see how vulnerable I am, even to my friends. To them, I wanted to be the strong one, the one who will fight for them if someone tries to put them down.

Max is not like this. She's not weak.

"Fuck, why won't it stop?" I asked myself, helpless about the situation. My hands tried to reach for my cheeks and it embarrasses me that Sky is the person who is seeing me in my weakest state.

"Stop staring at me," I told him. I don't need anybody's pity.

But he didn't budge. Instead, he continually wipes away the tears on my cheeks and I must admit that it's making me feel a little better.

"Go home. You don't have to do this," I told him, my confidence sinking deeper and deeper into the ground. The idea of him being able to hold something against me like this makes me feel even weaker.

"No. I won't go until you are okay. Don't stop yourself from crying, Max. Let it all out if you need to." he whispered and I scoffed.

"I don't want to seem weak," I told him and he shakes his head at my words.

"Crying doesn't mean you're weak. If not, it means you're strong enough to accept the fact that there is something wrong, that you are hurting. Cry all you want, GUCCI. I won't judge you. The truth is, I admire you even more and I am the envy of you," he stated and my brows furrowed at his words.

I was still crying but I can't help but stare at his beautiful face.

"I admire you because you're not afraid to express yourself. You're not afraid to fight for the people you care about. You know what you want and what you don't. You know your priorities and you know where you want to yourself to be. Max, look at me." he whispered and I gulped., the way my name sounded from his lips send shivers through my body.

"Don't ever think that you are weak just because you are crying. It's okay to break down sometimes. It's okay to show that you're hurting because you are. It's okay to show your true self to people. It's okay to be you..." and I felt my heart flutter at his words.

He sounded so sincere like he means every single word that he said.

He sounded human.

And I don't know what got me but the next thing I knew, I was already leaning closer until my lips claimed his.

He was frozen from his spot, his eyes widened while I closed mine. And it didn't take long for him to respond because the next thing I felt was his other hand on the back of my head as he pulled me even closer. His lips started moving and a moan escaped my lips as he hungrily devoured mine.

My hands landed on his chest, my lips following his every movement.

His lips, they taste so good, and it was addicting.

Another moan escaped me when I felt his tongue gaining access inside my mouth, exploring them in an expert manner. I was too lost over the drug that is him, I found myself biting his lower lip. a growl escaping his mouth.

And that was more than enough to wake me up from my addicted trance.

I pulled away and he looked at me confused, his eyes lost and I my heart skipped at the glint I was seeing on his eyes.

We were both hungry but it hit the both of us.

"I--," he supplied as he put his hands down, a sudden feeling of emptiness hit me.

My cheeks were probably blushing and the loud beating of my heart made it harder for me to focus on what he just said.

We kissed.

We fucking kissed.

At that, I found myself speaking my thoughts out loud.

"Holy shit," I exclaimed.

Chapter 11

Max's POV

"Are you sure nothing is wrong Max? You have been spacing out lately after SHADOW last came here in our dorm," Cali asked as we were having our breakfast.

"Just a little tired," I told her and I tried to brush off the knowing smirk showing on Tokyo's face while Zanaya seemed a little pre-occupied as well.

It has been two days since the night when Sky, Seth, and Storm came, but I am still restless. The kiss that we shared still lingers on my mind.

After the kiss, Sky started stuttering and words seem to stick in my throat too. We actually ended up not talking with each other after.

I jumped a few feet away from him and he does the same.

The atmosphere was weird and we were both silent, shocked about what just happened.

Nobody dared to speak. And all can be heard is the loud beating of my heart. Well, at least for me.

Silence.

It was after an hour that he suddenly spoke.

"Don't you want to sleep?" he asked, his face flushed the same way as mine and I started rambling.

"Yeah, ah, I mean, okay," I answered before slowly moving as I situate myself properly on my bed - laying on the left side, a little farther away from where he was seated.

My eyes wandered at him, cheeks blushing and the awkwardness still floating within the atmosphere.

It was your fault, Max. Why the fuck did you have to kiss him?!

I wanted to mentally scold myself for my actions. And I wanted to scold myself even more because I am confused as to why I did it in the first place.

Sky is my senior, a friend of my best friend's boyfriend. And more importantly, I see him as both my friend and enemy. Not quite sure how that is possible but that's how it is.

I see him in so many ways even I is starting to question myself.

My eyes caught the uncomfortable position he was in and I suddenly felt bad. I knew for a fact that he was here with me because he's scared of what I will do to his friend and I know he's almost sacrificing himself so the two can talk.

"You, do you want to sleep with me?" I asked and the moment I saw his eyes widened, my brows furrowed at his reaction. The slow movement of his Adam's apple didn't get passed through my eyes.

And that's when I realized how the words I just mumbled really sounded.

"No! Not like that!" I told him as I try to desperately wave my hands in denial. "I mean, do you want to lay down on the bed while you wait or something," I tried explaining but I was so sure my cheeks were already burning red in embarrassment.

Oh God, Max. You really are so so stupid.

"Oh," he exclaimed, cheeks also burning red and I'm just so glad I'm not alone on this dilemma I'm currently in deep shit with, "Yeah, I mean, of course. I want to sleep with you," he stuttered and both our eyes widened at his word. "Fuck, I mean, no. Not just sleeping, oh shit!"

Soft chuckles escaped my lips as I watch his bewildered state.

"I get it, GUCCI," I cut him off before we ended up being in an entirely even more chaotic conversation.

A long sigh escaped his lips.

My body stiffened a little when I felt him sit on the right side of my bed, gently tucking in his lower body as his back rested on my headboard. So now, he was sitting on my right while I lay down on his left.

If my body is stiff, I was so sure he was stone cold. From a few inches beside her, I can actually feel how he is almost not breathing, careful to make any movement beside me.

At that, I almost wanted to burst into fits of laughter.

"Breathe Sky. I won't be able to carry you if you suddenly pass out in here," I teased while I look up to him and he was staring down at me, his cheeks flushing and I had to pull the blanket closer to my cheeks to stop myself from cooing.

For a few seconds, I felt him relaxed a little until he was already smiling.

"What are you smiling at?" I scoffed at him and I was startled when I felt his right hand reached for my hair.

His movement was so natural and the smile on his face makes me think that he isn't even aware of how his action is affecting me.

"Nothing. I just remember how my sister would also come into my room and lie down like this whenever I am home. She'd ask me to tell her stories about my tours and she'd lie down like how you were doing right now," he cheerfully stated and I was shocked to see how his demeanor can easily turn a hundred eighty degrees in a flash.

However, seeing how happy he looked with his eyes gleaming like stars are inside them, I didn't have the courage to stop him when he started stroking my hair as if petting me or something.

I gulped.

Why do I find this situation weird yet sweet at the same time?

"Do you miss her? I mean them, your family?" I asked him.

I am never someone who had problems with regards to being away from my family. My mom can simply see me whenever she wants and I do the same. I have lived in New Zealand when I was younger and I guess being homesick was a problem I have overcome since I was younger. Besides, I don't have any siblings to miss. Sometimes I wonder how it feels to have a sibling. I guess that's actually one of the reasons why I was protective of my members - because I treat them more as my sisters, my family.

There are times that I know I'm overstepping my boundaries but can you blame me? Seeing my members breaking down in front of me is something I can't easily accept. When they are hurt, I am hurting twice. When they are sad, I am even sadder.

He looked at me kindly and I swear I saw his lower lips quiver I almost wanted to sit and pull him for a hug to make him feel better.

I watch him as he tried to avoid my gaze, his other hand still on my hair as I heard him lowly whisper, "Everyday..."

I bite my lower lip in frustration.

Why am I getting so affected?

"I wish I know the feeling, so I can relate. But hey, if you need someone, even though I normally scowl at you, I can be a good listener too" I told him and he just smiled. Even I was surprised at my own words.

He was smirking but thank God he didn't tease me about it.

And that's how our night went on. Both of us sharing and it amazes me how I can easily share my deepest worries about him. Every little thing. I even feel like I've shared more with him than I did with the girls and I don't want to freak out actually.

I was too comfortable I didn't even realize that I was already facing his direction as we talk.

It was two hours maybe that I started feeling sleepy.

If it was a dream or not, I wasn't sure but a strange memory had been bothering me since the next day I woke up.

"Good night GUCCI. I'm glad I have you..."

Those words, they keep on repeating on my mind on replay. Whether it was him or just a part of my imagination, I don't know.

"Yah!" I glared at Tokyo when she took my other pancake breaking me off from my reminiscing trance but the younger beauty only gave me a peace sign, I just shake my head in defeat.

I was busy eating my remaining food when I heard the sound of my phone beeping, indicating that a message just came in. And holy moly, the adrenaline started pumping within me after realizing who just sent me a message.

"We're going back tomorrow, GUCCI. I know you miss me so rooftop, tomorrow night, aye?"

Reading his message made my heart flutter but seeing my own response made me want to pinch my own cheeks.

"I'm not meeting you if you don't have my sweets, aye? And yeah, if you GUCCI me, then I guess I GUCCI you too? :)

Fuck, I'm a mess. All your fault, Sky

Chapter 12

Max's POV

"Waahhh, you got here earlier than I did, GUCCI. I'm flattered," my eyes caught Sky's form as he walks towards my location.

The rooftop was big with sections that are hidden, but somehow, we ended up having a spot we regularly stay with.

Besides, it's very rare to see someone stay at the rooftop since most of the people living in this building are families. Or if there are some, I'm thankful we don't see them the same time we are here because that will be weird.

"Don't get too happy, Sky. You aren't as special as my GUCCI's, okay," I snickered but a smile escaped my lips and he just raised an eyebrow as he animatedly did some derp faces.

He then stopped midway when he noticed that I have pretty much set up everything, from the blanket to a few foods I took from the dorm.

I shrugged my shoulders when he looked at me confused.

The man had been bringing everything. And I know he just came back from yet another tour. I thought it wouldn't hurt if I do these small things instead.

"Stop being so dramatic and come over here, weirdo," I told him and soft chuckles escaped his lips as he sat on an empty spot a little beside me.

"I see my GUCCI misses Sky, huh?" he teased before he grabbed the container beside him which has Carbonara on it.

Instinctively, I grab a fork and gave it to him. To my surprise, he turned towards my direction and feed me the first bite instead.

I looked at him amused and he just shake his head. "Eat," he ordered and for some reason, I automatically followed.

Afterwards, he proceeded in eating.

I wouldn't admit but my cheeks blushed at his gesture.

From the corner of my eyes, I saw how his cheeks had sucked in a little. He lost a decent amount of fat in just days.

"Yah, were you not eating well on your tours? You look thinner," I can't help but asked but I hope I didn't because he looked at me amused, mischievousness laced at the glint of his eyes.

"Waah, I just went away for a few days and you're nagging me like some jealous girlfriend," he joked and my eyes widened, now, soft chuckles escaped his lips, I couldn't help but stare.

"I'm kidding Max," he mumbled and I was even more surprised when he lift his right hand to wipe away the smudge of sauce on the corner of my lips.

It was probably fast, like a flash but to me, everything went slow motion, from the moment he was laughing, until after he wipe away the smudge on my lips and smiled at me afterwards.

Fuck Max. What's happening to you?

"Our schedule was quite tight, so yeah, sometimes we can't help but skip meals. And when we're free, we prefer to sleep instead," He mumbled, eyes now glued in the food he was eating.

What he said hit me like a blow.

I know he was busier than I am. I mean, we don't do international concerts yet, apart from those performances that we had in Japan.

If my situation had been hard now, I can't imagine how hard it must have been for them.

With that in mind, I grab a few more sandwich and hand it to him.

"Eat this," I whispered, my eyes avoiding his. I don't really know how but our situation ended up like this.

We banter whenever we are with our members but we act like some best of friends when we are alone - minus the kiss by the way.

Speaking of the kiss, it's still not allowing me to sleep comfortably until now.

Confused, Sky put down the food he was eating and turned to me.

"Are you sick or something? You seemed extra kind to me tonight. It's scaring me a little,' he mumbled and before I can even stop myself, I already flipped the man over.

He laughed at what I did and after a few moments, I did the same.

"Isn't it a consolation that I am here with your annoying ass right now?" I teased him and he smiled.

"Thank you," he whispered. His words, they were sincere and it caught me off-guard.

My cheeks blushed once again, my heart started beating loudly once again.

Something weird is going on inside me and I can't seem to take a hold what it was.

My hand reached for my chest in hopes to control its fast heart rate.

Max, control your heart.

It's alarming. It was as if my chest is about to burst any minute and this is something I haven't really felt before and it's surprising me.

With that in thought, I started doing breathing exercise.

Breathe in.

Breathe out.

Sky must have noticed because he looked alarm.

"Hey, are you okay?" he asked in worry, the food he had already on the surface.

He moved closer as he tries to reach for my hand but I moved back a little. He looked taken aback and his eyes widened.

I lifted a hand to stop him and signaled him to wait.

"Max..." he whispered which made my heart beat even more faster.

Holy Shit.

This won't do.

I stood up from my seating and gave him a quick glance.

"Sorry but I'm not feeling well. I think I need to take a rest," I told him before turning my back on him. My hands still on my chest as I try to walk a little faster, the cold breeze sweeping past through doesn't make the situation easier as I was only wearing my pajamas.

"Max, wait!" I was still walking towards the exit when I felt his hands on my shoulders. In an instant he was able to turn me around so I can face him. My hands balled into a fist in front of my chest in shock.

"Yah, don't turn on me away like that when you seemed almost out of breath. Are you okay? Are you hurt somewhere? Should I call an ambulance?" he asked in panic and somehow, that made me ease my mind.

He was rambling and for some reason, I wanted to reach his face and tell him that everything is fine.

"No, I think I need to call an ambulance," he released me from his grip as he tries to search for his phone on his pants. "Oh Go-, where the-"

My eyes watched him as he fumbled on his pockets.

My heart calming down for a moment. From where I was standing, I can clearly see his beautiful face getting too much distracted.

And it's because of me.

My heart felt warm at the thought.

"Sky," I called for him.

"phone, where is my-"

"Sky,"

"Phone, it's definitely he-"

"GUCCI,"

It was then that he noticed my presence once again as he stared back at me.

"Huh?"

My hands reached and cupped his face as I stare straight to his eyes. "I'm okay, breathe, okay?" I whispered and he looked at me like he was lost.

"You're not okay... I need to find my phone," he exclaimed once again and I didn't know what hit me but I did what I know could make him stop.

I leaned forward and claimed his lips.

Once our lips touched, I felt the spark, the current traveling within my body. And his lips, the taste of pasta still lingers on them. And like the first time, I was addicted.

His body relaxes and I felt his arms wrapped around my waist.

My eyes were closed because I was afraid to look at his.

Five seconds.

I was sure it only took that long but it felt like years to me. Or was it because I was able to savor every bit of it.

Just when I was about to pull away, I felt his other hand at the back of my nape and pulled me closer, his lips now hungrily devouring mine.

His lips, it was aggressive, like he wanted more. And I gave in.

I kissed him back the same way he is kissing me.

I felt his tongue moving forward requesting access over mine and I let him in.

His taste was addicting and I wanted more.

By this time, I am sure my body was hot even though the place was laced in cold air as we both stood up in an open space.

A moan escaped my lips as I felt him bite my lower lip.

He was in need and I can feel it. But so am I.

His presence, his touch, it's giving me ecstasy, something I never thought I needed because I didn't think it's worth it. But with him, I feel like his touch gives me both warmth and adrenaline.

I was longing.

I didn't know how long it was but eventually, we had to release each other to intake oxygen so we can breathe. And when we did, I wanted to pull him close once again.

By this time, our foreheads were already touching, my eyes still following the movements of his lips.

"Those lips...."I whispered.

If it was the spur of the moment, I don't exactly know and I'm not sure I actually cared but I've decided.

"From now on, they are only mine, GUCCI." I declared.

And since I'm Max, of course, I get what I want.

Even if it's Sky.

Chapter 13

Max's POV

"Aaaahhhhh" muffled scream escaped my lips as I bury my face on my pillow, my body in fetal position as I wiggle wildly on my bed, the memory of what I just said and did kept on replaying on my head.

"You are so idiot Max, Ugh!" I screamed in frustration, the look on Sky's shocked face flashing before me.

"No commitment, just cuddling and kissing, no sex, what nonsense did you just do?" I started ranting at myself as I now sit on my bed, my hands grabbing a fistful of my hair as I try to think of everything that just happened.

My mind can clearly remember how his mouth hung wide open at my words, perhaps it was amusement and disbelief showing on them.

"Those lips... From now on, they are only mine..." I whispered, my hands still clinging on him, his hooded eyes attentively staring lustfully over my almost swollen lips.

And then I felt it, the need to taste him even more.

And so I did.

I moved forward once again and claimed his lips.

Like earlier, he responded. But this time, I knew he was more eager than before as his hands skillfully wrapped around me, his head tilting as he try to gain more access over my mouth.

His lips, they taste heaven and I feel like I am on a cloud nine, floating.

Tasting him feels like losing myself over the ecstasy that he never fails to bring out in me.

He's just...

The best.

Once our lips parted, I almost groan in frustration. Addicted, that's how I am being right now but I don't seem to care and he doesn't say a word anyways.

So I decided to indulge myself over the best dessert I can ever had.

But before I can have another taste of my GUCCI, he pulled back a little, hooded eyes searching mine and for a moment, I was scared he'd push me away.

"Wait, Max..." he whispered, the sound of my name coming out of his lips send shivers through my spine. It's an amazing feeling that only he brings out in me.

"Hmmm?" I hummed, my eyes still on his lips and I watch as he makes a run with his tongue on his lower lip.

Shit.

"What are we?" his voice low but I recognize the hesitation laced on it.

Three-words....

One question....

But they were more than enough to wake me up from my trance.

My eyes caught his and I was at a loss for the right words.

What are we exactly?

"I-" I gulped, my mind getting dizzy over the sudden dilemma I am currently in. We kissed. And I like kissing him, but that doesn't mean we have to date.

"I can't date..." I whispered for me to hear but of course, he heard too.

Slowly, I felt his grip loosening on my body and our eyes met.

I wanted to explain but I don't know what are the right words should be.

I am on a dating ban and out of every one of us, I was the one who finds it hard to go against the norm, something I have been used to due to the strict training I had. Or maybe because during that time, they were a lot stricter and even though we already debuted, I am always the one who finds it difficult to break the rules.

When I was a trainee, I thought breaking rules is a sin. Before the girls came, my so-called friends started talking behind my back because I don't join them on their antics.

Once, I was walking d heard them talking about me.

The only consolation I had are the words I keep repeating to myself.

"I get it, I know but I won't say a thing and it's fine. I'm okay with what you guys are doing, no matter how it's starting to piss me off too. At least know I'm not faking it," I told to myself.

From that moment, I decided to stand my guard, until the others came.

For a moment, that's when everything dawns into me. I finally broke one. I kissed a guy, not once, not twice... But more...

But we're not dating. I tried easing myself.

"We can't date..." I repeated and I thought I saw pain flashing before his eyes but it was brief, maybe I didn't saw it correctly.

A smug smile tucked in the corner of his lips as he stares at me in disbelief. "So a kissing buddy, that's how you want us to be?" he asked and for some reason, his words struck something inside me. Painful shivers streaming down my body, I didn't even know it was possible.

Is that what I wanted? A simple relationship without any commitment?

"I get it. You don't date," he said, his lower lip tucked in between his teeth. I wasn't sure if he's angry or not but I feel like it.

"You own my lips now, I guess..." he whispered and I wanted to utter a word but I can't seem to find the right one.

His head turned back to my direction and the glint in his eyes tells me a lot more than what he had utter loudly. But I can't pacify the situation.

I know I messed up.

"Max, go inside. The girls are probably looking for you. And it's already late, the boys will soon search for me..." he whispered and I wanted to reach for him.

He was already smiling but why does it feel like it doesn't reach his eyes?

"Are you okay? Are we okay?" I can't help but ask.

It was a pathetic move I know but in my defense, he doesn't exactly tell me he likes me and at this time, I'm not even sure about my feelings for him.

He moved forward and pulled me for a hug.

"We are GUCCI. Stop worrying. I just needed to rest..." he whispered and my insides calmed down for a moment.

I almost forgot that he just came back from a flight.

And that's what happened. He insisted that I go back to our unit which I did but the memories of what happened is haunting me.

My eyes focused on the ceiling, the fast beating of my heart makes it hard for me to go to sleep.

And then I heard the sound of my phone beeping indicating that I just received a message.

And I know it's him because I just went ahead and used a personalized ring tone for him.

"I'm home GUCCI. Have a good sleep. Good night."

A groan escaped my mouth.

How is he so calm when here I am going crazy about everything?

Max, what situation do you just put yourself into?

Chapter 14

Max's POV

My eyes focused on Sky as I watch him slowly grinding to their unsurprisingly large audience in comparison to other newer groups attending the festival. His face caters restricted emotion which I know he maybe reserving for their actual performance.

The screams they were getting for a relatively smaller amount of people comparing to their usual audience makes me want to question their fans' vocal prowess.

It's just a rehearsal for the festival but I don't have to check the actuals to know how more than half of the people watching are mostly their ever so dedicated fans.

Of course, they are one of the hottest group nowadays - a recognition I know they deserve along with the other groups because hey, everybody just works really hard.

A faint smile escaped my lips as I recognize the brand of clothes he was wearing.

"Show off..." I muttered to myself.

He was there, face bare from any makeup but his face is the highest form of aesthetics any human being would wish to have yet he seemed like he doesn't care.

He was moving in effortless, unaware to the fact that his every movement captures every weak women's heart.

And those mouth works he's so used to doing sends shivers straight to my soul, the memory of his lips pressed against mine makes me want to curse myself for acting so careless that night.

My eyes tried to catch his gaze but to my disappointment, he never once looked at my direction even earlier when it was WHISTLE rehearsing.

They walked past us when they had to go to the stage and even Storm messed up Cali 's hair. Sky on the other hand was checking something on his phone.

I bite my lower lip in frustration. I had to sneak out for a moment since my members where on the dressing room so I can at least watch SHADOW's rehearsal.

My hands reached for my lips as I cover them, my face hidden behind a few managers from backstage. I was wearing a loose jacket, cap covering my head and a face mask.

I have intentionally changed my jacket to make sure fans won't easily recognize me and even stayed hidden, blending with the people just in case.

It has been days but Sky didn't bother sending me any message. Normally, he would send me one but he never did. He didn't even inform me he was back on their dorm which he usually does whenever we hangout.

What changed?

Is he mad at me?

Looking back, I know my words probably sounded wrong the first time but for me, it's the most logical solution to our situation.

What happened to us, those kisses....

They were probably due to hormones or something. I mean, we were always together, tired and stressed, and a lot more reasons to be not on our usual self. In other words, we are easily distracted.

That should be it, right?

We like kissing each other, so what? That doesn't mean we have to be on a relationship.

We share each other our stories, each other's pain - I know but that doesn't mean we can share everything with each other.

He probably has his own priorities and I have mine and my words, no matter how much it sounded so wrong to others, is nevertheless still practical according to how I view things.

I'm on a dating ban and Zanaya breaking the rules is more than enough. That's too much fire that we had already started and I don't want to end up burning goddamn hearts because of me adding add up fuel on it

To be honest, I don't actually see how this would make him mad. It's not like he likes me, right? Like as in a sense that he wants us to escalate into something that is more than friends.

But you want that, right?

My hands balled into a fist for a moment, the words forming on my head making it harder for me to concentrate.

When their rehearsal ended, I had to back away a little from the crowd backstage and moved to a corner where not a lot of people are situated.

My eyes watched his every move and after seeing him turned to the restroom and his members heading straight to their dressing room, a weird thought just happen to cross my mind.

Don't do it, Max. I told to myself.

My eyes closed for a moment, thinking deeply if I should do it or not. But the thought of Sky avoiding me for days made my heart waver so I decided to it otherwise.

Whatever.

I counted good three minutes making sure no one is inside and no one is watching before deciding to enter.

'Click', the sound of the door opening caught me off guard a little, embarrassed that it indeed easily opened.

Well, I guess boys have easy access anyways, they don't worry at times like this.

My eyes caught sight of his back, his face on the mirror and he caught sight of my form, his eyes widened and I suddenly had the urge to turn my back and forget everything.

But I didn't. Instead, I turned around and make sure to lock the door because we'll surely be in a lot of trouble if anyone sees us.

Once I turned around, I noticed him backing away, his face fear-stricken and my brows furrowed.

"Yah, don't come near me," he said a little scared and my mouth hang wide open, confused of his action.

He started biting his lower lip and my mind had to process thoroughly what is happening until I realized that he was scared.

Shit.

"GUCCI, it's me," I immediately called for him in attempts to calm him down.

My heart broke a little at his expression earlier. I wonder if something bad had happened to him before for him to react like this.

My heart fluttered when I saw the recognition on his face, his demeanor calming down a little and that's only that I realized how his hands were already leaning on the small sink behind him, a long sigh escaping his lips. His eyes were closed only to open wide once again when a realization hit him square in the face.

"This is men's restroom, Max. What were you thinking?" he asked bewildered, his hands leaving the poor sink behind.

My eyes wandered over his form as he sexily strides his way closer to me.

Yeah, get closer, babe... I told to myself.

Seeing him close like this makes me realize how much I missed the man.

I guess he had rub on me really bad, huh.

I was too caught up into staring at his beautiful face, I wasn't able to concentrate to what he was saying.

"-trouble, Max, are you even listening to me?" he asked, his tone exhausted and I removed my face mask so I would be a little more comfortable.

My lips puckered as I stare at him.

"Are you mad?" I asked him and he looked taken aback for a moment but composed himself after.

"No,"

"Then why are you avoiding me?"

"I'm not,"

"You are!" I exclaimed, annoyance can be heard on my voice. He seemed uninterested to what I was about to say and it felt like something struck inside me but I can't seem to fathom what it was.

He looked so done.

"Max, I am not avoiding you, okay," he repeats but I'm not buying it.

"You are. Tell me then why you aren't calling me these past few days when you usually don't let a day pass without pestering me,"

Oopps.

I probably had said the wrong thing because I saw how his jaw clenched, his face stern and I am lying if I say I wasn't intimidated.

"Is that how you see it? Me pestering you?" he asked and I gulped. He started moving forward and I backed away a little.

Sky being mad is something I haven't handled and I'm not sure how to react.

He was staring at me intently and gone was the same glint I usually see when he looks at me. Right now, he was looking at me like I am some dull and annoying person.

And I hate it.

"N-no..." I whispered, unable to look at him in the eye. So I looked down, nibbling my lower lip as I feel it starting to quiver.

I'm not sure if he heard my soft whimper but he stopped moving, and he didn't respond.

We were just there, silence filling the room and tension arising.

I don't like it.

I'm so used to Sky always listening whenever I rant, being ever so patient and understanding. Seeing that I seemed to have gotten on his nerves makes me feel sad and hurt at the same time.

Not to him but to myself because I don't want him to act this way towards me.

"I'm sorry..." I whispered, unable to handle the silence between us.

"For what?" he asked.

"I don't know..."

"Then why are you apologizing?"

"Because I feel like I did something wrong,"

"You feel like, but you aren't recognizing it that's why you don't know," he answered and my head snapped back to his location.

"Huh?" I asked confused.

"Nothing. Go back to your members Max-"

"GUCCI" I cut him off and he was caught off-guard. I took that chance to say what I want to say. "You call me GUCCI when it's just the two of us so call me that since it's only me and you," I told him and I swear I saw a smile forming at the corner of his lips and that sparked a new found hope within me.

"What should I do so you would forgive me?" I asked him and I know he was just holding back.

He didn't answer. But I'm not giving up. Not when I almost saw the smile I use to see when he looks at me.

So I did what I never thought I would do in front of him.

A wide smile formed on my lips while his eyebrows raised over my new demeanor.

And I did it, my signature heart arrow shot, along with my best smile and I saw him closed his eyes after seeing it.

My smile faded and my insides started churning, butterflies started hitting the walls inside my stomach out of nervousness.

Stupid, Max.

My face fell at his reaction and my eyes focused on my shoes, trying to stop myself from crying.

I heard him sigh and I didn't look up, embarrassment eating me alive and I wanted to crawl into a hole and hide myself to the world.

"What should I do about my GUCCI..." he whispered and it wasn't a question.

Wait, what?

And then I felt it, his arms wrapped around me, my face gently hovering on his chest as I feel him kiss the top of my head.

"You're going to kill me at this rate," he whispered which got me confuse all over.

"I won't avoid you so stop sulking, okay?" he stated and my arms automatically wrapped around his waist as I realized what it is that is happening.

The soft smell hitting my nose was addicting enough to make me snuggle even closer to his chest and I felt his body shaking, soft chuckles escaping his lips.

"You missed me this much, huh?" he asked and I looked up to see his face, his smile greeting me and I pouted.

"I miss you..." I told him and he looked shocked.

He was just there, staring at me and I waited for his response but he never answered back.

Instead, he leaned closer and gave me a quick peck on the lips earning a victorious smile from me.

He doesn't have to tell me.

I'd think about the consequences of what I just did later but right now, I'd like to stay like this with him.

I leaned over his chest once again, my smile not leaving my face.

We're okay...

That's more than enough.

Chapter 15

Max's POV

My eyes were closed and my head hurt a little, all the things that had been happening lately is wrecking my brains into pieces and I'm not really that enthusiastic about it.

Currently, we are on our way to our scheduled performance and nobody is actually speaking with each other. I knew for sure something had happened between Zanaya and Cali, I can't seem to find the right timing to ask about it.

After that night where Cali snapped at Zanaya for being allowed to date, the dorm had been nothing but filled with tension.

And our boss calling the three of us to his office doesn't really help either. The conversation I had with him still lingers in my mind.

"Is everything understood Max? You, of all four, should know the consequences. You trained the longest and you saw everything that had happened to those who didn't follow. This isn't a game. There are things that you need to sacrifice in order to be where you want yourselves to be."

I slowly nodded at his words, the heaviness on his tone didn't go unnoticed by my sensitive hearing.

"Zanaya dating couldn't be helpful at this point but if any of the rest of WHISTLE gets into another dating scandal on your rookie years, it's either you glow or blow. I'm not even talking about the effects of it on your contract," I heard our boss stated and my head hung low as his words sunk deep engraving on my brain so I will remember.

After the confirmation of Zanaya and Seth's relationship, the three of us were called to the office for this, a reminder of what our priorities should be.

And I know it. What he said was right. The company paid every penny, for everything food, every clothes and every hour we stayed in our dorms since I started training and I am very much aware that our group has not yet reached half the breakeven point after all the promotions. This isn't actually the time we should be playing.

We agreed to this. We said yes because we have dreams. We wanted this, each one of us. Our lives are connected, if one gets shot, we fall down as a whole. This isn't a one man's game.

"You can go back to your dorm and have a rest. Your schedules have been moved for a week so you guys can rest and do a reflection," he stated before turning back on his papers. I bowed one last time before I exited the room. I didn't know I was holding much of my breath until I was out.

Our boss, he had always guided the four of us. Some people think he's some bullshit who throws whatever he wanted on the table but to us girls, he isn't.

He is our father, and he's been there for us guiding us along the way. Things may be hard but we understand. Plus, we should be thankful enough that he's being cool about Zanaya and Seth's case.

To be honest, I understood his point. I've been abroad but Korea is a different case. Our culture is different and our idols have learned to embrace that culture for so long.

It's not like we can change everything the way we wanted.

Media is harsh and so are people. Whatever we do or we didn't do, we will be criticized. Whatever we say or we didn't say, we will be judged.

Forgetting a line, laughing over it, is being called unprofessional. Doing adlibs, hyping the crowd is considered shouting and being arrogant. Those aren't even half of what people called me for.

And I know. I see them. It's unfair but I can't say anything about it. That's what industry had taken away from me - freedom.

I'm not complaining honestly, because I knew this is how things work even before I started. And it's not like me complaining will change anything. In fact, I knew it would get worse as people will see as some whiny brat.

I felt my phone vibrated breaking me off from my train of thoughts and I had to resist the urge to smile when I realized who sent me a message.

GUCCI: Nini, where are you?

I bit my lower lip as I felt butterflies getting wild inside my stomach.

He's not the first person who calls me Nini but I get jitters whenever he does as his deep voice makes it sound even sexier.

Me: Why, miss me?

Sky and I, the relationship that we have don't have a label. We're not dating but I'm pretty sure we've established that one isn't allowed to date another.

From the recent events, it would be wise for me to end whatever it is that we have but I decided otherwise.

Sky is a drug that I had started to get addicted to. I don't know when it started but I did, so I'm not sure I'd be willing to give him up easily no matter how tight everything has been lately.

My members and his members don't know of course. We're not sure how they will react and I don't want it to be the reason for the both of us to avoid each other.

GUCCI: Well, it depends. Will I get a kiss if I see you?

A cough involuntarily escaped my lips the moment I saw his message but before I can even respond, the van halted indicating that we've already reached the venue.

We were heading inside and my eyes caught a familiar figure, actually, a lot of familiar people - SHADOW.

Sky saw my form and the nerve automatically grinned. Even the other boys were waving their hands. I shake my head in disbelief. How can these boys act like this when there are people around?

I guess the fact that people already know that Zanaya and Seth were dating made it a known fact that the boys knew us.

We were moving towards their direction and before I can even reach Sky, my eyes widened when Cali pulled Storm 's arm after the guy went past her.

Seth and Zanaya were quick to act because they covered and acted as if nothing is happening. My eyes caught how Storm removed Cali 's hand from his arm and the painful expression showing on her eyes broke me.

Zanaya was quick enough to pull Cali away from everyone and my eyes caught Sky's. My face stern and he understood.

A long sigh escaped his lips and he backed away.

I hate it.

I hate it when my members cry.

And why do they always have to cry because of the boys from SHADOW?

With that in thought, I turn on my heels and followed the girls, Sky already out of my mind.

I know it isn't fair and I know I shouldn't be taking everything out of my frustrations with him because he technically didn't do anything wrong, but can you blame me?

WHISTLE is my family and we always take care of our family first, right?

Chapter 16

Max's POV

"Tokyo, open the door you lazy-ass," I chuckled as she made a tantrum while lying on the couch, the constant sound of the doorbell ringing starting to irritate me.

I just came out of my room after taking a quick shower, unable to handle the stickiness of my body after doing some Yoga exercises.

"I have this weird feeling that those are the buttheads coming back. I saw them trend on Twitter when they arrived," Tokyo pouted. I raised an eyebrow at her.

Tokyo is acting weird lately and I don't know why.

Actually, a lot has been happening on this group and I feel like everything is a mess yet it isn't.

With that in mind, I headed straight to the door and like what Tokyo predicted, SHADOW is indeed outside our dorms excluding Seth who's probably with Zanaya right at this moment.

The moment I opened the door, Mono's face lightened, "I thought we're already banned here or something, he chuckled and my eyes caught Sky's who was hiding his smile by covering his mouth.

Storm straight away entered the room and my head snapped to his direction when I heard the sound of someone whimpering.

"Cali..." my voice wavered when I realized how Cali 's tears where streaming down her cheeks, Storm pulling her for a hug.

Tokyo got up from the couch and everyone was already inside.

We were all silent as we watch Storm guided Cali towards the kitchen.

"Waahhh... Everything is getting messier each day, huh?" I heard Raze muttered but I was startled when I felt a hand on my back.

Sky was gently guiding me towards the corner and we sat facong each other.

By this time, the room was already in a mess as they all scattered around the place. Sometimes I wonder which dorm we are into because just as SHADOW is comfortable with ours, WHISTLE does the same with theirs.

"Did you miss me?" I heard Sky muttered, his voice low but it was so deep it reached my insides like a lightning.

My eyes widened and I checked if someone heard him. Thank God everyone was busy.

Soft giggles escaped his lips and I swear his cuteness is starting to make my heart weaker each day.

My hands reached for my hair and tucked a few strands behind my ears, the smile on Sky's face made my insides flutter even more.

What is this guy doing to me?

Wake up Max. You need to get a hold of yourself.

"Let's play a game?" I suddenly proposed. I didn't exactly know what I was getting myself into but I need something to distract myself or I might end up doing something that will reveal our 'relationship' with the others.

"What game?" he asked, his eyes boring straight to my soul.

"Cham Cham Cham? The winner gets to flick the loser's forehead," I told him and he groaned. (Cham Cham Cham is a game also named as On-Two-Look in other countries. 2 players face each other, and player 1 points at player 2's face and says "one, two, look." And on the word "look" they point in a direction. If the other player copies the other, they lose)

"Are you expecting me to flick you in the forehead? Wow, you think I'm that cruel?" he exclaimed and I grinned.

"Nope, but I am,"

He rolled his eyes on my statement and soon enough, we're playing silent Cham if that is even possible.

"Aww," he groaned after I flicked him. "Why is your hand so heavy? I can still remember that time when you hit me,"

"Blame my Mom for it,"

"Cham! Come here," I pouted as he ready himself to flick my forehead. He looked like he was about to hit a man so I closed my eyes.

He's not going to hit me real hard, will he?

Of course, he will. After all, you flicked him too.

So I was bracing myself for the impact but I was surprised when his flickering almost didn't hurt.

"Aigooo I slipped, too bad," he grunted, his face looking like he was devastated about losing his chance on hitting me.

I eyed him suspiciously and saw how he was playing with his tongue at the side of his cheek.

But we resumed the game.

With every two flicks, I receive one, and every time, he says that he always slips or doesn't get the right timing.

After three more consecutive hits on his forehead, the room burst open revealing Seth and Zanaya. Instead, I went ahead and flicked Sky's forehead as hard as I can.

"Awww," Sky grunted.

"This won't do." he said as he looked at me while I just smirking at him.

"I can't hit you so hard because you're a girl but you're hitting me like a damn truck. Let's change your punishment." he stated and I heard Seth chuckles.

"What?" I crossed my arms waiting for his response but he just made a cute noise as he did his voice.

Oh God.

Another game and he won.

I was waiting for him to do something stupid but what he did made me lose my shit - square at heart

My eyes watch as he reached for the back of my head pulling me closer until his lips landed on my forehead.

Shit.

My heart went berserk, it's loud beating probably more than enough to wake up Tokyo every morning.

The fucker just gave me a kiss on my forehead.

He did. In front of our members.

Once he did, he looked at me, his eyes gleaming in happiness and I didn't have the energy to get mad.

"Eww, the two are so weird," I heard Demo from the side before continuing whatever they were doing earlier.

I was too focused on Sky, I didn't even know what is happening around us.

"You smiled," he whispered and my cheeks blushed even more.

I hissed at him and urges for us to continue.

"Awww!" Sky growled at my third flicker and he lost it.

"That's it." before I realize what he was planning to do, Sky stood up and had carried me upside down like a big sack of rice.

A loud shriek escaped my lips in shock.

"Yahhh!" I screamed at him, my hands hitting his back so he can put me down.

"Sky!" I called for his name but he walked with ease until he reached my room.

The moment he closed the door, he headed straight to my bed and put me on the corner before sitting down beside me. I was about to snarl at him but he suddenly scoops me up once again, a yelp escaping my mouth as my body landed on his lap.

By this time, I am already sitting sideways on his lap, my hands now hooked on his neck.

A huge lump gets stuck on my throat.

He was staring at me intently and my eyes automatically landed on his lips.

"They were too noisy and I missed my GUCCI," his arms wrapped around my waist as he buried his face on the crook of my neck leaving trails of kisses on my skin. A moan escaped my lips at the sudden contact, my body arching a little.

"I-,ahhmmm, I missed you too," I stuttered as I feel his lips grazing over my body, his every touch burning not only my skin but most probably my insides too.

And before I even knew what happening, his hand reach for my nape and pulled me closer until our lips, a groan escaping my mouth automatically as his tongue had stirred every lust I could possibly have on my body.

"Would" he sucked my lower lip as he tried to speak in between kisses. The pleasure he was giving me felt like I was in heaven.

"you be..." and another kiss, this time, I bite his lower lip, my other hand grabbing his hair. The amount of longing I have for him keeps getting stronger and stronger each day.

"my girlfriend?" I heard him finish but his words didn't quite seat in to me in instant. I sucked his tongue inside, allowing inside for quite a while before he slowly pulls back.

"Would you be my official GUCCI?" he suddenly stated and my lips parted at his words, the question he was giving came out a surprise to me.

I was so lost, his eyes filled with worry as his arms wrapped tightly on my waist.

Before I can even respond, the sound of the doorbell ringing put me of my trance causing me leap out of Sky's lap.

"Who's that?" I asked in concern.

Everyone was already inside. With that in thought, I quickly made to the door, Sky following.

I was startled when I saw Tokyo coming out of her room with Grey too.

"Who would that be?" Cali looked confused, so was the rest of the group.

"Don't tell me that's our manager?" I said in panic.

We are so dead of that's him.

Tokyo automatically run towards the door to check the peephole.

After she did, a loud gasp escaped my lips.

"Why?" Zanaya asked.

Before she can even respond, the door swung open, revealing two familiar faces.

"My favorite granddaughter, how are you?"

A smile almost escaped my lips when I saw who they are, Zanaya's family.

"Grandpa..." Zanaya whispered and I saw Seth immediately bowing after seeing both Zanaya's father and grandfather.

"Oh, my grandson in-law, I didn't know you are visiting your wife. Good, so we can talk" he added and the rest of the group gasped.

Wait, what?

Chapter 17

Zanaya's POV

"I'm sorry Grandpa, Dad...."I said as me and the girls tried to tidy up the place while my grandfather is sat on the couch with my father and Seth sitting beside him.

I gulped at the scene before me.

The whole SHADOW was standing in line as they look down, intimidated with my grandfather's presence.

I won't blame them. My grandfather exudes charisma and power. He is indeed intimidating.

"So, Seth, how is your grandfather?" I heard my grandpa asked as I help Cali carry the trash to the kitchen.

"Hey, what's happening?" Max asked in a panic the moment all four of us were out of the other's sight.

"When did you get married to Seth?" Tokyo asked confused.

"Yeah, I think you forgot to mention something so important like that to us, Zanya" Cali crossed her arms.

I tried to open my mouth to explain but my mind was off and I can't seem to think well right now.

Knowing the fact that my grandfather was sitting in the living room with the boys is enough to make my mind go crazy.

When did everything go so wrong?

"Can I explain later? I really need to attend my family outside." I pleaded and the girls sigh.

"You better, because I swear I won't buy any of your shits after this." Max scoffed as we all head back to the living room.

I sigh as I try to visualize the scenario later.

I swear it will be bloody. Knowing the girls, they will demand to know every fucking detail and I am not prepared at this time.

This won't be good.

Once I am out of the kitchen, the rest of the boys looked at me and I swear Seth looked paler than ever.

"Right on time, why don't you sit with your husband, Zanaya." I nodded at my grandfather before heading beside Seth.

I tried my best to avoid eye contact with others.

Apart from Storm, nobody knew about our marriage.

Well, nobody until five minutes ago.

"Grandpa, what makes you come and visit me?" I can't help but ask.

My voice was shaking. Seth must have noticed because he automatically grabbed my hand in an attempt to calm me down.

We heard him chuckle.

My dad looked at me apologetically, probably because he wasn't able to inform us beforehand with their arrival.

My grandfather cleared his throat.

"Well, I've been seeing a lot of articles about you two." he started.

Of course. I mentally grunt.

"I saw articles with both you and Seth getting linked with someone else, you know, so I thought I'd pay you a visit. But imagine my surprise when I see your husband here. I guess I have nothing to worry about." he said, his voice commanding and I didn't know if Seth and I are in trouble or not.

"Dad, I told you the kids were doing fine." my dad said to my grandfather.

"I know, but I wanted to make sure." he patted my father's shoulders before turning his gaze back to us.

"So, Seth, when will you two give me great-grandchildren? You know me and your granddad isn't getting any younger."

Seth started coughing at what my grandfather said.

"Grandpa!" I whined and he just chuckled.

The boys behind me stood frozen. And I swear Demo let out a loud gasped until someone covered his mouth.

"Are these both your team members?" my grandfather asked looking ay both my members and his members on the opposite sides.

We both nodded.

Soon enough, both of our members were introducing each other.

"Oh, you seem like some great lads. I hope you all understood these two's situation." he started.

My heart started beating like crazy. What would my grandfather think?

"Of course sir." I turned around as I heard Storm's voice. "You have nothing to worry about them," he added and my heart skipped a beat.

How can we ever be thankful to Storm? He had been our savior since I can't remember.

I turned to him and gave him a curt smile which he just returned with a nod.

"Good. It makes me feel relieved that they both have friends who will always be there," he stated and my fist balled in frustration.

I looked up and saw my members looking on the ground.

Of course, I had been a disappointment.

I should have told them sooner because now, I can see betrayal in their eyes.

"I guess me and your father can now go then." my grandfather suddenly stood up and my father was quick enough to assist him.

I stood up from my seat and move towards them.

My arms automatically wrapped around my grandfather's as I bid him goodbye.

"I miss you, grandpa," I whispered. From the corner of my eyes, I can see Seth hugging my father.

Once released with my grandfather's hug, I reached for my father to bid him farewell.

"Dad, are you going back to Australia?" I asked.

He smiled at me and I hugged my father tighter.

"We will visit Seth's grandfather first. You know your grandpa seldom goes back to Korea," he stated.

Both of our members bid them goodbye and soon enough, silence covered the room as nobody dared to utter a word.

The air was suffocating.

There are two types of silence, one brought comforts and makes one feels relax, while the other gives you the scary vibe.

This type of silence definitely falls on the later.

Grey looked taken aback and Sky seemed to notice and he tried to get the attention of the youngest.

"So..." Tokyo broke the silence.

"You knew?" I turned around and saw Cali looking at Storm who just scratched his forehead.

Cali's eyes landed on me.

"I didn't tell him." I whispered but she marched straight to her room.

I gulped.

This doesn't look any good.

"What sort of bullshit is this?" Max's voice roared across the room.

Fuck.

Chapter 18

Tokyo's POV

I bit my fingernail as I stare at the people in front of me.

The room was silent.

After Max snapping and Cali walking out, the only thing you can hear on the room was everyone's irregular breathing.

Max had been silent the whole time while Cali stays on her room. Storm followed her but seeing the expression of Cali earlier, I doubt he will be able to talk to her at this time.

"It really isn't a dream..." Demo muttered as he plopped down the cushion, all his energy draining off his body.

"What do you mean?" Mono asked and I just stared at them clueless.

Sky glanced at both Seth and Zaya's direction.

Zanaya was shaking.

I wanted to move forward and hug her but decided otherwise.

She has her husband. She doesn't need me right now.

And to be honest, I don't even know what to feel.

I looked down as I bite my lower lip.

We've been together for years.

We've spent thousands of sleepless nights for practice.

We all cry together as we fight hunger while we are on a diet.

We massage each other as our body sore from all the bruises we earn from doing hard choreographed dance for our monthly evaluations.

We share each other's pain whenever one feels like giving up.

We did all things together, share each other's secrets because we're sisters.

We trusted each other.

We did.

But now, I'm not sure.

My head snapped back up when I heard her soft whimper as she tries to stop herself from crying.

My eyes soften at the sight of her while Seth hugs her closer trying to calm her down.

I wanted to comfort her, tell her everything would be fine.

But I can't.

And at the same time, I felt confuse.

Am I mad at her for not telling us? I don't know.

I honestly don't know what to feel.

Am I hurt? I think so.

Betrayal...is this what my other members felt?

My heart is beating like crazy and yet my body felt numb.

My inside churning as I felt all of my emotions seeping the remaining sanity left in me.

She was married and I wasn't even aware.

"Stop crying Zanaya..." Raze sounded worried as he stares at the girl having a breakdown in front of us.

"Honestly, I had an idea that you two might be married. But disregard the thought." Sky stated.

"What do you mean you have an idea?" Raze asked, confusion audible on his voice.

"Remember that time I saw Seth's necklace? I searched over the net and found an exact copy except the carvings inside. It says it's a wedding band." he added, his eyes on the ground as if everything is finally fitting into place.

"And remember that time when they broke up and we ended up drinking until we were dead drunk? I swear I kept remembering things in the morning of Seth crying telling us about his marriage." Demo looked shocked at the realization.

"That wasn't my imagination?" Raze exclaimed. "I thought I was being stupid for having those memories so I never once share it to you guys. So it's true?"

Seth just sigh.

"Did you personally tell Storm and not us?" Raze looked hurt as he confronts Seth.

"I didn't okay? I accidentally told everyone of you when we were drunk. Apparently, Storm was sober and he remembered everything the next morning." he explained.

I watch as he gently wipes the tears off from Zaya's cheeks.

"I still don't get it. How did you two ended up getting married?" Mono asked.

I sat down on the couch beside me while I let the boys do the talking. I don't have the energy left to meddle and butt in.

"Yeah, and how long have you been married?" Sky added.

"Almost two years?" Seth whispered.

"Two years!!!!!" Raze screamed while Grey messed up his hair wildly.

I pity the youngest.

It seems like he's the most affected on his group.

"Hey, Seth Devon! How can you do this to us?" Demo exclaimed, already standing. He looked appalled.

"I can't believe this," Mono added.

"I can't just tell you, okay?" Seth tried to explain.

"Why? Don't you trust us?" Sky butted in. His voice was shaky, obviously trying to calm himself down.

"Exactly my point."

I look around after I heard Max speaking. I almost forgot that she's still here.

She looked at Zaya, pain evident in her eyes.

"Is it that hard to say that you're fucking married?" she stated as she stood up from her seat.

Zaya looked at her, her eyes were red from crying.

"It's not easy, okay..." her voice cracked.

"And it's easier to lie to us for two years?" Max's voice was already high.

A weird laugh escaped her lips. And I was scared for a moment.

"Two years..." she balled her fist in anger. "Two long fucking years and we just found out today. Not because you decided to trust us. But because of the circumstances and you have no choice. Seriously Zaya, what are we to you?"

At this point, Max was already crying.

Sky looked alarmed as he moves forward and wrapped his arms over her in support.

Max is at the brink of breaking down.

Zaya and Max both on this state isn't actually the best thing.

The rest of the boys were silent.

"You were married even before our debut," she added. "So that's why you are allowed to date. Because you're actually married."

The realization hit everyone.

Zanaya burst into more tears and it breaks my heart to see her like this.

"Max, it's not her intention." Seth tried to reason out.

"Shut it!" Max scoffed. "It's exactly how it is!"

"Max, please calm down and hear them out." Sky rubbed Max's back.

"No." she stared at Sky. "I'm not mad about her getting married." she looked at Zaya painfully while the other just sat frozen beside Seth.

"I am hurt because she never told us. Because if she did, we could have understood. We could have supported her. Because I know she had a hard time for those two years."

Max's eyes soften. Zaya glanced back to her, confusion flushed on her tear-stained face.

"We could have beat the hell out of Seth when he hurt her."

All their eyes landed on me after I spoke.

Even I was startled. But I continued.

"We could have helped her get through all those pain of seeing her husband being linked with another girl. Or help her cope with the process of being a wife. We could have helped her cook for Seth." I stated, finally realizing what Max was talking about.

"Not that we won't do the same even if you two were not married. But the point is, we could have been there when you're struggling to try to hide everything and keeping all those pain by yourself." I looked at her.

"You're not alone Zaya. We're here." I smiled at her.

"We're your family. And we trust family." Max stated.

"I'm sorry..." Zaya covered her face.

"I know getting married may be a personal choice or a deeper reason may have been behind it, but within those two years, why didn't you try to tell us? Or do you have any plan on telling us at all?" I painfully asked.

Her marriage is not the issue and I know where Max and Cali are coming from.

We were left in the dark. For two long years.

But I can't blame Zanaya for everything as well.

"I wanted to tell you. Do you know how hard it was for me? I wanted to tell you all so badly but I don't know how to do that. How can you expect me to tell you that I got married when we were all excited for our debut?" she stated, her voice hoarse.

Max looked down, realizing Zaya's point.

A chuckle escaped my lips.

"And it's not your obligation to tell us anyway. You have a choice, and that's your life." I added.

Mac looked at me, her eyes wide at what I said.

And then she looked down realizing how hard it must have been for Zaya.

That's why I can't fully get mad at her. Zaya cares for us. I know she will tell is eventually.

I know what both feel and I can't blame them.

I understood why Max was hurt and at the same time, I knew Zanaya doesn't mean any harm. For all its cost, she may be keeping this to herself for the sake of our group as well.

"Who else knows?" Max asked, her voice calmer than before.

"Just both our bosses,"

The room was once again silent.

We were just having fun an hour ago. How did everything turn out like this?

We were all startled when Grey suddenly stood up from his seat and headed straight to the door.

"Yah, Grey!"

"Grey!"

"Where are you going?!"

His members tried calling him but he didn't look back.

Was he crying?

Before I even knew what I was doing, I headed straight to the door to follow him, ignoring the calls from the rest of the group.

I maybe pestering the guy a lot but that doesn't mean I don't care for him.

I know my members need comfort but their boyfriends and husband are obviously there.

I am not dense. I knew something is between Max and Sky. Whether they are in a relationship or not, I don't exactly know, but there is definitely something.

The same goes with Cali and Storm.

So I am the only single person left.

That's fine Tokyo, you have your fans.

My eyes caught something red from the corner of my eyes.

Grey's shirt.

Yeah, he needs a friend right now. And I'm obviously one.

Of course, Tokyo, you are friends... Just friends. I told to myself.

"Grey..." I called his name.

He was sitting down on the stairs. We ended up on the fire exit.

His head hung low, his forehead on his arm.

He slowly looked up once he heard my voice and my heart shattered at his state.

His eyes were red and he looked confused.

"Tokyo..." he whispered and I immediately sat down beside him before pulling him in a hug

I pester him so much because I like it when he looked annoyed but seeing him like this feels like a needle was pricked on my chest.

"Hey, why are you crying?" I whispered, my hands behind his head, his face on my shoulder.

Too much body contact and I swear my heart started beating a little faster, it's making me confused.

He was silent for a minute, and I let him. I let him cry to release all of his emotions.

After a few moments, I felt his breathing back to regular.

"Seth, will he leave us?" he said a little scared.

And then I realized why he was crying.

He's afraid to lose his brother. SHADOW has been his life. The thought of having one of his brother leaving makes him breakdown and cry.

A smile crossed my lips.

"He won't, stupid." I told him, while I pull a little of his hair.

"Awwww!" he screamed before pulling away from my hug.

"Tokyo!" he snarled. "Really? You're back at pestering me?" he looked annoyed and I laughed at his cute reaction.

I was trying to lighten the mood.

"Why? What are you gonna do?" I teased him. "Crybaby." I added, grinning.

"This," he said and my eyes went wide open when his left hand grabbed the back of my neck and pulled me towards him.

The next thing I knew was my lips in contact with his.

Shit. Did Grey just kiss me?

Chapter 19

Max's POV

"It's not fair. This isn't fair," I poured my heart out at the very person who had been the reason why I am always looking forward to those moments that I don't have any scheduled activity just so I can see him.

His gazed burning with sincerest affection and concern, my heart almost leaping, butterflies almost running my intestines altogether.

The moment I walked out after that emotional confrontation that I had with the apparently "wedded-couple", he immediately followed and I couldn't thank him any less.

My hands were on my forehead as I try to grasp everything that had happened while his hands were gently rubbing my back with him standing here in front of me.

"Did you know?" I look up, worry visible in my eyes. I probably wouldn't be able to handle everything at this point and literally give up if I ever find out that he knows about it too and he allowed for me to be left in the dark.

You wouldn't, right? You won't do that to me too. I wanted to say but I stopped myself.

His loving gaze was focused on me as he answered. "No. Though I once saw Seth's ring and asked about it. I mean, it caught us by surprise too..." he stated and I bit my lower lip in realization.

"Everyone but Storm doesn't know. And of all people, why just him? Why not us too?" I can't help but whine, the painful truth wrecking me all over again.

"Is it that hard to tell me? I always got her back. I will fight for her when she can't. Her battles, I considered them my own. So why?" my voice cracked at the end.

"You heard her Max. You know yourself Zanaya will tell you if she can," he explained and I knew he got a point.

But it still hurts inside.

Is Storm that special that we can be left out but not him?

I am in a mess and he understood why yet I can do anything except stop.

I'm heartbroken, devastated and more importantly, hurt.

But no matter what happens, Zanaya is almost blood. And like what they always say, blood is thicker than water, so I'll stick with her regardless of how hurt I was.

My eyes landed on the man in front of me.

The moments I had talked a lot of shit on Sky all because of my love and concern for my members had always been straight up front and almost the very reason why we always talk.

He didn't once complain about it. He listens to my endless chatters and never complains.

And now, me finding out that Zanaya had been married to Seth for almost two years was definitely a good hard blow to my ego and once again, it's Sky who was here for me.

It's always him.

"She can tell Storm but not us, her members? How is that fair?" tears continually streamed down my cheeks, unable to fight the emotion I have within me at this point.

Not that I was against it but I guess, the fact that we never knew kinda hit it real home.

Sky knew I had always hated his guts simply because he's Seth's friend and group member. For me, Seth's regular stupidity of making Zanaya cry is such a crime that I can't help but get really mad because of it.

"It's because you're too attached. You give too much," these are the words people always say towards me. But it was never the case.

The girls equally loved me the way I love them back and if I'm being honest, it was mostly Sky who sees my rage whenever.

He didn't utter a word. Instead, I felt his arms wrapped around my shoulder, the other at the back of my head as he pulled me closer my face ending on his tummy.

"Everything will be fine, GUCCI. You can cry all you want. I won't leave you. Never..." he whispered and this breaks me even more.

Sky, why does it always have to be him who always stays by my side when I'm vulnerable and close to showing the worse in me?

"Why?" I asked confused. "Why are you still here with me?" my voice broke a little, I tried to search his eyes for any sign opposite to sincerity but I found none.

Why do you have to be so pure and transparent, Sky?

"What kind of question is that?" his voice was stern but I can still feel how his hands never left my body. No matter what I said to him, he still looks at me like he cares.

"I'm messed up," I started, an ugly smirk showing on my face. But it's painful and suffocating.

"I'm goddamn messed up. Why do you have to put up yourself with me?" I asked, emotions getting ahead of me.

"You'll betray me too, wouldn't you?" I asked, lifting my gaze so I can meet the equally hurt expression reflecting on the glint of his beautiful orbs.

My lips quiver in shock and absurdity of my words.

Great, Max. You did it again.

You hurt everyone. Now, you're even hurting the only person that is willing to stay with you.

I knew I hurt him with my words. For making it sounding like I don't trust him and that I view him differently. But God knows how I see him like he's the best that had come into my life.

He's starting to be my everything and I don't think that's a risk I'm willing to take at this point.

Not when my group is in a mess...my other member turned out to be married and the person who holds the most of my emotion is slowly taking over everything that I had always been in control with.

As much as I would like to deny it, I'm starting to fall deeply in love with the man who stole my GUCCI.

But then we ended up being each other's GUCCI. Isn't that strange?

I heard him. I heard his question. I heard when he asked.

I wanted to say yes. I want to. And that I'd be glad to.

But I can't.

WHISTLE had been hit a multiple time. The next hit might end up straight into bull's eye. I didn't train for years to let that happen, especially not by being caught by a dating rumor with another SHADOW member.

Zanaya getting caught will hit us hard enough. I can’t even imagine how great this scandal will be so to be honest, this is really a very dangerous thing we are getting into. At least, for artists and celebrities like us.

"Max, stop it. Stop thinking that you can always fix everything. Stop thinking that you need to sacrifice yourself for them because that's not just it. Talk to your members. You can't always decide for everything. Leave something for yourself too. And don't ever think that I'll leave you because I won't." he whispered but I pushed him a little.

He looked at me pained and I wanted to move and grab him. The feeling of him around my arms, I know I can't have them to myself forever.

"I know," I told him. "That's why I'm doing what I have to do," I stood up from my seat, my breath hitching at the realization that the strength I had from sitting down may have been from him from the beginning.

"I'm setting you free. You don't need to be obligated to run yourself towards me," I looked at him straight in the eye as I try to look strong and unaffected but I know I'm far from that.

"Stay away from me while you can because I'm no good for you. You will get hurt over and over. So please..." I whispered, my head hanging low as I stare on the ground.

It's the most logical decision to make but why does it feel like I'm being torn into nothingness?

The air on my lungs feels like it's being suck out of my chest and my throat was hurting.

I am not strong. Even though they think that I am coldhearted I'm not strong enough because I feel like dying.

Why is it this painful to let him go when we never even had a relationship to begin with?

It will be painful if I let him go but he might get hurt if I ask him to stay.

I was startled when his arms wrapped around my almost drained body.

"I won't go away. I won't leave even if you ask me to so stop pushing me away. I'll wait GUCCI. I'll wait until you're ready. I'll wait until you can share a space for me inside your heart. I'll wait...." he whispered and his pleading tone killed me even more.

It's not right and I know I shouldn't give in. It's not fair to him. I can't give him what he wanted - commitment.

But I guess I'm really that selfish because I honestly don't want to let him go.

So I wrapped my arms around his waist while my face was buried on my chest.

This... Why does this feel so right even after everything had gone wrong?

Chapter 20

Max's POV

Brushing a few strands of hair covering my face, I slowly turned to corner as I search for the room where my interview will be made.

BP had set a guesting for me which I rarely do because I'm more comfortable in attending fashion shows that being in some reality tv guesting.

People usually think I have a strong personality and can carry myself well but the truth is, being away with my members scares me too much.

For me, every move that I will make might affect the whole group, every word that comes out of my mouth will be a reflection of the whole us, and that scares me.

After calming down my nerves, I continue walking down the hallway on my own, my manager staying at the reception to fix something.

"It's fine Max, there's nothing to worry about..." I whispered to myself hoping it would be enough to gather every confidence that I can muster, the only hope that is left of me so I can move forward.

A lot had happened with SHADOW and WHISTLE. There's SHADOW winning a prestigious awarding body, Zanaya and Seth breaking up only to get back again after the whole Zanaya of Twice and Le Hyun Woo fiasco. And those everyday banters that we had.

SHADOW and WHISTLE, we were almost inseparable. I am actually surprised Dispatch haven't caught us staying each other's dorms.

And Sky...

He's still the same. He's still the first person who comes to me and the last person I see before I sleep at night. If not in person, he'd make sure to video call.

And of course, to the eyes of our members, we're still the same Sky and Max that doesn't like each other that much. At least that's how they see it on my end.

Sometimes, I ask myself if I deserve Sky.

I'm sure it had been more than a year or so but he's still there. After I had a breakdown in front of him, he had been careful not to pressure me for any label on our relationship which I appreciate a lot. Or if he ever asks me about it, I refused and he said okay.

He should be okay with it.

WHISTLE is my priority at this time and right at this moment, I'd still stand firm to that decision unless I felt otherwise. Besides, Sky will always be there. He can wait. He told me he will wait.

So I'm holding onto his words.

A smile emerges on my face at the thought of him.

I can still remember how he surprised me on my last birthday.

After sneaking into my room without any of my other members know, he left me multiple gifts on my bed with a sweet handwritten letter on it. And if that isn't enough, he had given me the best gift ever - a serenade at the rooftop along with our usual picnic style meetups.

As much as I would like to deny it, Sky had made my heart feel so secure. I like him. I like him a lot, and a few hugs and kisses here and there made me feel giddy every time.

Without me knowing, he had started to take a huge part in my life. A portion which I'm not sure I would be okay if a time comes he no longer holds into.

Halting from my tracks, my brows furrowed when I noticed an all too familiar form standing a few away from me, his perfect side profile making my knees go weak.

My heart started beating like crazy and in a flash, the insides of my stomach felt like being tied into endless knots. The feeling of uneasiness started to consume my body.

That can't be...

Sky's hands were inside of his pants pocket while he stares at the girl in front of him.

The girl was a rookie idol and even though I'm standing a few feet away from them I can clearly see how her cheeks blush and how her gaze was directed on Sky's shoes, probably uneasy and shy looking at him straight in the eyes.

My eyes scanned the corridor. Thank God there wasn't anyone in the vicinity. This is actually a secluded part of the building where meetings are mostly held.

I remember Sky telling me something about a schedule but I didn't know he will be here too.

My heart felt like it was knocked out of my chest when I saw the crook of Sky's lips forming a smile, something I have never imagined I would see him doing especially since it's not directed towards me.

Calm down, Max. They are just talking.

"Hi..." the girl started. I tried to ransack my mind what the name of the girl was. I knew their group since they just debuted but I was too out of focus I think my mind got sidetracked and I can't remember them quite a bit.

Sky didn't answer, instead, he just waited for the girl to finish.

Without even thinking, I reached for my phone and started typing a message to him.

"Where are you?"

Once I hit send, I saw him pulled out his phone from his pockets and read the message.

However, seeing how he just took a glance at his phone that fast made my heart clench in pain.

My heart stopped beating when I saw him put his phone back in his pocket after reading my message, not even bothering to send me a response.

It was as if my face got hit by a damn truck.

Sky just ignored me.

He ignored me.

Because of another girl.

"Sorry, continue..."I heard him mutter but I was too devastated about what just happened, shocked that a day will come when Sky will disregard me.

The girl's cheeks turned the brightest red and hearing Sky chuckle made my heart feel numb. My stomach felt like churning, it was as if thousands of ants were fighting inside which is very unnatural for me. I always keep my poise and composure but seeing this in front of me is a different thing.

"I like you..." the girl said and it was as if a bucket of ice was just thrown straight to my face.

The loud thumping of my heart almost took the life out of me, my body trembling in nervousness and my lungs feels like I'm getting suffocated. Seeing Sky smiling to someone else makes me realize how easy it is for him to turn his back and walk away from me.

But he won't.

He won't, right?

With that uncertainty, I muster all the strength I have in me and turn on my heels.

I can't do this. I can't see Sky with someone else.

I don't have the courage to listen to his answer to the girl's confession.

His sweet words, his beautiful smile, I'm not ready to find out that he's willing to share them with someone else.

Shit.

But I can't exactly do just what I want to do. If Zanaya's contract doesn't include dating ban, mine has something else.

It's not just about my emotions alone.

WHISTLE...

My dreams...

Our fans...

My family...

My contract...

Him...

With slow steps, I started walking away from him... Until I started walking faster, like how my heart is going crazy right now.

I'll wait for manager first before I head back to where I should be. Besides, I still have an hour before the agreed time.

For now, I'll stay away from Sky...

Until I figure things out.

Until I figure myself out.

Because right now, I felt like dying.

Just thinking about him leaving me makes me want to crawl under my bedsheets and cry.

I can't lose Sky... Not now...

Or not ever.

Chapter 21

Max's POV

"So, you're telling me that your friends don't know that you and my boyfie, wait?" his forehead creased while he pouted his lips as he breaks down every detail I just gave him, "Oh, right, that fucking hot and yummy hottie Sky of SHADOW slash still my boyfie is your guy? Bitch, you fucked my man?!" his voice had gone three pitches higher and I groan.

I knew telling him this is not a very good idea but I still did since this had been bothering me too much.

"We're not fuck buddies, I hate you!" I told him before throwing a cushion which he elegantly swatted away out of his face. "And he's not yours too, okay, back off!" I snickered and he smiled at me amused. His legs crossed as he listens to my every word.

He just came back from the US and went straight to the dorm. Aside from the girls, he's probably the only friend I have that is not an idol and out of this industry.

Details aside, I trust him so much that I wasn't afraid to share him my deepest secrets which I can't seem to share with my other best friends right now.

"Oohhh, possessive. Yeah, you sure have fucked," he sassies and I just sigh in defeat. "Was it big? bitch, I need details, oh my god!" he claps excitedly and I almost threw my phone straight to his face.

"We didn't and that's not the problem now, okay. I don't know what to do," I whispered, my head hung low as I fiddle with my hands while the two of us sat on the couch opposite each other.

After I saw Sky with that rookie idol, I started avoiding him, his calls, his presence, everything.

I set appointments with my other idol friends just to lessen the time that I'd be staying at home or at their dorm. And I knew he noticed. He's been asking me why through messages which I left at seen but after I disregarded every calls and messages, he finally stopped trying.

No words about getting upset or mad about my actions which makes me even more frustrated and guilty.

Right now I knew Zanaya is in their dorm because she asked me if I want to come over. Thank God Jessie came and I have this miniscule excuse of being a coward and stay here.

Cali was out to God knows where as well as Tokyo.

He looked at me like I was some weird human being.

"Max, baby, I love you but you're an idiot. You have a dangerously good-looking man who's stupid enough to accept your ignorant conditions of just kissing and cuddling without being in a relationship yet you're still acting like this? I thought he asked you to be his girlfriend? That means he is really into you!" he rolled his eyes as if he was just stating something that is obvious and I pouted.

"It's not just cherry and blossoms Jessie and you know that. Besides, I saw how he was smiling to that girl... He was..." My lips quiver as the memory of that scene kept on haunting me. "He was enjoying it. I feel like he's genuinely happy,"

My heart dropped at my own words.

I was so used to the fact that Sky will always be there whenever I need him and that

"Did you hear him say he likes her?"

I shake my head not looking at him.

"Okay, so now you were assuming things. Girl, that's bad and a total bullshit. You know what? lemme just have him. You know I'll eat him whole," he smirks and I gagged.

Jessie is my gay best friend and coincidentally, he is a huge fan of SHADOW. To make things even more awkward, Sky was his bias so me telling him that I have been kissing the man he likes is a little weird but in every way feels so right to me. If that even makes sense.

"Why do I have weird friends, really?" I told him before standing up and moving closer to him. "I'm going to take a quick shower. There's food in the fridge. Are you going to sleep here?" I gave him a quick hug and he smile.

"Move away, Nini. You smell like a man - awww!!! " soft chuckles escaped his lips as I hit his arms for teasing me.

"Go away and take a shower. Leave my beautiful ass in here, honey. I'm waiting for a call," he tried removing my arms which I tried to hold onto the best that I can.

He sighs in defeat, "Okay! There's your GUCCI inside the suit case, please leave me alone! Oh God, girls are too clingy. That's why I don't do girls," he said giving a hard push sending me meters away from him.

A smirk escaped my lips as I smile at him cheekily, excitement eating my system at the words he just said. In a flash, I was skipping to my room where his luggage where.

"Don't touch my lingerie!!!," he screamed and I laughed out loud. Jessie was a big guy and seeing him on his lingerie is never a sight I wished to see. But then, I don't really have a choice, do I?

Once I reached my room, I grab a loose black shirt, a pair of undies and a denim shorts. Then, I grab my towel and headed straight to the bathroom. I'll check my GUCCI later. For now, I need to freshen up because I feel sticky.

Humming softly to one of the songs we have been working on since our debut, I pretty much enjoyed my shower, oblivious to the mess that has been happening outside.

"If you really, really love me..." I was still humming just right after I came out of my bathroom, with a fresh feeling and in my most comfortable clothes when I heard something crash right outside my door. In worry, I headed straight to its direction only to be shocked when the room suddenly burst open revealing a very frantic Sky.

His eyes were wide open, hair disheveled, and the leather jacket he was wearing was almost falling off on the other side.

He was leaning on my door, looking it in panic and I swear I heard Jessie's devious laugh right outside the room.

"Your fri- your friend..." he stated panting, his other hand on his chest as if he just came out from a very long and complicated struggle.

Hearing Jessie's laughter emanating the whole dorm, I finally got an idea what had happened.

"Oh gosh, Sky I'm sorry!" my hands clasped together in worry. The guy must have been traumatized.

Jessie is a little handful but he meant no harm. Yet I'm not surprised that he did something mischievous to scare the man in front of me.

Speaking of which, I miss him so fucking much. Seeing him right now makes me want to regret avoiding him for days.

"Max, I'm not going out of this room without you. Your literally friend jumped on me ready to grind," he exclaimed in horror and I felt bad for laughing. His lips were quivering and I bite my lower lip as I try to stop myself from smiling.

I miss him.

Seeing how perfect he looked and my stomach is churning at the sight of him. Why did I even think about avoiding him?

With that in thought, my hands spread wide open.

I'm sorry for being stupid Sky...

His eyes wavered for a moment before his face lightened. Without a second thought, he rushes forward engulfing me in a tight hug.

My breath hitches at the contact, his warmth seeping through my body and it was as if my heart just started functioning properly once again.

"Don't ever do that again, avoiding me. You don't even know how crazy my days have been without you..." he whispered and that ended every doubt I have within me.

Yep, your definitely stupid Max.

It's Sky. Sky will never leave me.

Never.

Chapter 22

Max's POV

"I'm not hungry..." my hands reached for the covers of my bed as I try to hide from Zanaya, who, to my surprise had been the sweetest with me lately. Not that I am complaining but I feel like she's acting extra sweet and a weird bee had been buzzing behind my ears that some news is about to explode one of these days. It's crazy.

"It's not that you're not hungry. you just don't have an appetite which is understandable since you are sick. Regardless, I need you to eat so you can drink medicine or I swear I will ask Seth to bring Raze here. I'm sure you don't want to go around and scold you, do you?" she mumbled as I felt a gentle movement beside me.

A grunt escaped my lips at what she said. Raze, he had been acting like a big brother even to WHISTLE and in all honesty, what Zanaya said isn't impossible. I can literally imagine Raze scolding me for not eating meals or drinking meds.

With that in mind, I removed the blanket off and bolted up from my stupid attempt for a short slumber. I don't even think I'll be able to sleep anyways since I have a terrible headache.

Since last night, I had been camping in my room, not feeling so well. I didn't even bother sending a message to Sky because I don't want him to worry. Normally, I don't really ask for help with the girls whenever I'm having a hard time because I know they have problems too. I don't want to depend on others too much when I'm having a hard time because if I don't have them around, I'd fall. And just the thought of falling in a pit where I'm not sure I can still survive scares me more than when I studied abroad alone.

Zanaya, on the other hand, noticed that I was sick because she insisted on coming inside my room earlier this afternoon after noticing that I haven't been out the whole day. It's like she’s gotten some weird instinct. When Cali and Tokyo found out, they wanted to come in but I was very stern when I said I don't want them near. I may be carrying some virus or something and I don't want them to get sick too. However, Zanaya, being hard headed that she was, she insisted on taking care of me.

"Did you cook this?" I asked her as I try a spoonful of the soup she brought me and almost choke when I tasted too much saltiness in it. Soft chuckles escaped her lips when she saw my reaction.

"Tokyo cooked it," she exclaimed in defense when I glared at her and I just shook my head, giving up.

Seeing how my taste bud isn't in good condition too, I wonder how salty this food really is.

"This is making me throw up. Why did you allow that sweet nugget to cook? I can already imagine her grinning while making this," I muttered but a soft smile still emerged my lips. Tokyo's cooking isn't exceptional but just thinking how happy she must have been while making this is good enough for me.

Even with the salty food, it was impossible not to finish even half of it as Zanaya is almost shoving it down my throat. After drinking a medicine, she left me alone saying something about video calling Seth.

Just as I was about to close my eyes, I noticed the screen of my phone flickering. Before I can even check the message, I felt a sudden surge of pain in my temple which made me grunt a little.

Giving up, I pulled the covers of my blanket and adjusted my body while lying on the bed.

Due to lack of continues sleep, I felt myself losing my consciousness in a matter of minutes.

"I don't love you..." my heart ache at the words he just stated, the knots on my stomach felt like it was being twisted multiple times.

"No. You do, right? I mean, you care for me. You always do..." My lips quiver at the sound of my own voice. It lacks confidence. Gone was the strong Max everybody knows.

My heart almost dropped on the ground when I saw him smirk.

"I don't. I don't give a damn about how you feel. I don't care about you. Not at all,"

And that's it.

It's like my world suddenly stopped and I can barely breathe.

Why?

"I thought you care for me? You always do. You're always there for me," I whispered and slowly I saw his diminishing form, his face getting blurry every second.

I felt my body shaking. My eyes sting from tears and my heart ache like it's being torn apart.

Alone. I'm always alone.

"It hurts. It hurts a lot," I mumbled, tears now streaming dowm my cheeks. I tried to search for him but he's already gone.

He left me.

"I'm sorry..." there was no need but I found myself asking for his forgiveness.

"Nini, GUCCI..."

Soft whimper escaped my lips as I hear his voice.

"Please don't leave me," I started pleading and I can hear my own agony through my voice.

"Babe, wake up,"

"Stay..." my lips quiver, tears working like a faucet. It was nonstop.

"Max..." and then I heard it again, his soothing voice. "Wake up..."

I felt a hand on my shoulder, gently shake my body.

Slowly, my eyes opened and his handsome face greeted me. His forehead creased in worry, his eyes wavering as he stares at my current state.

He was looking at me straight in the eyes before his right hand started reaching for my cheeks, wiping the tears stained on my skin.

"It's okay, GUCCI. It's just a nightmare, okay? It's fine. Everything is fine," he started whispering, giving me pecks of kisses on my forehead.

Our gaze locked and I felt my mind wandering, confusion eating my system.

It was just a nightmare?

"Nightmare?" I asked him and he nodded. And then I scan the place and realized that I was indeed inside my room.

And then I look at him. "How come you are here?" I ask. The last thing I remember was sleeping on my bed after Zanaya forcefully wanted me to eat and drink medicine.

His face softens and the next thing I knew was him pulling me for a hug. That made me feel at ease a little.

"Seth said you were sick. Why didn't you tell me?" he asked and I reached for him as well. Having him on my arms felt so right.

I didn't tell him because I know he'll get worried. Burden, I don't want to think of me as that too.

"I knew you'll probably do this. I don't want you to get sick too," my eyes closed as I feel his warmth through his embrace.

Even though he's not sharing anything to me, I knew he has his own problems. We all have one.

"Tell me when you're not feeling well like this. I was worried when you're not responding to my messages," he whispered as he rocked our body a little while hugging on my bed

"I miss you..." I whispered, my feelings getting ahead of me.

He pulled away a little, surprised at my sudden words.

He kissed me once again on my forehead and smiled, " I miss you even more,"

My heart fluttered, its fast beating makes my breathing unstable a little.

This man, he brings happiness and contentment over me.

I need to keep him.

No. I want to keep him.

I love him. I love Sky.

Chapter 23

Max's POV

"Max, your stomping on my foot," Mono hissed and I wanted to throw the stuffed toy in my hand straight to Sky's face after he openly laughed at my failed attempt of getting his attention.

He raised his eyebrow as if mocking me and whisper-shouted, "What?"

"You're dead," I mouthed and he just avoided my glare and ended up playing with Grey.

The boys are currently in our dorm and Sky, is purposely avoiding me, not as in not talking but just not letting me explain myself. For what reason? it is because he caught me checking some articles and videos online on dating scandals about him earlier.

To be honest, I'm not really sure what has gotten into me but while I was in the kitchen waiting for the food I was heating in the microwave, he ended up lurking behind my back.

I was too pre-occupied with what I was seeing I didn't even realize that SHADOW just arrived in our dorm. Plus, it's not like Sky told me they're coming.

If it wasn't for Raze who came and pull him by the ear, I wouldn't know.

Once Raze went out of the kitchen, he looked at me accusingly.

"Were you afraid of me cheating on you?" he snickered and I gasped.

"Me? No!" I exclaimed and he started wiggling his eyebrows.

"Nini's jealous, I see..."

"Of course not! Why would I? We're not even on a relationship!" I exclaimed which I immediately regret after seeing how his jaw suddenly tightened.

"Right," he mumbled, his face darkened and I know he was mad.

Shit. I shouldn't have said that.

"Sky, I-" I stopped midway when Mono suddenly came in and stopped at the sight of us.

Sky turned his back and suddenly left.

"Did you two had another fight?" Mono raised his eyebrow at me and I grimaced.

Another fight...that's how everybody always sees us - fighting.

That's Max and Sky to everybody - cat and mouse, to some almost Bonnie and Clyde.

I'm not sure how we were able to hide what we have right now, a relationship with no exact label, something I'm not sure I am liking or regretting at this time.

"Nope," I said popping the "p" at the end before leaving him as well.

The whole night, Sky didn't smile nor looked at my direction even after I purposely do things for him to notice me.

"Guys, I think we need to go. It's getting late," Raze mumbled between munching food and typing something over his phone.

"Leggo," Demo mumbled and bid us goodbye.

As usual, Seth was clinging into Zanaya a lot and that's something we're already used to.

My eyes followed his movement and the moment I saw him heading in the kitchen, I didn't let go of the chance and followed him immediately.

"Sky," I stopped him by the hand and held him tightly. The boys were already out so I used the chance so I can talk to him.

He looked at me intently, his tongue pressing the inside of his left cheek.

"I'm sorry. That's not what I meant, " I bite my lower lip and looked at him with my best puppy eyes.

Yes, Max, you need to play dirty at times like this.

And I know I succeeded once I saw him close his eyes, his lips tucked in between his teeth as he thinks things deeply.

And then he let out a long sigh, a very long one.

I felt bad for acting in front of him but this is all I have left for him to listen.

He looked at me intently, "So what? What do you really mean by that?" he asked, his other hand reaching mine.

With eyes locked with each other, I felt lost over his stares.

It was heavy, lingering and meaningful, as if he wanted to say something but is restraining himself.

"Max, I'm asking you, what do you want?" he repeat and my lips quiver at his words

My mouth was open as I ponder on my thoughts.

It was very simple. But why is it hard for me to say it?

I closed my eyes as I suppress every emotion that is going wild on my system.

My stomach felt like churning and the beating of my heart fastening, something I am trying to calm a bit at this instant.

"I like you," I whispered, like I haven't said it to him before and his reaction turned amused.

"Yes Max, I knew that the first time you made a move and devoured my lips, and I like you more, then what? What do you want?" he pressed, his feet starting to move forward and I moved opposite, walking backwards until my back was pressed on the wall, and I wanted to stomped my feet in frustration.

"Sky!" I hissed and he just grinned.

"I'm not going to ask again Max. I need an answer,"

But instead of answering his question, I decided to act otherwise.

"Just go Sky," I whispered as I try to push him to the door's direction.

He let out a groan proving how furious he must be at the moment, then a long sigh came after before he turned on his back.

"So you're the jealous type, huh?" he asked, he was looking down at his shoes while his back still facing my direction.

I stood in silence, unable to respond.

"This game you're playing; I get it now. From now on, I'm not going to press any button. I'll let you do your thing," he declared before facing back at me, "And I'll do mine,"

In two steps, he was able to reach my nape and pulled me in for a lustful kiss, my hands immediately wrapping around his waist, the intense emotion getting into me.

His kiss, it was forceful, hungry and commanding, the way his tongue freely wanders, feeling me inside.

His hand left my nape until he was cupping my face with both her hands.

Before I am able to adjust, he pulled away from me, my mouth gasping for air and our forehead pressed against each other.

We were both panting as we try to catch our breath.

"Max..." he whispered, my eyes still closed.

"Hmmm?"

"I-" I was waiting for him to continue but he didn't. Instead, he pulled away and started fixing my messy hair.

"Go to sleep. The boys must have been looking for me already," he moved forward and gave me a kiss on my forehead before wrapping his arms around me. His hug tightened and I feel like he actually has something to say but didn't.

Messing my hair, he turned around after whispering a sweet goodbye.

Once gone, my knees wobble a little making me realize how my knees had been shaking the entire time.

I mean, Sky being sweet, upset, angry and aggressively hungry is hot in whatever instances I see it.

"Sky..." I whispered to myself.

I should tell him about my feelings, right?

Chapter 24

Max's POV

A loud scoff escaped my lips after reading Sky's response to my last message.

GUCCI-babe: I won't unless you promise me we won't be talking about Zanaya and Seth's problem like always.

Sky had changed his name on my phone gazillion times. Not that I mind honestly coz most often, he would come up with the sweetest even randomly sending me a blank one so I would see his new name on my contacts.

A week had passed and SHADOW is overseas for a concert. Exactly a week after both WHISTLE and SHADOW were in panic with the possibility of Zanaya being pregnant and Seth being stupid for making her feel upset.

I let out a puff and rolled my eyes as if he was seeing me right now, the memory of our last talk flashing real fast in front of me.

"Max, stop worrying. It'll come around," I felt his hands wrapped around my waist as I cry inside my room.

After Zanaya walked out, we ended up rushing to follow her. Now, she's locked herself in her room and she's probably crying too.

My heart ache for her. It wasn't my position but even I was hurt.

That same night, Sky sneaked in my room.

My eyes glared at Sky.

"Why is he like that? All he does is make Zanaya cry. And why does he have to sound like a jerk making it seems like he was choosing you guys over her. She's his wife, for Pete's sake!"

His face softened and he let out a sigh.

I know it's not right of me to lash out on him but he's the only person I can share my thoughts with without being judged for it.

"Max, I know it's frustrating and I cannot say anything about Seth's actions. He has reasons, maybe all confused as of the moment too, but I know him and Zanaya can figure this out. So please, don't let yourself get affected that much, okay?" he brushed the strands of my hair over my side. Like

always, his expression softened as he pulled me closer, and my stomach filled with nervous knots as I felt his lips at the top of my head.

"Sky, in the future, will you do the same to me?" I can't help but ask. He pulled away a little, his eyebrow meeting and somehow, I regret asking him that.

"What do you mean? Are you asking me if I will leave you in case I get you pregnant?" he asked amused and I felt my throat getting dry, my cheeks burning hot as well.

In embarrassment, I buried my face over his chest which resulted to loud chuckles escaping him.

"Forget it. It's an absurd question," I mouthed and I can feel the shaking of his body.

"Max, the farthest we've come was our tongue-tied. Though I'd love to take you in anytime, I won't when I know you're not ready," he whispered, his hand reaching for my chin lifting my face a little so our eyes would meet.

His eyes were shining, glimmering, amusement, lust and moreover, love, they're all there.

Lately, I've been thinking about how much I love him and how I should be telling him about it but the circumstances seemed not to allow me.

I'm afraid. He's been waiting for it, I know. But I am goddamn afraid of everything, the consequences, of commitment, and of the future our relationship will hold us.

Seeing how relationship had been breaking Zanaya every time gives me every excuse not to let this relationship escalate even more.

"Right this moment, be my girl, Nini..." he whispered before giving me short pecks on the lips, my stomach churning once again with the emotions swirling all over my system.

I wanted to say yes. I want us to be official. Heck, we're doing things those who are in a relationship those.

His right hand cupped the side of my cheek and gently brushes my skin, my eyes closing as my heart aches for us.

"You know I can't Sky. The dating ban, all the mess our teams are with right now, and Zanaya's state, everything's a mess," I mumbled, my words burning my mouth while his heart breaking into pieces.

"We're okay like this, aren't we? We're fine. I mean, we go out. We see each other, video calls, messages. We do everything boyfriend and girlfriend does," my breath hitch when he released his hands off me, and slowly, he moved further until he was already sitting at the corner of my bed.

"We do, so why can't we be girlfriends and boyfriends? Why is it that hard for you to tell me how you feel? And why is our relationship always revolving around the things that is happening around us, our members? Isn't this just about us now?" he spitted, his words brutal for my heart yet I know he has a point and I can't get mad because I know where he was coming from.

"It's not that simple. Life isn't simple Sky. There are things in life that we can't have just because we want it,"

"Just because you're afraid to have it doesn't mean you can't, Max. You can have me..."

"I-" I was lost for words. His eyes moistening tells me how this is hurting him too.

I am hurting him.

"What will change if we go official? Isn't it the same?" I moved closer. My knees shaking yet my heart tells me I need to move forward until I was standing in front of him.

He lifted his gaze, his lips quivering as he watches me, eyes burning with disappointment and pain, crushing my heart altogether.

"In essence? Nothing. But between you and me, a lot. At least I'd know you're committed with "us". With you being like this, I feel like I'm always last on your list. Nini, getting half of you isn't enough. Don't you think you're being unfair?"

He lost it. Tears started streaming down his face.

Is this how much he is hurting?

His hands reached for my waist and slowly, he buried his face on my stomach, my hand automatically reaching the top of his head as I slowly brush the locks of his hair.

How did we end to this?

My mouth shut, words were stuck on my throat and afraid I'd somehow mess us even more.

So I let him. I let him cry his heart out as I try to suppress my own tears.

After an hour, he stood up and gave me a hug telling me he has to leave and I let him.

After a longing kiss, he left, with his heart on a weakened state and mine the same.

That night, sleep doesn't seem to visit me. I ended up being awake the entire time.

The loud knocking on my door put me off my trance, bringing me back the present, my door suddenly opening revealing a frantic Cali looking a mess.

"Did you see Tokyo? Her mom called and she said Tokyo isn't answering her calls and messages," she said in panic and my eyes closed immediately.

Tokyo most probably had a fight with her mom again.

So I grab my phone and send Sky a message.

"Fine, be like that. Btw, I'm going out. We'll be looking for Tokyo,"

Chapter 25

Max's POV

Chaos, that's how everything has been. After both our company CEO's caught us all hanging out on our dorm, not to mention Tokyo and Grey coming out of the same room, it's just a matter of time before a bomb out of patience explodes within our boss.

He was disappointed, especially to me.

Even before, being the first trainee out of us four, I knew he expects a lot from me - in a sense of being responsible for the group at least.

But I failed him. I have been failing him a lot of times. Because that's what I am, a failure.

My brows furrowed when I heard someone calling my name. I just had a photoshoot near the Music Show station and I decided to drop by. Irene and I promised to go out before our group heads to Australia to shoot for . And of course, due to Zanaya's condition. Things were decided abruptly and I don't even have a time to tell Sky all the details.

The upper management is frantic and we were just so thankful our boss is still doing everything for us.

"Wendy!" I laughed when I recognized the voice of the person who was calling me. "Why are you running?" I pulled her for a hug and she giggled.

"Are you looking for Irene?" she asked and I nodded. HAPPINESS and WHISTLE had always been friends ever since. The only time we had our indifferences is when Zanaya and Sally happened. But we know the two had already made up.

"She's out there on the opposite side. She was a guest MC earlier with Bobbie and they were hanging out for a moment. I'm about to go there actually, let's go!" she pulled my right hand as she happily leads the way. I swear Wendy is such a handful sometimes. But she's so adorable you just can't help but love her.

"I heard that you're going to Australia. Can I come too?" she looked at me while pouting.

"Hunn, with all of your schedules, I don't even think it's possible for you guys to breathe," I joked and she pouted even more.

We ended up bantering as we continued to head to where Irene was, even occasionally meeting other idol friends.

"There she is! Oh, hi," she greeted as her eyes landed on the people in front.

However, I almost stood frozen in my place when I saw the view before me.

Irene was giggling as Sky was down on his knees while he knots the lace of Irene's shoes. His face was stretched into a beautiful smile, the same one that made my heart do somersaults whenever.

However, seeing him looking so happy in front of one of my friends almost took my breath away. Not in fancy, heart fluttering way but the exact opposite of its sense.

It has been days since we last talked, "He look so happy," I whispered to myself.

What hurts the most is that, they fucking look good together.

"Hello," I bowed slowly and lowly in order to hide the shocked expression on my face. The last thing I want to happen is for Sky to see how I am taking all of this. Besides, we are not in a very good terms these past few days.

"Oh, hi!" Bobbie smiled at me and bowed the same. "Sky! You two know each other, right?" My eyes almost widened when Bobbie looked at Sky.

But then I shouldn't have been worried coz clearly, Sky knows the right words to say. Though I can't say that I'm particularly happy about it.

"Of course. Her member and Seth were dating. So occasionally, we see each other because of our members," he answered and I avoided his glance when I saw him stand closer to Irene. He's done tying her shoelaces.

"Oh right, Max and I will be hanging out. See you soon Bobbie. Sky, I will message you later. Thank you for the meal," she stated and I felt my heart crushed into pieces when I saw what they did next. Irene moved forward and gave Sky a hug, a rather long one.

"I'm glad you enjoy the food," I heard him answer and my eyes went straight to Wendy's who was grinning from ear to ear.

"Don't you think they look so good together? You know, a lot of fans have been shipping them with their looks. And even you too! Do you know fans are shipping you with Sky?" she whispered and I shake my head.

Of course I knew about it. And I knew about them being shipped too.

"There you are!" we all turned our heads to the door when their manager came in. "Sorry but you guys had a sudden appointment," she stated and Wendy let out a long sigh.

They must be exhausted.

"Max, I'm sorry but can we go next time?" Irene moved forward and gave me hug which I returned. Whatever I saw earlier won't make me hate her. It's all on me.

"No worries, we can do it next time," I told her and once I looked forward, I caught Sky staring at me so I looked away.

My stomach was churning and to be honest, I feel like I just wanted to crawl back to my bed and cry.

I knew I loving him means getting hurt too. He's every woman's dream, even men's. How stupid of me to think that he'll just be mine?

Soon enough, their manager was rushing them out so I was left alone with the two.

I gulped.

"Ah, I need to go too. Nice seeing you Bobbie, Sky," I greeted and like always, Bobbie smiled.

Turning my back, I rushed to go outside so I can be away from him. A long breath escapes my lips the moment I turned on my right. I didn't know I was holding it in for that long.

I was about to move forward when I felt a hand grabbing into mine, my eyes widening as I felt myself being pushed inside a storage room.

Before I can even scream, an all too familiar voice had once again rocked my system.

"Scream and we'll surely be plastered on every k-social media sites in two minutes," Sky whispered, the air he released send shivers down through my spine.

"What now?" I tried to hide my emotions by trying to act sassy to him. "Why did you pull me in here?" I snarled, pushing him away. He was too close for my liking - at least for now.

"Are you expecting me to let you go after I saw your lips quivering? Why are you crying Max?" he asked and once again, my eyes scanned his entirety.

So I'm just Max now, huh?

Damn him. He really has to wear the GUCCI shirt I gave him as a gift while flirting with someone else, huh?

I gritted my teeth in anger as I muster the best poker face that I have.

No, Sky. I refuse to show my weakness all over.

"Why would I cry? I'm perfectly fine Sky. Don't bother yourself over something that isn't important," I answered and I heard him sigh. I'm not sure if he was expecting it but by looks he was giving; he was expecting those words from me.

"Important, that's a word you would never refer to me, huh?" he asked and his eyes mask the deepest sorrow I have ever seen in him.

"Sky, you know that's not what I meant," I sigh, "Can I leave now?" I asked and he groan.

"Will you really be like this until the end?" his hands landing on his waist. I can clearly hear how exhausted he sounded.

"What? If this is about us being official, I told you my answer Sky," with all the strength left in me, I tried to make sure I don't falter in my words.

He pokes his right cheek with his tongue, his eyes closed. How is he still looking so hot even in a dark place like this? He was shining - like literally.

"Why?" he asked and I'm done.

"I've told you before, I don't want to keep on repeating myself," I am starting to get pissed off.

Not everything is about being official. Can't he be happy that we're together? That we understood each other?

"I get it. But please, stop acting like I was cheating whenever you see me with some girl. According to you, we're not together so I hope I won't see your lips quivering like you're so close to crying every time," he stated and I felt my lips dry.

Seeing him with other girls, I don't think I can handle it.

"No," Before I knew it, I already spoken what's on my mind.

"Max..." he let out a sigh.

My hands balled into a fist, my mind keep on replaying that time I saw an idol confessed to him and the scene with Irene.

"No," I repeated myself. My eyes focusing on his. "I don't like seeing you with someone else. I thought I made it clear the first time I claimed you," I told him.

I am never someone who demands on him but I know he always gives in. However, this time, I want to be selfish.

"Then let's do it right, Max" he whispered and the way he sounded was almost close to begging which made me mum in silence.

He waited.

But I wasn't ready.

"Not now, Sky. We still have this issue with Zanaya and Ji-" my words were cut off by his own.

"That has always been the case Max. You would fight for your members and take it all out on me. I'm hurting too but you never cared. Just because I'm always here doesn't mean I won't get tired," he stated which almost took the life out of me.

He stared at me in the eyes and I felt it - his pain, unbearable and almost heartbreaking.

"Just because I am always here doesn't mean I can't leave," he whispered and I felt my body shaking, his words too overwhelming.

"Because I'm so close to doing that, so I can save myself. I'm drowning, Max. I'm in pain. And I can't save myself coz all I did was save you. If no one can save me, I have no choice but to save myself too," he finished and we're both at a loss for words.

"For you, it's a wall between me and your members. And no matter how much I try to jump over that wall, you just don't allow me. Do you think this is still worth it? Do you feel that I am not worth it?" he asked.

"GUCCI..." I whispered but I can't seem to add anything.

Why Max? Why can't you answer him?

Slowly, I watch as he moved closer to my direction. He turned my body gently and I felt his hands wrapped around my waist, his chin resting on my shoulder.

He was just there, hugging me from behind. His ragged breathing is more than enough to make cry.

Not after five minutes, I heard him whisper something to my ear until I saw his hand reached for the doorknob before gently pushing me outside.

With confused and shaken state, alone, distraught, and more importantly, away from him, I slowly made my way to our manager's car.

"Home..." I whispered, my voice cracking at the end.

Once I'm inside, I reached for a pillow and bent down a little pretending to be asleep.

Coz it's the only thing I can do to make sure my manager won't see how my tears are continuously falling.

Sky's words, it wrecked me. But probably wrecked him even more.

"I love you so I'm letting you go. But once you're ready, come back to me. I'll wait for you. I will wait,"

Sky, he just ended "us", didn't he?

And it fucking hurts.

Did I make the right decision?

Chapter 26

Max's POV

"Aww!" I whined as she threw a wet towel straight to my face, her face scrunched into nothing but annoyance as she marches her way inside my room, a tray of what seem to be a hangover soup on her hands.

"You deserve it. Who told you to drink until you're close to shitting the house? What are you - some heartbroken girl? Oh wait, you are," she grinned before putting down the tray on my bedside table.

She plopped her body down on the side of my bed making me bounce a little, my head aching at the sudden movement.

"Cali, my head hurts," I groaned, my hands reaching for my temple.

"Is that my fault? Be thankful it was only me who saw you looking miserable like that. Do you want Zanaya to worry over you?" she asked, her eyebrow raised as ishe knows she already won the argument.

And she did.

Of course I wouldn't want to worry Zanaya especially that she's pregnant and she's having a hard time dealing with it alone since Seth can't visit her or stay with her. How will he do that when the whole world thought they broke up?

"So, let me summarize everything. He stood in front of you, naked from all of his inhibitions. He didn't care whether you were ranting about all of your problems to him and just listened. He was there when you need him. You kissed him first. Claimed him first. And when he was asking for the two of you to be official, you declined to the point that he have to let go because you're hurting him," she stated and every fucking word feels like a knife was being struck straight to my face.

"Do you really have to enumerate all of that?" I scoffed. I was too drunk last night and she caught me at it. And since I wasn't on my usual state, I ended up blabbering about the problem that I have been keeping all alone for the last four months.

Yes, it has been four months since we went to Australia and that was the last time I saw Sky.

And it's breaking me.

I badly wanted to see him, or video call him, even see his voice. But the farthest I can get was a "I'm doing good," whenever I send him a message and that made me lose my confidence so I will no longer respond.

Last night, I was checking some of the interviews that they had and when the interviewer asked them what song they were listening to, he said "Naked" by James Arthur. And I felt like he was telling it to me. He was staring intently at the camera, like we were still standing there on the stockroom.

She looked at me appalled.

"You are stupid, Max," Cali let out a long sigh.

She looked at me worried.

"Is this why you have been so distracted for months?" she moved closer and sat crossing her legs. "You're mostly out of energy and you normally stay in your room. If we didn't shoot for the WHISTLE tv, I'm not even sure you'll get out of your bed. Damn, Sky has got you whipped,"

I almost choked on the soup I was having when he said Sky's name. She smiled at me cheekily. I don't remember telling her that it was Sky though.

"I'm not blind Max. Next time, be a little quieter if you two are trying to sneak in to your room, okay?" she smirked and I felt my cheeks blushed.

"How long have you known?" I asked, covering my face.

She looked at the ceiling as thinking really hard.

"I dunno, around two months before we head to Australia?" she mumbled which made me blush even more.

I bit my lower lip as I shyly looked at her.

"Why didn't you say anything?"

She lay down on my bed and yawn. "It's your relationship. It's not something I need to butt in with. If you don't want to tell us, I won't force you. It's between you two though I was quite shocked at first. I mean, you two always fight," she stated and I was at a loss for words.

What Sky had been telling me, that's exactly what Cali was doing.

She was letting me be. Unlike me who did nothing but think of them and be emotionally dependent to what's happening to my girls.

She eyed at me suspiciously.

"You did not stress Sky out because of us, did you?" she sat abruptly as she eyed me like she just caught me red-handed.

"It wasn't..." I stopped on my own, coz I know she got me. All I told her was that I have been telling him my problems, but not about me pouring everything to him, even if it's about WHISTLE.

"Max!" she hit me on the shoulder and I whined.

"I can't help it. I get so affected about all of these and he was always there ready to listen," I bowed my head in defeat.

"Yeah, and I bet you're also ranting about Seth who is basically his member. I wonder how he was able to pull through," she exclaimed.

And that's how I know I really messed up big time.

Of course I've been realizing it for the past months but my pride is keeping me from calling him and giving in.

And that's why you're miserable.

Again, a familiar surge of pain struck my heart at the image of him during his interview.

He wasn't happy.

I know. Because he's my GUCCI.

At that, my tears started streaming down my cheeks, silent sobs escaping me.

I heard Cali letting out a loud sigh.

"Max, you're miserable like this. Why don't you call him and ask him to get back together?" she asked and that's what's even worse.

"Cali, I declined to be together. I said "no" to relationship every time he asks. How am I going to call him now and beg for him to comeback when every time I try to reach out to him, he was being cold?" I voiced out helplessly.

She looked at me with pity and I ended up crying once again.

In less than two months, Zanaya will be giving birth and that means us going back to Korea and me seeing him more.

It will hurt to see him again, him being closer but me being unable to touch him and feel him like I used to.

Damn Max, it was your fault after all.

Chapter 27

Sky's POV

"My Sky..."

My breath hitches at the sound of her voice, her beautiful face looking sad yet her aura still stays as magical as I can remember.

It's been months and here she is, the person I fell in love with... the girl I gave my heart to... the person who unintentionally broke my heart... And the person I know I'll soon be begging on my knees until she takes me back... Here she is, standing in front of me, my knees all weak just the sound of her calling me hers.

Even after all of those months of not seeing her, my heart beats the same. Or perhaps, it beats a hundred times faster than the day I first saw her in their dressing room.

Never once did I felt any regret for accidentally taking her GUCCI. In fact, I was happy I was stupid enough to do that because I met the real her.

Not once did she pretended to be someone else. She showed me her real self, unfiltered and unbothered that I am a senior - her.

When she first kissed me at that time, my heart almost went out of my chest. I thought it will explode due to my overwhelming emotions.

She like me and claimed me as hers. I was more than happy to give in. Coz yeah, anything is fine if it's her.

All those confessions, I turned them down. Even after my failed attempts at asking her to be officially mine, I waited, because I love her.

Sky fucking loves the great Max.

Even though she keeps on pouring her heart out about how pissed off she was whenever Seth hurts her friend, I was okay with it. Because I know she's hurting. I know she's build her walls and I was barely even able to stand next to that wall.

But then it had gotten too much. She was too attached to the idea of her taking all the burden. She forgot about me.

She pushed me down on her priority.

I wasn't asking for too much. In fact, I was okay to be on the last. But can't she at least give me something I can hold on with?

Is giving me a "yes" that hard?

I knew we're almost exclusive. Heck, to me we are exclusive. But I need to hear it. I need assurance. That's all I was asking for. I'm hurting too and there's only so much I can take.

But seeing her like this, I wanted to take it back.

When I pushed her away from me, when I told her to come back when she's ready, I almost ran out and pull her back.

I was stupid and in love.

And then I allowed her to go to Australia without talking things out.

She was hurting, I knew that. And I was hurting too. Knowing that someone you love is hurting because of you is such a painful feeling.

I almost snapped. The pain was overwhelming, I almost snapped.

Normally, I don't drink even with my friends but I guess the sad feelings keeps on bothering me.

I said I was fine. And I wanted to kill myself for not putting an effort into talking with her.

So I drank.

I still remember how I was too stupid to get drunk that night. Now, I have put myself into a bigger trouble.

I made her sad. I hurt her...

"No, I don't want to go home..." I started whining and the two guys before me giggled, clearly, the alcohol is doing its job.

"You really are so cute," Simon's arms reached for my head and messed up my hair.

Both him and I visited Sed at his house. After Seth declared to the world that he and Zanaya are married, he was sent to Australia to finally take care of his wife, and the remaining members will soon follow leaving me available right now to meet with my other members.

We'll be going tomorrow so I only have tonight to be with my other members since we'll be in Australia for two weeks. Plus, it's not like the three of us has a common schedule, to begin with.

"Oh, this isn't my phone. Hey, who's this?"

A loud hiccup escaped my lips when I saw my phone on Simons' hand.

It was a picture of Max. She was lying on her bed, covering her face, embarrassed about the fact that I caught her checking me out. She looked so adorable I had to take a photo.

And due to the overwhelming sadness, I changed my lock screen of her photo.

It wasn't obvious that it was her and besides, it's just for tonight. I knew how fast our fan's eyes are. If I don't change it, one wrong move and I'm killed for.

A wide smile spread across my face.

"Hey, that's my phone!" I giggled as I try to grab my phone from him but he was quick to dodge.

"Woah, is this your girlfriend?!" he exclaimed, his eyes all wide, the same expression he uses on his dramas. He's an actor after all.

A painful feeling suddenly hit my chest.

"She isn't. She doesn't love me enough," I whispered before sitting back to the couch.

My lips felt bitter at the words coming out of my lips.

"What do you mean she doesn't love you enough? Everybody loves our Sky!" Sed exclaimed and I smiled sadly.

"I wish that's the case," my voice was a little shaky and it didn't get passed to my friends.

They adore me a lot, I know. And apart from my members, they are the next ones I consider my brothers.

"Sky, is there something bothering you?" Simons' tone immediately changing.

I knew for a fact that I am close to breaking down. All the pain that I felt, it was all enclosed inside my cheat I can feel it about to explode.

At that, tears started streaming down my face and we were all silent.

Being friends with them for a long time, I never once told them about my problems. but this one, I can't seem to hold myself together. It was too painful that even smiling seems so hard.

"If it hurts, speak up. We're here to listen. Don't keep it to yourself. You know we're here for you, right?" I heard Sed whispered until I felt him patting my back.

I break into fits of sobs; I can barely breathe.

"Is it really this painful? I mean, to love someone who can't love you the way you do?" I asked, my eyes bore every confusion I had in me, questions I wish Max would answer.

Simon looked at me in worry.

"My heart, it feels like it's going to explode any moment. Every time I see her picture or hear her voice either, my heart would stop beating. I let her go but I am barely hanging in here. Why do I feel like dying when I was the one who gave her up?" I lost it - my composure.

My brows furrowed when I saw Simon giving me my phone.

"Huh?"

"Whatever you want to say, tell her. Let her know how you truly feel. Let her know that she hurt you. Let her know that you're in pain. But don't beg for her to come back. The way I see it. You've done your part. You're hurting because you kept everything to yourself. You have feelings too. Just this once, just think about yourself too," he mumbled and I was lost for words.

As if I was hypnotized, I reached for my phone and started typing the words I wanted to tell her, the words I have been keeping to my own.

"I'd probably regret everything tomorrow but I need to tell these to you. For me. So I can make another step forward. I love you. I do. I miss you. I miss your smile. I miss my GUCCI. I miss everything that is you. But more than "our" everything, half of it was never about "us" but "them". And it killed me. Because for once, I wanted things to be about "us" too. I'm sorry I wasn't strong enough to let you stay. I'm sorry I was coward to let you go. And I'm more than sorry because I wasn't good enough to stay by your side. Again, I'm sorry. And I love you, my Nini. I hope you will always be happy..."

With a heavy heart, I hit the send button.

I didn't care about tomorrow. I didn't care how she will react once we see each other.

Of course, it's impossible to avoid her. After all, our members are married.

"Sky..." I was brought back to the present after I heard her call my name again.

The rest of the boys was out there, enjoying the place and checking how Zanaya and Seth had been doing.

A forced smile escaped on my lips.

"How have you been?" I asked. No matter how painful half of our story has been, she will always be important to me. And up until now, I am still holding everything in, even though what I really want to do right now is to her back in my arms.

I'm saving myself.

She looked at me sadly, the words coming out of her lips shocking my whole system.

"Not so good. Because I don't have you," She looked at me intently and as if her initial words were not enough, she had to rock my world too.

"I'm sorry too but I'm not letting you go, Sky. I want my GUCCI back. If I need to court you, beg on my knees, I will if that means I can call you mine again,"

What the fuck?

Chapter 28

Max's POV

"Yah, did Sky did something wrong? Seeing you following him around is creepy," a huge smile escaped my lips as I heard Demo's words. He looked suspecting and I grin.

"No, I'm just making up to him. Sky!" I screamed as I follow the frantic boy towards the back of the house.

"Max, keep it down. Ashton is sleeping," I heard Zanaya and I gave her a peace sign which she returned with a long sigh before closing Seth and her room.

A week ago, Zanaya had given birth to baby Ashton. To say that everything is a mess was an understatement.

Chaos had been everywhere but we're all happy. Ashton after all, is a gift to us from above.

And momentarily, I forgot my mission on having Sky back. We were all focused on tending Zanaya and Ashton, I was distracted.

But now that Zanaya had been a little sensitive, we were trying to give them space which made me remember what I was supposed to do.

Sky, he was avoiding me like crazy. The moment I enter the room, he leaves. But that won't stop me. All I did was try to be sweet to him. And every time that I do, he runs away.

You can't always run from me.

Of course, the others noticed but they thought I was doing it on purpose to annoy Sky.

I can even remember his words when I declared that I'm getting him back.

"Max, let's not do this. I can't afford to get hurt once again simply because you can't decide what you really want,"

And then he walked out and followed the boys. I was hurt but I understood. He was hurt and that's because of me.

"Sky, do you want to eat some ice cream?" I exclaimed, my face stretched into a huge smile and I saw Cali raising an eyebrow.

She knew what I was doing.

"I'm full Max," he answered before checking his phone.

I felt my stomach churning. I would be lying if I say I am not hurting by what he was doing but it was my fault to begin with. He is just protecting himself.

But he said he will wait…

I put on a fake smile and look at him. "Even with a strawberry ice cream?"

"Even..." he whispered and I pouted, my shoulders slumped and I suddenly felt down.

It's almost two weeks and they will be back to Korea. If we don't make up now, I'll have to wait a few more weeks before I see him again.

Just thinking about it makes me even sadder.

"How about some burger?" I tried once again and I heard him let out a sigh.

"Stop pestering me Max,"

"Sky, you're being too mean," Raze exclaimed and I just smiled.

"It's okay. I am being nosy. Hmm, I suddenly felt sleepy,"

Slowly, I walked back and headed to my room, my insides feeling a little weird.

Once I reached my room, I plopped my body on my bed, stomach first.

"Why can't he forgive me?" I whispered.

I have put down my pride. I was running around following him but he doesn't give me a chance.

I thought he love me. And he basically told me he'll wait.

"Why did you give up easily?" I whispered, a tear unknowingly falling down on my cheek.

"Aren't you doing the same?" I was startled when I heard his voice. Immediately, I bolted out of my bed and sat down, my body facing his.

"Cali told me to follow you. She was bugging me like crazy so I did. Why did you have to tell her when we're over?" his voice a little pissed and that caught me off-guard. He was looking at me coldly and every word pierced my heart like a bullet.

Where is my Sky?

A few months, that's what it took for him to change.

His eyes, the usual spark and happiness I see whenever he stares at me was gone. Instead, it was clear, like no emotion was showing from it at all.

"I'm sorry..." I whispered. For a second, I thought I saw sadness flashing on his face but it was brief.

Impossible.

He didn't even try the food I prepared for him the other day, nor tasted the macaroons I baked.

He didn't join when I asked to group for a late movie night.

He didn't smile when I tried to act cute which I did even though it's embarrassing.

He never did any of the usual things he's done when he was with me.

So why would he be sad?

"For what? For what's happening to us?" he scoffed and I bite my lower lip.

Why is he being mean?

"I'm sorry things didn't work out. But I'm trying now," I know I sounded weak but I want this.

"I want you back. Can't we be like how we used to?" I asked, longing can be heard on my own voice.

He stared at me intently.

"What, so you can hurt me again?" he asked accusingly.

"I miss you," I whispered, I looked down on my hands. I was fidgeting.

Why am I getting really nervous?

He's just Sky, my Sky...

"I miss us. Don't you miss me too?" I asked, lifting my gaze to meet his.

My chest tightened as I saw him avoiding my gaze.

"How can there be us when all you think about is them?" he whispered.

Soft whimper escaped my lips.

He wouldn't take me back.

When we were together, I've set my priorities, even setting the bar too high. But I left him out. That one person who never left me, who always cared for me...

I forgot to put him on the list.

I always thought he'll just be there...

I forgot the fact that he can also leave. And now that he's left, I want him back.

"What do you want me to do?" by this time, I was already crying. Slowly, I stood up from my bed and walked towards him.

He looked conflicted which gave me a spark of hope. "Max, let's stop this. I-" he stopped midway and looked at me. "I'll go," he stated before turning around and I run towards him, my arms wrapped around his waist.

"Can't I have my GUCCI back?" my voice cracked, tears now streaming down my cheeks.

"Please..."

This is painful. I know I missed him and I was hurting but my heart feels like it's going to explode any minute. I feel so helpless.

I felt him turn around, releasing my arms from his body.

"Max," he called my name, not Nini, or GUCCI like how he used to.

His eyes were red.

Was he crying too?

I was startled when I felt his hands cupping my cheeks.

"We can't do this anymore. Just because you miss me now doesn't mean when can go back to how we used to be," he whispered and I cried even more.

"I will always be here if you need me. Stop crying okay?" he leaned closer and kissed my forehead.

This is really it huh?

I didn't know how long it was but we stayed like this until for how long.

My arms wrapped around him and him doing the same.

You fucked up Max. And now you're suffering.

Slowly, I felt him removed his hands from me, and he did the same with my own.

"Go to sleep," he whispered and I felt his hands gently messing up my hair.

I'm still crying. When he turned his back, that's when I spoke.

"I won't give up," I told him. "Just because you told me to doesn't mean I'll surrender. I will have you back. I will do whatever it takes so I can have you again,"

He reached for the doorknob and opened it.

"Try it then. Though I doubt you'd make me change my mind,"

And then he left. I was left standing, heartbroken and in pain.

This is so frustrating.

Sky, what do I need to do to have you again?

Chapter 29

Max's POV

"I'm so tired. Can we go for a massage after this? My God, I feel like my knees would snap any minute," Cali whined as we all sat on the ground, the familiar body pain making us feel a little more comfortable than the past few months.

Resting and having fun in Australia is okay but dancing and performing in our practice room is still the best. Moreover, once we get back to perform on stage.

We've been back here in Korea since three months ago and all we did is practice for our comeback. It has been so long and we're afraid our fans have been waiting for so long.

Above all these, we're being careful about Zanaya and Seth especially Ashton.

Zanaya is having a hard time focusing because she's always worried about her son. Thankfully, she's calming down a bit every time she gets home with her baby sleeping soundly. Her and Seth's family takes turn in taking care of Ashton and of course, WHISTLE and SHADOW does the same whenever we're free.

"Cali, we still have a month left for practice," Tokyo laughed at Cali's state. She was lying on the back of our van, face front. Whoever sees her will think she died or something. We're on our way to Zanaya and Seth's house to stay for the night. We don't have any schedule tomorrow so we can rest.

Zanaya was humming while her eyes were close, excited to go home like always.

Slowly, I grab my phone from the corner and checked my messages.

My GUCCI: I'm busy Max. Sorry

A smirk escaped my lips when I saw his reply. Even after coming back to Korea, I still call him mine, my GUCCI. But Sky never once put down his guard.

Of course, he doesn't avoid me like he used to but he doesn't give me a chance to be close to him too.

I sent him a message earlier and ask if we can do movie night. That message was four hours ago. I was expecting him to turn me down so I wasn't really upset. He always does anyways, after we went back to Korea.

But I'm still not giving up.

Once we reached the house, we all went to the usual room we use whenever we're here.

I didn't even wait for another and went straight to the bathroom along with my spare clothes to freshen up.

Once down, I went out the bathroom drying my hair with a towel.

"I could die in this moment," I sang a line from our new song and was startled when I saw Sky sprawled over my bed, hair disheveled and eyes closed.

"Sky?" I called for his name and moved closer.

He was asleep.

My nose scrunched a little. He was reeking alcohol.

Not bothering to tie my hair I sat on the bed beside him and stare at his beautiful face.

His brows were furrowed as if he was dreaming something bad.

Why is he in my room anyways?

SHADOW doesn't use the room WHISTLE uses because they have their own. Besides, they recently took the house next door to make it easier for Seth.

My lips pouted, carefully, my hand reached for Sky's face. Brushing the locks covering his forehead, a smile escaped my lips when the muscles on his face loosen up a bit, making me sure he'd relax a little.

"I miss you, Sky. I miss being with you," I bit my lower lip as I try not to cry.

I cried too many times these past few months. I did. But it still hurt.

"You're just this close to me but it feels like we're miles away. The closest I can get to touching you is this, you accidentally crashing inside my room because you're drunk," I whispered, my face leaning a little closer to his face as I let my hands memorize every part of him.

"I love you..." I whispered before leaning closer giving him a peck on his forehead.

I straightened my back as I stare at his peaceful face.

I guess I'm going to have to crash on Tokyo's room for the night.

Just before I was about to stand out, I was startled when I felt a hand on my wrist, stopping me from standing up.

My eyes widened when I saw him open his eyes.

"Nini?"

My lips quiver when I heard him call me like he used to.

"GUCCI?" I whispered and he smiled.

"Your hair looks weird but you're still beautiful," his boxy smile plastered on his face and it made me cry.

This is the Sky I remember.

"Why are you crying baby?" he whispered before pulling me closer. The next thing I knew was me lying beside him, his other hand on my back while the other was on my cheek, wiping my tears away.

"Did I made you cry?" He pouted. He looks adorable being drunk like this.

"No. I'm just happy to be with you like this," I whispered before claiming his lips.

It was brief, a peck I didn't try to deepen because it's unfair not to me but to him.

He was being like this only because he was drunk. Once he's sober, he'll be back to hating me.

But that made me cry even more.

"I miss you. I miss you so much GUCCI..." I said in between tears.

My chest weaving, the emotion I've been keeping I can no longer control.

"Sorry for making you cry," he said in worry as he pulls me closer, my face now buried on his chest.

He was hugging me so tight, I wish I can stay like this forever.

"Sky, don't you want to go back to your room?" I mumbled and he grunted.

"This is where I want to be," he stated, "with you...with my Nini..."

I felt him kiss the top of my head and my heart did a mini somersault.

Damn it.

"Why did you drink Sky? You don't usually drink,"

He was silent for a moment, I thought he was sleeping.

"I don't know. I can't remember. But my heart, it felt heavy, like something was wrong. Did I hurt you? Maybe I did that's why I'm feeling like this," I pulled away a little and saw him pouting.

My heart ached even more.

I did this. I did this to him.

"You didn't hurt me baby. Never," I smiled at him and his face relaxed.

But I hurt you...

Once again, I buried my face on his chest and I savor the night he was lost and still mine.

Just tonight Sky, let me pretend I still have you. I won't be here once you woke up.

Because tomorrow, I will be back as the Max you hate.

Not Nini... Not GUCCI - just Max.

Chapter 30

Max's POV

"Stop pouting, are you sure you don't want to eat?" Tokyo whispered as she sat beside me on the couch, my eyes focused on the movie being played on the television in front of me.

The girls and I doesn't have any schedule so like always, we were camping on Zanaya's house.

SHADOW is here too except for Mono and Sky who were at their company for some debriefing for their next promotions.

It's been a week after Sky barged in to my room and we were both acting like nothing happened. At least that's what he thought. I made sure I wasn't lying with him when he woke up.

The sound of the door opening caught our attention and even after locking eyes with Sky, I simply averted my gaze back to the television, the movie just ended and a re-run of some drama now being shown.

"We broke up"

"Oh my God, let's watch this. I wasn't able to finish this before!" Cali exclaimed and I just shrugged my shoulder. My arms resting on the side of the couch, my feet stretched on top of Tokyo's legs whose hands are now focused on her phone.

From the corner of my eyes, I saw Sky sitting beside Grey while Mono sat beside Cali and Storm on the floor.

Zanaya stood up to check on Ashton since Seth was with the baby. The last time Seth tried to get baby Ashton to sleep, Seth was singing their debut song as a lullaby.

Zanaya almost cried in disbelief but we all laughed at Seth's flushed state.

"Kara really never age," Tokyo muttered in admiration. Kara is female lead in the drama and one of the senior artists in our company. She always takes care of us. Sometimes, I still feel sad whenever I realize that our senior group already disbanded.

We look up to them so much seeing them perform every time gives us so much inspiration.

One day, we will be like them too - charismatic without even trying. Some says we're following their steps but for me, we are making our own marks. We can never be them. They were legends, up there. And we're still here. We're still learning and we hope in the future, we can make our seniors proud for having us.

"Solomon looks adorable too," Cali squealed which made Storm grunt.

"Do you have a crush on him?"

"Don't even start with me Storm," She scoffed and a small smile appeared on my lips.

The two of them, a lot had happened but even after breaking up, getting back together and breaking up again in a continuous cycle, they still care for each other. They got each other's back.

"Why stay in the same house anyway if they've already broken up?" my head snapped to Mono's direction at what he said.

"They have shared responsibility over the apartment," Tokyo muttered.

"Well, why did they do that in the first place when they aren't sure they will be together?" Demo grab a popcorn from Grey.

"Love?" Raze added. "They decided to take it on the next level that's why they came to a point where they are living together,"

"You watched it?" Tokyo exclaimed and the man just chuckled.

"That's a little scary though, don't you think?" Cali asked and I almost choke when I heard Sky responding.

"But that's the beauty of it. Whatever happens in the future, at least you are both happy today. Besides, no one knows what will happen next, but you can always decide for now,"

Is he talking about us?

"Wow, Sky..." Demo patted his back and I rolled my eyes. "That too is scary, being together without being committed with each other? You don't even know where you stand on that person's life."

"That's right. Just say I love you if you love the person. Be together if you want. Why make it complicated?" Mono chimed in and that made me feel even more frustrated. They don't even know how I felt.

It wasn't easy for me to let go of my fears. My members, I can't neglect them, I can't neglect my responsibilities to as an artist. I signed a contract, I trained for it.

Before I knew it, I was already answering back.

"Well maybe she has fears, or something to protect. It's not like she wants things to get complicated. If she gave you her word, is it that really hard to wait until she's ready?"

"Max..." I heard Tokyo whispered and I didn't care how they were looking at me confused.

Sky raised an eyebrow, "How long do you expect him to wait? Until he's broken too? Until he lost himself while you find you?"

"She was trying, that's why she was doing everything to win him back! But he doesn't give her a chance!"

"Ah, guys?"

"Did it ever crossed your mind that maybe he's afraid too? That if he ever did, he'll lose himself completely all because she can't decide what she truly wants?"

I bolted out of my seat, "It's not like that. I know what I want. I told you I want you back. I have been trying to get you back but you're not letting me. You told me you would wait..." my voice was shaking and I was already trying to hold back my tears. "If I knew those words aren't true, I would never walk away even after you pushed me. I would have stayed, even if I wasn't ready. As long as I don't lose you,"

That's it, like a thread suddenly snapped inside me and I started crying, not caring about the confused looks we are getting.

He stood up from his seat and walked slowly towards me, "How do I know you mean it this time? How do I know you're ready to have me back in your life? How do I know this time it'll be about "us"?" he said, his voice laced with hurt and pain. His eyes were focused on me, but I can see the longing in them. "I'm still waiting for my GUCCI. I still am,"

A loud whimper escaped my lips, my chest tightened and it's even harder to breathe.

"Then take me back GUCCI," I whispered, "Commitment, that's all you were asking right? I'll tell everyone we're dating. The hell with the dating ban," a painful smile spread my lips. "I'd do that Sky, just please, I need you back..."

Losing all the energy in me, I slowly sat down on the floor, my hands covering my face. A stream of tears making my cheeks, every memory we had together flashed on my mind.

This is my last chance; the last time I would beg for him to come back.

"GUCCI,"

I felt a pair of hands grabbing me by my shoulder, slowly guiding me so I can stand up.

"Sky," I mumbled, I probably looked like a mess now but I never really cared for my appearance if it's him. I know he loves me however I look.

His eyes were closed as if contemplating on what to do, "Damn it," he cursed and the next thing I knew was him cupping my cheeks pulling me for a hungry kiss. It was lustful, the longing we both had after being away from each other for months overtaking our sanity.

I miss him, I miss his kisses.

After giving me one last peck on the lips, his forehead rested on mine.

"I love you," he whispered, and another kiss. "I love you, I love you..."

"Oh my God," I heard Zanaya's voice and a smile escaped my lips.

"Is this a drama or a live show?"

"They really did that in front of us, right?"

"So does that mean they were dating all these time?"

"No, they broke up,"

"Well apparently, they're back together,"

I blocked all the noise around us. All I did was focus on him.

"We're back together, right?" I asked, my stomach churning, still afraid this is still a dream. My hands wrapped around his waist tightly, afraid he'd be gone the next moment.

"We are baby, and this time, I promise I won't be pushing you away ever again. Never,"

I pulled him for a hug and buried my face on his chest, bawling my eyes out.

I felt relieved and happy.

At last, I got my man back.

I have my Sky back...

Chapter 31

Max's POV

"Everything will be fine..." I whispered to myself as I walk straight to the seventh floor of our building, the loud hammering inside my chest deafening my sense of hearing a little.

The boss has called for me.

My members aren't even aware nor Sky. All I said to him was that I am off for an interview and he just wished me good luck. Even though it wasn't for this, I am holding on to his wishing and I hope everything will be fine after this.

I knew one way or another, Sky and I's relationship will reach to our company, and it did. It didn't even take a week and I was called for.

Like what Sebastian had said, it's scary when you get called to the seventh floor. But I wanted this, so I will hold on to my decision.

I knew what I did has consequences but surprisingly, I was okay with it. I don't feel afraid nor feel regretful about it.

I still remember what happened after my outburst last time.

***flashback**

"No..." my hands tightened its grasp to his jacket as I refuse to let him go. "Don't leave..." I whispered, I bite my lower lip as I buried my head on his back, his sweet smell greeting me.

Soft chuckles escaped his lips as he tries to turn around so he would be facing each other.

My breath hitches at the sight of him, his face stretched into a huge boxy smile and I can't ask for more.

"I won't leave. I just need to talk with the boys," he smiled, his hands cupping my cheeks before pulling me closer for a tight embrace.

We were currently in my room. After what happened earlier, both our members bombarded us with questions except for Cali.

Instead of answering, Sky and I decided to talk things out privately. And much to my dismay, the boys had been calling him for a meeting.

Soft whimper escaped my lips, the idea of him leaving doesn't sit very well to me.

"I really won't leave," he pulled me tighter and gave me a peck on my forehead.

It was as if glitters were flying in front of me. Everything about today is surreal. Sky and I getting back together, me finally recognizing my feelings for him and us being official with our members, it all feels like a dream.

Now, I won't have to hide from my members and so is he.

"I miss you. I miss you so much I don't want to be away from you..." I cooed and I heard him giggle.

"You don't even know how your words are making me happy right now. I must be stupid. How did I made it for months with you not being with me?" he whispered and my eyes closed.

If I knew this is how it would feel to be really with him, I would have done it way back then.

My mind was brought out from my trance when I heard our boss. secretary announcing my presence.

My stomach churned and slowly, I walked inside the room. My eyes caught my boss sitting behind his huge table, face buried into a pile of papers he had to check.

People thinks shit about my boss but they don't know that not everything is under his plate.

"Sit,"

I let out a long sigh before moving closer and sat down on the empty chair in front of his table, his focus still on the papers in front of him.

I thought what they say wasn't true, but it was. It was nerve wracking. Having to wait for him to speak is eating my confidence so badly. It feels like the air in my lungs are being restrained and I wish this would end soon.

It's fine Max. You can do it.

I wonder if Zanaya experience the same during her visit.

Ten minutes had passed but he doesn't utter a word and it builds too much tension inside me.

He's mad, that's for sure. But I gotta be patient.

Beads of sweat started to form on my forehead.

Max, you'll get through this. Just think of Sky.

I flinched a little when I heard him clear his throat.

"So... " he started, his eyes still on the papers in front of him. I watch as he started flipping on them. "Do you have something to tell me?"

This is when it's harder. He knew what had happened but he still wanted me to tell him.

I bit my lip in nervousness.

One way or another, I knew I still have to do this.

"Sir...." I started, my voice cracking at the end. "I'm sorry..." I close my eyes, my head hung low as my lips quiver.

Out of all of us, I was always the one who followed every rule. I was just it, that person who felt uncomfortable if I do something against what I was told. And now, here I am, about to break another

"What for?"

Oh God. It's okay Max. You can do it. I cheered for myself.

"I broke one of the clauses. I got into a relationship," I finally answered and even though the war hasn't ended, I felt like a huge lump on my chest got lifted.

It felt lighter. I didn't know it was that heavy until today.

"And?"

This is it.

"And I want to ask for your approval for it," I bravely added. This is the only solution that I have.

"What?" he put down the papers on his hand and looked at me, and was that amusement that is showing in his face?

"You're not telling me that you'll break up with him but you're asking me for permission?" he asked exasperated and all I can do is nod.

"What you just said, I already tried it, sir but it didn't end up so well. I avoided him, didn't talk nor see each other, but I almost lost it. I only hurt him in the end and I was hurt too," I stopped midway.

This is probably not the best thing to tell to my boss but I can't help it. "Sky, he listened to everything I say. All my fears, all of the things that hurts me, he gladly carries them all with me and I'll do the same for him. If you're worried that I will slack off, I won't. If not, I'll work even harder to be worthy of this chance. So please, please allow us to date, I promise it won't affect anything related to WHISTLE" I told him. I know I was being hopeful but I don't have a choice. This is a risk I'm willing to take.

He raised his eyebrow at my words, "You know Zanaya just announced her marriage and the public doesn't even know about Ashton yet. How do you think the public will react if they found out that another WHISTLE member is dating?" he crossed his arms across his chest and desperation enveloped through me.

He has a point. Dating for idols are not something openly being accepted in Korea. Most fans boycott their idols. It shouldn't be a problem for me but it isn't just about me. I have my members too and his members plus, all the people in both our companies.

"I know the fans will be disappointed. However, after all that had happened, I don't think I can avoid him anymore. Sky had sacrificed a lot for me and in all honesty, I believe it was because of him that made me stronger and made me realize that there are different ways of protecting the people I care about," I looked at my boss bravely.

"I know I haven't done so much to prove myself but I promise that I will work harder so you can be proud of me. Just please, I will do everything just please don't make me break up with him," I pleaded, my hands now clasp together as I wait for his answer.

He let out a long sigh, his eyes now close as he contemplates a little.

After a little while, he looks at me intently and I was lying if I say I wasn't scared after I told him everything.

"For now, go back to your dorm and I'll call for you soon. Just do what you have been doing," he stated before putting his attention back to his papers. Not once did he smile which made me even more conscious.

Slowly, I stood up from my seat and walk towards the door, my shoulder slumped a little, unsure how this conversation went.

As I reached for the doorknob, I was surprised at what he said next, "I'm proud of all of my kids. I'm proud of you Max, always remember that,"

A smile escaped my lips before I turned my attention back to him. I bowed a little before finally going out of the room.

Just as I was able to reach for the elevator, I received a message from Sky.

"Where are you? Let's have a movie night. I missed my GUCCI so much,"

"I GUCCI you too," I whispered to myself. All fired up, my steps become faster, anticipating the moments that I can be with him once again.

This time, let me do things for you Sky.

Chapter 32

Sky's POV

"Wow, did I do something good on my past life that I have you again visiting me like this?" I smirked as I heard Bobbie's teasing tone, my hand gently pushing the door back until it automatically closes.

I raised my hand in greeting as I see Irene sitting on the chair opposite him, reading the script for latter's broadcast, a huge smile emerging her face acknowledging my presence.

Irene and I were very casual with each other. We weren't the best of friends but we were comfortable enough for me to be okay tying her shoes if I know she might get hurt because of it.

"Is it bad for me to visit you when I know it's hard to see you these days?" I joked over and Bobbie chuckled, the makeup artist who was fixing his hair dashing out of the room so now it's just the three of us.

"You're a thousand times busier than I am," he answered and I just stuck my tongue out in response.

We're on a break and we were given a few days to go around to relieve our stress. Our schedule had been so tight and most of us went home to our family which I also did but they will soon be in a trip so I went back to Seoul and meet a few of my friends instead since we barely see each other.

"How's your preparations coming up?" he asked and I made a face.

"I'm not spoiling you anything," I chuckled and he grinned. I knew he was teasing me and Irene laughed too.

"I'm sure your comeback will blow up the charts again," she stated and I bowed, thanking her for her kind words.

Max and her were good friends but I try to refrain from getting close to any female, idol or not lately.

I didn't notice it at first but Max is quite the jealous type. She never tells me about it, probably because she doesn't want to admit or she doesn't want to make a big deal out of it. Or her pride maybe but I see it. The way her lips quiver when she's upset and how she acts cool about everything.

But I know for a fact that she's not fine despite all the facade she puts in.

I knew it was the cause of our separation before, that she can't throw her worries away because she carries them all. Somehow, I feel guilty because I feel I've forced her out of it. But deep inside, I feel like I needed to do it because it'll ruin her one day.

Just then, the door suddenly opened, my heart skipping a beat when an all too familiar face suddenly emerged.

My tongue made a run on my lower lip when I saw her gummy smile, a box secured on her right hand.

I tried to stop myself from smiling even more. As always, regardless of what she wears, she looks second to no one. She's that perfect to me.

"Hello," she greeted as she bowed towards us.

I wanted to walk straight to her and pulled her for a hug but I restrained myself. My brows furrowed a little after remembering that she told me she'll be on an photoshoot today and I told her I'll drop by the Music Show to visit Bobbie .

My hand reached for the phone on my pocket to check any message but I didn't see one.

"Max," Irene stood up and excitedly run towards her. Bobbie and I laughed at how the two started skipping as they hug each other.

"Are these macarons?" Irene squealed and my eyes widened.

"Did you bake it?" before I knew it, I already asked the question loudly interrupting the two.

I smiled apologetically and Max looked at me amused.

She once promised me she'll bake me some.

Soon enough, Irene was already seated on her chair and I scoot a little as Max, to my surprise chose to sit beside me after bowing to Bobbie.

She then turned towards me and my breath hitch when she suddenly spoke, "I didn't, "

It took me ten seconds to realized that she just answered my question earlier.

My mouth hangs wide open when I realized how she was looking at me, all smiles and all, not paying attention to everyone around us.

"Max..." I whispered.

"Yes?" she asked and that took me by surprised.

Max was talking to me casually like it's just the two of us.

"Don't worry, I have some for you too," she stated, her right hand reaching my cheek then grinning, it almost took my breath away.

She was smiling at me, only at me. If that isn't enough for me to lose my shit, I don't know what will.

We were broken off from that what seemed to be a magical trance when I heard Bobbie coughing.

"Max, did I forget that we will be going out today?" Irene asked confused and I watch as Max smiled at her.

My eyes caught Bobbie's and he was raising his eyebrows. Probably confused and questioning me on what's happening.

"I have no idea," I mouthed back.

Of course we're dating but never once did Max acted like this in front of anybody else aside from our members after that little incident that caused us to get back together.

"Oh, I just had a photoshoot and Sky told me he'll be visiting you guys so I thought I'd drop by to say hi,"

My mouth went agape. Did she just informed them that we have communication? Like, that we are indeed messaging each other.

As if what just happened isn't shocking, I almost jumped out of my seat when I felt her hand on top of mine. Before I knew it, our hands were already intertwined.

Filled with confusion, I tried to search for her reaction but she was looking at the equally shocked Irene and Bobbie.

"You two are dating?" Bobbie exclaimed and I looked at Max in panic but I was surprised when she answered.

"Yes, Bobbie," she said smiling and I started coughing, her hands automatically reaching my back and I don't know what to do.

Holy shit.

"Babe, shut up! Tell me about it! Irene squealed and the next thing I knew is the two sitting side by side as they excitedly chat with each other and I am left with Bobbie looking at me incredulously.

"Wow, this is how I find out?" he teased and my cheeks blushed.

Oh gosh. I'll never hear the end of this.

My hand reached for my chest, the irregular beating of my heart can be heard.

My eyes focused on Max, a smile slowly forming on my lips.

Back then, Max would never even talk nor seat next to me if there are other people around. She won't ever show any sign that we talk with each other. She was careful because she always thinks about her members.

As much as I would like to tell the world that she's mine, I have always been okay with us being a secret. As long as I have her.

Seeing her being the one who tells people about us made my heart flutter.

Finally, it's now about us.

With that in thought, my eyes landed back to Bobbie who was smiling at me cheekily, "Sorry for not telling you , but isn't she perfect?" I asked and he looked at me amused.

Yep, I'm Max's boyfriend and I'll be proud to tell people that.

Chapter 33

Max's POV

"Purple will look better," I exclaimed excitedly and Sky looked at me amused. Regardless, he still extended his hand over my direction and I lay it flat on the armrest.

Without wasting any second, my hand automatically did its work and started putting in glittered nail polish over his fingernails, the huge smile never leaving my face.

"Next time, I'll buy the tools for nail arts," I giggle and he just smile at my ecstatic state.

"I'm fine with anything as long as you are smiling like that," he whispered and I can't help but lean forward giving him a quick peck on the lips, his body stiffened, surprised at my sudden action.

"I love you," I smiled at him and I saw how his cheeks blushed at what I said.

Sky, ever since I openly showed my affection towards him, he had started acting differently, like he is getting overwhelmed.

His cheeks always blushed red which I am starting to adore, and sometimes, he even stutters when he's talking especially when we are with someone else.

If I only knew he would be this happy, I should have been like this even then.

But of course, I wasn't thinking straight and I was so afraid. However, those months of being Sky-free was too hard and I am sure I don't really want to feel all those painful emotions ever.

"Uhh, my GUCCI looks adorable," I cooed and he playfully made cute faces towards me, soft giggles escaping my lips not able to handle his cuteness.

"What are you, Sky, a girl?" we both turn our heads towards our right side when we heard Seth's voice. On his arms was Baby Ashton. Zanaya was probably taking a rest because she wasn't able to get any sleep after coming home straight from practice and taking care of Ashton at the same time.

"Mochi look at your uncle Sky, he's blushing and having his nails done by your auntie," he cooed and Sky chuckled at how funny Seth looked.

Slowly, I closed the cap of the nail polish before gently putting it on the top of the table.

Seth teasing Sky was not old news but him doing it with his son on his arms made a huge difference.

"Do you want me to enumerate the stupid things you did because of Zanaya? Coz I believe not all of those are something you should be proud of," Sky bantered and Seth grimaced in instant.

Everybody knew how the two never got it easy. It was a push and pull with a whole lot of dramas and all.

Just then, Baby Ashton started crying. It wasn't loud but that's more than enough for Seth to lose interest in talking to us and focus on his baby instead.

My eyes softened at how exhausted Seth looked. He must have felt bad for Zanaya and decided to sacrifice his sleep too.

It was when Zanaya deliberately tried to avoid him because of that MC that made me see how Seth truly love my friend.

"Gimme me my nephew and go to sleep. You look like a monster," we were all startled when Storm suddenly came beside Seth as he tries to take Baby Ashton from him.

"Hey, this is my child," Seth refused and we all chuckled at Seth's childishness.

"Nobody's getting your child from you. We just want you to sleep because you're going to scare the shit out of your baby in the future," Cali snickered before instructing Storm to take Ashton once again.

And when he did, we watch in awe how he was easily able to calm down the baby. I swear to God sometimes I was thinking if Storm was the real father and not Seth but the baby's face just screams the answer.

"I swear Baby Ashton knows Storm's smell. Or was it his touch?" Sky laughed at Seth's unamused expression.

"Remind me not to let Zanaya gets too close to Storm once she gets pregnant again," he snickered after letting out a long sigh.

"Then stop making her upset so she won't need any advice from me,"

While everyone was busy laughing over Seth's sulking, Sky moved slowly and the next thing I knew was him leaning his head on my lap as he lay on the couch, a contented smile showing on his face.

"Are you tired?" I whispered as I saw him close his eyes, my hand automatically brushing the locks on his hair and I heard him letting out a moan.

Being with him is heaven. Even with staying like this makes me feel at peace.

"A little. But having you close like this is more than enough and I couldn't ask for anything more," he whispered, his eyes opening, our eyes lock gazes and at that time, I knew I have made the right decision.

I knew speaking out with my boss is worth it.

I knew breaking the rules a little, if it's for him, is definitely worth it.

"Max,"

Everyone in the room focused their attention to the person who suddenly spoke, my lips getting dry the moment a realization dawn into me.

"You're being called back to the seventh floor, alone..." she mumbled, our manager's was low but the quiet atmosphere made it easy for everyone to hear.

Cali 's eyes locking with mine and I felt Sky sitting beside me. Even without looking, I can feel his eyes focused on me.

"Back? You were called before?" he asked and I gulped.

"To the seventh floor? Max, when did this happen?" Cali moved closer to my direction and I bit my lower lip. I knew they will be worried. We were the same whenever Zanaya was being called.

And the fact that we already have Zanaya married and with a child, having another member being called is over the edge.

"It was nothing. Don't worry too much," I tried to suppress a smile to show that everything is going smoothly.

Turning to my right, I saw the worried expression showing on his face.

Jittery emotions succumb inside me, just the thought of him feeling restless for my sake made me feel nervous too.

Without even thinking, my hands reached for his cheeks and cupped them as I move closer, "Everything will be alright. I got this, just..." I let out a smile, "trust me Sky, I GUCCI this,"

He closed his eyes and I knew he's still having a hard time.

Was he afraid?

"Max," the voice of our manager breaking us off from our trance.

"Coming..."

With a last lingering kiss to the love of my life, my body moved autopilot as I follow my manager.

"Toughen up Max, you got this. For Sky..." I whispered to myself.

Chapter 34

Sky's POV

"Sky, can you please stop for a moment? I'm really getting dizzy over you," Raze whined but I didn't even bother looking at him. Instead, I continued pacing back and forth, my ring finger stuck in between my lips as I bite my nails.

My stomach is churning and every poss8ble scenario that might happen is bugging inside my thoughts.

This is more nerve wracking than when we first debuted, or when we first performed in the US.

"I'm sure she's okay. She's Max. Remember how you ran for your life last time when she was chasing you with a bat? And wh - awwww! What did I do?" I heard Demo whined as Raze hit him on the shoulder.

"She can't actually do that to her boss, does she?"

"Who knows? Max had done a lot of weird things even before. She kicked us out of the dorm after Zanaya went home crying," Grey stated.

Of course, I can still remember that time because I was kicked out too.

"Can you all shut up? Oh gosh, and you, sit down for a second," I almost yelp in surprise when I felt a hand clawed behind me, pulling me until I was seated on the couch, a loud thud echoing inside the room.

Tokyo's laughter echoed on the room and I grimaced at how everyone was chuckling.

"Is it fun to watch me being like this?" I snarled and Zanaya smiled at me.

"Don't mind them Sky. I'm sure Max is fine. I mean, out of the four of us, Max had always been the one who was never afraid to speak her thoughts even to our boss," she stated and I wasn't sure if I should trust her words.

"Right. If it's for us, she doesn't hesitate to speak. And that's because she loves us," Tokyo added, a huge smile showing in her face.

"Well, seeing how Max almost lost her cool just because her precious sweet GUCCI and her had broken up, I'm pretty sure she'll do the same it it's for you. I mean, I don't think she's ready to lose you at this time,"

I bit my lower lip at what Cali had said. My eyes wandered across the room and I realized how exhausted everyone look.

Even Seth was lying on a bean bag with Baby Ashton sleeping on his stomach. They were all here waiting for Max with me.

A loud sigh escaped my lips.

"What if he tells her to leave me? It's my fault. If I didn't force her to being official, if I didn't leave her then, we should still be okay being a secret," I started rambling. It's been four hours but Max hasn't comeback. She doesn't even answer her phone.

The girls had tried contacting anyone from BP but to no avail, it seems like every mouth inside that building was mummed shut.

Not to mention how two of their managers are literally just outside making sure nobody follows Max. It's a torture and I don't exactly know how to feel.

My hands covered my ears ad I slowly grab a portion of my hair. Thank God Cali pulled me back on my seat earlier coz now I can feel my knees shaking.

I was startled when I felt a hand on my knees. Looking up, I saw Mono smiling at me.

"Have a little faith in your girl. She was brave enough to go to her boss despite the whole world knowing how tough it is to meet him. Toughen up and send energy to her for good luck," he reasoned and somehow, his words made me calm down a little.

"But will my faith on her be enough? I mean, if they decided that we can't date, what can I do?" I said helplessly. Just the thought of it is sending chills down my spine.

At that, everyone went silent.

We all know we can't do anything about it and I don't want to get Max in trouble too. This is her dream.

At this rate, with Zanaya being married and having a kid, people finding out about Max and I will cost their group a lot.

My hand reached for my phone to check if I received any message but I still hasn't gotten one.

My eyes closed before my body leaned on the couch. My thoughts filled with hers.

Is she okay?

Is she being scolded?

Is she crying?

My hands washed my face in frustration. The fact that I am unable to do anything in this situation angers me.

I was persistent enough in persuading her but this happened and there's a huge chance that I'd lose her after this.

Of course I can still meet her but I doubt her boss wouldn't do anything to keep us apart if that's the decision they've come up with.

With all of those thoughts clouding inside my head, I barely heard the sound of my phone ringing.

"Yah!" I was startled when Raze nudged me on my shoulder.

"Isn't that Max calling?"

My eyes widened as I look at my phone.

"My Nini, my GUCCI"

"Eww, Sky, that's a weird contact name you've save there," I heard Demo snickered but I didn't mind.

Fiddling with my phone, it almost fell on my hands even after hitting the accept button.

"Sky..."

The sound of her voice cracking sounded so painful to my ears.

My heart dropped on the floor, hands shaking a little.

They said no.

"I was so scared,"

She was crying. She was crying endlessly and my heart felt heavy.

"Were you afraid, Nini?" I whispered and I just listened to her cry.

My hands balled into a fist.

I should have been there.

I should have been the one who talked to her boss instead of her.

I didn't ask what they told her because her crying like this already gave me an idea.

Eyes closed and with a heavy heart, I whispered to her, "Come home Nini, come back to me..."

Even for the last time... I wanted to add but decided otherwise.

This time, I was the one who messed everything up.

Stupid Sky.

Chapter 35

Max's POV

"Why are you even bawling like that? He said Yes, right? He gave you permission as long as it doesn't go out to the public and that it doesn't affect any of your activity as a WHISTLE member," I pouted at what our manager has said.

We were on our way home and I just had a conversation with Sky over the phone.

"I was really scared, Sky. I had to wait three hours just because Sebastian was also called. Do you even know how nerve wracking it was to wait? Also, I was afraid he wasn't in the mood," I whined and our manager just chuckled. My hands started fiddling with my phone, relief slowly consuming my system.

That was the scariest four hours of my life.

I was instructed to go to the cafeteria while I wait.

Our manager even gave me a bowl of food but all I did was cry. Even Bob sat in front me and asked me some questions I'm not even sure I bothered to answer.

There was one thing I remember though.

***flashback**

"You know you'll get in trouble. You know even us BETA (A boy group) are not allowed to meet you guys. So why did you do it?" he asked. I'm not even surprised how he found out.

Truth be told, BETA are the biggest gossips inside BP. And I meant it in a cute way.

Sobbing, I lifted my gaze from the bowl of food I was eating and pouted. "Because I love him," I mumbled and he looked at me surprised.

There isn't anything I have to say. I just love him. Isn't that enough reason for me to do it?

God knows how I tried so hard not get myself in trouble. But in the end, I still can't help it.

Smile edged at the corner of his lips, "So, your tears, do you think he's worth it?"

I stopped mixing my food, my stained filled cheeks facing him directly.

Was he worth it?

All these trouble, the scolding, the stares that clearly states I-told-you-so, was it all worth it? For Sky?

Without even noticing, a smile slowly formed on my lips. Just thinking about him makes me happy.

"Never mind. I got it. But if that dude even do something bad to you, call me and I'll break his beautiful face," he snickered before leaving me, a gentle pat on my shoulder was all he left.

"Wait, did he just call my boyfriend beautiful?" I whispered to myself.

"You heard him. Since you promise so bravely that you'll do your best, so he's given you guys the approval. Just make sure you don't mess this up Max. Your team had gone through a lot already. You don't want to put the trust given to you into waste," I was pull out from my train of thoughts when I heard my manager.

"I understand," I mumbled, my eyes now focused on the view outside the car.

"Wait, you didn't tell them he said "Yes"?" my manager asked, an amused expression showing in his face, his hands on his phone. I wonder what he read that made him react like that.

I looked at him confused.

"I thought about telling him face front. Why?"

Soon enough, I heard him laughing.

We were already close to Zanaya and Seth's house.

"You found a good man, Max," he mumbled before the van halted in front of the house. I shrugged my shoulders and just went straight inside.

However, my mouth hangs wide open at the sight in front of me.

"I don't think it matches Sky. To be honest, I think it'll be better to just wear casual clothes," Storm snickered, his feet resting on top of the table, Baby Ashton sleeping on his chest.

I raised an eyebrow at the sight of it because Ashton's parents are busy fixing Sky for God knows what reason.

What are they up to?

"Sky, remember, do not waver. But don't sound too cocky too. Our boss wouldn't like that," Tokyo advised.

"How about you bring him some food?" Raze asked before standing up to head to the kitchen, at least that's what I thought.

"Sky, have you called our boss too? Oh my God, I'm getting nervous," I heard Sky mumbled and I watch as Mono kept on dialing on his phone.

"Forget it, I can go alone and face her boss. This is for Max,"

My stomach started churning at what he said.

Holy shit. Is he doing these things for me?

"Sky-ah..." I mumbled, my voice shaky, overwhelmed by the fact that he is willing to meet my boss even though the whole world knows how intimidating he is.

He must have heard my voice as his eyes landed on my direction, face filled with worry and that made my heart flutter even more.

With that in thought, I felt the tears I thought had already stopped once again pouring down my cheeks.

Yeah, I am indeed lucky.

In a flash, he was standing in front of me, his hands cupping my cheeks gently wiping the tears streaming down them.

"Stop crying, Nini. I will fix this. I promise. Look, I will wear my best suit. Don't worry baby," he cooed.

A smile escaped my lips as I see him being all giddy.

It was so obvious that he's nervous and the fact that he was ready to get his boss to meet mine is unbelievable.

"Why?" I asked. "You don't have to do it," I told him and he pouted.

"I need to do this. This is about us. It's not fair that you have to go through everything alone. Plus, I am the man in this relationship. I should be handling this," he explained and we heard a few cheers from the guys at the back.

"What's he like? He won't hit me, will he?" He was biting his lower lip and I can't help but chuckle.

He looks so adorable.

Gosh, I'm so lucky.

Slowly, I reach for his cheeks and he stared at me confused.

"I am so happy I decided to be with you," I started. He looked taken aback for a moment.

"If you're going to break up with me again Max, stop it. I won't let that happen. I told you I'll fix this, okay?" he looked upset as his shoulder dropped a little, his gaze now on the ground.

Silly.

He thought I'll break up with him?

After all we've been through?

I don't think the fuck so.

"Who told you we're breaking up? I won't break up with you even if you ask me to, stupid. You're stuck with me Sky so don't go around flirting with any girls except your fans if you still want to see your ties and GUCCI's in one piece," I snickered before pulling him by the neck, our lips immediately touching.

It had been so long, the taste of his sweet lips eating my system and it's making me crazy.

The way his lips move over mine and how his hands grasp around my waist as if he is afraid I'd be gone in front of him, this feeling - it's amazing.

"Ge'ez, they're in a middle of a crisis and there they are eating each other's faces,"

"Why do I always see them kissing?"

"Let them be, I don't want to see Sky sulking,"

"It's still weird to see Max kissing someone,"

"Don't you guys think we should stop them?"

I didn't mind both our members. All I did was focus on Sky's lips, his smell, his warmth, this amazing feeling he brings into me.

But all good things have to end, including the kiss that we're passionately sharing.

Our foreheads rested with each other, the sound of our ragged breathing filling both our ears.

"I got this Max, I won't give up my GUCCI, not after putting up a fight," he whispered and I give him another peck on the lips.

I moved away a little, my right hand reaching for his own and I pulled him back to where our members are.

"Let's go watch a movie. It has been so long since we last had a movie night," I told them, my smile not leaving my face.

I pulled him closer as I plopped my body on the couch, him soon follow.

"Hey, I need to meet your boss first. I don't want to get you into another trouble," he mumbled and I turned my body towards him.

He was looking so serious which made him ever more adorable, and hot if I may add.

I so love this man.

"He said Yes, so you don't have to come and talk to him," I told him and his eyes widened at my words.

"Then why were you crying so bad earlier?" he asked confused and I pouted automatically.

"Well, it's not fun to wait four hours while Sebastian was being scolded, is it?" I mumbled and I heard Tokyo laughing.

"Was he caught again? I was so sure he was called two months ago," she chuckled and I felt a hand in my shoulder.

"I already sent our own boss a message, what do I do?" Mono mumbled and we heard everyone laughing.

"No, we should still go and pay our respect to him for allowing us to date," he whispered and I smiled.

"Some other time Sky. I can't come back today. I'm still not over the tension, to be honest. I thought I'll die. Was it like this when you met with him Zanaya?"

My eyes landed on her and she smiled as Seth wrapped his hands around her waist.

"It was. I thought I'd pass out every time,"

Cali snickered, "You always passed out in the past. God, Seth did a lot of stupid things I'm surprise you didn't get sick,"

"Yah!" Seth whined and I felt Sky's hands wrapped around me.

In no time, my ears blocked the sound of our members bantering with each other, my senses only focused on him.

A playful thought crossing over my mind.

I moved closer, my lips brushing his ears a little and I felt him shiver at my touch.

"How about we go change your clothes in your room?" I whispered and I felt his body stiffen, a victorious smirk emerging on my lips.

I pulled away a little and saw how his face was pale, my eyes caught the movement of his Adam's apple.

"Let's go," I pulled him by the hand and Almost run out of the living room.

"Condom guys!"

"You guys are so dead if you're not careful,"

"I'm betting you guys they'll have a girl in the future,"

I laughed at the words of our members but still continued pulling him as we cross towards their house.

"Max..." I heard him call for my name but I didn't look back.

Once inside his room, I closed the door and pushed him until his back touches the surface.

"Wh-what are you doing?" he whispered as my hand reaches his neck tie, a seductive smile showing on my face while I loosen it up.

I bite my lower lip as I try to stop myself from laughing out loud.

But the moment I pulled his tie, he started coughing and I lost it.

I turned around and started laughing real hard.

"Yah!" he started whining and I moved closer to his bed, unable to stand straight as I continue to laugh.

Soon enough I felt him sit beside me, his face frowning after realizing that I was being playful.

"You think it's fun to tease me?" he snarled and I was caught off-guard when he suddenly pushed me, my back now on the bed as he towers over me.

This time, my lips mum shut, unused with the all new Sky that is overpowering me.

A smirk showing on his face.

"Why? I thought you want to change my clothes? C'mon unbutton my dress shirt, I'm waiting GUCCI," his voice husky, the glint in his eyes had changed and I felt my stomach churning.

Fuck.

"We're not so brave now, are we?" he teased and I felt my cheeks burning, I pushed him a little, his laughter echoing inside the room, his back now on the bed as he lay beside me.

I felt his hand over mine, squeezing it a little.

"We're good now, are we? We're finally together, like, together together," he asked and I smiled, my eyes focused on the ceiling.

"Were you scared?" he asked once again and I turned to face him never releasing his hand over mine.

"I was, but all I think about was that I can't lose you. Thinking about you gave me strength," I told him and I saw how his face softened.

"The mere thought of losing you again gave me confidence in meeting my boss. Without you, I'd fall into nothingness Sky," I whispered.

He looked at me intently, "Don't worry about falling, it's a free fall anyways so you'd still fall over me. I'll make sure to catch you every time," he mumbled and I smiled, his words warming my chest.

"I love you, Max..." he whispered, his hands slowly moved until he was already hugging me, my face buried on his chest.

"I love you too, Sky"

I love you...

Chapter 36 Final

Sky's POV

"Babe, c'mon, stop sulking. We both know Grey and Tokyo didn't mean for this to happen," my voice a little low but loud enough for her to hear.

Slowly, I made my way closer to where she is lying, her back facing my direction.

A smile slowly emerged on my lips.

I knew why Max was upset.

These past few weeks, she had been thinking of some ways on how we can reveal our relationship without making it too obvious that we planned it.

She wants us to be "official-official" and so am I. But of course, there are times that things wouldn't really be in our way and one of them is what happened earlier when Tokyo and Grey had accidentally revealed their relationship to the public.

Max wasn't upset because she's against it. I know she's always the happiest if it's for her friends but she's been down coz she knows we'll have to wait for another year, two or more to reveal ours and that's a burden she doesn't seem to be happy to be carrying right now.

I mean, the realization hit me too.

Since Seth and Zanaya are already married, and now, the ever so famous ship is now deemed real, a lot from both are fans will start speculating that the other WHISTLE members might possibly in a relationship with some other SHADOW members too. And every one of us knows that it's something not many of our fans will easily accept.

Closing the door behind me, I moved closer until I was lying beside her, my arms snaking around her waist, her soft whimpers audible even though she was trying so hard to not to let it be heard.

"GUCCI..." I whispered. "We can always tell them some other time, Nini. Please don't cry," I pulled her a little closer, her sweet scent lingering over my nose as I bury my face on her neck, tingling sensation rushing within my body.

I can't help but moan a little. Even the way she smells brings ecstasy on my system.

The boys would always tease Max how she has gotten totally whipped over me but I don't think it was the case. It has always been me from the beginning. I will beg for Max anytime I have to.

As cliché as it sounds, I'll catch a bullet for her or jump off a plane too regardless of how scared I was of heights. I'd do everything for her if I have to.

As long as she's mine and she's happy.

Never once did the two of us made trouble while dating, reason why both BH and BP Entertainment never says something about our relationship. Maybe that's also the reason why both our company gave us the go signal to reveal our relationship the moment we were ready.

But Grey and Tokyo happened and everybody knows it was an accident. They didn't mean to reveal everything and I know Max was just sad about the postponement of our revelation.

She turned her body towards me and I get to have a good glimpse of her face. My heart skipped a beat, her face bares from any makeup and she's as stunning as ever.

Her lips puckered, quivering like a baby that she is.

My baby.

"I was planning on writing a long-ass letter to tell our fans about us," she mumbled and she looks so damn adorable I can't help but lean forward and give her a peck on the lips.

"We can still do it some other time," I whispered, my other hand tracing her beautiful features, stopping on the side of her cheeks to wipe the tears that was flowing.

Max, there are moments when she gets sensitive over small things yet doesn't even care on some bigger and shocking things. That's how much unpredictable she is.

"You're going to cook for me, you know that, right?" she pouted and a smile appeared on my face.

"Of course baby, and we won't let Grey and Tokyo have any. That cool?"

And then I heard it, her adorable laughter.

My hands reached for her even more, squishing her around my arms.

I fucking love this girl.

"How long have we've been dating?" she whispered and I pulled away a little, my brows furrowing.

"Don't tell me you don't know," I snickered and she giggled.

"I love you," her gummy smiled appearing.

Shit. My weakness.

"NO! NO! DON'T GIVE ME THE GUMMY - I love you too - BUT you can't do that," I pouted she started laughing real hard. "Really? You're going to laugh at me?"

I scoffed turning my face towards the other side, her arms automatically wrapping around my waist, I had to control my expression so I won't smile.

"Is my GUCCI Sky baby sad?" she cooed and I swear my heart melted in instant.

"Remember what you said to me when you took my GUCCI?" she asked and my brows furrowed, ransacking my memory.

I felt her move from behind me and the next thing I knew was her pinning me from the bed, my legs in between hers while her hands on my chest a confident grin showing on her face.

I gulped, my tongue making a quick run on my lower lip autopilot.

"I never got to ask if it was really you who sent that text or it was really Mono but baby, you begged for it,"

"Oh shit,"

Just when her hands were reaching for the buckle of my pants, the door suddenly burst open and Max shrieked, jumping off of me.

"Oh, shit! Oh my God, I'm sorry," Demo exclaimed. He was now standing sideways his hands covering his face. "Ge'ez, lock the fucking door!" he screeched.

"Fucking knock!" I answered a little annoyed. Now I have to deal with this boner altogether.

"Okay, okay, I'm sorry, but you guys need to go to the living room. Code red," he stated before slowly removing his hand off his face and did an awkward nod before turning his back.

"Ahhhh! This is so embarrassing!" Max whined and I almost chuckled.

"We'll continue this baby. There's no way we wouldn't,"

In no time, we were all gathered in the living room. Tokyo was sitting on Grey's lap while Seth had Baby Ashton on his arms, Zanaya sitting beside them.

Demo and Mono was on the other side of the couch along with Raze so Max and I automatically took the empty one.

My eyes scanned the room.

"Where's Cali and Storm?" I asked and I was startled when Manager Stanford and someone from BP came in.

"Storm and Cali are with their families," Manager Stanford stated and our brows furrowed.

"Why? And what's code red for? I checked the social media and all I see is Grey and Tokyo but that's something that wasn't discussed the past few days," Mono stated and we all turned towards our managers.

Manager Stanford scratched the back of his head, his face a little serious and we can't help but get nervous.

"Is this about Cali and Storm? Are they okay?" Raze exclaimed and we all tuned in, afraid something bad really happened with the two.

"They are okay. They weren't harm, I just want to clarify that," their manager answered and a relief sigh escaped my lips. I felt Max's hands intertwining with mine.

"But it's still about them. It's something in the past that might bring trouble not just to them but to you guys as well. So, the company decided to make a create a distraction, a deviation to solve the issue," Manager Stanford glanced at the Max and I's direction.

"You guys wanted to go official, right? This is your chance. Do it, for your older brother and sister's sake," Their manager looked at the both of us, as if almost pleading and I wanted to ask what's wrong.

Of course we're going to do it. Not because we want to but because we also care for our members.

"Wait, can you tell us the details? What exactly is the problem?" Seth asked in panic and I am curious as well.

"It's something that is better to be heard from them and we're in no position to give any information. But for now, I want to know if you two are willing to do it,"

Max and I stared at each other.

"Of course. Though we want to know what happened, we can't let them be in trouble. So yeah,"

The moment we answered, both managers started typing on their phones and the rest of us were left in silence.

"What did Storm did this time? I swear to God these two are getting it. They always bring trouble considering their almost the oldest" Raze added but the way his hands fidgeted proves how worried he is getting.

I felt Max pressing my hand tighter, my eyes immediately turning into her.

"They are fine, right?" she whispered.

I bit my lower lip, unsure how to answer but I know I had to.

"They are. That's Storm. He won't let anything bad happen to your member,"

Max smiled at my words. And somehow, I feel a little less tense than earlier.

We all trust our members.

We do.

Like always, 7-1=7 for SHADOW and 4-1=4 for WHISTLE.

We're all together, all the way.

Chapter 37 Special Untold

Max's POV

"Mono! Give me back my baby, oh God!" I cringed as I heard Zanaya scolding Mono after the other made little Ashton cried which the other responded with an apologetic look.

I feel soft over the guy.

He was doing derp faces with the baby and California giggled at the sight of it.

I almost chuckle next to Cali when I noticed Zanaya's "I'm-so-done" expression after taking the cute little child from SHADOW's leader before letting Ashton crawl inside the mini playground that Seth and the rest of the boys had set up in the middle of the living room.

Chaos.

That's how everything had been after a year Zanaya gave birth to this little angel before us.

They named him Zaye but Zanaya insisted on giving the baby another name, calling him Ashton from that band she used to gush over with.

A month after she gave birth to this cute little Mochi, we had to get back to Korea due to our pending projects.

Zanaya almost didn't make it because she kept crying, unable to ride the plane without her child with her. Thank God, Seth apparently already had planned everything.

He came back to Korea with Zanaya and the rest of WHISTLE, while SHADOW were back a week earlier.

Baby Mochi took the next flight with Zanaya's whole family.

Zanaya was so surprised to find out all the preparations that Seth had done. So, it seemed that before Seth informed the whole world about their relationship, he had already bought a house for Zaya and him.

It was so big, enough to fit the whole SHADOW and WHISTLE inside.

So, Zanaya and Seth had a house of their own, with Zaya's family living with them to take care of little Mochi whenever the two are not around.

Everything were fine in the beginning, until SHADOW and WHISTLE couldn't get enough of baby mochi.

So, their boss decided to lease a house next to Seth's so the boys can just crossover whenever.

Plus, it's easier for the whole SHADOW to be together especially when they have projects.

WHISTLE, however, was okay with Zaya not staying with us. We know she needs to spend a lot of time with her baby.

Whenever we have a performance, Zanaya is always excited to go home.

And if we don't have a schedule, WHISTLE will always stay in their house.

One time, Seth flipped off after WHISTLE and SHADOW fight over the baby.

Everyone almost ended up being kicked off the house.

I'm not even sure why but it has become a competition, who's better, SHADOW or WHISTLE.

And Zanaya, we were surprised how she was able to get back in shape that early. Or maybe because she's naturally thin, her body returned in just a month.

Seth doing exercise with her must be of great help though I swear everybody knows they been doing a different exercise aside from the regular one.

I still can't get over the incident were both our bosses came over the house and beg the two not to have another baby at this time.

Baby Mochi not being out in the public is probably the wisest decision they have ever made.

We all know that the two having a baby will bring joy to a lot of fans but let's face the reality, not everyone was fond of their relationship.

Those people who shipped Seth with another girl were devastated.

And Zaya getting pregnant at a young age, regardless if they are married, will cause a ruckus.

Fame and hate at a very young age, that's something every one of us doesn't want baby mochi to experience this early.

We want him to feel love.

In time, the fans will soon see him and I hope they don't feel bad about them keeping it a secret.

"Baby Mochi, aunt Tokyo is the best right?" I heard Tokyo cooed and I had to resist myself from laughing as I saw Grey pouting.

"Try beating me first before declaring, stupid." Grey muttered which earned a disapproval from Raze.

"I said no bad words in front of the child. And no fighting. Honestly, how long are you two going to bicker?" Raze exclaimed and I turned to my side when I felt someone sitting beside me.

"Hi, beautiful."

My cheeks turned red at the sight of the beautiful man before me.

Sky...

"I miss you," he whispered which send chills all over my body.

Shit.

If my heart can beat any faster, I guess I'd die due to do it.

Can I actually comment about how godlike he looks with the gray dyed long hair?

"Jesus, you look really cute my baby." he chuckled before cupping my face with his hands.

Yes, Sky and I are now dating.

But only our members know.

I don't even know what happened but I ended up falling for his charms.

But then, I'm still not used to him being so sweet. Moreover, I still can't believe he is already mine.

I am so used to fighting with him and now that he always acts sweet towards me is a stranger feeling even to myself.

Sometimes, I am not even sure how to reciprocate his emotions and I feel so bad about it. I don't want him to feel that I am not serious about us dating.

Thank God he is so patient with me.

"My baby, have you been waiting for your GUCCI?" Sky cooed and I ended up being mesmerized under his spell.

All I can hear is the loud beating of my heart.

I can't even remember how many times I've shut down my surroundings whenever Sky was around.

It wasn't like this before.

I was confident and proud of myself. Nobody can tell me what to do unless I have to. But when I ended up falling in love with this weirdo, my system had been in a mess.

Now, he's starting to become the center of my world. And I'm starting to think that this isn't a good thing.

"God, our Maxie had spaced out again because of her GUCCI!" I heard Demo laughing and Sky just pulled me over for a hug, chuckling, my face ended up on his chest.

"Hey, I can't believe Max will end up being whipped over Sky. To be honest, the image if her chasing over Sky with a baseball bat is still vivid to my memory." Mono muttered and I grunted in response.

It was when Sky accidentally touched my boobs.

I was still myself then. Not the very whipped Max that I am now.

"I can chase you with a baseball bat now if you want," I smirked over Mono whose eyes bulged at my comeback.

I am still the same Max, alright. It's just that right now, I have Sky with me.

My eyes landed back on his face and my heart once again fluttered when he kissed the tip of my nose.

"Ewww." Grey whined before standing up from being sprawled on the floor, leaving baby Mochi with Tokyo.

"Where are you going Grey?" I heard Seth shouting.

Grey just took his coat and went out, waving his hands in goodbye, not bothering to answer.

"He's meeting his girlfriend," Sky mumbled and I had to pinch his thigh to make him shut up.

His eyes went wide at my action but covered his mouth when he noticed my expression.

I looked at Tokyo and checked the look on her face.

I knew she's starting to develop something for the man. Unfortunately, Grey Simons had found himself a girlfriend. At least that's what Sky had told us.

Chapter 38 Special Episode

Marigold's POV(Tokyo's daughter)

"Come back here! Latch!!! I swear to God I'm going to kill you if you don't give back my jacket!" I screamed the moment I confirmed that my favorite jacket was missing.

I quickly ran outside my room and my hunch was right as I saw Latch struggling to put his shoes on while kissing our mom's cheeks for goodbye.

"Latch!!!!!" I screech and the moron had the nerve to salute in my direction before turning around gracing his way to our front door.

The moment he opened the door, Dad came buzzing in and my idiot brother even gave my father a high-five.

"Dad! Latch took my jacket!" I whined before running down the stairs.

"I said no running on the stairs Gold," I heard my mom but I didn't stop. I was beyond pissed off. However, the moment I reached the door, my younger brother had already had his car outside of the driveway, his annoying face all for me to see.

"This is the last time sissy, I promise!" he shouted, sending me multiple flying kiss before hitting his car's accelerator.

The next thing I know was me standing in front of my parents as I rant about my brother.

"Dad, I can't believe you didn't stop him," I pouted and my father chuckled, his right hand wrapped around my mother's shoulder as they sat on the couch together. As annoying as hell, my parents look so endearing and cute together. Scratch that, all of them look so madly in love. Aunt Max and uncle Tae were adorable. They fight like some kid at most times and uncle Tae always has the weirdest habits but he's the coolest when he wants to.

Uncle Storm and Aunt Cali is even sweeter. Ever since I was born, I was introduced to my parent's popularity and it's no secret about uncle Yoong's lack of expressiveness. But to aunt Cali, he's the sweetest. He's like the coolest uncle. No wonder Ashton treats him like he was his second father. We heard he was aunt Zaya's best friend. And everybody knows uncle Seth was always pissed bout it. It's so funny because uncle Seth looks so adorable whenever he gets jealous of uncle Storm.

Then there's uncle Raze with aunt Sooyoung. We've never seen two people openly flirt with each other but the two. I really admire how Alex can stand seeing his parent's being like that. Even uncle Seth's flirtiness doesn't match.

Aunt Momo and uncle Demo are quite playful though. I don't get why Irish was so timid when her parents were so outgoing.

And lastly, there's uncle Mono and aunt Irene who looks a lot like she's not aging. I love how calm the two of them are.

All in all, the love that our parents have been beyond amazing. We were lucky to have them as our parents. We were not only given one family but a big one.

I can still remember those days when all pf us their kids use to camp on each other's houses alternately. Ashton was always managing use but the fucker is also a devil himself so we always end up getting into trouble.

Our parents were never strict ones. My Dad always allows us to do what we want and our mother supports us all the way.

"Dad, that was a gift. Latch always gets my stuff, I am so close to turning my room into Latch-free zone, I swear!" I stomped my feet in annoyance and my parents laughed.

"Baby, that jacket was too big for you. And that wasn't a gift. You took it out of Z's wardrobe. Honey, you can't take everything from Z's closet. His mother will kill your mom," my father stated and I scoffed.

My mother was having the best time of her life as she eats the bar of chocolate my father got for her. I can't believe she can still eat that at this age. Truth is, all of them were able to maintain their figures. My Dad is especially a gym addict. I once cried coz he keeps on making me do push-ups with Latch until my mother kicked him out of the house.

It's quite funny because my father literally brought a large tent at the backyard and soon enough, all my uncles were there to accompany him. My father was their maknae, their baby.

"He told me I can get whatever I want on his closet," I answered. It was partly true though. Uncle Tae and Aunt Jen's fashion sense was superb sometimes I envy their kids for having those clothes.

"Because you keep on pestering him. Why don't you get Elle's clothes instead of her brother? You don't even get Y's clothes but only Z. I wonder why that is..." I raised an eyebrow at my mom's expression. She was looking at me weirdly and I feel uncomfortable with it.

"Mom, Z is my best friend. There's nothing wrong with that. Even Aunt Chae has uncle Storm as her best friend. I see no difference,"

I sat on the couch opposite them, before reaching for my phone in my pocket.

"Zaya doesn't wear your uncle Storm's clothes. Imagine how your aunt Cali and uncle Seth will flip if that happens,"

I scowl at my Dad's words.

Just then, I saw Z's name appearing on my screen.

"What's your brother doing here wearing my goddamn jacket? And who told him he can take Elle out for dinner?"

Even with him being so far, I can imagine how serious he looks. Y and Z are both serious and most people easily get intimidated by their aura. But not me. I annoy Z to the fullest and I declared myself as his best friend since tens years ago.

In anger, I quickly type a response to him.

"Pick me up. I'm going to kill him,"

Quickly, I stood up from my seat and was about to run back to my room to change but my Dad beat me to it.

"Tell Z to bring his father. I have this feeling that I will have to talk to him about something important," he stated and I saw my mom hitting on the shoulder, laughing out loud. They are so weird.

And why would he need to talk with Z's Dad?

"Dad, you can call uncle V on the phone. Or video calls him. What's with you and Mom, really?" I rolled my eyes and my parents were simply laughing. I marched my way back to my room and started choosing from my set of clothes.

Why do I have the royal and golden maknae's as my parents?

Okay, I am lucky to have them as my parents so scratch that question.

"This will do," pulling a black short and a loose white printed Gucci shirt that I took from Z's closet. I saw him wearing it one time and it's cute.

He doesn't really stop me from getting his clothes. I guess he had already given up.

And then I remember my father asking about Z's father.

What could they possibly talk about apart from their usual weird conversations?

I shrugged my shoulder.

Yep. Our parents are weird.

Chapter 39 - Special Episode

Z's POV(Max's Son)

"Baby, are you still sleeping?"

I heard my Mom's voice, the sound of something rustling filling my ears for a moment. I heard the knocking on my door and a groan escaped my lips as I try to remove the blanket covering my body.

But before I can even pull it down, I felt a hand tightening its wrap around my waist, a slow movement on my side shaking my entire system.

Shit. I totally forgot about waking Marigold last night so I can drive her home!

She was very adamant about drinking last night to calm her nerves. And since we can't go to a bar, we ended up drinking on my room's balcony.

My eyes widened as I saw my mom opened the door. She walked gracefully and her nose crunches as she saw the bottles of beer on the side.

"You drank too much baby," she mouthed but headed straight to check my cabinet, a habit she had ever since.

Her frustrations on buying clothes had become an obsession but Dad always says it's just an outlet Mom had for having to deal with all of us every day.

If I didn't know very well, it's just Mom's stress over Dad and Elle. That little girl is a pain in the ass too.

But my ass is about to get beaten if Mom sees a girl on my bed.

"Mom," I whispered, afraid whoever is under my blanket would move or create any noise.

Mom was busy checking the clothes that made sure everything on me was covered.

"Baby, I can't find one of the jumpers I bought you last week. Did you give it to Marigold again?" It was a question but I can sense that she's upset.

She always whines about us not loving the clothes she gives us but thanks God Y knows how to work his magic on Mom.

I remember the jumper she was talking about and if my memory does not betray me, it was the same jumper Mari took yesterday when she barged in my room.

I bit my lower lip at the memory of it. That brat was so pissed off because someone threw a glass of water on her because of Latch.

Her prodigal brother just broke another girl's heart and Marigold had to take the downfall of it

If I didn't arrive on time, Marigold had probably ripped all of the girl's hair. I can clearly remember what she did with that one girl who tried to slap my sister for being so close with Latch.

She went berserk and had a full catfight with her.

It took Ashton and Alex to stop her as Mari told me she'll kill me if I take another step to stop her. As much as I don't want people to get hurt, I also know how many times Mari will kill me if I don't listen to her.

My breath hitch when I felt her pull me tighter, her warm breath hitting my skin sending shivers all over me. I felt the movement of her other hand and my eyes widened when I felt it go lower, I had to move a little and grab her hand of my own.

Shit. Shit. Shit.

I looked at Mom's direction and took a deep breath when I was sure she wasn't looking.

I pulled the blanket even more, but enough to ensure there was air coming in for her. I intertwined my hand over hers and I felt her stopped moving.

Holy shit. How did we end up on one bed anyway?

Marigold, she was like fire, a breath of fresh yet wild air.

Even though we were sons and daughters of the most famous kpop superstars ever known, we were not exempted from the bullying and everything a teenager experiences. As much as possible, our parents wanted us to experience a normal life.

Now yesterday, I had to bribe Marigold for another of my toy car collection so she won't snap.

And of course, she had to barge inside my room and take another one of my clothes. It's not new to me anyway. She's been doing it half our lives and had forced herself as my best friend.

I gave up telling her otherwise. Amongst us second generation as what Dimitri calls our group, Marigold and Latch may be the most carefree. I'm not sure if it's because they are the sons of the known most powerful maknae couple, as what our parent's fans call them, but those siblings can do whatever they want and Aunt Tokyo will be out there cheering.

My father isn't even an exception. I can clearly imagine him cheering with Uncle Grey too.

"Baby, if this keeps up, I swear I'm going to have to ask her mother to pay me. That little bitch always gets my things too. Thank God I love Mari more than her mom that's why I'm letting her," she chuckled before closing my cabinet. A smile emerged on my lips.

Mom would always call aunt Tokyo names but she's the first to go crazy like a mad dog whenever there is an article about Aunt Tokyo.

"You always call her names when she's like your baby," I teased my mother and she just rolled her eyes.

My mother, despite her age, is still as glamorous and beautiful the world remembers. Actually, all of them including our uncles.

It's like they don't age at all.

Apart from uncle Storm, all of my uncles can still do chicken fights in the backyard. One time, my father, uncle Grey, and uncle Seth almost ruined aunt Zaya's garden after they run wild and played some games.

To be honest, they all act more like a child than any of us.

"Stop teasing me and take a bath. You reek of alcohol," she pouted before she gracefully headed straight to my door.

And just when she's about to pull the door close, she peeked on me again and smiled cheekily, her gummy smile showing.

I gulped. Sometimes, I find Mom's gummy smile creepy. She always gave me that look whenever she wants me to admit something.

It's like an invisible yet moving force.

"By the way, your uncle Grey met with your father today. You're a dead kid, my baby. Tell Mari to call her Dad the moment she woke up," she stated and my jaw dropped on the floor.

"Stop keeping your girlfriend under your covers. Get up and go outside," she muttered before pulling the door close, the sound of her laughter echoing through the hallway.

It was then that her words slowly sank in.

"She isn't my girlfriend!" I tried reasoning as if my mother can still hear me.

Girlfriend, what is she even saying?

I have never seen Marigold as someone except my best friend.

I felt Mari moved below me and I groaned when she started kicking the covers until her face was available for me to see.

And the moment I did, my mouth went agape when I saw how surreal she looked. She turned a little and my eyes caught sight of her ethereal face, a few strands of her hair scattered beautifully.

Suddenly, she started moving and even scratched her neck, my jumper sliding a little so I can see a clear view of her collar bone.

I gulped, my eyes avoided her and I moved slightly away from her. But before I can even move a bit further, I felt her hand stopping me once again, this time, she even swang her feet over mine.

"Oh God," I groaned and I felt her make a sound.

"Z..."

Fuck.

It was just my name but why does it suddenly sound different? Her voice sounding hoarse not even helping.

And I felt it, something in me awakening.

Fuck Z, what the hell is happening?

That's Gold, Mari. Sweet, fiery Marigold, your best friend. Right?

Chapter 40 – Special Episode

Y's POV

"Nice jacket kid," I whistled as I watch Latch jumping out of his car.

I was sitting on the porch while checking my phone every now and then.

This kid. My twin will kill him. I was so sure that jacket was Z's because I have the exact same design except for a different color. Mom bought it for us just a month ago. I wonder when Marigold took it from my brother's closet.

My brother, he's okay with Marigold getting his clothes but he'll be pissed off to see the younger Simons wearing it.

He walking on the pathway and I raised an eyebrow at him.

"Did your Mom send you here?" I asked and he grinned. He really looks like uncle Grey, his bunny smiles and the forehead. But he got his quirkiness from his mother. At least that's what my mom always tells us.

She always tells us about her good old days. As if she's still isn't famous until now. They have so much devoted fans, both WHISTLE and SHADOW. I wasn't alive yet then but I heard they dominated the world. They paved the way for everyone and I will never tell but I am so proud of my parents.

My parents were called human fashion brands and the deadliest airport fashion icons to this date. Even the younger generation of idols can't compare. And even now, my parents still get invited to fashion shows and are ambassadors of so many brands.

Too bad Z and Y didn't inherit anything related to fashion. We just let our mom buy our clothes. I wear what is given to me.

Z and I were very much alike. We like the same food, hobby, movies. We agreed upon everything which surprises our parents sometimes, everything, except for the woman we like.

I don't normally like the girls he dates. Not that he dates a lot but I don't know. It's like every woman he falls for, I don't find interesting. And I'm justifying that now because I know my brother very much. He is my twin after all.

However, I know something about my brother which I think he hasn't even realized.

Marigold.

That Simons had been messing my twin's mind and the fool haven't even noticed it. In fact, the two of them were so clueless.

Marigold thinks of my brother as her best friend while my brother had long given up with Marigold's stubbornness so he lets her do what he wants.

The two of them, they are stupid.

"Nope. I'm here to pick up Elle. We're having dinner," he grinned and my eyebrows raised even more.

"You're taking my baby out for a dinner?" I question and the fucker just smiled at me.

Sometimes I hate that he got aunt Tokyo's sunny attitude. Latch is not even scared of us anymore. He only listens to Ash since he's the oldest. Sometimes to Zammy because that girl hits people. Plus, uncle Storm is quite intimidating.

I turned on my left and screamed. "Z! Can you come here really quick?" I called my twin brother and I saw the change on Simons' expression, a grin now plastered on my lips.

And I was right. The moment Z saw Latch outside, his face scrunched as he leaned on the porch just right beside me.

"I don't remember letting you wear my jacket," he hissed angrily. He pulled out his phone and was crazily tapping on its screen.

I smell a fight.

"You gave it to my sister and I borrowed it," he grinned.

Before we can even react, we saw Elle running. Mom and Dad weren't home at this time.

"Elle, where are you going?" Z asked and our sister grinned before grabbing Latch by the wrist.

"Tell Mom and Dad I won't be home for dinner," she winked before dashing.

"Elle!"

"Let her be Z. You know you can't control that kid. He's too spoiled with Dad," I shake my head in disapproval.

Out of us three, Elle had gotten Dad's carefree spirit and Mom's jumpy side. And she's the youngest so we spoil her a lot especially Dad.

"Are they dating?" Z asked and I chuckle.

"No. They're like you and Marigold. They're best friends. Unless you and Gold aren't, then that's a different case," I teased before jumping off from the porch, tapping my twin's shoulder.

I saw Marigold's response. The brat wants my twin to pick her up.

My brows furrowed. And what's with uncle Grey asking Dad to go with Z?

I was walking back to my room when a realization hit me.

Looks like everybody noticed except the two. Soft chuckles escaped my lips.

My brother always tops the class but when it's Marigold, he's so clueless. Marigold is like an unreadable book for him.

Just then, I saw the chat head of our family GC. It's a group with all of us, our aunts and uncles, and us their children. We have a separate one without our parents and I bet they do have another without us too.

I saw uncle Raze's chat. I heard him and aunt Joy was on a vacation.

"Ashton, can you pick up Louise? She needs to buy something at the mall and Xander was out,"

Lou, my baby Lou...

Before I knew it, I was already typing.

"I'll go with her Uncle Raze. I have something to buy too," I sent the message immediately. I was so sure Ash was with Zamara though. They were like joint at the hip. Wherever Zamara was, so was Ashton. He's like uncle Storm's second child. But everybody knows Ashie has a thing for uncle's daughter. I don't want to see the end of it though. Uncle Storm is quite strict.

"Great. Take care of her Y," uncle responded and I left a thumbs up on his response.

After changing, I grab my keys and headed to the garage. I can literally feel my heart hammering inside my chest.

I don't remember how it started but I woke up one morning and all I can remember was Louise's timid smile. She's always aloof with people except for us. Now I was actually glad she's that shy because I will be secured that no man can come near my girl.

Every chance that I get I grab it to be with her. My sweet innocent Lou.

Before I knew it, I was already outside their house. She must have been waiting coz I saw her coming out of their front door.

Slowly, I went out of the car and jogged to the other side to open the door.

The moment our eyes locked, her innocent smile greeted me and I was worried my heart dropped on the ground.

Fuck.

"Thank you, Y," she leaned a little and kissed me on the cheeks as a greeting. Something all of us are already accustomed with.

However, this girl right here doesn't even know how dangerous that kiss had been to my system.

"Anything for you my sweet Lou," I whispered and her cheeks blushed red. I always call her that and I'm not sure she knows what it meant for me or she just thinks I was teasing her. All of us teases her anyways to make her feel comfortable with us. It's just that, mine had a different context to it.

I mean it. She's mine.

The moment we were inside the car, her sweet perfume filled my nose and it took me ounces our courage and self-control not to park the car and do something that might get me into trouble.

Calm down Y. Uncle Raze and Xander will kill you...

Silence filled the car. Which is a good thing coz it was testing my self-control.

However, the moment we passed a Unicorn themed cafe, I noticed how her eyes followed it even after we already went past through it, the expression on her face didn't go unnoticed by me.

"Do you want to drop by and get some coffee over that Unicorn thingy?" I asked her and her face snapped towards my direction. The way her eyes sparkle brought serenity inside me.

Good Lord, I am so in trouble.

"Can we?" she whisper-shouted. Her voice ended up sounding raspy my grip on the steering wheel tightened.

Oh God, she doesn't have any idea.

"Of course baby. Anything for you," I whispered.

I'd give you anything. Even my Mom's closet.

But of course, I didn't tell her that. Some other time maybe.

When she's already mine.

Wrong Fan (Mono's Story – A Glimpse)

Wrong Fan

"So who's your bias?"

She shyly lowered down her face before mumbling,

"Raze,"

"No shit," I hissed.

Before I even realized, I've spoken my thoughts out loud.

Now, everyone is staring right at me, including *HER*.

Her eyes gleaming with disdain.

I didn't just mess up, did I?

"Hi..." she whispered, her eyes were shining as if a bright star just landed in front of her.

Even though I was right directly in front of her line of vision, I doubt she even realizes that SHADOW's leader Mono is staring right at her starstruck face.

Because her eyes were focused not to me, but to someone else's.

And somehow, I felt edgy about it.

For years, I've been used to having fans favoring the maknae line, or anyone except me, but I was always okay with that.

As long as they support and like the group, it doesn't matter.

I started doing this because of my love for music and not to squirm any attention or love from people.

I'm happy with just music and having a few people believe in me, believes in our group.

But then again, seeing this red-hair fan makes me feel like something is wrong.

And I don't quite get what is it.

"Annyeong!" Raze hyung happily greeted, pulling her for a quick hug.

And her eyes widen, her body stood frozen from the spot, unable to speak like she had been bitten by a snake.

Wow. You're not way too obvious about liking someone, are you? I wanted to say but I decided otherwise.

My eyes caught her beautiful features...

Deep-set brown eyes paired with a perfectly pointed nose, her perfectly plump lips colored with a dark red lipstick makes her look even more ethereal...

I don't even know why but her red hair seemed to catch my attention most.

And then her eyes landed on my direction, our eyes met and she rolled her eyes.

She's annoyed.

Right. I messed up earlier. I probably shouldn't have said that.

"Hi?" I tried to catch her attention but the next move she did make my jaw drop down on the floor and I swear I heard the rest of the boys laughing.

She gave me the finger.

That's right.

She gave me the fucking middle finger.

Holy shit.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

I did it again. I messed up.

She visited earlier to check with the guys and Seth borrowed her bike. Of course, Demo, me, and Sky ended up borrowing it too.

But why do I have to be overly excited?

"I'm really sorry, I swear it's not intentional," I told her and the way her brows furrowed and her lips puckered like she's going to smack every bit of me sent some chills all over my body.

"Hyung, you've broken not only her bike but her helmet as well," Seth whispered and I wanted to throw this jam less kid to the lake after her eyes widened, hearing Seth's remark.

After reaching for her helmet and checking the part where it was broken, she turned her back and headed straight to the back of the house leaving all four of us behind.

"Uh-oh," Sky mumbled. "I think you just made her cry hyung," he added and my heart dropped after seeing the expression on her face.

"I heard the helmet was given by her deceased brother," Demo added which made my insides drop even more.

Everyone was quiet.

I balled my fist in frustration. Of all the times you're going to destroy something, it has to be something with such value?

Shit.

Mono, you need to do something.

"Here," extending my free hand, I bite my lower lip as I offer her a bag of my favorite chips.

She glanced at my direction and I had to scold myself once again after my eyes recognized the fresh tears flowing down on her cheeks.

She didn't take it.

Because you're stupid. Why would she accept it?

Without even thinking, I crouched down beside her, fully adjusting my legs, hanging my feet along the edge of the lake dock like how she was doing.

But she didn't spare me even a glance.

My eyes focused on the water before us.

It's calm, and the tranquility it brings towards me felt so refreshing.

"You know, when I was nine, I broke my mom's favorite jar and I was scolded real bad for it, " I told her, the image still vivid on my memory.

My eyes stared at the water below us.

"When I was twelve, I accidentally knocked down my father's newly bought mug. I know he was quite upset about it, but he pretended as nothing happened, " I chuckled. "But it made me felt even more guilty about it."

And like earlier, I didn't get any reaction.

"When I was a trainee, I broke one of the chairs in BigHit and Bang Pd sat on it, he fell." A mischievous glint emerged on my face at the memory.

"I never told a soul about it, scared of what Bang PD will say, " I shake my head as I remember how Bang PD was so angry about the incident.

I was so scared I never told a single person about it. Even up to now, well except her.

I was rambling, I know, but I feel like I wanted to share my misfortunes with her.

"Last year, I accidentally hit Sky's balls he almost threw me out of the house," I was startled when I heard her giggling. I turned my head towards her direction and realizes that she was trying to stop herself from laughing.

My heart stopped beating for a moment. Her side profile looks so perfect, her cheeks a little damp, maybe due to crying but nevertheless, she looks perfect.

Her giggles soon turned into laughter, she was covering her mouth and I just watch her.

She is so beautiful...

Yet the closest I can get was her laughter...

I guess I might have to hit Raze's balls next time so I can hear her laugh once again...

"Do you think he'll like this?"

My eyes softened at the sight of her beautiful smile. In her hands was a transparent container of what seemed to be a home-cooked lunch box, my eyes can see how carefully the food was arranged inside.

My inside started churning, a weird emotion enveloping my entirety.

Wait, what?

She was smiling so bright but I was so sure she was nervous as she kept on staring at Raze hyung from afar.

"What's that?" I tried distracting her and her eyes landed on my direction, my heart doing a mini somersault for God knows why.

"It's an avocado sandwich and a salad, my favorite!" she muttered, excitement can be heard in her voice.

I don't even know why but I found myself lying.

"Oh, he doesn't eat avocados," I told her and her smile dropped in an instant.

My fist balled in frustration.

Suddenly, it feels like thousands of needles were being pricked within my heart, I had to take a deep breath.

"Oh, okay..." her shoulders dropped and I had to scold myself for lying.

I could have let her think that way but no matter how much I wanted to stop her from going to him, my heart seemed to automatically surrender.

"I was kidding..." I mumbled, trying to sound jolly "He'll love it," I added and a smile came across my lips at the sight of her ecstatic expression.

"Really?!" she almost jumped out of happiness and I nodded, smiling at her though deep inside I feel like something is definitely wrong.

Seeing you smile makes me even happier, and I fucking don't know why.

"You're so cute,"

My fingers curled at the sound of Raze hyung's voice as he acts all cutesy over her.

"That was so funny, oppa!" she giggled as she, unexpectedly, find so much humor to Raze hyung's old dad jokes.

My eyes turned around and realized that the rest are equally amazed as I am.

And Raze hyung was enjoying it.

He was enjoying the attention and here I am, starting to question my morals as I find myself slowly getting all annoyed to my oldest member.

"Mono, are you alright? You have been balling your fist too much since earlier, I'm afraid you're going to hurt yourself," My head turned to my right and noticed the worried expression on Demo's face.

I faked a smile, "I am, I was just thinking about something. Don't worry about me," I told him and if he believed my failed attempt on masking my emotions, I'm not sure but I am thankful he didn't press any further.

"Mono!" I was startled when I heard her voice as she calls my name.

It sounded beautiful... My name... Is it because of her voice?

Or was it because it was her who called me?

"What?" I asked, shaking the earlier thoughts I had in mind.

And then my eyes landed on her hand as they clung on Raze hyung's right arm, the other smiling cheekily at me.

"I heard you're good at skating, will you teach me?" she pleaded and seeing her doe-like orbits staring directly at me made it impossible for me to decline.

I bite the inside of my cheeks before answering, "Of course," I told her.

"Great! Then it's you, me and Raze oppa,"

My heart dropped at her words.

Of course, her oppa...

I tried to show the best smile I can muster."It's a date then,"

Though I was kinda hoping it's just the two of us. I wanted to add.

"You two stay here, I'll just go buy us some food, okay?"

A long grunt escaped my lips as I watch Raze hyung's diminishing form, leaving a hopeful girl staring innocently at me.

"Mono..." she whispered.

My brows furrowed.

"How come you never call me oppa?" I asked her. Not that it matters but I am older and I was sure I heard her call everyone oppa, even Kookie.

She snickered at my words and I noticed how her cheeks blushed a little while she avoided my glance, and my brows furrowed even more.

And then she cleared her throat, her eyes focused on the ground down below us.

Even with the thick clothing covering her, she still looks so freaking hot.

Calm down Mono. You're here to teach them how to skate, so focus.

"I never really did apologize for being so rude to you the first time." I was startled when I heard her speak. Her voice was soft, yet shaky.

Was it because it's too cold?

She was still speaking but I can't seem to fathom what she was saying.

I was just mesmerized, too distracted by her blushing cheeks, I didn't even catch half of what she said.

All I see is how her cheeks blushed, her red lips, and how her glowing fiery hair makes her look even surreal.

"I understand if you can't forgive me for it. Again, I'm sorry," she said, and I noticed her pouting a little, her hands clasped together but her eyes are still focused on the ground.

Wait, what did she just say?

"Hey, guys! Let's eat first!" I turned around and saw Raze hyung carrying a tray filled with food.

She immediately rushes towards Raze hyung in an attempt to leave me behind, but not after my eyes caught the tears threatening to spill down her cheeks.

My hands acted automatically, reaching her arms, stopping her from further leaving.

"Wait. Why are you crying?" I whispered and she turned her face towards my direction, this time, tears are indeed flowing down her cheeks.

I was left speechless.

"Did I do something wrong?" I asked worriedly but she just shakes her head, her silent sobs shattering my heart into pieces.

Without even thinking, I reached for her arms and pulled her closer, engulfing her in a hug.

It was cold but the warmth coming from her is enough to make my insides go frenzy and my heart about to leap out of my chest.

I felt her lean her head on my chest and I found myself kissing the top of her head to calm her down.

"For whatever I did, I'm sorry. I didn't mean to make you upset. Believe me, that's the last thing I want to do," I whispered not even minding the curious expression showing on Raze hyung's face.

"Don't cry, baby..." I whispered.

But only I heard.

"Mono, you're not doing it right," she huffed as I keep getting what she's trying to teach me since earlier wrong.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

Unsure how it happened but the two of us ended up being in charge of the cooking.

"You have to make sure to keep your hands off the knife, I swear you're going to get both of us killed." she snarled and I backed away a little, scared on the sudden change on the tone of her voice.

"Sorry," I mumbled and she looked taken aback a little. I watch her as she bites her lower lip, her brows furrowed making her even looked sexier.

"After all these years, you still haven't really studied how to cook, do you?" she mumbled, her face getting closer to mine as if scrutinizing me.

A huge lump had stuck on my throat and for a while, it seems like I was having a hard time breathing due to the close proximity.

How can someone as small as she can be this intimidating?

"H- How-w did you know I don-t cook?" I stammered.

A frown escaped on her beautiful face.

"Mono, I am your fan, Of course, I know you break everything, moreover doesn't know how to cook," she mumbled before turning her back on me.

"Huh?" I asked confused.

She then turned around, her eyes focused on my face.

"Is that surprising?" she asked and I nodded.

"Well, all you ever talk about is Raze hyung, so I naturally thought that... you know..." I mumbled and her smile dropped immediately.

"Is that so?" she asked and I bite the inside of my right cheek.

She seemed upset over something and for a moment, I regret telling her those words.

"I'm sorry if that's how it seemed," she stated before turning around as she continues what I was doing earlier.

"I am a SHADOW fan, not just Raze oppa's. And if you must know..." she stopped speaking as if hesitating for a moment.

"What?" I asked, urging her to continue.

Since I was standing just beside her, I noticed how her cheeks turned beet red.

"I actually love your dimples the most," she whispered lowly but loud enough for my stupid heart to hear.

And boy, my heart did a somersault.

"I can't believe you lost to her Mono. Are you sick or something?" Demo stated, rambling as I keep on losing to this lady for the umpteenth time.

"I'm not exactly some genius okay," I snickered, getting a little annoyed at the continuous teasing I have been getting both from Demo and the rest of the maknae line.

"Actually, I think Mono hyung is just distracted," Seth teased and I had never wanted to smack his cheeky face until today.

"Right?" Grey looked shocked at Seth's words. "I thought I was the only one who noticed," he added.

"Why would Mono be distracted? Just admit the fact that I am very awesome," she chuckled as he put down her last card, again, beating me on the game.

"I won, yey! Now you have to do me a favor," she exclaimed as she started clapping her hands a little too excitedly.

"Whoah, someone is so eager," Sky laughed at her adorable reaction and she just rolled her eyes on the Gucci boy.

"You told me you'll do me a favor if I win over you five times. Well, mister, I did. So you have to keep your promise," she said, extending her pinky on me asking me to seal our deal.

I gulped, hesitation eating over me.

Demo raised his eyebrow. "Mono, you made a promise. SHADOW doesn't break promises," he stated and my heart almost flipped out of my chest when I heard her beautiful laughter.

Our jaw dropped on the floor at the sight of her.

"Hey, what's so funny?" Sky asked and it took a while before she calms down.

"Well, it's just that, it's funny how Mono can't break promises, but he breaks every single thing around him instead," she stated which made the rest of the boys laugh.

"Sorry, that was cringy but I'm still laughing, " she added.

There's one thing I will never ever break though,

Her heart.....

"How on earth did you not know how to use a bike?" she said frustrated as she had been teaching me for over thirty minutes already. The two of us went out after she stated that she's bored.

I lick my lower lip with my tongue when I noticed how her cheeks are burning red. I know it's bad for me to feel happy that she spending her time only with me.

The boys decided that they don't want to join us but from the looks that the maknae line are giving, I knew they were just trying to tease me.

They were grinning like some maniac and I almost ended up hitting those kids after she asked what's wrong.

More importantly, I felt a little bad for pretending that I don't know how to ride a bike when I have been racing on two wheels ever since I was like seven.

I don't know why but I always end up pretending weak in front of her. Because that way, she always stays close to me.

Pathetic, I know but is it bad for me to do this so I can be with her?

"Mono! You're not paying attention!" she pouted and I was once again mesmerized by her sweet smile. I shake my head to clear off my mind a little and smiled at her.

"I think I've gotten the hang of it. Do you want us to try biking on the pathways around the lake?" I asked her and she raised her eyebrows at me as if testing if I'm sure I can manage myself.

Soft chuckles escaped my lips and before I knew it, I was messing her red hair. Her cheeks blushed even more and I was amused.

Is she actually blushing?

My heart skipped for a moment.

"Trust me, I can manage. Let's go?" I told her and she started pedaling her bike leaving me in a flash.

"Hey!" I chuckled calling out her name and I heard her laughing.

"I won't wait for you Mono!" She shouted and her laughter sounded music to my ears.

Slowly, I started pedaling faster to catch up with her and when I did, I noticed her eyes gleaming before sticking out her tongue at me.

I burst out laughing at her cute actions. Side by side, we ended up biking around until we both get tired.

It was when the sun is about to set when we were sitting beside each under the shade of a tree.

"I like it here," I told her, my head facing her direction while I was her stare at the lake before us. The place was serene, there were not too many people maybe because the place was a little private.

"You do?" she asked and I noticed the tome of her voice dropping a little. I can't help but be worried.

"What's wrong?" I asked her gaze fell down in front, specifically her feet.

"Two weeks...You guys will only stay here for two weeks right?" her voice was low but I heard her. I heard every single word.

And then it hit him.

Apart from Seth, the rest of the boys will soon go back to Korea. And she'll be left here.

I felt my stomach grumble in nervousness.

I almost forgot about going back.

"Once you leave," she stopped for a moment and once again, I ended up staring at her side profile, "will you forget me?" she asked before turning her face towards my direction, our eyes locking and I was a little taken aback by the sadness glowing in her eyes.

And that's what it took for me to snap. I lifted my right hand and grabbed the back of her neck before pulling her closer until our lips touched.

I saw her eyes widened, shocked at my sudden movement but it wasn't long before I noticed her close her eyes and started responding. My eyes closed as well and my other hand landed on her back for support.

I didn't know how long we were kissing but all I know is that her lips taste sweet like she just ate some strawberry or something. Her lips were so soft and though we just finished biking, I can still smell her vanilla-scented shampoo.

After a while, I pulled away from her a little so we can both breathe but our forehead ended up creasing with each other as we both try to catch our breath, my right hand now cupping her cheek.

"Kaizan..." I whispered.

"Hmmm?" she answered, her gaze focused on the ground and I don't know if it's because she was shy or she's still trying to recover.

"I like you..." I whispered and the next thing I knew was our head bumping into each other.

"Awww," My hand immediately started rubbing her forehead as I see the pained expression showing on her face, while my left hand started rubbing mine.

After a few seconds, our eyes locked and the next thing we knew is that we're both laughing out loud.

Her laughter resonated the whole place and I ended up staring at her even more, my heart had already leaped out of my chest five minutes ago.

I shake my head at the realization.

Fuck, I am so whipped.

"What's with the two of you?" I turned around and saw Seth, his fingers scratching his chin as both Sky and Demo looks at me like they were dissecting my body or something.

"What?" I snickered before plopping my body over the couch, my eyes catching her petite figure making a dash over the kitchen.

A smile emerging my lips after remembering the moment that we shared earlier over the lake.

"Eww, Mono. Are you fantasizing about something or what?" Demo scowled at me and I just brushed him off.

"Stop pestering me guys," I chuckled before pulling my phone as I tried to busied myself hoping they would stop bothering me.

"And Kaizan is acting weird too," Seth stated, and looking how his and Sky's eyes locked with each other, I knew the two already caught on to something.

"Don't tell me?" Sky whispered, his eyes widening and the next thing I knew was him and the other two jumping around me like some hormonal teenagers, my hands covering my ears a little due to Demo's loud squealing which immediately stopped the moment Zanaya and Kaizan's head popped out of the kitchen door, their foreheads creasing in confusion probably wondering as to why SHADOW were having a squealing competition.

I smiled shyly the moment our eyes locked.

Act cool Namjoom. I told myself but seeing how her eyes are focused into mine, I can't help but do the same.

Five...

Six...

Seven...

I don't even know how long it was we were just staring with each other until the sound of someone clearing their throat put us off from our magical trance.

"I see...." Demo shakes his head, "Eye-fucking at eight in the evening huh?" he stated and everyone heard Zanaya's shrieking and Seth rushes towards his wife and I ended up getting Demo over a headlock, my eyes looking apologetic

"Yah! Yah!" Demo screeched but I don't care. My cheeks blushed the same when I saw her biting her lip before turning her back to follow Zanaya and Seth.

"Release me Mono or I'll kill you," Demo muttered and I just chuckled before releasing him.

Why do I have friends with such big mouths? -----

While whistling, I grab a glass from the kitchen counter and pour some cold water on it.

We just got home from strolling outside and we ended up playing with some kids which apparently are Zanaya's relatives.

Thank God their vicinity is very peaceful. And it's a relief that their place is a little private so we don't need to be bothered about people seeing us.

Ever since Seth announced his marriage with Zanaya, the media had been trying to get to us to get a glimpse of the lives of the two.

And Zanaya being pregnant right now isn't known to the public so these moments where we can enjoy hanging around with everyone from the group makes it really precious to us.

We ended up having a lot of fun. Zanaya and Seth stayed inside the house since Chaey is close to giving birth. And it'll be hard to hide her figure.

Right when I was about to drink my water, it almost fell out of my hands when a pair of hands suddenly wrapped around my waist.

"Holy Sh---," I stopped midway as I turned and saw a ball of red hair pressed on my back.

A soft smile escaped my lips.

"At this rate, you're going to kill me from a heart attack," I chuckled before turning around so I can hug her back, the glass of water from my hand now resting on the kitchen counter.

Drinking, it can wait.

"I need to hug you whenever because you'll soon head back to Korea," she whispered and my heart dropped for a moment.

"I know, and I will miss you," I told her and she snuggled closer on my chest, my hands rubbing her back.

I didn't know kissing her that afternoon will eventually lead to something meaningful.

I mean, I didn't know she likes me back. Because hey, she's Raze hyung's fan.

It's been days and she had always been sweet towards me. The fact that we'd soon head back to Korea makes it a little harder for us to enjoy the moments we have for each other.

"Aist!"

I turned around and saw Demo gagging as he enters the kitchen.

"Don't go around hugging each other inside this house. Ji Hyun is around and Zanaya is a little sensitive these days. You two are going to get kicked out," he snarled and I felt Kaizan shaking from my chest. Then I realized that she's laughing.

"Tell that to someone who cares Demo oppa," she teased before hugging me tighter. My jaw will probably hurt later but that won't stop me from grinning.

"Yeah Demo, go away," I told him and he did after sticking his tongue out towards us.

"Zan, I need to drink my water," I told her and I chuckled when she didn't move.

"Drink it. I'm fine staying like this," she stated and I'm finding her clingy side so cute.

"What should I do with my baby?" I whispered before messing her red fluffy hair.

I will surely miss her.

Just the thought of leaving her makes my heart ache.

"Mono hyung,"

I turned around the moment I heard someone calling my attention.

Zanaya recently gave birth and all of us have been busy freaking out over Seth and Zanaya's baby.

Ashton looks so adorable, I suddenly had this weird thought of how it would feel to have my own.

But then, I'm not yet married, and I'm not even sure what the real status of my current relationship was.

"Chim," I nodded before turning back my attention to the computer before me. Even though we're technically on a vacation, I can't help but work the moment an inspiration rushed through my mind.

I saw him sat at the far corner of my bed. He looked exhausted but I know that's because he was busy taking care of his family.

It's funny how I was older but Seth has different priorities now. But then I can't help but get envy how happier he seemed these days. I guess, the burden of getting his relationship known to the public is finally off from his shoulders.

"How's everything going?" I asked him and he smiled, probably the sincerest I ever saw him muster.

"Perfect. Ashton is sleeping and Zanaya as well. She's so anxious I feel bad she's not getting enough rest and sleep," he stated and my brows furrowed.

"Chim, you should do the same. It'll be harder if you get sick," I told him and he nodded.

"I don't know. I guess, finally having my own family makes me think of their welfare first before mine. How it will be harder for me if I ever saw any of them in pain, like it was unbearable for me seeing you guys, my brothers having a hard time," he added and I knew what he was thinking about.

After he announced the world of his marriage, there were a lot of fans who are now boycotting our scheduled activities. It was because they were upset and now they are demanding that Seth be released from the group.

Seth said yes, only because he doesn't want the members to have a hard time despite the fact that we all know Seth, like everyone else, loves performing on stage.

He is willing to sacrifice so we won't be affected.

But that idiot forgot that it's not that easy.

After all that had happened during trainee days, he can't expect us to just let him go. He is a family. And he is part of SHADOW. Whatever happens, SHADOW will remain a 7 member group or it goes nothing at all.

"If this has something to do with what we've talked about before, stop it. Our decision will remain the same. We won't drop you just because you are happy with Chaey and your baby. Nor we will ever drop you at all," I told him and he chuckled.

"I know. This isn't about it," he stated and I looked at him confused.

"What then?"

"Kaizan," he stated and my cheeks blushed for a moment. I turned back on my stuff and avoided his glance.

"Wow hyung, you're blushing just by the sound of her name. That's something," he muttered, amused.

A groan escaped my lips.

The boys had been pestering me about it nonstop and I wonder how Kaizan was acting cool about everything.

"What about her?" I asked and he was silent for a moment.

After a minute, I turned towards his direction and he seemed to be thinking of what to say.

"Are you serious about her? Like, serious-serious?" he asked and my brows furrowed.

"Of course I am. What even made you think that I am not?" I exclaimed, hurt about the possibility that everybody thinks I might be just playing.

"Well, we all know you will leave soon and she will stay. Zanaya and the girls had come to love the girl so much they treat her like a sister. We're just worried this is going to turn out to be just a summer fling," he explained and my mouth dropped for a moment.

Right, in a few days, we will be back in Korea and she will be left here.

The past few days had been all joy and happiness between us too. Sure the development of our relationship seemed too fast but I know I am happy with her.

Just the thought of not seeing her after makes my heart drop for a moment.

Everyone must have been worried.

I turned my attention back to Seth and before I knew it, me, their leader, was already asking him a question that I can't seem to find an answer.

"What should I do?" I asked helplessly and he looked at me with understanding.

"Talk to her, figure things out," he stated, "together," he added and I understood.

Everything will be alright.

I hope.

"Mono, I swear if you don't pass that bowl of popcorn in instant, I'm going to sit between you and your girlfriend," Raze hyung scowled and I grunted in response. Kaizan was chuckling beside me, my right arm hanging on her shoulder as we sit on the couch watching some English movie which I don't even remember the title.

"Come sit here oppa, I don't mind," I heard Kaizan teased and I turn into her, my face flushed red in annoyance, the rest of the boys laughing at my reaction. The moment she saw my face, she burst out laughing and I handed the bowl of popcorn to Raze hyung.

"There, grab the fucking popcorn and leave my girlfriend alone," I told him off and he looked at me amused.

"As far as I can remember Mono, I am her biased," I rolled my eyes at him. I know they were just teasing me but I can't help but get annoyed.

We'll be leaving in two days. And as much as I would like to deny it, it seemed like I am the one getting affected more instead of her. I wonder how she's able to handle that fact cooly than I am?

"Yeah, but I am the boyfriend so back off," I told him and everybody laughed.

"Wow Mono oppa, you're getting too clingy. I won't be surprised if Kaizan breaks up with you," Max laughed and I had to stop myself from flipping over the girl.

"Shut it Max. Go talk with Sky instead," I bantered and I laughed the moment her cheeks flushed red while Sky started coughing. If I didn't know better, the two were so happy to be sitting beside each other.

Seth and Zanaya were in their room sleeping. We let them be because the two rarely get enough sleep seeing they are taking care of their baby.

"Hey, stop terrorizing your friends, you idiot," I turned to my side when I felt Kaizan wrapped her arms around my waist and a smile immediately came out of my face when she did.

She really looks so adorable.

It's funny how she can easily make me calm down. Yesterday, I was a little stressed after seeing all the mess in the media due to Seth and Zanaya's relationship. I am SHADOW's leader and moreover, I speak mostly for the team. I'm just so thankful that I also have the boys with me and Storm hyung being good with expressing the right words helps me lift up the burden on my shoulders.

People think it's easy.

It's not.

I get tired and get scared too.

Once we go back to Korea, we'll have to face the press and our fans,

What if I say something wrong?

What if my words end up hurting a lot more people?

We're not perfect, nobody is. But most of all, I'm scared that my actions, my words, my sudden decisions will harm the team in any way.

I'm afraid of criticism, or everything.

As much as possible, I don't want the others to be affected and hurt by everything.

Sadly, Kaizan saw me at my most vulnerable state but I am glad that she did.

I can still remember her words.

"It's fine to make mistakes, you didn't mean to. It's fine to say something wrong, it wasn't your intention. What's important is that you apologize once you realize what that you did wrong. But then, not because you can apologize for it, means it's okay to do it again. You have to learn from it. Nobody is perfect, Mono. You're human. You get hurt too. So if the burden is too much, ask for help. There's Storm, Raze, Demo, Seth, Sky, and Grey. You have me, We love you and we care about you,"

I can still remember how her arms wrapped around me while I sit in the corner of my bed, my head buried in her stomach as her other hand strokes my hair gently.

I was crying. I wasn't the emotional one but I was hurting too.

But she made me feel at ease.

"Mono, stop daydreaming, oh God. Are you sure you can come with us back to Korea?" Raze hyung exclaimed and I grab a pillow and threw it straight to his face and we all laughed at his reaction.

I pulled Kaizan closer and gave her a peck on her forehead and smiled.

It will be hard but for now, I am happy. And I'll start with that.

"You'll call me, right? Every day, I mean, not every day but when you're free," I told her and she laughed, an amused expression showing on her face.

"Mono, you're the one that's always busy and not me. I will just be here. I will be free if you are free. I'll be the one to adjust," she whispered, her hands cupping both my cheeks as we sit facing each other.

We're back at the lake dock.

It's ten at night and we decided to spend our last night together before me and the boys head back to Korea tomorrow.

My heart fluttered at her words.

How can she be this understanding?

My hands reached for hers and brought them to my lips, kissing them as I stare at her beautiful face.

"You know I love you, right?" I told her and she smiled.

"I know. I do," she whispered, her voice almost heartbreaking to my ears. "And you know I do the same," she added.

"I know... Always," I mumbled.

I love you...

Those words should sound sweet, like music to one's ears. But to us, it sounded like a life-line, at least to me.

She then leaned closer until her head was leaning on my chest as we watch the lake before us. It was calm and serene, opposite of how my heart is.

It was chaotic and unsettling. The fact that I only have a few hours left with her makes my heart even more restless.

"I want to stay..." I whispered and she turned her head towards me, her face tells me she didn't like what I said.

"You can't. Your life isn't about me Mono. I won't let you," she stated and I sigh.

"I'll miss you..." I whispered before kissing the top of her head.

"I'll miss you too," she whispered and I never thought that word can also break someone's heart.

Why is everything so complicated?

For a brief moment, the idea of being just Mono, a regular guy from Ilsan sounded better to me, rather than being RM, the leader of SHADOW.

But then again, no matter how I try to be delusional, I know in myself I'm just the same person. And whatever I do, whichever persona I chose, it won't save me from being away from the person I cherish right now.

I pulled her closer before kissing the top of her head.

For once, I wish I am not in SHADOW, but I also wish I am.

I'm conflicted.

I pulled her ever closer to my chest.

Wait for me...

"Yah, are you okay?" I turned to my right and saw Storm hyung. He was eyeing me suspiciously and I knew right there and then that he knew something was wrong.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

It has been months since we went back to Korea. Things had gotten back to normal. People are still talking about Seth and Zanaya's marriage but that's technically because it has been one of the biggest scandals we have ever been. And it's not like WHISTLE came from a small agency either.

It's like a huge crossover and nobody expected that they have been married even before WHISTLE debuted.

What more if they found out that the two just recently had a child. I bet the whole world will go nuts.

Things had gotten hectic for everyone. We have pending schedules for our concerts and other stuff that we have been booked with but was postponed due to the recent scandal.

Now, we just had our concert in Tokyo and I got so frustrated, I nearly snapped with my members earlier.

I felt Storm hyung patting me on the shoulders.

"I'm fine hyung. I'm sorry I messed up the show,' I mumbled, my eyes on the floor, embarrassed of how I acted.

"You bet. You nearly trip me earlier, Mono! What would happen if my beautiful face will be tarnished!" Raze hyung suddenly exclaimed the smile on his face tells me he was trying to tease me into messing up earlier.

Soon, all the boys had entered the room which we normally do after every concert to hang out and talk about everything that had happened.

We were already at the hotel.

"Yah, Mono hyung stomped on my foot during Fire. I thought I'd fall," Sky was chuckling as he reaches for a snack ta the table. I scratch the back of my neck in embarrassment.

From where I was seated, I can feel the members' eyes on me so I grunted.

"We fought," I admitted and that's all they need to hear for them to understand.

"Mono-ah," I heard Raze hyung calling my name and I was pretty sure he was a little disappointed and I'm sure so were the others.

We always make sure we set aside our personal problems whenever we perform. Our Armys did a lot for us and the least thing we can do is give back the love we have been receiving from them.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

"I know I was wrong. I know this long-distance relationship is taking a toll on me and I need to be focus. I'm sorry," I whispered and I heard Seth grunted.

"It's not just about that, hyung. Even I had a fair share of problems on this team. Actually, I brought a lot of problems for the group with my scandals and my marriage with Zanaya. This is about you. Are you okay?" he sounded worried and I had to lift my gaze towards his direction and realizes that every one of them was looking at me worriedly. And I was caught off-guard.

"Mono, we are disappointed not because you messed up but because you seemed to forget that we are here. You've been out of yourself lately and we are so worried about you. We are a family," Storm hyung stated and I lift my gaze towards the ceiling to stop myself from crying.

"We always make sure we give our best performance to our fans hyung but that doesn't mean we are willing to neglect each other's feelings. If something is bothering you, we understand. You've done so much for the team. You gave up almost everything. We won't condemn you for a mistake you didn't intentionally do," Grey added and that's more than enough for me lost it, tears started streaming down my face.

Kaizan and I have been having problems lately. Maybe because I have too little time to spare, she always ended up being asleep whenever I am free, Or sometimes, she was caught up with too many deadlines and we rarely have time for each other.

I know it wasn't anybody's fault but I just missed her so much, it fucking hurts.

"Hyung..." Seth called for my name and I tried to stop myself from crying, my throat hurts a little. As much as possible, I don't cry in front of my members.

"It's okay. You can cry when you're with us," Demo stated and I bite my lower lip in frustration. I don't want to seem to be weak in front of them but I know if it was me, I would say the same thing to them.

So I cried.

I cried for minutes until I finally calm down.

"She said it's not working out," I whispered and they understood.

"I can't let that happen. Whenever I see our fans, I remember her, how she used to be one of them," I stated. Is this the reason why idols normally don't date their fans?

"We can't comment about your love life because it's personal, and it's between you and Kaizan. But what I can tell you is you have to talk it out. You two figure it out before either of you hurt each other even more," Storm hyung added and I nodded.

The others were silent and I reached for the can of beer.

Why did our relationship ended up like this?

"I'm sorry Mono. I had an appointment earlier and it just ended," I heard her speak on the other line, Her voice was so soft but even I can clearly hint the stress and tiredness behind it.

And it makes me feel guilty, guilty that I am still trying to borrow the time that she could use to take a rest and sleep.

A long sigh escaped my lips.

"I missed you..." I whispered and I wanted to scold myself when I heard my voice cracked at the end.

And she heard it.

"I-" her voice was cut off. And the line was silent. The only thing that I hear is her irregular breathing.

It hit the nerve and I knew it.

These past few months. we've been fighting. We seldom talk with each other and sometimes, it takes us three days to get a hold with each other after.

What's worse is that we can't seem to find time to fix whatever issues that we have. Because we both don't have enough time.

"Babe..." I called for her and I heard her whimper from the other line.

"Fuck, I'm sorry Zan. I'm sorry, don't cry, please..." I whispered. But it's too late. She's already crying.

Sometimes, I hate the fact that I am not beside her. At times like this, all I want to do is pull her in my arms and hug her tightly. I hate the fact that I am RM of SHADOW and that I can't be with her like a normal boyfriend.

But on the other hand, it will also hurt me to leave the group, our members, performing which is something that I really really love, and our fans that had always been there to support both me and the members.

And now I'm fucking torn.

It's like I needed to choose between her and my own self.

My chest tightened at the sound of her crying and I know she was trying to stop. I can hear her trying to hold her breathing so I won't hear.

And judging from our past incidents, she liked it if I don't force her to speak.

So I let her.

I let her cry even though it's breaking me too.

"Mono, I'm sorry but I can't do this right now. I'll call you tomorrow. I love you," and before I can even respond, the cal ended leaving me hanging, frustrated, and hurt.

"Fuck," I whispered to myself.

Why does it feel like everything is not working out?

Why does it feel like we're breaking apart?

Why does it feels like I'm losing her?

Why?

And for the umpteenth time, I *cried.*

This time, alone in my room where the members won't see that their leader is started to breakdown.

Because right now, I'm not RM of SHADOW, but Mono from Ilsan.

And Mono is not fine at all.

Kaizan's POV

My right hand balled into a fist as I try to suppress the uneasiness within me, my other hand turning pale at how tight I was gripping my phone close to my ears as I wait for Mono to answer.

It has been two days but he never called.

I knew I told him I would call him which I did, but I was kinda hoping that he would at least called me back after he missed all of my three calls.

And here I am about to lose my shit yet I was trying to keep myself together since I don't exactly have the luxury to mope around over my love life.

Who would have thought loving a worldwide superstar will be this hard?

Everyone, except me.

I told him I will be free when he is...

That I will adjust for him but I failed every single time.

And I know me being emotionally unstable like this is probably hurting him as well.

Why do I have to be so stupid and add up to the burden that he had been trying to carry on his own?

I knew very much how much he was having a hard time being RM of SHADOW.

He looked okay but I know there are moments that he's scared, scared that his words and actions will cause harm to his members.

He's afraid to be criticized.

He's afraid to be him. But he doesn't show because he's scared. He doesn't show because he doesn't want to fail people. He doesn't show because he loves what he was doing.

I've been a fan ever since and that day I helped Zanaya, I didn't know it will be the reason for me to meet the rest of the boys.

A smile escaped my lips...

Raze, he's my bias but I never saw him like I saw Mono.

I can still remember how me and Mono first met...

I glared at him so bad but I did it because I was embarrassed.

I know he thought it was about him speaking his thoughts out loud but the truth was, I found his words cute.

I bite my lower lip in frustration.

Mono, why are you not answering?

You didn't give, did you?

Mono's POV

"What is this? A sudden meeting?" an awkward laugh escaped my mouth as I enter the room. The atmosphere was eerily silent it's starting to scare me a little.

Our last concert for the month has just ended and we just came home from the arena.

Yeah, our last concert was in Seoul and I was surprised to see each member coming inside of my room instead of taking a rest on theirs - Seth, coming over even though his house is just beside us.

Nine of them responded to my question and I'm starting to sweat real bad before I decided to seat on the empty chair with my members sprawled on each side of the room.

Did I mess up?

"What's this about?" I can't help but asl once again, and Raze hyung, even though he seemed playful every time, we know when he was being serious and when we need to listen to our older member.

"You, Mono," he stated and even Grey was looking serious, I started rubbing my palms with each other to ease the tension.

"What about me?" I asked trying to play it cool but I know it's not working.

"We're losing you Mono. You're not okay and we know it. You know it. You're bottling up everything to yourself. We know you're having a hard time. Mono-ah..." I heard Storm hyung before clearing his throat. "We're here for you. We can't let you break down on your own,"

"I-" I was at loss for words.

Of course, they would notice.

My eyes landed on Demo and a sincere smile formed on his lips.

"We're here to listen. Whether it's about a family problem, SHADOW, Kaizan, or whatever it is that is bothering you. We're going to listen. Share us the pain Mono. Share us the burden. It's okay not to do it all alone sometimes." he stated and a painful expression shows on my face, my eyes on the ground.

And then it clicks me. I know I had a breakdown with them before but it was me holding back.

Why didn't I realize that they will soon notice that I wasn't myself?

We have been together for so long we can even recognize each other's presence even with mere silence.

"I messed up, right? We're having a meeting like this because my love life is slowly wrecking me. And it's affecting everything..." I mumbled, "I shouldn't be focusing on it. I am your leader but I am disappointing you guys and our fans," I added and Seth laughed a little.

"Hyung, it's not like it's a sin to fall in love. It's okay. You're human. And everyone falls in love, gets hurt and goes over relationship problems like everybody else. Stop thinking that just because you're SHADOW's leader means that you have to sacrifice everything. We'll feel bad if you do that," he stated and I looked at him confused.

"This, wouldn't me being like this, emotionally unstable, hurt the team?" I exclaimed.

We've worked hard for this. Seth already had a scandal and me adding it up might bring us near the cliff with our careers.

Sky pouted. "Hyung, stop thinking about SHADOW for once. Before SHADOW, there is you - Mono. What's the point of all of this if we're going to lose Mono because you're too focused on thinking about how being RM of SHADOW is who you are? From what I can see, you are identifying two lives of your own. But you're both the same person, hyung. Mono is what makes RM, so stop thinking that they are different. You were thinking of losing Kaizan now because RM needs to focus on his career. But it's not like that. RM needs Kaizan too. Because RM and Mono is just the same person. My words may not be clear now but do you get me? Why am I bad at explaining, oh God..."

Seth and Grey chuckled laughed over Sky's conflicted state. And the rest were smiling.

"So, what we were trying to say is that you don't need to sacrifice yourself for us. Seth have Zanaya and Ashton. It's not like anybody can top what Seth did. We've come this far. Live your life. That's the least you can do for yourself." Storm hyung chuckled.

"Hyung, you're so mean. You weren't answering Kaizan's calls. You do realize what you are doing to her right? Because we can all see how much you are hurting too by doing that," Grey scoffed.

My shoulders slumped at his words.

A few days ago, I've decided to give the two of us the space we both deserve we're hurting each other even more but I guess doing this means hurting us even more.

She must have been worried, and hurt

I scold myself for being careless.

I love Kaizan. I fucking love her so much not being with her is starting to wreck me.

"Mono, it's fine, we got your back. So go and do something about your problem because I am so tired of hearing you sigh every now and then," Raze hyung laughed and I relaxed a little.

Right. I am not alone. I have my brothers with me.

A smile now emerged on my lips.

So I've decided. I'm going to fix this.

With a new resolve in mind, I pulled out my phone and dialed her number.

First ring...

Second....

Third....

The guys were watching me the entire time and I'm starting to get anxious.

On the sixth ring, she answered and I started rambling, "I'm sorry. I'm sorry for not answering your calls. I'm sorry for being a jerk. I'm sorry for hurting you but please let me make up to you." I probably looked so stupid right now and my members would probably tease me to no end after this but I no longer care. I need to do this.

For myself.

"I'm going to book a flight so we can talk in perso-"

"Mono," she cut me off and I was startled.

"Don't book a flight. It's too late," all the blood on my face gets drained on my body, her words piercing my heart deep it probably stopped beating.

Am I too late?

Did I really fuck up this time?

Mono's POV

"What do you mean it's too late? Kaizan, no. I'm coming. Just, please, please give me one last chance."

I did the last thing I thought I wouldn't do.

I beg.

I know I fucked up and I need to fix it.

I can't let this end like this.

The members looked at me worriedly my hand shaking a little, both from nervousness and frustration. I am frustrated with myself because I have been so stupid and careless. I shouldn't have disregarded her calls.

And then I heard the sound of continuous knocking on my door. It was probably one of the girls from WHISTLE so I didn't pay attention.

Seth stood up and opened the door. I was so pre-occupied with waiting for Kaizan's answer I didn't care how my members looked and how they were going out of my room one by one.

"I want to stay here," I heard Sky fighting over Grey who was pulling him outside and my eyebrow raised.

"Zan?" I called for her but she didn't answer. "Please...." my voice cracking at the end. My eyes now focusing on the floor.

My heart is beating so fast, and it probably wasn't just my hands shaking but everything else on me.

"You don't need to book a flight," I heard her once again and it pains to heat her words like this.

"Zan..." I was hopeless.

Is this the end for us? Is this her breaking up with me?

Before I knew it, I started crying. Thank God the members are already out. I don't want to worry them even more.

"Mono-ah... You look thinner... Did you not take care of yourself when I was away? " she whispered and my brows furrowed.

"Huh?" I asked confused. What does she mean? And why does her voice seemed to be getting louder?

"Stop crying..." she whispered but I didn't stop. With my head hung low and my eyes filled with tears, I continuedly sobbed.

Until I felt a hand on my shoulder.

Was it one of the members?

"Stop crying, baby. I'm already here," I heard her said but I was a little confused because it doesn't seem like it came from the phone.

And then my eyes saw the pair of shoes before me.

My brows furrowed.

That pair of shows seemed oddly familiar.

And then I lifted my gaze, my eyes going wide at the sight of her.

She no longer has the phone on her hands. Instead, her hands cupped my face as she smiled at me.

"I'm already here. So stop being sad because we're going to fix this. We're not giving up. I won't give you up. It has always been you sacrificing, now let me do my part, Mono," she stated and my heart fluttered at her words, my heart beating real fast.

It was as if I was in Australia once again.

She was smiling and my stupid heart is once again going crazy.

I can't believe it.

"When did you get here?" I asked, still confused about everything.

He pinched my cheeks while smiling.

"Earlier. I watched your concert. You were so adorable when you forgot that it's your turn already when you guys were singing "Best of Me", she teased and my cheeks flushed red, she started giggling.

Before I can even respond, I heard Zanaya's voice from outside.

"Yah! Are you guys not giving them space? I'm not shoeing Ashton to anyone of you including you Seth, if you guys don't leave," we heard her threaten the boys and they started protesting.

Kaizan and I laughed at them. Of course, my members would eavesdrop.

My eyes focused back on her, my arms reaching for her waist.

"We're not giving up, right?" I told her and she smiled...

"Nope. But you have to make sure I have free concert tickets from now on because you definitely look a hot grinding at the stage," she started teasing and I started coughing at her words, her laughter resonating the whole room.

And I watch her.

She was still as beautiful as I remember.

Suddenly, it's as if the pain that we felt the last few months vanished.

All I see is her smile.

Her hair, it was no longer fiery red.

"You changed your hair color," I whispered and she chuckles.

"You don't like it? I was getting tired of standing out too much with my red hair and I thought you wouldn't like it when guys looked at me with admiration. You know, since I'm too beautiful, so I dyed it to black," she joked and a smile escaped my lips.

"You're still beautiful whatever hair color you have," I told her before pulling her closer, my face now buried on her stomach and her hand landed on my head.

We just stayed like this for minutes.

I can't believe this.

She's here.

She's here for me.

"Mono-ah..." she called for my name and I felt a warm hand caressing my heart.

"Hmmm?"

"I love you," she stated and I pulled away. My eyes locking with hers and there and then, I lost it.

In a flash, I was standing, my hands still wrapped on her waist but my lips already crashed on hers. I was kissing her hungrily, all the longing that I had for her from months of being away dawning into me.

And she was kissing me back.

I missed her.

I pulled away from her a little, giving her pecks of kisses on her face, uttering series of "I love you's".

We probably will have a lot more problems to overcome in the future, like her being known to my fans someday but like what she said, we won't give up.

Her hand grabbed the back of my neck, a mischievous smile on her face.

"I didn't book a long flight for one kiss, mister," he stated before pulling me back for a kiss, a smile merging on my kiss while kissing her.

This is probably one of the happiest days of my life.

Because I have the boys, my family, our fans...

I have her.

I may not be her bias and she maybe the *Wrong Fan,*

but with her, I fell in love.

- the end

Glimpse for Mono's Future

Mono's POV

"Be careful Ash,"

I turned around when I heard Seth's frantic voice, a smile immediately emerging on my face as the view before me warms up my chest.

Seeing Seth so happy with his child makes me feel so proud. It's been what, almost eight years? He had been married for so long sometimes I keep forgetting that he's part of our maknae line.

I was there. I was there the entire time he was struggling. From being a trainee, almost not debuting, and keeping his sanity together to keep his marriage with Zanaya.

And now they have this wonderful ball of sunshine that kept both our teams together.

Now that the whole world already knew of his existence, all that is left is for us to reveal our own relationships.

And then it hit me, *Kaizan*...

I just sent a message to Irene about my plan to propose to Zan. Aside from my members and WHISTLE, she's the closest that I can consider as a friend.

I didn't know how it started. She's very close to Max and I see her from time to time. Or maybe during that night, when I saw her at that bookstore I usually hang out with.

That night I found out that we have things in common and somehow, I just found myself enjoying her companion.

Irene is a very reserved person. She doesn't really talk that much but maybe that was it. I feel at ease with just her presence. It feels easier to talk with her.

The memory of that night was still fresh on my mind.

I was struggling and was barely holding it in. Everything just keeps on piling up and I just can't take it.

I wasn't supposed to call her. But I did. Because deep inside, I know she'll listen. She won't judge me and I know I can trust her. And I'm glad I did because her words definitely made me feel better.

I'm just so glad I have her.

"Was that Raze hyung?" we both turned our attention towards the back door where the undeniable figure of our eldest hyung just came in. It's almost nine pm and we don't have any schedule for the week.

"Hyung..." I called for him and he barely noticed us.

"Hyung..." Seth called again and that's when Raze hyung turned towards our direction. My brows furrowed at his reaction.

"Is there something wrong??" I asked the moment he reached our place, he just patted both Seth and I's shoulder.

"None. I'm just tired of helping out hyung at the restaurant. I'm gonna go and take a rest, okay?"

He did not even bother waiting for our response but headed inside.

Seth frown. "He's going to take a rest, then why is he coming inside my house instead of the next unit?"

I laughed at his words.

SHADOW and WHISTLE almost live in his house. I don't know but it has become a habit that even though we practically live next door and the rest of BP have their own dorms, we usually hang out here.

"Let him be. You know he plays with Ash before he sleeps," I stated and he scowled. Part of the reason why Ash sleeps late was because of us too.

Just then I saw Sky walking just behind Seth. He was on his pajamas and was scratching his head. It's very obvious that he just woke up. I shake my head a little.

He was walking around with a phone on his hand.

"Oh, hyung, isn't Kaizan supposed to be here tomorrow?" he asked and I raised an eyebrow.

"Yeah?" I answered.

He walked forward while scratching his tummy.

"Weird. She's trending online. It says here fans saw her at the airport thirty minutes ago," he added and my brows furrowed even more.

Kaizan is quite known to a few fans because there are pictures of her online with the girls. Plus, a few of our fans believe she's a girlfriend of one of the boys.

I pulled my phone from my pocket to check and indeed, there were photos of her online. Even with a mask and a cap on, there's no doubt that was Kaizan.

I thought her flight was not until tomorrow afternoon?

"What's happening?" Seth looked at me confused, even taking out his own phone.

"Well, maybe she wanted to surprise you? Oops, I shouldn't have told you!" Sky gasped and I scowled.

Just when I was about to dial her number, my phone's screen flashes telling me that I am getting an incoming call from her.

A smile immediately emerged on my face.

"Baby I-" my words were cut short when an unfamiliar voice rang into my ears.

I saw Seth raising an eyebrow and Sky's giddy expression.

"I'm sorry to call at this time but do you know the owner of this phone?"

My stomach started churning and the ringing in my ears started, the loud beating of my heart can be heard.

There was a lot of noise in the background and I gulped.

"Yes, ma-" I cleared my throat out of nervousness, "May I know who this is?"

"We're calling in from Seoul General Hospital. The owner of the phone got into an accident and all we saw was her passport and her phone. If you can head straight here immediately and call her immediate family, we'll appreciate it a lot,"

My hand landed on my side. It was as if everything stopped. The world stopped moving and so was the beating of my heart.

My chest tightened and I can feel my throat hurting.

Everything's a blur. I don't even understand what Seth and Sky were asking.

I was out of focus for a moment and I wasn't sure if it was Seth or Sky who took my phone.

"Kaizan..." I whispered. My hands reached for anything to keep me supported as I try to keep my shit together.

Kaizan, she needs me.

"I have to go to her," I told to myself, "She needs me!" I was so frantic but Seth grabbed me by the hand.

"Hyung, we're going together. I'm driving. You can't drive at this state,"

I was shaking.

I didn't know what he and Sky talked about but I saw Tae quickly heading inside.

I didn't even notice the tears that are streaming down my cheeks.

God, please let her be safe.

We were so quick to get the car and in my entire life, I was the one who never breaks the rules but this time, I almost begged Seth to gas the pedal and fly the goddamn car to where she is.

Not even once did I pray like I was hanging with my dear life.

Kaizan, she's one of the best gifts that had come to my life. We've gone through thick and thin. I can't lose her. *Not like this.*

No, please...baby, wait for me...

Chapter Special – A Glimpse of Mono's Story

Kaizan's POV

"You are so stupid, Zan," I groan to myself as I turned on the next corner. I've bumped with a few of both SHADOW and WHISTLE's fans earlier and I feel horribly ignorant right now.

Why didn't I dye my hair to black or brown before I headed here? Now a few of their fans had gotten a photo of me.

I grunted internally. Mono thought that my flight was tomorrow. I wanted to surprise him. Now my only hope is if no one from them checks their phone

A smile immediately crossed my lips with just the thought of Mono. It's been years since we got together and we've been through a lot.

Never in my life did it cross my mind that I will be in a relationship with him.

I was just a fan, and still am. Plus, our first encounter wasn't really that good. I was a bitch to him, I admit.

But after all that has happened, I saw how great yet vulnerable he was.

I started seeing him as Mono and not a celebrity from SHADOW. I started loving him.

And I still do. I love him more every day. And despite how hard it is to love someone who can't always be with you, it was okay. Because as much as I love Mono, I love him as an artist too. I love everything that is him, his every persona. That even though there were days when I get so lonely because he's not around, or even though he isn't with me when my days turned out so bad, it's okay. Because I know, at the end of the day, he will be there, one phone call away.

After waiting, I was able to get a cab for myself. And knowing that any moment now, one of them may hear about me arriving here in Korea. That will ruin my surprise.

I never told Mono but I actually quit my job in Australia and got accepted as a professor in one of the universities here.

I was startled when I felt the cab swerve a little causing me to lift my gaze and saw the apologetic smile showing on the driver's face and I nodded in understanding

He must have been so tired. Thank God we were on a freeway and there wasn't that much vehicle.

My hands started fiddling with my phone, the image of me and Mono standing side by side, his other hand raised over his head to form a heart with me, but me being so short only reaching his

cheeks resulting to my hand almost strategically pressed just right on his dimple, a huge grin showing on both our faces.

I can't wait to see him.

I was too preoccupied that I didn't even notice how the car is slowly going out of the lane. The sound of multiple horns echoing took me off of my trance. And then I felt, the cab swerving once again, only this time, it wasn't as light as the first one.

My heart started beating rapidly, my vision was a blur. I started screaming as the cab driver tried to regain his control over the steering wheel.

It was as if everything was in slow motion. I saw how everything felt very slow, and I hate how clear it was on my vision... How my body was levitating, myself no longer in control. My eyes saw how our car turned upside down, my body hitting on God knows what multiple times, probably one of my bags, a painful groan emerging from my lips. The seatbelt I had in me doesn't really help that much.

We were flying.

I was flying.

But it wasn't the kind of flying that I even dreamed.

I didn't know if it was the adrenaline but I can't feel any pain. Like literally.

The car turned once, my head hitting something hard, my eyes closed for a moment.

"Mom...." I whispered. My chest tightened. My mom will breakdown if she ever sees me at this state. And my dad.

My eyes were open the entire time. I saw lights everywhere, the sound of horns beeping, people shouting.

Did the car stop?

Am I dead?

There was a lot of shouting everywhere.

Oh God, they are so noisy. Mono will get pissed.

My mind was afloat... From the corner of my eyes, I see movements outside. People and running around.

At least the car wasn't upside down.

But why can't I move my body?

I saw a silhouette of someone trying to open the door in front of me.

They were shouting. I think they were but I can't hear a thing.

Is that Mono?

A smile emerged on my lips.

I feel so sleepy.

I think I need some good sleep...

"Goodnight Mono..." I whispered and I felt my eyes closed...

Just like that, the darkness consumed me.