

Not good enough

Von Gepo

Kapitel 25: Past and future

Tatsuya woke to the sound of his boyfriend's whiny voice saying: "I'm hungry."

"I admit I'd like to have a cup of coffee. How about a family restaurant?," Tsueda inquired.

"Breakfast sounds great." Misses Murasakibara laughed happily. "I have some more hours before I need to catch my train."

"I don't think I have asked, what kind of work do you do right now?"

"I work as an assistant in an accountant's office. My late husband was a lawyer, I was his secretary. When I needed work again to care for Atsushi, I went back to my old job, the same office actually."

"I remember reading in the file that your husband left after the incident?," Tsueda probed not so gently.

Tatsuya opened his eyes but stayed lax in Atsushi's arms. His boyfriend was carrying him down the stairs from the temple. Tatsuya did not want to interrupt, this was something he wanted to know.

"Yes, that is correct ... I was in love with him but he did not care for me much. He casually slept with me and reluctantly married me when I got pregnant. When Atsushi was in the hospital, he told me that he was tired of me and married life and left." She sounded mostly sad, not even bitter about what the man had done.

"That's a horrible thing to do. Did you even know if Atsushi would survive?"

"No, the doctors were sure he wouldn't make it. My husband promised to pay the hospital bills, but after ... he said without Atsushi, there would be no reason to stay with me." She sounded teary but she seemed to be able to hold the tears back. "When it was clear that Atsushi would wake again, I called him. I hoped he would come back but he said he had already found someone else." She sighed. "In the end, he payed nothing. The divorce gave me enough money to pay for the hospital but not for rehabilitation. It's my fault Atsushi isn't better off now." At this point her voice finally broke and she sobbed.

"That is not your fault," Tsueda tried to console her, "your husband should clearly have helped." He gave her some tissues and waited for her to calm a bit. "Did you not get any insurance money? It was a car accident where a driver hit your son, right?"

"Yes, it ... I never inquired about that. Should we have gotten money?" She still sounded a bit nasal but not as teary as before. "My husband was a lawyer, so I thought he did everything that was needed."

"Did you get alimnts from him?" Tsueda's voice held a quiet fury that Tatsuya had come to know. It was the voice he used when he tried to stay calm.

"He said that if I tried to sue him, he would win the lawsuit." She hung her head. "I

think he hates me.”

“No matter what he thinks about you, Atsushi is still his son. If he had the money due to him, we would not be dependent on Mister Akashi.” Tsueda really tried to keep his voice steady but it betrayed his anger. “The car insurance should have paid not only for rehabilitation but also for special schooling, specialized child-care and physical training. His father earns enough to be able to pay for food and boarding.”

“I guess.” She sounded uncomfortable. “It’s too late now, isn’t it? Like everything. I also lost my husband because I am plain and cannot make decisions.” She cried into her hands. “I am a failure.”

Tatsuya clenched his fists and hugged Atsushi. Hard. How could she say that in front of her son? How could she just stand there and blame herself but not do anything? He wanted to rage and scream and he had to remind himself every second that it would only make it worse.

“Can we go?” Atsushi said it not to him but to Tsueda. “I’m really hungry.”

Tatsuya wanted to cry.

He simply kept silent. He thanked Atsushi for carrying him and he walked beside him hand in hand to the restaurant. They poured over the menu, getting this and that mainly for Atsushi and tried their best to ignore the adults. After a few minutes of calming himself, Tsueda had begun to explain to Misses Murasakibara what she had to do now. Even though she worked in an accounting firm, she seemed overwhelmed with even the simplest tasks.

She did not know who had run her boy over. Neither the name nor the insurance company affiliated. She did not have any papers from back then. She did not know if her husband had ever filed a lawsuit against the driver. Tsueda looked ready to smack her but he stayed calm and explained to her that she needed to call the police where the accident had happened to get a copy of the files. She should also look for a lawyer to sue her ex-husband for aliments. First she said she could never do that. Tsueda was a bit merciless in telling her that no amount of kindness towards her ex-husband would bring him back. After weeping over that, she said she had no money to pay a lawyer. He gave her some addresses where she could find help on that.

All the explaining, weeping, going over it again and again took hours. Atsushi was on his ninth dish when his mother remembered she needed to catch her train. Tsueda promised to pay for her food and asked her to leave her key on the door before telling her to simply go. After she left, he looked close to trashing the place. It was a strange look on a teacher but completely understandable in Tatsuya’s opinion. Atsushi munched through all of it and Tatsuya simply decided that if they did not have enough money, he would pay for everything else. Right now he was happy that his boyfriend could be calmed with massive amounts of food.

Honestly, he did not know how his boyfriend had turned out so decently. How he even withstood all that emotional turmoil in the last few hours. Tsueda looked shaken, Tatsuya felt something between anger, desperation and complete and utter sadness for the life his boyfriend must have had. Most of all he felt a sudden respect for Akashi for standing up to this women and telling her to leave her son alone and surrender his care to him. No matter his faults, that had most likely saved Atsushi’s life. Anything between being beaten to death by the wrong crowd and starving would have been his fate otherwise. He felt like weeping.

“Talking to mom always makes people sad,” Atsushi told them over pudding. “Or angry. Me too. I always get angry as well. But that’s no good. It’s wrong to kick your

mom, I know."

"You're a very good boy, Atsushi." Tatsuya leaned against him. "Your mother loves you. She is just unsure and full of anxiety."

"She is very passive," Tsueda added. "It's good that you try your best to reach your own goals. You wanted Himuro as your boyfriend and got him. You want kids, so you will do your best in training and get the job as a basketball player. You are an active person."

"It's a good thing to fight for the things one wants." Tatsuya kissed his boyfriend.

"I want her back," said boyfriend replied.

Tsueda and Tatsuya exchanged a look. After a moment, Tsueda answered: "I'm sure she'll visit again. You behaved well, so we can have her over."

"Good." Atsushi smiled widely. "Do you think she'll tell me I'm a good boy?"

"We can ask her to do that." Tatsuya's heart clenched again. Atsushi just wanted to know that she liked him and she could not even say that much. For that she would need to know what she liked in a son and it seemed like she could not even say that much. Being with her must have felt like floating without directions in a hostile world. Atsushi stared into his empty bowl. After a moment he said: "Muro-chin ... I feel sad. Why do I feel sad?"

Tatsuya looked at Tsueda for a moment. How the heck was he supposed to answer that?

"We all feel sad," Tsueda explained. The anger had drained from his voice. "Tatsuya and I wished that you had a mother that could say what she wants or not. A mother that could scold you when you do wrong and praise you when you do right. Your mother is not such a person and we are sad for you."

Atsushi seemed to think hard on that and finally asked: "So you mean a mother that could do my plans with me?"

"Yeah, exactly." Tsueda smiled proudly. "A mother that notices when you misbehave and says something about that. A mother that praises you when you have been exceptionally nice."

"That would be good." Atsushi smiled at Tatsuya. "I'd like for Muro-chin to be my mom."

Wait, what? Tatsuya blinked in something between surprise and disgust. He wasn't Atsushi's mom. Yeah, okay, he wished his boyfriend had a less shitty one but he would not want to be his mother. One did not sleep with one's mother. How should he explain that concept to Atsushi?

"Himuro is your partner. He'll be a good mom to your children. But your mom will always be your mom. Everyone has their own and they can never be changed."

"I like my mom." Atsushi looked at their teacher. "You are right, I don't want another. I'd like my mom to be like Muro-chin."

"Maybe you can explain to her what you like about Himuro and what you would need from her. You can make a wish. It's her decision what she does with it. But one can try."

"I want her to be able to scold and praise." He looked at his empty bowl again. "I'd like that more than Lego and food."

"You can tell her that the next time you see her." Tsueda smiled.

Tatsuya could read that smile and he knew what their teacher was not saying. Atsushi would have forgotten this conversation the next time they saw her. Nothing would ever change with those two because Atsushi was too mentally disabled to ever follow such a conversation and the people caring for him had long given up on his mother.

He felt like crying again.

Tatsuya wrote a formal inquiry to be allowed to use the school's heat room in the family dorms. He got the signatures from both his parents and teacher Tsueda got one from Atsushi's mother. Tatsuya wasn't sure what he did, maybe he just told her to sign in a stern voice. That seemed to do the trick. Thinking about mating felt wrong after what he had witnessed but the heat scorched those thoughts from his head. Soon he was filled by nothing but thoughts of Atsushi, the children they might have, the sex to get those children. In the end, he was filled with Atsushi in the most literal sense, not even thoughts of him remained.

He was the only Omega at this school who had ever chosen a mate from an S-Class. The other Omegas in this dorm welcomed him anyway. He knew most of them from his own special classes, he had held some of their babies and even visited one or two outside of class. They asked him if he had done a pregnancy test yet which he refuted. He would not need one. His perfect mate had been able to follow the instruction to use condoms, no matter what Tatsuya said or did. He loved Atsushi for it. He loved how he had someone at his side who was able to think before he acted, even as a mentally disabled person. Despite everything, he was well-raised and well-mannered. Tatsuya loved that about him and he knew who he would have to thank for that. He did not like that fact though.

He dreaded meeting Akashi. One part of him wanted to scream and rage, another wanted to thank him and ask for advice. How should he behave if he met him? Because they would meet, no question about that. Every basketball tournament, every miracle get-together. Friends were important and Atsushi's old teammates liked him despite his disabilities. It was why he had urged his boyfriend to go to Kuroko's birthday basketball game, even if Atsushi found it "too much of a bother". It only occurred to Tatsuya after their little dispute that his boyfriend had no money to visit friends in Tokyo and had long since given up on asking for more of anything regarding costly things.

It was Akashi's phone call that really brought home Tatsuya's need to decide on his opinion regarding the red-haired psycho. Was it possible to like and dislike someone at the same time? Because the Akashi that called Atsushi, that told him he had organized a practice match for their teams in Tokyo, so that Atsushi would be able to visit Kuroko's birthday, that Akashi was extremely likable. The one that ordered people around and looked down on Omegas and people in general, that one seemed quite unlikable. But maybe having a split personality entitled someone to be liked and disliked at the same time. So maybe he should just adjust his behavior to whom of those two personalities he would meet.

Somehow he was quite relieved that Taiga invited him over when he heard that he would be in town. Like that, he would not have to meet Akashi so soon. He could bring Atsushi to his friends, then go to Taiga and wait for his boyfriend's call to pick him up somewhere without having to see Akashi. It sounded perfect. So he dropped off Atsushi in the park on the 31st of January and pointed him in the right direction before taking off to meet Taiga.

He really wanted to tell his ex-brother about his mating. Not the gory details, just ... that it happened. Show off his bite mark and be happy for a bit. Not that he wasn't happy on a daily basis, just this special kind of happy when you could tell others how happy you were. Yeah, well ... something like that. At least that was the plan until he found himself lost, brought to his friend via rickshaw and was roped into preparing a

party for Taiga's not-quite-yet-boyfriend. That was not how he had planned this. But cooking with Taiga was nice anyway, even if the guy was as oblivious as can be. Tatsuya tried his best to have him notice the bite mark but he didn't.

Idiot. Thick idiot.

Maybe he should help his ex-brother with winning his own sweetheart. But everyone seemed to be in on the joke that Taiga was Kuroko's destined mate and no one told him. It was so terribly obvious that everyone beside Taiga noticed. Tatsuya debated taking his ex-brother aside when the bell rang and Furihata came back with a tow of rainbow-color haired people in tow.

Including Akashi. Oh, the joy.