

Beomgyu went up the stairs hoping to compose himself before he entered his room again. He took many deep breaths in and out so he was confident he wouldn't completely break down at the sight of Taehyun again.

He reached for the knob, turned it, and pushed it open.

"I kinda forgot to ask you what you wanted before I left, so I just got you guys some--"

Beomgyu looked up, and that's when he realized it. His heart began to race as his eyes met Taehyun's.

"Hey Beomgyu." He said this, his voice very weak and frail. Taehyun tried smiling at him, but his face muscles tensed up at whatever Soobin had been doing down in his abdomen.

"Just in time. He woke up as soon as I started working on him. Seems like he's already getting better."

This was all good news in Beomgyu's ears, so he was confused when he found himself stuck in his position. Paralyzed in his one spot.

"What did you say you brought again?" Yeonjun began to ask as he leaned toward Beomgyu in his beanbag hoping to be able to see what it was he was holding.

Beomgyu snapped out of whatever it was that kept him unable to move as he heard this question. He looked down at the food in his hands then back up at Yeonjun. "Oh I brought ice cream."

Yeonjun's face immediately lit up as he heard this. "Bring it here."

Beomgyu looked over at Soobin to see if he wanted any, but he seemed too busy so Beomgyu just brought it over to Yeonjun's greedy hands. "This is exactly what I needed." He grabbed a spoon and instantly began to dig in without waiting.

Beomgyu watched as he did this for a second, a little disgust growing on his face before his eyes fell back onto Taehyun. He gulped before he began to wander back over to him, reluctantly finding a seat next to the pillow Taehyun was using.

At first he didn't really know what to say. He felt that it was pretty unmeaningful if he asked him if he felt alright, or if he was hungry, maybe thirsty. Soobin had probably already asked all of the important questions.

"I'm going to push down a little bit. Let me know where it starts to hurt."

Beomgyu watched Soobin's hands maneuver their way around Taehyun's stomach and chest. The way his light made Taehyun's muscles glow. His bruises turned into a lighter and less faded color than before. "Ohh right there right there." Taehyun stressed as he subconsciously gripped onto Beomgyu's thigh. He felt his heart drop down to his stomach at this, but it was worse when he didn't let go.

"Oh yea, Taehyun. About HueningKai. Whatever happened to his body?"

Both Soobin and Beomgyu glared back at him sharply almost out of nowhere as they heard these words come out of his mouth. Yeonjun looked at them both a little bit confused. "What?" Soobin shook his head and rolled his eyes at how clueless Yeonjun was. And Taehyun noticed their reactions.

"We can talk about HueningKai if you guys want. You probably have a lot of questions anyway." Soobin and Beomgyu eyed each other unsurely.

"And to answer Yeonjun. I don't remember a whole lot from the end of it, but I remember seeing his body kinda just.. disappearing."

Yeonjun took another big bite out of the ice cream before cocking his head to the side. With his mouth full of it, he pushed further. "Disappearing?"

"After death, people like HueningKai don't decompose like regular humans. Since they were never an actual person, they disintegrate. The ashes are eventually sent back to where they came from." Although Yeonjun wasn't asking him, Soobin felt like bringing this question to a halt.

"Which is where?"

The pink haired boy didn't say anything for a second, his mind focused more on not hurting Taehyun. But he pondered it.

"Nobody really knows. They're a weird phenomenon. I didn't even know they actually existed till today."

Soobin went back to focus on Taehyun, and Beomgyu couldn't help but to wonder something. Soobin had almost answered the question back when they were in the forest, but was stopped midway. Maybe it would be a good time to ask now.

"What was it that he wanted from you anyway?"

Taehyun looked up at him. He didn't give him a confused stare like he didn't know what he was talking about, but instead gave a warm gaze.

"I'm actually not too sure myself.."

Soobin's head propped up and he looked up at Taehyun as if he had just remembered something. And he had actually.

"That's what I was meaning to tell you!" Soobin exclaimed almost to himself only. Though the three listened intently. "The reason people like Kai even do what they do is to stack up on abilities so they can become powerful and whatnot. But there comes a point in time where they've already gotten every one of them so they start going for the spiritual abilities. For you Taehyun, it's referred to as the Mind's Eye. You're able to see and feel things normal people wouldn't. That's why HueningKai wanted you so badly."

Beomgyu blinked a couple of times trying to understand what had just been said. "Spiritual abilities? I didn't even know those were a thing."

"They only happen once in a blue moon. The Mind's Eye specifically is most commonly passed down to ice majors though." A lot of things began to make better sense in Taehyun's mind. When he killed Kai, he felt this heavy feeling of doubt completely disappear as opposed to when they were first headed to the forest. But spiritual abilities seemed so far fetched in his brain. He'd prefer only telling people about one.

"Beomgyu." Taehyun voiced out. The older looked down at him. "The entire thing you told Kai about us being connected... that was entirely bullshit right?"

Beomgyu looked at him for a second. A second of realization before he began to burst out into laughter out of nowhere, his eyes forming into upside down crescent moons.

"I totally forgot about that. I didn't think he'd actually believe me." He could barely make out as he held his stomach.

Taehyun smiled up at Beomgyu. He looked like he wanted to laugh along but was too scared to in case he hurt himself. Soobin and Yeonjun remained quiet as they had no idea what they were talking about.

"I hope you told Yeonjun that you didn't actually make him lose his memory."

Yeonjun just stopped licking the spoon he had in his mouth and looked at Soobin with a deadly glare. Soobin didn't dare to look back at him in fear he would see how much he was cracking up silently.

And for that second, Beomgyu was probably the happiest he'd been that entire day. He wasn't worried about anything that could happen. He wasn't waiting for something. He was just living. And Taehyun's smile assured him he was able to.

Yeonjun aggressively dug the spoon that was once in his mouth into the ice cream. "Well I hope you realize you got us suspended for two weeks."

Soobin shook his head disappointedly as he began to recall Yeonjun being told that not too long ago and him arguing back. "It's fine Taehyun. It's not your fault."

Soobin's hands went over his entire chest, from his abdomen up once more time, before he let his light slowly disappear and pulled Taehyun's shirt back down.

"I was able to lessen up the swelling and close some of the cuts. As for your ribs, the healing process in question will be faster, but you still need to give it time. Now I wasn't sure about the rest of you. I only did your chest cause it was the most badly beaten up, but if you're not too tired I can do more." Taehyun looked down at his own body. and then back up at Soobin. "Whatever is easier for you, Soobin."

Because Soobin probably knew Taehyun would agree to anything considering his state, he looked over to Beomgyu to see what he had to say about it. The blonde could just tell Taehyun wanted to rest. So silently, he shook his head and waved him off.

So Soobin didn't exactly what he was told, and turned to Yeonjun who was face first in the ice cream.

"C'mon Yeonjun. We're leaving."

The blue haired boy, as he realized everyone's eyes were on him, took the spoon out of his mouth and set the tub of ice cream on the floor. "Oh.. already?"

Soobin got to his feet and examined Taehyun's body once more before turning his back. "I'll come by tomorrow for everything else okay? Just get a good night's rest. That'll make you feel better than anything I can offer." Taehyun felt confused, but didn't question anything because he was in fact extremely exhausted.

Yeonjun forced himself off the beanbag and began tailing Soobin. "Yea and umm.. wake up early and.. uh. Eat breakfast too. It's the most important meal of the day." Soobin smiled at Yeonjun's failed attempt at trying to sound older. Which was ironic since he was the eldest out of the four. He opened the door to Beomgyu's room but stopped at the midway point to look at the two one more time.

"Don't stay up too late, okay Beomgyu?" The blonde lifted an eyebrow at his remark, and Soobin chuckled cheekily as he turned his back to them and exited the room. Yeonjun saluted them, giving a small "*adiós*" before he stepped behind the door frame and let the door close in front of him.

Beomgyu could hear their footsteps as they walked down the stairs, and he let out a deep breath as he heard his front door open, then close again. No noise coming afterwards.

They were gone.

Beomgyu decided that he wouldn't bother the younger.

So he didn't say anything when he turned off the light beside him, letting the light from the moon be the only source of luminance. And he didn't say anything when he walked over to his curtains, closing them just a bit so the light wouldn't hit Taehyun. And he didn't say anything when he walked over to his bed again, and crawled over Taehyun's body so carefully to get to the empty spot next to him. And he didn't say anything when his eyes lingered on him unknowingly, his thoughts pacing faster than anything in the world. And it's only when Taehyun called out his name so quietly that he realized this.

"Beomgyu..?"

Of course the older was already all ears, and he didn't need to respond with anything for Taehyun to know this. "How are you feeling?"

Beomgyu let out an airy laugh. Nothing was funny, but he found it quite weird how *he* thought he could ask *him* a question like that. He pondered about an answer to it for a second, and before he told Taehyun, slowly flipped his body to the side so he was facing him.

"How am I feeling..? I'm feeling a little.. sad. Hurt.. worried." He let himself think out loud, his thumb gently tracing the lining of his sheets. "Confused.. and I can't help but to think right now... If I had helped you.. would you even be here, laying on my bed bearing so much pain?"

Taehyun just continued to look up at the ceiling, a little smile forming on his lips. "That's not what I meant."

"But that's how I'm feeling."

The boy turned his head to meet Beomgyu's expectant eyes finally, his smile fading. The blonde could just see so much conflict in them. He wondered what was going through his mind, if he wanted to talk about it. He stared at him for a second too long before blurting out a question.

"What are you thinking about?" Beomgyu finally asked him this, his tone as deep and sweet as honey.

Taehyun began to contemplate on this. A lot was going through his head, somethings in which he wasn't even sure he should tell Beomgyu in case he began to worry. But he decided to keep it vague.

He took a breather which kind of hurt his chest, and answered as best as possible.

"Everything. What else would I be thinking about?"

Beomgyu's eyes remained on him for a moment. It was as if he was trying to read his actual thoughts, though Beomgyu knew that was way out of his league. Taehyun could tell the other was aware that there was something more to it though. Something that was bugging him more than anything else he was thinking about. And he was reluctant to reveal such things, but his stares only continued.

Beomgyu nudged his head toward him a little. "Anything in particular?"

Taehyun glanced at him a little nervously.

He wasn't sure if he should do this, but decided against his better judgment. Taehyun reluctantly flipped his body to his side, meeting Beomgyu's eyes. He stared at them for a good second before he responded.

"You. Why you thought trying to protect my life was better than saving your own. Why even after I hurt you so much, you still wanted to help me. Why you insisted on sneaking me out of the hospital the second I told you I didn't want to be there. Why you look after me so much even though you barely know me. Why everytime I'm really close to you.. I get this weird feeling in my stomach.. and I'm not sure if it's because my entire body hurts, or because I'm just really nervous right now."

Taehyun knew that was the answer Beomgyu was looking for, at least hoping for, and he made the mistake of giving it to him. Beomgyu let those words sink in, and with a wholesome smile, brought his fingers closer to Taehyun's face, and delicately moved the piece of hair that dangled right in front of his eye. Though Taehyun didn't do anything to stop him. He just continued to look at him.

He pushed his hair behind his ear, and snaked his palm to the nape of his neck tenderly. His fingers grazed his skin with much care.

"How many times have you done this with somebody else?"

This? Taehyun didn't even know what *this* was. Taehyun had never allowed someone so close, especially at such a vulnerable state. He only allowed HueningKai just the slightest bit, but never like this. Taehyun, for some alien reason, felt a little embarrassed to give his real answer. But he definitely wasn't going to lie. He sucked it in, and just told the truth. There was no point in lying anyway.

"Zero." He sheepishly replied.

"So I'm your first?"

He hesitated for a moment at the sudden question.

"You're my first for a lot of things, Beomgyu."

It took a second for Beomgyu to realize what he had said but when he did, the older chuckled sweetly. His fingers moved up to the other's ear lobe for fun. Though Taehyun didn't even notice he had done that because he was too distracted by the beauty of his smile. His laugh.

"Then I better make it worth your while, right?"

The younger smiled at this, and laughed a bit. "I hope so."

Beomgyu returned the smile, but their eyes lingered on each other. Taehyun: not really sure what to do next since this was his first time ever letting someone treat him like this. The pain in the back of his mind didn't make things any better. Beomgyu: nervous to ask Taehyun for what he wanted because he didn't want to scare him away. It was quite the situation.

But everything seemed so calm. So perfect. Why would Beomgyu want to ruin such a beautiful moment? He brought his thumb towards Taehyun's cheek, fondling his face as if it was something to be kept in a museum. His fingers almost hovering above Taehyun's skin, careful to not press too hard to cause any sort of harm to the boy. And all this with Taehyun looking at him as if he was his world. Beomgyu couldn't resist it anymore, and had to ask.

"Can I kiss you?"

Undoubtedly, Taehyun was not used to people asking him this question. He couldn't help but to freeze for a moment, a shocked expression planting itself onto his face. And Beomgyu didn't know what to make of it, so he had assumed that Taehyun's reply was no.

"You're right." Beomgyu immediately began to correct. "Not the time." Timidly, his hand slipped down Taehyun's face. The younger was ready to oppose it, but Beomgyu was once again laying down on his back regretting everything. Taehyun could just tell he was scolding himself inside his mind. And Beomgyu had been. Was he not aware of the situation? Taehyun literally could barely move without his entire body hurting. Beomgyu was being almost as clueless as Yeonjun.

Despite this Taehyun sighed, a joking smile starting to grow on his lips. He knew his own condition and he was sure he could take it. Beomgyu deserved it anyway. After putting his life on the line for Taehyun, he wanted to repay him as much as he could. The boy lifted his upper body up, propping himself onto his elbows. It did hurt him a lot, but not nearly as much as it used to before Soobin showed up. But he ignored the pain putting it aside for just this second, and looked down at the older.

"Next time, please don't ask and make me get up like this."

And without time for Beomgyu to understand what he had said, Taehyun leaned down towards the blonde, finding Beomgyu's lips on his own. He placed his hand on Beomgyu's cheek, and let it snake down to his neck. Unquestionably, Beomgyu returned the kiss gently and a little shamelessly too. But Taehyun could feel his body relax under his touch. And he could tell that he began to get comfortable when he felt Beomgyu's hand slide up the scruff of his neck, and into his messy hair to play with it and pull him closer as he had done before. Taehyun found it cutely funny, and couldn't help but to let go for a bit to let out a little laugh. But Beomgyu barely gave him a second to do so, because once he pulled away, he instantly got pulled back in by the other boy.

Taehyun felt his heart race. Everything about Beomgyu made his heart race. His soft skin. His honey glazed voice that when Beomgyu talked low enough made Taehyun want to fall asleep. The way his lips felt on Taehyun's. The way his touch was gentle on Taehyun's skin, careful to not harm any part of him. The way both of them move perfectly in sync to each other. And his heart's pacing only grew quicker as Beomgyu continued to deepen their kiss. And it wasn't that they were going too fast, in fact, Beomgyu was going pretty slow for Taehyun's sake. But it was pure bliss for the two.

At some point, Beomgyu had to stop himself before he went any further, knowing well that he couldn't do anything more.

So he cupped the side of Taehyun's face with his palm, and with their final long lasting kiss, pulled away to each other's eyes.

They both panted quietly, and Beomgyu couldn't help but to let out a little laugh.

"So suddenly?" He mockingly questioned.

Taehyun rolled his eyes and let his head fall back down onto his pillow as he let out a long sigh. "As a thank you. Don't get used to it though, cause it won't happen again." Beomgyu pouted at his words teasingly, but didn't push the matter further.

"That's okay." He said, now noticing just how heavy his eyes were, so he let them slip shut just to rest them.

"Beomgyu." Taehyun voiced out. The older hummed to let him know he was listening, but in reality was really just starting to doze off. Taehyun's eyes remained glued to the ceiling wall as he began to think about today all over again.

"*Thank you.*"

Beomgyu hummed again to let Taehyun know he heard him, but he wasn't really sure what he had just told him.

A couple seconds had gone by when neither of them had said anything. But then Taehyun spoke up again, his voice very tiny and faint compared to the crickets chirping right outside of Beomgyu's window.

"*And.. I like you too. I like you a lot.*"

But the older was already more than half asleep, and was barely able to decipher his words.

Taehyun finally looked toward him as he realized he never got a response. But smiled stupidly to himself when he saw the older's eyes shut, his lips just the slightest bit parted.

He stared at him for a second longer before he finally decided to close his eyes, and follow him into a deep sleep.

His entire body ached from head to toe. But somehow being *here*, falling asleep *here*, laying down *here* made him feel more at peace than he ever was. So he let his mind drift off, daydreaming of what it would be like when he was in no more pain. Wondering if Beomgyu would still be there when he woke up, knowing for a fact that he would. And eventually, he fell asleep. And even though he had been through the worst pain of his life just hours ago, he'd never felt better in this minute. Being *here* with Beomgyu was all that Taehyun needed at this moment.