

*Ren can't remember Yu due to the amnesia motive.*

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Ever since he'd lost his Persona and helped Ren escape, Yu had to face a series of new problems- the worst being that he had to run every time the Shadows crept into wherever he decided to sleep for the night.

The last time he tried fighting one head-on with nothing but a sword, well... he looked at his left arm. He could still see the claw marks. Thankfully, he had just enough rubbing alcohol left to prevent infection, but that was gone now too.

It was a constant run. One he didn't have the energy or means for.

His arm, having been given no time to heal, was having difficulty just holding his sword. It was times like these that he was grateful for the katana saya.

But nothing could have prepared him for the sight of a familiar friend.

"...Ren." It came out much weaker than he'd have liked. "Ren!"

The other boy looked in bad shape, too. What'd happened to him...?

His Shadow was nowhere to be found in the open, flat ground. That meant it was safe to go to him, right?

(He just wanted an excuse to see him again. To talk to someone. Anyone. He felt so cold.)

"Ren, what are you doing out here? Is... my Shadow with you?"

Amamiya wandered the landscape, blasting away shadows with Arsene, a fierce look in his eyes as he did so.

He was looking for something- no- someone.

(They would look familiar, he felt, thinking of it like finding a treasure in a palace, except the palace was a vast land and the treasure was a single person)

As he walked, as he wandered, a voice had called to him. It sounded familiar, so familiar that his chest ached, but he couldn't place it to a face or name.

Not until he turned around, at least. Not until he faced the person.

A boy with silver hair, stunning silver eyes.

Unlike the first time they met, he seemed ragged. Tired.

His eyes were filled with emotion. With loneliness.

He looked as if he needed a friend and found him.

Was Ren his friend? He didn't know.

“...Do I know you?”

He asked slowly, the name Naru simply not fitting him. He seemed too gentle and, unlike the other, fear didn't pick at his heart.

“And your shadow..? Is this your palace? It's... extremely vast if so.”

A pause in his words as he looked around.

No. He had the notion this was different than a palace.

“Where am I?”

"Do y-?" He was too relieved to see Ren again that he was caught completely off guard by the sudden question.

...He didn't seem to be lying. There was no recognition in his eyes.

"It... It's me. What are you talking about, Ren?"

Palace? He didn't know what that meant. None of what he said made any sense. Didn't he know about his Shadow, or remember anything about the last time they saw each other? It wasn't just another hallucination the whole time, was it?

"You're in the-" A loud grumbling from a Shadow came from behind. Out of instinct, he jumped straight into action, grabbing Ren's wrist and starting to take him away, before he realise that he still had a Persona. Unlike him.

He really was nothing now.

"Are you okay, Ren? What happened to you?"

Still, he had more concern for his friend rather than himself- after all, Ren had his Shadow to worry about. Wouldn't he hurt him for visiting Yu again?

Some selfish part of him didn't care. He just wanted Ren to recognise him.

Amamiya felt... Terrible for forgetting him. He seemed so relieved and... happy? Happy to see him.

He figured he was feeling the same way Ren felt when Kitagawa forgot him. Broken and lonely.

Upset and betrayed.

“...I'm sorry, I... Just don't know who you are. I only know your name.”

Yu Narukami. He had the same name as his clone back in the building.

Yu continued to speak (why is he referring to him so casually?) before taking his wrist and running off with him.

For a moment, Ren hadn't a singular clue why. Not until he looked back and saw a vicious shadow looming where they once were.

He figured Yu- Narukami didn't know he had a persona, though, since he knew of this world and shadows, he most certainly knew of personae.

They stopped a distance away. Getting back to the building would be a bitch now.

"...I'm fine? I don't know why you would ask, Yu-San."

His name fell easily, as if it was meant to be said. Ren then paused for a second, and apologised for not remembering him.

"Only... my name."

Yu didn't know how to feel. This wasn't another nightmare, was it? Ren really didn't recognise him. Had his Shadow somehow taken the memory of him away? Was that how he chose to get back at the two of them?

He bit his lip, trying to hide his sadness- and failing.

The one person he could still speak to as a friend couldn't even recognise who he was anymore.

"My Shadow did something, didn't he?" Not that Ren would be able to tell him. "Is... is this a new motive? Or..." He wasn't sure whether he was hoping it was a motive or not- at least if it was, it'd wear off when somebody killed.

...'When'. Just how awful was that? He was accepting the fact that innocent people were killing each other just so he didn't have to be so alone.

"Have you forgotten anything else?" More desperate questions, in hopes that it wasn't just about him.

Ren watched as Narukami shrunk further and further away, how he lost more and more of the initial joyous look that he had upon meeting him.

"...I prefer how you looked before,"

He said in an attempt to make him smile, the light tone to his voice and the hand cupping his cheek instinctively almost selling it.

The fact he didn't remember him, however, really dulled this moment.

His hand dropped upon mention of his shadow again, a concerned loon crossing his face.

"Nobody did anything to me... I... Can vaguely recall a motive, however?"

He didn't remember until Narukami brought it up, the thought gone in a flash.

"I'm not the only one. My friend Yusuke... He forgot me..."

His voice trailed off, a saddened look in his eyes.

"...This woman... Kirijo... She's acting as if she's a child... I need to return to her. I promised I would. She has abandonment issues. I don't wanna be one of them."

He would feel horrible.

Narukami asked what else he forgot. He couldn't exactly tell him.

"Last I remember is... Being arrested. I don't remember for what..."

Something about thieves? But he and his phantoms worked for good, so diligent to not be caught... were they betrayed?

His head hurt.

How he looked before? ...Ah, when he was still happy to see him. Yu tried a small smile, but it ended up more like a pained grimace. Even though he tensed when Ren made contact, his expression didn't change.

"Then... it's probably a motive for the killing game." He hated how he sounded more cheerful at the news- as though another motive was something to be celebrated.

Mitsuru Kirijo-

A kiss in the swimming baths?

"Ngh!" This had been happening more often lately- both in his dreams and in the waking world. Sometimes, it was hard to tell the difference.

After finally regaining composure, he continued as though he didn't just have a headsplitting pain wrack his skull.

"You can go back if you want. She sounds like she needs your help."

Yu wasn't going to keep him for any longer than Ren could stay- as much as he wanted to.

Being arrested? Even before the motive, Ren hadn't mentioned anything like that.

"Are you sure you're okay?" He looked at the other boy with concern, knowing how to recognise a headache when he saw it. "I'd offer some painkillers and water, but..." Another sad smile. It seemed to be his go-to expression.

The pained grimace stung his heart, a frown forming upon his face. He wanted to make him smile.

He could see it, sitting in a liquor store, side by side, a gentle smile upon his face...

Wait, what?

His eyes snapped into focus, hearing those fateful words.

"...Killing... Game?"

He had to get back, had to protect what he had left, couldn't-

As he was about to leave, he witnessed Narukami in pain. Swiftly, he was by his side, unknowing of what to do to help.

(Go back, he encouraged him, go back and help Kirijo-San)

But Narukami... he seemed so sad. Upset over him. Like there was something special, like he meant something.

Were they lovers? That would explain it, his pained expression and posture.

He waved the thought away as Narukami asked of his arrest, showing clear regret over being unable to assist with his headache.

...

"That's okay, Yu-San,"

He said to him softly, reaching out to take a gentle hold of his hand. Maybe, just maybe, if he pretended, he could make him feel a bit better before he went?

"It'll... all be okay."

This was what he was looking for in the fog. He subconsciously knew it.

"...I promise I'll be back."

With that, he leaned forward and pressed his lips to his cheek, a small display of affection he hoped would pacify him, to have him forgive the amnesia he had.

(He really hoped his assumption was correct, or this would get very awkward.)

"Goodbye for now."

He then let him go, walking off, back towards the building, or where he assumed it would be.

He tensed again as Ren took his hand, but not because he was uncomfortable in the slightest- he was just... not quite used to it yet.

"Everything will be alright," he agreed, not agreeing in the slightest. Even if this was just a motive...

"Hey, R-!"

Yu stared in shock, completely at a loss for how to react. That was... sudden. But Ren didn't even remember him, right? Why did he want to-?

Unless he was pretending for his sake, and assumed a bit too much about them. But even if that was the case, he didn't have it in him to care anymore. He wasn't alone. Ren was here, and he would come back. He promise.

Yu wasn't alone in here.