

Chapter 3: "The Unexpected yet Expected Weekend"

Written by: FafeiTastic

(7:23PM. Evening, Outside of the Dorms Building)

Outside of the cold, windy evening, as gusts sweep dry leaves across the cracked pavement and the sky hangs heavy with fading light.

A thin veil of cigarette smoke lingered in the air, curling lazily toward the sky. Our grumpy yet slightly bruised up defeated green hedgehog Scourge, tilted his head back and gazed upon the evening sky.

His eyes were heavy with exhaustion and his shoulders slumped under the weight of the day. He sat motionless on the weather-worn bench beneath a flickering street lamp. His cigarette stood straight up in his mouth, while smoke curled lazily around the bruises on his swollen jaw and the bandages tightly wrapped around his chest, his legs, his face and his forehead—his entire body slouched in silent exhaustion.

But the thing is, he couldn't remember why he was beaten up in the first place? He doesn't even remember what even happened during that lunchroom.

It felt like he was just his imagination.

Except it wasn't.

[FLASHBACK]

It was 5:30pm in the afternoon. as everyone was safely evacuated from the lunchroom except for Sonic, Tails and Shadow. Who were holding Knuckles and Scourge back against each other from fighting.

Scourge's eyes were filled with insanity and madness. Completely locked eyes into Knuckles with a glint of deadly intent, his smile twisting into an evil smirk as he taunted the enraged echidna.

His fur was matted and damp with sweat and blood, and he had numerous cuts and gashes across his legs and arms and even had a bloody nose. He was breathing heavily, each inhalation causing a sharp pain in his chest. His muscles felt weak and unresponsive, a testament to the intensity of the fight. Despite his weakened state, Scourge refused to show weakness, gritting his teeth and silently enduring the pain.

He then looked at Knuckles with a sickening smile on his face.

"Come on, Knucksy...is that all you really got? What happened to the "Oh-so most powerful and strongest Echidna in SEIGA Academy?"~" he sneered, his voice dripping with arrogance. "To me, I'm seeing someone weak and couldn't even put any punches on me. I'm starting to think you're taking me on too easily."

Knuckles' face contorted with a mixture of anger, disgust, and a hint of pity as he looked at Scourge's battered frame.

But he knows that this isn't Scourge's doing. Something was definitely wrong with him and he knows Scourge wouldn't create a fight like this so randomly.

He wouldn't be doing this if there was a reason.

[Knuckles]: "Don't think yourself too cocky, Scourge. I only went easy on you because I already know how weak you are during fights.

If anything, I would've finished you off a long time ago and have you in the hospital by this moment."

[Sonic]: "He's right dude. Sonic replies to Scourge. "You don't have to fight him like this. Just let it go and so we can all go back to our dorms peacefully without harm."

[Scourge?]: "Aww..but that would ruin all of the fun now won't it?..All I wanted was a bit of some action~"

[Knuckles]: "YOU DECIDED TO RANDOMLY FLIRT WITH ROUGE, JUST TO START A FIGHT TO ME BECAUSE YOU WANTED ACTION?? OH I'LL SHOW YOU SOME ACTION
ALRIGHT-!" Knuckles angrily wanted to punch the smug out of Scourge's face. But Sonic and Tails held him back tighter so he wouldn't let loose and talk him out to not let his smug talking get to him.

[Shadow]: "You best tell us why you decided to start all of this, There was no reason for you to start this drama in the first place.." Shadow said as he held Scourge from him.

a manic grin spread across Scourge's face, a grin even more sinister that the whole place felt cold.

[Scourge?]: "Hahhhh...you're right. I would've been able to avoid all of this. But that would've been so boring and dull. And everyday is always a routine for everyone.

I call that annoying and a waste of time so I decided to have this place a bit more..pazazz~."

The boys felt confused.

[Scourge?]: "This so-called 'campus' you all cherish so much was ALLWAYS about peace. And that kind of peace really bores me. I wanted to see some action and drama..and mostly violence. So what more can a bad guy like me create that kind of chaos to break that peace? Well, I decided to go for the weakest opponent.

When I spotted Rouge, I wanted to..give her some attention to me. It was almost HILARIOUS how YOU noticed me and started to QUESTION ME, THREATENING me to stay back. It felt delicious to see you rile up so angrily.

And when you started the first punch, everyone's looks were full of terror and frightened. It excited me to finally see some chaos. They were all screaming and running away, throwing food against each other. And some even fight with each other, it was like seeing a big festival coming out for fun!"

[Scourge?]: "That's why I did it..that's why I started the fight. I hope you enjoy the..entertainment that I started."

[Knuckles]: "So, you decided to fight me..because you were "bored" and wanted to start drama?"

[Tails]: "Isn't that like grabbing attention to get other people to notice you?"

[Scourge?]: "Hmm..Well..when you put it that way, Yes! But be lucky that I didn't kiss her though.

Although..now that I think about it.

I do wonder what her lips would've tasted like..? i bet it would tasted..very sweet~"

[Knuckles]: "you disgusting **SICK FREAK- CMERE!**"

[Sonic]: "KNUCKLES NO!!"

[Tails]: "DON'T LET YOUR ANGER GET TO YOU!!!"

As the boys try their hardest to pull Knuckles back, Scourge hysterically laughs at him uncontrollably. He was wheezing so hard he could barely breathe. His cackles echoed through the lunchroom, growing louder and more chaotic.

Shadow's patience started to get thin. With an exasperated sigh and a swift, precise move, Shadow ended the outburst by knocking Scourge out cold—finally bringing silence to the overwhelming fit of laughter.

He was then blacked out, not even knowing what had happened to him next.

[END OF FLASHBACK]

His mind felt like a blur to him. He tried to remember what happened but..he just couldn't.

All he could remember was him eating and chatting with his gang and then ZAP! he was turned off like a TV.

Did he regret it? Probably. Was it worth it? He doesn't even know. But did he do it anyway to annoy him anyway? Absolutely but why? He had no reason to go against him, plus he knew that he's pretty much stronger than him so..

Why did he do it?

he did had a feeling however, that **HE** was responsible for the mess. He would even call out **his name** but.. Nothing.

Although he was in a puzzled state and now has a slight headache, from the distance, some nerdy girl with a Long-sleeve Green Cropped Sweater, Light blue Bell-bottom Jeans, High-Top Sneakers, and a straw tote bag was walking by until, she froze and just stood there for a moment.

She was totally not being a creep by just standing there watching the literal guy himself who she accidentally bumped her head to his chin in lecture class. Or completely embarrassed herself in gym class when she was completely and blankly staring at him and got hit by a volleyball.

And she probably would've thought she would NEVER see him or even approach him ever again but let's be real guys. any normal person wouldn't just..stare at them in a totally not creepy way as they were just..standing on the sidewalk?

that they would want to start a conversation with a beat-up guy..right?

Well. Too bad.

Because that nerdy totally not creepy girl,
was me.

And as you may or may not know,
my mind felt like it was in a lockdown of
scrambles filled with many questions and probably anxiety.

Let's go see what my mind is thinking right now :D

"I ACTUALLY CAN'T BELIEVE I FOUND HIM HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OUTSIDE DORMS BUILDING!?"

"AND HE'S EVEN SMOKING!? IS THAT EVEN ALLOWED IN THIS CAMPUS!?"

"Okay Fae.. Let's.. Calm down here. It's just Scourge? He's not gonna do anything to you? Why are you freaking out? It's not like he KNOWS you or anything."

*"but the only thing he KNOWS is bumping my head to his chin..or at least..i think he knows..?
BUT IT WAS STRAIGHT UP TO HIS FRICKING CHIN!!! I bet he's having even more injuries on THAT!"*

"ugh but what should I do!? Should I pass by him or just..ask him if he's okay!?"

"WAIT NO! Don't Do that. Sonia said he's not a person to be talking to. Just ignore him and don't engage. SIMPLE! But.. It would be wrong to ignore somebody hurt like that..right? I mean, he already had himself a pretty rough day . He probably didn't even eat since he started his fight with that Knuckles guy."

"I really wanna know how that fight ended? And why DID he fight him? I have so many questions but I feel like it isn't the right time to do that. I have to do something..I just have to..but what?"

If you could already tell, I was in a spiral of questions. Do I want to talk to him? Do I want to even face him? After all, everyone told me that I should stay away from that guy. But seeing him look hurt and bruised up like that?. Made me think that helping him a little wouldn't hurt to try.

I know, I know, he's a BAD guy you can't get along with BAD people.

Which is true, but my heart had a feeling that he had some good in him. Evil on the outside but inside that heart of light has some good. And I wanna get him out of that darkness to feel that light.

So, I have made my decision and go get to know Scourge. It wasn't going to be easy. But I have determination that it'll all be worth it!

Plus, it would be a good opportunity to get to know him too! (At least I hope so)

Right beside Scourge was a vending machine, I thought to myself.

“Maybe I should get some snacks for him? Maybe that'll cheer him up after everything that happened to him!”

As I was walking towards the vending machine, I went through my tote bag to grab my pouch to grab a few coins.

I rummaged through my pouch hoping to find at least some change, fortunately I only have twenty cents and thought that hopefully this would be enough for snacks and maybe a drink?

That's where things get...reaaaaaaalllyyy irritating..

I put it inside and out the numbers andddd it didn't..work?

[Fafei]: “Hm..that's odd? Did I not put enough money inside? Mmm.. Lemme add some more and try again?”

I rummaged through my pouch again to find more change and put them inside the vending machine, I put in the numbers on what I wanted to buy and then.

It didn't work. Again.

[Fafei]: “...okay uhhhh This isn't working. I'll just..use my card instead I guess?”

I took out my credit card and swiped it to the slot and would you look at that? nothing!!!!.

I tried it again, didn't work. Tap it to the machine. Didn't work. Tapped the numbers inside and then swiped my card in?

It. Didn't. Work.

I was really starting to get a little upset about this dumb vending machine BUT I didn't give up. The only solution I have left is.. My cash.

As much as I didn't want to take out my cash because I only use this if I want to buy myself something. And because I'm a **VERY nice person and didn't want to keep anyone else waiting if they were behind me.** I had to get these snacks as quickly as possible.

So once again, I rummaged through my pouch and grabbed some cash I had left.(RIP my money rn) Put it inside, and crossed my fingers to HOPEFULLY THAT IT WORKED.

it took- no- SPAT out my money. I then tried to flatten it out to get it inside, it took it out again saying "NOPE"

That was when I had it. Why the heck wasn't this machine working!? WHY WOULDNT IT TAKE MY DANG MONEY????  I looked around the vending machine to see if it was broken somewhere. It looked pretty normal but I just couldn't understand why it didn't want to take my money? so now I started to get REALLY angry over it.

I sorta..shaked it a little to get at least something but uh..i wasn't very strong enough to shake it.

I then started talking to it like a crazy person and yelled at it. I'm pretty sure someone would be walking by and thinking I'm insane but LISTEN! THIS WAS THE VENDING MACHINE'S FAULT OKAY? I JUST WANT TO BE A GENEROUS PERSON.

This vending machine was gonna be the end of me if I didn't get any snacks. So I kicked it and it stubbed my toe.

I wanted to scream so hard from that horrible pain but I kept it in and hopped around on one foot while clutching my shoe in a mix of pain and frustration.

I never knew I'd get so fed up over a vending machine. A STUPID. VENDING MACHINE.

but even though I was feeling angry. Someone else saw it funny.

I froze mid-hop and looked over and saw Scourge laughing. This was the very first time I heard him..laugh? Was he watching me all this time? I was so focused on getting him some snacks that I was completely unaware that he was still here.

Scourge got up to his feet and walked towards the vending machine with a low yet drawling voice. "You know, Shorty, most people read the 'out of order' sign instead of trying to beat the vending machine into submission." as he flicked his cigarette to the trash.

[Fafei]: "W..wait..THIS THING WAS OUT OF ORDER!? I thought it didn't want to give me anything.."

he chuckled and said "Ohhohh yeah, this dumpster's been looooong broken since last month. doubt that he forgot to even fix it."

[Fafei]: “*groans* It's no wonder it wasn't giving me anything. All of my money is in there too.

[Scourge]: “Dang. What an absolute shocker.”

[Fafei]: is..there a way for me to get it bac-”

[Scourge]: *he leans against the vending machine, arms crossed* .“Nope”.

[Fafei]: “HAH?!”

[Scourge]: “This big ol' junk machine ain't givin' you s\$#@ or yer money back even if it wants to. I've seen plenty of people using it, thinking that it would still work but they have NOOOO idea that all of their money..is long gone.”

[Fafei]: “So then..how did they get the snacks and drinks out of it”

[Scourge]: “I dunno. Steal some of it?”

[Fafei]: “ E-EXCUSE ME?!”

[Scourge]: “You think they're just gonna let their whole time be wasted by a broken down machine? They got ways to get their hands on whatever they want and get in no trouble whatsoever.”

[Fafei]: “BUT– THAT.. THAT'S ILLEGALLY WRONG!”

[Scourge]: “Hmmm..is it though? Cuz it's technically wrong for the machine to steal not only their cash but their time as well.”

[Fafei]: “I–..wwh..THAT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE!”

[Scourge]: “Exactly~” Scourge slightly smirked at me as he stood back up and went to the back of the vending machine. I peeks a little to see what he was doing back there until he held some cash and change in the palm of his hand.

I was SHOCKED of how much he was holding that many.

[Fafei]: “I--YOU– YOU CAN'T JUST– STEAL THE MONEY OUT OF THE VENDING MACHINE??!! –THAT'S ILLEGAL!!”

[Scourge]: “Babe, if it was actually illegal, wouldn't the vending machine be to blame for taking everybody's money out of their pockets when no one even knew it was broken in the first place?”

Fafei: "WELL I— wait did he just call me babe? IT'S...STILL BAD ENOUGH TO STEAL IT! P-PUT IT BACK!"

[Scourge]: "Why? It's just a little bit of the cash. No one's not gonna know about it."

[Fafei]: "SO!? IT'S STILL BAD!"

[Scourge]: "To you it looks bad, To me, it's a free cash-grab to buy whaaaatever you want without worrying about paying it." He went back to steal some grape soda and chips for himself. walked over to me to give me a piece of a chip.

[Scourge]: "Want a ZapSnap?"

[Fafei]: "I won't be taking any snacks that you stole from." I said with an upsetting look.

[Scourge]: "Mmm..bummer. And here I was, being generous and helpful too..*munch munch* Wasted opportunity."

Scourge strode past me without a word. I couldn't believe that he not only stole some money, but the snacks and drinks as well. It's no wonder Sonia and the others hate him.

But, even though what he did was wrong, I still didn't want to lose hope on getting to know him. So out of the blue, I reached out and stopped him, asking about his injuries.

[Fafei]: "S-Scourge WAIT! Your injuries..Uhm.. Are they okay?."

Scourge stopped mid-stride when I asked his injuries. he stood in silence

[Fafei]: "I-i know that it shouldn't be my business to ask something like that. But, after what I heard from that fight, It sounded like you were in a lot of pain and..I got worried about you. And..I wanted to make sure that you were okay."

"And also, I want to apologize for bumping my head to your chin during lecture class. It was a complete accident and I swear on Gaia I didn't do it on purpose! So..That's all I want to tell you. Uhm..

"P-Please don't be angry!"

I bowed slightly, hands pressed together in the apologetic Japanese gesture, with eyes lowered in quiet remorse.

(Psst, Editor Fafei here~ this gesture is called the Keirei" (敬礼) Apologize Bow. which according to Google it's a: formal Japanese bow, typically performed at a 30-degree angle, used to show

respect to superiors, clients, or elders in business or formal situations. I would explain more but like that'd make this chapter WAAAAAAAY too long so just google it yourself to know more what it means k back to the story ご(・' う ～))

Scourge thought about what she said: Her worrying about his fight with Knuckles? and her bumping her head on his chin? That one he remembered but..him fighting with Knuckles? He felt like he should remember that, but all of this sounded..dumb to him. For her to be worried about him like that. How pathetic.

He never had anyone worried about his well being . And he never had to. He felt a merge of anger inside of him. Or really..

He felt a slight guilt inside.

So he turned around only to find me bowing before him, confused by my unexpected odd gesture. He raised an eyebrow in surprise, but he didn't mind it because he thought it was respect for him and just sighed at me with a scoff.

[Scourge]: "Oi, you can stop bowing down at me. My face's right here"

I immediately sat up and looked at him very innocently.

[Fafei]: "Ah! S-Sorry, I..tend to do that a lot whenever I apologi-"

[Scourge] "Listen up,Shorty". "You don't have to worry about my injuries, alright? That's my business and mine alone to deal with."

[Fafei]: "O-Oh.. Uh.. I'm sorry. I just..wanted to know if you were oka-"

[Scourge]: "Of course I'm okay. I do these kinds of fights all the time. Not like you're the only one who wanted to see me beaten up too anyway."

[Fafei]: "What!? No no no no no I would never wanted to-"

[Scourge]: "Just forget that you saw me like this. The last thing I want is someone else telling me how I lost to that big guy."

He looked away from me, knowing that he thinks that I'm only feeling pity for him. I couldn't let that slide. I couldn't let him think about that.

[Fafei]: "I won't forget."

Scourge glanced over at me with an annoyed expression, clearly tired of me by now.

[Fafei]: "I won't forget that you're hurt. It sounds wrong for you to even say that to yourself. I can't just ignore the fact that you got yourself beaten up?"

"I know how it feels to hide away the pain but you shouldn't keep that inside of you! That's not how the pain will go away and- don't know what I can do or how I can help you. but.. I'm willing to do my best to make sure that you're not alone, Scourge. I promise that."

My courageous voice grabbed his attention as he looked at me. He had no idea how this woman would even care about someone like him.

Who is she?.. He thought to himself.

That was when he decided to jump in to interrupt inside his mind. **he was not happy with what he's watching.**

[??]: "you're really going to her talk to you like that pal?"

[Scourge but inside his mind]: "*What the.. Hey! Where the hell have you been you dipshi-*"

[??]: "She doesn't even know you and yet you're letting her talk to you like as if she knows what YOU'VE been through. I bet she's just feeling pity out of you just so she can feel "bad for you."

[Scourge]: "*and you're saying this now because?..*"

[??]: "She sees you as a joke. Do you really not understand what I'm trying to tell you?"

[Scourge]: "*a little explanation would help.*"

[??]: *echoed groans* "Look at you. You're not only all bruised up with bandages and cuts but too dumb enough to understand. She literally doesn't care about you. Does she even know who you are? What you're capable of? Did she even call for help when you needed to be saved?"

"You shouldn't let her talk to you like that. Otherwise. You're just seeing yourself as Weak, Worthless, Powerless Pathetic little scum you ar-"

[Scourge]: "*Yeah. I think I heard enough from you.*"

[??]: "wait what. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOI-"

As I was repeatedly calling his name over and over again, suddenly he punched himself to the face!

I jumped out of fright when he did that. It was a pretty shocking random moment.

[Fafei]: "OH MY GOSH! A.. are you okay?! Why did you?!"

[Scourge]: "Don't worry about it. Do it all the time whenever I need to zap out of the zone."

[Fafei]: "W.. What?"

[Scourge]: "Look, I appreciate your generous concern about me. But I'm fine. I know damn well what I'm doing. So you best stay back if you don't want yourself hurt around me."

[Fafei]: "B-But i-"

[Scourge]: "JUST FORGET ABOUT IT ALRIGHT?..Please."

As much as I wanted to help. I felt like I pushed too much. So I sighed and nodded.

[Scourge]: "Good. Now get back to whateva ya needed to do. And don't ever talk about this conversation again. Or else."

As Scourge walked away in silence, each step heavy with words left unsaid.

I stood there watching him go. a heavy ache in my chest felt so much guilt and shame coiled together, whispering that I couldn't do much to help him. And that I wish that I could've done more and better.

sigh

*[Fafei but inside her mind]: "you did it again Fafei Shons. You tried to help someone and all you did was mess up and embarrass yourself once again. I really can't do anything right huh.. *sadly sighs* Well.. The very least I did was to make him laugh. But I don't think I didn't make him laugh in a good kind of way"*

"Sonia was right about one thing: ..He only thinks about himself But something deep inside me tells me that it's going to work. I can still get to know him even if he's difficult to understand. And hey! At least I was able to have a decent conversation with him! That was good!"

"But I wasn't able to get to KNOW him that well. But that's okay! The more I talk to him, the better I'll be able to become his friend!"

I still have some hope within me!"

In due time, it would take much more than just laughing, it would take a lot of confidence too if I was going to get to know the REAL Scourge the Hedgehog.

Suddenly, my phone then started to vibrate. At first, I thought it was just someone calling me until, my timer reminded me that it's time to finish my stroll. Even though it wasn't really a stroll..I sorta forgot I put that timer there for how long I needed to be out for.

Then I realized that I was out for so long, I probably worried Sonia about my disappearance!!! I quickly put back my phone and before I went, I took a quick look at that vending machine.

I couldn't believe all of this had happened if it weren't for the stupid vending machine. But.. It felt like it was a good thing that I stopped here. Talking to Scourge for the first time.

So, I took out my sticky note and wrote "Out of Order! plz fix it!!! :("

And then took out my camera to take a picture of it for my memory book. I sighed happily and said "The first time that me and Scourge talked. Wow, that sounds weirdly bad saying that out loud."

and then, I returned back to my dorm room. Hopefully tomorrow I can get some good night sleep for the next day.

[The Next Day]
[1:30pm. Afternoon]
[On our way to Green Emerald Park]

[September 14th. Autumn.]

It was finally the weekend. And this time Sonia is gonna take me and Vincent to Green Emerald Park. where her brother, Manic, told us about the big fair event called 'The Tumbleleaf Fair'. And his new job as a Food Truck Cook! (I didn't even know Manic knew cooking?)

As I was getting myself ready to head out. I looked in the mirror and prepared myself for the best. And probably for the worst.

I put on my cable-knit sweater that had of red and ivory detailing, paired with a feminine floral skirt that complements the cozy feel. (Veeerrryyy comfy) Beige socks, platform boots, a crossbody bag, and my metallic water bottle because I'm probably gonna go thirsty as we walk

through the park. (I do not trust those water fountains, they look NASTY). Topping it off is a red velvet ribbon (that I thought would look pretty on the back of my hair), annnnd wore some daisy earrings!

Inside my bag (that I double check to make sure I brought everything) was my pink flip phone (that I ordered in Japan DO NOT ASK)

My Polaroid Camera (that I'll be taking TONS of photos with, my very adorable cherry pouch that I SPECIFICALLY made sure I had my cash and credit card ready to go, and lastly, a small notebook and some pencils in case I felt like drawing.

To be honest, this Tumbleleaf Fair thing felt very exciting to me! I couldn't wait to see what kind of games, food, and many other things over there at the park.

But something was really bothering me. I didn't know what it was so I thought it was nothing.

I headed down stairs and met up with Vincent and Sonia at the parking lot and it was time to drive!!!



As we were in the driveway heading to the park, I decided to sketch a few little doodles to help me be distracted. But this weird feeling kept coming back. This deep guilt I have no matter how many times I try to forget it. I couldn't stop thinking about what happened yesterday. I still felt like an awful person despite that I didn't do anything wrong.

I wanted to help Scourge so much. But I just didn't know what I could do. I should've done more and instead I embarrassed myself and got Scourge angry at me. I don't think I could ever face him again after all of that.

But anyways.

While I was sketching out and listening to some music on my phone. Sonia and Vincent were talking about Manic's new job or something I dunno. It really wasn't my business and I wasn't really listening so you can guess what they were talking about.

[Sonia] "But for how long?" Sonia said with an unpleasant look on her face. "Despite how..easily distracted he can be, I doubt he's just over there flirting with every lady he sees and catching stuff on fire. I don't even know if there's even a nickel in his bank account for what he's getting paid for."

[Vincent]: "I wouldn't be too worried about him, Sonia. Maybe he's doing a great job out there and is alright for what he's working at?"

[Sonia]: *scoffs* "Yeah, right. The only job he's alright at is burglarizing stores, going out at night and partying whenever he pleases, and then getting himself caught by the police from burglarizing that specific store. I just don't think he's not actually serious about this so-called "Food Truck" job he mentioned and is just tricking me into thinking he's working there. Just so he can get away from it and not get in trouble by me."

[Vincent]: "I'm going to guess that you don't trust what he does most of the time."

[Sonia]: "It's not that I don't trust him, I just...don't trust him on what he's saying." *deeply sighs* I want to believe that what he's doing is right and being serious about it but, I just don't know how to believe him if he's actually serious about it."

Vincent looked at Sonia with a sad look on his face. It reminded him of the conversation he had with his Dad when he tried to get Fafei a job but due to her autistic condition, it was difficult for her to take the time to do the job right and be serious in taking a job. That was when Vincent said.

[Vincent]: "I think he can be serious about what his job is at."

[Sonia]: "Huh?"

[Vincent] "Think about it, If he didn't tell us about his job over there at the Park, He would've kept it a secret from us and not tell us where he worked. He would know how much responsibility it would take to keep this job that he found by himself. If anything, this is probably the first job that fits right for him. Possible chance he may have some other bad experiences with other jobs he's been in and wanted to restart something new and fresh. But, if he wasn't serious, he would have been doing nothing but..stealing stuff or being lazy to not find a job in the first place."

[Sonia]: "So..you're saying that Manic really has a chance of being a grown adult and take things seriously?"

[Vincent]: "I'm saying that Manic knows what he's doing. You however need to show that you believe in him"

[Sonia]: "Me?"

[Vincent]: "Yes." "From what I'm hearing, you see Manic as a burglarizing flirty guy who's too lazy of a person who can't take things seriously. But what I see is someone excited to help others and enjoy what he works at. At least to me of course."

[Vincent]: "Until we get to the park and meet up with Manic. You'll just have to see if one of us was right or wrong. But just for now. And when we get there, give him your biggest support. That's what every sibling does."

[Sonia]: "Yeah.. You're right. Thanks for uh.. listening me out, Vincent."

[Vincent]: "You're welcome! And besides, it looked like you had a lot on your mind when you started this conversation."

[Sonia]: "Ughhh I knowww... I normally keep this to myself or talk about this to my other friends. It's just been..a little rough with me at the moment."

[Vincent]: "It's okay! It's good to talk to someone about these kinds of things. Just don't overthink it and it'll all be okay."

[Sonia]: "I'll try not to. But there's something else that's been bothering me a little."

[Vincent]: "Oh? What is it?"

[Sonia]: "It's your sister, Fafei. She's been pretty quiet since yesterday and I'm..really worried about her. when she said she came back from her stroll, She looked..upset about something?"

[Vincent]: "Did..something happen?"

[Sonia]: "I don't know. And I wish I knew when I asked her 'did something happen to you yesterday?' and the only thing she said was "I got into a fight with a stupid vending machine, it stole all of my money, and beat up my toe. I'm never going to pay for vending machines ever again."

Vincent held on to his laugh as it was the most Fae thing she would literally do. But he kept his laughter in and cleared up his throat to be serious. Even though it was a little funny.

[Vincent]: "I-I see..? I uh..guess she had a bad experience with..vending machines?"

[Sonia]: "I want to say that? But I'm pretty sure there's something else she's hiding from me. I just don't know what."

[Vincent]: "I'm sure it's fine. Besides she's still new here in this academy so.. Maybe she just didn't know how a vending machine would work here?"

[Sonia]: "hmmm.. You're right. Guess I should've shown her how to use it properly. I just hope her toe is okay.."

[Vincent]: "Y-Yep.."

Vincent couldn't stop but snicker. He's really trying his best not to think about it. But at the time.

It really was funny to him

Sonia looks at him with a confusing smile, seeing him as if he's about to burst into laughter.

[Sonia]: "A-.. Are you.. About to laugh?"

[Vincent]: I.. I'm sorry.. It's just.. I can literally imagine Fae going to a wrestling match with a vending machine.. But it took all of her cash and kicked her in the toe.. I'm so sorry-"

Vincent then started to giggle knowing how stupid it sounded, but Sonia hearing that kinda made her giggle too! So they were both giggling together.

While in the backseat, I picked up one of my earplugs to hear what they were giggling at. But I decided to put them back on because I'm pretty sure it was something really unhinged.

After a long hour drive, Finally, we arrived at Green Emerald Park. Sonia looked for a way to find a good parking spot (and she did) and she parked her car there.

Sonia and Vincent got out of the car but Vincent gently tapped my shoulder to get my attention. I

looked up and took off my earplugs to hear what he had to say.

[Vincent]: "Hey sis, are you gonna bring your sketchbook with you?"

[Fafei]: "Nah..i might just finish it later when we head back to campus. Besides, I wanna get some photos around here to add to my memory book." I said as I got out of the car and grabbed my bag.

[Vincent]: "Oh. you're..still trying to fill in those pages?."

[Fafei]: "Yep! Gotta make sure I take every single shot of everything I see in this Park! It'll at least let me remember that we went here before. Now let's see...."

As I rummaged through my bag to check if I had everything (again). Vincent looked at me with a worried look on his face. He remembered that I had very little memory of anything whether it's today or a long time ago.

His biggest worry was the more I forget, the more I'll never remember easily and my mind becomes even slower. That's why Dad and Aunt Suzanne gave me Mom's Polaroid Camera as a gift and a memory book to fill in with every photo that I took. And that it would help me remember the time when I was taking them.

[Fafei]: "Alright Vince I'm ready to g.. Vincent?"

After I was done checking through, I looked at him and saw Vincent's eyes looking upset. I made a worried look and asked him:

[Fafei]: "Vince? ..Are you okay?..big bro?"

Vincent heard me say his name and his mind snapped back. Only to look at me and give me a sweet smile like he always has.

[Vincent]: "I'm fine, just uhh..I was just thinking about something."

[Fafei]: "Oh. was it sad?"

[Vincent]: "Mmm..sorta. But it was probably just nothing. C'mon, we don't want to make Sonia wait for us here."

As Vincent went ahead, I took a second to think "*what was he thinking that made him have that sad look?*" But I shook it off and followed him.

[1:35pm]
[Meeting with Sonic and Manic]

As we all entered the park, everything was full of decorations, happy people. and the best part? AWESOME Street food carts. We were pretty astonished by how beautiful the place looked as well!

The color of the trees felt breathtaking and colorful, ablaze with vibrant hues—fiery reds, burnt oranges, golden yellows, and deep russets. The breeze felt a little chilly but felt so gentle and warm at the same time.

Sunlight filters through the thinning canopy, casting a golden glow and dappled shadows across benches, winding trails, and grassy knolls. There's a quietness in the air, broken only by the crunch of footsteps on fallen leaves, the distant calls of migrating birds, or the whisper of wind through the trees.

People were opening up shops and markets selling jewelry, trinkets, fruits and vegetables and all sorts of things.

While the children play with their kites, dogs run and chase each other and friends having themselves a picnic and taking pictures together. (Oh and couples too)

I took as many pictures as I could as we were walking through. But I couldn't stop looking from one view to another as we needed to keep walking.

Finally, we found the big water fountain and from that big water fountain was Manic himself and...Sonic? I didn't know he came to the park too? I guess he wanted to be there to support his brother on his new job.

They were standing in front of the fountain and waving at us. This was a surprise for Sonia because she didn't expect Sonic to come along too.

[Sonia]: "Ooookay, what are you doing here, Sonic? Aren't you normally "busy" during the weekends?" she said as she crossed her arms and raised her eyebrows, clearly unsurprised that he'd be here.

[Sonic]: "Now, Sonia, My beloved sister"

[Sonia]: *dramatic MMMHm*

[Sonic]: "I know you have some..fire to fire with our most totally understanding yet handsomely gorgeous brother Manic here that I HEARD- he has himself a JOB! like...oh my gosh even I am astonished by that announcement."

[Sonia]: "Are you just here because Manic told you so he can prove me wrong that he has a job which he DOESN'T because he wants to get away from it? Because if that's the case, that is not helping you in any other solution. **Manic**"

[Manic]: "Well Excuuuuuuuuuse me 'princess' I'll have you know that this job I have is SO much better than the one YOU recommended."

[Sonia]: "the one I recommended was for you to NOT PISS OFF THE BOSS AND STEAL HIS FOOD AT THE SAME TIME! I'M STILL GETTING EMAILS FROM HIM TELLING ME THE SAME STORY OVER AND OVER AGAIN!"

[Manic]: "that was because his FOOD WAS TOO DELICIOUS AND I COULDN'T BARE TO NOT STEAL! IT'S MY LEGACY!"

[Sonia]: "SINCE WHEN WAS STEALING WAS YOUR LEGACY???"

[Manic]: "SINCE I WAS FIVE SONIA, **FIVE!** "

[Sonia]: "YOU DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING WHEN YOU WERE FIVE"

[Manic]: "EXACTLY!"

Sonic then came between them and calmed both of them down.

[Sonic]: "ALRIGHT you two that's enough. You're making a scene here and we don't want to go over violence. So let's just chill.. And talk normally like actual normal adults.."

Sonia and Manic had calmed down. But Sonia looked over at Vincent. Vincent gave her a smile and nodded, knowing that all she needed to do is to believe him and see if he was right.

So, Sonia looked back at Manic with a deep breath and said with an honest voice.

[Sonia]: "I.. am sorry, for yelling at you."

[Manic]: *dramatic Mmmhmm*

[Sonia]: "and..i hope you can forgive me.."

[Manic]: "Mmmhmm?."

[Sonia]: "and if what you say is true, that you have a new "job."

[Manic]: "MMMMMMHHHHHHHHH!?!?" *gets excited*

[Sonia]: "Then you may lead us the way to it."

[Manic]: "YEAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHH WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!!!!" With a burst of joy, Manic leaps *into the air, hands raised high and face split into a euphoric grin*. As he lands, he erupts into an impromptu celebratory dance, stomping, twirling, and kicking their legs to an unseen beat. Sonia could only watch as she felt like she made a horrible mistake.

[Sonia]: "Why do I have a feeling I'm going to completely regret this?..."

[Sonic]: *wraps his arms around to her shoulder and pats it* "because dear sister, there will be no regrets that you'll admit that you're wrong and he's right."

[Sonia]: "And you're just here because?..."

[Sonic]: "I was the one who helped him get this job."

[Sonia]: "YOU WHAT!?"

[Sonic]: "Yep! Helped him with the appointment, the applications, the date and time to get started, driving lessons, and of course with the food supplies he needed to keep the job going."

[Vincent]: "So I'm guessing he has no worries about his job then?"

[Sonic]: "As long as he knows what he's doing and doesn't mess up his sleep schedule then, yeah! He's good to go."

[Manic]: " I am.. SOOOOO excited to have you see how much I've accomplished this job sis, and you're gonna be SO impressed that you'll have your jaw to the FLOOR!" He giggled excitedly as he went ahead.

We all follow him and Sonia could only imagine how much worse this can get that she either is going to feel embarrassed that they were right. Or right out laughing at his face that she was right. This sibling mix thing kinda felt like those sitcoms shows my dad used to watch.. But in a good way the very least.

[1:50pm]
[Getting to know each other]

As we were on our way to see Manic's food truck, the boys decided to tour us a little bit of the park!

There were a ton of new shops around here and new food shops too! They even showed us this new shopping district which is called 'Green Hill Plaza' which is like a small shopping mall..here in the park? I didn't know parks can have small shopping malls? At least I don't think parks have shopping malls?

I feel like that shouldn't really be normal since shopping malls are like in big cities like Station Square from downtown, or Sunridge District from South of here. But I guess every place is different and if there's a small shopping mall inside of a park then.. I guess it's a good thing.. Ish?.

But after they finished the grand tour there, we finally arrived at his food truck station. And honestly? His place has a very good vibe to it!

It had some stunning floristry around here like potted plants, some tables and chairs for people to eat at. And a radio for them to listen to music. The food truck however looks small, but it's the perfect size for him to cook up some delicious meals!

[Manic]: "Welcome to El Bocadillo Bandido!
Where the Bandits steals not only your Sandwich, but your hearts content for more of their delicious food~"

[Fafei]: "El Bo-Boca..dil-El..Bocadi..loo..uhhh"

[Sonic]: "to make it easier, it just means 'The Bandit Sandwich' in Spanish."

[Fafei]: "Ah. Okay!"

[Vincent]: "I gotta say, you made the atmosphere very calming and floristic. I'm quite impressed with how you decorate your station."

[Manic]: *girly giggles* Thaaaaanks..

[Sonia]: "I suppose it kinda feels cozy looking..But what I want to know is how you cook and serve your food. Seeing that you're the only one doing this by yourself"

[Manic]: "Well I'm GLAD you asked Sonia. Because I'll be the one to be serving YOU guys!"
*looks at Sonia with a smirking grin"

[Sonia]: "Wait..WHAT!?"

[Fafei]: "ALL OF US?"

[Manic]: "Yeah? Is there a problem?"

[??]: "Are you sure you're able to make ALL of our orders for the seven of us nyah?"

Suddenly, we all turned around and saw them.

three girls looking all confident and pretty like a gentle breeze came through. Their beauty was like a shining spotlight that shimmer behind them. As these three girls looked like the main characters of a high school movie

[??]: "I'd like to have the Quesadilla Sambora with the side of those delicious nachos you make so much nyah!"

she sees Manic looking at Mina

[??]: "y'know..it isn't nice to look at a pretty woman like that, sweetie~"

[Manic] : "h-huh? GAH!! uhhh- R-Right away!" *he gets started*

Sonic: "Honey! Mina! Amy! Good to see you girls here."

[Mina]: "Good to see you too Sonic."

[Amy]: "How have you guys been?"

[Vincent]: "We've been good. Just checking out Manic's new Food Truck job."

[Mina]: "Oooohh so you've heard too? Guess that'll mean you owe us, Sonia"

[Sonia]: "WHAT!? BUT I-"

[Honey]: "nyah ah ah ahhh~ the deal was that if it's true that Manic-kun has a job here at the park, you owe us each five dollars. And it looks like the truth. Has been revealed."

[Sonia]: I- WWH.. *UGH* *she gives each of them five dollars and pouts*

[Mina]: "We told you that we were telling the truth but you decided to not listen to us!"

[Sonia]: "That was because I thought it was just one of his stupid excuses to get away from it"

[Manic]: "ERM actually if you just like- listen to my hints that I had this job you would've actually like- listen and-"

[Sonia]: “SHUT UP MANIC”

We all giggled together until Mina spotted me and Vincent, went up to shake our hands.

[Mina]: “My name is Mina Mongoose by the way, but you can call me Mina!”

we each both shake her hand

[Vincent]: “It’s a pleasure to meet you, Mina.”

[Mina]: “Amy told me about you two being new here in SEIGA Academy. I hope you two are enjoying your time here!”

[Vincent]: “We absolutely are, and we’re very excited to meet other people and to continue our studies here”

[Mina]: “Hey now, no need to be so formal. We’re all good friends here! So just relax , yeah?”

[Vincent]: “Ah! My apologies..! I Tend to do that alot sometimes* *he scratch his chin a little*

[Mina]: “I can tell, a lot of girls really seem to like you the day you came here. Theyyy really seem to not take theirs eyes off of ya”

[Vincent]: “Eh.. Really? I.. Never noticed?”

[Fafei]: “Maybe it’s because your good looking charm is spreading out and is infecting all the girls to like you.” I said in a sarcastic tone with a hint of anger

[Vincent]: “Dooooo I sense jealousy from you ,Fae?”

[Fafei]: “No. All I’m saying is that you should stop being so good looking all the time.”

[Vincent]: “O.. Okay?”

[Sonic]: “there was some rumor coming out saying that there’s a good looking hedgehog in one of the classes that looks a little like Elias himself..and I think they have a point!”

[Vincent]: “I’m sorry..Who?”

[Amy]: “He’s a team leader of the tennis club and Sally’s twin brother. Who happens to be surprisingly “Top Hottest Guys in SEIGA Academy” which is so embarrassingly cringey and high school core..”

[Manic]: "HEY! THAT LIST MEANS EVERYTHING TO US MEN! It's a compliment to know that we're the most hottest guys in SEIGA academy. and *scoff* not to brag or anything but uhhh.. I'm literally on top of the leader board of hottest men sooooo.. You guys can give me all of your compliments"

[Honey]: "Aaaaactually... there's been a bit of a change to that leaderboard Manic-kun nyah"

[Manic]: "say what now"

[Mina]: "Yaaaaahhhh...you're not on top of the leaderboard anymore..Shadow is"

[Manic]: *mindlessly blinks in shock* "HOW THE HECK DID HE GOT TOP OF LEADERBOARD BEFORE ME????"

[Sonic]: "Maybe because all the ladies grew tired of chasing you." *he snickers*

[Manic]: *angrily growls at Sonic*

[Honey]: "Don't you worry Manic-kun, I'm sure you'll be jumping back on board eventually! Nyah!"

[Manic]: *scoff* "yeah.."eventually."

[Mina]: "Oh yeah! I guess since we're all here I should probably tell you guys about the concert that's happening in the Tumbleleaf Fair"

everyone was excited to hear that...except for Sonia

[Fafei]: "There's going to be a concert at the festival!?"

[Mina]: "Yep! Right at the evening, me and my band will be singing some songs over there to celebrate!

We're just waiting for.. One more approval." *she looks at Sonia*

Sonia looks away with a dejected look on her face. one hand on her arm. And deeply sighs

[Sonia]: "I told you that I'm thinking about it."

[Mina]: "You've been thinking about it for too long Sonia, We need a keyboardist in the concert and.. you're the only one who knows how to do it."

[Sonia]: "Can't you just ask your guys to do it? I thought they would be able to do so?"

[Mina]: "I did but..for some reason they decided to refuse to come back. I don't know why or how it happened but they just..don't want to come back for some reason."

[Sonic]: "Are you sure it wasn't a fight?"

[Mina]: "No?.. I.. I don't know." One second we're all having a good time and then the second later they're hating each other. I really don't want them to break apart but I don't want them to keep fighting like this. That's why I asked Sonic and Manic to be my backup for the moment and-"

[Sonia]: "You asked Sonic and Manic to be your backup?"

[Mina]: "It was the only option I had! I thought they would need space for whatever they're fighting against.."

[Sonia]: "Shouldn't you be asking your boyfriend, Ash, about this situation? Isn't he the manager of YOUR band?"

[Mina]: "I did but..even he doesn't know what's going on.."

[Manic but mumbles quietly]: "of course he doesn't know .."

"He doesn't know anything"

[Amy]: "Sonia, Is it that the reason you're taking a long time for your decision, is because you think that 'him' and his gang would come to ruin the concert?"

[Sonia]: *stood silent.. But shook yes*

[Mina]: "Sonia.."

[Honey]: "Nyah....she's still not over it isn't she.."

[Manic]: "Ever since he cheated on her?.. Pretty much"

[Fafei]: "Wait.. "His gang?" You don't mean..?"

[Sonic]: "Yeah..Scourge. **Her ex**"

It hits like a slow-forming storm—first a pressure in the ribs, then a curl of cold that drips down the spine.

I'm standing there. Shocked. With a heavy feeling on my chest knowing that with the truth I heard just now, felt like a secret that's been waiting far too long to come undone. Sonia...? her past relationship with..Scourge? The name alone feels like a bruise pressed too hard

And it was no wonder she had that fight with Scourge yesterday in class. I never knew that that was the reason why she hated him so much..

I felt too scared to even tell her that I actually met him once yesterday night at the vending machine and If I admit that I did..?

I don't know what will happen—I don't know what she'll think of me if I ever try to look or even talk to him again.

I now know I should keep my distance away from him. At all costs.

[Honey]: *sigh* *This weekend was supposed to be about fun and enjoying yourself. Not about past relationships and all the gloomy stuff. Hmm...💡 YES OF COURSE!*

[Honey]: "Sonia-chan? Are you busy at the moment?

[Sonia]: " No.. Not really? Why?"

[Honey]: "How about we all go girl shopping to cheer ourselves up hm? We can't be all sad here during the weekends, that'll just kill the mood!"

[Mina]: "I.. Suppose that's a good idea. I was thinking of buying some stuff at that new shopping district"

[Amy]: "Sounds good to me! Fafei, Vincent, Sonic? You three coming with us?"

[Sonic]: "As much as i would love to join your girl's day shopping, I uhhhh..gotta prepare myself for bigger things that's ahead of me"

[Vincent]: "Is it that race tournament Jet was talking about?"

[Sonic]: "Unfortunately yeah..."

[Manic]: "I thought you were over with that guy?"

[Sonic]: " I would've been over it if he didn't say anything about that piiiiii-iNG! message about chilli dogs!... Yeah"

[Amy]: "Well..okay, I suppose good luck on winning the race then."

[Sonic]: "Will you guys be there?"

[Manic]: if it's during the Fair then yeah, I'll probably be there watching while working."

[Amy]: "I'll also be there but I won't be joining. last time he made a race really broke my ankle when he tripped me"

[Sonic]: "I'll make sure to trip him over for ya."

[Amy]: *giggles* "Thanks."

[Vincent]: "I would love to join in your little shopping spree but I think me and Fafei are gonna explore around more here in the park. We hope you understand."

[Honey]: "No worries! We'll probably see you around while we're shopping."

"Come ladies! IT'S SHOPPING SPREE TIMEEEEEEE"

Sonic dashes away while Amy and Honey left, Sonia was about to leave as she look back to Fafei and Vincent

[Sonia]: "You two gonna be okay by yourselves?"

[Fafei]: "Mhm! We'll be fine. Plus we'll let you know that we're back at the water fountain when we finish our errands!"

[Vincent]: "Just go enjoy your time with the girls. I think you deserve the least of some distraction."

Sonia gave us a genuine smile "Thank you" and left with the girls.

[Fafei]: "Sooooo...what should we do now?"

[Vincent]: "Perhaps we can start walking around and take those pictures you wanted to do?"

[Fafei]: "Oh right!! But.. Where to start?"

[Manic]: "I'd start at the top corner of the park, there's a big green field there and some hiking there too. I also heard there's some pretty good small shops there that has some good prices"

[Fafei]: "Do.. They have some stationery shops there too?"

[Manic]: "Uhhh.. Yeah I'm pretty sure they do!"

[Fafei]: "EEEEEEHHEHEHEHEHEHEH C'MON VINCENT LET'S GO!" *I immediately start skipping ahead*

[Vincent]: "FAE FAE FAE WAIT! DON'T JUST GO ON YOUR OWN LIKE THAT YOU'LL HURT YOURSELF!" *went ahead to catch up on her*

With Manic on his own, he got started grabbing the cleaning supplies to clean up around his station. But then suddenly realized something.

[Manic]: "Huh. Why do I have a feeling that this weekend is going to slowly turn into something unexpected yet it'll be expected anyway. Like as if it's going to happen but no one knows how it happened in the first place.

... NAHHHHHHHH IT'S PROBABLY NOTHING."

**[2:00pm]
[Planning for Disaster]**

It was the Afternoon and there was still some bustling around Green Emerald Park. The sunlight softens into a warm honey-gold, slanting through thinning branches and making every drifting leaf glow for a moment before it settles on the ground. But not everyone enjoys that kind of peaceful gesture, as there were some that enjoyed the bigger things to the extreme.

We go to our flocking enemies Jet, Wave and Storm where they were working on the TOTALLY EXTREMELY AWESOME RADICAL XTREME GEAR RACE

yes. Jet was the one who named that. (Your guess is as good as mine)

While his team is working on the project, he has them both doing some tasks to make it go faster before Friday arrives. Wave is working on the tracks and the decorations of making sure all the short cuts are in good hands (and all the traps she'll put to make Jet win Last)

While Storm and Jet cleans up outside of the stadium seats where everyone can watch them win the race against Sonic and his friends.

After a long hour of cleaning and preparing, the three decided to take a break and eat their lunch. That was when Storm asked Jet a very genuine question.

[Storm]: "So boss, even though we'll be racing again. Do you have any plans on how we'll be able to win this time?"

[Jet]: "Of course I have plans!*gulps a sandwich* We're not JUST going to beat against them normally. We're going to race them with a few surprises I have up on my sleeves"

[Storm]: "but boss.. you don't have any sleeves?"

[Jet]: "IT'S A METAPHOR YOU DUMB BIRDBRAIN! *ahem* Anyways. Knowing that I have Sonic's little "secret", he'll be too scared to even become first now that I caught him red handed. He'll be so far back behind, he'll beg for mercy to tear the evidence down and BOW DOWN TO US AS WINNERS! AAAAAAHAAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA!"

[Storm]: *mimics his laughing* "I don't get it.."

[Wave]: "AND how exactly is this going to work?"

[Jet and Storm]: "Huh?"

[Wave]: "Just because YOU have his so-called "little secret" Doesn't mean he's going to believe you. He probably thinks you're faking it just so you can win against him and all of a sudden his 'team' is just going to win against us anyway. Do you even know if that's his secret or not? It could've been someone else you know."

[Jet]: "I..ugh okay so maybe you have a point from that sentence. BUT I HAVE PROOF THAT IT REALLY WAS HIM THAT TIME! HERE! TAKE A LOOK!"

Jet takes out a photo of a shadowy figure that looks just like sonic but it's lots of fur and big. It also looks blurry too so he probably took this at night time when he took the picture.

[Storm]: "Uh..boss? I don't see anything?"

[Wave]: "that just looks like a blurry image of.. whatever this is?"

[Jet]: "UH! well..it..may LOOK BLURRY BUT IT'S STILL HIM! SEE? there's the quills.. His shadow.. And uhh..uhm.."

[Wave]: "That's not going to convince anyone with that picture, Jet. I don't think they won't be afraid of something that looks nothing like Sonic."

[Jet]: "MMMPHHHHH" *rips out the photo* **stupid old phone with your dumb camera angles *sigh*** Y'know what? I have a better idea! We'll just have to catch him in the ACT of him turning into that beast"

[Storm]: *raises his hand*

[Jet]: "Yes?"

[Storm]: "How exactly do we catch him doing an act? Like is he putting on a show orrrr..."

[Jet]: " NO NOT LIKE 'AN ACT' like- We'll wait for the right time to see him transform so we can take the PICTURE THIS TIME!"

[Wave]: "what if he doesn't transform or doesn't show up?"

[Jet]: "then we'll just lure him into a trap and CONVINCE HIM TO TRANSFORM! see? Easy as pie."

[Storm]: *raises hand again*

[Jet]: *sigh* "Yes.. Storm?"

[Storm]: "Do we bring pie.?"

[Jet]: "No.. We're not bringing pie when we lure him."

[Storm]: "Can we bring apple pie then?"

[Jet]: "No."

[Storm]: "blueberry pie?"

[Jet]: "No."

[Storm]: "raspberry pie?"

[Jet]: "No."

[Storm]: "pumpkin pie?"

[Jet]: "Are you insane?."

[Storm]: "Key lime pie?"

[Jet]: "I'd rather die."

[Storm]: "strawberry pie?."

[Jet]: "Not on my li- actually you know what yeah we can bring that one."

[Storm]: "YES!"

[Wave]: "Can we PLEAAAASE focus back on our plan here boys? You're making me hungry."

[Jet]: "AH RIGHT! uhhhh.. From when I took in this picture, it seems like he only 'transforms' at night.. Sooooo if we lure him to a trap, and then convince us the truth about him, that moon will come shining on him and then BAM! he'll turn into a beast, take the picture, LAUGH AT HIS FACE and then we'll-"

[Storm]: “celebrate with strawberry pie?”

[Storm]: *mimics his evil laughing*

[Wave]: *face palms* "I could only assume this plan will go either downhill or worse when we lose against those guys.."

[Surge]: "Sheesh you birds are dumb as rocks."

[Jet and Storm]: "HUH!?"

[Wave]: "Oh great it's you two..."

Suddenly, Surge and Kit were walking towards them with an evil grin on their face. Well.. Except for Kit but Surge however.. She has something to piss them off once they hear what she has to say.

[Surge]: *slurps LOUDLY on her drink* "You really that kind of plan is going to scare him off just so you guys can win? PFFHAH! thats gotta be the worse thing I've heard yet."

[Jet]: "Oh yeah? Then what plan do YOU have since you think you're SOOOOOO better than us?

[Surge]: "I ain't tellin' you my plan that'll be a waste of my breath. However what I can say is that you'll be embarrassing yourselves once you realize that this whole thing is gonna be a joke to all of your "adoring" fans and s#\\$@"

[Wave]: "Listen, if you're just here to mock us then it isn't working. We're planning something good for once and I don't see you planning on nothing to stop against us. So why don't you run along with your kid and skedaddle"

[Storm]: "or else..there will be consequences" *he punches his fist to his hand*

[Surge]: *smirks* "you all really think you got what it takes to go against Sonic? Last I checked, none of you didn't even had a plan of how to go against his, dumb friends. And yet here you three are, Planning on some stupid trap to "lure him and convince" and get some "evidence" that you all made up."

"How completely pathetic"

[Surge]: "and Y'know. I would almost feel bad that nobody likes you guys. But then again. You guys aren't very likable anyway."

"It's no wonder he grew tired of you specifically. Jet"

"Poor poor, shame"

Surge's grin was as sharp as knives, It felt like a literal stab to Jet that he didn't know what to say after. Wave and Storm didn't want to let this slide anymore, So they both jumped down from the seats and stood up to Jet and was eager to fight them.

[Wave]: "if it's a fight you want then IT'S A FIGHT YOU'LL GET, YA GREEN FREAK"

[Storm]: " Nobody talks to our boss like that except us! So stand down or it's a beating for you both! It's your last warning."

[Surge]: *gets charged up with electricity* YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BEAT ME? OOH OOH OOH...this is gonna be good..

Just as they were about to start fighting, Kit suddenly realized what **she** said and stopped Surge from charging up.

[Kit]: " Miss Surge wait! We shouldn't be fighting them like this"

[Surge]: "Change of plans Kit, WERE TURNING THEM INTO FRIED CHICKEN!!!!"

[Kit]: "No, Miss Surge I'm serious, Our boss said that we shouldn't be fighting anyone or else we'll all get in trouble..

We wouldn't want to anger Fiona if we just started one for no reason.. So let's just spare them down on this one.

Plus, you said that you're looking for her right? Let's just leave them and keep looking."

Surge then rolled her eyes and groaned. As she put away her fist and crossed her arms

"Such a killjoy," she said.

[Kit]: "I'm sorry." Kit replied.

[Surge]: "Nah it's alright. I didn't feel like killing these dorks anyway. Cmon, let's go." She walked back away and Kit followed her.

[Wave]: "YEAH YOU BETTER WALK AWAY!"

[Storm]: "AND NEVER COME BACK! BECAUSE WE'RE TOTALLY BETTER THAN YOU!"

Storm and Wave turn their head back on Jet.

Jet couldn't stop hearing the thoughts of what Surge said,

Sonic wasn't just tired of him. It was something else that bothered him even more than that. And he knew why.

Storm and Wave walked up to Jet and sat down with him. Comforting him to make sure he's okay.

[Wave]: "Don't listen to what that jerk just said to you, Jet. This race that you put up to is definitely going to be worth it to win"

[Storm]: "Yeah. And besides, everyone will be there to watch US! The Babylon Rouge! and cheering for us! Once we beat Sonic and the others of course."

[Wave]: "And hey, if Surge and her stupid gang come to the race? We'll beat them down too and show them who we really are!"

Together"

Jet felt a warm smile coming back to him. He knew that his team got his back. Buuuuuuut since he wants to be the tough guy he got up, wiped his face off and gave his confident smile back.

[Jet]: "HEH! YOU'RE RIGHT! WE CAN BEAT THEM ALL DOWN! They'll be crying us SORRY for bullying us all this time! As a matter of fact, I'll even give them a little surprise if they lose the race."

[Wave]: "which is?.."

[Jet]: "I'll.. Uhhh.. Think about it. BUT IT'S DEFINITELY GOING TO BE WORTH TO LAUGH AT THEM AT!" *stomach growling*

After we uhhh..find some lunch to grab"

[Storm]: "I heard there's some cafes and restaurants at that new shopping district over there. Maybe we could find some yummy grub there."

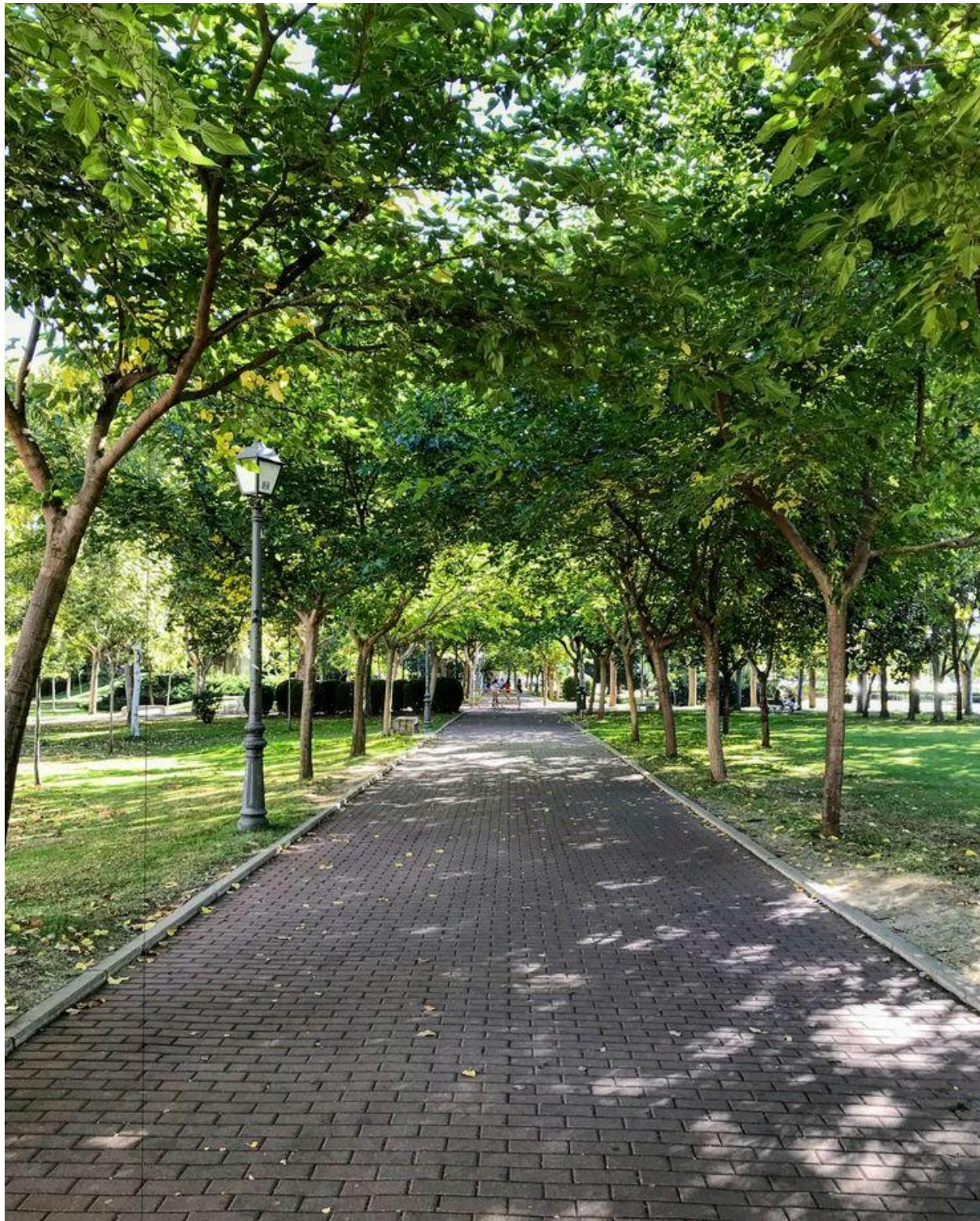
[Jet]: "GREAT IDEA STORM! I can't wait to get my hands on those sandwiches"

[Storm]: "Same!"

[Wave]: "I bet they have some really good smoothies over there too!"

As the team went out to grab some lunch, all of their worries went away, as they still had a few days to prepare for their big tournament. Will Babylon Rogue be able to win over Sonic and his team? Or will they only be fighting against Surge and her teammates.

[3:20pm]
[Reunited at Last]



As the hour passed by, Me and Vincent continued our stroll at the Park. Taking every picture we see while just feeling the fresh air of Autumn. For once it felt very peaceful to go outside like this. And I guess this would be a great time to buy a few supplies here since on Monday there's

going to be a lot of studying. So, we decided to head over to this small market walkway called "Trinkets n Glore" . It's a very odd name I know but this area had LOADS of diy supplies and I am ALLLL FOR THAT.



This was like- DIY heaven for me. I really loved every single object they have around here. There was even booths around that sell fascinating accessories, beautiful jewelry,

delicious food looking bracelets? I couldn't stop taking every picture of them and just wanted to buy it all!! But.. As for Vincent, he kept looking at his hand holding something..it was the keychain.

I went over his head and asked him "Where'd you get that cat keychain?"

I sorta spooked him

[Vincent]: "GAH! F-Fafei you scared me!"

[Fafei]: "Hehehe! Sorry! But uhhh..you haven't answered my question bro."

[Vincent]: "Oh uhh.. This? I uhm..am keeping it for someone.."

[Fafei]: "Oh? Who's it for?"

Vincent looks back to look at it again "A really..nice girl I met."

[Fafei]: *makes a smirking grin* Oh. a girl you say? Interesting... very interesting."

[Vincent]: "Fafei...whatever you're thinking right now it isn't like that at all. We bumped into each other and just met, Then after she left she dropped her keychain and I decided to keep it for her so I could receive it back to her. Nothing else"

[Fafei]: "Mmmmmmm yeah. Definitely give it back to her as you two lock eyes each other.. Your hearts pounds loudly with EXCITEMENT and you both couldn't LOOK AWAY FROM EACH OTHER-"

[Vincent]: "you watch too much romantic anime.."

[Fafei]: "UHHHH EXCUSE ME!? ROMANCE ANIME IS THE BEST ANIME??? Do you have any idea how those writers had to HOLD THOSE TEARS WHEN MAKING THOSE MOMENTS??? and those animators making it the EXACT same thing like the manga is just *chef kiss* Chef. Fricking. Kiss"

[Vincent]: "Uh huh...Sure."

[Fafei]: "Anyways. When are ya gonna give it back to her?"

[Vincent]: "Probably Monday if I have a chance to see her. I just wish I asked Danielle her phone number before she went.."

[Fafei]: "Oooooo Danielle~ a very pleasant name..AND trying to pull in the 'let me have your phone number' move? Reaaaaal sneaky there big bro, might actually be proud of you if you pull that out"

[Vincent]: *rolls his eyes* "Anyways. Have you finished taking those pictures?"

[Fafei]: "Mmm almost, there's also a few things I wanna buy here. But I don't know if I'll have enough to buy them all."

[Vincent]: "Hmmm...we can check out a stationary store and see if they have lower prices there? Plus we're probably gonna need supplies for our studying"

[Fafei]: "Ah. Yes. 'Studying' Myyyyy favorite.." I said sarcastically with an unamused face.

[Vincent]: "Fafei I know you hate studying but you need to be focused around here and do the best you can. You can't just skip classes like you use to"

[Fafei]: *UGHHHHHH* "BUT I DON'T WANNAAAA"

[Vincent]: "if it makes you feel better, I can help you with some of your studying if there's some homework that is different for you."

[Fafei]: *Gasp!* "So you'll be like- my personal tutor!?"

[Vincent]: "In..a way yes. But it's ONLY to help you with your studying, not to finish your work for you."

[Fafei]: *pouts* "hmph.."

[Vincent]: "C'mon, let's head to the shopping district to find a stationary store to find some supplies. And then after that we can eat some lunch together."

[Fafei]: "YIPPIE!!"

As we head into the shopping district, Green Hill Plaza...

And oh my gosh it looks huge.



I guess a shopping mall district would look a bit different than the park itself. I bet these guys took years to make it look..busy I would say.

There's a bunch of shops and cafes around here. It's no wonder Honey and the other girls wanted to come here.

I immediately took pictures of every area I see in this place

I think I took some pretty nice and settled ones but I didn't want to take too many pictures since I don't want to get in trouble from the security. But I did take pictures of Vincent! He looks weirdly good in these pictures..it makes me sick that I have a brother that's so much good looking than me (¬_¬")

But then Vincent decided to take his turn to me and take pictures of me! Which I agree but I won't show it here since I don't look that good in these ones..I'm not that good of taking pictures of myself or really looking at myself in a picture so..ANYWAYS

We took turns taking pictures of each other until FINALLY we found a cute stationary shop to get started shopping.



We both went inside to take a look and inside were various writing instruments like pens and papers, office supplies, folders, and art organizational items like markers, stickers, planners and craft supplies.

This made me VERY excited since I'd been wanting to buy more art supplies for her drawing and maybe a few sketchbooks to buy. BUT I had to remember I had to buy.... **School supplies for studying** 😞...

I carefully took some pictures not only to be careful not to get in trouble but I also wanted to remember which ones I needed to buy next time I come back here.

While Vincent, looking at some school supplies, he spotted a dark chao keychain that reminded him of Shadow's Chao pet, Midnight.

Who he's.. been trying to get along with. Ever since Vincent became Shadow's (new) roommate. Midnight has NOT liked Vincent since day one. nothing but mean and very snappy to him, He just wishes to get along with Midnight and become friends.

But despite that Midnight basically hates him. It was going to be difficult for him to get along with her. But he didn't give up. He found ways to get to know Midnight and to like her. He made a list of things he should try to get along with Midnight like:

- make her breakfast before heading to class
- Give her some attention
- Buy some toys for Midnight to keep her company
- Buy her notebooks and markers for her to draw
- Take her outside for exercise

And many more he wants to write down. So he grabbed the little keychain as a gift for her and continued looking for some supplies.

When suddenly, he accidentally bumped into someone's elbow and immediately apologized for bumping into him. But then he turned around and saw a familiar face.

He wore a red and black checkered flannel shirt—slightly oversized with rolled sleeves, some black cargo pants and chunky black combat boots. He was also holding a black cross body bag and around his neck was some simple black headphones.

Vincent squinted a little, noticing the hair. Until he called out his name.

[Vincent]: "Denshi?.."

The man turned around and looked at Vincent. he haven't heard anyone call his name in that sweet voice since forever.

His face was full of shock when he actually saw his long lost high school friend that his face was flustered red.

[Denshi]: "V-Vincent?.."

[Vincent]: "I can't believe it's you! It's been so long, how have you been?!"

[Denshi]: "I've been..well.."

[Vincent]: "Wow.. Look at you! You've..changed so much. I didn't know that you'd be here? I thought you'd be back at Willow Creek Bay?"

[Denshi]: "I was..but we had to move to another country which is here. I'm surprise you even recognize me"

[Vincent]: "Of course I'd recognize you! You still have that same sweet voice.."

[Denshi]: *angrily flushed* "H-HUH???"

[Vincent]: *starts to blush* "I-I MEANT THE SAME .. HAIR! YOU STILL HAVE THE SAME HAIR COLOR I MEAN!"

[Denshi]: "So it's the hair you recognize but not my face?!"

[Vincent]: W-Well! I mean I was looking down at the supplies and I didn't see you so.."

[Denshi]: *sigh and giggles a little* "You're still the same Vincent I know.. Always finding reason."

[Vincent]: *he flushed* "A-Anyways..What're you doing here in the stationary shop?"

[Denshi]: "I came here to find some supplies..since classes are going to be busy during this semester , I want to get as much stuff as I can before exam season comes around.

[Vincent]: "Ahh,I see! I can help you with what you're looking for if you want"

[Denshi]: "What about your sister?"

[Vincent]: "my sister?- *gasp and turned around* FAFEI-!"

[Fafei] *already behind him* "yo man what's up"

[Vincent]: *relief sigh* "Thank goodness you're here. I nearly thought you left here."

[Fafei]:"Actually, I was going to tell you that I'm heading out to take more pictures"

[Vincent]: "O-oh!..Did you get everything you needed?"

[Fafei]: "Yep! Got all the supplies and some DIY crafts I'll be making. I'm a bit surprised they have some around here but y'know. The more the merrier!"

Oh and don't worry about me, I'll call you if I ever meet up with Sonia when I see her! You just enjoy your little date with Denshi" *i walks out of the store*

[Vincent]: "*muffles in embarrassment* **don't call it A DATE FAE WE ARE NOT ON A DATE-**"

[Denshi]: "She most definitely hasn't changed.."

[Vincent]: "*sigh* That's because she refuses to. No matter how confusing she is, she'll never change no matter what anyone tells her.

I just hope she stays that way.."

Densi looks at Vincent as he gets close to him, worried that he looks upset. "Vincent?..You okay?"

Vincent looks up to look at Densi "hm? I'm fine. Just ..thinking of something"

[Vincent]: "How about we go find somewhere to eat? We do have a lot of catching up to do after all! I really wanna know what you've been up to after all these years!"

[Densi]: *gently smiles* "So do I, I wanna know what you've been doing as well.."

Although Densi was thrilled to see Vincent again after so many years. His heart couldn't stop beating from excitement. He couldn't believe he met up with his long lost friend. But he wonders if someday he'll see him as more than just close friends. For so long, he's been having these deep love feelings for him. But he couldn't say it in front of him without confessing. He hoped that someday. When he gets the confidence

He'll tell Vincent how he feels and maybe be together.. But not as friends, a closer relationship than he thinks.

**[5:00pm]
[An odd introduction]**

I was finally on my own. (thank god)

After that dramatic yet romantic moment between Vincent and Densi, I can go explore the rest of the park, take some photos and just chill for myself.

I didn't really take that much though, just the streetwalk and some floral walls, pictures of flowers and the sky, some food markets and some talented people that were either juggling or playing in a band.

After some picture taking, I realized that I was going to run out of battery. I supposed I have been taking a lot of photos that I completely forgot to have it cool down a bit.

So, I sat down on a bench and looked through all of the photos I took today. Luckily I had a bag holding all of the polaroid photos to put inside so I wouldn't lose them. I gotta say I really did a good job taking all of these! I can't wait to hang them in my room and look at them. And of course some in my memory box.

But then I looked up at the sky and began to think to myself.

[Fafei]: "Man.. This was much more of an unexpected day than I imagined..who knew this weekend would get weirder than the minute.

but then again, no other day would be crazy if it stays normal."

I sighed and remembered my first meeting with Scourge last night

[Fafei]: "I still can't believe I fricking embarrassed myself man...ugh I just KNOW THAT HE HATED ME BY NOW!!

I already feel nauseous from just THINKING about it. I could've made a better introduction, I could've gotten what I need, but instead I just flop things over like a burnt pancake..all because of that STUPID DUMB VENDING MACHINE-"

"Then again though.. I can't argue with him being so angry..he's been through so much, Especially with that big fight with that Knuckles guy..which I hope so so so smuch I get to meet him so I can ask him some questions..and maybe try beating him up."

"I can't blame him for how cocky and rude Scourge was. not only that he STOLEN FOOD AND MONEY??? LIKE...THAT'S BEYOND ILLEGAL THAN ANYTHING!!!

but something about his eyes..his eyes looked a bit pale but had a really..pretty blue oceanic color..? I dunno, it really looked pretty to gaze at- "I immediately slapped my cheek so hard to wake up from that realization.

*[Fafei]: "OW!!! that really hurt but..GAIA WHY DID I JUST THINK ABOUT THAT!? HE HAS A GIRLFRIEND YOU DUMB IDIOT YOU CAN'T JUST SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!" *rubs my cheek**

[Fafei]: "I really shouldn't be thinking of this stuff.. I'm not even interested in that guy! He's totally the worst! Not only that he's Sonia...ex.."

I then sighed and remembered what Sonic said earlier. I still could not believe what I just learned. The fact that Scourge cheated on Sonia. That's like- the lowest baddest thing any other guy (or girl) would ever do to their relationship. I wondered.. *Why did he cheat on her? What did she do to deserve it? And what was their relationship even like?*

I wish I could ask Sonia about these questions, but I feel like that wouldn't be appropriate to ask something like that.

covers my face with my hands as I groan and muffled ***why am I like this way
maaaaaaaaaaaaaannnnnn...***

HONK HONK HONK HONK!!!!

[Fafei]: "huh?..."

Suddenly I heard loud aggressive sounds of..honking? I turned around behind me and saw a flock of geeses I think ten of them or something, was being chased by some kid?

They looked pretty terrified of being chased by the kid but all I see is the child happily chasing after them while holding a bag of bread.

They kept honking loudly in fear, warning the child to go away. But the little kid couldn't stop chasing them so happily.

I quickly got up from the bench, put away my photos and just when I was about to stop the kid, the geeses immediately hid behind me. I was surprised they just..hid behind me so random- ANYWAYS

I stopped the kid from chasing them and they just stood there looking at me. Then I'm just here thinking:

I have never seen any kind of kid that wears a mask before? Is she dressing up for Halloween? That isn't until next month so.. Maybe she's dressed up as a super hero or something?

BUT SHE DEFINITELY LOOKS ADORABLE AHHHH!!- wait.. Wait.. Gotta stay focused

[Fafei]: "uhh..Hey there little one, are you trying to feed those geeses that bread you got in your hand?"

The child nodded their head as she showed me the bread.

[Fafei]: "well..that's very nice of you to feed them like that but, you shouldn't chase them if you want to feed them. You'll just scare them away and not want to accept your bread. These kinds of geeses don't eat bread, it's not good for ...them..."

The child then looked sad as she put hand down with her bread down. She looks like she's about to cry.

[Fafei but in her head]: "*oh no..why do I feel like I just made her cry- UHHHHH QUICK DO SOMETHING BEFORE YOU MAKE YOURSELF LOOK LIKE A TERRIBLE PERSON*"
..BuuuuuT I HAVE THESE BERRIES I'M NOT EATING!! maybe you should try feeding them these instead of the bread!"

I handed her the extra berries.

The little masked girl put down her bag of bread and held the berries to the geeses. The geeses were still pretty scared by the abomination monster they were chased at, but one of the geese stepped forward in courage to take the bite of the child's hand (wow they must've played rock paper scissors to see which one of them was brave enough to face against this none)

The child was excited and then looked at me for verification and I smiled at her and said

[Fafei]: "it's okay! Just stand very still and let them eat the berries. They won't hurt you."

She stood very still as the geeses went up to her and ate the berries.

They liked it already!

The geese honked to their comrades to come eat the berries and all of them came to eat.

The child placed the berries down and the geeses ate all of the berries in a second and walked away.

The little masked girl was amazed by how many they ate. And was happy that she was able to feed them.

I felt proud of the little masked girl. But there was some questions I wanted to ask her about..like

Where's her parents???

I knelt down and asked her where she got that mask but she only tilted her head with confusion. I then asked about where her parents were.

[Fafei]: "Do you know where your parents are? Are you lost?"

The little masked girl still tilted their head with confusion.

I realized that she doesn't seem to speak. Perhaps she was mute? Or is she just shy?

I tried to do some of those sign languages I see sometimes to see if she would understand.

But of course, she still tilted her head with confusion.

[Fafei]: "Alrighty this isn't working..uhhhmm.. Whaaaat. Is. Youur. Naaaaaame?"

The little masked girl points their finger up in the sky, assuming that their name is something in the sky.

I looked up thinking that there's something in the sky but then realized that their name must be Sky! Or so I thought,

[Fafei]: "So your name is Sky? That's a very pretty name?"

The little masked girl shakes her head no and continued to point in the sky

[Fafei]: "Uhhh.." *looks up again* "The Sun?"

She nodded yes.

[Fafei]: "So like.. Sunny?"

She nodded yes again.

[Fafei]: "Awwwwwhhh that's even cuter!!!! Ahhhh I just wanna hug you so muchhhh! But uhh before that, Do you know where your mommy is?"

She nodded no

Fafei: "Ah. Mmm.. Do you know what your mommy looks like?"

Sunny took out her Sunflower purse and took out a drawing picture of her 'mommy' and gave it to me.

And oh my goodness my heart just sank with joy.



This was the most...cutest most ADORABLE MOST- I need to take a moment here because HOW COULD THIS KID'S DRAWING BE BETTER THAN ME!? and this is me being sarcastic either seriously look at it. I MEAN YEAH I'M A ARTIST MYSELF BUT I could tell she tried her very best to draw her mom.

However, I won't judge why her mom looks like that. Maybe it was an inspiration of what she looked like? I wasn't gonna ask anymore questions so I swore to Sunny that I'll...do the best I can to help her find her mommy.

Sunny was happy and excited! This felt like it'll be an adventure for her, but as for me, it'll feel like a challenge. But it won't be too hard for us to find her mom as long as we're on time before the park closes.

I should probably text Vincent to let him know that I'll be a little late to meet up with the others as time goes by pretty fast around here.

And so, the adventure of finding Sunny's mom begins... .NOW!!!

[6:00pm]
[The Search Begins]

Time was ticking but our feets were walking! The first place we started our search was around the plaza. We ask a few citizens if they've seen Sunny's mother. They then said no until i tried showing them the drawing of Sunny's mother to see if they've recognized it

They only just..looked at me weird and pointed me to the direction that probably isn't where she is.

Some just out right ignored us

some just rudely say that it looks dumb and even LAUGH AT IT WHICH I was SO CLOSE to be punching their faces..

And some politely declined saying they haven't seen her around.

This was already a very bad start for us, I was really hoping we'd get at least some answers to where her mother is.. But I could already tell this was going to be a lot more difficult than I thought.

Hoping to find some answers for their search.

We then went to another location to the farmer's markets to look around there.

And yet there were no sights of her mother anywhere.

I begin to worry, It's nearly gonna be evening soon and some of the shops were already starting to close for the day. I had to hurry and find this kid's mom or else I'll be the one who'll be in trouble.

That was when suddenly I spotted Manic, who was helping an old man with their market cart to pack up for the day.

FRICKING LUCK IS WHAT I WOULD SAY!?

I immediately holler at Manic to get his attention, just when Manic turned around and saw me yelling his name.

He had a smile on his face and said:

[Manic]: "Fafei! Hey!" He said while waving.

[Fafei]: *comes up to Manic* "Manic! Am I glad to see you around here!"

[Manic]: "Oh? Are you? Dawwhhhh...Did you miss me already?" He said with a flirty look "I know I'm very memorable and all but I didn't think you'd be thinking about me sweetie"

[Fafei]: "uhh..i didn't exactly say that-"

[Manic]: "I know..i know..when it comes to gals talking about me, missing me whenever they walk past me, they just couldn't stop thinking about their beloved prince charming Manic, and i just know you came here because you missed me that much. Didn't you, Fa-"

[Fafei]: "uhm...actually.. I just came here to ask you if you have seen this little girl's mom. She's lost and I'm trying to find her mother but I can't seem to find her anywhere."

[Manic]: "oh."

[Manic]: "Well I suppose If it's help that ya want then I suppose I can help you with that. Now let's see...does this little one's mom have a picture?"

[Fafei]: "Yes! Er..well..sorta. It's mostly a drawing of her really."

[Manic]: "a drawing of her mom huh..mind if I see it?"

I handed Manic the paper of her mom and..he laughed.

This smuggish chill dude wannabe fricking laughed. At a kid's drawing of her mom, this was the last time I saw someone laugh at her drawing. And you think I would just stand there and let that slide like that?

Ha.

No.

So I decided to punch him in the stomach

on "accident".

Manic fell to the floor gagging and coughing, trying to catch his breath.

[Fafei]: *GASP* "OH MY GOSH I AM SO SO SO SO SO SORRY I DIDN'T MEAN TO PUNCH YOU LIKE THAT!"

(But I wasn't 😊)

Sunny peeking out to looking at him

[Manic]: *COUGH COUGH COUGH* iT'S... iT'S oKaY *gasp* i dEsErVe iT...

[Fafei]: *helps him get up* N-No Manic you don't I.. I don't know what came over me and-"

[Manic]: "nO rEaLIY, iT'S oKaY.." *ahem* "Girls like that always do that to me a lot so.. It's.. *cough* uNdErStAnDaBIE..

Sunny then silently giggles at Manic and claps for him like as if she was watching a cartoon*

[Manic]: "Heh..looks like she's enjoying the show"

[Fafei]: "Eh! ? S-Sunny wait you shouldn't be enjoying this kind of stuff it's definitely not what you should be doing!"

Manic looked at Sunny for a brief second that immediately recognized her.

[Manic] "Oh heyyyyy, I know this kid! It's that magic teacher's mother...uhhh..what was her name? Gosh it's on the top of my tongue."

[Fafei]: "You know her mother?"

[Manic]: "More like..seeing her once or twice.'

"She's this magic teacher we have on the upper floor of the campus. Something that's for like... powerful magic users to learn how to use their magic properly or something."

[Fafei]: "I see.."

[Manic]: "I once met her while I was walking to my class and.. Oh my gosh she's..she's"

[Fafei]: "She's what!? She's what?!"

[Manic]: " total beauty of a goddess..."

[Fafei]: "Eh?.."

[Manic]: "her voice..like the angels fallen down from heaven itself and she's the angel.. Her scent.. Like flowers blooming in spring.. And her breaaaaaaa- HEIGHT her height looked really tall for a woman like her. REALLY TALL!"

[Fafei]: "Uh huh...sure"

[Manic]: "A-Anyways..I saw her kid once with her one time. I think she was bringing her there to show her work around but that was it."

[Fafei]: "Do you have her phone number at least so I can get in contact with her mother?"

[Manic]: "Fae, to be completely honest. If I had her phone number by now. I'd be happy with joy by the minute. But alas, I do not have such a thing to do for that."

[Fafei]: "So.. You don't have her phone number."

[Manic]: "Nope. BUT I did see her today"

[Fafei]: "GASP! YOU DID!? WHERE DID SHE HEAD TO!?"

[Manic]: "I think somewhere at the beginning of the park where the water fountain is at. You may be able to meet her there before the park closes."

[Fafei]: "Then there's no time to lose, Thank you so much Manic and.. Again I am so sorry for punching you in the stomach"

[Manic]: "Hey no worries, I kinda needed that gut feeling anyway! Just go and find her mom before it gets late."

[Fafei]: "I most certainly will! Thanks for everything!"

As Fafei and Sunny left happily. Manic waved goodbye to his friends, still feeling that punch in the stomach.

"Man..who knew that she had a good punch..*oof* Really..gonna need to put some ice on it actually..oi"

[8:00pm]
[Until we meet again]

The sun was setting to the evening set as it was time for everyone to head home.

The streetlamps were turning on and the shopskeepers were closing down their shops. Families and other citizens were heading back home but for Me and Sunny, we're not even close yet to the water fountain. I was beginning to worry that I may not be able to find her in time, and meet up with Vincent and Sonia.

I really needed to hurry.

We were so close to the fountain until..Sunny slowly began to feel tired and quite sleepy.

She tugged my skirt to get my attention and as I looked down, she was rubbing her eyes and asked to get picked up.

[Fafei]: "Hey buddy.." *i pick her up* ..feeling tired already?"

Sunny nodded.

[Fafei]: "All of that walking and searching really tired you out huh..?"

"Alright..let's head to the water fountain and wait there. I'm sure she'll be able to find us by then.

"



I managed to finally get to the water fountain and sat on a bench and waited.
I put Sunny on my lap to let her sleep and then...I waited.

And waited

[8:10]

And waited

[8:15]

And waited...

[8:20]

And waited....

[8:21]

It was 8:21 pm..still no sighs from her mother. And it was getting very late, I even had text messages from Vincent, asking me where I was. This was already looking messy. My mind began to shake with anxiety

"If only I had asked help from the police around here. All of this would've been easier if I just didn't..and I would've gone home faster and..No

that wouldn't be right.

How could I think to myself like that?

What I'm doing is right. Something that a responsible and helpful young adult student will do. If anything, I can wait here until twelve hits if I want to but I won't go anywhere without her mother not being here.

I just have to be patient..i just have to believe she's here and-"

Just when I was still having a moment to mind, someone flicked me on my forehead to grab my attention.

[Fafei]: "ow! W-What the-" she wipes her forehead*

With surprise, Scourge was squatting down with a cigarette in his mouth and looking right at me. Grinning with his cigarette saying:

"heh..Took ya long enough to notice me. was gonna think yer just ignorin' me."

[Fafei]: “*small gasp* S..Scourge..”

[Scourge]: he got up and blew his smoke to the other side and looked at me again. “Long time short see, Shorty.”

“Did ya miss me?”

[Fafei]: “Wh- What're you doing here?..”

[Scourge]: “Came here with my cousin.”

[Fafei]: “Your cousin?..You mean Surge?”

[Scourge]: “Yep. Been hearin' bout this new shop here at the park so I thought.. ‘Why not. Let's look around and see what crap they have there.’ But I never imagined I'd see **you** around here.”

[Fafei]: *looks away from him* “Are you..upset that I'm here?”

[Scourge]: “No..not really” *looks at her directly* “I'm just surprised that you're here..that's all.”

My face felt like I flustered a bit..and my heart just..skipped a beat?...what in the world is trying to say?.

[Scourge]: “Anyways, since when did ya got a job for babysitting?. Trying to grab some cash here or somethin?”

[Fafei]: “oh! I'm not- well..i'm sorta- Uhh..it's a long story.”

[Scourge]: “is the “long story” gonna take up forever? Because I ain't gonna be standing here hearing the whole thing of it.”

[Fafei]: “B-Basically this little girl lost her mom and I'm helping her. Manic told me he's seen her around at this fountain so I came here to wait here for her to find me so I can receive her back to her daughter.”

[Scourge]: “...and you're doing this because?..”

[Fafei]: “.. Because I'm a good person?”

[Scourge]: *scoff* “Wow..yeah you definitely wasted your time on this one”

[Fafei]: "Excuse me?.."

[Scourge]: "You realize that you just spend your whole time helping a kid when you could've taken her to the police? You wouldn't have to be here in the first place if you just let the big guys handle it,"

[Fafei]: "I.. I know.. But..I still wanted to help."

[Scourge]: "Hah..?"

[Fafei]: "Even if i could've wanted, i could've just taken her to the police and let them find her mother easily. But I swore to Sunny that I'll find her mom no matter what and I would never break a promise that I swore to. So even if all of this felt like it was a waste of time.. I still was able to do something that a grown young adult would do and that's all what matters.

I don't care if I get a reward or no reward. As long as this child's safe with their mother's arms then that's all I'll ever worry about."

Scourge hearing my courage speech made him want to gag in vomit.. But something that made him heard about all of that..felt..something"

[Scourge but in his head]: "She's so weird.."

Suddenly, Scourge look at the little girl that was sleepy in my lap, and realized something. Mostly a recall of what some lady said after he bumped into her.

[???:] "*I was actually here with my daughter, Soleil. She seemed to have wandered off somewhere and I'm quite worried about where she might be.. I do hope she's okay.*

If you do somehow find her..please do make a call when you have a chance"

Scourge then groans knowing EXACTLY who this child belongs to, and the woman he bumped into. He then sighed and said:

[Scourge]: "I think...I may know...who this **kid's mom belongs to.**"

Fafei: "*small gasp* R-Really!?- uh..Scourge? Are you..grinding your teeth?"

[Scourge grinding his teeth]: "***I bumped into..a woman..mentioning something about..her daughter..***"

he steps on his foot aggressively while having his hands in his pockets “***and I know... . How... to get... in contact.. With... her***”

[Fafei]: “O-oh! that's..wonderful news Scourge but uhm...are you..feeling..okay”

[Scourge]: *he looks away to the other side not looking at me* “I...look, I'm allergic to helping people like you alright? So just.. Do me a favor and just call her up on my phone.”

he hands me his phone

[Fafei]: “Eh? But..Why me? Can't you do it?”

[Scourge]: “***Like I said, I'm allergic to helping people like you.. So you either take the god damn phone or i ain't helping you at all with this s\$#@”***

[Fafei]: “I-..Okay then, But you'll have to hold Sunny for me while I'm talking on the phone.”

[Scourge]: “WHAT!? WHY ME!?”

[Fafei]: “ I can't talk on the phone while holding her! She'll wake up if I do that! Besides, this'll at least let you be extra helpful today.”

I got up and gently gave Sunny to Scourge, only to just look at me and take the call to talk to her mother.

Scourge couldn't believe he got to this mess, he could've avoided all of this and just walked away. But his guts were telling him to do so because.. Well.. Who knows why. But as he sat down holding Sunny awkwardly. He looked at me.

He looked at me as if he saw something..saw something in me that made him have a calm face. He didn't know what this feeling was or why he has it now. But he felt some..peace around here. He didn't know why.

And to be honest. He quite liked it.

After the full explanation and telling her the location, I hung up the phone and walked towards Scourge with a smile on my face.

Scourge returned back to his serious face and asked: “Well? How'd it go?”

[Fafei]: "It went well actually! She'll be on her way in a few minutes or so."

[Scourge]: "Hm..guess that's good."

[Fafei]: "She also sounded nice and sweet though! I guess Manic was right about her sweet voice! It really is like listening to an angel!"

[Scourge]: "*tch* Yeah right, that angelic voice of hers can fool anybody"

[Fafei]: "Huh?..What do you mean? Is there.. something that you don't like about her?"

[Scourge]: "the way she looks, the way she sounds, and the way she's always so... "nice". I know that woman's got a deeper secret but I just can't prove it"

[Fafei]: "you think she's holding secrets?"

[Scourge]: " Of course she is! She ain't normal and DEFINITELY not just some "magic teacher". because I know something that SHE doesn't. She can fool you or anyone else all she wants, but to me? She's nothing but just a suspicious, tall woman with dumb pow-"

"Now Scourge, that's no way to describe a woman like that" it echoed.

The air trembled before the light appeared—
a thin, shimmering slit in the fabric of the world, pulsing like a heartbeat.
Soft wind spiraled outward, carrying the scent of the galaxies and stars.

She suddenly then appeared out of a spiritual portal, and she had incredibly long, flowing tresses, a mix of deep purple and lavender hues, cascaded in elegant waves.

The most dramatic aspect, however, are the prominent horns above their forehead. A purplish kind the color that looked the same like her hair—Her eyes were covered from her hair but her outfit was delegate and charming.

The outfit features a dark green high-neck turtleneck, creating a sleek and polished base. It is paired with a knee-length beige and black plaid skirt, adding timeless charm with its classic pattern. A delicate layered gold necklace enhances the look with subtle elegance.

Carrying it all together is a black quilted handbag—its texture echoing luxury—with gleaming gold-tone hardware and a fine chain strap for refined contrast. With black suede ankle boots with chunky heels,

She even had moon celestial earrings that looked magical and mythical.

Yep. She definitely looks like a magical teacher alright. And my jaw couldn't stop touching the floor. I could not BELIEVE all of that just happened just now. I almost felt like I was dreaming again.

The woman bowed down as an apology and spoke in her gentle elegant voice.

[??]: "My deepest apologies for my late arrival. it took me quite some time to remember the location to here. I assume that you were the one who called me?"

[Fafei]: "I...uhm... *gulp* yes." I was so flabbergasted by what just happened, I couldn't even say what I wanted to say.

The woman gave me a gentle smile and giggled

[??]: "Oh my! It seemed I may have surprised you a bit too much on my appearance. I do hope you can forgive me on that."

[Scourge but just mumbled to himself]: "more like showing off of that dumb powers of yours you slick mother fu..."

[??]: "Ah, Scourge. I knew you'd come to help this fellow student finding my daughter, I thank you gratefully for holding her and keeping her company." she said as she gently smiles at him.

[Scourge flustered a bit] "W-WHAT!? HELL NO I'M NOT PART OF THIS SHI-"

[??]: *she puts her finger on his lips* "Now Scourge, you shouldn't say such violent language in front of a child like that. Especially when they're sleeping"
She said as she grabbed Sunny from his arms

[Scourge]: "*beep* you..."

[??]: "Oh! How quite silly of me, I completely forgot to introduce myself.

My name is Elysia Runes, but you may call me Miss Runes if you would like"

"I do hope she wasn't any trouble to you, Miss Shons."

[Fafei]: "No! Not at all! She and I had tons of fun together! She kinda helped me through this if it weren't for her beautifully made drawing she did." *i lends Elysia the paper Soleil drew on*

[Elysia]: "Ah! It seems like she used my method to help her along the way! I'm very pleased that it worked after all this time."

Scourge: "it looks like some kind of dog made it with their mouth-"

Elysia then used her magic to zip Scourge's lips. Well deserved to be honest actually.

[Fafei]: "method? On what?"

[Elysia]: "well you see, before we head out here at the park. I told her that if she is ever separated from me, she should draw a picture of me and save it until she show it to the police to find me." "Although, I was quite worried that no one wouldn't understand her since..she can't speak"

[Fafei]: " It wasn't a problem at all Miss Runes, I understood her completely and we waited patiently for you to arrive here! Until she fell asleep of course.."

[Elysia]: *she gentle sighs of relief* "I am very glad to hear that. Thank you Miss Shons for taking good care of her for me! I shall reward you gratefully with respect."

[Fafei]: " Oh! You don't have to do that Miss Runes! I'm just doing what anybody would do. A simple thank you is enough for me"

[Elysia]: *she smiles once more* "Very well then."

Scourge rolls his eyes with disgust from just SEEING these too chatting But as soon as he saw her come up closely, he froze up but Elysia only went to unseal his lip from the spell and thanked him.

[Elysia]: "and thank you, Scourge, for helping this student to come find me. I am very proud that you've learned how to be helpful to others that are in need."

Scourge scoffed at her: "tch.. I didn't " helped" her. I just gave her your number so I wouldn't be talking to someone like you. Big difference."

[Elysia]: "Oh? But aren't we talking right now? It seems like we've just started our conversation already!"

[Scourge getting heated up and growls]: Just take your damn kid and go home already.."

Elysia left him with one last warm smile but Scourge didn't even look at it.

Elysia held her child close and opened the portal saying: "Even though this is goodbye, we shall meet again very soon at campus on Monday.

Again, thank you..for everything"

[Fafei]: "Of course! Have a good weekend!" She waved happily after seeing her off.

[Elysia] :"Until we meet again, Fafei Shons"

And so, Miss Runes left with her child. As the portal closed in front of them. Leaving just Me and Scourge, sitting back down on the bench and sighed with relief.

[Fafei]: "i..can not believe..ALL OF THAT. JUST HAPPENED".

[Scourge]: "yeah well..least it wasn't anything crazier than beating up a vending machine"

[Fafei]: "GAH!! Y-.. you still..remember that?"

[Scourge]: "Course I do, I wouldn't forget the time when it made you stub your toe, it was the most hilarious thing I've ever seen all day"

[Fafei but in her head]: "*he..found it funny? So I did make him laugh that day! It was a good laugh*"

We both looked above the moon, hung full and bright, casting silver over the grass and painting their shadows long across the ground.

I leaned back slightly, letting the soft glow touch my face.

"It's so peaceful tonight," she whispered, her voice barely louder than the breeze.

Scourge, usually so sharp-edged and guarded, relaxed for once. He followed my gaze to the sky, the moonlight reflecting gently in his eyes.

"Yeah," he murmured. "It is."

[Fafei]: "uhm.. Hey.."

[Scourge]: "Yeah?"

[Fafei]: "Thank you..."

[Scourge]: "For..what exactly?.."

Fafei: "For helping me find her mother. If it weren't for you, Id probably be stuck in here forever and really gave up on that.

You really are different from the last time I met you"

[Scourge]: *felt a little blush* " Don't start getting all gushy on me..i only did it so we can get this over with"

[Fafei]: "I know! That's why I wanted to thank you anyway!" "Even though you.. sorta didn't do anything but. I still want to appreciate your help."

[Scourge]: *sigh* "You're a weird gal you know that?"

[Fafei]: "Eheheh..I know..i get that a lot sometimes.."

[Scourge]: "but that just makes you more interesting..i like that." he gets up from the bench and leaves.

I got up from the bench and yells out his name one last time

"SCOURGE!

"EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T KNOW EACH OTHER..I... I...

"I STILL WANT TO GET TO KNOW YOU!! SO WE CAN BECOME FRIENDS!!!"

Scourge came to an abrupt stop, boots grinding softly against the dirt path.

He turned around.

And saw me waving my hand to him.

There, i lifted my hand in an enthusiastic wave, my smile wide and unguarded, as if simply, he saw something much more interesting than his entire day life.

For a heartbeat, the world seemed to hush.
The wind paused.
Even his own breath forgot to move.

His eyes couldn't stop looking at me waving

Until his intriguing impaitent little friend came to interrupt again.

“Eugh..could you believe this wasteful of trash? How could she say that we'll ever get to know each and become friends.

Absolutely disgusting. You should let me strangle her to end her little suffering..

... hello? HEY- ARE YOU LISTENING TO ME?! Oi? I AM TALKING TO YOU?????"

Scourge then blinked and walked away. ignoring his inner thoughts that has said things to him. Only to get him more annoyed than ever.

As I looked at him walking away. I felt..better. overwhelmed by Scourge. I felt like I did a good thing with him. I actually started a normal, sweet conversation with him and he wasn't angry this time! I DID IT!!! but even though I said I'd keep my distance from him, I still wanted to find a way to get to know him and maybe become friends afterwards.

And I think after all of this shenanigans that happened, I walked out to the front gate of the park, Where Vincent and Sonia were waiting for me.

Of course, they were asking me a WHOLE BUNCH OF QUESTIONS of where I was and why I took so long.

But let's just say that today was an unexpected..yet expected weekend.

End of Chapter 3.

□ □ (□□)

Special thank you to @n3gativ and @amyally (on discord) for letting me add their OCs Denshi and Danielle!

All pictures founded by Pinterest!

Fafei, Vincent and Elyisa are made PROUDLY by me (נ-ג)✧

And check out this cool app called OCSN where you can find Fafei and Vincent's Social Media Adventures there! (✿•‿•✿)

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Thank you all so much for reading and I can't wait to see you guys Next Year for Chapter 4 ❤ ~
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