

Mutual Love | Chapter 4

*The name of these chapters (比翼連理) literally means marital vows, and is mostly associated with romantic love between a male and a female, but it can also mean mutual love in general.

Hinata: ...

Yuuta: Huff, puff! Fi- finally found you, Aniki!

Hinata: Ah, Yuuta-kun! Hey hey~♪ How'd you know I was here? ESP?

Yuuta: You know I can't use such a thing!

Sakuma-senpai told me~, he got turned into a staff member after getting hit by a bean, you know.

Hinata: Aah, so Sakuma-senpai really did get hit... He sacrificed himself so I could escape, didn't he? May he have happiness in the next world.

Yuuta: He's not dead, at least not yet. But it looks like he took a lot of damage, so he's resting in the infirmary.

Still, it's weird that he knew where Aniki was.

Hinata: Hmm~... Perhaps Sora-kun also got hit by a bean and sided with the staff?

I was moving with that child until recently~, so he should know where I am.

Practically everyone but us got annihilated, and the number of pursuers was stupidly high...

Our strategy was to split up in two and disperse the enemies, but did Sora-kun fail to run away?

Sora-kun's related to Sakasaki-senpai, who's one of the "Five Oddballs" like Sakuma-senpai.

Maybe it spread through relatives like gossip, and that's how Sakuma-senpai could guess where I was.

Yuuta: Whatever it is, don't move Aniki! You're carelessly talking and all, but aren't you sitting on the bars that are there to prevent us from falling down?!

If a strong wind blows and you lose your balance, you'll fall head-first to the ground you know! What the hell are you thinking? Value yourself more!

Hinata: Ahaha~♪ You were worried, weren't you, Yuuta-kun. We do look alike, but I'm not Yuuta-kun's "own self", you know.

Even if I get hurt and die, Yuuta-kun won't feel any pain, not even an itch, right?

Yuuta: Even if we're not the same person, you're still my brother. Is it that weird to you that I'm worried about my family?! Don't laugh so foolishly, I'll get angry, you know! You're always like this...!

Hinata: "Always"? That reminds me, we've been here before, haven't we?

In summer, I think, when we tried to do something like a trial of intuition in school.

Yuuta-kun ran into the roof, screaming "Aniki~!" while half-crying. Geez, you'll always be a child, won't you?

No, it's not only that. It's always been that way, ever since long ago.

Wherever I go, Yuuta-kun comes up to me crying, desperately searching for me.

It's always been like "that", so I thought it'd always keep being like "that".

But this time, you couldn't reach me so easily, could you, Yuuta-kun?

We've never been apart for this long... acted on our own for this long, right?

Even though we were always like a creature that was two but one.

But, you know, was it even troubling for you? Even though we weren't two but one, you, surprisingly enough, had no troubles at all, did you?

Because we can do anything with the skills we have, and surpass everyone.

Of course, no matter how good we get at things, there will always be someone who's better than us. I realized that when we entered Yumenosaki Academy.

But if we don't aim only for the top, we'll become happy to a certain degree.

Our mother birthed us into such a kind, peaceful, happy world.

She protected us from all the bad in the world, desperately trying to survive... The skills she taught us will let us survive anywhere.

Giraffes can use the leaves on high places as food... because their necks are long.

By taking in the nutrients they need in order to live, they don't perish

The ones with small necks, they all died. And so they perished.

Creatures who can't adapt to their environments go extinct. Only those who evolved with good luck get to live in this world.

Yuuta: Umm, what are you talking about? What exactly do giraffes have to do with this?

Hinata: We, unlike today's usual giraffes, had small necks.

Oddly reverted, different from the other guys. Dad also told us we were disgusting, didn't he?

But we, the we the world has only two of, we gave each other our food, cuddled close and got each other warm, and survived like that.

We trained our bodies, learned techniques in order to survive, and grew up to this age.

But, you know, even if we're strong, even if we've survived, we're no longer giraffes.

We're artificial, characterless things who failed to evolve, who just so happened to survive.

As long as we don't annihilate all the other "normal giraffes", we can't become "normal giraffes".

We're creatures so mutated, so misshapen, that no one understands what we really are.

Even though we desperately pretended to be normal creatures, pretended to be the same as everyone else...

Every bit of us really is different from "everyone else".

That's why, this is painful. Doing the same things as everyone, trying to get on the same level as the world...

Even though people say things like "You're happy, aren't you? Congrats. I'm jealous..."

I'm not happy, not at all... It hurts, it's lonely, it's hard and I hate it.

Sora-kun asked if I was happy. But I really can't lie to that kid... I couldn't say "I'm happy."

Because I'm really not happy. Not even a little bit.

Why? Is there really something wrong with me?

Tell me, Yuuta-kun. Anyone else wouldn't know, but you do, don't you?

Because Yuuta-kun and I are "rare creatures" the world has only two of.

Yuuta: ...Hinata-kun.

Hinata: Eh? Ah, yes, I am Hinata-kun~?

Wh- why'd you call me by my name? I got surprised~, you always call me "Aniki," don't you?

Yuuta: Isn't this fine? It's not like we know who the older brother is anyway... Is it okay if I get a little closer? I won't hit you with beans or anything.

Hinata: Eh~... Even though I was in a distance where I couldn't really dodge the beans for once.

I mean, if I survive, if I win "Setsubun Festival", I'll have to perform on a super large stage.

If you're thinking of the good of "2wink", you'll have to overlook me.

So you can't hit me with beans. You've really calculated that far... "Onii-chan"?

Mutual Love | Chapter 5

Yuuta: I understand why you'd be on the lookout in fear of getting beans thrown at you... Hinata-kun.

I always say inconsistent things, but now I've become more emotionally driven and started moving while thinking about the outcomes.

My childishness... No, how much I'm like a younger brother.

Like how you forced yourself to act as the "older brother", I tried to behave like a "younger brother". That was all relatively unconscious behavior, right?

If we could differentiate ourselves as the "older" and "younger brother"...

If we could understand it, we wouldn't get called "disgusting" by our father-like person again, right?

"I can't tell you apart, you're disgusting..."

Like how Aniki got upset over hearing those words, maybe even more than that, those words wounded my heart.

We're twins. Since we were once two but one, our feelings are also the same. Neither of us want to go through something like that again, right?

Hinata: Yeah, neither of us. But, you know~, that time, dad wasn't really being "honest."

He lost his temper when mom died, so I think he just said that in the spur of the moment.

Fathers are like that. Since he didn't share his blood with us, give birth to us, or anything...

He doesn't really have feelings like "that's my kid~", does he?

We're really nothing like our parent are we? Kids who don't resemble their parents are the kids of demons*~.

* This (親に似ぬ子は鬼の子) is an actual proverb. It's because kids resemble their parents by nature, so if they don't... well, then they're demon children.

Yuuta: There are things you should and shouldn't say.

Not even death can make me forgive that person.

I will never recognize that person who sees us, who mom loved and wished to give birth to, as twisted monsters.

Hinata: Then I'll recognize, and forgive him. Because if we don't get along with him, it'll make mom sad.

Yuuta: You've always been like that. Like how you decided to change on your own.

Since we basically have the same genes, the things we liked were also the same.

But you changed the colors you liked, your food taste, anything and everything about yourself... You forced yourself to try to change.

So that our heartless father, no, anyone could tell us apart.

But, I'll tell you this, Hinata-kun.

You did something as cruel as what father did, you pretended not to see "me", twisted yourself, put yourself in a garbage bag and threw it away.

Hinata: ...

Yuuta: I was lonely, and I searched for you at the garbage disposal site.

As you threw yourself away over and over again, as you buried yourself somewhere, I came to dig you up.

I understand your feelings, but I really can't comprehend this.

At least come talk to me. Even though we used to be "two but one", you always threw "my other half" away, without my permission.

Always, always, you pick up a kitchen knife or whatever, tear me up right from the middle and throw one half away.

It hurts, my blood freezes cold and it's so cruel.

You're horrible, I have the right to complain, don't I? You murderer...!

Hinata: Yuuta-kun, you're wrong... I threw myself away, not you.

So that only Yuuta-kun wouldn't get thrown away by anyone, I took all nuisances away from you.

Yuuta: What do you even mean by nuisances?! You think I can walk without my right foot?! I can't live a normal life if you pluck my right arm out either!

If my right brain disappears, I can't live!

Hinata: Now you're just playing with words, Yuuta-kun.

We're not really sharing a body. You won't lose a single drop of blood, and you'll live as Yuuta-kun, right?



In order to be happy, we have to sacrifice one of us.

Because if we become one, we'll become "identical" to the point where nobody can tell us apart.

That's what I thought, and so I tried to disappear so, so many times, but...

You kept chasing me, Yuuta-kun. What a problem child you are. Move on from being a "spoiled kid" already.

Yuuta: Don't treat me like a child, we're the same age.

Hinata: We are, but in this society, we're both still kids.

Yuuta: That's true. Geez, you always have a response ready, don't you?

...Hey, Hinata-kun. There's something I've been thinking about.

Hinata: Heeh, you're always thinking about things, aren't you, Yuuta-kun? You're sure to make a name for yourself in the future, you might even get a Nobel prize.

Yuuta: That might not even be a dream anymore. After all, each of us are surpassing everyone.

In that case, if the two of us join hands, we'll become unrivaled, won't we?

We can make any dream come true, because there's "two of us".

Hinata: Umm, what do you mean?

Yuuta: Mmm~, we still haven't reached the answer, have we? That's why, let's consult a bunch of people and borrow their wisdom.

We're still kids, so we can get spoiled by our elders, right?

Anzu-san, Sakuma-senpai, all the others... Let's ask them what we should do, surely everyone will happily talk to us.

You know, I just realized... that we made a lot of people worried this time.

At one point, we've stopped being "just the two of us".

Perhaps you've noticed, but this whole conversation is being recorded.

So, this will get broadcasted on the "in-school TV program", and the whole entire school will know about our troubles, and our current situation.

If everyone puts thought into it, surely we can come up with a nice idea.

That's why, please be at ease, Hinata-kun. You don't have to disappear. Please don't throw "me" away for a second time.

...Don't jump down, I'm begging you.

Take my hand, let's return to where we belong.