

# Major League System

## Chapter 521 - 521: Cheap Trick (1)

DONG

"Nice hit Yusuke!"

The ball was smacked into the outfield from a well-timed strike by Yusuke, eliciting a bunch of cheers from the Yokohama dugout.

Although he had been overshadowed by Hiroki and Ken last year, his batting sense had improved tremendously. This paired with his lightning fast legs, made him a big part of the Yokohama offense now.

He stood upon 2nd base and flashed a thumbs up to the team. It felt good to get on base in the first inning, especially against such a dangerous pitcher like Kazuhiro.

"Guess it's my turn now." Shiro muttered, sauntering his way to the batters box.

After gaining some height and putting on some muscle, he was not bad to look at. The confidence in his step and determined expression made him look rather heroic.

"Woohoo! Go Shiro~"

His number 1 fan Kaori shouted from the dugout, wearing a bright smile.

Shiro turned around, flipping his hair to the side before sending a wink her way.

The Yokohama bench stared incredulously, feeling their expectations drop significantly.

"How the hell did this guy get a girlfriend like Kaori?" One of the first years muttered, tears of jealousy forming in the corner of his eyes.

"I've seen better looking toads than Shiro Senpai..."

"PFFT."

Ken felt his whole body heave as he heard the words of complaint, almost causing him to burst out in laughter.

"HAHAHA" one of the first years had no such self control, falling to the ground and causing a scene with his intense laughter.

Unaware he was being made fun of, Shiro took his position in the batters box, a cocky smile forming onto his face.

"Let's see what you've got."

Kazuhiro didn't even acknowledge Shiro, entering his wind up with ease. The immaculate and fluid pitching motion played out in front of everyone's eyes, almost looking like a dance.

The ball came flying out, its speed impressive.

Shiro's eyes shined as he was able to pick the pitch with relative ease. All of his experience as a catcher gave him the confidence to swing unabashedly at the incoming ball.

WHOOOOSH

DONG

The cocky Shiro grinned, not even following the trajectory of the ball. It was as if he knew that the ball was going over the back fence.

"Hehe."

He flipped the bat before turning his head briefly and sent another wink to Kaori.

'Man, I must look so cool right now.' He thought before beginning his victory lap around the bases.

"Out!"

"Eh...?"

SLAP~

The sound of the entire Yokohama bench facepalming rang out over the field, their 2nd hand embarrassment evident.

'We don't know this guy...!' Was what everyone was shouting in their heart.

"HAHAHAHA. No... No, please stop. It hurts."

Ken felt his sides about to burst, no longer able to hold in his laughter.

Coach Hanada let out a sigh, feeling his age begin to catch up with him. He could see Coach Goto trying to hold in his laughter from the corner of his eye, filling him with annoyance.

"I'm out? What happened?" Shiro asked the umpire, feeling ripped off.

The umpire looked at him like he was stupid, "You were caught in the outfield..."

"Outfield?" His eyes zoomed to a tall figure in the right outfield and suddenly guessed at what had happened.

"Damn you tall bastard, robbing me of a home run!" He cursed before heading back to the dugout.

The umpire blinked a few times, not knowing how to respond.

"You hit a fly ball..." He muttered, though the guy had already left.

Ken was next up to bat and had the unfortunate luck of receiving some words from Shiro on his way back.

"Be careful of that right outfielder, he's super athletic." Shiro said, patting him on the shoulder.

Ken looked to the guy in question and frowned. He was lanky with hardly any muscle mass and wore glasses, the word athletic was not one that first came to mind.

Quickly shaking off the distraction, Ken approached the batters box with a serious demeanor.

His eyes moved to Yusuke who had quietly tagged up and made it to 3rd base during the clamor. The two shared a look and Ken nodded.

Ever since the system began its upgrade, he lacked the skills that had made his bunt so dangerous. He thought for a few moments before grinning.

Since they currently had 2 outs, there was no way that Shuei would be prepared for such a tactic.

'Bet they won't see this coming...!' Ken thought, licking his lips.

But in the next moment a small grin formed on his face.

The moment Ken stepped into the box, Kazuhiro's whole demeanor changed. His eyes narrowed and his hawk like features honed in on his prey.

'You're mine...'

Once again, the beautiful wind up and pitching motion of the Shuei player dazzled the eyes of the spectators. It truly looked like a performance rather than a pitching action.

Ken narrowed his eyes, a grin still perched on his lips.

As the ball flew towards the plate, Ken stuck out his bat and crouched slightly, following it with his eyes.

'Bunt!?!'

The whole infield lurched forward, their eyes attached to home plate.

PAH

"Strike"

"Ah..."

The pitch sailed above Ken's outstretched bat and into the glove of the catcher, causing everyone to let out a sigh of relief.

Yusuke quickly turned on his heels and ran back to 3rd base. His heart was pumping wildly after the unexpected miss.

He stared at Ken with confusion, 'What the hell is he doing? I've never seen him miss a bunt before.'

Yusuke had committed to the run home since he fully trusted Ken. He believed their eye contact earlier was an indication that he'd be bunting, yet he never expected this outcome.

"Ah damn, I missed." Ken muttered, looking frustrated.

However, in the next moment an unnoticeable grin crept onto the corner of his lips, as if he'd just thought of something sinister. He had to try mask it before anyone would see.

It was times like this that he missed his poker face ability, yet he made it work somehow.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## Chapter 522 - 522: Cheap Trick (2)

Kazuhiro felt a little frustrated at Ken's actions. He had wanted to go head to head, yet it was clear that the guy was not interested.

'How disappointing.' He said in his heart.

The catcher seemed to have caught on as well, shaking his head in disappointment. All he'd heard for the past week was how Kazuhiro wanted to destroy Ken when he came up to bat.

He already knew that he would be hearing a bunch of moaning after the match.

'He's going to try and bunt again, so we need something fast that will move.'

The catcher crouched down and called for a two-seam fastball, stretching his glove out towards the outside.

Kazuhiro nodded. Outwardly, he looked annoyed, yet his pitching action was still beautiful to watch.

Before the pitcher even completed his wind up, Ken held out his bat, making his intentions known.

Yusuke watched on with rapt attention as the ball traveled towards home plate, ready to let his blitzing speed manifest.

'Please make contact...'

The infield crawled forward once more, just in case the ball was sent to them.

Yet out of nowhere, Ken retrieved his bat in an instant and assumed his stance, shocking the onlookers.

'Fake bunt!?!'

A sense of unease attacked Kazuhiro as he saw the scene play out in front of him.

Ken lifted his left leg slightly before planting it, twisting his body and sending the bat at full force towards the ball.

WHOOOSH

DOOOONG

The ball sailed into the air after being struck with power.

Unlike Shiro, Ken followed the ball with his eyes, ditching the bat and running towards first base. Usually he could tell when his hit was going to be a home run, but after his friend's display, he didn't want to risk it.

It flew into the right outfield, where the lanky fielder began to chase after it.

He'd only run for a few seconds before tripping over his own feet and falling face first into the field.

However, even if he'd been as athletic as Riku, there's no way he could have caught the bomb that Ken just hit.

"YEAH CAPTAIN!"

"Nice hit!"

The Yokohama dugout cheered, happy that they'd been able to convert in the very first inning.

Ken breathed a sigh of relief. He'd had to resort to a petty little trick, but at the end of the day, runs on the board mattered more.

Kazuhiro blinked in disbelief, almost not believing his eyes. He didn't know whether to be impressed, or to be offended at the tactic.

"ORYAAAAAHHH!"

As Ken arrived at home plate, Yusuke was there to greet him, shouting out Makoto's catchphrase and adding to the jubilant atmosphere.

"Dude you had me worried there for a second." He said, dishing out some high fives.

"Really? I was never in doubt." He said, lying through his teeth.

Sometimes as a Captain, one needed to appear confident for the sake of their teammates. Perhaps not as blindly confident as Shiro who celebrated a fly ball as if it was a home run.

"Nice hit Captain."

Upon returning to the dugout, Ken was showered with praise from the team. Getting 2 runs in the first inning against one of the best pitchers in the country was a start they couldn't have dreamed of.

Yet Ken had made it happen.

"Hey, Shiro Senpai... Didn't you say that right outfielder was super athletic? Why did he trip over his own feet?"

"..."

"He's still looking for his glasses on the ground!"

"HAHAHAHA"

Shiro's face turned bright crimson as he heard Yusuke's foghorn-type laugh suddenly appear in his ears. He had been trying to show off in front of his girlfriend, yet had made a blunder.

"I—I must have miscalculated." He said, trying to deflect the issue.

Thankfully, everyone was in a good mood so the bullying didn't last for long.

Coach Hanada on the other hand, was sending provoking faces towards the opposing coach from across the field. From the way Coach Goto's eyebrow was twitching, he was not a happy man right now.

"That was so cool Senpai, we all thought you were going to go for another bunt." Mamoru appeared next to Ken, his eyes practically burning with respect.

"Ha ha, yeah. Maybe if we didn't have two outs I would have gone for a bunt." He admitted, though it was a lie.

In fact, he had been seriously trying to bunt the first ball, yet all he struck was air. Compared to how good he was at bunting with the system, he was now like a novice.

The bomb he had hit was a result of his intense training with his father over the past month. With his schedule now freed up, Chris was over the moon to be involved with Ken's training.

Although it had been hard to explain his sub-par batting situation after doing so well at the U18 World Cup, his father had eventually just accepted it.

Since he'd been in the professional space for so long, he had a wealth of knowledge at his beck and call.

Like Ken had suspected, his Balance and Coordination were the key issues he needed to focus on throughout. Unlike his other physical attributes, these took countless hours of repetition to improve.

Yet thankfully, after immense persistence, Ken was able to see some success after a while.

As Ken was reminiscing about their bonding time, his attention was grabbed by something.

DOOOONG

Ken's head swiveled to the field, his eyes growing wide as he watched the ball sail through the air.

"N-No way."

"WHOA! Nice Ryo!"

Mamoru practically jumped up and down with excitement after the massive hit.

Ryo Doi, the late addition to the starting line up had just walked up and hit a bomb out of nowhere, when everyone had least expected it.

Coach Hanada grinned wildly, practically rubbing his hands together in delight. Judging by his reaction, he was well aware that Ryo was capable of hitting such home runs.

Ken couldn't believe his eyes.

'Since when did we have a heavy hitter like this?' He thought inwardly.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 523 - 523: Reflection (1)**

Kazuhiro felt his body turn cold.

The home run from the completely unknown first year was something that he had not expected at all. After getting smacked out of the park by Ken, his confidence was already teetering on the edge.



Yet his pride was wounded as the unassuming first year took his victory lap around the bases.

"Nice hit Ryo!"

The slightly shy teen's face reddened, feeling a little overwhelmed at the cheers from his teammates. His head was lowered slightly as he made his way back to the dugout.

The first face he saw was Coach Hanada's gloating expression.

"Well done! He he he."

Ryo shied away slightly, finding the coach's reaction to be rather creepy, however it was overshadowed by the big reception he received.

"Wow Ryo! That hit was awesome." One of his close friends Mamoru congratulated him, holding his hand up for a high five.

"I-It was alright." He said, feeling a little embarrassed.

Ken's eyes focused in on the first year, his scrutinizing gaze garnering a self-conscious reaction from the teen.

"Senpai?"

Seeing their Captain looking at him in such a way made the teen feel rather uncomfortable. However, there was a part of him that craved some praise from the figure that he looked up to.

"Mmm, nice hit. Keep up the good work." Ken said simply.

While it might not have seemed like much, it had a great effect on the first year.

"Y-Yes Captain!" He shouted, feeling a sense of excitement run through his body.

"Strikeout. 3 outs, changeover!"

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"Thanks for the game!"

The two teams stood on the field and bowed to each other after the completion of the game. With their new line ups, this match was only a preview of what was to come in the future.

"Ken..."

After the bow, Kazuhiro walked over to Ken's tall figure and addressed him, his body language speaking volumes.

"Mmm? What's up?" Ken replied. He hadn't spoken to Shuei's Ace many times, so he felt that it was a little odd for the guy to approach him on his own volition.

Kazuhiro felt a myriad of emotions as he stood in front of his rival. He wasn't sure if Ken viewed him in a similar light, but it didn't matter to him.

"Koshien..."

Ken raised an eyebrow in question. The guy had his head lowered and his voice was quivering, a sign that he was emotional.

"We'll be going to Koshien next year... Just you wait."

With those words, he walked away, having said what he needed to say.

Ken watched the guy's retreating back and couldn't help but let out a chuckle. They were in the same prefecture which meant they would have to face one another again in the National qualifiers.

Him saying this much showed his intentions.

"We'll see about that." Ken replied, feeling his mood improve.

On the other side of the field, a silent battle was taking place between the two coaches.

"Ahh, what a wonderful game. Thank you so much for your hospitality Coach Goto." Seiji said, extending his hand for the handshake.

This would be a perfectly normal and respectful thing to say if it weren't for the gloating expression on the man's face. His face was practically screaming to get punched.

The Buddha-like smile on the older man's face faltered for a moment, almost crumbling completely.

"Yes of course Coach Hanada, you are welcome to come back any time." He spat through gritted teeth, accepting the handshake.

CRACK~

Seiji's face morphed as he felt his hand begin to crumble under the pressure of Coach Goto's intense grip. He did his best to resist the older man's strength, but could not regain the initiative.

"Coach, the bus will be leaving soon." The assistant coach approached him, putting an end to the post-match fight between the Head Coaches.

Seiji retrieved his hand, quickly placing it in his pocket despite it throbbing angrily.

"Ahem, if you'd excuse me coach, we have some celebrations to attend to. I hope we'll have another great match in the future." He said, turning on his heel and leaving.

Coach Goto gnashed his teeth as he watched the retreating figure of Yokohama's coach. He didn't mind losing to any other team, but for some reason this guy always managed to piss him off.

He eventually let out a sigh, composing himself.

His eyes moved to the tall figure amongst the Yokohama players and couldn't help but sigh once more.

'It'll be tough to beat Yokohama while he's still in the team.' He commented inwardly.

The team arrived at the bus not long later, their spirits high. With this win they had qualified for the Jingu Tournament which would be held in Tokyo in around 2 weeks.

While not as prestigious as other tournaments on the High School circuit, they had pretty much punched their ticket to the Spring Koshien, no matter what result they achieved.

"Well done team, we took out our bitter rivals Shuei with a convincing 5-0 scoreline. To celebrate, let's go get some ramen!"

"YEAH!"

The first years were instantly excited, not expecting such a reward.

However, the 2nd years were well aware of Coach Hanada's rivalry with the Shuei Head Coach and had come to expect the celebration.

The bus ride back to the school was full of fun and jubilation as the players talked about the game animatedly.

Yusuke was busy poking fun at Shiro throughout the duration, his foghorn laughter escaping his lips every so often.

They soon arrived at the school and set off for the nearest ramen shop. Thankfully there was one only 10 minutes walk away.

Seiji did his usual dance at the reception, apologizing in advance for any rowdy behavior his players would exhibit during their stay.

Like usual, he was not stingy, pulling out his credit card and paying for a special and a drink for all of the players.

To him, splashing out after beating his rival coach wasn't an issue.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## Chapter 524 - 524: Reflection (2)

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"Daichi, you've done well these past few weeks." Coach Narukami said, his expression unreadable.

While he did his best to keep a neutral face, inwardly he was rather pleased. It seemed that his actions of moving Daichi to the 2nd team had done its job, as much as it was a pain to play without him on the field.

"Thanks coach." Daichi responded respectfully.

"Mmm. I'm putting you back on the 1st team for the Jingu Tournament." He said, a smile finally breaching his iron features.

Daichi's eyes lit up, his expression not hiding his happiness.

"Thank you Coach! I won't let you down." He said, bowing respectfully.

"Alright, now go back and get some food."

After being waved off, Daichi made his way back to his dorm, his footsteps light.

BUZZ BUZZ

"Hmm?"

"We just qualified for the Jingu Tournament. Will you be playing?"

Daichi's face lit up as he saw the message from his brother. This was the second piece of good news he'd heard in a row.

"Yep, see you there." He messaged back.

With a spring in his step, Daichi made his way back to the dorms and grabbed a new set of clothes before hitting the showers. He was a bit tired since he'd been going above and beyond in practice lately.

After showering, he went to the cafeteria and got some food.

"You're back in the team? Thank goodness!" Kouichi exclaimed, his face showing his excitement.

"Mmm, coach said that I'll be back in the squad for the Jingu Tournament."

The news seemed to raise everyone's spirits, a clear sign that Daichi's status in the team was solidified. After all, who wouldn't want an U18 National player in the team?

Daichi felt his worries melt away as he continued to chat with his teammates. The previous month seemed like a bad dream, one that he'd put behind himself.

After the wake up call from Ken, he was able to get back on track and focus on why he attended Osaka Toin in the first place.

To become a pro.

"Let's go celebrate at Karaoke or something." One of the players suggested.

"Yeah that sounds great! We need a break from baseball every now and then."

However, Daichi shook his head. He was exhausted, especially after filling his belly.

"You guys go ahead, I'm gonna head to bed early."

"Aww come on man, you never come out with us."

"Yeah, come out, it'll be fun." Another player added.

Yet before Daichi could decline once more, Kouichi piped up, "Hey guys, there's a reason why he's a National team player and not us."

"Hey~ that hurts my feelings."

"Yeah, you don't have to be so mean."

"Hahaha!"

Laughter broke out at the table. Despite those words, they were all in good spirits.

"Alright you guys have fun, I'm heading back." Daichi said, placing his empty dishes at the counter.

A few minutes later he arrived in his room and sat in bed, pulling out his phone.

He opened his messages, going straight to his conversation with Miho.

"I just need some space for a while."

"Ok."

Daichi looked at the message history and let out a deep sigh. The last message he'd received was around a month ago, just after being moved to the 2nd team.

He stared for a while, a wild debate sounding off in his heart.

'I'll call her after I make the 1st team.'

This was what he'd said every night after staring at his phone before bed.

The day had come, yet he felt too much shame and embarrassment to make the call. He turned over on his side and placed the phone down, making his decision.

BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ

Daichi picked up his phone and saw the caller, his eyes bulging in disbelief.

"Miho?"

He thought about letting it go to voice mail, but shook his head, his resolve hardening. The longer he let it go on, the worse he would feel.

"Hello?"

"...So your phone does work then?"

A sassy voice sounded out from the other side, causing Daichi's face to pale. He didn't know how to answer the question, yet he knew that he was in trouble.

"I'm sorry..."

"Do you know how worried I was?"

"I'm sorry..."

"Daichi, what is going on with you? I tried to respect your need for space, but I didn't think you would just stop contacting me altogether... It's been a whole month!" She said, her voice sounding agitated.

"I know. I've just not been in a great place recently and didn't want to burden you with all your studies and everything." He said, feeling a deep sense of remorse.

"No, that's not good enough. Do you think that I would turn you away just because of some studies? What the hell do you take me for?"

Daichi silently listened, not that he had much choice. Whatever excuses he could come up with would likely get shot down, because he was most definitely in the wrong.

He had been a crappy boyfriend and there was no changing that.

"I'm sorry. I was wrong. I pushed you away because I didn't want you to see me like this." Daichi said truthfully.

Miho paused, the sound of her breathing evening out on the other side of the line.

"Tell me what happened." Her tone was curt, yet there was a hint of concern in her voice.

Daichi let out a sigh, composing himself before telling her the whole story. He detailed everything that had taken place after returning from their trip to South Korea with the National team.

By the time he had finished, over 15 minutes had passed.

Daichi was silent, waiting for Miho to respond. Just as he thought she might have hung up, he heard the sound of crying on the other end.

"I'm so sorry Daichi, I had no idea." Miho's tearful voice entered his ears, filling him with warmth.

"But I'm still mad at you."

"Hahaha" Daichi couldn't help but let out a genuine laugh, feeling it was a little comical.

"You can punish me when I see you in a couple of weeks." He said with a grin, his mood improving significantly.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## Chapter 525 - 525: Escape (1)

"Argh, I'm so over this..."

Katsuya threw his phone onto the bed beside him, letting out a groan of annoyance. He stood up and looked out the window, seeing the two burly men outside of his house.

They were like a permanent fixture, forever standing sentinel for the past year.

The threat of the Hokori family had driven his father to place him and his brother under constant surveillance, akin to a prison. Apart from school, he was not allowed outside of the house.

Even then, he was shadowed by at least one of his father's men.

"When will this end?" He muttered, feeling a sense of exasperation.

No matter how many times he had begged his father to ease up, the man remained steadfast. While it was clear his intentions were good, that didn't ease the frustration Katsuya was feeling.

His model deals had been suspended, as well as any extracurricular activities that he wanted to participate in. This of course included dating, something that he enjoyed thoroughly.

Katsuya's eyes narrowed, his expression turning determined.

'I just want one day, it's not too much to ask right?' He thought inwardly.

He moved away from the window and crouched down, pulling a rope from underneath his bed. It was a climbing rope that he managed to smuggle in thanks to the help of his lackeys.

"Today is the day..." He mumbled, a small grin forming on his face.

His room was on the 2nd floor, meaning he would have to rappel out his window in order to avoid the guards at his front door.

Just the thought of escaping the confines of his house filled him with a sense of exhilaration.

He was rather athletic so he had no concerns about going up and down the rope. The only problem was not being discovered after he'd left.



'No time to think of such things. If I don't get out now, I might use this rope for something else...' He thought, letting out a chuckle at his dark joke.

Katsuya moved back to the front window and peeked out, ensuring that the men were still there. After confirming, he moved to the other wall and opened the window, poking his head out for a look.

The height was a little daunting, but he'd already made up his mind to go through with it.

"I need an anchor."

Out of all the furniture in his room, only the bed fit his needs.

He bent down and easily made a knot, testing its strength a few times before he was satisfied.

This was not a spur of the moment decision, Katsuya had been planning this for quite some time, even studying various knots and climbing techniques on youtube for weeks.

Impressed with his knot tying abilities, he peaked out the window and threw the rope out, watching it descend to the ground.

"Mmm, time to go."

He placed his chair under the window sill and was about to step up and make his escape, but the sound of the door opening in the next moment caused him to freeze in place.

"Katsu~ I'm bored..." Kiyoshi, his older brother complained as he entered the room.

Yet in the next moment his body froze, his face turning bewildered.

"Bro what are yo—"

In a flash, Katsuya appeared in front of his brother, placing his hand over his mouth and silencing him.

"Shh... I'm escaping. If you can keep your mouth shut, you can come along." He spoke in an aggressive whisper.

Kiyoshi's eyes widened in surprise, but he nodded shortly after.

Only after receiving this affirmation did Katsuya remove his hand, feeling his heart beat wildly in his chest. If it was anyone other than his brother who opened his door, he would have been screwed.

"What's the plan?" Kiyoshi asked, his eyes now dancing with anticipation.

"Just follow my lead." Katsuya stated.

If they left things too late, it just increased the risk of being caught.

Katsuya returned to the chair and hoisted himself out the window, gripping the rope tightly. He was able to easily rappel down the side of the house before landing gently on his feet.

He looked up, only to see his brother's worried expression.

"Hurry up." Katsuya whispered, gesturing for his brother to come down quickly.

What followed could only be described as painful, for both himself and definitely Kiyoshi.

The guy was certainly not athletic, having put on some pounds after finishing school and living a life of luxury. Adding on the fact he wasn't able to leave the house much over the past year, meant he was not in great shape.

He began to slide down the rope, letting out muffled wails as he suffered from rope burn on his way down.

It was only now that Katsuya remembered why he hadn't invited his elder brother in the first place.

'How is he going to climb back up when we're done?'

The thought caused him to frown deeply before letting out a sigh. It was too late to think of such things, especially when they were on a time limit.

Kiyoshi made it to the bottom, falling flat on his backside and biting his tongue.

"Ow~"

"Shhh. Get up and let's go." Katsuya hissed, helping his brother up from the ground.

There was only a little gap between the wall of the house and the fence, meaning they had to shuffle sideways to the front of the house. But this only made him feel more confident that no one would discover the rope hanging out of his window.

Katsuya poked his head out, on the lookout for anyone dressed in black.

"Quick let's go." He whispered, heading onto the street and lowering his head.

"Katsu... help."

He turned, only to see his brother's body wedged between the house and the fence, causing him to almost facepalm.

'Why did I bring him...!' He thought helplessly.

Katsuya extended his hand, pulling Kiyoshi out of his predicament. After which, he quickly power walked away from the house.

"W-Wait for me."

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## **Chapter 526 - 526: Escape (2)**

Once they were far enough away from the house, Katsuya let out a sigh of relief, feeling his heart beating wildly in his chest.

'We did it.'

Right now he didn't want to think of the repercussions if he was caught, he just wanted to go and enjoy himself.

"Where are we going first bro?" Kiyoshi asked, practically bouncing as he walked alongside him.

"Maybe the Arcade?"

"Arcade!? How boring... I was thinking the brothel or something." His elder brother said, his disappointment evident in his tone.

Katsuya shook his head, "You think Dad won't have people at those kinds of places? Use your head."

"Ah..."

It seemed that Kiyoshi finally understood the situation they were in. Just because they had escaped the house, didn't mean they couldn't be caught while outside.

"I guess the Arcade it is." He replied, though he didn't seem to happy about it.

As they arrived at the train station, Katsuya saw a figure waiting alone, looking down at her phone. His eyes lit up as he saw the beautiful and familiar features, causing his heartbeat to quicken.

'Ai? What's she doing here?' he thought.

"Oh wow she's cute." Kiyoshi said, pointing to Ai at the entrance of the train station.

She was wearing a pink skirt and white top, her black hair shining in the sunlight. Even though her head was lowered, it was clear that she was attractive.

Katsuya stopped in place, causing his brother to almost crash into him.

"Man what the hell?" Kiyoshi complained.

Katsuya ignored him, his eyes locked onto Ai's figure. He had been trying for a long time to win her over with his charm, yet she was a tough nut to crack.

"Wait... Don't tell me that's the girl."

Kiyoshi's face morphed, a grin forming on his face. Despite being a little slow in other areas, his elder brother excelled in matters concerning the opposite sex.

If it wasn't for his chubby figure right now, Katsuya would call himself inferior in comparison.

Yet before Katsuya could reply, a tall figure appeared from the train station exit and tapped Ai on the shoulder.

Ai raised her head and saw the man, quickly diving into his embrace and sharing a passionate kiss for the world to see.

Both Katsuya and Kiyoshi's jaw's dropped, not expecting the scene.

'Who is that guy? Is it her boyfriend?' Katsuya clenched his fists tightly, feeling a pain in his heart.

His mind began to slowly unravel, a vicious expression forming on his face.

He was so focused on the two that he hadn't noticed his brother also seething.

"You don't mess with an Adachi's property..." Kiyoshi muttered, making a beeline towards the two, an air of violence surrounding him.

However, Katsuya reached out and grabbed his arm, halting him in place.

"What are you doing?" Kiyoshi said, turning his burning gaze towards his little brother.

"Leave it... She was never mine in the first place."

"..."

Katsuya felt a great sorrow in his heart having learned the truth.

When Ai had first arrived at the school, he had seen her as a trophy. She was a woman that only he was worthy of having.

Yet as time passed and he continued to observe her, Katsuya had felt his feeling change little by little. While the desire to make her his woman had never relented, his rationale had shifted.

Ai wasn't some girl who he could just claim like all the others, she was different.

Unknowingly, he had fallen for her.

"Katsu..."

Kiyoshi stared at him, his features softening. His earlier anger was gone, replaced with a sympathetic look, yet Katsuya felt it was too close to pity.

By the time he had recovered from the setback, Ai and the tall figure had already disappeared.

"Let's go... I'm not wasting this small chance of freedom over some girl." He said, though a hint of sorrow was still evident in his tone.

"Mmm." Kiyoshi nodded.

The two continued walking, though the atmosphere was somber. The earlier excitement had vanished, almost like it was never there in the first place.

They turned into an alley, planning on shaving off some time.

"S-STOP IT!"

A scream came out from deeper inside the alley, causing the two to freeze in place.

"Ai?" Katsuya's face darkened after hearing the cry.

Without thinking, he sprinted forwards towards the sound, his heart beating wildly.

"Wait Katsu!"

The sound of his brothers voice trailed from behind him, but he ignored it. There was only one thing on his mind, saving Ai.

As he rounded the corner, it took a moment to realize what was happening in front of him.

He saw Ai's figure against the wall, shielded by the tall man he'd seen earlier. He was facing 3 assailants who seemed to be enjoying themselves.

At a quick glance, he couldn't recognize who they were, which was odd since his father employed most of the thugs around Tokyo.

"Stop what you're doing!" He yelled, already sprinting towards the scene.

Before anyone could react, he sent a flying kick towards the closest thug, sending him to the ground instantly.

Just as he was about to turn and see if Ai was okay, he felt a sudden pain in his side, causing him to let out a yelp and double over.

His eyes moved to another one of the thugs who was holding a metal baseball bat and instantly knew what had happened.

From the intense pain in his side, he wouldn't be surprised if his ribs were broken.

"The boss only told us to take the tall guy, what do we do with this pretty boy?" One of the thugs asked.

The guy who Katsuya had sent to the ground earlier with his fly kick stood up, his face red with anger.

THWACK

He sent a punch directly into Katsuya's face, causing his vision to swim.

"Take that bastard too." He said, spitting on the downed teen.

The last thing Katsuya saw before he lost consciousness was Ai's panicked face as the tall guy was beaten in front of her.

'I'm sorry Ai, I couldn't protect you.'

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.

## Chapter 527 - 527: Captured (1)

Ken felt his entire body throb with pain, his groggy eyes opening slowly as a sense of disorientation overcame him. He blinked a few times, his eyes scanning the vicinity with question.

'Where am I?'

As his mind worked to try and piece together the missing pieces, he felt a sharp pain in his head. Ken tried to massaged his temples, but the sound of a metal chain entered his ears, causing him to freeze in place.

He was tightly bound to a chair, his hands and feet tied up like a prisoner of war.

The first thing that set in was panic, causing his heart to race in response to the danger he was in. But that only caused his throbbing body to ache even more.

He paused for a moment, trying to calm down.

'Wait, Ai!'

The panic which he'd tried to pipe down suddenly came back in full force. His eyes quickly scanned the surroundings.

They were in some sort of warehouse with various boxes and shelves scattered around the place. The small amount of light pouring in from the outside told him that it was getting close to sunset.

Despite looking around the place, he couldn't see anyone else in the vicinity. Yet that didn't do much to ease his worries.

"Ai... I hope you're safe." He muttered.

Ching~

The sound of clinking chains rattling entered his ears from behind Ken, causing him to almost jump in fright.

"Who is there?" He shouted in a low voice, his anxiety peaking.

"Urghh, where am I?"

The voice was male and sounded disoriented, allowing Ken to breathe a sigh of relief. Though he couldn't see who it was, he could at least deduce that it wasn't his captors.

"Who are you? Do you know why we've been captured?" Ken asked, trying to turn his head and get a look at the other person.

A few moments of silence passed as the other figure seemed to be getting his bearings.

"I should be asking you the same question..." He spat, his anger evident.

'Hmm? He seems to have an issue with me.' Ken remarked in his heart, though he didn't know why. He was just as much of a victim as the other guy.

Not wanting to waste precious time bickering, he introduced himself.

"I'm Ken Takagi, a 2nd year at Yokohama High." He said.

"Katsuya Adachi, 2nd year at Joshibi High..."

"Joshibi? You go to Ai's school?" Ken remarked with surprise.

However, he didn't receive a response.

"Wait, were you that guy that came with a fly kick and tried to save us?"

"...Mmm"

Ken's opinion of Katsuya improved considerably. However, his guilt grew at the same time. This guy was just trying to help him out as a good Samaritan, but he'd been dragged into this mess.

"Thank you for trying to help me out... And I'm sorry you were also captured." He said sincerely.

"I wasn't doing it for you..." Katsuya said, his tone rather depressed.

Ken frowned in response, trying to understand what he meant.

'Does he know Ai? Is that why he tried to help?'

He shook his head, it didn't matter now. Right now their focus should be on escaping, something that seemed impossible at this moment.

"Hey, do you think you can get free?" Ken said, still trying to turn his head.

"Are you dumb?" Katsuya's tone was scathing.



"H-Hey, I'm just trying to think of ways to save us both."

Katsuya let out a sigh, seeing Ken struggle in his confines. "Your chair isn't bolted to the ground, just turn and face me."

"Ah..."

Ken felt a little embarrassed, but he did as he was told, shuffling the chair around till he was facing Katsuya. The guy's face was bloody and bruised, yet he was still attractive.

For some reason, this kind of pissed him off.

Katsuya's gaze was on him at the moment and he could sense a mix of emotions from the guy. It wasn't outright hate, but he could tell at a glance that the guy did not like him.

Ken let out a sigh, not knowing how he could have gotten into such a mess. He had met Ai at the train station and was heading back to her apartment to drop off his things.

They had the Jingu Tournament starting in a couple of days, so Ken decided to stay with Ai in Tokyo until it began. Yet he didn't expect to be jumped and kidnapped right away.

"Katsuya... I'm not from Tokyo, do you know who would capture us and for what reason?" It was a long shot, but Ken hoped he might be able to find some clues.

Katsuya was silent for a little while, but his expression spoke volumes.

"It's probably the Hokori family who captured us." He said, his gaze lowered.

"Hokori family? Who is that?" Ken was confused.

"Haaah, you wouldn't understand." Katsuya mumbled, letting out a deep sigh.

Ken thought it was odd that this guy who he thought was just a good Samaritan would know so much. Was this why he was captured as well?

"Yeah, well how about you explain it to me..."

Ken's tone shifted. If he was thankful and polite before, he seemed rather annoyed now. It was only natural since he wanted any sort of information as to who their captors were, or why he'd been captured in the first place.

His gaze fell on Katsuya who didn't seem to want to make eye contact. The guy was clearly in pain, but he seemed rather calm on the outside.

"What good will it do you? This is a crime family we're dealing with..."

Ken's eyes widened, "A crime family? Like the Yakuza?" a shiver ran down his spine.

'Why would someone like that want to capture me?' He thought.

He remembered the thugs mentioning that their boss had told them to capture the tall guy, which obviously referred to himself.

Ken's mind raced, trying to think when he could have offended someone like this.

Tip: You can use left, right keyboard keys to browse between chapters.