

Major League System

- Chapter 528 - 528: Captured (2)

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Then his body froze as a single name appeared in the forefront of his mind.

'Tetsuhiro?'

Initially, Ken shook his head. However, the more he thought about it, the more the details started to line up.

'The police said Daichi's mother's murder was from a robbery, but the news reported it as a gang related incident...'

As his mind began to put together the pieces, his body turned cold.

If his Grandfather's words about Tetsuhiro being the mastermind behind the murder was true, did that mean he had used the Hokori family to do so? If that was the case, then could the reason he was captured be at that guys request?

'Is he going to kill me too?'

The thought flickered in his mind briefly, causing a spike of fear.

"Oi, why did you just turn pale." Katsuya's voice called out, snapping Ken out of his reverie.

He hadn't noticed that his fear and dread were being broadcast on his features. But what choice did he have? If his theory was true, then this could be the end of his new life.

"Who is the boss of the Hokori family?" Ken asked, his voice quivering.

But Katsuya scoffed at him in response, "How the hell should I know?"

"Ohh, you guys seem to know who were are?"

The sound of an amused voice came from behind Ken, causing both the teens to turn around and look at the new arrival.

He was average height and rather skinny, donned in a perfectly tailored black suit. His small goatee and sunglasses on his face gave him a typical mobster look.

The guy took off his sunglasses, revealing a pair of cruel eyes and a scar on his left. Though he might be a little intimidating, it was the two people who flanked him that were the most imposing.

Their large figures made them look like bodybuilders as they towered over the guy in the middle.

"Well I guess there's no need for introductions then, if you figured out who we are already." The guy said, casually dusting something off his suit jacket.

"What do you want?" Ken asked, glaring at the trio.

The guy in the middle blinked a few times, before a vicious smile appeared on his face.

He looked over his shoulder to one of the big guys and made a gesture with his head, as if giving an order.

It wasn't until the big guy slowly began walking to him that Ken realized his mistake.

THWACK

With his hands and feet bound by chains, there was no way he could avoid the large fist that came barreling towards his face. In an instant, his eyes began to water from the force of the blow.

The metallic taste of blood entered his mouth, followed by a wave of pain.

"Ahem. I hope that taught you a lesson." The one in charge said, fastening his tie casually.

Ken remained silent, despite the pain. Now was not the time to be rash.

"Good good. It seems like you are smart after all." He said, wearing a mocking grin.

One of the big guys grabbed a chair, placing it down in front of the leader without a word. He casually took a seat, crossing his legs.

After he was seated, his entourage produced a cigarette and lit it after placing it in his mouth. Like that, it seemed the guy was ready to get down to business.

"It seems like we caught a big fish as a bonus." The guy said, blowing out a fresh plume of smoke towards the two teens.

'Big fish?' Ken's eyes flashed with confusion as he turned and looked at Katsuya.

The guy didn't seem to react, still wearing his same defeated expression as before.

"Tokuzo family's Katsuya, son of the Lieutenant Tomoya... We'd been trying to find you for so long but your father was way too cautious."

He grinned, as if finding the situation amusing.

Yet Ken's mind was racing. The guy who had tried to help him was also part of a gang?

At the mention of his father, Ken could see Katsuya's body tremble from the corner of his eye. It was tough to tell, but his expression looked to be filled with regret.

"Yet here you are, captured after trying to save a random nobody. To be honest, I almost didn't believe my guys when they told me." The leader said with an amused tone.

The guy seemed to be enjoying himself, flaunting his power over them with practiced ease.

"Well, I guess I can kill two birds with one stone." He said, standing up in the next moment.

He took out his phone, as if he was going to take a photo.

"Hmm, not dramatic enough."

With another gesture, the big guy waltzed over to Katsuya and grabbed his hair, pulling his head up.

THWACK

He sent a devastating punch towards the teen, causing blood to leak out of his nose.

"Much better!" The leader exclaimed.

In the next moment the sound of the camera shutter sounded out, signifying that he'd taken the picture.

"Your turn now." He said, turning to Ken.

Thankfully, it seemed like his face was beaten up to the guy's satisfaction, as he didn't call for one of his lackey's to hit him again.

CLICK

"See? That wasn't so hard now was it?"

Of course, neither Ken nor Katsuya responded to the rhetorical question. He wasn't sure about Katsuya, but Ken definitely did not feel like getting beaten again.

Seemingly satisfied with his work, the leader placed his phone in his pocket and turned his heel.

"You should probably get some rest, you're gonna be here for a while." He said, letting out an eerie laugh.

The laugh echoed in the empty warehouse as he walked off, leaving the two of them alone.

A few minutes passed as both Ken and Katsuya stayed in silence. There was a sense of despair that hung in the air as a result of their helpless situation.

'Mom, Dad, Daichi... Ai... I miss you.'

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

Chapter 529 - 529: Provoking the Hive (1)

"Oi, wake up!"

Ai heard a panicked voice, breaking through the fog of her consciousness.

She opened her eyes slightly, feeling a budding headache and throbbing on the side of her face. She saw a face she didn't recognize, but there seemed to be something familiar about it.

"Katsuya?" Ai asked, her mind still feeling jumbled.

"Where is he!? Where is Katsuya?" The figure had her by the shoulders and was shaking her, as if doing so would provide him the answers.

"I—I don't know!" She said, breaking free from his grasp.

She was frightened and somewhat injured.

"Where is Ken?" She asked, looking around the alley briefly before her heart sunk in realization, suddenly remembering what had happened.

A sense of panic rose in her heart, "T-They took them both! Ken and Katsuya." She shouted, looking towards the unknown person closest to her.

"Call the police... We have to find them." She pleaded.

"No, we can't call the police." The man stated, his face grave.

"What do you mean!? We have to save them!" Ai insisted, her voice growing more panicked.

"I never said we wouldn't find them, just don't call the police." He said, grabbing her by the arm and onto her feet.

Ai looked at him with a hint of confusion. Yet now that she got a good look at him, she noticed that he shared similar features as Katsuya, though he was more hefty.

"Follow me." He said, turning on his heel and power walking out of the alley.

Ai hesitated for a moment before quickly following after him. She had no other choice but to trust him right now.

However, she quickly pulled out her phone and began typing away while trying to keep up with the figure. Despite the guy's size, he was able to move swiftly.

"Dad, we were attacked and now Ken is missing. Please help."

After sending the message, she was about to put the phone in her purse but dropped it on the ground accidentally.

"Damn it." She cursed, quickly grabbing it off the ground.

Unfortunately the screen cracked completely, cutting off the visual.

"Hurry up! We don't have time." The man barked, his face full of worry.

"C-Coming." She replied, slipping the broken phone into her purse.

"Have their been any moves from the Hokori family lately?" Tomoya asked, sitting back in his leather chair, the exhaustion evident in his voice.

"Only a few grunts skulking around town." Tsukasa replied, running his hand through his balding hair.

It had been a couple of months since the murder incident and they had felt the effects of law enforcement cracking down on their activity.

Due to the boss only truly trusting a few individuals within the family, all four of the Lieutenants were ordered to stay in Tokyo and help manage the businesses. Without income, the family would fracture apart.

While he was willing to make this sacrifice, Tsukasa was starting to get homesick.

"I just wish we could put an end to those bastards..." He said, feeling a sense of frustration rise from within.

Tomoya nodded, sharing the sentiment.

"I'm surprised that they can still afford to remain in Tokyo... We still have a stranglehold on the businesses despite them trying to take over. I doubt their revenue from Hokkaido is enough to sustain this turf war." He said, scratching his chin in thought.

Tsukasa raised his eyebrow in response. He was no good at numbers, but he made up for it in other areas.

"So what are you saying? Some wealthy person is sponsoring them?"

Tomoya shrugged, "I don't know. It's possible, but I can't say for sure."

Tsukasa frowned slightly, deep in thought. "Well it's not out of the question. We have our own sponsors in the business world." He added.

The two went into silence, both deep in thought.

SLAM

The sound of a door slamming open caused both of the men to snap their heads in the direction.

"Kiyo? What the hell are you doing here? You should be at home." Tomoya rose to his feet, anger adorning his features.

However, it only took a few moments to see the utter panic written over his son's face.

"D-Dad! Katsu has been captured."

"WHAT!?"

Both Tsukasa and Tomoya exclaimed in shock.

"Tell me what happened!" Tomoya roared, his figure looking intimidating.

"I didn't see it, but this girl did." Kiyoshi said, moving aside and revealing a frightened figure behind him.

Tsukasa eyes landed on the girl, but he took a moment to register who it was.

"Ai? Is that you?" He asked in disbelief.

Only after hearing the man's voice did the girl raise her head, the look of fear still painted on her features.

"Uncle Tsukasa?" She gasped.

Upon realizing who it was, her brave face crumbled and she began to cry, running forward to his embrace.

Tomoya looked on with confusion, though it was quickly replaced with urgency.

"Tell us what happened, time is of the essence."

Tsukasa pat Ai on the back, trying to calm her. He could feel her entire body shaking after going through the ordeal.

He sent Tomoya a brief look as if to tell him to wait a moment, only to receive a reluctant nod in response.

"Ai honey, everything is okay now." Tsukasa said, holding her at arms length and giving her a reassuring smile.

It took a few moments, but Ai was finally able to calm down. She briefly turned to Tomoya before looking back at her Uncle.

"I-I was meeting Ken at the train station earlier and we were going back to my apartment to drop off his bags. But then we were ambushed by 3 thugs..." She said, lowering her head.

"And then what happened?" He asked.

"We tried to run into an alley, but it was a dead end." She paused, as if gathering her words, "They cornered us and beat him up..."

"But what abou—"

Tsukasa flashed Tomoya another look, forcing the words back down his throat.

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

Chapter 530 - 530: Provoking the Hive (2)

"Keep going Ai, I won't let anyone else hurt you don't worry." Tsukasa said, his tone soothing.

She nodded, though the anxiety was still present in her eyes.

"Then Katsuya came out of nowhere, kicking one of the thugs. But one of the other guys hit him with a baseball bat and he fell to the ground..."

SMASH

Everyone in the room turned to Tomoya who had just smashed a glass on the ground, his face red with fury. The sound of his gritted teeth made it seem like they were going to break under the pressure.

"And you said they took him? My son?" Tomoya spat out his question through his teeth, suppressing his rage.

Feeling a little intimidated, Ai shrank backwards. But after feeling the strong arms of Tsukasa, she seemed to feel safe enough to answer.

"They took both Katsuya and Ken... I don't know where they went and I couldn't follow them because they knocked me unconscious." She replied.

Tomoya was silent for a moment, as if he was composing himself.

"Kiyoshi... You said it was the Hokori family? How sure are you?"

"I—I'm not sure." Kiyoshi admitted.

Tomoya nodded and moved towards the door, opening it fully.

"Men! Gather everyone, we'll be searching the entire city."

His words caused everyone in the bar to stand at attention, calling back in affirmation.

"Yes boss!"

He turned to Tsukasa and spoke a few words, "Call Shin and Naoki, I'm afraid of what they'll do if we're too late."

Tsukasa nodded, his expression turning grave, yet inwardly his mind was racing.

'Why did they target Ken? What would the Hokori family want with him?' He thought, feeling puzzled.

It was one thing going after someone that was part of their family, but Ken was not one of those people. From his understanding, the guy was just a really good High School baseball player.

After hearing Tomoya's grim words, Ai began to panic once more. She gripped onto Tomoya's wrist and paled.

"Is Ken gonna be okay?" She asked, fear written on her face.

"Mmm, don't worry we'll find him." Tsukasa said confidently.

He then paused, "Wait, did you tell your dad what happened yet?"

BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ

Tsukasa raised his eyebrow and dug into his pocket, retrieving his phone.

"Hey..."

The voice was loud on the other end, almost bursting his eardrums in the process. He held the phone far away from his face and waited for the guy to finish.

"Don't worry Tetsu, I've got your girl with me now at the base."

At these words, the voice let out a sigh of relief.

Tsukasa handed Ai the phone, as if to verify.

"Dad? I'm with Uncle Tsukasa. I broke my phone."

"Thank goodness sweetheart... Don't worry, I'll be there soon. Do me a favor and put yer Uncle back on."

Ai did as she was told, handing the phone back to Tsukasa.

"Tsukasa... I don't give a crap about yer turf war. I'm endin' it today..."

The voice on the other end caused a shiver to run down Tsukasa's back, however there was a hint of excitement that appeared right after.

"No one touches my daughter..."

With that, the call ended. If it wasn't for their current circumstances, a wide grin would have been on Tsukasa's face. He'd never seen his friend this angry before.

Inwardly, he knew that the Hokori family were in for some trouble.

"Go take a seat Ai. Your father should be here in about an hour." He said, gesturing towards one of the comfy leather chairs.

"Uncle Tsukasa, what are you going to do?" She asked, feeling nervous.

"We're gonna search the city for Ken and Katsuya. We'll have them back in no time, especially with your Dad helping." He said, wearing an assuring grin.

In one of the top floors of a Tokyo skyscraper, 10 men sat around a large white table.

One of the men was standing up in front of a projection while the others listened patiently.

"As you can see, our company's bottom line has increased by a further 1.2% this quarter. This will mark the 2nd year in a row we've shown growth, despite our numerous sponsorships." The figure said smilingly.

Everybody in the room clapped, aside from the wide shouldered man at the head of the table. No one seemed to mind though, continuing to celebrate the companies achievements.

"Tanaka, would you like to share next?" The man who had just finished his presentation called another up.

"Thank you Ida."

He walked up to the front and took control of the meeting, bringing up his presentation.

"I want to show you our various community projects we're running at the moment and the benefits we've been able to achieve."

He began his presentation, garnering the attention of the others in the room.

The door opened slowly and silently as a figure walked in. He moved towards the man at the head of the table and whispered something in his ear, quickly disappearing shortly after.

Though people had seen the interaction, no one chose to say anything, turning their attention back to the presentation.

The wide shouldered man's face turned up into a small smile before he got up from his chair. Only now did everyone turn to face him, some fear on their expressions.

"Gentleman, I have another appointment. Please continue amongst yourselves." He said, buttoning up his suit jacket in the process.

"B—But Chairman, this is the yearly report. Don't you want to know our results?" One of the figures asked, his tone sounding weak and afraid.

All it took was a brief glare for the man to shrink back in his chair.

"Send it in an email..." He said simply.

With that, he made his way to the door, receiving no more complaints from anyone else. In fact, only after he left did the tension in the room disappear.

Upon leaving the meeting, a grin appeared on the man's face as he walked back into his office. Now that no one was around, he could let his true emotions show.

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

Chapter 531 - 531: Meeting (1)

In a back street in Tokyo, a small and rather old looking car pulled up abruptly. A man wearing a black tank top stepped out of the vehicle with a menacing look on his face.

Tetsu slammed his door shut, his eyes falling upon a bar with two large men out the front dressed in suits. Without any fanfare, he walked up to the doors and was about to go in.

"The place is closed." One of the men said, placing his hand on Tetsu's chest.

"Ya got 2 seconds to let me in before I break yer fingers." Tetsu said, his voice barely containing his anger.

Those words were all it took for the guards vigilance to reach the peak. Just before the violence was about to occur, the door opened, showing a balding man with colorful tattoos down both his arms.

"Let him in, we don't have enough men to send you to the hospital." He said dismissively.

"Y—Yes sir!" The guard stammered quickly moving out of the way.

Instead of being thankful, Tetsu glared at his friend, "Where is she?"

Tsukasa didn't seem to mind his attitude, motioning for him to come inside.

"Daddy!"

The sound of his daughter's voice seemed to melt away all the anxiety within Tetsu.

"Ai!"

Ai ran into his arms, gripping him tightly. He could feel her body shivering, causing him to tense up.

"It's okay darlin' Daddy's here." He said softly, patting her on the back and trying to calm her down.

The two stayed like this for a while, as if there was nobody else in the room. To him, nothing mattered as long as his daughter was safe.

Only when he felt his daughter's body relax did Tetsu release his tight hold on her. He held her at arm's length and inspected her, making sure there were no injuries.

Yet when he saw the large bruise on her cheek, his gaze hardened.

"Who laid hands on you?" He said, his tone as icy as the depths of hell.

Ai's face morphed, looking as if she was going to start crying.

"Those thugs... The ones that took Ken." Her eye's began to tear up, but it looked like she was trying her best to stay composed.

"Who gives a damn about that kid, they got my son!" A voice yelled from across the room, his fury palpable.

Tetsu turned his head to the direction of the voice for a moment before ignoring him. He turned back to Ai and began to comfort her some more.

To him, his number one priority was in his embrace.

"Dad... You're gonna save him right?" Ai asked, her teary and pleading eyes looking at him expectantly.

To a father, there was nothing more powerful than such a request from their daughter. Even with a heart of stone, who could refuse such a heartfelt and earnest request?

"Mmm, don't worry darlin', Daddy's gonna find those bastards who did this to you." He said, patting her on the head.

"Alright that's enough of your reunion, can we start the damn search already?" Tomoya's voice sounded out once more. He had been pacing back and forth, his anxiety palpable.

Tetsu turned his gaze, an obvious dislike apparent in his eyes, however he didn't snap back. What kind of hypocrite would he be to chastise another father for their reaction to losing their son.

"Be patient Tomo, everyone should be here in a few minutes." Tsukasa said, though his face also showed some signs of worry.

As if waiting for his words, the door opened.

Tetsu turned his attention to the 3 figures who came in. Two were dressed in traditional Kimono's while the other was in a pinstripe suit.

He recognized them all, though it had been a long time since they'd last met.

"Boss."

Everybody in the room besides Tetsu and Ai bowed, welcoming the arrival of their boss.

"Enough, let's go to the back room. We have little time to waste." He said, waving his hand.

With that, the four Lieutenants and Tetsu entered the back room and headed towards the table.

Tetsu walked through the threshold with Ai in tow, but was suddenly stopped.

"You may enter, but the little girl stays behind." The guard said, placing his hand on Ai's shoulder.

BANG

In the flash of an eye, the guard was slammed against the wall, his throat held securely by Tetsu's large fingers. With a slight tug, the life of the guard would be over.

SHIIING

Tetsu felt the cold steel of the Katana pressed up against his throat, yet he didn't budge. His eyes were filled with fury, ready to take down the man who had just touched his daughter.

"Shin, sheathe your sword." The boss said, his voice sounding weary.

Without a word, the sword was returned to its sheath, yet Tetsu did not pull his hand back.

"Let her in as well. We don't have time for such posturing."

At these words, Tetsu pushed the guard before relinquishing his grip on the guy's throat. He would not let anyone touch his daughter, not after all that had happened.

With that, the two entered and found a seat next to each other.

The boss let out a sigh, his weariness evident. It was clear that things had gotten out of control and they needed a plan.

"Get the map." He said softly.

His eyes lingered on Tetsu for a few moments, a mysterious emotion painted on his wrinkled expression.

Despite feeling his gaze, Tetsu ignored the guy.

Tomoya returned with a big map of Tokyo, with markings all over. At first glance, it wasn't obvious to Tetsu what those markings were, but he kept his mouth shut.

The boss sent a nod towards Naoki, as if telling him to go over things.

Naoki stood up, adjusting his pinstripe suit before pointing to a spot on the map.

"All of these places we've marked are our territory. We have already had our men begin searching any places of interest in those areas."

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

Chapter 532 - 532: Meeting (2)

From what Tetsu could see, it was only the outskirts of Tokyo which didn't fall under the territory that had been marked. Since the city was so big, it would take a lot of time to physically check everywhere.

Tomoya seemed to have realized it too as his face morphed into a deep frown. It was clear that he wanted to say something, but he kept his mouth shut.

"I suggest that we split up and personally search the abandoned warehouses on the outskirts. There are also a few places where we've seen the Hokori family hide out, those should be our top priorities." Naoki said, returning to his seat.

BUZZ BUZZ

Everybody in the room turned to the location of the sound, which happened to be where Tetsu was.

He pulled out his phone with the intention of declining the call, but when he saw that it was his wife, he hesitated.

"Ai, it's your mother. Go in the other room and fill her in on what's happening." He said, handing the phone to his daughter.

Ai nodded and retrieved the phone. Tsukasa got to his feet and directed her to another room before closing the door.

A flash of anger appeared on Tomoya's face at the distraction, but Tetsu completely ignored him. To him, his wife also deserved to know what was happening since it concerned their child.

Unaware of the tension in the other room, Ai answered the phone call from her mother.

"Hi mom its me." She answered.

"Ai honey! Thank goodness, I was so worried."

Hearing the sound of her mother's voice brought tears to her eyes, making her emotional once more.

"Mom, you need to call Yuki and tell her that Ken's been captured."

"WHAT!?"

The next few minutes she had to explain what had happened. Apparently her father had left the moment he received the text, and had not informed his wife about the full story.

"Hold on dear, let me call her right now."

BEEP BEEP BEEP

Ai removed the phone from her ear and stared at it for a while. She turned to the door, but decided not to go back in there. It was too scary with all those men she didn't know.

Since the room was small and empty, she felt safe enough to stay in here for a while.

Around 5 minutes later, the phone rang again.

"Hello?"

"Is this Ai?" A male voice asked, making her a little suspicious.

"Yes... Who is this?"

"It's Chris, Ken's father. Can you tell me what happened from start to finish?"

She let out a sigh of relief, but inwardly a feeling of guilt appeared. She could hear the suppressed panic in his tone after hearing the news.

Sparing no detail, she told Chris everything.

Chris was silent on the other end for a while, as if processing her words.

"Did you say Hokori family? Is that a gang?" He asked.

"Mmm. Apparently they've been trying to take over Tokyo."

"...And you said you're with the gang who runs Tokyo right now?"

"Yes. My Uncle is part of the gang." She said.

"Can you do me a favor? Ask if they do business with Suzuki Corporation. If they don't, then I might know who is behind this." His voice was grave, filled with repressed anger.

At this revelation, Ai's eyes widened. She was scared to go back in the other room and interrupt everyone, but if the words were true, they might have found a lead.

"One moment."

Ai turned around, staring at the door for a few moments before opening it. The moment she did, everyone's gaze turned on her, causing her to feel a little intimidated.

"Do you guys do any business with Suzuki Corporation?" She asked, her voice a little quieter than she was intending.

"Suzuki Corporation? What the hell kind of question is that?" Tomoya stood up, his anger finally causing him to lash out.

Tetsu stood up too, glaring at the guys. "Don't ya speak to my girl like that!"

"Shuttup you two." Tsukasa interjected, his annoyance visible.

"Ai, we don't have any business with Suzuki Corporation, they're clean as a whistle." He followed up.

"Ai, can you put me on speaker phone please?" Chris said through the phone.

"Ah, okay one moment."

She did as she was told and placed the phone on the table.

"You're on speaker phone now Chris." She said.

Tetsu's face flashed with confusion for a moment after hearing that Ken's father was on the phone. He looked at Ai with question, however she didn't respond.

"Hi everyone, I'm not sure who is there right now but I have some information that might lead to where my son and the other boy are being held."

At these words, Tomoya was especially affected. No longer was he argumentative and his full attention was on the phone in the table.

"This is Minoru Tozuka. Chris, please tell us the information." The boss spoke up politely.

"First of all, did you have anything to do with the murder of Sachiko Koga a couple of months ago?" He asked.

"No, that was the Hokori Family who did so on our turf." Minoru stated.

"Okay good. Me and my family have been targeted by someone who we believe to be related to our adopted son. I don't know his exact motives, but I do believe that he was involved in the murder of Sachiko Koga."

The group listened in, not saying anything in response. They figured that he would make his point shortly.

"If this is true, then he must be related to the Hokori Family, or at least in business with them. Otherwise, it wouldn't make sense why they would target my son." Chris said, doing his best to keep his composure.

"And who is this person that you suspect is involved?" Minoru asked.

There was a few moments of silence before Chris answered the man's question.

"He's the CEO of Suzuki Corporation, Tetsuhiro Suzuki..."

"What!?"

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

Chapter 533 - 533: Deadline (1)

Everybody in the room was stunned at Chris's accusation.

They would have to have been living under a rock to not know who Tetsuhiro Suzuki was. He had his hands in everything; politics, sports, mainstream media.

Silently, everybody moved their gaze to Minoru, the boss of the Tozuka family. His wrinkled features were turned up in a frown, but he didn't outright reject the claim.

"Hmm, it's certainly a possibility. I had been wondering how the Hokori family had been able to stay in Tokyo for so long. If they have the backing of such a figure then it makes sense." He said thoughtfully.

Only after the boss had said his piece did the others around the table speak up.

"So what if he's the mastermind behind the Hokori family? How does that get us any closer to finding my son." Tomoya said, sounding rash.

"Tomo, I know you're stressed, but we now have a lead." Naoki said, trying to calm him down.

"He's right." Shin said, caressing the handle of his katana. "If that man is behind it, Katsuya is probably being held in a building owned by Suzuki Corporation or its subsidiaries."

At these words, Tomoya's eyes lit up.

"I have a list of their subsidiaries that I can send over." Chris's voice sounded out from the speaker phone, grabbing their attention.

"Mmm, please send it through." Minoru replied thankfully.

"I'm hanging up now, I'll send it through. Tetsu, can you give me the address? I'll be there as soon as I can."

"Sure."

With that, Chris hung up, leaving the men in the room feeling slightly better than before. With the company names from Chris, they would be able to narrow the search considerably, saving valuable time in the search for the two boys.

BUZZ BUZZ

The sound of a phone ringing sounded, but this time it was not from Tetsu's phone.

Minoru fished his phone out of his kimono and looked at the number, not recognizing it.

"Hello..."

"Minoru Tokuzo, I'm surprised you answered my call. I guess you must be getting desperate. Hehe."

A deep voice sounded out from the phone, causing the old man to frown in response.

"Let me guess, you must be the leader of the Hokori family." He said simply.

The others around the table straightened up in response. Tomoya was the most affected, gripping his fist tightly and awaiting the conversation.

"Bingo! It seems you aren't suffering from dementia just yet."

SLAM

Naoki stood up, his rage from the insult to his boss evident in his features.

However, Minoru raised his hand, as if trying to calm him. Thanks to the respect he had for his boss, Naoki was able to retrieve his anger, sitting back down in his chair.

"Oho? Are you with your other members? Why don't you put me on speaker phone. I'm sure that Tomoya guy will want to hear what I have to say."

A few moments later, Minoru placed the phone in the center of the table.

"Tell me what you want." He said, trying to cut to the chase.

"Hey now, who said that you could talk yet?" The voice replied, oozing with amusement.

Minoru's face turned into a frown, clearly not happy with the way he was being toyed with. He had killed for far less.

"Are you ready to listen now? Good."

"As I'm sure you've realized by now, we've invited young Katsuya for a visit. He's a little busy right now, but—"

"ARGHHH!"

His words were interrupted by a shrill scream in the background, causing everyone at the table to jump from their chairs.

"KATSUYA!"

"Oi idiots, I'm on the damn phone can you keep it down?" The leader of the Hokori family chastised over the phone, but one could hear a slight amusement in his voice.

"Ahem... I'm sorry, my boys can be a little rough sometimes." He said casually, though it was clear everything was intentional."

"YOU BASTARD! Give me back my son!" Tomoya couldn't control himself, hearing his son scream out in agony over the phone.

"Bastard? Who me?" The voice asked, sounding as if he was offended.

"Go ahead and hit him for me would ya Kuma?"

"N—NO!" Tomoya's face fell. It took all of his willpower to contain his anger.

This time, a loud grunt came through the phone speakers, causing everyone to flinch.

"No, not him you idiot. The pretty boy." He said, sounding exasperated.

This time, Ai, Tetsu and Tsukasa's face morphed. They knew that Ken was also captured, which meant he was also being subjected to torture right now.

Ai was shaking, tears running down her face silently as she feared for Ken's safety. This was not something that she'd ever thought would happen, yet it was currently her reality.

"Man, it's tough to find good people these days am I right Minoru?" He said, though a small chuckle could be heard from him.

"Anyways, like I was saying. I've got one of yours and I'm sure you want him back right?"

"Yes..." Minoru stated. He knew that any other words would only provoke the man on the other line further, so he stuck to a simple answer.

"Mmm. Well I guess I could give him back to you. But see the thing is, you'd have to give me something that I want in return." Though his voice was deep, there was a playful attitude beneath, as if he was enjoying this moment far too much.

"State what it is that you want."

"Hehe... I want Tokyo."

The whole atmosphere in the room changed at those words. Throughout the over 1 year turf war between the two families, this had been their goal the entire time.

It was only through their vigilance that the Tozuko family was able to hold on for so long, yet now they had captured a family member, things were looking grim.

Tomoya's eyes widened as hope flashed in them, however despair soon flashed past again. Asking the boss to give up all of Tokyo was not something that he could ask.

But this was his flesh and blood that was at risk.

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

Chapter 534 - 534: Deadline (2)

"Hmm? It seems you guys need some time to talk it out amongst yourselves, that's fine. In fact, I've got all the time in the world."

There was a small silence before another low chuckle came through.

"But your boy... He doesn't have that much time. I'd say maybe 24 hours max?"

The atmosphere dropped as everyone heard the veiled threat within the words. Though not said outright, it was clear that if they didn't give a satisfactory answer within 24 hours, Katsuya's life would be forfeit.

"What about the other boy ya have?" Tetsu said, using the gap in the conversation.

"Oh? Who is that with the Kansai accent? He's not from your family." The voice replied.

"He's the uncle of the other boy you've got." Minoru stated.

"Hmm, well isn't that just a wonderful coincidence that you're all together. Unfortunately, we're just holding the tall one for one of our business partners, that guy isn't included in the deal."

Tetsu's eyes flashed with rage, but he managed to compose himself quickly. Although he didn't say much, it was along the lines with the earlier theory.

"Anyway, I'll let you gentleman talk amongst yourselves. Just remember, time stops for no man."

BEEP BEEP BEEP

As the disconnected sound rang out within the room, everybody's expression was grave. Tomoya seemed the most upset, but for now he wasn't making anymore commotion.

BUZZ BUZZ

Everyone's hearts lept into their throats as the sound of a phone vibrating happened once more.

Tetsu reached into his pocket and saw the message from Chris, detailing the subsidiaries of Suzuki Corporation.

"Have ya got a pen and paper?"

A few minutes later, Tetsu wrote out all of the information onto some paper while Shin and Tomoya organized some lackeys to join them.

"Here is the list of companies, search and identify every building that these guys own. We only have a short amount of time." Shin said, handing each of the guys a copy of the companies.

Tomoya was pacing back and forth, as if replaying the scream of his son in his mind over and over. He bit his nails over and over, his stress evident.

"How sure are we that Suzuki Corporation is involved?" He asked, as if wanting closure what they were doing was productive.

"That guy pretty much admitted it earlier. He said that the tall one was captured at his business partner's request. The only person we know who was targeting Ken is Tetsuhiro."

Tsukasa managed to hit the nail on the head. If even Tetsu could figure such a thing out, then he, with his larger brain could do the same.

"He's right Tomo. As long as we can narrow the search, we should have enough men to find Katsu." Shin said, wearing his usual calm mask.

"Dad... I'm worried." Ai said, her whole body shaking.

Tetsu held her close, embracing her tightly. "Don't worry darlin' we'll find him in time." He said soothingly.

With that, the room descended into silence, apart from the furious typing of the two lackeys on their laptops.

An hour or so later, another figure appeared at the door of the room.

Chris looked at the figures gathered, his face stern. At a glance he could see that they were working on marking the map for potential places where his son could be held.

"Chris, yer here." Tetsu said, standing up and heading over to him.

Ai stayed behind, feeling too guilty to approach Ken's father. Chris on the other hand did not push it. He could instantly see the bruised face of the girl and knew that she had probably been assaulted as well.

"What have we found out so far?" Chris asked, getting straight to it.

Just as he was moving towards the table, Tomoya stopped him.

"Oi, you better not have called the cops or I swear to god that I'll—"

Chris pushed forward, his large height looming over Tomoya dangerously.

"You think I'd put my son in jeopardy by calling the cops?" His tone was icy, a flash of danger creeping across his features.

If Tomoya wasn't a seasoned gangster, he might have really been intimidated by the unassuming civilian.

"Tch, good." Tomoya replied, moving out of the way.

Chris shook it off. He had more important matters to worry about than such a thing, after all, he wasn't here to make friends.

A small grin flashed on Tetsu's face, as if he enjoyed the fact Tomoya was forced to back down so abruptly.

"This is what we got so far." He said, pointing towards the buildings marked on the map.

Chris managed to interpret the map pretty quickly, mainly because it was set out simply. He saw the buildings marked with a red X which numbered in the twenties.

A frown settled on his features in response. He wasn't sure how many men these guys had, but it would be quite an operation to undertake, especially since Tokyo was so big.

"What's our status? How many people do we have?" Chris asked the room.

"What do you mean we?" Naoki, the middle-aged man replied, his tone sounding displeased.

Chris felt a rise of anger, but he kept it down. These weren't ordinary people he was dealing with. From what he knew, they currently had a common goal since Ken and Katsuya were being held in the same place.

But if that were to change, he would be discarded.

"Forgive my rudeness from earlier." He said, bowing deeply.

Now was not the time to let his pride get in the way. Even if he had to bow on his knees, as long as he could save his son, he would do it in a heartbeat.

Naoki's face seemed to soften at the apology. He was a reasonable man in the end and could empathize with others, but propriety came first.

"It's okay Naoki, the man is missing his son, let's cut him some slack." Minoru said, placing his hand on the guy's shoulder.

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

Chapter 535 - 535: Insane (1)

Ken woke up abruptly, his eyes snapping open as if he'd just had a bad dream. For a fraction of a second his mind thought that everything had been an illusion, yet the dark warehouse and the clinking of his chains brought him back to reality.

His heart sank as he realized that it wasn't all a dream.

"Ugh."

Ken groaned, the pain from his beatings beginning to take its toll. His lips were dried and bloody, a sign that he'd not had a drink for a long time.

He looked to his left, seeing Katsuya with his head lowered. Just from a glance he could tell that the guy was not doing well.

"Hey... Are you okay?" He asked, not even recognizing his own voice.

It hurt to speak, likely from the screaming making it hoarse.

Katsuya didn't respond right away, but his body twitched. He raised his head, the once pretty face looking like it had been tossed into a blender.

"What do you think?" Katsuya replied sarcastically.

Ken didn't get offended however.

A long silence stretched out between them, filled with despair. Both teens were in a bad state, but neither seemed like they'd given up just yet.

"How long?" Katsuya asked, his voice sounding weary.

"How long what?" Ken was a little confused by the question.

"..."

"How long have you and Ai been dating?"

At these words Ken felt a little odd. It didn't seem like an appropriate question, considering the situation they were in. But nonetheless, he answered.

"Since the day before she left for Tokyo."

Katsuya was silent for a while before letting out an airy sigh. "I guess some things aren't meant to be..."

Ken raised his eyebrow, but felt a sharp pain from his face. He wasn't stupid. These words were enough for him to make some kind of assumptions.

The fact Katsuya was willing to jump in and try to save them, him going to the same school as Ai. It was clear that he had feelings for her.

Ken felt a mixture of emotions, but chose not to act on any of them. If anything, Katsuya was a pitiful person. If he didn't have feelings for Ai, he would have still been a free man, and it would have been Ken here all alone.

It was true that misery begets company.

Before he could continue the conversation, the sound of the door opening entered their ears. Both Katsuya and Ken flinched at the sound, which was now synonymous with pain.

The sound of footsteps echoed in the warehouse eerily, bringing a sense of foreboding.

"Turn the light on."

In the next moment, both Ken and Katsuya were blinded as the lights filled the warehouse. Having gotten used to the darkness, they could not see for a while.

Since they were bound to a chair, they could only close their eyes in defense.

Ken felt someone grip his chin and raise his head, but due to the light, he couldn't see the figure. He tried to fight back, but the grip was strong.

"You're not looking so good there Ken." A deep voice said.

The voice wasn't familiar, but instinctively he could guess who it was. Despite his pain, Ken felt a deep and burning hatred erupt from within him, causing him to thrash around in his restraints.

"Tetsuhiro you bastard!" He spat through his teeth.

"Oho? You know who I am?" Tetsuhiro said, sounding a little surprised.

He tapped the side of Ken's face a couple of times before relinquishing the hold on his chin.

By the time he gained control, Ken's eyes began to clear up. He saw the guy reach into his pocket and produce a napkin, wiping his hand clean.

"If you're so smart, do you know why you're here right now?" He asked sounding almost apathetic.

Ken was silent for a few moments, deciding whether or not to answer.

"How could I guess what goes through a psychopath's head?" He said in a scathing tone.

"Hahaha. Yes, I shouldn't expect you to understand my brilliant mind." The laughter sounded genuine, if not psychotic.

Ken couldn't help but shiver, feeling a cold sweat drip down his back. There was something about the way that Tetsuhiro was talking that made him feel a grave sense of danger.

He couldn't understand what his goals were. Killing Daichi's mother in cold blood and capturing him, he was too unstable.

'I need to be careful with what I say.' Ken's face morphed, as if finally understanding what predicament he was in.

Tetsuhiro pulled out something else from his pocket, a phone. It looked to be a rather old phone, which was weird considering he was quite literally a billionaire.

However, in the next moment Ken recognized the phone.

'That's my phone?'

Tetsuhiro tapped the phone against his hand a few times before turning to Ken. Only now could he finally see the visage of the man who had been targeting his family for so long.

The guy had wide shoulders and thick black hair. His face was clean shaven, giving him a debonair look. If it wasn't for the disgusting grin on his face, he could be called handsome.

"You know," he began, "I was quite surprised that your father was able to survive after I killed his career." He started to pace slowly, back and forth.

At the mention of his father, Ken felt his anger rise.

"But then I found out you had some help..." Tetsuhiro said, coming to a stop in front of Ken once more.

"It was such a nice thing for your Grandpa to gift you money in your time of need. Unfortunately, he was interfering with my plans..."

"What did you do..." Ken spat through his teeth, unable to hold himself any longer.

"Heh... Hehe. Oh nothing too fancy, I just had a few friends open up an investigation into his investments. His bank accounts should be frozen, so don't expect any new payments to show up."

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

Chapter 536 - 536: Insane (2)

"That's if they don't find anything... suspicious." The abhorrent grin on his face only grew wider, clearly enjoying his position of power.

For the first time, Ken felt powerless. The man in front of him was just too diabolical, to do such things to an innocent family for seemingly no reason.

Ken lowered his head, feeling defeated.

"I don't understand... All we did was save Daichi. Why are you doing this to us?" Ken asked, his voice hoarse.

"Save Daichi?" Tetsuhiro asked, sounding rather surprised.

Ken flinched, raising his head slowly as if to gauge if the guy's reaction was real or not.

"Wait, you don't know?"

"What the hell are you talking about?" Tetsuhiro snapped, his earlier grin replaced with anger.

However, Ken did not feel any sort of victory from this reaction. All he felt was despair.

"Hahaha! You idiot... Here I thought you killed Daichi's mother because you found out what she'd done to him for all those years. All of the abuse, physically, mentally..."

Ken spat on the ground, his anger taking over.

"All we ever did was give Daichi a loving family, where he could be a kid. Where he was free to do whatever he wanted without fear of being mocked and abused for no reason."

Tetsuhiro was silent, his thoughts unknown.

"AND NOW YOU PUNISH US!?"

"..."

Tetsuhiro's face morphed, from anger to sadness and back again. It was clear that he was conflicted.

Ken saw this and felt a beacon of hope flicker within him. This was the first time that he'd seen some human emotion on Tetsuhiro's face.

'Maybe I can get out of this...!' He thought in his heart.

"J—Just let me go, I can pretend this never happened and we can go our separate ways... Daichi can continue to live a carefree and happy life from now on." Ken stated, trying to coax the man in front of him.

However, in the next moment his face paled.

"Happy life? With you guys? Preposterous. Just what kind of life could you provide for my nephew... My brother's child!" He yelled, fury and anger in his words.

He stared at Ken with loathing, as if he was merely a cockroach underfoot.

"Your whole family are nothing but pests, contaminating Daichi with your filth. Baseball? Just what kind of career is that? How dare you say he's living a happy life when you don't even know what that is."

Tetsuhiro was animated, grabbing a handful of his hair like he was about to pull it out. His face was turned up into a horrible scowl and it felt like his mental faculties were beginning to fray apart.

The light from Ken's eyes faded as he heard the ramblings of the crazy man in front of him. At first he thought that he might be able to talk some sense into the guy, but it was clear now that it was impossible.

"That bitch is dead. I just need to kill them and Daichi will have nowhere left to go..." He muttered to himself, turning around and trying to put his hair back into place.

"Tatsuhiro... I'm doing this for you." The last words came out like a whisper.

Ken overheard the part about his intent to kill his family and instantly seized up. Perhaps it was wishful thinking, but he thought Tetsuhiro had a plan and was just using him to blackmail Daichi or something.

But it seemed that the guy had completely lost his sanity.

Gritting his teeth, Ken spoke, a last attempt to save himself and his family, "Do you think Daichi will willingly come to you after you kill us all?"

Hearing Ken's words, Tetsuhiro stiffened before slowly turning back around and facing him. His expression looked unhinged, as if he had truly gone mad.

"He won't know that it was me." He stated, however his voice wavered.

Ken locked onto his gaze, a hint of defiance held within. "Daichi knows that you were behind the murder of his mother."

A look of shock crept onto the guy's face, not expecting those words.

"Impossible! They set it up like it was a robbery... You're lying!" Tetsuhiro lashed out, grabbing hold of Ken's chin once more and moving closer.

Seeing his agitated expression, Ken felt somewhat vindicated. However, in truth, he and his family's life were at stake right now so he needed to stay level-headed.

"I'm not lying. If we were to be killed, the first person he'd suspect is you." Ken said, his expression calm.

Striking while the iron was hot, he continued, "Daichi is my best friend, there's no way he'll forgive you if anything happens to me or our family."

THWACK

Ken felt his head jerk back from the impact of the fist, causing his consciousness to falter and his eyes to sting. However, he grit his teeth, trying to fight back the pain.

Tetsuhiro massaged his knuckles, once again wiping away the skin that had touched Ken as if it was the worst filth in the world.

Hitting Ken seemed to calm his mood a little, and he began to take some deep breaths.

Ken silently watched him, doing his best to hold his anger. Now was not the time to antagonize the psycho, otherwise he could forfeit his own life.

He was not dealing with someone sane.

Tetsuhiro walked over to Ken's phone which seemed to have dropped on the ground after the altercation. He opened it and seemed to be searching for something.

RING RING

RING RING

Ken watched this with confusion, wondering who he would be calling from his phone. But it wasn't long until he had his answer.

"Hey bro, what's up?"

Daichi's voice could be heard from the phone, although it wasn't on speaker.

For a split moment, Ken considered calling out for him, but Tetsuhiro had already given him a look, his eyes crazed.

"Daichi... It's your Uncle." He said, his breathing quickening.

"What!? W—Where's Ken? What have you done to him!?" Daichi's panicked voice echoed in the warehouse.

"None of that is important. Come to the Suzuki Corporation office tomorrow at dawn, alone... Otherwise your brother will die a tragic death."

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

Chapter 537 - 537: Lead (1)

BEEP BEEP BEEP

Daichi's eyes widened as he heard those words, his face full of disbelief.

"Daichi? What's wrong?" Miho asked, her anxiety off the charts.

"He's got Ken..." Daichi muttered, feeling the strength leave his body. A large sense of guilt flooded his psyche, threatening to tear it down.

"W—What? We need to call the police!" She shouted.

"No! He wants me to show up alone or Ken will die."

"No... Daichi you can't go alone to meet that psycho. Who knows what he'll do to you?" Miho said, placing her hands on his shoulders.

Daichi's face morphed, "And what? Just leave Ken to die!?"

He shrugged off her hands, getting back to his feet slowly. "This is all my fault." He muttered, feeling the weight of responsibility weigh him down.

"Daichi... There has to be another way." She said, almost pleadingly.

Daichi looked down at his phone and wordlessly hit the call button.

RING RING

"Dad..."

"Daichi what is it? Are you okay?" The sound of panic was evident in his voice, however this made Daichi feel even worse.

"I'm okay. I just called to say I love you..." He said softly.

There was a small pause on the other end.

"I don't know what you're planning right now, but I can tell that it's stupid. I need you to meet me somewhere, it concerns Ken. I'll fill you in on all the details when you get here." Chris said, his tone not allowing any response.

BEEP BEEP BEEP

Daichi was taken aback, and looked at his phone in confusion. It seemed that his father had seen through his words and guessed something.

BUZZ BUZZ

In the next moment he received a notification, an address.

Miho who happened to be looking over his shoulder saw the address. "That's not far from here, let's go." She said, grabbing him by the hand before he could respond.

Daichi who was still feeling weak, was easily dragged along like a toddler towards the destination. His mind was blank, but he didn't try to resist.

'Dad, Miho... Everyone is too good to me.' He thought, feeling his eyes tear up.

Despite this, his anxiety was still at its peak. The fact that Tetsuhiro had called him from Ken's phone meant that he had been captured. Who knows what had happened to him?

The two walked along the streets of Tokyo for 10 minutes before arriving at their destination. Out the front, Chris was waiting for them, his face filled with worry.

"Daichi!"

He moved forward and pulled him into his embrace tightly. Daichi was stiff for a moment before his muscles relaxed.

"Dad... I have something to tell you."

"What is it?" Chris asked, pulling back and holding his son at arms length.

Daichi saw the concern in his father's face and couldn't help but feel guilt overcome him.

"Tetsuhiro called me..."

He then explained what had happened and the request for meeting up tomorrow morning at the Suzuki Corporation office building. Chris listened silently, but his expression changed a few times.

"Suzuki Corporation office..." He mumbled.

"Okay come inside quickly. You too Miho."

They entered the building with no issues since the guards were aware of the new guests. Upon going into the back room, both Miho and Daichi were feeling rather intimidated.

Seeing all the strange and colorful characters around who looked like literal gangsters was enough for the teens to feel some sense of unease.

Daichi only recognized Tetsu out of the group, or at least that was the case until Ai poked her head out behind him.

"Ai? What are you doing here?" He asked.

However, upon seeing the bruising on her face, he could guess what had likely happened. This only reminded him that Ken was currently in a lot of trouble right now, making him feel even worse.

"Hi Daichi... I'm sorry." She said, walking up to the two, her head lowered.

But before he could respond, Chris spoke up.

"We have a new lead." He stated, only for the whole room to turn to him.

"What is it?" Tomoya was the first to jump at the new information, still looking anxious.

"This is Daichi my son. He was just contacted by Tetsuhiro with Ken's phone and told to meet him at the Suzuki Corporation Office building at dawn."

He moved to the map and retrieved a marker, only to draw a big circle around a particular building.

"This should be where Ken and Katsuya are being held captive." His voice was filled with confidence, but that didn't seem to be enough.

"You think he would hold them at his office building? What are you stupid?" Tomoya raged. He had just gotten his hopes up, only to hear something so ridiculous.

However, Chris didn't seem to be offended.

"It's been almost 4 hours since we arrived here, and you guys haven't even found a shadow of the Hokori family's men. We've searched not even half the buildings on the map, all over Tokyo."

He continued, "Just think about it. Where is somewhere that us and the police would least expect and has the most security."

The room was silent, but nobody refuted his words. The police indeed would not investigate a huge office building for no reason.

Not only this, there were hundreds of people going in and out of the building, all dressed in suits. The Hokori family could easily blend in with the office workers, not raising any suspicions.

"Even if that's true, how the hell are we going to break in without being detected?"

Once again there was silence, but this time it was Tetsu who spoke up.

"Can't we just go in, gun's blazin'?"

"Don't be ridiculous. If they know we're coming they might just kill the two of them before we get there." Shin said calmly.

At these words, Daichi shivered.

"What if we intercepted the security and stole their uniforms?" Tsukasa added.

"Mmm, that sounds doable." Chris said, deep in thought.

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

Chapter 538 - 538: Lead (2)

Minoru stood up from his chair, for the first time in a while, gaining everyone's attention before even saying a word.

"There's a possibility that the place will be filled with Hokori family lackey's if its where they're being held. Even if we manage to infiltrate the building as security, we still might meet some resistance." He said wisely.

"So what? Ya wanna give up on em'?" Tetsu replied, his expression stern.

Minoru shook his head, "At most there should only be 2 security guards to lower suspicion. Which means we'll need to use people who can fight..."

"Shin, Tetsu. You will replace the security guards and infiltrate the Suzuki Corporation building."

"Yes boss." Shin answered, bowing his head slightly in affirmation.

"Good." Tetsu replied, cracking his knuckles.

"But Boss... That guy isn't even part of the family, why are you sending him?" Tomoya argued, doing his best to remain respectful. It was clear that he had trouble leaving the fate of his son to a man like Tetsu.

Minoru shook his head once more, "You've shown me that you are not calm enough to execute this plan effectively, there's too much at stake to take such a risk."

"I'm the better fighter anyways." Tetsu added, throwing Tomoya a fierce glance.

Tomoya was in no position to argue either of the points raised. However, that didn't make him feel any better about the situation.

"Naoki, send your men to stake out the place. Try and figure out the patrol pattern of those guys, we'll strike in 2 hours." Minoru said simply.

"Yes boss."

With that, Naoki left the room to make arrangements, leaving everybody else in the back room.

"Ya still got my knuckle dusters?" Tetsu asked his friend, a small grin forming on his face.

"Mmm, they're here somewhere."

Meanwhile, Daichi approached his father to be filled in on what was going on. He had come to the place late, so he was missing out on what had happened so far.

Both he and Miho were shocked that things had gotten to such a state. How did they get dragged into a turf war between two gangster families?

Daichi was especially affected, knowing that his existence was the main cause why Ken was captured. This in addition to his mother being murdered and his father losing all job prospects were like daggers that poked into his heart.

Chris seemed to notice the expression on his son's face and placed a heavy hand on his shoulder.

"Look at me Daichi... None of this is your fault." He said, his tone unwavering.

However, Daichi had trouble lifting his head, his thoughts only of despair and guilt.

"He's right Daichi. That supposed Uncle of yours is just a sick son of a bitch." Miho said plainly, her anger evident.

"Mmm..."

Soon enough, the 2 hours had come to an end. The atmosphere within the room had been tense, mainly because of Tomoya pacing back and forth.

Upon seeing Naoki walk back in, everyone turned their attention to him.

"Alright, we're good to go." He said.

Tetsu let out a low chuckle, bringing his fists together.

"Mmm good. Shin, Tetsu, you'll infiltrate the building as security guards and try and locate the two boys. Set the guards radio to our frequency and give updates, we won't respond until you say the word."

Minoru reiterated what they'd already been discussing earlier, receiving words of affirmation from the two.

"As we discussed, Naoki and Tomoya will be nearby in one of our vans. If all goes to hell, we'll rush in and assist you. But only as a last resort."

With that, everyone seemed to know what their role was and began to filter out of the back room. Chris turned to Daichi and Miho and instructed them to stay here, along with Ai.

They would be safe since the place was still well guarded by the Tokuzo family lackeys.

"Be safe dad..." Daichi said, hugging him tightly. He tried his best to seem okay on the outside, but inwardly he was full of anxiety.

The thought of staying safe in this place while his father and everyone risked their lives made him feel sick. But he was left with no choice in the matter.

"Mmm. Look after Ai and Miho, I'll bring back your brother, don't you worry."

With that, he followed behind the others who had already left.

The streets came alive as tens of people came out of the bar and entered their cars. Even at a glance, people knew not to mess with these people, unless they wanted trouble.

Just Tetsu alone in his black tank top was enough of a deterrence. His large arms and brass knuckles gave him an air of danger.

They then drove for around 20 minutes into the business district of Tokyo. Despite it being around 1am in the morning, there were still quite a few people walking on the streets.

When they came to the end of the road, the other cars went in separate directions, so as not to cause a scene. The only vehicle that turned was the van which had Chris, Tetsu, Tsukasa, Naoki, Shin and Tomoya inside.

As they pulled up, Naoki pointed out the tinted window.

"Shin, Tetsu. The security guards should be arriving in that spot in about 5 minutes. As long as you can take them by surprise, you should easily be able to take their gear and go in." He said.

"Mmm, seems easy enough." Shin replied, nodding.

They were about to exit the van before Tetsu felt a hand on his shoulder.

He was about to react, but then heard Chris's voice in his ear.

"Please find my son..." He said, sounding vulnerable.

This was the first time that he'd allowed himself to appear vulnerable ever since arriving in Tokyo. Surrounded by gangsters, he felt like he had to be strong the entire time.

Only now when requesting this from Tetsu did Chris let his guard down slightly.

"Mmm, don't worry. I won't let my daughter grieve any man." He said, stepping out of the van in the next moment.

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

Chapter 539 - 539: Infiltration (1)

Both Shin and Tetsu alighted from the van, making their way to the shrubbery outside of the imposing office building. It was at least 20 stories high, looking like a fortress from the outside.

Shin almost melded into the shadows, his small figure reminiscent of a Shinobi as he made his way towards the building with haste. His footsteps were light, and he clutched his sword tightly to his body.

Tetsu on the other hand merely walked forward as if no one was watching. This scene caused everyone in the van to feel a headache coming on.

It seemed like their luck was terrible as the security guard happened to walk around the corner, his flashlight locking onto Tetsu in the next moment.

"W-What the hell is he doing!?" Tomoya almost blew a blood vessel. They had yet to even infiltrate the place and Tetsu was already caught.

"Oi, this is private property. Leave at once!" The guard shouted, his voice stern.

A second security guard arrived shortly after, likely roused by his partners loud voice.

"Ehhh? What do ya mean p-private property? Ishhn't this the Warriot Hotel?" Tetsu said, his words slurred. He stumbled slightly before trying to pull up his pants.

The two guards saw the scene and sighed, easing up considerably. Seeing that the guy had been drinking and seemed to be lost, they lowered their guard.

They turned to each other briefly before one of them approached Tetsu slowly. "Hey man, if you're looking for the Warriot Hotel, it's in that direction." He said, pointing to the west.

While the guard he'd left behind was listening to the conversation, his vision spun all of a sudden. Before he knew what happened, he was already taking a nap on the pavement.

Seeing this, Tetsu straightened up his body, no longer acting inebriated.

The guard shivered, feeling the atmosphere change slightly. He looked up, seeing Tetsu's scary features in the dim streetlights and knew that he had messed up.

In the next moment, the man's arms were around his neck, choking him out.

He tried his best to pry himself free, but his strength quickly drained from him and he lost consciousness.

Tetsu released his hold before yanking him off the ground and placing him on his shoulder with ease. He then casually walked back over to the van and put him on the ground.

The door opened, revealing Tomoya's red and angry face.

"What the hell are you doing? That wasn't part of the plan!" He said unhappily.

"Shuttup." Tetsu said dismissively as he began to take the security guard's uniform off.

Shin returned a few moments later, dragging a large figure behind him, though it was clear he had struggled doing so. He didn't make any complaints.

Tetsu finally retrieved the uniform and held it up in front of him, his expression changing a few times.

Without a word he threw it to Shin, there was no way he'd fit into the small shirt.

Thankfully, the other guy was larger.

A few minutes later, the two were dressed in the security guard's uniforms and ready to go. They changed the radio frequency and did a few tests.

"W-What are you guys doing?" A panicked voice came from the smaller guard, his face turned up in horror as he woke up and saw many gangsters surrounding him.

SHIING

"Tell us the codes for getting into the building." Shin said, placing the point of his Katana on the guy's neck.

"123654."

The group blinked a few times, not expecting the guy to answer right away. However, they seemed to overestimate the loyalty an underpaid security guard had to their company.

"Tie them up." Shin announced, sheathing his sword.

With that, the two walked back up to the building to begin the infiltration.

"We splittin' up?" Tetsu asked.

"Mmm. Remember, our main priority is finding the two boys." Shin replied calmly.

Tetsu nodded, he didn't need reminding. He decided to take the western side of the building, bringing out the guard's torch and scoping around.

Thankfully, his actions weren't suspicious since guard's often patrolled this way.

He passed by a smoking area, finally seeing a door to the inside of the building. Tetsu looked around a few times before moving forward.

"What was the code again?" He mumbled.

"123456?"

However, just before he put in the code, his radio went off.

"Remember, the code is 123654. If you guys get into some trouble you can't handle, say the safe word 'pineapple' over the radio and we'll come in full force." Naoki said.

"Ah, that's right." Tetsu nodded, inputting the numbers into the keypad.

If the occupants in the van were aware of just how close they were to failing this mission, they might have all ganged up on Tetsu and beaten him an inch from death.

Thankfully, he was able to get into the building without setting off the alarm.

The first thing that filled his vision was the dark lobby. It was kind of eerie, but there were some sources of light here and there from the TV screens scattered around.

Tetsu began to skulk around slowly, using his torch every now and then to check out some things. Since the boys were being held in such a busy building, they would need to be hidden from sight, which meant either a basement or private floor.

He discovered the elevator which seemed to be off at this moment. Even if it were on, it would be foolish to use it since it would just announce someone's presence.

"Damn, the elevator is off... That's inconvenient." Tetsu muttered, letting out a small sigh as if lamenting his situation.

He then kept looking along the wall, searching for the stairwell. It wasn't long before he came across the correct door, but instead of opening it right away, he waited.

"...So...close."

Tetsu's ears perked up as he heard talking behind the door. The voices gradually faded, along with the sound of footsteps retreating down the stairwell.

"Bingo..." He muttered, a smile creeping onto his features.

He waited in silence for a few minutes, not wanting to blow his cover just yet.

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

Chapter 540 - 540: Infiltration (2)

"I heard voices in the stairwell, headin' down. I'mma sneak down there." He said over the radio. Not waiting for a response, he pulled out his two brass knuckles and placed them on.

Tetsu admired them for a moment and was about to open the door.

"Wait for me." A voice appeared, shocking him.

He turned around, only to see Shin walking towards him, his Katana drawn.

"Don't sneak up on me ya bastard." Tetsu responded, trying to calm his pounding heart.

Shin shrugged, it looked as if he wanted to reply, but chose not to since they were currently in the midst of infiltration.

"Alright, let's go." Tetsu whispered, slowly opening the door and heading into the stairwell. The stairs were spacious enough for 5 people to stand shoulder to shoulder comfortably.

Tetsu began to slowly walk down the stairs, sacrificing speed for stealth.

But his jaw dropped as he saw Shin practically float down the stairs casually, his footfalls not making the slightest noise.

'Freakin' ninja...' He muttered inwardly.

They came to the first set of doors after descending and listened closely, yet there was no noise on the other side. Shin opened the door and slid in, his silhouette quickly disappearing in the darkness.

The two needed to check every floor, otherwise they could risk missing the two boys in their search.

Without words, the two cooperated efficiently. Well, it was mostly Shin doing the scouting while Tetsu remained lookout, but they were playing to their own strengths.

Around 30 minutes later, they had already searched through 4 floors without seeing a single soul. Yet the two did not give up.

Soon enough, they found some activity.

Shin placed his ear up against the door and could hear the sound of some people talking.

"What is the boss thinking? I get catching that pretty boy, but isn't that tall kid a famous baseball player?"

Shin's ears perked up and he waved Tetsu closer, as if telling him to come listen. He obliged.

"Apparently one of our business partners wanted him captured for some reason. Just look the other way man, I'm sure he has his reasons." Another voice answered before letting out a yawn.

Before Shin could make any plan, Tetsu threw the doors open, almost causing him to fall flat on the floor.

In a flash, one of the gangsters was king hit in the temple, his body collapsing on the ground in the next moment. As if in shock, the other guy froze, his brain struggling to keep up with the sudden events.

SHIING

Suddenly, a Katana blade sat against his throat, the blade shining from the dim light within the room.

Shin pushed the guy up to the wall and whispered in a low tone.

"Where are they?" His voice sounded like a demon, one who was ready to deliver him into the underworld.

"B—Bottom floor warehouse..." The guy said, his features frozen in horror.

"Mmm."

In the next moment, he was on the floor, gasping for air.

Completely unfazed by the brutality he'd just caused, he walked over to the other guy and was about to finish him off. However, when he got closer, he saw that there was no need.

He flourished his Katana and wiped the blood off with the man's suit before sheathing it. His eyes lingered on Tetsu for a few moments before wordlessly walking back to the stairwell.

"Let's go."

Tetsu looked at the blood on his brass knuckles for a brief moment before following behind the guy.

They now knew where Ken and Katsuya were being held, it was just a matter of what kind of security would be awaiting them when they arrived.

"You're more resolute than I expected." Shin said, hints of praise hidden within his tone.

Tetsu scoffed quietly, "You think I'd show mercy on these bastards?"

"Mmm."

The two remained silent, making their way down the stairs. When they got to the second last floor, they stopped at the door once more. Yet this time there were a lot more voices behind this door.

"Tokyo is gonna be ours!"

"CHEERS!"

It sounded like a celebration, with at least 40-50 people joining in.

Both Shin and Tetsu looked at each other briefly, no words needing to be exchanged. There was a sense of urgency in their faces, since they had already drawn first blood.

If any of these guys were to go find their comrades missing, things would not go well.

Tetsu gestured his head towards the bottom floor, only to receive a nod in response. The mission had now turn into a time sensitive one.

Shin flew down the stairs with haste, quickly taking post outside of the door. He waited for Tetsu to arrive and placed his ear against the door.

After a couple moments of silence, he opened the door.

The first thing that assaulted their noses was the smell of iron and blood. Both their faces fell.

Despite this, the two kept their calm and slowly scouted the area. The lights were off, save for a single spotlight shone in the corner of the warehouse.

Which means they didn't need to go far before seeing the two teens chained up to their chairs.

Just as Tetsu and Shin were about to run forward, the sound of the door opening entered their ears.

'Damn it!'

The two quickly split up, hiding on each side of the warehouse. Thanks to the sparse amount of boxes, there weren't many places to hide.

The sound of footfalls echoes in the warehouse as two figures made their way towards the teens.

"Oi, wake up you bastards." One of the guys said, his voice sounding sinister.

At these words, the two teens seemed to rouse from their light sleep.

"It's time for your hourly beating. Hehehe."

"Finally it's our turn. I had to give Bozu a pack of smokes to switch places." The other crooned, massaging his knuckles.

In the corner of the warehouse, Tetsu's eyes shined as a murderous intent began to rise within him.

'Let's see you bastard's try.'

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

