

Comfort

Twin-story to "Hurt"

Von Gepo

Kapitel 13: A twinge of happiness

Kuroko had insisted on Kagami to come with him to tell his mother the news. His mate seemed flustered for the first time, fidgeting and glancing at Kuroko on the way. He did not budge from his side though and that was all that mattered.

"What if you are not pregnant?" Kagami whispered.

"I am. I went out of heat the same day. If I was not, I would have stayed in heat for at least three more days" Kuroko calmly answered.

"Well ... yeah." He stayed silent for a bit. "Will your mother be furious?"

"I don't think so. She was fifteen when she had me. She knows what it is like to be an Omega." He leaned to the side and was directly drawn into a half-hug. "Normally you get mated off at fourteen or fifteen. You could say I am actually old for my ... first child."

"Does she know about the others?"

"No" Kuroko answered immediately. "She would be heartbroken. Don't you dare mention that to her." He looked up, catching Kagami's eyes. "I mean, don't even hint. You are my first boyfriend, there has never been anyone else."

"Why?" The other stayed calm, not asking in defence or anger, simply asking.

"Because she is very proud she could spare me the fate so many Omegas have. I can't tell her I threw all her hard work in the wind and actually agreed to being raped over and over again." He balled his fists. "I wish I could go back and punch my stupid self in the face."

"You aren't one for violence." Kagami smiled and petted his head. "If you could go back, you should offer yourself help to have the courage you have today."

Kuroko closed his eyes, trying his hardest not to cry. He really wasn't worthy of Kagami. How that man simply accepted anything and tried to make the best out of everything was beyond him. But no matter how hard the challenge, he always rouse above himself. Where was the social idiot who made girls cry? That too honest, good for nothing guy? Well, he was still very honest but Kuroko found it endearing. He loved that sheepish oaf who somehow always found the right words when Kuroko needed strength to carry on.

They got off at the right station and walked the rest of the way arm in arm. At least Kuroko had both his arms around his mate's stomach while Kagami slung one around Kuroko's shoulders. The people looking at them seemed surprised, some disgusted, some aghast. Mothers changed the walkway to spare their kids from the image. The blue-haired did not care as long as Kagami did not. And seeing as the other was in no

way ashamed of being with him, Kuroko did not see a reason to hide. His Alpha was alright with showing everyone who he belonged to.

One of the reason Akashi had never fucked him was that he might have gotten pregnant. Even if he did not, he might have claimed it was Akashi's kid. This way he was unable to do so. No Akashi ever lowered themselves to copulating with an Omega, they had more class than that. The redhead most likely thought Kuroko should be thankful he was allowed to suck his captain's cock. Somehow he did not even doubt that a lot of people were vying for that and were denied. Reo Mibuchi for example. What was it with Akashi and teammates who screamed "whore"? But Akashi would not sleep with him, Kuroko was sure of that. Reo had too much ego for the redhead.

Midorima had no problem with showing who he was with. But that was more because he did not know how to lie than because he wanted people to know. Aomine and Kise would have rather been caught dead than honest about who they slept with. Only Murasakibara would have stood by him but Kuroko had decided early on that while that one had unbelievable pheromones, he was too unreliable as a mate. Himuro was charming enough to get a job even with three bawling children hanging onto him but Kuroko was not. He would have to depend on the one he was with.

On that note, he should really tutor Kagami. Better today than tomorrow. His mate was actually close to failing this year. Maybe he should make Kagami stay with the kids and earn money himself. Nice vision ... but no, he wanted to be with his children and he would not be allowed to work when he was pregnant. He had an inkling this would not be his only child.

He heard that in some countries being an Omega was completely alright. You had to take your medication and that was it. In all other regards, you were just the same as everyone else. He wanted to see such a thing one day. Here in Japan, being an Omega meant you were sub-human. You were mated or married off and kept inside to care for children. It wasn't as bad as it was a hundred years ago, when Omegas were just a dirty secret you had next to your wife. Seeing an Omega out on the streets for more than shopping, especially seeing them aside their Alpha ... that was nearly unheard of. But Kagami never cared for social norms, so Kuroko did not worry too much. He simply enjoyed being with someone who had no qualms about showing how much he loved him.

It was exhilarating.

He wanted to stuck out his baby-belly for the world to see but of course there was nothing yet. Just a few months and he would be able to proudly show it off. Hopefully Kagami would stay the same and not get cold feet. Up to now he held up admirably. He had gotten stiff though when they stood in front of Kuroko's door.

"We're home!" He called after opening the door.

"Tetsu!" His mother came out of the kitchen – the television could be heard in the background. "Oh my ... you've brought your handsome mate."

"Have you told her?" Kagami asked in surprise.

"No, silly, I'm his mother, I know such things." She stepped out with a smile, throwing her arms around her son. "Let me see, let me see!" Kuroko lowered his jacket and turned so she could inspect the bite-mark. She laughed in delight and asked: "When is my grandchild due?"

"Nine months, you know that better than me" Kuroko necked her.

"Good thing you already have your middle-school diploma. I was thrown out of school when I could not hide it anymore." She sighed. "It is the great beginning of manning

conbinis at night and mopping company floors."

"No way" Kagami spoke up. "They won't do that ... will they?"

"Welcome to Omega life." Kuroko just nodded. "At least I won't have to live on the street. Kagami asked me to move in with him. Can I?"

"Really?" She turned to the redhead in surprise. "What does your family say to that?"

"My father offered money and my mother said she is fine with anything as long as I don't quit school. But how will you tutor me when you don't go to school yourself?"

Kagami looked conflicted. "I'm sorry, I didn't know that could happen ... I can't believe I was that careless." He hung his head.

"Let us go and see your principal tomorrow." His mother took his hands and pressed them in support. "You know, maybe they are a bit more open these days. We can at least try."

"We should wait. It's only been a day. About eighty percent of pregnancies fail in the first three months. We should not rush too much."

"You are right." She nodded and looked at her son's stomach. "You are still too young but I hope you won't lose it. It's part of nature but it still hurts. I don't think I ever told you but I was pregnant once before you."

"Really?" Kuroko looked up in surprise.

"Yes. It only lasted two weeks though. But it made me sad enough that when I thought about aborting you after your father ran away, I could not stand the thought. I still feel guilty I even thought about that, so I am happy I could not consider going through with an abortion. Even imagining that after losing a baby was unthinkable."

"I can imagine" Kuroko plastered the most fake smile he could muster on his face. "Do you have some food? I am a bit hungry."

"You are too early for hunger pangs." She winked and turned. "I have some wakame and I can cook some rice. Are you hungry too, Kagami?"

"I'll take some rice, please. Just fill your cooker, I'll eat whatever is left." He looked at Kuroko for a few seconds. "We'll wait in your son's room, alright?"

"Sure, I'll call for you!"

"Thank you, Miss Kuroko." Kagami took his hand and dragged him to his room.

"I see why you don't want to tell her." Kagami sat down and dragged a sitting pillow next to him. "But I also fear what keeping this a secret is doing to you."

"I am alright" Kuroko mumbled.

"You are not." The other shook his head. "You beat yourself up because you think she would be disappointed and ashamed of you."

He nodded. He knew for a fact that she would be. Shame. It was enough how ashamed he felt about himself. She would be right to blame him for what happened, for killing those babies. He had done that. Kagami must be ashamed of him as well, he just did not say so because he loved him.

"Can we talk?" Kagami turned to fully face him. So this was it. His mate must have finally realised what he had gotten himself into. Kuroko lowered his head but Kagami drew it up again with a hand under his chin. "Why are you suddenly so down?"

"You don't want a baby, do you?" Kuroko whispered. "You go along with this because you know I would never, ever abort it."

The redhead stayed silent. Of course. What else should he say? He could only hurt Kuroko further or lie. Both would only make it worse. Kagami loved him, he was sure of that, but this ... this seemed unsolvable.

"Do you have Akashi's number?" The redhead's voice was trembling with fury. "I can't

hit the guy right now but I want to scream at him for doing this to you."

"Akashi never did anything, it was all me. You may scream at me." Even though he said that Kuroko curled in on himself. He did not want his mate angry with him.

That one sighed deeply while all anger seemed to drain from him. It looked a bit like meditating until he opened his eyes again and softly said: "I can't make you believe that I love you, that I want to stay with you through thick and thin, that I want to be with you and raise our baby with you. It frustrates me so much that my words and actions don't reach you. What can I do to make you believe me?"

Kagami could not mean that. He must not have thought this through. Why should the nicest, best-looking, powerful guy want to stay with someone as tainted as him? He trusted Kagami that the other had feelings for him. He had mated with him after all. But more than that? He wasn't worth that much.

"Okay, even if you don't believe me: Yes, this was unplanned. I don't regret it though. I hope it won't open too many old wounds or that if, I am somehow able to close them, I don't know. I just want you to know that I support you. If you want this baby – not because you feel guilty or ashamed or don't want to disappoint people – if you yourself want to have this, I will support you in any way I can. If you can't believe me, than at least know is not because I don't mean it. I fully mean it. I ... I don't know what more I can say."

Kuroko closed his arms around his stomach and calmly stated: "I want this baby."

"Good." Kagami took a deep breath. "Then we will have this baby. Not you, we. I am part of this. We are partners, are we not? You are always right to call me out when I start a one-man-show, now I call you out on it."

"Aren't you afraid?" The blue-haired whispered.

"Afraid?" The other blinked. "Of what? The baby won't eat us, even if it has my stomach."

Kuroko simply shook his head with a smile. Right. What should they be afraid of? It was only a baby. Kagami could make everything seem so easy. And hadn't he been right before? He had said they would be the best in Japan and that was what they did. How hard could raising a child be when you already became a national basketball champion and threw all your former tormentor's arrogance in their face? He was right. It was just a baby. Omegas had them all the time. And he would not be alone.

"Stay with me", Kuroko whispered, "I'll be sure to believe you some day."

They began packing the next day. Due to being poor and living in a one-tatami-room, Kuroko did not own more than what the three of them could comfortably carry. It was sad that his school textbooks were the heaviest thing he owned, followed by a sport bag full of clothes that Kagami carried.

His mother was delighted by their flat. She most likely had never seen something so big, coming from a fairly poor farming family herself. Her father had not wanted to support a pregnant Omega daughter, so she had been in state custody until she was old enough to support herself – being the competent woman that she was, that had been three months after Kuroko's birth. She danced in circles in the spacious living room.

"If you can stay in school, Tetsu, I'll watch your baby, yes? I can change my shifts back to evening-shifts. I want to watch my favorite series on that TV." She clapped in delight, standing in front of the large plasma screen. "Hey, do you think I should move too? Maybe I find something cheaper in the neighborhood. I can live with one less room now."

"I'd rather you look for something bigger. You'll have less expenses now."

"Ah, don't worry. Having you live with me is not expensive, you don't eat much. Just think how my life would have been raising someone like your mate. I would never have been able to get enough money for school and food." She laughed. "No wonder Alphas tend to get rich. They'd never be able to raise their children otherwise."

Kagami looked like he wanted to sink through the floor. Miss Kuroko went up to him and asked nicely: "Would you help me move, mister son-in-law?"

"What? Eh, sure. I'll help." He scratched his head. "Just tell me what you need, I'll do it. If money is a problem, I'm pretty sure my parents would gladly pay for your help with the kid." He looked at her annoyed face. "I'm sorry, I didn't mean that in a bad way, it's just ... they have nothing but money to offer. They'll never watch a kid or anything. If you move and change your job just for us, that's ... I know that's most likely something you just do, you're a great mother, but I didn't grow up with taking things like that for granted. I just mean ... it's only right if my parents do their part, even if it is with money." He looked down in shame. "I just wanted to say thank you."

"Thank you is enough." She nodded. "I won't take money for caring for my grandchild, no matter how poor I am. That is just the right thing to do." Well, no one had ever done the right thing by her, so no wonder she adamantly kept to that. "But I'll gladly call for you whenever I need help. I bet you can repair our cupboard in no time."

"Last time we tried I lifted my mother but we were still unable to secure the top" Kuroko explained.

"How about I come over tomorrow and I try to fix it?" Kagami offered.

"Such a reliable young man!" She took his hand. "No show me where you plan the baby room."