

## Taking Chances

Posted originally on the [Archive of Our Own](http://archiveofourown.org/works/31990639) at <http://archiveofourown.org/works/31990639>.

Rating:	<a href="#">Teen And Up Audiences</a>
Archive Warning:	<a href="#">No Archive Warnings Apply</a>
Categories:	<a href="#">F/M</a> , <a href="#">Multi</a>
Fandom:	<a href="#">Edens Zero (Manga)</a>
Relationships:	<a href="#">Homura Kogetsu/Weisz Steiner</a> , <a href="#">Rebecca Bluegarden/Kris Rutherford</a> , <a href="#">Weismura</a> , <a href="#">Kriscca</a> , <a href="#">shicca</a> , <a href="#">Rebecca Bluegarden/Shiki Granbell</a> , <a href="#">Weismura-Freeform</a> , <a href="#">Weisz Steiner &amp; Homura Kogetsu</a>
Characters:	<a href="#">Weisz Steiner</a> , <a href="#">Homura Kogetsu</a> , <a href="#">Rebecca Bluegarden</a> , <a href="#">Kris Rutherford</a> , <a href="#">Shiki Granbell</a> , <a href="#">Laguna Huser</a> , <a href="#">Kleene Rutherford</a> , <a href="#">Witch Regret (Edens Zero)</a> , <a href="#">Sister Ivry (Edens Zero)</a> , <a href="#">Labilia Christy</a> , <a href="#">Poseidon Shura</a> , <a href="#">Ziggy (Edens Zero)</a>
Additional Tags:	<a href="#">Alternate Universe</a> , <a href="#">Eventual Romance</a> , <a href="#">Eventual Smut</a> , <a href="#">Unrequited Love</a> , <a href="#">Love Triangles</a> , <a href="#">Alternate Universe - Modern Setting</a> , <a href="#">Friendship</a> , <a href="#">Best Friends</a> , <a href="#">Childhood Friends</a> , <a href="#">Loss of Parent(s)</a> , <a href="#">Abusive Relationships</a> , <a href="#">soft relationships</a> , <a href="#">Not Beta Read</a>
Language:	English
Stats:	Published: 2021-06-16 Updated: 2022-02-08 Words: 23,646 Chapters: 4/?

# Taking Chances

by [LadyP1005](#)

## Summary

Weisz, Jinn and Homura, three total outcasts, have been friends since they were in middle school. Their group of friends grew quite a lot after they met Rebecca, Laguna and Shiki, making them inseparable.

But a decision Homura makes after graduation breaks the group and Weisz's heart. Now eight years have passed and they are all hired to work for their former teacher Witch Regret at the Edens Zero Academy.

Memories and old feelings will bring this group back together, Resentment, power and jealousy might drive them apart. Things are no longer the way they use to be before graduation and life as adults is not as simple either. But it sure is a fun ride.

Join me and my favorite Edens Zero Characters as they live this slightly different adventure. No super powers, or ether gears just slice of life and our heroes going through their mid 20s.

Warning: Some Characters might be out of character. And I'm not a native English speaker, so mistakes might be made.

# Prologue

## Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for [notes](#)

The warm light of the sunset covered like a blanket, the sky of the little town of Bluegarden. Located in the south east of Maine, Bluegarden was a small beautiful city. It was surrounded by forests and hills and tourists called it "the valley of flowers". Everyone was already getting back home, finishing their jobs for the day and going back to their families.

Everyone but a group of teens, who were gathered around a bonfire, drinking and laughing as the dim light of the fire lit up their faces.

"Oh man I'm gonna miss this trash hideout" a boy with green hair said as he drank from his beer.

"Hey, don't call it trash, it took me like 5 days to find it," a blond boy who was sitting to his left said.

"Yeah that's on me for letting Weisz of all people find a secret base for us to hangout, it would have taken you 3 years if it wasn't for Homura" a very tall young man with blue hair said as he took A sip from his own cup of alcohol.

The purple-haired girl who was sitting next to Weisz just giggled at her friend's statement, noticing how the blond's ears turned red.

"There, I swear, Weisz did all the work," Homura said as she tapped her best friend's back.

"I bet" the blue haired man said sarcastically.

"Shut up Laguna!" Weisz was completely red now, he always got frustrated when his friends teased him about his lack of survival skill.

Weisz loved computers, and science. He was the kind of kid, ever since he was little who didn't socialize much. That was until he met Homura and Jinn in middle school.

They were just like him and soon became super closed. He looked at them both sitting next to him laughing at something Laguna said. Jinn, the green haired boy, was now trying to get his beer back from Laguna who kept saying he was still underage to drink.

Laguna was a year older than them, they met him when they started highschool, he had lost a year, because his parents worked around the world in a travelling circus.

Weisz remembered how intrigued everyone was about Laguna when he joined their class. He was so chill and cool and he had been all over the world. Of course neither Weisz nor Jinn and Homura bothered him with annoying circus questions and in the end Weisz guessed that was why he joined their group.

He heard Homura's sweet giggles next to him and his gaze moved further to his left to look at her. Weisz let out a small puff of air, as he admired how beautiful she was.

Her purple hair outlined her perfect features and her long eyelashes danced with the flickering of the fire. Making her brown reddish eyes sparkle with joy as she laughed.

Weisz noticed her hand was laying right next to his and he had to fight the blush going up his face.

When he met Homura he remembered thinking she was the most beautiful girl in his class. He was young so he just associated it with them being friends and she being the only girl who was nice to him.

But as they got older and after they started highschool he started to notice her a lot more, not only as a friend but as the girl she was turning into. Everything about Homura was beautiful to Weisz, her face, her body, her voice. But the kindness in which she treated others and how sweet she was with everyone, made his heart skip a beat.

He had it bad for her, really bad, but the only one he had told about it was Jinn. So she wasn't aware of how much Weisz liked her, and he always thought it would be better that way, they were best friends after all.

"I can't leave you alone for 3 seconds and you are already making a mess" the voice of a young woman distracted them all. And they looked in the direction of the trees.

A beautiful girl with ash blonde hair and blue eyes stepped out of the bushes covering the entrance of their "hideout" followed by a boy with messy black hair. She stopped for a second while the boy reached the spot next to her and held out her hand for him to take and kept walking towards the group sitting by the fire.

"Seriously Laguna, why are you giving Jinn alcohol, you know he can't take it"

"HEY! I- that's not true" the green hair boy said, his cheeks completely red. He took the beer back and took another sip "quit making me look weak Rebecca"

Rebecca giggle and sat next to him the dark haired boy sat behind her holding her close to his chest

"I'm only looking out for you Jinn," she said and gave him a sweet smile, which made the boy's face get even more red.

"Tch, whatever" he scoffed, looking away from the girl to hide his face.

"That's my Ducky, always looking after everyone else" the dark hair boy said giving Rebecca a sweet kiss on the lips

Weisz looked at Jinn, whose eyes had diverted away from their friends' explicit show of affection. One will think they were used to it by now, after all Rebecca and Shiki had been

going out for 3 years now, but Weisz knew that was not the case.

Jinn gave them a smile that Weisz knew was not sincere.

"Yeah... thanks I guess" Jinn's voice was soft and even though he was smiling Weisz could tell he was feeling uncomfortable.

"Uhm.. Jinn! Help me out with the snacks I got, would you?" Weisz stood up and dust off his pants. "I left them in my car"

The green haired boy looked confused but instinctively stood up and followed him. Weisz didn't have to hear Jinn say what he was feeling, he knew him well enough to know when he needed saving.

Once they were far enough from the group to hear them, the blonde patted his best friend on the shoulder.

"You okay?" Weisz said, giving him a sad smile.

Jinn just rolled his eyes and smiled back at him.

"Yeah, thanks for that" the green-haired boy looked back to where everyone was gathered around the fire. Rebecca was now laughing at something Laguna had said, still laying her back on her boyfriend's chest. Jinn felt an incredible pain in his heart every time he looked at her interacting with Shiki. But when he saw her laugh like that...

He just couldn't help but smile.

"Are you ever going to tell her?" Weisz's voice brought him back to reality and Jinn shook his head as he looked back at his friend.

"What? No way, why would I do that?" Weisz's car wasn't very far; they could still hear everyone laughing.

"Well, why wouldn't you? How long has it been? more than 3 years?" Weisz rested his body on the side of his car and crossed his arms over his chest.

"Yeah so?" Jinn sighed already knowing where this was going. "Look, it's better this way... Shiki is my friend after all, I-" he lowered his head and Weisz could see the sadness in his eyes. "I'll get over it eventually..."

"You said the same thing 3 years ago and yet..." Weisz cared about all his friends, but Jinn was the closest he had to a brother. Ever since they met they had been inseparable, they protected each other and were there for each other in a way they have never been with Shiki or Laguna.

Weisz was there when Jinn told him about his crush on his neighbor's daughter.

Rebecca went to a different middle school than them, but she lived next to Weisz's house and around the time he started hanging out with Homura and Jinn, Rebecca's father got a new job and required him and his wife to travel a lot.

She never went outside to play much, and seemed like a loner, but her grandma who was looking after her during those times, was friend's with Weisz grandfather and he asked them if they could let Rebecca play with them.

Weisz wasn't really sure exactly when his best friend fell for her, but it was a long time ago. The four of them, even though they were in different middle schools, had a lot of fun together. Weisz slowly noticed how Jinn was always looking out for her and kept teasing him about it. When they found out they were all going to the same highschool, Jinn decided he was finally going to tell her.

But she met Shiki. Shiki was new in town, the stepson of one of the richest people that have ever set foot in Bluegarden. And one of Rebecca's father's old friends. Instantly they became friends with him, it wasn't hard, since Shiki was super outgoing and fun to be around.

Rebecca and Shiki seemed to be getting closer and closer, everyone noticed that they spent a lot of time out of school together going to events with their parents and being together. It was only natural what came after. One day they came to school together holding hands, acting like a sweet cute couple, they told everyone they were dating and that was it for Jinn.

Weisz still remembered how shocked he was. They talked about it one day, but he never said much, he just kept smiling and being friendly with them, like nothing had changed. But Weisz knew him better than anyone and he knew Jinn's heart was broken.

Jinn smiled and was always there for everyone because that's how he had always been. But the truth was that Jinn suffered in silence for something he will never get.

"Weisz dropped it already, I'm fine" the green haired boy put a hand on Weisz shoulder and the blond let out the air he was holding while remembering all that.

"You don't have to lie to me you know?" Weisz turned and let his back rest on the side of the car as he looked up to the sky.

"Hey, I'm not lying" Jinn smirked and hit his arm "Listen, I know you worry about me, but I'm OK" he narrowed his eyes and playfully elbowed Weisz on his ribs "you know who should be the one talking to certain someone? YOU"

Weisz, who was relaxed watching the stars above him, jumped and looked at the green haired boy with his eyes wide in surprise.

"What?! Why are you elbowing me?" Weisz could feel his face burning up slowly, he caught the indirect but he was an expert in playing dumb.



"Oh you know..." Jinn's smirk got brighter and the mischievous glimmer in his eyes made the blonde even more anxious. "When are you planning to tell Homura how you feel?"

"W-what?! N-no no way I'm doing that!" Now Weisz was sure he was completely red.

"Why not?" Jinn asked nonchalantly as he put both his hands on his pockets "you were pretty determined to tell her 3 nights ago"

"I was DRUNK" Weisz run a hand through his hair in frustration "I wasn't thinking clearly"

"If you ask me I think it is a pretty good idea, right before graduation, a love confession she will never be able to resist, best friends become lovers, it's just too beautiful" Jinn's eyes shone with expectation.

"You watch too many movies, you know that?" Weisz rolled his eyes, "Stop trying to make everything a motion picture Jinn!"

"I'm sorry I can't help it" the green haired boy chuckled and then he got serious "but I mean it Weisz... don't- don't be like me" his eyes were lost looking somewhere between his feet and Weisz felt his stomach twist with guilt "Don't wait too long, that's what I did and...if you wait too long, someone else will just..."

Weisz gulped, feeling the weight of his best friend's words like heavy blocks of ice hitting him directly. Could that really happen to him too? It never crossed his mind, the fact that someone else could take Homura away, he had automatically assumed their friendship meant more to her than anything else.

"T-that's not... that's not gonna happen, we are friends and—"

"Weisz, don't be silly" Jinn said looking at him. "Have you seen Homura? She is gorgeous"

"Of course I've seen her, I know she is beautiful" the blond could feel his face heating up with every word he said "what does that have to do with me telling her how I feel?"

Jinn shook his head

"Man, two minutes ago you were telling me to talk to Rebecca..."

"It's not the same!" Weisz's heart was beating at a pace he felt like it was going to burst out. The mere idea of talking about his feelings to Homura made his heart go nuts, he just couldn't do it.

"Yes it is!"

"No, it's not!" Weisz looked down "I- I don't wanna lose her friendship, there is no way she would ever like me back, not like that at least"

"Weisz you will never know if you don't try..." Jinn gave him a reassuring smile "at least you won't have to keep those feelings bottled up anymore" the green haired boy frowned "do you really want to see her going out with another man?"

"Of course NOT!" The image of Homura being with someone who wasn't him made him mad and extremely jealous.

"Then just tell her, be sincere nothing can go wrong if you are honest with yourself"

"Ugh, I hate you so much" Weisz grunted, Jinn knew him well too. He knew Weisz had a crush on Homura right away. Sometimes Weisz didn't know if his friendship with Jinn was a blessing or a curse.

"Ask her to the dance, tell her you want to be with her, if she rejects you well then you figure it out, look at the bright side we are all going to college in a few months"

Weisz narrowed his eyes and hit his friend on the back of his head.

"We are going to the same college dumbass"

"Ouch! Yeah so? Colleges are big, plus you still have me" Jinn said, rubbing the place where Weisz hit him.

Weisz sighted, looking back at the sky. It really was a beautiful night. Maybe Jinn wasn't wrong, maybe he should try. There was a part of him that felt Homura might feel the same, he had caught her staring at him and blushing a few times. But another part of him just couldn't believe someone like her would be interested in someone like him. And the fear of getting rejected by his best friend and losing something precious to him was just too much to handle.

"You make it sound so easy Jinn... but it's not, I don't know if I'm willing to lose her friendship over a crush"

"Is it? Just a crush?" Jinn questioned him.

Weisz didn't answer, he knew it wasn't, he knew his feelings for Homura were deeper, but he didn't want to go there. He didn't want to accept that he was crazy in love with her. It would ruin their friendship forever.

"It doesn't matter Jinn... I don't think I can do it"

"You hate yourself don't you? Don't be silly, you are a great guy, believe a little more in yourself"

"Look who's talking" Weisz was determined to drop the subject

"Stop trying to divert the conversation, I hate when you do that" Jinn sighed and shook his head

"You do the exact same thing Rutherford"

"I do not!"

"You do"

"Uhm... do you guys need help?"

Both Weisz and Jinn froze and turned to look over where the sweet voice came from.

Jinn giggled when he saw Homura looking at them with curiosity. And Weisz's ears turned bright red, he was paralyzed with embarrassment. What if she heard what they were talking about?

"Uhm... w-we.. I m-mean..." Weisz stuttered

Homura gave them both a mischievous smile and walked towards them.

"What are you up to? You are both acting strange"

"Nothing, we were just talking, you know?" Jinn winked at Weisz whose ears got redder  
"about graduation and all"

"Oh that's cute" she giggled and looked around searching for something. "You said you were getting snacks right?" Her eyes went down to look at both boys' hands which were empty and she rolled her eyes.

"Uhm, yeah, we just lost track of time—" Weisz started saying but Jinn cut him up.

"Actually, yes! Would you mind helping him out, Homura? I forgot I gotta do something" Jinn walked away from Weisz's car and grinned at the blond who was clearly starting to panic.

"WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?" He didn't intend to sound so loud but he was extremely anxious for some reason. "Y-you don't have to really, I think I can handle it" Weisz was trying not to look her in the eyes.

"Don't be silly man, you have only 2 hands" Jinn wiggled his eyebrows at him and Weisz sent him a deadly look. The green-haired boy snickered and waved at him. "Don't get distracted tho, I'm starving" he added and left.

Weisz cursed him, he couldn't believe him. Did Jinn really think Weisz could actually manage to tell Homura how he felt? It was impossible, everytime he thought about it his hands started sweating and he could never think straight.

Homura was looking at him completely clueless and when his eyes met hers, she just smiled sweetly.

"I really don't mind" she walked towards him and looked inside the car "where are they?" She pressed both hands on the passenger's window to look inside the car, brushing Weisz arm in the process.

He jumped to the side escaping her soft touch, completely aware that he was a mess at that moment. This could end up being incredibly embarrassing.

"Uhm, yeah no. They are in the trunk" Weisz voice was shaky. He wouldn't usually be this nervous around her, he was used to playing dumb and hiding his feelings but the previous conversation with Jinn got him edgy.

He tried to open the trunk but his keys fell down to the ground *'For the love of God, keep it together idiot'* He said to himself as he kneeled down to grab the keys.

His eyes widened in surprise when instead of the keys he found Homura's hand.

"Here, I'll do it, your hands are trembling" her eyes were shining brighter than ever and he could see a slight pinkish color on her cheeks. She had the key in her hand and Weisz wasn't able to move his hand from hers.

He was stunned by her beauty. She looked extremely beautiful tonight. It wasn't helping that the moonlight shone above her purple hair and face, making her skin look like porcelain. Her hand was a bit cold so he instinctively rubbed it to warm her up.

The sensation gave him goosebumps the good kind and he forgot why he was so nervous to begin with. Homura has been his friend since they were young, she has been there for him when his mother got sick, she was always caring and looking out for him and so did he. They had gone through so much together.

Homura opened her mouth to say something, but closed it again. The way Weisz was looking at her made her heart beat so fast she really thought it was going to burst out. *'His hands are always so warm'* she thought and could feel her cheeks burning up at the thought of all the times Weisz had held her hand.

The knot she had been feeling in her stomach for the past 2 weeks, everytime she thought about him, got even bigger when she looked into his eyes. A sudden need to cry overwhelmed her and as fast as she could she brushed it away.

He had stopped trembling and he slowly took the key away from her as they both stood up.

"I can do it, don't worry," Weisz said softly and gave her the softest smile she had ever seen coming from him.

Something was different about Weisz tonight. But she couldn't tell what it was.

"That was nice of you Weisz" Homura said without thinking while he was opening the trunk.

Weisz turned to look at her puzzled, not really getting what she meant.

"What was?" He asked

"What you did for Jinn" Homura giggled at the expression of panic Weisz had on his face. "Come on! You really think I didn't know he likes her? We spent all those years together and you think I wouldn't notice?"

Homura shook her head and brushed away some hair from her bangs that were covering her eyes.

"Well..." Weisz again got caught up staring at her. He really needed to do something with himself or she was going to end up thinking he had gone crazy. "Not really no, it's just, we barely talk about it you know? It's a sensitive topic" Weisz scoffed and rolled his eyes "even if he says it's not"

"Is there any heart related topic that it isn't?" Homura said, looking up at the sky. She had turned around and her back was laying on the car.

She had her eyes closed and the soft breeze caressed her hair making her look even more stunning than what she already was.

Weisz held his breath, Jinn was right. Homura was beyond beautiful, she was breathtaking and the more she grew up the more gorgeous she looked. It wasn't just a crush, no, she meant

the world to him. He loved her and he should stop being such a coward and for once in his life act on it.

"Homura?"

The purple haired girl turned to look at him and the determination she saw in his eyes gave her goosebumps.

"Yeah?" She was suddenly nervous, why? What was it about tonight that she just felt so edgy around him?

Homura didn't want to admit it, but she knew why she was feeling so uneasy. She was sad and happy and all she wanted to do was spend time with her friends. But most importantly she wanted to spend time with him.

She had made a decision when she got that letter two weeks ago and she was going to stick to it. She knew tonight was going to be the last time she got to spend time with her friends, with Weisz and being alone with him right now was just making her feel many things at once.

Weisz was looking everywhere but her. His brain was screaming at him to say something before he ended up looking like a total idiot. But his voice wasn't coming out.

He didn't think this through, he should have planned what to say beforehand, now he was completely blank, just staring at her while she waited for him to say something.

"I-I... ehm, well...you know?" What the hell was wrong with him? He really had no clue how to do this. He had absolutely zero experience in love confessions, and unlike Jinn he didn't watch romantic comedies 24/7. *'I'm so not ready for this, I can't do it'*

Weisz's hands started to sweat, she was gonna run away from him, he was just a pathetic computer lover loser that couldn't muster up the courage to ask the girl he liked out.



"Weisz? Are you ok?" Homura was starting to get worried. She forgot about her own thoughts when she noticed he was struggling with something. "Do you feel sick?"

Weisz groaned, *'just ask her out, ask her out, what did Jin say? Oh yes! The DANCE'* his inner thoughts screamed at him and the courage he thought he had lost, took over him again. That was it, that's what he needed to do.

"Uhm... yeah yeah I'm fine, sorry about that, I'm just..." he scratched the back of his head and ventured his eyes towards the purple-haired girl. "I just wanted to ask you something and got well a little bit nervous"

"Oh..." unconsciously Homura rested her hand on her chest. Trying to feel the beating of her heart to calm herself down. What could he want to ask her that got him so nervous, did he find out about her plans? And why was he blushing like that?

"I was wondering if you... well..." Weisz took a deep breath, this was it. He had to do it now. Her eyes were locked on him and even though insecurities kept popping on his mind, he knew this was for the best *'just let it out of your chest, do it'*.

Weisz looked at her with determination in his eyes, his face was burning but he was determined to tell her now.

"Homura... go to the dance with me" he burst out and mentally hit himself for sounding more like a demand than a question.

"Eh?" Homura tilted her head, she seemed confused. "Weren't we all supposed to go together?" She asked innocently with a soft giggle. The knot in her stomach came back, thinking about how she had been lying to everyone about this.

Weisz couldn't help but smile, she could be really absent minded sometimes, and he loved her for that. With the little amount of courage he had left, Weisz took a step closer to her reaching out for her hand.

Homura gasped when he touched her. Weisz looked so mature and sweet, she could feel a rush of adrenaline taking over her body.

"I meant just us... you and well... me" he tangled his fingers with hers "together"

"Just you and me?" Homura's voice was almost like a whisper. But Weisz was close enough to hear her. She frowned, still a little bit confused and looked at him "You mean as friends?"

*'Whaaaaat? Is she for real?!'* Weisz knew she was pretty dense but he was being straightforward or at least he thought he was. Why was this so hard, she really was going to make him say it?

"No..." he said slowly, his face turning bright red. "Not as friends I..."

Homura's heart never stopped beating fast, it felt like she had been training for hours and the rush of adrenaline wasn't going away. The way Weisz was acting was completely new to her. He had never been this shy around her before and it confused her, but at the same time filled her with warmth.

"I... I... I'm in love with you" Weisz said and sounded much louder than he intended. He had his eyes closed and he didn't dare to open them. He didn't want to look at her, he couldn't look at her, he felt so embarrassed.

Homura froze. She couldn't move, or blink or even think straight. For a second she thought she heard him wrong. But Weisz was blushing like crazy so she must have heard right.

*"No... H-he can't..."* Homura suddenly felt the knot she had in her stomach tighten, and spread to her throat making it hard for her to speak. She looked down at their hands, their fingers still tangled together and she had to fight the tears from leaving her eyes. *'This is not happening, not now, not now...'* her mind kept echoing those words over and over again.

"I- " Homura's voice was hoarse and broken, still trying to fight the tears from forming, she let go of his hand.

Weisz opened his eyes when the warmth of her hand disappeared. He met her eyes and what he saw confused the hell out of him. Homura looked like she was about to cry but he couldn't tell if it was from happiness or not.

As fast as he could he looked down at his feet again. Weisz felt so exposed and self-conscious. Why did he have to go and say it like that? ' *Please please let her say something I'm about to die*'

"I... I can't" Homura whispered,

This time Weisz couldn't hear her clearly, so he raised his head to look at her. She looked sad, and Weisz felt his heart breaking.

"W-what was that? I couldn't hear it" he said slowly, taking a step closer to her.

Homura took a deep breath, she didn't want to tell him, but now she had no choice and his confession only made things worse.

"I said I can't go to the dance with you..." this time she said it loud enough for him to understand. "I- I'm sorry Weisz I'm just not going to the dance"

Weisz frowned, completely confused. Wasn't she listening? He just told her he loved her, who cares about the dance.

"OK, so? I don't really care about the dance itself I was just trying to tell you how I—"

"I'm leaving" Homura interrupted him before he could keep talking. She couldn't hear him say it again. She just wouldn't be able to hold back the tears if she heard him say it again.

"What do you mean?" Weisz was beyond confused at this point. He was trying to understand how what she was saying had anything to do with his feelings for her. "Leaving where?"

Homura seemed hesitant to answer. She didn't want to. She promised herself she wouldn't tell them. But here she was and now it was too late. She tried to relax and think before saying what she was about to say by taking a deep breath. There was nothing that would change her decision, it was already too late for that, not even his love confession.

"I got into Mildian University," she said, looking Weisz in the eyes as they widened in shock.

Weisz stood there completely lost in thoughts, confused, and surprised. Not really understanding what he was listening to. What was this? Was she for real? Mildian University was half around the world. This made no sense to him at all.

"W-what do you mean you got in? Y-you applied there?" He asked, still not really grasping what was going on. Homura nodded and Weisz's chest started to hurt. "You did? But why didn't you tell me?"

"Because... I really never thought I'll get in I just thought it would be cool to try"

"Still! You could have told me, w-when are you leaving? I mean we can still hang out right?" Weisz was so overwhelmed by what she had just said that he put aside the embarrassment of his confession, and let the fear of not seeing her again win over his mind. "We still have summer break and I'm sure everyone will want to—"

"I'm leaving tomorrow" she said as cold as she could. It was getting harder to look at him in the eyes, the way his face turned dark and somber when she said that, made Homura's heart ache.

"What?" Weisz couldn't even process the amount of emotions running through him, but everything seemed to stop moving. He was paralyzed, he couldn't hear, or see or even speak.

He felt weak, useless and betrayed. Homura was talking, he could see her mouth move but he was not hearing her.

All his fears were reduced to one simple thing. She was leaving them, she was leaving him and he didn't even have the time to actually say goodbye.

"Weisz, please, don't be like this. Are you even listening?" When he didn't say anything else, Homura panicked.

"Why?" Weisz asked lowering his head

"I told you, I just felt it would be nice to apply there, and I wasn't expecting to—"

"Why didn't you say anything earlier!!!? He was way louder than before but he was hurt and mad and he didn't care.

"I... you know I hate goodbyes, it was easier this way" Homura wanted to look away, she knew she had been selfish and she didn't want to see him so hurt. "I'M SORRY ok? I really wasn't expecting you confessing to me, this wasn't supposed to happen like this"

Something hit straight at Weisz like a lightning. The confession he made only a few minutes ago came back to his mind but instead of being embarrassed by it he felt anger.

*'It was because of that, she told me she was leaving because I said I love her. So.. if I hadn't she would have just...'* He couldn't believe her. Why?

"And how was it supposed to happen?" Weisz was grinding his teeth "after you had already left without saying goodbye, that's when?"

"I didn't mean that—"

"Stop lying!! You are not being honest with me, I can see it in your eyes!" Weisz clenched his fist, he was frustrated and hurt. But he tried to calm himself, getting mad right now wouldn't get him anywhere. "Is this your mother's doing?" he said slowly.

Homura tried not to panic, this was the exact reason she had been avoiding telling everyone about her plans, no one would approve of them. She was desperately trying not to disappoint anyone in her life, trying to make things easier for everyone else.

"That's not... Weisz I really want to go there" she said this time not being able to hold back the tears.

"Then why will you hide it from us?"

"You don't understand!"

"Then explain it to me!!" Weisz never in all the years he had known Homura, thought he would be in a situation where he had to let her go.

"I already told you, please don't make this more difficult" tears were running down her cheeks, and she instantly dried them with the back of her hand.

They were both silent for a minute, neither of them wanted to say something they would regret later on. It was then when Weisz realized something. She never fully answered his confession. Homura didn't say she didn't like him back, she just told him she was leaving and that was it.

Weisz took a step closer to her, the little amount of hope he had left still shining bright in his heart. Maybe it wasn't all black and white.

"You still haven't answered me" he whispered loud enough for her to hear him.

"I told you, I'm not going I'm leav—"

"I'm not talking about the dance," Weisz interrupted her "I just told you how I feel, I want to know how you feel" Homura held her breath for a second as he stood right in front of her "because if you feel what I'm feeling, I don't give a damn about the distance and colleges, I just wanna be with you"

Homura's eyes widened in surprise, there was no way he meant that. He couldn't be telling her that all those things didn't matter to him, when she knew he had been looking forward to going to college.

Homura felt her heart shrink, she could never ask him to leave everything for her, that was too selfish. This whole conversation was something she hoped she would never have to deal with.

She tried to say something but Weisz's sweet look left her speechless. He has never been the type of person who would talk about his emotions, but his eyes... his eyes had always spoken for him.

Homura wanted to tell him so many things, but she knew she couldn't. She had to go on with her promise and she was going to leave. She knew what was going to happen if she answered him, and she just couldn't.

"Homura?" Weisz was getting extremely anxious, he felt like an idiot. What was he thinking? But it was too late to back off, he had already said it and now he had to deal with it. "Please say some—"

"No.." The purple haired girl hid her eyes behind her bangs as she looked down, and her voice was so low that Weisz had a hard time catching what she said.

"No... what exactly? you don't wanna talk, or..?"

"No, I do not feel the same way" she raised her head but was still avoiding looking at him directly and she had to hold back the tears that were threatening to burst out the minute she said that.

Weisz didn't say anything, everything around him seemed to have disappeared and turned to dust. He felt a hole in his chest growing and he was back to when he was 7 years old, alone in his dark room, his parents gone, with no friends, no family, he felt he was drowning and there was nothing he could do or say to prevent it.

Weisz just looked at her, trying hard to conceal his hurt and disappointment, but not succeeding very well.

When he finally spoke his voice was broken.

"I see..." was all he could say, and he started walking back to where the rest were. He wanted to die of embarrassment, he had never felt so ashamed and heartbroken in his life.

"Weisz..."

"We should go back, you need to tell everyone that you are leaving"

Homura followed him with her eyes. It hurt her seeing him so sad. She really wasn't thinking when she took his hand to stop him.

"Weisz please..." she didn't want to lose him, not like this.

Weisz looked at her hand wrapped around his wrist. With a soft movement he got free of her grip. Homura frowned, why was he being so cold?



"It's alright, forget about it" he said and turned around to keep walking. There was no point anymore, she was going to leave anyway.

"Please Weisz, don't tell anyone else" Homura said and Weisz stopped on his feet.

"What?" He asked turning to look at her and check if she was making a bad joke.

Homura walked towards him to stand on his side

"I don't want anyone else to know I'm leaving, please just don't tell them"

Weisz couldn't believe her. She really was planning to just leave everyone behind and don't even explain?

"What do you mean? They have to know, you are their friend, they care about you, you can't just leave" he didn't want to, but he was getting angrier as time passed. He knew it was stupid, but he couldn't help it.

"I will, when I'm already gone. Trust me it is for the best. I hate saying goodbye to people. You know that" Homura sounded desperate, there was something in the way Weisz was looking at her, that just made her even more anxious.

"They deserve to know," he said and kept walking with Homura trailing after him.

"Weisz... just please don't" she noticed they were almost near the fire "Don't tell them!"

Weisz turned around so fast she bumped into him.

"I'm not gonna tell them, you are. I'm not gonna be the bad friend who knew and never told them. Friends are supposed to trust each other" he was being too loud, Weisz noticed that. But he couldn't help it.

He was angry at her for leaving them, he was angry at himself for opening up to her like an idiot, he was ashamed of being rejected and was at his limit.

"I can't do that! Don't be irrational, you are just angry right now"

"I'm not! I'm not being irrational, you are being irrational! You tell them Homura or I will!"

"Hey what's going on?" Weisz heard Jinn's voice from behind him.

The other four heard the commotion and went to check it out.

"Are you two fighting?" It was Rebecca the one who talked her tone was soft but you could sense the hesitation "you two never fight"

"What did you do, Weisz?" Laguna said and that made the blond even angrier.

"What the hell Laguna, shut up" he looked at Homura again who had both her hands turned into fists and Weisz didn't know if she was about to cry or do something worse. "Homura wants to tell you all something"

"Stop it..." she whispered

"Go ahead, tell them why we are fighting" Weisz didn't want to sound so bitter, but he couldn't help it. Nothing had gone the way he expected tonight and he couldn't stand the situation anymore. It was not fair, she couldn't just leave and act like they were nothing in her life.

"Don't do this..." Homura said her heart was pounding fast, and she felt how her usual calm and soft demeanor started changing to a more aggressive one.

Why couldn't he understand what she was going through? This was not easy for her either, she didn't want to hurt her friends that's why she thought it was for the best. Why couldn't Weisz respect her decisions?!

*'He is just mad because you rejected him'* a voice in her head said and she brushed it away as fast as she could.

"Don't do what? Tell the truth?" Weisz pointed at the other four who were looking between Weisz and Homura completely befuddled. "They deserve to know"

"What 's going on?" Jinn said he was clearly worried, and something was telling him things between his two best friends had gone roughly bad. "What truth??"

Jinn's eyes and Weisz's met and the green haired boy saw the pain his best friend was feeling in them.

Weisz cold stare went back to the purple haired girl in front of him.

"Homura has something to tell you" he hissed. At this point he was not even trying to conceal how hurt he was.

"You don't wanna do this" Homura's voice was trembling, she was enraged. She had tried to keep it cool, to not show how she was feeling. She thought Weisz of all people would understand her and support her decision. Instead he was pushing her to the edge.

It was understandable, that he felt hurt, it hurt her too. She was doing what she could with what she had. Her mind was going places she didn't really want to go. Her watery eyes were

focused on her best friend piercing him with an uncontrollable anger.

"Well then I guess I'll say it then" Weisz said and Homura had enough.

She had been trying to keep her thoughts to herself but the urge to speak up what she was thinking, mixed with how angry she was at him for pushing her like this, for not understanding her, for not trying harder. It was just driving her insane.

"You are just bitter" she spit out, and suddenly, the eyes of all her friends were on her. "You are just doing this because you are mad, typical of you Weisz"

Something in her was telling her to stop, that what she was about to say was gonna make things worse. But she couldn't stop it now, she just couldn't stop herself.

"I'm mad? And whose fault is that?"

"Not mine, I didn't do anything wrong" she couldn't hold the tears anymore. "It is not my fault you can't accept that I'm not in love with you"

There she said it, now stop.

Everyone was speechless including Weisz whose mind was trying to process how she had just told everyone that she rejected his love confession

Homura knew she had to stop, that she had said enough. But her mouth didn't seem to hear her brain's request and kept talking.

"You know this is exactly why you and I will never be even remotely possible, you are immature and childish..."

"Homura..." she heard Jinn say he was concerned and that only made her even angrier. Of course he was concerned, he always was when it came to Weisz.

"Don't 'Homura' me Jinn. I had enough" she turned again to look at Weisz who still hadn't said anything "You want to make me the bad guy for rejecting you, fine do it." Why was she saying all this? She didn't think like that, did she? "That won't change anything Weisz" she was crying again "that won't change the fact that I don't like you, and I never will"

She heard Shiki whistle, but Homura's eyes were focused on the blonde in front of her. She covered her mouth, realizing she had stepped into a territory she was never going to be able to get out.

She hurt him, she could see it in his face. Even more than before, and a wave of regret invaded her body the minute after she said that.

Weisz clicked his tongue, he had taken some low blows from Homura tonight. All of them hit him right where it hurt. Her rejection, her leaving their country, and now her telling him she will never like him back.

He was numb, his friend's eyes were all on him, probably wanting to see how he reacted to what she had said. Weisz could sense how uncomfortable Shiki was, how uncharacteristically silent Laguna was staying. Rebecca was torn up into holding Homura and deeply concerned for Weisz and Jinn just stood there.

The blonde took a look at the girl he had fallen for. She stood there, her hand covering her mouth, and tears threatening to fall down her cheek.

"Wow, it's nice to know you dislike me that much..." he gave her a hurt smile.

Homura couldn't hold it anymore, the looks of disappointment on Weisz face broke her more than what she thought it would. She wanted to take it back, she didn't mean to say all that, she didn't dislike him at all.

*'Take it back, I take it back, you are not all those things I said, I take it back'* her inner thoughts were a mess.

"Weisz, I didn't —"

"Homura is leaving tomorrow" Weisz voice was calmed "she is going to study abroad, maybe you should all wish her good luck"

He gave a last cold look to the purple haired girl and started walking back to his car.

Jinn didn't have much time to process what the hell was going on. But his instinct told him enough to grasp the main issue of this situation. He didn't hesitate much, he walked next to Homura and put a hand on her shoulder

"Listen, I gotta go after him. But I'll call you later, and you better pick up Homura. We gotta talk about this before you go"

Homura didn't say anything, she just nodded and watched him run after his friend.

"Homura? Are you ok?" Rebecca walked towards her "what did Weisz mean? Where are you going?"

Homura dried her tears and slowly told Laguna, Rebecca and Shiki about her change of college.

Shiki gave her a thumbs up and wished her good luck. Homura wasn't surprised, she and Shiki weren't really that close, but he has always been cheerful and positive. Nothing seemed to ever bother the guy.

Rebecca on the contrary looked really sad. She has grown to love Homura like a sister during all those years. And even if she knew this was something good for her friend, Rebecca

couldn't help feeling disappointed.

"Mura, I really wish you the best... I only wished..." her blue eyes stuck watching the ground "I just wished you would have told me sooner, so we could do more things together" the ash blonde hugged her and Homura knew she was crying.

"Rebecca..."

"I'm gonna miss you, I know we can still talk but it's not gonna be the same"

"I'm sorry..."

"I guess I can understand, if that's what you want, I'll always support you"

Homura smiled at her, still with tears in her eyes. Shiki's phone rang and he moved away to talk.

"Thanks Becky" Homura was glad Rebecca didn't get mad. Still she knew the ash blond girl was disappointed in her, for not coming clean earlier.

Homura tried not to think about it. They wouldn't understand anyway.

"Okay, babe? We gotta go" Shiki said, hanging up the phone and taking Rebecca's hand. "Don't be a stranger, Homura" the black haired boy said with a wink.

"What he said" Rebecca gave her a sad smile as she walked away with her boyfriend.

"So... Mildian eh?" Laguna had his hands on his pockets as he lay back in one of the trees "Way to go, they say it is one of the most prestigious universities in Europe, quite strict and

demanding too. You are going to love it there"

"Yeah..." Homura sighed. She should be happy about her future. She was going to study in one of the best universities in the world, and yet she felt a hole in her chest.

"He will come around eventually... you know Weisz, he always burst out for stupid things and then he is apologizing like a little boy"

Laguna tapped her back and gave her one of his charming smiles. But Homura knew that what he was saying was only to cheer her up. Yes, she knew Weisz, and there was no way he was going to get over it.

"No, he won't. But thank you for trying to cheer me up"

Laguna chuckled.

"I had to try, come on, I'll drive you home" the blue hair boy said and offer her his arm "I'll give you some tips for your travels I have a few friends over there too"

Homura smiled, genuinely this time.

"Thank you Laguna " she grabbed his arm and walked out of their hideout.

Homura took one more look behind her. All the memories made in that place flashed through her mind. The laughs, their adventures. It hurt leaving this place, it hurt leaving her friends, but all she could do was look forward to her future, she knew it was for the best. Even if it cost her a lot more than what she expected.

Chapter End Notes



This first part was meant to put them all in setting. What happened right after graduation and how they were feeling at the time. From chapter one on it will be after 7 years had passed.

I really hope you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoyed writing it.

You can leave any questions in the comments and I would love to hear your thoughts. Think about this fanfiction as a mixed of Gossip Girl, The OC and Friends. At least that's what I'm aiming to.

Some of the characters are complete Out of characters, but it is intentional. I gave each of them different personalities to fit my story. You are welcome to stop reading if you don't enjoy it.

Again thank you for reading me

# Ch1: The new teacher

## Chapter Summary

Seven years had passed since Homura left them. Since she left him and Weisz did what any other person would have done. He moved on...

Or didn't he?

Reference: bold letters is text messages.

A/N: Please remember English is not my native language and i really do my best to not make mistakes. But I'm human and mistakes happen so if you see any just don't condemn me.

## Chapter Notes

See the end of the chapter for [notes](#)

*' Buzz, buzz, buzz, buzz'*

The sound of an alarm clock pierced through the silent morning, marking the start of a new day. Weisz opened his eyes slowly, trying to find the buzzing sound and make it stop.

He managed to reach the alarm clock on the other side of the bed and pressed the button to stop it. But it didn't stop, instead, the sound got louder. So he did the only thing he could think would make it stop buzzing like crazy. He threw it to the floor, breaking it in pieces.

"God damn it, Jinn and his stupid ideas" the blonde groaned and slowly got out of bed.

The second he stood up Weisz remembered he was not wearing any clothes. A smile in the form of a smirk started forming on his face, as flashes from the night before flooded his mind.

"Wild..." he whispered and shook his head.

He grabbed his boxers and a pair of sweatpants and put them on. In less than a minute he was on his way to the kitchen to have a serious talk about the alarm clock with his roommate.

When Weisz started university, his grandfather bought him an apartment downtown Sun Jewel, the city was pretty much what Weisz needed at that moment if he wanted to work on his projects and be close to university. Since his living budget wasn't big enough and he wanted to dedicate his time studying instead of working, he asked his best friend to move in with him and share the apartment expenses.

Two years had passed since they both finished university and even though he had a stable job and his budget wasn't that small anymore, he decided to keep sharing the apartment with Jinn. Not because of the money, but because they had a lot of fun together.

"I see you liked my present," Jinn said from the kitchen table. Peeking over his newspaper to the broken alarm clock Weisz set on the table. The green haired man had a cup of coffee on his hand and was smiling like an idiot clearly enjoying his best friend's grumpiness.

"Liked it? I loved it so much I had to smash it to pieces" Weisz said sarcastically.

Weisz was about to sit down when he noticed something smelled pretty nice. It wasn't just coffee, it smelled like scramble eggs and bacon.

"You made breakfast?" He asked Jinn, who was clearly trying to hold his laugh.

"Oh no, it wasn't me," Jinn said, sipping from his mug and nodding towards the kitchen door.

Weisz clicked his tongue, knowing exactly what he was going to find in the kitchen. He let out a long frustrated sigh, he really hated it when this happened.

Shaking his head and a little annoyed, Weisz opened the kitchen door. There was a very pretty woman standing next to the stove, pouring orange juice in a glass. Weisz rubbed his forehead and took a deep breath.

"What are you doing?" He said coldly.

The brunette turned around fast and her face lit up when she saw him. *'God, why do they make things so complicated...'* Weisz thought. He really needed her to leave.

"Good morning sweetie, I thought you would be hungry, so I asked your roommate if I could make breakfast and he was nice enough to let me. Why did you leave bed? I was going to surprise you" the girl kept talking and Weisz just wanted to die.

He let go another sigh and then looked back at her.

"Look ehm..." fuck he couldn't remember her name

"Alisa" the girl looked annoyed and had her arms crossed.

"Right, yeah... umm Alisa, what gave you the idea you could make me breakfast?"

"Well after last night—" Alisa started saying but Weisz cut her off.

"That was all it was, seriously... what part of 'one night stand' you didn't get exactly?" Weisz tried not to be rude, but he always made sure to let the girls he hooked up with know that there was nothing more to it. That 's all it was. Just sex.

"Well maybe you would change your mind, you don't have to say it like that"

"Look, I don't think one breakfast will make me think any differently than what I already do, I was pretty clear with my rules I think, so I'll ask you nicely to leave" Weisz stepped away from the kitchen door.

The brunette was red with rage, she looked insanely angry and as she passed by she threw the content of her glass on his face.

"You are an asshole" she said before storming out of the kitchen and the apartment.

Weisz wiped his face and upper body with a napkin. *'Shit at least this time it wasn't hot tea'* He thought remembering all the times this had happened to him. He could hear Jinn snickering from the dining room. That bastard did it on purpose.

"You have just one job as a roommate you know?" Weisz said when he joined him at the table. "Keep them away from the kitchen"

Jinn burst out laughing. He really couldn't hold it anymore. He had managed to put up with Weisz's womanizing side, in the last few years. He learned it was better to have fun with it than criticize him.

After what happened 7 years ago, Weisz changed completely the way he approached his relationships with women. Jinn remember he had said something along the lines 'I'm young so I better enjoy it while I can'

But Jinn knew the real reason behind it. He was heartbroken. Weisz was in such a bad state after Homura left that he just couldn't deal with it properly, he took all his anger and resentment and turned it into a weapon. When they started university he suddenly stopped being shy around girls and became this sex beacon.

For a while Jinn thought it was a phase, and many times he even thought girls were the ones using him, he was utterly concenced. But after a few years of him not being serious about any girl he had been with, Jinn just knew he was just disguising his real emotions. Instead of dealing with his broken heart he shut down his feelings, making him look superficial, cold and heartless.

Jinn sip again from his mug as he took a look at his friend, his blonde hair was sticky because of the juice, it just made him laugh even more.

"I'm sorry, she was offering to make breakfast you don't say no to being fed" Jinn said as his laugh died off "She was wearing one of your shirts by the way"

Weisz grinned

"Oh no, that wasn't mine"

Jinn's eyes widened, no way, he didn't.

"Are you kidding me? That was my shirt? Wha- why? You asshole!"

It was Weisz the one laughing now.

"I could have stopped her but... consider it payback for the alarm clock" the blonde stood up "I'm gonna go have a shower, you think you can wait for me or you are going to start whining about being late, now?"

Jinn rolled his eyes.

"You know what? I still don't know why I put up with you?"

"Because I'm the only person who watches your crappy short films, that's why" Weisz said disappearing into his room

"Hey they are not crappy!" Jinn screamed but Weisz was already gone.

The green haired man shook his head. Completely aware that he was going to be late no matter what. A buzz on his pocket startled him. Right, that was his phone. Jinn took it out, wondering who could be sending him a message so early.

*'It must be someone from the school...'* he was thinking but as soon as he saw the name, a warm smile covered his face.

***Becca: "Good morning loser! Tell me you are nervous! Because I'm nervous I'm a wreck of nerves, and I don't wanna be nervous alone"***

Jinn chuckled at how silly Rebecca was sometimes.

After their highschool graduation, Rebecca and Shiki went back to Granbell, where Shiki's family had their main companies. They both major there in different careers and they barely kept in touch with the rest of them.

For Jinn it was both sad and a relief. He knew it was best if he kept his distance from Rebecca if he ever wanted to move on. So, when they moved to another city, Jinn took that as a sign. Weisz was the one who kept in touch with Rebecca more, and it was because her grandmother and his grandfather were dating. Yes, the old man still had it in him. But their contact was brief and it didn't affect Jinn's plans.

He wanted to be able to be her friend and not die of a heart break everytime he saw her with Shiki. He wanted to support them and their relationship because that was what friends do. And to do so he needed to get over his feelings for her.

And he did, 4 years of college, 2 living in the city and everything seemed to have worked. Jinn dated a few people, nothing ever came to be serious or lasted more than a month, but things were going smoothly. Until last year.

One day Weisz and Jinn bumped into Rebecca while they were grocery shopping. To their surprise, Shiki's new job was based in Sun Jewel as well, so they had just moved in there. And that was it. Jinn knew the minute he saw her again that his feelings were not gone. Rebecca was even more beautiful than when she was in highschool and Jinn had to accept that no matter what he did, those feelings weren't going anywhere.

But he had matured a lot during those years and he had come to terms that Rebecca was with Shiki and it didn't matter how long they hadn't talked to each other; they were both his friends. And he was not going to get in the way. Could he stop feeling the way he did? No. Was he jealous sometimes? Yes. Was he going to act on it? Definitely not.

Jinn smiled at the phone and as fast as he could typed back

***"Why will I be nervous? I already had my first interview with the Principal. 🙋♂"***

***Becca: "you did?! UGH! Lucky you! It's your first day too, right? Right?"***

***"Yep, but I'm more excited than nervous, don't worry all will be good"***

***Becca: "I know... I just really want this job you know? 🧐"***

***"Yeah I know, and you are going to get it. Prof Regret had a special love for you if I don't recall wrong"***

***Becca: "Maybe... I'm wondering tho, she said to me there were two professors getting interviewed today, if the other one is not you... then who?"***



*"No idea Becca, but I don't think you should worry about that"*

*Becca: "You are right! Well gotta go, Shiki is driving me there. See you loser, luv ya"*

*"See you.."*

Jinn sighed, and put the phone back in his pocket. He kept reminding himself that she didn't mean love as "in love" when she wrote like that.

Rebecca was always cheerful, smiling and bringing joy with her wherever she went. She was the same way with everyone of their friends and the people who knew her ended up charmed by her personality. Like he did when he met her.

"Yo, ready for your first day?" Jinn looked around to see Weisz standing next to the door wearing a pair of khaki pants and a blue cardigan.

Jinn snorted, Weisz may act like a total douchebag when it was about women, but he really was serious about his job and being a professor.

"Ready, let's go" Jinn smiled as he walked out of their apartment.

The school where Weisz worked and Jinn was about to start working wasn't far from their apartment. Weisz would usually walk there unless it was raining.

If anyone would have asked them when they were in highschool if they saw themselves teaching, neither Weisz nor Jinn would have said yes. But right after Weisz graduated college, he was having a hard time finding a job. So when their old homerun teacher, Miss Regret, contacted him to teach Science and Technology in the school she was running, he said yes.

Weisz had majored in Mechanical Engineering and he knew a lot about Science, so he was perfect for the job. Plus he also was in charge of teaching one of the extracurricular activities in Robotics.

The school was new, it had just opened and the amount of students wasn't too big. But after two year the school had already grown to the extent Miss Regret needed more teachers and opened more courses.

It was a private school, and it was supposed to not only teach essential highschool classes but also enhance the creativity and abilities of the students. That's why they also had classes like film studies, the one Jinn was going to start teaching. Or Farming and Agriculture, the one Rebecca was interviewing for today.

Laguna had started working there too a year ago, he only taught an EA course in Acting. He was working as an actor as well so it demanded him a lot of time.

Jinn sighed as they got closer to the gate of the school. This place had really managed to pull the old gang out of their comfort zones and reunite them. He took a look at Weisz who was humming something as he walked with his hands in his pockets.

*' Well at least most of us,'* Jinn thought.

Sometimes he wondered what would have happened if Homura had stayed and gone to college with them. Maybe some things would have been different, or maybe even worse. No one had ever heard from her, not even Rebecca and Jinn wondered if the reasons for her departure were bigger than what they thought.

Of course he never told Weisz that; he was already struggling with getting over her, and mentioning her wouldn't have helped. But Jinn had always had the feeling Homura left for some other reason other than studying.

Jinn was so invested in his thoughts that he never noticed someone walking behind him and covering his eyes.

"Guess who?" Jinn smiled at the sound of her voice. And his heart skipped a beat.

"Mmm I don't know this is a hard one" he answered back pretending to be thinking. "Oh I know! Audrey Hepburn?"

"Ha, wouldn't you just love that?" She giggled "try one more time" the mischief in her voice made Jinn's heart beat fast.

He was going to keep playing the game but he heard Weisz snickering right next to them and it distracted him. Instead he turned around slowly, and took Rebecca's hands from his eyes.

"Damn it, I really wanted it to be Audrey" he joked and Rebecca rolled her eyes.

"You are such a fanboy, you know that?" She smiled at him and then turned to Weisz who was still trying to hold his laugh. "What's so funny?" The ash blonde asked as she fixed her hair and hand bag.

"Oh nothing, don't mind me, please continue" Weisz said and laughed even more at the threatening look Jinn threw his way.

"Shut up" Jinn said and turned his attention back to the ash blonde "I thought you would be already inside"

"Oh yeah no, we had to make a detour to Shiki's office so I just got here"

"Shiki brought you?" Weisz said, looking around to see if he could spot their friend. "Where is that mother fucker, I haven't seen him in ages"

Jinn joined him and was now also looking around.

"Yeah, I thought he would come say hi" Jinn stopped for a second and took a glance at Rebecca who was uncharacteristically quiet. He frowned and couldn't help but wonder why she suddenly looked so sad. "Rebecca, are you ok?"

When Weisz heard Jinn ask that he put his attention on the girl standing with them as well.

Rebecca gave them both a smile and nodded

"Yes yes, it's just... Shiki was in a rush, so he couldn't stick around. That job is kind of demanding, you know?" She swung her bag back and forth desperately trying to look normal, but both men could tell she was nervous.

"I guess..." Weisz said and shrugged "work is work isn't it?"

"Yes, but don't worry I'll tell him you say hi"

There was a certain tension in the air and neither of them knew why. But Weisz had an idea.

"Yeah, let's go in, it's gonna be late, and we have an opening ceremony to attend." Weisz said.

And they started walking towards the gates.

Rebecca was like a sister to him. Especially since their grandparents got together and even though, they have been distant for a few years after their highschool graduation, he still knew when something was off with her.

Weisz knew the pressure her parents and Shiki's family were putting on them. Especially since Shiki took the job his stepfather offered him. In the last past year, ever since they

reunited with Rebecca they had seen Shiki not more than 4 times.

It worried him, not only because the Shiki they used to know seemed to be fading away, but also because it was affecting Rebecca as well.

The blond took a look at his best friend, as the 3 of them walked towards the entrance of the school. He knew Jinn was as worried as him, but instead of saying anything to her the green haired man found ways to make her smile and not think about what was troubling her.

Weisz grinned as he heard Jinn talk to her about the last Jackie Chan movie, which both of them had a soft spot for. It was a lost case, Jinn was really trying hard not to fall more in love with Rebecca, Weisz knew that much, but he couldn't see that happening anytime soon.

It was alright, Jinn understood how things were, he was not a kid and if he had accepted things that way, then Weisz shouldn't be worried.

He watched them talking and laughing and he couldn't help but smile. Weisz didn't know, when he took this job, that two years later he would have his best friends working there with him.

It was a challenge, being a Professor, but he liked it and he had a lot of fun teaching what he knew to younger people. He really loved his job and he hoped his friends would feel the same way.

"Good morning you three" the voice of the vice Principal startled them.

"Good morning Ivry," Weisz said with a grin "already sending students to detention I see" he pointed at the boy next to her. He was probably around 14 years old.

"Don't be stupid Steiner, it's the first day of school, the kid is lost" the white hair woman gave the boy a little push sending him towards Weisz "Now show him to the auditorium, before he gets lost again"

"Wha-?"

"Don't complain, I'm paying you for this"

"Well technically it's not you..."

"Just do it" Ivry turned to Jinn and Rebecca who were completely befuddled. "You two come with me"

"Eh? Why?" Jinn said, trying to understand what was going on.

"You are part of the new staff so, we need to do some paperwork" the woman started walking.

"Uhm, excuse me? But I still have to have my interview with Principal Regret" Rebecca said and she was suddenly shy.

Ivry took a look at her and smirked.

"Oh you do?" She walked towards Rebecca with her usual piercing stare, her eyes roaming over the young woman's body as she circled her. "You are not that bad"

Rebecca's cheeks turned bright red and she looked really nervous.

"Oi, you are making her uncomfortable" Jinn looked like he was ready to pick up a fight, and as funny as the whole situation was for Weisz he knew he had to intervene.

"There, there, Ivry, stop messing with them" he said then looked at his friends "this is Sister Ivry, she is the vice Principal of the school, and I'm pretty sure she was just trying to say you don't need the interview Rebecca"

Jinn took a step back and vowed the minute he heard she was the Vice Principal, apologizing for being so rude.

Ivry let out a laugh and hit Jinn on the back.

"This kid is funny, where did you get him from Weisz, he really has some nerve" Jinn turned bright red "No need to apologize, you were just defending your girlfriend, Greenie"

"She is not my girlfriend Ma'am and please don't call me that," Jinn said, avoiding eye contact with Rebecca and focusing on the Vice Principal

"She isn't? Oops my bad" Ivry said.

Rebecca's face was on fire.

"Uhm, excuse me? But what do you mean I don't need to do the interview?"

The white haired woman turned to look at her with a big smile on her face.

"Witch got enough from your conversation on the phone, plus you come recommended by this idiot over here, and she seems to value his opinion more than anyone's, I don't know why though" the woman said pointing at Weisz who was smirking widely.

"Jealous Ivry?" He said

"Shut up, we are running late, go take the kid to the auditorium and join us in the Professors' room later" she pointed at Rebecca and Jinn "come on you two! come with me"

Weisz waved at his two friends and walked with the new kid to the auditorium. The campus had grown quite a lot over the 2 years he had been working there, it started with a single building and now there were 3 buildings, a sports court yard, plus the auditorium and the cafeteria.

He looked to his left, the young boy was walking next to him and looking at his feet. Weisz smiled and patted his head.

"Hey, are you nervous?"

"I'm new in this town and it's my first day of school, of course I'm nervous!!" the boy burst out. And Weisz looked at him a little shocked. "OH SHIT, I'm sorry Sir!"

"It's alright you don't need to call me Sir right now" Weisz laughed.

"No, I do. I mean you are a Professor right? Crap, did I just curse in front of a teacher? Am I going to get expelled?" The boy was panicking for no reason and Weisz thought it was hilarious.

"OK ok hold on, no you are not going to get expelled"

"But—"

"Listen kid, what's your name?"

"Kyle Sir Kyle Reed"



"Look Kyle, technically the school year won't officially start until the Principal gives her opening speech in there" Weisz pointed at the auditorium "so no need to worry, alright?"

Kyle looked uncertain but after thinking about it for a while he nodded.

"Alright" he said and fixed his bag.

"Great now you go in there and find the kids from your year"

The boy ran to the door and opened it. But before entering he turned to look at Weisz

"Thank you Professor erh..."

"Weisz Steiner" the blond answered with a smile.

"Thank you Professor Steiner, see ya" and with a fast wave he disappeared.

Weisz turned around and walked back to the teachers' common room, highly satisfied with the good deed he just did. He remembered how hard his first day in highschool was, and how nervous he used to get. He wouldn't have made it through if it wasn't for Jinn and Homura.

He stopped walking, as the image of the girl he once loved popped in his head after what felt like ages. Something about that kid made him think of her and their time together in highschool. Maybe it was how blunt the boy was. Homura used to be like that, speaking before thinking, that was a lot like her.

As he resumed walking, he couldn't stop wondering how she was now and if she was still acting the same way. He ignored the desperate need he felt several years ago to reach out to her. Sometimes he still wanted to. But his mind and common sense kept telling him not to do it.

He will never say it out loud but he was scared of reaching out. A lot of time had passed and they haven't talked, not even for each other's birthdays. He was afraid of what he would find out if he reached out to her. She hated him, he knew that much. Who wouldn't after the whole scene in the woods he pulled off. He was so ashamed and embarrassed of how he acted that day that he put it in the back of his mind. To never think about it again.

He thought about apologizing many times, calling her or sending her a card, an email, anything. But he was too afraid of being rejected again and he never did it. Time passed by and she didn't reach out to him either so eventually he just let it go. He let go of his fears and of the love he felt for her. It was the only way he could move forward with his life. And so far it has been working perfectly.

Why was he all of sudden thinking about Homura was something he would never understand. She hadn't been in his mind for years.

*'It's probably the setting, New School Year, this kid, the whole highschool situation, and everyone being here'* he said to himself in an attempt to justify what was really going on with him. *'Everyone but her'*

He shook his head as he reached the teachers common room. It was enough weird thoughts for today.

The room wasn't very crowded, some of the teachers were probably already at the auditorium. Every first day of school was like this. They gathered in the teachers common room, listened if the Principal needed to tell them something specifically and if not they would just grab some coffee and go straight to the auditorium before starting the class.

The room was neither small nor big but when more than 10 people were in it, it looked quite crowded. Of course that barely happened. Usually no more than 5 teachers were together in this room at the same time. Except when a big meeting like today was going on. Or some special event.

Weisz stretched his neck to see if he could catch a glimpse of Jinn and Rebecca, they were probably done with the paperwork already, but he couldn't find them. He saw many members

of the staff gathering around the coffee machine. Others were just sitting and talking in the smokers little area. He saw Miss Regret talking with someone but he couldn't tell who it was.

"Steiner what's up?" Weisz heard behind him.

He recognized his friend's voice and turned around to greet him.

"Hey Laguna! All good, you? How was your summer shooting?"

The blue haired man run a hand through his hair and sighed

"It was good but kind of ruined my summer fun, we had really long shooting days"

"I can imagine, at least you are right where you wanted" Weisz gave him a smile, which the man returned alongside with a nod.

"That's right, let's get in line for the coffee or these assholes will drink it all" Laguna said and patted Weisz on the back.

Weisz shook his head and followed him towards the coffee maker.

"You know you can always make more, right?"

"As if, you are dealing with caffeine addicted people, they need the coffee to survive the wildings out there" Laguna had managed to slip close to the coffee maker and was now grabbing a carton cup

"And you know this because..." Weisz watched as Laguna stood next to the Math teacher and gave him a deadly look.

"Because..." Laguna stopped talking to look at the Math teacher again who was taking his time with the coffee "Are you done already?" He added and the other man just sighed and left him his spot.

Weisz could swear he heard the man mutter something under his breath that sounded like *"Why is he even here this early? His classes are after 3"* but he was not going to tell Laguna that.

"You were saying?" Weisz asked when he noticed his friend had forgotten about their conversation and was now drinking his precious coffee.

"Oh yeah, it's not important anyways, who were you looking for?" The blue haired man said, now he sounded more relaxed.

Weisz chuckled, Laguna couldn't live without two things, coffee and parties. He was always the one inviting him to parties and usually the one responsible for Weisz's one night hook ups. He knew so many people it was like everyone was just drawn to him.

The man was fun to be around with, he has always been, unless he was out of caffeine. If he was caffeine deprived he turned into this monster who was just mean and moody until he got his coffee.

Weisz just sighed

"I was looking for Jinn and Rebecca they had to sign some paperwork according to Ivry"

"Right! Jinn told me he was starting to work here too, we have some projects lined up together with our classes. It seems, didn't know about Rebecca though" Laguna said and took a long sip of coffee.

"Yeah, she knows how to keep a secret," Weisz smiled and Laguna rolled his eyes.

"Oh! By the way, you are going to love the new History teacher" the blue haired man wiggled his eyebrows as he put the cup of coffee down.

"Really?" Weisz couldn't help but grin. Laguna made fun of him a lot, but he always was right on point when choosing Weisz, a girl to be with. However Weisz was a little surprised they had replaced the other teacher so fast. "Wait a second, they found a replacement for old Connor already?"

"Aham, apparently Miss Regret had tried to get this one from the very beginning of the school but the girl was booked" Laguna was pouring more coffee in the cup, ignoring the other people in line who wanted to drink some too.

He had a mischievous spark in his eyes when he talked, like if he knew something Weisz didn't and that was going to give him a purpose to tease him later on.

"What is it? You know more than what you tell" Weisz said. He had learned to read past Laguna's real intentions a long time ago. "Is she really a hottie or are you just playing with me?"

Laguna laughed and nodded, pointing behind Weisz, towards where Miss Regret was standing a few minutes ago.

"Watch for yourself..." he said and went in for another sip, without taking his eyes from Weisz's.

The blond hesitated at first but he turned around slowly, looking for the new face that according to Laguna was going to work with them.

He froze the minute he laid eyes on the new teacher. Her face was not new at all to him, on the contrary he knew her very well, so well in fact, that he memorized all her little, beautiful

features.

It was like time had stopped and all he could hear was his own breathing and the beating of his heart rising at every second that passed. It couldn't be, his mind was playing tricks on him, there was no way, she couldn't be here.

But she was, she was standing there talking to Miss Regret. Like she had never left. She was right there some steps away from where he was standing. She looked exactly the way he remembered.

Her long purple hair was tied up on a ponytail, which made it look shorter. Her eyelashes flickering with every movement of her eyes and the corner of her mouth rounding up in a smile as she nodded to something Witch was saying.

He stood there staring at the woman, and gawking like an idiot. He was paralyzed, because of the shock and because he was mesmerized by how beautiful she still was.

"H-Homura..." her name left his lips in a faint whisper only Laguna could hear.

"Yeah... she's still gorgeous, isn't she?" The blue haired man said and crooked a smirk at him.

But Weisz couldn't answer him because his brain wasn't thinking properly. He just couldn't take his eyes off her.

In that moment Homura's eyes found Weisz's from across the room and she suddenly stopped talking. He saw how her beautiful brown reddish orbs widened in surprise and her small hand went up to cover her mouth.

"Told ya you'll like her" Weisz heard Laguna muttered

He watched her waved at Prof Regret and, when a little hesitant, she started to walk towards them, he panicked.

He was analyzing the whole situation, trying to think. He knew he had to act fast. But his body wasn't listening to his brain and even though he would have loved to go to her and greet her properly, like any normal person who sees an old friend after seven years would do, he couldn't.

Instead he did the only thing he could think of at that moment.

He walked away.

#### Chapter End Notes

Thank you again for joining me in another chapter of this story. I'm having so much fun writing it and with their personalities. I'm almost done with chapter 2 so you can expect an update sooner this time.

I think is fare to let you know that I haven't plan when a chapter ends, so basically I go with instinc as i write it. I know I know, not the best way but this is something I do for the mere plasure of writing my fav characters into a modern life universe and situtations I really doubt they would be really in in canon.

Hope you enjoy it and as usual leave your kudos and beautiful comments if you feel like to.

See ya next chapter.

## Ch 2: Starting Over

### Chapter Notes

Sorry everyone for the big delay, I have been super busy and with many things in my head so this chapter was written slowly. But finally here it is.

Sorry in advance for any written mistakes you find I'm not a native English writer so sometimes some words slip my grasp XD

Thank you all for the patience and enjoy ;)

Weisz was breathing fast when he reached the men's bathroom. He ran a hand through his hair nervously and then rested both hands on the lavatory. This couldn't be happening, it was not real, it had to be a dream.

A dream like the ones he used to have in his first year of college. In which, Homura came back to him and told him she loved him.

Weisz opened the faucet and splashed his face with water. Who was he kidding? That was just a stupid dream, coming from a stupid young boy with a crush.

He was no longer that boy, he had moved past his feelings and fears, he shouldn't be panicking like this. She was just an old friend.

Except, she wasn't and deep down he knew that, he knew what Homura meant to him back then, and how what went down between them that night screwed up their relationship. He knew what it meant for them to see each other again after so long.

Weisz dried his face with a towel and looked at his reflection in the mirror. What was he doing running like this? He was smarter than that and he knew eventually he would have to face her.



"Get it together Weisz" he said to his reflection in the mirror. "Is not a big deal... those feelings are gone, you don't need to act like an idiot"

He looked at his watch to check the time and realized he had to be in the auditorium in less than 5 minutes.

"Damn it" if he stood there more time he was going to be late.

Taking a few deep breaths to calm himself he just shook the whole thing off like he was used to and walked out of the bathroom with confidence. He knew what he had to do.

\*\*\*\*\*

Homura was aware, the minute she took the job, that it was not going to be easy. She knew Weisz was working there, Laguna had told her. So she had been preparing herself mentally to see all her old friends again. She even had repeated in her mind over and over again what she would say to them. To him.

But when she saw Weisz, standing not so far away from where she was, looking at her, all she had planned to say just disappeared.

Homura had been thinking about this job for over 2 years now. She graduated university and was instantly hired by their faculty to work with them. Her years in Mildian had been amazing, she did exactly what she wanted, she had her degree in History, and started working as soon as she graduated.

So, naturally when Witch reached to her to ask her if she wanted to be a History teacher in this new school, she said no. But ever since, she couldn't stop wondering what would have happened if she had taken the job.

Many things were going on in her mind back then, she wanted to stay away, so she decided it was better if she stayed where she was. She regretted it later, when she realized how stupidly

competitive the job she was at was. But it was too late, Witch had already filled up that position.

That's why she didn't hesitate this time around. When she asked her again, Homura said yes right away. And here she was, on her first day as a highschool teacher.

When Homura saw Weisz and Laguna looking at her, a rush of adrenaline invaded her body. She had kept in touch with Laguna during the years, he was the only one who had been in contact with her. So she wasn't surprised when she saw him.

But she hadn't heard from Weisz. So naturally seeing him after all that time made her feel hesitant and excited.

Over her years abroad, she never stopped thinking about him, always one step away from reaching out and telling him the truth. But something always reminded her the reasons why she left and she changed her mind.

He looked almost like she remembered him, older, yes, and his hair was longer, but his eyes, oh god, his eyes were still very expressive.

Homura could tell he was confused and shocked at the sight of her, and this made her frown, Laguna promised he would let the others know she was starting today. Clearly he didn't. She should have guessed, when she saw Jinn and Rebecca earlier, they were quite surprised to see her too.

Weisz's confusion was completely understandable but that didn't take away the sudden necessity she felt of saying hi to him, hugging him and feeling him close.

Homura knew she needed to talk to him, she knew that her coming back into their lives all of the sudden wasn't going to be easy. She knew so little about their lives now. But she wanted to make peace with her past.

She was a few feet away from them when Weisz suddenly walked away and out of the room. Homura wanted to call out to him but Laguna stopped her from it.

"Don't, just let him come to you" the blue haired man said, giving her a smile.

Homura nodded and then turned to her friend, throwing him daggers with her eyes.

"You promised you would let them know beforehand, so things like these wouldn't happen!" She said and crossed her arms

"I forgot ok?" The man scratched the back of his head "but he knows now, right?"

"You are evil" Homura said, holding her bag tight "anyway, shouldn't we get going?"

"Yep, let's go," Laguna said and gently led her out of the room towards the auditorium.

\*\*\*\*\*

The last bell of the day rang marking the end of the school day. Homura gave her new students a smile as they gathered their things and stormed off the classroom.

She sat on her desk to make a few notes about that last class. It had been a hard one since she got the older students. They had spent 2 years with their previous teacher and suddenly the new one took over, they should have felt strange. But it looked like she was going to survive it.

The purple-haired woman grabbed her things and walked out of the classrooms. Her mind was elsewhere as she walked through the hallways of the school.

Everyone had been so nice so far, and she was extremely happy to reconnect with Rebecca. The ash blonde was ecstatic when she saw her and they spent most of their small breaks together, talking and catching up.

A soft smile appeared on her face when she thought how Rebecca was still exactly like she remembered; cheerful, and kind. Homura regretted terribly that she hadn't been in contact with her for so long. But she knew it had been for the best.

They also had lunch together and Jinn joined them. Homura rolled her eyes internally, it really amazed her how hung up Jinn still was on Rebecca. He hadn't changed at all, he was still the hopeless romantic, film lover, thick as thieves with Weisz.

Weisz...

Homura hadn't been able to talk to him yet. Every time she saw him in the hallway or during the breaks, he seemed to be busy, talking with some student, or other staff member, so she could never get close enough to him.

She couldn't help but wonder if he was avoiding her on purpose. She should have known that he was not going to be welcoming her like nothing had happened between them. What happened that night kept bugging into her mind over and over again. Since she left till this very day.

What if he was avoiding her? What did that mean? Does he still have feelings for her? Homura's cheeks turned pink and felt quite warm all of the sudden. What was she thinking? She touched both her cheeks and shook her head, trying to ease her heart beats.

One of the reasons she had wanted to take this job was to see him again. To see if they could fix their relationship. Homura didn't believe Weisz could get even more handsome than when he was 17. Yes, in her eyes the blond had always been good looking, she found his geek side extremely adorable when they were in highschool.

And now she could tell he had changed, not only physically he looked even more attractive, but he seemed to have grown mentally and emotionally as well. She sighed as she walked

thinking how hard it actually hit her to see him again.

All those years she spent abroad, Weisz confession never left her mind. She tried to hide it, and act like nothing had happened. But it wasn't possible. Some days she hated herself for how she lied to him, she was even surprised she kept the truth to herself all this time.

Homura knew it was for the best, it wouldn't have helped their relationship if he knew how she felt about him back then. She was still going to leave and things would have never worked.

If only she could talk to Weisz alone...

Homura was too lost in her own thoughts, so when she looked around she found herself completely lost. She was sure that was the way to the main door, but clearly she had miscalculated.

"What now?" She whispered as she turned around the corner. To see if that hallway led somewhere.

But instead of finding answers, she crashed into someone's back. What the hell was this person doing standing there?

"I'm sorry, I wasn't looking and—"

"Homura?"

The purple-haired woman froze and looked up to see Weisz's confused face staring right at her. Her cheeks heated up and a wave of embarrassment invaded her.

"Are you ok?" He asked. The blonde was holding his phone, and put it in his pocket as he faced her.

*"So that's why he was standing in the middle of the way..."* Homura thought. She then realised that for the first time in the day, Weisz was actually alone. This was her chance.

She shook her embarrassment away and gave him the softest smile she could come up with.

"Yeah, sorry I'm.... Uhm... I wasn't paying attention"

"It's alright..." silence invaded the hallway as they both stood there looking everywhere but at each other "umh... ok well... see you then" Weisz broke the silence and turned to leave.

What?! He was leaving?? Was he for real? She couldn't let him, she had to talk to him.

"WAIT!" Homura wasn't sure why she did it, but she grabbed his arm to stop him from walking away again.

Weisz looked between her face and the place where her hand was touching him. He stood silent not really knowing how to react to the feeling of her hand in his arm. Befuddled by the desperate look in her eyes, he frowned.

Homura noticed how confused he was, so she gave him an apologetic smile.

"Uhm sorry I raised my voice like that, I..." she made the mistake of looking into his eyes, they seem so full of sadness and regret. She knew she made things difficult for everyone when she left, but she never imagined he was still sad about it. God he probably had hated her all this time.

"Yeah?" Weisz asked, noticing Homura went suddenly quiet.

"It's just that... I would like to talk to you" she was trying badly to not show how nervous she felt, but it was really hard.

Weisz let out a long sigh, looked around and then nodded. There was no point in trying to avoid the conversation he knew they should have, anymore.

"Okay, yeah... sure, I guess I wanna talk to you too" he said, trying to sound cool and relaxed.

Over the years he had learned to hide what he was really thinking or feeling and he had never felt it was a useful ability, until he met Homura. And he was sure going to use it now.

This shouldn't be so hard, he was no longer a 17 year old boy that was in love with her, he had left all that in the past.

Homura's face brightened up and unconsciously squeezed his arm. Maybe this wouldn't be as bad as she thought.

"Thanks" she said but no other words came out. Homura's heartbeats were so loud she could hear them rezoning in her ears.

She had played this moment on and on in her head for the last few weeks. Thinking what to say, trying to guess how Weisz will react, if he would be happy, or mad. Will they hug it all away? Was that even possible in their situation? Homura had created so many possible scenarios that now she was completely baffled and out of words

"Uhm... Homura?" Weisz's voice brought her back from her thoughts and she looked at him. He was pointing at his arm where her hand was grabbing him. "Can I have my arm back or...?"

Homura let go of him in a quick move and laughed nervously.

"I'm sorry, I didn't mean to" Why was she so nervous "This is so awkward, why is he looking at me like that?"

Weisz looked at her astonished, did she just say that outloud?? His mind took him to the years they had spent together as friends and the so many times Homura's issue with saying what she was thinking without filter, had got them into trouble. But they always ended up laughing about it.

He tried to hide his sudden need to laugh. She hadn't changed at all. The panic in her eyes when she realized she spoke her mind made it even harder for him to pretend he didn't find it hilarious.

"Ehem... I'm sorry, I'm sorry... I wasn't trying to make you feel uncomfortable" he said while clearing his throat.

Weisz felt his previous panic slowly disappearing. So he gave her a soft smile

There was no need for him to get so worked up for her being back, it didn't mean anything to him, this wouldn't change how he lived his life. Not at all.

Homura felt a little bit embarrassed but seeing him smile like that made her feel less nervous and more confident.

"Oh, well you know me, I really didn't mean to say that outloud," she said.

Weisz nodded, the previous tension seemed to be fading away too. He pointed at one of the benches in the courtyard.

"Wanna sit down there?"



Homura nodded and followed him outside. She knew what she wanted to talk about, but couldn't help but wonder if what he wanted to say was similar.

They both sat down and Weisz lay back on the bench, leaving his suitcase on the side. Homura was sitting on the edge, fidgeting with her fingers, and thinking how to say what she wanted to say.

Both were waiting for the other to start speaking.

"I just wanted to—" they both said at the same time.

Homura's smile widened as she looked down at her hands and fixed her dress.

"You go first," Weisz said, turning his face to look at her.

Homura looked kind of nervous, he never really saw her acting like that. She took several breaths and then lifted her head to look at him.

"I'm sorry" the words came out of her mouth unconsciously. Homura had thought of many ways to tell Weisz everything she had been keeping from him. But in the end her instinct told her that telling him everything all of the sudden wasn't the best approach. Not after being apart for so long.

Weisz sat there looking at her waiting for her to go on. Something told him that she still had things to say. But she wasn't speaking, she went quiet again, maybe he read the situation wrong.

"You don't really have to apologize, you know?" He said, his gray eyes fixed on her features.

The purple haired woman smiled again and her eyes left her hands to focus on his face instead.

"Actually I do..." Homura turned her body to her side facing him completely "I never once tried to contact you, I should have call you, I should have tell you—"

"Homura stop," Weisz said slowly as he looked the woman in the eyes. "It wasn't just your responsibility, I didn't try to contact you either..."

"Of course you didn't, I said terrible things to you, I wouldn't want to contact me either"  
Homura chuckled and then got serious again "I shouldn't have say those things, I was mad because you were being—"

"It doesn't matter " Weisz interrupted her "what I said back then I was young and foolish and it's pointless to keep bringing it up" he sighed.

" I shouldn't have lied to you"

"Yeah, but I don't think that matters anymore, do you?" He shrugged.

"But I hurt you and I didn't get to say how much I—"

"It's alright" Weisz interrupted her again and gave her a sad smile "It doesn't matter anyway, it's in the past now" he should give himself an award for being such a good liar. But he had to try to make this whole situation less uncomfortable.

Homura frowned. What was he trying to do?

"In the past? You mean...?"

Weisz took a deep breath.

"Look, I'm gonna admit I was pretty shaken up for a while back in the day but it's been years, Homura..."

"I know but still..."

"We gotta work together from now on, we were best friends once weren't we?"

"Yeah... but we..." Homura looked at her hands on her lap. Why couldn't she tell him how she really felt back then, what was stopping her?

"Yeah and I went and ruined it by confessing my feelings for you" Weisz said nonchalantly looking up at the sky "what a dumb move that was, way to ruined a friendship, right?"

When he looked back at her, Homura had her eyes fixed on her lap and she looked kind of... sad?

"It wasn't dumb... saying what you feel is never dumb" Homura felt like an hypocrite. She should follow her own advice. It was too late for that though. She sensed it in Weisz's way of approaching the situation.

"Yeah... Well, it doesn't matter anymore... I moved on, so there is no need to keep acting weird with each other" Weisz ran a hand through his hair, and Homura noticed he was getting impatient "Let's just forget it happened ok?"

*Move on...* that was it. He moved on. Deep down she knew this could be a possibility, that Weisz had no longer feelings for her.

Homura sighed, she knew what she had to do now. It was the only way to coexist in the same work environment.

"You are right, we need to move forward" Homura stood up in front of him and extended her hand. "So, how about we start over?"

Looking at her standing in front of him, Weisz remembered why it took him so long to get over her. And he was suddenly wondering if it was possible for him to really do this. *Start over eh?* Was it really possible to take the past and lock it away now that she was here?

He sighed, that was exactly what he had been doing all these years and nothing bad came out of it. He knew the chances of things getting out of hand were minimum, they weren't 17 anymore. He could do this and not mess things up.

The blonde smiled at the woman in front of him and took the hand she was offering.

"Yeah, let's do that"

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Homura got to her new apartment and with a long sigh threw her bag and coat on the couch. She couldn't shake off the feeling of disappointment and sadness that conversation left her.

She walked to the kitchen and filled a pan with water. She turned the stove on, grabbed a bottle of sake and poured it in the Tokkuri she had bought on one of her many trips.

As Homura carefully stirred the content, her mind kept going back to the conversation she had with Weisz.

What was she thinking would happen? She had created a whole idea in her head that was completely illogical. Since so much time had passed maybe they could work things out and be like they used to be. But she knew Weisz, and there was no way he would speak openly to her so easily.

Once the sake was warm enough she turned off the stove and poured it on a glass. She plopped down on the couch and took a sip of her drink. It was nice and warm, exactly what she needed right now.

Homura knew at some point during their conversation that Weisz was deflecting the real talk. She couldn't blame him, she should have known that was going to be his reaction. He had never been a person who could process things fast.

Weisz was analytical, he needed his time to go through things, analyze them and process them at his own pace. So, Homura was not going to rush that.

Telling him now was only going to make it worse, he would get mad and do something completely irrational and that wasn't the purpose of their conversation. She needed to get along with him if she wanted to keep this job.

Was it possible for them to pretend all that didn't happen? To act like all their childhood memories were just that? She had tried before to forget about her feelings, when she was abroad and she tried hard. But all those attempts weren't successful and only brought her more pain.

But right now, she knew it was the best for both of them. Maybe if they start over their relationship will gradually get better. She had to have hope.

She finished her glass of sake and let out a long sigh. They were both adults now, everything was going to be alright.

"OK Homura, time to stop thinking about the past and focus on the present" she said to herself. "Tomorrow will be a new day"

With that thought in mind she buried her disappointment and went to bed. Thinking that no matter what happened from now on, she was going to do her best to move forward.

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A middle aged man with blonde hair was sitting nervously in an office. He was waiting for the young man in front of him to give him an answer.

"S-sir...?" his trembling voice echoed in the cold room. He looked around to the two other big bodyguards standing next to him.

"Shh, I'm trying to think" the young man turned his chair around "tell me something Mr. Lin, what did you think would happen after you rejected our offer?"

"I- just don't think—" the blonde man was interrupted abruptly by the cold voice of his boss and sweat started dripping down his forehead when he looked at the other man's face.

"This is the thing Mr Lin" the black haired man stood up and walked next to the trembling man. Loosening his tie, he sat on his desk and faced the old man again.

"My brother and I..." He looked to the back of the room where his brother was standing. "We don't really give second chances you know?"

"Mr. Granbell please...I can't afford to lose this job" the man was at the edge of tears, but that didn't seem to stir any emotion in the young boss.

Someone's laugh echoed from behind Mr.Lin.

"Did you hear that Shiki? He can't lose his job" if the blonde man was nervous before, it was worse after hearing that voice. Fear and panic crossed his face and he started trembling even more.

The young man in front of him clicked his tongue and took a deep breath.

"Then you should have taken our offer," he said coldly. Shiki then looked at his watch and cursed. "Damn it I'm late now, Shura?" He said to the man in the back "finish this for me would you?"

The man in the back stepped closer to Shiki cracking his knuckles with the biggest smile on his face.

"As you wish little brother" he said

Shiki grabbed his suit jacket and put it on, completely ignoring the blond man's pleading look. But before leaving he turned to look at his brother.

"Oh and Shura, don't make a mess you know grandpa hates it"

With that he closed the door and left the building. Right before getting in his car, his phone rang and he saw the name "Becca" writing on the screen. Shiki hesitated for a second before sliding the red button and rejecting the call.

*Later* he thought.

He didn't have time to waste at the moment. With that he turned off his phone and hit the gas pedal, driving off into the dark of the city.

## Ch 3: A coffee for your thoughts

### Chapter Summary

Rebecca didn't have a good night so Jinn cheers her up. Meanwhile Weisz and Homura are trying to get pass their awkwardness. And Laguna has a very important thing to say.

### Chapter Notes

First of all I'm so so so sorry for taking forever in updating this. My life has been interfering with my writing. It was slow but I finished it already! So hope you enjoy it and have fun reading it. Hopefully next one will take less time  
Thank you again for supporting this work

Jinn looked at the warm coffee on his hand as he walked towards the school. He left earlier today because he didn't have to wait for Weisz to get up. He had either left really early or he never came back to the apartment last night.

After all that went down yesterday, Jinn knew it was the second. Weisz had the tendency to go fuck around with some girl to deal with his issues. And Homura coming back into their lives was definitely an issue for him.

Jinn was about to take a sip from his coffee when he saw Rebecca sitting on the bench outside the school. She didn't look well, actually she looked like she hadn't had any sleep at all. She was frowning, and completely focused on her phone like if she was trying to solve some kind of puzzle.

The green haired man looked at his perfectly intact double shot espresso with cream and smiled. He started walking towards the girl and once he was right next to her, he put the cup of coffee between her face and her phone.



"A coffee for your thoughts" he said and Rebecca looked up at him. Her frowning disappeared completely as she gave him a sweet smile.

"Good morning Loser" she said and looked at the coffee he was offering "is this for me?"

He nodded.

"It looks like you need it a lot more than I do," Jinn answered and with a slow movement of his hand, told her to move so he could sit next to her.

"You know... " Rebecca moved to give him space as she grabbed the cup of coffee. "If you wanted to tell me I did a terrible job doing my makeup this morning, you should have just say so" she pursed her lips and took a sip of the warm drink

"You did a terrible job doing your makeup this morning," Jinn said with a smirk on his face.

Rebecca chuckled, being careful not to spill the coffee.

"Thanks" she said and took another sip. "I really needed it" she looked at him with suspicion "how is it that you always know the type of coffee I like? It really amazes me"

Jinn rolled his eyes and poke her side.

"Don't be too amazed, I just happen to like the same type of coffee you do" Rebecca was trying not to give in to the tickles but she wasn't succeeding. "Now... are you gonna tell me why you look so down?"

He had suddenly stopped poking her and the ash blond girl's smile disappeared the minute he asked her that. Jinn noticed she was trying to avoid the topic.

"Nothing... I'm just tired" she looked at the cup of coffee she was holding in her lap now.

"Becca..."

"Ugh, I can't hide anything from you, can I?" She sounded frustrated but Jinn knew she was just teasing him.

"I thought we had already discussed that" he chuckled and Rebecca shook her head.

She then let out a long sigh while looking at her phone once again.

"It 's Shiki..." Jinn imagined that might be what had her like that, but he let her keep talking regardless "he didn't come home last night, and his phone is off. I don't know, I'm just worried, because he is working so much these days..."

"Well, I'm sure he has a good reason, he is probably drowned in paperwork" Jinn shrugged "didn't you tell us that his grandpa was giving him a hard time?"

"Yes..."

"Then I'm sure he is trying his best to fulfill his expectations, you know how his family is..."

"Yes, but still I worry. He works so hard I'm afraid he might faint or something. What if he is not eating properly?" Rebecca's blue eyes widened at the thought of that.

"I'm pretty sure he is eating perfectly fine, Becca give him a few hours maybe he will answer your calls" Jinn was just trying to be supportive, but he was quite annoyed.

There was no need for Shiki to keep her in the dark for the whole night, he could just send a message to let her know he was OK.

Rebecca sighed and shook her head

"You are right, maybe I'm just overreacting" she didn't seem too convinced but Jinn noticed she was trying not to think too much into it.

"That's right, stop," he said and patted her head.

She closed her eyes when he did that, she didn't know why but Jinn always gave her so much peace.

*'She is so cute'* He couldn't help thinking about her that way especially when she was acting like a kitten who needed petting.

As soon as he realized what he was doing, the green haired man took his hand away and looked away from her trying to hide his blush.

Rebecca tilted her head to the side, completely clueless as why he was acting so nervous all of the sudden.

"Are you okay?" She asked, searching for his eyes. Jinn never spoke to someone without making eye contact, unless he was embarrassed.

"Yeah, yeah I'm fine" looking back at her.

During the years he had learned to get himself together fast when it came to Rebecca and how he felt for her. He had to, he was always avoiding getting caught by any of his friends.

Jinn looked at his watch and nodded with his head towards the school.

"We should get going, we need to handle those forms they asked us yesterday" he said as he stood up. Changing the topic had always been another of his specialities.

Rebecca nodded and stood up right after him. She was still a little wary at his previous reaction but she let it slide. She rushed her steps a little so she was now walking right next to him.

"So, where is your other half?" She asked and Jinn chuckled.

"Who knows? Probably spent the night somewhere between a brunette and a blonde" he shook his head and Rebecca giggled.

"Do you think they will be ok?" She asked and stopped walking for a second. "Weisz and Homura, I mean"

Jinn turned to look at her and shrugged.

"I don't know, I guess they will" he put his hands on his pockets "they are not kids anymore, I'm sure they will work it out"

Jinn said that but he wasn't really sure about it. Yes they were not kids but he knew Weisz was still not over what happened back then, him not coming back last night was proof of that.

He looked behind Rebecca and noticed Homura was getting off a cab.

"Speaking of the devil" he said to the ash blonde.

Rebecca turned around and her face lit up when she saw her friend.

"Homura!!" She waved at her and the purple haired woman walked towards them with a smile.

"Hey you two! Good morning" she said, greeting them.

"How was your first day?" Rebecca asked and linked her arm with hers.

"It was alright, I think I'm going to like it here" Homura welcomed Rebecca's gesture like if they had never stopped talking to each other.

"Jinn and I were wondering..." Rebecca said, catching the attention of both her friends.  
"Were you able to talk to Weisz? Are you guys friends again?"

Jinn's jaw dropped down, how was Rebecca so blunt?

"Well..." Homura looked at the green haired man standing in front of them "we did talk, so everything is fine now. I don't think we will be as close as before but at least we can move forward"

The smile Homura gave them was not a sincere one and Jinn knew that it was probably because the conversation didn't go the way she expected it.

He knew them both, the three of them were inseparable when they were kids, to the point that they could tell what the other was thinking instantly. The bond the three of them had back then was kind of unique. So Jinn knew when his friends were not being honest.

Homura waved her hand in front of his face and that brought him back to the conversation.

"Did you hear me?" She said with her eyebrows furrowed.

"Sorry, I dozed off, what was it?"

"I said I was surprised you didn't know, I was sure Weisz would have told you by now"

"Oh.." Jinn shrugged "no, well that's because I haven't seen him since yesterday" he said without thinking.

"Aren't you guys roommates?" Homura asked. Somehow she couldn't shake off this strange feeling she was having, and she didn't like it.

"Yeah, he didn't come home so that's why" Jinn looked at his watch again "and look at that he is probably going to be late" shaking his head he pointed at the gate "We better go in"

Homura froze for a second, trying to understand what Jinn meant by that. How could he be so layback about his friend not going back home, what if something happened to him? She looked at Rebecca who didn't seem to be affected either. What kind of friends were they?

"Um.. guys, shouldn't you be worried if someone goes MIA all night? I mean..."

"Look!!" Rebecca suddenly said "and he decided to join the party"

Homura followed Rebecca's gaze and saw Weisz walking towards the gate. He looked tired and was combing his hair as he walked. Jinn called his name and he turned towards them.

"Good morning.." he said, his voice was hoarse and it looked like he was wearing the same clothes he was wearing yesterday.

"Good morning" Homura and Rebecca answered him. Weisz's eyes laid on the purple haired woman for a brief moment and then he turned to his best friend.

"I'm so glad I found you here, give me your sweater" the blond said, putting a hand on his friend's shoulder.

Jinn scoffed.

"Why would I do that? Get your own sweater" he said, shaking off Weisz's hand from his shoulder.

"Come on, I can't go in like this, the kids will tease me for life"

"You should have woken up earlier and gone home to change clothes" Jinn crossed his arms. He knew he was going to give him the sweater in the end, but he was going to put up a fight.

"Why are you being so mean to me all of the sudden?" Weisz said with a sly smile planted on his face "is this because you are trying to look tough in front of—"

Jinn cover the blond's mouth with his hand to shut him up

"Fine, shut it, I'll give you the damn sweater"

Rebecca giggled and Homura was looking at them with wide eyes. Was this a routine for them? Because it certainly looked like it.

"Do they do this often?" She whispered only for Rebecca to hear. The two men were busy exchanging clothes.

"Well occasionally, usually Weisz gets to their apartment before sunrise so they don't have this issue, but once in a while..."

"Wait, usually?" Homura kept getting more and more surprised. "Does he spend the night away frequently?"

Rebecca's giggles increased and Homura felt a little dumb. What was she missing here?

"He has a different date every weekend" Rebecca stopped laughing "but now that I think about it, he barely goes out on work nights, this must have been a special occasion" Rebecca shrugged "Who cares? Let's just go in, or we are definitely going to be late" she turned to look at the guys "Hey you two!! Are you going in or not?"

Both of them nodded. Jinn had given Weisz his sweater and was now wearing only his shirt.

"I can't believe you sometimes" Jinn whispered to his best friend "on a work night? Really Weisz?"

"Stop being such a prude, it's not the end of the world" the blonde glanced over to where Homura and Rebecca were walking a few steps ahead of them. "I just felt like it," Weisz added, his eyes fixed on Homura's back.

"You are unbelievable, what the hell happened yesterday?" Jinn said and Weisz just shook his head.

"Not now, I'll tell you after work" Weisz looked like he was dealing with the situation quite well, but Jinn knew better.

"Alright, you better, you know I hate being in the dark"

Weisz chuckled at his best friend remark and beamed at him



"Aw, you care about me, that's sweet" Jinn rolled his eyes at the blond's mocks

"Shut up, I hate you right now, you better look after my sweater, got it?" The green haired man grinned and walked faster to reach the girls.

Homura kept sending glances at Weisz trying to analyze the whole situation. He had spent the night out, Rebecca said he had different dates every weekend and that surprised her even more.

The Weisz she knew was not a womanizer, at least he wasn't back then. So it made her curious and kind of angry to see him act like this now. What was even worse was that everyone around him seemed to know about this and were ok with it.

Her eyes were focused on the blond, she couldn't stop staring at him. Homura was trying to figure him out, this new side of Weisz was completely new to her. She was so immersed in her thoughts that she didn't notice, Weisz's gray eyes staring back at her.

Time seemed to stop for a second when they finally locked eyes, but it didn't last long. Completely embarrassed for being caught looking at him she turned her head towards Rebecca trying to hide her blushing cheeks.

Homura kept walking, ignoring the unsettling feeling she had in her chest. It was not the time to think about this, her talk with Weisz was pretty clear the day before, they were going to move forward and try to start over. Instead of overthinking, she smiled at Rebecca and poked her side.

"So, how's everything with you Becca" she said as they walked into the building.

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"That's all for today, and remember to hand in your 1st draft on Non-holonomic systems by Friday" Weisz said as half of the class was already standing up to leave "I mean that Jeremy, specially to you"

"Professor please, I always hand everything on time" a redheaded boy around 16 said with a wide cocky smile on his face

Weisz shook his head.

"I'm going to record you one of these days, have a good lunch, everyone" he said as he put everything on his briefcase and left the classroom.

He was starving, he didn't even have coffee in the morning. He had left the girl's house in such a rush that he couldn't even buy a coffee.

He got chills thinking about how he spent the night at a girl's place. He never sleeps over, never. He must have been really tired to fall asleep that fast. Luckily for him, the girl didn't wake up before he did so he managed to leave without leaving any trace.

Weisz's stomach made a funny noise, indicating that he was starving. This was so not him. He never had dates on work nights, but yesterday... yesterday he just needed to forget the way he was feeling after seeing and talking to Homura for the first time in 8 years.

The conversation they had was still on his mind, Weisz was amazed at how he handled everything. For a moment hearing her say she was sorry and looking at her beautiful face, he thought all the hard time he had trying to move on from his crush had been a waste of time.

Absolutely no, he couldn't allow those feelings to come back. That's when he panicked and did the only thing he knew would keep Homura out of his mind.

He didn't lie to her when he agreed to move forward, it was the best for both of them at the moment. Weisz was not mad, but after noticing the way his heartbeat raised when he saw her

again, he knew he had to keep his distance. He was not going to make the same mistake twice.

Weisz opened the door to the teacher's lounge where they had lunch and froze when he saw Homura sitting by herself. She had a pair of glasses on, and was reading a book while she ate some chips.

The blonde stood there, she hadn't noticed him yet, so he was considering having lunch somewhere else. He was about to turn around and walk away but he stopped. Taking another look at the purple hair woman, the talk they had yesterday came to his mind again.

Avoiding her wasn't the solution, they were supposed to leave the past behind and move forward. Weisz scratched the back of his head, pushed the door further and walked in. He could do this, the rest will probably join them soon.

*"You are just old friends, she is an acquaintance now, you don't have a crush on her anymore"* Weisz kept repeating in his head while he grabbed his lunch from the food station, and walked towards her.

"That's all you are gonna eat?" The blonde said casually, taking Homura's attention away from the book.

Her eyes widened in surprise when she saw him taking a seat next to her, and she clumsily took off her glasses as she closed the books she was reading.

"O-oh, hi Weisz, I didn't notice you came in" she said trying to sound composed.

"I guess that habit of losing yourself in books hasn't changed" he pointed at her bag of chips "that's not food"

Homura was still surprised he was talking to her so naturally. But she didn't want to think too much, that was all she has been doing since the morning and it only made her more anxious.

So she was just going to go with the flow.

"Oh, this? Yes I know I'm waiting for Rebecca to be back, she said she wanted food from somewhere else so she was going to grab it" she smiled and put the book away in her bag along with her glasses.

"Why am I not surprised?" Weisz rolled his eyes "let me guess... Jinn went with her" he said as he took a look at the food he grabbed from the food station.

"Yep, exactly that" Homura follow his eyes towards his plate and leaned to take a better look "that doesn't look so bad"

Weisz shook his head, of course Jinn went with her. He was so obvious sometimes. He noticed Homura's curiosity as she leaned to see his food.

"It's not bad, Rebecca just likes to eat outside campus food, because she has been spoiled too much"

She chuckled and for a moment Weisz started questioning again if he could do this.

"Well you know how she always liked good quality food"

"Come on she eats whatever is in front of her, I'm surprised she hasn't gain more weight"

"Don't be that mean!" Homura said trying not to laugh "there is nothing wrong with loving food"

"Yeah right, well tell that to this food" Weisz pointed at his plate "I'm sure it feels discriminated by her" he had forgotten how nice it felt to hear Homura's laugh at his really bad jokes.

"Oh god" Homura breathed between laughs, she didn't know why she found Weisz jokes and teasing funny. Sometimes she was the only one laughing, but even though she knew the jokes were terrible she just couldn't help it "you are still making those awful jokes, eh?"

With a smile on his face Weisz took a sip from his apple juice.

"Yeah well and you are still laughing at them..."

Their eyes met for a brief second, and they didn't need to say it but both their minds were automatically transported to the many times they laughed together when they were younger. When they didn't have to act and pretend their feelings didn't matter.

Homura's laugh stopped and Weisz's smile vanished. The previous joyful atmosphere was now gone leaving an awkward feeling. They both looked down, Homura found her hands very interesting and Weisz dug into his food trying to ignore the beating of his heart.

"We are back" Rebecca had just stormed into the room with their food. Weisz had never been happier to hear the ash blonde's voice as in that moment.

"What took you so long?!" Homura looked as relieved as Weisz "I was starving..." She tried not to sound too obvious so she stood up and helped her friend with the boxes of food, grabbing the one that she ordered.

Homura glanced at Weisz who kept his eyes focused on his food.

"Sorry about that, Becca couldn't decide which to get," Jinn said, taking a seat next to Weisz and rolling his eyes.

Rebecca noticed that and hit his arm.

"Hey, no one asked you to come with me..."

"Yeah right, then we would still be waiting for the food"

"Whatever it wasn't that long anyway, don't be so extra" she sat down next to the green hair man and smiled at Homura "I'm sure you will love what I got you, it's one of their best dishes"

The door of the teachers lounge opened up again and this time it was Laguna who entered the room. His blue eyes searched around for his friends and when he finally saw them he walked towards them and sat next to Rebecca.

"You all better be free after we finish today I'll buy you guys a beer"

"And what's the occasion?" Jinn asked

"That my dear friend is a surprise..." Laguna wiggled his eyebrows as the other four just looked at each other worried, the blue eyed man instantly frowned "Oh come on, don't make those faces, I promise it's something good"

"If you say so..." Weisz said and looked at his watch "shoot, my next class starts in 5 minutes, better run"

"How short is your lunch break man?" Laguna asked him as the blonde stood up and shrugged.

"I got caught up with some of the kid's projects" he threw the empty plates on his food tray on the trash can and turned to his friends "I guess I see you guys after work"

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In Homura's opinion the period after lunch was always shorter. She blinked and it was already 4:30 pm and everyone was ready to go back home.

The purple haired girl kept sending glances at Rebecca who seemed to be very focused on her phone. They were walking towards the bar Laguna told them to meet. Weisz, Jinn and Laguna will be meeting them there.

"What's so interesting that you can't stop texting?" Homura asked Rebecca and made the ash blond look up at her.

"Oh? I'm sorry Mura, I was just texting Shiki, I thought it will be nice if he joined us tonight"

Homura nodded and smiled at her friend.

"Yes, that would be amazing. I haven't seen him in like forever" Homura leaned closer to her and took a peek at her phone "so what did he say?"

Rebecca smiled faded and she frowned with concern

"He hasn't replied"

Without realizing it, Homura read her chat and noticed she had been sending him text messages for a while, but none of them were answered. Rebecca looked really worried and that made Homura sad.

Back when they were in highschool, she remembered how Shiki was always attentive to Rebecca, so this whole new attitude coming from him was really strange.

Homura rubbed her friend's back and smiled at her.

"I'm sure he is just busy"

"Yeah..." Rebecca nodded put her phone on her pocket and smiled at her "You are right, I'm going to just enjoy hanging out with you guys tonight, he will call when he can"

Homura nodded

"That's right, it has been so long since we had fun together"

Both girls entered the bar and found Weisz and Jinn had already gotten a table for them.

"So, where is Laguna?" Rebecca asked as she sat down right next to Jinn.

"You know him, he likes to make an entrance" Weisz answered as he set his bag aside so Homura could sit next to him.

"What is that he always says?" Homura said, trying to ignore how her heart started raising the minute she sat in that chair.

"A star is never early or late or something like that" Jinn scratched his head trying to remember the exact words.

"A star is never late, nor early, they arrive exactly when it's meant to" Laguna's voice startled the four of them. The blue haired man laughed at his friends' confused faces and sat down with them.

"Who said that by the way?" Weisz asked him.



"Gandalf" Laguna smirked.

"Pff, are you serious?" Jinn burst out laughing "You are such a nerd"

"Look who's talking Mr. Love actually is my favorite movie"

"Didn't Gandalf say 'Wizards'?" Rebecca asked innocently which made Jinn laugh even harder.

Weisz was hardly keeping it together as well, he was not good at holding his laugh.

"Whatever I reinvented it, you cannot trust an old man whose fashion style is wearing rugs, even if it was the middle ages" Laguna shrugged and called the waiter to get their orders.

"So.." Homura said looking at her friend "are you going to reveal the mystery or are we gonna keep talking about Wizards' fashion?"

"I'm getting there, yes" Laguna gave everyone a smile and rubbed both his hands. "Ready?"

"For God's sake just say it already" Weisz snapped.

"Fine, good grief, don't get so impatient"

"DUDE!"

"Alright alright, here is the thing.... I got the main lead on a play, it opens this december"

"What?! That 's awesome!" Weisz said and the rest congratulated him as well.

Everyone in their group knew how much Laguna loved acting and how hard it had been for him to get serious parts. So hearing him say that made them all fill with joy.

"Wow congrats man!!" Jinn said with a big smile on his face.

"Yes that sounds incredible Laguna, we are going to the opening night, right?" Rebecca asked and the blue-haired man nodded.

"Well done buddy, I'm really proud of you" Weisz said, laying back on his chair.

"Oh my god!" Homura jumped up and hug him "congratulations, this is amazing, I know how much you wanted this part"

"Thanks Mura" he hugged her back.

Weisz looked at them a little bit wary. She knew he was after that specific part? The blond didn't know they were that close. Back in highschool Laguna and Homura's relationship wasn't like this.

He looked away, ignoring the knot in his stomach, and right in the moment the waitress came back with their drinks.

Homura sat back down so the woman could serve them their beers. She was so happy, that it took her a while to notice that the beer in front of her was not the one she ordered.

"Um..." she was about to call the lady back when she felt someone grabbing the beer she was holding.

"I think that one is mine, she must have mixed them" Weisz said as he slid the beer he had on his other hand, towards her "You like light beers right? Dark ones just give you headaches"

The smile on the blonde's face made Homura feel warm and fuzzy inside. For a moment she felt she was back in highschool when they were close and neither of them had been hurt.

She nodded and took the beer from Weisz hand, brushing his fingers slightly. For a minute Homura thought he was going to let their hands touch, but he retracted it as soon as her fingers brushed his.

"Well let's make a toast for our favorite actor" Rebecca said raising her glass "Cheers!!"

They had always loved drinking and having fun as a group, even when it was non alcoholic beverages, they still enjoyed the company of each other. It was nice to get together like that again.

Weisz didn't know how much time had passed, they had 2 more rounds of beers and everyone seemed to still be holding it up pretty good, everyone but Rebecca.

"You think she is ok? Maybe I should take her home" Weisz heard Homura's voice next to him and he turned to look at her. Her cheeks and nose were slightly red, and she looked kind of tipsy.

"You wanna take her home? I bet you can't even walk properly right now" he said, shaking his head.

"If you are insinuating that I'm drunk, I would gladly tell you I'm not."

"Yeah, okay" Weisz snorted

"I said I'm not!" Homura raised her voice without noticing and Weisz snickered "Stop laughing at me, so what? I'm a little tipsy, I can still take my best friend home"

"The hell you can, don't worry about Becca I doubt Sir Lancelot would let her do anything stupid" Weisz pointed at Rebecca, who was laughing non stop and telling everyone she wanted to dance; and Jinn, who was trying unsuccessfully to keep her from embarrassing herself.

"Oh..." Homura said following the blonde's gaze. "You have a point..." she turned to look at him and giggled "Sir Lancelot?!"

Weisz took a sip from his beer and shrugged. He tried to hide how affected he was by the sound of her laugh

"I see what you did there, you are such a—"

Homura's voice faded, she suddenly realized how much she missed these things. Seeing him teasing and laughing with everyone made her want to hold on to this moment and never let it go.

The image of a younger version of themselves appeared in her mind. It was the first time they got drunk, they were at Weisz's house and the six of them had sneaked into the basement some of Weisz's grandfather's wine bottles. They thought back then they were being so badass and rebellious.

Homura used to think that, spending time like that, laughing with him surrounded by their friends, was how she was going to live for the rest of her life. But her mother had other plans and that memory was all that was left.

"I'm such a what? Hey, you there?"

Weisz's voice brought her back from her flashback.

Homura shook her head and giggled.

"Never mind that... I forgot what I was going to say"

"See? I told you, drunk" Weisz smirked as he drank what was left of his beer.

"I'm not that drunk... maybe just a little tipsy, you know I never lie"

"Is that so?" The blond asked and she nodded "then if I ask you something you will answer me with honesty right?"

There was some kind of mischievous sparkle in Weisz's eyes when he said that. Homura knew him well enough to know he was up to no good, but she still smiled and nodded.

"I will, ask me anything you want" she was trying to sound confident and ignore completely how nervous she actually was. The expression in Weisz's face was one she had never seen in him before and it was making her heart uneasy.

"Cool..." the blonde smiled once again and put his beer aside. As he did that he leaned closer to her. "Anything?"

Homura imitated him as she nodded and before she knew it their faces were closer than before. She didn't realize it, her body seemed to have moved on its own, she could actually feel the warmth of his knee brushing hers. Maybe she had drunk more than she should have.

Weisz tilted his head, still wearing that smirk on his face, his gray eyes searching for something on her face. It was as if he was trying to analyze every little gesture she made.

Homura could feel her whole body weaken under his stare and she was starting to panic. This was new to her, she knew they used to be close when they were younger and that he had a crush on her but... Weisz had never looked at her like that, in such a suspicious yet naughty way.

"Um... are you gonna ask?" The purple haired girl cleared her throat and broke eye contact with him. Why was he doing this?

"Yeah..." Weisz said and his smirk faded away. Homura couldn't help but frown, how did he switch moods so fast, now his eyes were filled with something she couldn't quite understand.

Weisz hesitated for a second, he was well aware of what he wanted to ask her, he has been wanting to ask her since he saw her the day before.

But he was afraid, afraid of her answer and of what that would do to him. Afraid of bringing back memories that were long buried away. He wanted to try being Homura's friend and move forward like they said they would, with no hard feelings, but he needed to know this first.

He had always had the suspicion that there was something else behind Homura wanting to study abroad. But he was too proud back then to ask her about it. Instead he went off and fucked every single woman he could, to get rid of the void in his chest. Pathetic he knew that but it had worked so far.

Until now.

He took a deep breath trying not to sound too casual, and finally asked.

"Why... Why did you really leave?"



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