

## Roommate

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# Roommate

by [Sleepwich](#)

## Summary

His bills laid out over the table, some overdue, he couldn't take the pressure he was facing. He thought after moving out he had saved enough, but his job at Dope Sketch really wasn't covering enough.

or

Reki needs a roommate, but Langa is away at college. So Langa hooks Reki up with a family friend.

## Notes

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

# Hello

Reki held his head in his hands. Another month another huge fucking bill. The pressure he felt from his head was splitting. Who knew living on your own could be so fucking hard.

He had to find a new job.

His bills laid out over the table, some overdue, he couldn't take the pressure he was facing. He thought after moving out he had saved enough, but his job at Dope Sketch really wasn't covering enough. He hardly got groceries. His diet had become nothing but instant noodles. On some graces, Joe would invite everyone over for family dinner and he would have left overs that could last 3 days.

Reki clenched his face and cried.

It wasn't the first.

He cried because he loved his job. It wasn't a bad little gig. It is always fun to make new boards. But it wasn't enough. Oka had even given him Langa's hours when he went off to university in Tokyo. At home he was able to put away enough hoping this would cover.

He was wrong.

At this time his phone buzzed. It was Langa calling. He tried to recompose himself and answer but his voice was too shaky.

“H-hey llan-ga “

“Reki are you ok?”

Reki looked down. He couldn't bring himself to say it.

"I think .. I might need to quit dope sketch and get a different job."

"What why???? You love it."

"I just... I just can't make ends meet. I thought I'd have more for this apartment, but I guess not. I don't want to have to move home. I'm 23 now. Koyomi already took my bedroom so the twins could have their own rooms. I'm just out of options."

"What if I moved in with you?"

"But- wait Langa you're at university. You can't just quit because I can't afford an apartment. Then we'll both be broke."

"You're right. Hm." Langa paused for a bit.

"I have a friend that could stay with you. Would that work?"

"Who's your friend?"

"It's my mom's friend's son. He would come over on Sundays with her. He's fun. Obviously not as much as you. But we would play video games."

Reki didn't know if his stomach should be cramping from this new news that Langa had a secret friend this whole time. But that was just Reki's secret crush burning jealous that was eating him up.

“I guess that... could work. In the meantime... Do you know anyone that could use a custom skateboard that I could help use to .. make rent money for the month haha.”

Langa had gotten into university due to his skateboard skills. Reki desperately wanted to make it to one of his tournaments when he had the money, but livestream would do for now. However, hardly did Reki try to get commissions out of his friend. This was new and Reki sat with bullets pouring down his face.

“Of course I’ll ask for you. I’ll see if my mom can send me money so I can get a new board from you also.”

Reki shot up. “What no!! You’re literally my best friend man. All your boards are free. Just forget I said anything. I’ll find something to sell.”

Reki’s only other non-skating form of entertainment, his ps4, glistened.

“No, no worries I’ll help you out. And I’ll reach out to that friend. Maybe they’re also looking for a place to stay.”

They said their goodbyes and then the phone clicked. Reki goes to grab water and a rice ball he got from 7/11. He sighed as his dinner. He missed his mom’s cooking. He wasn’t going to lie to himself every second.

After he went and began shaving down a commission. He had to keep going.

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He woke up the next day to a contact from Langa.

Langa: Here’s my friend’s contact. Feel free to snoop on Facebook. Is it alright if I call and let him know the situation?

Reki sighed. He probably needed to get some boxes soon. All his boards and supplies were about to take up 5-6 huge boxes to pack. How did he get so much shit?

As it got closer to 10am he got ready for his shift at Dope sketch. Brushing his teeth he heard a ping. It was from an unknown number.

???: Hey Langa's friend! I'm Kenji. I heard you're looking for a roommate. I'll be free around noon if you wanna get coffee and chat.

Reki frowned.

Reki: ahh I actually start my work shift here soon. Do you have time after 7?

The ellipse dance.

Kenji: Sure! What's the nearest coffee shop near your work?

Reki: sure

By this point Reki had already started out the door and slipped his phone into his pocket as he hopped on his board. I guess the good part about Okinawa was that everything was still pretty close and local. There was a sense of peace as he glided.

The hours passed by at work. Reki mechanically clicked his pen. He was overwhelmed for sure. He always wanted to be a roommate with Langa. But a random guy that isn't family was uncomfortable. He could never tell Langa though.

Reki's thoughts churn till suddenly he's waiting in line for a coffee he couldn't afford.

“Make it two!” Kenji appeared behind and pulled out his card.

Reki was shocked. “Oh you didn’t have to!”

Kenji smiled and Reki knew not to fight this. After the drinks were paid they sat against a small table by the windows.

“So - you need a roommate?”

Reki sighed and nodded. “It’s a lot tougher living on your own.” Reki fidgeted with the coffee sleeve.

Kenji smiled. “Oh do I know. Well I’m glad Langa connected us. Now things should get easier. I think the best solution is if I move into your apartment already.”

“Huh? Really?” Reki was shocked how fast everything worked out.

“Ya I don’t need to commute anywhere being a software engineer. I can basically work remote. What do you do for a living?”

“... I work at a skate shop...”

“Pft.”

It was a light laugh. It rang in Reki’s ears. Of course no one, not a single person he met, understood his passion like Langa. Even some days Oka asked when he would go off and go study. And Kenji was just another person on that list.

Someday Reki would finally add himself to that list.

“That’s pretty cool. I used to want to skateboard.”

Reki perked up a bit. Maybe he was similar to Langa. “I can teach you.”

Kenji waved his hand and took a sip. “Nah it’s way too much of a risk. But I’m glad you enjoy it.”

Reki smiled.

They spent the rest of the afternoon figuring out rent split and when Kenji could start dropping off his stuff.

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The day finally came when Kenji would be moving in. Reki opens the door to find a large man that was not Kenji. He had a scar across his face and was holding a few boxes high up as though they don’t weigh anything. A few more similar men come through till Kenji, at the end of the caboose, greets Reki.

“Hey there! Are you excited?”

Kenji smiled brightly back at Reki. For once Reki had someone back in his life it felt. As much as calling Langa was still something he did nightly. It was nice to have a friend.

“Ya I’m really excited! I’ve been thinking about what I could cook as a welcome dinner.”

“Oh you cook?? That’s amazing. I guess I’ll be eating out less haha.”

Reki was kind of taken back from this comment. “Ha - I guess. I just can’t really afford a lot. But now with you helping with the rent we should be able to get better meals prepped.”

Kenji just smiled and continued to unload his stuff into the apartment.

The small apartment Reki was renting filled pretty fast. Reki lost his workshop space so Kenji could take the spare bedroom. Reki spent the rest of his weekend arranging his room and workbench area.

Later he was preparing dinner when Kenji came out of his room. He had just finished showering and had the towel around his shoulder. On his upper body he had a couple of tattoos that made Reki question a bit. They looked like something he saw on Twitter before. He was quick to look back down at the food. Only briefly glancing and thinking.

“Really looking forward to this meal after moving all day.” He laughed and sat on the bar stool.

“Don’t worry. I make the best curry. Langa used to always steal my bento for it.”

Kenji smiled. “So how do you and Hasegawa know each other?”

Reki kind of flushed a bit, “We, uh, went to school together.”

“So you miss him a lot?”

“Ya.... But we still call almost every night?”

“Wow, you two are like high school sweethearts. He talks about you highly a lot as well. When’s the wedding?”

Reki drops the ladle. “Uh... we aren’t together. We’re just friends...”

Kenji smirks. “But you wish it was more hmm?”

Reki turned around.

The other boy got off his stool and walked to the kitchen. “Don’t worry. I won’t tell him your secret.”

Reki gulped.

Kenji was learning him too fast.

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A few months had passed and things were working out great. There was always plenty of food. Reki was able to still work on his boards for extra money. He was finally able to build his savings up and hopefully have money set aside for Christmas.

Since moving out he lacked many opportunities to see his family during the holidays. It wasn’t custom to give gifts, but he figured since he had missed so many other chances. He would get them the toys they’ve been asking for and deliver soon.

Suddenly Kenji came home slamming the doors. He threw off his tie and came storming through.

Langa was on the phone with Reki while he made dinner, and Reki quietly said, “Gotta go, text ya, bye” and hung up.

Reki knocked on Kenji's door, "Hey man, are you ok? Would you like some dinner?"

It stayed silent and Reki pulled away from the door after a bit. A few hours clocked by until Kenji appeared. He didn't look sober. Reki was on the couch watching a show they were keeping up together on. He turned to look at Reki.

"I can't pay rent this month..."

Reki froze. He didn't know how to respond.

"Is...is your job ok? Did something happen?"

Kenji just turned his head and went to the kitchen. He took the entire pot off the stove. His black long bangs covered his eyes and shrouded his face. No longer could Reki read what was on his mind.

Reki ran off to his bedroom as Kenji sat on the couch.

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End of the month came by and Kenji hadn't explained what happened. Reki had forfeit extra he had collected. He still had a nest egg, but he definitely was low on spending money again.

"Hey Kenji. Do you at least have money for groceries? I don't think I'll have enough for the month to cook for us like I used to..."

"I'll get paid soon. I'll just buy my meals and you can buy yours."

Reki nodded. Back to how he was managing a bit ago.

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No cereal. No rice. Kenji had eaten all of Reki's food. The agreement had fallen through and Kenji began eating anything in the kitchen. Reki couldn't keep leftovers. Kenji would eat all of it. Reki would take pity and not say much. Until today where he had nothing for breakfast and hadn't eaten much dinner.

Reki went to confront and suddenly a cold chill passed through him. Kenji looked him dead in the face when he entered his bedroom.

"Can I help you?"

Reki froze. He couldn't do it.

"No it's. Sorry I forgot what I came in here for." Reki made a bashful face as he scampered out.

Reki ran to his room and locked the door. He found a pack of crackers and stuffed them in his pocket till he could get to the convenience store to buy rice balls before work.

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By mid month, things between Kenji and Reki only got worse. It felt so tense whenever Reki arrived home from his shifts. Kenji would be playing on Reki's game system and the dishes would be stacked high.

On top of it all, rent was due again.

“Hey Reki... can you cover my rent for the month?” Reki stopped. Not again. Has Kenji really not gotten paid since last month? Christmas was next week and he had just saved enough for his family to have gifts this week.

Reki was silent.

At first. “...Didn’t you just get paid...”

Kenji’s face quickly narrowed.

“I had to use that money to get my car repaired. You would understand. Plus it’s the holidays, I won’t have money to buy gifts for my family.”

Reki stood there. “But I won’t be able to buy gifts for my family either!”

At this point Kenji had stood up and started to walk towards Reki.

“Don’t make me tell him your little secret crush. You know how awkward it would be right when he has to come home so soon for winter break.” Reki froze. Kenji’s dirty trick. He curses under his breath.

“Fine...I’ll ...cover the apartment bill... this final time.”

Reki thought that was the end of the conversation.

But Kenji only got angrier the more Reki pushed back. He approached Reki and cornered him against the wall. “You know Langa wouldn’t react well knowing you’ve been using him as his little gay crush to live out happy fantasies all this time... you better stay in your lane Kyan...”

Before Reki had the chance to throw a punch back, Kenji let go of Reki’s collar and pushed him into his own room. Kenji turned and grabbed Reki’s phone as he closed the door. Pushing a chair under the lock he trapped Reki in for the night. Reki was terrified. He tried

pushing the door open but couldn't get it to move. He tried using the weight of his body but he had gotten so weak from lack of meals. Reki coughs after just a single body slam.

He knew something was up with Kenji. If he pays this final bill he'll be in a worse state than when he and Kenji started rooming. He already spent a month trying to cut meals where he could to save money. He didn't want to continue that trend especially with Langa coming to town.

*"You know Langa wouldn't react well knowing you've been using him as his little gay crush to live out happy fantasies all this time"*

Was he using Langa? He - he was always trying to hide his feelings. Was he holding Langa back? What if Langa comes home with a girlfriend?

The more he sat and thought the deeper he got in thought till his alarm clock read 3am.

He sits back up on his bed trying to look for a way to escape. He notices the tiny window up at the top that the moonlight shined through.

He pushes his desk against the wall with the windows up high and tries to open them up. He just had to squeeze through and he'd be free and maybe be able to get to a friend like Miya or Joe.

Reki manages to get the window open, but he could barely fit his head through. He panics at this point and starts to scream. However, it's hard being in an apartment on the 6th floor trying to be heard.

After coming off his panic attack he sank back to his bed. He tried to force himself to sleep for the night.

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Reki wakes up to his door being open and Kenji standing beside his bed.

“Wake up, you're going to be late for work.”

Reki's adrenaline is pumping through him. He can barely control his breathing.

Kenji holds his phone. “Say anything to anyone about what happened, and I'll be sure to ruin you for good. My family has connections all around Okinawa with the Yakuza. I wired your phone to go off if you use it to call or text. You can only receive texts. I'll also know when you talk to your boss at work. So just be a good little worker and go to your job.” Kenji smiled sickly at Reki.

At some point Reki just goes numb on his ride to work. He was fucked. He was a slave to Kenji. No one would be able to get a hold of him. The second he'd tried he might end up being beaten to a pulp. He walked into work to be relieved Oka wasn't there so he could hide the panic in his eyes. He went to the back and began to work.

Every hour, Reki calculated how much he now had and how much he would have after bills and how much he could go get a small gift for his family.

Lunch rolled around and Oka finally came in. He found Reki in the back and smiled. “Hey kid! How's it going? Ready for Christmas? Have you heard from Langa at all?”

Reki hadn't checked his phone since last night. He was too afraid to touch it.

“Ah I. I'm sorry I just have been ... busy. But I haven't seen a text.”

Oka nods. “I know you've been working hard. That's why I asked the boss if it was possible for you to get a raise and a bonus. You should check your bank to see if he approved. In the meantime I'll check with Langa. I'm sure he wants to visit his mom and you.”

Reki smiled and then returned to his phone.

Was he allowed to check his bank or should he just go in person. But would someone follow him? Reki's heart began to race again.

He begins to have a coughing fit. His stomach churns a bit from the stress. He should have picked up breakfast. Oka peaks his head into the room with Langa on the phone. "You ok kid?"

Reki is shaking, but he can't say it. He can't say why he's panicked. He just lets his body lie to everyone and he goes over to a trash can to puke what little fluids he had in him.

"Do you need to head home?"

Reki's eyes widened. "No! No it's ok. I think I ate something weird when I woke up. Plus I need the hours."

Langa overhears on the phone. "Reki, are you still struggling with bills? I thought Kenji was helping?"

Reki is handed the phone. "No everything is ok I just wanna get my sisters this really cool playhouse." It wasn't a complete lie since he had to forfeit so much of his savings.

Langa stayed silent. "I can help you if you want. That way you can go home and rest. You sound awful. Don't worry I'll be home tomorrow to see you again."

Reki's heart smiled. He missed Langa so much. At this point he starts seeing black spots. He can't make Oka worry so he starts on his way home. About half way he dips into Joe's place. He felt safe even though Joe was busy. From there he found a corner where he was out of sight from Joe a bit and let his body take over and passed out.

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Reki hadn't slept in a while. His bones ached a bit and his stomach had gotten used to the pain. He just couldn't go back to his apartment. He definitely wasn't risking his family. Reki just needed some sleep. He'd apologize to Joe for taking up space.

That being said he woke up 15 minutes later to someone shaking him. That someone being Miya.

"Reki! Why haven't you answered my text from last night???" Miya looked very worried.

He had to lie. But he was so exhausted.

"I dropped my phone and it died."

Miya looked a bit more relieved. "Why didn't you tell one of us that you broke your phone? I thought you did something to yourself.

Reki looked down. He didn't mean to make Miya worry. He was now putting Miya in danger. He was putting Joe in danger. Kenji was tracking his phone.

Wait he would still see he wasn't at work.

Reki needed to somehow get his phone to work, but also sound like he's working. Panic rose in him. He couldn't say it. He -

Joe approached the table.

“Well well well. Reki, what are you doing here instead of at work?”

Reki tried to speak. He tried to lie. But instead he ran out the door back to work. He had to or else others would get hurt.

He barged in and Oka looked shocked. “Reki, you're back. I thought you went home?”

Reki was shaking. “I’m all good now. Can I please finish my shift? I just - “ shit the black spots were in his vision again. Calm down, calm down. He just grabbed a box and started stocking the shelves.

Oka approached him saying something, but Reki couldn’t hear anything. His ears were pumping so much blood. He felt like he was about to faint. He couldn’t though. He had to keep them thinking everything was ok or Kenji would do something.

He collapsed before he could make a final choice.

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Reki woke up at his mom’s. He was in his bed again. It all looked like his room. But he hasn’t been home forever. But the comfort of his bed kept him calm. His mom stood by the door asking if he needed anything. And all he could manage to say was, “I need a hug.”

His mom came over and enveloped her arms around him. He felt such bliss. He missed her so much. Why did he suck at growing up? He was trying so hard. Why couldn’t he just figure it out?

His mom held him and he melted as she kissed his forehead. She mentioned how there was breakfast downstairs and that she packed his lunch.

It’s selfish to say how much he missed free food. But also her cooking was such a big thing.

He fell back to sleep into her arms.

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When Reki woke up he was not in his old house.

He was back in his apartment.

He was alone.

He tried to get up but his body was too weak. He felt like his vision was blurry. Kenji stood over his body. A bag was hooked up connected to his arm. The bag was draining him of every ounce of blood.

“I need rent money for the month. If you don’t work I have to find another way.”

Reki laid still. Losing his blood at a rate he couldn’t predict. This was how he was about to die.

A doctor walked into the room with surgery tools. Kenji stood aside.

“Well Mr. Kyan, Kenji sold some of your organs to help pay for the rent. It won’t hurt and it’ll only take a second to get those out. After that you should be good on rent.”

Reki sank into the bed wondering if anyone was curious where he was. Langa wasn’t going to be happy since he spent all this money to come home to a funeral. He ruined everything again.

Maybe his death should stay a secret.

To that Reki fell back to sleep.

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Reki woke up. This time in the hospital. Crap it wasn't a dream. He checked his body and found no scars.

There were flowers beside him and a few "get well soon" cards.

Flowers must be from Shadow from how nice they were.

Beside his bed in a chair, his mom sat beside him.

"Hey baby. My sweet boy. I'm so happy you woke up. It's been quite the scare."

Reki's memories were blurred together. All he remembers is going back to Dope sketch.

His phone laid across. Still listening. He had to be smart.

"How long have I been asleep?..."

His mom frowned. "It's just been a day. Your boss brought you in after you collapsed. The doctors could only see you were severely malnourished and sleep deprived. But your friends all say you've been struggling with bills. Do you want to move back home again for a bit? I would rather know you're ok hunny."

Reki wondered if he could accept. Would Kenji be mad because he broke the lease agreement? His heart rate monitor spiked revealing his stress. He couldn't fake or hide anything.

His mom made the call to bring the nurses back in.

"I think you need to move back home. I can't see you put yourself in danger like this."

When she said that Langa walked in. He was beautiful and angelic. He went to the other side of Reki's bedside and pulled a chair up. Reki's mom decided to leave the room. "We'll start packing up soon. No worries hun."

Langa sat and held Reki's hand tightly.

"I know something is wrong. But you need to tell me the truth. You never hide this much from me."

His hand pulsed from how gentle and soft Langa's were. He felt like a warm Yule log burning in Reki's chest. He loved him so much but Reki's fear couldn't bring him out of it. He stared at the cell phone.

Langa noticed and knew. This has to be something related to Kenji. He went over to Reki's phone and took it to the security in the hall. He told the officer something and then returned to the room and locked the door.

"Reki, it's ok now. You can talk.

Reki's eyes widened. He needed to say something. "I. Kenji ... didn't pay rent. And ... when I asked. He. He told me -something bad would happen. I got scared he hurt others and I just needed to get back to work. I just need to pay rent, that's all and he'll be happy."

When he finished he was crying excessively. Langa came all the way back and Reki was ruining his only few days he got to hang with him being in the hospital.

But Langa wasn't upset at Reki. He was upset with something else. "Someone threatened you, and now you're here. In a hospital." Langa shook. "Do you know how scared I was Reki? The one I care the most about. I flew back for you. I ... Reki, you have to tell me if someone threatens you."

Reki chokes. "But I couldn't. Kenji is listening through my phone. He knows the Yakuza. Please just - it's not safe Langa. Everyone is in danger because of me."

"Reki, you don't see it. But we're here to protect you. You're gonna be alright. We're going to be alright. Ok?"

Langa moved Reki's hair out of his face. "Just rest up and get better. We're here for you." There was an unexpected kiss on his head that made Reki's eyes widen and start crying. Did Langa know? Did he already know that Reki was desperately in love?

"Langa - i just..."

Langa leans in and holds his hand firmly. "Rest Reki. You'll be ok. Afterwards, let's celebrate Christmas together."

# Goodbye

## Chapter Summary

Will Langa keep his wish?

## Chapter Notes

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

Reki fell asleep before he saw Langa leave. When he woke up his mom was back and they were gathering him to get into the car.

It proved to be impossible because Reki's fear of someone following him to his family's home proved too strong. However due to his new fear being true, Reki was placed under watch with his family.

While all this was happening, the police backtracked the number who hacked in. After about a day Reki could have his phone back if he wanted it.

But all Reki wanted was Langa. He hugged his friend so tightly every chance he could. And Langa never pushed away. He held Reki close as they watched movies and ate.

Langa focused on putting his anger into helping Reki get better. That's all that mattered since the news about Kenji. He had been off at school for only a semester to find Reki in such distress. It made Langa upset that he didn't push Reki to come with him. He had missed having his best friend.

He should have asked him out in high school. He just didn't want the distance to get to either of them.

About a week later they hear from the police that Kenji had been captured. Reki got an off the script version from one of the officers that stopped by to check in on him.

Apparently what had happened was Kenji got in trouble with the Yakuza. His job he had was working with their security. But during a night of gambling he had cheated them and lost his job. On the side he had to find a way to make back the money. Reki was still in danger even if they wanted Kenji just because Kenji admitted to being desperate to do anything.

So with much relief the Yakuza didn't know about Reki or his family and Kenji was captured.

The mental recovery from it all still took time. Reki hardly wanted to leave the safe space. So the Christmas dinner with Langa turned into one of their usual hang outs. Pizza and watching skate videos.

Langa ended up taking the next semester off due to "family reasons" to help make sure Reki was alright.

Reki appreciated it. He appreciated everyone being so kind to him.

But it ate at him and slowly he stopped eating and privately throwing food out. He started to fake being better so Langa would go back to Tokyo and continue everything he was working hard for.

Reki started selling his extra boards he had made to make spare cash to build up his money to move out again. He felt like he was holding everyone back.

Then Cherry caught him.

A full plate in hand scraping into the trash.

"I think we need to talk to Reki."

Reki knew he fucked up. The kitchen door closed and Cherry stood in front of the exit.

“Why are you lying to Langa?” His tone was so serious.

“I - I just.”

“You’ve been skipping meals again. And I’m assuming you’re planning to find a new place to stay. Why are you running from us? We’re trying to help.”

Reki tried to lie but crumbled fast.

Cherry was assertive. He got his answers. But Reki cried and broke down. He shook so scared of anything coming close to him. He felt like he was ruining everything.

Cherry was aggressive because if he wasn’t he didn’t know what Reki would do.

Heading back to the table, Reki was now carrying Cherry’s plate. On top was fresh cheese.

Reki sat next to Langa who wrapped his arms around his best friend. At least he got time with Langa. But it couldn’t last forever.

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“Langa ... you need to go back to school... you can’t pause your life for me.”

It was now July.

The new semester was almost about to close for registration. Reki wraps his arms around his stomach.

But Langa looks at him sternly. “I don’t want you getting hurt when I’m away. I never even wanted to do the whole “go professional” thing. I was doing it for you.”

Reki looks defeated. The guilt was eating him still and Langa could see it.

“Come with me. Let’s move in together.”

“I don’t know. I don’t have money saved up... don’t you live on campus?”

“First years live on campus. I would still need to get an apartment. We could live together. Plus it’ll help you breathe easier not being so close to Okinawa I think.”

Reki was still processing. Langa had offered before to move back, but to move there was different. Reki sat with guilt until Langa wrapped his arms around him from behind.

His heart started beating in his throat.

Langa was so close he could smell the body spray he was wearing. There were a few times Reki thought about kissing Langa.

But I guess this time Langa just read his mind.

His lips softly touched Reki’s cheeks. Then he buried his head into Reki’s neck.

Reki’s eyes were wide as he felt Langa’s warmth flow all over him.

“Langa...”

“I’m sorry I did that without asking. I just -“

“Please do it again. Actually I just - “

Reki tried to turn to face him but Langa held him. Probably embarrassed.

“Langa can I see your face?”

“Mmmaybeidontknowiwaskindofsillytodothat”

“Langaaa”

“Mmmermm”

“I love you. I’ve loved you and I was ... I would have done anything to see you skate at your college. You’re the coolest skater I know. That I watch. Better than Tony hawk - I bet you could beat him”

“You know Tony Hawk is better. He’s got so much experience. Plus it’s unfair to challenge him while I’m so young.”

“Exactly!! You’re already a legend!!”

Langa’s throat closes.

“Can I see your face? I wanna kiss it.”

Langa loosely dips Reki back in his arms. He kisses Reki and holds his head up. After a bit they break away.

“Langa...you taste like a warm nap. I could fall asleep in your arms.”

“Hmm you’re like a soda pop, your hair feels so frizzy.”

“Can we stay like this forever?”

“What if - we go to Tokyo. Then you can kiss me all you want after my games.” Langa’s lips brush over Reki’s and begin to kiss him again.

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*5 months later*

Reki was decorating their apartment for Christmas. His mom and Langa’s mom sent a ton of supplies and he figured he’d open some of the boxes and start decorating while Langa was busy with his exams.

Reki hadn’t been back to work just yet, but luckily the lawsuit against Kenji had left him a good chunk of money to regather himself and get the therapy he needed.

Langa was adamant he’d pay for his portion of the apartment even though Reki wanted Langa to focus on studies instead of juggling a job.

Most nights were lonelier than he'd like, but he knew soon Langa and him would have their Christmas Eve date. He smiled and looked at some of the ornaments. They were from his family's tree. He missed his family and his mom would call him at least once a week. There were ones that his sisters made, a couple of notes with wishes, and a few he made when he was a kid. He hung them on the tree and smiled with tears in his eyes.

"I can't believe I'm finally grown up."

He stood holding himself in their small living room.

Behind him the door opens and Langa walks in.

"Hey Reki! I brought home free lunch. I stopped by work after my exam. Manager gave me the evening off and some free food."

Langa finds Reki by himself.

Wrapping arms come around Reki. "Hey! I'm here I'm here. What's up?"

"Langa... Hey.."

Moving his head closer to Reki, Langa nuzzles into his neck and kisses.

Reki hums, but it's sad.

"What's wrong my love?"

"I just. Can't believe I'm here. With you. That I'm not at my family's even though I see the ornaments we used to both see together. I feel so old suddenly. I feel like I'm trying to

remember high school.”

Langa smiles. “Ya. I can’t believe I get to see you everyday. It’s a dream waking up next to you. And I love how you decorate. Everything feels like home and that’s something I lost before I met you.”

Reki blushes.

Langa pulls him onto a couch. The room is full of twinkle and Christmas colors now. The warmth Reki feels in his heart bursts and he sheds a few tears. He cuddles into Langa and smiles.

“So what food did your boss give you?”

Langa smiles.

“He gave me some soups and veggies. Oh and some pork.”

Reki smiled. “Sounds good. Should I set the table?”

“Nah I think all the supplies are in here. Wait - he forgot spoons. Could you grab some?”

Reki got up and went to the kitchen.

“Hey Reki?”

“Ya?”

“Christmas Eve is next week and I’m just curious if you planned anything?”

Reki stood still. “I uh I didn’t know umm I can make a reservation..”

“No no. You’re fine. I was checking. I have something already in mind. But I think we should go get you a new suit.” Langa smiled.

Oh they’ve been on plenty of small dates. But for some reason this took Reki for a spin. He needed to sit down. He found Langa to be the hottest guy he’s ever met. Most dates were small like a restaurant they’ve been to before. It’s never been like - ever - something where they wore a suit and tie. He hadn’t seen Langa in a suit since high school graduation. Back then girls were hunting him down to take photos with him. But the only photo he took was one with Reki, which they now had framed on a shelf.

Reki’s cheeks felt on fire and all he could do was nod. For an ice prince he knew how to melt Reki’s heart.

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Reki felt out of place in Tokyo. He constantly felt like an outsider to modern Japanese culture. He’d lived in Okinawa for so long, he wasn’t used to the overwhelming consumerism. Ducking into a shop, Langa dragged Reki inside.

Inside was a little lady that looked up.

“Langa! It’s so nice to see you. How’s Nanako doing? What brings you to Tokyo I thought you were in Okinawa?”

“Hello Mrs. Kuryoki ! It’s good to see you as well. I actually moved here for college. But I definitely miss the warmth a bit. Oh also!” He turns to Reki. “This is my boyfriend. He’s a bit overwhelmed by Tokyo at the moment. I was wondering if we could be squeezed in for a fitting? I kept forgetting to call ahead.”

She smiled. "Of course. Here it shouldn't take long. When are you needing the suits by?"

Langa sheepishly smiles. "Christmas Eve?...."

She stopped smiling.

She placed her head in her hands, but then started laughing. "Oh you truly haven't grown up much Langa. Still as ditszy as ever."

Reki begins to laugh.

Langa pouts. "Hey! I don't do this that often!"

Her smile returned and grabbed Reki first. "Well just remember there's a rush fee. But I'll make sure you guys look amazing."

Reki is pulled to the back where he's thrown in front of a mirror. She begins to take his measurements.

"Why are you so nervous dear?"

Reki shrugs.

She stops. "What's wrong?"

Reki starts to tear up. "I don't think I deserve someone as beautiful as him doing this for me. I -" Reki stared at himself in the mirror. He was just a scrawny guy.

“Don’t say that about yourself. You are just looking at yourself with your eyes - not his eyes. Let me show you what he sees in you.”

She pulls him away from the mirror into a dressing room. She hands him a suit that would best fit him and lets him change. She returns once his pants are on correctly and helps him with any tucking and straightening. Then she goes down to the pant legs and pins them up a little. “Ah they were almost perfectly fit. I’ll have to hem them up for you. No worries hun.”

After he’s fitted she drags him back to the mirror and Reki sees himself. He looks like a groom waiting at an altar. The suit color is on the softer purple side of black linen complimenting the red in his hair. He starts to cry and she hands him a handkerchief.

“Thank you.”

---

Langa and Reki go and pick up their suits 2 days later. Langa fainted a bit from the rush fee on the bill, but Reki had mentioned the suit thing to Nanako before, and she had given Langa an extra bit of money as a Christmas gift to help cover the cost and more.

“Next time - don’t let me be so silly... ah”

“Ok Langa. Next time you’re planning a SURPRISE I’ll remind you”

They both laughed as they headed to the apartment to get ready. Neither of them had seen the other since the fitting. So when they both looked at each other while getting ready they choked a bit.

Neither could get their eyes off the other.

“Reki, could you get ready in the bathroom? I can’t focus when you’re blinding me like the sun.”

Reki laughed.

“Come on - this isn’t fair. I just want to go over and kiss you.”

Reki sighed and finished his bow tie. “Just hurry up or we’ll be late.

---

Not long after they were out the door walking towards a street when a car pulled up.

It was Adam’s driver, but the backseat was empty.

“I never cashed in my favor for it I won the race with Adam, so I asked for a ride to and from the place we’re eating at.”

Reki looked at Tadashi and then after consideration got in the car.

The ride to the place they were going was way further than a walk. When they stopped they were at probably one of the nicest restaurants Reki had seen. He started to worry a bit.

“Langa - I”

They were serviced to sit immediately.”

Reki looked over the menu and didn't know exactly what to choose. The dishes seemed like more than his pizza and ramen palette was used to really. Would he even appreciate the food? Is he appreciating Langa? Does he deserve any of this?

Reki had frozen in place and his eyes were casted down. Worried he wasn't enough he sat trying to not cry and opted to go to the restroom.

Langa looked up suddenly to see Reki flashing across the dining room to which he follows. What he finds is Reki with his coat set aside and his palms buried in his hands crying in the bathroom lounge area. He kneels down to Reki to be closer to his face.

"What's wrong? What happened?"

Reki felt so much guilt. Langa did such a nice thing for him. He couldn't answer because his responses were cries. They stayed in the bathroom for a bit until Reki had calmed down enough to talk and explain. Langa was always so patient.

"I just don't feel like I should be here. It's so - amazing. The food looks ... beyond my dreams."

It finally clicked for Langa.

"I'm sorry Reki. I just wanted to take you somewhere nice for Christmas. You're so amazing all the time. I didn't mean to make you feel like you owed me or that you couldn't have something like this normally."

After a few pauses. Reki gathers himself and they both head out. The waitress finds the two and can see one is clearly red eyed and distressed.

"You know, this place is great for fish but if you *want a really good burger and fries* , you should go to the place across the street." She helped usher them to the door and Langa thanked her. He knew their cancellation policy was pretty rough.

Reki and Langa ducked into the small burger joint. It wasn't much but enough for Reki to ditch the jacket again and rub his eyes. He felt bad making them leave.

The waitress approached their table and Langa ordered food for them both.

"The good news is this doesn't actually change my Christmas gift to you. The bad news is I miss seeing your face because you keep hiding it."

Reki smiles. Langa was so sweet and patient.

"The other good news is, we can totally take the money I was gonna spend on that dinner and go see a movie or bowl. Man I could maybe buy us boards we could ride if shops were open?"

"I mean we have our boards. We could just go grab them and go skate around town or on the campus."

"Mmm that actually sounds pretty great."

"Langa... I'm sorry the dinner date was a mess..."

"Nonsense. We're still on a date. That's all I wanted with you. I just - my mom gave me advice and I should have listened to my gut. It was still cute seeing you in a suit."

"Heh I loved seeing you in one as well. Reminds me of our high school graduation..."

"Well no worries because when I graduate college I already have my suit haha - hopefully I don't grow any taller."

The food arrived pretty quickly and there was more variety than usual. Reki got the chance to not only eat his burger, but try new appetizers. This made Langa smile. All he wanted was to watch Reki have fun.

After a good dinner, Tadashi is waiting for them to take them back to their apartment. But he takes the long way and they look at a few Christmas lights along the way. It wasn't as common in Okinawa compared to Tokyo so Reki's face was glue to the window.

Back at their apartment, Langa thanked Tadashi for the favor. Luckily Mr. Ainosuke had a meeting in Tokyo so it wasn't an issue. They changed into their usual clothes (which Reki was so grateful for) and grabbed their boards.

As they skated towards the university they passed more Christmas lights. Surprisingly it hadn't yet snowed for the season or else they would have been out of luck.

They arrived at the university grounds and it was pretty secluded. They raced around the park and Langa showed him a few buildings. Langa was used to schools closing down over the holidays completely, but luckily he was able to still access buildings to get them both inside to warm up a bit.

Langa went to the lounge while Reki sat by some seats near the doors and looked out. He returned with two hot cocos and got close to Reki. It was quiet with just a few grad students that came inside.

Langa knew a place he needed to take Reki and grabbed his hand and walked him there.

"I don't want you to get lost."

They made it to the building and inside was a huge Christmas tree. They went inside and it was pretty quiet with a radio playing soft jazz Christmas music.

Reki was standing back admiring it and when he turned around Langa was on his knee.

“Sorry I - had a better plan at the restaurant, but this was still fun. You always make things fun. I want to be together with you infinitely. I don’t ever want to be apart. I want to take care of you and be there. Will you be the one thing I want for Christmas?”

Reki was in tears.

“Wait, you can’t. I was gonna-a” he fumbled to get a box out. “I just. I - I didn’t know when. You always plan things better.” Reki stood flustered.

“Well I *beat* you so you have to take my ring first.” Langa smirked.

Langa took his hand and put the ring on. It shined under the Christmas lights. Then Reki gave him his ring. They both held hands and smiled.

No longer did they have to do this alone. They had each other.

## Chapter End Notes

HAHAHAHAHAHA LOOK I DID IT. I FINISHED A SINGLE STORY THIS YEAR.

You all doubted me. Mwahaha - anyways I’m sorry I’m so cruel I made sure to include fluff. And I hope you’re happy. I have one more holiday piece I’m working on so ☐

## End Notes

So I learned my lesson not to do too many chapters in a fic. So there's a part 2 I'm already writing out so :) stay tuned!

Please [drop by the Archive and comment](#) to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!