



Everyday Spectres: My One and Oni

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## Prologue

It was late, at least for Alexi, but he didn't want to go to bed. Not when he knew what was waiting in the dark shadows of his closet. His mother said he worried too much, that there was nothing to be afraid of, but she'd never seen him; the great, big monster that crept around his room when no one was looking. He thought it was a boy monster, he couldn't imagine a girl monster, unless she was there to give him cooties or something. Alexi stood in the doorway of his room clutching Franklin, his slightly battered but well-loved teddy bear, to his chest and peering inside worriedly.

A slim, dark-haired woman stopped behind the boy and looked at him sternly. "All right you, no more dawdling. You need to go to bed."

"But, Mom," Alexi replied, blinking at her with big innocent eyes. "I can't go to sleep yet."

"Alexi, it's already an hour past your bedtime." The boy's mother smoothed his caramel-colored hair. "Ten year olds are not supposed to be up all night, especially when they have school in the morning."

"But, I'm not sleepy, really." Alexi tried to hold back a yawn but wasn't terribly successful. He was tired, but not getting eaten took priority over sleep, at least in his book.

"Alexi, bed. Now," his mother ordered as she pointed toward his bed.

"Okay." There was no arguing with his mom when she took that tone. Alexi headed into his room cautiously and sat on his bed.

"I don't understand you sometimes." His mother fixed a button on his penguin pajamas. "What are you so afraid of in here?"

"I—nothing." He couldn't tell her. She wouldn't believe him. Grownups didn't believe in monsters. Alexi just hoped that he could make it to grown up so he could stop believing in them, too.

"Get some sleep, okay?"

"I'll try."

"That's all I ask." Alexi's mother tucked him in and kissed his forehead. "Good night, Alexi."

"Night."

Alexi lay in his bed for a while, determined to stay awake, just in case his monster decided to make an appearance. Then again, it would probably be less painful to be eaten if he was asleep.

At least he wouldn't know what was happening until it was too late. With that in mind, Alexi pulled his covers over his head and Franklin's and tried to go to sleep. It wasn't hard, considering how tired he was.

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The closet door opened with a soft creak and Kaijuro peeked out into Alexi's darkened room. The boy was asleep, sprawled across his bed with his blankets lying in a rumpled pile on the floor. Kaijuro picked up the blankets and tucked them around Alexi's sleeping form. He also rescued the boy's teddy bear from the floor and slipped it into Alexi's thin arms. The last thing he wanted was Alexi to lose his little friend.

Kai looked down fondly and brushed a bit of sleep-rumpled hair out of the boy's sleeping face. He needed to go, to hide himself again before Alexi woke up or Alexi's parents came in to check on the boy. But Kai wanted to stay just a little longer to chase any nightmares away. It couldn't hurt, could it?

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Alexi blinked sleepily. Someone was sitting on his bed, watching him. He thought it was his mom at first, making sure that he was asleep, but the figure sitting on his bed was tall, taller than either of his parents, and had two pale horns peeking through long, dark hair. Alexi's eyes widened fearfully. It was his monster. Alexi scooted backward until he hit the headboard of his bed, his heart pounding with panic. His monster, on the other hand, just looked at him a little surprised and raised a clawed finger to its lips like it was shushing him.

"Mom!" Alexi clutched his blankets to his chest and yelled at the top of his lungs. If he was going to be eaten he was not going quietly.

To her credit, his mother showed up before Alexi could take another breath and scream again. She appeared in his doorway, still wrapping herself in her bathrobe, looking sleepy and worried. Alexi looked up at her in relief. The monster wouldn't eat him in front of his mother, he knew that much.

"Alexi! Are you all right? What's wrong?" His mother clicked on the small lamp on Alexi's bedside table and looked at her son with concern.

"There's a monster in my room! He was just here a-and he was going to eat me!"

"Alexi, we already talked about this. It was just your imagination." She sighed and patted his head. "That's the last time I let you watch a horror movie before bed."

"I'm serious! He lives in there; I'm sure of it." Alexi pointed at his closet door, which was closed again. He figured that the thing would be gone as soon as his mother showed up, but he also knew where it lived. And that, as far as he was concerned gave him the advantage.

“I guess I’d better let you in on a little secret, then.” Alexi’s mother sat on the edge of his bed and smoothed the boy’s hair. “There was a monster living in this house when I was growing up. He was an oni and I used to see him all the time when I was your age. If anything is lurking around your room, it’s probably him.”

“What’s an oni?”

“A Japanese ogre. Some of them are ugly, but not this one. He was tall and handsome with red eyes and two horns sticking up through his hair, like this.” Alexi’s mother put her hands to the side of her head to imitate horns. “I had a crush on him for the longest time when I was younger.”

“Ew, Mom...”

“It’s true, and he never tried to eat me, either.”

“Really?”

His mother nodded. “I think he’s here to watch over our family, not hurt any of us.”

Alexi glanced up at her. He was still unconvinced, especially about the whole not eating him part. “What if he just doesn’t eat girls?”

“What?”

“What if he doesn’t like girls? What if he only eats boys?”

“Then he would have eaten one or both of your uncles when we were growing up.”

“But...”

His mother kissed him on the forehead. “Alexi, I’m down the hall. If your monster tries anything, I’ll come and beat him up for you, all right?”

“But, Mom...”

“No more ‘buts’. We both need to get some sleep, unless you want me to be cranky tomorrow.”

Alexi sighed unhappily and settled back into bed, clutching his teddy bear. “Okay. Don’t want you to be grumpy.”

His mother smiled at him and turned off the light. “Good night, Alexi.”

“Night, Mom.”

Alexi tried to go back to sleep but he couldn't. He kept glancing at his closet, convinced that something was going to burst through that door and gobble him up. Finally, he snuck out of bed and pushed his bedside table in front of his closet door. It was perfect. The monster couldn't eat him if it couldn't get out of the closet. Alexi felt particularly proud of himself and his solution to the whole monster problem. He wanted to stay awake a little longer, to make sure his barricade held but started to doze as soon he crawled back into bed. Wow, out smarting a monster was pretty tiring work.

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The closet door bumped against the small table and refused to open. Alexi's plan seemed to be working, at least until Kai stepped through the door like it was thin air. The boy would have probably thought of something else if he had known his oni could do that, but Kai's knack for walking through walls was hardly common knowledge.

Kaijuro watched the boy, from a distance this time in case he wasn't quite asleep yet, and smiled fondly at him. "Sweet dreams, bo-ya."

## Chapter One

Fifteen years later...

Alexi hated flying. He hated going to the airport and all the headaches that involved: taking off his shoes and fishing his laptop out of his backpack while the woman in front of him argued with security about the cans of Slim-Fast in her carry-on. What part of no outside liquids didn't she get? All that, just to be crammed into an airplane like a sardine and sit on his ass for six hours. He really didn't have any other option if he wanted to go see his parents. Most people thought of going to Maui for spring break as a vacation; for him, it was just going home. Alexi had to laugh, even after being in Seattle for seven years, he still thought of his parents' house as home.

He grabbed his backpack and stood, trying to get the blood flowing back into his legs. Next time he was paying for the extra legroom. The girls sitting behind him glanced up as he stood and went back to talking quietly amongst themselves. They had spent a good portion of the flight trying to figure out what nationality he was. He could have sworn they had a bet going. The current argument was whether he was part Asian or not. Alexi got that a lot. The mix of Japanese and Irish features looked good on him but it also confused the hell out of a lot of people.

Slowly, but surely, people started to file out of the plane. It was about time, too. Alexi was tired of hunching so he wouldn't hit his head on the overhead bin. One of the girls was nudged forward by her two friends and she looked at him hopefully.

"Um, excuse me?"

"Yes?"

"Um, my friends were curious. We're not weird or anything, but they were wondering what you were...um, ethnically. We know you're a guy and all."

"My mom's Japanese and my dad's Irish -- at least on the outside -- and I was born and raised here even though I live on the mainland." Alexi winked at the girls. "I hope someone won your bet." He headed towards the exit, glancing back long enough to catch the other two girls handing money over to the one that had talked to him.

She waved at him excitedly. "Thanks, mister!"

Ah, teenagers - not that he was that much older. He only felt it sometimes. Alexi stretched again once he was finally off the plane and headed down the escalator towards the baggage claim, where he was almost tackled by his mother.

"Alexi!"

"Mom!" He pulled her into a big hug. She looked the same, just a little greyer and a little shorter. "It's good to see you."

“Good to see you, too.” She cocked her head to one side and looked him over. “Are you eating enough? You look a little skinny to me.”

“I’m fine, Mom.” Alexi headed over to one of the carousels, keeping an eye out for his suitcase. “How’s Dad?”

“He’s the same grumpy, old bear that he was when you left. Some things never change, you know.”

“Great, so he’s still stubborn, thinks I’m wasting my time with my degree and hates my friends. Is he at least going to talk to me while I’m home?”

“Alexi...”

“I know, I know, he’s my dad and that’s just how he is. It’s hard though. I mean, he barely talked to me even when I was still living here and every time he emails or you make him call -- I don’t know. It’s just weird.” Alexi glanced at his mom hopefully. “Has he at least mellowed a little in his old age?”

“He’s not as growly as he used to be, but mostly he’s just turning into one of those old samurai you see in the dramas on the Japanese channel.” She shrugged. “It’s kind of funny to watch, especially since he’s not actually Japanese.”

“And why did you marry him, exactly?”

“Because your father was a real hottie in his younger days, and beneath the grumpiness he’s a sweetheart.” His mom patted him on the shoulder with a sigh. “I can’t think of another man who would be willing to take his wife’s last name instead of keeping his own.”

“You know he only did that because of his fixation on Japanese stuff.” Alexi ran his fingers through his hair trying to smooth out the odd spiky bits. “I think he was a little disappointed when I was born. You know, not Asian enough.”

“He does love you, Alexi, and he missed having you around, even though he’d never admit it.”

“Is that why he sent me that email about cleaning my stuff out of my room so he can turn it into an office?” Alexi watched the carousel for his luggage, trying not to grumble too much. He and his dad never saw eye to eye, but the man had always had a weird way of doing things. Alexi could never shake the feeling that he was the one big disappointment in his dad’s life and that always put a strain on their relationship. Things would have been worse if it wasn’t for his mom.

“It got you to come home, didn’t it?”

“I guess...”



“Good lord, Alexi, is that your suitcase?” His mom blinked as Alexi hauled a large, rust orange monstrosity off the carousel. “I thought you didn’t want your father to know you were gay.”

“Mom!”

“What? I’ve never seen a straight boy with a suitcase that color.”

“This from the woman who put me in girl clothes for the first few days of my life?” Alexi asked as he followed his mother to her toward the car.

“It wasn’t on purpose. Everyone thought I was having a girl. It was all we had until I could get to the store.”

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Alexi sprawled on his bed, stuffed to the gills with Chinese food. Apparently his mother wasn’t the only one who wanted to see him. His dad, surviving grandparents, aunts, uncles and the handful of cousins still on the island met them at the family’s favorite restaurant. It was fun seeing everyone again and the food was excellent. The only problem was, now that he was home, it was hard to get motivated to do anything except maybe unbutton his jeans. Oh, he ate too much. Alexi could feel the food coma and the jet lag creeping up on him. He shifted a little, letting his bare feet hang over the side of his bed and started to doze. It wasn’t the most comfortable position but he was too sleepy to care.

Something brushed against the back of his foot, something warm and smooth like someone’s fingers. Alexi bolted up, pulling his legs onto the bed.

He glanced around the room nervously, looking for any sign of the monster that was responsible for so many sleepless nights. Cautiously, Alexi rolled onto his stomach and peeked under his bed. But there was nothing there, except for a herd of dust bunnies and an old shoe box.

Alexi pushed a handful of chin-length hair out of his eyes and sighed. “Stop being stupid; you’re too old to have a monster under your bed.” He looked at his closet warily. “Or in your closet.”

Still, he had to be sure. Alexi stepped closer and opened the closet door quickly, determined to surprise anyone or anything that might be hiding inside. Part of his brain expected something to lunge at him as soon as he opened the door. Alexi felt ten again, and it wasn’t a good thing. Thankfully, nothing attacked him. His closet was empty except for a few boxes, some old clothes and a toy or two on the top shelf.

“Alexi?”

“In here.” Alexi peeked out of the closet at his mom. She was in her pajamas and probably stopping by to check on him before bed. An old habit of hers, he guessed.

“You know, you tell me not to make any jokes about you coming out of the closet and yet there you are. It’s not nice to tease your mother like that.”

“Mom! It wasn’t deliberate. I was just -- ”

“Looking for your monster?” She sat down on his bed patting the spot next to her. “You know he’s probably moved out or starved to death by now.”

“I know. I’ve been meaning to get home sooner. It’s just -- between school and work, I haven’t had much time for anything.” Alexi sat beside his mother and leaned against her shoulder. “I wouldn’t be here now if Dr. Kurosaki didn’t force me to take a vacation.”

“Oh, I should thank him, next time I come and visit, then. How is college life treating you, anyway?”

“Okay, I guess. I just wish I wasn’t so busy. As it is, I have two papers due a couple of days after I get back.”

“Have you found anyone yet? A nice boy, to share your life with?”

“Not yet, haven’t really had time.”

“You should make time, Alexi. You need to find someone to look out for and to feed you.”

“Mom, I can take care of myself...”

“Really? I’ll bet you still forget to eat.”

“I don’t do that anymore. Well, not often.”

“You know I don’t like to nag, but I would feel better if I knew there was someone else looking out for you.” She ruffled her son’s hair gently. “Though, you might want to tell your father that you’re gay before you bring anyone home. I’d hate for him to have an aneurism or something when he meets his future son-in-law for the first time.”

“I guess. Do you really think it’ll be that bad, though?” Alexi gave his mom a worried look. “I mean, Dad’s probably figured it out by now.”

“He may have -- your father’s not stupid -- but he won’t say anything until he’s heard it from you. You know how he is.”

“Yeah, and that’s what worries me.”

“Alexi, despite what you think, your father does love you and you being gay isn’t going to change that.” She stood and stretched. “Well, you think about it. I’m going to bed.”

“Okay, night.”

“Good night, hope your monster doesn’t get you.”

“Thanks, Mom.”

It was late and the jet lag was dragging him down so Alexi stripped down to his boxers and settled under the covers of his bed. It was hard for him to sleep when it was too dark. There were no streetlights or the usual glow of the city to comfort him, so he left the small lamp on his bedside table on. It was just enough to keep the darker shadows at bay and let Alexi get some sleep.

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Kaijuro stepped quietly out of the closet and sniffed the air. Oh, he knew that scent anywhere. His bo-ya was back. He glanced down at the bed and smiled at what he saw. Alexi lay sprawled on his back across his bed, his blankets in a lumpy pile on the floor. He was a gorgeous sight, lean muscle and long legs wrapped in soft, lightly-bronzed skin and happy face boxers. It had been seven years since Kai had seen Alexi, and that had been far too long.

The oni’s big hand ghosted down Alexi’s bare chest, brushing against dusky, pink nipples and making him moan in his sleep.

“I’ve missed you, bo-ya,” Kai whispered as he nuzzled Alexi’s cheek.

The boy leaned into his touch, mumbling in his sleep. “Mmm. Can kiss me, you know,” Alexi whispered. He shifted, his lips brushing against Kai’s chin invitingly. “I don’t bite.”

That made Kai smile; he wasn’t expecting that kind of reaction. Kai’s hand slid lower, brushing against Alexi’s warm, flat belly, before slipping into the boy’s boxers. Kai stroked Alexi’s slender cock as they kissed, making the boy whimper.

Lean arms wrapped around Kai’s neck, holding him close while Alexi’s warm, wet tongue pushed into his mouth. It was perfect. Though, the situation did make Kai feel a little guilty.

Alexi was asleep and probably dreaming of a lover. And here Kai was taking full advantage of that sweet body of his. Then again, what harm was there? Kai would help Alexi come, and the boy would be no wiser. It would all be part of the dream for him.

Alexi bit his lip as he arched into the oni’s hand. Kai trailed hot, nipping kisses down the boy’s neck and chest, pausing only to run his rough, cat-like tongue over a pert nipple. Alexi bucked against him and hot come seeped between the oni’s fingers.

“Oh, I forgot how tasty you were.” Kaijuro licked his fingers savoring the sweet and slightly salty flavor of Alexi’s come.

Pretty, hazel eyes blinked sleepily at him, like Alexi was trying to figure out if all this was a dream or not. Kaijuro just smiled at him.

“Welcome home, bo-ya.”

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“Wah!” Alexi’s eyes snapped open and he bolted up right. He scanned the room for a few seconds before sagging against his headboard in relief. It was a dream, a really sexy and slightly disturbing one, but still just a dream. “What the hell was that all about?”

The phone beside his bed rang loudly, startling Alexi out of his thoughts and nearly out of bed. Damn, he was jumpy today. Alexi fumbled with the handset as it rang again, nearly dropping it.

“Hello?”

“Get up sleepyhead, it’s time for breakfast.” His mother was beyond chipper, and how anyone could be that awake and perky so early in the morning was beyond him.

“Mom, why are you calling? You’re down the hall.”

“I know, but I didn’t want to just burst in on you. You know, in case you slept naked or something. It’s doesn’t bother me, since I’ve seen your naked butt more times than I can count.” She was teasing him, again. It was her way of showing she loved him and Alexi was currently feeling very loved, really he was. “But I know you’d be mortified.”

“Okay, okay.” Alexi cringed as he slid out of bed. His boxers were sticky and clinging to his crotch, which made things very...awkward. “Um, let me brush my teeth and stuff and I’ll be right there.”

“All right, but don’t take too long; your dad might take the opportunity and eat your waffles too.”

With a clean pair of boxers in hand, Alexi dashed across the hall and into the bathroom. This was not exactly what he expected to be doing his first morning home. But things happen. Why he was dreaming about being jacked off by a hot stranger in his old bedroom with his parents asleep one door down was anyone’s guess. Alexi really hoped he didn’t talk in his sleep.

It could be worse, his friends in the psychology department could find out. They would have a field day with him if they knew about this. Maybe it was his body’s way of saying ‘hey, I’m horny so stop hyper-focusing on your work and do something about it before I explode’. That, or it was some sort weird reaction to all the Chinese food last night. Right...

Either way, it was not something he wanted to even attempt to explain to Mom. He would never hear the end of it

“And here I thought I was too old for wet dreams.” He ran a washcloth under some luke-warm water and wiped himself off. “At least the guy in it was sexy.” What made it weirder was that he was pretty sure he had seen the man in his dream somewhere before. How could he forget all that long, black hair or those muscles? “Maybe I’ve seen him on campus... or at the bookstore.”

No, that wasn’t it. A bit of sleep-rumpled hair fell into his eyes and Alexi blew at it in frustration. It was starting to bug him. Mr. Hot and Sexy was so familiar, but Alexi couldn’t remember why. Oh well, he would just have to figure it out later. He balled up his sticky boxers and hid them in the bottom of the laundry basket. Hopefully they would get washed and his mother wouldn’t notice what was on them. Then again, it might just be safer to wash them later when no one was around. With that settled, Alexi stepped into his clean boxers and squeezed a bit of toothpaste onto his toothbrush. He brushed quickly, and after a quick rinse, headed to the kitchen.

A short stack of waffles greeted Alexi as he sat down. Well, that and the rustle of his dad’s newspaper. A shock of auburn shot through with streaks of grey and maybe a bit of forehead was all he could see above the morning paper. It was nice to know that some things never changed.

“Morning.”

“Good morning, Alexi.” His mother sat a cup of coffee down next to him and kissed the top of his head. “I hope you slept well and that nothing tried to eat you during the night.”

“Yeah, thanks, Mom.”

“Keiko, you shouldn’t give the boy coffee. It’ll stunt his growth,” his dad grumbled from behind his newspaper. Alexi never could figure out how he knew what was going on without looking up. It must have been a dad thing.

“Dad, I’m twenty-five, there isn’t much more growth to stunt.”

“Just ignore him and eat your breakfast.” His mother sat down and patted him on the shoulder. “Oh, and before I forget, we’re going out tonight.”

“Really? What’s the occasion?” Alexi asked around a mouthful of waffle.

“Don’t talk with your mouth full, son.”

Alexi rolled his eyes and swallowed.

“I have a bowling tournament. I’d hate to leave you home, but it’s the championship and the team needs me. Of course, you could always come along and keep your dad company while we defend our title.”

Green eyes peeked over the edge of the newspaper and glared at Alexi. It looked like his dad didn’t want to be stuck talking to him for most of the night either. They may have never talked much, but they still had an understanding of sorts, especially when it came to his mother.

“That’s okay. I think I should go through the stuff in my room tonight. See what I want to take back with me, since Dad’s turning my room into an office and all.”

Keiko glanced between her husband and her son. “Fine, if you two don’t want to hang out together that’s fine with me.”

“It’s probably better this way, Mom.” Alexi finished his breakfast and stood to take his dishes to the sink. “You don’t want me and Dad embarrassing you, do you?” His father grumbled something that almost sounded like he agreed with him. “Worse yet, we could distract you.”

“You two are going to have to talk eventually. You know that, right?”

“I know, Mom, but it would probably be better if we didn’t do it in front of all of your friends.”

“Okay, okay... I’m not going to force either of you into anything. If you feel like staying home that’s fine.” Keiko sighed and shook her head. “Why are you two so hard-headed?”

“It must be genetic.”

“Watch it, Alexi, or you’re going to end up with someone just as stubborn... or worse.” His mom shook a finger at him, like she meant business. “Oh, and can you not wander around the house in your underwear? If I let you do it then I have to let your father do it, and unless you want him sitting in the living room in his tighty whities...”

“Mom!”

“What? He does it all the time when you’re not home, but I made him put pants on this morning just so you wouldn’t feel weird. But if you’re going to do it too...”

Now, that was a disturbing image that Alexi just didn’t want in his head. It wasn’t that his dad wasn’t fit, far from it. He was in great shape for a man in his late forties, but it would just be weird, especially if his dad still looked as good as he used too. Alexi shuddered and shook that last thought from his head.

“That’s okay. I’ll go put some shorts on right now.”

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Alexi reached up and turned the overhead light on in his room and settled back amongst the piles of books and comics. Everything was off the bookshelves, the last few boxes had been dragged out of his closet and Alexi was sorting through it all. Things he wanted to keep went into the empty cardboard box at the foot of his bed. That would be shipped back to Seattle later and he would make room in his apartment somehow. The rest of it would be tossed or given away.

He leaned against his bed flipping through an old picture book as his mom peeked in on him. She looked hopefully at him. “Are you sure you don’t want to go with us?”

“I’m sure. Thanks, though.” Alexi tossed the book into the give away pile and picked up something else to look through.

His mom picked her way through the piles and sat on the edge of his bed. “I guess my little boy’s grown since I last saw him. You always used to hate staying home by yourself, even when you were a teenager. Remember the time you stole my keys so I couldn’t leave?”

Alexi shrugged. “That’s what happens when you’re convinced that there’s a huge, blood-thirsty monster living in your closet.”

“True, you were always so paranoid when you were little.”

“I just had a very vivid imagination. Besides, who used to tell me all those stories? Don’t get too close to the pond, there’s a kappa there and he’ll suck your guts out through your butt. Don’t go into that bathroom there’s a ghost in there with no face. Oh, don’t touch that, the menehune will get you.”

“That was just to keep you out of trouble. Besides, I never said anything about you having a monster in your closet.”

“No, but you did mention an oni, remember? Dark hair, with muscles and horns—” It almost sounded like the guy in his dream. Alexi shook his head. It couldn’t be. Why the hell would he have a wet dream about the Japanese ogre from one of his mom’s stories?

A car horn honked loudly from the driveway. Keiko sighed and stood up, patting her son on the shoulder.

“Well, that’s your father. I left you some dinner in the fridge. We’ll probably grab something after the tournament’s over, so we won’t be home until late.”

“Okay, have fun, and kick lots of ass!” Alexi waved as his mother left the room.

“I’ll try. And you try and get some rest. You are on vacation, after all.”

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Alexi sorted through his stuff for a few more hours. He still had a few more piles to go through, but his neck was getting stiff and he couldn’t feel his legs anymore. It seemed a good a time as any to take a break, shower and maybe have something to eat. Alexi stood and stretched, shaking the pins and needles from his feet. He stepped carefully over a few of the piles he hadn’t gotten to yet and headed into the bathroom.

The cool tile felt nice under his bare feet. His room was hot, even with the window open and that had left Alexi sweaty and more than a little dusty. He pulled his t-shirt over his head and pushed the ratty pair of jeans he was wearing over narrow hips. Alexi turned the water on, setting the temperature just short of scalding.

Hot water splashed against his warm, damp skin as Alexi stepped into the shower. He leaned against the wall letting the spray soak into his weary muscles. Oh, that felt good. His parents had a bigger water heater than he did, and that meant a nice long shower instead of the quick -- and sometimes cold -- ones Alexi was used to.

A noise, like the creak of the hallway floor, startled Alexi out of his thoughts. He peeked past the penguin-covered shower curtain to see if there was anything out there. The hall was empty as it should have been. Alexi ducked back into the steamy water and sighed. It was probably just the house settling. Older places did that, didn't they? Either that or it was his monster lurking just beyond the light of the bathroom waiting to pounce.

Alexi shook the wet hair out of his eyes and splashed some water on his face. "There's no monster. I'm twenty-five years old. I'm not supposed to believe in things like that anymore, or be afraid of them."

It felt like someone was behind him, but Alexi ignored it. He was tired of his imagination playing tricks on him. There was nothing there; there couldn't be. Alexi stuck his head under the spray, trying to ignore the nagging urge to look behind him.

Another noise caught his attention; this time it was the definite squeak of the faucet turning. Alexi blinked in disbelief as the shower turned off by itself.

"What the?"

A warm breath stirred the fine hair on the back of Alexi's neck and a low, velvety voice whispered in his ear, "I think you've been in here long enough. I'm not terribly fond of soggy boys."

Alexi turned, his eyes wide. "You've got to be fucking kidding me."

There was a man in the shower with him: a tall, buff and utterly gorgeous man. Long, straight, black hair fell over broad shoulders and into amazing blood-red eyes that were slit like a cat's. He was wearing the traditional clothing of a samurai - a kimono and hakama -- but no one on his dad's dramas filled the outfit like this guy did. It didn't help that the guy's clothes were wet either, and sticking to the hard muscles of his chest and legs.

"It's been a long time, Alexi."

Alexi backpedaled out of the tub and kept backing away until the bathroom sink pressed into the small of his back. "H-how did you get in here?"



“I’ve always been here, in this house, in your room.” The man closed in on him. Alexi tried to get out of the way, but he was out of room. “Don’t tell me you’ve forgotten me?”

“I don’t know anyone like you.”

“Come on, bo-ya, you remember old Kaijuro. You thought I was going to eat you, remember?” The man grinned, bearing sharp, white teeth.

Alexi blinked again. It was then he noticed the small, ivory horns peeking through the man’s hair. “You’re my monster...”

“Your oni.” Kai brushed his fingers across the boy’s cheek, making him flinch. “What’s wrong? You seemed to enjoy yourself last night.”

“I didn’t. You took advantage of me while I was sleeping!” Alexi blushed brightly. It was good last night, but that was when he thought it was a dream and not his childhood monster.

“You kissed me first, bo-ya.” Kai took another step forward, pinning Alexi to the sink. “If I was trying to take advantage of you, things would have ended differently.”

“I -- you can’t be serious!” Alexi’s eyes widened as Kai leaned in to kiss him. He ducked under the oni’s arm. What the hell was going on? He was in his parent’s bathroom and there was an oni trying to kiss him. Okay, Kai was really hot, but still! He wasn’t the type to kiss on a first date, whether his date was human or not.

Well, his brain thought kissing a stranger was a bad idea. The rest of him, on the other hand, was more than willing to kiss and do other things, first date or not. His cock didn’t really care if the other party was human, ogre, boyfriend or stranger. It just wanted attention and it wanted it now.

“I can’t do this, I -- ” Alexi shook his head, trying to get the blood back to his big brain. It was all too crazy, too intense. He bolted for the door and ducked into the hallway, leaving the all too handsome oni behind him.

“Alexi, wait!”

Alexi didn’t want to hear it. He was hallucinating; he had to be. There was no oni in the bathroom, trying to make out with him. He was just overworked and overstressed and had imagined the whole thing. Still, being cautious was a good thing. With that thought in mind, Alexi ran into his room and locked the door behind him. He braced his back against the door, still naked and wet from his shower.

“This isn’t happening.”

“You always were a skittish one, weren’t you?”

His eyes widened in panic as Alexi turned to see Kai looking at him curiously, body half way through the wall. If he had been calmer, Alexi would have thought it odd that he never came across the oni's ability to phase through solid objects in his research, but at that point all he could think of was getting away. He didn't want to get eaten after all. Alexi spun around, determined to get as far away from his monster as possible. As he turned, his foot caught one of the taller stacks of books he had been working on and sent him falling on his ass.

"Ouch!" Alexi cringed as his butt hit the floor.

Kai just stood over Alexi watching him worriedly. "Are you all right?"

"Does it matter? You're just going to eat me anyway."

"I told you, bo-ya, I'm not going to eat you." The oni winked at him and licked his lips. "Unless you really want me to."

"What?"

"Nothing," Kai sighed impatiently. "Look, I'm not going to hurt you. Why can't you believe that?"

"I—because you're an oni! Japanese ogres aren't exactly known for being truthful... or nice."

Kai knelt down and gave Alexi a serious look. "Not all oni are like the ones you've read about, bo-ya. Some of us are cruel and evil, but not all of us." One of those big hands patted Alexi's head, smoothing his damp, caramel colored hair. "Your mother trusted me, why can't you?"

"Mom? Well, she did mention something about you watching over our family..."

"Exactly, I'm here to keep an eye on you, not to have you for dinner. Not to say I'm not tempted. You're much prettier with no clothes on."

"Thanks, I think." Alexi felt another blush creep into his cheeks as he pulled a bit of bed sheet over his lap. "I've never heard of an oni watching over a family."

"You can blame your great, great, great grandfather, Seiji, for that." Kai sat himself down with a thoughtful look on his face. "I would still be on my mountain, if it weren't for him."

"What did he do?"

"He wandered up to my cave one day, determined to talk to me -- mind you, this was Hokkaido and it was winter. I figured he'd go away or freeze to death."

"But he didn't."

“No, he’d leave when it got dark, but he was always back in the morning. I even threatened to skin and eat him a few times, but that didn’t stop him. Seiji was determined to prove that the myths and folktales weren’t just stories. That there were still things like oni and tanuki around.”

“Wouldn’t have been safer to go find a tanuki? Raccoon-dogs are tricky, but they don’t eat people either.”

“Maybe, but I was easier to find. I don’t shape-shift or hide in the deep woods.” Kai puffed his chest a little. “Besides I’m better looking than any tanuki, not that Seiji was interested.”

“I’m going to guess that he was straight?”

“As an arrow. I did finally talk to him, though and we became good friends. He stayed with me through the winter and came to visit twice a year after that.” Kai took a deep breath and continued on. “I didn’t realize how quickly humans aged until he didn’t show up one day.”

Alexi patted the oni’s hand gently. “What happened?”

“He had made it as far as the village at the foot of my mountain, but he was too old to make it to my cave. I sat with him until he died and took his body back to his family.”

“How did you end up watching over us?”

“Before Seiji died, he asked me to keep an eye on things, to make sure his family was doing all right. I was tired of living by myself anyway, so I agreed to it.” Kai sighed, raking his hand through his hair. “I watched over them in Japan and when they moved here, I followed.” He smiled over. “It was easy enough, until you came along. You got into everything.”

“I guess. I was what, ten the first time I saw you?”

“Yes, and if I remember right, you had quite a set of lungs.”

“Well, I did think you were there to eat me, even when Mom told me that she’d seen you, I just figured that you didn’t eat girls.”

A warm arm slipped around Alexi’s shoulders and pulled him close. “You were so frightened, but that never stopped you from trying to find me.”

“Mom always said that I was too inquisitive for my own good.”

“You probably got that from Seiji, like that stubborn streak of yours.” That sad look crept into Kai’s face again. “You’re a lot like him.”

“I am?”

“More than you know, bo-ya. That’s why I had to keep my eye on you. Who knows what kind of trouble you would have gotten yourself into without me? Remember when you fell out of the mango tree in the backyard?”

Alexi nodded. He didn’t remember the whole incident, but the scolding he got afterwards stuck with him. “Dad said that I was lucky that I only broke my arm and not my neck, too.” Something stirred in his brain, the vague memory of strong arms catching him as he fell and long, black hair tickling his face. “I-I have you to thank for that, don’t I?”

“What kind of guardian would I be if I let you kill yourself by falling out of a tree?”

“I guess so.”

“I just wish that I could have gotten to you before you fell.”

“Kai, I was twelve years old. Kids at that age climb and fall out trees all the time.”

“Still, I was supposed to keep you safe.” Kai dropped his gaze, looking a little sheepish. “And I probably shouldn’t have kissed you when you were in high school either.”

Alexi blinked up at the oni in disbelief. “What? How old was I when that happened?”

“Stop looking at me like that, bo-ya. You were eighteen, or close enough to it,” Kai said with a snort. “If I remember right, you enjoyed it, too.”

“Oh, I wish I remembered that.”

Kai cupped Alexi’s head in one big hand and pulled him close. “Well, let’s see if we can’t jog that memory of yours.” Warm lips pressed against Alexi’s, kissing him deeply.

“I don’t know, maybe one more might help.”

“Don’t tease me, bo-ya, unless you want more than a kiss.” Sharp teeth nipped at Alexi’s lip making him gasp. “I may have to eat you after all... and ride you and do all sorts of naughty things to you.”

“Ooh, is that what I’ve been afraid of all these years? Seems awfully silly doesn’t it?”

“Yeah, but I’ll forgive you, this time.”

Alexi slipped his arms around the oni’s neck and nuzzled his cheek. “You know, I don’t usually do this with people I don’t know.”

“Really?”

“Yup, but considering you’re almost part of the family... wait, that doesn’t sound right either.”

“Shut up and kiss me, bo-ya.”

“I think I can do that.” Alexi slipped his arms back around Kai’s neck and pulled the oni into another kiss. Oh, that was good. Alexi could have kissed his oni all day, but Kai seemed to have other ideas.

Kai pulled away leaving Alexi breathless and more than a little curious. Alexi looked up to see exactly what his oni was up to. Kai winked at him as the oni’s clothing dropped slowly. Heavy cotton slid away, revealing hard muscles and smooth, golden skin. Alexi sighed. Damn, Kai was gorgeous.

The oni grinned as he pulled Alexi onto the bed. “Like what you see?”

“Oh, definitely.” Alexi ran his hand over that broad chest. “You are the best looking man I’ve ever seen.”

“Even with the horns?”

“More so.” Alexi trailed his fingers over Kai’s horns. “I’m just partial to oni, I guess.”

“Mmm, lucky me.” Kai grinned as he nuzzled the boy’s neck.

A warm, wet tongue flicked over Alexi’s chest, making him gasp. It was rough like a cat’s and felt so good against his skin. Kai licked at his nipple, making him arch and moan. Hot, nipping kisses covered his belly as his oni moved lower. Kai was determined to drive him crazy; he knew it. Then that sandpaper tongue lapped at him again, trailing wetly against the underside of his needy cock.

His eyes clamped shut as he was engulfed in velvety, wet heat. Oh, Kai was good at that. Alexi arched a little, pushing his prick deeper into the oni’s mouth. Another flick of that tongue made him groan and buck against Kai’s soft lips.

The suction on his cock stopped just long enough for Kai to coat his own fingers with spit. Wet fingers trailed over Alexi’s balls before teasing lower. One of those thick digits pushed against Alexi’s hole, easing into his lean body. Kai swallowed him down again, sucking Alexi in time with the finger sliding in and out of his ass.

The dual sensations twisted together, pushing Alexi over the edge. He arched off the bed as he came, his fingers tangling in his lover’s long hair.

“Mmm, sweet as ever.” Kai licked his lips and grinned at his lover.

Alexi glanced at him sheepishly, still trying to catch his breath. “I usually don’t pop that quick, but—”

“I don’t mind, bo-ya. You were very tasty.” Kai almost purred as he nuzzled the boy’s hip. “Now, roll over for me. I’m not through with you yet.”

“Oh, sounds like you have plans.” Alexi rolled over, sprawling on his stomach. He wiggled his ass teasingly. “I hope it involves you nailing my butt to the bed.”

“Maybe...you’ll find out.” Kai licked his fingers again and pushed two of them in.

Alexi had a response to that, really he did, but his brain had other things to focus on besides witty remarks. His cock perked again as Kai started to move his fingers, fucking him slowly. Kai added a third finger to the mix and pushed a little deeper. Alexi moaned again, louder this time as the tips of Kai’s fingers brushed against his prostate... just enough to tease and keep him on edge.

“Kai...please.” Alexi glanced over his shoulder, his eyes needy. “Can’t take any more.”

“All right, love, but next time I’m tying you up and taking my time with you.”

Now there was a thought. Something about being completely at his handsome oni’s mercy turned him on. “Will you spank me too?” Alexi blinked -- he didn’t just say that out loud, did he?

“Maybe later.” Kai reached between the bed and the wall, fishing around before pulling out a palm-sized bottle of amber-colored liquid.

Alexi blinked. “Where did you get that?”

“I’ve been saving it, just for you.” Kai pulled his fingers free just long enough to coat them in slick liquid.

Cool oil dripped onto his ass and Kai’s fingers pushed in again, slicking him up. Before he knew it those amazing fingers were gone leaving him empty and hungry. Kai knelt behind him resting that long, fat cock against his ass.

“Ready for me, bo-ya?”

“More than ready...” Alexi rocked back, rubbing against that gorgeous cock.

Slowly Kai pushed into him, inching his hard length into Alexi’s ass. Alexi bit his lip and tried to relax. Kai was bigger than he was used to, but the oni was taking it slow and it did feel really good.

“Mmm, you’re so tight and hot.” Kai slid his cock deeper and trailed warm kisses over Alexi’s back. “I can feel you squeezing me too.” He pulled back and eased forward, fucking Alexi slow and easy. “Feel good?”

“Yeah, but harder. Please.”

“You asked for it, bo-ya.” Kai growled against his shoulder and picked up the pace. He pulled back again, this time slamming his hips forward.

Alexi shifted on to his knees and pushed his ass back, meeting each of the oni’s thrusts. His hands clenched in the sheets as Kai fucked him hard and deep.

A big, slick hand wrapped around Alexi’s cock, stroking him in time with each thrust. He rocked his hips desperately, arching forward to fuck the hot tunnel of Kai’s fingers then back, meeting each of the oni’s heavy thrusts.

“Oh fuck, Kai!” Alexi tensed and bucked against his lover’s chest, splattering his hand with come.

Kai slowed down a little, riding the aftershocks of Alexi’s orgasm. Alexi was thankful for that. He didn’t think he could take it if Kai kept going full force. Once Alexi’s body relaxed, the oni picked up his pace again and with one last, deep thrust filled Alexi with heat.

They collapsed together, sweaty and sated. Kai rolled onto his side and it was a good thing too. Otherwise Alexi would probably have been squashed beneath his weight. Not that Alexi would have noticed, he was feeling far too lazy to care at the moment. Besides, being smothered by all that gorgeous muscle seemed as good a way to go as any, at least Alexi thought so.

“I love you.” Kai smiled as he trailed his finger through the stickiness splattered over Alexi’s chest. “My tasty boy.”

Alexi just snuggled against Kai’s shoulder sleepily. “Love you too...my oni.” A weird sense of Déjà vu startled him awake. “Why does it feel like we’ve done this before?”

“Well, we did once, but you probably thought it was a dream.”

“Ooh, that would explain last night too, then.”

Kai nodded. “Sorry about that. You are really hard to resist when you’re sleepy and half-naked.”

“It’s okay. At least I wasn’t having a wet dream about some stranger making out with me. I feel a lot less crazy, knowing that you’re real.” Alexi nipped at Kai’s bottom lip teasingly. “It also explains why I can’t seem to find a boyfriend. My brain keeps comparing everyone I date to you.”

“You won’t find any one like me, bo-ya, human or otherwise.” Kai trailed his fingers over Alexi’s chest. “Of course, if I had known you were going to be gone for so long, I would have tried a little harder to keep you.”

“Really?”

“I missed having you around.” Kai yawned and curled around Alexi. “Do we have time for a nap before your parents come home?”

“I think so. If they come home early, I’ll deal. If anything, Mom will be happy to see that I found someone.”

“Okay, I’m willing to chance it if you are.” Kai kissed Alexi on the forehead. “Sleep well, love.”

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It was a good thing Alexi’s parents were very active and didn’t mind leaving him to his own devices. He had been trying to finish up in his room, but it was hard with Kai there distracting him with that sexy body of his.

Alexi lay against Kai’s shoulder feeling very content and very sated. “You know I’m never going to get my room clean if you keep distracting me.”

“So? It’s not like your father can turn your room in to that office he wanted, now that you’re home.”

“He’s still going to do it, Kai. It’s not like I’m home for good, or anything.”

“What?”

“I’m only visiting for a week. I go home next Tuesday.” Alexi shook his head. “Sorry, I thought you knew.”

Kai turned his eyes wide, “But this is your home. Why do you have to go away again?”

“It’s not that easy, Kai. My classes start up again a few days after I get back, plus I have papers due.” Alexi slid his arms around the oni’s mid-section, trying to comfort. “I have an apartment in Seattle. Rent to pay and everything. My life’s just not here anymore.”

“I don’t care!” Kai snarled. He grabbed Alexi by the shoulders and pushed him onto the bed.

“You’re not leaving me again!”

Steely fingers dug into Alexi’s arms making him cringe. He tried to pull away, but he couldn’t, not with a good two hundred pounds of oni on top of him. “K-Kai stop, please... you’re hurting me.”

Kai backed off, letting Alexi go. “I—sorry, bo-ya. I forget how fragile you humans are sometimes.”

“It’s my fault, I should have told you sooner.”

“I didn’t really give you a chance, did I?”



“Kai...”

Sad, red eyes glanced at Alexi briefly, then dropped to the floor. “I should have known better. You’re grown up now. You have your own life to live and there’s no place for a grumpy, old oni in it.”

“Kai, don’t be like that. I’ll be back.”

“For what, a few days, a week at the most? It’ll be like it was with Seiji. I’ll wait for your visits watching you get older all the while never really being a part of your life...” Kai grabbed his clothes off the floor and walked into the closet. “I can’t do that again, Alexi... I can’t.”

“Wait, we can figure something out, can’t we?” The closet door slammed shut in Alexi’s face. He caught the door handle as it closed and pulled it open, determined to talk this through. But the closet was empty. “Kai...don’t be like this! Kai!”

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Alexi sighed as he finished packing. His vacation went by all too quickly. In a few hours he would be on a plane back to Seattle and Kai was still nowhere to be found. He peeked into his closet hoping to see his handsome oni. “Kai, can’t you at least come out and say good bye?”

The closet was empty and quiet. Alexi clenched his hands in frustration. “Damn oni! Why are you being so stubborn about this?”

“Alexi?”

He turned with a start. “H-hey, Mom.”

“Who are you talking to?”

“No one... I talk to myself sometimes. It helps me figure things out.”

“Okay, do you have everything?” Keiko eyed Alexi, giving him that worried look that he knew all too well. “We probably should leave for the airport soon.”

“Yeah.” Alexi followed his mom out with his suitcase in tow. He glanced back at his closet one last time, mumbling under his breath, “I’ll miss you, you stupid oni.”

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Alexi had been back in Seattle for almost three days, and he couldn’t get Kai out of his head. He was in the library, trying to do research. All the books he needed were piled on the heavy wooden table he was sitting at but he was too distracted to read.

“Damn it, Kai, we could have figured something out.” Alexi shook his head and leaned back in his chair. “Of course, it’s not like I could call or email him.”

“I don’t think your parents would appreciate you calling just to talk to the monster in your closet,” a deep and very familiar voice whispered in his ear.

Alexi turned, almost falling out of his chair. Kai crouched behind him, grinning wickedly. He was handsome as ever, except this time he was wearing jeans and snug, black tank top. A pair of sunglasses was perched on top of his head, where his horns should have been.

“What are you doing here?” He wrapped his arms around Kai’s midsection and hugged him tightly.

“I came to be with you.”

“But how did you find me?”

“Oh, a little oni magic.” Kai leaned close and nuzzled Alexi’s cheek. “And I asked your mother.”

Alexi’s eyes widened in shock. “You what?”

“I asked your mother where to find you. She was very helpful.” Kai turned, pinning Alexi to the table. “Of course, she was a little upset to find out that you had a lover that you didn’t tell her about.”

“Great... I’m going to get an earful next time I talk to her.”

“That’s what she said.”

“I—how did you get here? I thought you couldn’t leave—” Alexi tried to push Kai off him, but the oni wouldn’t budge.

“I’m an ogre, not a ghost, bo-ya. I can go where I will. I just never had a reason to leave before now.”

“And what happened to your horns, more oni magic?”

“Exactly.” Kai tipped Alexi’s chin up and looked at him seriously. “I love you, Alexi, and I would do anything to keep you close.”

“But what about your promise to Seiji? I thought you were supposed to be watching my family, not chasing after me.”

The oni shook his head. “You’re the only one who needs me. Everyone else is settled and can take care of themselves. You, on the other hand, still need looking after. And I’m sure your mother would agree.”

“I know she would.” Alexi glanced up with a shy smile. “I’m glad you’re here...I missed you.”

“I missed you too,” Kai whispered, tugging at the button on Alexi’s jeans. “I missed your scent, the feel of your skin.” He grinned wickedly. “Those breathy little sounds you make when I touch you.”

“Kai, stop it!” Alexi tried to tug his lover’s hand out of his pants. “We can’t, not here anyway. Let’s go to my place. It’s close and a lot more private.”

“That would take too long. I want you now, bo-ya.” Kai looked at him almost pleadingly. “No one will notice us if we’re careful.”

“We are pretty far back in the library.” Alexi sighed. Kai was already kneeling between his legs, trailing warm, sucking kisses down his stomach. His jeans were tugged down around his thighs and that rough, wet tongue flicked against the tip of his now raging hard-on. Damn. There was no resisting once Kai put his mouth... his mind to it. “Okay, okay! But we have to keep it quiet.”

“If I remember right, you’re the loud one.”

Alexi hiked his shirt up, clenching the hem in his teeth. It would be easier to keep quiet with something to gnaw on and it would hopefully keep come stains off his t-shirt too. The last thing he needed was to leave the library with weird stains that he didn’t walk in with.

Books were brushed aside, landing on the floor with a low thump as two big hands pushed his chest down onto the table. He was about to protest when he felt Kai’s breath on his ass. Oh boy, if someone caught them now. How the hell would he explain being sprawled on a table with his lover’s face pressed between his ass cheeks?

“W-what are you doing?”

“Slicking you up, unless you have a better idea.” Kai lapped at Alexi’s hole making him gasp. “Or lube in your backpack.”

Alexi just shook his head. Words were eluding him at the moment. Kai licked at him again, making him whimper. He got another teasing lick, then that amazing tongue pushed into him. Alexi arched, rocking his ass back and riding his lover’s face. Kai pushed back, fucking him with short jabs of his tongue, making Alexi moan a little louder.

All too soon the sensation stopped. Alexi turned to see what was up. Oh, hello! Kai sat back in one of the heavy, wood chairs with his legs spread slightly. Kai rubbed against the hard bulge in his jeans, almost inviting him to come closer and start touching himself. Alexi swallowed dryly. Kai had to be the sexiest thing he had ever seen.

“I need you to do me a favor, bo-ya.” Those blood red eyes settled on him hungrily, melting Alexi into a needy puddle of goo, not that he wasn’t on the verge of that anyway.

The oni could have asked him for anything at that point and he would have agreed.

“Sure.”

“Lick me a little, just to get me wet.”

That was easy enough. Alexi knelt down as Kai tugged his jeans and boxers down, freeing his heavy prick from the confining fabric.

Alexi lapped at the thick shaft first, trailing his tongue over the ridged underside before taking the wide, leaking head in his mouth and sucking on it. Breath hissed between Kai’s clenched teeth and fingers gripped the back of Alexi’s head, easing him lower.

Alexi closed his eyes and relaxed his throat, trying to let the oni in. He got almost three quarters of the cock down when Kai pulled him back up.

“Easy, bo-ya. If you keep that up I’m going to come before I even get in you.” Kai pulled him to his feet. “And I do want to fuck that sweet ass of yours.”

“Whatever you want, Kai.” Alexi bent over the table again, wiggling his butt. “But you’d better hurry if you want me to last more than twenty seconds. I’m pretty close too.”

“Ooh, there’s hope for you yet.” Kai licked his fingers and pushed two of them in.

“Mmm!” Alexi was chewing on his shirt again, but even that didn’t help when Kai nudged his gland with those long, thick fingers of his.

“Not so loud.” The oni slid his fingers out. Alexi was about to start complaining, at least until he felt that thick cock push into him. “Unless, you want someone to find us.”

Alexi whimpered a little softer this time as he rocked back, meeting each of Kai’s deep thrusts. Oh, he missed that. That huge cock pounding his ass felt so good and the potential for getting caught was turning him on.

As if hearing that last thought, Kai whispered in his ear, “You’re getting off on this, aren’t you?”

Kai picked his tempo up and nipped at Alexi’s neck. “Naughty boy...I may have to spank you later. Hopefully you’ll get off on that too. Now there’s a thought...spanking that pert little ass of yours until it’s nice and red, then fucking you. You’d feel every push... every thrust, wouldn’t you?”

Oh, that set him off, even if Alexi didn’t like to admit it. He loved it when someone talked dirty to him. Something about that low, velvety voice of Kai’s just pushed him over the edge. He managed to get his hand around the head of his cock just as he spurted, covering his fingers in sticky warmth.

Kai growled and tensed against Alexi's back. His orgasm must have pushed the oni over the edge as well. Damn, it must have been intense or Kai was super horny. Kai slumped against Alexi, the oni's breathing warm and damp against his neck.

"Good lord, you're heavy." Alexi tried to push himself up without much success. He had the sneaking suspicion that Kai was laughing at him.

He was so right. Kai had sat himself in Alexi's chair and was tucking himself back into his jeans with a very satisfied grin on his face.

Alexi stood and tried to get his pants back up and buttoned with only one hand and not succeeding. He glared at his oni, who was still snickering. "What are you laughing at?"

"You are kinkier than you let on, bo-ya." Kai pulled Alexi close and carefully zipped up his jeans for him. He grabbed Alexi's sticky hand and licked the come from his fingers. "Oh, the fun we're going to have."

"Can we go home first? I don't want to push my luck here." Alexi bit his lip. Kai did look awfully sexy licking his fingers like that. He shook his head. Get home first, then they could fuck again. Now that was a plan. "My bed's way more comfortable than this table."

"Okay, show me this apartment of yours, then." Kai stood and stretched. "I just hope your shower is big enough for two."

Oh... New plan, they could fuck in the shower, then in bed. Alexi grabbed Kai's hand and pulled him towards the nearest exit. "We'll get some food on the way home, and I'll let you nail me to any piece of furniture you want."

"Ooh, promise?"

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Alexi didn't drag himself out of bed and to class until late the next morning. He was tired; Kai had kept him up for a good chunk of the night. It wasn't all sex, though there was a lot of it. They had talked too, until the wee hours of the morning.

After his class was over, Alexi wandered to the cafeteria to grab some lunch. He settled with his burger, fries and a bottle of something cold and caffeinated, at one of the empty tables.

"Hey, Alexi."

"Hi, Margo. Hey, Kailee." Alexi waved at the two girls as they sat down.

"You look beat... Dr. Kurosaki working you over again?" Kailee eyed him as she nibbled on her sandwich.

“What?” Alexi sputtered, almost choking on his soda.

“I didn’t mean it like that, perv.” She elbowed him teasingly.

“I hope not, Dr. Kurosaki isn’t really my type.”

“Why, because he’s real? I know you have a thing for anime guys, but it’s really starting to affect your social life.”

“I’ve still had more dates than you.” Alexi stuck his tongue out at Kailee, who whapped him on the shoulder in response.

“You two are such children.” Margo shook her head. “Oh, did you hear? Some people are saying the library’s haunted now.” She leaned in close like she was telling her friends a dirty little secret. “A friend of my roommate heard weird noises in there last night, coming from the anthro section.”

“What kind of noises?” Alexi glanced at Margo, trying not to look too guilty. Damn oni. Kai would probably get a kick out of all this.

“Books being thrown around mostly, but I think she heard a moan too. I didn’t get all the details, but isn’t that cool?”

“Hmm,” Kailee glanced at Alexi as she stole one of his fries. “Hey, don’t you spend a lot of time back there?”

“Um, yeah...”

“Have you heard or seen anything?”

Margo almost bounced in her chair. “Oh, like stuff moving or maybe be even a full-body apparition?”

“Sorry, girls. I haven’t seen anything besides books and dust bunnies.” Alexi could feel the burn of a blush around his ears. He just hoped no one noticed. At least he wasn’t as pale as his dad. He’d be bright red right now if he were.

“But you’ll let us know if you do, right?”

Two strong arms wrapped around his shoulders. “Hello, bo-ya.”

Alexi looked up and smiled, “Hey, you. How was your day?”

“Lonely, but it’s getting better.”

“Ahem! You know, Alexi, you could at least introduce us to your tall friend here.” Kailee shook her finger at him like she meant business.

“Kailee, Margo, this is Kai. He’s an old friend from home.”

“Ooh, is he now?” Margo giggled as she stole a fry off Alexi’s plate. “I wish I had old friends that looked like that.”

“We should go, we have class in a few.” Kailee grabbed her friend and pulled her towards the door. “Nice to meet you, Kai.”

“I want pictures of you two,” Margo whispered before she was dragged off. “Naked ones!”

“What was that all about?” Kai sat down and nibbled on Alexi’s French fries.

“Nothing. Margo kinda has a thing for gay porn. I guess she thinks you’re hot.”

“Oh, I’m flattered, then. Are you done for the day?”

“Yeah, my last class got canceled, thankfully.”

“Good, that means we can go home and finish what we started last night.” Kai leaned close and lapped at his cheek. “We haven’t done it on the kitchen table yet.”

“What?”

“You did say I could nail you to all the furniture...”

## Chapter Two

Two fucking weeks into the new semester and he was sick as a dog. Stupid flu. Alexi rolled over and snuggled into Kai's warmth, trying to shake off the damp chill clinging to his skin. He felt like crap, and he had class in an hour, too.

Kai touched his forehead gently. "Oh, bo-ya, you're burning up."

"I'm fine." Alexi stumbled out of bed, clutching his head. "It's just a cold."

"You are not fine! You have a fever and I bet you're all stuffed up and achy too." Kai grabbed his wrist and pulled him back onto the bed. "You're staying home today."

"Kai, it's only two classes." Alexi tried to stand again, but a sudden wave of dizziness made sitting seem like a better idea. "I'll stay home tomorrow, but I can't today."

"I don't care! You need to stay home."

"I've gone to class with worse. I'll take a couple of Tylenol and I'll be okay."

"But--"

"Damn it, Kai, you're my boyfriend, not my mom!" Alexi sniffled. It was so hard to sound mad with his nose all stuffed up. "I need to go to class, no matter what you say. So, unless you're planning to tie me up or sit on me, I have to go."

"Don't tempt me, bo-ya."

"Try it and we're through, Kai! I don't need you or anyone else trying to run my life."

"Fine, run yourself into the ground, see if I care." Kai rolled over like he was going back to sleep. He sounded hurt but Alexi was too sick and too annoyed to care. "Stupid, stubborn ass."

It took a little longer than usual for Alexi to get ready. His head felt like an overripe melon and the world had a nasty habit of spinning any time he moved too quickly. He called a cab while he got dressed, figuring that he wouldn't make it on his bike. Well, not without crashing, anyway.

Kai sat on the couch flipping channels on the TV. He was mad; Alexi could tell by how the oni clutched the remote in his hand. The plastic creaked and shattered in that big, clawed hand. It was a good thing they had multiple spares.

"I'll be back in a few hours."

"Whatever. Don't stress on my account." Kai didn't even look at him. Oh, boy, he was pissed.

"Kai...I didn't mean it. I--"



“You’re going to be late.”

“Yeah, see you later.”

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One class down and only one more to go. Alexi stopped off at the bookstore for some meds and a little caffeine. That helped a lot. The cold meds cleared his sinuses and made the aches tolerable while the Mountain Dew chased away some of the drowsiness. By the time his next class started, he almost felt human again. Almost.

“Oh, crap.” Alexi dug in his backpack for his ‘Myths of Asia’ notebook, but it was nowhere to be found. It was probably still on the kitchen table. He face-planted on his desk, making his headache worse. Maybe he should have stayed home. At least he would have avoided the fight with Kai.

“You forgot this.”

His notebook dropped onto his desk. Kai sat beside him, watching Dr. Kurosaki with vague interest. He was slightly transparent, which meant that only Alexi could see him. That was apparently another one of the oni’s gifts that the folklore books didn’t know about.

“Kai, what are you doing here?” Alexi said under his breath. As far as everyone else was concerned there was no one there and Alexi didn’t want to look crazy, especially not in Dr Kurosaki’s class.

“You forgot your book.” Kai brushed a bit of hair out of Alexi’s eyes. “And I wanted to make sure you were okay.”

“I’m fine. You can go home now.” Alexi glanced around making sure no one saw him talking to an empty chair.

“Okay, class we’re going to discuss Japanese ogres today.” A slide of an oni, with huge fangs and horns and wielding a spiked club, flashed on the screen behind Dr. Kurosaki. “Now, who can tell me what some of the classic characteristics of oni are?”

“Oh, I want to hear this.”

“Kai...”

“No one can see me, bo-ya. It can’t hurt.”

“Fine.” Alexi sighed as he flipped open his notebook. “You can’t follow me everywhere, you know.”

“Why not? I am supposed to be watching over you.”

Dr. Kurosaki wrote down characteristics on the chalkboard beside the screen. “That’s right. They have a tendency to be greedy, stupid and cowardly. Anything else?”

“Why are you listening to this crap?” Kai looked insulted. “My kind are nothing like that. Okay, a few are but do you call all humans arrogant and self righteous because one or two are that way?”

“Kai, he’s talking about oni in stories, not real ones.”

The ogre stood and started towards Dr. Kurosaki. “Still, maybe I should go down there and show him a thing or two about real oni.”

Alexi bolted out of his seat to grab Kai. The last thing he needed was his oni eating one of his professors. He would probably get expelled for that, if they didn’t lock him up for being a nut first. “Kai, stop it! Sit down!”

Of course, the big jerk disappeared just as Alexi tried to grab him. Damned oni. He did that on purpose, Alexi knew it. He was probably getting back at him for this morning. The people sitting around him looked at Alexi like he was crazy.

Dr. Kurosaki glared at him. “Is there a problem, Mr. Shirogami?”

“Um, no... Sorry, Dr. Kurosaki.” Alexi sat back down, slouching low in his chair.

Dr. Kurosaki nodded and pushed his glasses up. “Anyway, we should probably cover one more creature before I let you go today.” The slide switched to a picture of a fox standing on two legs and dressed as a monk. “Who can tell me about kitsune?”

Class ended twenty minutes later and Alexi was thankful to be out of there. The meds were wearing off and all he wanted to do was sleep for a week or strangle a certain oni who just happened to be waiting for him outside of class. People walked past Kai, oblivious to his presence. Damn oni magic, how was he supposed to yell at him without look like a total nut?

Kai walked beside him in silence. Yelling wasn’t going to get him anywhere, so Alexi tried to calm down. He took a deep breath and counted to ten - twice - before saying anything. “You know you could at least become visible so people don’t think I’m crazy.”

“Sorry. I keep forgetting.” Kai ducked behind a pillar and popped up solid and minus his horns. “I forget sometimes that only you can see me like this.”

“I know.” A sleek, well-muscled arm slipped around his shoulder and pulled him close. Oh, Kai was so warm and just the thing to make him feel better. Alexi was too tired to stay mad for very long, anyway. He leaned into his lover’s heat and sighed. “Sorry about this morning. I was being an ass.”

“A little, but I’ll forgive you.” Kai kissed Alexi on the forehead. “But only because you’re sick.”

“Thanks.”

“I am sorry for pestering you this morning.” The oni hung his head, looking a little sheepish. “I just worry about you. You work too hard, and you don’t take care of yourself.”

“If I start taking better care of myself, will you stop threatening to keep me home?” Alexi stumbled against Kai as they hit the stairs. His head was doing that spinny thing again. It was a good thing that Kai was there. He would have sprawled face first on the sidewalk if it wasn’t for those hot, muscled arms.

“We’ll see. Maybe if you cut down on all that fast food you eat.” Kai knelt down so he could climb on his back. “Come on, bo-ya, I’ll carry you home.”

“Okay,” Alexi slipped his arms around Kai’s neck and snuggled against his back. He dozed as the oni carried him. It wasn’t far, but by the time they got home, Alexi was asleep.

When he woke up again, Alexi was bundled in the blankets on his own bed. He sat up, stretching groggily. “Kai?”

“Right here, love.” Kai smiled at him from the doorway. “Can you get out of those clothes on your own, or do you need help?”

“I can manage.” He pulled his T-shirt over his head. “I may be sick, but I’m not hopeless.”

“Your pants too; I need you naked.”

“Okay, okay.” Alexi pushed his jeans and boxers down and tossed them on the floor. “I don’t know if I’m up for sex, Kai.”

“I’m just going to give you a bath, naughty boy.” Kai scooped Alexi up and headed down the hall.

“Oh.”

“Slut.”

Alexi snuggled close and kissed the oni on the cheek. “It’s your fault, you know.”

“I don’t know what you’re talking about.” Kai tried to look innocent, but it was hard, especially with the horns. “What I do know is that someone isn’t getting any until he feels better.”

“Kai…”

“Nope.”

“This is to get back at me for this morning, isn’t it?”

“I’m stubborn, not vindictive, bo-ya.” Kai carried him into the bathroom. Hot water ran into the tub, filling it almost all the way.

“Sure—oh, that’s nice.” Alexi settled into the steamy water with a contented sigh. He glanced up at his oni hopefully. “You know it would be even better with a little company.”

“Bo-ya...”

“You’re supposed to humor me when I’m sick, you know.”

The oni sighed as he stripped out of his clothing and carefully stepped into the tub. Water sloshed over the edge of the tub as he settled himself with Alexi leaning contentedly against his broad chest.

“Mmm, better.”

“Don’t get too comfortable, I still have to wash you.” Kai grabbed the shower gel and lathered up his hands. One soapy hand slid against Alexi’s chest, rubbing against smooth muscle and brushing occasionally against his nipples. That was so cheating, but two could play at that game. Alexi shifted back a little rubbing his ass against the oni’s prick.

“You asked for it, bo-ya.” Kai grinned as his fingers rubbed lower, trailing over Alexi’s flat belly and teasing his cock. He flicked his thumb against the sensitive head and cupped the shaft in his hand stroking it lightly.

“Kai, don’t tease...” Alexi squirmed sending more water splashing onto the floor. Those thick fingers tightened, stroking him a little harder. “Ooh!”

“I’m teasing? Who started it by rubbing that pert, little ass against me?”

“Can’t help it.” Alexi reached up to touch his lover’s cheek. “You’re sexy and I like touching you, among other things.”

“Who are you and what have you done with my Alexi?” Kai teased as he nipped at Alexi’s ear. “My bo-ya is never that needy.”

“Blame the cold meds if you want.” Alexi slid lower in the water, soaking in the warmth. “Or... you could just take advantage of the situation and do me.”

“How about I make you come?” Kai fingered his balls before stroking his cock again. “Then take advantage of you tomorrow, when you’re feeling better.”

“Okay.” His eyes fluttered closed as Alexi arched his hips, rubbing against those amazing fingers. Kai leaned closer, whispering dirty nothings into his ear. Oh, something about that voice always did it for him.

“You going to come for me, bo-ya?”

“Oh, yeah... Kai!”

The oni slipped his free arm around Alexi’s chest, holding him steady as he came. Alexi bucked as warm spunk clouded the water. Kai snuggled against Alexi and kissed the top of his head.

“Come on, bo-ya, we should get out before the water starts getting cold. I don’t want to make your cold any worse.”

“Mmm, love you,” Alexi mumbled as he climbed out of the tub. Kai wrapped him in a warm, fluffy towel and rubbed him dry. He stifled a yawn. All the attention he was getting was making him sleepy. Of course, it could have been the orgasm, too.

“I love you, too.” Those strong arms scooped up Alexi and carried him to bed. Kai climbed in beside him and wrapped himself around the boy. “Get some rest, bo-ya.”

“Okay... g’night.”

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Alexi woke feeling tons better. He could breathe through his nose again, and his head didn’t feel like an overripe melon anymore. Kai sprawled on his back snoring softly, his cock already hard and eager for a little attention. Alexi licked his lips. He really should thank Kai for taking care of him last night.

A low, rumble moan slipped from Kai’s lips as Alexi’s warm, wet tongue flicked against his nipple. Oh, that was a nice sound. Alexi lapped at the pert nub again before moving lower. He trailed his tongue over the hard muscles of his lover’s stomach before teasing the tip of that thick prick.

Steely fingers tangled in his hair, pushing him lower. Alexi glanced up, only to catch his lover peeking at him.

“Okay, how long have you been up?”

“Not long.” Kai grinned as he smoothed Alexi’s sleep rumpled hair. “You’re not going to stop, are you?”

“I don’t know. It’s not as much fun now that you know what I’m up to.”

“Please, bo-ya.” Red eyes blinked at him hopefully. Kai was trying his best to make sad puppy eyes, but it wasn’t working.

“Okay, okay, just stop trying to look sad and pathetic.” Alexi tried not to laugh, but it was really hard. “It doesn’t work on you.”

“Hmm, I guess I better stick with being hot and manly, then.”

“Mmm, hot and manly. Definitely better.” Alexi lapped at his lover, stabbing at the slit with the tip of his tongue.

Kai groaned and pushed his hips up, encouraging his lover to continue. Another lick, from base to tip, trailed along the underside of his cock and then another. That groan got a little louder as Alexi wrapped his velvety lips around the head of that heavy prick and sucked.

“Oh, bo-ya, do that again.” Heavy fingers slid against Alexi’s skull and pushed him lower.

Alexi took a deep breath through his nose and swallowed his lover down. He relaxed his throat and moved his head, stroking Kai with his lips and tongue. Lean hips bucked against Alexi’s face, fucking his mouth. Oh, his oni was close; he could tell by the low growly sounds Kai was making and the needy jerk of his cock.

Hot spunk flooded Alexi’s mouth as his oni came. Something about that salty musk on his tongue turned him on even more. Kai pulled him up and kissed Alexi deeply. That sweet tongue swirled with his own, teasing him, tasting him.

“Mmm, so tasty,” Kai growled as he trailed his fingers over Alexi’s slightly swollen lips. “Are you gonna ride me, bo-ya?”

“You still up for it?” Alexi licked his lover’s fingers, coating them with spit. Kai trailed his hand over a narrow patch of hip and rubbed between Alexi’s cheeks.

“You know I am.” Kai pushed a finger into him, making Alexi moan. “I can’t wait to fuck that tight, little ass of yours.”

Kai sounded so sexy when he talked like that. Alexi couldn’t wait. He grabbed the mostly empty tube of lube and squirted some of the gel onto Kai’s prick, slicking him up. A sharp breath hissed through the oni’s sharp teeth and his cock twitched beneath Alexi’s fingers. Oh, Kai was already hard again, despite coming a few minutes ago. Not that Alexi was complaining.

One of those big hands swatted Alexi on the ass while the other wrapped around his hip. “No more teasing, bo-ya.”

“But—aah!” Alexi yelped as Kai slapped his ass again. The oni meant business this time. He must have been hornier than usual, which meant Alexi was in for a nice hard fuck. Yay for him!

Instead of pushing right in like he usually did, Kai just held him up, rubbing against that sweet ass.

“Ooh, now who’s teasing?”

“Is that better?” The tip of Kai’s cock pushed into him, making Alexi moan.

That was all he got. He wanted more, but Kai wouldn’t give it to him. Damn oni seemed determined to make him beg. Alexi leaned back trying to take him deeper, but Kai’s hands kept him from moving. “Kai!”

“Easy, I don’t want to hurt you.”

“You won’t. Now, fuck me already!”

“Okay, you asked for it.” Kai grinned and pulled Alexi down onto his cock.

Before Alexi could blink, he was sitting in Kai’s lap with that fat prick buried deep inside him. Oh, there was nothing better. He sat there for a bit, enjoying the feel of his lover’s body. His fingers trailed over the oni’s broad chest, tracing over the sleek muscles. He wondered how long Kai would let him just sit there.

“Come on, bo-ya, ride me.” Kai growled and nipped at the boy’s fingers.

That didn’t take long. Alexi lifted himself up and dropped back down, fucking himself against his lover’s hard body. Kai’s hands were on him again, tweaking his nipples and stroking his cock. “Oooh, Kai…”

Without warning, the room tilted. Alexi found himself on his back with his legs hooked on Kai’s shoulders. The oni pulled all the way out and slammed back into him, making Alexi moan and squirm against him. Together they found a rhythm, Alexi lifting his hips to meet each one of Kai’s thrusts.

“Are you going to come for me, nasty boy? Are you going to come while I fuck your ass, nice and deep?” Kai leaned close nipping at Alexi’s ear. He pulled out and adjusted his angle before sliding back into Alexi’s ass.

The slight shift sent Kai’s cock sliding over Alexi’s gland and a jolt of pure pleasure shot up his spine. Between that and the naughty things his handsome oni was whispering in his ear, Alexi didn’t have a chance.

“Kai! Oh, fuck!” Alexi arched off the bed as he came. Warm spunk seeped between their sweat damp bodies as the oni kept moving.

Kai growled as his thrusts came harder and faster. Oh, he was close; Alexi could feel it. He clenched, tightening on his lover. Kai howled and tossed his head back, entire body tensing as he came.

They rolled together so both Alexi and Kai were lying on their sides with Alexi snuggled contentedly against the oni's broad chest. Kai stroked his hair, looking extremely content. "So how long do I have to wait before we can do that again?"

"Mmm, give me a few minutes."

"Don't you have class today?"

"I do, but I was thinking of skipping today. In case I'm still sick."

Kai chuckled as he trailed a finger down his lover's chest. "I thought you couldn't miss any of your classes."

"Yeah, well, I've been thinking about it and I figure I can miss a class or two." Alexi stretched a little and nuzzled Kai's cheek. "Especially if it means spending a little more time with you."

"Ooh, I'm flattered, bo-ya."

"Of course, I expect you to help me study during finals."

"Help you or distract you?" Kai grinned. "Mind you, I'm better at the later."

"I noticed. At this rate I'm going to have to camp out at the library just to get my work done."

The oni perked with interest. "The library was fun, wasn't it?"

"We are not having sex in the library again." Alexi shook his head. "And I mean it."

"We'll see, bo-ya."



### Chapter Three

It was Halloween, a night that Alexi usually spent sitting on the couch watching horror movies and nibbling on the large box of homemade candies his mom sent him. He loved her special Halloween care packages. It was like trick or treating without all the work. Of course this year, Alexi was in the bathroom getting dressed up. Kai wanted to go clubbing -- in costume, no less. He pulled up the thigh-high stockings that came with his outfit and buttoned up his white, school-girlsque shirt with a sigh. The tiny plaid skirt he was wearing barely covered his ass. Alexi was pretty sure that was on purpose. Damned oni.

"I can't believe you talked me into this, or that this was the 'perfect costume' you told me about." Alexi raked his fingers through his hair, trying to smooth out the odd, spiky bits. Too bad, it just made things worse. He stood in the doorway of the bathroom, glaring at his lover and wobbling slightly on the black ankle boots Kai had coaxed him into. "I look like the porno version of a Catholic school girl."

"Well, you're supposed to be little Red Riding Hood." Kai tied a short, red, hooded cloak around Alexi's shoulders. "Okay, a slutty little red riding hood, but you get the idea."

"And let me guess, you're my big bad wolf." Alexi sighed as he adjusted the fuzzy gray wolf ears that peeked through his lover's dark hair.

"Exactly." Kai turned slightly, glancing back. "Is my tail straight?"

"Yes, your damned tail's straight," Alexi grumbled as he made a grab for the furry appendage sewn into the backside of the ogre's jeans. "I'm still not sure about this costume."

"Don't worry so much; you look good." Kai's hands slid beneath the tiny, pleated skirt, "Good enough to eat, that is."

"Stop that." He swatted those big hands away. "I thought there was a club you wanted to go to?"

"Hmm, I did want to go out tonight." Kai nipped at Alexi's neck teasingly. "But pushing you over the table and fucking you cross-eyed is pretty damned tempting too. What do you want to do?"

Alexi tapped his chin, pondering his options. "We could go out. Then you could fuck me cross-eyed when we get home." He grabbed a battered leather jacket off the couch and tossed it to the ogre. "Though, I'm still not sure if I want to wear this out in public."

"Come on, bo-ya, you'll be fine." Kai slid his arm around Alexi's waist and pulled him close. "I'll be there to protect you."

"And molest me..."

“That too. I can tease you all night in that outfit.” Kai patted Alexi on the ass. “This skirt gives me such easy access.”

“Is that why you picked this out for me?”

“Maybe...”

“Perv.”

Kai blinked innocently at Alexi as they headed out the door. “I don’t know what you’re talking about. I was just trying to find us matching costumes. A lot of couples do that.”

“So why couldn’t I be the big bad wolf and you be little Red?”

“There’s nothing little about me, bo-ya.” The oni grinned wickedly. “You know that. Besides I wouldn’t look as good in a skirt as you do.”

A cab pulled up, just as they got outside. Kai helped Alexi into it and handed the driver an address. Maybe twenty minutes later, the cab stopped outside what looked like an old, gothic-style, stone church. Fearsome-looking stone gargoyles crouched on either side of the steel sign that stretched over massive wood and iron doors. The sign was accented in blue flame and read, “The Reaper’s Lair”.

Ah, so this was the ‘Lair’. Margo had mentioned this place to him once or twice. It was a gay dance and rumored sex club that supposedly threw the wildest parties on Halloween and both solstices. She had been trying to get him to go with her just so she could ogle at the guys there. Alexi had always turned her down, though. Boy, Margo would be pissed if she knew.

“How did you find this place, again?” He asked, stepping carefully out of the cab. The last thing he needed was to sprain his ankle in those damned boots Kai got him. There was just enough of a heel to make him wobble.

“On the internet, they’re supposed to have one of the best parties tonight. Why?”

Alexi raised an eyebrow in curiosity. “Since when did you start going online?”

Kai shrugged as he took Alexi’s arm. “I need something to do while you’re in class. Wait until the toys I ordered come in.”

“What?”

“Nothing.”

Kai took Alexi’s hand and lead him in through the tall, wooden doors. A large, ornately carved bar stood in the center of the crowded dance floor. Most of the people there were dressed in some sort of costume, some skimpier than others. Alexi blinked as they walked past a buff, blond

guy in a pair of horns, a devil's tail and a red leather thong. Oh, he wondered what that guy was dressed up as. There were small tables with stools, as well as a handful of leather couches scattered around the club, all filled with lots of eye candy. Damn, he could see why Margo wanted to come to this place. There was lots to ogle at.

"So, what do you think?"

"This place certainly is...interesting." Alexi couldn't help but stare as a tall, leather-clad Dom walked by with an almost-naked boy on a leash.

"I thought it would be." Kai grinned and pulled Alexi onto the dance floor. "Come on, bo-ya, let's dance."

"But--"

"Just humor me, please."

"Okay, they're your toes."

Another song started up and Kai pulled Alexi close, encouraging him to move to the heady beat of the music. It was easy to get into, especially with those strong hands guiding him. Alexi relaxed a little and started to find his own rhythm.

"And you said you couldn't dance." Kai leaned close, nipping at his lover's ear.

"I can; I just don't usually." Alexi slid his arms around Kai's neck and straddled his thigh.

"You should; you look really sexy when you do."

After three more songs, Alexi needed to stop. He was winded, sweaty and more than ready to take a break. Luckily, Kai was as good at snagging them a table as he was at dancing. Too bad there was only one chair and Kai had already claimed that.

"What's wrong, bo-ya?"

"I need to sit down for a bit." Alexi leaned heavily against the table, trying to catch his breath.

"Go right ahead." Kai grinned and patted his lap.

"You can't be serious." Alexi glared at his handsome oni with a raised eyebrow.

"Why not? It's pretty crowded in here."

Alexi sighed and hopped up onto Kai's lap. He was too tired to argue. Besides the oni was probably more comfortable than the chair was anyway.

“Perfect.” Kai wrapped his arms around Alexi’s waist and snuggled against him.

“Next time we do this, no high heels. My calves are killing me.”

“Poor baby.” Kai slid one hand down to massage Alexi’s calf. “Is that better?”

“Mmm, definitely.” Alexi leaned against a broad shoulder feeling very content.

One of the oni’s hands slid up Alexi’s leg and squeezed his ass. “Ooh, I’ll bet that feels even better.”

Alexi blushed and tried to fish Kai’s hand out from under his skirt. “Kai, quit it!”

“Can’t help it; you’re so sexy and there’s so much bare skin for me to play with.” The oni leaned closer and nibbled on his lover’s ear. “You know, no one would notice if you straddled me right now and—“

The rest of Kai’s comment made Alexi blush again. “What is with you and sex in public places? People still think the library is haunted because of you, you know.”

Kai shrugged and smiled teasingly. “Come on, bo-ya; where’s your sense of adventure?”

“I don’t have one.” Alexi shook his head. He was not going to back down, no matter what Kai did.

“Fine...spoil my fun, then.” Kai stood, lifting Alexi up and dropping him roughly onto the chair they had been sharing.

Alexi cringed as his butt hit the chair. “Where are you going?”

“I’m going to check out the bar and maybe get something to loosen you up.”

Kai headed to the bar leaving Alexi alone. He watched as his oni made his way through the crowd. As soon as Kai was gone, Alexi started to draw hungry looks. Oh, maybe it was a bad idea to let Kai wander off.

Most of the men eyeing him kept their distance, probably because they saw Kai with him earlier. But the longer the oni took at the bar, the braver they got. One guy dressed as a vampire even asked him to dance. Alexi turned him down as politely as he could. It was hard to be civil when you had to yell over the music.

Alexi sat back as the vampire guy slinked off to find someone else to hit on. The music stopped for a few minutes as the DJs switched off. He wanted Kai to come back before someone else decided that he was fair game.

“Well, hello. You are the prettiest thing I’ve seen all night.”

Too late. Alexi sighed as a lean redhead with fox ears and a white-tipped foxtail stepped up to his table. The man's foxy ears perked with interest as he eyed Alexi like he was on the dinner menu.

"I'm flattered, but I'm with someone." Alexi glanced towards the bar, trying to find Kai amongst the swarm of people. "And he's coming right back."

The fox-eared man ignored Alexi's comment and pushed his chin up with long, thin fingers. "I could just eat you up."

Alexi pushed the man's hand away with a growl. He hated guys who didn't know when to back off. "I don't think my boyfriend would like that."

"I don't know, lots of guys don't mind sharing."

"He's not the type. He can be downright jealous sometimes."

The man leaned closer, his hand trailing down Alexi's chest. "Then he shouldn't have left you alone."

Before Alexi could reply, someone grabbed the collar of the man's expensive-looking shirt and yanked him back. Kai was back, and boy, he was pissed. He lifted the redhead up by his shirt, glaring angrily.

"This isn't what it looks li—" The man blinked in surprise. "Kai?"

"Rin?" Kai pulled the fox-eared man into a hug. "You old fox, what are you doing here?"

"Just looking for a little fun."

Kai grinned and slapped his friend on the back, hard enough to make Rin cringe in pain. "And hitting on my lover."

"It's not like that, Kai." Rin held his hands up in innocently. "I didn't know he was with you. All I saw was a pretty boy sitting all by himself. Who could resist that?"

"Um, I'm right here, you know." Alexi waved at both of them. He cocked his head at Rin, or more specifically, his ears. Those were some really good prosthetics, considering that they flicked back and forth, depending on their owner's mood.

"Sorry, bo-ya." Kai sat down and pulled Alexi back into his lap. "That's Rin, an old friend of mine. Rin, this is Alexi, the love of my life."

"Kai..." Alexi blushed. Kai was never shy with his affections or who knew of them.

Rin bowed politely and kissed Alexi's hand. "Honored, you are a lovely boy, and Kai is truly fortunate to have you."

The oni snorted and rolled his eyes. "Oh, stop it, Rin! Do all kitsune talk like that, or is it just you?"

Rin shrugged, "It's not my fault your kind never learned to speak properly."

"Kitsune? Oh, that would explain a few things. I thought those ears and that tail looked a little too realistic."

"Ah, the boy is smart, as well as beautiful." Rin wiggled his ears for effect. "Yes, pretty one, this is the one time of year that I can wander freely in my true form and I always take full advantage of it."

"It's a good time. I'll bet no one's even noticed."

"You are the first. It is such a pity that you're taken." Rin eyed Alexi hungrily.

Kai's arm tightened around his lover's waist. "And I don't share, either."

"Then you shouldn't leave him alone. Pretty thing like that, I'm surprised there weren't more here, trying to claim him."

"Hey!"

Kai stood with Alexi still in his arms. "Maybe we should go home, then; the last thing I want is someone else trying to steal him away."

Alexi sighed as the oni carried him towards the door of the club. Kai had made up his mind and there was no changing it once that happened. Not that he minded too much. He'd rather get it on with Kai at home, than in the middle of a crowded night club any day.

Rin followed them towards the door. "Let me give you two a ride home, to make up for my...indiscretion earlier."

Kai eyed his friend warily. "I'm still not sharing him."

"You've made that perfectly clear, my friend. I have no intention of stealing your boy away." Rin patted Kai on the shoulder. "I just thought that it would be easier than trying to catch a cab at this hour."

"Especially around here." Alexi shivered a little. Stupid skirt was no protection against the cold, damp air. "We don't have a choice, unless you want to walk home."

“Good, it’s settled, then.” Rin handed a stub and a fiver to the valet near the door. The man ran off and came back a few minutes later in a sleek, convertible sports car. “Shall we go?”

Kai settled Alexi in the backseat before claiming shotgun. Rin hopped into the driver’s seat and took off down the road. It didn’t take long, not at the speed Rin was driving. Alexi was really surprised that they didn’t get pulled over, or worse.

Rin’s car screeched to a halt in front of Alexi’s apartment building. Kai held a hand out to him, and helped his boy out of the back seat. The oni took off his jacket and wrapped it around Alexi’s shoulders. Oh, nothing like warm leather.

“Alexi, would you mind if I borrowed your oni for a bit? I need to talk to him.” Rin winked at Alexi. “I’ll give him back in one piece, I promise.”

“Okay...” He stopped next to Kai and went up on tiptoe, whispering in the oni’s ear, “Don’t take too long, or I may have to start without you.”

“I won’t. Just make sure you leave the skirt on.” Kai grinned and patted Alexi on the ass. “We still have a date with the kitchen table, if I remember right.”

“Oh, can’t wait.” Alexi headed inside, leaving Kai and Rin alone.

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As soon as Alexi was out of sight, Rin shook his head. “I thought you learned your lesson the last time.”

“I don’t want to hear it, Rin.”

“Hear what? That I think you’re making a mistake? Or that you’re going to get your heart broken, again?” Rin raked his fingers through his hair and sighed. “It’ll never work, you know that.”

“I’ll make it work. I love him.”

“Does he love you?”

Kai growled, his hands clenching into angry fists. “Of course he does! He wouldn’t be with me if he didn’t.”

“Okay, but for how long?” Rin stepped in front of Kai, forcing the oni to look at him. “You know how humans are.”

“Alexi’s different.”

“Are you sure?” Rin looked up at his friend, his eyes pleading. “He’s so young. Do you think he wants to spend the rest of his life with a stubborn, overbearing oni, like you?”

“He wants to be with me, that’s all that matters.”

“Even if he is willing to stay with you for the rest of his life, what happens when he gets old? What are you going to do when he dies on you?”

Kai shook his head. He hated to think about things like that. Human life spans were so short compared to his kind or Rin’s. But there was no way around that, was there? “I’ll take whatever time I have with him. It’s better than nothing.”

Rin’s eyes widened in disbelief. “I can’t believe that you’re getting so worked up over a human boy.”

Kai just nodded. He glanced at his friend hopefully. “I need him, more than anything. All we have to do is figure out how to shorten my life or lengthen his. I’m sure your people have a spell or something for that sort of thing.”

“I’ve never heard of one, but I’ll keep my ears open.” Rin sighed and patted Kai on the shoulder. “Damn, stubborn oni.”

“That’s just how we are.”

Fox ears twitched and drooped a little. “I just hope you don’t regret this, my friend.”

“I won’t.”

Rin hugged him tightly. “Good luck to you, then.” He let Kai go with a wink and a wiggle of his ears. “You’d better get up there before he decides to start with out you. You also might want to tell him that whispering doesn’t help with these ears.”

“I will.” Kai waved the kitsune off and headed inside. Rin had brought up a lot of things he didn’t want to think about. Things that he didn’t want to bring up with Alexi, in case they gave the boy cold feet. Besides, they had lots of time to figure things out, didn’t they? Kai stepped into the elevator and the doors closed behind him as he hit the button for the fifth floor. He leaned against back wall deep in thought.

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Alexi sat on the couch, watching the door and fiddling with the buttons on his blouse. Most of them were undone and he had kicked off the boots as soon he got inside. Damn, those things were uncomfortable. He could not understand how anyone could wear heels for any length of time. Alexi was tempted to take the skirt and the stockings off too, but Kai did ask him to leave those on. Okay, more like ordered him... but he was all for humoring his lover.



The door opened and Kai stepped inside looking troubled and deep in thought. Alexi hopped over the couch and threw his arms around his lover's neck, hugging him tightly. "Hey, you."

"Hey yourself, bo-ya." Kai caught the boy easily, but Alexi could tell by the look on his face that something was wrong.

Alexi took a step back, cocking his head slightly and studying his handsome oni. "Okay, what did that fox say to you? You looking like you're worrying about something."

"It's nothing."

"Kai..."

The oni sighed and pulled Alexi on to the couch with him. "Do you love me?"

"Of course I do. I wouldn't be wearing this outfit if I didn't."

"I know, but do you love me enough to keep me around for the rest of your life? Do you think you'll ever get tired of being pestered by a grumpy, overbearing oni?"

"Kai, you're not grumpy or that overbearing..." Alexi cupped his lover's face in his hands and looked into those worried, red eyes. "And even if you were, I'd still love you. You're just going to have to face facts, love. You're stuck with me."

"Even if we fight?"

"All couples fight. My parents fight on a regular basis, but they always make up afterwards. They're happy as clams most of the time."

"But--"

Alexi shifted, straddling Kai's lap and kissed his oni on the lips, shushing him. He broke the kiss after a few seconds and grinned at him. "Now, how can I prove that you're my one and only?"

"Hmm..." Kai wrapped his arms around Alexi's waist and nuzzled his cheek. One hand slipped under Alexi's skirt and gave his butt a squeeze. "You could let me spank you or nail you to the couch. I'm not picky."

"You want to spank me?"

"Why not? You seemed to enjoy it last time I did it."

"Okay, as long as you do me afterwards."

"Ooh, someone's horny tonight." Kai tugged Alexi's shirt open and nuzzled his chest.

“Can’t help it, something about you in those wolf ears just turns me on.” Alexi tossed his shirt aside. “How do you want me?”

“Across my lap.” Kai rumbled as he pulled the boy’s boxer-briefs and stockings down over long, lean legs. “Now, bo-ya.”

Alexi sprawled over his lover’s legs, his cock pressed against Kai’s hard thighs. “Like this?”

“Perfect.” Kai lifted Alexi’s skirt out of the way exposing the pale curve of Alexi’s ass. “Though, you could use a little color.”

“Kai... ah!” Alexi yelped as Kai swatted at one cheek. Another slap caught him on the other cheek and another on the back of his thighs. Kai’s blows stung but weren’t hard enough to bruise or do any permanent damage. And it was an interesting sensation, the sting of that big hand and the burn it left behind. Oh, it was such a turn on.

“Mmm, you like that don’t you?” Kai swatted him again then smoothed his hand over the reddened flesh.

“I-I like the feel of your hands.” Alexi squirmed a little, rubbing his prick against Kai’s lap.

“And I like touching you. Your skin is so hot and you’re hard too.” Kai spanked him again. Alexi moaned and arched his back, pushing his ass against the oni’s hand. That made Kai grin. “I can feel you humping my lap, naughty boy.”

That last comment made Alexi blush. Great, now he was red at both ends. Luckily, Kai was too busy to notice or Alexi would never hear the end of it. “Kai, I--”

“You don’t have to say anything, bo-ya.” Kai patted Alexi’s hip and helped him up. “I know what you need. Lean over the arm of the couch so I can fuck that sweet ass of yours.”

“Can’t wait.” Alexi shifted on the couch. He knelt against the arm of the couch with his butt in the air.

Something cool and slick dripped onto his skin. Ah, Kai must have found the lube they lost in the couch last time they had sex there. Thick fingers spread the slippery stuff over his burning skin and rubbed it between his cheeks.

“Oh, it’s been a while, you’re so tight.” Kai slid one finger into Alexi’s ass and moved it in and out slowly making Alexi moan and push back against his hand. A second finger joined the first stretching Alexi a little more.

Kai added a third digit and pushed deep. The oni’s fingers slid over Alexi’s gland, sending a jolt of pure pleasure up his spine. Alexi’s hands tightened on the couch and his breath came in quick pants and soft groans.

“If you’re going to fuck me, now would be a good time.” Alexi looked over his shoulder, pleading. He watched eagerly as Kai lubed himself up and knelt behind him.

“I’ll bet your skin’s super-sensitive, too.” Kai rubbed his cock against Alexi’s ass. “You’re going to feel every push, every thrust, aren’t you?”

“Ooh.”

Alexi closed his eyes as Kai pushed into him. The oni fucked him slowly at first, thrusting deep and pulling almost all the way out before slamming back into him. Each push sent Kai’s prick sliding across Alexi’s sweet spot, making him buck and whimper. It was so intense, more so with the dull burn from his spanking added to the mix.

Warm, slick fingers wrapped around Alexi’s cock as Kai picked up the pace. They stroked him in time with each of Kai’s hard thrusts. That was more than enough. Alexi tensed and tossed his head back against his oni’s shoulder. Hot spunk splattered over Kai’s hand and on to the couch.

Kai settled back on the couch with a sleepy and very sated grin on his face. He must have come right after Alexi did. Damn, there was spoooge everywhere.

Wow. It’s a good thing I Scotch-Guarded the couch.”

“I’ll say, I didn’t know you were so messy, bo-ya.”

Alexi swatted at his lover’s shoulder teasingly. “It’s your fault. I wouldn’t get spoooge all over the sofa if you weren’t so damned sexy.”

“I’ll take it as a compliment, then.” Kai pulled Alexi into his lap, holding him close as they both caught their breath.

Warm lips pressed against Alexi’s forehead, making him look up in curiosity. “What was that for?”

“For loving me and putting up with me when I’m being stubborn or obnoxious.”

Alexi laid his head against a broad shoulder. “You’re not that bad. Besides that bod of yours more than makes up for it. Well, at least the obnoxious part.”

“Very funny, bo-ya.” Kai ran his fingers over his side, tickling. “You’re just as stubborn as I am... maybe worse.”

Alexi fell back against the sofa cushions, trying to fend off the oni’s hands. Too bad Kai was faster and stronger than he was. Soon Alexi was squirming and laughing so hard that he couldn’t breath. “All right, I give! You win!”

Kai let the boy up, grinning with satisfaction. “That wasn’t so hard, was it?”

“Not when you cheat.”

“Me, cheat? You must have mistaken me for another oni, love. I never cheat.” Kai stood and set his wolf ears on the coffee table. “We should shower and get some sleep, you have class tomorrow.”

Alexi followed his lover into the bathroom. “No, I don’t. Dr. Ogren figured that no one was going to show up anyway so she canceled class. It’s a good thing too, I don’t know if I can sit down after the spanking you gave me.”

“You did like it though.” Kai tugged Alexi out of his clothes and pulled him into a steamy shower. “I could tell by all the squirming you were doing on my lap. I’ll bet I could make you come just by spanking you.”

Alexi blushed as he soaped up his hands. “Probably. I didn’t realize I could get off on something like that.”

“That’s what I love about you, bo-ya; you’re always full of surprises.” Kai took the soap from him and carefully washed Alexi’s back. His hands slid lower, lathering Alexi’s bottom. “I’ll bet you’re still sensitive down here, aren’t you?”

“A-a little.” Alexi bit his lip as those thick, soapy fingers rubbed against his ass. One of them slid between his cheeks to tease his hole. “Kai!”

“What’s wrong?”

“Don’t tease.”

“I’m not teasing, I’m just washing you.” Kai slipped one finger into Alexi’s ass and wiggled it just enough to make him whimper. “Of course, we oni are very thorough when it comes to bathing.”

Alexi closed his eyes as he leaned against warm tile. He pushed his ass back trying to take Kai’s finger a little deeper. A second digit joined the first, easing in and out of Alexi’s body. Oh, that felt good. Alexi shifted spreading his legs a little further. “Kai, fuck me again, please…”

“Mmm, you’re so sexy when you beg.” The oni lapped at his cheek.

“I-I’m not begging.” Alexi bit back a gasp as Kai twisted his fingers. “I just want your cock in my ass.”

“All right, pushy boy.” Kai’s fingers pulled out, making way for something larger.

Alexi moaned as that huge cock pushed into him. He was still stretched from earlier, but he could still feel every inch. Strong arms wrapped around his chest and waist, holding Alexi upright as the oni pounded his ass.

It didn't take long. Alexi came hard, arching against his oni's broad chest. Kai was right behind him growling against Alexi's shoulder and filling him with heat.

"You're going to wear me out, bo-ya." Kai pulled Alexi under the water so they could both rinse off.

"Maybe, but you're not depressed anymore, right?" Alexi turned and tiptoed so he could kiss his oni on the cheek.

"True, thank you." Kai turned off the water and lifted his lover out of the tub. They dried each other off and before Alexi could do anything else, Kai scooped him up.

"Kai, what are you doing?"

"I'm carrying you to bed; you looked a little too wobbly to get there yourself."

"Oh, maybe I should let you spank me more often." Alexi slipped his arms around Kai's neck and nipped at a slender, pointed ear.

"I'm going to hold you to that, you know...just not tonight."

Kai settled Alexi in bed before climbing in himself and snuggling close. He pushed a bit of hair out of Alexi's eyes and sighed. Alexi could see that worried look in Kai's face again. Damn, and he was too tired for round three at the moment. He reached up to brush his fingers over the oni's cheek.

"What's wrong?"

"How long do your kind live, bo-ya?"

"It depends, maybe eighty or ninety years, if I'm lucky. My grandparents were both nearly one hundred when they died." Alexi fingered one of his lover's horns. "I take it oni live a lot longer."

"Three or four centuries at least. I'm almost two hundred now, which means..."

It was Alexi's turn to sigh unhappily. "That I'm going to get old and die long before you do." He didn't even think about that. No wonder Kai was worried. Losing someone you love is bad enough, but to have to do it over and over, Alexi wouldn't wish that on anyone. "There's not much we can do about that, though."

"I know. Unless..." Kai sat up and pulled Alexi against his chest. "How would you like to be an oni?"

“You can’t just make me one, can you?”

“I don’t know, but if there is away, we’ll find it.” Kai nuzzled the top of Alexi’s head. “I think you’d look really sexy with horns.”

“Kai... I don’t know if I could handle that, being an oni and all.”

“I don’t want to watch you die, bo-ya. I don’t want to lose you.” Red eyes looked at him, sad and pleading.

How could he say no to that? Alexi pulled Kai closer and snuggled against him. “All right, if there’s a way, I’ll do it.”

“Thank you, bo-ya. You won’t regret this, I promise.”

## Chapter Four

“I think that’ll do it for today, but don’t forget, I want paper ideas from all of you next week.”

Alexi closed his notebook and headed down to talk to Dr. Kurosaki. He and Kai had been looking for a way to around that age problem but even after weeks of research they still had nothing. They needed help and the only one Alexi could think of was his mythology professor.

Dr. Kurosaki was a lean, man with short, dark hair and deep, brown eyes, usually framed by a pair of thin glasses. He was definitely good looking, though not as handsome as Kai was.

“Ah, Mr. Shirogami, I was hoping I could talk to you.”

“Sure thing, um, can I ask you a question first?”

“What is it?”

“Have you ever heard any stories of a human falling in love with an oni?”

“Can’t say that I have.”

“Any stories about humans who wanted to become oni? You know, since they are stronger and live longer than we do.”

Dr. Kurosaki pressed his hand against Alexi’s forehead and looked at him worriedly. “Are you feeling all right?”

Alexi nodded feeling a little sheepish. “I-I’m fine. It’s just something I was pondering for a paper. I’m just having a hard time with the research.”

“Ah, okay.” Dr. Kurosaki rubbed his goatee thoughtfully. “Nothing about anyone falling in love with or becoming an oni. Most of the folktales don’t cover things like that, since the oni are usually the villains. Most of the time heroes either kill them or seal away their magic, so they can’t harm anyone.”

“Does sealing their magic make them mortal?”

“I think so. I can always lend you some of my books on the matter and you can look into it yourself.”

“Cool, that would help my research a lot.”

“Speaking of papers and such, I need to talk to you about your grades this semester.”

Alexi slung his backpack over his shoulder and raked a handful of hair out of his eyes. “Um, sure... should I be worried?”

“Let’s go to the coffee shop, and I’ll fill you in. It’ll be a lot easier to talk there.”

“Okay...” Alexi glanced at his watch again. He had to meet Kai for lunch in twenty minutes, but that would still give him enough time to talk with Dr. Kurosaki. Then again, he didn’t really have a choice since his grades were involved. His oni would just have to wait.

They headed across campus to the coffee shop in the basement of the bookstore. Alexi sat down at a small table while Dr. Kurosaki got them drinks. His professor came back a few minutes later with a hot tea for himself and a latte for him.

“So how are you doing? How’s your class load this semester?” Dr. Kurosaki sat himself down and sipped his tea.

Alexi glanced at his professor with curiosity. “Everything’s fine, why?”

“You just seem a little off your game lately, that’s all.” Dr. Kurosaki pushed his glasses up and watched Alexi seriously. “You’ve missed six days in the past four weeks and that’s just from my class. Dr. Veron also tells me that your papers haven’t been as thorough as they used to be.”

Crap. He and Kai were spending so much time trying to figure out how to make him an oni that he had totally lost track of his schoolwork. Kai was also very distracting, not that he was going to tell Dr. Kurosaki that. Alexi glanced up, with a very guilty look on his face. “Life’s been a little complicated lately.”

“Life is always complicated, my boy, but you can’t let it get in the way of your studies. At this rate, you’re going to have to retake my class and two others.”

“What?” Alexi rubbed his temples. Damn it, he couldn’t afford to take three classes over again. How the hell was he supposed to explain that to his dad?

“You’re a bright boy, Mr. Shirogami. I’d hate to think that the stress is getting to you.”

“No, it’s not that. I’m really sorry, Dr. Kurosaki.”

“Well, it’s not too late. If you buckle down and do well on your finals you should be all right.” Dr. Kurosaki smiled and patted Alexi’s shoulder. “Come by my office and I’ll get you a list of things that need to be done.”

“Hands off my bo-ya, you!” An all-too-familiar voice growled behind them.

“Kai, wait!” Alexi stood and held his hands out to try and stop the raging oni before he went too far. Not that it did much good. Kai just scooped him up like a caveman. It would have down right cute if Alexi hadn’t been slung over the oni’s shoulder like a sack of potatoes. “Put me down, will you!”



“Fine, but if I catch him hitting on you again, I’ll eat him.” Kai glared at Dr. Kurosaki as he set Alexi back down. “Are you all right, bo-ya? He didn’t do anything to you did he?”

“Stop it! I’m fine.”

“Ah, I’ll bet he’s the one distracting you from your studies.” Dr. Kurosaki pushed his glasses up and looked Kai over. “No wonder you haven’t been getting anything done.”

“This is my boyfriend, Kai.” Alexi patted Kai’s arm, trying to get the oni to let him go. “Kai, this is Dr. Kurosaki. He’s one of my profs, as well as my course advisor.”

“And he’s a dirty old man for hitting on you,” Kai grumbled and gave the other man another dirty look. “I’ll bet he was just waiting for the opportunity to get you alone and—”

“Kai! We were just talking.” Alexi glanced around. People were starting to stare. At least Kai showed up without his horns. A jealous boyfriend was one thing, but a rampaging oni was a whole different kettle of fish. “Dr. Kurosaki is trying to help me so I don’t fail this semester.”

“Unless you don’t care if he passes or not.”

“Of course I care!”

“Maybe we should continue this discussion somewhere less public, say my place?” Dr. Kurosaki stood and gestured towards the door. “I can also get you those books I mentioned.” He glanced at Kai with a raised eyebrow. “As long as you promise your ‘boyfriend’ won’t eat them.”

Kai growled and clenched his hands angrily. “I don’t eat books, just assholes who think they can steal my bo-ya away.”

That was enough. Alexi put his foot down literally. “Can you two just stop?” He grabbed Kai by the ear and pulled him down to eye level. “Look, Kai, I’m going to Dr. Kurosaki’s place so we can figure out my class situation and to borrow a couple books for our research. You can either calm down and come with or go home and wait for me there. Got it?”

There, let him chew on that for a bit. Alexi could be as stubborn as Kai was if he put his mind to it and there was no arguing with him once that happened.

“Okay, bo-ya. Sorry.”

“Well, come on then, it’s this way.”

Dr. Kurosaki led them to one of the buildings on the edge of campus. He had the penthouse apartment. Pretty sweet digs by anyone’s standards. There were lots of books, some of them shelved on tall bookcases that lined the walls while the rest sat in neat piles on the floor. That, he expected. What Alexi didn’t expect was the sword collection that took up what was left of the wall space. Some of them were really old. Probably cost him a fortune, too.

“Those are some pretty impressive swords you have.” Alexi jumped as the door slammed shut behind him and Kai. He suddenly felt like he was trapped in a lion’s den, and he was dinner. Kai’s hand tightened against his shoulder. He was probably feeling the same way, except he didn’t think lions would bother Kai.

“A hunter needs to be well armed.” Dr. Kurosaki set his glasses on his coffee table and looked seriously at his companions. “I never know what I’ll find lurking about.” He pulled a katana from behind the couch. “Can you imagine my surprise, when I saw an oni pestering one of my students one day?”

“How could you see me?”

“It’s a gift I have, much like Mr. Shirogami here.”

“Um, what’s going on here?” Alexi asked glancing between his lover and his professor in confusion.

“I’m a monster hunter, my boy. I keep the city safe from all kinds of dangerous beasties and I’ve been watching you two.”

Kai growled low in his throat and stepped protectively in front of Alexi. “Stay behind me, bo-ya, I’ll protect you.”

“He’s not the one that should be worried, monster!” Dr. Kurosaki drew his blade and pointed it at the oni.

“Kai’s not a monster! He’s my boyfriend!” Alexi pushed past his lover to stand directly in the hunter’s way.

“You don’t know how his kind are. They are brutal, selfish creatures. I’m just surprised that he hasn’t harmed you yet.”

“He’s not like that! Sure he can be demanding, pig-headed and overprotective sometimes but he wouldn’t hurt anyone.” Alexi slipped his hand into Kai’s and squeezed it tightly. “He’s actually a really sweet guy, once you get to know him.”

“Thanks, bo-ya, I think.”

“It sounds like you love him.”

Alexi glanced up at his oni fondly. “I do, and I trust him.”

“But, do you trust him not to hurt others because of you?”

“I haven’t killed or maimed you yet, have I?” Kai pulled Alexi against his chest and held him close. “Not that I would anyway. He’d never forgive me or have sex with me again.”

Alexi sighed and blushed. It would have been funny under other circumstances.

Dr. Kurosaki didn’t look convinced or even humored by the oni’s last comment. “Is he why you were asking all those questions about ogres and humans falling in love?”

Alexi nodded. “We’re trying to figure out how to be together without him having to watch me grow old and die.”

“Is there a way to make him an oni?”

Dr. Kurosaki shook his head. “Even if there was a way, I would never allow it. I can’t have two oni in my territory, even if one of them were my student.”

“But there is a way to make Kai more human, right?”

“In a matter of speaking, take away his magic and you also take away his long life, but I doubt your oni would go for that.”

Kai looked at Alexi fondly, fingers tracing the fine angles of his face. “My magic is a small price to pay to keep you with me. I’ll grow old with you, if you want me.”

Alexi nodded and kissed the oni on the cheek. “We can sit together on a porch somewhere and yell at kids to get off of our lawn.”

“Sounds good to me.”

Dr. Kurosaki turned to scan his bookshelf. He pulled a particularly ancient-looking book out and opened it up. “Well, now that you two are settled on that, let’s see if we can figure out just how to do it.”

Kai glared at him suspiciously. “We? Why do you want to help us all of a sudden?”

“Because if you do this, I won’t have to worry about having an oni in my territory and Mr. Shirogami will be able to get back to his school work.” Dr. Kurosaki shrugged. “It kills two proverbial birds with one stone.”

“Okay, so what do we have to do?”

“Let me see...” Dr. Kurosaki flipped through the thick, yellowed pages of the book until he found what he was looking for. “Ah, here it is, all we have to do is get rid of your horns.”

Kai didn’t look impressed at all. “Is that all? It can’t be that simple, can it?”

“The water in the bowl on a kappa’s head is the source of their magic, why couldn’t the horns of an oni work the same way?” Alexi tapped his chin thoughtfully. “It makes sense.”

“I guess. But how do we do that?”

“I’ve read stories of oni breaking their horns off on their own. Or we could cut them off.” Dr. Kurosaki rested his sword against his shoulder. “What will it be, oni?”

“I’ll do it, thank you.” Kai eyed the other man suspiciously. “I wouldn’t want you to miss and take my head instead of my horns.”

“Suit yourself.” Dr. Kurosaki sheathed his sword, looking almost disappointed.

It was surprisingly easy. All Kai had to do was pull. His horns broke neatly at their bases with a sharp crack. He blinked at Alexi uncertainly. “I don’t feel any different.”

“You won’t, but you will find that you can no longer walk through walls or sneak into my class unseen.”

Kai raised an eyebrow at the professor and tried to push his hand through the coffee table. Instead of passing through the wood like it normally would, Kai’s hand thumped against the surface. That must have surprised the oni, considering the look on his face. “I guess it did work.”

“I told you it would. Now if you two don’t mind, I have work to do.” Dr. Kurosaki shooed Alexi and Kai towards the door.

“Thanks for the help, Dr. Kurosaki.”

“You can thank me by passing this semester.”

Alexi waved at his professor. “I’ll do my best.”

Kai was quiet the entire walk home, which was odd for him. Usually he pestered Alexi about his day and his classes, complaining how his professors didn’t know a damned thing. He didn’t even comment about renting porn when they passed by the video place. Something had to be wrong.

“Okay, Kai, what’s eating you?” Alexi fished his keys out of his pocket and opened his apartment door.

“Nothing.”

“Kai...” Alexi pulled his lover on to the couch and looked him in the eye.

“Do you still want me, even if I’m not an oni anymore?”

“Of course I do. Why wouldn’t I?”

“You always liked my horns and now that I don’t have them—” Kai stopped mid-sentence as Alexi leaned in for a kiss.

“I didn’t fall for your horns or your magic.” Their foreheads bumped together as Alexi got closer. “I fell for that handsome face.” He slid his hands over a broad expanse of chest, rubbing against the hard muscle. “And this body of yours.”

Kai wrapped his arms around Alexi’s waist and pulled him closer. “And I thought it was my charming personality.”

“That came later. All I could see that first night were those super, sexy muscles.” Alexi tugged the tight T-shirt over his lover’s head. “Mmm, acres and acres and it’s all mine.”

“Oh, I am a lucky, lucky oni...guy... whatever.” Kai stood with Alexi still wrapped around him and carried him to the bedroom. “Come on, bo-ya; let’s go to bed.” He dropped Alexi onto the bed and pushed his jeans over lean hips.

Alexi tossed his T-shirt and jeans to the side and held his arms out to his lover. “Come here, you.”

Kai crawled into bed pushing Alexi onto his back. His fingers trailed over Alexi’s chest and tweaked his nipples. Alexi gasped and arched against the oni’s hand almost purring in pleasure. Those fingers moved lower, ghosting over a smooth, flat belly to tease Alexi’s cock. Kai shifted between his lover’s long, slim legs and flicked his tongue against the moist tip.

“Ooh!” Alexi arched again. That sandpaper tongue felt so good against his skin. It was rough and wet and sent the most amazing sensations up his spine.

Kai swirled his tongue around before swallowing Alexi down. He bobbed his head slowly, alternating between sucking and lapping at Alexi’s hard length. Alexi bucked, pushing his cock deeper into that warm, wet mouth. Kai pulled off just long enough to lick his fingers and went right back to sucking his lover off.

Alexi lifted his hips off the bed. He knew exactly where those fingers were going and he wanted them - not as much as he wanted Kai’s prick, but that would come later...literally. He bit back a whimper as two thick fingers pushed into his ass. They twisted and went deeper, nailing his gland. Oh, that was good. Alexi moaned as a third finger slid in with the first two, stretching him a little more.

“Mmm, Kai... so close.” He buried his hands in the oni’s long hair, holding him close. “Don’t stop.”

Kai pumped his hand, fucking him hard and fast with those sweet fingers. Warm lips stroked him in time with the hand buried in his ass. Alexi’s hands tightened in silky, dark hair as he came, flooding his lover’s mouth with warm spunk.

“So tasty.” Kai pulled his lover down and kissed him deep.

Alexi whimpered and leaned into the kiss. He could taste himself on Kai’s tongue, slightly sweet, unlike the heady musk that was his oni. Those fingers wiggled inside him, encouraging his cock to stay hard. Kai always knew how to turn him on and keep him there. Alexi closed his eyes as a hard, heavy length pressed against his own.

“Do you want me, bo-ya?” Kai nipped at Alexi’s ear and rubbed against his belly. “Do you want me to fuck you?”

“Yeah.”

“Say it, or you’ll get nothing from me.” The oni leaned back and grabbed the lube off the bedside table.

“Kai, please!”

Kai dribbled some of the slick liquid onto his cock and rubbed it in, teasing Alexi with the sight of it. “Tell me what you want, bo-ya.”

Alexi blushed brightly. “I want you to fuck me, okay?”

“Good boy.” Kai lifted Alexi’s ass up and pushed into him with one fluid stroke.

Alexi wrapped his legs around the oni’s waist, pulling him deeper. They moved together, Alexi arching up to meet Kai’s hard thrusts. Big hands touched his face, tracing over his lips. Alexi caught one finger in his mouth and sucked on it teasingly.

Kai slid his arms around his lover and rolled over so Alexi was on top of him. Alexi moaned as that huge prick slid deeper, rubbing against his sweet spot. It was perfect. Kai started to move, pushing off the bed and fucking him deep.

“Ooh, love you.” Alexi leaned down to kiss his oni. Kai growled into his mouth, his thrusts coming harder and faster. Warm fingers wrapped around his cock, stroking him. It was too much. Alexi tensed and groaned, his body tightening and spasming around the thick flesh in him.

Kai howled and slammed his hips against Alexi’s ass, filling him with come. There was nothing better. The oni rolled onto his side, pulling Alexi with him. Alexi gasped as they moved. Kai was still buried deep and nudging him in the most enticing places.

“You’re the best.” Alexi smiled and trailed his fingers through the come splattered over the oni’s chest. He licked his fingers wantonly.

“And you’re going to make me hard again if you keep that up.” Kai tipped Alexi’s chin up and kissed him on the nose.

“I don’t know...” Alexi bit back a gasp. He could feel Kai twitch and harden inside him. Oh, that was not helping, not in the slightest. “I should get some work done, but I may be convinced to put it off until tomorrow.”

Kai snapped his hips forward, making Alexi moan again. “Is this convincing enough for you, bo-ya?”

“Oh, definitely.” Alexi wrapped his arms around his lover’s neck and pulled him closer. His work was just going to have to wait.

## Chapter Five

It was a stupid fight, really it was. Kai didn't even remember what he and Alexi had argued about. All he knew was that his boy was currently in the bedroom cooling off. Feh. Alexi was hiding and there was nothing Kai could do about it. If he still had his magic, he could have stepped right through that door and talked some sense into Alexi. Without it all he could do was pace and wait until his boy wanted to talk to him again. It was maddening.

Someone knocked at the door, making Kai growl irritably. He was in no mood for company or sales people for that matter. Kai opened the door, doing his best not to rip the wood from its hinges. He may not have his magic anymore, but he was still stronger than most. "Yes?"

A small and all-too familiar Japanese woman stood on the welcome mat. She cocked her head slightly studying the angry oni. "Hello, is Alexi home?"

Kai blinked, looking a little stunned. "Yes, come in. He didn't tell me his mother was coming to visit." He held the door open and gestured for the woman to enter. "It's nice to see you again, Mrs. Shirogami."

"Mrs. Shirogami? Shame on you, Kaijuro-san." She smiled and patted Kai's shoulder. "How long have you known me? How long have you been with our family?"

"You remember me?"

"Of course I do. How could I forget the handsome oni that lived with us for so long?" Alexi's mother went up on tiptoe and whispered into the oni's ear, "I did have a crush on you when I was younger."

"Really?"

"Yes, so none of this Mrs. Shirogami stuff. Call me Keiko-chan like you used to."

"Of course, Keiko-chan." Kai closed the door and followed Alexi's mother into the living room. "I'm flattered that you still remember."

"Of course I do. I recognized you when you showed up asking about Alexi. You are hard to forget, even without the horns."

"I didn't realize...you didn't say anything before."

"I didn't feel like explaining you to my husband. He's a good man but he has the imagination of a rock." Keiko sat on the couch and glanced up at Kai. "Speaking of rock like imaginations, where's Alexi?"

"In the bedroom...he—I...we had a fight. He's in the bedroom and he's not talking to me right now." The oni hung his head a little sheepishly. "It happens more often than I'd like."



“You should go in there and talk to him. He’ll stay in there forever if you let him.”

“I can’t. No magic.”

“I was wondering.”

“I gave it up so Alexi and I could grow old together.” Kai sighed unhappily. “That is, if he still wants me.”

“I’m sure he still loves you.” Keiko patted his shoulder. “Let me go talk to him. Oh, and Kai-san...”

“Hmm?”

“You might want to put some pants on.” She stood with a chuckle. “I don’t know what it is about you boys and sitting around in your underwear.”

Keiko knocked on the bedroom door. Alexi answered with a muffled “Go away!”

That just seemed to annoy her. Keiko knocked again and yelled through the thin wood. “Alexi Tasuki Shirogami! If you don’t open this door right now, I’m going to turn you over my knee and you will not enjoy it.”

The door opened and Alexi peeked out. His eyes widened in surprise. “Mom? What are you doing here?”

“Your father had business in Seattle, so I thought I’d tag along and check up on you and Kaijuro here. And it’s a good thing too!” Keiko perched her slim hands on her hips. “How are you two supposed to work things out if you’re hiding in there?”

“I wasn’t hiding!” There was a mix of shock and anger on Alexi’s face. He probably wasn’t expecting to see his mother any time soon. It probably annoyed him to no end that his mother was taking Kai’s side too. Kai was going to get an earful later. “I was working things out.”

“I remember you used to ‘work things out’ in your room a lot when you were little. Of course, your father and I called it sulking.” Keiko sighed and glanced back at Kai. “How do you put up with him?”

Kai just shrugged. “He has his quirks, but I’m learning to live with them.”

“Hey!”

“Face it, my boy, if you don’t come out I’m just going to talk with Kai and tell him all the embarrassing stories from when you were little.”

“Ooh, I can’t wait.” Kai rubbed his hands together wickedly. “And, bo-ya, toss me a pair of shorts! Your mother doesn’t want us sitting around in our underwear.”

A pair of denim shorts hit Kai in the face. He tugged them on and buttoned them just as Alexi stepped out of the bedroom. He was pulling up a snug pair of jeans and blushing a little. Kai was trying very hard not to laugh. It was good to see that married life hadn’t changed Keiko much. Alexi’s mother had always been very sweet and very direct, which probably made Alexi very uncomfortable at times. Oh, Kai wondered what childhood stories he could get out of her while Alexi wasn’t looking. Now that would be fun.

“I thought that would get you to come out.” Alexi’s mother smiled and elbowed him gently. “So when were you planning on telling me about your boyfriend?”

“Um...I was meaning to.”

“It’s okay. I had a feeling something was going on when a certain oni showed up on our doorstep asking about you.”

“How did you know Kai was an oni?”

Keiko patted her son on the shoulder. “I’m your mother, Alexi, I know everything. And don’t worry; I’m happy for you, and relieved. I thought you were going to be single for the rest of your life.”

“Mom...”

“You and Kaijuro-san, though... I never saw that coming.” She sat back down on the couch and smiled fondly at her son. “I still remember the first time you saw him. You were loud enough to wake the whole neighborhood.”

“He still is.” Kai sat down and pulled Alexi into his lap.

“Anyway...” Alexi blushed and elbowed Kai in the stomach making him cringe. “Dad’s not coming by, is he?”

“No, no. He does want to take you out to dinner, though.”

“I’m going to make us some tea.” Kai stood, dumping his lover onto the couch. “I think you and your mother need to talk.” He headed into the kitchen with a brief look over his shoulder. “Just save the embarrassing stories for when I come back.”

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Alexi looked worriedly at his mom. “Are you okay with this? I mean me and Kai being together and all.”

“Do you love him?”

“I do. He drives me crazy sometimes, but he also makes me really happy too.”

“There’s no way around the crazy part, men will do that.” Keiko patted her son’s cheek. “No offense.”

“Mom...”

“I told you, Alexi, I’m happy for you. You and Kaijuro-san are a good match.”

“Thanks.” Alexi hugged his mom tightly.

“No need to thank me.” Keiko hugged her boy back. “Of course, you still have to tell your dad.”

“Can’t you tell him?”

“Alexi!”

Kai returned with three steaming mugs and set them down on the coffee table. “What did I miss?”

“Nothing. Mom’s making me tell Dad about us.” Alexi raked his fingers through his hair nervously. “He’s not going to be happy.”

“Don’t be so hard on your dad, Alexi. I’m sure he’ll take it better than you think.” Keiko sipped her tea. “He knows you’re gay, so it’s just a matter of meeting Kaijuro-san and that shouldn’t be a problem. They’re a lot alike.”

“No, Kai’s—oh, good lord, you’re right. The only difference is that he doesn’t read the paper during breakfast.”

“See, I’m sure they’ll get along just fine.” Keiko set her mug on the table and stood. “We’ll find out at dinner tonight.”

“Tonight?”

“I told you. Your dad is insisting, and I’m not going to argue with him about it.” She hugged Alexi, then reached over and hugged Kai too. “I’ll warn him that you’re bringing someone, but you might want to pick a nice restaurant... just in case.”

“Oh, Ivar’s Salmon House is nice. It’s close too.” Alexi walked his mom to the door.

“Okay, your dad rented a car so we’ll be by to pick you two up. It’ll give Kai and your dad a little time to size each other up before dinner.”

“Don’t worry, bo-ya, I’ll behave myself.” Kai slipped his arms around Alexi’s waist and pulled him close. “I promise.”

“It’s not you I’m worried about.”

“I’ll make sure your dad behaves too. Just don’t mention that Kai’s an oni.”

Alexi nodded. “Yeah, I don’t need for him to think I’m crazy on top of everything else.”

“That’s my boy.” Keiko kissed her son on the cheek and waved at Kai. “I’ll see you two later... mmm, maybe 6:30?”

“Sounds good, bye, Mom!”

Kai flopped onto the couch and pulled Alexi down with him. “Dinner with your parents, eh?”

“Yup...it should be interesting.”

“And we have a few hours to kill...hmmm, I wonder what we should do?” Kai pushed Alexi’s shirt up and brushed his thumb over Alexi’s nipple.

“We could fuck like bunnies until it’s time to get ready.” Alexi nipped at his lover’s chin. “At least that way we’ll be nice and relaxed for dinner.”

“Sounds like a plan to me.” Kai sat up and tugged Alexi’s jeans open. “Should we do it here, in bed or...”

“Or?”

“I never did get to nail you to the kitchen table.”