**lost cause**

by **WattStalf**

**Summary**

When it comes to relationships, Minoru is pretty sure that he’s a lost cause.

**Notes**

AYYY back at it again with more sedoretu bullshit. I might write more about the other characters and their incomplete arrangements, but we will see.

See the end of the work for more notes.

Going into high school, Minoru isn’t sure if he’s ever going to find a relationship, but he knows what to expect of one. He knows that, should he find anyone, that he’s going to have a girlfriend- finally - and a boyfriend- which, that’s fine too, but man , does he like just about everything about girls- and it will be the same for the two of them. There will be another girl, and, no matter how hot she is, there can’t be anything between them, but that’s fine, because that’s the way it’s supposed to be.

Minoru is a Morning, and even though, at this point, he’s accepted the fact that he’s never getting
any taller and that he’s doomed to a life of unpopularity, he can’t help but hope that high school and hero training might help him turn his life around. There are six incredibly hot girls in his class and he doesn’t care what anyone may say, he has a sense for this sort of thing and he knows Hagakure is hot- and plenty of hot girls in other classes. If he has even the slightest chance, he wants to take it.

He has to rule out Uraraka, Jiro, and Ashido pretty early on, as he finds out that they’re all Mornings, and he privately mourns the loss of some of the possibilities. But that still leaves some very nice candidates, though he knows, in the back of his mind, that he will never in a million years have a shot with Yaoyorozu. To top things off, she’s, **naturally**, seen getting closer with the ever-perfect Todoroki, and isn’t **that** just a match made in heaven.

Some relationships are obvious from the beginning, or, at least, parts of them are. Uraraka, with Midoriya and Iida on either side of her, the way Todoroki and Yaoyorozu grow closer, the bitchy flirting Jiro directs at Kaminari, the way Ashido teases Aoyama. Some things do get confusing at times, like the fact that Uraraka should have another girl, rather than both of the boys, or the way Sero looks at Ashido, but overall, Minoru finds everything pretty predictable.

Whatever starts to develop between him and Shoji makes sense, in the fact that Shoji is an Evening, but even so, it’s weird to Minoru. Perhaps just because he never thought too much about what sort of boyfriend he’d want, while he thought about potential girlfriends nearly constantly. He doesn’t know if there’s really anything between him and Shoji or not, because Shoji doesn’t talk about much, but they spend an awful lot of time together, and even he’s not so dense that he thinks it’s just friendship.

But this is early on, when even some of the more obvious relationships haven’t quite started to form, and they don’t talk about it much, and Minoru nearly dies one day; they all nearly do. He worries about Shoji in the back of his mind, but he doesn’t voice that concern, too frantic to articulate much.

Somehow, he still has his priorities straight enough to take this opportunity to get a little **closer** to Asui. Hell, if he’s going to die, he at least wants to die with as few regrets as possible, and if he has the chance to touch boobs, he might as well take it.

None of them die that day, and he knows that, for the three of them, it more due to Midoriya and Asui than him, though he does what he can to help. Midoriya is so strong, so **amazing**, that for a moment, he almost forgets Shoji, almost wishes that there could have been something between them, but he pushes that thought away immediately.

His fixation with Asui does not fade, however, and, knowing that she’s an Evening leaves him wanting to get much closer to her. He’s reunited with Shoji after the fact, and relieved to see him relatively unharmed, but still, they don’t say much of anything about whatever may or may not be going on between the two of them. He doesn’t mention his growing crush on Asui either, and he takes the fact that he doesn’t go around gushing about her breasts to mean that he must be pretty serious about this one.

~X~

He and Asui become sort-of friends after that. At least, she talks to him more at school, and doesn’t ignore him when he talks to her, even if she is just as put off as ever by his antics. He begins to allow himself to fantasize about a relationship between them and Shoji, and, though he can’t quite imagine the fourth yet, he feels like he’s closer now than he’s ever been.

It’s not really surprising to him that he’s forced to pair up with Shoji during the sports festival,
though even Shoji nearly turns him down due to the strategic disadvantage of someone of his size. It’s only when Minoru turns it around and makes it into an advantage that Shoji is willing to hear him out, and the two team up. He doesn’t expect Asui to ask to join them, claiming it’s only because she’s rather small herself, and that the plan is a solid one.

They lose that day, but getting to be with the both of them at the same time is so much fun that he doesn’t mind as much as he normally would. It feels like he’s getting a little bit closer to something, but, as always, he and Shoji don’t discuss it, and he isn’t really sure what to say to Asui either. Everything continues the same as always.

Minoru is too distracted to really notice what’s happening between Asui and Tokoyami, until much later. Not to mention, he doesn’t even realize that Shoji and Tokoyami are friends either.

~X~

Finals and training camp pass in a blur, and Bakugo goes missing, and he’s brought back, and the world is turned upside down before the next semester begins and they’re all moved into dorms. All of their lives fall into new routines, but something is different now. Or maybe it’s been different for a while, but they haven’t admitted it; now that Minoru thinks about it, it might have been more obvious, but he’s only just starting to realize that Midoriya and his friends have a fourth person.

As if it weren’t odd enough that Iida and Midoriya both attached themselves to Uraraka, the fourth person in question, the other Morning, is Bakugo. There are so many things about that setup that make absolutely no sense to Minoru. Iida and Midoriya both being Evenings was confusing enough, but to have the fourth person be another boy, and to have it be Bakugo, of all people...it’s something that he absolutely isn’t able to wrap his head around.

So he doesn’t think about it much, because, as confusing as it is, there’s something even more confusing going on in his life. Only now has he begun to notice Tokoyami, and is closeness with Asui and Shoji both, and, looking back, it’s all so obvious, but it’s only now that the three of them have begun hanging out semi-regularly that he realizes it, and that he begins to get nervous. Tokoyami is, despite what one might suspect, a Morning, just like Minoru.

While he’s always thought he was pretty close with Shoji, and that things were going pretty alright with him and Asui, they’ve never all spent that much time together. They’ve never been as close as the the two of them seem with Tokoyami, and Minoru is starting to wonder if he’s being replaced.

Not that they were ever actually together, so there isn’t actually anything for them to replace, but the sentiment still stands. He thought that they would eventually find a fourth and that everything would fall into place, and now it’s starting to look like they’re moving on with Tokoyami.

To make matters worse, his options are all but gone, at least as far as his class is concerned. It was already unlikely that he would find anyone for himself besides Asui or Shoji, but even finding a fourth for that arrangement looks nearly impossible now. Ashido and Jiro have their own things, and Uraraka is definitely content in her own strange relationship, and no matter how hard he thinks on it, he can’t come up with a solution.

Though Minoru knows that finding a fourth won’t necessarily make them choose him over Tokoyami, there is a part of him that still thinks that might help. As it is, he can think of nothing, and he remembers just how lost of a cause he is, and how lucky it would have been for this to have worked out the way he wanted it to. It’s only natural that he screwed things up without realizing it, or assumed that there was more to the relationship, and that he’s back to being alone, possibly forever.
Who would want to be with him, anyway?

~X~

“Mineta?”

Minoru isn’t particularly close with Tokoyami, and never has been, even before he became overwhelmingly jealous. This is possibly the first time he’s approached him one on one, and it comes as a surprise. “What is it?”

“Do you have a minute?”

“I guess,” he mumbles. “What do you need?”

“Would you like to walk with me?” To his credit, this seems just as awkward to Tokoyami as it feels for Minoru.

“Uh...sure?” He knows he’s being rude, but he sees no reason to be polite to his replacement. Still, he follows along, curious about what Tokoyami has to say.

“I’m not really sure why they asked me to do this but…” He pauses, sighing. “You’ve distanced yourself from both Asui and Shoji recently, haven’t you?”

“I dunno what you’re talking about,” Minoru lies. He’s pulled back from both of them considerably, not sure why he should bother pretending anymore. After all, he already knows that he lost his chance with both of them, right?

“They’re both kind of concerned about you.” Again Tokoyami pauses, and Minoru wonders just how difficult this is for him. Seriously, why would either of them send Tokoyami to talk to him like this? “If you really don’t want anything to do with them anymore, then that’s fine, but I think they both assumed that you...that they…”

“That I, that they, what?” he snaps, not meaning to let himself get angry. “Cos, I kinda thought I knew what was going on with them for a while, but I guess I was wrong about that. So what did they ‘assume’, exactly?”

Now, a hint of a smile- which looks so weird, but Minoru knows that’s beside the point- breaks out across Tokoyami’s...face? Beak? “I’m sure what you thought and what they thought aren’t that different.”

“That’s total bull,” he mutters, “because now they have you.”

“And yet Uraraka and Midoriya have room for both Bakugo and Iida.”

“Huh?”

“Just think about it,” is all Tokoyami says. “I should probably get going. I’m really not good at this, so I’m sure it’d be better if you guys talked it out yourselves.”

It takes Minoru an embarrassing amount of time to figure out exactly what it is that Tokoyami is trying to tell him.

~X~

Their class is an unusual one, and everywhere he looks, as relationships start to form, Minoru finds few examples of a traditional sedoretu. Yaoyorozu and Todoroki still haven’t found anyone to join
them, while Ashido seems perfectly content with both Aoyama and Sero, while Hagakure does the same with Ojiro and Sato. In fact, though it’s hard to tell this early on, Jiro, Kaminari, and Koda might be following suit in that same unusual pattern, one that seems to have started with Midoriya and his friends.

It’s not like their class is the first in the history of mankind to do things differently, either. There’s just always been a traditional way to do things, and that’s always been the way Minoru expected it to go for him, as well. Now, he feels a little dense, not realizing that Tokoyami was never his replacement, but rather, the other Morning, and the fourth they needed to complete things.

It might not be forever; it might not last beyond high school and it might not even last until their second year. There’s no guarantee that he’s going to marry any of these people, but even if it’s just for a short time, Minoru is so happy to finally have something, and to know that he wasn’t a lost cause, not completely.

He has Mezo and he has Tsuyu, and he has Fumikage, a very unlikely friend who proves to be just as important to him as the other two. The four of them, at least for the time being, are perfectly content.

End Notes

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