After intense pressure from his peers and a talk from All Might himself, Izuku decides to not take the U.A. entrance exam and chooses to back off from pursuing his Pro Hero dreams. But when a new neighbor offers him to help get into an unlikely type of school, Izuku decides to take his chances and wants to see where this opportunity goes.

Months go by and Izuku is happy in his new high school. But unbeknownst to him during his new school's promotion of a new production at U.A., some from class 1-A recognize him...
thanks to one strong performance.

Notes

This work is the result of being very invested with both BNHA and Broadway musicals. All mentioned BNHA characters and Broadway musicals/songs mentioned belong and should be credited to their respective owners. Original characters in this work is of the author's property.
Coming back from school, Izuku pulled the door open to his apartment complex. Today was pretty uneventful, which was a godsend for him when most days had something bad in store for him - usually coming from Kacchan or one of his cronies.

Ever since he revealed his intention to take the U.A. exams to Kacchan, the bullying towards him seemed to intensify and he became even more of a quirkless pariah. He did not want to open the issue with his mom as he was worried that the torment directed to him would only get worse. Not only that, he would have drag his mother into another stressful situation. All Might, after saving him, said yesterday he cannot go because the entrance exams were very intense - dangerous for someone quirkless like him. What more if it was actual training? The truth was tough but he dealt with the facts. His middle school years were ending, the horizon just up ahead. Izuku can finally look forward to start fresh in another school.

When the green-haired teen got to the air-conditioned space in the ground floor lobby of the apartment, his thoughts shifted to the wall of mailboxes. He took out the corresponding spare key from his key ring and opened the mailbox. It contained nothing out of the ordinary, they were just bills addressing their utility, phone, and credit card expenses.

He took the envelopes from the metal container and placed them inside his bag, to be given to his mother later when she gets home from work.

As he closed their apartment unit’s mailbox, Izuku’s hindsight caught a tall, cap-wearing figure who was clearly struggling with a couple of heavy packages coming his way.

“Excuse me? Do you need help with that?” Izuku managed to spout out, catching the attention of the struggling person.

“That would be really nice. Thanks!” The tall, hooded figure told Izuku while stopping. The short freckled male noted the figure had a bit of an accent in the way he talked Japanese. When the tall stranger placed his boxes on the floor and stood up to face him, Izuku noted the guy was definitely not from Japan.

The tall male standing in front of the short, green-haired boy had a bright, boyish smile.

In addition to the smile and his height, Izuku noted that the foreign teen seemed to work out and took care of his body - just like Kacchan has been doing recently. The sleeves of the fitted blue hooded shirt he was wearing unwittingly emphasized the stranger’s biceps; the fabric stretching around the taut, cool white skin. The tall stranger had grey eyes, framed by a kind looking rectangular face.

If Izuku was being honest to himself right now, he is internally freaking out in why he noticed those
features belonging to a guy. Before, he only noticed how cute girls are. But recently, he found himself drawn to boys too. Why was he drawn by this stranger’s (admittedly attractive) features?

“Should I leave now or...?”

The stranger’s teasing voice snapped Izuku out of his trance.

“Um, I’m so sorry about that! It’s just um... well it’s been a while since someone in my age group actually has talked to me. Oh crap, I didn’t mean to um- uh...!”

The taller teen seemed amused. “It’s fine and those people who choose to not talk to you seem to be assholes then. I’m Raleigh by the way, Raleigh K. Ticonderoga. I moved here a week ago from Brooklyn, New York. I’m staying with my aunt ‘til I finish arts high school here in Musutafu or at least that’s the initial plan anyway.”

“I’m Midoriya but you can call me Izuku!” He introduced himself. “As you can tell by my uniform, I just got home from school. I was picking up some mail for my mom so she wouldn’t have to deal with getting it later when she gets home.”

“Ah...” Raleigh acknowledged, nodding.

“Oh! Um... should we take your stuff and go to your apartment?” Izuku asked Raleigh. “I could be wasting your time.”

“Nah, my aunt’s not coming home ‘til later tonight.” Raleigh said. “But the help would be nice though. I can technically carry these things easily but I couldn’t see the frickin’ doors - the main reason why I’m having a hard time with the packages.”

“Where do you live?” Izuku politely inquired as he picked up the ‘lighter’ box - which was pretty hefty itself. He can only imagine much weight the other male was carrying.

“5th Floor, apartment 511,” Raleigh answered as he picked up the heavier package with practiced ease.

“Oh,” Izuku was pleasantly surprised. “My mom and I live a couple of units down. We live in Apartment 514!”
“Cool!” Raleigh smiled. “I guess I can officially say that I now know someone in the Land of the Rising Sun.”

Smiling, Izuku led Raleigh to the elevators. The waiting and ride did not take long. Eventually, the freckled male found himself standing in front of the American teen’s main apartment door.

Izuku looked around and noted that the place was tastefully designed and the some of the materials looked and felt expensive. The only unsightly items in the unit were multiple boxes stacked in the living room. The short, green-haired teen placed the package he was carrying on top of the coffee table before making himself comfortable on the rather large couch.

“Sorry about the state of the place,” Raleigh apologized, placing his package on the floor. “The moving boxes just got here two days ago and I still haven’t gotten through some of them.”

When Raleigh pulled off his cap, Izuku noted that his thick wavy blonde hair was stylized in a curly quiff; his hair being shorter on the back and sides while it was a medium length on top. After that observation, Izuku decided to not look at Raleigh for too long.

“It’s alright,” Izuku said of the boxes. “Must be tiring to move to this side of the planet, huh?”

“No kidding,” Raleigh confirmed. “Anyways, want anything? We have some mango juice and apple pie...”

“No, I’m fine,” Izuku declined. “I don’t feel hungry at all.”

“Alright,” Raleigh said before sitting down beside Izuku. “So, um, what’s your quirk?”

“I don’t have one,” The green-haired male said quickly.

“I’m sorry, what was that?” Raleigh tried comprehending.

“I don’t have a quirk,” Izuku said, slower this time. He was really disappointed with himself due to that very fact - the very same fact which crushed his dreams to become a pro hero in the first place. “Look, I’m really sorry about me not having a quirk...”
Raleigh was confused. “Izuku, what are you sorry for? We literally just met and you haven’t done anything to me.”

“It’s just that... back at school, the others would make fun of the fact I don’t have a quirk. It’s also the reason why nobody would want to become my friend or even talk to me...”

Raleigh was taken aback by this, “Hold up. You being quirkless is the main reason why no one in your class or in the entire school would want to become your friend?”

“Yes,” Izuku sheepishly answered.

“Alright man,” Raleigh whistled before continuing to talk. “From this point on, we’re now friends.”

“You don’t have to...” Izuku tried.

“The hell I want to,” Raleigh reaffirmed. “Izuku, listen to me. You’re not a freak. You’re certainly different from a large portion of the world’s population right now but definitely no less human. Got that?”

Izuku just quickly nodded.

“So since we’re now officially buddies in the span of 20 minutes, I have to ask, do you have any high school in mind?” Raleigh inquired.

“Either U.A.’s hero department or general education departments. If it doesn't work out, I’m trying to look for a high school where I can at least start fresh... away from people who I know in middle school preferably.” Izuku told Raleigh. "I already have some in mind but I do want something more... I don't know... different or exciting?"

“At least you’re willing,” Raleigh said, patting Izuku’s back. “U.A.’s a very tough school to get in for anyone, really. But I may have a proposition for you if you're craving for something different but won't break your bones...”

“What is it?”

“Have you ever considered attending an arts school?” Raleigh floated.

“Never,” Izuku honestly answered, shaking his head.

“Well, if you recall in the lobby earlier, I’ll be going to an arts high school here,” Raleigh said.
“Specifically, Musutafu's Metropolitan High School of the Arts.”

“You must be really creative then,” Izuku did not really know anything about arts schools.

“While I love performing in theatre and am confident in my abilities as an artist, I particularly excel in dancing.” Raleigh smiled. “I have to thank my quirks for that.”

“Quirks?” Izuku said again. He noticed it was plural instead of singular.

“Oh yeah,” Raleigh said, nervously rubbing his temple. “My quirks are U.H.S.C.S. and shock absorption. I’m one of those ‘rare’ dual quirk wielders out there.”

Izuku knew what the quirk shock absorption does - it basically allows any individual to absorb the shock generated by physical blows. The individual with said quirk can even attack back through firing a recoil, forcing back the energy. However, Izuku does know that there is a limit on how much impact one person or the quirk can take.

The green-haired male is definitely more interested in the quirk whose name requires an acronym.

“What does your other quirk do?” Izuku was very curious.


Izuku immediately took his notebook and pen out from his back pack. He was ready to jot down notes. “What does your skeleton quirk do?”

“While pretty much every human out there has a skeletal system made out of calcium, mine is radically different,” Raleigh started explaining. “While you can’t see it, all of the bones in my body, from head to toe, is made out of a mix of carbon fiber reinforced carbon and metallic alloy composites... I’m 6’2” but this helps me not only be lighter than most guys in the same height but be more durable and have enhanced strength and agility as well.”

Izuku wrote down Raleigh’s quirk on his notebook. He never heard of someone having a composite skeleton quirk before. He did wonder how did it and his shock absorption quirk help the blonde boy in his dancing abilities.

“How do your quirks help you in dancing?”

“I can lift girls more easily and if I fall, I can take the brunt of an impact and shrug it off,” Raleigh
said. “Thanks to those two, I can afford to be flexible but not be afraid in breaking something. I still need to warm up and stretch my muscles before performing though.”

Izuku wrote all of that in his special notebook. “You really do have two amazing quirks.”

“I think the same can also be said about you writing down everything about my quirks,” Raleigh smiled. “If you don’t mind, can I see your notebook?”

“Oh, sure...”

Raleigh poured over the worn pages. The notes were well detailed and they were accompanied by rather detailed pictures of pro heroes based in the city. He was impressed that Izuku put in this much effort in a simple notebook.

“This is impressive man. It’s really convincing me more that you should apply at the arts school I’m going to...”

“I’m not creative!” Izuku exclaimed.

“Not true from what I’m looking at,” Raleigh said, not tearing his eyes away from the pages.

“I don’t even have anything planned for arts school...”

“True,” Raleigh said, giving the notebook but to the shorter male. “And while these sketches are nice, I need to speak the truth that there will be a lot of people who have an edge over you already since they’ll go all out just to get in the school I’ve applied at...”

“You’ve been accepted already?”

“Yeah,” Raleigh admitted. “While their application period is over, the good news is that you still have a shot in their ‘The Works’ summer production program. If you blow them away during that summer workshop, you’ll no doubt convince them into accepting you...”

“Do you think I have what it takes?” Izuku asked, looking down on the hardwood floor.

“You seem to be the type of guy to push yourself regardless of your quirkless being,” Raleigh described him. “Plus those notes and sketches in your notebook indicate that you want to make yourself happy first - not giving a damn about what other people think of it. That’s important in being an artist. You know, art for art’s sake.”
“Can I sleep on the idea first?” Izuku requested.

“Yeah,” Raleigh told him. “I did just lay all of this on you but I think it’s nice to have options. Just think about it, okay? But before you think about it, here are the details and a plan to get you in the school...”

“Arts school?” Inko told him before she drank her glass of water.

It was a typical night in the Midoriya household. Inko and Izuku were having a quaint but tasty dinner. But just as expected, his mom sounded genuinely surprised at the prospect of him attending an arts high school.

“Yeah,” Izuku said.

“What made you think about applying? Haven't you always wanted to go to U.A.?”

“You know about that foreigner who lives a couple units down from us?” Izuku asked his mom. She nodded. “Well, I met her nephew, Raleigh, when I was getting the mail. They have a really nice place by the way. We hung out for a bit in his place and he got me thinking if I should go to the arts high school he applied to. The fact I actually met All Might on my way home yesterday and told me not to apply to U.A. when he saved me from a sludge monster thing kinda made me think about it after I left his place..."

“What arts school is this, sweetie?” Inko asked. “And her nephew speaks Japanese?”

“Metropolitan High School of the Arts,” Izuku said. “And yeah, he speaks Japanese fluently with a bit of an accent. Apparently his English has a Brooklyn accent too, he makes it disappear when he sings or performs on stage though.”

“I've seen your amazing drawings so I don’t see why you shouldn’t,” his mother offered.

“Raleigh told me that but warned me because it was very competitive if I try to apply with my drawings,” Izuku said to his mom. “To increase my chances, I have a shot into this school through ‘The Works,’ the Metropolitan’s summer production.”

“What do they do at this production?”

“Basically, they make a musical production. Raleigh said that he can train me to get the basics of
“Well, you do move pretty fast,” Inko entertained with a smile. “And since it’s like you’re asking me, I don’t see why you shouldn’t try out. I know you have other high schools to back you up if this doesn’t go the way you want it too... but I know you work hard so I have a gut feeling you’ll pull this off.”

“Thanks mom,” Izuku smiled.

“You deserve every opportunity to start over,” Inko told him. “I know its been rough for you - especially after you had to accept the fact U.A. will never accept you but if this is a possibility to start fresh, you can count on me that I’ll have your back... now, what pizza do you want to order? I’m honestly still starving.”

“As long it has bacon and mushrooms on it, I’m not going to complain.”

**Later that night...**

As Izuku put on a fresh set of night clothes, he’s phone suddenly rang. He took it off from the charging cable and picked it up. The caller ID said it was Raleigh trying to contact him.

He tapped the green call button. “Hello?”

“Hey man,” Raleigh greeted. “I have some news for you about the summer production.”

“What’s the news?”

“The Metropolitan will be doing a production of *Dear Evan Hansen* this year’s *The Works*,” Raleigh said. “When we first met, you kinda gave off this vibe of being a pretty anxious, nervous guy. Then when they just announced they’ll be doing this musical a few minutes ago on social media, I thought you’d be perfect for the part of Evan, the musical’s protagonist.”

“Me as the lead?!” Izuku’s voiced hitched up. “I don’t know if I can do that. Plus I’m not that great of a singer either, let alone act!”

“That's why I'm gonna teach you! At least with what I know...” Raleigh said on the other side of the line. “Wanna give it a whirl at least?”
A couple of weeks has passed during Izuku’s crash course theatre training with Raleigh. In that period, he tried out for auditions and has gotten some callbacks. It was only a few days before the final one. He was surprised that he has gotten this far and it was no wonder why Raleigh had a lot of confidence in him, saying he has a ton of potential.

They were sitting beside each other on the bed in Izuku’s All-Might themed room. Both were trying to hone in Izuku’s expression and tone in his voice as they went over the script. As they were going over the material, something immediately catches the freckled teen’s eyes.

“I have to kiss someone?!?!?” Izuku exclaimed as he read a part of the script.

“Yeah, Evan has a crush on Zoe Murphy. In one scene, you and another girl have to make out. I know this because I actually watched the Broadway production of it.” The tall blonde boy simply explained to him.

“I don’t know if I can do this... I haven’t kissed anyone before!”

“Given your history of a bunch of assholes pickin’ on you, I ain’t surprised,” Raleigh said.

“Actually, there’s also another thing.” Izuku breathed. He was trying to calm himself down. “Can I ask you and that you won’t punch me for it?”

“What is it?” Raleigh green-lighted.

“Is it wrong to like girls and boys at the same time?”

Izuku was not prepared for Raleigh’s quick answer. “Oh, so you’re a bisexual like me then...”

“What?”

“Dude, I’m into guys as much as I am into girls.” Raleigh smiled as he put the script to the side. “So to actually answer your question briefly, it’s not wrong. How’d you notice though?”

“I met this girl at a convenience store a few months ago and I thought she was really cute and super nice. Thanks to her anti-gravity quirk, she saved me from falling when I nearly tripped on this guy’s tail,” Izuku said doing the same to his script. “I was so nervous because a girl never talked to me before... then throughout the year, I kinda noticed my old friend Kacchan like have really nice arms and um... abs when he started working out. Then you came along and I also thought you have a really nice, athletic body.”
Raleigh blushed at the last sentence. “The last one is a bit of a surprise... and an honor because I think you’re pretty cute too...”

“I mean I like you but not *that* way.” Izuku clarified. “You’re still attractive though! It’s just that I’ve been looking at boys a lot longer than I should be and it’s honestly freaking me out!”

“Oh thank god, you said it first,” Raleigh said with relief before realizing what he said. “What I meant to say is that... same. I like you too and I also think your cute but we’re better off as friends. And it’s natural, I thought I was straight too then came along me staring at cute guys far longer than I should’ve been which sort of terrified the living daylights out of me at the start...”

“How did you deal with it?” Izuku asked.

“Let it be? It’s kinda hard to explain because we queers have different experiences that varies a lot between people,” Raleigh said.

“And to think I’ve actually thought of having a wife,” Izuku smiles to himself. “Now that could be a wife or a husband.”

“‘One of the biggest lies I ever believed? That I was straight’,” Raleigh joked.

Izuku playfully hit Raleigh’s side. Both males were laughing until they locked eyes. Green orbs staring into gray ones. The freckled teen noticed the other’s cheeks were tinted with a light rose.

Out of instinct, the smaller boy suddenly threw his arms around Raleigh and pressed their lips together. Izuku pulls away, blushing furiously, it was clear that Raleigh was still in a state out of his shock at the sudden act of affection.

“I am so, so sorry. I didn’t even ask you first-”

His stammering apology is cut off by Raleigh’s lips on his. Izuku returns the kiss back, unable to remember the last time he has felt this happy. He feels Raleigh’s hands move, one to cup his face while another cards a hand through the his hair. It was pretty evident that Raleigh was more experienced and Izuku was very much new to all of this as he cannot help the pleased groans that escape from his lips.
Raleigh pulls apart in what Izuku considers a far too short moment. When Izuku’s eyes open, he sees a pair of gray eyes staring back at him, his hand still tangled within blonde locks. The green-haired boy then removed his hand from the wavy hair of the American teen.

“So, was I good?” Raleigh asked.

“I’m supposed to ask that you know,” Izuku giggled. “I wanted to know if I did well in my first time.”

“A bit inexperienced but it’s a start,” Raleigh leaned back. “And if you ask me in the context of ‘who’s your first kiss’ though, the first person I ever did it with was a girl named Shelby Chandler. It ended in disaster since we both fell in a fountain and she never spoke to me after that. But when it comes to making out with guys, you’re actually my first.”

“Oh...”

“And I’m really surprised how similar it is,” Raleigh said. “But back to my original question, was I good?”

“Um yeah, you were!” Izuku confirmed. “You seem to know what you’re doing.”

“That’s experience I guess,” Raleigh concludes. The air was suddenly silent between them.

“Are we still friends after this?” Izuku inquired.

“Totally,” Raleigh reassured him. “We still need you to get into that school. And think about it this way, at least you now have some experience in making out. Besides, if you’re going to have your first kiss, you might as well do it with someone you know who has your back.”

“But I’m going to be doing this with a girl!” Izuku reminded him. “That I don’t even know!”

“Like what I said, as your fellow bisexual, making out with either is very similar as I just found out,” Raleigh stated. “The only difference I can tell is that your lips are a bit dry? Then again, a lot of girls - and guys even - these days put on a ton of stuff on their faces to have hashtag ‘influencer-level’ skin.”

“Um, in the musical, do I really have to do kiss this ‘Zoe’ character?”

“Yeah, and you’re not escaping that,” The tall blonde smiled. “From what I saw in the Music Box
Theatre where Dear Evan Hansen is running, the character you’re vying for - Evan - briefly comes onto Zoe. Kinda like what you did to me.”

“So I am going to do what I did to you but with a girl?!” Izuku panicked.

“Less forceful and a tad more desperate though,” Raleigh added.

“What’s so funny?” Izuku was weirded out when the other male started laughing to himself.

“I’ve suddenly remembered the shit load of fan art where Evan Hansen is bisexual as fuck,” Raleigh said. “When you get the part, and you will, you’re practically making that fan theory come to life. Wanna see all the fanart on my Pinterest?”

Izuku, with nothing to lose, just shrugged and tossed the script to the side. He was definitely not prepared for what he was about to see.

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“MOM, I GOT IT!” Izuku said as he blitzed through his bedroom door.

“Got what?” Inko said, putting down a fresh tray of brownies on the kitchen countertop. His son suddenly shoved the screen of his phone to her face.

“I got the part!” Izuku excitedly said. “I got casted to become the lead!”

“Oh my... HONEY, I’M SO PROUD OF YOU!”

Within a couple of seconds, the Midoriyas were balling their eyes out. Inko was extremely thankful that his son finally had a win, a win that she felt her son desperately needed after what he has gone through in junior high. While this was Izuku’s victory, she also felt that she had won too because she has not seen her son felt this joyful in a long time. It was refreshing to say the least.

Their happy crying fest was interrupted with a knock on the door. Composing themselves, Izuku strides to the front door and opened it to see Raleigh standing on the other side.
“Sup 'Evan Hansen,' I also got the news,” Raleigh said. “Judgin' by your cheeks and tear stains, you’ve just started balling your eyes out...”

“Me and my mom actually,” Izuku revealed as he stepped aside. “Come in, I want you to meet my mom!”

“Oh sure!”

Izuku lead his friend in the quaint apartment. The green-haired male heard the familiar closing of the bathroom door. Out from the hallway was Inko who had composed and refreshed herself.

“Mom,” Izuku called out. “This is Raleigh, the guy I’ve been talking about.”

“So you’re the fabled friend my son’s been talking about,” Inko told their guest. “He never mentioned you being such a handsome young man!”

“Mom!” Izuku groaned.

“That’s probably because I’m from not this country but thanks Midoriya-san!” Raleigh beamed. “I’ll take compliments whenever I can get them.”

Inko thought the day could not have gone any better. His son had an actual friend. Maybe this musical thing was actually the opportunity he needed to start anew again.

“Well Raleigh, would you like to stay for some brownies?” Inko offered. “I would like to hear how you met my son and how you trained him to get the part...”

“I’d love to tell everything,” Raleigh accepted. “No way I’m passing up free food.”

(Of course,” Izuku rolled his eyes with a smile.

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A few days before his first day at U.A., Todoroki found himself being dragged by his friend
Yaoyorozu Momo to the Musutafu Metropolitan High School of the Arts. The school - the Metropolitan or the Met as it was known around the city - is renowned for its Broadway-style productions and Momo wanted to see if it lived up to the hype. She has been to New York City and various parts of the world after all. While, this is Todoroki’s first time seeing a live Western musical, it was both of their first time coming into the school. Going in, however, they were greeted by a building going through the throes of renovation.

While the half-cold, half-hot quirk wielder was definitely unsure about this him to see some high school production of a New York Musical, he soon found himself being engaged in the story that was being unfolded in front of him. Good thing both of he and Momo were fluent in English. But it’s a person who stood out to Todoroki the most. He was so adorable yet his small body hid a very powerful voice and delivered an emotionally charged performance. His (actually natural) green hair is a bit of a bonus considering how his Evan character loves forests and trees - practically an acorn as one of the other characters pointed out.

Momo had actually seen the play when she was in New York, however, she would patiently and quietly explain to him what was going on if he could not quite make out what was happening.

“Oh, they’re about to close Act I of the show,” Momo said as she quickly glanced at her Apple Watch before looking to Todoroki. “You’re going to love this song. It’s very uplifting...”

“It’s a beautiful production but do you know who’s playing the Evan guy? He’s really good,” Todoroki pointed out.

“Let’s grab a playbill later, that way, we can know all the cast members.” His gorgeous friend said to him.

Todoroki turned back to the stage after Momo’s suggestion. If he was honest, Momo is very pretty but he found himself not interested in her. Nothing wrong with her of course, she was everything anyone could want in a person. But here he was, enamored by a short, green-haired freckled teenage boy who had a stunning voice. He played his character as if it was him, like they were one.

Music started playing and all eyes were on the guy playing Evan Hansen. Todoroki was watching intently.

The green-haired boy started:
[Evan]

Have you ever felt like nobody was there?
Have you ever felt forgotten in the middle of nowhere?
Have you ever felt like you could disappear?
Like you could fall, and no one would hear?

[Evan, spoken]

"But see, see the thing is when I looked up Connor was there
That was the gift he gave me, to show me that I wasn't alone
To show me that I mattered Everybody does
That's the gift that he gave all of us I just wish, I wish I could have given that to him..."

[Evan, sung]

Well, let that lonely feeling wash away
Maybe there’s a reason to believe you’ll be okay
‘Cause when you don’t feel strong enough to stand
You can reach, reach out your hand

And oh, someone will coming running
And I know, they’ll take you home

Even when the dark comes crashing through
When you need a friend to carry you
And when you’re broken on the ground
You will be found

So let the sun come streaming in
‘Cause you’ll reach up and you’ll rise again
Lift your head and look around
You will be found
You will be found
You will be found
You will be found
You will be found

[Alana, spoken]
"Have you seen this? Someone put a video of your speech online."

[Evan, spoken]
"My speech?"

[Alana, spoken]
"People started sharing it, I guess, and now, I mean—Connor is everywhere."

[Jared, spoken]
"Your speech is everywhere. This morning, The Connor Project page, it only had 56 people following it."

[Jared, spoken]
"Four thousand five-hundred eighty-two..."

[Cynthia, spoken]
"Sixteen thousand two-hundred and thirty-nine"

[Evan, spoken]
"I don’t understand, what happened?"
[Cynthia, spoken]
"You did!"

[Alana, sung]
There’s a place where we don’t have to feel unknown
And every time that you call out
You’re a little less alone

[Jared, sung]
If you only say the word

[Jared and Alana]
From across the silence Your voice is heard

[Community Voices, spoken]
"Oh my god."
"Everybody needs to see this."

"I can't stop watching this video."
"Seventeen years old."

"Take five minutes."
"This will make your day"

[Company]
Ah, Ah, Ah
Ah, ah
Someone will come running
Ah, ah, ah
Ah, ah, ah
Someone will come running
Ah, ah

Someone will come running To take you home
(To take you home)
Someone will come running
To take you home
(To take you home)
(To take you home)

[Community Voices, spoken]
"Share it with the people you love."
"Repost."
"The world needs to hear this."
"A beautiful tribute—"
"Favorite."

"I know someone who really needed to hear this today, so thank you Evan Hansen, for doing what you're doing"

"I never met you Connor, but coming on here, reading everyone's posts... It's so easy to feel alone, but Evan is exactly right—we're not alone, none of us."

"We're not alone, none of us."
"None of us."
"None of us are alone."
"Like. Forward."
"Especially now, with everything that you hear in the news—"

"Like. Share. Repost. Forward."

"Thank you Evan Hansen, for giving us a space to remember Connor."

"To be together."
"To find each other."


"Thank you, Evan Hansen."

[Community Voices, overlapping]

“Repost”

“Thank you Evan”

“Thank you Evan Hansen”

“This video is...”

“Thanks to Evan”

“This is about…”

“Thank you”

“Evan Hansen”

[Company, sung]

Even when the dark comes crashing through
When you need a friend to carry you
When you’re broken on the ground
You will be found

So let the sun come streaming in
’Cause you’ll reach up and you’ll rise again
If you only look around
You will be found (You will be found)
You will be found (You will be found)
You will be found

Out of the shadows
The morning is breaking
And all is new, all is new
It's filling up the empty

And suddenly I see that
All is new, all is new

You are not alone
You are not alone
You are not alone
You are not alone
You are not alone
You are not alone (You are not alone)
You are not alone (You are not alone)
You are not
You are not alone (You are not alone)

[Zoe, sung]
Even when the dark comes crashin' through
When you need someone to carry you
When you’re broken on the ground

[Company, sung]
You will be found!
So let the sun come streaming in
'Cause you’ll reach up and you’ll rise again
If you only look around

You will be found
Since the place Momo picked out for them was eye-leveled with the stage, Todoroki suddenly found himself locking eyes with the green-haired boy when the song ended. Todoroki was surprised for a minute before the light faded into the darkness with the boy.

When the stage light came on, it was devoid of any people. But when the theatre’s lights came on, it was clear that the closing song made everyone around him emotional. People were crying and hugging each other. He proceeded to hug Momo, who was also crying.

“It’s just as beautiful as I remembered,” she commented while sniffling before she returning the hug.

“It really is,” Todoroki said. It made him grateful to have Momo by his side and supportive siblings. He just wished Touya was with them, and their mother too. But he’s thankful that he at least has some people to turn too other than his family when the going gets rough.

He will definitely now get a playbill for the musical. He has to find out the name of the boy (and other cast members, of course) who made everyone cry in the room.

At another part of the theatre...

“Would you kids care for a tissue?” a middle-aged woman with green hair offered.
“Thank you so much ma’am,” Kirishima said as he grabbed one to his tears. “I’ll get two actually because my friend Mina here also needs it.”

Mina took the tissue from Kirishima as she needed was overwhelmed with emotion right now. “It’s so beautiful!”

“I’m guessing my son knocked it out of the park,” The green-haired lady said.

“That was your son?” The spiky redhead said while comforting the pink figure beside him. “The one playing with the broken arm?!?”

The lady nodded.

“Izuku thought about applying at U.A. but a pro hero stopped him due to him being quirkless. It would be almost impossible for him to get accepted in either the hero or general education departments since he didn’t have a quirk. He didn’t have a lot of friends too because of it. Then a new American neighbor, who’s now his best friend, offered him this opportunity which all leads to him standing on that stage right now.”

“Wow,” is what all Kirishima can say. “Things changed for the better, huh?”

“It did, I’m glad Izuku will be attending this school,” The lady said. “He needed a fresh start...”

After what Kirishima had experienced in junior high, he too can relate with the woman’s son. He feels U.A. is going to be that school that will provide him a clean slate to start with and a new path to explore. A new path that will eventually land him to become a pro hero just like his idol Crimson Riot - maybe even better. He feels bad for the son of the lady because he got into the school of his dreams while her son did not even have a shot because he was quirkless. Now that he thought about it, he had never met anyone who was quirkless.

The company of this musical, Kirishima thinks to himself, are heroes. While heroes can tangibly fight against evil in the form of villains and bad guys, these actors are drawing attention to a social problem that should be addressed and acknowledged by everyone. In the end, Kirishima believes these actors could actually be saving real human lives.

“Ma’am, can I have more?” Mina requested. “I feel like I need to let something out in my nose.”
Kirishima was surprised when the woman’s box of tissue landed in his lap. “You’re too kind ma’am but we don’t need all of this...”

“Nonsense,” the woman dismissed with a smile. “My son told me that this musical will have a lot of emotion so I brought three boxes for myself since I’m a quite a crier. Don’t worry, I have two more boxes for myself...”

“Thank you so much!” Both Kirishima and Mina said in unison.
Meet the Metropolitans

Chapter Summary

A talk with Tokage causes Sen to think and come up with a gift for his boyfriend (and work assistant) Kosei. Izuku and his castmates arrive at U.A. to promote their latest production while someone in 1-A treats everyone in the class to see the actual show. Todoroki meets Izuku for the first time during an unlikely encounter.

Chapter Notes

I had a lot of fun making this chapter, I hope you people have a lot of fun reading it. :)

See the end of the chapter for more notes

1-B Dorms, dining area, morning

"Your phone’s been going off all morning. Who’s trying to contact you? It’s your secret lover, isn’t it?" Tokage playfully accused. "Wouldn’t your boyfriend be hurt?"

“No, it’s those guys at that arts school.” Kaibara stated matter-of-factly. “Remember when I was gone for most of Saturday last week? It’s because of them. They’re also the reason why I’m 90 percent hunched over my computer lately.”

“Why are they contacting you all of a sudden?” The sociable lizard girl said as she took a seat beside him.

“They’re ready to give me the money that they owe me for my photography work,” Kaibara told her. “Thanks to them, I can finally afford that new mirrorless camera and some lenses I’ve been eyeing for a while.”

“Oh, so that ‘work with me’ line and email contact on your Instagram account actually worked?" Tokage asked.

The raven-haired boy was confused. “It’s been working for a while now. Haven’t you guys notice me and Kosei leaving on weekends a lot more frequently?”

“Oh, I actually thought you two would go somewhere else so he can fuck you in private,” Tokage bluntly said.
“Okay fine, we may sometimes do things that are not related to work,” Kaibara reluctantly admitted, face as red as a tomato. “But if we’re gonna do any of that stuff, it’s at either one of our houses and not somewhere public or sketchy. However, in the name that is Shiozaki Ibara, I can swear for the both of us we mostly work.”

“It’s actually nice you’re getting some,” She said with a smirk. He just rolled his eyes at the statement. “But what does your boyfriend do when he’s with you at work?”

“He moves some stuff around, carries my lenses, and provides emergency filters,” Kaibara said.

“Emergency filters?”

“You know how Kosei can make solid air for capture and defense purposes, right?” Kaibara asked to Tokage. She nodded. “Apparently, his solid air quirk is useful for photography too. In fact, if you give him some food coloring, his solid air panes can have certain hues. The more food coloring Kosei has in his mouth, the more intense the shade of his air panes...”

“Is that the reason why you have food coloring in your room?” The green-haired girl said.

“It’s the only reason why I have those,” Kaibara said. “Depending on the time of day, setting, and client, I carry some but not all food coloring in my camera bag.”

“What sort of work did you guys do for them?” Tokage inquired.

“For the latest client, we did a ton of headshots,” Kaibara answered. “The photo session had two themes: theatrical with dramatic lightning and all natural light. I’m gonna be paid by how many pictures I took.”

“Sounds fancy and pricey. How much did you charge ‘em?”

“I gave them a 20 percent discount because there were a lot of them and the fact that they even provided background and lighting equipment,” Kaibara recalled. “I’m still going to make real good money though.”

“How good?” Tokage asked with a wicked smile.

Kaibara brought up his phone and opened up the calculator app. He made some quick number crunching but clutched his phone towards his body before showing the final amount.

“Promise me first you’ll shut up and not share this to anyone else. Kosei doesn’t talk about this to
anyone at all because he knows how I don’t like making a big fuss of things...”

“I cross my heart and pinky swear that I won’t say shit to anyone,” Tokage said while doing the gesture. “Now show me!”

“They’re going to pay me in American dollars by the way,” Kaiabra sighed and revealed the numbers to Tokage. He was not surprised when her jaw dropped.

“Damn,” she whistled before Kaibara cleared the number on the screen. “Even with a discount, you really raking in the cash with that deal, huh?”

“Yeah, but remember, cameras and lenses are expensive as fuck,” Kaibara reminded her. “It’s a good thing I asked for a specific laptop with a high-res screen and long battery life from my parents last Christmas. Most of the money you saw will go to lenses.”

“Speaking of stuff, have you ever gotten something for your boyfriend thanks to your new side job?” Tokage wondered.

The question caught Kaibara a bit off-guard. “Um, now that I think about it... no.”

“Really?” Tokage was surprised by this. “Nothing? At least once?”

“Never,” Kaibara said. “He did tell me it’s fine because he kinda want to see my workstation and equipment get upgraded first.”

“Screw that. At the very least, get him something decent, dude. He makes you happy and works for you, doesn’t he deserve a reward?”

“You’re... you’re right,” Kaibara sighed. “But I don’t know what he wants though. He seems content on what he has...”

“Alright,” Tokage said. “I don’t know what your pansexual boyfriend wants but we can both hit the mall tomorrow. I needed to get Rin an automatic air pump anyway.”

“Why an air pump?”

“Rin said he eventually wants to make Peking Duck for all of us,” Tokage explained. “I just don’t how this fits into his plan of making that for us.”

“I guess we’ll find out soon then.”
Principal Nezu was having some tea in his office when someone knocked at the door. He kindly called out to them.

“Please come in.”

The door opened to reveal two male teenagers, one was significantly taller than the other. From what his nose picked up, Hound Dog was the one who guided the two boys to the office.

“Oh, I didn’t know the principal here was a...” The shorter male said as the door softly closed behind them.

“Am I a mouse, am I a bear, am I a dog?” Nezu cheerfully cut him off. “But the most important thing here... is that I’m the principal!”

“Wow, U.A. really does have everything,” The taller male commented.

“I’m assuming you two are Izuku Midoriya and Raleigh Ticonderoga,” the animal educator said. “The one who will be getting the day passes.”

“Uh, yes,” the short green-haired boy said. “I’m Izuku Midoriya.”

“And I’m Raleigh Ticonderoga,” The tall, blonde American said.

“Well, you may want to wait a little longer.” Nezu kindly said to them. “A teacher is on his way now with the box containing the things your school requested. So while we wait, can we talk about what will happen in your little promotion later?”

“Oh, um sure!” Izuku complied.

“Well Izuku here is a part of the ensemble and he’s also an understudy actually filling in for someone today,” Raleigh said.

“What happened to the main actor?” Nezu asked.

“Taro-san had an awful allergic reaction when he accidentally ate some carrot cake this morning,” Izuku explained. “He’s still with us today to oversee if I’m doing his part right but he’s not going to perform.”
“Since you’re here Mr. Midoriya, don’t you have a part as well?” Nezu said.

“Our dance captain, Brendon Young, appointed a swing to fill in for Izuku’s ensemble part,” Raleigh said.

“Swing?” Nezu pressed further.

“In musicals, they’re performers who fill in the roles of an ensemble member who might be an understudy but is appointed into playing a leading part - like Izuku here - or when one of the other ensemble members is out of commission,” Raleigh explained. “Swings know the different songs, blocking, and dance tracks of multiple members.”

“What are your roles then?”

“I play Tyler Kimble, one of the mathletes. But really, I’m just part of the ensemble,” Izuku revealed. “But today, I’m gonna be playing as Damian Hubbard, one of the main characters.”

“And I play Shane Oman,” Raleigh said. “But like Izuku here, I’m also part of the ensemble and an understudy for the main role of Aaron Samuels.”

“Well, I hope you two and your cast have a wonderful show. I’m confident that you will sell out those tickets in no time,” Nezu calmly cheered them on.

The door suddenly opened. “Nezu, sir...”

“Ah just in time,” Nezu said, his tail moving a bit. “Boys, this is Snipe.”

“Whoa, an actual Pro Hero!” Izuku beamed, absolutely star-struck. “This is so cool!”

“What took him so long to get here though,” Raleigh asked as the freckled teen unsurprisingly took out his notebook and started sketching Snipe on the paper while muttering.

“Probably the new security measures and background checks we’ve applied to the day pass system,” Nezu filled in for Raleigh.

“Is that green-haired kid always like this?” Snipe asked as he moved towards a table to lay down the plastic container he brought.

“Him mumbling and taking in every detail? Yeah,” Raleigh confirmed. “It’s weird but the things he jots down are useful so me and our other friends don’t mind much. We do sometimes stop him.”
“Anyway,” Nezu started. “The cafeteria has been configured in the way you want it to be. The only thing you boys have to do is get the container which has all the day passes, go back to your classmates, and head there.”

As Izuku was done sketching, he looked to the digital clock located on the wall. “I think we should go if we want to put in a couple more rehearsals.”

“Yeah,” The foreigner seconded as Izuku stood up with him. “We need to go. We still need to take in account that we have to change in our costumes before our actual performance.”

“You’re right,” Izuku said as he hid away his notebook.

Raleigh went to pick up the plastic container while the green-haired boy went straight for the door. They both thanked the two adults before leaving the room and going on their way.

“Teaching staff get free tickets right?” The cowboy teacher inquired.

“Of course, they picked us to be the venue after all.”

—[I—I—I—I—I]—

Todoroki is not used to eating with people around him. Aside from Momo, he did not have a lot of friends growing up. But here he was now at U.A., eating with other people - namely Iida, Uraraka, Tsuyu, Shinsou, Ojiro, and Hagakure - at the same table.

They strangely enjoyed his quiet company. Shinsou was pretty quiet too but he talks sometimes, especially if there is something going on in the school or with the staff. Hagakure and Tsuyu seemed to know everything going on in the lives of U.A.’s students. He believes it was best to not cross those three.

However, none of them can answer the elephant in the room or two. It concerned the strange cafeteria table arrangements and the ginormous, electronic menu board that precariously hung above the counters being turned off. The screen was normally on when they ate at Lunch Rush Cafe.

“Does anyone know why the cafeteria tables are arranged this way today?” Uraraka asked. “Like a weirdly wide U-shape or why the screen is even off?”

“Shinsou would have probably said something by now,” Hagakure pointed out. Said sleepy purple headed boy was eating his food. “He normally knows what’s up...”
“I think it has something to do with the people I saw on my way to the bathroom earlier, ribbit,” Tsuyu said. “And since we’re literally beside this weird open space, we’re probably going to see it up close.”

“What sort of people?” Ojiro inquired the frog girl.

“They were all wearing casual outfits, ribbit. But all the girls, from what I saw, were wearing wigs.” Tsuyu described. “Some I think we’re foreign too...”

As the frog girl talked, Todoroki noticed Snipe casually putting two microphone stands in the middle of the wide open space from where he was seated. Not far from where the cowboy was setting up were a group of teens - clearly not from their school - putting up a seemingly complex laptop setup. A dark-skinned girl with Afro hair and a brown-skinned male had one of one of those production headphones, complete with an integrated microphone.

“I think some of you should turn around, something’s clearly about to happen...” Todoroki spoke up.

As some of his tablemates turned around, the screen was now on. But instead of the cafeteria menu, it featured a collection of assorted, doodled pages and not so nice comments written in English that described people featured in it.

“Trang Pak is a grotsky little byotch,” Hagakure read out loud, joy clearly evident in her voice. “Dawn Schweitzer is a fat virgin... Marwan Jitla was ‘accidentally left’ by his parents at a gas station? Tyler Kimble got to second-base with a pool floatie?! Shane Oman is hawt... dumb... but hawt! Rock hard abs. Caitlyn Caussin has... oh my god! That’s hilarious!”

“I just realized... I think it’s unfair Hagakure has the ability to get dirt on everyone and nobody can get dirt on her thanks to her quirk,” Tsuyu commented as she also looked at the giant screen.

“That’s my girlfriend for you,” Ojiro said. “Very few people can prove she actually did something or if she was even there in the first place.”

Suddenly, quite villainous sounding music emanated from the speakers and the picture displayed on the board darkened and the colors turned a negative hue. Everyone in the cafeteria at this point was clearly looking at open space.

As the music approached its end, Todoroki spotted two figures approaching the microphones and he could not believe what he was seeing.

It’s the cute green-haired, freckled boy from the musical Momo dragged him to.
Todoroki notes he’s just as adorable as before. This time he was wearing jeans, a long sleeve plaid shirt, and a t-shirt with a picture of a woman named Carly Rae Jepsen on it.

The boy today was standing beside a grungy American girl who was just slightly shorter than him. As they both stood in front of the microphones, the music stopped.

“Good afternoon U.A. high school!” The green-haired boy cheerfully greeted the school.

“We’re here to talk give you a special preview about something serious...” The girl stated.

“But before we get started,” the freckled boy said. “I should point out that I’m only an understudy filling in for today’s role. The real one is here with us but he had an allergic reaction and can’t go on today’s performance preview.”

“Right! Let’s get this show on the road.” The grunge girl happily took over.

Music suddenly started playing again in the speakers, indicating the start of the preview:

-·-·-·-·-·-

[Janis]
It’s a cautionary tale of fear and lust and pride
Based on actual events where people died

[Damien, spoken]
No one died

[Damien, sung]
But how far would you go
To be popular and hot?
Would you resist temptation?

[Janis]
No, you would not!
Just admit it

[Both]
Sometimes mean is what you are
Mean is easier than nice
And though mean can take you far
Maybe this will make you think twice

[Damien, spoken]
Kick! Layout! Fosse!

[Both, sung]
This is a cautionary tale
About corruption and betrayal!

[Damien]
And getting hit by a bus!

[Janis]
You can’t buy integrity at the mall, it’s not for sale

[Damien, spoken]
Nice!

[Janis, spoken]
Thank you

[Both, sung]
This is a cautionary tale

[Ensemble]
OHHH. OHHH. AYYAYA. AYYAYA

[Damien, spoken]
Our preview begins across the globe in America. America!

Suddenly, the once empty floor space in the big room is filled up with the school’s wheeled cafeteria tables through precision coordination. They were all occupied by casually dressed ‘students.’ A lot of the actors acting students, U.A. people noted, clearly did not originate from Japan.

“They’re really out to give us the American high school experience, huh?” Iida said as he adjusted his glasses. “This is the first time I’ve seen something like this...”

“North Shore...” Uraraka read the blue letters against a yellow background on the screen with a lion
mascot. “Why does that name ring a bell?”

“I think I know what they’re promoting!” Hagakure happily said.

“What is it?” Shinsou pressed.

Shinsou and Uraraka were able to hear the invisible girl’s answer as the same villainous music - but in a different note - played again. The floor space where the performance is being showcased is filled with ominous smoke effects and the screen transitioned from ‘North Shore’ to a pink background.

Out of nowhere, three girls on a cafeteria table moved by two boys came out. One of the girls, a blonde one in an expensive looking white jump suit, was standing in a power pose position. The other stylish two girls who were sitting down seemed to be frozen in action.

Suddenly, another girl with red hair joined the grungy female and the very gay teen the green-haired boy were portraying:

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[Cady, spoken]
Woah. Who is at that table there?

[Damien, spoken]
Don’t look at them, just don’t!

[Damien, sung]
We call those three 'The Plastics'
They're shiny, fake, and hard

[Janis]
They play their little mind games
All around the schoolyard

[Damien]
They might insult your clothing
Or make fun of your name

[Janis]
Like they mocked Jen Morecock
’Til she burst into flames
[Damien, spoken]
And Ms. Morecock was a teacher

[Janis, spoken]
Regina George is the queen bee
She's always dressed up
She always wins Spring Fling Queen
We're just drones who work for her, then die...

[Regina, sung]
My name is Regina George
And I am a massive deal
Fear me, love me
Stand and stare at me
And these, these are real

I've got money and looks
I am, like, drunk with power
This whole school
Humps my leg like a chihuahua

I'm the prettiest poison you've ever seen
I never weigh more than one-fifteen
My name is Regina George
And I am a massive deal
I don't care who you are
I don't care how you feel

[Janis, spoken]
That's Gretchen Wieners, she knows everything about everybody

[Damien, spoken]
That's why her hair is so big, it's full of secrets

[Gretchen, sung]
Yes, Regina
No, Regina
Every waking hour
I spend making sure Regina
George can stay in power

If Regina is the sun
Then I'm a disco ball
'Cause I'm just as bright and fun
If you've had alcohol

I worm your secrets out of you
And bring them to my master
Then I watch Regina make your life a big disaster

[Both Damien and Janis]
Disaster!

[Gretchen]
Regina is the queen
But I'm the head of worker bees
As I am seated at her right hand

[Damien and Gretchen]
Like a Jewish Princess Jesus

[Janis, spoken]
That is Karen Smith:
The dumbest person you will ever meet

[Damien, spoken]
I once saw her put a “D” in the word “orange.”

[Karen, sung]
My name is Karen
My hair is shiny
My teeth are perfect
My skirt is tiny
It barely covers
My perky hiney
My name is Karen
I may not be smart...!
That’s it.

[Regina]
Right
We never really do this
But how would you like to
Have lunch with us this week
[Cady, spoken]
Oh, it's okay, I…

[Regina, sung]
No, no need for you to thank us
There's no need to even speak

[Gretchen]
You're new and you don't know things
You need good friends who can tell you what to think
See you here same time tomorrow

[Karen]
On Wednesdays we wear pink!

[Regina, Gretchen, and Karen]
On Wednesdays we wear pink!

[All overlap]

[Regina]
Here's where you belong
Here's where you belong
Here's where you belong
Here's where you belong

[Gretchen]
Yes, Regina
No, Regina
Every waking hour
I spend making sure Regina
George can stay in power
If Regina is the sun
Then I'm a disco ball
'Cause I'm just as bright and fun
If you've had alcohol

[Karen]
My name is Karen
My hair is shiny
My teeth are perfect
My skirt is tiny
[Regina, Gretchen, and Karen]
Wear something nice and grab a tray
'Cause we don't do this everyday
Say here's where you belong
Say here's where you belong

[Regina, spoken]
No, really. Say it

[Regina, Gretchen, and Karen, sung]
Say here's where you belong!

[Cady, sung] (Simultaneously)
Here’s where I belong!

[Gretchen]
Come sit with us tomorrow
It'll be fetch!

Todoroki heard thunderous applause echo in the room as the music ended. The pink background on the giant screen behind them turned to a sign saying 'The Musutafu Metropolitan High School of the Arts presents the musical production of Mean Girls.’ The ‘Mean Girls’ part being the most prominent with a white, gritty font.

As the clapping died down, Principal Nezu approached the center of the space with his own wireless microphone.

“Good afternoon students! Now, you’re probably all wondering why is this cast and this production is in our school in the first place. To tell you about that and what they have to offer, I call on Izuku Midoriya to tell you all about it.”

“I can’t believe it’s him! The Dear Evan Hansen guy!,” Mina squealed.

“Me too, I can’t believe he’s here!” Kirishima excitedly agreed.
“How the fuck do you two know the damn nerd?!” Bakugou growled. He was already surprised that Deku came back to his life in Mean Girls musical format. He was even more shocked by the fact that two of the people he was sitting with knew him from somewhere.

“Me and Mina watched this musical at their school and he’s an amazing actor,” Kirishima said to his explosive boyfriend. “Also, how do you seem to know him?”

“Me and that fucking quirkless loser grew up together,” Bakugou reluctantly revealed. “I knew it was too good to be true that useless Deku would actually be fucking gone from my life. It was quite fitting when that music of theirs came on; he just appears out of fucking nowhere...”

“Guys, pipe down,” Mina chided then. “I want to listen to this!”

Both Kirishima and Bakugou listened to the green haired boy talk.

“Okay, so because our main school theatre is under renovation,” The short freckled boy started. “We had to move our production for Mean Girls somewhere. And our school decided on U.A.’s auditorium as it is nearby and has the capacity we’re looking for - it can seat around 1500 people at any given time.

“Now we have sold 1100 tickets to the public for the production of Mean Girls. While under renovation, our school’s current 1100 seat theatre will be expanded to accommodate 1250 people. But since that won’t wrap up anytime soon, moving here is our best bet.

“Since their is another 400 seats that will be unfilled, that’s where you guys come in. To show our gratitude for the school, all group ticket purchases done by U.A. students will be eligible to a 30 percent discount when they purchase tickets to our show. Groups must be at least 12 people. Our show will be held Friday next week after your cultural festival on Thursday - from what both Snipe-sensei and Nezu told me... Closing off, on behalf of the cast of Mean Girls and the people at the Metropolitan, we thank your school once again for their hospitality and we hope to see you there next week at our presentation. Thank you so much! Principal Nezu sir!”

As the students clapped, the animal principal took center stage. “For more information about their production, they will set up a booth that will open later in 2:15 until 5 p.m. Location is to be announced. I would like to add some more announcements...

“Classes this afternoon will be cancelled as I will ask teaching staff to convene for a meeting. I recommend you take this time as a class to think about your what program you wish to join at the cultural festival and if some or all of you wish to see this musical. Remember, tickets are limited. That is all and thank you for listening.”

“I’m going to fucking kill Deku,” Bakugou said under his breath.
“You don’t mean it,” Kirishima said as he took his boyfriend’s hand into his.

__[ ]__

“Oh, this seems like a really good production!” Hagakure said. “I am living for that Regina George entrance. It was so cool! And the electronic guitars made it so badass!”

“I have to say, it must be nice to be carried by hot guys like that,” Shinsou added. “Them dancing and acting really well are just bonuses.”

“The understudy Damien guy is pretty cute,” Todoroki blurted out. Everyone stared at him a for a few seconds when vibration on the table can be heard and lightly felt.

_Bzzz. Bzzz. Bzzz._

Uraraka pulled her phone up to her face. The anti-gravity girl stared at her screen. “Guys, Momo said she wants everyone back to the dorms in 30 minutes. She says it’s important...

__[ ]__

_I. Dorms, common area, 12:53 p.m._

When Momo announced her intention, she was not prepared for the intense reaction of her classmates.

“YOU’LL WHAT?!?” Everyone said (except for Bakugou and Todoroki) in unison. Shinsou was not in the common room as he took the time to catch up on his sleep, he probably asked Iida to fill him in on the details later.

“I’ll be buying a ticket for everyone in class!” The creation girl said, more sheepishly this time. “And you guys don’t need to pay me at all.”

“We forget how rich she is.” Everyone (aside from the smart female, Bakugou and Todoroki) quietly said again in unison.

“Todoroki and I thoroughly enjoyed this school’s production of Dear Evan Hansen, a Broadway musical the Metropolitan did before school started,” The wealthy raven-haired girl said, above the chorus of ‘thank you’ and ‘best mom ever’ before Kirishima cut in.
“You two went there too?!” 1-A’s redhead loudly said, his face beaming. “Mina and I were there too!”

“Todoroki was enthralled and I went out of there a mess,” Momo grinned. “They did their jobs when I came out of there emotionally drained! But how did you two get tickets?”

“My mom had spare tickets when her co-worker gave it to her but she didn’t want to go so she gave them to me instead,” Kirishima revealed. “I took Mina along with me. Boy, we were wrecked and I was unmanly by the time it ended.”

“I can confirm this,” The pink girl chimed in.

“It’s settled then! I’ll be buying 1-A tickets to see this show.” A lot of people the proceeded to hug Momo after that declaration.

It was quickly decided. Momo will be the one to buy the tickets while she will be accompanied by Sato, who will be baking the cast some pastries as a small gift for the visiting school. The class have long since agreed on who will perform on the cultural festival anyway so they’ll start actual practices next week.

With that set in stone, Todoroki to quietly separate himself from his classmates. He decided to change into some fire-proof work out clothes and headed to the gym. Since he takes his after workout shower at the dorms anyway, he decided against bringing spare clothes and a duffel bag.

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“You know that feeling when Brooke gets lost, even in a straight line?” A female voice asked Izuku as they walked past the same door. “I’m so feeling it right now...”

“I slowly regretting following that cat now,” Izuku said. “I’m really sorry for getting you into this, Yumna. I should’ve let you stay behind with the others so you can help with the booth.”

“I did agree to this exploration thing and it’s partly my fault I’m now lost with you but if I have to pray to Mecca right now so we can get the hell out, I’ll gladly do it.”

As they came across at another junction, Izuku immediately spotted someone who was drinking at a water fountain. He immediately ran over to the figure. “Excuse me, can you help us out?”
When the figure stood upright, Izuku was not prepared on how this guy in front of him looked.

He was very, very attractive and quite tall. His striking hair is evenly split between white on his right-side and a deep red on his left, could it be because of his quirk? Another prominent feature of this boy is his heterochromia; his left eye a turquoise shade turquoise while his right eye is gray. His scar in his face, Izuku thought, just made him more handsome.

He smelled of sweat and wow, wow, wow, those muscles... Whoever gave him the idea to wear that black tank top, may they have a long and happy life. He also observe that he had a small, sweat-soaked towel hanging on his right shoulder.

Izuku’s companion, however, got tired of the two boys just staring at each other. So she whipped her phone out and started to take pictures of them. She only caught their attention when she intentionally made the shutter sound audible.

“Hey Yumna, cut that out!” Izuku whined.

Yumna stowed her phone away in her purse. “Oh please, you two are definitely enjoying each other’s view. Anyways, aren’t you supposed to ask him something?”

“Oh right!” Izuku remembered. “Can you, um, uh... can you guide me and my friend here to where the dorms of Class 1-A and Class 1-B are? Your principal said that my school’s booth will be set up near there. We got lost.”

“Um, uh, sure...” The taller boy replied. Izuku’s mind shifted to the fact his voice is incredibly low and husky.

As they started following him, Izuku mouthed to Yumna. “Holy crap, he’s so handsome!”

“I’ll send you the pics later,” the Turkish girl mouthed back to him with a grin before winking.

As Todoroki started leading these two strangers to where they wanted to be, he thought he was absolutely fucked. No one had the right to be that adorable or talented.

Yet here was Izuku Midoriya being those things while also being an absolute cinnamon roll - he learned the term from Uraraka to describe things or people so precious, it cannot and should never be tainted.
“Is this the feeling of having a gay panic?” He thought to himself. He was internally screaming and he honestly did not know how long he can keep it together.

Since he was never good with feelings, Todoroki will be seeking the help and consultation of trustworthy fellow 1-A homosexuals tonight....

Chapter End Notes

If you guys haven't seen but have the ability to see Mean Girls on Broadway, y'all should. It was really good :)

p.s. comments are very much welcome!
Chapter Summary

Izuku learns about a crush on one of his acquaintances. Todoroki’s left side combusts into flames when Izuku acts out an adorable character.

Chapter Notes

Guess who lost his portable SSD with the other chapters in it? Yeah, it's this writer. Anyways, I'll take this opportunity as a new start with a clean slate. I hope y'all enjoy. :)

See the end of the chapter for more notes

While being a hero was out of reach for him, Izuku never stopped detailing or adding notes and made time to continue on refining the sketches and drawings in his hero notebook. He was practically hardwired to keep on improving it.

Because of this, he decided to buck his usual routine on having lunch with his friends. He quickly consumed the light lunch his mom packed for him outside, on U.A.’s school grounds.

It was a beautiful day outside and many of the U.A. and Metropolitan students would agree. He was just a bit bummed out that none of the students was Shoto Todoroki - the handsome boy with the striking dual-colored hair and eyes. Izuku, however, was very impressed on what a bit of people research on Instagram and Twitter over the weekend can bring up.

After throwing away his food waste, Izuku clutched his notebook and walked down a paved path where shaded pergolas loomed over. As he went down the path, he saw someone familiar sitting in a bench. The figure just closed his black detachable laptop PC.

“Smokes!” Izuku called out to him.

Simon Benitez was widely called as ‘Smokes’ in the Metropolitan since his quirk let’s him expel dense vapor similar to that of a smoke machine. He was only a couple inches taller than Izuku and had golden brown skin.

Unlike most of his friends who either had notable parts, were part of the ensemble, or were the heads of certain teams at the Mean Girls production, Smokes is just a member of the show’s scenic and props shift crew.
Izuku also liked to think he was friends with him but he knew they were more like acquaintances. Smokes was a polite if a bit quiet foreign guy in another country. After becoming science lab partners, they did start interacting more with each other.

“Oh hey Midoriya,” The boy greeted, shifting the device in his lap. Unlike his others, Smokes calls Izuku (and most of his classmates, regardless of nationality) by family name. “Not eating with your friends today?”

“I wanted to complete some sketches of mine in my hero notebook,” Izuku explained as he held up mentioned stationary item.

“Ah,” Smokes understood.

“You ate already?” The freckled-teen asked as he took a seat beside him.

“If a sandwich and a bottle of orange juice counts then yeah...” Smokes replied to him. “You lookin’ around for that Todoroki guy?”

“What? No!” Izuku immediately responded. Why did he ask that?

“Well then, you’re one of the people trying to not catch a glimpse of him then though you did have your chance,” Smokes said. “Ever since Al-Arashi posted that photo on Instagram of you and Todoroki, people have been thirsty as fuck for him and been trying to spot him all day. It’s easy to see why and I don’t blame ‘em.”

“SHE WHAT?” He could not believe what he was hearing.

“Your friend posted it,” Smokes said as he handed over his phone to him. “People have been commenting on how lucky you and Al-Arashi are since you met one of U.A.’s most powerful hero course students...”

Izuku looked at the picture Yumna took of him and Todoroki. Izuku then remembered how he looked at Todoroki for quite some time before actually asking for his help to find their way out. The picture was edited for her Instagram aesthetic of course. He and Todoroki were also tagged in the picture and could not believe the picture had accumulated over a thousand likes.

“I can’t believe you’re just finding this out,” Smokes told him as he received his phone back and pocketed it away.
“I did turn off all my social media notifications during the weekend,” Izuku recalled, scratching his cheek. “I had to do it since I wanted to concentrate for our computerized math test today. Guess I forgot to turn it on...”

“Just turn it back on later,” Smokes advised him. “Be prepared for the influx of notifications though. Anyway, how do you do it? Be attractive to guys?”

“What do you mean?” The green-haired boy did not know where this conversation was going.

“Oh no, you’re one of those regulation hotties,” Smokes told him. “Have you seen the way both guys and girls look at you?”

“I’m not attractive!” Izuku denied.

“Fake news,” Smokes flatly said. “If that Todoroki boy can look at you like that candidly in Al-Arashi’s Instagram photo, you surely must be doing something right...”

“I don’t know,” Izuku laughed. “Why are you asking me?”

“I kinda wanna catch Brendon’s attention and since you’re pretty close with him, maybe you can help me out?” Smokes hesitantly revealed.

Izuku took note that he did not use his friend’s surname. “Hold on, you like Brendon?”

“Yes,” Smokes dragged on his answer. “If you seen the way he moves, it’s kinda hard not to. He might be another white guy to other people but to me, he’s cute and hot at the same time and an insanely talented dancer.”

Izuku was not surprised by Smokes’s answer. Brendon, his good friend and the musical’s dance captain, was widely considered as one of the best dancers in school. With it came a lot of admiration from the student body.

Unlike Raleigh however, Brendon has never shown to have interest in boys. Izuku knows Brendon tends to get flustered around Kimiko Suzuki, an artsy girl who was a member of the yearbook committee.

“I mean he is those things you’ve mentioned,” Izuku acknowledged. “But I only know Brendon is interested in Kimiko Suzuki.”
“Figures,” Smokes laughed off but Izuku sensed his deflated tone. “At least you gave me a heads up. I appreciate that... maybe that’s the reason why he never noticed me.”

Izuku was puzzled by his last phrase. “Wait, you’ve been trying to get his attention?”

“To be fair though, my attempt was a complete failure,” Smokes sighed. “So remember when the school announced *Newsies* will be the final production in our old theatre before it had to be renovated? Before we moved production of Mean Girls here in U.A.?”

“Yeah!” Izuku exclaimed. He had a lot of fun portraying an always betting and cigar-yielding Manhattan newsboy. “I got Racetrack Higgins as my part!”

“No surprise there since you’re very loveable and adorable, Midoriya,” Smokes smiled. “You practically meet all the ‘Racetrack Higgins criteria.’ No tough, late 19th century Brooklynite would want to ‘soak’ you.”

“True but back to the topic...” The green-haired boy told him. “What did you do to get Brendon’s attention?”

“I tried to get the part of Romeo in *Newsies* but I flopped big time attempting to,” Smokes told him. “I’m just not really cut out for dancing or the stage in general. Nor am I like you who has dancer friends, like Brendon and Ticonderoga, who can teach me.”

“Oh...”

“Really regret in attempting to do it,” Smokes said, slowly shaking his head. “I made myself look like an idiot in the auditions.”

“But at least you tried, right?” Izuku offered.

“It should be worth noting that Brendon wasn’t only playing Morris Delancey and Ike but he was also the assistant dance captain at the time so he was watching,” Smokes reminded him. “Not only I humiliated myself in front of my crush who happens to also be one of the best dancers in school but I also spilled coffee all over Miyamoto-sensei.”

“Aww,” The freckled teen moved closer to wrap him in a friendly, comforting hug.
“I really do wish things were different, Midoriya,” Smokes said as he accepted his gesture. “After that audition, I decided I would be just better off in helping behind the scenes.”

“Well, you still have another chance,” Izuku said, pulling away. “Since the Met produces three musicals every year, we have one more that you could join...”

“I’m not going to put my hopes up,” Smokes said. “Especially since I have the same grace and agility as a waddling penguin. The only difference between me and the penguins is that people don’t find my antics and accidents cute...”

“Sorry if you felt forced to share something personal just so I can get a sense of where you’re coming from,” Izuku apologized.

“Don’t worry about it,” Smokes assured him. “You’re just being a good listener. Besides, if I haven’t given you the details, it would be hard to put things into context.”

Before Izuku can speak, his phone buzzed in his shorts pocket. After fishing it out, he saw a reminder clearly displayed on the screen:

**Rehearsals in 5 mins.**

“Looks like we need to go,” Smokes said before standing up.

“Right,” Izuku nodded.

But before both boys even stepped towards the direction of U.A.’s auditorium, Izuku’s phone buzzed again:

**From Brendon:**

*To all ensemble members, as per advised by U.A.’s Principal Nezu, please proceed to the open grounds of the school for rehearsals today.*

* Someone from U.A.’s Support Department invented a robot for their class but it went crazy and destroyed their auditorium. They rounded it up but stage repairs are going to take at least the whole day. As for stage crew members, please see Rie Kamazawa at the door of the U.A. auditorium for further details and instructions.

*Happy rehearsal! -B*
“Robot huh?” Smokes said when saw the message.

_Todoroki does not talk much after hero training. He would just go straight to the locker, take a shower, and change back into his uniform before leaving.

This time however, he noticed most of his male classmates were missing - even Bakugou. Maybe that's the reason why he has not heard Kirishima’s cheerful voice.

After dressing up, he approached Shoji and Tokoyami, the only 1-A students left in the locker room, on the whereabouts of their classmates.

“Where are the others?”

“You know those Metropolitan students?” Shoji asked, still drying himself off with multiple towels. Todoroki nodded at his question. “Well, the majority of Class 1-A decided to watch their rehearsal on the open grounds...”

“I thought they were using the auditorium for their practices?” Todoroki questioned.

“A crazy robot experiment went lose from the support department, it ruined the stage platform,” Tokoyami said as he buttoned up his jacket. “But from what Shoji heard, it wasn’t Hatsume’s fault.”

Hatsume. Huh. Todoroki knew she was that pink-haired girl that turned Iida into a speeding advertisement during the sports festival. Although she had a good heart and was friendly, she can be too excitable over her ‘babies’ a lot of times. But it was nice to know she did not cause this accident.

After letting know Tokoyami and Shoji he was leaving. Todoroki exited the gym and walked down the path towards the main building.

As he walked, Todoroki did feel a bit down since he was not able to gather the people he needed last weekend to address his 'gay panic' problem. But he could not blame the others for having plans that weekend. And since he was the type to get things over with, Todoroki was determined to have that conversation tonight. It was a school night and the chances of his classmates leaving the dorm to go out were very slim

He continued along his path until he spotted a swath of blue in his sights. It was his classmates, still
in their P.E. uniforms. He found this to be weird because their next class starts in ten minutes. But Momo was here and so was (a scowling) Bakugou and Iida. Maybe their has been some change of plans in their schedule for the day. Just like him, they never ever slack off in their studies and training.

Todoroki decided to settle in a spot between Ojiro and Uraraka.

“Hey Todoroki!” greeted the anti-gravity girl.

“Oh hey man, I see you changed already,” Ojiro casually acknowledged. “Didn’t you know? All Might won’t be teaching for the day.”

“Is that why you’re all here, still in your gym uniform?” Todoroki asked.

“Partly,” Ojiro said. “On the other hand, the weather’s nice and we kinda just want to dial back a bit after that intense training with Aizawa...”

“Also, me and Ojiro remembered something!” Uraraka said, excitement painted across her face.

“What is it?” The dual-temperature boy looked at her.

“See, that boy over there?” Uraraka said, gesturing to none other than Izuku Midoriya. “Ojiro and I apparently met him already!”

This was news to Todoroki. “How so?”

“He tripped over my tail,” Ojiro filled in. “But Uraraka here prevented that from using her quirk. Good thing too because the Lawson we were at would be a whole lot messier if she didn’t. And my vibe was right that I met Uraraka somewhere before U.A....”

“How’d you remember that boy with the green hair?” Todoroki inquired.

“I remember him mumbling and apologizing a lot,” Uraraka recalled. “I also thought he was pretty cute too...”

“It’s also kinda hard to not remember his green hair,” Ojiro said. “And yeah, I have to admit that Uraraka here is right, that Midoriya guy is pretty cute.”

“I thought you were straight,” Uraraka teased.
“I am,” Ojiro said. “But correct facts are correct facts.”

Todoroki then wondered. “How come are they letting all of you to stay and watch? Isn’t that giving the show away?”

“I think they’re fine with it because we’re not in their actual performance venue,” Uraraka said.

“Plus, I think they seem to not mind an audience.” The blonde tailed student added. “And we were also involved...”

“Involved in what?”

“Who sang the Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt theme song better between the girls and boys,” Uraraka said. “They asked us to stay and vote!”

“Midoriya has crazy pipes,” Ojiro informed him. “That boy knows how to belt damn well.”

“But it wasn’t enough to overcome the voice of the Harumi girl and their rendition though,” Uraraka pointed out. “Pretty much everyone in class voted for the girls’ side.”

“So now the boys have to do a number not from their Mean Girls musical,” Ojiro said.

“What song are they going to perform?” Todoroki asked.

“I dunno,” The kind blonde admitted. “But the boys have been refreshing for the last 15 mins of some song and been talking in English in a weird accent...”

“Momo was even approached by someone who followed her from Instagram,” Uraraka said.

“Why?” Todoroki seemed to be asking a lot of questions today.

“To make a real cigar as a prop for the green-haired kid apparently,” The brunette girl answered.

Loud music started playing all of a sudden. It was evident the music was different from the musical style of Mean Girls. It had a young, scrappy vibe to it. The Metropolitan girls were cheering while some of Class 1-A clapped - others being more excited than others.

From what Uraraka told him, the lead this time was a tall blonde guy. An American, Todoroki noted. He was wearing a fedora, shorts with knee pads, and a long sleeved blue Under Armour shirt.
Apparently, it was kicked off by none other than a cigar-wielding Izuku Midoriya talking in English with the weirdest yet most endearing accent:

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[Race, spoken]
Hey Albert, Elmer, Specs! Ya heard Jack! Get a move on.

[Albert, spoken]
I was havin’ the most beautiful dream...!

My lips are still tinglin’!

[Race, spoken]
Ohh, a pretty girl?

[Albert, spoken]
A leg o’ lamb...

[Race, spoken]
Hey! That's my cigar!

[Albert]
You'll steal another!

[Specs]
Hey, look! It's bath time at the zoo

[Finch]
I thought that I'd surprise my mother

[Albert]
If you can find her

[Newsies]
WHO ASKED YOU?!
[Albert, spoken]
Papes aren't moving like they use to!

I need a new selling spot.
C'mon, any ideas?

[Race]
From Bottle Alley to the Harbor
There's easy pickings guaranteed!

[Finch]
Try any banker, bum, or barber
They almost all knows how to read!

*The fedora-wearing lead male back-flipped onto his spot before singing in key, with the required accent.*

[Jack]
It's a crooked game we're playin'
One we'll never lose
Long as suckers don't mind payin'
Just to get bad news

[Newsies]
Ain't it a fine life!
Carrying the banner through it all
A mighty fine life!
Carrying the banner tough and tall

When that bell rings
We goes where we wishes
We's as free as fishes
Sure beats washing dishes
What a fine life
Carrying the banner home-free all!

*A girl then walked near one of the shorter guys...*
[Romeo, spoken]
Well hello, hello, hello beautiful.

[Jack, spoken]
Whoa, step aside Romeo!
Nothing more concerns you here...
Good morning miss!
May interest you in the latest news?

[Katherine, spoken]
The paper isn't out yet...

[Jack, spoken]
Oh, I'd be delighted to deliver
it to you, personally...

[Katherine, spoken]
Uh, I've got a headline for you...
Cheeky boy gets nothing for
his troubles.

The girl then walked away as the boys were hollering over their leader's failed attempt at flirting with her...

[Romeo, spoken]
Back to the bench, slugger.
You struck out!

[Jack, spoken]
I'm crushed!

[Finch, spoken]
Hey, Crutchie, what's your leg say, gonna rain?

[Crutchie, spoken]
Uhh, no rain...
Ho-ho, partly cloudy clear by evenin’...

[Finch, spoken]
They ought'a bottle this guy!

[Race, spoken]
Yeah! And the limp sells fifty papes a week, all by itself!

[Crutchie, spoken]
I don't need the limp to sell papes
I got personality!

[Crutchie, sung]
It takes a smile that spreads like butter
The kind that turns a lady's head

[Race]
It takes an orphan with a stutter

[Finch]
Who's also blind-

[Albert]
And mute-

[Elmer]
And dead!

[Crutchie, Buttons, and Jojo]
Summer stinks and winter's freezing
When you works outdoors
[Jack, Tommy Boy, Crutchie, Buttons, and Jojo]
Start out sweatin'
End up sneezin'
In between it pours!

[Newsies]
Still it's a fine life
Carrying the banner with me chums
(Still it's a fine life carrying the banner with me chums)
A bunch of big shots
Tossin' out a freebie to the bums
(A bunch o' big shots tossin' out a freebie)

[Finch]
HEY! What's the hold up?
Waiting makes me antsy
I likes livin' chancey!

[Newsies]
Harlem to Delancey
What a fine life!
Carrying the banner through the-

*Three girls from the Metropolitan then started an angelic three woman choir while carrying trays of snacks... all the boys performing got a little from the trays and quickly consume it.*

[Nuns]
Blessed children
Though you wander lost and depraved
Jesus loves you
You shall be saved

[Elmer, spoken]
Thanks for the grub sister!

[Nun, spoken]
Elmer, when are we going to see you *inside* a church?

[Elmer, spoken]
I dunno but it’s bound to rain sooner or later!
[Race, Elmer and Nuns, sung]
Curdled
Just give me half a cup
Blessed children

[Race, Henry]
Coffee
Somethin' to wake me up

[Race, Romeo]
Concrete donuts
I gotta find an angle

[Race, Tommy Boy]
Sprinkled with mold
It's gettin' bad out there

[Race, Mush]
Homemade
Papers is all I got

[Nuns, Specs]
Jesus loves you
It's 88 degrees

[Race, Jojo]
Biscuits
Jack says to change my spot

[Sniper]
Wish I could catch a breeze

[Race, Finch]
Just two
Maybe it's worth a shot

[Race, Buttons]
Years old
All I can catch is fleas
Three girls, who apparently acted as nuns, then left the boys to themselves.

[Jack]
If I hate the headline
I’ll make up a headline

[Jack and Crutchie]
And I'll say anything I have'ta

[Jack, Crutchie, Race, and Romeo]
'Cause at two for a penny if I take too many
Weasel just makes me eat 'em afta'!

[Group One, sung in counterpoint with Group 2]
Got a feelin' bout the headline
I smells me a headline
Papes is gonna sell like we was givin' em' away
Betcha dinner it's a doozy
'bout a pistol-packing floozey
Who knows how to make a newsie's day!

[Group Two, sung in counterpoint with Group 1]
I do too! So it must be true
What a switch! Soon we'll all be rich
Don't know a better way to make a newsie's day!

[Newsies]
You wanna move the next edition
Give us an earthquake or a war!

[Elmer]
How 'bout a crooked politician?

[Newsies]
Ya nitwit, that ain’t news no more!
Uptown to Grand Central Station
Down to City Hall
We improves our circulation
Walking ‘til we fall!

[Group One, sung in counterpoint with Group 2]
But we'll be out there
Carrying the banner man to man!
We're always out there
Soakin' every sucker that we can!
See the headline:
Newsies on a mission!

[Group Two, sung in counterpoint with Group 1]
Got a feelin' bout the headline
I smells me a headline
Papes is gonna sell like we was givin' em' away
Betcha dinner it's a doozy
'bout a pistol-packing floozey
Don't know any better way to make a newsie's day

[Group One, sung in counterpoint with Group 2]
Here's the headline
Newsies on a mission
Kill the competition
Sell the next edition
We'll be out there, carryin' the banner
See us out there, carryin' the banner
Always out there, carryin' the banner

[Group Two, sung in counterpoint with Group 1]
I was stakin' out the circus and then someone said that Coney's really hot
But when I got there, there was Spot with all his cronies
Heck, I'm gonna take what little dough I got and play with the ponies
We at least deserve a headline for the hours that they work us
Jeez, I bet if I just stayed a little longer at the circus!

[Newsies]
We’ll all be out there
Carrying the banner man to man!
We're always out there
Soakin' every sucker that we can!

Here's the headline:
Newsies on a mission!
Kill the competition!
Sell the next edition!

We'll be out there
Carrying the banner!
See us out there
Carrying the banner!
Always out there
Class 1-A and the girls of the Metropolitan erupted in cheers.

“I’ve never seen a group of boys sing that good while doing backflips,” Todoroki heard Kaminari comment from a distance.

“Kinda crazy that they know a choreography from another musical while their about to unveil another musical,” Ojiro pointed out.

“They must be really talented then if they know where and how to move around like that,” Uraraka said.

Todoroki was about to say something but a hat landed on him.

“Sorry about that!” A familiar voice called out to him.

He took off the hat, only to be facing none other than Izuku Midoriya. “Oh, it’s you again!”

“Uh yeah,” Todoroki said, giving the hat to him. “It me.”

The dual-toned boy hated himself for sounding like an idiot.

“Um, sorry for not introducing myself to you last time,” Izuku said. “I’m Midoriya. And I take it your Todoroki right?”

“Yeah,” Todoroki nodded. He may not be the most social out of his classmates but he does know his name has clout on the internet - the clout only spiking higher after the sports festival. “Oh and these are my classmates, Ojiro and Uraraka.”

“Nice to meet you, Midoriya,” Ojiro said in a kind voice

“Same here!” Uraraka said voice. “Where did the hat that landed on Todoroki come from though?”

“Nice to meet you too!” The freckled teen said to both of them. “This is my newsie hat and I always carry it around. I really like tossing it off after doing a number from the musical Newsies.”
“So what’s the name of your character Midoriya?” Ojiro asked.

“In *Newsies*, I play Racetrack Higgins, a newsie who like cigars and gambling,” Izuku said.

“Really?” Uraraka said. “You seem too pure for that.”

“That’s what makes it so cool!” Midoriya said. “But the most challenging part about playing Race is *talking* like him, not acting him out.”

“How so?” Todoroki inquired.

“If you noticed, everyone who performed had the New York accent,” Midoriya said. “It’s a good thing my best friend Raleigh literally has the accent since his from the borough of Brooklyn. It made it easier for me to practice - he’s the best dialogue coach ever.”

“Hey Izuku!” A new voice called out.

“And that’s Raleigh,” Izuku said before turning to the foreigner. Todoroki noticed the massive height difference between him and the American. “Guys, this is Raleigh. Raleigh, this is Uraraka, Ojiro, and Todoroki.”

“A pleasure to meet some of the most promising upcoming heroes in Japan,” Raleigh beamed.

“Raleigh here played Jack Kelly in the Metropolitan's production of Newsies a few months ago. Basically, he’s the protagonist,” Izuku added.

“But nobody in the Metropolitan can deliver the famous line of Racetrack Higgins better than Izuku Midoriya here,” Raleigh said.

“What line?” Uraraka asked.

“No!” The green-haired boy protested.

“I’m curious all of a sudden,” Todoroki said. He feels though that those words are going to bite him back.

“Me too,” Ojiro backed up.

“Okay!” Izuku caved. “I need some space though.”
“Space, not ‘Sprace’?” Raleigh teased.

“Shut up!” Izuku playfully shot back to the tall blonde.

“What’s going on?” Todoroki heard the voice of Tokoyami. He turned around to see Shoji and said emo bird boy in their school uniforms already.

“What took you two so long?” Todoroki asked, suspicious on why they only got there by now.

“The past is in the past,” Shoji answered back. Todoroki just rolled his eyes. “And trust me, you wouldn’t want to know.”

“Oh good, more people to see the famous line!” Raleigh cheered.

“I’m not sure we can follow what’s going on…” Tokoyami said apprehensively when Raleigh said that.

“It’s okay,” Raleigh said. “Let’s go somewhere a bit more open so Izuku can really act out.”

In a slightly more open space, Shouji offered to film the whole ordeal to which Raleigh gladly gave his phone to him. Apparently, Tokoyami is not one to be captured on video and this was a rare opportunity for the six-armed teen to do it.

Since Tokoyami was shorter than Midoriya, he stood more prominently in the foreground. Raleigh and Todoroki were standing next to each other. While Uraraka and Ojiro stood near Izuku.

“Three... two... one, action!” Shoji called out to them.

“Izuku then lets go of Tokoyami, heartily smacking a palm to his chest before adjusting his newsie hat and (real) cigar.
“Yeah, what of it?” Raleigh questioned, in newsie character and accent of course.

Izuku looked to him before removing his cigar. “Well, are ya stupid or what? When yer famous, the world is yer erster...”

Todoroki can definitely hear Uraraka failing to suppress a laugh while himself can feel something was about to happen in his body.

Raleigh questioned Izuku’s stage character, “Ya what?”

“Yer erster,” Izuku said again, the others were now failing to suppress their own laughs.

“Yer erster,” Izuku looked around before getting frustrated in character. “Aye ya know, ya fancy clam with da poyle inside!”

After that line, Todoroki felt his left side combust into flames.

“Oh my god!” Raleigh was caught off-guard to what was happening. This also snapped Izuku out of character.

While the two Metropolitan students were in shock, Uraraka started rolling in the ground, laughing. “PFFFFFT!!! Todoroki can’t handle Midoriya’s cuteness!”

“I’ll go get a fire extinguisher from Momo,” Ojiro calmly exited.

“And that’s a wrap,” Shouji said as he stopping the recording 20 seconds after the blonde student with the tail left.

“I'm really, really sorry for setting your classmate on fire!” Izuku bowed and bowed to apologize.

“Don’t worry,” Uraraka said. They both watched Raleigh and Ojiro extinguish Todoroki’s flames from a distance. “He has a lot of control on his left side thanks to hero training. But it’s normal for Todoroki to combust into flames and not use his icy right side to balance it out when he finds something extremely cute. I'll go talk to him after class ends...”
The freckled teen was shocked when Uraraka told him that because it meant... Todoroki, one of the most handsome boys he’s ever seen and one of U.A.’s best, found him cute? Izuku was going to have a bisexual panic.

Chapter End Notes

comments are welcomed :)

and i do firmly believe that Midoriya fits the Racetrack Higgins criteria.
Crushed Down, Fessing Up

Chapter Summary

An unexpected guest joins Izuku and his friends at a restaurant as they talk about their dating life. Back at U.A., Class 1-A not only learns about Todoroki's infatuation with Izuku but Bakugou's past connection with the quirkless boy himself as well.

Chapter Notes

I really enjoyed writing this one. I had a lot of ideas for this chapter but I feel this is the best one. I hope y'all have a great time reading it too. :)

See the end of the chapter for more notes.

Three large, steaming bowls of katsudon, a plate of takoyaki to share, some onigiri, and bottles of soda. All of that in a busy yet cozy restaurant setting and while the rest of the day had sun up and shining, late afternoon clouds brought rain that had started to pelt the street outside.

It was after school and rehearsals too This meant that Izuku, Raleigh, and Brendon can have a casual conversation about the incident with Todoroki.

Brendon was tall, standing at 5’11”, but he had a more lean build compared to Raleigh. Honestly, Izuku felt like he was a little kid around his two best friends who just happen to be tall, white, and are from Brooklyn, New York.

Brendon always wore his Crimson Riot snapback cap because while his blonde hair was neat and tamed, it does have a tendency to flop around a lot when he danced.

“So, are you gonna make a move on him?” Brendon asked.

“He doesn’t seem the type to go on dates though,” Izuku said.

“Well, you have some promising signs Izuku,” Raleigh said. “The one where one of his classmate told you he only sets himself on fire when he finds something extremely adorable is a good sign. Though it’s a very alarming way to express it...”

“Yeah,” Brendon nodded in agreement. “Besides, which person wouldn’t want to go out with the famed Shoto Todoroki?”
“Don’t let this bi panic stop you! Take the opportunity dude!” Raleigh happily encouraged. “If I hadn’t set my eyes on Manuel, I would so go on a date with Todoroki.”

“I’ll think about it,” Izuku said. “On the other hand, anything interesting yet happening to you two?”

“Oh yeah!” Raleigh said. “I finally built up the guts to ask Manuel out and he said yes! We’re going to have our date this weekend at Santa Fe, that new place by the subway rail yard in Shin-Tenso that serves Tex-Mex and New Mexican food.”

“Nice!” Brendon smiled before clamping an around Raleigh’s shoulders and started messing with his hair. “One of my brothers from another mother is finally growing up!”

Raleigh freed himself from Brendon’s grip. “C’mon, this isn’t the first I’ve went out on a date…”

“Yeah,” Brendon acknowledged. “But it’s a relief for me and Izuku to finally see you exit the ‘pine tree club’.”


The next words of Brendon fell deaf on Izuku’s ears as his attention was taken by Smokes coming into the restaurant.

As Smokes ordered his food from the ticket machine, Izuku noticed he looks a lot more exhausted than he should be. What did the backstage crew do today at the auditorium?

When Smokes gave his ticket order to a restaurant staff, he tried looking around for a vacant seat. Izuku looked around and noticed that the place was packed full.

“… So what do you think of those plans Izuku?” Brendon turned to the freckled teen.

“Oh sorry, I wasn’t listening!” Izuku apologized. “I was looking at someone else…”

“Oh, is it Todoroki?” Brendon smiled.

“No, but I was wondering if he could join us? There aren’t any seats left in this place.”

Brendon and Raleigh briefly looked to each other before the latter boy answered for the both of them. “Uh, sure.”
Izuku stood up and approached Smokes’ back, still trying to find a table. The green-haired boy tapped his shoulder.

Smokes turned around. “Midoriya! What’re you doing here?”

“I’m actually here with Brendon and Raleigh, wanna sit with us?” Izuku offered.

“As long as I don’t have to hear the fucking hemorrhoids Vine meme from any of you, I’ll sit with y’all. It’s been a long day for me,” Smokes sighed. “Where are you three seated?”

Izuku lead Smokes through the restaurant, eventually returning him back to their table.

Izuku moved his food and drink with some minimal help from Brendon and Raleigh. With their new seating arrangement, Izuku now faced Raleigh on the inner part of the seating booth while Smokes faced Brendon on the outer part.

“Uh Smokes,” Izuku said. “This is Raleigh and Brendon. Guys, this is Smokes. We used to be lab partners.”

“Smokes? Why that name?” Brendon quirked an eyebrow.

“Because my quirk makes me a literal living and breathing smoke machine,” Smoke explained to him with a small smile.

“Can you demonstrate?” Raleigh requested.

“I can’t,” Smokes said. “I just got out of U.A.’s nurse’s office. Recovery Girl, the school’s medic, told me not to use my quirk for a couple of days.”

“What? Why?” Izuku said. This was new.

“I basically got shocked with a lot of electricity during equipment testing,” Smokes explained. “While U.A.’s auditorium stage was wrecked, the lighting equipment wasn’t. And with one of the tech crew members out sick, I volunteered to help them. Unfortunately, during testing, I was fixing a light but Yumna Al-Arashi turned it on by accident.”

“Wait, that also meant-“ Raleigh started.

“-I fell? Yup,” Smokes confirmed. “Fortunately, Recovery Girl’s a miracle worker. Thanks to her, I can still come in tomorrow.”
“Sorry to hear that,” Brendon said places a comforting hand on his arm.

“Nah, they didn’t mean any harm,” Smokes said as he let Brendon do his gesture.

“Let’s talk about something else!” Raleigh shifted.

“Oh yeah, Izuku,” Brendon said, releasing his hand from Smokes’ arm. “Where do you think I should have my first date with Kimiko? A hidden art gallery or that tiny bookstore near the Tomoguchi Station?”

With Smokes now sitting with them, Izuku just inwardly cringed and felt horribly guilty at their next topic of conversation. Smokes being injured from earlier and unable to use his quirk - per doctor’s orders - only made the situation even more pathetic. Now the boy beside Izuku had to listen to Brendon’s plans on taking out the girl he likes.

To his surprise, Smokes joined in. “A tossup, huh? Well do you know anything she likes?”

“She loves painting and taking photos but I noticed she’s always burying her face in a different book,” Brendon weighed.

“Maybe you should take her to somewhere different,” Smokes concluded. “How about take her out to an antique shop? I know there are quite a few around in the Akita Hills District. It would probably be a nice change of pace for her.”

“Yeah...” Brendon considered before nodding. “An antique shop, I like it! She always had this vintage vibe going on.”

“Guess Brendon here has his answer,” Raleigh said as Smokes’ food - a generous bowl of gyudon and a large can of lemonade arrived at their table.

“Finally,” Smokes said after thanking the server bringing his food to him.

“... so because of you’re cuteness, you managed to set his left side on fire?” Smokes questioned with a smile.

“That’s what his classmate told me,” Izuku told him.
“Video or it didn’t happen,” Smokes said.

Raleigh produced his phone from a pocket of his cardigan, unlocked it, went to his photo gallery before handing it over to Smokes.

Smokes played the video and smiled throughout the entire playback. He softly started chuckling towards the end.

“Yeah, further confirms that Midoriya is a regulation hottie,” Smokes said, beaming as he handed the phone back to its rightful owner. “He was so cute playing Racetrack in that vid. But the funniest part to me was that y’all just left Todoroki on fire like that.”

“For the record, Brendon wasn’t there while Me and Ojiro - the guy with the tail in that video - had to use fire extinguishers to put it out after the recording stopped.” Raleigh defended. “And before you arrived here, Izuku was panicking in bisexual.”

“What’re you panicking for?” Smokes questioned. “You have Todoroki’s attention. Shouldn’t you be happy he thinks you’re extremely adorable? Especially when that statement came from one his classmates?”

“Right?” Raleigh seconded.

“Take him out on a date,” Smokes recommended. “If you want, you can make it into a token of apology… for you know, being the cause of his left side combusting into flames.”

“Fine!” Izuku finally said. “I just don’t know where to start...”

“Just make sure it’s simple and that both of you will have a good time,” Raleigh advised. “To the point you want to do it again with each other.”

“With your adorkable charm, he would probably want to go out with you again,” Brendon said. “And you should totally ask him to go out this weekend! That way, all of us are on dates!”

Izuku gritted his teeth and gestured his head to Smokes who was now occupied by reading some notifications on his phone. “Um Brendon, not all of us on this table are going on dates.”

“Oh um,” Brendon felt embarrassed. “Uh Smokes, do you like anyone?”

Izuku mentally cursed to himself.

“I do,” he said before looking directly to him from the screen of his phone. “But Izuku and I had a
talk earlier at U.A. today about that person. He informed me that the person I like is eyeing someone else...”

“And I’m really sorry,” Izuku put his heart into that apology.

“It’s cool,” Smokes assured him. “I also made Izuku promise me that he would not tell anyone who I liked.”

Izuku was going to correct that but he felt a quick nudge on his leg that came from Smokes, indicating he should play along. “He did and until he’s fine with it, I don’t want to spill anything right now. Anything, including hints.”

“Well, I hope it works out for you,” Raleigh said to Smokes.

Smokes let out a skeptical laugh. “Hehe, that would be nice but I’m not counting on it. The odds are extremely slim by this point...”

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Once the rain had stopped and they were all done sticking around for a few more minutes after eating their heavy meals, the four boys decided to leave the shop.

Usually, this would be routine for Izuku as Brendon and Raleigh walks with him on the way home. However, Raleigh has received a text from his aunt to go meet her at a car detail and accessory shop. It was here that Smokes decided to come along with him as the said auto place is near the condominium where he resides.

After walking on a different direction away from their friends, Izuku and Brendon walked down the busy early evening streets of Musutafu.

The city was beautiful and lively during the early evening. The rain had made the smell of petrichor and crisp cool air prominent to the city’s residents.

Izuku wanted to take it in but a grin was displayed on Brendon’s face when he scrolled through a few pictures on his phone. He was curious on what his friend was smiling at.

“What are you looking at?”

“This antique place in the Akita district Smokes mentioned,” Brendon said. “And this seems like the perfect to take Kimiko to a date!”
“Really?” Izuku said. Internally he was more alarmed than his outlying voice suggested. “What do they have?”

“They have all these cool and interesting old stuff on display,” Brendon started. “You can buy them if you have the cash. And if we get hungry, there’s this quaint little bodega across the street.”

“Bodega?” Izuku asked.

“In Spanish-speaking countries, it means ‘warehouse,’” Brendon explained “But in America, it can mean that or as a ‘small grocery store.’ The latter is a term used by certain neighborhoods with a large or a pre-dominantly Latino population, especially in the eastern part of the United States. In New York City, there are tons of bodegas but their numbers are going down - which is sad to be honest.”

Izuku also felt something did not add up. “Why are you taking her to a grocery store if both of you are hungry then?”

“Oh, this is one of those bodegas where they use the ingredients found in the store,” Brendon further elaborated. “They cook ‘em and sell it in the in-house restaurant. Best part about this bodega is that the price of their food is within my budget.”

“With that antique place and bodega, you should be able to win her over,” The freckled teen said. “I think those are very unique places to take someone out to.”

When those words came out of Izuku, he felt torn. He wants to be supportive of whomever Brendon’s dating but it was also really tough to ignore how sad Smokes was back in the restaurant. How he gave Brendon to take out a girl he’s into really took Izuku by surprise.

Smokes had to watch Brendon gush and plan his date with her. All of that, on top of having an injury in which he cannot use quirk for a couple of days. How he kept a neutral face throughout, Izuku will have to ask him at a later time.

“Oh yeah,” Brendon said, snapping him out of his train of thought. “Who is Smokes’ crush?”

Izuku snorted. “Sorry buddy, you’re not going to crack me on that topic. I told you guys back at the restaurant, I’m not telling — not even hints.”

“I’m really curious man,” Brendon said. “He helped me out with a great place. I kinda feel indebted to return the favor.”

“Trust me,” Izuku said. “We’re not going to be able to help him much.”
“Are the odds really *that* against him?” Brendon asked. “Since you won’t tell, can you talk to his crush? It could help Smokes out...”

“You have no idea Brendon,” Izuku said. “Smokes already believes his chance on him slipped away. It’s beyond his or my control by this point - I can’t help at all in a situation like that.”

“From the start of the song! One more time!” Bakugou barked.

While Todoroki is normally at odds with Bakugou most of the time, he had to admit that the explosive boy made for a very good director. With the ash blonde at the helm for their cultural festival performance; no one slacked off, everyone came right on time, and most importantly, everyone listened. In fact, it was coming together really well.

As for Todoroki, he works with Iida on editing the script and parts written by Aoyama, Tsuyu, and Sato.

But for Todoroki, the most surprising role belonged to Mina as she had the title of being Bakugou’s assistant director. But thanks to her, the movements and choreography were far more lively and exciting. Looks like Bakugou’s pick had a strategic intention to it.

Todoroki saw Jirou and Momo reset to their starting points around the common room’s coffee table. The hour-long performance they were going to put on for the cultural festival had a story but the three songs - which were from different musicals - were integral to it.

Tokoyami and Shoji had really cute parts and so did Ojiro and Hagakure. But Momo and Jirou would be bring some drama and fierceness to it as they were that couple who had very good chemistry - on or off the stage.

While they had different names for their cultural stage performance, Todoroki saw that if this were the original musical, Jirou would be a girl named Maureen Johnson while Momo would play a girl named Joanne Jefferson.

The music started playing once again.

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[Maureen]

Every single day I walk down the street
I hear people say 'baby’s so sweet'
Ever since puberty
Everybody stares at me Boys, girls,
I can’t help it baby

So be kind
And don’t lose your mind
Just remember that I’m your baby

Take me for what I am
Who I was meant to be
And if you give a damn
Take me, baby
Or leave me
Take me baby or leave me

A tiger in a cage can never see the sun
This diva needs her stage baby let’s have fun!
You are the one I choose
Folks would kill to fill your shoes
You love the limelight too baby

So be mine
And don’t waste my time
Crying oh honey bear are you still my, my, my baby

[Joanne]
Don’t you dare

[Maureen]
Take me for what I am
Who I was meant to be
And if you give a damn
Take me baby or leave me

No way
Can I be what I’m not
But hey
Don’t you want your girl hot?
Don’t fight
Don’t lose you head
Cause every night who’s in your bed
Who?
Who’s in your bed
Kiss pookie...

Jiro elegantly sat on the table and started touching her shoulder before Momo distanced herself and started singing her part.

[Joanne]
It won’t work
I look before I leap
I love margins and discipline
I make lists in my sleep baby
What’s my sin?
Never quit I follow through
I hate mess but I love you
What to do with my impromptu baby?
So be wise
Cause this girl satisfies
You got a prize so don’t compromise
You’re one lucky baby

[Joanne]
Take me for what I am

[Maureen]
A control freak...

[Joanne]
Who I was meant to be

[Maureen]
Snob yet over attentive...

[Joanne]
And if you give a damn

[Maureen]
Lovable droll geek!

[Joanne]
Take me baby or leave me

[Maureen]
Anal retentive!

[Both Maureen and Joanne]
That’s it!
The straw that breaks my back
I quit!
Unless you take it back

Women, what is it about them?
Can’t live
With them or without them!

Take me for what I am
Who I was meant to be (who I was meant to be)
And if you give a damn (and if you give a damn)
Take me baby (oh take me, baby)
Or leave me (take me or leave me)
Take me, baby
Or leave me

Guess I’m leaving...
I’m gone!
-_-_-_-_-

After their practice performance, Bakugou ordered that practice is finally done for the day. He thinks that with Momo and Jirou finally nailing their stage dynamic, they can start dry runs until Wednesday evening.

But before Bakugou was able to walk away, Uraraka stopped him in his tracks. Todoroki suddenly wondered why did she stop the ash blonde boy.

He then felt someone clamp a friendly hand on his shoulder, it was Kirishima.

“Ready for your talk?” The spiky redhead asked.

“Um, can you explain what Uraraka is doing to your boyfriend first?” Todoroki asked back, pointing to where the two are.
“Oh that,” Kirishima said. “She’s trying to convince him to join your talk.”

Todoroki blinked. “What? Doesn’t he hate my guts?”

“The truth is Katsuki doesn’t hate anyone’s guts unless you’re a villain of course.” Kirishima said, much to Todoroki’s surprise. “He actually cares for everyone in this dorm. He just has a hard time expressing it in a healthy way... just don’t tell anyone I told you. It'll be our little secret.”

Ah, Kirishima. Despite his hardening quirk, he is such a sweet boy with a ray of sunshine and a flock of singing birds following him wherever he goes.

Kirishima unclamped his arm from Todoroki’s shoulders.

“I take it you personally made it a priority to improve his interaction skills,” Todoroki told the shark-toothed boy.

“That but Aizawa also knows we’re together, so he asked for my help too,” Kirishima shared. “He said that while Katsuki has an insanely powerful quirk, he has concerns that his attitude could become his downfall. He might not be able to handle all the limelight in the future.”

“That’s understandable,” Todoroki said. “Fixing his attitude-wise, where are you guys now? Is it where you need it to be? Where you want it to be?”

“From what I see, we’re progressing a lot faster but he’s still got a long way to go,” Kirishima admitted. “But I’m confident U.A. will put out a better Katsuki, awesome hero included.”

“You have a lot of faith in him Kirishima,” Todoroki remarked.

“I’m his boyfriend, I’m supposed to,” Kirishima beamed.

“Bakugou said yes!” Uraraka called out as she ran up to them. “But Kiri, can you go to him? I feel like he’s going to blow up soon or might change his mind...”

“That’s my cue to leave,” Kirishima excused himself as he walked into the distance towards Bakugou. “See you guys in a few minutes.”

“Ready to get it off your chest?” Uraraka asked Todoroki once the kind redhead left.

Todoroki sighed. “Let’s just get this over with.”
After 15 minutes of cleaning up, making the common room free of cultural festival paraphernalia clutter and taking bathroom breaks, Class 1-A has reconvened once again at the dorm’s common room for discussion of Todoroki’s situation.

“So as we all know, my girlfriend organized this talk for Todoroki,” Tsuyu announced in their dorm’s common area, standing in front of their big flatscreen TV alongside Momo.

“Thank you all for coming and supporting this disaster gay in his time of need,” Uraraka announced as she stood up from her place.

“And he’ll need all the support he can get because of this incident earlier...” Momo said as the anti-gravity girl sat down once more. The deputy class representative nodded towards Kouda. “Kouda, please play the video.”

Todoroki felt his face slowly become the color of his red hair. It was like his life was flashing before his eyes as the video played in the ultra clear TV screen. It was embarrassing...

“How’d you get a video of it?” He heard Tokoyami ask. The short male sounded embarrassed due to his face appearing in the video. “Weren’t you recording with his friend’s phone?”

“I asked him to AirDrop a copy to me before we left,” Shouji said to him, Todoroki can hear a smile from a mouth on one of his multiple arms. “But don’t worry babe, everyone’s focused on Todoroki...”

As the video ended, everyone turned to him. Bakugou beat everyone into asking him.

“What the fuck, IcyHot? You like fucking Deku?”

“Hey wait! You know Midoriya?” Uraraka suddenly asked Bakugou.

Suddenly, all eyes were on Bakugou.

“Katsuki... I think it’s time you told ‘em.” Kirishima hesitantly said to him, hugging his arm.

Bakugou seemed hesitant but he looked at everyone in this room then to Kirishima then to everyone again before saying, “... Fine! But you bastards better listen because I’m not repeating this again!”
“We’re all ears man!” Kaminari said.

“Shut it you clown!” Bakugou barked at him before he lowered his voice. “So here it goes...”

Todoroki listened intently to the explosive boy’s tale but before that, Kirishima got Bakugou to further calm down first.

“When were little kids, fucking Deku and I used to be best friends,” Bakugou started in his usually growly, tense voice. “But it started to go down hill when I had got my quirk. Compared to any one of us in this room, Deku doesn’t have a quirk...”

The room fell silent briefly before Iida spoke up. “So he’s quirkless?”

“Didn’t I just say so Four Eyes?” Bakugou questioned before continuing. “Anyway, Deku and I really started drifting apart after elementary school. And in junior high, I became an even bigger asshole when I became his bully... I’m the reason why he didn’t have any friends at all, I even told him to swan dive off the school building during junior high.”

Before anyone said anything, Kirishima held up a hand to prevent anyone from speaking up so Bakugou can continue.

“In hindsight, those were probably one of the worst things I’ve ever said to someone. And I said a lot of nasty things to people even then. Me treating him like shit was probably the main reason why he didn’t apply for the hero course here in U.A. - or the general education course at least. And why he ended up in that art school now.”

Iida took a breath before asking Kirishima. “Did you know anything about this? If so? How did you take it.”

“Believe me,” Kirishima said. “I wasn’t happy when I first found out their full history together last Friday, when the Metropolitan did their promotion. I really didn’t know if I wanted to continue going out with Katsuki when this came up. I couldn’t see myself in love with a guy who treated people like crap for no reason. We didn’t talk over last Friday and Saturday because of this.”

“So that was the trouble in paradise happening between you two,” Sero puzzled together, recalling the incident over the weekend. “I didn’t know it was this serious...”

“It was serious because I had the same problem with bullies. And I promised myself that when I become hero, I’m going to help out those can’t help or defend themselves,” Kirishima said.

“Kiri had a rough time in junior high too,” Mina explained to everyone in the room. “But he didn’t let those bullies get to him. He even made them the reason to why he needed to do more good and
why we should all stop bad guys - whether it’s bullies or villains.”

“So what made you continue dating Bakugou?” Shoji asked Kirishima.

“He took me out on a date on Sunday and he promised me that he would continue to change for the better,” Kirishima said, snuggling closer to Bakugou. “He may have done inexcusable stuff in the past but I’m a true believer in second chances. If he can change back then, he can change again - for the better this time ‘round. And I think we’re all seeing progress, slowly but surely.”

“Ribbit. He is less inclined to blow people up nowadays,” Tsuyu said, causing everyone in the common room to chuckle a bit.

“Now that Bakugou mentioned it,” Momo started. “I think you’re the catalyst on why Midoriya performed so well as Evan Hansen…”

“I don’t fucking get it ponytail,” Bakugou told her in his calm voice, collecting Kirishima in his arm. "What does that role have something to do with the loser nerd’s predicament?"

“Well, Todoroki and I watched him in the Metropolitan before U.A. started. Kirishima and Mina did mention to all of us that they watched their production of Dear Evan Hansen too on the day I purchased their school’s performance tickets for all of us,” Momo said.

"But to Bakugou's question," Sato spoke up. “What does that show have to do with Midoriya?”

“Well, Midoriya and Evan Hansen - the character he played, have similar ‘lone wolf’ situations,” Momo said. “No wonder everyone felt the emotion he gave off, he had real life experience to draw on what’s it’s like to feel alone and helpless…”

“That’s so sad,” Uraraka frowned.

“I wonder how can I cheer him up,” Todoroki said.

“Oh yeah, we’re supposed to actually talk about Todoroki and his disaster reaction,” Jirou said. “But you know... it’s kinda nice to know Midoriya and Bakugou a bit better.”

“I agree!” Hagakure supported.

“After a long detour, we now go back to Todoroki,” Jirou declared. “So, why’d you set a part of yourself on fire?”

“He’s cute,” Todoroki answered. “And from looks alone, I really want to defend him and stuff. He
just seems amazing and talented on what he does.”

“You haven’t met him for that long and already you’re taking about how he’s like the best boy in the world,” Uraraka teased.

“I just feel he is,” Todoroki said plainly.

“Well prove yourself right and go out on a date with him,” Jirou encouraged. “Try to see if their school is rehearsing in the auditorium tomorrow. That way, you have a good chance on catching him.”

“Uh okay,” Todoroki said.

“The best part about going on a date with him that you’ll have to know him better,” Tsuyu said before adding. “All by yourself…”

“Alright, I’ll go on a date with Midoriya,” Todoroki said, hoping the answer will get them off his back.

Most of the class in the common room cheered. However, when Shinsou started snoring audibly, many lowered their voice.

“I think it’s time that we all start turning in for the night,” Iida quietly stated as he carried the sleeping lump that is Shinsou over his shoulder. “It’s getting pretty late.”

“Yeah, you’re right,” Ojiro said. “I think all of us should follow our class rep this time.”

As the rest of Class 1-A retreated for the night, only Bakugou and Todoroki were left straggling at the common room.

Before Todoroki can even press the elevator button, Bakugou called him out.

“Hey Half-and-Half...”

“What?” Todoroki said, turning around to face him.

“I’m coming with you tomorrow to the auditorium when you try to ask him out,” Bakugou stated.
“I’m bringing Eijirou with me too.”

“Uh why?”

“So I can fucking apologize to Deku on how I treated him like crap,” Bakugou growled but in a non-threatening way. “I know Ei would really like it if he saw that apology with his own eyes.”

“That’s... that’s nice actually,” Todoroki admitted. “Yeah, you can come along.”

“And as part of my apology to him, I’m going to be the one who’ll plan your date with him, assuming he says yes” Bakugou added. “I think it benefits us both because I know for shit you have zero game when it comes to dating.”

“What again?” Todoroki blinked.

Wait... Bakugou. Helping him? On a date with Midoriya? Did he hear that right?

Bakugou growled. “Did I fucking stutter, IcyHot?”

Chapter End Notes

In the next chapter, we’re going to learn how Kaibara picked his gift and how Tokage bought an air pump for their respective boyfriends at the mall.

Probably will be a shorter story but no less fluffier however. But I’m going to try my best I make it as hilarious as possible.

And as usual, leave a comment below! :)
**Side Story: The Perfect Gift**

Chapter Summary

With the help of Tokage, Kaibara tries getting a gift for his solid air-quirked boyfriend. Rin suggests that both he and Tsuburaba should go on a last minute double date.

Chapter Notes

The events in this chapter takes place after Chapter 2 and before Chapter 3 and later...

Ahh, Kosei and Sen, one of my favorite ships in the entire series - despite not having that much panel time in the manga or screen time on the show. I really want to see more of them.

Saturdays meant that students of Class 1-B can sleep in. Kaibara included but he was woke up by someone running their fingers through his hair. He rolled over and opened his eyes, seeing Tsuburaba.

The bug-eyed boy’s face was relaxed, eyes half lidded and his features softer. Still, his mouth was quirked into a smile.

Kaibara almost forgot that his boyfriend spent the night with him in his room. He knows that he may not look like it due to the stoic façade he has but Kaibara is actually the one to initiate cuddles most of the time. They both cuddled last night until both of them drifted off to sleep.

For the raven-haired boy, it was not a surprise anymore to see Tsuburaba in his bed shirtless and only in sweatpants as he tended to heat up during the night. Still, he did like seeing Tsuburaba’s strong chest, arms and impressive abs.

“G’morning dork,” Tsuburaba greeted. The brunette’s head was resting on a hand, propped up by an elbow. The other hand was still carding through his soft black hair.

Kaibara smiled. “Are you sure you’re not greeting yourself? Last time I checked, you were the dork.”

“Oh yeah, you’re right. I’m the dork and you’re the cute, clingy one. My clingy one.”
Kaibara had a reputation to uphold and would never admit to being the clingy one. However, he
does know that a few select people in class know this. And he is thankful that word never got
beyond them.

Kaibara yawned before stretching his body on the narrow mattress. He felt Tsuburaba’s free hand
retract a bit, resting on the available space on top of his head. The brunette then leaned over and
kissed him.

“Gross, you have morning breath,” Tsuburaba laughed as they parted. The bug-eyed teen then
brought Kaibara’s head closer to his chest.

“I don’t know what you expected from kissing me in the morning,” Kaibara said as he smiled.
“Anyway, want breakfast? I’ll be making something heavy today since I have a long day ahead of
me.”

“Yes please,” The brunette replied as he sat up properly, pulling the covers off on his side of the bed.
“Think Tokage’s up already?”

“I told some of the girls last night to wake her up because god knows how long it takes for her to get
up and get ready.”

“Always one step ahead,” The brunette mused before his stomach growled. “Heh, what sort of
heavy breakfast are you making?”

“It’s gonna be greasy and induced with a ton of calories... basically what you find at a Denny’s.”

“Sign me up!”

“But before you can have any breakfast, I suggest you fix my bed,” Kaibara said.

“No problem,” Tsuburaba said. “I need to fix my own room too, now that you brought it up. But add
an omelette, I kinda want eggs for breakfast today.”

Kaibara nodded. “Alright, you go get our rooms cleaned while I make breakfast for both of us.”

The smell of a delicious heavy breakfast cooking permeated the air. And since Class B had Shishida
with them, this meant their fridge was always stocked with really nice meats, drinks, fruits and
veggies. It was nice that the large, hairy gentleman of a student can share his wealth like that with
The kitchen and dining area was very peaceful since it was only Kaibara and Tokage in the room. The lizard girl was scrolling her Twitter feed while he cooked for himself and his boyfriend. She already had breakfast earlier with Rin, Kodai, Awase, and Kendou.

Tokage was still there since she was trying to get her stomach to settle down from the food she ate. The other four already left to either run errands or put in more training hours under them.

Kaibara was over the stove, watching the last of the pancakes form and make sure it did not burn. He was wearing an apron (that belonged to Tetsutetsu) that said ‘kiss the cook’ in Japanese.

Tokage laughed at the sight before returning her attention back to her phone.

“Have you two ever realized that you’re like the most domestic couple in the whole school?” Tokage asked.

“Whole school?” Kaibara asked back as he placed the last of four pancakes on one of the plates. After cleaning off the excess oils from the kitchenware he had used in the sink, Kaibara placed them in the dishwasher for them to be cleaned. “What made you say that?”

“It’s just you two have a routine,” Tokage pointed out. “Not every couple in U.A. has something like that. For crying out loud, you two have side jobs thanks to your photography thing...”

“I never realized that,” Kaibara admitted as he placed the two fully loaded plates of breakfast foods on one of the dining tables. “But hey, at least I make money right?”

“True,” The lizard girl acknowledged. “And speaking of money, have you figured out already what you’re going to get him?”

“I actually have two in mind,” Kaibara said. “I’ll let you know on the way there.”

“Ohh, I’m excited already,” the green-haired girl grinned. “I’m way more excited for your gift to him compared to getting an air pump for Rin.”

“Hey, at least you don’t have to even think about what to get him,” Kaibara pointed out.

“Still, an air pump?” Tokage questioned.

“Ugh, just go take a shower and get ready,” Kaibara said to send her off. “We both know how long
you take to do both of those things.”

“Perfection takes time, honey,” Tokage sweetly smiled as Kaibara closed the dishwasher and got it going.

Kaibara just rolled his eyes. “Girl, just go.”

Tokage opened her mouth to respond but a push notification came to warn her that her phone’s battery is running out of power.

“Oh shit, later dude!” She said as she ran out of the room.

———

“How long will you be out?” Tsuburaba asked Kaibara as he walked him to the dorm’s main door where Tokage was no where to be found.

Tsuburaba liked the fact he and Kaibara had rather different tastes when it came to cold weather outfits: The quiet boy was more of a sweater guy while he tends to opt for hoodies instead.

“I dunno,” Kaibara answered genuinely. “I’m going to look for something a bit specific and since Tokage’s with me, we might end up being out all day.”

“Well, let me know if something goes wrong. You know how to reach me,” the bug-eyed boy said.

“No problem,” Kaibara softly smiled.

“Hey!” Tokage said she called out the two boys in her casual outfit. “Ready to go?”

“That’s my cue,” Kaibara said before he pecked his lips to his. “We’ll be back before you know it.”

After sending them off, Tsuburaba headed back inside the dorm. Since he did not feel like training for the day, he decided to freshen up and work on the PC build he’s been doing for two weeks now. He was about done with the setup as the custom PC tower, desk, and accessories were all ready to go but it had one missing component that was essential in any computer.

As Tsuburaba passed by the common room, Rin immediately looked up to him from his iPad. The smell indicated he just freshly showered from training with Kodai earlier.

“Hey. The two left already?”
“Yeah, Sen told me they might be out all day.”

“Oh that’s great. I’ve been meaning to take Setsuna on a date later tonight. I really need all the time I can get since this is a last minute thing...”

“Last minute?” Tsuburaba picked out as he took a seat near the dragon boy. “Is it a good idea to rush a date plan for her?”

“Eh, it tends to work out just fine for the both of us,” Rin said as he glided his finger across the glass display of his gadget.

“Where do you plan on taking her?” The bug-eyed boy asked.

“Santa Fe, it’s this new place that serves Tex-Mex and Southwestern American food in Shin-Tenso, just a bit off from the rail yard for the city’s Chikuhei line.”

“Are the reviews any good?” Tsuburaba asked.

“So far, yeah,” Rin confirmed. “They say food is great and it’s located across from a train station which makes this place easier to visit... I know! Why don’t we eat there later tonight with them?”

“Like a double date?”

“Exactly!” The Chinese boy said. “What do you think?”

“I dunno man,” Tsuburaba was unsure. “I don’t want to be intruding on your date with your girl...”

“C’mon, it’ll be fun,” Rin encouraged. “I think Setsuna would even like the extra company.”

“Oh alright,” The brunette said.

“I can confidently say this is the nerdiest place I’ve been to,” Tokage said as she looked around their surroundings.

It was not the mall they intended to visit but according to Kaibara’s constant googling since they left
the dorms, it was better to shop here for electronics. For Tokage, there was a nearby bike shop where she can get the air pump.

The building they had just entered was filled with technology oriented stores. It was pretty overwhelming for them to be there because they did not know where to start.

Kaibara suddenly groaned when he realized he forgot to do something crucial on their way downtown. “Fuck, I haven’t even made a choice before we got here.”

“Wanna head out first go that bike shop down the street and get that air pump first?” Tokage asked.

“Yes please,” Kaibara sighed. “I just feel so stupid right now. We had all the time on the train to pick out a gift for him.”

“Relax,” Tokage said. “Whether it’s a limited edition Nintendo Switch with some accessories and games or a fancy gaming monitor, you’re not going to lose out. He’s going to love whatever you pick out for him.”

“You’re right,” Kaibara sighed. “I’m overreacting and overthinking again.”

“C’mon,” Tokage hooked an arm around his shoulder. “Let’s get you out of here. We can come back later. Oh yeah, don’t you need to exchange your dollars into yen?”

"Oh yeah, you're right," Kaibara said. "Let's do that first. I think Google Maps can point us to a nearby currency exchange..."

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“Thank you,” Tokage said as she got her plastic bag filled with the box of the air pump. She walked over to Kaibara. “I’m done, you finally figured out what to get him?”

“Yeah,” Kaibara said as he showed her the screen of his phone. “This is the very model Kosei’s been wanting - the one that in appeared in his bookmarked links.”

“Wait, you didn’t find any porno in a red-blooded boy’s web browsing history?” Tokage asked with a smirk instead.

“Ew, gross. But to answer your question I think Kosei uses incognito mode for his, um private needs,” Kaibara said so he can satiate her curiosity and focus on the main conversation. “Anyway, we just have to find this very model and we can be on our way...”
“You think one of those stores at the building have it in stock?” The lizard girl pressed.

“They should,” Kaibara said as he pocketed his phone away. “You did say it’s the nerdiest place you’ve ever been to. But I’m sure that a lot of people, not just nerds and gamers, visit it.”

“Well, let’s go then!” Tokage said as he suddenly dragged the photographer out of the bike shop. “The sooner we’re done, the sooner I can actually shop for myself!”

In the tech complex, both Tokage and Kaibara eventually found themselves on the building’s fourth floor.

They walked into a shop called ‘Display Gurus’ which sold pretty much every kind of monitor, targeted at certain demographics and price points. They even sell screen protectors alongside various display and charging cables.

They walked around the aisles until Kaibara stopped at a particular monitor. He had found it.

“Whoa, that’s huge...” Tokage inspected it closer and winced when she saw the price tag. “... and with a price tag to match. Are you sure about this?”

“I’m sure,” Kaibara nodded as he inspected it even closer. “And from what I see on the spec list beside it, I’m pretty confident that Kosei’s PC build can power this thing smoothly.”

“Hi,” a calm, friendly voice of a clerk greeted. “Have you two found what you’re looking for?”

Both of the U.A students turned to the sound of the voice before Kaibara replied. “Uh yes. Do you have this very monitor in stock?”

“You’re in luck because a fresh shipment of them came in a couple hours ago,” The clerk informed them. “These sort of curved monitors have been selling out pretty fast lately...”

Tokage blinked. “A ¥95,000 monitor can sell out?”

“It checks a lot of things people look for in these sort of monitors,” the clerk explained. “Super high resolution, an ultra-wide 21:9 aspect ratio, HDR, a curved screen that looks really great, fast 100Hz refresh rates, USB-C connectivity, and great build quality. All of that in a rather understated package. For what it is and what it offers, it’s actually priced competitively.”
“I just wished it had G-Sync instead of FreeSync,” Kaibara commented. “But we can’t have it all of course... Still, I’ll take one.”

“If I may ask,” The clerk said. “Are you a photographer who’s going to be using this for work? I have to say you look pretty young.”

“It’s more of a side job for him really but it’s also why he can buy this,” Tokage said. “And we’re young since we’re both U.A. high school students...”

“But for today,” Kaibara said. “We’re just customers. Also, do you guys do gift wrapping? This monitor will actually be a gift.”

“Wow,” The clerk said, who was clearly impressed by both of them. “Potential future pro heroes right in front of me. And yeah, we do gift wrapping. Who’s the monitor for? A special girl in U.A.?”

“Boyfriend,” Kaibara corrected. “He’s a gamer and this monitor is going to complete his PC setup. I want to surprise him with it.”

“Before you get this, I have to ask you a few more questions,” The clerk said. “I don’t want you having a case of buyer’s remorse or your boyfriend either. Have you checked his graphics card? Processors aren’t that important in powering demanding screens like this one.”

“Does a pair of 8GB Nvidia RTX graphics cards sound good to you?” Kaibara asked. “

“It certainly is,” The clerk smiled. “Just go to the counter and wait there. I’ll head to the back and get you a fresh unit.”

Both Tokage and Kaibara did as they were told. Both waited at the counter before the clerk came out with a large box. He hefted the large box onto the counter before opening it.

The clerk had to reassure the quality of the monitor Kaibara was buying. This meant checking for ‘dead pixels’, unsightly panel gaps in its metal construction and setting the colors of the display calibration to an even better setting than the standard factory calibration.

This meant it took longer than expected to buy Tsuburaba’s gift. But Kaibara did like the assurance the store was giving him by checking before purchasing.

Once the unit had cleared all the store’s quality assurance test, the clerk started quickly (and properly) repacking all the contents inside the box. After the box was resealed, the clerk look to Kaibara.
“This will all be ¥95,000,” the clerk said. “Will you be paying by cash or credit?”

“Cash,” Kaibara answered as he took his wallet out of his bag. He then counted the bills before placing them down on the counter.

“I received ¥100,000 and your change will be ¥5,000,” the clerk said as he took the money. He handed Kaibara back a crisp ¥5,000 bill and the receipt.

“So on top of the warranty from the manufacturer, the monitor has also a warranty from the shop,” the clerk explained. “Just make sure your boyfriend keeps the receipt and fills out the paperwork I included in the box.”

“Okay,” Kaibara nodded.

“And since you wanted this monitor gift wrapped...” the clerk trailed as he went under the counter for a few things. He then revealed wrapping papers with various design “Pick the one you think looks best...”

After they were done with Kosei’s gift, Tokage wanted to do some more shopping. And since neither wanted to lug their gifts around, one of which is a 35-inch monitor that weighs 10.5 kilos (not including its container), they opted to use the tech complex’s locker system that was payable via an IC card.

___[WHITIVE]___

After a few hours and many stores later, Kaibara was currently sitting down at a bench at a clothing store not far from the tech complex. It was starting to get dark already, the streets and buildings outside were beginning to light up.

As he waited for Tokage, the raven-haired boy then felt his phone buzz on his pants pocket. It was message from Tsuburaba:

From Kosei
Hey! You and Tokage done shopping?

To Kosei
About to be. She's currently in line right now with a pink knit blazer. She wants to wear something pink when the class watches the Mean Girls musical. The line’s a bit long though.

From Kosei
Oh, everyone in class should wear something pink! It’d be so grool!
To Kosei
What’s not so grool is that I’m really beat.

From Kosei
Why? What’d you buy?

To Kosei
It’s something heavy. You’ll see when we get back... I would also want Juzo to massage me.

From Kosei
Oh! Maybe Tokage didn’t tell you yet that me and Rin are out. Dragon boy texted her already and suggested we eat out at this place called Santa Fe. In fact, we’re on our way there already.

To Kosei
Wait, what?

From Kosei
Yeah. Rin wanted to do an impromptu double date. Up for it?

To Kosei
Yes. Because food and someone who will carry what I bought on my way home is exactly what I need right now.

From Kosei
Cool! I’ll send you the map link! See you later babe! 😊

To Kosei
Btw, if you guys can, please get booth seating. With what I bought, I’m pretty sure we’re going to need it.

From Kosei
Okie-dokie! Later Sen!

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The modern building Sante Fe was in had an unusual yet distinctive exterior: the corrugated metal exterior had a color palette consisting of orange, grey, light brown, and white. A bright accent well sheltered the outdoor stairway.
Inside the restaurant was cathedral ceilings, a custom mural various art works catering to the New Mexican theme. Other trim details, however, nods to the cranes and rails of the nearby rail yard and industrial neighborhood.

For Tsuburaba, he now felt he made the right choice by going with Rin.

“This place is pretty dope,” he said as he looked around. “Food smells amazing too...”

“I wonder why Kaibara asked for booth seating though,” Rin said. “Did they buy a ton of stuff?”

“Me and Sen are earning money but we only blow it on things that are useful to us. I wonder what he bought since he spent a huge chunk of it on new camera equipment last night. It should arrive by Wednesday, just in time for the cultural festival on Thursday.”

“Because blowing a ton of money on a custom yet colorful and tasteful PC rig is a very sound financial decision,” the Chinese boy joked.

“You laugh but I’m going to do a lot more than game on it,” the brunette said. “I’ve been thinking of helping Sen out on the video editing side of things.”

“Do you two want to be filmmakers or pro heroes?” The dragon boy playfully asked.

“Of course we want to be pro heroes but we do like the idea of starting our own agency,” Tsuburaba said. “Sen said that quite a lot of the hero agencies out there seem to lack the digital media expertise. And there is something to be said about creating and controlling the narrative.”

“Your boyfriend thinks like Shishida,” Rin pointed out. “A lot of agencies did approach him for internship but he kinda scrutinized how their website looks and how they handle their social media accounts. It’s why it took him a good while before he finally settled on one. He said that most of them really needs to up the ante online. Maybe you can get him to help you guys out on starting your own Pro Hero agency - he comes from a loaded family after all.”

“Me and my future husband running a kick ass agency from the ground up alongside with our friends,” The bug-eyed boy wondered out loud. “That would be so fucking cool.”

“Future husband? What happens if you two break-up? Which, we all hope, never happens.”

“Heh, I thought about out that too,” Tsuburaba admitted. “But he’ll be an amazing guy, no matter what happens.”
“That's a positive outlook,” The dragon boy said. "What happened last night though? I saw you walk into his room.”

“Just cuddled, nothing crazy I promise,” the brunette beamed.

Rin then spotted his girlfriend and Kaibara heading for their table. His eyes widened. “What did they buy?”

The bug-eyed boy turned to where Rin was looking at and saw Kaibara holding a large box covered in a sky blue, cartoon cloud wrapping paper.

When their respective partners arrived at their table, Rin slid over to make room for Tokage. On the other hand, Kaibara instructed Tsuburaba to stand up so he can push the box on the inner part of the booth. He then instructed the brunette to move and sit beside it. After Tsuburaba had made space for him, he then collapsed onto the seat.

“Have you guys ordered yet?” Kaibara asked, eyes closed.

“No, not yet. But what the hell did you guys buy?” Tsuburaba asked instead.

“Since you’re sitting beside it, go ahead,” Kaibara said before turning his head toward Tsuburaba. “Go open that gift...”

The brunette was shocked. “Wait, this is for me?”

“Yeah,” Kaibara smirked. “You’ll be carrying it on the way home. I don't think my arms can take it anymore.”

The bug-eyed boy turned to the large box and slowly started ripping off the wrapping paper.

The more he ripped off the wrapper, the more he could not believe what Kaibara got him.

“No way!” Tsuburaba said with a mix of disbelief and excitement on his face. He turned to Kaibara. “You really got me this?!”

Kaibara had a proud smirk on his face. “Like it?”

Tsuburaba responded by pulling him into a deep kiss.

While they didn’t hear or see it, Tokage hollered while taking a video to be uploaded to Instagram
while Rin looked softly at his friends. Some of the restaurant patrons around them seem to not notice or tried their best to ignore to boys kissing rather passionately.

When they parted, the brunette enveloped the raven-haired boy in a tight hug.

“Sen, thank you so much! But how’d you know?”

“I just knew this week actually,” Kaibara replied as a hand rubbed comforting circles on Tsuburaba’s back. “When I was browsing on your phone on which camera cleaner I should try next. I saw you had a bookmark on it.”

“That huh?” Tsuburaba said as he pulled away but laced his hands with the teenage photographer.

“Yes,” Kaibara nodded. “It was the only monitor on your bookmarks tab and it’s been there for a few months now. I sort of figured you must really be after it.”

“Well, you guessed right,” The bug-eyed boy let out a small laugh. “But why you still get it for me though? This really is a grand gift.”

“Thank Tokage here,” Kaibara said as he turned to the lizard girl, causing his boyfriend to do the same. “If she didn’t remind me on how much effort you put into working with me, there’s a large chance you might not get that monitor.”

“I was really surprised you work for free despite you doing a lot of stuff for him,” The green-haired girl explained.

“Wait, if you work for Kaibara for free, how did you earn the money into making your custom PC?” Rin questioned. “Aren’t the components on that thing expensive?”

“Two words: Power Loader,” Tsuburaba revealed. “He let me pick out parts from the Development Studio when I was with scavenging parts there with Hatsume a couple of weeks ago. It’s like a PC parts gold mine in there.”

“He just let you get stuff there for free?” Tokage questioned.

“Sort of, yeah,” Tsuburaba shrugged. “I got a hexacore processor, a rather complex liquid cooling system, a frickin’ radiator, 32GB of super fast RAM, 3200 GB of NVMe PCIe AIC SSD storage, thermal paste, an audio DAC, and a top-shelf power supply. He saved me a ton of money while giving me awesome parts.”

“Why do geeks have expensive shit anyway?” Tokage asked to no one in particular.
“A better question would be why does our school have a stockpile of PC gaming parts?” Rin said. “And since you said ‘sort of’, what’s the catch?”

“Oh, here’s the catch,” Tsuburaba started. “I became a guinea pig for Hatsume’s and Power Loader’s experiments. Still, it’s so worth it. To answer Rin’s other question, both sensei and Hatsume told me that the stockpile is used for costume and new weapon systems development since their all high performance components. But Power Loader gave me the parts because he knew they were not going to see the light of day on the battlefield - meaning their not going to end up in the junk heap. Many of the gaming parts and others inside the Development Studio tend to get destroyed if they are used for experiments or are used for hero purposes.”

“So where did you spend the money you save them then?” Kaibara asked.

“The money I saved during my paid internship went to cable management and accessories like the sound system, a magnetic port dock, RGB mechanical keyboard, a gaming mouse and wireless monitor headphones...” The brunette trailed. “I got a good deal from Todoroki and Sero to make my new desk while Ibara donated me some easy-to-care succulents.”

“I know you spent more than that,” Kaibara said with a knowing tone.

“Okay, my money also went to a quiet PC case with the tempered glass display, the black and bad-ass motherboard with RGB lighting and dual high-powered graphics cards - which also have RGB lighting.”

“There we go,” Tokage grinned.

“Actually, the two graphics cards was an accident because I was only supposed to get one,” Tsuburaba explained. “The money for that would have gone to a decent refurbished monitor. Didn’t return the other one because the gaming power man...”

“Since you now have everything,” Rin started. “Are you still planning on improving your ‘command station’ as you like to call it?”

“Command Station?” Kaibara, how can someone pretty like you date someone this nerdy?” Tokage inquired with a joking tone. “While I’m learning so much, I can’t believe one of Class B’s memelords is also a giant nerd.”

“He’s cute, okay!” Kaibara reasoned, his face turning red. “And really hot under that hoodie of his...”

“Ohhhh, no wonder.” Tokage smirked.
“Aww, thanks babe,” Tsuburaba pressed a quick kiss on his cheek. “Anyway, I’m planning to get a new chair and add some Philips Hue lights in the future. Maybe some cool decorations too.”

“Please tell me you’re going to keep things tasteful and not like a rainbow had vomited all over your new computer,” Kaibara said.

“I’ll color coordinate it, don’t worry,” The brunette assured his boyfriend. “And I promise it’s going to look cool yet sleek... And you’ll be free to use it when you start editing videos as well...”

“Really?” Kaibara asked.

“Yeah.” Tsuburaba nodded. “You did literally complete my rig. Plus, with the parts on it, you’ll be able to slice through video projects in a snap. But teach me how to edit videos? I kinda wanna learn how to do that too.”

“No problem,” Kaibara said before he gave him quick peck on the cheek. “I love you Kosei.”

“I love you too,” Tsuburaba reciprocated the gesture.

“Now that’s over,” Tokage said. “Let’s start ordering, my stomach might not take anymore geek talk.”

“Okay, you guys order first,” Kaibara said as he stood up. “I need to go to the restroom and freshen up. Kosei, give me the wrapping scraps. I’ll go throw them while I’m there...”

“Uh here,” The bug-eyed brunette collected all the scraps and gave it to Kaibara. “Oh yeah, what do you want?”

“I surprised you with a monitor right?” The raven-haired boy said with a small smile. “Surprise with something I like. I trust you.”

Tsuburaba nodded. “On it!”

As Kaibara left for the restroom, Tokage revealed her gift for Rin.

“You got me the air pump?!” Rin looked like he was a kid on Christmas morning.

“Yeah,” Tokage said. “But tell me, what are you gonna use this for?”
“Oh, I need this to inflate the duck before you start cooking it. It’s important to do that for Peking Duck,” Rin explained.

Tsuburaba blinked. “What’d you say buddy?”

The dragon boy looked to them and sighed. “I’ll explain to you guys later on how Peking Duck is cooked. But right now, let’s order first. I’m starving too. But still, thanks Setsuna. It means a lot to me you got me the air pump.”

Rin gave her a quick peck to the cheek.

“Aww, thanks babe,” Tokage grinned.

Chapter End Notes

I don't know exactly when chapter six will come out but what I can say is that it will come before the year ends!

And as usual, leave a comment below if you can :)

Mean Boys

Chapter Summary

Thanks to the insistence of the explosive quirk-wielder, both Todoroki and Bakugou will now talk to Midoriya during lunch instead of after class hours while Kirishima tags along with them. Kirishima also hands out his boyfriend's contact info at the wrong time and place.

Chapter Notes

The last chapter for 2018... but not the last one!

Todoroki was not prepared for the small change in plans today.

“Ready Todoroki?” Kirishima inquired with a friendly grin.

“Of course not,” The dual-toned teen said bluntly. “I was supposed to ask him out after class at the auditorium, not during lunch...”

Today he sat with the ‘Bakusquad’. The group is accepting of his presence but it was clear that Bakugou is the one in charge at the table.

“For fuck’s sake Half-and-Half, I’m trying to make this easier for both of us,” Bakugou told him.

“How is asking him out in lunch easier?” Todoroki questioned. He was obviously not comfortable with the numerous pair of eyes within the cafeteria.

“I think I know what Bakugou's onto,” Sero said. “It is true that there are a lot of folks here but I bet that lunch will be their priority and they’re going to be busy with what’s going on at their table. It’s quite loud in here too so anyone trying to listen in will have a hard time trying to do that.”

Despite Todoroki not saying it out loud, he did admit to himself that Sero made good points.

“So Todo, are you ready to see Midoriya now?” Mina asked.
“I have one more concern,” Todoroki said.

Bakugou made his annoyance known by groaning. “What is it this time? We’re losing daylight here IcyHot.”

“My concern has something to do with you Bakugou,” Todoroki said. “Won’t his friends be hostile towards you? There’s a high chance that Midoriya told them about your history together. It did strain your relationship with your boyfriend over the weekend.”

“Then we’ll vet for him,” Kirishima said. “We’ll tell Midoriya and his friends that Katsuki has changed. For the better. We can even point out that you and Katsuki don’t get along that much but you also have admit that his attitude genuinely improved over time during his stay here in U.A.”

“Is that a good enough solution for you IcyHot?” Bakugou asked.

Todoroki sighed. “Fine, lets get this over with.”

“Good luck you three!” Mina cheered them on as they stood up.

While it took them sometime to scour the around the cafeteria, they eventually found Midoriya. He was sitting with his friends who were both tall, white Americans wearing hats: One was wearing a fedora while had a Crimson Riot snapback.

—[[-]]—

“Why are we sitting like this?” Brendon questioned.

The seating arrangement is reminiscent of how The Plastics first sat in the school cafeteria in the movie. Brendon sat in the middle while Izuku was on his left and Raleigh occupied his right.

“I thought it’d be fun to seat like Regina, Gretchen, and Karen!” Raleigh said.

“I don’t know,” Brendon said, unsure of their supposed roles. “Then again, I’m more used to the idea that we’re Shane Oman, Mike Thurman and Tyler Kimble as we are playing those people... and their cliques don’t exactly get along.”

“So not fetch,” Izuku rolled his eyes at the dance captain before he continued scrolling back on his phone.
“You’re into this too?”

“Well, Gretchen did have a relationship with a tyrannical blonde so…” Izuku said before adding, “And by that, I meant Kacchan... don’t worry Brendon, you’re not shiny, fake, or hard…”

“I don’t think Bakugou would pass as a Regina George though,” Raleigh said. “He is tyrannical - at least from what Izuku tells us - but Regina ruined the lives of North Shore’s junior year girls by conjuring up rumors and knowing their secrets through Gretchen. That’s like the opposite of what Bakugou would do.”

“Better watch you’re gonna say next white boy or I’m gonna blast your ass into space,” an aggressive voice warned Raleigh. Izuku froze because that distinctive, growly tone can only come from Kacchan.

All three of them looked to their left and saw Bakugou, clearly not amused by Raleigh’s comment of him. He was flanked by a shark-toothed redhead and Todoroki himself.

“Don’t worry, he doesn’t mean it,” the friendly redhead said. “But do you mind if we sit with you guys? They both want to tell Midoriya something…”

“So what’s it going to be ‘Gretchen?’ Can they sit with us?” Brendon asked Izuku.

“Uh, they can sit with us.” The green-haired boy decided. He knows that even if he said that they can’t sit with them, Kacchan does what he wants and he most certainly doesn’t take orders from him.

“Coolness!” The spiky redhead said.

The three U.A. sat on the unoccupied bench seating, across from the three Metropolitan students. Bakugou faced Brendon, Izuku faced Todoroki while the redhead faced Raleigh.

For Izuku, it’s been years since he and the explosive blonde sat at the same table. He was understandably nervous because while Raleigh and Brendon had great quirks, Kacchan had an insanely powerful one that can easily overwhelm both of them in an instant. He’s not sure if his classmates will stop him too, or if they can stop him. His volatile temper made his quirk even more alarming than it already is.

However, he was curious what Bakugou and Todoroki had to say to him. And the friendly redhead seemed like a good moderator for Bakugou.

“So to get us started, I’m Kirishima,” the redhead introduced himself. “And this is Todoroki. And my manly boyfriend Bakugou, but I call him Katsuki…”
“Boyfriend?!” Izuku was surprised. “I never thought...”

“I’m fucking bisexual you nerd,” Bakugou cut him off. “If you have a problem with that, I suggest you keep your trap shut.”

“He maybe all growly and angry on the outside but he’s secretly a big softie,” Kirishima proudly shared. He then ran his hand through Bakugou’s head. In return, the blonde just gave him an annoyed look - similar to what a bulldog would express when their angry. For Izuku, Kacchan would have probably broken someone else’s arm by now.

Izuku’s friends seemed equally shocked by how more restrained Bakugou is.

“You two have quite the dynamic...” Brendon commented, his eyes widened before he introduced himself. “Oh yeah, I’m Brendon Young. I’m the dance captain for Mean Girls. This other white guy is Raleigh Ticonderoga - all around great performer. And I assume that Izuku here doesn’t need any introduction.“

“Nice to properly meet you all,” Kirishima smiled. “But I now have to turn the conversation over to these two. Katsuki will start first...”

Kirishima nudged his boyfriend. This made the blonde roll his eyes before he let out muttered something inaudible under his breath.

“Okay Deku,” Izuku perked up at the name not used in the longest time. It caused him to look directly at Kacchan. “Listen well because I’m only going to say this once and only once... I. Am. Sorry that I treated you like crap and made your life a living hell, especially when were at Aldera during junior high...”

There was stony silence within the table before Izuku broke it. The freckled-teen thought about his response.

“Give me a good reason to forgive you Kacchan. If I have to hear something from Kirishima and Todoroki, I’m open to it...”

“He really changed Midoriya,” Kirishima said. “It may not be a lot since we’re doing the baby steps approach here. But every little thing counts right?”

“I can’t believe I’m going to vet for him but here it goes,” Todoroki sighed. “Me and Bakugou don’t get along. In fact, he and I are rivals when it comes to being the best. But Bakugou has my respect because he’s one of the most driven students in the entire school to become the number one pro. He proves this by acing all of his training and academics.
But recently, he’s also carrying out new improvements in his personality. Would you believe that he also tutors his friends who are more academically challenged? I know Explodo-kills here would deny that he cares for them or they’re his friends but I know he does, he’ll just not admit it. And ever since he started dating Kirishima, the class slowly but surely got along with him better. I know he said a lot of hurtful things to you, some of which are unforgivable, but can you and Bakugou start over? It’s probably not going to change you interact with each other but it can give you two a new slate to start with. And it will get rid of the elephant in the room that has been there for so long which was the way he treated you."

"I have a question and I would like Bakugou to answer," Raleigh said to everyone on the table before looking to the explosive blonde. "As one of Izuku’s best friends, I have to ask, why are you only changing now when you could have done that a long time ago? And is him being quirkless such a big deal to you? I know it wasn’t for me, Brendon, or anyone at the Met..."

"Because the nerd and I were supposed to become pros together," said Bakugou. "But his shit genetic code got in the way of things when we were little and that’s where the history of all of this started..."

"These two had a fight last weekend because of it too," Todoroki added. "You see, Kirishima has a history with bullies and the fact Bakugou used to be one, especially towards a quirkless boy who badly wanted to become a hero, presented a problem..."

"I don’t take them lightly," Kirishima jumped in. "And I promised myself that when I become a pro, I’m going to help those who need it the most and those who can’t help themselves."

"When I ironed that out on a date last Sunday with Eijirou, I promised myself and to him that I’m going to change," Bakugou said. "And yesterday, I decided that starts with me apologizing to you. So there. I’m fucking sorry Deku. But what you want is up to you."

Izuku looked to Kacchan before he looked to both Raleigh and Brendon.

He then let out a long breath before he made his choice. "Well, as the lyrics in one of the songs in Heathers says, ‘if we changed back then, we could change again.’ So yes Kacchan, I forgive you..."

Kirishima looked ecstatic when he said those words. Todoroki even showed a hint of a small smile.

"...But to make this official," Izuku spit in his mouth and offered it to Kacchan. "I think we should both shake on it."

“What the fuck nerd?” Bakugou growled. "Why would I want to touch your germ filled hand?"

“It’s a ‘newsie’ handshake,” Raleigh explained. "You also spit into your hand and both of you shake
“Gross,” Bakugou said of his description.

“Just do it,” Todoroki told him.

“No,” Bakugou stood his ground.

“For me, pretty please?” Kirishima tried.

“Fine,” Bakugou did a 180 on his earlier stance.

Bakugou spat on his hand and gave the green-haired teen a firm handshake. He then proceeded to give him a small explosion.

“AHHH!”

“Don’t worry nerd, I did that just to kill the germs,” Bakugou said with a smug smile. It was quickly wiped off when a hardened hand landed on his head. “What the fuck was that for Ei?!?”

“You could’ve warned him Katsuki,” the redhead scolded him. “He’s quirkless, remember?”

As Bakugou only grumbled in response, Todoroki took the opportunity to say what he had to say.

“Anyway, um Midoriya, do you want to go on a date with me this weekend? I know we don’t know each other that much but I want to fix that.”

“Wait,” Izuku looked to him then said. “I’m not sure if what I’m hearing is right since Kacchan blew up my right hand, but you actually want to go on a date with me?”

“If you want,” Todoroki said, a nervous tone underlying his calm façade.

“Then I would love too,” Izuku said with a shy but smile on his face. “I was actually planning to see you later so I can ask you out but looks like you beat me to it, heh...”

The freckled teen noticed the surprised look on Todoroki’s face.

“Should I go get the fire extinguisher nearby?” He heard Raleigh suggest to the others. “I’m worried his left side might combust into flames again.”
“No, don’t worry,” Kirishima said. “He’s just processing all of this. And Katsuki! I think you have something more to say.”

“Oh yeah,” Bakugou casually said before recalling something in his mind. “Since IcyHot got a yes from the Nerd, I’m going to be planning their date. It’s part of my apology for Deku and also because IcyHot here can’t date to save his life. I’ll both give them instructions this Saturday so it all goes smoothly. No sabotage because I’ll never hear the end of it if Eijirou finds out...”

“Wow,” Izuku slumped back into his seat. “This is a lot to take in all at once.”

“Well, take it in Nerd because it’s happening.” Kacchan told him.

___|_|_|_||___

After Class 1-A ended their classes, Momo approached Todoroki while the rest of their classmates filed out of the room.

“Hey! I’ve been hearing good things from Kiri. Went better than you expect it to be?”

Todoroki gave off a small smile. “Yeah. I’m still pretty nervous. I don’t know what Bakugou has in store for us.”

“While I can’t stop him from following through with his plan, I can certainly help you with your wardrobe,” Momo said.

“What’s wrong with my clothes?” Todoroki asked.

“There’s nothing wrong with them but I can help mix up your style a bit, we don’t even have to buy new ones,” Momo said. “So what do you say?”

“I’ll agree to this since I trust you and we don’t have to go shopping for a new outfit.”

“Great! I just need to look up on some styles that I think will look great on you,” Momo said.

“I also have another favor,” Todoroki said. “Don’t tell your parents about me going on a date with a boy. I know your parents are accepting that you’re a lesbian and dating Jirou. But I don’t want word to reach my dad. He’s uptight and I don’t think he’s going to warm up to the idea of me - his ‘ultimate creation’ - being gay anytime soon despite having a lot of hot air around him.”
“I understand,” The pretty girl in front him nodded before remembering one of Todoroki’s routine tasks every week. “Oh, if you’re going on a date with Midoriya, how are you going to visit your mom?”

“I’ll just call her later and say I’ll visit on Sunday instead. That way, I can tell her all the things that happened on my date...”

“That so sweet,” Momo said just as her watch beeped and went off. She looked to her smartwatch. “Ugh, c’mon, let’s head back to the dorms. Bakugou’s going to have an aneurysm if we don’t come to rehearsals on time.”

“He’s really taking this cultural festival thing seriously, huh?”

“Monoma keeps antagonizing our class so its natural for Bakugou to one-up him just so he can rub it in his face.”

After telling Bakugou that he wanted to swing by the auditorium, Kirishima was now walking down the halls alone.

He was a bit bummed out that Bakugou could not go with him. Then again, the volatile-tempered blonde slash cultural festival director really wanted to beat Class-B’s performance. Since he knew that his class was going to full out rehearse tomorrow after school, he had to talk to Midoriya today.

As Kirishima turned a corner, he started hearing music emanate from the auditorium’s closed double doors.

When the redhead stepped inside, he was immediately greeted by the sight of Metropolitan students acting out on stage.

“Fine... Take a picture losers! It’ll last longer...” The Regina George actress said as she angrily exited the stage.

Everyone suddenly scrambled on their feet, trying to get a selfie of the blonde queen bee.

“She left!” The Gretchen actress said. “She left...”

Everyone who tried to take a selfie of Regina George were suddenly now looking to the other two
Plastics, who were now Regina-less.

Music started playing while the spotlight came onto Cady and the other Plastics:

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[Gretchen]
Wait...
Who is my boss now Regina is gone?

[Karen]
I'll wear what I want
Which is what I have on
And a vest
That's how it feels
To be free, free

[Gretchen]
I thought you would cave
But you stood up to her
You were strong, you were brave
No, you know what you were
You were fetch!

[Gretchen and Karen]
So fetch! And we're free, free
You were so fearless
Woah-oh
You didn't cry or hide or throw up
So fearless
Woah-oh
No emotional trauma
Just fearless!

[Ensemble]
Woah-oh

[Cady]
Well some people need to grow up

[Ensemble]
Woah! Fearless!

[Cady]
Got no time for her drama
She'll go cry to mama
From now on I'ma be

[Cady, Gretchen and Karen]
Fearless!

[Ensemble]
Woah-oh-oh

[Cady, Gretchen and Karen]
Fearless!

[Ensemble]
Woah-oh-oh

[Cady, Gretchen and Karen]
Fearless!
[Ensemble]
Woah-oh-oh

[Cady, Gretchen and Karen]
Fearless!

[Ensemble]
Woah-oh-oh

[Cady, Gretchen and Karen]
Fearless!

[Ensemble]
Woah-oh-oh

[Cady, Gretchen and Karen]
Fearless!

[Ensemble]
Woah-oh-oh

[Cady, Gretchen and Karen]
Fearless!

[Ensemble]
Woah-oh-oh

[Cady, Gretchen and Karen]
Fearless!

[Ensemble]
Woah-oh-oh

[Cady, Gretchen and Karen]
Fearless!

[Cady]
A girl's got to do
What a girl's got to do
I did it for me, sure
But really for you!
So that you can live fearlessly too
Imagine fearless!

[Cady and Ensemble]
Woah-oh!

[Cady]
Imagine stronger, better, bolder!
And fearless!

[Cady and Ensemble]
Woah-oh!

[Cady]
Brush that dirt off your shoulder

[Female Ensemble]
Imagine just dancing like no one was there
Everyone staring but you do not care

[Taylor Wedell]
Not hunching your shoulders
To make yourself small!

[Female Ensemble]
To walk right down
The middle of the hall
The girls then started dancing around with precision timing while some of the boys moved the tables out of the way.

[Ensemble]
Fearless!
Fearless!
Fearless!

Among the cast male members dancing on the food trays, Kirishima noticed Raleigh, Brendon, and Izuku. The shark-toothed boy noticed that all three of them and everyone in the cast looked so joyous and strong while rehearsing. It was clear that they were really putting every effort into this show.

The actress playing Gretchen then excitedly screamed and ran towards the middle as the music shifted to a more upbeat tone. She lead the other cast members into a synchronized dance number, that was gradually joined by the others.

While ‘Gretchen‘ still lead the dance number, Raleigh pointed to her with a smile as they started shifting positions. Brendon then moved towards the front before everyone did a turn with a kick and a series of high kicks. It was also in this part where both Raleigh and Brendon surprised by Kirishima’s presence.

After some flips and stunts from the ensemble members, the actress playing ‘Karen’ ran towards the middle and did her dance solo with a long ribbon, only to be comically wrapped up in it while most of the boys started moving three tables to their final positions.

[Ensemble]
Fearless!
Fearless!
We are Fearless!

All of a sudden, the music stopped and everyone sat as the Regina came out and grabbed a strategically placed box of kaleen bars from the center table. The same table where the Cady,
“...I forgot these,” The Regina George actress said, briefly showing the box to the almost absent audience.

[Cady, spoken]

Regina, I'm sorry this had to happen

[Regina, spoken]

What had happened?
I’m not dead
I’ll see you in gym in eight minutes
Enjoy your eight minutes...

[Cady, spoken]

You made these rules...

Classy yet threatening music started playing as Regina started walking slowly towards Cady and got all over her face.

[Regina]

It's fine for you
New hair, new skirt
It's fine
'Till someone gets hurt

[Ensemble]

Ahhh...

But being Regina, she dramatically walked away before doing one more turn and belting out brilliantly.
[ Regina]
Till someone gets hurt!

As Regina strutted away for real, the ensemble just stared the other three girls. While Cady and Gretchen seemed worried, Karen took her sleeves off and beamed before the light on the stage faded away.

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After a few more seconds, the stage lights turned on again. Most of the ensemble started dispersing while some helped pushed the cafeteria tables into the backstage.

“All right guys, 30 minutes!” Kirishima recognized that voice belonging to Brendon’s. “Then after the break, we start Act Two!”

Kirishima then noticed Raleigh running up to him, his grey shirt and fedora-less hair completely soaked in sweat. When the exhausted American got to him, he briefly collected his breath. “I was sent here by Brendon since we both noticed you on stage. What are you doing here anyway? You or any U.A student are not supposed to be here before show night...”

“I’m here to actually talk to Midoriya,” Kirishima explained. “I just caught your school at the wrong time I guess...”

“Sorry man,” Raleigh denied him. “Izuku really needs to rest up before Act Two. But I do have my phone with me now. I can give you his contact info so you can talk to him later instead.”

“Oh yeah,” Kirishima entertained. “Why didn’t I think of that? While you’re giving me his contact info, how about I get yours and Brendon’s? You seem like cool guys.”

“No problem buddy,” Raleigh smiled as he whipped his large iPhone out from his Under Armour pants. “But can you give your’s and Todoroki’s number too? I’m sure Izuku would like that...”

“Actually, that’s my main mission right now. Get Midoriya’s number for Todoroki while I give Todoroki’s number to Midoriya...”

“Why?”

“Didn’t you notice?” the spiky redhead asked him back.
“Noticed what?” Raleigh asked again.

“They didn’t even give their phone numbers to each other. How are you supposed to go on a date if you can’t even contact the other person?”

Raleigh just realized this. “Holy shit, you’re right...”

“And while I’m giving Todoroki’s contact info away, I might as well give Katsuki’s too - tell Midoriya to just use this for emergencies though.”

“Duly noted,” Raleigh acknowledged. “Let’s see... Todoroki, Bakugou, you... oh can I get Ojiro’s info too? I kinda want to personally ask him something later.”

“No problem!”

As they were watching TV that night, Inko noticed her son was grinning at his phone. In fact, he had that grin on all evening.

“What’s got you all smiley?” Inko inquired from the armchair she occupied. “Had a good day?”

“Kacchan talked to me today,” Izuku said. “I got asked out by a boy too and Raleigh managed to get his number for me. Raleigh also gave me Kacchan’s phone number, his boyfriend’s also. But Raleigh told me to only use Kacchan’s number for emergencies - it was a request that came from Kacchan’s boyfriend.”

Inko was surprised by this. Bakugou never goes to their home or talks to Izuku anymore. He was pretty shocked that Bakugou had a boyfriend, she never knew he would swing that way. And his son was asked out? Wow, kids do grow up so fast.

“He goes to U.A. right?” Her son nodded. “You bumped into him? And who’s this boy who asked you out?”

“More like they came to our table during lunch,” Izuku revealed as he sat up properly. “So here’s how it all went down...”

Izuku explained everything to her mother, including Todoroki asking him out. And Inko had listened to every bit of it.
“That’s so great he talked to you again. I never thought Katsuki would say sorry to you or he would be dating a boy but times are changing I guess.”

“Yeah, I get what you mean. I never thought I would love theatre too but here I am...”

“I also want to ask,” Inko requested. “Why did you say yes to Todoroki? Are you curious on what’s it like to date a boy?”

“It’s more along the lines of he’s very attractive,” Izuku admitted. “But I really do want to get to know him better. He’s a bit aloof but he genuinely seems like a great guy.”

“Well, you have my full support. You do have good judgement of character,” Inko said. “I hope your date on Saturday goes well.”

“Aww mom,” Izuku moved near her and hugged her tightly.

“Also, when will I get my free ticket to your show in U.A.?”

“You’ll get it soon,” Izuku answered with kind smile. "Maybe I should get Kacchan's parents some tickets too..."

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“...I’m not mad, don’t worry.” Todoroki reassured Kirishima in the common area. “I’m just surprised, that’s all. Besides, I have his number now. That’s something at least. I didn’t even realize we didn’t even exchange numbers so thanks as well.”

“Why’d you forgot though?” Kirishima asked.

“I’m new at this?” Todoroki offered.

“But that’s basic communication! How are you gonna talk or plan out dates if you can’t even contact him?”

“Just be glad you caught my rookie mistake,” Todoroki plainly said as he made his tea warm again using his left side quirk. “Honestly, I’m glad Bakugou is gonna plan our date. At least I can have a basis to plan out the next one.”

“True...” Kirishima slowly nodded before his phone buzzed on the table they were sitting at. The redhead picked it up and read the notification.
“Who is it?” Todoroki asked.

“It’s... Brendon?” Kirishima said. “I think Raleigh shared my phone number with him. Anyway, he’s asking if we have training classes tomorrow.”

“Why?” Todoroki asked before he took a sip of his tea.

“He says its for the musical,” Kirishima told him. “They want to improve on a fight scene they’re going to have. What should I say?”

“I’m sure Aizawa wouldn’t mind helping them out,” Todoroki told him. “Tell them to meet us up at Gym Gamma.”

“Wait, are you sure about this?” Kirishima cautioned. “What if he does mind?”

“He won’t because I know Midnight’s gonna take over his class tomorrow,” Todoroki said. “You know he’ll take every opportunity he can to be in that yellow sleeping bag.”

Chapter End Notes

And that’s chapter six!

Now... before chapter nine, I'm gonna crowd source some ideas on how Bakugou plans out Izuku and Todoroki's date since I have no final concept as I am writing these lines - even if I have chapters seven and eight in the works.

Comment below on what happens during Izuku and Midoriya's date in chapter nine! :)
New Moves, New Knowledge

Chapter Summary

Midnight revises the musical's fight scene. Kirishima and Todoroki have lunch with Izuku and his friends, only to find out more than they ever expected. The teachers go to Tensei's house to watch Mean Girls. Izuku announces an event through a surprising way.

Chapter Notes

After over 7,000 words, I give you chapter seven. Also, important message below.

See the end of the chapter for more notes

“Is that what she really wears?” Brendon questioned despite being enamored by Midnight approaching them.

“She is Japan’s 18+ only hero. I think it’s fitting for that title,” Raleigh pointed out before he added. “Is it bad if I think she looks hot? She is a teacher in U.A. after all... oh hey Izuku, you know what’s her quirk?”

“Somnambulist,” Izuku answered. “Her body can put out an aroma that can put people easily into sleep. I read that it’s more effective on boys than it is on girls.”

When Midnight approached them, she immediately donned her playful side. “So which one of you handsome young boys is Brendon Young?”

“I am...” Brendon sheepishly raised his right hand. “I’m Brendon Young. I’m the musical’s dance captain.”

“Ohh, a foreigner who speaks Japanese really well,” Midnight said with a grin.

“Actually, all the foreign students in the Metropolitan speak English and Japanese fluently,” Izuku added. “It’s a requirement.”
“Good,” Midnight said. “I don’t have to struggle talking to you in English then. Anyway, Mr. Young, one of my students said that you wanted my help?”

“That’s correct,” Brendon nodded. “The fight captain of Mean Girls expressed to me that our fight scene felt like it didn’t have the flair it needs…”

“You’re lucky that I like showing people a good time Mr. Young,” Midnight said. “I’ll help your school out. This is a movie that’s legendary after all - it’s musical counterpart should just be the same.”

“Oh thank you so much!” Brendon said with relief.

“But I need to see the scene where you need help first,” Midnight said. “I can’t help if I don’t what I’m working on.”

At that moment, another figure popped out from the the gym doors. “Hey, are you... oh, she’s here already.”

“And who are you?” Midnight asked.

“Simon Benitez,” the boy said. “Though most people call me ‘Smokes.’ I’m only a member of the scenic and props shift crew. I was also sent out here by Daichi, the show’s fight captain - he really wants to get this tutorial on the road…”

“In that case, let us begin!” declared the very suggestive teacher as she brought out her flogger-style whip and sharply snapped it. “With me helping, we’ll be done in no time!”

“Does she always carry that around?” Smokes asked about her whip.

“She does,” Izuku answered him. “I think she even demonstrated how it works on a morning show once...”
Inside Gym Gamma, Class 1-A wore their blue P.E. uniforms while the Metropolitan students wore varying outfit styles that reflected which part of the musical they were involved in.

Since Izuku was going to dance around throughout the day and tomorrow, he wore a white short-sleeved hoodie with minimal Adidas branding on it. A pair of grey training shorts and 3/4 sport tights for the lower portion of his body while a couple of black Asics competition knee pads finished off his look.

As Izuku walked alongside Smokes, the corner of his eye caught the other boy turn around before snorting a laugh.

“Hey Midoriya, did you and your friends plan this out?”

“Plan what out?” Izuku asked, confused.

“You’re wearing Adidas,” Smokes points out for him. “Ticonderoga seems to favor Under Amour while Brendon’s wearing Nike. You three have the sports clothing trifecta going on.”

To sate his curiosity, he looked over his shoulder to see that Smokes was right.

Raleigh wore a tan brown short-sleeved hoodie, black shorts and a pair of black knee pads. His signature fedora was not with him as their rehearsals can get very intense, long or both.

Brendon, on the other hand, sported a white, fitted long sleeve top with a small black Nike logo. Thanks to the tapering design of his black running pants, his legs were subtly emphasized. He also had a sportier version of his signature Crimson Riot snapback in place of his regular one.

Raleigh raised his eyebrows. “Anything wrong?”

“He’s just noticing the brands you guys are wearing,” Smokes grinned.

Brendon looked down to the logo on his top then looked to Raleigh then to Izuku. “Holy crap, he’s
“We should take a picture!” Izuku excitedly suggested.

“Can you do it for us Smokes?” Raleigh asked.

“No problem,” the brown-skinned boy accepted. Raleigh handed his phone over to him before the three ensemble members posed. “3...2...1...”

After Smokes took multiple shots - all of which looked great - he gave the large phone back to its rightful owner.

“Oh, these look great!” Raleigh complimented as he reviewed the photos. Brendon and Izuku huddled around him. “Thanks man!”

“Can you send that to us? Those look awesome.” Brendon asked.

“I’ll send you and Izuku different shots later,” the tall American said. “Oh yeah, Smokes, do you have an Instagram account?”

“I do,” Smokes nodded. “Just type in ‘Smokes Benitez’ and I should pop up.”

The sound of a familiar whip cracked in the air before Midnight’s voice reached their them. “Alright! Listen up!”

“...And I think that’s our cue to get our asses in place,” Smokes said to the three. As they continued walking, Smokes whispered into Izuku’s ear. “Brendon looks amazing!”

Izuku just looked at him and shook his head with a grin.
“On behalf of the Metropolitan and the cast of Mean Girls, I’d like to start today by thanking Ms. Midnight and Class 1-A,” announced Akio Daichi, the rather lithe fight captain of the musical. “But their time with us is limited so we have to make today really count.”

Midnight looked to the Metropolitan students. “I believe that some credit should be given to two specific people here with us: Mr. Young the dance captain and Kirishima, Class 1-A’s sunshine of a rock...”

“Actually, Midoriya and Katsuki should be getting all the credit,” Kirishima said, causing everyone to look at him. The dance captain agreed to this by nodding his head. “If it weren’t for them talking yesterday, we all wouldn’t be here right now.”

“Well then, I guess follow what he said and forget everything I told you instead since Mr. Young’s nodding here,” Midnight observed before she used her whip again to command attention. “But now, I want you see the area that your fight captain deemed a bit problematic. Class, you’ll help me out too. More eyes are better than just a lone pair.”

“Team, we all know what to do,” Brendon said to the Met students before he turned to Smokes. “You got the dummy right?”

“Yeah, and the Burn Book, photocopier and the stack of papers too,” the prop boy said.

“Great!” The leader said before turning back to his fellow students. “Alright! Everyone to your places in two!”

“Do I have to wear my wig for this one?” Izuku asked.

“Nah,” Brendon told him. “None of the guys in this number have too for now. Just do your best - and not screw up of course, since we have Ms. Midnight here.”

After a couple of minutes, Midnight stood from one side while Class 1-A watched from the floor. It started when menacing music begun playing.

The actress playing Regina then started slowly walking with the photocopied machine:
[Regina]
My name is Regina George
And I am a massive deal
I will grind you to sand
Beneath my Louboutin heel

This is what I get for helping
Helping someone lame fit in
Cady Heron, enjoy your temporary win

Regina then opened the Burn Book and started writing on it before placing it inside the machine.

[Regina]
My name is Regina George
“Regina is a fugly cow.”
Hey Cady, how ya like me now?

After the villainous riffs, Regina actress took a stack of paper, the Burn Book and pushed the machine to the side, that was readily caught by Smokes.

[Regina]
I wanna watch the world burn
I got the gasoline
I wanna watch the world burn
And everyone get...

A tall African-American male then walked to the center. And Regina immediately went to him.

[Regina, spoken]
Sir! Mr. Duvall!
I found this book in the girl’s bathroom. And the things it says about me...
The things it says about all of us!
[Principal Duvall, spoken]
Is this true?
Rachel Hamilton fills her inhaler with vodka?
Does that work?
Ms. Norbury's a sad old drug pusher...
What does this say?
Caitlyn Caussin has what?

[Regina, spoken]
Hairy nips...

[Principal Duvall, spoken]
Good lord!
Well don’t worry,
we’re gonna find out
who did this

[Regina, spoken]
There are only three girls in the whole school who aren’t in it.

[Principal Duvall, spoken]
Can you give me names?

Regina gave the Burn Book to him and walked away. She then revealed her stack of papers, bearing a devilish smirk.

[Regina, sung]
Cady, time to watch your back
Cady, time to turn and cough
Because you took me down
But you didn’t finish me off!

She the started throwing the papers around and the other students started picking them up.
[Regina]
My name is Regina George
And in case you’re keeping score
Cady may have won the battle
But I will win the war, for...

[Regina]
I wanna watch the world burn

[Ensemble]
Trang Pak is a grotsky biotch!

[Regina]
I brought the gasoline

[Ensemble]
Ms. Norbury's a drug pusher!

[Regina]
I wanna make the world burn

[Ensemble]
Janis is a space dyke!

[Janis, spoken]
That’s original...
Damien Hubbard’s too gay to function?!

That is only okay when I say it!

[Damien, spoken]
Wait, only Cady could’ve written that...

[Ensemble, sung]
Regina is a fugly cow
Regina is a fugly cow

[Regina]
And you can quote this
Woah-oh-oh!

[Ensemble]
Who wrote this?
Who wrote this?
Who wrote this?
Ooh!

[Regina]
I wanna watch the world burn
I got the gasoline!
I wanna watch the world burn
And everyone turn
Mean...

[Ensemble]
So mean!

[Regina]
Mean...

[Ensemble]
So mean!

[Regina]
MEAN!

A quick fight sequence broke out and Midnight watched it very closely. Some from Class 1-A also looked at it like a hawk. They did feel that some aspects of the fight scene felt a bit forced and lacking substance.

The three actress playing Cady, Karen and Gretchen then ran towards the center of the makeshift stage. The guy playing the principal came on again, the Burn Book in tow. In the background, some of the girls can be seen fighting.
[Principal Duvall, spoken]
Ms. Heron, have you ever seen this book before?

[Cady, spoken]
No... I mean yes!
I’ve seen it before but it’s not mine!

[Gretchen, spoken]
It’s Regina’s!
She’s trying to make it look like we wrote it when really, she wrote it.

[Principal Duvall, spoken]
Ms. Wieners, why would Regina write Aaron Samuels has a fake address?
Isn’t he her boyfriend or something?

[Cady, spoken]
It says that...?

[Gretchen, spoken]
No... no...

[Principal Duvall, spoken]
And why would Regina refer to herself as a ‘shady, untruthful fugly cow?!’

Karen just laughs at the description.

[Principal Duvall, spoken]
Ms. Smith!
This is no laughing matter.
The actress playing the math teacher comes running in.

[Ms. Norbury, spoken]
Ron, help!
I tried to break up a fight but one of them stabbed me in the leg!
It’s either an epipen or one of those pens with five colors...
Either way, my heart’s racing...

[Principal Duvall, spoke]
Oh hell no!
I did not leave the
South Side for this!

The scene shifted to the principal in the middle of the chaos, blowing his whistle really loudly. Even making some from Class 1-A to cover their ears.

[Principal Duvall, spoken]
All junior year girls report to
the gymnasium immediately!
Immediately!

As if on cue, Regina appeared again as everyone arranged themselves again.

[Regina]
I wanna watch the world burn

[Ensemble]
Who wrote this?
Who wrote this?
Ah!
Who wrote this?
The class clapped after the performance but not Midnight.

The teacher who left little to the imagination, then walked towards the center. Her back facing Class 1-A. “So class, before I share what I thought about their fight scene, what did you think of it?”

“The pacing feels rushed,” Ojiro expressed. “And they weren’t observing proper combat forms. They might accidentally hurt themselves if they’re not careful.”

“The way some of them used their quirks during the fight didn’t feel natural,” Shoji added. “It looked like some of them were hesitant.”

“And while I understand this is supposed to be chaotic, the way they were arranged felt really all over the place,” Momo shared. “That may come off as confusing for the audience on where to look. The only time my eyes concentrated on one place was when the actors were doing their scenes.”

“Very good observations!” Midnight smiled at their valid criticism. “Now, my input is that you were not feeling the moment, not connected to it. And it shows. My senses are telling me that most of you are scared you could hurt your friend. I know all of you are just acting but I understand the damage can be real.”

“So what do we do Ms. Midnight?” Akio, the fight captain asked.

“The first thing that should happen is that Class 1-A should get out,” Midnight said. “I want to keep this new scene a surprise. And by the looks of it, I’m going to be helping out the Met for longer - not in the hour I planned.”

“I’m going to have to break this to my dads, correct?” Shinsou asked loudly. “This last minute thing...”

“Correct!” Midnight confirmed as she turned around before cracking her whip towards the direction of the door. “Now all of you, get out and leave me to my show improving crash course for the
“Wait, what are we going to do during your time if you’re here sensei?” Tsuyu asked.

“Just go back to the classroom and stay quiet,” Midnight hastily instructed. “Now for the millionth time, leave!”

After Class 1-A changed out of their barely used P.E. uniforms, they got to back to their classroom. Almost everyone did something productive to pass the time. Except for Kirishima.

He looked around at the view unfolding before him.

Bakugou tutored Mina, Sato, Sero and Kaminari so they don’t bomb their math quiz later in the day. Sato provided small breakfast pastries for them - where he got that out of nowhere, the redhead will never know.

Their cultural festival stars: Momo, Jirou, Hagakure, Ojiro, Shoji and Tokoyami, we’re all trying to memorize their lines together and getting the pitch of their voices in their respective songs just right.

Aoyama was suggesting that their prop and costumes should have more sparkles and glitter. Uraraka told him it will look like a large bath bomb went off on stage.

“Hey.”

Kirishima turned around and saw Shinsou standing over them, looking tired as ever.

“Oh hey. You talked to Aizawa about Midnight?”

“No, but my loud pop’s said he’ll take care of the schedule and let my sleeping dad know when he wakes up.” Shinsou said before he leaned he sat on the table across the spiky redhead. “I have to say, it seems like you made fast friends with those theatre kids - sharing your phone number and all. Building your future hero contact network?”

“I just thought they were cool people!” Kirishima said. “You’ve seen what they can do, right? Really manly stuff, even if a lot of people associate boys in theatre with the gays - which I’m proud of if they really do. Because it means that we gays are talented!”
“I actually expected a bunch of twinks but I didn’t expect a lot of them to be quite muscly,” Shinsou said. “Like that American guy you know, Brendon right? And that other guy, who’s even taller and seems to sit with him and Midoriya during lunch.”

“I think you’re talking about Raleigh,” the redhead informed him. “And maybe it’s because of the Regina actress. Remember when they first presented in the cafeteria? Regina was carried around like half of the time.”

“Raleigh’s the guy who did that backflip when they were singing something with the weird accents the other day, right?” Shinsou asked.

“Yeah, that’s him!” Kirishima recalled while snapping his fingers.

“If I wasn’t dating Tenya right now, I can totally see myself flirting with any of the three. They’re all attractive…”

“I think you have to be that when you’re in theatre though,” Kirishima said. “You have to be both attractive and talented, and those three pass the requirements with flying colors... and I gotta say, I’m really curious what Midnight’s doing to them right now.”

“My hunch is that it has something to do with their technique,” Shinsou told him. “Midnight’s way more perceptive than she lets on. But as per usual U.A. teacher protocol, she’s probably running them into the ground as we speak. Remember training camp with Aizawa and Vlad before we even got to the actual place...?”

“God help them.”

__[ ][ ][ ][ ][ ]__

Izuku has never seen both of his friends this tired. He’s not sure if New Yorkers had certain habits when exhausted but both Brendon and Raleigh do. The revision took longer just as Midnight said it would but with almost everyone wiped after the surprise teaching method, it certainly felt like an entire week of conditioning had passed by.

Because after everyone posted the photos Raleigh’s phone took (courtesy of Smokes) from earlier on their respective Instagram accounts, both Brendon and Raleigh settled into their own ‘I’m tired’ routines.

Izuku noticed that when Brendon was tired, he would normally remove his Crimson Riot snapback, revealing his relatively well-kept but bouncy side-parted blonde hair. He would normally find a chair and a table he can slump onto. Brendon did this quite often on when they rehearsed for Newsies a
few months ago as the choreography for that musical was way more intense.

In Raleigh’s case, Izuku notes that he would close and cover his eyes with his arm or anything within his proximity before leaning back on any flat or comfortable surface. Since he doesn’t have his fedora right now - which he would use to cover his face - he opted to use the hoodie of his outfit.

Still, he was excited about the new choreography that Brendon and Akio came up with. They just need the approval of their student director later, who was busy working with the tech crew in the auditorium all morning.

“Are they still out?” Smokes asked as he came back with a tray full of everyone’s lunches - which were large sandwiches, a lot of tuna onigiri and large bottles of orange juice and a couple of bottles of Pocari Sweat for Brendon.

“Yeah,” Izuku nodded as Smokes took the seat beside him. “But I don’t blame ‘em. Ms. Midnight did make them fight robots which were armed with rockets and missiles.”

“If this wasn’t U.A., that’s likely illegal,” Smokes pointed out as he and Izuku started distributing their food. “Aren’t one of them the son of a U.S. Senator? Because if that got out to the press, I think it might start some diplomatic tension.”

“That’s Raleigh,” Izuku said.

“Don’t worry, I’m going to let my mom know and we're going to have a meeting about that today,” Raleigh said, not moving from his slumped position. “Oh and thanks for buying us our food - you’ve been a life saver today.”

“I’m just doing my job,” Smokes said. “So, what was it like fighting heavily armed robots?”

“Holy crap... what happened to them?” A female voice said in astonishment. “Actually, what happened to most of the ensemble and the swings?”

When Izuku and Smokes turned to the direction of the source, they both saw Yumna.

“Most of them fought these huge ass robots,” Smokes answered. “The main actors, Midoriya and me were all holed up in this control room with one of the school’s teachers, Midnight. You know, the one whose pro hero costume wouldn’t be out of place in RuPaul’s Drag Race and would totally be arrested in your home country for just wearing it.”

“Yeah, she would totally get in serious trouble back in Turkey just for wearing that,” Yumna said before she took out a couple of large books that had multiple fabric samples in them. “Anyway, I came here for Raleigh to drop off the fabric swatches his aunt requested from my mom.”
“Just put it on my lap,” Raleigh requested, pointing down. “I’m too beat to reach out.”

“Okay...” Yumna fulfilled Raleigh’s request before looking at him and Brendon again. “How long did they fight those robots?”

“Until all of them were down,” Izuku said as he tried recalling what he saw on the huge monitor. “It was crazy. They were in this realistic city setting, dodging missiles and stuff from machines out to kill them or at least knock them out.”

“Yikes,” The girl said. “I think I would have probably cried if I had to face those things. Now that I heard it from you guys first, I’ll go sit with my group now - considering Harumi probably got beat up too.”

“See you later girl,” Smokes said before she waved bye to them and walked off.

But as she walked away, two figures came to their table. Izuku noticed it was Kirishima and Todoroki.

“Hey Midoriya,” Kirishima said. “Mind if we sit here?”

“No, not at all,” Izuku smiled. “But just go get a seat from another table. These two need their personal space.”

As both Kirishima and Todoroki got a chair from another table and settled in, they looked to the two exhausted performers slowly getting up in a more upright position.

“Geez, what happened to you two?” Kirishima asked.

“Midnight happened. Wiped our stamina out,” Raleigh answered as he lazily put the book of fabric swatches in his bag. He then sniffed the warm, savory scent emanating from the large sandwich, still unwrapped in its wax paper cover in front of him. “Oh fuck, that smells so good...”

“That’s probably just your hunger talking,” Todoroki said before taking a bite of his food.

“Oh, guys this Smokes, he works with the scenic and prop shift department,” Izuku introduced the hero students to the prop boy. “Smokes, this is Kirishima and Todoroki - the boy who asked me out yesterday.”

“Nice to meet you two,” Smokes smiled.
“Why ‘Smokes?’ Kirishima asked.

“Real name’s Simon but my quirk turns me into a walking smoke machine,” the boy in question answered. “That’s how I got my nickname. I can’t show it to both of you because I got an injury the other day setting up the stage.”

“He got shocked by accident,” Izuku completed for him.

“So here’s how it went down...” Smokes started.

As they eat their food in casual ease, Smokes explained to Kirishima and Todoroki what exactly happened to him. Both the fledgling heroes felt bad for him since they concluded it was quite serious if he needed to go visit Recovery Girl and was advised not to use his quirk.

Todoroki then explained that he and Kirishima had to sit with them since most of Bakugou’s ‘Bakusquad’ were in the library. Kirishima further explained that they had a big math test today but he didn’t join the others since Bakugou says he’ll do fine and to not join them so the rest of the Bakusquad won’t be as distracted if he was there. Todoroki’s set of friends were in their classroom, getting ready for the cultural festival the next day.

“I think Katsuki will cook later to make up for the Bakusquad missing lunch,” the redhead added.

“Does Kacchan tutor you?” Izuku asked.

“Only if I can’t understand the material or if I’m having trouble,” Kirishima said. “Katsuki used to help me a lot but when he did; he also gave a hands on tutorial on how to study and how to better sync my time with my lifestyle. I slowly relied on him less and less until I can do it on my own.”

“How did you two start dating then?” Brendon inquired.

“I always had this crush when I first saw Katsuki,” Kirishima shared, voices a bit softer. “I thought he was amazing. He was hot, manly, insanely smart, and had the most awesome quirk I’ve seen. And he’s not content on having an amazing quirk - he’s trying to find more uses out of it, how to use it more efficiently. But I am not blind to the fact he can hurt the feelings of others.”

“Kirishima can take all the credit when it comes to changing Bakugou,” Todoroki said. “He’s still his usual growly and explosive self but everyone in class will point to Kirishima here for being his first friend and making him decidedly a bit more mellow...”

“But that’s where my feelings for Katsuki became stronger,” Kirishima said. “I did try to keep it under wraps though it was hopeless since Katsuki has the senses of a wolf. He picked up on it and started avoiding me... it sucked big time.”
“It turns out Bakugou was in denial that he can like boys,” Todoroki added. “God, the time it took these two to sort out their feelings felt glacial... but they did what they needed to do which was talk. After that talk, they now hold hands wherever they go - I think this was after we had the sports festival.”

“I can understand Bakugou though,” Raleigh said. “Actually, two people on this table can relate - Me and Izuku. Ah, the age-old problems of bisexuals - when you’re young but start realizing you’re pining for both teams.”

“How did you know you were bi?” Izuku heard Todoroki ask him.

“Uhh... um,” Raleigh trailed before looking to the green haired teen. “Should we tell ‘em? I’m fine with it but I’m not sure if you are...”

“I think it’s best that we tell them now because it’s going be way worse if they hear it from someone else,” Izuku said to him before he looked to the others. “Just promise us that this conversation will not go beyond this table... now this started out when Kacchan started working out more during our junior high years...”

“Ohh, I have a feeling something big happened,” Smokes grinned.

“...I started noticing his physique more and it scared me because I was sure that boys are not supposed to look at others boys that way,” Izuku said. “Then I met Raleigh.”

“And soon after meeting me, we did the process of transforming Izuku into Evan Hansen,” Raleigh said. “It was decided that Izuku won’t be going to U.A. as he opted for the Metropolitan instead. Then he told me his other crisis that involved his attraction to both boys and girls when we were going over the script... I told him he’s bi, just like I am, and there is absolutely nothing wrong with that.”

“We kinda joked about it for a few moments...” Izuku trailed. “Then I kinda looked into him... and kissed Raleigh.”

There was only silence in their table.

“Wait, you came onto Ticonderoga?” Smokes asked, he was still in shock.

“And after that,” Raleigh continued. “I came onto Izuku... and I can confirm that my response was more desperate than his attempt...”

“I am absolutely shaking right now,” Smokes said, taking the information in.
“And it was also my very first kiss and my first kiss with a boy,” Izuku revealed. “My first with a girl was with Kawachi Minamoto, the one who played Zoe in our school’s production of Dear Evan Hansen.”

“Izuku’s my first kiss with a boy,” Raleigh continued. “My very first kiss with a girl was one who I accidentally knocked into a fountain.”

“Today is just full of surprises, first it was heavily armed robots and now...” Brendon said before letting out a large breath. “This is a lot to take in.”

“Is this just a hormones thing?” Kirishima asked.

“You have two red-blooded bisexual boys in a room, alone in an apartment,” Raleigh said. “What do you think will happen?”

“Todo,” Smokes said. “How are you coping? You are going on a date with Midoriya here.”

“Annoyed and I actually really want to freeze Raleigh to hell right now. Maybe use my ice shards and cut off his lips too,” Todoroki said with his ice breath coming out of his mouth, alarming everyone in the table. “But because Midoroya is attractive and he was at least honest, I’ll let it slide - for now.”

“Those are really strong words for a guy who has never been in a relationship before,” Kirishima said.

“Todoroki, arguably one of the best looking dudes in your school, has never been in a relationship before?” Brendon questioned.

“Yeah, my dad is really strict,” Todoroki said. “And if he finds out I’m gay, all hell would break lose. And even if I was straight, the old man wants to pair me up with his woman of choice to keep the gene pool and power play strong.”

“Ew,” Smokes dismissed. “Reminds me of the annoying parents in the shitty Filipino dramas people in my house like watching. Utterly one-dimensional and lacking substance.”

“You basically described my dad, whom you all know as Endeavor,” Todoroki said of the comparison.

“Holy shit,” Izuku said.
“I’m just...” Smokes trailed.

“Why is it every time we meet, there’s always a heavy conversation or a crazy thing that happens?” Raleigh asked them.

“Because our lives are a mess,” Brendon said. “Two of my best bros made out with one another but are still best of friends...”

“Which is a good thing,” Kirishima pointed out.

“True,” Brendon agreed, nodding. “Todoroki has never been on a date despite being the catch everyone wants due to daddy issues. And lovable Kirishima is the boyfriend of someone who used to bully Izuku a lot but managed to change him... no one can make this up.”

“The writer Mark Twain did say ‘Truth is stranger than fiction; because fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities. Truth isn’t,’” Smokes quoted.

“Can we talk about something else? Please?” Izuku pleaded.

“I’ve been wanting to ask,” Kirishima took on the opportunity to ask Raleigh a question. “When you were singing the other day, where you did the backflip, why did you all have weird accents?”

“If you hear me talk in English, that’s how I really talk,” Raleigh said. “With a distinctive Brooklyn accent. But if I need to act another role and need to drop the accent, I can do that... I probably picked up the accent from my neighborhood and one of my mom’s more senior staff members.”

“Can you teach me how to talk like that?” Kirishima inquired while Brendon responded to a message, typing away on his phone

“Raleigh’s a great dialect coach!” Izuku said. “Even if he played Jack Kelly, the protagonist in Newsies, Raleigh really tried to help out the others and assisted them in trying to say the English words in the correct New York City accent.”

“Go on ‘King of New York’,” Brendon encouraged. “I bought us some time to kill.”

Raleigh turned to Brendon. “What do you mean?”

“I managed to convince the tech crew and our student director to move our rehearsal to 2 p.m. in light of Ms. Midnight’s unexpected teaching method. We’re physically beat up, remember?” Brendon explained. “Now go on ‘Kelly’.”
“Before he starts,” Izuku pulled out his own newsie flatcap and gave it to Raleigh. “You gotta look the part!”

“Ayyeee, thanks bro!” Raleigh accepted. It was a bit small compared to his own so he adjusted it until it was comfortable on his head.

“Spot Conlon who?” grinned Smokes. “I only know Jack Kelly.”

“Aye, you watch your mouth,” Raleigh playfully pointed an index finger at him. “Spot’s from Brooklyn and us Brooklyn looks out for each other... in addition, we’re the borough who moves the most papes...”

“I don’t follow,” Todoroki quipped.

“Now you got a hat on, teach me!” Kirishima said in an excited tone.

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Vlad was puzzled on why the other staff had forced him and All Might to watch the Mean Girls movie when they both mentioned they have never watched it before.

He now found himself in Tensei’s nice living room along with the others. The movie was ready to play and popcorn was hot, fresh from the microwave. But they had to wait for the others who stayed back at school to finish some paperwork. However, according to the last messaged sent to Ectoplasm, the rest should be arriving soon.

“Why do we have to watch this?” Vlad asked as everyone around him got settled around the couch or on the duvet laid out on the floor.

“Because you and All Might haven’t watched Mean Girls,” Snipe simply answered. “It’s a very helpful movie in understanding how teens work.”

“It just also happens to be one of the best movies about high school ever made,” Tensei added.

“Plus after me completely overhauling the fight scene for the musical, I kinda felt nostalgic so here we are,” the R18+ only hero said in more comfortable and modest clothes said. “I would also like to thank Tensei for hosting all of us on short notice.”

“It’s no problem,” Tensei assured them. “I just hope the musical lives up to the movie. They’re asking a lot of money for a ticket to a high school production.”
“Trust me, their professionals,” Midnight said. “Their Regina George is flawless. I didn’t tell them since they had to iron out their fight scene but the way she sang... she has to be awarded for that.”

"Oh that’s good,” Tensei smiled. “I’m also relieved since I kinda told the other pros about the musical so... quite a lot of them bought a ticket.”

“How did they buy a ticket? There’s only 400 of them when they sold them to the students,” Vlad inquired. “The prices are steep but with the group discount, it sold out in less than two hours...”

“Nezu told us about it,” Tensei said. “But after my brother messaged me about it. I decided to check it out and convinced the others to do the same. They said all of them hadn’t seen a live performance on a theatre stage and they were really curious so they ended up buying tickets too. Since we weren’t physically there, Nezu was nice enough to buy it for us before it ran out.”

“Who’s coming?” Midnight asked.

“Hawks, Mount Lady, Fatgum, Best Jeanist, Gunhead, Ryukyu, Kamui, The Pussycats, Uwabami, Edgeshot, Death Arms,” Tensei said from the top of his head. “Even Gran Torino.”

“Star-studded,” Ectoplasm commented. “Think the media is going to be all over this?”

“Definitely,” Snipe said. “But we can deal with them. And if you think about it, we need good publicity this time. A bunch of heroes watching a slick Broadway-esque musical based off an legendary movie should do U.A. a huge favor. We’ll also have extra security and secret police presence on hand to keep everyone safe.”

“We’re here!” A familiar hyper voice parroted as the front door opened. It was Present Mic. He walked into the living space followed by Aizawa, Thirteen and All Might.

“Now that everyone’s here, Let’s get this movie started.” Snipe said.

"This is gonna be so fetch!” Present Mic beamed.

Aizawa just groaned before he was pulled by his loud husband.
[softrock added acorn, Tall Spot Conlon and Captain Snapback to the group chat]

10:08 p.m.

**C-4:** EWWW. Eijirou wtf?!!! Why the hell did you add those losers?

**softrock:** Midoriya wanted to tell the class something!

**softrock:** hold on, Midoriya pm’ed me that he’s in the middle of fixing something, he said it might take a while

**Tall Spot Conlon:** no offense but you could’ve just added him Kiri. Bren and I would’ve been fine

**Captain Snapback:** and I’m in more than enough group chats as it is already

**softrock:** he told me to add you guys too! 😊

**3.5mm:** why is one their usernames Captain Snapback?

**softrock:** he wears snapback hats all the time - CRIMSON RIOT ones. he’s also the musical’s dance captain...

**3.5mm:** he wears those things all the time? and what does a dance captain do anyway???

**Captain Snapback** sent hugeassorganizedbinder.jpg

**Captain Snapback:** ^^^ those are all the tracks, blocking and steps I have to memorize for Mean Girls... it’s one my jobs as dance captain

**Captain Snapback:** in addition, I’m in charge of other actors called swings. they fill in roles of ensemble actors just in case they’re unavailable. I’m part of the ensemble too, as a guy named Mike Thurman. I also play Cady Heron’s dad.

**Captain Snapback:** I wear snapbacks like 90% of the time cuz my hair flops around when I perform or when I do something a bit vigorous
3.5mm: damn, idk what to say

3M: holy shit, your intense dude

3M: oh, I’m Sero by the way

3.5mm: and I’m Jirou

Captain Snapback: I’m Brendon

Captain Snapback: also, why are your usernames 3M and 3.5mm?

3M: They make all kinds of tapes! My elbows are basically giant tape dispensers

3.5mm: I have extendable headphone jacks on my ears

Captain Snapback: those sound like pretty cool quirks!

softrock: speaking of quirks, what’s yours Brendon? what’s Raleigh’s quirk too? i never got to ask you guys that!!!

Captain Snapback: i can emit electromagnetic pulses or EMPs. I can fry anything that has an integrated circuit board. A really powerful one can scramble a brain for about five minutes

3M: drawbacks?

Captain Snapback: using it too much wipes me out. I also need lock-on time and it can’t work on EMP-proofed stuff

softrock: @Tall Spot Conlon you haven’t even introduced yourself yet 😊

Tall Spot Conlon: !!!

Tall Spot Conlon: Sorry!!! I was watching this documentary on how an Airbus A350 is made.

Tall Spot Conlon: Raleigh Ticonderoga’s the name Kirishima’s classmates.
Captain Snapback: me and Izuku forgot to point this out. Raleigh is an AvGeek. He’s a big fan of newer airplanes that use a lot of carbon fiber or composite stuff.

Dark Birb: why?? before you ask I’m Tokoyami and I have a sentient quirk named Dark Shadow but that’s not important now. please continue

Tall Spot Conlon: I have two, mutant class quirks: shock absorption and a ultra high-strength composite skeleton

Tall Spot Conlon: the latter quirk is the reason why I love the new airplanes ✈️ (787 and A350). they have materials like me!

Tall Spot Conlon: also before my mom got into politics, she used to be a flight attendant for Delta. my dad used to work for Boeing and Airbus before he found his own company that specializes in coach building and restomodding cars.

C-4: I don’t get why you two went to an art school when you could’ve just enrolled in U.A.

Captain Snapback: we chose to be happy man, I love theatre. Pro heroes are great but it’s not for me.

Tall Spot Conlon: and considering Ms. Midnight made most of us battle armed robots with missiles and rocket launchers unnoticed, hard pass

Captain Snapback: but I can tell you guys that the fight scene is way better. how better you ask? you just have to watch on Friday.

3.5mm: @Momo Poppins again babe, thanks for buying us those tickets!

Momo Poppins: no problem! And I’m glad 1-A is getting along with others from a different culture

Tail(s): @Tall Spot Conlon it’s me Ojiro!

Tall Spot Conlon: Ojiro! 😇

Tail(s): for real, how come do you look so normal with TWO mutant Class quirks???

Tall Spot Conlon: they’re more of internal quirks rather than external ones. they’re great and useful
quirks if you love dancing like me!!!

**Tail(s):** can we train together sometime? i think you’d be a great sparring partner.

**Tall Spot Conlon:** as long as there isn’t any killer robots and it’s on a weekend, just tell me when! i could use some inspiration for new moves

**Momo Poppins:** Hmm, a composite skeleton quirk seems impressive, he gets to weigh less in proportion to his height and muscle mass!

**Tall Spot Conlon:** why Momo Poppins though???

**Momo Poppins:** Yaoyorozu Momo, 1-A’s Deputy Class Representative!

**Dark Birb:** She’s motherly; level-headed, sweet yet firm. Also has very refined taste.

**3.5mm:** her creation quirk is amazing too, the more she eats, the more stuff she can make - as long as she knows how it’s made, right down to the atomic level. the kicker is that she instantly loses weight doing it

**Tall Spot Conlon:** @Momo Poppins, you have a quirk everyone at the Met would kill to have. And it’s unfair you get to lose weight that easily, you can eat whatever you want!

**acorn:** HELLO

**softrock:** Midoriya!

**acorn:** look what I’ve accomplished!!!

    **acorn** sent **mybedroomisalsoanimmaculateAllMightShrine.jpg**

**softrock:** whoa...

**3M:** that’s a ton of All Might Memorabilia... have you considered switching the color palette a little?

**C-4:** forwarding this to All Might... and there.
C-4: since he’s one of my teacher’s, he’ll now know how much of a giant loser you are...

acorn: oh I see, that’s how it is.

acorn: you leave me no choice Kacchan...

C-4: what the fuck are you planning Nerd?!!

acorn sent meandkacchanasallmightwhenwewerefour.jpg

acorn sent kacchan’sproudofhisallmightactionfigurecollection.jpg

acorn sent kacchanonhalloweenwhenhewassevenasabigbadbakuwolf.jpg

softrock: Midoriya... fucking bless your soul... I never knew I needed these until now. Thank you!

Momo Poppins: you two look so adorable together!

Captain Snapback: ^ samesies

3.5mm: too bad most of 1-A’s sleeping rn. Bakugou really made us rehearse until we got everything right for tomorrow...

Violet: I forwarded those pics of Bakugou to All Might.

C-4: I’LL FUCKING KILL BOTH YOU AND DEKU

Tail(s): lol Bakugou, none of us can see my girlfriend. so how you gonna do that to Tooru?

acorn: even if I still live in the same unit, I can always run to Raleigh’s or Brendon’s place and you don’t know where they live Kacchan...

3M: @C-4 they got you good man, just let it go

C-4: except for Eijirou and Kouji, FUCK ALL OF YOU
Violet: for the three who don’t live in the dorms, Bakugou blew up in his room again.

W-12: Who made Bakugou really mad again? And why are you all still up?! We need a good night’s rest since we have a performance tomorrow for the cultural festival!

3M: scroll up class rep, you’ll see why

W-12: @softrock why would you add three non U.A. students to the official class group chat?

3.5mm: Iida, i can practically hear your arm move when I read your message.

Captain Snapback: who’s that???

3M: our class rep, we love him but he can be a bit much

Insomniyeah: @W-12 Relax Tenya, they’re harmless. and if they even try to pull a fast one on us, we can collectively kick their asses

acorn: we’re harmless I swear!

acorn: I almost forgot my announcement!!! would you guys like to come to our short presentation tomorrow?

Violet: you guys have a cultural festival presentation?!?!

acorn: yeah! we had it planned out before one of the teacher's - Present Mic I think his name was - asked us if we have anything for your school's cultural festival. but only @Tall Spot Conlon will be performing out of the three of us since the most of the cast for that number will be coming in from our school!

Violet: oh my god

Captain Snapback: @Tall Spot Conlon let me guess, you accepted Tarraco’s offer didn’t you?

Tall Spot Conlon: yes
Captain Snapback: k, just don’t screw it up in front of your future boyfriend

acorn: you see, Raleigh has a crush on our Mean Girls' scenic director Manuel Tarraco (you should see his quirk!). And Manuel will have a leading part tomorrow - it’s a musical number that’s really special to him

Tall Spot Conlon: and it’s also my chance to impress Manuel!

Momo Poppins: oh good luck! but when and where is your school going to perform?

acorn: the stage set up near the food stands, 2 p.m.!

3.5mm: guess we’re watching it tomorrow then, 1-A will be done by that time

Momo Poppins: if you’re not busy rehearsing, you should come and watch us too! we'll be performing in the building near the USJ dome

Captain Snapback: we’ll see… one of us will just message Kirishima when we're coming

W-12: Now that they have announced their event for tomorrow, can we please go back to sleep?

C-4: I can’t believe I’m typing this but Four Eyes is right. Go to fucking sleep. We need to beat those lame extras from 1-B tomorrow and prove why we’re better so I can really stick it to that smug copycat bastard's face.

Captain Snapback: well, I haven't showered yet but i'mma take one now. it was nice knowing some of your classmates Kiri. night everyone. peace 🙋

Tall Spot Conlon: and I want to finish this plane documentary. good night everyone!

acorn: hey @softrock Thanks again for adding us Kirishima!

softrock: no problem! it's nice having new friends added here!!!

acorn: since my Met friends are now gone, I think it's time for me to go too. I still need to finish a
hero sketch I'm working on... Good Night 1-A!

softrock: good night Midoriya!!

Tail(s): night!

Violet: hope your whatever you're working on turns out great! good night!!

3M: night Midoriya!!

3.5mm: yeah, sleep well later!

W-12: @acorn I look forward to meeting you and your friends tomorrow. But as for now, good night Midoriya.

Momo Poppins: good night you guys!

Dark Birb: darkness calls, I bid you all a good night

C-4: @everyone GO TO FUCKING SLEEP

softrock: for those who didn't know what happened in this group chat, just scroll up.

Chapter End Notes

After looking at my outline, I made the choice of moving Todoroki and Izuku's date night to Chapter 10 *sighs*. But I felt it was necessary to do so. I hope you all hold out for it :)

And the list of groupchat names are below. As usual, leave a comment and kudos if you can!
group chat usernames!

acorn - Midoriya
softrock - Kirishima
C-4 - Bakugou
W-12 - Iida
Insomniyeah - Shinsou
3M - Sero
3.5mm - Jirou
Momo Poppins - Momo
Violet - Hagakure
Tail(s) - Ojiro
Dark Birb - Tokoyami
Tall Spot Conlon - Raleigh (OC)
Captain Snapback - Brendon (OC)
Chapter Summary

Class 1-A puts on a surprisingly well put together show with some great song selections. All Might talks to Izuku once again while learning the origins of his current friends and his art school life alongside Bakugou, Kirishima and Snipe. 1-A sees a different kind of performance from Izuku's school and they all get to meet the small, freckled teen and his friends personally.

Chapter Notes

After more than 12,400 words, here's chapter eight!

You might want to budget an hour if you're gonna read this because that's how long it took for me to read it thoroughly.

Still, enjoy!

See the end of the chapter for more notes

“...Spanish?” Sero asked.

Class 1-A was up and early despite not having any classes today. This is due to the fact that they are the very first class who will perform for the cultural festival. It was agreed and voted by everyone to get the earliest possible time slot. The thinking was so the sooner they started, the sooner they will be over with it.

As they were having their breakfast, courtesy of Bakugou and Sato, Ojiro was talking to Kaminari, Sero, Tokoyami and Shoji on a brief chat he had with Raleigh a little while ago.

“Yeah,” Ojiro said after he ate the last of his heavy breakfast. “Raleigh messaged me earlier that it would be helpful if we knew some of the words... he also sent me a pic of what he’ll look like later. Me and Tooru both approved his costume.”

“Ohh, can we see?” Kaminari asked. He was definitely curious and intrigued.

“Here,” Ojiro laid his phone out on the table so the others at the table can see the photo. The boys
gathered around.

In the well-lit photo was Raleigh in his costume. He was wearing a half piece respirator mask. The hood and zipper of his grey sleeveless hoodie was down, respectively exposing his thick wavy blonde hair that ended in a curly quiff and the black tank top he wore underneath.

“His character’s name is ‘Graffiti Pete’. I guess that’s why he’s got that gas mask on,” the tailed student shared.

Shoji noticed that the tiny bird boy was looking at the photo a bit too long for his liking. “Fumi, if you want to look at nice arms, I’m three times better since I literally have three pairs of them.”

“Oh, sorry,” Tokoyami apologized. Hints of light red tinged on some areas of his feathered head and beak. “It’s a bit hard for me to not look when I see a boy like that is dressed up in an edgy outfit…”

“Are you sure he’s that American who’s an airplane nerd like he said he was in the chat?” A question that came from Kaminari. “He looks like he means business in that pic - as in he wants to beat us into a pulp…”

“He’s friendly,” Ojiro said, slowly moving his tail. “I think he’s just trying to portray his character there… oh shit…”

“What is it?” Sero asked as he slid the mobile device back into the vicinity of Ojiro’s area at the table.

“I forgot to ask him if he had any tips on how he calms himself down and how he builds up nerve before a performance,” Ojiro answered, a bit frustrated.

“Why are you worried?” Tokoyami told Ojiro. “Bakugou was satisfied with our performance yesterday.”

“Okay wow dude, that sounded oddly sexual,” Kaminari commented.

“Babe no,” Sero told Kaminari, slightly dragging on his words.
“But Fumi’s right,” Shoji reinforced. “You shouldn’t worry too much. If Bakugou is fine with what he saw yesterday - we all know he has high standards - then take it easy. He chose you because he does believe in your work ethic and talent... and you have your phone with you, why you didn’t just Google for tips?”

“I would rather have the tips be shared to me by a real person who knows what they’re doing,” Ojiro answered. “And really, work ethic and talent?”

“You are the first out of the main male actors to learn their lines and it’s true you work hard for a lot of things. You did come in U.A. with just your tail and martial arts skills,” Tokoyami told him. “I know you think yourself as vanilla. But if it makes you feel better, all of us think you’re the best vanilla ice cream there is...”

The boys at the table looked to him and nodded in firm agreement.

Ojiro looked at them and smiled at the description of him. “Thanks guys.”

“But just to be safe, try contacting that guy for tips,” Sero suggested.

“On it,” Ojiro immediately reached for his phone and fired up the messaging app. But before he can a single finger on the glass screen, a message came up:

7:38 a.m.

new direct messages from Tall Spot Conlon

Tall Spot Conlon: while I did change into a different outfit so my costume won’t be all sweaty later, I’m now running to the bus stop... thus making me a bit sweaty in my sweater and shorts

Tail(s): do you have any tips for me to help calm myself down or build up some nerve before going on stage to act?

Tall Spot Conlon: I’m now with Brendon and Izuku, they say hi btw!
Tail(s): say hi for me too!

Tall Spot Conlon: as for you other question...

Tall Spot Conlon: i normally listen to some music while doing shit on my foam roller until our stage manager says we need to head to our places lmao

Tall Spot Conlon: Izuku has this air humidifier (in All Might colors ofc) to help clear his airways and does vocal exercises. Brendon does stretching exercises, eats sweets, and says a little prayer before we go live

Tail(s): oh...

Tall Spot Conlon: just do whatever gets you ready, but don’t forget to take care of your voice!!!

Tall Spot Conlon: and try to stay in character throughout your class’s performance!

Tail(s): ok thanks! 😊

Tall Spot Conlon: yo this is Brendon. make sure you and your classmates remember some rules of theatre too - B

Tail(s): which are??

Tall Spot Conlon: if it's not your prop, don’t touch it. also never, and I mean never, mention The Scottish Play or whistle inside the theatre - B

Tail(s): uh... sure?? but this is pretty enlightening! thanks again you guys!

Tail(s): oh I need to go, Iida’s blowing his whistle. see ya guys later!
Tall Spot Conlon: k, we’re gonna catch our bus now and we’ll try to make it there on time before your show starts! hope you guys break a leg!!! - B

__[I]__

“Bakugou is so cute in his costume!” Midnight squealed, zooming on the picture of the 7 year-old spiky hot-tempered blonde in an adorable wolf costume. “I can’t believe someone as explosive as him can be this adorable!”

Toshinori was walking to the building near the recently built USJ facility within school grounds alongside Midnight and Snipe. The now retired Symbol of Peace was more than happy to share the photo of young Bakugou.

“Lemme see!” Snipe snatched away the phone from Midnight’s hands. “This is a national treasure right here, folks. Holy cow... Toshi, you have to send us a copy of this pic. I want to frame this one.”

“You do it, I’m still learning the features of my new phone.” The skinny teacher told the gun-wielding cowboy.

Since Snipe was curious if Toshinori had more cute Bakugou photos, he carefully swiped to the side and found a couple more pics he wants exported to his own phone.

But one of those photos caught his eye; it featured young Bakugou and another boy - green hair and freckles being the stand out features. Both of them wore small All Might costumes.

“Hey, I know this kid...” Snipe said, zooming on the photo. “I see him during lunch. He either gets the katsudon or katsu curry...”

After transferring some of the photos to his own phone and returned the other one to its rightful owner, his own screen so the other two teachers can see.

“Hey, that’s the kid from the Met,” the female teacher said. “I didn’t know he and Bakugou were friends - or knew each other at least. He kinda stood out to me because the way he cries is both weird and endearing. I think his name’s Midoriya...”
“Oh that’s his name,” Snipe said. “He’s also one of the theatre students from the art school who picked up the day passes from our beloved Nezu’s office too.”

“He’s quirkless,” Midnight added. “I find that hard to believe because the way he cries is like a broken fire hydrant. But if that’s what he and the others say, I’ll buy it.”

“I feel guilty...” Toshinori sighed as they walked.

“Why?” The cowboy teacher asked. “Do you know him from somewhere?”

“I saved him from this sludge monster,” the skinny man started. “He then asked me if he has what it takes to be a hero even if he doesn’t have a quirk. I quickly told him to drop the idea of entering U.A.’s entrance exam because it was too dangerous for him.”

“Didn’t you at least offer him an alternative?” Midnight asked. “Like making him take the exam for the general education course instead?”

“No, this kid was dead set to become a pro,” Toshinori said. “But when it came down to it, luck was not with him on the quirk side of things. Beats me how he ended up in an art school.”

“You can find out by talking to him,” Snipe said. “Invite him during lunch later. To seal the deal, do it with free food. It can guarantee that he will come over because of it.”

“What do you think Nemura?” Toshinori turned to the seductive looking teacher. “Is it a good move?”

“Whatever helps you sleep at night. But you should ask him how he feels now. I wouldn’t put it past him if he has a very different opinion of you today but if he’s still thinks you’re a great hero - albeit a retired one - then just be thankful for that.”

“Right...” Toshinori trailed. “How do we get the kid to talk with me?”
“Let’s just first watch what 1-A put out,” the masked cowboy said. “We can all figure that out later.”

---

“Okay, I’m impressed they managed to cobble this together in just two weeks.” Brendon said. “Some of them even seem like Metropolitan material...”

“With a bit of more work, they will be Met material!” Izuku quietly told his friend but his tone very excited. “I am living for Momo and Jirou who did ‘Take Me or Leave Me’, that’s the sort of lesbian power theatre needs.”

“And what they’re showing us is the kind of content we came for,” Raleigh said, with the same mute tone. “It still makes me wonder why Ojiro needed tips, he’s doing great so far...”

“Hold on, is this a Disney song?” Izuku questioned.

On the stage, the scene now featured Ojiro and the invisible girl Hagakure in a park setting. The audience can make out the soft strums of a guitar coming from the speakers:

---

[Hagakure]

All those days watching from the windows
All those years outside looking in
All that time never even knowing
Just how blind I've been
Now I'm here blinking in the starlight
Now I'm here suddenly I see
Standing here it's all so clear
I'm where I'm meant to be

And at last I see the light
And it's like the fog has lifted
And at last I see the light
And it's like the sky is new
And it's warm and real and bright
And the world has somehow shifted
All at once everything looks different
Now that I see you

[Ojiro]
All those days chasing down a daydream
All those years living in a blur
All that time never truly seeing
Things, the way they were
Now she's here shining in the starlight
Now she's here suddenly I know
If she's here it's crystal clear
I'm where I'm meant to go

[Hagakure and Ojiro]
And at last I see the light

[Ojiro]
And it's like the fog has lifted

[Hagakure and Ojiro]
And at last I see the light

[Hagakure]
And it's like the sky is new
And it's warm and real and bright
And the world has somehow shifted
All at once everything is different
Now that I see you
Now that I see you

When the song ended, both Izuku and Raleigh’s ears perked up at the sound of sniffling.

“Bren, are you crying?” Izuku asked.

“No,” the boy in the snapback lied.

“Okay, Tokoyami is really pulling off the adorable dorky barista role really well,” Izuku commented quietly. “How he hid his emo vibe that you can feel from his username in the chat last night is really something.”

“I bet some of them are having a field day just watching him act like this,” the dance captain said. “Whoever wrote their script is a genius.”

“Holy shit, is this song what I think it is?” Raleigh chirped in.

[Tohoyami, spoken]
Hi! Welcome to Starbucks
A tall, non-fat latte
Easy drizzle, you can pay at the counter
Hi! Welcome to Starbucks...

[Shoji, spoken]
Ah yes, I'll have a grande...

[Tokoyami, spoken]
Grande, two pump, half-caf
Non-fat, easy foam... extra hot.

[Shoji, spoken]
Hey, you remembered...

[Tokoyami, spoken]
Yeah...

[Shoji, spoken]
Wow, brains and looks...

[Tokoyami, spoken]
Oh no, you don't dare
Girl, girl, girl, I'm warning you!
No! I think I have a crush. I can't
I think I'm falling for him
Oh no
Why not?

[Tokoyami, sung]
Women have been making bad choices
Since the beginning of time
Are you gonna be another one of mine? Ohh

[Shoji, spoken]
Oh, um, I forgot to give you my name...

uhhh.

[Tokoyami, spoken]
Shoji...

[Shoji, spoken]
Shoji? Really? Me too!

[Tokoyami, spoken]
Shoji, Shoji, No Shoji, Tokoyami...
Tokoyami, Shoji
Shoji, Tokoyami
Me Tokoyami, You Shouji!
Oh...

[Shoji, spoken]
Well... I guess I better get back in line.

[Tokoyami, spoken]
Sure thing, Shoji!

[Shoji, spoken]
Oh Tokoyami?
Maybe I can come back during your break or after your shift?
Yeah?
[Tokoyami, spoken]

Yeah! You got it.

Sure thing Shoji.

[ Tokoyami, sung]

Used to think you were from outer space

Who's that bright-eyed guy in your place?

You're kinda cute, when you're not so shy. Ohh

But I've been here before

Have I come back for more?

Another chapter in the history of wrong guys

You used to be so "eh"

A limp lackluster bore

But now you're changing into something I just can't ignore

Shoji, honestly

I've been hurt like this before

Is there really more to you

Than what I always thought

How can you surprise me anymore?

Ohh. Ohh. Ohhhhhh

[Shoji, spoken]

Oh hey!

In all the excitement,

I forgot to order to Kyoka’s mocha.

A tall skinny mocha...
[Tokoyami, spoken]

Ah yes!

Uh, right!

Kyoka’s mocha...

ahh, mocha for Kyoka...

Uhh...

[Shoji, spoken]

You can put it under Shoji, alright?

[Tokoyami, spoken]

He's got a girlfriend, you flake!

Why are they only nice when they're... straight?

[Tokoyami, sung]

Don't wanna be another star-crossed lover

We all know how that ends

I'm better off without him

We're better off as friends. Ohh

Tokoyami momentarily sobs and the audience laughs...

[Tokoyami, sung]

But I've been here before

Have I come back for more?

Another chapter in the history of wrong guys

Yesterday no spark

My heart aching allure
But today I'm feeling something I just can't ignore

Shoji, honestly
I've been hurt like this before
Ohh. Ohh. Ohhhhhh

The history of wrong guys:
Chapter One - He's a bum
Two - He's not into you
Three - He's a sleaze
Four - Loves the girl next door
Five - Loves the boy next door
Six - Don't love you no more
Makes you insecure
Makes you so unsure
Is so immature
Loves his mother more
Or
Has a girlfriend named Kyoka
Ah...

[Shoji, spoken]
Ahh, my sister would like her receipt so…

The tall six-armed guy grabbed his bicep, his mouth on one of his arms grinning before leaving Tokoyami...

[Tokoyami, spoken]
SISTER?!
[Tokoyami, sung]
Shoji, honestly
I've been hurt like this before-oh-ohh
I can see there's more to you
Than what I always thought
But I won't be burned anymore.
Ohh. Ohh. Ohhhhh

[Hagakure, spoken]
Hey! Where are you off to?

[Tokoyami, spoken]
I'm going on break!

"That was so cool!" Izuku laughed. "Too bad I didn’t record that."

"Maybe somebody did," Brendon chimed in, who also enjoyed the performance of the emo bird boy.

In another part of 1-A's performance venue...

"You recorded it?" Mic turned to Aizawa. "You never record these things!"

"They’re my kids," Aizawa simply responded to his husband as he put away his phone. "It’s also very gay so there’s that..."

"You really mean our kids right?" Mic teased his constantly tired partner.
“If I say yes, will you stop asking questions until their presentation ends?”

"Deal!"

---

Thanks to Kirishima’s friendly demeanor and social skills, he managed to rope in Izuku, Bakugou and Brendon in a small group walking towards the open space where the food stall were.

Izuku found it a bit weird since he’s not yet used to Bakugou being within close proximity. But if it this meant the start of a refresh in their friendship, he’ll take it.

"Raleigh’s just gonna have lunch later?” Kirishima was kind of disappointed with the other news.

“Both him and Manuel need to rehearse for 2 p.m. later,” Izuku said. “They’re gonna be so tired after today...”

“Isn’t he gonna overextend himself if he keeps going at this rate?” the explosive blonde questioned with a tense tone.

“Raleigh likes to think of it as training both his endurance and durability,” Brendon told them. “Plus he wants to improve his memory by knowing different dance tracks. I ain’t stopping him if he can keep up...”

As the four neared the food stalls, they were stopped by non-other than Snipe himself.

“Ah good, you’re all together ” the cowboy teacher said to them. “I was hoping to run in at least one of you...”

“Uh why?” Brendon asked.
Snipe looked to Izuku. “I’m here for Mr. Midoriya...”

Izuku visibly stuttered. “Uh, me? Why do you need me?”

“There’s someone who wants to meet you,” the cowboy answered him. “And he said your lunch will be paid for - if you have any friends with you, he’ll pay for them too...”

Kirishima nudged the green-haired boy and told him lowly, “Take it dude! Don’t say no to free food!”

“What Kirishima said,” Brendon told him on his opposite side when Izuku looked to him for answers.

“Kacchan?”

“As long Eijirou and I get to eat, I don’t give a damn,” the ash blonde replied.

“I’ll... I’ll- we'll go,” Izuku decided.

“A wise choice,” Snipe’s voice seemed pleased with his decision. “I’ll lead you boys to him first...”

Snipe guided them to the cordoned off area where U.A. staff were the only ones allowed to eat. Izuku and Brendon were impressed by the slate of teachers U.A. had to offer. It turns out Ms. Midnight was not only the recognizable pro at U.A. as the school was practically teeming with them.

But Izuku’s green eyes had landed on a figure that he instantly remembered. He was still skinny but he now wore a more fitted yellow suit. The freckled teen was saddened when his mind reminded him that All Might now is an officially retired hero. He still idolizes him and does not regret the day he first met him, even if it did hurt.

Snipe corralled them towards the table where only All Might was sitting. The cowboy told them to
sit in a friendly voice before his focus shifted to his fellow teacher.

“What’re you having Toshinori?” Snipe asked.

“Lunch Rush’s Super Bento Surprise,” the retired Symbol of Peace said before he turned to the kids.

“We’ll have the same,” Bakugou said for all of them. “I’m already sitting with the nerd and snapback here for the second time this week, I might as well dictate what they eat...”

“Oh, five Super Bento Specials on their way,” Snipe nodded before he acted that he was holding horse reins. “I’ll try to come back as soon as I can. Good thing I have my fancy high horse. Love the view up here. Clip clop, clip clop, clip clop...”

The cowboy walked away, still saying the ‘clip clop’ sound as he passed by other staff.

“Please tell me I’m not the only one who just watched a bad-ass cowboy teacher emulate Gina Linetti?” Brendon could not believe his eyes.

“You’re not...” Kirishima answered.

“What are we doing here All Might?” Bakugou cut to the chase.

“I’m here to ask how Young Midoriya is fairing,” Toshinori told them.

Kirishima and Brendon just jointly asked, surprised. “What?!?”

Bakugou looked at them back and forth before he asked. “You also know this damn nerd?”

“I saved him from a sludge monster,” Toshinori explained. “But before I left, he asked me if he had what it takes to get into U.A.’s hero course...”
“He said no,” Izuku completed for him.

“Young Midoriya here was and still is a quirkless boy,” Toshinori added. “I don’t want to risk his safety or position him in a place where he’s going to eventually find out that it was already impossible to achieve his dream in the first place.”

Izuku breathed. “I was so down but not shocked because Kacchan was already telling me at the time to not take U.A.’s pro hero entrance exam. All Might just solidified everything he said.”

“I’m sorry kid,” All Might apologized.

“I don’t blame you,” Izuku smiled at him, earning a smile back from the very thin teacher. “With the benefit of hindsight, I know you were just keeping me safe. Even after that, I still think you’re the best hero there is.”

“Thanks kid,” Toshinori smiled. “Seriously, thanks for understanding.”

“And if you haven’t told me to not go to U.A., I might not have found theatre,” he continued. “I’m having a great time at the Metropolitan right now...”

“Really?” Toshinori was genuinely surprised by this.

“He was so awesome as Evan Hansen!” Kirishima praised.

“Evan Hansen?” The teacher asked.

“I was the protagonist in the Metropolitan’s ‘The Works’ production of Dear Evan Hansen,” Izuku explained. “I played this socially anxious boy with a broken arm, he also happens to be quirkless like me. It’s about and I quote from marketing materials, ‘A letter that was never meant to be seen, a lie that was never meant to be told, a life he never dreamed he could have. Evan Hansen is about to get the one thing he’s always wanted: a chance to finally fit in.’”

“He made a lot of people cry that night,” Kirishima recalled. “I know this because Mina and I were one of them. After the show ended, everyone stood up and gave the entire a cast a standing ovation
“It’s funny you mention the audience,” the green-haired boy told the redhead. “Because literally the day after, I’ve had some random strangers who walked up to me and said that it helped them get through the worst. I never felt so happy hearing words from some person on the street or on the train with me...”

“Sounds like you’re saving people in your own way then,” The retired hero said, his voice dripping with joy. “Keep up the good work young Midoriya. I think the world needs someone like you.”

“That’s the magic of musical theatre for you,” Brendon chimed in. “One musical can change your life...”

“Truly,” Izuku agreed.

Then Kirishima quoted something that perked up Izuku’s ears.

“Dear Izuku Midoriya, today’s going to be a good day. And here’s why; because today, today you’re you - and that’s enough.”

“Sincerely,” Brendon continued.

“Me,” Izuku finished with a smile.

“Clip clop, clip clop, clip clop,” the five occupants of the table heard. Snipe was back with his arms full of Bento boxes. “Did I miss anything important?”

“We’ll get you up to speed sensei...” Kirishima cheerfully told the cowboy.

After a (free!) hearty bento lunch, Snipe was brought up to date with their talk, he became more curious of what the art school students at the Metropolitan do.

“...Yeah, the Met does three musicals a year,” Brendon said. “It’s Broadway style so it has to be big,
slick and flashy. With Mean Girls, it’s going to be the Met’s second one this year. The first one we did for this year was *Newsies* - a super dance intensive musical.”

“Do your shows sell out tickets?” Snipe asked.

“All the time,” Izuku nodded. “Even with the premium prices, the tickets sell out fast. I was really surprised myself when I found out. It turns out there’s a really strong demand for English musicals in this part of Japan. Literally 88 percent of our audience members are Japanese but they have a very firm grasp of or at least understand English well, the rest are tourists checking us out.”

“I see, your audiences are pretty smart,” Toshinori commented.

“It doesn’t explain why there are a lot of foreigners though.” Kirishima asked.

“Foreigners make up for 48 percent of the Metropolitan’s student population, the 52 percent is Japanese,” Brendon explained. “Of that 48 percent foreign population, most of the students are from America - around 70 percent. 20 of that is from the Asia-Pacific Region, primarily made up of the Filipinos and Singaporeans, while five percent is from South Asia - made up by an even split of students from India and Nepal. The last five is from another country that doesn’t have a sizable population within the Met.”

“Oh, that sounds like a really cool school!” the redhead said.

“It is,” Izuku grinned. “You get to know other cultures, languages and what we like best, the food!”

“I will never be not impressed by Met folks who can speak three languages,” Brendon said.

“Speak three languages?” Bakugou questioned.

“You see Kacchan, students there need to be able to fluently speak in both English and Japanese,” Izuku told him. “But because our school have students who come from different countries, or grew up in a family with a distinctive culture, they bring their own language.”

“Good example is our very own Raleigh Ticonderoga’s crush, Manuel Tarraco, as the dude speaks
Spanish,” Brendon cited. “Like Raleigh and me, he also comes from New York City but is from a
distinctive neighborhood in the borough of Manhattan.”

“Midoriya, why do you have so many friends from New York?” Kirishima playfully inquired the
green-haired boy.

“They just happen to be from New York,” the freckled teen shrugged. “I’m just finding this out
about Raleigh’s crush. Besides, Smokes is from the Philippines...”

“Shush!” Snipe hushed them before he egged on Brendon. “C’mon kid, you can tell that I’m
fascinated by your origins.”

“Okay, so as I was saying,” Brendon said as he continued off. “Both Raleigh and me are from
Brooklyn. Raleigh’s from Park Slope while I’m from Carroll Gardens. However, Manuel - Raleigh’s
crush - comes from literally the other side of the town: Washington Heights, one of the most northern
communities in Manhattan.”

“What does this have to do with Raleigh’s crush speaking Spanish?” Kirishima asked.

“You see, Washington Heights has a lot of people from Latin America and the Caribbean or are kids
of immigrants from those places,” Brendon answered. “They make up the majority of the population
in the district and give it a Hispanic flair. Spanish is always heard and spoken in that place.”

“Do you miss being away from New York?” Kirishima asked. “Do any of you miss it?”

“I can’t say for the others but I do,” Brendon admitted. “It has a place in my heart. I miss the amazing
pizzerias and greeting our neighbors when I walk down the streets in Carroll Gardens...”

“I thought New Yorkers were pretty rude,” Bakugou bluntly said.

“You say rude, I’d say politely indifferent because the L train broke down or the 7 train was delayed
again so they now have to rush even more than they planned to,” Brendon said. “People there,
especially in Manhattan’s financial district, are always in a hurry in getting somewhere. But there will
be people who’ll help you out if they’re not busy.”
“If I recall correctly,” All Might spoke up. “Doesn’t your school have something in store for us?”

“Oh yeah!” Izuku said. “The Met’s first predominantly Hispanic cast! A number from Lin Manuel-Miranda’s *In the Heights*!”

“Raleigh’s going to be the token white guy in the number later,” Brendon said. “It’s set in Manuel’s home district of Washington Heights - it talks about the lives of the people in that place... if you know a bit of Spanish, it’s gonna come in handy later.”

Izuku’s phone buzzed in his shorts. He pulled it out, seeing a tweet notification float up the display. “Something big is gonna happen? What did Manuel mean by that? And what slight changes is he talking about?”

“I think we’re gonna find out soon enough...” Snipe said.

“Alright, enough talk about Deku or his school,” Bakugou said before he landed his eyes on both his teachers. “What did you two think of 1-A’s performance awhile ago?”

“Oh that?” All Might asked, which caused the explosive boy’s eyes to roll. “It was actually pretty good. I even heard from Mic that Aizawa recorded it...”

From what Izuku saw, Bakugou smirked like he just won something.

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As the time neared for the Met’s cultural presentation, Snipe suggested that they should leave to get some seats. He had a gut feeling that their single musical number was going to be a very sought out event. As they walked towards the venue, one of them suggested that they lag behind the others for a more private talk.

“What’s up Kacchan?”

Bakugou had to admit that the Nerd did change a lot. The damn nerd was still a quirkless guy - nothing was ever going to change that. But Deku was no longer the twig he once knew. The nerd
was all lean muscle now, quite filled out. He's also a lot more confident and less scared of him than ever before.

“How are you doing at your school?”

Deku wasn’t sure how to answer him. “I’m enjoying my time there. Rehearsals and dance classes just take a lot out of me.”

“Do you still want to be a hero?” the ash blonde asked.

“Badly,” Izuku nodded. “But all of us know that’s a dead dream. I still find it surreal I’m even in U.A. right now because you know how I badly wanted to get in here. I still look up to you and All Might though - you two never settle for anything less...”

“Damn right we don’t.” He remembered in the practical exam with Shinsou, on how All Might did not hold back despite wearing bracelets that 'supposedly reduced' his power or how he almost broke the insomniac’s spine he was partnered with.

“Just promise me you’ll help out a lot of people Kacchan,” the nerd told him. “I don’t care if you’re the number one...”

“If you think I’m going to let Half-and-Half take the number one spot, you’re a lot more stupid than you let on Deku...”

“Let me finish Kacchan,” The nerd reasserted. He visibly sighed before continuing. “I’m just saying use your influence to do the most good. It’s not just your quirk that makes you powerful Kacchan, it’s your words too. You have a lot of say and I hope you use it wisely.”

“The fuck are you talking about nerd?”

“One of the things I learned when I was doing my very first musical is that a few words can go a long way - whether it’s good or bad,” Deku shared. “A lot of the words you said to me Kacchan were really hurtful - you have no idea how it was hellish for me. But I do know you’re better than that. If you wanna to prove it and say that you’re worthy of being at the very top, you’ll help out people who may or may not be noticed by most. I think that’s what real heroes do.”
Bakugou hated getting lectured like this especially if it’s coming from someone like Deku. But he did have a point, and a lot of the points he had, surprisingly mirrored those of Eijirou’s. Is that the reason why the nerd bonded so well with his boyfriend?

“Whatever. I’ll keep it in mind, don’t fucking worry about it,” The explosive teen told the freckled one.

... they built this enclosed theatre in a day?!” Brendon was shocked. “I was just expecting a stage of some sort, not a full scale theatre! How did U.A. do this?”

They were standing outside Theatre D, one of the three additional collapsible theatre buildings that was built for the day’s cultural festival. To outsiders like Brendon and Izuku, it just left them in awe how something so large can get done in 24 hours.

“That’s Power Loader and U.A. tech for ya,” Snipe said proudly. “Then again, we did build the dorms in three days. Furniture and trim included.”

“So cool!” Izuku exclaimed, eyes like a kid in candy store.

“But why this venue?” Kirishima asked.

“I think one of the third year business course classes had an old New York-themed presentation here,” Izuku said. “So it’s natural that we choose this out of the other theatres for minimal and quick changes to the set.”

“Izuku! Brendon!”

The group turned to a lean brown-skinned boy just a couple days inches taller than Izuku. He was wearing a yellow snapback, a grey muscle shirt, khaki cargo shorts, and white sneakers. A large DSLR camera hung around his neck.
“If it isn’t ‘Sonny de la Vega’,” Brendon said as the figure came up to them. “Manuel, what’re you doing here?”

“Kid, aren’t you freezing in that thing?” Toshinori questioned. It was November in Japan after all.

“I am but show’s starting soon so I can’t waste time looking for a layer,” the boy answered to the skinny teacher. He then removed the large camera around his neck. “Bren, can you like take a video of the performance?”

“Oh, no problem,” Brendon said as he accepted the camera.

“Great! I need to leave now, show starts in 12 minutes,” Manuel said, preparing to bolt. “Better get your seats now, it’s quite packed in there already!”

But before he could run, Izuku called him out, causing Manuel to turn.

“Hey! What did you mean there’s going to be a surprise later?”

“You guys will see!” Manuel grinned to them before running off inside the building. “I’m crossing my fingers it’ll go well!”

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Inside the theatre, the lights were still on. Snipe and Toshinori parted with the four boys politely, citing there’s a special reserve seats for teachers in the lower rows of seats. Brendon broke off in order to find the best possible angle to film the show with Manuel’s DSLR.

This left Izuku with Bakugou and Kirishima.

“Looks like you’re sitting with us!” The redhead cheered.

“Like hell he’ll be doing that again for today,” Bakugou growled. The ash blonde’s eyes spotted an empty seat at one row. “Go sit with Four Eyes and Floatie over there.”
Bakugou pointed to the vacant seat at the aisle. He then smacked Izuku’s back, gesturing for him to go.

As Izuku walked down the aisle and to the said seat, a friendly voice caught his attention.

“Midoriya!” Uraraka greeted from one seat away. “It’s nice to see you again!”

“Hey Uraraka,” Izuku greeted shyly.

“Iida, this is Midoriya,” Uraraka said as he made the relatively tall and muscular boy he was talking to turn around. “Midoriya, this is Iida - 1-A’s class representative. You might remember him from the group chat you guys had last night.”

“Oh, hi!” Greeted the freckled teen. “Is this seat taken?”

“No, please sit!” Iida encouraged.

As Izuku sat down, Uraraka and Iida looked to him, the former asking a question. “So Midoriya, what can we expect?”

“I’m not sure,” Izuku answered honestly. “I do know that one of my best friends and his crush is on for the one number they’re going to perform. I guess we’ll have to wait and see what song they do…”

“I wonder why do they have that bridge in the background and those flags hung up…” Iida said with a thinking look.

“It’s Washington Heights, a real life neighborhood in New York City,” Izuku cheerfully answered.

On the stage, there was a picture of a bridge, its steel suspension tower standing proudly in the background, a wall with graffiti painted on and some stairs. In the foreground were some building sets, storefronts and a New York City subway entrance complete with a realistic sign that said ‘181 Street station’ and an ‘A’ in a blue circle. On the balconies of the buildings were various flags.
Despite the different design and layout, they all had the same common color - red, white, and blue.

Iida was gonna strike up another conversation with the green-haired boy but as he was just getting started, the lights audibly went out. This freaked out a lot of people. “Okay everyone, let’s remain calm...”

“Iida, I think it’s starting...” Uraraka told her classmate as music started playing:

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[Piragua Guy]

¿Oye, qué pasó?

[Usnavi]

Blackout, blackout!

[Piragua Guy]

Vino el apagón

¡ay dios!

[Piragua Guy and men]

¿Oye, qué pasó?

Vino el apagón

¡ay dios!

[Usnavi]

Yo! I can’t see!

Quit shovin’ you son-of-a

It’s an oven

And we gotta back out

This is a blackout!
Chill, for real or we’re gonna get killed!

[Kevin]
Calling all taxis!

[Kevin and Usnavi]
Everyone relax please

[Kevin]
Calling all taxis!

[Kevin and Usnavi]
Everyone relax please

[Benny]
Somebody better open these goddamn doors!

[Vanessa]
Somebody better open these goddamn doors!

[Benny]
Somebody better open these goddamn doors!

[Vanessa]
And I can’t find Usnavi...

[Men]
Oh, no!
[Usnavi]
Blackout, blackout!

[Benny]
Hold up, wait! Hold up, wait!
Nina, where’d you go
I can’t find you—
Nina, take it slow
I’m behind you—

[Sonny]
What’s going on?
What’s going on?
Suddenly I find
The electricity is gone

What’s going on?
What’s going on?
I gotta guard the store make sure that nothing’s going wrong!

[Sonny]
What’s going on?
What’s going on?

I gotta find Usnavi tell him what is going on

Nothing is on!
Nothing is on!
And I can’t find Usnavi...

[Men]
Oh, no! Oh, no!
Oh, no! Oh, no!
Oh, no! Oh, no!
Oh, no! Oh, no!
Oh, no! Oh, no!
Oh, no! Oh, no!

No! No! No!

[Women]
Oh, no! Oh, no!
Oh, no! Oh, no!
Oh, no!

No! No!

Oh, no!
Oh, no!
Oh...

No! No! No!

[Benny]
Nina where’d you go
Nina where’d you go
Nina where’d you go
I can’t find you!

Nina where’d you go
Nina where’d you go
Nina where’d you go
I can’t find you!

[Usnavi]
Vanessa, Vanessa
Vanessa, I gotta go…

Vanessa, Vanessa
Vanessa, I gotta go...

[Nina]
Has anyone seen Benny?
Benny…
Has anyone seen Benny?
Benny...

[Vanessa]
Usnavi, help me!
Usnavi, help me!

While the opening scene was defined by organized chaos, things started to slow down when three characters were in the middle of it all, the light mostly concentrated on them as they slowly moved in a small circle...

[Kevin]
Please find Nina!
Find Camila!
If you see my family
Bring them home!

[Sonny]
We are powerless
We are powerless

[Vanessa]
Find my way home!
Usnavi
Help me
You left me alone!

[Sonny and neighbors]
We are powerless
We are powerless!

*It was organized chaos again. Izuku saw Raleigh’s character - Graffiti Pete - pulls Manuel’s character - Sonny - as the spotlight shone on them...*

[Graffiti Pete]
Yo! Yo! They throwin’ bottles in the street!
People lootin’ and shootin’
Sonny, they wanna see a robbery
We gotta keep movin’!

[Sonny]
Naw, man, I can’t leave
We gotta guard the store!

[Graffiti Pete]
They gonna bombard the store
Until you ain’t got a store no more!

[Sonny]
I got a baseball bat on a rack in the back

[Graffiti Pete]
I got a couple o’ Roman candles
We can distract the vandals!

[Sonny]
Hey, yo I see some thugs comin’
Man, we gonna get jacked up!

[Graffiti Pete]
Gimme a light, I’ll be right back. Back up—

[Graffiti Pete and Sonny]
Back up! Back up!

Izuku saw that the Graffiti Pete pull out a large stick prop from his backpack prop and used it to defend Sonny. The taller male seemed a bit protective which made Izuku wonder if they were implying something. After defending the smaller male from the vandals, he pointed it up the sky and shot a flare upwards...

The audience can make out the sound of fireworks and saw the lights on the stage changed into mainly red, white, and blue - emulating the flash of fireworks. There were even glimpses of other colors as well...
Look at the fireworks…
Look at the fireworks fly…
Light up the night sky...
Light up the night sky!

Look at the fireworks…
Look at the fireworks fly...
Light up the night sky…
Light up the night sky!

A spotlight flashed onto Sonny, struggling with a metal grate and some women in the upper level in the buildings, on their phones, and in the streets. The lights and sounds acting as the fireworks in the background still going off.

It’s late and this grate won’t come down
Come down!
It’s late and this grate won’t come down!

Oh god
so much panic!
The crowd was manic

With everybody screaming
and shoving and shouting
and slapping
And everyone’s frantic!
What’s happening with you?

[Carla, Vanessa, and the women]
We are powerless!
We are powerless!

[Daniela]
Mira, mi amor
Házme un favor!
Despiértala abuela y a lo mejor ella tiene una vela!
Estuve bailando cuando vino el apagón
Aquí hay gente pero no sé quienes son!

[Sonny and men]
We are powerless
We are powerless
We are powerless
We are powerless!
powerless!

The spotlight shifted to an old lady carrying a bag and a man wearing a hat talking at a set up table. The ‘fireworks’ not as prominent in the background.

[Community]
Look at the fireworks…

[Usnavi]
Abuela, are you alright?
[Community]
Light up the night sky…

[Abuela Claudia]
The stars are out tonight!

[Community]
Look at the fireworks…

[Usnavi]
You’re not alone tonight…

[Community]
Light up the night sky…

[Usnavi and Abuela Claudia]
You’re not alone tonight…
I’m not alone tonight…

The background was lighted a dark red as the spotlight concentrated on the old woman and younger man, the chaos briefly stopped.

[Abuela Claudia]
Usnavi, please promise me
You’ll guard this with your life

[Usnavi]
Abuela, I’ve never seen—
[Usnavi and Abuela Claudia]

This much money in my life!

As the man and old lady walked away, the dark red light disappeared and the chaos continued. A nicely dressed male emotionally pulled the arm of a woman pacing away.

[Benny]

Nina there you are!

[Nina]

I’ve gotta go!

[Benny]

I’ll get you out of here tonight!

[Nina]

I don’t need anything tonight!

I can find my way home!

[Benny]

Find your way home!

[Nina]

Without you—

[Nina and Benny]

Without you!

As Nina pulled away from the nicely dressed man, the rest of the ensemble danced around them. The
Lights flashed various colors onto the stage and the sounds of fireworks more pronounce than it was throughout the song.

[Community]

Look at the fireworks…
Look at the fireworks…
Look at the fireworks…
Look at the fireworks...

Light up the night sky…
Light up the night sky…
En Washington…

Nina and the guy who pulled away from her met in the middle and ran to the left side of the stage, the spotlight following them. Graffiti Pete and Sonny then slowly walked hand-in-hand to the right side of the stage, a spotlight also following them...

[Community]

Look at the fireworks…
Look at the fireworks…
Light up the night sky…
Light up the night sky…

As the stage lit up in a flurry of colors and eventually died, the spotlight concentrated on both couples. Both taller males leaned down and pulled their partners in a desperate, deep kiss as the sounds of soaring fireworks was heard. Saying the crowd went wild was really underselling it.

[Community]

En Washington Heights!

Both stage couples continued kissing until the lights flashed red, white and blue before the stage went black.
“BRAVO! BRAVO! BRAVISSIMO!” Iida cried loudly as he maniacally clapped his hands.

Izuku clapped enthusiastically too and so did everyone around him, he knew his school did its job again.

As clapped, he felt his phone buzz in his green hoodie pocket. When he fished it out, the screen lit up. He saw that he had a message from Smokes:

_Meet me at the backstage door in five minutes._

As people started trickling out to make way for the next crowd who was going to watch a play of a second year general education class, Izuku tugged on Iida’s light blue polo sleeve causing the glasses clad male to look to him.

“Hey, Iida I need to go...”

“Midoriya! You’re leaving already?” Uraraka noticed them talking.

Izuku nodded. “I have to get to some of my friends...”

“Can I tag along? I want to meet them!” Uraraka requested.

“I too would like to come along with my fellow classmate,” Iida kindly declared.

“Okay, follow me. The text told me to go to the backstage door.”

_—[](••••)[]—_

With company, Izuku saw his friends all of his Met friends lounging around the stairs of the backstage door.
“Whoa Midoriya, who are these two?” Smokes said as he saw the U.A. students with him.

“This is Iida and Uraraka,” Izuku answered for the fledgling hero students.

“Can we talk over food?” Raleigh asked, his voice making it evident he was really exhausted. He then sniffed the air around him. “On second thought, are there any showers around here instead?”

“And a microwave?” Smokes added. “I bought the food Raleigh and Manuel want from the stalls but I want to reheat their lunch - shit gets cold fast these days.”

“I know!” Uraraka snapped her fingers. “Why don’t you boys hangout at the 1-A dorms?”

“Uraraka, while I’m for making friends, we cannot just invite anyone into our dorms!” Iida told the petite girl. “For what we all know, they could be spies!”

“Iida, if they were spies or suspected of doing suspicious, they would’ve been kicked out already,” Uraraka said to him. “It’s an open secret that Principal Nezu knows a lot about us and your brother, you know.”

“Fair point,” Iida hesitantly agreed.

“And I have way to get all of us to the dorm with just Iida,” Uraraka said.

“What do you mean with ‘just Iida’?” The Class Representative pressed.

“First of all, I need all of you boys to hold your stuff tightly and make sure they won’t fall,” Uraraka instructed the Metropolitan boys. “Midoriya, cling on the stairs’ handle. The rest of you boys need to hold each other’s hands really tight to form a chain.”

Once they did as they were told, the brunette stepped forward and quickly gave the Met boys a tap, causing them to float.
“Why are we floating?!” Brendon asked, extremely surprised by his sudden weightlessness.

“It’s my quirk!” Uraraka said as she reached out and held Brendon’s hand as he was on the end of the chain. She quickly tapped herself to activate the quirk’s effects on her body too but immediately held onto the stair handle before she floated way too high.

“Iida! Get my hand then get Midoriya’s! You’re going to pull us all the way to the dorms!”

“I see! With a floating human chain, I can pull all of you at once with little effort!” Iida said as he adjusted his glasses. “Very clever Uraraka!”

“Praise me later,” the girl said. “Now just use those Sonic legs of yours and get us to the dorms!”

Thanks to Iida’s immense speed, they made it to the dorms in record time. Since they were being pulled by 1-A’s fast class representative, any teacher that they passed by paid them no mind as he was known for being a very responsible student - they were highly confident that no shenanigans was going to ensue.

They were actually right.

When they arrived at the façade of 1-A’s dorms, Uraraka put her fingers together and deactivated her quirk’s effects. She landed with ease thanks to her training but the boys she used it on flopped to the ground.

“Nggghhh...” the five males collectively groaned, not rising from their spots on the concrete pavement.

“What did you two do to them?” A tired Aizawa asked, stepping out of the class dormitory.

“We brought them here so they could rest and eat...” Uraraka explained to the homeroom teacher. “It was my idea to get them here using both my quirk and Iida’s.”
“No making of memes, stupid pranks or dangerous stunts involved, that’s some good news at least,” Aizawa tiredly said.

“If I may ask, what are you also doing here?” Iida asked.

“I came here to get some shut eye and away from the other teachers,” Aizawa explained to him before landing his weary eyes on the anti-gravity girl. “The five can stay, I know they’re not a threat since they have those day passes and security cleared them already. With that said, try keeping an eye on them.”

“Right!” Uraraka and Iida agreed.

“Good, I need to see some third years now. See you two around.”

As Aizawa left, the five started to get up.

“Please tell me my camera survived,” Manuel said, his body still feeling some pain as he dusted himself off.

“It did at the expense of my chest,” Brendon said as he inspected it for any damage.

“That’s a relief,” Manuel said.

“C’mon in!” Uraraka said, encouraging them to come in.

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After everyone got settled in the dorm, Raleigh and Manuel reheated and ate their late lunch in the kitchen while Izuku, Brendon and Smokes were taken care of by Uraraka in the living area. As the others talked, Smokes passed the time by finishing his artwork on his black Surface PC.

When Manuel and Raleigh were done eating, Iida lead them to the upper floors so they can take a warm shower. After a little while, the elevator doors opened, revealing a cleaned up and refreshed
Raleigh and Manuel alongside a proud dad-like Iida.

“This dorm is amazing!” Manuel smiled. “You can literally do a *bachata* contest in just the halls of this place!”

“Liking it here, huh Tarraco?” Smokes turned to him, turning away from his artwork on his tablet-like PC as Manuel and Raleigh walked towards the living area, clutching duffel bags. Iida just efficiently walked towards an empty space on the couch.

“Oh yeah, this place is way larger than a lot of apartments in NYC right now,” Manuel told him. “This dorm feels like a palace while most New York City apartments feel like bread boxes...”

Manuel’s usual look contrasted that of his laidback ‘Sonny’ persona - he wore light tan chino pants, a red sweater with two white stripes that formed a chevron pattern, and white sneakers. Compared to Iida’s glasses, Manuel’s pair had a thick black frame.

“Put your bags over there,” Izuku pointed for them. To where he was pointing, there were was neat stack of bags.

Raleigh took both his and Manuel’s bags and neatly placed them with the stack. After placing the bags, Raleigh walked back to the floor cushions and sat beside where Manuel was sitting.

“Are you guys liking U.A. so far?” Uraraka inquired.

“Hey! You’re those two guys who kissed in that presentation with the fireworks effects!”

Everyone’s heads turn to the voice of Kaminari. Iida and Uraraka saw that the electric blonde was quickly joined by the rest of their classmates.

“Oh hi,” Izuku greeted when someone familiar stepped forward.

“Midoriya, what are you doing here?” Todoroki asked.
“They’re resting here!” Uraraka chirped in. “I hope you guys don’t mind.”

“Not at all!” Momo said. “I think it’s great we have new company!”

“Just keep Deku away from my room and no one will die.” Bakugou loudly said to all of them as he got inside the elevator. But before the doors closed, he had a message for his boyfriend. “Eijirou, if you want, you can hang out with them...”

Kirishima smiled at this as the elevators finally closed. “I was gonna go hangout even if he would’ve said no anyway... C’mon 1-A, lets formally introduce and re-introduce ourselves!”

With the Metropolitan, Izuku felt like he got the new start and friends he’s been wanting for a longtime. With U.A., the amount of friendly faces he can count on just increased two-fold.

They all had amazing quirks! He can totally see all of them as pros one day. Plus, just like the people at the Met, they openly accepted his quirkless self.

But the best part was him cuddling with Todoroki. Apparently, the dual-quirked boy was quite the cuddler. He found this out after everyone in 1-A had demonstrated their quirks (in what Iida deemed through a safe and responsible manner).

They were watching from the couch as Izuku’s art friends introduced themselves and then demonstrated their quirks in front of class 1-A.

“My name is Simon Benitez but people call me Smokes because I...” the brown-skinned boy introduced himself as he emitted a large amount of thick white smoke from his body. “... am a human smoke machine. Smokescreen v2 is what they officially call my smokescreen quirk.”

“What are the drawbacks of your quirk?” Tsuyu asked.

“I become way more susceptible to skin blemishes since my pores really open up,” Smokes said. “This is due to the fact that I still have my sweat glands. There are others who are not born with sweat glands unlike me. Unfortunately, my skin breakout rate is high so I have to be on top of my skin care routine. Also, the more skin blemishes I have, the less smoke I will produce.”
“That’s a pretty high maintenance quirk,” Hagakure commented.

“It’s the reason why I always invest a good chunk of my money in quality skincare products.” Smokes said.

The next Metropolitan student to introduce himself was Brendon.

“So I’m Brendon Young, you know me as the snapback wearing captain of Mean Girls the musical.” Brendon said as he stood in front of everyone. “And as I said in the chat, my quirk is EMP or electromagnetic pulse. And while EMPs obviously work on electronic devices, my EMP can work on humans too...”

“Can you try it on him?” Jirou pushed Kaminari in the middle like he was some sort of offering.

“Okay.” Brendon quickly agreed.

“WAIT, WHAT?” Kaminari was confused.

Brendon shrugged then just stared at Kaminari for 15 seconds then snapped and pointed his fingers at him. At the same time, small pulsing electric orbs rapidly hit Kaminari. He then gave the idiotic look he’s known for when he short-circuits his brain.

“PFFFFTTTTTT!” Jirou laughed out. “Oh man, he looks like a total moron!”

As Kaminari went around the room like an idiot, Brendon explained his quirk.

“I have my quirk as my heart beats at an average rate of 400 a minute, all thanks to the special cardiac muscles in it. This not only makes my heart stronger but it also has the capability to generate a lot of electricity in my body. My fingers are the only way the electricity can get out of my body. However, my arms - where the electricity has to pass through - act like flux compression generators, making the electricity going out of my fingers extremely intense. When I use my EMP quirk, it’s also the only time my eyes’ target acquisition system goes on. It can tell me when I can fire my EMP burst. I have to snap then point my fingers or literally use the finger pistol gesture in order to discharge the electricity out of my body.”
“How long do you have to keep the target on lock-on?” Momo inquired.

“Depends,” Brendon answered. “I can fire it in as short as five seconds but it can fire around 10 seconds on average in recent months. It can still take as long as twenty seconds to go off though. That’s because it’s also dependent on how pumped up I am. If I have adrenaline running through me, I have faster target acquisition.”

“Any drawbacks?” Mina asked.

“Like I said in the chat. It doesn’t work on EMP-proof stuff,” Brendon listed out. “It wears down my energy levels and it gives me a splitting headache if I use it too much. Also, if I can’t acquire my target properly, there’s a high chance my EMP burst will miss. My target acquisition could also take too long.”

“You still have a really impressive and very destructive quirk dude,” Mina said.

Next up to showcase his quirk was Raleigh.

“Oh, here’s the white guy that caught Fumikage’s attention this morning,” Tokoyami’s Dark Shadow announced to everyone. “No wonder, he was staring. He’s real easy on the eyes...”

“Shut up!” The host furiously strangled his own quirk’s shadow head. Shoji just visibly facepalmed while everyone just stared.

“Comments of sentient quirks aside,” Raleigh started. “It’s true I have two mutant-class quirks: my composite skeleton one and shock absorption one. The first one is pretty much self-explanatory so let’s focus on the second one. And to even things out with what Brendon did to Kaminari, who wants to give me a good whack or even a kick?”

“I’ll do it,” Sero volunteered, letting out the last of his laughs as Kaminari went around the room like a fool. “I’m his boyfriend after all and that also means I’m supposed to stand up for him. But I’m not gonna lie that Denki doesn’t look hilarious right now.”

“Well, stand up for him by trying to give me the best punch you got,” Raleigh smirked. “You won’t
hurt me, don’t worry.”

True to Raleigh’s request, Sero did not hold back his punch. But with lightning reflexes, Raleigh blocked his punch without flinching. What shocked Sero is that not a single scratch was evident on Raleigh’s exposed arm.

“What the heck?” Sero was just puzzled as some keen observers noted.

“Thanks, I think that will be all the punching I need.” Raleigh said before he turned to the majority of the class. “Now, what do you guys see?”

“Your plain old arm?” Sato responded.

“Well, that’s my second quirk, I can take the shock of physical blows, hence my arm not bruising or getting a cut. But like any other quirk, it’s not flawless.”

“How is it limited?” Uraraka asked.

“While my composite skeleton is super strong, it can still break. Happened to me when I was 12,” Raleigh explained. “Healing it requires a bit of a process. I need to literally eat or drink powdered graphite and metal alloys which is really gross as it sounds. If it’s really broken, I not only have to physically take in powdered graphite and metal but also have to spend four hours in a sauna for two days so my bones can cure and get their strength back.”

“How about your shock absorption quirk, monsieur?” asked Aoyama. “What’s the not so magnifique part about it?”

“My shock absorption quirk has a limit on how much it can take,” Raleigh said. “And my recoil - which is basically my ability of dispersing back an attack’s energy flung onto me - gets weaker the more worn down I am in a fight. With that said, I like to think of myself as a really cuddly barrier.”

“I can’t wait to try out that claim,” Manuel beamed.

“Hey Manuel,” Izuku called out to him. “How are you gonna show how quirk works?”
“Ain’t showing anything until I have a canvas Izuku, you know me,” Manuel told him.

“Hey Momo, can you provide him with one,” Todoroki requested.

“Of course!” Momo said. She held out her hands and had quickly made a canvas using her quirk.

“I’m so jealous of your quirk - even if it requires a lot of learning,” Manuel shook his head. “The amount of art supplies I can have if I just had yours instead! And thanks for the canvas too!”

“Thank me by showing 1-A your quirk!” Momo said. “You’re the only one from the Met who hasn’t shown his power yet.”

“Uh right!” Manuel snapped his fingers. “Raleigh go get my bag and the mask I lent you. Everybody else should just gather round the table...”

1-A did as they were instructed while Raleigh got Manuel’s bag.

Manuel carries a few but clearly used supplies with him in his backpack. The unifying theme all the supplies he had was that they were all covered in varying degrees of paint.

Manuel pulled out a large, used plastic sheet that used to be clear but is now covered in numerous paint shades and placed over the coffee table. He then pulled some round metal circular tin covers that varied in size, a used newspaper, a solid plastic divider and a metal scraper.

“Okay, this is a commonly requested piece and I normally ask ¥1,400 for it but I’ll give this for free to someone in this room. My hint is that the person receiving this is not from the Metropolitan...”

Manuel wore the mask and started to shake his arm, sounding like a can of spray paint. He then gestured his left hand over the white canvas as if he was holding a spray can. His index finger then emitted a mist of purple paint.

The 1-A students were more impressed by how Manuel had a flow of some sort. It first didn’t make
sense why he was randomly spraying the canvas with mists of different colors. But after using the
ewspaper, the circular tin covers, the plastic divider and the metal scraper - it slowly formed into a
very recognizable picture.

After Manuel used the scraper for one last time to carve out his signature and the date. He removed
his mask and turned the painted canvas upward so the others can see.

It was a graffiti style painting of the New York City skyline, complete with the Statue of Liberty and
the Manhattan Bridge. It’s background was a colorful, whimsical galaxy filled with weird but
wonderful planets.

“I feel so talentless after watching you,” Jirou commented. “Words cannot describe how really
impressed I am.”

“I’m touched,” Manuel grinned while he set the painted canvas flat on the low table. “And you guys
just saw my quirk, _spray paint_ !”

“You normally sell these for ¥1400?” Shoji asked, one of his arms having an eye extend and inspect
the painting up close.

“I do but if you want something more specific, it’s gonna cost you ¥4,000,” Manuel told him.
“Brendon, Izuku and Raleigh did this when they asked me to commission something.”

“What did you guys asked him to do?” Kirishima looked to the boys who’s name were mentioned.

“The 787 and A350 planes with the Delta livery on,” Raleigh answered.

“This pizzeria besides my family’s shop back in New York,” Brendon replied.

“All Might of course!” Izuku grinned.

“See?” Manuel said. “But for this work, I’m gonna give this to Iida. I think this would look great in
his room. And he was a bit hesitant in the idea of us being here but he really opened up rather
dramatically when we _did_ get here. He even offered me and Raleigh to use some of his toiletries we I
asked where we can get cleaned up. I feel like I owe this painting to him.”

Iida, as expected, bowed deeply. “I am humbled by your decision Manuel but can you give it to someone who I deem special to me?”

“Of course,” Manuel was surprised but he accepted. “But who?”

“My boyfriend Hitoshi,” Iida said as he stood up.

“Tenya, that’s a good looking painting, why are you just giving that to me? You can keep it if you really want to...” Shinsou was surprised.

“Take it,” Manuel encouraged Shinsou, pushing the painting towards him. “He clearly means a lot to you.”

The surprised purple-haired boy looked to Iida who nodded with a small smile.

“Okay,” Shinsou agreed but still hesitant in taking the painting, the others near him slightly crowding him to get a better glimpse of it. “Damn, this is just unbelievable...”

“How does your spray paint power work in the first place?” Tokoyami asked.

“I activate my quirk by shaking the arm I want to release the paint from,” Manuel explained. “I know it’s activated when I hear the sound of mixing balls, the sound you all typically associate with paint cans. To like ‘switch it off’, I just shake my arm again. I’m left handed so I use my left hand most of the time but paint can also come out of my right too.”

“How do you switch colors and control how fine the spray should be?” Sero asked.

“You may have noticed me flicking my wrist a lot,” Manuel pointed out. “Up means I want to change to a warmer color while down means I’m opting for a cooler one. Flicking it to the left means I want a finer, concentrated mist coming out of my index finger while right means a broader mist.”
“How do you paint with different colors and shades?” asked Kaminari, who had now snapped out of his short-circuited look.

“I need to know what specific color or shade I want,” Manuel explained. “If I don’t know what color I need or can’t even picture the shade, no paint will come out of my pointing finger. I mitigate that weakness by always bringing a swatch book of colors with me.”

“Is that you’re only limitation?” Todoroki asked.

“No, I’m also limited by my water intake and how much I sweated.” Manuel said. “If I use my quirk too much, I become dehydrated plus the paint quality goes south really fast. I’m also sensitive to the smell of my own paint which is why I wear a mask too.

“Well, I think this moment calls for a photo op!” Momo said as she brought out her phone. “Shinsou, Iida! Stay in the middle so the artwork can stand out! Everybody else - and yes, including the art students - get into places!”

“Oh yeah, I want a picture on my camera too!” Manuel said before turning to Brendon. "Dude, where'd you put it?"

“Hold those cameras, I’m going to get my boyfriend down here too!” Kirishima shouted out.

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“...god, I wish I got to meet you guys a lot sooner, all of you are really cool,” Manuel said. Unlike awhile ago where he sat in a separate cushion on the floor, he was cuddling up with Raleigh on the couch. His gas mask now on the now cleaned up coffee table. “And you’re right, you do make for a very cuddly barrier.”

“I aim to please,” The tall American ruffled Manuel’s messy black curls. “Hey, your hair is so fluffy!”

“This reminds me!” Hagakure said. “You totally blew everyone away when both of you kissed!”
“You guys were there too?” Kirishima asked, who had Bakugou’s head resting in his lap. “Katsuki and I didn’t see you guys at all...”

“We had to separate into smaller groups. It was nearly full when most of us got there already.” Todoroki explained, still cuddling Izuku by his side.

“Actually, that kiss was a last minute thing,” Manuel said, bringing the topic back into light again, his tan cheeks having a light tint. “We only rehearsed the part leading up to it since we were pressed for time... because of that tiny detail, the kiss on stage was also literally my first kiss.”

“What!” Nearly everyone in the room shouted in unison - including Raleigh.

“I like this guy. Not only he does art, he probably lives for gay drama,” Shinsou smirked.

“Why didn’t you tell me?” Raleigh calmly asked. Internally, he was freaking out at that fact he took the first of the boy he really likes.

“It’s not everyday a guy like you would be interested in someone like me,” the spray painter said. “You asking me out has been a milestone for me. And what better way to have my first kiss than with the guy I really like and in one of the most magical parts of a musical that means so much to me?”

“This is so fucking cheesy,” Bakugou, who now was sitting with Kirishima with a fair bit of distance from the others, rolled his eyes. He was still slightly annoyed that Kirishima managed to rope him in for a photo op.

“Shh! Don’t ruin the moment!” Kirishima told him. “I’m witnessing something really sweet yet manly right now...”

“Did it live up to your expectations?” Raleigh nervously asked.

“Exceeded would be the answer,” Manuel grinned. “Plus Lin Manuel-Miranda would be so proud if he found out that our Sonny de la Vega and Graffiti Pete kissed under the fireworks.”
As Manuel curled up into Raleigh like a koala, Kaminari looked at them. “Speaking of graffiti, where’d you learn to paint like that?”

“Back in Washington Heights, I had this habit of tagging bare walls with my paint job and let’s just say my parents were so not thrilled with it,” Manuel explained with a laugh. “I used to hangout with graffiti artists who have police records. Despite them having a criminal background, they did treat me nicely and taught me all the tricks they knew. Soon enough, I was tagging walls on my own. But my mom put the breaks on the very moment when she found out by hitting me really hard with her *chancla*.”

“Chancla?” Uraraka asked. “What’s that?”

“It’s a slipper that Hispanic moms use to discipline their kids,” Manuel explained. “For Hispanic kids like me, as I am the product of parents who immigrated from the Dominican Republic to the United States, it’s basically the stuff of nightmares. Nobody should ever dare challenge the power of *la chancla*."

“If your mom comes to Japan, let me know,” Todoroki told him. “I would like for her to do that to my dad.”

“Todoroki no...” Mina said.

“Todoroki YES ...” the dual-toned teen contradicted with a smile.

“What can we expect from Mean Girls tomorrow? Ribbit,” asked Tsuyu.

“Oh man, you’re going to love everyone tomorrow,” Manuel said. “As the scenic director for Mean Girls, I can guarantee that the team has produced one hell of a finished product. I think it’s one of the best electronic set designs I’ve seen. Remember, when you go watch Mean Girls the musical, wear pink!”

“As the dance captain of the show, I can’t wait for it to be all over and to pass the torch to someone,” Brendon told them. “I respected dance captains before but I now have renewed respect for them and for those who actually do this for a living. It’s so different from just going in for the day and following what you’re told to do. I’m also throwing in the days I was just the assistant dance captain for *Newsies*. “
“Tyler Kimble and Marwan Jitla will be gay for each other,” Izuku said. “Before anyone contradicts, it’s going to be very wholesome and I don’t make the rules.”

Sato then asked, “How exactly gay is your school?”

“Very,” Smokes answered as he closed up his Surface PC. “I’m gay, Tarraco’s also gay. Ticonderoga and Midoriya are bi as fuck while Brendon is literally the only straight person from the Met in this room. Now try applying that proportion onto a student population of 800.”

“It’s a lot like Class 1-A but super sized,” Jirou joked. “Hagakure, Koji, Ojiro and Sato are the only straight people here. Everyone else falls somewhere on the queer spectrum.”

“While we’re still in the topic of musicals and gays,” Raleigh said before looking to Ojiro and Hagakure. “I really had a good time at your show. In fact, the three who watched it thought that you all did well, especially considering the time constraint to put up something like that in two weeks...”

“We have been mcblessed since those words are coming from the mouth of a bona fide art student!” Hagakure said.

While no eyes were on them, Bakugou grabbed Kirishima before lowering his voice down to whisper in his ear. “Listen shitty hair, I need you to listen and listen well. Nod if you can hear me clearly and if you understood what I just said...”

The redhead nodded.

“Good. Here what I noticed...”

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“I wish we could’ve hung out longer but duty calls,” Manuel said as he hugged each and every last one of Class 1-A. “I’m sorry we have to go for dress rehearsal...”

“We can always hang outside of school, it doesn’t have to be in U.A. all the time you know,” Uraraka told him. “And blow us all away tomorrow, we’re counting on you guys!”
“Will do!” Brendon beamed.

While the other Met students were still saying their goodbyes to friendly Class 1-A, Bakugou approached Izuku. “Nerd, you’re gonna have lunch at the usual time on your last day tomorrow here right?”

“Yeah Kacchan, why?” Izuku asked.

“I need you to tell you something personal,” Bakugou said. “It involves some of the people you’re with today. Meet me at the library tomorrow and do not fucking bring any of your friends, no arguments. Eat fast if you need to eat. Ei and I will be waiting...”

“Uh okay...”

“C’mon Izuku, we can’t be late!” Raleigh called out.

“I’ll see you tomorrow Kacchan.” Izuku nodded as he parted away with the ash blonde and joined his art school friends. “Let’s go guys! Bye 1-A!”

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“I officially hate you right now,” Aizawa told Toshinori with an annoyed look as the musical on the flat screen TV screen ended. “Do you have any idea how even more annoying my husband is when he’s emotional? Jesus, you even made Vlad cry.”

In front of them were Tensei, Vlad, Midnight, Ectoplasm, Snipe, Lunch Rush, Present Mic and Thirteen, balling their eyes out.

“I’m crying in the club right now,” Present Mic sobbed.

It all started with Toshinori suggesting to some of the staff members that they should go to Tensei’s house and watch the Metropolitan’s professionally filmed production of Dear Evan Hansen that was
Young Midoriya’s performance was just outstanding. He almost forgot that this was the same boy whom he told to not take the U.A. entrance exam. Maybe the boy and the young cast he acted with were too outstanding... because two hours later, an entire box of tissues was finished with almost the entire U.A. staff he had invited to watch crying in Tensei’s home.

“How do they do it?” Ectoplasm asked, sniffling. Snipe was curled up into him, also crying. “How do they act like that and not cry?”

“Fuck this,” the cowboy teacher said as he sat up in a more upright position. “I need the remote. Does anybody have it?”

“Here,” Aizawa handed the grey remote to him. “Pick a show that has something light and cute in it. Just make sure that Hizashi’s mood will improve.”

“Brooklyn Nine-Nine it is,” Snipe said as he lifted his mask a bit to wipe some of his tears away. “Season 3, Episode 18 here we come...”

Chapter End Notes

Was this chapter too 'OC-centric'? Tell me in the comments below! :) 

As a big fan of the musical In The Heights, I really hope Lin makes Graffiti Pete and Sonny a thing in the 2020 movie. I would also like for him to include Lincoln Rosario - Nina’s older brother but was cut off in the final script. From what I read, he seems like a fun and cool character with an interesting backstory. 

Also, Graffiti Pete and Sonny de la Vega made out during the blackout and are dating. This is a fact for me and I will not be convinced otherwise.
A Cautionary Tale

Chapter Summary

Bakugou and Kirishima described what they both observed yesterday to Izuku. Class 1-A gets to know the troubled past of one of Izuku's friends. Tsuburaba discovers something about one of his friends and gives out some advice. Raleigh geeks out about planes while Inko brings some unexpected company along for the show...

And finally, The Metropolitan premieres Mean Girls at The U.A. Auditorium.

Chapter Notes

Happy Valentines Day or Happy Single People Awareness Day 2k19!

With nearly 15,900 words and taking nearly a month to arrive, chapter nine is finally here. Like chapter eight, you might want to make time because it will take you over an hour to read this. I clocked in at around 1hr 20mins when I was reading at my normal speed.

As usual, enjoy!

See the end of the chapter for more notes

As Izuku, Raleigh and Brendon entered the school gate, they were immediately confronted by the Bakusquad, each one wearing a pair of aviator sunglasses. All except for Bakugou of course.

“Good morning Kacchan!” Izuku smiled as he greeted them all. “Good morning guys!”

“What’s up with the Ray-Bans?” Raleigh inquired.

“Every Bakusquad member has a pair,” Kaminari replied. “But really, we all just happen to have one though it’s now an essential accessory if one of you wishes to join us!”

“So what brings you all here?” Brendon asked. “Don’t you guys have school? It’s like 7:30 already and you’re still in your house clothes...”

“Classes are cancelled for the day!” Sero said with his friendly grin. “All U.A. staff are helping in beefing up security. Our homeroom teacher told us that U.A.’s in a position where they can’t risk another really close call attack by villains. It sort of happened to us twice in a couple of classified locations. While they’re glad nothing serious happened to us, it did trigger a ton of changes in U.A.’s security policy...”
“And the five of us already checked the auditorium!” Mina said. “The door’s still shut... Hound Dog, the school’s lifestyle guidance counselor who we ran into on after checking the auditorium, said that it won’t be open ‘til 10 a.m. for security reasons...”

“Goddammit, my foam roller’s in there,” Raleigh complained.

“Looks like I’m going to have to let the other leaders know,” Brendon rubbed his neck. He did not like the idea of his phone being blown up with a boatload of notifications this early in the day.

“After you do that, slide into Smokes and Manuel’s DMs and tell them that they’re invited to go to 1-A’s dorms!” The pink girl said. “Until then, you all can take it easy there!”

“But shitty hair and the nerd stays with me,” Bakugou instructed. “I have to talk with both of them...”

“About?” Brendon pressed.

“None of your business,” Bakugou said to the dance captain.

“Don’t question it man,” Kaminari said. “Just ‘Baku-go’ with it!”

Bakugou, not wanting to hear anymore of the class made memes, just growled his orders to Kaminari, Mina and Sero.

“You three, leave with the other two. Ei and I are going to have a talk with Deku.”

The other members of the Bakusquad followed Bakugou’s instructions with a salute before they left with both the tall Americans.

Once the five were out of earshot, the ash blonde looked to Izuku. “Nerd, just follow me and Ei. I know another place where we can talk.”

“Uh okay,” Izuku agreed with a nod.
Izuku knew that U.A. had an enormous complex but during his week-long stay at the school, the massive scale of it still got to him. This was made apparent when they got to the forested area within U.A.’s school grounds.

After a couple of minutes into going in the network of tall trees changing into autumn colors, Bakugou had led them into a clearing where they can all sit. It was a good spot that can conceal and hide conversations away from any eyes or ears.

Once Bakugou settled on a spot, he sat down and prompted Kirishima to take a seat beside him on the ground. The act also made Izuku sit down, just opposite of the couple. When they were all comfortable, the ash blonde immediately asked a direct question.

“So Deku, would you believe me if I said that dance captain of yours isn’t straight and is some sort of queer?”

This was not the sort of discussion Izuku had expected.

“But Brendon’s straight!” Izuku claimed. “He doesn’t talk to me about boys like the others do!”

“When that guy who was sketching on his PC thing said he was a straight guy, I already knew he was wrong. I saw how Snapback looked at the others - he’s definitely not straight.” Bakugou said.

“But how can you be so sure?” Izuku asked in disbelief.

“Trust Katsuki man,” Kirishima said. “He really notices shit and has good instincts if something’s up. It’s like his eyes have a detector which can see things that are out of place. I guess, the same can now be applied to theatre kids taking advanced acting classes.”

“The most damning evidence was when that sketching guy said he was straight, Snapback looked offended,” Bakugou stated. “If your dance captain wants to talk to you about it, take it up and talk to him.”

“Sure...” Izuku nodded, still skeptical of Bakugou’s claims and Kirishima’s back up of said claims.

“But you have to fucking remember that he comes out of the closet on his terms, not yours or anyone else’s,” Bakugou said.
“I’ll keep that in mind, Kacchan,” Izuku agreed.

“Also, does Smokes like have a crush on Brendon?” Kirishima asked. “One of the other things Katsuki noticed is Smokes referring to you and everyone else by their family name - all except for Brendon.”

Izuku eyes widened towards Bakugou. “You noticed that?”

“Duh,” the explosive blonde scoffed. “In case you haven’t noticed, I’m not one to call people by their real names.”

“He only calls a couple of people in 1-A by their real names,” Kirishima helpfully supplied. “Me and Kouji...”

“Wait, why Kouda?” Izuku asked on why the large but shy teen was given a rare exemption by Bakugou.

“When Shitty Hair’s dog was over, which he treats like his own flesh and blood, it went missing,” Bakugou said. “Everyone in the dorm tried looking for it but Kouji was the only one who found it in a dog park a few blocks away from school. He even gave my idiot of a boyfriend some useful tips on how to take better care of it. He’s also not noisy and annoying.”

“Ah...” Izuku understood.

“Anyway, do you have any idea how long Smokes liked Brendon?” Kirishima asked.

“From what he tells me, ever since the start of the production of Newsies so it’s been months. Smokes attempted to get in as Romeo in the musical but he told me it went down hill when he spilled a hot cup of coffee on a teacher and that he didn’t do great in the auditions.” the freckled teen said. “It was surely a traumatizing experience for him and might be the very reason why he doesn’t want to participate in roles that require a lot of dancing or moving around... but how would Brendon be-”

“You’re fucking mumbling again Deku,” Bakugou growled. “If we were in library right now, we would’ve gotten our asses kicked out thanks to you.”

“Sorry! Sorry!” Izuku apologized before he sighed. “It’s just that tomorrow, both Raleigh and Brendon have dates too so it’s not just not me. And I just feel bad for Smokes...”

“Why?” Kirishima asked.

“I mean, in just a span of a week, he was electrocuted and fell quite hard so he had to go to your
school’s infirmary ward,” the green-haired teen recounted. “And on the very same day he got electrocuted, Smokes popped in the same restaurant that me, Brendon and Raleigh were at. It’s what we talked about there that was quite a lot for him to take in... thinking about it now, I kinda wish he never got there by accident.”

“What did you guys talk about?” asked Kirishima.

“This is where the dates of me, Raleigh and Brendon come in,” Izuku narrated. “You see, Brendon asked Smokes for any ideas on where he should take his crush, a girl named Kimiko...”

“Oh man,” Kirishima was invested in Izuku’s story. Bakugou was listening but was not as involved as the redhead.

“Yeah, and when Smokes’s food arrived, he said ‘finally’, and while my American friends took it as him being hungry and ready to eat,” Izuku trailed. “I knew he meant that we ‘finally’ don’t have to talk about Brendon’s infatuation with Kimiko or ideas how to impress her. However, that talk wasn’t the worst one; the worst one was when Brendon asked Smokes the question ‘Who do you like?’”

“Shit,” Kirishima said in astonishment. “I so now understand why you feel so bad for Smokes...”

“Smokes answered Brendon by saying he did like someone but he added a 'sort-of' white lie that I told him the person he likes had a crush on someone else,” Izuku said. “He also added another lie where he made me promise that I will not tell anyone or say any hints about the person he likes.”

“Damn...” Kirishima said. “Good thing you kept your cool, I would’ve probably fucked that up and dead-ass exposed Smokes in front of Brendon.”

“Smokes is a kind guy,” Izuku said. “I met him when we became lab partners for our science class a few months ago. He’s a bit reserved due to his really bad family history. But I do like that I’m good friends with him by now.”

“You can be friends with almost anyone man,” Kirishima beamed. “You’re, like, so approachable and so nice to be around with...”

Bakugou’s phone then let out a sound in his grey sweatpants. He fished it out and read the message notification.

“Nerd,” Bakugou said. “More of your art friends arrived at the dorms. Tape Arms says they’re now looking for us.”

“Should we go to your dorm?” Izuku inquired the explosive blonde.
“Let’s go,” Bakugou said as he quickly typed out a message. “I just told him we’re heading back.”

Bakugou promptly stood up and walked ahead of the two.

Kirishima helped up Izuku before they both walked together, trying to catch up with Bakugou.

They caught up with Bakugou but Izuku held Kirishima back, creating a distance that he deemed respectable for the ash blonde. Izuku then looked to Kirishima as he smiled.

“Hey Kiri...”

“Yeah?”

“I’m glad you’re Kacchan’s boyfriend. He’s really lucky to have you. Not a lot of people see him the way you do.”

“Believe it or not, I should be the one saying I’m lucky.” The shark-toothed redhead said. “Not a lot of people get to see Katsuki when he’s vulnerable. For me, that’s really priceless. And I think it’s really manly of him opening up lately. It shows he’s changing. It was also really manly of him owning up to what he did to you back then. People with a pride like his don’t really do that sort of stuff. And I’m glad I got to see it with my own eyes and heard it for myself when he apologized to you.”

“I hope he doesn’t let you go Kiri, you’re really great for each other.” Izuku smiled at him.

“Trust me, we’re not doing that at all.”

Little did they know that Bakugou all heard what they said. He even smiled at their words.

—[1][1][1][1][1]—

When Bakugou, Izuku and Kirishima got to the dorms, they all managed to catch their class huddled around Todoroki. It wasn’t everyday that the son of the new number one hero personally tell what it is it currently like to be part of his family. After Todoroki confirmed that Endeavor was an asshole and is the cause of the massive rift within his family, one of the members 1-A proposed that a new organization be put up in U.A.
“Do you think Aizawa will let us form an ‘I hate Endeavor’ club?” Mina asked the others in the room after Todoroki told his classmates the full story of his family.

The half-cold, half-hot teen was currently sitting with Izuku. The green-haired boy was really enjoying the warmth produced by Todoroki’s left side.

While the dual-toned boy would have definitely entertained a hate club for his dad, it would not be a complete Todoroki family affair without some sort of drama, event or a factor to take into consideration...

“Don’t get me wrong, my old man did a lot of heinous things to my family,” Todoroki said. “But from what my older brother, Natsuo, is telling me, he’s trying to change for the better - which I know is good. The thing is, I’m skeptical in giving him the benefit of the doubt because of my family’s experience with him and I’m not sure how he’s going to take me for being gay. But if he turns out to be a dumpster fire homophobe, let me know when I can be the president of the Endeavor hate club...”

“Hey, at least you have most of your fam on your side,” Smokes offered. “I kinda envy your siblings and mom Todoroki. I know I would kill for a family like that. It also makes me wonder even more if mine didn’t kick me out...”

“Wait,” Manuel interrupted from where he was sitting which was on Raleigh’s side, the taller boy’s arm around his shoulders. “Your own parents kicked you out?”

“Yup,” Smokes flatly said. “There’s more to it, of course.“

“Do you mind telling us what happened to you?” Hagakure inquired. “But if you don’t feel comfortable, it’s fine...”

All eyes now fell on the props and scenic crew member.

“No, I’m alright with telling it,” Smokes assured her. “And I’ve been in this city for a year so I think it’s time that more people know how I got here in the first place. But full disclosure, the only person who knows my background full stop here is Midoriya...”

“You both know his crush and his past?” Brendon asked the mentioned teen, to which he nodded in response. “You’re like a real life Gretchen Wieners dude...”

“How is Midoriya like Gretchen?” asked Smokes with a smile.

“His green hair is so big, it’s probably full of secrets.” Brendon joked. “While he says he’s quirkless, Izuku might have seven unique quirks - but who knows?”
“I can assure you all I’m really quirkless and I have no quirks to share,” Izuku entertained. “Now Smokes, go on with your story.”

“Okay,” Smokes started. “When I do my sketches and finish them, I always put in the date it was finished and the letters S.A.R.B. - which stands for my full name ‘Simon Alonzo R. Benitez’. It’s important to note that if you ask my old friends back in the Philippines, you will find some of them still adapting to my family name. That’s because my family name used to be ‘Montoya.’”

“Correct me if I’m wrong but Spain had colonized your the Philippines right?” Manuel asked.

“For over 300 years, hence Hispanic surnames,” Smokes confirmed with a nod. “But before I tell you all why my last name changed, I need to tell my upbringing first so you guys can have a perspective of where I’m coming from.”

The Filipino cleared his throat before he continued.

“So I was born and raised in Santa Rosa, a medium-sized city in Laguna, a province just south of Manila - the country's capital,” Smokes said. “My dad, Pietro, works at a bus manufacturing plant while my mom, Gracia, works as a nurse at a private hospital. I also have two siblings, an older sister in college named Sierra and Fidel, my younger brother but I call him ‘Del’ for short.”

“Do you miss them?” Kirishima asked.

“My parents? No. My siblings? Yeah, we were really close,” Smokes shared. “But after I came out as gay, my parents cut also my ties with them after they kicked me out. You should’ve seen their faces, in addition to my parents, both Del and Sierra thought I had this deadly-ass disease. I couldn’t count on them to vouch for me.”

“Why did they do that to you?” Momo inquired. She was quite shocked by the drastic action taken. “Isn’t that illegal since you’re a minor?”

“I know what they did is illegal but help from the local Public Attorney’s Office for free legal aid is hard to get,” Smokes said. “As for why they did it, it has something to do with my parents trying to raise the ideal Filipino family: Catholic and quite socially conservative.”

“Where did you go after getting sacked from your home?” Sero asked.

“I went to the only person who can take me in for the meantime, my best friend Roy,” Smokes said. “I filled Roy and his folks in on what happened to me. They were shocked I swung that way but they were way even more shocked that both my parents decided to boot me out for real.”
“Did they try convincing your parents to let you back in?” Raleigh asked.

“Yep, but after a heated confrontation, it became clear to them that my mom and dad were disowning me,” Smokes said. “But with the help of Roy and his folks, I got in touch with Imelda, the sister of Roy’s mom, who lives here in Musutafu.”

“Let me guess,” Manuel interrupted. “Imelda’s now your legal guardian?”

“Bingo,” Smokes affirmed. “After a ton of paperwork and bureaucratic things I had to accomplish, Imelda flew into the country to get me. And before I knew it, I was on a big Philippine Eagle Airways jet on my way to the Land of the Rising sun.”

“But you still haven’t explained why you have a different surname,” Brendon pointed out.

“About that,” Smokes beamed. “When I got here, my guardian offered me the choice to legally change my name. She said it might help me start fresh. I decided to just change my last name from Montoya to Benitez. I should point out Imelda’s last name is now Fukuda. Now, ask me why.”

“Why?” Tsuyu asked.

“Because ‘Benitez’ is Roy’s family name,” Smokes answered. “I talked to him and and his parents over Skype about it. The three of them were all onboard with it. I told Imelda about my choice, and after some paperwork, bam! I am now an honorary Benitez. It’s the least I could do for a family that really helped me during a dark period of my life.”

“So what’s your legal status as of right now?” Jirou inquired.

“If you’re asking about my nationality, I’m considered as a dual-citizen by the Japanese Government but I am now a holder of a Japanese passport.” Smokes said. “However, once I turn 18, I need to pick between being a Filipino or Japanese citizen. But, spoiler alert, I’m so going to pick the latter.”

“Why Japanese?” Manuel questioned. Don’t you want to keep your heritage?”

“Trust me Tarraco, I’d be insane to not pick Japanese,” Smokes answered, as if he was prepared to answer a question like that. “Life’s pretty rough in my old country. It’s a running joke within my circle of friends there that I’m the first one who made it out of Santa Rosa. I know some of them would die for where I’m living right now.”

“How bad is it back in your province?” Ojiro asked.

“I wouldn’t say it’s awful or even bad in Laguna,” Smokes replied. “I would even go as far as to say
life’s better in Santa Rosa compared to Manila. Why? It’s not polluted and it’s not as crowded but you still have access to the urban stuff Manileños get. With that said, and now having experienced blazingly fast internet connection and comfortable, reliable public transportation, Musutafu just blows my old life out of the water.”

“With all what you said, do you still plan in visiting the Philippines during this winter break?” Brendon asked.

“One of my good friends, Neil, will be visiting me so any ideas of me hanging out at a nice warm beach in Northern or Southern Luzon will be thrown out of the window,” Smokes answered. “I’ll be showing him around Osaka, Tokyo and Musutafu of course.”

“Can we visit where you’re from?” asked Izuku. “I know our city has a beach but I would prefer a warm one…”

“Maybe one day,” Smokes entertained. “Getting around the country isn’t easy and traffic in Manila is a nightmare. While I know the national government is really trying to improve transportation access, its still has a very long way to go if the internet comments and news reports are to be used as a metric.”

“Well, thanks for opening up man,” said Raleigh. “And you too Todoroki. I think both of you are brave for telling us what you guys experienced…”

“No kidding,” Sero agreed. “I wouldn’t know what to do if my parents do kick me out or if one of them actively ruins my family.”

*Ring. Ring. Ring.*

Manuel pulled his phone out from his hoodie pouch and held it up to his ear.

“Hey Yumna… yeah Izuku’s here with me and so is his friends… oh you only need Izuku… What? Izuku needs to be on TV with the main cast… so basically, all the mathletes need to be with the main cast later for the interviews… they also need to be prepared for the dress rehearsal? Why? Oh, alright. Okay I’ll let all of them know… bye!”

Manuel put his phone away and look to the members of 1-A.

“Guys, can Izuku come here again later? He needs to get ready for five interviews after we do the final dress rehearsal for Mean Girls?” Manuel asked the class. “He needs to freshen up and look his best before he goes on in front of the camera…”

“I didn’t bring any nice clothes!” Izuku said.
“Relax, Yumna’s got you covered there,” Manuel said with a gentle smile. “And I hope the ensemble actors here brought their game face. Two of the five media companies will be filming during the final dress rehearsal to get some video shots.”

“Why do I have to go on though?” Izuku asked.

Manuel cleared his throat. “Rohan wants you - who plays Tyler Kimble - and Suraj - who plays Marwan Jitla - to be there just in case a interviewer might ask if The Met did a few tweaks in comparison to the Broadway one. As you all know yesterday, we did make a change in making both Marwan and Tyler gay boyfriends.”

“That makes sense,” Izuku nodded. “If the question comes up, Suraj and I will try answering our best!”

“How many outlets will be interviewing them?” Jirou asked.

“There will be five,” Manuel said. “Both local and national then there will be a couple of legacy theatre media outlets.”

“Which media companies are gonna be there?” Raleigh asked.

“I know who,” Brendon said. “From what I saw, the ones who are gonna be there are; Musutafu Broadcasting Company then Crane Media - an all-new internet media startup that’s like been awarded for the past year for their content. Last but not the least one is TBS or known as Tokyo Broadcasting System. Both Crane and TBS are based in Tokyo. Joining in with those three outlets are the theatre world’s Playbill and Broadway.com. All the interviews will be done from 2-4 p.m. That way, the ones who need to be in front of the cameras have time to get ready and still have time to get a bit of rest after the interviews.”

“Good thing we have communications classes,” Izuku said, now a bit intimidated by the tentative number of news outlets who wanted to talk to them.

“Couldn’t Midoriya have a Japanese name for his character?” Ojiro asked.

“I think ‘Tyler’ fits Midoriya well,” Raleigh said. “And it certainly fits him better in comparison to the original Washington D.C. name which was ‘Rowan.’ And with the glasses he’ll wear later, he’s gonna really look like a ‘Tyler Kimble’...”

“Bakugou,” Brendon reached out to the volatile blonde. “Do you mind if you can make us lunch? We’ll even pay for it. Uh, Mina said to us a while ago you cook great food...”
“Cash or credit?” Bakugou asked which surprised a lot of people in the living area. He was normally not even remotely inviting when people he doesn’t know are in the mix. “C’mon, give me an answer already...”

“I’ll be paying in cash,” Brendon replied.

“Cash,” Manuel answered.

“I’ll pay you in cash Kacchan,” Izuku chirped in.

“Fuck,” Smokes cursed as he dug and searched through his wallet. “I brought the wrong wallet. The one I have with me is filled with Philippine peso bills and coins...”

“Don’t worry dude, I’ll cover for you,” Raleigh intervened. The tall American looked to Bakugou. “I’ll pay in credit for both me and Smokes’s food... also do you accept American Express or Visa credit cards?”

“As long as you pay me, I really do not give a fuck what you use,” Bakugou said with a hint of annoyance. “But to answer you properly; I accept credit cards. And I also accept payments through Apple Pay and Google Pay so one person in this room can give my compensation through mentioned means when he overcharged and blew up my phone ...”

“Why did you do that?” Shinsou turned to Kaminari, knowing he has a history of accidentally blowing up electronics with his quirk.

“He asked me to charge his phone and told me he’ll be back soon since he was just gonna do some laundry,” Kaminari said. “But when this cockroach came in here flying, I freaked out which caused my electric surge to jump and fry his phone’s circuit boards...”

“We really have to put in invest in some special cables if we want to keep on using you as a talking power bank, huh?” Jirou said to Kaminari, who was now putting his dunce face on display.

With everyone in 1-B done with all of their homework, most of them slept while others finished some chores or worked out. However, Kaibara and Monoma watched Awase and Tsuburaba play Forza Motorsport on latest-generation Xbox, courtesy of Pony, that was in their common room.

All of them watched Awase lose to the silver Ford GT piloted by Tsuburaba. It passed the finish line first while Awase’s red Dodge Viper ACR passed the line five seconds behind.
“I told you you’d lose,” Monoma said with a smirk to Awase.

“Yeah, yeah...” The welder boy brushed off.

“But seriously, if I hadn’t made Bakugou mad, we would’ve won the popular vote?” Monoma asked the other boys around him again.

“Yeah,” Kaibara confirmed. “I talked to Tetsu about it. From what Kirishima told him via chat, 1-A already settled for a dance presentation. But because you had to antagonize Kirishima’s boyfriend, that was thrown out of the window so they went for a mini musical instead.“

“Basically, Bakugou got back at us like what he did at the sports festival,” Tsuburaba said before he looked straight at Monoma. “Dude, you gotta stop making him mad. You know well that’s he’s not going to stop until he beats you in your own game.”

“How did 1-A top ‘Romeo and Juliet, and the prisoner of Azkaban: The Return of the Kings’ though?” Awase questioned as Tsuburaba put away their game controllers and turned off the TV. “Shishida did a really solid job with the script and Fukidashi made our stage all cool and stuff.”

“Shishida watched 1-A’s presentation yesterday and he found himself loving it,” Tsuburaba intercepted as he sat down again. “He told me it was really hilarious, had a lot of heart and the script was well done too. After Shishida told me what 1-A did last night, he can see why 96 people tipped the popular vote for their ‘The Jukebox Musical That Goes Right’.”

“The Jukebox Musical That Goes Right? Awase questioned. “What sort of name for a stage presentation is that?”

“According to Shishida, their name is a twist on the play called ‘The Play That Goes Wrong’,“ The brunette shared. “He also told me that it was very gay...”

“Lines up with what Kirishima told Tetsu in their chat,” Kaibara said. “Tetsutetsu is also sure that’s a big reason why they won...”

“Shishida said that their gay characters were written really well and their script was tight,” Tsuburaba said. “Yaoyorozu and Jirou were lesbians while Shoji and Tokoyami were the gays. We all know they’re couples in real life... too bad we had to cut ours off...”

“We were supposed to have those?” Awase asked. “Why didn’t they make it?”

“Shishida had queer characters written in the drafts,” Monoma shared, much to the surprise of Awase and Kaibara. “The characters played by Kodai and Yanagi were supposed to be a couple. Airhead
here was actually the one who pitched that idea to Shishida. They even asked the women involved and they said that Kodai and Yanagi were alright with it...”

“What happened to the memelord’s ideas then? It was probably a good one if Shishida toyed around with it,” Awase pressed.

“I decided to shelve it in the final script,” the copycat blonde said. “With a ton of stuff going on in our play, I had to do it in order to keep the storyline clear and streamlined as much as possible... honestly, I kinda feel like I let everybody down when it was clear that the voters liked 1A’s performance ever so slightly better than ours.”

“Don’t be so hard on yourself,” Kaibara said. “Everyone in class is proud of what we all came up with for yesterday. A lot of people said it was really good. We’ll just go at it even harder next year.”

“Aren’t you tired of 1-A always having the spotlight?” Awase questioned Kaibara. “We always try our best but when it’s up for comparison against anything they do, it always ends up not being enough.”

Kaibara breathed. “I also want to win against 1-A. But let’s be real, they don’t rest on their laurels like others. They’re gonna defend the title of being number one no matter what. If we want to get there, we not only have to give it our all but we need to keep in mind of stuff that adds up. For example, Monoma really has to stop riling them up, because once Bakugou gets mad, he’ll personally make it his mission to make us lose. And why is 1-A even the standard? If the license exam taught me anything, there are a lot of students out there tougher than 1-A. And I’d worry about those people more because I don’t know anything about anyone if I go up against them.”

“Hmm... I think we have an advantage thanks to the stoic one,” Monoma said with a knowing smile.

“What do you mean?” Tsuburaba asked the blonde copycat whose face had the well-known scheming look.

“With 1-A in the spotlight all the time, I have a feeling it can be a big problem for them,” Monoma said. “There’s a lot of footage of them floating online from the sports festival, compared to us who only had scant coverage. Because we have a good idea on what their quirks and combat styles are while they don’t know all of 1-B well, they’ll never know what’s coming to hit them soon in the joint training exercises...”

“That’s actually a very good point,” said Tsuburaba.

“Remember Monoma, if you really want to win, you have to play it smart,” the photographer reminded him.

“Yes mom, I hear ya. But enough talk about them,” Monoma said before he shifted the topic. “So
how’s your photo thing going? Heard from Tokage that you got an all-new camera...”

“All-new Nikon mirrorless camera and lenses, all-new shit I need to learn,” Kaibara said. “Because of that, I’m not gonna accept any photoshoot requests in the mean time since I have to learn my new camera’s features, menu systems and also get used to the new lenses...”

“Want to practice using your shiny new camera on me?” Monoma offered. “I don’t mind being as test subject if it means the photos are coming from you.”

“Well, I have nothing better to do so... c’mon, let’s do it while the sun’s still up,” Kaibara said before he turned to his brunette boyfriend. “Do you mind if I use your XQD card? I'll make the shots count though. I know XQD cards costs like an arm and a leg.”

“Of course not. You know where to find my XQD card,” Tsuburaba said. “Go out and have fun. Better get going now because we all know how long it can take for Monoma to pick out an outfit...”

“I’m still here you know,” Monoma made himself obvious.

“Thanks,” Kaibara said to Tsuburaba before he turned to the blonde. “C’mon Monoma, let’s make you look good first.”

As Kaibara and Monoma walked to the elevators, only Awase and Tsuburaba were the only ones left in the common room.

When Awase knew the others were out of ear shot, he spoke up. “You know, I sometimes think it’s cute that you’re a bit protective of him.”

“You gotta protect what’s yours dude,” Tsuburaba said with a smile. “I do recognize that he can beat anyone’s ass if he needed to. But as his boyfriend, I need to point out and say that Sen’s my man.”

“So how did you know you were... you were...” Awase trailed off.

“How I knew I was pansexual?” The bug-eyed boy completed for him. “I kinda found myself during my last year in junior high being attracted to people regardless how they label themselves. If I think a person’s cute, they’re cute. End of story.”

“What made you like Kaibara?” The welding teen asked with a hint of nervousness in his voice.

“Sen stood out because, well for one, he’s really gorgeous and cute at the same time. He’s smart too. But we all know that,” Tsuburaba started. “The very reason I fell head over heels for Sen is that he’s always pushing himself in trying to come up with a creative yet practical solution - whether it be in
taking pictures or trying to become a hero. He has serious passion in things he loves doing. Sen doesn’t look like it but believe me when I say his mind moves a million miles an hour.”

“You’re so into him...” Awase shook his head with a small smile.

“Isn’t it obvious?” Tsuburaba playfully asked. “But why did you ask me those questions dude? Do you want to talk about something?”

“Promise you wont judge me?” Awase asked, his tone asking the brunette to take him seriously.

“I’m all ears, man. Shoot.”

“Okay,” Awase let out a shaky breathe. “I am currently just coming to terms with the fact I’m liking boys and girls...”

Tsuburaba nodded, listening closely.

Awase continued. “It’s freaking me out because I kinda feel dirty liking boys in that way. I like boobs but why do I also like looking at guy’s chests too? Back in my old school, kids in my class were so mean to this girl who was a lesbian. She didn’t have friends because of it. I was so scared of talking about my attraction to boys with my friends in junior high. I might become an outcast if I ever gave a hint at liking both guys and girls.”

“Do you still talk to your old friends back in Niigata?” Tsuburaba asked.

“Yeah...” The headband wearer nodded. "Through group chat."

“Okay, I think you should open up and talk to them about this,” Tsuburaba said. “But only, and I mean only, if your are comfortable. If they stick by your side, I think those are your real friends. If they need time to take it in, give it to them because it might be a lot for them to take in. But if any of them started treating you in a different and negative way, well, I think they weren’t even your friends to begin with. And if you’re ready to come out to 1-B, I’ll help you out - just let me know. But remember, you come out on your own terms.”

“Thanks dude,” Awase was grateful for having Tsuburaba understand him.

“It’s nothing,” The solid air user said. “If you’re not comfortable labeling on how you identify yourself, then don’t put on a label because you feel pressured to fit in. You’re only human after all, and it is not our fault that we’re both attracted to hot humans...”

“I’ll keep that in mind,” Awase smiled.
“So, is there anyone in U.A. who caught your eye?” Tsuburaba cheekily asked.

“It’s a boy,” Awase blushed.

“Oh that’s cool,” Tsuburaba said. “Is it anyone we know or you just know?”

“We all know him...”

“Is it Kamakiri?” Tsuburaba guessed. “I know he’s gay...”

“Kamakiri’s gay?!” Awase was surprised by that piece of information.

“Yeah, but he prefers to let everyone figure it out for themselves since he doesn’t like announcing stuff. We all know he hates receiving that kind of attention. And I think it’s safe to say you didn’t know since you were surprised by me telling you he’s gay.”

“Yeah, no shit,” Awase said.

“Okay, if it’s not our favorite tall, local Scyther, then it must be Monoma...” Tsuburaba said in playful tone. He was now the one who is surprised when Awase nodded. He looked around before he lowered his voice down to a whisper. “Wait, you really like Monoma?!”

“Uh, y-yeah...” Awase stammered.

“Not that I’m judging but why him of all people in school?”

“He’s pretty charming once you see through his craziness...” Awase said. “And while I don’t agree on him trying to take on Class 1-A at every turn, I do think its fucking admirable he’s trying to shed the spotlight more on us. It’s not cool that we’re considered beneath 1-A by most people and not their equals.”

“True that,” Tsuburaba nodded in agreement. “And okay, if you’re into Monoma, then I’m cool with it - if a little bit caught off-guard...”

“Thanks dude, I knew I can count on you.” Awase said before giving the brunette a bro hug.

“Anytime man. And welcome to the queer club. Now, let’s both celebrate by me kicking your ass in the ‘green hell’ known as Germany’s Nürburgring. What do you say buddy? Best 2 out of 3?”
Awase stopped bro hugging Tsuburaba and accepted the challenge. “Get the controllers because you have no idea what you just wagered...”

___[ ][ ][ ][ ]___

4:45 p.m. - two hours until showtime...

In 1-A’s dorms, four out of the five Met students that the class had befriended were over the week were sprawled out in different ways throughout the dorm’s common room sleeping, gathering all the rest they can muster before they have to go back to the auditorium for the actual show.

Izuku was the most exhausted out of them as he had to go on several media interviews with the main cast to explain some of the changes they made with the musical. When got back to the dorm, he ate his food with Todoroki and paid Bakugou for cooking his lunch via Kirishima before he collapsed on the couch with the others.

On the other hand, the majority of 1-A had went back to their rooms to nap. Some had opted to stay in the common room to get some shut eye. It was ironic for most of the top students that they decided to spend a chunk of the day napping since they literally did not do anything. However, some of the ones who tended to slack off pointed out that they should really savor the lazy day because once they go pro, slow days like the one they are having for now are gonna be few and far in between in the future.

The ones who were awake, were all gathered in the dining area. Out of respect for the ones napping in the common room.

Currently happening in the dining area was Raleigh was trying to book a flight on his phone. His prized metal credit cards, a dark blue one and a shiny silver one, were currently being looked over by Ojiro, Uraraka and Tsuyu.

“Oh god yes!” exclaimed Raleigh with a bright smile. “Fucking seats!”

Raleigh immediately grabbed his silver card before he started filling out all the necessary fields.

After punching in his credit card details, he was finished in booking a round-trip flight. An almost immediate notification from his Outlook app confirmed that his payment had gone through. He then placed his phone and credit card at the surface.

“I’ve have literally never saw anyone get excited in getting a plane ticket, ribbit.” Tsuyu said as Raleigh relaxed himself.
“What airline did you go for?” Uraraka asked.

“Philippine Eagle Airways,” Raleigh said. “A Star Alliance member. It was actually recommended to me by Smokes since this is the same airline he took going to this country... after I checked out their fleet, the seat layout of each plane and customer satisfaction ratings, I decided to book a flight for four people: me, my Aunt Cassie, Brendon and Manuel for a round trip to New York for the holidays so we can visit friends and family. For maximum value, I had to charge the fare to my Amex Platinum credit card to earn and haul in membership points. It’s crazy how fast winter break is coming...”

“How much is the flight for all four of you?” Uraraka asked.

“It said around ¥750,000, round trip... what?”

“You paid for that much?!” Ojiro just could not believe the amount he heard.

“Of course!” Raleigh said with a bright smile. “I’m paying for four people. It’s gonna be pricey heading back to and from NYC. But I think I snagged a good deal and besides, the other three had agreed with me that they’ll reimburse their share of the total price into my bank account. Thanks to me directly booking the airline with The Platinum Card by Amex, my Membership Reward points went up. With the 5x multiplier, I earned 34,147 MR points. If my math is to be believed, that’s about $683 with the current valuation.”

“Why is it so pricey?” Uraraka asked.

“From Tokyo Haneda to Manila, I chose economy seating... but on the Manila to New York-JFK segment of the route, I’ve picked out premium economy seating,” Raleigh explained. "I would've booked a direct flight but all of them are fucking full..."

“Do you four badly need those type of seats?” Tsuyu questioned.

“Of course not but that depends on who you're asking,” Raleigh answered. “If you’re 6’2” like me, getting the larger seat is something worth considering. It’s those small extra inches that make your flights either comfortable or hellish. It’s also worth noting that the seat layout of the plane and what jetliner you’re on can significantly determine how happy you’ll be on the flight... another factor is the airline operating the plane.”

“How do those things add up?” Ojiro asked.

“Can I geek out?” Raleigh asked first. “I don’t want to scare you with the insane amount of plane knowledge I know but I have so much to share!”
“If it gives us a better way to fly, I’m up to listen,” Ojiro stated. Both the other girls agreed with him by giving a brief nod.

“Really? Thanks! I promise you thee will. not regret your choice and I’ll keep it as simple as possible...”

“We have to ask, why are you so picky with airlines?” Ojiro asked.

“Not a lot of people know that airlines are the ones who actually dictate how interiors of airplanes are laid out,” said Raleigh. “How they install the seats and optimize the cabin density, for better or worse, significantly influences how the cabin will be comfortable for passengers. For example, Japan Airlines have 787s in their fleet. For me, they stand out as they configure their economy class in their 787s flying on international routes with the ‘Sky Wider’ 2-4-2 seat layout. This caught my eye as most airlines put in the more snug 3-3-3 seat configuration in their Boeing 787s or Airbus A330s. I chose economy on the flight I booked with Philippine Eagle on the flight from Haneda to Manila because their Airbus A330neo fleet is also configured with the 2-4-2 layout. If the awards on their ads are an indication of what to expect, it’s probably a great economy class. On the Manila to New York-JFK segment, we’ll be flying in premium economy - which is sort of like business class lite.”

“So how do the airplanes themselves get into all of this?” Uraraka asked.

“The jetliners, from the very beginning, have ideal seating configurations when they are first introduced,” Raleigh said. “Planes like the 787 and A330 would ideally have the 2-4-2 configuration in economy. Even bigger jetliners such as the Boeing 777 and Airbus A350 would have 3-3-3 layout in economy and still be comfortable as they’re both bigger than their 787 and A330 brothers.”

“What’s the current situation in most airline seats?” Ojiro asked.

“Most airlines that have a 787 or A330 in their fleet would put narrower seats with the 3-3-3 configuration.” Raleigh answered. “On the other hand, Boeing 777s have the even worse 3-4-3 layout. The far newer Airbus A350 can also get the 3-4-3 layout but it’s gonna be even worse because the A350 aircraft is ever so slightly narrower than the 777. Like I said, even an inch can go a long way in making your flight comfortable.“

“Don’t you think the airplane seats are small because many Americans are obese?” Tsuyu bluntly asked.

“I’d agree to that,” Raleigh nodded. “As airplane seats have shrunk, Americans grew in size. Not helping matters is that a good chunk of the U.S. population is obese - like what you said. But as airlines continue to add in more seats, I have a feeling it won’t be long ’til short and thin people start complaining. In fact, I envy you three for just being shorter.”

“That’s not something I hear everyday. I want to be taller so I can reach for stuff,” said Uraraka.
“You do realize you can float up just to get whatever you need, right?” said Tsuyu to her girlfriend.

“And isn’t nice being tall?” Ojiro asked Raleigh.

“People treat me like a crane when they can’t reach a shelf,” said Raleigh. “And as you all can see, I have a lean athletic build; it gets me all the cute girls and boys but after a flight on Spirit Airlines, I quickly found out that both my height and body build became a problem. It’s a good thing we Ticonderogas are well-off so I always fly in the nicer seats of legacy carriers. As for my mom who’s a senator, she just takes the train going to and from her job in D.C. as flying on a business class airplane seat isn’t going to do her any good press...”

“How did you even get those credit cards?” Uraraka asked. “They don’t seem like the credit cards my parents have plus the fancy ones you own are made of metal - like Momo’s...”

“Well, my dad has some close friends in the American banking industry,” Raleigh said. “After he hooked me up, he taught me the art of using credit cards as these pieces of metal hold a lot of power. My favorite is being able to access amazing airport lounges. But he drilled into my mind on the importance of responsible credit card ownership and how to get the most value out of it. It’s this reason why I like to think this is reason why I’m really good in math... and how I kinda developed an affinity for Excel spreadsheets.”

“I wonder what’s it like to fly on a giant plane...” Uraraka said. “I’ve never been outside of Japan.”

“If you have an opportunity to travel to a place you’ve never been to, go for it,” Raleigh said to her. “Variety, they say, is the spice of life. I’m very fortunate that I was born with a silver spoon, I was..."
able to go to a ton of different places around the world: Germany, Scandinavia, South Africa, Switzerland, Taiwan, Turkey, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Portugal, South Korea and Canada. Now I live in Japan...”

Uraraka’s eyes widened at the variety of countries Raleigh visited. “You visited so many countries!”

“I know,” Raleigh smiled. “That’s why if you’re offered to go outside Japan, take the chance. Traveling really opens your eyes. I think it’s an experience everyone should have at least once in their lives.”

A knock was suddenly heard from a nearby table, They all turned their heads to see a recently in awaken Manuel.

“Hey...” Manuel said before yawning. “Can we cuddle?”

“Uh, sure!” Raleigh immediately replied.

“Yay,” Manuel tiredly smiled before he sauntered over to their table. He took the seat next to Raleigh and scooted closer to him.

When Raleigh wrapped an arm around his torso, he sensed something was off.

“Anything on your mind?”

Manuel closed his eyes and sighed before replying, “I'm just jittery. A lot of people are going to see all of my scenic designs...”

“I’m sure they’re going to love it,” said Raleigh. “You and your team worked so hard on all of them for weeks. Everyone in the cast was super impressed with what they saw.”

“Thanks,” Manuel said. “Also, does Brendon snore that loud? He’s kind of the reason why I woke up...”

“Only when he’s pretty beat,” Raleigh said.

“Wait, I thought the one snoring was Sato? He told me that he snores really loud when he sleeps.” Tsuyu said.

“Oh, he was also snoring,” Manuel said. “But it wasn’t as loud as Brendon’s.”
6:15 p.m. - thirty minutes until showtime...

“It’s crazy to see this amount of people dressed in pink,” Todoroki commented as a sea of people walked passed them, heading straight to the auditorium.

“I think it’s so fetch!” Kirishima smiled. It did cause Bakugou to roll his eyes with annoyance.

In the spirit of Mean Girls, and as stated by the ticket, everyone was asked to put on at least one prominent piece of pink clothing. Todoroki was wearing a deep sea blue cardigan and a salmon pink shirt, Kirishima was clad in a large, pink sweater while Bakugou wore a dusty rose hoodie.

Bakugou and Kirishima were waiting for the rest of the Bakusquad to come. The ash blonde and redhead received word that the other three of were still stuck at the entrance due to a number of heroes receiving expedited entry at the entrance. As for Todoroki, he was waiting for a green haired boy to meet him as he had said that he wanted to give him and 1-A something.

And as if on cue, Midoriya appeared. In his opening costume, sporting a pair of very nerdy but fake glasses.

“Hey Todoroki!” Izuku greeted while he held a stack of playbills with him. Izuku was surprised to see both Bakugou and Kirishima with him. “Kacchan! Kirishima! Were you waiting with Todoroki too?”

“We’re waiting for Mina, Kaminari and Sero,” The friendly redhead said. “The three of them got stuck at the entrance. Mina’s messaged said that heroes were being prioritized at the entrance...”

“I see,” Izuku said. “Well, I snagged all of these fresh playbills for 1-A! They’ll be a big help to anyone in your class if they want to know who’s playing who! And it has pictures of everyone who was part of the production, many of whom you’ll never see onstage...”

“I’ll take five!” Kirishima said. He took a small stack from Izuku’s pile. “I’ll hold on to Katsuki’s but I’ll handout three to the other when they get here...”

“Looks like I’ll be taking the rest from you then,” Todoroki concluded. The dual-toned teen took the stack, he then readjusted his grip on the pile. “I’ll try to do my best in making sure everyone gets a copy.”

“Great! Thanks so much Todoroki!”
Todoroki let out a small smile. “It’s no big deal... knock it out of the park for us, okay?”

“Will do!” Izuku nodded. The green-haired boy look down on his costume’s working watch before looking to the other three. “I need to run... I hope you guys enjoy the show!”

“See you later Midoriya!” Kirishima said as Izuku waved goodbye to them before he ran off and disappeared at a corner.

“I think that’s my cue to leave too. I did promise him I'd hand these out to everyone in class,” Todoroki said as he readjusted his grip on the playbills. “See you two later inside...”

“Later man,” Kirishima acknowledged as Todoroki left him and Bakugou.

“Where the fuck are those three?” Bakugou was already impatient by this point. “The line couldn’t be that long...”

“Want me to send another message?” Kirishima proposed.

“Let’s just leave,” Bakugou said. “Those three know where the damn seats are, right?”

“But I need charge my phone!” The redhead said. “I need to sit beside Kaminari!”

“Your fuckin’ fault for not charging it. I reminded you a hundred times to do it hours ago,” Bakugou told him. “And if that discount pikachu fries your phone, I’m not buying you a new one.”

“KATSUKI!”

The explosive teen just froze when his ears picked up that voice. When he turned his head to the source of the voice, Bakugou saw both of his parents and a person he hasn’t seen in a long time: Auntie Inko. All of them wearing some sort of pink clothing.

“Hey old hag,” Bakugou casually greeted as the three parents walked up to them. "What are you dad and doing here?”

This earned him a hard smack to the head from Mitsuki. “You can call me that if we’re at home but don’t do it in front of your Auntie Inko, you brat.”

“Oh Katsuki, you’re so big already!” The short green-haired lady said, pinching his cheeks. “Izuku was right, you look so strong and even cooler!”
“Thanks auntie,” Bakugou said as he politely pulled away from her cheek pinching.

“And you’re Kirishima?!” Inko said to the redhead, realizing it was the same boy he met months ago during Izuku’s first musical. “It’s nice to see you again! My Izuku has told me a lot of nice things about you!”

“Yes, I am that!” Kirishima bowed. “It’s nice to meet you again ma’am! And it’s nice to see you too Masaru-san!”

“The feeling is mutual Eijirou,” the calm man nodded with a genuine smile.

“So Katsuki, have you seen Izuku?” Inko asked. “I wanted him to see Mitsuki and Masaru before he goes on stage. He’s the reason why you’re parents are both here right now, he gave me extra tickets to bring them along...”

“Of course the nerd was responsible,” the ash blonde muttered, not surprised.

“Oh about that,” Kirishima said. “He just left, saying the show’s gonna start soon. Your son just dropped by to deliver a bunch of playbills for a classmate of ours, who just went back for the auditorium.”

“If you two want, you can have my book thing,” Bakugou said to his parents.

“That won’t be necessary Katsuki, we all got copies too,” Inko said with a kind voice. “But from what I saw, I think they were the last ones left...”

“Good thing Midoriya gave us a stack, huh?” Kirishima said to Bakugou.

“I’m still pretty surprised that Izuku is in an art school,” Masaru said. “Son, didn’t he always wanted to be here in U.A.?”

“As long he’s happy, I don’t care,” Bakugou replied.

“Well, we better get going then,” Mitsuki said to everyone. “We can all see Izuku later...”

“Hey Auntie, do you have a portable battery?” Bakugou asked. “Eijirou’s phone is nearly dead.”

“Just hand it back to me after the show,” Inko said as she pulled out the item he asked for. “My phone’s still in 90% so I won’t be needing it anytime soon.”
“Thanks,” Bakugou said as he obtained the hefty battery pack before giving it to his boyfriend. “Here, use this.”

“Now let’s go!” Mitsuki said. “It’s gonna start in 20 minutes from now!”

U.A.’s auditorium was at capacity. While the school’s sports festival had viewers, Todoroki cannot see himself acting out in front of this many eyeballs in an even more intimate setting.

After he and Momo distributed the playbills to most of Class 1-A, he sat beside Uraraka, both of them were now currently looking through a portion of the Japanese side of the Met playbill which featured an unlikely face.

Displayed on the page was Kaibara and Tsuburaba in a photo. The aesthetically pleasing, colored picture featured the couple having genuine smiles on their faces.

“The cast and crew of Mean Girls would like to thank Kaibara Sen and Tsuburaba Kosei of U.A. for the new headshots featured in this playbill,” Uraraka read. “This playbill wouldn’t have been made possible if it weren’t for their collaboration...' Hey Todo, isn’t this the guy you and Bakugou saved at training camp?’”

“It’s him,” Todoroki confirmed. “I go out with Tsuburaba sometimes to eat noodles - cold soba obviously. He maybe a memer like Kaminari but Tsuburaba’s way smarter than he lets on. He’s very good with computers too. If you’re going up against him in joint training, watch out for his defenses - he excels in that area.”

“How 'bout the other guy? Do you know anything about him?” The anti-gravity girl asked.

“Kaibara? He’s in a relationship with him and according to Tsuburaba, one of the most handsome boys in 1-B,” Todoroki replied. “Kaibara likes cameras and has tricks up his sleeve on how to take really good photos. He also has one of the most popular Instagram accounts in the whole school.”

“Wow, they seem like a really cool couple...” Uraraka said.

“They have the brains, talent, and work ethic to back up their looks,” Todoroki said of them. “In short, they both have substance.”

When Uraraka was tapped by Tsuyu on her other side and proceeded to chat with her, Todoroki
delved deeper in the playbook’s contents:

::: ::: ::: ::: ::: ::: :::

Musutafu Metropolitan High School of the Arts

*Mean Girls*

*directed by Rie Kamazawa*

The U.A. Auditorium

At this performance, the roles of:

**Damien Hubbard** will be played by Morita Taro

**Janis Sarkisian** will be played by Quinn Forester

**Cady Heron** will be played by Chelsea Ellison

**Ms. Norbury / Mrs. George / Mrs. Heron** will be played by Mitsuha Shinagawa

**Mr. Heron** will be played by Brendon Young

**Aaron Samuels** will be played by Kotaro Takumi

**Kevin Gnapoor** will be played by Rohan Patel

**Marwan Jitla** will be played by Suraj Khanna

**Tyler Kimble** will be played by Izuku Midoriya

**Principal Duvall** will be played by Terrence Overland

**Coach Carr / Matheletes Moderator** will be played by Daniel Callahan

**Regina George** will be played by Brooke Atkins
Gretchen Wieners will be played by Mizuno Toyoda

Karen Smith will be played by Mackenzie Fallon

Art Students will be played by Earl Brownstone, Suraj Khanna, Raleigh Ticonderoga

Todoroki flipped through the page and saw a page dedicated to the main cast members of show. It featured gorgeous, colorful headshots of the main cast. But Todoroki didn’t look at it for long as his eyes caught a flicker of vibrant green at the page containing the headshots of the ensemble.

Todoroki made a mental note to himself that, on the next time he goes out to eat with him, he will have to thank Tsuburaba and ask if he can extend it to the bug-eyed boy’s boyfriend as well since they really did an masterful job in taking the picture of Izuku.

Izuku’s picture was between the Indian actor named Suraj and an older African-American one named Schuyler. Izuku’s face painted a small smile and a natural glow highlighted his freckles. His hair, a messy yet stylish set of green curls.

But as the lights dimmed, Todoroki had to put his playbill away. Uraraka quickly took a picture of hers so she can add it to her Instagram story.

An announcement was made in Japanese before it transitioned into English.

“At this time, we ask you to turn off all your devices; cause Twitter is garbage, Instagram is for thrist traps, Snapchat is over, and anyone who texts you right now does not know your life. Okay, I think you get it by now. Unlock those tacos in your purse and enjoy Mean Girls!”

The same menacing music played by an orchestra signaled the start of the much awaited musical presentation.

Todoroki recognized it was the same edgy girl but with a different yet still lithe Damien. It was probably just him but he preferred Izuku as Damien - even if the freckled boy explicitly said last week to the crowd that he was only an understudy.

“Good evening! And welcome to high school!” The different Damien greeted. The audience cheered.
“We’re here to tell you something about serious...” Janis said to the audience.

“We’re here to tell you about the story of our friend Cady, whose dodgy decisions caused another girl to get hit by a bus...” Damien said, getting the audience to laugh. “Actions and consequences!”

“This painting I made represents teenage female power,” Janis said as one of the female ensemble members walked to her side and showed off her painting.

The audience cheered at the sight of a mouth with braced teeth then laughed when Janis flipped the mouth vertically, causing it to look like a coochie. Some of the parents were clearly caught off-guard.

As Janis sent the ensemble member and the painting away, Damien produced a tambourine from his outer unbutton shirt and a photo of the Winged Hero: Hawks.

“And this picture of Hawks calms me down when I’m singing,” Damien stated, earning another laugh from the audience and a laugh from Janis too.

Guitars then started a rhythm before they started singing:

- - - - - -

[Janis]

It’s a cautionary tale
of fear and lust and pride
Based on actual events
where people died

[Damien, spoken]

No one died

[Damien, sung]

But how far would you go
To be popular and hot?
Would you resist temptation?

[Janis]
No, you would not!
Just admit it

[Both]
Sometimes mean is what you are
Mean is easier than nice
And though mean can take you far
Maybe this will make you think twice

[Damien, spoken]
Kick! Layout! Fosse!

_Damien handed off both his picture and tambourine to a strategically placed female ensemble member before dramatically holding the microphone and mic stand._

[Both, sung]
This is a cautionary tale
About corruption and betrayal!

[Damien]
And getting hit by a bus!
[Janis]

You can’t buy integrity
at the mall, it’s not for sale

[Damien, spoken]

Nice!

[Janis, spoken]

Thank you

[Both, sung]

This is a cautionary tale...

As their vocals reached their peak, some of the ensemble was out, donning costumes of animals. The electronic stage set changing from curtains to a vibrant, warm backdrop of the African savanna. Some of the ensemble members even placed tall grass cut outs.

[Ensemble]

OHHH. OHHH.

AYYAYA. AYYAYA

[Damien, spoken]

Our story begins across the globe
in Africa! Africa!
Todoroki’s eyes caught Raleigh acting like a monkey before he grabbed both microphones stands and ran off with them off-stage. Damien and Janis exited seconds later. This time it was the girl who was playing Cady Heron, who made her opening by standing at the butts of a pooping elephant and zebra.

[Cady]

I’m sixteen living in paradise
With the lions and birds and stuff
But I’m sixteen and it’s not enough

I’m alone, I mean, there’s mom and dad
And the animals we observe
But frankly, they’re all on my last nerve

The actress playing Cady went to one of the tall grass and got a bucket out. She then wore a pair of rubber gloves and picked up the large poop prop and placed it in a plastic bag before putting it inside the bucket. She did the same to her gloves after she was done cleaning up the animal excrement.

[Cady]

Nobody on the savanna understands
None of my closest friends even has hands
I got dreams exciting me

Like a fire igniting me
I tried to confide in my lions
But they keep biting me
Two ensemble members with very detailed lion masks appeared. Todoroki recognized one of the lions as Izuku as he remembered the freckled boy’s opening costume from earlier and the fact he wasn’t wearing a full lion outfit. Cady then proceeded to shoot a dart at Izuku the lion, causing him to slump and the other lion to scamper away. Cady went to him and added a tag to one of his ear.

[Cady]

Did you ever get a feeling

Everybody else is happy

Everybody else has friends

And they’re better friends than yours

After a petting from Cady, Izuku the lion stood on all fours and ran away. The tall grass cutouts were then pulled off stage.

[Cady]

It’s a very recent feeling

But it’s running through my body

And it roars

It roars

The African savanna changed to a more dark setting. Todoroki saw Cady’s mom and dad - who was being played by Brendon - walk up to her. Cady gave her rifle to her dad.

[Mrs. Heron, spoken]

Cady honey, have a kalteen bar.

We’re going to skip dinner...

[Mr. Heron, spoken]
Binti, I have some bad news...
We’ve lost our funding and
we’re going to have to go back to the US...

[Cady, spoken]
Of America?!
Maybe I can meet an obese person!

[Mrs. Heron, spoken]
It's going be a difficult adjustment,
you’ll have to go to a real school...

[Cady, spoken]
Real school?!

[Cady, sung]
Mom, I would love that,
let's all try something new!
We live in a tent Adventure
is what we do!

[Mrs. Heron, spoken]
True...

[Cady, sung]
I got no time to cry
I got new things to try
Like high school, and skateboards, and rapping...
And Starbucks Venti Chai!

[Mr. Heron, spoken]
Well, Chicago has both Starbucks and rapping...

_Cady looked gave her mom an excited look._

[Mrs. Heron, spoken]
Chicago it is...

[Cady, spoken]
Yes! Haha!

_Cady the moved to the center stage of while Mr. and Mrs. Heron walked away. Mr. Heron placing an arm around his wife._

[Cady, sung]
Did you ever get a feeling
That a whole new world is waiting
To bring happiness and friends
To the brave girl who explores
It’s a scary kind of feeling, but it’s so exhilarating
How it roars
It roars
It roars!

The scene slowly transitioned from a dark setting to one with a graffiti style paint while a pair of mobile school locker props on each side of the stage spun. As Cady was done with her solo, she ran off the stage as Izuku and Raleigh opened the dance number, prompting the electronic backdrop to change to the sign of North Shore high school and its lion mascot. A plethora of students then went on stage and joined, making it look chaotic for Cady - as she walked back onstage with different clothes looking around. She then turned to an African-American student.

[Cady, spoken]
Oh, can you tell me where the cafeteria is?

[Christian Wiggins, spoken]
I could...

Cady then turned to a female student.

[Cady, spoken]
Hi! I’m a little lost...

[Dawn Schweitzer, spoken]
Try moving to the left!

As Cady turned around, everyone was dancing erratically around her. She tried dancing along but she was knocked down by another female student - who just shrugged off what she did to Cady.
[Cady, sung]

Okay, maybe they didn’t see me
They stare at their little screens
Plus, it’s crowded With all these teens
Hi, teens!

[Sonja Acquino, spoken]

Unsubscribe!

[Cady, sung]

They’re tough.
Challenge accepted
I’m trying to break into a pack
Like baboons, it’s natural they attack
I got to fight for the right to belong and fit in

[Students]

Somebody doesn’t fit in!

[Cady]

They want to be included, like me So eventually I'll win

[Students]

New kid, poor her!
[Cady] (and Students)]
I'll win. (Just ignore her!)

[Students]
Did you ever get a feeling?

[Cady]
Everybody wants connection
Yes, I know they have their friends
But what is one friend more?

[Students]
No!

[Cady]
'Cause I know

[Cady (and Students)]
They know this feeling (We know this feeling)

[Cady]
So, I brush off their rejection
At our core

Most of the ensemble then started to walk off stage backwards while some moved to the rear part of
the stage and danced.

[Students]
Just ignore her

[Cady]
We can't ignore

[Students]
Just ignore her

[Cady (and students)]
The roar! (Roar. Roar. Roar. Roar.)

Janis, Damien and most of the ensemble then came back on stage on wheeled armchairs. They moved on sync while the backdrop transitioned again. When Cady was done belting, they all sat down at the same time while a recognizable tall African-American guy walked up to Cady.

[Principal Duvall, spoken]
Welcome to North Shore High!

After Cady shook his hand, the scene was now in a classroom. The ensemble, Janis and Damien then moved around in their seats once more in sync before settling down in their final casual sitting positions.

- - - - - - -

The audience cheered at the energetic opening of the musical. They clearly loved it.
“That was so cool!” Uraraka said.

“They make it seem so easy....” Todoroki agreed as he clapped his hands.

---[---]---

“Hey brat, did you anything about Izuku dancing and acting?” Mitsuki asked his son softly. “He’s really good.”

“I’m just as surprised as you are, old hag,” Bakugou replied.

Bakugou now sat with his parents, alongside Kirishima and Inko. It was evident that the other four were very fascinated with the musical. He did want to sit with the Bakusquad, since it meant not sitting near his mom. But Bakugou was currently fine with the setup as long as Mitsuki didn’t annoy him or smack him.

The current scene playing on stage was Janis warning Cady to be careful of The Plastics, and especially Regina George, as they are notoriously tricky to be with.

---[---]---

[Janis, spoken]

No Cady! No!

Regina George’s just like what you said she is...

She’s dangerous, okay?

Just....

[Janis, Sung]

Don’t be fooled by the pink

She is not playing dolls

She is stalking the halls

For the thrill of the kill
Every person in school is aware of her stare
When she tosses her hair
They go perfectly still
All their eyes say, “don’t attack me.”
Watch them sweat and pant and shake

As "The Plastics" rounded and walked past Janis and Cady, the redhead girl then started to break off from Janis. She looked to Janis one more time before joining "The Plastics" walk away. Janis then faced the audience.

[Janis]

Every food chain has its acme
Regina George eats steak

Bakugou saw Shane Oman - played by Raleigh - and the other Indian mathlete go on stage with benches and dance. A few seconds later, Izuku and Brendon’s characters joined in, also with benches.

[Janis]

She’s the queen of beasts
She can smell your fear
In this biosphere
She’s the apex predator

The four boys dancing vigorously in the background joined all of their benches together to form some sort of meeting spot.
[Janis]
Like a lioness
Only with less fur
Do not mess with her
She’s the apex predator

Once Janis was down with her solo, she walked away. And when the four boys dancing stopped their pirouettes, the backdrop was now a mall. It showed most of the ensemble mingling about before a spotlight shone on one.

[Caitlyn Caussin, spoken]
Regina George saved my life once.
‘Cause one time she saw me in Wiener Circle choking
and she told me to stop choking...
and I did!

[Rachel Hamilton, spoken]
Regina George is considered to be
the prettiest girl in school...
And I’m like “okay white people.”

[Sophie Kawachi, spoken]
When Regina George is around,
I feel like no one could even see me.
Like I don’t even...
[Lizzie Thurman, spoken]

They tell us to be ourselves.

They tells us looks don’t matter...

Then we literally have a school contest every year

where we give Regina a crown!

_The spotlight then moved to Cady and The Plastics..._

[Regina George, spoken]

Cady, I’m so going to get you those suede heels.

They’re so gonna totally lift your butt...

[Cady, spoken]

Thanks!

_Karen and Gretchen then started saying something incomprehensible as the backdrop of the mall darkened and everyone but Cady and Regina, slowly started acting like animals._

[Cady, sung]

At the watering hole

See the girls who weren’t nice

Have to scatter like mice

From a jungle cat

And though Janis is great

She does not have this power

People literally cower
Janis can’t do that

Regina then started breaking off the pretzel that Gretchen got her and started handing off the large segments to the other animal-acting ensemble members

[Cady]
See us mark our territory
As I follow in her train I was victim,
I was quarry
Now I shake my mane

Cady then stepped onto the benches while Regina dramatically climbed one of the escalator props like it was Pride Rock. A sun rose from the bottom of the electronic backdrop as the ensemble did a dance number that had a tribal vibe to it.

[Cady]
She’s the queen of beasts
And I’m in her pride
I have hitched a ride
With the apex predator
And it’s kinda fun
When she bares her claws
When I’m safe because
I’m with the apex predator

The scene the transitioned back to a mall like nothing happened. Cady now sat with Gretchen and Karen.
[Gretchen, spoken]
So... have you seen any guys
you think are cute yet?

[Cady, spoken]
There’s this guy in my calculus class,
Aaron Samuels...?

[Gretchen, spoken]
CAW! CAW! CAW! CAW! CAW!
NO!!!
That’s Regina’s ex-boyfriend.
He just broke up with her this summer...

[Karen, spoken]
I thought she dumped him for Shane Oman...

[Gretchen, spoken]
Irregardless, ex-boyfriends are off-limits to friends.
That’s just like the rules of feminism...
Don’t worry, I’ll never tell Regina what you said.

[Gretchen and Karen, spoken]
Sorry!! Sorry!!!
Regina then appeared with a set of shopping bags. Karen and Gretchen quickly went to their blonde leader. Bakugou saw Izuku, Raleigh, Brendon and the Indian guy from earlier gather together at the benches and dance.

[Cady, sung]
Did I think I'd be protected by my new exotic pet

[Regina]
Regina then shoved a shopping bag at Cady as she walked by her. Janis then can be seen standing on top of one of the escalators.

[Cady]
Not a chance if she suspected
I was any kind of reproductive threat
But she doesn't know yet...

[Cady and Janis]
No, she doesn't know yet...

As both Cady and Janis belted out. The four boys dancing left and pushed their benches out prompting the girls to take over the dance number. Cady then ran to the front side of the stage to make way for The Plastics. The three pink clad girls strutted in the center before a prominent electric guitar riff cued them to do a slow motion walk in place and cause the mall background to transition a very bright and sparkly pink one, emphasizing Regina George’s tyrannical yet glamorous rule of North Shore. Bakugou saw Shane Oman walk to one side of the escalator to help the another male ensemble member in maneuvering it around.

[Cady and Janis]
She’s the queen of beasts
At this beastly school
Gotta keep things cool
With the apex predator

[Cady]
So I’m kinda friends

[Janis]
But you’re kind of prey

[Cady]
Jesus, what a day

[Janis and Cady]
With the apex predator

Janis then climbed down the escalator prop before it was taken away by the two boys handling it. She went straight to the front of the stage, on the opposite side of Cady.

[Janis and Cady]
Will she braid your hair
Will she eat your heart

The pink scene then slowly turned to a bedroom as the bed and other furniture slowly but smoothly slid onstage.
After couple of more dance moves, The Plastics did their distinct, personalized poses, showing how better they were the center of it all.

- - - - - - -

If Bakugou had to guess, this was the loudest the audience had ever cheered throughout the night so far.

“Aw man,” Kirishima said to him in low voice. “I really want this Regina George to step on me. She’s so awesome in this musical - even though she’s bad and really mean.”

“Just shut up and watch, Ei,” Bakugou told him as he snaked an arm around his shoulder.

“I have to be honest,” Sero softly said after the musical had done the ‘Sexy’ Halloween number and the characters on stage we’re talking in various different costumes. “I wasn’t feeling Karen’s character until that very number... now I love her.”

“Her song was such an iconic bop,” said Kaminari. “I’ll definitely go as a ‘sexy corn’ next Halloween.”

“Did you guys see Midoriya’s costume?” Mina asked the boys in a hushed tone.

“No, I haven’t,” Kaminari shook his head and so did Sero.

“He’s wearing the one that looks like slim Fatgum,” Mina pointed for them.

“Oh, yeah you’re right!” Kaminari said once his eyes spotted Izuku wearing a more fitted version of
the BMI hero’s costume. “He looks great in it!”

Sero nodded in agreement.

The three spotted Raleigh wearing an Ingenium costume. The only but major difference was that Raleigh did not don a helmet with it. Brendon, on the other hand, wore a costume akin to Kamui Woods’ purple body suit.

The Bakusquad members also spotted three other male ensemble members wearing hero costumes. One went on as Edgeshot while another dressed like Crimson Riot. The sixth guy wore a very detailed Best Jeanist costume.

Onstage, Regina and Aaron Samuels (who was in navy blue American football costume) talked until menacing James Bond-esque music started playing:

---

[Aaron, spoken]

Um, what's happening?

[Regina]

Yes, I look perfect

Ice Queen, that's what you see

It's what they all expect from me

But it's all show

_The movable Halloween themed walls flipped into ones that resembled a very glitzy studio. The table that held the Halloween goods and refreshments turned into a moving platform on par with the theme. All six men who were part of the dance got into position._

[Regina]

Face it, you used me

You saw the sexy clothes
My supermodel pose
What did you know?

Was I a game to you?
Was I a way to be cool?
I truly cared
Was I the fool?

It's fine for you
It's fine to flirt
It's fine...
'Til someone gets hurt

*Like in the other numbers Regina was in, she was carried by a pair of boys to be spun around on the platform in a seductive pose. This time, they were both dressed as Ingenium and Edgeshot. The others did impressive pirouettes and skillful moves that showed off their flexibility.*

[Regina]
'Til someone gets hurt!

*Regina then left the platform before she grabbed Aaron’s heard and immediately placed it one her chest with a suggestive smile.*

[Regina]
Feel my heart beating?
I'm just like her or you
People forget I'm human too
Yes, they do that
This is performance
This is all self-defense
I thought you had the sense
To see through that

Was I too proud with you?
Was I too cold and forbidding?
And you chose her over me
Are you kidding?

[Boys]
Are you kidding?

[Regina]
Poor little me

All trapped in this fabulous show

You could set me free
But if you're going, go!

[Boys]
Go! Go! Go!

_The hero costume-clad males who were back-up dancers to Regina then made a series of sexy yet graceful moves while Regina flirted with Aaron._

[Regina]
It's fine for you
It's fine to flirt
And God, you're hot
Why do you even wear a shirt?

*Aaron and Regina then started to walk around each other.*

*[Regina and Aaron]*

No, it's fine!

*[Aaron]*

Damn, you're fine!

*[Regina]*

Damn, you're fine!

*[Regina and Aaron]*

And it's fine!

*[Regina]*

'Til someone gets...

*The glitzy movable walls flipped back into the Halloween themed ones. Also that flipped back was Regina’s movable platform, becoming a table once again. All of this happening as Regina and Aaron kissed.*
Ah! Ah! Ah! Ah!

Cady looked devastated as she looked on. Regina then gave her a purposeful and knowing smirk as moved to Aaron’s backside slowly slide down before rounding him completely to end the song strong.

'Til someone gets hurt!
'Til someone gets hurt!

The boys who danced as her back-ups positioned themselves around and posed while Regina placed a hand on Aaron's chest.

The crowd went nuts after Regina’s evil manipulation song.

“Holy crap, my wig that I didn’t know I had on was just snatched!” Kaminari said after he cheered. “Regina really is an awesome queen bee bitch!”

“Same!” Mina said as she clapped along side a thoroughly impressed audience. “Although I’m only attracted to girls, the boys were seriously hot when they were dancing around...”

“They were very dreamy and props to Midoriya for being able pull off the sexy Fatgum he showed us,” Sero chimed in. ”But I wonder what the other pros who are here thought of it...”

“Midoriya looks so cute in his mathletes outfit!” Uraraka quietly told Todoroki. “I also love how all of the mathletes are a bunch of dorks.”
“I was thinking ‘hot,’” Todoroki muttered to her.

“Hot? Seriously?” Uraraka smiled. “He’s just wearing a blue polo shirt and a pair of brown pants... oh, it’s the fake glasses isn’t it?”

“Yes,” Todoroki admitted with a faint tint of red on his cheeks. “Like, how can he be both cute and hot at the same time? That’s not fair.”

“Todoroki, a lot of people kinda say the same thing about you,” Uraraka pointed out.

“I’m cute?” Todoroki questioned.

“Like Bakugou, you show it in pretty unconventional ways,” The anti-gravity girl said. “But when you do, we in the group try to really savor the moment...”

“Okay...”

“Marwan, get off my dick!” Kevin Gnapoor said to his mathlete friend at the stage.

“Oh, we still have a show to watch!” Uraraka told him.

The stage Kevin Gnapoor started the song by being a charming yet dorky rapper:

---

[Kevin, spoken]

Yo yo, Mathletes
State Championships, what!
First female ever on the team, what.
A boxed lunch will be provided

[Kevin, Marwan and Tyler, spoken]

What!
[Cady]

I can do this
Always could
And not playing dumb will feel so damn good
The monster inside needs to be released
Gotta do what I do, gotta feed the beast

[Ms. Norbury]

Gotta earn some respect
Grab that big brass ring

[Cady and Ms. Norbury]

Let's do this thing

[Cady, Ms. Norbury, Kevin, Marwan and Tyler]

Let's do this thing!

All of a sudden, all the male mathletes started individually doing their own thing. Kevin continued to rap as the classroom scene started to transition while Marwan was doing a bizarre yet funny sprinkler dance move. Tyler, on the other hand, was twerking in a very hilarious and eccentric way.

[Kevin]

You're gonna roll up, stylin'
Leather on your sleeve
All-state champion, better believe
Maybe the haters gonna make fun of you
All you can solve's the problem in front of you
High school's a four year social curse
But math's the foundation of the...

[Kevin, Marwan and Tyler]

Universe!

[Kevin]

So sick of plucking that second string
Then let's…

The mathlete joined up and danced near Cady and Ms. Norbury.

[Kevin, Marwan and Tyler]

Beep! Do this thing!

The scene now fully transitioned to an academic tournament venue after the spinning tables stopped and electronic backdrop suitably changed.

[Cady, Kevin, Marwan and Tyler]

Do, this thing
Do, this thing

[Cady]
I'm no plastic

[Kevin, Marwan and Tyler]
No

[Cady]
I'm no bitch

[Kevin, Marwan and Tyler]
No!

[Cady and Ms. Norbury]
I'm a lean, mean math machine
On a mission!

[Cady]
I lost what I lost
Got to start brand new

[Cady and Ms. Norbury]
Go all in for the win
With a chill, dope crew!
Gotta kick off the dust

[Cady]
I got schquillz to bring

[Kevin, Marwan and Tyler]
Schquillz!

[Cady]
Let's do this thing!

[Cady, Kevin, Marwan and Tyler]
Let's do this thing!

_The North Shore mathletes filled their respective spots on a table with the signs bearing ‘T. Kimble, M. Jitla, K. Gnapoor and C. Heron’ as they prepared for the math tournament._

[Moderator, spoken]
Welcome to the ICMT State Final Math Championships,
sponsored by no one
Please solve for...

[Kevin]
X equals two

[Marymount #1]
The rate is two pi
[Tyler]
X is greater than the value of Y

[Marwan]
Both polynomials are second degree
So the asymptote is at Y equals three

[Marymount #2]
Function X equals MX plus C

[Kevin]
The derivative of F at argument Z

[Marymount #3]
Negative four

[Cady]
Negative two

[Marymount #1]
The slope is zero

[Caroline Krafft]
The answer is true!

[Marymount #3]
One point of inflection

[Kevin]
Twenty-nine!

[Cady]
Four is the slope of the tangent line!

The song then briefly stopped as Aaron - who was brought in by Ms. Norbury, came out of the stage and talked to Cady. Todoroki didn’t really focus on their dialogue much as his eyes were more fixed onto Marwan comforting Tyler in the background. Todoroki liked how precious Midoriya’s character was. But before he can take it in any further, the moderator came back on.

[Moderator, spoken]
We have a tie.

We move into a one on one sudden death round,
in which each team may choose their opponent.

Marymount, who do you select?

[Marymonunt #1, spoken]
We pick the girl
We pick the girl too.

*Cady reached out to shake her hand.*

[Cady, spoken]

Nice to meet you.

[Caroline Krafft, spoken]

You’re going down, slut!

[Cady, spoken]

What? No!

*Caroline Krafft tried answering the displayed equation but came out wrong.*

[Cady, sung]

If we break, from this crap
Then the answers land in our lap
Don’t be scared, just persist
Then our limit does not exist

*Cady the pressed the buzzer to get the win for North Shore.*

[Cady]
No, the limit does not exist!

[Moderator, spoken]

Our new state champions: the North Shore Mathletes!

Kevin then proceeded to rip his blue polo shirt off, revealing a quite impressive body.

[Kevin, spoken]

Aw yeah, you like that Marymount?!

Aaron then handed out Ms. Norbury and the mathletes team their custom varsity jackets. This also prompted Kevin to dress up a bit and cover his ripped polo. Ms. Norbury then bonded with Cady.

[Cady and Ms. Norbury]

'Cause don't it feel good
To have gotten this far?
It's not something you did
Not the girl you are

You can hear the fear
Upon your heart just saying
"Just do your thing"

[Aaron, Kevin, Marwan and Tyler]

All you can solve is the problem in front of you
The boys and the girls then started to do dance together for the final part of the song.

[Cady and Ms. Norbury]

Do your thing

[Cady, Ms. Norbury, Aaron, Kevin, Marwan and Tyler]

Living for me, not
living for none of you
Do. Your. Thing!
Do your thing!

Cady, Ms. Norbury, Aaron, Kevin, Marwan and Tyler all posed together when the song ended. The crowd clapped gave them a thunderous round of applause.

“That was so grool!” Uraraka cheered.

“I didn’t know math can be rapped that good yet here we are,” Todoroki commented.

[Class 1-A Group Chat]

10:20 p.m.

On Acid: @acorn @Tall Spot Conlon @Captain Snapback idk where you guys are rn and you probably know this but YOU WERE ALL AMAZING!!!
**On Acid:** the new fight scene where Regina spread the Burn Book rumors was really good and intense!!!

**acorn:** thanks Mina!!! uwu

**Tall Spot Conlon:** we’re glad you enjoyed it!

**Captain Snapback:** this feedback really means a lot to us! Thanks Alien Queen!!!

**Violet:** You guys so deserve the praise!!! a Mean Girls musical has no right to be that good...

**Tail(s):** *nods in agreement

**420:** *nods in agreement

**Froger:** *nods in agreement

**3.5mm:** *nods in agreement

**Momo Poppins:** *nods in agreement

**Dark Birb:** *nods in agreement

**armed minimalist:** *nods in agreement

**Buddy Velastro:** *nods in agreement

**pocahontas:** 🌴( ’ω’ )吼

**Emolga:** *nods in agreement

**3M:** *nods in agreement

**On Acid:** *nods in agreement
HomoRoki: *nods in agreement

twinkie : *nods in agreement

W-12: *nods in agreement

Insomniyeah: *nods in agreement

420: you know it’s good if Shinsou is that quick to react.

Insomniyeah: I enjoyed it a lot more that I expected...

W-12: the only time he slept was during intermission! Otherwise, he was awake throughout the entire show!

Captain Snapback: how did you sleep during intermission? It’s was pretty loud in the auditorium around that time.

Insomniyeah: I always bring my nice, personal pair of earplugs with me. The hood of my jacket was the sleeping mask while Tenya was the pillow.

Violet: it was so cute! Shinsou and Iida are so soft for each other.

Tall Spot Conlon: I’m sorry but who’s 420???

3.5mm: it’s Uraraka

Tall Spot Conlon: NICE

Captain Snapback: I never figured you for a stoner

420: I’m not but I have this username because Kaminari gave it to me

420: but I have to say, it definitely grew on me

Emolga: and to think that you’ve questioned it a few weeks ago
um, if given the choice, I would still change it because I don’t smoke weed

@Tall Spot Conlon @Captain Snapback is weed legal in New York? Do you guys also smoke weed?

why are you asking this?

because it sucks that it’s illegal here and I want to know if they do it...

don’t smoke or vape. period.

Yeah, smoking or vaping is gonna wreak havoc on our vocals. Remember, we really have to take care of our voice since we sing while simultaneously moving around a lot.

is it illegal to 420 in New York though?

this involves politics... airplane boy, you’re up

with a Democratic trifecta, chances of a recreational weed bill that will be crafted and passed into law by the NY state government is now more likely than ever. It’s about fucking time too.

I wish Japan can do the same.

too bad I can’t smoke a joint even if it will become legal in my home state though. theatre has its sacrifices.

you guys!!! Kacchan’s mom has so many cute pictures of her son!!!

@acorn how’s it going there at Bakugou’s place???

YOU’RE AT BAKUGOU’S HOUSE??!!

(^▽^) yeah!

me, my mom, Kirishima, Kacchan and Kacchan’s parents had dinner together at their place!
acorn: after taking pictures with everyone and all of the pro heroes who saw our show, me and my mom went straight to Kacchan’s house where they already prepared food for us!

acorn: I’m currently having a great time going through his baby pictures with Kirishima, Kacchan’s parents, and my mom! Kacchan himself is his room rn...

C-4: Deku, if you fucking send any of my baby pics here, I’ll personally hunt you down and skin you alive.

Tall Spot Conlon: @HomoRoki are you going to let him do that to sweet Izuku, who did nothing wrong?

HomoRoki: i can’t go beat up Bakugou if I don’t know what his home address is.

C-4: WANNA GO AT A REMATCH ICYHOT?! I’LL SEND YOU MY ADDRESS SO I CAN FUCKING KICK YOUR ASS!

Dark Birb: fight! fight! fight! fight!

armed minimalist: seriously?

Dark Birb: I’m willing to come down with Todoroki just so I can go record it.

Tail(s): why?

Dark Birb: revelry in the dark

3M: I expect nothing less from our edgy gay bird

acorn: Todoroki, don’t fight Kacchan!

HomoRoki: and why not???

acorn: for me? please?

HomoRoki: fine
**HomoRoki:** tbh, I was actually pretty pumped to fight him.

**acorn:** NO.

**Frogger:** Todoroki’s actually pretty hard to control when he sets his mind onto something. Good Job Midoriya!

**Captain Snapback:** Since the night’s still young, any of you guys want to go to Manuel’s place? He can make a surprising number of signature drinks from certain American states...

**On Acid:** is there alcohol in it?

**Captain Snapback:** ofc! And Raleigh’s currently enjoying a craft beers from Colorado and Sapporo with Schuyler Victor rn...

**Tall Spot Conlon:** the beers are really good!

**W-12:** @On Acid @Emolga @3M you’re absolutely not leaving to drink alcohol, especially when it’s past curfew! I also condone underage drinking!

**Emolga:** but Uncle Iida!

**Captain Snapback:** here are the American drinks Manuel knows to make!

**Captain Snapback** sent [Minnesota’sBootleg.jpg](#)

**Captain Snapback** sent [RhodeIsland’sRhodeIslandRed.jpg](#)

**Captain Snapback** sent [Arizona’sTequilaSunrise.jpg](#)

**Captain Snapback** sent [SouthCarolina’sSweetTeaandBourbon.jpg](#)

**Captain Snapback** sent [Maine’sAllen’sCoffeeBrandyandMilk.jpg](#)

**Captain Snapback** sent [Maryland’sBlackEyedSusan.jpg](#)

**Captain Snapback:** and here's the beer Raleigh's currently enjoying with one of our good friend
and ensemble members

Captain Snapback sent goodasshipsterbeersfromColoradoandSapporo.jpg

Buddy Velastro: Brendon, you’re not helping Iida out

Captain Snapback: i know, I did tempt 3/5 of the Bakusquad into going out in the first place

Emolga: @W-12 look at those pretty drinks Uncle Iida!

W-12: you three are still not going out

C-4: @On Acid @Emolga @3M you three better fucking listen to what Four Eyes is tellin’ ya!!!

softrock: I just got online and... yikes! @Captain Snapback don’t you go tempt my kids. @On Acid @Emolga @3M you three better listen to your dad and Iida’s instructions.

On Acid: yes mom!

acorn: @Tall Spot Conlon are you guys drinking responsibly???

Tall Spot Conlon: we are, don’t worry Izuku. We’re also keeping it low-key and quiet! There are only like eight of us in his house rn.

Captain Snapback: plus some of us here at Manuel’s place are cooking Takoyaki and some yakitori food stuff like skewered beef, negima, tsukune and torikawa. So being responsible is essential if we don’t want to start a fire.

3.5mm: @Buddy Velastro hey, can I have piece of that cherry cheesecake Aoyama is eating rn?

Buddy Velastro: Tetsutetsu ordered that cake for Kendo! Gah! I knew I should’ve put a note on it...

Momo Poppins: @Buddy Velastro I’ll help you bake! That way, we can replace Tetsu’s cheesecake and make a couple more for everyone else!

Buddy Velastro: thanks!
Buddy Velastro: as for everyone else, I’ll only accept Momo’s help since she can help me speed things up instead of slowing things down.

On Acid: rude

Violet: Sato’s not wrong though... remember when we tried helping him out in making those salmon puff pastries...

On Acid: shit ur right

Buddy Velastro: if any of you want a piece, I’ll call you guys when we’re done. Just go wait at the common room or something

pocahontas: (^-^)/

Tail(s): Well, if Kouda’s fine with it, then I should be able to wait out.

Tall Spot Conlon: how you guys get along really well and not kill each other in your dorms is quite simply miraculous to me

Insomniyeah: tbh same

Chapter End Notes

Again, was this chapter too 'OC-centric'? Tell me in the comments below! :) 

The reason I was gone for so long was because I was in Japan - writing on my phone was really challenging. However, Osaka, Hiroshima and Tokyo are just amazing and so is their public transportation system (New York, please take notes from the Japanese[!!]).

And if you're flying to the Land of the Rising Sun, I highly recommend Japan Airlines. Their 787 planes (like my OC pointed out) have a 2-4-2 Economy Class, not the usual 3-3-3 config found in Boeing Dreamliners. It really is the best economy class out there and the food was surprisingly good. It's also a good taste of what's to come before you fly in the country. In my case I flew in Japan through Osaka KIX and left via Tokyo HND.

*Also, Philippine Eagle Airways is not a real airline nor a member of the real life Star Alliance.

group chat usernames!
acorn - Midoriya
HomoRoki - Todoroki
420 - Uraraka
Frogger - Asui
softrock - Kirishima
C-4 - Bakugou
W-12 - Iida
Insomniyeah - Shinsou
3M - Sero
Emolga - Kaminari
3.5mm - Jirou
Momo Poppins - Momo
Violet - Hagakure
Tail(s) - Ojiro
Dark Birb - Tokoyami
armed minimalist- Shoji
twinkie - Aoyama
Buddy Velastro - Sato
pocahontas - Kouda
Tall Spot Conlon - Raleigh (OC)
captain Snapback - Brendon (OC)

On the next chapter, Izuku and Todoroki finally go on their date.

And as usual sound off in the comments below. :)
A Beautiful Frickin' Day

Chapter Summary

During their date planned by Bakugou, Izuku and Todoroki run into some unexpected but very familiar faces. Class 1-A also gets their own unexpected face who will be joining them.

Chapter Notes

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who gave this work of mine a chance and end up really liking what I write which I find unbelievable. I still can't believe (at the time of writing) that it reached over 4k hits and 247 kudos!

Like with the last couple of chapters, budget some time! I clocked in at around 1hr 30mins when I read this after editing.

And as per usual, enjoy! :)

See the end of the chapter for more notes

Aizawa casually sauntered into Class A’s common room, finding his class playing a friendly game of Exploding Kittens at the large coffee table. Shinsou first noticed him before the others did.

“Hey dad,” Shinsou greeted. “Did Pops do anything stupid this time?”

“I’m not going to answer that because I might jinx it,” The tired teacher said.

“What brought you here then?” Shinsou asked.

“Is Bakugou around?” Aizawa inquired first.

“No,” Mina answered. “He and Kirishima went to over to Bakugou’s family house last night after the musical. The two had dinner with his parents and with one of the theatre kids, Midoriya. Midoriya’s mom was also there.”
“Kiri said that they might come back on Sunday,” Kaminari further supplied.

“Good,” Aizawa breathed. “Because I’m going to go announce a prospect which I know he’ll hate... I asked because I really have no time for him blowing up shit once he hears what I’m about to say and see this person.”

“What and who will he hate?” Jirou asked.

“This guy,” Aizawa said. The tired man turned to the hallway and called out to it. “C’mon out kid.”

Everyone froze when a familiar person waltzed into their common room. Some blinked because they could not believe who they are seeing right now.

“Hey guys,” Shindo greeted. “Nice day outside, isn’t it?”

“Meet your new classmate,” Aizawa said as he observed his class's jaws hit the or became even more still. “He’s joining us after winter break...”

“But he’s a second year!” Kaminari said. “And we’re all first years here!”

“And doesn’t Bakugou hate him?” Jirou pointed out. “For, you know, being a bit shady and two-faced?”

“That’s why I asked if he’s around,” said Aizawa. “As for him being a second year student, he’ll be reverted back to a first year student and take classes with all 19 of you. I’m going to sound like an elitist ass but Ketsubutsu’s curriculum is not up to par with U.A.’s. And while Shindo’s grades and training credentials are good, he still not able to hold a candle with U.A.’s second years.”

“Wow, you did sound like an elitist ass,” Shinsou commented.

“But U.A.’s motto is ‘Plus Ultra’ right? I expect nothing but the best from each and every one of you,” Aizawa pointed out. “We are, after all, Japan’s premier hero school.”
“Besides, the reason why I had to be an ass during the license exam is because I was leading my school and the other schools,” Shindo said. “I knew all of us from Ketsubutsu had to take every single advantage we had in order to pass. I don’t want anyone in my soon-to-be old school to be left behind so I had to calculate ways to get ahead of the pack. I am not afraid in using another person or group’s weakness during any fight for my own gain.”

“That doesn’t sounds very heroic,” said Tokoyami with crossed arms.

“To be fair, you’re going to eventually do that in order to win against villains,” Aizawa said. “Mind games and physical confrontations are all parts in fighting off a bad guy.”

“So what made you jump ship?” Ojiro asked Shindo, trying to be diplomatic amidst 1-A’s disapproving impression of the Ketsubutsu second year.

“A free, full scholarship,” Shindo said. “I think some of you already know that in most hero schools, tuition is not cheap.”

“Now that I can relate to,” Uraraka said.

“That scholarship will cover everything during his stay here until his third year,” Aizawa added. “But the kid deserves it if you ask me.”

“While Ketsubutsu’s actually a good school, the facilities you guys have here are insane,” Shindo said. “Plus this dorm is bigger than the apartment building where my family lives...”

“One last thing,” Aizawa interrupted. “I want some of you to give Shindo a tour of the dorm so he knows what to expect when he moves in by January. I already gave him a tour of U.A. but since I don’t want to know what’s in your rooms, you people handle it.”

“When we’re done with the tour, where will he go? Ribbit,” Tsuyu asked.

“Assuming that you’re all willing to hang out with him, Shindo can stay until five,” Aizawa said. “All clear? Good. Now, I’ll leave you with him. And for the love of god, do not chat or call me unless it’s serious. Have a nice day.”
As Aizawa left them on their own, the older male turned to them.

“So, where do we start?”

... Brendon! Don’t touch those!” Izuku said to him.

The loud voice startled the snapback wearing teen, causing him to hit one of the scale model planes in front of him.

“Oh shit!”

“No!”

The scale model plane that he knocked over was saved by Izuku before it made contact with the wooden floor. A wave of relief washed over the freckled teen when he was sure that the scale model plane was not broken.

“You okay?” Brendon asked.

“I’m good,” Izuku responded from the floor, still holding the large and hefty aircraft model in his hands. “Can you put this plane back from where it fell?”

“Sure,” Brendon reached down and got the scale model from Izuku’s hands. He first inspected it for any signs of visible damage. He let out a huff of air once it was put back in its spot. “On this day, an Airbus A340-600 was saved by an Izuku Midoriya. This act had also spared their wallets from a horrific disaster as well...”

“My hand hurts though,” Izuku said as he stood up and brushed himself off.

“Sorry for being clumsy,” Brendon apologized. “And for fucking up your hand in the process.”
“It’s fine,” Izuku assured him. “And while my hand does hurt, it’s still in one piece.”

“Reminds me of the time I touched one of your prized All Might action figures,” Brendon said. “I nearly knocked off the limited edition 400R All Might figurine when Raleigh was giving me a tour of your place...”

Izuku narrowed his eyes. “What?”

“Nothing happened to it! It’s still in mint condition, isn’t it?”

“I suppose...”

Brendon decided to change the topic and looked around their surroundings.

“So... this is Raleigh’s room huh?”

“Really cool, isn’t it?”

“It has to be,” Brendon said. “His aunt’s a design strategist for a branding firm after all... how she channeled Raleigh’s obsession with planes into something I also badly want to have is quite the feat.”

Just being in Raleigh’s bedroom felt like stepping into 1962 thanks to nostalgic Jet Age decor and Saarinen mid-century modern furniture. A framed and colorful retro Delta poster and the spray painted artwork he commissioned from Manuel graced a part of the warm Decorator’s White wall. Softening the space was tasteful accents of walnut wood elements sprinkled in the room’s ceiling trim and the bathroom’s sliding barn door. A large entryway closet unit, finished in quality wood, finished off the look. Further bringing in the look of the Jet Age was a black Solari flip clock and calendar.

Despite the 1960s look, Raleigh’s room had modern amenities integrated into the design. Strategically hidden behind the walnut trim is energy-efficient LED cove lighting whose light reflects onto the ceiling to illuminate the room. The crystallized glass ledge of the bed had a wireless phone charger. A matte black sconce and a floor pole lamp had LED Edison bulbs. The room also had a
few USB plugs and the latest Type-C ones. His large closet even had a dedicated area for hats and a mini refrigerator. But the most obvious signs of modernity in the space was the Raleigh’s currently off laptop, his blue Bowers and Wilkins PX wireless headphones, and a satellite module for the apartment’s mesh router system plugged-in at the workstation area.

Since this was Raleigh’s room, it did not surprise Brendon that it’s centerpiece is a three level shelf over the workstation. The shelves contained various jetliners in 1:200 scale model forms, all of them made out of a solid polyurethane resin material. The stands on which the jets are perched on are either made out of metal or sealed wood. The newer jets are all painted in their respective Airbus or Boeing factory liveries while older jet models were painted with retro airline liveries of SAS, Lufthansa, TWA, Delta, Qantas and Japan Airlines.

“Why did he need us to be here? Also, why did he ask us to bring out his aunt’s toolbox?” Brendon asked.

“He didn’t say anything,” Izuku said. “So your guess is just as good as mine.”

“Well, until he’s here, let’s just chill and not touch any of his jets.” Brendon said. “I have this feeling he’ll snap our spines if anything happened to them.”

“If I did have a strong quirk, I’ll probably do that to you if I find out my 400R All Might action figure has a single scratch on it,” Izuku told him before collapsing on Raleigh’s queen-sized bed.

The supremely comfortable bed had a lot of pillows, six to be exact: two large pillows and four regular-sized ones. It flopped about as Izuku moved around on the surface of the luxurious deep blue fabric, his skin feeling the softness of it and the cozy layer of merino wool.

The snapback wearing American took a seat on the mid-century modern chair and placed his feet on top of the chair’s matching ottoman; the also deep blue fabric and foam shifting under the new weight on it.

“I actually feel very threatened by that,” Brendon said. “The fact you can and will practically get away with murder thanks to your ‘Izuku-ness’ means my justice is never going to be served.”

Izuku laughed before he moved to sit on top of the bed. “What the heck do you mean by ‘Izuku-ness?’”
“You’re literally one of the nicest people on this planet,” Brendon said. “If you do kill me, and please don’t, most folks are gonna overlook you. Their general idea of you is that you’re nice, not capable of doing something so awful…”

“You’ve been watching a lot of Crime & Investigation Asia shows, haven’t you?” Izuku interrupted.

“I do! But let me finish!” Brendon said with a laugh before continuing. “So yeah, in short, you’d make for a really good villain or vigilante because you’re non-descript; not fitting in the typical profile of a person who breaks the law.”

“Breaks the law…” Izuku thought before an imaginary lightbulb turned on at the top of his head. “I got it! I think I know what to wear for later!”

“Please tell me you’re not going to get in trouble…” Brendon was worried he might have sparked inspiration in Izuku to do nefarious deeds.

“What? I won’t!” Izuku said. “But I was having trouble in figuring out what to wear for my date with Todoroki later. But now, I think I have an idea of what outfit I want!”

“I’m surprised,” Brendon said. “You’re a hoe for hoodies. Your closet’s, like, full of them and they’re like you default go to outfit - especially the Adidas ones.”

“But it’s so predictable,” Izuku said. “Yes, I like them but I want to, you know, look good on my date. I think it would be a safe move too since Kacchan’s going to be the one planning my date with him.”

“Oh yeah, I forgot about that part,” said Brendon. “So what look do you plan on wearing for later?”

“I’ll need to dig through my closet but I have a good idea on what I want,” Izuku said.

The bedroom door suddenly opened.

“Hey! Hey! Hey!”
“You’re not Bokuto,” Brendon playfully jabbed at the fedora clad teen entering his own bedroom. “I rate the greeting a negative three out of a ten...”

“Dick,” Raleigh shot back at him with a smile. “Anyway, I’m happy you two are here... because I need your help.”

“Help with what? Izuku asked. “And did you just use the the stairs in getting up here?”

“Oh, I’ll explain first why I look like shit so you can get idea why,” Raleigh said. “At the firm my Aunt Cassie works for, I was a guinea pig wherein I had to react and give my thoughts on all-new grab and go food packages. This company is really trying to target a younger crowd. It wants to sell outside its current base of Shinkansen business travelers who normally buy their products...”

“What did the new food look like?” Izuku asked.

“They look great! Very Brooklyn if I may add,” Raleigh described. “I think that’s the sort of reaction they were looking for. Best part, the experimental guinea pigs got to eat the food. Cheap, fresh and high quality; the executives of the startup food company should have a surefire winner on its hands.”

“How does that relate to you in looking like you just ran a marathon?” Brendon pressed.

“Hold on,” Raleigh went outside of his room before coming back, pushing in this ginormous box into his bedroom. “My Aunt Cassie got this guy when she was promoted at work today!”

“Sony Bravia OLED Master Series,” Izuku read the large package. “Uh... Raleigh, how big is this?”

“55 inches,” Raleigh said. “I carried the TV upstairs...”

“Upstairs?!” Brendon exclaimed. “Dude, last time I checked - which was just this morning - this apartment has a couple of elevators.”

“Well, when I arrived at the lobby, there was a building maintenance crew working on one of them,”
Raleigh said. “All of the folks heading up we’re funneled to the other one. And since I didn’t want to bother other people or wait for the damn elevator...”

“You decided to go up the stairs,” Brendon completed for him to which Raleigh nodded. “You know, there is something called asking for help via smartphone and messaging apps... we know you’re strong but it would’ve been easier for you if one of us helped.”

“I know but you two are gonna help me instead in setting up this bad boy,” Raleigh said. “You guys up to it? The TV assembly is a two person job but I think one of you can read out the instructions instead.”

“I’ll help you!” Izuku happily chirped.

“Cool! Bren can read the very important instructions for us,” Raleigh said.

“What happens if I fuck this up?” asked Brendon. "And why did she give you the TV?"

“You’re not going to mess up. And she gave me the TV because there's already one in the living room and she doesn't want to learn the user interface of this new one,” Raleigh told him. “Okay! The toolbox’s in here, right? Let’s get assemblin’!”

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“Kaminari, you really have to redo your room,” Shindo told the electric blonde. Most of Class 1-A and Shindo were lounging around in the common area.

“It’s perfect!” Kaminari claimed.

“Dude, I already told you, it’s just like the store in the mall I’d avoid,” Jirou reminded him. “You shouldn’t be that surprised if he didn’t like it too.”

“Aren’t you his boyfriend?” Shindo looked to Sero. “Shouldn’t you help him out in that department?
“You do have the best looking room after all.”

“Inspiration hasn’t struck me yet,” Sero said. “So I don’t have any ideas on how to approach a redesign...”

“So Shindo, are you excited to attend U.A.?” Momo inquired.

“Not really,” Shindo admitted. “I’m only doing this because hero school is really expensive, having a scholarship like this is gonna be a relief for my parents. And all my friends back in Ketsubutsu said to me I should take it, saying it’s not everyday the best hero school in Japan offers anyone a full scholarship. My choice was either I take it or forever wish I had. I know I was a manipulative ass to this class but I also have a life too.”

Hagakure then sighed after Shindo told his reason of why he was attending U.A.

“Can we watch something? I kinda feel sad hearing Shindo’s reason in making the switch from his old school to here,” Hagakure told them, who was currently petting Kouda’s white rabbit. "I want to feel good..."

“You heard my girl,” Ojiro supported. “What do you have in mind?”

“Turn on the TV and go to YouTube!” The invisible girl instructed Shoji who did what was instructed of him. Shoji then handed the remote control to her in exchange for the rabbit. “I know what we can all watch."

“Internet Historian’s narration of My Immortal,” Tokoyami said.

“No!” Hagakure told him.

“The fuckin’ preps are at it again,” the edgy bird student said. “What a mad banquet of darkness.”

“What the fuck am I hearing?” Shindo asked to no one in particular.
“Oh yeah, Class 1-A is basically a giant meme,” Jirou told him. “Now, you can’t tell me that nobody warned you. It gets crazier whenever Kaminari finds a new meme on the internet - case in point; the class group chat.”

“Is that the reason why Aizawa-sensei looks so tired all the time?” Shindo asked.

“My dad always looks like that,” Shinsou informed the Ketsubutsu student. “Now, think of it this way. To begin with, he’s in a marriage with my other dad - who’s also a giant memer. If you add in 1-A to the mix, it will guarantee anyone that they’re not going to get much sleep... or any at all.”

“So what are we watching?” Mina asked Hagakure.

“Let me type it in first!”

Hagakure typed in the search field a bunch of characters until the she found the YouTube video she was looking for.

“Isn’t that Midoriya?” Sato asked with interest. He immediately spotted the familiar green-haired teen on the video thumbnail. “Woah, this one’s got nearly 330,000 views...”

“Did someone say Midoriya?” Todoroki asked as he walked in the room with a slice of last night’s cheesecake on small plate.

“Sato did,” Hagakure said. “I’m still getting over how good their Mean Girls musical was and then this came on my feed last night... Midoriya legit scared me in this video. He’s so different here - which is good since it shows his versatility as an actor.”

“Go on Tooru, play the video,” Mina told her.

“What’s this?” Shindo asked. Hagakure already played the video and he wasn’t able to read the title.

“We’ll find out soon...” Shoji told him with one of his unoccupied dupli-arms.
After upping the video’s resolution and waiting for it to fully load, the invisible girl played the video.

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The video started, with four figures; two of which were familiar to members of Class 1-A.

Izuku was wearing a dark outfit, it’s most prominent piece being a dark blue trench coat while a girl was wearing a preppy blue blazer and a fairly short skirt. Brendon and another guy sported bright red varsity jackets and washed blue jeans.

“Hey internet,” Izuku greeted in English. Shindo was surprised on how easy the foreign language rolled off his tongue. “I’m Izuku Midoriya but for today, I’ll be J.D.”

“I’m Quinn Forester and I’ll be playing Veronica Sawyer.”

“I’m Brendon Young. I’ll be portraying Kurt Kelly.”

“And I’m Akio Daichi. I'll play as Ram Sweeney.”

“We hope you enjoy our small performance for our theatre class,” Izuku said.

“Shit, I have terrible English speaking skills,” Shindo said.

“Wait, let me add the subtitles,” Hagakure said as she adjusted the video for their future classmate. “Met videos put a lot of effort in making their subtitles accurate.”

After subtitle addition, the video cut to a new scene where Izuku was lying on a wooden floor. The girl crouched down to check on him as soft music started playing. The girl in the blue blazer then started singing as Izuku’s character tried to comfort and reassure her:

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[J.D.]

They made you cry
But that will end tonight
You are the only thing that's right
About this broken world

Go on and cry
But when the morning comes
We'll burn it down and then
We'll build the world again...
Our love is God

_J.D. stood up and faced away from Veronica, who started fixing herself._

_[Veronica, spoken]_

Are you okay?

_[J.D., sung]_

I was alone
I was a frozen lake

_J.D. then faced Veronica before he slowly started walking towards her._

_[J.D.]_
But then you melted me awake
See, now I'm crying too
You're not alone

[Veronica]
You're not alone

[J.D.]
And when the morning comes

[Veronica]
When the morning comes

[J.D.]
We'll burn away that tear, and raise our city here...

Veronica then cupped J.D. face and held him close.

[Veronica]
Raise our city here...

[J.D. and Veronica]
Our love is God

J.D. and Veronica moved to a part of the room when Kurt and Ram appeared on the opposite side - acting like the stereotypical jocks they are. Veronica held up a phone prop before a phone sound effect was heard. Kurt answered the phone.
[Kurt, spoken]

Yeah-lo?

[Veronica, spoken]

Hi, Kurt, it's Veronica...
how did you guys know
it was always a fantasy of mine
to have two guys at once?

[Kurt, spoken]

Wowuhh... lucky guess?

[Veronica, spoken]

Well, if you want it to come true,
meet me at the cemetery,
at dawn

Veronica then put the phone down. Kurt and Ram looked to each other, ecstatic.

[Kurt, spoken]

Free pussy!

[Ram, spoken]

And we don't even have to buy it a pizza!
[Kurt, spoken]
Punch it in!
Whaat?! Hahaha!

Kurt and Ram ran off stage before J.D. and Veronica started singing again - J.D. hugging Veronica from the back.

[J.D., sung]
We can start and finish wars

[J.D. and Veronica]
We're what killed the dinosaurs
We're the asteroid that's overdue
The dinosaurs choked on the dust
They died because God said they must
The new world needed room
For me and you

J.D. looked at Veronica lovingly.

[J.D.]
I worship you
I'd trade my life for yours
They all will disappear
We'll plant our garden here

[Veronica]
Plant our garden here

[J.D.]
Our love is God

[Veronica]
Our love is God

*J.D. then walked away from Veronica, leaving her in the spotlight.*

[J.D.]
Our love is God

[Veronica]
Our love is God

*J.D. then came back to Veronica, proudly showing off a serious looking pistol.*

[Veronica, spoken]
Whoa. Is that real?

[J.D., spoken]
Yeah, but we're filling it with *Ich Luge* bullets

*Veronica looked both confused and slightly fearful as J.D. loaded the gun with the ‘special’ bullets.*

[Veronica, spoken]

*Ich Luge...? What?*

[J.D., spoken]

My grandad scored them in World War II.
They contain this powerful tranquilizer.
The Nazis used them to fake their own suicides when the Russians invaded Berlin.

We will use them to knock Kurt and Ram out just long enough to make it look like a suicide pact.
Complete with a forged suicide note:

*J.D. let Veronica hold the gun when Kurt and Ram both appeared on stage, holding each other’s hand as a fuchsia spotlight shined on them.*

[Kurt and Ram, spoken]

Ram and I died because we had to hide our gay forbidden love from a misapproving world.
Kurt and Ram disappeared from the stage as J.D. and Veronica continued their parts.

[J.D., sung]
And when the morning comes
They'll both be laughing stocks

Veronica held the gun up high, looking very thrilled.

[J.D. and Veronica]
So let's go hunt some jocks!

J.D. got off the stage as Kurt and Ram confronted Veronica, giddy to have their time with her.

[Kurt, spoken]
Hi... Veronica

*[Ram, spoken]*
So do we just whip it out or what?

[Veronica, spoken]
Take it slow, Ram. Strip for me.

Kurt and Ram slowly started taking off their clothes in a comical manner.
Kurt noticed Veronica not doing the same, stopping half-way taking off his clothes. This prompted Ram to stop as well.

Kurt, spoken

Okaaay...What about you?

Veronica, spoken

Oh, Well, I was hoping you could rip my clothes off me, sport

Kurt, spoken

Yeah, we can do that

Both the actors playing the gullible jocks were now only wearing their socks and boxers.

Ram, spoken

This is the best!
This is the best...

Okay, on the count of three...

*Kurt and Ram then went closer to Veronica.*

*[Veronica, Kurt and Ram, spoken]*

One... two...

*[J.D., spoken]*

Three.

*J.D. then appears and fires off two shots, the first putting Ram down but the second one being dodged by Kurt. The music then became significantly more intense.*

*[Kurt, spoken]*

Holy crap!

*Kurt then runs off stage as J.D. looks to Veronica.*

*[J.D., spoken]*

Stay there! I’ll get him.
J.D. then takes off after Kurt.

[J.D., spoken]
Kurt? Kurt!

[Kurt, spoken]
You killed my best friend!

Veronica then went near Ram’s unmoving body...

[Veronica, spoken]
Ram?

Kurt appears again but is stopped by a tall, onstage fence.

[Kurt, spoken]
Why are you chasing me?

Veronica then slowly realizes Ram is actually dead.

[Veronica, spoken]
Ram? You're just unconscious, right? Ram? Ram!
[J.D., spoken]

Get off the fence!

Get off the damn fence!

[Kurt, spoken]

I don't understand!

The intense music then reverted back to the gentle music that had played throughout most of the song. J.D. looked to the audience as he started singing with a small sinister on his face.

[J.D., sung]

We can start and finish wars

We're what killed the dinosaurs

We're the asteroid that's overdue...

Kurt looked to J.D. to hastily say something before ducking his head back into the tall fence.

[Kurt, spoken]

Stop being a dick!

[J.D.]

The dinosaurs will turn to dust!
[Kurt, spoken]

What does that mean?!

[J.D.]

They'll die because we say they must!

When Kurt faced J.D., the gun-wielder also turned to him and straights up shoots him - finally killing him. Veronica leaves Ram’s deceased body to storm up to J.D. but does not get close to him.

[Veronica, spoken]

What the fuck have you done?!

J.D. gives her a small, genuine smile despite just killing two fellow teenagers. He then walked closer to her.

[J.D.]

...I worship you

I'd trade my life for yours

We'll make them disappear

We'll plant our garden here...

J.D. slowly circled Veronica like a vulture before hugging her from the back once more.
Veronica, now looking so scared and confused, just desperately clutched on to J.D.’s arm - the arm connected to the same hand that held the gun which killed Kurt and Ram. J.D. looked proud on what he did for Veronica.

As video went out with a bang, Shindo only had one thing in mind.

“Okay, that Daichi guy to me is really familiar...”
But it was overshadowed by Kaminari who loudly asked a question.

“WAS THAT EVEN MIDORIYA?!”

“That was a mad banquet of darkness...” Tokoyami added.

“Holy crap, the quirkless cinnamon roll pulls off the psychopath act like it was the back of his own hand,” Ojiro said in a shaky voice.

“He’s quirkless?!” Shindo asked. “The guy who killed the jocks?”

“Yeah!” Mina answered him with a brief nod. “He’s super sweet and is so nice. And while he maybe quirkless, he’s so talented! He has a voice that can make angels weep, dance skills that can make anyone quake, and acting chops that will leave anyone shooketh. I stan him so much...”

“But seriously Shindo,” Jirou chimed in. “He’s the real deal.”

“And to think he was acting as the most wholesome gay mathlete to ever grace the halls of North Shore high school,” Hagakure said.

“Mathlete?” Shindo was confused then something clicked in his mind. “Is U.A. the school that held that musical all of those popular pros went to see? I saw it in the news this morning. I think there was these two guys who mentioned a couple of background characters being nerdy boyfriends...”

“Yes! The musical you’re referring to is Mean Girls,” Iida informed him while he fixed his glasses. “It’s produced by the Musutafu Metropolitan High School of the Arts. And on stage, Midoriya’s character is gay and is dating one of the other mathletes.”

“In this house, we stan Tyler Kimble and Marwan Jitla being boyfriends and as a canon couple in the prom scene,” Mina said.

“It was so hilarious,” Uraraka said. “But my favorite character out of them all is Regina George...”
“Regina George? As in the Queen Bee Regina George?” Shindo questioned.

“Boy, I’m telling you,” Kaminari grinned. “So many wigs were snatched when Regina did her songs... her music just snapped. She would step on you and you’d still thank her for it.”

“I was crying, especially on the way she ended the first part of the musical,” said Jirou. “I’m happy it’s now burned in my memories forever.”

“Okay, back to the video we just saw,” Shindo refocused. “How do you know the small actor guy?”

“Some of us here - and by that, I mean Todoroki, Momo, Mina and Kirishima - saw him when he landed his first big role,” Tsuyu said.

“His first role was Evan Hansen, the lead in Dear Evan Hansen,” Momo said.

“He makes for a perfect tree boy,” Mina said quite fondly.

“Then we all eventually find out he used to be friends with Bakugou,” Shoji said. “They have a pretty rocky relationship in the past but that was mostly ironed out during the last few days when his art school was using U.A.’s auditorium as the venue for their musical.”

“Midoriya’s and some of his friends are even in the class group chat,” Shinsou said. “His closest friends are foreigners.”

“Why did you add them to your class group chat then?” Shindo pressed.

“Kiri, added them,” Sato said. “But I think we shouldn’t add you for now. Bakugou’s gonna go ballistic when he finds out. I don’t think any of us want to ruin his day with Kiri, by adding you to the group chat.”

“Point taken,” Shindo said of Sato’s statement.
“So Shindo, how does your quirk work?” Tsuyu asked.

Shindo cleared his throat. “Allow me to explain.”

After a couple of hours in setting up the TV and arranging cables so it was clean and out of sight, all three boys admired their work.

When Izuku pressed the power button on the large flatscreen’s remote, the TV turned on.

“Wow...” the three boys said in unison.

“Hey Siri,” Raleigh said to his phone. “Dim the lights.”

“You got it Raleigh,” The robotic female voice assistant said.

“Show off,” Brendon said.

“It’s pretty helpful when you just want to be lazy,” Raleigh grinned. “Hey Izuku, can I borrow the remote? I want to try out the Google Assistant.”

“Sure,” Izuku gave the remote to Raleigh.

Raleigh pressed the voice assistant button on the remote before he said his command.

“Play Parks and Recreation on Netflix.”

The TV got Raleigh’s command, starting to play the most recent yet unfinished episode of the series.
“Yes! This is one of the best comedies out there!” Brendon said.

“So why this show?” Izuku asked turning to Raleigh.

“Remember man, my mom works for the American government in D.C. on behalf of all New Yorkers,” Raleigh said. “Political shit and bureaucracy, while surprisingly civil despite what news media says, is crazy there in the most unexpected ways. It’s the reason why shows like Parks and Rec and HBO’s Veep hold a special place in my heart. Have you watched an episode of this show before?”

“No but I did watch a lot of Friends to learn English,” Izuku said before his eye caught what on what was happening on TV. “Wait, why did that guy throw his computer into the dumpster?!?”

“Ron learned that tech companies profit from his online activities while also invading his privacy,” Brendon told Izuku.

“Ah, the libertarian that most Democrats love,” Raleigh laughed. “Hey Bren, mind if I start the episode all over again so Izuku can hear what April said to Ron?”

“I don’t mind,” Brendon said. “Because it also means I get to see Ron Swanson again... C’mon Izuku let’s watch!”

As Shindo was just about done explaining his quirk to 1-A, a phone in the room went off:

RING. RING. RING.

Everyone looked to Todoroki, who fished his phone out of the pocket of his training pants and saw the caller I.D. displayed on the screen.
“It’s Kirishima,” Todoroki said without making any eye contact to the others. “Hello?”

“You ready for your date with Midoriya?” Kirishima’s happy voice said on the other side of the line.

“I’m not even ready yet,” Todoroki said.

“Well start getting ready my dude, I’m going to call you later to pass on some instructions,” Kirishima said.


“Sure, bye Todo!” The line went dead.

Todoroki looked down on his phone then looked to Momo.

“Momo...”

“It’s time?” The deputy representative asked to which Todoroki nodded. “Let’s get you looking gorgeous! Aoyama! Kyoka! We know what to do!”

“Wait, why are they coming with us?”

“They’re my support staff.” Momo said as she and the others rushed the dual-toned boy into the elevator. “I need the best help I can get so you can look and feel your best...”

“Uh okay,” Todoroki blinked.

As the elevator doors closed, Shindo turned to Ojiro.
“What the hell was that about?”

“They’re all going to help Todoroki in getting ready for a date with Midoriya,” Ojiro said. “Todoroki has a sharp mind...”

“It’s just not the sharpest when it comes to interacting with cute boys,” Uraraka completed.

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“Well! Looks like I have another show to add on my ‘must watch’ list,” Izuku concluded as the Parks and Recreation episode ended.


“Who’s that?” Izuku asked.

“It’s my big sis,” Brendon said, looking down on his phone. When he pressed on the notification shade and unlocked his phone, he was not happy with what he saw. “What the fuck?!?”

“Why? What’s wrong?” Raleigh asked.

Brendon sighed before explaining.

“One of the pipes blew up in the house. My sister says the entire first floor is just completely soaked. The second floor is very much dry so my sneaker collection and room should be intact but still...!”

“How are you gonna get ready for your date with Kimiko?” Izuku asked.

“That’s the thing, I can’t go home now and take a shower there,” Brendon said. “The water pipe’s busted. Raleigh, can I borrow some clothes from you? I hate asking you a favor this last minute...”
“Brendon, it’s fine. I totally understand.” Raleigh said. “And speaking of dates, I think I need to get ready too. Manuel’s going to ask if I’m ready any time now.”

RING. RING. RING.

Izuku strides over to Raleigh’s workstation and picked up his phone.

“It’s... Kirishima?” Izuku was confused. Still, he took the call. “Hello?”

“Hey Midoriya!” Kirishima warm voice radiated on the other side of the line.

“Hey Kiri!” Izuku reciprocated.

“Ready for your date with Todoroki?”

Izuku did not expect that question from him.

“Not yet. Brendon and I helped Raleigh set up his new TV. It took us a couple of hours to set up everything then we sort of got hooked into watching a show...”

“Dude, you should get ready by then. Katsuki’s just about finished with some of your date stuff. I’ll call you later again to give you the instructions. Try to look your best!”

“I will, thanks for the heads up Kiri.” Izuku told him.

“No problem, man! Hope to see you soon!”

As Izuku stopped the call, Raleigh looked to him.
“Why did Kirishima call?”

“I need to get ready too.” Izuku said. “He said that Kacchan’s just about done in planning my date with Todoroki... hey why don’t we meet at my place first before we leave? I’d like to see what you guys are gonna wear for your dates.”

“Oh, we should do that!” Raleigh said.

“I don’t see any harm in doing it so why not?” Brendon said with a shrug.

“Great!” Izuku said as he started leaving Raleigh’s bedroom. “I’ll see both of you later!”

“Oh,” Kirishima greeted Bakugou in the kitchen. “Woah these look great... why’d you make two of each?”

“They don’t show it but I know those two are bottomless pits when it comes to katsudon and cold soba.” Bakugou said, who was done cooking the food for both Izuku and Todoroki.

The angry blonde was wearing his own kitchen apron, that had a similar color scheme to his own hero costume.

“Aww, you’re making their fave food!” Kirishima cooed.

“Shut it Shitty Hair,” Bakugou told his boyfriend.

“I still really think it’s sweet and manly you’re doing this for them,” Kirishima beamed. “And nice packaging! What are they made of?”

“Disposable bamboo,” Bakugou said. “It also has matching bamboo utensils. I’m not going to be that
loser who doesn’t give a shit about the environment.”

“That’s a nice touch,” Kirishima smiled at his boyfriend’s effort. He will never get tired at the volatile blonde’s keen eye for small details. “By the way, I did what you asked me to do.”

“What did they say?” Bakugou asked.

“They’re both still getting ready,” the sharp-toothed redhead said.

“Good, we can clean up first.” Bakugou said before he sniffed his own scent. “Ugh, and while I’m at it, get myself clean too.”

“You can go take a shower if you want,” Kirishima said. “I can clean up for you here. You didn’t make much of a mess so it’s no problem. I also kinda feel pretty bad for not helping you cook their food.”

“Trust me Ei, you already did a lot when you talked to those losers for me.” Bakugou told him.

“I still want to be useful in the kitchen,” Kirishima said with a pout.

“Fine,” Bakugou sighed. “We can both clean the kitchen. And since I know that look in your eye, you can join me in the shower too - but be fucking careful with your sharp-ass teeth, alright?”

“Deal!” Kirishima beamed. He threw himself into Bakugou’s arms, trying to snuggle into his chest. The redhead felt a pair of hands press on his shoulders before he was gently pushed away.

Bakugou then thumbed his face before he narrowed the distance of their faces and connected their lips in a sweet kiss.

While they have done this a lot of times ever since they got together, Kirishima still felt that spark in his chest whenever they did this.

As they pulled away due to the lack of oxygen in their lungs, the redhead felt the blonde sneak a
quick kiss to his left cheek before they completely drifted apart.

Kirishima’s warm red eyes locked with Bakugou’s also red yet more intense orbs.

“C’mon,” Bakugou said in his low voice. “Let’s get moving if we want to get this place cleaned and take a shower together. I do not want the old man or the old hag to find the kitchen a mess out or interrupt us in the shower... I also really hate being late.”

As Shindo and Class 1-A heard the elevator door open, they all turned to it and saw Momo come out. Aoyama and Jirou walked out as well, but they were both completely blocking Todoroki.

“Kyoka. Aoyama. Move aside so we can all bask in our makeover masterpiece that is our very own Todoroki...”

Jirou and Aoyama dramatically moved to the side as they revealed Todoroki’s new look.

Todoroki’s new look consisted of a navy blue shawl cardigan and a black thermal undershirt. His dark jeans now had some rips on them. The shoes he wore were the ones he would normally wear during training or working out.

“Whoa Todoroki, you look great!” Mina complimented.

“I agree, ribbit!” Tsuyu nodded.

“It suits you really well!” Uraraka praised his new look.

“Hmm, it’s there but not quite,” Shindo said as he walked up to them. “Does anyone here have hair wax or hair gel?”
“I do,” Aoyama said as he got out a fairly large canister from his pocket.

“Do you always have one on you?” Sero asked.

“Why do you think I always look so good, monsieur?” Aoyama asked back, his sparkles twinkling.

As Shindo obtained the hair wax from the flamboyant blonde, he smiled at Todoroki. “Alright, don’t move. It won’t take long so don’t worry.”

“Whatever gets me out of here faster,” Todoroki rolled his eyes. Shindo then opened the canister and started work on his hair.

Most of 1-A can’t see how Todoroki’s hair was coming together due to Shindo’s arms and body blocking it.

After a few minutes of Shindo styling the dual-quirk wielder’s hair, he was finally done. Shindo then stepped away from Todoroki.

“So what do you guys think?” The second year student asked.

Todoroki’s hair was now more pushed back and is somewhat intentionally messed up. It was a tad shinier thanks to Aoyama’s wax. This change really made everyone’s eyes open wider.

“Goodbye Tenya,” Shinsou said. “I’m now going to ask Todoroki to be my boyfriend.”

“Not if I ask him first,” Tokoyami said. Dark Shadow even gave his new look a two-thumbs up.

“Sorry you hoes,” Jirou said. “Midoriya and Todoroki called dibs on each other already.”

“Whoa dude, you shorted out Denki’s brain,” Sero said as his boyfriend now had his short-circuited look on.
As everyone continued to shower him with praise, Todoroki felt his phone buzz in his cardigan’s pocket. He took it out and saw a new message from Kirishima.

**From Kirishima:**

Meet me and Katsuki at the Dagobah Beach Front in twenty minutes. See you there soon! 😊

“I need to go,” Todoroki said to them as he put his phone away.

“Want some company on your way out?” Shindo asked. “I don’t have anything else to do here so I might as well head out too.”

“I don’t mind.” Todoroki said. “Let’s go.”

—

“Oh! Hey you two,” Izuku said as his friends entered in his apartment and immediately settled down on the lone couch.

“Whoa dude,” Brendon said to him. “You’re going to set off Todoroki’s left side on fire tonight... but it’s a good look on you.”

“I’ll say,” Raleigh seconded. “You should be arrested for trying to kill Todoroki with your really nice ass, Izuku.”

Izuku’s date outfit consisted of his usual white shirt that was exposed by a dark green leather jacket - he also still wore his usual red shoes. But his best piece on was a pair of dark ripped, skinny jeans which really hugged the curves of his butt and svelte, strong legs. It was all finished off by a small All Might themed canvas messenger bag.
“Thanks,” The freckled teen beamed at his friends comments. “And I actually liked what I put together.”

“Where’d you get the pants?” Raleigh asked. “You really smokin’ in them.”

“It was on sale at the mall when I got it,” Izuku scratched his cheek. “I rarely get the chance to wear it since we rehearse and dance so much in school. I didn’t want to ruin them.”

“Isn’t it a bit tight?” Brendon asked.

“It’s actually really comfortable,” Izuku said. “The denim Best Jeanist used in this pair is quite stretchy.”

“Well, now that we think you look great, what do you think of our looks?” Raleigh asked.

Izuku trailed his eyes over his friends’ clothes.

Raleigh wore his usual getup of a deep blue varsity jacket that had contrasting white sleeves. His inner shirt was a black and white striped shirt - a near identical design to the one he used as his Shane Oman role. The tailored denim pants he wore highlighted his lean athletic build well. It exposed his ankles as well since the legs were rolled up into a cuff. This was completed with his canvas Under Armour shoes and his signature blue fedora - some of his blonde curls from his quiff slightly peaking out.

Izuku, however, noticed one minute detail which made his eyes light up.


“Well, yeah but there was a reason why Rie casted you as Shane Oman. You fit and look the part. You look great!” Izuku grinned. “But I wanted to ask you where did you get that Bi Pride flag pin? It’s a great touch!”
“Oh that,” Raleigh said. “Manuel actually have this to me last Thursday before we called it a day and headed out. It’s a tiny yet cool gift if you ask me. It also makes me want to buy a large Bi Pride flag for my room. And I wanted to emulate how my mom wears her Senate pin or pin of an American flag on her suit.”

“And Brendon, you have the best last minute look I’ve seen,” Izuku said to him.

Brendon’s smart casual outfit consisted of the nicely cut blue denim jeans that he wore throughout the day. But this time, it was partnered with some dark chestnut leather chelsea boots instead of his usual Nikes. A dark blue cotton shirt with a tiny white patterns is seen through the open zipper of the brown suede jacket.

“I feel naked without my snapback on though,” Brendon said. “It’s a part of my identity!”

“You’re not going to die without it,” Raleigh told Brendon. “Plus, I think it would impress Kimiko that you’re not going to wear it. It’s not often you go without your Crimson Riot snapback - you are known around school for always wearing it nearly everywhere.”

“Oh yeah,” Izuku said. “Any update on the water damage?”

“I’m going to be staying with Raleigh for the night,” Brendon said. “My sister just called not too long ago and said that it might be better for me to stay with one of you two since we don’t have indoor plumbing.”

“Aunt Cassie texted me back and said yes to him so he can stay for a few days,” Raleigh said. “We’re just gonna set up an mattress for him.”

“Oh that’s good news,” Izuku said.

“Also, got a message from Kirishima already?” Brendon asked. “Raleigh and I already got one from our dates...”

BEEP. BEEP. BEEP.
The freckled teen looked got his phone out and looked at a message from none other than Kirishima:

**From Kirishima:**

Hey Midoriya! We’re going to be at the Dagobah Beach Front. I think Todoroki’s on his way already. See you two soon! 😊

“Oh crap, I need to go!” Izuku said. “But the good thing is I don’t need to go far for my date.”

“Looks like that’s our final cue to get a move on,” Brendon said.

When Todoroki arrived at the specified beach front, he saw Bakugou, Kirishima and Izuku were talking with each other, something related to Best Jeanist.

After letting out an icy breath, Todoroki slowly walked over to them. But he now spotted Izuku’s skinny jeans and dark green leather jacket. Boy, was he hot. Since he danced around a lot, it was inevitable that Izuku would have a sweet little ass. He had seen a lot of asses before but not quite like Izuku’s in a pair of fitting jeans - he had a very difficult time trying to move his eyes away from it. Was Izuku trying to set his left side on fire?

As he neared them, Bakugou noticed where his eyes were staring and growled.

“Our eyes are up here Half-and-Half. You better not be objectifying the damn nerd.”

“I wasn’t,” Todoroki replied. “You look great in those pants, Midoriya. They suit you well.”

“Thanks Todoroki,” Izuku said, a faint blush forming on his freckled cheeks.
“I told you Katsuki,” Kirishima said to the ash blonde. “Best Jeanist’s denim pants can make anyone’s behind look great!”

“Shut it, Shitty Hair,” Bakugou told him. The ash blonde then took a couple of containers wrapped in aluminum foil from a bench and gave them to both Todoroki and Izuku.

Bakugou then looked to Kirishima, which the redhead received as a prompt to go and instruct the dual-toned boy and the green-haired one.

“Now, those labeled containers have both your favorite food in them. Katsuki wrapped them in metal foil to keep the freshness locked in - plus if Midoriya wants to get his food reheated, Todoroki here can just use his fire quirk to do it. Both of you should go down to the picnic area near here. It has amazing sunset views and vending machines - that means you’re not going to be lacking in drinks. And speaking of drinks, Todoroki, your foiled containers each has a ¥500 coin. Don’t lose it! And the nice containers, like the foil, can be thrown away. Any questions?”

“Why are you the one instructing us earlier in the day and not Kacchan?” Izuku asked politely.

“As if I’d actually personally interact with you or the Half-and-Half bastard,” the explosive blonde said, not looking at Izuku or Todoroki. “That’s the reason why Eijirou’s been the one contacting you two all day and not me.”

“And he was already busy in making the food to begin with,” Kirishima said. “Because this is my boyfriend’s cooking, you two are in for a treat!”

“Do you two have any more questions you want to ask Eijirou?” Bakugou asked.

Izuku and Todoroki shook their head.

“Cool!” Kirishima said to them. “Have fun you two! Bakugou and I are gonna head out to the mall now. I want to buy the Best Jeanist pants Midoriya has and that new Crimson Riot sweater I saw online.”

“I’m also buying you new shoes,” Bakugou added.
“My Crocs are perfectly fine!” The redhead stated. “You don’t have to get me new shoes.”

“Your Crocs are the fucking problem,” Bakugou told him. “I know you don’t have the best taste in clothes and you don’t need to but Ei, have some respect for yourself...”

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“Kacchan really knows how to cook good food!” Izuku said to Todoroki, coming back from the recycling bin. “Thanks for reheating it and for taking care of our trash!”

“No problem,” Todoroki said with a small smile. Since Izuku wanted to feel warmer, he decided to let him snuggle at his left side. He looked out into the sea, causing Izuku to do the same. “Beautiful isn’t it?”

The picnic area of the beach was very picturesque. The sea stretched out for miles and the sky was slowly starting to glow in orange, indicating that the sun is not going to stay for long. The birds and the gentle lapping of waves can be heard in the distance. On the nearby rubberized pathway, people walking or on bikes passed by. Couples were also in the midst, enjoying the feel of the cool breeze of the beach. And the many vending machines near the picnic area made choosing hot or cold drinks very convenient.

“It is,” Izuku agreed. “It’s hard to believe this used to be a dump.”

“I have a gut feeling that Toogata did all of this,” Todoroki said. “He’s this third year student from school who has this suspiciously close relationship with All Might.”

“Are you saying one person cleaned up the entire beach?!” Izuku looked to him.

“It’s possible,” Todoroki told him. “It’s just that every time All Might would go and mentor him, the beach would like gradually get cleaner... I pass this area a lot whenever I go visit my mom. If he is the one, and I do think he’s All Might’s love child, I’m not complaining. Toogata did a great job.”
“I wonder if my school can paint a mural here,” Izuku said. “I bet it would attract a ton of people come here just to see it! I think Manuel would even argue that the place could use a bit more color.”

“What’s it like studying in your school?” Todoroki asked. “Do you guys sing, act, and dance a lot?”

“Yeah we do those things but we also have regular classes like Math, Science, Modern Japanese Lit, and English,” Izuku said. “They’re all basic subjects required by the Ministry of Education so we can’t get rid of them even if we wanted too.”

“Oh, so you have regular school classes as well,” Todoroki said. “But what’s your favorite class?”

“My favorite class...” Izuku trailed. “I do love Improv class. It’s really fun and we all have a good time in that class.”

“What’s Improv?” Todoroki asked.

“It’s on the spot, in the moment acting. You literally just make it up as you go,” Izuku said. “It’s spontaneous and that’s what I like about it. But other people do have problems with it.”

“Why?”

“You have to be quick on your feet to make stuff up and keep going along. A good example is us doing the ABC Improv game... not only you have to be quick-witted but you’ll also need to have a wide English vocabulary...”

“I think I’d fail that class badly,” Todoroki joked, earning a small laugh from Izuku. “I do well in my English class and I have good comprehension but application? I think I should leave that up to you...”

“Then we have choreography and dance classes, those are Raleigh’s and Brendon’s favorites,” The freckled teen said. “I love dancing too but not as much as they do.”
“No surprises there,” Todoroki said. “But what’s your least favorite class?”

“Makeup class,” Izuku said. “Actually, if you ask Raleigh or Brendon, they’re also going to say makeup class too. We had to make was create this scary, detailed monster mask for a project. I ended up doing a zombified alien of some sort. The most annoying part about it was I worked on the mask for a long time. After working on it, I took the picture for class then it took Daichi, my subject and whom you might remember as Brendon’s assistant dance captain, two minutes to completely take it all off.”

“That’s sounds like something I would no doubt hate,” Todoroki said. “So do you plan on joining another musical?”

“Yeah, I’m planning to audition for the upcoming production of *In the Heights*, but this time as a swing,” Izuku revealed to Todoroki. “Brendon already warned me that being a swing isn’t for the faint of heart.”

“How so?” Todoroki inquired.

“Well, for one, swings and understudies are different,” Izuku said. “In my case, I had to memorize two tracks which is my Tyler Kimble role and my understudy role for Damien Hubbard. Swings, on the other hand, need to know five or six different tracks since they’re covering for five or six different people. It’s the reason why Brendon warned me. There is also the very large possibility I might not even go on show night. We’re just there if something happens to one of the ensemble members. So really, we compartmentalized all of the different tracks in our minds for roles that we may never even have to cover.”

“It’s noble though,” Todoroki said. “It’s like swings are the last line of defense in theatre.”

“You get it!” Izuku said. “Want to know anything else about my school?”

“Do you kiss a lot of people, like on the lips types of kiss?” Todoroki’s face just became as red as the left side of his hair. “And how do you kiss without catching feelings?”

“Yeah, I’ve kissed a lot of boys and girls. It’s for acting classes or when I need to do an in-school play,” Izuku told him, answering like it was nothing. “And if you are kissing someone, it’s critical that you put you’re personal feelings aside. It applies to any scene really, because if you have any emotion of some sort for a certain person, it will get in the way of acting.”
“Have you dated anyone?” Todoroki asked.

“There’s this one girl, Akikawa, she’s pretty and all but we lasted for only a month,” Izuku said. “We didn’t really work out in the end...”

“That’s more experience than I’ll ever have,” Todoroki said.

“If it makes you feel better, I’m still a virgin while Raleigh and Brendon aren’t anymore...”

Todoroki’s face really turned red when his date said that. “Okay, that’s too much information Midoriya...”

“Right! Right! Sorry!” Izuku realizing what he just told Todoroki. “I didn’t mean to overshare!”

“Good thing I live in the top most floor,” Todoroki said. “From what I hear, Tokoyami, Kaminari, and Kirishima are very loud whenever their respective boyfriends give it to them.”

“They...?!?” Izuku started but was cut off by the dual-toned boy.

“Yes,” Todoroki confirmed. “But don’t complete that sentence. It’s weird that we’re talking about it right now. I hate myself for steering us into this sort of conversation.”

“It’s normal,” Izuku comforted him while rubbing circles on his strong back. “We maybe trying to become pro heroes or stage performers, but at the end of the day, we’re still human beings. A lot of people forget that the celebrity or pro they idolize have emotions too and also get tired - like anyone else. We’re not machines Todoroki. I guess with all the intense hero training you’re having, you feel like you’re missing out, huh?”

“Yeah,” Todoroki admitted. “I did grow up differently and I didn’t have a lot of friends until U.A. Now, I hear all of these stories from my classmates. It got me so curious and stuff.”

“Like what’s the feeling you get when a boy kisses you?” Izuku said with a small smile, moving
away from Todoroki then looking at him straight in the eye.

“Can...I? I’m just scared I might mess it up.”

“You won’t,” Izuku said as he closed the gap between them. “Let me take the lead. Just trust me, okay?”

“Uh okay...” Todoroki agreed before he licked his lips.

Both boys looked at each other until Izuku got closer and closer. Todoroki heterochromic eyes picked up small details that distinguished the shorter male such as the freckles that dusted his face or how intense the green in his eyes really were.

Todoroki took those gorgeous features in but didn’t notice Izuku’s hands move to cup his cheeks. Suddenly, he felt the weight of Izuku’s lips on his when the other had leaned on him to kiss him. He froze for a moment until his eyes closed and his hands moved to card through the soft hair.

Todoroki got lost in the moment. When they both pulled away due to the lack of air, it was Todoroki this time cupping Izuku’s freckled cheeks. The dual-toned teen noticed that Izuku’s lips were soft and swollen. He was sure his looked the same as well.

"Not bad for a rookie." Izuku smirked.

“Shut up,” Todoroki said with a small laugh. He then moved quickly to land a quick peck on Izuku’s lips.

After receiving the peck from Todoroki, Izuku chuckled. “Sorry if my lips were really chapped. I forgot to bring some chapstick with me.”

“You don’t have to apologize for anything,” Todoroki said. “My first kiss was great - all thanks to you.”

Izuku didn’t say anything but he did move to hug Todoroki tightly. Todoroki returned the gesture. They didn’t talk for a long time but the moment felt so right.
“Do you want to be my boyfriend?” Izuku asked, feeling Todoroki’s warm left hand going through his green locks.

“Yes,” Todoroki immediately answered.

“Looks like I have a boyfriend!” Izuku smiled.

“Me too,”’ Todoroki smiled. “And Midoriya...”

“Yeah?”

“Call me Shoto.”

“I only if you call me Izuku...”

Izuku and Todoroki still had a lot of time on their hands, so they both decided to spend a bit more time together.

They went to an arcade which had a lot of claw machines. Unsurprisingly, all of those claw machines cheated them of their available ¥100 coins and some of Izuku’s IC card credit.

Both also have visited a gay pride store when Izuku wished to get a bi pride flag pin similar to Raleigh’s. While they were in the store, Izuku got himself a bi pride shirt and a large flag as well. Todoroki did also buy a stylish gay pride sweater but only after a bit of encouragement from his now boyfriend. While having a gay pride flag was nice, Todoroki decided against getting one since the colors will clash in his very Japanese room.
When they were on the streets again, a couple of growls can be distinguished from the ambient noise of the loud city around them. The sun was no longer in the sky and the blazing signs of various buildings lit up the Musutafu night.

Izuku decided to lead Todoroki through the evening streets. Not knowing where they can go, they followed a suggestion on the maps app in Izuku’s phone. The suggestion was unusual but with a lot of reviews praising the food, they invested a lot of faith with the recommendation. It even had a slushie to match it.

As they made a turn, they both run into a familiar face standing at the side walk, watching a black taxi move away.

“Brendon?” Izuku called.

Brendon turned to them, surprised. “Oh! Hey you two! Still on your date?”

“Yeah! Actually we’re, um, boyfriends now...” Izuku trailed.

“Wow, you two move fast,” Brendon whistled. “But congratulations! You two are good for each other!”

“How can I say no to this face?” Todoroki asked Brendon before he pinched Izuku’s cheeks with both of his hands. “Oh wow. Izuku, your cheeks are really soft...”

“First name basis, oh my god!” Brendon laughed.

Izuku playfully swatted away Todoroki’s hands away from his cheeks.

“Stop it, haha! Anyway, how’s your date with Kimiko? Had fun with her?”

“Oh man, she’s so awesome!” Brendon practically beamed. “She made visiting an antique store really interesting. We also got into asking the old lady who ran the store a lot of questions about all
kinds of stuff and the history behind it. I think she enjoyed our company... and while I didn’t get  
anything old like my date did, I managed to score a really cool looking retro New York pizzeria  
poster from the antique place...”

“Yeah?” Izuku eyes lit up.

“Yeah!” Brendon said as he pulled out a black canister from his borrowed brow jacket. “But I’m not  
opening it until I get to my actual home because you know...”

“Oh yeah, the water damage,” Izuku remembered as he eyed the long and narrow tube.

“Also, Kimiko hates pineapple on pizza! She’s literally the first girl I’ve met who explicitly stated  
that,” Brendon praised as he tucked the canister away. “Finally, a girl who I can relate with!”

“Pineapple on pizza?” Todoroki asked.

“If I’m obsessed with Pro Heroes and Raleigh loves airplanes, Brendon is the group’s pizza  
maestro,” Izuku explained. “If you want to know good pizza, go ask Brendon. But he really hates  
pineapple on pizza. In fact, he hisses at it with a lot of disdain.”

“How can you be so offended by a fruit? It’s just pineapple,” Todoroki said.

“Pineapples are fine on other food but not pizza,” Brendon stated. “People are entitled to their own  
opinions about it but for me, it makes the pizza all soggy and I find it weird I suddenly bite into  
something really sweet when I’m eating a food that I expect to be savory. And the name Hawaiian  
Pizza is a sham, it’s actually cooked up by a Canadian. If you ask me, Canadians are great but this is  
something I cannot forgive them for.”

“You sure do have a passionate hatred towards pineapple on pizza,” Todoroki pointed out.

“I’m from New York City, we have a very strong pizza culture,” Brendon said with a shrug.  
“Brooklyn especially. It’s home to a lot of NYC’s best and most famous pizzerias. My very own  
neighborhood, Carroll Gardens, is the home of Lucali’s, a star pizzeria in New York. How many  
pizzerias in Brooklyn can say ‘Beyonce and Jay-Z ate here’? And there’s a good reason why they  
ate there; the pizza, the meatballs and the calzones will just take you to another ethereal plane...”
“I told you he’s a pizza maestro,” Izuku smiled to Todoroki.

“So where are you two headed now?” Brendon asked.

“At this nearby store, we were gonna get some food or takeout,” Todoroki told Brendon. “Want to tag along?”

“I have nothing better to do anyways,” Brendon shrugged. “Lead the way you two.”


After the three of them followed Izuku’s maps app, they all ended up outside a fairly sizable family-owned convenience store called ‘Calle Mercado.’

As Izuku turned off the maps app on his phone, a familiar voice called out to the dual-toned boy.

“Oh, hey Todoroki!” 1-B’s representative Kendo greeted. “Are you here to try this store’s takoyaki and garlic rice combo?”

“Uh, yes?” Todoroki tried to answer then he realized what Kendo had just said. “Wait, hold on. Takoyaki and garlic rice? What sort of combination is that?”

“A combination that I was very skeptical of when Tetsu brought me here,” Kendo admitted. “After I tried it out for myself, I now really love it. Tetsu just went back inside to get a few more boxes so all of 1-B can get a chance to taste it.”

“I see,” Todoroki said. “Oh, uh, Kendo this is Brendon and my boyfriend Izuku. Brendon, Izuku, this is Kendo, she’s 1-B’s class representative.”
“I didn’t know you were dating someone,” Kendo said to Todoroki who was genuinely surprised.

“They just became boyfriends,” Brendon helpfully told her.

“Wait...” Kendo trailed as she looked to Izuku and Brendon. “Aren’t you two part of the Mean Girls Musical? Kaibara took your pictures!”

“Yeah,” Izuku confirmed. “Kaibara did an amazing job with them! Tsuburaba was super supportive too! Tell them again we all love our new headshots!”

“I’ll make sure the compliments reach 1-B’s resident photographer and his boyfriend,” Kendo smiled. “Plus Todoroki, your boyfriend’s so cute! Treat him right or else!”

“Duly noted,” Todoroki nodded. He was afraid of getting a bitch slap or a punch from Kendo.

“And it’s nice to meet you too Mr. Heron or Mike T. is it?” Kendo turned to Brendon.

“Aye, you remembered both of my characters!” Brendon beamed. “You’re proof that there are audience members who look into the fine details of things.”

“Your school’s musical was so awesome and hilarious. Everyone in 1-B loved it!”

“It’s a team effort,” Brendon said. “But if you’re gonna thank whoever made it in come true, thank Tina Fey. She’s the reason why both the movie and musical exist in the first place. And unlike most musicals, you have to be a quadruple threat in Mean Girls: you have to sing, act, dance and also be able to land a joke.”

“Sounds like a role for Tsuburaba to be honest,” Kendo commented.

“Why?” Todoroki asked.

“The guy makes Tik Tok vids,” Kendo answered. “I think you need all four skills to be able to put out consistently funny ones.”
“Itsuka!”

Todoroki traced that voice back to Tetsutetsu, Kirishima’s doppleganger and Kendo’s boyfriend.

“Hey! You got the food?”

“Yeah,” Tetsutetsu said as he held up a large bag full of warm paper boxes. “Sorry, I took a while. But look! The guy at the counter gave me a free slushie! He said its for us since he made us wait for so long.”

“You can have it,” Kendo said to him. “I’m pretty cold myself already.”

“Oh hey Todoroki!” Tetsutetsu greeted. “You here try out this store’s specialty?”

“With these two,” Todoroki pointed to both Izuku and Brendon.

“Whoa, you’re two of the manly dudes from the musical yesterday!” The steel boy beamed. “All of you were so cool!”

“Thanks!” Brendon said. “But can I ask a question? Is the weird ass food combination here that good?”

“It is! I’ve been coming here for a few months now” Tetsutetsu answered. “It’s the only place in the city where you can get what they’re selling. Go try it out, Itsuka really liked it!”

“He’s not lying.” The redhead girl added before she spotted the time on her wristwatch. “Oh, we need to head back! Other than give everyone a taste of the food we just ate, the 1-B girls have a slumber party...”

“Don’t let us stop you!” Izuku smiled. “Go on ahead!”
“Okay,” Kendo said. “It’s nice running into you Todoroki. And it’s nice meeting you two. See you guys around!”

As Kendo and Tetsutetsu waved them goodbye and started walking away, the three boys walked in the convenience store.

Aside from the fact it wasn’t owned by a national convenience store chain, there were some store goods that seemed to be exclusive to it. And with all the white tarp and scaffolding, it was clear that it was going through a renovation.

What the three weren’t expecting was to see another very familiar face.

It was Smokes, out of his usual clothes. His work attire consisted of a white polo, peach chino pants, and a coffee brown apron. He was installing a new roll of paper in the receipt printer of the cashier.

“Smokes?” Izuku called to him.

Smokes gave them a double over as he pushed the roll into place and adjusted the paper through the feed before he closed the printer.

“Oh! Hey guys. Uh, Welcome to Calle Mercado,” Smokes said, fixing his work apron. “Did you three come here for the takoyaki and garlic rice? If so, I can send in a sample here so you can get a taste before any of you purchase.”

Izuku nodded. “Can you do that?”

“I sure can,” Smokes smiled at Izuku. “It’s actually store policy to give first timers a sample because we don’t want anyone leaving here with buyer’s remorse. But we still have yet to find a individual who doesn’t like the takoyaki and garlic rice combo. And with that said, I’ll go send in your free samples right now...”
Smokes leaned over to the microphone at his counter.

“Zar, gawa ka ng tatlong samples,” Smokes said to the microphone. “Salamat.”

(Zar, make three samples. Thanks...)

“Hey Izuku, have you heard Smokes talk in Tagalog?” Brendon asked the green-haired teen.

“I do but I just didn’t know what it was called,” Izuku shared.

“Oh, he definitely hears me speak in Tagalog but it’s mostly when I swear,” Smokes laughed.

“Can you teach us some swear words?” Brendon asked. "I might need that if I need to audibly swear during a class but not get in trouble for it.”

“Not when Midoriya’s around,” Smokes said. “I don’t want to taint him. He’s 'best boi' trademark emoji. But if Midoriya had to be tainted by someone, I’m sure as hell it ain’t going to be me nor I want it to be me...”

The store’s automatic doors opened again. The two figures who walked in went straight to the counter where the four were gathered around.

“‘Sup little bro.”

Todoroki just froze when he heard the voice of none other than his oldest sibling, Touya. The elder Todoroki brother was accompanied by none other than the winged hero himself, Hawks.

“You have got to be kidding me,” was all the dual-toned boy can say.

“Is that anyway to greet your older brother?” Touya playfully questioned. “And who are these? Your friends?”
“I’m Midoriya,” Izuku greeted. “And this is Brendon and Smokes.”

“I should also point out Izuku and your younger brother are boyfriends now,” Brendon quipped before his right arm was met by Todoroki’s fist. “OUCH!”

Hawks laughed at the spectacle. “You did deserve that for exposing Touya’s little brother here, my dude... hey aren’t you the guys from the Mean Girls musical a lot of pros saw yesterday?”

“That’s them,” Smokes answered the popular hero. “Talented aren’t they?”

“They are!” Hawks agreed. “I really did have great time yesterday. A lot of pros enjoyed it too! I’m glad you guys got the comedic spirit of the movie. It was so worth purchasing that ticket...”

“A Mean Girls musical?” Touya asked before his mind clicked into place. “Hold on, is this the reason why you cannot stop quoting the damn movie since we went out today?”

“How can I?” Hawks asked the heavily scarred man. “Their musical was so, so *fetch*!”

Touya just pinched his nose in annoyance.

Smokes just laughed at the predicament of the heavily scarred, elder Todoroki. “Lord, if you’re out there, please help this man. Anyway, did you two come here to try the store specialty? I still can get in a sample if the both of you want to try out.”

“We didn’t come here to try the store’s specialty,” Touya said to Smokes.

“Make that samples three please,” Hawks contrasted.

“Okie dokie,” The brown-skinned teen said before speaking into the mic once again. “Zar, gawin mo na ‘yan anim.”
After speaking to the mic, Smokes then looked to all of them.

“Since the takoyaki and rice may take a bit of time, try looking around the store if anything catches your eye. You might as well make your time here worth the journey...”

“Want to go around?” Todoroki asked Izuku.

“I kinda want to catch up with Smokes,” Izuku admitted.

“I’ll go with you,” Brendon offered Todoroki. “I’m pretty curious on what they sell here.”

“Okay,” Todoroki accepted. “See in a bit Izuku...”

“Yeah, see you guys in a bit,” Izuku said as Todoroki and Brendon walked away from the counter.

“C’mon I want to see what they sell here too,” Hawks said, tugging on Touya’s strong, scarred arm. The taller male just rolled his eyes and went with him.

This left only Smokes and Izuku at the counter.

“So boyfriends huh?” Smokes smiled.

“Yeah,” Izuku smiled at his current reality.

“Great catch,” Smokes complimented. “What’s he like?”

“Todoroki may come off as aloof but he’s really a giant dork,” Izuku said.
“You two are so wholesome,” the other boy smiled as he reorganized his counter. “I take it that you’re date with him is a success?”

“We had so much fun! We even got ourselves some pride merchandise!” Izuku told Smokes excitedly.

“Nice,” Smokes said before he looked around making sure not a single soul was nearby. “Hey Midoriya, can I ask you something?”

“What is it?” Izuku blinked.

“Is it me or Brendon just became more attractive than usual?” Smokes asked with a small smile.

Izuku snorted. “It’s probably just you. He still looks like the same old Brendon to me.”

“Still, Kimiko is really lucky,” Smokes sighed. “If he only wasn’t straight...”

Izuku’s mind suddenly clicked back to the talk he had with both Bakugou and Kirishima. He wanted to share with the Filipino what both the redhead and the blonde saw when they observed some of Brendon’s mannerisms. However, he didn’t want to get Smokes’s hopes up. Izuku also did not want to suddenly and accidentally out Brendon - he’s not in any authority to do that nor does he have the heart.

“Midoriya...” Smokes called out to him, snapping his fingers. “Yo, Midoriya... Earth to Izuku Midoriya. There! Dude, you spaced out for a good minute.”

“Sorry,” Izuku apologized.

“It’s cool,” Smoke said. “You live near Ticonderoga’s place right?”

“I do,” Izuku confirmed with a small nod.

“Well, can you give him this?” Smokes handed out some money. “I owe him money for the food he
“Oh right! He paid Kacchan with one of his credit cards.” Izuku recalled. He got the money from Smokes. “I’ll pass it on to him. Don’t worry.”

“Thanks,” Smokes told him. “And don’t worry about spare change. That’s the exact amount I owe him.”

“But is this from...?”

“The cash register?” Smokes completed for him before shaking his head. “Nah man, that’s my own money. Besides I don’t want my legal guardian who owns this place to fire me. I need this side job if I want to keep on funding my skincare stuff...”

“Simon,” a voice of college-age man called out to Smokes via his real name. “Eto na yung mga sample na ni request mo...”

(Here are the samples you requested.)


(“Ah okay, okay. Just put them here. I’ll tell you over the mic if they’ll put in an order. Thank Zar.”)

The man then went back to the stock room where he came from.

“Who was that?” Izuku asked.

“Eleazar Bilog,” Smokes said. “I work with him here during the weekends. But I just call him Zar - he prefers it that way. And he knows how to make damn good takoyaki. He taught himself how to do it. But if he isn’t making takoyaki, he checks the inventory of the store out in the back and restocks the shelves while I run the counter and make sure nobody’s screwing around with the slushie machine. Zar doesn’t speak Japanese well but my legal guardian’s teaching him...”
The scent of the newly cooked food reached Izuku’s nose. “Oh, it smells so good!”

“Wait ‘til you try it,” Smokes smirked. “I’ll call the others now.”

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After Smokes called Todoroki, Brendon, Hawks and Touya, all of them went back to the counter and looked over a black plate of the most unusual sample.

“Why is the rice yellow?” Touya asked, suspicious of the food. “And why does it have Kewpie on it?”

“Less talking, more eating,” Smokes said to all of them as he handed everyone a disposable spoon.

The five of them first ate the more familiar takoyaki.

“Oh, this tastes great!” Izuku said. Todoroki nodding his head in approval.

Then suddenly...

“Okay, that rice is legit good,” Hawks said after he taking the first bite out of the five. “I can just eat it all on its own…”

Brendon then took a spoonful. “Holy crap, that’s good. Smokes... what’s the recipe for this?”

“Sorry, I’m keeping my mouth shut,” Smokes wagged his finger. “That garlic rice is a Benítez family recipe. Very few and select people in this country know how it’s made. And all of them will not budge into spilling the recipe. The Japanese mayo is there to make it taste a touch lighter.”
“What’s that yellow stuff?” Todoroki pointed out.

“That what we call *atchara* in the Philippines,” Smokes explained. “This particular one has pickled papaya, bell peppers and ginger. It gives the garlic rice and takoyaki a really sharp, acidic contrast. There’s not a lot because it may be too intense for some people or they may not like it all but personally, it’s my favorite side-dish.”

Brendon took a small bite of the foreign delicacy. “Wow, that atchara stuff is strong... But I do like how the acidity of it cleans my palate.”

The five left the sample plate clean and made sure nothing was left.

“Forgive the hero if he ate too much of the sample, it’s been awhile since he ate real food,” Touya said.

“I eat real food all the time!” Hawks claimed.

“Fast food is eventually gonna kill you one of these days,” Touya stated flatly. “Plus you’re rich, couldn’t you just buy healthy food from the grocery or some food subscription service?”

“This bird doesn’t have any time for that,” said Hawks.

“I can’t believe the number two hero of Japan has a shit diet,” Smokes said.

“Of course he has a shit diet,” Touya said. “Birds don’t have the biggest brains after all.”

“So mean,” Hawks brushed off before he turned to the three Met students. “Oh yeah, thanks for not taking a pic of me. Under normal circumstances, most people would be tearing my feathers off just to get a photo op.”

“Glad we can make your day,” Izuku told him with a smile. “And we understand being famous has its problems...”
“Lack of privacy being the worst one,” continued Brendon. “Besides, all of the cast has a pic of you yesterday when you watched Mean Girls.”

“So are you guys gonna order or take off?” asked Smokes.

“Oh, I’m definitely ordering,” Brendon said. “I’ll take four.”

Todoroki was surprised by the number. “Why four?”

“Two for me, two for Raleigh,” Brendon answered him. “I’m staying over at his place since my sister’s house got ruined due to the water damage. I told you about it when we were at the cold drinks section.”

“I see,” Todoroki understood before turning to Smokes. “In that case, I’ll take three to go. I’ll also get some onigiri too; three tuna and three salmon.”

“Why so many baby bro?” Touya asked with a small smile.

“I’ll stay over at Fuyumi’s place tonight,” Todoroki decided. “Since I’m coming in unannounced, I might as well bring her some food. I’m not prepared for the confrontation I have to face due to my new relationship if I had to go back to the dorms.”

“Good call,” Touya said.

“For me and my man, we’ll get three to go please.” Hawks suddenly said.

“Three?” Touya questioned.

“Two for me, one for you,” Hawks told him. “I’m always hungry after patrol.”

After putting in 10 orders of the garlic rice and takoyaki combo through the microphone, Smokes
first accepted Hawks’s and Brendon’s payments first since they had the simplest purchases. Todoroki was instructed to first get the six onigiris he wanted from a shelf before Smokes accepted his payment.

After processing all the purchases, they suddenly had some time as they waited for their food to be cooked. Since there weren’t any customers at all in the store other than them, Smokes looked to Izuku.

“Can you sing for us?” Smokes asked. “I’ll even put a slushie on my tab so I can give it to you for free...”

“Didn’t you just give Tetsutetsu a free one?” Todoroki pressed.

“If you’re talking about a tall and muscly guy with the crazy eyebrows then yes, I did give him a free slushie,” Smokes answered honestly. “But I had to do that because I made him and his girlfriend wait a long time for their large order. This time, however, I’m bribing Midoriya straight up to do something on a whim for me.”

“What slushie flavors do you have?” Izuku inquired.

“For the day, we have piña colada, cherry bomb and super mango.”

“I’ll take the cherry bomb,” Izuku said.

Smokes nodded and got a large paper cup before heading to the silver slushie machine. He filled the cup to the brim and put a plastic lid on it. After he put a straw, he walked back and handed the icy beverage to Izuku.

The green-haired boy took a slurp and looked content while Smokes went on the store’s computer and added the sweet drink to his tab. Izuku knew what song to sing with the red colored slushie he had in his hand.

He cleared his throat before he started singing:
I've been through ten high schools
They start to get blurry
No point planting roots
'Cause you're gone in a hurry

My dad keeps two suitcases packed in the den
So it's only a matter of when
I don't learn the names
Don't bother with faces

All I can trust is this concrete oasis
Seems ev'ry time I'm about to despair
There's a 7-11 right there
Each store is the same

From Las Vegas to Boston
Linoleum aisles that I love
To get lost in
I pray at my altar of slush;
Yeah I live for that sweet frozen rush...

The green-haired boy then cleverly intergrated a slurp of the ice-cold red drink.
Freeze your brain
Suck on that straw
Get lost in the pain
Happiness comes

When everything numbs
Who needs cocaine?
Freeze your brain
Freeze your brain

_The green-haired boy then offered the slushie to Smokes._

_[Izuku, spoken]_

Care for a hit?

_[Smokes, spoken]_

Does your mommy know you eat all that crap?

_[Izuku, spoken]_

Not anymore

_[Izuku, sung]_

When mom was alive
We lived halfway normal
But now it's just me and my dad
We're less formal
I learned to cook pasta
I learned to pay rent;
Learned the world
Doesn't owe you a cent

You're planning your future
Veronica Sawyer
You'll go to some college
And marry a lawyer

But the sky's gonna hurt
When it falls
So you better start
Building some walls...

Freeze your brain!
Swim in the ice
Get lost in the pain
Shut your eyes tight
Till you vanish from sight
Let nothing remain

Freeze your brain
Shatter your skull
Fight pain with more pain
Forget who you are

Unburden your load
Forget in six weeks
You'll be back on the road
When the voice in your head

Says you're better off dead
Don't open a vein

Just freeze your brain
Freeze your brain
Go on and freeze your brain...

He then offered some of the slushie to Todoroki

[Izuku, spoken]

Try it

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“Midoriya is the bird who sings outside my window,” Hawks said before nearing the green-haired teen. “You have got to teach me how to sing and how to act...”

“Yeah, teach him,” Touya seconded. “His shitty body language is the reason why I found out he was a mole for the heroes. While he acted like he was expected to when he was infiltrating the League, I always had my suspicions that this bird had a weird air around him.”

“Mole? Hawks was acting as a mole for what?” Brendon pressed.

“Big Bird was a acting as a spy for the League of Villains,” Touya said. “It was terrible acting up close. But for some reason, I always let my suspicions on him slide... and be careful of what you
wish for kids. I used to say ‘fuck heroes’ but now, I now am literally fucking one.”

“So nice of you to keep on stuffing the bird here,” Smokes snickered, causing Todoroki, Brendon and Izuku’s face to go really red.

“What can I say? The serving’s just so big and generous,” Hawks played along. “I can’t stop myself because it’s just so good…”

Smokes was practically wheezing at this point. “Oh my god. Hawks has basically reinforced his position on why he’s my number one pro hero.”

“For the love of god, please stop with the innuendos,” Todoroki pleaded. “I don’t need to know what my brother’s sex life is like.”

“Wait,” Brendon turned to Touya. “So you really use to be a bad guy?”

The heavily scarred man shrugged. “But it’s in the past now, right? I, mean, I did kill people but it’s mostly because they were assholes who didn’t fulfill their end of the deal.”

“He didn’t deny so I’ll take that as a yes,” Smokes said. “Do you still kill people?”

“Only if the price is right and the risk is low enough. But I don’t do it at all these days, especially with the downfall of the League. I can’t rely on anyone to clean up after I’ve done my quote unquote ‘job’.”

“Is it normal for heroes and villains to be dating?” Brendon asked. “I always hear rumors back in New York about this sort of stuff all the time, especially at the deli shop my parents run and at the barber shop where I get my hair done.”

“I’m not sure about the Americans but I know that my relationship with Touya is really risky,” Hawks said. “Not helping in anyway at all is the fact that Endeavor is the current number one pro, and I do work with him a lot…”

“I really just want to see my old man’s face on the day you blurt out I’m fucking you,” Touya said
rather proudly. “But yeah, this is normally frowned upon - and for good reason. But, if you look long
and hard enough, there are pros who will date villains or former bad guys...”

“Like who?” Izuku was suddenly interested.

Hawks looked around to make sure no one was eavesdropping before saying, “Fatgum and this guy
named Rappa. I heard they became really close ever since Rappa put himself under his watch.”

“How are you so calm and rational with my older brother’s record?” Todoroki asked Smokes.

“I think it has something to do with the fact I work here,” Smokes said. “While a lot of people see
this as a regular store, I’ve seen a lot of weird stuff. Retail’s just crazy if you work in it.”

“I like you,” Touya told Smokes with a small smile. “Treating a former villain turned vigilante and
the number two pro hero like your typical customers - even playing along with their very sexual
jokes.”

“This store isn’t gonna make a profit if the personnel’s personality isn’t light and sweet,” Smokes
said before he turned his head to see his fellow employee carrying a stack of boxes. “Oh wait, I’ll
just go help him.”

Smokes helped Eleazar with the still warm food packages, getting half of the stack. Once they were
placed on the stainless steel counter, Eleazar excused himself and immediately left the vicinity.
Smokes swiftly and properly packed the right amount of boxes and items in each plastic bag. He then
gave each bag to their respective buyers.

“As we say in the Philippines, salamat at balik po kayo ulit,” Smokes bowed.

“What does that mean?” Brendon inquired with a small smile.

“It means thank you and please come again,” Smokes said to him, reciprocating the grin before
turning to Hawks. “It was really nice meeting you. I hope I get to see you again.”

“You will kid,” Touya said for Hawks. “This bird cannot cook if his life depended on it... c’mon
Sora. Let’s get outta here.”

As Hawks and Touya left the store with one last wave, Brendon’s phone rang. He got out and answered the call.

“Hey... yeah, I’m done with my date... actually, I’m with him, Todoroki and Smokes right now. Yeah! I am! I even bought you food... you'll see. And yeah, I can go ask him now. See ya later. Bye.”

“Was that Raleigh?” Izuku asked.

“Yeah,” Brendon replied as he put his phone away. “He just got off from his date with Manuel and wants to see if I was onboard on inviting you for a very last minute sleepover. Just the three of us watching a movie or show on his new, big TV.”

“Oh, I want to join!” Izuku said before turning to the dual-toned boy. “Do you think we should call it a night?”

“I think we should, I want to catch Fuyumi before she starts settling in,” Todoroki said. “Brendon, can I borrow your shopping bag?”

“Uh sure...”

Todoroki quickly transferred Izuku’s portion from his bag to Brendon’s. It didn’t take long until the dual-quirked teen was returning Brendon’s bag.

“I really had a great time Izuku... until next time?” Todoroki said.

“Looking forward to it!” The freckled teen smiled.

“Can I give you one more thing before I go?” Todoroki asked.

“What is it?”
Todoroki just closed the distance between him and Izuku, planting a sweet kiss on the shorter teen’s cheek.

“See you around Izuku,” Todoroki said with a small smile before he left the store.

“Equally wholesome and pretty people in a wholesome relationship, no surprises here,” Smokes commented as he watch Todoroki leave before turning to Izuku and Brendon. “Now, while your company has been nice, you two should get the hell out of here.”

“Why?” Brendon asked.

“There’s this huge LAN party happening down the street and it won’t be long ‘til they’re done and heading down here for refreshments. Now if you excuse me, I have a store to prep.”

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“Really nice of your mom to let you sleepover at the last minute, especially considering you were out for most of the day already,” Raleigh said as he was whipping up some drinks at his aunt’s wet bar.

“What are you doing?” Izuku asked as he watched Raleigh pour some spirits in a couple of glasses.

“Making a Jack and Joe!” Raleigh said as he mixed up the concoction. “It’s a combination of Bailey’s Irish Cream, Jack Daniel’s Tennessee Honey Whiskey and coffee...”

The tall blonde then took a small swig before he grinned. “Oh, that is nice! It’s actually sweet and smooth. Want me to make you a serving?”

“Uh, I think I’ll pass,” Izuku declined the offer of an alcoholic cocktail. “You and Brendon just go enjoy it.”
“Alright,” Raleigh said as he started to clean the wet bar. “So you wanted to give me something?”

“Oh yeah!” Izuku said as he pulled out the money Smokes owes Raleigh. “Uh, Smokes wanted me to pass the money he owes you.”

Raleigh blinked at the money in confusion. “Dude, Smokes already paid me...”

“What?” Izuku was now also confused.

“Yeah. He paid through Brendon yesterday. I don’t know how Smokes did it but could have went to a currency exchange place to change the pesos to yen before going onto Manuel’s house. He then must’ve passed it onto Brendon because he was the one who gave it to me. Smokes was already taking charge in making the yaketori food stuff... maybe him paying me back just slipped his mind. We did have quite the alcohol selection all thanks to Manuel and Brian.”

“Then what should I do with this?” Izuku asked.

“Give it back to him on Monday?” Raleigh suggested. “It’s his money after all.”

Izuku was confused on why would Smokes pay Raleigh back in double the amount.

“C’mon Izuku,” Raleigh said. “I want to eat the food you and Brendon bought. My stomach is just growling for it. And yours is too.”

Sure enough, Izuku heard his own belly rumble.

“Uh, right! Let’s go!”
[Class 1-A Group Chat]
9:41 p.m.

W-12: While we are aware that Bakugou and Kirishima won’t be home until tomorrow, @acorn have you seen Todoroki? He hasn’t come home yet and 1-A knows you went on a date with him.

acorn: he’s at his sister’s place

HomoRoki: I really am at my sister’s place right now. this choice is a last minute thing

420: are you really Todoroki??? you may just be a hacker who managed to get into his account.

HomoRoki sent Todoroki’sselselfiewiththehairstillpushedbackatFuyumi’splace.jpg

On Acid: @acorn don’t you agree Todoroki’s hair look sexy pushed back?

acorn: my boyfriend’s hair does look sexy pushed back. UwU

420: *gasps

Frogger: *gasps

Tail(s): *gasps

Violet: *gasps

3.5mm: *gasps
Momo Poppins: *gasps

twinkie: *gasps but with twinkling

Dark Birb:

armed minimalist:

emolga: *is shooketh

On Acid: *is shooketh

3M: *is shooketh

softrock: *is shooketh

C-4: @acorn @HomoRoki you two are gross

Buddy Velastro: @HomoRoki when you get back here, I’ll make you a congratulations cake. I will do my best on making it look very gay.

pocahontas: ( ^o^ ) /

W-12: Congratulations you two!!!

Insomniyeah: @HomoRoki does this mean we can bond over on how gay we are and talk on how much our boyfriends are the best?
HomoRoki: Thanks Sato, you too Iida and yeah, i think we can do what you want Shinsou. Kouda’s reaction makes my relationship with Izuku valid.

Tall Spot Conlon: Damn Izuku, you have one hell of a catch with Todoroki...

Captain Snapback: Raleigh, you do realize we’re both in your bedroom right now with you.

Tall Spot Conlon: I know but still...

Tail(s): why are you three in Raleigh’s bedroom right now?

Captain Snapback: the pipes in my house caused a water damage, it also means no indoor plumbing so my sister told me to stay at one of my friend’s place in the meantime.

Captain Snapback: His room is really nice

Captain Snapback sent LookatRaleigh’sroom.mov

Emolga: I SEE PARKS AND REC ON THAT FLATSCREEN

420: I actually expected more airplanes tbh.

armed minimalist: Wait, why does his closet have a dedicated section to hats?

Captain Snapback: Raleigh is a hoe for Goorin Bros, fedoras - especially blue ones.

Tall Spot Conlon: I cannot deny this truth...

Tall Spot Conlon: Also the theme of my room is a modern homage to the golden era of the Jet Age - AvGeeks can spot certain details in it
acorn: And to explain my attendance in Raleigh’s room, I basically live nearby.

C-4: how nearby

acorn: Nice try Kacchan but I’m not disclosing his location. His home is one of my hiding spots in case you really try to boom me at my apartment.

Violet: ”boom me” lmao

C-4: fuck you Deku

acorn: Shouldn’t you be doing that to Kirishima instead?

3M: HOLY CRAP, MIDORIYA WENT THERE

C-4: YOU’RE FUCKING LUCKY THAT I DON’T KNOW WHERE THAT WHITE BOY LIVES BECAUSE IF I DID, I’M GOING TO HEAD THERE AND KICK YOUR ASS UNTIL YOU’RE A DEAD MAN AND THERE’S NOTHING LEFT FOR ANYONE TO BURY YOU WITH!!!

softrock: LET’S TALK ABOUT HOW MIDORIYA AND TODOROKI BECAME BOYFRIENDS. SO MIDORIYA, how did you get Todoroki to be your man?

acorn: I just simply asked Shoto if he’d like to be my boyfriend UwU

HomoRoki: Ofc i said yes to Izuku, on an unrelated note his cheeks are super squishy.

softrock: @C-4 your date plan for them was a success!!!

420: awww, my bi heart heart my UwU ’s are now roken
C-4: I think it was too successful. Now, I’m gonna have to deal with Half-and-Half gush over how fucking perfect Deku is.

HomoRoki: you made your own bed and now you get to sleep in it

C-4: shut your mouth IcyHot

HomoRoki: @softrock how was your date with the grenade btw?

softrock: I managed to get a good deal on a pair of Best Jeanist denim pants and got the Crimson Riot sweater I wanted! Katsuki also bought me new shoes and took me out at this ramen place.

Frogger: why did Bakugou buy you new shoes?

softrock: he did it in exchange of getting rid of my Crocs.

3.5mm: I can’t believe I’m saying this but Bakugou is doing God’s work by getting rid of Kiri’s crocs.

Tail(s): Hey Raleigh, didn’t you have a date with Manuel too? How did yours go?

Tall Spot Conlon: Manuel was so cute in his big white hoodie. He looked like a marshmallow - I just wanted to cry and protect him.

Tall Spot Conlon: I took him first to Santa Fe and ate there (try it if you guys can! The restaurant’s legit good!). Then he took me to the local planetarium. It was surprisingly romantic and really cool. After that, we hit up an arcade where I eventually won him a Mega Salamence plushie.

Tail(s): how many tries did it take to win him the Pokémon plush?
Tall Spot Conlon: 13 tries but so worth it when the crane finally dropped that Mega Salamence into the prize bin and Manuel’s face lit up like a Christmas tree. I mean...

Tall Spot Conlon sent
wowlookatmykingManuelwearingmybluefedorawhileholdinghisnewplushie.jpg

acorn: is that your fedora?

Tall Spot Conlon: yeah... doesn’t he look adorable in it?

Emolga: ...

Emolga: @3M can you win me something like that?

3M: I would but I don’t have a lot of ¥100 coins with me and it’s been a while since I last put in some credit in my IC card.

acorn: @HomoRoki can we go to the arcades again next time?

HomoRoki: I’ll try to win you something while we’re there again.

acorn: I’ll do the same for you too!

HomoRoki: btw, did you enjoy the food we bought from the convenience store Smokes works at?

acorn: I’m honestly craving for more lmao. takoyaki and garlic rice is now one of my favorite foods

Violet: takoyaki and garlic rice? What the heck?

HomoRoki: it looks like this
HomoRoki sent [takoyakigarlicriceandatcharainabox.jpg]

HomoRoki: it’s cheap, very good and generously portioned too. Fuyumi and I are planning to make a stop at the convenience store Smokes works at before heading to see our mom.

softrock: where does Smokes work?

HomoRoki: he works here...

HomoRoki sent a link: [Calle Mercado’s location via Google Maps]

HomoRoki: It’s their store specialty. the store is owned by his legal guardian.

acorn: Brendon just took some of Raleigh’s garlic rice and now they’re fighting.

Tall Spot Conlon: dude, don’t make me revoke your underage alcohol privileges in my house

Captain Snapback: sorry but it was just too good! a good drink with Calle Mercado's specialty is just the best

HomoRoki: Wait, is Izuku drinking with you two?

acorn: No, so don’t worry Shoto! I already turned Raleigh’s offer down for one of his...

Tall Spot Conlon: Jack and Joe. And yeah, I can confirm that Izuku has not partake in any alcoholic drinking at all.

Captain Snapback: plus we’re only having one glass of Jack and Joe because Raleigh’s Aunt Cassie is almost out of Bailey’s - an essential building block to the drink.
**Tail(s):** why does it seem that you guys have easy access to alcohol?

**acorn:** Raleigh’s aunt has a wet bar full of alcoholic drinks and fancy glassware

**Captain Snapback:** and Manuel’s cousin own a couple of successful bars around the city, it explains the booze yesterday. We also have one of the swings in Mean Girls, Brian Cortes, who can turn any clean, mineral water he touches into any alcoholic beverage he has drunk thanks to his quirk - literally a Jesus slash Dionysius power

**Dark Birb:** you people have way too easy access to alcohol

**Tall Spot Conlon:** We do drink responsibly.

**Captain Snapback:** So... except for Raleigh, I have a question for everyone in this chat. While Izuku and I do think Manuel is a great guy for Raleigh, have you guys felt a weird vibe about him?

**420:** Weird vibes?

**softrock:** Katsuki should be saying something about him by now.

**Momo Poppins:** Yeah, I would have expressed something to Kyoka if I felt something was wrong the minute he walked in with you guys walked into our dorms.

**Insomniyeah:** Iida and I wouldn’t hesitate in kicking his ass the minute we find out he’s a snake - but he genuinely seems like a good guy.

**armed minimalist:** looks like the people have spoken

**Tall Spot Conlon:** wtf???
Captain Snapback: sorry man but me and Izuku are just looking out for you. We really don’t want you to fall into another Carrie Lee situation.

W-12: Carrie Lee?

acorn: She’s this girl Raleigh used to date. She’s quite (figuratively) cold to be around with.

Captain Snapback: I think the worst part is that she can’t make herself happy. Like the only time she will be happy is when Raleigh makes her happy - it’s bad because I think if you’re in a relationship, both of you ought to be making each other feel that way and not just one person.

acorn: throughout their relationship and whenever I was around them, I also noticed that Carrie wouldn’t talk to Raleigh much nor would she ask him questions to the point he almost, always has to initiate conversation every time.

Frogger: those are huge, red flags of an unhealthy relationship. Why didn’t he notice earlier?

Tall Spot Conlon: I think it was because I was so infatuated with her that I didn’t really care until these two and some of our other Met friends pointed it out for me. When we broke up, she surprisingly didn’t take it well...

acorn: then we find out from Brian Cortes the only reason why she was dating Raleigh was because she was trying to steal choreography ideas from him. So while she’s a great dancer, she’s not the most original one.

Momo Poppins: So she was just using him the whole time?

Captain Snapback: pretty much

3.5mm: honestly, bitches like her shouldn’t be in a loving relationship.

Captain Snapback: You see, Raleigh is basically this: he has the body of Shane Oman, has the accent of Jack Kelly / Spot Conlon but the personality of Aaron Samuels.
Tall Spot Conlon: wdym by personality of Aaron Samuels?

420: what he’s trying to say is that you’re a sweetheart and geeky but you can be gullible and blind to some of the things happening right under your nose

Frogger: Good thing you have great friends who look out for you.

Captain Snapback: And it kinda makes me wonder why he didn’t go for Manuel in the first place. I mean, they’re good friends, been talking for longer and have classes together.

Emolga: the whiff of gay is so strong here

Dark Birb: that’s just our class you electric fool

Tail(s): @Tall Spot Conlon are you and Manuel now boyfriends?

Tall Spot Conlon: Yeah, on our way home after we hit up the arcades and gave him the Mega Salamence plush, I asked Manuel if he wanted to become my boyfriend and he said “I’ve been waiting for you to ask me that” and then proceeds to pull me down so he can kiss me. You can say I was a very happy boy today.

Tail(s): That’s good, I’m happy for you Raleigh.

Violet: Me too!

On Acid: Wow, I suddenly developed cavities reading this chat.

420: We stan wholesomeness in this house.
twinkie : I wish I too was in a relationship but with myself!

**Insomniyeah:** Why yourself?

twinkie : No boy can ever match moi at my dazzling level!

**Tall Spot Conlon:** since I’m feeling pretty celebratory right now, I’m going to go ahead and make another drink. @Captain Snapback want a Hot Toddy?

**Captain Snapback:** Dunno what that is but get my glass and hit me up please.

**Tall Spot Conlon:** I’m gonna leave my phone on the charging pad. I’ll be back in a few minutes!

**HomoRoki:** @acorn please don’t drink.

**acorn:** I really won’t Shoto. You can count on me!

**acorn:** Did you guys also know that Shoto is really into conspiracy theories?

**HomoRoki:** Izuku, no...

**C-4:** wtf Half-and-Half

**Momo Poppins:** You told him about your ridiculous theory of Toogata secretly being the lovechild of All Might, didn’t you?

**HomoRoki:** I will neither confirm nor deny this.

**HomoRoki:** also...
Dark Birb: what’s with the pizza?

acorn sent Brendonpleasestophissingatyourphoneit'sfreakingmeout.mov

acorn: ^ this shows Brendon’s hatred of pineapple on pizza.

Violet: yikes

C-4: It’s also another reason to hate the IcyHot bastard. I’ll never forgive the Canadians for inventing it!!!

Chapter End Notes

group chat usernames!

acorn - Midoriya
HomoRoki - Todoroki
420 - Uraraka
Frogger - Asui
softrock - Kirishima
C-4 - Bakugou
W-12 - Iida
Insomniyeah - Shinsou
3M - Sero
Emolga - Kaminari
3.5mm - Jirou
Momo Poppins - Momo
Violet - Hagakure
Tail(s) - Ojiro
Dark Birb - Tokoyami
armed minimalist- Shoji
twinkie - Aoyama
Buddy Velastro - Sato
pocahontas - Kouda
Tall Spot Conlon - Raleigh (OC)
Captain Snapback - Brendon (OC)
Also, I have big plans for Class 1-A and 1-B in the next chapter...

And as usual sound off in the comments below on what you thought of it! :)
Bronx County vs. Cook County

Chapter Summary

After Class 1-A and Class 1-B end their joint training in a dead heat, the teachers come up with an unusual method to decide a winner. In the midst of it all, Ojiro tells Sero more about his friendship with Raleigh while Shindo reconnects with a familiar face who used to go with him in Ketsubutsu.

Chapter Notes

Approx. Reading Time: 1hr30mins

I hope you all enjoy reading this chapter! I particularly had fun with 1-B's song of choice. And who doesn't love some Class 1-B interaction?

See the end of the chapter for more notes.

11:35 A.M. - Thursday

November, December and three weeks of January have come and past.

As Math class went on, Izuku diligently took notes of the equations written on the whiteboard while Brendon, who sat beside him, was struggling in trying to stay awake.

Their math teacher, Mr. Chitose, kept on explaining the lesson to the class until it was interrupted by the secretary of the principal suddenly coming in the room.

“Sorry for disturbing class but Principal Yamamoto is calling for three students to head to her office. It’s urgent,” said the female secretary. “However, to be clear, they are not in any sort of trouble. Some important guests needed to see them.”

“Who does she need?” Mr. Chitose asked.

“Mr. Midoriya, Mr. Ticonderoga and Mr. Young.”
“Very well,” Mr. Chitose nodded before looking to the three teens who were all called for. “To those whose names were mentioned, please bring your bags on your way out...”

As the three walked into the principal’s office, they were immediately greeted by a very familiar voice.

“Young Midoriya!” Toshinori greeted, who was delighted to see him.

“All Might!” Izuku exclaimed. “What are you doing here?!"

“Mr. Young!” Midnight said when she spotted him. “Long time no see!”

“Ms. Midnight?” Brendon was confused.

“Uh, why is U.A.’s Principal Nezu here as well?” Raleigh asked when he saw U.A.’s animal principal.

“I have to be,” Nezu said as he finished the last of the tea provided to him. “We are going to have a discussion which will involve U.A. after all...”

“Wow, I feel left out,” a new but familiar voice said.

The three turned to the source of it and saw Schuyler Victor, one of their friends from the second year. Schuyler - or Sky, as he preferred to be called - had filled in the role of Specs in Newsies while he played Jason Weems in Mean Girls.

“Sky?” Brendon said. “You too?”
“Principal Yamamoto called me so here I am,” the black American teen said with a shrug.

The statuesque Principal Yamamoto of the Metropolitan then cleared her throat as she took control of the room.

“If I may, I would like the three young gentlemen who just came in to take a seat. That way, we can all get started on this little meeting...”

Izuku, Brendon and Raleigh sat down at the unoccupied chairs within the office.

“Good,” Principal Yamamoto said. “Now, lets here what Principal Nezu has to say. Principal Nezu?”

The animal educator started talking.

“Now, the reason why we called all four of you is because U.A. needs your help in breaking a tie,” Nezu said. “A tie that happened just today between the first year hero classes: 1-A and 1-B.”

“You see kids,” Toshinori said. “Both of them had their joint training exercises today and it unexpectedly ended with both first year hero classes getting two wins, two losses, and a draw. All of the teachers were expecting a close joint training test but not ending up in a dead heat...”

“However, Recovery Girl, U.A.’s nurse, is in no mood to heal that many students after today,” Nezu said. “This is the time of the year where most inventions from U.A.’s support course students tend to go wrong, thus Recovery Girl expecting a spike in injuries from that department. Then there’s Recovery Girl’s schedule where she visits a number of hospitals within the prefecture. It would be foolish of us to make the competing first year hero classes fight again when Recovery Girl is expected to become an even busier woman soon. But we do, of course, acknowledge the fact that the tie needs to be broken but in a safe and hopefully, zero injury way...”

Midnight then continued the discussion of the two men.

“This is where the four of you come in. I want Class 1-A and Class 1-B to put up a musical number no one will forget but the twist is that whoever wins, that class will get the winning point and officially can claim victory in their very close joint training exercise. To make sure they do not slack off, I’ve also decided that this will also count as their final project for the school year from me as I am
also both classes’ Modern Hero Art History teacher.”

“So, are you saying that the four of us will choreograph and direct both U.A. hero classes?” Sky asked.

“Exactly!” Midnight said. “To determine who put up the better show, it’s going to determined through a vote.”

“How and who’s voting?” Izuku asked.

“Both of U.A.’s hero classes will join the Metropolitan’s Showcase due on Friday next week,” Principal Yamamoto replied. This piece of information really shocked the four students. “There will be a time slot dedicated for both classes. People in the audience will cast a vote after the two U.A.’s classes have performed. The class with the most votes wins the much-needed tie-breaking point. In addition, Principal Nezu has assured me that U.A. will provide the voting technology.”

“Okay, with that out of the way,” Raleigh said, fixing his fedora. “Who’s gonna be the director and choreographer of each class?”

“I’ve decided on that already,” Principal Yamamoto said. “Class 1-A will get both Mr. Midoriya and Mr. Young while Class 1-B gets Mr. Victor and Mr. Ticonderoga on their team. The choreographers are Mr. Ticonderoga and Mr. Young while the directors will be both Mr. Victor and Mr. Midoriya...”

“Eep,” was all Izuku said when he heard what his position will be in Class 1-A.

“How are we going to rehearse with the two U.A. classes with our schools being away from each other?” Brendon asked.

“The four of you will be scheduled to get there by 1 and stay there until 5. As for your exact schedule here in the Met and U.A. next week, just pick them up from my secretary tomorrow before class. I still have yet to make it as this is happening all of a sudden,” Principal Yamamoto said as she adjusted her reading glasses. “And to get you four to U.A. on time, a car will be provided. However, on your way home from U.A., you four will have to do it all by yourselves as I’m more than sure you have different routes in heading back to all of your residences.”

“But why were we chosen?” Sky asked. “And why was I chosen?”
“You are one of the brightest students in the school Mr. Victor. I’m confident you and Mr. Ticonderoga will come up with a show-stopping performance,” Principal Yamamoto said with a small smile.

“I’m also aware that Midoriya here is in a relationship with Todoroki,” Midnight said causing Izuku to really blush. “And that two of his friends are also familiar with Class 1-A. That should help make training easier and keep things moving along smoothly.”

“Because you four will be training both of U.A.’s classes next week, Midnight is coming back here tomorrow with all 40 students and three more teachers after their classes. That way, they’re all a bit more inspired on what to do,” Nezu said.

“Are we going to perform a number for them?” Sky asked looked to the Met's school principal.

“Ideally,” Principal Yamamoto said.

“If that’s the case...” Sky trailed, looking to both Izuku and Brendon. “You two ready to become 'Race' and 'Ike' again while wearing your tap dancing shoes?”

Izuku and Brendon first looked to each another before nodding their heads in agreement, knowing what they’re going to perform for U.A.

“We’re ready,” Izuku beamed.

“Good, I’ll tell the other newsies then so we can practice later for tomorrow,” Sky said before turning to the fedora clad teen. “Raleigh, can you M.C. tomorrow but do it in your Jack Kelly costume?”

“No problem,” Raleigh answered with a smile.

Sky looked to the three U.A. teachers, beaming.

“Looks like U.A. is gonna have a small presentation from the Met tomorrow.”
“Okay good,” Midnight said before she looked to Raleigh. “Now, here’s what we are going to say...”

As Midnight instructed Raleigh on what to do and say tomorrow while the other three Met students listened in, Toshinori lowered his voice and whispered to his well-dressed animal boss.

“Can I tag along with them tomorrow? I really want to see how Young Midoriya tap dances on stage.”

“If you insist,” Nezu granted. “But make sure you finish grading all your students first before you can even think that I’ll allow you to go with Midnight, Aizawa, Vlad and Thirteen.”

“Fair enough,” Toshinori agreed.

—[.]—[.]—[.]—[.]—

Friday - 3:30 p.m.

“This is your boyfriend’s school?” Mina turned to Todoroki as the rest of Class 1-A trickled out of the U.A.-owned bus.

“Yeah,” Todoroki said. “Quite the sight, isn’t it? But I honestly can’t believe I’m here again.”

“Don’t you want to see Midoriya?” Mina asked him.

“I go already on most Fridays to see him here,” Todoroki said. “Because of that, a lot of people know me in this school as Izuku’s boyfriend...”

The exterior of Musutafu Metropolitan High School of the Arts was completely opposite to that of U.A.’s. Its design was based off an old large courthouse, all of the historical details lovingly restored.
But it had 21st century updates such as a glass dome roof and large letters that said ‘metropolitan’ in a sans-serif font at the front of the building and a sizeable green space graced the perimeter of the building where the Met students seemed to hangout a lot. Some were even tumbling like it was second nature to them.

Upon entering the building, a litany of praises can be heard from U.A. students as most of them took in the design of the interior and the creative energy it seemed to generate.

“It’s like being in *Victorious!*” Pony said with a squeal.

“Victorious?” Tokage looked to her.

“It’s this American TV series where a girl attends an arts high school,” An ecstatic Pony shared with her. “But I think this is an even better arts high school!”

“No kidding,” Awase said. “It’s like every wall has some sort of cool art...”

Like outside the school, all the historical details of the interior were restored but the modernity was more evident. All of the lockers were painted a chalk white. Alongside the LED and natural lighting, this helped collection of artworks, stain glass works, sculptures, colorful murals and mosaics stand out. The only normal thing the interior had were modern-looking and easy-to-read wayfinding signs that lead to different rooms and various parts of the building.

The various students, milling about in the area seemed to not pay attention to the uniformed hero students visiting their school. Except for two individuals, one of them wearing a certain fedora.

“What’s up U.A.?” Manuel called to both classes and all teachers, perched on top of a cart filled with a few scripts being pushed by Smokes. “I take it you’re all here for a show?”

“Hey you two!” Uraraka greeted. It’s been a good while since she and most of the 1-A saw the two Met students. “Your art school is so awesome!”

“Yeah, what you people create here is insane,” Kaminari complimented.
“It better be,” Smokes laughed. “We all work our asses off to make sure they all inspire and spark something inside the human beings who see them.”

“As for the students and teachers who don’t know us,” Manuel started. “I am Manuel Tarraco and the one pushing this cart I am on is Simon Benitez but the man prefers to be called Smokes. And like all of you, we too are first year students. I also see that 1-A has a new face with them... and I see Ojiro has a hand up. Want to ask something?”

“Is that Raleigh’s hat?” Ojiro pointed out to Manuel.

“It is,” Manuel said. “I asked my boyfriend if I could borrow it for the day and he said yes.”

“Yeah Hagakure?” Smokes saw a gloved hand raised up, waving in a desperate manner.

“I have to ask,” The invisible girl said. “Is that the mural you two worked on and posted on Instagram just this week?”

With her gloved hand, she pointed to a large fairly large scale tropical themed mural that featured a couple of birds in it. One side had this intricately painted eagle while the other had multiple birds also intricately painted but smaller in size compared to the eagle. The flowers were also more abundant on the side of the smaller birds compared to the side of the eagle. In the background was a sun that seemed to rise or set over a shore of a beach.

“Oh that,” Manuel said. “Yeah, that’s the mural we unveiled at the beginning of this week. It’s called of 'Birds of Paradise'.”

“It’s makes sense to call it that because the two of us have roots from tropical countries and those two birds are also the national birds of those countries,” Smokes said. “The one on the left is the Philippine Eagle, the Philippine national bird and one of the world’s rarest and most powerful. The birds on the right is called the Palmchat, the national bird of the Dominican Republic. According to Mr. Dominican American here, those Palmchats are numerous and they live in groups.”

“The Spanish name of the Palmchat is **Cigua Palmera**,” Manuel added. “And the flowers surrounding the birds? They are actually named Birds-of-Paradise. I like sprinkling in easter eggs whenever I get the chance.”
“The number of flowers that surround the two birds is also symbolic of their IUCN status,” Smokes said. “While his Palmchat has a rating of ‘Least Concern’, my Philippine Eagle has the unfortunate rating of ‘Critically Endangered’. Hence why the Palmchat has way more flowers compared to the Philippine Eagle.”

“You two have impressive attention to detail,” Shishida commented. “It should be applauded, really.”

“Thanks,” Smokes said. “While we Met students are taught to firmly believe in our abilities as artists, we do appreciate feedback.”

Manuel then clapped. “Since we’re both done explaining our work, I think you all need to head to your actual destination right now.”

“Where do we need to go?” Midnight asked.

“The school’s Kobo theatre, the smaller but more used theatrical venue within the Met,” Manuel said. “I know the boys are excited to perform and the very few scripts we have here for In the Heights also needs to get to some of them.”

“They love big tap dancing numbers,” Smokes said. “The more complex, the more inclined they’ll actually do it.”

“Let’s not keep them waiting any longer then,” Aizawa tiredly said.

“You all heard your teacher,” Manuel said to the visiting students. “¡Vamos!”

As Manuel lead the way in a dramatic fashion as Smokes pushed the cart he was on, Tetsutetsu caught up with Kirishima. Bakugou paid him no mind of his existence when he started talking to his 1-A doppelgänger.

“Hey Kirishima!” The steel boy softly called out to the red head.

“Yeah Tetsu? What’s up?”
“Why are those guys who know your class so extra?”

“I don’t know exactly but I think that comes from being an art student... and maybe he just doesn’t want to walk.”

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The Kobo theatre was the smaller of the two theatres within the Metropolitan. It was, however, not felt thanks to clever design decisions and strategies which helped to make the space feel bigger. One of them were the theatre seats that can be retracted. They were currently optimized to accommodate the number of visiting U.A. students and staff.

As Ojiro looked around the theatre, he felt someone tap on his right shoulder. It was none other than Sero.

“What do you think of their theatre?” Sero asked. Ojiro wasn’t surprised that he asked for his opinion; Sero always did have an eye for design.

“Really nice and the memory foam in the seats is great,” Ojiro said. “But the real bonus is the adjustable tail cut-out. Most movie houses don’t even have this and I wish they did. It makes sitting for me a lot easier.”

“Do you think it’s crazy that they have a theatre like this?” Sero asked with his signature grin.

“That’s rich, considering we have dorms that were built in three days and a huge training facility in the form of the U.S.J.,” Ojiro laughed. “This theatre, while really nice, isn’t even much of a stretch for the students in this school to have.”

“Okay, you made some good points,” Sero said. “Oh yeah, you and Raleigh hangout pretty often on the weekends right? Is he a good training partner? I don’t think it’s common for a U.A. hero student to have training partner outside of school...”
“He technically knows how to fight but he’s nowhere close to any of us when it comes down to it,” Ojiro said. “He just knows basic combat and that’s really it before I trained him...”

Sero looked puzzled. “Why did you go through the hassle of teaching him?”

“He has the combination of endurance, durability and agility I’m looking for in a training partner,” Ojiro replied. “It took quite a bit of work and time since I had to teach him a lot of advanced fighting techniques we learn during our hero training. But nowadays, I can really say Raleigh can keep up with 1-A in a fight, thanks to his reworked abilities and new set of moves he now knows.”

“I am so changing your name to Master Shifu in the group chat,” Sero decided jokingly. “Does Raleigh have any super moves up his sleeve?”

“He already has one, believe it or not, and we’re actually working on another two but we’re still trying to refine all of them,” Ojiro shared. “But I’m confident it’ll pan out...”

“If you say so Master Shifu,” Sero told him playfully.

Ojiro laughed. “If you want more jokes, both Tooru and Manuel refer to him as my ‘training husband’.”

Sero snorted. “Training husband?”

“You see, on most Saturday mornings, I would go workout and train with him at Gunhead’s martial arts studio in town as he’s not able to enter U.A. nor use its facilities since he’s not a student,” The tailed teen explained. “Then in the afternoon, we’d have some lunch at his aunt’s apartment before he tutors me on hero law...”

“Raleigh tutors hero law to you?” Sero was very surprised.

“Yeah,” Ojiro nodded. “It’s his elective at this school and his mom is a well-known politician in America. If you need a guy to decode that large law book we have, turn to him. He’s also great in math too, then again, his dad is a former aerospace engineer.”
“Is Raleigh the reason why your grades in hero law and math spiked?” Sero asked.

“Pretty much,” Ojiro answered. “And his hair color isn’t blonde but dark blonde.”

“Really?”

“Yes,” Ojiro confirmed. “I just figured it out when I met up to workout and train with him this time. I think it was after the week he got back from New York - after winter break. The hair dye was about gone on that day I met up with him.”

“Why was his hair dyed?” Sero asked.

“According to him, it was all thanks to a bet that he and his older brother Trent made with their sister on her birthday,” Ojiro said. “The bet was if he and Trent can name all the 50 U.S. States in just six minutes. If the win, they’ll both get $300 each. But if they lose, they had to get a hair dye and keep it that way for a year. Since Raleigh lost but wanted to keep his look, he just went for a lighter shade of blonde - which technically counts as his hair getting a dye.”

“Amercians are crazy,” Sero said.

“I know.” Ojiro said before trailing off. “I wonder though...”

“Wonder what?” Sero asked.

“If I team up with Raleigh, who do you think is willing to train with both of us?”

“Ask our classmates!” Sero happily told him. “Maybe a couple of them will take up your offer. It’d be a good change of pace to train with someone most of us don’t know. It’ll help us stay on our toes too.”

“Hmm, never thought about that,” Ojiro admitted.

“Think about it,” Sero encouraged. “A guy with bad-ass martial arts skills and slick tail moves
alongside a dude who has... what are Raleigh’s quirks again?”

“Ultra high strength composite skeleton and shock absorber,” Ojiro supplied.

“Right!” Sero said. “Did you ever realize you two got an offense, defense theme going on? That’s one hell of a combination!”

“You have a very interesting perspective of things Sero,” Ojiro said. “I should talk to you more.”

“That’s me!” Sero beamed. “Always the wild card!”

Ojiro then spotted Raleigh walk on the stage. “Oh, it’s starting...”

As the lights dimmed, the spotlight was now cast on Raleigh, who was holding a microphone and wearing his Jack Kelly costume. The hair that was not covered by his newsie flatcap were now a natural darker shade of blonde.

“What’s up U.A.?” Raleigh said through the mic. “I’m sure most of you are very surprised by visiting an art school and not a hero school for joint training but before an announcement, we have a little show for you guys. If some of you can’t understand my accent, that’s completely fine. But here at the Met, all of us like setting up a good show and want all of you to have a good time. So, without further ado, here’s a number from the hit musical Newsies...”

Raleigh cleared his voice before his voice boomed through the speakers, his Brooklyn accent prominent.

“NEWSIES, HIT THE STREETS! THE SUN IS UP! U.A.’S HERE AND THIS KID AIN’T GETTIN’ ANY YOUNGA!”

The spotlight that was cast onto Raleigh faded while the stage lit up behind him. The lighted stage revealed Izuku in his old newsie costume, complete with a cigar and newsboy flatcap. On stage, there were around 11 other boys and a girl who was leaning against the table but was nicely dressed.
Two other girls were dressed in similar newsie costumes. There was one boy too who seemed like he was ten or eleven years old.

"Can you’s all take this seriously long enough ‘ta just drink... in... the moment!” Izuku said, acting out his very ecstatic Racetrack Higgins newsie character, his voice in a fairly high pitch. He walked towards an Albert who was holding a simple wood cane. The dark redhead looked offended and did not like the hug Race pulled him into. “I’m famous!”

Race then adjusted his newsie hat and put the cigar in his mouth.

“Yeah, what of it?” Henry, a black newsie questioned him. He was also currently holding a newspaper.

Race looked to him, removing his cigar from his mouth before he walked up to him. “Well, are ya stupid or what? When yer famous, the woild is yer erster...”

The other newsies and most of the U.A. students were confused by what he just said.

Henry, looked down at Race, baffled by his words. “Ya what?”

“Yer erster.” Race said with a shrug, the others were trying to comprehend what he was saying. “Yer erster...”

A series of ‘what’s he saying' and ‘what’s’ came from the other confused newsies.

“Aye ya know, ya fancy clam with da poyle inside!” Race finally said to his fellow newsies, the lone girl dressed in the fancier dress finally got what he was saying.

“THATS’S AN OYSTER RACE! AN OYSTER!” Henry told Race.

“THAT’S WHAT I SAID!” Race told Albert and Henry back.
As the other newsies became restless, Henry raised his voice to bring back some order in the room.

“Hey! HEY!” Henry said, finally getting the others to calm down. He then looked to Race. “**When did being famous ever pay?**”

Race then took the newspaper from Henry. Lively music then started playing:

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[Race]
Ya don't need money when you're famous!
They gives ya whatever you want, gratis!

[Henry]
Such as...?

*Race then scribbled his cigar like a pen over the newspaper.*

[Race]
A pair o' new shoes with matchin' laces

*A short Romeo then took the newspaper from him, doing a twirl before leaning against the table.*

[Romeo]
A permanent box at the Sheepshead Races
Henry, who was standing on the table took the paper once again making Romeo walk and sit back with the other newsies on the right. In the background, Finch - while holding a glass of water - took the hat of Elmer who was sitting on the chair closest to Henry. He tossed the hat to the others so he can use the chair to get closer to Henry on the table.

[Henry]
Pastrami on rye with a sour pickle

Finch then swiped the newspaper away from Henry.

[Finch]
My personal puss on a wooden nickel!

Race then took back the newspaper holding it out for the audience to see while also holding his cigar and doing rapid fire tap dancing while Henry took Finch’s glass of water and downed it.

[Race]
Look at me, I'm the King of New York!

Some ‘oh no’s’ and cheers can be heard from the other newsies.
Suddenly, I'm respectable Starin' right at'cha Lousy with stature

The dark redhead newsie, Albert, took the newspaper from Race, who was offering it to him, and started fanning himself with it.

[Albert]

Nobbin' with all the muckety-mucks

I'm blowin' my dough, and goin' deluxe!

Race then snatched the newspaper away from Albert before another could take it, he then climbed the table before Finch tossed him his empty glass. Katherine and Henry were now sitting in the table.

[Race]

And there I be!

Ain't I pretty?

[Race and Henry]

It's my city I'm the King of New York!

Jojo - who was played by Brendon's former fight captain Akio - then climbed up some chairs and went on top of the table, swiping away the newspaper from Race before twirling his cane.

[Jojo]

A solid gold watch with a chain to twirl it
Jojo then gave it to the youngest newsie on stage, Les.

[Les]
My very own bed and an indoor terlet!

Mush then joined Race up on the table.

[Mush]
A barbershop haircut that cost a quarter

Les’ older brother, Davey then got the newspaper as Race and the others newsies jumped from the table, leaving Katherine solely on it.

[Davey]
A regular beat for the star reporter!

Race then ran to the front right side of the table pointing to Katherine while she received the newspaper handed out by Davey.

[Race]
Am-scray, punk
She's the King of New York!

[Katherine]
Whod'a thunk!
I'm the King of New York!

_The newsies then started to carry the center table and chairs back to create some dancing space._

[Newsies]
We was sunk,
pale and pitiful

[Katherine]
Bunch'a wet noodles

[Katherine and Newsies]
Pulitzer's poodles!

_Les then ran to the center front of the stage before he was joined by Race and Buttons._

[Les]
Almost about to drown in the drink

[Buttons]
When she fished us out
And drowned us in ink!

*Katherine then ran towards the center of the stage.*

So let's get drunk!

*The newsies looked excited at the prospect of alcohol.*

Not with liquor

*The newsies then looked disappointed.*

Awww...
Fame works quicker
When you're King of New York!

[Newsies]
I gotta be either dead or dreamin'
Cause look at that pape with my face beamin'
Tomorrow they may wrap fishes in it
But I was a star for one whole minute!

After a small jump from the last line, what followed was the most elaborate tap dancing sequence anyone from U.A. has scene. Todoroki noticed that when Izuku danced, his Race character held the cigar in his mouth.

The tapped dancing then evolved to a tap dance with Buttons holding a long wooden broom while Jojo and Albert danced alongside with their wooden canes. It was followed up by Finch and Elmer doing a coordinated spoon fight. After the spoon fight, the newsies did another elaborate tap dance with spoons. Following it up was Romeo running up the right table and doing a tap dance, then by Tommy Boy doing a tap dance on the left table with Race finishing it off by doing a tap dance on the center table.

As the boys were finished doing their part. Katherine ran to the center, lifted up her dress so they can see her shoes, the newsies huddling around her. The beat then became innocent, befitting her also innocent tap dance. After she did her part, the audience laughed lightly while the newsies weren’t impressed.

She then did a more aggressive tap dance with the beat of the music going up, and impressing the other newsies.

[Newsies]
Whoa... Wow...

Katherine then did a quick spoon dance when Finch gave her a couple of spoons before she climbed up a chair, giving a quick kick in the air before going down. She then briefly dance with a broom tossed to her by Buttons before she did a quick dance with Les.

The newsies then got involved with their tap dance, with Katherine now in the front and center as
Les ran to the back. In sync, the newsies spread out around Katherine. Les was now on top of the tables, waving the newspaper while Katherine and the newsies were linked together arm in arm.

[Katherine and Newsies]
Look at me
I'm the King of New York!

The newsies then spread out once more...

[Katherine and Newsies]
Wait and see!
This is gonna make both the Delanceys
Pee in their pants-sies!

Some of the newsies then occupied all three tables while the others on the ground went to a new blocking formation.

[Katherine and Newsies]
Flashpots are shootin'
bright as a sun
I'm one highfalutin'
son of a gun!

I guarantee
Though I crapped out,
Katherine and the newsies then did a final routine. Both Finch and Elmer, the closest newsies to Katherine, took out their spoons.

[Katherine and Newsies]

Of New York!

“-_-_-_-_-_-

“These people are insane,” Shindo said to Todoroki, sitting beside him. However, they both clapped at the performance while the rest of their fellow classmates clapped and cheered.

“You have to admit, they make tap dancing look effortless,” Todoroki said.

The same music then started playing again which confused Shindo. The newsies on the stage briefly hugged each other before tap dancing again on stage. The other newsies took away the left and right tables while the one in the middle was left.
“They’re still not done?” Shindo asked Todoroki. “Are they not yet tired of tap dancing?”

“This is how they transition to another scene,” Todoroki replied. He looked to Izuku who was merrily dancing away with the cigar in his mouth. “Look at my boyfriend go... I recall Izuku telling me in one of our dates that it’s not a flashy Broadway musical without the big tap dancing number.”

As the center table was taken away, a bit more tap dancing was done before it the other boys walked away. It was finished off by Romeo and Finch hand walking away and rolling off the stage.

After the U.A. students clapped, Raleigh came back on the stage with Midnight at his side. Each of them held a microphone in their hands.

“First, I’d like to thank Akio’s eleven-year-old brother Hiroshi, for joining us at the last minute as Les,” Raleigh said. “Now, I hope you guys liked what you saw. With that said, Ms. Midnight will now tell you guys what your joint training will be. Ms. Midnight...”

“Right, thank you Mr. Ticonderoga,” the seductive teacher said before she faced her students. “Now, why did we drive all of you here? Well, your joint training will be conducted with this school...”

“NO WAY!” All the hero students said in unison.

“Yes way,” Midnight contradicted. “Both hero classes in this room will perform a musical number. And because I’m your Modern Hero Art History teacher, I also decided this will be your final project from me for the year. I don’t care what you will put out but I am going to care if it’s polished...”

“WHAT?!” The voices of the U.A. hero students were even louder this time around.

“By the way guys, both classes have to perform that musical number here, in the Met,” Raleigh said. “And to up the ante even more, that number will be performed at the Metropolitan’s Showcase. That very event will be held at the school’s bigger and recently renovated Inoue Theatre next Friday. The people attending the Showcase are some celebrities and head honchos of media companies... maybe even some pros too.”

“Alongside the teachers, the audience will vote on who put up the best show,” Midnight added. “The class with more votes gets the higher grade.”
All of the U.A. students were practically ghostly pale at this point.

“Of course, we don’t want any of you to embarrass yourselves so we asked four students from this school to help your classes out...” Midnight said.

“Izuku, Brendon and Sky, please come on out,” Raleigh said.

Joining Raleigh and Midnight on the stage were Izuku, Brendon, and Sky - still in their newsie costumes.

“Now Principal Yamamoto of the Met is the one who decided this so go after her and not me if you want to file a complaint,” Raleigh said. “As for who’s getting who, 1-A will get Izuku as their director while Brendon will be their choreographer. At 1-B’s side, Sky here will be your director while I’m going to be choreographing your routine.”

“What the fuck?!” Bakugou reacted loudly.

“Sorry Bakugou,” Raleigh apologized into the mic before adding. “But lucky you Todoroki!”

While Bakugou was fuming at the decision and Todoroki was blushing at the name mention, Midnight spoke.

“Since both classes now know their respective director and choreographer, are there any more questions... yes Iida?”

“Won’t this affect our classes?” Iida pointed out.

Midnight cleared her throat. “There’s a schedule that will be sent to both 1-A and 1-B. But to give you an idea, all of your class will only be until 12 for the next week. After that, you’ll get an hour for lunch then you will head to assigned sparring rooms in U.A. to practice.”

“As for me, Izuku, Brendon and Sky, the Metropolitan has agreed to provide the transport that the four of us are going to need,” Raleigh said. “We’re going to commute to U.A. everyday until Thursday to train you guys next week. On Friday morning however, the four of us from the Met will
directly head to U.A. for one last time before we all go this school together. We expect all of you to be in your P.E. outfits when the four of us arrive at your school. And don't worry about costumes and backdrops, the Met will provide them.”

“But for today, you'll meet up with your director and choreographer first,” said Midnight. “This is so you can talk up on what to do for next week’s showcase.”

“Each class will go to a dance studio within the building after this program,” Raleigh further supplied. “1-A, you’ll go follow Smokes to head to Studio 8. 1-B will follow Manuel and go to Studio 6. By the way, shout out to my boyfriend Manuel and Smokes in getting all of the In the Heights scripts delivered to the people in this room!”

“Wow, I feel very ‘And Peggy’ right now with what your man said,” Smokes playfully told Manuel, who just laughed. Both of them were seated near the other U.A. teachers.

Midnight then spotted one of the 1-B students raising her hand.

“Yes Komori?”

“Pony was wondering if she can do a song called Chicago from a TV show called Victorious,” Komori said loudly from her seat.

“YES!!” The other newsies shouted happily from backstage.

“Ugh, Mr. Ticonderoga?” Midnight looked to Raleigh.

“You can’t stop your Manhattan newsies Jack Kelly,” Sky laughed, arms crossed.

“Looks like I can’t,” Raleigh shrugged. “Pony, uh, come on up...”

“Yay!” Pony jumped up from her seat and headed for the stage. “Thanks for asking Komori, you’re the best!”
As the three of the four Met students and Midnight went to the stage they entered from, Pony used her quirk to get quickly get up on stage. Raleigh then walked up to Pony.

“Here,” Raleigh told Pony as he handed the mic to her with a small smile. “Live out your Trina Vega fantasy...”

After a friendly smack on the shoulder, Raleigh walked away. Pony then moved to the center of the stage, the spotlight now on her.

“To be clear, I’m not a very good singer but I really like this song...” Pony said with a big grin on her face. “And yeah, you guys can go record it if you want.”

All of 1-B and some from 1-A whipped their phones out to record the once in a lifetime event.

Pony cleared her throat before she started to sing into the microphone:

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[Pony]

Chicago! Chicago!
It's a city that's exciting!
It's a city that's inviting!
It's a city for a woman just like me!

There's a lake they call Lake Michigan!
I think I'm really fitting in!
This city is my perfect cup of tea!
Chicago! Chicago!

-- -- -- -- --

After Pony stopped singing, she then re-enacted some of the lines in English.
“'The doctor says I’m never gonna walk again, not even on crutchezzz... I’m a woman in Chicago who’s scaaaaared. I’m a woman in Chicago who’s scaaaaarrrrred...’ Thank you, I think that’s all the lines I know...”

Pony then remembered another famous scene.

“Oh, can Tokoyami of 1-A please come up here?” She kindly requested.

All of the hero students looked to the emo bird. After being pressured by multiple pairs of eyes staring at him, he cracked and sighed before leaving his seat to join Pony on the stage.

“Just stand here, you don’t have to do anything,” Pony happily said to him.

“Um, okay,” Tokoyami wasn’t sure where this was going. He then faced their U.A. peers alongside Pony.

Pony cleared her throat before saying the lines of the iconic scene with an accent.

"It was 1934 when my husband left me, alone. Living on the prairie was a dreary existence; no telephone, no radio. Only a large, majestic bird with whom I shared my feelings. One day when I was feeling alone I said to him, “Oh, bird. You can fly. You can soar miles from this lonely place, yet you stay... Why?” And apparently, my question rang true, for that afternoon... my bird left. And so went my spirit.”

As she bowed, the newsies who performed earlier then joined Pony on the stage and lifted her up, chanting her name.

“PONY! PONY! PONY! PONY!”

As Tokoyami uneventfully left the stage, Tetsutetsu turned to Fukidashi as they happily clapped for their classmate.

“Pony deserves her name to be chanted like that!”
“I 110% agree!” Fukidashi stated.

Meanwhile, Midnight turned to Izuku, Raleigh, Brendon and Sky, watching the whole spectacle happen with her at the wing of the stage.

“Why are they so happy?” Midnight asked, very puzzled on why the Met Newsies were celebrating Pony’s very unexpected performance.

“It’s an unwritten rule in the Met that you must know the Chicago song and Bird Scene from *Victorious,*” Sky told her. “You can’t call yourself a theatre fan in these parts if you don’t know both.”

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Lead by Manuel, 1-B slowly filed into their given room at the Met.

As 1-B walked into their assigned dance studio for the day, they took in the tone of red brick walls, the white contrasting ceiling, smooth bamboo flooring, and matte black ceiling light bars. The most striking feature, however, was their own choreographer and director standing in a wall of mirrors. Both were waiting for all of them in their usual everyday outfits.

As 1-B slowly settled down on the floor, Manuel walked up to Raleigh, who was now wearing his everyday casual outfit.

“Thanks for leading them here babe,” Raleigh told him, smiling at the shorter male whom he hugged.

“No problem,” Manuel said as he stood on his tip toes to give him a quick peck to he cheek and return the borrowed fedora. “I’ll head on home now but see you tomorrow?”

“Yeah!” Raleigh beamed. “I’ll text you all the details later for our date tomorrow.”
“Alright,” Manuel said. “But I think you have a hero class to choreograph. The sooner you start, the faster they’ll learn so it’s best you start working with them then.”

“Okay,” Raleigh said, planting a quick kiss on the top of his boyfriend’s head before finally letting him go and leave the dance studio.

As Raleigh watched the brown-skinned artist boy leave, an audible snicker was heard in the room.

It was Kuroiro.

“Holy hell, it’s like you two are husbands already,” Kuroiro said with a shit-eating grin. “Your face says it all.”

“That’s the face of a man clearly proud of his boo,” Sky said with a teasing tone.

The tall, white American rolled his eyes with a smile at the comments lobbed at him.

“Haha, very funny guys,” Raleigh said.

“Now, to get us started, I’ll formally introduce myself first,” Sky said. “I’m Schuyler Victor and a second year student here at the Met. I prefer to be called by my nickname which is ‘Sky.’ I’m from Minneapolis, Minnesota.”

“And I’m Raleigh Ticonderoga,” Raleigh said. “I’m a first year student here. And I’m from Brooklyn, New York.”

“So, I want to ask first, what do you guys want in your musical number? Is there a theme you want to do?” Sky inquired 1-B.

“Something that empowers women,” Kodai immediately said.
“It should also turn people gay,” Kuroiro said after Kodai.

“I want it to be sexy,” Tokage added.

“As long it’s a showstopper and wins us those audience votes, I don’t really care what song 1-B does,” Monoma stated.

Sky thought about their suggestions for a moment. His mind wandered back to Pony’s impromptu performance earlier at the Kobo Theatre. An imaginary light bulb then lit up on top of his head.

“I think there’s this one song which has everything you might want,” Sky smiled at them. “But you have to thank Pony for it. She kinda inspired the idea.”

“Thanks Pony!” Awase beamed towards her before all of 1-B started thanking their apple-loving classmate.

“I have no idea what’s happening but you’re welcome!” Pony happily said.

“But before we continue any further, we have to know your names,” Raleigh said before his eyes landed on Shoda. “Can you start for us? The only thing we need is your name then we move on to the next person.”

“Um, okay...” the short, blue-haired boy said as he stood up.

As 1-A finished up on who will make up their cast and ironing out the goals they need to meet each day for next week, the door of their studio opened all of a sudden.

“Sorry guys,” Smokes said. “But a U.A. staff wanted to see Midoriya. He really insisted that I bring him here.”
Smokes let in a familiar skinny figure in the dance studio.

“Young Midoriya!”

“All Might?” Izuku said as Toshinori got inside while Smokes closed the doors behind him. “What’re you doing here?”

“I’m just checking in on how all of you are doing,” Toshinori said to him. “And I also wanted to personally congratulate Young Midoriya for his performance at the theatre earlier. You make for a very convincing newsboy, kid. The same also goes for you too Mr. Young.”

“Thanks, All Might!” Izuku was internally ecstatic that his long time idol praised him for his dancing and acting skills.

“Glad we impressed you,” Brendon said as well.

All Might then looked to 1-A. "You kids not giving these two any headaches?"

"Not yet," Shindo said. "But Bakugou's still pretty upset we're working with them."

"Shut up two-face!" Bakugou angrily said.

"We just finished up on who will make up the cast!" Izuku said. “Ojiro here’s going to play the lead. As for the Doo-Wop group, it'll be made up of Todoroki, Shindo, Sero and Kaminari. The girl dancers are going to be Mina, Jirou and Momo and Kacchan’s going to be the mob boss!"

"I see," Toshinori said. “Well, I should really get those snacks the others asked for before the others start wondering where I am."

Toshinori told everyone before turning to Smokes. “I should be fine on the way back kid, no need to accompany me to the vending machines. I know where they are.”

“If you say so,” Smokes nodded.
“Have a good session with them 1-A.” Toshinori said. “Make sure you listen with whatever they’re going to say. I think with those two, you’re in good hands.”

As Toshinori left the room and the door closed behind him, Smokes sighed as he looked to all of 1-A.

“No offense to him but he clearly does not know who you guys are up against. With Ticonderoga and Victor on the other class, you’ve got a real slug fest here 1-A since 1-B’s also in good hands. You’re going to need all the luck you guys can get.”

“We won’t need it,” Bakugou said in a confident voice. “1-A’s going to bring down those lame ass 1-B extras...”

Smokes was not so sure about the ash blonde’s statement, “Uhhh...”

“What?” Bakugou pressed the brown-skinned boy with his usual tone.

“Kacchan,” Izuku sighed. “Raleigh’s one of the best dancers in school alongside Brendon, and Sky is as smart as Momo. I really doubt they’re not going to come up with some awesome number...”

“And from what I hear, 1-B’s really out to get us,” Shoji added.

“How’d you know?” Brendon asked the tall teen with dupli-arms.

“I can make multiple ears with my quirk, remember?” Shoji told him as he made two ears with his quirk.

“But Brendon and Midoriya are great in their own right too, am I correct?” Iida asked the Filipino.

“Totally,” Smokes honestly answered. “Izuku is smart too and crazy precise, have you seen his notes and sketches on pro heroes? He’s obsessed with every detail while Brendon, on the other hand, has sharp dance moves under his belt... however, the other class has heavy artillery too in the form of
their choreographer and director. Now, add in their drive to win like what Shoji found out - its best you people bring out the big guns.”

“Can you two tell us how that white boy dances?” Bakugou asked Brendon and Izuku.

“The only thing I can tell you guys about Raleigh’s routines is that it’s always centered around a series of smooth and slick, precise steps,” Brendon told them of what he knows, Izuku nodding along to his words before adding. ”You guys, however, heard nothing from me.”

“And with Schuyler Victor on the other class as well; I would say it’s like going up against Todoroki and Bakugou,” said Smokes. “Ticonderoga’s choreography and Victor’s brain; it’s a fucking O.P. combination.”

“I think both U.A. classes are in a bit of a toss-up now,” Izuku said before looking to the rest of 1-A. “But if we cooperate and work really hard, you guys will win! Right?!”

“Right!” Uraraka supported, a fist up in the air. Most of 1-A followed Uraraka’s enthusiastic fist pump. The individuals who didn’t follow suit were Shindo and Shinsou since, like Smokes, they both held reservations on their chances as well.

“Well, whatever the nerd and snapback here has in store for us, I’m all for it if it means we’re going to beat those extras from 1-B,” Bakugou stated to everyone.

“You guys chose a song already?” asked Smokes.

“Oui monsieur!” Aoyama happily said, his glitters and sparkles brighter than usual. “It will be magnifique!”

“I have to say, I'm not surprised by Bakugou being the mob boss. He kinda fits the description of one,” Smokes said before looking to Bakugou who wasn’t fazed by it all.

“The nerd and snapback here said he's a cool character so I’m not going to complain,” Bakugou said.

“I also have to teach him a certain hand gesture Italians do,” Brendon suddenly remembered. “It’s
going to add to his character...”

Bakugou looked suspiciously to him.

“What Italian hand gesture? If it’s that same meme the reject Pikachu does, I swear to god nothing will be left of you...”

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“What’s a reverse performance?” Kodai asked.

“It’s basically a reversal of gender roles in musical theatre,” Sky explained. “But in your case, we’re going to need three guys and three girls to do it. So it’s a bit reverse performance-lite. I want 1-B to do it because I have a gut feeling it will help the class stand out. Dancing along with the six main people are six guys who’ll be their partners.”

“Why?” Kendo asked.

“The more, the merrier right?” Raleigh smiled. “It will make the presentation a lot more dynamic too.”

Sky cleared his throat. “For the main girls; I want Kodai, Yanagi and Tokage. For the main boys; I’m going to need Monoma, Kaibara and Kuroiro. As for the six guys who’ll dance with the six main leads, I’ll need Tsuburaba, Rin, Tetsutetsu, Kamakiri, Honenuki and last but not least, Awase.”

“I’ll also want Fukidashi because I want him to be the mysterious bandmaster,” Raleigh added.

“How about the rest who aren’t going to perform?” Kendo inquired.

“I’m going to need you guys to play the music,” Sky said. “I should point out it’s a bit tango-esque.”
“Looks like I have to bring out my saxophone,” Shoda shrugged.

“You know how to play the sax?” Kuroiro looked to him.

“Shoda is a man of numerous hidden talents,” Shishida proudly stated.

“Perfect!” Sky clapped. “For those who are playing instruments, I’ll try to send Kendo the sheet music tonight so you guys can start practicing over the weekend... but for the mean time, we’ll do vocals and who’ll play who. Oh yeah, Raleigh... who are going to be the partners?”

“For the first pair, I want Kaibara and Tsuburaba. The second pair is Kodai and Kamakiri; following them will be Kuroiro and Honenuki. The fourth pair will be Yanagi and Tetsutetsu. The fifth pair will be Monoma and Awase. The last but not the least is Tokage and Rin.”

“With Raleigh done designating all the pairs, Monoma’s role has a lot of importance because I intend for him to play one of the most important characters in the movie musical and Broadway version,” Sky told them.

“But we need to ask a very important question first,” Raleigh said before turning to Monoma. “Can you do a full split?”

“You really need to ask?” Monoma said confidently before he effortlessly did a split on the floor. “What do you think?”

Most of 1-B were just taken aback on how Monoma had casually done a full split.

“Oh, we can definitely use that,” Raleigh said with a knowing smirk. “But how do you know how to do it?”

“Some sort of yoga he does,” Kaibara supplied. “Whatever it is, it made him very flexible.”

“Okay...” Sky said as Monoma stood up on his own feet. “Before we continue, I need to ask, is everyone in 1-B satisfied with their roles?”
Eyes darted around the room to find anyone who weren’t feeling their roles. However, all of them saw no one who wasn’t unhappy on what they’re going to contribute to the class performance.

“Since no one is speaking up, I’ll take it that everyone is good,” Sky said before moving to the next order of business.

"That was actually very good! A massive step up from yesterday’s execution. This the is the sort of performance people at the Met will go and enjoy. You did great Ojiro!"

“Thanks Midoriya,” Ojiro smiled.

“Thanks Midoriya,” Ojiro smiled.

“For the ensemble, you all did great as well.” Brendon praises. “Keep it up and I’m sure you’ll be able to beat the other class in getting those votes. Y’all were sharp as fuck.”

“We better,” Mina laughed. “We’re all working off our butts here - especially the girls who have to dance in heels.”

“I sincerely regret in thinking Daichi is a weird guy for liking musicals,” Shindo said. “This stuff is a lot harder than it actually looks... I gotta hand it to him for keeping up with theatre stuff like this.”

“This isn’t even the most intense choreo out there,” Brendon told with a smile. “I can confidently tell you that Newsies is way harder than this... and Akio Daichi was part of it. Can you imagine that we have to dance for the curtain call when we’ve been doing intense dancing for most of the show?”
“How intense was it?” Tsuyu asked.

“Wanna show them how we ended it?” The snapback clad American beamed to the freckled teen.

“I’m always up for a *Newsies* number,” Izuku grinned. “I always have my flatcap and I think I still have the cigar prop in my bag.”

“Alright, move aside 1-A,” Brendon said. “We’re going to need the floor space.”

“But can someone play the recording of the music?” Izuku requested. “It’s stored in my phone’s notes app. Thanks!”

After Mina got a hold of Izuku’s phone, she waited for both boys to get in their positions and waited for the owner of the phone to put the cigar in his mouth before playing the *energetic music*.

Both boys then started dancing with a series of quick and complicated steps before removing their hats and moving onto a set of dizzying pirouettes which amazed most of the class. As the beat changed, Brendon ran to the side while Izuku kept on doing the pirouette. Izuku then stopped doing the pirouette as he briefly moved to leftward view of 1-A. When the clash of a drum went off, the freckled teen did a perfectly synced toe touch jump before moving out of the main dancing space.

After letting some seconds of music go by, Brendon then came out while doing a couple of spins before it evolved into a toe touch jump. He then did a tumble and did a quick dance on the floor.

When the beat of the music changed again. Izuku quickly moved to the side of Brendon, both boys now doing the same dance. They did a jump, a brief pirouette, a cartwheel then a high jump kick. After a few more steps, they took of their hats and bowed again which prompted Mina to kill the music.

“That’s all,” Brendon said as he and Izuku stood upright again, prompting Mina to stop the music.

“That was amazing,” said by an awed Shindo. “How did both of you not get dizzy doing that?”
“Lots and lots of practice,” Izuku said. “If you ask me though, it’s my most favorite routine right after ‘Carrying the Banner’ and ‘King of New York’.”

“I thought King of New York would be your favorite since your character’s the one who started the song,” Momo said.

“If you watch the Met’s production of Newsies on YouTube, you’ll see why ‘Carrying the Banner’ is my favorite,” Izuku said before Brendon snatched his cigar away. “Hey! That’s my cigar!”

“‘Carrying the Banner’ is basically the routine we had to do in U.A. when 1-A thought that the girls sang the theme song of Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt better,” Brendon reminded them as he gave Izuku’s cigar prop back. “On the other hand, you all saw ‘King of New York’ alongside 1-B last Friday.”

“Hey Midoriya,” Uraraka said. “Do you always need to have that cigar with you when your acting out your newsboy character?”

“It’s Racetrack Higgins’ most prominent accessory and helps him stand out from the rest,” Izuku answered. “If you notice me during the performance last Friday, I hold my cigar when I sing but I put it in my mouth when I have to dance.”

“I have to ask,” Brendon said, looking to Shindo. “How come do you know Akio Daichi? Were you friends?”

“I wouldn’t say we were exactly friends but we were classmates back in Ketsubutsu,” Shindo revealed. “Imagine my surprise when I saw him again dancing like that. He changed so much when he left the school after first year...”

“What’s he like back then?” Brendon inquired.

“During my first year in Ketsubutsu, he’s always been an outcast,” Shindo said. “I always see him alone but Daichi got the highest grade in English all the time. No one would go near him for help though due to his strong liking of musicals.”

“I was known in junior high school who lived and breathed American memes but how come people still approached me?” Kaminari questioned.
“To be fair Kaminari,” Brendon said. “Memes are relatable and you have a great sense of humor. Theatre isn’t as relatable to a lot of people, even back in America. People only start to really appreciate it when they find out how much work was put into making a play or a musical.”

“One of my friends back at Ketsubutsu, Nakagame, says that she always felt Daichi dread hero training,” Shindo said as he looked at the people around him. “And I think she’s right. Whenever we do hero training, he’d always look to a watch he has on - as if he’s counting down the minutes before it ends.”

“That would explain why Akio was so hesitant in becoming my fight captain for Mean Girls last year,” Brendon said. “I picked him out because he had some hero training experience under his belt. Good thing I felt something was off and turned to U.A. for help so we can come up with a better chaos scene for World Burn - even if it did involve fighting a bunch of giant, heavily armed mechs.”

“Why didn’t you and your friends talk to him about it?” Izuku asked Shindo. “His interests?”

“How do you approach a guy who likes stuff that no one in school understands or can relate to?” Shindo questioned.

“Have you asked him why he likes it? People tend to have a history and a good reason on why they like certain things,” Izuku said.

“You make a point,” Shindo sighed. “Me or my friends never did that. But after seeing Daichi live last Friday, I’m glad he’s a lot happier now. I’ve never seen him smile like that back in Ketsubutsu. My friends would be blown away by his tap dancing skills.”

Brendon’s watch beeped.

“Since, its nearly 5 o’clock, let’s all call it a day,” Brendon said. “We can continue polishing the routine tomorrow...”
6:48 p.m. - somewhere in the city.

While waiting for his food, Awase stared out of the booth’s curbside window that he occupied in a small restaurant. That’s when he heard a familiar, friendly voice.

“Mind if I sit here?” It was Sky, 1-B’s assigned Met student director.

“No! Go ahead senpai,” Awase said.

“Just call me Sky, Awase,” Sky chuckled as he took his seat across the headband wearing male. “No need for honorifics. I told you guys, I preferred to be called by my nickname.”

“Sky,” Awase repeated. “That’s a really cool nickname to have...”

“I’m the reason why the sun shines,” The older black male joked. Awase laughed lightly at it.

“You should definitely put that on your online profile,” Awase beamed.

“I can’t,” Sky said. “Fans of Newsies have given the ‘Sky is the reason why the sun shines’ line first to this redheaded white guy named Schuyler Flaherty. And from what I see on Instagram, he does seem to have the fluffiest set of dark red hair I’ve ever seen. Can’t blame ‘em though, he’s really talented and cute.”

“You swing both ways?,” Awase asked in which Sky responded with a nod.

“While I do swing for both teams, I have to admit I technically lean towards girls more, unlike your choreographer who’s more of a 50/50 kind of guy,” Sky said. “Speaking of bi’s, Izuku - 1-A’s assigned Met director - is also one. But if I’m a bi who leans to girls, Raleigh is a tossup bi, Izuku is the sort of bi who leans towards boys.”

“How come is your school filled with a ton of bisexuals?” Awase questioned.

“Why not would be a better question,” Sky said with a smile. “The weird thing about me, Raleigh
and Izuku is that we all had relationships with a girl at some point. But now, the three of us have a cute gay boyfriend to cuddle with.”

“Wow,” was the only thing Awase said.

“So what are you doing here, man?” Sky asked. “Doesn’t U.A. have curfews?”

“Eh, the gate doesn’t close ‘til 8 o’clock on weekdays,” Awase said. “Thus, here I am waiting for my warm bowl of oyakodon and a plate of vegetable tempura to arrive.”

“That’s a lot of food,” Sky commented.

“I need the protein to build up my muscles anyway,” Awase shrugged.

“Do you?” Sky questioned. “You have a great physique under those clothes of yours. And from what Raleigh and I saw these past few days, you have great stamina for dancing; it shows during rehearsals.”

“Fine, I just didn’t feel like eating along my class tonight,” Awase revealed. “It’s all because my head can’t stop going back to Monoma today.”

“You like Monoma?” The dark-skinned teen asked to which Awase nodded with his eyes closed. “Don’t blame you, that boy can bend and just lives for the role given to him. But how did it start?”

“Should I even be talking about this?” Awase questioned. “I barely know you.”

“I don’t spill,” Sky said. “But it could help clear up your mind. And because I’m a stranger to you, the benefit it should be is that I’m easier for you to open up to. I don’t know you well so I can’t exactly go and judge your actions.”

Awase thought about it for a moment before sighing.

“Fine.”
The headband wearing teen cleared his throat before continuing.

“...My not so platonic feelings for Monoma started around U.A.’s sports festival, after the cavalry battle,” Awase started. “I fucking admire him in trying to shed the spotlight on our class, 1-B was an unknown quantity before. Even today, 1-B still is an unknown quantity. Fucking sucks people consider 1-B as beneath 1-A. That’s why just about everyone in class is determined to win those damn votes... Monoma sparked that - it’s about time that the other hero class gets the attention. Then slowly but surely, I kinda started noticing his body and his physical aspects more. When I thought that he’s was cute and a lot softer than his personality would first suggest, I started freaking out because I always assumed myself to be straight. Good thing the class memelord Tsuburaba is willing to talk to with me about this stuff whenever I need to...”

“As for the ‘1-B needs the spotlight to be shed on them thing’, that explains why everyone is really in it to win it,” Sky flatly said.

Awase sighed. “Well, we’re tired of 1-A having it all. Change is nice every once in a while, right?”

“True,” Sky agreed. “Change does keep things fresh and exciting. And you just figuring out you’re not straight reminds me of the time I had to be honest with myself; accepting the fact that boys do attract me. Good thing my family was cool with it. However, I need to ask as your director - is your emotions getting in the way of performing your routine with him?”

Awase thought about it for a moment. "As far as I'm concerned, no. But I am pretty lucky that I get to see him really up close when does those splits..."

"Good," Sky said. "Until this is over, I want you to keep your feelings for him in check. We're just about done polishing off the routine and I don't want to go all the way back to square one just because things got awkward with you two."

“I’m really nervous for Friday,” The headband wearing male said. “And it's not because of your school's showcase...”

“What else is happening on Friday?” Sky asked.

“I have a coming out party planned out by Tsuburaba too,” Awase revealed. “A lot is gonna change from that point on.”
“But we just said that change does keep things fresh,” Sky reminded him. “Trust me, you’re gonna find being out of the closet a huge relief - no more hiding or kidding yourself.”

“I also want to ask Monoma out soon,” Awase added. “Albeit, in a more private manner. But I’ve been thinking if I should just drop that plan.”

“Well, what’s stopping you tiger? You’re a good looking and confident guy with a good heart,” Sky said. “But since I am not you and don’t know where you are coming from, I’m not gonna answer that question.”

“I wish you did answer it because I have a lot of other questions that I don’t even have answers for,” Awase said, his mind heavy with scenarios. “And I’m not sure if my parents are gonna take it well whenever word reaches them...”

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**The Day of the Metropolitan Showcase.**

In the Met’s receiving area, Shindo was standing in front of a couple beverage vending machines. He was figuring out if he should buy his favorite drink or if he should try out something new.

As he was picking out, a figure went to one of the vending machines and got a Qoo apple drink. Shindo then noticed the figure’s face from the corner of his eyes.

“Daichi? Daichi Akio?”

The figure immediately stopped at the sound of his name.

“Shindo?” Akio turned and faced him. “Hey... how are you doing? How’s the life of studying to become a hero?”
“Insanely hard and dangerous,” Shindo laughed. “But look at you. You changed so much after you left Ketsubutsu...”

“Well, I never enjoyed hero training nor did I want to become a hero,” Akio told him with a shrug. “It just wasn’t for me - felt like I was stuck in a cage.”

“Nakagame knew about that,” Shindo shared. “She always felt you wanted hero training to end and you tend to look at your watch during hero training so you know what time it will end.”

“Guilty as charged,” Akio laughed. “But I think between us two, you have a better backstory compared to mine. You go to U.A. now right? I know that you reverted back to a first year but still; you are now attending the number one hero school in the country for free. You must have been one hell of a student if you caught U.A.’s attention...”

Shindo was confused on how he knew all of that.

“How did you...?”

“Know?” Akio completed for him. “I may have left Ketsubutsu but you guys didn’t remove me from the class group chat.”

“Oh...” Shindo laughed.

“Yeah, oh,” Akio beamed.

“Akio,” a voice of a girl said. Both turned to the source of the feminine voice.

“Yumna...?” Akio said as she saw her carrying a large box of props.

“Sorry for interrupting but I really need you to go to the costume department and help your boyfriend out with all of the stuff U.A.’s Class 1-B needs,” Yumna sighed. “It’s just a freaking zoo with the Showcase happening today and almost everyone from the costume department has their hands full. Can you help me out? I am not sure if I can make it back there in time to help him since I need to also help out the crew backstage.”
“I’ll head their soon, don’t worry,” Akio told her. “Plus, try not to worry a lot or you’ll get your...”

“My hijab will definitely be in a bunch if you don’t start moving,” Yumna said strenly for him before she looked to her watch. “I need to go, the event will start in exactly 30 minutes so move fast...!”

With that, Yumna quickly left the two teens alone.

“Well, I gotta go now I have my drink and duty calls but it’s nice seeing you Shindo,” Akio told him. “See you around and break a leg at your class’s performance!”

As Akio waved him a goodbye before he running off, Shindo returned to the previous problem he had. Which drink should he get from the two vending machines in front him? Shindo then decided to go for a bottle of his usual Calpis. But he also added a bottle of Qoo apple drink too before he left the vending machine area.

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“Nervous?” Izuku asked Ojiro.

Both were standing in the left wing of the stage where Ojiro was set to emerge from. Also with them were Sero, Shindo, Kaminari, and Todoroki; the four boys who formed the doo-wop group. In the background, Sero was currently using Izuku’s steam inhaler while Shindo was drinking a bottle of Calpis. Todoroki’s hair was also being styled by Kaminari.

“Yes,” The blonde teen admitted as his tail said it all. “Even though I was one of the main characters my class’s cultural festival presentation, I don’t think I’ve ever acted out in front of an audience that big or important. I’m getting quite nervous.”

“I understand,” the freckled teen said. “But did you know being nervous can be good?”

“How?” Ojiro asked.
“It helps you be more alert and gets you pumped up!” Izuku told him.

“I just hope I don’t get too nervous to the point I freeze out there,” Ojiro said, scratching his cheek.

“Well, as long you just put your heart into it, you'll do great!” Izuku placed a reassuring hand on Ojiro’s shoulder.

“Hey Izuku,” A female voice called out to the green-haired teen and turned to the day’s stage manager.

“Yeah Yumna?”

“Is everyone in 1-A ready and in their places?” The Turkish girl asked, wearing a professional-looking headphone with an integrated microphone.

“Yeah,” Izuku said. “Brendon and I made them go to their spots already.”

“Good,” She said. “We’re going up in five. Everyone should get ready...”

“Thank you, five!” Izuku responded as she walked back to her post, talking into the integrated microphone of the headphones.

“What does ‘thank you, five’ mean?” The blonde, tailed teen asked.

“‘The ‘thank you, five’ is a response that means you heard her directions,” Izuku said to Ojiro. “Thank you five, is also a polite and professional way to reply to the five minute call. Yumna, our stage manager for today, now knows that everyone is on the same track and the show can get started as all of the cast and crew are in their places. I know you or 1-A isn’t familiar with theatre slang so I decided to fill in for you guys.”

“Oh... thanks!” Ojiro said. “And thanks for explaining to me some of your theatre language stuff.”
“If you want to thank me, knock it out of the park ‘Calogero’,” Izuku smiled.

“You got it Mr. Director,” Ojiro beamed back at him.

Since the backstage could only handle so much people, Class 1-B were asked to wait out in a spacious room near the left stage wing. To see what was going on the stage, they turned to a large screen that provided them all of the live action footage. Alongside 1-B are Sky and Raleigh, and beside them were their respective boyfriends, Akio and Manuel.

“Know what song they’re doing?” Monoma asked Raleigh as the live video stream fed the TV.

“Belmont Avenue from the musical *A Bronx Tale*. That street sign which says ‘187th Street’ and ‘Belmont Avenue’ is a dead give away on what number they’ll perform,” Raleigh said. “We are gonna see a bunch of doo-wopping from them.”

“What’s doo-wopping?” Monoma asked as he was not familiar with the term.

“You’ll see...”

On the screen, all but one of the stage lights dimmed but one shined on the doo-wop group which was composed of Sero, Kaminari, Shindo and Todoroki. They started to sing while snapping their fingers at the same time:

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[Doo-Wop Group]

Whoo-hoo-oo

Lao-lao-lao
Ah-ah-ah
Woo-hoo, duh-duh
Dah-ah-ah
Woo-hoo, duh-duh

A spotlight then shined on Ojiro, who had his hair slick back and was wearing a leather jacket.

[Calogero, spoken]

It's 3AM in the Bronx, New York.
I'm on the corner of 187th and Belmont Avenue.
This was my neighborhood.
I can still hear a million voices in my head.
Hear a million stories.

As Ojiro and the Doo-Wop group sang their parts, dim red lights barely lit the background, showing the silhouettes of the other characters.

[Calogero, sung]

This is a Bronx Tale.
And it's my story.
The world I lived in.
The people I knew.

It's just a Bronx Tale.
And, like they all do,
It starts right here on Belmont Avenue.

As the beat changed, the street sign moved to the side while the Doo-Wop group moved to rear left area of the stage. Ojiro then moved to the center.

[Calogero, spoken]
My name is Calogero Lorenzo Alfredo Romano Arnetti!

As expected, the audience laughed at how fast he pronounced his character’s full name while he quickly walked around the stage. Ojiro then pointed to a building on stage.

[Calogero, spoken]
This is my building. And That’s my stoop. My stoop!

As the spotlight shined on Ojiro, he moved to the center of the stage again.

[Calogero, spoken]
I grew up on a block called the shade 50.
It’s where the 12 wise guys hung out

And on long summer nights,
All through the neighborhood,
You would hear the sounds of young Italian men romancing their women!

Mina then strutted by in high heels and form fitting clothes from the left side of the stage and it was
not long 'til Shoji went out from the left side and called out to her.

[Young Italian Man, spoken]
Hey! Get back in the fucking car!

Mina just gave Shoji a middle finger before continuing to walk away before he too left the stage along with the four men composing the Doo-Wop Group.

[Calogero, spoken]
My neighborhood is paradise to me.

[Calogero, sung]
I can hear the church-bells and smell the freshly baked bread.

[Men and Women]
Ah-oo

[Calogero]
See the storefront awnings.
The neon green, white and red.

Kirishima then walked on stage, holding a crate of Apples.

[Men and Women]
Ah-oo

*Sato then walked on stage, holding real and freshly baked cannolis alongside Uraraka and Shoji.*

*[Calogero]*

Cannolis on tray after tray,
Salamis strung up on display.
And Italians are all that you see!

*The Doo-Wop then reappeared on the left side of stage with a jump spin as they sang.*

*[Men]*

Yeah, yeah! And the sidewalk's swinin'!

*Mina then appeared alongside with Momo on the other side of the stage.*

*[Men and Women]*

Yeah, yeah!
And the girls are singin'
shoop shoop
shoop shoop!
The male Doo-Wop group moved to the right of the stage as Mina and Momo moved to the left to meet with Jirou who was at the street sign waiting for both of them. Shoji and Uraraka then walked of the stage.

[Calogero]

As they pass my stoop.

And the pushcart peddlers,

They hawk their wares door to door!

Then Tokoyami passed by with a cart full of wares, hawking.

[Phil, hawking]

Pesce fresca!

Pesce fresca!

[Calogero]

While the jukebox jockeys
dance in the candy store

Ojiro then transitioned with the Doo-Wop group, dancing alongside with them, trying to impress the girl group - now composed of Mina, Momo and Jirou.

[Guys]

Ba Da Da,

Ba Ba Ba Dada!
The girls then briefly danced along with them but not join their side.

[Guys and Girls]

Ba Da Da,

Ba Ba Ba Dada!

Ojiro broke off from the Doo-Wop group as he moved to the front of the building. The Doo-Wop Group stood nearby.

[Calogero]

Grandmas callin' across!

From the balcony, everyone can see Tsuyu in an elderly woman’s outfit.

[Grandma, calling]

Cia, bambini!

[Calogero]

While stirring the Sunday sauce

The Doo-Wop group happily called out to Tsuyu.
Ciao, Nonna!

And in the middle, was me!

The Doo-Wop group then did a jump spin before doing a series of sharp dance moves alongside with the girls.

Oh, oh.

And the street starts sighin'

Whoa, whoa

When the girls strut by in a group.

C'mon, c'mon

C'mon, c'mon

C'mon, c'mon...

Ojiro then walked to the side as the girl group and the Doo-Wop group both danced at the center of the stage.
[Calogero]

Strut right past my stoop!

Shindo and Todoroki the first ran up to the stage, Todoroki was holding a large stick. The were later joined by Sero and Kaminari.

[Doo-Wop Group]

Stickball, kick the can

[Women]

Orchard beach in the sand

The Doo-Wop group then started dancing towards the girl group.

[Doo-Wop Group]

Find a girl and cop a feel.
Brylcreem, wet dream.
Bring her home and close the deal.

The girl group then placed a hand in front of them as they danced towards the Doo-Wop Group.

[Women]

No, no, no.
No, no, no.
No, no, no.

The Doo-Wop Group then took over for a bit, Kaminari doing a falsetto while he did a little dance.

[Doo-Wop Group]
Next year's Frankie Vallis
Croonin' in the alleys,
Getting; those falsettos to soar!

From the stoop on stage, out came a Aoyama holding a transistor radio. Almost everyone on stage went to her, to listen on the radio.

[Men]
While the carmelie sisters
Scream at the transistors
Ev'ry time the bombers score!

[Mel Allen, on the radio]
That ball is going, going... it is gone!

Everyone on stage celebrated before Ojiro and the Doo-Wop group danced in the center of the stage as the cast in the background breathed life on the stage. Meanwhile, the girl group did their own dance by the street sign.
Hangin' with the crew

On the stoop,
on the stoop, the stoop

On Belmont Avenue!

On the stoop,
on the stoop, the stoop

Gotta love the view!

As Ojiro was front and center, the Doo-Wop group and the girls did their sharp dance routines in the background. The ensemble also did their parts in making their set feel alive.
Kouda then briefly joined Ojiro front and center, doing a little dance before they moved to different parts of the stage; Ojiro to the nearby street sign while Kouda to a set of tables and chairs where Sato and Kirishima were.

[All]
And on the sultry summer nights,
Man, the corner would rock!
The romance, the laughs, the fights.
The universe on one little block!

[Women]
Ay-oh!

[Men]
Everybody!

[Women]
Everywhere

[Men]
Everywhere I go!

With the dance break, the girl group and Doo-Wop Group completely took over the stage, doing a series of sharp and precise dance moves. The pairs who danced were Shindo and Momo, Sero and Jirou, with Todoroki and Mina in the middle of it all. Kaminari was hanging off a metal trellis on stage, snapping his fingers. As the Doo-Woo group and girls continued to dance, the rest of the
ensemble joined in, clapping their hands as if they were all celebrating.

[Calogero and Wise Guys]
Belmont Avenue!

[Women and Men]
Yeah, yeah!
And the noise is growin'

[Calogero and Wise Guys]
Hangin' with my crew!

[Women and Doo Wop Group]
Yeah, yeah!
And the boys are goin'
shoop, shoop, shoop

[Calogero and Wise Guys]
Gotta love the view!

[All]
Belmont Avenue!

The Beaton the music changed and the festivities stopped as Bakugou walked on the stage, looking like a mob boss. Everyone seemingly formed a straight line before most of the ensemble walked to different parts of the stage.
Woah-oh, woah-oh, woah-oh...

Bakugou talked to Shinsou before he too walked away while Ojiro faced the Met audience.

[Calogero, spoken]
And then there was Sonny.
Sonny had five fingers
but he only used three

Bakugou then did 'the horns,' an Italian hand gesture towards the audience. It got them laughing hard.

[Calogero, spoken]
He was the number one man in the neighborhood.
All day and all night, he'd be right here on the corner.

Bakugou started nodding his head to the audience as he looked at them with his usual poker face.

[Calogero, spoken]
He would stand here
noddin' his head to all the old
ladies goin' by with their shopping,
And they treated him like a god.
And in my neighborhood, he was a god.

I couldn't take my eyes off him.

But he never ever looked at me. Never.

Until one day. I was nine years old...

Ojiro pointed to Hagakure who came out of the stoop again but wearing clothes similar to that of what a young boy would wear. A loud crash was heard before Iida came out apologizing to Bakugou's character as he apparently crashed the car he was parking into his. Bakugou then pulled out a prop gun and shot Iida. As Iida doubled over and laid down on his stomach, Bakugou shot him in the head again. Some of the male cast members then started to move off stage.

Shinsou looked to Bakugou to make him go along with him before he walked away with other male ensemble members. Before Bakugou walked away, he looked to the invisible girl who was dressed as the young version of Calogero. As Bakugou walked away, both Ojiro and Hagakure moved to Iida’s unmoving body and stared down on it.

[Calogero, sung]

This is a Bronx Tale

And it's my story.

The one that shattered the world that I knew.

Both Hagakure and Ojiro looked to the audience as tailed teen continued to sing.

[Calogero, sung]

Here's how it happened.

And all of it's true.

It starts right here,

On Belmont Avenue...
On the TV, the stage lights dimmed but the audience can be heard cheering for it.

As 1-B clapped after the performance of their rival class, Fukidashi turned to Sky.

“Think 1-B’s gonna beat what they put out?” Fukidashi asked. “They showed off a strong performance. It seems like people from your school loved it.”

Sky smirked. “It was strong but from what I saw, 1-A had it coming... I might even go as far as to say that your class has it in the bag considering what we have planned for the audience today.”

---

1-A, now occupying the same open room as 1-B did, we’re anticipating the show of the other class. In the room with them was also Smokes.

“I wonder what they have in store,” Mina said out loud, still in her costume.

“We’re about to find out,” Smokes said.

The TV then showed Fukidashi on top of a moving platform where Shishida, Pony, Shoda, Shiozaki, Kendo, Komori and Bondo were all holding various musical instruments, dressed in formal art-deco inspired evening wear.

“Oh, it’s starting!” Hagakure said.

The people behind Fukidashi then all started playing some sort of jazz music while various voices singing was heard from the background:
Liz
Pop!

Annie
Six!

June
Squish!

Hunyak
Uh uh!

Velma
Cicero!

Mona
Lipschitz!

Fukidashi then spoke into the vintage-looking microphone in an unexpectedly smooth voice.

Bandmaster, spoken
And now, the six merry murderers
of the Cook County Jail
In their rendition of The Cell Block Tango...
The light on band platform dimmed before the platform itself moved to the side, revealing six individual, movable jail bars. From left to right, the lights revealed the people behind the bars - it was Kaibara, Kodai, Kuroiro, Yanagi, Monoma and Tokage. All of them wore orange prison pants and sneakers, they also each had a long-sleeved prison shirt wrapped around their waists. But their tops were different; all the boys wore matching gay pride tank tops while the girls wore different pride short-sleeved pride shirts - a lesbian pride-shirt for Kodai, an ace pride shirt for Yanagi and a bisexual pride shirt for Tokage. Each of them did a different and rather pose whenever they sang their lines...

[Liz]
Pop!

[Annie]
Six!

[June]
Squish!

[Hunyak]
Uh uh!

[Velma]
Cicero!

[Mona]
Lipschitz!

[Liz]
Pop!

[Annie]
Six!

[June]
Squish!

[Hunyak]
Uh uh!

[Velma]
Cicero!

[Mona]
Lipschitz!

[Liz]
Pop!

[Annie]
Six!

[June]
Squish!

[Hunyak]
Uh uh!

[Velma]
Cicero!
[Mona]
Lipschitz!

*The jazz music then became even louder.*

[Liz]
Pop!

[Annie]
Six!

[June]
Squish!

[Hunyak]
Uh uh!

[Velma]
Cicero!

[Mona]
Lipschitz!

*The six the moved their jail bars towards the front of the stage and spread out in sync.*
[Liz]
Pop!

[Annie]
Six!

[June]
Squish!

[Hunyak]
Uh uh!

[Velma]
Cicero!

[Mona]
Lipschitz!

The six of them started to do the same dance against their respective jail bars once they finished getting to their next blocking.

[All six]
He had it coming,
he had it coming
He only had himself to blame!
If you'd have been there,
if you'd have seen it
Monoma then pointed to the audience from behind his own set of bars...

[Velma]
I betcha you would have done the same!

[Liz]
Pop!

[Annie]
Six!

[June]
Squish!

[Hunyak]
Uh uh!

[Velma]
Cicero!

[Mona]
Lipschitz!

[Liz]
Pop!
The jail bars on the furthest left moved, creating an opening big enough for Kaibara to step out on. On the other hand, Tsuburaba appeared from the floor on a rising stage lift, sitting on a chair. His flatcap, tanktop, denim pants and sneakers were all black. Once Tsuburaba was completely on stage, Kaibara went over to him and sat on him, wrapping an arm around his boyfriend. Kaibara then started talking in a smooth voice.

[Liz, spoken]

You know how people have
these little habits that get you down?
Like...Bernie! Bernie likes to chew gum...
no, not chew. Pop!

So, I come home this one day and
I'm really irritated and looking for a little sympathy, and there's Bernie. Lying' on the couch, drinking a beer and chewing--no, not chewing, *Popping!*

*Kaibara then walked around Tsuburaba, running a finger around his shoulder and chest before he craned down and rested his head on Tsuburaba's right shoulder.*

[Liz, spoken]

So, I said to him, I said

"You pop that gum one more time…"

*Tsuburaba then did his quirk's trick wherein he blew and made a visible but weak piece of square solid air appear on his mouth before making it completely popping it. Kaibara then just shrugged*

[Liz, spoken]

And he did.

So I took the shotgun off the wall and I fired two warning shots... Into his head!

*Kaibara then pulled out a cleverly hidden piece of a long red silk cloth from Tsuburaba's back. With the spotlight on both of them, they both did a series of slick, clean dance steps similar to that of tango but also depicting of Tsuburaba's Bernie character being attacked and overpowered by Kaibara's Liz character.*
[Liz and others, sung]

He had it coming,

he had it coming

He only had himself to blame!

If you'd have been there,

if you'd have heard it

I betcha you would have done the same!

As Kaibara and Tsuburaba danced and stopped in a dimly lit area of the stage where only their silhouettes were shown. This signaled Kodai to come out of her jail and walked to where Kamakiri was strategically standing - wearing the exact costume as Tsuburaba sans a hat. The spotlight shined on them as Kodai started talking with a small smile, her voice sultry.

[Annie, spoken]

I met Ezekiel Young from Salt Lake City

about two years ago and he told me he was single.

And we hit it off right away.

So, we started living together.

He'd go to work, he'd come home,

I'd fix him a drink, we'd have dinner

Then I found out, single he told me?

Single, my ass!

Kodai suddenly brought the tall Kamakiri down. She then sat on his chest.
[Annie, spoken]

Not only was he married, oh no. He had SIX wives;
one of those Mormons, you know?

Kodai then did a gesture of pressing an imaginary door-bell when a ding-dong sound was heard. The audience got the musical Easter-egg joke, causing them to laugh hard.

[Annie, spoken]

So that night, when he came home from work,
I fixed him his drink as usual…
You know, some guys just can't hold their arsenic!

Like Kaibara from earlier, Kodai pulled a cleverly hidden piece of long red silk cloth from Kamakiri's chest. As Kamakiri stood up, both him and Kodai did a series of precise and calculated tango along steps. The pair was joined by Tsuburaba and Kaibara, doing the exact steps they were executing.

[Annie and others, sung]

He had it coming, he had it coming
He took a flower in its prime!
And then he used it; and he abused it
It was a murder, but not a crime!

Once the pairs from earlier stopped dancing, Kuroiro moved his jail door to the side. He was
immediately joined by Honenuki before they did a number of rather aggressive steps. Kuroiro's voice also sounded very passive aggressive - but clearly leaned toward the aggressive part.

[June, spoken]

Now, I'm standing in the kitchen
carving up the chicken for dinner,
minding my own business,
and in storms my husband Wilbur in a jealous rage.

"You been screwing the milkman!" he says.

He was crazy, and he kept on screaming,
"You been screwing the milkman!"

Then he ran into my knife.

They ended their hug with a tight hug, the colors of their skin completely contrasting. Kuroiro faced the audience.

[June, spoken]

He ran into my knife

Ten times...

Kuroiro then pulled out a very long red cloth from Honenuki as the two earlier pairs danced in the background. The jet black boy used the red silk cloth to pull his boyfriend closer with a sly grin. As they were finally close enough, both Kuroiro and Honenuki tossed away the cloth into the orchestra pit as they danced along with both Kaibara, Tsuburaba, Kodai and Kamakiri.
[All six, sung]

If you'd have been there,
if you'd have seen it
I betcha you would have done the same!

The rhythm of the music slowed down and the others stopped dancing as the jail door of Yanagi opened. Emerging with her was Tetsutetsu. Both of them did a very delicate ballet, in place near her jail door. The white-haired girl then explained her story... in Hungarian - but with a soft yet pleading tone to her voice.

[Hunyak, spoken]

Mit keresek én itt? Azt mondják, a híres lakóm lefogta a férjem, én meg lecsaptam a fejét.
De nem igaz. Én ártatlan vagyok.
Nem tudom, miért mondja Uncle Sam, hogy én tettem.
Próbáltam a rendőrségen megmagyarázni, de nem értették meg

Another spotlight was suddenly lit on Kuroiro and Honenuki.

[June, spoken]

Yeah, but did you do it?

Yanagi shook her head.
[Hunyak, spoken]

Uh uh, not guilty!

This time, Tetsutetsu pulled a white silk cloth from Yanagi’s back and held it up high before their light dimmed. The four pairs on stage then slowly danced as Awase opened Monoma’s jail door. When Monoma got out, Awase handed him a vape pen before he linked his arm with Monoma’s. Once they were arm-in-arm with each other, both started to walk around stage as Monoma told his lines in a sweet yet smoky voice.

[Velma, spoken]

My sister, Veronica and I had this double act.

And my husband, Charlie, traveled around with us.

With the last number in our act,

we did 20 acrobatic tricks in a row

- one two three four five, splits, spread eagles,

back flips, flip flops, one right after the other!

While Monoma and Awase stopped in the center of the stage, the copycat blonde continued with his line.

[Velma, spoken]

Well, this one night before the show

we were down at the Hotel Cicero, the three of us,

boozing and having a few laughs.

And we ran out of ice, so I go out to get some...
I come back, open the door…

And there's Veronica and Charlie doing number seventeen!

the spread eagle!

With the beat of the drum, Monoma wrapped an arm around Awase's strong neck and effortlessly did a dramatic full-split, surprising the audience. The dramatic stunt also forced Awase to crane down to him. Monoma continued telling his character's story while he slowly removed a long silk red cloth with the lone arm he had around the headband wearer's neck and wrapped it around with his fist.

[Velma, spoken]

Well, I was in such a state of shock,

I completely blacked out.

I can't remember a thing.

It wasn't until later,

when I was washing the blood off my hands,

I even knew they were dead!

Monoma then swiped Awase's legs before he stood up and making Awase do a very technical and precise tango with him alongside the four other pairs on stage.

[Velma, sung]

They had it coming,

they had it coming!

They had it coming all along!

I didn't do it, but if I done it
How could you tell me that I was wrong?

After a step, Kaibara, Kodai, Kuroiro, Yanagi and Monoma smoothly separated from their partners on sync and chased them off the stage. They then transitioned into a new ‘V’ formation where Monoma took the front and center as he sang.

[Velma, sung]

They had it coming, they had it coming!
They had it coming all along!
I didn't do it, but if I done it
How could you tell me that I was wrong?

The five of them then approached the final jail door where Tokage strutted out. They watched as they saw her approach Rin where he emerge from the same stage lift Tsuburaba used. But this time, Rin was standing. Tokage then wrapped herself with Rin's arms before she did a little dance with him and narrated her character's story with a thick yet sultry tone.

[Mona, spoken]

I loved Alvin Lipschitz more than I could possibly say.
He was a real artistic guy, sensitive, a painter...
But he was always trying to “find himself”.

He'd go out every night looking for himself,
and on the way, he found…Ruth,
Gladys, Rosemary and Irving.
Tokage then stopped dancing with Rin before she circled him like a vulture.

[Mona, spoken]

I guess you can say we broke up
because of artistic differences.

She stopped at Rin's back and pulled out a silk red cloth from his back pocket. Tokage then wrapped the fabric around Rin's neck before pulling it dramatically, suggesting that her character strangled his lover who was 'finding himself.'

[Mona, spoken]

He saw himself as alive
And I saw him dead!

Tokage then dramatically pushed and tossed Rin into the nearest stage wing before she danced and sang along with the other five.

[All six]

The dirty bum, bum, bum, bum, bum!
The dirty bum, bum, bum, bum, bum!
They had it coming, they had it coming
They had it coming all along!

'Cause if they used us, and they abused us
How could they tell us that we were wrong?
He had it coming, he had it coming
He only had himself to blame!

If you'd have been there, If you'd have seen it
I betcha you would have done the same!

All of six of them started walking towards the front and center of the stage, saying snippets of their most memorable lines...

[Liz, spoken]
You pop that gum one more time...

[Annie, spoken]
Single my ass...

[June, spoken]
Ten times!

[Hunyak, spoken]
Miért csukott Uncle Sam börtönbe!

[Velma, spoken]
Number 17, the spread eagle!

[Mona, spoken]
Artistic differences!
They did a slick yet technical final routine before heading back and closing their respective jail doors, doing a dramatic pose...

[All six]

I betcha you would have done the same!

As they spotlight dimmed and they can hear the crowd cheer loudly, most of 1-A was suddenly unnerved.

“Uraraka,” Smokes called to her, not looking away from the flatscreen.

“Yeah?” Uraraka said.

“Can you use your quirk on me?” Asked Smokes. “My weave flew to outer space and I need to go get it thanks to those guys...”

“Well that’s a worrying joke,” Shinsou flatly said to all of 1-A.

“Why is it a worrying joke?” Iida asked as his boyfriend.

“It means 1-B did good,” Shinsou said. “Maybe even good enough to beat us...”

After the Metropolitan's Showcase was over, 1-A and 1-B were asked to gather at the Met's receiving area. They were all now wearing their civilian clothes and most members of both classes were pretty anxious with the impending result. They acknowledged that each class didn't back down in their performances. Waiting with 1-A and 1-B were their respective Metropolitan student
choreographers and directors.

Their assigned student choreographers and directors shushed them when Vlad, Aizawa, Midnight, Principal Nezu, Cementoss, Power Loader, Thirteen, Ectoplasm Toshinori and Snipe suddenly appeared from the steps. Alongside them were Principal Yamamoto of the Metropolitan, pro hero Uwabami, Akio, Manuel, Smokes and Yumna, the event's stage manager.

"I have to say," Uwabami started. "Both classes put on incredible shows today - maybe some of the best I've see during this year's showcase. If I didn't know some of you here, I would mistake you guys for being Metropolitan students. But before we announce the results, why don't we clap for your directors and choreographers? If it weren't for their guidance, who knows what you have put out on that stage instead."

Cheers and applause for Izuku, Brendon, Raleigh and Sky were heard throughout the area.

"Would you boys like to add anything?" Principal Yamamoto asked of her students.

Both Raleigh and Sky looked to each other before they both silently agreed that Raleigh will be the one speaking on their behalf.

"I would say Sky and I had a great time working with 1-B," Raleigh said. "They all surprised us on what they can do with their existing talents and surprised us even more when they executed what we taught them with soul and precision. If we had to work with them again in the future, we'll gladly take that opportunity."

"Couldn't have said it better myself," Sky said as he wrapped a friendly arm around the tall, dark blonde's shoulder.

Izuku then spoke up.

"While joyous isn't the word I'd apply for each of their personalities, I did see a class who embodied that energy on stage. It was just an sight incredible to see people who I now call my friends bring their characters to life. I hope, that in the future, Brendon and I can see them bring more characters to life on stage..."

"And if I may add, Kaminari, Sero, Shindo and Todoroki make for a very strong doo-wop group,"
Brendon continued, causing most of 1-A to laugh.

"Now that we heard what they had to say," Principal Yamamoto turned to Yumna. "Ms. Al-Arashi, I believe I assigned you to announce the winner of the audience vote."

"Yes you did Ms. Yamamoto!" Yumna said before she cleared her throat to announce the winner. "And the winner, with a five percent advantage in the audience vote, is... Class 1-B! It effectively also means that you guys get the crucial point in order to edge out and obtain the win in your dead heat joint training!"

"YES!" Awase jumped up and down, hugging Monoma tightly.

"OH MY GOD!" Pony cheered before shouting alongside Komori and Kendo.

"AHHH" Fukidashi screamed alongside Tsuburaba and Tokage.

Class 1-A graciously accepted their defeat and clapped, though some - which meant only Bakugou - were clearly bitter about losing to the other hero class.

"Don't worry 1-A, you're still going to get a high grade for what you put out there," Midnight said. "But it's just not going to be as high as 1-B's..."

As 1-A and 1-B waited for their respective buses that were headed back to U.A., Todoroki talked with his short, green-haired boyfriend at a distance away from most ears.

"...Shoto, again, I'm really sorry 1-A didn't win. I did everything in my power to make sure you guys stand out."

"I told you Izuku, it's fine," Todoroki assured him, wrapping him in a comforting hug. "Everyone believed in what you and Brendon taught us. Even Bakugou - though he won't admit that out loud."
"I still want to make it up to you," Izuku said before he let out a sigh.

"Okay," Todoroki entertained, lightly making his freckled boyfriend face him. "How 'bout you come along with me to a dinner with my family? Fuyumi says my mom is finally getting out from the psychiatric ward next Friday and she wants to celebrate by having me and my older brother Natsuo over. And since I talk about you with my mom all the time during my visits, it'd be good surprise for her if you'd come along..."

"Yeah?" Izuku's face lit up.

"You get to come along with me and my mom gets to know you, it's a win-win situation." Todoroki explained to him with a small smile. "My siblings can be a bit overbearing though but I think they'll like you."

"Okay, I'll go with you!"

"See, you next week then," Todoroki smiled.

Suddenly, the hissing of airbrakes pierced the air. It was 1-A's bus, driven by Snipe. Most of the class waited for the doors to open before they started to eagerly board the large vehicle.

"Well, there's my ride," Todoroki said before he placed quick peck on Izuku's cheek. "See you next week, Izuku. And prepare for Fuyumi's cheek pinching."

"I will," Izuku beamed before he let the dual-toned teen go.

As he watched Todoroki walk up and board the bus in a relaxed manner along with his classmates, Smokes suddenly stood beside Izuku.

"Hey, have you seen Tarraco anywhere?" Smokes inquired.

"Manuel just left with Raleigh a while ago," Izuku told Smokes as he faced him. "Why?"
"Looks like I'm keeping his charging cable over the weekend then if I forget to message him about it," Smokes shrugged. "Anyway, you hungry? I'm kinda in the mood for some katsudon..."

Izuku practically perked up at the last word.

"I know this great place not far from here!"

---

[ (d)Anker added Midoriya, Brendon and Raleigh to the new group chat Class 1-Aizawa + 3 ]

8:08 p.m.

(d)Anker: @Midoriya @Brendon @Raleigh you three need all new usernames!! everyone in this new chat has them already!

Midoriya: why? and what happened to the old 1-A class group chat?

Paul Hollywood: I asked Kaminari to delete it because I shared my secret key lime pie recipe over it by accident

Paul Hollywood: no one's allowed to know my secret in crafting the ultimate, blue-ribbon winning key lime pie

Brendon: ^ basically me or my fam whenever someone asks how we Youngs make our famous Swedish meatballs (which I sometimes put on top of my pizzas)

Raleigh: What's your heritage again?
**Brendon**: my dad's side is Irish while my mom's side is Swedish. And before the Italians moved in, my grandma on my mom's side says that Carroll Gardens used to be a Brooklyn neighborhood full of Scandinavians.

**McFloat**: as much as I love food or hear more of @Brendon's roots, you three might want to think of a new username before Kaminari does... his fingers are hovering over the keyboard as I type this from the kitchen.

**Midoriya** has changed his username to **Evan Hansen**

**Raleigh** has changed his username to **bi my papes**

**Brendon** has changed his username to **Young Railgun**

**McFloat**: wow, that was fast.

**(d)Anker**: why did you warn them?!

**McFloat**: they deserve usernames they like!

**bi my papes**: @Young Railgun I don't understand your username...

**Young Railgun**: because I generate a lot of electricity - which in turn, can make a ton of electromagnetic force, I apparently can do more than just fire off EMP bursts. If I stretch out and level my arms in front of me, I can turn into a railgun - complete with my eyes' target acquisition system. I just need a sturdy projectile that I can fire with.

**(d)Anker**: you're not 'Captain Snapback' anymore?
Young Railgun: I'm not a dance captain anymore ever since the Mean Girls musical ended.

Scotch™: @Master Shifu hey, haven't you always wanted to fight alongside Raleigh with two of our classmates?

bi my papes: tbh, I actually want to do this. I want to apply what the great master has been teaching me.

Evan Hansen: who the heck is Master Shifu?

Scotch™: 1-A’s very own martial arts specialist, Ojiro!!!

Evan Hansen: LMAO 😂😂😂

Master Shifu: Sero, you know I want to do it but where would we even fight?

Grumpy Neko: I could ask my dad for a venue...

McFloat: which dad?

Grumpy Neko: the sleepy one

Scotch™: Aizawa would let us use a venue?

Grumpy Neko: Technically, he can only recommend us one. That's because we're going to need both Principal Nezu's and Cementoss-sensei's approval first to actually use it. If we do snag a venue but my sleepy dad can't supervise over us, we're also going to have to look for one of the other teachers who can fill in.

Master Shifu: What's our chances on getting their approval?
**Grumpy Neko:** Your best chance is you being backed up by my boyfriend and Momo. They're responsible and it will give Nezu and Cementoss the impression you're really not screwing around just to destroy shit.

**4-D Printer:** @Master Shifu I can prepare a statement for you if need one!

**MotorSport:** normally I would disapprove something like this but because I am admittedly curious on what Raleigh's quirk is like during combat. Plus, we would have a certified U.A. staff to watch over us to assure our safety.

**Young Railgun:** I am just cackling at Iida's new username...

**MotorSport:** Why?

**Young Railgun:** it's because of this song...

**baeyerdynamic:** I knew there was a reference hidden somewhere in Iida's username.

**Politoed:** I seriously cannot picture Iida doing a song like that.

**Grumpy Neko:** true, Tenya's too polite...

**MotorSport:** I need to be a model citizen if I ever want to be a great pro for all! Cussing is not becoming of a hero.

**Master Shifu:** if we're pushing through this combat training thing, who's gonna make up the other team if I'm going to fight along with Raleigh?

**(d)Anker:** I want to do it!

**Politoed:** wait, you'd actually go up against them? Did you even think about this?
baeyerdynamic: remember Tsu, thinking isn't Kaminari's strongest asset.

(d)Anker: rude!

baeyerdynamic: you didn't deny it which means I'm right

(d)Anker: okay, you got me there

(d)Anker: but who'll team up with me?

Young Railgun: I'll do it!

Evan Hansen: WHY ARE MY BESTFRIENDS GOING TO FIGHT?

McFloat: aren't you curious on what they look like when they go all out?

Evan Hansen: but I don't want them to kill each other! And Kaminari, don't you want to win? Brendon doesn't even train with Raleigh and Ojiro!

(d)Anker: meh, I'll take my chances

acid reflux: lmao, that is such a Kaminari reply

Continental: you guys are really pushing through with this combat training thing with those art students huh?

acid reflux: *dramatically gasps* and so the old man speaks. how do you do Shindo?
Continental: I'm just a year older than all of you guys!

acid relux: you're still older than us

(d)Anker: old man

Continental: lol, okay. At least this wise old man isn't flunking Japanese Lit and Hero Law like you two

acid relux: …

(d)Anker: ...

Mr. Handy: damn, he put you two in your places.

Continental: anyways, to the two Americans who wants to fight each other alongside Kaminari and Ojiro, do you two even have hero costumes that can efficiently enhance your quirk's ability or mitigate weaknesses you might have?

bi my papes: I don't have one but I think I can ask my boyfriend to come up with some design ideas. And I'll ask my dad and my aunt too if they have connections with someone or know a hero support company within the prefecture who can make one for me.

Young Railgun: well, I don't have rich boy connections so I'm fucked...

Evan Hansen: I'll make a design for you! I'll try to ask Smokes if he can come up with something too.

(d)Anker: and while this is a bit of a gamble, you might want to ask Hatsume of U.A.'s support department to make your costume come true. If you can survive her experimentations, the end product she normally puts out is very good! Come by school next week on any weekday so I can introduce you guys to her. Just let me know first if you guys are dropping by!
**Young Railgun:** looks like I don't have to worry much about my costume ordeal then...

**Grumpy Neko:** @Young Railgun may the lord help you on the very moment you blurt out what you want from Hatsume

**Young Railgun:** as a Catholic, thanks. but since that ominous warning came from you and I'm still Brendon, I'm suddenly scared.

**Grumpy Neko:** you're really going to have to deal with her explosions and 'babies.' trust me on that one

**mirage:** Guys!!! do you know where Kirishima is? Bakugou and I have been trying to contact him but he's not replying.

**Mr. Handy:** he went with Fumikage at the 1-B dorms. Fumi wanted to borrow some horror movies from Yanagi, the girl with the poltergeist quirk

**grenadier:** what???

**grenadier:** Can someone fucking explain to me why the fuck is Eijirou with those loser extras?

**Paul Hollywood:** I asked Kirishima to deliver a cake ordered by Tsuburaba - you know, the guy who trapped Shinsou and Kouda in one of his solid air prisons during joint training...

**Zootopia:** (O_O)

**Paul Hollywood:** Don't worry Kouda, he just did what he can do for his team. He doesn't mean it.

**Zootopia:** (^o^)
**Politoed:** Oh I remember him. I wrapped my tongue around that guy. He reminded me on why I am a lesbian and will never be straight.

**Paul Hollywood:** The reason why I asked Kirishima to do it is because he gets along with 1-B well and they like him. And the reason why Tsuburaba ordered a cake from me is because they're going to celebrate Awase coming out of the closet.

**HVAC:** @4-D Printer yes, hello. you owe me two bowls of cold soba. I told you my gaydar was right.

**4-D Printer:** *sighs* fine... I'll take you to anywhere you want tomorrow.

**mirage:** why did Momo and Todoroki place opposing bets on Awase's sexuality?

**baeyerdynamic:** so the aristocratic homosexuals of 1-A can finally find out who has the superior gaydar between them once and for all.

**HVAC:** and today a clear winner has been decided.

**glitz:** @baeyerdynamic mademoiselle, you knew about this?

**baeyerdynamic:** wasn't my place to say so I just kept quiet about it until now.

**Honchkrow:** I am pleased to announce, from 1-B’s dorm, that Awase is... a bisexual.

**bi my papes:** another bi to add to the ranks... this warms my heart.

**Evan Hansen:** to those who think the world needs more bi’s, say aye

**Mr. Handy:** aye
(d)Anker: aye

McFloat: aye

MotorSport: aye

Continental: aye

grenadier: I rarely agree with Deku so you clowns better savor this...

grenadier: aye

Politoed: it's a good day if Midoriya and Bakugou are on the same page

Grenadier: we still lost to those extras in 1-B so the day still isn't good.

Mr. Handy: @Honchkrow where is Bakugou's sunshine boyfriend btw?

Honchkrow: hold on, I just saw him get his phone out

talc: GUYS! GUYS! GUYS! AWASE IS BI.

Mr. Handy: Fumi already told the class but can you tell him 'congratulations' for us?

talc: sure!

grenadier: why are you with them?
talc: I was only supposed to deliver Sato's cake to Tsuburaba but he and Tetsu encouraged me to stay! And look!

    talc sent Awaséblowingthecandlesonhisoutoftheclosetcakeasheisnowahappybisexual.mov

acid reflux: oh I wish I was there! That looks so fun!

Honchkrow: you should be because you would have seen Kirishima and Tetsutetsu doing this live this...

    Honchkrow sent KirishimaandTetsutetsusaying"they'veneverfeltsohardintheirlives"whileusingtheirquirks.mov

McFloat: HAHAHAHAHAHA

Master Shifu: okay, that is hilarious

grenadier: that's it, I'm going over there.

talc: let me have fun, please? I'm having a great time!

grenadier: fine. but don't have too much fun.

bi my papes: even though they have a very sincere relationship, Bakugou's so whipped lmao

Master Shifu: you're one to talk. I've seen how you act around Manuel.
Young Railgun: HAHAHAHA

bi my papes: @Master Shifu stop exposing me

Master Shifu: I should do this more often to you.

Evan Hansen: Ojiro taking receipts of Raleigh, this I stan.

mirage: *sheds an invisible happy tear then wipes it way with invisible thumb* I taught my boyfriend so well.

Chapter End Notes

One of my favorite ships is Ojiro x Screentime. It's because he deserves more.

What do you guys think of this chapter? Sound off in the comments below! :)

all of the new groupchat usernames:

Midoriya - Evan Hansen
Todoroki - HVAC
Bakugou - grenadier
Kirishima - talc
Uraraka - McFloat
Asui - Politoed
Iida - Motorsport
Shinsou - Grumpy Neko
Ojiro - Master Shifu
Hagakure - mirage
Aoyama - glitz
Tokoyami - Honchkrow
Shoji - Mr. Handy
Shindo - Continental
Kouda - Zootopia
Sato - Paul Hollywood
Raleigh - bi my papes (OC)
Brendon - Young Railgun (OC)
**When You're Home**

Chapter Summary

With Rei out of the psychiatric ward, the Todoroki siblings celebrate via dinner and Izuku gets invited to it. And within Izuku's circle of friends, it seems like everyone is coupling up - all except for one.

Chapter Notes

Approx. Reading Time: 1hr15mins

At the time of writing, reaching over 5,700 hits and 288 kudos is insane. For those who have been here from the start, thank you for the support. If you're all new to this, welcome to my story!

And as per usual, enjoy! :)

See the end of the chapter for more notes

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Friday, 6:48 p.m.

Smokes and Brendon were at Calle Mercado, the family-owned convenience store where the former works for. Smokes had to grab a few things for his legal guardian and Brendon accompanied him. However, Brendon went with him so he can ask Smokes a question that’s been on his mind ever since they left U.A., after Brendon’s costume fitting there.

“... so earlier at U.A.,” Brendon said to Smokes. “Why do you think Hatsume said that we were dating?”

“I don’t know,” Smokes replied while he placed a couple of cartons of Hokkaido milk in the wire shopping basket he was holding. “Maybe we reminded her of a ship she has? Your guess is as good as mine Bren. But hey, you did correct her assumption at least in saying that you’re dating Kimiko.”
“I just can’t get that question out of my mind, man,” Brendon admitted. “Hatsume said that her zoom quirk can see all... she also said that you look at me in the same way whenever a ‘baby’ of hers powers up for the very first time. Don’t you find it really weird she said all of that?”

Smokes answered Brendon as he chose a large pack of Hokkaido cheese and a small pack of Hokkaido butter from the cold shelf of his legal guardian’s store.

“She didn’t mean it Brendon, don’t think about it too much. You’re dating Kimiko and both of you like spending time with each other, right?”

Brendon nodded to his words.

“Then we’re clear here. Hatsume didn’t mean anything when she said I looked at you in the same way she looks at her inventions. And you really like Kimiko.”

“But it’s just that...” Brendon trailed.

“What?” Smokes looked to him. He was getting tired in answering the questions coming from the taller male.

Brendon sighed before he continued.
“You know how some people say that stereotypes are rooted in reality and shit?” Brendon asked. Smokes just nodded in reply as understood what he meant. “Do you think there was a truth in what Hatsume said about you staring at me? And how she thought we were dating and were boyfriends?”

Smokes thought about his questions. If he wanted to keep his big crush for the snapback-clad teen suppressed, he had to answer with caution and careful wording.

“I’m not sure if I even looked at you that way,” Smokes answered. “For all I know, I could’ve been just looking at you and Hatsume probably would’ve saw it in a different light. If you want the opinions of others, both Kaminari and Midoriya were there too. Maybe they can give an input that could be worth considering.”

“That is true,” Brendon considered.

“Good,” Smokes said before he looked at his shopping basket full of groceries. “And I think I have all of the stuff I need. I need to head into the employee’s only section so I can check all of these items out. After that, we can head back to my place so we can practice for the Santa Fe performance tomorrow. Daichi said he’ll buy some new stationary items first before he goes to my house.”

“Why do you have to check those items out in the employee’s only section?” Brendon said as looked down on his basket.

“This is Imelda’s groceries and I have to list it down as her expenses,” explained Smokes. “Plus, I also need to check my store tab too.”

“Where should I wait?” Brendon asked.
He watched Smokes walked away from him a bit to punch in a code at a keypad placed on a nearby steel door. The steel door unlocked with a green flash.

**Beep!**

“How about you wait outside?” Smokes said as he slid the grey door open. “The evening rush will be here soon and it won’t be long now ‘til it becomes too cozy in here.”

“Okay,” Brendon said. “I’ll see you in a few?”

“Yeah, see you in a few,” Smokes smiled before he headed inside the employee only area.

When Brendon got outside of the store, he turned to a bench beside some bike racks for the patrons of Calle Mercado.

The sky above slowly turned into dusk. Private cars, along with some occupied taxis and delivery vans whisked by in the street in front of him. There was a healthy amount of foot traffic too; a number of people stopped by the convenience store he emerged from.

Just as Brendon stared into the distance with his thoughts clouding his mind, all of that was disrupted when a very familiar Calle Mercado patron sat beside him.

“Whoa kid,” Touya said. “Did you take a space brownie or what?”
“Oh, it’s you,” Brendon turned to Touya, who was holding a warm bottle of café au lait Doutor in his hand. “Are you shopping for Hawks?”

“Yeah, it’s your boy,” Touya said, causing Brendon to chuckle. The heavily scarred male opened the warm bottle of coffee in his hand before taking a healthy swig of it. “And no, I’m not shopping for big bird. But I did a massive cleaning of his apartment though. After cleaning, I took a nap and a shower before deciding to walk around this neighborhood for not air-conditioned air. If that’s my deal, what’s yours and why do you have a big ole guitar?”

“Practicing for a performance in Santa Fe tomorrow.”

“Santa Fe?”

“It’s a restaurant named after the capital of New Mexico but located in Shin-Tenso,” Brendon explained. “It has a super artsy interior, which is expected because the city it’s named after has a great art scene. I’m just waiting for Smokes here until he’s done checking out the groceries. Once he’s done, we’re gonna go back to his place to practice for a performance in Santa Fe.”

“Ah, you’re waiting for your boyfriend then,” Touya summarized.

“Oh my god, not you too,” Brendon was in disbelief when the older male beside him said that.

“What?” Touya’s face painted confusion.
“You’re literally the second person on this very day who thinks that me and Smokes are dating!” Brendon stated.

“Wait, you and that kid who works here on Saturdays aren’t dating at all?” Touya inquired.

“Sorry dude,” Brendon shook his head. “I’m seeing a great girl right now.”

“Looks like I have bad news to break to Bird Brains when he gets home from his patrol,” Touya flatly said. “He always did think you two were dating and says that you were here pretty often whenever he comes by for the store specialty. You’d be hanging around while that other friend of Shoto’s boyfriend worked his Saturday shift.”

“Jesus Christ,” Brendon let out. “Even Japan’s number two hero thinks I have a boyfriend instead of a girlfriend. What’s the world even coming to these days?”

“Do you wanna clarify on why you’re here pretty often?” Touya asked.

“I often go here on Saturdays to hang around with Smokes after a date with Kimiko, the girl I’m seeing,” Brendon said. “He doesn’t mind me straggling around the store as long as I don’t get in the way of his work. If I’m lucky, he’ll sometimes offer me a free slushie, drink or light snack of my choosing. He’ll put the cost of it towards his store tab.”

“No wonder Bird Brains thinks you two are dating,” The older, scarred male said. “I am still on the fence about it if I should tell him about you two not dating though.”
Brendon was puzzled by that. “Why? Don’t you want to correct Hawks?”

“He likes the idea of you two dating and shit,” Touya said. “If he finds out that this ship isn’t real, he’ll become sad and go on to be twice as annoying than usual. But if the stars are aligned, Bird Brains will still be sad but he’ll become quieter than normal. Either way, to get over it, he’s gonna look for some sappy fan fiction that’ll help him out.”

“Just tell Hawks,” Brendon told Touya. “It’s probably best you tell him before either me or Smokes has to break it to him one day.”

“Let me think about it first,” Touya replied.

“Why do you have to think about it?” Brendon questioned.

“Because you don’t know and live with my boyfriend like I do,” The scarred man said. “On the other hand, are you against the idea of dating a guy?”

“I’m straight,” Brendon shot back. “Guys dating guys are fine but it’s not for me.”

“Ever tried it out?” The older, scarred male pressed.

“No and I probably don’t want to...”
“You sounded unsure,” Touya pointed out before he took another swig of his bottled coffee. “Are you curious what’s it like to be with a boy instead of a girl?”

“I am curious,” Brendon confessed. “But I’m not comfortable with the idea of being with a boy. Besides, I’m not supposed to be even thinking of stuff like this! I’m in a relationship right now.”

“You’re still young so you never know...” The vigilante trailed. “And I’m sure there are a lot of boys around your age who will be more than willing to take that guy out... in a date way. I met said assholes when I was still a bad guy.”

“You mean there are young villains that will date Smokes?” Brendon asked.

“Exactly,” Touya said. “I was the recruiter for The League after all and it’s also how I met Big Bird. Since I was set on getting someone powerful, I didn’t get anyone from your age group. But they’re more than willing to break the law and really hurt someone. And if my gaydar serves me well, I think around 25 percent of the candidates around your age were queer. The rest - like you claim to be - are straight.”

“So why would they date Smokes?” Brendon asked.

“Whether you’re a hero or a villain, the connections you make are everything,” Touya said. “For example, that boy in there knows Japan’s number two hero pretty well by now since he goes to this place pretty often, albeit said hero enters and gets out through the employee section these days. And I’m not sure if you know it too but this very store now supplies the food and beverages in the number two hero’s office break rooms, all thanks to a contract deal between Bird Brains and that guy’s legal guardian who owns this place.”
“Okay, what about those?” Brendon was not sure where this was going.

“Now, imagine if some villain your age knows that and manages to woo your friend in there and gets close to him,” Touya said. “Just so that person can extract info all about one of the country’s most popular pros. Helps that your friend is kinda cute to boot.”

“Oh shit...” Brendon said before he just remembered something. “Wait! He likes someone. Smokes has a crush on a guy that goes to our school! He doesn’t like to talk about him though and I’m not so sure why since a lot of guys I know tell others about the person they like.”

“How long has he been pining for this guy?” Touya asked.

“I’m not sure,” Brendon said. “He really wouldn’t tell me anything about him. I don’t bother getting it out of him since he won’t even drop a hint.”

“Well, I don’t have a quirk that can read minds. Sorry,” Touya said. “Unless I want to be wearing an orange jumpsuit, this vigilante can’t force it out of him.”

While Touya consumed the warm bottle of coffee once again, both of the sliding front doors opened. Smokes came out with two large shopping bags filled with groceries. He spotted Brendon on the bench, sitting beside the older, scarred male.

He was confused of Touya’s presence.
“What’s he doing here?” Smokes asked Brendon, referring to the man sitting at his side.

“Being a paying customer?” Touya gestured to his Doutor coffee.

“Don’t you have a family event to go to? Your baby peppermint brother is bringing his boyfriend along,” Smokes told him.

“I’m not particularly updated on that as I kinda distanced myself from them,” the scarred man said. “What family event did little Shoto dragged Freckles into?”

“You and your siblings are celebrating,” Smokes told him. “Todoroki said your mom got out from a psychiatric ward. He’s bringing Midoriya along to your sister’s place where they’re gonna have a small get together.”

“You’re fucking with me,” Touya said. He was very surprised by this piece of info.

“I’m not,” Smokes assured him. “They told us when we were visiting someone specific at U.A. Don’t you wanna go?”

“Why should I?” Touya questioned.

“You could really make your mom’s day by just showing up?” Smokes said. This just made Touya’s eyes roll. “Well think about going at least. You’re doing you, your siblings and mom a huge favor if you do go.”
“I’ll try and think about it,” Touya told Smokes, who nodded. “I’ll get going now, you two should as well.”

“Right,” Brendon said. “C’mon Smokes, we need to get to your place now. We gotta practice for the performance tomorrow.”

Smokes agreed with a nod before he looked to Touya. “See you around, Touya. By the way, tell Hawks I’m not gonna be here tomorrow. Brendon and I have a gig with some friends.”

“Whatever,” The scarred vigilante said as he stood up and walked away.

________________________

After both Izuku and Todoroki got up to the sixth floor of the apartment building where Fuyumi lived, they briefly walked down the hallway until Todoroki sensed that they were in front of the right door.

Just as Todoroki was about to knock on the door, Izuku stopped him.

“Wait!” Izuku told the dual-toned teen.

“Is something wrong?” Todoroki asked.
“I just feel underdressed,” Izuku said. He was referring to his usual green Adidas hoodie, black athletic pants, and bright red shoes he wore most of the time.

“You smell great and look fine,” said his boyfriend. “And since Natsuo’s around, he might like what you’re wearing since he wears sporty outfits like yours... only a lot whiter. You ready to go in now?”

Izuku first let out a breath before he faced Todoroki.

“Only one way to find out.”

Todoroki rapped on the door. After a few seconds, the door opened to a man with white spiky hair. His predominantly white sports outfit accentuated his nice, muscular build.

“BABY BRO! BABY BRO’S BOYFRIEND!” Natsuo loudly greeted. He gestured for them to go in. “Get both of your asses in here already!”

Todoroki squeezed Izuku’s hand as he led him into the apartment’s entry way. As Natsuo closed the door, Todoroki let go of Izuku.

Natsuo then took his younger brother and gave him a playful noogie. Izuku thought that it was sweet and funny at the same time so he decided to pull out his phone from his green hoodie’s pouch.
“Izuku please,” Todoroki pleaded in a monotone voice as his older brother continued to noogie him. “Don’t take pictures.”

“I’m not,” Izuku beamed, the phone in a landscape orientation. “I’m recording a video of you and your brother.”

“That’s even worse!” Todoroki told him.

When Natsuo was satisfied in giving his youngest brother noogies, he frees him from his strong grip.

As Todoroki fixed his hair, Natsuo then looked to Izuku. The green-haired boy quickly stowed his phone away back in his hoodie’s pouch.

“Sorry if I didn’t introduce myself first,” Natsuo apologized to Izuku. “It’s been a while since I’ve last seen Shoto. Anyway, I’m Natsuo! Simply the best sibling out of us four!”

“That’s false,” Todoroki contradicted.

“Midoriya but Shoto calls me Izuku” Izuku said as he held out his hand for Natsuo to shake. He was quite surprised by Natsuo’s crushing grip. “Oh, wow you’re strong!”

“Thanks!” Natsuo said with a wide grin as he released the freckled teen’s hand. “C’mon! Mom and Fuyumi are excited to see you two!”
Natsuo led the two into the living room where two women were chatting over a couple cups of tea.

“Sis! Mom!” Natsuo called out to the two women. “Shoto and his boyfriend are here!”

Fuyumi squealed in excitement when she saw Izuku. Meanwhile, Todoroki ran towards to Rei, the sibling’s mother, and hugged her tightly.

“Oh my gosh!” Fuyumi said. “Shoto, he’s so cute!”

“Mom, sis; this is Izuku, my boyfriend,” Todoroki said as he introduced both Fuyumi and Rei to Izuku. “Izuku, this is my sister Fuyumi and Rei, our strong and amazing mom.”

“I’ve heard a lot of great things about you Izuku,” Rei said with a small but genuine smile. “Is my Shoto treating you well?”

“He does!” Izuku replied, scratching his cheek. “Shoto is treating me well. He’s a good guy!”

Izuku blushed when his stomach let out a very loud growl out.

“Uh... sorry,” Izuku nervously apologized to the others on the room. “I had a very long day. Didn’t know I was that hungry until now...”
Fuyumi laughed it off before she adjusted her reading glasses.

“No need to apologize!” Fuyumi said to Izuku. “Let’s get to the table! Everything me and Natsuo cooked are ready for all of us to eat.”

“So Izuku,” Rei asked the green-haired teen. “Can you describe to us how Shoto courts you?”

“Oh,” Izuku said. “We tend to go out on Friday nights. That’s so Shoto can make time for you on the weekends Todoroki-san. We both like to keep it simple like watching a show on Netflix at my mom’s apartment. We do go out though, like trying out some cat café he finds online or if we feel like walking by the beach and playing at the arcades. Sometimes, we go on double dates with my friends or Shoto’s friends at U.A.”

“Aw, your dates sound really sweet,” Fuyumi said.

“What’s my brother like to you?” Natsuo suddenly asked, causing the youngest Todoroki to stiffen.

“He reminds me of the Broadway stars I follow on Instagram!” the freckled teen happily answered. “They’re all so super cool and talented. However, a lot of the Broadway stars I follow are like a bunch of losers and dorks. I can say Shoto is like that; super cool and talented but a huge dork too!”
“PFFFFTTTTTT!!” Natsuo and Fuyumi laughed in unison. Todoroki was just really red from the truth his boyfriend had just let out.

However, the laughter was short lived when a loud crash was heard from the balcony of Fuyumi’s apartment. All five of them suddenly heard two different voices on how Fuyumi’s laundry should be properly rearranged back.

“You kids stay here,” Rei instructed as she stood up. “I’ll go check it out.”

“I’ll go with you,” Natsuo offered. “You might need the muscle just in case.”

“Okay,” Rei nodded, since she knew any words to stop Natsuo will be futile. “The others here should stay close, am I clear about that?”

Izuku, Todoroki and Fuyumi nodded in understanding. This prompted Rei and Natsuo to head on over to the curtained glass door that lead to the balcony of Fuyumi’s apartment.

Izuku, Todoroki and Fuyumi all watched from the kitchen and dining area as the second youngest sibling and Rei went closer to the covered glass door.

Once Natsuo was in position, he looked to his mother and nodded. Rei got her son’s signal and swiftly pulled the green curtain, exposing the source of the loud crash.

“No way...” Natsuo trailed.
“I’m not the only one seeing this, right?” Fuyumi asked to no one specific.

“It couldn’t be,” Rei said with wide and astonished eyes.

“It’s really him,” Todoroki finally added, eyes wide with shock.

On the opposite side of the glass, it was Hawks - Japan’s number two hero and a figure that Fuyumi, Natsuo and Rei had not seen in years - Touya. A Touya who had no black hair dye. They were both quickly putting back Fuyumi’s scattered clothes on the racks where she hung all her drying laundry.

When Touya finally turned to them and opened the glass door, the room was dead silent. No one moved a muscle when Touya first stepped foot into Fuyumi’s apartment.

When Touya was finally in the warm and cozy living space, Hawks followed suit. After Hawks let himself in, he got a grip on the glass door and slowly closed it. He then silently covered the glass door with the green curtains to prevent any prying eyes from seeing what was going on inside the space.

“What’s up guys?” The scarred male awkwardly greeted. He rubbed the back of his neck as he looked down on the floor.

Rei slowly walked towards him. When she was in proximity to Touya, she used both of her hands and cupped his face to make him face her directly. Rei’s grey orbs bored into Touya’s turquoise ones.
“Touya,” Rei shakily said, her eyes slowly becoming heavy with tears. “Is it... is it really you?”

A simple nod was all the convincing Rei needed to hug her eldest child as tight as she can.

When Rei and Touya broken into tears, Natsuo followed suit and went over to join them in their hug. Both Fuyumi and Todoroki simultaneously ran over to the three hugging figures. Most of the Todoroki family in the room were now bundled up in a hug, letting out tears of joy.

Hawks silently left the family have their own time and went over to join Izuku at the table. As Hawks took a chair and sat down with the freckled boy, Izuku looked to him with a bright beam on his face.

“How’d you know?” Izuku asked.

“You, your boyfriend and a couple of your friends at the convenience store,” Hawks said in a quiet but audible voice.

“When you say friends, are you talking about Smokes and Brendon?” inquired Izuku.

“Yeah!” Hawks said. “You and your man over there informed those two, right? As for how Touya knows this place, he still has a few tricks up his vigilante sleeve.”
“Are you planning to stay for dinner?” Izuku asked. “We were just having some before you two crashed...”

“Let’s ask first,” Hawks grinned. “If they let me stay, whom am I to deny them?”

Once Touya had reunited with all of his younger siblings and mother, he kindly accepted his mother’s dinner request to make him stay. Naturally, Hawks stayed as well - Fuyumi and Natsuo will not let the opportunity to have dinner with the country’s second top rated hero literally fly out of the window.

After the happy and lively dinner; Izuku, Hawks, and the Todorokis were all huddled around Fuyumi’s TV. This was all thanks to Todoroki suggesting it. Internally however, being the low-key competitive brother he was, Todoroki just wanted to subtly show-off that his boyfriend is talented and much better than Touya’s hero boyfriend.

“What are we watching?” Fuyumi asked her youngest brother who was currently punching in the initials for the Metropolitan’s official YouTube channel.

“I think I know what Shoto’s looking for,” Izuku said, his cheeks tinting a faint rosy hue. “Hope you all enjoy!”

“There it is,” Todoroki said as he found a video that had Izuku in the thumbnail. “I think their performance will give you all an idea of what Izuku does at his school on a daily basis...”
“21 Chump Street,” Touya read before the video was clicked on started to load on the screen. “Is this a musical about high school?”

“Hmmm, its more than that,” Izuku said with a grin while Todoroki quickly put in the effort to add the provided Japanese subtitles in the settings. “You will all see what happens in the end.”

The video started with six people in the beginning; one of them being Izuku. As this was set in a high school setting, five out of the six of them wore casual clothes that a typical American high schooler would wear in a public school. The exception was one guy who was dressed in a suit and a pair of glasses.

“What’s up internet,” the brown-skinned teen greeted in English. “Torres Cuellar is my name and I’ll be the narrator for this mini-musical. The insanely talented people here with me are my castmates!”

“I’m Izuku Midoriya,” The freckled teen introduced himself. “I’ll be portraying Justin Laboy.”

“I’m Caroline Beltran and I’m quote, unquote ‘Naomi Rodriguez’.”

“I’m Raleigh Ticonderoga...”

“I’m Simon Benitez...”
“And I’m Earl Brownstone,” A black teen said. “Raleigh, Simon and I are the ensemble in this mini-musical.”

“Hope you enjoy our performance of Lin-Manuel Miranda’s 21 Chump Street,” Torres said before the screen transitioned to a minimal high school stage setting.

Later into the video…

“He’s really good,” Rei said to the number two hero. “My son really hit the jackpot, huh?”

“It’s more amazing seeing him do it live on the stage,” Hawks said to her. “I have seen it and trust me, that kid and almost all of his classmates do not play around when it comes to theatre…”

“Shhh!” Natsuo suddenly told them.

The next scene involved Izuku sitting at the table alongside with Torres who had a DJ style table microphone pointing at him:

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[Narrator, spoken]

The next day,

Justin brought a rolled-up baggie of marijuana to school for Naomi
[Justin, spoken]
And I was like,
Oh my god,
I'm actually gonna do this.

[Justin, spoken]
So we was in class, and
I sat down right next to her.
And she was like—

(Naomi slightly leaned towards Justin.)

[Naomi, spoken]
Justin, do you have it?

[Justin, spoken]
Yeah, I do.
And I was like,

[Justin, spoken]
Yeah you know what?
We're going to wait for a few.
Because I didn't want to be like,

“Oh hey,” and just slide it in her

hand or whatever.

So, we waited...

(Tick-tocking was heard while everyone in the classroom setting slowly flipped a page on their stapled papers. They then placed a pencil on their ears but only the ensemble members subtly returned said pencils back on their desks. Justin then looked to the narrator.)

[Justin, spoken]

And she was like—

[Naomi, spoken]

Okay, put it in my purse

(Justin slipped the resealable bag of marijuana into Naomi’s orange purse before looking back to the narrator.)

[Justin, spoken]

So I slid it right in there.

And then she was like—

(Naomi took out a rolled up $100 bill before attempting to give it to Justin.)
[Naomi, spoken]

Okay, here.

Take the money.

Justin, take the money

(Justin clearly denied accepting the money from Naomi.)

[Justin, sung]

I don't want your money.

I got this just for you.

Keep your money.

There's nothing I won't do for you.

I'll come through for you

every time, just in time

(Naomi inconspicuously attempted in trying to hand over the money again.)

[Naomi]

Justin, listen

Please, just take the money
[Justin]

Naomi, I know there's a reason
you were transferred here to me

[Naomi]

You're making me feel guilty.
Take the money

[Justin]

Naomi, I know there's a reason,
this isn't luck, it's destiny

*(Justin moved his seat closer to the undercover police officer. Naomi was still trying to give the money.)*

[Naomi]

You really did come through for me

[Justin]

Naomi, you know me

[Naomi]
There's only one last thing
you need to do for me

[Justin]
I will be there just in time

[Naomi (Justin)]
Take the money (Everytime)
Take the money (Anytime)
Take the money

(In the background, the three ensemble members started doing their coordinated moves within their respective area.)

[Students]
Naomi...

[Justin]
I don' want your money

(One can see Naomi is becoming more agitated in handing over the cash. She held Justin’s hand to really give him the marked police money but Justin would not accept it.)
[Naomi (Justin)]

The teacher's coming
Take this money, Justin
(I got this just for you)

[Students]

Naomi...

[Justin]

Keep your money

[Students]

Naomi...

[Naomi]

We aren't done.

Please take this money, Justin

[Students]

Naomi...

[Justin]

There's nothing I won't do for you
I'll come through for you

[Naomi]
Take the money

[Students]
Naomi...

[Justin]
Everytime, Anytime.
Just in time…

[Naomi]
Take the money.
Take this money, Justin.

(When Justin leaned in to kiss Naomi, he finally took the money into his hand. He looked really lovestruck and if the wide, dopey grin was any measure, really had no idea he just did an irreversibly bad decision.)

-_-_-_-_-_-

When the video finally faded to dark after the Epilogue that followed after Justin took the money, Touya was not impressed by the ending. He looked to Izuku to find answers.
“I’m sorry but did that undercover cop just tricked your character into selling drugs just so she can take him down in the end?”

“It’s messed up, right?” Izuku laughed. “She made a problem just so she can solve it herself in the end.”

“That’s so unfair!” Touya said. “That Naomi chick should feel bad!”

“But what did you guys think of Izuku’s acting abilities” Todoroki asked.

“He was incredible!” Fuyumi praised. “I wish I can sing and act like that!”

“I wish I was that fluent in English,” Natsuo said.

“That’s unusual coming from you,” Rei lightheartedly pointed out. “You were always the best in English when it came to your siblings.”

“That’s because he read all those John Green books in English,” Touya added flatly.

“You read John Green?” Izuku asked the white-haired male.
Natsuo nodded. “Looking for Alaska is the first book I’ve ever read from cover to cover in English. And speaking of the author, I also really liked the latest book I read from him - Turtles All The Way Down.”

“I feel like I’m the only one left here who hasn’t read a book from cover to cover,” Hawks said.

“You haven’t read a real book?” Fuyumi was surprised by this.

“I was training to be a hero!” Hawks said to her. “That takes up a lot of time!”

“But I’m also training to be a hero,” said Todoroki. “And I just finished reading The Picture of Dorian Gray. I’m already through Simon and the Homo Sapiens Agenda. In fact, I’m already planning getting my hands on another book.”


“It’s called The Music of What Happens by Bill Konigsberg,” Todoroki said. “He’s the same author of another book I’ve read titled Openly Straight.”

“How come you’ve read so many books already?!” Hawks asked.

“Time management,” Todoroki simply said. “Before Izuku came into my life, I don’t come out unless I’m going to visit my mom or I need something from the store. That’s gave me a lot of time to read between training and studying for my different subjects. Even when Izuku and I started dating, I still make time for reading...”
“You know, if you put all the same time and effort into reading a real book, it’s not going to be that different and hard from reading fan fiction,” Touya said. “I think you should start getting on that soon.”

“Hmm, I think I know the perfect book he can start with,” Fuyumi stood up.

“If it’s the Fifty Shades of Grey trilogy, I am burning that piece of heterosexual propaganda with my quirk,” Touya said.

“What he said,” Todoroki seconded.

“My gay brothers scare me,” Natsuo said.

“It’s not that you homos,” Fuyumi said. “I can be trashy but I’m not that trashy. It’s a book that was given to me by Natsuo a couple of years ago...”


Fuyumi simply smiled. “You’ll see...”

She briefly left for the living room shelf and got back, holding a quite thin book that was a bit rough
around the edges but was in an overall good condition.

Natsuo and Izuku’s eyes widened up when they saw the title cover written in Japanese.

“Oh yeah! I remember giving that to you!” Natsuo remembered.

“The House on Mango Street!” Izuku said. “That’s a really good book! We had to write book report for it too!”

As Hawks accepted the book from the second eldest Todoroki sibling, he cocked his head looking at the cover with curiosity. Fuyumi, meanwhile, sat beside Rei.

“What’s it about?” Hawks asked.

“It’s best that I let you find out,” Fuyumi said. “But what I can tell you is that you can develop a deeper knowledge of a different culture with that book.”

“What Fuyumi-san said is true!” Izuku agreed.

“I’ll give it a try then,” Hawks promised as he flipped through the pages before he kept it in one of his jacket’s pockets.
“I can’t wait to see more,” Rei suddenly said.

“What do you mean mom?” Touya asked.

“This,” Rei happily gestured. “It’s been a long time since I’ve seen all four of you in the same room, enjoying each other’s company. A lot has changed ever since I got sent to that place but I’m glad the four of you still share the same, strong bond even after all these years - even when one of you chose to crossover to the dark side...”

“You taught us to lean on each other,” Natsuo said. “Because one day, you’re not going to be around anymore.”

“When mom said that, I really thought the way ‘nature meant it to be’, not due to the fact dad was being a ‘bottom of the barrel’ type of guy,” Touya said. He wanted to swear but Rei was more than capable of using her ice quirk to punish him.

“I still wish I’ve seen how all of you have grown up,” Rei confessed. “Everything is just so fast these days, who knows what might happen next?”

“We can still make it up to you mom,” Fuyumi said as she took her Rei’s hand. “There’s still plenty of time for the five of us to do it.”

“Hey Izuku,” Todoroki called to freckled boyfriend. “When’s your In The Heights musical going to premiere?”
Izuku perked up, “It’s coming soon to The Inoue Theatre of Musutafu Metropolitan High School of the Arts. It’s a musical that largely centers on the concepts of home and changing times.”

Todoroki then asked his family, “Do you think we five should watch it?”

“I know I’m watching!” Hawks excitedly said. “I saw their Mean Girls musical and I was so blown away! I want to see more from them!”

“I’ll try to make a disguise that’s going to help me pass by any hero or police that could be guarding that theatre,” Touya said. “But yeah, I’m in.”

“I’m in!” Natsuo said.

“No way you’re leaving me out of this!” Fuyumi joined in.

“Why shouldn’t we watch it?” Rei kindly smiled.

“I’ll let Shoto know the ticket pricing so all of you can be informed as soon as possible,” Izuku said. “But in the case of both Hawks and Touya-san, they could just end up knowing from one of my friends who works in a convenience store.”

“Touya and I can just ask Smokes right?” Hawks clarified.
“Yeah!”

“Looks we’ll have our first family night out soon,” Todoroki concluded with a small smile.

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As the night was winding down, Rei had suggested that they all should help out in cleaning Fuyumi’s apartment.

After all the dishes were washed, some leftovers were stored, and the table was clear, they all accompanied Hawks and Izuku to the apartment complex’s roof top to say bye to them. A cool breeze can be felt.

“Do you really want to stay?” Hawks sweetly asked his boyfriend again.

“I want to catch up with mom and all of my siblings,” Touya honestly said.

“Besides, you can only carry one person at a time,” Todoroki pointed out. “And I am begging you to not drop him. He’s quirkless; not a literal bouncy human...”

“Oh relax,” Hawks laughed. “I’ve done this hundreds of times!”
“I can really just take the train in getting home!” Izuku said as Hawks strapped him in a device what the number two pro called his ‘stork cradle.’

“You’ll get home faster with me!” Hawks said as he adjusted the straps to make sure it snugly for Izuku. “Oh, you’re a lot heavier than I first thought... but not a problem! Ready little man?”

“NO!”

Hawks contradicted that, “That means he’s ready!”

Rei then both placed a hand on both Todoroki and Touya, causing both to look at her.

“Why didn’t you boys give them a kiss for the road?”

Both the eldest and youngest Todoroki sibling looked to each other. They then stepped forward and walked up to their respective boyfriend.

Touya gave Hawks a sweet kiss on the lips while Todoroki gave quick pecks on each of Izuku’s freckled cheeks. As they both stepped back - Touya gave Hawks the nod to leave.

“See you guys around!” Hawks said as he looked up to the night sky and readied himself to fly.
“Good night Shoto! Good night everyone!” Izuku waved before he screamed on the top of his lungs as Hawks took off with his signature top speed. “AAAAAAAAAHHHHHHH!!!”

“Whoa!” Natsuo said, looking amazed as both Hawks and Izuku flew far into the night sky. “Touya, you gotta let me ride your boyfriend like that!”

“That sounds very wrong little bro,” said Touya as Natsuo looked to him.

“You know what I mean!”

“So what do you guys want to do now?” Fuyumi asked, no longer looking up as both Hawks and Izuku were now out of sight.

“Can we try out that frozen yogurt place down the street?” Rei asked all her four children. “I’m very curious on what’s the taste like...”

“Frozen yogurt it is then,” Fuyumi said as she stood beside Natsuo. “Should we go now?”

Rei nodded. “We should. But can you take your younger brothers with you? I want to talk with Touya for a minute.”
“Uh sure,” Fuyumi blinked. “C’mon you two, let’s leave mom and big bro for a bit.”

As Fuyumi left with Natsuo and Shoto, Touya was now standing alone with his mother on the rooftop. Another cool yet gentle breeze wafted over the both of them.

“Am I trouble?” Touya asked nervously. While he did work for The League, he still held tremendous respect for his mother who had been through so much and then some.

“No,” Rei said as she walked to her own son. “But I do want to reassure you...”

“Reassure me of what?”

Rei placed both of her hands on Touya’s shoulders.

“That I still love you so much - like how much I love your younger siblings too. When you stood in front of me in that living room a few hours ago, you have no idea how happy I was. It brought me so much joy to see all four of you together again. It was the best gift that I ever received in a long time.”

“You still love me even if I’ve done so much shady sh- I mean stuff?”

“I’m your mother Touya, I know that you still have good in you. While we cannot say to ourselves that the bad things you have done should be swept under the rug, if you can change for the worse, I’m more than sure you can change for the better. Touya, you can still grow into a good mane.”
“Why do you so much have faith in me? Just... why?”

“The patience and faith in that I’m going to see you and your siblings one day is all what I had left when I was sent into that ward. It’s been a long time since we saw each other but I like to think that my patience and faith paid off today - far better than I could’ve ever imagined.”

The heavily scarred man thought about his mother’s words for a moment...

“Are you gonna stick around?”

Rei smiled. “I’ve missed out on you and your siblings growing up, I’m not gonna be doing that again. I am really looking forward to see how all of your lives are gonna unfold from now on, especially now that I’m back for good.”

“I don’t what’s going to happen but I’m promising you that you’re going to love what you see...”

“I can’t wait,” Rei smiled right before her left hand tapped Touya’s right shoulder. “Now c’mon; we can’t let the others wait for us for too long now, can we?”
In the Midoriya apartment, Izuku was on his phone, trying to convince Todoroki come to Santa Fe with him at the last minute via chat.

Speaking of flying, Izuku recounted his harrowing tale of being strapped to the winged hero of Japan on his way home last night to Raleigh.

Raleigh was fixing his outfit in the living mirror as Izuku told his story to him.

“So Hawks, Japan’s number two hero and the boyfriend of your boyfriend’s vigilante brother, fucking flew you all the way home?” Raleigh clarified.

“It was so scary!” Izuku said. “He would sometimes do these nosedives just to freak me out!”

“To be honest, that sounds so exciting,” Raleigh smiled. “Then again... it’s like what? The first week of February? Isn’t it cold up there? It’s days like these that I wish I was in either in Manuel’s D.R. or Smokes’s Philippines right now, soaking up some sun with a glass of cold, sweet iced tea in my hand...”

“D.R.?” Izuku asked.

“Dominican Republic,” Raleigh said as he started buttoning up his deep blue cardigan. “Or how my boyfriend says it in Spanish, República Dominicana.”
“Well, I see what you mean,” Izuku said. “It’s been two weeks since we got some actual sunlight in the city... wait, Shoto just responded.”

“He coming to Santa Fe?” Raleigh asked as he turned around. He sauntered over to the couch where Izuku was lounging on and sat down at the available space.

Izuku looked at the message displayed on his phone.

“Yeah but Shoto said he’ll go shopping with his sister first. They’re going to look for some new clothes for their mom. He also wants to buy a book while they’re at it.”

“That’s really sweet of Todoroki and his sister doing that for their mom,” Raleigh commented.

“That’s my boyfriend for you,” Izuku boasted with a small grin. “But how are you and Manuel by the way? If I had dinner with Shoto and his family last night, did anything happen to you and Manuel?”

“We’ve been cuddling a lot more lately but I’m not complaining,” Raleigh said with a smile. “I expected to enjoy being the cuddly one in the relationship but I never thought I’d enjoy it this much. Being the big spoon is so awesome...”

“Big spoon?” Izuku asked.
“Yeah,” Raleigh said. “When we cuddle, it’s natural that I be the big spoon since I’m bigger and taller than him but you know, there’s this look on his face...”

“What look?”

“To me, Manuel seems a lot safer and a lot calmer around me. I may be reading it wrong but like I don’t know man, I just feel really proud of it...”

“You’re a protective guy Raleigh,” Izuku pointed out. “Maybe it’s natural for you to feel very happy when you know that Manuel feels safe around you. After all, you have two quirks that makes you a super tough barrier.”

“My surname does come from a fort in upstate New York,” Raleigh mused with a smile.

“What fort?” Izuku asked.

“Fort Ticonderoga,” Raleigh said. “It saw a lot of wars, the most important war being the American Revolutionary War. I know that when my German ancestors got to New York during the late 19th century, they changed their last name, Konrad, to the one I have now, Ticonderoga. It’s what my ‘K’ stands for.”

“So your full name is Raleigh Konrad Ticonderoga?” Izuku inquired.

Raleigh nodded.
“I sometimes wondered on how would they react if they were alive today,” said Raleigh. “Would they be happy to have a descendant who has two mutant class quirks - who’s also a bisexual and has a Dominican-American boyfriend in East Asia? I don’t know about that but I do know that I love how my boyfriend plays with my hair.”

“Why?” Izuku smiled.

“I feel more relaxed when Manuel does that. If I’m lucky, he would sometimes throw in a massage. He also likes my natural dark blonde hair better than my dyed light blonde one since he says it feels way softer to the touch.“

“You know, Shoto likes me playing with his hair too,” Izuku said.

“Yeah?”

“Yeah!” Izuku nodded. “Shoto is kind of like a big cat. Whenever I play with his hair, Shoto makes this noise that lets me know he likes what I’m doing to him. His head feels really surreal in my lap too - one side of it is warm while the other is cool.”

“Your boyfriend has a useful quirk,” said Raleigh. “He can keep one drink chilled and one drink warm at the same time. Todoroki’s basically a walking chilled and heated cupholder.”

“He makes for a great personal heater in a weather like this too,” Izuku added with a grin.
“Lucky bastard,” Raleigh chuckled as his phone suddenly went off in his pocket of his cardigan. His eyes then read the message on his screen. “The others are at Santa Fe already, you ready to go?”

“Yeah,” Izuku nodded. “Just let me get my small All Might bag in my room then we can leave.“

Do you all know what to order?” Inasa asked as he looked and read what food items were offered on the menu. “I’ve never seen American food like this...”

“The breakfast burrito does look good,” Makabe commented. “But I’m not sure about the others...”

“Okay, maybe me picking this Santa Fe place was a bad idea in the first place,” Nakagame said with a tinge of regret.

“We’re just unfamiliar with the food, girl. Don’t sweat about it,” Camie reassured her with a pat on the back. “Besides, the reviews say the food here tastes good.”

As Shindo turned his head away so he can ignore his friends’ indecisiveness, he spotted familiar faces on a table not too far from he and his friends were all sitting at.

“Holy crap,” Shindo said, staring at the table.
“What is it?” Makabe asked.

“It’s those dudes from that art school,” Shindo said, turning to his best friend. “The ones that helped me and Class 1-A get through Ms. Midnight’s insane final project for the year...”

“Where?” Makabe asked. Shindo subtly gestured his head to a direction he was looking at, prompting his blue skinned friend to do the same as well.

At the large table they were looking at, Izuku was laughing, Raleigh was putting his fedora on Manuel, and Brendon took a selfie with a girl that Shindo was very much unfamiliar with. Also, in the table with them was Sky, giving his boyfriend Akio a few pecks on the top of his head.

Makabe quickly turned to Shindo. “Was that Daichi?!"

“That was Daichi Akio,” Shindo said with a nod.

Nakagame ears perked up. “Daichi? Where?!”

“What’s going on?” Inasa asked on behalf of himself and Camie.

“We just saw an old classmate who left Ketsubutsu for an art school,” Shindo said. “If you want to
look at him, look for a guy in a salmon pink sweater. He’s in a table with a tall and well-built black guy kissing the top of his head. To give you guys another hint, he’s in a booth with a green-haired guy.”

Inasa, Nakagame, and Camie all turned their heads to search for the mentioned Japanese male teen. When they found him, they turned their heads back to Shindo in roughly the same time.

“Girl, I’m shook,” Nakagame said. “Holy shit, Daichi changed so much!”

“So can you explain to us who that Daichi guy is?” Camie asked.

“Basically, Daichi used to be our classmate,” Makabe started. “But you can really feel that he doesn’t want to become a hero. He shows it by wearing a watch during hero training and looking at the damn thing all the time. During his only year in Ketsubutsu, Daichi never had any sort of real friends…”

“But now, Daichi has a ton of friends and a lot happier than he ever was in Ketsubutsu,” Shindo said.

“Guys! GUYS! Look! It’s Todoroki!” Inasa quickly exclaimed as he saw the familiar dual-toned teen walk into the dining space holding a small paper bag. “What’s he doing here?”

Everyone turned to the direction where Inasa was looking at and sure enough, they all saw Todoroki was searching for someone amongst the fairly crowded space.
Inasa’s effort in trying to get Todoroki’s attention worked as the dual-quirk user was now slowly headed to their table.

“Todoroki!” Inasa greeted rather loudly as Todoroki stopped by at their table. “It’s been a long time since we passed the special Hero License course! What are you doing here?”

“I was told by my boyfriend to head out here,” Todoroki said.

“Your boyfriend?!” Inasa was shocked.

“Why else would you be here?” Shindo flatly questioned. “Anyways, if you look to your left, you’ll see him a couple of tables away from here...”

Todoroki did look to his left and found where Izuku was sitting.

“Oh, there he is... and he just saw me.”

“Do you have any idea what to order in this place?” Camie asked Todoroki.
“No but I think I know someone in that table who might...” Todoroki trailed.

“Who?” Nakagame asked.

“Well, I need to leave you guys first but I’ll send him over if his boyfriend gives him the go ahead,” Todoroki said. “By the way, it’s nice seeing you all again.”

“Even me?” Shindo grinned.

“Yeah, it’s nice seeing you outside of class ‘old man’,” Todoroki softly joked before casually leaving them.

Makabe snorted. “Old man?”

“I’m the oldest student in U.A.’s first year hero department,” Shindo said. “I don’t want to get into the specifics of how I’ve got that name, however. There’s far too many dank memes involved.”

“It’s so weird that they made you revert back to a first-year student,” Nakagame commented.

“Well, all the lessons they have as first year students are super similar to the ones we had as second-years back in Ketsubutsu,” Shindo informed them. “U.A. really sets fucking high standards for their students.”
“Well, so does Shiketsu!” Inasa stated.

A new voice suddenly joined in. All five of them turned to the main source of it. Shindo knew whose voice was that. They all saw Akio and a brown-skinned teen wearing a deep-blue fedora and thick black framed glasses standing right beside him.

“Hey guys,” Akio greeted all his former Ketsubutsu classmates. “Isn’t it a lovely night?”

“Daichi!” Nakagame was ecstatic to see her old classmate.

“I’ve heard from a certain Todoroki that you guys are having problems choosing from the menu,” Akio said. “Mind if me and Manuel here seat with you guys for a bit so we can help in your little menu dilemma?”

“Please, I’m getting very hungry,” Camie said as she made some room for both Akio and Manuel, letting them sit. “Oh, I’m Camie by the way! Beside me here is my friend Inasa! We’re students from Shiketsu high.”

“I see, you guys are from the elite hero school of the West Japan,” Akio said. “Well, I’m Daichi Akio but please, call me Akio. Here with me is Manuel Tarraco, he’s a New Yorker.”

“We’re both students from the Musutafu Metropolitan High School of the Arts,” Akio said. “I specialize in theatre while Manuel here specializes in visual arts…”

“Wow,” Camie and Nakagame said in unison.

“But enough about us,” Akio said. “Why are you guys having a difficult time with the menu?”

“We’re really not familiar with any of the stuff in the menu,” Makabe explained.

“You’re in luck because Manuel here is a fairly regular patron here,” Akio said. “He and his boyfriend like eating at this place.”

“If all of you are having a hard time with the individual food items, it’s worth going through Santa Fe’s ‘County Sets’,” Manuel said to all of the budding hero students. “It’s found after the appetizers page.”

“We ordered the Doña Ana County Set because we’re a big group and some of the boys, including both Manuel’s man and my own, have big appetites,” Akio said before looking to Nakagame. “Can I borrow your menu?”

“Sure,” The girl with the telescopic quirk said as she handed the menu book to him.

Akio quickly flipped through the brown book with Manuel looking over. They’ve arrived at the ‘County Sets’ part of the menu in record time.
Akio cleared his throat before starting. “There are five sets here. From the smallest to the largest set, their names are Socorro, Rio Arriba, Santa Fe, Doña Ana and Bernanillo.”

“Why are they named like that?” Inasa asked.

“They’re all named after five of the nine original countries in New Mexico,” said Manuel. “In fact, this restaurant’s name comes from the New Mexican cultural and state capital.”

“Speaking of the counties,” Akio spoke up. “I think this table should go for the ‘Rio Arriba County Set’ since it feeds five to six people.”

“And don’t worry about the food too much,” Manuel said. “This restaurant places very good emphasis on New Mexican ingredients and is the closest you can get to the state without leaving Japan.”

“Okay,” Camie said. “We’re trusting you guys on this...”

“You will not be disappointed,” Manuel guaranteed her.

“A Rio Arriba County Set it is then,” Akio said. “If you guys are ready, just press a red button behind that really adorable plastic cartoon cactus with the maracas to flag down a waiter.”
Camie immediately reached for the said plastic cactus to get an available waiter down to their table. A waiter shortly got to the table and Camie placed an order for the suggested set Akio and Manuel made for them. The waiter then said it will take a bit of time due to the crowd but the group just went along and said it was fine.

As the waiter left for to get the order in, Manuel stared into the distance, saying something in Spanish...

“Gran sello del estado de Nuevo México...”

“What?” Akio looked to him.

“Sorry,” Manuel apologized with a small laugh. “I just said great seal of the state of New Mexico in Spanish. I was looking at the state seal hung over there...”

“You speak Spanish?” Makabe asked.

Manuel nodded. “It’s my first language before English and Japanese.”

“It’s probably a good reason why he has a boyfriend right now too,” Akio grinned.

“Who could blame that guy?” Camie said. “Spanish is such a super romantic language!”
“Can you speak more Spanish?” asked Nakagame with interest.

“Esa pregunta es…” Manuel trailed in Spanish before ending it in Japanese with a smile. “…tricky!”

“What does that mean?” Makabe asked.

“‘Esa pregunta es’ means ‘That question is’” Manuel explained.

“Say another one!” Inasa encouraged.

“Salida quince, hagas una media vuelta, sigue derecho,” Manuel said to them in fluent, rapid fire Spanish. “It translates to ‘Exit 15, do a u-turn, continue straight.’ Basically, it’s just some driving directions.”

“Spanish even makes driving directions sound hella sexy,” Shindo said.

“Uh-oh,” Manuel suddenly said, sitting a bit stiffer and more upright. “I feel a cabrona near Raleigh…”

“Cabrona?” Nakagame asked.
“It means bitch,” Manuel said, shocking the Nakagame, Camie, Inasa, Makabe and Shindo with the foreign but vulgar term.

Akio turned his head around to look at the table they came from. Both his eyes picked up on who the mystery ‘cabrona’ was before immediately facing Manuel.

“What the hell is that bitch doing here?” Manuel asked in frustration. “Let’s head back Akio, I don’t want Raleigh to think I’ve let him languish at that table with his shady ass ex.”

“Looks like duty calls,” Camie said.

“Right,” Akio said before he turned to the other occupants of the table. “Shindo, Makabe, Nakagame; it’s really cool running into you guys again. As for Camie and Inasa, it was also nice to meet you guys too…”

As both Akio and Manuel got up from the seat they occupied, Camie looked up to them.

“If you guys need more reinforcements to get rid of her, you two know where to find us!”

“I hope we’ll never use it but thanks for the head up,” Manuel said. “And before we go, I hope
you’re gonna enjoy the show later.”

“What show?” Shindo pressed.

Akio just smirked. “You’ll see...”

With that, both Akio and Manuel left.

“What did they mean by show?” Inasa asked as he was confused by what the two meant.

“Since I’ve visited the school they come from, I probably have an idea on what they’re going to do,” Shindo said with crossed arms on the table.

___[[@]]___

“Ugh, I can’t even enjoy what I’m eating when I know she’s in here,” a frustrated Raleigh said. “This sucks big time...”

Manuel returned the deep blue fedora on top of his taller boyfriend’s head. He drank some water first and took a clean table napkin to wipe his lips with before giving the tall, dark blonde teen a quick kiss on his cheek.
“Thanks babe,” Raleigh smiled. “I’d kiss the top of your head but my breath isn’t exactly smelling fresh right now...”

“Don’t worry,” Manuel giggled.

“Is it just me or was that ex-girlfriend of his from a while ago was quite aggressive in flirting with Raleigh?” Todoroki asked the occupants of the table.

“It’s not just you man,” Sky said. “Carrie’s been trying to flirt with Raleigh for a few weeks already. It seems like the news of Raleigh and Manuel being a couple had never reached her - which is impossible because they’re one of the Met’s most popular couples.”

“Is there a motivation for her to do what she did a while ago?” Todoroki asked.

“Ms. Kimiko Suzuki knows the piping hot tea here,” Smokes smiled before he took a sip of his sweet iced tea.

“Rumor has it that she’s badly failing in her dance and choreography class,” Kimiko said. “It’s really worth noting that Carrie dated Raleigh strictly for stealing his choreography skills and ideas, not because she really did have feelings for him. Ever since the time Raleigh dumped her, the ideas she had for that class became repetitive in the long run.”

In the eyes of the many, it wasn’t hard to see why Kimiko can get the attention of the people she would pass by. Her body has a slender build plus her clothing style is a mix of comfort and style with a spritz of sophistication to it.
Kimiko sports a shaggy medium length salt and pepper bob. Her glasses had a thick red frame which emphasized her grey eyes. She wore a black and white sweater top and a red, box pleated skirt that slightly went past her knees. The shoes she wore were a bright red pair of Converse sneakers.

The tall black Minnesotan native faced Raleigh, “Didn’t both of you and Carrie, you know...”

“But exchange v-cards?” Raleigh completed for Sky. “Yes, yes we did.”

“Do you think it’s bad that you gave that part of yourself to her?” Izuku inquired. “I mean that’s like a huge milestone for anyone, right?”

“Honestly, for me, I don’t find that a big deal,” Raleigh answered. “But the fact I used to be so head over heels for her at the time makes me question myself if I’m a guy who’s way too trusting of another person. God, it nearly took everyone at this table and then some to make me realize she’s just using me for my dance moves.”

“You know,” Smokes spoke up. “If a boy did that to me, I doubt I want to get in a relationship after something like that.”

“Oh of course,” Todoroki said. “Trust would be at a high premium since you’d been hurt badly. Yes, trust is essential but it’s very hard to earn back and give out when something really wrong happens to you.”

Kimiko, who would rather have a happy night with her friends and boyfriend instead of a night full of sulking, decided to shift the topic.
“I like how the three boys in this table singing ‘Schuyler Sisters’ later color coordinated their outfits,” Kimiko grinned.

“I say you gotta dress up for the job you want,” Smokes said with a small smile.

“Are you three all ready to go?” Todoroki asked Izuku, Akio and Smokes.

“Ready as we’re ever gonna be,” Akio replied.

“There’s your answer,” Manuel said as he took a swig of Raleigh’s soda. His eyes widened when he realized what type of soda it was. He returned the cold glass on the table. “Okay, I forgot he ordered that. Now I regret drinking it...”


“Ain’t no Dominicans be drinking no diet soda,” Manuel said as he adjusted his glasses.

“That was really good,” Camie said after she finished the last bite of her stacked enchiladas. “
“Let’s go back here again!” Nakagame said.

“While I really liked the food, my wallet is going to need time to recover,” Makabe told them.

“Same here,” Shindo seconded.

“Should we get the check?” Inasa asked the others.

“Yeah,” Makabe nodded.

Inasa pressed the 1 button on the plastic cartoon cactus. A waiter shortly came to their table with Shindo asking for their check and the waiter cleaning the table and collecting all their used dishes.

As the waiter went away with their used tableware, Inasa noticed something.

“Hey, what are they doing over there?”

Everyone in the table looked to where he was pointing. In the distance, they can see a group of people setting up instruments and microphones on the stage while a large tarp of a bridge rolled down as some sort of background.
When the waiter came back with their check, everyone got to look at the final tab and paid their equal share in cash. Before the waiter left, Shindo decided to ask him about the individuals setting up on the stage.

“Excuse me, do you know what’s going on and why those people on that stage are placing instruments?”

The waiter looked to the stage before he faced them back.

“Oh that, there are these kids from the Met who are gonna perform. They’ll do a song about some historical figures from America before promoting a new musical they’ll be showing soon.”

“A musical?” Camie asked.

The young waiter nodded. “I forgot the name of it but that bridge background has something to do with it. You should all stick around, I heard from upper management that those kids are good.”

The waiter then left with their check.

“I knew something was gonna happen,” Shindo flatly said.
When the waiter came back with their receipt, Shindo saw Manuel get up on the stage while holding a microphone.

“Looks like it’s about to start,” Shindo said as Nakagame kindly collected the receipt from the waiter.

On the stage, Manuel tapped the mic before speaking into it while the people manning the various instruments took their place.

“Good evening Santa Fe patrons!” said Manuel. “I’m Manuel Tarraco and I’m a visual arts student from the Musutafu Metropolitan High School of the Arts or ‘Met’ as we like to call it. For tonight, we have prepared a performance then an actual promotion of a musical we have in the works at the Met. To kick this off, I would like to call to the stage Kimiko Suzuki, Akio Daichi, Simon Benitez and Izuku Midoriya...”

As Manuel exited the stage, Kimiko, Sky, Akio, Smokes and Izuku came on the lighted platform. Shindo and all of his friends saw that Akio took up the microphone at the very center of the stage. To Akio’s right was Smokes, one of Izuku’s friends in a mint green sweater. To the left of Akio was Izuku himself, wearing a rich yellow hoodie with an embroidered rose on the left breast area.

Slightly separated from the group of three boys was Kimiko, the girl sitting with Izuku’s group. Shindo noticed that compared to the boys, Kimiko dressed up a lot sharper.

“Before we start,” Smokes said into his mic. “I’d like to thank the talented band we have here with us. We have Suraj Khanna on the piano, Brian Cortes on the drums, Brendon Young on the guitar and Mitsuha Shinagawa on the Bass.”
“Without further ado, let’s get this show on the road people,” Akio grinned into his microphone.

This prompted Brian Cortes, the drum player, to start the music. Kimiko shortly followed up by rapping in English:

_-_-_-_-_-_

[Kimiko]
There’s nothing rich folks love more
Than going downtown and slummin’ it with the poor
They pull up in their carriages and gawk
At the students in the common
Just to watch them talk!

Take Philip Schuyler: the man is loaded
Uh-oh, but little does he know that
His daughters, Peggy, Angelica, Eliza
Sneak into the city just to watch all the guys at—

[Band]
Work, work!

[Akio]
Angelica!
[Band]
Work, work!

[Smokes]
Eliza!

[Izuku]
And Peggy!

[Band]
Work, work!
The Schuyler sisters!

[Akio]
Angelica!

[Izuku]
Peggy!

[Smokes]
Eliza!
[Band]
Work!

[Izuku]
Daddy said to be home by sundown

[Akio]
Daddy doesn’t need to know

[Izuku]
Daddy said not to go downtown

[Smokes]
Like I said, you’re free to go

[Akio]
But—look around, look around, the
Revolution’s happening in New York

[Smokes and Izuku]
New York
[Band]
Angelica

[Schuyler Misters and Company]
Work!

[Izuku]
It’s bad enough daddy wants to go to war

[Smokes]
People shouting in the square

[Izuku]
It’s bad enough there’ll be violence on our shore

[Akio]
New ideas in the air!

[Akio and the Band]
Look around, look around—
[Izuku]
Angelica, remind me what we’re looking for…

[Band]
She’s lookin’ for me!

[Akio (Band)]
Eliza, I’m lookin’ for a mind at work (work, work)
I’m lookin’ for a mind at work! (work, work)
I’m lookin’ for a mind at work! (work, work)
Whooaaaaa!

[Smokes, Akio, Izuku with the Band]
Whooaaaaa!
Work!

(Kimiko then started rapping again.)

[Kimiko]
Wooh! There’s nothin’ like summer in the city
Someone in a rush next to someone lookin’ pretty
(Kimiko then looked to Akio.)

**[Kimiko]**

Excuse me, miss, I know it’s not funny
But your perfume smells like your daddy’s got money
Why you slummin’ in the city in your fancy heels
You searchin for an urchin who can give you ideals?

(Akio, Smokes and Izuku convincingly acted like they didn’t looked impressed at all.)

**[Akio]**

Burr, you disgust me

**[Kimiko]**

Ah, so you’ve discussed me
I’m a trust fund, baby, you can trust me!

(Akio rolled his eyes while Smokes and Izuku put their hands on their hips, while slowly dancing in place. Akio then started rapping himself.)

**[Akio]**

I’ve been reading Common Sense by Thomas Paine
So men say that I’m intense or I’m insane
You want a revolution? I want a revelation
So listen to my declaration:

(Akio, Smokes and Izuku all did a little dance corresponding to the next few lyrics.)

[Akio, Smokes and Izuku]

“We hold these truths to be self-evident

That all men are created equal”

[Akio]

And when I meet Thomas Jefferson

[Band]

Unh!

[Akio]

I’m ‘a compel him to include women in the sequel!

(Akio, Smokes and Izuku then all did the same pose.)

[Full Company]

Work!
[Smokes]

Look around, look around at how
Lucky we are to be alive right now!

[Smokes and Izuku]

Look around, look around at how
Lucky we are to be alive right now!

[Akio, Smokes and Izuku]

History is happening in Manhattan and we just happen to be
In the greatest city in the world!

[Schuyler Misters and the Band]

In the greatest city in the world!

[Akio, Smokes and Izuku (the Band)]

Cuz I’ve been reading Common Sense by Thomas Paine

*Look around, look around*

(Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey!)

So men say that I’m intense or I’m insane

*The revolution's happening in—*

(Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey!)
[Akio, *Smokes and Izuku (the Band)*]

You want a revolution? I want a revelation

*New York!*

(Look around, look around, the revolution's happening)

*In New York!*

So listen to my declaration:

---

[Full Company]

Look around, look around at how lucky we are to be alive right now!

History is happening in Manhattan and we just happen to be

---

[Band]

In the greatest city in the world

In the greatest city—
[Full Company]

In the greatest city in the world!

[Akio and the Band]

Work, work!

Angelica!

[Smokes and the Band]

Work, work!

Eliza!

[Izuku]

And Peggy!

[Akio, Smokes, Izuku and the Band]

Work, work!

*The Schuyler sisters*

Work, work

*We're looking for a mind at work*

Work, work

*Hey*

Work, work

*Hey*

Work, work!
[Akio and the Band (Smokes and Izuku)]

Work, work

Whoa!

(Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey! Hey!)

Work, work

In the greatest city in the world

(In the greatest city in the world)

[Band]

In the greatest city in the world!

---

The Santa Fe patrons enthusiastically clapped and cheered for Akio, Smokes, Izuku, and Kimiko before they left the stage to head back to their table. At the same time, Nakagame turned to all of her friends sitting with her.

“I have no idea what they sung about but they sounded amazing!” Nakagame told her fellow table occupants. “Daichi’s got some killer pipes there!”

“You should see his tap-dancing skills,” Shindo supplied. “Then again, he wants to be a theatre actor so he needs to be good at acting, singing and dancing.”

“You your old classmate has more talent in his pinky than I’ll ever have in my entire body,” Camie said. “You can tell he has major breath control. In fact, those four who sang have very clean voices.”
“How do you know all that voice stuff?” Inasa asked his classmate.

“You learn a lot when your free time is watching people cover popular K-Pop songs online,” Camie answered back with a smile.

“Hey,” Makabe said. “It’s that American kid again who sat with us a while ago...”

Onstage, Manuel came on and brought a couple of different people along with him. Both the teenagers who were with him were taller by 3-inches.

“Allright,” Manuel started. “These lovely people with me right now are some of my castmates of a musical we’re going to be showing soon at the Metropolitan. This here is Torres Cuellar and Caroline Beltran. Hope you know a bit of Spanish because it’s going to come in handy in what we’re about to perform!”

The people in the room started buzzing with excitement. Manuel then looked to their pianist.

“Now Suraj, why don’t you start us off?”

The Indian national merrily danced his fingers over the keys of the electronic piano before he tapped his iPad to start off an instrumental backtrack. Caroline started singing:

_-_-_-_-_-
[Vanessa]
The elevated train by my window
Doesn’t faze me anymore
The rattling screams don’t disrupt my dreams
It’s a lullaby, in its way

The elevated train drives everyone insane
But I don’t mind, oh no
When I bring back boys they can’t tolerate the noise
And that’s okay, ’cause I never let them stay

And one day, I’m hoppin’ that elevated train and I’m riding away!
It won’t be long now!

The boys around the way holler at me when I’m walking down the street
Their machismo pride doesn’t break my stride—
It’s a compliment, so they say
The boys around the way holler at me every day but I don’t mind, oh no

If I’m in the mood, it will not be with some dude
Who is whistling ’cause he has nothing to say
Or who’s honking at me from his Chevrolet!
And one day… I’m hoppin’ in a limousine and I’m driving away!
It won’t be long now!

[Vanessa, spoken]
Ay! Usnavi, help! SOS!
(When Caroline looked to Torres, he started singing with a dreamy look on his face.)

[Usnavi]

Good morning, Vanessa!

If it isn’t the loveliest girl in the place...

(Caroline took out a handkerchief from one of her jean’s pocket and playfully wiped Torres’ cheek with it.)

[Vanessa]

You’ve got some schmutz on your face

[Usnavi, spoken]

Another late night, eh?

Whoever you were with,

He’s got nothing in the biceps.

(Torres rolled up his sleeve and showed-off his rather impressive biceps. Still, the crowd laughed.)

[Usnavi, spoken]

I bench press six gallons of milk

And two cases of Goya beans.
[Vanessa, spoken]
It was my mom.
They shut off our power.
Again.

(Manuel then handed Torres a paper cup filled with freshly brewed coffee. Torres then gave the cup of coffee to Caroline.)

[Usnavi, spoken]
Coffee, whole milk. Very sweet.
Little bit of cinnamon.

[Vanessa, spoken]
Mmm. Just like my abuela used to do.

[Usnavi, spoken]
That’s what the ladies all say.
I remind them of their grandma.

(Caroline snorted a laugh at the line, prompting Torres to look embarrassed by what he just said. Manuel then intervened with his character.)
[Sonny]

Good morning!

[Sonny and Usnawi]

Good morning!

(Caroline grabs Manuel and places a sweet kiss on his cheek. She then grabs Manuel so they can start dancing.)

[Usnawi]

Vanessa!

[Torres danced like a dork while the dance between Caroline and Manuel slowly became a bit frisky...]

[Sonny]

Vanessa!

[Sonny and Usnawi]

Vanessa!

(But their dancing and music stopped when Mitsuha, the bass player, screamed from her place on the stage.)
[Daniela, spoken]

VANESSSSSSSSSSSSS!

I’m thirsty, coño!

(The crowd laughed hard while Caroline turned to Torres.)

[Vanessa, spoken]

Can I get a Pepsi and some packing tape?

(Torres then ran off the stage while Manuel started conversing with Caroline.)

[Sonny, spoken]

Uh, my cousin over there with his tongue hanging out, has been meaning to ask you…

[Vanessa, spoken]

Yes?

[Sonny, spoken]

What a lady such as yourself might be doing tonight?
[Vanessa, spoken]

Does your cousin dance?

[Sonny, spoken]

Like a drunk Chita Rivera…

(Torres then came back onstage with a brown paper bag and handed it over to Caroline. She then placed a hand on her bicep.)

[Vanessa, spoken]

Okay… After Nina’s dinner,

we can hit a few clubs

and check out the fireworks…

(Torres and Manuel had the most amazed looks on their faces as Caroline headed off stage. Torres then started rapping while he and Manuel started doing a very dorky dance, entertaining the Santa Fe audience.)

[Usnavi]

Oh snap! Who’s that?

Don’t touch me, I’m too hot! Yes!

Qué pasó? Here I go!

So dope! Y tú lo sabes!

No pare
[Sonny and Usnavi]

* Sigue sigue! 

[Usnavi]

Did you see me?

[Sonny and Usnavi]

Freaky freakit!

[Usnavi]

What a way to begin the weekend
Sonny, anything you want is free, man!
And my dearly beloved Dominican Republic
I haven’t forgotten

[Sonny and Usnavi]

You!

[Usnavi]

Gonna see this honey, make a little money
And one day I’ll hop Jet
[Sonny and Usnavi]

Blue!

[Usnavi]

But until that fateful day, I’m grateful
I got a destination
I’m runnin’ to make it home
And home’s what Vanessa’s runnin’ away from!

I’m runnin’ to make it home
And home’s what Vanessa’s runnin’ away from…

(This time both Torres and Manuel walked off the stage while Caroline walked back on again.)

[Vanessa]

The neighborhood salon is the place
I am working for the moment
As I cut their hair, ladies talk and share—
Every day, who’s doin' who and why...

The neighborhood salon doesn’t pay me
what I wanna be making but I don’t mind
As I sweep the curb I can hear those turbo
engines blazing a trail through the sky

I look up and think about the years gone by
But one day—I’m walkin’ to JFK and I’m gonna fly!
It won’t be long now! Any day...

After the song ended, most of the Santa Fe patrons cheered and clapped for the Afro-Latina Metropolitan student. As the cheering died down, she spoke into her microphone.

“Now, who here can tell us the name of the song we just did?” She said with a smile. Her eyes then picked up a pair of hands from her center left. “My eyes see a pair of identical twins in the audience now. Can both of you shout the answer from your table? Okay, both of the girls nodded... now, can you two tell us the answer?!”

“IT WON’T BE LONG NOW!!!” Both the identical Japanese twin sisters shouted in unison from their table.

“And those twins are correct!” Caroline clapped for them. “And just answering that question won you two a pair of free premium orchestra seats to see the next Metropolitan musical production called In The Heights! To further explain the musical, I’ll hand it off to Manuel...”

After excited shrieking briefly sounded in the room, Manuel took over from his female castmate and spoke with a wide grin on his face. He looked like he was swelling with pride.

“For the two girls who won, Simon - the one who performed Eliza’s part earlier in Schuyler Sisters - will approach both of you to give the premium tickets. On behalf of the Metropolitan, we extend our congratulations to the twin sisters who won tonight...”
Manuel cleared his throat first before he continuing.

“For those unfamiliar with the musical, maybe you know Lin-Manuel Miranda,” Manuel said. “Mr. Miranda is known for writing the songs in the Disney Movie Moana and being the mastermind of Hamilton, the smash Broadway Musical hit. But before Hamilton and Moana, he created In The Heights. As a boy whose upbringing took place between 175th Street and Amsterdam Avenue of New York City’s Washington Heights, this is a musical that means so much to me. It means a lot to the Hispanic people it represents too - this is a musical that does us proud...”

Manuel paused for a moment before he went on with his speech.

“Lin-Manuel Miranda’s first Broadway musical, tells the story of a vibrant community on the brink of change in New York’s Washington Heights neighborhood. The windows are always open, the breeze carries the rhythm of three generations of music, and the biggest struggles can be deciding which traditions you take, and which ones you leave behind. In the Heights won Tony Awards for Best Musical, Best Score, Best Choreography, and Best Orchestrations. The music and lyrics are by Lin-Manuel Miranda and the book by Quiara Alegría Hudes.”

Torres, one of the main actors for In the Heights, took over from Manuel.

“Now, a word of caution. This musical is in English, so please keep that in mind while making a ticket purchase,” Torres said. “There’s going some Spanish in it too. As for where you can purchase the tickets to our show, that can be done at Metropolitan in person or buy from the SeatMaster app or SeatMaster website. I hope you all go to see this musical as this will feature the very first predominately Latin cast at the Metropolitan. We are more than proud to showcase that here in Japan, here in Musutafu...”

Caroline then spoke up.
“So if you wanna see the late nights, taste beans and rice, the syrups and shaved ice, I don’t need to say it twice. Buy a ticket so you can take a flight to a couple of days in the life of what it's like in Lin-Manuel Miranda’s *In the Heights!*”

Manuel was beaming when his fellow castmate finished their promotion in the restaurant strong.

“Thank you so much for giving us your time Santa Fe! It was a real blast doing those songs for you.”

Manuel parted ways with Caroline and Torres to head back to his table where his friends were waiting. The band who provided the music for the songs also exited the stage so another local artist can perform.

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Manuel arrived back at the table along with Brendon and his guitar. When the Dominican-American looked around at table, he noticed a certain Filipino not in his presence.

“Where’s Smokes?”

“Here,” Smokes suddenly said as he sat back at his seat. “I gave those premium tickets to the identical twin sisters who won them.”

“Did you explain the mechanics?” Izuku asked.
“Slowly and clearly,” Smokes answered.

“Good,” Izuku smiled.

“You were amazing by the way,” smiled Todoroki before he gave Izuku a kiss on the cheek. The green-haired boy’s face tinted slightly pink. “I’ll never get tired of you singing.”

“Dork,” Izuku giggled.

“Your disaster gay dork,” Todoroki said.

Izuku happily wrapped his arms around Todoroki’s left side. The freckled teen felt the welcoming warmth of Todoroki’s left quirk.

“This is nice,” Izuku contentedly said.

Raleigh then placed his fedora back on Manuel before he gave him a quick kiss on his cheek. Meanwhile, Akio and Sky were fondly discussing about all of the starter pokémon and how they formed their teams in each generation with a quiet but audible tone. And last but not the least, Brendon had Kimiko leaning on him, both enjoying the music being played by the live band on the stage and each other’s presence.

A successful promotion for the musical, a night out with Todoroki and his friends. Earlier, his mom
got a promotion at work too! Izuku thought the day was absolutely perfect.

“Hey Midoriya...”

“Yeah Smokes?” Izuku turned to him as he released himself from Todoroki’s left arm.

“Here,” Smokes was handing him some money. “This is my cut of the bill. This is a bit more than what I owe but I wanted to give extra just in case the calculations in my head isn’t right. If there’s a bit of extra, just leave it as a tip in the check...”

Izuku accepted the money from him but he had a confused look on his face.

“Are you leaving?” Izuku asked. This caused everyone at their table to turn at them.

“Yeah,” Smokes confirmed with a nod.

“But it’s like only 8:45,” Raleigh pointed out. “I thought we’re all staying here until 10?”

“But in the Philippines, it’s only 7:45 in the evening,” Smokes said. “It’s only an hour time difference between here and there.”
“How does that factor into you leaving?” Brendon asked.

“I want to Skype with my friends back in my old country,” Smokes said. “And this place isn’t the most ideal for doing that. I’m going to need a way quieter space…”

“Alright,” Sky accepted. “Say hi to your friends for us!”

Smokes smiled at that one. “I will. Don’t worry.”

Smokes then got up and after a quick search if he left anything behind in the seat he occupied, left them in a fairly rapid manner after saying a final good evening to his friends.

Todoroki’s eyes saw something different however. While everyone at the table bought Smokes’ reason to go Skyping with his friends, Todoroki knew in his gut that he was leaving for a very entirely different reason. Todoroki just could not pinpoint that different reason. But when he looked around at the good people that surrounded him and Izuku in the table they occupied, he quickly realized why Smokes decided to leave.

On his way back from delivering a lot of classified information to a good-paying client, Touya’s stomach rumbled a bit. It didn’t surprise him because the last time he ate was around lunchtime. But there was still some ways to go before he can reach the apartment he and Hawks now live in together, the vigilante decided to have a bit of food to stave off the growls of his belly.
Luckily, a FamilyMart store came into his view. A bottle of Coke Zero and couple of salmon onigiri wouldn’t hurt.

However, when he approached the well-lit store, he noticed a figure in a mint green hoodie he knew all too well sitting in one the benches that faced the FamilyMart’s parking lot. The figure was none other than Smokes. In Touya’s eyes, it seems like Smokes did not notice him.

After heading in the convenience store, getting his bottle of Coke Zero and two salmon onigiri, Touya chose to eat what he purchased beside Smokes, who was still sitting in one of the benches by the time he got out of the store.

“Hey kid,” Touya greeted Smokes as he sat down, placing the small plastic bag full of the food he bought on his lap.

“Touya,” Smokes looked a bit surprised by his presence. “What are you doing here?”

“I should be asking you the same,” the vigilante said. “You checking out the competition from FamilyMart?”

“Nah,” Smokes shook his head. “I need a need quiet place with some food to think.”

“Last time I checked, the convenience store you work at has those things too,” Touya told him, unwrapping one of his onigiri.

“Yeah but there’s a risk that my friends could come by and I don’t want to talk to them for the
“Night,” Smokes said.

“Had a fight?” Touya asked before he took a bite of his snack.

“Far from it,” Smokes replied. “I just felt like I was intruding something private...”

Touya swallowed his food first before he pressed Smokes, “Private...?”

“Every single one of my friends are in a relationship and I’m not,” Smokes said. “Midoriya was wrapped around your younger brother. Then there are my other friends: One put his fedora on his smaller boyfriend and have him a kiss on the cheek for the umpteenth time. Another couple talking about Pokémon as if it was their kids. Then there was my crush Brendon and his girlfriend Kimiko enjoying the live music at Santa Fe, the place we had a gig at... And since I don’t have the boy I want by my side, I decided to show myself out.”

Touya placed a hand on Smokes’ back and rubbed soothing circles.

“Sorry to hear that kid.”

“Emotions suck,” Smokes said. “Do you ever wonder what’s it like to live without them?”

“I already saw it first hand and trust me, it’s not pretty,” Touya said. “In fact, some people died because of it.”
“What happened?”

“We were trying to seal a deal with this criminal group that came to town,” the scarred man started. “But when one of their own tried attacking our member named Toga - a super annoying but deadly, knife happy girl - because she was getting on his nerve, things got ugly fast... the guys we were trying to deal with all disintegrated.”

“Disintegrated?”

“Shigaraki, this wrinkly-ass guy I used to work with, has a decay quirk. Anything solid he touches, whether inorganic or organic, will turn to dust.”

“So, the guys you were trying to strike a deal with literally vanished into thin air? Like nothing was left?” Smokes clarified.

“Yeah,” Touya nodded. “Unfortunately, before they rightly vanished, Toga got hit with one of their quirks. Apparently, that quirk causes people to lose any sort of emotion for 48 hours when hit by it.”

“How did you guys react to it?” Smokes inquired.

“Most of us were really freaked out by Toga not being her annoying self,” said Touya. “Even Kurogiri, the League’s dad figure, missed her being all noisy and shit. The only one who did like it was Shigaraki, the one with the decay quirk. He really savored the peace and quiet in our hideout.”
“What happened to that Toga girl after two days?”

“She said that she doesn’t even remember anything - we had to tell her everything from the moment she got hit to the days she was out of commission.”

“Okay, that’s really freaky,” Smokes commented.

“Well, the guy who did that to her isn’t alive anymore so don’t fret,” Touya told Smokes. “I have to ask you; what do you see in that Brendon guy you really like? Even when you know and saw he’s now with somebody else.”

“He’s cute and hot all at once,” Smokes sadly smiled. “He an insanely talented dancer too. He’s considered to be one of the best dancers in the Met. But my favorite part is the fact he has personality - he’s dorky and a huge pizza nerd underneath all of that coolness and huge amount of talent he has.”

“You afraid he’ll forget about you?” Touya asked.

“Yeah,” Smokes said.

“If you two are close, I doubt he’ll forget you,” Touya offered. “When I went to my sister’s place to celebrate mom getting out of that psychiatric ward...”

Smokes was surprised. “You went to you sister’s?!”
“I did,” Touya confirmed. “Had the best time with my siblings and my mom. It’s the longest I’ve smiled in a good while…”

Touya continued. “It’s one of those very rare occasions where my siblings and mom were all under one roof. The best part is my dad not being around there to fuck it all up.”

“I’m glad you went to go see your mom and all of your siblings.”

“I’m glad I took your advice… so thanks a lot kid,” Touya said.

“No problem,” Smokes said.

“Back to what I’m saying,” Touya told him. “If you and that Brendon boy are close, I don’t think he’ll forget you. I’ve been out of the family scene for a long time. Even then, my siblings and mom still remembered me when they saw me for the first time yesterday after I got out of the house all those years ago...”

“Reality has so many variables,” Smokes said. “But I see where you’re coming from...”

There was silence between them. Only to be broken by the occasional cyclist coming to the convenience store or the rare car passing by the sleepy street.

Touya, noticing his onigiri having gone cold, decided to heat them up using his quirk. While Touya
reheated in his tasty snack, he heard Smokes humming a song.

“What are you humming?” Touya asked as he reheated his onigiri.

“Oh, you heard that,” Smokes blinked. “I guess I was humming louder than I first thought...”

“What was it?” Touya inquired again.

“It’s a pre-recorded Spanish song about memories for *In The Heights,*” Smokes said. “It’s sung by a bolero singer...“

“How about you sing that while I reheat my onigiri. When I’m done, I’ll give you the other one,” Touya proposed.

“Deal,” Smokes accepted with a curt nod and small smile. “Bear in mind, this song is very short and in Spanish.“

“It’s fine,” The scarred vigilante said.

As Touya reheated their food, Smokes cleared his throat and started singing softly while a cool breeze blew over the bench they occupied:

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[Smokes]

No te vayas
Si me dejas
Si te alejas de mi
Seguirás en mis recuerdos para siempre

Para siempre, para siempre
Para siem—
Para siem—
Para siempre…

Chapter End Notes

Me? Praising Lin-Manuel Miranda in this chapter? It's more likely than you think - especially when I saw the cast for the In The Heights movie. I'm also living for the West Side Story cast (and not just because a certain Ben is there lmao)!

As per routine, tell me in the comments below on what you thought of it! More importantly, has anyone here seen Hadestown on Broadway?! I heard it was so good! I'm saving up to see it! :)

I also made a Tumblr! (https://overfnch.tumblr.com/) If you feel like it, hit me up there!
The only battle Izuku expected today was that of between Team Ojiro and Raleigh vs. Team Brendon and Kaminari in one of U.A.'s training grounds. What he didn't expect was that he had a battle of his own brewing in the background.

“What are you looking at over there?” Toshinori saw that Aizawa was looking at a tablet, the wide screen lit up to its brightest setting.

“The Americans friends my class made,” Aizawa said. “And the ones who started all this out-of-nowhere training with 1-A. I have to admit that these two make for interesting partners if these documents are anything to go by.”

“Documents?”

“I got their school to e-mail me their latest U.S. government stats then I got Hizashi to translate it from English to Japanese,” Aizawa explained. “Then Kaminari and Ojiro instructed them to make a short quirk-centered bio about themselves. I’m actually the one who planned the bio part by the way. They had to refer themselves in the third person.”

“Can I take a look?” Toshinori requested the tired teacher.

“Knock yourself out,” Aizawa said as he handed over the tablet to him. “But if a message from Hizashi comes up, let me have it back.”
“Sure,” Toshinori agreed.

The scrawny blonde teacher received the aluminum device from Aizawa and immediately saw a PDF of a document displayed on the screen.

The document Toshinori saw was about Raleigh - a face he was vaguely familiar with.

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Quirk Civil Registry

Department of State

The State of New York

**Name:** Ticonderoga, Raleigh Konrad

**Age:** 16

**Birthday:** July 4

**Birthplace:** Coney Island, Brooklyn, New York City

**Height:** 6’2”

**Interests:** Dancing, Airplanes, Hats, Excel Spreadsheets

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**Father:** Kurt Ticonderoga

**Former Occupation(s):** Boeing Aerospace Engineer, Airbus Aerospace Engineer

**Current Occupation:** Founder and owner of the Skunkworks Modification Group

**Mother:** Elaine Ticonderoga

**Former Occupation(s):** Flight Attendant, United States Representative for New York’s 13th
**Congressional District**

**Current Occupation:** United States Senator for New York

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This subject’s stats as of his latest mandatory quirk testing. Testing is in compliance with the latest federal testing standards set by the United States Department of Education.

**Power - 4**

**Speed - 4**

**Technique - 5**

**Intelligence - 4**

**Cooperativeness - 4**

---

Raleigh is one of those rare people who have two quirks.

His quirks are not only useful in dancing but are also great for combat as well. His first quirk is his mutated skeleton called a ultra high-strength composite skeleton. From head to toe, his skeletal frame is made of carbon fiber reinforced carbon and metallic alloy composite materials. This helps him not only keep his weight down and be lighter compared to most people within his height range but this also grants him stats such as enhanced strength, better durability and boosted agility.

His second quirk is shock absorption. It allows Raleigh to absorb shock that are generated by landing physical blows on him. If Raleigh needs to, he can retaliate by recoiling all the absorbed energy he soaked up from physical assault or turn it into speed by dispensing the absorbed energy into his legs.

However, even if Raleigh’s quirks make him a fast and athletic tank, he still has durability limits and his long endurance in battle is not going to last forever.

:-*:---:*:**
Toshinori then swiped up to see Brendon’s PDF profile.

The retired pro was more familiar with him as he had actually met him personally and he always wore a Crimson Riot cap backwards.

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Quirk Civil Registry
Department of State
The State of New York

Name: Young, Brendon Samuelsson
Age: 17
Birthday: January 1
Birthplace: Red Hook, Brooklyn, New York City
Height: 5’11”
Interests: Dancing, Pizza, Cooking, Shoes

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Father: Sean Young

Current Occupation: Co-owner of the Brooklyn Deli Supply Company

Mother: Agnes Young

Current Occupation: Co-owner and Founder of the Brooklyn Deli Supply Company

---
This subject’s stats as of his latest mandatory quirk testing. Testing is in compliance with the latest federal testing standards set by the United States Department of Education.

**Power - 5**

**Speed - 3**

**Technique - 5**

**Intelligence - 4**

**Cooperativeness - 4**

---

Brendon is well-aware of the power his EMP quirk wields. His wallet and all the electronics he accidentally shorted out knows it too.

Unlike every form of EMP, Brendon has a unique one as it can affect humans as well - in this case, by ‘short-circuiting’ their brain for a few minutes. He releases the EMP bursts through the end tips of his fingers after doing certain gestures.

A recent and much more powerful way for Brendon to release an EMP burst is when stretches out and level his arms in a parallel manner. This can turn him to a railgun; all he needs is a sturdy enough projectile he can use. To make sure his EMP attack will hit, Brendon’s eyes have a built-in target acquisition system that activates whenever he intends to use his quirk.

Like with all quirks, Brendon does have a few faults. He gets headaches if he uses his quirk too much and it also depletes his energy levels. His target acquisition system may take some time to lock on a certain target too.

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“I wonder if those two ever considered applying for U.A.,” Toshinori said to his friend as he handed the back the tablet.
“I wouldn’t be surprised if these two didn’t even bother doing that,” Aizawa said. “Both of them have different interest and it clearly does not involve hero work.”

“So why’d you even agree to all of this in the first place?”

“I want to see if some of the kids can work with strangers who have little to no training or battle experience but have good quirks,” said Aizawa. “The dynamic will be a lot different compared to the license exam. In that scenario, they were working with hero students who have good grasps on their abilities. In this case, I’m not so sure what to expect but we’ll see...”

“Is it fair to have Kaminari go up against someone like Ojiro?” Toshinori asked. "I know Kaminari is improving but Ojiro is smarter in both the classroom and stays cool even under pressure in the battlefield."

“Did you think it was fair that Kaminari and Ashido - two of my most academically challenged students - had to go up against our animal principal, who is way smarter than most humans are, for their practical exam?”

“That was actually really unfair...”

“It proves my point. But let’s see how these people try tipping the odds in their favor since in this case, it’s anyone's game.”

___[i][i][i][i][i]___

Todoroki, who was by the school gate, stared out into the distance, sometimes glancing down at his phone and double checking if he had five day passes with him. The dual-toned teen also used the time to make plans on how to talk with Izuku regarding one of his Met friends.

Todoroki’s mind then wanders back to Izuku. He still can’t believe he had him in his life. They have only been together for a few months now but it still felt all so surreal to him.
He’s heard Mina say he’s handsome, Bakugou recognizes his power and Uraraka is always impressed by his smarts but Momo knows him the best that when it came to talking with boys - he’s a ball of social awkwardness. He doesn’t know what Izuku saw in him but he’s glad that Izuku saw through his looks and occasionally awkward social interaction skills.

Heterochromic eyes picked up a head that was crowned by wild but very fluffy green hair. A small smile spread across his face when he saw Izuku. The short teen was accompanied by his friends but his eyes were only focused on him. Izuku beamed back and ran up to him, capturing Todoroki in a tight but warm hug.

"I missed you," Izuku laughed into his chest.

“I miss you too,” Todoroki reciprocated.

Izuku looked up to him before he was pulled down so his boyfriend can give him a sweet kiss on the cheek. Todoroki laughed softly at the gesture. “And I’ve really missed that.”

“So Todoroki,” Brendon spoke up. “Do you have our day passes?”

Todoroki pulled away from Izuku and nodded. He brought out inconspicuous looking silver cards and handed them out to Izuku and the other Metropolitan students.

The dual-toned teen spotted the rather eye-catching orange carry-on Pelican case Raleigh was holding.

“I see you’re ready,” Todoroki said while looking to the piece of luggage before making eye contact with its fedora-clad owner.

“I’m ready as ever I’m going to be,” said Raleigh. “Hopefully, I’m not going to let Ojiro down today.”

“He’s a bit nervous,” Manuel said as he wrapped both of his lean arms around his boyfriend’s strong torso. “But I just know he’ll do great today.”
“On the other hand, Mr. Brendon Young was a bit cocky on the way here,” Smokes said. “I was more surprised when I found out this asshole has no training at all under his belt unlike the other white boy over there.”

“Hey,” Brendon started. “Who knows? I might emerge victorious with Kaminari today. Besides I could have some tricks up my sleeve.”

Manuel cocked his head. “Not if Raleigh serves it to you first honey.”

“So Todoroki,” Raleigh said. “Where do we go from here?”

“We’re going to head all the way to the Ground Beta first,” Todoroki said. “Then both Brendon and Raleigh will change into their hero costumes. Both Kaminari and Ojiro are in theirs already.”

“Anything else should we know?” Izuku asked.

“Both Brendon and Raleigh really need to impress the teachers and the school principal himself,” Todoroki said. “All of 1-A will be watching too.”

“That sounds like the midterm exam for our dance and choreography class back in the Met,” Brendon commented. “All of the spectating eyes...”

“Looks like you have an idea of what to do to give us a great show,” Todoroki said.

“How long is the walk going to Ground Beta?” Izuku asked.

“We’re taking a van owned by Present Mic, my homeroom teacher’s husband,” Todoroki said. “That’s because it’s a bit far from here.”

Raleigh blinked at that. “I’m sorry but did you just say we’re taking a van?”
“There they are,” Shinsou said when he spotted the silver Toyota Alphard from a distance. “I really hope dad didn’t set the stereo system of that thing to play meme music... again.”

“Mic-sensei does that?” Shindo asked.

“Have you ever listened to Toto’s Africa on repeat while you’re on a road trip?” Shinsou asked Shindo, who just shook his head. “Lucky you. After that trip, my other pops, who’s Aizawa to everyone else, gave him a one month ban from using that very same Toyota...”

Present Mic drove up near class 1-A and effortlessly parked. As the engine of the distinctive minivan was cutoff, all of the main doors opened. Out came Present Mic, Todoroki, Izuku, Raleigh, Brendon, Smokes and Manuel.

Present Mic was playing Uptown Funk from his neck’s directional speaker as his smartphone was connected to it via Bluetooth.

“What’s up 1-A?” Manuel grinned as he and the other Met students walked up to the first year hero class. “We’re back, back, back, back, back!”

“I’m finding it insane that all five of them are here in our school again,” Tokoyami said. “But for a whole different reason this time.”

Brendon tried to look for a certain pink haired girl in the crowd as Present Mic cut of the music from his neck speakers.

“Where’s Hatsume? I know she kept my costume since she wanted to fine tune it and work some details out.”

“She’s inside,” Hagakure said, pointing back to the gigantic steel gate with her thumb. “In fact; Hatsume, Kaminari and Mashirao are waiting for all of you guys! The boys are in their costumes already!”
“Principal Nezu, Aizawa, Power Loader, All Might, Snipe, Cementoss, Midnight, and Thirteen are also there too!” Sero said.

“We know,” Smokes softly smiled. “The gay peppermint here told us at the gate earlier... except for the specific teachers attending this.”

Present Mic then turned on his speakers and spoke through it. “If that’s the case, let’s over there and get this competition KICKIN’!”

Shinsou just groaned as his dad guided all the 1-A and Metropolitan students to the designated surveillance room.

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All of the Met students were awestruck by the sheer scale of the urban training area that Ground Beta showcased.

“Jesus Chirst,” Manuel muttered as he moved his head around, looking up at the full-sized buildings and streets of his surroundings. His voice then raised in pitch to become more audible. “And YouTube comments says the Met has an insane theatre budget..."

“I mean we do have that,” Brendon said.

“But this training area is just insane,” Smokes further added. “The fact even the traffic lights here work is just super amazing attention to detail.”

“I really think it’s crazy that we’re still in a school,” Raleigh commented. “And that students are actually allowed to destroy these buildings and whatever stuff they have inside if necessary.”

“You guys are gonna stop singing this place praises once you get whooped into one of these office buildings and get your face full of concrete or get hit with a bus,” Shinsou said.
A bit further up ahead from the five was Izuku and Todoroki. Walking along with them were some of members Class 1-A. Namely Uraraka, Tsuyu, Iida, Momo and Hagakure.

“...It’s alright if I called you Deku?” asked Uraraka.

“Yes,” Izuku nodded. “Kacchan used to mock me with it but I really don’t mind it anymore. I’m pass all of the terrible stuff he used to do to me.”

“Besides,” Izuku continued. “If me and Kacchan kept the bad preconceptions about each other, how at was supposed to grow, right?”

“I commend your morals Midoriya!” Iida praised. “We, as aspiring heroes, should follow your example of forgiveness! You truly are a quirkless legend!”

Izuku lightly laughed at the description given to him by the hyper yet hands-on Class 1-A Representative. “Thanks Iida.”

“So Midoriya,” Tsuyu spoke up. “Is what Todoroki saying is true? That you really need to remember all the dance steps of five people?”

“Yes,” Izuku answered. “Brendon really wasn’t kidding when he said swing life’s super hard. I need to memorize the five male ensemble dance tracks so if just in case an ensemble member calls out on the night of the musical or if something happens, I can be ready to fill their spot on stage.”

“So how many swings does the musical have?” Hagakure asked.

“For In the Heights, we have four swings with me being one of them,” Izuku said. “The number’s split even between both the girls and the boys. But if I’m tasked to know all the five different male tracks for the show, Brian Cortes, on the other hand, has to cover for three male tracks and two female tracks...”

“I’m confused,” Todoroki admitted as they walked down the street, passing underneath a footbridge. “I thought if you were a male swing, you just cover the guy parts of the show.”
“So in our production of In the Heights, I cover five male tracks,” Izuku said. “My counterpart is Alice Wu, she’s the swing who covers five female tracks. Now, the other two swings, Brian, and Erica Reyes are different. If Brian covers three male tracks and two female tracks, Erica has to cover for three female tracks and two male tracks.”

“Why do those two cover for both male and female roles?” Iida asked.

“We want as many fail safes as possible, it’s a Metropolitan Production after all,” Izuku said. “We want things to be stable and go smoothly as planned even if something does go wrong.”

“How’s rehearsals by the way?” inquired Momo. “Are you able to keep up?”

“Yeah but we’re really kicking rehearsals into high gear recently,” Izuku said. “Not helping is the fact that I have to make a ton of notes for the tracks I’m covering for. Every single step and blocking per track, I have to write it down so I won’t forget it.”

“Are you certain that you’re not pushing yourself too hard?” Iida pressed.

“From what I see during rehearsals, I am pretty sure that majority of the musical’s cast are just sucking it up at this point,” Izuku answered. “That’s why during the weekends, we’re really encouraged to take it easy, relax and recharge...”

“Ribbit, do you have any plans for today and tomorrow?” The frog girl asked.

“My mom and I are gonna have a spa day tomorrow!” Izuku said excitedly. “But I didn’t plan out anything today other than this impromptu combat training between Brendon and Raleigh... I’m planning out a lazy day for myself after this.”

“You could hangout with us!” Hagakure suggested. “You know! Lounge around in 1-A’s dorm. Cuddle up with your man over here...”

“I think that’s a great idea,” Todoroki immediately supported.
“That’d be nice but I really do want to just be with myself for today,” Izuku kindly said with a smile. "A bit of alone time is healthy too."

“I understand,” Todoroki said. "Besides you do make a good point. Maybe I should have time for myself and catch up on the book I’ve bought last week."

"Do it!" Izuku happily encouraged his boyfriend. "You'll feel refreshed!"

“Do you think your friends are gonna stick around?” Uraraka asked Izuku.

“They could have other plans but if you offer them food, they might hangout for a bit,” Izuku hypothesized. “But Smokes could still say no immediately. He works during Saturdays at his legal guardian’s convenience store.”

Momo noticed Present Mic at their front turn to a tall building before opening its double glass doors.

“Oh, I think we’re finally here...” Momo told the others.

—[I—I—I—I—I]—

“Young Midoriya!” Toshinori greeted as he saw the freckled teen stream in with 1-A and his Metropolitan friends.

“All Might!” Izuku greeted back, walking up to him in the small pool of teachers with Todoroki at his side.

“It’s nice to see you again kid,” the thin teacher said. “Are your friends ready to fight?”

“They, at least, seem hyped about this,” Izuku described. “Me? Not so much...”

“They’re under our care,” Midnight told him. “We’ve got their backs if we start sensing danger that’s
going to affect all of them.”

“But before any of that happens, I need for Mr. Ticonderoga to hand in his hero costume,” Principal Nezu requested. “It has to go through our very rigorous but mandatory debugging process.”

“What’s debugging?” Izuku asked.

“It’s a costume inspection process that’s made by U.A.,” Power Loader told Izuku. “In the debugging process, we assess if there are any surveillance equipment in the costume. With all the advancements in technology, it’s very easy to make an efficient, very sophisticated yet very discreet surveillance system that can be woven into the final product.”

“This is done in the name of safety and security for all our students and faculty,” Principal Nezu said. “And it’s not just the students whose costumes who need to be debugged, staff have to go through it too. In fact Mr. Young’s in-house made hero costume had to be debugged too. With the number of incidents that have occurred throughout the school year, I can’t leave anything to chance.”

Despite the calm and friendly voice of U.A.’s animal principal, Izuku can sense how he means business.

Meanwhile, Todoroki looked around the room and noticed a prominent support course student talking to both Brendon and Smokes all by herself with a tablet in her hand.

“I wonder what Hatsume and those two are talking about,” The dual-toned teen said.

“She’s probably explaining to him the tweaks and adjustments she had to do,” Power Loader offered. “Even if it wasn’t a lot, it’s details are worth pointing out. And in the hero world, details add up big time.”

“Hey Maijima,” Thirteen called to Power Loader. “Should we start debugging the hero costume of that other kid?”

“The sooner, the better,” The support course faculty member said.
Todoroki turned his head and found the American teenager in question with his boyfriend, the latter pressed up against the wall.

“If you need Raleigh, he’s over there in that corner, kissing his boyfriend,” Todoroki flatly pointed out. “His case is there too but it’s a little ways off and I think they won’t mind if it’s gone for a moment...”

Izuku, Midnight, and the other teachers turned to the same direction Todoroki’s face was staring at.

“Ah, young love,” Midnight smiled when she saw the passion the two had.

“Oh my,” was all Thirteen said.

“You know,” Power Loader started. “I still have the nifty retriever device Hatsume invented. Want me to use it?”

“No,” Principal Nezu calmly stated. “We have to stop them.”

“I’m really sorry that they’re doing that,” Izuku apologized on behalf of the two.

“Don’t worry kid,” Snipe said. “This ain’t our first time at the rodeo. We stopped a bunch of our own student couples publicly doing that on U.A. grounds. And by we, I actually mean Aizawa...”

“Can you stop them?” Cementoss looked to the constantly tired faculty staff. "I’d do it but I just got the floor of this place waxed. I don’t want to ruin that."

“Just use the retriever device Maijima device has to stop them from making out and to get that orange case,” Aizawa said.

“On the next payday, I’ll throw in an all new sleeping bag and all new ear plugs to go with it if you stop them,” Principal Nezu proposed. “What do you say?”

Aizawa deeply sighed before agreeing to do it.
“Fine. I’ve been planning to get a new sleeping bag anyway...”

1-A’s homeroom teacher used his scarf, targeting both Manuel and Raleigh. The effortless use by Aizawa both awed and terrified Izuku.

"Eep..."

“I think that should be enough for them to get the message,” Snipe said.

_________

“Dude, why were you letting him shove his tongue down your throat?” Kirishima asked Manuel.

“I thought that they wouldn’t find out,” Manuel said, his cheeks flushing a faint red. “It was really secluded!”

“We’re in a school full of pro heroes. Of course they’re gonna find out.” Smokes said. “This ain’t the set of In the Heights back in the Met after all. I know that you two make out inside the bodega store when that metal shutter is down.”

“Wait, how did you know that?!” Manuel exclaimed.

“Oh please,” Smokes said. “I know some people make out in those building sets we have. The shutters on Bodega de la Vega, Dani’s Salon, Rosario taxi dispatch and the door on the apartment building easily make those places hotspots for a couple like you and Ticonderoga to do gross making out sessions.”

“Holy crap, Manuel is so red!” Kirishima laughed.

“I’ve never been so exposed in my life,” Manuel said, now covering his red face with both of his hands.
“Relax,” Smokes smiled, placing a hand on his shoulder. “I know what you two do but I ain’t mad at either two or for any couple kissing in the building sets. Besides, I see where you’re coming from; you really like him and he really likes you back plus I’m not blind to the fact he’s super attractive.”

“Hey you three!” Mina greeted as she approached them while cradling four bottles of Calpis. “I got us our drinks! Wait, why does Manuel look so super embarrassed? Wasn’t making out with his boyfriend in the same room where the teachers are embarrassing enough for him?”

“Manuel and Raleigh use their theatre set buildings as make out spots,” Kirishima told Mina as he helped her give out the drinks she got for them.

“Kiri!” Manuel said as he opened his tall bottle of carbonated milk.

“You’re a clingy boyfriend, aren’t you?” Mina smiled as she opened her bottled beverage.

“I love hugs, cuddles and kisses,” admitted by a calmer but still red Manuel before he took a sip of his Calpis. “They’re super nice to give and receive...”

“Aww,” Mina cooed. “That’s really sweet of you to say.”

“He’s not wrong when he says that hugs, cuddles and kisses are super nice, I canback his claims up,” Kirishima said in support of Manuel. “Bakugou and I do those a lot!”

“Guys!”

The four of them turned their heads to the voice of Izuku.

“Hey,” Smokes said. “What’s up?”

“Get ready!” Izuku enthusiastically told them. “Hatsume just came back in the room and said that both Brendon and Raleigh are about to reveal their hero costumes! She said that they’re both on their way here!”
“Oh, let’s wait over there!” Mina quickly said, pointing to an area near the entry way. “That way, we can all have a good spot once they get in here!”

Mina guided Izuku, Kirishima, Smokes and Manuel to the ideal viewing spot. Kirishima called for Bakugou and Sero to come over while Izuku did the same for Todoroki. As Bakugou and Sero got to their place, two figures walked into the well-lit surveillance room.

“Don’t you think these two look great?” Hatsume widely grinned as both 1-A and the teaching staff in the room took notice of Brendon and Raleigh in their all-new hero costumes. Hatsume - using her white hover shoes - went closer to Brendon. “But if you ask me, this is my bias. Power Loader-sensei and I were involved in making it come to life after all...”

“We are so gonna win!” Kaminari loved what he saw.

“Are you sure about that?” Ojiro asked him with a smirk. “From what I see, it’s obvious that Raleigh and I are take this one home.”

“So who gets to explain their costume first?” Jirou inquired in a volume that’s audible enough for everyone to hear.

“Why don’t you and Manuel do it first?” Brendon suggested.

“Okay,” Raleigh nodded before turning to his boyfriend and fondly looked at him.

“Want to explain this costume with me?”

“Sure,” Manuel replied with a smile. He his bottled drink to Kirishima before slowly walking up to his boyfriend's side.

“Don’t you two start making out now!” Kaminari teased, causing most of 1-A and some of the teachers to laugh.
“Shut up,” Manuel jokingly said back to him as his cheeks were tinted with faint pink on them. He clapped his hands to get the room in order. “I think Raleigh can explain the inspiration behind his costume’s design while I can hopefully explain the construction process and the fabrics and materials used. Now Raleigh, can you start us off?”

“Sure,” Raleigh happily nodded at him before he looked to the audience that was in front of him.

“So the inspiration for this is influenced by the very first musical I’ve ever acted in,” Raleigh started. “That name of that musical is *West Side Story* - and my role there was Diesel, the lieutenant in the very white New York Jets street gang... basically, my costume is The Jets but if it was set in 21st century New York City.”

"Of course a musical was involved,” Bakugou mentally told himself as listened closely.

Raleigh’s hero costume consisted of a deep blue bomber jacket and a fitted black thermal shirt. His dark grey pants were braced by a pair of black, metal knee and shin guards while his wrists were also braced by a pair of red, metal wrist guards. Completing his look was a red belt and reinforced deep blue high top sneakers.

“As for the functional aspect of Raleigh’s hero costume, most of it is made from a material called Hero-Tex,” Manuel said. “It has all the comfort and performance benefits of the Gore-Tex fabric with the main difference of Hero-Tex being this super durable material. And yes, the company who made this for us said it can be machine washed. I designed the costume with Raleigh’s comfort in mind as I’m a very firm believer in the mantra of comfort equals confidence. I also designed it to seamlessly fit his wardrobe style so he can mix and match it with his other clothes. However, to remind him it’s part of a bigger hero costume unit, there are bright yellow labels embroidered on the internal parts on the clothes, equipment and accessories.”

“Impressive,” Hatsume acknowledged with a nod. “But I think 1-A will like the fact Brendon’s costume is the very first hero costume where all of the materials and technology used to make it were all U.A. made.”

“If I’m being honest,” Brendon started. “I am pretty honored in being the test pilot for hero costumes full made with U.A. tech. You’d think they’ve been at the game for years, like the quality this thing has is really good...”

“If it’s worth doing, it’s worth doing right the first time!” Hatsume chirped.
“Okay,” Brendon began. “My inspiration for this is the Crimson Dragoon soldiers in Fallout 3. But in designing this, Izuku and Smokes tailored it to suit my needs and my style better. Meanwhile, anyone can feel the amount of work that Power Loader and Hatsume put into this too, how they sweated over the smallest of details. Thanks to those four, I’ve never felt so powerful in my life...”

Brendon’s hero costume is a form-fitting black armored jumpsuit. Details include slivers of taxicab yellow located on the piped seams. The same shade of yellow can be found on the laces of his military boots has. On his back was a metal and sturdy composite baton staff which was a bit longer than standard. Finishing his costume was a black baseball cap with a prominent taxicab yellow lightning bolt graphic embroidered on the front.

“Now, onto its features!” Hatsume told everyone. “The armor is fitted with what I call the ‘Cascade’ system. Powered by Brendon’s electricity which is the same source of his EMP quirk, it generates a modulating field for communications equipments as it features Digital Radio Frequency Memory and a live link that constantly updates to a ton of various police databases and cellular networks. The costume is also machine wash safe to make taking care of it easier. Built in Brendon’s cap is a special antenna with a headphone and mic combo that can withstand his EMP blasts - both of them are also powered by his own electricity. His utility belt has an area for meds that can counteract his headaches too!”

“So what are the parts did you do and what are the parts did Power Loader-sensei do?” Sato asked.

“Sensei weaved in the power induction system into the outfit.” Hatsume replied. “I did the clothes, the baton which does double duty as another weapon and all the communication systems!”

Principal Nezu decided to intercept Hatsume at this moment.

“Thank you for the brief run through of Mr. Young’s costume Hatsume. That was very thorough and interesting, indeed.”

The pink-haired support course student beamed at the animal principal’s praise.

“Moving on now,” Principal Nezu said. “And I’ll not beat around the bush with this. Both Mr. Ticonderoga and Mr. Young are our guinea pigs today. I and most of the U.A. staff are curious on what’s it like for our hero students to work with strangers who have little or zero combat training but have potentially powerful quirks. I normally don’t say yes to these sort of requests done by a class lobbying for it but this is a rare moment so I decided to approve this training to go on... yes, Iida? You were raising your hand?”
“Didn’t we work alongside strangers during the entrance and provisional license exams?”

“You did but there’s a difference,” Nezu said. “In the entrance exam, you worked with then strangers at the time but you were probably on your own during that exam. You probably also didn’t know any combat skills then. During the license exam, you worked with hero students who know how to fight and have understood their quirks well enough. This scenario is sort of different - Kaminari and Ojiro will be working with people they know but are strangers to intense conflict situations. The wild card here is that both of these strangers have powerful quirks so anything can happen.”

“I can’t wait to see how this turns out,” Shindo smiled.

Shoji then asked an important question to Brendon and Raleigh.

“Do you two have codenames?”

“Do we even need one?” Brendon was confused.

“You might as well, right?” Kaminari encouraged.

“Ms. Midnight?” Raleigh looked to her.

“Eh, go ahead and have one if you feel like it.” The R18+ heroine waved. “We’re not going to put it into the U.A. computer system anyway.”

“Okay,” Raleigh said. He thought about it for a minute before an airplane and a constellation crossed his mind. “I got it! I’ll be the Space Frame Hero: Orion...”

“Simple but effective,” Midnight gave her approval. “How ’bout you Mr. Young? Thought of a temporary hero name yet?”

“I’m the EMP Hero: Gauss,” Brendon smiled.
Kaminari then happily hopped over to Brendon’s side. “I can’t wait to kick ass with you!”

“Well, you two will have to keep waiting because Raleigh and I are gonna make sure it stays that way,” Ojiro told him in a cheeky manner as he went over and stood by Raleigh’s side.

“Tailman and Orion vs. Chargebolt and Gauss,” Kirishima was hyped. “This will be good!”

“Half of them haven’t fought yet... ever,” Jirou pointed out. “How do you know they’re gonna be good?”

“If there’s one thing eccentric theatre kids are very good at, it’s putting up a show no one will forget,” Brendon said with a confident grin.

“Since it’s apparent that we have teams now,” Toshinori said as he walked up to the four boys. “Let’s see what roles you four are gonna play... open them once you receive an envelope.”

The skinny teacher pulled out a couple of small envelopes and randomly gave one of each to Ojiro and Kaminari. The two 1-A hero students opened up their respective envelopes.

“Oh my god...” Kaminari grinned.

“Well...” Ojiro trailed.

“If a team receives the villain envelope, that team should follow me,” Toshinori instructed. “If a team receives the hero envelope, they’ll follow Thirteen on the way out to the field.”
“So, as much as possible, it’s best if we avoid them and just try making it to the gate?” Raleigh looked confused.

“That’s right,” Ojiro nodded.

“Why?”

“It has something to do with the nature of both Kaminari and Brendon’s quirks,” Ojiro said. “We’re going to have some problems if we get hit by either one of their quirks. Kaminari can discharge a ton of electricity so it’s dangerous if we even try going near him and Brendon can probably scramble our brains from a long range with his EMP quirk.”

“Those are some good points,” Raleigh nodded slowly before he looked back to his more experienced tailed partner. “How far is the gate from here?”

“I’d say... 20 blocks, give or take,” Ojiro told him. “It’s also best if we stick to the side st-“

All of a sudden, Raleigh took Ojiro into a bear hug and protected him from this fast projectile that scored a direct strike to his back. While his shock absorption quirk did activate, he still felt a fair amount of pain due to the electrical shock he got.

“HNNGGGGHHHH!!!”

When Raleigh let him go, Ojiro looked at him with worry.

“Raleigh! Are you okay?!”

“I’m fine, but whatever the hell that thing was, it was really fast,” Raleigh said through his gritted teeth.

Ojiro looked around the area when he noticed a familiar object that was not in the alley way before. He frowned at the sight of the familiar object surrounded by visible, blue electric currents as this
meant their rival villain team was very close.

“That’s Brendon’s baton, isn’t it?” The tall dark blonde American pressed.

“Yeah,” Ojiro quickly answered. “C’mon lets get moving...”

Ojiro and Raleigh ran towards the end of the alley when Kaminari stepped out in front of them.

“Whoa there,” Kaminari playfully said. His right arm was raised, ready to fire off his pointers. “I’m afraid I can’t let both of you get away...”

Raleigh then turned around, only to see Brendon blocking the other way out. He just picked up his sturdy baton and seemed more than ready to use it, close-quarters style. He pressed his back to Ojiro’s so he can talk to him.

“Have any plans?” Raleigh asked Ojiro with a quiet voice. “Brendon looks like he means business from what I’m standing.”

“Think you absorbed enough shock to turn into recoil energy?” Ojiro inquired. “If so, we need to get out on Brendon’s side. I’ll distract Kaminari and stop any of his shooting gear’s electric pointers from reaching you.”

“There’s a dumpster I think we can use to get Brendon out of the way,” Raleigh told him, already forming a plan with it.

“Okay, go deal with him while I’ll cover you from Kaminari...”

Raleigh blitz for the large dumpster. The immediate action got of the attention of Kaminari, prompting him to change his tactics. He quickly fired off two pointers, one for Ojiro and one for Raleigh. It was useless however as Ojiro used his tail to defend both himself and Raleigh. Using his tail, he rapidly spun in a circle, its force instantly repelling the electrical pointers Kaminari tried shooting at both of them.

Ojiro then ran over to a nearby trashcan before bat ting it hard towards Kaminari, landing a direct hit
to his head and briefly knocking him out.

Meanwhile, Raleigh used his strength to quickly get the large dumpster in place. He then gave himself a running start to build up momentum. Raleigh then gave the large dumpster a powerful low kick, unleashing a large amount of recoil via the move. Raleigh’s low kick was more than enough to dent the metal exterior of the dumpster and send it hurtling to where Brendon was standing. The EMP quirk user had little time to react.

Brendon blanked out and was instantly struck by the large, metal object.

With Brendon out of the way, this made a clear path for Raleigh and Ojiro to escape.

“Dude, I took care of Brendon!” Raleigh turned to Ojiro. “Need help in dealing with Kaminari?”

“No time!” Ojiro told him as he swiftly hopped onto his back. “Get us out of here! Kaminari could get up anytime now and he could shock us!”

Raleigh nodded at his tailed partner’s instructions. Once he was sure that Ojiro was secure, Raleigh prepared to use his oldest but significantly refined super move.

“Preparing for LEAP-X Takeoff,” Raleigh concentrated his recoil energy down to his legs. “Hold on tight, Ojiro!”

“Time to get out of here!” Ojiro said as he felt the whiplash hit him as Raleigh took off in an incredible speed. Raleigh kept on running at this pace for 35 seconds.

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As Brendon tried to get up and get his bearings in order, Kaminari jogged up to him.

“Hey dude!” Kaminari called out to him. “You holding up fine?”
“As well as I can,” Brendon replied. “You alright?”

“Yeah, I’m fine,” Kaminari answered as Brendon dusted himself off. “I’m not the one here who got hit with a face full of dumpster after all.”

Both of them laughed it off before they got back to serious business.

“Trust me, that shit ain’t fun,” Brendon said. “Thank god there was nothing in there, because if it was full, I would’ve probably tried to killed Raleigh for just messing up my clothes...”

“Speaking of Raleigh, we really have to take him down first,” Kaminari said. “We won’t be able to get close to Ojiro with him acting as a wall...”

“How do we takedown Raleigh though? He moves really fast and if I use my own metal baton as my railgun projectile, his shock absorption quirk will just soak all of its energy up and he’s gonna use that to recoil energy he just got to power up some of his moves.”

“Lets try concentrating on him first. If he goes down, then Ojiro goes down too,” Kaminari said. “Raleigh doesn’t have an immunity or some sort of resistance to electricity, right?”

“No,” Brendon confirmed. “In fact, I’ve noticed earlier that he’s affected by my railgun baton’s electric charge - not the actual impact itself. But...”

“But what?”

“I’m actually immune to electric shocks,” Brendon said, causing Kaminari’s eyes to widen. “I think it’s due my EMP quirk. But either way, I’ve been wanting try out an experiment... but before any of that, I need some of this shit, my headache’s really killing me now.”

Brendon pulled out a small vial of some sort from his utility belt. He opened the vial and a small amount of oil came out. Brendon applied the oil on his forehead and almost immediately, the expression on his face signaled relief.

“Want some?” The taller cap wearing teen offered to Kaminari.
“Nah,” Kaminari declined, prompting Brendon to close and put the vial back in his utility belt. “What was that?”

“It’s called White Flower Oil,” Brendon answered. “Smokes gave this to me on our way here. This thing is used to keep headaches and migraines away; a side effect of using my quirk too much. It's not going to restore my used up energy levels that I used for my railgun baton though. But White Flower Oil for headaches is a fucking miracle.”

“That’s nice of him,” Kaminari smiled.

“It is,” Brendon said with a smile. “Since my headache is just about gone, wanna listen to the crazy experiment I have in mind?”

“How does this experiment go?” Class 1-A’s class clown and meme king asked.

“I don’t like this,” Ojiro said, worryingly looking around. “It’s too quiet. It’s way too quiet.”

“I know dude,” Raleigh agreed. “Those two are definitely up to something. I’m worried because it’s been a while since we last saw them... also, sorry for going to the opposite direction of where the gate is. If I haven’t run this way, the gate wouldn’t be so far away.”

“It’s fine,” Ojiro reassured him. “Those two were attacking us and you didn’t know the layout of this testing ground. But if you wanna make it up to me, promise me that we’ll win this together...”

“That I can promise,” Raleigh beamed at him.

“Good,” Ojiro smiled.

As they walked down the street, Raleigh decided to break their almost too quiet surroundings with a
“Can the cameras in here pick up voice conversations?” Raleigh asked first.

“From what I know, they don’t,” Ojiro said. “Why are you asking?”

“I know this ain’t the best time for it but Manuel said that he’s confident on who Smokes is crushing on... and the answer he gave me really made me look at him like he was insane and shit.”

“Is his answer anyone you know?” Ojiro asked back.

“Oh yeah,” Raleigh nodded. “According to my boyfriend, the guy that stole little Smokes’ heart is-AAAAAHHHHH!!!”

All of a sudden, blue electric currents surrounded Raleigh. The currents had shocked the tall American effectively, causing him to twitch uncontrollably on the asphalt.

“Yes!” Brendon’s voice was heard. “Our plan worked!”

Ojiro whipped his head around to see the members of the rival villain team.


“Barrage?” Ojiro looked worried and confused.

“Why don’t you try it out for yourself?” Brendon smirked. “Kaminari?”

“Ready when you are, captain!” Said the other blonde.

Kaminari clamped down a strong hand onto Brendon’s shoulder. Both the rival team members were
then surrounded by Kaminari’s electricity.

But what truly surprised Ojiro was that Kaminari’s electrification quirk did not have any effect on Brendon at all. Even more worrisome was that Brendon did not look like he bothered by it - he even had a mischievous grin on him. Brendon lifted up both of his arms and stretched them out as he exposed both of his hands, his palms slightly angled to face each other.

Brendon then made a blue sphere that was made of electricity. Ojiro thought that large sphere wasn’t a good sign for both him and his crippled teammate.

Not wanting to stick around, Ojiro went over to Raleigh and immediately got to his side.

But when he tried reaching out for his teammate to carry him, Ojiro himself felt a violent electric jolt go up his spine. The tailed teen now has the heavy burden of defending his teammate and himself.

Brendon fired his Barrage move on him but Ojiro painfully decided to leave Raleigh’s already electrocuted body to protect himself. It was a questionable tactic but if Ojiro didn’t do it, the villain team would’ve won since he too would be out of commission to fight or even get away.

When another Barrage went off, the tailed teen swiftly launched himself into the air using his tail. As he looked down on the battlefield, his eyes saw Raleigh painfully pointing to himself rather vigorously, as if he was trying to imply that he should strike him instead.

Ojiro then knew what he was going on about...

Like a drill, Ojiro rapidly spun his body towards Raleigh. When he struck Raleigh’s body hard, the asphalt underneath him gave way and a large amount of dust kicked up into the air.

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“Why did Ojiro hit Raleigh like that?!” Kaminari asked in shock.
“I don’t know but both of us are about to find out,” Brendon said as he readied himself.

When the dust completely settled, both of them saw a fairly deep crater appear in the middle of the road. They backed away from it slowly but in combat ready stances. As expected, both Raleigh and Ojiro emerged from the crate. However, Raleigh seemed like he was an entirely different person - he looked like he wanted to revenge.

“Kaminari!” Brendon barked. “Charge me up.”

“Raleigh, you know what to do,” Ojiro said to his fellow hero teammate.

Raleigh nodded before he ran towards Kaminari in breakneck speed using his LEAP-X super move. Raleigh then stuck his head out, charging towards where Kaminari was standing.

“Turbo Ramjet!” Raleigh shouted as his head struck Kaminari’s body with brute force.

This caused Kaminari to be sent flying all the way into a building’s front glass doors.

Raleigh’s critical hit was too much for Kaminari to tough out. After crashing through the glass doors, the memeing electric blonde immediately passed out.

Unfortunately, Brendon took the time to launch a EMP at Raleigh, who had just recently stopped from his Turbo Ramjet move he used on Kaminari. As Raleigh’s body was effectively weakened by this point, he too gave out after getting hit by Brendon’s EMP.

When Brendon was more than sure that Raleigh won’t get back up, he took out his vial of White Flower Oil and quickly applied a generous amount of it on his forehead. The medicine relieved him of his intense headache and allowed him to focus on Ojiro.

“So it’s just you and me, huh?” Brendon said as he retrieved his baton from his back.

“My team is winning this,” Ojiro stated.
“With me still around, I don’t think so,” Brendon countered.

The cap wearing teen was preparing to launch another Railgun move. Brendon stretched both of his arms out; between those arms was his sturdy baton as the railgun projectile. Using the very same intense electricity that powers his EMP attacks, he instantly launched the baton with high velocity.

Ojiro used his own Tornado Tail Dance technique to counter it. While it didn't destroy the baton projectile, the force of his super move repelled it away.

As Ojiro stopped spinning, he realized that Brendon was not in the same spot he used to be in. All of a sudden, three orbs of blue electricity were suddenly headed right for him. Reflexively, Ojiro immediately launched himself into the air with his tail to avoid the EMP orbs in the nick of time.

Without hesitating for another second, Ojiro did another Tornado Tail Dance. It was even more powerful this time and he immediately targeted Brendon with the move. Brendon tried to fire another EMP shot but his energy reserves were too low at that point. Knowing that he was gonna lose, he just braced himself for Ojiro’s incoming attack.

Ojiro struck Brendon with a critical direct hit, sweeping him into the fairly deep crater he created with Raleigh earlier.

As the tailed teen stopped spinning, he only saw dust and heard silence. While he caught his breath, he beamed at the fact his team won after an unexpectedly difficult battle.

This was confirmed when a siren went off and Cementoss' voice announced it.

“Team Ojiro and Raleigh have won.”

Inside the surveillance room...
Everyone had different reactions when they saw the conclusion of the combat training on the large screen.

"They really did give us a show that we won’t forget," Jirou commented with Momo, Mina, Uraraka and Tsuyu beside her, nodding along to her words.

"HAGAKURE! THANKS TO OJIRO, OUR MEN WON! OUR MEN WON!" Manuel jumped up and down, hugging the invisible girl beside him excitedly.

"I KNOW! I KNOW! I'M SO PROUD OF MASHIRAO!"

"Oh well," Sero sighed before grinning. "At least Denki gave it his all."

"He's very good," Smokes told the tape-elbowed teen. "But I'm pretty surprised by that supercharged EMP move he and Brendon pulled off. It was amazing and scary at the same time."

"That was so manly!" Kirishima cheered. He turned to his boyfriend. "Right, Katsuki?"

"Yeah, I guess," Bakugou said.

Meanwhile, the teachers were also talking about the battle results themselves.

"So," Cementoss started, looking at his boss. "Think this was a success?"

"It is," Nezu nodded confidently. "Those boys surprised me in more ways than one. Thanks to them, I have so much to write about today..."

As Izuku and Todoroki waited with both the 1-A and Met students in the dorms for Ojiro, Raleigh, Kaminari & Brendon to come from Recovery Girl’s check up, the dual-toned teen pulled his shorter
boyfriend into the dorm's courtyard for a private conversation.

“What do you want to talk about Shoto?” Izuku inquired.

Todoroki shook his head. “I actually wanted to talk about one of your friends…”

Izuku was surprised at this. “Who?”

“Smokes,” Todoroki simply replied.

“Smokes? Why Smokes?”

“It has something to do with the way he acted around us last week in Santa Fe,” Todoroki said. “Excluding Smokes, can you remember who were with us at the restaurant during that time?”

“We were with Raleigh, Manuel, Kimiko, Brendon, Sky and Akio,” Izuku listed out with his right hand’s fingers.

“Notice anything we had in common with those people?” Todoroki inquired.


“We were all in relationships,” Izuku said before adding. “All except for Smokes.”

“Didn’t you find it weird that he decided to leave early compared to all of us?”

“He was gonna Skype with his Filipino friends,” Izuku recalled. “He needed a quieter place for that.”

“It just didn’t add up Izuku,” Todoroki admitted.
“Well, for one, none of us were exactly on our phones,” Todoroki pointed out. “In fact, I remember Smokes for being unglued to his phone at Santa Fe. He would’ve probably gave us a heads up too if he was gonna leave that early to quote unquote ‘talk’ with his friends back in the Philippines.”

“As much as I know you love conspiracy theories, you do have a bunch of good points there,” Izuku said, remembering the events of the night.

“Although we didn’t do anything wrong, I do feel bad for Smokes since he was a thirteenth wheel in the restaurant last week,” Todoroki said before explaining. “Thirteenth wheel being like a third wheel - except with four times the loneliness compared to a usual third wheeler...”

“What should we do?” Izuku asked.

“Talk to him,” Todoroki brought up.

Looking into the window that revealed the dorm’s living room, both Izuku and Todoroki observed Smokes working on the couch, his Surface Pro perched on his lap. The Filipino teen’s hands flying swiftly over the keyboard.

“Then again you think he won’t mind?” Todoroki asked. “He looks really busy.”

“He can spare us some time,” Izuku said with confidence. “Smokes is the type of guy who can give a moment if you ask. But can we talk with him in somewhere a bit more private and secluded?”

“Does my room sound good to you?” Todoroki offered.

“Yeah!” Izuku smiled. “That’s a good place!”
“So why did you two bring me up in Todoroki’s very Japanese dorm room?” Smokes inquired as he sat down on the tatami mats. He was confused on what’s going on.

“We wanted to talk to you about what happened at Santa Fe last week,” said Todoroki.

“You mean me leaving the restaurant so I can Skype with other friends?”

“Simon,” The short freckled teen started by saying Smokes’ real name. “Todoroki here told me that you chatting with your old friends just didn’t add up, especially when you consider that none of us were glued to our phones. We were focused on the promotion event we had to do in Santa Fe, remember?”

When Smokes’ brown eyes reacted like he was a deer caught in the headlights, Izuku knew that Todoroki’s observation last week was right.

“How did you...?”

“So you really didn’t video chat with any of your friends?” Todoroki pressed.

Smokes sighed in defeat and nodded. “I didn’t talk with any of my friends...”

“Can you explain why you actually left?” Izuku requested kindly.

“I’m going to need beer after my shift later at the convenience store,” Smokes said, running both of his hands over his face. “Alright, the main reason I left the restaurant early was that I was feeling a bit jealous...”

“Jealous that you were surrounded by a lot of couples at the table?” Todoroki supplied.

“That,” Smokes confirmed. “Actually, I’m jealous of one of the other dates...”
“Who?” Todoroki raises an eyebrow.

“Kimiko,” Smokes answered. “Brendon’s girlfriend. Why am I jealous of Kimiko? I have feelings for Brendon too. And yes, Midoriya here knows about it but as for the others, they don’t.”

“Smokes’ big crush on Brendon is the reason why he becomes a bit defensive when asked about it,” Izuku added.

“I’m afraid I might slip up,” Smokes said. “I’m really cautious on who I tell this to... the reason why I told this to Midoriya is because he can keep his mouth shut. I can trust him to not tell anyone. It’s just between him and me but with you in the picture now, I’m trusting you to do the same.”

“I’ll be on guard when I’m asked about the topic of our conversation here,” said Todoroki, earning a relieved smile from the brown skinned teen.

“Thank you,” Smokes said, his voice and facial expression sending out a grateful note.

“So how are you holding up?” Todoroki asked Smokes. “What do you do when you see Brendon and Kimiko are together?”

“Yeah, how do you cope?” Izuku asked. “I never got around to asking you that.”

“The feelings aren’t going away but I’m doing well - or as well as I can be,” Smokes replied. “I’m being supportive as I can of the two. Both of them make for a really cute couple and even I have to admit that. A Sauvignon Blanc white wine and Sapporo beer that we sell from the store certainly helps...”

“Isn’t that unhealthy?” Izuku asked with concern.

“I don’t drink all the time,” Smokes said. “I don’t want to drown myself with the store tab. Maybe I indulge on a bit of alcohol every once in a while but if I want to take my mind off Brendon without beer or wine, I just either work on a sketch on my Surface Pro or read something on the internet. I’m well aware that having a boyfriend isn’t the most the important thing in the world or the end of it all but...”
“But...?” Todoroki trailed.

“I sometimes catch myself thinking what it would be like to be in a relationship,” Smokes said. “I know, that compared to Midoriya and the others, I’m not exactly the most expressive. But I’m still human, I have feelings. I do wonder what it’d be like to go on dates with Brendon, what it’d be like to give him kisses and have cuddle sessions with him.”

“You really have it bad for him, huh?” Izuku said.

“I do,” Smokes nodded with a sigh. “But today, I get my paycheck from my part time job. I’ll save 30 percent of the money first before I blow the rest of it on a ton of quality skincare products... as both of you know, my smokescreen quirk is the reason my skin is very high-maintenance but I have to say, I like my skin being all soft and buttery smooth.”

“Is it really those things?” Todoroki said with some skepticism.

“Why don’t you and your boyfriend try it out for yourselves?” Smokes smirked as he scooted closer and held out his right arm.

Both Izuku and Todoroki first looked to each other before the dual-toned teen decided to take Smokes’ offer first. When Todoroki ran his cool right hand on the copper skin of the slim arm, he was pleasantly surprised.

“Holy crap,” Todoroki said with wide eyes before turning to his boyfriend.

“How soft is it Shoto?” Izuku asked.

“Less talking, more feeling,” Todoroki said as he gently took Izuku’s hand and ran it over Smokes’ arm.

Like Todoroki, Izuku’s eyes also opened up when he felt Smokes’ skin.

“Oh wow!”
Mina and Hatsume were talking over an improvement which the shoes on Mina’s hero costume can have. As they chatted, the closest elevator door from where they were talking in the common area opened. Out came Izuku, Todoroki and Smokes in a very unusual manner.

“What are you two doing to Smokes?” Mina curiously asked with a smile.

“His cheeks are so soft!” Izuku beamed. “Actually, his entire skin is super smooth and is so soft! Todoroki really can’t stop pinching and pressing his cheeks.”

“On the flip side, Todoroki has a really nice pair of rough hands,” Smokes said. “I can feel why Midoriya enjoys being held by his man.”

“You girls should try it,” was all Todoroki said before he pressed his index finger to Filipino’s cheeks again.

Mina and Hatsume walked to where the three males stood. Both of the girls did what Todoroki and Izuku were doing. It really shocked them how nice Smokes’ skin was.

“Sis,” Mina whistled as she ran her pink fingers over exposed brown skin. “You better drop that skincare routine you’re doing.”

“Yeah dude,” Hatsume seconded. “How do you get skin like this?”

“I can e-mail my routines and products I use to you,” Smokes said to Hatsume. “I still have your e-mail address when you requested for a couple of revisions for Brendon’s hero costume.”

“Oh yeah,” Hatsume suddenly said as she looked to Mina. “Should we tell him?”

“I mean it’s his phone,” Mina replied back. “He just left it there in the living room to charge...”
“Did something happen?” Izuku asked the pink-skinned girl.

“Brendon fried Smokes’ phone with his quirk,” Mina answered slowly. “And yes, Brendon, Kaminari, Ojiro and Raleigh are back from being patched up by Recovery Girl. They’re all in the dining area along with the others.”

Smokes stiffened before hastily turning to Hatsume. “Please tell me you can get my phone fixed.”

“Sorry dude,” Hatsume winced. “Even I couldn’t save it, let alone give it a nice upgrade. I took a look already and the damage was beyond salvageable. The EMP Brendon put out was super strong to the point it melted a lot of the circuit board’s parts.”

“Why did Brendon use his EMP quirk?” Todoroki inquired.

“We were all trying to kill this flying cockroach that wasn’t listening to Kouda,” Mina answered. “Brendon got to EMP the bug which allowed Bakugou to eventually blow it up.”

“Did you guys had to be that drastic?” Todoroki questioned.

“Mic-sensei was here and we all know how he reacts towards bugs,” Hatsume said. “He actually ran out of the door, carrying Aizawa and Shinsou with him when it flew around...”

“Present Mic’s scared of insects?” Izuku asked.

“Terrified would be the better word for it,” Mina corrected.

Smokes sighed. “I’ll go check my phone out...”

When Izuku, Todoroki and Smokes got to the kitchen and dining area, most of the people in the there were gathered around a table like someone’s own pet goldfish died.
“Hey dudes...” Kirishima started when they all saw the three boys come into the area. "So-

“Mina and Hatsume told us what went on down here,” Todoroki said to them.

“Oh,” Kirishima said.

“Sorry,” Brendon apologized to Smokes. as he claimed it from the table. “My fault that your phone got fried...”

“You’re pretty lucky that your adorable,” Smokes smiled to him before staring at his now non-functioning gadget. “Looks I have to start saving up for a new one.”

“Actually,” Raleigh intercepted. “I need you to come with me and Manuel later.”

“Why?” Smokes raised an eyebrow.

“I’m getting you a new phone,” Raleigh answered. “You’re the props master for In the Heights after all; you always have to be in touch with the rest of the team. And don’t worry about paying up, all on me.”

“I have a shift later,” Smokes reminded the tall, dark blonde American. “I can’t go out even if I wanted too. Remember, I had to schedule someone who can fill in for my post at the convenience store last week. That’s the main reason why I was available to go to Santa Fe and do the In the Heights promotion there.”

“How about me and Raleigh just pick a phone out for you then we’ll eventually drop by at the convenience store you work at?” Manuel offered.

“That sounds way better,” Smokes said. “Just get me something decent and I’ll be fine.”

“Looks like we got an agreement then,” Raleigh softly grinned.

“Deku,” Bakugou turned to him. “Are you or any of your friends gonna eat lunch here or what?”
“No Kacchan,” Izuku shook his head. “Mom made food that I can reheat back home. I'm planning to be lazy today!“

“I have a date with my girlfriend in three hours so I need to get home right now, too,” Brendon added.

“My shift starts 90 minutes from now so I also need to get going soon,” Smokes said.

“How 'bout you two?” Uraraka inquired Manuel and Raleigh.

“We have a day planned out on top of picking a new phone for Smokes here,” Manuel answered her.

“Aww,” Sato frowned. “I was hoping that everyone here was going to try out the new mixed berry cheesecake recipe I worked on...”

“But we can always make exceptions for Sato’s desserts,” Brendon suddenly said when he heard the word cheesecake.

“Honestly,” Tsuyu whispered to Uraraka. “Brendon’s 180 for Sato’s desserts is a big mood.”

Uraraka agreed with her girlfriend with a nod.

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“What are you doing?” Smokes heard a very familiar voice ask. Looking up from his post at the cash register, Touya was standing across the counter with a big bottle of soda in his hand. With him was Hawks, standing beside him. Touya put the bottle of Coke on the counter.

“I just emailed my skin care routine to an acquaintance and finishing up a very important piece of artwork,” The store clerk answered as he stood more upright. Smokes took his Surface Pro and
“What do you two think? Do I need to change the font color?”

Displayed on the screen was a detailed and colorful artwork of a sweet old lady smiling brightly. On the artwork’s sides were buildings. The left had showcased more Spanish style building silhouettes, palm trees and birds flying. On the right side was a series of brick buildings that were complete with windows, balconies and even some awning. On the center top, the text said ‘Abuela Claudia’ while on the lower left corner, the text said ‘Paciencia y Fe.’ Both text were written with graffiti-like, gradient teal fonts.

“You did that?!” Hawks was astonished by the artwork.

“You,” Smokes said as he casually held the register’s handheld barcode reader and aimed it at the soda bottle. “Are the two of you gonna order the specialty or take a pass this time?”

“We’ll take three please,” Hawks said, a bit distracted by the artwork. “Can we take a closer look?”

“With the soda, that’ll be ¥900,” Smokes said as he worked the till. “And before I let you guys take a closer look, I’m gonna have to save that first. I’ll kill myself if that accidentally gets deleted.”

Smokes first took the cash from Hawks and gave his change back. He then went on his computer and pressed a couple of keys for the ‘save’ keyboard shortcut. Smokes then proceeded to detach the keyboard from his PC and handed over the main body to Hawks.

“No harm will be done if either one of you close Adobe Illustrator by mistake,” Smokes said. “I’ll just head on over to Eleazar’s station for your order...”

As Smokes left them with his computer, Hawks pinched in to take a closer look on the vibrant digital artwork.

“It’s really cool he did this,” Hawks said with wonder in his voice.

“He does go to an art school alongside Shoto’s boyfriend,” Touya flatly pointed out.
“I want to hire him to make a big mural for the office,” Hawks said. “I wonder if he accepts commissions...”

“Ask him when he gets back here then,” Touya said.

Suddenly, the automatic doors opened and two new figures stepped in. Hawks turned to the sources of two new voices in the store. They were both male teens who had a shopping bag each in their hand - one was medium sized white shopping bag held by the taller male while the other one was black and rather large, being carried by a much shorter boy.

“We have to try out whatever that guy is selling out front,” The shorter male said. “His ice cream look so good!”

“I thought you said the dinner we had at that Cuban place stuffed you,” The taller male laughed lightly.

“Should we hide?” Touya turned to the popular pro hero boyfriend.

“Nah,” Hawks waved off. “If they want a selfie with me, I’ll let them have it... but I’m pretty sure I’ve seen the taller dude from somewhere before.”

Smokes suddenly came back running to the counter with a brown paper bag full of cardboard food packages containing the store’s specialty. Smokes placed the paper bag on the counter. In exchange, Hawks handed back Smokes’ computer. The young clerk first hid away his PC before he faces Hawks and Touya.

“Here’s the order,” Smokes said. “If both of you need to use the employee exit, I can give the passcode for the month so you two can get out of here discreetly.”

“No need,” Hawks said to him. “What’s one more selfie with me, right?”

“If you say so,” Smokes said before he turned his attention to the new people in the store. “And oh, looks like my new phone is about to be dropped off.”
“What?” Hawks asked with a confused tone.

“What’s up Mr. and Mr. Ticonderoga?” Smokes smiled to the other two male foreign teens.

“OMG, I thought it was just some guy in a costume impersonating Hawks but it’s really him!” Manuel said, jumping up and down. “Can I take a selfie with you?”

“How ‘bout we pose together instead?” Hawks suggested.

“Sure!” Manuel quickly agreed to as he brought out his phone. “Smokes, mind taking the photo?”

“No problem.” The young store worker said.

When Smokes obtained the phone and pointed the main camera to a Manuel who was doing a Vogue-like pose while Hawks went for something a bit more memeable. Touya just rolled his eyes at the pose of his boyfriend.

After the photo was taken, Touya spoke up.

“Big Bird, if you want to be a meme, you need to do it organically. It’s something that you can’t just force.” Touya told him as he collected the paper bag from the counter.

“Says you,” Hawks said. “I’m trying to do the impossible here!”

Hawks then noticed Raleigh and moved closer to him, eyes inspecting any detail that can help jog his mind.

“Why do I feel like I’ve seen you before? Have we met somewhere?”

“You have,” Smokes completed for the country’s number two pro. “Now as for this tall white dude’s name, his name is Raleigh Ticonderoga. He played Shane Oman in Mean Girls, the musical you’ve seen last November...”
“Oh!” Hawks remembered. “No wonder he looked pretty familiar! And yeah, he does fit the profile of your typical jock from America.”

Smokes continued. “The guy he’s with, and who’s tall and as twinky as me, is his Dominican-American boyfriend Manuel Tarraco. These two are my friends and literally some of the most disgustingly sweet lovebirds I will ever get to know.”

“Was the twink part even necessary?” Manuel said with a blushing face.

“You two do have close builds,” Raleigh observed. “And there’s nothing wrong with being one...”

“As for both of you,” Smokes continued, now talking to Raleigh and Manuel. “I’m sure Hawks here doesn’t need much of an intro. He’s Japan’s best bird and the second ranked number two pro. But the guy who does need an introduction is the tall one with staples and scars...”

“Who is he?” Manuel asked, both him and Raleigh looking at the heavily scarred man.

Smokes looked around first and for any eavesdropping eyes and ears before he continued.

“His name is Touya and believe it or not, he’s Todoroki’s older brother,” The store clerk said. “He definitely has done a lot of questionable and shady shit since he used to be a villain. I have no idea what Touya does now but what I know he’s a weekly customer of Calle Mercado with Hawks here - who should I point out is his boyfriend.”

“They’re boyfriends?!” Manuel said with a shocked expression.

Meanwhile, Raleigh instinctively pulled Manuel closer to him. “I know Hawks is here but I’m a bit concerned about the other guy who he’s apparently dating.”

“Relax,” Smokes said. “Touya’s chill. He’s not going to hurt a fly as long you don’t piss him off.”

“What happens if you do piss him off?” Raleigh asked Smokes.
“They get a taste of this,” Touya said as he produced a bright blue flame on his right palm. “If you think my baby bro’s fire is hot, the one I have turns the heat all the way up to eleven.”

Raleigh and Manuel visibly gulped as Touya killed the blue fire on his hand.

“Touya’s harmless these days,” Hawks beamed. “So don’t worry about him!”

“Now that all four of you are acquainted with each other,” Smokes said. “Where’s my new phone?”

“Oh yeah, we nearly forgot about that,” Raleigh remembered. “Here you go! I think you’re going to like what we got for you.”

Raleigh placed the white shopping bag he was holding on the counter. Smokes froze when he saw the contents of it.

“I told you to get me a decent phone,” Smokes chucked as he shook his head in disbelief.

“But you clearly deserved the flagship model,” Raleigh grinned. “And it was a good way to earn some new points on my new credit card.”

“You have another credit card?” Smokes questioned.

“The Citi Prestige,” Raleigh answered. “I don’t need it but my dad sent it over to me so I might as well use it.”

“Since I’ll never understand the lives of the privileged and the wealthy, let’s see what you got me,” Smokes said, slowly taking boxes out of the shopping bag.

Smokes took out the sealed package of the latest and second largest Samsung Galaxy S series phone. Following it was the package for the manufacturer’s own set of wireless earbuds in white. Also in the non-de script shopping bag was the box for large wireless duo charging pad, the compatible glass screen protector and a manufacturer made grey leather case.
“While I’m going to do some explaining when I get home, I can’t wait to do a bit of unboxing,” Smokes honestly said. “I can’t believe you two got me this stuff.”

“Do you mind if we take a look?” Hawks asked on the behalf of him and Touya.

“Knock yourselves out,” Smokes said.

Touya and Hawks went over to the well-lit counter to look at the different boxes. While Hawks inspected the accessories, Touya held up the box which contained the high-end smartphone. His eyes then picked up a minute detail stuck onto it.

“Why is there a U.S. and Canadian flag sticker on here?” Touya questioned.

“That’s because it’s the North American version,” Raleigh explained. “We got it at a specialty tech shop in the Akita Hills district. It’s the same shop where I got my iPhone too.”

“The JDM version of the Galaxy phone would’ve just served me fine,” Smokes said as he started putting all of the new electronics back in the shopping bag. He put it away so the counter would be clear of any items.

“We got that imported version because you might not like the idea of not being able to turn off the shutter sound of the camera,” Raleigh said. “It’s a sort of self-regulation here among the carriers and manufacturers selling phones in Japan.”

“It’s true,” Hawks confirmed. “All phones sold here are required to have the really loud shutter sound and you can’t turn it off.”

“Okay, I take back what I said about the JDM Galaxy phone being able to serve my needs,” Smokes stated. “The shutter sound would be so humiliating during class since I take pictures of the notes on the board.”

Touya tutted. “Kids these days... do you ever take notes with a pen?”
“If you think I don’t transcribe the notes into my notebook, you’re dead wrong,” Smokes said. “In fact, it saves me a lot of paper and it helps with attention during class since mine isn’t divided between the notes on the board and the teacher probably saying something important.”

“Oh yeah, speaking of your school,” Hawks interrupted. “Do you guys accept art commissions?”

“I do!” Manuel answered. “Smokes also accepts commissions but he and I tend to collaborate because we just mesh so well. But...”

“But what...?” Hawks cocked his head.

“We’re not accepting any commission deals at the moment,” Smokes said. “The three of us here are really busy...”

“Let me guess,” Touya said. “All three of you are in a musical called In the Heights.”

Manuel and Raleigh were surprised by his answer.

“How’d you know that?” Raleigh asked.

“You’re friends with a certain freckled boy whose hair is green and that boy just happens to be my baby brother’s boyfriend,” Touya answered. “Shoto’s little boyfriend told us what’s it about last week when he had dinner with me, my siblings and my mom. And yeah, thanks to him, we now have plans to watch it.”

“Oh,” Manuel said. “That makes sense... but trust me, I swear in the name that is Chita Rivera, you’re gonna love it!”

“What are your parts?” Hawks inquired.

“I’m the props master,” Smokes replied. “It’s a backstage role that makes me the one in charge of all the stage props the actors are gonna use and the audience is gonna see.”
“I’m playing Graffiti Pete,” Raleigh said. “The friendly neighborhood vandal of Washington Heights. But my rendition of him will be so bisexual, it’ll strike all of the bi people watching hard.”

“I’m playing Sonny de la Vega,” Manuel grinned. “The younger cousin of Usnavi, one the musical’s main characters. And in keeping with my gay agenda, Sonny will be subtly trying to impress Graffiti Pete throughout the musical. He could even slide him a slushie or two behind his older cousin’s back.”

“I don’t remember Shoto’s boyfriend saying anything about two characters not being straight,” Touya said.

“In the original Broadway production of the musical, Sonny and Graffiti Pete are good friends,” Manuel said. “But many fans of the musical say that they both have the ‘not straight’ energy blatantly radiating off of them. In light of this, we decided to give the not straights a wink here and a nod there.”

“Aren’t you two afraid of queerbaiting?” Hawks questioned.

“Not really,” Raleigh said. “I’m really a bi guy and my boyfriend’s is best gay. The choreography I’m learning for the show and some modifications we made in the script will make a lot of folks happy out there and not feel baited.”

“I really want to watch it now,” Hawks said.

“How ’bout we both let you hear a song called Benny’s Dispatch?” Manuel said with a smile painted on his face.

“Yes!” Raleigh supported. “The rapping in that song is fire!”

“Before you two start singing, why did you turn down the understudy role of Benny in the musical?” Smokes asked Raleigh. “You seem to fit the role well.”

“Benny, in my opinion, is best played by an actor of color,” Raleigh replied. “Also, any white dude like me is gonna have a very high chance of looking like an out of place Elder Kevin Price thanks to the costume Benny wears.”
“He makes a good point,” Smokes said. Manuel nodded along. “Alright you two, sing us to New York City...”

“Can I stay in your counter spot?” The tall American asked Smokes. “So I can really feel like I’m in a taxi dispatch?”

“Help yourself,” Smokes said. He left the counter and joined Hawks and Touya who were just waiting to see what was gonna happen.

Raleigh turned up his phone’s volume all the way to its loudest setting and got the microphone Smokes uses for work. He didn’t turn it on but he did start singing into shortly after playing a pre-recorded musical track on his glass and metal device:

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[Benny]

Check one two three
Check one two three
This is Benny on the dispatch.
Yo atención, yo attention

It's Benny, and I'd like to mention
I'm on the microphone this mornin'
Honk ya horn if you want it!
Okay, we got traffic on the West Side

Get off at 79th, and take the left side
Of Riverside Drive, and ya might slide
West End's ya best friend if you catch the lights
And don't take the Deegan
Manny Ramirez is in town this weekend

Sorry Dominicans, take route eighty-seven

You ain't getting back in again...

Hold up a minute...

[Nina]

Benny, hey—

[Benny]

Nina, you're home today!

[Nina]

Any sign—

[Benny]

Of your folks, they're on their way!

[Nina]

Anyway—

[Benny]

It's good to see your face—

[Nina]

Anytime—

[Benny]

Hold up a minute, wait!
You used to run this dispatch, right?

[Nina]

Once or twice—

[Benny (Nina)]

Well check the technique! Yo!

There's a traffic accident I have to mention

At the intersection of 10th Ave and the Jacob Javitz Convention Center

And check it, don't get stuck in the rubber-neckin'

On a 192nd, there's a double-decker bus wreck

Now listen up, we got a special guest! (Benny...)

Live and direct from a year out west! (Benny...)

Welcome her back, cause she looks mad stressed! (Benny...)

Nina Rosario, the barrio's best!

Woo! Honk your horns...

She's smiling... say hello!

Raleigh handed the mic over to Manuel. The latter boy belted out on key.

[Nina]

Hello!

Good morning!
Manuel then calmed his voice his down when the music slowed. He handed back the microphone to Raleigh.

[Nina]

I better find my folks

Thanks for the welcome wagon.

[Benny]

Anytime. Anytime, Nina

Wait here with me

It's getting hot outside, turn up the A.C

Stay here with me

-_-_-_-_-

"White boy has his rap game on tonight," Smokes smiled as he softly clapped for his friends. "The Dominican was really good too..."

"Why do you never serenade to me like that?" Hawks asked Touya.

"Buy me a guitar and I'll make sure that changes," Touya smirked.

"Since I want that, we’re going to go guitar shopping tomorrow," Hawks declared.

"Seriously?" Touya told him, since he was just kidding around.

"Yeah," Hawks confirmed. "I’m not exactly short on funds to get you one."

"If you say so," Touya just accepted.
Smokes wristwatch then beeped.

“Looks like my shift is over,” Smokes said.

“And I think that’s our cue to go!” Hawks told them. “I think we overstayed our welcome here...”

“See you two around then,” Smokes said.

As Hawks and Touya left the store with a wave, Smokes turned to both Manuel and his boyfriend.

“You both headed home too?”

“Yeah,” Raleigh nodded. “But I’m going to go with Manuel to his house first.”

“Mind if you two wait for me so I can tag along?” Smokes asked them.

“I don’t mind!” Manuel happily said. “The more, the merrier!”

“We’ll wait for you,” Raleigh seconded.

“Okay,” Smokes said. “Just let me do a bit of store stuff here then we can leave this place... and if you two want, help yourselves to a slushie.”

“What are the flavors?” Raleigh asked.

“Kiwi Strawberry, Orange Creme and Passion Mango.”
One of Todoroki’s most defining traits in the dorms is that he very rarely eats fast food. The dual-toned teen prefers fresh and healthy Japanese meals if he needs to fill his stomach. Another reason why he likes Japanese meals is because he’s familiar with a number of recipes which he can execute with no problem at all and the comfort it brings him.

But since he spent his dinner at Izuku’s home, the green-haired teen wanted a meal that was the opposite of healthy. Accurately, Izuku wanted a KFC dinner in the Midoriya apartment.

“I think that’ll be my last fast food meal in a good while,” Todoroki said after he softly burped. “It unbelievable that both of us tore through six pieces of fried chicken, a coleslaw, french fries and a crispy chicken strip.”

“I have to thank you though,” Izuku said. “I know that fast food isn’t your comfort zone...”

“I was coming in here unannounced so it’s the least I can do for you,” Todoroki said. “Is sweating after eating fast food natural? And is the sweating caused by all of the saturated fats and calories in the food?”

“We should ask my mom,” Izuku softly giggled. “She works for an up-and- coming catering company after all.”

To stop his sweating, Todoroki used his right side to cool down his body. Izuku got a clean paper napkin and used it to wipe minute beads of sweat that didn’t go away from his boyfriend’s activation of his cold side.

“At the risk of sounding elitist, how can you eat all of that stuff and not be sick?” Todoroki inquired.

“I’m not exactly a picky eater,” Izuku told his dual-quirked boyfriend with a laugh. “And at the end of the day, I just want to stop craving food... but if you offer me a large bowl of freshly cooked katsudon, I will not hesitate to go for it first.”

“That does sound like you.” Todoroki smiled.
“So, what do you think of your first non-holiday bucket of KFC?” Izuku asked.

“Very indulgent,” Todoroki said. “While I am not used to eating that amount, I do see the appeal. It’s nice to let your hair down every once in a while.”

“I’m glad you see it that way,” Izuku said with a grin. “With your opinion of KFC out of the way, why did you actually go here at the last minute? I thought we agreed that we were going to have the rest of the day to ourselves?”

“That was supposed to be the plan but then... my dad called,” Todoroki started. Izuku's ears perked up and listened in. “Later in the day, I met up with him.”

“Why did you meet up with him?”

“So he can introduce me to this girl that I should date. So me and this girl went out. However, I do need to tell you right now that I really am a gay who only has genuine feelings for you.”

Izuku stood up and occupied the seat next to Todoroki. He wrapped an arm around the taller male and nuzzled into his left side.

“Oh Shoto,” Izuku said. “I know what we have is real. If you were lying, I would’ve spotted it way before since you’re not a particularly good liar. Remember, I can see bad acting.”

“You’re right,” Todoroki smiled for a bit before his mind was occupied again.

“So back to the topic,” Izuku said. “Have any reason why your dad’s pushing you to date this girl?”

“To obviously continue the gene pool,” Todoroki bitterly said. “There’s no way in hell I’m going to be dating someone that I don’t have feelings for and vice versa. It’s just wrong and I don’t want to lock someone in a relationship that we both know we won’t even like.”

“Does 1-A know this?” Izuku inquired.
“You’re the only person who about this so far,” Todoroki replied. “Nobody back in U.A. knows anything about it. When I get to my sister’s place later, I’m gonna break it to both my sister and mom. I’m sure it won’t take long to reach Natsuo and Touya too once Fuyumi hears what I have to say.”

“Oh okay,” Izuku started. “We know where you stand on this issue - you clearly do not want to date this girl. But why are you weirdly nervous about this girl your dad is making you see? Is she too nice that you don’t want to let her know that you’re clearly not interested?”

“I think I’ll just let you know who I met with a picture,” Todoroki told Izuku.

The dual-toned boy shifted slightly and took his phone out from his pant pocket before placing it on the table top.

Todoroki unlocked his device and went straight to the gallery app. He tapped a picture taken not too long ago. Izuku just froze in his seat when he saw the subject of clear picture.

“That’s... That’s Kimiko! Endeavor wants you to date Kimiko?!”

“Trust me, I was just as surprised as you are,” Todoroki said.

“How in the world did you go on a date with her? She had a date with Brendon today!”

“Actually, Kimiko told me that she had to cancel her date with Brendon today at the very last minute,” Todoroki told his boyfriend. “She was really forced by her parents do this date thing with me.”

“Really?” Izuku was surprised.

Todoroki just nodded. “This is the main reason why I wanted to come over to your house. I believe this conversation we’re having right now is a bit too hard to explain and quite delicate for online chatting.”

“Oh Shoto, what are we gonna do? How am I going to explain this to Brendon?!”
Fortunately, Todoroki had a plan that he thought through long before arriving at Izuku’s home.

“Here’s what we’ll do. On Monday next week, let’s talk this out with your friends after school over food...”

“But most out us will be out by around 6 p.m. since rehearsals and big backstage work for In the Heights are ongoing.”

“That gives me sometime to get out of my uniform and prep then,” Todoroki said.

“How about your dorm curfew? Aren’t you afraid you’ll miss it? How about Class 1-A too? Will they know?”

Todoroki slowly answered Izuku’s volley of questions one by one.

“For the curfew thing, I’m going to iron out things with Fuyumi so I have a place to stay. That’s because there’s a high chance I’m going to miss curfew and I’ll be locked out the gate. As for 1-A, all of them are going to know about this very soon - nothing stays secret in my class forever. Now, do you think Brendon will take this well?”

“He has to, right?” Izuku said. “You and Kimiko clearly don’t want to be involved in any of this.”

“We don’t,” Todoroki answered. “But my old man clearly had a few other ideas... all for a fucking gene pool. I know that we’re way too young to get married but trust me, my dad’s biding his time once me and the girl of his choice - whoever it is - turn old enough or when the time is right...”

Izuku is really taking it all in. “While I do know this conversation is important and the situation you’re involved in is clearly not your fault, I’m getting a bit stressed out for you.”

“I’m really sorry,” Todoroki apologized. “I didn’t mean for your lazy day to end up like this. I just thought that you had to hear it in person from me first...”
“At least your honest,” Izuku said. “That I can really appreciate.“

“Want me to give you a massage so you can de-stress again?”

“Actually,” Izuku started. “Can we watch an episode of Parks and Recreation? I could use a bit of comedy right now.”

“No problem,” Todoroki smiled. “Let’s clean up first then let’s watch your show.”

Chapter End Notes

I have a Tumblr! (https://overfnch.tumblr.com/) Hit me up there!
And tell me what you thought of this chapter in the comments below!

Please drop by the archive and comment to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!