Summary

Fanfiction for the pairing of Izuku Midoriya and Mina Ashido. Might be a bit of a slow burn, we'll see. Probably some fluff, but, like my other stories, no plans on Lemons.

IzuOcha is still my favorite pairing, but IzuMina has definitely gained serious traction, and I could definitely see it happening, given the right storyline. EDIT: Due to watching the anime again, and continued reading of IzuMina, this pairing has replaced IzuOcha as my favorite. Still like IzuOcha, but, so far, it has impeded Uraraka's character development. Sorry.

Crossposted on WattPad.
The New Semester

It was amazing what Class 1A had gone through in just one semester at UA High School. The attack on the USJ, the Sports Festival, internships, the disaster that was the Training Camp, and finally the Provisional License Exam.

All but two of the students had passed, and were now able to fight crime alongside Pros. And they had just gone over Work Studies to do just that, getting beat down by Mirio Togata in the process.

Of course, that was a few weeks ago, now, and classes were starting to get back to normal. Well, as normal as they could for Class 1A. Right now, they were in the middle of one of Mr. Aizawa's lectures. Luckily, the day would soon be over, and they would be able to head to the Dorms. And it was Friday, a fact that made everyone a little more chipper. Especially a certain pink-skinned student.

Although, to say Mina Ashido was "more chipper" would be confusing to most people on the outside. Already a rather excitable sort, the idea of the weekend was what the alien-looking girl was truly looking forward to. A chance to unwind and relax. Hang out with her many friends. Maybe even make new ones with members of her class that she wasn't as close with. But, they still had to get through this lesson.

Mina knew better than anyone, though, that she wasn't exactly the most exemplary student. Though, after the Final Exams last semester, she had been hit with a very deep reality. She wasn't doing herself any favors by her disregard of study. So, she had decided to step up her study game, as grueling a prospect as it was. Mind you, she wasn't going to go as hard as students like Yaoyorozu and Midoriya, but still.

Actually, thinking about the resident curly greenette caused her to look over in his direction. As always, he was deep into his notebook, writing things down that Aizawa was saying. Almost faster than the teacher was speaking, it seemed at certain points. It made Mina smile a bit. Midoriya was one person she had promised herself to get to know better this semester.

Truth be told, she had an interest in getting to know him better after the Sports Festival and his fight with Todoroki, but things had gotten in the way. The sheer determination and grit. The confidence he had exuded in getting Todoroki to use his fire. It had been awe-inspiring, even if he had caused himself major bodily damage and the loss of the match. And yet, the boy had been happy about it.

Mina was amazed, especially with how reserved and timid the boy was normally. And the mumbling that he did when he was going over everything, quirks, lessons, and the like. To most, it seemed annoying. Even to Mina at first, it had caught her off guard, and caused her a little bit of discomfort. Now, she actually found it endearing. And he was doing it now.

Which had caused Mr. Aizawa to sigh, stopping in the middle of his lecture.

"Midoriya," he announced, without turning around, "keep up that mumbling, and I'll have you teaching the class." There were some chuckles from the other students, and most looked in Midoriya's direction, getting the sight of the noticeable red tint that had lined his face. Instead of snickering like the others, Mina actually sent the boy a sympathetic smile when she caught him looking her way. He returned it with his own awkward smile, though it seemed to have calmed him down some.
"Sorry, Mr. Aizawa," he said, in response. Aizawa merely sighed as he finished up his lecture. It was now close to the end of the day, but he turned around and gave some surprising news.

"Before you leave for the weekend, I'll be assigning everyone a project to do over the next few weeks. You'll be in pairs....and no, you don't get to pick. I've already selected these pairs." He shuffled a few papers. "As a surprise, I'm not going to announce your pairs, or the specifics of the assignment out loud. When I call your name, come get your paper that will have all relevant information, including the identity of your partner, and leave. Do not announce anything to the rest of the class. This is an aspect of your assignment I will key you in on. You have to do this as secretively as possible. In the end, the other teams will be tasked in attempting to guess who was partnered with who."

The whole class was taken aback at the revelation. Some looked at each other, trying to gauge what Mr. Aizawa could possibly throw at them and why. He started calling names, and one of the first things Mina did was trying to gauge the reaction of each person getting their papers to see how they reacted to their partner. Some were pretty neutral, but some definitely gave small hints.

She saw as Midoriya received his paper. He took a cursory glance over it, and Mina could see his face go beet red. *He's been assigned with a girl*, she smirked. *Now it's just figuring out who.* Mineta's name was also called soon thereafter, and Mina had almost cringed at the thought of who the little perverted parasite would be assigned with. She could see the eagerness in his eyes as he grabbed at the paper, but a wash of relief befell Mina when she saw his countenance fall. He had not been assigned to work with a girl. Aizawa was at least smart enough to prevent that.

Pretty soon, her own name was called, and she briskly walked up and got her paper. She didn't even look at it as she skipped out of class, not wanting to give anything away. After she got a little ways down the hall, she decided to look at the paper. It had her name at the top, followed directly underneath with three words that caused her face to turn a shade of lilac:

**Partner: Midoriya, Izuku**
Mina walked towards the Dorms, her mind and heart racing. She had been paired with Midoriya, who she had just recently decided to try to get to know better. Well, this was the perfect opportunity.

But why I am so interested in getting to know him better? Mina couldn't help but ask herself. She knew she wanted to be friends with everyone in her class, but this was a new feeling for Mina. She shook it off as she pulled out her phone. We have to keep it a secret from everyone else? Means meeting is going to be hard for those who don't normally hang out, like Midoriya and me.

She knew the best course of action to get the ball rolling. Since she had made it her personal mission to get everyone in the class's phone numbers pretty early on, she knew she could text Midoriya to meet her somewhere. Now the question was, where?

Mina: Heeyyyyy, Midoriya! Guess who?

She didn't have to wait long, as a reply came in less than a minute later.

Izuku: O-oh, h-hey, A-ashido. How's it g-going?

Wow, he stutters through text. Impressive. Mina couldn't help but giggle to herself, before she responded.

Mina: So....as you know, WE'RE PARTNERS!!!! But, shhhh. Can't let anyone find out. ;) <3

There was a fairly large gap between her message and his next reply, and Mina was starting to wonder what had drawn his attention away.

Izuku: Y-yea. I-I was thinking about how we'd go about this. H-have you read the assignment yet?

Truth be told, she hadn't, but she moved the paper back in front of her face and gave it a quick scan. Reading the instructions, it kind of surprised her. Aizawa wants us to do this?

Mina: Um. Just did. Are we sure this is for Aizawa's class? lol

Izuku: He was the one that gave it to us.

Mina: I know that, but, c'mon, Midori. This does not seem like an Aizawa type of assignment.

Izuku: That is true. I don't know. Maybe we can go over it tonight. My mom is making Katsudon if you'd like to join us, and we can start working on it.

Mina: Food and studying with a cutie like you! You sure know your way to a woman's heart.

She could already see his face go beet red at her message. She giggled to herself. This time, the wait for his reply was longer than the original. Mina could just imagine that, on top of the red face, Midoriya had probably shrieked in surprise and dropped his phone.

Mina: You okay, dude?

Mina waited about another 30 seconds before a response finally came through.
Izuku: O-oh, y-yea. I'm fine. So, um, she says dinner will be ready by 6, and we can go ahead and head that way now.....if you'd like, of course.

Mina: Sure thing. Just need the address.

After getting the address from Midoriya, she quickly finished her journey to the dorms in order to change into more comfortable clothes. As she made it to the entrance, she saw Midoriya coming out, clearly heading out, having already changed. She didn't see anyone around, but she waved and smiled to him.

"Hi, Midori!" she said in greeting. If anyone had seen them, they wouldn't have suspected the two were partners, as this was her usual reaction to seeing everyone. "Going out?" She asked, to throw anyone who might see, just in case. Midoriya caught on to the ploy quickly.

"H-hi, Ashido," he replied. "Yea. Just going to visit my mom. I hope you have a good afternoon." She smiled and threw him a wink. As they passed each other, she whispered in sing-song.

"See you soon." With that, his face red again, Midoriya made his way out. Mina quickly made her way to her room and got changed.

*Time skip to Mina's arrival at Izuku's*

Mina stood outside the apartment door. She gave three quick knocks and started humming to herself as she waited. She didn't have to wait long, as the door opened to reveal a short, somewhat portly woman with green hair. The hair color instantly gave away that this was more than likely Izuku's mom. She smiled at Mina.

"You must be Ms. Ashido," she said. "Please. Come on in." She was so friendly, Mina couldn't help but smile widely at the woman.

"Oh, you can call me Mina, Mrs. Midoriya," she replied. "Thank you for having me over."

"That's not a problem at all, dear. Izuku is in his room getting everything prepped. He told me he had a school project. He didn't say it was with such a pretty girl." Mina's face became a slight shade of lilac at the words.

"Thank you, Mrs. Midoriya." Once Inko had pointed out where the room was, Mina practically skipped to it. The door was cracked a bit when she got there, and she could peak in to see Izuku putting some stuff away. From a brief glance, it looked to be some All Might merchandise of some sort (the kind that his dorm room was already littered with).

She stood there for a second as he spoke to himself. She knew she should go ahead and announce herself, but his words were intriguing and endearing.

"Okay, I think that should be good enough," he was saying. "I'd rather not freak Ashido out. I mean, I know she's seen my dorm with all of my All Might stuff, but that's definitely a lot less than I still have in here. Okay. I heard her knock, so she should be coming to the room any sec---- AAAHHHHH!"

He had turned around at that point and spotted Mina at the door with a grin on her face. It was a sweet grin, not toothy like normal.

"A-Ashido! H-how long h-have y-you been st-standing there?" He asked, clearly completely flustered at this point.
"Long enough," she winked, now bringing the full smile on. Her face did lessen a little to an understanding smile. "You know? You don't have to hide your likes from people."

"It's just, kinda embarrassing, is all," Izuku said, his eyes looking down to the floor, while he scratched the back of his head. She just rolled her eyes before walking in.

"It's okay, Midori," she said again. "I think it's awesome how much of a fanboy you are."

"R-really?"

"Yea, dude." Her voice was honest, and her smile was, if Izuku had to describe a word, warm. It gave him a warm feeling in his cheeks and in his chest. "I've seen how passionate you get about things. It's really...awesome." She stopped herself. *What is going on with me?* She looked to see Izuku's cheeks redden more, if that were possible. After a moment of silence between the two, he awkwardly broke the silence.

"S-so, we should ch-check out this assignment, right?" Now, Mina beamed, and took out her stuff to get started.
The Project

"Okay, now that we read that out loud, I can see why this is an Aizawa thing," Mina was saying after they went over the basis for the project. Izuku nodded in turn.

"It does make sense as Heroes that we would need to be able to both work with other Heroes who we may be unfamiliar with or whose Quirk didn't always work in conjunction with our own," he said. Mina just smiled as the green haired boy really got into his Hero explanation.

Still, the project did not initially seem like an Aizawa thing. She understood the part in regards to learning more about their partner's Quirks, but less on the whole 'guessing game' part that would come at the end of the project. That was, until Izuku explained it.

"And by using the portion in which we discuss our partners without revealing their identity will also help us get a better feel in our investigative side of things as Heroes." He thought about this part of the project before adding, "I'm really glad Aizawa paired me with you." Mina looked at him curiously, before deciding to tease him a little.

"Oh, really?" she said, her sly grin once more on her face. "Why's that, Midori? Like spending time with me?" She winked as she saw his face go red, before he went on his stuttering tirade.

"I just meant that with how well you are with reading people, and being friends with most everyone, you'd be able to pick out their descriptions better." His eyes widened a little, as he saw her pout a little. "Not that I don't like hanging out with you, cause I do think this is fun, and we never really got a chance to know each other. But, I'm not implying that...." He was stopped in his tracks by Mina giggling.

"It's fine, Midoriya, I get it," she said, in between laughing. Then something struck her, and her brows furrowed a little, an unusual sight for Mina Ashido. "Hey, I'm not hurting you am I? Laughing at you being flustered?" Izuku had actually calmed down at this point, his face turning to concern, and then understanding by Mina's shift. He knew that Mina was actually a good person, who wouldn't hurt someone's feelings intentionally.

"Oh, no, Ashido, I'm fine," he said, giving her a reassuring smile. "I know you're just doing it to tease and have fun. You're not trying to be mean." Her smile returned.

"Thanks, Midori. But let me know if I make you too uncomfortable," she then thought about what he said in regards to how well she knew everyone. And about being glad that he was partnered with her. It made her cheeks gain a lilac tint. "But, um, actually. I should be the one to be glad to be partnered up with you." Now it was his turn to look at her curiously.

"Why do you say that?" he asked, innocently. It was not lost on Mina that his cheeks were still a little red, and her words had brought the redness in full force.

"Just how smart and detailed you are about everything," she said. "I mean, what if people start going off into lesser known stuff about their partner's Quirks. With all of your analysis, and those notebooks you keep on everyone, Hero, student, Quirks in general, you'd probably be able to spot those things, you know?" His face registered what she meant.

"Then, I guess we should do really well on that part of the project," he said, that once in a while determination hitting his face. Mina couldn't help but feed off that energy. "Regardless of which aspect the other's use, one of us will have a good idea?" Mina couldn't help herself as she jumped
up in celebration.

"That's right, Midori! We'll be unstoppable!" Her own energy made Izuku jump up as well, and then they both shared a laugh. After a few moments, they looked at one another, their smiles still etched on their faces. Their eyes locked, and the air in the room suddenly felt very warm. They were brought out of it by a knock on Izuku's door.

"Dinner's ready!" Inko called out. They both turned their heads to the side to hide the blushes on their faces.

Dinner went really well, with Mina laughing at some embarrassing Izuku stories from Inko. They came to the decision that Mina would make her way back to the dorms first, with Izuku working on some things for their project before also heading back.

They still decided to work on the project some more though before their plan went into effect. They surprisingly got a good portion of information down on one another in the short amount of time before they absolutely had to plan to be back for curfew.

To Mina, a good part of what they were doing for the project didn't even seem like schoolwork anymore. To her, it was getting to know a person better, something she always tried to do with new friends anyways. It was finally a project she didn't have to worry about too much focus on.

At last, the night finally wound down, and Mina was getting ready to leave.

"I'll see you in a little bit, Midori!" she said as she walked out the door, her trademark smile plastered on her face.

"O-okay, Ashido. See you in a bit." They had already made plans for at least tomorrow as far as working on the project went, so they wouldn't have to worry about seeming out of place to the others. And they had agreed that they would come up with a plan for each consecutive meetings the same way.

And Mina was already looking forward to tomorrow.
Getting to Know You

Saturdays usually meant sleeping in for Mina Ashido. However, her excitement about going to hang out with Izuku again today had her energized for an early (for her) start to the day. It was just after 10 in the morning when she walked out of her room, ready for the day. The pair had agreed to a meet up at the mall, so they could do some shopping together, as well as continue with their project.

The mall was also a good idea since, if anyone saw the two of them, they could come up with the excuse that they had run into each other while shopping. A little more believable on Mina's end than Izuku's, but Izuku had told Mina the night before that he needed to do some actual shopping anyways, so his cover was good, and what had gotten them to decide on this being their next meeting for the project.

A little more informal than the 'cram session' they had the night before, but no less impactful to the ultimate goal. Of course, for Mina, she was actually starting to thank Aizawa for this project, since getting to know and hang out with people was what she excelled at. Though, she did start to ponder the meaning behind his selection process. Was it random? Or did Aizawa have a reason for pairing who he paired. Mina just shrugged as she continued her transit to the mall.

She had finally arrived, and began walking to the entrance. The agreement had been for whoever got there first to wait for the other near the entrance. Mina felt a pang of regret, though, when she realized Izuku was a fairly early riser. She groaned to herself at how inconsiderate she thought she was, and took her phone out to text him. She never did, though, as she saw a familiar mess of curly green in her view. She walked up to him. She didn't want to scare him, so she made sure she was in hearing distance when she called out to him.

"Hey, Midori! Fancy meeting you here," she said, her broad smile on her face. He turned to see her, and smiled back.

"Oh, h-hey, Ashido," he replied back. Once Mina got close enough, she dropped her smile a bit. Well, actually, quite a bit, as her previous thoughts came back to her.

"I totally realized how inconsiderate I was for having whoever got here to wait," she said. He looked a little confused. "I mean, I know how you like to be an early riser, so I don't know how long you've been waiting, or could have been waiting for me to get here. I'm-I'm sorry. I'm a horrible partner."

This was very un-Mina like, but, for whatever reason, she didn't want to act this way with Izuku. He was far too nice, and always considerate of others. Those reasons were just a few things Mina found attractive about him.

"Wait, what?" she realized what she was just thinking, but Izuku's response saved her from dwelling on it too much.

"Oh, you don't have to feel bad about that, Ashido!" he quickly interjected. "I haven't been here that long. I had my whole workout routine that I did this morning first. I should have messaged you when I got here. So, it's kind of my fault that--" Mina raised her hand to stop him. Trying to put the blame on himself always made Mina's heart sink.

"I won't have you doing that, now," she said. "This was my idea, so the fault is going to lay with me. No arguments." She finished her point as he was about open his mouth to try. He closed it,
before sighing. He gave her a warm smile.

"Well, I still haven't been there that long, so don't feel so bad," he said, reassuringly. She giggled, since she knew he wouldn't entirely go down with letting her take the blame, at least finding a way to make her feel better about everything.

They soon found themselves going from store to store, sometimes just perusing, other times actually picking up an item or so. Mina was having a blast, and, if Izuku's face was any indicator, the One for All user was as well.

They had been going at it for a while, chatting and shopping, when Mina felt her stomach grumble. Apparently, Izuku's stomach decided to respond in kind, almost like they were speaking to one another. Izuku and Mina looked at one another, and just laughed at it. Mina finally stopped laughing long enough to put words together.

"Guess we should get some food, huh?" Izuku nodded at her idea, and they made a beeline for the food court. They ordered a fairly light lunch before looking for a place to sit in the now more crowded mall. They searched around for a bit before Mina spotted a bench, figuring it was their best option right now.

"Hey, Midori, I found a spot!" she called out to him. He smiled, as he made his way to her.

"That's great, Ashido!" He replied. "I'm surprised we were able to with all of the....people...." his voice trailed off as his eyes locked on to the bench Mina had found. His face started to pale, and he instinctively took a step back. Mina had almost sat down when she saw the look on Izuku's face. Her brows furrowed.

"Midoriya? You okay?" she asked, making her way up to him. His throat was parched, but not from thirst, as his eyes stayed glued to the bench. After a full minute of silence, he shook his head.

"I'm sorry, Ashido. I can't sit there." There was pain in his voice. Mina gave him a confused look. Izuku had now broken his gaze long enough to see it. "That's where Shigaraki had me." It was a simple statement, but one that hit Mina like a truck. She let out a little gasp.

"Midori, I am so sorry," she said, sincerity in her words. Instinctively, she grabbed his free hand with hers, and started to pull him away from the area. "C'mon. We'll find somewhere else." Luckily for the pair, they found another table not that far off. They ate in relative silence for a few minutes before Mina spoke again.

"I wanted to say I'm sorry, again. I--" she was cut off as Izuku put up a hand. He looked at smiled at her reassuringly.

"You didn't know," he said quietly. "But, thank you. For everything." Mina nodded in return. She felt a little better, but still felt that maybe there was more she could do to cheer the boy up. But what was the real question. Soon enough, they were finished with their lunch, and began to walk around again, though they were much quieter.

Mina couldn't stand it. She wanted Izuku to be back to enjoying himself. Before she could say anything, though, Izuku spoke up.

"I'm sorry I ruined the day for you," he was saying. She gave him an incredulous look. "I really was having a great time. And then I totally killed the mood." She shook her head.

"No Midor-Izuku," she said, conviction in her voice. "If anyone is responsible for letting the mood down, it was me. Again. I'm sorry. I do a lot of things without thinking, and that's not fair to you,
especially with something like tha--" she was stopped as she looked into his eyes. He was smiling in gratitude, but there was definitely a fire in his eyes.

"Ashi-Mina," he said, cutting her off by using her actual name. "You took the blame for earlier. Let me take this one. You couldn't have known." She closed her mouth. The air was definitely better about them than a moment ago. She let out an exaggerated sigh before smiling.

"Alright, Midori, let's see what else we can get into today."
Though the day at the mall had been a bit of a roller coaster, the day had ended on a high note. Again, they decided to split up their return to UA, this time with Izuku heading back first, as he clearly had less items that he purchased than Mina did. However, a subject came up that had kind of been bothering both of them.

"Not that I don't enjoy days out like this, but it's going to be a lot harder come Monday when classes start back up," Mina was the first to breach the subject. Izuku nodded. After a while, some of their classmates would probably start piecing together when the two of them would be absent, or make plans simultaneously. After a moment, he had the starts of a plan.

"You're friends with Uraraka and Asui," he said. Mina tilted her head, curious as to where Izuku was going with this train of thought, but nodded absentlly. "So, it wouldn't be out of the realm of possibility if you were to come sit with us at lunch on, say, Monday. You'd start by talking to the two of them, then spread to the rest of the table. And this would work two fold...." he paused to let the idea sink in, and to see if she knew where he was going.

Though her grades didn't always reflect it, Mina Ashido was actually a fairly bright girl, when she applied herself. And her face lit up as she did, indeed, begin to see where he was going.

"You and I would be able to 'get to know each other' more, as well as get some information on the others for when they begin describing their partners!" She was absolutely beaming as Izuku smiled and nodded. She jumped up and down in a little celebration, which Izuku couldn't help but chuckle at. After she calmed down, he went on.

"Now, in turn, that does run the risk of others keying in on some of our information, but I think the benefits outweigh the risks."

"Heck, yeah, Midori," she pumped her fist in the air. "Aizawa made the dream team right here." Then a thought came back into her head that she had been wondering since they got the assignment. "How do you think he picked teams, anyways? Random? Or was there a method to his madness?" Izuku kind of shrugged at this.

"Honestly, it's really hard to tell, since one of the factors is we don't know who else was partnered with whom." Mina thought on this and nodded, a little down that she couldn't figure it out. "But..." Izuku continued, "the more we find out and observe from everyone, we might be able to pick up hints on who is partnered with who, and that might help us piece out what Mr. Aizawa is going with."

"You're so smart, Midori," Mina said, with a smile on her face. "Really dude, it's awesome." He shyly smiled back to her. Her words were, again, making him feel warm. It was a feeling he was actually familiar with, but that he hadn't expected to come up again so soon.

*****

Monday came around pretty quick for Class 1-A, and Mina and Izuku had decided to take Sunday off from 'working on the project' to hang out with their respective friends groups, but still ended up having a big class get together. Some of their class were pretty tight lipped about what they had been doing over the last two days. Others tried to get information from others about the project, hoping to gather who was partnered with who.
Izuku and Mina seemed to do pretty well in that respect since they were able to be open without giving anything away. They even mentioned 'running into each other', and everyone seemed to believe it, as quite a few people had seen them return at their different times the previous night.

But now, it was Monday, and classes were going on, per usual. Mina was doing her best to keep attention. She was really trying to better herself and her grades since the Finals. She had known that she had somehow managed to keep her spot at 19 after, but was hoping after the last few weeks she could maybe move up a few spots.

Soon enough, it was lunch time, and the class made their way. Per the plan, Mina had stayed back a bit in order for Izuku and the friends he normally sat with to get to their seats. Once everything was settled, she moseyed over to her normal group.

"Hey, guys," she said. "Just wanted to give you a heads up that I'm gonna go sit with Tsu and Uraraka. Kinda realized I don't spend as much time with them as I'd like." Everyone seemed to be understanding.

"Just don't forget about us," Kirishima joked, which Mina responded to by sticking out her tongue. After, she walked over to the table where Izuku was. She obviously went over to Uraraka and Tsu.

"Hey. Uraraka! Tsu! Mind if I sit with you guys? I don't think I get to spend enough time with you. Plus, it be super cool to get to know more people!" She smiled to Iida, Izuku, and Todoroki. The two girls were all too happy to have their pink friend join them, but checked to make sure the others at the table were too. Todoroki gave a non-committal shrug, which, according to Uraraka, meant he was okay with it.

"T-that's f-fine," Izuku said, timidly, though inside, he was thrilled she had followed through with the plan. Iida gave a small 'hmm' while pushing his glasses up to his face. After a moment, he stood, and puffed out his chest a little bit.

"Your initiative to get to know others better is a shining example to the rest of us," he began, his usual chopping motion joining his speech. "You're willing to branch out of your normal group. Truly, you're willingness to get to know others will make you a fine Hero, as it will help when it comes to helping others. I'm so proud to be the Class Representative. I shall have to endeavor to do more to get to know others in our class as well. Truly an inspiration, Ashido."

Mina barely stifled the chuckle at the Class Rep's actions, though felt good about herself that she had impressed him. Though she always thought he was a bit of stick in the mud, he was also very passionate about Heroics. Probably not as much as Izuku was, but Mina figured that would be next to impossible to achieve.

And, so, being welcomed to the table, Mina sat down, and began to talk to everyone. Primarily Uraraka and Tsu, but she made sure to include the others in the conversations as well. Especially Izuku. Which, honestly, became a lot easier, since both Iida and Todoroki didn't really contribute too much to most subjects Mina brought up.

"Man, these teachers really know how to lay the work on us, don't they?" Mina was saying, as the conversation turned to academics, and a few of the classes they had already been through during the first half of the day. "I know I'm not the brightest in the class, but the Finals really opened up my eyes to the kind of work I'm going to have to put in this Semester. I just wish there was a better way for me to learn some of this stuff. I'm not that great at studying, but I feel like I'm trying?"

The last bit had been more of a question. One thing she was uncertain about. She was doing better. Mr. Aizawa had even made a note of it on her last test, but it had definitely been a struggle.
"I-I could help, Ashido," the slightly timid voice of Izuku stated. "I-if you'd like, of c-course. And if your partner for Aizawa's project would be okay with you allotting time for it." Mina smiled widely. *Nice diversion there, Midori*, she thought to herself. As she was thinking this, Iida went on another tangent about how inspiring Izuku was for helping another student with improving their grades. Mina swore she could see tears welling up in his eyes.

"You'd do that for me?" Mina said. Izuku nodded nervously. "You're the best, Midori! I'll check with my partner, but I don't think they'll have that much of a problem with it." This plan was quickly evolving, and now they wouldn't really have much to worry about when they were together, as the guise of Izuku helping Mina study would be pretty solid. Of course, she also knew that there would be some actual studying in most, if not all, of their get together sessions.
"Okay, dude, you really played that well today," Mina said, a little more excitedly than was probably necessary, but such was Mina Ashido. Izuku found it quite endearing, if he were being honest with himself. She brought an energy to the room that he truly admired. Something he found attractive about her.

*Wait, what?* Not for the first time did the thoughts of attraction for his pink classmate cross his mind. He had always found her attractive, and her energy was definitely contagious. But, ever since Aizawa set the assignment, those thoughts and feelings became far more prevalent in Izuku's mind. Of course, he knew she would never share those feelings for someone like him.

Apparently, he had unknowingly looked a little downcast and distant, which Mina saw and frowned.

"Hey, Midori, you alright?" She leaned forward in her bed. They were currently in her room for their first 'official' study session. She sat on her bed, one of her books open, while he was turned around facing her from her desk chair. He looked up to see her concerned look.

"Oh, s-sorry, Ashido," he stuttered, nervously chuckling. "Guess I spaced out there, huh? I'm good, just don't really think it was all that impressive." He tried to smile, but she could tell it wasn't all there. She sighed, trying to make up her mind about something.

"Hey, Midori," she had made her decision. "I'm curious about something." He looked up, and tilted his head, willing to hear her out. "Why are you always so timid and shy? I mean, I know your quirk hurt you when you first joined the school, but it's really powerful. And you're also so nice, and, when you see someone in trouble, you go total Hero. And you've got this fire that is just awe-inspiring. But, almost as quickly as it comes, it goes." She looked to see his reaction. He had a frown on his face.

"I'm sorry, that was insensitive of me," she was saying, her voice as downcast as her face. Izuku's mind was kind of a storm at the moment. There was so much about himself that he wanted to say. He wanted to be open. But he didn't want to burden someone else with his problems. However, her words hit him like a dagger. Now, she was worried she had hurt him, and he, in all of his Izuku ways, couldn't let her do that to herself.

"O-oh, no, it's f-fine, Ashido," he said, trying to be comforting. "I-I was just t-trying to kind of p-piece everything together, so it was coherent, and not my normal m-mumbling mess, hehe." This seemed to cheer the girl up a little bit. She still looked at him sympathetically.

"Thanks, Midori. But, if you don't wanna talk about it, I do understand." He sighed a little, though when he looked at her, she could see that little bit of a hint of that fire. He smiled at her, which she now returned.

"It's okay," he was saying. "I guess it would be good to talk to someone about this. I'm sure this has been brought up before, but I was a late bloomer. So, for the longest time, I thought I was quirkless. This obviously caused a lot of problems, which included being bullied." He then more or less poured his heart out to her about what it was like. He made sure to leave out Bakugo's name, or that the other boy had told Izuku to kill himself. Unlike so many others, Mina listened intently, a look of shock on her face.

Not to say that she didn't have her suspicions, with prior bullying being near the top, if not the top,
of the list as to why Izuku acted as he did. Quite a few emotions boiled inside her. Anger at the people who would treat others, treat Izuku, like that, just because he was quirkless. Relief that he hadn't, as some others had done, taken a rather unpleasant route to the situation. Joy that he was with her now. And not at least a little bit of curiosity as to whether or not he would still be the great person he was if he had developed a quirk when most others did. Or if he would become someone like Bakugo due to how powerful the quirk was.

As he finished, she could see the tears in his eyes. This definitely caused him pain, but there was another thing she saw in his eyes. Relief. Relief that he had been able to share that with someone. To get it off his chest. With him finished, Mina did the only thing she could think of to do. She moved over to him and wrapped her arms around him, bringing him into a hug. Obviously, he tensed up at the contact, but eventually relaxed, and even brought his arms around to return the hug.

"That was terrible what you had to go through," she spoke after a little while, still embraced. "Those people were terrible for doing that to you." Mina had a very low tolerance for bullies. Though her memory of it was a little bit fuzzy because of how young she was at the time, she still remembered enduring being bullied. But hers didn't last that long, since mutation quirks were rather widely accepted.

"You know, I was bullied, too," she said, as they finally pulled away from one another, but still kept in close proximity. She wanted to share this with him, to make him know he wasn't alone. The look on his face spoke volumes. Part of it was shock. But the other part, Mina could see the anger. "Why would anyone bully you? You're amazing!" he said, without really thinking about what he said. She lightly chuckled, and gave him a sweet smile. One that, not for the first time, made Izuku feel warm, and his heart clench, while also beating faster.

"Some of it, I understand, but it didn't hurt any less when it happened," she began. "You see what I look like. When I began to develop my quirk, the first thing that changed was my skin. I really stood out. That didn't seem to bother everyone too bad, but that's when everything started. Other kids would keep there distance, and say things behind my back. I could see it when they whispered to each other, while giving me looks.

"Then, my eyes turned black and I grew horns. That's when it kind of became full force. I was called a freak. Even my quirk was initially thought of as 'dangerous' or 'scary' to the other kids." She sighed, and, though she hadn't let it hurt her in quite some time, she could feel the tears coming. She quickly regained her composure. "Luckily, it didn't last that long, as more people began to focus on how 'cool' my quirk was instead, or how 'neat' and 'exotic' my looks were."

Izuku's reaction had not been what she was expecting. He embraced her in another hug. This time, it was him comforting her. It brought a smile on her face, and a tint of lilac on her face.

Izuku, on the other hand, was having an internal battle. *What am I doing? She probably thinks I'm a creep!* But, *she's returning the hug, right? That has to be good.* This, and many other thoughts, ran through the boy's mind, while his face had taken on a nice, beet red color. Again, they soon parted after a few moments, and looked at one another. Both the lilac and the red were still on their faces.

"Thanks, Midori," Mina finally said. Izuku looked at her, smiling that sweet smile.

"No. Thank you, Ashido," he replied. "I didn't know how much I needed that until now." He grew a little hesitant as his next words, though audible, was definitely hard to get out. "For what it's worth, I think you're pretty." Mina was astounded at what he said. And it made her heart flutter. In
truth, she had never been called pretty before. It was always hot, or something along those lines. And it didn't help that she heard it almost every day thanks to Mineta.

But Izuku telling her she was pretty. She couldn't help but feel that deeper attraction to him. But then, the thought that it seemed, at least to everyone, that he and Uraraka had something going on, made her pause. Besides, she didn't think Izuku could reciprocate her feelings, even if he had called her pretty. Her brows furrowed. Something Izuku noticed almost immediately.

"A-ashido? Are you okay?" She broke out of her thoughts and looked at him, the concern etching his face. She gave him a reassuring smile.

"Oh, yea, sorry about that," she quickly replied. "Um, was just thinking, and wanted to reassure you that what you told me can be between us. I won't add it to the report." He nodded.

"And I won't include yours, either, Ashido."

"Mina. You can call me Mina, at least when we're alone." Little did the two of them realize that a small step had been taken.

"O-okay, M-mina," he was definitely not used to it, trying to always be as respectful as possible. "I guess we should actually work on studying, huh?" She giggled, but nodded, as they opened up their textbooks to go over the most recent lesson.
The Project: Moment of Truth

The next few weeks seemed to move along pretty quick, and Mina and Izuku had really gotten quite a bit done for this project. They had also been keeping an eye on their classmates. Mina went back to spending most of lunch with her 'usual' group, but made sure to come to Izuku's table as well. They both had to contain their laughter (primarily Mina) when they noted how serious Iida had taken Mina's action, and was spending different days with different groups during lunch.

At the moment, in Mina's room, they were compiling what they had in the best way to give the class something that would, in their hopes, be up to Aizawa's standards, while also not giving too much away.

"Well, we definitely can't put that we share unruly, curly hair," Mina was saying, causing both teens to share a laugh. If he were honest with himself, these last few weeks had been a blast. After she had told him to call her Mina, Izuku eventually became comfortable enough to have her call him Izuku. It had been a rather funny exchange, with much teasing from the pink girl.

Of course, they had also continued their subtle note taking on their fellow classmates, with Mina going into more detail on their personalities, while Izuku focused on their quirks. Both exchanged information, and added whatever else either could think of. Izuku did most of the compiling in his notebooks, but Mina appeared to have much more information to give out. In the end, the workload had more or less balanced out.

They also continued their study sessions, and it began to show, as Mina did extremely well on a pop quiz they had earlier today. She had been so excited, she nearly tackled Izuku to the ground upon getting her grade as she thanked him. The human tomato had somehow managed to get a "you're welcome" out through all of his blubbering.

And now, they were finishing up with their project. Tomorrow, the whole class would individually get up, say some things about their partner, and then everyone would secretly get with their partners and try to match their fellow classmates in a form Aizawa would hand out. He didn't specify how they were graded, which had definitely caused everyone a little bit of concern. Especially Mina, who knew she wasn't the smartest in class. One of the few things that broke her usually carefree attitude.

"I really hope I don't let you down, Izu," she said, as they more or less wrapped up the project. He looked at her a little confused, her face showing unusual nervousness in the pink girl. He gave her a reassuring smile.

"You'll do great, M-mina," he said. "I'm more worried about how I'll contribute to this." Now it was Mina's turn to give the boy a reassuring smile.

"Are you kidding me, dude?" she chuckled. "All of that information you've written down. I'd say you've more than contributed to this." He gave her a shy smile in return. Izuku couldn't help but feel more confident when he was around Mina. He didn't know what it was. Whether it was how she was always understanding and supporting of him, or just the natural energy she carried. Maybe a combination of both. They had definitely grown closer, at least in Izuku's mind.

"So, um, when the project's over...." he was a little unsure about his next words, "we're still going to continue to study together?" She looked at him a little confused, almost like his question had little doubt to the answer.
"Uh...of course, dude," she said, like it was the most obvious thing in the world. "Plus, we can be more open about our friendship....." she smiled widely, but it dropped a little. "We are friends, right?" Now, it was her turn to be unsure.

"I-I'd like to think w-we are," Izuku replied, even if he didn't feel like Mina could possibly want a friend like him. His insecurity was lifted almost instantly by the wide smile on Mina's face.

"Well, alright then!" She exclaimed. "And we can do more than just study. We could actually hang out and have fun." This made Izuku turn red again, but he nodded nevertheless. In truth, he was doing somersaults of excitement at the prospect of hanging out with Mina more. But, that would have to wait until after the project.

******

The presentations had taken place over the first half of the day. To Izuku's dread, very few people had gotten in to any Quirk aspects of their partners. That dread only carried with him as they were randomly separated into respective rooms with their partners. Izuku was shown to the room first. He was sweating, but took out the notebook he and Mina had been working on, as well as the notes he had been taking during the presentations.

Mina entered the room after a few more minutes. Izuku didn't seem to notice, as he was mumbling up a storm. She looked at him endearingly before sitting down in front of him.

"Not gonna wait for me to get this done?" she said, breaking him out of his muttering. He looked up, his eyes widening when he saw her little faux pout, and tried to start apologizing before she bust out laughing. "I'm just messing with you, Izu. Let's see what you got."

They began to go over their notes, and the notes they had been taking about their classmates over the last few weeks. At first, Mina put the most pieces together, but Izuku was able to start following along. After just 10 minutes, they had their list compiled on the form Mr. Aizawa had handed them.

Another 10 minutes went by before they were, again, individually brought back to the classroom. Once everyone was back, Aizawa sent them to lunch while he went over their lists.

Lunch moved at a crawl, and Mina had decided to spend lunch period with her normal group. Surprisingly, no one revealed who they were partnered with, even though the project was considered over. It may have been for the fact that some of the class felt Mr. Aizawa may be continuing to test resolve, or some other crazy theories.

Once lunch was over, they made their way back to the classroom. Almost as soon as the last student sat down, Mr. Aizawa entered the room.

"Alright class, time to go over the results of your project," he said. "Luckily for everyone, the lowest amount of guesses was 3 correct, or a third of the class. I consider that the lowest possible passing grade. This reflects both on how well the groups were to be vague enough to make it easy, while also reflecting how well your deduction skills were. Only one group got all 9 correct, and will be receiving a special reward, to be determined after class. Here are the results:"

He pressed a button, and the names of the groups started scrolling on the projector, beginning with lowest score.

10. Aoyama and Mineta-3 correct
7. Shoji and Hagakure-4 correct
7. Sero and Sato-4 correct
7. Jiro and Kaminari-4 correct
6. Ojiro and Koda-5 correct
4. Todoroki and Uraraka-6 correct
4. Iida and Yaoyorozu-6 correct
2. Bakugo and Kirishima-7 correct
2. Asui and Tokoyami-7 correct
1. Midoriya and Ashido-9 correct

Most of the class looked on, checking for their names to see how they did. A few weren't overly pleased with their scores, namely most of the 7-10 rank. Bakugo looked downright irritated, looking over to Kirishima.

"How did we not get all of them right, shitty hair?" Kirishima just shrugged.

"At least we're number 2 with Tsu and Tokoyami," he said, actually pleased with his results.

"But I'm still behind Deku!" Bakugo responded, turning towards Izuku. The blonde gave Izuku a glare before huffing and turning back around.

Izuku looked over to Mina, who was practically bouncing up and down in her seat. She turned around and her eyes found Izuku's. Her smile widened, and her arms started waving in excitement. Izuku couldn't help but smile back to her.

Aizawa cleared his throat, and the whole class turned their attention back to their teacher.

"On top of being the only group to guess all of the other groups correctly, Ashido and Midoriya were also the only group that no one else guessed," he said. This illicited a small sound of excitement from Mina. Aizawa gave her a small glare, before softening. "Due to how well you did, I'm going to let that slide this time." Mina let out a sigh of relief as Aizawa continued.

"Alright. Everyone except for Ashido and Midoriya can head out." The rest of the class quickly packed their things. Mineta grumbled something about how 'lucky' Izuku was to have been paired up with Mina. Kirishima and Hagakure gave Mina a thumbs up and telling her 'good job' before they left.

For once, Mina was happy to be staying after class.
Reward and....Would This be Considered a Date?

Izuku and Mina were still in the classroom as the rest of the class made their way out. Izuku, unusually enough, had moved seats to sit in the desk beside Mina's as they waited for Aizawa to let them know their reward. After writing some things down, he looked at the two.

"First, I want to congratulate the both of you on a job well done," he began. "I've given this project sporadically through my teaching career, and you're the first group to both get everything correct, while being able to fool everyone as to who your partner was. So, your reward is as follows:

"I will let the other teachers know, but from tonight (Friday) to next Saturday, the two of you will be given an extension on your curfew. Along with that, you'll each be allowed to have another of your classmates receive a pass for a one night extended curfew. This does not have to be the same person every night. You can also choose not to exercise that on any given night." He paused as he let the information sink in.

"However,..." there was always a 'however' with Aizawa. "should you break the extended curfew, start slacking in your school work, or otherwise do anything that reflects negatively on UA, this reward will be revoked, and you will face...severe punishment. Understood?"

"Yes, sir!" Both students, equally terrified of the Pro Hero, gave a quick response.

"Good. Now both of you are dismissed." The two quickly made their way out of the room, with Mina chatting excitedly to Izuku. Aizawa gave a small smile as he watched them leave.

*****

"So, I know Mr. Aizawa said we could have other people tag along, but I think tonight, it should just be you and me," Mina was saying to Izuku as they made their way back to the dorms. "Y'know, as kind of a celebration kind of thing. Unless you had someone else in mind to take out tonight." She gave him a wink, and sly smile as the boy was turning beet red, though that had started the moment she had suggested the two of them going out alone.

"Um, y-yea. I think it could just be us tonight," he stammered. Would it be considered a date? No. Since she implied that I would be taking someone else out. I guess I was right to think she wouldn't be interested in a guy like me. He was muttering, though luckily, Mina couldn't make out what he was saying.

"Dude, you're mumbling again," she said, poking him. He looked up, and was about to apologize before she started giggling. "It's actually kinda cute." OMG, what did I just say?!

"Oh, um, th-thanks?" Izuku didn't really know how else to respond to what she said. There was a moment of awkwardness between the two that was finally broken as Mina thought of something.

"Um, y-yeah. I think it could just be us tonight," he stammered. Would it be considered a date? No. Since she implied that I would be taking someone else out. I guess I was right to think she wouldn't be interested in a guy like me. He was muttering, though luckily, Mina couldn't make out what he was saying.

"Dude, you're mumbling again," she said, poking him. He looked up, and was about to apologize before she started giggling. "It's actually kinda cute." OMG, what did I just say?!

"Oh, um, th-thanks?" Izuku didn't really know how else to respond to what she said. There was a moment of awkwardness between the two that was finally broken as Mina thought of something.

"Oh. How do you think the others will handle the news of our reward?" Izuku thought for a moment, actually using what he had learned about the others in the last few weeks.

"Well, some people will be jealous," he started. "Others might be happy, especially when we tell them the part that we get to take people with us. Of course, that'll mean some will probably beg to be their picks." Mina laughed at the last part.

"No kidding right?" she said. "I'm totally calling out the biggest begs to be Toru, Kaminari, and probably Mineta." The last person made her noticeably shiver, something that, as oblivious as he
was, Izuku didn't miss.

"If it makes you uncomfortable, I won't bring Mineta," he said. "I do consider him a friend, but, some of the stuff he says and does...." he let himself trail off as he looked up. "Oh, we're already back."

******

"You get to do WHAT?! " "No way. That's so awesome!" "Please pick me!" The reactions of their classmates had more or less been what the curly haired pair had expected. Mina took the lead on it, since she could tell Izuku was starting to get overwhelmed. Luckily, their classmates had seen it, too, and were backing off a little.

"I know it's totally cool, though Mr. Aizawa still had his famous 'however',," she giggled as she told them his stipulations. "But tonight, it's just gonna be Izuku and me. To celebrate totally kicking butt on Mr. Aizawa's project. Isn't that right, Midori?" Izuku smiled shyly and nodded his head.

"Alright, well, if you're up for it, we can get ready and head out." She smiled to him. It calmed him down a bit.

"Yea. That's fine." As soon as their other classmates were done with their questioning and comments, Mina and Izuku went their separate ways to get ready.

******

"Dude! Why didn't you tell me you were so good at games?!" Mina asked excitedly, as they left their first stop of their celebration night, the local arcade. They had spent a good amount of time there, playing fighting games, shooter games, and ended with Dance Dance Revolution. "I mean, you almost had me there at DDR!"

"Yea. I've kind of always enjoyed gaming." Izuku responded. There was still a bit of shyness in his voice, but being with Mina allowed him to relax a bit. "But you were absolutely amazing at DDR! You're a really good dancer."

"Aww. Thanks, Izu. You're so sweet." Her words caused his face to take that red tint again. Mina either didn't notice, or she chose not to tease him about it. "But, I've been dancing for years. I love it. If Heroing doesn't work out for me, I might do that."

"As much as I'd say how good you'd be at that, I still think you'll make an amazing Hero." Mina heard the conviction and belief that Izuku held for her with his words. And with it, she finally accepted something that had been going on in her mind for some time. She was totally crushing on Izuku Midoriya. But, unlike so many other things in Mina's life, she didn't know how to approach her feelings for the green haired boy.

Luckily for Mina, her stomach decided to save her from her thoughts of affection.

"You hungry, Izu?" she asked her companion. He nodded and smiled.

"I am," he responded. "I actually saw this interesting restaurant I wanted to try out on our way to the arcade."

"Okay. Lead the way!" Mina said excitedly.

It didn't take them long to get to the place. It was a smaller place, but seemed to be popular. Izuku got worried they'd be waiting a while, but was pleasantly surprised when they were seated almost
immediately. Not long after, a server walked up to their table.

"Hey guys," the woman said. She looked to be a few years older than the two UA students. She had rainbow colored hair. "My name is Haru. Here are your menus. Can I start you off with a drink?" The students perused the menu quickly, and found the drink choices. They also almost immediately saw what they wanted to eat.

"I'll have a coke," Mina said. "I also know what I'd like to eat, but," she looked over to Izuku, "I'll wait til you're ready." Izuku smiled at her.

"I actually also know what I want, so go ahead, Mina," he responded, allowing her to order first.

"Natto and Okra, please," she said, thrilled that the restaurant carried her favorite food. The server wrote the order down, and then looked over to Izuku.

"I'll also have a coke, and katsudon for me, please," he told the server. She smiled and let them know she'd get the order in for them before walking away. Izuku looked over to Mina. "I didn't know they would have both of our favorite foods. This place seems great."

"You remembered!" Mina said, her smile wide that Izuku had remembered. "But, yea. This place is nice." It didn't take long for their orders to come. The two students dug in, chatting between bites. Though they had already learned so much about each other during the project, they still found things to talk about. Mina, unusually insecure, but not showing it, decided to bring a certain subject up.

"So, I know we can bring friends out for this reward the rest of the nights," Mina began. "So, who are you gonna most likely bring out? I know Iida, Todoroki, Tsu....Ochaco." She moved her eyebrows suggestively when she said Uraraka's name. Izuku gave her a confused look at the action, but answered the question normally.

"Yea. I know I'll get them to go on nights with me," he said. "But, I would like to extend to at least most of the others. I don't want anyone to feel left out." He's so thoughtful, Mina couldn't help but smile. She decided to push a little further.

"Anything special you'd like to do with Ochaco?" She was teasing him, and he could tell. But, in all the time he spent with Mina, he had picked up on her hidden meaning. It brought a slightly painful feeling to his chest to think about, but the pink girl had been so supporting of him. Plus, he had already opened up to her about being bullied.

"Uraraka and I....aren't like that," he said, sighing. "I thought at one point, maybe. But those feelings, I don't know, faded?"

"Hey, we don't have to talk about this," Mina said. He smiled weakly to her, but steeled his nerves.

"No, it's fine," he said, unusually calm. "I mean, I've told you about the bullying, so...." He paused as he put everything together. "When I first came to UA, Uraraka was the first person I met here. I mean, I knew Kacchan before, but....Anyways. She saved me from face planting at the Entrance Exam. She became my first friend here. And then Iida.

"Eventually, I started developing feelings for her. Probably around our Heroes vs Villains Combat Training? I thought I might build up the courage to tell her." His face dropped a little. "And then, right before the training camp, something changed in her. I couldn't tell what it was, but, when the rest of the class went off when we went to the mall, she and I were left by ourselves. And then, she ran off. I felt like I had done something wrong."
Mina had figured out exactly what was going on with Uraraka at that time. She had developed feelings for Izuku. But she frowned as he continued.

"So, I was left alone. And then....Shigaraki found me." Mina thought back to their little outing at the mall that had really started this friendship of theirs.

"Izu, I'm so sorry we ran off like that," she interjected. "I'm sorry I ran off like that."

"You don't have to apologize," Izuku tried to assure her. "We didn't know each other all that well. Plus, Uraraka and Iida were there, so it wasn't like you knew I'd be alone. To be honest, I'm not sure if I'm more grateful that someone wasn't with me. I couldn't forgive myself if Shigaraki had done anything to anyone. But, I did feel a little abandoned when she ran off initially. And, it hurt."

"I know why she was acting that way," Mina said. "It was because she had developed feelings for you." Izuku's eyes kind of widened a little before he chuckled.

"You know, I might have figured something like that."

"Would that help you in pursuing a relationship with her?" Izuku looked Mina in the eye before giving a small smile.

"I don't think so." His answer surprised Mina. "I don't know. I guess since the feelings faded, I don't know if I could really see her in that way again. And now I like someone else, he thought to himself. He considered telling her, but left it alone. He wasn't sure if he wanted to spill these feelings just yet. Especially since he was still convinced she didn't feel the same way.

Mina had taken his silence to indicate he was done talking. She was a little more sure of what she wanted to tell him. To ask him about tonight. But when should I bring it up?

Shortly after, they finished their food. Izuku offered to pay, but Mina wouldn't have it, so they split the bill. Even though his offer made her blush. Once they paid, they made their way out of the restaurant to see what else they could do. They decided to just kind of walk around until they spotted something to do. After a while, Mina built up the courage to ask Izuku the big question.

"Hey, Izu," she said. He turned to her, giving her his full attention. "I was kind of wondering something. Um, would you consider what we're doing, hanging out and dinner...would you consider it a....." Her words were cut off as an explosion from an office building nearby rocked the area.

Her words forgotten for the moment, the two Heroes-in-training jumped into action.
Izuku and Mina quickly made their way to the office building. It was four stories high, and, once Izuku got a good look, seemed to still be structurally stable overall. He noted the fire that had resulted from the explosion was currently on the top two floors, but seemed to be contained to the corner of the building. Even though everything seemed to be stable now, they would still have to act quick.

"Mina, we need to get to that area and rescue anyone caught there," he said. She nodded, ready to help as necessary. She knew what her powers could do, but was more than willing to let Izuku take lead, since he had the better mind for strategy. "But, we do need to be cautious. We don't know if a Villain caused this or if it was something else. So, keep an eye out."

"You can count on me, Izu," she said, giving him a smile and a wink. He returned the smile.

Heroes had to smile, and, to Izuku, Mina had that part down. He activated full cowl as she used her Acid to slide towards the building. As they drew closer, they could see people running away from the area. Luckily, a few people seemed to be keeping everyone calm. Izuku and Mina approached one of them.

"My name is Deku, and this is Pinky," he introduced himself to the woman. "We're here to help. Are there any injuries you've seen thus far?" The woman, looking relieved, shook her head.

"Oh, thank goodness, Heroes." Though they were still in training, now was not the time to tell the woman such. "From what we've seen, no injuries so far, but we believe there are still people trapped inside." Izuku took note of everything as Mina spoke up.

"Would you happen to know if this was a Villain attack?" she asked, feeling the need to get as much information as possible. Izuku gave her an approving look as the woman answered.

"No Villain," she said with certainty. "We think it was some sort of faulty equipment, or someone wasn't careful with something." Izuku nodded, a little relieved.

"You and the others are doing a good job out here keeping people calm," he told her. "We're going to go see what we can do to get the trapped people out." With that, Izuku and Mina made their way to the building.

Using the stairwell, they quickly made their way to the third floor. Izuku looked around at the fire. It seemed to be mostly contained, but they would still have to avoid some areas.

"Is anyone in here?" he called out. After a few seconds, he heard a faint voice.

"Over here!" He and Mina quickly made their way over to the source of the voice, avoiding the fires and fallen debris. It didn't take them long to find the source. It was a middle aged man. He was covered in soot, though didn't seem burned.

"Are you injured?" Izuku asked when he was close enough.

"I'm fine," he responded. "Minor bruises and scrapes, maybe. But I need help to get her out." Izuku and Mina had made their way around to where the man was indicating. Trapped under some debris was a woman. A woman Izuku immediately recognized.

"Mrs. Bakugo?" he said, but moved over to the woman quickly, checking for vitals. Mina also inspected her.
"Bakugo's mom?" she asked. Izuku nodded.

"She's breathing, and it doesn't seem too labored," he was saying. "How about on your end?" Mina gave another look.

"Doesn't look too serious. Hopefully just trapped." Izuku nodded again, getting in position. Calling upon full cowl once again, he effortlessly lifted the debris off of Mitsuki. Once he did, Mina immediately went to check her again. She groaned before her eyes fluttered open. She looked around.

"Izu-ku?" she said before passing back out.

*****

It didn't take all that long to get everyone out. Aside from Mitsuki Bakugo and the man that was with her, there had only been one other person in the building. Mitsuki seemed to have the worst of the injuries. Paramedics, police, and firefighters were on scene just as Izuku and Mina had brought the last person out. Mitsuki was transported to the hospital, and the others were attended to on spot.

Izuku and Mina, after showing the police that they had their Provisional Licenses, had to give a small report to the police. The officer in charge semi-joked that if they were full Pros, the report would be much more tedious. It had definitely lightened the mood a bit, but Izuku was worried about Mrs. Bakugo. He let the officer know that she was the mother of one of their classmates.

Soon after, Izuku and Mina decided to head back to UA. Though they would have liked to continue on, their extended curfew was drawing close. Plus, in the back of their minds, they were afraid news of the incident would find it's way to Aizawa, and they'd be in trouble on just the first night of their reward.

They got to the UA Dorms and walked inside. Sure enough, the news had spread, as the whole class had gathered in the common room to check on the pair. One noticeable absence was Bakugo. After talking about the incident with their classmates for a few minutes, the door to the Dorms opened again. Eyes went wide at the sight of their homeroom teacher. The moment Izuku and Mina had quietly been dreading was upon them.

"Everyone but Midoriya and Ashido, head to your rooms," he said, leaving no room for argument or comments. Everyone silently exited and headed out. Once the last of them were gone, Aizawa looked at the pair. Before he had a chance to speak, Izuku stepped forward.

"Mr. Aizawa, sir," he said, conviction in his eyes. "I take full responsibility for what we did. Mina was just following my lead. She shouldn't be punished, and should be allowed to keep the reward you bestowed upon us." Mina was a little shocked, but felt her heart clench that he would do that for her. She intervened.

"No, Izuku. You shouldn't take full responsibility on this. I followed on my own accord." She reflexively took his hand in hers, as she looked to Aizawa with the same resolve and conviction in her eyes that Izuku had. Aizawa shook his head, but let out a small, barely noticeable smile.

"Neither of you are in trouble," he finally said, which caused the two students' faces to give a small hint of confusion. "Yes, it is preferable that any Hero work you do be done under the supervision of a Pro. But, you both have your Provisional Licenses, so you taking action is no longer frowned upon." He gave Izuku a side glance, a reminder of the boy's previous actions before the License Exam. "Besides, none of my three stipulations were broken."
"One. You still made it back before your extended curfew. Though, given the circumstances, that probably could have been overlooked. Two. Time hasn't passed enough to determine if this affected your grades. And three. What you did in no way reflected badly on UA. If anything, this could end up reflecting **good** on UA. What I've come to talk to you about is two things.

"First. I wanted to commend you both on your actions. Second, I wanted to let you know that Bakugo has been given permission to be at the hospital with his mother. I don't have anything definitive, but I have heard she should be alright. And that is thanks to the actions of you two. The class already knows that Bakugo has left. Now, why don't the two of you head to bed. I'm sure you've had an eventful night." They both nodded as their homeroom teacher left.

The two stood there for a moment longer. They finally relaxed as they turned towards one another. They could each see the exhaustion on the other.

"He's right," Izuku finally said. "We should get some rest." As they made their way to the separate ends of the building to their respective dorms, he stopped and turned towards the girl. "Oh, I'm sorry we got interrupted. What did you want to ask about tonight." Mina turned towards him. They were far enough away that he couldn't see the lilac that dusted her face.

"Oh. We can, um, talk about it later, okay?" She gave him a reassuring, but tired smile. She felt they needed to be less exhausted for what she wanted to say.

"I...Okay," he smiled sweetly back to her. "Good night, Mina."

"G'night, Izu."
Izuku slept in the following day. Well, at least to his own standards. His eyes finally fluttered open, and he looked over to his clock. It was just after 9 in the morning. The events of the previous night ran through his head. He was feeling elated about his time with Mina. His thoughts still lingered on what she had been trying to ask him.

But it was what interrupted her question that was taking up the bulk of his thoughts. It had been a scary moment, now that the adrenaline and instinct had subsided. But, he and Mina had worked well, and, to his knowledge, everyone came out alright. And Bakugo's mom. It was thinking about her that concerned him. He had known the woman for a long time. Saw her as an Aunt. Izuku worried about how Bakugo was taking everything.

Deciding he had laid in bed long enough, he sighed as he got up and started his normal daily routine.

*****

Knock knock knock. Three taps on the door sounded through the hallway around noon. The person who had knocked rocked back and forth, more than a little nervous. After a minute, the door opened to reveal a floating set of pajamas. She 'looked' at her pink friend standing in the hallway biting her lip.

"Ok," Hagakure said, sounding a little giddy. "Get in here. Now." Mina quickly made her into her friend's room. Hagakure had barely shut the door before she nearly knocked Mina down while gripping the side of her arms. There was an anticipation from the invisible girl as she waited for Mina to speak.

"I, um, need someone to talk to about this," Mina finally said. She knew she would talk to Izuku about it eventually, but right now, she needed someone she could bounce ideas off of. And Hagakure was her best friend. "But, I do need this kept between us for the time being."

"You've got my word, bestie," Hagakure said. "So, spill." Mina sighed, her face showing a hint of lilac.

"I think I'm falling for Izuku," she finally said. "I really like him, and would like to see where things go with us, but...I'm not sure he would be interested in me as well. Plus, there's Ochaco." There. Her biggest worry on telling Izuku her feelings. Though he had assured her that there wasn't anything going on on his end, that didn't mean she shouldn't at least give the Zero Gravity user the benefit of the doubt.

She knew she didn't need to ask Uraraka's permission to date Izuku, but she felt she at least owed it to the girl to be open about her plans. But, she needed help. And that help was the invisible girl in front of her. And that girl seemed to be in thought for a moment before speaking.

"Okay. First," she said. "You and Midoriya are adorable together." She squealed at the thought. "Okay. Now that I got that out. I think you should give it a shot, girl. I can see how he steals glances at you, so, while I can't say for certain, I think your chances are good. As for Ochaco....I don't know. But, it might help for you to talk to her. Gauge her reaction at the idea?" Mina sighed.

"I kinda figured," Mina said. "I guess I just needed to hear it from someone else. Thanks, Toru." The pink girl, now with a little bit of weight off of her shoulder, decided to hang out normally with
The day progressed differently for the different students of Class 1-A. For most, their normal routine was more or less uninterrupted. However, a few them were definitely a little on edge. Izuku and Kirishima primarily, and both for the same reason. They were worried about Bakugo. Mina was also on edge, partly for wanting to know what happened to Mrs. Bakugo, as she had been involved in the rescue, and partly because of what she would have to tell both Ochaco and Izuku.

The day finally gave way to dusk, and all of the students, sans Bakugo, were present in the common room, hanging out in different groups. At the moment, Mina was in the 'girl's circle', and they were all just chatting about random subjects. Izuku was hanging out with Iida and Todoroki, conversing lowly over cups of coffee.

The entrance of the dorm rooms suddenly opened, and Bakugo walked in. Everyone turned to see his return. Kirishima and Kaminari went to go check on him. His face was different than normal. He looked thoughtful, and even the slightest bit of anger he normally had was non-existent. After a moment, he lifted his eyes, searching the room until finding who he was looking for.

"Deku." The word was simple. Much like his face, there was no anger behind it. "We need to talk." Izuku stood up and moved over for a better line of sight of Bakugo.

"O-okay, Kacchan," he said. "Did you want to talk outside, or one of our rooms?" He wasn't sure what the other boy had to say, but figured it needed to be private. He was wrong.

"No," was Bakugo's simple response. Now, everyone looked at him curiously. "Everyone needs to hear what I have to say." To a degree, this frightened Izuku. Was Bakugo going to reveal the secrets of One for All? No. Kacchan may be many things, but he won't do that. It just made him more curious to what the ash blond boy had to say. Izuku was merely silent as he waited. Everyone else was also intrigued, and some were at least a little bit worried.

"I'm.....sorry," the Explosion user finally said after a moment's silence. It sounded like he was fighting something back, but that something wasn't anger or yelling. Everyone stood with a shocked face, though none more prevalent than Izuku. Before Izuku could respond, however, Bakugo continued.

"All of this time, I've always felt you looked down on me, but that wasn't true. I thought you looked down on me because you'd always offer help, even if wasn't wanted. But that's not who you are. You offered help because it's what you do. That's who you are." Tears began to fall from the boys face now.

"When you were quirkless, or rather, when I thought you'd never get a quirk, I treated you like garbage. I assaulted you. I demeaned you. I....told you to kill yourself! What person who is aiming to be a Hero does that? No wonder the League of Villains wanted someone like me." He took a moment to gather himself, though it was long enough for the other students to react to his words. They were shocked. More than a few were straight up appalled. Some looked to Izuku for his reaction. Right now, the boy was quiet, taking everything in, with a bit of a shocked look on his face.

"But through it all, you never took action against me. You could have had me kicked out of this school. Hell. The same day I told you to jump off a roof, you were still you. Always striving to be a Hero. You rushed to save me when the Sludge Villain had me." Bakugo was continuing to speak. "And then, just when I thought there couldn't be anymore of a way to show how much of an ass
I've been, you rescue my mom. I know she and I are always at each other's throats, but I still love her. And you didn't think twice. Because you're a Hero. And, not to take away anything from anyone else here, but you probably deserve to be here the most."

Instead of anyone arguing or being offended by Bakugo's last sentence, the whole class silently agreed with his words.

"I don't deserve your forgiveness, but I did want to apologize. And, I would like you to help me change." There was silence as the boy finished, looking to his former victim. Both of them were streaming tears, and more than a few other classmates were also crying. After a moment, Izuku looked up, and his eyes met Bakugo's, a fire within them. He took the few steps it took to reach the blonde.

He stood in front of Bakugo for a moment. Finally, after what seemed like an eternity, the greenette wrapped his arms around Bakugo for a hug. The boy was shocked for a moment before returning the embrace. They stayed there for a few seconds before pulling away. Izuku took a step back before finally speaking.

"Kacchan," he said, addressing the other boy. "I won't lie and say that what you did to me all of our lives wasn't wrong. Nor will I say it didn't hurt. Because it did. You were my best friend, Kacchan. I saw you as a brother. But...I forgave you a long time ago. And I am more than willing to help you move forward. If you'll have me." Now, Bakugo chuckled through his tears, wiping some away.

"You damn nerd," he said. "I just asked if you'd help me change. Of course I'll have you." They both shared a laugh. There was definitely a paradigm shift in Bakugo. Though he wouldn't completely change overnight, everyone truly believed he would be a better person.

"That was so....MANLY!" Kirishima exclaimed, tears in his eyes, causing everyone to laugh. Everyone resumed hanging out, and the atmosphere was good.

Everyone hung out for a little while longer. Izuku and Mina had decided that they wouldn't go out tonight, which bummed a few of the others out because they wanted to utilize the extended curfew, but they understood. As a few of the students were getting everything prepared for dinner, Mina approached Uraraka.

"Hey, Ochaco?" she said. Uraraka looked at her. "Can we talk? In private?" Uraraka gave the other girl a curious look before smiling and nodding.

"Of course."
"I Missed My Chance"

Mina and Uraraka headed upstairs to the fourth floor. Both of their rooms were on this floor, so deciding where to go became a little easier. Mina decided the best way to do this would be in her room, for a few reasons. The first being it was her idea to talk. The other was that Uraraka would be able to leave at any time should what Mina say hurt her. Deep down, Mina didn't want to hurt the other girl, but knew that it was a possibility.

After they got into the room, they stood there silently for a few seconds. Mina was still nervous about this, and she did nothing to hide this. She finally built up the courage to look the other girl in the face.

"Do you have an idea why I asked to talk to you?" She looked over to Uraraka. The girl, who had been quiet thus far, furrowed her brows, thinking. She sighed, and Mina could see a little tear threaten to escape one of her eyes.

"You....you like Deku," she said. Her voice was sad, but certain. Mina also felt tears begin to well up in her eyes.

"I do," she responded. "I wanted to let you know from me first hand, in case he feels the same way about me. Or maybe to give you a chance. I don't know. I'm honestly a little confused and torn with my own feelings." She began to cry when she saw that Uraraka was unable to hold her own tears in any longer. The two stood there crying for a few seconds. Finally, Uraraka wiped her eyes.

"I missed my chance, Mina," she said. This caused Mina to give her a confused looked as the Zero Gravity user continued. "I acted so weird around him. At times, I felt that maybe he felt the same way about me. But, I think I ruined it. And then, I decided to push the feelings down, because I felt like a possible romance would hinder him, like my thoughts about him were beginning to hinder me.

"But, since the two of you were assigned the project together, I've seen how close you two have gotten. Yes, at first it was because I believed you were getting close after he offered to help you study. I had my suspicions that you two were partnered up, but you both covered it good." She shook her head. "Sorry, I'm going off on a bit of a tangent. Anyways, the two of you together have really helped each other. You've fed off of each other. He's become more confident. You're more focused in class." She sighed.

"You've been good for him. It hurts, but not as much as I thought it might. Does that make sense?" Mina nodded. "I know you don't need my permission, but..." she sighed, "you have it regardless. Just do me a favor?"

"Anything," the pink girl responded.

"Make him happy." The two girls hugged and cried. They stayed that way for a few minutes before both of their phones chimed.

"I AM HERE!" They both looked at each other as they checked their phones, realizing the message to both of them was from Izuku, and they had the same notification for him. They stole another glance at each other before busting out laughing. Finally, Uraraka took the opportunity to check the actual message.

"Deku says dinner's ready," she finally said through the laughs. Mina smiled as the two left her
Dinner had been amazing. But such was things when those who had cooked were Sato, Izuku, and Bakugo. And they had done so without Bakugo blowing up the kitchen. He really was starting to change how he approached things. It still didn't keep him from being just a little bit 'Bakugo', but it was a vast improvement to how he would have reacted before.

As everyone finished, Uraraka and Todoroki offered to take care of the dishes. Of course, Izuku was insistent about helping, but finally gave in. He made his way to one of the couches along with some of the other students to watch some TV. Just like at dinner, Mina quickly sat beside him, a little closer than others would be. This was not lost on their classmates, but no one said anything.

They ended up watching a comedy first, which was followed up by a drama film. Shockingly enough, everyone seemed to enjoy that movie as well. The movie was a little over the half way point before Sero glanced around, his eyes stopping where Izuku and Mina were seated. His eyes and mouth widened as he saw the two.

"Dudes, check it out!" he quietly shouted. Everyone looked over where he was pointing. Izuku and Mina had fallen asleep. Mina was curled up to Izuku, her head laying on his chest. Izuku had his head laying slightly on hers, and his arm wrapped around her shoulder, as if he didn't want to let her go. Their free hands were intertwined, and they both had smiles on their faces.

Uraraka got up from where she was sitting, and retrieved a spare blanket from the common room closet and draped it over her two friends. Iida, normally very stringent about the rules, decided to let it go this time as the TV was turned off, and everyone else headed to bed. Taking one last look at the two of them, Uraraka smiled before heading off.

It doesn't hurt anymore.
Izuku felt amazing. He had slept so well last night. Better than he had in a long time. As he began to open his eyes, he took a look at his surroundings. His eyes furrowed in confusion. *This isn't my room,* he immediately thought, the memories of last night starting to piece together.

It wasn't until he discovered the inability to move that his eyes shot open wide. He looked down to see what was impeding him. And was met with the color pink. At first, he started to freak out, until all of the details of this pink object started coming into view. Like the horns. And the smile on the girl's face. It made Izuku's heart warm. But it also made him very wary of his surroundings.

He looked around. They were still in the common room. No one else was around. Izuku was relieved at this, since it meant they wouldn't be getting the teasing of a lifetime from their classmates. Or a stern talking to from Iida. They also had a blanket draped over them. *When did that get there?* Izuku's thoughts were broken by movement under him.

Mina hummed as she squeezed her arms slightly tighter around Izuku's waist before her eyes fluttered open and she looked up.

"Mornin', Izu," she said, sleepily. His face grew red looking at her, but he smiled, awkwardly yet very happily.

"Mornin', Mina," he replied. Apparently it was enough for Mina to fully realize the situation, as now her eyes bolted open, and she got off of Izuku, making a little bit of space between them. She quickly recovered, though, as she could see the look of guilt on Izuku's face.

"I-I'm sorry," Izuku said, looking away, the red ever present on his face. Mina's own face was full blown lilac as she smiled warmly. Izuku took the chance to glance and see her smile, which calmed him down some.

"It's okay, Izu," Mina replied. "Actually, there's something I wanted to tell you, but couldn't really find a good time to. But, now is as good as any. Izu, I..."

"I like you," Izuku said suddenly, causing the pink girl's mouth to drop open slightly, as she blinked a few times. *Did he just confess?* "I've always found you attractive. And your energy, your kindness, all of it has always made me smile. These last few weeks have really been fun, and just enforced how I felt about you." *He did confess!* Mina's heart was doing somersaults in her chest. Then she saw his countenance fall again.

"I just wanted you to know that," he was saying. "I know you couldn't possibly like me back, but..." his words were cut off as Mina slammed into him, embracing him as they fell backwards on the couch, with Mina on top of Izuku. She had tears in her eyes as she smiled widely at him.

"You dork. I like y-mph," her own words were cut of as Izuku closed the distance between their lips. It was his first kiss. It was her first kiss. And they both felt the electricity. The fireworks set off from it. After a few seconds, they parted, blushes on their face. But they were both smiling.

"OH MY GOD!" A voice broke them out of their moment. They both looked over to see a handful of their classmates that had apparently just come downstairs. All of them were wide-eyed. The owner of the voice, Kyoka Jiro, quickly placed her hand over her mouth, and turned, digging her head into Kaminari's shoulder in embarrassment for interrupting the moment. And then they saw Mineta's face.
His lips were trembling, and there were tears in his eyes. He was about to open his mouth before Sero taped it shut and pulled him away. Both Izuku and Mina gave Sero an appreciative glance. Taking the chance, they moved from their rather vulnerable positions and sat on the couch normally. But they kept their hands together. A good number of people had seen, and there was no need to hide it. They were together.

******

News of the new couple didn't take long to spread to the rest of the class. Most everyone had offered their congratulations, including Uraraka, who cried happily while hugging her friends. A decision between Iida, Sero, and a few others had been made to more or less place Mineta on 'house arrest', so he would leave the couple alone.

It had been decided that the two would go on an "official" first date, but would extend their 'plus ones' from Mr. Aizawa to two of their classmates. Now, it was just a matter of figuring out who. After a while, Izuku chose to let Sero use his as a thanks, and Mina used hers for Hagakure. At first, Izuku was originally going to extend his offer to his core group of friends, but they all turned the opportunity down for one reason or another.

As everyone was getting ready to head out and do their own thing for the day, Uraraka was saying good bye to Izuku and Mina, and wishing them good look on their date. Unknown to her, someone had taken the opportunity to look at her longingly. I wonder if I have a chance, they thought to themselves. Steeling their own nerves, they walked over to the Zero Gravity user.

"Uraraka, do you have a moment?"
"Y-you wanted to ask me if I considered Friday a date?" Izuku said, bewildered that his girlfriend had the same thoughts that he did that night. Girlfriend. It was a strange thought, but one that made Izuku absolutely beam. He had a girlfriend. And that girlfriend was Mina Ashido.

Getting into UA was already the biggest accomplishment of Izuku's life. And he didn't expect the things that had happened to him this year to happen. Both good and bad. Getting friends for probably the first time in his life. The Villain attacks. Getting control, somewhat, of One For All. All Might's retirement. Bakugo finding out the secret of his Quirk. Getting his Provisional License. Bakugo apologizing. And now, having someone who felt the same romantic interest for him that he felt for her being confessed.

"At first, I wasn't sure," Mina was saying, causing Izuku to focus on her again. The last thing he wanted to do was mess things up with Mina. "And then you told me about Ochako, and, I don't know, I felt the opportunity was there." She smiled to him, which he returned.

"Well, I would probably have been totally flustered if you had the chance to ask," he replied. "But, I would have said yes." She giggled excitedly, which just caused Izuku to smile wider. Her energy was both endearing and intoxicating to Izuku. "To be honest, I had the same question myself, though doubted in it when you asked me about Uraraka." Mina nodded at this. "Honestly, I don't know why you could like someone like me."

"Uh, because you're absolutely amazing!" Mina responded, which caused Izuku to look up at her. There was a gleam in his eyes, the sign that showed he couldn't believe that anyone would think that way of him. "You're smart, you're kind, you're selfless, it doesn't hurt that you're adorable to boot." His face went red at her words.

"Honestly, any girl would be lucky to call you theirs," she said. "I can't believe I'm saying this, but I'm really glad Mr. Aizawa set that project. Don't get me wrong, I still wanted to get to know you. But I felt like this was a little push. And I'm happy." He took her hand in his as they walked along.

"I'm happy, too," he said. They walked for a little longer before Mina couldn't hold it in any longer.

"Okay, so, where are you taking me on this date?" Izuku just smiled.

"You'll see," he said. She gave him a faux pout, but didn't have to wait long for them to reach their destination. She looked up at the lights and sounds, and her eyes got big.

"No way!" she said, excited. "I totally forgot the fair was in town! You're the best, Izu!" His grin widened as he led her to the entrance. Apparently, he had already gotten the tickets to enter, so they were able to avoid the rather long line that had formed.

Mina was super excited to be here, and they immediately went to some rides that had caught her attention. After a few rides, they were walking down the midway, enjoying each others company, hand in hand.

"You seem to be a lot more excited about this than I thought you'd be," Izuku was saying. Mina turned to him and gave a wider grin. "I mean, I'm glad you're excited, it's just..." she put a finger on his mouth to stop his muttering.

"It's okay, I totally get it," she said. "Truth is, I haven't been to the fair in such a long time. And the fact that my awesome boyfriend brought me makes it that much better." Izuku's heart fluttered at
actually being referred to as Mina's boyfriend. It also made him not a little proud that he had done so well with his selection for their date.

After walking through the midway, they decided to go on some more rides, until they had pretty much done all but one: the Ferris wheel. But Izuku had drawn Mina away from it, and, when she asked why, he said that he wanted to wait for the right time. She had been curious, but had taken his reasoning well enough.

Once the rides were done, they decided it was time to eat. This time, Izuku made sure he paid for the meals, though that didn't stop Mina from trying.

"I don't wanna be one of those girlfriends that makes you pay for everything," she was saying, as they were sitting down. Izuku smiled to her.

"I know, Mina," he responded. "But, let me do this at least this time." She gave a huff, and crossed her arms, acting like she was upset. She dropped her charade quickly, and smiled warmly at Izuku.

"Okay, okay. I guess I can let you pamper me this once." They began to enjoy their food, amazed at how good this particular fair food was. Once they finished up, Izuku felt they still had some time before they needed to get to the Ferris wheel. They were checking out some of the midway games when something caught his attention.

It was a rather large stuffed Xenomorph, that he recognized from Mina's favorite movie series, Alien. He took her hand and led her over, and she saw it for the first time.

"Izu, what are you doing?" she asked, though she had a good idea of what he was thinking.

"I'm getting that for you," he said, pointing to the stuffed alien. He handed his money to the attendant and took his position for the game. Mina soon became rather shocked at what transpired next. He won the game with relative ease, warranting the acquisition of the targeted stuffed critter. He handed it to an overjoyed Mina, though he looked a little awkward after the fact.

"How did you do that so well, Izu?" she asked, causing him to fluster when she kissed him for it.

"I....actually have no idea," he responded, scratching the back of his head. "Honestly, I was just thinking about how much I wanted to get that for you. I guess my body just did the rest?"

"Well, you are adorable, and this is, like, the greatest thing ever!" Izuku turned red, and Mina took his free hand in hers, getting closer to him.

"It's time to get to the Ferris wheel," he said, as he led her there. Mina was smiling, but soon gave a look of curiosity as she noticed that the rides were all closing. *Which should mean the Ferris wheel too, right?* She was afraid that they had missed their chance as the approached the ride. The attendant there at first held up a hand.

"Sorry, kids, the Ferris wheel is closing.....oh. Midoriya, my boy," the man smiled to the greenette, who returned the smile.

"Hi, Mr. Tahi," Izuku replied. "Are we too late?" There was clearly a little bit of worry in the boy's face, but the man waved his concerns away.

"Not at all," the man said. "I can get you set up right in time for it to start." He opened the gate for Izuku and Mina to enter the car. Once they were in place, he gave Izuku a thumbs up, and the One for All user returned it. The ride started up, and the car they were in began moving. Once they got to the top, the ride stopped. Mina looked over to Izuku curiously.
"What are you doing, Izu?" Izuku just turned to her and smiled.

"Watch," was all he said in response. It was then that she noticed quite a few people were sitting on hills and other places looking towards the middle of the lake the fair was sitting on. Mina concentrated on the small barge that was there. Before long, the barge lit up, sending rockets into the sky.

The first burst of fireworks lit up the night sky, and Mina's eyes began to sparkle with their reflection. It was a beautiful show. As it progressed, Mina got closer to Izuku, taking his hand in hers, and laying her head on his shoulder.

"You're the best boyfriend."
"Uraraka, do you have a moment?" the voice of Tenya Iida caught the attention of the Zero Gravity user. She turned towards her friend and gave him a big smile.

"Of course, Iida," she said. "What's up?" Though the smile stayed on her face, she couldn't help a thought that came to her head. There sure have been quite a few 'I need to talk' and 'do you have a moments' going on. It amused her in a way, but she pushed the thought from her mind as she gave the Class Rep her attention.

"I know this may seem sudden," he was saying, "but seeing Midoriya and Ashido establish a relationship got me to thinking about my own personal life. I know that Hero training and my duties as Class Representative are important, but it would be remiss of me not to attempt to...relax more. And I would not forgive myself if I kept this to myself."

"Keep what to yourself?" Uraraka asked, rather curious as to where Iida was going with his words.

"I must confess I have always had an....attraction to you," he admitted, and it caused the girl's eyes to widen slightly, while also deepening the color on her already pink cheeks. "I felt it gracious to step to the side, seeing how close you and Midoriya appeared to be. Please do not take this the wrong way in thinking I'm doing this as some sort of 'rebound' opportunity. I wouldn't think to sully a wonderful person such as yourself with such thoughts. I know I may not be what you're looking for. All I ask for is a chance," Uraraka seemed to contemplate his words for a moment.

"I've...never really thought of you that way, Iida," she began. He lowered his head in shame, yet looked back up just after, nodding.

"I understand," he said. "In that case, I shall take my lea...

"You didn't let me finish, Iida," she interrupted him. "It's true I never thought of you that way. But, you are a good friend, and a good person. I don't know if we would work out, but we can maybe go on a date or two, and go from there?"

"My thoughts, precisely," Iida replied, and smiled. Unknown to the two of them, a few other similar conversations were going on around the common area, and the parties in these conversations were unaware of the other conversations going on.

"Hey, Jiro. Got a sec?" Kaminari approached the Earphone Jack user, scratching the back of his head.

"What's up, Jamming-whey?" she replied, a slightly annoyed, and yet amused look on her face, seeing the Electrification user unusually nervous. But that nervousness was soon replaced with exasperation and what appeared to be dejection as his shoulder's slumped.

"Never mind," he mumbled before turning away and making his way up the stairs, leaving Jiro with a confused look on her face, as well as something else. Something akin to guilt. She wanted to follow before a hand touched her shoulder.

"We'll talk to him," the voice of Kirishima said, with Bakugo standing beside him. "I think we have a pretty good idea what's going on." Without saying anything else, they followed Kaminari up.

Meanwhile, Todoroki was speaking with Yaoyorozu while Asui and Tokoyami were speaking, and the two pairs seemed to be a little closer to one another, and some of their conversation, while
mostly in regards to Izuku and Mina, seemed to hint to something more between the people in discussion.

Kirishima and Bakugo had made their way up to Kaminari's room. Kirishima knocked before Bakugo spoke up.

"Hey, Pikachu, can we come in?" Kirishima was kind of surprised at how calm the explosive blonde sounded, and Bakugo caught the look. "What? I told Deku I'd try to be better." Kirishima shrugged as Kaminari told them to come in.

"Why do you still call him Deku?" Kirishima asked, as they walked in. Bakugo actually chuckled.

"Believe it or not, I tried calling him Izuku while we were cooking yesterday. You know what he told me?" Kirishima shook his head, and even Kaminari had sat up from his bed since this had piqued his interest. "He said that not calling him Deku sounded weird now. And he's now owning the name and making something great of it, so, why not, right?" They then looked over to Kaminari.

"What's going on, Denki?" Kirishima asked, trying to get him to spill. Kaminari sighed before flopping down on his bed.

"It's stupid," he said, sounding defeated. Kirishima and Bakugo both lifted an eyebrow, and refused to move past until they got an answer. "Fine. I really like Jiro."

"We knew that, Sparky," Bakugo said. He was trying.

"But seeing Midoriya and Mina together, it just, ugh," he said, exasperated. "It kind of gave me the kick in the pants to tell her how I felt. But then, that annoyed response I got from her. It kind of told me not to bother. That she would never feel the same way." Bakugo gave a grunt.

"Am I the only one who feels that Deku and Raccoon Eyes have something contagious?" The three boys laughed after a moment. The moment was interrupted by Kaminari's door opening. The boys looked over to see Jiro standing there.

"Kirishima. Bakugo. Leave." There was a fire in her eyes, way different than her normal apathetic look, and it told them they should listen. They waved quickly to him as they walked out, the door shutting behind them. They decided to wait just a minute in case they were needed.

Inside the room, Kaminari had stood up from his bed to look at Jiro. He sighed.

"Look, Jiro. I'm sorry," he began. "I get it that you don't..." his words were cut off by one of her ear jacks being placed over his mouth. She then closed the distance between them, replacing the ear jack that was over his mouth with her own lips.

Outside, the two shrugged before making their way back downstairs. As Kirishima fell behind Bakugo, he gave the explosive blonde a longing look. I have to agree with Bakugo. It is contagious.
A New School Subject

Before the class knew it, it was Monday again. Which meant going back to class. Unusually enough, everyone seemed to be in a pretty good mood, even though a certain curly haired couple would have liked to just spend the day together. Well, Mina more so than Izuku, but Izuku would be lying if he didn't have at least some desire to do so.

The two walked hand in hand to class, as the rest of 1-A was interspersed around them. Of course, Mina and Izuku weren't the only 'official' couple anymore, as Jiro and Kaminari had made no point in hiding their newfound relationship, evident by the fact they were also holding hands. Of course, there were others who seemed to be closer, but weren't, as some of the class was calling it, 'official', such as Uraraka and Iida, Asui and Tokoyami, and Todoroki and Yaoyorozu.

Everyone got to class fairly early. Checking the clock, it seemed they had about 10 minutes before classes started, so everyone was hanging around and chatting. Mina was with the other girls excitedly telling them about her and Izuku's date, and how romantic he had been. She made no point to be quiet about it, though, which caused a lot of the guys to look at Izuku with envy.

"Dude, that's gonna be hard to top with Jiro," Kaminari was saying. Most of the other boys were nodding as he said so. Mineta had attempted multiple times to butt into the conversations, though glares from the others (and threats of bodily harm from Bakugo) had kept him at bay for the most part. Soon enough, though, the door to the class opened, and everyone quickly found their way to their seats as Mr. Aizawa came in the room.

He glanced around the classroom, seeing that everyone was quiet and ready to go for class. He gave a small smile, though it faded fast as his eyes landed on Mineta, who was still looking devastated. Of course, Aizawa knew exactly what had transpired over the weekend. He sighed as he spoke.

"This should come as no surprise to any of you, but I and the other teachers are well aware of the recent...developments from your class." He took the chance to look pointedly at Izuku and Mina, and then to Jiro and Kaminari. "Whereas there's nothing wrong with relationships between students, nor are there any policies against it, we figured it would be wise to introduce a new subject a little early." He turned to the board and wrote something on it:

"Hero Relations"

"In this class, we'll be covering not only the relationships that you'll have with just significant others, but with the general populace and other heroes as they pertain to how these relationships can both positively and negatively affect your ability to be a Hero. Honestly, this isn't really my thing, so, someone else will be teaching this. I'm sure you could probably guess who...."

"That's right, boys and girls," the voice of Midnight spoke from the doorway. She walked into class as Aizawa wrapped himself up in his yellow sleeping bag and moved to the corner of the room. Mineta's face went from slightly downtrodden to excited. He took the chance to look pointedly at Izuku and Mina, and then to Jiro and Kaminari. "Whereas there's nothing wrong with relationships between students, nor are there any policies against it, we figured it would be wise to introduce a new subject a little early." He turned to the board and wrote something on it:

"Hero Relations"

"In this class, we'll be covering not only the relationships that you'll have with just significant others, but with the general populace and other heroes as they pertain to how these relationships can both positively and negatively affect your ability to be a Hero. Honestly, this isn't really my thing, so, someone else will be teaching this. I'm sure you could probably guess who...."

"That's right, boys and girls," the voice of Midnight spoke from the doorway. She walked into class as Aizawa wrapped himself up in his yellow sleeping bag and moved to the corner of the room. Mineta's face went from slightly downtrodden to excited. "I'll be taking it from here. Like Eraser Head said, this class with cover relationships between you and, well, everyone else, and how they affect you. Other portions of this class will also cover sex ed, because that's important."

At those words, Mineta was practically drooling at the prospect of sex ed being taught by Midnight, and the whole class seemed to feel the dark thoughts he was having in what that entailed. However, Midnight was quick to bring the boy's perverted thoughts crashing down.
"Some of you may think the sex ed part is going to be exciting and filled with...pleasurable instances. I assure you though, it will focus primarily on the academics and knowledge necessary. It also won't be that prevalent a part of the course. Now, does anyone have any questions regarding the course?" Shockingly enough, no one said anything, as Mineta's hopes and any lecherous questions had been dashed away.

With that, Midnight began teaching.

*****

The day seemed to drag on for the first half, and, before the students thought for sure they would die of boredom, lunch time rolled around. With everything that had happened over the last few days, how the class sat was completely different from how they had sat on Friday. For one thing, the table Izuku sat at became more crowded, to say the least.

Aside from Mina joining him, both Tokoyami and Yaoyorozu joined the table. Uraraka was now sitting beside Iida, while Tokoyami and Yaoyorozu sat beside Asui and Todoroki, respectively. Iida, Uraraka, Izuku, and Mina were on one side, and the rest were on the other. The adjacent table had most of the rest of the class, and Bakugo was closest to Izuku's side of the table, exchanging conversation with the greenette when not speaking to Kirishima.

Overall, it was a rather enjoyable lunch, and conversation flowed. What surprised Mina was the fact that when she laid her head on Izuku's shoulder, Iida didn't take the opportunity to come down on them about public displays of affection. This made her a little curious, until she saw how close he and Uraraka were sitting to each other. *Interesting.*

"So, besides Kaminari and Jiro finally getting together, what did everyone do while Izu and I were on our date?" Mina asked. Uraraka was the one to speak up, with a little more blush than usual in her face. This was after she looked at Iida, who nodded reassuringly.

"Well, Iida asked me out, so...we're kinda seeing how that goes," she said. This information caused Mina to show a look of pleasant surprise. Izuku smiled and congratulated his friends.

"It seems that your relationship with each other has caused quite a positive stir in the class, *ribbit*," the straightforward Asui stated. Doing so, she gave a small glance to Tokoyami, who had also taken the chance to look over to Asui, and Mina could have sworn she saw him blush. She smiled widely, happy to hear about everyone feeling the pull of romance, as the class continued to eat their lunch.

*****

Elsewhere in the city, a mysterious figure lurked from the shadows. He wore a plague mask, but, what you could see of his face made him look tired or slightly sickly. While he walked to his destination, his hand held on to the arm of a little white haired girl with a single horn, leading her around.

She was silent, and looked very timid. She also looked like she had been crying recently. The man took a chance to look back towards her.

"Pick up the pace, Eri," he said. "We don't want to be late."
A Very Important Talk

After classes were done for the day, Iida approached Izuku and Mina. He had a request, and wasn't sure quite how to ask for it. After a moment, he decided the best course of action was to be straightforward. When he reached the couple, he quickly fell into step beside them.

"Midoriya. Ashido." He nodded to them, as they smiled and waved. "I'm not particularly fond of doing this, but I wish to ask a favor." Izuku and Mina glanced at each other before Izuku spoke.

"Of course, Iida. What favor would you like?" Izuku would be more than happy to fulfill any favor his friend had, as long as it was in his power to do so.

"I would like if you and Mina could use your 'plus ones' for Uraraka and myself to use for a...date, Friday night." No sooner had the words left his mouth, than Mina let out an excited squeal.

"Absolutely!" she said, totally thrilled at the idea. "Wouldn't that be great, Izu?" Izuku smiled to his girlfriend, and then gave another smile to Iida as he nodded his head.

"Of course, Iida," he responded. "I think that's a great idea." Iida returned the smile and bowed.

"Thank you Midoriya. Ashido. I will be sure not squander the opportunity you have given me." With that, he left the couple be, and went to go tell Uraraka of the plan. Izuku and Mina looked at each other, feeling good about helping out their friends with taking that next step in their relationship.

"That's absolutely adorable," Mina said. "I mean, not as adorable as us, but..." she gave Izuku a toothy grin and a wink. His only response was to take her hand in his as they headed to the dorms.

*****

Shortly after arriving at the dorms, Izuku got a text from All Might to meet him in the teacher's lounge. This wasn't unusual, as the two One for All users spoke often, mostly pertaining to the quirk. Izuku told Mina that he had to go, letting her know that All Might wanted to discuss something in regards to their Hero classes. He wasn't overly fond of lying to her, but knew he still had to keep this particular thing secret.

She was very understanding, and told him that they would hang out once he got back. He gave her a kiss in thanks, which actually caused her to blush, but she returned in nonetheless. Once everything was set, Izuku made his way back to the school.

He approached the door to the teacher's lounge, not really sure what All Might wanted to talk about. It could just be how he was progressing with the One for All, or it could be anything else related as such. But he'd find out soon enough. When he was in front of the door, he gave it a knock. All Might answered. He gave the boy a smile as he gestured him in.

"Good afternoon, young Midoriya," he said. "Glad you could make it."

"Of course, All Might," Izuku responded. "Mina was understanding, even if I had to stretch the truth about why I had to come meet you." All Might's face dropped a little as Izuku mentioned the pink-skinned student. He was well aware of their relationship, and it was something he was going to discuss with Izuku.

"That's partly why I called you here, but first. How is your control over One for All progressing?"
Izuku was a little puzzled at what Mina had to do with the meeting, but he decided to answer All Might's question.

"Pretty good, I think," he said. "So far, I'd say I'm at about 10%. I can push myself to about 15% before the strain starts to kick in. I've definitely noticed a significant boost to my strength, speed, and endurance." All Might nodded at the information, before moving on to the next subject.

"That's great news, my boy. At this rate, I see you being at about 20 to 25% by the end of semester, if not sooner." Izuku smiled at the man's confidence in him. All Might sighed, though, as he continued. "And now for the other part of why I called you here.

"I'm aware of your new relationship with young Ashido. I will say, I was a little surprised, since the two of you seem like polar opposites, but I have noticed the good change in both of you. But that brings me to a concern I have. I'm afraid that since she's now a significant part of your life, you might want to share the secret of your quirk with her." He gave the boy time to take this information in, which Izuku took the opportunity to respond.

"Our relationship is new. Yes. And I really like her. I'm not sure what will happen down the road, but I'd like to think that we'll be together. That being said, I don't wish to give out the secrets of One for All with her. At least not yet." His words actually impressed All Might.

"I will say, that's very mature of you, young Midoriya," he said. "You understand the implications of such a secret. How about I lighten the burden a bit for you. Should your relationship progress, and you see that she'll be in your life for some time, let me know. If you feel then like you can trust her, tell me, and I'm sure I'll give you permission to do so."

To say that Izuku was surprised with All Might's admittance and belief was an understatement. But he also felt a little proud that All Might put that much trust in him to know when the right time to bring someone into the secret, if that ever occurred.

Pleased with the talk, Izuku was dismissed to enjoy the rest of the day, and to spend time with his girlfriend. Izuku felt a new found confidence in the future, and he looked forward to see what awaited him.
The Gift of "Plus Ones"

Izuku arrived back to the dorms, having texted Mina before to let her know he was on his way back. He had only taken a few steps in when he was near tackled by a pink blur. Luckily, he caught himself before they could fall down, but he looked down at his girlfriend with a look of amusement. She looked back up to him with a big, brilliant smile. The same smile that had, over the last few weeks, been a shining beacon for Izuku.

"How was your talk?" Mina asked him, still smiling. She knew that Izuku and All Might were pretty close, having similar powers. If it weren't for the fact that she found out that Todoroki confronted Izuku during the Sports Festival with his 'Izuku is All Might's secret love child' theory, Mina would have been guilty of asking Izuku the same question.

"It went well," Izuku responded. "He had noticed how much I've been able to improve upon Shoot Style, while still discussing ways to branch out with, or maybe check into other sources of inspiration. Which got me to thinking...." Mina looked at him curiously, but was still smiling. "Maybe you could help me incorporate dancing into my technique? I brought the idea up to All Might, and he thought it was a great idea, seeing as we're a couple now. Plus, if you want, I could help you find other uses for your quirk."

Izuku made a mental note to speak with All Might later to tell him of his cover story, so the former Number One Hero wasn't surprised if it was brought up. For now, he'd just have to see what Mina thought of the idea. Turns out, she was rather ecstatic about the whole thing.

"Oh, my goodness, that would be awesome!" she said, shaking her arms in excitement. "But we'll worry about that a little later. First, I've had some people approach me about our 'Plus Ones', and I kinda sorta started a little schedule. I was still gonna wait for you to go over it with me, so you have a say for yours." Izuku smiled at this idea.

"I think that's a great idea, let's take a look." With that, they walked over to one of the common room couches, where Mina had a pen and notebook out. They got to working on the list, double checking everything, while also reaching out to their classmates on who would like to utilize the 'Plus Ones', as not everyone would be able to get one. They had six more days of it, and Hagakure and Sero had already been gifted one. Iida and Uraraka were already slated for Friday.

Luckily, Koda, Sato, Aoyama, and Ojiro had turned down the idea of using the 'plus one'. And Izuku and Mina had both, due to the last couple of days, agreed Mineta would not get one. With five people out, it meant someone would get to reap the benefits twice. Who it ended up being was decided when Shoji approached them, unusually open and nervous at the same time.

"I would like to take Hagakure out," he had said. "I know she's already gotten it, but, if you can spare it, that would be great. Otherwise, I'll be happy to bow out. I'm going to talk to her about it. I like her, and, though I don't know how she feels about me, I would like to give it a shot." It took everything in Mina not to jump for joy and spill a secret she knew. Though everyone thought Hagakure had a thing for Ojiro, she had let Mina in on the fact that Shoji caught her eye more.

Izuku and Mina were more than happy to oblige him. After coming up with a good day, he went off to ask her out. Now, the curly haired couple took one last look at the schedule, proud of their accomplishment. Mina was excited that this would be a good time for most everyone.

**Monday:** Todoroki and Yaoyorozu
Tonight had been decided when Todoroki approached Izuku and Mina with the idea of a 'double date'. Though he made it clear that Yaoyorozu thought it was just the four of them would be gathering, Todoroki wanted to gauge her interest during the night out, while having another couple present to give a sense of ease, since he wasn't the most sociable person.

Apparently, double dates were the flavors of the week, as Kaminari and Jiro, and Iida and Uraraka had both expressed interest in doing so. At first, Izuku was a little hesitant, worried he wouldn't get enough time with Mina. He really liked her, and definitely wanted to spend time with her. She reassured him that they would have plenty of time to do so on the other days.

Once everything was settled, Izuku and Mina went off to get ready for the night, as did Todoroki and Yaoyorozu. Everyone had decided on a more classy approach, as Yaoyorozu offered to treat everyone (after much fighting from Todoroki and Izuku in particular, while getting some resistance from Mina). With that settled, Izuku began to look for the perfect outfit. It didn't take long, as he only had two classy outfits.

Izuku and Todoroki were the first ones down to the common area. Their outfits matching them to a tee. For Todoroki, he wore a long sleeve blue button-up dress shirt, with black slacks and a red tie. Izuku's outfit was a forest green button-dress shirt with the sleeves rolled up to just below the elbows, black slacks, a black vest, and a white tie.

After waiting a few minutes, Mina and Yaoyorozu came down. As they approached, the two boys' mouths practically dropped. Yaoyorozu was wearing a dark red dress, with red heels and her hair flowing instead of up in it's normal ponytail. Izuku actually paid no mind to her outfit, as his eyes were fixed solely on Mina.

Mina was wearing a form fitting black dress that came to just above the knees. The sleeves were long on it, with gold circles on the ends. It was simple, but to Izuku, she looked absolutely vibrant. After a moment of being called back to reality by Mina, Izuku took the opportunity to comment.

"You look stunning," he said, his eyes gleaming emerald. She blushed, while also letting Izuku know that he looked especially handsome.

"Not that you aren't already, but this look really suits you." Before long, the four of them headed out, with Yaoyorozu leading the way.
Izuku and Mina were in awe of the place Yaoyorozu had taken everyone to. They weren't overly surprised, but it was definitely not somewhere they would have been able to go themselves. Nevertheless, they accepted their friend's wish to treat everyone. Aside from Izuku's initial hesitance, the only person who was still perturbed by the whole thing was Todoroki.

Of course, with Todoroki's nature, the only person who could really tell something was off was Izuku. He would talk to his friend when he felt it was respectful to do so, which he felt wouldn't be long. Right now, he was by Mina's side, though he knew his girlfriend would eventually break to talk to Yaoyorozu.

They walked into the restaurant, and Momo (A/N: sorry, I can't keeping writing out Yaoyorozu anymore, at least not outside speech. lol) spoke with the maitre d'. Shortly after, they were shown to their table, and Izuku and Todoroki let the chairs out for Mina and Momo, respectively. Momo thanked Todoroki, blushing, while Mina had stars in her eyes at the small gesture from her boyfriend.

Intricate menus were placed in front of each of them, and the server took their drink orders after a moment. Once the server left, the UA Students looked over the menu. Momo and Todoroki seemed rather unfazed by the layout (and the prices), but Izuku and Mina seemed absolutely terrified at the complexity of everything. Luckily, Momo was more than helpful and reassuring, and even gave some suggestions on what they should order based on asking them about other food preferences.

The servers came back with their drinks and took their orders. Once the menus were taken off the table, Momo and Mina decided to go "freshen up" in the restroom. Izuku and Todoroki both smiled and nodded, while standing up as the girls left the table (Izuku had been taught some of these things in case he ever found himself in this kind of situation). Once they were out of earshot, Izuku immediately looked towards his Hybrid-quirk friend.

"What's wrong?" he said, both comforting and concerned. Todoroki gave him a glance that initially showed hesitation to talk about it. But, he made the vital mistake of looking into Izuku's eyes when he did so. That same fire that was there at the Sports Festival was present now, meaning Izuku was going to help his friend, consequences be damned. Seeing it, he sighed, while chuckling slightly.

"You're a good friend, Midoriya," he said, before continuing. "When I told you and Ashido that I wanted this to be like a double date, I initially expected to be the one to take care of Momo during it. But, you know as well as I do that it's almost impossible to tell her no when she wants to do something special for her friends. It's not that I don't appreciate it. It's just...."

"You're worried you won't be able to show her how you feel," Izuku finished, eliciting a nod from the other boy. Izuku thought for a moment, beginning to mutter a little bit with his own thoughts. Luckily, these seemed to be rather tame compared to most other times. Helping his friend with romance wasn't exactly his strong suit, regardless of the fact that he was currently in a relationship. Once his train of thought cleared, he spoke again.

"There may be other ways to show her," he finally said. "I mean, you could probably just tell her, but I know that's not always easy. You know her better than I do. Maybe there's even something small that you could do, that, to some may seem minute, but would mean so much to her, while getting your point across." Todoroki seriously contemplated the One for All user's words.
"I think I know just the thing, but I'm going to need your help," he said. They spoke in hushed tones for a little while, coming up with a plan. They finished right as Momo and Mina returned to the table.

"I see you two didn't get in to any trouble while we were gone," Mina coyly told them, and Momo giggled slightly. Once again, the two boys had stood up and pulled out their seats for them. Once they had all got back to sitting, Todoroki was the first to speak.

"I wanted to thank Momo again for bringing us here," he said. It was not lost on the girl that he had not referred to her by her last name (step one of his plan), but she accepted the praise as everyone followed up with their thanks. She was happy she could do something like this with her friends. And she was glad that it was with the "first couple" of the class, and with someone she truly adored. It almost felt like a double date, though she felt it was only wishful thinking.

The food came soon enough, and the group ate rather quietly. That didn't cause a complete cessation of conversation, as everyone complimented the food, primarily Izuku and Mina. The conversation picked up more the closer to finishing their food got.

They lingered for a little while after the food was finished, and Momo covered the bill (even though Todoroki offered to help cover [step two]). However, she had none of it, and they were soon leaving the restaurant. Todoroki nodded to Izuku, who nodded back before pulling Mina away from the other two. Both Mina and Momo had looks of confusion written on their faces, but Izuku assured Mina once they were out of range.

"Todoroki is doing something special to confess to Yaoyorozu," he told his girlfriend. She had to suppress her excitement as they made their way to spend time, just the two of them.

Back with Todoroki and Momo, they began walking in the opposite direction. Momo looked over to Todoroki, who said nothing. Finally, her curiosity got the better of her.

"To-, er, Shoto, what's going on? Are we not enjoying the rest of the night with Midoriya and Ashido, any more?" Todoroki remained silent a little bit longer before coming to a stop.

"We are not," he said simply. "There's something I wanted to show you. If you trust me." He gave her a small smile.

"Of course, I trust you." With that said, he led her to a nearby garden. It was exotic and beautiful, the plant life eliciting awe from Momo.

"How did I not know of this place?" she asked, looking to Todoroki. Again, his initial answer was silence and a smile, and he seemed to be leading her somewhere specific. After a short walk, he stopped. In front of them was a rather large flower, but it seemed closed, though close to a bloom. Todoroki looked at his watch, before stepping behind Momo.

"At a certain time, this flower blooms every night," he said. "When it does, it let's off a truly magnificent sparkle, that, to be honest, should seem very familiar to you." Momo looked a little confused again, but Todoroki told her it was almost time and to watch. Sure enough, soon the flower bloomed, emitting said magnificent sparkle. Momo knew exactly what Todoroki was talking about, as the sparkle was very similar to when her Quirk was being used.

"This flower reminds me of you," he was saying. "It's beautiful, and let's off a 'magical sparkle' at it's best moments." Momo was speechless. Her only reaction was to turn towards Todoroki. The two looked at each other in comfortable silence, before they leaned towards one another and kissed.
Preparing for Work Studies

The rest of the week progressed fairly normally with the class, with almost each person that wanted getting a chance to use the 'plus ones' from Izuku and Mina. Of course, the pair did get to enjoy their own time together, and the 'double dates' seemed to go well. Momo and Todoroki had joined the ranks of 'official' couple, while Iida and Uraraka seemed to make steps, though hadn't reached that stage yet. The same was said for Shoji and Hagakure, but seemed to be slightly closer to it than Iida and Uraraka.

Of course, the exception to those who were happy with how the week had been was Mineta. It was weird, and everyone noted how much of a shift there had been in him since Izuku and Mina had announced their relationship to the class. It reeked of jealousy, but there was something more to it. He had even stopped associating with Izuku for the most part. Everyone shrugged it off though, figuring he just needed time to acclimate.

It was now Monday again, and they were back in class. Aizawa was in the middle of lessons when he turned to the class.

"As you know, there has been much discussion on whether or not to allow you First Years to participate in Work Studies," he said. "I won't repeat what I told you a few weeks ago, but know that there are agencies interested in taking you on. After a long discussion, it was decided that, yes, you would be allowed to participate. Though it won't begin for another two weeks, to give you time to speak with agencies to see if they'll take you.

"Bakugo. Todoroki. This gives the two of you the time receive your Provisional License, of which the make up is next week. I would go ahead and say have something lined up for when you pass, but let the agency that accepts you know there is chance you won't be able to participate. I'll be passing out the forms that you'll need to take to your chosen agencies that, if they're interested, they'll fill out for you to submit to the school." After passing out the forms, he wrapped up in his sleeping bag while he let everyone go over the forms and have discussion among themselves. Mina motioned Izuku over to her.

"Hey, Izu! Any idea who you'd do the Work Study with?" she asked him. He thought about it. Mirio had approached him some time ago about introducing him to Sir Nighteye, but that was only if Izuku had gotten permission to do so, which they just had. The real problem would be seeing if Sir were even interested in taking on Izuku.

"Well, Mirio wanted to introduce me to this one Hero, Sir Nighteye. Ever heard of him?" Mina gave a look of thought.

"Sounds familiar, but not really sure." Izuku nodded. "Is that who you're thinking about? Do you think he'd take us both?" She smiled. She knew she wanted to do the Work Study with Izuku, and he wanted to as well. They had both expressed that interest already. There was only one problem with doing it with Sir Nighteye.

"I don't know if he's up for taking on a new Intern, let alone two, but we can find out." He smiled to her reassuringly. "And, if he's only willing to take on one, I'll turn it down so I can be with you. So, let's look at some other options." With that, the rest of their conversation continued on about possible choices.

*****
A few days later, Sir Nighteye had straight up refused taking on any new Interns, much to the dismay of Mirio. However, he did say that he would be willing to work alongside any agency that did take Izuku on, as he was interested in observing the boy's growth. He just couldn't bring himself to take on the extra workload, especially with what he called a very sensitive case he was working on.

Izuku and Mina did find an agency that was willing to take not just the two of them on, but also Momo, as she had insisted Todoroki continue honing his fire skills with his father, Endeavor. What was even more surprising was what agency had done it. Izuku and Mina had originally put them down just to ask, not believing they would be up for it, but the Wild, Wild Pussycats were more than welcoming to the three students.

Most of the other students went back to the agencies they had learned under after the Sports Festival. The only real exceptions seemed to be Mineta and Kirishima. No one was certain where Mineta went aside from some lesser know agency, while Kirishima interned with the Hero Fatgum.

Todoroki and Bakugo passed the retest with flying colors, and Bakugo decided he'd go back to Best Jeanist. He hadn't been overly pleased with the internship (mostly on his end), so decided to actually give the Number Four hero his full attention. Though he passed the retest, there was a lot he felt he had to learn about more than just fighting Villains if he was going to be a well rounded out Hero.

Soon enough, the start of the Work Studies came around, and Izuku and Mina were on their way to the Pussycat's Agency, which just so happened to be in Musutafu, which meant they wouldn't be that far from the school. They were both excited, if not a little on edge about what to expect. But, they'd find out soon enough as they had arrived at the Agency.

As they walked in the doors, they were met with two very familiar faces. One was Tomoko Shiretoko, formerly the Pro Hero Ragdoll. She had her Quirk stolen from her by All for One, an event that caused Izuku much grief. He knew the feeling of being Quirkless. Of feeling like you couldn't contribute. But, from what he understood, she had been taking it in stride and doing what she could to help.

The other person was Kota Izumi, the nephew of Shino Sosaki, or Mandalay, as most knew her. They both looked up from the conversation they appeared to be having when the three UA students walked in. Kota was the first to make any move, as he quickly hurried over to Izuku.

"Izuku! You're here!" he shouted excitedly. The boy had changed a lot since Izuku had rescued him from Muscular. Whereas he was still hesitant around a lot of Heroes or Heroes-in-training, he was warming up to the idea because of people like Izuku. He was about to talk more to Izuku when he looked over to Mina and Momo. His face got a little red as his eyes caught Mina's.

"I'm gonna go let Auntie Shino know you're here," he said, before quickly departing, with a speed that would put Iida to shame. Izuku looked over to Mina curiously, and caught her and Momo stifling a giggle.

"I'm gonna go let Auntie Shino know you're here," he said, before quickly departing, with a speed that would put Iida to shame. Izuku looked over to Mina curiously, and caught her and Momo stifling a giggle.

"Do I want to ask?" he said. Mina told him about the first night of Summer Camp, when Kota had stopped Mineta from peeking at the girls, and then accidentally flashing Kota when she thanked him. The brief thought caused Izuku to turn red, but luckily any further thought was broken off as Tomoko approached them.

"You guys can head on up," she said, smiling to the trio. They returned the smile as they made their ways to the elevator to take them to meet up with the Pussycats.
Meeting with the Wild, Wild Pussycats

Izuku, Mina, and Momo got off the elevator and made their way to the office they were told they would find the Hero Team they were Interning under. As they got to the door, it opened to reveal Kota leaving. He gave Izuku a smile, before diverting his eyes away and letting them know they could go in.

Walking in, they saw the three remaining members of the Pussycats sitting at a table. Mandalay sat in the middle, with Pixie Bob on her right and Tiger on her left. They smiled to the trio that had just entered, and indicated to the three chairs in front of them for them to sit. The three quickly did so, returning the smile.

Mandalay was the first to speak.

"We wanted to thank you all again for wanting to do your Work Study with us," she said, a smile on her face. She was happy to be able to continue teaching future Heroes, but she was definitely curious about some things. "Before we really get into the Work Study, we just wanted to go over some things we didn't get a chance to discuss prior.

"First. Though our main office is here, the Wild, Wild Pussycats are still very much listed as a disaster relief and rescue team, with a focus on nature. Therefore, most of our work will be done outside the city. That's not to say we won't do patrols in the city, but we thought we'd let you all know." The three students nodded before Mandalay continued.

"Now, we did have some questions we wanted to ask you each, individually. Let's start with Yaoyorozu. We see that you did your initial Internship with Uwabami. What made you decide to switch paths? I'm sure she would have taken you on again." Momo straightened up a little more before she answered.

"While I am grateful for the opportunity that Uwabami gave me, I felt, with all due respect, that my Internship with her was wasted on the frivolous 'advertisement' portion. I understand it's always a possibility, but I had wished to learn more in regards to what I'd be doing as a Hero. How I'd be helping the people, and not myself. When I learned Midoriya and Ashido planned on submitting the request to you, I asked to join." It seemed the three were rather impressed with her answer.

"It's true some Heroes, such as Uwabami, enjoy the fame and spotlight being a Hero brings, but I'm glad that you're taking such a serious approach to this. Thank you." Mandalay then turned to Mina and Izuku. "Now, I see that you actually wrote down, and we briefly discussed, learning about working as a Hero Team. What exactly brought this on?" Mina and Izuku looked at one another for a moment before she answered.

"We had actually discussed this with Yaoyorozu as well," he began. "We've been training on how to hone our individual skills and Quirks for solo Hero work since we joined UA. As you may be aware, Mi-er, Ashido and I are dating." The three nodded, intrigued about where this was going. "We want to be able to learn how to handle being on the field with one another. To focus. It may seem a little selfish, but, we felt if we learned while we had someone to keep us in check and give us advice, it would be better than learning once we graduated and got our licenses.

"On top of that, the three of our Quirks aren't entirely compatible, so we wanted to learn how to be able to use them in a Team setting so, again, we wouldn't run into the problem when we were official Heroes on our own. Sorry if that came out wrong." Tiger chuckled as he responded.
"Not at all," he said. "That's actually a very good way to look at things. You're planning for the future, and problems that may arise. Very astute of you to do, and we would be more than willing to make sure everything goes smoothly." This caused the three students to smile before Izuku spoke up, his face serious.

"If I may, I do have a question for you guys," he said, respectfully. The Hero team looked between one another before smiling and nodding. "Not that we're not thankful, but why did you decide to take us on? From what we were led to believe, there was a really good chance you wouldn't be participating in the Work Study for the time being." This caused a thoughtful look to pass on the three before Mandalay once again spoke.

"In all honesty, we weren't going to participate, after what happened at the Summer Camp." The air was a little heavier. "In truth, and this may seem like we're playing favorites, if it had been anyone besides you, Midoriya, that had made the request, we would have flat out denied. We...I still owe you for saving Kota's life from that Villain. The fact that you brought a team also made it easier than if it were just you doing the Work Study."

"Though Mandalay is actually related to the boy," Pixie Bob intervened, "he's family to all of us. So, we owe that to you as well." She looked at the two girls. "Again, we're sorry if that seems unfair to the two of you." Momo shook her head and smiled, while Mina took Izuku's hand.

"Not at all," she said. "This green bean of mine is the best." They all had a good chuckle, as Izuku went a little red at Mina's words. Soon, the air was more settled as the three Pros stood, and the UA students followed suit.

"Well then," Mandalay said. "Let's get to it. We'll go over the schedule and our policies as we take a tour of the office."
The Work Study under the Pussycats had been going well over the last week. Per what the Hero Team had said, most of their patrols and what-not had happened outside city limits. They even took a day to go out to the Pussycats’ Lounge for training. It was interesting, since the memories of the Summer Camp was still fresh, but it seemed to go over without much of a hitch.

Of course, the Work Study didn't keep the students from going Plus Ultra at school. Aizawa made sure of it. In his words, the Work Study was a privilege, and should be treated as such. Most everyone took it well, though issues did arise here and there. Nothing that made anyone to have to stop their Work Study, but there were definitely warnings.

None of that had applied to Izuku, Mina, or Momo, as they had been balancing everything out well, and the Pussycats had helped them out immensely. Especially for Mina. Between everything she was learning, the help she got from Izuku and, to a lesser extent, Momo, Mina had been excelling in class for the most part. So much so, in fact, that when the updated class rankings came up, she had placed 12th. That had been cause, in her mind, for a little celebration.

It wasn't anything extravagant, but was a celebration nonetheless. Most everyone had a good time. Though it meant a small drop in some of their own rankings, most everyone was happy for Mina. Again, the only exception to this seemed to be Mineta, who didn't partake in any activities. Kaminari had tried talking to him, but was quickly rebuffed. It troubled a few people, but they would worry after the celebration.

It was now the middle of the week, and Izuku, Mina, and Momo had been told that they wouldn't be going in for the Work Study on this particular day because of a meeting the Pussycats had with a few other Pros at Sir Nighteye's Office. So, they got through the day, and were looking forward to just hanging out. However, as they were leaving the main school building to head to the dorms, they were approached by Mirio Togata. He looked unusually serious.

"We need to talk," he said, as he had the three of them follow him for a little while. It was a relatively quiet spot on campus, that didn't see much foot traffic. After taking a look around to make sure the coast was clear, Mirio spoke again.

"The information I'm about to divulge to you does not leave this group," he began. Everyone nodded. "I was asked to relay this information to you from Sir Nighteye, as it pertains to the meeting he's currently having with the other Pros, including the Pussycats. The only reason we aren't there now is due to not wanting the Media to know that we as Interns are going to be involved in what's about to happen.

"Sir Nighteye has been working on a very sensitive case in regards to the Shie Hassaikai, an order of Yakuza. They are lead by one Kai Chisaki, known by the alias Overhaul. He and his group have been working on dangerous experiments. Our intel leads us to believe he's using someone or multiple people's Quirks to create some sort of weapon.

"We're still gathering more information, but once we do, we'll initiate a raid on their base of operations. The Pussycats will be keeping you up to date on any further developments. Any
questions?" The air was heavy around them, and the other three students were deep in contemplation. Finally, it was Izuku who asked a question.

"Any connection to the League of Villains?" Mirio allowed a small smile to tug on his cheek. Sir Nighteye had missed out on not taking Izuku on. The others were interested in the response, as it was a very vital question.

"As far as we are aware, the League is not involved," Mirio responded, causing a bit of relief to wash over the three. "That being said, we know the Shie Hassaikai has had contact with the League of Villains. Apparently, they're not exactly on good terms, but that doesn't mean that couldn't change. We are preparing for the likelihood the League becomes involved."

No other questions were asked after the fact, and the 1-A students continued on their way to the dorms, the mood heavier than before. Once they arrived, Momo separated from the couple. Izuku's face was both thoughtful and worried. Without saying a word, he held Mina's hand tighter and pulled her with him. She followed with little resistance.

They got to the elevator to head up to Izuku's room, as he pressed the button for such. Once the doors closed, in an act of confidence not usual with Izuku, he pulled Mina in for a deep, passionate kiss. She was surprised at first, but soon melted in to it. She understood, without either of them saying anything. They needed to hold each other close, like now, for the coming tribulation.
Crossing a Line

It had been a little over a week since Mirio had discussed Sir Nighteye's case with Izuku, Mina, and Momo. Since then, they had spent most of their time during Work Study with the Pussycats training in preparation. They had also been informed of the other Agencies and which classmates would be joining them. Right now, Todoroki, Kirishima, Bakugo, Asui, and Uraraka were confirmed to be joining, as the Agencies they were Interning with had given their dedication to the cause. There was the possibility of others, but they weren't confirmed.

The tension had been high in regards to waiting on updates. There was a certain level of anxiousness of being called at a moment's notice. It had started eating at Izuku some, and his girlfriend had taken notice. She was quick to comfort him, and he was appreciative. Though nothing had happened beyond a make out session after what Mirio had told them, Izuku and Mina's relationship had progressed. It was more than just them dating.

Izuku adored Mina. He enjoyed her energy, and let it take over him from time to time. He knew, at this rate, he would fall in love with her. It was a word that both excited and terrified Izuku at the same time. He knew he wasn't there yet, them having been together just over month at this point, but it would take something extreme to change the path that he felt they were heading.

But, he let those thoughts take a backseat for the time being. He knew he felt deeply for her, and she felt the same, and that was good enough for now. Right now, he was just enjoying talking to her before class got started. They had kept each other relatively calm during the anticipation, and right now, they allowed themselves to be normal High School students as they talked about plans outside of school and Work Study.

"Dude, I think you're taking it a little too far," the voice of Kaminari caught everyone's attention. He was talking to Mineta, and, by the look on his face, he was actually disgusted at whatever the grape-headed pervert was saying. Said pervert had a look on his face that screamed lewdness, while at the same time something seemingly more sinister than that.

"C'mon, Kaminari, you can't say you haven't thought the same way," he was now saying. "What? Does Jiro have your balls in a vice grip now?" This actually caused a flash in anger in Kaminari. "But don't worry about me saying anything about her. She doesn't have the 'figure', if you get my drift." His words were now causing a practical class-wide anger to well up. There had been a shift in the short boy, and it had not been good.

"All's I'm saying is that with all the romance crap going around, nabbing one of the girls should be easier," he continued. "I mean, think about it. Iida's way too uptight, so Uraraka could slip out of his fingers." This caused a "hey!" from both Iida and Uraraka, but Mineta ignored it as he went on. "Both Tsu and Hagakure haven't progressed with Tokoyami and Shoji, so they're more or less still free. Honestly, I think the only lost cause is Yao-Momo.

"And while I will admit that Yao-Momo has by far the best bod in class," this sentence caused a little fire to emit from Todoroki, though he grit his teeth, "I know who'd I have my sights on. I mean, she's gotta be the easiest, and that's Ashido. After all, you can't rape the willing." With those words, something snapped inside of Izuku. His mouth had already been full of bile at the words Mineta was already spewing about his female classmates. But what he said about Mina....

He looked over to his girlfriend, and tears were welling in her eyes. She looked devastated that someone thought that way about her. She was hurt. Izuku could see that it was something that might not exactly be new, but it was definitely something that she hadn't had to have dealt with in a
"But, as I was saying, Ashido has to put out pretty easy, right, Mido...?" He never finished the sentence, as he found himself inside a Mineta-sized hole in the wall in the back of the classroom. Everyone gasped as they saw the fury in Midoriya's eyes as Full Cowling spread throughout his body, and he had Mineta pressed against the wall.

"How dare you!" he said, and everyone went deathly silent. "I've been patient with you. I've tried to be your friend. I've tried to believe you could be a Hero. But what you said about the girls just now. What you said about Mina! I should send you through the window and...."

"MIDORIYA!" the voice of Shota Aizawa suddenly rang out, causing Izuku to freeze. His mouth was now agape. He slowly put Mineta down, though the anger for Mineta never left his face as he turned towards the homeroom teacher. At this point, he hadn't even realized Full Cowling had been deactivated until he saw his teacher's eyes.

"You used your Quirk to attack a fellow student," Aizawa said, still trying to comprehend what he was seeing. He had only just walked in when Izuku had threatened to send Mineta, now unconscious, out the window. "Such actions would constitute immediate expulsion..."

"Mr. Aizawa, wait!" Mina was quick to come to the defense of her boyfriend. "You know Izuku wouldn't do something like that without reason. You didn't hear what Mineta was saying." More of the class began to chime in about Izuku's actions being justifiable. Aizawa held up a hand to silence the class.

"Fine! I'll get everyone's statement after I take Midoriya to Principal Nezu's Office," he said, indicating for the boy to follow him. Izuku looked downtrodden, but obedient. "Kaminari. Please take Midoriya to Principal Nezu's Office while I take Mineta to the old lady." He looked towards the door to see Midnight standing there.

"I came to check on the noise I heard," she looked around, seeing the hole in the wall, and the beaten Mineta. Aizawa was glad for this intervention.

"Midnight, can I ask that you take the other student's statements until I get back?" Midnight nodded, and made her way into the classroom as Iida left with Midoriya, and Mineta was carried by Aizawa.

Once dropping Izuku off, Iida returned to class. Izuku knocked on the door, and was admitted by the small animal that was UA's Principal.

"Ah, Mr. Midoriya, please, take a seat," the mammal said, his voice as polite as always. "I received a text from Mr. Aizawa that you assaulted another student, but there was apparently more to the story than just what he walked in on. While we wait for his return, would you care for some tea?" Izuku merely shook his head, mumbling out a "no, thank you" as he took a seat on the couch across
There was silence for a while, neither uncomfortable nor comfortable, just silence. In that time, Nezu was working on a few papers and drinking tea, while Izuku nervously sat waiting, going over everything. He had let his emotions get the better of him. He had attacked Mineta. And now, he was looking at expulsion. All Might would be furious with him.

He apparently had less time to dwell on the events that transpired as the door once again opened, and Aizawa and Midnight walked in. They spoke with Nezu quietly for a moment, handing him what appeared to be the statements from the rest of the class. Nezu nodded, and everyone turned to Izuku.

"Midoriya, you attacked a student while using your Quirk," Aizawa began, repeating what he said from earlier. "However, from the statements we've gathered from your classmates, your actions were deemed justifiable. This does not excuse your behavior, but it does save you from expulsion....for now. We'll deal with your punishment in a moment.

"But first, after what has been discovered, after previous incidents, and with the implications of raping fellow students, we've decided that Mineta will be expelled. He awoke not long ago, and confirmed everyone's statements. He has also been informed of his expulsion. Now, on to your punishment..."
Punishment

Izuku was at a loss for words. His classmates had saved him from expulsion. He couldn't thank them enough. Of course, he wasn't completely off the hook, as he had, indeed, attacked another student. And now, he was facing the music.

"Your punishment is as follows," Aizawa was saying, and Izuku paid full attention. "For the next two weeks, you'll be forbidden from using your Quirk for any reason. Any training you'll partake in, you'll have to make do without it. Obviously, we are aware of Nighteye's case, so exception will be made should what is planned occur before the two weeks are up.

"As for your Work Study, you'll still be allowed to work with the Pussycats, but will be banned from field work. I will be discussing this incident with them, and you will have to endure any further punishment they deem necessary. You'll also be tasked, much like after your fight with Bakugo, with cleaning the dorms during the duration of this punishment."

Izuku nodded, accepting of this punishment. He honestly expected worse. Hell, expected to be expelled, regardless. It pained him that he would have to go the whole time without using his Quirk. Especially since he was trying his hardest to build up his control of One for All. But, he had to accept it, and work his body as much as could without it.

"Violation of these stipulations will result in immediate expulsion," Aizawa finished. Izuku knew that would be the final part of his punishment, to know how dangerously close he was to getting kicked out of his dream school. "Do you understand and accept these terms?" Izuku nodded.

"Yes, sir," he said, sadly, but with a voice that said he knew this was best case scenario for him.

"Good," Aizawa said. "Return to the dorms. You can get started on cleaning. Any homework will be sent to you with Ashido or Iida. Dismissed." Having been dismissed, Izuku left and headed immediately to the dorms.

A few hours later, he had the place pretty much spotless as his classmates returned.

"Damn, Deku, part of the punishment?" Bakugo was the first to say anything, as Mina made her way quickly to Izuku. He just had time to give Bakugo the affirmative before he found himself in the sweet but vice grip hug of his girlfriend. He could feel his shirt start to get wet, and knew Mina was crying.

"I'm still here," Izuku said, trying his best to comfort Mina. "I'm sorry I made you worry." He lifted her chin up to look at him. Her tears were still streaming, but she had a weak smile on her face. He leaned down and gave her a soft but passionate kiss. Everyone made to leave the couple, but Izuku unwilling pulled away to address them, tears in his own eyes.

"Thank you, everyone," he said. Everyone merely nodded. Kaminari approached him, looking a little worse for wear. And Izuku could understand. Mineta had pretty much been Kaminari's best friend here.

"Look, Midoriya, I'm sorry," he said. Izuku gave him a confused look. "All this time, I could have done more to get him to calm it down. It should never have gotten to the point it did." Izuku placed a hand on his shoulder.

"It's okay, Kaminari," Izuku said, reassuringly. There was more that Izuku probably could say, but he left it at that, and Kaminari understood.
Izuku then spent the next few minutes getting with Iida on his coursework for the day, as well as fill everyone in on what his punishment entailed, filling in what Aizawa didn't tell the whole class. This was primarily for those involved in Sir Nighteye's case, since Aizawa left those details out. Honestly, Izuku was worried about what the Pussycats would have in store for him.

*****

Turns out, the Pussycats were fairly lenient with Izuku. Whereas they were obviously disappointed, especially since keeping calm when someone you personally care about was the target of a Villain (both verbal and physical) had been a focus of recent training, they had understood the situation. But, they followed through on their own punishment, so Izuku found himself helping Ragdoll with some archiving of some of the older cases the Pussycats had worked.

It was kind of a trip down memory lane for Ragdoll. It was also fairly emotional, so Izuku really understood why he had been given this particular assignment. He promised himself if there was a way to get Ragdoll her Quirk back, he would. Needless to say, she didn't stay for very long, but long enough for him to get a good hold on what he had needed to do.

Near the end of the day, the Pussycats had returned from patrol with Mina and Momo. It had apparently been an uneventful day. Izuku had found something he needed to check in with Mandalay in regards about. Apparently, it pertained to a file in regards to a joint case with the previous Ingenium, Tensei Iida, Tenya's older brother.

"Oh, yea," Mandalay said, giving it a once over, "Tensei should actually have this for his records. I know he was forced to retire, but it's best to ask him. Could I get you to get that to him?" Izuku nodded.

"Absolutely," he replied. "We go to school with his younger brother, so we should be able to get it to him easily."

"Great!" After that, the three students headed back to the dorm. They were met along the way by Todoroki, Iida and Uraraka. Izuku took the opportunity to ask about the file. Iida thought on it for a moment before he came up with an idea.

"This is actually quite opportune, Midoriya," he stated. "My brother invited us all out to a bit of a get together tomorrow. He's keen on meeting you all." Izuku smiled, before throwing a glance to Mina.

"Is Mina invited?" he asked. She immediately squeezed his arm, and kissed him on the cheek.

"That is what I meant by all of us," Iida responded. "The six of us." Everyone was now excited about it.

"Yes, my sister is also very interested in meeting everyone," Todoroki chimed in, causing a look of confusion on everyone's face, except Iida's.

"Oh yes, my brother Tensei is dating Todoroki's sister, Fuyumi." And this started a whole other conversation, with the girls all talking excitedly.
The students of Class 1-A were excited and nervous at the same time. It was strange, but the anticipation of their new classmate had them on the edge of their seats. Most were worried it would be someone like Monoma, while others were excited that it would be someone like Tetsutetsu or Kendo, though most figured Kendo would be ineligible due to being 1-B’s President.

Jiro was slightly nervous it would be someone like Shiozaki, because of Kaminari's flirting with her during the Sports Festival. Of course, she trusted her boyfriend, but she was still very self conscious about her looks, especially after what Mineta had said. Two other people in the classroom had fears for entirely different reasons for the same possible candidate.

Neither Izuku nor Iida thought Mei Hatsume would be interested in the Heroics course, since she seemed more on track with impressing Support companies with her "babies", but there was still the fear that she could be there. Izuku could only imagine Mina's reaction if Mei pulled her stunt of practically manhandling him for measurements, while Iida still held a dark cloud over him over what had transpired in their match at the Sport Festival.

Before any further discussion or worries could be voiced, the door to the class opened, and Aizawa stepped in, bringing the class to silent attention. His students were getting better at that, and he was secretly proud. He cleared his throat as he began to speak.

"As everyone here knows, Minoru Mineta has been expelled from UA for continued behavior unbecoming of a Hero." He looked over to Izuku. In truth, he hadn't wanted to punish the green haired boy at all after he had heard everyone’s statements. Midnight had actually also voiced just issuing a stern warning. But Aizawa couldn't just leave it, and Izuku had understood.

"That said, we had tryouts following the incident and yesterday to determine who would fill the empty seat left by Mineta. Please welcome your new classmate." He turned to the door to indicate for someone to enter. When said person did enter, the class was mostly surprised to see who it was.

"You?" Ojiro asked, a bit incredulously, as Hitoshi Shinso made his way to the front by Aizawa. Aizawa mentioned that everyone could get acquainted with their new classmate before wrapping himself up in his sleeping bag. Shinso's first move was actually over to Ojiro.

"Ojiro, right?" he asked. The other boy, not wanting to say anything after his last experience, merely nodded. Shinso sighed. "I apologize for my actions during the Sports Festival. What I did was not very heroic in forcing you to join my team in the Cavalry Battle using my Quirk. I just...wanted to be in the Hero Course so bad, I was willing to do whatever." He looked over to Aoyoma. "And I apologize to you as well, Aoyoma."

"No apologies needed, monsieur," Aoyoma replied, "as you let me let my glorious light shine for everyone to see." Shinso merely smiled at this and nodded, before turning back to Ojiro.

"I don't expect you to forgive me," he was saying. "But someone believed in me enough and encouraged me, and that allowed me to continue my path and preparing myself for the chance to get into the Hero Course the right way." He looked over to Izuku. Everyone followed his gaze.

"That's not surprising," the whole class thought together, as Mina giggled and grabbed her boyfriend's arm, feeling so proud. Ojiro sighed before smiling lightly.

"I understand, Shinso, so, I do forgive you," he said. He held out his hand. "Bygones, and let's
learn how to be Heroes together.” Shinso took it, the smile on his face widening slightly.

*****

Izuku was a little nervous about this get together. He would be meeting the older siblings of two of his closest friends, one of whom was a former Pro Hero. He had to tell himself over and over that he would have to control his fanboying for the night, though everyone, especially Iida, had reassured him it would be okay. Iida even went so far as to tell Izuku that Tensei was actually looking forward to talking with the boy about his career as Ingenium.

They arrived at the home of Tensei Iida. It was a humble, yet very elegant looking, house. Iida was the one who knocked on the door. A female voice was heard from the other side.

"Just a moment," she said. Izuku didn't really recognize the voice, but assumed it was Fuyumi. Sure enough, the door opened to reveal a young woman who looked slightly older than the students in front of her. She had white hair, with red flecks in them, and her eyes matched Todoroki’s right eye. She also wore a pair of glasses. She was definitely Todoroki's sister.

"Hello, everyone," she said. "We're glad you've come." They walked into the living room. "Please make yourselves at home. I'll let Tensei know you're here."

Soon after, Tensei arrived and dinner was served. Dinner went well, and conversation flowed very well. Even though Izuku did have his fanboy moments, he was fairly under control. They finally came around to the file that the Pussycats had wanted him to get to the older Iida.

"Ah, yes, this," Tensei said. "This was from one of my first cases from after I went from Sidekick to full Pro. I'm honestly surprised they had this. It should have been at the Iida Agency. No matter. I thank you for bringing this to me. Honestly, it just needs to be filed away there, though I do understand why they would want to check with me on it. Tenya, you can handle that, yes?"

The younger Iida brother was more than willing to help his brother. Once everything was settled, it was soon time for the students to return to the dormitories. On the way there, Mina pulled Izuku closer to her.

"So...I know we haven't had a lot of chances to do much with the Work Study, school, and training, but..." she said. "My parents really want to officially meet you. And they would like it if your mom could join us. Kind of a big family get together. What do you say?"

"Absolutely," Izuku replied, without hesitation, giving Mina a kiss.
Family Hang Out

It didn't take Izuku and Mina too long to make plans for getting together with their families. They did have to wait another week, though, and, as such, it was at the tale end of Izuku's punishment that they were able to get together. Izuku's mother was beyond herself at the opportunity to finally meet Mina's parents, and to meet Mina officially as Izuku's girlfriend. Of course, she wasn't quite as hysterical as when Izuku had first told her about his and Mina's relationship, but she was still rather emotional.

The day finally came, and Izuku and Mina had each met up with their respective families first, then they would meet at a park that was close to UA. This had been so the two students were able to spend some one on one time with their parents, and then the locale had been so they would be able to get back to the school with little problem when the night was over.

"Oh, I can't wait to meet them, Izuku," Inko Midoriya was saying, for probably the umpteenth time. Izuku smiled nervously for also the umpteenth time. He was anxious, worried about what Mina's parents would think of him. Mina had assured him time and again that they would like him, but that didn't keep him from worrying.

Izuku and Inko arrived at the park first. This wasn't unusual, as Inko lived closer to the area than the Ashidos did. This gave Izuku a little time to mentally prepare. Or at least, as much as he possibly could. He didn't think there would be enough mental preparation in the world for meeting his girlfriend's parents for the first time. He breathed in. And breathed out.

"Izu!" the heavenly voice of Mina broke through Izuku's concentration. His smile had widened as his eyes opened, and he turned right in time to catch his girlfriend as she launched herself at him. They shared a passionate kiss...that was quickly interrupted by the clearing of a throat. They broke their embrace as they looked over to their parents. Inko's eyes were all watery. A woman, who could only be Mina's mother, smiled adoringly at the two, while the fairly large man accompanying her seemed to be narrowing his eyes at Izuku.

"Izu, this is my mom, Nensei. And this is my dad, Tokatsu." The two approached Izuku. As they did, he was able to get a better look at them. Her father, Tokatsu, was a fairly large man. Izuku would put him at slightly smaller than Endeavor. He had black sclera, much like Mina, though that seemed to be the most significant physical mutation of his. Her mother shared Mina's pink hair, and some of her overall looks. Neither shared the pink skin or horns like Mina had.

Izuku bowed to them as they got closer.

"It's a pleasure to meet you both," he said, reverently. Mina giggled a little at this, and her parents smiled. Inko silently fawned over how well mannered and respectful her son was.

"No need for all of that," Tokatsu said, as he extended his hand out for Izuku to shake. Izuku, after a moment's hesitation, and silent encouragement from Mina and Inko, took it, smiling. "That's better. Now, I assume this charming woman over here is your mother?"

Introductions went quickly enough, and soon the group was on their way to enjoy the day. The first stop was something to eat. The Ashido's ended up paying, after much resistance from Izuku and Inko. Afterwards, they enjoyed the day, visiting shops and other sites. They even went to the museum. The parents mostly stuck together, getting to know each other better, while Izuku and Mina held back some.
Izuku was enjoying the fact that his mother was making quick friends with the Ashidos. He knew his mother was rather lonely, and she didn't have many friends outside of Mitsuki Bakugo. It was nice to see her being lively and social. The look on his face at this was not lost on Mina.

"I'd say our parents are getting along swimmingly, huh, Izu," she said, smiling brightly to her boyfriend. Izuku returned the smile, and Mina could see the tears start to line his eyes.

"It's nice to see her more happy," he said, his tone low for just the two of them. "It hasn't been easy for her, with everything that's happened." Mina knew what Izuku was talking about. Between believing your son, your only child, was Quirkless for so long, then for him to get such a volatile Quirk, that hurt him at first. Not to mention all of the stuff with the Villains. Mina knew how her parents reacted to the Villains, she could barely imagine what Inko must have gone through.

Before the group knew it, the day had wound down, and they were getting ready to part their separate ways. The Ashidos had welcomed Izuku as 'part of the family', and had even insisted on making sure Inko got home safely.

Now truly alone, the curly haired couple made their way back to UA. It had been an enjoyable day, and it could not, in either of the students' minds, have gone better. It was a nice break from everything that had been going on, and something that had definitely been needed for all of them.
The Girl with the White Hair

A few more weeks passed, and Work Study increased tremendously. It became more evident that they were getting close to Sir Nighteye's Raid, though it still looked like it might be a few more weeks. This was both a blessing and a curse for those involved. On one hand, it meant that whoever was under the subjection of Overhaul would have to suffer. On the other hand, it allowed for more planning, as well as attaining the confirmation of more help, namely the inclusion of the agencies that Iida and Tokoyami were doing their Work Study with.

By this time, Izuku's suspension had expired, and he had been able to use his Quirk again for training and Work Study. Fortunately for him, it seemed working his body without One for All had actually improved his control over it. During this time, he and Bakugo also trained together semi-secretly. Everyone knew they were training, but the others didn't know that it was specifically for the two who carried the secret of Izuku's Quirk.

It was during one such training session that an interesting subject came up. One that Izuku had been both ready, and not so ready to discuss.

"You and Racc-er, Ashido, have been dating for what, a little over two months now?" Bakugo asked, as they were taking a break from a rather intense sparring match. Izuku was nervous where Bakugo was going with this.

"We have," he answered, unusually calmly, as he fondly thought of the time they had been together. Bakugo smiled at the look on his friend's face.

"You love her, don't you?" The question made Izuku freeze, and the calm facade he had instantly went out the window. He was glad he hadn't taken a drink of his water just yet, or it would have ended up all over Bakugo. Needless to say, he still had a bit of a coughing fit. Bakugo chuckled a little.

"Easy, Deku. You don't have to answer that until you're ready." Izuku had finally calmed down, and gave Bakugo a grateful look. Not long after, the two went back to training.

*****

Today was a rather special occasion for Izuku, Mina, and Momo, as they were joined on their Work Study patrol by Sir Nighteye and Mirio. Apparently, this had worked two-fold for the agencies. On one hand, the two groups were able to coordinate better, so, when the time came for the raid, they would be able to work better together. It also allowed them to discuss matters of the raid, and update with timetables and the like.

"From what we've got, it looks like it'll be close to another month," Sir Nighteye was saying, irritated. He clearly didn't want to have to wait that long. In fact, everyone already knew he would have rather done this some time ago. And everyone felt the same. From what they had, unknown people were suffering because of this. The biggest issue was going in blind to this. And that was one thing Sir Nighteye didn't want to do.

Though his Quirk gave him foresight, there were some things he wasn't 100% on. He knew obvious details, but Quirks and people made things unpredictable at times. He was also very careful with the information he divulged, as that could also change things. Needless to say, he was a rather anti-social sorts, and was far more business than most of his contemporaries.
Of course, joining the Pussycats on their patrol would also benefit Sir Nighteye for a very particular reason. He knew All Might's secret, and knew Izuku had been hand picked as his successor. Personally, he wasn't a fan, and felt Mirio would have been the far better pick to receive One for All, but he respected All Might enough not to interfere with the man's choices.

As they walked along, they split up into groups. Izuku went with Mina and Sir Nighteye, and everyone else split accordingly. Something else Sir Nighteye disapproved of was Izuku and Mina's relationship. He didn't feel Heroes should be attached, but, again, he refrained from voicing his distaste of that, and was a little more at ease after seeing them in action against some petty thugs.

That incident hadn't taken up too much time, and they were quickly back on patrol. Not much else happened for the rest of the day until much later, as they were set to meet up with the others before heading back to their respective agencies. They were passing a side street when a little girl ran into Mina, as she had been looking behind her as she was running.

"Oh, careful there," Mina said, smiling to the girl. Her smile dropped as she took in how the girl looked. Her clothes looked rather worn and tattered, and she looked like she had been crying. She had white hair and a single horn. "Do you need help? Where are your parents?" Before the little girl could answer, another voice spoke up.

"There you are Eri," the man said. The three looked and instantly noticed who it was from the files. It was Overhaul. Before acting, Izuku and Mina looked over to Sir Nighteye, who gave a negative look. Now was not the time.

"I was worried," Overhaul continued, as he reached the child. To the untrained, his voice appeared full of concern. But the three Heroes knew better. "And look. You've got your dress all torn and dirty." He looked to the three. "Thank you. I don't know why she ran off like that. I hope you have a good day."

Overhaul and Izuku locked eyes. Though Izuku's face didn't give anything away, there was still a moment. Something like fate that intertwined the two. It was broken as Sir Nighteye replied.

"Of course. Just please be more careful with her. She's lucky to have run into us. She could have ran into a more...unsavory type." Overhaul nodded, as he took Eri away with him. When they were out of sight, Mina allowed a few tears to fall. Even Izuku looked completely deflated, and a tear or two made their way out. A few minutes later, they were joined by the rest of the group, and they were filled in with what transpired.

"It looks like our plans just became accelerated," Sir Nighteye said, and everyone nodded their understanding. This raid would be happening sooner than planned. Everyone just hoped they were ready.
The Depth of Feelings

Katsuki Bakugo was hanging out at a local cafe with Eijiro Kirishima. This wasn't entirely unusual, as Kirishima had been one of the few people to really attempt hanging out with Bakugo since they started UA. Of course, Bakugo becoming a better person after what happened almost three months ago had endeared him to others. He could even be seen hanging out with the likes of Ojiro and Iida.

Aside from Izuku, though, Kirishima was pretty much Bakugo's best friend, so they more or less hung out more often. Today, aside from just hanging out, they were discussing some serious matters, not the least of which was the upcoming mission with Sir Nighteye. They had been informed of what had happened the previous day, and how that had accelerated their plans. As such, all of the agencies involved had decided to give their Interns the day off to relax, so they weren't overly wound up come mission time.

This worked for most, but everyone had noticed the rather dark cloud around Izuku. The only person he had really talked to so far today had been Mina. The thought of which brought something Bakugo had been wondering.

"Hey, Kirishima," he said, causing the red-head to look up from his drink. "How do you feel about Deku dating Ashido?" Kirishima looked at him curiously, before looking like he gave it some thought and smiling.

"I think they're really good for each other," he replied. "And he's making my horn buddy happy. Can't really complain about it. I'm happy for them." Bakugo thought on this a moment. Did he misread something? He was sure...

"So, you're not jealous?" This had really gotten Kirishima's curiosity. "Don't get me wrong, I'm not gonna try to split them up, even for you...."

"Why would I be jealous?" Kirishima asked, before a look of realization struck him. "Oh. You think Mina and I....Oh, no, bro, you got it all wrong. I've never thought of her that way. I mean, yea, we're buds, but, nah, nothing like that." There was more he wasn't saying, and Bakugo could tell. Kirishima was nervous about something.

"What aren't you telling me?" Bakugo finally asked. "You were pretty much the only person willing to deal with my shitty attitude since we got here. I think that means that I should be able to help you, right?"

"It's...not that simple," Kirishima replied. "I'm...not sure what my feelings are. Well, that's not entirely true. I'm pretty sure I know what my feelings are, I just don't know what to do with them. I don't think people would understand."

"Alright, dude, what are you going on about-"

"I think I like you!" Kirishima finally said in an outburst. "Like, physically attracted to you. I know some people will think it's weird, or unmanly, or unacceptable to society, but it's how I feel. And I get it if you don't want anything to do with me anymore." Kirishima bowed his head. Bakugo blinked for a few seconds, processing what his friend had just said. After a moment, he spoke.

"I...don't really know what to say," he began. "I'm...flattered for one." This caused Kirishima to look up, and stare at awe at Bakugo. "But, if I'm being honest. I don't really know how I feel." This deflated Kirishima some until Bakugo continued.
"It's not because I'm appalled or put off by what you said. I've just been so focused on becoming a Hero, things like romance never really registered for me. I've never really considered exploring my...sexuality. Does that make sense?" Kirishima, mouth slightly agape, nodded. He understood. It wasn't that Bakugo rejected him. He just never thought about things like that.

"I've had a one-track mind since my Quirk developed," Bakugo was saying. "Honestly, everyone's praising of it didn't help my ego. And why I became such a shit. Makes me wonder what you even saw in me when you wanted to be my friend at the start of school." Kirishima shrugged it off, telling him he thought he was a cool dude with an awesome Quirk. Things settled down after that.

Kirishima's initial embarrassment over, he relaxed as he continued to talk to Bakugo. He wasn't sure if anything would develop between them, but he knew the Explosion user wasn't going to push him out of his life over his feelings.

*****

Mina was upset as she walked to the building. It was getting late. Still a while until curfew, but late nonetheless. Her boyfriend hadn't been back to the dorms in some time, and Mina knew exactly where he was. Blowing off steam.

Mina knew Izuku had been beating himself up over the Eri incident. She knew how badly he had wanted to take the little girl away from that...monster. She wanted to as well. That adorable, innocent girl didn't need to endure anymore torture. And, though initially Mina had been much more emotional, it was Izuku who was suffering most from their inaction.

They had cried together when they were alone. Izuku had been lamenting over the fact that he could have ended it all right there. He could have saved the girl, and he would have, regardless of the cost to himself. Mina knew how much of a selfless person he was. How he was willing to break himself to save others. And not being able to help.

After their cry session that night, Izuku had done something he wouldn't have considered in his wildest dreams, for fear of being viewed as a pervert along the lines of Mineta. He had stayed the night with Mina, the two falling asleep holding one another. That had been the extent. Just holding each other close, safe in each others arms.

But it wasn't that easy to just stay in bed, sleeping their problems away. But how far Mina knew Izuku to be pushing himself worried her.

She walked in to the gym in time to see the blur of green lightning impact with the training dummy, tearing it to sunders. The scene about her pretty much revealed how hard Izuku had been going. The blur had stopped after that impact, and stood among a field of destroyed training dummies.

He was breathing hard, and, though nothing was broken, he was definitely battered from his training. There were tears in his eyes, his breathing was ragged as he was trying (and failing) to control his emotions. Seeing him like this hurt Mina. He was pushing himself too hard. Punishing himself for something he couldn't control. He was so selfless. One of the things she...

Now wasn't the time. At least, she wasn't sure it was the time. What she was sure about was that her boyfriend needed comfort.

"Izu?" she finally said, her voice full of concern, but compassion. And soft, something that made Izuku noticeable more relaxed. More at ease. But also more aware. He turned to face her, and broke down.
"M-mina! I'm so-sorry! I couldn't..." In an instant, Mina was by Izuku's side, cradling him in her arms. He crumpled to the ground, more from exhaustion than emotion, but not by much. She stroked his hair, trying her best to comfort him. He was hurting even more than she initially realized. He managed to calm down after a few moments, and looked up at her.

"Mina," he said, much calmer, though with still deep emotion to his words. "With everything about to happen. I need to let you know. I can't go in and something happen to one or both of us without you knowing."

"Without me knowing what, Izu?" she said, curious, though still comforting.

"I...I love you, Mina." He had said it. And Mina quickly realized it wasn't just because of the mission they were about to go on. This was something Izuku had thought about and concluded on his own. He probably would have said it sooner or later, but this whole debacle had sped things up a little for him. Now, tears hit her eyes as they shared a deep, passionate kiss.

"I love you, Izu," she said, almost at a whisper, once they separated from the kiss. They sat there for a moment longer before Izuku pulled away a little bit.

"There's something else I have to tell you," he said. "But, I need to talk to someone about it first. Give me a few minutes?" Mina nodded, giving him a kiss before heading out to wait for him. When she left, Izuku grabbed his phone and dialed the number.

"All Might," he said. "I'm ready to tell her."
Izuku and Mina walked hand in hand towards the main building of UA. Izuku hadn’t mentioned what specifically they were doing, but that it was something very important. Mina had seen the look in her boyfriend's face, and figured she would find out soon enough, so didn't pester him for details. She hadn't even asked who they were going to see, but had a good idea.

Sure enough, as they had made it to the office, she wasn't that surprised to see All Might open and greet the two. He gave her his best smile, but she could tell between him and Izuku that this was not only important, the subject was going to be rather heavy. And she was prepared for that. Because she loved Izuku. And he loved her.

"Young Midoriya. Young Ashido. Please, come in and take a seat," Toshinori said to the two. As they made their way in, he reflected on his brief conversation with Izuku that had brought the two students to the office. When Izuku revealed to Toshinori that the One for All inheritor had confessed his love for the pink-skinned girl, Toshinori had been both happy for the boy, and had felt he knew where their conversation was going. He had assumed correctly, and now they were here.

The three sat down, All Might on one couch, with Izuku and Mina next to each other on the other couch across from him. After a few seconds, pleasantries, and checking to see if he could get the students something to drink, All Might looked over to Izuku, clearly giving the boy the floor. Izuku nodded before turning to Mina.

"Do you remember when I told you I was a late bloomer?" he asked. She nodded, curiosity in her eyes, but loving and willing to listen to Izuku. "What I told you isn't true. I was Quirkless. I was born Quirkless, and I thought, after a while, that I would never get a Quirk." He gave pause as she processed the information.

"But you have a Quirk now," she replied. "If you were Quirkless, and would never get one, how do you have one?" It was strange to her. Having a Quirk even though you weren't meant for one. What did that even mean?

"That's where I come in," All Might spoke up. He then regaled her with the tale of how he and Izuku met, what he had originally said, a look of shame on his face. He then talked about the sludge Villain, and Izuku saving Bakugo.

"After that, I offered him my power, so he could become my successor," All Might continued, and explained One for All, some of it's history, including the who the Villain All Might had fought at Kamino Ward had been, and his part in everything. Mina was stunned, but she gave Izuku a look of absolute admiration. He truly was the best.

"Who all knows about this?" she finally asked as they finished. All Might gave the list of people, including Bakugo. Mina was confused at first until Izuku explained that he had figured it out and was told after their fight. "That explains why he was less volatile towards you after." Izuku nodded.

With not much else to discuss, All Might ensured that Mina understood that this would need to be kept secret, which she promised. Once that was settled, the curly haired couple left to try to relax for the rest of the day.

"I'm sorry I didn't tell you until now," Izuku said when they were alone. Mina wrapped their arms together and put her head on his shoulder.
"You don't have to apologize, Izu," she said, softly. "I get why you didn't tell me. This is huge."

"Do you think less of me?" He asked, his self-depreciating nature attempting to come out. He was quickly brought out of it by a flick to his nose.

"No doing that," Mina playfully scolded him. "If anything, it makes me think more of you. I mean, through everything, you never gave up. Never stopped being a Hero. And it lead you to gaining the attention of the Number 1 Hero. Gaining an amazing Quirk. Getting into the best Hero school. And..." she paused as they stopped walking for a moment. "It let me meet you. And there is nothing that makes me happier."

They pulled each other into a deep, passionate kiss as the sun set on the campus.

*****

Two days later, and Sir Nighteye had gathered all of the Agencies and Interns who had agreed to be a part of this. This Raid on Overhaul and his operation. Given how many Heroes, both Pro and Students, that were involved, the group met at a large Police Conference Room. Everything was laid out. How teams were split up.

Most teams consisted of two or three Agency Heads, along with whatever Interns they had. There were, of course, Heroes that did not have Interns, but they were evenly distributed.

As it were, Izuku, Mina, and Momo were grouped with the Pussycats, and they were in a team consisting of Endeavor and Todoroki, Nighteye and Mirio, and Fatgum and Kirishima. They were given their assignments (most of the students had been tasked with rescue, fighting only if necessary), and prepared to leave.

As they were walking out, Sir Nighteye placed his hand on Izuku's shoulder to hold him back for a moment. Izuku's eyebrow's furrowed, curious as to what the Pro had to tell him. Mina gave him a glance, but Izuku indicated it was fine, and she followed the Pussycats and Momo. Once the room was cleared except for the two of them, Nighteye took the opportunity to speak.

"I'm not sure if you are aware or not, but I know of All Might's, and by extension your, Quirk," he began. Izuku froze at hearing this. He was unaware Nighteye had this information. Maybe it was another person All Might had forgotten to include in the 'people who knew All Might's secret' list, as he had originally done with Gran Torino. Nevertheless, Izuku listened intently.

"I will say I did not agree with All Might choosing you to be his successor," Nighteye continued. "If I had a say in the matter, it would have gone to Mirio. However," at this he sighed. "I can see why All Might chose you. You deserve to be his successor. And, about this mission. Trust your gut. Do what you feel is right. But also be as safe as possible. Understood?"

Izuku nodded. Though he hadn't really gotten to know Sir Nighteye that well, he understood how the man approached things, and how he was know to act with others. So for him to talk to Izuku like that was not only huge, it was also important.

With nothing more left to say, they followed the other Heroes towards what awaited them.

*****

**CRASH!!!** The main doors to what could only be called a Base flew open as Heroes began to pour through. More crashes were heard around the complex as other points of entry were similarly invaded by Sir Nighteye's Raid Party.
Kai Chisaki had only a moment of surprise, that quickly turned into full on rage. He wasn't ready to take on the Heroes yet. A little while longer, a week, maybe two, and he would've been. But not yet. And it infuriated him. He looked towards the rest of Shie Hassaikai.

"Deal with them!" he said, his words dripping with venom. "I'm getting Eri out of here." One of his men, a rather large one, looked towards him.

"What of the scientists?" The question sounded more out of necessity than curiosity. Chisaki wasted no time in answering him.

"They are no longer of use to us," he said. "We can get more. Kill them." With that, he continued on his way as the other one headed to where the scientists were held. Nighteye had seen them move off while the rest of the Shie Hassaikai advanced on the Heroes.

"Chisaki and one other are heading off," he said. "We need to get to them. More likely Overhaul is going for the little girl. Not sure about the other one, but it's probably important. We need to make our way through." Endeavor was the one to step forward.

"Leave that to us," the new Number One Hero stated, looking over to Todoroki, as he shot his flames in a way that split the Shie Hassakai forces. Todoroki followed up by freezing the flames in place, leaving a semi-impenetrable wall. The wall would last long enough for a few members of the Raid Party to get through.

Izuku, Mina, Kirishima, Fatgum, Mirio, and Nighteye quickly sprinted through the opening, while the Pussycats, Momo, Endeavor, and Todoroki made to hold off anyone that tried to stop them. The group made it through with little issue thanks to the wall and their allies' efforts. Once through, Nighteye quickly spoke.

"Mirio and I will head after Overhaul," he said. "Fatgum. Take the other three and go after the big guy. Come and assist us when you've taken care of him." Everyone nodded as they split up after their objectives. Izuku had a bad feeling, but also felt following Fatgum was the right course of action.

So why does there still feel like something's wrong?
The Raid Part II

It didn't take long for Izuku, Mina, Kirishima, and Fatgum to find the larger Villain. He was in some sort of a lab attached to a large hanger. And they had arrived just in time. The large man was just about ready to kill what appeared to be a scientist.

"Cease and surrender, Villain!" Fatgum shouted to him, in an unusually serious tone. Fatgum was known to be a more relaxed Hero, but this was definitely a different situation, which called for a different approach. The large Villain growled and turned towards the four, allowing Izuku to take a good look at him.

Due to his size, and the fact that he was wearing a plague mask, he eerily reminded Izuku of the Nomu at the USJ. He managed to get a quick glance at Mina and Kirishima, and could tell they were thinking the same thing. But all three steeled themselves. They had come a long way since then, and felt ready to take this Villain down.

"I'll deal with the big guy," Fatgum said. "Work on getting these people out of here." Before Izuku, Mina, and Kirishima had a chance to acknowledged the command, more people stepped out from the shadows. They all appeared to be members of Shie Hassaikai as well, if their attire said anything. "Nevermind," Fatgum offhandedly said.

"How troublesome," the large Villain said, as he looked to his cohorts. "Let's finish with these so-called Heroes, and then dispense of the scientists. Overhaul won't be pleased if we take too long." Finishing his sentence, he and the other Villains charged towards the Heroes. Without hesitation, the four Heroes were quick to begin their own charge.

The two groups met in the middle, and an intense clash began. Fatgum had taken the big Villain head on, while Izuku, Mina, and Kirishima worked together to fight against the rest. Though Kirishima hadn't had as extensive team training as Izuku and Mina had with each other, his Quirk afforded him the ability to not worry too much about being caught in any crossfire of Mina's Acid or Izuku's kicking using Shoot Style.

Even with the disadvantage of not working extensively with his classmates, Kirishima was still able to coordinate very well with them. They used special techniques with their Quirks on the spot thanks to Izuku's analytical mind as he took in their surroundings, their enemies' Quirks, and how the enemy attempted to coordinate their own attacks. Which, Izuku noted, was disorganized. These Villains were brawlers, not used to coordinating against opponents.

It was a mob mentality. Overwhelm your foe with numbers rather than think on how to beat them. Their greatest downfall, and Izuku knew how to work it against them. And work it against them he did.

The fight progressed for a while, though, even with the Tactical advantage Izuku, Mina, and Kirishima had due to the numbers, and the fact that these Villains, though simple, were still dangerous and knew how to use their Quirks in a fight.

But the Heroes were still winning. Just on the verge of defeating the last Villain outside of the big one. As they took him out, they were preparing to assist Fatgum, only to be interrupted as more participants burst through the other side of the room.

Luckily for the Heroes, it wasn't just more Villains, as they noted with gratitude the inclusion of Bakugo and Best Jeanist. Asui was there as well, in the middle of throwing a Villain against the
wall with her tongue. Fatgum had used the distraction in order to send the big Villain crashing into another wall. The Heroes gathered together, as they saw a large group of Villains coming into the room to charge them. They could tell these Villains weren't really members of Shie Hassaikai.

They were low-level thugs, much like the ones at the USJ. But, there were still a lot of them. And they need to be dealt with swiftly. Just then Izuku had an idea.

"Kirishima," he said, addressing the hardening user. "How much of an impact do you think you can take?" At this Kirishima smiled. Izuku then looked over to Bakugo. "Kacchan. I'm going to use my power to give Howitzer Impact a boost and throw you at them. Kirishima. I need you to act as a shield for Bakugo. Are you guys okay with this?" The two looked at each other briefly before Bakugo's trademark smirk crossed his face.

"I like the way you think, Deku," he said, chuckling. "Though, if I don't hurt after this, I'm going to take it personal that you were holding back against Villains for my sake." Izuku smiled and nodded.

"Best Jeanist, can you hold them back for a moment so we can build it up and safely release away from the rest of you?" Best Jeanist, impressed with the plan, nodded, and sent his threads out to slow the Villains down. It worked like a charm. The Villains were slowed greatly, with the others doing what they could to help, including throwing items with Asui's tongue that were coated in Mina's Acid (except where Asui gripped it).

Once prepared, Kirishima and Bakugo embraced, Bakugo's arms out so he could activate his Explosions freely. Using his One for All at 25%, Izuku lifted them, and then set him where he had hold of their feet. He then did a spin jump, causing a mini-cyclone. Just before releasing, he began to call out.

"Full Cowling!...." he began, throwing the pair.

"Howitzer!....." Bakugo shouted as he activated his Quirk, causing he and Kirishima to spin and be engulfed in a fiery vortex.

"Missile!" Kirishima finished, just before making impact. The explosion rocked the area, and caused smoke to billow up. After a few moments, it began to clear, and the Heroes could make out two bodies walking towards them in a limping fashion. Once they were close enough, everyone could make out that it was Bakugo and Kirishima, leaning on each other. Once they got close enough, the others began to check on them.

"Good job, not holding back, Deku!" Bakugo laughed, though it caused him to also start coughing. They all looked up to see the thugs had been knocked completely unconscious. They would be out for a while. Long enough to be rounded up. Fatgum went to contact Nighteye to let him know the situation, and that he would be on his way.

"Everyone else, get the scientists to safety," Fatgum said, though he sounded a little perturbed. "I can't seem to get a hold of Nighteye, though everyone else is calling in success on their end. Midoriya, can I get you to come with me to...." Before he could finish his sentence, the large Villain who they thought to be down burst through the wall he had been sent into. He immediately charged after the closest person....Mina. She was caught off guard as he grabbed her and threw her down. Hard. She screamed out in pain before losing consciousness. Izuku burst forward, Full Cowling coursing through his body.

"Mina!" he yelled out. That may have been a mistake, as the large Villain turned towards Izuku.
The Villain smiled, thinking he had the advantage over Izuku. He was wrong. Now at 30%, Izuku sent a kick right at the Villain's face.

"SMASH!" he growled, making impact with the Villain. The Villain had not been expecting it, and, just before begin sent through another wall, lost consciousness. This time, Best Jeanist was quick to detain him.

Izuku rushed over to Mina to check on her.

"Mina!" he said. He tried to wake her, to no avail. His heart nearly stopped until he could make out the faint movement of her chest indicating she was still breathing.

"Midoriya," the voice of Best Jeanist broke him out of his state. "Go assist Sir Nighteye. We're not getting a hold of him, and I find that troublesome." Izuku looked up at the Pro Hero.

"But Mina...."

"We'll take care of her," Fatgum reassured. "And the others. We need you to go." Izuku, after a moment's hesitation, not wanting to leave Mina, obeyed, and headed towards where he had seen Nighteye and Mirio go after Overhaul.
"I must admit, you gave me a much more difficult fight then I was expecting," Kai Chisaki said, panting a little. The broken bodies of Sir Nighteye and Mirio laid on either side of the room. Mirio was groaning and coughing, barely able to move. Nighteye was motionless. Chisaki looked up at hearing the coughing. Instead of saying anything to Mirio, however, he looked over to Eri, who looked completely terrified.

"See what you've caused, Eri?" He said, the same venom in his voice still present. But there was more than just the venom in it. There was also something very sinister aimed at the girl. "Now, we'll have to leave this place and start all over. All because you ran away. After all, if this man," he pointed to the body of Sir Nighteye, "hadn't seen you that day, he'd still be alive." At this, Eri began to break down and cry.

He's right, she thought to herself. If I had just stayed, no one else would have gotten hurt. She didn't have much more time to herself as Chisaki approached her. Before he could reach her, however, a voice called out.

"Overhaul!" Izuku had arrived. He took in the scene. Part of him wanted to throw up. But part of him, the part in control, was ready to bring Overhaul to justice. Full Cowling coursed through him once more. Chisaki chuckled lightly.

"Another so-called Hero, come to the slaughter," his deathly glare met Izuku's fiery one. They stood there for a moment, battle ready. Letting out a haunting, guttural yell, Chisaki charged towards Izuku. Izuku leapt up, and began to bounce around the room, training from Gran Torino evident in his movements.

He was aware of Overhaul's Quirk. Knew what he could do. It was much like Shigaraki's, except, from Izuku's understanding, Overhaul didn't need to touch a person or object with all five fingers to activate the Quirk. He could disassemble and reassemble anything, including organic material. So Izuku had to do his best to stay out of his reach.

That wasn't easy, though. Overhaul was also incredibly fast. And seemed to be a very apt fighter. The two danced around each other, getting in glancing hits here and there. Overhaul had managed to touch parts of Izuku's costume, but had luckily, thus far, not been able to touch Izuku himself with his hands.

With a kick, Overhaul sent Izuku across the room. He had since lost his composure, his eyes revealing his maddening increasing. But Izuku was quick to note that this only made the man more dangerous, not less. Izuku didn't know how much longer he could prolong this fight. He needed back up. He had a moment of reprieve as it seemed some of the exhaustion had hit Overhaul.

Unfortunately for Izuku, he was also exhausted. And, it turned out, his communicator had been damaged, and he was unable to call for immediate backup. He would have to wait for it, if it ever showed. It was then that he felt a small tugging on his sleeve. He turned to see the little girl with the white hair looking up to him, tears in her eyes.

"I can help," she said, displaying unusual courage for her age and situation.

Kai Chisaki was furious beyond belief. The other two Heroes had definitely worn him down more than he thought. And now this younger one, who he knew he should have been able to beat with ease, was now giving him a run for his money. He knew he would still win. He could see the boy
being worn down much faster than he was. But he really didn't need to prolong this. Not with the other Heroes like Endeavor still around. He just needed to.

His eyes widened at the site now before him. If he was furious before, there was no describing the level of absolute hatred flowing through him now. Eri had climbed on to Izuku's back. She was going to escape. Wait...no. Izuku wasn't fleeing. He was now teeing off with Chisaki.

*She told him!* he screamed internally.

"You insolent brat!" he bellowed. "You've ruined everything! Now, you'll die with this Hero scum!" His Quirk flowed all around him, causing chaos and destruction throughout the room, using it as weapons as he charged towards the two.

Izuku felt something powerful as the girl climbed on his back. He took a glance back to see her horn grow a little and glow. She had explained her Quirk, and what it could do. Feeling the energy course through him, he understood. Even though the girl had no idea what she had actually done for him by revealing her power, he was ever grateful.

*She can rewind the status of things.* Izuku considered the application of her Quirk. *Make them what they were before. She intended it to keep me from being too hurt by more or less healing any wounds inflicted by Overhaul. What she didn't realize...Is I can freely use One for All at 100% or more, and any damage I do to myself will also be healed.*

His eyes narrowed at Overhaul's words, and, as Overhaul charged, Izuku leapt forward at full force, 100% of his inherited power flowing through his body. Any injuries, as Eri had said, were mended as quickly as they were coming.

The ensuing clash rocked the area. Chisaki was getting desperate now. He had to get to Eri. If he could take her out, he could finish this fight. But that damned boy wasn't letting him. And Chisaki was wearing down even quicker as the boy's power struck him four, five, even ten times harder than they had before Eri had joined the boy.

This was it. Izuku need to finish Overhaul off.

"Hold on tight, Eri," he said, as he focused all of his power, every bit of One for All and then some, into his right arm. Yes, he was more used to Shoot Style. But this, above all else, was symbolic.

"1000%....Detroit....SMASH!!!" His fist connected with Overhaul's face, and Izuku could tell with the impact...that it was over. He quickly felt his arm, shattered upon impact, heal up. He knelt down, allowing Eri to get off his back. She stood there for a moment, before collapsing in Izuku's arms, clearly drained.

But, she was breathing, and she had a small look of relief on her face. She was just exhausted from the whole ordeal, and, in Izuku's mind, deserved some rest. He was also exhausted, and felt that he could pass out any second. But he had to make sure Overhaul was detained. He didn't have to worry about that though, as a few Heroes, including Endeavor, Todoroki, and Momo, rushed into the room.

Izuku merely pointed to Overhaul before he finally succumbed to his exhaustion.
Aftermath

Izuku awoke to a white ceiling. The kind of ceiling he had unfortunately become familiar with since he had been at UA. He was in a hospital room, of that he was sure. He realized he wasn't in pain, but he was definitely stiff. He groggily began to move, as the memories of everything hit him like a ton of bricks.

"Mina!" was his initial reaction, attempting to shoot out of the bed. The soreness and stiffness, however, slowed his pace down, as did the IV that was in his arm. Of course, if those hadn't stopped him, the people in the room with him would have taken care of that.

"Easy, Young Midoriya," All Might said, as Inko Midoriya quickly went to check on her son.

"Oh, Izuku, my baby, are you okay?" She had evidently been crying, but, unknown to Izuku, she had been told multiple times that he would be fine.

"I'm fine, mom," he replied. "Just exhausted. I promise." Once he had reassured her, he looked to the both of them. "Where's Mina?"

*****

Not long after, they were able to clear Izuku. However, against the doctor's wishes, Izuku didn't go home to rest. Instead, he immediately went to another room in the hospital. The one that was occupied by his girlfriend, Mina. Inko had said she would stick around for a little while just in case.

When he got to the room, the first people he met there were her parents. Izuku was getting ready to get an earful about 'putting their little girl in danger' or something along those lines. However, what he wasn't expecting was to feel the two embrace him (mostly Nensei) and check on how he was doing. He assured them, much as he had his mother.

They quickly moved over to speak with Inko, as Izuku went over to Mina's bedside. She had bandages around parts of body, and gauze on parts of her face. She was currently sleeping, or unconscious, Izuku wasn't sure which one. He sat in the seat beside her bed, and grabbed her hand.

He knew she wouldn't grab it in return, but he wanted to let her know he was here, whether she would know or not.

"Mina, I'm so sorry," he whispered to her. "I should have stopped him before he got to you." He felt a hand on his shoulder, and the voice of Mina's father, Tokatsu, speak up.

"No one blames you for this, Izuku," he said, reassuringly. Izuku barely heard him, but nodded, nevertheless. Before he had a chance to say anything further, the voice of All Might spoke up.

"If I may, I need a moment to speak with Young Midoriya in private," the other three adults nodded, understanding this was more than likely a Hero related thing. Or an update that they had already been informed about prior to Izuku's awakening.

"You can have the room," Nensei responded. "I'm sure he doesn't want to leave Mina." She looked over to the two, Izuku barely paying attention to the adults talking as he stayed close to his girlfriend. She smiled, so happy that her daughter had found someone like Izuku to love.

Inko and the Ashidos left a few moments later, leaving All Might to discuss with Izuku what he needed. All Might looked at the pair for a moment, before moving to the chair on the opposite side
of the bed.

"I've been assured she'll be alright, Young Midoriya," he said, and Izuku absently nodded. It was clear that, regardless of anyone's assurances, he still blamed himself for not intervening. Which made All Might frown, worried that the news he had to give would cause Izuku to go further down that particular rabbit hole.

"What happened to everyone else?" Izuku spoke, his voice low, struggling, since he made it evident he didn't really want to know the answer. "The girl, Eri? Mirio? Sir Nighteye?" All Might sighed.

"The girl is doing well," he responded, initially. Better to give him the good news first. "Much like you, she only suffered from mild exhaustion, but is being well taken care of. She's been asking for you, so you might want to see her in a bit." Again, Izuku merely nodded. "Most everyone else came out all right. Young Ashido and Young Togata suffered the worse injuries...." he stopped, as he choked on his next words. "Nighteye...."

All Might began to cry, and Izuku looked up to see his mentor. His heart broke, seeing his mentor in the state he was in. He didn't need to be told. Nighteye didn't make it. Izuku clenched his teeth.

"If only I had been there sooner," he forced out. "I...I let them down. I delayed. And now, Sir Nighteye is dead. If I had been faster. If I hadn't delayed..."

"Enough, Young Midoriya," All Might said, his voice quiet, but with authority. "You did what you could. If you hadn't gotten there when you did, Eri would have been taken away, and Chisaki would still be on the loose. You did a great job. Remember that. Unfortunately, in Hero work, that's the risk we take every day."

His words only slightly softened the blow for Izuku, but it would have to do for now. He could grieve more later. Right now, he needed to be by Mina's side.

"Did they say how long Mina would be out?" he asked. All Might shook his head.

"We know she'll be fine, but the healing process has her pretty drained," he replied. "They believe she'll be up in a day or two." Izuku nodded as All Might stood. "I'll leave you two be for now. If you need anything, let me know."

*****

Two days later, and Izuku hadn't left Mina's side except to use the restroom. Every night, he fell asleep in the chair beside her. Always holding her hand, and resting his head on the bed. It was on the second day that he awoke to his hair being combed through by fingers.

He looked up to see Mina, awake, smiling at him.

"You look adorable when you sleep, have I told you that?" she said. Izuku, tears nigh uncontrollable, smiled back to her. He had to stop himself from leaping and crushing her into a hug. Instead, he gently took his face into her hands, kissing her.

"I'm so sorry," he said. Mina stopped him from continuing that train of thought by poking his cheek. She didn't need to say anything as they looked at each other. Instead, they hugged, and neither wanted to let the other go.
Not long after Mina awoke, she was cleared to leave the hospital. Her parents had, of course, been called when she woke up. Both she and Izuku had been given permission from UA to rest at home for a day before returning to the dorms. In fact, as Izuku had found out, all of the students involved had been allowed to return home to their parents for a few days.

However, before heading home, they decided to check on some people still at the hospital. The first being Mirio. Mina had been updated on everything Izuku had. She, too, had been upset over the loss of Sir Nighteye, but relieved that the girl was safe. And they would see her after they saw Mirio.

Mirio was awake when Izuku and Mina were let into the room. He had definitely taken a beating, but he was smiling when he saw the two first years enter. He quickly had to calm Izuku down, and stop him from apologizing so much about his state, as he didn't blame him. Again, he got the talk about the risks Heroes face.

They didn't spend too long in Mirio's room, as they were quickly informed of checks that Mirio had to undergo before he was allowed to be released. They bid their farewells and headed to Eri's room. To no surprise, it was guarded by Pro Heroes. Given everything, Izuku and Mina understood. They were initially stopped from entering the room until a familiar voice chimed up.

"It's okay," Aizawa said. "These two are my students and participated in the raid." He then pointed to Izuku. "He was the one that rescued the girl, and she's been asking for him." The two Pros, lesser known to Mina, but Izuku knew who they were (his fanboying kept in check by the weight of the situation), took a second glance before allowing the two to pass.

"Deku!" Eri, upon seeing Izuku, excitedly called, before running to him. He looked confused that she knew his Hero name, as he hadn't recalled telling her at any point. Aizawa was quick to answer the unasked question.

"She asked what your name was," he said. "When she had trouble pronouncing it, we told her your Hero name." There was something different about Aizawa that neither Izuku nor Mina could quite place, but was sure the young girl had something to do with. At the moment, they didn't have time to question it as Eri looked over to Mina. Her eyes widened.

"I remember you," she said. "You're that nice, pretty lady I saw with Deku that day." Her countenance fell a little. "I'm sorry I put you guys in so much trouble." It was Izuku who turned around and started to comfort the girl.

"You don't have to be sorry," he said. "You were in a bad situation with a bad man. We're glad to have helped you out." Eri began to cry, and grasped on to Izuku. Izuku froze for a moment before returning the girl's embrace. After a moment, the girl pulled away from Izuku and launched herself towards Mina.

"Thank you both so much."

After a few minutes of talking with Eri, getting her into a better mood, Izuku and Mina stepped out of the room with Aizawa. Izuku looked to their teacher.

"What's going to happen to her?" he asked. Aizawa was expecting this question from one or both of the two. He looked over to see Mina had the same questioning look.
"That had been discussed over the last few days," he began. "She has been incessant on being near you, Midoriya. That is understandable, as she trusts you. Obviously, as you're still a teenager, you are not expected to be her caretaker, regardless of how much either you or her would want you in that role.

"It was decided, though, that she would move on to the UA Campus, and be assigned one of the vacant rooms in 1-A’s Dorms. However, I would be her primary caretaker. She would receive schooling through the teachers at UA, and we would help her to learn to control her Quirk. Any questions?"

*That was well thought out*, both Izuku and Mina thought. They were both glad that Eri would be cared for, though it being Aizawa came as a bit of a surprise to both of them. Of course, the Erasure Hero had shown time and again to be full of surprises.

"Now, why don't you two head home and get some rest," Aizawa said. "After all, I expect the both of you back in class first thing in the morning. Heroes don't rest too long, after all." The two couldn't help but smile as they left the building hand in hand.

"Things are definitely going to be interesting with Eri around, huh, Izu?" Mina said. Izuku nodded as they looked up to see Mina's parents and Izuku's mom waiting for them outside of the entrance. They were wrapped up in warm embraces and it took everything for Izuku and Mina to pry themselves from the hugs.

When they finally broke free from their parents, they took a moment to embrace one another. Izuku caressed Mina's face as they kissed goodbye.

"I'll see you in the morning, Mina," Izuku spoke first. "I love you." Mina snuggled her head into his chest one last time.

"I love you, Izu," she said, quietly. "I wish you could come home with me. Keep me company tonight." Izuku thought about this for a moment.

"So, why don't I?" he asked. Mina looked up at him.

"You'd do that?"

"Of course," he said, though became very nervous. "I just don't know how our parents would react."

As it turned out, though a little unsure, everyone had been overall okay with the idea. The Ashidos invited Inko to stay with them the night as well, and of course there were threats if Izuku and Mina tried anything. After many assurances, and a quick stop at the Midoriya residence for clothes for the night, they made their way to the Ashido’s house.

Izuku and Mina would sleep much better that night than they had over the last few days.
Eri and Class 1-A

Though they hadn't wanted to, Izuku and Mina were fully prepared to get back to class following their day to rest and relax. The previous night's sleep had been just what they needed, holding each other close all through the night. Even if they had wanted to do anything more...intimate...they were too exhausted from the plight of the last few days.

They made it to class fairly early (thanks to Izuku's habit of waking up early), but not as early as some like Iida (thanks to Mina's desire to hit snooze as much as possible). The class was about half full. Aside from Iida and Momo, the other raid participants hadn't arrived yet. Everyone else that hadn't been involved was already there, as they had stayed in the dorms over the last few days, but had still been let out of classes.

"Midoriya. Ashido." Iida immediately walked up to them. "It is good to see you both well. Though I am saddened by the news of Sir Nighteye, I am glad the mission was a success, and that Villain brought to justice." Izuku nodded, still not quite over Nighteye's death. Mina rubbed his back. Iida, realizing he had touched a sensitive area, bowed lowly. "My apologies, Midoriya. I should have considered the toll everything had on you before bringing the subject up."

"It's okay, Iida," Izuku weakly smiled back. "I'm better, but it is going to hurt for a while. But we've all got support...from the one's we love." He looked at Mina with his words, and she smiled, her eyes gleaming. Iida, too, smiled, before taking his leave of the two.

"You are so sweet, Izu," Mina said, quietly, as she put her head on his shoulder, careful not to poke him with her horns. They stayed there for just a moment, before an 'aww' from Hagakure broke them out of their reverie. Mina stuck her tongue out at her invisible friend.

The rest of the class filed in shortly thereafter, with, surprisingly, Kirishima and Bakugo being the last ones in. It became very easy for an outsider to see who was part of the raid and who wasn't, as everyone who had participated had bandages of some sort still on, some more than others, but it was all mostly precaution. Some of the other's wanted to know about the raid, but were unable to ask as Mr. Aizawa entered the room.

And he had Eri in tow with him. She hid behind him for the most part, though came out a little bit when she saw Mina smile to her, returning it full force, and then sending one Izuku's way. This elicited another 'aww' from Hagakure, but she was also joined by Uraraka in it this time. Aizawa pointedly ignored it as he spoke.

"Everyone, this is Eri," he said, plainly. "She was rescued during the raid against the Shie Hassaikai by Midoriya." Of course, the whole class immediately thought, looking to the boy with grins on their faces. He turned into a human tomato as Aizawa continued.

"She will be staying under my care for the foreseeable future, so she'll be with me in class when not with the other teachers learning basic education. She is also staying in the 1-A dorms, alternating between two rooms. One by Midoriya's dorm. The other by Ashido's. I will be making regular checks on her, but she has expressed a...wish...to be close to these two, which has been granted." He looked between the two students. "I trust you'll make her feel comfortable and safe?"

"Yes, sir!" both Izuku and Mina replied, partly out of fear of their teacher, but mostly out of their deepest desires to keep the little girl safe.

"Good," Aizawa said. "Now. Eri also wished to meet Midoriya and Ashido's friends and
classmates, so I'm going to take a nap." He gestured for Eri to go meet the class. Though she had wished it, she was still hesitant, but immediately went for Mina, wrapping the pink girl in a hug. Again, another 'aww' came coursing through, but this one from most of the class.

"Did you just 'aww', Kacchan?" Izuku asked Bakugo, who's eyes went wide at the 'accusation'.

"What? No! Why would I do something so girly, I..." he stammered out, frustrated, but knowing he was caught. He smiled ruefully. "Dammit, Deku, you'll pay for that." he said, semi-jokingly, eliciting the two, and Kirishima who had witnessed the whole thing, to laugh.

All of the girls, and some of the guys, had gotten up to walk over to where Mina and Eri were. Mina was introducing everyone, and, at first, Eri was okay. Saying hello, and asking questions for everyone. After a few moments, though, she felt a bit crowded. This wasn't initially picked up by anyone but Mina, who saw that the girl was getting more and more anxious and nervous.

Eri was starting to feel trapped, and her breathing quickened. Izuku, who had been conversing a bit with Bakugo and Kirishima about team training, was stopped by the look in Eri's eyes. He stood up, and started walking over.

"Guys, maybe we should give her some space," he said, a little quietly, though it seemed to fall on deaf ears. He was getting irritated. He liked the people here, but...they were being too overbearing. He clenched his teeth. He opened his mouth once more.

"Okay, guys, enough!" Mina shouted, covering Eri's ears as she did so. "I'm sorry, but you're overcrowding the poor girl!" Everyone stepped back, before looks of guilt crossed their faces as they realized that's exactly what they'd been doing. Everyone apologized sincerely, before going back to their seats. Eri hung on to Mina a little tighter.

Aizawa had seen the whole thing, and had been about to intervene before Mina's outburst. He smiled, proud of his student, before feeling everything was under control before turning back over to fall asleep. Luckily, things had quieted down, and Eri was able to relax a little more, allowing Mina to return to her more chipper mood.

Things were definitely going to be interesting with Eri around now.
Trouble Arises

In a warehouse district on the outskirts of town, a familiar group had gathered around a very familiar figure. There was restlessness among the group. And further, agitation. Looking at some, you could see hints of boredom. A need to do something.

"I don't get it," Spinner finally said. "All Might has been retired for months now. Why aren't we more active?" Others in the group looked at him. In their eyes was the same question, but also the answer to that question.

"Overhaul was barely active," Dabi spoke up. "He runs into Heroes one time, and gets locked up in Tartarus a few days later." This started a whole debate among the group, namely at the mention of Overhaul.

"Don't talk about him after what he did to Magne!" Toga shouted at Dabi. Dabi merely looked at her. "Sorry. It's just. That was so wrong." She was even crying a little now. Dabi, though not feeling like Toga did, understood the girl's sadness. He sighed as he looked over to the two who had, up to this point, remained quiet.

"What do you think, oh fearless leader?" Dabi asked Shigaraki. He didn't particularly like the man, thinking him akin to a child. But ever since All for One's capture, Shigaraki had seemed more stable. Or, at least, didn't just jump to childish whims. Shigaraki turned his head slightly to Dabi.

"All in good time," Shigaraki said. "We can't just jump in to something, since the Master isn't going to be able to bail us out. Kurogiri and I have been working on something big." He looked over to Toga. "And that means getting revenge for Magne." He then looked to Mr. Compress. "And your arm." This piqued everyone's interest.

"So, gather round," he said, opening his arms as if in welcome. "And I can tell you the starts of the plan."

*****

It had been a week since Eri had moved in to the UA dorms. Per what Aizawa said, she had occupied one of two rooms, alternating between rooms by Izuku's dorm and Mina's. Most times, ever since the incident on her 'first day', she spent it in the room next to Mina's. However, she would also have recurring nightmares, and would find herself asking to stay in Mina's room. Mina, of course, obliged. And Eri would always get a good night's sleep when she was with Mina. And Eri would always try to show Mina her gratitude, but Mina was happy just knowing the girl was safe. Of course, Aizawa would always take care of Eri during the day, and Eri even sat in a few times during training.

Mina, of course, obliged. And Eri would always get a good night's sleep when she was with Mina. And Eri would always try to show Mina her gratitude, but Mina was happy just knowing the girl was safe. Of course, Aizawa would always take care of Eri during the day, and Eri even sat in a few times during training.

Today, however, Eri was officially in her own classes, being taught different subjects at different times of the day. Aizawa also worked with her on her Quirk, but made sure not to push her too much. As such, training was being watched over by Cementoss.

They were currently doing team training, with Izuku and Mina on a team against Todoroki and Momo. Their training had become such a spectacle, that most of the other students had taken a break from their own sparring to watch the match.

Working with the Pussycats definitely seemed to be paying off for Izuku and Mina, as they appeared to have the upper hand in their coordination. However, Momo and Todoroki were no
pushovers, tactical minds, and knowledge Momo had since she was a part of the Pussycat's Work Study.

Ice and Fire, Green Electricity, Acid, and all sorts of other objects flew across the field. Though Izuku and Todoroki squared off more often, as did Mina and Momo, they were still able to swap who they were battling in a moment's notice. Though Mina wasn't entirely effective against Todoroki's fire, she could melt through his ice with her acid with little problem.

All four of the group were getting a little tired when the incident happened. In an attempt to stop Todoroki's fires from getting to Mina, Izuku had gotten in the path of a clump of her acid. As such, there was now a hole in his Hero costume. The battle was brought to a close shortly after. Mina quickly ran up to her boyfriend.

"Oh, Izu! I'm so sorry!" she was almost freaking out, though Izuku was trying his best to reassure her that it was only his costume (which it was).

"Don't worry, Mina," he said. "I'll just have Support patch it up." Almost as if on cue, Cementoss came up, telling Izuku what the One for All user had just said. Izuku nodded. Mina had asked if she could join, but was denied, as there was still some of class left. Izuku promised he'd see her after before taking his leave.

Soon enough, the day was over, and the class was heading out. Mina was talking to the other girls about her plan with Izuku to take Eri out for a night to enjoy a movie. Aizawa had been reluctant, but had ultimately given in, especially after Eri expressed her excitement at the prospect.

As they were walking, they recalled that Izuku had gone to support not 15 minutes prior, and a few of the group could meet up with him. Uraraka had agreed to go, as had Bakugo and Kirishima. Iida politely declined, a strange aura coming over him as he considered the possibility of Hatsume being there.

"You're still on about what she pulled at the Sports Festival?" Bakugo had asked him, but had dropped the subject after. The group continued on without him. They reached the Support Department, and opened the doors to a site that stabbed Mina in the heart.

Izuku was laying on the ground, shirt off, with Mei Hatsume sprawled on top of him. Her hands moving over his muscular frame. Both Izuku and Hatsume looked up, and Izuku's eyes widened. What Mina wasn't seeing was that Izuku had been trying to push Hatsume off of him, but was having difficulty due to not wanting to hurt the girl.

But the damage was done. Tears stung Mina's eyes.

"How could you?" she said, almost inaudibly, before sprinting out of the room, heading back to the Dorms. Izuku made to get up, but Uraraka stopped in.

"Wait a little while, Deku," she said, understanding. "Let me talk to her first, so she's more receptive to you." Izuku nodded, as he had finally got Hatsume off of him. This was going to be rough.
All a Misunderstanding

Though she could barely see through her tears, Mina had somehow managed to get back to the dorms in record time. Those who had already made it back gave her a confused look, though also concerned. Iida made an attempt to speak to her, but she pushed passed everyone on her way up to her room.

Uraraka came in a few moments later. Everyone looked at her with a questioning look. Iida was the only person who would understand. She would have to explain everything in depth to everyone else, but she left Iida with a one word answer before following behind Mina.

"Hatsume," was all she said. Iida thought about it for just a moment, before realization struck him. He nodded in understanding, and now everyone was looking to him for an explanation. This was going to be something.

Uraraka had made it to Mina’s door. She took a deep breath. This was going to be a hell of an explanation, but knew it was important Mina hear this from her first, to give the pink-skinned girl the perspective she needed. After just a moment, she knocked on the door.

"Go away!" was the muffled response from inside the room.

"Mina, it's Ochaco," Uraraka responded. There was silence for a moment, which worried her just a little. However, after a few seconds, she heard shuffling and the door unlock. The door cracked open, and Mina looked at her. Uraraka could see how puffy her eyes were. Uraraka gave the girl a small smile.

"I should probably tell you a thing or two about what you saw," she said. Mina sighed, before letting the other girl in.

*****

Bakugo and Kirishima watched as Izuku paced around the hallway. Hatsume had since went back to working on her inventions, or ‘babies’, as she called them. It gave the Explosion user and the Hardening user the creeps, so they kept their distance, as they tried to clam Izuku down.

Izuku, on the other hand, was in almost complete meltdown mode. He had only managed to stay calm from the initial shock of being knocked over by Hatsume when Mina and the others had walked in. Now that he had a moment to process what had occurred, he was beside himself.

"I hurt her, Kacchan!" he was saying. Bakugo and Kirishima looked at him, concern on their faces, and thinking of ways to assure the greenette that everything would work out. "She thinks I'm scum now! And she has every right to. I didn't stop Hatsume when I should have. I should have been more forceful about boundaries. But I wasn't. And now Mina hates me!"

Izuku dropped to his knees, the tears threatening to overwhelm him. He was starting to hyperventilate. He was brought out of it by a small explosion beside his ear, that startled him out of his state. His eyes were still teary, but he looked up to Bakugo.

"Okay." Bakugo began. "What happened before we showed up?" His voice was calm, and it allowed Izuku to calm down enough to explain. He had come to get his outfit fixed, since it had a hole in it from Mina's Acid. Per request from Power Loader, he had taken his shirt off. Power Loader had left the room to log in the damage when Hatsume had arrived.
Izuku explained that, per how Hatsume operates, she tried to get Izuku to have upgrades on his outfit, talking about all sorts of armor that he could wear, how she blew off the idea of just having Acid proof cloth, and how she had tried to measure him for the armor fitting when he had tripped over a tool on the ground, and she had fallen with him. He had started telling her to get off and stop measuring when everyone had walked in.

Bakugo and Kirishima looked at each other. Though they didn't have much dealings with Hatsume personally, they had heard the horror stories. And, with how Iida reacted, and the fact that this was not something Izuku would lie about, they believed him right away.

"Now we just gotta fix this misunderstanding," Kirishima said. "Uraraka followed behind Mina to talk to her. Does Uraraka know about how that crazy girl acts?" Izuku merely nodded. He still didn't think it would be enough.

"I've ruined everything," he said, just above a whisper, but enough for the other two to hear. "She'll never take me back. I'm just a useless...." his words were cut off by a hard slap from Bakugo.

"Don't you dare finish that sentence!" he said. "You love that girl. And I know she loves you. Uraraka should have this pretty under control, so you march yourself back to the dorms, you go up to Ashido's room, and you pour your heart out like you're good at. Understand?" Izuku took a moment to realize what had just happened, but nodded and began to head to the dorms.

Once he was a little ways away, Kirishima looked over to Bakugo.

"That was kinda sexy," he said, with Bakugo's only response being a blush.

*****

Mina's tears had more or less subsided as she listened to Uraraka recount how Hatsume was always grabbing at people, taking their measurements and whatnot. She also explained the kind of feelings she had whenever she witnessed it with Izuku, back when she was head over heels for him. She then reminded Mina about Iida's reaction, and his avoidance of the Support department at all costs.

Mina had calmed down, and was beginning to think more clearly on everything. Uraraka was right. Izuku would never do this to her. But then, a new thought hit her. She had abandoned him. And this brought on a new set of tears. That he probably hated her now because she wouldn't let him explain. Uraraka was about to tell her she was wrong when a knock came at the door.

With Mina not really in shape to get up, Uraraka headed to the door to see who it was. When she opened it a little, the face that greeted her made her smile.

"About time you showed up," Uraraka said, playfully, as Izuku looked down at his feet.

"Can I talk to Mina...alone?" he said. Uraraka looked over to Mina, who nodded. Izuku entered and Uraraka left. It was just the two of them. Mina had since stood up, and had taken a few steps towards him. It was clear to both that the other had been crying.

"Izu, I..." Mina began, but was cut off as Izuku quickly closed the distance between them, catching her mouth with his. After a brief session, he pulled away, drawing a little noise of complaint from Mina.

"I am so sorry, Mina," he said, whispering to her. He then told her everything that had transpired, and she let him finish. Once everything was said, she shook her head.

"I'm such an idiot," she said. "I didn't let you explain. I knew you could never do that to me. And I
abandoned you. You probably hate me."

"I do not!" Izuku said. "I love you. And I get it. I should have been more forceful in telling
Hatsume to back off." Before he could say more, Mina put a finger to his mouth.

"Let's just forget it happened," she said. "I love you." Izuku was going to apologize more, but
decided against it. Instead they proceeded with a make out session, that slowly grew hotter and
hotter.

"How long until Eri comes back?" Izuku suddenly asked, growing slightly nervous. Mina thought
about it.

"A couple of hours," she finally said. "Why?"

"I know we've talked about the prospect of...sex, before," Mina looked a little shocked that he was
bringing this up. "I know that I've been nervous about us taking that step. But, with what happened
today, it made me realize how important that step could be for us. I have also thought about it
before, but was too scared to bring it up. What I'm trying to say is....I'm ready. If you are." He
didn't have to explain what he meant, as realization dawned on Mina.

"Are you sure?" Izuku's only response was to take Mina's lips in his, as he gently laid her on the
bed.
Inko

Inko Midoriya was many things. Of the words used to describe her, the most prevalent tended to be kind, loving, and emotional. Most people could see where Izuku got wearing his emotions on his sleeve from. However, very few people understood what had led her to the point of emotion she was to this day.

Izuku knew, and he always worried for his mother. He felt he had always been the primary source of her stress and concern. From being born Quirkless, and the kind of baggage that came with that in today's society, to suddenly obtaining one, only for it to break him over and over until he learned to control it. Then being at the center (or near the center) of most of the major events that had happened this past year with the Villains.

Inko had, in the time since Izuku had found out he was Quirkless, became a rather portly woman. Izuku blamed her weight gain on himself. He felt that he had increased her sadness, was the reason his father left shortly after the diagnosis. It wasn't until he was older that Inko had found the courage to tell him that her and Izuku's father had ended their marriage some time ago. And Izuku always felt it was his fault. No matter how many times Inko tried to tell him otherwise.

But things had changed for Inko Midoriya recently. Since Izuku had moved in to the dorms at school, and the defeat of All for One, the promise of her son's safety had been more easily fulfilled. Of course, as a Hero-in-training, he was always prone to danger, but the Raid against Overhaul and his operations had been, for the time being, the only real danger Izuku had been in since.

She wasn't stupid to believe that no more danger awaited him, as the League of Villains was still out there somewhere. But she was content with what had transpired over the last couple of months. One of the best things being her son's relationship with Mina Ashido. It truly brightened her day to see her son so happy.

His renewed friendship with Katsuki Bakugo. Surprising, to be sure, and Inko was a more than hesitant that it could all come crashing down. The boy was volatile, but he had calmed down quite a bit over the last few months. It had been a hard process, and he would fall back to old habits some times, but he bounced back, and was bettering himself as a person, and a Hero-in-training.

And then there was little Eri. At first, Inko didn't know what to think when Izuku and Mina had brought her for a family day out with Mina's parents and Inko. She calmed down once the whole situation was explained. Though Eri was technically Mr. Aizawa's ward, she was much closer to Izuku and Mina. The relationship was a little complicated, to be sure. On one degree, there were times when Izuku and Mina were older siblings for the girl. But more often then not, it seemed more like she viewed them as her parents. It would be interesting to see how that played out.

All of these things had actually done wonders for Inko. Being able to spend time with the Ashidos, as well as reconnecting with Mitsuki since their sons were friends again. The adorable Eri lighting up the room every time she managed a smile (which, at the beginning, had been a very rare case). And so much less stress allowed Inko to start flourishing.

In fact, everything that was happening, and her becoming more active and less stressed and started to get her back into the shape she was before her and Izuku's world had come crumbling down. She wasn't quite the petite form she had been when Izuku was four, but she was definitely healthier.

Of course, there was something else going on with her that made her happy. Something she would be telling Izuku about very soon. And it had started shortly after the Overhaul Raid. She just had to
find the right opportunity to tell her son.

As it were, her chance came soon enough, as Izuku had made to visit her on one of his off days. He had told his mother about the 'semi-fight' he and Mina had gotten in to, but that they had made up (leaving out what happened after). But, he still wanted to see his mother, since he hadn't really had an opportunity to spend time with just her. Of course, she didn't tell him it wouldn't just be her when he showed up at the apartment.

She welcomed him in, giving him a soul-crushing hug, always excited to see her boy. He smiled in return, glad to see his mother happy. She ushered him in, telling him he was just in time for lunch, and to go ahead and sit down, that she would have the food out in a minute. He offered to help, but she politely declined.

When he got to the table, he saw something that made his eyebrows scrunch in confusion. There were three plates at the table. Mina had still been at UA when he had left. Was she coming, and they didn't tell him? Were they expecting someone else? His questions were left unanswered for the moment as his mom was in the kitchen. Nevertheless, he knew she would tell him soon, so he sat down.

He was mumbling to himself the possibilities of why there was a third setting that he didn't notice the other person enter the room. They set the plate in front of him, the steam coming from the plate, and the aroma reaching Izuku's nostrils, finally breaking him out of his muttering spell. He looked up to thank his mother for the food, but instead was met with a very different face.

"All Might?"
"All Might?" Izuku was shocked to see his mentor in his house. All Might had been there before, sure, but usually Izuku knew when the man was going to be present. This had caught him completely off-guard.

"Hello, Young Midoriya," All Might said, smiling to his successor. Izuku smiled back, but there was still a look of confusion on his face. At this, All Might let out a small chuckle. "Yes, I can see you don't understand why I'm here, my boy." Izuku idly nodded, still trying to wrap his head around everything, his mind running a mile a minute. Though, unlike just a moment ago, he wasn't muttering, as words were unable to be formed.

"Izuku, honey," the voice of his mother finally broke him out of the stupor he was in as he looked in her direction. "There's something we need to discuss with you."

*****

Izuku was heading back to the dorms after his day with his mom and All Might. Those two were dating. It had apparently happened shortly after the battle with Overhaul, when they had reconnected at the hospital visiting Izuku.

Oh, Mina's going to have a field day with this, Izuku thought to himself, before a different thought crossed his mind. Oh, no. Todoroki's going to have a field day with this. He was honestly dreading telling the hybrid-quirk user about it. His whole 'Izuku is All Might's love child' would gain a sense of confirmation, even if not directly correct.

He chuckled to himself at the whole situation. He was honestly happy for his mother and his Hero. Ever since All Might had taken Izuku under his wing, and granted him One for All, he had already looked up to the former number 1 as a father figure. And he made Inko happy, and that mattered the most to Izuku.

As he entered the front doors to the dorms, he saw a few of his friends and classmates gathered in the common area. Noticeably absent was his girlfriend, Mina. He looked over to Iida and Uraraka cuddled up on one of the couches.

"Hey, guys," he said, greeting them. They smiled at him in return.

"Hey, Deku!" Uraraka called out, while Iida nodded to the other boy.

"Midoriya, I hope your day off has been productive," Iida said. Izuku nodded before doing another look around.

"Do you guys know where Mina is?" he asked. The two looked to think for a moment before Uraraka spoke up.

"Last I saw her she was going to her room, so... probably there?" she responded bubbly.

"Thanks, Uraraka," and, with a promise to catch up and hang out later, Izuku made his way up to his girlfriend's room. Not for the first time did that thought give him a sense of elation. But, in true Midoriya fashion, also a looming sense of dread that the whole thing would come crashing down on Izuku. He knew he shouldn't feel that way, and had been a lot better since dating Mina about not letting those thoughts take hold.
But he still had his doubts. And questions. And...great, now they're creeping in to my mind, Izuku thought, as he had reached said girl's door. He was going to knock when he noticed the door was slightly opened. His first instinct was getting in a defensive position, ready for anything, when he heard the voices coming from the room.

"Mimi, when is Izuzu coming back?" the gentle, almost silent voice of Eri spoke. Mimi and Izuzu were the names she called the curly haired couple when she initially couldn't pronounce their names. She could now, but the names had stuck, and everyone had found it adorable.

"I'm not sure, Eri-berry, but hopefully soon," Mina's reassuring voice spoke to the child. Izuku considered interrupting if it weren't for Eri's next question.

"Can you sing for me, Mimi, like you do to get me to sleep?" the innocent girl asked. This was news to Izuku. Of course, he also wasn't privy to the nightly ritual that was the little girl's bedtime routine.

"Of course, love," Mina replied, and began singing. Her voice entranced Izuku. It was different than the songs Izuku was used to hearing his girlfriend sing along to. There was a love to her voice, as she sang to the girl in her arms. He couldn't help the smile that crossed his face, or the tears that welled up in his eyes as he listened.

Unfortunately, the song had to end, and Izuku would be lying if he wasn't a little disappointed with that fact. Eri seemed just as disappointed, and was about to ask for another song...if she hadn't looked over to the door to see Izuku standing there.

"Izuzu!!" she called out, leaping out of Mina's lap to run to the green-haired boy. The boy bent down, smiling as he scooped the little girl into his arms. Mina had gotten up from sitting, her face beaming seeing her boyfriend and Eri embraced.

"Hey, Eri," Izuku spoke to the girl. "Have you been having fun today and being good for Mina?"

The girl smiled widely at him.

"Yes! Me and Mimi had so much fun!" the girl could barely contain her excitement. "And then, she sang to me. Her voice is so pretty!" Izuku looked over to Mina lovingly.

"I heard, and it really is pretty...just like Mimi." The girl nodded vigorously at his words before he continued. "Do you think you can play in your room for a little while so I can speak with Mimi real quick?" This caused the pink-skinned girl to look a little confused, but Eri smiled and nodded before heading off to the room right next to Mina's.

"What's going on, Izu?" Mina asked when Eri was out of earshot, still a little confused, but smiling to her boyfriend nonetheless. Izuku sighed, his smile fading a little. He looked contemplative.

"I don't know what I ever did to deserve you," he finally said. His voice was blissful, but there was a hint of doubt there. "You're so amazing. And how you are with Eri..." his voice faltered, and the smile he had fell. Seeing it caused Mina to frown and embrace her boyfriend.

"Izu, what's really bothering you?" she asked, trying to comfort the boy. She knew he worked hard with his self-esteem, but there were times, like now, where he faltered. They were becoming fewer and usually less, but Mina was always there, always willing to support the man she loved.

"I don't know what I ever did to deserve you," he finally let out, and it clicked for Mina what he meant. "Did we only grow close because of the project? Would you even think about hanging out with me? And if you did, would a friendship have evolved
into...well, this?" The questions hung in the air. Mina knew Izuku had a point. But at the same time....

"Yes, there are a lot of what ifs, Izu," she replied, calmly, yet still supportive. "Who's to say what would have happened had we been assigned different partners. I did know that before that, I wanted to get to know you better. I love making new friends. And I don't know if it would have progressed." The words hit Izuku, more or less confirming his fears. He thought about telling her that she was better off without him, but anything he had to say was stopped by her next words.

"But, honestly, I don't care about all of that," she continued. "Because I am here with you. We did get together. Regardless of how, or how cliche in might have been. None of that matters. I'm glad things turned out the way they did. Because I have an amazing boyfriend who I love with all of my heart, and no one, not even your doubts, can convince me that I shouldn't be with you. I love you Izuku Midoriya."

Mina's words had a calming effect on Izuku, and it gave him resolve. He looked up to her, his eyes meeting hers, and she could see the fire emanating from them. She smiled widely as he returned her embrace.

"I love you so much, Mina."
"Can I go with Mimi and Izuzu today?" Eri asked Aizawa as they were walking towards the 1-A Dorms. Aizawa had news to bring to the two students that Eri was currently asking about, and Eri knew that this was usually the time Izuku and Mina were getting ready to go out to their Work Study.

"I'm not sure, Eri," Aizawa responded to the little girl. "We'll have to see what they say after I give them the news, okay? But you have to understand that you might not be able to go, okay?"

"Okay, Mr. Shota!" Eri smiled widely to the tired looking man. He couldn't help the smile that quickly found its way to his face. He had yet to figure out how this girl could light up the whole room, and make everyone smile as long as she did. Of course, he believed it was because the girl had so little reason to smile before being rescued, that the purity behind it was contagious.

It wasn't long before they reached the Dorms, just as Izuku and Mina were coming down with their Hero costume cases in their hands, ready to go. They paused as they saw Aizawa, but quickly smiled seeing Eri in tow with him. She ran up to the two and they quickly took her in their arms. They embraced for a moment before pulling away, looking at Aizawa expectantly.

"Your Work Study for today has been cancelled," Aizawa stated, plainly. "I wanted to assure you it's not just your Work Study, it's everyone's. With your Final Exams upcoming, UA and the Pro Heroes the students are doing their Work Studies with have agreed that the students, primarily you First Years, need to concentrate and your school studies and preparing for the practical portion.

"The Pussycats are on their way to speak with the three of you further. Yaoyorozu will also be here shortly, as she was attending to Vice Representative duties when I informed her of this development." Izuku and Mina took the information in, nodding at Aizawa's words.

"Yes, sir," they both responded. With that out of the way, Aizawa relaxed a little.

"Also, Eri would like to know if she could spend the day with you. Since you won't be going to Work Study, I have no problem with this. She has also expressed interest in meeting the Pussycats, as apparently the two of you have spoken highly of them." The two were about to respond in the affirmative when Eri spoke up.

"Can I?" she asked the two, a bright smile on her face.

"How could we possibly say no to that face!" Mina exclaimed, kneeling down by Eri and tickling her.

"You weren't wrong, Shota, she is adorable!" another voice spoke up behind Aizawa. It was the Pussycats, all in civilian clothes. And Kota and Ragdoll, Tomoko Shiretoko, were with them. Aizawa looked over to them.

"It's good to see everyone," he said, before addressing the initial speaker. "Though I am little curious as to why all of you are here, Mandalay." The leader of the Pussycats stepped up to Aizawa.

"C'mon, Shota, you know you can call me Shino." There was a little bit of an awkward moment for Aizawa, as Mina, Izuku, and everyone looked on. Ragdoll and Pixie-Bob giggled, and Mina looked like she was about to burst at the interaction.
Oh, there's definitely something there, she said though, wryly. She was honestly a little surprised, as she was sure Aizawa had a thing with the Laughing Hero, Ms. Joke. Guess it was as one sided as Mr. Aizawa let on.

As Aizawa fussed with Mandalay over professionalism, trying his best to recover from the moment, it was Ragdoll that approached Eri. Eri was a little hesitant, given this was a new person for her, but after looking over to Izuku and Mina, and getting their reassurance, she slowly moved over.

"Hi, I'm Tomoko," Ragdoll introduced herself to the girl. "What's your name?" Ragdoll's smile was warm and pleasant, and Eri felt more comfortable as she introduced herself. The two seemed to hit it off very well.

Once introductions were out of the way, and news of the Work Study being put on hold being reiterated, the group spent about an hour together. Eri had wanted to play with Kota, seeing as the two were close in age. At first, he was reluctant, wanting to stick by Izuku the whole time, but eventually gave in to the white-haired girl.

Soon enough, the Pussycats and Kota took their leave. Aizawa was preparing to leave as well when Eri asked a question that made him pause.

"Why is Ms. Ragdoll sad?" she said. The three of them glanced at each other, unsure of how to approach this particular subject. Ragdoll had been smiling for most of the time, but everyone could still see the pain she carried. Apparently, Eri had picked up on it, too. It was Aizawa that finally broke the awkward silence.

"Well, Eri, do you know how I'm a Hero, and Midoriya and Ashido-er, Izuku and Mina are training to be Heroes?" The girl nodded softly. "Well, Ragdoll was also a Hero, but she had to stop being one." They then described the events a little to Eri, in a way she could understand it. The thought made her sad, but another thought also crossed the girl's mind.

"Mr. Shota, you've been helping me with my Quirk," she said. "Have I been doing good?" This question caught Aizawa off guard. He wasn't sure where she was going with this, but decided to humor her.

"You've been doing very well, you're learning quickly." He said, matter-of-factly. That seemed to confirm something for the girl, as she looked up with determination in her eyes, one that could have made Aizawa swear she was Izuku's child for sure, in some convoluted way.

"I want to help her be a Hero again."
The Return of a Hero

To say Aizawa, Izuku, and Mina were shocked by what Eri had said would have been an understatement. But to say it with such conviction truly floored those present. So much so that Aizawa showed a surprising amount of emotion for the normally stoic underground hero. He was, however, the quickest to regain his composure, kneeling down in front of the girl.

"Eri," he said, finding his voice. "This is a very big decision, but it could also potentially be dangerous. For you, and for Ragdoll." Hearing that it could be dangerous gave the little girl pause, and her determination seemed to falter a bit. Tears began to well up in her eyes.

"I don't want to hurt the nice lady," she said. "I just want her to be happy." There was a moment of silence as Aizawa looked over to Izuku and Mina. Izuku was deep in thought before speaking up.

"Why don't we pitch the idea to Ragdoll?" he said. "See what she thinks. She may be up for it, as long as we have fail-safes and contingencies in place to protect both of them." He then looked Aizawa directly in the eye. "Obviously, you would need to be present to erase her Quirk should things start to go south." Aizawa nodded, while Mina allowed a little smile to cross her face.

"Izu and Eri are right, though," the pink-skinned girl added. "This could be a really good thing." His students were right, Aizawa nodded, before looking back over to Eri.

"If you're still sure about this, we can go and talk to them, but," there was a pause, and everyone paid attention whenever he started a phrase with 'but', "I'm going to give you the night to sleep on it before you rush to this kind of decision. If tomorrow, you still feel the same way, we'll meet with the Pussycats to discuss it."

Eri nodded vigorously, before leaping into Aizawa's arms.

"Thank you for believing in me," she near-whispered, though Izuku and Mina had heard her. It brought tears to their eyes, as Eri broke the embrace and then ran over to the two of them, reiterating what she had just told Aizawa to them as well. The sight made Aizawa smile a bit before clearing his throat.

"I've got some work to do," he said. "The three of you enjoy the rest of your day." The three bid Aizawa a farewell as he took his leave. He stopped just outside the dorms, allowing himself to fully smile.

*****

The next day, and Eri's resolve had not changed. She wanted to do this for Ragdoll, and had agreed to every term Aizawa had in order to ensure her and Ragdoll's safety, as well as what to expect, and to be prepared in case Ragdoll rejected the idea.

So, they found themselves, Aizawa, Eri, Izuku, and Mina, in a meeting with Mandalay, Ragdoll, Tiger, and Pixie Bob, explaining to them Eri's Quirk, and her offer. The Pussycats were all struck silent for a moment. And Ragdoll looked like she was about to flood the room with tears. She stepped forward, kneeling down in front of the girl.

"Why would you want to do such a wonderful thing for me?" she asked the girl. The girl looked up to her.

"Because you're nice," she said simply. "And I want you to be happy. I was told you were happy
when you were a Hero, and I can, maybe, help you be one again." Her voice had started with resolve, but had grown shy as she talked. There was still determination in her eyes, though, and Aizawa saw that as a good sign.

They went over everything, including their plans to keep the two of them safe, the possibility that it might not work given the frame of time that Ragdoll had gone without her Quirk, and the other details and planning. The Pussycats asked for a few minutes to discuss, and asked the others to wait outside the office for them.

As they waited outside, Kota came around the corner. He was surprised to see them there, but happy to see Izuku nonetheless. He was happy to see Eri, too, as he had had fun playing with her, but he tried his best to hide that fact.

It didn't take long, but it could have seemed like an eternity for the door to the office to open again to reveal the form of Ragdoll. It was clear she had let herself cry a bit, but there was something about her that seemed...lighter. Happier.

"I want to try."

*****

It didn't take them long to set everything up that they needed to. It was really just about finding a secure location in the office, set up the failsafes, and have Aizawa on standby. Though they had both wanted to stay with Eri just in case, it was decided that the fewer people in the room, the better, so Mina had bowed out so Izuku could help watch over Eri. With One for All, he would be more apt to handle the situation than Mina was.

Before they were set to being, though, Mina hugged the girl tightly, and Eri returned the hug tenfold.

"I'm so proud of you, Eri-berry," she said. After the moment, and everyone giving wishes of luck, Aizawa, Eri, Izuku, and Ragdoll stood in the room, ready to begin. Aizawa nodded to Eri, and the little girl approached Ragdoll. They took each other's hands, and Eri shut her eyes. After a moment, he horn began to glow and grow.

At first, Ragdoll didn't feel any different. Eri's face scrunched up after a few moments, and finally, something struck the both of them. There was a connection made, and a look of pain etched both of their faces.

Ragdoll grit her teeth as Eri started to cry a little. Izuku was concerned, because they were both hurting.

"Aizawa, erase her Quirk!" he said, his own tears threatening to pour out. Just as Aizawa was ready to do so, Eri called out.

"No! I'm fine! I'm almost there!" she shouted, which gave Ragdoll a little ease of mind.

"We're okay," Ragdoll followed up. However, with a final scream from Ragdoll, and a yell of pain from Eri, the two broke apart. Izuku had used One for All to catch a falling Ragdoll, while Aizawa had caught Eri mid-fall. The girl had passed out, but there was a smile etched on her face.

Ragdoll recovered a moment later, groaning in a bit of pain. She regained her footing, thanking Izuku for catching her. She then reached out, testing to see if her Quirk was back.

Outside, the others had heard the scream and yell, and were getting ready to jump into action to
help. However, the silence that followed seem to calm them down for the most part. They were still anxiously waiting to see what the end result would be.

The doors opened to reveal Aizawa with an unconscious Eri in his arms, and behind him, Ragdoll and Izuku. Tears were streaming down Ragdoll's face, and, at first, the others feared that it hadn't worked. Those thoughts were quickly dashed aside when she looked up to everyone, her smile beaming through the tears.

"It worked!"
"In today's news, the Hero Ragdoll, member of the Wild, Wild Pussycats, and victim of a terrible tragedy at UA's training camp and subsequent battle at Kamino Ward, where she was stripped of her Quirk, has re-debuted on the Hero scene. According to reports, she has full access to her Quirk again, though no one knows how. The Pussycats have declined commenting on the return of Ragdoll's Quirk, and the means in which..."

The TV monitor was quickly shut off, silencing the annoying news reporter.

"Well, that's an unexpected development," Shigaraki commented. The others around him had been barely paying attention, but looked at him curiously. "I wonder how that happened." He looked over to Kurogiri, who hummed for a moment before responding.

"From what our mole in UA has informed us, there appears to be a young girl under the care of the teachers and Class 1-A who would have a Quirk that could possibly do this," the Warp Gate user stated. "From my understanding, she had been rescued by the Heroes from Kai Chisaki and the Shie Hassakai. What's even more important from our source is which Hero, or rather Hero-in-training, saved her, that she is now closest to in Class 1-A."

"Izuku Midoriya," disdain dripped from Shigaraki's voice, and he began to scratch the sides of his neck, something that, his cohorts noted, he hadn't done in some time. However, he quickly stopped himself, and took a deep breath. "Any other news from our source?"

"Yes. Our source says that Work Studies have been suspended as the students prepare for their Final Exams," Kurogiri responded. "As of now, our source knows little of the Final Exams, but should be finding out in the next few days." He looked as if there was more he needed to say, but decided to wait on Shigaraki's reaction.

"Very well," the other man said. "Kurogiri. Dabi. It's time to begin our plan." Dabi smiled at that, while Kurogiri took the opportunity to speak further.

"Very good, Tomura Shigaraki. If I may," he paused, waiting for Shigaraki to bid him continue, which came shortly thereafter. "I have been in contact with a possible new recruit for the League of Villains. I'm not sure what all he has to offer that we don't already know, but I assured him we would at least hear him out. He is just waiting to see if you approve of listening before I retrieve him." Shigaraki seemed to think for just a moment.

"Sure," he said, nonchalantly. "Let's see what this wannabe has to say." Kurogiri nodded as he Warped away. He came back a few moments later, with a rather minuscule person in tow.

"Everyone, this is Minoru Mineta, formerly of Class 1-A," he introduced the group to Mineta. The diminutive boy in question looked at all of the gathered members. He gulped, his fear still very much present, but held it back. When he saw Toga, his face contorted momentarily into it's usual perverted look, until she bared her fangs at him.

He immediately turned his attention back to Shigaraki, who looked at the former UA student unimpressed.

"This is what you bring me, Kurogiri," he said, a hint of irritation in his voice before addressing Mineta directly. "We already have a source of information from UA. What could you possible offer us that would stop me from turning you to ash right now?" Mineta trembled a bit, remembering the
USJ, and what Shigaraki had been capable of. But, he steeled himself before clearing his throat.

"What does your source know about the relationships between students?" he asked. "Like, closest friendships, or...romantic relationships?" There was a pregnant silence in the room, as Shigaraki looked over to Kurogiri. After a moment of thinking, Kurogiri shook his head in the negative.

"Our source reports no such connections, Tomura Shigaraki," the man said. "Though it may be good information to have in order to gain greater leverage on our specified targets."

"My thoughts, exactly, Kurogiri," Shigaraki responded back before turning his attention back to Mineta. "Looks like you may be useful after all." Toga took the opportunity to speak up.

"Whoever has my Izuku is going to get cut!" she said, pulling her knife out. "It's that brown-haired girl with the pink cheeks, isn't it?" She angrily questioned the Pop-Off user. He chuckled and shook his head.

"Oh, not her," he responded. "But I can give you the details of everyone you need to know, including Midoriya. But, I want to reap the rewards." The rest of those gathered looked to one another, before moving away. Shigaraki spoke first.

"Let me discuss this with the others before I give you a decision," he said. "Though, you may have saved yourself from death here, kid." Mineta nodded, still internally frightened at the prospect of being a victim to Shigaraki's quirk.

He stood at one end of the room while the League quietly spoke at the other. He couldn't make out what they were saying, but was hoping they would let him in. He needed this more than anything after what had happened to him. He needed to show UA what Minoru Mineta was all about.

It felt like an eternity, though was probably less than 3 minutes, before the League turned back to Mineta. Their faces gave nothing away as Shigaraki approached the diminutive boy. When he was about two feet away, he smiled maliciously.

"Alright," Shigaraki spoke. "Looks like you may be of some use to us. So, tell us about these relationships." Mineta smiled back.

"I guess the first relationship I should go over with you is that of Izuku Midoriya, since you seem most interested in him."
Final Exam Notice

Class 1-A was abuzz with conversation. And they were sure most of the school was as well. They heard that today was the day they would find out what their Year End exam would entail. Some were stoked. Others were nervous. Some, like Sero and Aoyama, were terrified, being at the bottom of the class. Though, Aoyama would never admit that out loud.

Mina understood their feeling, having remembered what it was like during their Midterm, when she was at the bottom with Kaminari. Who was still at the bottom, but noticeably absent right now. Class was going to start any minute, and Aizawa would not take kindly to one of his students being late, especially Kaminari. Though his grades had improved since Midterm, he was still at the bottom of the class.

"Hey, Jiro, do you know where Kaminari is?" Mina asked the resident punk rocker, and Kaminari's girlfriend. She could see the worried look on Jiro's face.

"I'm not sure," she replied. "Said he had a meeting with the principal, but said little more. I know he isn't telling me everything, but said he couldn't just yet and apologized. He's been off the last day or two. I wish he would open up, but it may be something serious that he can't yet?" Jiro tried to rationalize his behavior.

"You don't have to try to defend Pikachu," the voice of Bakugo interjected. Apparently, the conversation between the pink girl and the purplette wasn't very private, as a good deal of the class had gathered around the two. It was Izuku who followed up Bakugo's comment.

"Kaminari is a good guy," he said. "If he hasn't divulged everything, I'm sure there's a very good reason."

"There is a very good reason," their homeroom teacher, Shota Aizawa, announced himself. The class quickly made their way to their respective desks. "However, we're still investigating the validity of everything before any further action is taken. I will assure the class that Kaminari is not in any trouble, but he probably won't be making it to class until a little later."

This helped ease the students' minds a little, though they still worried about what it might be that would cause their friend and classmate to be so secretive. However, before anyone could truly dwell on it, Aizawa spoke up again.

"Now, we need to go over something very important....your Year End Exam." This caused all of the students to snap to full attention, not wanting to miss any details. "This will be a lot different than your Mid-terms, in which your Practical covered only one day. This time, your Practical will cover several days. This is due to the fact that you all have been doing Work Studies, and each of you will be paired with a student in Class 3-A. This serves as their Final Exam, too."

This news caused momentary murmur among the class, before Aizawa's eyes went red as he activated his Quirk, immediately silencing the class. He relaxed his Quirk, and put eye drops in as he continued.

"It goes without saying that you won't be picking which 3rd Year you'll be working with. Each third year has submitted a request on which 1st Year they wanted working with them, and the teachers confirmed or denied their requests based on various factors. Some of you received more requests than others, but, in the end, all of you will be assigned with one. I'll be handing out each of your sheets momentarily."
"Like your group project at the beginning of the semester, you are not to reveal the details of these sheets, as they have the different situations and scenarios you'll be tasked with. Some of these will cross over, hence why you must keep the details secret, unless it calls for you to work alongside another group. Then you may discuss with that group, and that group only, and only when that particular section of the assignment arises. You are to follow the lead of your 3rd Year, but this is your Exam as well. The Practical will begin the week after your written Finals, which is three weeks from now. So, be sure to study hard and prepare for the Practical harder."

With that, Aizawa left homeroom to their own devices. The students began to form groups, going over their approach to study groups. Obviously, those near the bottom flocked to Momo, who was more than willing to help out her classmates.

"Deja vu," Mina chuckled, moseying up to Izuku. Izuku smiled at his girlfriend.

"What about you?" he asked. "Are you going to study with Yaoyorozu again?" Mina playfully flicked his nose, causing him to chuckle.

"As much as I love Yao-Momo, and am grateful for her help during the Midterms, I had a different idea." Izuku looked to her curiously. "I was thinking you and I could study together, and we could also work on training for the Practical. I know we can't reveal any details, but that doesn't mean we can't help each other out preparing our bodies and Quirks physically, right?"

Izuku thought on this, and nodded. They trained together all the time, anyways, so this wouldn't be too different. He agreed with Mina on that.

A few moments later, the class's attention was brought to the door as it opened. Kaminari walked in to the classroom, looking worse for wear. Worry etched everyone's faces as Jiro immediately made her way over to him. He gave her a weak smile as he caressed her cheek. She responded in kind by wrapping her earjacks around his hand, gently rubbing it. They spoke quietly for just a minute.

As Kaminari made his way to his desk, he offered no words to the class, but did look at everyone with a heartfelt apology in his eyes. It let them know that he still couldn't say anything, and that he was sorry he couldn't. Everyone gave him an understanding look. They would find out when and if they needed to know.

With Kaminari, his mind was a storm, trying to piece together the information he had, as well as how bad he felt that he couldn't bring his classmates, his friends, in to the matter yet. They were in danger, and he couldn't explain to them why just yet. Because there was a traitor at UA. It disgusted him to think, but, with the information he had given Nezu, he had been let in on that little tidbit.

Now it was just a matter of finding out who.
A Strike to Hero Society

Dabi walked the streets, a purpose to his step. He was both excited and nervous about what he was about to, though showed no outward signs of it. And, to a degree, a little bit of vindication for his past suffering. A degree of revenge, as it were.

He knew the risks, of course. He knew for a fact he would be going to prison. Probably Tartarus, if he were honest with himself about where he'd more than likely end up. And, there was the slightest of chances that he would be ignored. After all, what good was the word of a Villain.

Luckily, he had a few aces up his sleeve in that regard. And, at minimum, the whispers would begin. And those whispers would become questions and, hopefully, further accusations. But, one step at a time. He steeled his nerves as he walked up to where the news conference was being held.

*****

Class 1-A was enjoying a day off from their studies and training. It had been extra hard ever since Aizawa had announced the Year End exams, so they took what they could get. Even Momo and Iida took advantage of the chance to relax, which proved how hard things had gotten.

As such, most of them were gathered in the room, watching a movie that had come on network television. It was a pretty basic dramedy, and, with nothing else really to do, or wanting to do, everyone had gathered. Those that weren't in the main part watching television had set up at the table adjacent.

Some were in a near catatonic state, others had fallen asleep on the various couches and chairs set up in the main area. Mina lay on Izuku's shoulder, her eyes fluttering as she curled up close to her boyfriend. His head lay on hers, awake, but definitely comfortable. The other couples were in similar position, with the exception of Momo and Todoroki who were among those occupying the table adjacent.

Just as Mina was about to nod off completely, the program they had been watching was suddenly interrupted, with the words "BREAKING NEWS" taking up the majority of the screen, and basic news music akin to such an announcement to go along with it. Shortly after, the face of a news anchor took over the screen.

"This just in," she spoke, a professional, yet slightly strained, edge to her voice. "The League of Villains member known as Dabi has entered police custody after interrupting a daily news conference at a Police Station. He was non-violent, and agreed to be taken in to custody after delivering a short, impromptu speech...." The screen switched over to video of the conference, where, as said, Dabi was speaking to the gathered crowd.

"Your Heroes are not who you believe they are," he stated, and Izuku felt the same aura around him that had been around Stain. "They are false, and all of you need to stop seeing them through tinted lenses, and see them for who they really are. Most of you know me by the name Dabi." He paused, as if he was preparing for some big revelation.

"But that's not my real name," he continued. "I'll tell you my name after I tell you about these." He pointed to the torn flesh around his jaw, neck, and eyes. "I received these from a Pro Hero, you all know very well. He did this to me because he deemed me a failure. And not because I was a Villain. No. This happened before I joined the League. You could even say it was the driving force to be a Villain."
"I didn't live up to his grand scheme, and me, my mother, my sister, and my brothers, all paid the price because of his obsession with perfection. With his obsession to overcome who he saw as his rival. Always in his way. It was my youngest brother who received the brunt, though. Since he had been born the perfection my father was looking for. To that, my only regret is that I abandoned you...Shoto."

Everything was starting to piece together for Izuku, and he instinctively looked over to Todoroki. The other boy, normally calm, with his emotions in check, looked distraught. His breathing had become labored. Momo had seen this, too, and embraced her boyfriend. It had calmed his a little, but he was still crying.

"It can't be," he said. And, though it was little more than a whisper, everyone had heard it. They were drawn back as Dabi continued his speech.

"I don't know how many of you have guessed it yet," he sighed, "so I'll spell it out for you. My name is Touya Todoroki, son of Enji Todoroki, or, as you know him, the new Number One Hero Endeavor." The image returned to the newscaster. Her eyes were wide with shock, but she quickly regained her composure.

"After his speech, the Villain known as Dabi was taken in to custody. We will have more information for you as we receive it. Now, back to your regularly scheduled progra....." the TV was shut off. By who, no one could really tell. Even the person who had done it probably couldn't say it was them, that's how concentrated everyone was on Todoroki now.

"Is it true?" Kaminari was the one to break the silence that had engulfed them all. "Did Endeavor really do that to him. Is that really your brother?" At first, he had received a few stares from some of his classmate, his girlfriend, Jiro, included, until they saw the look he had. As if he knew something like this was going to happen. Todoroki, for the most part, had regained his own composure to speak.

"There is a good chance that Dabi is my older brother, Touya," he sighed. "What he said was true. I know Endeavor has changed recently, but....that doesn't make up for everything he did to my siblings, my mother, and me. And I'm not sure how the general population is going to take this. Or how widespread it will become to the rest of Hero Society." Izuku, having been silent, took the opportunity to speak up.

"Which is probably what the Villains were counting on," he said, gaining a look of curiosity from the rest. "Think about it. He's not entirely wrong with how society has gone. On a purely philosophical level, I agree with Stain and Dabi. But their ends don't justify the means they use to 'fix' the issue.

"A lot of Heroes nowadays are really only in it for the fame," he continued. "Unfortunately, that leaks on to people like us, those who want to be Heroes. Whether we want to admit it or not, a part of us always wants that recognition. All of you know my Quirk didn't develop until right before the entrance exam. Until then, I was treated as Quirkless. And I'm not sure how the general population is going to take this. Or how widespread it will become to the rest of Hero Society." Izuku, having been silent, took the opportunity to speak up."

"I think I need to call Principal Nezu," Kaminari said. "I think it's time I let you guys in on what I know, and why I know it." As he said that, Izuku was having similar feelings....about One for All. He looked over to Mina and Bakugo, and they saw it in his eyes. He felt he needed to tell the whole class. Maybe not the whole school, but definitely those that had been beside him.

As Kaminari walked away to call Principal Nezu, Izuku did so similarly as he opened up his
contacts to All Might. He breathed in deep as he pressed the dial button.
Revealed

The news and ensuing chaos over Dabi's speech had spread quickly. Luckily, it had been contained chaos, where it was more debate and questioning than anything. It still hadn't looked too good for Hero Society, and more questions popped up, about more than just Endeavor. Endeavor had definitely been the largest topic, though.

Of course, Class 1-A had been doing their best to ignore the whispers from other students as they made their way to UA's Conference Room. It was the largest place, outside of their multiple training fields, that would be able to hold the entire class and the staff that would be present for the upcoming discussions. It also offered the necessary privacy from any prying eyes, especially with the looks other students had given Todoroki as they made their way to the main building.

That look eventually spilled in to whispers, and grew even worse when they crossed paths with Class 1-B. Well, most of the members of their sister class were pretty cordial, though a few did give a few glances of worry to Todoroki. The real problem came from the words of Class 1-B's resident narcissist, Neito Monoma.

"Well, if it isn't Class 1-A, UA's trouble class," he began, and everyone braced themselves for what insults the blond Copy user would through at them. "Tell me. Do you ever get tired of all the bad spotlight that gets put on you lot? Or do you revel in it. I'm sure Todoroki does. After all, your father and brother seem to revel in that kind of bad spotlight, now don't they. If what was said was true, will you turn the path of Villain like your brother or just become a shitty and abusive Hero like Endeavor? I wonder if any of your kids will turn out like Dab..."

His speech was interrupted by Kendo giving him a hard chop on the neck. There was a look of relief that she had been the one to intervene, as Izuku, Iida, and even Bakugo had looked ready to beat Monoma soundly. Instead of her normal apologetic demeanor to Class 1-A for his behavior, she instead seemed to hold a look of disgust and contempt for her now-unconscious classmate.

"I really don't get what his issue is," she said, sighing deeply. "He's been more volatile lately, especially when it comes to your Class. Maybe we can get Vlad King to set him straight. Or maybe I should just let you guys have at him for a while. Anyways, you guys look like you're doing something rather important, so we won't keep you."

With that, Class 1-B left the area as 1-A continued on their way to the conference room. As they walked, Izuku thought over his conversation with All Might. He was surprised at how the conversation had gone, if he were being honest with himself.

Flashback

"You want to tell your Class and Aizawa about One for All." All Might said, almost as soon as Izuku had told him he had something important to ask.

"Yes, sir," Izuku responded, nervous about such a question and All Might's reaction, while also curious as to why All Might had seen this question coming.

"I'm not going to lie, Young Midoriya. I'm not overly thrilled about the prospect of such a large group knowing." Izuku nodded, feeling ready for the denial. Only to be surprised by the former Number One's next words. "However, given everything that's happened, especially with what Nezu has to tell the class, that Young Kaminari already knows about, it may be best to have a group that you seem to have gained such a strong bond with to know, so they can properly fight by your side."
"Also, I really don’t think it’s up to me anymore about who knows the secret of One for All. Whereas you don’t have full control over it, the pace you’re coming along is incredible, and I think you’ll have full control before you or I know it. I can barely call the power mine anymore. It is far more yours than mine now. Which means that these decisions are yours now. I know you’ll be smart about them, regardless of how uncomfortable I may be about it. To be honest, I should have told you this when you asked to include Young Ashido in on the secret, but I was being a little selfish. Holding on to the vestiges that this was still just my power to make decisions on."

"It is still your power, though, All Might," Izuku said. "You should still get a say in it."

"That's very kind of you Young Midoriya, but, like I said, this power is more yours than mine now. All I ask is that you keep me in the loop about things."

"I will, All Might." Izuku paused, allowing a tear to fall. "And thank you. For everything."

"Thank you, Young Midoriya. I'll see you over in the school Conference Room soon."

Flashback End

They had reached their destination, and Izuku inhaled deeply. He could feel as Mina squeezed his hand in reassurance. He turned toward the pink girl and smiled lovingly to her. They gave a nod as they walked in to the room.

There were already people present in the Conference Room when the students arrived. Two of the three present made sense to Class 1-A, as Nezu and Aizawa had already shown that they more or less knew what was going on. The inclusion of All Might was a little more questionable to everyone except Izuku, Mina, and Bakugo. Even Aizawa wasn't sure why the former Number One Hero was there. Any thoughts were brought to a halt as the Principal stepped forward.

"I want to thank all of you for coming," he began, his usually chipper attitude toned down by a good margin. "There are two reasons for this meeting. I'll get to them one at time. The first one is the reason for Mr. Kaminari's recent secretive nature, which was by my request, as well as to cover with you certain issues that we fear have come in to play since the announcement this morning."

"Now, what I am about to say does not leave this room.... at least not yet." He gave pause as everyone solemnly nodded. Taking the fact that no one had anything to add, he continued. "There is traitor at UA." The look of shock on everyone's faces spoke more for them than any words or chaos that would normally ensue at such an announcement. But, they were calm, and looked to Nezu to continue, as they were sure he had more information to give. Which he did.

"The identity of which has been narrowed down exponentially after more recent events, as well as Mr. Kaminari coming to us with information. I can assure you that no one in this room is said traitor, which is why you all are here. You're going to need the information when it comes time to defend the school. Which, after this morning, I expect very soon, even as early as today. I have some more to add to that, including bringing in the source of a lot of our more recent information in the room, but before I do, I believe Mr. Midoriya has something he wants to say to everyone."

Everyone turned to Izuku expectantly. He gulped, and braced himself. Most had looks of curiosity on their faces. Mina turned him to her and gave him a quick kiss.

"You can do this, babe," she whispered to him, as he embraced her.
"Thank you, Mina," he responded, before turning back and heading to the front. As he looked around at his classmates, he saw Bakugo nod to him, showing his support. Izuku took a deep breath before speaking.

"I was born Quirkless," he said, as if the class didn't already know that tidbit about him. However, it was his next words that really caused them to pay attention. "But the Quirk I have now.... is called One for All. It's a Quirk that is passed down from one user to the next. And the person who gave this power to me.... is All Might." He turned to the other man, who gave a reassuring smile and nod.

Izuku then laid everything out about the Quirk, and how All Might had chosen him to become his successor. He explained the events that lead up to it, omitting the part about All Might initially telling him he couldn't be a Hero. He finally wrapped up the ins and outs of his Quirk, and gauged everyone's reactions. Most were floored at this kind of information, though all remained quiet.

"I tell you this because I trust each and every one of you," Izuku continued. "And, as Principal Nezu said, with what's about to transpire, I need you to trust me, too. Now, I can take a few questions, but not many, since I'm sure we're on a bit of a time crunch." There weren't immediate questions, but, eventually, a hand went up... from Aizawa.

"Who all knows about this, already?" he asked. After the list was explained, including the recent additions of Mina and Bakugo, Aizawa sighed. "You know, if I had known about this beforehand, it would have made helping you train and control your Quirk a much easier task, with a lot less injuries to you." There was a slight chuckle among the group, the air becoming a bit lighter. After a moment, and no more questions, Nezu stepped forward again.

"Thank you, Mr. Midoriya," he said. "Now. I'm going to bring in the source of our information. Please refrain from speaking about One for All to him. He may be a trusted source now, but he hasn't garnered enough trust to be told about that. Understood?"

"Yes, sir," the class chorused. Nezu nodded, and walked over to another door. He left for a few minutes. When he came back, he let the other person in. The class was more shocked about the identity of their source than the secret of One for All, or the fact there was a traitor at UA.

"Mineta?!"
"Mineta?!" the whole class chorused, save for Kaminari. They were surprised that their expelled former classmate was the "source" of information from the League of Villains. On the other hand, it would explain why Kaminari was the person who had been responsible with the information.

"Yes, indeed," Principal Nezu interjected. "When Mr. Kaminari came to us telling us Mr. Mineta had been in contact with him in regards to movement within the League of Villains, we took the matter seriously. I will say some of those involved were skeptical given Mr. Mineta's status as an expelled student, but, once we went through a bit of an investigation, we discovered him to be telling the truth, and began to work with him more closely, especially given the events of this morning." He turned to Mineta, to allow the boy to speak.

"I don't expect anyone here to trust me fully, or even to like me," he said. "I did this to, I don't know, atone for all the bad things I did and said. There was a reason I was expelled, and I accept that. It's why I didn't fight it when it happened. But, it was a wake up call for me, and I knew I had to do something. When I got wind of the League looking for new recruits, I jumped at the chance." He grew a little nervous.

"To make them believe me, I did have to give them some information on the class," he paused, clearly worried.

"What information?" It was Izuku who had spoken. His gaze on Mineta was hard, but there was also the look he had that was giving someone a chance. Mineta looked over to Izuku. If there was anyone Mineta had owed this to, it was Izuku.

"I gave them information on current, well, when I was expelled, relationship statuses," he answered. "So, the League knows who's 'chummy' with whom. I'm sorry. It was the only thing I could think of to get in good with the League. And, since I found out there was a traitor here at UA while I was being recruited, I knew the League would double check with them." This caused some raised eyebrows, though it was Aizawa who spoke next.

"Has anyone been asking questions about your relationships recently?" he addressed his home room class. Everyone thought on it for a little bit before Momo spoke up.

"I've had some conversation with Kendo, as well as other members of our sister Class," she said. "The conversation at the time seemed natural, as any questions regarding significant others weren't acted with in evasion. She even spoke to me of her relationship with Tetsutetsu." Wheels were churning in everyone's head, before Iida spoke up.

"You mention Kendo, and, though I do not believe it to be her, she said something to us regarding Monoma when we were on our way here." Realization hit the Class. "She said he had been acting especially volatile regarding us recently, aside from his usual narcissism."

"So, we believe Monoma is the traitor?" Todoroki intervened.

"I think he's one of the traitors," Mineta spoke again, causing everyone to look at him again in even more shock. Mineta reiterated his point. "A few days ago, I overheard a conversation between the leader, Shigaraki, and the misty teleport guy, Kurogiri. He said something along the lines that their source had been recruiting a student, and that he could be useful when the time came. Said he was driven by a hatred of our... I'm sorry... this Class."
"The real question is," Aizawa spoke, "who recruited Monoma? It would have to be someone with easy access to him..." he stopped mid-sentence as it came to mind. Nezu saw the look on his face at the realization, and sighed deeply, as it confirmed his theory.

"It seems we have the identity," the diminutive mammal spoke. "Sekijiro Kan, also known as Vlad King, is our traitor." There was a stunned silence. It was hard to argue, though there was still the question of why?, which no one seemed overly quick to ask. The next person to speak was All Might.

"So, what do we do do now?" he had a feeling he knew the answer, but asked anyways, at the minimum for everyone's benefit.

"At this point, we need to detain Kan and Monoma," Nezu said, matter of factly. "We then need to get as many of the Hero course students prepared to defend the school, along with the rest of the teachers. Of course, we will extend an offer to any student who wishes to defend the school, regardless of which course they attend. For those who do not, there is no shame, and will be evacuated as quickly and safely as possible." He turned to All Might.

"For this, Toshinori, you shall lead the evacuees." All Might nodded. "As you are a non-combatant, you become the best option. You will of course be accompanied by another teacher, most likely Thirteen, Ectoplasm, or Cementoss, as they would be good for protection should anything happen. Now, we need to go ahead and prepare. Class A, go retrieve your Hero costumes. Aizawa and I will meet with the other teachers, assign roles, and then go and apprehend Kan. Any questions? Be quick, please." At first, no one said anything. Then, Mineta rose his hand.

"I'd like to help and fight," he said. "I know I've been a pervert and a coward, and I'll have a huge target on my head going out there, but, regardless, I still want to be a Hero. And a Hero doesn't run from a fight!" His resolve was impressive. A far cry from what Izuku remembered during the USJ. Nezu nodded, before turning once again to the class.

"Any objections?" There was silence, and the class shook their heads. "Very well. We don't have a costume for you, so you'll have to fight as you are. Now then, let's get to it. Mr. Mineta, you will stick with myself and Aizawa for the time being."

Everyone quickly and quietly made their way to their classroom, paying attention to anything that might be off. They were half way there when one of the last people they needed to see walked out of a nearby room: Vlad King. He looked at the class with a hint of contempt, before turning on his teacher persona.

"Class 1-A," he said, aloof, yet cordial. "What brings you in to the school building on a weekend. I'd figured you take the time to relax." Everyone was careful to mind their reactions, and Iida was the one to step forward.

"Mr. Kan, sir, it's good to see you," he said. Normally, the class would be shocked at the thought of their Class Representative lying, but this was a different situation. "I'm sure you saw the news this morning. We found it quite troubling, and figured it best we do additional training. With the League of Villains still at large, we can't afford to get complacent." Kan nodded, seemingly impressed with the initiative.

"Mr. Aizawa agreed with our decision, and so sent us to grab our Hero costumes for the training," Iida continued. "He said he would think of the prefect training, and to meet either himself or another teacher of his choosing. I believe he meant that to keep us on our toes, as Mr. Aizawa tends to do."
"Hmm," Vlad King hummed to himself. "I may have to get my class together for something like that. Anyways, carry on." The class did so, and Vlad King watched as they continued their trek to their classroom. Once they were out of sight, he pulled out his phone and dialed a number.

"Ugh. Hello?" the groggy sounding voice of Monoma answered the other line. Vlad wasted no time in getting to the point.

"Get your things together," he said. "We're going to be leaving soon."

Please drop by the archive and comment to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!