

Checking Out

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Well this story is gonna take a twist on reality as well as fiction, and its onna turn out little different than I planned, but its good, so READ AND COMMENT PLEASE!!! hahah

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1 - The Library

"Hey Shoko, I'm going out. do you want to come with me?" A smooth voice called from the kitchen. Shoko turned from her computer and knew it was her 20 year old sister, Tomoyo, who was visiting from Harvard Collage, and called. "Yeah, actually, could you drop me off at the library, I'll have my cell with me!"

There was a moment of silence. Shoko knew her sister was going to have at least some thought about it, Tomoyo was a bit paranoid. Shoko thought it was because she watched the news too much, kids getting kidnapped and killed, others for ransom. "Yeah okay." Tomoyo agreed. So Shoko got up from her desk and got her bag full of library books that she needed to return. The two sisters got into the car and went off on the road and to the library. Once they arrived there and after Tomoyo gave Shoko her own personal lecture about kidnapper and murderers, Shoko was finally in the quiet library. No one there to bother her or do anything to her. Then her phone started vibrating and she calmly picked it up. "Hello?" She asked into the phone. "Yeah Shoko, it turns out we have to go to Grandma's house today, so check out the books you want and I'll be coming in fifteen minutes." Tomoyo said. "Yeah, O-okay. Wait why are we going to Grandma's?" She asked. "Because our cousins from Japan came early." Tomoyo said flatly. Tomoyo always had prblems when they came over. "Alright." Shoko said and with that she shut her phone and went to browse for books in the manga section...because she liked manga. She got the ones she wanted and started looking for one that she hadn't heard of and might find interesting. One book

caught her eye. it was big as well as pretty, but the only thing on the cover,
was the title: Animation: A mission. 'Weird.' She thought. and went to check it
out.

2 - The Happenings

As Shoko went to the check-out desk, a strange feeling came over her, a feeling that she had never felt before. It was like a fierce energy that rippled through her entire body. She found it pleasurable, but at the same time it scared the living daylights out of her. For some reason, her eyes wandered to the book she was holding. The one titled Animation: A Mission. She made a move to look through it, but decided to save the thrill for Grandma's house, it was bound to be a dragging bore. While she was waiting in line, she looked around and found two really strange guys, one that was probably not a day over twenty, and the other most likely just one or two years older than her, staring at her. They didn't even attempt to look away when she glared back at them. 'Hmph, how rude! It's mean to stare at a fifteen year old girl! Uh-oh, they might be a duo of perverts! Aaaaaaahhhhh! Hurry up you stupid line, so I can go home!' She thought. Once it was her turn, which seemed like eons to Shoko, she dumped all the books on the check-out desk. She could practically feel them watching her with amusement. 'Grrrrrrr!' She thought as she stood there. When the librarian came to the last book, she hesitated. "Are ya sure ya wanna check out this book, Hon?" She asked. 'Why does she sound scared, what's the matter with this lady!' Shoko thought. "Yes, is there any reason why I shouldn't?" Shoko asked as she fixed her eyes on the lady in front of her. Again she could feel the eyes of the two people leaning against the wall boring into her. "well, it's just that.." The lady leaned in closer "really weird things happen to the

people who check out this book, and they don't really get rid of the problem even when they have the book returned." She whispered as she leaned back. 'Did this woman just get released from the lunatic asylum?' Shoko shuddered at the thought. "Look, whatever it is with this book, I'm sure I can deal with the problem." She smiled as she whispered back. The lady gave her the famous "OK, it's your funeral, not mine!" look. Right there and then Shoko felt like slapping that old hag silly. She could practically feel the boys behind her smirking and trying to hold back their laughter. As the woman checked out the book, Shoko took the chance to look around, careful not to look directly at the weirdos who were, obviously looking directly at her. She turned back to the desk, put the books inside her bag, and left. She noticed that the two boys were following her. She decided to ignore them. She found Tomoyo's blue car outside and immediately ran to it. Shoko gasped and said "Quick, those guys have been looking at and following me ever since I saw them in the library, probably longer." Tomoyo groaned, then sighed and said "Those are some of our distant relatives. I mean the REALLY distant ones." Shoko's mouth dropped when she heard this. The "wonderful, entrancing, and handsome men" were these IDIOTS! "These stupid and rude guys are the guys Grandma's pestering you to marry?" Shoko couldn't conceal her sympathy for her elder sister. "Well, smart one, if you weren't so caught up with me, you would've heard Grandma pestering you to marry the younger one, so HA!" Tomoyo said in triumph. Shoko started gagging involuntarily. "Awww, surely we're not that bad, Shoko." a voice said in the back.

Next Chapter: Unbelievable!

3 - Unbelievable!

OK, this is the 3rd chap. of this story! ok, I don't own any of the animes in this, but i do own Shoko, Tomoyo, Suichi, Rui, the family, and all of the other people I make up during the story. (I'll let you know in the beggining of each chap. if there is something new. mm-kay?) so anyways, ON WIT THE STORE!!!

Shoko turned around in horror to find both of the guys in the back of the car. Shoko turned around to her sister and shot her a look she said 'Why the heck are they in our car.' Tomoyo gave a look back that said 'I don't know. Grandma told me to.' Then Shoko turned back and looked at the younger one, Suichi, also the one who had spoken. He stared back at her. Shoko knew she and her sister looked different from the rest of the family, because her father was different. He had one blue eye and one green eye. Tomoyo and Shoko both had long dark, not quite black, but dark hair, fair skin, and were both really pretty. Tomoyo's eyes were cerulean blue (sorry for the spelling. It's pronounced silareen ^-^), where Shoko's were bright green. He just looked at her and smirked. He was really cute. He had dark hair, and his eyes were kind of silver looking. Rui, the older one, had eyes there were almost a lilac color. This was really weird. 'So there are people like us in the family.' She thought. She meant that their eyes were a different color from everyone, they weren't brown, or black. Tomoyo sucked in a deep breath and said "Well, off to Grandma's house then." She smiled. Shoko sensed that her sister was trying to be nice and also knew that it was going to be hard too, because Rui kept chuckling. I could see Tomoyo was tensing up, especially cuz it was a long ride to Grandma's house. Shoko decided to break the silence by turning around and

asking "So, how old are you guys?" Suichi looked at her and said "Just a year older than you, seventeen. Rui is 22." He said slightly gesturing at Rui. He made it sound like she didn't know how old she was. She turned around and thought 'Is the fact that we all have a lot in common just a coincidence?' She decided to leave it alone as they pulled up in Grandma's drive way. Shoko got out and turned on her heel towards the house. She forgot the fact that her Grandma never scraped the ice off of the drive way when it was winter and slipped. Instantly an arm was around her waist, helping her regain her balance. "Thanks!" She said, she looked up to see who it was. To her shock, it was Suichi, eyes filled with concern, standing there. Shoko just stared at him. She heard a throat clear. She turned to find Tomoyo and Rui looking at them both, side by side. 'They look so cute together...' Shoko thought. "Suichi, you can let go of Shoko now." Rui chuckled. Even Tomoyo was giggling. When all four of them went inside, Grandma had the guys settle in the living room, and dragged the girls into some other room. "So, did you do it?" She asked excitedly. "Ummm, do what Grandma?" Tomoyo asked. "Did you capture their hearts, seduce them, hmmm?" She asked. "No, but Suichi caught Shoko's waist!" Tomoyo giggled. Grandma gave a big squeal. "Oh, but Tomoyo, you and Rui looked sooo, cute standing side by side," Shoko exclaimed in mock awe. Grandma, this time gave a huge shriek. "Okay girls," She started "this is your chance. Shoko you're sixteen, Tomoyo you're 21. It's time both of you had relationships." She said as she gave a big sigh. Shoko looked at Grandma then at Tomoyo. "Grandma, you have officially gone mad." Shoko stated flatly. Grandma sneered at her then hustled both the girls into another room, gave them both decorated silk

kimonos, and closed the door.

4 - The Akwardness

Disclaimer: I do not own any of the animes in this, I own my own characters! And the story!

"What's with her?" Shoko asked Tomoyo. Tomoyo just shrugged and started changing. When they were done, they went to the living room where everyone was waiting. When i say everyone, I mean everyone. Aunts, uncles, mom, dad, grandmas, grandpas, cousins, everyone! It was really akward cuz everyone was just staring at them. Shoko's kimono was green and Tomoyo's was blue, which surely brought out thier eyes, but did they look that strange? Even snotty Suichi was gazing at Shoko, his eyes filled with something she couldn't place. She could sense her grandma smiling. Rui was looking at Tomoyo with a soft little smile smile on his lips. His eyes were loving as he looked at her. "Well, these are my beautiful granddaughters for you. Now let us leave them in peace," She said as she ushered everyone out, and Shoko, Suichi, Tomoyo and Rui were the only ones in the room. Grandma came back in and said 'Whoo! That was hard!" Shoko just stared at her. "Grandma you could've just asked us to leave the room." She stated flatly. With that said, Suichi just couldn't hold it in; he started snickering. Grandma's face went red with fury. "Damn! Why didn't I think of that!" She exclaimed. With that she left the room. Tomoyo and Rui were too busy staring at eachother to notice. Shoko was too impatient. She went behind her sister, and dropped her bracelet. "Oops!" She said as she bent down. Her butt bumped against Tomoyo, which sent her stumbling forward. Rui caught her in an instant, and for the next fifteen mintutes, they just stared

at each other. "OK, Rui, if you're gonna propose to her, do it now." Suichi said impatiently. With that said, Rui propped on one knee, and softly asked, "Tomoyo Kishida, Will you marry me?" Tomoyo looked down at him surprised. "Tomoyo, if you're gonna answer, I suggest you say yes. Oh, and answer quick, today would be nice." Shoko said. Tomoyo turned around to sneer at her sister, then turned back at said, "Duh, I will." Rui's eyes went wide, then he stood up and held her close. "Ok, I'll leave you two by yourselves." Shoko said smiling. She got up and started to head for the door, when Suichi grabbed her wrist. "Wait," He said, "I'm leaving too. Don't you even think about leaving me with these two, God knows how far they'll go." He said. "You are so nasty!" Shoko exclaimed. With that she ran to the main room, to tell everyone the good news. "Oh, my god! Rui just proposed to Tomoyo and she said yes!" She cried. Everyone cheered, but Grandma took her aside and said, "Now, that your sister's business is done, it is time for you." "Eww, but that's gross, I can't marry my brother in law!" She said with disgust. "Who said he was Rui's brother?" She asked. Shoko looked at, then turned around to find a room where he could be alone. It wasn't hard, counting her Grandma had a colossal(Spelling, sorry!)house. She found a room she had never seen before. A little room, with a couch, a wall length window, and a wooden floor with a plushy rug. She sat down on the couch and picked up a book, then her eyes wandered to the book Animation: A Mission. She held it, and started to open it when she jumped as she heard a voice say "Hey, you really thought you could leave me alone there, huh Bookworm?"

5 - The Moment You've Been Waiting For...not really...

Ok then, Disclaimer: I DO NOT own any of the animes or mangas in this, they're not in the story yet, but they'll come. I DO own Shoko, Tomoyo, Rui, Suichi, and the rest of the people I make up along the way. you'll know when i do cuz there will be a little profile of them so u know who they are. ^^

So ANYWAYS...

Shoko turned around in surprise to see Suichi standing in the doorway. "Well,

I got bored." She retorted. "And plus. I never said I would wait for you, much

less hang out with you." With that said, she went to the wall, where a water

dispenser was placed. She took a cup out, filled it to the brim with water.

Suichi raised his eyebrows at her as she raised the cup to her lips. "That's

really a nice thing to say to your future husband." He said. Shoko gaged and

spit out the water in her mouth. "My future WHAT?!?!?" She shrieked. Suichi was

laughing his head off right about then. Shoko just looked him in disgust, then

she turned to the couch and sat down. She pulled out a book and started to read

it. "Wait a sec. You're really choosing a book over my gorgeous self?" He

asked. Shoko laughed. Suichi was trying to act like a gay guy. "Yeah, I think

this book is better looking than you." She said. He looked at her silently, as

if examining her. She was so sick of the gazing and examining from everyone

else, she just looked down at her book and totally ignored. In a minute she

heard the door close. She relaxed, then froze when she felt an arm around her.

She looked to her left and Suichi pressed against her, looking at the book in

her hand. He looked back at her and said "Hey Shoko, let's read this book

together." 'Wow, he looks just like a kid. I can't stay annoyed at him like

this.' She thought. "All right, pick which book you want to read." She said as

she handed him the big bag. "Wow Shoko, you sure read a lot." He commented, eyes wide. 'Yup, and I always will." Suichi looked at her and asked "Hey Shoko, I have a question. Why do you read so much?" Shoko looked at him and answered "Well...because...ok, will you promise not to laugh or tell anybody?" She asked. Suichi nodded obediently. "Well, I do it because I can visualize myself in these places and see how much fun it would be.

ok, the next chapter will be up soon...really soon...

6 - Suichi's Past

Ok, as always, Disclaimer: I DO NOT own any of the animes in this, It's just that I have not put them in yet. The characters I own are Tomoyo, Rui, Shoko, Suichi, the family, and the rest of the people in the story that I just randomly throw in. I'll let you know when I do ok? Here comes the story.

Suichi just looked at her. After a good five minutes of staring, he smiled. "Hey, you said you wouldn't laugh!" She said angrily. Shoko stood up quickly and made a move to charge out of the room, but before she could do anything of the sort, Suichi grabbed her wrist, and yanked her back, practically hurling her, on the couch. "Hey, stupid, there is a big difference between smiling and laughing." He said. "Well, why were you smiling?" She asked as she glared. "Because, what you said was really sweet and all. It was like it had Shoko written all over it." He said as he looked away, as if he was preoccupied with something else. "I was just curious you know," He finished. Shoko looked at him and thought 'What a nice comment! It was sweet, in a warped way, but sweet nonetheless.' "So, Suichi, enough about me, what about you?" Shoko asked. "What about me?" He asked. "Tell me about yourself." She answered. "Um, what do you want me to tell you? How it is that I'm not Rui's brother? How Rui and I are completely different from the family, just as you are?" He asked as he turned to her. She just nodded. "Ok then. Well, Rui and I were found separately. He was found, well, about five years before me. We were both newborns or so the family says. They also say that we were both dropped at the doorstep of the family house. Isn't that weird. For all these years I've been believing that, and now I think that there is way more than that. I mean

who would go to some random person's house and drop their newborn child at their doorstep. I think that is really a complete lie. I mean, I've been thinking about it since I was, like, five." He said. "It sounds like you've given a lot thought about this." Shoko said. Suichi jumped when he heard her voice, as he'd forgotten that she was there. "Um, so yeah." He said as he blushed. Shoko thought it was kinda cute. "Well, I think you should forget about it!" Shoko stated. "Suichi looked at her in surprise. "It doesn't matter how you got here, the fact is that you're here, and you should be thankful!" She said. "Why?" He asked. "Why should I be thankful?" She looked at him with disgust. "Because, stupid, what if you ended up with no home? Huh? Or maybe your mother or father left you on the doorstep because they thought they couldn't take care of you. Maybe they were sick, on the verge of death, and all you can think is that they don't want you and that you don't belong anywhere? Let me tell you this Suichi: Every mother and father loves their child, whether they were married or not, whether it was an 'accident'. They had a child and that was you. Now for about what, sixteen or seventeen years, they haven't come? It's most likely that they aren't around, or they love you too much to let you live their way." Shoko explained. Suichi stared sat her in astonishment. "Wow, you really put that in a new perspective for me...well, I think you're right. I should leave it alone. So...how about we read a book now." He suggested. Then, the door to the room was suddenly thrown open. Grandma and Shoko's mom were standing in the doorway. Seeing Suichi sitting so close to Shoko, both of the women flushed a deep red. "Sorry to interrupt you two." Grandma said, and with that the both of them went out and slammed the door. "I

think we should go downstairs before people start thinking really weird things.

Trust me, grandma isn't the only one who wants us together." Shoko explained.

Shoko started thinking that she was wrong about Suichi, and that he was a really nice guy after all. "Come on, or do you want me to sweep you off your feet, princess, no matter how big you are, or the fact that I might break my back." He said with his famous sneer. 'I take it back!' She thought, "Not nice at ALL! I am NOT FAT!!! ...am I?'

7 - Expectations and Weird Cousins

A while later, all four of them were down stairs, surrounded by all of their nosy, gossip seeking relatives; of course, at the lead was Shoko and Tomoyo's Grandmother. Thankfully, all of the members of the family gave their utmost, undivided attention to Rui and Tomoyo, giving them both ideas for engagement ceremonies, the wedding, etc. They even went so far as to discuss children, and how many they wanted out of her. This made Tomoyo's eyes widen in panic...for she'd never been comfortable having the "it" talk with her parents much less her ENTIRE clan. That was more than 50 people! As soon as this conversation started taking place, Shoko decided it was time to silently step out and skip dinner. Before she could, a hand swiftly caught her wrist and tugged softly. "Wait for me!" Suichi hissed in her ear. "Let go of my hand! Don't you know what they'll do if they see?" Shoko hissed back. She snatched her hand away from his, and waited for him to follow. They reached an empty room, another area which Shoko had never seen before. This room was dark red with couches that were also red, but just a shade lighter. The room was also adorned with gold candlebras, frames, silk curtains, there were also a LOT of vanilla incense candles...that were lit. She turned around to find Suichi with a very confused look on his face. "What did you mean back there?" He asked. Shoko took a deep breath and said. "Right now they are occupied with Tomoyo and Rui, but soon they're going to move on...to us. Like I said before, Grandma isn't the only one who wants us together. They're going to do something stupid,

like an arranged marriage or something." Shoko looked up to see Suichi's face. When she did, all she saw was a blank comprehension....which was not what she was looking for. Just then, the door was thrown open. Four girls Shoko's age walked in. They were all Shoko's cousins, also known as Shoko's rivals for Suichi. They were all very pretty, no doubt. At the lead was Nadeshiko. She was sixteen years old, with long, billowing brown hair, that was wavy around her pretty face. She had fair skin, and melty brown eyes, whose lashes put everyone else's to shame. Her's were long and brushed her cheeks whenever she looked down, and when she looked up, they adorned her eyes, making them even more noticeable. Next was Megumi. She was fifteen, and Nadeshiko's younger sister. She had the same looks but she looked cute in an innocent way; she wore a clueless look, though she knew exactly what was going on. Their cousins stood right beside them. Yumiko and Nanako were identical twins, but you could tell them apart because Yumiko's eyes had highlights to them. They both had long black hair, but Nanako's were shorter. They had pale faces but also had lips that were naturally red; truly devils from hell. They all gave Shoko a pointed look when Nadeshiko said "Shoko, did you know that Grandmother's looking for you? I really do think you should go now." Shoko didn't miss all of the thick implications in Nade's voice, and she was sure Suichi didn't miss them either. She looked back at him with a look that all but said 'have fun, and good luck!' He gave her an exasperated look that pretty much shouted that he was going to need all the luck he could get. Nadeshiko walked towards him making her hips sway slightly. Before she closed the door she snagged a quick look at Suichi, and had to stifle the fit of giggles in her throat as Suichi gave Nade a look

that was both skeptic, and incredulous.

8 - Awkward Moments that Aren't Really Awkward

Shoko walked quickly to the dining room to find her Grandma. She found her talking to the rest of the family about family matters such as finance, wars, issues with decendants, etc. "You called for me, Grandma?" Shoko interrupted politely. "No. Who told you so?" Her grandmother asked suspiciously. "Um, Nade Nee-chan. She was with Megumi-chan, Yumiko, and Nanako." She said uncertainly. "Was Suichi with you?" Grandma asked. "Well, yes." Shoko muttered. "Damn....go find Nadeshiko and the girls. I have some errands for them." She said knowingly. "Yes, Grandma." And with that, Shoko bowed and left for the room she had been in before. She opened the door to find Yumiko, Nanako, and Megumi all giggling, and Nadeshiko was all over Suichi....not literally, but her hair had fallen a bit out of place, and her kimono had slipped a bit down her neck. Meanwhile, Suichi looked extremely annoyed. "Umm, Nadeshiko nee-chan?" Shoko said, breaking up all the giggling. "What?" Nade was obviously straining to hide the annoyed tone from her voice. "Grandma wants you, Yumiko, Nanako, and Megumi, to do some work for her. She wants you to come to the family meeting so she can tell you what to do." Shoko said. "Oh, alright. Well, then Suichi. I'll be looking forward to the next time we meet." She said, turning around to wink at him. Shoko turned to look at him as well, and saw the look he had on his face and could not help but giggle. "I'm sure he's gonna doll himself up for your arrival, Nade nee-chan." Shoko said reassuringly. After all of the girls left, Shoko finished her sentence. "So

much, you won't even recognize him." She turned around to find that Suichi had slumped to the floor. "God, she is really scary." Was all he could say. "Hey, do you want to find another room so they can't find you?" She asked. Suichi looked up and said "No, I just really want to get out of this house." Shoko thought for a couple of minutes. Tomoyo and Rui had already gone home, to her house. Her house was just a couple of blocks away, but none of the family except her parents, and grandma knew. They would surely let them go. "I have an idea. Just stay...hmmm...go to the room where by stuff is, then wait outside. Okay?" She sighed as she got up. She went to the room where her family was, and found that the girls work was to serve tea and be quiet. She went to her parents and asked "Mama, Papa, can Suichi and I go home?" Shoko was sure to ask quietly, as to prevent anyone else from hearing. They looked at Grandma who nodded in agreement. Shoko smiled and swiftly walked out of the room to the front door. Sure enough, on the side walk, was Suichi, waiting with her bags. "Here, let me get my clothes, at least." She took one of the bags away from him. They walked in silence until Suichi asked where they were going. "Oh, right! I forgot to tell you. My house is just a couple of blocks way from Grandma's house, but only she knows it." "Oh." was all he said. About five minutes later, they reached Shoko's house. Shoko remembered that Tomoyo had the keys, so she obviously had to ring the doorbell. Hopefully Tomoyo wouldn't be scared, because Rui was also in there with her. She walked up the steps to her house, rang the door bell and waited. She turned around to tell Suichi to come up the steps, but as she turned her face brushed the base of his neck. "Woah, sorry!" was Shoko's immediate reply, after she jumped back. Finally Tomoyo

opened the door, and let them in. The whole incident that had taken place, just moments before, was forgotten.

9 - Great Movies and Deep Words

"Hey, you guys, how come you guys came here?" Tomoyo asked them. She, Rui, Suichi, and Shoko were seated at the kitchen table, with both of the girls changed . Tomoyo was in her black Phantom of the Opera, and white skinny jeans, and Shoko was in her favorite My Chemical Romance T-Shirt, and her favorite pair of skinny jeans, with her black and silver toe socks, and the guys changes into jeans and T-shirts. Rui was in acid washed straight leg jeans, and Suichi was wearing black semi skinny jeans with a Maximum the Horomone T-shirt. "Because," Shoko started. "Nadeshiko, and the rest of the girls were hanging all over Suichi, and I just got plain bored." Shoko got up to get a glass of water. "I want to watch a movie. Have any of you seen The Phantom of The Opera with Emmy Rossum? Oh! Why don't we check out Epic Movie and Sweeney Todd. I wanted to see those too." Tomoyo said, with a an indecisive look on her face. "Tomoyo, why don't we go to Blockbusters and see what there is." Rui said. "There's that....but there also...oh! That's one to...maybe..." Tomoyo was muttering to herself. Rui rolled his eyes and turned to Shoko and Suichi. "Since this is obviously is going to take a while, do you two mind house sitting for us?" Both of the younger people nodded their heads. "Oh, man.....that one was really good....nah, it wasn't as good as....but that one..." Rui rolled his eyes, grabbed her hand and led her out the door, with her muttering all the movies that she wanted to see. As soon as the front door's lock clicked behind them, Suichi started snickering. "What?" Shoko

asked, confused. "Rui and Tomoyo are, like, the perfect match." He explained. "Rui is always practical and he's a realist." Shoko nodded as she said "Yeah, Tomoyo...I guess she watches Dateline NBC way too much for her own good. I guess opposites attract She is ALWAYS worries that i might get kidnapped or raped or something else stupid like that. I mean, seriously. Look at me! There is NO way that someone could possibly want this." She said as gestured to herself. "Shoko, you'd be surprised." Yeah, right. Name one person who wants me." "...me." And with those words said, he grabbed Shoko by the arms, pulled her towards him. Their eyes met for a split second before he firmly set his mouth on hers. Shoko had never kissed anyone before, she had always figured it would feel nice when she did, but having her first kiss, the word "nice", was an understatement. She closed her eyes and leaned into the kiss. She gasped, causing her mouth to open, giving an entrance to Suichi. Suddenly she jolted away from him, shaking. "Shoko, I'm so sorry." He said. She looked up and saw that his eyes burned with regret. "It's ok! I know I'm irresistible." She said, fluttering her eyes trying to lighten up the mood. Her facade worked as Suichi burst out laughing. When he stopped, he only got to say three slow meaningful words before the door opened: "Yes, you are."

10 - Fun in the Kitchen

Rui and Tomoyo came in hand in hand, Tomoyo carrying a bag of DVDs, and Rui carrying take-out. "Sorry, but I didn't eat that much at Grandma's. I bet you guys didn't either, so we brought take-out! YUM!" Tomoyo squealed. "Shoko, your face is all red, are you running fever?" Shoko looked up and said "Oh, no. I was just trying to move the couch closer to the TV, but it didn't really work. It didn't help that someone was laughing at me either..." Shoko couldn't believe that she was getting good at lying....it wasn't a very good asset...She looked over to Rui, who was giving a knowing glare to Suichi. Tomoyo was fooled but it appeared that Rui wasn't. Rui didn't seem to care either. Tomoyo just giggled and shoved Rui saying "Come on! I thought men were supposed to be more efficient than women!" Rui just threw her an amused glance and started up the stairs. He set the take out on the counter and tried pushing the couch. "shoot, Shoko, you weren't kidding. This thing's pretty hard to budge." Tomoyo plopped the DVDs down on the counter and moved to the couch to help her fiance with moving it. Soon, Shoko got tired of laughing and went over to help the stressed couple, who had only managed a foot. The three of them managed another foot and a half, and soon Suichi just raised an eyebrow and decided to help too. Within about 15 minutes, the destination was reached for the couch (which had four rather worn out young adults sprawled all over it.) "DARNIT!!!" Tomoyo suddenly shrieked. The other three just about jumped to high heaven. "What happened, babe?" A startled Rui asked. "THE TAKE OUT IS COLD NOW!" Tomoyo screeched. Rui

looked like Tomoyo had just sprouted a horn from her forehead. "Hun, we can warm it up in the micro wave." He said uncertainly. Shoko sighed. "It broke when my dad tried to warm his coffee and his biscuit at the same time. But Tomoyo, we can just warm it up on the stove. In fact I will go and do it. You guys go ahead and put on a movie. I will be back in fifteen minutes." She started to get up, but Tomoyo interrupted "But your gonna miss it." Shoko raised an eyebrow. "Sis, i doubt your gonna let me sleep with all over your reviews about the movies. You can tell me what I missed then." With that, she got up, grabbed the bag with the take out, and started off towards the kitchen. She flicked on the lights and started towards the stove. She bent down to get her mother's favorite cooking pan- the open one, with the big handles on the side- it was a traditional japanese cooking bowl. So, she got up and put a little bit of oil in it, to make it heat faster. She dumped the rice in and started fiddling with it. There was a sudden shadow in the doorway, and Shoko looked up to find Suichi leaning against the doorframe, watching her with a mix of curiosity and some sort of contentment in his eyes. "Ummm, whats up?" She asked meekly. Suichi looked at her, then swiftly crossed the room. He put his hands on her shoulders, and moved her sideways. "You're doing it wrong." He said simply, and Shoko watched as he began stirring the food in a counter-clockwise motion. "Haha wow, nice job Mr. Mom!" She joked as she shoved his arm. "Yes, well Suichi has been that way ever since we were little, hahaha, always taking care of everyone, especially me." Rui chuckled. The young couple had walked into the kitchen, Rui with his arms crossed, leaning against the counter, and Tomoyo giggling at his side. "Its not much fun watching movies

without somebody. Its more fun to be together." Tomoyo said. Meanwhile Suichi and Rui were in their own little conversation. "Im starting to regret it, Rui." he said, giving Rui a death glare. "oh now, now, no need to get hostile, Shoko needs to know that you'll be caring for her!" Rui shot back. This made Shoko blush like mad, and Suichi's hands shake with anger. All of a sudden Tomoyo burst out laughing, and that made everyone else laugh. 'Oh, this is going to be a fun, fun time...'