

College Days (an AR Furuba fic)

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*After a string of coincidences, Tohru Honda finds herself at college, never having met the Sohmas. Who will she meet there? hmmm... *evil grin**

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1. Lost

^_^ Hi, I'm new at this whole fanfic thing, so bear with me. (I already accidentally deleted the whole thing once, so my confidence is a little shaken. -_-)
Okies den, let's get on with it! (...again...)

Tohru looked up at the college gate. The imposing carved lions did nothing to boost her confidence. She sighed. Oh Mom, she thought, as she often did, I did it! I graduated high school. But... am I really ready for college? She stood, deep in thought. She decided that if she wasn't, there was no reason she would be where she was today, unless by accident, so she frowned determinedly and marched through the gates.

A guide at the information center gave her a map, and she set off for her dormitory.

As she walked, she reflected upon her life so far. Her father had died when she was three, so it didn't really affect her, but... her mother had died in a car accident one day in May nearly thirteen years later, and it had hit her hard. Nevertheless, she had moved on, and began living with her grandfather. Well, except for the few weeks in September when she lived in a tent. Long story. She narrowly missed a colossal landslide when she fell asleep at a stream. A little while -and a good shovel- later, she was back with her grandpa, and although she wasn't necessarily happy there, her insanely high amounts of optimism pushed her through. Now here she was in college. Tohru was so deep in thought that she didn't think to look where she was going. She tripped on a rock in the path and fell flat on her face, suitcases, bookbag, and map scattering in all directions.

"Oh--oh no!!" She scrambled about, gathering her things, resolutely ignoring the throbbing pain in her forehead. There were other other things to worry about.

When Tohru finally stopped grabbing bags and sat back, wincing, to look around, she had no idea where she was.

Frantically, she searched her map, but it was no use. She couldn't get her bearings.

Tohru sighed and slumped down, waiting for someone to come and help. It was doubtful. There was no Uo- or Hana-chan around now. She began to cry.

"Hey." Tohru looked up at the voice, startled, and tried -in vain- to wipe away her tears.

"Ah--I'm s-sorry, I left my bags in the path--"

"Pff. You're worrying too much. I just said 'hey'."

"B-but...!"

"Ahh, shut up. You must be lost or something."

"N-no..."

"Dangit, just admit it!!" (A/N: I don't like to swear...)

"Y-yes..."

"Gah! Girls!! Even Kagura's easier to handle!"

Tohru blinked through her tears, trying to see the tall figure standing over her.

"Anyway," the boy said, "You lookin' for your dorm?"

"Mm-hm. B-but where am I?"

"Sheesh. You're right in the middle of the quad,*" he gestured around them. "The dorms're over that way," -he pointed- "the museum's there, and classrooms are to your right. Can't you get that from the freakin' map?"

"Um..."

"Whatever," and he left.

Tohru sat, dazed. Who was it that had helped her, albeit unwillingly? What did his vague, tear-blurred shape remind her of?? Once again, Tohru sighed. Perhaps the stress was getting to her. She picked herself (and her baggage) up and set off in the direction of the dorms.

Yay chapter one's done! (hey that rhymes!) w00t!! Well, ok, it was done a while ago. I started this thing last year, and there it was in my notebook (along with the next 1 1/4 chapt.'s), just begging to be typed. Then, as I said before, I accidentally deleted it all!! >_<* Hey, this is based on a dream I had once, ya know. I don't have nearly enough Furuba dreams, ya know that? Last I counted, I was up to five, 'cept I only remember two, 'cuz I wrote 'em down. Oh, and Momiji popped up in a dream a little while ago. I didn't get to chat, he was sort of a non-sequitur dream-wise, and vanished pretty quickly. Too bad.....

*Just in case you don't know what a quad is, it's a long story. Um, see, my whole idea of what colleges should look like comes from this one college, where my parents went. The campus includes a large central park called the quad, and if you start out there, you can get to nearly everywhere else on campus, the museums (art and natural history), a big 'ol church, the cafeteria, bookstore, yadda yadda. So now you know. ^_^

Read up, sorry if the first few chappies seem short, they were two and a quarter pages in my notebook (bad handwriting -_-;;) Bai bai!

2. Meeting the roommates

Hi-hi! second chappie!! Yayness!

I hope yer likin' the fic so far. (I start to lapse into slang when left to my own devices- at least I write grammatically in my fic...) Mwee hee hee... Alrighty, here we go!

"Hi! I'm Kemuri Tsuki! Nice ta meechnya!!"

"N-namae. Namae Rekishi. How do you do?"

Tohru regarded her new roommates with her usual bubbly smile. "And I'm Tohru Honda! Pleased to meet you both."

"Hey! Hey! Here's your bed, Tohru!" said Kemuri in an equally bubbly (and quite hyper) voice. She swung around to gesture, her short, springy black hair barely losing shape.

"Here, lemme take your bags-"

"Oh-oh no, I couldn't impose!! I'll unpack." said Tohru. Kemuri shrugged. Namae looked worried.

"Sh-shouldn't we help?" she asked, pulling her stringy brown hair out of her eyes in a nervous way. "Y-you helped me, Tsuki-san..."

"You're so timid, Nam-chan!" Kemuri laughed.

"It's alright. I don't have much," said Tohru, already half done with her second suitcase. Kemuri peered over her shoulder.

"Who's that?" she asked, pointing to one of Tohru's photos.

"My mother. She...passed on."

"Oh..." Kemuri's smile slipped. Namae shot her a stern look.

"Oh, it's alright. My friends helped me through. I try never to feel down. So far, it's worked."

"Oh, you poor thing! All alone."

"Oh, but, I have Uo-chan and Hana-chan... I hope they can visit. They've done so much for me. Hana-chan's family took me in when my tent was buried in that landslide--"

"Wha?! Land--? Huh?"

"Oh, it's much too long a story. But they really have helped a lot, without asking for anything...."

"Well, then," said Kemuri, frowning determinedly and clenching a fist, "We'll be your Hana and Uo." Tohru smiled through new tears welling up, as Kemuri started to chatter about fish and flowers. Perhaps, she thought, college won't be so bad after all...

>_< Uwahh, yes, I know, that was waaaay too short!! Don't spear me!!! (heh-heh, a bit of Ice Age humor.) Umm, yeah, it's just how it turned out. I'll prolly get longer later, su! (mweeheehee I'm talkin' like Misha-san in Pita-Ten!!)

...O.o;...

Keh, just comment, please.

(P.S.-Oh, just so ya know, Kemuri is not, I repeat, not based on Tomo-chan from Azumanga Daioh! I had no idea Azumanga Daioh existed when I first wrote her! Really! Just in case you were wondering...)

3. The boy from the quad

Hey there. I promise these next chapters aren't gonna be so short. The first two were already in my notebook, so I just had to type them up. Now that my original is ending, (I tend to get bored when writing stories on my own time, and I get distracted with other projects,) I can just write freely until I run out of plot. Um, I'm rambling.¬_¬

...

Let's get on with it. :-P

Classes soon started, and Tohru began wishing Uo-chan's study sessions came with tuition. Luckily, Namae was very smart, and studying to be a teacher, so she practiced her skills on Tohru. Kemuri, who seemed not to have a class schedule at all, usually just got in the way, walking around with a paddleball going full speed and asking annoying questions.

"Hey, whassat mean?!"

"What, Kemuri-chan?"

"That! That number there!!"

"Tsuki-san... that's the page number."

Tohru usually did housework, as Kemuri was too impatient to work and messy by nature, and Namae was too busy; she had more classes. Also, the two had absolutely no idea how to do laundry, so Tohru always did that at the dorm building's washing machines.

One such day, Tohru was marching down the hall with a large basket of freshly laundered clothing blocking her view -she had memorized the way back to the rooms a long time ago. She trotted along merrily, humming a bit, when suddenly she bumped into something. Something that yelled.

"HEY! What're you doin'?! Look where you're going, why doncha?!"

"Eh? I'm sorry...? U-um, I--"

"You're so dumb!! Wanderin' around with a big thing of laundry, bumpin' into people! Agh! Girls!"

Tohru started. She'd heard that voice before! Leaning around her basket, she gave a bubbly laugh and said, "It is you!!" She beamed at the flustered (it isn't every day that someone you just yelled at can be so happy!) young man before her. He certainly was odd-looking, at least his hair. It was flaming orange, and, on closer inspection, his eyes matched. He was very very tall, too...

"Huh?!" was all the boy could think of to say, but it jerked Tohru out of her fascinated contemplation. She blushed a second, embarrassed that she'd been caught staring. She perked up again, saying, "Arigatou!! Thanks to you, I found my dormitory! Domo arigatou, thanks so very much!!" She made a complicated little movement between a bow and a wriggle of joy. All that moving about proved to be a bad idea, however, for Tohru lost her balance under the weight of her laundry basket. She twirled around, trying to regain it, but fell backwards onto the boy. Tohru yelled, the boy cursed, and in all the commotion a small *poof* was to be heard. She had barely a second to process this before she suddenly found herself on the floor, realizing that there was no boy behind her.

"...Eh...?"

Tohru lay-propping herself up from behind with her elbows-for a second, before scrambling around, anxiously uttering a stream of apologies, but... there truly was no one there. There should have been one of those stereotypical moments when the two leads found one was on

top of the other and they'd both blush and sit up quickly, avoiding each other's gaze and--Tohru really had to take Namae's advice and ignore Kemuri's weird animes. She looked down under her hands. She was unconsciously clutching the boy's empty clothing. Empty...? she thought, What?! There seemed to be something, well, alive under the sweatshirt. It was very small, though. She hesitantly peeled back the collar, afraid of what she might find.

She found herself staring into the slightly dazed eyes of a smooth orange cat.

"Uwaah?!" Tohru fell back, utterly suprised. "Kitty-san, how did you get here?!"

The cat looked vaguely annoyed, as if he found being called "kitty-san" offensive.

"Where's that tall boy...Oh my!! Is that you?! Ahh!! I must have, I don't know, hit you wrong--speak to me!!" she shook the cat roughly. "Oh, I-I mean... meow to me!!"

The cat growled softly and raised a paw, trying to motion Tohru to stop. It worked, until she realized that a cat had just gestured at her and spazzed more.

"Uwaaaah!!!!!" (A/N: I love that word ^_^)

"Just stop already!!" the cat yelled.

Tohru paused again. It really was the boy!! The cat, seeing an opportunity to seize control, adopted a somewhat calm, steadying voice. "O-okay. Yes. I am a cat. It's a... family... thing." He finished lamely. Tohru seemed to regain what senses she had.

"Oh, a family issue. Like Mom's ga-"

"What?! Your mom could turn into a zodiac animal??"

"No, she-OH!! So there are more of you??"

"Dang," the cat muttered. This was going to be hard to explain.

Yay! Third one's done!

umn, izzit okay that I keep calling Kyo "boy"? I just can't think of any other way to describe him. Young man was hard enough! Um..whatev. I can do whatever I want, 'cuz I'm the author, right? Right.

Comment, onegai!

4. Explanation

Hi!

It was a few hours later. Tohru was holed up in a secluded corner by the drink machines, the cat sitting before her. She had learned a lot in the past hour or so. For example, the cat's -wait, no- boy's name was Kyo Sohma, and his family had a curse in which thirteen-odd members turned into the animals of the Chinese Zodiac. There was also the cat, him. Tohru had perked up when he mentioned the part about the banquet. "Oh! I always loved that story! I felt so sorry for the cat, I even wanted to be born under the year of the cat!" Whereupon Kyo-kun (he had refused to be called -san) blushed brilliantly and muttered something about other complications. He talked about how now the whole family hated him for a curse he couldn't control, and it almost got him locked up.

"You mean like in jail? Did you do something?"

"No! No, not jail. It's worse..." He changed the subject to how he had run away from the family, and started going to college here. He was normally hostile with people, and it had gotten worse during the last few years of high school, but he'd found that living away from it all had really helped. After completing his speech, a now slightly embarrassed Kyo looked up at the girl he had just met. Oh, no, she was staring at him like he was a freak, this was bad. Would she tell? Aw, crud, that's even worse, he couldn't just skip back to Hatori at the main house after running away and all and ask him to make it all better. Kyo's eyes were nearly swirling with all these terrifying thoughts.

Tohru just continued staring. She wasn't staring at him, but had rather lapsed into space-cadet mode. Wow, a family curse, she thought. This is a serious matter. Can I be trusted with such a responsibility as to keep this all a secret? Does he think so? Oh, no, maybe he thinks I'm so untrustworthy he'll never let me live it down... Hey, wait...

Tohru stopped dazing and snapped to. "Hey, if... if you change into a cat whenever a girl hugs you-

"And when I'm under stress,"

"Yeah, well, do you change back?"

Kyo started to say, "Yeah, we--" but was cut off by quite an untimely *poof*. It took Tohru a split second to comprehend what had happened before letting out a screech that shook the building and covering her eyes. There before her sat Kyo-kun, human again and quite obviously so. (A/N: wink-wink, nudge-nudge, say no more! XD)

"Oh, yeah, uh, forgot to tell ya, I'm naked when I transform back."

"OH REALLY?" Tohru squealed shrilly from behind her hands. "FASCINATING!"

Hee-hee. It may be a bit short, but that's a nice chapter break, doncha think?
Please comment!

5. Anti-social

Yo. ^_^ comments welcome.

Tohru was still blushing furiously. She was out in the hallway retrieving the laundry and Kyo's clothes. He was presently the new occupier of the cranny next to the drink machine, trying very hard to look as small as possible. Perhaps the stress would make him transform again, he hoped, but he doubted it. Usually when he hoped something, it didn't come true, like beating that kuso nezumi, his mom coming back, or... meeting that girl again... come to think of it... He was jerked back into reality by his clothes and a blanket tossed over him.

"H-here!! There's y-your clothes," Tohru stammered, "And, um, you can change under the blanket!" Even so, she stood as far away from him as possible.

Keh, Kyo thought, funny how she's more disturbed by me as a human than a cat... speaking of disturbing... oh, NO, where's my beads??

Tohru looked up a little at some muffled cursing from under the blanket. "Hey, hey you," Kyo said.

"Uh, Tohru?"

"Yeah, you. You didn't happen to see a red-and-yellow bracelet, huh? 'Cuz, I, uh, really need it. Quick."

"Oh, uh, all right, I'll go look back in the hallway," Tohru said, puzzled. She left. Kyo sighed. He might as well dress, he reasoned, so he started in.

Meanwhile, Tohru was searching every inch of the hallway. She really had no idea why a boy would need a bracelet, but there were a lot of confusing things happening today, so she decided to just not ask questions. Her frantically searching eyes spotted a hint of red-and-yellow poking out from under a piece of clothing she had missed. "Aha!" she said triumphantly, "Found it!" She grabbed the bracelet, but nearly dropped it again. There was something... odd about these beads. They were made of such a strange material, one that she almost didn't want to ask about. Was this how Hana-chan felt when she probed an especially difficult mind? "Hmmm..." Tohru said aloud, gazing at the beads. Suddenly she snapped to. Ah! Kyo-kun said he needed these, she thought. I've got to get back to him! She picked herself up and padded back to the drink machines.

Sitting back in the drink machine area, Kyo was starting to feel a little nauseous. He knew this feeling, that was coming on. It usually went faster, like in the instant when someone took the beads off, before it happened. But when it was just after transforming back from a cat, the curse seemed to take pity. It gave him time to run, get dressed, and possibly put the beads back on before kicking back in. He was grateful for that, but couldn't help thinking that if the curse wasn't there at all, he wouldn't have to go through the trouble.

"...-kun? Kyo-kun?" He started. The girl was standing over him, a concerned look on her face. He looks a little sick, she thought worriedly. "Here, I found your bracelet," she reached out and put it in his waiting hand. He snatched it fast and put it on. The symptoms abated immediately, and he sighed.

" Arigatou," he said gratefully.

"Oh, no, I didn't do anything, I just found a bracelet, is all. But... may I ask... That is... um, what is it for?" She instantly knew she had said something wrong. The boy's eyes widened, but he hid them under his hair. He stood stiffly, and Tohru backed away. "I...

I'm sorry, I-

"No." She was cut off by him. "Good bye." And with that, he ran away. Tohru was left behind, feeling somewhat scared, and more puzzled than ever.

How'dya like it? Silly Kyo-kun, so anti-social!

6. DUMP ALERT!

Hey-ya, comment!

Namae and Kemuri were worried. Well, okay, Namae was worried, Kemuri didn't seem to show it much. (she had a weird way of displaying feelings) They -she- were worried about Tohru. She really hadn't been acting like herself lately. Sure, she smiled and laughed, but the emotion didn't follow all the way up to her big brown eyes. As she wandered around the dorm, it became increasingly obvious that she was depressed. Namae and Kemuri finally cornered her two weeks after it started.

"Oookay, what's up, Toh-toh?!" Kemuri exclaimed, using her new nickname for Tohru.

"Yes, Tohru-san, what is it? You haven't been yourself."

"Oh, um, no, I-I'm fine, really!" Tohru tried to smile, but judging from the looks on their faces, she was fighting a losing battle. She sighed. "All right, a couple weeks ago, I-I met this boy-"

"Oh, NO! Namae! Break out the ice cream! Dump alert!!" Kemuri yelled, adopting a military stance and running to their small fridge. Namae and Tohru stood in the living area, confused. Kemuri poked her head out from around the corner. She beckoned and whispered frantically.

"Namae!! That's your cue!"

"OH! Uh, right!" Namae hurried after her. Now Tohru was left alone, even more confused than before. She wondered what "dump alert" could mean. She would soon find out; Kemuri rounded the corner barely a second later with three individual pints of ice cream. (Heaven knows where she got it all.) Namae had the spoons, though she still looked thoroughly confused. Kemuri grabbed Tohru's arm and pulled her to the couch, plunking her down with a box of tissues and a pint of Strawberry Delight.

"Okay!" she said, sitting down next to her and wildly waving Namae to do the same. "Now, what happened?!"

"Oh, guys..." Tohru said, tears of gratitude forming, "It went like this..."

At that very moment...

Saki suddenly looked up with one of those peircing gazes. Arisa noticed. They were at a tororo soba shop, and it is quite unusual for Hana-chan to stop eating. "What is it?" she asked Saki, who was still staring at nothing.

"I feel..." Saki said in her mysterious, far-off voice, "Our Tohru-kun..."

"Eh? Tohru? What about her?"

Saki's eyes grew hard and black, and her eyebrows drew together. "She is distressed..."

Arisa's eyes widened. "Then come on!! Which way to her college?!"

Bum-bum-baaaa! Hyaha, here come Uo and Hana-chan!! XD

7. Enter the fish and flower

Read on, commentors, (I hope) read on...

Tohru had finished her story an hour and a half later. (It's hard to talk when your mouth is full of ice cream!) Don't worry, she had left out the part about the curse, though the story seemed rather uninteresting without it. Still, there was good reason for the tissues and ice cream. She began to cry when she spoke of how he had been so angry, even though she had tried to help him. She felt like she was useless. Kemuri shook her head violently.

"Nuh-uh, Toh-toh. If you didn't do our laundry and stuff, this place'd be drowning in clothes!!" She paused, realizing that that was probably not the most important thing. Namae seized the moment.

"Why, Tohru-san, if you weren't here, I wouldn't be able to practice my teaching on you. I'd have to settle for Kemuri-san, and you know how she is." Tohru giggled a little. Kemuri frowned.

"What's that supposed to--" she started, but was cut off by a loud thumping at the door. "Who's that?" she asked, getting up and walking to the door. She turned the handle slowly and was bowled over as it slammed open, revealing Uo-chan in full Red Butterfly attire, followed closely by Hana-chan in one of her signature black, lacy dresses. "This better be the right place," Uo whispered angrily over her shoulder. "I really don't wanna have to apologize to a bunch of kogals again--"

"UO-CHAN!! HANA-CHAN!!" Tohru had jumped up and was now hugging them as hard as possible, which, in retrospect, wasn't much, considering Tohru's strength (or lack thereof).

"T-tohru... uh..."

"Oh!" Tohru let go and presented her roommates. "This is Kemuri Tsuki-san,"

"Yo!" Kemuri said from the floor.

"...and over there on the sofa is Namae Rekishi-san."

"Hello," Namae said shyly, getting up and coming over.

"Guys, these are my friends! Uo-chan and Hana-chan. The ones I told you about!"

"Ohh! The fish and the flower!!" Kemuri jumped up and shook their hands rigorously, well, at least Uo's, Hana seemed to still be scrutinizing her. "Glad ta meetcha, a friend of Toh-toh's izza friend of mine!" Uo looked a little scared by Kemuri's hyperness, but she replied with a "Yeah, hi..." before turning her attention back to Tohru.

"Tohru! Hana here got wind you weren't feeling too happy, so we decided to come quick! What happened?!"

"How did your friend know, Tohru-san...?" Namae asked quietly, staring a little at Saki, who had still not said anything.

"Oh, uh--"

"I sense dempa waves. I am especially in tune with those I am close to, but it is quite easy for me to read others. Or hurt them. It has happened..." she trailed off, not looking at anything in particular.

"O-oh, th-that's--"

"Naaah, don't be scared, uh, Rekishi-san, right? Yeah, right now she's more after whoever made our poor little Tohru cry," Uo explained, hugging Tohru and ruffling her hair.

"Unless you did it, and if so I'd be running away 'bout now."

"Oh, oh no, nothing like that!!" Namae said quickly, waving her hands and backing away. "T-tohru-san was just telling us what went wrong, weren't you, Tohru-san?"

"Oh! Oh yes! Do you want to hear the story, Uo-chan? Hana-chan?"

"Yes," Hana-chan replied in her flat tone of voice which always meant trouble. "Very much so."

Yay! Uo an' Hana haven't changed a whit, ne?

8. Uo, Hana, and Doki Doki Memo

Hey dere! Hope you've been having fun reading this so far, I'm having fun writing it!

Tohru told her story all over again, once again leaving out the whole cat-curse part. As soon as she'd finished, Saki got up.

"So, his name is Kyo Sohma, hmm?"

"Yes, Hana-chan. He had orange hair and eyes, and was very tall-

"That is all I need. Arisa? Coming along?"

"Totally! I haven't seen something like this since you gave that Minami girl hallucinations!"

"Yes, I hope that I can still control my powers to the fullest..." Saki trailed off, though she was acting. She would never lose control of her powers, she'd made sure of that. Even so, a worried Tohru got up.

"M-maybe I'd better go along, just to make sure you find the right person..."

"Why, thank you, Tohru-kun, you're always so considerate," Saki replied with one of her rare smiles.

"So let's go then! I wanna see a fight!" Arisa exclaimed, raising a fist, and they were out the door in a flash, leaving Kemuri and Namae sitting on the couch, completely befuddled.

"So... those were Tohru's friends?" Namae said slowly, as if only just realizing it.

"How'd she find THOSE two weirdos, huh?" Kemuri started, until she remembered what Saki had warned. "Or hurt them. It has happened..." She changed tack.

"Uh.... Aren't they cool?"

"Huh? But you just called them-"

"Shhh!!!! Now, wanna play some Doki Doki Memo?" Kemuri held up her favorite dating-sim.

"But... oh, okay."

meanwhile...

"Hmmm," mumbled Saki, "Odd..."

"What?" asked Arisa, "the fact that Tohru found a boy within her first semester?"

"Well, that," Saki replied, glancing back at the characteristically oblivious Tohru trotting behind them, "But I can sense some odd dempa. They're almost... inhuman."

"Yeah, whatev, let's just find this mystery boy."

"Let's."

They traveled throughout the dorm building, but came up with nothing. Uo was getting hungry again, always a bad thing, and Hana was becoming annoyed. No, nobody could tell, but trust me, she was getting steamed. She was beginning to wish Megumi was around, for his power relied only on names, not actually knowing them personally. Suddenly, and without warning, they heard a yell.

"SOHMA!!"

"Eh?" Arisa muttered, "Sohma? Hey, Tohru, isn't Sohma the name of that boy?"

"Oh, yes! I wonder if he's--"

"SHUT UP, I don't give a beep about--" Kyo rounded the corner and nearly ran into Tohru head-on, screeching to a halt before her.

"-near... by...."

As I said before, I don't like to swear... anyway, muahaha, cliffhanger!! >:D

9. Confrontation

Yay, more readers pwn! No really, thanks for reading so far. ^_^

Kyo stood before Tohru, dumbfounded. It was her! That girl! He stared, not quite sure what to do. There were two other girls with her, one fully decked out as a Yankee-Wow, she's out of touch, he thought- and the other in a dress that looked like it was made from black spiderwebs. His roommate came around the corner, still yelling.

"Sohma, get back--" he stopped at the odd scene in front of him. Three girls were staring at Kyo, one like she wanted to hit him, another with a shocked expression and a deep blush, and the last with a far-off, slightly sinister gaze. "Uhh, Sohma, got somethin' to tell me?" Kyo rounded on him, face and eyes flaming red.

"WHAAAT?! What's that supposed to mean?!" his friend laughed.

"Pff, it's okay, it's okay! I'll leave you guys alone to settle your differences," he teased.

"SHUT UP!" Kyo yelled, but his roommate just chuckled and walked away.

"kuso li!--" Kyo cursed under his breath, but Tohru interjected.

"Kyo-kun! It's... so nice to see you!" She said, blushing more and clasping her hands together. Uo started.

"Eh? So this little sucker's that Kyo guy of yours?" she asked, pointing rather rudely.

"Yeah, I'm Kyo Sohma, an' who're you-DAH!" Uo-chan had punched him quick in the gut, and Hana had simultaneously zapped him. He fell over, stomach aching and head throbbing.

"Serves you right for making our Tohru cry, you little b--"

"Uo-chan!"

"No, Tohru-kun, he quite deserved that for hurting you--"

"Hana-chan!"

"What the heck is goin' on here?!"

The last comment was from Kyo, who got up, wincing, to stare at the three girls. Uo glared at him, as if to say, are you stupid? "Duh, we're mad as heck at you for making Tohru sad."

"I- I did?" He asked idiotically. Tohru looked askance, a sad, slightly embarrassed look on her face. "I-I-" he stumbled. Uo sighed.

"Hopeless, eh, Hanajima?"

"Quite," Saki replied, staring with an almost (key word there) amused look in her eyes. "I think our work may be done. Let's go back to her dormitory, we should talk to her friends." she swung around. "Come back when you're finished, Tohru-kun," she said over her shoulder, gliding off with Arisa. "Liar," Uo said as they disappeared, "You just want some of their ice cream."

"I do hope Tsuki-san has black cherry."

Tohru and Kyo were left alone in the hallway. Both were resolutely not meeting each other's eyes, Tohru blushing and looking worried and Kyo angrily trying to keep his temper down. Tohru was first to speak.

"Ah... hello, Kyo-kun... How are you?"

"Fine..."

"Ah, um, what have you been... doing... lately..." She found it hard to think of something to say.

"It seems like I've been making you cry." Tohru looked up in shock. Was he

apologizing?

"I'm sorry...?"

"Aw, crud, this is awful. I ran away from someone I'd trusted the whole effin' family secret with. What coulda stopped you from blabbing it to everyone?"

"Well, I didn't..."

"Really? Well then, that's good. I... didn't mean to hurt you." He was blushing brilliantly now. "I'm not even sure why I ran..."

"It was because of your beads," the everhelpful Tohru piped up. "I asked you, and you got very angry and-" Kyo looked like he was about to run again. He began to turn, but Tohru grabbed his arm and pulled. "No, wait--" she got too close. A *poof* sounded, and Kyo was a cat once more. He glared.

"Ah!! I'm so sorry!" She scampered around, picking up clothes. She folded them quick and set them near him. Neko-Kyo was still sitting in one place, fuming at everything in particular. He suddenly realized that Tohru wasn't squealing anymore, and looked up. She was looking away, and seemed to be talking to thin air.

"I lost my mom about four years ago. She was the one person that made me feel like I was doing things right." Kyo frowned uncertainly. Why was she telling him this? She continued, "Now that she's gone, I tend to get sad easier. I'm so sorry I made you mad, it's all my fault I got like this." she looked away sadly.

"Um, it's not your fault, you know," Tohru started. Kyo was blushing almost feverishly. He reached up to her with a paw and wiped away a tear that she hadn't realized had formed. "Really, the one who should be blamed is me. I'm always blamed, so I'm sorta used to it." Tohru's eyes widened.

"Oh, no no no!" Tohru waved her hands, "It's completely me! How could I blame anybody??" Kyo was astounded. This was the most selfless person he'd ever met! Before he could do anything else, it happened.

Poof.

heh. sorry for the cliffie. XD

10. Laugh

Hiyas, sorry for the wait. I was... busy... ok I was in a bit of writer's block, I'm makin' this stuff up as I go. (A cliffhanger usually means I'm stuck for ideas.) Oh! And just a little note that I can't figure out how to edit into the last chapter: the last scene in chapt 9 may have seemed like Kyo transformed back in her lap, but in my mind he had moved back a bit. I'm so stupid for not realizing that... ANYWAY, here ya go, chappie numbah ten, made up as I go. I'm also trying out a new format, 'cuz the other chapters looked a little crowded. Banzai!

Tohru blinked. She realized that she was not looking at neko-Kyo's face anymore, but something around the vicinity of his ankles. Willing herself not to look up, blushing at the idea of what she would find, she slowly closed her eyes and shuffled away a bit.

"I-I'll just let... let you change, and... uh-"

"No worries. I'm done." Tohru opened her eyes a crack. So he had! He must have lots of practice, she thought, giggling a little.

"What're you laughing at?? My cat form isn't funny-looking, is it?"

Somehow that statement made it all funnier. "N-nothing, I-ah ha ha ha!" Tohru could not stop laughing! For some reason, even though they had just had a serious and slightly sad conversation, she now felt lighter than air. Kyo blinked down at her, completely confused, as she fell back a bit laughing, tears coursing down her face. When she stopped making sound and was just shaking silently, her mouth wide open and her eyes shut tight, he started getting worried.

"Ah- hey, come on, what's the matter? What the heck, stop it! You're starting to scare me!" She mouthed wordlessly, waving a hand. He had to admit, that looked pretty ridiculous. Kyo smiled, then, he-yes, the rough Kyo we know and love (unless you don't ;P)-started to laugh. Small at first, then heartily, enough to have him falling down sitting as well. They sat there in the middle of the hallway, laughing out loud, most likely the most ridiculous sight in the world. Tohru calmed down first, taking deep breaths, while Kyo struggled to stop. He has a nice laugh, she thought to herself, he should use it more often. She blushed a bit.

Kyo finally stopped. He flung on his back gasping, and looked over at Tohru. Their eyes met and they quickly looked away, both the same shade of red. "Ah..." Tohru started, but was cut off by Kyo, who sat up against the wall. "So... what was that all about?" Tohru giggled a little. "I'm not so sure, to tell you the truth! Though they say, a good laugh is great exercise."

"Really? Who's 'they'? Usually exercise for me is running in the morning and practicing martial arts."

"Really?" Tohru got up and sat next to him.

"Yeah, that's what my roommate was mad about. I accidentally knocked over a lamp he'd brought from home, and he was mad that he'd have to actually buy one." Kyo sighed. "Idiot." "Oh, ha ha! So that's what it was." Tohru smiled, then looked up with a slightly puzzled look.

"But I wonder what he meant by 'I see how it is' or whatever he said." Kyo blushed. "Uh," he started, but:

"YO, TOHRU!"

"Ah! Uo-chan! I'm such a horrible hostess, I forgot-"

"Naaaah, s'okay, we're gonna stay over in your room tonight!"

"Really?! Oh, that's lovely, you asked Kemuri-chan and Namae-chan?"

"Yes." Saki glided out from behind Arisa, eyes glinting. "They were... persuaded."

"Eh?" Tohru looked worried.

"Don't worry, Tohru, Moony's just miffed that Saki here could eat more than her. She wants a rematch."

"Moony... Ah! Kemuri-chan! Ha ha ha!" They began to walk back, but Tohru stopped. "Oh! See you soon, Kyo-kun!" She gave a little wave and a smile and kept walking.

"Oh! Goodbye..."

"...Tohru."

Aaaahhh, the fluffiness. Ack this chappie was a bit OOC, ne? I dunno. I've had moments when I can't stop laughing at stupid stuff. Heehee. Is that a better way to organize the chapters, those big spaces? Without indents, it seemed hard to read, at least for me. Whatev, do you like this chapter? Don't worry, I'll have real plot soon! P.S., does everyone get why Uo calls her "Moony"? 'Cuz Kemuri's last name is "Tsuki," which means "moon." Yeah, just a little fun on my part. XP

11. Dreamin'

Yo! Sigh... I've been such a lazy bum lately, I've got requests... I wrote this chapter a month ago, so I decided I should type it up! Please regard me kindly!! *bows*

It had been a a week or so since the laugh-fest in the (mercifully empty) hallway. Uo- and Hana-chan had gone back to their respective homes, and dorm life had more or less quieted down. Classes were as hard as ever, and there was less time to see friends unless they happened to sit next to you in the lecture hall. Kyo and Tohru sometimes saw each other in the halls, but all that passed between them was a wave or (in Kyo's case) a grunt. Things were pretty normal. Then, Tohru had the dream.

She was walking along a deserted street. She felt she was looking for something, perhaps a certain place. Everything seemed much too big, but then Tohru realized it was because she was much too small. She was six years old again, back wearing an old red dress and a slightly too big shirt her mother had gotten at some yard sale.

Her mother! If she was six again, her mom would be alive! "Mom! I'm coming!" Tohru yelled out, and began running down the street. Suddenly she stopped. Her house was nowhere to be found. She saw a boy in a red cap up ahead. She called, "Do you know where my mommy is?" But he said nothing in reply. He made a small hissing sound in the back of his throat and ran away, leaving his hat behind.

Tohru walked up to the hat, an eighteen-year-old once more. "Now I really am all alone..." she whispered, and woke up.

Tohru sat up quickly. That was an odd dream, she thought to herself. What... what was it again...? She sighed. Her memory had never been all that good, and dreams are particularly hard. A *click* sounded and her alarm clock went off. She had woken up before it again. Fumbling for it on her shelf, her hand bumped something onto the floor. Her eyes widened when she saw what it was.

An old red cap.

Woo! Typed it uuup!! Rawk! Ha, anyway... I bet the good Furuba fan will recognize that dream sequence... Though, as a little teaser, I thought this plot point up aaaages ago, before having read the whole "Oooh, Yuki's the hat-boy!" chapter, so I warn you, I'm gonna deviate a little from canon. XP

That bit about waking up before the alarm is taken from my own experience, actually. A little while ago, I got a new alarm clock, you know, the kind ya gotta wind? It made this really loud *riiiiiing!!!* sound, which gave me a giant jolt of adrenaline (Oh, a foul substance, that is...), so I unconsciously taught myself to wake up before it so as I could turn it off. x(yech. I got a better one later, with a Melody option that somehow doesn't scare me, so it's all good! And my former alarm clock is now holed up in it's own little emo-corner sulking.

O~o Did you actually read that? I really don't know why I just told the history of my alarm clock,

but oh well. I'll have the other chappie up soon, I promise! ^o^