

Room to Breathe

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Kuhero is the soul secret keeper of the Sohma family secret. But as he struggles to help them find a way out, he must battle his own haunting past...and the horror that comes with it.

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1. A New Banquet Begins

Chapter One- A New Banquet Begins

She drew her hands about in the air, twirling, spinning, the dance becoming wilder and wilder. The gold and red garments spun around her, adding to the brilliance her shimmering black hair already held. This was a dance of hope and luck, a dance of dreams to come, and a dance of dreams to fail. She opened her yellow eyes; she felt as though she was flying. This was the dance of the year of the dragon, the dance of Kimiko Sohma.

She was caught up in the fever of the moment, spinning, spinning, but never out of control. She could not even see the other dancer, the dance of the pervious year, the dance of the rabbit. All she could see was Xian.

Xian, the head of the family. He smirked at her, cocking his head as she spun closer and closer to him. The man at the head of the table&he filling Kimiko s heart with both a fear and a longing. His long black hair matched the dark, bottomless pits of his eyes. He was twenty-one and she was seventeen, but she had known him since the mind wiping of her parents.

Kimiko had grown up with Xian, never far from his side. The adults that remembered said she was even more caged than Yuki, the previous rat. Those that didn t simply smiled, saying it was good that the god of the zodiac could have a friend. Kimiko was not his friend. She was his pet. When she was with him, all she had was a desire to do whatever he wanted, but away from him (which was rare), she was filled with disgust at herself.

Xian was a jealous god, a jealous god indeed. When she was born, he had chosen her and had the memories of her parents and grandfather, taking her in. And today, earlier this afternoon, they had remembered her&only to have their throats slit by Xian.

She had been afraid, trembling at the carnage in front of her. But Xian had taken her, held er, convinced her that there was no need for emotions. After all, HE was the one who loved her.

But now, as she continued to spin, there was something terribly wrong. She looked around wildly, continuing her ever quickening dance, only to see the rabbit dancing closer to Xian s blade. The dance stopped, frozen, as Kimiko lunged at Jaden, knocking him to the ground just as the knife whistled overhead.

Xian had stood and was staring at Jaden with unbridled hatred. NO! he screamed, Stay away! She s MINE! You can t have her! From now on, NO ONE is to dance with Kimiko! he breathed heavily, the only sound in the long pause that followed.

Kimiko stood up shakily, bleeding from where Jaden s teeth had accidentally scraped her arm when she tackled him. There was complete silence as she began to dance again, this time alone. She spun slowly at first, closing her eyes as the music coursed through the room, but as the song picked up, she spun faster and faster until the music reached its crescendo and stopped. She stopped suddenly. As the rest of the zodiac clapped, she staggered, tired and dizzy, and began to fall. Xian leapt up, catching her in his arms. His lips met hers. Let s go home. It was not her first kiss. It was most certainly not her last.

Are you okay, Jaa-san? a tall man stood at his nickname. His long grey hair, so much like Yuki s before him, stuck out at odd angles from his dance hat. He smiled, bright blue eyes lighting up.

Fine. Ready to head home, Melody-kun? He asked the short girl in front of him. Her hazel eyes looked inquisitively up at him before nodding, pulling at a green ribbon braided into her long, blond streaked brown hair.

If you say so. I'm slightly worried about Kimiko-kun, though. Every year she shows less and less emotion for anything but Xian. Jaden sighed, pulling a hand through his hair. Her parents died this afternoon. I asked her, and all she did was stare straight ahead and said, "It's only Xian that loves me anyway."

I'm worried, too," he admitted, "I'm thinking about having her come stay with us. Some time away from Xian would do her good."

Yuri will be thrilled.

At least it isn't Sakura. Yuri will deal with it.

If you say so.

ARGH! What TOOK you so long? The source of the shouting could easily be identified to the seventeen-year-old girl across the grounds. Her black, ice blue streaked hair was disheveled from laying on top of the gate and her ice-blue eyes were flashing dangerously.

Don't blame Jaa-san, Yuri," came a soft voice beside the girl, "Xian had another one of his Kimiko episodes."

What do YOU want, Cho? Yuri spat, spinning around to face the girl who owned the voice. Cho was tugging her blue-black hair into a pony-tail and looking completely nonplussed at Yuri's outburst.

Don't take your temper out on me, cat. Not until you can actually get good enough at martial arts to defeat me or Sakura.

I'll kick your butt right now, stupid ox. Cho froze, her deep blue eyes dilating.

You did not just call me that. Cho said with forced calm, "You can't have, because if you did, I'll have to- but whatever Cho was going to do was never found out, because at that moment, Jaden and Melody showed up."

Ah, Yuri! There you are! You missed a wonderful banquet. Not that it's any fault of yours. Ready to go home? You're not planning on fighting Cho here, are you? Jaden called. Yuri snarled and turned to follow the pair.

All the while, a younger girl of about 15 was slowly walking home to the parents that were too overprotective of her. Mizuki sighed, looking up at the sky with her orangey-hazel eyes. She shook her head, thinking of the banquet. She couldn't quite understand why Kimiko let Xian do all the things he did. But then, he was the god, and she was just the dragon. The moonlight shone on her purple, black tipped hair, which she'd dyed so people would stop calling her red. One day, maybe...maybe I will understand.

A/N: Hey everyone! And welcome to the first chapter of my sign-up, Fruits Basket GX story. Anyway, as you can tell, I did change a few things. I don't mean to disappoint some of you, but a few of you put very different personalities than that of your sign. I'm not sure if you noticed this (I didn't for awhile), but all of the signs personalities are based off whatever year they are. Also, quite a few of you requested changing eyes colors. I'm really sorry, but there is no one in Fruits Basket with different colored eyes. So I picked one. So, despite some of my artistic liberties, I hope you enjoyed reading this as much as I enjoyed writing it. We still have quite a lot of spaces open, so you can all go choose one or two more characters to create if you want. It'd be great if one of you can make them the doctor ((s)he can't have mind-suppressing powers though. That's just the dragon.) As you can see, I made Xian the head of the family. Although I left a spot for Tohru, you can make one of them, too, seeing as mine was a girl just in case. Make sure Tohru, and at least ONE of your characters is boy. And everyone else is living INSIDE, just so you know. And if you are seeing this, but didn't sign up, feel free to go and sign up for

something, too. And for goodness sake, people, give me some outfit designs. Only ONE of you (Cho) gave me any sort of idea for what they dress like.

So, what do YOU want to see happen in the next chapter? Make sure to let me know! NO PERSONAL MESSAGING PLEASE. And if one of you draws well, you can draw the characters (or just your own, it's up to you.) I might have a chapter cover design contest and announce the results at the end.

And this ends my long Author's note.

2. A Startling Chance

Chapter Two- A Startling Chance

As the early morning sun broke over the small wooded area outside Sohma property, a brown head was already bobbing around outside. Closer inspection revealed the head to belong to a boy, a high school boy by the look of it. His large brown eyes watched the sky change colors as he straightened his school tie. Well, I've got some time before school. Dad always said a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step. He smiled; turning to close the flap on his tent then shouldered his backpack and walked deeper into the woods.

Meanwhile, only a little bit away from the boy, a not so tranquil morning was ensuing.

That's was MY toast!

You snooze, you lose, kitty.

I am SO sick of your stupid, arrogant smile! I'm going to wipe it off your face right here and now!

I'd like to see you try. Two girls were face to face, one holding a slice of toast in one hand, glossy black hair loosely falling in waves to her shoulders, the other's hands clenched in tight fists, blue streaked hair reaching the middle of her back.

A younger girl sat at the table, ignoring the fight with her nose firmly glued in a book. She looked up for a moment, rolling her hazel eyes.

Would you two imbeciles chill? It's just TOAST for crying out loud.

Shut it, Melody! The toast-less girl said, choosing that moment to aim a punch at the other girl's head. Kimiko, however, was ready, and ducked under Yuri's guard, delivering a devastating kick. Yuri lifted from the ground, sailing through the paper door.

Kimiko&Yuri& A young, grey haired man appeared in the broken door frame, Must you destroy my house constantly for such trivial reasons? Melody wasn't paying attention to him, and had instead gotten up, and was looking outside.

Um&J-Jaden? She said, pointing outside to where Yuri was still laying on the ground and a very surprised boy was staring down at her. Jaden immediately ran out towards the boy.

Hello! We don't get visitors here very often? To what do we owe the pleasure? he smiled, cocking his head happily. The boy smiled back, but crouched quickly back down, looking at Yuri with concern.

Is she going to be okay?

She'll be fine, Kuhero-san. The boy looked up at the girl addressing him. Seeing who it was, Kuhero hastily got up, brushing dirt off his navy-blue pants.

Sohma-san! he said, bowing low.

Nice of you to join us Kimiko. Melody said wryly to the girl, now fully dressed in her school uniform with her hair braided and toast finished. Jaden, however, was now seated near Yuri, talking animatedly to Kuhero.

So you know Kimi-kun? That's exciting! I'm her cousin, Jaden! That's me! So, how do you know Kimiko? Do-

Knock it off; you scare people. Yuri had stood up and landed a hard smack to the back of Jaden's head.

Melodyyyyyy! Yuri is hitting meeee! Melody rolled her eyes and went back to reading.

You and addullllt! Deal with it yourself! I've got to meet Cho and head to school. She turned around and headed up the path, book still in front of her eyes.

Damn that girl is annoying. Yuri said, shouldering her backpack. Noticing Kuhero for the first time, she glanced at him, What are you looking at? she snapped.

Oh&er¬hing! Kuhero said, backing away. I can t believe it, dad, He thought, Kimiko Sohma, one of the most popular girls in school, and Yuri Sohma, one of the most athletic, live here, not two blocks away from my tent!

Now, now, don t be rude, Yuri. I think you scare people more than me! Jaden said, but when electricity crackled in the air around her, he smiled worriedly and ran back towards the house.

Well, Kimiko, Yuri-have fun at school. He waved and slammed the door behind him, the effectiveness of the statement lost by the large hole in the middle of it.

Yuri was still glaring at the boy, toast situation forgotten, Well? What are you still here for? Kimiko sighed and touched Kuhero lightly on the shoulder.

Since you re already here, why don t you walk home with us? she asked, still staring ahead at the road.

Uh, um, okay& Kuhero stammered. Yuri made a sound like an angry cat, but followed the two up the path.

(A/N: Rejoice! The second chapter is up and the only Sohma I need is the Rooster! If you have two or more characters, don t go sign up for anymore. So, yeah, time for the contest announcements! So, cover designs. Yeah. I don t have a scanner, so it s up to you guys to design covers. You can do all of the characters or one of them, it doesn t matter. The time limit is when I only have one chapter left (I ll warn you), and I promise, soon other Sohmas will popping up! ^^)

3. A New Home, A New Surprise

Chapter Three- A New Home, A New World

Woah, Kuhero! Way to go!

Yeah, how did you manage that?

Kimiko AND Yuri- What a player! Kuhero, once he got to school, found himself in the center of a lot of unwanted attention.

I'd go for Yuri; Kimiko is too smart.

Yeah, Yuri is probably a lot more fun.

Wha-What?! I didn't do anything! Kuhero stammered.

Oh, don't be so modest. Who knew you were such a hit with the ladies?

Hey- if he said he didn't do anything, he didn't. A shadow fell over the group and everyone looked up to see Miho, a tall, blond boy who always carried a baseball bat around. His bright blue eyes flashed dangerously.

Oh, come on, Miho, we were just having some fun.

Then go have fun elsewhere. A new voice said quiet as an autumn breeze.

A-Akimari! We didn't see you there. A black haired boy with black and purple piercings around his nose and eyes had walked into the group and thrown his long arm around Kuhero's neck.

I said Go have fun elsewhere. The boy said, this time with a threatening voice, Or you'll find yourselves in the company of some very angry spirits. The group of boys surrounding Kuhero took one look at each other then ran off to their homeroom.

Thanks Akimari-san, Miho-san. Kuhero said, rubbing his head awkwardly. His two friends nodded.

I suggest we get to homeroom, Kuhero-kun. Akimari said pointedly.

Right! Kuhero said with a laugh, following Miho down the hallway.

So- how DID you come to be walking to school with them? Kuhero started and knocked off a stack of books from his desk. Miho laughed, reclining in his chair, You're such a klutz, hero-kun.

Oh, I just ran into them on the way. Interesting, Akimari said thoughtfully, I wasn't aware they lived anywhere near here. What did you talk about all that way? Kuhero looked at his desk.

Nothing. Sohma-san was lost in thought and Yuri-san was mad at me. Miho laughed.

That girl is mad at the world. He looked over at the girl looking sullenly out the window, Ever notice how much she acts like a cat?

If there was a cat of the zodiac, she'd be the poster child. Akimari conceded.

I'd love that! I've always loved that cat from the zodiac! Kuhero said excitedly. Just then a flamboyant voice floated up from the front of the classroom.

Hello, Hello everyone! Your attention please? The voice was coming from Keiko Sohma, president of the first year class. Her jewel green eyes twinkled, bringing out the startling combination of them and her bright red, waist length hair. Behind her, Kimiko was sitting, book in hand, looking positively bored with the proceedings (she was vice president, and the class representative, Akihiko Sohma.

The three of them were the center of a large fan-club, which had taken the trio's nick name Mabudachi Trio to make the Mabudachi Fan-Club. Akihiko had the largest fan-following and it was easy to see why: he had long black hair that off-set his startling navy blue eyes. The girls

loved him- he was kind and always sticking up for other people.

As the room fell silent, Keiko beamed, standing straighter and pulling her hands through the air, making the green bracelets on her wrists jangle pleasantly. As you all know, the Cultural Festival was postponed this year. But as it's this weekend, and I have a BRILLIANT idea (although, since this is me we're talking about, that isn't a surprise at all)-let's do a kissing booth! The class looked stunned, and Keiko, taking this as being in awe of her, continued, Now, I don't want you all to worry, your loyal class council will do it all! We're so popular; we'll be raking in first prize! She laughed, evidently pleased with herself.

The class continued to look stunned. Kimiko sighed, stood up, and dropped her book. Of course, Kimiko, you're welcome to say something Keiko said. Kimiko looked at her with a resigned expression on her face then pushed Keiko into her chair.

Since this class is known for the hit-or-miss onigiri stand it has been putting up for decades now, they've already inspected and given us a passed health inspection. We just need a volunteer to make them and we're set.

Wow, you should volunteer, Kuhero. Miho said, You're onigiris are the best.

They do have a certain something. Akimari admitted.

Okay! It'll be fun! Kuhero said, raising his hand. Kimiko acknowledged him with a nod.

Kuhero has graciously volunteered to make them. All the boys need to be here on Saturday to set up the shack and the girls need to decorate.

Why do we have to freaking decorate?! Yuri yelled, but the class, used to her outbursts, ignored her.

Just make sure it doesn't cut into your school work. Akimari chided, Want to come over and study? Kuhero winced and smiled guiltily.

Sorry, but I've got work tonight, Mari-san.

You work too much. Miho said, getting up as the bell rang, Your relatives aren't stealing your money, are they?

No! Of course not! Kuhero voiced his indignation. Especially since I don't live with any relatives he added in his head. The three of them parted and headed for home.

Oh&I'm so tired. But I promised&I promised Akimari I'd finish my school work. It was dark and somehow Kuhero found himself on a pallet in a house he had never been in before.

Don't worry, Kuhero-Kun, I'm sure he'll forgive you at least for tonight. You've had a long day. A voice came from nowhere, comforting, but strange. Suddenly it all came back to him- he'd come home from work and a tree fell on him and his Tent! he scabbled wildly at his sheets.

Don't. Move. Someone pushed him down. To his surprise, it was Yuri the girl from school. He saw anger in her eyes and maybe a flash of sympathy. But before he could be sure she had turned away. Go back to sleep. It's taken care of.

But&But&

It's taken care of! she snapped. Kuhero gulped and slid back onto the pillow, certain that he would never sleep. Before he knew it, sleep had claimed him, and he was back in the room with his father. Another disturbed sleep for Kuhero.

(okay, there you go people! A third chapter! Now quit bugging me, I've a Naruto fan-fiction that needs attending to you know!)