

Love and Food

Yumi walked down the hall with her head hanging low. It had been a quick visit at Toshio's place but she knew it had helped solve the problem that had come between them. After hearing from Yayoi about what happened, Yumi couldn't help but feel stupid for not trusting Toshio. It was her fault for throwing everything out of proportion and now she wanted to fix it. The question was how? Toshio was leaving for Shuya's wedding... wasn't he? Shaking her head, Yumi didn't want to think about it anymore. She was at school and she had that to worry about at the moment. Suddenly feeling a jolt vibrate through her shoulder, Yumi turned to see who it had been to grab her so abruptly.

There standing with a smile on her face was Miyoko, and soon following after her was Eizo who seemed more than thrilled to see her. Before Eizo could say anything, Miyoko silenced him with a glare. It was obvious they wanted to know what had happened that morning at Toshio's before class.

"How did it go?" Miyoko asked, crossing her arms as she still held tightly to her computer bag in her right hand. Eizo was beaming with the same curiosity as he continued to wait for an answer.

"Did Toshio forgive you? He's always been the coolest in the group and he's always so awesome looking! I bet he forgave you! Come on tell us Yumi!" Eizo shouted right before Yumi was able to answer. He was always the excited one in the group and his inner fan boy this time couldn't be held back.

"We worked things out a little but I still need to do something to make it up to him." Yumi muttered, as she looked down at her hands. She didn't want to say anything about Yayoi's phone call. There was no need to go into details. "I just don't know what I should do is all."

"This looks like a job for me!" Eizo yelled, as he rested his hand on his hip and directed his other hand into the air. It seemed he was trying to pose like a superhero but sadly failed. "I know exactly what you can do! I know exactly what Toshio would like."

"Really!" Yumi exclaimed having a smile come to her face. It had been a while since she had felt like smiling but if Eizo had something that could help her with Toshio, she couldn't help but be happy.

"Now Eizo, don't get her hopes up. The last time you used your Orchi knowledge you ended up with three weeks detention and a restraining order." Miyoko added, as Eizo waved her comment off with a quick flick of his hand.

"I know what I'm doing, and Miyoko, you are going to help."

>>>

“So things all right with the girlfriend Toshio?” Akito asked, as he walked over to the front steps where Toshio was sitting. It seemed he was still smoking his cigarettes, as dirty habit that he should have never started. “I mean she seemed all right until Yayoi called. After that she hurried off to school. Didn’t even say goodbye.”

“Yayoi called her?” Toshio seemed surprised to hear that. It surprised him so much that he put his cigarette down. Looking at Akito, Toshio watched as his friend took another sip from his juice box. It seemed he had nothing else to add to his sentence or wanted to answer his question. “Yeah things are going to be fine. It will take some time for me to get over what happened, things will never be the same, but maybe that’s a good thing. Change is a good thing right?”

“Sometimes.” Akito answered, slurping his juice box. “What do you think about Yayoi?”

“She’s nice i guess. Quiet but nice.” Toshio muttered, lighting another cigarette as he looked at the time on his cell phone. Miyabi had been out all morning and afternoon with Yayoi. It was no surprise, they seemed to have hit it off after the past night. “Why do you care?”

“Well...” Akito was unsure how to answer. It had been easier to tell Yumi that he liked Yayoi but Toshio, even though they were friends, was hard. After all Toshio was Miyabi’s friend too. “I think she’s sort of cute.”

“Cute? As in you think she’s good looking cute or that she’s your type cute? With you cute could mean anything.” Toshio replied, standing from the step as he stretched his arms behind his back. He had been sitting there most of the morning trying to think about what to do. He didn’t have school to worry about and he wasn’t planning on going to the wedding.

“Just cute all right.” Akito grumbled, as he turned to sit on the ground. He was able to feel his face begin to go red at the question. Yayoi was his kind of cute but she liked Miyabi. It was wrong to like someone who was taken, at least that’s what he thought.

Hearing as a buzzing noise came from behind him, Akito looked to see Toshio open his phone. A look of surprise came to his face as his cigarette hung from the corner of his mouth. It seemed whatever the text on his phone said had caught him off guard. Watching as he closed his phone, Akito didn’t know why he didn’t answer.

“Who was it?” Akito asked, as Toshio sat back down on the steps. “Miyabi? Shuya?”

“Yumi.” Toshio bluntly answered, opening his phone again. It seemed he wanted to answer it but didn’t know how. “She’s asking if I want to come over to her place around seven. Hang out and stuff.”

“Say yes!” Akito shouted standing from where he had been sitting. “She wants to hang with you! Say yes man!”

Watching as Toshio dialled a few numbers on his phone, Akito waited for him to close his phone again. When he did a small grin was on Toshio’s lips. It seemed he was happy to have answered Yumi’s text. As much as he didn’t show it Akito knew that Toshio was

happy with his answer. He hadn't been the same since Yumi had broke off the relationship. Things were going to work out fine.

>>>

The clock in the living room struck seven when Yumi heard the doorbell ring. Miyoko and Eizo had stayed after school to help her cook in the kitchen. While Yumi and Eizo made sukiyaki

and manju, Miyoko made her famous vegetable tempura. Eizo knew that food would win Toshio over even if Yumi's conversation didn't. Quickly turning on her iPod, Yumi scrolled to her Jrock section. Out of everything they had listened to before Toshio seemed to enjoy High and Mighty Color the best.

As she opened the door, Yumi couldn't help but smile at seeing Toshio. He had actually come and that made her happy. Welcoming him in was the easy part and as she pointed him to sit in the living room, Yumi hurried back to the kitchen. Everything had to happen just right. Grabbing the trays of food, Yumi hurried back into the living room with chopsticks in hand as she rested it on the small table in front of the couch. Toshio seemed taken back with seeing the food. Never before when he had come over to Yumi's place had she made him something to eat. It had been her mother to make something but her mother wasn't around, so it had to have been her.

"I hope you like manju, I find it sort of sweet." Yumi muttered, taking a seat beside Toshio who continued to look at the food. "I don't know if you like sukiyaki either."

"No... this looks great Yumi." Toshio replied, picking up a set of chopsticks and taking a piece of the manju. The center was a sweet jam. Strawberry, maybe. He wasn't sure, and it didn't matter. The steamed cake melted in his mouth as a content smile came to his face. He hadn't tasted something so good since his mother had cooked for him. "It's perfect Yumi thank you."

"I'm happy you like it." Yumi answered, picking up the chopsticks and taking one of the manjus. She wasn't sure what it was going to taste like but she had hope if Toshio liked it she would.

"Why did you do this?" Toshio asked, placing his chopsticks down as he took a moment to look at Yumi. Like he had thought earlier, she had never done something like this before. Not that he was complaining or anything, he just was curious.

"I just wanted to show you that I..." Yumi looked away, as she felt her smile fade. She knew that he would ask the question but she didn't want him to know the answer. "I know that Yayoi wrote a note and tore it up, but that doesn't change the fact that I didn't trust you. I just wanted to do something nice to show you that I still care for you Toshio, I just wanted you to know that I love you. I really, really do."

Leaning towards her, Toshio gently kissed Yumi's forehead. It was a sweet gesture to start things rolling again. He knew things weren't going to be the same but still Yumi was

the sweet girl he had fallen for before. Kissing her on the nose, Toshio moved away again. He could tell his gesture had made her happy, and relax a little more than she had.

“I love you too, Yumi. I really, really do.”

Submission by: TwiddleDee (Dee)
ENJOY!!!! XD