

Kidnapping

I was at home alone, my dad gone off for a business tour around the world and my mom..well my mom dead. My friend Monami was meant to be coming over to my place and I was just getting ready by the window. Monami was a dear thing. She was shy, had long straight black hair (then again, which Japanese person *didn't* have straight hair), and barely ever talked to anyone except for me. This was probably because I was exactly like her. Shy, smart, geeky, no sense of humor and I had only one friend, Her. The only difference between us was that I had shoulder length straight hair with auburn streaks. Even when we were together our conversations were awkward, they weren't like normal teenage girls, full with laughs and weird jokes, rumors and gossip. I don't think either of us even knew how to make a joke! So there I was pulling my top over my hands when suddenly I saw a van pull over our drive way. That's weird, I thought. I hurried and put on my sweater and gloves and peered closer. The van was grey in color with no color at all to make it stand out, there was this great big lump at the top which looked a lot like sleeping bags. Maybe they were going for camp or something? Oh! There was Monami. I wondered what she would think of this mysterious van. Suddenly as quick as lightning; so quick that I still wonder whether I imagined it, a man in the van reached out and snatched Monami into the van.

He was wearing all black except for his boots. They were dark blue. Well that was dumb, if they wanted to stay subtle. Suddenly what just happened sunk in. Monami had just been kidnapped. My mind went all fuzzy, unable to believe it. In less than 30 seconds I found myself running out of the house, in the direction of the police station.

"Slow down there!" My Geography teacher had seen me and put his arms out to stop me from sprinting. I shook him off, didn't he see that this was *not* the time to remind of tomorrow's homework? He looked shocked. Probably because I had never behaved this way with teachers before. I was normally a teachers pet. "Tell me what's wrong darling. Are you ok? You look..shaken up?" I shook my head, "Please Sir Yamazaki, let me pass" "No. Not until you tell me what's wrong. As a teacher it's my duty to find out what's bothering you and help you."

I sighed and told him the whole story. "I see," Only now did Sir look genuinely concerned. Before, he was probably just trying to see if it was some gossip about a new fight I had with my dad or something. "Well, darling Kitana, I take it you were running to the police station?" I nodded furiously, hoping he would understand the urgency of this situation, "Yes Sir"

"Well that won't do any good." More talking to himself now he said, "Nope. No good at all. (After all they only look after a person is missing for more than 48 hours),"

"Then what sir?" I could not keep the pleading out of my voice.

"Come with me Kitana, I'll help you find your friend" I had not expected this. Maybe, let's go and rest, she'll turn up by herself or let's go to her parents but not this. Foolishly though, I agreed.

So now we were at the mountains. Apparently when I described the man in the van Sir turned all pale and grim and just pointed to the mountains. Whenever I ask him how he knows they're here he just looks at me and says superpowers in a weird joking voice. Why? This is not a joking matter and doesn't he know by now that I don't like nor understand 'jokes.' When I tell him this though he just laughs and says, "Nice one darling. *Everyone* knows how to make a joke. Now why don't you get some rest?" I'm starting to wish that I had just gone to the police station...

I have finally drifted off to sleep when suddenly I open my eyes only to be blinded by the fierce blazing sun. I cover my eyes and sit up. Sir is still sleeping, snoring like a bear, his arms and legs wide open like he's trying to claim some space or something. The cave looks so much clearer now. I can see everything while in the night it was mostly feeling around and praying there was not anything living in here. I can now see I was wrong. The cave is brown with no icicles or anything like you would expect to see in a December. Instead, it is quite humid over here weirdly. I step outside for a better view on where we are right now and only now do I feel the bitter wind slapping my face. I hurry back inside and look again at the cave. There are bat droppings everywhere and the floor is all wet and moisty. On the left there's this sort of passage and I summon up all my courage and go in there.

It is a long type of corridor getting darker at every step I take. I pull my sweater tighter as it becomes more cold and I have to stop my teeth chattering so I can hear. That's weird... I hear voices. I out my ear to the rock which seems to be the wall between us and listen with all my might. "I got the girl. Now what?"

"What do you mean now what you nitwit? Now we go to her house and tell them to give the money to us,"

"Are you sure they'll even give it to us?"

"Yes, and anyway, Yamazaki tells me that he's got the other one. So we get double the money,"

I let this sink in. Yamazaki..That's my teacher! The other one? What do they mean the other one? He couldn't kidnap anyone *surely*? He's a teacher! Suddenly I realise, he too was wearing dark blue boots. Surely that couldn't mean anything? I debate with myself for a second on whether to continue on when suddenly I trip. I put my hand right over my mouth to stop myself from screaming but I'm sure they heard. I make a run for it in the opposite direction when I'm stopped for the second time in 30 hours by the same man.

"Going anywhere Darling?" Sir says with a glint in the eye. Oh how I regret this! How foolish it was of me to come with this man over here. That's how he knew where they were taking Monami I suddenly realise. As I let reality sink in I let out a gasp. "That's right. There's no way out now darling. Unless of course your dad is willing to give money for a spoiled brat like you,"

I hold my head high, willing my voice not to shake, "Of course he will. My dad loves me." Sir let out a derisive laugh, "Oh will he now? 'My dad loves me,'" He imitated me, "foolish girl, the whole town can hear you and your dad screaming. I much doubt he would pay a yen for *you*"

"Don't say that!" I'm starting to shiver.

"And neither will you. You won't say a word. Understand?" He glared at me.

I stared back at him, wondering how my funny and playful geography teacher became a kidnapper.

"I SAID DO YOU UNDERSTAND?" His voice was yelling now, a snarl on his face.

"No," I gulped, staring back as defiantly as I could. He gave a sly smile, "Well ok then," I started to back away, scared of what was going to happen next.

Suddenly I saw a knife glinting in the darkness. It was coming for me. I raised my hand instinctively to protect my head, fear written all over my face, when suddenly, agony filled me. The pain that went through was one I had never felt before. My brain, it was dizzy, I couldn't think properly. My stomach, my heart, my lungs they were all throbbing. I gasped for air and failed. My lungs felt like they were deflated. I looked down and saw red all over my blue sweater and gave a small trying gasp. My eyes were closing, my last vision was

that evil, *evil* man standing before me. Was he laughing? And my eyes gave out as my hands flopped to my sides.

My eyes fluttered open. It is dark and suddenly, so bright; I'm forced to shut my eyes once again. I shield them from this blinding light with my hands and try to get up. "Oye, girl. dont move," Huh? Who is that? Suddenly, I realise some one is carried me. I kick and thrash until they are forced to let go off me and I fall to the ground with a thud. There are 3 men, 1 of whom I reconize as my geography teacher. "Ay girl. Get back up. Now" Suddenly I realise with a jolt that these were the two voices I heard.. how long ago was it? I summon my courage and ask, trying to keep my voice from quivering, "How long ago did I pass out? When *you* attacked me?" I acknowledge my teacher, unable to keep the bitter out of my tone. "Darling.."

"Dont you 'darling' me!"

"Kitana.. Your father has paid the ransom and were taking you home. Now if you cooperate I will be able to garantee a safe journey back home," Si-That horrible, horrible man looked back at the two men, "Otherwise..." I gulped.

"Oh dad!" I hugg him tighter than I ever had, mentally making note of never *never* to fight with him again. "Now, darling," Papa whispers in my ear. He pulls away and I can pretty much hear his voice about to break in tears of happiness of getting me back. "I hope you never doubted that I would pay the money as soon as I found out?"

I gulped. I could not lie. I had doubted papa, as much as I was certain that the whole kidanpping was not going to end well for me. Well, I *am* glad I was wrong in both suspicions. I just wish Monami had ended as well as me.. Her parents did not realise she was gone until the next morning and by then it was too late. When I found this out, I was still in that cave but luckily they were just about to take me back home as my dad had returned home and paid the money without hesitation. Tommorrow I would go to school and tell the principal there about Sir Yamazaki though I doubt he will return.

"Yes dad, but I will never again. There's nothing to doubt in you. I love you." I whispered in his ear as I pulled in for another hug.