

THERE'S.. NO NEED TO GO TO-



HOW IS THERE NO NEED TO GO!? YOU'RE COVERED IN BLOOD!!

TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED!! WAS IT YOUR DAD!? DID HE DO THIS!?



WAS IT??



I'M FINE. REALLY



LET'S JUST GO HOME, ALRIGHT...?



I'M FINE...





THE NEXT FEW DAYS WENT BY IN A BLUR



HE GOT STITCHES
ON THE SIDE OF HIS
HEAD AND WAS
DIAGNOSED WITH A
MODERATE
CONCUSSION



THE FOLLOWING DAY
MUM CAME AND
HELPED ME GET
HIM BACK TO OUR
PLACE

AFTER EVERYTHING THAT HAPPENED THERE WAS NO WAY WE'D LET HIM GO BACK TO HIS PLACE, SO MY PARENTS AGREED RIGHT AWAY TO TAKE HIM IN FOR AS LONG AS HE WANTED



ONYX BARELY
EVEN SPOKE A FEW
WORDS DURING THOSE
FIRST DAYS BUT WE
DIDN'T TRY TO PUSH
HIM. HE NEEDED AS MUCH
TIME, SPACE AND REST
AS HE COULD GET



THE WORST PART IS
THAT HE REFUSED TO
REPORT HIS DAD TO
THE POLICE NOR INFORM
HIS MUM OF WHAT
HAPPENED



BUT TURNS OUT
THE HOSPITAL HAD
ALREADY GIVEN HER A
CALL REGARDING ONYX'S
SUBMISSION, AND SHE
CALLED MY MUM IN
TEARS

SHE AGREED TO PACK ONYX'S STUFF AND WE WENT TO PICK THEM UP WHILE ONYX'S FATHER WAS AWAY



ONYX REFUSED TO COME SEE HER AND SHE LOOKED DEVASTATED

BUT HONESTLY... I DON'T BLAME HIM

> A FULL WEEK PASSED

PHYSICALLY, ONYX HAS DEFINITELY GOTTEN MUCH BETTER

HIS HEADACHES AND LIGHTHEADEDNESS ARE ALMOST GONE AND HE IS SLEEPING AND EATING PROPERLY

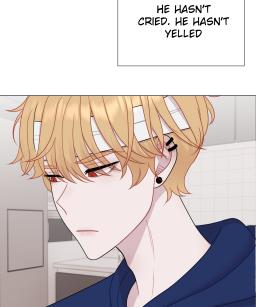


BUT MENTALLY...?

HE LOOKS WAY OFF. ALMOST... NUMB

AND THE THING THAT WORRIES ME THE MOST...

IS HOW HE STILL HASN'T LET ANYTHING OUT



HE'S JUST HOLDING EVERYTHING BACK, BOTTLING UP ALL HIS EMOTIONS

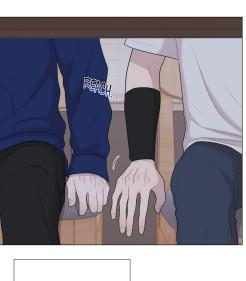
I'M WORRIED ONE DAY HE MIGHT JUST SNAP. HE MIGHT JUST... BREAK



WHY WON'T YOU JUST... LET ME IN...?

OPEN UP TO ME. LIKE THE TWO OF US ALWAYS DO. SHOW ME HOW YOU FEEL

...LET ME BE THE ONE TO CARRY YOUR PAIN



DON'T YOU TRUST ME ENOUGH?

> WHY CAN'T YOU JUST LEAN COMPLETELY ON ME-?

> > I WAS THINKING OF GOING BACK TO SCHOOL TOMORROW





ONYX, DEAREST, ARE YOU SURE?

OH

I SPOKE WITH YOUR SCHOOL AND THEY TOLD ME FOR YOU NOT TO RUSH AND TO TAKE AS MUCH TIME AS NECESSARY....



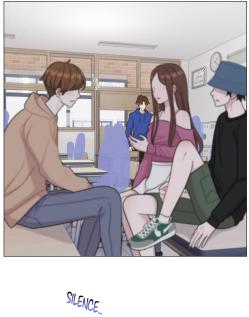
WITH THE SEVERITY
OF YOUR INJURIES
AND YOUR EXCELLENT
ATTENDANCE SCORE YOU
CAN TAKE OFF ALL
THE TIME YOU NEED



I'M RUNNING LATE AGAIN..







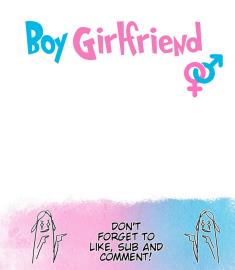


SNICKER

MURMUR



TO BE CONTINUED...



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