

It should have been routine. It was supposed to have been routine. A simple mission, one that would leave him plenty of time to see Takada-chan in person at a live event that evening. All of those hopes, those dreams, the promise of a simple day were dashed as Todo found himself staring up at the colossal form of a Cursed Spirit. The grotesque creature was human like in stature but where a neck and head would normally be located was the winding, scaled body and head of an immense serpent, the body bracing itself in place while the “head” wound about, slowly lowering itself to Todo's level. He had entered this battle with total confidence, towering over the Curse, sure that this battle would be over within minutes. Things had progressed completely in his favor at first, his agility easily able to overcome the clumsy creature, boisterous laughter ringing out as he nearly made the thing tie its own “neck” into knots. The lightheartedness of the situation had swiftly come to an end as a single misstep had led to the snake biting down onto Todo's shoulder, the fangs sinking deep into his flesh, a sharp, hot pain erupting at the area followed by a cascading cold feeling that flowed down through his entire body, filling him from the top of his head to the tips of his toes. His mind swimming, Todo was instantly left on his back leg, the Cursed Spirit watching in malignant amusement as his opponent retreated... stumbled... and began to shrink. Todo was barely aware of what was happening until the process was over, his full strength restored... but on such a miniscule scale that he stood no chance against the creature now standing over him, taking its time as it slowly approached, thunderous footstep by thunderous footstep.

“Shit... careless... too careless... this isn't like me at all... to lose to such a boring opponent... I can't! I can't allow myself to fall here!” Todo shouted to the heavens, his fists clenched at his sides, his will iron clad! With no thought in his head about how he was going to handle this monster, he charged forward, his arm pulling back, aiming a punch squarely at the monster's ankle... when the gigantic creature suddenly stopped in its tracks, pushed back, another colossal figure entering the scene with the shock of a bolt from the blue. Todo's mouth dropped open as he skidded to a halt, a familiar pink haired man slamming his fist into the creature's “head”, the snake portion driven back with such ferocity that the rest of the body flew back with it. “I... Itadori?”

Todo's mumbled shock went unnoticed as Yuji Itadori exploded onto the scene, his fist saving the day effortlessly. The pink haired man grinned as he readied his fists once more, advancing on the Cursed Spirit which began to tremble and retreat. “Oh no you don't! I'm not about to let you escape!”

Yuji's declaration actually managed to freeze the monster in place, as though the sorcerer's word was a magic spell itself, allowing the newest recruit to Jujutsu High to advance at his own pace. Yuji rolled his shoulder as he slowly clenched and unclenched his fist, making a bet with himself that he could kill this Cursed Spirit with just one more attack. “Hah, you're way more obedient than most Curses! I almost feel bad about killing you... how about I give you a fighting chance, huh? One attack!”

“No, Itadori! Don't let him bite you!” Todo shouted, waving his arms, trying desperately to get his best friend's attention.

It was, however, too late. The snake didn't wait for a second invitation and swiftly struck, sinking his fangs into Yuji's shoulder the same way it had for Todo. The Cursed Spirit let out a low, hissing chuckle, happy that it had *two* meals to enjoy this day... only to have that chuckle come to an abrupt halt as Yuji did not, in fact, shrink. The young sorcerer blinked, tilting his head and scratching his cheek. “Was... uh... that it? I was kind of expecting... I dunno... like a special move? Like WAHAAAAA! And you shoot a laser? Or maybe... WAPOOOOOW! And your fist gets really huge and punches me right in the face? No? Just gonna bite me? Hmph... feels like a waste of my generosity... but oh well! Here I come!”

The Cursed Spirit let out a hissing screech and immediately attempted to flee, Yuji grabbing it by the ankle before it could move as much as a foot, lifting him up into the air and slamming him back into the ground. Yuji repeated this motion again, and again, and again, the speed of each slam increasing until the Cursed Spirit was a blur, Yuji benignly smiling as his arm moved with super speed, his other arm rising so he could check his watch before winding up and SLAMMING the monster into the ground with as much strength as he could muster, the creature exploding in a shower of blood and flesh. Yuji winced as he was caught in the blast, sticking his tongue out when he saw nearly every inch of him was covered in gooey blood and chunks of flesh. “Yuck! Okay... next time... try to finish the job cleanly...”

He sighed and began to strip, tossing his school uniform jacket and shirt to the side, revealing his impressive musculature to the world before dropping his pants and kicking off his shoes, leaving him in only his pink boxer briefs. He was alone here in the woods so it didn't bother him too much to be nearly naked. “Now lets see... town is that way... and I'm pretty sure there's a river nearby if I go... that way! Okay! Let's get clean!”

He whistled a popular tune to himself as he walked along the forest path, clothes bundled in a heap under one arm. Todo, momentarily stunned by Yuji's fortune, watched the towering man walk away, his every footfall thundering against the forest floor... before slapping himself and running forward, waving his arms and shouting, “OOOOOOOI! Itadoriiiiiiii! DOWN HERE!”

“Eh?” Yuji said, stopping, looking left and right. “Thought I heard something... eh, it was probably nothing.” He shrugged and began walking again, much to Todo's frustration.

“Ignoring me, eh? Well let's see you ignore THIS!” With a burst of speed he lunged forward, slamming his fist directly into Yuji's ankle, unleashing the attack he had been saving for the Cursed Spirit. The blow landed perfectly, his fist sinking slightly into Yuji's flesh, a resounding SMACK loud enough for Yuji to hear.

“Ouch! What the hell was that? Did a bug bite me?” He muttered, frowning thunderously down at the forest floor, his eyes scanning for the offending insect that had disturbed him.

“A bug?? Is that anyway to treat your BROTHEEEEEEEER?!” Todo screamed, launching punch after punch against the younger man's ankle, focusing all his anger onto one spot.

“Ouch, ouch, OUCH! What the hell?” Yuji yelled, lifting his foot into the air. “Damn bug! Let's see how you handle Yuji Itadori's Left Foot!”

Todo's eyes widened as he saw the massive appendage shift in the air, covering him in its shadow before plummeting down on top of him. He barely had a moment to brace himself before the ball of the foot collided with his chest, forcing him down against the forest floor, the fallen nettles and twigs digging into the flesh of Todo's back as his arms bulged with the effort of keeping the foot at bay. Yuji's eyebrow quirked upward as he felt a strange resistance against his foot. “Are you... fighting back? Hmmm... bugs normally just get crushed when I step on them... but I acknowledge you, Bug! Get ready to face the full fury of my foot!”

He stomped again, and again, and again, twisting his foot against the ground, driving Todo into the dirt, his body bruising from the intense punishment his kohai was unleashing on him but he refused to

budge. After a solid five minutes of effort, Yuji irritably lifted his foot, glaring down at the offending insect... only for his expression to soften as he realized this “insect” looked very familiar... “T... Todo-senpai?? Is that you?”

“Hahahaha... you've finally noticed, huh? Yeah... it's me.” Todo said, trying to retain as much dignity as he possibly could while plastered to the bottom of Yuji's bare foot. “Ran into... a little trouble with that Curse...”

Yuji gently scraped the older male off his foot and held him gingerly in his palm, his worried face hovering above Todo, filling his view. “Aw man, I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry! I wouldn't have done that if I'd known it was you! I didn't think anyone else was assigned to this! I mean... that thing was so weak... did... did you really have trouble with it?”

Todo's eyes narrowed as he saw Yuji's cheeks puff out, his mouth a straight line, his eyes wide. He was clearly, desperately, trying to hold in a laugh. “Oi, oi, oi! Don't go underestimating me, Pinky! That same bite you got shrunk me! Why didn't it work on you?”

Yuji blinked and scratched his cheek, his eyes glancing upward as he thought about it. “Let's see... why wouldn't his bite work on me... when it worked on you... Aha!” He snapped his fingers and grinned. “Poison! It was a shrinking poison and poison doesn't work on me because of Sukuna!”

“Aaaah, of course, of course, that makes perfect sense...” Todo said serenely, nodding and closing his eyes. “It makes perfect sense... that you CHEATED!”

“Whaaaaaaaat? I didn't cheat! I can't help if I have a strong natural immunity!” Yuji argued, pouting.

“Natural, nothing! There's nothing natural about relying on the King of Curses!” Todo reprimanded, crossing his arms in front of his chest. “If I wasn't smaller than your toe right now I'd whip your hide for relying on something so unsavory.”

“Well you ARE smaller than my toes so BLEEEEEEEH!” Yuji said, sticking his tongue out.

The two continued to bicker as Yuji walked towards the river, arriving at that destination within the hour. The pristine water glittered in the early evening sun, beckoning sweetly to the filthy youth... but Yuji glanced down at Todo in his palm and decided against just getting into the river right here; the current could very well sweep his senpai away and it could end up being impossible to find him. He followed the river's course until he came to a basin, a waterfall feeding into it before flowing into a river further along, the perfect place to bathe. Yuji grinned down at Todo and said, “So, senpai... do you want to swim free or do I need to keep you close and safe?”

Todo glared up at the carefree youth and immediately said, “You think I need some green behind the ears new recruit looking out for me? PAH! I'll swim under my own steam!”

“Suit yourself!” Yuji said, shrugging and bending down, depositing Todo onto the rocky beach at the edge of the basin. “Go right ahead!”

Todo didn't need an invitation; the moment his feet touched the ground he was sprinting, carving a distinct line into the water until he got in too deep, his arms and legs slicing powerfully through the icy liquid, carrying him away into the basin. Once he had made decent progress he grinned and turned

around, waving his arm. “Well? What do you think of THAT, Ita...dori?”

His words trailed off as he saw Yuji sprinting towards the edge of the basin, leaping into the air at the last second, his legs curling up as his arms hugged them, his voice bellowing out, “CANNON BAAAAAAAALL!”

Todo didn't even have a moment to prepare himself as Yuji sailed overhead, his pink clad bottom seeming to hover overhead... before plummeting down, directly on top of him! Yuji's backside collided with Todo with the force of a bullet train, driving his tiny body down, down, down into the water's depths, his body plastered against his kohai's underwear, his hands instinctively grabbing onto the thick material to avoid stranding himself at the bottom of a basin that was countless fathoms deep compared to his shrunken form. Yuji broke the surface with a satisfied sigh, running his hands through his hair, the spiky pink locks sticking up in a way similar to when Sukuna was in control. He sank down into the water, his legs kicking every so often to keep him afloat, his eyes scanning around for Todo. “Heeeeee, senpai, you didn't get taken out by your little kohai did yaaaaaaa?”

He snickered to himself as he waited for the loud mouthed senior to appear... which was taking a very long time to happen. Yuji began to feel worry gnaw in the pit of his stomach, his cheeky smirk dissolving into a look of distress as he began to swipe his hands through the water, trying to locate his shrunken comrade. “Todo-senpai? Come on... this isn't funny! Where--”

A sudden explosion of water erupted in front of him, spraying him fully in the face, Todo suddenly appearing in front of him, roaring with laughter. “Hah! Thought you'd get the best of me with that little stunt, eh? You're a thousand years too early to try that kind of thing on me!”

His guffawing laughter was shockingly loud for someone of his size, Yuji's cheeks burning red as he glared down at the tiny muscle man. “No fair! I was really worried! It's too cruel of you to make fun of me like that Todo-senpai!”

Todo scoffed and said, “If you can't handle the heat, get out of the kitchen. If you can't take it, don't dish it out! You understand?”

Yuji thought for a moment and slowly said, “You... are saying... that I... am bad at cooking?”

“I... no. But maybe, I've never seen you cook... can you cook?”

“No, no, no! No way! That's not my thing at all! You're totally right, Todo-senpai!” Yuji exclaimed, crossing his arms in front of his chest and shaking his head.

“Aha, I thought as much... wait... what were we talking about again?”

“... Cooking?”

“That doesn't seem right... eh, whatever, my point was made!”

Yuji nodded, smiling, a vacant expression on his face. He sighed and closed his eyes, swimming over to the shallows, resting his arms along the edge of the basin, his body half submerged in the icy water. Todo swam over to join him, eying the younger male from top to bottom. “So... you've been training since the last time we fought, right?”

“Hm? Oh! Yeah! Every day! Lifting weights, running laps, practicing my techniques... I think I've gained a lot of muscle, too! Look!”

He happily flexed his arm, his bicep rising impressively from his thick arm, a vein pulsing along the peak. Todo stared at the solid mound for a minute... before scoffing and shaking his head. “Weak. You call that progress? You're not even close to matching me!”

He flexed his own arm proudly; if Yuji was sporting a baseball sized bicep, Todo was rocking a softball, at least, the tight ball of muscle clearly outmatching Yuji... if their size disparity hadn't been so great. Yuji pouted, his lower lip sticking out. “What? You're really going to say that you're bigger than me?”

“Of course I am! Proportionally speaking I'm on an entirely different level than you!”

“Oh yeah? Well... uh... NOT proportionally I'm kicking your ass! Here, here, look!”

Todo raised an eyebrow as Yuji leaned forward, his arm moving under the water. Before Todo knew what was happening, Yuji's palm appeared underneath him, lifting him into the air and out of the water, the bright blue liquid cascading like a waterfall off of Yuji's hand. Yuji brought the hand containing Todo over to his flexed bicep and pressed his palm against the top of the muscle. “See? It's bigger than your whole body!”

“You... you really think that I'll allow you to gloat... in these conditions?!” Todo shouted, pushing his back up against Yuji's hand, actually forcing the giant appendage back a bit, much to the surprise of the larger man. “I'd rather be swallowed by that Cursed Spirit than admit defeat to you!”

“Oh yeah? How about you get swallowed by me then?” Yuji said, glaring down at his shrunken senpai before opening his mouth wide, thick tongue extending out as he lifted his comrade up above the gaping maw.

“Hah! You think I'm afraid of enduring your belly, Itadori? If you swallow me I'll just punch my way out through your gut!”

“Eh? You think you can break through THESE abs?” Yuji scoffed, standing up out of the water and slamming his friend against the chiseled bricks of his ab muscles. Slowly, he glided his hand up and down the six tight muscles, pressing down on Todo's back at the center of every brick, flexing his midsection at the same time to give the full effect. “Still talking big, SHRIMP-pai?”

Yuji snickered at his own joke, the laughter cut short as he felt a surprisingly sharp jab against his stomach, Todo's tiny fists packing a powerful wallop even at his current size. Gripping Todo tightly in his fist, Yuji brought the trouble making upperclassmen to his face and glared at him. “Okay, now you're in for it! Let's see how you handle the move I learned from Panda-senpai... BEAR HUG!! Yuji Itadori Style!”

Yuji slammed Todo against his chest, lodging the tiny man directly between his impressive pecs, his arms crossing him front of him, hands gripping his elbows as he flexed his chest muscles, the mountainous slabs SLAMMING into Todo from both sides, pinning him in place. “Rrrrrgh... not... not bad... Itadori... but I'm... still...”

He tried to say stronger as he extended his arms, valiantly trying to suppress Yuji's pecs from encroaching on him but it was no use. Yuji was struggling just as hard, his face screwed up in a look of pure concentration, his chest turning red as he flexed as hard as he could... until Todo's strength failed him, the powerful mounds on either side of him slamming fully into his body, hiding him from view and crushing him into submission. Yuji panted, his arms relaxing, his pecs slowly relaxing, allowing Todo to slide unceremoniously down from between them, landing with a soft plop into the water. "S-See?! I... I did it! Woohoo! Score one for Yuji Itadori!"

He flopped backwards into the water, sighing in satisfaction, basking in the glow of his victory... until the water suddenly erupted in front of him, a looming figure suddenly standing over him. Yuji let out a little shriek as he realized it was Todo, returned to his full size, the expression on his face inscrutable. "O-Oh! Todo-senpai! I didn't think you'd be back to normal so soon! I was sure I'd have to take you to Ieiri-sensai..."

Todo silently approached Yuji, gripping his shoulder with one hand, the younger male wincing as he stared helplessly up at his senpai... only to feel nothing but shock as he was pulled into a bone creaking hug, Todo squeezing the life out of him for a solid minute before letting him go, holding both his shoulders lightly. "Itadori... that display... is exactly why you're my best friend! You've come a long way already and I can tell you'll be running to the horizon, leaving us all behind, reaching a strength that most can only dream of!"

"Uh... thank you?" Yuji said, confused, but pleased by the compliments.

"As a reward for all your hard work today... I'm taking you with me to see Takada-chan! No need to thank me! It's the least I can do!"

Yuji chuckled nervously, rubbing the back of his head. "Oh wow... thanks, Todo-senpai..."

He sighed and closed his eyes, thinking to himself, "Now how do I explain I don't really care about idols...?"

The End