

Pig Tailed Girl's Secret

Volume 2

Kuno has met Ranma's girl half, and after she kicks his ass, he can't help but admire her beauty and strength. Through the help of Nabiki he's able to tell the girl half his true feelings which is a shock for Ranma, as he's a guy, and never been confessed to before. He doesn't know how to deal with this, Nabiki suggests Ranma reveal the "Pig Tailed Girl's" secret, once Kuno is aware he's sure to give up....right?

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Ranma and Nabiki talk, she's curious how things are going with Kuno. He checked with him and he said it was his to

share. So they talked and Nabiki listened. So the two strike a deal. Though things get heated when Akane finds them together in Nabiki's room.

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Ranma comes to the house of Kuno, his presence welcome. They have a talk about Nabiki's deal and Kuno approves. Akane is pissed cause despite coming back and reporting what she saw Kasumi isn't having it. Genma offers to help, hoping to earn Akane's favor.

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Kuno has finally made plans for his Girl Ranma date, but of course Genma's suspicions are up, so he tries to follow and interfere.

Characters

Ranma Saotome Male Half: 9 inches | Ranko Saotome Girl Half

Tatewaki Kuno 12 inches

Doctor Tofu

Akane Tendo

Nabiki Tendo

Kasumi Tendo

Soun Tendo

Genma Saotome

Sasuke

Ryoga Hibiki

Kagome Higurashi – Works at fashion shop

Jakotsu – Works at the local sex shop

Rinne Rokudo – Works at local electronics shop and Rinne's
Odd Jobs\Side Business

Chapter 6 A Place For Ranma

While Ranma was on his date, Genma his “father”, finally took notice that he was gone. “Where is that boy?” Genma said between bites of food at dinner.

“Who cares!” Akane hissed. She was happy that Ranma wasn’t around, the girl still had a vendetta against him over an accident. The girl was so busy being angry she failed to notice the changes happening around her.

Nabiki noticed and knew what was happening. Kuno had turned his affections onto another. Lot of the guys saw this as Kuno giving up on Akane, and they began to question why that is. They’d tried to approach her casually only for Akane to snap and bite their heads off. The “cute” girl they had been attracted to was just an illusion they conjured up in their own minds.

Akane was always showing everyone who she was right now, just no one believed her. Now the truth was sinking in, slowly but it was sinking. She was too consumed by rage to see the truth, and this wasn’t the first time, the current state of their dojo was because of her.

Nabiki had tried to play peace keeper, and talk her but Akane wasn’t hearing it. So Nabiki was letting Akane be, the

consequences would be hers to bare. Truth of it was they needed Ranma, the dojo needed to be turned around and the household needed the income. As for their marriage, Nabiki was pretty sure that ship had sailed.

“Ranma said he’d be out.” Kasumi said.

“Out?” Genma question, stroking his chin. ‘I don’t recall seeing the boy at dinner last night either...’

Kasumi nodded. “Now Akane, you should try to get along with Ranma. He is your fiancée after all.” Soun said.

Akane shot him a glare making the man flinch. “Not my choice!” She hissed.

Kasumi spoke up. “Akane,” her voice was firm, holding the matriarch energy she’d come to gain. “Fiancée or not, Ranma is a guest, you should be nicer to him.”

“Nice to that pervert...never!” She huffed.

“Akane!” Kasumi said sternly, even Akane flinched. “You wanted to be friends with Ranma when you thought he was a girl. Him being a boy shouldn’t matter.”

“But he...”

Kasumi raised a hand. “There was an accident, an innocent accident. Ranma did not intentionally peep on you, nor has he since. He’s not a bad boy.”

“Why are you taking his side?!”

“I’m not, but you don’t hear Ranma calling you a pervert for walking in on him do you?”

She blushed. “That...that’s different...” Akane fumbled with her words.

“It’s not.” Kasumi had seen a change in Ranma, Akane’s insults did effect him, and it wasn’t okay. Now with just a few days, she’d seen his spirits lift and it wasn’t because of her sister. Akane tried to pout and glare, but that had no effect on Kasumi.

“Dad!” She protested.

Soun had a weak spot for all his daughters, but Kasumi’s word was final. No one crossed Kasumi, she ran everything in this house, she was the core of the household. Plus he wanted the two to get married so getting Akane to forgive Ranma for an accident and them building a bond benefited him.

“Couldn’t you forgive Ranma just this once.”

Akane slammed her hand on the table, nearly breaking it.

“You’re all against me!”

Kasumi shook her head. “We aren’t. I’m not asking you to marry Ranma, or even fall in love with him, but you WILL start treating him with the respect and civility of a guest in our home.” Through Soun and Genma’s arrangement they were living there. “Like it or not, Ranma is staying here, he’s a guest.” Kasumi had been warm and inviting, trying to make this a place for Ranma. ‘He shouldn’t be treated as an invader.’

Genma never spoke up, either because he lacked a spine or because he didn’t care if his son was rejected so long as he was living it up. Kasumi had asked Soun about them, and they’d always been traveling, moving from one place to the next. The longest they ever stayed in one place was apparently 3 years.

Ranma never had a place of his own, no roots, little stability. If things got tough where could Ranma go? It wasn’t healthy not at all.

Soun was adamant on them staying, and Genma wasn’t leaving any time soon. So Ranma was here to stay. ‘We can make it a home.’ Kasumi thought. She was used to her father’s schemes, used to Akane’s attitude and behavior, what happened in the Dojo was beyond her control, she expected her father to handle business, but he didn’t. Being rude to guests was not gonna fly.

She was trying to nip this in the bud. If she didn't, who knows what it could spiral into. Akane was quick to jump to conclusions and if she thought ill of Ranma, he'd always be the first to blame.

Akane stood up and left the room, angrily stomping, and slamming her door so hard she nearly broke it. Kasumi sighed.

-X-

It was late when Ranma and Kuno's date ended. Very eventful. As they headed back to the Tendo House, with their bounty of prizes Ranma felt happy.

When the house came in to view Ranma felt reality creep in. There was the place where his father waited for him, where a girl he just met treated him like a pervert and the devil over an accident. Sure Kasumi was nice, Nabiki was a bit of a gray area, and he didn't trust Soun being his father's friend.

He stopped walking, gripping his prizes tighter. Kuno noticed. "Ranma?"

"I..." He started. What was he to say? He didn't want to go home? It wasn't his home, Ranma hadn't felt what home even was.

Kuno took his hand. “Ranma, I’ll save your gifts. I can have a room prepared for you.”

“You...you’d do that?” Kuno took Ranma’s hand and kissed the back of it.

“Of course!” He looked Ranma in the eye his eyes very serious. “No one will take your treasures again, the House of Kuno is well guarded. You’ll have a place there, you can visit or stay, whatever you wish.”

Ranma didn’t pull away. “You’re too much...but...thank you...” He blushed and Kuno smiled.

“I’ll have it prepared tonight, you’ll have a key by morning.”

“You can just give it to me when we see each other at school.” Ranma said.

“Till then...” He called for the car.

“Wait...” Ranma said, after Kuno put his stuff in the car and before he got in.

Saotome kissed him. It was a good night kiss, one Kuno returned with equal passion. “Thank you...”

It took Kuno a second to find his voice. “You’re welcome.” They parted ways but both were brimming with happiness.

When Kuno arrived back at the estate, Sasuke was waiting for him. “Master Kuno, congratulations on a successful date, shall I prepare Lord Ranma’s room?” He asked.

“No Sasuke...I want to do it myself. Please keep watch over Ranma, make sure no trouble befalls him.” Sasuke nodded and vanished.

Kuno carried Ranma’s treasures inside, and got to work on preparing a room for Ranma. This would be his space. The more he looked into Genma Saotome the more he wanted to protect Ranma. Even if Ranma didn’t want to be with him, this place would still be his, a safe house should he need it.

Kodachi saw her brother carrying in armfuls of toys and prizes. ‘How puzzling?’

-x-Meanwhile-x-

Ranma arrived at the Tendo House. He bumped into Kasumi. “Oh Ranma, there’s some left overs in the fridge for you, did you eat?” She asked.

“Yeah grabbed food while I was out, but thanks Kasumi, I appreciate it.” She smiled and patted his shoulder.

“Good night Ranma.” Kasumi turned in.

“Night!” He said softly. Ranma went to check on the leftovers and enjoyed a nice home cooked meal. He couldn’t let food go to waste and it was more filling than carnival/fair food.

After finishing he headed up stairs. “Where have you been boy!?” Genma’s voice made Ranma jump.

“Jeez pop, I was just out.”

“You were gone for hours, where were you, who were you with?” He almost sounded like a parent. It’d feel real if not for the fact this was the second time Ranma was not home for dinner.

“I was with a friend from school.”

Genma snorted. “You...have a friend?”

“That so strange?” Ranma glared.

Genma flinched. “I suppose not, you didn’t have many friends at that all boys school.” Ranma’s face darkened. He’d stopped trying to make friends by that time. What was the point if he was just gonna move again? There was just one exception, a boy who came into his life. he made Ranma laugh, he gave Ranma a challenge, they spent a lot of time together for various reasons, he was the first person Ranma felt he could truly call a friend.

‘I wonder how he’s doing?’ The thought crossed his mind.

“Well you said to make an effort, I’m making an effort.”

“That’s not what I meant boy, you’re supposed to be trying to make an effort with Akane...” Genma grabbed Ranma.

“Boy...this friend of yours it better not be a girl...” He started shaking Ranma. “ARE YOU CHEATING ON AKANE!?”

“CHEATING?!”

‘Is he crazy?!’ Ranma thought.

Que the drama

Soun burst in, going all demon mode. Akane was shouting at Ranma telling him to shut up and go to bed. “I was with a guy from school, he was showing me around.” A half truth. He didn’t feel guilty about it, he lied not out of shame, but his father tended to ruin things for him...it was survival.

“Oh that’s okay then.” Soun patted Genma’s shoulder.

“Saotome don’t scare me like that.”

“God I hate having them in this house.” Akane could be heard ranting.

Genma started apologizing for his son, when Ranma didn’t even do anything. It was HIM screaming late at night. “Pops I’m tired I want to go to bed, I have school.”

“Fine, but this isn’t over boy.”

Ranma laid down, after changing into some sleeping clothes, despite the drama thinking about Kuno made him happy, thinking about their date made him happy. He closed his eyes a smile on his face. His talk with his father did stir some feelings.

He thought about his friend, his oldest friend, though 2 years might not seem like much to some, for Ranma it was like a life time. 'I wonder what happened to him...I...I hope he's okay...' His heart fluttered a bit. 'He probably has forgotten all about me.' His heart sank.

Ranma shook his head. Things between him and Ryoga were always intense, that one book tempted Ranma with what could have been. A part of him didn't want to think about his buddy like that, but since opening up to Kuno. Maybe there was something there Ranma never noticed before.

-x-The next day-x-

Genma attacked Ranma bright and early setting off morning training. The man was trying to convince Ranma to date Akane and marry her, the Anything Goes Schools needed to be united. Genma wanted the dojo and free room and board.

Ranma knew what he wanted and he didn't want to marry Akane. "Have you learned nothing boy!" Genma carried on their "spar" keeping Ranma from eating.

Akane had finished her breakfast and headed out already. Nabiki hung back listening and observing. Ranma had to take his breakfast to go, walking with Nabiki of all people. “So things between you and Kuno are going well?”

Ranma nearly choked on his food. “Why would you say that?” She crossed her arms and gave him a look. “Oh yeah.” A lot had happened, he’d forgotten that Nabiki had kinda set this all up. Revealing his curse to Kuno and all that. She was a smart cookie and had put 2 and 2 together. “Things are going really well.” He answered.

“I see, then we’ll need to talk about the dojo arrangements going forward.”

“Huh?”

“Well, just because you aren’t gonna marry into the family, doesn’t mean we can’t do business.” She stated coolly. “We’ll talk later though. I wanna hear all about it.”

Ranma was stunned. “Sure...I guess...”

At school...

Kuno gave Ranma a key ring, one was a key to the Kuno Estate, using this key would grant him access to the estate and disable the security. The second key was to Ranma’s own

room on the property. It was locked and would be preserved, there if Ranma wanted it or needed it.

Ranma ignored Akane and focused on building his relationship with Kuno. The days passed with the two hanging out, not dates per-say, but enjoying each other's company none the less. Ranma observed some of Kuno's kendo matches. "You're pretty good." He praised.

"Would you like to learn? It'd be an honor to teach you."

"Sure." Ranma spent more time with Kuno.

Meanwhile Genma got more suspicious and as he did, he tried to snoop. He tried to go through Ranma's things, but Sasuke was prepared, he'd already hidden all of Ranma's research materials, they'd be put back once Genma was done snooping. His search came up dry.

-x-Somewhere-x-

A boy with a yellow bandana was searching.

"Ranma...Ranma...where are you...I'm gonna find you..." He was panting and looking around. Due to his poor sense of direction he was completely lost. "Ranma!"

-x-

Ranma sneezed. "Someone thinking about you?" Nabiki asked.

“Not likely, but could be Kuno?” He shrugged.

That’s not typically how the myth goes, but oh well they had more important things to talk about.

To be continued...Talk With Nabiki

Chapter 7 Talk With Nabiki

Nabiki had been curious about what's been going on between Ranma and Kuno. Tatewaki to his credit had kept his mouth shut. "What's between Ranma and I, isn't anyone's business. If he wants to talk about it, that's his choice." He said firmly.

She turned to Ranma as her curiosity grew. That day he'd asked Kuno about the situation. "Ranma, I would gladly sing of our relationship from the highest mountain, shower you with displays of affection so you know each day you are loved, but I feel you are not ready for such things." Ranma blushed. "If you wish to speak to Nabiki Tendo of our arrangement and our relationship that's up to you. I hold my tongue not out of shame but for your comfort. Share what you are okay with sharing but don't feel obligated."

"Thanks Kuno." Ranma mentally prepared himself for his talk with Nabiki.

Everything seemed normal enough, Ranma came home after his Kendo lesson with Kuno, did his homework, worked out, had dinner, then Nabiki had him come to her room. She had snacks and tea. "Alright, what's going on between you and Kuno?"

Direct...

So Ranma told her, about his confession and the two dates they'd had so far. "You kissed him?!" Ranma blushed and nodded. "So you still have the girl date then?"

This was true, the boy date had gone so well Ranma had almost forgotten. Nabiki eyed him. "Though maybe you don't need it?"

Ranma shook his head. "It is what it is, Kuno said he'd plan something special, it'd be rude to ruin that..." He said twiddling his fingers.

"You like him!" Nabiki said and sipped her tea.

Ranma was gonna protest, but remembered Dr. Tofu's words about his feelings being valid. "Maybe...I...think I do..."

Some might see this as half hearted but for Ranma Saotome this was progress. "He's actually a really great guy."

Nabiki let Ranma talk, his feelings showing, only munching on snacks and sipping tea. 'He REALLY likes him.' Ranma realized he'd been talking too long and began to stuff his face with some snacks. "I didn't realize you two would get so serious, but you seem happy."

"Is it that weird?"

She shook her head. "I didn't know what would happen, but this is a happy surprise. I've known Tatewaki Kuno for a long

time, he's always been...excitable, when he gets fixated on something he shows his passion." Nabiki busted out an old school year book and showed Ranma pictures of Kuno from their youth.

Ranma gets curious and asks about Kuno growing up. Nabiki shared stories. "He can be weird most of the time, but some times he can be kinda cool." His pursuit of Akane was not his proudest moment.

He couldn't help but feel a little jealous. "I'll say this though, the way he looks at you, is VERY different than how he looked at her." Looked, past tense. Ranma blushed, hearing that made him feel happy.

"Why tell me this, aren't you mad, dropping Akane?"

"No way, he had no shot with my sister, I don't think any man does." Nabiki waved her hand. Kuno's early attempts to woo Akane were actually normal, but her rejection and level of anger pushed Kuno to extremes, not an excuse just facts of what happened. In his own way he respected Akane, seeing her as a strong woman and a fighter. He was just confused and Akane didn't help with her behavior. "Frankly the two would not have been good together, they'd bring out the worst in each other, but not you and Kuno, he's better and more focused."

“You think so?” It was nice to hear.

Nabiki nodded. “It’s better Kuno wised up and found true happiness, instead of chasing something that wouldn’t or shouldn’t happen.” She knew chemistry, some people could bring out the worst in each other, like two chemicals that reacted volatile when mixed.

“Now that does leave other business.” She folded her hands, fingers laced, her business woman switch flipping.

“Hm?”

“Obviously you are not gonna marry Akane.” Nabiki said.

“Hell no.” Ranma said, before clapping a hand over his mouth. His eyes burned panic but Nabiki remained calm. “I thought we could be friends, I don’t have many, but the way she treats me...” He shook his head.

Nabiki sighed, she understood. “Hey hey hey, listen Daddy’s whole scheme was doomed to fail, but you being here, I think we can come up with a better arrangement.” Nabiki had been interested in the arrangement originally, now she almost regretted not taking Ranma when she had the chance.

Ranma folded his arms. “I’m listening.”

“Our dojo is failing, we lost our students, and maintaining the dojo costs money. Right now as it stands its a financial drain.”

“How did...” Ranma started, but the question seemed obvious. “Akane?”

She nodded. “Akane!” Her sister had always taken to martial arts, which made their dad happy. Kasumi had a knack for family and household, Nabiki had a knack for business, and Akane had the dojo. “She was terrible, she scared off all of Daddy’s students one by one. When sparring she always went too far and caused serious injury. We nearly went into debt covering the damages. If not for Doctor Tofu!” She took some deep breaths to calm herself.

“Anyway...Akane doesn’t see the problem with it, but I do. We need new management and new students or the dojo will need to be sold.”

“You’re gonna lose the Dojo?” Nabiki pulled out a spreadsheet.

“Not right away, we got 2 years tops before dojo maintenance puts us in serious decline. We’ll have to sell.” Her father would put them into debt trying to keep the dojo, his obsession could make them lose the house and the dojo both. “Akane refuses to see reason, and as much as I love Daddy, I won’t lose the house to protect the dojo...but...we have an opportunity. You!”

“Me?”

“Yes you, you’re strong, stronger than Akane, you have skill and charisma.”

“I do?” Nabiki resisted the urge to face palm. Ranma didn’t even notice how popular he was. His good looks made girls swoon and a few guys too, his athletic ability earned the respect of the majority of guys.

“Yes, and you can save our dojo. So I’d like to propose a deal.” She’d get her father to drop this engagement talk, his main drive was saving the dojo he was pushing the engagement to make that happen. “I’ll deal with Daddy, but I need you to take control of the dojo.” He’d run it, handle the students, take care of it. “At first you’ll be paid for this with your room and board, including meals. If you can help the dojo grow you’ll get income that I can help you set up at a bank.”

She broke it down with charts and projections that made Ranma’s head spin a little bit. Her numbers were sound, with flexibility based on how hard Ranma worked. “And I’ll be able to stay here?” She nodded.

He didn’t need to stay, he thought about Kuno’s offer, he had a place for him. ‘I could leave...but...’ He thought about the dojo, if he ran it he’d have a job, earn his own money.

Saotome liked the sound of that. His father always controlled their finances, making things difficult for Ranma.

Ranma wanted to stand on his own two feet, maybe having a job would help him get comfortable so he could take Kuno's offer without feeling like a burden. "Can...if I change residences, can we work out a stable pay for me."

Nabiki's eyes glinted. "Oh did Kuno make you an offer?"
Ranma's blush said it all.

She crunched some numbers, calculating Ranma's living expenses, broke it down and came to a reasonable income. "How's this?" He nodded.

They struck a deal, it would benefit both the House of Tendo and House of Saotome, no marriage required. "Now then..." Nabiki put her paperwork away. "Tell me more about you and Kuno, have you gone on the "girl" date yet?"

"No, not yet, he says he's planning something."

"Uh huh..." Nabiki scampered over to her closet. "Wanna borrow something of mine? I got something sleek, stylish, or sexy!" She showed off three different dresses. "If that night is THE night, you could always borrow this..." Nabiki revealed a dominatrix outfit.

The sight of it made Ranma spit out his tea. "Where did you even get that?"

"I have my ways, so is that night the night?"

“I don’t know...” He rubbed the back of his head sheepishly.

“Well you kissed him as a boy, do you wanna try something more R rated as a girl?” Good question. “If you wanna play fair you could top him as a guy first then let him have you as a woman.”

“I...” His whole face burned. “Never thought about using my female side for that stuff.” He’d explored it out of curiosity.

“Why not, even if you break the curse and this is temporary wouldn’t you want to have some fun with it while it lasts?” She eyed him. “Are you not curious?”

Ranma twiddled his fingers. “Well...maybe...” She helped Ranma up and they went through her stuff. Nabiki was really supportive, it was girl talk, but Ranma really vibed with it.

The nice time couldn’t last as her door opened. “Nabiki I wanted to...” Akane walked in, freezing at seeing Ranma and Nabiki together(in the same room) clothes all over. “GET AWAY FROM MY SISTER!”

“Akane!” Nabiki snapped, but her sister was already racing forward going to attack Ranma. “Akane stop!” Nabiki tried again.

Saotome dodged her. “I didn’t do nothing!” Ranma snapped quickly.

“Shut up!” She attacked him and Ranma dodged her, flipping over her. “Get back here!” Akane screamed as Ranma ran out of the room.

“What did you do boy!?” Genma showed up.

“I didn’t do anything!!!” He snapped.

“Shut up, he was in Nabiki’s room!” Akane said, her tone accusing.

“What the hell is wrong with you boy!?” Genma snapped and tried to grab him. Akane was attacking at the same time.

Ranma jumped and Akane ended up punching Genma right in the gun. He fell like a house of cards. “Get back here!” She stomped on Genma, chasing after Ranma.

He was so focused on dodging he didn’t notice Kasumi on the stairs. She dropped the laundry and Ranma’s reflexes kicked in. He scooped her up as to not slam into her. “Oh Ranma...”

“Aaaahhhhh!” Akane screamed.

“What’s all the screaming about?” Soun came out, seeing Kasumi in Ranma’s arms. “Oh my sweet Kasumi, does this mean you and Ranma are eloping.”

Kasumi sighed. “Father please.”

“You disgusting pervert get your hands off my sister.” Akane went at them, only to trip over the laundry.

Ranma moved out of the way and set Kasumi down.

“Sorry...” He said and he ran out of the house.

“Good leave and don’t come back!” Akane shouted.

“Akane!” Kasumi scolded.

“Have you lost your mind?” Nabiki came down.

“What were you doing letting that pervert in your room alone?” She hissed.

“He’s not a pervert.” Nabiki said.

“Nabiki what’s this about Ranma being in your room?” Soun asked. “Are you interested in marrying Ranma?”

“Daddy, enough, we were just talking about a business venture.”

“You had your dresses all over the room!” Akane pointed at her.

“Yeah and, can’t a girl do some spring cleaning, I asked his opinion on some things so what?” She lied expertly.

“What business venture?” Akane asked.

Clap! Everything got quite. “Akane Tendo!” Kasumi said firmly. “You over reacted and chased out a guest in our home, I warned you!” She marched over to the door and opened it. “Get out!” Her tone was firm.

“What?!”

“Now Kasumi dear...” Kasumi fixed him with a look.

“Father, I am handling this.” She pointed out the door. “Get out, and don’t come back until you find Ranma, apologize and get him to come home.”

“You...you can’t be serious.” Akane looked around for support, Genma was unconscious, Nabiki looked cross and Kasumi was unwavering. Soun buckled a bit when she looked at him pleadingly.

“Kasumi that’s a bit extreme isn’t it...”

“Father...either Akane goes and makes this right, or I’ll leave and when I find Ranma we won’t be coming back.” The color drained from Soun’s face.

“Akane!” His tone was suddenly firm and fatherly. “Go find Ranma right now apologize and bring him home, don’t come back until you do!”

Akane stood frozen, and then Kasumi dragged her to the door. “You...you can’t do this...I’m family...he’s not...” She got pushed out.

“You better go find him, it’s getting late.” Kasumi said and shut the door.

-X-

Ranma was upset, he didn’t know where he was going, he thought about going to Doctor Tofu’s clinic but it was getting late. ‘What do I do?’ His head was spinning until he remembered the whistle. He blew it. In a few seconds Sasuke appeared. “Yes Master Ranma!” He bowed.

“I...I um...” Ranma reached into his pocket and grasped the key Kuno gave him. “Can...can I come stay at Kuno’s?”

Sasuke smiled. “You need not ask, I’ll fetch the car, shall I inform Master Kuno?”

“Sure.” He left and Ranma leaned against a nearby wall.

Akane was looking for Ranma, but by the time she caught up to him he was getting into a fancy car. “Ranma!” She shouted, but the car drove off. “What the hell?!”

To be continued...House of Kuno

Chapter 8 House of Kuno

The drive to Kuno's house was swift. They pulled up to a large mansion and Ranma was stunned. "Whoa."

"Welcome Lord Ranma, to the House of Kuno."

"House...this is a mansion!"

Sasuke explained that the Kuno Estate was a traditional styled Japanese fortress, and it's been the ancestral home of the Kuno Family. He pulled the car in and exited guiding Ranma to the front door. "Your key."

"Oh yes." Ranma presented it and turned the lock. A bunch of gears whirled and turned. Ranma heard clicks, pops, and locks. The front door didn't open. "What was that?"

"You hold the key, this means you are a guest, the key disables all the security and traps so you can enjoy your stay." Sasuke knocked on the door. The massive gate of the door changes and a smaller entrance opens up inside it. "Welcome to the House of Kuno."

"Whoa..." Ranma looks around, the place was beautiful.

Sasuke continues to explain the various points of the estate and even their security. While the mansion was mostly

Japanese style, the Kuno family traveled all over the world and from their major travels they brought back something to add onto the estate in some way shape or form.

“Ranma!” Kuno’s voice was heard.

“Kuno..I...” He turned around and there was Kuno, fresh from the bath and wearing only a bathrobe. Ranma’s face heated up. Tatewaki was looking so damn sexy.

Saotome had initially wanted to apologize for showing up like this, especially so late, but his brain fizzled. Kuno walked right up to him and hugged him. “I’m so glad you chose to visit. My dear sister is back at school, so the place is a bit quiet.”

“I um...I...I’m sorry to intrude...” He stammered out. ‘He smells so good!’ Ranma couldn’t help but notice.

“Nonsense, I told you, you’re always welcome here. I have your room prepared and everything.” He was very proud of it.

“But what do I owe such a lovely visit?” Ranma tensed.

Kuno felt it. “How about a bath first?” Saotome nodded. “We can talk after.”

‘A bath sounds nice.’ He wanted to clear his head.

Sasuke reactivated the security, Ranma had his key so he was an authorized guest. The gadgets would recognize him instantly and not activate at his presence.

-X-

Akane was left stunned. “What was Ranma doing in that limo?” She pondered aloud. The fact was she didn’t know Ranma at all, she didn’t know where he would go, what he’d do, anything. That was on her though.

By luck or by chance, she did catch the license plate, KUNO. “What’s Ranma doing with Kuno?” She had no idea, because she didn’t care to know. Too busy being angry to realize stuff was happening around her.

Akane went home, hoping what she saw would be enough to get her back in the house. She tried to open the door only to find it locked. “Hey!” Her fist pounded on the door.

The door unlocked and opened to reveal Kasumi. “Where is Ranma.” She looked at her sister and saw she was alone.

“Listen it’s not my fault that...” Slam! Kasumi slammed the door in her face.

Akane banged on the door. Kasumi opened it again but Akane could see her father and Genma standing in the back, watching and listening. “Listen please...” Kasumi folded her

arms, willing to listen since Akane said please. “I did find Ranma, but I didn’t get a chance to talk to him, he got into a limo...”

“A LIMO!” Genma screeched. Soun clapped a hand over his mouth. ‘What’s that boy doing?’

“Yes, a limo. I saw the license plate, he’s with Kuno, a guy from our school.”

“And?” Kasumi said.

“Well, he’s with Kuno...” She said like that said everything.

“What else do you want from me?”

“I told you Akane, you go find Ranma, apologize and bring him back, then you can come home.” Kasumi may have been relieved Ranma wasn’t out in the cold, but he ran out into a dangerous situation because of her sister.

“But he’s fine, he’s with Kuno!” She tried to argue.

“Then you know exactly where he is to apologize.”

“But...but...but...”

“No buts!” Kasumi said firmly, and moved to close the door.

“Wait...” She did. “I uh...I don’t know where Kuno lives.”

“Here!” Nabiki appeared and had Kuno’s address on piece of paper. “Kuno Baby’s estate location, you best hurry it’s getting late.”

Akane’s jaw dropped. She couldn’t believe this was happening to her. ‘It’s all his fault.’ Akane was seething, angry and desperate and Genma, saw a chance.

-X-

Ranma changed and got in the bath, the bath was massive, decorated like an exotic garden. There was the grand bath, with a couple of other spring like areas. He found a hot tub and got that started. The hot water and jets were so relaxing.

There was a sign that stated the water cooled after some time, and not to stay too long to avoid dizziness. Ranma had a lot on his mind, so even though he read the sign his thoughts were spinning.

He kept replaying the scene over and over in his mind. ‘I didn’t do anything wrong...I didn’t do anything wrong...I didn’t do anything wrong...’ He told himself. ‘But if that’s true why did Akane get so mad?’

The more he thought about it the more twisted his thoughts became. ‘Did I do something wrong?’ He didn’t think so at first but Akane was so angry.

Ranma poured his thought process into something...anything to make this make sense. There was the bathroom incident, and typically boys had one bathroom and girls had the other, but there was also mixed baths. He had gone to an all boys school, and Kuno's sister apparently went to an all girl's school. They were living in the same house, they could be in the same room together...right? 'Nabiki invited me into her room, so what was the problem?' Thinking of Nabiki thought of their discussion about Kuno and him, which made him blush.

'No...no...no...focus!' He shook his head. Ranma thought back, recalling a story about a zombie bride. It involved a young man who was engaged to a young woman, but they'd never met before their wedding, meeting face to face for the first time. They were barely talking with each other when the girl's mother barged in furious.

"You two should not be alone together!" They were engaged, but somehow being alone in a large room together was scandalous.

'Did...did I do something wrong?' Ranma wasn't sure anymore. He was making himself crazy, self doubt and years of blame twisting a knife into his back when he was completely innocent. The last thing he wanted was to be seen

as overreacting. The truth of it was, he was over thinking it, bad habits died hard.

-X-

Akane was pacing her yard. ‘This is all Ranma’s fault, if he hadn’t...’ She froze. What had he done exactly? ‘Ugh!’ She was getting frustrated, but didn’t want to admit she was wrong.

“Akane...”

“Wah!” Punch!

Genma had appeared, surprising Akane and she hit him. “Oh Mr. Saotome...what are you doing here?” She crossed her arms, no thought of an apology for striking him, even if it IS Genma.

He chuckled and rubbed his cheek. “Dear Akane, I’m actually here to help you.”

She cocked a brow. “Why would you help me?”

“Because you were right!” That’s all he needed to say for Akane to let her guard down. “My boy is always causing trouble. I’ve done my best to raise him but he lets me down.” He faked tears and Akane was eating this ham up like it was wagyu.

“Running out of here like that he’s such a...” He was gonna say ‘he’s such a girl’ but caught himself realizing who he’s talking to. “Disappointment.” He coughed and cleared his throat. “He’s over reacting. I’m sure if we talk to him together we can get this all sorted out.”

“Thanks Mr. Saotome.” Using Nabiki’s map they headed to Kuno’s place.

-X-

Ranma had been in the bath for awhile, long enough for the water to grow cold and he turn into a she. Kuno got worried and went to check on him. “Ranma...are you okay?”

She had gotten a bit drowsy. Kuno approached and made sure she was okay. “Ranma?”

Ranma blinked. “Am...I having that dream again?”

‘He’s been dreaming about me?’ Kuno blushed, a burst of joy shooting through him. “Ranma you need to get out of the bath.”

“Okay.” She stood up, in all her naked glory.

Kuno’s whole face went red. He had to fight back a nosebleed. ‘She’s beautiful!’ He thought and quickly got Ranma a towel to cover herself and a cup of hot water for him to change.

“Kuno...” She hugged him.

“Eeeh!” Crash! He dropped the cup.

Kuno was torn from being happy and nervous that this was rushing things too fast. He didn't want Ranma to freak and pull away from him. Tatewaki was getting aroused by his partner.

He hugged Ranma a bit too tight, making Ranma gasp, her breasts smooshing against Kuno. “Ahh~!” Her nipples had been perky, and Kuno could feel them. “This...this isn't...”

“Not a dream no, but it feels like one.” He said romantically.

Ranma's face burned hot. She felt something poking her back. ‘He's hard...’

Kuno noticed and they both turned around. “I'm sorry...”

“It's fine...I mean we're both guys so...” Ranma said. “I get it...”

“So you dream about me?” Kuno asked.

“I...” She pouted. “Yeah, we...were in the bath...and...nothing happened I swear...I'm not a pervert...”

Kuno chuckled. “I know you're not, desire is natural. I have dreamed about you too.”

“You have?” She looked back at him.

“Of course. I love you Ranma, so much.”

Ranma thought about what Nabiki said. “Kuno can we...talk about sex?”

“Of course, you can talk to me about anything.” He got Ranma a robe, a beautiful red one.

She stayed a girl and they went to talk. Ranma told him about the sex talk with Nabiki. There felt like there was more to the story but Tatewaki didn't press. Kuno felt a small twinge of worry, Nabiki was a master of gathering information and using it as she pleased, but it seemed Nabiki was being friendly with Ranma and helping him open up. “So you had the ‘girl talk’?” Kuno asked.

“I guess so, I was a guy at the time but still, it has me thinking, about us...” Kuno gulped, feeling a mix of anxiety and hope. “How would we do it?”

“Ranma I'm very open, I'm willing to go as far as you're willing to let me.” He got on his knees and bowed his head. “Command me and I'll do as you ask, please you as you wish, and if you say stop we stop, no questions asked other than are you okay?”

Ranma's head had been spinning and he wanted to clear his head. “I want something but I don't wanna use you.”

“You can use me!” Kuno said happily. “Besides it wouldn’t be using, couples can experiment with each other physically to figure out if they are compatible.”

“This would be foreplay, or heavy petting...is that okay, I’m not ready to go all the way but...”

“Say no more. You have my word!” He raised his hand and offered his pinky.

Ranma snorted but found it cute. They made their promise. She undid her robe and Kuno drank in their beautiful body. He started crying tears of joy. Ranma flicked his head. “Don’t be a weird boy!”

Kuno saluted. “Yes ma’am!” He moved in close and began treat Ranma’s body like a treasure. His hands groped her chest.

Ranma blushed and shivered. Kuno worked slowly, feeling Ranma’s tits with his hands. He was gauging her reaction, while doing his best to make her feel good.

His touch escalated as he licked her left nipple, while his hand rolled the right. “Ah~aaahhh!” She shuddered.

Kuno pulled back. “Do you need me to stop?” Ranma looked at this man.

“This...this could be a mistake...” Doubts creeping up.

Kuno took her hand. “If it is, we’ll bare the consequences together. I’m not leaving you unless you want me to go.”

Ranma pulled Kuno into her breast. “Keep going.” He let out a muffled thank you.

Kuno started sucking her tit, his free hand pinching her nipple. His left hand remained with hers, fingers laced. Ranma squeezed his hand as pleasure washed through her.

She got wet, her body shaking, her moans going louder. Kuno began to kiss down her body until he was face to face with her wet sex. He kissed her lower lips, lovingly!

Ranma moaned and groaned. It felt amazing, he started licking and teasing her. ‘He’s good at this.’ He was doing his best, learning as he went.

Her essence spilled into his mouth and he drank of the forbidden holy fruit juice! “Mmm~!” She brought her hand down and laced her fingers in his locks.

Something primal inside awakened and he kicked things up a notch, kissing and licking with gusto, the feeling was electric.

“Kuno!” Ranma moaned. “I feel hot...”

Tatewaki moved to focus on her clit, flicking it with his tongue before sucking. “Aaaahhhh!” Ranma bucked, her body shaking. She squeezed Kuno’s hand.

Her orgasm rocked her and she released all over Kuno's face. He dove back in and drank what she had to offer. Ranma was blushing from ear to ear, panting. 'That was...amazing!'

Kuno wasn't done, he fetched the nearby kettle he was preparing for her change. A quick splash and she turned back to he. Ranma got taller, more muscular, and the beautiful pussy changed to a manly cock and balls! "Kuno?"

"Seems you're still not satisfied." He was still feeling the heat of his orgasm as a girl, and his penis was standing at attention. "So big!" Kuno praised.

Saotome blushed and his heart fluttered.

Ranma was long and hard, having a good balance of length and girth. He kept holding Ranma's hand, using his free hand to work the shaft. Ranma's manly moan rang out. His hand felt so different than his own, different but still good.

He worked his cock back and forth with a firm grip. "Ahh Kuno!"

"My love has such a big manly cock..." Lick~ "So long..." Lick~ "So thick..." Lick~ "Such a rich manly scent!" He kissed along Ranma's shaft before nuzzling his pubes. Kuno took a deep breath through his nose, enjoying Ranma's musk.

Tatewaki moved down and began licking Ranma's balls. "You taste delicious man or woman!" He praised.

'He's attacking with words!' Ranma shivered. It didn't seem fair but he didn't want it to stop.

"Such beautiful family jewels." He said between kissing Ranma's nuts.

Kuno pumped his dick and licked his balls, when he started licking pre-cum he moved up to focus on the tip, tongue lashing and swirling around the head. "Ahh ahh ohhh~!"

Ranma's moans were music to Kuno's ears. "Your cock is so tasty makes me wanna suck it!" He declared and began going down on Ranma, his hand dropping to fondle his balls.

"Kuno!" Ranma moaned, his hand returning to his hair, running his fingers through soft locks.

Tatewaki moaned around his shaft. 'Yes my love, this pleasure I give to you, reward me with your seed!' Ranma's penis kept twitching between his lips and against his tongue.

He knew he was close, so he sucked harder, and worked the underside. "Oh ohhhh ohhhhhh~!" Ranma arched his back his release hitting hard.

Kuno swallowed every drop, he pulled back to catch some of his seed on his tongue. "Mmmm~!"

Ranma panted and drooled. It took a bit of post nut clarity for him to remember Kuno was hard.

Saotome pushed him back and sure enough he was pitching a tent. “Ranma you don’t have to...” Ranma kissed him, a simple lip smooch to shut him up.

“I’m not the kind of guy who won’t return the favor. I also am not scared of anything least of all your...” Sproing! Kuno’s massive dick sprang into the air, nearly slapping Ranma’s cheek. “Dick!” Ranma gulped. “You’re huge!”

Kuno blushed at the compliment. Indeed, he was huge, 12 inches long! A flicker of prideful rage burst. “Were you just teasing me, calling me big when you’re bigger!?” His hand balled into a fist.

He shook his head. “Not at all, you are big.” He took Ranma’s hand again. “You have a great big dick and a wonderful sweet pussy!” He waxed poetically. “And your ass is...” Ranma covered his mouth.

They stared at each other and Kuno kissed his fingers.

“Nothing has changed, I want you, all of you. My size means nothing in what happens between us.”

“You’d really be fine bottoming to me, even if I’m smaller.”

“You’re no slouch in the dick department, I’m sure you’d fuck me real good!” Damn he’s smooth! “You can fuck me as a man or as a woman, we can get you a strap on of whatever size you please.”

Ranma couldn’t help but laugh. “You really are too much...” He grasped Kuno’s penis and made him gasp. “I guess having this big sword suits ya.” He worked the shaft with both hands.

“Ohh Ranma...Ranma!” He moaned. Kuno rolled back and Ranma settled in front of him, working his length and Tatewaki melted.

Seeing Kuno melt to pleasure thrilled Ranma. ‘Fuck this is really hot!’ He worked his big sword until he was twitching and leaking pre-cum.

Ranma took his essence and used it as lube, smearing it over his shaft. He tried to mirror Kuno’s technique letting his hand drop to the man’s nuts, he didn’t expect Kuno to lose it.

“OHHHHHH!” Kuno arched his back, howling in pleasure, his dick erupted.

Thick spurts shot up and rained over the both of them like a fountain. “Ehh?” Kuno’s balls were a weak spot of pleasure, an erogenous zone.

“Sorry...that...felt...too...good...” He panted.

They were a mess, covered in semen. Ranma stared at Kuno, his heart racing and mind processing. “Can we...have another bath...together...”

Kuno smiled. “Absolutely.” The two went to go get cleaned up. “You know they say there is a good kind of mistake.” He said as they walked.

“What’s that?” Ranma hadn’t heard of such a thing, weren’t all mistakes bad.

“Some might call it an Intelligent failure, mistakes that happen while exploring new territory or taking calculated risks. It can lead to growth, learning, or better outcomes. There’s even a Latin phrase, *Felix Culpa* a happy fault, a mistake that’s necessary as it leads to happy consequences.” He smiled. “Whatever we call it, I don’t regret a second of it.”

“Yeah...me too!” Ranma said with a smile.

-X-

Akane and Genma had to take the long trek to the Kuno estate. Genma’s jaw dropped at the sight of the grand mansion. “The boy is here?”

“Apparently, but I thought they hated each other.” Akane huffed. “Why is he here?”

Genma wasn't listening he was too busy seeing the dollar signs from this estate. They found the call box for deliveries. Beep!

"Yes?" Sasuke's voice came over the line.

"Umm this is Akane Tendo and Genma Saotome, we are here for Ranma Saotome, is he here?"

"He is, he's a guest of Master Kuno."

"Can we talk to him?"

"He's not available at the moment."

Ranma was in the bath with Kuno, the two cuddled up. Tatewaki had Ranma in his lap, they were facing each other. "Now about that dream of yours..." Kuno said before they started making out.

"Well get him, I'm his father and he needs to come home right now." Genma's voice boomed. Silence. "Let me in then I have a right to see my son!" He pressed the button again.

"We know who you are, parent or not Ranma Saotome is a guest of the House of Kuno, and this house will protect it's guests from all intruders no matter who they are."

"Why you little!?" Akane stopped him.

“Listen just...” She sighed in disgust. “Tell your master his beloved Akane Tendo is here to see him, I’m sure he’ll let us in.”

“Miss Akane Tendo, you are no longer Master Kuno’s beloved.”

“What?!” She hadn’t realized, even when Kuno stopped bothering her, she didn’t even think he’d move on.

“Master Kuno is also busy and is not available.”

“Now see here!” Genma roared. “Who is this Kuno and what does he have to do with my son?” Silence. “Did you hear me?”

“I hear you, but that information is classified. Now it is getting late please leave.”

“We aren’t leaving without seeing Ranma.”

“You can do as you please but be warned the House of Kuno will protect...” Smash! Akane punched the call box.

“Let’s go!”

“Right!” Genma tried to force open the gate, but a safety system triggered making the doors weigh a ton. Genma pushed and pushed, summoning all his strength, he had veins

popping and sweating heavily. He'd barely opened the gate a crack and...

Splurt Splurt Splurt

Three pies came out of nowhere and pelted Genma. "Mr. Saotome!?" Akane gasped.

"I'm fine Akane, we are getting in there!" He used techniques from his thieving days and got into the compound with Akane.

They wandered the garden before Akane accidentally triggered a trap. Arrows began to fly. "Waaaaahhhh!" Genma had to scoop Akane up and run for his life, dodging arrows.

Security charms alerted Kuno and Ranma in the bath. "It seems we have uninvited guests." Kuno said.

Ranma was feeling well charged and relaxed. "Is there a problem?"

Kuno shrugged. "Some marauders, fear not, you are completely safe. Let's have a snack before bed."

The two talked and Ranma shared Nabiki's business venture. "Sounds like a good idea, you could easily turn the dojo around." His confidence in Ranma's ability lifted the boy's spirit.

He wouldn't say why he left or what happened with Akane.

-x-Outside-x-

Genma and Akane were stalking around, but Genma saw money in a statue that almost looked like a bird house.

Unable to ignore his greed Genma tried to take the money, only for the trap to spring. The money dropped into a secret compartment, the trap closed around Genma's wrist with enough pressure to make him drop anything in his hand. Guillotine axes rained down from the trees, making Genma dance and scream avoiding the blades.

His pants fell down and Akane screamed, pushing him forward. Shingles launched and began pelting Genma.

They kept searching ending up facing a giant Alligator. "Eeeeehhhhh!" They screamed and ran, ending up in the family labyrinth, dead end after dead end before dropping into a giant lotto machine. "House of Gadgets Technique: Year-End Lotto Jackpot Drawing of Terror"! Giant balls chased Akane and Genma.

The man had to protect Akane, for multiple reasons which meant him getting hit by the giant orbs over and over. They ended up dropping into a giant Washing Machine. "House of Gadgets Technique: Washing Machine of Agitation"!

Water poured in and Genma was turned into a panda. He threw Akane out, but he got swept and slammed into the walls, the fierce current spinning him round and round.

Akane managed to turn the drain on and Genma got swept back outside. He nearly got eaten by Mr. Green Turtle.

Genma was pissed and kept trying, but the Kuno Family Labyrinth made him suffer. Every trap, every pitfall, every gadget. Some Genma fell for, seeing something valuable only for the room to try and kill him.

Akane kept activating trap triggers, making Genma get smacked around keeping her from getting hurt. He made her stay put and he'd fell out the traps himself.

“House of Gadgets Technique: Marauder Zapper!” A room that was totally electrifying. Genma can his panda ass cooked.

“House of Gadgets Technique: Devil's Toilet!” He was dropped in a boiling pool of water, returning to human form and naked, only to get flushed.

Akane screamed when she saw he was naked. Not enough brain bleach in the world will make her unsee this. She ended up pushing him back into the Marauder Zapper room, giving him another shock, before getting sent back to start.

“House of Gadgets Technique Satan’s Oven!” Genma nearly got roasted alive.

“House of Gadgets Technique: Mammon’s Pinball” Genma and Akane found themselves in a giant pinball machine room, and they were chased around by giant balls. Genma got the worst of it.

This place was insane, even the bathroom was boobytrapped, the door weighed a ton, and you had to solve a code to open the door. Some areas had laser security, one hallway seemed safe enough only for boxing gloves to come out of the walls and started pummeling anyone who came by. Genma got punched in the face, chest, gut, kiwis, and legs.

The labyrinth was truly a maze, but they had no idea Sasuke controlled the paths, he could flip, move, and curve their routes so even if they think they got it figured out he could send them back to other rooms on a whim.

Akane wasn’t completely unscathed, she got doused in water, got covered in food and condiments from House of Gadgets Technique Beelzebub’s Kitchen, knocked into mud.

Humiliating but not painful. Genma made sure to cover her but she still got mad.

They were at it all night, they couldn’t even find their way out if they tried, they were completely lost.

Meanwhile...

Ranma and Kuno had a nice time. Tatewaki showed Ranma his room a place Kuno had ready with all his prizes right where he needed them. He had outfits prepared both male and female ones. “You did all this...for me...” Ranma teared up.

“Yes, I hope you like it, know this is yours. No matter what?”

Ranma hugged Kuno. The two shared a goodnight kiss and Kuno left. Ranma felt weirdly safe, he got into some pajamas and crawled into bed an actual fluffy bed instead of a futon on the floor. The last time he’d been in a proper bed was when he’d spent the night at Ryoga’s house. He fell asleep hard and fast.

Kuno went to his room and received a report from Sasuke. “I had a feeling Akane Tendo was involved, Ranma was upset when you picked him up yes?”

“Indeed sir.” Kuno took note of Genma’s greed and trying to steal objects, that got him blasted, shocked, and hit, he wouldn’t stop.

He saw Akane for the first time, without love blinding him to her issues. A part of him wanted to show mercy. “Disable the gadget rooms but don’t allow them to escape.”

“Yes sir!”

They spent all night in the labyrinth unable to escape. Come morning Ranma and Kuno were able to wake up, shower, have breakfast and get ready for school. That's when Sasuke activated the gadget that washed the labyrinth clean sweeping Akane and Genma and taking them out of the estate, dumping them out.

To be continued...

Chapter 9 Akane's Apology Genma's Scheme

“Akane...Pops...what are you doing here?” Kuno stared at the massive panda. He put two and two together, realizing Genma must have also fallen into a cursed spring.

‘So he turns into a panda...okay then...’

Akane was not in the mood for anything, she was tired and wet. Of course she blamed Ranma. “RANMA!” She stood up, in a fury.

Ranma didn't even flinch. He'd already proven Akane couldn't lay a hand on him. His cool demeanor gave her pause.

She was shaking in rage, she wanted to yell, scream, hit something but that wouldn't help her situation. Kuno stared at her as if seeing her for the first time. The fierceness he once praised was seen for what it really was unchecked anger.

Genma poked her and held up a sign. “Apologize!”

“Look I'm sorry alright, happy now?!” She huffed crossing her arms.

“Um what?” Ranma tilted his head in confusion.

“Look I apologized so just come home already!”

‘What is she talking about?’ He watched her tapping her foot aggressively.

“Miss Akane Tendo, why have you come to the House of Kuno?” Kuno asked.

She whirled on him. “Because of him, you think I’d be caught dead anywhere near this insane asylum.” She whirled back on Ranma. “What are you even doing here?”

A good question but none of her business. “That’s none of your business.” He said, feeling Genma’s eyes on him. “But if you must know, Kuno let me crash at his place because you threw me out last night.”

“But...” Akane looked like she was trying to solve some kind of puzzle. It didn’t make sense from her perspective since she had no idea Kuno and Ranma had been close enough for this. “Ugh whatever, just come home and tell Kasumi I apologized!”

“Apologized for what specifically.” Ranma crossed his arms.

“You know what?!” Akane growled.

“Actually I don’t, use your words and apologize properly.” That pissed her off. Akane stomped her foot, causing the water on the ground to splash up. Ranma flinched on reflex.

She stared at him and smirked. “What’s the matter Ranma, scared of a little water?” Akane didn’t know Kuno knew his secret, she didn’t know what was going on with them and she didn’t care, she just believe if she exposed Ranma Kuno would react poorly.

“You wouldn’t...” Ranma said, so shocked by her behavior, it slipped from his mind that Kuno already knows. “Don’t you have any pride as a fighter?”

Akane scoffed. “I don’t care about your male ego nonsense. You are gonna accept my apology, so I can go home!” There it was. Ranma felt the pieces fall into place, he didn’t have the full picture but had enough to guess what happened.

“I’m not gonna accept your apology, because you are not sorry at all.”

Akane’s face turned red, then purple with rage. Genma held up signs saying “Calm down” and “Don’t do it!”. She did it! She kicked, sending a splash of water towards Ranma.

Kuno jumped in the way and got splashed. “Kuno...” Ranma gasped. The man wiped his face with a clothe.

He fixed Akane with a look that made the girl tense up. “Akane Tendo I am surprised at you. I thought you’d be raised better to treat others with more respect.” This was a scolding from a sempai, it carried weight that shook Akane.

“You...you...” She looked between them. “You don’t know him, you don’t know what he’s really like!” She pointed at Ranma.

“I know more than you apparently.” Kuno said. “You speak as if you know his character to his core. I won’t speak to whatever grudge you hold, but let it go, before you let this hatred poison your spirit further.”

Akane tried to back pedal. “But Kuno, you don’t know what he did, he’s a pervert...he...” She went off saying what happened during their accidental encounters in the bath. This was her last play, trying to paint Ranma as a monster, an enemy of women.

“Akane Tendo, that was an accident, a moment, not one to define the rest of your life over, if this is the source of your ire it is shallower than a puddle. Get over it!” He said firmly. Looking to Ranma. “Let’s go, we’ll be late for school.”

They left, together, leaving Akane stunned, and Genma pondering. It was true Ranma hadn’t been in town very long and Akane was judging him over a moment, but even Genma could see the two were close, closer than two friends might be.

Akane tried to go home, but again was turned away. Nabiki had delivered her uniform to Doctor Tofu's place when she left for school. She got breakfast on Genma's dime.

-x-At School-x-

Kuno brought Ranma to the locker rooms and stripped off his soaked uniform. Saotome blushed at the sight of him. The man was positively dripping with good looks. "I'm sorry about that..."

Tatewaki shook his head. "Nonsense, it's just a little water, I'm fine." It wasn't just about the water it was the intent behind it.

"I didn't want you to get dragged into my mess." Ranma rubbed his arm. "Still thanks for...protecting me..."

Kuno turned around, still shirtless. He took Ranma's hand and kissed the back of it. "It was my pleasure."

Saotome took it a step further and kissed Kuno on the lips, they got to share a tender embrace before parting. Tatewaki got dressed and they headed to class.

Ranma bumped into Nabiki and got the full story. Kasumi's rage and determination touched Ranma, he wasn't used to having people stick up for him. Genma often did stuff to put blame on him intentionally, even blaming him for stuff that

was just random happenstance. “What should I do?” He asked her.

“What do you want to do?” Nabiki asked him. “If you wanna live with Kuno, we can keep our arrangement adjusting for your new living situation.”

“Really?” Nabiki nodded. “Thanks Nabiki.”

Akane may have been her sister, but Nabiki wasn’t gonna stand on the side of crazy.

-X-

Akane had been late, she made it to Tofu’s got a shower and got changed. The girl was too tired and embarrassed to talk to the man. She arrived late to school and was forced to stand in the hall.

Tendo fell asleep a few times in different classes, get lectured each and every time. Her anger made her seethe and grumble. She kept shooting daggers at Ranma, who ignored her.

-X-

At Gym Ranma was trying to participate when suddenly a panda barged in, grabbed Ranma and carried him off holding a kettle. In the storage shed Genma transformed back and got dressed. “Alright boy, what’s going on?”

“What are you talking about pops?”

“Don’t play dumb with me boy, I know you!” Ranma raised a brow at that, silently saying.

“Do you?”

“What game are you trying to play with that Kuno boy?”

“No game pops.”

Genma grabbed him. “Are you stupid, that boy is rich. Change into a girl and get into bed with him.” Ranma wanted to vomit.

“No!” Ranma punched him and got him off him. “I’m allowed to have friends Pop, you brought us here, had me engaged to that girl!”

“You are lucky, Akane is great, she’d make a fine wife. You need to secure your future.” Again Ranma wanted to vomit.

“Pops, I don’t even like her, she insults and yells at me.”

“Stop sounding like a girl, man up, you need to accept her apology.” He demanded.

“What apology, she didn’t say what she was sorry for, that she was wrong, or that she wouldn’t do it again.”

Genma groaned. “You know nothing of women, the fact Akane said I’m sorry means more than her actually meaning

it.” Ranma looked at his father in a mix of shock and realization. This is how he lived his life, apologizing but never meaning it and only when he absolutely had to. He thought about the few times Genma had apologized, and no kicking him into the spring of drowned girl was never apologized for.

Ranma shook his head. Genma grabbed him again. “Listen boy, you will do this, you are not gonna ruin this for me. You’ll accept her apology and if you know what’s good for you you’ll give her an apology of your own.”

“What do I have to be sorry for?!”

“You gave her a hard time by running off with that Kuno boy.”

“I didn’t ask her or you to follow me!”

“You ungrateful!” The two started fighting.

-X-

Gym Class ended and Ranma left his father knocked out in the shed. Genma hung around spying. He saw Ranma and Kuno having lunch on the roof together, he watched Ranma and Nabiki talk.

Akane spent the day seething and sleeping. She finally cornered Ranma at the end of the day. “Ranma!”

“What is it?” He put his school shoes away.

“Look...” She balled her hands into fists, relaxed, balled them up again. “I’m sorry for freaking out on you yesterday. It...it wasn’t right.” Ranma saw her eyes moves, like she was reading something.

He whipped around and Genma hid. The man was still trying to help Akane, using signs to tell her what to say. “We got off on the wrong foot, can we move past this?”

Ranma stared at her, he honestly didn’t believe her. The cursed boy ruffled his hair in annoyance. “Look, we didn’t start things off on the best foot, let’s both put the past behind us and start over.” He offered his hand. “I’m Ranma Saotome.”

Akane’s face scrunched a bit, but she took his hand. “I’m Akane Tendo.”

“Nice to meet you Akane, just a bit of friendly advice, don’t trust my dad he’s crazy.”

“Can we go home now?” She asked, she wanted this all to be over.

“Can’t I got kendo practice.”

Akane froze. “Wait what?”

“I’ll be back later.” He walked off.

This sucked for Akane, as until Ranma came back she couldn’t go home. She went to Doctor Tofu’s office, and he let her stay and do her homework.

Ranma went to Kendo, sparring with Kuno. “Your form is truly lovely, you dance like the wind but strike like the hurricane!” Kuno praised.

“Thanks!” Ranma said, his blows were fierce. He was working out some stress.

“What troubles you?”

“My dad...he doesn’t just suck...he’s crazy...he’s...”

“Twisted?” Kuno suggested.

“Yeah?” Ranma blinked at him. “How did you know?”

Kuno sighed. “My sister...and my own father are twisted as well. I used to respect my father, but over time I realized his methods were a bit unhinged. After our mother passed he changed, or maybe he was always like this and mother kept him tethered. Kodachi is...” He sighed again. “Difficult, I always hoped she’d find someone to tether her and anchor her sanity. She was spoiled by father and does as she pleases.”

“Looks like we both got baggage huh?” Ranma sighed.

“So it seems.” Without realizing it Kuno had found his anchor in Ranma. He was also a little crazy, but he’d had more of a relationship with his mother to give him more foundation.

Genma spied on them, his twisted mind already scheming how he could use this to his advantage. He didn’t know what kind of relationship Ranma had with this boy and he didn’t care so long as he could profit on it.

-X-

Akane continued to mutter, she couldn’t shake her annoyance with Ranma despite their second chance talk. “Stupid Ranma...Stupid Ranma...Stupid Ranma...”

Doctor Tofu came in. “Akane?”

“Yes Doctor?” She calmed down and brightened up.

“Are things going badly between you and Ranma?” She vented. “Sounds like you two had a rough meeting, but maybe this second chance will be good for you both.”

“I don’t want to date him or marry him.” She huffed.

“Didn’t say you did. You two could be just friends. Life is all about relationships and bonds, they don’t all have to be romantic.”

“What if I don’t want to be friends with him?”

He eyed her. “I don’t believe you are so cold hearted.” Tofu said firmly. “You can let the past go Akane, you can try to run from it or you can learn from it. All I know Akane is I’ve seen people burn their lives to the ground because they couldn’t let the past go, blaming everyone else and not fixing inside.” He pointed at his chest for emphasis.

Akane couldn’t argue with Tofu. Ranma arrived and they went home together. Kasumi welcomed them both. She even gave Akane a hug. “I’m proud of you Akane.” Guilt gripped her.

-X-

In a small town a giant boar was on a rampage, racing towards a cloaked male. He stopped the rampage and checked the mighty beast. It was impressive. “You saved the village!” A man said.

“Excuse me can you tell me where Furinkan University is?”

The man blinked. “That’s...” Ryoga was completely lost. He was given directions even a map, but one way or another he ended up lost. Hibiki ended up back at the same village twice more...

‘I’m not giving up I’m gonna find you, just you wait!’ His hand balled into a fist.

To be continued...

Chapter 10 Genma Interruption

Kuno was very excited. He'd finally planned the perfect date for Ranma's girl half. He was really excited about it. "Hmm hmm hmm!" Tatewaki hummed, feeling very pleased with himself.

"You seem pleased today." Ranma said. The two were sitting on the roof of the school eating lunch.

Kuno pumped his chest. "Yes, I've scoured the many options and I've picked the perfect date plan!" He was beaming. There were a lot of places one can go around here, Kuno didn't want to plan too much and waste potential date options in the future, but kept them in his back pocket in case something didn't plan out. "I'll be sure to give your lovely Ranko self, all the love it deserves."

"Ranko?"

"Do you like it, your name is lovely male or female, but I thought since you want to keep your secret I could call you something special. If you don't like Ranko, I have Ran-chan, Ranfu, or my sweet Pigtailed Goddess!"

Ranma groaned. “Ranko is fine, you really are weird sometimes.” He said, but his voice didn’t hold the venom of annoyance it was spoken in an endearing way.

“They say the love of a beauty can make men stupid, and you are lovely as both man and woman.” He hugged Ranma.

“Oi, how can you say such things so smoothly. It’s not fair!”

“Not fair? I think it’s completely fair.” He snuggled Ranma, and the raven haired boy let him, actually enjoying the affection.

‘Least no one is around to see me like this.’ It was still hard for him to relax out in the open.

-X-

“I knew it!” Genma was watching from a telescope. “I knew that boy was hiding something. He’s a lot closer to that Kuno boy than he claims!” He was spying, catching them on the roof. Nothing elicited or explicit, but it was information none the less. Information in Genma Saotome’s hand was dangerous.

-X-

Ranma stayed after school to attend kendo club. Practice was intense, his martial arts training made him able to grasp the

basics and take the next steps. The other members of the club were impressed.

They even took Ranma's advice in correcting or adjusting stances and training regimen. 'Maybe running the dojo won't be so difficult.'

After some training and sparring, lot of the members went home early, leaving Ranma and Kuno alone. "Go ahead and hit the showers. I'll finish cleaning up."

"Are you sure, I can help."

"I know you can, but I'm used to handling things, plus you can get ready for our date." Kuno winked at him. Ranma blushed.

"Yeah, yeah..." He kissed Kuno on the cheek, before he left and got a shower, he got changed and head home.'I wonder what he's got planned.' Ranma was feeling excited about the whole thing.

Upon arrival at the Tendo home, he found Akane using the dojo. Before he could even talk to her, his father came barreling in. "Ranma!"

"What do you want pop?"

"We haven't trained, you will be training tonight, you are getting sloppy boy!" Ranma rolled his eyes.

“I got plans tonight.” He said and he tried to move past his father.

“Plans with that Kuno boy?” Saotome froze.

“Not that it’s your business, but we are gonna hang out.” He said not ashamed.

Genma gave him a look. “Doing what?” Ranma looked at his father studying him before smiling.

“I honestly don’t know.” He hummed to himself and started walking towards the house.

“Hold on boy!” Genma grabbed Ranma and the reaction was immediate. The boy checked his father flipping him over his shoulder and slamming him to the ground.

“Looks like you’re getting sloppy pop, maybe you should train with Mr. Tendo, or by yourself...later!” He went inside.

-X-

Ranma went girl form and knocked on Nabiki’s door. “Hey um...can I borrow something?” The middle Tendo got a big smile.

“You can rent...” She said before grabbing Ranko and pulling her into her room. “So what’s the plan?”

“I don’t know, he’s gonna surprise me.” Ranko went through different outfits.

“You’re nervous?” It was a half question.

“A little...” She twiddled her fingers. “I think I’m...excited...for the date!” She corrected with a blush.

“You like him?”

“Yeah...I do...is that weird?”

“For a girl no...for a guy also no...” Ranko sighed. “Have you ever liked a guy before?”

“I mean...I don’t know...maybe...but I never thought about..that...” She was blushing and Nabiki felt there was more here, but didn’t press.

“If he was gonna do something fancy he’d have sent you something again. Let’s go for casual.” Nabiki picked out some stuff that’d work for a casual date.

When it was time Ranma got a message arrow. Nabiki sighed.

“You two really need to get a cell phone.”

“Hehe...” He took the arrow and read the message. “Looks like I’m off.”

“Have fun, don’t do anything I wouldn’t do for free.”

“Thanks!” Ranma saw his dad staking out the front so decided to go out the side way. She was wearing a black long sleeved top, with a floral collar, tight back pants, with a flower skirt, a red hat with a flower pin, and sensible shoes. It had some feminine touches, but it was comfortable. As for underwear Ranko decided to wear a pair of briefs.

Nabiki said Ranma should get herself some proper panties and underwear. He wasn’t quite sure about that just yet.

Kuno showed up and he was in casual dress, a blue jacket, black undershirt, and loose white pants, and comfortable shoes. ‘He looks good!’

“You look lovely Ranko my dear!” Kuno said and kissed the back of Ranko’s hand. She blushed.

“You look great to.” She clapped her hands. “So what are we doing?”

“Well, we are going on a tour!”

“A tour?” Ranko blinked.

“Yes, you are new here, so we are gonna tour the town.” He wanted Ranma to see the sights, to know the town, if there was even a chance of putting down roots it was good to see what was in the garden. Kuno wanted Ranma to have a place, places he could go he could get their favorite meal, to hang

out with friends, have a “their place”, if they wanted to do something fun, go for a walk, take up a hobby, anything. It was super thoughtful, they got to spend time together and Ranma got to explore the town.

-X-

Genma went to check on Ranma, only to find the boy gone. He searched the whole house. “Where is Ranma?”

“I think he went out.” Akane said, having seen Ranma leave earlier. “Well she...he was in girl form.”

“What?!” Genma left.

“What’s up with him?” Akane asked confused.

-X-

Kuno showed Ranma the park, where they offered boat rides and had picnic areas. They kept exploring the tourist area had an ice rink, a tea house, a museum, an arcade, there was an aquarium, and a few lots that get taken up when there are festivals and the like. The two didn’t go into these places they were essentially window shopping locations. They passed by the amusement park where they had the boy date.

They eventually ended up in the shopping district, Ranko got to enjoy some of the local shops, try some of the local food places. She ordered some fancy ice creams, he’d have been

too embarrassed to try as a guy. Kuno foot the bill. There was clothing stores, thrift shops, an antique shop, and some open lots where pop up shops could rent space to sell things.

Ranma saw a movie theater, there was concert hall, and a gym. Ranko got to enjoy some free samples to test the local eateries and cafes. Kuno saved the info of the places she really liked.

“Do you want to do some shopping?”

“I didn’t bring much money...” She said sadly. It was because she didn’t have a lot of money to begin with. Heck just renting the outfit was putting a nail in his limited funds.

“I got you covered.”

“But...” Kuno hugged her.

“Let me spoil you today, if its something you want don’t hesitate to ask.”

“Fine...” They went into one shop, offering different female clothes. “Let’s do this!”

Ranko tried on different outfits, from casual, to combat, to fierce. Kuno gushed about each one. “I need you to be honest, I don’t know what looks good on me.”

“It all looks good on you Ranko my sweet, but get what makes you comfortable.” He was sweet but not exactly helpful. Ranko said to pick to his top five and get them, Kuno was looking through the outfits. Thankfully the sales person was happy to help.

The woman had dark hair, a sweet face, and a kind personality. Her name tag had her first name Kagome. She picked out a few things and handed them to Ranko. “What are we thinking on underwear?” She blushed.

“Um...” Ranma didn’t know what to say. He couldn’t exactly tell her she was actually a he.

“Maybe something for the boyfriend?” She asked looking towards Kuno.

“Oh sure.” She looked down. ‘No harm in just looking.’

The sales woman came back with a bunch of different options but a red number really caught Ranma’s eye. Ranko stared at it. “Umm Kuno...I...I want to try this on...could you...” Kuno surged.

“Yes my goddess!” He said boldly and he paid the try on fee. For underwear there was a try on fee, half the sale’s price. Kuno paid it.

Outside Genma had been looking for them and saw Kuno in the shop. He pressed his face against the glass and saw his son in girl form in one of the dressing rooms behind a curtain. ‘What is that boy doing?!’ He saw Kuno bring back the rental ticket. Genma put the pieces together, the only reason why they’d have a rental ticket was... ‘Oh hell no!’

Genma went and got some hot water.

Inside...

Ranko took off her clothes and put on the red number, it held her bust well and then she slipped the panties on. She looked herself over in the mirror and it looked good. ‘It doesn’t feel bad...’ He looked at herself, and felt his core libido surge. ‘I can’t believe I’m wearing women’s underwear, and it doesn’t feel bad.’ The garment wasn’t too frilly, and it offered comfort and support in all the right places. ‘Should I show Kuno...no...I want to surprise him.’ She stuck a hand out. “Hey Kuno can you pay for this, I’m gonna wear it out.”

“Of course!” He went and paid.

Genma used his burglar skills and slipped into the shop and into the dressing room next to Ranma, he raised the kettle and dumped the contents into the other stall. Ranma’s male voice rang out. “Hot!” Genma bolted as Kuno came running back.

“Ranko!” He burst into the changing room and froze. Male Ranma, wearing the red silk number. His whole face burned. Kuno drank in Ranma’s form, he was beautiful even wearing women’s underwear. The look of fear and panic in Ranma’s eyes sobered him up.

Tatewaki hugged Ranma. “It’s okay...you’re beautiful!” Saotome took calming breaths. Kuno was rubbing his back and shushing him in a calming and comforting way.

His eyes were wet with tears but he held them back. “I...wanted to surprise you...do you think I’m weird?” Those old fears creeping up and gripping Ranma’s chest.

“No, you’re amazing!” He pulled back. “I’ll get you some water.” Kuno left, and Ranma tried to breathe and calm down.

Tatewaki acted fast and returned with water and a towel, he doused Ranma, just enough to trigger the curse and he was back to she. “Do you like it?” She asked.

“I love it, its sexy on you no matter what gender you are.”

“Do...do you really mean that?”

“Oh yes!” Ranko pressed into him and kissed Kuno. He kissed back and held her close. “Mmmm~!” They enjoyed the moment before reality came knocking.

“Is there anything else I can grab for you?” Ranko pulled back blushing.

“No...I’m good!” Even Kuno was blushing. He was hard, his bulge rubbing against Ranko’s panty clad womanhood. She shivered.

Tatewaki mouthed sorry. She shook her head, smiling despite the blush. Once the sales girl left he left the room leaving Ranko to dry off and put on her clothes, tucking her briefs into a bag. Kuno picked out five outfits, and Ranko picked out four plus the underwear.

Things were quiet, the sales person looked between them. “Is something wrong?”

“No...nothing!” Ranko waved her off.

“Well, if you two are looking for something fun, there’s a club at the edge of town, music, drinks, dancing, you might enjoy it.” She handed over the flier.

“Thanks.” They left the shop.

The two walked still in silence. Ranko was deep in thought. He had taken a step, dipping a toe in, taking the advantage of the situation. Maybe he wasn’t ready, maybe it was too risky, e felt like he’d made some kind of mistake.

Kuno looked at her. “Red is a good color on you.” He said, breaking the silence.

“Shut up!” Ranko said and playfully elbowed him. She still laughed, Tatewaki smiled at her.

“What color do you think would look good on me?” Ranko blushed at the thought.

“Dark blue...maybe a nice purple?”

“Let’s find out.” Kuno took Ranma to another store this one was tucked away and it had blacked out windows.

It was a sex shop! Kuno purchased a private room, and selected a couple of outfits. Ranma’s face burned seeing various toys, outfits, and other bits and bobs. ‘Oh my god, oh my god, oh my god...’ She had no idea what was about to happen.

Then Kuno came in in a full bra and panty set, it was a rich blue color with a rose pattern over the crotch. Said crotch was bulged lewdly by his cock and balls. “How do I look?”

“Wow!” Ranma couldn’t help but smile.

He knelt before Ranko. “My sweet Ranko, talk to me.”

“I...saw myself...as a guy in the women’s underwear, and I kinda wiggled...” She said softly. “Nabiki had offered, but I

didn't want to wear women's underwear, but then that sales girl was so nice I didn't want to make a scene and when I saw the red number...I tried it on...then the hot water..."

Ranko looked at Kuno. "I still liked it..." He was surprised.

"But that's good, right?"

"Maybe, but having you with me, saying it was okay made me feel okay." Ranko looks at Kuno in the full bra and panties. "Then look at you, wearing panties like it's no big deal. Because it's not a big deal is it?"

Kuno shrugged. "Not to me. I meant what I told you before. I love you."

"You'd really wear panties and stuff for me?"

"Yes, I don't think it's weird, and I don't think you're weird for enjoying a bit of lingerie."

"You're crazy!" Her voice was warm and soft, not a drop of venom or cruelty.

"Crazy for you." He took her hand and kissed the back of it.

"Shall we shop around?" Kuno was encouraging Ranma to explore things, without judgment. He put his clothes on, still wearing the lingerie under his clothes. Kuno showed Ranma a whole section of Male Lingerie. She picked out a couple of

things for Kuno, mostly different colors, The sex toys were interesting... all the different shapes, sizes, styles,

Tatewaki even bought special briefs for pegging. “You are serious?”

“Absolutely!” He smiled. The briefs were special with a dock for different sizes. Kuno got one with his size and one of Ranma’s male size, the training rod that came with it was just an extra.

They didn’t get anything more than that. Ranma remembered the book on toys Kuno had given him. She wanted to do research before making any purchases. Even if Kuno was willing to buy whatever she wanted.

The shop sales person was a unique individual they were very pretty. They were lean and had their hair pinned up in a feminine style. They had blue snake fang tattoos on their cheeks. He was wearing make up having red lips and green eye shadow. One could mistake them for a woman. On their uniform was a name tag Jakotsu.

“Hello, hello, aren’t you two interesting. I love your energy girl.” Jakotsu said looking at Ranko.

“Umm thank you?”

“This your first time in a place like this?”

“That obvious huh?” Ranko rubbed the back of her neck sheepishly.

“No shame in it honey, everyone needs to get their freak on now and then. Nothing wrong with that.” Jakotsu shot her a wink. “We of course encourage people to experiment safely. The shop even has pros who offer courses.”

Ranko blushed. “Just this stuff for now.”

“Kk, you are lucky, your boyfriend here has a very unique aura about him.” Jakotsu said and started scanning their items.

“He’s...” Ranko began but stopped herself. “Thank you, yeah he’s really special.”

“Be sure to come back if you have any needs you want met.” Jakotsu handed over a card, with holes to punch.

They were about to leave, when Ranko spotted her father. “Crap it’s pops!”

“Genma Saotome!?” Kuno peeked out the crack, and there he was at the end of the alley. The man was looking around.

“He must have poured the hot water on me!” Ranma growled.

“Trouble?” Jakotsu came forward.

“My old man...he...” She looked down.

Jakotsu raised his hand. “Honey, you don’t need to explain. If you two want out, take the back way out. I got you covered sugar pop.” He winked.

“Thank you!” Kuno said happily.

“Let’s go!” They took the back way out, Jakotsu showed them the way, it had a hidden door.

“Just follow the hallway and you’re all good.”

They did and found the exit that put them far and away from Genma’s gaze. The man did try to come into the shop. Jakotsu sized the man up instantly. He was pretty good at reading auras and this man was a trash fire of miserable and bad.

Genma looked at Jakotsu. “Did my son...err...daughter come in here with a tall boy?”

‘Son? Daughter?’ Jakotsu felt the wheels turning like he just got a peek at something interesting. He shrugged. “Sorry old man haven’t had a customer all day. If you’re interested we got a sale on cock cages, I hear men your age really dig it.” Genma turned white.

“No no no no thank you!” He bolted like Jakotsu was gonna set him on fire.

Jakotsu flipped him off. ‘Prick!’ He got bad vibes immediately from Genma, he hoped the two would be okay.

-X-

Ranko and Kuno made it back. “What are we gonna do about all this stuff?” She asked. Lugging around some of the more X rated stuff had Ranko on edge.

“Not to worry.” He called Sasuke, who arrived quickly.

“I’ll have your items stored safely at the Kuno Estate.” Sasuke left with a bow.

“Thank you!” Ranko called.

“Ugh I can’t believe my old man.”

“Let’s not let him ruin our date Ranko dear!” Kuno said with a bow taking her hand. She held it.

“Yeah.” They walked and Ranko saw a small electronics shop.

“Hey can we go here?” Kuno looked at the shop.

“Sure thing my dear!”

Ranko talked about getting a phone. Kuno wasn’t super techy but he was capable of growing. The shop keep had striking red hair, he was a true salesman working with the two and answering any questions they had.

Tatewaki decided to get them both a phone, nothing too fancy, flip phones and a good plan for calls and texts. The boy Rinne

They didn't need much. Ranko picked out a red phone, and Kuno picked out a blue one. "Maybe I should get one for Sasuke and my sister..." Kuno wondered.

Rinne was eager for more sales, but explained how you could have a Business Plan and a Family plan. Ranko perked up at the mention of his sister, but didn't say anything.

They set up and exchanged numbers. Kuno had Ranma/Ranko as contact. Ranko put him down as Tatewaki. Rinne explained the basics, and Kuno gave him a tip, the boy cried tears of joy. "Thank you so much!"

The guy needed the money. "The name is Rinne, I work here, I practically run this shop we buy and sell electronics here, we also do repairs." He ran his own temp company Rokudo Odd Jobs. "My card!"

"I haven't seen you at school?" Ranko said, before clapping a hand over her mouth. She forgot she was Ranko.

"I can't afford school, this is my main job but I do anything from yard work, gardening, delivery, repairs...etc..."

"Thank you." Kuno said. He kept the card. Ranko even added his business and Jakotsu's business to her contact info. Seeing the empty contact list made Ranko a bit sad. Kuno put an arm around her. "We can add more."

She nodded. She could add Tofu's and the Tendo house's number, if he ever needed to he could call them without worrying about a pay phone. It was an extra life line, a bit of independence his father wouldn't have given him. 'I wonder if...' A thought crossed her mind but she shook it off.

They continued their date, doing a little shopping and sampling local cuisine. Kuno wanted Ranma to have roots, places to go, things to do, places to hangout and enjoy, with or without him. He deserved that. "This can't be entertaining for you?" He looked at her. "Giving me this whole tour thing?"

"Actually I'm having a grand time." He sipped his soda. "I've gotten to spend the day with you."

Ranko blushed. "I gotta admit, you are a smooth one Tatewaki Kuno. This date was practically perfect. Even with my old man trying to interrupt it."

"He might be your father but I'd like to give him what for!"

Ranko chuckled. "That I'd like to see, but you need to be ready my old man is sneaky, sword skills alone won't be enough."

Kuno got an idea. "Maybe I need to train, I'm willing to put the effort in to get stronger."

“Maybe I should teach you the Anything Goes Martial Arts?” Kuno was an honorable man, Genma wasn’t, in a fight Kuno may hold back or show mercy and that’s when Genma would strike. Ranma knew this, and knew in true Anything Goes fashion Genma would cheat and do something horrible to Kuno. Simply learning the Anything Goes School Arts would be enough to counter or handle his tricks.

Kuno smiled. “It’s a date!”

“Wait...” Ranko blushed. “Huh?” She just asked Kuno out, in a weird way, but it worked.

“I have heard of a dojo that could use new students, and they have a lovely instructor.”

“You can’t sweet talk me, if you are serious about training I’m gonna push you hard.” His warrior/martial art spirit burned.

“I will do my best to make you proud.”

Their date ended and Kuno brought Ranko home. Genma had been stuck running in circles. Sasuke had doubled back and began running ninja interference and keeping the man away. When he finally gave up he headed back.

Ranko kissed Kuno goodbye, he held her close, and the two melted into each other. “BOY!” The two tensed, Genma’s voice piercing the evening air. “WHAT the HELL is THIS!”

“Do you want me to stay?” Kuno asked.

“No, I got this, I’ll call you, I promise!” He kissed her cheek and pulled back but didn’t leave, he waited. Ranko went into the Tendo place and Genma followed, shooting a glare at Kuno as he passed. Tatewaki didn’t flinch, instead fixed the man with a righteous glare of his own.

The look said it all. “Touch them and I’ll burn your world to the ground!”. Genma flinched, Kuno wasn’t messing around. The older Saotome puffed up his chest trying to act tough and followed Ranma into the house.

‘I wanted to talk to her...’ Kuno didn’t like how they left things. He’d given Ranma a date as a man and a woman, now the ball was in their court. He sighed and went home.

Ranma turned back to a guy, and even had dinner. Genma was playing the angry father, shooting daggers at Ranma with his eyes while angrily scarfing down his food, even his chewing sounded angry. The Tendo sisters looked between Ranma and Genma, tension thick in the air.

If Ranma tried to talk Genma made a noise. “Saotome, is something wrong?” Tendo asked.

He glared at Ranma. “I’m just tired. I don’t have much appetite.” Genma got up and left, heading to bed.

Ranma sighed. All the dirty looks and guilt trips didn’t work on him. He knew how his dad operated. Dinner was better without Genma. Nabiki gave Ranma a look, and he returned it promising details later.

He took a bath, thinking a lot. Ranma went to Nabiki’s room and spilled the tea. The girl gushed over his new phone, she got his number and the put the house contacts in it. “I can’t believe you got Kuno to get a phone, he’s so old school with things.”

“It’s kinda sweet in his own way. He’s willing to adapt...”

“I think you’re a good influence on him.” Nabiki said. “I’ve known that boy for a long time, and this is the happiest I’ve ever seen him. Are you gonna see him again?”

That was the question.

Ranma didn’t forget to message Kuno, the male’s phone buzzed.

Ranma: Hey

His response was slow, but it came.

Tatewaki: My love, is everything okay?

Ranma: Yeah

Ranma: I just wanted to wish you goodnight and thank you for the fun time.

Tatewaki: Goodnight my love, may we meet in our dreams!

Ranma felt his heart flutter. He relaxed on the roof, watching the stars. The boy held the phone and remembered a number. ‘What am I doing?’ He called the number.

“Hi, you’ve reached the Hibiki Residence, no one is home right now, please leave a message and we’ll get back to you as soon as we return!” Beep!

“Hey Ryoga...it’s Ranma...I...” Beep!

“We are sorry messages are full.” Click!

Saotome sighed and closed his phone. “What am I doing? He wouldn’t want to see me, let alone talk to me.” He held the phone over his chest. “Hey Ryoga...I know we haven’t talked in forever but...I met someone...things are...changing...but I think I’m happy...and I wanted to share it with someone and I thought of you. I might sound stupid but I think...” The stars didn’t have an answer for him.

Ranma closed his eyes and fell asleep.

-X-

“I’m gonna find you Saotome!” Ryoga was tearing through a jungle. “Ya here me, I’m gonna find you!” His rage burned. “Then I’m gonna have my revenge!”

To be continued...Ranma’s Happiness

Ranma avoided his father, getting a wake up text from Kuno and Ranma calls him wanting to hear his voice. Ranma wanted to talk to him at school, he wasn’t sure what he was gonna say but knew he had to talk to Kuno face to face. Genma is pissed and goes to make trouble. Things spiral out of control for Ranma when Ryoga finds his way to the school and attacks!

End Volume 2

To be continued in Volume 3