

Wisdom From Heaven

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With a new threat coming into play, The five Po and Kurisu have yet to discover a tool that will aid them in their quest. Who ever said the dragon scroll was the only scroll....?

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1 - Momentos

(With a new threat coming into play, The five Po and Kurisu have yet to discover a tool that will aid them in their quest. Who ever said the dragon scroll was the only scroll? Upon finding a scroll called "Heaven's Wisdom" The young masters summon the only one who can help them on their journey. The only one in the world who has a truly hateful rivalry with a jaguar named "Giao Xun."Embarking on their own private journey to far and mystical places, the residents of the palace suffer many losses, new loves, renewed friendships, and old forgotten bonds begin to tighten greatly. Everyone is on a journey to defeat Giao Xun for good, in this thrilling adventure there's no telling who will survive...and who will perish at Giao Xun's bloody claws....)

(Yaaayz! First chapter of "Wisdom From heaven"!!! SQUEEEEEEEEE!!! I'm so excited, this story will be mega awesome!! It introduces my OC Kurisu as well.)

The air around the Jade Palace was as hot as usual, sweat clung to Shifu's brow like a tick. No matter how much he wiped it off.....it just kept coming. *This isn't really working...* In order to go into meditation stage, he needed to relax himself, have a calm mind...and think of nothing but peaceful thoughts. Quite hard to do so when he was pretty much panting like a dog from the heat. The red panda shifted around in a better position and just relaxed himself. Inhale and exhale.....inhale and exhale. Inha-
"Ohayooo Master!"

The red panda gave an irritated grunt and turned his attention towards a pair of sparkling blue eyes staring down at him. A young kitten stood there beaming down at him. She was wearing an indigo Japanese kimono with a periwinkle seam and a rainbow butterfly print. Her fur was a light tone of blue and silver, she had in two violet Chinese hair buns, and she wore a tear dropped shape aquamarine necklace with chocolate diamonds and a silver chain. She also had tiny metallic gray sandals.

Shifu sighed. "Mm...what is it now Kurisu?"

Kurisu giggled. "What's with the annoyed tone?"

The red panda merely rolled his eyes. "Oh...I wonder.." He said sarcastically.

Only mere days after Po had defeated the rebellious Tai Lung, did yet another care fall into the old master's hands. A young thirteen year old orphan who's family growing up was only Po and Mr. Ping. She was quite a nuisance to have around at the palace. Being an average...air head. This kitten was the most clumsiest, ditziest, bubbly little girl the red panda had ever met. She was mostly Japanese (with only a hint of Chinese in her), she had the tendency to speak in random Japanese words in the middle of a sentence. Shifu's Japanese was limited so he could only understand her most of the time. Having her for over a year now, he could pretty much respond to her Japanese speaking with the fluent language right back at her.

Kurisu yawned and sat down beside him. "So how ya doooooing?"

"Fine.." He answered curtly. *At least until you showed up...*

The kitten's eyes shone with her occasional cheerfulness. "Yataa, I'm glad! I'm in a good mood as well!"

".....Good for you." *She's so oblivious...*

"Yo Master Shifu!"

Scowling (as usual) the red panda turned towards an out of breath panda running towards him.

"Hello Po..."

Po grinned as he approached them. "Hey, what do you want for dinner tonight? Noodles?"

Shifu smiled slightly. "Isn't that your specialty panda?"

The panda slapped his head. "Duh, I must have forgotten!"

Kurusu sprung up from her seat. "Ouu ouuu!!! Can I make a side dish of onigiri and takoyaki?!" Po and Kurisu were the official cooks at the palace. Po specializing in Chinese food, and Kurisu? Japanese of course!

Po chuckled. "Mmmmm!! sounds delicious Kurisu, what's for dessert?"

"Tayaki!"

The panda rubbed his belly. "Yum,yum can't wait! Meet me in the kitchen later, okay?"

"Haiii! Po chan!" The kitten saluted. "It's a promise!"

Shifu waited until Po was gone, and there was no noise. He brought his bamboo flute to his mouth and took a deep breath-

"Ouu!" Kurisu snatched it from his hands. "It's your flute! Ya know, ya never did tell me where you got this!"

Angrily the red panda snatched his precious flute back. "Be careful with that! It's very special!" He examined the instrument for any possible damage or finger prints.

Offened, the kitten turned her back. "Well *excuuuuuuuse* me!"

Shifu gave a small guilty smile. "I'm sorry Kurisu, it's just...that flute means alot to me. It was given to me by someone very special...."

The kitten tapped her chin. "Hmmmmm.....Master Oogway?"

The red panda sighed, his ears drooped down. "You guessed right.." His heart seemed to tie in knots at the mention of the old tortoise's name.

Kurusu gave him a sideways one hand hug. "[Awww...it's](#) okay! At least you have things to remember him by, right?"

Shifu's ears flattened down in annoyance and shrugged out of her embrace. "Mmhmm..."

The kitten piped up and turned towards him. "Hey, can I try?!"

Eyeing the young teen skeptically, the red panda placed the flutes in her out stretched palms. "Just be careful..."

Kurusu brought the flute to her mouth and blew out a harsh high pitched note.

"Augh!" Snatching his beloved instrument back from her, he narrowed her eyes. "As Po would say...."you-suck-noodles!" He laughed and recieved a hard jab in the ribs.

"Very funny!" She took out her ocarina and placed it in his hands. "Well can you play *this*?"

Reluctantly, the red panda brought her instrument to his lips and blew a sweet long note. He turned towards the shocked kitten with a smug look.

She narrowed her eyes at him. "Oh.....be quiet!"

"Hey Kurisu!!"

The kitten turned her attention towards Po who came hurrying up behind her. "Hey, I need your help in the kitchen!"

Kurusu saluted. "Will do panda!" With that, she followed Po into the bunkhouse.

The red panda smiled. Finally, he was completely alone. He wasn't really in the mood to meditate anymore, so he decided to check up on his students. As he walked into the training hall he leaned over the railing on the steps and watched them.

Tigress as usual was using speed as she elegantly avoided all the bamboo arrows shooting from every deirection.

Monkey struck out with his staff, feet and fists a every angle as viper tried to avoid all his blows.

Crane flew gracefully, fluid and balanced around the room at high speed following monkey through every hoop hanging from the ceiling.

Mantis with his usual precise speed was following viper through the field of firey death both with their

amazing flexibility.

Smiling, Shifu turned towards Po and Kurisu, who were at the other side of the room fighting invisible opponents with amazing agility.

Po was using his own "panda" style of Kung Fu, swinging his arms over and over again in a circular motion, he got closer and closer to the wall until finally-

"YEOOOOOOOOWWWWWIIIEE!!!"

Shifu rolled his eyes and stifled a laugh.

Kurisu as usual.....was falling on her face.

The red panda face palmed. "No, no, no! Kurisu keep your feet out of the way so you don't trip on them!"

"I'm tryiiiiing!" She wailed. The kiten hopped back on her feet and kicked Po gracefully in the stomach, she did a flip in the air and struck out her fist.

The panda flew backward and smashed into the wall.

From on the steps, Shifu clapped and smiled at his youngest pupil. "Very well done!"

Kurisu gave a respectful bow. "Domo arigato sensei!"

Shifu returned her bow and stepped out of the training hall towards the Hall of Heroes, he stepped slowly through the sacred halls eyeing each one of the paintings thoughtfully. He traced his fingers over the beautiful artwork and bowed in mourning and respect when he got to the one of Oogway. The red panda reached down and picked up one of the pieces of Oogway's staff. Thanks to Tai Lung, it was now ready made kindling to feed a fire...as if he'd actually ever let *that* happen though! Although it was now in two halves but that didn't matter. Shifu would never get rid of it-never! Not only was it given to him by the one person whom he had loved more than life itself, it was also the symbol representing him as the Supreme Kung Fu Master. He placed the staff underneath Oogway's painting and walked over to the few others. He smiled up at the one of his parents, they were beside Oogway with a tiny bundle in his mother: "Shei Lia's" arms. The old tortoise had painted that shortly after the red panda had been born. He had hung it up at the end of the hall not long after Shifu had been born. The elderly Kung Fu master slipped his bamboo flute out of his pocket, yet another memoir from his master. He smiled and ran his hand up the slick hard wood-like material.

"Master Shifu!"

The red panda turned towards Tigress who was standing at the doorway. "Oh, Tigress?"

"Po and Kurisu say dinner is ready.."

Shifu nodded. "Thank you Tigress." With that, he followed his student into the bunkhouse.

Kurisu's blue eyes sparkled. "Oh, Shifu chaaan! You are just in time to be the first to sample my Tayaki!! I put strawberry cream in it, it's delicious!" She stuffed the fish shaped cake in her master's mouth.

"Mmph-!!" The red panda gagged as the cake choked him. He coughed and thickly swallowed the cake.

"It's d-delicious!" He managed to get out through a coughing fit.

"Well that's good, I didn't think strawberry cream would taste that good.." Po said as he set down eight bowls at the table. "Now I'm not afraid to try it!"

The kitten's eyes went wide. "You were afraid to try it?! What an insult!"

Shifu rolled his eyes.

Everyone took a seat at the table, and took a serving of food.

"Mmm...I'm thinking of cooking tomorrow!" Monkey said as he took a spoonful of noodles.

Kurisu shrugged. "Why not? You make amazing cookies!"

The golden languor chuckled. "Baking things is my speciality. I should be the official baker of the palace."

Kurisu's eyes went wide, her tail flicked in annoyance. "And steal *my* position?! No way!!"

Po grinned. "As long as no one steals my position as the noodle man! The *muscular* noodle man!"

Shifu nearly spat out his spoonful of noodles, clapping his hand to his mouth to keep from laughing.

"The-the what?!"

Kurusu shrugged. "I agree with the "noodle" part, but muscular..?"

Matis snickered. "That, I don't think anyone will believe!"

The giant panda glared at his friends. "Aww geez! Why can't you ever be supportive of me?"

Shifu licked his lips. "When you earn it panda...and when you become less flabby."

Everyone roared with laughter (well of course except for Po).

"I've got the tayaki!" Kurisu exclaimed, balancing a plate of steaming cakes on her tail.

The red panda rolled his eyes. "Oh great...the fish cakes are here.."

"You're so mean! I worked really hard on these!!"

"Mmhmm..." He took a cake from the plate and exited the room. "Po, Kurisu thank you for dinner!"

"You're welcome!"

"Any time Master!"

"Hmmm...what should we make for dinner tomorrow night?" Po asked lazily as he chomped on one of Monkey's almond cookies.

"I don't know.." Kurisu responded as she smoothed out her pink satin nightgown. "I'm thinking.....tofu onion miso soup!"

"Ewwwwwwwwww!!!"

"Oh shut up!" The kitten snapped, her ears flattened down against her head. "Everyone else likes it!"

Po yawned and stuffed the rest of his cookie in his mouth. "I'm sure lucky I wasn't here the day you made it!"

"...." Kurisu narrowed her eyes and flicked her tail into his face. ".....Jerk."

"Master Oogway, Master Oogway!" A young and eager red panda cub turned towards his master, eyes sparkling. "Can I mix it? Can I, can I?!" He jumped up and down, reaching for the bowl.

Oogway laughed and gently pushed the cub back down. "Relax Shifu, here." He handed the cub the mixing bowl.

Shifu inhaled the sweet candy aroma. "Mm! Who knew melon bun batter could smell so good?" He poured the batter into some cups and stuck it in the oven. "It really looks good!"

DING!

The old tortoise chuckled and took the baked buns out of the oven. "They're done."

Shifu snatched a bun and stuffed it in his mouth. "Mmmmm!! Those are yummy master!"

Oogway chuckled. "Maybe making them on our own will save me some yuan so I don't have to keep buying melon buns for you so often!"

DING!

"Ouuu, the second batch is done!" The young cub pulled it out of the oven. "Look master, it's the batch I did by myself!" He handed his master a bun. "Is it good?"

Oogway took a bite out of his bun, grinning. "It's really good Shifu."

"Right, right?! Hehehehehe!"

The old tortoise poked the cub endearingly on the nose. "You did great.."

"Yay! Hehehehe!"

Shifu's eyes snapped open, he sprung up from his pillow, his face and pillow was soaked with a watery substance. Was it sweat or tears? He couldn't tell.....and he had a habit of sweating when he slept. The red panda reached over and switched on his light. There was a bright light and the room became black again.

Arghhh! The light burnt out... Cursing to himself, he fumbled around in his dresser drawer trying to search for a spare lightbulb. The red panda's hand fell on top of a small cardboard box. He took it out of the drawer and closed the door. Shifu waited for his eyes to adjust to the dark before opening the box. What he saw nearly brought him to tears. There in the box was a tiny fuzzy white plush teddy bear

settled on some cotton. It's black eyes shone in the darkness, as well as it's green tunic. the teddy was a clean white polar bear, and Shifu recognized it immediately. "Pong." The one memoir of his master that was more dear to him than the staff and flute combined. on Valentines Day Oogway had given it to him when he was six years old. The red panda had slept with the comforting teddy until he was thirteen. After that, he kept it in a small box and laid it at the bottom of his dresser. Shifu smiled and smoothed out the polar bear's fur. He didn't bother putting Pong back in his box that night.

(Daaaaaw! Shifu found his childhood best friend: his teddy Pong! Cute, huh? Just to let you know, Shifu and Oogway are the main characters in this story.)

Kurisu-Crystal (Japanese)

Ohayo-Good morning (Japanese)

Takoyaki-Fried octopus treat (Japanese)

Yataa-Yay (Japanese)

Tayaki- Fish shaped cake with a sweet filling (Japanese)

Domo arigato-Thank you very much (Japanese)

Sensei-Teacher (Japanese)

Onigiri-Rice balls (Japanese)

Chan-A japanese honorific usually referring to someone who is dear to you, or in short form: best friend.

Preview of the next chapter!

The red panda sat underneath the sacred peach tree, his ears twitched continuously. They always did when something didn't feel right, but now more than ever. He glanced up at the peach tree, since Oogway's death no peaches had grown from the tree. Peaches seemed to have represented Oogway's life, as long as he lived the tree would bear fruit, but now...

"Master Shifu!"

The red panda turned towards a voice behind him. "Po..."

Po was as pale as a ghost. "Master.....there's something really bad going on..."

The red panda's eyes went as wide as saucers. "Wh...what..?"

2 - Stiff Like A Statue

(A bit of a sentiamental moment at the end, hehe! Watch and you'll see just how foolish Kurisu can be! BTW, she gets punished and scolded very often.)

Shifu rubbed his eyes, trying to get the sleepy fuzz out of his vision and propped himself up on the pillow. The morning sunlight shone through the clear slick glass of his window and filled the room with a vibrant glow. "Hmm....it's a nice day today." Smiling and slipping his robe on, the red panda walked out of his room and down through the bunkhouse to wake his students. The moment he stepped into the hall the gong sounded.

DONG!

"Good morning Master Oogway!" Came a young red panda cub's voice.

The old tortoise smiled. "Good morning Shifu...how did you sleep?"

"Very well!" The cub gave a high kick into the air. "Hiyaa!"

Oogway chuckled and gently took the cub's hand. "Alright let's get breakfast ready."

"With melon buns for dessert?!"

The old master laughed gently. "Yes, with melon buns for dessert."

"Yay!"

The red panda's stomach churned. *Urk!* Why did he just think that...was that old tortoise ever going to get out of his mind?

"Good morning Master Shifu!"

The usual chorus he woke up to every morning.....except, one was missing.

"Grahhh....where is she? Is she sleeping in again?!" The red panda demanded sharply.

Tigress kept a serious face. "We're not sure master."

Shifu flicked his wrist. "Ugh! Oh well, come on. Grab breakfast and meet me in the training yard."

The five saluted. "Yes Master Shifu..."

All of a sudden the door banged open. "Oh! Oh Master! Sorry I'm late.....my shorts were stuck." Po said awkwardly.

The elderly Kung Fu master made a face. "Thanks for sharing...."

The giant panda sent his master a sheepish smile.

Shifu shrugged. "Well, I suppose that's one thing you could not help...if you heard what I said to the five, then hurry up, and wake up that lazy kitten!"

"She's not in her room sir..."

Shifu's bushy eyebrows shot up. "That's a surprise...well if she's not out here soon then I'll go looking for her."

"Good idea master!" With that, Po followed his friends into the kitchen.

Meanwhile, having just got out of the bathhouse, Kurisu was running as fast as she could towards the training yard. She knew she was late.and would for sure be punished as well. "Waaaah!! Arienai, I was in the tub for far to long!!" Her feet thudded hard against the concrete as the soaked teen hurried as fast as she could to the training yard. Peeking behind the walls of the training yard, the kitten could see Shifu with his back turned to the five and Po. *Now's my chance...* The teen crept behind Po as her Kung Fu Master continued speaking in a philisophical riddle-like lesson and he had most likely developed *that* trait from Oogway.

Po turned and glanced to her direction. "What are you doing?!" He mouthed silently. "Shifu's going to kill

you!"

"I know that!" She mouthed back. "You have to hide me!"

Roaming his eyes around the room and giving an angelic innocent like expression, the panda shuffled to the side where he could clearly hide Kurisu as she struggled to fasten her hair buns and sandals.

A small bitter (but entertained) laugh was heard. "Do you actually think that you can *sneak* your way here without being noticed?"

Kurisu froze rigid.

Shifu turned towards her trying to keep a stern angry expression but his amusement was shown through. "If there is one physical ability you lack in Kung Fu my dear Kurisu, it's *stealth*." He gave a chuckle as if a student attempting to sneak their way past him was the funniest thing he had ever heard of. "You have a week worth of dish duty."

Defeated, the kitten hung her head. "Hai Master Shifu..." She said glumly.

The red panda turned towards Po. "And Po?"

"Yes, Master Shifu..?" He asked timidly, fearing the worst.

"You will sweep the training yard as punishment for trying to hide her."

Po sighed. "As you wish Master..."

"Grahhhhhh!!" Kurisu screamed in rage. "I hate it when stains stick to plates, it makes it so much harder to get off!" It was after dinner at the palace, and Kurisu was furiously scrubbing at some stubborn stains that seemed to have melted *into* the plates!

Po laughed. "Poor little Kurisu..."

The kitten turned towards him. "The least you can do is help me!" She snapped, her tail twitching impatiently.

"Sorry, but I've got a life! A *Kung Fu* life...for that matter." With that, Po closed the door to the bunkhouse and began walking down the thousand flights of stairs leading to the valley.

Soapy and wet, the kitten scrubbed and dried every dish, before running to her room, grabbing her purse and taking off towards the valley. "Wait for meee!!!"

"Whoaaa...." Mantis hopped onto one of the store counters, laughing. "Check it out! They have *the* biggest pies here!"

Po chuckled. "I have to admit, those do look *awesome*..." Po said, as he stuffed some noodles into his mouth. He had just stopped off at his father's shop and had gotten some noodles "on the house". He grinned, thoroughly enjoying his meal. "So good..."

Viper's eyes sparkled as she stared at a bunch of neatly hung fans on the walls in the store. "Wow, so pretty!" Eagerly, the green tree snake passed some yuan to the salesclerk, and waved the fan around her face with grace and elegance.

Po chuckled. If there was one thing *everyone* (including the disdainful Tigress) loved, it was coming to the valley! There was always so much to do! So much to *see*! Especially during holidays. The five (only natural always being at the palace and doing chores earned allowances even in their adult-hood) bought many things at the valley, there was always new stuff! So if you wanted something but didn't have enough you needed to put it on hold *right* away before new things came in.

Po continued inhaling his noodle bowl as he walked alongside his best friend. "Man, I love the valley! It's so great!"

Kurisu's bright blue eyes sparkled, she gave a dreamy sigh. "Mm...isn't it?" She asked grinning. "Always so calm and tranquil, not a *hint* of crime in the Valley of Peace."

"The name speaks for itself!"

As Po and Kurisu were walking, the panda felt himself be yanked back roughly by the scruff of his neck. "Urk!" He gagged and coughed. "What was that for?" He demanded.

The kitten's eyes sparkled. "Look!" She exclaimed, nearly shaking with excitement as she pointed her

furry finger to a shop window.

The panda turned to the direction she was pointing, and gasped. There on the shelf was one of the greatest things the two warriors had ever seen! With its slick, carved peaceful features, Oogway stood on his staff glued to a wooden platform. Nearly trembling with excitement, Po and Kurisu ran up to the shop window and pressed their face against the glass.

"Whoa!!" The kitten exclaimed, eyes sparkling with amazement. "Th..that's *incredible!*"

"Are you *kidding* me?!" Po demanded. "It's more than incredible!!"

The panda and kitten grinned at each other. It was clear that they were thinking the same thing: *Master Shifu!* Indeed, knowing how much Oogway meant to Shifu (of course not knowing the full extent of their relationship) Po and Kurisu threw open the shop doors and ran inside. They examined the beautiful statue and traced their fingers over the neatly carved words on the front of the statue: "Grand Master Oogway". Their faces fell instantly as they read the price tag. "seventy yuan".

Po screwed up his face. "Gee.....that old turtle is expensive!"

Kurisu rolled her eyes. "Ugh..." Giving a groan, the kitten threw her head back. Where were they supposed to get that kind of money?! Po always blew his allowance on food (mostly noodles). Kurisu usually managed to save up allowance until she something like a Japanese or Chinese cook book (or some sort of item with the word "kawaii" written all over it!) The young teen rummaged through her purse and drew back, holding fifty yuan.

Po reached deep into his pocket and pulled out.....five yuan.

"Po!" Kurisu groaned with an exasperated sigh as she threw up her arms. "What good are you?!"

The panda glared at her. "W-well...what about you?" He asked lamely, unknown of what else he was supposed to say.

The kitten looked thoughtful. "Maybe the five can let us borrow some money..." With that her and Po hurried out to their friends. The teen placed Mantis in the palm of her hand (of all the five, she was closest to Mantis.) Mantis? Could he please borrow whatever money you have left?"

Mantis shrugged. "Sure, why not?" He flicked a small coin into her hand. "Knock yourselves out..."

Kurisu stood there staring at her hand.Three yuan. She frowned. "Mantis, is that all you have left?"

The insect nodded. "I'm afraid so." He hopped off and joined Viper and Crane.

After asking Crane, Viper and Monkey..it was apparent that neither of them had any yuan left. Which left only one choice....

"And you'll do my half of dish duty for a month? And cleaning the training yard?"

"Yes! Yes!" Po and Kurisu pleaded. "Whatever, just give us seventeen yuan!"

The south China tiger smirked. "Fine, here." She handed them a yuan bill and some coins. "Next time don't blow your money on stupid things like noodles and cook books!" With that, she walked off.

Running back to the store with their yuan hot in their hands, an out of breath panda slammed the yuan on the desk. "H-here! W-we got your stinking yuan.....now give us Master Oogway!"

A young rabbit (looking to be in her twenties) glanced around timidly. "Umm...dragon warrior sir?"

Kurisu sighed and pushed the panda away. "Excuse him miss, we would like the statue of Oogway please!"

The rabbit's face lit up. "Oh, good! No one has been able to afford it so far....Who's it for?"

The kitten smiled. "Our master!"

The rabbit gave the panda and kitten an admiring look. "How sweet... sixty five yuan for just the statue, seventy yuan for the statue wrapped with a card.

"The seventy yuan deal please!" Kurisu exclaimed.

The rabbit nodded. "Alright." She handed them the bags. "Here you go!"

"Thank you!" At that, Po and Kurisu zoomed through the valley and up the steps. They listened intently

to a distant sweet melody (quite obviously Shifu playing the flute) and followed the sound to The Peach Tree of Heavenly Wisdom. "Master Shifu!"

The elderly Kung Fu Master lowered the flute, but he didn't turn his head. "Mm what is it my students?" The panda and kitten smiled at each other and walked up to their master. "We got you a little something at the valley..."

Shifu turned around. "Oh...?"

Po and Kurisu knelt down and pushed the gift bag towards him.

Blinking with curiosity, the red panda walked up to the bag and ripped out the tissue paper in a swift, clean motion. His heart melted at what he saw, he clapped his hand to his mouth...eyes moistening. ".....Oh my gosh.." He lifted the statue out of the bag and ran his hand slowly over the beautiful carvings.

Po and Kurisu grinned at each other.

"Master..." Shifu shook his head slowly, not being able to express what he was feeling. "I.....I'm touched." The red panda whispered with deep emotion. "I..love it.....thank you." He smiled, a real genuine happy grin.

Po bowed. "You're welcome master.."

Shifu returned his bow.

Kurisu just stared at them. ".....Group hug!" She suddenly squealed, pressing herself, master and best friend tightly together.

Shifu (having of never been a touchy-feely type unless it was absolutely necessary) knocked them away with his flute, his skin deeply flushed under his fur. "Alright, alright..enough with this sentiment! Get back to training, now!"

His two students quickly scurried off.

"Well.....that was *plesant*." Kurisu said awkwardly as she beat the crap out of her training dummy.

"Yeah..." Po agreed. "At least until you hugged him." He laughed. "That was funny, did you see him blushing?"

"I didn't even think he was able to blush!"

"Well, we witnessed it!"

"Yeah, maybe now we can-"

FLASH!

All of a sudden, the room turned pitch black. Immediately, with her fear of the dark, Kurisu freaked.

"What's going on?!"

Po twiddled his fingers nervously. "I-I don't know!" He stammered. "Let's go see Master Shifu!"

Nodding in agreement, Kurisu followed her friend through the training room, and out the door.

CRACK!

Alarmed, Kurisu and Po turned towards the sky, and shrunk back in terror. The sky was a vibrant *purple!* It was frightening, as the clouds tinted a slight green around the edges.

The kitten's tail curled around her protectively. "Wh-what do we do?!"

"Go alert the five, I'll find Shifu!"

"Okay!" With that, Kurisu hurried off.

The red panda sat underneath the sacred peach tree, his ears twitched continuously. They always did when something didn't feel right, but now more than ever. He glanced up at the peach tree, since Oogway's death no peaches had grown from the tree. Peaches seemed to have represented Oogway's life, as long as he lived the tree would bear fruit, but now...

"Master Shifu!"

The red panda turned towards a voice behind him. "Po..."

Po was as pale as a ghost. "Master.....there's something really bad going on..."

The red panda's eyes went as wide as saucers. "Wh...what..?"

(BAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHA! Again with the cliffies! XD. Oh, and with "the full extent of Shifu and Oogway's relationship will be explained in later chapters, or just read glimpses of the past.)

Arienai-Impossible, I don't believe this (Japanese)

Hai-Yes, okay, sure, alright (Japanese)

Kawaii-Cute (Japanese)

Preview of the next chapter!

Po and Kurisu just stood there staring as the vibrant golden glow shot every direction from the dark tunnels. The sparkles were all over the golden figure clung to him like starlight.

The kitten blinked. "Wow...."

Po shook his head slowly, the figure began taking shape. As the golden glow faded it was quite clear who the figure was.

Kurisu felt her knees buckle, and had to get Po to hold her up. "Oh.....oh my gosh.."

3 - Heaven's Wisdom

("Heaven's Wisdom" is the main theme of my story, which is pretty much what this is about.)

Wind began to blow harshly, but it was a cold negative.....almost spiritual wind. Shifu gave a startled cry as he smashed back against the tree. "Augh-!"

"Master!!" Kurisu screamed, she quickly scooped the red panda up and brought him in the palace. "Po, what's going on?!"

"How am I supposed to know?!" The giant panda demanded furiously.

"I don't know, you've been here longer than me!"

"Only by four days!!"

"Would you two just shut up?!" Shifu demanded, squirming his way out of the kitten's arms. "I..it's just a bad storm!" By the sound of his voice, he was very unsure. The red panda gave a loud "Omph!" as he hit the tile floor.

"A storm? A storm?!" Kurisu demanded angrily. "With purple clouds?!" All of a sudden blue lightning lit the sky. "With blue lightning?!"

"I-I don't know!" Shifu half stammered half growled. "Ma...maybe it's a.....a tropical thunderstorm?"

The kitten looked thoughtful. "I don't know.....it seems more spiritual if you ask me!"

"I never asked you!" Shifu growled. shooting her a glare.

She stuck her tongue out.

"A spiritual storm?!" Po gasped. "Oh noes! It's coming to take Master Shifu away!" He began shaking the red panda. "Don't go into the liiiiiight!"

"Po!" Shifu snarled. "Po!! Let go of me!" He pried the panda's hands off. "Would you all relax? It's probably nothing!"

"Nothing?!" Kurisu demanded, her eyes flashing. "Blue lightning? Purple storm clouds and it's nothing?! Aren't Kung Fu masters supposed to be smarter than their students?!"

"Enough!" Shifu growled pointing at his youngest pupil. "I'll have no more of-"

"Master Shifu!"

The red panda turned towards the frightened five running towards him.

Tigress was out of breath. "There is something really bad going on master! We feel a cold negative energy in the air!"

"Almost spiritual!" Mantis shouted, hopping on Tigress's shoulder.

Shifu turned slowly to see a smug look on Kurisu's face. "Ugh! Alright..get inside quick!"

CRASH!!

Giving a bloodcurdling scream, with tears streaming down her cheeks, the kitten dove for the doors and slammed them shut.

Shifu scurried over to the window and shut them.

"I swear master.." Kurisu whispered. "It's spiritual, can't you feel it?"

The red panda rubbed his temples. "Unfortunately, yes I feel it..." He slid down the wall. "It's very strange..."

The five exchanged looks. "Do you think it has something to do with.....*beyond*?"

Shifu was completely silent. ".....I don't know.." He got to his feet. "It seems spiritual, yes. That being said, *none* of you are leaving the palace tonight! Those who do will be severely punished!" He glared down every single student. "Do I make myself *clear*?"

They all nodded quickly.

The red panda nodded back. "Good." With that, he began shuffling towards the door. "I want you all to go to the bunkhouse." He glanced outside. "It's only raining now.."

The five looked hesitant, and Kurisu looked completely terrified at having to go out in one of her worst fears.

Shifu struck out his arm. "Go."

The five filed towards the door, but Po and Kurisu stayed put.

Shifu rose his bushy eyebrows. "Did you not just hear what I said...?"

Po nodded. "Yeah, we did."

"But we're not going without you!" Kurisu said authoritatively.

The red panda smirked. "That's what I would expect from my most stubborn pupils." At that, he let them drag him out the door.

CRASH!! All of a sudden blue lightning ripped the air, thunder shook the mountain so much that poor Shifu had to take a piggyback ride on Po's back.

"This is so humiliating!" The red panda groaned.

Po rolled his eyes. "Would you rather be left out in this...monstrous alieness storm?"

Shifu's face twitched. "Alieness?"

Kurisu threw open the bunkhouse doors and pushed both the pandas inside. "Whew...thank goodness *thats* over.."

BOOOOM!! Thunder shook the whole building.

"Kyaaaaaa!" The kitten wailed. "We're going to diiiiiiiiie!"

Shifu sighed. "No Kurisu, we'll be fine." He yawned. "Now if you don't mind me I'm going to bed...." With that he started down the hall.

Kurisu pulled on Po's arm. "Po chan? Do you still have that old sleeping bag?"

The panda nodded.

Kurisu shuddered as the lightning flashed. "Good....I'm sleeping with you tonight!"

Po chuckled. "Why not sleep with Master Shifu? I thought my snoring keeps you up!"

The kitten shrugged. "Your room is closer..."

Viper came out with two towels. "You're both soaked!" She exclaimed, and drapped the towels over their heads. "Dry yourselves before you catch death pnemonia!"

Kurisu grinned. "Ha! I'd be able to battle that! I've already had it *twice!*"

Tigress smirked. "How is that something to be proud of..?"

The kitten punched her chest proudly. "I *survived!*"

The five rolled their eyes.

Later that night Po and Kurisu were nestled safely under their covers, but they both felt.....uneasy.

"Po chan?"

".....Mmm?"

"Are you still awake?"

"Didn't I just say "Mmm?"

"I guess so..." The kitten murmured lamely. She hopped onto his bed and leaned over the giant panda. "I can't sleep..." She said sadly. "My gut is telling me to go where that spiritual wind is blowing!"

"Yeah well, my gut is telling me to go get some of monkey's almond cookies!"

The kitten rolled her eyes, and pulled the panda out of bed. "Come on."

"What? Where?" The giant panda groaned. "I want to sleep!"

"No!" The kitten rolled her eyes again. She wrapped a pink flowered housecoat around herself and threw some pants on Po's head. "Hurry up!"

"Whaaaat?!" The panda sighed. "Kurisu, this has "dish duty for four months" written all over it!"

The kitten barely glanced at him as she made her way out into the pouring rain. "I'm willing to take that chance.." She began climbing up the hill, yawning.

"Now do you see why you're always the one to be punished the most?! You're so impulsive, any you always disobey!" Po growled

"I don't *always* disobey!"

"Yes you do!"

"Do not!"

"Do too!"

"Do *not!*"

"Do *too!*"

SLAP!

"OWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWW!!!"

SLAP!

"YEOW!!!!!"

Kurisu was about to raise her hand to hit Po again, but he dodged it rolling his eyes. "Right, when are we going home anyways?"

The kitten looked thoughtful. "Probably in a few hours..."

"What?! This is insane! Do you even know where you're taking us..?"

"Not really, I'm just following my own senses!" The kitten wiped water-drops from her eyes, and squinted into the distance. "....Hey! There's a well off in the distance!"

"And that's where your stupid senses are pulling you?!"

"Oh...shut up!"

The kitten pulled the panda over towards the rusty well. "Hurry up, we're getting soaked!"

Po rolled his eyes. "We're already soaked!"

The kitten made her way down the old metal ladder. Water dripping was heard off in the distance, all the crevices were caked with old slime trickled down the hard stone. "Come on Po chan!"

Po groaned. "Can we hurry up please? This place is creepy! I want to go home!" he snapped.

"Look!" Kurisu hissed. "The wall, it's glowing!" She began scratching at the hard stone with her claws.

"Open up already..!"

Po pushed her aside. "This is a *man's* job Kurisu...let *me* handle this!" With that he began scratching at the wall. "Wow.....this is hard to do!" He kept pulling at the stone. "Jeez..."

FLASH!!

Po gave a high pitched girl scream and dove for cover.

Kurisu blinked back at him. "Baby!KYAAA!!" A huge light blasted the panda and kitten to the other side of the wall, she smacked the hard stone, it crumbled. Crackling noises were all that was heard, and light was all that was seen. Wall chunks fell to the floor in a heap of slimy, moldy, pieces. Then finally, a scroll clattered to the ground.

Cautiously, Kurisu and Po emerged from their hiding places and stepped towards the stained and torn rolled up paper. At the top were the words "Heaven's Wisdom."

Po glanced over to the kitten. "Should I pick it up.....or do you want to?"

Kurisu stepped back. "You've had more experience with scrolls than I have."

Nodding quietly, the panda slowly unrolled the scroll, there was foreign writing on it. "We open the door to the world beyond the living..."

The kitten took a side of the scroll. "We call to a spirit who'm has not yet rest.."

They both looked at each other and said together. "Enter me now through this token from your past." All of a sudden a golden glow emerged from the scroll, and spiraled up the entrance of the abandoned well. Po and Kurisu just stood there staring as the vibrant golden glow shot every direction from the dark

tunnels. The sparkles were all over the golden figure clung to him like starlight.

The kitten blinked. "Wow...."

Po shook his head slowly, the figure began taking shape. As the golden glow faded it was quite clear who the figure was.

Kurusu felt her knees buckle, and had to get Po to hold her up. "Oh.....oh my gosh.."

Opening his pale green eyes, he smiled warmly down at the young and frightened masters. "Why hello there, Po. Kurisu."

The kitten squinted hard, and rubbed her eyes. Was she seeing things?

The old tortoise chuckled. "You seem surprised, hmm?"

Po shook his head and backed away slowly. "M-Master Oogway?!!! It can't be! You-you're dead!"

Oogway smiled. "Heh..am I? Or have I just made you believe that I am?"

The kitten frowned. "You're not dead?"

Oogway laughed. "No, I'm dead. But being an ancient spirit, I'm able to return.....at least up until I'm able to complete my "task."

Po smiled lightly. "Boy, Master Shifu is going to be so happy to see you!"

Kurusu nodded. "We gave him a statue of you a few hours ago and he almost cried!"

The old tortoise smiled lightly. "So I saw..."

Po's eyes were wide. "What's your task?"

Oogway smiled mysteriously but didn't say a word. "Come, it's already seven in the morning.."

"WHAT?!" The panda and kitten exclaimed. "Ugh! We didn't get to sleep....."

The old tortoise chuckled. "Come young warriors." He began walking up the ladder. "It is time.."

"What?" Po and Kurisu were very confused. "We don't get it!"

Smiling, Oogway pushed himself out of the opening of the well, as well as the kitten and panda.

Kurusu blinked once. "Oh noes!! LOOK! EVERYONE'S LOOKING FOR US!!! DAAAAAAAAMN!! I THOUGHT WE'D GO UNOTICED!"

Shifu snapped his head around, he looked furious beyond belief. "PO! KURISU!" The red panda was livid. "DIDN'T I TELL YOU NOT TO LEAVE THE PALACE?! I SAID YOU'D BE SEVERLY PUNISHED, AND YOU *WILL* BE!! I TOLD YOU TO-" He stopped short, his breath had completely left him, he wasn't sure if his heart was beating, or if he was breathing. The red panda was completely frozen as he gazed up at his old master, now officialy fighting back tears.

".....Oh.....oh.....oh.....oh my gosh..." The red panda clapped his hand to his mouth. "Master..!!!" He came forward. "You're here.....you're alive.....you.....you.....you!" The red panda felt completely weak at the knees, every single emotion taking over, his eyes were shinning with tears. "..You....you...I.."

Oogway chuckled lightly and ruffled the fur on the red panda's head. "It's good to see you too my pupil.. With that, he walked up towards the five.

Shifu's smile instantly faded, his face was now vacant, unemotionless. "....." Coldness seemed to take over, his eyes narrowed in anger and hurt. ".....Yes.....well, I'm going to the meditation hall.....I'll see you all later."

The old tortoise turned his head. "Oh, Shifu...?" He placed a hand on his student's shoulder. "Are you alright?"

The red panda didn't turn his head, he shrugged Oogway's hand off. ".....Fine, perfectly fine.." With that, he slowly walked to the Hall of Heroes and closed the door quietly.

(.....Wow.. O.....o what on earth is wrong with Shifu? You'd think he'd be happy to see his old master...more or less his "father.")

Preview of possibly the most "OMG chapter EVEAH!

Shifu's eyes were dark, concealing wretched tears. "What was I supposed to do?! How was I supposed to feel?! I had just been betrayed by my son! I'd think you would at least care about how I felt from that!" Oogway's eyes were wide. "Care? You think I didn't care?? I was more worried about you than I had ever been in my life! I had no idea what had happened to the sweet, loving little cub I have trained for so long!"

Shifu took a step forward. "And is that it?!" He snapped. "You think I could easily come out of heartbreak like that?! Pretend that nothing is wrong?? That's what I've been doing my whole life, and I'm sick of it!!" "I was never expecting you to come out of a broken heart easily! Who would expect that? I thought you have always trusted me, I thought I was the one person who'm you could tell everything, and certainly express whatever emotion you were feeling!"

"Yeah, well that's what I thought too!" He snarled. "But I guess even Kung Fu masters are wrong in their life! Me more than anyone!"

"Enough! Don't you see what's going on? Don't you see what holding back all your emotions is doing to you? All your life, you have made yourself sick with restrained grief!" The old tortoise said sharply.

"Since the day Tai Lung rebelled, you lost all love, humor, and compassion, and treated the five with the one thing I never imagined you would train them with: "coldness!"

The red panda's lip was trembling. "So what then master? For as long as you have claimed you were proud of me, that was a lie?!"

"It's never been a lie, and never will be!"

"That's what you seem to be saying, and I hate it! I never tolerate my students lying to me....not that I can do much if you're the one who's telling the tales!"

"I've never been telling tales! Do you honestly think that the way you've acted for almost forty years would stop me from loving you?!"

Shifu was completely silent, tears brimming at his eyelids, but not daring to escape. All was silent except for heavy breathing and the sound of hearts shattering, as well as the cool wind.

4 - Unleash The Anger, Unleash The Sadness

"Inner peace.....inner peace..inn-"

"Shifu chaaaaaaaaaaaaan!"

The red panda gave an irritated groan and turned towards a certain kitten who was hurrying up to him. He peered down and noticed she was about to trip on his meditation mat. Shifu closed his eyes and began counting on his fingers. *Three..two..one..*

"Kyaaaaaa!"

CRASH!

The elderly Kung Fu master jumped in the air and snatched all his falling meditation candles, and placed them safely back on the matt. "Arghhhh....what is it now Kurisu?!"

The kitten rubbed her smarting head and walked up to him. "Well, you ran out of there so fast! Is something wrong?"

Shifu got to his feet. "Nothing is wrong!!!" He hollered angrily.

Kurisu flinched under his hard tone, her face scrunched up like she was going to cry.

The red panda's anger quickly turned to remorse. "...I'm...sorry....I just want to be alone right now, alright?"

The kitten nodded. "Alright..by the way, Master Oogway's looking for you!" With that she walked to the entrance of the palace and shut the big doors behind her.

"Sooo...ya never did tell us how you got him here!" Mantis said, peering up at Oogway.

Po puffed out his chest. "That was all *man's* work!"

Kurisu rolled her eyes. "Oh, *sure!*" She said sarcastically. "A man who screamed like a girl and fled when the wall flashed once!"

Po's face flushed red from embarrassment. ".....I never screamed like a girl.." He mumbled. Then his face lit up. "Any how, we need to prepare a delicious feast for tonight!"

Oogway smiled. "That's right, you are quite the cook I've seen."

Kurisu pouted and crossed her arms.

The old tortoise laughed and patted her head. "You are an amazing cook as well..." He hesitated. "Well, only in Japanese cooking..."

Viper was beaming. "Oh, I can make us all some delicious tea!! The founder of Kung Fu returning to the palace!" She gave a girlish squeal. "Ouuuuuuuu what an event!!"

Oogway laughed. "If that is how you want to put it..."

GRRRRrrrrrrr...

Everyone turned to a certain blushing kitten.

Ahh....hehe! M-my stomach is a little hungry..." Kurisu's face lit up. "Hey I know! I'll make us all some delicious toasted onigiri on the house!" With that, she skipped towards the bunkhouse.

Crane turned towards Monkey and frowned. "It *better* be on the house, we've never had to pay for it before!" He followed his friends to the bunkhouse.

Meanwhile, Shifu was furiously scrubbing at some scuff marks created by Kurisu's sandals. Normally he would *never* be cleaning one of his student's messes. But, Kurisu was a different story...

"KURISU-TARU SUKITA TAKAHANA!" Shifu roared.

The kiten cowered. "H-hai?"

The red panda pointed to black marks on his tile floor. "Clean up these marks this instant!And while you're at that, shorten your name too!"

Kurisu saluted and came running up with a sponge. "Got it, got it, got it!" She tripped on her feet and collided with her master's meditation candles.

Shifu gasped as the tiny flames hit his mat and licked their way across the carpet. "Augh!" He got down on his knees and tried to pat them out.

Kurisu's eyes went wide. "OH NOES!!" She quickly grabbed a bucket of water. "GOT IT, GOT IT, GOT IT!!" The kitten swung her arm back and let the water do it's job. The flames were extinguished immediately, and poor Shifu was drenched. He just sat there and squirted out a stream of water from his mouth. ".....Ugh.."

Shifu shuddered from the memory and continued scrubbing at the black marks. He had mixed emotions all swirling around in his head. Anger, hurt, sadness, confusion. They would not leave him alone! Why was he so angry? What did he expect when he saw his old master?A hug? Of course not! They hadn't hugged since shortly after Tai Lung rebelled. Maybe he just wanted more than a feeble pat on the head and "It's good to see you too my pupil". Now, remembering his anger, the red panda began scrubbing at the tile so hard his hands hurt and he didn't hear the palace doors open and close behind him. Normally Shifu would be able to tell when someone came, and *who* it was simply by the sound of their footsteps. Not this time, he didn't see the figure walk up behind him, or see their hand reaching out and settling on his shoulder.

"Shifu..."

"Augh!!" Shifu jumped half a mile and landed with a loud "splash!" in the bucket.

Oogway watched blinking as tiny fingers clambered at the sides of the metal container and desperately tried to pull themselves up. The bucket tipped over and out came the water (as well as a drenched red panda) with the flow of water.

The old tortoise laughed. Shifu's fur stuck to his face and eyes like a sheep dog! He was positively *soaked* and his fur was matted and wet. "You look like a drowned rat!" He walked into one of the palace's rooms and came back with a large towel. Oogway draped it over the red panda and rubbed his shoulders with it.

"I'm not a cub anymore!" Shifu said, trying to keep the anger from surfacing in his voice. "I don't need you to dry me!"

Oogway frowned. "But, you're freezing.."

"N-no I'm not!" But his teeth chattering showed the exact opposite. "I-I'm go-going to get some of Kuri-su's t-tofu onion m-miso soup!" With that he ran to the door and slammed it behind him.

An hour later, Shifu was curled up under the peach tree hugging his knees and snuggling up in the warm fuzzy towel. The sound of laughter and noisy chattering was heard from inside the bunkhouse. The red panda tried to ignore it, but who could? It was so loud! *I wonder if they even realize that I'm gone....they're all having so much fun without me. Why do I suddenly feel like Oogway cares for my students more than me..?* He mentally slapped himself. *Shut up!! What are you saying?! Of course he's in there with them! You were so mean to him...* Shifu's ears drooped and he turned to get up, when- "The stars make the mountain so beautiful...don't you think?" Oogway asked, smiling down at his pupil. Shifu half glared and turned away. ".....Yeah.."

Oogway placed a hand on the red panda's head. "So, are you going to tell me what's wrong yet?"

Shifu shrugged his master's hand off. "Who said anything was wrong?"

The old tortoise laughed. "Please, Shifu I've known you for *how* long? I can read you like a book!"

The red panda glowered at the sky. He wasn't in any mood for any stupid beautiful stars, or to talk to his master. *Why doesn't he save us the time and torture and go read a book?!*

Oogway knelt down beside him. "Could we please stop playing mind games? It's me remember?"

"....." All of a sudden Shifu shot up to his feet. "Did I do something to you?!" He demanded. "Did I hurt you in *some* way before you did the most hurtful thing you've ever done to me, and left me?!!"

The old tortoise's eyes went wide. "Wh-what???"

Shifu glared at him. "I thought we were going to stop playing mind games!"

Oogway frowned awkwardly. "What are you talking about?"

"I haven't seen you in over a year and all you say is "It's good to see you again my pupil" like I'm just a random red panda you met on the streets and took in as a student for a day!"

The old tortoise was very confused. "Well what did you want?A hug?"

"Yes!.....No!....I-I don't know!" The red panda stamped his foot in frustration. "All I know is I wanted more than those *meaningless* words like the ones you said right before you passed away!"

Oogway's eyes went wide before they narrowed. "Those meaningless words are what saved you and changed your life!" He got to his feet, glaring at the red panda. "The valley, your students and *you* would most likely all be dead if I hadn't said those *meaningless* words!" He said angrily.

"I don't care!!! I thought our relationship meant more than that!! Or did it only to me?!"

"Someone needed to get those words through your head before everyone was killed at Tai Lung's hands!"

"Well fine! But returning with only words that meaningless too?!!"

"Well what did you *want*?" Oogway pleaded. "Can't you be a little more specific?"

"I didn't think I'd need to tell you! You're the master! You're the *founder of Kung Fu!* You should be smarter than me!!"

"Well I was surprised that you didn't pounce on me and hug me until my shell broke!"

"I'm not a cub anymore! I don't do that anymore!!" Shifu snapped.

"You don't what? You don't *love* anymore? I'm not one of your students that were so coldly treated after you closed up your heart, I'm your master!"

Shifu gasped. "How *dare* you imply that!? I've always loved every single one of my students! It's just.....been hard showing it all this time!"

"And that's your problem!" Oogway said angrily. "You haven't laughed, shown warmth, or been any less strict since the incident with Tai Lung!"

Shifu's eyes were dark, concealing wretched tears. "What was I supposed to do?! How was I supposed to feel?! I had just been betrayed by my *son!* I'd think you would at least care about how I felt from that!"

Oogway's eyes were wide. "Care? You think I didn't care?? I was more worried about you than I had ever been in my life! I had no idea what had happened to the sweet, loving little cub I have trained for so long!"

Shifu took a step forward. "And is that it?!" He snapped. "You think I could easily come out of heartbreak like that?! Pretend that nothing is wrong?? That's what I've been doing my whole life, and I'm sick of it!!"

"I was never expecting you to come out of a broken heart easily! Who would expect that? I thought you have always trusted me, I thought I was the one person who'm you could tell everything, and certainly express whatever emotion you were feeling!"

"Yeah, well that's what I thought too!" He snarled. "But I guess even Kung Fu masters are wrong in their life! Me more than anyone!"

"Enough! Don't you see what's going on? Don't you see what holding back all your emotions is doing to you? All your life, you have made yourself sick with restrained grief!" The old tortoise said sharply.

"Since the day Tai Lung rebelled, you lost all love, humor, and compassion, and treated the five with the one thing I never imagined you would train them with: "coldness!"

The red panda's lip was trembling. "So what then master? For as long as you have claimed you were proud of me, that was a lie?!"

"It's never been a lie, and never will be!"

"That's what you seem to be saying, and I hate it! I never tolerate my students lying to me....not that I can do much if you're the one who's telling the tales!"

"I've never been telling tales! Do you honestly think that the way you've acted for almost forty years would stop me from loving you?!"

Shifu was completely silent, tears brimming at his eyelids, but not daring to escape. All was silent except for heavy breathing and the sound of hearts shattering, as well as the cool wind. The red panda walked to the edge of the cliff. "....." He hated what he was feeling! So wek, so angry, hurt, and about to burst into tears at an moment.

"Shifu.....you need to let out all your emotions out.....whatever you are feeling, I can see anger is what you need to release right now."

The red panda clenched his fists. "I-I'm not....no..I'm not letting anything else out!"

Oogway glared at him. "That's your problem! You have been keeping it in for so long, now it's taking over!"

The red panda glared up at him. "It is not!"

"Yes it is! Can't you see it? Why are you keeping it in?"

Shifu clenched his fists so tightly, his knuckles turned white. "L-leave me alone!"

"It's okay to cry, it's okay to be angry-"

"I'M NOT ANGRY!!!!" Giving a furious cry the red panda swung his arm back, his fist connected with Oogway's face.

Shocked, Oogway staggered back slightly and put his hand over his nose, checking to see if it was bleeding or broken.

Shifu just sat there, he swallowed hard trying to keep from throwing up. If he had a gun right now, he'd probably shoot himself. He had just *punched* his master in the face. The only thing stopping him from jumping off the tall cliff was being rooted to the spot in horror.

He-had-just-punched-his-master-in-the-face!! They were not in training!! He had punched him!!!

The old tortoise uncovered his face, his eyes were tiny slits.

Shifu's knees gave out and he collapsed. "M-Master! I-I-I'm so-! I-I'm so sorry! I never-I-I-I-!!" He had no words. What was he supposed to say? He had just punched his master in the face!!

Oogway came towards him. "Do you not see it?" He asked softly.

"Wh....what?"

"Do you not see what you have done to yourself?! You have gone on an emotional rampage! Look what supressing all your anger has done to you!"

Shifu's eyes welled with tears. "I-I-I!" He turned away, supressing a sob.

Oogway placed a hand on his student's head, this time Shifu didn't try to shrug him off.

"Shifu..repressing and dismissing enotions is *not* what I taught you..."

Over the past day Shifu's "hard shell" had suffered many emotional cracks with little time to repair them, therefore he was at a very vunerable state.

"If you withhold sorrow happiness is a heart as black as coal."

Crack.

"Just let it out, you'll feel much better..."

Crack.

"Crying in front of me will not make me ashamed of you nor love you any less."

Crack. Shifu's shell was now about to break, he hurried to the edge of the cliff and tried to block out his master's voice. But then-

"Inside my heart....there burns a light, that lights my way all through my life..."

Shatter. At that Shifu's shell finally broke. Perhaps it was all the coaxing for him to cry, or perhaps it was keeping in all his sadness for all those years, or maybe it was his master sining the one song that represented the most love and endearment. Whatrver it was, Shifu finally broke down. All his with-held sorrow finally released itself in a deep heaving sob. He turned to the only comfort that was available to

him.

Oogway found himself the center of the universe as the red panda clung to him sobbing his heart out. Years of tears Shifu forbid himself from release finally broke loose, soaking the old tortoise's chest. Oogway had never seen his student in such a state. It tore through his heart like an arrow, and almost made his own self cry. The old tortoise wrapped his gentle arms around the red panda. The red panda cried harder than the old tortoise had ever seen, the air filled with his sobs and seemed to echo across the mountains. All of a sudden Oogway felt a heavier weight against his chest, and all was silent. Hearing soft breathing, the old tortoise peered down and saw a certain sleeping red panda resting peacefully.

(O_____o Wow..... so emotional! I loved writing this chapter! Poor Shifu! He needs a hug! Well, he got one already, but whoever wants to hug him is free too! LOL! Btw,I stole a certain line from my friend "DolphinMoana's story. "Oogway found himself the center of the universe" (Changing only the name) I hope that doesn't bother you Moana!)

Preview of the next.....ya know!

Oogway swayed along with the music from the bamboo flute. He smiled. "Wow Shifu, it's beautiful! I never taught you that song.."

Shifu grinned up at his old master. "I named it "spiritual connection" based on well.....us! And ma ma and baba!"

The old tortoise smiled. "Wow, you play very well....You can actually carry a tune now!" He laughed as Shifu angrily jabbed him in the ribs.

"Very funny!" The red panda growled, despite the fact he was grinning. "I could carry a tune when I was seven!"

"You were eight."

"I was seven!"

"Eight."

"Seven!"

"Eight."

"Seven!"

"Eight."

"Seven!!!"

Their friendly argument was cut off by Zeng who flew in front of them. "Master Shifu!"

Sigh. "What is it Zeng?"

"There's a lady here to see you."

The red panda's ears perked up. "Oh..?" He hurried to the top of the stairs. "Who is-.....!!!!!" The red panda clasped his hands to his mouth, he couldn't believe who it was!

"Hello Shifu..."

5 - Author's Note

Note: "Wisdom From Heaven" is going to be discontinued. In a few days, I won't have internet for probably...months.. *sob*

6 - An (Unhappy) Reunion

(The beginning of the chapter is super cute and funny. Those of you who like Shifu/Oogway bonding moments, then you will LOVE a quarter of the chapter.)

The air was filled with the sweet, saccharine music of a bamboo flute. Oogway was playing his special lullaby on Shifu's flute as he waited for the red panda to wake up.

Shifu blinked slowly, coming out of his sleepy state. The red panda's eyes were red and burning from so many tears. "Nnn..?"

Oogway brought the flute down to his lap and smiled at his pupil. "Well good morning sleepy heeeeeeaadd..!" He sang in a cheerful manner.

Shifu rubbed his eyes and yawned. "Awww...what happened?"

The old tortoise chuckled softly. "You cried yourself to sleep."

The red panda clasped his hand to his mouth and his face flushed red. "I cried myself to sleep?!" *How embarrassing!*

Clearly, Oogway sensed his student's embarrassment. "Shifu you do not need to feel so bad, I'm glad you finally let it all out. You must feel so much better now, am I right?"

Shifu nodded. His master was right, Shifu had never felt so great (with the exception of his burning eyes) in a long time. It felt like a heavy weight had finally been lifted from his shoulders, the world was no longer leaning on him. "Yeah, yeah I feel good!"

The old tortoise grinned. "How about we train together? You know, like old times. I'm sure you have some new moves to show me." He hesitated and chuckled. "As long as the new move isn't the Wuxi Finger Hold."

Shifu laughed. "Haha, don't worry!" He flicked his wrist. "I do have some new moves to show you."

Oogway grinned. "Alright, are you ready?"

"Yeah, let's go!" Shifu got to his feet and got in position.

The old tortoise went into a fighting stance. "Here we go!"

Shifu struck out his leg and gave Oogway a strong kick to the chest.

The old tortoise moved to the side and stepped behind Shifu kicking him forward, into the tree.

Shifu cried out as he hit the hard bark and lunged for Oogway, about to force him to the ground.

The old tortoise easily dodged it and flipped Shifu over his back. "Ha!"

The red panda gave a low growl and sprung up, latching onto Oogway's head.

The old tortoise blinked once, Shifu was on his back. He blinked again, and Shifu was right *behind* him!

Oogway peered behind him, shocked. "How did you..?" He was so impressed by Shifu's speed that he didn't see his student's foot come out. His mind screamed: "Dodge it! Wake up!" It was too late.

Shifu kicked the back on his master's knees and pulled him back. The red panda stood on Oogway's ankles and grabbed his left wrist, immobilizing him. "Try *this!*"

Oogway was very impressed. "Wow! Shifu I never taught you this move.."

"I know!" The red panda said proudly. "I taught *myself!*"

The old tortoise squirmed in his pupil's grasp. "Very impressive..."

Shifu tightened his grip.

Oogway gave a tight chuckle. "Alright, you made your point, let go now."

Shifu smirked. "Nope! If you want out, you need to get out yourself."

The old tortoise looked thoughtful. "Hmm...." He had taught Shifu many immobilization techniques, this

was *not* one of them though! Having taught Shifu the moves, he also knew how to free himself from all of them, but this one wasn't his! He wormed around, his right arm was the only free body part he could actually move. Oogway reached over and tried to push the red panda. His hand only went far enough for his fingers to lightly touch Shifu's skin.Wait a minute..that was it! Oogway poked Shifu's side with his three fingers, wiggling them as he did.

"You'll never get out of-.....!! Hahaha! St-stop it! What are you doing?! Let go! Ahaha! Th-that's cheating!" The old tortoise smirked. "It is not, the path to victory is to find your oponent's weakness..and make him suffer for it!" He said teasingly, tickling Shifu harder.

"Noo!" Shifu giggled. "Let me go!"

Oogway's face twitched. "Nope, you need to get out yourself."

Shifu cringed, trying to dodge his master's fingers. Naturally, having known eachother for six decades Shifu and Oogway had their occasional tickle fights over the years (or tickle attacks..poor Shifu couldn't fight back! Oogway's body was completely protected.)so the old tortoise knew where all of Shifu's weak spots were. If the red panda fell off his master's ankles now, Oogway would for sure get him. Shifu slipped off his master's ankles. "Augh, no!" He toppled onto his back.

The old tortoise smirked. "I'm free.."

"Nononono! That's not a real weakness! You can't do that!"

"Oh?" Oogway asked, keeping up the playful tone. "Can't I? Clearly a weakness is when you succomb your opponent to a (near) helpless state." He gave an evil grin. "So the rules say....I can!" With that he pounced.

Shifu was reduced to a helpless furry ball of laughter as his master attacked. "Ahahahahaha! St-stop it! Let go-! Master-!!! Please! Haha! It tickles-! L-let me go! Noooo! Ahahahahaha! That's not fair! You have a *shell*! I can't get you!"

The old tortoise laughed. "The advantages of having a shell, you should grow one, then maybe it would make your body less "vulnerable"."

"Ahahahahahaha! I-if I could I would-haha!" The red panda squirmed non-stop, but could not get free.

"Hahahaha! You always said revenge never causees anything good!!"

"True, but it's very fun.."

The red panda became breathless after a while. ".....W-whew...I thought we....were.going to-to-to train! Not play...how long it takes ..to tickle Shifu before.he finally...c-cracks up laughing!"

Oogway gave a tiny grin and stopped tickling. Even he knew to only take that kind of assault to a certain extent. "I like that game more then training."

"*Master!!*"

"Shifu chaaaaaaaaaan! Oogway samaaaaaaaaa!"

Oogway got off his panting student and smiled at the young teen. "Kurusu, what is it young one?"

The kitten shoved a steaming bowl up to the old tortoise's face. "Master Shifu said this is your favorite! ...Right?"

Oogway smiled. "Tokoroten! Indeed, I love tokoroten." He took a sip of it. "It's very delicious Kurisu.."

The young kitten beamed. "Yataaaaaa! I'm so glad!" She exclaimed, hugging his arm. ".....?"

What's wrong with Master Shifu? His face is red and wet."

"Hic!" The red panda covered his mouth, an attempt to keep in the hiccups he had developed from an overdose of uncontrolable laughter. "Hic! Hic!" Shifu wiped the tears from his eyes.

"I.....uhh.....I ate a bug.."

Kurusu frowned. "If you say so...." She turned towards Oogway with a big smile on her face. "Well..see you later!" With that, the young teen hurried off.

The old tortoise peered down at his breathless student. "Well.....that was fun, huh?"

Shifu merely narrowed his eyes. "I am *never* training with you again!"

The Jade Palace... The young woman inhaled fresh air. *I wonder if he'll remember me....it's been so long!* Shrugging, she hurried up the palace steps.

Oogway laughed as he and Shifu sipped cool lemonade. "Do you have your breath and voice back yet?" ".....My throat is aching!" Shifu moaned. "I'm not going to be able to laugh for months!"

The old tortoise's face twitched. "As if you ever use your laugh anyways.."

Shifu shot him a glare.

Oogway chuckled. "I was afraid you were going to snap your neck! The way you were thrashing..."

Shifu gave a low growl. "Then why didn't you let me go?!"

Oogway laughed lightly. "You needed to get out yourself...you might have been able to do it, if you hadn't moved so fast."

Shifu smirked. "At least I'm not as slow as molasses when I walk..." He mumbled from behind his glass.

The old tortoise turned to him, a mischevious glint in his eyes. "Be careful, or I *will* tickle you again..."

Giving a high whimper, Shifu quickly tossed a cinamon bun on a plate and set it in front of his master.

"There! Now leave me alone!"

"Mmmm...cinamon buns.."

"Right.." Shifu said, slipping his flute from his pocket. "I'm going to play my flute under the peach tree, okay?"

"Oh!" Oogway set his glass down. "I'll come with you.." He followed his student under the tree. "Play me your best.."

"Um...okay!" Shifu squeaked. He was very nervous, he had never played his new song in front of his master before. Taking a deep breath, Shifu brought the flute to his mouth.

Oogway swayed along with the music from the bamboo flute. He smiled. "Wow Shifu, it's beautiful! I never taught you that song.."

Shifu grinned up at his old master. "I named it "spiritual connection" based on well.....us! And ma ma and baba!"

The old tortoise smiled. "Wow, you play very well....You can actually carry a tune now!" He laughed as Shifu angrily jabbed him in the ribs.

"Very funny!" The red panda growled, despite the fact he was grinning. "I could carry a tune when I was seven!"

"You were eight."

"I was seven!"

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"Eight."

"Seven!!"

Their friendly argument was cut off by Zeng who flew in front of them. "Master Shifu!"

Sigh. "What is it Zeng?"

"There's a lady here to see you."

The red panda's ears perked up. "Oh..?" He hurried to the top of the stairs. "Who is-.....!!!!!" The red panda clasped his hands to his mouth, he couldn't believe who it was!

"Hello Shifu..." In an elegant purple robe with a light purple sash, a female red panda stood in front of him, she was wearing a beautiful lotus behind one ear.

"W-W-W-W-Wu Lian?!! Is that *really* you?!" He took a step towards her, eyes misted with happiness.

".....Wu Lian..!"

"....." The female red panda's hand shot up, she clamped onto his ear and pulled his ear towards

her mouth. "You're still a midget.." She whispered.

".....!!!! WHAT?!!!" Shifu demanded furiously, his fur bristling with rage. "I haven't seen you in over forty five years and *that* is all you say?"

Oogway smirked. "And you thought *I* was bad?"

Shifu narrowed his eyes at him.

"Master Oogway!!!???" Wu Lian gasped. "You-you-you-you-you-you-you-you-you're alive..?!" She threw her arms around his neck. "Master-!!!" She sobbed. "Oh, Master Oogway....."

The old tortoise returned her hug as tightly as he could. "Wu Lian..."

The red panda finally released him, eyes shining with tears. "I was so upset when I thought you-you-!" She sobbed again.

Oogway smoothed the fur on her head. "It's so wonderful to see you my beloved student.."

Shifu's eyes burned with envy. How dare Master Oogway hug her?! She was-and always had been a brat!

The old tortoise could see Shifu's thought and patted his head. "My *other* beloved pupil I mean.."

Wu Lian smirked. "So how come you haven't grown pipsqueak? Are you like a dwarf red panda or something?"

"You little-!!!" Shifu seethed, he lunged for her but Oogway gently pulled him back.

The old tortoise had to stifle a laugh. "After all these years...I *still* have to pull you off each other?"

Wu Lian rolled her eyes. "No, but you do have to pull him off.....he's still so immature."

"ALRIGHT THAT'S IT! I'M GOING TO-!!?"

Everyone had left, Shifu just stood there galring as the palace doors closed.

*(XD, Poor Shifu! Getting tickled half to death by his master and then being heckled by Wu Lian..... *hugs him*. The tickling scene was meant to make up for all the sadness in the last chapter. I needed to put some sort of funny and cute scene in this chapter. The scene was originally supposed to be between Shifu, Kurisu, and Po, but since Oogway and Shifu were the ones that created the sad atmosphere....they needed to be the ones to resolve it. I thought a training drill with them both would tie together nicely in the scene. And it did. ^^ (There won't be another scene like that for about twenty more chapters..) As you can see, Wu Lian is still the little brat she always was.)*

Preview Of The Next Chapter!

"Mmm...look at the moon." Oogway said, pointing towards the moon. "It's nice out tonight.."

Shifu inhaled the fresh air happily. "It really is! The air is so fresh!" He sat up on the log. "I love The Forest Of Tranquility.."

Oogway nodded agreeably. "Me too.....it is always filled with such peace.....if only the world could be like that.

Shifu grinned. "Maybe someday!"

The old tortoise nodded. "I hope..."

All of a sudden the bushes rustled.

Shifu nearly lost his grip on the log. "What was that?!"

They rustled even more.

Oogway got into a stance. "Get ready Shifu..!"

Both stood in a fighting stance, anxiously awaiting what would appear from the bush.

The creature emerged.

The two master's eyes widened with disbelief.

7 - Like A Little Seed

(Most of this chapter is a philosophical lesson..)

"Mmm...look at the moon." Oogway said, pointing towards the moon. "It's nice out tonight.."

Shifu inhaled the fresh air happily. "It really is! The air is so fresh!" He sat up on the log. "I love The Forest Of Tranquility.."

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All of a sudden the bushes rustled.

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They rustled even more.

Oogway got into a stance. "Get ready Shifu..!"

Both stood in a fighting stance, anxiously awaiting what would appear from the bush.

The creature emerged.

The two master's eyes widened with disbelief.

.....A mouse.

Shifu and Oogway slowly turned to each other, their mouths twitching. The two masters collapsed in laughter.

Shifu wiped his eyes. "Oh my gosh..what just happened to us?"

Oogway too wiped his tears and pointed to the small rodent. "...I think *that's* what happened to us!"

The young mouse scurried up a tall tree, twitching it's whiskers.

Shifu smiled. "It's so peaceful.."

Oogway nodded cheerfully. "Isn't it..?"

Shifu stretched as they walked. "I love coming here, it's the perfect place to relax!"

The Old tortoise chuckled. "The reason it is called the Forest Of Tranquility.."

Shifu smiled cheerfully. "Heh.."

Oogway grinned at his student. He had never seen the red panda so happy before in all his life.

Shifu caught his master grinning at him, so he turned away blushing. *I'm acting like such a giddy weirdo..*

The old tortoise glanced up at a tall tree. He did a huge leap up and landed on his tip-toes on top of the tree with perfect balance.

Shifu just stood there, mouth gaped wide open. Not even *he* could jump that high! "Whoa.....go Master!"

Oogway bowed and beckoned Shifu up. "You try it."

"What?!" The red panda was horrified. "I can't jump that high!"

The old tortoise chuckled lightly. "Try it, it's very fun."

Shifu took a deep breath and flipped up into the air, he clawed desperately at one of the branches highest to Oogway and latched on. "Yeeees!"

Oogway beamed. "See, you did it!"

Crack. The branch began falling. Oogway reached over and grabbed the startled red panda right in the nick of time.

Shifu gave a relieved sigh, as he and Oogway climbed down the falling branch and onto the safety of the

grass.

"Thank goodness...." Shifu said as he plopped onto the grass. "That was slightly frightening.."

Oogway laughed. "I agree with you on that one. Even *I* wasn't expecting it to fall." He walked over and sat on a log.

The red panda chuckled and joined his master. "Is the Forest Of Tranquility still as safe as it used to be?"

The old tortoise grinned. "Well, I haven't been here in a while, do any of your students ever come here..?"

Shifu scratched his chin. "Hmm...Kurusu sometimes comes here to swim or draw."

"She *swims*?" Oogway asked in awe. "She's a cat!"

Shifu shrugged. "I find it just as strange...but then, she is a very strange child."

Oogway smiled awkwardly. "And let me guess, she hates heights?"

"She isn't very fond of them, no." Shifu laughed as he slipped into the forest's spring "The water is so nice.."

The old tortoise shrugged and hopped in. "It *does* feel nice..."

Shifu grinned. "Ahhh...I feel good.."

Oogway nodded in agreement. "I would imagine, after you let out all your sorrow. ..Umm....I mean, after you let out *everything*." He corrected.

Shifu half glared at his master. Earlier He had had all his withheld sadness forced out of him by his master's gentle words and arms. Soon after he had had all the laughter forced out of him by.....his master's tickling fingers. "Right, well I feel good none the less."

Oogway inhaled the sweet air. "It tastes like fruit...I wonder why." Then he smiled. "Shifu, do you remember the seed you planted when you were younger?"

The red panda looked thoughtful. "You mean when I was a cub?"

"no, the second one you planted." Oogway said. "The seed that I said represented you."

Shifu nodded. "Has it grown yet?"

The old tortoise chuckled lightly. "Shall we see?"

"Alright." Shifu pulled himself out of the spring. "Fine, let's go then."

"Do you understand what I meant by a certain tree represents your personality?"

"Yeah, I guess so." Shifu said a little awkwardly.

"You didn't before."

"I was a cub!"

"No actually you weren't. In fact I remember it clearly.."

Oogway sighed as he walked towards the training hall. Why am I always losing my meditation candles? He wondered. Am I just getting old?Ugh, well even the founder of Kung Fu has their time.. "...?"

Oogway frowned as he noticed one of the palace geese by the training hall, looking very nervous.

"Zohou, what is it?"

"Ummmmmm..." The goose gave a nervous chuckle and blocked the door. "N-nothing-!!"

Oogway narrowed his eyes and pushed Zohou away from the door and opened it. The old tortoise's eyes widened in shock at what he saw. Every single piece of training equipment was now ready made kindling scattered all over the floor, even pieces of the swinging club were everywhere. Spikes were littered across the wooden floor, every piece of equipment was ruined! Oogway shook his head slowly. Did Shifu do this? He wondered. The old tortoise shut the doors and continued to the training yard. He knew he couldn't be angry with Shifu..the red panda was just getting over heartbreak.

Shifu was moving around the yard taking down innocent by-standers (the palace geese) as he smashed every giant boulder around.

Oogway had to duck to avoid the flying debris in the air, they were tossed every which way.

"Shifu, calm down..!"

The red panda completely ignored him and concentrated on another giant boulder in the center of the yard. He got to his feet and began running towards the boulder but was roughly pulled back. Shifu cried out as he hit the ground, he glared at no one in particular.

"Shifu."

The red panda refused to meet the old master's eyes.

"Shifu, look at me."

Slowly, Shifu rose his grim face to Oogway's disappointed one.

The old tortoise sighed and shook his head. "I found my training hall.."

Shifu winced slightly, still glaring. "....."

"Will you explain to me why you destroyed everything in that room?"

"....."

Oogway sighed. "I'm not angry, just disappointed as to why you used my equipment to release your anger."

"....." Shifu turned away obviously ashamed. "..I'm sorry.." His apology wasn't very sincere at all.

The old tortoise smiled understandingly. "Now Shifu, I know you are going through tough times right now, but you have to remember to-" Then he stopped. "...." He glanced down to see blood dripping from some deep arm wounds on Shifu's arms, coming down from his shoulder. Now Oogway was angry.

"What in the name of the great golden dragon happened to your arms?!"

Shifu cringed under his master's harsh gaze. ".....I was punching things.."

"To the point where your arms began to stream blood???" Shifu! You know when something like that happens, you come for medical treatment immediately, those wounds are very deep! Reaching the limits of your body is self discipline, going over them is pure foolishness, and you know that!"

Shifu glared at his master. "I'm fine! I'm not that weak!"

"Weakness has nothing to do with this, common sense is the issue!"

The red panda clenched his fists and turned the other direction. "...." He crossed his arms.

Oogway gave an exasperated sigh. "Uhhh.....let's try a little exercise, shall we?" He swept the air with his staff. A loud "whoosh" echoed through the mountain, a single peach fell into the old tortoise's hand.

"Throw this peach as hard as you can at one of the boulders." He placed it in his student's hand.

Shifu's glare was replaced with a look of confusion. "..What?"

"Throw the fruit as hard as you can, with all your strength. Aim it at the peach."

Shifu nodded reluctantly and swung his arm back.

"Oh yes." Oogway said simply. "You're not allowed to smash the peach."

"What?!"

"Go on." Oogway pressed.

More confused than ever, Shifu hurled the peach at the rock, it smashed to pieces, orange goop dripping down the rock.

Oogway swept the air. "Again." He placed another peach in Shifu's hand.

Shifu swung his arm back. "Smash!" Another fruit smashed to smithereens.

The old tortoise tossed another peach to Shifu. "Again."

Smash!

Shifu stomped his foot in frustration. "I can't do it master! It's impossible!"

The old tortoise smiled mysteriously. "Nothing is impossible." He took a peach into his hand and hurled it so hard at the rock all you could see was a blur of orange.

Shifu's mouth gaped open, he couldn't believe it!

Not a single bruise on that piece of fruit..

Oogway looked over at him. "You see? Nothing is impossible..." He tossed another peach

to the red panda. "Again."

Shifu tossed the peach up in each hand. then eyed the rock.

"Focus your chi, not on the peach.."

Shifu was really confused now. "Then...on what?"

"On your mind."

"What?!"

"To do this exercise you must have a calm mind, and steady arms. Do not doubt yourself....nor the peach."

Shifu squinted hard at the rock carefully, thoughtfully.

"Concentrate."

Shifu swung his arm back steadily, the peach connected with the giant boulder. it did not break. Shifu hurried over to it, only a small bruise.

Oogway grinned. "You did it."

Shifu turned up the corners of his mouth slightly, mustering a tiny grin of his own. "I guess I did..."

"You see?" Oogway asked as he bit into the peach. "To do this exercise you only needed to calm your mind...to allow peace to enter it. This exercise is a method to calm your anger, if the peach does not break...then your mind is steady." He smiled lightly. "At least, for that moment anyways."

Shifu bowed. "Thank you master.."

The old tortoise scratched between his student's ears, a gesture of affection that Shifu pretended to hate..although it secretly made him feel good. He gave a tiny smile up at Oogway. "I will remember master.." Oogway pulled a couple pebble like objects out of his pocket. "Shifu, you are like this seed." His eyes sparkled with a hint of amusement. "But which one..? There are two of them here, which one is you?"

Shifu blinked. "None of them master, I'm a red panda." Although the red panda normally got Oogway's philosophical riddles....this one made no sense at all.

Oogway laughed. "Are you? Or are you one of these seeds?"

".....I'm quite sure I'm a red panda!"

The old tortoise chuckled. "A tree can represent many different types of personalities, for example: Apple trees are strong and sturdy, they can brave themselves against cold weather, matter the condition. They have high leader like personalities and taste sweet and tangy. Quite often they are held down by their roots of regrets though. It is not very common to find an apple tree with loose roots. Some grow up as thorny trees, that can harm others, and some grow up to be coconut trees that hide in their shell, and have a hard time coming out and expressing themselves. Which one are you? .In this state, I fear you will grow to be a thorn tree.." He shook his head sadly. "I pray that you won't.."

Shifu shook his head. He still did not understand. "....."

Oogway smiled and cupped his hands over Shifu's. He dropped the two single seeds in Shifu's hand.

"One of them is mine, and one is yours. This will represent who you will be in the future, go and plant them now."

Shifu nodded reluctantly and headed to the Forest Of Tranquility. The red panda focused his chi on the hole and swung his fist, a deep soil hole was made. Shifu planted the seed and covered up the hole. Eager to see what would sprout.

Oogway smiled gently at Shifu. "Go and check your tree out, I'm going to head back to the palace now..."

Shifu nodded slowly. "Okay!" He smiled and walked into the forest. The red panda brushed away a few branches and peered over into the brown soil. Shifu stepped back to

admire his tree, eyes sparkling. It was an apple tree....with roots as loose as can be.

(I think this is about the only chapter where I REALLY got Oogway's personality down! XD, what did you think of the mouse part? Bet you were expecting Gao Xun!)

Preview of the next chappppiiiiieeeee!

Shifu gave a low growl at the annoying palace goose. "I swear Zeng, if this isn't important...you are REALLY in for it!" He despised being disturbed from his meditation state.

"Shifu!" Oogway scolded, rapping the red panda hard with the flute. "It is Zeng's job, he is the messenger, let him be." The old tortoise turned to the goose and smiled gently. "What is it Zeng?"

Zeng trembled under Shifu's cold glare. "There is someone here asking for Shifu."

Shifu's eyebrows rose. "Oh..? Who would that be?"

All of a sudden the palace doors swung open, in walked his visitor.

Shifu fell to his knees, mouth gaping. "Great golden dragon...!"

The creature grinned and flicked it's tail. "Long time no see, Shifu."

8 - Relaxation Is Easier Said Then Done

(Yet another one of Shifu's friends are arriving! But who? ..Hehe, wait and see!)

"I was *not!*" Shifu snarled, face beet red.

Wu Lian rolled her eyes. "Oh *please!* You were totally making eyes with that fox when you were thirteen!"

Shifu uttered a low growl. "Wu Lian, get your facts straight!"

Oogway nodded calmly. "I agree, for *I* was there. He wasn't making eyes with her."

Shifu smiled gratefully at his master. "Thank you master.."

"He was flirting with her."

"..!!! *Master!*"

Everyone burst out laughing (except of course for Shifu).

The red panda narrowed his eyes at the old tortoise. "Honestly, you can be so mean."

The old tortoise gave Shifu's nose a fond poke. "I'm just saying the truth..."

Shifu clenched his fist, Oogway got up just in time to avoid the red panda's attempt to pounce.

Kurusu looked thoughtful. "For some reason....I can't imagine Shifu chan flirting with anyone.."

Wu Lian smiled slightly. "Shifu chan huh? So, you're Japanese?"

"Hai!" The kitten chirped.

The female red panda grinned. "You would have gotten along great with Risu, our old Japanese squirrel."

"!!! Japanese squirrel?!! Ouuuuuu! I wanna meet 'em!"

Wu Lian chuckled. "He would have *loved* you."

Shifu grinned. "Ahh..Risu, how is he?"

The female red panda looked thoughtful. "Mmmm...I don't know. I haven't seen any of our old friends since they left the palace, I really miss Ming Yang.."

Shifu's ears drooped instantly. "Mingy..." He said sadly.

Wu Lian patted his back. "Yeah, I miss her too, but she's in a better place now."

"Yeah, she-..!!!!!! WHAT?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN SHE'S IN A BETTER PLACE NOW???! WHAT HAPPENED TO HER?!!" He lunged across the table and grabbed a strong hold on Wu Lian's collar.

"WHERE IS SHE?!"

The female red panda pried his hands off and shoved him forward. "Geez, I don't *know* where she is!"

She rolled her eyes. "Ugh! Can't take a joke?"

"THAT WASN'T FUNNY!!" Shifu seethed and lunged for her again, but Oogway pulled him back.

The old tortoise sighed and half glared at his student. "Time out." He said pushing Shifu to the corner.

"!! What?!"

Everyone started laughing again.

Shifu was *not* amused. "Argh! I'm going to go meditate!! No one bother me!!" He stomped towards the door.

"To meditate you must be in a calm and peaceful state." Oogway said simply.

Shifu was *that* close to telling his master to shut up. He ignored everyone and slammed the door.

Everyone was silent all except for Po, who simply asked the most obvious question in the world.

"Gee, what's eating him?"

Shifu angrily paced up and down the halls, upset with Wu Lian's cruel joke. He took a big breath and sat

down. "Inner peace.....inner peace..inner in-in-inner-*hurk!*" The red panda choked as he felt a cold pointed object stab the back of his throat, something cool and slimy slid down his tongue. The red panda opened his eyes to see a smiling kitten crouched down in front of him holding a small bowl.

"Is it good?" She asked cheerily.

That figured. "Kurusu!! Are you *trying* to kill me?! If you want me dead so bad just tell me! Quit trying to kill me yourself!!"

Kurusu frowned. "What? Kill you? I wanted you to test out my newest recipe! "Apple snow."

Shifu gave a long groan. He was always the target of Kurisu's "creativity." Ever since she found out her talent in cooking she made the red panda the official taste tester. Most of her recipes were delicious, with the exception of the time she accidentally added a full cup of vinegar into her tayaki. Oogway's words voiced through his head. [i]There are no accidents.. Hmm...had she been trying to poison him then?

The young teen looked deeply offended. "Well, if you hate my cooking so bad..."

"Nononono!" Shifu said quickly. "It's very good, just give me some warning before you decide to let me taste, okay?"

The kitten nodded, she was back to her usual cheerful self. "Hai! So, is it good?"

The red panda gave a dry chuckle as he took a spoonful of the pink goop. "...! Wow! It's really good!"

Eagerly, he took another spoonful. "Your best yet!"

Kurusu's eyes sparkled. "Honto? Yataa!" She flung her arms around him. "I'm so happy!" The kitten jumped to her feet and headed towards the door. "Thank you master!" She shut the door.

Shifu smiled and slurped some more of the tangy desert. "Quite delicious indeed.."

The palace doors creaked open. "Shifu? Are you alright?"

Shifu set down his bowl and turned the other way, pretending he didn't see Oogway. "Inner peace...inner pe-"

"Shifu, did Wu Lian upset you?"

The red panda spun around angrily. "What do you think? Of course she upset me! Thinking that joking about Ming Yang dying was actually *funny?!!*"

Oogway frowned. "Shifu, she was only just trying to fluster you....as usual, why didn't you ignore her?"

"How could I? She pretended Mingy was dead! She's such an insensitive little b-"

Oogway's eyebrows shot up. "Shifu, you know I don't approve of language like that."

"...Brat, I was going to say brat."

"Sure you were." The old tortoise sat down beside his student. "I've always had the feeling you like her.."

"Wha-what?! You're crazy.." Shifu's face was beet red from embarrassment and anger. "How dare you make that assumption! I hate that smart-mouthed little brat!"

Oogway's face twitched. "The more you deny it, the more obvious it becomes."

Shifu got up quickly and strode towards the door. "You're out of your mind!!" He slammed the door.

The old tortoise flinched as the whole hall shook, he sighed and blew out Shifu's meditation candles.

Angrily, Shifu paced around the peach tree, furious beyond all belief. How *dare* Wu Lian joke about Ming Yang dying, and how *dare* Oogway imply he was in love with her! This day could *not* get any worse.

"Yo, master!"

scratch that... Sigh. "What is it panda?!"

Po smiled at his old master. "You took off so fast, is something the matter?"

"No!!" Shifu hollered, getting to his feet and taking off towards the bunkhouse. "Now leave me alone!!"

SLAM!

Po screwed up his face. "...Was it something I said?"

"No, Master Po." Came a voice from behind him.

Po spun around and gazed at Oogway. "Oh, hey Master Oogway."

The old tortoise smiled. "You seem upset.."

The panda chuckled sadly. "How do you figure that? I'm not eating anything."

Oogway laughed lightly. "I can see it in your face."

".....Yeah, I'm upset."

"Why ever so Po?"

"I feel master is mad at me for something."

Oogway sighed. "I'm afraid his anger is my doing.."

"Huh?"

The old tortoise chuckled. "I kind of upset him when I sort of..err...accused him of liking some girl."

Po was so relieved over Shifu's anger not being directed to him, that he didn't even think to ask who the girl is. "Awesome! I thought he was mad at me! Well that's a relief!" Cheerfully, Po skipped off.

Oogway sighed. *Well at least someone is happy...*

The red panda sighed irritably and crossed his legs. "Inner peace...inner peace....inner in-in-inner pe.....Shifu had the feeling he was being watched. Sure enough, he peered up at a certain female panda in front of him. ".....Oh...Lian, it's you." His expression was cold.

Wu Lian smiled sadly. "Yeah...look umm Shifu, I'm really sorry I hurt you.

"....."

"Will you um...forgive me?"

".....You are forgiven Lian." Shifu said as he bowed to her.

"....." Wu Lian smiled and returned his bow, she also ruffled the fur on his head as she got up.

"Thanks." The female red panda turned towards him and whispered in his ear. "Midget."

"...!!! *Lian!!*" Shifu pounced on her and tackled his friend to the ground.

Wu Lian shrieked with laughter and wrestled the red panda on the floor.

Shifu laughed. "Just like old times Lian."

The door creaked open and in walked Oogway. "Shifu I want to appologize for-....!!" He stopped and watched the cute and hilarious scene in front of him. Wu Lian managed to pin Shifu to the floor and tickled him into hysterics.

The old tortoise's mouth twitched. "Well my theory is confirmed."

Shifu stopped laughing instantly and sat up. "Oh..master!" He pushed Wu Lian off and stood up. "H-hi! H-how you.....doing?" He asked lamely.

Oogway tried stifling a laugh. "I'm doing fine Shifu.....I see you and Wu Lian have made up."

"Indeed...."

Wu Lian was blushing, she cleared her throat. "Well....umm...see you boys later!" She peeped and hurried out of the hall.

Oogway finally burst out laughing. "Well what do you know? How are you going to deny it this time?" He asked, nudging Shifu in the side.

Shifu's face was so red it felt as hot as fire. "D-deny what???" He squeaked.

The old tortoise just chuckled. "Let's just say...now I don't feel so bad for accusing you."

"Nonononono!" Shifu said quickly. "That's not true! I don't like her!!"

"Mmhmm....." Oogway said humming in acknowledgement.

"Master!" Shifu wailed. "Don't look like that, I'm *serious!*"

"Mmhmm....."

Shifu gave an irritated sigh and sat down.

"Master Shifu....." Zeng said quietly.

Shifu gave a low growl at the annoying palace goose. "I swear Zeng, if this isn't important...you are

REALLY in for it!" He despised being disturbed from his meditation state.
"Shifu!" Oogway scolded, rapping the red panda hard with the flute. "It is Zeng's job, he is the messenger, let him be." The old tortoise turned to the goose and smiled gently. "What is it Zeng?"
Zeng trembled under Shifu's cold glare. "There is someone here asking for Shifu."
Shifu's eyebrows rose. "Oh..? Who would that be?"
All of a sudden the palace doors swung open, in walked his visitor.
Shifu fell to his knees, mouth gaping. "Great golden dragon...!"
The creature grinned and flicked it's tail. "Long time no see, Shifu."
".....!!!! R-R-Risu?!" Shifu exclaimed as he ran up to his little friend. "Risu, is it really you..?"
An elderly Japanese squirrel stepped towards him, he was wearing an emerald robe with a black sash around his waist. He had a long stringy mustache hanging down his face, his ears were brown and pointed, he had a beautiful brown fur coat. "Shifu!" The Japanese squirrel scurried up Shifu's arm and nuzzled his cheek affectionately. "It's been so long!"
Shifu laughed and hovered a hand over Risu's back, careful not to crush him. "Risu, my little friend.Although you're not quite as little as I remember, you've grown into a healthy strong Kung Fu master."
"Indeed. I hear you train the Furious Five?"
"Indeed. Do you have any students Risu?"
"Her name is Ka-"
"Kyaaaaaaaaaaa!!!" Came a girly squeal of delight. In a swift motion Risu was swept off the ground and nuzzled continuously by a certain kitten. "You are so *cute!*"
He chuckled.
"Kurusu!" Shifu scolded. "Put him *down!*"
Impulsively, the kitten dropped the Japanese squirrel on the ground and turned glumly towards her master. "Hai...master."
Risu smiled."Now, now Shifu. She isn't bothering anyone."
Shifu screwed up his face. "That's not usual for you, you hate hugs."
".....No." Risu said with a smile. "It is *you* that hates hugs." He patted Kurisu on the head affectionately.
"Certainly a cute little thing, isn't she?"
".....Whatever you say Risu.." The red panda said as he rolled his eyes.
Risu chuckled. "So where is our Wuli? I'm dying to see her." Happily, he turned towards the door left.
Shifu just sat there blinking. What just happened anyways? Shrugging. He took a deep breath and lit his meditation candles. Shifu was not interrupted again that day.

(Heehee, bet most of you were thinking it was Risu, huh? The wrestling scene between Shifu and Wu was meant to express the cuteness between them. What do you think? Is Oogway right? Are they indeed....lovers?)

Preview of the next chapter.

"Kurusu?"

"Mmm?"

"Could you please pick some tomatoes from the garden for me?"

Kurusu saluted. "Hai!" She snatched the basket from her old master's arms and ran out to the garden. The kitten heard a low growl from behind her, she turned her head towards the sound.....and shrunk back in terror.

A monster stood behind her, it's eyes were dark pools of blood, it's fur was a matted dark silver. Most of

all it's teeth were so sharp razors couldn't compare to it. A huge puddle f saliva pooled around the monster's legs, as it let out a raspy growl.

"....." And Kurisu could do nothing but scream.

9 - Yet Another Author's Note

I may be abandoning this story for a couple weeks (I want to focus on Glimpses Of The Past.)

10 - Looks Can Be Deceiving

(Here, Risu plays a big part in this chapter.)

“Doooo dooo doo dii doooooo! Doodoo-”

“Doodoo?!” Shifu asked, eyes wide as he sipped some tea.

“Ewww, gross!” Kurisu rolled her eyes. “It's part of the song you dummy!”

“Dummy eh?” Shifu asked. He raised the tea cup to his face. “I'm not the one who's singing about doodo..” The red panda mumbled.

The kitten sighed and balanced a plate of onigiri on her tail. “Order up!”

“Hey!” Po exclaimed angrily. “That's *my* line!”

Shifu popped a piece on onigiri into his mouth. “Actually Master Po, it's the line of every chef.”

Kurisu turned to look at him. “That's right.” she said with a satisfied smirk. “Dummy..”

Po narrowed his eyes at her. “You're the dummy..”

“You're a big fat panda!”

Shifu bit his lip, stifling a laugh. “He's not a big fat panda, he's *the* big fat panda! Hahaha!”

Kurisu giggled, Po just blushed. “Well, I am the big fat panda!”

“Right, and you enjoy being called fat?” Shifu asked with a small grin.

“....Yeah, well you have big ears!”

Kurisu giggled. “The better to hear you with my dear!”

Shifu laughed. “Exactly! That way I know whenever you sneak into the kitchen during the night!”

Po fiddled nervously with his fingers. “Yeah well.....you're just a red panda!”

“I'm not a red panda....I'm *the* red panda! ..Hahaha!”

The kitchen door burst open. “*You* are the *the* red panda?!” Wu Lian scoffed. “Give me a break!

Midgets can't be *the* red panda!”

Shifu narrowed his eyes. “Lian shut your face, you wrinkly old bag!”

Gasp. “You are freaking dead Shifu!!!!!”

“Enough.” Came an irritated sigh from the doorway. Oogway glared at Shifu. “Shifu, don't be calling Wu Lian names.....” He scolded. “Honestly, am I going to have to be with you two twenty-four seven to make sure you don't kill each other? Why can't you just learn to get along..?”

Shifu and Wu Lian bowed their heads in shame. “Sorry master...” The chorused.

Faces hid by the steam coming from the pots, Kurisu and Po stood there trying to muffle their laughter the best they could.

Meanwhile, Risu was in the Sacred Hall Of Warriors meditating with Tigress. “I am a master at meditating young Tigress.”

The south China tiger smiled gently down at Risu. “Who told you that?” She teased. “I always thought Master Oogway was the master of meditation.”

The elderly squirrel laughed. “Oh, *please!* Oogway doesn't compare in the slightest to *me!*”

Tigress rolled her eyes. “*You* are better than *the founder of Kung Fu?!*”

“Tigri chaaaaaaan!” Came a call from the hall. “It's supper time!”

Tigress sighed. “Very well Kurisu, we'll be there.”

The kitten giggled. “I made something real special for you Ri chan!”

Risu chuckled lightly. “Oh Ri chan, huh? You're Japanese too right?Well of course, your name is Kurisu! Do you happen to like Crystals?”

Kurisu giggled. "I like diamonds more." She said as she gazed down at her chocolate diamond necklace.

Tigress sighed. "Are we going or not?"

"Hai!" The kitten chirped.

Risu yawned and stretched. "Right, I'll go get Shifufu!"

Tigress entered the kitchen. "Right, what's for grub?"

Everyone sent her a weird look.

".....What? What, I'm not allowed to act like the "mighty dragon warrior?" She asked sarcastically.

"Meh....whatever." Po said with a laugh. He slurped up some soup. "...! Hey, Tigress want to do something fun with me?"

Tigress gave an irritated sigh. "What is it panda?"

Po leaned over and whispered something in her ear. Tigress's eyes went as wide as saucers. "What?! Are you *insane*?! I am *not* doing that to Master Shifu! It is very disrespectful!"

Po rolled his eyes. "Oh come *on* Tigress! He's not even here, I mean....like I'm sure you've wanted to o it for a while now!"

Tigress turned away.

Kurisu giggled and nudged the south China tiger in the ribs. "Come on Tigri chan, it will be fun!"

Po grinned. "Yeah, come on Tigress."

Meanwhile, Shifu was making his way towards the kitchen, when he heard voices from the room.

"I am not being so disrespectful to my master! It's cruel! Forget it!"

Shifu rose an eyebrow and hid behind the door. *Disrespectful..?*

"Come on!" Po pressed, he kept nudging her until she sighed exasperatedly.

"Fine!" Tigress grabbed two bowls and put one over each ear. "I am Shifu, I have the biggest ears in the universe and a mustache that looks like a long stringy noodle! There, are you happy now Po?!"

Po laughed. "A long noodly mustache..." He slapped a noodle strand under his nose. "You mean like *this*?"

Tigress bit her lip, smiling slightly.

Po turned towards Kurisu, scowling. "Kurisu for smiling, you have to weeks worth of dish duty!"

The kitten giggled and pretended to cower. "Oh nooooo! Have mercy on my soul Master Shifu!"

Everyone (including Tigress) laughed at that.

All of a sudden a loud bang made Po hide behind Tigress. Shifu stood there glaring down both the girls.

"Where is the dragon warrior?!" He barked angrily.

With a shaky finger, Kurisu pointed to Po, who was trembling behind her. She moved aside.

Shifu stepped up to him. "Bah! Him?! He's a panda, you're a panda! What are you going to do big guy? Sit on me? Mmhmmhmmhmm!" The red panda asked with a chuckle.

Po laughed. "Don't tempt me!"

Kurisu giggled. "Maybe he does have a sense of humor after all!"

Shifu rolled his eyes. "Right, move aside Kurisu...I'm preparing the main course."

The kitten nodded cheerfully. "Okay!" "Heeheeheehe!"

"Kurisu?"

"Mmm?"

"Could you please pick some tomatoes from the garden for me?"

Kurisu saluted. "Hai!" She snatched the basket from her old master's arms and ran out to the garden.

The kitten heard a low growl from behind her, she turned her head towards the sound.....and shrunk back in terror.

A monster stood behind her, it's eyes were dark pools of blood, it's fur was matted down, and it's fangs were so sharp that razors couldn't compare to them.

“.....” And Kurisu could do nothing but scream. “A MONSTER!!!!” Dropping the basket, she quickly scurried up the steps. “A MONSTER!!! HELP!!!! SHIFU!!! PO!!! MASTER OOGWAY!!! SOMEONE!!!” The kitten tripped and fell flat on her face, with the monster close behind her. “MASTER!!!!!” Shifu, Tigress, Po and Risu came up to the top step. Shifu looked very concerned.

“What is it young one?”

“A MONSTER!!!”

“.....A what? Young lady, I don't have time for your crazy childish games! Now do you have the vegetables or not? If not I'll send Tigress, and you will have to mop The Sacred Hall Of Warriors for not following orders.” Shifu said sternly.

“But Master!” The kitten wailed. “There really is a monster behind me! It-it's fangs are so sharp! It's eyes are like-like *blood!*”

“Kurusu!” Shifu snapped. “Enough!” He shook his head in disgust. “Mop the hall and dish duty for a week, maybe *that* will teach you to follow my orders!”

The kitten narrowed her eyes at him, deeply hurt that he didn't believe her. “Fine! Go on, get eaten by the monster!” Sniff. “See if I care!” She began to stomp off.

Shifu sighed and rolled his eyes. “Kids..”

A loud growl froze everyone rigid.

The creature came thudding up the steps, snarling.

Shifu's left eye twitched. “Oh great golden dragon!!” Everyone was horrified by the beast's vicious looks, everyone except Risu.

“Tigress, get behind me!” Shifu commanded sternly, striking out his arm protectively in front of his students. “Run for safety!” He glared at Risu. “You too Risu!”

The elderly squirrel chuckled and walked up to the great beast. “That won't be necessary Shifu..”

“Ri chan!! Get your head down, it'll eat you!” Kurisu shouted from behind her master.

Risu snorted. “Pfft! I highly doubt that young Kurisu.” He glared up at the monster.

The creature uttered a loud growl.

With lightning speed, Risu brought down the side of his palm to the beast's nose. It whimpered!

“Kaeru, don't you *dare* growl at me! You do *not* growl at your master!”

“Master?!!” Everyone chorused in shock.

Risu looked disgusted, he jabbed his finger between the creature's red eyes. “You outta be ashamed of yourself young lady! Frightening everyone like this!” He peered around her, and spotted splattered tomatoes littering the ground. “You even destroyed half the tomatoes!?” He grabbed her gruesome long snout and squeezed it. “You are in big trouble missy!”

The once frightening vicious beast was now merely a whimpering puppy trembling and bowing her head in shame.

“Kaeru, Risu?” Shifu asked, reluctantly stepping in front of the beast. “Th-th-th-this monster is your student?!”

Kaeru bared her sharp teeth at the red panda and got ready to attack. She was stopped as Risu viciously twisted her ear.

“Enough!” He snapped. The elderly squirrel turned towards Shifu. “Do not call her a monster Shifu, she is only a puppy.” He glared at Kaeru through narrow slits. “A puppy who was *supposed* to stay back at the hut!”

Kaeru whimpered and stepped backwards.

“But, Kaeru?” Kurisu asked, eyes wide. “You-you named your student “Frog?!”.....!” That's when she noticed a golden collar around the creature's neck, it had a frog carved in it. “A frog collar..?”

Kaeru stepped up to Shifu, he was trembling slightly. You have never seen such a beast! She was huge! She looked deadly, he feared her more than he did Oogway when he was angry. “U-u-u-umm h-hi?”

The beast lowered her head, sniffed him and then began furiously licking him. Shifu laughed. "Hahaha! St-stop it!" He tried pushing her giant tongue away. It was amazing how this great beast had suddenly turned into such a lovable little puppy! "Hahaha! Stop it Kareu! Risu -ahaha-get control of your dog!"

Risu laughed. "Wow, she really likes you Shifu!"

Irritably, Shifu pushed her off him. "Uh-huh..."

The puppy wiggled her butt playfully, her tail wagged as she panted and got ready to pounce on Shifu. Pounce.

"Augh!" Shifu began desperately squirming under the giant wolf. "Let go!" The red panda pleaded. Kaeru may be just a giant pup, but she was still frightening....especially with her spread right over him! Shifu cringed under the giant claws. "Get off Kaeru-!"

Risu chuckled. "Kaeru, retract your claws, you're really scaring him." He turned to Shifu. "Although, there's nothing to fear....she really likes you!"

Kaeru retracted her claws immediately and continued licking Shifu.

Kurusu's eyes were as wide as saucers. "Whoa! How long is her tail?"

The squirrel tapped his chin thoughtfully. "....About four or five meters long."

"What?!"

"Indeed, a very long tail that would break all your bones if they slam into you."

".....Wow.." The kitten shook her head.

Shifu patted the wolf's head and got up. "Kurusu, will you please go get me a towel to clean the tomatoes off the steps?"

Kurusu just narrowed her eyes at him and turned her back. "Hmph!"

Shifu frowned. "What did I-.....oh, right." He sighed and placed a hand on her paw. "I'm sorry I didn't believe you."

"....."

"You don't have a punishment."

"....."

Sigh. The red panda dug into his pocket and brought out a lollipop. "Here!"

The kitten smiled, took the lollipop and bowed. "Apology accepted master!" with that, she scampered off to get a towel.

(XD, I loved writing the part where Kurisu refuses to forgive until she gets a lolly! Heehee, that's my little Kurisu!)

"Whooooaaaaa!!!" Po's eyes were wide. "The Invisible Trident Of Destiny!" He inspected it. "It's soooooooooooooooooooooo awesome!"

Shifu narrowed his eyes at the panda. "Po! You get away from there this instant!! Put that trident down, now!"

"Oh wait just a second, I want to try something!" Po lifted the invisible object and waved it around. The trident clashed hard into the "Yari of the Japanese Bakaneko", a legendary spear that only the legendary Bakaneko can wield. The stand shattered to pieces and the spear came spiraling down to Po's head.

"PO!!!!"

11 - Legends

(We find out how Risu and Kaeru meet in this chapter!)

“Twirl around.” Risu said as he held up a sugary biscuit.

Kaeru twirled in a circle.

“Stand on your hind legs.”

The puppy stood up on her hind legs.

“Speak.”

Kurusu leaned over eagerly. *Am I actually going to hear her speak?*

“Bark!” The pup called happily.

Risu laughed. “Good girl!” He scratched her ears affectionately. He threw the biscuit. “Go get it girl!” *Bad idea.*

BOOM!

CRASH!

SMASH!

SHATTER!

Oogway slapped his giant hands to the sides of his face. “Risu! Get control of her, quickly! She'll destroy the palace!”

Considering Kaeru was the size of a small pony, that wasn't very hard to do.

Risu thudded hard down the hall. “Kaeru, no! Stop!” He grabbed a hold of her collar and pulled back.

“Sorry, it's my fault.” He blushed. “Hehe, I guess I'm at fault for letting you run in the palace...”

The wolf pup licked Risu's face happily and ate up the biscuit. “Ruff!”

Kurusu giggled. “Risu, Kaeru, dinner is getting cold!”

The elderly squirrel walked into the kitchen. “Um, master? I uhh...I'm...umm...hehe!”

Oogway laughed and scratched between his student's ears. “It is fine, I'm not mad.”

Shifu burned with envy (again). Ever since he had been a cub Oogway had always scratched the red panda's ears, his own little gesture of affection he used for Shifu and no one else. The red panda (as you can tell) had always been very possessive of his master (which in some eyes would be very selfish, but Oogway was all Shifu had in his life when he was younger).

Oogway seemed to sense the red panda's irritation and quickly changed to patting Risu on the head.

Risu smiled and laughed embarrassedly. “Kaeru and I are both very sorry.”

Kaeru gave a whimper of distress up at Oogway, who laughed again. “Apology accepted young Kaeru.”

Kurusu frowned. “She sure doesn't look very young to me! How old is she, twenty two?”

“Eight.” Risu said simply.

“EIGHT?!” Kurisu practically screamed. “That giant wolf-dog-pup-hybrid-thingy is eight years old?! As in a *child*?!”

“Yes.”

Tigress cleared her throat. “Why is her name *Frog*?”

“Ahh, a very good question Master Tigress. If you're ready to hear the answer, it's very long.”

Oogway smiled as he took a sip of his soup. “Ah, well everyone loves a little dinner story. Please, tell us Risu.”

Risu chuckled. “Aww well I don't know..” He turned towards Kaeru. “May I?”

She nodded.

The old squirrel leaned back against his chair. "I remember it like it was yesterday.."
"Damn, this stupid rain forest!" A young black haired (facial hair) Risu cursed quietly. "Honestly, why do all major cures have to be made from certain herbs you can only get in a rain forest?!" He sliced some giant leaves from a hanging bush out of the way and began setting up camp. "What a place for a squirrel to stay! I belong in a nice warm tree in the forest, not a stupid tropical climate!" He cursed once more and set up a sleeping bag underneath the stars. All was quiet except for the sounds of croaking from wild frogs, and the sound of whining mosquitoes. Then Risu heard something very unusual. A strange croak, like a frog dying. It was the mixture of a howling dog and a dying frog. Risu was anxious to see what was going on, he decided to check it out. Pulling back a few large branches from many tropical trees, he reached the sound. A young pup who looked to be about three years old, was crouched down beside a pond trying to sing with the frogs. Risu walked up to the puppy.

"Hi there little one.."

The pup immediately ceased her barking and instead stood her ground, growling.

The squirrel laughed. "Ouuuu scary puppy, aren't you?" He walked up to the young pup and extended his hand to her.

CHOMP!

"Augh!!" Risu shook his bleeding hand. "Ouch, eech, ouuuch, ow!" His eyes widened as he gazed at the pup's teeth. "Little one, what big teeth you have."

The wolf pup just growled again, all of a sudden Risu heard a different type of growling.

Grrrrrrrrr...

The pup's eyes went wide, she turned away blushing.

Risu snickered. "Oh, I see why you're such a grump...you're really hungry, huh?"

The pup stuck her nose up in the air.

The squirrel laughed and held out his hand to her, it had some beef jerky in it.

The puppy sniffed it, growled and turned her head away.

"Say what? You are just a stubborn little thing, that's what you are!"

The pup sniffled, her ears drooped.

Risu just shrugged. "Well, what can I say? The truth hurts..."

The pup retreated back under the small tree.

Risu rolled his eyes and smiled. "Well, if you change your mind..." He set up camp close to the wolf and got a fire going, cooking some meat.

The scent of the BBQed meat got the best of the puppy, and she crawled up to where Risu was, she cocked her head and whimpered.

Risu chuckled and held out a piece of meat to her. "Here young one.."

The pup sniffed his hand and gingerly took a bite. She took another bite, then CHOMP!

"Arrrghhh!! Pup, you need to be more gentle!!" He tapped her nose angrily. "Bad girl, you must be gentle." With a sigh, Risu bandaged his other bleeding hand. "You know I need these hands to pick herbs." He glared at her. "How am I supposed to do my work now? You'll have to help me."

The pup just narrowed her eyes at him and settled by the fire.

The next day Risu went looking for some more medical herbs. The wolf pup secretly followed him (or so she thought). The puppy crouched down behind one of the rain forest's trees, breathing heavily.

Risu turned towards the tree, the pup ducked. The old squirrel rolled his eyes and set down his clippers.

"Pup, I can see you. Your breathing could wake a sleeping giant. Will you come out and help me please?"

The puppy reluctantly stepped up to Risu, eying the herb. "Grrrr..."

Risu laughed. "It won't bite." He pointed over towards a giant venus fly trap at his left. "That one will though." He motioned the pup to come over. "Help me pull out the herb little one."

The wolf pup positioned herself in front of the giant herb, latched her teeth on, and pulled, pulled, pulled. Pop!

The pup flew backwards, the herb went flying from her mouth and she bounced into a venus fly trap's open mouth.

Risu gasped. "Oh no!" He hurried up to the pup and pulled her legs, she was whimpering. "Okay, maybe on three. One..two..three!"

Pop!

Giving a loud "arf" of surprise, the wolf pup flew backwards into Risu.

"Oomph!"

"Arf!"

Risu staggered upwards dizzily, and grabbed the young puppy's paw. "Well...now you know to never go near biting plants."

Over the next few days of being with the puppy Risu realized something, she was a frog! It's what she thought she was, she didn't know how to be a dog! Risu watched as she leaped around (she couldn't walk to well), she tried croaking, and even ate flies! Later that night Risu watched carving, as the pup nipped at the flies and chased frogs all around their camping area. Risu chuckled and set down his carving knife, he admired his work. The squirrel had carved a beautiful bamboo collar for the pup, it had a frog carved in the center. He walked up to the puppy and fastened the collar around her neck. "Kaeru, Kaeru is your name."

Panting happily, the puppy leaped on him and licked the poor squirrel half to death in gratitude.

"Hahahaha! Down Kaeru! Ahahah! You like that name, don't you girl?"

She gave a weak sounding bark of cheer.

"Hmmhmm! We're going to have to work on that bark of yours..."

"Awwwwwwwwwwwwww!" Kurisu cooed. "So cute! That's how you met her?"

"Indeed." Risu said as he patted Kaeru's head. "She's my baby girl."

Kaeru gave a bark of happiness and licked Risu's face. Then she walked up to Shifu and nudged him with her long snout.

Shifu cringed and stepped back from the puppy. "Hehe, h-hi K-Kaeru.."

She nuzzled his stomach affectionately with her giant nose.

Shifu's mouth twitched slightly and he stepped closer to Risu. "Apologies my good friend." The red panda said as he turned towards Risu. "But, could you keep her away from me?"

Risu laughed. "Do not worry Shifu." He pushed the red panda towards Kaeru, he fell on her foot.

"Augh!" Shifu got up quickly, he was stopped by Kaeru, who grabbed him by the scruff of the neck and pulled him pack onto her front paws.

Risu laughed. "Awww, she wuvs you."

Shifu shudered. "I-I was afraid of that!" He quickly got back up again and moved in between Kurisu and Oogway. "Keep it away from me!:"

Kaeru's ears drooped, she whimpered.

Oogway glared at Shifu.

WHACK!

"Ouch!" Shifu narrowed his eyes at Oogway. "What was that for?!"

Oogway glowered his student. "For being mean, she's only a puppy."

Wu Lian sneered. "Yeah, midget.....jerk!"

The red panda's ears positioned dangerously low. "You little-!!!" He leaped towards the red panda (again) was roughly pulled back.

"Shifu!" Oogway scolded. "Mind your manners!"

It took absolutely everything the five, Po and Kurisu had to keep from laughing. To hear Shifu get

scolded like that, it was hilarious. The one red panda that constantly reprimanded for their lapse in respect, just got scolded by *his* own parent. The red panda that constantly scolded them with things like. "Po, stop playing with your noodles!" Or: "Tigress, stop fighting with Po!" Or even: "Kurusu, get your lazy rump out of bed!"

Po and Kurisu randomly burst out laughing, Shifu just blushed.

The red panda squirmed free and stomped towards the door. "I'm going to meditate!" He rose his voice to the highest level. "You stuuuuuuuuupid Wu Lian!!!"

SLAM!

Everyone flinched at that.

Kurusu turned towards to Po, her look said "we better go check on him."

Oogway smiled. "I'll go with you.."

Meanwhile, Shifu wasn't meditating, his mind wasn't relaxed enough to do that. He paced back in forth in front of the "Three Legendary Symbolic Weapons". Each represented a certain mystical animal that a warrior in the future was said to wield.

"Shifu chan!"

The red panda turned towards a concerned young kitten. "Kurusu, wh-what are you doing here?"

"To check up on you silly." Came a wise calm voice. Oogway.

"Ahh, master, Kurisu....I am fine.." He turned away sadly.

Oogway smiled gently. "Did Wu Lian get to you again Shifu?"

"Just a little.....oh, I HATE that brat!" Shifu yelled, stamping his foot.

"Now Shifu, hate is such a strong word, and in the future will reduce you to-"

"Oh, I don't need any philosophical riddles right now master.." Shifu muttered.

Oogway chuckled. "I understand."

Kurusu giggled. "I find Wu Lian cute!" She poked Shifu affectionately on the nose, and fluffed his tail.

"Not as cute and fluffy as you though."

Shifu sighed. "Ughhh....trust me...Wu Lian is *not*....!! Panda!! What do you think you're doing?!" The red panda yelled, his voice high with anger.

The panda was currently checking out one of the sacred weapons.

"Whooooaaaaa!!!" Po's eyes were wide. "The Invisible Trident Of Destiny!" He inspected it. "It's soooooooooooooooooooooo awesome!"

Shifu narrowed his eyes at the panda. "Po! You get away from there this instant!! Put that trident down, now!"

"Oh wait just a second, I want to try something!" Po lifted the invisible object and waved it around. The trident clashed hard into the "Yari of the Japanese BAKANeko", a legendary spear that only the legendary BAKANeko can wield. The stand shattered to pieces and the spear came spiraling down to Po's head.

"PO!!!!" Shifu screamed.

Oogway gasped and was three seconds away from reaching Po.....he skidded to a stop.

There, with the yari held high above her head was Kurisu. She was doing a complete split as she held the spear. The middle of the yari twinkled slightly.

Po was standing underneath the spear, trembling and whimpering, he glanced up at Kurisu.

"Whoaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa.....you're not getting electrocuted!!" Indeed, "The Legendary Yari Of The BAKANeko". was a *beautiful* silver and gold Japanese spear with a black gemstone in the center of the handle. The gemstone was said to change jade when the yari found it's owner. However, if a hand that is not worthy of the staff holds it, they will be electrocuted (usually killed). The ones that were pure of heart could hold it, but it would not change color.

Kurusu inspected the beautiful weapon. "It-it's so pretty...." She ran her hand over the gemstone. "Such

a pretty stone too.....”

Shifu and Oogway just stood there, frozen.

The kitten smiled dreamily and clutched the spear tightly. “Ohh! I wish I owned this...”

Although Oogway was frozen in shock, his mouth moved. “Perhaps one day, you will.”

Kurisu giggled. “I only wish!” She continued inspecting the beautiful work on the weapon. “Well, come on Po! We don't want to break anything else!” Grabbing her friend's hand and setting down the yari, she hurried from the room and shut the door.

Oogway and Shifu both turned to each other and ran towards the yari, examining it.

Shifu gasped. “Oh my gosh...”

The gemstone had turned a beautiful jade.

(Whooooooooooooooooooooooooaaaaa! Is little Kuri the legendary Bakaneko? (the shape shifting cat?) Well, the yari turned jade.... What did you think of little Kaeru's story?)

Bakaneko-shape-shifting cat (Japanese)

Yari-Japanese spear (Japanese)

Preview of the next chapter!

Shifu glared at the dark creature. “Get off this property this instant!”

The masked warrior narrowed her eyes. “I don't think so!” She rasped. She swung her sword around, the handle smacked Po in the face. “Oh! I'm sorry, so sorry!!”

Shifu's eyes went wide. Gasp. “Wait a minute!” He strode towards the creature and pulled off her mask. “.....Oh my gosh..”

12 - The Masked Warrior

(Sorry it took so long, but I JUST got the internet. Trust me, I have WAAAY more chapters to put up!)

Shifu just sort of stood there, mouth gapping. "Ho-ho-how?! How?! How on earth could she be.."

Oogway sighed. "The gemstone is jade, that means she is the legendary Bakeneko."

Shifu sighed. "As if the world wasn't complicated enough.."

"I've seen bigger complications."

Shifu sighed and closed his eyes. "The world doesn't *get* much more complicated than this master."

Oogway chuckled. "I've seen worse."

The red panda smoothed the beautiful gemstone. "So, should we tell her?"

"No."

"No?! What do you mean? We have to tell her, master!"

"When the time is right, Shifu."

Shifu shook his head. "I think it's a *bad* idea master..."

Oogway ignored him. "In the meantime, look after Kurisu. When the owner finds the yari, then he or she will be drawn to its power, she may try to use it in our absence, and that is a legendary weapon. It is *very* dangerous unless handled with care."

"Oh...great."

Oogway chuckled and scratched Shifu between the ears. "Ah, do not fret my dear student, as long as we keep a close eye on her."

Shifu frowned. "Won't she suspect something if we always have our eyeballs glued to the poor child?"

Oogway poked Shifu on the forehead. "We must do it *secretly*."

".....Okay." Although he didn't sound so sure. "How will we keep her from the yari?"

The old tortoise sighed. "Unfortunately, we can't. If the yari draws her, it's out of her control..the yari takes over her mind for as long as it keeps her with it."

Shifu didn't like the sound of that at *all*. "And you told me not to fret?! Master! She could get seriously injured, she has no idea how to use that! If she tries to wield it in our absence..."

"Ahhh, but one can never discover their own true reason of being unless they even know they're destined to have one."

".....In english, please."

Oogway chuckled. "The child doesn't know that she's destined to be the legendary Bakaneko. For that matter, she probably doesn't even have a clue what the Bakaneko is. So, she shouldn't try to discover her own destiny, if no one's told her she even possesses one."

"...I'm still worried."

The old tortoise smiled. "That's your problem, young one, you are far too paranoid. If you think about the worse, and every possible fate that young Kurisu can succumb too, then it most likely will occur."

"First of all, "young one?" I'm in my late sixties!" Shifu said, giving an annoyed growl.

"I appologize Shifu, I suppose old habbits are hard to break. Besides, compared to my old age, you *are* only a cub. Like the young baby who's diapers I once changed in the palace." Oogway said, giving a small smirk.

Shifu cleared his throat and fought off a blush. "Second of all, I am *not* paranoid! Just because I happen to worry over the safety of my students, isn't that what all *good* masters are supposed to do?! I can't watch her all the time, anything can happen to her in my absence, and I don't want that to happen!"

"Shifu, relax." Oogway said, settling a hand on the red panda's head. "Why don't you come and meditate with me under the peach tree?"

The red panda's fur stood up from stress. He shook Oogway's hand off. "I don't need to "calm" my mind! What I need is for someone to give me a straight answer, and *good* advice! Not some...philosophical nonsense half of which hardly ever makes sense to me!!" Shifu was so stressed and frantic that he didn't even seem to realize that his outburst had hurt his master.

Oogway's eyes went wide, he gave an injured look and turned away. "Well excuse me, I try my best." The old tortoise grimly shook his head. "Fine, I'll go meditate on my own then." Oogway slowly shuffled towards the door, and closed it silently.

Shifu stood there pacing. He slowed down immediately when he realized what he had just said. The red panda gave a groan and collapsed onto the ground. "Not only disrespectful, but hurtful too. I [never *intended* to hurt him, it just came out." He sighed. "Oh, I'll apologize later, I have *way* bigger things to think about right now.."

Meanwhile, Kurisu was struggling to practice out in the training yard, but she couldn't get her mind off that beautiful yari in the Sacred Hall Of Warriors. "It's so beautiful..." The kitten looked around, she looked to the left, she looked to the right, then headed to the Sacred Hall Of Warriors in secret. Kurisu creaked the door open and slipped inside. She headed towards the secret room and quickly hurried up to the yari. "Ohhhh....it's as pretty as I remember it to be a few minutes ago." The kitten smoothed her paw over the beautiful jade, all of a sudden her vision clouded with green. Kurisu whipped the yari around. "Hiyaa!" She threw it up in the air and caught it. She threw it up again...and it came spiraling down towards her face. The kitten's eyes immediately faded back to turquoise. "Kyaaaaaaa!!!"

"Kurusu, no!" Came a shout from behind her.

The kitten felt someone grab her and shove her out of the way just in time, as the yari clanked to the floor. Frightened, the kitten crept up to Oogway and clutched onto the cloth on his back tightly. Her face was stained with tears of fright. The kitten bawled into Oogway's shoulder. "Waaaaaaaaaaaa! I was so scared!"

The old tortoise patted her back gently. "It's alright, young one." Oogway took her hand and smiled gently. "Come, let's go get something warm to drink in the kitchen."

Kurusu sniffled and wiped her eyes. "O-okay."

Later that night, Shifu had the pleasure of getting a near heart attack when he found Kurisu spinning her yari in a circle, and nearly knocking a bunch of ceiling pannels on herself. Shifu groaned and trudged up towards the peach tree. "Argh...that kitten is going to kill me." The red panda peered up to see Oogway standing underneath the tree. Shifu hesitated then walked up to Oogway and hugged him from behind. Oogway broke out of his meditation state and opened one eye. "What's that for?"

"...As an apology."

"What are you apologizing for?"

Shifu sighed and looked down. "For saying those hurtful and very disrespectful things to you.."

The old tortoise smiled and scratched Shifu between the ears. "Ahh, do not fret my student, I know you were only stressed. Perhaps I should have simply answered you...it wouldn't have started such a foolish argument."

"I still feel bad though, *really* bad. Your advice isn't philosophical nonsense...it's sometimes quite helpful too."

Oogway chuckled and poked the red panda in the side. "Sometimes, eh?" He asked playfully.

Shifu gave a nervous giggle. "Did I say sometimes? I meant all the time! Seriously you have the greatest advice...*please* don't kill me."

The old tortoise chuckled. "Fortunately for you, I'm busy at the moment..I'll get you later."

"Gr-great! I look forward to it..." Shifu said with a sigh. "Now, I have to go make sure Kurisu isn't

destroying anything..."

Oogway laughed. "Is it really that serious?"

"Unfortunately, yes....she almost killed herself! She caused an avalanche of ceiling tiles to collapse!"

Oogway sighed. "I know what you mean, I caught her just in time..the yari almost went through her head."

Shifu shuddered. "That wouldn't be a pretty sight." The red panda said, scratching his head.

Oogway smiled at his student. "Why don't you stay up here with me for a bit?"

The red panda nodded happily. "I'd like that, thanks." He inched closer to his master, got out his flute and began to play.

Later that night, Shifu awoke to the sound of scratching at his door. "Huh? Who is it?" He asked groggily. The red panda opened his door, he couldn't believe what he saw. "Kaeru? Kurisu? What's going on?"

Kaeru sat there, with a certain young kitten hanging from her mouth, her eyes were a bright jade. Kaeru dropped Kurisu at Shifu's feet, her eyes went back to normal. "Wh-what?" She glanced up at Shifu.

"What's going on?"

The red panda sighed. "Come young one, you'll sleep in my bed tonight."

"Huh? Why?"

"We can't risk any more "close calls" tonight."

The kitten sighed. "My head hurts..."

"I know dear, let's just go to sleep.."

Shifu brought the kitten back into his room. "I'll let you sleep in tomorrow."

Kurisu's eyes went wide. "What?! Are you really my master..? You never let me sleep in!"

Shifu sighed. "I know Kurisu, but it's three in the morning, how long were you in the hall for?"

"I-I don't know, I don't remember anything!" She sniffled. "Master, I'm worried! What's going on?"

Everyone's been acting really weird! I keep finding myself in the hall, and I don't know why!"

Shifu wiped her eyes. "I'll tell you when it's time."

"What do you mean? What's going on? I want to know, why won't you tell me?!"

"It's way to complicated right now, I don't even know half of what's going on..."

"I'm scared.."

Shifu gave her a small reassuring hug. "Don't be, it's fine...just go to sleep."

The kitten sighed and clutched onto her master's hand for security. *What's going on with me? I wish somebody would tell me..* Sighing, Kurisu drifted off into a dreamless, restless sleep.

"Brekfast tiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiime!" Kurisu squealed, joyously.

Shifu smiled at the kiten as she skipped around the kitchen. *Thank goodness she's back to her old self..*

The kitten turned towards the fruit basket. "...! Oh no!"

Po frowned. "What is it?"

"There is only one apple left!"

"Oh noooooo! It's the end of the woooooorlddd!!!"

Oogway chuckled. "You know, it never did come to mind that the end of the world would occur because of a shortage of apples."

Shifu laughed. "Relax Kurisu, Master Oogway and I will make a sidedish while the two of you fetch some aples from The Tree of Tranquility."

"Oh, okay, then!" The kitten chirped. "Make something good!"

"We'll try." Oogway promised with a grin.

The morning air was crisp and breezy as the panda and kitten made their way to the apple tree.

Kurisu rolled her eyes and glared at Po. "I can't believe you said: "It's the end of the woooooorlddd!!!"

Simply because we had a shortage of apples.."

"It was just a joke.." Po muttered, embarrassed.

"Boost me up, I need to get to that tree."

"You're a cat! Climb!"

The kitten rolled her eyes. "Oh, fine!" She took out her claws and dug them into the sturdy bark of the tree. "Ha! What do you know? I'm doing it!" She exclaimed, making her way up the apple tree. "This is so-.....huh?"

A pair of bright green eyes leered down at her.

The kitten uttered a frightened scream and tumbled down the tree. "Augh!!"

"What's wrong?" Po demanded, running to his friend's side. "Th-there's someone in the tree!"

The figure leaped out of the tree and smirked at her. "Right you are." She rasped. "And you're going to pay for going near my apple tree!" She snarled and drew a sword from her leather belt. In a swift motion she sliced the sword through the air, the tip of it tore across Kurisu's wrist.

"Augh-!!" Kurisu held her wrist to stop the bleeding. She swiftly kicked the creature right in the face.

"Po! Get Shifu! Hurry!"

"My pleasure!" Po cried and quickly bounded from the forest. "Master Shifu!! Master Shifu!!"

The red panda scampered to the entrance of the palace. "Po, what is it? What's wrong? Are you alright?"

"Master Shifu! There's a masked warrior in the forest and it injured Kurisu! It slashed her wrist and she's really hurt!"

Shifu was horrified. "A masked warrior?"

Oogway looked just as alarmed. "Come, we must go!"

Meanwhile, Kurisu was battling the masked creature, but she only had one free arm. "I'm sorry! I didn't know that the apple tree was yours! I'm sorry!!"

"Yeah, well you know now!" The creature rasped as she raised her sword above her head.

"STOP!"

The warrior glowered at the sudden interruption. Her eyes widened.

Shifu bounded forward, growling. "Let her go!"

The creature narrowed her eyes. "Make me!"

Shifu glared at the dark creature. "Get off this property this instant!"

The masked warrior narrowed her eyes. "I don't think so!" She rasped. She swung her sword around, the handle smacked Po in the face. "Oh! I'm sorry, so sorry!!"

Shifu's eyes went wide. Gasp. "Wait a minute!" He strode towards the creature and pulled off her mask. ".....Oh my gosh.."

(BAHAHA! Another cliffie! Those of you who have been reading my other story, you should know who the "masked warrior" is.)

Preview of the next chapter!

Kurisu just sort of sat there on a log crying about her worthlessness. "Why does everyone bother keeping me here?! I just cause nothing but misery-waaaaaaaaaaaaah!"

"Argh! Could you please stop that?!" A gruff voice demanded from the trees. "You're giving me a headache!"

The kitten's eyes went wide with terror. "Wh-what? Wh-who's there?"

A sigh was heard from the tall tree. "Look kid, why don't you tell me what's the matter, so you can shut up?!"

Kurisu gasped. "H-hey! That isn't very nice! You don't want to mess with me! I'm a Kung Fu warrior,

buddy!"

"That comes as the greatest of surprises. Kid! You're looking at one of the former student's of the Jade Palace. THE greatest warrior that ever lived!"

"Looking? I can't see you!"

The figure emerged from the tree. "Can you see me now?"

Kurisu just stood there staring in open mouthed shock. "I-I don't believe it! You're-you're-"

13 - Author's note

(Just to give you all a quick "let ya know", I WILL be continuing this atory, but I won't be putting chapters up that often. I WILL NEVER ABANDON IT! Keep that in mind....okay, done.)

14 - An (Unfriendly) Encounter

(A character from Kung Fu Panda movie is finally coming in! Hehe, you'll LOVE this chapter!)

"Leona!"

"Shifu?! No way!" The masked warrior whipped off her dark mask. "Oh my God!"

Kurusu frowned. "Huh?" The frightening masked warrior was nothing but an innocent elderly fox with bright and curious green eyes.

"Shifu! Oh my God, it-it's really you!" Giving a squeal of delight, the vixen wrapped her arms around the red panda and lifted him up. "Oh, Shifu!"

"Leona!" He rejoiced, hugging her tightly. "It's you!" He couldn't avoid at least wet eyes of happiness, but Leona was crying fully.

"Shifu!" She swung him around. "Ohhhh!!"

Oogway gave the vixen a warm smile. "Ah, my dear sweet Leona, I see you've had quite a personality change?" He chuckled. "The quiet and innocent fox I taught has now become a confident and short tempered warrior!"

"Oh, Master Oogway!" Leona sobbed happily, throwing her arms around him. "It's really you! I thought you had passed on."

The old tortoise smiled and sighed. "How many more times do I have to tell this story?"

"Depends if Ming Yang and Akimi show up." Shifu said with a laugh. He smiled. "These are my students, Leona, Kurisu, and Po."

Leona smiled and extended her hand to the kitten. "Kurusu, it's nice to meet you."

Kurusu stared at her as if she was crazy and pathetically returned the handshake. "Yeah, a real pleasure..." she muttered, sourly.

Shifu grinned. "Come Leona, let's catch up over some tea, shall we?"

The kitten gave an exasperated sigh. "Um, hell-O? I'm freaking bleeding to death here! Master!" Her lip trembled with anger and hurt. "Don't you even care about me at all?"

The red panda's eyes widened. "Oh-!" He rushed over to the kitten. "Sorry Kurisu, let me see the wound."

She obeyed, taking her bloodstained fingers off the gash.

"Yeesh, that's deep." He smiled. "It needs stitches, but you won't bleed to death."

Leona's face creased with worry. "I'm SOOO sorry, Kurisu!"

The kitten sighed and gave a weak smile. "It's fine, don't worry about it."

Kurusu groaned as she held her wrist. It hurt, really badly. Although, not as much as the stitches had.

She had clutched onto Shifu's tiny hand while hiding her head between her knees, fighting back tears.

But, it was all over now, and she was bringing out a delicious Japanese strawberry shortcake out to her friends and master. "Here it comes!" She sang.

"We're waiting!" Po sang.

As the kitten made her way out the kitchen, she tripped on the mat and the cake went flying.

"Nooooo!!!" Cake and icing rained through the kitchen, burying Mantis and covering Shifu's head.

The kitten uttered a low moan of horror and sadness. "Ohh..." *Why can't I do anything right?*

"Master-I-I-I"

Shifu sighed and wiped the strawberries from his face. "It is fine, Kurisu, do not worry, just clean it up

and bring out something else.”

Kurusu nodded sadly. “Okay..” She mumbled and turned away towards the storage room.

Mantis surfaced through the sea of shortcake and glared at Kurisu. “Of course, Kurisu, of course. You throw it ALL on the little guy! Honestly, when are you ever going to shape up?”

Shifu sighed. “Mantis, enough.” He reprimanded.

“You cause nothing but misery!” The bug growled.

Shifu gave the insect a wide eyed glare. “Mantis, be quiet!”

But it was too late, the damage was done. The kitten recoiled as if someone slapped her. “U'm-u'm s-rry..” She could hardly get the words out as she bolted from the kitchen.

Everyone glared at Mantis with a growing rage.

Mantis sighed. “Let me..” He slapped the plate of cake into his face.

Kurusu just sort of sat there on a log in the Forest of Tranquility crying about her worthlessness. “Why does everyone bother keeping me here?! I just cause nothing but misery-waaaaaah!”

“Argh! Could you please stop that?!” A gruff voice demanded from the trees. “You're giving me a headache!”

The kitten's eyes went wide with terror. “Wh-what? Wh-who's there?”

A sigh was heard from the tall tree. “Look kid, why don't you tell me what's the matter, so you can shut up?!”

Kurusu gasped. “H-hey! That isn't very nice! You don't want to mess with me! I'm a Kung Fu warrior, buddy!”

“That comes as the greatest of surprises. Kid! You're looking at one of the former student's of the Jade Palace. THE greatest warrior that ever lived!”

“Looking? I can't see you!”

The figure emerged from the tree. “Can you see me now?”

Kurusu just stood there staring in open mouthed shock. “I-I don't believe it! You're-you're-”

“Spit it out!” The figure snarled. “I don't have all day!”

“Tai Lung! H-how could that be?! You-you're dead!”

“Right kid, if I was dead then how could I be standing in front of you?”

“.....Witchcraft?”

“What?! No! I'm not dead! Get it? NOT DEAD! Geez., just how stupid are you kid?”

“Hey! If you're going to insult me, at least use my name! KURISU!”

“Okay then, “Kurusu”...what are you doing here?”

The kitten crossed her arms. “I'm not telling you! You're the bad man that destroyed half the valley, and hurt Shifu chan!”

Tai Lung frowned. “Shifu chan? ...Oh, so you're Japanese?”

“...Yeah, what's it to ya?”

“Just wondering why you're using such a disrespectful honorific for a Kung Fu master, at least use “sama”...or something.”

Kurusu eyed him suspiciously. “How do you know Japanese?”

“Kid, I've been all around the world! Some places longer then others...”

“KURISU!”

“RAGGHH!!” The snow leopard unleashed his claws.

Kurusu got into a fighting stance. “Bring it *on* kitty cat!”

Tai Lung retracted his claws. “Kurusu, if I wanted to kill you, you'd already be killed by now!”

Kurusu slowly lowered her stance. “Then, what are you doing here? This is Jade Palace property, you aren't even supposed to be here! How could you possibly even be alive?!”

"You ask to many questions, kid.."

"Oh, forgive me for wondering why the HELL you are even alive, when Po chan used "The Wuxi Finger Hold!" The ULTIMATE killer!"

"Maybe if he knew how to use it correctly, yeah it would be."

"Soooo, you weren't splattered across the valley?"

"Yes, sure...and miraculously rebuilt my own body.." Tai Lung said sarcastically.

"Oh, shut up!" The kitten growled.

"Anyhow, what's a little titch like you doing away from the palace so late?"

".....I'm not wanted there.."

"That doesn't surprise me, you're annoying."

"Alright, that's it!!" Kurisu roared, lunging for Tai Lung, she caught the branch and dangled helplessly in the air. "When I get up there, you're dead!!"

Tai Lung just watched her. "You know, it would be so easy just to pry off those fury little fingers and send you hurtling towards the ground.."

"I'm almost up there!" Kurisu yelled, not really making any progress at all.

Tai Lung rolled his eyes and pulled her up on the branch.

".....Yes, well....YOU'RE TOAST!" Kurisu attempted to pounce on him, but he held her up with one finger.

"Yawn. Are you done yet? This is getting *really* old.."

Giving him an acid glare, the kitten slumped down beside him on the branch. "....." She stuck her tongue out at him.

Tai Lung rolled his eyes. "REAL mature, kid. How old are you? Two?"

"Fourteen, and three months away from fifteen!"

"Four going on five? Figures...you're about the size of a toddler.."

"FOURTEEN GOING ON FIFTEEN!!" Kurisu yelled angrily.

"You are SO weird..." The leopard said with a sigh.

".....Which is probably another reason why no one wants me..."

"Did Shifu say he didn't want you?"

"No, but I think I can tell." Tears filled Kurisu's eyes.

Tai Lung groaned. "Don't start the waterworks again! Why do you think no one wants you?"

"I'm clumsy, weird, stupid, and I have NO talent in Kung Fu!"

"I thought you told me you were a warrior?"

"A young one in training, I'm not even a *master* yet!"

"It just takes time." Tai Lung said simply. "You can't expect to become one overnight you know.."

"I guess, but it's not just Shifu. I had never really felt loved by my own parents! My father was-"

"Was?" Tai Lung asked with a frown. "I don't like the sound of that, did something happen to him?"

"Yeah, my whole family was killed by someone named...uh...Jo Shun, or something like that."

"Giao Xun, huh? Hmm...figures.."

"You know him?"

"Not personally, really. Shifu and Oogway do though. Apparently Shifu's father was killed by him, and Shifu was nearly killed as a cub when he tried to protect Oogway."

"Oh my God! Are you serious?!"

"Yeah, believe it or not, there's worse people than me."

"You don't seem *too* bad...." Kurisu said thoughtfully. "What about your parents? What happened to them?"

Tai Lung sighed. "I don't know, Shifu never told me."

"Well maybe he didn't know and if he did, maybe he was trying to protect you from the painful truth?"

Tai Lung shrugged. "I don't know, maybe."

Kurusu studied him carefully. *He doesn't seem like a malicious killer to me, just a misunderstood soul.*

"You should consider yourself lucky.."

Okay, scratch what I just thought about him. "Excuse me?! You arrogant jerk! I just told you that I *lost* my family, and you think I'm lucky?!"

"Well, at least you *know* where your family is! For all I know they could be dead or alive, or suffering somewhere....do you have *any* idea of what the torture is not knowing?!"

"I guess I never thought of it that way, sorry."

"...It's fine, don't worry about it." Tai Lung said softly.

Kurusu hesitated. "How long has it been since you've seen them? Like forty years?"

The snow leopard glared at her. "That isn't very nice! Do I look like I'm forty years old?"

".....Fifty years?"

"Watch it!" Tai Lung growled. "Or I *will* pound you! I'm thirty nine!"

"Oh come on! I was only one off! Don't be so over dramatic.." Kurisu said, rolling her eyes.

The snow leopard narrowed his eyes at her, then turned to look at the stars. "The stars around the Jade Palace always look so bright."

"That's just because were on a mountain." Kurisu said matter-a-factly.

Tai Lung sighed. "I *know* that."

"...Just checking."

Their peaceful stargazing was interrupted by a loud "Grrrrrrr!"

Tai Lung's face heated a little. "Err.."

"Heehee! Looks like somebody is hungry!" Kurisu laughed, then reached into her knapsack and pulled out a container of apple snow. "Here, eat up!"

Tai Lung just stared at it, making a face. "Pink goop?Thank you.."

Kurusu pouted. "What an insult! It's apple snow, not pink goop!"

Tai Lung cringed. "No, but thanks for trying to poison me.."

"Oh come on, don't be such a baby!" The kitten stuffed her spoon in his mouth. "Eat it!"

"Mmph!!" Tai Lung swallowed thickly, through squinted eyes. ".....It's good."

"I know it!" The kitten said, beaming. "I made it myself! You can eat up the rest of that, I have way more in the fridge, I'll just reload it into my knapsack and I'll be on my way.

"To where?" Tai Lung asked through a full mouth.

"Well, since no one wants me, I'm leaving."

"I'm sure you're wanted. You seem like an okay kid to me. Maybe you should stick around, I could use a little chef to come by every night and feed me more of that apple goop."

"Apple snow! What do you mean by *every night*? Are you really here every night?"

"Usually, I'm surprised no one has found me yet."

Kurusu frowned. "I don't think I can come by every night, is there anything else out here you can eat?"

"Those apples, far out in the woods.....they aren't very filling though."

The kitten sighed. "I don't know, Tai chan...maybe I'll stop by tomorrow and give you some tofu onion miso soup.."

"Thanks, that would be-..! Waitasec-Tai chan?!"

Kurusu smiled shyly. "It's okay if I call you that, right?"

"Uh, no."

"Oh come on! You can think up a cute nickname for me."

"Would you like one that matches your personality?"

"Yes."

Tai Lung tapped his chin. "How about "the annoying thing?"

“...!!! Tai chan! That's mean!”

“Who told you I was nice?” The snow leopard asked with a smirk.

“You were nice to me a few minutes ago..”

“Don't expect that often.”

“...Then don't expect to be fed often!” Kurisu growled, she began inching her way down the tall tree trunk. “I should probably get going now, if he does care then Shifu will be worried about me.”

“Fine with me, I could use a little peace and quiet...”

Kurisu glared up at him and hurled a small pebble at his head.

“Ouch!”

The kitten stuck her tongue out at him. “Jerk!” With that, she scurried off.

Tai Lung rubbed his head and groaned. “Annoying little titch..”

(XD, oh dear...it appears my little Kurisu has developed a very awkward friendship with Tai Lung, which is NOT a very good idea, or is it? Hehe, is Tai Lung here to cause trouble? Or simply to restore his life? You'll never know.....not for a few more chapters at least!)

Previeeeeeeeee!

As Kurisu made her way back to the palace, she tried slipping through the door without being caught. The mountain air was cool; cooler than usual. The kitten decided if she wanted to talk to anyone, it would be Shifu. But, she didn't want to speak with anyone in the palace right then, anyways. The kitten paced about in her room, debating whether to leave the palace or not. After a few minutes, she finally decided to talk to Shifu about how she was feeling and find out if he even cared for her at all. Slowly, careful not to wake anyone, she crept into the hallway and towards his bedroom. “Master?” The candlestick in her hand burned brightly into the pitch black bedroom. “Master?” ..Shifu? Are you here?” No reply.

“Shifu?” The kitten made her way to the bed. She poked a lump under the quilts; a scroll? What did it say? In the dim candle light, she was only able to make out one of the sentences.

“He hurt me more than anyone I have ever met.”

That worried her. What had happened to her master?

15 - The Seven Savage Days

(In this chapter, you will find out just how Shifu reacted after Tai Lung's rebellion.)

As Kurisu made her way back to the palace, she tried slipping through the door without being caught. The mountain air was cool; cooler than usual. The kitten decided if she wanted to talk to anyone, it would be Shifu. But, she didn't want to speak with anyone in the palace right then, anyways. The kitten paced about in her room, debating whether to leave the palace or not. After a few minutes, she finally decided to talk to Shifu about how she was feeling and find out if he even cared for her at *all*. Slowly, careful not to wake anyone, she crept into the hallway and towards his bedroom. "Master?" The candlestick in her hand burned brightly into the pitch black bedroom. "Master?" ..Shifu? Are you here?" No reply.

"Shifu?" The kitten made her way to the bed. She poked a lump under the quilts; a scroll? What did it say? In the dim candle light, she was only able to make out one of the sentences.

He hurt me more than anyone I have ever met.

That worried her. What had happened to her master? The kitten had never been one for snooping unless the reason was that she was worried about her loved one's well being.She knew she had to read more. *Shifu is going to KILL me..*

I will never forget "The Seven Savage Days." It is what Oogway and I called that week. The worst week of our lives, actually. One of the only times that my master ever broke down and cried right in front of me. It was all because of....HIM.

Kurisu paused and wrinkled her nose. *Tai Lung? He made Oogway CRY? "..."* She continued reading.

I bet everyone I know, all of my students expected that I had simply closed up my heart the moment Tai Lung rebelled on me, became cold and never spoke to anyone unless they spoke first. It wasn't like that. At least, not at first.

The beginning grief had struck with tears and agony, in those few months I cried enough to wipe out the whole earth with a tsunami made from my tears. Yes, it was that bad.

In the early evening, only a few days after Tai Lung was imprisoned, I had been looking for nothing but comfort from whoever was willing to give it. (I don't know why I ever wanted it, it had always been futile, with not a single point to it.) I had walked up the hill that held our sacred peach tree where Oogway was meditating. He smiled when he saw me.

"Ah, good evening my pupil, would you like to join me for some-." He stopped. His wrinkly features creased with concern. "Fu, what's wrong?"

"Fu". It was his name of endearment, he had called me it since I was nine.

Tears were rapidly streaming down my cheeks, my face fur was completely drenched. I opened my mouth to speak but no sound came out. My grief was tearing at my vocal chords, keeping them from uttering a small whisper. My voice; held hostage by my sorrow and pain. Instead, I just sort of ran up the hill and into Oogway. (Here's a hint, when you ram into someone' make sure they don't have a shell.) I didn't bother throwing my arms around him for a hug, but I was hoping he got the picture.

Indeed, he did. He dropped his cane and wrapped his gentle, fatherly arms around me. Whispering in my ear and trying to stop my shaking. "Oh, my poor little Fu. You've had a rough time of all this, haven't

you?"

In my shaking and sobbing, I managed a feeble nod.

"Life just doesn't seem fair, does it?"

"N-no it doesn't." I choked out through a fit of sobs that racked my entire body.

He pulled back, smiling gently at me. "You're not alone in this." He promised me. "Whenever you need me, I'm here."

I needed him; he was all I had left in my life to guide me.

"I-I know." My knees felt weak as I collapsed against him.

His strong gnarled arms held me up. "Perhaps you should go to sleep now. Maybe under the peach tree with me?"

I nodded slowly. "Okay."

Oogway led me to the tree trunk and lay me against it. "Shall I sing to you?"

I smiled at that. (One of the first and last smiles I would have for months.) I knew he was talking about my lullaby. Oogway had the softest and sweetest voice and he had sang to me since I was only a young cub. Actually, since I was three.

"I'd like that, thank you, master."

"Inside my heart....there burns a light, that lights my way all through my life..."

My eyes felt suddenly more droopy than they had in a while. I allowed them to close, and fell asleep in a calm state from my lullaby.

I could feel somebody shaking my shoulders the next morning, the air was crisp; I could feel the dew from the grass under my robe. My eyes focused, not very quickly. I could see Zeng (yes, he was still as annoying then as he is now.) I admit, I was annoyed. "What do you want Zeng? It's so early."

"I know, sorry Master Shifu, but I've come to deliver a very urgent message."

"make it quick!" I snapped. I could tell that Oogway was smiling at me, probably pleased that I seemed back to my self (at least for that morning, anyway.)

"Yes, what is it, Zeng?" My master asked softly.

"I bring an urgent message..." He held out the battered scroll in his wing.. "From Lotus Lake."

Oogway's eyes widened immediately as he snatched the scroll from the bird's wing. The scroll clattered to the ground after a few minutes; and I looked up at him. He stood there, frozen in horror. His mouth moved only enough to utter the choked whisper that sent chills down my spine.

"No."

It all happened very quickly then. I didn't even really remember what was happening, Oogway was dragging me down the valley; towards Lotus Lake. I asked as much questions as a toddler, but none were answered. My master's mouth was set in a firm and grim line as we continued on to Lotus Lake. As we arrived, it was only then that I realized what the note might have said. Somebody had attacked Lotus Lake. The village was in shambles, debris was everywhere. Every single hut had been brought to the ground, either burned or simply massacred with some sort of weapon. The calm cool water in Lotus Lake; mingled with crimson blood. The soft, muddy grounds were stained from the blood of innocent tortoises. It was only then that we realized it. None of the civilians had survived the invasion. You couldn't walk safely around the lake without fear of stepping on a severed body.

I could feel a huge lump in my throat, tears threatened to spill over (yet AGAIN.)

"M-Master..?" I could hardly get the words out. "What's happening? Wh-who did this?"

"Who do you think Shifu? Who do you think has this much blood lust?"

".....Giao Xun!"

"Of course." My master replied, his eyes locked firmly on the fallen hut over the hills. "Oh..no!" He uttered a choked cry and bolted from the bloody spot he stood in.

"Master!" I had to run to keep up with the pace he had, but even that wasn't enough!"

Oogway continued running faster and faster-and I was close behind. He came to a sudden stop. I bashed into the back of his hard shell. "Master, what's-" His expression on his face broke my heart. I had never seen his jade eyes so misted and frozen. He appeared cemented to the ground. "...Lotti.." He whispered, his voice so choked that his monotone was nothing more than a squeak. "Lotti-! No-!"

It was only then that I saw it. The hut; collapsed on it's side. Splinters of wood everywhere. In the middle of it all; lay Lotti on her side. Her arm was limp and lifeless on the ground, the handle of a dagger sticking out of her chest.

I couldn't begin to explain what I was feeling now. I was so overwhelmed, all I heard was a steady ring in my ears along with Oogway's pained cries as he shouted her name over and over again.

I watched, as my master collapsed on his knees beside Lotti's lifeless body. He carefully pulled the knife out of the steep hole in her chest and stared at it, face unreadable. Then, he threw it to the blood stained earth, it went so deep that the handle was barely visible anymore. His body hunched over, he covered his face with his huge hands and his shoulders shook with silent sobs. Yes, SOBS. Grand Master Oogway founder of Kung Fu; was crying. His tears blended in with the crimson grass.

I just stood there, staring in shock. All his life it seemed that was Giao Xun's only mission. Make Master Oogway cry, and now, he had done it. There my master sat, crying. He lowered his hands from his face and with trembling fingers; clutched onto Lotti's cold wrist. He brought it up to his mouth.....and he kissed it.

I had always known that Oogway and Lotti were very close friends, almost like siblings. It was only now that I questioned: had they been more than that? I knew that he had loved Lotti, but had he been in love with her? The evidence had always been there. Sometimes she smiled and his jade skin turned a slight shade of pink, she had once kissed his cheek and he looked, well, love-struck.

I hesitated before bringing a finger to his watery eyes and wiping the tears from his eyes and cheeks. My master slowly turned to me, his pain-stricken face ripped through my heart. He hugged me, tight. (Actually, I think I heard my ribs crack.) I hugged back. We only had each other now, our close friend was now dead, all our other friends had left China. Soon after achieving the rank of master all my friends left. Wu Lian was the first to go. Dare I say; I was really depressed for a week after she left....PERHAPS I had a err...liking for her.

Kurisu pulled back, laughing. "I knew it! I knew he liked her! I can't WAIT to tell Master Oogway!"

Wu Lian's father only wanted her to stay until she became a master, then he pulled her out of the palace. Risu returned to The Tree of Life after a few months and Leona returned to protect her village. Then, it was only Akimi, Ming Yang, and I. Akimi just left because she wanted to explore the world. So then, it was just Ming Yang and I. We were quite happy about that, actually. It was FINALLY just the two of us again, just like cubhood! That didn't last long either though, because she bought a small hut in the outskirts of the valley. So then, it was just Oogway and I.

Yes, I was able to unload that whole paragraph in just a quick breath, that's how quick they left! Oogway and I had been devastated at first. He told me that if I wanted to leave; I was free too. He said he would not be hurt by my leaving, but I knew that he would be. Anyhow, I already knew my home was at the Jade Palace. I wanted to be a fabulous Kung Fu teacher like he had been, so I promised I'd never leave. ...I couldn't remember the last time he had hugged me so tight. We knew we'd always be alright as long as we were together like the family that we'd always been.

Master Oogway and I returned home in silence. I was so sure that I was out of tears that day, but the look on my master's face, Lotti's lifeless body, and the memories of Tai Lung triggered them all again. I sat sobbing underneath the peach tree, Oogway just stood at the edge of the cliff, face still unreadable.

"Master, what do we do now?"

".....There is nothing we can do, Shifu. Lotti is.." He choked out the word. "Gone."

I sighed. "Why? Why would Giao..?"

"I don't know."

I couldn't comprehend that, not in the least. Who was really that sick?

Master Oogway turned to me. "What worries me is, who will he go after next?"

"I wonder that just as much, master." I wiped my eyes. "Do you think he's finally satisfied?"

Oogway scoffed. "Fu, he will not be satisfied until he's killed both of us!"

My master was right, of course. That had always been Giao Xun's mission, anyways.

Oogway's voice held full authority now. "I will not allow him to touch a hair on your head! You are my responsibility, after all."

I felt a faint blush creep up onto my cheeks. "Master, I'm not a child anymore."

for the first time that day, he smiled; an amused smile. "That doesn't matter, Shifu. It doesn't mean I no longer have the duty of protecting you." His face softened greatly. "I am your Godfather after all."

Kurusu drew back, mouth opened wide with shock. "WHOA! Did NOT see that coming!"

The days went by slowly, they were torture. Master Oogway had become depressed o the point where he never seemed to offer any philosophical wisdom or even answer in rethorical questions. It pained me greatly to see him like this, so I fought to shape up on my depression in order to cheer him up..just a little. It worked! We spent the next couple days together under the peach tree, cloud gazing or stargazing. (It depended on the time of day.) We played our instruments together, we even trained. Training would often end with Oogway launching a surprise tickle attack on me as his final move. It seemed like things were about to return back to normal, finally. It really did seem like things were beginning to shape up...until it happened.

It was early morning, yet AGAIN. I'm not sure, I think it was five in the morning. I was really thirsty and I had gotten up for a drink in the kitchen. From the moonlight pouring through the open window, I saw Oogway. He had his back turned to me, he was gripping a scroll tightly in his hands.

"Master?"

My master turned to me, slowly, his face was ashen and his eyes were watery.

"Master, what's wrong?"

His lips were trembling as he spoke to me. "Fu." He gave a shuddering sigh as he handed me the scroll. "I'm sorry, and, I love you."

The way he said those words, I didn't like it. Whenever someone says "I love you" like that, it means that something has happened. Indeed, it had.

I stood there, frozen in shock and horror. My bright blue eyes scanned through the scroll. The moment I had finished the paragraph; I collapsed, Oogway caught me under the arms and held me up so my face wouldn't smack the hard tile floor. I was cursing, screaming, sobbing hysterically with rage and grief. Giao Xun's army had raided my entire valley. He killed my step siblings, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and neighbors. He killed everyone in my valley, EVERYONE. ...It was now official: Oogway was the only family I had left.

Kurusu pulled back, holding her mouth and letting her tears fall. They made a gentle "pat" as they hit the paper. "Oh, poor Shifu chan."

I don't even remember what happened in those next few weeks. All I remembered was settling into a long and deep depression. It started off as simple grief, which quickly evolved into depression. I no

longer wanted any comfort from anyone. Whatever sympathetic love he'd show me, I'd shrug off. I'd push him away completely, unless I really needed him. I had long given up training, I didn't even meditate anymore. My usual schedule usually consisted in moping around the bunkhouse or staying in my room the whole day. I'd normally cry until I had no more tears left (for that day, anyways.) Then, I'd start the process again the very next day. Over months, my depression worsened to the point that my master had to take care of me as if I was a cub again. He had to make my meals, he had to tell me when to bathe, when to sleep. If it wasn't for him, I would of starved to death as a smelly and sunken eyed corpse lying in a pool of it's own filth.

That wasn't the only thing that had changed. The loving relationship I had with my master had changed drastically. I pushed him away so much and we were both pretty much avoiding each other. (When he wasn't taking care of me, that is.) Although we had been master and student, we were far more than that over the years. He was my father, he had always been there for me, no matter what. I had loved him more than I loved anyone on earth. I was so sure we would always remain that close, but I was wrong. Oogway and I had become so distant over that time. We were merely strangers that happened to live in the same house. It was painful, but I had already been in too much pain to feel the pain from losing the love I once had with my master.

I sat underneath the sacred peach tree with my head laing back against the trunk of the tree. I could feel a cool sensation slither down my throat. When I opened my eyes, I saw Oogway pressing one of the expensive crystal glasses to my mouth.

"Drink." He ordered sternly. "I know for a fact that you have not drank anything in days."

"That's not true." I murmured weakly. "A day at most."

He glared at me. "Shifu." He said, sternly. "don't lie to me."

I don't know how he always knew when I was lying, but he did! ...It's like, he could see into the back of my mind or something.

I had become so weak that Oogway had to hold the crystal glass for me while I drank.

"This is not healthy." He spoke, still stern. "You're becoming as weak as..." A small smile played at his lips. "As I should be in my old age." He laughed softly. "I want to see you training again."

"What?" My voice was so weak and feeble. "Master, I don't think I can."

"Let me rephrase: You are going to get back to training Shifu, or I will tie you to a tree and kick you through it!" He threatened, darkly.

His empty threat didn't faze me very much. My eyes moved up to him; he looked pretty mad.

Oogway's eyes and face became softer. "Look at you, Shifu, look what this depression has had you succumbed to! You are as weak as a duckling! Do you even remember anything I taught you?"

"....." I didn't reply. In that state, I really didn't remember anything at all.

"I'm going to re-teach you. I promise that I will, but you have to meet me halfway." He held his hand out to me.

Reluctantly, I reached out to take it. What was supposed to be as sweet and loving as it should have been, I ruined it by slipping on the grass and falling under his feet do to lack of stability.

Over the next few months, Master Oogway went back to teaching me Kung Fu all over again. It wasn't that hard, really. He'd basically have to show me the move once and I'd remember it. Although, there was a lot more than one move! (Which is probably why it took months.) I had noticed one thing though. He no longer called me "Fu." It felt as if I had suffered another great loss, I missed that name of endearment. It was what put emphasis on our close relationship. Now,there was no longer a relationship to emphasize.

After a few more months Oogway managed to pull me out of my depression, put he couldn't change me. I had already done that. I was so cold, I didn't want to love anyone, I didn't want anyone to love me. It was to painful, so very painful, I didn't want to suffer heartache like that ever again.

So, you see, that's how it happened. If you're ever wondering exactly what had happened in that time after Tai Lung betrayed me; now you know.

Indeed. Kurisu knew how it all happened now. She could feel her stomach churn, she knew she had done wrong. Snooping into Shifu's past, it was clear he probably would never want anyone to see that. Kurisu took a deep breath *I can't tell him about this..* She decided. *He'll throw me out of the palace!* So, she laid the scroll back down on the bed and left. Leaving her tears on the scroll as evidence.

(Wow, that was fun to write. That's all I can say about that. Looks like little Kurisu is going to be in mighty trouble when Shifu finds her tears on the scroll. Thia isn't good.)

Previeeeeeee!!

I can't BELIEVE I even AGREED to this! Honestly, can't Tai Lung feed himself with apples?! The kitten sighed as she made her way through the cool dew covered grass. Honestly, can't he do anything- A strange sound coming from behind a booth interrupted her ranting thoughts. Do I hear someone crying? She crept behind the booth and gasped. "...A baby..?"

16 - A Bundle Of Love

(The beginning is very sweet, but it becomes sour at the end.)

"What a horrible night.." Kurisu whispered to herself. "I've tried my hardest just to make myself at least tolerable for people. I-I just can't do it! ...No one will ever like me." She whispered, allowing tears to flow down her cheeks. She sighed and buried her face in her arms. "I was a fool to think that Shifu would ever love me."

She heard a quiet chuckle from behind her. "Oh, were you now?"

Kurisu spun around and saw Shifu coming down the steps, an amused smile on his face. That upset her. Was her misery entertaining to him? "What is it?" She asked, sourly. "Careful, don't get too close, I might fall on you.."

Shifu shook his head, chuckling once more. "Oh come on, stop that. You're exaggerating."

"When we're talking about my clumsiness, master, there is no way I can exaggerate!

"I can't argue with that." He agreed, before smiling softly. "Now what's that nonsense about no one liking you?"

"...It's not nonsense, it's the truth."

"No, it's not." He opened his arms wide. "Look around you! Everyone at the palace are family. Families love each other." He grinned. "You are deeply loved here. As a friend, as family.." He paused, before giving a warm smile. "As a student."

"You mean..you..?"

"Of course." Shifu said simply. "And what made you think I didn't love you?"

"I'm clumsy, dumb, overly-hyper, and according to the rules of teacher and student; very disrespectful."
"..Huh?"

"I'm always late for the gong, for lessons, I sometimes call you Shifu chan, and...yeah."

Shifu laughed. "That doesn't mean you are a bad student! Plus, you have your good traits!"

"Really." Kurisu said sarcastically. "Like what?"

"You're very sweet, compassionate, loving, cute, gentle, bubbly..and all of the above."

The kitten's turquoise eyes sparkled with tears of happiness. "Really?" She asked softly. "Thank you, master. I love you.." She planted a gentle kiss on his forehead, close to his eyes.

The red panda cleared his throat and fought off the pink blush that threatened to creep upon his cheeks.

"Yes, well, I love you too." Those words had stuck to the back of his throat like molasses for a while. He shifted uncomfortably as his "intolerance for sentiment kicked in." He tried to inch away, but Kurisu wouldn't let him. She threw her arms around him and hugged him tightly, burying her face in his soft,

warm fur. The elderly Kung Fu master tensed immediately, his face heated as he returned the gesture. Shifu felt appalled with himself as he felt a warm moisture in his eyes. "Damn it Kurisu." The red panda growled, wiping the tears from his eyes. "How *dare* you make me cry!" He scolded, playfully.

Kurisu laughed and playfully poked him. "Oh, is the wittle stubborn Kung Fu master afraid of a little sentiment?" She asked, teasingly.

Shifu just stared at her wide eyed and his jaw dropped. "Oh, that's it!" His mouth curved up into an evil smirk. "You asked for it!"

Giving a loud shriek of fright and laughter, Kurisu bolted from the spot she was sitting in. "Aaaaaaack! No, master, stay back!" She squealed. The kitten stuck out her foot and tripped him.

"Oomph!" Shifu fell flat on his face. "Oh, *now* you're going to get get it! Ha!" He pounced, and his face

smacked the wet grass. "Wow!" He looked impressed. "Amazing, Kurisu, have you been practicing your speed?"

"Yes." Came the voice from behind him.

"Huh?" Shifu turned around just in time to see a blur of blue as Kurisu pounced on him, they both went tumbling onto the wet grass. Both were laughing now.

"Wow!" Kurisu said, as she sat up. "I had no idea you were so *evil!*"

"You should have seen me in my youth!"

"I don't think I would have wanted too! Oogway probably did though, he is your Godfather after all."

Then, she stopped smiling. *Oh God, what have I done?! I just ratted myself out!*

"And how do you know that?" Shifu's back was turned to her, but she could hear the amusement in his voice.

"Umm...ummm...a-a little birdie told me?"

The red panda gave a soft laugh. "Does that "little birdie" happen to be an unrolled scroll on my bed?"

Now, Kurisu was sure she was going to faint. "H-how do you know about that?" She asked meekly.

The red panda shook his head slowly, chuckling. "Tip: next time you decide to snoop through my things.." He took out the scroll out of his pocket and unrolled it, pointing to tear stains on the paper.

"Don't leave evidence behind."

The kitten's lid twitched. "Ugh-ugh-how-how did you know it was *me* though?"

"If it was Po, the tears would be big. Your tears are smaller then Tigress's, and the only way the puddles would be big is if you were leaning really close into the paper. ..Which, I doubt you were."

"...Wow. You should really go into forensics! I can't believe you were able to identify me simply by my tears!"

"Plus, you're the only one who is sensitive enough to cry over what it said."

That annoyed her, but she ignored that comment. "I-I'm sorry, master."

"For what?"

Her head snapped up him. Was he insane? "For um down-right disrespecting you by snooping through your private belongings, and not telling you about it."

"Oh, that's not true, you ratted yourself out, remember?" He laughed.

The kitten blushed. "Err...right." She frowned. "Wait, you're not mad?"

"Now, why would I be mad?"

Kurisu's eyes went wide. She rocketed to her feet and got into a stance. "Okay, who are you and what did you do with my master?"

Shifu got to his feet as well, smiling gently. "Kurisu, that scroll was meant to be seen by you."

".....Excuse me? Why?"

"When you went for your walk, Po spoke to me. He told me that you had never been good in making friends (as sociable as you are) and you had always been depressed on and off over the years after your parents were killed."

The kitten's eye twitched, more in shock then rage. *I'm going to kill Po..*

"I'm glad he told me, it explained why you always got so worried that if you angered someone, they completely hated you. You are not alone in your depression, and as you read from the scroll, not the only one who's had it."

"That's why it was there?"

Shifu nodded solemnly, before smirking. "Careful of your snooping though, young lady. Remember, curiosity killed the cat!" He leaned forward and whispered. "Can I trust you with keeping that scroll a secret?"

The kitten gave a grin. "You can trust me with anything, master."

The red panda smiled and nodded. "Good then."

Now, Kurisu knew she couldn't keep the secret she had from her master about Tai Lung. "Um, master?" Shifu turned to her, still smiling. "Yes, young one?"

He looks so happy, I don't want to upset him... She hesitated, before sighing, smiling and saying: "I just want to say I'm honored that you trust me."

His grin widened. "Anytime." He told her, gently.

Later that evening, Kurisu was in the fridge, searching for some more of her dessert to feed Tai Lung. "PO! Did you eat all of my apple snow?!"

Po frowned and lowered a toasted almond cookie. "No."

Kurisu huffed. "Well, if you didn't eat it, then who did?"

Shifu hung his head, guiltily. "Err...sorry."

"*Master!* No, how could you?"

"I'm sorry, it was so good!" He gave a sheepish smile. "Take that as a compliment!"

"Well, I'm not!" The kitten growled through gritted teeth. "Now I have to go but more apples!" She slipped on her sandals and threw on a sweater. "Thanks a lot!"

"What's the big deal? Make some more tomorrow."

Obviously he didn't understand, he didn't know she needed to feed her wayward friend. "I'm going to go buy some apples..."

"Huh? At eight at night?" Shifu asked, eyes wide.

She was already gone.

I can't BELIEVE I even AGREED to this! Honestly, can't Tai Lung feed himself with apples?! The kitten sighed as she made her way through the cool dew covered grass. Honestly, can't he do anything- A strange sound coming from behind a booth interrupted her ranting thoughts. Do I hear someone crying? She crept behind the booth and gasped. "...A baby..?"

Yes, a baby! *She's so cute..* A young tiger cub, with white and purple fur, with purple sandals and a violet shredded dress. Her frightened eyes were purple and she was covered with scratches. The kitten bent down to its level. "Hi there, sweetums." She said sweetly. "Where is your mommy?"

The baby looked up at her and began crying even harder. She was no older than three. "Sh, it's okay." She cooed. "I won't hurt you, I promise."

The baby tiger peered up and allowed Kurisu to scoop her up.

"Come on. I'll take you to the palace." As the kitten made her way up the steps, she began examining the baby. "Did someone beat you?? You're covered in bruises and scratches!" She pushed open the door. "Maaaaaaaaaaaaasteeeeeeeeeeeeeer!"

An irritated sigh was heard as Shifu snapped out of his meditation state. "Yes, Kurisu, what is it? Do you have the ap-...!! Oh my gosh!" The red panda rushed up to her. "Wh-where did you find that child?"

"Abandoned behind a booth, I think someone beat her."

Shifu shook his head. "That's just sick." *I wonder if it was Giao Xun..*

"What's going on?" The five cried, rushing up to the three of them.

Po's eyes went wide. "WHOA! Where did you get a baby Tigress?" GASP. "Have we gone back in time?"

Tigress slapped him upside the head. "I'm right here, you idiot!"

The baby tiger began crying harder.

Kurisu glared at the rude feline. "Tigress! You made her cry!"

Oogway brushed his finger over the baby's cheek and she stared up at him with curiosity. "Wow, you're just as cute as Shifu was when he was your age."

Kurisu cuddled her. "Indeed she is." She gave Shifu a pleading look and the red panda *knew* what was coming next. "Can I keep her?" She asked, quietly.

"WHAT? No! No, you are not keeping a baby! You're still just a baby yourself!"

Kurusu's ears flattened back in annoyance. "How dare you!? I'm almost fifteen! I am NOT a baby! Stop treating me like a child, master!"

"YOU ARE A DAMN CHILD!"

The tiger cub screamed with sobs and Oogway rapped the red panda hard on the head.

"Shifu, be quiet, you're scaring her!"

"Sorry.." He sighed and forced himself to speak in a quieter tone. "Let's take her to an orphanage-"

"WHAT?! Do you even have a heart?!" Kurisu demanded, shrilly, and she could tell that had hurt him.

His ears went slightly lower for a split second. "I do have a heart, but we can't keep her here, and you should have enough common sense to know that, young lady!"

The kitten narrowed her eyes in anger. "I can take care of her.."

"I said no."

"Why?"

"Because you are a child, a fourteen year old can NOT take care of a baby! You would be considered an unwed teenage mother, for that matter, anyways." He sighed.

"Give me a chance." She pleaded. "Please?"

"No." He spoke in a stern voice. "You are a young master-to-be in training, a bay would simply mess up your schedule, you won't have time to do anything and furthermore-"

"Keep her, Kurisu. Oogway said, with a smile.

"What?" The kitten's eyes went wide. "Really? I can keep her?"

"If you can take care of her, then yes, you can." The old tortoise gave a smile.

"Oh, thank you, Master Oogway!" Kurisu rejoiced, throwing her arms around him.

Oogway chuckled. "You're welcome, young one."

Shifu just stood there, shaking with rage. How *dare* Oogway under mind him like that, how *dare* Kurisu act as if he had never even spoken a word to her, and how dare..everyone else act like that too! Shifu spun on his heels and stormed out of the palace, slamming the doors behind him. The whole entire palace shook and everyone flinched.

Oogway sighed. "I better go talk to him..." The old tortoise slipped through the palace doors and out into the cool night air.

(Daaaaaaaw, didn't you love the beginning? I sure did! ^^ But it looks like Shifu and Oogway may be on the road to another argument.)

Previewwww!

Oogway stopped walking and turned around to the red panda. "Oh, and one more thing." He spun around and stuck his tongue out at the tunned red panda.

Kurusu gave a squeal of delight. "That was AWESOME, Master Oogway!"

"Why, thank you, Kurisu!" Oogway said, cheerfully.

"Can you teach me how to kick Shifu like a soccer ball, too?"

"Sure."

Po laughed. "This has been the best picnic ever! What a great day..!"

Of course, all great things must come to an end. Sometimes the ending is more horrible then you can imagine...

17 - Picnic

(This chapter is very cute and bizarre! ^^ I have some cute Shifu/Po father son cuteness, and another hangy ending.)

"....Shifu?" Oogway asked as he walked up to The Infinite Pool of Wisdom. "Are you okay?"

"Oh, don't even *try* to talk to me, Master Oogway!" He raged.

".....I guess that's a no?"

"What do you think?!" Shifu snapped. "Of course I'm not okay! You completely under minded me in front of my students! I took the time to tell her all the reasons why she shouldn't take care of a child, and you completely blow me *off!!*"

"I just think you're being a little bit unfair now, really unfair. Give her a chance! She might prove to be a really good mother."

"Oh, PLEASE! I'm not letting her take care of a baby! Where did your brains go when you died?" He asked, nastily.

Oogway's eyes widened before they narrowed. "What's the matter with you? Why are you behaving like this? Give the poor dear a chance!"

"No!"

"Well, that's too bad, Shifu, because I already granted her the permission."

"You're not her master!!"

"No, but I'm YOURS!" He snapped back. "Give her a chance, let her prove she's responsible. This could be good for her. I already sense she has an extreme amount of love for that baby."

".....Fine." He mumbled. "One chance-*one!* If she blows that chance, then the baby will go to an orphanage!"

"Thank you." Oogway said, giving a smile."Now, I had a good idea for something we could all do tomorrow: a picnic in The Forest of Tranquility. Will you be civil enough to join us?"

Shifu hesitated. "Oh, alright." He gave the smallest smile. "That would be fun...I suppose."

Oogway gave him an affectionate ruffle. "Now that's the little cub I raised!"

The red panda pulled back, still smiling. "Can I ask you one question?"

"Of course, anything."

".....Can we bring melon buns?"

The very next day, everyone was settled on a large checkered blanket, laughing and having a great time.

Kurisu was trying to coax her tiger cub from coming out of a bush, Po, Mantis and Kaeru were kicking a rubber ball around, Tigress and Viper were relaxing under the shade, Monkey and Crane were skipping pebbles in to the spring, Risu, Wu Lian and Leona were sipping lemonade, while Shifu and Oogway were getting the picnic set up.

"It all smells so good." Shifu said blissfully, as he stuffed some jiaozi into his mouth. "How long has it been since we've had a picnic, master?"

"Since you were a cub, Shifu. I miss those times." He smiled. "At least we're able to spend some time together again, though."

"Uh-huh, I've missed that, too." The red panda said with a small chuckle. "Come on my students, lunch is ready!"

"Wicked!" Po exclaimed. "I'm starving!" He practically dove onto the blanket.

Shifu rolled his eyes. "You're always starving, Po."

"That is true..."

"Master!" Kurisu wailed. "I can't get tiger cub to come out!"

Shifu sighed. "Just give her time, Kurisu. She's only a baby, you know. Now, come eat."

The kitten obeyed, following her friends to the checkered blanket. "It all looks so good!" She took a spoonful of apple snow, but Shifu slapped it out of her hand.

"Kurisu, *no!*" He scolded. "Eat your lunch first!"

Pouting, the kitten reached for some of Po's delicious noodles. "They taste weird."

"That's because they're cold." Shifu said, pushing the bowl away with a disgusted look on his face.

"Haha!" Wu Lian laughed, nastily. "You look so dumb!"

The red panda balled his hands into fists and spoke through gritted teeth. "Shut your trap, Lian!" He hissed.

Oogway gave a small irritated sigh. *Oh boy, I'm trying to get him into a good mood, don't ruin it for me, Wu Lian.*

It was a little late for that, though. All through lunch, Shifu would simply stab at his food angrily and stuff it in his mouth, chewing and glaring at the female red panda beside him.

Kaeru bent her head to lap up the lemonade that was in a little crystal bowl Oogway had put out for her.

"Good girl." Risu said, giving a smile. "Are you all done?"

She barked in reply.

The elderly squirrel wiped the sauce and lemonade drips from her face-fur. "Go on and play then. Just don't play too close to the picnic, alright?"

"Bark!" Kaeru bolted out to the shade and began nudging the ball with her nose.

Oogway pulled the lid of a container full of melon buns. "Look what I have, Shifu."

"M-melon buns!" He turned to Oogway, eyes sparkling with childish excitement. "You really brought them!"

"Kurisu made them, you can thank her."

The kitten blushed. "It was nothing. Back in Japan, melon buns are called melon bread."

Shifu glared skeptically at the buns. "What's that slimy stuff on them?"

"Honey, I honey glazed them! We did that back in Japan, too!"

Shifu narrowed his eyes. "I hate honey glazed buns.." He groaned. "But then, they are melon buns after all!" He bent down to pick a bun out of the container, it made a squishing noise as it went "slip" right out of his fingers and flew high up in the air. "Noooo!" The red panda wailed and began running. The moment he jumped, the dog jumped and caught his bun in his mouth.

".....Noooooooooo!! Not my melon buns! How could you, Kaeru!"

Risu just laughed. "I see you've been working on your speed and jumps, Kaeru! Good girl!" He patted her head.

"Why are you rewarding her?? She just ate my bun!"

"She's teaching you not to leave your food where she can get to it!"

Everyone, but Shifu, laughed.

The red panda just slumped down, with a pout.

"Aww, don't be sad master, I know what will make you feel better! Kurisu said, uncovering a bowl of ice cold apple snow.

Shifu had to fight to keep the drool in his mouth, he loved apple snow, it always put him in a better mood. "Well, alright...I guess this will do!" He chirped.

Meanwhile, in the background, Kaeru was kicking the blue rubber ball around. It bounced off a series of trees and the dog chased it. However, when she ran to get it, her left foot slipped on it, and with a yelp she went tumbling towards the picnic.

“Yum, yum! Looks good, Kurisu.” Shifu said, as he got ready to scoop a spoonful into his mouth. BAM! Kaeru slammed hard into his back and his face went falling forward.....into the bowl of apple snow. “....Pfft, AHAHAHAHAHA!” Everyone roared with laughter, holding their sides and pointing at the embarrassed and enraged red panda.

“...GggGRRRAAH!” Shifu screamed, furious beyond belief. “This picnic has been nothing but a disaster!” He sat up, angrily scrubbing the goop off his face with his tiny hands. “I’m going to sit in the shade, no one talk to me!”

Oogway chuckled. “Oh, come on Shifu, have a sense of humor!”

“Master Shifu, cheer up!” Po shouted back to him.

Kurisu just blinked. “Well, who wants some more apple snow?”

“Shifu..” Oogway said, softly.

“Leave me alone!” The red panda growled, slapping his hand off his shoulder. “I don’t want to speak to anyone right now.”

“Oh, come on now, Kaeru is only a puppy, she never meant it!”

“I don’t care.....everyone was laughing at me.”

“No, they were laughing *with* you.”

“I wasn’t laughing!” Shifu snapped. “That was so humiliating!”

“Don’t be such a baby.”

“A baby?! Right, let’s see if *you* say that when that happens to you!” Shifu growled, getting up from the spot he sat in and standing by the spring.

“Crane!” Po yelled. “Throw the ball over here!”

“Okay...” Crane looked skeptical. “Here it comes!” As he threw the ball, Po caught it in his arms, but he flew back from the impact, tumbled backwards and accidentally elbowed Shifu gently in the side. Shifu took a deep breath and bit his lip, flinching slightly. “Watch where you put your elbow, panda!” He growled.

Po saw Shifu flinch and he grew concerned. “Oh sorry, did I hurt you?”

“No.”

“Then why did you flinch?”

Shifu refused to meet Po’s eyes, for fear that he would smile from lying. “No reason.”

Po looked thoughtful for a minute, then his eyes lit up! “*Ahha!* You’re ticklish!”

“Am *not!*” Shifu growled, trying to keep a straight face.

Po poked him and he cringed. “Yes you are!”

“A-am not!”

From behind him, he heard Oogway laugh. “About time somebody but me figured that out!”

Shifu shot his master a murderous glare. *Be quiet!*

“His weakness is-”

“Shut *up!*” Shifu hissed, forgetting who he was talking to.

Oogway stared at him wide eyed for a moment, then he narrowed his eyes and turned to Po. “*Get him.*”

Po approached him, fingers wiggling menacingly. In Shifu’s eyes, they may as well have been knives he was waving in the air. The red panda backed away, glaring. “You wouldn’t.”

As the panda leaped at him, Shifu cartwheeled out of the way just in time as Po landed hard on the ground right in front of him. “Panda!” He warned. “*Don’t!*” Shifu dodged every chance Po used to grab him. “Panda, I am your master! Don’t you dare..!!” He almost tripped on a pebble, but quickly regained his balance. “you really think you can catch me? I’m a Kung Fu master!” With a single burst of speed, he was easily twenty feet away from him. *I’m winning!* As Shifu ran past Oogway, the old tortoise (while looking innocently up at the sky) stuck out his foot and tripped him.

“Augh!” Shifu tumbled five more feet into the grass and landed with a “thump” on the tree trunk. He

turned around and gave Oogway a betrayed look. “*Master!* How could you?”

“Next time, don't tell your master to shut up!” Oogway called, giving a triumphant grin.

The red panda began howling with laughter as Po mercilessly tickled him.

“Don't do it Po!” Kurisu called. “It's suiiiiiiiiide!”

The young tiger cub became deeply fascinated by this bizarre bout, and came crawling out from the bush.

Kurisu's eyes lit up. “On second though, keep doing it!”

“Po, stop it!” Shifu managed to choke out between fits of laughter. “I will give you dish duty for a YEAR!! Po! Let go!

Kurisu's eyes went wide. “Suiiiiiiiiiiiiide!”

Oogway simply chuckled. “As long as I'm here, he can't punish any of you if I say no. Plus, empty threats when laughing are pretty futile.”

Kurisu just giggled. “Poor Shifu, hasn't he been through enough today?”

Oogway laughed. “He's always the main target!”

Shifu rolled away from Po, laughing hysterically and trying to void himself from the torturing side and belly pokes. “ Ahahaha! Let go! Po-! Panda-! Po-! Stop-! It tickles-! Ahaha! no-! Panda-! Ahaha! Stop it, Po-!” He didn't seem to know what name to use! The red panda finally managed to pull himself up, and Po released him.

Oogway's mouth twitched amusedly. “Well, that was pathetic, how could you not be able to get ot of that grip?”

“He-he-he-” Shifu had no breath or voice left. “He-hic! ..Oh no! Hic! Hic! H-he-he's too fat!”

Oogway laughed. “Listen to your breathing! You sound like an old man!”

“Oh, you mean like you?” Shifu asked, playfully, sticking his tongue out. *Bad* idea. The look on Oogway's face said that clearly.

Everyone was dead silent, except of course for Kurisu.

She cupped her hands around her mouth. “Suiiiiiiiiiiiiide!”

Oogway shook his head slowly. “Oh hoho, NOW you are just ASKING for it, Shifu!” He growled and grabbed the weak and hiccuping red panda with ease.

“Ack! Master, let GO!” Shifu struggled, but he couldn't free himself.

“Oh, I'll let you go.” He brought the red panda to the spring and *drop* kicked him like a soccer ball.

“Straight into the spring!”

SPLASH!

“.....Ahahahahahahahahaha!!” Everyone crashed to the ground, laughing almost as hard as Shifu had been.

Oogway stopped walking and turned around to the red panda. “Oh, and one more thing.” He spun around and stuck his tongue out at the stunned red panda.

Kurisu gave a squeal of delight. “That was AWESOME, Master Oogway!”

“Why, thank you, Kurisu!” Oogway said, cheerfully.

“Can you teach me how to kick Shifu like a soccer ball, too?”

“Sure.”

Po laughed. “This has been the best picnic ever! What a great day..!

Of course, all great things must come to an end. Sometimes the ending is more horrible then you can imagine...

(XD, very bizarre! I'm currently unbelievably hyper right now, this chapter (especially the tickle scene) is a perfect example of my 9:00 emotions! (When I'm hyper I draw and write alot of things like this. ^^ :D)

Preview of da next chapter! ^^

Towering above him, while holding a gleaming blade in one hand, stood a jaguar with dark ashen fur. "Have you missed me?" He raised the dagger high above his head, but Shifu could do absolutely nothing but stare.

"SHIFU!" He heard a scream from behind him. "WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! LOOK OUT!" It seemed to happen in slow motion, as Po quickly skidded in front of him and spread his arms wide protectively. The dagger came down and sliced deep into the panda's chest, near his rib cage. "Hurk-!" He staggered back once, and then collapsed.

All at once, the red panda snapped out of his trance. "PO!" He began shaking Po's motionless body. "Po? PO!" Tears sprung to his eyes. "NO!"

18 - True Meaning Of Love

(If you love Shifu/Po father-son cuteness, then you will love this chapter!)

How did this happen? Shifu wondered, as he dunk a cloth into the icy water from the bucket and laid it on Po's feverish forehead. *Why did it all happen? And Why did Po have to get the worst of it?* "Po?" He was still unconscious. The red panda gave a soft sigh as he wrapped up the panda's wounds with some gauze. *We were all having so much fun. Despite the bad things that happened to me, it was so much fun being together with my students, friends, and master.* He paused, an expression of sadness placing among his face. *So why did Giao Xun have to ruin it?*

It had happened, only shortly after Shifu dried off from the spring.

"Po-! Kurisu-!" Shifu gave a low and threatened growl. "Stay back!" The red panda was being cornered by his two students. "Master! What are you doing just standing there?! Help me, they'll kill me!"

Oogway gave an amused grin. "It is quite amusing to watch."

"Go away." Shifu pleaded. "Haven't I been through enough today? Why does everyone always pick on me?!"

Oogway just laughed. "Because, you are such an easy target!"

"Go away!" Shifu wailed. "Leave me alone!"

"Get him!" Kurisu called, tensing like a wild animal about to pounce.

Shifu rolled into a ball and covered his eyes.

"Waaaaaaa!" Came a high pitched cry from the bush. "Waaaaaaa!"

Kurisu relaxed her position and turned just in time to see the tiger cub run out from under the bush.

"Sweetie, what's wrong?" The kitten scooped her up.

The tiger cub pointed to the bush. "Wa!"

Shifu uncurled from his protective ball. "Is there something in the bush?" He stood up. "Go check, Kurisu."

"Um-um, okay.." The kitten stuttered as she made her way to the bush.

Shifu chuckled and flicked his wrist. "Relax, it's probably just a spider.."

Kurisu crawled down low on her knees and peered up the bush. "Hello, Mr. Spider?Ohh..." What she saw, cemented her to the spot in horror.

A tiger with eyes the color of crimson blood, leered down at her.

"...AUUUUGH!!!" She rapidly crawled back to her friends. "B-big spider! BIG SPIDER! NOT A SPIDER! HOLY SH-"

"Kurisu!" Shifu reprimanded. "There is no need for language like tha-" Then, he caught a glimpse of the tiger. "Oh-my-...no-! No-!"

The tiger gave a wicked grin. "Long time no see, Shifu."

"Deshi! What on earth? Wh-what are you doing here?!"

The tiger snorted and spat at one of the trees. "Trust us, we don't want to be here either, Giao Xun's orders though."

"Us?" Shifu demanded. "What do you mean us? There's more than one of you?"

Eleven other tigers flipped out from the trees and bushes.

Deshi sneered. "Get them."

The battle began. At first all of the tigers went after Kurisu and Po, but Oogway came to their rescue with a few swift kicks.

"Don't you *dare* touch them!" Oogway hissed in a menacingly low tone. "Let them be!" Deshi just smirked. "I'd be careful if I were you, old man! Giao Xun gave us some of his weapons, and you know how sharp those are!" With that, he stabbed the back of Oogway's arm. "MASTER!" Shifu screamed. "NO!" He ran to Oogway. "Master, Master, are you alright?" "I'm fine..Shifu-!" Oogway said tensely from the searing pain. "Protect your students, I can take care of myself!"

Reluctantly, Shifu left Oogway's side and turned towards Deshi. "You're going to pay for that, you arrogant orange pumpkin!" He seethed, using the name he had called Deshi when he was a child. The tiger smirked. "My, we have grown up I see. Not in size, of course!" Giving a low growl, Shifu backed up glaring; before delivering a strong and swift kick right to the tiger's throat.

Deshi gagged and staggered back, slightly. "What a strong little squirrel."

POW!

Deshi flew back into the cool spring water, as Risu stood out with his fist outstretched. "Why, thank you! I have been working out, after all!" He said with mock cheer.

Shifu gave Risu a grateful smile. "Thanks." His smile, didn't last long, for he heard a loud scream of pain. The red panda spun around just in time to see one of the tigers cut deep into Kurisu's injured wrist. "HEY!" He sped up the small hill that the tiger was perched on. "DROP HER!!!!"

The tiger obeyed, releasing her into the now crimson grass.

"Kurusu! Kurisu, are you okay?!"

The kitten gave a long agonized wail as she held her heavily bleeding wrist.

"Sh, it's okay, dear, I've got you." He spoke soothingly as he carefully bandaged her wrist by wrapping the sash from his robe around the wound. *This is a nightmare, a total nightmare! What happened?* He just couldn't place it in his mind. *It was supposed to be a terrific day! What had started as a simply harmless chase as his two students tried to pin him to the ground and tickle him, had turned into a gruesome and bloody battle with eleven malicious warriors! What worse, they were winning! Of course they're winning, they've been trained by Giao Xun!* Shifu shook his head slowly, eyes blurring with confusion. "What happened to our perfect picnic?"

"Hello, Shifuuu.." Sang a soft and deadly voice from behind him. The red panda turned..and froze instantly.

Towering above him, while holding a gleaming blade in one hand, stood a jaguar with dark ashen fur.

"Have you missed me?" He raised the dagger high above his head, but Shifu could do absolutely nothing but stare.

"SHIFU!" He heard a scream from behind him. "WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! LOOK OUT!" It seemed to happen in slow motion, as Po quickly skidded in front of him and spread his arms wide protectively. The dagger came down and sliced deep into the panda's chest, near his rib cage. "Hurk-!" He staggered back once, and then collapsed.

All at once, the red panda snapped out of his trance. "PO!" He began shaking Po's motionless body.

"Po? PO!" Tears sprung to his eyes. "NO!"

Breathing heavily, Deshi approached Shifu with a huge sword. He was so dizzy he didn't even realize that he was holding it the wrong way! However, it still did a lot of damage.

"Shifu!" Oogway called. "Look out!"

Shifu spun around just in time to see a blur of metal, felt a sharp pain, and then, ...nothing.

So now, the red panda sat by the side of Po's bed, laying a hand on his chest to check his breathing. It was steady..but raspy.

He touched his head gingerly, it throbbed horribly. "Ouch.." Shifu gave a soft sigh. "I'm so sorry, Po."

The red panda was exhausted. He lay his head on Po's stomach and closed his eyes. A few moments

later, Shifu felt a soft and furry hand envelope him close to the furry white stomach. "Po?"

"Hey..master." Po's voice was feeble and crackly.

Shifu's ears perked up. "Po!" His hand shot to Po's feverish forehead. "What's your temperature?"

Po smiled. "I'm fine..master."

"...Really?"

The giant panda nodded sincerely. "Really."

"Okay then."

"..?"

WHACK!

"Ouch!" Po exclaimed, holding his head. "What did you do that for?" He glared at the red panda.

"You idiot!" Shifu yelled. "What did you think you were doing?! You were almost killed!!"

Po narrowed his eyes at his master. "This is the thanks I get for saving your life?!"

"No, this is!" Shifu yelled, hitting him again. He clenched his fists. "Panda.." The red panda bit his lip, his voice quivered. "Do you have any idea how worried I was? I..I.." His voice was shaking so much with grief that he could hardly speak. "I..I really thought I lost you, Po. When I saw that knife hit you..I-I was so sure that you-you.." He gave a sob and pressed his fingers to his eyes. "Damn, I will *never* forgive Oogway for this!!" *I wouldn't be such a furry ball of emotion if he hadn't forced me to bawl out that night!*

In a quick motion, ignoring his injuries, Po leaned over the bed and wrapped Shifu up into a hug.

Shifu just stood there, not knowing what to do at first. He slowly returned the hug as tight as he could.

"I'm sorry." Po murmured. "I didn't mean to make you worry, but, isn't that what you do when you love someone?"

Shifu frowned and pulled back. "What?"

Po smiled gently. "To love someone means that you'd do anything for them, even risk your own life to save them when necessary. Wouldn't you do the same for me?"

The red panda sat there, stunned. He crossed his arms and turned away as his stupid "intolerance for sentiment" kicked in, yet AGAIN.

Po just smirked and chuckled.

Shifu turned around slowly in his chair, trying to fight off the massive blush that did not seem to want to leave him alone!

"Po.."

Both the panda and Kung Fu master turned to see Tigress slip in through the doorway, carrying a bowl of apple snow. "Kurusu made it for you." She set it down on his bedside table. "How are you feeling?"

Her voice was soft and compassionate. "Are you feeling better at all?"

"A little." Po admitted, giving a small smile.

"You're very lucky Po, the knife didn't hit any vital organs."

"Thank goodness..."

Tigress exited the room quietly.

Shifu just sat there with Po in silence. "..."

"So, would you?" Po asked, finally.

Shifu grimaced and stuffed a spoonful of apple snow into the panda's mouth. "Just shut up and eat, panda." He mumbled as he slipped through the doorway.

Po just laughed quietly to himself as he took the spoon out of his mouth. "I know he would."

Meanwhile, Oogway was making his way down the bunkhouse hallway, he smiled when he saw Shifu.

"Shifu!" He rejoiced. "You're okay!" As he bent over to hug him, he was pushed back by his face by a certain annoyed little red panda.

"I am SO *never* going to forgive you for this!" He growled.

“What?!”

SLAM!

(XD, the ending was funny. I loved making Shifu/Po father-son cuteness! ^^ I wasn't able to put the part with Kurisu and Tai Lung like I had in the “preview of the next chapter”. So, I'll put it in the next one. (Now I just need to change the preview in the last chapter.)

Preview of the next chapter!

“You are taking care of a BABY?” Tai Lung demanded, eyes wide. “How are you going to pull that off?” The kitten narrowed her eyes. “What do you mean: “pull off” I'll take care of her just fine!”

“I can't imagine you with a child...”

Kurisu laughed and hopped up onto the branch. “Believe me, me neither.”

“So, what does the little bundle of joy look like?” He asked, as he helped her up on the branch.

“See for yourself!” Kurisu said proudly, pointing to the ground.

“.....She looks like grass..”

“Huh?” The kitten turned and peered down at the ground. “Oh no!”

The baby was gone.

19 - Princess Of The Stars

(The little tiger cub is FINALLY going to have a name in this chapter, and perhaps Tai Lung and Kurisu come slightly closer?)

"Little cub, please eat." Kurisu begged. "You'll get sick if you don't!"

The tiger cub abruptly turned her head. "Waa!"

"Please?" Kurisu pleaded. "It's very delicious, I made it just for you."

"Still no luck?" Came a sagely voice from behind her.

"No.."

Oogway smiled. "Come now, dear." He gently scooped her up and sat down with her. "Your mama wants you to eat, and I think you should listen to her."

It felt weird to Kurisu to hear Oogway call her "mama" to the baby.

The old tortoise scooped some apple snow from the bamboo bowl. "Eat up, dear."

The baby peered up into his gentle face, her eyes sparkled with curiosity. "Ouu.."

The look on the child's face brought so much memories back to him.

"Shifu, calm down." Kohaii groaned.

"Here, sweetie." Shei Lia said sweetly. "We made you some delicious milk!"

"Naa!" Shifu cried, thrashing his head back and forth. "Na, na!"

Kohaii tried forcing the nipple of the bottle in his mouth. "Shifu, eat!"

"WAUGHHH!!!"

"Kohaii!" Oogway reprimanded, rapping him hard on the head with his cane. "That's not how you feed a baby!" He scooped baby Shifu up into his arms and sat down with him. "Sh, young one." The old tortoise rubbed the baby's back and belly to soothe him. "It's okay, sweetie....quiet down." He tipped the bottle over and allowed a single drop to fall on his arm. "Shei Lia! That's too hot for his little mouth!" He scolded.

Shei Lia hung her head, guiltily. "Sorry.."

Oogway smiled and patted her back. "Oh, Shei Lia, you are new to this, it will take some time."

"It's taking more time than I hoped.."

The old tortoise focused his attention back to the squirming red panda baby in his lap. "Are you hungry?"

Shifu responded by blinking curiously and holding his arms out to the bottle. "Ouu.."

Kohaii smiled. "That a boy, drink up for Yeh yeh."

Shifu blinked before smiling. "Yeh!"

All three of them gave loud gasps.

Oogway froze. "Did..did he just say "Yeh"? As in: Yeh yeh?"

Shei Lia gasped. "His first word!" Although, she looked a bit upset that it wasn't ma ma or ma mi.

Oogway bent his head to nuzzle the baby. "Oh, I don't believe it.."

Shifu gurgled and reached up to hug the old tortoise around his neck.

The old tortoise raised the baby up to his face and Shifu hugged his face, while drooling on his chin.

"Eee.."

Shei Lia grinned. "What a cutie, I can't believe he spoke his first word already!"

Oogway smiled. "The fastest learner...just like you, Kohaii."

"Even I didn't say my first word THAT soon!"

The old tortoise leaned lowered his hand and stuffed the nipple of the bottle in his mouth.

Shifu drank hungrily, his tears immediately leaving, happiness taking its place. The cub closed his eyes in content and cuddles closer to Oogway's chest. Shifu's breathing quieted slowly; as he drifted off in his Godfather's arms.

"Master Oogway?"

"Mm..?" The old tortoise snapped out of his thoughts and gazed at Kurisu. "What is it?"

"That's what I want to know. What were you thinking about?"

"Shifu in his baby years."

"You've known him since he was a baby?!"

"He was born in the Jade Palace."

"Daaaww! I can't imagine Shifu chan as a baby, though." Kurisu giggled. "Was he cute?"

Oogway chuckled. "By far the most *adorable* little ball of fluff that ever toddled on this earth. He was so unbelievably fuzzy that you could hardly see his face, it was too full of fluff!" He laughed. "Oh, so cute. You would have hugged him and squealed until he went deaf and limp."

"Awww! ..I wish I could have seen." Kurisu murmured with a pout.

Oogway was quiet for a moment; before giving a sly grin. "How would you like to see some of his baby pictures?"

"..!! Would!!" The kitten squealed. "Do you *really* have them?"

The old tortoise laughed. "Sure, Kurisu, I'd love to show them to you." He peered around the room. "We just have to make sure that Shifu isn't around." He laughed. "Shifu will KILL me if he finds out I showed you these." He led the kitten into his bedroom and pulled out a dusty golden booklet from a shelf.

"Here."

Kurisu snatched the book from his hands, eyes wide with excitement as she flipped through the book.

"..Awwwwwwwwww!!! He really is the cutest ball of fluff I've ever seen on earth!" The kitten squealed as she gazed into a picture of Shifu in little green fuzzy sleepers; a bottle in his mouth.

Oogway laughed. "One of my personal favorites is this one." He said, pointing to a picture on the next page.

"...Pfft-AHAHAHAHAHA! OH MY GOD-HE IS SO FREAKING CUTE!!"

It was a photo with baby Shifu in a crawling position, his bare fuzzy butt sticking high up in the air; the cub sucking on a rubbery pacifier.

Loud thumping was heard from the hallway as Po barged into the room. "What-what is it? ..!!!

AHAHAHA! Looks like a full moon is showing tonight!"

"Is it, Po?" Shifu asked as he came into the room.

Oogway froze. *Uh-oh..*

The red panda peered out the window. "No, it's only a half moon." He walked up to Kurisu. "What are you looking at, Kurisu? ..!!!! EEEEEEEEEEEK!!! OH MY GOD! WHAT ARE YOU DOING??!!" He screamed, mortified. His hand shot to the book as he snatched it from the kitten's hands. "Give me that!"

Kurisu groaned. "Multiple SO many paper cuts!"

Shifu's face was so red that a tomato, beet, or volcano couldn't compare to it. He was positively MORTIFIED. He trembled with a mixture of horror and anger. "Master!" His lip trembled with fury. "How could you do that to me?"

"Do what?" Oogway asked, innocently.

The red panda clenched his tiny fists and jaw in anger. "You KNOW what!" He snapped. "How could you embarrass me like that?"

The old tortoise smirked. "Oh, relax, I'm just showing off your cubby cuteness."

Shifu gave exhaled loudly in frustration, turned, and stomped out of the room.

Everyone stared after him, blinking.

Kurusu grinned and turned back to the book. "Where were we.."

Oogway flipped the page. "Here's one where he stuck a diaper on his head..."

"DON'T SHOW THEM THAT!!!!" Came a scream from the other room.

Later on, Kurisu was struggling to finish packing up the leftover picnic lunch to feed Tai Lung that night; before Shifu broke out of his meditation state. *I'll introduce the tiger cub to him! I hope he likes her..*

"Tiger cub!" She called, and the baby turned to look at her. "Want to come with me for a little walk?"

The tiger cub hopped off the chair and followed Kurisu into the cool, misty night.

"Tai chaaaan?" Kurisu called as she made her way through the dark forest. "Tai chan, if you want food then come out!"

"Up here, kid."

The kitten's ears flattened back in annoyance. "Call me "kid" again, and I *won't* feed you!" She growled.

"And I have some delicious picnic leftovers too.."

"Wouldn't want to miss that." Came the sarcastic tone of voice.

Kurusu was *really* angry now. "Stop taking all my delicious food for granted! Po and I made it, you know!"

"You know that fat tub of lard?"

"Yeah, he's kind of like my brother. I grew up with him and his father, I've lived with them since I was five."

"How sweet.." Still sarcastic.

The kitten smiled up at him. "Do you like my baby?"

"Your WHAT?" Tai Lung demanded, leaning over to look at her.

"My baby!" Kurisu chirped.

"You are taking care of a BABY?" Tai Lung demanded, eyes wide. "How are you going to pull that off?"

The kitten narrowed her eyes. "What do you mean: "pull off" I'll take care of her just fine!"

"I can't imagine you with a child..."

Kurusu laughed and hopped up onto the branch. "Believe me, me neither."

"So, what does the little bundle of joy look like?" He asked, as he helped her up on the branch.

"See for yourself!" Kurisu said proudly, pointing to the ground.

".....She looks like grass.."

"Huh?" The kitten turned and peered down at the ground. "Oh no!"

The baby was gone.

"I don't believe it! I lost my child! What kind of mother am I?!" Kurisu wailed. "I'm horrible!"

"Calm down." Tai Lung said as he swung from the branch and landed in front of her. "She probably only crawled into the bush. Call her."

"I-I can't." Kurisu hung her head embarrassed. "I haven't named her yet.."

"What? How long have you had this kid?"

"Two days." The kitten answered.

"And you haven't named her yet?"

"I haven't thought of any." Kurisu answered, rolling her eyes. "None suit her..."

"Um, alright. Tiger!" He yelled. "Come out!"

As if on cue, the tiger cub emerged from under the bush. She stared up at Tai Lung; violet eyes blinking with full curiosity. "Ouu.." Her eyes sparkled. "Eee!" She crawled forward and into the leopard's arms.

"...!" Tai Lung cringed and dug his claws deep into the earth's soil. "Umm, kay. Leggo now, please."

Kurusu giggled. "Tai chan, she really likes you!"

The leopard stood up, the tiger baby came up with him; clinging to his shirt and nuzzling his face.

"Eee.." Nuzzle, nuzzle. "Eee.."

Tai Lung looked *really* uncomfortable now. "Okay, kid, let go please."

The cub gurgled and cuddled up to his face.

Tai Lung's mouth twitched slightly, and Kurisu could see a grin that turned up his mouth. "Heh, cute."

He smiled and handed the baby to Kurisu's arms. "Thanks, Tai chan. Want to eat now?"

"Sure." The leopard answered as he climbed up the tree trunk and onto the branch. "What are we eating, Kurisu chan?"

The kitten did a double-take. "WHAT?"

The leopard chuckled. "I'm Tai chan, so you should be Kurisu chan, right?"

Kurisu smiled slowly. "Thanks." She reached into the basket. "Melon bun?"

"Melon bun? ...Heh, that's Shifu's favorite food. One time he nearly broke Oogway's arm to get to the last bun. It was quite comical, actually. Oogway flipped him over on the table on the table and slammed him down to the ground."

"Ouch! Oogway must have knocked the wind out of him!"

"Yep. They constantly fought (playfully). Tackling each other at whatever chance they got. They acted so childishly when they trained sometimes. Really made me wonder."

"Was Shifu ever like that with you?"

"Sometimes. I think he developed his playful and evilness from Oogway."

Kurisu laughed. "Lemonade?"

"Love some, thanks." Tai Lung answered as he sipped from a thermos. "Doesn't taste half bad." He gave an awkward smile. "You're um..an okay cook." It wasn't exactly a compliment, but Kurisu was sure it was the closest Tai Lung would ever come to a compliment.

"Arigato." The kitten peered down at her baby. "Tiger cub, want some?"

The tiger cub shrunk back to the tree trunk and peered cautiously up at her.

Kurisu gave an exasperated sigh and shrugged. "I don't know how to get her to trust me..."

The leopard shrugged. "It'll take a little time. You adopted a baby, she won't love you right away. Just wait; give her time."

The kitten pouted. "She loved *you* right away..."

Tai Lung gave her a pat on the head. "Trust me, I have NO idea why that is."

Kurisu smiled slowly. "I remember that I did."

"Huh?" Tai Lung frowned at her. "What?"

"Don't you remember?"

"No, I don't!" Tai Lung snapped. "Would you please just tell me already?"

The kitten smiled. "I'll give you one hint: "Kitty." If you can't figure it out by that hint then you won't know until tomorrow." She slid down the trunk. "I have to take little Tiger to bed now. See ya!" With that, she scampered off; leaving Tai Lung confused and alone with his thoughts.

Shifu walked up and down through the hallways of the bunkhouse; the crickets sung cheerfully outside in the Forest Of Tranquility.

"So, when Sena was asked to catch all the floating bits of stars, she became really worried."

Shifu stopped walking and frowned. *Who's Sena?*

"Shifu chan!" Kurisu squealed. "You're just in time for story time!"

"....For WHAT?"

"Story time!" The kitten held up a book. "I'm reading tiger cub one of my favorite childhood books.

"Princess Of The Stars!"

"Oh..." Shifu chuckled. "That's okay, I can do without story time."

"Nonsense." Kurisu leaned over and hauled him up on the bed by the underarms.

"Kurisu!" He barked. "Put me down!"

The kitten plopped him into her lap. "You'll love this story!" She pulled him up on the pillow and pulled the blankets up to their chins.

"This better be good.." Shifu grumbled, falling back into the pillow. "And I MEAN it."

The kitten took a deep breath and continued her story. "Sena was very worried that she would fail to collect all the star bits for the star lanterns, and everyone on the Blue Comet was counting on her. She collected a bunch of nets of the color of the star bits and she started collecting. When Sena got to the last star; she realized it was high up over a bunch of cliffs. So, Sena hopped up the clouds in order to get the last purple star, and the entire Blue Comet worshiped her. The Comet named her Seina Suri; princess of the stars."

The tiger cub clapped. "Ehehehe!"

Kurusu laughed. "You like that name? "Seina Suri"?"

The baby nodded.

"Okay then, how would you like that to be your name?" She turned to Shifu. "What do you think, master?"

"Adorable." Shifu said with a smile. "Suits her perfectly."

Seina Suri clapped her hands joyfully. "Ehehe!" She cuddled up to Kurisu. "Yaa!"

The kitten grinned. "Seina Suri, tomorrow your mama will make you some new clothes!"

"Eee?"

"That's right, I'm your mama now!" Kurisu grinned and turned to Shifu. "And this is your "grandfather!"

Shifu's lower lid twitched. "Wh....WHAT?"

"Say hello to Yeh-yeh!"

Seina Suri crawled up to Shifu and tackled him on the bed. "Yeh!"

"Y-Yeh-yeh?!...oh.." With that, he fainted.

(What did you think? LOL, I loved writing the part where Shifu got embarrassed...)

Preview Of the next...you know!

I don't think I could possibly explain the ounce of fear that struck my small and vulnerable little heart at that moment. In the back of my mind, I knew that it was too late. I was going to die. If only I had listened to Oogway; he had never steered me wrong. My disobedience had really gotten me in a dangerous fix now.

One of the tigers pinned me to the wall; the other pressed the cool steel blade up to my throat. "You want that fur cut just below the chin?" His voice taunted.

I squinted my eyes shut and prayed for it all to be over quickly.

20 - Shifu's "True" Side

(Shifu finally tells his two students that he happens to have an "evil" side to him. :D)

"Kurusu!" Shifu growled. "Get your lazy rump out of bed!" He kicked the foot of the bed. HARD.

Kurusu kicked him right back. "G' way.." Se murmured groggily.

"Get up!" Shifu fumed. "Or do you *want* dish duty for a MONTH?"

"Nnn.. is' early.. She covered her head.

Oogway moved forward and gently shook her shoulder. "Come now, time to get up." He spoke in a quiet and calm voice.

"Okay." The kitten yawned, stretched and hopped out of bed. "It's so bright outside.." She grinned.

"Yes." Shifu tried to be as cheerful as Oogway to earn some cooperation from the kitten, but his annoyance was shown through. "The sun has been waiting a while to come meet you..." He gritted his teeth. "So has the gong!"

Po nodded in agreement. "You slept in longer then usual."

"Sorry.." She murmured. "Seina kept me up all night..."

Oogway nodded understandingly. "I understand, as a baby Shifu kept me up all night with his bawling."

The red panda turned his head to hide a blush. "Right, let's go to breakfast."

Of course, at breakfast the scoldings never ended.

"Po! Stop playing with your food!" Shifu reprimanded. "And Tigress, leave Po alone! Goodness, you're all acting like children!"

Oogway tried to conceal a laugh from behind his cup. "You're one to talk!"

Shifu dropped his fork in an instant. "*Excuse* me?" He demanded. "What was that supposed to mean?"

"What do you think?" Oogway asked, finally laughing. "You were by far the most evil little devil I've ever had put under my care."

All of Shifu's students turned to look at him.

Po gave a grin. "Seriously?" He chuckled. "You were an evil little devil?"

"N-no.." Shifu faltered.

"No.." Oogway laughed. "Right. What have I told you about lying to me?"

Shifu's left eye twitched. "Master!"

"I want to hear about it!" Po exclaimed.

Shifu shook his head. "Nuh-uh, no way!"

Kurusu lowered the last melon bun to her mouth. "If you don't tell us, we'll eat the last of the melon buns!"

"No! Not the melon buns!" Shifu wailed.

Tigress sighed and narrowed her eyes at both Kurisu and Po. "Um, may I be excused to go do something more useful and less pointless and childish?"

Shifu sighed. "Very well then, Tigress."

Whilst keeping a hostile stare on Po and Kurisu; she exited the room with the five.

The red panda gave a small whimper. "Not the melon buns! Fine! If I show you how "evil" I was in the past, gimme my bun!"

Kurusu obeyed, while giggling. "How are you going to show us?"

"I have a scroll, similar to the one you read, Kurisu."

"Yaaaaaay!" Kurisu squealed childishly. "Let's go read it, Master Shifu!"

The red panda gave an exasperated sigh and led his two students to his room. "If I read this to you, will you promise to leave my melon buns alone?"

"Yup." The kitten replied.

Shifu took a deep breath and started reading.

I bet all my students think that I've always been the strict rule master I am now. Believe it or not, I used to be quite playful. Very playful, actually. I was the one that was always wanting to play at whatever chance I got. I was the childish one that Oogway spent most of his time with. I was...the evil one. My master could tell you that; I was indeed very frisky, and disobedient. Especially when it came to bath time.

"Bath time?!" Kurisu demanded. "You fought against baths?"

"Shut up and listen." Shifu told her.

"Shifu!" Oogway growled. "Get out from under that bed THIS instant! I am in no mood to put up with this today!"

Something told me that he got up from the wrong side of the bed.

Oogway glared under the bed.

"Nooooo!" I wailed. "I hate baths!!" Ironic actually how I despised baths with the passion; yet loved to swim. "Leave me alone!!"

"I will pull you out by the tail." My master threatened.

"No!" I should have listened to him. If there is one thing you should know about Oogway it's that: he always keeps his word. In a split second I felt my furry hide burn with pain as Oogway yanked me out from under the bed.

"Come on, let's go. Or, do you want to lose your melon buns?"

I shook my head rapidly. If Oogway knew my one weakness for punishments: it was taking away my melon buns. Man, did I love those things. I still do now; I'd break someones arm if they tried to touch my bun.

I grumbled angrily whilst trudging behind my master, hands deep in pockets in defeat. He had won. I probably wouldn't put up a fight if bathing didn't involve shampoo; but without shampoo bathing would simply be: "soaking in the tub."

Bathing me took longer than most tasks did. Oogway would never leave me unsupervised in the tub (mainly because they were so big!) If he wasn't there to supervise, a servant would be. It bothered me greatly how I was the only one that was always under watchful eyes. In a way, it felt like an endearment because my master was just trying to keep me safe; but it also felt like I was the four month old that Oogway had bathed many years ago. He never had a problem with Akimi or Wu Lian being unsupervised (but then, they were much older than me.) At least I wasn't under a servant's eyes ALL the time, Leona had to be though. She was only six at the time.

I grimaced as the shampoo was rubbed fiercely into my head and face fur. Oogway was rubbing harder than usual; he was obviously still angry with me so I kept still and kept the complaining down to a minimum.

My master wrapped a towel around me and smiled lightly. I knew why: apparently I look like an adorable little ball of fluff when I just come out of water. My fur was sticking to my eyes and nose; it was hard to see. "Master, what's for dinner?"

"Whatever the servants make." He said simply. "I have no time to prepare your meal right now. I need to go down to the valley.

"Can I go to the valley for you?!" I asked, hopefully.

He looked skeptical and for a moment, I feared he'd say no. "It's getting dark.." He began. "Please?" My ears went back and I made my eyes grow wide and glassy. Last but not least: topped it off with a quivering lower lip. My master had never been one to crack under the pressure of a puppy dog pout but I was an exception. He had once claimed that I made the most irresistable puppy dog pouts that your first instinct was to grab me and smother me with hugs. "Oh, alright." He said, sighing heavily and finally giving in. He pressed ten yuan into my hand. "Go and get me some oranges; six of them." "Kay!" I chirped. "Wait a minute, six oranges only cost six four yuan." "I know." Oogway said, simply. "The rest you can use for a treat at the food vendors." He hesitated before smiling. "Despite the "bath" incident, you performed un-expectantly well in the training drill this morning; so you can get yourself a little snack or whatever you want for the rest of the six yuan." "Thank you, master!" I chirped. His face turned serious. "Just stay out of the alley." He ordered sternly. His face screwed up. "You never know what kinds of creeps can sneak their way into the valley." "Kay!" I chirped, yet again. "I'll share with you whatever I'm getting!" I turned to the door and ran off. "You better!" Oogway called after me. "That's my money!"

Kurusu giggled. "You really were feisty, weren't you?" "Yes." Shifu laughed. "More feisty when it came to bathing, though." "So we see." Po said with a chuckle.

The valley was as beautiful as it always was. The scent of the food vendors wafted into my still developing nostrils; noodle smells more then anything. Po's grandfather made me some noodle soup "on the house" It was already becoming dark, lanterns lit; as well as small decorative lights around houses. "Oh no!" I wailed when I saw the food vendor's dreaded sign: "closed." "It can't be closed!" "Sorry, kid." The pig murmured. "There's an open food vendor at the other side of the alley." I immediately tensed. "Oh, I'm not allowed to go through the valley." He smirked. "I saw the shipment of oranges; they're really low. There's no more fruit shipments for another couple weeks." "Nooo!" I wailed. What was I going to tell Master Oogway? I sighed and shook my head. "Forget it, I'm going to the alley." I stuck my hands back into my pockets and trudged towards the dark entry to the abyss. Oogway was going to KILL me; that's if he found out and I knew I couldn't tell him. I peered up into the sky and hummed a little tune to calm myself down and stop my sudden idiotic thoughts of all that could be in that alley. "Stop that!" I scolded myself. "There is nothing more in this alley then a couple of stinky garbage cans.

Keywords: If only that had been true.

I heard a low and raspy growl coming from behind one of the trashcans. Three built greasy foxes began slinking towards me. One of them gave a jeering laugh. "Need a fur cut, kid?" I gave a low moan of terror and backed up so far that I slammed into the trashcan. "No, stay away." I knew enough Kung Fu to be able to fight maybe one or two of them; not three. Plus, I was to petrified to move when the leader of the gang drew a long dagger from his ruffled pocket. I don't think I could possibly explain the ounce of fear that struck my small and vulnerable little heart at that moment. In the back of my mind, I knew that it was too late. I was going to die. If only I had listened to Oogway; he had never steered me wrong. My disobedience had really gotten me in a dangerous fix now.

One of the tigers pinned me to the wall; the other pressed the cool steel blade up to my throat. "You want that fur cut just below the chin?" His voice taunted.

I squinted my eyes shut and prayed for it all to be over quickly. Then I heard a long painful scream; followed by a loud "thud." I opened my eyes to see a flash of all colors of green. The jade color of his gnarled skin I knew so well.

"Master!"

He didn't look at me, and he kept his focus on his opponent; giving one of the swiftest (yet graceful) kicks I had ever seen. The foxes were in a heap now; and Oogway took that to his advantage to seize the leader by the throat. He spoke in a calm and deadly whisper that even now; sends chills down my spine.

"If you even THINK about harming my student then you my as well be making your own suicide right there!" He hissed. "And if you EVER touch a single hair on his head then I will spend the rest of my life making sure you suffer in eternal agonizing pain."

The so-called brave leader cowered in fear and even under his flea-ridden fur; I could see him pale.

"Hurt my pupil and you will rue the day you were ever born-REPHRASE: rue the day you were ever conceived in that filthy barren hole that you call a home. RUE the day that your ancestors were ever born to give you your names; for I will personally curse them myself."

I just stood and stared. Impressed, frightened and shocked swirling through my head all at the same time. I had seen him angry before but there was only one word that described him now: enraged.

"If you don't get out of my valley the second I put you down then I will drag you to the Thread Of Hope and toss you over the bridge and wait to make sure I hear your skull crack thousands of meters below to ensure your death and that you will no longer be a threat to any of my students again."

His eyes were merely tiny slits now. "So, are we clear?"

The fox nodded, gulping and gasping for air once my master released him. The others just stood frozen in fear until Oogway took a threatening step forward; then they screamed like girls and took off down the dark alley.

Oogway sighed and closed his eyes, I could tell he was trying to restrain himself from running after them. He turned to me. "Are you alright, Shifu?"

I was crying-not just crying but sobbing. Huge tears rolled down my cheeks and soaked my face fur. I was crying for many reasons. One: I had almost lost my life to those creeps. Two: I knew that I had disobeyed and felt bad. Three: I was happy to be alive. Whenever I disobeyed (and it involved putting my life in danger) I would normally start cry and run to Oogway; clinging to him like a bur. He'd usually give me the comfort I wanted; and then, a lecture and punishment.

Oogway's glare immediately softened and he sighed heavily, walking over to me.

I finally sprung up from the spot I sat in, and clung to his robe; bawling.

My master rubbed my back gently; before hauling me up by the underarms. "Come on. Let's get back to the palace."

I handed my master his yuan back. He responded with a glare. "Shifu, you're grounded."

My face fell. I might have expected it; Oogway never punished me the way most masters would. He took the "parental" role of punishing and he'd normally just ground me from everything except training. I was the only one that was always punished! (But then, I disobeyed a lot.) Wu Lian was only punished when she heckled me. Ming Yang, Leona, Risu and Akimi were never punished. (They were always so good, I wondered what that was like but no one ever told me.)

"I'm sorry.. the food vendor that had oranges was at the end of the alley. You said you wanted oranges."

"Not at the expense of your life!" He snapped. "I could have waited a few weeks until they got a new shipment! Why Shifu, why would you do such a thing?"

I teared up and sniffled. "Sorry, what's my sentence?"

"Extra chores for a week and nothing else but training."

Again, I knew it was only fair, I was always disobeying him anyways. "Are you going to kick me out?"

He gave an exasperated sigh. "No! Why do you always think that? I will never EVER kick you out! You are my life, my student, my little Shifu and I will NEVER get rid of you!"

I smiled at that. "Thank you master..." I laid my head against his shoulder. My smile immediately faded.

"Oh nooo!"

"What?"

"I forgot to buy melon buns!"

He just sighed.

Po stared at Shifu in horror and grabbed him. "Oh, my gosh! Did you die?!"

Silence.

".....Oh."

Shifu smiled. "Now you in fact see my "devil" side. I am *not* a goody-goody."

"I should say so." Kurisu agreed. "Man, Oogway certainly chewed you out for that one."

"Yup." Shifu agreed. "But, you know what?"

"What?"

The red panda smirked. "My evilness originated from Oogway."

Everyone turned and stared at the so-called innocent tortoise; staring out the window.

"....He's plotting!" Po said with a loud gasp; everyone rolled their eyes.

(LOL! "He's plotting!" Man, I love Po. How did I do in the writing now? :D I tried my hardest to make Oogway bad- @\$\$ in this chapter, hehehe! ^^

Preview of the next chappie!

Kurisu sat on the tree branch, exhaling deeply and smiling. "I love this forest. It's so tranquil." She smiled over at Seina Suri. "Don't you love it here, Seina?"

Seian Suri gave a chirp of happiness. "Ehehe!"

Kurisu's cheerful thoughts were quickly interrupted as she felt someone's piercing gaze.

"What are you doing here?" A voice rasped.

21 - Anniversaries Of Sadness

(Little Shifu mourns over the anniversary of death in this chapter. Some cute Shifu/Oogway moments.)

"Hiya!" The kitten struck her foot out into the wall. "...Ouch."

Oogway sighed and rubbed his temples. "Kurusu, you aren't supposed to kick the wall; you'll break your foot!"

"...Oh."

"The point of the exercise is to kick everything *but* the wall."

"The wall is right in the way, though..." The kitten murmured.

Oogway laughed. "Perhaps you should sit down; your foot is swelling."

"Good idea." Giving a grunt of pain, Kurisu limped over to the bench and grumbled angrily. "Man, I am NEVER going to get the hang of this!"

Seina Suri blinked her little eyes rapidly and crawled next to the kitten on the bench. "Hehehe!"

Kurusu grinned and hugged the young white tiger. "Is my misery amusing to you, Seina?"

"Hehehe!"

The kitten smoothed Seina's fur. "Master Oogway, do you know where Master Shifu is?"

The old tortoise was quiet for a moment. "...He's not feeling well, Kurisu." *Well, that is the truth, I just didn't say what was wrong with him..*

"Not feeling well?" Kurisu looked alarmed. "What's wrong with him?"

"He, well..." *I can't lie to her.* "Today is the anniversary that something rather bad happened to him."

"Oh, what is it?" The kitten pressed.

"Today is the anniversary that his entire family was killed."

".....His entire family was *killed*?" She was shocked. "B-by who?"

Oogway took a deep and shuddering breath. "An enemy of ours: his name is Giao Xun."

"Giao Xun?" *Why does that name sound familiar?* "Giao Xun.....Giao Xun."

The old tortoise had his head bowed sadly and turned away from her. "It's quite sad for me too, I was close to a lot of Shifu's relatives.

Kurusu's mouth creased with sympathy. "Oh.."

Oogway took a deep breath and forced a smile on his face. "I'm going to go check up on him." He turned to Po. "Your kicks are getting better, Dragon Warrior; leg higher next time."

"Okay." Po said, cheerfully.

Oogway found Shifu at the edge of the cliff in front of the Sacred Peach Tree Of Heavenly Wisdom. His ears were far back, his eyes were wide and glassy, and his head was hanging low as he held a bouquet of flowers.

"I see you're carrying on the usual tradition."

Shifu's ears went up slightly from being startled. "Oh! Master, good evening.."

"How are you doing?" Oogway asked, his voice gentle and calm.

The red panda gave one of the saddest smiles that the old tortoise had ever seen. "Oh, been better."

He laughed sadly. "Way better..."

Oogway knew better than that; Shifu was too upset to even try pulling off the "been better." "Come now, it's me. I know you better than anyone else on this planet."

"....." The red panda turned away.

"Fu."

Shifu's eyes went as wide as they could go; he spun around to Oogway. Was he hearing right? Did Oogway really call him the name of endearment that the red panda was so sure had been dead and buried by now? "Wh-what did you call me?"

"I called you Fu." The old tortoise smiled. "Haven't you missed it as much as I have?"

Shifu was touched; a soft smile spread across his lips. "Yes. I feared that you would never call me it again."

"You don't think you're too "grown up" for it?"

"No." Shifu answered. That name had always been an endearment that had put emphasis on their relationship; and there was finally a relationship that they could put emphasis on. "I really have missed it." He smiled once more. "Hearing you call me that might make tonight less harder for me."

Oogway sighed and laid a hand on his shoulder. "I feel your pain..." He looked at his student in the eyes. "Are you ready?"

Shifu nodded slowly as he and Oogway got down on their knees and said a silent prayer for all the loved ones they had lost. Today was also the day that they honored Shei Lia; it was only a week before the anniversary of his family's death. Coincidentally, Shifu's father had been killed on the same day that the rest of his family had.

While holding hands, the two masters stood and took four flowers each. Each of them gently plucked the flower petals and tossed them off the cliff ledge; watching as the petals rose up swirling in the sky.

Shifu allowed a single tear to go down his cheek. To not shed a tear for his lost relatives would be highly disrespectful. He peered up and saw Oogway's eyes watering. The old tortoise gently laid his hand on the red panda's head; occasionally gently stroking his fingers over Shifu's forehead.

"Well, we better head back to the palace." Oogway said, sighing heavily.

Shifu nodded solemnly as he made his way to the training hall. He threw open the door.

"Shifu chan! Oh, Shifu chan! I'm so soooooorry!" Kurisu wailed as she ran up to him and threw her arms around him.

The red panda stood there awkwardly, patting her lightly on the back. "What's wrong, Kurisu?"

"Master Shifu, I'm so so sorry!"

"What, young one, what did you do NOW?" He groaned.

"Nothing, I'm sorry for you!"

"For what? What did I-" Then he stopped and glared up at Oogway. "You *told* her!" He hissed.

"She forced it out of me, I'm sorry! His looks was pleading.

Shifu glared at his master before smiling softly and shrugging. "Naw, I'm fine, Kurisu."

The kitten hesitated. "Are you sure? I can hug you again if you want.." She tried to hug him again but Shifu pushed her back.

"I don't want a hug.."

"Yeh-yeh!" Seina Suri squealed as she bounded across the room and pounced on the red panda.

"Ahh! Seina!" Shifu growled, as he tried to push the baby off his face. "Seina, go away!"

She responded by crawling up to him and nuzzling his face and stomach.

Shifu chuckled as the toddler crawled up and sat around his shoulders.

"Yeh!"

Oogway laughed. "Did she just call you "yeh"?"

"Unfortunately, yes.." The red panda groaned. "Do I look that old to you, master?"

The old tortoise raised his eyebrows. "Fu, you are talking to an 1000 year old turtle! So don't you DARE talk to me about being old!"

Shifu couldn't help by giggling slightly. "Sorry.." He said, sheepishly.

Oogway smiled. "You should consider Yeh-yeh as an endearment." He paused. "You called me it only a few times when you were a cub." He chuckled. "You used to say it in such a squeaky voice, too!"

Shifu laughed. "I had a squeaky voice?" He couldn't quite remember.

Kurusu joined the laugh. "But your voice is so deep, crackly, and hoarse.."

Shifu did a double take. "Waitasec-deep, crackly, hoarse?" He turned to Oogway. "I AM old!"

Oogway gave him a slap upside the head. "No, you're not!"

"My life is already half over!" He wailed. "You're lucky, yours is already over!"

The old tortoise blinked; before bursting out laughing. "And yet, I'm still here listening to you whine about your age. Why don't I just ascend back to heaven already?"

"Because according to YOU, we still need you for some reason." Kurisu said, simply.

"Indeed, you do." Oogway replied. "A very special reason.." He saw the questioning look on her face.

"That I can not yet discuss with you."

"Awwwwwww...."

Shifu looked confused. "Really, what reason could you possibly have to come back for?"

"All will be revealed in time, dear Fu."

Shifu gave an exasperated sigh. "You aren't going to tell me, are you?"

"Nope."

The red panda shrugged. "I expected that much.."

The kitten cocked her head. "Who's Fu?"

Oogway smiled. "It's a nick name I used to call Shifu when he was a cub."

"It's adorable!" Kurisu exclaimed. "Okay, so, do you call you Master Fu now?"

The old tortoise laughed.

Shifu narrowed his eyes. "Yes." He said in a sweet voice-*too* sweet. "Yes, you can call me that if you want me to give you dish duty until the day you die an agonizing death by hard labor and mourners bury you under the cold hard ground."

Oogway slapped him upside the head. "Be nice."

The kitten's eye twitched. "Uhhhh...I don't want that, thanks."

Kurusu nodded in agreement and scooped Seina Sui into her arms. {i}I still have to go see Tai chan.

"Master, may I take a walk in the Forest of Tranquility?"

Shifu frowned. "What for?"

Uh-oh. "No reason, I just want to take a talk."

"Alright, be back in no more than an hour. Got that?"

"Yup! Ummm...I'm going to grab a little picnic lunch."

Shifu immediately looked suspicious. "For what?"

"Huh? Oh! Uhhh....well..it's nice to eat under the moonlight!"

Oogway nodded in agreement. "I completely agree, go and have fun, Kurisu."

Seina Suri giggled and began pulling her mother towards the door. "Fun!"

The old tortoise turned to Shifu. "Well, what do you want to do?" A slightly evil smirk came to his face.

Some training, perhaps?"

Shifu laughed. "Right! You think I'm THAT dumb? I know you! There is no way I'm going to train with you!" He hesitated. "At least not unless I cover my entire body with pillows!"

The old master rolled his eyes and poked Shifu on the nose. "Wimp."

The red panda wasn't having any of that. "Ohhoho, so I'm a wimp, am I?" In a swift motion he kicked at Oogway's legs and he almost fell back. "Bring. It. On."

Oogway gave a smirk and walked forward to his student. "You REALLY shouldn't have done that.."

Shifu's ears fell back against his head and he gave a high pitched whimper. *Crap!* "No, no, no, no! Master Oogway, stay back!" As the red panda backed away slowly, his hand reached for something that may be able to save himself. "Stand back, don't come any closer! I've got....a stuffed bunny??" *Bigger crap!* "Kurusu, I KNEW you'd be the death of me!"

Tail twitching playfully, Oogway crouched and got ready to pounce. Shifu's whimper became more high pitched as he covered his eyes, expecting the worst. The old tortoise grinned slyly. "I'd say you're more the wimp now, my dear Fu." With that, he pounced. Meanwhile, Kurisu and little Seina Suri were making their way towards the forest. "Eee?" Seina Suri asked her mother. "We're going to go see Tai chan, Seina." "Eee?" "We're going to bring him a picnic basket." "..Yeh!" The kitten laughed. "You really love Shifu, don't you?" The tiger cub clapped her hands. "Ehehe!" Kurisu looked thoughtful. "I love him too. Other than Mr. Ping, Shifu's been like my baba. You know?" Seina Suri shook her head and Kurisu giggled. "Of course you don't know, you're only a little baby!" The tiger cub was quiet for a moment. "Yeh..?" "When we get back." Kurisu promised. "Shifu probably wants to be alone right now. Either that, or he's doing something with Oogway. We're going to see Tai chan right now, okay?" Seina nodded and gurgled happily. "Tee!" "Um, you're too young to drink tea!" "Tee!" The cub cried, pointing to the tree Tai Lung usually sat on. "Ohhhh....tree!" Kurisu laughed.. "That makes more sense!" Seina Suri was already climbing up the steady wood. "Wait for me, Seina!" The kitten followed her cub, clinging onto a branch and pulling herself up. The tiger cub pointed to the ground. "High!" "That's right, we are high up." Kurisu sat on the tree branch, exhaling deeply and smiling. "I love this forest. It's so tranquil." She smiled over at Seina Suri. "Don't you love it here, Seina?" Seina Suri gave a chirp of happiness. "Ehehe!" Kurisu's cheerful thoughts were quickly interrupted as she felt someone's piercing gaze. "What are you doing here?" A voice rasped

(Hehehe, another cliffie! ^^ Who do you think it is?)

Preview of the next chappy!

The dark shadows seemed to be the only thing that Shifu could see. The only thing that welcomed the red panda.

Shifu trembled with fright and from the cold wind. A shroud of black mist swarmed around his head, he could only hear a low jeering laugh in the distance. The red panda squinted hard against the swarming fog and tried to see the dark shapes that were on the ground. From under the ashen shadows, lay a puddle of crimson blood.

It was only then that the fear struck Shifu's heart. Was it a dream? Or, was it reality?