

7- Negotiations

Von Gravitas

Kapitel 5: Mai

“Brrrr.”

There’s been an unexpected wave of cold weather, and although the warmth of the house wraps around you as soon as you’ve closed the door, you’re still shivering as you take off your coat. “Tell me again why we had to go out today?”

Grinning, Jou takes both of your jackets and throws them on a chair nearby. At home, you’d be giving him a lecture about tidiness just about now, but really, nobody seems to be bothered by it in this house. “Because you love your daughter and you wanted to see her play, even if you still think that cello is the most boring instrument in the history of mankind.”

Thankfully, Rory isn’t actually there to hear him, she stayed behind to make the rounds of the school fair with some of her friends. One of the other parents is going to drop her off at home later. “Right. Speaking of which, I wonder what our other kid has been up to.”

You don’t have to wait long for an answer: right on cue, Ash bursts out of the kitchen, his tiny arms smeared with some sticky orange substance that has you worried for a second, until Yugi emerges behind him, a freshly carved pumpkin under his arm.

“Welcome back. How was the recital?”

“Oh, well, you know...” You want to be supportive of your daughter, you really do. It’s just that you have absolutely zero sense for classical music.

“It was lovely.” Anzu chimes in from behind you. “Sorry we didn’t see you guys there. We ran a bit late and had to get seats in the back, but we were right on time to hear Rory play. She’s talented, you should consider getting her a private teacher.” It becomes clear who she means by ‘we’ when Kaiba – oh, you suppose you’ll have to start calling him ‘Seto’, now – enters behind her. He doesn’t comment on her assessment of the school recital, but from the way he draws her to him and buries his face in her hair, he doesn’t really seem to mind having spent the last two hours of his precious time that way.

Just then, Mokuba calls from the kitchen – “Dinner’s ready!” – and Yugi starts to

explain how Ash and he messed up a pumpkin or two, so they had to destroy the evidence by making soup. In the midst of all this, you doubt anyone but Anzu notices, but she definitely catches your eye when you raise your eyebrows and mouth a silent "See? I told you so."