

Love

The four steps to achieve it

Von abgemeldet

Kapitel 2: Admit it

Chapter 2:
Admit it

I crack one eye open and realize I'm lying on a cold stone floor. I get up grumpily and find myself standing in the middle of a small stone house.

I look outside the window and have to rub my eyes to make sure I'm not hallucinating.

All I can see is sand, sand and even more sand. I reach up to scratch my head, but feel a soft fabric instead. A strange hood is covering my head and I'm wearing a long cape that reaches down to the ground.

I step out of the house and see a ruined town. The different houses are damaged and palms are lying on the ground, withered and broken.

Suddenly I can hear voices from far away. I walk into the direction the voices come from and soon I can see a group of people, some sitting on stones, some standing.

One of them spots me, a tall guy with tanned skin and I can see green hair sneaking out from under the hood he's wearing.

Again this feeling, I felt in that other world, flashes through my mind and my body doesn't only belong to me anymore.

I reach to my back and pull out two swords from a bag I'm carrying. The man approaching me holds three swords in his hands himself and I get ready to fight him, if necessary.

"Don't come near me!" I scream. "I don't want to fight anymore. I fought so often lately and I'm sick of it."

The green haired man stops immediately and eyes me suspiciously.

He sheathes his swords and I do the same, slowly. The others gather around the two of us and I observe all of them carefully.

Next to the swordsman stands a man with blonde hair, a cigarette in his mouth. Behind him cowers a guy who reminds me of Pinocchio, with his long, weird looking nose.

Then there are two girls, one with blue hair and one with orange hair. To their feet I spot a little creature, wearing a big, red hat. It's an elk, I think.

Next to them stands a boy with black hair and a scar under his left eye, wearing a straw hat.

Another person stands far behind the group. A man, with black hair, wearing an orange hat.

"Who are you?" the orange haired girl asks.

"My name's Reena. I'm wandering around for a long time now. I reached Alabasta about two weeks ago. Then I came here, to Elumalu, to get some food and water, before I go on with my journey. But some guys attacked the town. They killed all the villagers they could lay their hands on and destroyed the houses. I wanted to fight them, but they were too many. I couldn't do anything..." I trail off and clench my fists.

"These bastards," I hear one of the boys speak up.

"How can they do this? The people of Alabasta don't deserve something like this," the blue haired girl says.

"Do you want to come with us? We're on the way to the king, in Alubana." the boy with the straw hat asks me. I look at him and blink a few times.

"Oh man, we didn't even introduce ourselves!" He smacks his head with one hand.

"Well, well, then I'll do it. That guy with the grim face and the three swords is Zoro. The blonde guy with the cigarette is Sanji. He's our cook. The boy with the weird nose is Usopp and that little elk behind him is Chopper, our doctor. The girl with the orange hair is Nami and the other girl is Vivi. That guy there," he points behind himself "is my brother, Ace and I am Luffy."

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After walking through the desert for about two hours we reach a spot with big rocks. We decide to rest between them for a while and eat something.

Luffy rummages through the bags, searching for some food. Sanji yells at him and the swordsman tries to stop the struggle between the two of them.

"Zoro, I'm starving! I wanna eat something!" The straw hat whines.

I can see a hint of a smile on the green haired man's face, but it's gone as soon as it has appeared.

"Sanji, give that dumbass something to eat or he won't stop nagging for the next few hours."

"Thank you, Zoro!"

With that Luffy jumps at the swordsman and hugs him. Zoro looks shocked for a moment, but he doesn't seem to dislike the hugging thing.

"Get off me, idiot!"

Suddenly the ground starts trembling and the sand is heaving. A big, and I mean big, lizard appears in front of us. The girls and Usopp start screaming and Luffy jumps to his feet.

"I can handle this." He jumps at the lizard screaming "Gomu gomu ba..." but he didn't see the long tail of this thing approach him. The tail hits him and Luffy flies through the air and smacks into the stonewall.

"Luffy!" The others scream and Zoro is the first one to arrive at the injured boy.

He takes Luffy into his arms and carries him out of the lizard's reach, while Ace attacks the big creature. A huge flame appears, hits the monster and the next second it's overpowered and falls to the ground.

We hurry over to Zoro and Luffy, who's lying on the ground, the swordsman talking to the boy in his arms.

"Come on Luffy, you wouldn't want to be killed by such a stupid beast, would you?" Zoro looks anxious. Luffy groans and the next moment he opens his eyes.

"Zoro." The group releases a sigh and Zoro hugs the boy close. As soon as he realizes what he's doing he let go of the boy.

"Idiot, why do you have to scare us like that?!" Zoro grumbles, trying to sound angry with the boy.

"Sorry you all. But I'm all right." Luffy gets up, but slumps down to the ground again, holding his side. "Itte..."

"What is it?" Nami asks.

"My side hurts. But it's not that bad." Luffy has a painful expression on his face and Zoro grabs the boy's shoulders and pushes him down, so he lies on his back.

"What are you doing, Zoro?" Luffy asks puzzled.

"You should rest for a while. We'll stay here for tonight so you can recover."

"That's not necessary. I'm fine..."

"You're not," Zoro cuts the boy off, a bit too forceful.

'hmpf' is Luffy's only response as he crosses his arms in front of his chest and pouts..

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It's getting dark and most of the crewmembers already settled down to sleep. We made a little fire, since it's damn cold in the desert at night.

Zoro volunteered to watch over Luffy and the others didn't want to argue with the swordsman.

From where I was lying I could see the green haired man, sitting cross-legged in front of the sleeping boy. He watches Luffy for a long time, before he gets up and lies down next to him. He pulls off his own cape and covers the straw hat with it.

I move to lie on my back and look at the sky. I see thousands of stars sparkle above me and have to smile. After lying there for about half an hour I get up and walk over to where Zoro and Luffy are lying on the ground.

I hear them snoring and look down at them, standing at their feet.

Zoro's body spoons the boy's one, the swordsman's left arm encircling Luffy's waist. The boy's face is buried into Zoro's shoulder and his hand grasps the green haired man's shirt.

I smile and lean down to hear Zoro whisper something.

"to... just to keep him warm... will freeze to death... idiot."

I lean over to whisper into Zoro's ear. "Admit it."

And the world starts fading again until there's only darkness left and my mind gets clouded once again...

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