

Best Man Steals the Bride

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Best Man Steals the Bride

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Summary

Poor Hojo. He used to be a normal guy but, completely absorbed in his pity over losing Kagome, he's driving his friends nuts! Inuyasha decides that if he wants his friend back, something must be done. Too bad destiny thinks irony is funny.

The Good Samaritan

Now that I am trying to remaster my old fics (Update them and make them better), now is the time to go through this, update it, and let the Inuyasha community have it back.

Quick notes: Harry Potter did not have all it's books out yet. If there is outdated technology mentioned, then I will preserve it. I am just toning it up, mostly with grammar correction, not changing the original flavor. Enjoy.

Another Quick Note: I am practicing my illustrative skill! For this story, there will be two versions, the written above and the same version with photo illustrations. Read either one.:) From now on, I would like to have both versions on each new chapter if I can for this story.

Day: Wednesday

Time: 11:46 a.m.

Place: YKU's Cafeteria.

Kagome performed the two tasks she often did at lunch times at Yamaguchi Kappai University. Carry a tray while trying to get away from Hojo. "Really, Hojo, I gotta go."

"But," Hojo begged, "please come sit with us? I could sit with you? The guys and I could all come sit with you?" he added while he grabbed her hand.

Kagome tried not to topple her food. "Hojo. I'm eating with my friends. You go eat with your own friends."

Hojo looked at Kagome longingly as he let go of her. He watched her sit in her usual seat with her friends. "Damn."

Inuyasha chewed his sandwich and watched his friend make an idiot of himself. Eventually, the depressed man came back to his seat and looked miserably at his empty tray. He hadn't even bothered to fill it yet. Inuyasha couldn't take it any more. His friend used to be great to hang out with. He glared at the woman that had screwed his buddy Racoon up so bad. "Bitch, Bitch, Bitch." He took a bite of his sandwich. "Hey Racoon?"

Hojo glanced at him, his eyes still like a lost pet.

"Why don't you just *munch**munch* give up on that stupid Bitch already?" Inuyasha asked as he continued to eat his sandwich.

Hojo sighed as he layed his head on the table. "She is so special," He watched Kagome laugh at something her friend Yuka had said.

Inuyasha just scoffed. *Keh* "Yeah, no kidding." He whispered to his friend Miroku. "She changed Hojo from a normal warm-blooded male to a desperate sappy moron."

"I heard that." Hojo groaned. "I don't care anymore. She's all I need." He banged his head on the table repeatedly. "What *bam* an *bam* idiot *bam* I *bam* am!"

Miroku patted his friend's shoulder as he drank his milk. "You should forget her. She's never going to go out with you again."

Hojo lifted his head. "She eventually will."

Inuyasha just shook his head while finished off his sandwich. "That's what you said a month and a half ago. Give it up already. Your 'last chance' time is over."

"I can't. I just can't." Hojo looked at his empty tray. "This tray symbolizes my life."

"Philosophy now? Hojo man, geez." Inuyasha pointed over to Kagome who had been getting up to put her tray away. "Look at her. What does she even got? She's not real sexy, she's hardly got a chest, she's just... *well, actually she does have a nice....stop that. Trying to convince Hojo here.* ...she's just an average run of the mill chick."

"Inuyasha is right," Miroku said to Hojo's groan. "She is no more special than all the women who ogle you right now."

"Hoj'? I gotta say this," Inuyasha said as he started to eat his potato. "You are pathetic."

Kagome tried to stop being annoyed by all the eyes staring at her from Hojo's table.

"Kagome?" Ayumi asked, obviously realizing Kagome's problem. "Hojo does seem different. Maybe you should give the jerk another chance? He probably learned his lesson and won't ever cheat on you again."

Kagome looked over at her friend, Endo Ayumi . They weren't the closest of friends and didn't share too much in common. Ayumi was more of 'the friend of a friend', but they did get along okay most of the time. Kagome brought out some of her homework. "No Ayumi. We are over. I've told him that we are just friends now. That's it and that's all."

"Yeah, but we really think he might be loyal this time," Eri added.

Kagome cringed at her friend Arai Eri's answer. Eri was more of a friend than Yuka, but currently she wasn't helping Kagome since she had also become friends with Fukazawa Hojo. "Loyal, yeah but, I don't know. The guy is just . . ."

"Just what?" Eri asked as she bit into her sandwich again.

Kagome tried to focus on her homework. "He proposed to me this morning."

"What?!" Sango, Yuka, Eri and Ayumi all shouted in surprise.

"Yeah," Kagome muttered. "When I came downstairs he was right there. In a tuxedo, on one knee, and everything. It was so embarrassing." She shuddered as she remembered the horror all over again.

"Geez. Kagome," Yuka said in disbelief. "He actually wants to marry you?"

"Yeah," Kagome muttered as she looked at Yuka. Narita Yuka. Next to Sango, one of her closest friends. They had two classes together and they were usually partners in them. They became friends when she first came to college two years ago. Actually, all of Higurashi Kagome's friends she met in her first year at the College. All except Yamada Sango. That friend she had known ever since grade school.

Dang, Kagome thought in frustration as she chewed on the bottom of her pencil. *These problems are the worst. I hate College Algebra.* Kagome looked over at Sango. She was about to ask her best friend something when-

"Take it!" Ayumi and Eri shouted happily at the same time.

Kagome looked at her two currently unstable friends. "Excuse me?"

"Come on Kagome," Ayumi pleaded. "You two went out for like three years. Kagome, proposals don't just fall out of the sky. Accept it and live happily ever after."

Kagome shook her head with wisdom. "He'd just cheat on me again."

"Kagome. Listen to reason," Eri continued. "Hojo. Proposal. Girl, he loves you! I bet he'd rather lose an appendage than ever cheat on you again."

Kagome looked over and saw a strange smile on Sango. *I doubt that's from imagining us together.* She looked back at her homework and entered into the black hole abyss that was her math. Kagome took the pencil out of her mouth. She had just bitten off a piece of the eraser. Yuck. *Let's face it, I need help.* She gazed over at Sango pleadingly. Ever since the second grade Sango could help with anything. From boys to algebra to her simply daily troubles. "Sango, I need help."

Sango seemed to be perplexed. "It's your life, Kagome, but if he does cheat on you again, I will be the one ripping off an appendage. I will choose which appendage he will lose."

Kagome looked back at Sango, puzzled. *Oh yeah. We had been talking about Hojo.* "Umm, no, Sango. I was talking about this." She raised the math paper to Sango's face. "Do you think it's 5a/b or 10a/b?"

Her friends all sweatdropped.

"You mean . . ." Eri sighed. "You won't even consider it?"

Kagome gave them a disgusted look. "Marry Fukazawa Hojo? Yuck. I don't even date him anymore, remember?"

Eri still didn't seem like she'd believe it. "You mean, the guy proposed to you and you still won't even give him a second chance?"

"Right," Kagome said, not caring if her friends approved of her actions or not. "Now, will someone please help me with this?" she asked as she waved her paper again. "I think it's 5a/b but I just don't know!"

"YOU DID WHAT?!"

"She told me no and that we're only friends," Hojo said sadly.

Inuyasha crossed his arms and muttered, "You idiot, giving up on your freedom like that."

"That . . . why?" Miroku asked, too shocked to say anything else.

"Because I need her. I-she's just-I can't stand it!" Hojo banged the table with his fist. "Geez, I-I don't know what I'll do if someone else gets her."

Inuyasha glanced at the woman Hojo was madly in love with. The woman he had dubbed 'The Bitch'. "Then, we won't let her."

Hojo looked up at Inuyasha. "What?"

"We won't let her." Inuyasha grinned wickedly. "We'll just 'persuade' all her admirers to stay away."

Miroku stared at Inuyasha. "That's barbaric."

"Tch. So?" Inuyasha said. "If Hojo doesn't get back with 'the Bitch' sooner or later, than he's just gonna lie around and be miserable his whole life. And that I can't stand. Neither can you, you know it."

Hojo looked back at Kagome as she and her friends were leaving. "Beat up everyone who likes Kagome . . ."

Miroku thought about what Inuyasha said. He really couldn't stand the whim his friend had become. "I suppose it's a good samaritan act, from a certain point of view."

Hojo looked back at Miroku and Inuyasha with hope. "Do you mean it? Would you really do this for me?"

Inuyasha shrugged his shoulders. "Yeah, yeah. What are friends for?"

Hojo smiled. "Thanks guys! Okay, right now I can name at least six guys who are close to her."

Time: 2:00 P.M.

Place: Guys' Bathroom

*Splash**Flush*

"Okay, okay, I won't!"

"Won't what?" Inuyasha demanded of his victim as he stuffed his head in the toilet stool again. Sure, a swirlie was a juvenile thing to do. He knew that, but for this particular fella, it could be traumatizing according to Hojo's information.

Flush

"I won't ask her out! I'll never even talk to her! Or look at her, I promise!" the poor victim Robun spouted.

"And who is her?" Hojo shouted from behind Inuyasha.

"Kagome! Higurashi Kagome!" Robun yelled out. "I'll never even think about her again, I swear!"

Inuyasha brought the poor guy out of the stall while Miroku handed him a towel. Robun grabbed the towel quickly and took off.

"That's right," Hojo shouted. "Don't you ever forget that promise!"

Inuyasha and Miroku grinned at each other. Their friend was starting to get back to normal.

"Well, Mr. Wimpy is finally getting some of his spunk back," Inuyasha declared. "You want the honor of taking out the next guy then?"

Hojo smirked. "You bet. No one's getting near my Kagome again."

Time: 4:26 P.M.

Place: Student Union College Hall

Kagome stopped off by the local snack shop inside the University. She was in the middle of purchasing some Keebler's Club crackers and a bottle of Dr. Pepper when she spotted her friend Koboyashi Robun. She waved at him as he passed by but he didn't even give her a courteous smile. That was strange, she thought as she took her items and headed off to Sango's Human Development Class. That's really strange, she thought as she began eating a cracker. *The moment Robun always sees me, he runs over to me and starts to talk. I wonder if something's wrong with him?* As Kagome got closer to the building Sango's class was in, she saw her friend sitting on the bench. "Hi, Sango. Ready to go home for the day?"

Sango put her bookbag on the ground, pulled up it's handle and rolled it as they walked. "Definitely. Can you come over and help me with something though?"

Kagome was about to reply with a yes when two figures walked out in front of her. "Yes?"

Inuyasha smirked. "Hey there Miss Bitch. Notice something different in your day?"

Kagome noticed an old friend behind Inuyasha and Miroku. "Hi Zenko. How's your day going?"

Zenko froze in his place as he looked at Inuyasha and Miroku. "I-I-I-I didn't say anything to her!" He shouted as he dropped all his books and ran away.

Kagome just stood there. *First Robun, now Zenko?* "What's going on?"

Inuyasha started to laugh. "Oooh, I think the Bitch finally figured it out."

Sango and Kagome both looked at Inuyasha and Miroku displeased.

"What do you mean?" Kagome asked. "Kikuchi, right? You're Hojo's friend, aren't you?"

"Wow." Inuyasha looked back at Miroku. "Jeopardy smart, isn't she?"

Kagome humphed. "What have you been doing to my friends?"

Miroku and Inuyasha both just shared a look.

Inuyasha crossed his arms. "Us? We didn't do nothing. It seems that some of the idiots here are just realizing what a cold-hearted Bitch you are, that's all."

Sango pushed the handle down on her backpack and held the back of it threateningly in her hand. "Who do think you are, calling my friend a Bitch?"

Inuyasha smirked at her. "A person who says the obvious."

Kagome frowned. "What are you trying to do? Get to the point already."

"We believe," Miroku reasoned, "that you've been a little too harsh on our friend, and that you should give him a second chance."

"I told him," Kagome stated firmly, "that I'm not marrying him."

"Well, I hope you don't," Inuyasha grunted. "We want you to be his girlfriend again, not suck the life out of him even more."

Kagome turned her back on the guys. "I've told him 100 times already. We are just friends."

Sango nodded her head and they both walked the opposite way.

Inuyasha kicked a rock near the sidewalk. "That heartless Bitch," he shouted as he cracked his knuckles one by one. "When we're done with her, she'll literally be crawling back to Racoon."

Day: Thursday

Time: 7:57 A.M.

Place: YKU College Hall Abe

Kagome tried to ignore all the suspicious looks she was getting from people as she was going in.

"Doesn't that look like her?"

"I think it is."

"Yeah, I'm pretty sure it is."

Kagome continued to ignore everyone until she saw Sango ripping a piece of paper off a far off wall. "Sango?"

Sango smiled nervously at her as she tried to hide that same paper. "Hello Kagome. How are you?"

Kagome didn't buy into her greeting. "I know people have looked at me funny on the way out. Sango, what is it?"

Sango cringed as she gave the piece of paper to her friend. "I'm sorry. I don't think many people saw it yet."

Kagome gasped as she looked at it. It was a picture of her looking happily out her window. Underneath it said:

LOST BITCH

REWARD FOR ANYONE WHO FINDS THIS BITCH. BE CAREFUL, DO NOT GO NEAR HER! SHE CAN MAKE YOUR BLOOD GO COLD WITH HER HEART OF ICE. ONE VICTIM HAS ALREADY BEEN CLAIMED

IF FOUND, PLEASE CALL THE LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER.

Kagome ripped up the paper but her troubles didn't end there. When she went back to her dorm after her second class and checked her mail, there was another copy. Then when she went to her third class, there was one taped on the front of her desk.

But lunchtime, was the last straw.

All About Cookies

Best Man Steals the Bride
Chapter Two: All About the Cookies

Time: 11:56 A.M.

Place: KYU's Cafeteria.

Kagome and her friends got their trays prepared and walked over to their usual seats. While there though, Kagome's horrible picture found them again.

"This is outrageous," Sango said.

"You know it's Hojo and his friends, don't you?" Yuka asked Kagome.

"Most likely," Kagome said with a grumble.

Sango placed her tray down roughly. "I don't get it. I mean, Hojo never even showed you the right kind of attention until you caught him cheating and dumped him. Now that you don't want the guy back, you are supposed to be the villain?" She looked over at the grinning faces of Inuyasha, Miroku, and Hojo. "Let me at them Kagome, I still have four of my heaviest books in this bookbag."

Kagome waved her off. "Settle down, Girl." She grabbed her tray, stood up and smiled at the guys. "I never wanted to say this to Hojo but he's left me no choice. I'll be back soon."

Hojo's longing grin suddenly became brighter as Kagome walked over to him. "Kagome?"

Kagome looked at the empty seat beside Hojo. "May I sit down?"

Inuyasha groaned. "Don't shed."

"Please don't mind him," Hojo quickly said as he stood up. "Please, please sit down."

Miroku smiled at her. "A wise choice."

Kagome looked over at Hojo, ignoring Miroku's statement. "Hojo?"

"Yes?" Hojo smiled as he sat back down.

Kagome looked at Inuyasha and Miroku. Miroku and Hojo's smiles were so bright, it was sickening. Then there was Kikuchi who didn't seem to care one way or another. All of their expressions would be changing soon. "These two are your best friends, right, Hojo?"

"Yes, very good friends." Hojo agreed.

"Then when we were together, why didn't you ever properly introduce any of us?" Kagome asked.

"Oh?" He pointed to Inuyasha and Miroku. "Well, that's Kikuchi Inuyasha and that's Yamazaki Miroku."

"Pleasure to meet you.," Miroku said politely.

Inuyasha just grunted.

Kagome didn't reply to their responses as she ate her carrot. "No, Hojo, I mean why didn't you introduce them before?"

Hojo's smile started to melt into a nervous laugh. "I-I didn't think you wanted to know them."

Inuyasha and Miroku looked back at the squirming Hojo.

"Hojo. They were your best friends. Why wouldn't I want to know them?" Kagome asked.

"Come to think of it, she does have a point," Miroku pointed out. "Why didn't you ever introduce us?"

"Yeah," Inuyasha wondered too.

Hojo looked apologetically back at Miroku and Inuyasha. "Look, Guys, she's just not the 'type' of girls you hung out with, that's all." He looked at Kagome, praying she didn't take offense.

"Hojo?" Kagome put down her carrot and started to drink her glass of milk.

"Yes?" Hojo said politely. "Kagome, what is it?"

"Thanks for answering my question. I had always wondered about that," she said. "Now there's just one other thing I have to ask you." Kagome put down her milk and stared at Hojo. "Did you know what your friends were doing, to make me come back to you?"

"..."

"Hojo?"

"No," Hojo weakly said.

Kagome stood up with her tray. "You are still a horrible liar, Fukazawa."

Hojo looked nervous. "It was out of love?"

Kagome shook her head. "You are right about one thing though. Us being friends. I think you were right, that we can't just stay friends."

Hojo's eyes grew wide with hope. "You mean, you'll still come back to me?"

"No." Kagome glared at him. "I mean I can't stand even being friends with you anymore." She turned to walk away. "Get this through your head. I will never be your wife, I will never be your girlfriend, and after everything you and your friends just pulled?"

Hojo tried to close his ears. He didn't want to hear it, but she made sure he did.

"I will never be your friend ever again, Mr. Fukazawa," she finished as she walked back to her friends' usual table.

Time: 1:30 P.M

Place: Hojo's apartment

Hojo kept staring at his wall as he kept bouncing the ball off of it.

"Come on, Raccoon, pull yourself together!" Inuyasha shouted in frustration. "There are a 1,000 more beautiful women out in this world just waiting to be discovered. Why is it that you've got to pine over some unsexy goody two shoes?"

Hojo remained silent and didn't ever break in bouncing his ball off the wall.

Inuyasha and Miroku just hung their heads.

Miroku looked over at Inuyasha. "I think we've lost him."

Inuyasha just grumbled his agreement.

"Why," Hojo started to mutter as he continued bouncing his little ball. "Why'd I ever...?"

Miroku looked sympathetically back at his love-shattered friend. "As Rowland once said 'In love, somehow, a man's heart is either exceeding the speed limit, or getting parked in the wrong place'."

"Wrong place?" Inuyasha scoffed as he pointed out his incoherent mumbling friend. "He parked his heart in a fifteen-minute zone and instead of getting a ticket for taking too long, she hauled him off to jail."

Miroku shrugged his shoulders. "Love is fickle." He looked at his watch. "My time to help Hojo has long since passed. I must head home."

"Yeah, help." Inuyasha glared at him. "All you've been doing is throwing love quotes here and there." He turned away from Miroku. "That crap only works for girls." Miroku ignored him as he left out the door.

Hojo continued to play with the ball. "She was everything and now, we can't even be friends." Hojo stopped playing with his ball and tossed it over to Inuyasha. "Did I ever tell you why I went out with her in the first place?"

Inuyasha tossed the ball onto Hojo's bed. "No, but I bet you're gonna tell me," he muttered.

Hojo landed on his bed next to the ball and stared at the ceiling. "She's unique. So special. I didn't know that at first though. A guy from my college bet me 200 dollars that I couldn't land Kagome."

"Land the bitch?" Inuyasha questioned.

"Yeah." Hojo sighed as he threw the ball up and down into the air. "I never did though. Instead...." he smiled nostalgically. "Instead I found out what a won-"

"Wonderful and perfect being she is," Inuyasha finished for him. "Yeah, yeah." *Like we haven't heard that a thousand times already.*

Hojo threw the ball on the floor. "I messed up bad."

Inuyasha walked over and hit Hojo on the head. "Dammit, will you stop feeling sorry for yourself already." He headed toward the door. "She's not special. That bitch is no more special than every other woman in this world." Hojo didn't reply as Inuyasha angrily left.

Best chick in the world. Sheesh. What a bunch of crap, Inuyasha muttered to himself as walked away from Hojo's apartment. "What's so special about this dumb broad?"

"Inuyasha!"

Speaking of way better babes. Inuyasha grinned as one of his old girlfriends came running toward him. "Hey there, Baby."

"Hi!" she giggled as she chewed on the gum in her mouth. She twirled her fingers around her long blonde hair. "You weren't home," she pouted, "so I figured you were gone."

"...yeah..."

She lit up again. "You were at Hojo's place again, weren't you?"

Inuyasha looked at Hojo's apartment that was still behind him. "Yeah, good guess."

"Inu-baby?" she whined. "Can we go somewhere? I'm bored."

"Umm. Okay, just one second." Inuyasha took out his cellphone to call his other girlfriend. "Hey, I can't meet you tonight, Baby." She made pouty sounds asking why not and he said he forgot night classes." When he hung up, the girlfriend in front of him asked her who that had been. "My mom."

"You're playing with me! People don't call their mom, Baby!"

Inuyasha scratched his head and smiled a brilliant, innocent, and very deceiving smile. "Oh, yeah. Well, I was speaking to my new baby brother too."

"Oh?" she asked as she knocked on the top of her head. "Okay, now it makes sense."

Inuyasha just as he swung his arm around...*Angelina? Angelica?* No wait. Angelica was who he called. Well, he swung his arm around who ever she was and started to walk down the street.

Time: 3:23 P.M.

Place: Ito Hall

Inuyasha walked proudly to his next class while Hojo slumped miserably beside him. *Come on, where is she?* Inuyasha grumbled to himself. Sure, he was Hojo's friend but the guy was currently driving him crazy.

"Oh, Hojo!" A voice suddenly screamed at Hojo, waking him up out of his stupor.

Heh. Right on time. Inuyasha grinned as the girl sailed into Hojo and well... Inuyasha chuckled. There was just no other word than he could think of but glomp.

Hojo tried to pry away the girl clinging onto him. "What are you doing?" He looked desperately at Inuyasha.

Inuyasha just waved goodbye to his old friend. "Have fun, Racoon. See ya tomorrow." Racoon called for him again but Inuyasha just shrugged his shoulders. "She'll eventually let go. Bye," he said as he walked off.

"Hojo! I heard what that mean Higura-whatsis said to you," she pouted as she rubbed Hojo's cheek. "Your friend told me that you needed company now. Well, I can be really good company."

Hojo beamed red. "Inuyasha?"

Inuyasha laughed and ran off. "Give her a whirl, she'll do ya some good!"

As Inuyasha was running someone squealed out his name. He looked behind her and saw a woman with short brown hair holding a small container of something. "Hey, Cookie."

Cookie smiled and handed him her container. "Your Cookie made cookies for you, Inu-kun!"

Inuyasha reluctantly took the gift. *Great. Probably burnt or something.* "I'll eat it later. I gotta hurry and get to class."

"You want to go out tonight?" She yelled as Inuyasha ran off again.

"Maybe. Wait by your phone tonight," Inuyasha yelled back as he ran into his World History classroom.

Time: 6:26 P.M.

Place: Ito Hall/World History classroom

Inuyasha grumbled as he tried to concentrate on the bubble sheet in front of him. 'Shit. I forgot about this damn test.' He looked around and realized everyone was gone except for him and the teacher.

The teacher got up and started to pack up his books. "Time."

Inuyasha cursed as he filled in the last remaining bubbles. "Fine, I'm done," he grumbled as he handed the paper over to the teacher. He got his things together and touched his stomach as he left the classroom. *Why am I always hungry after tests?*

He walked out into the hall and sat down on the floor next to another classroom. He had promised Candy that he would take her home tonight. He felt around inside his backpack for the cookies his other girlfriend had made. As long as he was waiting, then he should eat his stomach said to him logically as it growled again.

He took a few bites and finished off the first few cookies and watched some other students leaving their own night class. That's also when he saw someone he didn't really care to see.

Kagome groaned as she stopped and looked at the glare Inuyasha was sending toward her. "Hello, Mr. Kikuchi."

Inuyasha stuck another cookie in his mouth, but his stomach wasn't doing any better. It had started to feel a little worse. "Bitch."

Kagome looked away to the woman's bathroom behind her. "I do have a name."

"Yeah. Bitch," Inuyasha said.

Kagome turned back to look at him angrily. "What exactly do you expect of me? To go back to a guy who cheated on me?"

"Tch. It was just one broad." Inuyasha said miserably. Man, his tummy was beginning to hurt. "That's barely cheating."

Kagome just sighed. "I'm going home."

"Grab your collar so the dog catcher doesn't get you," Inuyasha said as he stopped eating the cookies and rubbed his poor stomach.

Kagome mumbled something under her breath.

"What?" Inuyasha asked.

"I said, you're giving bad references considering your own nick name."

"Yeah? You got a problem with my na-" Inuyasha couldn't finish his statement. He quickly covered his mouth and made for the bathroom behind Kagome.

Kagome looked back at the swinging door. "Mr. Kikuchi?" She called out as she suddenly heard violent retching. *Ooh, that doesn't sound good.*

"Inuyasha, I'm ready!" Candy yelled out as she ran out of her classroom with her red hair bobbing up and down. She looked over at Kagome. "Hello," she smiled. "Have you seen little Inu-kins?"

Kagome pointed to the bathroom behind her. She was about to tell Candy he was currently not in the mood to talk, but the girl had nudged her out of the way and ran in. "Silly Yasha. What're you doing in a girl's-oh so eww!"

Kagome just watched as the girl bolted out at full speed and stood behind her.

"Oh, gross! Gross, gross gross! He's got yucky puke all over and-ewwww!" She crossed her arms. "I'm not riding home with him tonight." she yelled right before she smiled another one of her classmates. "Jigen, can I ride home with you?"

Kagome looked back at the bathroom door. *He didn't even make it to a stall?* She pushed the door open. *Yeah, I can see what that girl was talking about.* She walked over to Inuyasha. He was sprawled out on the bathroom floor and his face, clothes, and long white silvery hair were currently in the poor mess he made. He didn't move much. The only proof he was still alive was the horrible moaning coming from him.

Kagome stepped around him and opened the first stall up. She bent down to try and get Inuyasha to move but the response she got was him wrenching all over her favorite jacket.

Kagome kept her disgust in her mind and kept trying to help him to budge. When he finally did, she led him to the stall she had opened up. He immediately bent over the toilet stool.

Kagome looked at his poor hair. Normally, it was such a beautiful and rare color she hadn't seen before. Both silver and white. Currently it did not look like anything that would get a positive reaction out of any female. She looked into her purse and fumbled for an old scrunchy of hers that would help him keep all that gooey hair back.

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Place: Ito Hall/Woman's Bathroom

Kagome kept trying to keep the small strands of hair her scrunchy weren't keeping out of his face. Inuyasha moaned as he brought his head out of the toilet stool. "How come you stayed?"

Kagome just smiled sadly at him. "Because, you were really sick, and it's just not fun to be alone when you're really sick."

Inuyasha listened to her words as he looked at his clothing. "Shoot."

"Don't worry. You can clean up when you get back home," Kagome said, "but, I don't think you should drive home just yet. Where do you live?"

Inuyasha had to agree with her. He told her where he lived as he started to look at her poor jacket. "Crap. I'll pay for a new one."

"Don't worry about it," she grunted as she helped him up.

As Inuyasha walked next to Kagome, he couldn't help but wonder. She'd been there by his side the whole time. Geez, any sane chick would've gone running just like he heard Candy do earlier. He looked over at the puzzling woman. *But she stayed?*

Kagome looked back at Inuyasha, a little worry in her voice. "Hey, are you gonna be okay?"

Inuyasha tried to give his independent bad-boy smirk unsuccessfully. "That's the last time I eat anything from a broad."

Kagome ignored his choice of wording and laughed. "Yeah. Well, who knows what the ingredients had been."

As they reached the parking lot Kagome pointed out her old car. A 1980 something car with no hubcap that featured a sheek dull rusty green with seats that were coming apart at the seams. It had seen better days. "That's it over there. Isn't it a beaut?"

Inuyasha didn't reply as she helped him into her car.

"Now normally, I don't give strangers rides," Kagome said wanting to make her intentions clear. "You are one of Hojo's oldest friends though, and you aren't in the right kind of condition to try anything anyway."

Inuyasha just moaned.

Kagome just smiled at him. "It's okay, Kikuchi. It'll eventually pass," she said as she started up her car. "Now let's get you home, just in case it hasn't quite passed." Then, she thought for a second. "And if you do feel sick, try and stick your head out the window."

Inuyasha moaned his agreement. Or disagreement? Kagome didn't really know, she couldn't read moans.

"Stupid *moans* cookies. Broad cooked like *moans* Akane," Inuyasha muttered as Kagome stopped the car. Kagome got out and helped him open his door. The passenger side door didn't work from the inside. "Not everyone can be Kasumi."

Inuyasha just grunted as he got out and walked to his front door. He looked back and saw Kagome watching him. She was making sure he made it into the house? He reached into his pocket and pulled out his keys. He unlocked the door and stepped in, hearing Kagome's car start to take off. He looked around and saw Sesshoumaru sitting on the couch.

Sesshoumaru looked at him with disgust. "Inuyasha, you look like crap and you smell like it too. Go take a shower."

Inuyasha grumbled as he headed to the bathroom. He looked into the mirror and made a sour face. He tried to take out the band Kagome had put in his hair. As he was taking it out, he

realized why she had put it in. He threw the poor band in the garbage and immediately turned the shower head on.

As he proceeded to take his shower, he realized that he had learned three important things that day.

1. Cookies from girlfriends are bad.
2. He needed to start to bring a small hairband to school.

And most importantly, the third as he began to wash his hair....

He was starting to see what Racoon was talking about.

Striking A Deal

I don't own Inuyasha or anything having to do with this show. I also don't own Keebler's crackers, Dr. Pepper, Swiss Miss Cocoa, Harry Potter, Ranma or whatever other bizarre things this fanfiction includes I may be mistaken to own. I make this entire story and all of it's chapters only for entertainment purposes, (and an excuse to avoid my homework:). I make no profit off of this fic, so please don't sue. You won't get much since I'm just a struggling college student.^^

Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Three: Striking a Deal.

Day: Friday

Time: 6:54 A.M.

Place: Ito Hall

Hojo smiled nervously at Kagome as she passed by him and his friends. Kagome just continued to ignore him.

Miroku raised an eyebrow at Inuyasha suspiciously.

Inuyasha frowned. "What's your problem?"

Miroku continued to eye him suspiciously. "You did not utter the word 'bitch' underneath your breath as she passed by."

Inuyasha scoffed. "So?"

"So you always do." Miroku frowned at his friends bafflement.

Hojo glanced at Inuyasha. "She did something yesterday, didn't she?"

Inuyasha ignored his glance. "Sort of."

"She did?" Miroku looked in awe at Inuyasha. "What exactly did she do?"

"Nothin' important." Inuyasha uttered under his breath.

Hojo sighed. "It's never earth-shattering, just something trivial, but nice." He started to walk away from his friends. "That's my Kagome."

Miroku looked back at Inuyasha eagerly.

"Told you, it was nothin'." Inuyasha growled. "Now come on, we'll be late for our stupid first class."

Time: 4:35 P.M.

Place: Abe Hall/ World Literature Class

Inuyasha looked at his watch as he watched Kagome come into their literature class.

Kagome gave him a strange look. He was sitting next to her usual seat in front. *Doesn't he usually hide out in the back?*

Inuyasha glanced at her as she sat down. "Yeah. You?"

Kagome looked at him.

"Yeah. I wanted to...ya know. For last night."

Kagome looked at him a little blank. "Oh. Sure, it was no problem really."

"Yeah well." Inuyasha stretched in his desk. "I still owe you a jacket."

Kagome shrugged it off. "It's really nothing. It was getting old anyway."

Inuyasha knew she was lying about the first part. She wore that jacket he ruined practically every day at lunchtime.

Ten minutes later, the literature teacher Dr. Salmon dropped in. Five minutes late, as usual. Dr. Salmon erased the writing on the board that the previous teacher left up. "Alright, and how is everyone today?"

No one answered, as per the usual.

The teacher lifted his eyebrow at Inuyasha. "Well Mr. Kikuchi A-"

"Inuyasha." Inuyasha growled correcting him.

"Oh, I'm sorry. I forgot again. Inuyasha," the teacher corrected himself as he brought out his books. "It's nice to see you in the front for a change. Perhaps, we should start with you to get the ball rolling today."

Inuyasha grimaced.

"What was your impression of Achebe's Things Fall Apart?" Dr. Salmon smiled.

Great. Like I've even started that book. Inuyasha grumbled to himself. "...it was okay."

"That's good. I'm glad you enjoyed it," the teacher said. "What part seemed to reach out to you the most?"

Inuyasha stopped to think. *Crap. What were they chatting about in the beginning of the class?* "The end?"

Dr. Salmon raised his eyebrows. "Fascinating. You actually enjoyed when Okonkwo died in the end? That's very interesting, most people didn't like it."

Inuyasha grumbled to himself. *Did I just mess up?*

Kagome raised her hand. Inuyasha was actually being nice to her for once. She just had to get the poor spotlight off of him.

"Yes Kagome?" the teacher smiled.

"I was wondering..." Kagome tapped her pencil on the desk. "...could we discuss how the women were treated in this book?"

Inuyasha looked back at her. *Did she just take the heat off of me?*

The rest of the period continued with discussion around the book. But right before the ending, the teacher addressed something new to the class. "Alright, now next time we meet you should begin 'The Good Earth'. Try to read up to at least page 40."

Inuyasha groaned and rolled his eyes. *All this class is about is reading. Reading, reading, reading.*

"In addition to this," the teacher went on. "We need to start to discuss your discussion papers."

The whole class joined Inuyasha and Kagome in a huge groan.

"I want you to read a book, or a series of books of around 1500 pages," the teacher announced.

Everyone groaned again.

"Now, I will assign partners. You will both read the same material, but give in two separate papers," the teacher finished.

Inuyasha sighed. Great. More reading. Like he didn't have a life?

As the teacher was finishing up choosing partners, he looked at Inuyasha and Kagome. "And I think you two will do fine together."

Kagome and Inuyasha both glanced at each other.

Dr. Salmon just smiled as he started to pack up his own things. "As soon as you choose your book or series, then I want you to tell me as soon as possible. No two groups will do the same thing. And if you take too long, then I will assign you a book."

As the teacher left, everyone else started to pack up.

Kagome looked over at Inuyasha wearily.

"What?" Inuyasha grumbled.

"What did you want to do?" Kagome asked as she finished putting her book away.

Inuyasha shrugged his shoulders. "How about nothin'?"

Kagome frowned. He was joking, right? "This isn't an ordinary paper Kikuchi. It's worth 50 percent of our grade for this class."

Inuyasha choked. "50%?!"

Kagome frowned. "Didn't you read the syllabus?"

Inuyasha just groaned. Awww crap!

"Come on, this is a good thing, not a bad thing." Kagome replied. "I know you probably haven't done so well on the pop quizzes we've had so far. If we do a good job, it'll help raise your grade."

"Feh." Inuyasha frowned. "You just don't want me to stick you with all the work."

Kagome smirked back at him. "Can't. You have to write your own paper, remember? And I really don't think my writing voice could ever be like yours."

"Huh? What writing voice?" Inuyasha asked confused.

Kagome sighed. Didn't he ever listen in class? "Writing voice: The way you create your own paper."

"Oh. Yeah, whatever." Inuyasha geniusly replied as he looked at his watch. "Supper time. Outta here."

"Wait a minute." Kagome interrupted as he heaved his bookbag onto his shoulder. "No two groups can do the same books, remember? Unless we want to be stuck with something boring or assigned to us, I think we should figure out what we're going to do."

Inuyasha just groaned. "Fine, whatever. Then let's go to my place and get this over with."

Kagome shook her head no to his suggestion. "Look, I know you are an old friend of Hojo's, but I just don't know you well enough to go to your place," she explained as she put on her

bookbag. "How about we go to my dorm instead?"

Inuyasha crossed his arms. "You live in a dinky dorm? What's so great about that?"

Kagome smiled sagely as they started to leave the classroom. "The fact that the dorm is Kadowaki, and any lecherous moves may result in facing tons of women at the same time."

Inuyasha stopped in his tracks. "Kadowaki? You mean, the only all-girl dorm on campus where guys can't come in?"

"Oh, guys can come in but they each need a female escort," Kagome pointed out.

Inuyasha started to walk along with her again. *Kadowaki. Shit, Miroku's wanted to get in that place since before he even first enrolled here. Huh. Wonder what it's really like?*

"Alright, but I say we call for Pizza when we get there."

"Pizza?"

"Yeah. We'll split the cost 50/50." Inuyasha added.

Kagome sighed and then laughed.

Inuyasha looked at her like she had just gone crazy. "What the hell's so funny?"

Kagome shrugged her shoulders. "Nothing. You're just nicer to be around when you're not calling me 'bitch'."

"Feh. Yeah, well don't let it go to your head. I'm only doing this so I pass this stupid class." He shared a small peak at her. *And if she thinks I'm not using this to Hojo's advantage, she's got another thing coming.*

Time: 5:40 P.M.

Place: Miroku's dorm.

Miroku looked out the window, watching the lovely ladies leaving to and fro the place of his dreams. Kadowaki. Mmmmm....

Hojo sighed. Coming to visit Miroku at his dorm was pointless sometimes. "Miroku? Are you listening?"

"Mhm." He replied as he watched two young women in nicely fitting jeans enter the building. *Binoculars are a wonderful invention.*

Hojo frowned. "Miroku. Your computer's on fire."

"Mhm." Miroku said again as another two...wait...

Long white hair? Amber eyes? Inuyasha?! He peaked through his binoculars again. And he is walking in with who?! He watched all the dimensions, trying to guess who, but gave up and looked at her face. Hojo's girl?!

"Miroku? What are you looking at that is so interesting?" Hojo sighed as he started to walk over toward the window.

"Nothing!" Miroku cheerfully shouted/smiled suspiciously as he quickly dropped the curtains. "Nothing at all. Now, what were you saying about my computer?"

Time: 5:42 P.M.

Place: Kadowaki/Outside Kagome's Dorm room.

Inuyasha waited impatiently as Kagome fumbled for her keys.

"Kagome?!"

Kagome looked up from her door to across the hall. "Oh, hi Eri. How were your classes today?"

Eri sighed. "Okay so far, but I still have a night class." She looked over suspiciously at Inuyasha.

"He's my partner for literature," Kagome explained as she unlocked the door and opened it.

Inuyasha looked around as he followed Kagome into the small living area. On the north wall, where the door was, she had her telephone and a stand. On the bottom of the stand there was a dvd/vcr. On the top of the stand there was a refrigerator that held a small 13" T.V. on top of it. On the east wall she had a bulletin board with some anime posters on it, plus shelves that displayed some of her books. On the south wall there was a huge window with a small windowseal that had her girly bathtime stuff. Beneath that was her AC. Then, on the west wall, she had her cupboards, drawers, 2 closets and a place to put her computer, printer, microwave, and small knick knacks that cluttered everything up.

The only thing that was big about her dorm were her two couches she had put together to create a bed.

Inuyasha groaned. He had had the grand tour within 5 seconds of stepping foot into her dorm. "I was right. This place is so puny, I bet you couldn't get five people in here."

Kagome gave him a suspicious smile. "Not true." She looked over at the phone. "Would you call for the pizza while I put my stuff away?"

"Yeah, yeah." Inuyasha muttered as he dropped his stuff next to her small T.V. set and picked up her non-cordless out-of-date phone. He wasn't gonna waste his money on this call.

After Kagome shoved her stuff into her left closet, she shut the door and looked at Inuyasha.

"45." Inuyasha simply said as he sat on her bed.

"As always." Kagome replied as she sat on the bed next to him. "So, is there a series you'd like to do?"

"Nope." Inuyasha answered.

Kagome continued to stare at him. "Anything at all?"

"Hmmm....well...." Inuyasha looked over at Kagome. "No."

Kagome frowned at him. "You aren't helping very much."

"So sue me." Inuyasha smirked.

Kagome crossed her arms. "Well, if you think I'm choosing something, without your input, then you are an idiot."

Inuyasha laughed it off. "That the best you can do?"

Kagome humphed. "This isn't a contest. Now, any ideas? What's the last book you can remember really liking?"

Inuyasha scratched his head. "With 1500 pages? Oh, this is gonna be awhile...."

Time: 6:28

Inuyasha and Kagome were both sitting cross-legged on her bed eating the pizza that finally arrived.

"Why can't I write a paper over pizza? It'd be easier." Inuyasha grumbled.

Kagome frowned at him as she took another slice. "I don't know. Probably for the same reason I can't write a paper about how a certain someone managed to make me pay for hot wings!"

Inuyasha just smiled egotistically. "I said I'd go 50/50 on the pizza. Never said I'd pitch in on the hot wings."

"No one told you to order them," Kagome growled as she took a bite out of her slice.

"Feh. My stomach did." Inuyasha replied truthfully. "Besides, it's not my fault you weren't listening when you shoved all your crap in your closet."

"Ooohhh..." Kagome steamed. "I don't see how Hojo could've ever become friends with you!"

Inuyasha bit into his hot wing as he replied. "Then maybe you didn't ever know Raccoon." Inuyasha quickly took the hot wing out of his mouth as he realized what he had just said.

Dammit! This is supposed to be helping Racoon, not hurting him more!

Kagome sighed. "Yeah, you're probably right. Maybe I did never really know him."

Inuyasha moaned. Great. How would he get Racoon's butt out of the fire now? "No, I'm not. Racoon's a good guy, just go back to him already."

Kagome chuckled at him as if he said something funny as she shook her head no and took another bite of her pizza.

Dangit, she didn't even take me seriously? Inuyasha said to himself. "You are making the guy miserable. He doesn't even act like himself any more."

Kagome shrugged her shoulders. "It's not my fault. I don't control him."

Inuyasha groaned. Wasn't coming out here tonight gonna be worth it at all? "Can you at least become friends with the guy again?"

Kagome didn't reply as she reached for a hot wing.

"Alright, alright." Inuyasha said a little gruffy. "If we promise to stop messing with you?"

Kagome looked at him strangely. "Speaking of which, what did you guys do to Zenko and Robun?"

Inuyasha laughed. He looked back at Kagome, but realized what he had to say probably wouldn't put Hojo in any kind of good spotlight either. "Nothing life threatening-let's make a deal."

Kagome looked at him oddly. "A deal?"

"Yeah. If you physically start becoming Hojo's friend again..." Inuyasha grinned. "...then I'll actually work hard for this paper."

Kagome looked at him. To take or to not take the bait? "Will you really stop messing with me? And my friends?"

"Yep." Inuyasha chimed. *Got her.*

Kagome glanced at him suspiciously. "You will actually work really hard? No matter what we decide on?"

Inuyasha gave a moment of silence to think. *Wait. Do I got her or does she got me?* He stopped to think of the forlorn expression that his friend always wears. *Dammit, that guy owes me big.* "Yeah."

Kagome sighed. "Fine. If he apologizes to me, in person, then I will become friends again. But only on 2 conditions: One, You keep up your end of the deal and Two, after this paper is done that friendship's over again. Agreed?"

"Yeah, sure." Inuyasha replied as he took the last hot wing. "But you have to actually be friends with him. Not just in name, Cutey."

Kagome frowned as she put the pizza box on the floor. "For your information, I prefer to be called Kagome, not Cutey."

"Yeah, yeah, sure, sure," was his heartfelt answer.

Kagome ignored him. If she wanted to get this paper done right, then she'd have to learn how to deal with this...guy. "Now, back to the subject."

"Subject?" Inuyasha said roughly. "Not back to the hot wings again!"

Kagome tried to control her temper. Think happy thoughts. "No, back to choosing books."

Inuyasha threw the remains of the last hot wing on the floor into the pizza box then laid back on her bed. "I don't know any books." He was about to tell her to decide already, but took more notice of the brightly colored books she held on display on her shelves. "What about those?"

Kagome looked strangely at him. Now, what was he thinking? "What about what?"

Inuyasha pointed to the books he was looking at. "Those books with all the bright colors."

Kagome looked at what he was pointing at. Her finely displayed Harry Potter collection on the shelves. "That's my collection."

Inuyasha put his hand back down and placed it behind his head. "Hell, Baby, why not just read those?"

Kagome looked at Inuyasha. Great, now she was a Baby? "I don't know. Those are very popular books. Real popular, I don't know if our teacher will let us use them."

Inuyasha shrugged it off. "Just a thought."

Kagome looked over at her phone. "Well, it's not past 10:00. I guess I could call."

Inuyasha watched as Kagome strolled over to her phone and started dialing. "Who are you calling?"

Kagome was about to answer him when the other person picked up.

Yes?

"Hello? Mr. Salmon? It's Kagome, from your literature class." Kagome spoke through the phone.

Inuyasha froze. *No way. Did that broad just phone the teacher?!*

Oh yes! Mr. Salmon answered back. *Of course, nice to hear from you. Have you decided upon your topic?*

Kagome sighed. Could she actually ask him this? "Semi decided Mr. Salmon. Could we...use J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter Collection?"

(Silence. Voice clearing.) Have you read them before?

Kagome frowned. This was probably not going to work. "Yes, but my partner hasn't."

"Hasn't what?" Interrupted Inuyasha as he started to wander around her little room and play with her knickknacks. Currently, he was annoyingly playing with her balancing balls.

Kagome tried to ignore him as her teacher continued.

Who was your partner?

Kagome frowned. "Mr. Kikuchi? Could you please stop doing that?" she asked as she started to get fed up with the noise of the balls clacking each other. "Kikuchi Inuyasha's my partner, sir."

"Stop calling me that, it's driving me crazy. My name's Inuyasha." Inuyasha grouched at her as he gave one of the balls one more clank.

Kagome waited patiently for the answer. *It'll be a no, I know it.*

Has he seen any of the movies?

Kagome looked over at Inuyasha who sat back down on her bed. "Kikuchi, have you seen any of the Harry Potter Movies?"

"I've already told ya, call me Inuyasha." Inuyasha repeated stubbornly.

"Inuyasha." Kagome gritted through her teeth. "Have you seen any Harry Potter movies?"

"Were they rated R?" Inuyasha asked as he crossed her arms. "I still can't believe you called a teacher."

Kagome sighed. "No sir," she replied to her teacher.

(Silence. Indecisive sighing.) Alright Kagome, this is what I'm going to do. Normally, I'm not this lenient. Those are very popular books and pretty simple to read. But, since your partner is Inuyasha...

Kagome stayed silent. Yeah, she knew what the teacher was talking about.

...I will. But- he added. *I want a full one page summary for each book along with the discussion paper. And I want ALL five of the books that are out now, read.*

Kagome looked over at Inuyasha who decided to stroll back over to her balancing balls. *Well, he did say he would work real hard.* "Inuyasha, he says okay."

Inuyasha just grunted a good as he continued playing.

Alright then, I will just write your choice down then...(Light scribbling) Alright then. Don't forget to read THE GOOD EARTH for Monday.

"Yes, I won't. Thank you so much for your time sir. Goodbye." Kagome said courteously as she hung up the phone. She cleared her throat lightly. "Mr. Inuyasha?"

"Not Mr. Inuyasha," Inuyasha corrected her as he looked over at her.

Kagome smiled nervously and pointed to her Harry Potter books being displayed. "You see all those books?"

Inuyasha turned around and looked at them. "Yeah."

"Well, we have to read all of them," Kagome answered.

Inuyasha looked at her in disbelief for a second before he jumped onto her bed, pulled a book down and started to flip through it. "All of these?! Shit, we only needed 1500 pages! This'll be...a whole lot more!"

Kagome shrugged her shoulders. "Don't forget our deal."

Inuyasha frowned at her. "What deal?"

Kagome frowned back at him. "That if I became Hojo's friend again, you'd actually work hard on this paper. Remember?"

Inuyasha grumbled. What he did for his friend. *Dammit Racoon! He owes me really big this time!*

"Don't worry." Kagome smiled. "I'm going to reread them all over too, since we need to each write a full page summary for each book."

"What?!" Inuyasha looked at Kagome. "A full page summary for each one? Damn. Is there anything ELSE he added to torture me?"

The teacher's not torturing him. Kagome frowned. *If anything, he's being very nice to let us use them.* "No. That's it."

Inuyasha looked at the ground angrily. He growled to himself.

Kagome looked at the sour expression on his face and relented. "Okay, look. If you want, we can take turns reading to each other until you get into the story. Would you like to do that?"

Inuyasha grabbed his stuff. "Fine then Kaggy. Let's do that. But don't forget your end of the deal."

Kagome frowned deeply at him. Kaggy?! "I won't." she glared at him.

Inuyasha opened the door to leave. "And it starts tomorrow."

Kagome looked back at him. "Tomorrow?"

"Yeah." Inuyasha smirked as he started to leave. "Volleyball game at 8:00."

Kagome raised her eyebrow at him as she watched him leave down the hallway.

"Volleyball?" she shouted at him as she quickly locked her door and caught back up with him.

"Yeah. Section 6, row 8." Inuyasha said as he started to get on the elevator.

"Why?" Kagome asked as she got in the elevator and pushed 1.

"You'll find out." Inuyasha finally answered as the elevator stopped and he started to walk out.

Kagome groaned as she pushed 5. Just what was he planning?

What's With All the Owls?

Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Four: What's With All the Owls?

Day: Saturday

Place: KYU's Basketball Coliseum/Current Volleyball Game

Time: 7:56 P.M.

*Section 6....row 8... Kagome muttered to herself as she walked down the stairs with Sango.
Row 7...row...*

Kagome groaned as she saw, like she feared, not only Kikuchi but Hojo too. *Dangit.*

Hojo waved, making sure that she could see them. "Kagome?!"

Kagome let out a small groan again as she and Sango sat down.

Inuyasha smirked triumphantly from the side. "Well Ms. Books R. Good. Finally decide to show up?"

Inuyasha's girlfriend pointed at Kagome. "Books R. Good? You have a funny name." she giggled.

Kagome tried not to let her annoyance get to her. "And what exactly is your name?"

The girl smiled wide. "Candy!"

Kagome tried not to laugh. She cleared her throat politely. "Uh huh..." she slowly glanced over at Hojo. It's not like she could pretend to ignore the person who was sitting right beside her forever. "Hello."

"I'm sorry for lying to you about everything!" Hojo suddenly blurted out of the blue.

Kagome looked over at Inuyasha. Figures he'd tell Hojo about their deal so soon. "Okay."

"Can we really be friends again?" Hojo asked, trying his best not to screw his chance up.

Kagome looked at the ground. Taking Fukazawa Hojo back was the last thing she wanted to do...

But she had made that stupid deal. "Yes. Just don't ever lie to me again."

"I won't. I promise I won't, ever again." Hojo sighed happily.

"Oh my, my!"

Kagome and Sango both looked as they realized Yamazaki Miroku had just made himself comfortable right next to Sango.

Sango watched him with eagle eyes. There wasn't a girl in KYU that hadn't heard about Yamazaki's...reputation.

"I had no idea you had such an interest in the sport of volleyball as well." Miroku smiled.

Sango frowned. "I don't think our interest in the sport is the same."

Miroku just smiled harmlessly at her. "I don't believe I caught your name yet."

Sango glared at him. "Trust me, if I had thrown it at you, you would've known it -and watch that hand, Yamazaki!"

Miroku pulled his innocent hand away before it got anywhere interesting. "Excuse me. Habit."

Sango looked back at Kagome with a non-questionable expression. "Can we go now?"

"Not quite." Inuyasha interrupted as he looked over toward Kagome. "You came down here for a reason, didn't you?"

Kagome looked at him suspiciously. "What?"

"Me, Hojo, Miroku and you-" Inuyasha grinned. "-are all going to go out to a movie tomorrow, as friends. Remember?"

Kagome crossed her arms. "Are you trying to trick me?"

Inuyasha pointed to himself innocently. "Me? Naw, course not. Just making sure you hold up your end of the deal."

Hojo smiled at Kagome. "It'll be really fun."

Kagome watched the volleyball for a few seconds. She knew they were going to try something. Then as an idea hit her, she turned around to look at Sango. "Sure, why not? Sango, you'd like to see a movie too. Wouldn't you?"

Sango gave a small groan. "Why?"

Kagome gave her friend a desperate look.

Miroku started to smile at Sango. "Yes, please come. It will be even more fun." He wanted to continue, but suddenly caught Inuyasha's disapproving look. He wondered why he was looking at him in such a fashion until he suddenly remembered the plan. "Oops."

Kagome looked at him curiously. "Oops what?"

"Nothing." He quickly recovered.

Kagome turned back around and also saw the disapproving look on the white-haired boy. "Is there a problem?" she questioned. "I mean, it's just a friendly movie as friends, so surely a friend of mine can come along."

Inuyasha groaned. He was so close. "Fine, let her come. But since this is a friendly movie, everyone pays for themselves."

"Unless you would like for me to pay your way in, Kagome?" Hojo asked.

"No. We can afford it." Kagome frowned as she and Sango stood up.

"Okay. It'll start around 8:00 P.M." Hojo smiled. "Would you like for me-for us-to come pick you up?"

"No." Kagome said as she turned a great big cheery smile toward the amber-eyed man in the place. "Kikuchi, Sango and I will just hurry over after we read for awhile."

"Read?!" Inuyasha exploded.

"Yes. We have plenty of reading to do, so I think we should get started a.s.a.p." Kagome continued to smile. "Come around 4:00 p.m., okay?"

"4:00?! But that's like-like four hours of reading!" Inuyasha protested.

"Yes, and don't be late!" Kagome replied cheerily as she started to leave with Sango. "Or we might not be able to go to the movies."

"Kagome?" Sango groaned as she looked back at her friend while they continued to walk away.

"I'm sorry." Kagome said biting her lip. "I'm so sorry I dragged you down too. I didn't want to, but I just know Kikuchi was planning on getting me and Hojo alone together."

Sango groaned again. "I know but Kagome, Yamazaki is..."

"I know and I really am sorry!" Kagome repeated again.

Sango waved it off. "It's okay. There's no way I would've just let you go with three guys alone anyway."

To the three guys...

"Okay, so that didn't work." Inuyasha frowned. "But, maybe we can find a way to delay that other chick."

"Yeah..." Hojo said with doubt clearly in his voice.

Inuyasha looked over at Hojo. "Racoon? What's wrong?"

Hojo sighed. "I don't know. I mean, I really want to get back together with Kagome. But Inuyasha, I just-"

"Just?" Inuyasha growled.

"I just don't like it that you are the one who'll be spending all that time with her." Hojo finished.

Inuyasha just grumbled. "Dang, Hojo, I ain't interested in that broad. She's not my type. Besides, we're just reading, that's it." He swung his arm around the girl next to him. "I'm only interested in...Candy?"

"Yeah!" she giggled.

"Well...okay." Hojo resigned. "I mean, just remember that I really like her."

Hmph "Like that's hard to forget." Miroku frowned. "Hojo, Inuyasha says he's doing this all for you. Which means that woman is as good as yours."

"Yeah..." Hojo smirked. "Yeah!"

"Which means, we should have a celebration." Miroku grinned.

"Celebration?" Hojo questioned.

"Yeah." Inuyasha agreed. "We'll celebrate you finally becoming your old self again!"

Hojo laughed. "Yeah. Once Kagome's mine again, nothing is going to bring me down."

Inuyasha smirked at Hojo. "But don't forget. After everything I'm doing for you, you owe me. Really big." he winked.

Hojo smirked back. "For Kagome, I'll be happy to do anything." He pointed a finger at Inuyasha. "But you don't get anything until I get Kagome to be at least my girlfriend again."

"Huh?" Inuyasha looked at him strangely. "What do you mean 'at least?'"

Hojo smiled widely. "Once I get her back and prove that I love her...I'm going to marry her."

Inuyasha and Miroku both started to make sounds and gestures of agony.

"Why must you make yourself suffer so?" Miroku asked in disbelief.

Hojo sighed. "Miroku, Kagome is my life. And one way or another, I'm going to make her my wife."

Miroku joined in a groan with Inuyasha.

"Alright my friend." Miroku laughed. "But we should throw a bachelor party before you do!"

Inuyasha groaned again.

Hojo chuckled. "Thanks guys. Just remember: When you find the right one for you, I'll try and help you out however I can too."

Miroku suddenly looked away while Inuyasha made gagging sounds.

"That....will never happen." Inuyasha replied. "Never. Never. Ever."

Getting To Know You . . .

Very little editing to keep that old early 2000's feel when it came out. 2004 I think?

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Five: Getting To Know You...

Day: Sunday

Place: Kadowaki Dorm/Open Lobby

Time: 3:45

"Never, Never, Ever, EVER!" Sango shouted defiantly.

Inuyasha smirked as he looked over at his friend Miroku. "Come on, he'll be bored. He always spends the weekends with me."

Kagome looked at Sango pleadingly while Sango continued to shake her head no.

Miroku smiled as innocently as he could pull off. "I won't be a bother." He raised his right hand. "Promise."

Sango glared at Kagome. 'She is a dear friend, but taking care of...'

Sango looked over at Yamazaki cautiously.

Kagome laughed nervously. "How about this? Why don't you, Eri, and Tana take him to the lobby and watch a movie or something?"

Sango's expression did not change as she eyed Yamazaki again.

Kagome came over to Sango and whispered into her ear. "Sango, please. Look, if he stays on the main floor by himself, there's no telling what he'd do...or how far he'd get."

Kagome looked over at the grinning Yamazaki and Kikuchi.

"Tch. Geez, what's all the fuss?" Inuyasha complained as he raised his arm. "If he touches you just do this."

"Hey!" Miroku protested as he rubbed his head where Inuyasha had bopped him. "Why did you do that? I haven't done anything yet."

Inuyasha ignored Miroku's statement. "Usually ya gotta hit him a little harder though. His skull's as tough as bricks."

Sango rubbed her hand down her face in defeat. "Fine." She looked over at Kagome. "You really owe me for this."

"I do. I really, really do." Kagome sighed with relief. She looked over at Inuyasha. "Well, Mr. Kikuchi, let's get started. Follow me."

Inuyasha just groaned as he followed Kagome up the stairs.

Day: Saturday

Place: Kadowaki/Kagome's dorm.

Time: 3:56.

Inuyasha yawned rudely as he looked around the small prison he was currently in. "Just thinking about reading's making me tired."

Kagome frowned as she stood on her bed and grabbed the first book in the series up off her shelf. "Did you want to start reading today or should I?" she asked politely as she sat down on the bed.

Inuyasha just waved his hand carelessly. "Naw babe. You can start."

Kagome urked. "Do you think you could refrain from calling me babe, Kikuchi?"

"Tch. Yeah, whatever." Inuyasha so elegantly replied.

Kagome lied down on her bed, making herself more comfortable. "Ready?"

Inuyasha sat on the other side of her. "Fire away Kitty."

"It's Kagome, not Kitty." Kagome frowned.

"Yeah? And It's Inuyasha, not Kikuchi." Inuyasha rebuttaled. "Now, are you gonna start already or not?"

"Well, maybe once you stop staring at the floor." Kagome replied casually.

Getting the hint, Inuyasha looked at the book. "Whatever. Let's get this over with."

Kagome cleared her throat. "Chapter One: The Boy Who Lived. Mr. and Mrs. Dursley of number 4, Privet Drive were proud to say that they were perfectly normal, thank you very much."

"Yeah, okay. Your welcome." Inuyasha interrupted.

Kagome glanced over at Inuyasha as if she was a teacher just noticing one of her students not paying attention. "Kikuchi, were you listening?"

"Dur." Inuyasha replied intelligently. "You said thanks for something."

"No, I did not." she said firmly as she pointed at the book.

Inuyasha followed her finger. "Oh. Whatever." 'Shoulda just been glad I even said your welcome.' Inuyasha humphed to himself.

"Could you please follow along?" Kagome asked in a way that made her question sound more like an order.

"Yeah, yeah." Inuyasha muttered.

Throughout the reading, the two would each read a page. The only time they were ever interrupted from their important task was when Inuyasha had a question...

Which meant very often.

"What were 'muggles' again?" Inuyasha asked for the third time as he stopped reading to pester Kagome for the answer.

"It means humans. Regular humans who don't have magic powers." Kagome replied. Again.

"Yeah, okay. Like us?" Inuyasha continued.

Kagome tried not to seem urked, but wasn't succeeding very well. "...yes."

"Tch. This book is so confusing. What's with all these owls anyhow?" Inuyasha asked. Again.

Kagome tried to give the appearance of a smile. "Look, everything will start to make sense once we get a little further."

"Fine." Inuyasha sighed as he continued reading. 'Better not make her upset if I gotta make friends with her. Damn Hojo, the things I do for you...'

Time: 5:00 P.M.

Kagome smiled as she listened to Kikuchi Inuyasha read. His voice sounded masculine, yet soft. There was something in it that had such a calming effect on her. She realized if he ever became a narrator for an audio book, she'd pay any price to hear it. Just hearing him read, it was as if time didn't matter.

Grumble

Although, bellies would never say that.

"Break time." Inuyasha shut the book and got up to look at Kagome's small refrigerator. "What did this freakin' little thing cost you? Five dollars?" He looked inside. "It run on AA batteries?"

Kagome was about to tell Kikuchi what she thought of his 'observations' when he found what was supposed to be their lunch.

Inuyasha grinned as he grabbed a box of T.G.I.F. hot wings. "All right! You might suck as a girlfriend, but you've got good taste."

Kagome looked confused for a second. 'Was that criticism or a compliment?' She shook her head, grabbed her book and put it back on the shelf. "I bought three boxes, and there should be some Pepsi in there too."

Inuyasha took the Pepsi and Hot Wings out, placed them on her counter, and was about to start opening one of the hot wings when he heard-

"AAAAAAAHHHHHHHHH!!!!!"

The door suddenly flew open.

And Miroku stood there. Grinning like the Cheshire cat.

That is, until Sango came with her history book and hit him on the head, making him collapse to the ground. "Kami! His skull's stronger than titanium!"

Inuyasha strolled over to his barely conscious friend and bent down next to him. "How's it going?"

His friend made a googily face. "Like a dream come true."

Sango groaned her disagreement with the statement as she dragged him away.

Inuyasha looked out the door and continued to watch Miroku being dragged away. "Have fun." he waved.

Miroku winked and gave him a thumbs up.

Inuyasha looked tediously around the room as Kagome took the first batch of hot wings out and put the second batch in. "Hey Kitten. You got any music we could listen to?"

Kagome glared at him. "Kikuchi, it's Kagome."

Inuyasha just shrugged his shoulders. "Whatever." Then his eyes roamed over to her out-in-the-open cd holder on the counter. "Anything in there?"

Kagome shrugged her shoulders as well. "Maybe."

Inuyasha walked over to the CD holder and flipped through it. "Crap. Crap. Crap. Crap."

Kagome frowned as she removed the second set of hot wings. "Well, excuse me for not having anything cool." she replied sarcastically.

"Tch. This is all-wait a minute." Inuyasha focused on the writing on one of the CD's. "Ranma? DVD? Hell, pop it in!" he held it out to her.

Kagome looked unsure as she looked at it. "Well, we should really...." she sighed in defeat as the angel that was supposed to be on her right shoulder agreed with the devil on her left. "Okay. But-!" she said firmly. "Just until we are done eating."

"Fine." Inuyasha smirked as he handled the DVD to her. "You handle this and I'll handle the food."

Place: Kadowaki/Sango's dorm.

Time: 5:30 (and moving ever so slowly for these poor ladies...)

Miroku looked around the room anxiously at Sango and her two angry-but-watchful friends as he sat motionless on the bed. "May I make a telephone call?"

"NO!" all the women said simultaneously.

Miroku sighed, then brightened up again. "Then may I watch a tape?"

"Ooh no." Sango said firmly as she held up the last tape he had wanted to watch. It was labeled 'National Geographics', but that was FAR from the truth.

"A messed up label, I assure you." Miroku apologized pleasantly.

None of the women in the room bought that excuse.

"May I go to the bathroom?" Miroku asked a few seconds later.

The women all looked at each other and huddled up.

"He hasn't used it in over an hour." Eri said democratically.

"True, but what if he's faking it? He's so slippery." Tana added as she eyed the smiling Miroku. "I say we wait for him to do the pee-pee dance before we let him go. Then we'll know for sure."

Sango groaned. "No, the sooner he's gotten rid of the excuse, the sooner we can get all this over with."

"True. Okay, but I think we should all go at the same time." Eri stated.

"Agreed!" the ladies shouted as they broke out of the huddle.

Day: Saturday

Place: Kadowaki/Kagome's dorm.

Time: 6:00

Kagome laughed and finished her last hot wing as she looked at her watch. "Oh shoot! Inuyasha, we need to get back to reading now."

"But there's still one more episode!" Inuyasha pouted.

Kagome sat up. "We can watch it next time. We have to get back to the book."

Inuyasha sighed, but surprisingly smiled.

Kagome looked at him, slightly intrigued. "Why's he smiling?" "Are you enjoying the book too?"

Inuyasha pointed at her. "You called me Inuyasha finally."

Kagome frowned. "Did not. I called you Kikuchi."

"No you didn't." Inuyasha chuckled.

"Yes, I did." Kagome replied back firmly.

"Did not."

"Did too."

"Did not."

"Did-Ugh!" she moved over to her bed. "I'm not fighting with you." She stood up on her bed and got her book back down. "We need to read."

Inuyasha crossed his arms as he sat on the bed again. "Fine." He glanced over at her as she began reading. "But you did." He said under his breath as he chuckled.

Time: 7:45

BEEP**BEEP**BEEP

"Oohhh..." Kagome whined as Inuyasha stopped reading. "It was just getting good."

Inuyasha didn't reply as Kagome got up to put the book away and turn her alarm off.

"Okay, I'm ready." Kagome said as she reached for her purse that hung on the back of her door.

Inuyasha just gawked at her. "You're going out in that?"

Kagome looked down at her winter green sweater. "What's wrong with it?"

Inuyasha just groaned as he got up. "Don't you wanna dress up? Put on some makeup or any of that other girly stuff?"

Kagome laughed and opened up the door. "Not for just a friendly visit to the movies. Come on already."

Inuyasha grumbled. "Fine, where's Miroku?"

Kagome looked out her door in both directions. "They should be coming soon."

As she finished saying that, Miroku quickly sped through the swinging doors leading from the lobby, and slid smoothly against the floor until he was right in front of Kagome. "I'm in time I presume?"

Kagome was about to answer as she heard Sango yelling from the staircase.

"MIROKUUUUUUU!!!!"

Inuyasha came out of the dorm and looked at his friend. "On first name basis already?" he chuckled.

Miroku ignored the comment as he examined Kagome's 'evening wear'. "You did not want to dress up either?"

Kagome fumbled for her house keys and then pulled her door shut. "No." she replied as she locked her door.

Miroku continued to look displeased. "A simple dress would be sufficient. Perhaps one that showed a little cleavage?"

"Hey!" Inuyasha shouted. "What right do you have to talk about Kitten like that!"

A slight blush tinted Kagome's cheeks. Did Kikuchi actually stand up for her?

Miroku took a step back as he looked wide-eyed at his friend. "Inuyasha?"

Just then, Inuyasha realized what he had just done. "I mean, not that I care!" he quickly mended. "But Hojo would've!"

"MIROKU!" Sango shouted as she ran out of the staircase and toward Kagome.

Kagome looked at Sango. "You okay?"

Sango gave Miroku the coldest glare she could muster. "HE *huff**huff* is a slippery ssssssssnake!"

Kagome looked apologetically at her friend. "You ready to go?"

"Go into a dark theatre with that..." she eyed Miroku. "...thing?" she finally settled on. She lifted her purse and shook it.

It sounded like it was full of rocks. "Yes, I'm prepared."

New Car Syndrome

A lot of my original words are kept as is below. Only very little editing will be done to preserve it's original feeling.

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Six: New Car Syndrome

Day: Sunday

Place: In front of the Cinema

Time: 7:58 P.M.

Hojo smiled at his friends as they started to enter. "Hi guys."

Then, his eyes wandered directly over to the goddess that lifted her eyes just so to stare at him through her bluish grey eyes.

He sighed. "H-hello Kagome."

Kagome looked at him with a 'so-so' expression. "Hello."

Inuyasha rolled his eyes at Hojo's lousy attempt. 'After all I did, he better do better than 'Hi'.' He thought grumpily as he followed everyone to the ticket counter.

Place: En route to movie room

Kagome was silent as the group continued walking to their seats. She kept looking at Hojo questioningly. "Sango." she whispered. "Will you trade spots with me?"

Sango quietly gave her consent and slowed down unknowingly to the guys, while Kagome sped up in front of her smoothly.

Inuyasha smiled on the way to the premiering movie room. He had fixed everything up just right. Kagome would be right by Hojo, making it easier to pull his moves.

It was going to be perfect.

Well, it was supposed to be. It wasn't until everyone sat down that the guys realized the plan didn't quite work right.

Hojo looked over grumpily at Sango happily sitting next to him. He looked over at the end of the row.

And realized Kagome was sitting next to....

Inuyasha.

Hojo tried to calm his breathing. 'Calm down Hojo. This is just a mistake. Inuyasha's not interested in Kagome. Not at all. She's not his type. They just read together. Side by side...probably, but it's just reading.' he said to himself determinedly. 'But did he snuggle up beside her? NO!' He closed his eyes. 'Inuyasha goes out with girls like Cookie, Candy...not Kagome.' Still, he couldn't help glaring at his friend.

Meanwhile, Inuyasha was completely noticing Hojo's looks. 'Dammit! When'd those girls switch places? I know they had to! I set the order we went in myself!' Inuyasha looked over to his side suspiciously at Kagome.

Kagome just frowned at him. "I know why you chose this movie." she whispered.

Inuyasha was about to protest when someone else caught his eye.

"Kagome!"

Kagome smiled as her friend came to stand in front of her. "Hi Kouga."

Kouga looked down the row and saw three disapproving glares. "Am I interrupting?"

"No, Kouga. Of course you're not." Kagome replied sweetly. "We all came out as friends. Would you like to join us?"

Kouga continued to smile at the bone-chilling glares he was receiving from the males in the room. "I'd love to."

Time: 8:58 P.M.

Hojo barely watched the movie. He couldn't stop focusing on the fact that Kouga kept trying to hold Kagome's hand.

But even more than that...

He couldn't help noticing that Inuyasha didn't look at all pleased with Kouga trying to hold Kagome's hand either.

Inuyasha leaned over to Kagome's ear. "Kitten?"

Kagome kept her eyes on the movie. "Hmm?"

"Why are you friends with..." he gestured over toward Kouga with his head.

Kagome turned her attention to Inuyasha. "Why are you so interested?"

"He's got a reputation." Inuyasha replied.

Kagome just raised her eyebrow. "Reputation?"

"Yeah." Inuyasha sighed. 'Could this girl be more ignorant?' "Why do you think he's called 'the wolf'?"

"Because I really like dogs." Kouga interrupted as he smiled innocently at Kagome. "Really, they are wonderful. Did I ever tell you my labrador had puppies yet?" he asked as he patted Kagome's hand.

Inuyasha made a small disbelieving sound.

Miroku bent over to look at Inuyasha. "Inuyasha?"

"What." Inuyasha answered grumpily.

"Could you be quiet? We are trying to watch the movie." Miroku stated.

Inuyasha ignored his friend's plea as he looked back at Kagome who was enjoying the movie. Then he looked at 'the wolf' who was apparently enjoying watching Kagome.

Even Hojo was not enjoying the movie. He wasn't enjoying the fact that Inuyasha and Kouga were sitting by Kagome. He wasn't enjoying the way Kouga kept watching Kagome. But above all, he did not enjoy the fact that Inuyasha kept staring back and forth between Kagome and Kouga.

'Why is he doing that?' Hojo asked himself as he crossed his arms. 'Why does HE care so much that Kouga's pulling moves on Kagome? I'M the one who's supposed to care! Not him!'

Time: 9:10 P.M.

More than halfway through the movie, Kagome started to yawn. Repeatedly.

"Kagome?" Kouga whispered. "Are you okay?"

Kagome yawned again. "Yeah. It's just that I got up too early. I had to work most of the day until Inuyasha came over."

Kouga looked at her sympathetically, which caused three more frowns to be sent his way again. "I could take you home if you like."

Kagome smiled at Kouga. "That'd be-"

"-A bad idea." Inuyasha growled at Kouga.

Kouga looked at Inuyasha. "Obviously Kagome's tired. I believe that it would be a good idea to take her home."

Inuyasha did not give in. Letting 'the wolf' take Kagome anywhere in a car was out of the question.

"Then I'll do it." Inuyasha declared as he stood up. "Up girl. I'll take ya home, then come back for everyone later." Inuyasha felt a chill run up his back, and turned around to see the source causing it. A glaring Hojo. "You wanna come?"

Hojo managed to fake a smile. "No. By all means, get going."

Inuyasha shrugged his shoulders while Kagome yawned again as she started to exit the theatre room with him.

Hojo was on the edge of his seat while Miroku knowingly sank deeper into his chair.

Place: Outside the theatre/Near Inuyasha's ride

Time: 9:15

"I'm surprised you didn't say Hojo was going to take me home." Kagome said as she looked over at Inuyasha.

Inuyasha just shook his head no. "Normally, I would've." He looked over at his car as he strolled over to the hood. "But I've only had this baby for a week." Inuyasha smiled proudly at his car as he polished the hood with his jacket.

Kagome laughed as she got in. 'New car syndrome. Blinds everyone.'

Place: In front of Kadowaki

Time: 9:30 P.M.

Kagome looked over at Kikuchi. "Thanks for the ride. When's your last class tomorrow?"

Inuyasha tilted his head back. "5:30. Remember?"

Kagome sweatdropped. "Sorry, I forgot. Don't forget to come by if you find time. Try to call though, if you can."

"Yeah, yeah." Inuyasha mumbled.

"And don't forget to read 'The Good Earth'." Kagome reminded him as she started to get out of the car.

Inuyasha groaned.

Kagome just chuckled at his reaction. "See you Kikuchi."

"Eh. Whatever." Inuyasha replied as he drove away.

Place: In front of Hojo's apartment

Time: 10:00 P.M.

Hojo slammed his door shut angrily as he got out.

"Easy!" Inuyasha complained.

"Shut up!" Hojo yelled back.

Inuyasha opened his door and got out. "I said I was sorry Raccoon!" Inuyasha shouted. But like I said, this is my new car! I couldn't just let you drive a chick home alone in it!"

"She's not just a chick! She's Kagome!" Hojo shouted back angrily. "And you were the one who offered to drive her home alone!"

"I invited you!" Inuyasha rebuttalled.

"Oh, yeah? How kind, man," Hojo answered sarcastically.

Inuyasha strolled over to Hojo. "Hey. Read my lips. She. Is. Not. My. Type! Okay? Now, chill."

Hojo looked at him, not fully believing him.

"Hey." Inuyasha frowned. "I'm doing all this crap for you. Remember?"

Hojo sighed. "Yeah, I know."

Inuyasha smirked. "Raccoon, we haven't done anything fun for a long time! Not since you broke up."

Hojo started to calm down as he looked at his friend.

"All my goal is, is to get you back so we can have fun again." Inuyasha insisted. "Oh, and to get a big favor from you later, but that's it."

Hojo chuckled. "Yeah. Hey, man? Am I being a dumbass or something?"

"Completely. You are seeing things that ain't there." Inuyasha smirked before he headed back toward his car.

"Hey Inuyasha!" Hojo shouted out playfully.

Inuyasha looked back at Hojo.

"If I do get Kagome back...and if after awhile, she accepts my proposal? You wanna be the best man?" Hojo asked.

Inuyasha gave a disgusted look. "You do know that marriage is just another name for 'living hell', right?"

Hojo ignored the comment.

Inuyasha sighed. "But if you want me to be the guy dragging you into hell, I guess I will be." He gave Hojo a thumbs up. "See ya."

Hojo sighed happily as Inuyasha took off. 'Kagome will be my bride. Inuyasha my best man...and I'll be Kagome's husband.'

He walked off happily to his front door. "Things are really starting to look up."

It's Just A Good Book

Very little editing to keep it's original form. Even the disclaimer is ancient. (LOL. I'm not in college anymore.)

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Seven: It's Just a Good Book

Day: Monday

Place: Abe Hall/Literature Class

Time: 4:40

Inuyasha sat by Kagome's side again as they waited for the teacher to stumble in. Right now, they were taking care of when Inuyasha could come by for the books.

"I hate this." Inuyasha grumbled.

"Really? I thought you were sort of enjoying it." Kagome frowned.

"No, I mean reading on my own. I'll never make it!" He pushed his head back. "Let's just keep reading to each other in your dorm."

Kagome looked a little amazed. "You want to keep reading out loud to each other? For the whole series?"

Inuyasha shook his head yes. *The closer I get to her, the better Hojo's chances are.*

Kagome took a deep breath and blew. "Well...okay. I guess.. But we'll have to decide on times to read then."

"Fine." Inuyasha yawned. "I'll follow you to your dorm again,"

Place: Miroku's Dorm

Miroku looked out his dorm room window. "There he goes again. Why do I get the feeling this isn't as helpful as it seems?"

Place: Kadowaki Hall

Time: 5:46

Eri blinked as Kagome began unlocking her door. "Kagome?" She pointed at Inuyasha again.

"Literature partner." Kagome reminded her friend as she swung open her door.

Inuyasha stepped into Kagome's dorm room and looked around. It was exactly the same as before.

Kagome closed the door and stuffed her things in the closet. "So...how exactly are we going to do this?"

"Well, first you should know this." Inuyasha frowned as he crossed his arms. "I have a life. So I'm not spending all my free time at your dinky little dorm."

Kagome humped. "Well, contrary to what you might believe, I have a life too. And I'M not spending all my time reading with you either. So, let's decide here and now what we should do."

Inuyasha laid back on her bed. "You know what we should do? Play it be ear."

"By ear?" Kagome repeated.

"Yeah, I'll call ya." Inuyasha answered.

Kagome frowned. "Were you even listening? I repeat. I have a life too! I'm not going to drop everything just to read with you."

"Blah, blah, blah." Inuyasha said intelligently. "Fine kitty, what do you wanna do?"

Kagome put her finger to her lip. "How about it goes two ways? You can call me, and if I'm not busy, we can read or vice versa."

Inuyasha groaned. "Come over to this dorm?"

"Well, we can go to the library?" Kagome suggested.

Inuyasha turned that theory down quickly. "Libraries are too quiet. It's creepy."

Kagome chuckled. ‘Wow, the great Inuyasha being creeped out by a library?’

“Fine, we’ll read here then.” he agreed, looking up to face her. “But if you call me, you have to drag your butt over to my house instead.”

Kagome stuck her hand out. “Deal?”

Inuyasha shook it quickly and let go. “Fine, so we gonna read tonight or what?”

Kagome smiled as she jumped on her bed. “Okay, one second.” She reached for her book and brought it down.

Inuyasha made himself comfortable on her bed. “I’ll start if you get supper started kitten.”

Kagome frowned. “It’s Kagome.”

“Yeah, yeah.”

“And I don’t really have much.” Kagome admitted as she looked at her cupboard. “You like ravioli?”

“Fine, where were you?” Inuyasha asked in a bored tone, not really even listening to her question.

“At the owl, bugging Hagrid.” Kagome replied as she dumped the ravioli into her Tupperware and threw away the can. “Around Chapter 5.”

Inuyasha thumbed through it. “Alright. ‘Give him five knuts, said Hagrid sleepily.’” Then he chuckled.

Kagome looked at him. “What’s so funny?”

Inuyasha just looked at her incredulously. “He’s giving him five knuts. Knu-never mind. It’s not funny if I gotta explain it.”

Kagome gave herself a few seconds before it hit her. “Oh!” She covered up her mouth. “...that’s real tasteful.” she frowned.

“Excuse me for not having royal grace.” Inuyasha replied sarcastically as he went to look back down in the book and read some more.

Kagome ignored Kikuchi’s rude tact as she finished fixing the ravioli. After she was done, Inuyasha knew his cue. He quit and tossed the book to the side of the bed. “Food and Ranma go hand in hand.”

Kagome knew what he was hinting at. “Well, it’s just one more episode....so I guess we can watch a bit.”

25 minutes later...

Kagome laughed at Inuyasha. "You still haven't got it."

Inuyasha kept rubbing his hands on his face, trying to get a smudge of ravioli off that Kagome insisted he had.

"Nope." Kagome continued to chuckle at Inuyasha's failing attempts. "More to the right."

"Are you tellin' the truth?" Inuyasha frowned as he rubbed more to the right.

"Not your right, my right." Kagome corrected.

"Huh?"

Kagome smiled as she walked over to him. She took one of her fingers and touched his upper left cheek. "There."

Inuyasha touched where her finger was and rubbed. "Got it?"

Kagome finally shook her head yes.

"Man, how'd it get way up there?" Inuyasha wondered aloud.

"I don't know but sauce could go anywhere when you suck it up straight from the bowl." Kagome smiled.

Inuyasha shrugged. "Why waste extra sauce? It's still food."

Kagome just shook her head, realizing they were delaying themselves again. "We should be getting back to the story."

"Kay, but you are reading." Inuyasha insisted.

So from then on, Kagome and Inuyasha read into the night...

Time: 5:45

Inuyasha laughed. "Shit, these twins are cool."

Kagome laughed beside him. "I should have known you'd enjoy them the best."

"Yeah. Exploding toilets." Inuyasha looked lost in thought.

"Inuyasha." Kagome warned. "You aren't thinking about anything bad, are you?"

"Me?" Inuyasha pointed to himself. "Thinking about something bad? Nah...just thinking about the past."

“The past? What have expl-” Kagome stopped and put her hand up. “Nevermind. I’m pretty sure I don’t want to know.”

As time goes by...

Kagome started to yawn as she listened to Inuyasha read. “Inuyasha?”

Inuyasha, annoyed with the interruption, looked over at her. “What?”

Kagome pointed to the digital clock on her alarm. “It’s getting pretty late.”

“It is?” Inuyasha asked, looking at her clock. ‘Damn. Time seemed to fly by today for some reason.’

“Yeah, could we call it a day?”

Inuyasha looked back at the clock. “9:00. That went too fast.”

Kagome smiled as she held her book. “J.K. Rowling’s books can do that.”

“...Who’s that?” Inuyasha asked.

Kagome looked a little taken aback as she showed him the spine of her book.

“Oh. Yeah.” Inuyasha stretched as he got off her bed. “See ya.” He opened the door to turn to leave.

“Wait, wait!” Kagome called out. “I have to escort you downstairs.”

Inuyasha didn’t reply as he let Kagome lead him down the stairs and to the front pair of doors.

“Take care.” Kagome waved.

Inuyasha turned around and stuffed his hands into his pockets. “Uh-huh. You too kitten.”

Kagome sighed. Kitten. Again. ‘Oh well, it’s too late to gripe at him.’ she decided as she went back up to her dorm.

Time: 1:30 A.M.

Place: Inuyasha’s Dorm

As Inuyasha finally started to head for his bed, his cell phone started to ring. “Yeah?”

How late did you stay?

Inuyasha groaned. It was Miroku. “At what? The party?”

No, no. I mean at HER place?

Inuyasha frowned. “Not that late.”

Did you see anything interesting?

“No.” Inuyasha growled. “I’m going to bed, Snake.”

Wait, wait my friend! One more question?

Inuyasha shrugged. “Whatever, what?”

How is it that a simple book caught your attention so well?

“Huh?” Inuyasha asked.

Well, you read ‘til 9:00.

“Hey!” Inuyasha shouted accusingly. “How the hell do you know how long I was out there?!”

Silence.

...lucky guess?

Inuyasha growled his disbelief.

Fine. I watched you leave while I was coming back from my class. Miroku confessed. 9:00. Must be some book.

“Yeah. Great, I’m going to bed.” Inuyasha repeated.

Wait! Inuyasha my friend?

“What?!” Inuyasha yelled. He was tired and Miroku was just pissing him off more.

Are you...positive you have no feelings toward this girl?

Inuyasha hung up.

“Are you positive you have no feelings toward this girl?” Inuyasha mocked Miroku’s last words as he started to undress. “Tch, no. Idiot. It’s just the book.” *Even though I’ve never liked any book before...* He shook his head, getting the strange thoughts out as he hung up. He was tired, that’s why he felt strange. “It’s just a good book.” he told himself again.

As he finished getting undressed, he crawled into bed. “It’s just a good book. Reading out

loud makes it better or something.” he yawned one more time before he turned off the lamp next to his bed and settled down to sleep.

Playful Kitty

Author's Note: Same as always. Preserving that old feel. Just enjoy that story.

I don't own Inuyasha or anything having to do with this show. I also don't own Keebler's crackers, Dr. Pepper, Swiss Miss Cocoa, Harry Potter, Ranma or whatever other bizarre things this fanfiction includes I may be mistaken to own. I make this entire story and all of it's chapters only for entertainment purposes, (and an excuse to avoid my homework:). I make no profit off of this fic, so please don't sue. You won't get much since I'm just a struggling college student.^^

Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Eight: Playful Kitty

Day: Tuesday

Place: Cafeteria/ Inuyasha's table

Time: Lunchtime

"So, Inuyasha?" Hojo asked as he bit into his sandwich. "Wanna do something fun tonight?"

Inuyasha smirked. "Yeah? Hell yeah, we can do something! Snake, you in?"

Miroku smiled widely. "Aren't I always?"

"Great." Hojo smirked. "Meet me tonight at nine and seventh."

Inuyasha smiled as he bit into his sandwich. 'Finally, he is showing some confidence in me.'

Miroku smiled proudly. "With the dog demon, slippery snake and the sneaky racoon out on the prowl...'

Inuyasha grinned. "Tonight's gonna be a great night."

Day: Wednesday

Place: Abe Hall/Literature Class

Time: 4:50

Everyone watched the clock.

Ten minutes late...

"Ten minute rule." Someone said as they got out the paper. "Everyone sign your name and split."

Inuyasha walked up behind Kagome as she signed her name. "You busy tonight?"

"Nope, wanna come over?" Kagome asked.

"Sure." Inuyasha replied.

As they walked to Kadowaki...

"Oohh..." Kagome gritted her teeth as she remembered. "I need to go shopping. All I have at home is about 20 packs of Ramen Noodles."

Inuyasha suddenly looked thrilled. "That's fine with me!" Inuyasha licked his lips.

Kagome just stared at him. "You know, I didn't say I had a steak or anything. They're just noodles."

"Yeah, I heard ya." Inuyasha reassured her. "That's fine with me."

Kagome just laughed at him. "Odd."

Inuyasha looked at her puzzled. "What?"

Kagome turned to face him. "By the car you drive and the clothes you wear...I never thought cheap noodles would impress you so much."

Inuyasha just turned to look straight ahead. "There's more to me than just a pretty face, Kitten."

Kagome's attitude suddenly changed as Inuyasha heard her humph.

"What?" Inuyasha asked.

"You are doing it again." Kagome frowned. "I'm not a kitten, Kikuchi. I'm Kagome."

Inuyasha disagreed with her comment. "Tch...naw."

"What?" Kagome frowned. "What do you mean 'tch, naw'?"

"Look Kitten." Inuyasha answered. "It just fits ya, alright."

"Fits me?" Kagome looked at him puzzled.

"Yeah." Inuyasha kicked a rock near the sidewalk.

"What do you mean?" Kagome asked curiously.

Inuyasha frowned. "Look, I'll tell ya later. Let's just hurry up already. That Ramen's been locked up for too long."

Place: Kadowaki/near Kagome's room

Time: 5:06

Tana walked up to Kagome as she and Inuyasha were standing by her dorm. "Kagome?"

"Yeah?" Kagome answered as she unlocked her door.

Tana gestured toward Inuyasha.

Kagome urked. Did all her friends always have to bug her? "He's my literature partner."

As Kagome and Inuyasha both went inside, Tana remarked "Me, Sango, Eri, and Yumi are meeting in the lobby at 10:00 tonight. You should really come."

"Umm...okay, I'll be there." Kagome answered back as she shut her door.

Inuyasha sat over on her bed. "So, where were we again?"

Kagome crossed her arms defiantly. "Not yet Inuyasha. You haven't explained that whole 'kitten' thing yet."

Inuyasha half-groaned. But at least she was starting to use his first name. "Fine. It's just a thing I have."

Kagome looked at him strangely. "A thing?"

Inuyasha stood up. "There are people out there who have a certain 'tack' for acting like a certain creature."

Kagome's expression did not change. "Come again, Kikuchi?"

Inuyasha waved her comment off. "Even Sango saw it in Miroku."

Kagome thought about his reply. "A certain creature? You mean when she called him a snake?"

Inuyasha pointed right at Kagome and winked. "Bingo."

"Wait...let me get this straight. You call all the people you know by animal names?" Kagome said out loud to herself.

"Nah. Just people I hang out with." Inuyasha frowned at her. "Used to do it all the time with my friends. Back before you took Raccoon out for good."

Kagome scratched her head. "The racoon? You mean Fukazawa?"

Inuyasha's expression didn't change. "Right again, Kitten. You turned him into a pathetic sap after you left him."

Kagome frowned. "HE is the one who hurt ME. It was not the other way around and-wait a minute?!" She walked up to Inuyasha, nose to nose. "Are you saying that I represent a KITTEN?!"

Inuyasha just laughed at her. "Catch on quicker than the average broad, don't ya?"

Kagome looked at him, unsure whether or not to be offended. "Fine. What is it exactly that makes me a 'kitten'?"

Inuyasha got up and started to take out the Ramen. "So many things. For one." He ripped a packet open and threw it into an already prepared hot pot. "You aren't dumb, but you still got a lot to learn." He ripped open another packet. "Two, you're playful."

Kagome blinked. "Playful?"

"Yeah, you're a pretty playful kitty." Inuyasha grinned as he made a small swish of his hand. "But if somebody crosses you, they'll get scratched." He checked on the Ramen and unplugged the hot pot. "But your scratches don't hurt physically, just emotionally." Inuyasha poured out his Ramen. "Get it now, Kitten?"

"Yeah...I guess so." Kagome added reluctantly. "But, how come you don't use your own real name Inuyasha?"

Inuyasha didn't want to have to answer the question. "'Cause I hate it." he mumbled as he poured the rest of the soup into another bowl.

"Hate it?" Kagome questioned. "Why?"

"Because it's corny!" Inuyasha handed Kagome her bowl of Ramen. "Inuyasha is what people call me. Anything else..." He glared as he started to suck up his ramen. "...they pay."

Kagome shook her head and sighed. 'Tough guy attitude again.' "Alright, alright. No need to get defensive." She set her bowl down on the counter and went to one of her drawers. She pulled out something in a small, flat, white color and handed it to Inuyasha. "Here."

Inuyasha put his ramen down beside Kagome's and took the object. "What is it?" He flipped it open and saw a sticker that said BEWARE OF DOG. MAY BITE!

"Thought you'd like it." Kagome smiled. "Saw it in a sticker machine and decided to get it."

Inuyasha just looked at her, confused. "You...thought of me?"

"Well, yeah." Kagome answered casually.

Inuyasha continued to look at the sticker. "...You bought a sticker for me?"

Kagome just nodded her head as she ate.

"Yeah....kay." Inuyasha looked at the simple sticker while he finished eating his ramen.

As Kagome finished up her Ramen, Inuyasha already got out the book. "Kay. It was around that asshole in eight or nine or somethin'."

Kagome just smiled. She knew who he meant. "Snape?"

"Yeah, that guy." Inuyasha flipped through the pages. "Found it. 'Over the noise, Snape said, 'and a point will be taken from Gryffindor House for your cheek, Potter.'" Tch. See, total asshole."

Kagome looked over at the book. "By the way..."

"Yeah?"

"You refer to the people you hang out with by animals, but you called Kouga 'the wolf'?" Kagome asked. She hadn't believed Kouga and Inuyasha were friends before.

"I didn't name 'em that." Inuyasha frowned. "He earned his nickname from all the rumors at this school.." He looked over at Kagome seriously. "You really shouldn't hang out with him."

Kagome shrugged her shoulders. "Rumors are rumors. Kouga's a good friend." Then, she got a strange look on her face, as if experiencing a sense of déjà vu. "Huh. That's kinda funny."

Inuyasha looked at her. "What's kinda funny?"

Kagome smiled at Inuyasha. "Kouga keeps telling me that I shouldn't be hanging around with you. That you would just add me to your 'collection of girls'." Kagome chuckled.

Inuyasha growled. "He's an idiot then. And he's not trustworthy."

"Oh? And Miroku is I suppose?" Kagome smiled knowingly.

Inuyasha grumbled. "I'm just telling you that Kouga is bad news."

Kagome ignored his warning. "It doesn't matter what you say." She looked at the book. "He's been there for me for a long time."

'That's not a comforting thought.' Inuyasha frowned. "Can we get back to the book?"

Kagome nodded her head. "That's an excellent idea."

Later that night after 10:00...

Kagome looked at all her friends surrounding her. She was in the middle of the lobby of her floor, next to the couch and the T.V. "Okay, why am I in the center?"

Sango put her hands on Kagome's shoulders. "Kagome, we feel it's time for a girls-to-girl talk." Eri, Yumi and Tana all nodded.

Kagome looked down at her fuzzy pink slippers and purple pajamas. She noticed the teardrops looked neat on her pajamas and she started to feel how soft her pajamas were. Then, she noticed that someone must have been cooking a late supper because there was some corn being cooked on the small kitchenette near them. It smelled good. Kagome let her senses take her everywhere...except right in front of her. She really didn't want to know why she was there. What could she have done wrong? Knowing that she was probably making her friends mad while she looked every which way, she decided to face the music. "Okay. Considering I am the one in the circle, I did something, right? Just tell me what I did."

Yumi shook her head yes. Kagome looked at her pretty green pajamas and blue houseshoes. Then, Kagome looked over at Eri's outfit. She had on a blue bathrobe and green froggy houseshoes.

"Kagome, this lit partner of yours..." Eri began.

Kagome held up her hand. "Wait." She looked at Eri's shoes again. "Where did you get those, those are cute!"

Eri stopped to look at her houseshoes and clicked them together. "Aren't they cool? I found them on sale at the mall. It was a sweet deal."

"Are there anymore?" Kagome asked.

"No, I got the last pair." Eri smiled.

"Kagome!" Sango scolded. She knew Kagome was just trying to take the focus off of herself. "The shoes aren't important. Your so-called 'lit partner' is. He cannot be good news."

Kagome groaned. "Not this." She shook her head exasperatedly. "Inuyasha is fine. I actually

feel like were becoming friends.”

Everyone but Kagome groaned.

Kagome sighed. Now what?

Tana stood up in her fuzzy red slippers and purple bathrobe, somehow making them seem more regal. “Higurashi Kagome. Kikuchi Inuyasha may be a nice guy, but he is Hojo’s friend. You know his real goal.”

Kagome waved the comment off. “I know, I know. He wants me to get back with Hojo. It’s pretty obvious, but I don’t care.”

“But Kagome!” Yumi added. “That is exactly the point! You see, he is hojo’s friend, but he is becoming one of your friends too. And you know that sooner or later...”

Kagome waited for Yumi to finish. “Sooner or later what?”

“Kagome.” Tana said firmly, crossing her arms. “Boy and girl. Reading next to each other. Spending three to four hours a day with each other?”

“Kagome, he is going to fall for you.” Sango finally stated. “He is going to fall and he is going to fall hard.”

Kagome just stared at her friends. Then blinked. “Me and Inuyasha?” Then, she burst out laughing. “Oh come on, be serious! He has like 100 girlfriends! You guys, Kikuchi’s a nice friend but that’s all.”

Her friends all raised their eyebrows at her.

“I told you she wouldn’t listen.” Yumi sighed. Sango, Eri and Tana all nodded in agreement.

“Okay Kagome.” Eri said. “You go ahead and keep hanging out with your harmless Kikuchi, but when it happens, don’t forget that we warned you.”

Kagome just shook her head and stood up. “You guys are paranoid. Inuyasha and I might be friends...” *Might. I’m not sure if he’d admit that....* “but friends is all we will be. Now, if you excuse me, I have an early class tomorrow.”

All the girls watched Kagome leave knowingly.

Tana sighed as she sat back down with the other girls. “Good thing we didn’t tell her she might start falling for him too, huh? She probably would have died laughing.”

Sango groaned as she shook her head back and forth in shame. “How come no one ever sees the wreck until it’s too late?”

“Because the light is green.” Eri answered. “They both we’ll be going too fast to stop in

time for the yellow light and then BAM! Disaster.”

Tana stood up again. “Well, we tried to warn her.” She looked over at Sango. “I think one of us needs to keep our eye on her for awhile.”

Eri and Yumi also looked at Sango.

Sango frowned. “Well, let me just jump up and volunteer then.” She said sarcastically.

The other girls smiled as they got up, but before Sango could get up, Tana decided to give her a new warning:

“Don’t forget the same rule applies to you too!”

Once Sango figured out WHO Tana meant, she went after her. “Tana, don’t even KID about that! Me and HIM?!”

Tana just winked as she quickly went into her room. “Quiet hours, I’ll see you tomorrow night.”

Sango growled as she went into her own bedroom. “Yucky. That’s not even funny. Not me and that...snake.”

Day: Wednesday

Place: Inuyasha’s Room

Time: 2:00 A.M.

Inuyasha laid in bed and kept fumbling with the sticker Kagome gave him. ‘It’s weird. She bought me a sticker. It was only 50 cents, but why does it make me feel good? It’s not real cool, it’s just a stupid sticker.’ He traced the wording on it and smirked. ‘Okay, it’s kinda cool but....dang, giving me this thing out of the blue...’

He looked up at the ceiling as he remembered Hojo’s words:

/”It’s never earth-shattering, just something. Trivial but nice. That’s my Kagome.”/

He closed his eyes. Why was this affecting him? Hell, plenty of girls gave him treats and expensive stuff all the time. All this sticker was worth was a lousy 50 cents. Yet, somehow it meant something to him. He really liked it for some reason. “That Kitten’s something else, alright.”

With that final thought, he put the sticker back on top of his bedstand and turned off the lamp.

Day: Thursday

Place: Ito Hall

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Inuyasha walked out of class after all his other classmates. He went to sit in his usual spot after class. Kagome had also just left her own class and was leaving the building. She smiled and waved at Inuyasha as she saw him. "Hey, Inuyasha."

"Hey there Kitten." Inuyasha replied. "Goin' home now?" Kagome shook her head.

"Well, careful. It's getting cold out there." He replied. "Shoulda brought a jacket."

Kagome laughed. Inuyasha frowned. "What the hell did you laugh for?"

"I was just thinking." Kagome smiled. "A lot sure can change in a week."

Inuyasha stopped to see what she meant. "Yeah...guess so."

Kagome waved goodbye as she took off.

"Inu!"

Inuyasha looked over at the girl who had just called his name. She was the person he had been waiting for. "Hey Cookie, you ready?"

"Sure are! I'm so glad you can take me home this week!" she squealed. "Last week, I had to call a Taxi." She made a disgusted look. "You were all yucky and gross in the bathroom. Ew."

"Yeah." Inuyasha said sarcastically. "Thanks for actually caring about my welfare."

Cookie just blinked. "Welfare? I didn't know you were on welfare."

Inuyasha blinked. Damn. 'I got a real winner for a girlfriend.' He thought sarcastically. This girl was nothing like Kitty. "You ready or what?"

"Yeppy yep, Inu-kins!" she smiled as she hugged him.

Inuyasha just stared at her. Inu-kins? Definitely not like Kitten. "Let's go."

The Importance of A Pepsi?

Choice of a new generation. A generation ago. Old fanficcer joke, working on this makes me feel so old. (LOL)

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Nine: What's the Worth of a Pepsi?

Day: Saturday (one month later)

Place: Kadowaki

Time: 2:30 P.M.

Sango waited downstairs as Inuyasha and Miroku looked at her.

"Where's Kitten?" Inuyasha asked.

Sango just groaned. Why did Kagome let Kikuchi call her 'kitten' all the time? "Kagome didn't feel like leaving so I'll escort you up."

Miroku smiled and Inuyasha looked puzzled as Sango called over for Yumi.

Miroku's smile became even bigger. "My, my. Two lovely escorts?"

Yumi and Sango ignored him as they walked them toward the elevator. As they started to go up to Kagome's room, Inuyasha noticed something. He pointed at the calendar. "What's that?"

Yumi looked at the calendar. Kagome's name was written on the fifth square. "Oh, you mean you didn't know Kagome's birthday is the 5th of October?"

Inuyasha and Miroku looked at the calendar closely.

"Now, that will be helpful." Inuyasha grinned at Miroku. "Looks like our second chance is coming up."

Sango frowned. She knew what they were talking about. She knocked on Kagome's door.

"It's Open!"

Sango opened the door and let Inuyasha in. "I'll be tying Miroku up in 2R and watching a movie with Yumi." she remarked right before she shut the door again.

Inuyasha was puzzled by what he saw. "...Kitten?"

Kagome stuck her head out of her long warm winter blanket. "Hey Inuyasha!" She pointed to the window. "Look, isn't it beautiful right now?"

Inuyasha frowned. "Have you been out there? It's wet and slippery and cold and-what're you doing?!"

Kagome got up and bent over for some slippers.

Inuyasha's mind just went to mush as Kagome strolled over in her bathrobe and house shoes. "Duh...uhhh..."

He looked at what Kagome was holding out to him. A red robe? "What?"

Kagome dangled the robe. "Put it on."

"You out of your mind?" Inuyasha had to ask.

Kagome frowned. "No, of course not. Just put it on. It's warm and cozy.

Inuyasha just looked at Kagome suspiciously as he put it on.

"There." Kagome smiled as she crawled back into bed. She looked over Inuyasha and then patted the bed.

Inuyasha blinked and shook his head in disbelief. Was he judging the situation wrong? "I don't wanna. If you want that kind of thing, Miroku would be more than glad to help."

Kagome looked at him for a second, before she caught his meaning. "What? I'm not that kind of girl!" She crossed her arms. The things that must have been going through his head..."Idiot." she sighed. "I like to do this with my friends when it snows outside. We get in robes and have cocoa and talk." She patted the bed. "Now come on. I don't bite."

Inuyasha shook his head in disbelief. 'Friend? What, does she think of me as a harmless 'girlfriend'? "I'm a guy you know." he growled. "I'm not gonna jump in and start talking

about my hair and gossip and shit."

"Duh." Kagome simply replied. "Just come in, it's warm."

Inuyasha scoffed, but eventually put the robe on and went to her bed. "This is ridiculous."

Kagome ignored the comment and plopped some of her warm blanket over him. Then, she got up and moved over toward her microwave. She opened it's door and there stood two cups of hot cocoa. She got them out and held one in each hand. She turned toward Inuyasha. "Creamy Cocoa or Regular Marshmallows?"

Inuyasha just looked at her strangely. "Marshmallows....have I ever told you you're weird?"

Kagome got back into bed as she handed the marshmallow cocoa to Inuyasha. She smiled at him. "I'm not weird, I just love this kind of weather. I'm usually out trudging to class in it or I'm too busy to enjoy it." She looked dreamily out her window. "Today though, I'm free. I haven't had to do anything, so I just started to cuddle up and watch the snow fall. She looked over at Inuyasha's cocoa he wasn't drinking yet. "When you called, I thought it would be nice if I fixed some hot cocoa for us. Like I do with Sango and my friends."

Inuyasha looked at his cocoa. It had been awhile since he had some. As he took a sip, he looked over at Kagome. "You're still weird." He looked at her robe again. "I'm not a harmless girlfriend."

Kagome looked at her robe. "Yeah....tch. Don't worry, I've got some small clothes on underneath. I just like the coziness of a robe, don't you?"

Inuyasha took another sip of his cocoa. "It's stupid."

Inuyasha and Kagome continued to drink their hot cocoa until it was gone. Then, they had another. But by that 3rd cup, Inuyasha was starting to change his tune.

"No, you go." Inuyasha insisted.

"No. I had to get up to make the last two cups." Kagome growled.

"Your place, I'm the guest." Inuyasha smirked knowingly.

Kagome grumbled as she left the cozy comfiness of her blanket and stood up to reach the second book in the series. "Fine, but you read first."

Kagome frowned as Inuyasha started to hog the blanket. "Good trade to me, kitten."

"Inuyasha!" Kagome whined as she pulled on the blanket. "Don't, you have to share!"

Inuyasha grinned wickedly. "Momma never taught me how to share."

"Oooohhh...Inuyasha!" Kagome whined some more.

"One condition." Inuyasha finally gave in. "Invite Hojo, Miroku and I to your birthday party."

Kagome frowned. She had planned on asking for Inuyasha to come, but Hojo? "Dangit."

Inuyasha hugged the blanket affectionately. "Mmmm...so nice and cozy."

"Alright." Kagome gave in. "Fine, you guys can come. BUT, you have to keep Miroku under control."

"I make no promises." Inuyasha smirked as he let Kagome back in the blankets.

Kagome elbowed Inuyasha. "That's mean."

Inuyasha just grinned. "That's me."

"I know." Kagome grumped as she opened the book up and took out her new bookmark. "I knew I shouldn't have gotten up. You start."

Inuyasha just smiled as he started to read page 139.

Time: 2:30 P.M.

Place: Bottom floor of Kadowaki/front door

"Enjoy the cold." Sango grinned wickedly at Miroku.

Miroku sighed as he looked out into the falling snow. Sango, don't you have any feelings for me?"

Sango just turned around. "No positive feelings."

"Yeah, yeah." Kagome muttered as she waved goodbye to Inuyasha. "See ya Inu."

"Yeah. You too kitten." Inuyasha waved as he and Miroku got into Inuyasha's car.

"So...." Miroku smiled. "Kagome's birthday is coming."

"Heh. This we can use to our advantage." Inuyasha smirked. "Once Raccoon hears this, he'll be able to get her something real nice."

"And you?" Miroku questioned.

Inuyasha looked at his friend as he stopped by Miroku's door. "And me what?"

"You are friends now. Are you going to get her something?" Miroku explained.

"I don't know, I guess." Inuyasha frowned at Miroku. "But it won't be better than Hojo's. Can't be, that guy is so on edge already."

Miroku just smiled. "Whatever you say, my friend." 'Whatever you say.'

Day: Sunday

Place: Bijou Bleu

Time: 2:30 P.M.

Hojo rubbed his hands together as he looked at the jewelry in the jewelry store. "1,000, 2,000...3,000 yen?"

"You should not get something too expensive." Miroku suggested. "She may not accept it."

Hojo looked over at Inuyasha suspiciously. "What are you getting her?"

Inuyasha waved it off. "Something cheap. 50, 100...maybe 500 yen.

Hojo sighed. "Good. Now...if I could just remember what she liked."

Inuyasha looked over at the jewelry in front of Hojo. "Looks the same, just pick one."

Miroku agreed with Inuyasha. Hojo pointed to a beautiful necklace for 2,000 yen. "Then I'll take that one."

The jeweler smiled. "Beautiful necklace for a beautiful lady?"

Hojo grinned. "Not only beautiful, but special."

Day: Tuesday

Place: Abe Hall/ Out front

Time: 12:30 P.M.

Hojo, Miroku and Inuyasha were leaning against the side of the building, enjoying the sun now that it had finally come out.

"Hey Inu?" Hojo asked.

"Yeah?"

"Wanna make a bet?" Hojo grinned.

Inuyasha grinned back. "About what?"

Hojo reached into his pocket. "I bet you 100 yen that you can't name six girls you went out with this semester."

"Ooh!" Miroku chirped happily. "I will take that bet too!"

"Tch...I can name six." Inuyasha started numbering off his fingers. "There's Cookie....Candy....Angelica...K...Katherine? Yeah and uhhh..."

Hojo laughed. "You won't make it!"

"I can too!" Inuyasha growled. "Got four, didn't I?!"

Hojo put up three fingers. "It was Christy not Katharine."

"Crap! Wait, wait, wait..." Inuyasha thought. "Wasn't there a Kikyou in there somewhere?"

"Hi Inuyasha!"

Inuyasha looked over to see Kagome and Tana walking up to them. Kagome smiled at Inuyasha.

Hojo waved at Kagome. "Hi there, Kagome."

"Hello." Kagome replied courteously.

"Kagome, we are going to be late." Tana frowned.

"Right." Kagome handed Inuyasha a Pepsi. "Here you go. See ya."

With that, she kept walking straight with Tana.

Inuyasha looked at the pop in his hand. "Huh?"

"Hey!" Hojo shouted angrily.

Inuyasha looked over at him. "What?"

Hojo grabbed the pop out of Inuyasha's hand. "How long has she been doing this?"

Inuyasha frowned. "Hey. It's just a pop...idiot."

"How long?" Hojo repeated more firmly.

Inuyasha just looked away. "First time she did it, okay?"

Hojo frowned. "She do anything else?"

Inuyasha glanced back at him. "What do you mean?"

"You know what I mean." Hojo said seriously. "Has she visited you when you're sick? Thrown an extra scarf over you when she passes by..." Hojo seemed to drift away into nostalgia. "Left a little love note in your locker.."

Inuyasha kept shaking his head. "Lovenote? Locker? Hojo, this is college. We don't have lockers."

"...helped you straighten your tie for work...came over with a dessert when you felt bad..." Hojo laughed. "One time, I banged my toe real hard on the bed, and since she didn't know how to help, she banged her toe real hard too."

Miroku completely tuned out his friend, but Inuyasha was halfway listening. 'That sounds like Kagome. Looks like they do have a history together. I should probably leave him alone...'

Inuyasha looked at his Pepsi that Hojo was still holding. 'I'll leave him alone...but that is my pop.' "Hoj'?"

Hojo sighed and looked at the Pepsi dreamily. "Not very often, but every once in awhile she'd give me a pop as she walked by. Just because..."

Inuyasha was deciding on what to do. I mean, it was just a pop. Just a stupid simple pop. But Kagome gave it to him, it was his.

Miroku just looked stupefied at Inuyasha and Hojo. Both were staring at the pop in such a strange way.

"She always brought me a 7up though." Hojo glared at the Pepsi, right before looking at Inuyasha. He debated whether he could give the pop back or not.

"Hoj'." Inuyasha looked at his friend. "That's my favorite."

Hojo stared at him.

"Maybe she will bring you a 7up later." Inuyasha said firmly as he eyed his pop. "But Kitten gave me that, that's MY Pepsi."

"This?" Hojo held up the Pepsi. "You want it? You need it that bad? It's just...a pop."

Miroku stepped between his friends. Had they left the realm of reality? It was just a pop! "Yes, well I am quite parched myself. Perhaps we could find a vending machine nearby?" There, problem solved.

"Yeah, sure." Hojo muttered as he looked over at Inuyasha. "We can get another Pepsi for you."

"Nuh uh. For you." Inuyasha corrected Hojo as he pointed to the Pepsi. "Kagome gave me

that one, it's mine."

Miroku put his hand to his head in frustration. What was wrong with his friends?

"You like 7up. So you can go get a 7up." Inuyasha stated logically.

"I haven't had a Pepsi in awhile though." Hojo frowned as he popped the can open.

"Fine then." Inuyasha growled. How dare Hojo open up his pop! "Then go buy yourself one."

Miroku, fed up with the pointless fight about a pop can, bumped into Hojo causing him to drop the Pepsi.

Inuyasha and Hojo stared at the pop can on the ground bitterly as it spilled its contents.

"Oops. My fault completely." Miroku smiled. "Now, let's all just go to the vending machine and buy new pops. Alright?"

"Fine." Hojo agreed huffily as he turned to start to walk away. "Doesn't matter, forget the bet. It was too easy to win, to expect you to even name-"

"Okay!" Miroku patted his friends' shoulders and led the way. "I suggest we get going already because I still have a class to attend!"

Day: Tuesday

Place: Knicknacks

Time: 4:00 P.M.

Inuyasha trudged into a small store that didn't have expensive things. Mostly small, thoughtful gifts. Surely he couldn't step on Hojo's feet here.

"Hello sir." the nice lady behind the cashier asked. "May I help you find something?"

"Nah." Inuyasha replied as he looked around. Huh. Birthday Shopping. *This sucks, I never know what to get.* But just then he saw a small area that caught his attention. He smirked as he made his way over...

Interesting Surprises

Author's note: Same old, same old.

I don't own Inuyasha or anything having to do with this show. I also don't own Keebler's crackers, Dr. Pepper, Swiss Miss Cocoa, Harry Potter, Ranma or whatever other bizarre things this fanfiction includes I may be mistaken to own. I make this entire story and all of it's chapters only for entertainment purposes, (and an excuse to avoid my homework:). I make no profit off of this fic, so please don't sue. You won't get much since I'm just a struggling college student.^^

Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Ten: Interesting Surprises

Day: Wednesday

Place: Kadowaki entrance

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Inuyasha, Hojo and Miroku waited patiently downstairs for their escorts.

Hojo fumbled around with his gift nervously. *Please let her like it, please let her like it...*

Inuyasha watched Hojo bouncing back and forth on the balls of his feet. "She'll like it already. Don't worry, geez."

"You really think so?" Hojo asked nervously.

Inuyasha put his hand on his forehead in frustration. "'Jo, don't start your squirming again. We've already gone through a month of your 'misery'."

"True." Miroku agreed. "Do not worry my dear friend. Women love jewelry. I'm sure she will be head over heels."

"Yeah." Hojo sighed. "Did you get her anything?" he asked Miroku.

Miroku smiled. "Why yes, I did. I thought I'd give you and Kagome a little push as well."

Inuyasha was about to ask him what he meant when Tana, Sango and Eri came down.

“Alright fellas.” Sango ordered. “Don’t be too loud. Don’t go too far and...just be good, okay?”

“We will try our best.” Miroku smiled.

The women just groaned as they led the way up the stairs into the lobby.

Kagome waved at them as they came into sight. “Hey you guys.”

“Hey there.” Inuyasha and Hojo both replied at the same time.

Kagome smiled at them. “This is just a small get together, so enjoy the cake.”

Inuyasha looked over at the small cake that was on the counter. “Who made it?”

Yumi raised her head. “I did. Why?”

Inuyasha decided not to take any. “Just a thing I got.”

Kagome couldn’t help but laugh a little, which caused Hojo to frown slightly. “Kagome?”

Kagome looked over at Hojo. “Yes?”

Hojo gave his best smile as he handed her his present. “Here. I-I hope you like it.”

Kagome looked at the present he handed her briefly. *Please don’t let it be...don’t let it be...* She opened up his gift and found a gorgeous necklace.

“Now that is nice.” Tana had to say in awe.

“That’s more than nice, it’s gorgeous.” Eri said a little in awe herself.

Kagome looked over at Hojo. “Hojo, you know I can’t take this.”

Hojo frowned. His plan wasn’t working at all.

“Oh...you mean you cannot accept anything over 3 thousand yen?” Miroku sighed.

“3,000 yen?!” all the women shouted.

Kagome’s eyes grew wide.” 3,000 yen? Absolutely not.”

Miroku grinned. “That is wonderful. So you will accept it? How lovely.”

Kagome just looked at him for a second until she figured out what he meant. “You sneaky

little...”

Yes, she had to agree with Inuyasha. Miroku definitely was a snake. Kagome shook her head in disbelief. She couldn’t believe she had let herself be fooled. “Tch. Whatever. Fine, I’ll accept.”

Hojo smiled, but couldn’t help a glance at Inuyasha.

...he sure had rubbed off on his Kagome.

Miroku stepped up next. “Here. I’m sure these will be nice.” He said politely as he handed his gift to Kagome.

Kagome gasped. “Reservations at Chez la Mange?”

Inuyasha blinked. “Shay la what?”

Kagome smiled at Miroku happily. “Two reservations at Chez la mange? That must have cost a pretty penny.”

“Many beautiful pennies, but it will be enjoyable.” Miroku smiled.

Kagome suddenly looked up from the tickets. “...what’s the catch?”

“Catch?” Miroku asked innocently. “None. Actually. We are all going to go out and celebrate this festive day with you there. Unfortunately, Inuyasha and I absent-mindedly made prior arrangements.”

Kagome stopped smiling. She knew where this was leading and she just couldn’t do it. She looked over at Sango and gave her the friendliest smile she could muster. “Sango my dear friend? May I see you over in the corner for a second?”

After some small whispers in a corner, Kagome and Sango returned. Sango did not look very happy at all. They walked over to the guys.

“Actually.” Kagome smiled at Miroku. “I’ve never been one for fine dining. Perhaps I might have if I ever...well, point being that I really can’t do this to Sango.”

Miroku looked at her strangely. “Hmm?”

Kagome handed Sango her ticket. “But Sango really does love it.”

Miroku frowned. He could not let his friend down so easily. “Yes, but-“

“You wanna go with me?” Sango grumbled.

Miroku looked at her, quite shocked. “...what?”

Sango sighed. The things she did for her friend. “You were nice enough to buy the reservations, so would you like to go with me?”

“Oh, yes. Quite!” Miroku said happily, apparently forgetting the fact that he was supposed to be busy.

Hojo groaned. *So close.*

Inuyasha just patted Hojo’s shoulder once hard as he passed his small box to Kagome. “Here.”

Kagome took the little box and opened it up carefully. What she saw, made her gasp.

Inuyasha just choked, the breath being knocked out of him as Kagome gave him a huge hug and a kiss on the cheek.

“Inuyasha, this is wonderful!” Kagome said as she spun around in a circle. Then, she showed off her new present.

A small Harry Potter pin.

Tana clasped her hands together. “Well, good for you, Kagome.” She walked over to Inuyasha. “Good call. She loves those books so much. You could have bought her a pencil that said Harry Potter and you would have gotten the same result.”

Kagome eagerly pinned it on herself. “How’s it look?” She smiled at Inuyasha, waiting for his answer.

Inuyasha grinned. He had never seen Kagome so happy before. “Looking great, Kitten.”

Kagome scrutinized her clothing. “But I’m wearing a light purple dress.” She looked at the pin. It was Harry smiling while he flew on his Nimbus 2000. “I think my green sweater will look better with it.”

Inuyasha didn’t know how to respond. “Kay.”

“Or maybe my blue sweater?” Kagome continued as she smiled at Inuyasha and bit her lip. “Thanks so much, Inuyasha.”

Inuyasha grinned back at her until he realized Hojo was burning him with a very hot glare. *Shit. He’s jealous again.* “Look, you enjoy yourself. I gotta get going now.”

Kagome just shook her head. “Okay, if you have to. Take care.” She waved.

Place: Kadowaki/front entrance/outside by the parking lot

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Inuyasha stayed silent as his friend Hojo ranted on and on.

But Inuyasha can only take so much. "Buddy?" he interrupted.

"Oh she will love it! All women love jewelry!" Hojo continued to ramble as he pointed at Inuyasha. "Yeah, well Kagome isn't like all women, is she?!"

"I never said that," Inuyasha rebuttalled. "That was Snake!"

"Doesn't matter!" Hojo went on. "You said your gift would be small. Something nice she would forget."

"How was I to know a freaking pin would make her so cheerful?" Inuyasha protested.

Hojo glared at Inuyasha, lowering his voice as deep as he could. "Yeah, well I saw that smile you gave her. You were happy she loved your gift so much, weren't you?"

Inuyasha closed his eyes, trying to think. He was certainly in a bind. "Yeah. Okay Raccoon, I was. I never tend to get the right kind of gift so yeah, I was happy. I didn't mess up. Okay?"

Hojo continued to glare at Inuyasha. "You're taking Kagome away."

Inuyasha frowned. "No, I'm not."

"Yes you are!" Hojo yelled. "I know you see her so much! I know she thinks more of you than me!"

Inuyasha tried to keep his cool. If he blew up now, him and Hojo could get in a serious fight. "Alright fine, I admit it. We're actually....sorta kinda friends. But I'm not stepping on your toes."

Hojo looked at him wearily. Should he really believe him or not?

"Look, she's a great girl." Inuyasha continued. "But she isn't one of mine. She is yours." Inuyasha pointed at Hojo.

Hojo seemed to feel more comforted at the thought.

Inuyasha on the other hand, wasn't comfortable with what he just said. He felt some sort of...feeling...that something was wrong. Something was wrong with what he just said. Deciding it was best to ignore that feeling, he went on. "Besides, you actually expect me, your future best man, to steal the bride? Yeeks Hojo, you've gotta loosen up."

Hojo sighed. "Yeah, I'm sorry." He smiled apologetically at Inuyasha. "I'm not even thinking straight anymore, am I?"

"Forget it." Inuyasha waved it off. "It's not even 8:00 yet, so let's blow this joint and go do

something. Okay?"

Hojo chuckled. "You bet...I just want to say I'm sorry again." He balled up his fists and sighed. "I just want her back so bad...ya know?"

"Yeah...I know." Inuyasha said, a little too softly for Hojo to hear.

Place: Chez la Mange

Time: 9:30 P.M. Miroku smiled over at Sango. It was too bad that Kagome could not make it with Hojo, but at least someone was enjoying the reservations. He couldn't help but notice the black dress with the red rose on the front she was wearing. "Have I told you how beautiful you look this evening, Yamado Sango?"

Sango kept her guard up. "No...but thanks."

Miroku looked at the menu briefly, before looking back at her. "Very elegant. You have a unique but fashionable taste."

"...sure." Sango fidgeted in her chair. She had never been alone with Miroku before. He was such a perverted person, she thought she knew exactly what to expect.

A fabulous suit, rose and a pleasant chivalrous way of treating a woman was not on her list.

He had picked her up outside of Kadowaki and they walked a short while until they reached his car. While they were walking he had pulled her arm into such a comfortable and loving embrace, she had not recognized it for a second. She blushed as she quickly yanked it away, but she felt bad when she saw the expression on his face. He looked so sad, as if she had hurt his feelings.

He had been trying to be such a perfect gentleman all night. Helping her in the car, which she tried to reject. Showing her a rose he had kept in the back of his car, which she tried to reject. Helping her out of the car when they arrived, which she also rejected. She had tried to reject everything all night, but every time she did, a look of hurt similar to when she pulled her arm away from him the first time, shown on his face.

Finally, she gave up. She accepted his rose and let him walk her into Chez la Mange.

Ever since then, he had been treating her so well, making such polite conversation and even saying how elegant she looked in her dress. It made her feel so weird.

Was this really the pervert she had had trouble with watching when Inuyasha came over? The same man that was friends with Inuyasha and Hojo? Maybe she was on Candid Camera?"

"Sango? What would you like?" Miroku asked gently. "I will order it for you."

Sango opened her menu and saw nothing she recognized. "I can't understand any of this."

“That is fine.” Miroku replied. “Simply tell me what you would like and I will find it for you Yamado.”

Sango sighed. That was probably one of the strangest things by far though. He referred to her with such politeness, even using her last name. He had never done that before. It was as if he had just met her. “How about chicken?”

Miroku smiled as he ushered for a waiter. “Deux poulets dans le vin blanc, sil vous plait monsieur.”

Sango blinked as the waiter left. “You speak French? Since when have you know French?”

Miroku smiled mysteriously as he held up a small glass of wine. “Perhaps there is more to me than what meets the eye...Yamado Sango.”

Sango tilted her head. “You have been acting so strange tonight. Why are you treating me with such respect? Why are you calling me by my last name? Why did you buy me a rose?” she frowned. “What exactly are you planning?”

Miroku frowned. “Nothing.. I have no motives.”

Sango continued to frown. “I refuse to go out with you.”

Miroku looked at her for a second, a little taken back. He looked at his glass of wine. “I am sorry.” He closed his eyes. “I see, I was not thinking straight. I had assumed this was a date.”

Sango looked at him in surprise. “A date? No, of course not. Why would I date you?”

As she looked at Miroku she realized that was the wrong thing to say. “I mean...”

“It is fine.” Miroku replied quickly. “I understand now. This was just a ruse to get Kagome out of coming here with Hojo.”

“Well...” Sango stopped. “It was. I thought you picked up on that by now.”

Miroku stayed quiet.

Sango continued to look at Miroku. ‘Now it makes sense. He was so polite and sweet because he believed we were on a date.’ She looked at the napkin sitting on her lap. ‘And here I am, telling him that it was all just for Kagome.’

Miroku looked back up and saw Sango looking down at her napkin with a look of guilt on her face. He quickly put on a fake smile. “It is alright my dear. I was just silly, but now that I know there isn’t a chance with you, I won’t make you feel uncomfortable anymore. Let’s just enjoy the evening and eat. Okay?”

Sango looked back up and smiled. “Okay. It’s just that I’m sorry about before.”

“Do not worry dear Sango.” Miroku smiled as the food came.

That evening Sango had such a wonderful time. Who had known Miroku had had such an interesting life? “It’s hard to believe.” Sango smiled as she finished off her salad.

Miroku himself was also having a nice time. “It’s true.” He looked at his watch as he heard the bell in the restaurant ring. “My dear Sango, I believe the restaurant will be closing soon.”

Sango looked at her watch as well. “Yeah, I guess you are right.” She stood up and looked over at Miroku. “Ready to go?”

Miroku drove her back to Kadowaki’s entrance.

Sango smiled as she got out of the car. “I’ll see ya soon.”

“Of course.” Miroku smiled. “But Sango?”

Sango stopped walking and looked back at him. “Yes?”

Miroku looked straight ahead of himself as he said, “I still believe you looked very elegant tonight.”

Sango couldn’t help but blush a little bit as she saw Miroku put his car into drive and take off.

Place: Inuyasha’s house

Time: 2:00 A.M.

Inuyasha yawned as he crawled into his bed.

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

Inuyasha picked up his cell phone. “Hello?”

Hey there!

Inuyasha groaned. “Sanke, what’re you calling me for?”

I think it is possible!

“What?” Inuyasha asked.

Sango and I have been thinking about it all night! I think we would work!

Inuyasha stayed silent for some time. “Hey.”

Yes?

“Maybe you shouldn’t go after her.” Inuyasha said seriously.

Hmmm?

“She’s Kagome’s friend idiot.” Inuyasha scolded. “Even if by some miracle she likes you, you just can’t.”

Nothing but silence was heard at the end of the phone before another sound came in.

::Hang up tone::

Inuyasha looked angrily at his cell phone. “Geez, cut me off like that.” His eyes glanced over by the sticker on his bed.

Still lying there.

Inuyasha shook his head, thinking back to the day with the pop. Hojo had asked him if she had done anything else nice for him. “He didn’t need to know. It was just a sticker.”

Day: Thursday

Place: Ito Hall

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Kagome was walking away from her last class when she saw Inuyasha standing up. He had been sitting on the side of the wall next to his next class.

“Hey there Kitten.” Inuyasha greeted Kagome.

“Hi.” Kagome waved as she continued to walk.

But Inuyasha stood in front of her way, making it stop. “You busy?”

“Noooo...” Kagome said cautiously. “Why?”

Inuyasha swung his keys on his finger. “Not taking anyone home tonight. So, wanna go read for awhile? We fell kinda behind.”

“Ummm...okay, I guess.” Kagome replied as they walked to Inuyasha’s car.

Place: Kadowaki

Time: 7:00 P.M.

“Hey.” Inuyasha looked over at Kagome. “Does his chick die or what?”

Kagome elbowed him. “Chick, really. Hermione’s not Harry’s chick. If anything, she might be Ron’s later.”

“Red haired guys, huh?” Inuyasha looked at the book. “Then, when does Harry get his broad?”

Inuyasha instinctively shielded himself from Kagome’s pitiful attack to his head.

Kagome laughed. “You are impossible Inuyasha!”

Inuyasha just laughed at her attempts again. He knew it drove her crazy when he used chick, babe or broad. That’s why he did it.

“You are horrible sometimes!” Kagome tried not to laugh as she sat up.

Inuyasha just laid down. “Tch. Can’t teach me, just give it up.” Then, Inuyasha saw something that caught his attention peeking out from underneath her bed.

Kagome just humphed. “You are right. You just can’t teach an old dog new tricks, can you?” Just then, she saw what Inuyasha was bringing up.

Her old red notebook. She tried to reach for it.

“Oooohhh...” Inuyasha said with intrigue. “What’s so important about this notebook to the kitty, huh?”

“Give it back!” Kagome shouted angrily.

Inuyasha was stunned for a second how serious she was, when she snagged the notebook back. “What’s in there?”

“None of your business!” she shouted as she got off the bed and made for her closet.

But Inuyasha wouldn’t let that go. He got up and tried to stop her.

“I told you.” Kagome said firmly, not meeting his eyes. “It’s none of your business.”

Inuyasha frowned. “What’s so personal about a simple notebook?”

He got no response.

“Hey. Kagome?” Inuyasha asked softly.

“...what...” Kagome finally answered weakly.

Inuyasha didn’t know what to do. “You okay?”

Kagome closed her eyes tightly. "You should go. We'll read later."

Inuyasha continued to frown as he put one of his hands on her shoulder. "Come on Kitty, tell me what's wrong."

Kagome looked at Inuyasha's shoulder. "Inuyasha, you are a good friend, but..." she turned to look away from him, trying to hide the fact she was on the verge of crying. "...but your true friend is Hojo."

"Huh?" Inuyasha said bewildered. What did that have to do with anything?

She took his hand off her shoulder. "Knock on Sango's door. She'll take you out.."

"Whatt?" Inuyasha asked, not understanding what was going on. "Kago--"

"LEAVE!" she shouted angrily.

Inuyasha looked at her, stunned she would treat him in such a way. Without a word, he left her room and closed her door. Then he knocked on Sango's door.

Sango opened it in surprise. "Yes?"

"Need an escort." Inuyasha said huffily.

Sango looked at him strangely. "What? Why doesn't--" "What do you know about a red notebook of Kagome's?" Inuyasha interrupted quickly.

Sango looked troubled with the question. "How did you know about that?"

"Tell me already!" Inuyasha shouted.

Sango looked at him sternly as she locked her door and started to walk down the stairs with him. "That red notebook is a part of the past."

"Yeah? What about it?" Inuyasha asked as she led him out the stairway door to the front entrance.

"Trust me." Sango replied. "You will find out soon enough."

Inuyasha didn't respond as he turned to leave. He was upset with the whole situation. Why wasn't Kagome trusting him?

"Inuyasha?" Sango called out to him.

Inuyasha looked back. "What?"

"Who do you like better?" Sango questioned. "Kagome or Hojo?"

Inuyasha frowned. “What’s that got to do with anything?”

Sango turned away from him and started to walk away, but as she walked away, Inuyasha caught her last words. “Everything.”

Day: Friday

Place: Inuyasha’s House

Time: 2:30 A.M.

Inuyasha lied in his bed, unable to fall asleep. ‘Shoot, what is in that red notebook? Does Hojo know? Is it about Hojo?’ He shifted in his bed to lay on his side. ‘And what was with Sango’s question? Kagome or Hojo? Their both friends, and so far that hasn’t been much of a bad thing.’ He turned around to lay on his other side. ‘What is she is hiding something else though? Like someone hurt her bad? Why won’t she tell me?!’

He flipped himself onto his back again. ‘If we’re friends, she should tell me.’ He looked at the sticker on the top of his bed and fumbled with it. ‘Why can’t I stick this thing on something already?’ Then for some reason, his mind drifted toward the Pepsi incident.

“Aaaah!” he yelled in frustration as he flipped onto his side again. ‘What is that girl doing to me?!’ “If somebody hurt her, why won’t she tell me?!” He cracked his knuckles. “I’d make sure whoever it was never hurt her again.”

He flipped himself onto his back. ‘No one better have hurt her. I mean she’s...she’s...”She better tell me what is in that notebook before I go crazy!”

“Would you shut up already?!” Inuyasha heard through the walls. “Go to sleep already!”

Inuyasha growled. “Bite me!”

“If you don’t shut up, I will!” Sesshoumaru yelled back through the walls.

Inuyasha just grumbled. He wasn’t going to figure out any answers tonight, and he didn’t really want to know whether his brother would really come for him or not. So, deciding that he would get the information he wanted from her tomorrow, no matter what, he resigned on his constant turning and let his body relax as he turned off his lamp.

Tomorrow, he’d discover the truth. Whether he liked it or not.

Understanding

Author's Note: Very little editing. I really want to touch up more, but nope! I know people have been waiting over ten years (since 2007ish) for it to come back online. That's why I am trying to use the lightest touches.

I don't own Inuyasha or anything having to do with this show. I also don't own Keebler's crackers, Dr. Pepper, Swiss Miss Cocoa, Harry Potter, Ranma or whatever other bizarre things this fanfiction includes I may be mistaken to own. I make this entire story and all of it's chapters only for entertainment purposes, (and an excuse to avoid my homework:). I make no profit off of this fic, so please don't sue. You won't get much since I'm just a struggling college student.^^

Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Eleven: Understanding

Day: Friday

Place: Kadowaki

Time: 9:00 A.M.

Knock Knock

"Uuhhh..." Kagome mumbled as she got out of bed and stumbled to open the door. "Who's it?"

"Kagome."

Kagome opened the door when she recognized Sango's voice. "Sango?"

Sango pointed to her watch. "I know it's early, but I won't get done today until 7:00 P.M. and I need to talk to you."

Kagome yawned. "About what?"

Sango looked at her friend seriously. "About your friendship with Inuyasha." She crossed her arms. "You have to tell him."

"He already knows Hojo cheated on me," Kagome replied.

Sango smiled sadly. "Kagome. You and Inuyasha have become good friends in a short amount of time."

Kagome continued to listen.

You can't keep your feelings bottled up inside." Sango said sadly. "Not from him."

Kagome frowned. "I don't..."

"You've got to." Sango said firmly.

Kagome crossed her arms. "If I do he'll think I'm just another, crying broad." She looked at the ground. "I don't want him to think of me like that."

"He doesn't." Sango disagreed. He won't and he never will." Sango crossed her arms. "He already knows full well you aren't like the other girls he goes out with."

Kagome crossed her arms. "Are you sure?"

"Positive." Sango smiled. "And if he did make you feel bad, I would personally make him pay."

Kagome smiled back. "All right. Okay Sango, I know you are right." She met her friend eye-to-eye.

Sango smiled as she waved goodbye. "See ya later, gotta get to class. Get some rest, sleepy head."

Kagome yawned, smiled at her friend, and then closed her door to crawl back into the bed. *Telling Inuyasha? Maybe I should just pretend I'm still dreaming.*

But she knew in her heart, she wasn't. Sango was right. She would tell Inuyasha.

Time: 5:40 P.M./After Literature class

Kagome walked slowly to her dorm. The look in Inuyasha's eyes as she wandered into class before hand clearly told her that he wanted to know what was in the notebook. *I should've thrown it away.* She thought bitterly as she opened her door. *Then we wouldn't have to go through this.*

As she opened the door, she and Inuyasha walked. As Inuyasha sat down on the bed, she went to the closet and got out her red notebook.

Stupid notebook.

Kagome handed it to him, not meeting his eyes. *Here.*

Inuyasha looked at her as she gave the notebook to him. He slowly opened it...

and saw a bunch of math equations? "...huh?"

Kagome sat behind him. "That's...I'm not really good at math, but Hojo was..." She looked at Hojo's writing for the definition of population for statistics. "He...he tutored me. We wrote all the notes in that notebook." She pointed to the notebook sadly.

Inuyasha looked extremely puzzled. "Okay. You're upset over a notebook you took tutor notes in?" Inuyasha scratched his head. "Kitten, I don't get it, wh-"

Then, he stopped in mid sentence as Kagome lunged for him. He just sat there in shock as she held him tight and started to cry in his jacket.

"I thought I was the only one! I thought we were always supposed to be together!" she cried out as tears flowed freely down her cheeks.

Inuyasha couldn't think. What was he supposed to do? He didn't know, so just kind of 'patted' her back awkwardly.

Kagome moved her head underneath his jacket to his shirt. "I never thought Hojo and I would fit well at first (sniffle) but he kept trying and trying and eventually I caved."

Inuyasha looked around the room uncomfortably. What could he do? I mean, geez, she was crying on him.

Kagome snuggled her body closer to his, feeling a sense of warmth and comfort.

Inuyasha still didn't know what to do.

"Sango and Eri kept insisting I stop seeing him." Kagome continued. "Said any boy who still couldn't say 'I love you' or even show it after three years just wasn't right." She snuggled deeper into the warm jacket. "And I knew, I always knew. I knew the very first time I asked him to take me somewhere special and he refused, that it just couldn't be but I didn't care. As long as I was his one and only, I'd put up with it."

Inuyasha didn't respond. Something was starting to create a strange sensation in his chest. He didn't understand it, but he had stopped patting her back awkwardly. He had stopped looking around the room. Now, all he was doing was listening.

"But then, I caught him. Sango and I went to the theatres to see a movie...a-and..." she snuggled into Inuyasha's neck unconsciously. "...and he was kissing another woman! That's when I knew. I wasn't special to him at all. I felt like such an idiot." Kagome choked up. "I realized then and there that I wasn't the only one anymore. I never would be." She sunk back down into Inuyasha's shirt. "I cried for so long. I probably would have flunked all my classes if Eri and Sango hadn't dragged me out of bed each day...if they hadn't let me cry on their shoulders for hours at a time."

Kagome slightly lifted her head, still not meeting Inuyasha's eyes. "It took weeks before I could hear his name and not cry. But one day, Sango asked me something that completely changed me. She asked if I couldn't get over the long relationship with Hojo or if I couldn't get over the fact I was alone."

Then, Kagome made a slight sniffle as she looked up at Inuyasha. "That's when it hit me. I never loved Hojo. I liked him, I cared for him, but it wasn't love. It was more like I didn't want to be by myself. See Inuyasha." Kagome laughed, remnants of small tears still on her cheeks. "Hojo was really the first man I had ever been with." She wiped her tears away. "After that, I started getting better and my friends had shown me that I didn't need anyone with me to make me feel special. I already was."

Kagome smiled sadly as she gently took the notebook back. "But sometimes, I find things, that make me think 'what if'. Then, I know we would still be together, but I wouldn't be happy." She shrugged her shoulders. "Not with someone I don't love." She moved awkwardly away from Inuyasha, praying he didn't think less of her. She couldn't help it though. So many years with Hojo, reminiscing, she couldn't help but cry. Nevertheless, she wouldn't let the hurt feelings linger. "If I find someone I like then I'll date him, not the other way around. Now..." She turned back to smile at her friend. "So now that you know why the notebook made me act strange, why don't I just trash it and fix us something to eat?"

Inuyasha finally glanced at her and tried pathetically to make his bad-boy smirk. "Yeah. Good. That sounds good."

Place: Nameless Street/Inuyasha's Car

Time: 9:00 P.M.

Inuyasha was driving back home, the time with Kagome being over. Yet, he couldn't get the feeling of Kagome against him crying out of his mind.

It hadn't bother him too much that she had soaked his shirt or that she had cried for half an hour. It was the fact that while she was crying out all her hidden feelings, that his heart had really started to hurt.

He couldn't understand. The whole fiasco with Kagome had taken place over three hours ago, yet

He could still feel the hurt.

He stopped by the side of his house and got out. *One girl. Hojo had taken one other girl and it had hurt kitten so much.* He looked up at his house. *He made her hurt for so long. He made her feel so used.* "How could he ever do that to her?! Kitten is the best in the world, how he could he ever do that to her?!" He had known Hojo cheated on Kagome since before he met her. But it never really hit him until now.

She never talked about it. Never said what it was like. Never said what she felt.

Yeah, he had known but he had never UNDERSTOOD. He kicked his tire in frustration. "I mean, I go out with a lot of girls....but if I ever had that Kitten, I would never even think about doing that shit!"

"You wouldn't?"

Inuyasha froze for a second before turning around to see Miroku. "Shit."

Miroku frowned at him. "I take it from your tone that you have become quite more acquainted with the girl than you want Hojo to know."

Inuyasha didn't answer.

"Alright then, be silent." Miroku frowned. "But do me the honor of answering this-"

"I ain't answering nothing!" Inuyasha shouted. "Don't mess with me right now, just leave me alone!"

Miroku ignored his request. "Who do you really believe belongs with Kagome? Hojo? Or you?"

Without waiting for an answer, Miroku turned to leave as Inuyasha continued to his house.

Hojo or me? Where did that come from? Why am I even thinking about Snake's question?
Inuyasha unlocked his door. *I don't love the Kitty, I just don't like her getting hurt. There's a difference!* he shouted to himself as he went inside.

There's a difference.

Author's Note: Well, I hope everyone liked the chapter. It's more of a serious chapter, but I hope I portrayed the characters right. Especially Kagome. She is such a strong character, I didn't want her to just wail constantly. At the same time, she is finally showing how she felt about Hojo and the way he treated her. And they had such a LONG relationship. How could you not break down when you are forced to tell everything all over again? Tricky, tricky...

Lunch and Dessert

Author's Note: Little editing. Also, always never name chapters when you are hungry. I know I must have been hungry.:)

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Twelve: Lunch and Dessert

Day: Saturday
Place: Kadowaki
Time: 2:00 P.M.

Kagome smiled as she and Sango went downstairs. "Hello Inu!" she waved as she came out.

Inuyasha and Miroku both stood up.

"So my dear..." Miroku winked at Sango. "Where exactly shall I be tied up today?"

Sango didn't reply, but Kagome had noticed a slight funny smile on her face as she grabbed his hand and walked toward the stairs.

"Ooh, forceful." Miroku winked at Sango. "I love that in a woman."

Kagome saw Sango's strange reaction again. "Did I miss something?"

"Nah, ignore him." Inuyasha replied as he and Kagome started to follow in suit.

Place: Kadowaki/Kagome's room
Time: 2:10 P.M.

“ Oh, hello Hagrid, ha ha ha! Harry said, ha ha ha! Looking up, ha ha ha-!” Kagome laughed as Inuyasha tickled her.

“We’ve been reading for an hour straight! We need a break!” Inuyasha mercilessly kept tickling her. “Need food!”

Kagome kept laughing. “You could have, ha ha haahaha ha ha, just said so!”

Inuyasha brought her up to his chest to tickle the sides of her belly better. “That wouldn’t have been as much fun!” He laughed.

Kagome couldn’t take anymore. “Inuyasha!” she gave out her battle cry warning as she started to attack his feet.

“No, no, no! Not the feet, not the hahahhaahahahah!!” Inuyasha couldn’t control himself, but he wouldn’t give in. He brought his chin down on her shoulder so she couldn’t escape as he started to tickle her sides more.

But at that moment, the door swung open.

Miroku and Sango frowned as they looked at the very red faces of their friends.

Miroku observed as suddenly Kagome and Inuyasha were on the far opposite sides of the bed. “Oh. So, that was why you were making so much noise.” Miroku tried to look into Inuyasha’s eyes, but they were currently looking down at the Harry Potter book that had fallen on the ground. “Inuyasha”

“What?!” Inuyasha yelled, as if he had just been accused. “We we’re just having fun, that’s all! Friends can tickle each other, so shut UP!”

Miroku looked thoughtfully over at Sango. “Sango, have you ever been tickled by a friend who just happened to-“

“You know, we’re kinda busy.” Inuyasha growled as he glared at Miroku. He just knew he was taking it the wrong way.

“Y-yeah.” Kagome added softly as she tucked a piece of hair behind her ear nervously. “We were just about to...eat.”

Sango and Miroku just looked at each other, shook their heads and sighed.

Kagome got up and put her hands on her waist. “What exactly are those sighs supposed to mean?”

“Tch.” Inuyasha crossed his arms. “Easy kitten, just forget them.” Inuyasha frowned at Sango. “It just looks like some of Snake is rubbing off on your friend, that’s all.”

Sango humphed. “I just came to check up on Kagome. She’s not always safe around the likes of people like you.”

Inuyasha turned away from her. "You're one to talk when you hang out with the Snake."

Sango crossed her arms. "You two just don't get it." She said as she walked off.

Inuyasha looked at Miroku. "You should go catch your escort."

Miroku closed his eyes. "I will." He looked suspiciously at Inuyasha. "Just remembered the difference between lunch and dessert."

"What are you blabbering about." Inuyasha growled.

Miroku frowned at his friend. "Remember that you may have some lunch, but the dessert is supposed to belong to Hojo."

Kagome just looked at Inuyasha's reaction to the strange comment. He looked very uncomfortable, yet very angry at the same time. "Inuyasha?"

"Get the HELL out of HERE, MIROKU!" Inuyasha yelled angrily.

Miroku didn't reply as he left the room and closed Kagome's door behind him.

Kagome quietly went over to the cupboard. Miroku had certainly said something that upset Inuyasha. "Raviolo or ramen?" What had upset him so much about Hojo...

"Ramen." Inuyasha said clearing his throat. 'Damn Miroku! He really thinks I'm after Kagome!'

Kagome put some water in her hot pot and turned it on. "I'm sorry about Sango. She is a bit choosy about who I should hang out with."

Inuyasha waved it off. "That's all right, don't worry about it." He glanced back at her. "So, it's another Saturday night."

Kagome just looked at him. "Yeah, I guess so."

Inuyasha leaned against the counter. "Don't you ever go out on Saturday nights?"

Kagome laughed. "Not really, I don't date too much..." she looked over at Inuyasha curiously. "Come to think of it, how do you have so much time to read? I always heard that you went out with hundreds of girls."

Inuyasha's eyes grew wide. 'Geez, she's right! I haven't gone out since...' "ummm....tch."

Inuyasha realized Kagome was still looking at him. "I'm just not in the dating mood right now."

Kagome looked at him incredulously. "Dating moods? I never knew guys had dating moods."

“Well, we do.” Inuyasha pressed. “And don’t forget the Ramen. It needs to be cooked to be edible.”

Kagome humphed. “I know how to cook simple ramen.” She said as she ripped open the package.

“Kay.” Inuyasha said, not really registering her answer. He had something else on his mind. *Miroku’s gonna want an explanation and if Hojo talks to him later tonight. He’s already so iffy about the whole thing that if Miroku spills-* “Kitten, I really got to go.”

Kagome looked over at him, a bit surprised. “You do?”

“Yeah.” Inuyasha opened her door and looked back at her. “There’s something important I have to do.”

Kagome dropped the bowl she was holding.

Inuyasha looked at her. “You okay?”

Kagome didn’t meet his eyes. “Yeah. Whatever. You better go.”

Inuyasha raised his eyebrow at her. “Something wrong?”

Kagome picked her bowl back up and smiled at Inuyasha. “It’s fine, I’m sorry about that.” She looked at the bowl. “That’s just something Hojo always said.” She shook her head back and forth. “You should get going, I hope I didn’t make you late.”

Inuyasha frowned. *I reminded her of him?* “Yeah. Maybe I can call you later?”

Kagome took a step back.

“What?” Inuyasha asked, a bit of a sting in his voice.

“Nothing.” Kagome loosed up. “Just don’t call later okay? I’ll probably be out. With friends or something. Because I have a life too.”

Inuyasha didn’t know how to respond. Kagome was being a bit harsh. It’s not like he wanted to leave her hanging. It’s not like this was a date and he was just leaving or anything.

Kagome grabbed her keys and escorted Inuyasha down the stairs.

“Take care.” Kagome smiled plainly as she went back upstairs.

Inuyasha stood there for a second. He shouldn’t feel guilty. They were just fine in their reading schedule. They were. He could take the night off. He shouldn’t feel bad about it. And he didn’t, but he did. He did because he had done something that reminded her of Hojo.

He started to walk away. *This shouldn’t be bugging me. So I reminded her of Hojo. That means that she is still fond enough of him to remember the way he spoke.* He felt a small

hurt in his chest. *That shouldn't be making me feel weird. It should be a good thing. Something that proves that...that she still...*

What the hell was wrong with him. He had wanted Kagome to like Hojo again. It's the reason he had started becoming friends with her in the first place. This was supposed to be a good thing. He had reminded her of the man she, well...was always with. It should be good. *It's a good thing.* He kept telling himself. Yet, he still felt weird. Maybe he was just coming down with something. Yeah, that had to be it.

Place: Hojo's place

Time: 2:40 P.M.

:Ding::Dong

Hojo looked down at his supper. "Shoot." He got up to answer the door. "..."

Inuyasha stood casually in front of him. "Hey Raccoon, mind if I come in?"

"No. Come on in." Hojo said leaving the door open. "I was just about to eat. You want some?"

"Naw." Inuyasha replied as he sat across from Hojo.

"Alright." Hojo smiled. "What is it you want?"

Inuyasha leaned against the table. "Raccoon are you uhh..." he fidgeted uncomfortably in his chair. "...you gonna treat Kagome right if you ever get her back?"

Hojo frowned and pushed his food away. "What do you mean 'if you ever' Inuyasha?"

"Just answer the question." Inuyasha frowned.

Hojo stared at him suspiciously. "Yeah, I will. I'll be loyal to her when I get her back."

Inuyasha changed his attention to Hojo's ceiling. "I mean more than loyalty when I say 'treat her right'."

Hojo sighed and slumped down into his chair. "Explain."

Inuyasha glanced back at Hojo. "Kagome said you never took her anywhere nice and you never said you loved her."

Hojo glared at Inuyasha. "She told you that? Freely?" he started to sit up again. "Just how good a friend are you to her now?"

Inuyasha stared at Hojo. "We're good friends, don't dodge the question."

Hojo stopped staring as intensely. "If she wants me to say I love her, I will. If she wants fine dining, I'll give it to her." Hojo looked back at Inuyasha. "Inu, I'll admit it. I wasn't very

reliable as a boyfriend. I could have treated her better, but I've changed." Hojo stood up and looked seriously into his friend's eyes. "I didn't know what a great woman she was until I lost her." He put his hands on the table. "I know I screwed up really bad, but that's why I want to marry her." He smiled at Inuyasha. "Once we're married, she'll know that I really do love her. That I really do care for her."

Inuyasha put his hands underneath his chin and thought. 'He says he'll treat her right. He knows his mistakes.' "One more question."

Hojo sat back down as he took a drink of his pop. "Shoot."

Inuyasha leaned forward. "How many times did you cheat on her?"

Hojo choked briefly as he put his drink back down. "What?"

"You heard me." Inuyasha frowned. "And don't try to lie Hoj', you're a horrible liar."

Hojo scooted his pop away. "It doesn't matter, I won't do it again." Inuyasha continued to look at Hojo. Apparently his friend would not back down. "Maybe three or four."

"Maybe three or four." Inuyasha repeated scooting his chair away.

"Yeah, but it doesn't matter anymore. I'm not gonna do it again." Hojo stated firmly.

"Wh-" Inuyasha was at a loss for words. "Why would ya even do it once to Kagome?!"

"Like you should talk!" Hojo yelled as he stood up. "You have never had just one girlfriend your entire life!"

Inuyasha also stood up. "Yeah, but Kagome is not just some 'girl', she's spe-!"

Inuyasha stopped.

Hojo stared at him. "She's what?" he finally said. "Admit it. Say it!"

"She's special!" Inuyasha shouted.

Hojo didn't say a word.

Inuyasha also stayed silent.

"She's a good friend and I don't want to see her hurt." Inuyasha finally spoke, breaking the uncomfortable silence.

"Great friend." Hojo continued to stare at Inuyasha. "That's it?"

"That's it." Inuyasha finished.

Hojo sat back down and eyed Inuyasha suspiciously. "Great friend."

Inuyasha stayed silent.

The two close friends, oldest friends and best friends...just looked at each other.

Hojo gave a small gulp while he started to eat. "I'll talk to you later man. I can't..."

Inuyasha didn't answer as he left the table and walked out of the house. He knew he had messed up. He was getting really close to losing his friendship with Hojo.

He couldn't let that happen. Hojo and him were old friends. They'd gone through so much together.

As he was getting in his car to leave, he spotted Miroku walking along the sidewalk. "Miroku!" He had to catch him. Finding out Inuyasha and Kagome had had a tickle fest would be the final nail in his coffin.

Miroku heard Inuyasha call out to him and went over.

"Listen." Inuyasha spoke softly. "Don't ya know...tell him about today, all right?"

Miroku looked at Inuyasha curiously.

"Come on." Inuyasha pressed.

Miroku sighed but eventually shook his head.

Inuyasha gave a sigh of relief. "Thanks man."

"But I was wondering..." Miroku began.

Inuyasha frowned. Snake wondering was never a good thing. "Yeah?"

Miroku eyed him. "Exactly how many times should I cover you?"

Inuyasha continued to frown as he got into his car. "I'm outta here."

Miroku just sighed as he watched his friend drive away. *One friend is madly in love with a girl he broke u with. The other friend has fallen in love with the same girl unknowingly while trying to help the other.* He just shook his head. *Right now helping one friend will hurt another no matter what I do.* He groaned and shook his head. *How do I get myself into these situations?*

Author's Note: Hope you liked this chapter. Nice and subtle ending. Easy on the mind...now get ready for the turn in Chapter 13! I won't say what happens, but you might be surprised....

Promises Shattered

Author's Note: Still just the slightest of editing.

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Thirteen: Promises Shattered

Day: Sunday

Place: Kadowaki/Kagome's Room

Time: 4:00 A.M.

"Kagome?"

Kagome mumbled.

"Kagome?"

Kagome felt something small rubbing the bridge of her nose. "...huh?" She opened her eyes and saw the silhouette of someone trudging to her door.

It turned on the light.

Kagome gave herself a couple of seconds to adjust to the light to see who had gotten into her room to bug her so early.

The girls never did anything like that.

Then, she recognized the smiling face. "H-hojo?!"

Hojo put his fingers up to his lips. "Ssh. I need to talk to you."

Kagome glared at him. "What are you doing here? Why should I talk to you?" she growled. "Give me one good reason not to yell."

Hojo stood by Kagome. "I'm not here to hurt you. I'd never hurt you, you know that."

Kagome wanted to yell at him, but saw an unfamiliar troubling look in his eyes. Damn. If they hadn't had such a long relationship, she could have ignored it. "Quit it." She closed her eyes and looked away. "I don't care how you got in here, just leave." When she opened her eyes again, Hojo was still looking at her. With the same sad expression. 'Damn our history.'

She could tell, even if she didn't want to. That something was wrong. He wasn't giving her his 'love-sick' expression. There was deep sadness.

"I had to come at this time." Hojo said softly. "I had no choice. I need to talk to you about something very important, and I don't want Inuyasha to be here. I don't want him to know."

Kagome gave a slight gulp, but continued to try and look tough. She wouldn't back down. There was no way she would get back with Hojo. She had promised herself she would only be with someone she wants to be with. It didn't matter that seeing Hojo with that damn 'expression' on his face was putting some extra hurt on her heart. She would not go back to him.

Hojo looked seriously at her. "Kagome?"

Kagome stayed strong. Hojo was just a friend now. He had treated her badly and she wouldn't tolerate it. He would not get the chance to cheat on her anymore.

"I'm..."

No more. Kagome thought. *I want someone who will treat me right. I should just scream. I should yell, I should do something!*

"I'm dying."

Kagome blinked. "...what?"

Hojo's bottom lip trembled. "I'm dying my love."

Hojo and Kagome continued to look at each other.

"Don't lie." Kagome whispered hoarsely. *He's lying. He's lying. He has got to be lying.* She stared at him, trying to see it. Trying to find some truth that he was lying. *I've never had to look so deep before...he's always been such a horrible liar...he's always.* "...you're not lying."

Hojo sat on the bed shakily next to Kagome. "I'm not. I'd never lie about this."

Kagome continued to look at him as her heart beat. The man, whom she had turned down time and again for a date, was dying. The man who became her first date, her first kiss, was dying. The man who had been her one and only...

Was dying.

Hojo held her hand gently. "Kagome...I really miss you. I miss your smiles, I miss your love, and I miss your friendship." He looked longingly at her. "I didn't just wake up one day and decide that I wanted to marry you for no reason." He looked down at her hand. "I don't want you to know what I have. Just know that there probably won't be many signs. It'll just happen." He sighed. "The doctors don't know how long I have. It could be anywhere from a year to ten years." He gulped. "When I knew that, I took a good long look at my life." He lifted his eyes to look at Kagome. "And I realized that there was only one person on the face of this earth I wanted to be with. Kagome, I want to be by your side, completely as your husband, before I die."

Kagome stared at Hojo. "What are you asking me?"

Hojo started to stare at her hand. "All I want is two things. Just the last two wishes of a dying man." He looked back up at Kagome. "Don't tell anyone. I don't want them to know, or they will start treating me differently and I don't want that. I don't want anyone to baby me."

Kagome slowly shook her head yes.

"Especially Inuyasha, Kagome." Hojo said firmly. "He's my best friend. He'd probably stop his schooling to go around the world looking for a cure or something." He said with an unconvincing laugh.

Kagome made no objection. "I won't. I won't tell anyone."

Hojo smiled as he softly caressed Kagome's face. "You know what the other is...don't you?"

Kagome continued to look at him. "Maybe you should wait. The doctors said they didn't know if it was a year or ten years. Right? Maybe you could-"

"Kagome." Hojo interrupted firmly. "Do you really want to wait for months to go by? What if I do have only a year?" He caressed her cheek again. "Kagome, I'm scared. I'm scared it will only be a short time. And even if it's not, even if it is 10 years...I want to share as much of my life with you as I can. I want to love you for as long as I'm alive." He gripped her hand a little tighter. "I need to. With you by my side, maybe I can live long enough to find a cure. But if I don't have you..." he gulped. "I don't think I will be around for long. There would be no reason to fight." He caressed her cheek again. "I need you and no one else. I know that I love you and that you used to love me. Maybe you do...still?"

Kagome looked at him. *Love him?* She had learned that truth a long time ago. She had even explained it to Inuyasha. She did not love Hojo. She never did and she never would.

But Hojo was dying, and being with her was his dying wish. "Just tell me...tell me what it is?"

Hojo shook his head. "The doctors don't know. None of them knew." He looked at Kagome. "You know my family is 'well-to-do' and they had hired the best doctors money could buy.

But none of them knew anything." He said, a bit of bite in his voice. "All they want to do is run test after test, but it won't do any good. Everyone knows it." He looked squarely into Kagome's eyes. "I don't want you to worry about it. If you love me still, I know I can try and beat this." He pushed her locks of hair behind her ear. "All I need to know, is if you still love me."

Kagome gulped. She had promised herself not to do it. Not to let Hojo back in. But if she didn't, how long would he last... 'I'll never love him. I never did and I never will.' But she couldn't be honest. And Hojo wasn't half as good at lying as she was. "I do." She said hoarsely. "...I love you..."

Hojo smiled. "Then be with me. I swear it Kagome, for the rest of my life, no matter how long or how short I will never treat you bad again. Please?" he begged as he gently stroked her hand. "Be my wife? Until the day I die?"

Kagome's hand trembled. 'I can't do this! I don't love him! I don't want to be in a loveless marriage!'

Then, a flash of Inuyasha came into her mind.

'What was that?' she thought. 'Why did I think of Inuyasha just now?' "Inuyasha."

Hojo whimpered as he yanked his hand away from her. "Kagome?" he asked hoarsely. "Are you telling the truth? Or do you love...have you fallen...do you want Inuyasha?"

"Huh? No!" Kagome quickly recovered. "We're friends. We're great friends. I was just thinking how wrong it is to keep this from him."

"You have to. You promised." Hojo reminded her.

Kagome shook her head.

Hojo gently took Kagome's hand again. "Now I need to know...no more suspense. Will you grant me my lifelong wish? Will you be my wife?"

Kagome looked at her hand. "...this is hard..." she said hoarsely. "You hurt me so much before."

"I won't do it ever again." Hojo replied. "Never. I will be a good husband to you as long as I live. Just please...please say you'll be Mrs. Fukazawa? Please?!"

Kagome's lips trembled as she tried to hold back her tears.

Her promise was broken. Shattered, in a million pieces. She was going to encage herself like a trapped bird that could not get out of its cage. She saw it all...

But for the happiness of another bird that wanted to be free and fly until it's life was over...

"I'll marry you."

Place: Chez Le Mange

Time: 7:10 P.M.

Kagome looked briefly around the room. All her friends and Hojo's friends had been gathered in one place. She looked briefly at Inuyasha who had eyed her the whole time.

Inuyasha growled under his breath. Kagome had cancelled their reading time that night so they could all go out. With everyone. To a damn expensive restaurant that was supposedly Hojo's treat. 'What's going on?'

Miroku, Sango, Kouga, Eri, Yuka, and Tana were all sitted across from where Kagome and Hojo were standing. Inuyasha was sitting next to where Hojo stood.

Hojo hit the wine glass gently in front of him, catching everyone's attention. When he had their attention, he held Kagome near to him. "Hello. I'm sure all of you would like to know why you are here in this lovely place tonight with us."

"Not really." Kouga growled as he stared at Hojo's hand on Kagome's shoulder.

That was not a good sign.

Inuyasha also caught the gesture and it made something inside of him stir. *They can't be back together. I know Kitten too well, she didn't want to even be friends with Hoj' anymore.*

Hojo looked over at Kagome lovingly. "Do you want to do the honor's or should I?"

Kagome couldn't even look at the people in the room. She was staring at the ground in front of her. "You."

Miroku smiled. "What is it my friend? Please, don't let us wonder anymore."

Sango tried to look at Kagome, but she had never lifted her eyes. "What is going on?" she frowned.

Hojo smiled brightly. "We are getting married!"

No one spoke a word for a minute.

"M-married?!" Inuyasha broke the silence. 'What is going on?'

Hojo smiled at his fiancée. "We couldn't take not being with each other anymore, so we decided to take the big plunge." He looked over at their guests. "We're getting married this winter." He looked over at Inuyasha and gestured for him to stand up.

Inuyasha did and stood between Hojo and Kagome with a...strange...expression.

Hojo smiled at Inuyasha. Inuyasha managed a...a half-smile back. Hojo looked out into the crowd. "And Inuyasha is going to be my best man." Hojo looked over at Kagome.

Kagome, sensing that Hojo was looking at her, looked at him. As he stared at her, she remembered her cue. She looked over at Sango. "Sango? Would you like to be my maid of honor?"

Sango was speechless, but seeing that everyone was looking at her had to say something. "I'd be honored."

Everyone clapped happily, but some people clapped awkwardly.

Hojo smiled at Inuyasha. "Thanks for everything." He winked. "I know it didn't seem like it did much, but you helped us find our connection to each other again." He playfully hit Inuyasha in the shoulder. "Thanks man. You are a true friend." He picked up the bottle of wine that was on the table. "Please, do the honor for us?"

Inuyasha looked at the wine he was now holding. He felt so strange. Like he really shouldn't be there.

Who was he kidding? He should be there! He was Hojo's best man and he had promised he'd be by his side when he married...

Miroku seemed confused as to what to do. Something was clearly wrong. He was happy that Hojo was back with the woman he wanted to be with, but he also knew about Inuyasha.

He knew Inuyasha's feelings, even if Inuyasha himself did not.

He tried to examine the situation carefully. What he was seeing in front of him just did not look right.

After all, the 'bride-to-be' refused to look at the future groom or the best man. The best man was just staring at the bottle as if it were going to give him some otherworldly knowledge. Only the groom looked as if he had won the lottery.

Yes, this was definitely not a pretty picture.

Secret Treasure Revealed

Author's Note: Trips down memory lane are fun. Slight editing.

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Fourteen: Secret Treasure Revealed

Day: Monday

Place: Kadowaki/Kagome's Room

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Kagome looked back at Inuyasha with uncertainty. It was clear he was not understanding why she was marrying Hojo. He had been quiet through lit class that day, but now it was time for them to read. Time for them to be alone.

Time to corner her.

"Kagome, fess up." Inuyasha growled. "Why are you marrying Hojo?"

Kagome shrugged her shoulders. "I just want to."

"Yeah, and I'm really a demon from the feudal ages." Inuyasha growled. "Now tell me the truth!"

"We're going to be happy." Kagome tried to distract him from answering the question. "You are the best man, so I don't know what your problem is."

"Kagome!" Inuyasha yelled. "Don't play me. What is going on? Is he blackmailing you?"

Kagome frowned. "Hojo would never do that."

Inuyasha didn't respond to her answer. "Is he threatening to get you kicked out?"

Kagome just looked at him as if he had grown a third head. "Of course not. You know Hojo is not evil."

Inuyasha grumbled. Hojo innocent. That was a laugh. "Kagome...he's not..."

Kagome continued to look at him.

Inuyasha battled with himself. Hojo was going to be happy. He'd treat Kagome well and everyone would be happy. Everyone was supposed to be happy. "Hojo isn't the person for you."

Well, forget what he just said.

Kagome just looked at him. "What are you talking about? You've been trying to get Hojo and I together since day one."

"I know." Inuyasha looked at her. "Hojo's my friend and I want him to be happy. But Kitten, you are my friend too, and I know that Hojo will not make you happy." He turned around on his tummy. "I haven't told you or Hojo this, but I had stopped helping him the day you showed me your notebook." He looked straight at her. "You should not marry him."

Kagome felt guilty, like she was tied in a corner. She wanted to yell out 'Inuyasha, I don't love Hojo, but he's dying! I just have no choice!' But she didn't. She could not break her promise.

So instead, she did the only thing she could think of to get Inuyasha off her back: Make him angry. "How can you call yourself Hojo's friend when you are trying to sabotage our happiness?"

Inuyasha gawked at her. How dare she say that. "You dumb broad! I was just trying to be truthful! But fine, marry him! I don't care! Go ahead and fuck up your life! I don't give a shit!"

"I will!" Kagome yelled back. Her plan had worked. "We'll have a beautiful marriage and everything!"

Inuyasha knew she was lying. He knew his kitten. They may have not known each other for a lifetime, but he knew her well enough to know she did not love Hojo. She was hiding something, and no matter what, he'd find it. He would find her secret. Until then, she wasn't saying a word. So having no choice in the matter, he'd have to wait it out. And when she least expected it. He'd learn everything she was hiding. For now though, he would play dumb.

"Shutup." Inuyasha snarled as he looked at the book in front of him. "Let's just read and shut the hell up."

"Don't tell me to shutup." Kagome frowned as she looked at the book.

It seemed as if it was going to be a bad night for reading.

Time: 9:00 P.M.

The night had started off rocky, but as they continued to read side by side, it had become better. Soon, it was as if they had not had their little spat.

" 'So no pressure, Harry,' said Fred winking at him." Kagome continued to read as she squirmed a little.

Inuyasha smiled. He'd been reading so often with her that he knew what that little squirm meant. "You can go."

Kagome frowned. "I'm fine. We're almost done reading for the night anyhow."

Inuyasha pressed. "Now Kitten, if you've got to go tinkle, then go."

Kagome's cheeks tinted to a shade of pink. "You will be leaving soon anyway, remember?" She squirmed as she tried to find her spot again. "It's not right to take you downstairs just so I can go use the bathroom."

Inuyasha smirked. "Well, don't then. Just lock me in. I'll be good, I won't wander around."

Kagome looked at him suspiciously as she squirmed again. "You're positive? You won't run off?" She looked at him seriously. "I need to hear you promise."

Inuyasha raised his right hand. "I promise Kitty, no matter what, I won't leave this room."

Kagome bit her lip and looked at the door. She set down the book. "I'll be back in five minutes. Maybe less, so you better keep your promise."

Inuyasha shook his head. "I will. Just watch me."

Kagome looked at him but decided she really wanted to go. She walked to the door gracefully and opened it. "Don't forget."

Inuyasha just smiled. "I won't. Just get going."

He heard Kagome fidget with her keys to lock the door...

And then the sound of feet running impatiently to the bathroom.

Yes! Inuyasha thought to himself as he got off the bed. He looked around the room. *Okay now, if I was a girl who wanted to keep something from her bad ass cool friend, where would I put it?*

He looked underneath the bed. "Nope."

He looked in her book bag. "No, just crappy books."

Then he spotted her drawers and raised an eyebrow. *She trusts me enough to know I'm not a pervert...*

He looked at the top drawer. *Which means logically...*

He opened up the bottom drawer. Nothing. The middle drawer. Nothing.

He looked at the top drawer again. *If she catches me in there...*

He looked at the door. No sign yet. He looked back at the top drawers. *They were wrong.* He frowned. *Curiosity didn't kill the cat. The cat killed the curious person.*

But as if it was destiny, Inuyasha heard someone unlocking the door.

He quickly closed the drawer when she came in.

Kagome looked at him and smiled. 'Good. He did stay here.' "Ready to get back to reading?"

Inuyasha shook his head and went quickly back to the bed with Kagome.

Kagome looked at her friend again and raised an eyebrow. "Why is your face all red?"

Inuyasha didn't know what to say. He had to be careful because he had not gotten away scott free. He felt something that had caught his finger when she came in. Luckily, he had kept his hand tucked away.

Still, he had to get rid of it. Distract her. *Kagome doesn't keep her personal things out on her bed and floor. So I can't just toss this.*

"Inuyasha?" Kagome raised an eyebrow. "You haven't answered my question yet."

Inuyasha tried his best to look innocent. Which made Kagome more curious.

"And why are you holding your hand behind your back?" Kagome asked.

It was obvious he was hiding something.

"No reason." Inuyasha replied quickly trying to turn over when Kagome tried to get to his back. "Quit it."

"What is it?" Kagome asked. "You can't hide it forever."

"Yes I can."

"Ha, I knew it! You are hiding something!" Kagome started to tickle him.

"Ahhh! Quit it!" Inuyasha raised his hands to hers to stop her tickling. Yet even though it was reflex, he quickly knew what he had done wrong.

Kagome and Inuyasha both saw the 'Secret Treasure' he was holding. Kagome's dark lacy blue bra that had its strap dangling on Inuyasha's index finger.

How'd You Meet?

Author's Note: Still slight editing. The slightest. It's more like, 'oops, I accidentally slid in a comma to fix that' kind of editing. Not even much of that. Okay I'll shut up, enjoy the story.

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Fifteen: How'd You Meet?

Day: Monday

Place: Kadowaki/Kagome's Room

Time: 6:00 P.M.

“Really! Kagome! I can explain!” Inuyasha whined as he dodged another gadget she threw at him.

“Alright then, explain!” Kagome yelled. “And it better be good!”

“I just wanted to know why you were marrying Hojo.” Inuyasha replied, having his hands up in a defensive manner. “I thought maybe I’d find some evidence.”

“In my most personal drawer?” Kagome growled.

Inuyasha knew this wasn’t looking good for him. “I didn’t find anything before, so I thought you’d keep your secrets in ayour safest place.”

Kagome growled. “Ooohh...you owe me.”

Inuyasha whipped out his wallet. “Okay. How much, 50?”

Kagome frowned. “No way Inuyasha. You’re not getting off that easy.”

Inuyasha raised an eyebrow. “Then what do ya want?”

Kagome grinned. "I want to know...what your real name is."

"What!"

Kagome continued to grin. No one knew Inuyasha's real name. He kept it secret from everyone because he was ashamed of it. But what was it?

She intended to find out. "Eye for an eye Inuyasha."

Inuyasha stared at her and growled. "I don't reveal my real name to anyone."

Kagome pointed at him. "You went through my private drawer! You saw stuff I don't let my own mother doesn't see!"

Inuyasha grinned. "Yeah, I figured that." He winked at her.

Kagome fisted up her hand. "You owe me Inuyasha. If you don't I'll tell Hojo what you just did."

Inuyasha gawked. "No, he'll take it the wrong way. You know that!"

"Then fess up." Kagome grinned.

Inuyasha sighed, but eventually went over to her. "You tell anyone, I mean ANYONE...not even your own mother Kagome."

"I promise." Kagome smiled.

"You tell anyone and I will make sure this entire school knows exactly what it is you have in that top drawer."

Kagome shook her head. "I promise I won't tell. Okay?"

Inuyasha sighed but went over to Kagome's ear and whispered.

Kagome's eyes grew wide as he backed away. "You're kidding?"

"No, now don't tell." Inuyasha growled.

Kagome smiled. "You're kidding? That's so adorable."

Inuyasha glared at her. "Shutup."

Kagome chuckled. "I think it's sweet."

"Yeah, for an animal!" Inuyasha yelled. He crossed his arms. "That's why everyone calls me Inuyasha. Got it?"

"Ohh..." Kagome couldn't stop smiling. "I really want to meet your mom now. What made her name you that?"

“None of your business.” Inuyasha muttered.

Kagome continued to smile. “Alright...”

Inuyasha glared at her. “Remember, you tell anyone-”

Kagome just smiled. “I won’t. But Inu...” She looked at him. “Since we are having this heart to heart, I was wondering about something. Well, I’ve been wondering it for awhile actually.”

Inuyasha looked at her. “What?”

“How did you and Hojo become friends?” Kagome asked.

“Oh.” Inuyasha rubbed his nose. “Ummm...stuff happened.”

“What kind of stuff?” Kagome asked.

“Ohh...” Inuyasha whined. “It’s...”

Kagome crossed her arms. “I guess I could ask Hojo instead.”

“No.” Inuyasha growled. “Fine. I’ve known him since we were in grade school. Happy?”

“Really?” Kagome blinked. “You’re kidding?”

“Nope.” Inuyasha replied. “He moved away, but I started becoming friends with him when we started here again.”

Kagome smiled. “That’s a pretty powerful friendship. But...how did you two become friends?” she chuckled. “Was it a playground introduction?” She held her hand out and pretended to be talking to someone. “Hi! I’m Inuyasha! I’m in the second grade, I like soccer and I want to be your friend!”

Inuyasha growled. “No, it wasn’t a ‘playground introduction’.”

“Then what was it?” Kagome asked.

“I don’t know.” Inuyasha whined. “How’d you meet Sango?”

“Some guys were trying to bully me into giving them some candy I hid away from the teacher in first grade.” Kagome chuckled. “Sango came and whacked them with her book bag for me. They started crying and we were sent to the office to explain the story. Afterward, I felt bad about Sango getting in trouble. We started to hang out and before you knew it, we were friends.”

Inuyasha frowned. “Oh.”

“Your turn.” Kagome pressed.

Inuyasha scoffed. “Tch, fine.” ‘Better me than Raccoon. He’d make himself look all good’. “Having amber eyes and white hair isn’t easy on a kid. It looks cute to parents and stuff, but not everyone thought it was cute. Especially when everyone knew my name.”

“Oh?” Kagome looked at him. “What do you mean Inuyasha? We’re you bullied?”

Inuyasha tried not to think about the past. It was long ago, but still he couldn’t help remembering the day he really did meet Hojo.

Inuyasha came out of the stall, his silver-white hair all wet. He groaned. ‘If mommy just let me change the way I look, they wouldn’t pick on me!’ He looked out in front of him and saw a small boy staring at him. “What do you want?”

“Why is your hair all wet?” the little boy asked.

“Noneya business.” Inuyasha growled as he washed up. He looked into the mirror over the little sink. ‘One day, I’ll be big and I’ll be giving the swirlies!’

The little boy from before walked over to Inuyasha’s shoulder. “Are you being picked on?”

‘Oh, just great.’ Inuyasha growled to himself. ‘He’ll probably tell the principle, the 5th graders will say they didn’t do anything, their parents will defend them, and I’ll get creamed after they get off!’ “Mind your own business!”

The little boy smiled. “You talk tough but you are just a shrimp like me.”

“So!” Inuyasha barked.

“Hey puppy! Here boy! Come on puppy!”

Inuyasha gasped. ‘Damn, they’re coming back!’

The door to the bathroom opened up and the giant fifth graders started to loom over Inuyasha and the other little boy.

One of the bullies pointed to another. “Haru had to stay after class so he missed the swirlie we gave ya. So come here doggie!”

Inuyasha growled as the bullies easily picked him up. He kicked. “I’ll get you! One day, I’ll be bigger! I’ll take you all out!”

“Hey!”

The fifth graders stopped to look at the little boy who spoke up.

“Stay out of this runt. We don’t have nothing against you yet.” One of the bullies replied.

The little boy remained defiant. “I can’t stand by and watch you bully him!”

The fifth graders laughed.

“What are you going to do? Tell your mommy and daddy?” One of the bullies chuckled.

The little boy still did not back off. “You take me too lightly. It takes more than strength to live in this world.”

The fifth graders all laughed again.

“This kid is so full of shit.” One of them chuckled. “Let’s dunk him too!”

Hojo just shook his head as he held something in his hand that made the bullies stop in their tracks.

He was holding a small cassette that had the words CHEATERS written in big letters on it. “You know what this is, don’t you? All of you got together last Saturday night and figured out how to cheat for the exam you just had today. I’ve recorded everything on this copy, but it’s not the original. I have made five other copies. One, a cousin of mine in another state has, and if he hears anything has happened to me, he is supposed to immediately send it to my dad.”

Everyone in the room gawked at him.

“You little creep!” one of the bullies replied.

The little boy just sniffed. “Did I mention this conversation is being recorded too? You are probably too dumb to find it though.” He smirked. “Add assault to the cheating. You’ll be suspended for a long time.”

One of the bullies looked at Hojo. “It’s probably under a toilet seat.”

The little boy just shrugged. “Who says there is just one?”

“Little twerp.” One of the bullies yelled. “You are probably lying! Probably nothing on that cassette!”

Hojo smiled as he played back a little of their Saturday night conversation.

The bullies just looked at him with stupidity.

“Like I said.” Hojo smiled. “It takes more than brute strength. It takes cunning.” Hojo sighed. “Besides I can’t lie. I suck at lying.”

The bullies all groaned. “Whaddaya want!”

“To leave that little boy alone.” Hojo smiled. “And me. And...that’s good for now.”

The bullies let go of the small Inuyasha.

“You’ll regret this!” they started to yell as they left the bathroom.

Inuyasha looked at the little boy who just saved him from a swirlie. “What did you do that for?”

The little boy held out his hand. “I saw them do that last week, and I just wanted to help. Friends?”

Inuyasha looked at the boys’ hand. “Fifth graders are smart. They’ll find a way around you.”

The little boy just laughed. “Yeah, but by that time I’ll have more evidence to get them kicked out.”

Inuyasha just looked at the strange little boys’ hand. “Heck friends. Sounds fine. I’m sure you know my name, but I like being called Inuyasha.”

“Cool.” The little boy replied. “My name is Fukazawa Hojo.”

Inuyasha’s mouth fell open. “Are you related to THE Fukazawa!”

Hojo winked. “He’s my dad.”

Inuyasha just looked at him. ‘His dad...oh shit. Oh Shit!’ “Remind me to never piss you off.”

Hojo just laughed.

“No, I wasn’t bullied.” Inuyasha growled. “I just had disagreements with older kids who liked to give me swirlies and stuff me in lockers to express their opinions.”

Kagome didn't respond out loud. *He was bullied.*

“Anyhow, Hojo came in and...and uh we became friends after that.” Inuyasha finished.

Kagome just sighed. Maybe she’d hear the whole story one day.

You Think You Know?

Author's Note: This is so preciously simple and fun old work. I could never replicate this again. It's cute though. Slight editing.

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Sixteen: You Think You Know?

Day: Monday

Place: Kadowaki/Kagome's Room

Time: 6:10 P.M.

"...that's it?" Kagome replied.

"Yeah." Inuyasha frowned. "You want details, I want details."

Kagome shrugged her shoulders. "Okay, well Sango was-"

"Not about that." Inuyasha growled. "I want more details to explain why you are marrying Hojo."

Kagome blinked. "Oh."

"Don't Oh me!" Inuyasha snarled. He knew he should wait. Let her take her time, and then find out...but dammit, he'd already been caught with her bra, and the prissy spying around wasn't working anymore. "Kagome, I'm serious." He said in a low voice. "Don't you dare hide this from me anymore."

Kagome gulped. The look in Inuyasha's eyes...he was not fooling around. His stare reminded her of when her mom used to catch her doing something naughty when she was a

little girl. 'I can't tell him...' she reminded herself. "Inuyasha, please don't make me do this."

Inuyasha did not back down as he crossed his arms.

Kagome bit her lip and sighed. 'Maybe...' "Well...you see, I want to marry Hojo because... because...'

"Because?" Inuyasha pressed.

Kagome squinted her eyes. She promised Hojo she wouldn't tell! "Because...because I...I-I'm..."

Inuyasha raised his eyebrow. "...you are?" Inuyasha pressed. He was so close!

"I'm sorry!" Kagome cried out as she sailed out of the room.

Inuyasha blinked. He couldn't believe it. He gave her his best damn glare he could muster, and he didn't get shit for information?

He growled lowly as he started to walk out the door. No way in hell was he going to just let her get away. He had to know.

Day: Monday

Place: Kadowaki/First Floor

Time: 6:14 P.M.

First floor...

Kagome sailed right past Sango.

"Kagome!" Sango shouted out as she grabbed her friends hand.

Kagome stopped and looked back. Keeping such a horrible secret was really hurting her. But it hurt so much keeping it from Inuyasha...why was it the hardest with Inuyasha?

Sango dragged Kagome over to a nearby chair. "Kagome, is this about Hojo?" Sango asked sympathetically. "You know, if you don't want to go through this marriage, I completely understand. I know Hojo is doing something to get you to-"

"It's not that." Kagome interrupted. "It's not that at all. It's just..."

"Just?" Sango pressed.

Kagome bit her lip.

Day: Monday

Place: Kadowaki/First Floor

Time: 6:16 P.M.

Inuyasha shook his arm free from the Residential Advisor as she shook her finger in front of him. "Listen, you NEED to have an escort in order to be on that floor." She pointed towards the exit.

"I keep telling you, I had an escort." Inuyasha growled. "She just left."

"Sure." The R.A. looked unconvinced as she pointed to the lunch room at the bottom. "Get something to eat and just wait in there. If someone asks for you, I'll tell them to check there."

"Whatever." Inuyasha scoffed as he stuck his hands in his pockets. He watched the R.A. leave back the stairs. 'I'm not waiting for her.' He growled to himself. She left him behind! Dragged out by a damn R.A! Hell, he was going home until she apologized! He started to head to the door.

"DYING!"

Inuyasha stopped in his tracks. In front of him, a few feet away, was Kagome and Sango.

His mouth dropped open.

Sango caught her breath. "Are you sure?"

Kagome shook her head.

"But..." Sango looked stunned. "How long?"

Kagome bit her lip. "No one knows. It could be more or less than ten years. No one knows much."

Inuyasha continued to stare. Kagome and Sango couldn't see him behind the giant plant near the staircase, but he could hear every word.

Sango sighed. "Wow. I never knew."

Kagome shrugged. "I know. It was a surprise to me too."

"How long have you known?" Sango asked delicately.

"Not very long. Shortly before I accepted Hojo's proposal." Kagome replied.

Sango shook her head. "I understand. I don't exactly like it, but..." she shrugged her shoulders. She couldn't judge. Her friend had been put in such a tough spot. "Well, are you

going to continue going to college? Or are you just going to get married and become a mother?"

Kagome looked down. "Before this happened, I didn't even consider marriage or children. I just saw the future as my grades at the end of the semester." She put her hands underneath her chin. "Now, I'm not so sure about anything anymore. I doubt Hojo would want to wait long, seeing as we don't know how long it will be."

Sango shook her head. "Kagome, are you positive that there isn't any chance?"

Kagome nodded. "The best doctors in the world couldn't help." She looked at Sango. "That's why you CAN'T tell Inuyasha, no matter what! I don't know what he would do. And I don't want him to leave on some quest for some cure that doesn't exist..." She looked down at her hands. "I just want to spend what little time is left enjoying life with all my friends...you know?"

Sango sighed. 'Yeah. A forced marriage could be thought of as death.'

"Sango, please don't tell anyone I told you? Hojo doesn't want anyone knowing, but I couldn't help it." Kagome begged. "Please?"

Sango sighed but gave a half smile. "Fukazawa Kagome. That has a strange ring to it, but if you can live with that ring, then I won't tell."

Kagome gave Sango a tight hug. "Thanks for listening, Sango."

Sango just smiled at her courageous friend. Marrying a dying man because of his last wish. It was so wrong. But unless she was in that position, how could she judge? Still, she wished Kagome could get out of her situation. Sango cleared her throat. "What say we stop all this negative talk, huh? I bet there's a great sale going on somewhere."

Kagome smiled. Shopping with a friend sounded good. Friend! "Oh, Inuyasha!" She got up and looked around the lounge. 'I forgot all about him. I didn't mean to leave him behind, I-'

Day: Monday

Place: Kadowaki/Kagome's Room

Time: 6:22 P.M.

Sango and Kagome went upstairs to see if Inuyasha was still in the room. Kagome's heart started to beat faster when he wasn't there. 'Oh no, did he go downstairs?' "He couldn't have. Where could he be?"

Sango put her arm on her friends shoulder. "Calm down, Kagome. Most times R.A.'s will put stranded guests in the lunch room and then chew you out."

Kagome felt relieved as she smiled. 'Sounds like it's happened more than once for her.'

"Miroku a bit of trouble at times?"

Sango frowned. "You know the answer to that." She decided to change the topic. "Let's go to the lunchroom and see if we can find him."

Day: Monday

Place: Kadowaki/Lunch Room

Time: 6:26 P.M.

Kagome felt even more relieved as she saw Inuyasha slouching on a cafeteria chair.

"Inuyasha? Hey, I'm sorry I left-"

Inuyasha stood up. "Don't bother." He growled as he walked past her. "Getting late. Read later. Bye."

Kagome moaned. "I guess I made him a little mad."

Sango shrugged. "Well, you did abandon him. Let him blow off some steam."

Kagome nodded her head. "You're right." She looked around the cafeteria. "You hungry, Sango?"

Day: Monday

Place: Kadowaki/Front Doors

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Inuyasha walked slowly out the doors of Kadowaki. When Kagome realized that she left him, he walked back to the cafeteria in a hurry. He didn't want her to know that he knew. He could barely face her as he said a few words and left.

He watched one foot overtake another as he walked. Now it made sense. Why she wouldn't tell him, why she was getting married...

He slowly opened his cell phone up and dialed a number. 'Please be there...'

Hello?

Inuyasha breathed into the cell phone. "Miroku? Need to talk to you."

Inuyasha? About what?

Inuyasha couldn't believe this was happening. He had grown so attached to her. He really didn't mean to, hell who would want to be just FRIENDS with a girl? But she still became a friend. A good friend. They read together. They ate together. Became close. This was hitting

him hard. "Miroku. Get something strong and meet me at my place."

Something strong? My friend, what is wrong?

Inuyasha didn't want to say the words. He didn't want to believe it! But it came out of Kagome's own mouth. He heard every word...

"Kitten's dying."

It's Not As If I Said *gasp*

Author's Note: Slight editing. What was I thinking with this chapter's name back then?

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Seventeen: It's not as if I said...gasp!

Day: Tuesday

Place: Miroku's Dorm

Time: 3:00 A.M.

Miroku watched helplessly as Inuyasha cracked open another can.

"This sucks." Inuyasha slurred. "Juswhen I wasgeddinanewfwend." He guzzled down his beer. "Whysshehavetago? Huh!"

Miroku sighed. He had tried earlier to tell his friend that it had to be a mistake. He had even gone as far to call up Sango and asked her.

She said it was true. Someone near to them was dying slowly.

It was hard to cheer up his friend with this information confirmed. He knew Inuyasha did not make many friends...and that Kagome, whether he admitted it or not, was a very 'special' friend. "Inuyasha." Miroku finally answered. "You have plenty of time. It's not like she will die tomorrow." He waved his hands. "Who knows? In ten years, there is a good chance there may be a cure for what ails her."

"Yeah..." Inuyasha tossed his beer on the floor.

"Especially with her marrying Hojo. His family has so much money and...'connections'... that there's a good chance they will find something in time. At least something to extend her life." Miroku added.

Inuyasha looked over at Miroku. "Whatareyusaying? That...daonly...reason kittenykagomy is...marrrrrying Racoona is for his money!"

Miroku shook his head. His friend was too drunk to understand anything. "No Inuyasha, I do not mean that. I mean she will be better off marrying him. That's all."

Inuyasha growled. "Kittennot like that." He cracked open his next beer. "She wouldndo shit like that without some kinda reason."

"Well, I believe the reason is she wants to have a family before she dies. Many females do crave having a family before they die you know. It's what they have wanted since the beginning of time." Miroku answered.

Inuyasha just scoffed. "I'd love to hearya saydat shit to Sango."

"Her time is running out. She wants to be safe and secure. There is no shame in that." Miroku replied, ignoring Inuyasha's comment. "Hojo had been offering his hand in marriage for some time now but...I bet if someone else offered their hand, she might take them instead."

Inuyasha laughed. "Hell no! Sheaint gonnamarry datdumbass Kouga! Over maDead body!"

Miroku groaned. "I meant someone else who's family had money, and someone she liked as well."

Inuyasha just tilted his head at his friend. "...huh?"

Miroku stood up. "Must I spell it out for you Inuyasha? If you give her a promise of marriage, I am sure she won't marry Hojo."

Inuyasha choked on his beer. He gagged pretty hard as he shot up out of his chair. "What! Idiot. Meandher sjust frinds. That's all." He made a time out sign with his hands. "She's Hojo's, not mine. Got it. Good. Kay..."

He fell back down into his chair. "As much as I want...she Hojo's."

Miroku grinned. He knew it. All he had to do was get Inuyasha drunk enough. "So you admit. You do like her."

Inuyasha scratched his head as he looked down into his empty beer can. "...I don't know..."

Miroku chuckled. He finally had the proof he needed. There was no denying this one.

It was hard to do this. He did not want to, but it was the only way. When he had confirmed to Inuyasha the truth, he had only been partly telling...the truth. Sango told him Hojo was the one dying, and that Kagome was marrying him as his last wish.

Kagome was stuck. Hojo was dying? Presumably. Miroku never put anything passed Hojo. He knew Kagome did not want to marry Hojo. He knew Inuyasha did not want that either.

But if he told Inuyasha that it was for Hojo, Inuyasha would probably be an idiot and let him do it.

But if he 'thought' it was for Kagome...

Maybe he could break Inuyasha's wall down, and get him to accept the facts. Inuyasha loved Kagome and Kagome loved Inuyasha.

And along with that package was Sango, but one thing at a time.

Exposing whatever game Hojo was playing. Living happily ever after. The end.

Yes, there was a chance Hojo was in fact dying. But one person's happiness for two people's misery was not right.

He had to do this. For the sake of his friends.

It had taken some convincing to get Sango to play along. But when she finally agreed, there was no going back.

The stage was set. It was time to see what would happen.

Could he get Inuyasha to finally admit his feelings?

Day: Wednesday

Place: Inuyasha's Place

Time: 5:40 P.M.

Inuyasha couldn't believe it, but he had to do it. It was his damn grade on the line, and couldn't ignore Kagome forever.

He had a...tough night on Tuesday...and Wednesday morning...

He barely managed to get out of bed. Inuyasha couldn't make lit. class but he knew he should be reading with Kagome. Not having the energy to go to her dorm room, he had invited her to come to his house and read instead.

But for some reason, having Kitten beside him reading again made him feel better. Like nothing had changed. He felt really peaceful...

KnockKnock

"Go away!" Inuyasha snarled.

"Inuyasha!" Kagome elbowed him. "Be courteous."

Inuyasha growled to himself. "Come in."

Sesshoumaru opened the door and looked at Kagome. "Don't shut this door again, Inuyasha. I do not trust you with a decent girl behind a closed door."

Inuyasha and Kagome grew red.

"What's that supposed to mean!" Inuyasha yelled.

Kagome just ignored the comment, and continued to stare at a page in the book as if it was the most fascinating page in the world.

Meanwhile, Inuyasha buried his head in his pillow when he realized he was still as red as a tomato. "Why do you have to embarrass me!"

"Please, that was not embarrassing." Sesshoumaru stated as he started to leave. "It's not as if I said don't knock her up."

Inuyasha and Kagome's jaw both dropped as he left the room.

Kagome stole a quick glance at Inuyasha's red face before he dashed off out the room.

"Sesshoumaru, you asshole, get back here!"

"Inuyasha! We need to continue reading!" Kagome insisted. She wanted to forget about the situation already.

Inuyasha grumbled as he went back to Kagome. Both of them were still as red as roses.

Kagome cleared her throat and started to read page 210. "Perry was deeply disapproving of this behavior."

Day: Wednesday

Place: Inuyasha's Place/Kitchen

Time: 7:00 P.M.

Sesshoumaru eyed Inuyasha and Kagome carefully as he cut into the catfish. "How is your reading going?"

"None of your damn business." Inuyasha replied as he swallowed a piece of his catfish.

Kagome frowned at Inuyasha. "We are doing well. We are on page 215."

"Good." Sesshoumaru replied. "It's nice to see you were actually reading."

"And what are you saying!" Inuyasha shouted.

Sesshoumaru looked at him strangely. "I said it's nice to see you were reading. Clean your ears out."

Kagome smiled nervously. "This is a really good supper, thank you."

"Hmm. Yes, I remember dorm food." Sesshoumaru shuddered. "I take pleasure in the fact you are eating real food tonight."

Inuyasha frowned at Kagome. "Is it better than the food I cooked us last time?"

"Inuyasha." Kagome sweatdropped. "It's always Ramen."

Inuyasha continued to look at her. "Yeah, point being?"

Sesshoumaru shook his head. "My brother would not know good taste if it came up and licked him."

Inuyasha frowned at Sesshoumaru while Kagome just smiled. "What? Did you just try and make a joke?"

Sesshoumaru took another bite of his fish. "Oh, did you finally get it?"

Inuyasha glared suspiciously at Sesshoumaru. *He never makes jokes. Why is making an attempt at a lame joke. Plus, he cooked fish. He never cooks fish except when he's...* "Hey!" Inuyasha shouted angrily as he stood up and pointed at Sesshoumaru. "Stop trying to hit on Kitten!"

Kagome and Sesshoumaru both looked at Inuyasha as if he were crazy. "What?"

"You heard me. Keep your hands off of her," Inuyasha yelled.

Kagome pulled on Inuyasha's jacket. "Inuyasha. Sit down."

Sesshoumaru ate some of his mashed potatoes before he looked back at his brother. "My, you get quite jealous for just a friend, don't you?"

Kagome set her silverware down. *This can't be happening.*

"I don't get jealous!" Inuyasha shouted. "She's already Hojo's fiancé, alright! I just don't want an old man like you seducing her, that's all!"

Sesshoumaru frowned. "I'm not even four years older than you."

Inuyasha just growled while Kagome finished eating.

"Well, that was delicious." Kagome smiled politely. "Thank you very much for your hospitality." She said as she tried to pull Inuyasha away from the table.

"It's my pleasure young lady." Sesshoumaru replied. "Perhaps the next time you grace us with your presence, I may fix us some Salmon with garlic shrimp?"

"Over my-!"

Kagome quickly covered up Inuyasha's mouth. "That would be very nice, thank you."

Day: Wednesday

Place: Inuyasha's Place/Inuyasha's room

Time: 7:20 P.M.

"I'm telling you I know my brother," Inuyasha yelled, "and I know he was hitting on you!"

Kagome groaned as she opened her book back up. "He wasn't hitting on me. He was just being nice."

"Exactly!" Inuyasha said as if she just proved his point.

"...huh?"

"Sesshoumaru's an asshole. He's mean to everyone. Me, Miroku, Hojo, the mailman, delivery boy, you name it," Inuyasha muttered.

"So..." Kagome began slowly. "...being nice to me is like hitting on me?"

"Exactly." Inuyasha repeated.

Kagome just looked at him. "...okay...well, can we get back to reading?"

"Gladly." Inuyasha replied as he started to read.

Inuyasha's Comfy Spot

Author's Note: Slight editing. I remember this chapter. I was too tired to want to do much (I did exactly the same equivalent of homework for them, midterms were hard times), but I was too cold to ignore everything in the college that day too, but I wanted to write. Yep, this brings back memories.

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Eighteen: Inuyasha's Comfy Spot.

Day: Friday

Place: Kagome's Dorm

Time: 5:45 P.M.

"Inuyasha?"

Inuyasha just mumbled.

"Inuyasha?" Kagome called out again.

Inuyasha grumbled. "Kitten, I've had a hard week. Can't we just sleep it off?"

Kagome frowned and yawned. She knew what Inuyasha meant. Sometimes there were easy weeks where you hardly worked. Mostly, there were normal weeks where you worked a great deal, but then there was a horrible thing called HARD weeks. Hard weeks practically fried a person's brain.

Both Kagome and Inuyasha had had a HARD week.

"We can't." Kagome said, trying to be a good student. "We need to-"

"One hour!" Inuyasha pleaded.

Kagome wanted to say no. That they had too much reading to do, but she couldn't. Both her brain and her body were saying the same thing. "One hour. That's it, so scoot over."

Inuyasha smiled as he barely gave her enough room to lie down,

She continued to elbow. "Scoot over." She whined as she grabbed her warm blanket. "I've had a harder week than you. I had a test in three of my classes today and a 1-3 page paper yesterday."

Inuyasha grabbed some of her blanket. "So? I had two freakin' midterms and two papers for Science."

"Yeah, yeah." Kagome yawned. "Whatever." She put her head on one of her pillows. "Just ONE hour."

"One day?" Inuyasha mumbled. "Yeah, sure."

"Yeah..." Kagome mumbled, slipping into unconsciousness. "One...something..."

Day: Friday

Place: Kagome's Dorm/Hall outside

Time: 7:50 P.M.

Miroku smiled at his good fortune as he went through the hall. *Sango, Sango, Sango...* He was about to knock on Sango's door when he saw something odd.

Kagome's door had not been completely closed, but he heard no one reading inside.
Shouldn't Inuyasha be in there with her?

He slowly opened Kagome's door and what he saw made him want to grin as wide as a clown.

Kagome and Inuyasha were nestled together in an...unfriendly manner. Inuyasha was on the left fast asleep with his back on the left side of the bed. Kagome's back though was more on Inuyasha's chest. Miroku chuckled. *Inuyasha is spooning her.*

That in itself was cute, but that was not what Miroku was pulling out his camcorder for. *I was going to record Sango's reaction of me getting this far without an escort, but this is so much better!*

For Inuyasha's left hand was draped just a little further down from Kagome's shoulder in a not-so-friendly soft place.

Time: 8:00 P.M.

Miroku looked at his watch. The sweet 'we're-only-friends!' did not move the whole time he'd been there. Miroku sighed. *I have plenty of proof now.* He looked over at Inuyasha. *I'm sorry my friend, but your enjoyment must now end.*

Miroku put the recorder on top of Kagome's T.V. as he went to get Sango.

After Sango beamed him a couple of times with her purse, he explained about Kagome and Inuyasha's current position.

She quickly went into Kagome's room and gasped. She frowned as she moved Inuyasha's hand quickly down to Kagome's tummy.

There was no way she would let her friend wake up in such an embarrassing position.

Inuyasha grumbled. What was going on? He'd just been sleeping comfortably and someone moved his hand from it's comfy spot. His hand started to stumble around for it again....ahh, there it was.

Sango was silently scolding Miroku about recording such an embarrassing scene when she saw Inuyasha put his hand right back where she had found it. Smiling happily.

Miroku couldn't help but chuckle lightly. *What luck! I'm so glad I did not turn the recorder off yet.* He quickly went over to it and turned the red light off.

If Sango realized he had been recording, he would not have his new home film for very long.

Sango quickly moved back to Inuyasha's hand and moved it away again. Then, she started to wake Kagome up by pulling her out of bed.

"Apparently Inuyasha knows what he likes." Miroku chuckled as he quickly put his videocamera away and went over to Inuyasha's side. He watched as his friend started searching for his 'giant pillow' that had been at his side. "Time to wake up my friend."

Inuyasha grumbled, but was instantly awake as Miroku flicked his ear. "Dammit Snake, I know that was you! How many times have I told you not to wake me up like that!"

Sango ignored the boys' argument. "Kagome? Why were you asleep?"

Kagome yawned. "HARD week. Inuyasha and I decided to rest for an hour."

Sango frowned. "Kagome. It's past 8:00."

Kagome laughed nervously. "Gee, is it? Boy, we must have really crashed, huh Inuyasha?" she finished as she turned to look at him.

"Yeah, yeah." Inuyasha yawned. "It was worth it though. Now, what's to eat?"

Kagome smiled. "We're cooking tonight, so follow me." She said as she quickly smiled at her friend. "Thanks a bunch Sango. If you hadn't woken us up we would probably still be asleep for awhile."

Sango glared at Inuyasha. "Your welcome Kagome."

Inuyasha frowned. 'What's up with the glare?'

Sango continued to glare at him as she started to leave. "Come on Miroku."

"Yes dear!" Miroku joked as he winked back mysteriously at Inuyasha.

Kagome and Inuyasha just looked at each other.

"Well, they're acting a bit bizarre, aren't they?" Kagome asked.

"Yeah. Tch. Whatever. What're we cooking?" Inuyasha asked.

Kagome smiled. "You grab the hamburger, pepperoni and cheese. I'll grab the Prego, English muffins, and the book."

Inuyasha grinned. That sounded like a good combination.

Day: Friday

Place: Kadowaki/5th floor lobby/kitchen

Time: 8:40P.M.

Inuyasha read quietly to Kagome as the mini-pizzas cooked. "Ron looked up at Hermione, disgusted. You sleep with this under your pillow?" Inuyasha read. He stopped and looked over at Kagome. "What about you Kitten? Do you sleep with a picture of a guy underneath your pillow?"

Kagome humphed. "You should know. You took most of my pillows. By the way, you better not have slobbered on any of them."

"Eh. If there is slobber, it's probably yours." Inuyasha shot back. "Are our pizzas done yet?"

Kagome got up and checked the oven. "Yep! The cheese is all melted."

"The one in front's mine." Inuyasha claimed as Kagome pulled them out. "I added extra pepperoni to mine."

"I know." Kagome answered as she scooped out her own. "Mine had extra cheese."

After they finished eating their pizza (because Kagome would not allow pizza near her book) they went back to her room and continued to read through the night.

Until 12:55 that is...

Kagome looked both ways out of her door. "I can't believe you talked me into this."

"Friday night guys don't gotta leave 'til 1:00." Inuyasha repeated her own rule to her.

"I know, but I don't want to get caught with you in my room so late." Kagome reminded him. "Who knows what my friends would think." She looked both ways again.

It was clear. "Okay." Kagome said. "Let's go, but be quiet."

Inuyasha and Kagome softly made it to the elevator. Kagome exhaled in relief as she pushed the button. "I still can't believe I let you talk me into letting you stay."

"But Kitten, we had to finish that one part!" Inuyasha whined. "Then Ron's sister happened and stuff and we just couldn't quit." He smirked. "Besides, now we just got one chapter and we can start the third book. Finally."

"Oh!" Kagome couldn't help but squeal. "Yeah! You'll get to...oh. sorry. I don't want to spoil it for you."

Inuyasha didn't reply as the elevator opened up again. "If Miroku asks, it was around 9:00 when I left."

"Yeah, yeah." Kagome replied as she walked to the door with Inuyasha. She smiled as she watched Inu eyeing Miroku's window cautiously before he went out to his car.

Kagome turned back around. *I shouldn't feel guilty. Inuyasha just liked the book too much to want to leave, that's all.*

Yumyum Cliffhanger

Author's Note: Yep, still the slightest of touches editing. I was homesick for an old ice cream shoppe of my mine in my home town nearly four hours away back then, so I had to pick it for them back then. I actually live in my own hometown again, but Covid and current life makes things a little harder to visit it again. Luckily my daughter did though, so I'm real happy she got to experience it.:) One day I will again too. Oh please, still have bubblegum ice cream!

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Nineteen: Yumyum Cliffhanger

Day: Friday

Place: Cafeteria

Time: 11:00 A.M.

The week progressed by well with the reading. Inuyasha and Kagome were feeling a lot more confident about finishing the books in time. Since Inuyasha had grown 'attached' to the black dog in the book, he was enjoying the book even more.

But then during Friday's lunch, something Kagome wasn't planning on happened. As she started to walk into the cafeteria with her friends, she saw Inuyasha motioning for her to come over.

Kagome went over to him while her friend's oblivious of her absence kept going inside. "Hi. What is it?"

Inuyasha smiled. "When's your next class?"

Kagome looked at her watch. "In about an hour and a half. Why?"

Inuyasha looked both ways before giving her a nod. "Come on."

Kagome just shrugged as she followed him out to his car. "Where are we going?" she asked as she got in.

Inuyasha smirked as he got in. 'Doesn't matter what she says. It still plagues my brain I haven't paid her back yet!' "You are eating lunch with me."

Kagome groaned. "Inuyasha, I'm really not in the mood for Ramen right now."

Inuyasha put on his seat belt. "It's not Ramen. Trust me, you'll like it."

Kagome just shrugged her shoulders as she put on her own seatbelt and they took off to who knows where.

Day: Friday

Place: Cafeteria

Time: 11:10 A.M.

Hojo frowned as he looked at the empty seat. "Where's Inuyasha? He always eats lunch with us."

Miroku shrugged. "Perhaps he had other things to do today?"

Both their pair of eyes showed disbelief of that statement as they looked over at the ladies' table and realized Kagome had been missing too.

"Perhaps they're..." Miroku tried to watch his words. "...reading?"

Hojo gave a soft growl. "That little..."

"They were very behind." Miroku added, "what with getting everything ready for the wedding, it must be putting a strain on Kagome."

Hojo glared at Miroku.

Miroku looked at Hojo strangely. "What?"

"What strain?" Hojo mumbled. "She hasn't done anything by herself. She hasn't even looked at dresses."

Miroku decided then and there it was time to shut up.

Day: Friday

Place: Yumyum

Time: 11:20 A.M.

Kagome looked at the menu. "Wow. This place is kinda nice."

Inuyasha looked at his own menu. "Yeah. Not like a restaurant, but better than fast food. Just a little place I ran into about a year ago."

Kagome smiled. "This is still really sweet of you though."

"Don't worry about it." Inuyasha replied. "How about grilled cheeses?"

Kagome could barely contain her happiness. "Yes! Can I have the special with chips and an extra grilled cheese?"

"Mmmm...sure, yeah." Inuyasha agreed. "Don't get used to this though, I'm not gonna spoil ya." Inuyasha replied. "Ooh!" he turned his menu around so Kagome could see the front cover. "Look at that!"

Kagome's eyes grew. "That looks kinda big."

"It sure is." A waitress smiled as she passed by. "It's called a jolly jumbo shake. She went over to the counter and grabbed a huge parfait glass. "It's really big, and it usually takes more than one person to handle it. That's why it's doubled in price."

Inuyasha looked back at Kagome. "Hey kitten, wanna split it?"

"Mmmm...a huge milkshake?" Kagome teased. "Didn't you say you weren't gonna spoil me?"

Inuyasha waved it off. "All right, one last time. I just want to try it. Besides, it's pay day."

"The day to spoil yourself?" Kagome chuckled.

"Exactly." He winked at her before calling the waitress over. "Hey baby!"

Kagome kicked his foot under the table. "Inuyasha!" she harshly whispered.

Inuyasha groaned as the displeased waitress came over.

"What." She mumbled.

"Excuse me, miss." Inuyasha corrected himself as he looked at the displeased Kagome. "This little kitty and I are ready to order."

"Wonderful." The waitress replied, perking up a little.

"2 grilled cheese specials and one jolly jumbo shake thingy."

The waitress smiled knowingly. "I take it your sharing with this lady?" she said smiling at Kagome.

Kagome blushed a little.

Inuyasha made a shooing motion. "Yeah, hop to it already."

The waitress humphed as she took off.

Day: Friday

Place: At the corner of Yumyum

Time: 11:30 A.M.

Kouga whistled to himself as he drove. He stopped at the small red light in front of him, when he glanced out his window.

He couldn't believe his eyes! Kagome could be seen through a small window, sipping on something. Oh, she was smiling brighter than the noonday sun. He took a left and quickly parked. He got out and checked himself in the mirror.

'Kagome may be getting married, but she isn't Fukazawa's yet. If I play my cards right, perhaps I still have a chance?'

Kouga entered Yumyum's, intending to find just Kagome. But instead, he saw Kagome smiling at that foul Inuyasha. Not only that, the scoundrel was sipping a milkshake with her!

TO BE CONTINUED IN NEXT CHAPTER...

Nearing the End

Author's Note: Usual Slight Editing.

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Twenty: Nearing the End

Day: Friday

Place: YumYum

Time: 11:33 A.M.

Inuyasha stopped sipping on his soda when he saw an angry Kouga come in. He watched as Kouga stomped his way right over to his and Kagome's table.

Kagome just smiled as she looked at Kouga. "Hey there." She greeted. "I didn't know you knew about this place too. Isn't it so nice?"

Kouga didn't reply as he stared at Inuyasha. "You low-life...cheating...geez, you're a backstabber!"

Inuyasha growled underneath his breath. "What are you talking about?"

Kouga looked over at Kagome. "Why, Kagome? If you are marrying Hojo, why are you going on a date with this loser?"

Inuyasha nearly fell over. 'A date!' "I'm not on a date with her!" he defended himself as he stood up in his chair.

Kagome covered her face in embarrassment as she realized she was blushing. *A date? I'm not on a date. I don't think of this as a date, so why am I blushing?*

Inuyasha felt like smacking Kouga. "How dare you, you 'wolf'! I would never date Hojo's fiancé behind his back!"

Kouga stared at Inuyasha as if he was a child that knew he had done something wrong, but didn't want to confess. "Oh?" he tried to ask calmly. "You are not here alone with her?"

Inuyasha huffed. "Yeah, but-"

"-and Hojo knows you are here with her right now?" Kouga interrupted.

Inuyasha huffed again. "Well no, but-!"

"-and you are telling me that Hojo knows that you are someplace with his fiancé sipping on the same milkshake with her like some lovey dovey couple!" Kouga shouted.

Inuyasha didn't know what to say.

"Kouga, it's not like that." Kagome tried to reason. "We are out as friends. Just as friends, that's all."

"Sure." Kouga huffed as he grew red with anger as he looked at Inuyasha. "Friends go out to shops by themselves sipping on the same milkshake, without telling their fiancé's all the time." He said sarcastically.

Inuyasha didn't know what to say. He didn't even want to defend himself to this dumb 'wolf'. "Drop it, Kouga." Inuyasha smirked. "You know nothing's going on. You are just jealous."

Kagome's mouth went open. Oh, he didn't just say that to Kouga?

Kouga looked at Inuyasha with pure hatred. "Jealous? I'm not jealous, I just know Kagome can do a lot better than you, that's all. I'm looking after her!"

"Bullshit!" Inuyasha shouted. "You're secretly in love with her, aren't you!"

Before Kagome knew what had happened, Inuyasha had picked Kouga up by his collar.

"Admit it!" Inuyasha shouted as he shook Kouga. "Be a man for once!"

Kouga grabbed Inuyasha's hands. "You first, you hypocrite!"

"Please, do not fight in this establishment!" one of the waitresses scolded.

Kagome started to glow a bright red as she sunk deeper into her seat.

"I'm not a hypocrite!" Inuyasha yelled as he let go of Kouga.

Kouga fixed his collar as he caught his balance. "You idiot, it's so obvious! You fixed this up yourself too, didn't you!"

Inuyasha stammered for a second. "I-I'd never hurt Hojo like that!" Then, he forgot something else he should add. "And this isn't a date with Kagome!"

"If you don't leave now, we will call the cops!" One of the waitresses responded.

A thousand things were going through Kagome's head as she heard that. Arrested by the cops!

Inuyasha also didn't like the sound of that. "Fine, I'll stop." He muttered as he grabbed Kagome's hand. "Let's get out of here."

Kouga ran over and put his hand on top of Kagome's hand as well. "You don't need to grab her hand."

"I was helping her up." Inuyasha growled.

Kagome wiggled her hand away from both of them. "I can get up myself." She said quickly. "Let's just hurry and get out of here."

Kouga pointed outside. "Come with me Kagome. You can ride with me and tell me what's going on."

Inuyasha put his hand on Kagome's shoulder. "She rode here with me, and she is leaving with me."

Kagome frowned. These guys were acting so childish! She looked over at Kouga. "Kouga, I was brought here with Inuyasha, so I'm going to go back with him. I will talk to you about this later, but until then, please don't tell Hojo. Okay?"

Kouga crossed his arms. That's the first thing he wanted to do when he got back!

Kagome looked at Kouga as sweetly as she could. "Please Kougie? For me? I'll explain everything, I promise."

Kouga sighed, but he could never resist Kagome's pleas. "Fine, but you better explain this well." Kouga looked at Inuyasha. "What?"

Inuyasha had a strange look on his face. 'Kougie? Kagome calls him Kougie?' "Nothing Kougie, nevermind." He chuckled.

Kouga got angry. "Only Kagome, can call me that!"

"Settle down." Kagome said, trying to calm down Kouga. She didn't want the waitresses to still call the cops. She looked over at Inuyasha. "You be nice."

Inuyasha made no reply.

Kouga just growled. "Just you wait, you'll get your own."

Inuyasha watched as Kouga left the establishment. He looked over at Kagome. "What did he mean, I'd get my own?"

Kagome shrugged her shoulders as they left the establishment.

As they walked over to Inuyasha's car, he looked over at Kagome. "Sorry our lunch was ruined."

Kagome just shrugged her shoulders. "It's fine. I really enjoyed it before Kouga came. It was really good."

Inuyasha had a half-way smile on his face. He finally paid her back for the time in the bathroom. "Eh, it was alright I guess."

Kagome giggled as she saw the funny expression on his face. *Aside from Kouga's disturbance, I thought it was great. Spending time with Inuyasha that didn't involve reading...* She stopped to think about it. *Speaking of which...we'll be done soon.* She thought sadly as she looked at Inuyasha.

She had grown used to meeting with Inuyasha and talking to Inuyasha so much. But soon, the time would disappear...

Day: Wednesday, November 7, 2003.

Place: Kadowaki/ Kagome's dorm

Time: 6:00 P.M.

"Harry nodded. He somehow could not find words to tell them what it meant to him, to see them all arranged there, on his side..." Kagome sniffled. "Instead, he smiled, raised his hand in farewell, turned around, and led the way out of the station toward the sunlit street, with Uncle Vernon, Aunt Petunia and Dudley...hurrying along in his wake." She smiled at Inuyasha. "That's the last one so far."

Inuyasha patted her shoulder. "Shit, that story was..." he turned his attention back to Kagome. "I really thought you were going to start bawling on me again."

Kagome wiped her eyes and laughed. "I would've if this was the first time I read it."

Inuyasha looked at the inside of the front of the book cover. "So, there's two more left that need to be brought out?"

Kagome shook her head yes.

Inuyasha smirked and looked over at Kagome. "Hey Kitten, when the next one comes out, ya wanna read 'em to each other? Ya know, for kicks?"

Kagome smiled at him brightly. "Yes, yes I'd really love that!"

Inuyasha ruffled her hair. "You done with all your papers now?"

"Yep." Kagome replied. "And you?"

Inuyasha beamed proudly. "Got everything but the last summary." He chuckled. "Everything'll be done before the end of the due date." He pointed at Kagome. "You turned

me into a freaking school boy!"

Kagome chuckled. "Only in Lit, Inuyasha."

Inuyasha grunted. "Whatever." He looked back over at her. "So, you still gonna come over tomorrow night?"

"Wouldn't miss it for the world." She replied as she put her book away.

They went down the elevator together and said a quick goodbye.

Inuyasha walked over to his car, thinking. The books were actually done...and after tomorrow night, he wouldn't have to see Kitty every day.

Would they lose the steady friendship that they built?

Inuyasha Will Decide It All

Author's Note: Still light editing. My, I really loved caps a lot back then.

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Twenty-One: Inuyasha Will Decide It All

Day: Thursday

Place: Inuyasha's place

Time: 6:40 P.M.

"Wow." Kagome commented as she looked at Inuyasha's living room. "Blanket, popcorn... this'll be better than the theatre."

Inuyasha didn't reply. He popped the first tape of Harry Potter in. "Don't hog all the blanket though, you've gotta share."

"I won't." Kagome humphed. "You're the one that hogs the blanket all the time."

"Yeah, yeah." He replied as he got into the blankets and grabbed a handful of popcorn.

"Share, share." Kagome reminded him. Inuyasha slowly passed the popcorn over to her.

As the movie rolled along, Kagome and Inuyasha got comfortable in their blankets. They forgot about reality until there was a knock on the door.

Knock:Knock

Inuyasha groaned. "Go away!"

Kagome elbowed him. "Press pause and go answer the door."

Standing there was Miroku.

"Snake? What the hell do ya want?"

Miroku shook a tape knowingly. He knew that Inuyasha had Kagome over watching a movie.

Inuyasha crossed his arms. "Kagome asked, but Sango told her she did not know if she liked you or not. That's it, give me the tape." He growled.

Kagome came to the door behind Inuyasha. "Hi Miroku." She pointed to the tape in his hand. "What's that?"

Miroku looked at the tape. "It's called 'A Nap Between Friends.'" He winked at Inuyasha. "It's quite good, would you like to borrow it?"

"No, she does not!" Inuyasha shouted. There was no way he would let Kagome see Miroku's recording of Inuyasha and Kagome taking a nap in her room. "Miroku, you better not test me." He muttered dangerously under his breath.

Miroku just laughed. "All in good spirit my friend, I assure you." He said before he started to walk off."

Inuyasha closed the door. "Pain in the ass."

Kagome frowned but shrugged her shoulders. Inuyasha and Miroku's friends was a complete mystery to her.

They went back to laying down on their blankets while Inuyasha unpressed pause on the DVD.

11:30 that night...

Kagome yawned as she buttoned her coat back up. "That was fun. Thanks for inviting me, Inuyasha."

"Yeah Kitten." Inuyasha replied. "Guess it's time you get home, huh?"

Kagome smiled. "Yep."

"Yeah, okay." Inuyasha grabbed his jacket.

"Inuyasha?" Kagome asked. "You've seemed a little sad through the night. Are you okay?"

"Sure." He replied simply.

Kagome frowned at him. "Don't think that because our reading is over, our friendship will be over." She winked. "I don't let my friends get away that easy."

Inuyasha just smirked.

Kagome just chuckled at his expression. "We should get back home before it gets colder."

Inuyasha just half-smiled behind her as she walked out.

Guess their friendship wasn't as fragile as he thought.

Day: Monday

Place: Literature Class

Inuyasha looked up from his reading. Everything was pretty much done for the semester. The only thing left was the final, so the Lit teacher was calling the students up one by one telling them how they did on their discussion papers.

The teacher was always a little easy on the heart. If the student did great, he would tell where, when, why and how they did well. If a student didn't do so great, he always told them to try a little harder next time.

Although he was easy on a student's heart, he wasn't easy on a student's grade. "Inuyasha?"

Inuyasha groaned but got up. Every paper he ever turned into the guy, he always got a C or a D, with the comment 'try harder'.

He stood by the desk while the teacher brought out the paper.

Yep, the usual. Gobs of red marking. Inuyasha thought. *Get it over with.*

"Let's see..." the teacher began. "Well, I wanted to say that you have made great strides in your improvement. There were a couple typos, you might want to double check it next time you turn a paper in." he smiled at Inuyasha. "But I don't grade on grammar, I grade on the quality of the work. I must say this paper is quality work for you."

Inuyasha stopped and looked down at the paper. "Did he just say I did a good job?"

He looked over at Kagome who was smiling over at him. He didn't know what to do, so he just did what Kagome always did. He stared at the paper.

"Now, this part right here in your third summary was interesting and very detailed. And this..." he ruffled through the papers. "This part right here...and this was better than average...this part right here was pure genius."

Inuyasha's cheeks started to burn as he continued to stare at his paper. This was really weird to him, he wasn't use to this kind of praise.

"Taking evidence from the other books and predicting how the last book will end took some effort..." the teacher continued. He gave the red marked paper to Inuyasha, then pulled out a second copy of the same paper. "You've greatly improved on your reading habits and it shows very well within this paper. Even though I had my doubts about whether I should allow you to do your research over such a popular series, I am very glad you did. You've shown initiative and great quality throughout this paper."

On the other copy, he marked an A on the top and gave it also to Inuyasha. "Incredible job, keep it up for the years to come."

Inuyasha just looked at the papers in his hands and started to walk back to his desk. While he did that, Kagome winked at him.

Making his cheeks burn even more.

Later after Lit...

"You really got an A!" Kagome squeaked.

Inuyasha handed her the piece of paper with his grade on it. "It was weird. He called me a pure genius."

"I know." Kagome smiled. "When you do well on a paper, he lets you know where and how...after one great paper, it's hard to make a bad paper because you don't want his views of you to change." She chuckled. "I think that's why a lot of students keep doing well once they get a good paper."

She looked down at Inuyasha's paper. "Wow. An A. It's amazing, all I've ever made was a B on my papers."

"A 'B'!" Inuyasha shouted in surprise.

"Yeah." She waved his paper. "So trust me, you really earned this grade." She laughed.

"Wow. I got an A and you didn't." Inuyasha spoke nonchalantly. Then he grinned wickedly. "I got an A and you never managed to get one. I wonder what that's saying about us?"

"Don't rub it in." Kagome frowned.

Inuyasha ruffled her hair to her annoyance. "It's okay, you're still smart enough to hang out with me."

"Inuyasha!" Kagome scolded as she stepped on his feet.

"Oh! Oh! Such pain!" Inuyasha laughed. "All right Kitten, I give up. You're almost as smart."

Kagome just elbowed him playfully. "You did a great job, Inuyasha. Don't forget to show your mom." she teased.

Although happiness was reigning in front of the Lit. building, there was nothing but agony and anger coming from someone hiding behind it.

'Look at them.' Hojo snarled. 'Laughing and smiling and...and...'

He watched as Kagome gave Inuyasha a great big hug.

"Congratulations." She smiled as she hugged him.

"That's it!" Hojo looked away. He couldn't take anymore. 'I thought they were so close because they read so much, but they are not doing that anymore!' He fisted his hands together. 'They still see each other just as much! Too much! WAY too much for just friends!'

Miroku saw the painful expression on his friend's face. It had to be done though, he could not have Kagome when she was in love with someone else. Not when it was with Inuyasha. Everyone would end up being miserable. "I am sorry my friend, but it just happened." He crossed his arms. "Neither of them expected this to happen."

Hojo looked angrily at Miroku. "So you did know?" He turned his head away. "Some friend you are."

Miroku didn't know how to react exactly. "Inuyasha and Kagome still do not realize their own feelings." He just shrugged his shoulders. "It just happened. Maybe this is the way it was supposed to be." He said as he watched Inuyasha and Kagome walk away.

"No, it's not!" Hojo yelled angrily. "It was never supposed to be like this! Kagome was supposed to be my bride, and I was supposed to be her groom! And all that cheating asshole of a friend was supposed to be was the best man! That's it!"

Miroku sighed.

"His job was just supposed to be, to wait by my side while Kagome walked down the aisle." Hojo said softly before kicking the building and yelling. "It wasn't supposed to steal Kagome's love away from me!"

He sunk down to his knees.

Miroku patted his shoulder. "Hojo. I have no doubt that you care for Kagome very deeply and that you believe you love her."

"I do love her!" Hojo yelled.

"Nevertheless." Miroku frowned. "I am sorry my friend, but she does not love you."

He tried to steady his friend's shaking shoulder. "As for Inuyasha, he never meant to hurt you. He still does not even realize his feelings for Kagome." Miroku sighed. "And his love does not seem unrequited."

Hojo hit the ground. "It wasn't supposed to be this way. It wasn't supposed to be this way!"

Miroku did not know what to do. "Perhaps you'll find someone special one day."

"I won't have that long, you know that!" Hojo cried out. "Don't you get it? I'm going, I am leaving! I won't have time to find someone else!" Hojo looked at the ground and made his hands into fists. "I don't have the time, I just want to spend the rest of my life with someone kind like Kagome. Someone who is caring, who is loving like Kagome." He looked over at Miroku. "Why is it so wrong?"

Miroku just stared at his friend. "Because granting your last wish, will ruin her life. Don't you see that?"

"Why..." Hojo muttered to himself. "Why Inuyasha? Why does HE deserve her? He's never treated any woman with respect, he's never gone out with one for more than a week, he's... he is not good enough for her."

Miroku didn't know what to say. He knew Hojo did speak the truth, but there was a difference. "Inuyasha was never in love with any of the others. He has nothing but the best intentions with Kagome." He sighed as he looked at his friend. "It's best to let them find each other instead."

"Fuck Inuyasha!" Hojo shouted. "If he really deserves her, if he really loves her, then he would do anything for her!" He stayed quiet for a moment. Then, he looked at Miroku. "You said that he believes that Kagome is dying, not me. Right?"

Miroku shook his head yes.

Hojo looked at the ground. "Then if he truly loves her, he won't let her marry me. No matter whether she is dying or not, he would want to spend the rest of his life with her." He turned quickly to look at Miroku.

Miroku watched as Hojo stood up, seriously.

Hojo stared at Miroku. "Alright, I accept this. I accept Kagome may not ever love me, and love Inuyasha." He stared at his fists. "I don't trust Inuyasha to make her happy though."

Miroku shook his head. He understood what Hojo was saying. He stared at his friend.

Hojo truly did care for Kagome. "What are you planning?" Miroku asked with a raised eyebrow.

Hojo crossed his arms. "I don't like this. I don't see why she had to fall for him. He's so unlike her, he's so..." he sighed. "He can only have her if he makes her happy." He frowned at Miroku. "No more of this 'we're only friends' shit. If he wants Kagome, he will deal with it like a man!" He looked at the sky.

Miroku listened intently as Hojo explained his plan. It did make sense, to a point. "Do you really believe it'll work?"

Hojo crossed his arms. "If it don't, then Kagome will be happily married to me." He smiled. "Then, at least someone will be happy." He frowned. "And if it does, then at least Kagome will..."

Miroku smiled. He was right, Hojo did really care for Kagome.

Inuyasha cared for Kagome. Hojo cared for Kagome. Kagome cared for Inuyasha...

Miroku shook his head. In the end, Hojo was doing his best to make Kagome happy. "...you truly are dying, aren't you?"

Hojo didn't reply, but the answer was obvious. He put his hands in his pockets. "Inuyasha will decide it all."

Miroku watched as his friend walked away. Before, he had never been 100% sure that Hojo was dying. He figured it was a ploy, a ruse to get Kagome.

But, it was obvious. It was clear. Hojo wanted to be with Kagome, but at the same time, he wanted to make her happy. Miroku slowly walked, thinking. Hojo had never put his friends before himself. Ever. Yet, he was giving Inuyasha a chance to have Kagome. A chance to take away the one woman Hojo wanted to be with 'til the end.

Hojo is really dying. Miroku thought sadly.

A Kiss Between Friends

Author's Note: I loved this chapter!

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Twenty-Two: A Kiss Between Friends

Day: Monday

Place: Kadowaki/Between the lounge and register

Time: 6:00 P.M.

"Thanks for stopping by." Kagome said as she followed Inuyasha out of the elevator. They stopped by the small stairs. "See ya tomorrow?"

Some of the residents around them giggled.

"Sure. We've gotta celebrate this A." Inuyasha smirked. "I think to celebrate, you should take me out instead this time."

More girls giggled.

Kagome thought about it. "All right." She agreed. "Don't order too much though because I'm not spoilin' ya." She laughed.

Inuyasha gave her a quick nod and turned to leave, but realized there was a group of girls stopping him. "What's your problem?"

The residents giggled as they pointed to a sign that was just made. "Congratulations. You two can be the first!"

"Each year during Christmas, our dorm hosts events to raise money for Emmaus House." One of the residents explained. "This year we're hosting KISS or BUST." She said as she pointed to the mistletoe above Kagome and Inuyasha's heads. "When a couple get caught under the mistletoe, they have to kiss. If they choose not to, they each have to put \$10.00 in the jar. If they kiss each other on the cheek, it's \$6.00 though."

Kagome and Inuyasha's mouth dropped wide open.

"This wasn't down here before!" Inuyasha complained.

"We just put it up about ten minutes ago." One of the residents explained as she pointed to the huge sign hanging over the mistletoe "We have a huge one outside too, in the front entrance." She smiled. "Officially, you two are the first!"

Inuyasha grumbled and fidgeted for his wallet. "Crap, I left it at home."

Kagome sighed. She looked in her own purse, but it wasn't pay day yet.

"Well?" one of the residents pressed. "Are you going to help charity or yourselves?"

The residents watched and giggled as they saw Inuyasha and Kagome fumble all over themselves. Truth be told, there were some rules the girls were omitting to the two under the mistletoe...but the entire dormitory knew about Inuyasha and Kagome. They were always together as 'friends'.

It was time to push these two together.

Inuyasha patted his jeans again. "This is bogus. You dumb broads won't get away for this for too long, mark my words."

Kagome just bit her lip. "Isn't there any loopholes to this?"

The residents just smiled at each other. There were many loopholes, of course. "Nope!" One of the residents pointed to the sign above Inuyasha and Kagome. "Between 5:45 and 7:45 this takes place. Sign says it perfectly."

"Well, the sign wasn't up when I came in." Inuyasha grumbled.

"Come on, do it already!" One of the eager residents yelled. "It looked like you would have no problem with it before."

Kagome looked over at Inuyasha timidly. "Uhhh..."

"Oh come on, what's a harmless kiss between friends?" one of the residents persuaded them.

"Yeah..." Inuyasha admitted slowly. "One won't hurt I guess."

"Sure..." Kagome smiled nervously. "It can be quick."

"Yeah, good idea." Inuyasha agreed.

The residents watched patiently. Neither Inuyasha nor Kagome had made a move.

"Come on." One of the girls said impatiently. "We don't want to be here all day." She frowned stubbornly. "But we will if we have to."

"O-Okay." Kagome replied. She didn't feel well. Her legs felt really shaky. "I-Inuyasha? You close your eyes, and I-I'll do it."

"Okay." Inuyasha said faintly. He closed his eyes.

Kagome gulped. 'It's just a quick kiss. That's it. This shouldn't be hard.' She tried to lean up, but her knees were shaking too much. She grabbed onto his jacket. Could she reach him?

He bent his head down slightly as he wrapped his arms around her for support. 'Just a tiny kiss. I can do that. I've kissed hundreds of women. This'll be simple.'

Kagome gulped when she felt Inuyasha's head on hers. She moved her head down slowly over his nose. She bit her lip nervously as their noses touched. She took a deep breath before finally placing her lips upon his.

No one made a sound. The couple under the mistletoe, the residents, or even the onlookers. No motion and no sound.

Neither Inuyasha nor Kagome knew what was happening.

They were lost in the moment with each other. No one else besides them existed.

Inuyasha tightened his hold on Kagome. He just couldn't let go.

Kagome lovingly wrapped her arms around Inuyasha's neck. Nothing in her mind or body said what she was doing was wrong. It seemed right. It just felt so right.

Neither of them let go for some time. No one dared to interrupt them.

It was the sweetest kiss any of the residents had ever seen.

It wasn't until someone coming from the outside sneezed, that the couple had opened their eyes.

The moment was halted, and reality dropped on them like a ton of bricks.

Inuyasha quickly turned away. "Th-there. I gotta go." He managed to say.

"K-kay." Kagome stuttered. That's all she could say for some reason. Her body felt so different, so tingly.

Inuyasha tried to walk casually out the door, but his legs felt like jell-o. Once he was out the door though, his feeling came back, and he quickly ran to his car.

Kagome didn't see his quick escape because she was busy making her own by running up the stairs.

Everyone that watched the situation couldn't help but notice how fast the romantic situation disappeared.

"Wow." One of the residents breathed as she shut her recorder off the girls had decided to use to record the first kiss. "I've never seen anything soo..."

She sighed deeply. "Now THAT's love."

Aftermath

Author's Note: This book would just not be the same without this chapter. Alas, it's also the same chapter that made ff.net delete it and all of it's 600 reviews. Even more than Feudal Fairy Tale Begins Again . . . back then. It wasn't fair, it should have been graduated in, you know? Written before ff.net changed. That bitterness is the reason it took so long to bring it out. Then when I was like 'I really should, people really liked it', then I had trouble finding it. It had been so long. Still? It doesn't change how good this next chapter had been. I enjoyed it in the end.

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Twenty-Three: Aftermath

Important: Try not to get confused, but love is tricky to explain sometimes.

-this is for the song

/-backslashes are flashbacks in the story/

Keep that straight and enjoy yourself!.

Day: Monday

Place: Inuyasha's Car

Time: 6:15 P.M.

Inuyasha quickly started his car up and continued to leave as quick as he could. 'Damn!' he bopped his head on the steering wheel. He felt so weird inside. 'Shit! Why am I acting like this? It was just a little kiss!'

Just then a song started to play on his radio as he started to drive home.

-People are talking, talking about people.

-I hear them whisper, you can't believe it.

-They think we're lovers, kept under covers.

-I just ignore it, but they keep saying...

-We laugh just a little too loud,

-We stand just a little too close...

/ Kagome kept laughing. "You could have, ha ha ha ahaha ha ha, just said so!"

Inuyasha brought her up to his chest to tickle the sides of her belly better. "That wouldn't have been as much fun!" He laughed.

Kagome couldn't take anymore. "Inuyasha!" she gave out her battle cry warning as she started to attack his feet.

"No, no, no! Not the feet, not the hahahhaahahahah!" Inuyasha couldn't control himself, but he wouldn't give in. He brought his chin down on her shoulder so she couldn't escape as he started to tickle her sides more.

But at that moment, the door swung open./

Inuyasha didn't know why, but this song started to seem to make sense. 'Sounds like me and...'

-We stare just a little too long...

-Maybe their seeing, something we don't darlin'

/ Sango crossed her arms. "You two just don't get it." She said as she walked off./

Wait! Inuyasha my friend?

/ "What!" Inuyasha yelled. He was tired and Miroku was just pissing him off more.

Are you...positive you have no feelings toward this girl?

Inuyasha hung up./

/Miroku frowned at him. "I take it from your tone that you have become quite more acquainted with the girl than you want Hojo to know."

Inuyasha didn't answer./

/Miroku ignored his request. "Who do you really believe belongs with Kagome? Hojo? Or you?"

Without waiting for an answer, Miroku turned to leave as Inuyasha continued to his house./

-Let's give 'em something to talk about.

Day: Monday

Place: Kagome's Dorm

Time: 6:16 P.M.

Kagome sighed as she threw herself on her bed. What had happened? Her heart was beating non-stop. 'What is wrong with me? I have got to relax.'

She stopped to turn the radio on. A little music might help.

-Let's give 'em something to talk about.

-How about Love?

-I feel so foolish, I never noticed.

-You act so nervous, could you be falling for me?

Kagome sat up on her bed. This song was very interesting...

-It took a rumor, to make me wonder.

-Now I'm convinced, I'm going under.

Kagome bit her lip again. Could the song be right? Could Inuyasha, maybe have...?

Day: Monday

Place: Inuyasha's Car

Time: 6:17 P.M.

-Thinking 'bout you every day.

/But for some reason, having Kitten beside him reading again made him feel better. Like nothing had changed. He felt really peaceful.../

-Dreaming 'bout you every night.

/Inuyasha lied in his bed, unable to fall asleep. 'Shoot, what is in that red notebook? Does Hojo know? Is it about Hojo?' He shifted in his bed to lay on his side. 'And what was with Sango's question? Kagome or Hojo? Their both friends, and so far that hasn't been much of a bad thing.' He turned around to lay on his other side. 'What is she is hiding something else though? Like someone hurt her bad? Why won't she tell me!'/

-Hoping that you feel the same way.

-Now that we know it, let's really it show it, darlin'!

Inuyasha stopped just in time to avoid running a stop sign. His heart started to beat very quick, as everything clicked into place. "Could...could Kagome be...could I be?"

Day: Monday

Place: Kagome's dorm

Time: 6:19 P.M.

Kagome laid down on her back as she finished listening to the song.

-Let's give them something to talk about.

-Let's give them something to figure out.

-Let's give them something to talk about.

-How about love, love, love, love?

It hit her like a ton of bricks as her eyes grew wide. She quickly ran off to see Sango.

Place: Sango's dorm

Time: 6:19 P.M.

Knock:Knock: Knock:Knock Knock:Knock: Knock:Knock Knock:Knock: Knock:Knock!

Sango answered the door. Apparently someone needed to see her very bad.

"Sango!" Kagome yelled as she opened the door. "I'm in deep! I think...I-I think Inuyasha might love me! And and!" She collapsed on Sango's bed. "I think I might really love him too!"

Sango smiled as she sighed. "You finally figured it out, huh?"

Kagome hugged Sango's pillow. "What do I do? I mean, we kissed this really great kiss, and then we ran away and then this song...help me, I don't know what to do!"

"First of all." Sango smiled as she went over to sit by her friend. "You need to stop strangling my poor pillow."

"Sango." Kagome whined. "This isn't good. I promised Hojo I'd marry him, but I didn't really think I'd fall for Inuyasha. What should I do? What's going to happen?" She started to hug Sango's pillow again very tightly. "Should I say something to Hojo? Should I ignore this feeling?"

Sango shrugged. "I don't know, Kagome."

Kagome's mouth dropped open. "B-but Sango, you always have the answers!"

Sango hugged Kagome gently. Her friend was definitely riled up. "I don't have answers for love, Kagome. That isn't exactly a math subject."

"Then..." Kagome replied shakily. "What should I do?"

Sango chuckled. "I don't know. I can't say, just follow your heart. All right?"

"Follow my heart. Follow my heart." Kagome chanted. "I can't Sango! It keeps shouting 'I don't know, ask Sango!'"

Sango laughed. "That's your brain, silly. Give yourself some time, go lie down in your room, listen to some music...then listen to your heart."

"That's partly how this began." Kagome grumbled as she slowly got up and walked out.

"Don't worry." Sango called out to her. "Everything will be alright."

Place: Inuyasha's Place/living room

Time: 6:40 P.M.

Inuyasha fidgeted his fingers nervously on the couch. *What if she really doesn't? What if I tell her how I feel? What about Hojo? Would she still marry him? Would I want to though? Interrupt their lives?*

"What's wrong with you?"

Inuyasha ignored his brother. *But she would need help. And care and stuff. Can I do that? And, and she'll be gone one day. Yeah, there's still time, but what about later? What if we get married? Have children? Could I deal with that? Could I deal with life alone?*

"Inuyasha!"

Inuyasha slammed the back of his head on the couch. *Some friend I turn out to be. How could I fall for her? Did she really fall for me? Can I be with her, knowing it wouldn't be for long?*

"PUPPY!"

That caught Inuyasha's attention. Dammit, why did Sesshoumaru call him by his real name! "Don't call me that, Fluffy!"

Sesshoumaru frowned. He knew he'd be called by his real name as well if he did that. "What is going on in that brain of yours?"

"Why should I tell you!" Inuyasha shouted as he stood up. "It's none of your damn business!"

Sesshoumaru was angry for a moment, then smiled. "Oh, I see. You figured out your feelings finally, haven't you?"

Inuyasha crossed his arms. *Everyone knew. Miroku knew. Sesshoumaru knew. Even Hojo could see it and I told them all they were wrong!*

He sat back down on the couch and stared at the ceiling. *What do I do now...what?*

He looked down at his cell and started to dial...

hello?

"Miroku." Inuyasha tried to say calmly. "I need your damn help."

With what?

Inuyasha was quiet a moment. "I think...I think I kinda...sorta...like Kitten...more than a friend."

(sigh) Of course you do. It's about time you realized it.

"Well, stop flapping your mouth and tell me what I should do?" Inuyasha commanded.

Well, I suppose there are only two options, aren't there? Tell Kagome and Hojo how you feel, and stop their wedding.

"I can't do that!" Inuyasha shouted into the phone. "I mean, Hojo likes Kagome, he wants to take care of her! I-I can't take care of her! Everytime we get close, I'd just remember she would be dying." He said quietly. "I can't live like that. Hojo can though."

There was silence on Miroku's end. Fine, then stay quiet. He sounded upset. If you don't love her enough to tell her, then just stay quiet and let her have a Happily ever after with Hojo. Does that sound better?

Inuyasha was quiet. "..."

He turned himself away from the cell as he hung up and turned it off. He set it on the couch. Angrily, he stood up and started to look around. "Where are my fucking keys!"

"Try your jeans." Sesshoumaru frowned.

Inuyasha checked his pants, and quickly went out the front door.

Sesshoumaru crossed his arms. "I pray you are making the right decision, Inuyasha."

Day: The Big Day

Place: It doesn't matter

Time: Two hours before the big moment

Inuyasha stared ahead. He watched the lake in front of him. He sat down and continued to stare at it.

He was hiding. He didn't want to be there. He wanted to be anywhere but there.

So he was here. Safe, open, easy to understand. Nature.

Cold as hell being winter, but beggars can't be choosers.

I'm doing the right thing. He asserted himself.

Ever since that day, with the kiss, he had chosen...

To completely ignore Kagome.

He didn't talk to her, visit her, he didn't even look at her anymore.

She tried and tried to talk to him. Dozens of messages on his answering machine, tons of letters, emails...

She tried to talk to him in person several times, but he always ignored her.

One day, he couldn't take it anymore, and told her to go fuck the hell off. The assignment was long since done, and he got the grade he wanted. He didn't need her anymore.

It hurt, but it worked. The calls, the visits, it all stopped.

He had finally lost her as a friend.

He stared out into space. He couldn't take care of her. He couldn't be with her, knowing she could kick the bucket soon one day. That she would need help, that she might need medical care every day...

Mostly, he just couldn't stand the thought of losing her. *She's better off with Hojo. He'll take care of her until the end.*

It was better this way. Leaving her behind and going on with his life would be a lot better than staying with her and watching her go through the rest of her life...

Miroku had been upset for a long time. He kept telling Inuyasha that he had to tell Kagome what was going on.

Inuyasha never listened.

The time was getting closer. He only had to deal with seeing her one more time...

He stood up and walked back to his car. 'It's time.' He thought sadly.

It was time to let her go for good.

It was time to leave and get dressed for the wedding.

It was time to be the best man and watch as Hojo married his bride, Kagome.

It was time.

Here Comes the Bride

Author's Note: Slight Editing

I don't own Inuyasha or anything having to do with this show. I also don't own Keebler's crackers, Dr. Pepper, Swiss Miss Cocoa, Harry Potter, Ranma or whatever other bizarre things this fanfiction includes I may be mistaken to own. I make this entire story and all of it's chapters only for entertainment purposes, (and an excuse to avoid my homework:). I make no profit off of this fic, so please don't sue. You won't get much since I'm just a struggling college student.^^

Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Chapter Twenty-Four: Here Comes the Bride

Day: December 24, 2003

Place: Tokyo/Kagome's Home

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Hojo looked nervously at his watch as he straightened his bowtie. 'Oh man, am I nervous.' "Is this on right, Miroku?"

Miroku helped him fix his tie. "There you go."

Hojo sighed. "How do I look?"

Miroku just smiled. "Like a nervous groom. Settle down Raccoon, it will be fine."

Sango came over to Miroku with a video camera. "Okay, I'm all ready. Hojo, is all of your family here?"

Hojo nodded as he pointed to the front pews. "Everyone's here."

Sango shook her head. "I know Kagome's family is all here..." She jittered around nervously."

Miroku pulled the recorder away from her. "Settle down, Sango. Everything will be fine."

"I know." Sango admitted. "It's just not every day your best friend gets married, you know?" Then, she sighed. "Where is Inuyasha, we need to start soon."

Miroku just smiled at her as he heard a car come up. He looked at Inuyasha as he came out of the front seat. It still angered him inside that he would not even try to tell Kagome anything. Nothing. Instead, he chose to leave her completely alone.

Inuyasha walked up as he straightened his tie. He was all decked out in a suit for the big day. "How's it going?"

Miroku sighed. "The groom's a bit nervous." He frowned. "We were beginning to think you wouldn't show up."

Inuyasha just shrugged his shoulders. "Stuff just came up. Made it though, didn't I?"

Hojo just shook his head as he looked at Miroku. He smiled. *Perhaps Inuyasha really doesn't love Kagome as much as I do. It is getting more easier to believe that Kagome will end up marrying me.*

Miroku looked at Hojo. He knew what he was thinking. *If Inuyasha does not love Kagome enough to stop this, then I will keep my end.* Miroku looked at Inuyasha, who was just staring down at the grass. *Kagome does indeed deserve someone who will take care of her. If Inuyasha isn't man enough to do it, then I wish Hojo and Kagome the best.*

He started to walk away to talk to Hojo's family. *Still, I wish Inuyasha would say something...not just let her slip away...*

Sango looked at Hojo. "It's almost time. Are you sure you are ready for this?"

Hojo just nodded.

Inuyasha watched as Sango went back inside to get Kagome.

The priest came out and everyone took their seats. Hojo stood up by the priest, and Inuyasha stayed beside him.

I can do this. Inuyasha told himself. *This is the last time I have to put myself through this. Then I never have to deal with it again.*

The music softly started as everyone turned around.

Hojo and Inuyasha both gasped softly as they watched Kagome come out. She wore a beautiful wedding dress that was lacy at the edge of her long train. Her hair was beautifully put up into her veil which was hiding most of her lovely visage. Her gown was such a beautiful shade of white, that she seemed to be a goddess rising out of the snow. Her arms and neckline were showing so much, but the goose bumps added to the beauty instead of taking any away. She held her flowers in her cold hands. White lilies, which matched so well with her.

Kagome had never looked as beautiful as she did at that moment.

Everyone watched in awe as she slowly crept through the lightly falling snow towards the groom and Inuyasha.

As the priest began to speak, Inuyasha continued to look at her.

She was so beautiful. He never knew anything could be so beautiful.

Oh, all he wanted to do was hold her.

Instead, he watched as Hojo took her hand.

Kagome tried to smile through her veil. She tried her best not to cry, and not to look at Inuyasha.

He really didn't love her. He didn't even want to be around her. That kiss ruined their entire friendship...

But she grew to accept it. Inuyasha wasn't someone who could be tied down with one girl.

She looked at Hojo's hand. Hojo would treat her right. He'd take care of her and love her.

Inuyasha couldn't take his eyes off Kagome for anything. She was so beautiful, so near him...

"Best Man?"

He wanted to be with her so much...

"Inuyasha?"

Why couldn't he ever have her?

"Inuyasha!"

Inuyasha looked at Hojo who seemed a bit upset.

Everyone was staring at him.

"The ring, Inuyasha?" Hojo asked as he put out his hand.

Shit! Inuyasha had been staring at Kagome so much, he lost track of what was going on. He quickly pulled out the ring and gave it to the groom.

Hojo looked at Kagome. He recited the words the priest had told him. "With this ring, I thee wed."

Inuyasha watched as Hojo slid the ring on her finger. This was by far the hardest thing he ever had to do.

Oh god, he completely loved Kagome.

Sango quickly gave Kagome the ring. Kagome slowly slid the ring on Hojo's finger.

Inuyasha closed his eyes. He was completely and totally in love with Kagome. There would never be anyone else he loved like he loved Kagome.

The words the priest spoke next, pierced his very soul.

"Do you take this man to be your lawfully wedded husband? To have and to hold, for richer or poorer, as long as you both shall live?"

Inuyasha's whole body trembled as he heard Kagome's lovely voice saying...

"I...I-I...I-I-I!"

Before Kagome knew what was going on, Inuyasha yanked her away.

Everyone just looked at him, but he didn't care.

Kagome just stood still. What was going on? Why did Inuyasha just yank her away from Hojo?

Before anyone could say anything, Inuyasha wrapped his arms around Kagome and pressed her against him as he gave her the deepest kiss he had ever given a woman.

Hojo watched with sadness. Inuyasha finally realized how much he loved Kagome.

As Inuyasha let Kagome go, he looked deep into her eyes. "Kitten, I can't let you go. I tried, I tried really hard, but I just can't! I don't care if you are dying or not, I am not letting you do this!"

Kagome just looked at Inuyasha, bewildered. *He...he thinks I'm dying?* "Inuyasha, I..."

Before Inuyasha knew what he was doing, he ran. He had picked up Kagome, ran to his car, tossed her in and took off.

Hojo blinked. "...what the hell?"

Everyone just watched and gasped as they watched the best man steal the bride.

Day: December 24, 2003

Place: Inuyasha's Car

Time: 3:26 P.M.

Kagome tried to sit up, but Inuyasha had tossed her into the car sideways. What in the world was going on!

"What? What are you doing Inuyasha!"

She struggled to get up. "What is wrong with you! You ignore me constantly, don't talk to me, don't email me, don't accept any of my calls! You tell me to fuck off, that you don't need

me! Then, on my wedding day, you go and pull something like this? LIKE THIS! Yank me away and just...just...just KISS me!

She raised her fist. "And throw me into your car and...geez, what in the hell were you thinking! God, you are so infuriating!"

Day: December 24, 2003

Place: It doesn't matter

Time: 3:50 P.M.

Inuyasha tried to help Kagome up out of the car, but as soon as she was out, she batted his hand away.

She tried to fix her veil which had started to fall down to the side of her head.

Inuyasha looked at her and put his hands in his pockets. "I needed to talk to you."

Kagome scoffed. "Obviously."

Inuyasha looked at Kagome seriously. "Look woman, I'm trying to tell you that even though you're dying, I don't want you to marry Hojo."

Kagome just looked at him as if he had a third head. "I'm not dying, Inuyasha."

Inuyasha frowned. "Don't say that, I heard you! I know you are dying, that's why you want to marry Hojo!"

"I'm not dying, Hojo is!" Kagome shouted back.

Inuyasha just stared at her. "What?"

"Hojo is dying, so I agreed to marry him." Kagome replied.

Inuyasha blinked. "You mean...you're fine?"

"I'm confused and angry as hell at you, but yeah, other than that, I'm good. How are you?" Kagome growled.

Inuyasha had a half-smile on his face. Then, a smirk. Then, a full blown smile before he grabbed Kagome again and pressed her against him.

Kagome squeaked at the surprise hug. "What has gotten into you?"

Inuyasha looked at her. "Kagome, I don't want to be your friend."

Kagome's mouth went wide. "You are such a-!"

"I want to be more than a friend to you."

Kagome looked at him. "You have been so confusing. What are you saying now?"

Inuyasha sighed and took a deep breath. He told her everything about how he overheard, how he felt about their kiss, about why he started to ignore her.

Kagome just listened until he was done. "..."

She didn't know what to say.

"I'm sorry about Hojo." Inuyasha said sadly. "I didn't know it was him, or I never would have...but, I can't ignore it." He looked at Kagome. He smiled at her. She was so beautiful, standing there in her wedding dress, with her lop-sided veil on. "I love you, Kagome."

He couldn't help it. It was so unlike him, but the words just rolled off his tongue.

Kagome's eyes grew wide. 'He...he loves me? He really loves me?' "But...Hojo-"

Inuyasha put his hand over her mouth. "Don't. Just tell me. Do you...want to be more than a friend with me?"

Kagome stared at him. "Uuhhh..."

Inuyasha looked at her. "Well?"

Kagome bit her lip. "I...Ummm..."

Inuyasha started to become impatient. "Kagome, tell me!"

"I love you!" she blurted out.

That was that. Neither of them could take back their statements.

Inuyasha breathed out slowly. He did it. In the same place he swore he would get through the wedding and let Hojo marry Kagome, he had confessed his feelings and Kagome had confessed hers.

Kagome didn't know what to do. He had told her how he felt. She told him how she felt. She had promised to marry Hojo though. Her head felt so funny.

She watched as Inuyasha started to fix her veil. At least that's what she thought.

Inuyasha slowly took off the veil and looked at Kagome. He slowly undid her bobby pins that held her hair up, and watched as they fell down, one by one.

As the last one fell, a tear came to Kagome's eye. "I really do love you, Inuyasha."

Inuyasha gave a final smirk before he gave Kagome a deep kiss...

Epilogue: Shut Up and Kiss Me

Author's Note: Wow. It really is a solid feeling to finally have this back out on the internet for people to enjoy again. I really hope you enjoyed the journey. I sure did.

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Best Man Steals the Bride

By: Fondest Desire

Epilogue: Shut up and Kiss Me

Day: December 25, 2003

Place: Tokyo/Kagome's Home

Time: 3:00 P.M.

Inuyasha looked over at where Hojo should be. He couldn't believe Hojo agreed to it. He knew he still loved Kagome, but he had been a friend. He couldn't stay though, it was too much to bear.

Inuyasha understood.

At first, it was hard. Hard to tell Hojo that he really loved Kagome. But, Hojo knew. He had accepted it, and he agreed. He just wanted Kagome to be happy.

Inuyasha looked over at Miroku. "How's my tie look?"

Miroku helped him with the tie. "It looks fine."

"It doesn't matter." Sesshoumaru said as he butted into the conversation. "You still look like yourself in the end."

"Shutup." Inuyasha growled.

"Be nice." Inuyasha's mother insisted as she started to fiddle with his tie. "My little Puppy! I'm so proud of you!"

"Mom!" Inuyasha snarled as he looked around. "Don't say it in public."

Sango came around with the video camera again. She had erased the previous footage from the day before.

Miroku came over to Sango. "Settle down."

Sango sighed. "You know, going through this once is bad enough, but going through this whole thing twice. I was not expecting this."

Miroku smiled knowingly. "Yes, well I hadn't expected the best man to steal the bride for a few hours, then return. Both being a bit disheveled, with traces of snow all over them... "

"Shh! We don't know for sure anything happened." Sango said, defending her friend.

Miroku looked over at Inuyasha. "... buttons buttoned all wrong and some missing-"

"Miroku!" Sango scolded. "Be good."

"I'm just saying..." He looked over at Inuyasha and raised his voice slightly. "They could have waited a little longer."

Inuyasha growled at Miroku as his mother fussed about him.

"Must have been cold." Miroku winked at Inuyasha. "All that playing in the snow."

"Miroku, if you don't shutu-!" Inuyasha started to yell.

"Take your seats everyone, it's showtime!"

Inuyasha adjusted his tie one more time as he watched Kagome coming down the aisle again...

Only this time, it was for him.

Day: December 25, 2003

Place: Tokyo/Kagome's Home

Time: 3:40 P.M.

Inuyasha kept stepping on Kagome's feet.

"You're a horrible dancer." Kagome muttered.

"Yeah well, it's not like I got to practice this dumbass dance beforehand." Inuyasha growled.

"Hey, you are the one who said you loved me so much, you wanted me to be yours forever!" Kagome yelled.

"Yeah, well...you're the one who said yes." Inuyasha smiled smugly.

"Yeah, well...you're the one who said we should get the shit over now, before you changed your mind." Kagome rebuttaled.

"Yeah, well..." Inuyasha started to chuckle. "Will you just shut up and kiss me, Kitten?"

Kagome smiled, and then laughed. "Wow, Inuyasha. That's so romantic."

"Yeah, the noises in the snow you made were pretty romantic too." He chuckled in her ear.

Her face grew red. "Inuyasha, how could you say that on our-!"

She stopped in the middle of her sentence as Inuyasha bent her down and kissed her.

"There? Is that better? Ya know, if you wanted some romance, I don't see why ya married-"

This time Inuyasha was cut off. "Just shut up and kiss me." Kagome laughed.

Sango just smiled as she filmed the whole thing. So far, she had two wonderful tapes that she could show both families after the festivities died down.

Right beside her, Miroku stood. He slid out the first wedding tape and slid in a simple tape labeled 'A nap between friends' into her camera bag.

Oh yes, it would be a wedding memory the lovely newly-weds would not forget.

THE END

Thanks everyone for all your support. I hope that you continue to read my stories, and just thank you so much to everyone who waited sooo long for this to come out. I hope it was worth your while.

Please [drop by the Archive and comment](#) to let the creator know if you enjoyed their work!