

HARMONY

Written by

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INT. HIGH SCHOOL - MORNING

The morning light shines through the windows.

KIBOU (18 years old, black hair, light skin, timid)

Kibou grabs one of the event flyers and reads it.

KIBOU

Uh... Maybe I can give it a chance,  
maybe it'll be useful for getting  
into college.

Kibou takes the flyer and walks to his next class with  
Professor Wong.

INT. CLASS - MORNING

Kibou enters the music room; no one has arrived yet. He takes  
out a violin from the case he's carrying. Its blue and white  
colors resembling the sky and clouds. Kibou begins to play a  
melody.

KIBOU (HAPPY)

Finally, I got this melody right.  
I've never been able to play it  
before.

Suddenly, the other students and the professor start entering  
the room. Kibou notices everyone's gazes and begins to  
tremble, causing his music to sound off-key to the students.  
Some of them chuckle slightly at the mishap, but the  
professor decides to approach him.

PROFESSOR WONG

Oh, I see you're still trying that  
melody. Take it easy, kid—you'll  
get it someday.

KIBOU

But I need to learn it now for the  
contest...

Kibou lowers his head, and the professor pats him gently on  
the back.

PROFESSOR WONG

Don't worry, kid. I was just like  
you. You know what? If you want,  
you can come after class, and we'll  
keep working on the melody.

KIBOU  
Sounds good to me, Professor Wong.  
Thanks.

The alarms sounds again.

PROFESSOR WONG  
Looks like we're out of time. You  
know I'll be waiting for you.

KIBOU  
Yes, Professor Wong. Later!

EXT. STREET - LATER

The camera shifts to the exterior. Kibou appears on the screen, walking home when he suddenly finds a keychain in his backpack. He stops and stares at it.

INT. GRANDPA'S HOUSE - FLASHBACK

Suddenly, a flashback occurs. Kibou finds himself in the past, watching his younger self playing with his grandfather, AARON (80s, thin, pale skin, white hair) who gives him a key.

EXT. STREET - LATER

KIBOU  
Wow... I didn't remember that haha,  
how cute. I don't know how I forgot  
something so important to me. I  
should visit my grandfather's house  
someday.

Kibou keeps walking until he suddenly bumps into someone—it's Ling, accompanied by her friend Yang. LING (17 years old, tall, blonde hair, pale skin).

YANG (18 years old, brown skin, black hair)

YANG  
Hey! Watch where you're going, you  
idiot! You're going to hurt someone  
if you keep walking like that!

LING  
Don't be like that, Yang. Hey,  
what's your name? I'm Ling, and  
this is Yang.

KIBOU (NERVOUS)

Uh... My name is Kibou. Pleasure to meet you Yan and Ling.

LING

You seem nervous, Kibou. Are you okay?

KIBOU

Yes... I think. I don't have any time, sorry!

INT. HOUSE - LATER

In the next scene, Kibou enters his home, drops his backpack on the floor, and walks toward the kitchen.

KIBOU

Mom! I'm home!

But he only finds a note: "Hi, son. Sorry I'm not home today, but I left you some food in the microwave." Kibou leaves the kitchen, grabs a chocolate bar, eats it, and then heads out of the house to return to the institute.

INT. CLASSROOM - LATER

Kibou is playing music, and Professor Wong is helping him improve. However, Kibou makes a mistake again.

KIBOU

Ugh... I can't do it. I give up.

PROFESSOR WONG

Don't worry. You'll lose this fear soon.

Kibou sighs and nods softly.

PROFESSOR WONG (CONT'D)

Go home. Tomorrow, we'll continue with this, ok?

KIBOU

Yes, that's good.

Kibou lowered his head and left the classroom. He walked outside and saw the registration booth for the competition.

LIX (18 years old, blonde, pale skin, conceited)

LIX

Hey, you! Are you thinking of joining the music competition? Though obviously, you'll never beat someone like me!

KIBOU

Uh... Yes, I'm going to sign up.

LIX

Then come on, put your name on the paper. You're sure to be just another little rat among the losers.

Lix hands the paper to Kibou with a sly smile. Kibou signs it and swallows hard.

LIX (CONT'D)

That's good. I'll see you at the contest, little rat.

EXT. HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Kibou finds himself walking and sees Ling and Yang.

LING

Hey, Kibou. Did you just come from a club?

KIBOU

No, I just signed up for the music contest.

They remained in a silence that carried a feeling of discomfort.

YANG

So... I wanted to apologize for how I acted earlier.

KIBOU

Yes, don't worry about it.

LING

So... you signed up for the music competition. What do you plan to play?

KIBOU

I'm working on a song, but no matter how hard I try, I feel uncomfortable playing in front of others. I've tried everything, but I still can't...

Kibou lowers his head, but Ling and Yan gently pat him on the shoulder.

YANG

What if... it's something in the past?

KIBOU

What are you referring to?

YANG

I mean, maybe something happened in your past that makes you feel scared in front of people.

Kibou stays in silence. His brow furrows.

KIBOU

I... don't remember anything.

Kibou looks at his hands as the background fades to darkness. While staring at his hands, he begins to sweat and lose his breath.

KIBOU (CONT'D)

I... don't know what happened.

Kibou starts to shake and tears well up in his eyes.

KIBOU (CONT'D)

I... I'm so sorry...

Kibou wraps his arms around his forearms, simulating a hug as he tries to calm himself. Suddenly, Ling and Yang embrace him.

LING

Relax, we're here.

YANG

Yes, don't worry. Look at me.

Kibou lifts his gaze and looks at Yang, tears streaming from his eyes.

YANG (CONT'D)

Breathe in and out, breathe in and out. It's okay, stay calm.

Kibou follows the advice of Yang and manages to calm his pain.

KIBOU

I only remember when I was a kid...

INT. HOUSE - FLASHBACK

The scene begins with Kibou crying in a room. Aaron enters and widens his eyes in surprise upon seeing Kibou in tears. Aaron approaches him.

AARON

What's going on my boy? Why are you crying?

KIBOU

My parents and uncles said that my dream of playing music is stupid and that I'll never have a future with it. They also told me that playing with dolls is for girls...

AARON

Don't listen to them, my child... Playing with dolls isn't just for girls; you can play with them too. On your birthday, I'll buy you some. And I know you'll become someone great in life. Now, let me hear one of your songs, okay?

KIBOU

Okay...

Kibou picks up his violin and begins to play music. Aaron hums along to the melody. When Kibou finishes, Aaron looks him in the eyes again.

AARON

It's obvious your parents and uncles don't know anything about music. You keep following your dream—I'll support you. Make a song for me, okay?

Kibou jumps from the emotion and hugs Aaron.

KIBOU  
Thanks, Grandma! I'll do it!

Aaron smiles. The scene shifts to a gravestone with the words "Here lies Aaron" engraved on it. Kibou is standing in front of the grave, tears streaming down his face.

KIBOU (CONT'D)  
Granpa... please... get up...  
Please.

Seeing no response, Kibou fell to his knees.

KIBOU (CONT'D)  
Please... get up to hear my song...

Kibou's mother pulls him away and walks off, carrying Kibou in her arms.

KIBOU (CONT'D)  
No! Grandpa! Don't leave me!  
GRANDPA!!! PLEASE!! COME BACK!! LET  
ME PLAY MY SONG FOR YOU!

Kibou tries to break free from his mother's grasp but can't. Eventually, he gives up and slowly closes his eyes.

INT. HIGH SCHOOL - LATER

Kibou looks at his violin, tears welling up in his eyes.

KIBOU  
This song... it wasn't meant for  
the world... It was for my special  
person... my grandpa... I couldn't  
finish it and let others hear it  
when he was the one who deserved to  
listen to it...

Ling hugs Kibou. Kibou makes a small grimace as a few tears stream down his cheeks.

LING  
I think you could play it as a  
small tribute to your grandpa.

KIBOU  
You're right. Thanks...

Ling lets go of Kibou. Kibou keeps staring at the violin and gives a small smile.

KIBOU (CONT'D)  
So much nostalgia... I've missed  
him so much...

INT. SCHOOL - DAY

SUPER: MONTHS LATER

A few days had passed since the incident. Kibou was waiting for his turn to go on stage. Mateo sighed, straightened his clothes a bit, and checked himself in the mirror.

KIBOU  
You're ready. You can do this.

LIX  
You can do it, little rat—you're  
going to lose like a rat getting  
caught by a snake.

KIBOU  
I'm not in the mood for games, Lix.  
Please leave me alone.

LIX  
Ohh, the little rat doesn't want to  
play?

Lix takes a few small steps, invading the boy's personal space. Kibou also steps back, ending up cornered against the wall.

LIX (CONT'D)  
What's up little rat? Scared?

KIBOU  
Scared of a coward?

Kibou takes two steps forward, the two of them looking into each other's eyes. Suddenly, Lix and Kibou chuckle softly.

LIX  
Sorry for acting like that, it was  
stupid of me.

Lix leans against the wall.

LIX (CONT'D)  
The truth is, when I saw you, I  
couldn't help but feel my attention  
drawn only to you. I was scared to  
tell you, and I acted that way.

Kibou looks at Lix, somewhat surprised. They start to lean closer, but Lix quickly pulls away.

LIX (CONT'D)

No, no I can't. My family wouldn't accept. The others would talk bad about me. I can't.

KIBOU

And what if they accept you?

LIX

And what if they don't?

KIBOU

It'd be worth it to try.

LIX

No, I can't do it. I don't want to risk losing everything.

KIBOU

So, you prefer the luxuries your family gives you over being honest with them?

Lix is silent and says nothing. His gaze shifts away in silence. Kibou looks at him and then also averts his eyes.

KIBOU (CONT'D)

I thought so...

We hear the presenter's voice.

LIA (20 years old, black hair, brown skin)

KIBOU (CONT'D)

Bye, Lix. I hope you'll be happy with your family and those risks.

Lix remains silent. Kibou steps onto the stage, everyone watching him. Nervously, he takes out his violin.

KIBOU (CONT'D)

This song is for those who aren't here. The ones I lost, and the ones who couldn't be with me.

Kibou begins to play his song, and everyone falls silent as he plays his instrument.

SUPER: HOURS LATER

The contest presenter walks to the front and grabs the microphone.

LIA

The winner of this year's music  
contest is...

Everyone remains silent, and the sound of sighs can be heard from the crowd. As Kibou waits for the announcement of the winner, he begins to sweat and tremble slightly.