## Kagehina Week

## Von Nitschieh

## **Kapitel 2: Nicknames**

"Hey, To- Tobio, we should come up with a strategy for the next bo-"

Hinata stopped talking and looked at the "PAUSE" that was written in big, capital letters on the TV screen. His gaze then shifted towards the boy sitting next to him who stared back with wide eyes. There was a short period of silence before Kageyama asked with a slightly wavering voice:

"What did you just say?"

Hinata crooked his head a little.

"Hm? I said we should come up with a strategy to beat the next boss..."

His voice trailed off while Kageyama vehemently shook his head.

"Come on, you know exactly what I mean!"

Hinata could feel his cheeks heat up.

"I really don't know what you're talking about."

"Don't screw with me! You even stuttered when you said it."

Hinata flinched when Kageyama raised his voice and even when the taller one put down his controller to properly turn around to face him, Hinata still avoided looking at him.

When he heard Kageyama's almost gentle voice, though, his head moved on its own.

"Well, why did you do it?"

Hinata scanned the face in front of him but remained silent, too distracted by an eyelash that had fallen onto Kageyama's cheek.

"Hey, Hinata. Why did you call me by my given name?"

Snapping back to reality, Hinata's cheeks rose in colour once again and he avoided

Kageyama's gaze. He gulped hard then, before he also put down his controller and started babbling:

"I wanted to give you a cool nickname; one that's even cooler that this old 'King of the Court' crap. But I couldn't come up with something good so I settled for your first name. I'm so sorry, please forget about this!"

For a second Kageyama was completely dumbfounded; then he saw Hinata breathing heavier than usual.

"Oh god, please calm down..."

The hand that was reaching out to calm Hinata stopped just an inch before actually touching him. Kageyama hesitated for a moment before he mumbled:

"Shouyou..."

Hinata who had seemed to be close to a panic attack just a few seconds ago then looked back up at him so fast that Kageyama was worried he would snap his neck. When he saw the pink dusting the smaller boy's puffy cheeks he wondered if maybe that would have been the lesser evil.

They just looked at each other for a while, sitting in complete silence, until Hinata picked up his controller again and nudged Kageyama's knee with his own. He didn't break the contact after.

"Alright, that boss is not gonna defeat itself. Right, Tobio?"

Kageyama blindly reached for his own controller, brushing his fingertips against Hinata's thigh in the process, and finally continued the game.

"You attack and I heal you."

They led their characters through the digital world with ease.

"Why do I have to hit it? That's always so much work..."

Kageyama smirked, knowing full well that Hinata couldn't see it.

"Because you suck at healing and I always end up dying-"

"Oi!"

"Shouyou..."

All the protest died on Hinata's lips when he heard his name. Kageyama thought he would like to taste the sound of that name on his tongue more often.

When they reached the boss Hinata did not die once. However, Kageyama forgot to heal his own character who was knocked out by the boss's final blow.