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## Announcement

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**Note: Kurama's human name is Shuichi**

Shuichi took several deep breaths. He couldn't go on any more. He had to tell his mom. But how could he? What would she say? He didn't want to hurt her. He loved her – she'd taken such good care of him for the last sixteen years. She didn't know who he was, but she still cared... How could he hurt her now? But he had to tell her.

"Mom," Shuichi walked into the living room where his mother was calmly working on some flower arrangements.

She looked up, trust and love in those warm brown eyes. Human eyes. "Well, hello, Shuichi – you're home from school early. Not going out with your friends today?"

Shuichi gulped, "Mom... I have to tell you something."

The warm brown eyes looked at him calmly. She snipped one last stem and then stood up, "Wait just a moment, dear. These things always go better with tea."

As Kurama watched his mother go into the kitchen, he blinked several times. "Tea?" There were still several aspects of human life that he just didn't quite get the hang of.

After the tea had been served and they were both seated around the table and the preliminaries were out of the way, Shuichi looked at his mother and gained some courage. *She won't reject me. She loves me. I know she does. She won't...* "Mom, I don't want to hurt you, but... – I'm gay."

His mother calmly held her tea and looked at him over the cup. "That's all right, my dear. I've always known—" She broke off and blinked several times, obviously reviewing his words, "What did you say?"

Shuichi trembled. He'd known it. This human world didn't accept same-sex relationships well. But now that he'd said something he had to go through with it. "I'm gay."

"Gay?" The corners of her mouth twitched up.

Did she even know the word? Shuichi quailed, not wanting to get so specific, "I love guys."

"Ummm..." Her hand trembled and she had to quickly put down the cup as the tea sloshed. Busying herself with the spill, she hid her face from her son. "Well, everybody has to have somebody to love." A giggle broke through her lips.

"I mean..." His mom didn't sound like she understood, "Mom – I'm a homosexual. I love guys and I..." Oh, he couldn't. He just couldn't.

"Actually," his mom spoke dryly, her lips twitching, "You're bisexual. I've seen the girls you go out with – and don't even try and tell your mom that it was all innocent on your part. Oh dear..." She broke up laughing.

Kurama stared. He'd never understand humans. He never, never would. "Mom?"

"Oh my..." The warm brown eyes sparkled brightly, "That was your big announcement? That you thought would send me running for the hills?" Gracefully, she stood up and walked to him and then leaned down to kiss his forehead, "Oh, Shuichi – you should know me better than that. And I certainly know you." She ruffled his long red hair, "What you really mean is that you're finally in a committed relationship with someone who understands you and he happens to be male." Her smile was happy and full of understanding. "When you think he's ready, let him know I'd love to meet him. Perhaps he can come for dinner some night." With another laugh, she walked out of the family room and to her room, shutting the door behind her.

Kurama stared at the door, bewildered. "She doesn't think my being gay is a big deal? So what was she expecting?" Then his thoughts redirected, "Invite Hiei for dinner?????"

End.
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