ね〜られ!!

NETORARE!

8

浅野いに

都立・聖もっこり学園に通う篠原きよら（16）はちょっとリトシなごく普通の高校一年生。ところがある日、ひょんな事件をきっかけに、憧れの犬岡先輩に告白されついつい合うことに!! そこに突然幼馴染みの白鳥蘭子が転校してきた……!? 空前のスケールで描かれるドキドキ学園ハートフル食パンバトルファンタジー!!
...AH,

HAIR.
I've got a real bad hangover, so I'm going to take a cold shower.

But why don't you join me for breakfast after that?

Are you up...?

Still cut cold, huh...

Talk about a bad sleeping posture...
Oh! I Promised A Friend I'd Meet With Him Today So I'll Have To Go Now. I Really Don't Remember Much About What Happened Last Night So I Apologize If I Did Anything Bad. Sorry Again For All The Trouble.

-Oneder
THUS, PUNPUN MADE UP THIS FLIMSY EXCUSE.
LYING IS BAD. I'M BETTER OFF DEAD. NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT.

WHY AM I SO BAD WITH OTHER PEOPLE?

ALRIGHT, GUYS AND GALS!
SHOW ME DIVINE JUSTICE!

I SAID COME ON, YOU DUMBASS.

COME ON, JUST DO BOTH OF US A BIG FAVOUR AND KILL ME ALREADY.
Agh, let's just stop this already.

This is all I've been doing for the past few months. Enough is enough.
I'M JUST A BORN LOSER.

WHO REALLY CARES ANYMORE?  ...YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT.
It's not as if I'd magically end up finding Aiko today.

The next time I come across a girl with her underwear exposed like that...

Doesn't matter who it is, I'll just go ahead and stick my Johnny in her.

To hell with everything.
Would I be executed!?

Maybe then the police will arrest me?
The story so far:

With a new resolution, Punpun starts living alone on his own. But after meeting a black-haired art major girl, he finds himself in an awkward situation!

Cast of Characters

Onodera Punpun
19 years old, freeter
Incomparably powerful

Nanjou Sachi
22 years old, cram-school tutor
The glasses are her energy core and if removed, she will die.

Minura Setsuyuki
16 years old, university student.
“The moon will be red again tonight. It”
Punpun let out a sigh that quickly dispersed itself among the irritation and weariness of the city.

As the unpleasant humidity of the air stuck to his skin.

Diligent as ever in its task, the rain continued the downpour yet again today.

Walking like a soulless zombie through town for days and days had made it difficult for him to even remember what he was trying to do.

...Punpun was unable to think about anything anymore.
“Umm... Hello.”

OVER HERE!

ONODERA!

“DO NOT IGNORE ME!”

IVEH, I'M TALKING TO YOU!

I SAID HEY!

HEH!
Looks like it's raining pretty hard again, eh?

Where're you headed to right now, Onodera?

I'm on my way home from work, but...

I'm the type who always ends up having her umbrella stolen or lost!

Haha, thanks.

Looks like you aren't completely clueless!
The manager wasn't much of a help since me and the other customers soon left for another round of drinks at some other bar.

"Oh, that's right," Punpun recalled.

"You were pretty darn drunk that night, you know."

"You kept babbling on and on.

"But don't worry."

"You were slurring and mumbling incoherently so I had no idea what you said."
IF IT TRULY IS FATE THAT BROUGHT ME BACK TO THIS ROOM,

I GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE GIVING YOU ANY ALCOHOL SO.

HOW ABOUT SOME OOLONG TEA?

I JUST BOUGHT SOME FROM THE SUPERMARKET YESTERDAY.

Huh?

I KNOW I PUT IT HERE SOMEWHERE.

THEN I OUGHTA STICK MY JOHNNY IN HER CHEEKY LITTLE COOCH!!!
If I had known that you needed to meet up with your friend, I would've...

Ah, here it is.

Sorry about not waking you up on that day.

Were you able to meet her on time?
“Umm... do you need any help? Haha...”

So just sit down and take it easy after all you've got a night shift for your part time job today right?

Oh no, it's fine.

It's easier to cook this working alone.
I mean, you don't have much money, right?

If you don't mind me saying, you don't look too well. I think you need to eat some proper meals.

Man, these shows are a little depressing to see.

I've got plenty of natto and kuchi so help yourself.

Just tell me if the seasoning's too wild.

And feel free to be fussy and leave out anything you don't like.

It's hard not to be jealous of all these models and actresses know what I'm saying?

Correct!
"Is the reason why you can be so nice to others due to your self-confidence?"

"...you're unexpectedly quite a nice person, Nan Jou."

"How nice to have all the luck in life."

"Oh, you can change the channel if you want."

"Hey, hey. What's with such blunt questions like that?"

"And don't you think it's a little rude to say 'unexpectedly'?"

"I mean this much treatment is normal."

"That's not to say that people don't have their own interests at mind but still."

"I'm sorry. I'm not very good at talking with people."

Punpun wished he had not said anything.
IF YOU DON'T HAVE ANY JUST MAKE SOME YOURSELF!
OR GO BUY SOME AT A STORE! WAAA

SO YOU DON'T HAVE ANY CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF?

YOU SEEM ALMOST WEARY BECAUSE OF IT
JUST TALK NORMALLY ABOUT WHATEVER THAT'S IN YOUR MIND HONESTLY

BUT YOU KNOW
I THINK YOU'RE TOO FOCUSED ON EVERY LITTLE THING

DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT THAT SENSITIVE
"BUT WHAT IF I END UP HURTING SOMEONE'S FEELINGS BECAUSE OF WHAT I CARELESSLY SAID?
SO GO AHEAD AND TALK NORMALLY"
"...On a second thought, I don't think I should. Sorry."
HOW'S IT TASTE?

SO?

THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR

HAAH.

"...IT'S GOOD."
"actually didn't meet up with a friend nor a girlfriend."

"I..."

"I just felt really awkward that day so I lied about meeting up with a person."
"While you were sleeping, I peeped at your crotch."
“AFTER SEEING YOUR PUBIC HAIR STICKING OUT FROM YOUR UNDERWEAR, I COULD HARDLY CONTROL MYSELF SO I QUICKLY RAN AWAY.”

“AND TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST...”

“I...”
"Masturbated for the first time in 3 years last night."
"Actually... to tell you the whole truth, for 10 hours straight from last night until this morning, I did nothing but masturbate.

"It felt mind-numbingly amazing!"

"You see, I forbid myself from jerking off since my high school days so..."
AHAHA HAHA HAHA!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME THAT MUCH!

...PFT!

YOU IDIOT!

OH MAN...

BUT IF IT REALLY WAS THAT EXCITING FOR YOU, PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IT AGAIN?

SO YOU COULD SEE MY PANTS CLEAR AS DAY, HUM...

WELL EXCU... ME.
BUT IT MUST'VE BEEN QUITE TOUGH FOR YOU, EH?

POOR BOY, BEING SO BACKED UP LIKE THAT. STILL, YOU MUST'VE HAD SOME WET DREAMS TO RELIEVE YOURSELF.

AM I RIGHT?

BUT I AM QUITE SURPRISED TO HEAR YOU'VE MANAGED TO HOLD OUT FOR 3 YEARS.

I WON'T ASK WHAT CAUSED YOU TO DO SUCH A THING, THOUGH.

I'M OBVIOUSLY JOKING.

HAHAHA.

DO YOU WANT ANOTHER BOTTLE OF OOLONG TEA?

MAYBE I SHOULD BE THINKING OF YOU INSTEAD?

IT'S QUITE AN HONOUR THAT SOMEONE WOULD USE ME TO WANK ONE OFF.

ANYHOOG...
DRAWING BLOCK

Do you remember?

About my offer to you of writing a story for a picture book. That is.

I'm ready to start the project right this second. If I have to.

Talentless? Oh come on, don't worry so much.

I'm specifically asking you because I think you've got what it takes.

No, I really don't think I can.
AND I'VE ALREADY FOUND OUT YOUR ADDRESS FROM THE MANAGER.

SO DON'T EVEN THINK YOU CAN RUN AWAY FROM ME!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU CAN'T?! YOU'RE PRETTY MUCH FREE ALL DAY LONG!

I MAY NOT KNOW WHAT PROBLEMS YOU'VE HAD IN THE PAST,

AND I PERFECTLY UNDERSTAND YOUR FEELINGS OR WANTING TO BE LEFT ALONE SO YOU DON'T HURT ANYONE'S FEELINGS...

I NOW UNDERSTAND WHAT A DEAD-SERIOUS PERSON YOU ARE.

BUT YOU CAN'T JUST RUN AWAY FROM EVERYTHING FOREVER.

AM I WRONG? ?

AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, YOU'RE NOT A STRONG ENOUGH PERSON FOR THAT EITHER.

BUT THE WORLD'S NOT SUCH A SIMPLE PLACE THAT YOU CAN GET BY LIVING ALL ALONE.
"I... have something I need to do..."
"...I HAVE TO SETTLE THINGS ONCE AND FOR ALL WITH THIS GIRL I USED TO LIKE BACK LONG AGO."

"WHAT, DO YOU NEED TO CONFESSION TO HER OR SOMETHING?"

"NOT QUITE... BUT IN ANY CASE, I JUST HAVE THIS FEELING THAT I HAVE TO MEET HER ONE MORE TIME NO MATTER WHAT. THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR HER ALL OVER TOWN, LIKE I WAS DOING EARLIER TODAY."

"BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'LL FIND HER JUST MAGICALLY POP INTO HER BY WALKING THROUGH TOWN. AND YOU CAN'T KEEP THIS UP FOREVER.

AND IF YOU DON'T FIND HER BY THEN..."

"...I PLAN TO KEEP SEARCHING FOR HER UNTIL 2 YEARS FROM NOW, WHEN THE CONTRACT FOR MY APARTMENT EXPIRES."
If so I'm sure you could track her down if you looked through the registry of names or by asking other fellow classmates of yours.
THAT DEEP INSIDE YOUR HEART, YOU DON'T ACTUALLY WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN.

CONSIDERING THE WAY YOU'RE GOING ABOUT YOUR SEARCH IN A WAY THAT'S MOST LIKELY TO FAIL.

I CAN ONLY THINK OF THIS AS JUST SOME POOR EXCUSE OF YOURS.

BUT IS THERE ANY POINT TO THAT?

YOU MAY MAKE IT SEEM LIKE YOU'RE SUFFERING AND THAT YOU WANT TO FIND HER EASILY.

BUT WHAT YOU REALLY WANT IS TO CONTINUE YOUR PATHETIC, UNPRODUCTIVE LIFE WITHOUT THINKING OR DOING ANYTHING.

DESPITE WHAT YOU SAY.

I'M SURE THAT YOU'LL STILL BE LOOKING FOR HER EVEN 10 YEARS FROM NOW.

But I just think it's a waste of time. That's all.

But I personally don't care either way...

AFTER ALL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WISHES TO BE LEFT ALONE AND REFUSES TO SHARE YOUR PAIN WITH ANYONE ELSE.

THERE'S A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO WANT TO BE IN DEEP SHIT JUST SO THEY CAN PITY THEMSELVES.
Even our reunion at the bar on that night might be fate. But it's all up to you whether you want to see it like that or as just a coincidence.

I'd rather like to see what it exactly is that you want to settle with her.

So what'll you do? Should I help you find that girl?

And start living for a brighter tomorrow by using your talents for once?

Don't you just want to be done with trivial things in the past?
"...PLEASE STOP.

COME ON,

JUST TELL ME HER NAME

I'LL FIND HER WITHIN 3 DAYS FOR YOU

I SAID STOP!!!
THEN JUST DIE ALREADY!
OH, BEFORE YOU LEAVE...

HERE, IT'S MY NUMBER.

"I... I THINK I'LL BE GOING NOW.

IF YOU WRITE UP EVEN A LITTLE BIT OF MATERIAL PHONE ME UP AND LET ME READ IT.
"I'll be looking forward to reading your story."

"...I'm not going to write anything."
"TALK ABOUT A PUSHY WOMAN..."
Punpun did not set one foot outside that day.

He somehow felt unpleasant. Very, very unpleasant.
As a math teacher, I love absolutes.

For me, nothing else could be more exciting than the absolute and perfect formulas offered by math.

That's why I disliked humanity majors and people who were into the paranormal. I sank during my student years.

I just couldn't see the appeal of vague, insubstantial, and ephemeral nonsense created by humans.

And if anybody couldn't understand that they'd be better off reading their pretentious novels.

And that's what I stubbornly thought.

The first time I met him, he was walking nude on campus while humming a tune.

Until I met him.
So I walked up to him and asked what he was humming and with the look of a little boy, he faced me and said,

"This is the melody of your tomorrow that I heard in my dream."

It was quite a strange tune that captivated even someone like me who had no interest in music.

But on the next day, I cut myself while shaving. Arrived late for my date and was dumped by my girlfriend exactly like he predicted.

I thought he was just being idiotic at first.

Not only that, he even correctly predicted the Aum Shinrikyo cult's attacks, 9-11, and even the Mariomokori character!

I was reminded of the famous Indian mathematician Ramanujan who claimed a goddess appeared before him in his dreams to reveal mathematical formulas.

So he never uses his power for his own selfish gains nor does he show it off.

But he's got a pure soul.

I realized that my purpose in life was to prove the greatness of a genius like him!
I consider it my life's mission to expose the people to that man's forgiving and kind spirit.

He's the type to trust and forgive every last human on Earth.

That man is almost too pure.

Even a divine miracle provided, can become a science.

That is my dream.

By the way, one of the female students said that your spit is toxic and can rot a person's face away.

As expected of the infamous crackpot math teacher of this cram school.

Thank you for that delightfully absurd story.

To tell you the truth, he's actually just the son of a moderately wealthy family of religious fanatics.

But unlike them, I don't think I could make a living with fancy talking.

But you're more humble than I thought you'd be. That's quite reassuring to know.

But you're more humble than I thought you'd be. That's quite reassuring to know.

Of course, I personally find them all too shady and almost laughable.

Well, you never know in an economic recession like nowadays. Religion might be quite popular among the people.
IS THAT A COMPLIMENT?

IF SO, THEN HOW ABOUT GOING OUT WITH ME? PLEASE, PRETTY PLEASE, WITH A CHERRY ON THE TOP?

HOW DID THE CONVERSATION SUDDENLY CHANGE TO THIS?

ARE YOU AN IDIOT?

PLEASE STOP WAITING FOR ME OUTSIDE AFTER WORK EVERYDAY.

IT'S QUITE UNCOMFORTABLE FOR ME AND IF YOU PERSIST I'LL REPORT YOU AS A STALKER.
I'll see you tomorrow then.

Good vibrations.
I didn't think you'd write up something so soon.

Of course. It's not like I wasn't expecting you to either, but...

I was a little worried that I might've been too pushy.

Hm...

I see.
This is just plain terrible!

Are you sure we graduated from the same high school?

Or am I just remembering it with rose-tinted glasses?

I could've sworn the story you wrote before was so much better than this.

I mean, to begin with, your Japanese is terrible!

The plot itself is a little better, but the rest of it is just...

Nanjou!

Just look at these characters! They act too cool and talk way too much for a picture book.

What you wrote is more of a manga.
JEEZ, YOU'RE LATE!

HURRY UP AND SIT DOWN, YOU'RE AN EYESORE.

KIN KIRA KIN-☆

I'M HERE!☆

HEY ONODERA, LONG TIME NO SEE!

IT'S ME, KANIBEEBEE (THE OLDER KANIBEE)!

MAY I TAKE YOUR ORDER?

THAT'S RIGHT!

STILL TRYING YOUR LUCK AT MAKING PICTURE BOOKS NADU?

I WAS A RABBIT IN MY PREVIOUS LIFE SO I'LL HAVE A MINI-SALAD.
How's your little diamond in the rough doing?

You sure your intuitions weren't wrong?

What's with that attitude? I took time out of my busy schedule to come meet you since we haven't seen each other for so long.

It's nothing to be embarrassed about.

Onodera, going back to what I was saying, I know you can write better than this.

Just let your feelings out honestly and write like you did back then.

So,

Do you want to give it another try...?
"...I think it'd be best for both of us if I don't write any more.

How the hell would you know if it'd be best for both of us? What are you some seer that can see the future or something?

Now, now, settle down.

Goddamn it!

There you go giving up again!
She's also quite eccentric and foul-mouthed.

Once Nanjou sets her mind to something, she won't listen to anything else.

Looks like you're in quite a pickle, Onodera.

She's also thinking of herself as helping you out but...

Nanjou may be putting up a tough front, even though she's actually just

I think it's quite the opposite. I'd like to ask you to help her out.

Struggling to swim underwater,

and looking aloof, even though she's actually just

An ugly duckling that became a swan, that is.

In a lot of ways.

She's a real white swan.
In middle school, she won a lot of awards for her drawings.

I've known Nangoi ever since she was in grade school.

Back then, she was this girl with a sketchbook always by her side.

After that, she acted as if she were some prodigy. Well, that's not to say she wasn't talented, of course.

But her success didn't continue for very long. It was as if her talent suddenly dried up or something.

She then enrolled at Waseda University with me, but she ended up leaving in the middle of the school term due to a lot of complications.

Nowadays, she says she considers drawing picture books as more of her hobby. I wonder if that's how she really feels.

That's why I think it'd be great if you could expel her doubts and second-thoughts.
She was pretty serious about it back in university and she even got quite close to getting a serialization but ended up missing her mark.

I think she feels that she's been branded with failure.

She just can't seem to come up with a story. But she used to talk about it so passionately back then.

About how she wanted to crush the world with her manga.
"I think I'll just go home early today so I can give another go at the story."

"... I think I'll just go home early today so I can give another go at the story."

"I forgot that you couldn't drink."

"I forgot that you couldn't drink."

"Oh right."

"Oh right."

"Then do you want to go to a cape for some tea?"

"Then do you want to go to a cape for some tea?"

"Thanks."

"Thanks."

"Really?"

"Really?"
“Nanjou... is it no good if it's manga?”

Hmph

So Kanie told you, did she?

Well

Umm
That might be a little too hard at the moment.

But I was also really happy that you wrote something for me.

And to be honest, I'd grade your story a 20 out of 100.

I know I was a little annoyed today and said your writing was horrible.

For your attitude today at least.

So I'll give you a 100 out of 100.
Chapter 83

Not only that all the surrounding buildings here are low so you'll have a terrific view from up there.

Reinforced concrete, 10-stories tall, and 15 years old.

AND CONSIDERING THAT THE TRAIN STATION'S ONLY A 5 MIN WALK FROM HERE, I SAY THE 80,000 YEN RENT IS QUITE REASONABLE.

My office will take care of all the maintenance stuff so don't worry about that either.

The place is just a one-room apartment on the 6th floor but the size is 5ER so it should be quite comfortable.

Well aren't you pretty careless about your job.

Yup just pretend you didn't see that just now.

I should've left the key up here.
The entrance looks pretty worn out but interior looks nice.

That's right.

Ooh, this place is pretty nice.

Hmm?

Ah.

Whoa! The bathroom's all new!

Oww!

The bathtub of my current place is so old it's a nightmare!
IT'S JUST THAT I HAVE THIS OLD SCAR ON MY FOREHEAD THAT CAN REOPEN PRETTY EASILY.

SORRY ABOUT THIS.

WELL, I'M JUST GLAD YOU'RE ALRIGHT.

DID IT STOP BLEEDING?

YEAH, FOR NOW, I GUESS.
TO THINK THAT I'D WANT TO MOVE BECAUSE SOME STALKER FROM WORK KNOWS WHERE I LIVE...

I MEAN, IT'S CREEPY AND ALL BUT TO MOVE JUST BECAUSE OF THAT SEEMS ME OFF...

IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP, SOMEONE ELSE MIGHT END UP TAKING THIS PLACE, YOU KNOW!

ARE YOU CHANGING JOBS ALREADY?

WAP?

THAT ROOM LOOKS PRETTY NICE TO WORK IN...

BUT...

IT'S NOTHING

OH, SPEAKING OF JOBS,

I KNOW I SUGGESTED IT TO YOU BEFORE, ONCOERA,

BUT WOULD YOU LIKE TO WORK PART-TIME HERE?
"I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING EITHER..."

"BUT I GUESS SOMEONE YOUNG LIKE YOU'D KNOW ALL ABOUT STUFF LIKE THIS RIGHT ONDERA.

IM CLUELESS ABOUT THIS KIND OF STUFF."

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW LUCKY YOU ARE TO BE GETTING A JOB OFFER IN AN ECONOMIC RECESSION?

DON'T WORRY JUST THINK OF THIS GRAMPS AS YOUR OWN PERSONAL PIGGY BANK TO EXPLOIT.

WELL AREN'T YOU TWO ON CLOSE TERMS?

YOU SHOULD JUST DATE EACH OTHER.

"I'M GOING TO SMACK YOU IF YOU KEEP ACTING LIKE THAT YOU KNOW?"

THERE YOU GO AGAIN WITH THAT NEGATIVE ATTITUDE.

"I'LL DO IT!!"
This is just like the time you went for a walk and returned home with some stray cat that ended up shitting all over the house!

Do you really want to be hit with a wooden mallet again?

God, you're too trusting of people!

How many times do I have to tell you? We don't have the money to spare to be giving out part-time jobs!

Don't you say you were going to be sleeping in since you weren't feeling well?

Ham, Misuzu?

Do you want this place to be demolished and turned into a parking lot?

Is that what you really want you old geezer?

Just when I think you've learned your lesson about not picking up random stuff, you go and bring home those maneki-neko statues!

But that stupid statue didn't even bring us any new customers!

I think it'd be best for you to go back and lie down.

Now, now.
DON'T JUST SIT ON YOUR BUM, WAITING FOR SOMEONE TO JUST HAND YOU A JOB!

AND AS FOR YOU...

IT'S COMMON SENSE FOR A PERSON TO GET OUT THERE IN THE WORLD AND WORK HIS ASS OFF TO MAKE A LIVING NO MATTER WHAT PROBLEMS HE

YET YOU PRETEND THE REST OF THE WORLD HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU AND JUST LIE AROUND WITH A FACE THAT MIGHT AS WELL BELONG TO A CORPSE!

THE ONLY THING YOU CAN EVER DO IS WHINE, WHINE, WHINE...

GOD, YOU YOUNGSTERS ARE SO CONCEITED...

BACK IN THE OLDEN DAYS,

PEOPLE WORKED TO THE BONE IN FAR HARSHER CONDITIONS THAN YOU'D EVER IMAGINE!

OR YOUR WORK BENEFITS AREN'T GOOD ENOUGH, OR HOW YOU DON'T WANT TO BE A SLAVE OF SOCIETY OR WHATEVER.

ALWAYS WHINING ABOUT HOW THE JOB MARKET IS BAD,
No matter the times we live in, a worthless piece of trash is a worthless piece of trash!

Got it, you lazy passive bum!?

You don't even contribute a single thing to society!

Don't you think you're being a bit too harsh?

Wait, wait, wait,

Just hang on a minute.

Kids like him will never understand unless you shout it directly to their faces.

Ha-ha-ha,

That may be true,

But that doesn't mean you need to say it so rudely.
HIS CIRCUMSTANCES!!

IT'S TRUE THAT ONOPERA IS A LITTLE LACKING.

OH, SO A KID WHO HAS NO HEALTH PROBLEMS HAS CIRCUMSTANCES THAT JUSTIFY HIM TO BE A LAZY DUMBASS?

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN JUST LUMP HIM TOGETHER WITH ALL THE SLACKERS OF TODAY'S GENERATION WHEN YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW THE FIRST THING ABOUT HIS CIRCUMSTANCES!

WHY THE HELL SHOULD HE TAKE RESPONSIBILITY?!

DON'T MY TAXES ALREADY SUPPORT HIS LAZY ASS ENOUGH?!

ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR WHEN HE DESTROYS HIS HEALTH AND SINKS INTO DEPRESSION?!

SO THEN YOU THINK HE SHOULD JUST WORK HIMSELF TO DEATH?!

NOW, NOW...

LET'S JUST ALL CALM DOWN...
THAT'S IT, I'M LEAVING! I'VE GOT BETTER THINGS TO DO THAN ARGUE WITH YOU!

I WIN THIS ROUND!

OH YES, I'M SURE YOU'RE REALLY BUSY!

ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE.

I'M REALLY SORRY.
Maybe she's becoming menopausal or something. Even though she's still unmarried.

That daughter of mine's been real tense these days.

The rainy season this year.

Is quite long, isn't it?

On a day when my daughter's not there though.

As for you, Onodera, please do come over again to my offices.

In the meanwhile, I promise I won't show the place to any other customers.

In any case, give that room some thought.

I know.

Jeez, you're too nice on people.
I'M SORRY ABOUT EVERYTHING.

I WAS ONLY PLANNING ON CHECKING OUT THE PLACE. I HAD NO IDEA IT'D LEAD TO ALL THAT.

"NO... I SHOULD BE THE ONE APOLOGIZING FOR NOT SAYING ANYTHING BACK."
THAT'S ENOUGH.

YOUR SORRYS ARE TOO CHEAP TO COME BY.

I DIDN'T SAY ALL THAT FOR YOUR SAKE OR ANYTHING.

AND THE FACT THAT I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING GOOD TO RETORT WITH.

JUST MAKES IT ALL THE MORE FRUSTRATING.

I JUST COULDN'T SIT DOWN AND TAKE THAT KIND OF TALK.

IT'S AS IF SHE WAS CRITICIZING THE OLD ME.
YOU SAW YOU'RE BAD AT TALKING TO OTHERS.

BUT THAT'S ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE TOO SPOILED TO TRY.

IT'S A DOG-EAT-DOG WORLD OUT THERE.

IN A WAY, IT'S EXACTLY AS SHE SAID.

BUT YOU KNOW.

TO NOT EVEN TRY BECAUSE YOU'RE AFRAID OF FAILING.

IS JUST TOO PATHETIC.

THEN BY ALL MEANS, GO AHEAD.

BUT IF YOU STILL FEEL LIKE BLAMING THE MISFORTUNES OF YOUR PAST,

THEN I HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRY.

I WOULDN'T EXPECT SOMEONE LIKE YOU WHO GIVES UP AT THE FIRST CHANCE TO EVER UNDERSTAND THOUGH.

AS FOR ME, I'VE GOT MY OWN LIFE TO WORRY ABOUT.

I'M ALSO SCARED OF TRYING ONLY TO END UP FAILING EVEN MORE THAN DYING.
“ISN'T THAT A LITTLE CONCEITED OF YOU...?"

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

“YOU'RE PRETTY, SMART, AND TALENTED AT DRAWING. IT'S ONLY OBVIOUS THAT A PERSON AS LUCKY AS YOU WOULD BE OVERFLOWING WITH SELF-CONFIDENCE, BUT HOW CAN YOU EXPECT THE SAME AMOUNT OF SELF-CONFIDENCE FROM ME...? THAT'S JUST TOO CRUEL.”
"Without considering the feelings of others, all you do is look down on people."

"So please just stop criticizing me anymore..."
I...

I really didn't want to tell you this but...

The truth is...

This face of mine...

I've had.

Plastic surgery on it.
I was the child of my mom’s previous marriage.

So I never got along with my stepfather or brothers.

Ugly.

I’ve heard it all when I was young.

Fatass

Retard.

All so I could change my eyes.

After entering university, I worked my ass off at nightclubs and hostess bars.

My facial structure.

I’ve changed every part of myself that I disliked.

My nose.

I threw up as much food as I could.

And studied until my head physically hurt.
AND SUCCESS TOachieve.

MONEY TO earn, love
TO FIND.

I'VE GOT dreams
tO fulfill.

AND I HAVE NO NEED FOR A PART.

I CHOSE EVERY ASPECT OF MYSELF WITH MY OWN WILL.

I DON'T WANT TO BE ORDERED AROUND BY ANYONE ANymORE.

THEY MAY BE FOOlishLY SIMPLE DESIRES FOR SOME, BUT TO ME WORKING TOWARDS THEM BIT BY BIT IS HOW I BUILD MY CONFIDENCE.
I have dreams.

And I'm not afraid to use any means necessary to achieve them.

I believe this aspect of myself is perfectly justified and correct.

It's as if I'm looking at my childhood self that I've decided to abandon long ago.

And somehow, it makes me feel guilty.

When I look at your pathetic self, who's too scared to even do anything,

it really ticks me off.
Which is why I can't forgive you.

Nor can I leave you alone either.

I only understand too well.

Just how empty your worries are.

In a lot of ways, she's a real white swan.

Don't you have it easy?

An ugly duckling that became a swan, that is.

Normally, nobody should even think about helping someone like you.

All you do is lick your own wounds.
IT MUST BE BECAUSE OF WHAT THAT HAS SAID REALLY GOT TO ME.

DO CALL ME BACK OKAY?

THERE'S NOTHING I HATE MORE THAN CRYING IN FRONT OF SOMEONE.
"...IS MANGA ALRIGHT WITH YOU?"
"That’s right, I will write a manga! I’ll write it and re-write it as many times as it takes until you think it’s good enough!!"

"I’ve... realized the joy in being complimented by others."
“AND I DON'T WANT TO BE BEATEN BY SOMEONE AS RUDE AS YOU!!

YOU'RE GETTING ALL YOUR MANUSCRIPTS WET.

LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
I really just might break down, you know...

...if I fail again.
WHEN I WAS A KID, I WON FIRST-PLACE IN SCHOOL FOR MY DRAWING OF A RAINBOW.

MY MOM COMPLIMENTED ME SO MUCH FOR THAT.

AFTER ALL, DRAWING WAS THE ONLY REDEEMING THING ABOUT ME.

WANTING TO SEE MY MOTHER'S SMILE WAS MY ONLY REASON FOR LIVING BACK THEN.
Then again, since my mom was a foreigner, she might've bought all that manga so she could study Japanese.

Although she was stingy with money, when it came to manga, she bought a whole ton for me. I loved her for that.

She's probably back in her home country, carelessly living out her days with another man.

I'm sure she's still fine.
I think I've finally realized.

ONODERA.

Please call me Sachi from now on.

Exactly what it is I've been lacking.
I'm going to crush this rotten world.

With my own two hands.

I'll be counting on you.
Although Runpun couldn't deny the fact he felt scared by this new pressure weighing down upon him, he decided to entrust himself to the flow of summer for the time being.

Sachi's hands were much larger and rougher than he had expected it to be and reminded him of another person's hands. However, he could not remember who that person was.
I think the plot development is too sudden.

To be honest,
I mean, it's only been a couple weeks and you already came up with this many ideas.

Still think you're doing quite well.

Because I'm aiming to get this done before the end of summer.

So I hope you can bear my picky criticisms for a bit longer.
アーモン
Hi there.

Nice to meetcha all!

I'm Punpun's old classmate Mimura!

You can call me Mad-Jobs Mimura if you want!

Hm, so you like fantasy and moe manga, Mimura...

I've known Ono-d here ever since he was this small.

You know...

Ugh, yeah, is that surprising?

I'd never have thought my manga collection would be of any use to him!

But I had no idea he was interested in manga!

All he ever seemed to do is play games by himself!
May I make my order?

Alright, sure.

But it's the summer! 'Tis the season to wear a swimsuit and strut your stuff, know what I'm saying?

So then... How about we all go to the beach together next time?

I'll go with a mini-salad since I was a fairy of the forest in my previous life.

A sudden change in conversation topic don't ya think?

Don't worry, we'll pay for the food!

Seriously?

Sweet, thanks a bunch!

That's right!

Atta boy, ono!
WHAT I REALLY WANNA DRAW.

IT'S JUST NOT IT.

IT'S NOT A STORY WITH EMOTIONAL IMPACT ONLY VALID FOR AT THAT PLACE AND TIME.

IS NOT A STORY WITH EMOTIONAL IMPACT ONLY VALID FOR AT THAT PLACE AND TIME.

IT'S NOT A MANGA YOU READ TO ESCAPE FROM REALITY.

BUT SOMETHING THAT CAN SPEAK FOR AND AFFECT LIFE ITSELF.

IT'S A MANGA YOU READ TO FIGHT REALITY!!!

NOT QUITE SURE HOW TO PUT IT.

LUMMA.

SO TO SUM IT UP.

IT'S NICE THAT YOU AREN'T TOO SMART.

PUNPUN...

MAN

DON'T LET THIS WORLD POISON YOUR MIND AND SELF.

IT'S BEST IF YOU KEEP THINKING AS YOU YOURSELF.
NOPE, NEVER MIND.

I GOT IT!

I DON'T GET IT AT ALL....!

HEE HEE
BLIT.

S0 HOT.

EL NIÑO
SHADDUP!

JUST WORRY ABOUT YOUR OWN DAMN SELF!

"YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T DRINK SO MUCH."

"SACHI... I'LL KEEP ON TRYING HARDER."

MNN...

SEE YA. PUNPUN.
TO BE FRANK...
PLUMPUN WAS A
LITTLE DISAPPOINTED.

AREN'T I DOING WELL
ENOUGH ALREADY?" PLUMPUN THOUGHT.
HE WAS SURE IF HE SCREWED UP EVEN A BIT, HE'D BE THROWN BACK DOWN INTO THE DEEP ABYSS.

IN THE END, HE WAS STILL THE SAME OLD PUNPUN AS EVER. THE SAME OLD PATHETIC PUNPUN WHO COULDN'T DO A THING TO BETTER HIMSELF WITHOUT THE HELP OF OTHERS.

HEE HEE

HOWEVER...
To Punpun, the seemingly unmeaningful words, "see ya," spoken by Sachi were magical words that transformed the next day into a day worth living.
IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME AT OUR STORE?

YOU CAN'T MAKE A MEMBERSHIP CARD IF I DON'T SEE YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE

ONODERA
YOU'VE BEEN A TERRIFIC HELP!

THANKS TO YOU, I GUESS I'VE FINALLY ENTERED THE AGE OF COMPUTERS!

I KNEW I WAS RIGHT IN ASKING A YOUNG MAN TO HELP ME WITH ALL THIS FANCY HI-TECH STUFF.

OUR OFFICES WILL BE GLAD TO HIRE YOU FULL TIME.

YOU SHOULD TAKE AN EXAM AND BECOME A QUALIFIED REAL-ESTATE AGENT.

SINCE YOU'RE QUICK AT CATCHING ON TO THINGS,

WHAT DID YOU SAY JUST NOW?

WELL, MISUZU? DON'T YOU THINK HE'S HANDY TOO?

AH, CAN YOU GO THROW AWAY THAT POSTER?

TODAY'S THE LAST DAY FOR THAT EVENT
Hey, what's up?

I'm fine, just picking up some drawing supplies during my break right now.

But fireworks sound nice.

My summer classes end at 5:00 so how about we meet up at the station at 9:30?

Why don't you go surprise her and pick her up from work?

Tonight?

Couldn't you have asked a little sooner?

Ooh. Well isn't this exciting.
NO, SHE WILL!

THEN AGAIN...

SHE WILL COME...
OR NOT?

ALRIGHT, COME ON!
COME TO PAPA!

NO, SHE WILL COME!
OR MAYBE SHE WON'T?
HEY SACHI.

OH, HEY, DID YOU WAIT LONG?

HELP ME CARRY THIS STUFF, WILL YA?

WHAT ARE YOU DRAWING MANGA AGAIN?
FOR CHRIST'S SAKE, TELL ME BEFORE HAND IF YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND.

FUCKING BITCH....!
Hello, I'm not at home right now.

So please leave your name and message at the sound of the beep.
"Which is exactly why I decided to live alone..."

The station here is really crowded.

I've already been waiting for you for over 30 minutes. What's going on?

"I hate feeling like this..."

Hey, this is Nanjou speaking.

So I'm only going to put a little longer before heading home.

"This is what I get for letting my guard down for even a second."
L-L-LIKE YOU OR A-ANYTHING!

I-IT'S...

N-NOT LIKE I

SOMEONE HELP!

DON'T LOOK OVER HERE

AND IT'S SO ANNOYING TO EVEN LOOK AT YOU BUT...

Y-YOU'RE SO CREEPY.
WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT IF I LIKED YOUR PUSSY?

I LIKE YOU SOOO MUCH!

I DONT NEED ANYTHING ELSE IN THIS WORLD EXCEPT YOU!

I LIKE YOU, RUMBA!

I LOVE YOU!

WHY DONT YOU JUST AND JUST GO CALLING FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE...

YOU'RE SUCH A PATHETIC PERSON...

LONELY.

YOU.

AN.

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AN.
SHUT THE
AGR BALD!!!
GYAHH!
WHEN TAKEN IN BY THE POLICE FOR QUESTIONING, THE ASSAILANT ONODERA PUNPUN, AGED 18, STATED I JUST SNAPPED AND BEFORE I KNEW IT I HAD STABBED HER. I HAD NO REAL INTENTION OF KILLING HER.
JEEZE.

WHAT'S WRONG?

YOU'RE LYING.

"SORRY... IT SEEMS I'VE SUDDENLY CAUGHT A COLD. *COUGH COUGH*..."

"YES, I'M LYING..."
"UHH... WELL, UMM... I UHH... I CAUGHT A COLD SO I DON'T THINK I CAN GO WITH YOU TO SEE THE FIREWORKS, SORRY! B-But why don't you go with your boyfriend instead? A-AFTER ALL, YOU HAVE SUCH A NICE BOYFRIEND WHO'LL EVEN COME PICK YOU UP AFTER WORK AND ALL... HAHA... HAHAHA!"
HE'S MY EX-HUSBAND.

I'VE ACTUALLY DIVORCED ONCE ALREADY.

I HAVEN'T TOLD YOU YET BUT UHMM.

WELL, REMEMBER WHAT I WAS SAYING BEFORE?

ABOUT THAT CREEPY COLLEAGUE WHO'S BEEN STALKING ME?

I WAS A LITTLE WORRIED SO I ASKED HIM TO COME PICK ME UP JUST IN ANY CASE ANYTHING BAD MIGHT HAPPEN.

WHAT!?
I DON'T HAVE VERY MANY GUY FRIENDS JUST TO LET YOU KNOW.

OK MAN, I'M JUST LETTING OUT ALL MY CAST OUT OF THE BAG, AREN'T I...

NOW LET'S GO ALREADY!

C'MON, HURRY UP!

I DON'T WANNA HAVE TO SEE THE FIREWORKS FROM A CROWDED TRAIN!
C'MON.

WALK PROPERLY

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU TODAY...

FINE SUIT YOURSELF

I'LL JUST GO SEE IT BY MYSELF
"But me on the other hand... I'm just a selfish low life who always gets the wrong idea... so if you continue treat me so nicely..."

"Sachi, you're such a kind and wonderful girl that can just decide to treat anyone nicely without any bias...!"

"...I'll seriously end up falling in love with you."
"I'M ALREADY MORE THAN HAPPY WITH OUR CURRENT RELATIONSHIP....!"

"I JUST REALLY NEEDED TO SAY THAT OUT ALOUD FOR MY OWN GOOD. PLEASE JUST FORGET WHAT I SAID...."
"Alright then! Let's hurry up and go see the fireworks!"
IT'S FINE...

IF YOU FALL IN LOVE WITH ME

IT'S FINE WITH ME
Chapter 87

But oh well, can't believe walked around all day only to end up not going.

Here might actually be for the best.

It would've been totally jammed pack with people if we went.

Manager'll probably get mad at us.

If he knew we came in here without permission but...

Hey, Pumpkin. Say something.

Hey.
"I've lately been thinking about how you remind me of someone..."

"Oh is that so..."
I still don't like my mother very much and I doubt I will even in the future but...

I've realized that someone is my dead mother. You remind me of her in your personality or general atmosphere.

"...I'm not quite sure how to put it other than that's just the way it is."
YOU TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES TOO.

DO IT.

MORE SLOWLY.

Ah.

Ah.

Ah.
...GOODBYE, KANIE.

...GOODBYE, MIDORI.

...GOODBYE, AIKO.
...I'M ALRIGHT NOW.

PUNCHIN,

WHERE'S MY KISS?
I said where's my kiss?

Punpun.

I'm now...
"...SACHI."

"PLEASE CALL ME A YELLOW-LIVERED DICKHEAD FROM NOW ON."

WHAT?
"If it were that easy for all my life's problems to be resolved with having sex just once..."
"In the 18 years that I've been alive for..."

"Then just what kind of a life would I have lived until now?"

"You're such a handful..."

"I've never faced such a day full of despair as today."
I'd never have done what I did if I didn't actually like you.

I do feel a little lonely over what happened, but, I mean.

And just because we've had sex once doesn't mean you and I suddenly have to start acting like lovers.

Our relationship's still the same as ever.

I'll be standing by your side as your ally.

That's what I think, and you can remain being you.
CLOSE YOUR EYES FOR A SEC

DON'T BE SUCH A WORRYWART
主要私立大学入試日程（後期）
◇2月◇
Punpun!
hey, over here!
Don't you go and be all happy like you're some normal well-adjusted person, you worthless trash.

Just how long do you think this little fairy-tale of yours will continue on for?
1 YEAR LATER
Chapter 89

This is Nanjou speaking.

It's been quite a long time since we last spoke, hasn't it?

Hello?

I'm sorry to call at such a busy time of the year.

You are free to talk right now? Yes?

Well, you see I've been starting to draw some manga again.

Yes, I'm still working at it.

I've been thinking of giving it another shot starting over again from scratch.
THE MONTH WAS DECEMBER, AND JUST LIKE THE YEAR BEFORE, THE PEOPLE WERE BLUSTERING BACK AND FORTH THROUGH THE TOWN, AS IF TRYING TO MAKE UP FOR ALL THE TIME THAT PASSED BY NOW THAT THE YEAR WAS AT AN END.

A YEAR HAD ALREADY GONE BY SINCE PUNPUN SET OUT TO LIVE ALONE. HE HAD CHANGED QUITE A BIT.

BUT UNLIKE A YEAR AGO, PUNPUN HAD LEARNED TO FIT RIGHT IN AMONG THE CROWD BY MATCHING THE BUSTLE OF THE CITY.
WELL DONE, BOTH OF YOU.

PUNPUN, THE EDITOR AGREED TO TAKE A LOOK AT MY MANUSCRIPT THIS NEW YEAR'S DAY.

SO CAN YOU HELP ME FINISH UP THE FINAL TOUCH-UPS ON IT?

SHADDUP.

WHOA! WHAT'S WITH THOSE DARK SHADOWS UNDER YOUR EYES?

THEY'RE RUINING YOUR REALITY!

OH, THAT'S RIGHT.

IF THIS ENDS UP GETTING CHOSEN FOR SOME AWARD,
“Sachi, I…”

WHAT IS IT?

JUST KIDDING.

LET’S USE THE PRIZE MONEY TO GO TO A HOT SPRING AND HAVE CRAZY SEX.

“NEVER MIND, IT’S NOTHING.”
I wish for everybody to care.

World to be happy.

Makoto Shinkai.
Happy New Year!
We'd like to wish you all a happy new year and announce our marriage.
I wish you'd get divorced already (haha)
Sincerely
Konomi and Miyuki
I just hope we won't arrive late...

I knew we should've left earlier!

Well you couldn't be more wrong!

I'm only excited, that's all.

You think I'm nervous?

Hm...

Hm?

Ow, my stomach.
THIS IS THE LEADER GOODS RECYCLING TRUCK.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO THROW AWAY YOUR UNUSED COMPUTERS, BICYCLES, RADIOS,
AND OTHER SUCH UNWANTED JUNK ON THE BACK OF THIS TRUCK.

HELLO, CITIZENS.

SEKI.

HELLO?

I SAID HEY!!!
EH, PRETTY SHITTY, I GUESS.

HOW YOU DOING?

I AIN'T GOING.

IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S ANYBODY I WANT TO SEE AGAIN.

DID YOU HEAR?

ABOUT THE COMING-OF-AGE CEREMONY? IT'S HELD NEXT WEEK?

MORE IMPORTANTLY,

I DON'T THINK I WANT TO SHOW ANYBODY HOW I'VE TURNED OUT.
MAN,

YOU REALLY HAVEN'T CHANGED A BIT, HAVE YOU, SHIMIZU?

YOU SHOULD JUST MAKE SOME NEW FRIENDS NOW THAT YOU'RE IN UNIVERSITY.

DON'T JUST HANG AROUND WITH ME ALL THE TIME. BE A LITTLE MORE INDEPENDENT, WILL YOU...

STOP TAKING EVERYTHING I SAY SO SERIOUSLY.

WHAT.

I WAS JUST SAYING STUFF.
...AH.

BEHIND YOU

SHIMIZU,

HMP? OH NO, I DON'T MIND AT ALL.

YES, ALRIGHT. THANK YOU

YES, HELLO?

I'M AT SHINJUKU RIGHT NOW.
GOOD THING WE DIDN'T COME TOO EARLY

WHREW

THAT WAS THE EDITOR.

HE CALLED TO DELAY THE MEETING BY 1 HOUR.

AND THE REASON FOR OUR INIGNA-

TION

MUST BE SPOKEN! IT WOULD BE ALMOST CRIMINAL NOT TO LET THE WORLD KNOW!

LISTEN TO ME WELL, FELLOW CITIZENS!

WE ARE OUTRAGED!

CAN'T BELIEVE A YEAR AND A HALF JUST FLEW BY WHILE DRAWING IT!

BUT WOW

OF THE BLISS THAT IS 2D AND MORESO ARE 2D PANTIES! NOW I WANT TO SEE THEM, DRAW THEM, AND TOUCH THEM!

IN OUR HYSTERICAL SOCIETY THAT INCREASES VALUES WOMEN OVER MEN, WE ARE THE VICTIMS!

THUS WE HERE VOW TO NEVER LET OUR HEARTS SWAYED BY THE VILE IMPURITY THAT IS 3D!

THE ONLY SALVATION IN THIS CRISIS IS TO MINGLE WITH PURE 2D MAIDENS!
WITH MY AMAZING PRESENTATION, I'M SURE THEY'LL...

HAAH

WELL I'M SURE EVERYTHING'LL GO FINE

WHO'RE YOU?

AHH...

AH, LET GO OF THAT RUKE!
THANK YOU, EVERYONE!

I,

HAVE DECIDED TO RUN FOR GOVERNOR OF TOKYO!

PLEASE CALL ME PEGASUS!

IN HALF A YEAR FROM NOW.

THE WORLD SHALL COME TO AN END!!
CAN YOU HEAR IT?

THE WEERING OF THE UNIVERSE!!?

WOW...

IT'S...

BEEN A REAL LONG TIME, HASN'T IT...
...RIGHT?

TANAKO AIKO...
Oyasumi Punpun 5
Asano Inio

Background Assistants:
Toribuchi Yuuki
Satou Satsuki

Cg Assistants:
Saitou Hisashi
Kumatsuto
Uehara Yuu
The next volume will be lots of fun!!
Yattsuke-ko

Mr. Croc