Punpun was just about too depressed to go to school that day.

This was because the most popular girl in the class, Miyo, had just moved to a different school.

And I’ll never forget the time I spent with everyone here.
when he found her behind the school, feeding gravel to the class punching bag, Yoshikawa.

His memories of Miyo began a year ago.

It was the first and only time either of them had spoken a word to each other, but Punpun decided that he liked Miyo.

This is just our little secret, okay?
Hey you guys, you guys do you know what sex is?

Okay, know what? Forget it, I'm not telling you!

Who knew how boring a Monday could be without Miyo?!

What?! What's sex?!

It's when a boy puts his thing in a girl's...

It's not that scary...

See.

Do you know, fun-fun?
As you all know, our friend Migo Chita moved away last week...

But now we have a new member of our class!!

Okay, okay... Okay!!

Everyone in your seee-ats!!

I just moved here from Nerima.

My name is Aiko Tanaka.
It was love at first sight.

HAW HAW HAW

JULIUST KIDDING!!

WELL, NOW THAT WE HAVE OUR NEW STUDENT...

IF YOU DON'T FINISH TODAY YOU GET TO DO IT FOR HOMEWORK YAY!

HOWEVER, I WOULD LIKE YOU ALL TO WRITE AN ESSAY ABOUT YOUR DREAMS. IT WILL HELP INTRODUCE YOURSELF TO AKO

I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE A TEST IN 1ST PERIOD!!
Everybody wants to do something when they get bigger, right?

The bigger the dream, the better, folks!

You know why? Because dreams are free!

But they're not more important than being aware of your own limitations and financial outlook!

Otherwise, you'll be setting yourself up for a very painful adulthood!
WHY DO YOU KEEP FOLLOWING ME AROUND?
I’ll tell the police!

Sorry, sorry!

You’re in my class, aren’t you?

I was just kidding!

Aiko gave off...

Do you go home this way?

Want to walk together?
Did you finish writing your essay?

I did it right away!

It was easy. I already know I want to be an actress, a singer, or a model!

Guess what?

So we'll have to colonize other stars, or humanity will go extinct.

In a few years, the oil will run out and the environment will collapse, and we won't be able to live on Earth anymore.

Did you know that?!
Our daddies are trying to figure out how to survive.

That's why I'm gonna do everything when I'm a teenager. Make lots of money and spend it all in my twenties!

But I think there's no escaping from extinction.

Sorry this is where I have to say bye.

...Oh wait.

See you tomorrow.
What could this "Nerma" town that Riko had lived in be like? It must be amazing.

but he held back his tears.

He soon lost his way home and was in danger of crying.

Punpun began to wonder what kind of adult he would be.
That's right!

Run, run, run!!

IT'S A BASE HIT!!

He had never played baseball before, but he knew how much his dad loved watching baseball on TV.

Now this is how the Giants win games!

Runpun actually wanted to be a baseball player when he grew up.

Sometimes he would wonder to himself, is that really the same thing as wanting to do something?

Get me a beer, wife!!

There's none left...

Don't you tell me there's none left, you bitch!!

...none left...

After a game like that a man needs to break out his slagger in bed!

Hah and on this topic...
I bought that fuckin' beer with my own money, you whore!!

I know there's some fucking beer in the fridge!!

Get me some, woman!!

You've been unemployed for an entire year!!

No, I mean there's none left for you tonight!

I turned down that transfer out of town for the family's sake!!

Isn't a man's wife s'pose to support his decisions?!!

How was I supposed to know they were gonna fire me??

Why don't you recognize the love I give you??!

Punpun was somewhat used to this.
By chanting "Dear God, dear God, tinkle-tinkle hoy," God would appear.

He had been taught this little trick by Uncle Yuichi, who lived in Oofuna.

So he decided to pray to God.

And there he is.
WHAT DO YOU ASK OF GOD, PUNPUN?

"Is there any way for Mom and Dad to be nice to each other again?"

Punpun asked God his question.

YOU KNOW, PAL, GOD'S GETTING KIND OF TIRED OF THIS TOPIC. ANYTHING ELSE YOU WANT TO ASK?
YOU CAN TAKE YOUR TIME TO THINK ABOUT THAT. ALL THE POSSIBILITIES OF THE WORLD ARE BEFORE YOU...

"What kind of a grown-up will I be?" He mused.

If you say what I just said to little kids when you grow up, and mean it, you are a bad, bad man.

...punpun!
Sorry, didn't mean to interrupt your homework.

I wanted to give you a present, actually.

I just happened to win it playing the sl.

I mean I got it from a friend of mine.

It's a telescope!

Ain't that sweet?

Now you can look through this and be so close to the stars you can touch them!
Now Vega's 27 light-years away from Earth.

See that big triangle in the east this time of year?

That means the light you see from it now is from 27 years ago.

The star on top is Vega in the Lyra constellation.

What? Can you see Nerma from here?

Nerma's a bit too close, I think.

Okay, so I've never had anything to do with outer space in my life.

See, a man's gotta keep his eye on something huge!!

But dreams, passion—that stuff is real.
Suddenly Purpun understands.

"That's it, I'll study outer space."

"I'll get real smart and be a space scientist."

"Then I'll make it so mankind can colonize the stars!!"
I hope you did all your homework, Pukun

"After that..."

"That seems like a really cool thing to do."

"Just maybe..."

"Aiko will actually fall in love with me!!"
I've got bad news.

A robber snuck into our house.
A robber really did sneak into the house!

I'm telling the truth!

You believe me, don't you?!
In the end, Punpun did not go to school that day.

The policemen asked him many questions over and over, until it was nearly evening.
Uncle Yuichi was his mom’s brother, and he lived in Oofuna with Grandma.

But don’t worry! I’ll live with you until she gets out!

About time my unemployment comes in handy for something! Ha ha ha!

Yeah that’s not really funny.

They said she’ll be all right

She just needs to stay in the hospital for a while.
Oooh, boy this place is a mess...

It's too bad I know your dad's a good man at heart.

Want to play a little game before we clean up?!

Angolmois!!
The next day, Punpun went to school like he always did.

As you might have guessed, Fiko was already the talk of the class.

GOOD MORNING
HEL-LOOO, CLASS!!
GOOD MORNING!!

ON A NORMAL DAY!!

FIRST PERIOD IS JAPANESE!!

DO YOU HAVE THE ESSAY YOU WROTE FOR HOMEWORK YESTERDAY?

PUNPUN!!

WHAT'S WRONG?

The question came so suddenly that Punpun was quite taken aback.

YOU'RE NOT GOING TO SAY YOU DIDN'T DO IT ARE YOU?

WE TOOK ALL MORNING YESTERDAY READING OUR PAPERS

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO READ FOR THE CLASS, PUNPUN!!
AAAA
OOAOO
AAAA
!!!!

WOO
AAA
OOO
WAAA

YOU'RE
SUPPOSED!
TO DO!
YOUR HOME-
WORK!!

DO!!
IT!!

DO
IAAAAA-
AAAT!!

IT DOESN'T
MATTER
WHAT ELSE
HAPPENS. YOU
HAVE TO DO
IT!!

thwack
thwack
BUT WHAT THE HELL IS "FAIR" ANYWAY?!

IT'S NOT RIGHT TO GIVE ANYONE SPECIAL TREATMENT. M-M-HMM.

EACH PERSON HAS THEIR OWN PROBLEMS.

THAT WOULDN'T BE FAIR. WOULD IT...

OOO-WAH-YOOEY.

WOULD YOU GODDAMN KIDS STOP GETIN' SO UPPITY. MAAAN?!

EEYAYAAAAAAA!

I THINK FUPFUP ACTUALLY DID WRITE HIS ESSAY.
Just kidding!

What is it Mr. Principal?

 Aren't you bored? Let's play hide and seek.
YOU ARE ON, SIR.

THEN WE MUST DETERMINE WHO WILL BE IT.

ZAM.

EEK.
Punpun's dream is to be a space scientist and help humanity colonize the stars.
Dear Aiko is watching!!

...Someone in the class made fun of him, and said he couldn't do it?

Just that horrible thought...

...Filled Pumnun with a terrible dread and shame.

CLAP CLAP

ANNOUNCE IT TO EVERYONE, NICE AND LOUD!!

COME ON, PUNPUN!!
"My dream is to be a normal salaryman, and have a normal family."
My mom said it was because of the you know... what?

I wonder if we can cheer him up somehow.

I didn't know what to say to him this morning.

Me either.

Cue like, his dad's in jail, right?

He's suspected of assault.

Why not just act like normal?

What was normal again?
IT'S HARD TO ACT NORMAL SOME TIMES.
What is the matter, Mr. Mori? This is class time.
Well, you see...

One of my students seems to have run off...

Pumpun ruminated calmly.

Maybe it would be impossible for him to collinize other stars.

He wasn’t even sure if he actually wanted to be a scientist anymore.
YOU SHOULDN'T JUST TELL THEM!

TELL THEM YOU'RE GONNA SAVE US FROM EXTINCTION!

...IT'S REALLY COOL THAT YOU WANT TO BE A SCIENTIST

WHY DID YOU LIE TO THEM?

YOU COWARD
LET THEM SAY WHAT THEY WANT!

YOU'RE SCARED THEY WOULD MAKE FUN OF YOU, AIN'T YOU?

ANYONE WHO ONLY HOLDS OTHER PEOPLE BACK IS GONNA LIVE AN UNHAPPY LIFE!

...WHO CARES IF YOU HAVE A DREAM, RIGHT?

...IT'S HARD ENOUGH JUST TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE

C'MON

LET'S GO
he thought. | Aiko's hand was soft, and so small, and warm.

he did not want to let go of it. | Pupun thought, But most of all.
A single thought raced...

...through Punpun's head.
"...be able to rescue everyone from extinction."

“I might not...”

“Yeah?”
"I want to save YOU from that fate."

"But at the very least,"
“Because I love you.”
If you don't pay attention to the songs, Teacher's going to put you in a headlock!!

Punpun couldn't even look in Aiko's direction for the rest of the day.
It was so bad that Punpun was afraid he would take off into flight.

The frantic beating of his heart refused to calm.
We're having the Porno Rick Shoving at Shim's house this Sunday (PFS!!)

I hope you'll continue your great work with funpun & education.

Well, I think I should be going now.

I do have a meeting with a lawyer to see to.
We appreciate your trouble, sir.

No, no. Not at all.

It's just something that nobody can escape.

Everyone has trouble in life, like it or not.
I want to spread my wings to the wide open sky and fly away.

The sky of freedom, far away from sadness.
I still dream about the same things I dreamt as a child.
Of course, as he was just a child, it was absolutely new to Pampum...
But he felt that he might be fated to end up with Aiko.
Today was a special day. A very, very fun special day.

PARTLY TO HELP YOU AND PARTLY BECAUSE GRANDFA AND GRANDMA DON'T WANT ME LIVING OFF SAVINGS IN THEIR HOUSE ANYMORE.

WILL YOU HELP ME UNPACK?

AFTER TALKING WITH YOUR MOM WE DECIDED I'LL BE STAYING HERE FOR A WHILE.

HMM?

WHY DON'T YOU CARRY THE LITTLE PARTS TO FUNFUN PAPA'S ROOM? HOW ABOUT THIS FUNFUN?
SISTER

Punpun came all the way to see you. Don't you have anything to say?
HE GAVE HER A FEW STITCHES ON THE BACK OF HER HEAD WHERE SHE HIT THE GROUND BUT THERE SHOULD BE NO BRAIN DAMAGE.

MRS. FUNYAMA HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM HER FOREHEAD INJURY.

WE'LL GIVE HER A PRECISION SCAN BUT I DON'T FORESEE ANY TROUBLE.

GOSH I'M SORRY SHE'S GIVING YOU TROUBLE.

SHE KEEPS COMPLAINING THAT WE DON'T GIVE HER ENOUGH FOOD OR THAT SHE'S BORED AT NIGHT.

IN FACT SHE'S A BIT TOO LIVELY!

DON'T WORRY YOUR MOTHER WILL BE OUT OF HERE IN NO TIME!

OOCOOH! IS THIS MRS. FUNYAMA'S SON?
Punpun did not really like his mother.

As it happened...

TRUE SHE'S A WOODY PERSON

All she did was bug him about doing his homework, brushing his teeth, taking his bath, cleaning his room, and on and on.

Punpun hoped she wouldn't be coming home quite yet.

It's okay, it's okay!
I really insist, father! You must accept my money!!

It's okay, it's cool.

No no no no no.

Save that money for when the baby comes!

I couldn't take what's meant from my son-in-law.

Hang on a sec!

Oh right! I wanna give you something!

matter... matter... matter...
...MAYBE
HE'S JUST
LONELY
NOW...
AFTER MOM
DIED...

HE'S
A TOTALLY
DATING
GRANDPA
NOW.

AHA,
FOUND
EM!!

WE USED
TO BE SO
STUBBORN
AND ANGRY
ALL THE
TIME.

GO ON,
HONEY,
KEEP THEM
FOR GOOD
LUCK!!

I TRAVELED
THE COUNTRY
AND GATHERED
ALL THESE
BIRTH CHARMS!

UHMM...

THANKS
FOR THE
FOOD!!

I DON'T
KNOW HOW
ALL THOSE
GODS ARE
GOING TO
FEEL ABOUT
THIS.
YOU CAN COME AND LIVE WITH US ANYTIME YOU'RE READY.

YOU'RE GETTING UP THERE DAD, YOU CAN'T WORK TOO HARD ON YOUR OWN ALL RIGHT?

I'M STILL A WORKIN' MAN!

HEY, DON'T MAKE FUNNA ME!

BFFT

BLUGG!!

HERR-RGH!!
"When do you think Dad will come home?"

Punpun asked.
I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHAT THE ANSWER IS.

WELL, THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION.

"Do you think if I ask God, he'll come home soon?"

"By saying, dear God, dear God, tinkle-tinkle hoy."

TINK...?
"Dear God, dear God, tinkle-tinkle hoy" is the spell you taught me three years ago, Uncle Yuichi.

Here... buy yourself a popsicle on the way home.
I DON'T REALLY CARE EITHER WAY.

DID GOD CREATE MAN OR DID MAN CREATE GOD?

OH WELL. HUMANS ARE JUST.

HUMANS ARE JUST...

10 ROAD BICYCLE SAFETY PLAN

NO...

YEAH. YEAH.

I SHOULD STOP RIGHT THERE...
I know whatcha mean.

Oh, who are you?

Oh, exactly whatcha mean.
A: AND MY MOM'S COMING HOME SOON.

S-SORRY, GUYS...

WE HAVE TO CANCEL THE PE TODAY...

MY UM STOMACH KINDA HURTS

MY UM VIRUS IS BROKEN.

AWWWWWW AWWW AWWW.

I-IT'S JUST

NOT TODAY, THAT'S ALL!

I-I'M NOT LYING OKAY?

I REALLY DO HAVE THE VIDEO IN MY ROOM.
I bet he never had a video in the first place.

Stupid Shimizu, he was lying again.

Hmmm.

Come on, guys you can't say that without knowing the truth.

What a retard, right? But he kept swearing he could do it.

Like before.

He said "I can shoot a kaméhameha!"

So I made him show me at the panda park.
WE STOOD THERE FOR LIKE A WHOLE HOUR.

AND THEN HE STARTED CRYING AND SAID HE WASN'T FEELING GOOD.

OF COURSE HE COULDN'T DO IT! HE WAS LYING!!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, SHOULD WE DO THE FMSAP?

THIS SUCKS NOW MY WHOLE SATURDAY IS WASTED.

I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE LET'S STOP PLAYING WITH SHIMIZU.
YOU HAVE TO JOIN ME!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING PUNPUN?

PTU

Keep Our Park Clean.
Are you serious?!

Hey, at least we found one!!

C’mon, Harumin, don’t you wanna see pics of people don it?

Eww, gross.

It’s all dirty and crumpled.

A series of 10 butt sluts in Shibuya!!!
WHAT'S THAT WHITE STUFF ON THE GIRL'S FACE?

DOESN'T THIS PRE EVACUATE LOOK LIKE THE SPECULUM LASER FROM ULTRAMAN?

WHAT'S AN ORGASM?

THERE YOU ARE, BOYS!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
"It's my dear Aiko!!"

AND KIDS AREN'T ALLOWED TO TRAVEL ON THEIR OWN RIGHT?

SO WE'RE DOING IT IN SECRET RIGHT PUNPUN?

NOD NOD

W-WE'RE MAKING PLANS TO TRAVEL SOMEWHERE FOR SUMMER VACATION.

WHY ARE YOU HIDING SOMETHING?
You shouldn't believe what these boys say!

Stop that, Aiko!

A vacation sounds really nice.

You know what? I hate boys.

I wish I could go somewhere really far away.

Let's leave these losers behind!

If it turns out you were lying, you'll be in big trouble!!

We don't want to miss the reruns of Shun's drama!!

Note: A parody on Kousuke or Takuya Kikuta, pop star member of the boy band SMAP.
YOU WOULDN'T LIE WOULD YOU, PUNPUN?
But it feels like I'm eating nothing at all.

Well, I tried out my cheese fondue experiment.

On the other hand, this sense of unfulfillment is kind of endearing. The experiment was a success!
And Punpun understood.
A piece
of my
brain

just
Shot out
of my
weiner!
"Does a person die if their brain melts?"

Asked Pumpu.
“Can your brain melt and shoot out of a funny place on your body?!”

Asked Punpun, bravely.

I’ve never heard of such a thing but I suppose it would be lethal.

I see. I think I get what you’re talking about.

Don’t worry, Punpun, you’ll be fine.

Aha.

I can give you some books, if you’d like to brush up.

But you see Punpun.

There are many things in the world that you don’t know about yet.
Pumpkin couldn't read the tricky words, so he just flipped through all the pictures.
PREPARE TO MEET YOUR DOOM!!

FOOLISH EARTHLINGS!

Suddenly, he felt a great anxiety.

"See, a man's gotta keep his eye on something HUGE!!"

"Dreams, passion—that stuff is real!!"

"We'll have to collinize other stars, or humanity will go extinct."

"Guess what?"
Punpun had forgotten all about the telescope since the day he got it.

"That star just moved!!"
HMMMM
I DON'T SEE ANY SUCH THING.

YOU SAW A MOVING STAR?

WHAT COULD MAKE YOU SO EXCITED YOU'D START DROOLING, FUNPUN?

IT WAS PROBABLY JUST A SATURNITE...

EVEN FOR A KID, THIS LACK OF SELF-CONTROL IS APPALLING!!

"Could it be a new type of star I just discovered?!"
WELL Aren't you greedy?

If it's a new star, well...

Yeah!

We'll have to call it PumPunia!

This could be a great discovery!!

"Do you think I could win a Nobel Prize?"

PumPun was positively ecstatic.

If he won the Nobel Prize...
"I can use the prize money to build a house on Punpunia."

"Andanimize it with Riko!!"

"I'll buy every game console!!"

"I'll even get the dog Mom never let me have!!"

In his agitation, Punpun forgot all about bedtime.

"And if there's money left over, I'll make another house for Mom and Dad."
"I have to tell Dad about it, too!"

"I'm sure they'll all tell me how smart and great I am..."
Punpun was finding it difficult to speak to Aiko.

Y-you guys!!

Look at Harumin....!!

C... come quick!!
Chapter 7

What's with the lack of effort?

I want to see some serious running!

Do you think they'll go out?

Probably I mean they've liked each other for a while.

Hey, Harumi!

If you make me angry, I'll break your little neck squirt!!
"If you like each other, you go out."
To Punpun's ears, this was such a radical, fresh, modern concept.

What exactly did "going out" involve?

But Punpun had just one misgiving.
All that ran through Pupun's head was something that Harumin told him once before.

"It's when a boy puts his thing in a girl's..."

TEEECHURRR!!!
WHAT'S A GAME IN WHICH A BALL HANGS FROM A STICK, AND HAS TO GET INTO A HOLE?

HINT: YOU HAVE TO USE YOUR WAIST CAREFULLY.

THE ANSWER WAS "BALL IN A CUP."

WHAT WERE YOU THINKING OF?

When a boy and a girl love each other and go out, they have sex.
How does Aiko feel about me, then?

Pumpun wondered furiously.

...What did you fall down?

This is just a scrape.

Kids these days! So weak...

I need to leave for a little bit.

Take a rest here and go back to class, hun.

I'll disinfect it for you.

CREAK...
I fell on purpose.

Do you know why?

... 

Whoosh

Whoosh

Whoosh

Whoosh

Because this was the only way for us to get together.

You've been avoiding me, Punpun.

You haven't?
I believe you, then!

...well, you did say that you'd do anything to take care of me. Didn't you?

Do you love me?
Then

I love you too!!
DID YOU KNOW THAT SONODA GAVE HIRUMI A LOVE LETTER?

THEY'RE GOING TO TOSHIMAEN PARK DURING SUMMER VACATION

* Toshimaen is a major theme park

BUT I DO WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR FAR AWAY.

I DON'T NEED TO GO TO A THEME PARK

I DON'T CARE IF EVERYONE DIES!

I DON'T CARE WHAT OTHER PEOPLE DO!

AS LONG AS YOU'RE STILL THERE!

NOT ME

I'M NOT JEALOUS OF THEM.
YOU'LL LOVE ME FOREVER AND EVER.

AND YOU'LL NEVER THINK ABOUT ANYTHING BUT MY OWN HAPPINESS RIGHT?

BECAUSE YOU LOOOOOVE ME DON'T YOU?

RIGHT?

...WELL?

RIGHT?
Wondering just how long "forever and ever" meant to Aiko put Pumppun into a truly indescribable state of mind.
But for the sake of convenience, let's do it anyway.

Punpun couldn't really put his feeling into words,

"Terrified."

DID YOU GUYS KISS ALREADY OR WHAT??

WARU-MINII

WARU-MINII
She didn't like that everyone found out about it.

Awwwww.

How come?

She dumped me.

She played with my heart. What did she even want from me?

Girls are scary.

She dumped me in half a day, and I didn't even do a thing.

FRRNASH!!

Snerk.

Tap tap.
AHHHH!

...so are you guys

I DON'T CARE ABOUT GIRLS ANYMORE!!

I'M A PFS MAN FOR LIFE!!

P...

Totally Uncensored

LIL' CHUBSTER

Flashing on your little p***y's tell tale!!

Austin "Poser" Poma

owen on his horse

Hills on the

tricks, with this attic

90-minute spec!
Err, allow me to introduce to you.

The lawyer who's going to be taking care of some stuff for us...

But before we go, there's something important I've been meaning to tell you, punpun!!

We have something very important to discuss, so we'll be gone until tonight.

Oui! Oui!

I'm Yugami, the lawyer!!
Life is a gamble, you can get hurt...

There's a choc pie in the kitchen, if you want it.

But float like a butterfly, sting like a bee! -Muhammad Ali

Ha ha ha...
WHIRL

Totally Unabombed LIL' CHUBSTER
Ooh, you're so cute. You look just like a doll.

How old are you, sweet heart?

18 Hehehe!

Your titties are huge, girl! What cup?

Hehehe!

I'm a G-cup.
IT IS NOT MERE COINCIDENCE THAT YOU PICKED UP THIS TAPE.

IT IS FATE. YOU HAVE A DUTY TO WATCH THIS UNTIL THE END.

YOU THERE LITTLE BOY WITH THE REMOTE CONTROL...

DON'T PRESS FAST FORWARD. JUST HEAR ME OUT...
I MUST MAKE A VERY GRAVE CONFESSION TO YOU.

KILLED MY ENTIRE FAMILY.

IN FACT, I THINK I COULD SAY THAT I'M GRATEFUL TO THEM.

IT'S NOT THAT I HAD ANY PROBLEMS WITH MY FAMILY LIFE.
MY FATHER DEVOTED THE MAJORITY OF HIS LIFE TO WORK, AND MY MOTHER TO THE EDUCATION AND UPBRINGING OF HER CHILDREN.

IT LOOKS LIKE A PERFECT, HAPPY HOUSEHOLD, BUT THAT'S JUST A FRONT.

MY SISTER IS MARRIING A PUBLIC SERVANT NEXT MONTH.

SICKNESS, ACCIDENTS, DISASTERS, BETRAYAL...

ONLY GOD CAN TELL YOU WHEN YOU'LL PICK A CARD OF MISFORTUNE.

IN HIS RETIREMENT YEAR, MY FATHER TOLD ME,

FIGHTING TO HOLD ON TO A SMALL KERNEL OF HOPE AND FORTUNE THAT CAN BUCK YOU OFF AT ANY MOMENT—CAN YOU REALLY CALL THAT HAPPINESS?

“NOW I’LL ENJOY MY SECOND LIFE.”

IT WAS AFTERWARD THAT HE LEARNED HE HAD CANCER.
SO I KILLED THEM.

EVERYTHING BECAME SO SAD TO ME.

I COULDN'T STAND TO SEE IT ANYMORE.

I WANT TO SAY

THAT MY ACTIONS WERE A FORM OF LOVE.

IT WAS THE RELEASE OF THEIR SOULS.

BUT STILL...
DID I MAKE A MISTAKE?

IS THIS JUST GUILT?

IN MY DREAMS

STARING AT ME WITH SUCH SADNESS.

MY FATHER COMES TO ME EVERY NIGHT...

I MUST EXPRESS MYSELF THROUGH DANCE.

I MUST DO SOMETHING

I DON'T UNDERSTAND.

THREE, FOUR!!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, HEY! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND!!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND. HEY! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO DANCE ALONG WITH ME!!

BY EXPOSING THIS CRIME TO THE WORLD, I WANT TO ASK EVERYONE JUST WHAT HAPPINESS TRULY IS.

LOOK, I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.
THERE'S ALSO AN AMOUNT OF CASH EQUIVALENT TO THE COURAGE TO FIND IT.

SO I WANT YOU TO FIND THEIR BODIES AND TELL THE MEDIA.

I'VE HIDDEN ALL THREE BODIES IN THE OLD UNUSED MISDO FACTORY ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE MAIN K TOWN DRIVE.

BY THE TIME YOU'VE SEEN THIS VIDEO, I WILL HAVE LEFT A WILL BEHIND AND DEPARTED FROM THIS WORLD.

I'M EXPECTING MUCH OF YOUR COURAGE AND CURiosity.
I mean... why would that video just be living in the street anyway?

Goddamnit

I need to go hit Shimizu or something

Damn, we got played like fools!!

Awww, man! It was a prank!!

Umm... maybe we should be going...

No no, it’s cool. Keep them.
WELL, GUESS WHAT? I RENTED INDEPENDENCE DAY FROM THE STORE!

LET'S WATCH IT AND HAVE A LAUGH!

WHAT'S UP? YOU LOOK REALLY OUT OF IT!

HUMP WHAT'S WITH THAT FUNKY DANCE?

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND!

HEY!
I wasn't sure whether to make the curry mild or medium.

Do you like your curry a little spicy, Funpun?

Welcome home, Funpun.

DongGGGGG

Ding-

You like your curry super spicy?

What's thaaat?

Why you precious little rascal!
So you see, we travel from door to door selling these products.

Hoping to benefit the health and well-being of everyone in our community.

We're not some kind of dangerous cult.

Excuse me?

In fact, we think that sort of mistrust and suspicion is proof that even you are suffering from ill health.

So.

I take it that thing printed on your shirt is your god?
I'm sorry if I prefer not to plaster a fake smile on my face like you.

Are you implying that I'm unhappy?

If you don't have enough smiles in your life, your happiness will fade away!

There you see? An unhealthy person smiles less.

But what are you cooking for dinner tonight?

Pardon my asking.

If you use this water, not only will your dish be healthier for you, it will also taste better!!

In that case—!!

Oh really?
A 15 LITER BOTTLE IS 5,000 YEN.

BUT WE'RE OFFERING A GREAT CHEAP TO-PACK DEAL THAT WOULD MAKE EACH BOTTLE AROUND 3,800 YEN.

THAT'S FAR FROM CHEAP!!

EACH BOTTLE IS SIMPLY PACKED WITH THE MASTER'S POWER...

NOT WHEN YOU CONSIDER WHAT YOU'RE GETTING!!

WHAT-WHAT-WHAAAT?!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "POWER"?!! WHAT THE HELL IS "THE MASTER'S POWER"?!!
To be honest, Pumppun wasn't a fan of spicy foods, but he wanted to make Uncle Yuichi happy.
He remembered something Dad once said: "I loves me some mild curry. In fact, if you grate some apple into the curry, it makes it taste even better to old Pop's sweet tooth."

But bright and clever Pumpun had a great idea.
it was now over a month since Dad had been home.

But Punpun knew that if he didn't come home soon, the Japan Series would be over.

Uncle Yuichi said he was just "going on a business trip."

"I wonder if he'll have a bunch of presents for me when he gets back..."

When he chanted "Dear God, dear God, tinkle-tinkle hoy."

Punpun suddenly felt very lonely.
It was a magic spell that Uncle Yuichi had taught him.

HOWDY-HO, PUNPUN. WHAT'S THE WORD?

WE DON'T ANSWER THAT KIND OF QUESTION AT THIS COMPANY.

"Cheapskate!" Punpun fumed.

"Will Dad be back before the Japan Series?" Punpun asked.
YOU SHOULD ASK UNCLE YUICH!!

“Where’s the thingy to grate apples?” Pumpun blurted at random.

“Good idea!!

BUT WE GLADLY ACCEPT ALL OTHERS!!
IF YOU WANT TO BELIEVE IN YOUR GOD AND LEARN HIS TEACHINGS FINE!!

I DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEM WITH RELIGION PER SE.

WHAT I DON'T LIKE IS HOW YOU TRY TO FORCE IT ONTO OTHER PEOPLE!!

EEEK!!

SHUT UP, DAMN YOU!!

YOU'RE A LONELY PERSON!!

WHAT IT ALL COMES DOWN TO IS, YOU'RE JUST ANXIOUS!!

IF YOU'LL JUST COMPARE THE TASTE OF THIS WATER TO YOUR TAP WATER...

LOOK, JUST SO WE'RE CLEAR ON THIS.
I'd destroy another human being's life, if I had to!!

That's karma for you! Humans are messed up creatures, you know that??

But not me!!

I know how to survive on my own!!

It is people like you who cause the world to overflow with suffering.

Yeah, that's right!!

Every three seconds, a child is starving to death somewhere on the globe.

I'm just a horrible machine, mass-producing shit and waste!!

The planet's ecosystem is on the verge of collapse.
Eeeek!!

Then if humankind is wiped out, you will be responsible!!

Perfect! I wouldn't have it any other way!!

That'd mean the world is mine to ruin!!

Oh, God!!

Please grant this foolish man your salvation...

That stupid thing with the huge beak is your god. After all!!

Aha! I knew it!

You ought to be ashamed! The poor girl is disgusted with you!!

Shkk Shkk Shkk
Absolutely not!!

Don't you dare do anything of the sort!!

Fine, then!!

Five minutes!!

No, three minutes is all I need! Just let me pray for your happiness!!

No, dammit!! No! Stop doing that!!

Sey!! Sey!! Sey!!

All right. You asked for it! I wasn't going to say this.

But you've pushed me over the edge...
There is no God!!

"Dear God, dear God, tinkle-tinkle hoy"

Was a special spell that Uncle Yuichi taught Punpun, three years ago.
"It's Aiko!!"
BZZZZZZ

AIKO ?!

PUN-PUN!?
Punpun ran after her at full speed, a rare sight in this day and age.
Whether he could figure out why he was chasing with such determination or not, he still ran at full speed.

Pumpun was not good at running.
“Alkol!”

I know a lotta laws’ you can’t sue me, you’d lose!

Dat ain’t my fault yo!

You ran inna me!
YOU LIED!!

"Want to walk together?"

"Do you go home this way?"

YOU LIED

YOU SAID YOUR HOUSE.

...was in the opposite direction when we walked home that one time.
Hey

Hey!!

Why did you do that?...

Say something!

Why did you lie to me?...

Answer me, squirt!!

Bzzzz! Bzzzz!
I would finally have a clean slate to make friends with everyone.

I thought after this transfer.

I didn't want.

Anyone in the class to find out about it...

You're gonna say she's a real weirdo.

Her family's crazy just like all the others said.

I bet I know what you're gonna say now. Punpun.

Shake shake shake.
I'M NOT GONNA BELIEVE YOU ANYMORE

BYE BYE

I CAN'T TAKE IT...

I HATE THIS
I WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY...

SO far that nobody knows where I am...

WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?
DO YOU THINK I CAN WALK THERE?

KAGOSHIMA IS REALLY FAR AWAY

I'M GOING TO MY UNCLE'S HOUSE IN KAGOSHIMA.

I'M KIDDING.

MY UNCLE IS A DOCTOR AND HE'S RICH AND DOESN'T BELIEVE IN ANY STUPID GODS SO HE'LL HELP ME.

I'M JUST GOING HOME LIKE USUAL.

"I'm gonna win the Nobel Prize, and then we can colonize Pumputis!" Pumput blurted out.
When Aiko said this, Pumkin realized that he probably WAS retarded.

Well, that's okay. It's what God likes about you.

AREN'T YOU GOING TO CHASE HER?
Punpun asked Fiko.

"Where is the Island of Kagoshima, anyway?"

Punpun...

Will you come with me?

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YOU PROMISE?!  

YOU BETTER...

so he clung to her with all of his strength.

Punpun felt like Aiko would go far, far away if he let go.

BUT IF YOU BREAK THIS PROMISE....

IF YOU BETRAY ME AGAIN

...OKAY PUNPUN....
I really will kill you.

Punpun made a promise to go to Kagoshima with her, after the end of the first semester.
A cartographer who walked around all the coasts of Japan to make a map in the 19th century.
Punpun was experiencing a new feeling for the first time.

Desperation.

The store will be closed for the time being.

Seki
SHUT UP. I DON'T NEED TO WORK FOR THAT KIND OF CHUMP CHANGE. I GOT SAVINGS.

DAD, Weren't your new job supposed to start today?

...AND WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING WITH THAT?

QUIT PUTTING UP A FRONT.

YOU RAN OUT ON IT AGAIN, DON'T YOU?

YOU MAKE MOM DO ALL THE WORK AND YOU'RE PROUD OF THAT, HUH?
TO BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF A WORTHLESS DRUNK

ONLY THING IT LL DO IS RUIN YOUR LIFE

WON'T DO NOTHING

PITTA PITTA PITTA

JUMP DAD.

JUST REOPEN THE STORE....
Oh, honey!

Oh kohhh!

Skrir kskrik

Green Hermit

Person who always watches

God ok 100

Stop drawing those disgusting pictures and go run an errand!

Oh! Why are you laughing at me?

Gee hee hee!

Mama's never been so humiliated!
HAVE A GOODY GOO!

BLOOM-BYE-BEE!

STOMP!
WOW, SWEET!

How have you been?

Good day, Shinn
That Kamemeka you taught me... didn't work.

When did I ever mention a Kamemeka?

What's the matter?

Shmi, were you listening to what I said?

Now close your eyes.

I have just given you wisdom and strength.
If you use them in the right way.

Are they for destroying things?

Are they for hurting people?

You can do anything.

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

SHIMIZU
GUESS WHAT?

THE GOD OF POOP JUST SAID I CAN DO ANYTHING!

YOU NEED TO GROW UP SOON OR...

Hey, will you lend me some money?

I'm in kind of a pinch right now.

How long are you gonna keep saying dumb shit like that?

I've known you since kindergarten now.
DON'T LISTEN TO ME YOU IDIOT!

UHM OKAY

WHATEVER! Y'KNOW KOMATSU, I'VE BEEN WONDERING ABOUT SOMETHING!

WHAT?
THE FACTORY THAT WEIRD GUY MENTIONED!

NO NOT HER!

OH, YEAH... AND THE MONEY TO MATCH OUR COURAGE...

OH, YOU MEAN THAT FAT OLD LADY?

WHAT IF THERE'S A MILLION YEN? WHAT WOULD YOU DO WITH IT?
Suddenly, points formed a line in Pumput's brain.

But I thought you said it was a frank, seki!

But I don’t know where the miso factory is...

I know where it is. Want me to take you?

EXACTLY! THAT’S THE PROBLEM!

...BUT

Ooh, shi's here too...
MISO FACTORY
KAGOSHIMA
I NEED TO PEE
HOME WORK
CHOCOPIES

WHAT'S UP?
ARE YOU DOWN FOR ADVENTURE PUNPUN?

IF IT SETTLED THEN LET'S GO

I JUST WANT TO SHOW YOU GUYS THAT LIFE DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY!

LOOK, I STILL THINK IT'S A BUNCH OF BULLCRAP THAT GUY MADE UP!
As long as he could find the money in the miso factory— Punpun had entrusted all of his hopes to the miso factory.

And didn't he say something about leaking to the media?

Yeah, but even if we find the money, there's still dead bodies there, right?

What's leaking?

If we find them, then the police will get involved.

"Then Aiko won't kill me!"

Hey, it's the boys!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

"It's Aiko!"

N no, it doesn't!

It's just a test of courage! We're gonna go look for ghosts!

What does that mean you're doing? Something you shouldn't be doing?

What? Who cares what we're doing?!

You girls should shut up and mind your own business!
Ooh well aren't you special!

Yeahhh!

We're going to the Tanabata Festival!

Ooh lala

You guys are so childish

I think

I'd rather go on the test of courage

What?! How come Aiko?

We said we'd buy some Shimutaku paper fans!
I can come along right fun fun?

Nope sorry no girls!

It's gonna be a really hardcore ghost hunt.

I wasn't talking to you.
IT'S PRETTY QUICK IF WE USE THE SHORTCUT THOUGH!

WE HAVE TO WALK FROM HERE.

HMM?

HOW COME YOU KNOW ALL ABOUT THIS MISO FACTORY IF IT'S SO FAR AWAY?

SIGH. I WAS WONDERING.
I used to play around here by myself a lot.

Tanaka might not know since she just moved here.

You guys know how my family has the lunch shop?

The owner of the MSG factory was friends with my dad, or something like that.

I'd get taken along by my dad to pick up supplies on the weekend.

Well, once the factory went under it took out our shop too, basically.
I DON'T REALLY CARE IF THERE'S MONEY AT THE FACTORY OR NOT

I JUST WANT TO SEE IF IT'S TRUE

I HATE PEOPLE WHO LIE

WAS THAT A BAD QUESTION TO ASK?

SHHHH...
NO TRESPASSING

GOTTA CLIMB THIS
TOUGH DOWNWNN!!

DO IT! DO IT! DO IT! DO IT! DO IT!
AND SO QUIET.

THIS MIGHT BE SCARIER THAN I THOUGHT...

WHOA! IT'S HUGE.

IS THIS... BLOOD?

HMM.

WHOA YOU GUYS COMERE!

Suddenly, Punpun noticed a very dreadful fact.

SHH... I HEAR SOMETHING.
"I really need to pee!!"
GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

Inio Asano

BACKGROUND ASSISTANTS
Yuki Toribuchi
Satsuki Sato

CG ASSISTANT
Nakaba Saito

OTHER
Kumatto
Yasumasa Iwama
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