おやすみプンプン
浅野いにお

小学生
おやすみプロブン
⑫ 浅野いにお
Pegasus, the prodigy who became the first-ever child to pass the Esper Exam, forsees the destruction of the world in a dream when he was 8. After a chance meeting with physicist Wada with an IQ of 300, the two set out on a journey to verify his prophetic dream. Along their journey, they free brainwashed espers through Harmony dimensional battles, and in doing so, Pegasus comes to learn of a great evil born from the collective unconscious. He also learns he is the descendant of the enlightened one, whose bloodline allows him to command the Majestic Twelve, warriors tasked with fighting against the impending calamity.

Despite their efforts, the great calamity escapes into the 25th dimension and Pegasus falls into the abyss of “Enigma.” However, thanks to the Majestic Twelve’s support, Pegasus is revived and Wada tells him thus:

"I believe in you more than I care bear!"

My Lovers...

"We the Majestic 12 will use the forbidden treasure Red Kiss, which will rob us of our lives but will allow us to enter the hyper-astral plane and strike at the great calamity lurking in the Zero-field."

And thus the final Harmony dimensional battle begins, upon which the fate of humanity hangs...
**CHARACTER**

**Pegasus**
The enlightened commander of the Majestic Twelve.
Ability: Future Prediction, Mind JACK

**Walia (Sweet Pretty Lonely Fluffy Iiro)**
Genius physicist and former captain of the Royal Guards in the Eastern Kingdom.
Ability: Super-Intellect

**Pao Pao Channel**
A former wanted-thief.
Has since become a hacker since his seclusion.
Ability: Mongolian Death Arm

**Echo-Back**
Formerly the investigators who pursued Pao Pao Channel.
Ability: Telekinesis

**White Pig**
The princess who was confined for 10 years in the Alat Halshlach.
Ability: Noble Blood Barrier

**Freezie**
An orphan from the bottomless village. Has the strongest secret ability out of all the Majestic 12.
Ability: Climate Change, Projectile Summoning

**Contrary**
An express courier that travels throughout the world. The second oldest of the three Jet Brothers.
Ability: Super-speed

**Having one battery-left over is troublesome**
A martial arts expert who revived from a near-death state after the great war of 1000 years ago.
Ability: 88 techniques of the Guayang Praying-Mantis style

**Weekly Big Comic Spirits**
The captain of the New Nessie Armed Fleet of the Far Lands.
Ability: Solemn Wind (Mokola-imbite)

**Pussy Prince**
A refugee from the ongoing turmoil of the Tsuchinoko Empire.
Ability: Unlocking keys

**Love Infinite**
Though he works as a clown for the Paranormal Troops, he's the son of the distinguished half of the Morito Foundation's founder.
Ability: Shape-shifting, intel-gathering

**Ass Hamburger**
A female high school student who lost her memories after becoming possessed by a cursed sword. She is on the search for her family.
Ability: Wild-Hearted Black

**Cordelia Angel (Blubogki)**
A female transgender demon. 90% of her body had to be rebuilt with mechanics after her defeat at the hands of Black Spot.
Ability: Lr 3 Cosmic Beam

**Black Spot**
A mysterious woman who opposes Pegasus and his followers. She was once an ordinary civilian before being possessed by the collective unconscious.

**Great Calamity**
The great demon who was exiled in the climax of the last great war. He currently lurks in the 25th dimension, plotting for humanity's destruction.
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I love you, Punpun...

B-but I...

So, so, so much...

I love you.

So, so,
I love you...
"...Aiko. This kind of half-assed determination won't do."

"I'm prepared to accept every last thing about you so you've got to show me the same determination. Enough to drive this fork all the way to the back of my skull."

Okay.

I will.

...You've got to be more serious, Tanaka Aiko."
Mimura has arrived on the scene!

Chupa Chupa Haha!

'Sup, Nanjou!

I heard about the situation between you two from Kanie but...

...Yeah, same here.
I've already had no luck in searching for him in the usual places.

The video-rental shop, landlord’s place, convenience store, game center, home appliances & electronic stores... Everywhere, man.

Yeah, I've looked around those places too.

Whose house he could stay at...?

Does he maybe know some other friend.

Not surprising when you consider his personality.

Who'd even try to call him?

He ain't got any real friends other than you and me.

He pretty much hasn't kept in touch with any of our old high school pals...

I mean, who doesn't go around carrying a cell phone in this day and age?

Let's be real now. This is Over-1? we're talkin' about.
You're worryin' too much.

But I know for sure he was in his room 3-4 days ago.

So how long's it been since you last talked with Ono-nyan?

I just have a very bad feeling about all this.

Hum...

Did PumPum say anything odd to you recently?

No, not really...

Though to be honest, I haven't talked with him much as of late since I've been busy with school and applying for jobs...
And besides, Nanjou.

Aren't you the one.

That he's opened up the most to?

It might sound a lil' corny but I really do feel somethin' special between you two.

Like a hard unbreakable bond.
But why aren't you two going out?

...I know I've asked once before.

Haha. Us, a lovey-dovey couple after all that's happened? Cut it out.

Well, even the hardest of things can shatter when one little crack appears....

...You know Nanjoe, you're surprisingly girly at times.

Shut up.
You speak of your friend almost like a stranger...

I'm sure he'll be back.

Even he must have times when wants to be alone, you know.

Well...

I believe him.

Or rather, I don't have a choice but to believe in him.

It's because he's my friend!

It's not like he'd suddenly show up just because I started frantically looking for him, you know.

But he's he and I'm me. Just because we're friends doesn't change the fact that we go our own separate paths.

I respect his aloof solitude.

That's just the kind of relationship we have.

Even if he were to come back from Thailand with a sex change, I wouldn't bat an eye.
I don't think I can just stand waiting around though...

I see...

But you know.

I think you're just fine the way you are now, Nanjou.

To be honest, your concern for him seems less because of your meekness.

But more because you want to stubbornly protect your pride.

You should be more honest with your own self.

But I do think that when Ono-D comes back,
Ono-D's definitely gonna be back.

In any case,

I've got no intention of letting all the fun times I've had with him.

Become just a mere memory of days gone by.
MM...

MNN

HAH.

HAH...

MN...

AHHN...
No...

Hah...

Hah...

I'm on my period...
Morning of June 23.
Me too...

I haven't been here since my middle school field trip...

Kyoto...

"I... Hardly remember anything from my middle school days."

There's not a single friend or classmate from back then.

That I still remember or keep in touch with...
"...Well, is there some reason why we have to hurry then?"

...Is it really fine for us to be just hanging out like this?

...Guess not.
The kanji below is used in the word "prison," and means punishment.
You've got to get some sleep...

You have a fever and an injured leg.

So don't push yourself so hard...

You've hardly slept in the past few days, right?

"I'm scared... I'll wake up from my dream if I fall asleep."

Huh? Shouldn't that be the opposite?

You're weird...
“What're you...?”

“Harder... Tighter...”

But if I were to do that...
Stop saying weird things.

"Yes, so do it tighter..."

Please...

You'd die...

If you leave me alone.

Just what am I supposed to do...?
At XX city of Tokyo Metropolis.

Early morning today.

The suspect is described as a middle-aged man from age 30-40 with black glasses and long hair.

Police have received report of a robbery case.

That's my hometown.
"Aiko... You know, I..."
"I may be a negative person who often looks back rather than ahead to the future, but I really do feel that I can run faster ahead than anyone in the world right now."

If you run with your head turned back, you won't be able to tell if you're running off a cliff.
“So thank you, Aiko. For giving me despair.”

“...I'm delighted to realize how strong of a person I really am.”

Let's go.
That's why I told you.

To be more honest with yourself!

...Nanjou,
I don't think he had any female friends...

People who were close with Onodera?

Hmm, let me think...

I could've sworn his lack of self-confidence was caused by some traumatic experience during his school years...

Huh...

There wasn't really anyone who spoke ill of him either...

Even though he didn't really stand out much during high school.

What with that cowardly personality of his.

No kidding.

Oh, but you know,
Oh no. No, I never actually liked him. It's just...

I guess it was me just wanting to have an "adult" moment, having finally become a high school student.

Is that what you liked about him, Azusa?

My impression of him was that he was too serious for his own good...

And a little stubborn as well...

I guess it was me just wanting to have an "adult" moment, having finally become a high school student.

Like I care.

Sounds like she's shattering your image of the perfect pure little sister.

Whoa, you listenin' to your sister?

It almost seemed as if he couldn't tell a lie...

It really seemed like he tried hard not to make things awkward between us.

So... He was nice, to put it simply.

But...

Even after the incident, he still talked to me every now and then, and we sometimes hung out together along with our other friends...
Being that considerate just has the opposite effect.

So he was one of those guys...

Ohh...

That's not to say I like cocky opinionated guys though.

It's just that Onodera has such a low opinion of himself.

I think it's because he's too self-conscious.

Ha, I'd kick his ass if he ever acted like such a big shot.

He'd be better off if he could genuinely ridicule others.

He's doing pretty well for himself though, you know?

Oh?

Being nice can be a disadvantage in some ways.
But I suppose you wouldn’t want him to be too independent.

He might be a freeter, but at least he’s supporting himself and studying for his license.

And he never grumbles about it, to boot.

After all, you looove having a little pet utterly dependent on you, right?

I’d prefer a guy like that over one who has talent but always blows on his own horn.

You really think you can understand what kind of person he’s really like with that kind of attitude?

You love to keep him leashed around, spoiling or spanking him depending on your mood.

Mistakenly thinking that he’s the only one who could ever understand you.

I feel sorry for you if you can only have such deluded relationships like that for the sake of your pride.
...Then are you saying Pumpong can really make it alone?!

Can't you see anyone else's opinion but your own!

To put it another way, I'm not just a gal, despite what you might think!

Based only on your narrow perspective! I just want to point out how silly that is!

You're always overlooking others and making quick judgments about them.

Mmm.

No, not really...

Umm...

You're going out with him, aren't you, Sachi?

Did something happen to Onodera?
Huh?

Misuzu, where's your father?
Oh he's probably busy flirting with the women in the rehab room.
He’s really gotten much better these past few months...

In fact, he’s become even more talkative that he’s starting to annoy me.

But suppose I should take solace in the fact that he didn’t end up passing away...

The doctors say he won’t be able to use his legs again.

...He hasn’t talked this much since I was a little girl.

I don’t know where he gets them, but he comes 2-3 times every week to drop off some more.

And he always heads to our office afterwards to use our computer to study for his license exam.

Oh, in case you’re wondering.

It was Onodera who brought all those maneki-neko dolls.

Pumpun comes by here that often?

Oh...
I'm still looking for him...

Has he still not come back yet?

Here, this is the key to his place.

Well, I hope he comes back soon.

My father misses him a lot.

Oh, thank you.

He's got his MOS exam coming up, not to mention the online courses left for his real estate license.

If anything about his place seems strange, don't be afraid to call the police.

Right...

We can't have him get wrapped up in some sort of incident at such a critical time of his life now, can we?
Oh that reminds me.

He should've received the results of his PC proficiency test by now.

I promised that I'd buy a new computer for him if he passed, you know.

Did you know he's been stupidly trying to hide how hard he's been studying?

Haha, strong effort's one of those things you just can't hide. I've actually been talking with some business associates of mine to see if I can arrange an interview for him.

I never heard about any of that.

...Oh.

Well, you're busy with your manga career.

I'm sure he didn't tell you because he didn't want to distract you.

...That kid's too self-conscious for his own good.
Just what...

Do I actually know about Punpun...?
Just what the hell.

Is that idiot doing...?
June 24, 6 p.m.

IOT PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT
...What a winn.
June 25, 3:00 p.m.

Sorry, I know it must've been a long way coming here, but I'm afraid I don't know where he is.
Oh no, no. I should be the one apologizing for coming on such short notice.

Well.

In any case, why don't you take a seat?

He never picks up when I try calling him so I thought he wasn't using it at all...

So he actually was using that cell phone, was he now...

I see.

Heh.

It's Nanjou.

...Are you a friend of his from work?

What was your name again?
Why don't we just send the phone back to his apartment?

After all, I can't imagine him actually coming here just to find his cell phone...

Though I am a little worried,

He's also not been going to his part-time job either...

Pompu's a good, hard-working kid, after all.

I'm sure he's fine in any case.

That child doesn't like it very much when I meddle with his life...

Don't you think it'd be better if you hold onto this...?
Well, my husband last called him on New Year's, so I guess it's been half a year since I last spoke with him...

He sounded very happy when I told him I was pregnant.

Umm...

Have you talked with Pompon recently?

Right.

Yes, next week is my expected delivery date.

I can see your belly's gotten quite big...

Although I won't be able to manage this shop for some time after the birth, I'm actually thinking of expanding out to a second shop...

Manager, you have a call waiting!

It'd be nice if you and Pompon could come visit us once I've got it up and running.
She's probably one of those people who thinks the world revolves around her.

But that's also why she can carry out things so well without a hitch. A wonderful trait.

...Nanjou.

Not just a simple friend of Pupun from work, are you now?

You're...
To tell you the truth...

I've attached myself to Pumppun for entirely selfish reasons.

I'm sorry I have no idea where to find him.

Though I am his blood relative, our sense of “family” has always been rather flimsy.
You searched through his house?

I’m creepy, aren’t I?

I even sniffed the tissue wads.

Inside the garbage can were some semen-crusted tissues.

When I checked his house, I found some girl’s clothes along with blood-stained bed sheets.

But at the same time, I also find you quite commendable.

Yes, quite.
The house Pumpon lived in until middle school.

This is...
I'm sure the newly built house will be home to a happy family.

It wasn't even that old of a house.

But as they say, out with the old, in with the new...

Why did you bring me here...?

The few years during which Ponpun and I lived together were blissful.

Thinking back on it now.

Or perhaps it was because we knew it was only temporary.

Even though we both knew things couldn't stay like that forever-

That we did our best to play the part of a happy family.
Nevertheless, I have no intentions of denying my fate. After all, a part of me had wished for this.

Though I now've found "peace" with my new family, I'm just a mere husk.

Trudging along day after day by clinging on to something known as hope, only in name.

I know what it is he's really longing for...!

Because you see, I understand him!

I don't mind whatever Pumpon is doing, wherever he is.

As long as he himself made the choice to do it.

To be honest,
You ought to learn more about Pompu's true self...

He used to be a much more talkative boy who freely showed his emotions.

If you intend on bearing the burden of becoming his partner...

...though he's rather aloof and taciturn now.

You're just like his mother...!

Especially because...

I'm guessing that person was you. Nanjou wasn't it?

When I called him last New Year's, he told me he had someone he wanted to introduce me to.
You're pregnant?

...Wha?
You see, the chief editor has taken an interest in your oneshot in our latest issue set to go on sale tomorrow.

And he wanted to inquire if you could perhaps turn it into a 2 volume-long project...

But I must confess that is a little worrying.

Oh no, no need to apologize. Congratulations, actually.

Uhh yeah, sorry for the late notice...

I...

I'll gladly do it, of course...
I've got to give it my best shot.

Sell a ton of my manga.

I'm more flawed than others.

2 volumes in about half a year...

So the only way I can place myself on the same starting line as them is through sheer effort.

And finally become normal.

That means I really have to get cracking.
...But,
All day you'll have good luck.

See a pin and pick it up.

Bad luck you'll have all the day.
"Sorry."

Where's my sorry-kiss?

You know that's not what I'm asking for.

"...We may have to sleep in the car for a few nights."

June 26, 5:00 p.m.
June 26, Night.

Rain again...
...Always raining.

...can never see the Milky Way.

How sad it is for those two to be separated for so long...
June 27, Morning
Hahaha!
I'm writing a wish for Tanabata.

"Well, stop. That's so stupid."

"...What a lame purse."
"...Stop. I'm really not in the mood for this."
Hang on a sec...

I'm trying to think...

“...Aiko.”

I wish I can become a space juntist.

“...I told you to stop.”
"Don't worry. It's just a normal lover's spat."
"...So quit staring at us, you dipshits."
Your back is burning up...
Do you have another fever...?

You should get some sleep...

We're almost at Kagoshima now...

Let's find a proper place to sleep once there...
"...Just what am I doing in a place like this?"

"...Aiko."

So please don't die...

You can't go dying on me...

suicide methods

"Did I... really kill a person?"
The No. 20 has now arrived.

The Yamabiko No. 177 train headed for Sendai is—
June 28
Sign reads that it's a nursing home for the elderly
Mr. Puniyama?

He's out walking with one of the residents right now but he'll be right back.

Mr. Puniyamaaa!

There's a visitor here for you.

She's a young woman all the way from Tokyo.
Oh, hello there!

Oh mom, actually...

So Pumpon hasn't been home for a while, has he now...

Yes, I suppose so...

Well...

Yuichi has already filled me in on the details.

Must be hard living together when you're both a couple of 20-somethings.

...Well, you certainly do seem like a strong-willed girlfriend.
After all, we haven't met since his mother passed away...

...I wonder why. Perhaps he hates me...

Maybe he's taking a trip somewhere far away...?

Though even if that were the case, there's no way he'd come here to my place.

But I have to say,

Yuuichi told me you wanted to hear more about Pupun when he was a child.

Oh right.

Yes, as long as it wouldn't be a bother...

Oh.

My boy must be doing alright if he can have a girl as beautiful as you for a girlfriend, Nishimura.

Oh, of course not. It's just that my memory's not so good, you know...

It's actually Nanjo.
Oh...

That's a little unexpected.

Perhaps I'm biased, considering I'm his parent and all.

But he seemed much smarter and more mature than the other kids his age...

Well... Pomu used to be quite an outgoing and talkative boy when he was young.

Since you've come all the way from Tokyo, why don't you come over and I'll tell you all about my son.

My home is just behind this building.

HUUFF...

HUUFF
'scuse me, I'd like to make my purchase!

The latest work by our highly anticipated newcomer!

NANJOU SACHI

URGHH!

Cough! Cough!

MN-

URF...

HLFF
Sorry sir, but our shop is currently enquiring the manufacturer for-

AND YOU CALL YOURSELF AN EMPLOYEE HERE?

CAN'T YOU SEE I'M IN A RUSH?

Oh for goodness sake...

WAAAAAA AAAAAAH!

Can I eat this oden?
What, you mean this?

Huh?

"...Is that manga interesting?"

Nah, it's pretty boring.

All these characters are so clueless.

FINE! JUST GET THE MANAGER ALREADY!

WAAHHHHH!!!
Sorry if the place is a lil' messy.

Sit wherever you want.
Now where did I put those cookies?

Umm.

You really don't have to.

Punyama!

You in there?
...And what's she doing here?

Huh? Who's she...?

Oh, she's just Punpon's girlfriend.

Oh haha, that's a long story...

Ah let me introduce you, Nanjoo.

Hey, what was that now? Give us a more proper introduction! At least tell her our names!

Hello there.

These are my fishing-mates.
Hello, kids.

Aren't you just adorable.

Ah-

They ran away!

My pals here and I have all been divorced once before.

You know, Nanjou.

What's with them? Maybe they got nervous 'cause they've never seen such a beautiful lady!
My current job and the low rent for this house are all thanks to my buddies.

You should've told us you were gonna have a guest! I could've at least brought more beer.

We often get together like this in the evening when we're free.

Cheers!

Well, in any case...
Umm...

Do you need anything from me?
"...It's not good to leave empty cans on the ground."
Punpun?

Huh?

"...There's no point in saying sorry to me."
Since it's clearly the store's negligence that's at fault,

Don't you think they ought to hear the responsibility of cleaning up empty cans by that store?

I've told the store about it couple times before but they haven't done much about it.

Well, the trash can by that store is almost always filled to the top.

"It's not the apology that matters, it's you realizing that these kinds of careless actions are what's ruining it for everyone."

"...You didn't check the trash can this time though, right?"

"But you didn't check today, right?"

Like I said it's "almost always" filled to the top.

Hm...
Alright, fine. I understand.

As you pointed out, it's certainly possible that the trash can wasn't full today.

But... If we go back and the trash can is full, I hope you'll admit that you're criticizing me on faulty grounds.

Why don't we go back and check if it's full or not?

And in such a case, I think it's only fair you owe me an apology.

“Enough with the excuses. Can't you even throw away one empty can without grumbling?”

After all, not only did you offend me, you've also wasted my valuable time.
You know, I think I'll just go throw this in the trash can by the vending machine just ahead from here. You can't complain then, right?

Oh, I see how it is.

I mean out of all the people in that store, you just had to pick "me" out even though others were causing more of a disturbance?

Why're you even picking on me to lord over your sense of justice?

"...Stop trying to change the topic."

Out of all the people in that store back then including me and you who exactly the strangest person was.

But before I leave, I do want you to think one thing over...

"...Just what exactly is it you want to say?"
This is getting stupid so I'll just come out and say it.

But whatever.

It's rather that I want you to realize something.

It's not that I want to say something.

It honestly annoys me so much that I'm more depressed than angry.

Go on living just fine even as they abuse their deluded notions of right and wrong.

When I think of how people like you.
"Guys like you piss me off the most."

"...You're a real mouthy punk aren't you?"

What was that?

"I said guys like you piss me off the most."
Swaying close to the roof's edge~

Bamboo leaves rustling, rustling,

Yeah, Kaede's got the lead role as Orihime.

But Tomia got stuck with the part of Shooting Star A!

Is this for a play at their kindergarten?

Ahhaha! You kids are too good!

I personally think it's pretty cool.

Aww, what's wrong with being a shooting star?

Hee hee, kids are so warm!

Oops, guess I touched a nerve there.

Oh! Looks like he likes you!
It wasn't the first time Pumpon had gone missing...

I just remembered...

I think it was back when Pumpon was in the 2nd grade...

This time, he was chasing a shooting star.

That gave everyone quite the panic. I recall...

And the police in the next town over finally managed to find him.

That he had once caught a falling star

It was just another one of those silly little lies that kids tell hot...

There was this boy called Watanabe who was Pumpon's closest friend back then.

Apparently the boy had told his friends
The two of them decided go find and possibly catch them.

So when he heard the news report about when to see the next group of falling stars.

I think that Punpun.

Didn't want to think of his best friend as a liar...

While his friend Watanabe was hit by a motorcycle at an intersection before being found by the police.

And Punpun ended up in the next town over.

Somewhere along the way, the two must've become lost.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

UGH!!

AHH!!

GAH!!
As a result, Ponpun became quite depressed...

He blamed himself for the whole incident.

But he had to miss school for quite some time.

Lestly the worst-case scenario was avoided and the boy wasn't seriously hurt.

Ponpun...
My boy became very withdrawn and found it difficult to express his feelings...

He also hardly made any friends since then...

Fearing that he might again hurt someone else,
He was such a kind-hearted child...

Such a considerate little boy...

But you know.

There are some hardships you just can't solve with kindness alone in this world.
Was I mistaken?

A certain amount of irresponsibility is just necessary to make it in this world.

That a person needs to have some amount of selfishness to live a happy life...

Yes, I'm sure I was.

Why else would I be regretting it even now...!

But that child can be so stubborn, and once he decides on one thing, there's just no room to butt in and say otherwise...

Just what has been my life for...!

Just what...

What's with you tonight, man, gettin' all weepy!

You rarely even talk about the past with us!

Hey, c'mon now!
PUNPUN!

YOU CAN'T!

PLEASE STOP!

Let's...

HUFF

Let's just leave... Okay?
KYAA
AAAA
AAA!
Where are you, Punpun...?

Goodnight Punpun  •  Asano Inio
This guy here's sober so he can still drive.

We can drop you off if you want. It's pretty far from here to the station, you know.

Alright then, your choice.

Should I wake up Pinyanka so you can say bye?

No, it's fine. I can call a taxi.

Ahh, don't worry about him.

That idiot will probably forget everything come tomorrow morning.

Yeah it's like he always says.

I feel a little guilty for bringing up some painful memories for him.
"I'm happiest right now."
Kanji, you’re my friend aren’t you?

Could you do one teensy-weensy favour for me?

Could you help me out with the backgrounds for my manga this weekend?

Mmm, alright...

So...

How was Fukushima?
I've definitely gotta be the one to protect Punpun.

I think...

...Hah

Is that so.
I can hear the train...

Let's walk...

I want to leave this city before the last train leaves for the day...

Hm?

"...Aiko."

"...I was only trying to scare him off. He was the one who first tried to attack me with a cinder block."
"I think...
You've gotten a little strange, Pompun...

"If I hadn't tried to scare him off, I could've been killed... That's why I wasn't acting strangely back there."

"...No, it's everyone else that's actually strange."
That's...

The same thing my mother used to say...
I want to take a nice rest and change my clothes.

Once the stores open, let's go find a room to stay at...

I'm tired...

It took quite a while.

Getting here to Kagoshima...
That's why I'm going to do what I want in my teenage years, save up a whole bunch, and then use it up all in my 20s!

You know, I think you've gotta just die when the time comes.

Sorry, but I gotta go now.

See ya tomorrow!
Aiko.

Don't worry...

The person who sits here will be cursed with bad luck forever.

I'll do my best...

As long as that dream comes true.

I wouldn't mind if I dropped dead right then and there.
Punpun?
鹿児島中央
KAGOSHIMA-CHÛÔ ST.

画像をクリックすると拡大表示されます。
"I should be the one lecturing you. You know that you need to get more rest."

...What were you up to?

I told you to stop wandering off on your own...

What were you doing, leaving your wallet and backpack behind...?
Tamegashima?

(laughs)

Sure.

Let's go there.

AHAAAAAAHAAAAAAHAAAAHAAAAAAHAAAA!!
June 29, Noon.
Punpun, back in elementary school...

You wrote an essay about how your dream was to become a scientist who studies space, didn't you...

That takes me back...
If the slightest accidental bump could have steered us down into such a different path in life...

...What's the use in talking about pointless ifs and if nots right now?

Sorry...
You're as cute as a button, Aiko.
I think...

I love this scenery.
...I want to try and live on this island.

I know making a living will be harder than I'm making it sound. But if we work together...

Living a carefree life.

In a place surrounded by nature...
Even a small one-room place would be fine. And if there's a small garden.

Then we could try growing our own food and being self-sufficient as much as possible.

Rarly involving ourselves with others...

Just living together by the sea...
Look...
...And if we happened to have a child.

I'd want him or her to live a free life, not tied down by anything.
"...I told you it's pointless talking about ifs and if nots."

"Sorry..."

"...But,"
"...You know, I feel really happy right now. I'm so glad I was able to meet you in this life."

"I do think it'd be nice if there could come a time when we could just have fun talking about its and if not, no matter how pointless it is..."
“Thank you.”
...Pippon.
Am I...

Going to be killed here...?

“...Yes.”
"I guess..."

"There's no other choice, is there?"

"...I'm at my limit too, you know."

"If you're that set on not wanting to be left alone, this is the best option."
Punpun,

Let's have sex.

Please.

HLIFF

HLIFF
“Don’t worry. I’ll soon join you in death...”
"...Why do you keep saying such foolish things?"

"If you really don't want to die, then just get away from me this instant!"
"...I don't need your concern. I'm satisfied with my fate."

I could tell all along you've been wanting to commit suicide.

But you can't. Pumpon. You can't...

But if I went off somewhere by myself...

You're going to kill yourself aren't you...?

"I threw away everything in my life to save the person I love. I couldn't have lived a life more meaningful than that!"
A dishonest belief...

It's not normal for a living person to suddenly end it all...

No matter what...

You've got to keep on living.

...Please believe me when I say.

"...There's no bright future for a murderer."

That there'll come a time when you'll be glad that you're alive.
Not a murderer, Pumpun...

You’re...

I saw my mother regain consciousness and try to stand up...

...After you strangled my mother,
And went to answer the delivery man.

So I used the kitchen knife I was holding in my hand to...

“...You’re lying.”
I stabbed her over and over again...

Until she was no longer moving...

"...You’re lying."

I was just so scared that the words wouldn’t come out...

I’m sorry...

I’m sorry I didn’t tell you until now...

And I’ll handle the rest alone so...

I won’t try to chase after you

...But now that you know, you can return to a normal life.
...You're lying. I'm the murderer...

You haven't done anything bad...

No...

It's the truth...

...You're lying. I'm the murderer...

You didn't...

Do anything...

YOU'RE LYING!
You just happened to be standing by me...

I'm the one that became a murderer...
But I'm glad that I was finally able to tell you...

I'm sorry...

I'm so sorry...
...What're you going to do from hereon?

I'm not going to the police.

I'm staying on this island...

-You always steal everything away from me.-

...I guess so.
"It's a chant to make god appear before you. My uncle taught it to me when I was young."

What's that?

"Dear God, Dear God, Tinkle Hoy."

"I wonder when it was... that I realized talking with god was merely talking to my own self."

"...Aiko, let's get married."

Now how would I know that...
Punpun...

You're so strange.

It'd be nice if everything else

Would just vanish into nothingness.
ようこそ種子島へ
楽しい旅行に出かけよう！

ゆっくり宿で西表

熊本県・西之表市・西之表市旅館業組合
Where will you go?
Panpun...?
The world shall not meet its end...

Let me assure you.

However!

Is now surpassed by my power...

Supporting me were none other than the two special words of trust by my comrades...

For you see.

The great evil of the dark spot which feeds off of people's delusions.
And now, it's my turn to reciprocate.

You deserve a shining future.

I place my absolute trust in you lovers.

And so, I shall go, leaving you my highest regards.

"Good Vibrations."

And the special phrase of hope.

I think we should get the party started soon.

Pegasus...
But to be free from distrust can also be a source of strength, as they say...

At your complete innocent simple-mindedness.

...I'm sometimes bewildered.

...Wada.

I have your guidance to thank for everything.

But even so.

Do you honestly think that I'm not aware of your true plans...?

You truly may be fit to be god.

Oh my, oh my.
June 30, Midnight

Seki

Good to finally see ya.
We were waiting here patiently without breaking your door.

Ahn't we nice?

GAHH!

To be perfectly honest, I don't think there's anything more pitiful than a man making a big fuss about his almost nonexistent pride...

It ain't like we've got a personal grudge against you or anything.

But this is a matter concerning your boss' rep, y'know?
I'd rather you didn't go digging up into other people's past.

It's already been over 10 years since he ran that store.

But maybe that was never possible, considering you're not so good with fire.

You should've just played the good son and succeeded your family business.

You're acting just like my dog right now...

Haha.

What did you have some sort of childhood trauma involving fire?

You changed the stove in your girlfriend's kitchen into an electric one, right?

Whaddya say to a nice tattoo on your forehead using the electric stove in your place?
Seki...

That's a great idea!

Go for it!

Tryin' to act tough at the wrong times'll only cost you...

Let's get this wrapped up while it's still dark.

Well time to get started then.

Better clench your teeth now!

You know what.

Just kill me instead, please!
"...Today was a special case. I usually don't want to show unfinished rough drafts to others. But then again... It's not like I've ever done a finished-copy of my manga..."

"Hey! When can I read the next chapter!? And can I bring some of my friends next time!?"

"You're the lunchbox store owner's son, right? My mom also works at this factory so I'm sure we'll see each other again one day."
"...Well, you and I might be both adults by the time I finish this manga though."

"Well I'm going to take over my dad's store when I grow up so I'll wait as long as it takes!"

"It's a promise!!!
Why didn’t I try to talk to her...?

She was there back when we all went to that factory...

...That’s right.

Ever since that factory went bankrupt

My life’s gone straight down to the gutter.

Talk...?

I bet she didn’t even know who I was.

...Sorry, Shinizu.

For some reason, I can hardly remember you from then...

Not a single thing going my way.

A shitty life, not even worth killing...
"I'm done with being tied down by the past."
"I guess it's all too late now..."
"I don't care if it's to another country or whatever."
"Just somewhere not here..."
"I just..."
"Want to go somewhere far away..."

Shiiiiiiizuuuu!
You going over to that weirdo's place this early in the morning?

This is the last time I'm warning you.

I don't know what kind of great deed your group is crusading for, but your little games ain't gonna change this world one bit.

Don't get yourself involved any further. I'm seriously concerned about you.

I have no idea what the button does but I have a feeling it'll start some sort of incident.

So how about we just forget all about this town and fly off to Tibet and become monks?

I'm starting a pretty cushy job from today where all I have to do is push a button.
I've already decided to be of use to someone else...

...I see.

In the end, the only one you ever think about is yourself...

You're always telling me that it's all for my own sake but...

See ya then, Shimizu.

But-
Bye-bye.
Mr. Wada?

I'm here on time like you wanted...

Umm...
I don't know where Akinori's gone...

Could you please turn on the tv for me...

Oh.

It's right here...

Please...

Akinori usually turns it on for me...

Uhh...

Yeah, sure...
You're Mr. Wada's mother, right...?

Akinori got perfect on his math test again yesterday.

Umm...

You can go now.

Thank you, whoever you are.

Ah-
That's all I need to do every morning!

He meant to just turn on the TV for an old lady?

By a button-pushing job

There's just no way he would pay this much for a job like this.

No matter how much cash he's got to burn.

Wait, wait, wait...

First-Class Wada Akinori

Ah...

Haha...

This is the worst...
But one that's fully complete...

The world you see right now.

Is not one that has stagnated or closed.

A demise to the age of the individual and the start of the age of the collective.

And how greedy you all are for desiring a new world on top of that...

To have me phrase it another way.

But I wish to reward you for that.

This world right now.

Is reaching its climax!
That you will not act selfishly nor unambiguously!

And you've promised that you will never forget these feelings!

My dear Lovers, you have shown me that you are willing to join hands and offer your lives for the sake of future generations!

You've shown me that this world of ours is bound by love!

Simply put.

To be honest even I may not have fully understood this fact yet.

Because I believe you more than I can bear!

But I am moved nonetheless!
I have no choice but to believe...

Yes, I believe...

...But if your convictions were all a lie.

I would simply kill all of you.

Lovers...

This will likely be my last message to you.
May we magical warriors ascend to the astral plane and engrave harmony into the Akashik records.

July 7.

At the moment when the Milky Way passes by hope, it would be joyous if you could think of us.

Good Vibrations...

A beautiful world for you...
My fellow warriors of the 12 musical scales...

A toast.

W...

Wait.
Sacrificing ourselves for the greater good? This is absurd!

All I wanted was to get along with you all!

This is... It's all wrong!

Stay brave.

Pussy princess! Stop being so spoiled!

I'm also scared...

I'm...
We should’ve had a fair discussion about this...

...Ok.

How can you say that now, coward!

It’s important that we should all come to agreement about this.

Why don’t we have a breather?
Well... It's not like this will really change things in the long run, but...

Oh, how they would be the greatest sensation of this generation had they simply died without suspecting anything.

They're awfully serious, aren't they?

Hmm.

Or perhaps I should say normal.

But a mob of crazies has no business becoming all proper and rational all of a sudden.
What a plain, dull crime...

Hello? Police?

Quite unsightly to see cold feet at the last moment...

I'm calling about the recent string of break-ins.

Yes, yes. By the two males one bearded and one wearing glasses.

I think I know where they are.

Has been my very antithesis since the day we met...

Pegasus, also known as Hoshikawa Toshiki,
While I lived mocking it and doubting others at every step.

He tried his utmost to believe this moronic world of ours,

I could never clear away my skepticism of the uncertain...

The more you doubt, the more there is to doubt, and the more you seek the truth, the more it becomes obscured...

You see, I am a man possessed by the "absolute."

...But human hearts are anything but absolute.

...And so I've realized at last. Absolute truth is something one creates from within.
What is it you believe in?

Seki Masuo,

...Yes, how ridiculous it is that our lives can change so much from a chance meeting...

The reason I showed an interest in you is simple...

But it's all done now...

The two of us both have troublesome friends...
June 30, 11:30 a.m.

The better a festival is, the flashier it is.

Even the smallest spark can become a great flame that can reveal people’s true natures...
...Shimizu?

Excuse me, miss.
I know a friend who works on a dairy farm and I'd be glad to introduce you to him.

With help from the tourism committee, they're currently looking for enthusiastic young people.

There aren't any openings in the food services, but there is one in the agriculture sector!

And there's still plenty of rooms left for employee housing.

Sounds just fine if you and your friend wanted to find work, don't you think?

Mmmm...

...Really?
YAAAAAYYY!

And I'm sorry to say our shop does not carry any pre-paid cell phones for crime prevention reasons.

But signing a contract with just an insurance card will not be possible.

My apologies sir.
Now, although the phone will be contracted under your friend’s name.

...Oh,

If your friend has a driver’s license, then there’s no problem at all.

Excuse me while I go check up on the stock.

You can get started on filling out these forms for her until she comes.
At early dawn yesterday in XXX prefecture,

Continuing on with our top stories for the day.

Coincidentally discovered the corpse of a woman to his shock.

A man hiking in the mountains for wild herbs.

Punpun!
Along with signs of strangulation, there were several stab wounds on her abdominal region, leading police to treat it as a possible murder case.

According to the police, the discovered body is identified as the 41-year-old Tanaka Mitsuko, a resident of XXX city of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area.

And earlier today, the deceased's car was found abandoned in XXX city of Kagoshima prefecture.

In light of the still unknown whereabouts of Tanaka Aiko, the daughter of the deceased,

The police believe finding her will shed much light on the case and have begun their search for her.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Tanaka Aiko</th>
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<td>Address</td>
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<td>Desired Cell Phone model</td>
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Goodnight Punpun 12
Asano Inio
Background Assistants:
Satou Satsuki
Kashiwaba Hiro
Atsumori Ran
Additional Help by:
Kumatsuto
Uehara Yuu
Translated by Hox
Scanned by Anonymous
This winter: the finale.