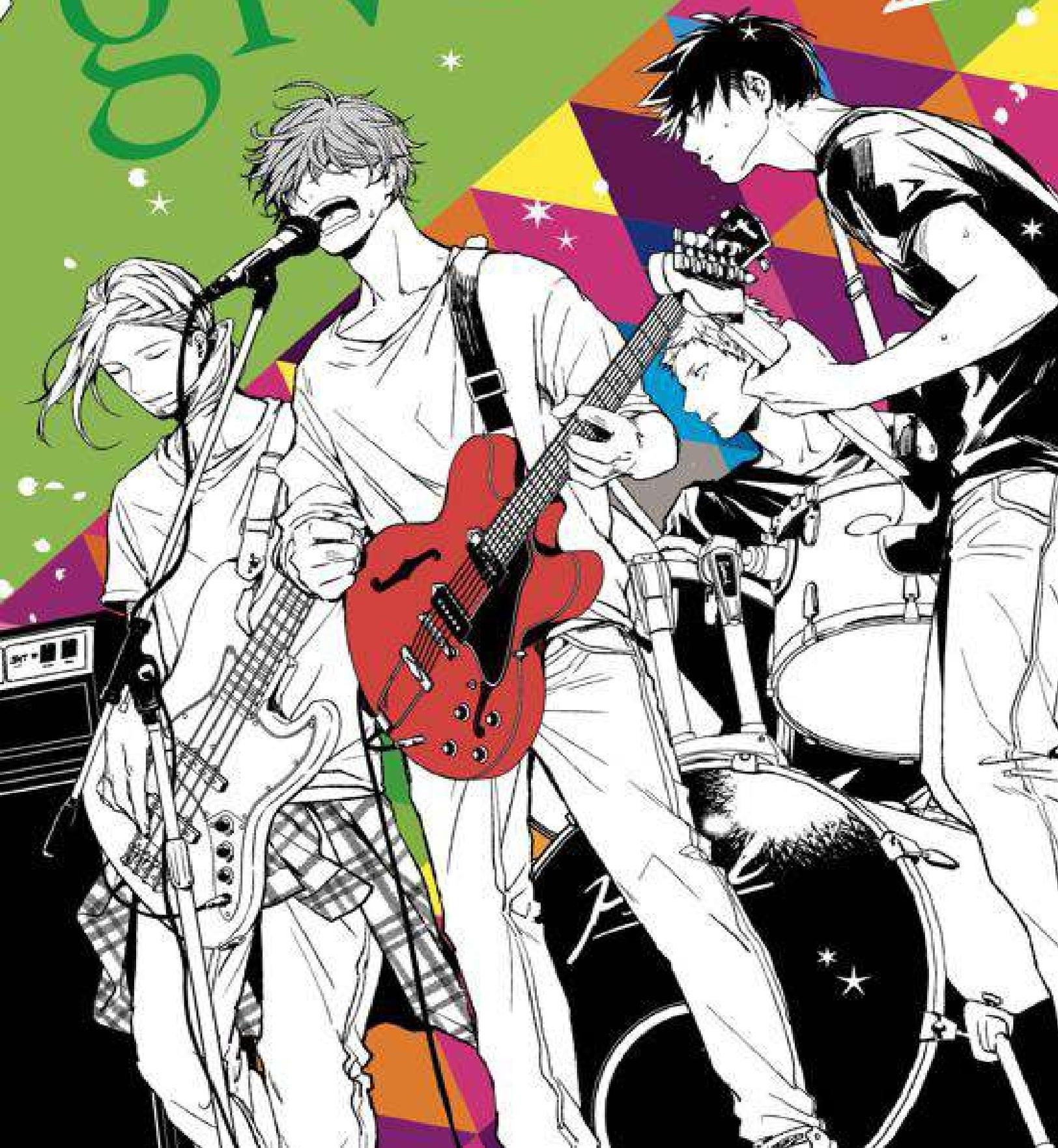


given

STORY AND ART BY
NATSUKI KIZU

2









Given

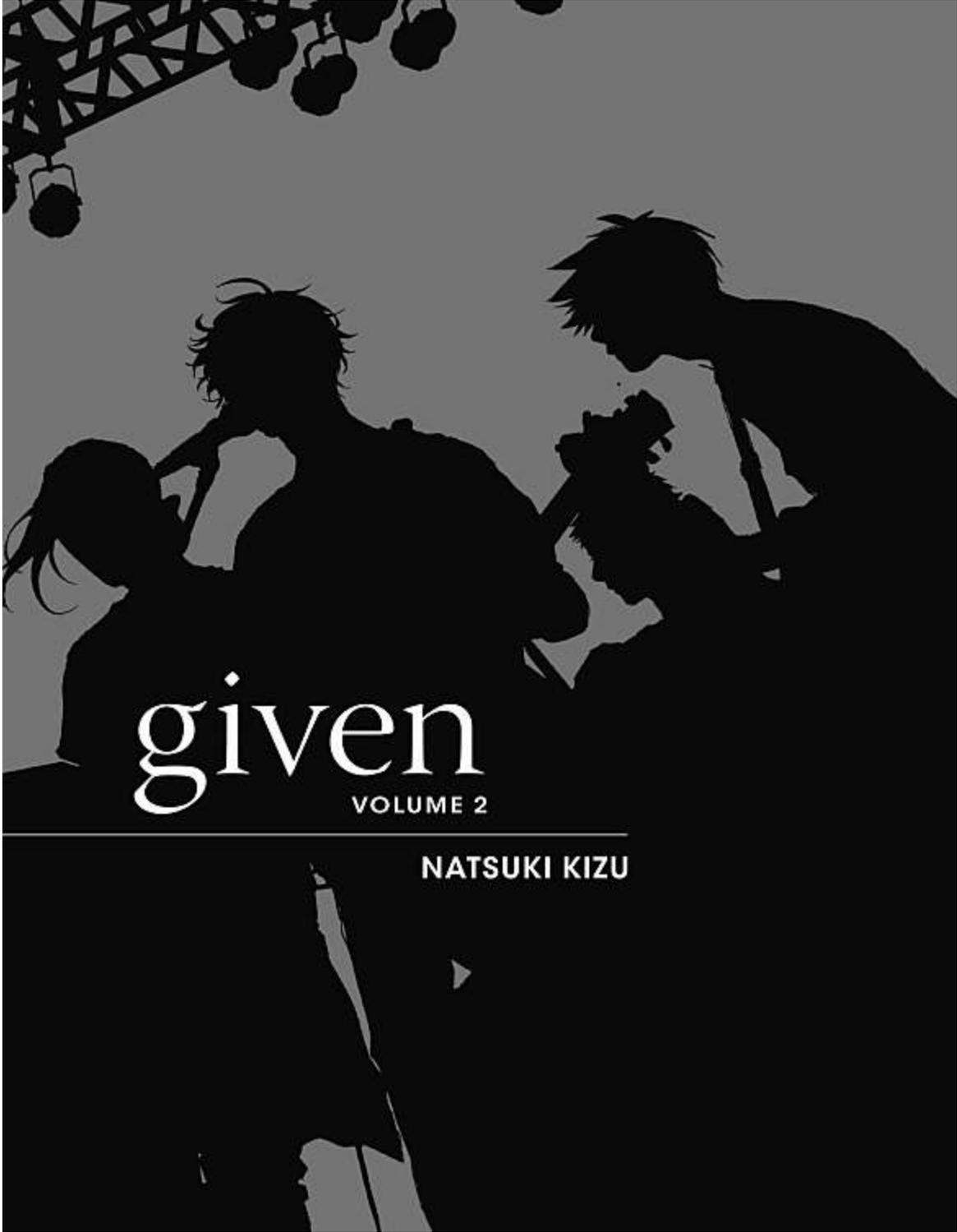
Story and Art by **Natsuki Kizu**

volume 2

CONTENTS

Chapter 7	005
Chapter 8	045
Chapter 9	069
Chapter 10	099
Chapter 11	127
Character Profiles	42 • 66 • 96
Itaya's True Calling	043
A Day in the Life (of Roommates)	067
Ever Since We Were Kids	097
Backgrounds	165
You Know How a Dog Looks Proud When It Catches a Bug?	166
A Precious Source of Protein	167
Bonus Story: To the Sea	169

SUBLIME
SuBLime Manga Edition



given

VOLUME 2

NATSUKI KIZU

MAFUYU SATO

High school classmate of Uenoyama's. Has an impressive singing voice. Attached to Uenoyama ever since he fixed Mafuyu's broken guitar.

HARUKI NAKAYAMA

Graduate student. The band's bassist. He's extremely good-natured and kind.

AKIHIKO KAJI

University student. The band's drummer. A bit of a playboy who's popular without ever trying.

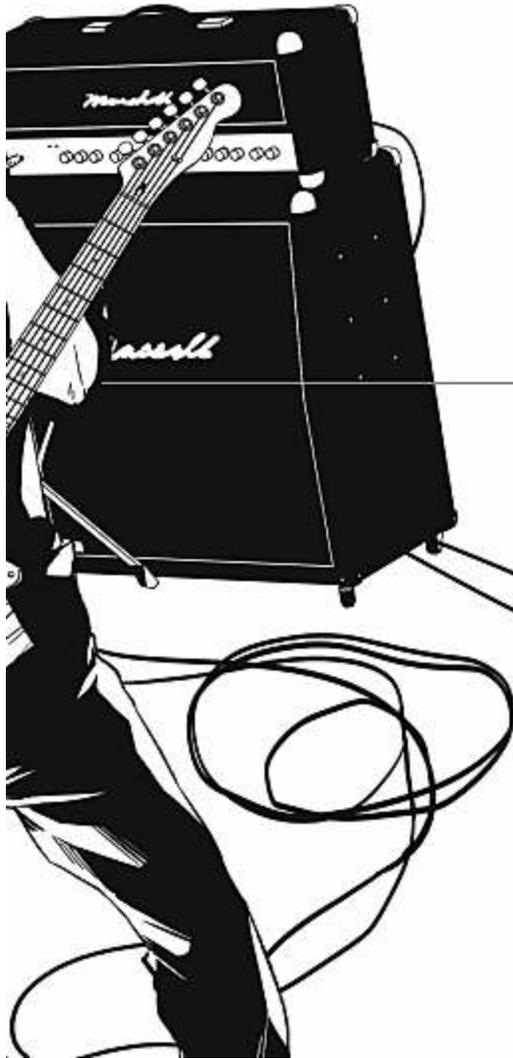


STORY

High school student Ritsuka Uenoyama just wants to take a nap at his favorite hiding spot, but instead he finds classmate Mafuyu Sato already sleeping there, cradling a broken-stringed guitar. After Uenoyama fixes the guitar, Mafuyu begs him to teach him how to play. Uenoyama's never taught a beginner before, so he's reluctant, but he finally gives in to Mafuyu's persistent requests and begins teaching him the basics—until the day he first hears Mafuyu sing.

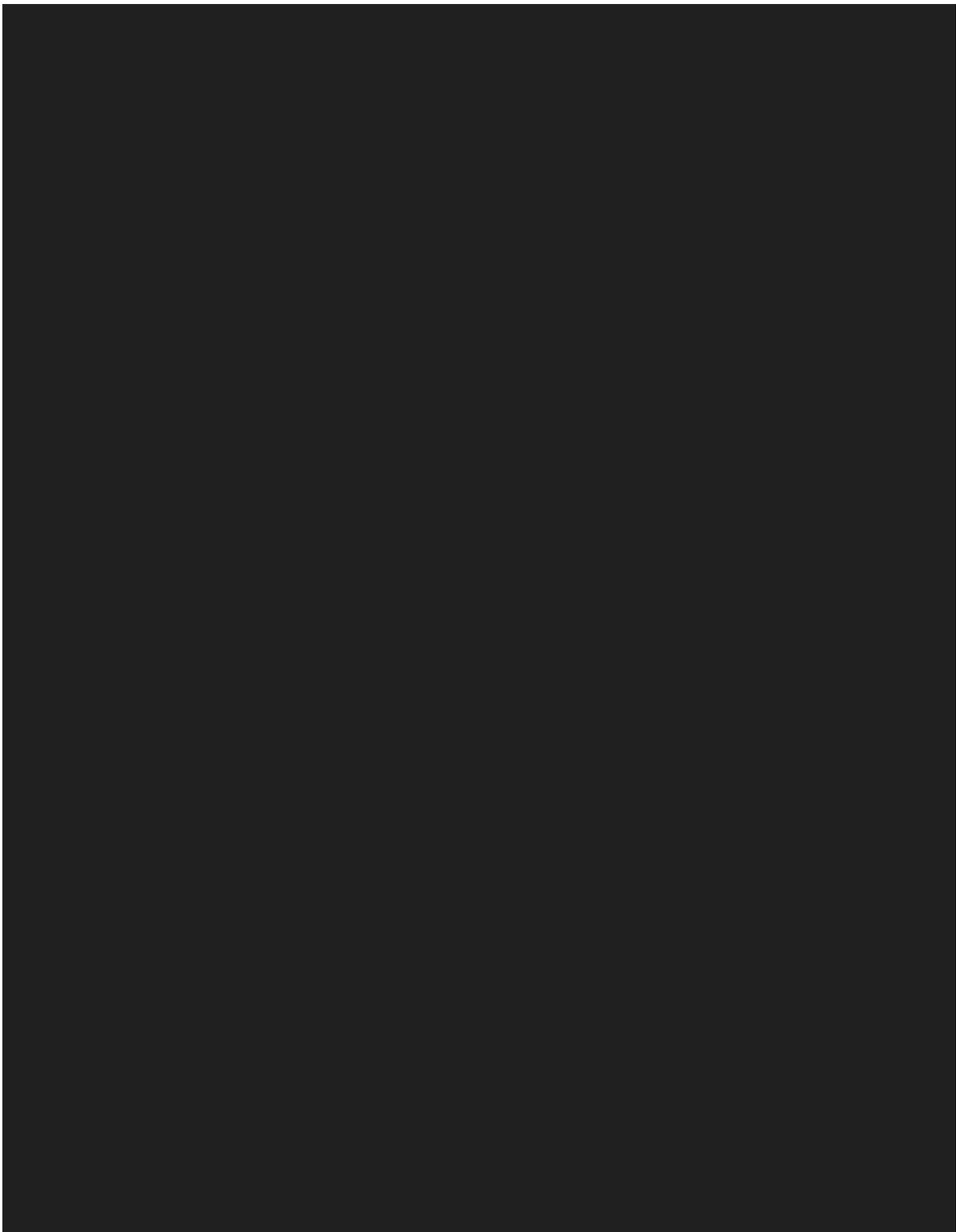
Floored by Mafuyu's talent, Uenoyama immediately asks the other boy to join his band without even consulting bandmates Akihiko Kaji and Haruki Nakayama. Determined to come up with a new song for them to play at their first live concert, Uenoyama gives Mafuyu the job of writing the lyrics, a task the quiet student finds nearly impossible.

Then one day, Uenoyama hears something disturbing about an old classmate of Mafuyu's. The rumors say that this student suddenly committed suicide, and that he was very close to Mafuyu...



RITSUKA UENOYAMA

Lead guitarist with skills far beyond those of an average high school student. Caring and compassionate. The consummate little brother to his big sister, Yayoi, who totally has him trained.





I'D ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT...

...LOVE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE...

...THIS GENTLE ...

... SWEET ...

... TENDER THING.

chapter 7 | given



AND
THEN
...

...WHEN
I FELL
IN LOVE
FOR THE
FIRST
TIME I
LEARNED
...

...THAT
WAS
JUST A
PLEAS-
ANT
LITTLE
LIE.

LOVE IS A
FORCE SO
POWERFUL
IT FEELS
LIKE IT
WILL TEAR
YOU APART.

given

chapter 7



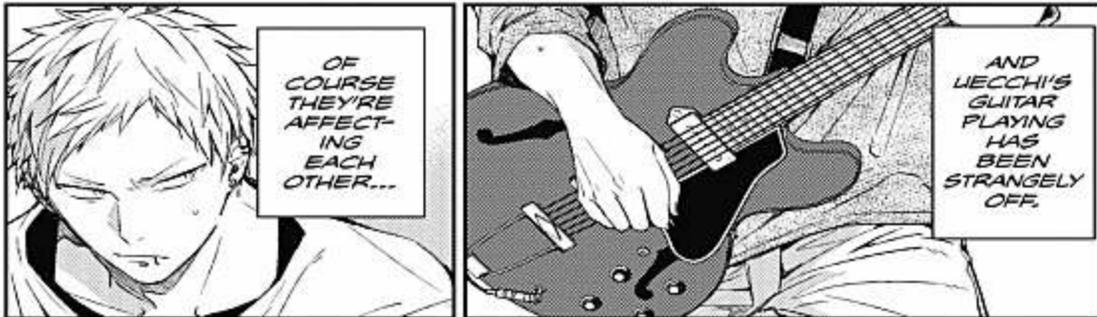






MAFLIYU
STILL
HASN'T
MANAGED
TO COME
UP WITH
A SINGLE
LINE FOR
THE NEW
SONG.

...
THESE
TWO
ARE
IN A
SLUMP



OF
COURSE
THEY'RE
AFFECT-
ING
EACH
OTHER...

AND
LIECCHI'S
GUITAR
PLAYING
HAS
BEEN
STRANGELY
OFF.



I FEEL
LIKE
THERE'S
SOMETHING
ELSE
THAT'S
BUGGING
UENOYAMA.

BLIT
STILL
...

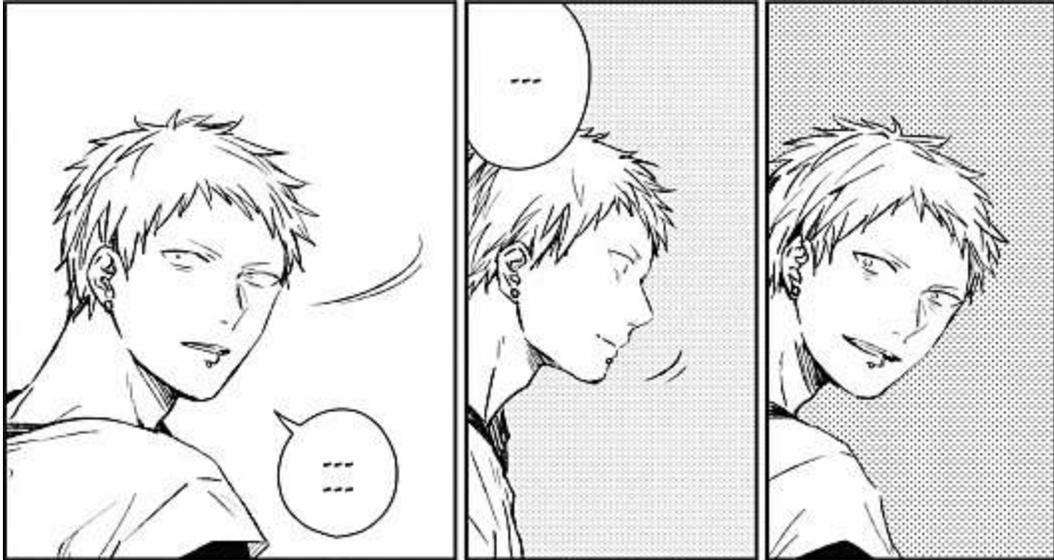














DO YOU
EVEN KNOW
WHAT LOOK
IS ON
YOUR FACE
RIGHT
NOW?!!

I...
I
THOUGHT
YOU
WERE A
VIRGIN...

WHAT
ARE YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?!

RAWR
RAWR

"MADE A
MOVE
ON HIM"?!
"VIRGIN"?!
WHAT
KINDA...

...CRAZY
CRAP
ARE YOU
ASSUM-

SNA
AP

I'M NOT
ASSUMING
ANY-
THING!!!







NOT AT ALL.



WHY WOULD YOU BE WEIRD?

'CAUSE HE'S A GUY?



LIKE, "I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SEXUALLY ATTRACTED TO WOMEN ONLY"?



RELAX. THAT'S WHAT I USED TO THINK TOO...

...





SO IT'S YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO SUPPORT HIM.

EITHER WAY...

...MAFLIYU IS TRYING TO WRITE A SONG, LIKE YOU TOLD HIM TO.

KAJI IS AMAZING.

I CAN SEE WHY YAYOI IS MAD IN LOVE WITH HIM.

HE CALMED ME DOWN WITH JUST A FEW WORDS.



I STILL DON'T KNOW...

...WHAT TO DO ABOUT THESE FEELINGS.

I GUESS EVEN FOR A GUY LIKE HIM...

...SOME THINGS DON'T WORK OUT.



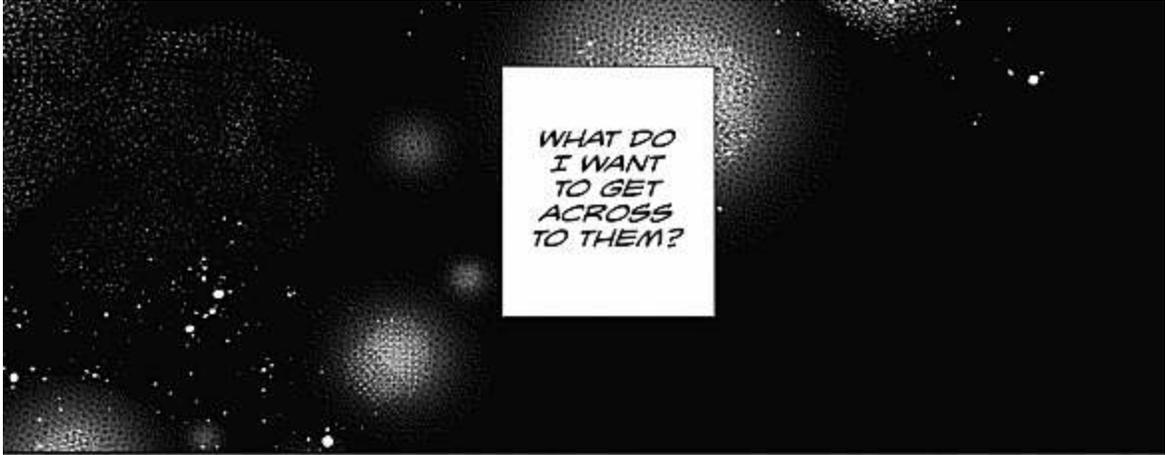














...GETTING
GOOD

MAFLYLI'S
...



ALL
OF A
SUD-
DEN...



...HE
STARTED
MAKING
PROGRESS
AT A PACE
THAT TOOK
US ALL BY
SURPRISE.









HLH?

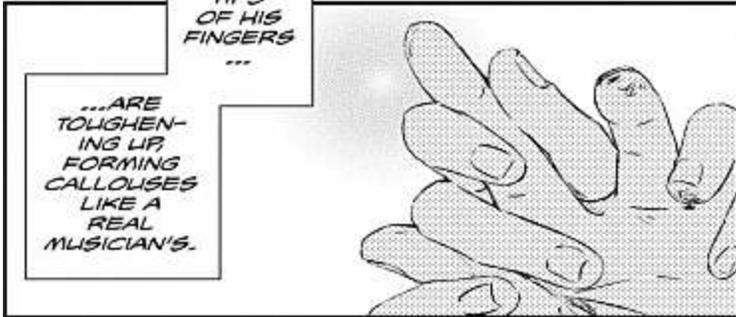




A
POPPED
BLISTER.
THAT
ONE'S
NEW.



HIS
HAND
...



THE
TIPS
OF HIS
FINGERS
...

...ARE
TOUGHEN-
ING UP,
FORMING
CALLOUSES
LIKE A
REAL
MUSICIAN'S.



MY
HANDS
LOOKED
LIKE THIS
A LONG
TIME AGO.



UM...





THERE'S
STILL
TIME,
SO...

JUST
KEEP
AT IT.



OKAY.



I
DON'T
WANNA
SEE 'EM
AND I
DON'T
WANNA
HEAR
'EM.

...HE'S
GONNA
WRITE.

THE
TRUTH
IS, I'M
AFRAID
OF
WHAT-
EVER
WORDS
...

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR MAFUYU SING ABOUT BEING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE ELSE.





...MEANS
BARING
TO
THEM...

...WITH
SOME-
ONE...

But I'm
out of
smokes.



...THOSE
PARTS OF
YOURSELF
WHERE
YOU'RE THE
SOFTEST
AND MOST
VULNERABLE.



BUT IF
THEY
DIG
THEIR
NAILS
IN...

WHEN THEY
TOUCH YOU
THERE,
IT'S EASY
TO GET
SWEEP UP
IN THE
FEVER.



...IT'S
EASY
FOR
THEM TO
BREAK
THE SKIN.

UENO-
YAMA'S
LOVE...

...IS A
TIME
BOMB
THAT
COULD
BLOW
THE BAND
APART.



Shogo Itaya (17)

176 cm
(Second-year high school student)

Birthday: 5/20 Sign: Taurus
Blood Type: O

Soccer Club, Forward

Likes all ball sports.
(Soccer, basketball, baseball, volleyball,
tennis, handball, etc.)

Music freak.



Itaya's True Calling

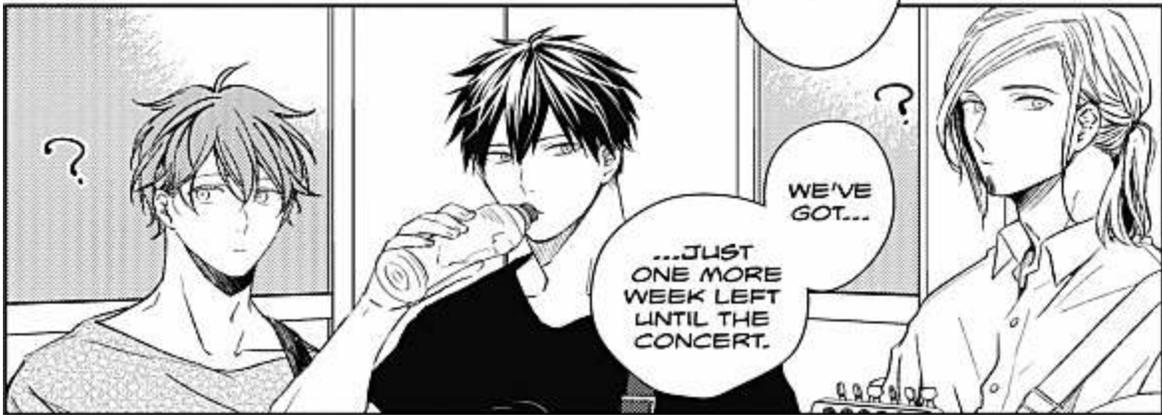


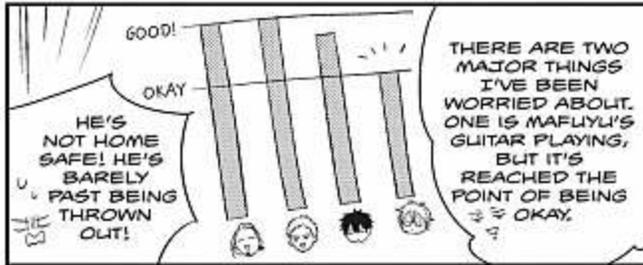
g i v e n

by Natsuki Kizu

chapter 8
given



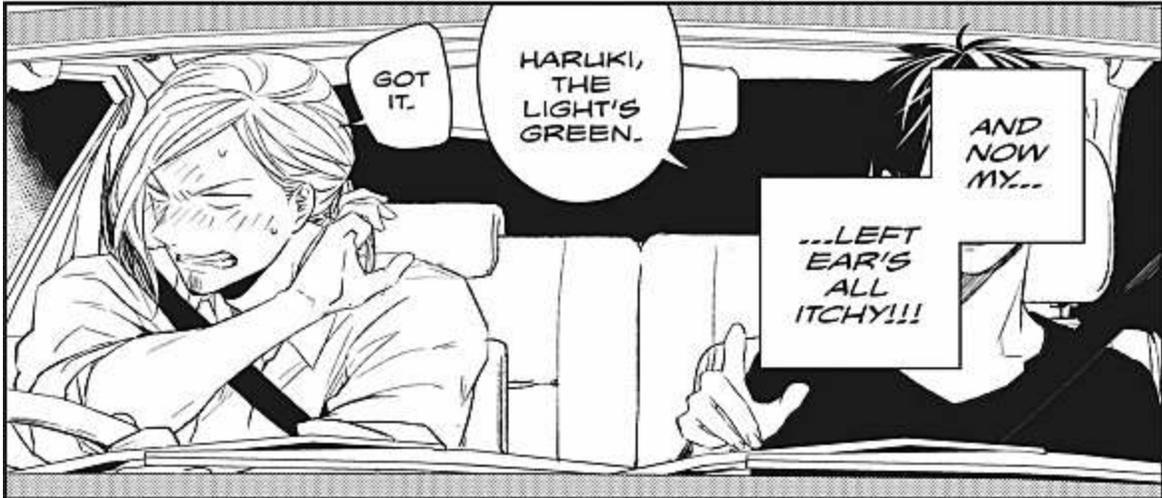














I KNOW WHAT AKIHIKO'S TRYING TO DO.



ALL RIGHT, FINE!



THE BAND'S CURRENT SITUATION IS LIKE THIS.

The Game of Life



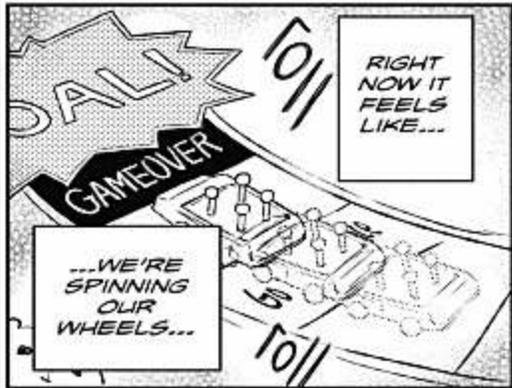
Sigh

...GOING ONE STEP FORWARD AND ONE STEP BACK, WITH THE GOAL RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.



...A BAD LOSS OR A BIG WIN!

THERE'S ONE SMALL STEP BETWEEN ...



...WE'RE SPINNING OUR WHEELS...

RIGHT NOW IT FEELS LIKE...



My EAR'S ITCHY, DAMMIT!

HARUKI, THE LIGHT'S GREEN.

AND SUDDENLY HE CALLS ME "HARU" !!!



AND YET, DESPITE ALL THAT, AKIHIKO'S SERIOUSLY AIMING TO WIN.



"LIGHT A FIRE UNDER HIS ASS."



WHEN AKIHIKO SAID WE SHOULD STOP REHEARSING...

...I THINK IT WAS BECAUSE OF YOU.



VROOM

LIECCHI ...

YES?



I don't wanna die...

AT THIS RATE, HE'S GONNA GET US INTO AN ACCIDENT.

HONK

LIGHT'S GREEN.

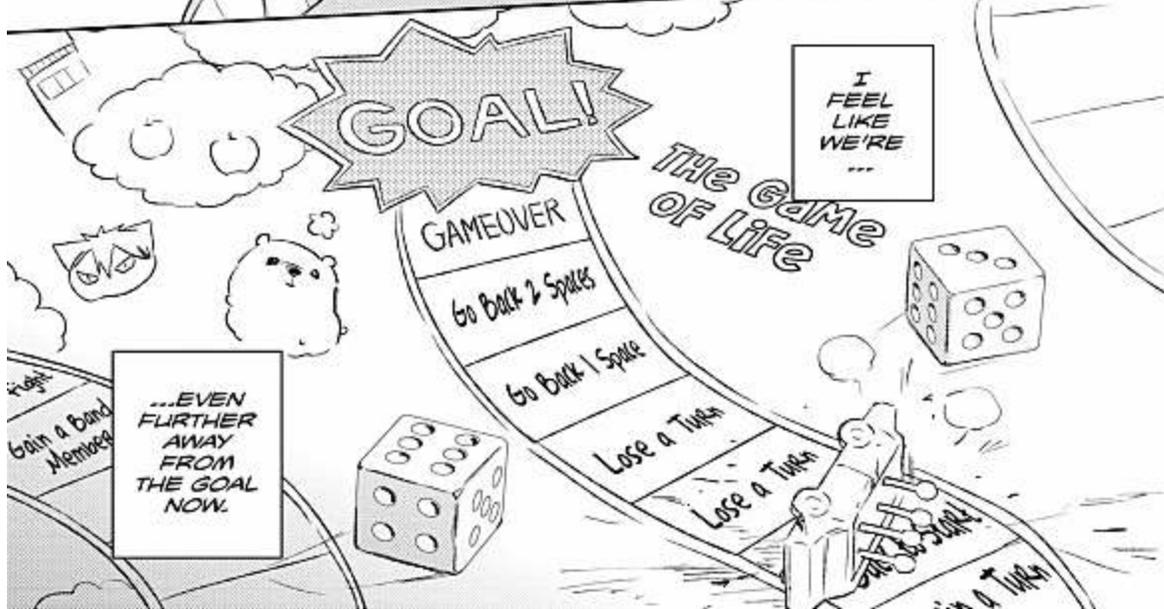




...MAFLUYLI'S SOUND IS GOING TO SWALLOW YOURS WHOLE.

...THE WAY YOU'RE PLAYING RIGHT NOW...

...DON'T KNOW IF YOU'RE SO FOCUSED ON MAFLUYLI'S SOUND THAT YOU'RE NOT PAYING ATTENTION TO YOUR OWN, BUT...



GOAL!

I FEEL LIKE WE'RE ...

...EVEN FURTHER AWAY FROM THE GOAL NOW.

GAMEOVER

Go Back 2 Spaces

Go Back 1 Space

Lose a Turn

Lose a Turn

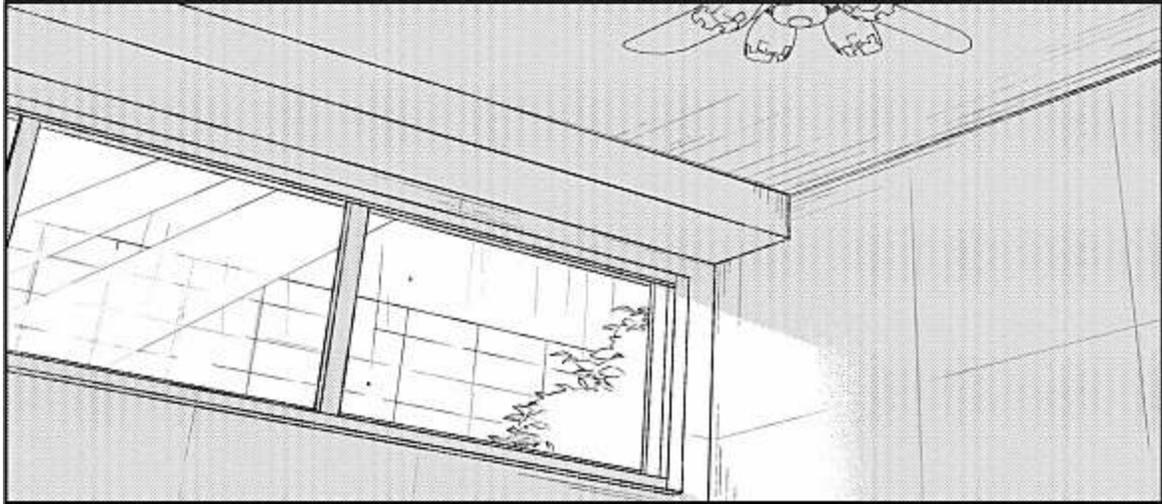
The Game of Life

gain a Brand Memory

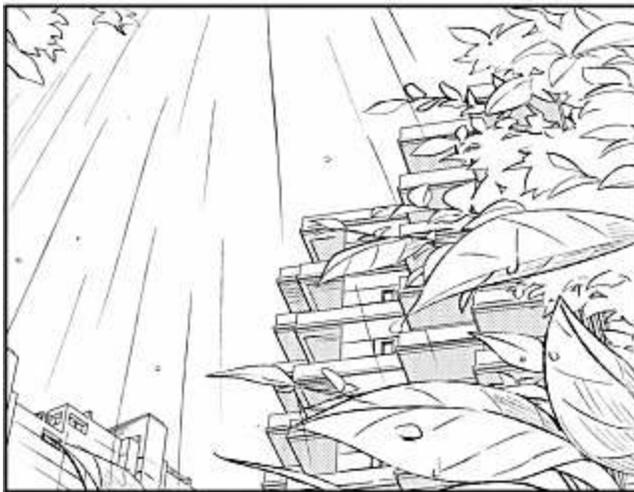
Lose a Turn

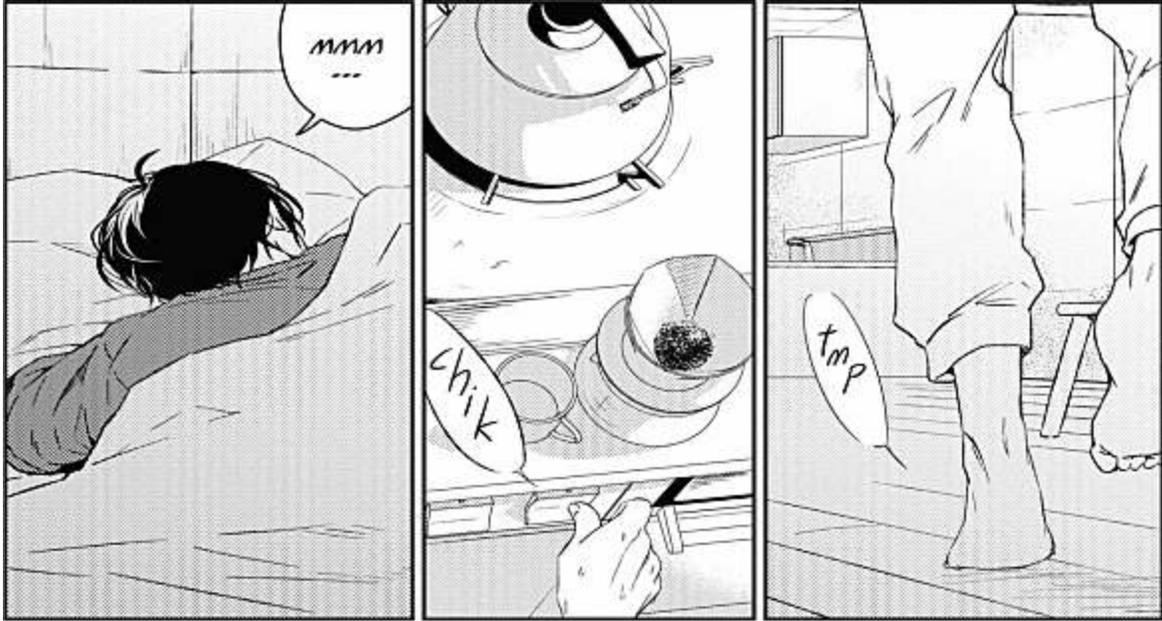


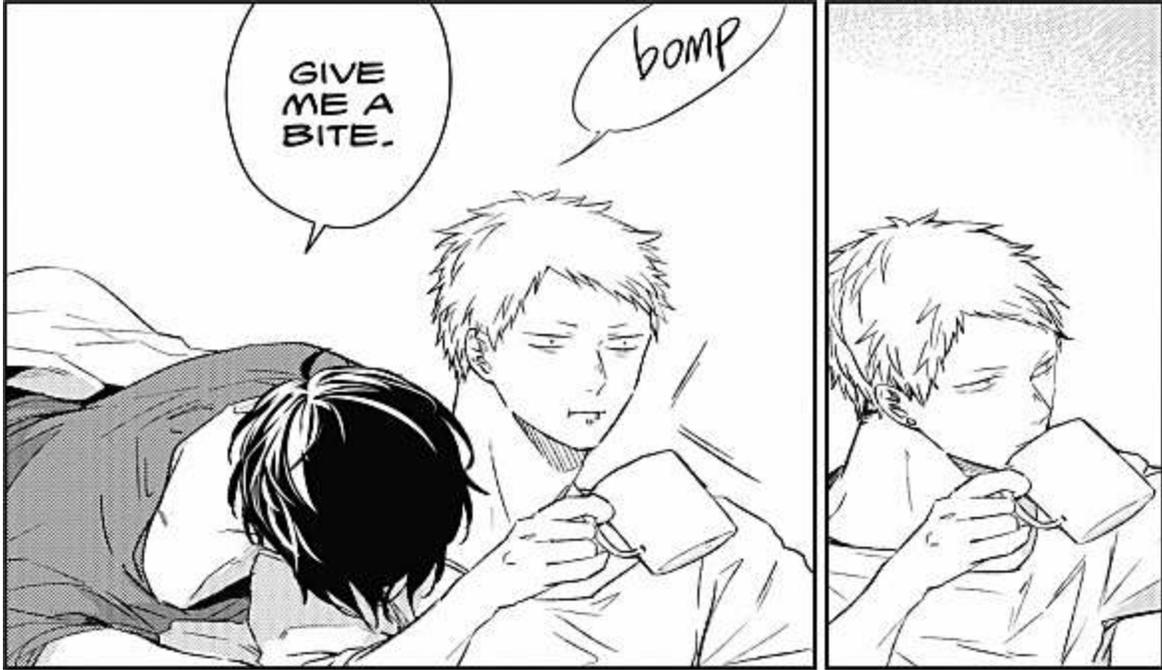
NOW
WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING
TO DO?



Seven Days Until the Concert



















Ugetsu Murata (21)

175 cm

(Akihiko's classmate)

Birthday: 6/6 Sign: Gemini Blood Type: O

Violinist

Akihiko's roommate,
but he's frequently out of the country.



A Day in the Life (of Roommates)



g i v e n

by Natsuki Kizu





YOU ALWAYS MADE SURE TO KEEP YOUR DISTANCE BEFORE.



WHY ARE YOU REACHING OUT TO ME NOW?



I NEVER WANTED TO GET INVOLVED.

YOU'RE RIGHT.



...WHO DOESN'T LIKE TO INTERFERE WITH OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES. MAINLY BECAUSE I DON'T THINK IT DOES ANY GOOD.

I'M THE KIND OF PERSON ...



...I
KNEW
WHAT
WAS
GOING
ON THE
WHOLE
TIME...!

WHEN
TWO
OF MY
CHILD-
HOOD
FRIENDS
STARTED
DATING...



...BUT
I
NEVER
SAID A
THING.



I
KNOW
HOW
YOU
FEEL,
BUT—

LOOK
...



YOU
HAVE
NO IDEA
HOW I
FEEL!!



chapter 9
given



MAFLIYU SATO,
YUKI YOSHIDA,
AND I WERE
CHILDHOOD
FRIENDS.

IT
WAS
JUST
THE
THREE
OF
US...



...WHO
WERE BOTH
LATCHKEY
KIDS
RAISED BY
SINGLE
MOTHERS.
ESPECIALLY
YUKI AND
MAFLIYU...



...UNTIL
SHIZUSUMI
MOVED
INTO THE
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD.

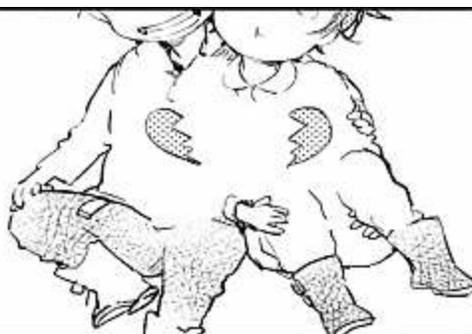


...WE
WERE
IN OUR
OWN
LITTLE
WORLD.

EVER
SINCE
I CAN
REMEM-
BER...



WITH
ONE
FILLING
IN WHAT
WAS
MISSING
IN THE
OTHER.



FROM THE
VERY START,
IT WAS
LIKE THEY
WERE TWO
HALVES OF
A WHOLE.

IT
WAS
LIKE
THEY
WERE
MADE
FOR
EACH
OTHER.



AND
MAFLIYU
NEEDED
YUKI.

YUKI
NEEDED
MAFLIYU.

OTHER
PEOPLE
WERE
BAFFLED
AS TO WHY
THEY FIT
TOGETHER
SO WELL.



MAFLIYU
WAS
QUIET,
WELL-
BEHAVED,
INTRO-
VERTED.



YUKI WAS
ATTEN-
TION-
SEEKING,
DOMINANT,
MOODY.





...WERE
DRAWN
TOGETHER
BY A
MAGNETIC
FORCE.



IT
WAS
LIKE
THEY...



IT
SEEMED
THAT THEIR
PRIVATE
WORLD
WAS
PERFECT.

THEY
WERE
A LAW
LINTO
THEM-
SELVES.

YUKI,
SHIZU-
SLIMI,
AND I
STARTED
PLAYING
MUSIC.



WE
BECAME
HIGH
SCHOOL
STUDENTS
AND
WENT TO
DIFFER-
ENT
SCHOOLS.

THAT'S WHEN THE SMALL CRACKS STARTED TO FORM.

...GOT
A JOB
TO
SAVE
UP
MONEY
TO
BUY A
GUITAR.



AND HE
STARTED
SPENDING
THE REST
OF HIS
FREE TIME
HOLED UP
IN THE
STUDIO.

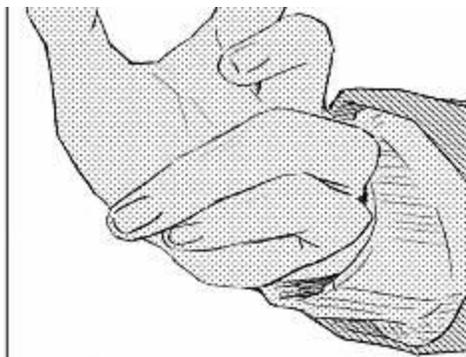


YUKI...





MAFLIYU
AND YUKI
GOT INTO
A LITTLE
FIGHT
ABOUT IT.



IT WAS
ONE OF
THOSE...



...DUMB
ARGUMENTS
THAT...



...ESCALATE
WITHOUT
REASON.



THE
KIND
YOU
SEE
EVERY
DAY



...A
NORMAL
COUPLE'S
FIGHT.



IT
WAS
JUST...



I KNEW
EVERYTHING
UNTIL THEY
DROPPED
OUT OF SIGHT
TWO DAYS
LATER.



I KNEW
EVERYTHING
THAT WAS
HAPPENING.

YLIKI
WASN'T A
DRINKER.
BUT
APPARENTLY
HE'D
DRUNK
A LOT
BEFORE
MAFLIYU
FINALLY
FOUND
HIM.





ON
SUNDAY...
I'M
PLAYING
A SHOW
WITH A
BAND.



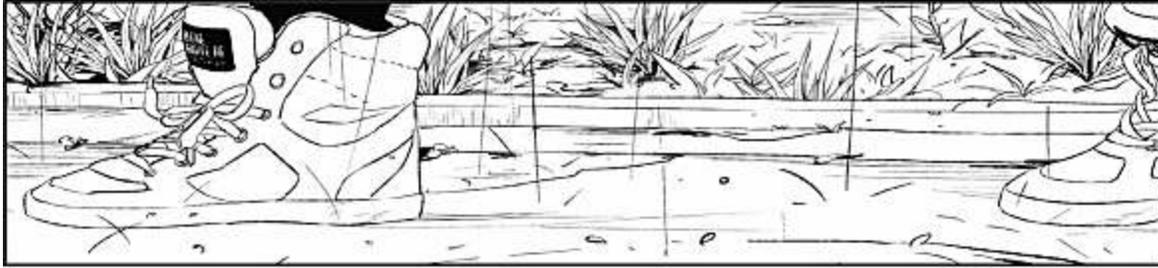






TEXT
ME
ONCE
IN A
WHILE,
IDIOT.

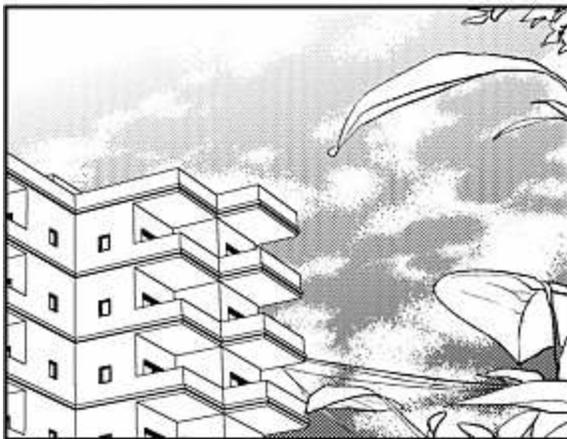




I WANT TO BE FORGIVEN.



BUT I WANT TO BE FORGIVEN BY MAFLIYU MOST OF ALL.







ALL
RIGHT,
EVERY-
ONE,
BRING
IT IN!



YOU
GOT
IT!

WE'VE
GOT SOME
KIDS HERE
TONIGHT,
SO ADULTS,
PLEASE
HELP 'EM
OUT.



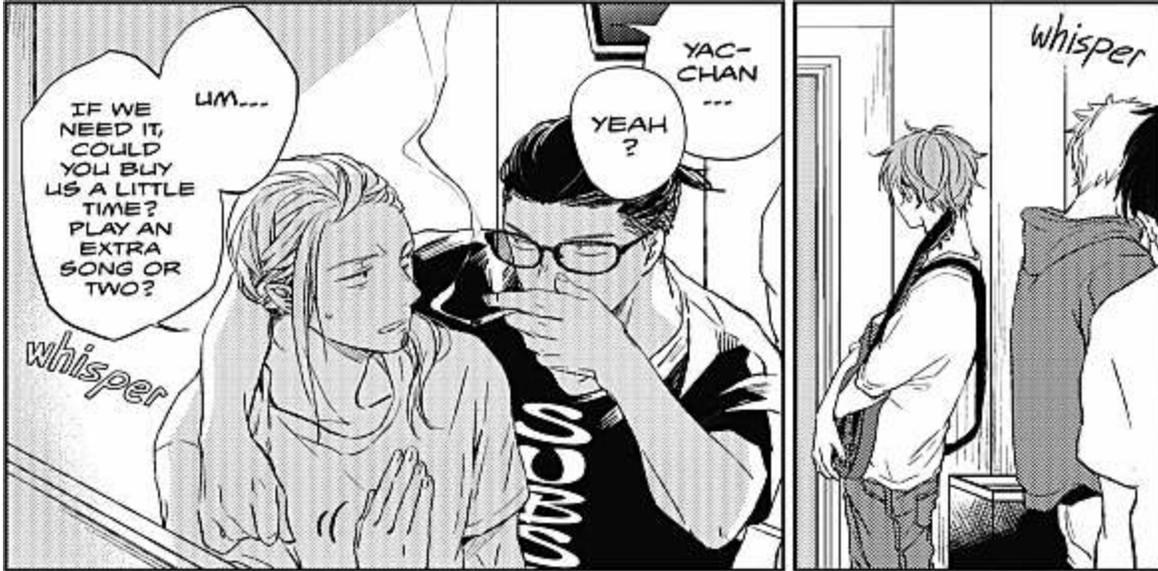
SO THAT
ABOUT
DOES
IT FOR
WARM-
UPS.

The Day of the Concert











WE JUST WON'T HAVE ANY VOCALS THIS TIME AROUND.

LOOK, THERE'S NO POINT IN WORRYING ABOUT IT NOW.

chatter

chatter

Ha ha!

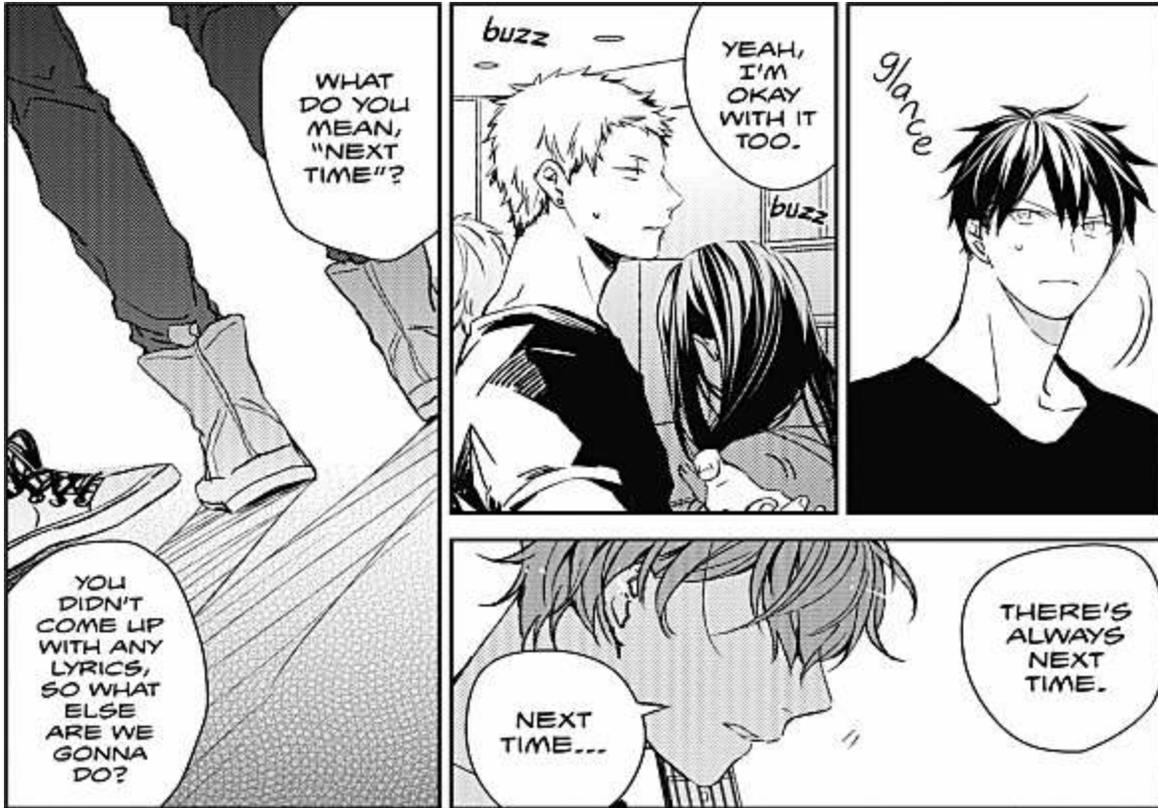


WE WERE AN INSTRUMENTAL BAND ORIGINALLY ANYWAY.

...I'M FEELING RELIEVED THAT HE WON'T BE SINGING.

WHY DO THEY ALL SEEM SO DOWN?

FOR SOME REASON





Hiragi Kashima (17)

175 cm

Birthday: 5/8

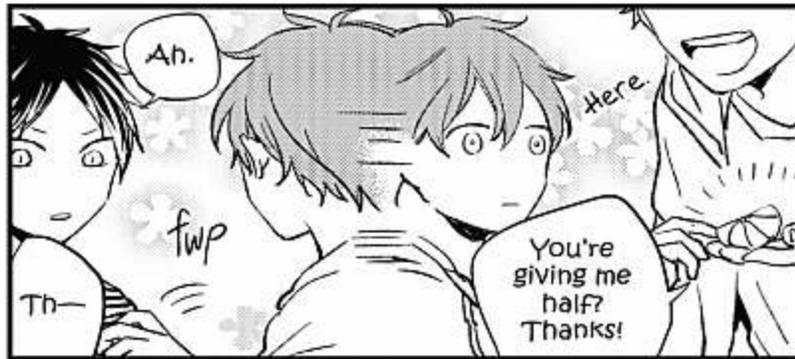
Sign: Taurus Blood Type: A

Plays bass, supposedly.

Dyes his hair.
Goes to the same high school
as Yuki and Shizusumi.



Ever Since We Were Kids



g i v e n

by Natsuki Kizu

chapter 10
given





chatter

grip

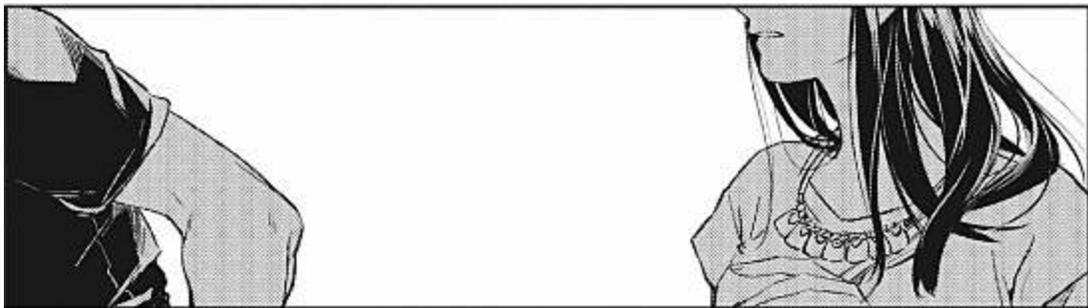
WHA
---?

OH,
NO---











I'M AN IDIOT.



**I'M
THE ONE
WHO
TOLD HIM
TO SING.**

HE'S
HARD
TO
READ.



...AND
RESPONDS
WHEN
HE'S ASKED
FOR
SOMETHING.

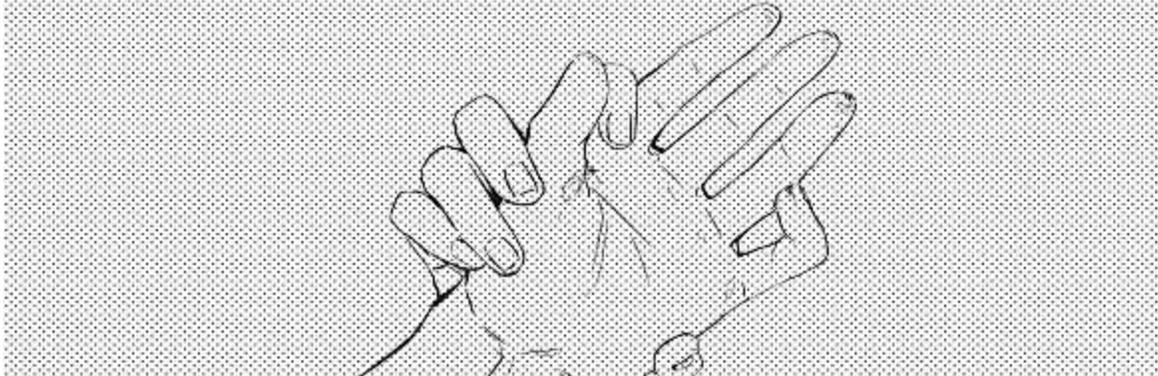
BUT HE
ALWAYS
MAKES
AN
EFFORT...



"YEAH,
I DID.
THEY
INVITED
ME TO
JOIN."



"I
CHANGED
THE
STRINGS
BY
MYSELF."









CAN I
CHANGE
THE
STRING?







smile

...YOU BROUGHT ME INTO THE BAND...

...AND SAVED ME. I NEVER THANKED YOU FOR THAT. SO, THANK YOU.



...WHAT?

BACK WHEN I WAS ...

...HATING MY OWN SOUND ...



B-BOOM

tsh tsh

HEY, HARUKI ...

THAT'S NOT HOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO RESPOND !!

I DON'T THINK I'M ABOUT TO DIE, BUT YOU NEVER KNOW.

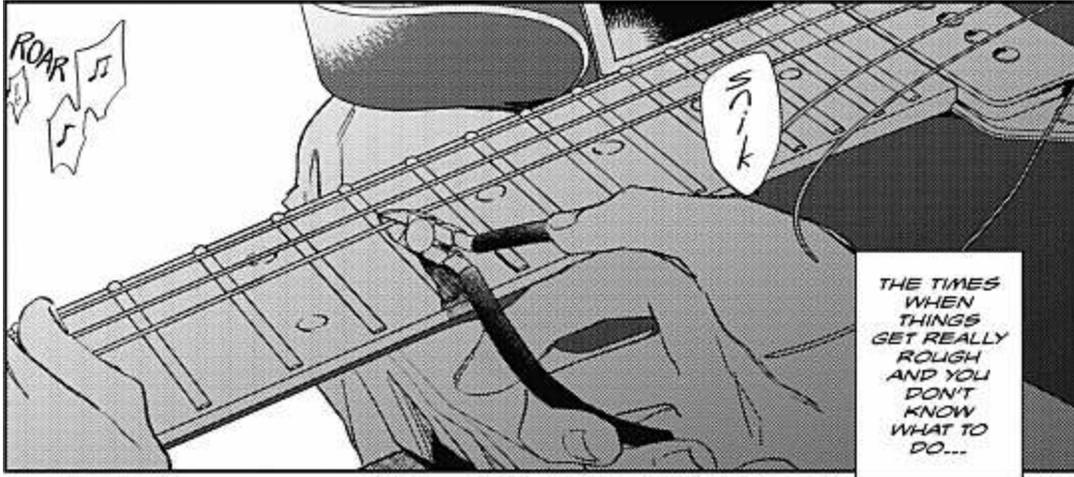
Is this like one of those scenes where the person gets really honest right before they die?!



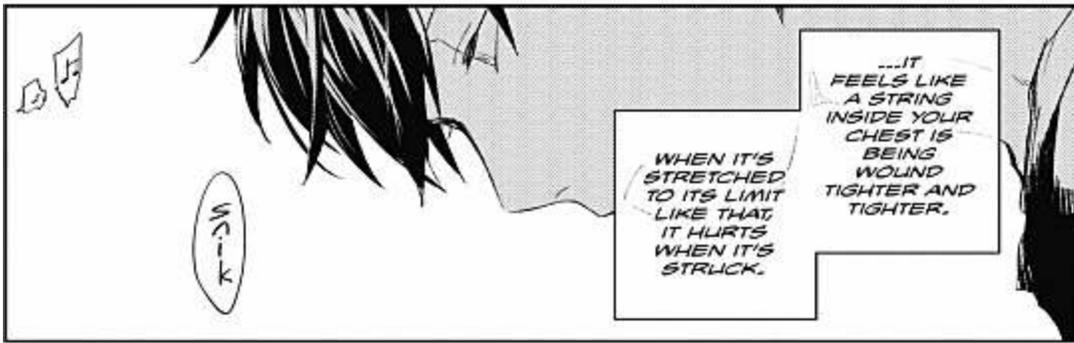
YOU OUGHTA HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR-SELF.

I THINK THE HEART IS LIKE A GUITAR STRING.

Strick



THE TIMES WHEN THINGS GET REALLY ROUGH AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO...



WHEN IT'S STRETCHED TO ITS LIMIT LIKE THAT, IT HURTS WHEN IT'S STRUCK.

...IT FEELS LIKE A STRING INSIDE YOUR CHEST IS BEING WOUND TIGHTER AND TIGHTER.



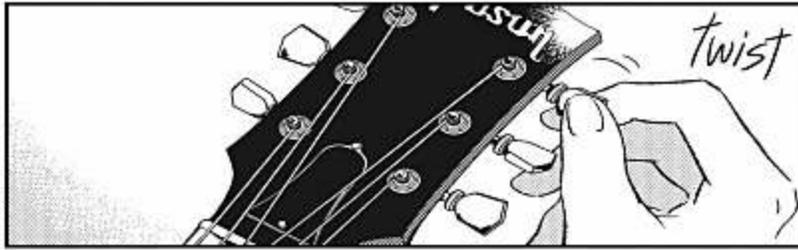
...IF SOMEONE COMES ALONG AND BRINGS YOU A NEW STRING...

BUT THEN ...



AND YOU THINK THERE'S NO WAY IT'LL EVER BE FIXED

SOME-TIMES IT BREAKS.



I LOVE YOUR SOUND.





...MY SOUND
HAS BEEN
ALL OVER
THE PLACE.
IT'S A
CHAOTIC,
DISTORTED
MESS.



I
GUESS
I SLICK
AT
PUTTING
THINGS
...

...INTO
WORDS
TOO.



...SO THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE, AND HAVE A GREAT NIGHT!

clap

clap

3000

Wa ha ha!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

I KNOW YOU ALL HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR THE NEXT BAND...

ROAR

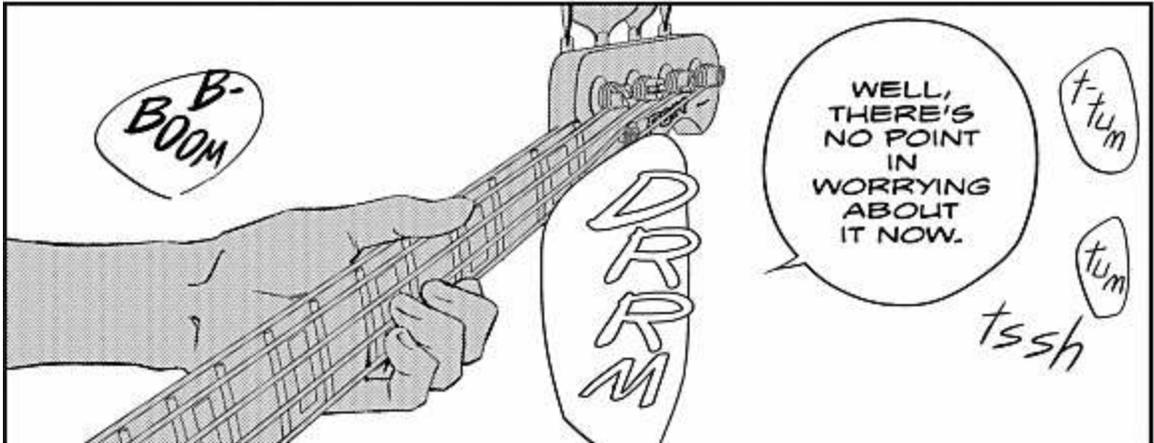
UENO-YAMA'S BUILT UP A FOLLOWING AT THE CLUBS AROUND HERE.

THE OTHER TWO GUYS ARE GOOD TOO, BUT...

HAVEN'T BEEN TO THIS PLACE BEFORE, BUT IT LOOKS LIKE A BIG CROWD.

YEAH, A LOTTA PEOPLE SHOWED UP.











R.M.

R.M.

...STILL...

BLITZ



b-thump

b-thump

"I GUESS I SUCK AT PUTTING THINGS ..."

"...INTO WORDS TOO."

THE TRUTH IS...

Ahh

THE TRUTH IS, I'VE ALWAYS ...



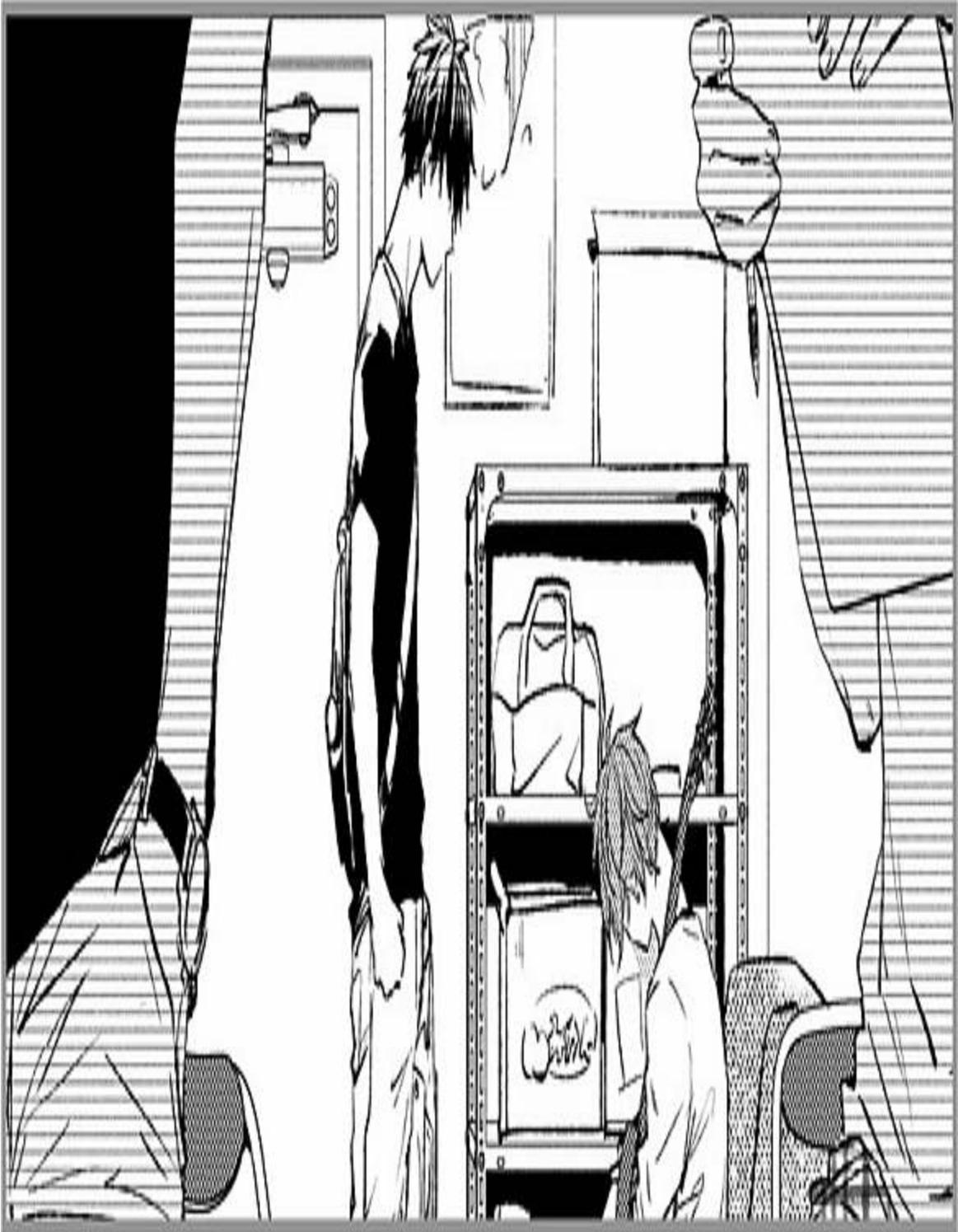


EVEN
IF IT'S
JUST A
LITTLE...

...WANTED
SOMEONE
TO HEAR ME
SCREAM OUT
THIS PAIN
AND MISERY
THAT'S STUCK
INSIDE.







g i v e n

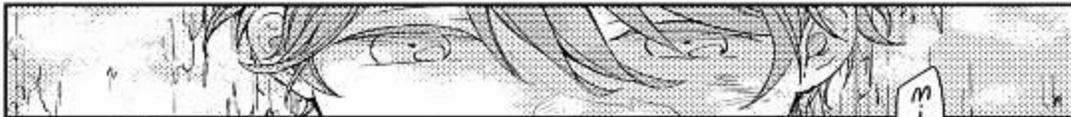
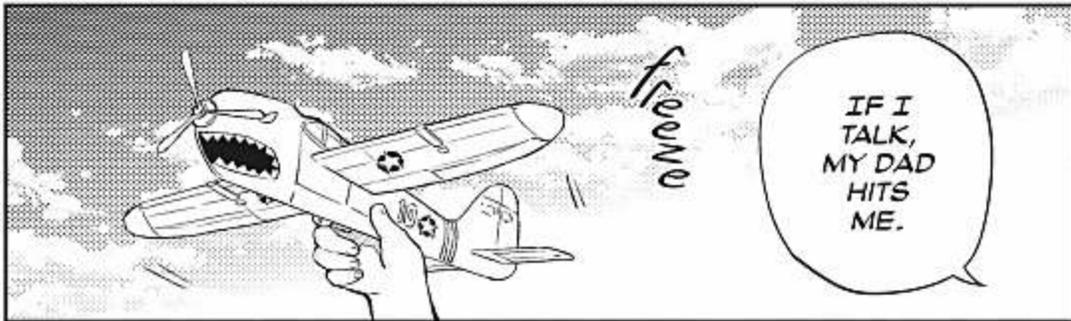
by Natsuki Kizu

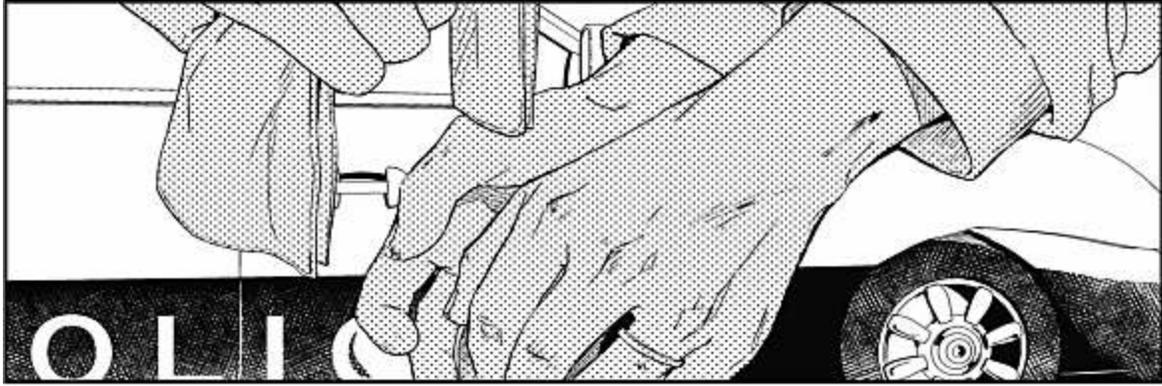
chapter 11

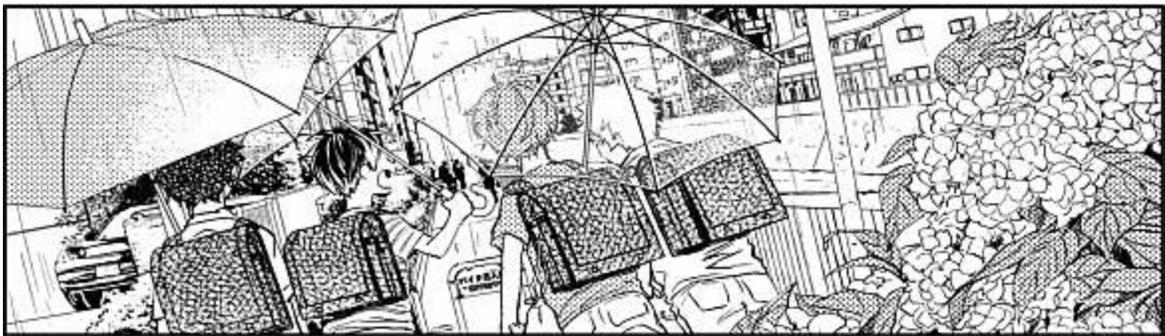
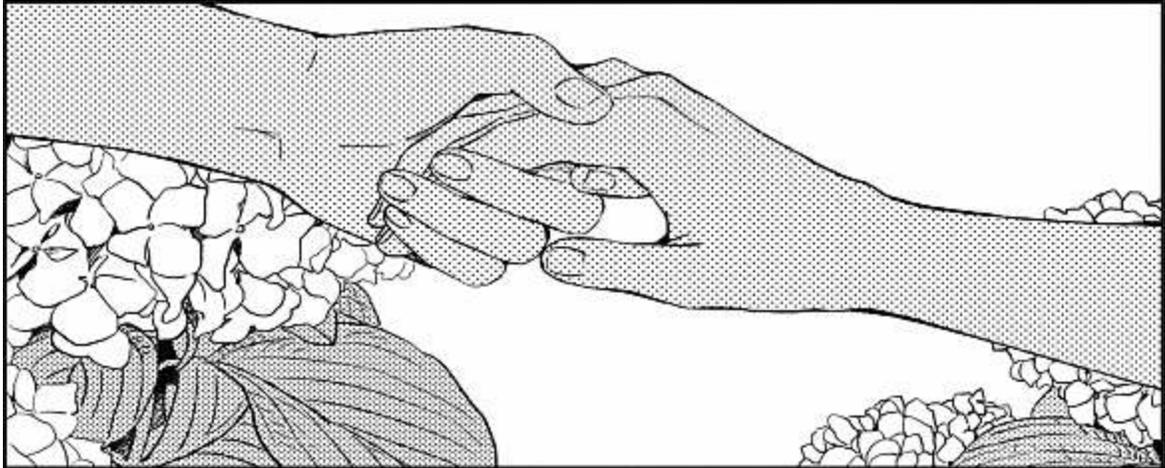
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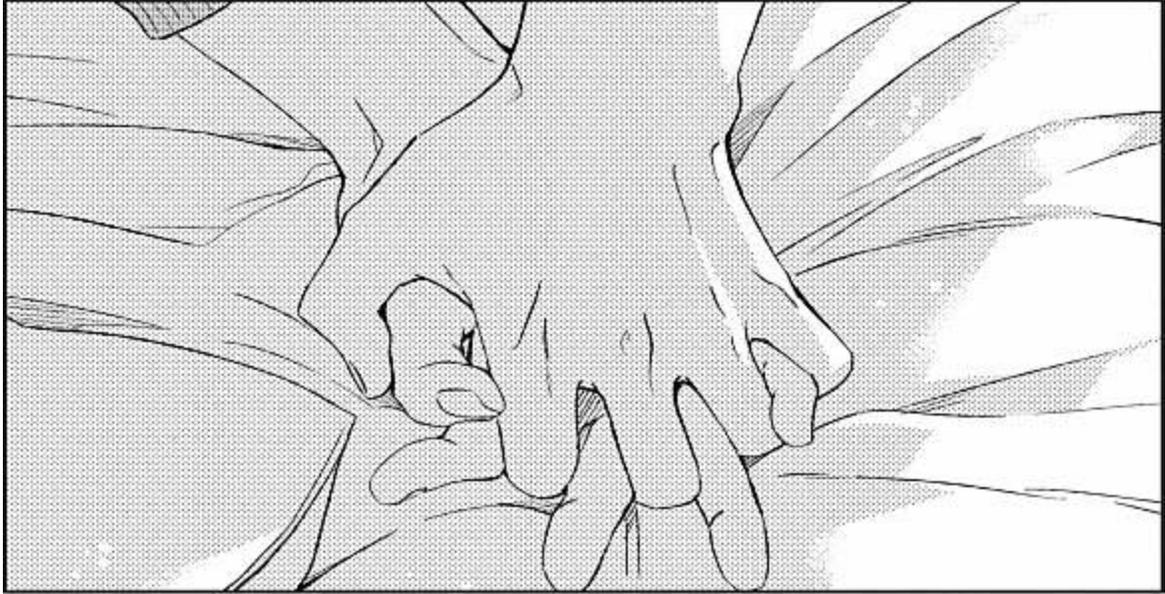












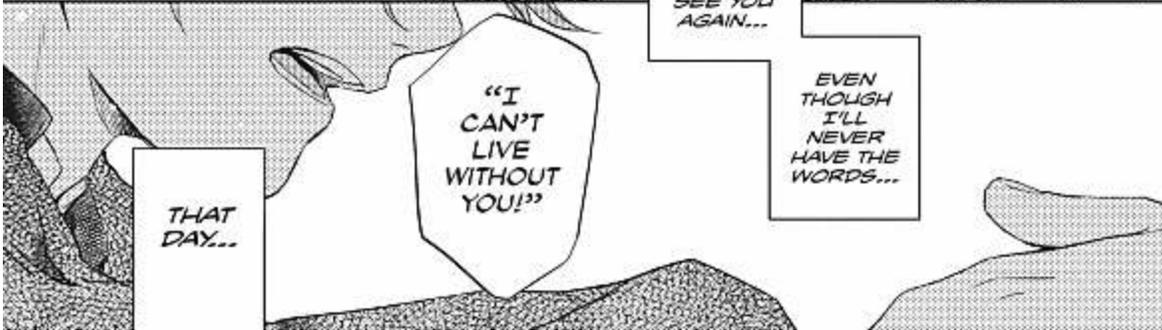


MAFUYU
...





IT HAPPENED ONE WINTER.



"FINE,
THEN
WOULD
YOU
DIE FOR
ME?"









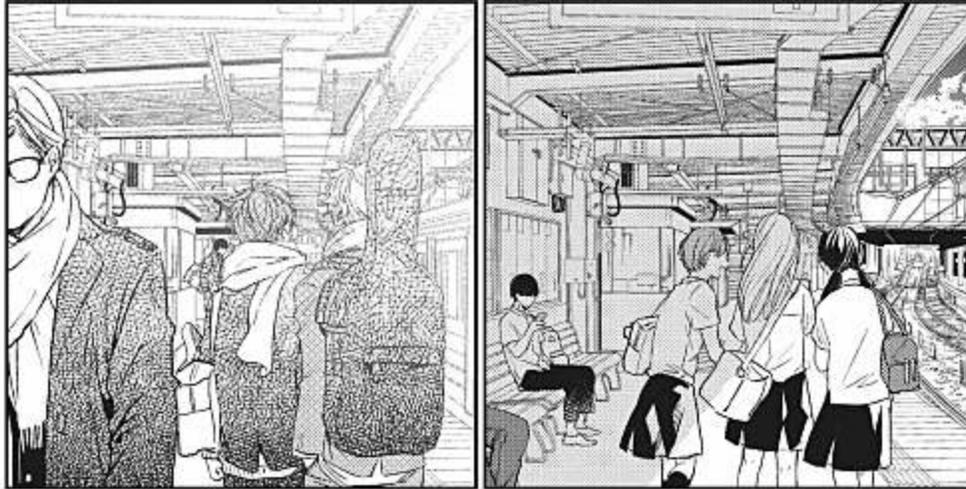


**...HAS
BEEN
GIVEN
THE
GIFT OF
TRUE
TALENT.**

**HE'S
SOMEONE
WHO...**

ROAR

**I'M NOT
LONELY.**



WHEREVER
I GO,
YOU'RE
ALWAYS
THERE.





YOU'RE
IN THE
WORLD
AROUND
ME.



YOU'RE
IN MY
HEAD.



Hahaha!

Ping

The train
will
arrive

...on
track
two.

See
ya
later!



WHOOSH

WHEREVER
I GO,
TRACES
OF YOU
REMAIN.

SH

*BLIT
I
WANT
TO.*



*I CAN'T
FORGIVE
MYSELF.*



*I CAN'T
FORGIVE
YOU.*









THE HEART IS LIKE A GUITAR STRING.

IF IT'S STRUNG TOO LOOSE,
IT WON'T MAKE A SOUND.

BUT IF IT'S STRUNG TIGHT, ALMOST TO THE
BREAKING POINT, TO THE POINT OF PAIN...

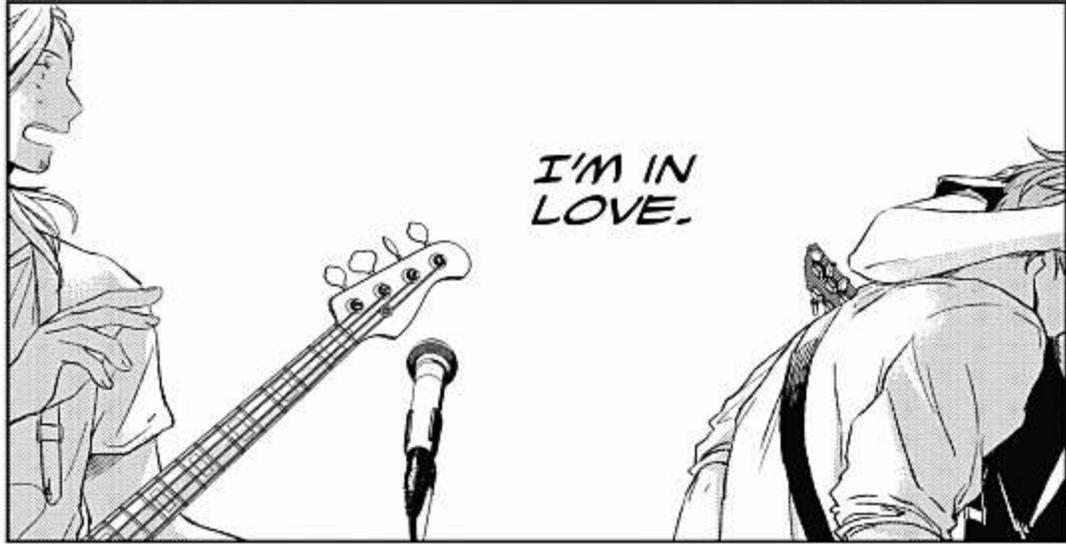
THEN...

IT CAN CREATE A SOUND THAT
CRASHES OVER YOU LIKE A GIANT WAVE.

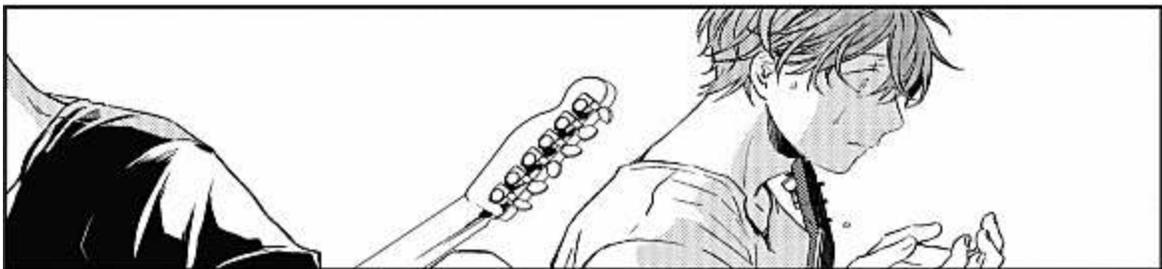
















...
PLAYING
MUSIC
I
LOVE.

kreee

THIS IS AN
INSTRUMENTAL
PIECE.

SHOUT
OUT TO
OUR PA.
FUJIMOTO
FOR THIS
THIRD
ONE!

clap
clap

WOO!

drum

dnn
dnn

kchak

I'M NOT
LONELY.

I'M
HAVING
A
GOOD
TIME...



I WISH
I
COULD
TELL
YOU ALL
ABOUT
IT.



AND
THERE'S
SOME-
ONE
NEW I
LIKE.



I'M
HAVING
FLU ON
LUNCH
BREAKS
NOW.



IT
HAPPENED
ONE
SUMMER.
IT
HAPPENED
ONE
NIGHT.

Chatter

Good show tonight.

See you tonight!

SHINS B

Phant
CLO

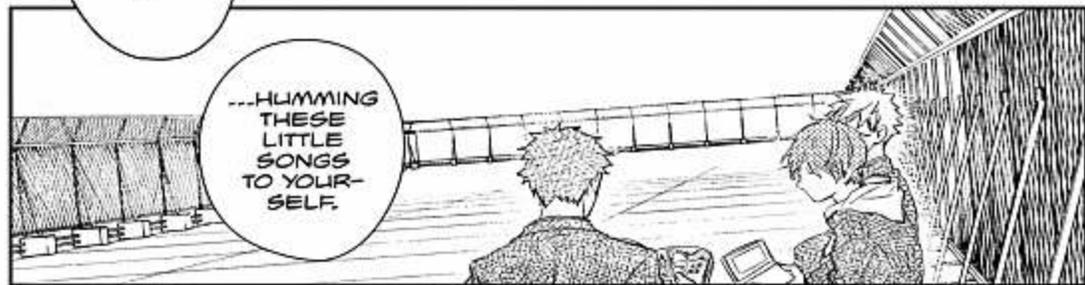
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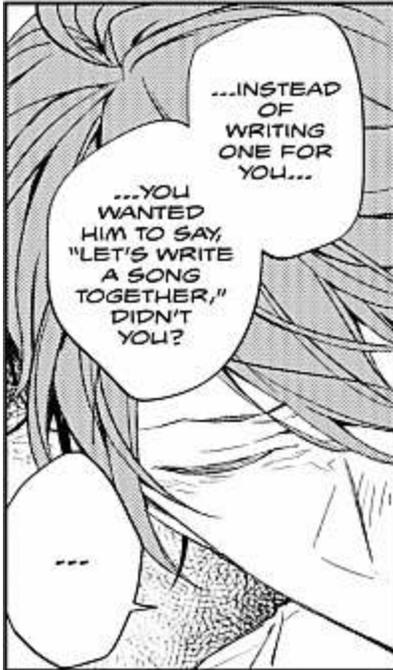
Chatter

I liked the second band.

They were great.









HIRAGI

YEAH?



I
THINK
I'M
FALLING
FOR
SOME-
ONE
NEW.





GOOD
FOR
YOU.

HOPE
IT
WORKS
OUT.



YOU'LL HELP ME OUT, RIGHT?

NO WAY.

HA HA HA!

To Be Continued...



g i v e n

by Natsuki Kizu

Backgrounds



You Know How a Dog Looks Proud When It Catches a Bug?



A Precious Source of Protein









IT'S
YOUR
WEIRD
SONG.

THE ONE
YOU WERE
HUMMING
JUST A
LITTLE
WHILE
AGO.



ARE
YOU
SURE?

REALLY.

REALLY
?



...
WHAT'S
THAT
WEIRD
SONG
...?

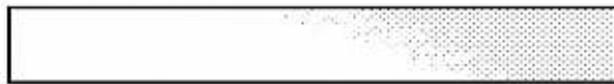


I'M
SURE.

To the Sea

Given Volume 2 Bonus Story





SHAA







NAH.
I'M SURE YOU'LL FORGET.



YOU'LL REMEMBER IT NEXT YEAR.
AND MAYBE FIVE YEARS FROM NOW.
BUT I DOUBT IT'LL BE A CLEAR MEMORY FOR YOU AT ALL IN TEN YEARS.

...I HAD A LITTLE PREMONITION:



AT THAT MOMENT ...

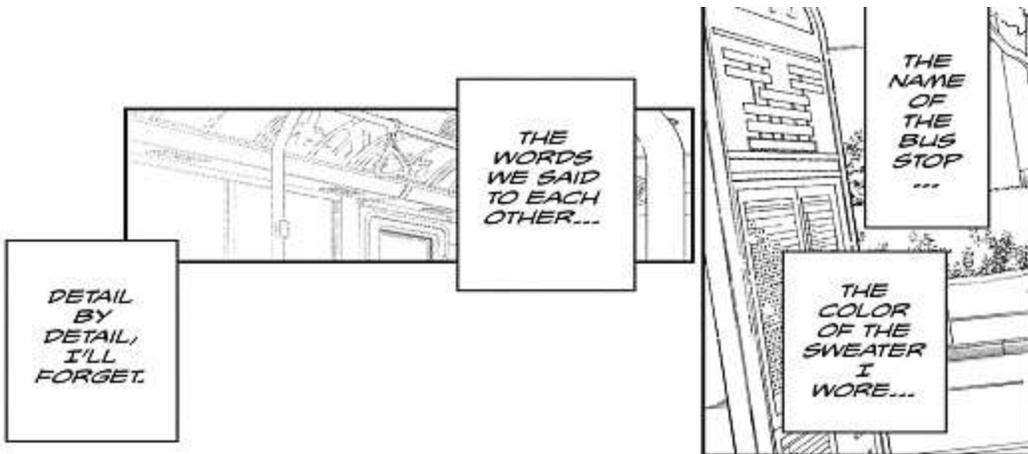


BUT I PROBABLY WILL FORGET IT, LITTLE BY LITTLE.



ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!

I THINK I'LL REMEMBER THIS DAY, EVEN TEN YEARS FROM NOW.



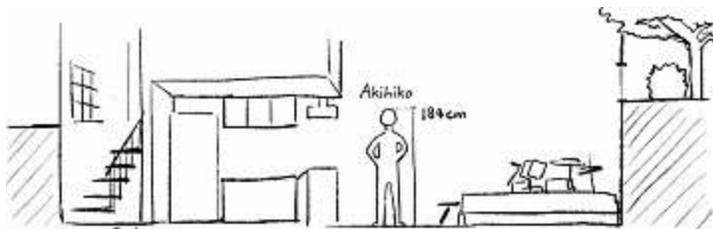
...WHILE
UP ON A
BLINDINGLY
BRIGHT
STAGE.

I
WOULD
REALIZE
THAT
ONE DAY..

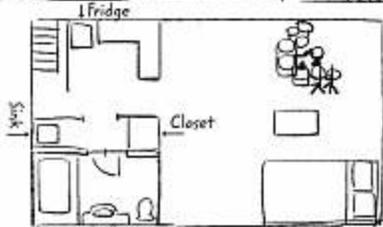
To the Sea—End

g i v e n

by Natsuki Kizu

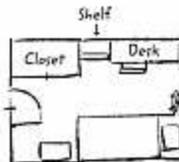


Akihiko's semi-basement house
It's practically soundproof,
so he can practice
anytime.



Rough layout
of unit

Akihiko's radio
There's no TV
in the house.



Rough layout

Uenoyama's room
Small single room for
the youngest child

On the science
track

Uenoyama's grades are in
the lower-middle rank of his
school. Mafuyu's also on the
science track, and his grades
are about the same.

Bonus!
Concept notes
and sketches

Haruki's part-
time job
Akihiko calls it
"one of those
hipster cafes."

But he
respects Haruki
for being able
to use a siphon
coffee maker.





About the Author

Natsuki Kizu made her professional debut in 2013 with *Yukimura Sensei and Kei-kun*, followed by the short story collection *Links* and her breakout series, *Given*, which has been adapted into drama CDs and an animated TV series. To find out more about her works, you can follow her on Twitter at [@kizu_ntk](https://twitter.com/kizu_ntk).

Given

Volume 2

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PARENTAL ADVISORY

GIVEN is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. This volume contains suggestive themes.

SUBLIME

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