**KAMI-NO-HARA HIGHSCHOOL: 11 A.M. DAYTIME SEQ**

MAIN PROTAGONIST (STATED AS P.) SITS NEAR THE WINDOW AND STARES INTO THE CLOUDS AS A CROW FLIES PAST AND LANDS ON A ROADKILL. P. WATCHES AS THE CROW SQUAWKS AND FLIES OFF AS AN INCOMING CAR DRIVES PAST.

"Kanae? Kanae-chan!"

A GIRL WITH PEACH-COLORED HAIR SHAKES KANAE'S SHOULDER AS SHE SNAPS OUT OF HER DAYDREAM.

"...?" "...Mokuro? What is it?"

MOKURO POUTS AS SHE PUTS HER HANDS TO HER HIPS. SHE POUTS AND JUTS HER CHIN FORWARD JUST A LITTLE.

"It's lunchtime! So let's go already!"

KANAE JUST STARES AT HER, *PAST HER...* HER EYES UNBLINKING.

"...No, it's alright. I have my bento..."

MOKURO POUTS AGAIN AND STARTED DRAGGING KANAE BY THE FOREARM.

"Aw c'mon already! You've been eating by yourself for weeks! Don't be so anti-social!"

KANAE SITS BACK AND HER STARE TRAVELS TO THE CEILING. IN RELITY SHE DIDN'T BRING ANY FOOD BUT SHE DIDN'T TELL HER THAT. SHE JUST GAVE A MOKURO AN EMPTY GLANCE, GOT UP AND WALKED OFF.

"Wait, where're you going?!"

KANAE ANSWERS WITHOUT TURNING BACK AND SHE STRODE ON

"The roof."

MOKURO IS LEFT WITH A PUZZLED EXPRESSION, HER HANDS TIGHTLY HELD IN FRONT ALMOST IN A PRAYING GESTURE.

"Kanae-chan..."

KANAE SITS ATOP THE WATER TANK, STARING INTO NOTHING, JUST AS BEFORE. SHE BRIEFLY CLOSES HER EYES AS A BREEZE KICKS UP AND BLOWS PAST HER. A TEAR FORMED AT THE CORNER OF HER EYE AS SHE SHUDDERED, REMEMBERING THE PAST...

HER MIND TRAVELED BACK 5 YEARS, WHEN SHE WAS A CHIRPY 12-YEAR OLD. IT WAS HER YOUNGER BROTHER'S 8TH BIRTHDAY AND SHE WAS POURING ALL HER ATTENTION ON HIM.

"Happy Birthday, Hikaru-kun~! 8 is a lucky number you know~!"

HIKARU LOOKS UP FROM HIS CAKE WITH A HUGE GRIN.

"Then I hope I get all the right gifts this year! (Not socks and shoes or those other lame stuff...)"

KANAE PLAYFULLY PULLS HIS CHEEKS.

"It's still a present! You've already got more toys than you can play with. So, what else would you want?"

HIKARU LOOKS HER IN THE EYE.

"I don't want toys... Just a dog. I want a dog that I can play with! It can follow me to school, fetch things and maybe become a guard dog!"

KANAE GIGGLES AND ARCHED BACK, STRETCHING HER LIMBS.

"You should've asked BEFORE we bought the presents!"

HIKARU TOOK ANOTHER BITE OF HIS CAKE AND EXCLAIMS:

"But I've been asking Ma and Pa about it for years now!"

KANAE SWAYS A LITTLE AND TILTS HER HEAD.

"Well, it IS your 8th birthday so maybe you'll get lucky.

SHE WINKS AT HIM AND STRODES OFF LEAVING HIM WITH HIS MOUTH AGAPE AND FULL OF CAKE. IN A MOMENT, HE TAKES OFF FROM HIS SEAT AS HE SPRINTS AFTER HER AT FULL SPEED.

"Big Sis, wait!! Are you saying you got me a dog?!"

KANAE IGNORES HIM AND STARTED WHISTLING A TUNE, 'ACCIDENTALLY' OPENING A NEARBY CLOSET DOOR. FROM THE ENCLAVE EMERGED A SMALL TERRIER PUPPY BARKING ENTHUSIASTICALLY.

"YOU DID GET ME A DOG!! I love you Big Sis!!"

HIKARU PICKS UP THE PUPPY AND SWINGS IT AROUND PLAYFULLY BEFORE CUDDLING IT. HE GRINS AGAIN, CLEARLY PLEASED WITH HER GIFT.

THIS IMAGE SLOWLY FADES AS KANAE BLINKS AND WAS BROUGHT BACK TO HER SENSES. HER FACE WAS STREAMING WITH TEARS AND SHE GENTLY RUBS HER EYES AS THE RECESS BELL RANG. SHE HOPPED OFF THE WATER TANK AND WALKED BACK TO CLASS AS A BLACK CAT STOOD ON THE OPPOSING ROOFTOP, SILENTLY WATCHING HER WITH A DEAD CROW AT IT'S FEET.