



**NO IMAGE
FOUND**

The Girl of My First Love, Whom I Met Again After Seven Years. I'm Falling in Love With You for the Second Time

“Hiroto-kun, take me as your wife when we grow up!”

“Yeah! All right! I'll protect you, Haruka!”

Two people born and raised in a certain town in a certain region...

They lived next door to each other and were the same age, a boy and a girl.

They smiled at each other and said, “We're going to be together forever...” Their parents also smiled at them.

Some time passed, and just one day after I entered the third grade of elementary school, such a routine came to an unexpected end.

“Haruka-chan....I'm moving far away from here...”

“What....?”

“I'm sorry...Haruka-chan...”

“Hiroto-kun, I don't want you to go...no...don't go...”

The last time Hiroto saw Haruka's face, it wasn't smiling, but crying...

Hiroto and Haruka then grew distant.

Seven years have passed, Hiroto and Haruka, who are now in their first year of high school in a faraway place, different from where they were born and raised, unknowingly meet again.

They meet again without realizing it, and the cogs of their stopped clocks start to turn once more.

1. c1

2. c2

3. c3

4. c4

5. c5

6. c6

7. c7

8. c8 part1

9. c9

10. c10

11. c11

12. c12

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34. c34
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37. c37
38. c38
39. c39
40. c40
41. c41
42. c42

c1

TMTM“Hiroto-kun, take me as your wife when we grow up!”

“Yeah! All right! I’ll protect you, Haruka!”

Haruka was a shy girl that lived next door.

She couldn’t talk to anyone except the teacher and me, she was always looking down, and her bangs hung over her eyes so I couldn’t see her expression.

She couldn’t make friends in elementary school and boys would say, “Talk to me!” “Let me see your face!” etc., and make her cry.

She always followed me wherever I went and hid behind me.

But..... she was cute like a doll with clear eyes, and even cuter when she smiled. She was also kind-hearted.

She always smiled and talked a lot when she played with me.

I love Haruka-chan.

“Ring-ring-ring-ring!”

The alarm clock rang, pulling me back from my dream.

“It’s morning already?.... I still want to sleep....”

It’s been a while since I’ve had such a nostalgic dream... It’s been seven years since I left that town.... I wonder if she’s doing well...

I was lying on the bed, thinking in a daze when my mother burst into my room.

She came in and said, “Hiroto, you said you would wake up at this time for the game. Rise and shine!”

My mind woke up in an instant.

Today was the day of the big game!

I quickly changed into my clothes and went to the living room, where my step-father, Toru, was having breakfast and our eyes met.

“Hiroto-kun, good morning.”

“Toru-san, good morning.”

“Good luck in today’s game. I’ll be there to cheer you on now that I have some time.”

“Hiroto, your mother will be there too.”

“Thank you. Today’s opponent is strong, but we’ll win!”

As I was finishing my breakfast and calming down, I heard the doorbell ring.

“Yoichiro is here, so I’m going.”

As I was putting on my shoes at the door, my mother came up beside me.

“I was surprised when I heard that you were going to enroll in Saijo High School, but now you’re a freshman and you’re close to making your dream a reality. The three of us, including your father, are rooting for you!”

“Thanks, Mom. Yeah, we’re going to win!”

Full of enthusiasm, I ran out of the house and headed for the site while making final adjustments with Yoichiro.

“Coach, good morning!”

Yoichiro and I greeted the director.

“Good morning. Yoshizumi, Tanabe, I’ll be counting on you today. How are you feeling? Did you sleep well?”

“I slept well, my shoulders are light, and I feel fine today.”

Today is the semifinals of the Koshien qualifier high school baseball tournament.

Our opponent is Toko University High School, a strong private school that is favored to win this year’s tournament and a regular at Koshien.

We will be playing in the second game today, and in the other semi-final of the first game, both schools were less powerful than Toko University High School.

If they manage to win this semifinal, their chances of participating in the Koshien Tournament will increase dramatically.

In a district known for its fierce competition and strong players, Saijo Prefectural High School was in the top four.

Even though they were a school with a long history, they had never made it past the top 16.

“Some people said that it was a fluke or a miracle, but from our point of view, it was inevitable, and participating in the Koshien Tournament was a natural goal.”

TLN: Dead notice me owo

MPK ily for editing

HamletNote: I like you. Defo better than Dead

DeadNote: I like you more than hamlet

MPK Note: (T_T) Sorry for not editing this sooner. Sleeping at 6am isn't helping me much.

c2

TMTM(During the 3rd year of Junior High School)

“Woo-hoo!”

“We did it!”

“We won!”

“Hiroto! Nice pitching!”

All of my teammates, including the bench players, came running to the mound.

Some came running while shouting, some while laughing, and others while crying.

They expressed their joy in many ways..

As all of my teammates jostled me on the mound. I had a tearful smile on my face as I held my right arm high in the air.

“We’ve won!!!”

When I was in my third year of junior high school, the team I belonged to, Nishiki Senior, won our first national championship.

Of course, there were many scouts from powerful private high schools both inside and outside the prefecture.

A few days after the victory, I was discussing with my teammates about which school I should enroll in.

“Hiroto, how many schools are scouting you?”

“Fifteen, I think. They come from all over the country, but I don’t know most of them.”

“That’s amazing. Only six schools came for me.”

“What? I... five schools...”

“That’s a lot of scouts, but they’re all pretty similar, right?”

“Hahahaha, sure. But if there’s a high school you’re interested in, then that’s all that matters, right?”

“Well, yeah. But what about everyone else?”

“I’ve decided to go with my hometown school of Toko University.”

Answered Kazuya Morishita, the unstoppable number one hitter.

“What?! ... I’m not from Toko!” laughed Takuma Sakamoto, a fast-footed center fielder who moved here from Osaka when he entered junior high school.

“But, it would be fun to go to a public school with this team and beat the best and go to Koshien.” said Yoichiro Tanabe, my battery partner.

“”That sounds fun! Let’s do it!””

Replied the twins, Sho Yamazaki and Tsubasa Yamazaki, in perfect unison. They also had great synergy during the games.

I thought about it and replied, “I think that would be interesting, but if we pick the wrong high school, it’ll be impossible.”

Yoichiro said, “It’s true that if it’s a public school, you’ll need to decide on the training environment, the coaches, and the other existing players, so you’d better choose carefully. Do you have any ideas, Hiroto?”

“I can think of one Saijo High School. That place was in the top 16 last year, and even though it’s a public school, the school’s culture is based on the poem “Bunbu Ryodo”, so they’re very enthusiastic about club activities. I can’t think of anywhere but Saijo.”

TLN: Bunbu Ryodo seems to be a popular phrase to promote a healthy body and mind to ensure that students get good grades in literature as well as sports.

“Saijo High School, ... that’s an advanced school. But that won’t be a problem for us.”

Hiroto’s grandfather is the general manager of the Seishiro Senior High School, if you can only play baseball, you won’t be allowed to play in games. It’s not just about practice. Not only do they practice, but they also have a study camp before exams, and because their motto is “both literary and military,” everyone is sure to get above average grades.

Saijo High School is divided into 4 courses. “Advanced Course”, “Regular Course”, “Commercial Course”, and “Industrial Course”. Although it is a public school for advanced students, it has a large

number of students and comparably large facilities.

“Can’t we just take a tour first?”

When I went to visit the school, I received a big welcome from all the members of the baseball team, as we were all regulars of the national champion team Nishiki Senior.

The others, who knew nothing about us, called it a “fluke” or a “miracle,” but we were serious.

A few of us went on to other schools, but five of us, including me, entered Saijo High School, and today’s semi-finals were upon us.

TLN: Sorry it took so long, I saw a sort of big paragraph and got depressed Ø=PA

EDN (also me kek) : Chapter was boring, next chapter is about the girl though! Stay tuned!

TMTM Today's semi-final began with Saijo High School batting first and Toko University pitching. Unlike in all of the previous games, it wasn't easy to hit the ball, and my teammates couldn't score either, so the score stayed at 0-0.

"Hiroto, I'll make sure you score!"

"We'll do our best to protect you!"

The coach spoke to us.

"Tanabe, how's Yoshizumi doing?"

"I'm in good shape, but our opponents are skilled enough that we can't afford to lose even a few pitches, and I think Hiroto is more tired than usual. I'd like to score first to make them nervous."

"Haruka~! Are you going to cheer for the baseball team tomorrow?"

"Yes, it's like a school event, so I'll go."

"That's right! It seems to be an annual event and it's in the afternoon, so it's going to be hot..."

"I know it'll be hot, but I don't know much about baseball... so I don't know how to cheer."

"Haruka isn't good at baseball, or sports in general."

"Yes... I'm not good at sports."

"Haruka is pretty and is at the top of her class in her studies. She's also great at music, so it's okay that she's not good at sports! If you were good at sports, I wouldn't be able to get close to you!"

Aya was laughing and talking casually.

"Aya-chan! ... I'm not like that."

"I'm not being sarcastic! I'm just saying that it's easier to have a sense of intimacy with someone who's ... not perfect at everything!"

The boys who had been glancing at us earlier entered the conversation.

"Aizawa-san, are you coming tomorrow!"

"The seniors said that if Aizawa-san came, we would definitely win!"

"I'd rather sit next to Aizawa-san than cheer the team on."

"That's right! Aizawa-san, I'll teach you about baseball tomorrow, so let's watch it together!"

"Yes... (I don't know... what to say.)"

"You guys! Stop troubling Haruka!"

"Sorry... We're sorry..."

"Haruka, you too! If you don't like it, you have to speak up."

"Yes..."

I don't know what to say, even to strangers, who are always trying to talk to me....

I was at the baseball stadium for the first time with my friends, cheering for our school.

"It's already the end of the 7th inning! I didn't know Saijo High School was this skilled."

"Aya, what's going on? Is Toko winning?"

"They're still tied, neither team has scored yet."

My other friend, Yui, spoke to me.

"Haruka! Aya! Saijo High School seems to be great this year! Apparently, the players who won the national championship in middle school last year joined the high school team!"

"Really? That's great!"

"Hmm, I see."

"That's right! Haruka, isn't it amazing? The pitcher he's pitching against right now is a first year!"

"First year?"

"That's amazing for a first year!"

"Haruka... I don't think you understand..."

You just showed me how to look at it... I'm pretty sure it's the person whose name is written with "1" on the jersey. His name is... Yoshizumi-kun...?

During the eighth inning, the current batter, Takuma, persisted and got four balls. The next batter decided

to bunt.

TLN: A bunt is a batting technique in baseball where the batter will deliberately tap the ball lightly, without swinging, to place the ball into play.

“Yoichiro~! Please!”

“Tanabe! Hit it for me!”

Yoichiro turned his head towards me before he went to bat. When his eyes met mine, he looked as if he wanted to say something.

I just smiled and nodded.

Yoichiro...I know you can hit it. I'm counting on you to score the first run.

Yoichiro hit as expected, then Takuma used his speed and managed to bring home the winning run!

The long-awaited first goal finally came, during the 8th inning.

Yoichiro and Takuma are both amazing... I can't tell you how many times I've been helped by Sho and Tsubasa during the two pitches. I want to win with these guys... I'm so glad I enrolled with them.

We didn't manage to score a second point in the 8th inning.

“Hiroto! Sorry I kept you waiting!”

“Yoshizumi, two more innings, please!”

“Let's win this game and then the finals!”

Next, Toko University was on the offense.

The first batter struck out and the next batter struck out on third.

However, he was impatient and made an error, allowing the opponent to reach base.

The other team was on third base, and they decided to bunt.

With two outs and a runner on second, the game was tied at one, and a home run would be able to turn the game around.

“4th baseman, Saito-kun.”

Everyone gathered on the mound.

“Should we give up the bases?”

“The player in fifth has hit two today, and this player in fourth hasn't got the right timing yet, so let's go for it.”

“All right.”

“Let's do it.”

“The infield will get the outs no matter what. Outfielders, don't let the runner on second base get home!”

The game resumed. I received Yoichiro's ball and threw it into my mitt to drive in two strikes.

The opponents hit the next ball.

It was a strong hit, and the first baseman jumped to catch it. I dashed in, ran to first, picked up the ball, and managed to step on the base before my opponent.

I got it under control! I've managed to hold my ground!

Just when I thought that, my opponent was running in besides me.

I crossed paths with my opponent. I grabbed the ball, desperately grasping it in my hands.

At that moment...

[Crack.]

I heard a sound from my right foot that I've never heard before... and one that I shouldn't have heard.

I fell to the ground.

TLN: Sorry this took so long, I have no experience with baseball and was confused about 95% of the time while Tling this chapter.

Just as I shouted, I heard a voice from the side.

c5

TMTMChapter 5: Kota Saito

In a private room... it's so boring...

It couldn't be helped; I was in pain.

"There are times when the pain is unbearable, so until you recover, you'll be in a private room," Toru-san said.

For me, it didn't really matter whether I had a private room or shared room.

Today, the team affiliated with Toko University had won the championship and decided to participate in the Koshien Tournament.

I was in a daze, looking at the ceiling, when I heard a knock on the door.

"Come in."

"..."

Someone was there, but the door didn't open.

What...? Didn't they hear me?

"Please come in, the room is empty."

I shouted in a louder voice.

"...Excuse me."

After replying in a small, weak voice, a large man walked in.

Huh...? Who is this guy?

Even after looking closely, it was someone I didn't recognize. He was wearing a uniform, but it wasn't the Saijo High School uniform.

He came in, but he was silent. All I could think of was, "Are you sure you aren't in the wrong room?"

The silence continued and I called out to him.

"Are you sure you're in the right room?"

"..."

Silent again? Who is this person?

When I looked him in the eyes, he finally opened his mouth to speak.

"...Are you okay?"

Huh? Did they hear about me from someone?

"I'm fine. I don't look okay because I'm dressed like this. It seems to be a ruptured Achilles tendon and a fractured internal capsule. I'm sure I'll be fine once it heals."

After hearing that, the unknown man's face contorted.

"I'm sorry... I wasn't thinking about hitting you or anything... I was just running to first base..."

I see... This uniform was the uniform of Toko University. This guy is the player with uniform number 4.

"Is it possible that you are the player with uniform 4 from Toko University?"

The man looked up.

"Yes... my name is Kota Saito from Toko University. I'm really sorry about that."

I knew it... I heard that this guy was also replaced right after the incident, but he still cared about me. I'm pretty sure he was just at the game... He came to me right after they won.

"We were both desperate. It was the middle of a match, so it couldn't be helped. Were you okay, Saito-san?"

"I only had bruises. I wanted to come to you right away, but I had to go to the hospital as well, and with today's final, I couldn't get out... I apologize for the delay."

"Saito-san was the captain, right? Please don't worry about it. Thank you for coming today. Also, congratulations on making it to Koshien. Please go and play hard for us!"

After thanking me, he left the room.

After that, everyone on the team came to see me several times, and Saito-san also visited me again.

After that visit, Saito-san traveled straight to Koshien.

TLN: Yeah.... never trust my schedule. I will attempt to pump out more chapters if you go to our discord and be friendly to @Dead :p

Big thanks for Samheart for editing he's cute.

TMTM Chapter 6: Feelings that fill one's heart

I was currently watching Toko University's game on T.V.

Saito-san's injury wasn't that serious and he was playing very well in Koshien.

The cast on my leg was painful, but not so painful that I was having nightmares. I heard that I would be moved to a larger room in a few days.

Yoichiro and his friends came to visit today.

"When I went to school, they kept asking me about Hiroto."

"I've also been asked about him a few times myself."

"Where are you hospitalized, Yoshizumi?", "If he's injured and taking a break from baseball, can I invite him to play?" Some people were saying weird things like that, but Hiroto is very popular, haha."

"I don't care about that." (Hiroto)

TLN: I will occasionally add brackets to show who's talking since this novel's conversations never include it.

"Hiroto was short in elementary school, but he grew taller since middle school."

"That's really it! Now you're the tallest out of all of us and popular with everyone... You're the worst!"

"Takuma, I don't know what's wrong... You shouldn't be restless about that?" (Hiroto)

"Hiroto... you're awful!"

People around me would talk about how a person is cute or cool and whatnot, but honestly, it didn't matter to me.

I'm content with the life I currently have with these guys...

Before I moved here, I was always with a girl I grew up with, and we both liked each other.

Haruka-chan... I dreamed about those days before the game...

I wonder if she's been okay since I've been gone.

I wonder if she's doing well...

When I first moved out, I had a hard time mentally and I remembered devoting myself to baseball and studying.

These guys really helped me out a lot...

I guess I was having so much fun now that it was all I could think about.

It's not that I forgot about it, but now that I'm in this injured situation, I have a lot of time to think, and I'm remembering those days...

While I was immersed in my memories, Yoichiro said something to me.

"Koshien... Toko University won."

"It was only their first game, but it was a crushing victory."

"Hiroto didn't give up any runs until the eighth inning against that line, right?"

Yoichiro speaks admiringly. But I was most disappointed that I couldn't pitch to the end...

If only I could have pitched one more inning... we would have been the ones standing there...

Yoichiro and the others had left and when I was alone, many emotions swirled around in my mind.

The chirping of the cicadas echoed in the air made me feel annoyed.0 0

Suddenly, I looked outside to find that it was evening and the wind was blowing pleasantly.

Let's go outside for a bit... I'm pretty sure there's a rooftop, isn't there?

I took my crutches and went outside.

There's no one around at this hour.

I caught a clear view of the park in front of the hospital. I saw a bench while I was looking around, so I sat down and started to look around again.

Parents and their children in the park. Children playing with their friends.

As I looked at everyday life in my field of vision, I wondered what I was doing here..."What was supposed to be a refreshing change of pace made me feel more depressed."

The tears that I had never shown in front of my stepfather, mother, Yoichiro and the others flowed down.

What I had been holding back had broken down.

Everyone... I'm sorry...

I couldn't stop crying, I stopped holding back and sobbed.

I was relieved to see that no one was around me, but then I heard a small voice behind me say, "Eh....?" and I turned around.

TLN: Uh oh, a cliffhanger o.O

Big thanks to iyo for editing!

TMTM Chapter 7: Hiroto Yoshizumi and Haruka Aizawa

I turned around when I heard a small voice behind me saying, "Huh...?"

"Um... uh... excuse me..."

The girl who called out to me looked about the same age as me.

I felt... embarrassed that she had seen me cry but that feeling quickly disappeared.

She had a confused look on her face, but standing in front of me was a girl so beautiful that I wondered if she had come out of the TV.

Her long, shiny black hair bathed in the setting sun.

Her skin was white, her eyes were big and clear, she wasn't tall but had a good figure, and she looked great in her light blue dress.

"Um... are you okay?"

"..." (Hiroto)

"Um... uh... are you okay?"

"Oh...um..."

She appeared out of nowhere and I forgot how to speak as I gazed at her.

She looked at me with a puzzled expression, not moving from her spot.

I realized that she was talking to me and regained my composure.

"Oh sorry... I'm okay."

"Are you sure? You look like you're in a lot of pain... if it hurts, I'll go get a doctor, okay?"

"My leg? Well, I'd be lying if I said it didn't hurt, but it's enough to get me to the roof, so I'm fine.

Anyways... you've seen me in an embarrassing state huh."

"Sorry! I'm sorry that I saw it by accident..."

After that, in order to get rid of the embarrassment of being seen crying, we talked about random subjects such as "how my summer vacation is over because of hospitalization" or "my grandmother is in the hospital" and before I knew it, a substantial amount of time had passed.

"By the way, I'm sorry for troubling you at this hour. I'd better get back to my room."

"No, it's fine! I'm sorry as well..."

I took my crutches and was about to stand up when...

"Whoa!"

I tried to stand up and fell.

"Ah..."

Immediately, her hand reached out to me.

"If you're having trouble, I can walk you to your room."

She came up next to me to lend me her shoulder.

Huh? What? Why?

Surprised and embarrassed, I tried to refuse, but she wasn't convinced. I desperately tried to persuade her and got her to compromise on the condition that I would be accompanied to the hospital room.

I was... surprised, but more than that, I'm glad I was able to convince her... I'm too embarrassed to have a cute girl lend me her shoulder...

I was still a little confused...

"Oh! My room is here. Thank you for escorting me."

"I see you have a private room. Please take good care of yourself."

We exchanged goodbyes and I was just about to enter the room when-

"Hiroto Yoshizumi...?"

I heard her call my name.

Huh? How do you know my name? I don't remember telling her.

Puzzled, I replied, "Yes, what is it?" and turned around.

Maybe... there was a nameplate on the door?

My suspicions were proven when I saw her looking at the plaque next to the room that said "Hiroto Yoshizumi".

“I haven’t introduced myself. My name is Hiroto Yoshizumi.”

“I haven’t told you my name either. My name is Haruka Aizawa.”

“…”

“…”

They both smiled shyly as they realized that they had just introduced themselves to each other.

“Well, Aizawa-san, I’m going back to the hospital room, so I’ll be going now.”

“Please take care of yourself, Yoshizumi-san.”

Once again, I went to my own hospital room and she went to her grandmother’s room.

On the bed, I remembered today’s embarrassing incident, the dream I had the other day and the girl I had known as a child.

“Haruka Aizawa or…”

I suddenly smiled as I mentioned the name of the girl that I had just met.

That reminds me of her because they have the same first name… ‘Haruka-chan’ and ‘Haruka Sato’…

I laid down on my bed and reminisced about the days I spent with Haruka-chan.

I miss Haruka-chan…

I wonder how she’s doing now.

I still want to see her.

It brought back memories of the childhood friend I loved so much when I was little.

“Hiroto” and “Haruka” who loved each other when they were children.

And “Hiroto” and “Haruka” who met again today.

The two childhood friends who were reunited without realizing it, the hands of their stopped clocks start to turn once more…

TLN: New chapter a little earlier than usual!

Much love to xen and mel for proofreading, and mpk for editing <3

c8 part1

TMTM Chapter 8: Hiroto and Haruka (Part 1)

“Hiroto-kun, are you there yet?” (Haruka)

“Sorry, Haruka-chan. I’ll be right there.” (Hiroto)

The two of them walked out, hand in hand, with a toy shovel and bucket in the other hand.

“”Hurry up, Mom! Hurry~!””

Today, Hiroto’s mother, Mari, Haruka’s mother, Keiko, and I were at the sandbox in the park.

“What are we going to make?”

“We’re going to make a mountain and dig a tunnel!”

“Haruka-chan, I’ll put the sand in, you make the mountain.”

“All right~”

I filled a bucket with sand and Haruka made a pile. My mom got mad at me for getting too muddy, but Haruka laughed when she saw her getting mad.

On the bench, the mothers were watching over the two of us and talking, and Haruka’s mother sounded troubled.

She said, “I’m really grateful that Hiroto-kun is here... Haruka is so shy that she can only talk to Hiroto-kun, who is with her every day.”

“It’s a mutual thing. Haruka is the only other three-year-old nearby, and we call her “Haruka-chan” at home. She’s going to start kindergarten next week, so she’ll have friends. I’ve heard that Hiroto will be in the same class as her, so I’m sure she’ll be fine.”

“I hope so...”

On the day of the entrance ceremony, I changed into the kindergarten uniform I had been given, and went to pick up Haruka-chan. But when I got to her, she was crying. I was looking forward to her entrance ceremony, but what was wrong with her...?

“Not these shoes~! Eeeewwww!”

Mari, Hiroto’s mother, called out to Keiko, Haruka’s mother.

“What’s wrong, Haruka?” (Mari)

“You see... kindergarten has a specific uniform and shoes, right? She’s crying because her shoes are different from the ones she usually wears...” (Keiko)

“I like the light blue shoes I always wear!”

“Haruka-chan, your yellow shoes are cute too. See, I’m also wearing them.”

“Woah...(hiccup)...really...?”

“We’re the same, aren’t we?”

“Yeah! I have the same shoes as Hiroto-kun!”

The entrance ceremony went off without a hitch and Hiroto and Haruka walked into the classroom with their parents.

“Oh! I’m next to Haruka-chan!”

“I’m next to Hiroto-kun!”

Haruka was so happy to be next to Hiroto that she brought her chair right next to his and sat down, smiling happily at him.

When all of the children and their parents had entered, the door in front of them opened and a young female teacher walked in, looked around at everyone and greeted them with a smile.

She smiled and said, “Hello, everyone. Hello~”

“”Hello~”””

“Yes! Good to see you all doing well.” (Teacher)

The teacher started to talk, and some of the children started to run around, probably because they were tired of sitting still.

“Everyone here is your friend from today. I want you to remember your friends’ names, so let’s take turns saying our names. Can you all say your names?”

The child sitting in front of me started saying his name, and then it was my turn.

“I’m Hiroto Yoshizumi!”

I was able to say my name loudly!

Haruka-chan was next!

“...”

Haruka looked down in silence.

“Haruka-chan, it’s okay.” (Hiroto)

I grabbed her hand.

“It’s... Haruka Aizawa...” (Haruka)

Haruka also had a small voice, but she managed to say her name and sat down, giving Hiroto an anxious look.

“I’ll protect you, Haruka-chan.”

Haruka’s smile returned to my favorite smile and she nodded as she said, “Yes.

Kindergarten was fun – drawing pictures, reading books, taking naps, and always having fun with Haruka-chan.

TMChapter 9: Hiroto and Haruka (Part 2)

Haruka and I have graduated from kindergarten and will soon be entering elementary school.

We didn't have many classmates in kindergarten, so Haruka and I were in the same classroom until we graduated.

Haruka and I had similar names, "Sakura" and "Satou", and our attendance numbers were close. We were always seated next to each other because our seats were decided by name. [TLN: Sorry I probably screwed up their names-]

During kindergarten, Haruka spent most of her time with me, always hiding behind me if something happened.

"Haruka-chan, are you looking forward to elementary school?" (Hiroto)

"Yes! I'm looking forward to using my school bag. I can't wait to go to elementary school!" (Haruka)

Haruka-chan was twirling around with her pink school bag on her back.

"It's dangerous, you'll fall..."

"Don't worry~"

Haruka stopped facing backwards and turned her face towards me, giving me a smile that she only showed me.

"Hiroto-kun, let's stay together in elementary school too."

"Yes, we'll be together from now on!"

Haruka and I entered elementary school together. But unlike in kindergarten, our seats were further apart.

I was worried about Haruka because I couldn't be near her...

No... I was really upset that I couldn't be near her.

This is the first summer vacation after entering elementary school.

Haruka and I played together every day. In elementary school, we had homework and worked hard together.

I would love having P.E class but Haruka preferred pool time. Today, Haruka's mother took us to the local pool to play.

Haruka was playing with me, wearing a pink ring that matched her school bag. Haruka fell out of her float and ended up crying...

During the middle of August, my parents and I went to my grandpa's house for a sleepover.

I had heard that Grandpa was my mother's father. And every year he celebrated my birthday at his house.

Grandpa was more energetic than my father, and when we went out to play, he would always bring a baseball that was small enough for me to hold, and play with me.

The day before I went to Grandpa's house, Haruka came to visit me.

"Hiroto-kun!"

"Haruka-chan, what's wrong?"

"Ehehehe~!"

Haruka always had a smile on her face, but today she was looking at me with a different... smile...? Her hands behind her back, as if she was hiding something. I thought, "What's going on?", I wondered and tilted my head.

Haruka smiled, and put her hands out in front of her and held something out in front of me.

"Hiroto-kun, Happy birthday!"

"Huh?"

I was so surprised that I shouted out loud.

"It's not my birthday yet, is it?"

My birthday was next week.

"I know... But Hiroto won't be home next week, you're going to your Grandpa's house, right?"

"Yes..."

"That's why I brought this to you today!"

"Haruka-chan... thank you!"

I received the gift from Haruka-chan, it was wrapped in blue paper and it had a pretty ribbon on top.

“May I open it?”

“Yes! Open it quickly!”

When I opened it, I found a set of pencils and a pencil case that I had always wanted.

“Woah! Thank you, Haruka-chan!”

Haruka-chan smiled at me and said, “I’m glad you liked it”.

I was so happy that I looked at the gifts over and over again from different angles.

“I love you, Hiroto-kun! I love you!”

“I love you too, Haruka-chan!”

Then Haruka looked down and started to fidget, then she smiled and said...

“Hiroto-kun, take me as your wife when we grow up!”

“Yes... I’ll protect you, Haruka!”

Haruka-chan was a very sweet girl with clear eyes and was cute as a doll, and even cuter when she smiles.

When she was played with me, she would smile and talk a lot.

I loved...Haruka-chan.

TLN: Sorry for dying, I wanted to upload a chapter as fast as possible so this was rushed. Please point out any mistakes in discord or the comments!

No ETA for next chapter, it 100% won’t take as long as this one though.

TMTMChapter 10: Surprise

Pov: Haruka

“Good Morning!”

I heard a loud voice from behind me, and then, with a running sound, “Boom!” and she hugged me.

“Good morning, Aya-chan. Please don’t startle me like that again.”

Her name is Aya Nishikawa. Aya-chan and I have been friends since junior high school. She was a girl who wasn’t afraid of things and got along with everyone. She became my friend when I came to an unfamiliar place. Aya-chan really helped me in many ways.

I couldn’t resist, because I saw Haruka when I left the ticket gate. It’s been a long time since we’ve been together.

“That’s right. We haven’t been able to get together since summer vacation.”

“It’s been a long time since we’ve been together, but you don’t seem too happy about it... Haruka seems too calm and normal.”

“I’m happy to be with you, but we’re just going to school...?”

“That’s true but... are you sure you can get to school?”

“Yes, I’ll be fine...?”

This was the route I take to school every day from Saijo Station. On days that I have class, Aya and I commute to school together. Aya is a member of the track and field team, and ever since the start of the summer vacation, her club activities were held at different times, so recently I’ve been going to school alone.

One thing that bothered me was that since the start of summer vacation, I’ve been approached by strangers more and more on my way to school...

“Aya, the competition is next month, right?”

“Yes, I’m training to be a little faster!”

Aya-chan specializes in short distance, and last year in junior high school, she came in third in the prefecture. I’m a little jealous of her because I’m not very good at sports...

“Speaking of competitions, will Haruka be cheering for the team?”

“Some of the club members are going to a performance, but I’m not going. I have to take care of the house.

“That’s right. Ah~! I want to eat Haruka’s cooking!”

“Come again sometime. My mom said that when Aya came, the dining table was fun and lively!”

“Won’t that... be too loud?”

“You’re so skeptical... When Aya-chan comes, I have fun too!”

The baseball team of Toko University High School, my school, has decided to participate in the Koshien Tournament, and although the main performers are from the brass band, a few members of the orchestra club I belong to were going to cheer them on, so the club activities were closed for the time being.

My grandmother was in the hospital and I was doing housework for her until she was released. My mother works in the office of my grandfather’s company.

Today I did my club activities and then went shopping and did the chores afterwards. In the evening, I went to the Toko University Hospital where my grandmother was being hospitalized. The hospital was affiliated with the school and had the same nearest station, so I could drop by after school, which was a big help. [TLN: Some chunky lines here, translations might be a bit off]

“I’m here, Grandma! You’ll be discharged at the end of the month, but don’t overdo it, okay?”

“I’m fine. My back is much better now, and it’s going to get worse if I don’t move, so I’m thinking of it as rehabilitation.”

I wonder why I can’t... be quiet anymore...

My grandmother sometimes goes to help my grandfather with his business when she has time, and she gets restless if she stays still... She said she was going to take a walk up to the roof to pick up her cardigan after this.

“Grandma! I’ll go get it, you just rest!”

I don't usually speak loudly, but I didn't want to make it worse, and I couldn't resist.

"Alright!"

I opened the door and went out to the rooftop. It's evening now, and there's a nice breeze today.

I remembered that there was a bench in a place where I could see the park clearly, so I went over there.

Huh? Is there anyone at...?

I turned to see a tall boy sitting there, and I seemed to have startled him, so I suddenly turned around. I was surprised to see the boy's face, and I quickly apologized.

"Oh... I'm sorry."

The boy who turned around was about the same age as me, and there were tears streaming down his face.

I was confused as to what to do. He seemed to have an injury on his right leg, so I said, "If it hurts, I'll go get the doctor," but it didn't seem right...

I started to calm down, but I didn't know if I should leave. I stayed there and listened to what he had to say. When I asked him if he had been in an accident, he replied in a vague way, "Something like that..."

He laughed and told me that he was going to have a birthday soon and that he had to spend it in the hospital.

I'm not very good around guys, and I don't usually carry on conversations with them, but for some reason I enjoyed it.

It was the first time we had met today, but it felt strange... I wonder why.

As we walked back to the hospital room, the boy almost fell and I quickly got close to him to lend a hand.

Wow... he's taller when you look at him up close, and he has kind eyes with a well-defined face.

I don't usually get this close to people, but it's still strange...

I escorted him to his hospital room and suddenly noticed that there was only one name tag hanging on the wall, and I thought it was a private room, so I said the name displayed on the tag.

"Hiroto Yoshizumi...?"

The boy was surprised. That's right, I said his name out of the blue, so he had the right to be surprised.

I remembered that I hadn't told him my name either, so we introduced ourselves to each other and parted ways.

"Mr. Hiroto Yoshizumi..."

Normally, I don't think anything about the fact that they had the same first name, but I hadn't had many conversations with a boy in a while, and I was flooded with distant... memories.

I miss him...

I wonder how he is doing?

I wonder where you are now...

Hiroto-kun...

A childhood friend who was with me all the time.

The boy who protected me.

The boy I loved.

I went to my grandmother's hospital room, remembering my favorite boy, Hiroto Yoshizumi.

TLN: Took longer than expected, next chapters in a few days hopefully.

c11

TMTM Chapter 11: Hiroto and Haruka (Part 3)

Haruka and I were both in the second grade of elementary school.

Haruka and I were always together, and when we weren't, we both had things to learn.

Haruka learned the violin from my mother, Mai Yoshizumi, while I learned the piano from my father, Renji Yoshizumi.

"Watch and follow along carefully."

My father showed me an example over and over again so I could understand.

"It's fine if you make mistakes. Play it slowly."

"Yes."

I constantly made the same mistakes, but my father never got mad and continued to gently teach me.

My father was handsome and tall. Even our teacher told us, "You have a cool father." and it made me happy to hear that from so many people.

But, I knew an even cooler side of him.

My father played piano in an orchestra.

He wore a black suit over his white clothes, and parted his hair so it wouldn't get in the way.

My mother loved him and would smile when I told her, "I want to be like Dad when I grow up!"

At the same time, Haruka was practicing violin with my mother.

My mother also played in the same orchestra as my father, as a violinist.

"Haruka, you played well! Did you enjoy it?"

"Yes, I love the violin! It's so fun!"

When Haruka was with me, she was cute and laughed often.

But when she was playing the violin, she always had a serious expression on her face.

We would practice at the same time, and if one of us finished before the other, we would wait for the other to finish, and then walk home together.

Usually, Haruka had long hair that would cover most of her face. But during violin practice, she would tie it up in a ponytail. I could see her cute face clearly.

I don't see Haruka's hair in a ponytail often, so when I told her, "It looks like the tail of a horse.", she got angry. But even an angry Haruka was adorable.

When I saw Haruka's serious expression while playing the violin, I felt a strange feeling in my heart. I didn't know what it was.

But, there was one thing that I know for certain.

I still love you, Haruka.

"Can anyone solve this problem?"

"... .."

We were in math class, the teacher asked if anyone knew the answer to the question on the board. It was a difficult question, so the class remained quiet. I wasn't sure about the answer to the question either.

The teacher then called on me, "Hiroto-kun, could you write the answer on the board? It doesn't matter if it's wrong".

I walked to the front of the classroom and put my answer on the board.

"Excellent! You got it right, Hiroto. You seem to be studying very hard."

I went back to my seat and the teacher continued to write questions down on the board.

"Alright, let's go around in the order of the seats for these questions. Haruka-kun, please come up and write your answer."

Haruka seemed surprised when she was called, and gave me a troubled look. I smiled at her and nodded.

That seemed to give Haruka confidence, as she went up and wrote her answer on the board.

Haruka got the answer correct, as both me and her were studying hard at home together.

October came, and it was the day of Haruka's birthday.

I wonder... if Haruka would be happy to see me?

On that day, I used my allowance and bought a gift for her without her knowing.

When I was choosing the gift, I felt uncomfortable because of all the girls around me. But then I thought

of Haruka's smile and I knew I had to pick the right gift.

"Happy birthday, Haruka-chan!"

"Yay! Can I open it?"

"Yes! Go ahead!"

I was nervous, I hoped my gift would make Haruka happy.

Haruka had a serious expression on her face as she opened it closely, trying hard not to tear up the wrapping paper.

"Woah! It's so cute!"

Her serious expression quickly turned into a smile, which made me relieved and happy.

"Thanks, it's a light blue hairband~"

Haruka loved the color of light blue, so when I saw the hairband with flower patterns on it, I knew it would fit Haruka perfectly. I was happy that she liked it.

Haruka, who was with me at school

Haruka, who was with me at home.

My favorite girl, Haruka.

At that moment, I never thought that the day would come that I wouldn't be able to see her...

TLN: Surprise chapter?!?!?

If we get on 600 reading lists (which might take a while) I'll post a bonus chapter

Current: 461/600 Reading lists

c12

TMTM Chapter 13: Meeting up after a long time

POV: 4 members from Saijo [TLN: Hiroto's baseball team from the first few chapters]

"Toko University was really strong..."

Takuma muttered as he changed clothes after practice.

Toko University lost in the top eight at Koshien, and although they didn't win the championship, the games they won were crushing victories.

"Haha... they're too strong."

"It was like they were used to playing in Koshien, after all."

Yoichiro followed, and the brothers' Sho and Tsubasa Yamazaki nodded.

"We did manage to push Toko to the edge, though."

The team had been practicing hard for Fall to get rid of the disappointment of losing.

With a training camp and expedition coming up soon, the new team was just waiting for their hospitalized ace to return.

"How's Hiroto?"

"He seemed to be doing fine the last time I saw him."

"Are we going to visit him now?"

"Yeah, Toko just came back from Koshien. Should we invite Kazuya?"

"That guy came back from Koshien yesterday and said he had two days off until training camp."

"Huh? You're in the stands, right? Take a day off from practice."

I called my middle school buddy, Kazuya Morishita, who went on to Toko University, and left the club room to meet up with him.

"Ah~! It's the guys from the baseball team!" (Senior)

They were seniors from other clubs.

"How is Yoshizumi-kun doing?" (Senior)

A lot of the students had watched the game in which they had cornered Toko University in the summer preliminary round. As a result, many were worried about Hiroto and his current condition.

"He's still in the hospital, but he seems to be doing well. We're going to visit him now."

"What? We want to go too." (Senior)

"Yoshizumi-kun... is in Honors Class, right? He's tall, athletic, and has a nice face." (Senior)

As the first-year ace of the baseball team, Hiroto stood out even in the large number of students at Saijo High School, and for some reason, he was very popular with the girls, but he was unaware of that.

"Well, he'll be out of the hospital by the new semester, right? We still have club activities, so we'll see you around." (Seniors)

The seniors waved and left.

"We should go too."

"Hiroto, why are you always so popular with the girls? I want a girlfriend too!"

Takuma ran towards the main gate, shouting, "I'll meet you in front of Saijo Station, right?"

"Takuma ran off..."

"I'm meeting Kazuya at Saijo Station. Just leave Takuma alone"

Toko University High School and Saijo High School had the same nearest station. Saijo Station was the most prosperous station in the city, and exiting from the central ticket gate side, Toko High School was on the "east side" and Saijo High School was on the opposite direction, on the "west side".

As I was waiting at Saijo station, Kazuya came running.

"Hey, Kazuya! Long time no see."

"Kazuya, you've got a great tan. Is it from practice or from cheering on the bench?"

"Shut up! There's too many of us in the club!" (Kazuya)

"Calm down, calm down. Did you guys enjoy Koshien?"

"In the stands.... but Saito-san was amazing."

Kazuya went to a different high school, but the five of them talked as before as they headed to the hospital.

“Huh? Morishita-kun?” (Aya)

“Oh, Nishikawa-san.” (Kazuya)

Kazuya was spoken to by a girl who seemed to be from the same school.

“Morishita-kun, doesn’t the baseball team have a day off today?”

“We’re on break until tomorrow. So I’m with my friends from junior high school today.”

“That’s nice. We’re going to do some shopping and then go home.”

The four students from Saijo High School were just watching Kazuya and Aya.

“Oh, I’m sorry. She’s Aya Nishikawa from the track and field club. In other words, she’s too energetic.”

“What’s that? Ah! Hello!” (Aya)

“Aya-chan... we’re running out of time.”

A voice came from the girl behind Nishikawa-san.

“That’s right! Morishita-kun, I’m sorry to leave you and your friends, but we have to finish our shopping.”

“You’re finally back, Nishikawa-san.” (Haruka)

Nishikawa-san waved and walked off, while the other girl just left with a “Bye”.

“Who’s that? That girl!”

“You’re Kazuya’s friend?”

“I envy you, Kazuya!”

Sho’s eyes lit up along with Takuma and Tsubasa, and Yoichiro smiled at the three of them.

“Ah, Nishikawa-san and Aizawa-san from the same class.”

“That other girl! She’s so cute!”

Takuma was excited.

“Aizawa-san is very popular at school.”

“I’m sure she is...”

“I’ve heard that she’s received many confessions at school... and I’ve also heard that she hates men. I’m in her class as well, but I’ve only exchanged greetings with her.”

“All the time. When she talks to girls she laughs and stuff, but when it comes to guys she doesn’t talk much.”

[TLN: I have no clue who’s saying what at this point]

The five of them were on their way to Hiroto’s place, having a silly conversation along the way.

TLN: Let’s see how long I can keep the consistent chapters up.

c13

TMTMChapter 13: In the large room

POV: Hiroto

“Hiroto! I’m here! You’re healed!”

“Huh... Takuma, shut up.” (Hiroto)

I sat on the bed and closed the book I was reading. I scolded Takuma, “Does this guy know that we’re in a hospital?”. Yoichiro, who had a bad feeling about this, was quick to warn him.

“It’s a big room, so be quiet. You’ll bother the others.”

You can always count on Yoichiro. Takuma... why are you always so noisy?

“It’s been a long time, Hiroto. I’m sorry I couldn’t come last time. I was watching from the stands, and when they carried you out in a stretcher, I got worried.” (Kazuya)

“Oh, Kazuya’s here too! Long time no see, I’m glad you came today.”

“There’s nowhere to sit, let’s go outside.”

“Yeah, Takuma’s too noisy.”

The twins, Sho and Tsubasa, think the same way every time. They are a little bit childish, but they are reliable and breathtaking when it comes to baseball.

“I guess so. You can move, right, Hiroto?”

“I’m fine, there’s a common room over there, let’s go.” (Hiroto)

I grabbed my crutches, apologized to my roommates for the noise, and left the hospital room.

The room I was staying in had four people in it, one bed was empty and the other 3 were occupied.

One was a woman with a broken back, and the other two were elderly people.

“Hiroto! Listen to me! There was a cute girl just now!” (Takuma)

“Guys... what is Takuma talking about?” (Hiroto)

“Oh. I met a girl from my school.” (Kazuya)

“Kazuya’s school?”

“I met a girl from my class when I was coming over, and she was with him.”

““Yeah, she was pretty cute.””

As expected, the twins were in perfect harmony.

“That’s why you were so excited when you came to the hospital room... So, Takuma, what’s so important about that?”

“Hiroto! What are you talking about? It’s very important!”

“I’m sorry, but isn’t she from Toko University? We’ve probably never met and I don’t know who she is.” Currently, I just wanted to get out of here. But my discharge isn’t until next week...

“So Kazuya, did you like Koshien?” (Hiroto)

Since Kazuya wasn’t here last time, we talked about a lot of things like we used to do in middle school. Eventually it got late and they left.

Koshien... it seems like fun.

By the time I got back to my hospital room, a person was standing in front of the door. I knew this person, and I called out to him.

“Hello, Saito-san.”

“I came to see if you were alright, but I couldn’t find you. Are you getting discharged soon?”

“Yes, I’m leaving the hospital soon.”

Saito-san was the one who had a collision with me during the game. He had come to visit so many times that we were able to talk without any tension. By the way... there are a lot of visitors today.

“It’s next week, isn’t it? I came here today because I wanted to check when you would be out. My parents wanted to meet up with your parents...” (Saito)

“My parents?”

I didn’t understand why but Saito’s words were convincing.

“Because... I hurt you.”

“No, that wasn’t your fault. You said it was an accident during the game.”

“Not according to my parents, apparently. I’m sorry... are your parents going to pick you up from the hospital?” (Saito)

“They’ll be here, they have my luggage. I’ll be out by mid-afternoon.”

Toru-san is a doctor, and he’s in this hospital every day, but he’s working... he’ll take the day off with my mom to come on the day of discharge, so it shouldn’t be a problem.

“I’ll bring my parents in the morning.” (Hiroto)

On the day of my discharge, Saito-san’s parents and I are going to meet.

TLN: Short chapter today, trying to keep up the daily streak.

478/500 Reading lists for bonus chapter!!!

c14

TMTMChapter 14: Second Time

There were only a few days left until I was discharged from the hospital.

I was allowed to walk around the hospital so I didn't spend much time inside my room.

Saito-san wouldn't be coming until the day of my discharge, and Yoichiro and the others said they were practicing, so I left my bed and went out, relieved that no one would be coming.

Of course, I consulted my father-in-law and attending physician, Toru before leaving. He gave me permission on the condition that I wouldn't go outside the hospital and that I wouldn't move around recklessly.

Even though I wasn't in the hospital room, I could only stay in the common room or read a book on the bench on the roof, but it was still a nice change of pace.

It was getting close to dinner time, so I went back to my room. I wondered why the hospital dinner was served so early.

As I was eating in my room, a girl came to visit my roommate.

"Grandma, I'm here. How are you feeling?"

Hmm? Have I heard that voice somewhere before?

When I looked over, I recognized her. Yeah... to be honest, I didn't want to see her. I've had conversations with her, but she still saw me crying on the roof...

Remembering the embarrassment of that moment, I pretended to be a stranger.

"Oh..."

I heard a voice. It was no good after all... I gave up.

"Well... hello, Aizawa-san." (Hiroto)

"Hello, Yoshizumi-san... It's been a while." (Haruka)

"Haruka, are you friends with Yoshizumi-kun? Come to think of it, you're both first year high school students." (Haruka's grandma)

"Ah! Aizawa-san, that's not true. We met by chance on the rooftop. I slipped on my crutches and almost fell down, but she helped me."

"Is that so? Haruka, Yoshizumi-kun is a good boy. He's not flirtatious like the kids today, he's serious... he reminds me of my grandpa."

"Grandma! Stop it! You're in trouble, Yoshizumi-san!" (Haruka)

Do I look seem like a grandpa? But, as I had expected, she was one of Aizawa-san's relatives. When I came into the room and saw the name tag, I thought "No way...", but I guess I was right. By the way, unlike last time, Ms. Aizawa seems to be in good health. I guess she can speak loudly after all.

Anyways, I was relieved that I was able to cover up the fact that I was seen crying.

"I didn't know you were in the same grade as me, Aizawa-san. We talked about a lot of things, but we didn't talk about school, and I barely even thought about your name." (Hiroto)

"Yoshizumi-san. Is your discharge from the hospital scheduled to be next week?"

"Yes, thanks to you, I'll be discharged next week."

"That's earlier than my grandma. She'll be discharged next month." (Haruka)

"Ms. Aizawa wanted to leave the hospital. He said hospitalization was painful. (Hiroto)

"That's right! Grandma was actually scheduled to leave the hospital a little earlier. But she couldn't take it and moved around a lot, making her back worse!" (Haruka)

"I... don't know what to say. That's rough." (Hiroto)

For some reason, I feel as if I was being stared at.

"You two seem to be close friends, aren't you?" (Haruka's Grandma)

"Um, no..." (Hiroto)

"Oh... Grandma... it's different."

Aizawa-san's grandmother was smiling

"It's been a long time since I've seen Haruka talk that much, and you can talk to Haruka easily.

Yoshizumi-kun doesn't seem the same as his friends from school, you know?"

That's because Takuma and his friends are reliable companions when it comes to baseball, but when it

comes to anything else... they are noisy and restless, especially Takuma.
After that, the three of us talked about various things until Aizawa-san left.

TLN: I know this is trivial but if you guys have an NovelUpdates account, please rate this novel 4 (or 5 :3) stars! Link -> <https://www.novelupdates.com/series/the-girl-of-my-first-love-whom-i-met-again-after-seven-years-im-falling-in-love-with-you-for-the-second-time/>

I really want to keep it at 4 stars so it'll possibly attract more viewers

TMTMChapter 15: Discharge day

0 Today was the day I would finally leave the hospital. I never thought I'd spend the summer of my freshman year of high school in a hospital room. I'll have to ask everyone to do their best for the fall tournament... I've got training to do, and I'll use next year's spring tournament as a training ground for next years' Koshien.

I was thinking about what I would do as I packed my bags.

"Good morning!"

Aizawa-san was in a good mood, smiling as she came in, and the old lady answered.

"Huh? Haruka-chan, I thought you weren't coming today."

"Yes, I wasn't going to come today." (Haruka)

"Then what seems to be the occasion?" (Haruka's grandma)

"There was... Ah, Yoshizumi-san! I'm glad I could make it."

Wait what? Does it have something to do with me?

"Good morning, Aizawa-san. How can I help you?" (Hiroto)

"Yoshizumi-san, I heard you were going to be discharged from the hospital today... please eat this at home if you'd like."

"Huh? Yes... thank you...?"

I didn't know what it was, but I took it anyway.

"Oh, it's a... hospital discharge gift! Since you said you were going to spend your birthday in the hospital, this is also a celebration for you!" (Haruka)

What was handed to me was a birthday cake.

"Um... don't worry about it. I was practicing making cakes to celebrate my grandma's upcoming discharge from the hospital." (Haruka)

"I see. Well, I'll eat it when I get home. Thank you very much. I didn't expect to have a birthday cake this year, so I'm happy." (Hiroto)

I was surprised, but convinced that it was just for practice. Well, there's no way... She would go to the trouble of making one. I accepted the cake with gratitude.

"I'm going to go home and do some shopping. What is it, Grandma?" (Haruka)

"Haruka-chan... it's nothing..."

I wonder what Aizawa-san's grandmother was thinking about.

"Okay. Yoshizumi-san, I'll take my leave now. Please take care of yourself." (Haruka)

"Yes, thank you very much for the cake. Take care of yourself, Aizawa-san." (Hiroto)

And with that, Aizawa-san left. I was just about to leave to meet up with Saito-san in the lobby.

"Jeez..." (Haruka's Grandma)

Huh? I felt her eyes on me again.

"Um... Ms. Aizawa, how can I help you?"

"You guys... must have been close after all. My discharge isn't until October."

I wonder why Ms. Aizawa is misunderstanding. The cake was probably just a way to apologize for... seeing me cry.

I don't know why I was being treated like Aizawa's plaything. Then my parents came to pick me up.

"Aizawa-san I'll be going now. Thanks for your kindness." (Hiroto)

"Take care of yourself, Yoshizumi-kun. I'll also be leaving the hospital soon, but I'll have to be patient until then. Please take care of Haruka-chan." (Haruka's Grandma)

Toru had already completed the discharge procedures, so we headed to the lobby to meet Saito-san and his son, who were already there waiting for us.

"Saito-san! Thank you for waiting." (Hiroto)

"I'm glad you're discharged. My parents are over there. I'll go get them."

Saito-san then came back with his parents.

"Sorry for keeping you waiting, Yoshizumi-kun. Huh? Mari-san from Sakurai-san's house! Wait what...?" (Saito's mother)

Saito-san's mother looked at my mom's face and made a surprised sound as she covered Saito-san's face. She called my mom "Sakurai-san" and...

TLN: Cliffhanger? Also thanks for leaving the ratings, it really means a lot.
494/500 Reading lists until bonus chapter! (Allylmost there)

TMTMChapter 16: Hiro and Ko-chan

“Huh? Mari-san from Mr. Sakurai’s house? (Saito-san)

“What? Oh! Saito-san!” (Mari-san)

“Sakurai-san? My son told me it was Yoshizumi-san”

“Oh, I remarried after I moved here.”

“I see... That’s good to know...”

“Oh my God! Don’t be so gloomy. I’d heard of you from Hiroto, but I didn’t think you were the Saito-san I knew.”

“”What’s happening...””

Saito-san and I had no idea what was going on. My father-in-law, Toru, looked even more confused.

“Mom, I’m sorry to interrupt your excitement, but do you know each other?” (Hiroto)

“What are you talking about?” (Mari-san)

She seemed to know my mom, so I asked her, “How do you know each other?” Saito-san’s mother was surprised to see me.

“Hiroto-kun! You’ve really grown up. You used to be so small!”

Saito’s mother seemed to know me.

“Hiroto, it’s Ko-chan!” (Saito)

“Wait what...? Saito-san, you’re Ko-chan?” (Hiroto)

“Hiroto... are you Hiro?” (Saito)

There’s only ever been one person who called me ‘Hiro’. But still, I hadn’t noticed it at all... because I’d moved away from the city I used to live in.

“Did Ko-chan also move?” (Hiroto)

“My address hasn’t changed. I got in on a sports recommendation. Now I live in the baseball team’s dormitory. I heard from the coach that Hiro was scouted as well.” (Saito)

“Yes, I was. But I thought it would be more fun to go to a public school with my friends from middle school. Now I’m glad I chose Saijo.” (Hiroto)

“I see... I wish I could have played baseball with you. But I’m really sorry...for injuring you, I didn’t realize... that it was Hiro of all people.”

“It was an accident, wasn’t it? The situation would have been worse, so there’s nothing to worry about. I was able to reunite with Ko-chan... so I’m glad.”

Toru-san, who had been watching silently, spoke to Saito-san.

“Kou-chan is right. I’m pretty sure that’s what I thought when I saw the condition of his injuries.”

“Thank you... I didn’t notice it either. I was surprised to see that your last name had changed and that Hiro had grown so much!” (Saito-san)

“Ko-chan is bigger and taller than Hiro. He grew taller all of a sudden in middle school. Up until elementary school, he was the smallest, just like back then.” (Saito-san)

The mothers were talking about how they hadn’t seen each other in a long time, so I left them to it.

“It was funny when the coach blurted out during the game, Why didn’t Yoshizumi come to Toko?” (Saito)

“Well, we decided that it would be more interesting to beat a strong team. Morishita went to Toko, but not us.”

“Oh, that’s him? He was looking forward to playing against you guys.”

“Haha. I’ll tell you what, it’ll be easier for us if we let him get carried away and be bad at it.”

Saito-san was the Ko-chan I knew. We talked lightly to each other, telling each other stories about the past and the present.

“Hiro! Are you there?”

I heard Ko-chan’s voice from the doorway.

“Oh, Ko-chan’s here.”

“Hiroto-kun, are you leaving again?”

Ko-chan gets upset easily when I leave.

Ko-chan is in the third grade and I'm in first. Ko-chan had joined a youth baseball team in the third grade. We would play catch, throwing the ball to each other, but he didn't have anyone to play with, so he would always come to me.

"I'm always the one they come to because they're so bad at it. Around here, Hiro is the only one who can do it for me. You're a little guy, though!" (Ko-chan)

He's going to grow up. I'm going to grow up too... maybe.

"I have no one to practice with," was what Ko-chan said to me. It was fun for me to play around, but Haruka-chan didn't like the rough way Ko-chan talked to her, and when Ko-chan came to call me, she looked sad.

"Haruka-chan. I'm going out for a while. I'll be back soon, so please wait for me."

Haruka-chan never comes when I go with Ko-chan. So when I returned home, I played with Haruka a lot. It was Ko-chan who first taught me how to play baseball. At the time, I was forced to play with him, but now I'm glad I did. After I moved away, I was upset and had no choice but to devote myself to baseball. After that, we exchanged contact information and parted, happy to have a real reunion.

TLN: Bonus chapter tomorrow!

TMTMChapter 17: Haruka's memories

POV: Haruka

"Haruka-chan. I want to eat cheesecake when I get out of the hospital." (Grandma)

"Grandma, you really like sweets..." (Haruka)

Grandma loves eating sweets. She loves everything from Japanese sweets to Western sweets. I think she got mad at me for eating them every day in the hospital...

Cake... I'm pretty sure he laughed and said he was spending his birthday in the hospital. I don't know anything about him, but I wonder if Yoshizumi-san likes cake.

"I didn't think I would get a birthday cake this year, so I'm extremely happy." (Hiroto)

I feel like I gave it to him in a weird way, but I'm glad he's happy.

"It's unusual for Haruka-chan to make a cake for a boy."

Yoshizumi-san was discharged from the hospital a few days ago, and I went to the hospital to pick up my belongings. Grandma was surprised that I had given him a cake. Why did I do it...?

Could it be because he reminded me of a boy I hadn't talked to in a long time... or because they had the same first name?

He is Hiroto Yoshizumi, not Hiroto Sakurai...

Even though he's not Hiroto-kun...

He reminds me of him when I talk to him...

"I love you, Hiroto!"

"I love you too, Haruka-chan!"

I was always with the boy who lived next door.

The boy's name was Hiroto Sakurai.

He was my childhood friend and I was with him from the time I was born up until I was in the second grade. At that time, I wasn't very good at talking to people, and only "Hiroto-kun" was in my world.

I wasn't very social, so the boys in the classroom would tell me over and over again to "show my face" or "speak up".

Looking back, I think this was the reason why I'm not good with boys.

Hiroto-kun was the shortest in the class, but he was always there to protect me if anything happened.

He took piano lessons and I took violin lessons in the same classroom.

When he was playing the piano, he had a serious expression on his face, not the smile he had when he was with me, but I loved the different Hiroto-kun.

I think I was attached to Hiroto-kun to the extent that he thought I was annoying.

We went to kindergarten and elementary school in the same classroom, and our attendance numbers were back to back, so we were always seated next to each other.

"Hiroto Sakurai" and "Haruka Sato."

We used to laugh at each other and say, "We have the same 'sa' in our names." [TLN: Don't tell me I messed up her name the whole time...]

We did our homework together and did well on our tests. I worked really hard to keep up with him.

I think his birthday in the second year... was the last time I spent time with him.

I made my first cake with my mother. It was, of course, a birthday cake for Hiroto-kun.

"Happy birthday, Hiroto-kun & j! Today I made a cake with my mom!"

I can't do it as well as my mom, but I hope he'll be happy.

"Oooh, it's a strawberry cake! Looks delicious!" (Hiroto)

I knew he'd be happy.

"Can I have some?"

"Of course, mom will cut it for you, so please wait." (Haruka)

I ate the cake with Hiroto-kun.

Hiroto-kun said, "It's delicious," "Haruka-chan is amazing," "Will you make it again?" He smiled and ate it.

I laughed and said, "I'll make it again, and we'll eat it together next year."

That was the last birthday cake I ate with Hiroto-kun...
I promised to make it again, so I practiced over and over, but the second time never came...
Hiroto-kun... I practiced over and over again, you know?
I was reminiscing about the days I spent with Hiroto-kun.
I wish I could see Hiroto-kun...
I cried a lot...
I wonder where he is now...
I wonder what kind of boy you've become...
Hmph... I shouldn't think too much. Yoshizumi-kun is Yoshizumi-kun. He's different from Hiroto-kun, so it's rude to compare them. But when I meet him, I still get a strange feeling...
Ah! I have to prepare for the new semester starting tomorrow. I have to call Aya-chan and set a time to meet up.
A new school year starts tomorrow...

TLN: The chapters are really short because the author seems to be posting daily .-.

TMTMChapter 18: New Semester

POV: Hiroto

After exchanging contact information with Saito, I went back home for the first time in a month and a half.

“It’s so relaxing...” (Hiroto)

“Why are you talking like an old man...” (Hiroto’s mother)

“Well, well, Mari-san. It’s been a while since he’s been home, so let him relax. By the way, Hiroto-kun... what’s with the box? (Toru-san)

Toru-san was looking at the box I was holding.

“Oh... this? It was given to me by Aizawa-san’s grand-daughter, who was my roommate in the hospital room.

“Aizawa-san’s? If I recall, a lovely young lady came to visit you.” (Toru-san)

“Hiroto! When did you have such a close friend? You never told your mother?” (Hiroto’s mother)

My parents were grinning and prying at me. I thought, “Not again...” and told them the same story I told Aizawa-san.

“Aizawa-san will be out of the hospital soon, right? Yeah, I’ll thank her for you then.”

“Thank you, Toru-san.”

When I opened the box and took out the gift, I found that it was a strawberry cake. I’ve always liked strawberry cake, so I savored it. How could she make something so delicious? She said it was for practice, but I’m sure it will be even better when the old lady leaves the hospital...

“And while you’re at it, tell her I said it was delicious.”

I asked him to leave a message and went back to my room.

By the way, I got a call from a senior asking me to come to the club room on the first day of school. It’s been a while since I’ve been to school, so I was going to drop by the club room and see what was going on, or I could drop by the hospital, depending on the results of the tests.

I spent the next few days relaxing at home until the first day of school, and the day of the new semester finally arrived.

I took my crutches, which I was getting used to, and headed to school. I was going to school with Yoichiro, who was the only one who went to the same middle school as me, and he offered to help me with my luggage, so I took him up on his offer.

“Have you heard anything today?”

Yoichiro asked me on the way to school after leaving the station.

“I don’t know either. Takuma and the others haven’t told me anything, and the other club members didn’t seem to have been told either.”

Today was the day of the opening ceremony. All club activities are closed due to the general meeting of the presidents from each club and the general meeting of the advisors. This is an important day for the athletic clubs, and the results of the meeting will determine the use and occupancy of the grounds and gym for the semester. Unlike in private schools, this was a matter of life and death for us public school students.

When Yoichiro and I entered the classroom for the first time in a long time, we found boys already opening their textbooks and girls reading novels... it was so quiet that I wanted to say that this was indeed a special moment for each grade.

“It’s a great way to get to know your fellow students,” the principal said.

“Good morning. Yoshizumi-kun, I heard you were in the hospital, is your leg okay?”

Her name was Chiaki Takahashi. She’s a semi-tall, slit-eyed girl who looks quiet at first glance, but she’s the class president who says whatever she wants to say.

“Oh... good morning Takahashi-san. I’m fine now, but I’m going to go to the hospital today and get some tests done.” (Hiroto)

“Yes. That’s good. I think you’re going to be okay.”

“Yeah? What?”

“It’s nothing, don’t worry about it.”

Without understanding what she meant, Takahashi-san went back to her seat. Then, “Good morning! and two boys came into the classroom with great excitement.

“Yo! Yoshizumi! You had a tough month!”

“Good morning. Looks like you hurt your foot.”

“Good morning. Long time no see, Ando and Sanada.” (Hiroto)

The cheerful one is Ando from the soccer team, and the other one is Sanada from the tennis team. These two are the only boys who belong to the sports club besides me and Yoichiro, and the four of us often talk together in the classroom.

The bell rang and the homeroom teacher, Mr. Suzuki, who is also the head of the grade, came in.

She was giving a briefing, but I was thinking about my schedule for the day and didn’t pay any attention to what she said.

TLN: Bonus chapter from milestone!

508/540 for the next :p

TMTMChapter 19: Persuasion

The opening ceremony was now over, and the students were walking to the main gate. Yoichiro and I had an errand, so we headed for the club room.

“Hey! Yoshizumi, Tanabe, we’ve been waiting for you! Please take a seat for now.”

In the club room, the retired vice-captain was waiting for us. Yoichiro sat down, talked about the condition of my leg, and were told that the former captain would be attending today’s meeting.

“Well... we third years will retire during the summer. I called you guys here today because I want one of you to be the new captain.”

Yoichiro and I, who were freshmen, were surprised. It was an unusual thing to request, so I asked him for the reason.

“We’re only in our first year, you know. Why not ask some of the second-years?” (Hiroto)

“It was the unanimous decision of all the first and second-year students, even including us third years.

Yoshizumi and Tanabe have the best brains and potential in baseball. They can lead the team during games. And yet, you still take the initiative to prepare and clean up, and practice more than anyone else... all of us have been watching you guys. You are the right people for the job. And with the next summer being our last summer in the club, everyone really wants to go to Koshien. I know this is selfish of me to ask but, can you help us?”

“I’m going to be unable to participate in practice due to my rehabilitation. So I’d like to leave it to Yoichiro.” (Hiroto)

“Hey! Hiroto!

Yoichiro was saying something, but I continued talking.

“Yoichiro was also the captain of the senior team that won the national championship. He’s the right person for the job. Of course, I’ll support him if he needs anything.”

“I see... can you do it, Tanabe?” (Vice-captain)

“Yes, I’ll do it. Hiroto, I want you to concentrate on your rehabilitation and practice, but I’ll need your support like before.”

“Let’s do it, Yoichiro.”

Yoichiro eventually gave in and had a resigned look on his face. Maybe I shouldn’t have forced it on him...

Yoichiro said, “Even when I was in middle school, you would always solve our problems, so I’m not worried about it.”

“I’m going to the hospital, so if you’ll excuse me. Yoichiro, give me the details when you finish taking over.” (Hiroto)

I left the school and headed in the direction of Saijo Station.

It’s been a long time since I’ve been in front of a station like this. Saijo Station is the most prosperous station in Saijo City, and there is a large shopping mall in front of the station where many Saijo residents gather. I also frequent this place when I go shopping.

On the way to the station, I saw some students from Saijo High School who hadn’t left yet, and friends and couples enjoying themselves at convenience stores and fast-food restaurants.

The Toko University Hospital is on the east side of Saijo Station and Saijo High School is on the west side, so I walked through the station to get to the hospital. As I approached the station, I saw students from other schools enjoying themselves.

As I was walking along the station, I saw a strange pair of people. I thought, “There are some interesting combinations,” but I felt that something was off...

The two had their backs to me, but the blonde guy seemed to be hitting on a girl from another school, and the girl looked troubled. I thought, “Now that I’ve seen it, I can’t just walk away,” and I went to help.

“Sorry for being late, did you wait long? You’re going to take me to the hospital, right? We don’t have much time, so let’s go.” (Hiroto)

“Who are you-” (???)

“We promised to meet... what’s going on?” (Hiroto)

I called out to the man and asked him to leave. I was relieved when the man walked away without putting up a fight since I was wearing a cast and couldn't really chase anyone.

"It's okay now. I'm so sorry." (Hiroto)

The girl turned and looked at me. I was surprised when I saw that it was actually Aizawa-san, who had a troubled expression on her face.

"Huh? It was you, Aizawa-san?"

"Oh! Yoshizumi-san... thank you."

"I just didn't want to ignore someone who was acting suspicious."

"Thank you so much for your... help."

"It's fine. Now if you'll excuse me, I have to go." (Hiroto)

I was about to leave for the hospital when I remembered about the cake.

"Oh! By the way, thank you for the cake. It was delicious."

"I'm glad it was to your taste."

I was relieved to see that Aizawa-san's troubled face was gone and she was smiling. I was relieved to see her smile.

"Yoshizumi-san, the station is that way, okay?"

She seemed to be wondering why I was leaving the station and called out to me.

"I'm not going home, I'm going to the hospital." (Hiroto)

"I'm going to the hospital as well, I have to pick up some things from my Grandma."

"Oh, by the way, she's about to be discharged."

Aizawa-san talked as she accompanied me on my trip to the hospital.

TLN: Had to switch to my laptop halfway and my document messed up and I had to restart...

TMTM Short Story #1 : The 4 from Saijo

TLN: This takes place before the events of Chapter 12!

“Yooooooooo! It’s me! Takuma Sakamoto!” (Takuma)

“Takuma... what’s wrong with you?” (Yoichiro)

“Yoichiro! What are you talking about? It’s finally our turn!” (Takuma)

“”That’s right! Our turn!”” (Sho and Tsubasa)

“You two think so too right? It’s crazy!” (Takuma)

“Takuma, what’s going on?” (Yoichiro)

“The name of Chapter 5! Why’s it called “Kota Saito”? Where’s my name?” (Takuma)

“”Why do we get ‘The 4 from Saijo’? What’s with this treatment?”” (Sho and Tsubasa)

“I’ve heard a bit about Saito-san, it’s because he’s important.” (Yoichiro)

“I don’t get it. Who told you that? And why are you even here, Yoichiro? You’re the captain, and you’re in the same class as Hiroto! Shouldn’t you be with him?” (Takuma)

“I tried to call Hiroto, but he escaped and said he was going to rehab...” (Yoichiro)

“”I don’t care about that! Why is it that after all these chapters we’ve been out, we’re always in a set together?”” (Sho and Tsubasa)

“Because we’re twins, right? Because we’re twins and it’s hard to tell the difference, right?” (Sho)

“That’s terrible! I’ve had enough! Let’s introduce ourselves!” (Tsubasa)

“I’m Sho Yamazaki. I’m a righthander in 8th grade!” (Sho)

“And I’m Tsubasa Yamazaki. Grade 8, second baseman!” (Tsubasa)

“See? Except for your name and position, you’re the same.” (Yoichiro)

“My turn! I’m Takuma Sakamoto! I’m in 8th grade and in the engineering department!” (Takuma)

“And I’m Yoichiro-

“””We don’t need Yoichiro!””” (All 3 of them)

“That’s right!” (Takuma)

“Are you done? I’m leaving...” (Yoichiro)

“Okay, okay! Let’s get some tacos on the way home. I found a great place.” (Takuma)

“”I’m coming!”” (Sho and Tsubasa)

“Fine... where is it?” (Yoichiro)

“On the way home from club activities, it’s a new place in the central park! I heard it has amazing food!” (Takuma)

“Takuma, why did you go to that place?” (Yoichiro)

“I was walking to the station, and I got hungry, and I just so happened to walk past the store.0 When I came to, I found myself eating a taco!” (Takuma)

“”Sounds like Takuma alright...”” (Sho and Tsubasa)

“Let’s go, then. The largest park in the city, Saijo Central Park. It’s in front of the Toko University Hospital, right? There are also ball fields, football fields, and gyms in the park. The area in front of Saijo Station is one of the busiest in the city, with a large shopping mall in the station and railroads running to various places around Saijo Station. The high school is on the east side and the university and the hospital are nearby.” (Yoichiro)

“Who are you explaining this to, Yoichiro? Everyone knows that, don’t they?” (Takuma)

“You’ve only seen the ballpark and the hospital so far, right? He asked me to take care of it for him.” (Yoichiro)

“”Yoichiro, who asked you that?”” (Sho and Tsubasa)

“Some stranger who just showed up.” (Yoichiro)

“What are you talking about...” (Takuma)

“”Why would a stranger ask you to do something?”” (Sho and Tsubasa)

“That’s enough! Let’s go eat takoyaki!” (Yoichiro)

“”Let’s go!”” (Sho and Tsubasa)

“Whatever. Let’s go.” (Takuma)

The four of them left the club room and headed for Saijo Central Park.

TLN: Loved translating this, hopefully they have more short stories coming up. (They don't)

TMTMChapter 21: With Haruka

Aizawa-san and I arrived at the hospital, I went to the examination room on the first floor, and Aizawa-san left for the second floor where she went to her grandmother's hospital room.

"I have an appointment for an examination, so I'll stay here. Tell your grandmother to take care of herself." (Hiroto)

"Oh... yes, I'll tell her..." (Haruka)

Aizawa-san's voice became quieter, and she looked like she wanted to say something, but time was running out, so I headed for the examination room.

"Um... Yoshizumi-sa"

I couldn't hear Aizawa-san's voice as I was thinking about the results of the club meeting and about Yoichiro, who would be in touch with me tonight.

"Toru-san, how's my leg? Is it okay?"

"I know you haven't walked long distances in a while, but did you feel any pain on the way to school?" (Toru)

I had been in the hospital since I injured my leg and hadn't moved much, so it had been a long time since I had traveled long distances.

"No. It didn't seem to hurt after today's trip, I think I'll be able to walk home without the cast."

"Alright, you can take the cast off and go home." (Toru)

"All right! Now I can finally move around freely!"

"Hiroto, it's not fully healed yet, it's just a cast. You still have to occasionally go to the hospital and do rehabilitation. The cast also reduced the strength of the muscles in that area, so you won't be allowed to participate in club activities for a while." (Toru)

"I understand that I'm not allowed to participate in club activities, but can't I assist in the practice while doing rehabilitation?"

"I'll ask the rehabilitation doctor about that. After I get the cast off, I'll introduce you to the physiotherapist and we'll go together. Professional athletes also come here, so you can rest assured."

"Toru-san is quite famous as an orthopedic doctor, aren't you?"

"Haha. I'll start then." (Toru)

I'm not sure why Toru-san was too embarrassed to answer. He's quite famous around here and was always my mothers' go-to doctor.

After removing the cast, I walked to the rehab room with Toru-san to check on my leg.

"Hiroto-kun. Do you have spare time? It's going to take a while to get the details."

"The only thing I've got planned for the rest of the day is some club activities in the evening."

"Then let's look carefully."

Toru and I went into the rehab room and looked at the rehabilitation methods I could do at home and my scheduled future visits to the rehabilitation center.

I was about to leave the rehab room when I heard a Toru-san saying, "Hiroto, I'm going home soon, do you want a ride?"

"Sorry, Toru-san, but I'm going to take the train home. I'll do some rehabilitation when I'm there."

"Okay. Just make sure you don't push yourself too hard." (Toru)

After parting ways with Toru, I paid the bill and walked towards the exit of the hospital.

I'm so happy to be able to move my feet freely... I'll have to report back to Yoichiro at night. Even after shopping, I won't be getting home that late. As I approached the automatic exit door, I saw Aizawa-san standing there with a large bag.

I wonder what she's doing here? I should at least say something to her.

"Aizawa-san, what are you doing in a place like this?"

"Oh! You're here. I was waiting for you!" (Haruka)

"Me? What's up?"

"I wanted to thank you for what happened earlier..."

"Are you talking about the blonde guy from before?"

“Yes... you helped me out a lot.”

“I didn’t do much, though. Let’s just call it as thanks for the cake you gave me.”

I didn’t really do anything deserving of a reward, so it would be mean to make her do something. I hope she understands.

“The cake is different, okay?”

She’s surprisingly persistent...I don’t know what I’m going to do.. Come to think of it, I came to the hospital right after school, and I didn’t eat anything, so I’ll have to get something later.

“Did you eat lunch? It’s well past noon.” (Hiroto)

“I haven’t eaten yet, how did you know?” (Haruka)

“Oh, I didn’t. I didn’t have time to eat, so I thought Aizawa-san, who was also at the ceremony, might not have eaten either. If you haven’t eaten yet, why not thank me with a meal?”

“Yes. I was just about to suggest that. Shall we go then?”

I told her that I had to go to the mall to buy something, and we decided to meet up after to have dinner.

“Aizawa-san, give me that bag.”

I pointed to the large bag that Ms. Aizawa was carrying.

“No...it’s okay. It’s just my grandma’s clothes, so it’s light.”

“It’ll be good for rehabilitation, so please lend it to me.”

“It can’t be helped... thank you, Yoshizumi-san...”

Of course, there is no such rehabilitation. It was a lie.

Chapter 22: Shopping Mall

Aizawa-san and I entered a shopping mall together, and we talked about how it was too late to have a proper meal. We both decided to go to a burger shop to have a quick meal.

After placing our orders at the counter, we sat down at a table and started to eat, when Aizawa-san looked at me with a dissatisfied look on her face.

“Why did you do that, Yoshizumi-san?” (Haruka)

“Huh? What is it?” (Hiroto)

“Why did you pay? I thought we agreed on me paying for the meal?”

Apparently she wasn’t happy that I had paid for both of us.

“I can’t make you pay for something I suggested. Isn’t that how we’re eating?” (Hiroto)

“I’m not convinced.”

I’ve never been up close and personal with a girl like this, but when I look at her, I can see that her expression changes a lot, and she’s quite cute...

“Well then, why don’t we do this? The other day, we found out that we’re the same age. So from now on, let’s not use any honorifics between us. Besides, it’s not something that you should really thank me for, and I didn’t help you because I wanted something in return.”

“Alright, I understand.” (Haruka)

“If that’s fine with you, let’s not be so formal around each other.”

“That is also fine with me.”

“”Haha.””

Aizawa-san and I both laughed at the same time. She must have felt as strange as I did.

“That uniform means you’re from Toko University, right? We’ve met at the hospital before, but I didn’t know much about you back then.”

“Yes. Yoshizumi-san wears the uniform of Saijo High School, right? I heard you were injured in an accident, but I’m glad you’ve recovered.”

“Huh? Did I ever mention something about an accident?” (Hiroto)

“Yes, you mentioned it when we first met.”

That time on the roof... I think I was trying hard to cover up the fact that I was crying. Toko University... maybe she was there... let’s ask her.

“Aizawa-san, were you at the baseball game between Saijo and Toko University?”

“Yeah, I watched it. I remembered it because I had a weird feeling at the end... because the player got into an accident... I wasn’t happy that we won even because someone got injured.

“I didn’t mention it, but I was the one who collided with Saito-san and was carried away to the hospital.” (Hiroto)

“What? Yoshizumi-san? Huh? I’m sure... Saijo High School... Ah! I’m pretty sure...the name of the person who was throwing it... was that Yoshizumi-san?” (Haruka)

“Sorry... I didn’t know that person was you.” (Haruka)

“I see. You don’t have to worry about it because it was during the game, but you can be happy for your school for winning. I just got my cast off anyways, you’re still a kind girl.”

I tried to change the bad mood.

“By the way... don’t address me with -san. I feel weird when kids my age call me ‘Yoshizumi-san’.

Haha.” (Hiroto)

“I get that... ummm... what should I call you, then?” (Haruka)

“You can call me ‘Yoshizumi’ or ‘Hiroto’, whatever you like. That’s what the students at school call me.”

“Eh... hiro... I’ll call you Yoshizumi-kun.”

After finishing our meal, we left the burger store.

“Thank you for the food, Yoshizumi-kun!”

“Don’t worry about it, I’m the one who invited you. I’m going to stop by a sports store before I leave.

“Um... can I come with you? (Haruka)

“I guess? Do you need to buy something? (Hiroto)

“No, I don’t. I’ve never been in a sports store before, so I just wanted to see what it’s like.”

“You can go with me, but it won’t be that interesting. Is that okay with you?”

“Yes. It’s okay. I’ll go with you.”

She seems excited. Well, unless you’re in an athletic club, high school girls won’t go to a sports store alone. But I wonder why she wants to go in one that badly...

On the contrary, I also wanted to spend a little more time with Aizawa-san...

TLN: Finally some development!

528/540

TMTM Chapter 23: Shaky Feelings

Aizawa-san and I entered the sports store together. I left the baseball equipment for last and went to the taping section. Aizawa-san was scurrying around the store, looking curious, as if she'd always wanted to come here.

Ever since we decided to go to the shopping mall together, I had been worried about something. I was worried about being seen by my classmates from school.

It had been a while since the opening ceremony, so I was relieved to see that there were fewer students in uniform at the mall.

If they saw me with a girl from another school, they might misunderstand and spread unwanted rumors about me.

Despite my worries, Aizawa-san seemed to enjoy looking around.

"Did you find anything of interest?" (Hiroto)

"No, I was just looking at all the things I've never seen before."

"I've been here many times, but I also occasionally see pieces of equipment that I don't recognize. I'm going to take a look at the taping kit and then go to the baseball equipment. You can look at whatever you want, too." TLN: Taping probably refers to the tape used by baseball players that they wrap around their wrists. It

supports the muscles as they move, and improves circulation in the affected region.

"I don't really know anything here, so I'll go with Yoshizumi-kun. Can't I?" (Haruka)

When I saw Aizawa-san looking up at me with a troubled expression, I felt a wave of memories, and at the same time, the troubled expression that my childhood

friend had on came to mind. The desire to see Haruka-chan and the feeling of loneliness stained my heart.

"It's not that I don't want you coming with me. I was just curious because you seemed to enjoy looking at the types of equipment."

I shouldn't have said anything weird to Aizawa-san. Now I have to face her right in front of me.

"Let's go to the baseball equipment section."

"I don't even know how taping is used, but there are so many different kinds...." (Haruka)

"I've never used it before, so I don't know much about it. I didn't realize how it worked until after the rehab doctor told me."

When we went to the baseball equipment section, Aizawa-san asked me a lot of questions, as if she wanted to know more about baseball. I answered her while looking and picking for the equipment I needed.

As I continued to explain, Aizawa-san became quiet and I thought I had explained too much about baseball. I wanted to apologize and looked over at her. Aizawa-san was holding a small baseball in her hand and seemed to be examining it.

"Are you interested in that ball?" (Hiroto)

Aizawa-san seemed to be zoned out and kept looking at the ball in her hand.

"No, I was just remembering something from..." (Haruka)

It was the type of baseball that elementary school children would play with.

"I don't know what kind, but it's a ball that looks like this..." (Haruka)

"I think it's a small baseball for elementary school students or something... like that." (Hiroto)

"A boy I loved in elementary school used to play with me... I wonder how he's doing now..." (Haruka)

If she's talking about a person she liked from elementary school, chances are she probably won't talk to me about it. But I felt as if I should help her when I saw that expression on her face. What should I do...

"Well, if the ball reminds you of your elementary school days, then it must have been a good memory." (Hiroto)

"Yeah. I had a lot of fun... I still think about it now... but I also think about the... sad things..." (Haruka)

"I hope you can make some good memories and forget some of the sad ones." (Hiroto)

"Yes... but... I don't want to forget... because if I do, they'll disappear..." (Haruka)

Aizawa-san, who was looking at the ball in her hand as if she was looking at something nostalgic, turned her face toward me and said, “Ah!”.

“I’m sorry! I must’ve mentioned something pretty strange...”

“It’s okay. Everyone has memories, and I have fun memories too, as well as memories that still make me sad when I think about them. So don’t worry about it.”

(Hiroto)

“Yes, thank you... Yoshizumi-kun, can I ask you to continue to teach me about baseball?”

“About baseball? Why all of a sudden?”

“Ever since Yoshizumi-kun took me here... I’ve wanted to know more about it...”

It seems that she was getting excited about baseball after all...

“If it comes to baseball, I’ll teach you everything that I know. But when it comes to a game... I’ll definitely beat Toko University.” (Hiroto)

“Yeah. Good luck with that.” (Haruka)

“Haha. It’s not right for a school that regularly plays in Koshien to cheer for another school. We’re a public school, but if you think about it, we still do decently well.”

“Yoshizumi-kun was doing his best until he got injured. Everyone thought your school was amazing!”

“Well, I’ll take your word for it and do my best.”

“Yes! I’m glad you told me about... Yoshizumi-kun... but I still don’t know your contact information...”

“I don’t know your contact either... shall we exchange now?” (Hiroto)

“Yes... and...” (Haruka)

“Hmm? Is something wrong?”

“No, it’s nothing... I’ll get back to you.” (Haruka)

“Yeah. I’m always available if you need me.”

We exchanged contact information on an app, and after accompanying Aizawa-san with shopping, we went home.

A lot happened today. I didn’t think I’d see her outside of a hospital...

I turned on my phone and looked at the name of my brand new contact... “Haruka Aizawa”.

I remember the troubled look... she gave me when she was in trouble, and the look that meant, “What should I do?”.

“...Haruka-chan.”

I’ve been reminded of her more and more lately...

While I was waiting for Yoichiro to call me, I kept thinking about today’s events.

TLN: Discord plug! <https://discord.gg/aYuruHwJTJ>

531/540

TMTMChapter 24: I know...

POV: Haruka

"The opening ceremony is finally over! But it doesn't feel like I've been out of school for that long..." (Aya)

"That's because you were here for club activities over the summer..." (Haruka)

"But summer break isn't the same as the school year!" (Aya)

"Heyo! Aya, Haruka, long time no see!"

"Yui-chan. It's been a while."

Her name is Yamada Yui. She's in the class next to mine, but she's a friend of Aya and often hangs out with us.

"I wanted to see you guys before I went to my club!" (Yui)

"I've got a track meet coming up, so I've got club activities. Why are you doing club activities, Yui?" (Aya)

"The handicraft club is having a display at the school festival and I'm having a hard time making it. Wait... where's Haruka?" (Yui)

"I'm going to stop by the club room and then I'll be heading home." (Haruka)

I went to the club room of the orchestra club I belong to and finished my errands. It took longer than I expected, but I finished before the two of them, so I was walking to the main gate to leave.

"Oh! Aizawa-san! Are you going home? We're going out to play, do you want to come with us?"

"I'm sorry... I have to get home for something." (Haruka)

"I see. I'll invite you next time. You should definitely come someday!"

I don't know why he would invite me if we've never talked before. It's not fun to be with someone you don't know, and it's not fun to play with someone you don't talk to...

When I was almost at Saijo Station, a strange blonde-haired man approached me.

"Are you from Toko University? Do you want to hang out for a bit?"

"Sorry... I'm just trying to go home." (Haruka)

"Why so early? It's only noon, right?"

"I'm sorry... I have to go..." (Haruka)

"It's okay if you're a little late!"

Even though I refused and walked away, he kept following me and wouldn't leave.

"I'm sorry I'm late..." (???)

I was looking down and thinking, "Someone's here again," but then I heard a voice say, "It's okay," and I turned my head.

It was Yoshizumi-kun. I only knew him as an acquaintance, but he was wearing the uniform of Saijo High School. He told me that he was on his way to the hospital.

I remembered that I had my Grandma's luggage with me and decided to head to the hospital with him.

I took the luggage to her room and looked around to see if I forgot anything, and found myself looking at the empty bed where Yoshizumi-kun had been until recently.

I remembered that I hadn't thanked him for his help, so I waited at the entrance where I would see him when he leaves, hoping he hadn't already left.

Yoshizumi-kun had a surprised expression on his face. "You already thanked me, there's no need," he said.

The cake wasn't meant to be...

He invited me to eat with him, and since I hadn't eaten lunch either, I accepted. We headed to the shopping mall in front of the station. I was glad Aya and the others weren't there. I couldn't talk to boys around them because I don't know what they'd say if they saw me with a boy... and one from another school at that.

When I was preparing to pay, Yoshizumi-kun paid for me as well...even though I was going to pay for him as thanks.

I wondered if I made him feel uncomfortable by being so insistent... Then he suggested, "How about we stop using honorifics?"

He told me that I could call him "Yoshizumi" or "Hiroto" if I'd like.

Except "Hiroto" was a no-no because that was reserved for a special person...

He surprised me by telling me about how he was the one who got injured at the baseball game.

I never asked him about school or baseball, so it's no wonder I didn't realize it sooner.

But I'm glad... I was worried about him at that time.

We went to a sports store together and headed to the rehab and baseball section while looking around.

I had never seen anything like this before, and Yoshizumi-kun laughed at me when I looked around a lot.

I look when I'm interested, I laugh when I'm happy, I cry when I'm sad, okay? Hmph.

Yoshizumi-kun seemed to be having a great time as he talked about baseball. He was usually calm and collected, but now he was smiling so much that I felt like I was seeing a new person.

The first time I met him, I saw him crying, the time he helped me, the time he smiled happily, and the time I gave him a troubled look, he would always be there.

Yoshizumi-kun" and "Hiroto-kun" are different. I know it's not right to compare them, and I know it's rude, but I enjoy being with Yoshizumi-kun.

But...

I thought I had it all sorted out...

When I see the ball in front of me, I remember.

I miss Hiroto-kun.

I want to see him...

But when I'm with Yoshizumi-kun...

Hiroto-kun is...

I feel like he's going to disappear...

Ah!

I think I said something weird while I was holding the ball.

"I also have some memories that I enjoyed, and some that still make me sad when I think about them. So don't worry about it." (Hiroto)

Even though I said something strange, Yoshizumi-kun was kind. And he had sad memories too... but I guess Yoshizumi-kun got over it... I want to be strong too...

I opened my phone on my bed and looked at where it showed "Hiroto Yoshizumi," the first boy who I exchanged numbers with, and I thought about what happened today.

I don't know what to do...

I don't know how I feel about it...

TLN: Goal reached! Bonus chapter tomorrow (or the day after).

542/580

TMChapter 25: The Beginning of School

POV: Hiroto

Yoichiro contacted me and was happy when I told him that my cast was off and I was going to be in rehab, but since I couldn't play in the fall tournament, I would be cheering in the stands. I was told not to come to practice, and that the team would be in trouble if something happened to me. Toru-san strictly told me not to move too recklessly.

This is the only thing that made me think pushing Yoichiro to be the captain was the right choice. Ever since I came to Saijo City, even since junior high school, it has been baseball every day. What am I supposed to do in rehab?

I had nothing to do, I was in trouble. "Study," I was told. But I already did that on the daily, so there wasn't any difference.

The next morning, I arrived at Saijo station and went to a convenience store to buy some things before heading to school. I was approached by quite a few people from our school, "I see you got your cast off," "Good luck,". It made me happy that they wanted me to heal quickly.

When I entered the classroom and sat with Yoichiro, Ando and Sanada, I had no idea what they were talking about.

"Have you thought of a class project?"

"Yes, but it's a secret!"

"Hmm? What are you guys talking about?" (Hiroto)

I had no idea what they were talking about. When I asked Yoichiro, he told me it was about the school festival. Yesterday, my homeroom teacher had told us to think of ideas for the festival, and in the first period we were going to decide what our class would do. I haven't thought about it at all and it's a bit too late now.

"I don't have anything... all I could think about was the hospital..." (Hiroto)

"It looked like they were going to take the cast off or something."

"Why don't you think about it now?"

"Do you guys have any good ideas?"

As we were talking, the homeroom teacher, Suzuki-sensei, came in. Our time was up.

"Quiet down, I'm going to give you the details of the festival now. You're all in the first year, so keep that in mind. It's the same every year." (Suzuki-sensei)

The cultural festival at Saijo High School was held in late October and lasted for two days: the first day was for students only, and the second day was for the general public, including parents.

Since we share the same train station, Saijo and Toko University coordinate their schedules.

Toko University has their festival in mid-october, a week earlier than us.

"That's all, Takahashi, please take care of the rest." (Suzuki-sensei)

Chiaki Takahashi, a member of the class council, stepped forward and began to speak.

"As Sensei said yesterday, we're going to decide on the festival committee now. One male and one female for each class, so raise your hand if you want to be on the committee." (Takahashi)

"..."

"No one? If you're not doing club activities and you're not busy, why don't you raise your hand? It's a chance to earn some extra points." (Takahashi)

"..."

"Well, if that's how it's going to be..." (Takahashi)

Takahashi-san was muttering as if she had given up.

"I understand. I'll take care of the girls, and you take care of the boys." (Takahashi)

"What?" (Hiroto)

What was she talking about... don't tell me-

"Yes, I said Yoshizumi-kun. Is there a problem?"

"I'm busy with club activities and rehab. What about someone from the homecoming club?" (Hiroto)

"Hiroto. I was told you weren't allowed to do club activities, right?" (Yoichiro)

It seems like Yoichiro had defected to the enemy's side.
 "You should do it, there will still be time for rehab!" (Yoichiro)
 "Yoshizumi. I'll help you if you need anything!" (Ando)
 "Yeah, I'll help as well!" (Sanada)
 Ando and Sanada arrived as Yoichiro's reinforcements... I give up...
 As long as my legs won't get overworked, I guess it could be fun and a good way to get some extra points.
 "Fine... I'll do it." (Hiroto)
 "Thank you, please come to the front."
 As I stepped forward, Takahashi-san whispered in a voice that only I could hear.
 "I'm really sorry... outside of the people in sport clubs, many of them aren't even paying attention to the cultural festival..." (Takahashi)
 She was right, if you look at the students in the classroom, many of them had their notebooks opened and weren't even listening.
 "My doctor told me that I had recovered enough to do most daily activities, if it wasn't fine, I wouldn't have accepted this role anyways." (Hiroto)
 "Is this what you were talking about yesterday morning? If so, I wish you had told me yesterday."
 "Takahashi-san and I will be in the organizing committee for the festival, so please take care of us. Now that it's decided, we'll do our best, so let's have fun." (Hiroto)
 Most of the students in the class responded cooperatively, and the others seemed at least a bit interested. The students reading the textbooks looked up for a moment, but then immediately dropped their eyes back to the book.
 We seemed to be in a bit of trouble, and our teacher didn't have the brightest expression either.
 I didn't want to have to do this but... it might be our only chance at getting the whole class to cooperate.
 "Those textbook readers over there, can you hear me? Are you sure you want to continue ignoring us? You might have gotten a higher GPA if you were on the committee." (Hiroto)
 "Hey, Yoshizumi, don't go there." (Takahashi)
 I restrained Takahashi-san with my hand.
 "Leave it to me. Sensei, a cultural festival is a school event, right?" (Hiroto)
 "Yes, that is correct."
 "What if someone decides not to participate? That would mean a lack of cooperation. Doesn't that affect the internal application score?" (Hiroto)
 "Of course, it will affect their grades. You all know what he's talking about, right?" (Suzuki-sensei)
 The guys who had decided not to participate were putting their textbooks away in their desks.
 "Yoshizumi, I'm sorry I made you say that." (Takahashi)
 "I'm sorry for the way I said it. It was the only way we could get everyone to cooperate. And I want everyone to have fun, too. We'll all be in the same class for three years. They will probably be busy studying for exams from next year. So, why don't we all enjoy this cultural festival as first-year students?" (Hiroto)
 They all looked at me and nodded. I'm glad I got the message to everyone
 I was glad that Takahashi-san and Suzuki-sensei understood my intentions. Now we can go about preparing for the festival as a class.

TLN: The bonus chapter will be tomorrow. Also was not expecting that from our boi Hiroto ;-;

TMTMChapter 26: The Cultural Festival Executives

It was time for recess and Takahashi-san came over.

“I’m sorry for forcing you to do this...” (Takahashi-san)

“It’s okay. I was the one who decided to agree, so don’t worry.” (Hiroto)

“Don’t worry about it, Takahashi-san. Leave it to Hiroto and you’ll be fine. He’ll help you if you’re in trouble, and he’ll solve all your problems!” (Yoichiro)

“Yoichiro, when did I ever do that?” (Hiroto)

“When I was a senior in middle school.”

“That’s not exactly the same thing as this, is it?”

“This time you’re the hated one, right? Somebody had to say it. I couldn’t do it myself then either. Well, it’s good that they all decided to cooperate. As the captain of the baseball team, I was worried that you might have overworked yourself while you weren’t at the club. But it seems that I won’t have to worry anymore. “

“Yoichiro... I didn’t want to force you to be the captain...” (Hiroto)

“It’s alright. If you ever need anything, I’ll be here.” (Yoichiro)

“I’m sorry to interrupt, but the festival committee is meeting after school.” (Takahashi)

Yoichiro and I were on good terms, but the other members were really disappointed that we couldn’t make it to Koshien and win the championship. I miss them all, hopefully, I could meet them soon.

After school, Takahashi-san and I headed to the audio-visual room where we were meeting.

When we arrived at the audio-visual room, there were two representatives from each class, but since the school had a large number of students, the room was quite packed.

“I wonder if this is everyone...”⁰

“I’m Yamahira, the third-year head of the festival committee. I have handed out a questionnaire to everyone. Please distribute these to your classes and keep a tally of the votes. Based on this, we will decide what each class will do.” (Yamahira)

“The rest of the day will be devoted to the cultural club’s exhibits and displays. The athletic department will have rotating patrols and staffing on the day of the festival, and their roles have all been announced.”

We, the organizing committee members, were also assigned to patrol.

After the meeting, Takahashi-san stayed behind to ask a question, and as I headed for the exit of the audio-visual room, she stopped me.

“Yoshizumi-kun. Since we won’t always be here to exchange information, can you give me your contact information?” (Takahashi)

“Sure. If that’s the case, send me a message on the days you can’t come.” (Hiroto)

I exchanged contact information with Takahashi-san and headed for the exit.

“Whoa! Yoshizumi! Looks like the cast came off. I also heard from Takuma. You can come here to help or for rehabilitation, but I won’t let you participate.” (Tanabe)

“I’ll concentrate on my rehabilitation. Who’s going to pitch in the autumn tournament?”

“Sakamoto (freshman), Kimura (sophomore), and Hayakawa-san.”

“Kimura-san, Hayakawa-san and Takuma? Takuma can get a little too fired up on the field, but I’m sure the seniors will be fine.” (Hiroto)

“Hiroto, could you come watch them pitch? They’ve told me to ask you.” (Tanabe)

I went to the practice on Saturday morning and got to watch them all pitch.

I arrived to watch them pitch, but I didn’t have time for anything else.

“Hiroto, don’t come until Saturday. Go home...” (Yoichiro)

“I understand. Yoichiro, call me if you need anything.” (Hiroto)

TLN: Did he really just send him right back?

I couldn’t participate in the practice, so I apologized to everyone and went home.

Takuma said, “My class is having takoyaki at the school festival!” and ran off.

Yoichiro told me that Takuma’s class (7) had decided to vote for Takuma’s idea for the festival.

I really hope nothing goes wrong with Takuma’s idea...

Thinking about the seniors and Takuma's practice on Saturday, I headed to the storage room at home for the first time in a long time to see if I could find something to do.

This... is an electronic piano that my dad had bought me.

"Hiroto. This will help you get used to the keys. It doesn't have pedals, but I think it's good for getting your fingers used to it."

"Thanks! I'm going to practice lots. I hope I can play like you one day!" (Hiroto)

"Haha, I think you should enjoy playing the piano first. It was fun for my dad, too."

I remembered when he had bought me the piano. I haven't touched the piano since my dad left. It was too painful to touch. When I started playing baseball, I had noticed that the piano had been helpful in developing my finger senses.

It's been a while since I've played it. My mom isn't home yet, so I guess it's okay to take it out.

I took the electronic piano to my room and touched the keys for the first time in a long time.

TMTMTMTMTM•7-æ÷ 6—2

TMTMTMTMTMTM4†—&÷FòÖ·VâÂ F °e me as your wife when we grow up!”

“Yeah! All right! I’ll protect you, Haruka!”

Two people born and raised in a certain town in a certain region...

They lived next door to each other and were the same age, a boy and a girl.

They smiled at each other and said, “We’re going to be together forever...” Their parents also smiled at them.

Some time passed, and just one day after I entered the third grade of elementary school, such a routine came to an unexpected end.

“Haruka-chan....I’m moving far away from here...”

“What....?”

“I’m sorry...Haruka-chan...”

“Hiroto-kun, I don’t want you to go...no....don’t go...”

The last time Hiroto saw Haruka’s face, it wasn’t smiling, but crying...

Hiroto and Haruka then grew distant.

Seven years have passed, Hiroto and Haruka, who are now in their first year of high school in a faraway place, different from where they were born and raised, unknowingly meet again.

They meet again without realizing it, and the cogs of their stopped clocks start to turn once more.

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Show more

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TMTMChapter 28: Questionnaire

“Takahashi-san! I’m so sorry!” (Hiroto)

“It’s fine, I should be the one who’s sorry. By the way... was it okay leaving the girl like that?”

Takahashi-san and I left the ticket gate and entered the burger store where I had gone with Aizawa-san.

We sat down and I started bowing my head to Takahashi-san.

“Well... we were just talking about club activities.”

“I didn’t know you were acquainted with people from Toko High.” (Takahashi)

I told her what had happened during my hospital stay and we started to tally up the questionnaires that I had given to her.

“Do you know what the special education department does every year at the school festival?”

I looked at the questionnaire for the event and asked Takahashi-san.

“The other day, after Yoshizumi-kun left, I asked a teacher.”

“What did they say?”

“He told me about a quiz contest and recommended reference surveys from previous festivals. It seems they had a stall every now and then. There are a lot of votes for desserts in this survey. They were mostly from girls, though.” (Takahashi)

It would be easy to have the class do desserts. But then again, the Advanced Course had high standards.

“I guess it can’t be helped. The general education and engineering departments seem to have decided what they were going to do with their advertisements.”

When I finished tallying up the results, Takahashi-san voiced her confusion.

“What are we going to do with this...?”

The results were a tie between ‘dessert’ and ‘quiz’.

“I want you to wait until noon to turn it in tomorrow. We’ll all decide in the morning.”

“Okay, I’ll let you know in the morning, and if there are no issues, we’ll decide in the afternoon.”

“You know, I want to have fun while I’m doing it. I want this festival to be a memorable one.”

“What are you planning?”

“Yoichiro, Ando, and Sanada. On the day of the festival, these three will be crucial.”

“Well, if you already have it planned out...as long as it’s not anything weird...”

They said they’ll do anything. They’ll be the ones to make things happen.

After parting ways with Takahashi-san, I took the train home. Toru-san and my mother were eating dinner in the dining room.

“It’s pretty late, did you have club activities today?” (Mother)

“After I showed up at the club, I had to do something for the school festival.”

“You said you were on the organizing committee. I heard you got a cake when you left the hospital. A girl thanked me for your care when her grandmother was discharged.” (Toru)

“I won’t forget her, Toru-san. I told her how delicious the cake was when I met her.”

Also... I haven’t heard back from Mom in a bit. I stopped my chopsticks and looked at her. She was staring at me.

“Hiroto, you never told me about this! When did you meet her?” (Mother)

“What do you mean? We ran into each other in front of the station on the day of the school opening ceremony. She’s from Toko High.”

“I thought you two had become friends and were going to hang out. What’s the girl’s name?” (Mother)

“Umm... Haruka Aizawa.”

“Ha...ru... Yes...I get it. If you see her, be nice to her. I gave birth to a man, and all he does is play baseball! (Mother)

“I also study...”

What is my mother talking about...

I think I’ll talk to Toru-san after all.

After dinner, I was reading a magazine in my room when I received a message, so I opened my phone.

“Hiro, how’s the rehab going? If it’s too hard for you to move, it’s okay to refuse, but would you like to

come to the school festival?”

It was from Ko-chan, a kind person who taught me baseball and was like a brother to me.

“Is it in Toko High? It’s on a different schedule from Saijo High’s festival, so I think I’ll be able to go.” (Hiroto)

“Nice! Students that aren’t in Toko High can’t get in without an invitation, so I’ll give you one. In fact, I told the guys in the baseball team about Hiro. Everyone is interested and wants to meet you! I think the school festival was on good timing, since I wanted to catch up on things with you as well.” (Saito)

Ko-chan invited me to go to the school festival of Toko High. It was before the festival at Saijo, so it was a good way to see what it was like. We decided on a date to meet up in order to receive the invitation tickets.

TLN: Yike... sorry I got into my lazy habits and almost died for another 4 months. I can’t promise daily chapters, but I’ll try my best to pump out a few chapters a week.

577/600 Reading lists

TMTM Chapter 29: Tickets to the School Festival

It was now Monday's homeroom. Takahashi-san and I went up to the front of the class to announce the results of the survey to our classmates.

"It seems that there is a tie between quiz and desserts. We're now going to take a majority vote to break the tie. But before we do that, I'd like to ask everyone who took the questionnaire about what they'd like to see." (Takahashi)

The students that voted for the quiz and desserts were freaking out and looking at each other. I knew that they didn't have any ideas, but I moved on with the plan.

"Yakota-san, what would you like to see in the quiz?" (Hiroto)

"Eh? What do I want..?" (Yakota)

"You put quizzes for your first and second choices, so it seems like you really want to do a quiz."

"Um... I don't know..." (Yakota)

I knew she wouldn't have any ideas.

"Tanimaru-san, you voted for desserts. Do you have any ideas?"

"I thought that the other classes might have a coffee shop, so I feel like desserts would sell well with yakisoba and takoyaki in the festival. Since they would want something as a palate cleanser." (Tanimaru)

"Okay, thank you. Let's do a majority vote now. Everyone raise your hands!" (Hiroto)

As expected, it was an overwhelming victory for desserts. After all, who would be satisfied with taking quizzes during a festival?

"It seems like everyone has agreed to do desserts. We need to decide on what food to make. We shouldn't do anything too elaborate, something simple that everyone could make would be nice. Do any of you have suggestions?"

"Yoshizumi-kun, do you have a minute?" (Tanimaru)

"Tanimaru-san, what is it?" (Hiroto)

"I was thinking of making chocolate bananas. It's simple and even the boys can help out during the festival."

Our class ended up deciding on chocolate bananas. It was a good choice since everyone could do it, and even the students who had studies and clubs could help out without needing much experience. Suzuki-senpai seemed satisfied with the results.

Takahashi-san and I finished making our report to the festival committee, and I proceeded to my club activities.

"Yoichiro, pass me the ball. The physiotherapist said I could throw the ball if I only used my upper body. I'm afraid that if I don't practice, I'll lose the feelings in my fingers." (Hiroto)

"I don't mind, as long as you stay within the limits of rehabilitation. Also, are you coming to the game on Saturday?" (Yoichiro)

"I'm coming to the game, but my check-up is scheduled to happen right after it."

I went to the clubroom with Yoichiro and watched Takuma and the seniors practice pitching. Something was on my mind, so I asked them about it.

"What are you guys doing for the festival?" (Hiroto)

"We're doing a haunted house. Everyone in the class seems to be into it and they are all helping out in the decorating." (Yoichiro)

"We're going to sell hot dogs! Although there is a dispute over where to put up the stand..." (Senior #1)

"I see, it's not easy, is it?" (Hiroto)

"My group is going to make takoyaki! The old man at the park made me his apprentice!" (Takuma)

It seems that the others already knew what they were going to do... I hope Takuma has the same energy playing baseball as he does talking.

I was planning on meeting Ko-chan for the festival tickets tomorrow, so I went home to plan out the schedule.

The next day, after rehabilitation, I met Ko-chan in front of a convenience store near Toko High.

"Hiro! Sorry, did I make you wait? I'm glad to see that your cast is off!" (Saito)

“Nope, I just got here from rehab.” (Hiroto)

“Here’s your ticket. Let me know if you’re coming on Saturday or Sunday.”

“All right, thanks for the invitation.”

“I’ll meet you there! The director wants to talk to me about my career choices.” (Saito)

“Career? Are you going to college or going professional?”

“If I could go professional, I would. But the director told me that I needed to go to college to improve my skills.” (Saito)

Ko-chan ran straight back into Toko High...

I’ve never really thought about a career path. I went into high school to play baseball, and I’m doing well on my studies. I’ll have to think seriously about it this summer.

As I was deep in thought, I heard a voice calling out to me.

“Eh? Yoshizumi-kun? What are you doing in a place like this?”

A girl I was familiar with approached me from behind.

“Oh. Hello, Aizawa-san. I was just thinking about something.”

“Thinking? You’re on the wrong side of the station if you want to get to school, you know?” (Haruka)

“I was meeting Saito-san from Toko high. You know, the guy I bumped into during the game.” (Hiroto)

“I see... was it about your leg again?”

“No, he gave me some tickets to your school’s festival. Some guys from the baseball team wanted to meet me.”

“Oh, you’re coming... to the festival...” (Haruka)

“I’m also on the festival committee, so I wanted to see what the festivals were like. I was just about to head home... do you want to come with me to the station?” (Hiroto) TLN: Wait, could this be development?

I suddenly remembered something.

“Oh. I forgot that other students from Toko High might see us together.”

“I don’t care if they see us. Come on, let’s go.” (Haruka)

I was conspicuous because I didn’t belong to Toko High. Since Aizawa-san would be walking with me, we would draw even more attention. ...Oh well.

“All right. Let’s go.” (Hiroto)

I had strange feelings when Aizawa-san and I walked along the school route of Toko High. The hospital and central park were close by, and it was more convenient than Saijo High School.

As we made our way to the station, we felt the stares from the Toko High students walking nearby.

Suddenly, as I looked at the central park, I saw the field inside.

“Aizawa-san, I’m going to stop by the park for a bit.” (Hiroto)

“The park? What will you be doing?” (Haruka)

“You see that field over there? It’s a place I stop by on my way home from the hospital, and I wanted to see if it would be a good place to practice baseball.”

“Hm... Yes, then I’ll go with you.”

For some reason, Aizawa-san seemed to be coming too, so we decided to go to the park together...

TLN: Development?!?!?!?!?

Reading Lists: 592/600 (Almost there!)

TMTMChapter 29: Central Park

“Yes, I’ll go with you.” (Haruka)

“I’m just going to see if the field is usable for practice. I don’t think there’s anything interesting there, okay?” (Hiroto)

“I don’t have anything to do today, so I’ll be fine. I just wanted to see what people do on the field.” (Haruka)

Well, that’s okay. I wanted to ask her something while I was there, but I’ll do it when the time is right.

“Okay. Shall we go then?” (Hiroto)

“Yes!” (Haruka)

At the park, there were many adults and children running and talking on benches. I walked through the park with Aizawa-san. [TLN: I probably messed up this sentence.]

“Are we going to the field?” (Haruka)

“Well, I’d like to throw a few balls if I can.” (Hiroto)

“I’ll watch then.”

“I don’t think it would be fun to watch... I remember you asking me to teach you baseball.”

“Do you want to try, Aizawa-san?”

“I’ve never thrown before. I’m not that good at sports...”

“It’s easy. I’ll teach you.”

“Okay! I’ll give it a try.”

I know you said you’d watch, but I want you to have a little fun.

“Keep your right foot where it is, and you don’t have to lift your left foot, but when you throw, put your left foot forward and try throwing the ball.” (Hiroto)

Aizawa-san kept repeating herself while practicing.

“Like this?” (Haruka)

“... you’re so cute.”

“Hm? What did you say?”

I think I said it out loud... I’m glad she didn’t hear me.

“I didn’t say anything.” (Hiroto)

“I don’t think so. I’m sure I heard something...” (Haruka)

“It’s just your imagination...”

I took a glove out of the bag, put it on my hand, and readied it.

“Get ready! I’m going to throw it!”

She’s too cute... Aizawa’s ball took off with a nice trajectory and landed in the glove I was holding.

“It landed! I did it!” (Haruka)

She was happy, smiling and jumping up and down in little bouncy steps. Seeing her like that, all I could think was how cute she was. After that, I received the ball thrown by Aizawa-san several times.

“Whew! Yoshizumi-kun! That was a lot of fun.”

“I’m glad you had fun. Shall we take a little break on the bench?”

She sat down on the bench and drank something she had bought from a vending machine.

“I was surprised at how expressive you are, Aizawa-san. I’ve always thought of you as a quiet girl.” (Hiroto)

“Eh...?” (Haruka)

Did I say something weird? I thought back on what I said but couldn’t think of anything. Meanwhile, Aizawa-san seemed to remember and had a variety of expressions on her face.

“Um... I seem to have gotten carried away.” (Haruka)

“Well, I’m glad you enjoyed it.” (Hiroto)

“I’m really sorry! I’m not usually like this...”

“I don’t know why you’re apologizing...you don’t have to worry about it. I thought you were pretty cute.”

I felt as if I said something weird... Aizawa-san is looking down and her face is turning red. I need to change the subject...

“Oh...no... I mean I’m glad you enjoyed it! I wanted to ask you... do you want anything for your birthday?”

Somehow, I managed to change the subject. I got a cake on the day I left the hospital, and I wanted to give her something in return, but I didn’t know what she wanted.

“Birthday..? Why...?”

“You got me a cake, didn’t you?” Your grandmother said it was in October, and I wanted to return the favor, so I thought I’d ask.”

I’ve only given a girl something for her birthday when I was in elementary school, so I don’t know what to get her.

“I didn’t mean to get anything in return when I give you the cake, okay? Besides, I thought we agreed that I should thank you for what you did the other day.” (Haruka)

“I know, but I don’t feel comfortable not returning the gift I received... do you really not want anything?” (Hiroto)

“Well...I don’t have anything I want... but I’ll be fine with whatever you pick out for me, Yoshizumi-kun.”

“Okay, don’t get mad if I give you something weird...”

“I wouldn’t get mad at you for that.”

I’ll have to look for something at the mall next time.

“I’m fine with anything you pick out. I had fun today.”

“I’ll do that. I’m banned from club activities right now, so I’ll send you a message when I’m going to the hospital.”

We exchanged contact information, but I don’t remember ever contacting her. But still, she enjoyed learning about baseball today.

“Shall we head home now?” (Hiroto)

I put the gloves and ball in my bag and headed for the station. A good amount of time had passed, and the setting sun was shining down on us.

“I’m going this way, Yoshizumi, so bye-bye. Contact me when you’re ready.”

“I’ll do that. See you later.”

Aizawa-san was waving her hand in the same gesture as when I met her at the ticket gate before. I knew she was a girl with a lot of emotions. I got on the train and went home. The first thing I did when I got home was to greet my family. I thought it was a good opportunity and decided to ask him.

“Hiroto-kun. Welcome home.” (Toru)

“I’m home, Toru-san. Is this a good time? I need to talk to you.” (Hiroto)

“It’s a good time. What is it?”

“Yes, it’s about my mother. I was wondering if it’s okay if I ask you about the past.”

“The past? I haven’t been able to ask her much either. What do you want to know?”

“I want to ask you about my childhood friend who lived next door. I haven’t been able to contact her since I came to Saijo... and I really want to see her.”

Toru-san thought about it for a while.

TLN: I really don’t have any excuses this time. I’m not dropping this series yet but if anyone wants to pick it up then you can find me in our discord.

TMTM Chapter 30: Sudden Farewell (Part 1)

It was right after third grade.

‘Rattle!’ The door opened vigorously.

“Haha! Hiroto! You’re coming with the teacher now!” (Haruka)

“Sensei, what’s wrong?” (Hiroto)

“Just come quickly!” (Teacher)

“Hiroto-kun... what’s wrong?” (Haruka)

“I don’t know... but the teacher said to come. I’ll be back soon, Haruka-chan.” (Hiroto)

“Okay! Come back soon!” (Haruka)

I got into the car with the teacher who seemed to be in a hurry. I asked him, “Sensei, where are we going?” He didn’t give me an answer, saying, “We’ll be there soon.” After a while, the car stopped and the teacher said, “I’m getting off here. The doctor will be with you.” I didn’t understand, but I got out and realized that I was in front of the hospital.

The doctor held me by the shoulders and we went inside the hospital. As I entered the hospital and was taken to the back, I heard my mother’s voice.

“Ahhh! Renji-san! Renji-san!” (Mari) TLN: Mari is Hiroto’s mother if anyone forgot.

My mom was crying, calling dad’s name. She seemed to have been injured and was wearing a bandage. I thought she was crying because she was in pain.

“Mom... does it hurt?” (Hiroto)

“Hiroto... your.. dad...Renji-san is...” (Mari)

“I don’t understand. What’s wrong with dad? Where is he? He was with us today, right?”

“Hiro... he’s...gone...”

A doctor and a teacher were talking.

When they were finished, he turned to me.

“Sakurai. The doctor will be with you.” (Teacher)

I still didn’t know what had happened. But I knew...something bad had happened.

“Mari! You’re safe! Where’s Renji-kun?” (Grandpa)

“Renji... he is...”

Grandpa came and talked with mom.

After a while, he said, “Hiroto. Come with Grandpa.”

“Where are we going?” (Hiroto)

“To your father’s place.”

He was sleeping. I called to him, “Dad, wake up,” but he wouldn’t wake up. I kept waking him up over and over again, but he wouldn’t wake up.

I talked to the doctor and my grandpa and found out that my dad was gone.

I cried a lot after that. I cried so much that I forgot what happened after.

I only remember my mom calling my dad’s name over and over again.

A few days later, Grandpa came to talk to the school teacher and we decided to move away...

“Haruka-chan... we’re going to move far away...” (Hiroto)

“What...?” (Haruka)

I’m sorry... Haruka-chan...

“Hiroto-kun... don’t go...”

I gave Haruka-chan a letter and I moved out. The last time I saw Haruka-chan, her face was covered in tears.

I still can’t forget the events of those days, even after seven years...

The company decided to move our belongings the next day, and we moved out right away. Mom was often distracted when she thought about Dad and the past.

Grandpa told me that my mom drove the car and got into an accident. Dad did not survive. Maybe that’s why she kept blaming herself.

Because I heard that, I could not mention my father’s name or Haruka-chan’s name.

I heard that my grandfather had told Haruka's parents about what had happened.

A year after we left, I heard that Haruka's mother contacted me, but I wanted to see her, so I asked Grandpa, but he told me that Mom did not remember anything.

Her hand was injured in the accident and she could no longer play the violin. For treatment, she went to the orthopedics department of Toko University Hospital, where Toru-san, who was famous at that time, worked.

I really owe a lot to Toru-san, both my mother and I.

If it weren't for Toru-san, my mother might never be the same...

When Toru-san and Mom decided to get married... It was right after I entered the sixth grade. We moved from Grandpa's house to our current house in order to live with Toru-san. Grandpa and his family also moved into the neighborhood to live nearby.

I changed schools and came to Grandpa's house, and I was put on the baseball team of which Grandpa was the general manager of. I'm very grateful for that.

Still, no matter how many years go by, I can't forget it... I could never forget.

If I don't meet Haruka, I can't move forward.

Even now, time is still standing still.

When I see Aizawa-san, I remember Haruka. I can't help but compare them.

Haruka-chan... how are you doing?

I want to see you...

"What do you think, Toru-san?" (Hiroto)

"Well... if Hiroto-kun said he wanted to know, I think Mari-san would answer you. Do you want me to ask with you?" (Toru)

"I think so. I'd like to know more about you and your family. Can you do that for me?"

Toru-san and I waited for my mother to come home.

2/2

TLN: Please comment or point out mistakes on our discord!

No idea when the next chapter will come out but I will try and not break the promised ETA for the 100th time.

TMTM Chapter 31: Sudden Farewell (Part 2)

Point of View: Haruka

I finished club activities early today, so I was leaving school alone. I left the main gate and was about to pass by a nearby convenience store when I saw Yoshizumi-kun standing there. I wondered what he was doing there, so I called out to him.

“Yoshizumi-kun, what are you doing here?” (Haruka)

“Hmm? Hey, Aizawa-san. I was just thinking, that’s all.” (Hiroto)

“Thinking? From the station opposite of Saijo High?”

“I was meeting up with Saito-san. You know, the guy who bumped into me.”

It seems he was meeting up with a senior member of the baseball team. When I asked him about it, he said it was for tickets to the school festival. I’m glad they got along. But... he’s coming to the school festival? It’s fine because it’s a big place, but it would be embarrassing if we met each other... I wanted to keep our relationship a secret.

Yoshizumi-kun was worried about people from my school seeing us walk home together, but I didn’t mind...

Yoshizumi-kun said, “I want to check out the field at the park” so we went to the park together. He seems to like baseball a lot.

“Would you like to try throwing a baseball, Aizawa-san?” (Hiroto)

I tried to refuse because I wasn’t good at sports, but I wanted to try baseball, so he showed me. Even though I didn’t do well, he taught me carefully and politely. After all, Yoshizumi-kun was kind.

When I’m with Yoshizumi-kun, I’m reminded of Hiroto-kun. I know I shouldn’t compare them anymore, but I couldn’t help it.

“Aizawa-san has a lot of emotions, don’t you? I thought you were a quiet girl at first.” (Hiroto)

I was surprised. When he told me that, I realized that I had been interacting with a boy in a normal way... suddenly I was surprised and embarrassed at the same time.

“You were cute.” I’ve heard this before from other people, but I never thought much of it. When Yoshizumi-kun told me, I was more than happy to hear it. But at the same time...

“Haruka-chan, I love you!”

“Haruka-chan, you’re so cute!”

“Haruka-chan... I am going to move far away...”

Hiroto-kun moved far away. It was sudden. The furniture in the house was still there along with all the memories, but Hiroto-kun and his friends were all gone. A few days later, a contractor came to take their belongings away and all I could do was watch. I saw the empty house... all I could do was cry.

I later heard that his father had passed away. His mother was also injured and left with Hiroto-kun and his grandpa.

I cried all the time...

I told my mom that I would go to Hiroto-kun’s place, but she never told me anything.

A year later, my parents got divorced and I moved with my mom to her parents’ house. At that time, my name changed from “Haruka Sato” to “Haruka Aizawa”.

I knew my mother would never tell me.

When I became a junior high school student, I stopped crying but never stopped asking my mother.

“Mom, where did Hiroto-kun move to?” (Haruka)

“You seem to be okay now, so I can tell you. I couldn’t tell you before because Hiroto was still adapting and it would have been difficult for him.” (Haruka’s Mother)

“I called Mari-san when I got into a divorce and told her my current address.”

“Really? I’ll send a letter to Hiroto-kun!” (Haruka)

But...

The letter I sent to Hiroto-kun came back to me with “Recipient Unknown”.

I asked my mother. She said, “I gave her the address, but she didn’t tell me that Hiroto-kun and his family moved again after that. When we moved out, I talked to Hiroto’s grandfather, but Mari-san was so

devastated that she decided not to contact him after giving him our address.

My mind was blank.

Where did Hiroto-kun go?

All the letters I received from Hiroto-kun... I still have them, you know...?

'I love you, Haruka-chan. I'll see you again soon.'

Those were the last words in the letter...

Hiroto-kun, when will I see you again?

When I was reminded of the letter, I couldn't help but start crying again.

He was a mysterious boy who made me feel happy and safe when I was with him. I might be interested in Yoshizumi-kun.

At this rate, Hiroto-kun would disappear from my life, right?

As I was thinking, I saw two message notifications on my cell phone, and I opened them.

'I'm going to the hospital next Saturday afternoon, so we can go to the park after that, what do you think?'

It was Yoshizumi-kun.

'Okay, I'll go to the hospital next Saturday afternoon. I have club activities in the morning, so I'll be fine.

I'll call you when I'm done with club activities.'

The other was Aya. But I wasn't sure how I felt.

I don't know how I feel about you, Yoshizumi-kun...

I want to know how I feel about you...

TLN: I wonder how long it'll take for them to realize. Bet no one expected this chapter though.

TMTMChapter 32: Truth

After talking with Toru-san, I waited for my mother to come home.

“I’m back! I’ll make you guys a meal soon.” (Mari)

“Mari-san, could we have a word?” (Toru)

“What’s the matter with you two?” (Mari)

She prepared drinks for the three of us and sat down in front of us.

“Mom... I want to know about Haruka...” (Hiroto)

“Haruka-chan...?” (Mari)

“I’ve been wanting to ask her ever since we moved. But I couldn’t ask. If you know, then please tell me.” (Hiroto)

“Hiroto... I’m sorry. Even now, you never ask me anything, so I thought it would be better if I didn’t talk about it either... It’s still hard for me to think about Renji. But now that you and Toru are here, I’m okay.” (Mari)

“Mom... I’m sorry...” (Hiroto)

“It’s about Haruka, isn’t it? I’m sorry Hiroto, I don’t remember. Around a year after we moved, I got a call from Haruka-chan’s mother, but I don’t remember what she told me...”

“Haruka-chan’s mother called?”

“Yes, that’s all I remember... Hiroto got together with Toru in the sixth grade, right? I called him to give him our current address at that time, but the line wasn’t in use and the call couldn’t get through.” (Mari)

TLN: 6th grade is the last year of elementary school in Japan!

“So you don’t know where she is...?” (Hiroto)

“Yes... Hiroto never asked me, so I thought it would be best to not tell you...” (Mari)

Haruka-chan might have moved? No...it might be possible if only her number changed... If she’s moved, maybe she’s still in the neighborhood. I’m busy with club activities now... maybe it’s time to let go...

“It’s not your fault. I didn’t have a choice at the time... I’ll try to go over there once before rehab is over. I’m going to look for Haruka. If she’s not there, then maybe there’s someone there who knows where she is.” (Hiroto)

“Yes... Hiroto still... cares about Haruka-chan...” (Mari)

“I’ve always wanted to meet her. I distracted myself by playing baseball, but I can’t move on unless I face it.”

“Yes... I understand. Do you want me to come with you?” (Mari)

“It’s okay, I’ll go by myself.”

She says she’s fine, but I’m worried about taking my mom to a place where there’s memories of Renji-san. When I do go, it’ll be after the school festival.

“Thank you, Mom. Toru-san, you too.” (Hiroto)

“Hiroto, I’m not sure if Haruka-chan will be there or not, but I hope you find her.” (Toru)

“Yeah...” (Hiroto)

The mood was getting somber, but then Toru-san dropped a bomb on me.

“More importantly, Hiroto-kun... you said you can’t move forward. Are you talking about Aizawa-san’s granddaughter?” (Toru)

“Eh?! What, no!” (Hiroto)

Toru-san grinned and said, “Hiroto, you’re popular with girls. That’s never happened to you before, has it?”

Mom must have understood what Toru-san was trying to do, because she said, “Hiroto! You didn’t tell your mother? You were getting along after all!”

Toru-san was trying to lighten and change the atmosphere between Mom and me.

I’m really grateful to him...

“We’re on good terms... I just happened to run into her in front of the station!” (Hiroto)

“Hiroto-kun... she’s a cute girl, isn’t she?” (Toru)

“Hiroto! You should introduce her to your mother!” (Mari)

Toru-san... Thank you. My mother and I are fine now.

"I told you we just know each other! I'm going back to my room... call me when it's time to eat."

You're taking it too far... Toru-san. What if my mother really ends up thinking it's true!

I went back to my room and looked at my phone, there was a message from Yoichiro. It was about the schedule for the fall tournament. We were in the top four during the summer, so we were placed third and had to start our matches in the third round. Our first game was next Saturday.

I replied to Yoichiro and received an incoming call from him.

"Yoichiro, what's up?"

"Ah, Hiroto. Can you come on Saturday? If you can, I want you to be on the bench. I've talked to the coach and have his permission."

"What are you talking about? Don't tell me... you aren't able to play?"

"I need you to look at the pitchers, we have to play the game with three pitchers. I want Hiroto to observe them and tell the manager how they're doing."

"I can't hang around without a number, can I? Well, I'm good to go. My rehabilitation visit is scheduled for noon, so I can make it to the game."

After hanging up the phone, I remembered that I had promised Aizawa-san that I would call her when I went to the hospital. I should send her a message...

'Good evening. The rehabilitation day we talked about, I'll be there next Saturday at noon. After that I'll be free.'

I just finished typing the message and hit the send button. Is this okay? I didn't write anything weird, did I? Am I nervous because Mom and Dad were saying weird things? I hear my mom saying that the food's ready, so I send the message before heading down for dinner.

'Saturday afternoon will be fine. My club activities will be over in the morning, so I'll call you when I'm done.'

When I returned to my room and looked at my phone, I found a reply from Aizawa-san.

Come to think of it... what should I get for her birthday?

TLN: Bop!

Please point out any mistakes so I can fix them .-.

TMTMChapter 33: Birthday Present

“Sorry, it’s not a lunch box today, it’s the school cafeteria food.” (Hiroto)

It was lunch break and I was able to talk to Yoichiro, Ando and Sanada, the usual three.

“It’s rare to see you here. It’s been a while since you’ve been to the cafeteria, right? You always say that the cafeteria food isn’t enough for you.” (Yoichiro)

“That’s because of club activities. I’ve told my mom that she doesn’t have to worry about lunch while I’m in rehab because I can’t exercise. It’s bad enough that she has to get up in the morning to make my lunch box.” (Hiroto)

“That’s a good thing. I don’t want you to come back to the club with a body that can’t move.” (Yoichiro)

“I’ll go to the cafeteria, then.” (Hiroto)

The four of us bought onigiri with us in addition to our lunches. The school lunch isn’t enough for active members of the sports club.

I went to the cafeteria looking for someone to talk to, but no one seemed to be there today, so I sat down in an empty spot and ate alone.

“Oh? May I join you?” (Takahashi)

“There’s an open seat, Takahashi-san.” (Hiroto)

It was Takahashi-san, who was in my class and a member of the festival committee. I didn’t have anyone I could talk to about this topic... this could be an opportunity.

“Takahashi-san, what should I give a girl for her birthday?” (Hiroto)

“Is it for your girlfriend?” (Takahashi)

“No... I’ve been taking care of... or rather, I’ve been taken care of by her at the hospital. I was spending my birthday at the hospital and she gave me a cake when I was discharged, so this is a return gift.” (Hiroto)

“I think it’s a good idea to get something that you don’t have to worry about... or something consumable, so the other person won’t feel bad about receiving it. It’s for the girl from the other day, right?”

“Oh, wow... how did you know?”

“You seemed to get along with her even though she was from a different school. I could tell just by looking.”

“Oh... you’re right about her. Thank you, I’ll keep your suggestions in mind.”

I know you said it was next month, but you tell me what day it was. I’m not going to meet you on your birthday... so it’s okay if I give it early.

It was after class and I was showing up for club activities when I received my number. It said “11” instead of the “1” I wore during the summer. Before heading to the field, I met up with Yoichiro and the manager.

“Yoshizumi, is your rehab going well? (Manager)

“Yes, it’s going well. I can’t run yet, but I’ve recovered a lot.” (Hiroto)

“I see. Don’t push yourself too hard.” (Manager)

“Hiroto, who do you think would be a good starter for Saturday?” (Yoichiro)

“If it’s Saturday, you shouldn’t start with Takuma. He’s a moody guy and I don’t want him to cause any issues early on. (Hiroto)

“I agree... we should start with either Kimura-san or Hayakawa-san and Takuma-san could be the backup.” (Manager)

“I know it’s too much for Takuma, but I’ll ask him to play center during the game and throw him in the field during the offensive lineups to see if he can pitch.” (Yoichiro)

After deciding how to play the fall tournament, I talked with Kimura-san and Hayakawa-san and had them throw in the field. Takuma-san was practicing defense in the outfield, he makes a lot of noise wherever he is... so it was nice and quiet here.

I’ve got nothing to do in today’s club activities, so I decided to leave. I had some time to kill, so I decided...

I took my usual route to school and headed for the shopping mall in front of the station. It was easy since

it's attached to the station.

I'll take Takahashi-san's advice.

I haven't bought a present since elementary school, so I didn't know what to buy. I came to the store in the shopping mall that Takahashi-san told me about.

Am I going to go in here...?

There was indeed a retail floor. But I was nervous to go in there because I only ever went to sports stores and store's that sold men's clothing.

The store in front of me sells things that girls like. I didn't think anything of it, but the only customers I saw inside were girls.

I looked around and I saw girls in uniforms from Seijo and Toko High.

Do I have to go?

Having decided to buy something, I stepped into the unknown. The tension I currently felt was no less than when I was at the national tournament finals in middle school.

When I stepped inside, I was met with stares from female students... I knew I had come to the wrong place. I didn't give up and started looking for things that would make for a good gift.

Takahashi-san said it didn't have to be expensive, like consumables and things that can be used on a daily basis. Aizawa-san said that she was fine with anything, but I don't know anything about her tastes or what she wants.

Hand cream? What kind would she even want...?

Lip cream? I knew even less about this...

Bath stuff? Is this popular among women?

The more I looked, the more confused I got...

I asked Takahashi-san, but I had no idea what to get. Should I have gone with her?

As I was looking around the store in a panic, an item on a shelf came into view

This is...

It wasn't a consumable or for everyday use...but why not? I'm tempted to go with this... Yeah, I've decided on this one.

As if I hadn't been thinking hard about it, I picked up the item, had it wrapped, purchased it, and took the train home from the station.

TLN: To clear up some things about the last chapter. Here's what the author said. 'Haruka-chan gave her address when she moved, but Mari-san wasn't in a state to remember. Haruka-chan also sent Hiroto a letter when she was in middle school, but he didn't receive it because the addressee was unknown.'

TMTMChapter 34: Meeting

“That number ‘11’ is the same Yoshizumi who pitched during the summer, right?”

“I heard he got injured during the semifinals.”

“He can’t pitch today then, right? Will we win?”

The opposing bench is annoying...

Today is the third round of the fall tournament, the first game for our Seijo High. Hayakawa-san is starting and Kimura-san is practicing in the field. I’ll be on the field with him and not on the bench.

They’re happy that I won’t be able to pitch...

Kimura-san said, “Hayakawa-san seems to be in good shape today, but it’s his first game, so he might be rusty. Please be prepared if anything goes wrong.”

As it turned out, Kimura-san’s preparation was unnecessary.

The score was 11-1 in our favor. Hayakawa-san let the opposing side get a run but he pitched through the rest. Our batter also connected after Takuma’s run, and the game ended with six runs scored at the end of the 5th inning.

“Hiroto! I did a great job, didn’t I?” (Takuma)

“Yeah, yeah, you were great.” (Hiroto)

““We were better than you!””

It’s true that our batter scored a lot of runs today, but the Yamazaki brothers’ defense kept the opponents’ runs to the minimum.

“Your pitching saved the day!” (Yoichiro)

“Oh, but my defense helped a lot as well.”

Yoichiro praised Hayakawa, who pitched today. Takuma also played well, but from the batter’s point of view, it was more important to score runs, so I don’t think it could be helped.

““Takuma! We won!””

“Hiroto’s going to the hospital for rehabilitation now, right?” (Takuma)

“Yes, I’m going to get changed and report back to the hospital.” (Hiroto)

“What? Why can’t Hiroto join us?” (Takuma)

“Takuma, Hiroto can come next time. He needs to take care of himself.” (Yoichiro)

“Sorry, but I need to get dressed. I’ll be leaving first, please tell the manager.” (Hiroto)

I don’t know what Yoichiro and Takuma are talking about. I’ve told them I would be going to rehab, but I didn’t mention the appointment after that. If I tell these guys... especially Takuma, they’re likely to follow me. I’ll let Aizawa-san know that I’m on my way to the hospital now.

After greeting the manager, I headed for the hospital.

“Do you still feel any pain in your leg?” (Doctor)

“I’m alright.” (Hiroto)

“I’ll have to discuss it with Toru-san, but I think you should gradually introduce some exercise to your schedule.” (Doctor)

“Really! I’ll ask Toru-san about it.” (Hiroto)

Even though I know I won’t be able to make a full recovery by Autumn, I still want to be ready for next year. I want to do some running before then.

My check-up went well and I left the hospital. I looked at my phone and saw that there was a message from Aizawa-san.

‘Is the match already over? You finished early this time. I might be there a little later than you, Yoshizumi-kun.’

That was because the game ended in the 5th inning...

‘I’m done with rehab. I’ll wait at the convenience store near the school where we met up the other day.’

This should be good. It’s around 15 minutes away.

After arriving at the convenience store and waiting a bit, I got a message saying, ‘I’m done with club activities, so I’ll be there now.’ I closed my phone and felt some strange stares.

“Hey... look over there.”

“Yeah... I think it is...”

“Saijo...accident...maybe...”

There were a couple of students in Toko High uniforms looking at me and muttering something about Saijo High. Does our uniform stand out that much?

“Um... Yoshizumi-kun?” (Girl)

“Eh? That’s right.” (Hiroto)

Do they know me? I’ve been trying to wrap my head around it, but I don’t get it. Where would I know these people from?

“Do I know you? Sorry, I can’t seem to remember anything...” (Hiroto)

“Oh, I’ve never spoken to you before...” (Girl)

“We’ve been fans of you since middle school!” (Girl)

“Me? Are you sure you’re not mistaking me for someone else?” (Hiroto)

“You’re Yoshizumi from Seijo High School, right? (Girl)

“We went to cheer for you several times in middle school. We said it would be nice if he went to Toko, but you ended up going to Seijo... we should have gone to Seijo, too.” (Girl)

“I was rooting for Yoshizumi-kun, not Toko, during that game.” (Girl)

I don’t know what’s going on... but I remember in middle school, there were kids who would come during practice or a game to watch us.

“There were people who came when there was practice or a game nearby... I thought they were your friends because you talked to Kazuya and Takuma.” (Girl)

That girl with the Kansai accent wasn’t just talking to me, she was talking to all the girls.

“I told him to ‘Bring Yoshizumi-kun!’ but he never brought you to us...” (Girl)

Now I know why Takuma was always telling me to get me to go hang out with him... I guess it was a good thing that I never went.

“Your leg looks better now. Are you free...? You should come hang out with us!” (Girl)

“No, I’m meeting someone...” (Hiroto)

“Eh?” (Girl)

“I guess it can’t be helped then. Give us your contact information.” (Girl)

Hm...how do I get away... from a situation like this? I should have known that Takuma would go around causing problems...

“Yoshizumi-kun, sorry it took a while. Did you wait long?” (Haruka)

That voice came from Aizawa-san... she came at a really good time. I’m saved...

“Sorry, I’ll be leaving now since the person I’m waiting for is here.” (Hiroto)

“Eh... that girl is... Aizawa-san?”

“Huh... yes?” (Haruka)

“Aizawa-san. Don’t worry, I just got here as well. Let’s go.” (Hiroto)

Girls I haven’t seen since middle school started talking to me, but they’re all oddly persistent. I’m really glad that I never went with Takuma...practice time is more important than play time anyways.

As I was leaving the exit of the convenience store, Aizawa-san started asking me about the girls.

“Yoshizumi-kun... did you know those girls?”

“I don’t know them. I just arrived at the convenience store when they suddenly started talking to me.

How about you, Aizawa-san?” (Hiroto)

“I’m in a different class, so I’ve never spoken with them before. So it seems that Yoshizumi-kun is popular with girls...” (Haruka)

Aizawa-san seemed to be thinking hard about something, but we left the convenience store and headed for the park where we promised to go.

TLN: Was supposed to get this out yesterday, sorry for the delay.

TMTM Chapter 35: Second Time at the Park

Aizawa-san and I arrived at central park, put down our luggage and sat down on a bench.

“Yoshizumi-kun, you said you were coming to our school festival. I was wondering... which day of the week will you be coming?” (Haruka)

“Saturday, I think. What about it?” (Hiroto)

“Nothing, I was just wondering.” (Haruka)

“By the way, what will the festival be like? I’m a member of the festival committee at my school, so I’m curious about how it is in other schools.” (Hiroto)

“Food stalls, stage performances, exhibits, and so on. It’s probably the same for your school, right?” (Haruka)

“I figured... it’s pretty much the same.” (Hiroto)

“Oh! They said the school would be doing a special event as well.” (Haruka)

“I see, I’ll take a tour after I’m done with my errands in the baseball team.” (Hiroto)

Because it’s a private school, there were some differences from public schools. I’d like to see it after meeting with Ko-chan. As I was replying to Aizawa-san, I took out two gloves and a ball from my bag.

“I see you brought two gloves today.”

“I usually only carry one glove but... you said you wanted to play catch, so I brought an extra. Here, try it on.” (Hiroto)

Aizawa-san had been looking for a glove that was easy to use, so I gave her one that I thought would fit her.

“Wow...this is my first time wearing a glove like this. I didn’t expect the inside to feel this way.” (Haruka)

“Here, I also brought a different ball. This one’s different from what we used the other day.” (Hiroto)

Last time we used a hard ball that was meant for club activities, so it would be dangerous if it hit anyone. This time, I brought the soft ball that I used as a kid.

“Ah... the ball I saw before...” (Haruka)

“This is the ball I used in elementary school. The ball is soft and light, since I don’t want you getting hurt from it.” (Hiroto)

It brings back memories... of playing with Ko-chan...

“I’m sure it won’t hurt even if it hits you.” (Hiroto)

“Oh... thanks.” (Haruka)

“The other day we were just throwing, but today we can do both throwing and catching. Shall we try it then?” (Hiroto)

“I’ll give it a try. I’m looking forward to it!” (Haruka)

‘I see the ball coming... but I can’t seem to catch it. I’ll try to make it easier by catching it from below...’

TLN: Haruka’s POV...?

“Yoshizumi-kun...I can’t seem to catch it...” (Haruka)

“It’s because you keep trying to catch it with your glove. Try keeping it in front of where the ball is going.” (Hiroto)

“Like this?” (Haruka)

“Yes, stay that way. Here I go.” (Hiroto)

I aimed at the glove and threw it from below so that it was easy to catch.

‘Poof!’

“I caught it! I caught it, Yoshizumi-kun!” (Haruka)

“That was a great catch. You can catch it by not trying to grab the ball, right? (Hiroto)

“That’s right, can I try once more?” (Haruka)

“Of course. I’ll play with you as long as you want.” (Hiroto)

Aizawa-san throws the ball in a weird direction half the time, but I’ve learned to catch the ball. Of course, I didn’t tell her that I was throwing it into her glove either. If Aizawa-san enjoys it, then that’s enough.

“Whew... I’m a little tired. Are you tired?” (Haruka)

“I wonder if we played a little too much.” (Hiroto)

"Don't worry, I had fun." (Haruka)

"I'm glad. Shall we take a little break on the bench?" (Hiroto)

Even after we sat down, Aizawa-san still seemed to be excited. Was it that much fun? She's so adorable...

"Yoshizumi-kun. What is it?" (Haruka)

"Eh? No, nothing." (Hiroto)

Aizawa-san, who was wiping her sweat with a towel, turned to me and asked while I was looking at her happy expression. As I turned away in a hurry, I spotted a food stall in the distance.

Isn't that the restaurant that everyone said was delicious?

"Aizawa-san, are you hungry? My clubmates mentioned that the food stall here is delicious and that they come all the way here from school to eat it. Would you like to try it?" (Hiroto)

"I'm a little hungry. If it's that good, I'd like to try it." (Haruka)

"Then I'll go buy it, please wait here." (Hiroto)

"I'll get us drinks. Yoshizumi-kun, what would you like?" (Haruka)

I asked Aizawa-san for an energy drink and headed for the stall. They served takoyaki. How do you split it between two people...

"Welcome!"

"Excuse me, I'll have one piece-" (Hiroto)

"..."

"No... I made a mistake. Wait..." (Hiroto)

Should I give up and just tell Aizawa-san that they sold out...?

"Wait! Hiroto!" (Takuma)

"Takuma? What are you doing here?" (Hiroto)

"Huh? Didn't you hear from the others?" (Takuma)

"They didn't tell me. So... what are you doing?" (Hiroto)

"You'll know when you see it! I'm training! I'm going to cook takoyaki at the school festival, so I asked my dad to help me become an apprentice here! Yoichiro and the others were here just now!" (Takuma)

It seems that the four of them came here while I was rehabilitating. I wonder if this was what Takuma meant when he asked me to come with him... I still don't understand Takuma's behavior though.

"Are you a friend of Takuma's? It's fine, you can eat for free! Takuma is a hard worker after all." (Stall Owner)

The owner seems to like Takuma. But is it really okay if I take it for free?

"Hiroto, it's ready!" (Takuma)

"Are you sure this is okay?" (Hiroto)

"My old man says it's a good idea. When I said I'd be training here, students from our school started coming, so the number of customers went up." (Takuma)

"Sales have increased because of Takuma here!" (Stall Owner)

"I'll take it then. Thank you very much. Takuma, can you give me 2 more toothpicks?" (Hiroto)

"How come? Are you eating with someone?"

Takuma looks like he's trying to remember something. I have a bad feeling about this...

"Ah! You...and... that person!" (Takuma)

"What are you talking about?" (Hiroto)

"I saw someone flirting while playing catch with a girl! That's you!"

Takuma saw us...

"He was too far away for me to see, but I saw that the girl was wearing a Toko High uniform! You said you were in rehabilitation, but you were actually flirting!" (Takuma)

Did he not see her face since we were far away? I'm glad... I don't know what'll happen if Takuma saw Aizawa-san...

"I did go to rehab. We only met on the way home from rehabilitation, and we weren't flirting." (Hiroto)

"I see. How did you guys meet?" (Takuma)

I told Takuma about Aizawa-san, who shared the same room in the hospital. Takuma looked like he wanted to say something, but I told him that I was in a hurry and took the takoyaki back to where Aizawa-san was sitting.

TLN: Classic Takuma somehow getting Hiroto into trouble every chapter these days.

TMTMChapter 36: Eating Together

The trip took longer than expected as I was caught by Takuma. When I was heading back to the bench, Aizawa-san was already sitting and waiting for me. It's tough not being able to run in a time like this...

"Sorry, I didn't mean to keep you waiting." (Hiroto)

"It's okay. But you're late..." (Haruka)

"When I arrived at the stall, my clubmates were there making the food." (Hiroto)

"Huh? How come?" (Haruka)

"He said he was going to open a takoyaki stall at the school festival... so he became an apprentice at the store. He's been my friend since middle school, but he's a weird guy." (Hiroto)

"I understand. He seems to be an interesting person..." (Haruka)

"He's a bit noisy, that's all. Here, let's eat while it's still warm." (Hiroto)

I sat down next to Aizawa, took out the container from the bag and opened the lid. Did Takuma really make this? It looks really good.

"There are 8 pieces in the bag, so we can get 4 each. Is this enough for a snack?" (Hiroto)

"Yes, I guess so. Maybe there's too many." (Haruka)

"Here, Aizawa-san. You try it first." (Hiroto)

To make it easier to get, I held the container out towards her. Aizawa-san took a toothpick and was about to eat it with an excited expression on her face.

"Huh? It isn't working..." (Haruka)

"You know there are four toothpicks in the container, right? It's easier to eat if you use two of them to hold the takoyaki. Here, let me show you." (Hiroto)

Because Aizawa-san only used one toothpick, the takoyaki kept rotating and couldn't be held properly. I used two toothpicks to take out a takoyaki and put it in front of Aizawa-san.

"Here you go!" (Hiroto)

'Nom'

"Oooh! Delicious!" (Haruka)

"..."

You just ate it... I was just trying to give it to you...

I tried to give Aizawa-san the toothpick. Why did she just eat it...?

"Hm? Yoshizumi-kun, is something wrong?" (Haruka)

"Well... I was just trying to give you the toothpick..." (Hiroto)

"Ah! I'm sorry!" (Haruka)

Her face turned red and she began to fumble...even during a panic, she's cute. This... was this intentional...?

"I'm really sorry... it's like this when I eat with Aya-chan at the station..." (Haruka)

"I was just a little surprised. It's fine, so let's eat." (Hiroto)

"Yes! Yoshizumi-kun, I got you a drink." (Haruka)

The incident was surprising, but we safely finished eating the takoyaki soon after.

"That was really delicious!" (Haruka)

"Yes, it was. I understand why people would come all the way out here to buy it. But this was made by a member of the club." (Hiroto)

"Would it taste even better if the stall owner grilled it?" (Haruka)

"I'm sure it would... I want to try it next time. My classmate made this batch for free, so it was just practice." (Hiroto)

"I see. I'll come here with my friends next time." (Haruka)

As we were sipping our drinks and talking about our thoughts of the food, Aizawa-san casually turned her head in my direction.

"Eh?" (Hiroto)

"Yoshizumi-kun, what is it?" (Haruka)

"Hold still for a minute...ah, I got it." (Hiroto)

There was a piece of nori on the side of Aizawa-san's lip, so I reached out and took it off.

TLN: Nori is basically seaweed that's used in Japanese cuisine.

"..." (Haruka)

"What's wrong?" (Hiroto)

Aizawa-san's face turned bright red again and she froze. I guess she was embarrassed by the nori. I wonder if takoyaki is bad food for girls.

"What happened...? Are you okay?" (Hiroto)

"If you tell me... I can take it off myself..." (Haruka)

Huh? Did I do something? Oh! This... this isn't good...

"I'm sorry! That was an old habit..." (Hiroto)

"Yoshizumi-kun...you always do these kinds of things..." (Haruka)

Aizawa-san's face was still bright red.

"Haruka-chan! It's on your mouth!" (Hiroto)

"Wha- where is it? (Haruka)

"Wait...see! I got it!" (Hiroto)

"Thanks!" (Haruka)

I just...did the same thing. I have no choice but to apologize to her.

"I don't do this all the time! I haven't done this since elementary school! I'm so sorry!" (Hiroto)

"It's okay... hey... can we play catch again?" (Haruka)

After that, Aizawa-san and I continued to play catch. I was glad that she enjoyed it, despite everything that happened today.

It was getting late, and we decided it was time to go home, so we walked together to Saijo Station. I don't know if Takuma was still grilling takoyaki.

"It's almost time for the school festival. Is your school busy with preparations?" (Hiroto)

"Maybe... my class is divided between the preparation group and the day-of group... so I might be busy on the day of the festival." (Haruka) TLN: Day-of group means the group of students responsible for setting up the attractions on the day of the festival.

"I see... we have a chocolate banana booth. What is Aizawa-san's class doing?" (Hiroto)

"We're just an ordinary coffee shop. There's a student whose parents own a coffee shop, and they lent us a lot of things." (Haruka)

"There's also a coffee shop at our school festival. Our festival is scheduled for Saturday, so I'll go if I have time." (Hiroto)

"What! Saturday..." (Haruka)

"Is Saturday not a good day for you...?" (Hiroto)

"No...I'm in charge of the coffee shop on Saturday, so I thought it would be embarrassing if anyone saw me... I was actually going to keep it a secret..." (Haruka)

"You didn't want to tell me? Are you going to wear embarrassing clothes?" (Hiroto)

"It's just normal clerks' clothes...but I'll still be embarrassed when people see me!" (Haruka)

"Oh... I understand." (Hiroto)

You don't have to blush and say it so desperately...I know you're embarrassed. I don't think you need to worry about it if you're wearing normal clothes... but I'm sure Aizawa-san has her reasons.

After a bit, we arrived at Saijo Station and Aizawa-san and I both went back home.

I'm looking forward to the school festival at Toko High.

I also have to prepare for the festival at Seijo, but I think I'll be fine. I'm not too worried about it, but now we just have to see if the girls' have been doing the preparations properly.

TLN: Thank you all for 700 reading lists on NovelUpdates!

Feedback and ratings are much appreciated!

Seeing how many chapters there are until they realize who the other person actually is actually makes my head hurt.

TMTM Chapter 37: Another Invitation

The class responsibilities for the festival had been decided, and all that remained was to make preparations and wait for the day of the festival.

“Tanimura-san, if there is anything you need to buy, just let me know. I’ll ask one of the students behind the scenes to help you.” (Hiroto)

“I bought bananas the day before, so it’s okay. Chocolate bananas are easy, I tried making them with the girls earlier and it went smoothly.” (Tanimura)

Tanimura was the girl who proposed the idea of chocolate bananas. I asked her to be the team leader for the festival and she seems to be enjoying the role.

“More importantly... are you sure the students responsible for selling the bananas are okay?” (Tanimura)

“They said they would do whatever it takes, so they won’t let me down. They’ll go through with it even if they complain.” (Hiroto)

Yoichiro, Ando, and Sanada were asked to sell the bananas. The study group likely won’t be able to shout all day, so I’m leaving them in charge of shopping and setting up the booth.

Takahashi-san and I will help out, but on the day of the festival, we will be busy patrolling the school and serving as ushers for the students.

The other classes were excited about the festival, and I felt that the Saijo High Festival would be amazing. I’m looking forward to the day of the festival.

After school, Yoichiro and I headed to the club room to practice. Today, I’m going to watch the pitchers for the fall tournament and make sure they’re ready for the next game.

“Hey, Hiroto. Why am I always practicing and never getting a chance to pitch?” (Takuma)

Takuma complained after practice in the bullpen.

TLN: A bullpen is the area where relief pitchers practice their pitching!

“You never know, you might ruin the game from the first inning.” (Hiroto)

“Do you have that little faith in me?” (Takuma)

“No, I trust you. If I didn’t trust you, you wouldn’t even be practicing as a pitcher. You’re a bit of a hothead, and you like tense situations as a relief pitcher, don’t you?” (Hiroto)

TLN: A relief pitcher is basically a backup pitcher for when the main pitcher(s) get out from injury, fatigue, ejection, or strategic purposes.

“Oh! That’s true! I can’t get enough of those situations. Although Summer was... bad... I got hit by a pitch.” (Takuma)

“Do you still think the reason we lost was because of you? I’m the reason we lost, don’t blame yourself.” (Hiroto)

Takuma should be as noisy as possible, being quiet doesn’t suit him. It can’t be helped...

“Takuma... unlike Kimura-san and Hayakawa-san, you play defense in center, right? As a pitcher, I can tell you that it would be more helpful if you didn’t move from center. Your defense really helps the team out.” (Hiroto)

I hope this will make him feel better.

“Are you guys still talking about that?” (Yoichiro)

It seems that Yoichiro and the twins were nearby.

“That’s enough!” (Ando)

“That’s right! We’ll just win next time!” (Sanada)

““Hiroto should heal quickly and win with us!””

That’s right... we’ve been on the same team since middle school and there’s still two years left to go.

Kazuya will have a position next year, so I’m looking forward to playing again.

“I wonder if I will play against Kazuya next year...” (Hiroto)

Kazuya Morishita... is a fellow student who went on to attend Toko High.

“I heard that he got a position on the new team.” (Yoichiro)

“Ah! Speaking of Kazuya, what are you guys doing for the school festival?” (Ando)

“You’re all going too, right?” (Sanada)

Yoichiro and I had no idea what the Yamazaki brothers were talking about. Takuma looked as if he had just remembered something.

“I forgot to tell you! Kazuya invited us to the school festival of Toko High! I have tickets for each of us!” (Takuma)

You shouldn’t have told Takuma first... why didn’t you tell me or Yoichiro...

“Takuma, I don’t need a ticket.” (Hiroto)

“You’re not going?” (Takuma)

“No, I already have a ticket for the festival.” (Hiroto)

Takuma seems to be thinking of something... it probably isn’t anything good.

“Ahhh! That’s it!” (Takuma)

“Takuma! Shut up!”

“What is it?” (Ando)

“This guy... he was with a girl! He probably got a ticket from the girl! They were flirting in Central Park!” (Takuma)

“Hiroto... tell me about it...” (Yoichiro)

Why is Yoichiro even interested in this...?

“Takuma... don’t make a fuss. I wasn’t flirting, and I didn’t get the ticket from her. The girl is just a friend. The ticket was from Saito-san, the guy who bumped into me. Someone from the baseball team wants to meet me, that’s all.” (Hiroto)

Now Yoichiro seems to be thinking hard about something...

“Hiroto... the baseball club is affiliated with Toko High, right? If you can, ask them if it’s possible to schedule a practice together.” (Yoichiro)

Yoichiro seemed to be thinking the same thing I was. Their school is close by, and it would be nice if we could practice with each other. If you are a prestigious private school, you can easily travel to other prefectures and play with the best, but it’s difficult for us public school students to do so.

“Don’t worry, I’m planning to do that too. I’ll make a good connection with them. Their coach seems to be interested in me.” (Hiroto)

The five of us decided to go to Toko High’s school festival. We’ll all go at the same time since the practice is only in the morning.

I’m looking forward to the school festival on Saturday.

I wish I could have given her the birthday present last Saturday... but I didn’t bring it because I brought gloves and didn’t want the gift to get crushed...

I hope I can meet Aizawa-san at the festival...

TLN: I think I’m getting the hang of TLing again.

ALSO! I’m thinking of picking up a LN, if you have any suggestions of cute ones that haven’t been already picked up, tell us in our discord or the comments!

TMTM Chapter 38: The School Festival of Toko High (Part 1)

“Thank you for the food!” (Hiroto)

“You’re welcome. Hiroto, you said you were going to be home late today, right?” (Mari)

“Yes, I did. After going to help with the practice in the morning, I’ll be going to the school festival in Toko High. I’m going to meet up with Ko-chan.” (Hiroto)

“I see. Give Ko-chan my best regards.” (Mari)

“Okay, I’ll be off then.” (Hiroto)

Today was going to be a busy day. After practice, the five of us will go to the school festival. I’ll be meeting with the baseball team from Toko High, so I’ll probably have to go separately from Takuma and the others.

I think Yoichiro will have a hard time... Takuma, Sho, and Tsubasa... I don’t know what will happen when those 3 are together.

When I arrived at Saijo Station and looked around, I found out that although it was Saturday, there were many people who seemed to be invited guests as well as students from Toko High. The school festival must be a lot of fun.

But can I meet Aizawa-san in the crowd and give her the present...? It’s embarrassing to call her to hand it over...

As I was pondering about what I should do, I arrived at Saijo High.

“Yoshizumi, I’ve been waiting for you. Yoichiro, you come with me as well.” (Manager)

“Good morning, manager. Is something wrong?” (Hiroto)

“Hiroto, I think it’s about tomorrow’s starter.” (Yoichiro)

Yoichiro and I headed for the manager’s office. The members of the club who had practice came earlier than us because they had to change their uniforms.

I was still in uniform because I was going to watch the pitchers. I came late because I didn’t have to change, but it seemed I made them wait.

“Kimura will be the starting pitcher tomorrow.” (Manager)

In the third game, Hayakawa-san, a sophomore, was the starter, and Kimura-san did not pitch because the game was won in just 5 innings.

“Last time I couldn’t get him out because the game ended after five innings, but I’d like to have Kimura pitch tomorrow. Since Yoshizumi is out, I want him to get used to the mound for the tournament.” (manager)

Takuma has pitched in practice games but had little experience throwing in tournaments, including his Middle school days.

“I understand. If that’s the case, I’ll focus on Kimura-san and Takuma today. Hayakawa-san, I want you to get ready to pitch.” (Hiroto)

“Hiroto, you can count on me!”. (Hayakawa)

I’d better let Takuma know that he’ll be pitching tomorrow. He’s quite unpredictable, so I’d better make sure he’s ready for it.

“At last, it’s my turn! I won’t give Hiroto his ace number again!” (Takuma)

“Takuma, your number is 8, and you’ve never worn number 1 before. Well, you’re going to be pitching, so just keep that in mind. Hayakawa-san, I’m worried about Takuma, so I’ll be ready to go tomorrow as well.” (Hiroto)

“I understand, Yoshizumi. I’ll be counting on you.” (Hayakawa)

“What! Don’t you guys trust me?” (Takuma)

“Takuma, you’re always making a fuss. Please calm down a little.” (Hiroto)

I watched the three pitchers practice their throws, gave them the advice they needed, and ended today’s practice. In the meantime, I went to talk to the coach.

“Director, I’ll be going to Toko High’s school festival now. The players from their baseball team want to meet me. Is it okay if I ask them about the practice game?” (Hiroto)

“You said that scouts came to recruit you when you were in Middle school. I don’t want them to know

our strength, but it's more important to know what we'll be dealing with. If you think you can talk to them, please do." (Manager)

I've finished talking to the manager. I just hope the rest goes well. I won't be able to enjoy the school festival if the task isn't finished. After that, if the timing is right, I'll ask Aizawa-san to...

"Hiroto, what are you doing? Let's go!"

"I'm on my way." (Hiroto)

It looks like the four of them had finished changing out of their uniforms and were waiting for me. I should tell Ko-chan that I'm leaving the school now.

"We should go early." (Sho)

"I'm looking forward to it!" (Tsubasa)

"I heard that Takuma's class was going to have a takoyaki stall at the festival, but what are Sho and Tsubasa's classes going to be doing?" (Hiroto)

"Eh? Didn't Yoichiro tell you? We're going to do a comedy show!" (Sho)

"We're going to give an out of body experience!" (Tsubasa)

TLN: I assume that means that they are going to be so funny it'll make the audience feel like they've left their bodies.

"Isn't that pretty hard?" (Takuma)

"Takuma, you're so annoying! We're the only ones that can do it!" (Sho)

"That's right!" (Tsubasa)

Toko High is located on the other side of Saijo Station and is within walking distance. Yoichiro and I walked together, listening to the three of them, until we came to the front gate of Toko High.

"Shall we go to the reception desk to get tickets? Did anyone contact Kazuya?" (Hiroto)

"I contacted him earlier. He wrote back asking me to call him when we arrived." (Yoichiro)

Yoichiro works fast, doesn't he? I had already called Ko-chan to let him know I had arrived as well. I was told to wait at the main gate until Kazuya arrived.

"Hey! I heard there's a cute girl serving customers at the coffee shop!"

TLN: I think we all know who it is...

"It seems that way! I'm going to go check it out!"

"If there's an opportunity, let's talk to her!"

Takuma and the others heard the comments around us and said they wanted to go too. Yoichiro... please take care of the three of them while I'm gone.

While I was hoping that they wouldn't cause trouble, I opened my phone to see a message from Ko-chan.

"Okumura, are you serious? You must be joking."

"Morishita, I'm serious. I decided to tell you today."

"Well, all I can say is, good luck."

While I was checking the message from Ko-chan, I heard Kazuya's voice.

"Sorry, I made you wait. I'll show you around now, follow me." (Kazuya)

"Kazuya, don't worry about it. Wait... you are... Okumura? Are you Tatsuya Okumura?" (Hiroto)

I didn't know Okumura attended Toko High.

"Really? I thought I told you." (Kazuya)

"Yoshizumi, long time no see. Is your leg alright now?" (Okumura)

Tatsuya Okumura. When I was in Middle school, we won the finals of the senior national tournament, but this guy was on the opposing team... he was the guy who was pitching for the fourth inning.

The one point they got... was when Okumura hit a home run. We won the game, but I think Okumura beat me...

"Okumura, long time no see. I'm still in rehabilitation, but things are going well." (Hiroto)

"I'm glad to hear that. I'm looking forward to playing against Yoshizumi again." (Okumura)

Toko High... they aren't an easy opponent after all. It was good to know what Okumura now plays for them.

"Kazuya, hurry up and show us the way."

"Let's hurry! I want to see the cute girl that everyone was talking about!"

"We can talk about it after we've had a chance to relax, so let's go."

I have to tell Kazuya about the message that Ko-chan sent me.

“Saito-san contacted me and asked me to have Kazuya guide me. As long as you tell me where it is, I’ll head to the clubroom by myself. So don’t worry about me.” (Hiroto)

After receiving the location from Kazuya, I headed to the room of the baseball club.

TLN: I’ve recently picked up a new Light Novel, so I’ll be working on that for a bit. Don’t worry! I’ll still be updating this novel. However... check it out! (It’s pretty cute)

<https://www.neosekaitranslations.com/novel/i-love-love-love-you-so-i-want-to-express-my-love-with-you/>

TMTM Chapter 39: The School Festival of Toko High

After receiving the location of the club, I headed to the room where Ko-chan was waiting for me.

Behind me, I heard a woman's angry voice. It seems as if someone had come to Kazuya, Yoichiro and the others. I was already quite far away, so I didn't pay attention to them and continued on my way.

In front of me was a four-story building called the club building. It seemed that this area wasn't a place for hanging out or talking, as there was no one around.

But still... a club building. Private schools must have a lot of money... I envy them.

I checked the information board at the entrance of the building. The baseball team is on the... third floor?

Is the brass band and orchestra on the same floor too? It seems like the larger the club was, the more space they took up.

The orchestral club... or was it the orchestra? My parents used to play in the orchestra, and it brought back memories... for the time being, let's head to the third floor.

The room of the baseball club was at the far end of the floor. As I approached it, I noticed a room that seemed to be for the orchestra club. The door to the room was opened wide, and I thought, "That's unwise," and went to close the door, but then... something caught my eye.

There was a piano... I didn't see anyone inside... I still have some time before my meeting with Ko-chan... maybe I could try to play a little...

I sat down in front of the piano and touched the keys... I played an electronic piano at home, but I hadn't touched it in seven years...

The sounds of the notes I hadn't heard in a long time were resonating.

The songs I practiced with my dad...

It's still fun...

I was playing while reminiscing about the past.

Oh... I still make mistakes in the same places...

Dad... I'm sorry for not playing the piano... but I'll resume when my mom is okay, so please wait until then...

I have to get to the club room soon... it's almost time for the meeting...

I left the orchestra room, closed the door, and called Ko-chan.

'I'm already in front of the baseball team room.'

'I'm going outside now.'

Ko-chan came out of the club room and looked at me with a strange expression.

"Where's Morshita? He said he was going to meet me at the front gate, so I asked him to show you around." (Saito)

"There are four other people walking with him, so I just asked them for directions to the clubroom and came over here. I asked Kazuya to guide them." (Hiroto)

"Well, please come inside. Everyone's waiting for you." (Saito)

I went into the club room with Ko-chan. I felt a bit nervous because this was the first time I've been in the clubroom of another school.

Along with the third-year students, the new captains of the second-year team came to see me in between class practice. They asked me about my legs and why I didn't come to Toko High.

When everyone had returned to class, their coach showed up. He was someone I had talked to when we were deciding where to go to school. As I expected, the coach was disappointed that I had to go to Saijo. I asked him about the practice game, and he replied, "By all means, please.

After spending around 30 minutes in the clubroom, I left and Ko-chan stayed in the club room saying, "I have to ask the coach something." I thanked them and left the clubroom.

As I was walking toward the stairs, I noticed that the door to the orchestra club room, which I thought was closed, was slightly open.

Didn't I close it...?

Did I forget? I was about to close the door when I saw someone inside.

Is that... Aizawa-san? What's she doing there? Shall I call out to her?

“Excuse me, Aizawa-san.” (Hiroto)

“Eh? Yoshizumi-kun... what are you doing here?” (Haruka)

“I was in the baseball clubroom just now. The door to the orchestra room was slightly open and I was trying to close it. Then I saw Aizawa-san...” (Hiroto)

I thought maybe I had forgotten to close it, but I guess that wasn’t the case. She said she was going to be a waitress at the cafe... it’s a mature-looking dress, but it was cute with the frills on it.

It suits her well...

“So you got the ticket from a member of the baseball team... Yoshizumi-kun, I have a question for you... did you see anyone when you passed by here?” (Haruka)

“No? Aizawa-san is the first person I saw while walking back.” (Hiroto)

“I see... thank you.” (Haruka)

Was there something wrong? No one was here... maybe I broke something earlier when I came in?

“Aizawa-san, did anything get broken or stolen? It seems like there are a lot of people from other schools at the festival, did something happen?” (Hiroto)

“No... nothing happened... the clubroom is fine...” (Hiroto)

“That’s good. I was just concerned because you seemed a little different from usual.” (Hiroto)

“I was just a bit nervous... are you done with your errands, Yoshizumi-kun?” (Haruka)

“It’s over. I’m going to call my clubmates and Morishita to join them.” (Hiroto)

“Morishita-kun? From the baseball team?” (Haruka)

“Do you know him? (Hiroto)

“Yes, we’re in the same class. I see... I was looking for Morishita-kun and the others with Aya and... at that time, there were boys from other schools with them... so they must have been friends of Yoshizumi-kun.” (Haruka)

“You met them? They were a noisy bunch, weren’t they?” (Hiroto)

“Fufufu... that’s right! I’ve met them during the Summer... I heard they were visiting Yoshizumi-kun at that time. I have to go back to the cafe now, do you want to come?” (Haruka)

“I’ll have to ask for you to show me the way. By the way, you look good in that outfit.” (Hiroto)

“I told them I didn’t want to wear it because it was embarrassing... but Aya forced me to... Oh, I mean Nishikawa-chan.” (Haruka)

“It’s the girl I met at the station, right? Oh! Here’s your birthday present.” (Hiroto)

I carefully handed over the small wrapped box to Aizawa-san.

It was convenient because I was waiting for a chance to give it to her today. After thinking about it... it’s hard to find alone time with someone in a crowded area...

“Wow! Thanks, I’d love to open it, but I don’t have time, so I’ll open it later. I’m looking forward to it... well then, let’s go!” (Haruka)

I left the club building with Aizawa-san and headed to the classroom where the coffee shop was located. But Aizawa-san... you were in the orchestra room. What instrument were you playing?

TLN: Took a while. Ucali and I have been working on the LN! The first part should be out very soon! I just wanted to thank everyone for reading my translations and I hope you all have a good day.

TMTM Chapter 40: The School Festival of Toko High (Part 3)

Point of View: Haruka!

Today is the day I meet up with Yoshizumi-kun in the field after school.

Yoshizumi-kun or me, whoever finishes first, are supposed to contact the other person. I received a message saying, ‘The game is over and I’m going to rehab now.’ I was surprised that he contacted me earlier than expected.

After Yoshizumi-kun finished his rehabilitation, he called me and said, ‘I’ll be waiting for you at a convenience store near the school.’ I had just finished my club activities, so I quickly rushed over to the store.

When I arrived at the convenience store, Yoshizumi was talking with some girls from my school. The girls seemed to be having a good time and I wasn’t sure if I should call out to Yoshizumi-kun... However, I was the one who was supposed to be meeting Yoshizumi-kun, not them. So I went over. I overheard that the girls had been supporting Yoshizumi-kun since middle school... I knew he was popular...

When we got to the park, we played catch, like we promised to do. Unlike last time, he brought two gloves. The ball was surprisingly soft and light.

“It’s the same ball I used when I was in elementary school,” (Hiroto)

“It’s small, and it’s soft and light. I don’t want you to get hurt while playing.” (Hiroto)

So that was the reason...

Yoshizumi-kun is kind... it feels nice...

I thought the ball we used last time was a bit hard to throw.

Is it the same size as the ball I was looking at at the sports store? When I was little, I used the exact same ball.

It was fun last time, but this time it was even more fun. I couldn’t grab the ball with my glove, but I was able to catch his throws.

Perhaps Yoshizumi-kun is purposely giving me easy pitches...

After that, we ate takoyaki... it was so embarrassing that I want to forget what I did...

“Haruka, come on!” (Aya)

‘Nom!’

“It’s delicious! Here, Aya-chan, you try it too.” (Haruka)

I ended up doing the same thing... it was so embarrassing... even Yoshizumi-kun was surprised and widened his eyes.

When I apologized, Yoshizumi-kun started laughing for some reason. Then he put his hand on mouth and said, ‘Hold still for a minute...’ I was nervous...

Yoshizumi-kun was friendly with the girls at the convenience store, so he must be used to these types of things... I think I’m the only one who feels this way...

But it doesn’t feel bad.

I want to see Hiroto-kun... but I also want to be with Yoshizumi-kun... what am I supposed to do?

After the meal, we talked about the school festival and Yoshizumi-kun said he would come to our festival on Saturday.

My class is hosting a cafe, and the staff changes between Saturday and Sunday... I was the waitress in charge for Saturday, but I’ll be embarrassed if he sees me...

It was the day of the school festival.

“Where did Morishita-kun and Okumura-kun go!” (Aya)

Aya-chan said angrily, “They’re gone!”

Morishita-kun and Okumura-kun didn’t come back when it was time for them to take over. I called them, but no one answered the phone, so we decided to look for them with those who were available.

“Haruka, this way! Come with me!” (Aya)

“Aya-chan! I don’t want to go outside like this!” (Haruka)

“If you go outside, it’ll be a publicity stunt for our cafe! Come, I’ll be with you.” (Aya)

In the end, I was taken out. When Aya and I went to the main gate, Morishita-kun and Okumura-kun were there with students from other schools.

“There you are! It’s time for your shifts!” (Aya)

“Sorry, Nishikawa-san. I’ll go back now. I’m going to take some guests along with me. These four students.” (Morishita)

“Oh! It’s her! The girl I heard about! Is she a waitress...? We have to find the store!” (Takuma probably...)

Are they the ones who were with Morishita-kun during summer vacation?

“Haruka-chan, you should return to class.” (Aya)

“Aya-chan... I’ll be in the clubroom until it’s time... everyone’s seen me... I’ll be back when it’s my shift.” (Haruka)

It was convenient because the path to the clubroom was usually empty and quiet.

It was a little after I started walking...

I hear something...

Is that the sound of a piano...? No one was supposed to be in the clubroom today... right?

This sound is quite... nostalgic...

Hiroto-kun... he used to play this song...

I was thinking about the past...

Suddenly...

“Ah! I made another mistake...” (Hiroto)

“It’s difficult... I can’t seem to play it...” (Hiroto)

“It’s okay, you always make mistakes in the same part. Let Dad play it for you and show you the movements, watch closely.” (Renji)

“Wow! Dad is amazing!” (Hiroto)

Hiroto-kun messes up in the same part... they are also playing the same song...

Why...?

I have to check... I quickly ran to the place where I heard the noise...

However, someone stopped me.

“Aizawa-san, may I have a moment?” (Okumura)

“Huh? I’m in a hurry...” (Haruka)

I turned around and it was Okumura-kun. Didn’t he go back to the classroom? We never talked much, but he was from the baseball club... right?

“Erm... Okumura-kun, what is it?” (Haruka)

“Aizawa-san, I like you! Please go out with me.” (Okumura)

Huh? What should I say?

I have to... find who is playing the piano...

I’m not good with guys... everyone should know that... I don’t know how I can be with someone I barely know... I don’t know...

“I’m sorry...” (Haruka)

“No... thank you. I’m sorry.” (Okumura)

Okumura-kun went back to the classroom. I had to hurry to the orchestra clubroom.

I wanted to know who was playing the piano...

But when I arrived at the clubroom, it was empty.

I stayed there because it wasn’t time for my shift yet. But when I turned to leave...

“Aizawa-san? What are you doing here?” (Hiroto)

For some reason, I heard Yoshizumi-kun’s voice coming from the door. It seemed he was going to the baseball clubroom. He said he was going to meet his seniors, right? I should ask him if he saw who was

in the room.

“Yoshizumi-kun, I want to ask you something. Have you seen anyone passing by?” (Haruka)

“No? Aizawa-san is the first person I saw.” (Hiroto)

Yoshizumi-kun didn't see anyone... was it a mistake? But... I heard the sound of the piano...

When I was about to go back, Yoshizumi-kun handed me a birthday present.

Yoshizumi-kun picked it out for me. He really chose it for me...

“Thank you, I'll be late for my shift, so I'll look forward to opening it later.” (Haruka)

Yoshizumi-kun said he was also heading to the festival, so we decided to go together.

He told me I looked good in my outfit.

I was embarrassed... but I was happy.

TLN: I'm so sorry for the lack of chapters! I'll be working on the LN and after the next part I'll start working on more of this. Stay tuned!

Link to my LN, if you could tell me your thoughts it would be appreciated! Boop!

TMTM Chapter 42: The School Festival of Toko High (Part 4)

Point of View: Hiroto

After leaving the club building, Aizawa-san and I made our way to the classroom.

“I guess there’s really no one around here, huh?” (Hiroto)

“Yes... there is no one around here... Thank you so much for the present... I’ll take my time opening it...” (Haruka)

“Don’t get your hopes up... I didn’t know what present to give to a girl...” (Hiroto)

“I’m glad you chose something for me!” (Haruka)

I spoke to Aizawa with a troubled look on my face, but she answered with a bright smile.

After all, a smile suits her.

As we proceeded toward the school building, the number of people gradually increased and they all glanced at Aizawa-san as she passed and muttered something.

Aizawa-san... she stands out after all. I’m not sure if it’s because of her clothes.

“Aizawa-san... you really stand out.” (Hiroto)

“I’m not too happy about it... I didn’t want to wear this, but I was forced to. Yoshizumi-kun seems to be quite conspicuous as well... the girls have been looking at you for a while...” (Haruka)

“Isn’t it because I’m wearing a different school uniform from everyone else?” (Hiroto)

Don’t you realize that you are attracting attention as well, Aizawa-san? I’ve been hearing students mentioning her name ever since I came to the festival.

I find it strange that it feels somewhat... natural to be with Aizawa-san. I can see why she’s so popular... she’s a kind girl.

“Yoshizumi-kun, we’re at the school building. I think your friends might be waiting for you.” (Haruka)

“Well, they’re a noisy bunch. I’ll make sure they don’t cause too much trouble and enjoy the festival with them.” (Hiroto)

“You say that you’ll make sure they don’t cause trouble, but you seem to be looking forwards to meeting with them...” (Haruka)

“Well... I had a hard time when I first moved here. But because I met those guys... I could move on and endure it. That’s why I want to take them to Koshien with me.” (Hiroto)

“I see... I only had Aya-chan...” (Haruka)

Aizawa-san had a lonely expression on her face, as if she was trying to remember something.

“Why don’t you start making more friends? I think of Aizawa-san as a friend. I haven’t really gotten along with a girl since elementary school, so it’s been a while.” (Hiroto)

“...” (Haruka)

What’s wrong? Maybe she doesn’t like it? I just thought that I got along with her...

“I’m sorry... you don’t like it when guys say that you get along well, right?” (Hiroto)

“No! I’m sorry... I was just thinking about getting along with Yoshizumi-kun, too. We’ll be arriving at the classroom soon.” (Haruka)

Aizawa-san and I entered the classroom labeled “Coffee Shop” as we were talking.

But... something didn’t seem right.

Aizawa-san seemed to be feeling the same way, as she looked at me with a confused expression.

“Aizawa-san... is the coffee shop usually like this?” (Hiroto)

“No... it’s not. I don’t know either...” (Haruka)

It seems that Aizawa-san didn’t know about the situation either. All of a sudden, we burst out laughing at the weird atmosphere of the cafe.

“Haha, then why is everyone frozen up? I thought it was part of the attraction.” (Hiroto)

“Uh-huh. We wouldn’t plan for anything like this... something seems to be wrong?” (Haruka)

I don’t know what’s going on, but when Aizawa-san and I walked into the classroom, the waitresses and customers... Yoichiro and the others... for some reason they all froze and looked at us.

“Aizawa-san, my friends are here, so I’m going over to them. It’s time for your shift, right? Good luck.” (Hiroto)

“Yes, I hope you enjoy our store. I’ll be coming back to receive your orders in a bit.” (Haruka)
Aizawa-san went to the back of the class while I went to the table where Yoichiro and the others were seated. I’ll have to report to them about the baseball team.

“I’m sorry to keep you all waiting. I’ve just finished talking with Saito-san.” (Hiroto)

“”

“What’s wrong? Did something bad happen?” (Hiroto)

Is there really something going on here?

As I sat there thinking about what could have possibly happened, Takuma opened his mouth.

“Hiroto... you! It’s that girl, isn’t it! The girl you were busy flirting with at the park!” (Takuma)

“Takuma... you’re being too loud. We weren’t flirting, I just happened to run into Aizawa-san on my way to the clubroom. When I heard that you guys were here, I asked her to show me around.” (Hiroto)

“Eh? Aizawa-san... with Hiroto?” (Kazuya)

“That guy... he’s Hiroto Yoshizumi from Saijo, isn’t he?” (Okumura)

As I was trying to calm Takuma down from the misunderstanding, Aizawa-san’s classmates started making a fuss as well.

“Hiroto, do you know Aizawa-san?” (Kazuya)

“Yoshizumi... what’s going on?” (Okumura)

It was Kazuya and Okumura. Kazuya was a teammate of mine in middle school, and Okumura was my opponent in the finals of the national tournament in middle school. Aizawa-san said they were in the same class.

“I met her when I was in the hospital with her grandmother. What’s everyone making such a fuss for?” (Hiroto)

“Aizawa-san never gets along with guys. Even us, who are in the same class as her, struggle to talk to her properly.” (Kazuya)

“I was talking a little... though.” (Okumura)

Kazuya-san seems to have never talked to her. Didn’t Okumura talk to her earlier, though?

“Okumura-san talked to her earlier, didn’t he? You and Aizawa-san are friends, so shouldn’t it be normal for you guys to talk to each other?” (Hiroto)

“Yoshizumi... forget I ever talked to you about this...” (Kazuya)

What’s going on? Is Okumura a strange person?

“Okumura got turned down by Aizawa-san just now, so leave him alone... Aizawa-san is popular, but she doesn’t talk to guys, and everyone that’s confessed to her has gotten rejected. That’s why everyone is so surprised that she was getting along so well with you.” (Kazuya)

I hear from everyone that Aizawa-san doesn’t speak to guys... she doesn’t seem like that, though?

“Aizawa-san... wasn’t she normal? That girl... she was speaking normally and had a happy expression, didn’t she?” (Okumura)

Kazuya and Okumura weren’t convinced and started to argue, but Yoichiro stopped them.

“More importantly, Hiroto, how did it go?” (Yoichiro)

“Oh, it went smoothly.” (Hiroto)

“I see. Please tell me the details later today.” (Yoichiro)

I can’t go into details because Kazuya and Okumura are there. Kazuya and I are good friends, but we’re on opposing teams now. However... Okumura... is a rather troublesome opponent. I won’t let him win this time.

Kazuya and Okumura left to work their shift at the cafe. Soon after, Aizawa-san came to the table to ask for our order.

“It’s good to see you again, Yoshizumi-kun. Have you decided on your order?” (Haruka)

“I’ll just have a cup of coffee, please. Aizawa-san... I’m sorry for all the trouble. Is everything okay?” (Hiroto)

“Yes, I’m fine. I’m sorry for getting you into this as well.” (Haruka)

Aizawa-san seemed to be a bit tired and didn’t look too well.

“I don’t really mind, so you don’t have to worry about it.” (Hiroto)

“Yes... thank you. I’ll bring your drink soon, so please wait a little.” (Haruka)

Aizawa-san gave me her usual smile and went to the back of the cafe.

TLN: It's been another month .-.