

**Serial Experiments Lain  
シリアルエクスペリメンツ レイン  
PlayStation Game English Translation**

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Please note this game contains brief scenes of extremely graphic violence, mild language, discussion of extremely dark topics, and brief nudity. On the rating scale it would be AT LEAST Mature 17+ or PEGI 16. The Anime is like Kiki's Delivery Service compared to this game. Your quality of life will probably not improve by consuming this content.

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## Cou001

**Touko:** So... Mrs. Iwakura, please wait here in the antechamber.  
Lain, you don't have to worry so much. Please sit down there. Ah... Do you want some juice or something else to drink? It's OK if you don't worry so much. Let's see. I'm thirsty, so I'm going for tea... Mind following me? Because it will look funny if only I drink it.  
Thank you. Which one should it be? We have many to choose from.

**Lain:** The same as you.

**Touko:** Green tea? Got it. Just a moment...

You put in the sugar and milk by yourself, OK?

Here you go.

So where should we start? How is this...? Earl Grey tea, I really love it.

**Lain:** Earl Grey?

**Touko:** Right. Even with tea there are lots of kinds, with different smell and taste.

**Lain:** Does it taste good?

**Touko:** Yes. It suits my taste. But I'm not sure about you Lain. If you want to, you can drink a little bit. If it's not to your taste, I can make something else for you. Here...

## Cou002

Lain: That smells good.

Touko: Here you go. How is it? Looks as if you don't like it, huh? Too bitter? What if you add some sugar? Well, how about if you add some milk? It might take away the bitterness. Or I can get you something else?

Lain: I don't like milk.

Touko: Ah, sorry. I didn't know... Well, how about if I get some juice for you?

Lain: I'm sorry...

Touko: That's all right; I probably couldn't have had green tea either at your age. You said that there are lots of different kinds of tea right? If I don't like it, I don't like it. Of course, that doesn't mean I can't drink it, but different kinds of tea have different flavors right? What do you like, Lain? Why don't you like milk?

Lain: It upsets my stomach.

Touko: Ha, ha, truth be told, when I was a child I had the same problem. Especially when the school lunch included milk. I can drink milk now though.

Lain: I can't drink it, but I really love it...

Touko: How about milk that doesn't upset your stomach? Would that be all right?

Lain: What's it called?

Touko: I forgot what it's called, but it's milk that doesn't upset your stomach. I have it for kids like you Lain, who are like me as a kid and can't drink milk. If you talk about it with your mother, I'm sure she'll look for it for you.

## Cou003

Lain: Are there different kinds of milk as well?

Touko: That's right; although they're basically all the same, depending on how they're prepared there are different kinds.

Lain: Different kinds?

Touko: Yes, in tea too. Depending on the way the leaves are dried and the way the tea is poured, the same leaves can be very different.

Lain: People too?

Touko: Hmm?

Lain: Are there different kinds of people as well?

Touko: Hmm, well, rather than kinds, each person is different in his or her own way. For example, you don't like tea, but there are also people like me who love it. There are also people whose stomach gets upset when they drink milk, but there also those whose stomach doesn't get upset right? However, there also people who when they grow up, learn to drink it. Lain, you'll probably will learn to drink tea you know. It's not a good thing, nor a bad thing. It's normal that there are different kinds of people. That's why you can just ignore rather you should be proud of your uniqueness I think!

Lain: Be proud of it?

Touko: I'm sorry... That's right, you worry, don't you? You don't have to boast about it, but there's no need to mind what other people think is what I meant to say.

Lain: I have weird dreams, is that different too?

**Touko:** You may think its different, but in fact that's normal. If you're worried about that, I might be able to help. Not to help you stop having those dreams, but rather helping you to explain things you don't understand. If you come to me with your problems, I'd be really happy. You know, I've studied a lot to help you answer those kinds of questions; I'm still studying actually. If you're ever in trouble or something, and should you want to come and talk to me, that'd be OK. I'd like to know more about you Lain. Would that be OK?  
I'm so glad! Starting today you and I are friends! Please come and play sometime!  
Promise?

**Lain:** I'd like to ask you things as well!

**Touko:** You can ask me anything you want. If I don't know the answer I'll look up the answer for you. I'll even prepare your favorite drink.

**Lain:** What's that??

**Touko:** Milk that doesn't upset your stomach!

## Cou004

**Touko:** 7th of July, 2pm, 2nd session. (*ring*) Come on in.

**Lain:** Touko-sensai, hello.

**Touko:** Hello, Lain.

**Lain:** Hello.

**Touko:** It's almost the summer holidays! Are you looking forward to them?

**Lain:** Not especially.

**Touko:** Let's see here, today, today I'd like to play a game with you Lain, that's why I brought this.

**Lain:** What's that?

**Touko:** It's oil painting set. Do you like to paint Lain?

**Lain:** I don't like painting... maybe...

**Touko:** I see... Well, do you know tic-tac-toe?

**Lain:** I know it, but I don't want to play that

**Touko:** I... I'm sorry. I'm a bit frazzled today. Well, do you have anything you want to do Lain?

**Lain:** I'd like to talk some more

**Touko:** What do you want to talk about?

**Lain:** Whatever. About you.

**Touko:** About me? Well... I'm not that interesting you know.

**Lain:** Yes, you are.

**Touko:** No really, I'm not that interesting. But look, I'm already 27, if we talked about me we'd have to start all the way at the beginning and it'd take forever! And really, it's not a very interesting story at that.

**Lain:** What kind of doctor are you?

**Touko:** What kind of doctor you ask? Well, I help people like you who worry about certain things, and listen to their stories. And I give them advice to help fix their problems. You understand?

**Lain:** Ah... I thought so.

**Touko:** What's wrong? If you're not feeling well, or you're not comfortable please tell me, you can be honest with me. I should be more careful really. You shouldn't worry so much. Just relax, come and have a nice talk with me once a month.

**Lain:** Okay...

## Cou005

Touko: So, how's school?

Lain: Normal.

Touko: By normal you mean? Not interesting, not boring, just normal?

Lain: Yes...

Touko: How about friends?

Lain: I have friends.

Touko: Do you often play with them?

Lain: Yes, but everyone's busy with cram school. The only place I go is here...

Touko: Don't you want to learn something? Calligraphy, or take swimming lessos... ooohhh...

Lain: It's ok; don't worry about it.

Touko: I'm sorry...

Lain: I'd rather stay at home than go out and do something.

Touko: What do you do at home?

Lain: That's a secret.

Touko: Aw, that's mean. You won't tell me.

Lain: But I'm ashamed.

Touko: Are you doing things you're ashamed of?

Lain: Maybe...

Touko: Now I want to know! Ah, so be it... But I'd really like to know...

Lain: If I don't tell you is that bad?

Touko: I'd be glad if you did tell me.

Lain: I talk to my stuffed animals.

Touko: Ha, ha, is that it? That's completely normal. I knew it.

Lain: Knew what?

Touko: Ha, ha, never mind! I used to have a stuffed animal I loved...

Lain: What kind of stuffed animal?

Touko: A dragon I got at the bank. Weird huh?

Lain: Why is that weird?

**Touko:** Well, aren't girls supposed to play with cute stuffed animals? It wasn't even a stuffed animal... it was a piggy bank dragon. But I still treasured it. I called it Ta-chan and talked to it all the time.

**Lain:** Me too. I talk to my animals. Is that normal?

**Touko:** That's normal! Do I look weird to you??

**Lain:** No...

**Touko:** You're the same as me, Lain, we're not weird at all!

## Cou006

**Touko:** Hello Lain, have you been well?

**Lain:** Yes, and you?

**Touko:** Yes, I've been fine. I'm a bit tired though.

**Lain:** Tired?

**Touko:** Yes, I've been pretty busy.

**Lain:** With what?

**Touko:** Hmm, well... At least talking with you like this is something I can look forward to.

**Lain:** Really?

**Touko:** Really! What shall we talk about today... What do you want to talk about Lain?

**Lain:** I want to talk about you, doctor. We weren't able to last month.

**Touko:** I'd rather talk about you, Lain; not about myself, though. But you're right, it's only fair that we both get to talk about what we want, so this time we'll talk about me, but next time we'll talk about you Lain, is that all right?

**Lain:** OK!

**Touko:** I'm not sure where I should start though... My name is Younera Touko, I'm 27, I'm a doctor at the Tokyo Research Institute for Psychotherapy... That's this place. Ah, we won't get anywhere like this. You know, I'm used to listening people talk, not used to talking myself. Is there anything you'd like to know Lain?

**Lain:** How did you become a doctor?

**Touko:** I studied a lot at a place called a university. I wrote something called a thesis, and with that I received my degree to become a doctor.

## Cou007

Lain: What is college like?

Touko: You're in junior high school now aren't you, Lain? So if you're in junior high and want to keep studying, you go to high school, right? College is where people go if they want to keep studying after high school.

Lain: Do you like to study, Sensei?

Touko: I didn't used to. But I went to America as an exchange student when I was in junior high school, and I started to feel differently then.

Lain: You were an exchange student. Wow!

Touko: At the time, I just went because my parents wanted me to. But people have different ways of seeing things in other countries, and I learned a lot from that. Looking back, it was a lot of work, and at first, I didn't feel good about it, but now I'm really grateful that I was able to be an exchange student. I learned English, too.

Lain: That's amazing, Touko-sensei!

Touko: Oh, it's not so amazing. There are lots of people who have studied much more than I have. I'm really a pretty lazy person. I liked to fool around, really. It's boring to just study, isn't it? Do you like to study, Lain?

Lain: Not really.

Touko: What subjects don't you like?

Lain: Japanese and physical education.

Touko: I see. So you don't like exercise.

Lain: No, I don't like physical education.

Touko: You like exercise, then?

Lain: Yes.

Touko: What kind of exercise do you like?

Lain: The metal beam.

Touko: Wow! I used to like running, but I was never good at the metal beam. I would spin around and get too dizzy.

Lain: I like to spin around.

Touko: Both frontwards and backwards?

**Lain:** Yes, both.

**Touko:** What don't you like?

**Lain:** (*silence*)

**Touko:** You don't have to answer if you don't want to.  
But, what kind of study do you like? I'm sorry.  
Are you tired? Why don't we end early today?

## Cou008

**Touko:** I'm sorry about last time... but I'm relieved.  
I was worried that you didn't like me and  
wouldn't come anymore.

**Lain:** ...I'm sorry.

**Touko:** There's no reason to apologize. I was the one  
who asked you a bad question. Can you forgive  
me? .... Thank you. So I thought we could work  
with this today. Can we talk about this?

**Lain:** They had that at the last hospital.

**Touko:** Really? I wanted to play with this.

**Lain:** What kind of test is it?

**Touko:** Amazing Lain! Do you know about it? They call  
this a Rorschach Test. This isn't really a  
test. Think of it as a game.

**Lain:** But that's boring.

**Touko:** Hmm... I guess so. If you think it's boring,  
we'll stop the test. How's that?

**Lain:** Okay.

**Touko:** Okay. What do you see?

**Lain:** A splotch.

**Touko:** Um, right. But does it look like anything?

**Lain:** What do you see?

**Touko:** Me? Hmm... a person's face, I think.

**Lain:** Is it angry? Is it also crying?

**Touko:** It looks a little angry.

**Lain:** This is boring.

**Touko:** Lain... Right. A promise is a promise. Let's  
stop.

## Cou009

**Touko:** Do you want to talk about something fun? Do you like to take a bath or a shower?

**Lain:** I like showers.

**Touko:** Really? I prefer baths, but I don't get a chance to take them much at home. It's a bit of a hassle to prepare for a bath, too. I usually take showers, but I take a bath on my days off. Don't you like the way a bath feels?

**Lain:** I'm afraid of being in hot water.

**Touko:** You don't like to get wet?

**Lain:** No.

**Touko:** Then, what are you afraid of?

**Lain:** I'm not really sure. It feels like I'm being touched all over by something.

**Touko:** Hmm... the water does touch the skin.

## Cou010

Lain: It's because I'm weird...

Touko: Wait a second Lain. You're not a weird kid at all. Everyone thinks they're weird when they're kids. *don't understand this sentence*

Lain: But you're wrong.

Touko: Do you dislike being different from others?

Lain: I'm not sure.

Touko: Okay? Lain is Lain because she is different. You have a very strong imagination, and that's a good thing. So don't say that you're weird. I don't think that at all.

Lain: But... the test.... *referring to a test she did in the past*

Touko: I'm sorry... but you're troubled, right? I want you to not to be troubled. In order to help you, I have to know more about you. I don't want to make you uncomfortable.

Lain: What should I do?

Touko: Right now you don't need to do anything. Since you and I are friends, if we keep talking, I'll slowly start to understand more and more about you. So, if I say, "I think you should come over," it would be good for you to think, "That sounds nice, okay." *really strange sentence here* So right now, it'd be best if you tell me all about yourself.

Lain: You won't tell anyone?

Touko: Nope, it'll be our secret.

Lain: Not even your friends, or your mother?

Touko: I promise. If I lie, one thousand needles!

Lain: One thousand needles?

Touko: Don't kids your age know that? When I was a kid, whenever we made a promise, we said, "If I break the promise, I will drink 1000 needles."

Lain: Wouldn't that hurt?

Touko: A lot!! *don't know this sentence yet* Right! How many needles are in my stomach right now? Miss Iwakura? *talking like a teacher*

Lain: ... five thousand?

**Touko:** Wrong! Yesterday, since I went to the bathroom and flushed everything out, there's zero!

**Lain:** Sensei, that's gross! note that's the doctor's sensei, not teacher's sensei. I don't think "Touko" or "You" would fit as nicely

**Touko:** (laugh)

## Cou011

**Touko:** Hello, Lain.

**Lain:** *(in a soft voice)* Hello.

**Touko:** Hmm. You don't sound so energetic. Maybe you don't feel up for this. Why don't we quit now? Ok? But since you came all the way out here, how would you like a cup of tea or something? What would you like? Don't be shy.

**Lain:** I want to talk.

**Touko:** You don't have to force yourself. That might make you feel even worse. Take my word for it.

**Lain:** I want to be cured.

**Touko:** Cured...but you're not sick, Lain.

**Lain:** But this is a hospital isn't it?

**Touko:** Well, this place can function as a hospital, but I see patients at my research room as well. Right now, I don't know if you are really sick or not. My hunch is that you are probably not sick, Lain. Still, if you aren't feeling well or are worried about something, I'd like to be able to help you.

**Lain:** I'm not sick?

**Touko:** Right now, I'm not completely sure, but you're probably just fine. Even if you are sick, I'll make sure that you are cured.

**Lain:** You're absolutely sure you can cure me?

**Touko:** Absolutely. I will not let you be sick.

**Lain:** Sensei, why are you so kind to me? Is it because it is your job?

**Touko:** Hmm... You're right that this is a part of my work. But it's a type of work that's hard to see as just work. Most of the time, I see patients, diagnose them as objectively as possible, and give them psychological treatment, but it isn't enough to make them better. I'm a researcher as well as a doctor. If I see someone suffering, I must try and help that person. I want to do everything I can to help that person.

**Lain:** You would do that for anybody?

**Touko:** To be specific, if I see someone suffering from something for which the cause is physical and obvious, I refer that person to a specialist. If there is a car accident or a poisoning, that's what I would do. Do put it simply, I'm not the kind of doctor who treats people who have something wrong with them physically.

**Lain:** So I have...

**Touko:** I can't tell for sure without doing a close examination, but I know that you had an examination before you came here and that no problems were found. And just by talking to you here, Lain, you don't seem to have anything wrong with you at all. But I have to have you talk to me and tell me much more about what's going on with you I can't really help you with what's bothering you.

## Cou012

**Lain:** What bothers me is that I have nightmares, I see strange things, I feel that someone is touching me when no one is there. I have symptoms of schizophrenia.

**Touko:** Schizophrenia? Where did you hear a word like that? Who said that to you?

**Lain:** I looked it up in a book.

**Touko:** Lain, it's a good things to study hard, but it's dangerous to go digging around and diagnosing yourself when you aren't sick. Have you heard the expression "a lot of how sick you feel depends on what you think about it?"

**Lain:** Actually I haven't.

**Touko:** Oh? Anyway, if you start diagnosing yourself, you're going to start believing that you have all sorts of things wrong with you.

**Lain:** But I wanted to know what's wrong with me. I wanted to understand.

**Touko:** I see. I understand. I think you're intentions are right. But I'd like to ask something of you. Please don't go around imagining and concocting... searching, for things that you think are wrong with you. Can I ask that of you?

**Lain:** Then will you help me find what's wrong?

**Touko:** Of course I will. So let's make a promise. I will tell you everything I understand about you. I won't hide anything from you.

**Lain:** If you lie can I cut off your finger?

**Touko:** Hmm... you can do something even worse. You can hammer a nail into my head.

**Lain:** You're goofy, Sensei.

**Touko:** Seriously, though, I really want to help you. I'm an only child, and I always wished I had a younger sister--someone like you, Lain.

**Lain:** You're my big sister then?

**Touko:** I'd be happy if you saw it that way.

**Lain:** I will.

**Touko:** Thank you. Anyway, let's end for today. You're tired aren't you?

**Lain:** Uh, uh. But I'll do what you asked me to do, Sensei.

**Touko:** Great! Hee, hee. Actually, I'm the one who's tired.

**Lain:** You're tired of me?

**Touko:** No, no! Don't think that. I've had a lot of other work to do today, too. I like you and I'll miss you until we meet again, Lain.

**Lain:** That makes me feel better.

**Touko:** Let's end now, then. It's getting late and we don't want your mother to worry.

**Lain:** Good bye, Touko Sensei.

**Touko:** Good bye, Lain.

**Lain:** Just call me Lain. It's a bit weird for a "big sister" to call me Lain-chan.

**Touko:** Ok then, goodbye, Lain.

**Lain:** Goodbye.

## Cou013

Lain: Hello, Touko-san.

Touko: Hello, Lain. Ok, from today we're going to really tackle what's bothering you, Lain-chan. I'm sorry. I mean Lain. We're going to try to figure things out so you don't see nightmares anymore.

Lain: Uh, huh. I haven't seen nightmares much lately, though. Sometimes I hear things, though.

Touko: Hear things? Like what?

Lain: I don't know. It sounds like someone talking. I don't like hearing it, so I try my best to ignore it.

Touko: Hmm. Do you know whose voice you hear?

Lain: I don't know. It can be a man's voice or a woman's voice.

Touko: Where do the voices seem to come from?

Lain: From the sky.

Touko: The sky? From what part of the sky?

Lain: From the electric lines. Somehow...

Touko: The electric lines... Do you know what's inside of electric lines?

Lain: Wiring that carries electricity.

Touko: Right. They carry electricity that comes from power plants. Do feel like you sense electricity?

Lain: I don't really know. Sometimes it seems to come from the sky; not the electric lines.

Touko: Are you bothered by it right now?

Lain: No. I'm not scared now. But...

Touko: When you told your mother, did she tell you not to tell anyone else about these things?

Lain: Uh huh.

Touko: People who don't hear these things would think strange things about you if you told them, huh? You don't have to worry about telling me anything you want to. You don't have to worry. Ok? I'm not going to think strange things about you.

Lain: Because I'm sick?

Touko: No, Lain. Let's see. You know about "kanashibari?" should we replace this with "sleep paralysis"? also referred to in a Tak clip

Lain: When a ghost comes out and you can't move your body?

Touko: Right. Have you ever had that happen to you?

Lain: Many times.

Touko: It was frightening, wasn't it?

Lain: Uh, huh.

Touko: Do you know why kanashibari happens?

Lain: Why?

Touko: The human body is very mysterious. When you're sleeping, there are times when your mind is awake, times when your body is awake. Do you understand?

Lain: Sort of...

Touko: Well, that's good enough for now. What parts of you are awake right now?

Lain: My body and my mind.

Touko: Hmm. Suppose I said something really scary right now and you feel scared enough to run out of this room. What would you do?

Lain: I think I would run out of this room.

Touko: Ok. Suppose that you feel so scared that you want to run out of this room, but your body is asleep and you can't move. That's what kanashibari is. So if you're having a nightmare but your body is asleep and you can't move, you are having kanashibari. You see? If you know what's involved, it's not so scary, is it?

Lain: No. It isn't.

## Cou014

**Touko:** There are many people who have had experienced kanashibari, but we don't call them "sick."

**Lain:** But...

**Touko:** Hmm... there might be only a few people who have experienced what you have. Still, I don't think you should be called "sick" just because of your experiences. A lot of things can happen to a person while she's young and impressionable.

**Lain:** But I'm scared and I hate this.

**Touko:** What are the scariest parts of your dreams?

**Lain:** I start to feel that I don't need myself. I feel that I am an unneeded thing.

**Touko:** You "don't need" yourself?

**Lain:** I feel that I am being told to come back because I'm unneeded.

**Touko:** Come back? Come back where?

**Lain:** To myself.

**Touko:** Hmm. This is hard to understand. You want you to come back to yourself?

**Lain:** I don't know. But for a person like me to be me, and to touch my body, feels like I'm being torn...

**Touko:** (interrupting) And it's painful?

**Lain:** It isn't painful, but it's frightening.

**Touko:** I see. Does this happen when you're asleep?

**Lain:** Probably.

**Touko:** Probably? This happens sometimes when you're not dreaming?

**Lain:** I don't know. Sometimes it happens when I'm just sitting by myself, and sometimes when I'm talking to my friends.

**Touko:** Tell me what happens when you're not alone. This happens when you're just having conversations?

**Lain:** Yes. While I'm just talking, it suddenly...

**Touko:** How do you notice it? Do your friends call out to you?

Lain: Suddenly...

Touko: Is there something that triggers it?

Lain: I was afraid, and I felt better after staying motionless for a while.

Touko: Can you explain what it felt like, or what you saw? Could you draw a picture?

Lain: No, I can't.

Touko: I see... Oh! We have to end. I'm sorry, Lain. I have to go out and take care of some things today. I'm sorry to have to stop right in the middle of our appointment. But it's good for now that you can't see these things. I think that what you experience probably has something to do with kanashibari. I'll do some research on it until next month. That'll be my homework. Your homework will be keeping a diary.

Lain: A diary?

Touko: I want you to write about the things you did during the day, and what you thought about. You don't have to show it to me. Just write what you want. I used to keep a diary when I was your age.

Lain: But...

Touko: You don't want to? It can be really interesting to look back on the things you write in your diary. We can be forgetful, so it can help you remember things, too.

Lain: That will cure me?

Touko: Hmm. That probably doesn't have anything to do with it. It can't hurt, though. I'll explain more carefully next month. I don't mind if you don't want to keep a diary. I went and bought you a diary book, though. See? It's cute, isn't it? I found it when I went shopping last week, and I thought it would be a nice present for you.

Lain: Thank you.

Touko: But don't force yourself. You don't have to keep a diary just because I bought you one. Feel free to write in the diary if you want to, though. Well I guess we'll wrap it up, then. Make sure you're not forgetting anything. I'll walk out to the corner with you.

## Cou015

**Touko:** How are you feeling, Lain?

**Lain:** I'm doing ok. How about you, Touko-san?

**Touko:** Pretty much as always. I could use a little more time to relax a little, though.

**Lain:** You're very busy?

**Touko:** Yes... Ha, ha. Now our roles are reversed. I feel like you are counseling me.

**Lain:** Ha, ha

**Touko:** Ha, ha. By the way, what did you decide to do about the diary?

**Lain:** I decided to keep a diary.

**Touko:** Wow, that's great! I didn't waste my money right before payday.

**Lain:** I'll pay you for the diary.

**Touko:** I'm joking, I'm joking. But I get paid well anyway. For the money I earn, the diary may have been a bit cheap. Oh, no. This isn't good. I'm just yacking on about myself.

**Lain:** But you're funny, Sensei. You're a lot of fun.

**Touko:** Ha, ha. Well, why don't we begin? Let's pick up where we left off last time. Have you learned the word "ego" at school?

**Lain:** Uh huh. I looked into it. It's about knowing that you are yourself?

**Touko:** Right. People around your age can get unsure about that. They ask themselves "what kind of person am I?" Boys sometimes think that they are heroes and that they will accomplish some superhuman feat someday. Girls sometimes imagine that they don't belong with their own families. They think instead that they are members of a rich elite family, and that a prince on a white steed will come one day to take them away. Kids your age sometimes believe these things for real.

**Lain:** I don't feel that way. I think that I'm just me.

**Touko:** But It's hard to tell what you are just by yourself, isn't it? When I was younger, I thought that there was a different me, and that somehow I wasn't the person I was at the time.

**Lain:** A different me?

**Touko:** Yes. For example, if there was something happening that I didn't like, I wondered why I had to be the one dealing with it. I thought there had to be some kind of mistake. I thought that someday I would return to the real me. I also thought things like, if there was a big earthquake, everyone would die, but I would be the only survivor. I thought that I was someone special; someone "chosen." In another words, I believed in a "me" that could not be. It's funny, isn't it?

**Lain:** I don't believe that I'm anyone chosen. I'm ok with being ordinary.

## Cou016

**Touko:** I see. That's probably because you are a strong person. I think I was probably weak and that I was trying to run away because of it.

**Lain:** Do you think I'm trying to run away from myself?

**Touko:** I don't think so. But you want to change yourself, don't you?

**Lain:** I just don't want to see any more bad dreams. That's how I feel.

**Touko:** Could it be that you don't want to be the person who sees the bad dreams? Maybe you feel that way somewhere deep inside yourself? Could it be that you are subconsciously trying to construct a "me" that isn't "me"?

**Lain:** What should I do?

**Touko:** Do you think you can accept your dreams?

**Lain:** Accept?

**Touko:** Right. I mean facing the "you" that you don't want to meet or hear, and then trying to become friends with them.

**Lain:** I can't.

**Touko:** I think that all you have to do is listen to the voices. See what they are saying and see what they want to do. Face them until you understand them and expose them.

**Lain:** I'm scared.

**Touko:** But you've made it so far. You're still you. You've never had a ghost punch you or had a voice act violently with you, right? Maybe these ghosts and voices are trying to be friends with you. Ha, ha. If you don't see the ghosts again, great. But if you do see them, I think that it's important that you have a good attitude and know how to brace yourself. If the ghosts show up, just shake it off your shoulders and say, "oh, here they are again."

**Lain:** I'm leaving. I'm going home.

**Touko:** Why? Did I say something I shouldn't have?

**Lain:** I didn't lie to you. I didn't see any ghosts or phantoms. You're a big jerk!

**Toukot: Lain!**

## Cou017

**Touko:** I'm sorry ma'am. I can handle it from here.  
(pause) Lain, I'm sorry. I thought that if I didn't come here personally, you would never see me again. I came to apologize. I think I was arrogant about my assumptions about you. Still, I wanted you to understand and to be comfortable. I just thought that if you could face your dreams and understand where they were coming from, that they would stop.

**Lain:** I'm sorry, Touko-san.

**Touko:** Why?

**Lain:** I lied to you... I didn't keep the diary.

**Touko:** That's ok. I told you that it was all up to you.

**Lain:** You were trying to be helpful to me.

**Touko:** Thank you. I'm grateful that you feel that way. Can you forgive me, Lain?

**Lain:** Yes.

**Touko:** I'm so glad. I was so sad when you walked away from our session. I cried. I felt so bad. I though you didn't like me anymore.

**Lain:** Touko-san, don't cry.

**Touko:** Oh.. It's so silly of me to cry over this. I'm sorry, Lain.

**Lain:** Don't cry.

**Touko:** These are tears of joy, Lain. I'm so glad.

**Lain:** Joy?

**Touko:** Yes. Tears of joy.

**Lain:** I'm really happy, too. I feel so close to you.

## Cou018

**Touko:** Let's skip counseling today and just relax instead. You came all the way out here. Do you want something to drink? I cried so much that I'm thirsty.

**Lain:** Touko-san, I'll start keeping my diary. Honestly, this time.

**Touko:** Don't force yourself. You're a kind girl.

**Lain:** I'm not forcing myself. The diary is for me, after all. And the next time I hear the voices, I'll listen to see what they are saying. Then, I'll tell you what they said, Touko-san.

**Touko:** Thank you, Lain.

**Lain:** Happy birthday, by the way, Touko-san.

**Touko:** Huh! My birthday?

**Lain:** I made this for you with my mom.

**Touko:** Really? I'm so happy! Can I open it?

**Lain:** Sure.

**Touko:** Cookies! Wow. There's some tea ready right now. Why don't we have the cookies with some tea?

**Lain:** Is it good?

**Touko:** Mmm. It tastes like tea.

**Lain:** You said that you like tea, so we made the cookies that way.

**Touko:** Thank you. But then we better have a different kind of tea.

**Lain:** It won't go with your tea?

**Touko:** No, not that it wouldn't go with it, but it would be too bad if I couldn't enjoy the tea and cookies as much as possible.

**Lain:** Should I have made cookies with a different flavor?

**Touko:** Oh, no, no. Not at all! But you took all the trouble to make such nice cookies, and I want to enjoy them as much as possible. That's all.

**Lain:** Really?

**Touko:** Really. Thanks so much, Lain.

**Lain:** Sensei, it hurts.

## Cou019

**Touko:** Hello, Lain.

**Lain:** I write in my diary everyday. Sometimes I don't have much to write, though.

**Touko:** Don't worry about it. If you force yourself you'll just want to give up. I don't know how many diaries I've had where I missed entries. Have you seen any anything since last time?

**Lain:** I've been ok.

**Touko:** Really? That's good. There's something I want to confirm with you today.

**Lain:** What?

**Touko:** You have really good eyesight, don't you Lain?

**Lain:** Really good?

**Touko:** You've had eye exams at school, haven't you? What's your score?

**Lain:** 1.5.

**Touko:** Your eyesight is really even better than that, isn't it?

**Lain:** But I wanted to have the same score as all the other kids.

**Touko:** Well there's no point to having the examination then. At the last hospital where we used to meet, they examined your eyes, too. But they did it differently than at your school. They had a machine that measures eyesight automatically. The machine only measures as far as 3.0, and your score was 3.0. There are some kids with extremely good eyesight. The doctor in charge of your eye-exam spoke with a cancer specialist, who said he saw no problems.

**Lain:** Oh.

**Touko:** Lain, what can you see outside the window?

**Lain:** Trees and a gateway to a shrine in the distance.

**Touko:** And beyond that?

**Lain:** Buildings.

**Touko:** And beyond that?

**Lain:** Mountains.

**Touko:** And beyond that?

**Lain:** I can't see anything further.

**Touko:** Nothing at all?

**Lain:** A purplish color that looks like a curtain.

**Touko:** Thank you. I'm sorry to pepper you with all these questions. I think that you probably see the world in a different way than I do. Lain, don't look so glum. It's nothing to worry about. It's not such a bad thing... I'm sorry for saying that. I guess it is bad thing for you. To see things so differently.

**Lain:** I don't know. But I think that I'm probably different from everybody else. I feel like I'm the only person who can hear and see some things. It makes me very uncomfortable. I think that I will be disliked. Is that the reason?

**Touko:** It might be. I think that you'd have to be seen by a specialist.

**Lain:** No. I want to see you. I don't want to see any of the other doctors here. They all scare me.

**Touko:** Why don't we just keep this as a secret?

**Lain:** A secret?

**Touko:** Um hm. It will be our secret until you aren't worried about it anymore.

**Lain:** Is that ok?

**Touko:** I'm your big sister, remember? I'm not going to take you anywhere that you will be scared.

**Lain:** Touko-san.

## Cou020

**Touko:** Good morning, Lain.

**Lain:** Good morning, Touko-san.

**Touko:** Have you seen anything since last time?

**Lain:** No, I haven't. Honestly.

**Touko:** Have you heard anything?

**Lain:** Sometimes I hear something very confused.

**Touko:** Very confused? One person? More than one?

**Lain:** More than one. Men and women.

**Touko:** Are they people you know?

**Lain:** Probably not.

**Touko:** You said that you heard things from the sky.  
What do you think is in the sky?

**Lain:** There's air.

**Touko:** Uh, huh. And aside from that?

**Lain:** Clouds. The sun. The stars.

**Touko:** Do you know about the transmission of radio wavelengths for TV and cell phones?

**Lain:** Yes. The information travels wirelessly?

**Touko:** Right. The information flies through the sky.

**Lain:** Am I hearing that information?

**Touko:** Hmm. It might be that you imagine you are hearing that information.

**Lain:** There's a sickness like that?

**Touko:** There is. It's called delusion. It's a symptom of schizophrenia and neurosis. Sometimes, if you are focusing much too much on something or are getting very stressed, it can bring out those kind of symptoms. But...

**Lain:** But?

**Touko:** Usually, when people say they hear things, what they hear is more closely associated with themselves. For instance, they hear voices that bad-mouth them.

**Lain:** Delusion of persecution?

**Touko:** Right. You've been studying up on this stuff. Ok, I'll fill you in a little more on this. The definition of "delusion" is taking a mistaken idea and believing in your own mind that it is correct. But for you, Lain, you say that you might have felt or sensed something. A person who is really delusional tends to have conviction that his delusions are real. But you don't have that. You have thoughts, considerations.

**Lain:** Considerations?

**Touko:** You can forget that word if you'd like. As I mentioned before, a delusion is generally something intertwined with one's self. There really aren't any delusions that have nothing to do with someone personally.

**Lain:** I'm not delusional?

**Touko:** Fundamentally, no. Still, there are all sorts of delusions, and if you try to "pin" one of them onto someone, you may start pinning other ones on that person, too.

## Cou021

Lain: What could happen?

Touko: Hmm. There is a delusion some people have that they are being influenced by something. The delusion that the radio or TV or cell phones are trying to influence them somehow. The delusion that TV and cell phones have the power to touch them physically. You said that you thought you were being touched by something, didn't you, Lain?

Lain: Uh, huh.

Touko: It might not even be a delusion. There is an actual medical condition that makes people very sensitive physically. But you said that you don't feel like you are yourself, didn't you, Lain? That makes me think that you have the delusion that nothing exists. That you think you aren't real and that existence isn't real. This can come as the result of poor self-esteem.

Lain: Poor self-esteem?

Touko: It's the feeling that one is worthless. It's similar to the delusion of persecution we were talking about.

Lain: I'm really sick.

Touko: There are other kinds of delusions.

Lain: I don't want to listen anymore.

Touko: Some people have the delusion that they have a special, unique sickness. It's the sickness of thinking they have a sickness, when they really aren't sick. I think that what you have, Lain, is mostly to do with this kind of delusion.

Lain: The sickness of thinking that I am sick when I'm not sick?

Touko: Yes. I think that you have poor self-esteem, and that a small insecurity manifests itself in nightmares, and makes you think that you are sick.

Lain: Can I be cured?

**Touko:** Sure! After all, you're not sick in the first place. I'm sorry to have alarmed you. Still, if you don't understand psychiatry well, you can use it to make all sorts of misguided conclusions. You can diagnose yourself as being sick. Most people go to the doctor when they or someone they know can't carry on their day-to-day activities. They come in to see a doctor and they are diagnosed or treated, and they are diagnosed sometimes as sick. So for someone like you, who can continue her own day-to-day activities without a problem, we can't really say that you are sick unless something's bad enough that you to need hospitalization.

## Cou022

Lain: Am I sick because I came to the hospital?

Touko: Well, you can carry on with your life, but you're troubled, aren't you Lain? It's the job of a counselor to help with that.

Lain: Are you a counselor, Touko-san? You said before that you're a doctor.

Touko: I'm a counselor and a doctor.

Lain: How are the two different?

Touko: Well, both jobs have to do with helping people with psychological problems. They're similar in the sense that they have the same goals. But the difference is that as a counselor I care for patients differently than I do as a doctor, and that each job has different qualifications. Each job has its strengths and weaknesses, and I think it's best when I can make their strengths compliment each other. That's why I'm a doctor and a counselor.

Lain: Are you a doctor or a counselor when you see me?

Touko: I'm a counselor. I think it's better for me to be a counselor when I see you.

Lain: I'm not mentally ill? You said that the things I see are hallucinations.

Touko: It's true that hallucinations and delusions are symptoms of mental illness, and this is just my hunch, but you don't seem to be mentally ill to me.

Lain: Do I pay too much attention to things?

Touko: Yes, I think that's probably right. I think your tendency to observe things and listen to them very carefully might be stressing you out.

Lain: What can I do about it, Touko-san?

Touko: Well... even if I told you not to mind things too much, you're going to mind things.

Lain: I don't mind anymore. I'm getting used to this. Still, I can't get used to that.

Touko: "That"?

**Lain:** I'm not the me that I am right now.

**Touko:** What kind of Lain are you?

**Lain:** I'm me. That person is, too.

**Touko:** Why do you feel that way?

**Lain:** I don't know. Have you ever thought that you aren't you, Touko-san?

**Touko:** Looking back on myself in the past, I've wondered what I was doing sometimes. But I've never thought at the time that I wasn't me. Do you feel that there are two of you, Lain?

**Lain:** No. I'm me and I'm not me.

**Touko:** That's mysterious. But if you feel that way, that must be true for you. You don't have to feel that you're mistaken.

**Lain:** But it isn't usual.

## Cou023

**Touko:** You're really yearning all the time, aren't you, Lain?

**Lain:** Probably...

**Touko:** I'm envious. Human perception is a wild thing. If you start feeling something, you start believing it. I don't know how to explain to anyone that I am really me. But being able to question that sense of self is a special talent.

**Lain:** I don't want a talent like that.

**Touko:** Yeah. I'm sure you feel really strongly that way right now. But I feel that it can be a good thing for you too. I don't understand it well right now, but I think that if you can include and accept that as part of yourself, it would help you in the long run.

**Lain:** I won't change?

**Touko:** I don't know. You might change naturally and stop having nightmares. If that happens, you'd be like most other kids.

**Lain:** But I won't know if I've gotten better. I might have nightmares again.

**Touko:** Yeah. But things will change from now on.

**Lain:** What do you mean?

**Touko:** I mean that you're not alone. I'm here and you can talk to me about things.

**Lain:** That's true, Touko-san.

## Cou024

Lain: Good morning, Touko-san.

Touko: Good morning. How are you? Have you been feeling healthy?

Lain: Uh huh. I thought about the things you talked about last month and I've somehow been feeling better.

Touko: Oh, that's great. Actually, though, it's against the rules to talk about the things we talked about last month. In some people it can trigger something irreversible.

Lain: Irreversible?

Touko: Their sickness could worsen, and sometimes, patients can hurt themselves physically.

Lain: Suicide?

Touko: Well, that would be the worst-case scenario.

Lain: I don't want to die.

Touko: Of course not! Far from it. But when people become troubled emotionally, they start to see things and act differently than you or I would.

Lain: See things differently?

Touko: They can lose their fear of dying or hurting themselves. In fact they start to feel that dying or getting hurt are very good things. You can't understand that, can you?

Lain: I am afraid of those things.

Touko: Sure! Me too. We're the same way. That's normal.

Lain: Ok.

## Cou025

**Touko:** Have you seen or heard anything since then?

**Lain:** No.

**Touko:** See! It was a state of mind, Lain. I think that you probably won't see them again, but if you do, don't get discouraged. You'll get over it gradually.

**Lain:** I won't get better right away?

**Touko:** Hmm. I don't know. How old were you when you started having problems with them?

**Lain:** I was eleven.

**Touko:** So it's been over a year now. During that time, how often did it happen?

**Lain:** I don't remember... once.

**Touko:** Sometimes, even if there doesn't seem to be an explanation for it immediately, these things may go away. But if you decide that they've gone away completely and become complacent, there's a chance that they may come back. I can't say for certain that that will happen with you, but even if you don't see them for a while, I'd like you to continue what you've been doing up till now. Do you want to stop coming here, Lain?

**Lain:** No. I like seeing you.

**Touko:** Thank you. I guess that there's no problem, then. You're doing well, but you'll promise me that you will keep coming here?

**Lain:** Yes. In exchange, I want you to teach me some things.

**Touko:** Why? For homework? Sure. You won't believe it, but I was pretty sharp in junior high school. Ha, ha. Learning to read and write was tough, though.

**Lain:** I don't mean that. I want to know more about your work. Is that ok?

**Touko:** Hmm. I don't think it's a very good idea, but if you're really curious, ok. Learning about things that make you curious is a great way to study. But you have to make time for your schoolwork, too. I'll promise to teach you about my work if you promise to do your schoolwork. Can you promise me that?

**Lain:** Yes, I promise.

**Touko:** And if you break your promise...

**Lain and Touko together:** I'll whack you with a blowfish!

## Cou026

Lain: You are a counselor and a psychiatrist, Touko-san? And a psychiatrist is someone who heals mental illnesses?

Touko: Uh huh. Put simply, I'm a doctor of the mind. As I mentioned before, mental illness is very complex.

Lain: What is mental illness?

Touko: Basically, a person's mind becomes disturbed for some reason, and the person is unable to continue functioning.

Lain: What sort of reason, for instance?

Touko: There can be many reasons. Problems with a living environment or work environment can be reasons. Sudden, psychological shock can also be a reason. The sudden death of a well-loved pet can trigger mental illness. Sometimes people become mentally ill because of something that happens to them physically. A car accident or some other kind of physical trauma can be a cause. Also, people who drink too much can damage the function of their brains.

Lain: Alcoholism?

Touko: Exactly. You've been studying! If you drink too much the alcohol content in your blood will rise. You've seen drunk people wobble around without balance, haven't you? They're in an alcoholic stupor.

Lain: But normal people aren't that way, are they?

Touko: No, they can be. It takes about 24 hours for alcohol to leave the human body. If you drink a lot everyday for a year or so--if you stay drunk long enough--you'll your perception will start to change. Your brain will start to deteriorate.

Lain: That's scary.

Touko: It is scary. I still have some sake now and then, though.

Lain: Isn't that dangerous?

**Touko:** Ha, ha. Oh, a little bit. And smoking is bad too. But having a drink with friends every now and then can help relieve stress. Relieving stress is very important for the body's health.

**Lain:** I don't understand what stress is.

**Touko:** Remember when you didn't like coming here at first?

**Lain:** Yes.

**Touko:** Stress is what we call the cause of that discomfort. You're glad that the discomfort is gone, aren't you?

**Lain:** Yes. What other kinds of mental illness are there?

**Touko:** Could you excuse me? I've been talking so much and I'm a little thirsty.

## Cou027

**Touko:** I wanted to ask last time, but why do have that kind of hairstyle?

**Lain:** It's weird?

**Touko:** No, it's great! You really look good that way. Is it a popular look at your school?

**Lain:** No. It's just my own style.

**Touko:** You mentioned that you want to be like other kids. Why do you have a unique look?

**Lain:** It comes from the right, and probably, that's why it goes out of the left. That's why.

*Translator's note: I do not know what Lain means here. "It" comes from the right," she says. I don't know what "It" is. Perhaps, she means that her hair is brushed from right to left.*

**Touko:** It works a little bit like a magic charm, then. I used have a magic charm, too.

**Lain:** You did, Touko-san?

**Touko:** Sure. It didn't have to do with hairstyle, but I used to have a lucky rabbit's foot. I used to believe that it would keep me safe and happy, and I tied it to my backpack. Looking back, it seems so ghastly. To tie a little bunny's foot to my backpack. But then again, believing in the rabbit's foot really made me feel safer.

**Lain:** A magic charm?

**Touko:** Yeah. Your hair looks really good, though, Lain. If you had a hairstyle like everyone else's, it wouldn't be like you. I think you look great the way you are.

## Cou028

**Touko:** You know about neurosis? Wow, Lain. You're going to have to start counseling me.

**Lain:** I know the word, not its meaning.

**Touko:** What kind of image?

**Lain:** The mind changes and becomes distorted?

**Touko:** Yes. You've got the general idea.

**Lain:** That's awful. You won't teach me anymore?

**Touko:** No. I'm really telling you that you got the general idea. Neurosis is a state in which there is nothing wrong with a person physically, yet the person has irrational fears and perceives threats. This places a lot of stress on the person and makes her feel sick.

**Lain:** It's only inside of their heads?

**Touko:** We used to think so. But after a lot of research, we think that an imbalance of the autonomic nerves in the brain is related to it. What I mean is, something is wrong in the body, too. We used to categorize physical symptoms as psychosomatic. But we've been finding more and more that conditions we thought were only of the mind involve the body itself.

**Lain:** Psychosomatic?

**Touko:** Oh, Lain, if ask so many questions, your head is going to explode! You've heard about people who lose a lot of weight because of stress, or go bald? That's psychosomatic. Lain, you don't, by any chance...

**Lain:** No, I don't have that kind of problem.

**Touko:** Oh, I'm relieved. That was hasty of me!

## Cou029

**Lain:** Who decides the names of diseases?

**Touko:** Various doctors. But we have general criterions. We have the ICD and the DSM, which are international standards for the definition of mental diseases. We know that if a person has a certain set of symptoms, we can consult these standards and find the exact name of the disease the person is suffering from. As you know, the mind can be a difficult thing to understand. For that reason, psychiatrists have publications, and we communicate all the time, sharing our data and our understanding of mental illness. We accumulate data and categorize it so that we can diagnose patients as correctly as possible.

**Lain:** There's mental illness you don't understand? Not even you?

**Touko:** To tell you the truth, we don't understand much of this at all. If there has been a successful treatment method for a patient with a certain disease in the past, we can apply that treatment method toward a patient suffering from the same disease in the present. Much of this has to do with experience.

**Lain:** You do this even if you don't know if a person can be cured?

**Touko:** Right. You can't tell if a person will be cured. We can only try our best to heal and help with our experience from the past. That's usually the case. But from the point of view of the patient, knowing if one will become better is very important. In fact, the understanding of the mechanisms behind getting better is an area of study of its own.

**Lain:** I see. It would be so much better if we could understand everything.

## Cou030

**Touko:** Do you have many memories from your childhood?

**Lain:** Memories? Do you mean records?

**Touko:** Well, memories and records aren't exactly the same. Don't think about it too much. If you've traveled somewhere during summer vacation...

**Lain:** I haven't traveled anywhere during summer vacation.

**Touko:** I'm sorry. In my youth, both of my parents worked, so I didn't get to travel very much. I didn't like it when I went back to school after vacation and other kids would ask me where I went or what I did during the summer.

**Lain:** What's the difference between a memory and a record?

**Touko:** From a medical standpoint, a record is something documented that lists exactly what happened, when and where. A memory is more subjective. It's what you remember personally. It's something in your mind that you can access from time to time. But Lain, doesn't all this stuff bore you?

**Lain:** No. How does a memory enter the brain?

**Touko:** How? That's a pretty complicated subject. Are you sure you want to get into it?

## Cou031

**Touko:** There are different kinds of memories. First of all, there's one's memory of oneself. You know what self-understanding is? You know that you are a girl named Lain with a certain face and height and weight? That's all recorded at a molecular level. Aside from the brain, there are places throughout the body that carry residues of things that have happened. You know that if you get cut, you bleed, but if you wait a while, it gets scab and heals? That has to do with information stored in cells going to work. Take a look at athletes and people who have gone through intense physical training. They seem to do things effortlessly. That's because their bodies have their own recollection or memory.

**Lain:** If you generate a recording, you have a memory?

**Touko:** You might be able to say that sometimes, but not always. Humans are haphazard and unpredictable, aren't they? I don't remember everything that happened to me as a kid precisely. I have happy memories of times I spent with my family, but my family might not have happy memories of those times at all. I may have had misperceptions in the moment, or I may have remembered things incorrectly and by mistake. But we all walk around with memories, thinking that what we remember is what actually happened. Suppose you meet an old friend that you haven't seen in a long time. Don't you remember the things you used to do with that person right away? Your memory has a way of linking things together.

**Lain:** If you can't link things together, you're sick?

**Touko:** Well, there is something called memory impediment. People who have this can't remember things that happened only moments ago. They have no idea of how things in the past took place. They don't know what happened and in what order. Since they don't want anyone to know that they don't remember things, they often make up stories about the past to fool people. Humans are complex. We do all sorts of things. You've seen senile old people on TV shows, haven't you? As humans, there are some things we can't do anything about.

**Lain:** Things we can't do anything about?

**Touko:** I'm not saying that you're sick, Lain. There are things we can't do anything about, aren't there? We can't flap our arms and fly, can we?

**Lain:** There are memories in the body and the brain?

**Touko:** There are still many things we don't understand. The human brain is made up of many different things. When something is recorded there, there is a change that takes place that becomes the foundation for memories.

**Lain:** I don't understand.

**Touko:** Yeah. When you go to high school and college, you can study up on all this stuff. But it's good that you have a healthy curiosity. I don't think you're sick, Lain.

**Lain:** I feel that my memories aren't my memories.

**Touko:** Sure! I feel that way sometimes, too.

**Lain:** Even when it's me. But I don't remember anything else.

**Touko:** You've just forgotten something, that's all. Didn't I say that human beings are haphazard and unpredictable? We remember things the way we want to remember them and often forget what we want to. That's being human. That's normal.

**Lain:** Normal?

**Touko:** Yes. You dwell on things too much, Lain. All those things are normal.

## Cou032

**Touko:** I wondered if your name has anything to do with R. D. Laing. Oh, it couldn't, could it?

**Lain:** R.D. Laing?

**Touko:** It's a person's name. An English psychiatrist. He was an unusual person. The titles of some of his books are very interesting. One of them is: "I Love, Love, Really Love."

**Lain:** "I Love, Love, Really Love"?

**Touko:** I read it when I was in college and I don't remember much of it, but it's about two lovers--a man and a woman--and the woman asks the man if he loves her.

**Lain:** And?

**Touko:** Well of course, the man replies that he loves her. But the woman isn't satisfied, and asks more and more questions.

**Lain:** I don't understand.

**Touko:** OK. Let's see. Do you like me, Lain?

**Lain:** Yes, I do.

**Touko:** More than your dad? More than your mom?

**Lain:** Yes.

**Touko:** That makes me happy. Do you mean it?

**Lain:** Yes I do.

**Touko:** Are you happy when you're here?

**Lain:** I don't really understand, but I probably am.

**Touko:** Do you like talking to me?

**Lain:** Yes.

**Touko:** What do you like about me?

**Lain:** You're kind and you listen to me.

**Touko:** Which do you like more? That I'm kind, or that I listen?

**Lain:** Which?

**Touko:** Yes, which?

**Lain:** I like you because you're kind.

**Touko:** How am I kind to you?

**Lain:** You don't get angry and you're polite.

**Touko:** But there are lots of people besides me who don't get angry at you. There are lots of people who are polite to you. Aren't there? Do you really like me?

**Lain:** I don't really know. Do I have to think about all this stuff? Let's stop this. I feel like I might start to not like you.

## Cou033

**Touko:** I'm sorry. I just was trying to explain this issue to you. I like you too Lain, though I'm not sure why. I suppose I just enjoy talking to you. That's it. It's probably just because I like my job! I just thought it had to do with you, but I guess not. It is enough for me to be able to understand my feelings. I can never read your mind, so I can never know that you like me as much as I like you.

**Lain:** Sounds lonely...

**Touko:** I'm sorry, but you know, this is one of the ways for me to know that. I'm so happy with you saying that you like me. Are you happy with me saying I like you?

**Lain:** Yes, indeed.

**Touko:** Yes, that is enough. Lain, I like you. But still, as you can never comprehend all of me, it is impossible for me to know everything about you. If we could know everything about each other, I could be you and vice versa. I mean you do not have to be Lain unless we are different people. I really like Lain even though Lain is hard to understand sometimes.

**Lain:** You like the mysterious Lain?

**Touko:** Well, I like Lain who I don't know very well. Of course, that is not all I like.

**Lain:** I want to know everything about you!!

**Touko:** So do I! But it's impossible.

**Lain:** Impossible?

**Touko:** Yes. That is because even I don't know who I am! Well, I don't know how to explain this to you. Lain is Lain and I am me. Actually it might be still impossible even if we became the same person.

**Lain:** The same person?

**Touko:** Yes, Lain and I are exactly the same! We see the same things, have the same ideas and take same actions. Everything. Even our looks are the same! In this situation, there is only an identity that you KEEP, isn't there? Yet even if such an identification is gone. If you thought "Here is Lain," then I cannot exist there. The same thing can happen to you! That is why it's impossible to understand each other at the same time.

**Lain:** But what if you would answer every question I ask. Still, it would be impossible?

**Touko:** Right, but they are not all possible questions, are they? I need time to answer those questions and those answers could be changed eventually, such as I used to think one thing, but now I have changed my mind -- something like that.

**Lain:** It's impossible after all, isn't it?

**Touko:** Yes, I wish I could go inside your mind and answer everything you want to know...

## Cou034

**Touko:** Are you happy at your school?

**Lain:** Yes, I am!

**Touko:** What makes you so happy?

**Lain:** You know, playing and talking with my best friend.

**Touko:** That's good! It is a good thing to like school, isn't it?

**Lain:** Were you happy?

**Touko:** Not really, because I didn't have many friends there. You feel sad without friends at school.

**Lain:** Yeah... I'm sorry

**Touko:** About what?

**Lain:** That story reminds you of a bad memory.

**Touko:** Well, it certainly wasn't good memory, but that's OK. I actually feel sorry for my past, but my current job makes me think that was a good experience for me.

**Lain:** Good experience?

**Touko:** Yes. For example, such an experience is sometimes so useful to analyze the psychology of those who doesn't want to go to school.

**Lain:** It sounds difficult.

**Touko:** I'm sorry, I'm talking about myself now! Whenever I talk about my job, I tend to get lost in it. I guess I would make a better patient. Ok, let's change the subject. Well, what is your best friend like?

**Lain:** She is really cheerful and nice to me. I'm really happy around her.

**Touko:** What's her name?

**Lain:** Misato-chan.

**Touko:** OK... Misato-chan. What do you usually do together?

**Lain:** We read books together at her place and I listen to her playing violin sometimes.

**Touko:** Wow, she can play the violin. Awesome! She must be a good friend. Why don't you come over with her next time?

**Lain:** But she is so shy.

**Touko:** So shy?

**Lain:** Maybe... I'll ask her anyway. I'm guessing she wouldn't want to.

**Touko:** Well, I wish she could.

## Cou035

Lain: Touko-san, *deja vu* isn't an illness, is it?

Touko: No. You may also feel it's the first time you've seen a scene which you've seen before. Both situations have nothing to do with a disease. Even normal people sometimes have an experience of *deja vu*.

Lain: What a relief! I feel better now.

Touko: Do you feel anything else when you experience *deja vu*?

Lain: Time is strange for some reason. I can't figure out if time is fast or slow.

Touko: Do you feel it's real or kind of ordinary?

Lain: Well, it could be... or could not be... I don't know... maybe not...

Touko: Is it nebular? Or you just can't comprehend...

Lain: I just feel something is different. Even though I recognize that I am playing in my house, I feel like it isn't my house. And even though I don't know where it is, when I play at a park that I've never seen, for me it seems like the place I usually use.

Touko: Strange... Do you feel comfortable or uneasy when you are there?

Lain: I don't know, but Lain was laughing when it happened.

Touko: Not yourself but Lain?

Lain: I can't explain very well but it was Lain.

Touko: Where were you at that time?

Lain: Let's see... I don't know, because I was just watching her...

Touko: I mean, where from did you observe her? Like, were you standing on the ground, or you could you see her from the sky...?

Lain: Well... I don't know... It was like I saw myself on the TV... I guess...

Touko: Lain, are you all right? You don't have to bring it back by force. I'm sorry. I feel compelled to ask questions.... OK, that's all for today!

**Lain:** How do you express it in technical jargon?

**Touko:** No, let's stop for now.

**Lain:** I really want to know about myself!

**Touko:** OK, so this is the last lesson. In technical jargon, we call it "alienation of perception." It means that you experience something as if somebody else experienced it.

**Lain:** It's an illness, isn't it?

**Touko:** There is one called "depersonalization" which is that you cannot feel yourself, but you couldn't have it. So stop worrying about it.

**Lain:** You can't prove that I don't.

**Touko:** Yes, but it doesn't worry you. So I can say that you're not sick. Well, I shouldn't have said that; it just makes you worried. I guess I made a mistake...

**Lain:** No, you didn't. You didn't make any mistakes because I insisted that you should answer my question. Still, I want to study a lot in order to be like you, Touko-san.

**Touko:** Lain...

## Cou036

Lain: The ego is your sense of who you are, isn't it?

Touko: Yes, but more technically phrased, the ego is a part of the mind you use to experience as yourself and to recognize yourself. Do you get it?

Lain: Not at all.

Touko: Ok, so you have an idea that you are Lain. In such the structural element, the "EGO" is right there. Linguistically, "myself" describes all of you, right? "Ego" is, however, one of the parts of your mind you use to recognize that all of experiences I have had were mine. Saying "it's just to realize that you are yourself" is somewhat better to understand?

Lain: I can get the last part, but it is still beyond my understanding.

Touko: I like your honesty. So the girl, Lain, has various emotions, such as kindness, loneliness and things like that. Now the EGO is what is left when you don't feel any emotions.

Lain: I guess I understand a little...

Touko: For example, the Lain who woke up this morning and what Lain is now here are the same, right?

Lain: Right.

Touko: What Lain will be tomorrow should be the same as those.

Lain: I guess so.

Touko: I mean if your ego works properly, you can recognize that you exist continuously and confirm that that existence is "myself." If your ego doesn't work properly...

Lain: If it doesn't?

Touko: We call such a situation "identity disorder" in the medical field. On the other hand, there is also an "isolation disorder" which means you think that you are not yourself. He, he, they sound like bad diseases, don't they? Yet anyone your age usually doesn't complete his or her ego until later. You just can gradually recognize yourself with age.

**Lain:** So is it wrong to think that I understand myself at my age?

**Touko:** It just happens to be that such things happen all the time.

## Cou037

Lain: If I became sick, what would you do for it?

Touko: If you were sick?

Lain: I mean if...

Touko: Well, since you are still young, I wouldn't use any medical treatment for such minor symptoms... the way one uses medicine to cure disease.

Lain: Why wouldn't you use them?

Touko: Lain, you already have the power to recover your health from disease. If you depend on using those medicines, however, your body becomes weaker. Usually children shouldn't take medicine too much anyway.

Lain: So what are you going to do?

Touko: Let's see... I will use psychotherapy to help you, like talking with you as we do now.

Lain: Just talking?

Touko: Hmm, it's difficult to explain it. For example, we have a program to recover people from alcoholism. In this program, they discuss and present what make them drink so much and listen to each other's stories. We call it "group therapy." I don't like it though.

Lain: Why don't you like it?

Touko: I think people who regain their health from those group therapies would make the same mistakes later. They think that they can recover themselves from alcoholism simply by group conversation, but when they are alone, they will start drinking again. I've seen this happen a lot.

Lain: So what would you do?

Touko: I try to talk one-on-one as I do with you, Lain.

Lain: And?

**Touko:** And then, I suggest those patients to think about themselves. I have nothing particular to support them but I try to analyze what they think on neutral ground. This helps them to recognize what is wrong with themselves, and then they try to recover their own health. We call it "non-supportive psychotherapy". If they start recognizing there is a problem, it means they are already fine.

**Lain:** Is that enough to recover them from diseases?  
Sound simple!

**Touko:** Right, it sounds so simple. In fact, however, those things are more complicated and difficult to do than you think.

**Lain:** Difficult?

**Touko:** (yawn) I'm sorry. I need more sleep.

**Lain:** You must be tired. Should you take a break?

**Touko:** (yawn)

## Cou038

Lain: When you get sick in the head, your head is really sick?

Touko: The brain isn't the only part of the body involved in mental illness, but it is very important. We know that many types of disease occur because of trauma to the brain.

Lain: When the brain is injured, something is broken?

Touko: The human brain is very complex, and there are many things we don't understand about it. We know that some parts of the brain seem to have a certain function. We know a little about where and when things take place in the brain.

Lain: Memories are stored in the hippocampus.

Touko: Yes. There is the frontal lobe and the occipital lobe, and there are many other parts of the brain that have different functions. Many chemical processes take place in the brain. When they do, a lot of information is exchanged.

Lain: That's how the brain gets sick?

Touko: Sometimes the brain does get sick that way. If there is an abnormal change in the brain's chemical process, or if the parts of the brain responsible for processing information are physically damaged and not working properly, there could be disease. We call this kind of disease organic psychosis. Is this hard to understand?

Lain: I understand. People have their brainwaves tested and have CAT scans to check for it.

Touko: Are they teaching you that at school already? Did you teach yourself?

Lain: I checked it out on the Web. I had a test done before, and I was curious.

Touko: Lain, if you're doing all this research, you don't have to see me.

Lain: No, it's not like that. I learn a lot from you. It isn't like the things I learn from books.

Touko: I'm sorry, Lain. I'm not feeling very well.

**Lain:** Is there brain research at this research center?

**Touko:** Yes.

**Lain:** What kind of research?

**Touko:** I'm not a specialist and I don't work in that area, so I can't say anything specifically.

**Lain:** But it's on the Web. All sorts of research takes place.

**Touko:** Lain, can I ask you a favor? I'm not feeling very well. Can we end for today?

**Lain:** I'm sorry, Touko-san.

## Cou039

Lain: What kind of research do you do?

Touko: Research? I never mentioned that...

Lain: But this is a research center, isn't it?

Touko: I'm still an apprentice. I haven't done any of my own research.

Lain: You're an apprentice after being here for 3 years?

Touko: How did you know...

Lain: You told me yourself.

Touko: I did? I'm sorry. Somehow, I haven't been feeling very good lately. Could you ask me fewer questions today? Either that, or can we just not talk quite so much?

Lain: You're tired, Sensei. Maybe you should sleep a little.

Touko: Tired? I guess I look that way. You're right. I must look that way.

Lain: I feel bad for you Touko-san. You can't do your own research because you're busy with miscellaneous tasks.

Touko: I'm not doing any miscellaneous tasks! I'm sorry. I'm sorry for raising my voice like that. I was so shocked.

Lain: Did something happen? Touko-san?

Touko: No, nothing.

Lain: You're busy with miscellaneous tasks and can't do your own research. Does that bother you?

Touko: How do you know about... ?

Lain: I found the homepage for this research center. I saw the list of researchers and published dissertations, but I couldn't find you.

Touko: That's right. I haven't published any dissertations since I came here. But I mean to very soon.

Lain: You're OK now. You have time for your own research now?

Touko: What are you saying? What do you mean, Lain?

**Lain:** I'm a research subject, aren't I? That's why I'm not useful to you. We can end now if you'd like. I can't see them anymore. I'm wasting your time.

**Touko:** Lain. You're like a sister to me. I'm the one who said that we could just talk. I don't think of you as a nuisance. And...

**Lain:** There's nothing for you to worry about, Touko-san. It's about suicide.

**Touko:** How do you know about that?

**Lain:** I read it in the paper. It was on the bulletin board here, too.

**Touko:** I see. You're right.

**Lain:** What kind of research do you do?

**Touko:** As I said before, I'm trying to develop a new treatment system using my background as a counselor and psychiatrist. But it looks like I'm failing as a counselor and a psychiatrist right now. I'm sorry.

**Lain:** Why?

**Touko:** I think I'm becoming mentally unstable, now. Just a few moments ago, I...I'm sorry.

**Lain:** Touko-san... are you ok?

## Cou040

Lain: Touko-san.

Touko: Good morning. I'm sorry. I stayed up all night preparing my paper. Everything is scattered everywhere. Could you give me a second?

Lain: Maybe I should go home?

Touko: It's all right. Don't worry. Oh, shoot, I'm out of tea.

Lain: I can go buy you some.

Touko: Thanks. But please don't. I appreciate your feelings. Have a seat, Lain. I thought that maybe I ought to take a break, too.

Lain: Are you very busy?

Touko: A little. After that thing happened to Professor Takashima. Now I have to do a lot of his work, too. I've had a lot of new clients, to boot.

Lain: Can you do your research?

Touko: Lain, don't mind that stuff too much. It'll be tough for a while, but I have things to do. For now, I'm just happy just concentrating on my work.

Lain: You aren't sad?

Touko: You'll understand one day Lain. It's a wonderful thing to have work that's fulfilling.

Lain: I don't think I would understand. Instead of something like that...

Touko: Instead of... what do you mean? Did you do something fun lately?

Lain: Yes. I think everything is going to work out well.

Touko: What will work out well?

Lain: Things about me.

## Cou041

**Touko:** Lain, I'd like to confirm something with you. What were the names of your friends that you talked about?

**Lain:** Kyoko-chan.

**Touko:** I see. And you have another friend?

**Lain:** Misato-chan?

**Touko:** Right. Misato-chan.

**Lain:** Why do you ask?

**Touko:** Never mind. I was just gathering information for a report, and part of it asks about friends you may have. I was double-checking it because I was a bit unsure of myself.

**Lain:** Oh. Misato-chan. Is she going to be in your charts, too?

**Touko:** No, just her name. Nothing else. Does she live in your neighborhood?

**Lain:** Yes. But I can't walk there.

**Touko:** You have to go by car?

**Lain:** Yes. When I go to Misato-chan's home, I always have my mom or dad drive me there.

**Touko:** What does your dad do?

**Lain:** He goes to work. He's not around home much.

**Touko:** He's very busy, then. Is he nice to you?

**Lain:** He is. He brings me gifts when he goes to work.

**Touko:** That's great, Lain.

## Cou042

**Touko:** Lain, I'd like for you to tell me the truth.

**Lain:** The truth?

**Touko:** You don't have any friend named Misato-chan, do you?

**Lain:** Ha, ha. What do you mean? That's silly of you.

**Touko:** I asked Kyoko-chan.

**Lain:** And?

**Touko:** She said that there is no Misato-chan. She said, "isn't that Minako's mistake?"

**Lain:** Is that what you believe?

**Touko:** I'm not accusing you, but this is very important.

**Lain:** For you to write your report?

**Touko:** I won't deny that. But I'm concerned about you personally.

**Lain:** About me personally?

**Touko:** Yes. I'm concerned that you might be creating imaginary friends and running away into your own little world. That is a sickness.

**Lain:** You said that kids often have that, and that there's nothing wrong with it, Touko-san. Misato-chan isn't an imaginary friend, either.

**Touko:** Then where is she? Can you call her right now? Can you give her a call right now, in front of me?

**Lain:** She can't be contacted. She moved away.

**Touko:** Can you do anything to prove to me that she exists?

**Lain:** That she exists?

**Touko:** Yes. Can you prove that?

**Lain:** My memory...

**Touko:** Look, Lain, I want to believe you, but I can't read your mind or tell what your memories are.

## Cou043

Lain: It's not a memory. It's a record.

Touko: Well, they're vaguely similar. But it's no time to be playing word-games.

Lain: You would understand if you were connected.

Touko: Connected to what? Lain, you say that Misato-chan exists, but you are the only person who says so. How can you expect anyone else to understand? There is something wrong with this. How can anyone believe you?

Lain: You don't believe me, Touko-san?

Touko: Unfortunately, no. But that's because I've looked very closely into this personally, and all the facts point against it. If you could show me some objective proof that that I am mistaken, that would be different.

Lain: How would I prove that she exists?

Touko: How? Well show me other people who've known her. Show me her identification or birth certificate or something. More than anything else, show me that she's a human being that exists and walks around in a human body.

Lain: She doesn't exist if she doesn't have a human body?

Touko: Of course not! She's not a ghost, is she?

Lain: Professor Takashima didn't exist, then?

Touko: But he did exist. He had a body before he died. He lived and walked around in a human body. There is ample evidence that he existed. Many people who are alive now knew him.

Lain: There are records of his existence.

Touko: Let's cool it, Lain. I'm not here to have a question and answer session with you. I'm here to treat you. I do not acknowledge Misato-chan's existence.

## Cou044

**Touko:** I'm sorry about last session, Lain. I don't know myself why I became so angry.

**Lain:** It's ok, Touko-san.

**Touko:** It's just that aside from this issue with Misato-chan, I can't see anything wrong with you. We'll have to work on it slowly.

**Lain:** Will you finish your paper in time?

**Touko:** I'm not putting anything about you in my paper. I'll use information from other clients. It's not your problem anyway, Lain. You're gentle, Lain.

**Lain:** I'm not gentle.

**Touko:** I have to apologize. I should have apologized right away, but I've done some things behind your back. I lied and told some of your friends that I'm a private tutor. I asked your friends about you. I needed the information for my report. I should have these things with more benevolent intentions, but... are you angry? I'm sorry, Lain. But I did it for y... No, I didn't do it for you. I did it for my work.

## Cou045

Lain: Who did you see, Touko-san?

Touko: Kyoko-chan and Kaori-chan.

Lain: I know Kyoko-chan, but who is Kaori-chan?

Touko: She's your classmate. You aren't going to ask me to prove her existence now, are you? I'll feel bad. Please don't be hard on me that way, Lain.

Lain: You're confident, Touko-san.

Touko: About what?

Lain: You're confident that that person exists. I can't prove that she exists.

## Cou046

Lain: You seem to be busy lately, Touko-san.

Touko: Yes. The deadline for my paper is coming up, and although I've been waiting for a long time for someone to relieve me with some of my work, it hasn't happened. That means more work for me. Sure, it's a little hard.

Lain: Is it tiresome?

Touko: I'm ok, Lain. You don't have to worry about it.

Lain: I'm worried about you, Touko-san.

Touko: About me? Well thank you. I appreciate your feelings.

Lain: Will you continue to like me, Touko-san?

Touko: Of course! You're my little sister, remember? I don't have any reasons not to like you.

Lain: But I made you mad.

Touko: That's true. But that was just because you're growing intellectually, we were having a discussion and we had a difference of opinion. But let's leave that alone. There's no reason for me to dislike you because we had a difference of opinion.

Lain: Do you have important people in your life aside from me?

Touko: Sure. I have friends, too. You have people in your life that are important to you aside from me, don't you?

Lain: I do. But if I had to choose one person, I would choose you.

Touko: That makes me happy. Then, I'll pick you, too.

Lain: Really? But is that ok? What about the other important people in your life?

Touko: If you chose me and I didn't choose you, won't you feel sad? I don't want you to feel sad.

Lain: Won't your lover be sad?

Touko: Huh? Um, well, yes. Are you interested in my private life, Lain?

Lain: I want to know about you.

**Touko:** Things having to do about my lover are a secret. You're a bit young for that kind of thing, anyway.

**Lain:** Too young?

**Touko:** You may eventually have a love life of your own. But love is a pretty complicated thing.

**Lain:** Complicated?

**Touko:** Yes. I have doubts and worries about it, too. I'm human. I make mistakes and have regrets. Even now I have feelings that I can't figure out. See? It's complicated.

**Lain:** Complicated...

## Cou047

**Touko:** You're Lain, aren't you?

**Lain:** Sure I am. You're being silly, Touko-san.

**Touko:** Oh, I'm sorry. You're right. I'm a little tired. I'm sorry for asking goofy questions. You seem to be really doing well lately, Lain.

**Lain:** I haven't changed.

**Touko:** We've been having counseling sessions for a long time.

**Lain:** A long time? Do you mean many times? Have I been seeing you too much?

**Touko:** Maybe. What do you think?

**Lain:** There seem to be many areas left.

**Touko:** What do you mean? Don't tell me things I can't understand.

**Lain:** What's wrong? Are you angry? You can't control your emotions?

**Touko:** Why are you asking me this! Look, Lain. Are you playing with me? Are you mocking me?

**Lain:** No.

**Touko:** This counseling session is for YOU. You come here to see me. Not the other way around.

**Lain:** But you said that I could talk. I want to know about you.

**Touko:** How is finding out about me going to help you? Do you just want to irritate me?

**Lain:** You really didn't like my questions?

**Touko:** No, I didn't! I want you to leave things alone. I don't want you trying to get inside my head. That's what I think.

**Lain:** Aren't you sad to be alone?

**Touko:** I'm not alone! I am not you! You are Lain, aren't you? You're the proper, reserved, sad girl without much self-confidence, aren't you?

**Lain:** No, that's not me. I think my personality is much different from that.

**Touko:** Then who are you?

**Lain:** I'm... Lain.

## Cou048

**Touko:** I felt really good today.

**Lain:** That's really great, Touko-san.

**Touko:** I'm starting to feel worse, though. I can't tell what's bothering me.

**Lain:** Is it something vague? Something about feeling dormant?

**Touko:** When you're feeling happy, don't you sometimes feel worried about when it might come to an end?

**Lain:** Is that a symptom of an intermittent flow of thought?

**Touko:** I can't imagine myself being happy.

**Lain:** You can imagine yourself being unhappy?

**Touko:** I suppose. But I can't get rid of the worry.

**Lain:** Is there something I can do?

**Touko:** What would I want to seek for from you? Why me from you?

**Lain:** Are you too proud to tell me?

**Touko:** It has nothing to do with pride. Why don't you tell me what you think is going on with me.

**Lain:** You're just Touko-san. You're yourself.

**Touko:** That's right. I better get to my reports. If you want, you can stay around here, but I have to go.

**Lain:** Why?

**Touko:** Because there is something I have to do right now. There is something that I can only do now. I have to continue my research.

**Lain:** That makes you happy?

**Touko:** Yes, it does. My number one goal is to continue doing the research that I enjoy.

**Lain:** So that's number one?

**Touko:** No. That's not what I mean. Seeing you is very important, too. It's very important to me that everything goes well. But I have to do things in order.

**Lain:** I'm glad.

## Cou049

**Touko:** Are you troubled about anything?

**Lain:** No, I'm not. How about you, Touko-san?

**Touko:** Sometimes. I feel like something bad might happen.

**Lain:** You're feeling delusional?

**Touko:** Yes, but unlike with you, it isn't a strange delusional problem with perception.

**Lain:** I wonder if that's true. But how about the feelings you have about that man? Aren't those feelings delusional?

**Touko:** Who is "that man"?

**Lain:** The man you're thinking about right now.

**Touko:** You can tell what I'm thinking. Wow! You have super powers? Is that why you poke fun at me sometimes?

**Lain:** But I'm connected to you, Touko-san.

**Touko:** "Connected"? In what way?

**Lain:** It probably wouldn't make sense if I tried to explain it to you.

**Touko:** That's called psychosis, Lain. Believing yourself to be a unique "chosen" person or that you are God. That's a serious disease.

**Lain:** I'm sick. How about you?

**Touko:** I'm not sick. I'm...

## Cou050

Lain: You don't have much energy.

Touko: I'm tired.

Lain: Are you tired of doing miscellaneous chores? Is someone having you do waste your time with small tasks?

Touko: Yeah. I do feel that way sometimes.

Lain: Do you think you have some kind of psychological condition? Do you think you might have caught something from me? Ha, ha.

Touko: Why do you think I'm like this? I know and understand the things I am talking about.

Lain: You're ok, Touko-san. You'll be better by tomorrow.

Touko: I'll be "better"?

Lain: You'll be in a world where you don't suffer.

Touko: Am I myself when I am by myself or when I'm with you?

Lain: You're always yourself. Even when you doubt my existence.

Touko: I doubt your existence?

Lain: Yes. You don't want to believe that I exist.

Touko: Why would I have a problem like that because I treat you?

Lain: There is information you wouldn't understand now. You aren't doing well psychologically.

Touko: "Information I wouldn't understand now?" But I want to know now.

Lain: Yes. But it would be too difficult for you to understand now.

Touko: You're thinking about what's best for me, aren't you, Lain?

Lain: Of course, I am. I like you.

## Cou051

**Lain:** A rumor? Does it bother you? Someone is spreading rumors about you? Is that a delusion of persecution? Some other kind of delusion?

**Touko:** Well, it might just be a lack of self-confidence. Why do you have so much confidence, even when you're sick, Lain?

**Lain:** I'm sick. What's the name of my disease? Schizophrenia? Manic depression? Something else?

**Touko:** You aren't any of those things. You have pathomimesis. That's what you call the imitation of disease.

**Lain:** Then I'm not really sick?

**Touko:** You don't exist. I just think that you're here. Everyone has been tricked. We've all been shown some glimpse of your existence. That's why no one really remembers you.

**Lain:** It's not like you to be mad. Some of us don't seem to exist, though. Which are you?

**Touko:** I think that you think I'm here. You're a delusion that created a delusion. All these things, your constructed diseases and your voices, are delusions.

**Lain:** How about me? Am I here?

**Touko:** That's why I have to heal you!

**Lain:** You're so serious. But you're an elite. You've been chosen.

**Touko:** That's right. I'm trying hard to be here. I would rather have been out playing and fooling around, but I've gone to school and studied and worked hard to get here.

**Lain:** I feel sorry for you, Touko-san.

## Cou052

Lain: Are you ok, Touko-san.

Touko: Yes. I'm hanging in there. Sometimes I don't feel so good.

Lain: You think too much, Touko-san. You pay too much attention to what's going on around you.

Touko: I have things to think about. Work. Romance.

Lain: Is a love life necessary?

Touko: I think it's a very important part of life.

Lain: Does a woman need a man?

Touko: Not just because she's a woman. If that were true, a man would need a woman.

Lain: It would be obsessive to think that a woman must have a man, Touko-san. You can live on your own.

Touko: But wouldn't that be sad? I can't stand to be sad. How about you? How about you, Lain?

Lain: I would get sad, too.

## Cou053

Lain: You don't want to do anything? How about your research?

Touko: No one will want to read my paper anyway.

Lain: What's wrong? It's not like you to play a victim.

Touko: Not like me! What am I?

Lain: You're just Touko-san, Touko-san.

Touko: I've been severed from society. I'm no longer connected.

Lain: That's not true. I'm connected to you. I'm connected to society. That's why you're connected, too.

Touko: Something's wrong with me, isn't there? The times when I talk to you and the time I spend with everything else are separate. From your point of view, my life must be a contradiction.

Lain: My point of view?

Touko: From your point of view, this world doesn't exist.

Lain: No. That's not true. I'm connected to this world.

Touko: I can't take it anymore. I can't even stand this moment. That's not all. My memories of tomorrow...the memories I'll have in the future are in disarray. Is this a delusion caused by worrying? Am I experiencing something I shouldn't be experiencing?

Lain: That's you, isn't it?

Touko: It is me! Because it is me!

Lain: Wouldn't you be better off if you were just being yourself?

Touko: I can't understand my sense of self from moment to moment!

Lain: The judgment you have exactly at that moment is you, Touko-san. The rest is...

Touko: The rest is...

Lain: Ordinary data.

## Dc1011

**Girl:** Lain! Why didn't you wait for us?

## Dc1012

Girl: You said we could visit you after school.

Lain: Really?

Girl2: Listen, Lain! You play games all the time. You never listen during classes... and then you get 100% on tests.

Lain: It's not relevant.

Girl: It is! It is!

Girl2: Lain, your dad is cool, isn't he? Will we see him today?

Lain: I'm sorry. I really can't today. Sorry.

Girl: I'm sure she's free...

Girl2: Yeah...

## Dc1014

Sign on the "LAIN" door:

Lain: That's what I don't get. If we use packet filtering here... then debugging won't be necessary. No, not that... I wanted...

Don't enter without permission! My friend is with me. We are always together. All right.

## Dc1018

Girl-1: By the way, I recently found a super tasty cake!

Girl-2: Really? I love chocolate.

Girl-1: Believe me, it's really good.

## Dc1019

**Lain:** Computer? A friend? I never thought about it that way. We were talking about it before.

## Dc1020

**Touko:** What's that?

**Lain:** This? Bike-chan. A puppy. My "plush" *stuffed toy*. I wouldn't call him a friend, but... He was already there when I was born. Right, Bike-chan?

## Dc1021

**Lain:** I wouldn't say I like meetings with Touko-sensei... Sure, it's nice. But I dislike it here.

**Touko:** Why is that?

**Lain:** I just do.

## Dc1026

Lain: I'm going back to you.

## Dc1027

**Lain:** ... and so... when we want to increase the processing speed... we must take into account the fact that the processor can overheat. You can keep the CPU cool by using a Peltier element... but it's still a problem...

## Dc1028

Lain: Savant syndrome? Am I sick?

Touko: I didn't say it's about you, Lain. Only that there are people who suffer from that sickness.

Lain: If it's not about me... then why are talking about it?

Touko: There are other children who may learn from your example.

Lain: I'm only myself. Not other children.

Touko: That's true! I'm sorry, Lain. What's wrong, Lain?

Lain: Why are you calling me Lain? Who are you?

## Dc1033

**Lain:** When we are not connected to the network... we are all alone. Do you understand that?

## Dc1035

Lain: Stop it! You have to be still!

## Dc1036

**Lain:** Don't do that. You have to stay calm.  
*responding to the computer* It finally came.

**Computer:** Lain, concerning your inquiry, I think your approach is the correct one.

**Lain:** The concept of a neural network is a relatively old idea, but the arrangement of neurons by any system may not necessarily make the system work. *talking to the robot* It won't work. Ha, ha.

## Dc1037

**Lain:** But even if it is assumed to be complete, there will definitely be an unknown network that connects people. It might be one of many things, like Jung's ideas of the subconscious. There are many ways to say it, but no one can prove its existence now. *To the computer screen* But thinking about a person like you who has an interest in this sort of thing, I wonder, what are you trying to research? What is your goal?

## Dc1039

Lain: Wave interference.

## Dc1040

**Shinji:** I don't believe it's you. How old are you? Oh, I'm sorry. You shouldn't ask women about their age. I don't normally get a chance to talk with girls your age. And to be honest, it's making me a bit nervous.

**Lain:** Do you have what you promised? The actuator motor.

**Shinji:** It's a rare thing. Watch out for electricity.

**Lain:** No worries.

**Shinji:** So sure? What are you building anyway?

**Lain:** Myself. And something that gave me a body. But it's only temporary. So there's no point in developing it.

**Shinji:** I don't think I quite understand...

**Lain:** Things are born when you build them. And when they are destroyed, they transform into something else. Something completely new.

**Shinji:** Do you know what's going on?

## Dc1044

Shinji! Stop!

# Dc1046

Shinji: Lain? Lain!

## Dc1047

**Touko:** What's going on?

## Dc1048

**Toukot:** Lain! When you appeared in a laboratory two years ago... all data about you was entered into a database. You know that. Archives of movies recorded by your family. The contents of your personal computer. We had it all in data. But there's something strange... The last data update...

## Dc1049

**Touko:** ...is about your future! It's a record from a day two years in the future! Who are you? Talk to me! Why isn't there any data prior to three years ago...? No! You were born in your current form...

**Lain:** It doesn't matter in this world. You know that.

**Touko:** Stay away!

**Lain:** I want to connect with the entire world.

## Dc1052

**Shinji:** Lain. You...

**Lain:** I finished.

**Shinji:** What are you talking about?

**Lain:** About my dad.

**Shinji:** What? Lain! Lain! Lain?

## Dc1056

Lain: It's over.

Other Lain: For me it's the beginning. From now on we will always be together.

## Dia001

**Touko:** Concerning diagnosis: The client lives in a nuclear family with her mother and father. Both parents are middle to upper class and financially well-to-do. The parents have a stable relationship. They do not seem to have mental health problems. Concerning family history of illness, according to the parents as well as the database at our center, there was no neurosis, mental illness, suicidality or consanguineous marriage in her family.

## Dia002

**Touko:** She hasn't had any significant problems from the time of birth. Even at this point, she doesn't have any bad habits or problems with truancy. She does not seem to have a troubled history. Of course, at this research center, accompanying illnesses must be treated. I wanted to ask her about her illness history when I started counseling her, but she was very shy. I decided that I would try to get her to open up.

## Dia003

**Touko:** According to her mother at home, Lain has very frightening dreams. They are not ordinary dreams. They are very realistic and almost hallucinatory. She visited the hospital for this reason. Regarding the nature of the dreams, it seems that Lain doesn't elaborate much about their contents, but she says that she sometimes hears incomprehensible voices out of nowhere, that she is suddenly awakened and forced to watch a video. She sometimes plays in the park, and suddenly finds herself alone when she thought other kids were around. These seem to be childhood imaginary fears. In the future we will address these symptoms. I hope for a recovery. It might be possible. Fundamentally, even if that does not occur, she may be able to manage life at home. However, what her mother said that concerned me was her hallucinations. I will try to pinpoint the cause of these symptoms in our counseling sessions.

## Dia004

**Touko:** The physical appearance of the client at the first session. Her figure is short and thin. The only feature that stood out was her hairstyle. She has grown out the tuft of her hair on just one side of her face and tied it in a bundle. I don't think it's a popular style at school, but it seems to be her individual style. According to her mother, she enjoys having her hair that way. Understanding the reason for her hairstyle may guide me in understanding her. I will look into this in the future. She has a calm demeanor, and her skin is fair. There is otherwise nothing left to mention.

## Dia005

**Touko:** Although her affect is flat, she appears like any other healthy child when she smiles. She sometimes gets tongue-tied, but not to the point where communication with her becomes impossible. She seems calm and reserved. She understands my questions without a problem, and is capable of answering them. She doesn't seem to have problems with her attention span, concentration, orientation, clarity of thought, and expression of emotions, but hinders when asked about her symptoms.

## Dia006

**Touko:** At this stage, I thought it would be a bad idea to ask her about her symptoms in a teasing fashion. I was unable to find details concerning her symptoms. However, she generally seems to be a clever and relaxed girl. Her mother showed me a painting she did in school. It was very well painted, and showed a high level of artistic sensibility. However, I could not find any specific points that might assist in analyzing her psychologically. At this stage, she appears to be at a delusional state, but there seems to be a very good chance that she is a normal child. One point from her physical examination struck me. Her vision is excellent. Her standard light reflex is lower than the standard range. However, I have not seen in her the type of dermatological or anemic problems that are common for her age.

## Dia007

**Touko:** Clinical notices from last session: First, concerning this case, I want to treat her as a therapist as opposed to a psychiatrist. Therefore, I will treat Iwakura Lain as my client from now on. One of the reasons for this is that she is still 12 years old and is emotionally sensitive. I do not want to make her feel that she is sick. In fact, from the results of her last clinical visit, the extent of what she is troubled from is nightmares and psychological damage associated with it. Although during sessions with her, psychological discomfort can be detected, she is able to ask and answer questions without problems. I see no reason to advocate objections to my conclusion that she is sick, but at this point, I would like to treat her as someone without a mental illness. One more thing: Because I am both a psychiatrist and a counselor, my job is selecting the best position possible for my patients. When counseling her in the future, if I detect symptoms of mental illness, I would have to treat her as a psychiatrist. Of course, there's a good chance that I myself will continue to treat her. In order to honor my research and keep it objective, I may want to ask a third party to continue to treat her clinically. In the meanwhile, I will continue to work with her in a research setting. This may be an exceptional situation at this research center, but I would like to proceed with it.

## Dia008

**Touko:** The client is very cooperative and our sessions have been going smoothly. However, somewhere within her, she still is very cautious around me, and it is difficult to discuss her problems. We had some extra time, so I proposed that we play a simple game. She turned me down, and we went directly into our session. She takes much curiosity in me, an outside observer, but I think this has to do with her cautiousness around me. She plays with dolls at home, and seems to have a complex associated with them. She has few friends, and playing with dolls is her way of dealing with her loneliness.

## Dia009

**Touko:** In the client's response, a good understanding of language could be found. However, this is not related to disease. It displays the client's strong ability to use language. The client differentiated physical activity from physical education, stating that the latter is an "undertaking." In school and group activities, the two can be compared quite conspicuously. The fact that she says she likes physical exercise but not physical education may have to do with her lack of self confidence.

## Dia010

**Touko:** Matters for special mention: The client's tendencies disturb me. Her light reflexes were tested at the hospital. She may have Adie's syndrome. Together with active auditory hallucinations and paranoia, she may have early onset general paralysis, although very unlikely.

## Dia011

**Touko:** Making a hasty diagnosis is taboo, but thinking of the worst, I think I should obtain cerebrospinal fluids as soon as possible. May I have your permission, please?

## Dia012

**Touko:** My diagnosis at the hospital is affecting my client. She was emotionally hurt when she found out that the Rorschach's test was in fact a tool used to examine her. This wasn't severe to the extent of a "mind-rape," but I did hurt her in our session today. This has made me realize that I must be discrete when bringing up the theme of disease. I explained to her my role as a counselor, and my hopes to be helpful to her, and regained some trust from her. I hope that in our future sessions, she will develop some goals of her own concerning counseling.

## Dia013

**Touko:** She seems to be cautious about with mother. And as far as she's concerned, her hallucinations are real. She may be mistrustful of her mother because her mother does not accept that her hallucinations are 'real.' At this point, I don't know if the hallucinations are due to some warped sense of perception, or if they are entirely imaginary. There are times when it is difficult to tell. Concerning the 'vision' the client saw floating in mid-air, they were most likely imaginary, opposed to being shapes of monsters formed by the shadows on the walls and curtains at night, etc. Could it be that she has developed a system of sensing without perceiving? I would like permission to examine her cerebrospinal fluid.

## Dia014

**Touko:** My client has found her own diagnosis and has been studying it on her own. She must have a considerable amount of fear concerning her illness. Having the 'label' of mental illness pasted on you causes you to be stigmatized by society. She may need to deal with this. I am rethinking the how the mentally ill are viewed by society. In our last session, I tried to eliminate her concerns about feeling that she is mentally ill. As a result, I think I was able to secure some trust in our relationship.

## Dia015

**Touko:** Mainly, we talked about auditory hallucinations. She believes that she hears voices from electric lines. She says that the voices she hears are not related to her. This could be categorized as a delusion of physical influences, but the symptoms didn't seem serious enough to be called full-blown delusions. Her being "able to hear from phone lines and electric lines" seemed instead to be childlike theories. She's an intelligent and sensitive girl, and probably creates her own hallucinations. However, regarding the fact that she has hallucinations only during the day makes her very unusual. Although I don't think my client is lying, but she says that she very rarely hallucinates while she is talking to her friends. Most likely, references to time and place become fuzzy in her mind, and she is either confusing separate experiences, or she may have just been talking to her friends in her dreams.

## Dia016

**Touko:** The relationship with my client has deteriorated. My own lack of consideration is to blame. I told her that her hallucinations are an imaginary enemy. I tried to ease her worries by being lighthearted, but this backfired and hurt my client more. I must visit the client's home to apologize to her and give her parents a status report concerning our sessions.

## Dia017

**Touko:** I was somehow able to reconnect with my client.  
Her symptoms haven't particularly  
deteriorated, so I will try my best to slowly  
become more trustworthy.

## Dia018

**Touko:** I spoke to my client about her vision. There is a good chance that she may develop a troubling complex by comparing herself to others, thinking that she is uniquely--and abnormally--able to see and hear better than them. At the same time, instead of just saying that she has hyperesthesia, I believe she is dealing with the kind of *deja vu* that neurotic people sometimes experience. I will exclude the details, but it seems that what she perceives comes from a poor sense of reality, and her (true) perceptions are abandoned. Regarding her perception of time, if the client is telling the truth, there isn't much of a problem. I don't know what she actually sees, or whether it's due to a physical abnormality or an abnormality of perception, but as long as her underestimation of herself persists, it will be difficult to reach any fundamental solutions. I cannot diagnose her with depersonalization neurosis just yet, but when I consider her fuzzy recollections of hallucinations, I do think she may be developing depersonalization symptoms.

## Dia019

**Touko:** In order to alleviate her tendency to underestimate herself, I spoke to my client about ways to increase her self-confidence. Her facial expression has been hard and cold, but her personality has been easy to relate to. Because she is an intelligent client, I will have to work hard psychologically. But because she understands quickly, I expect that our sessions will be effective.

## Dia020

**Touko:** My client's curiosities are less to do with me than they are with my profession. Clients who inquire about the psychiatric field usually do so out of their own discomfort about their illness. With this client, however, her inquiries may help in her own rehabilitation. There is an undeniable chance that learning about her own condition may intensify her worries, but I think that can be avoided in our relationship.

## Dia021

**Touko:** I was able to ask my client about her hairstyle for the first time today. Her hair looks like a good-luck charm. I suppose she was hearing voices even with that hairstyle, but I think that she may feel that discontinuing it would cause her to have auditory hallucinations that are even worse. It isn't much different from the small good luck charms we put in our cars to avoid accidents. A person can have an overconfidence in good luck charms, of course, but I have no intention of asking her to change her hairstyle.

## Dia022

**Touko:** As usual, my client's interest is entirely about psychiatry. Although she doesn't have a complete lack of interest in everything else, she shows very little interest. I've grown a bit weary of her probing questions, but being a specialist, I'm able to answer those questions. I think that letting her ask will help her eliminate her lack of self-esteem, however. Also, comparing her case to that of a similar third party client I think that she will be able to see herself more objectively by the asking and answering of questions.

## Dia023

**Touko:** We are able to have completely relaxed talks now. I've assumed that she still has some problems having to do with memory, but she can't accept today the memories and experiences she had of herself in the past. From that information, I think she probably has an identity disorder and/or a disorder with self-unity. However, these identity problems are still in development, and there's a chance they may naturally go away as she strengthens her sense of self in therapy.

## Dia024

**Touko:** Communication with the client has been going satisfactorily. In our previous session, I was irritated by her many questions and our talk and became half-teasing. This definitely narrowed my relationship with her. In future sessions, we will focus on the growth of her sense of self and I will attempt to further establish aid to her.

## Dia025

**Touko:** She has lightened up a great deal. Much of it seems to do with a new friend she's developed in the last few months. Additionally, she has had a change in her living arrangement, which she seems to be happy with. Having now found a friend her own age, she will probably develop a relationship with that person that is more intimate than the one she has with me. I wonder if she still asks me questions because she doesn't know what else to talk about. I will see how things go for the next few months, and then I would like to discontinue examinations.

## Dia026

**Touko:** She won't stop pressing me with questions. Concerning this case, it may simply be an issue with her personality. She still has worries about when she was hallucinating in the past when she was losing her sense of reality. We focused on that issue. Her current symptoms involve excessive underestimation of herself. She is objectifying the adoration she has for her 'other' self, and because her current self and her past self are completely different, it seems that she has been developing these personification symptoms on her own for some time. However, there is a very small chance that that will happen now.

## Dia027

**Touko:** We had our talk. There was no problem from beginning to end. She is getting better. As far as I can see, she is just an ordinary healthy junior high schooler. There is no reason why she should continue to come here. Professor Takashima, in order that I can submit my paper to the academic conference in the fall, I would like to apply to start seeing a different client.

## Dia028

**Touko:** Professor Takashima, regarding my request last month to see a different client, how has that progressed? If you could introduce me to the person in charge of the outpatients, I could arrange things from there.

## Dia029

**Touko:** Professor Takashima, I have prepared the final reports for my current client. I thought that it might be a good idea to keep an appointment history, but because there seem to be have been so few problems, I did not keep one up till now. By next month I will prepare a final report with the appointment history. I don't have much time until the academic conference this fall. May I please request this of you? As it is, I will not finish in time. Are you harassing me?

## Dia030

**Touko:** To the chief administrative secretary: who should I submit my report to before there is a new head of the laboratory?

## Dia031

**Touko:** To the chief administrative secretary: Thank you for sending me a new client. The status with my current client can be found in my report. I will send you my final report after I organize it. If it is not a problem, I would like to terminate the counseling of my current client.

## Dia032

**Touko:** To the chief administrative secretary: In order to confirm my client's history, I spoke to one of her classmates. I found a problem. I am terribly sorry, but may I resume counseling this client?

## Dia033

**Touko:** As I had feared, my client has created an imaginary friend, and has taken a rebellious stance toward my opinions. At the same time, her speech is remarkably lacking in logicality, and is almost like that of a schizophrenic. I cannot, of course, diagnose her immediately. Considering her loss of touch with reality in the past, her anthropomorphic symptoms, her age, and gender, she may have depersonalization neurosis. Also, her personality disorder is extremely light, and considering her hallucinations, she may be suffering from paranoid schizophrenia.

## Dia034

**Touko:** As much as possible in the future, I would like to assist her as a neutral third party, but it will be difficult because of the relationship I've developed with her. I would like someone else to take over her case. Either that, or I would like to stop seeing her after our next session. Mr. Chief Administrative Secretary, I apologize for being selfish. I will follow through with all of my remaining work. Please allow me to move ahead in this fashion.

## Dia035

**Touko:** I tried my best to repair the relationship with my client, but failed. Somehow, after I negated the existence of her imaginary friend, she's withdrawn into her own world. She has become withdrawn like a patient with autism. We speak very little, but because she has become so distant, I'm afraid there is a good chance of sending her into a panic if I speak to her carelessly. I suppose I just need to wait and see what happens, but I'm afraid that through psychotherapy, there is the danger that I may get wrapped up in her paranoid delusions.

## Dia036

**Touko:** To the chief administrative secretary:  
Concerning future correspondences: The patient herself doesn't believe that she is very sick, and this has made therapy much more difficult. I think the top priority should be to have her see a different therapist and allow her to find a different environment. However, if changing therapists is not possible, I think she would need to start a small dosage of anti-psychotic medication. Perhaps Contom or Neoparidol might be effective. It may be well worth trying. Will I need to submit a request to the overseeing authorities for this?

## Dia037

**Touko:** The client had a pleasant demeanor in our session from beginning to end. Perhaps there was no need to do anything abruptly. The client hasn't changed her feelings about me from the past, and our casual conversations go well as long as I avoid talking about her imaginary friend. What bothers me, though, are the prying personal questions asks. I sometimes think that she means to intentionally work me up. But that may just be due to my impatience. Somehow I want to have an intimate relationship with her again. I want to gradually redevelop objectivity and lead our sessions.

## Dia038

**Touko:** The client has changed so much that she doesn't seem to be the same person anymore. Is that true, or am I being subjective? Could something have changed due to the progression of her symptoms? As we talked, she made remarks that I couldn't understand. She also made some inciteful remarks. During our session, I forgot myself and became hysterical. I can't handle it anymore. I can do no more. Please have someone else take charge of this case.

## Dia039

**Touko:** Overall, she doesn't seem very youthful. She appears older than her age. Even when we talk at a relaxed tone, she moves her eyes about irrationally. She also moves her wrists about oddly, and appears anxious. She probably is very conscious about her bodily sensations, and doesn't admit to being ill because of her pride. She blames what is happening to her on fatigue and lack of sleep.

## Dia040

Touko and Lain During our talk, she said that she together (Lain couldn't imagine herself being happy. can only be She said that she has no hope for her heard joining future. She has lost her sense of at the end); confidence, and has slipped into a pessimistic mood. She would go into hysterics if stimulated. The client is scrupulous and diligent. She has anxiety about having harmonious interpersonal relationships. She is transformational and melancholy. From now on, I will continue trying to relieve her psychological burdens and to provide her guidance.

## Dia041

**Touko and Lain** The client accidentally poured scalding together; water on her hand during our session.

She went about cleaning up afterwards as if nothing had happened. There is a chance that there is something wrong with her brain organically. We may need to perform CT scans and some other tests to determine if this is so.

## Dia042

**Touko and Lain** My client is not opening up to me. Some ~~together~~ kind of drastic treatment may be necessary. When I intentionally rubbed her the wrong way, she showed her combative side. I think that in the future, lowering of mental efficiency, deterioration of memory, and deterioration of healing will take place, and an inferiority complex with self-reproach will take over. As a result, impulsive behavior will come about, among other symptoms. There is a good chance that her sense of reality will be troubling to her. She may want to commit suicide.

## Dia043

**Touko and Lain** Her personality speedily continues to together; decline. Her emotions are flattened.

She is indifferent and lethargic. She doesn't show a feminine demeanor as she used to. Until now, I've always served tea for visitors, but I didn't get around to it today. The person one imagines oneself to be and that person's difference in ability compared to her...The client's ego is collapsing. Even in my presence, she exposes lack of confidence and appears sick. Sometimes, I don't know about me...

## Dia044

**Touko and Lain** Her responses to my questions have together; become sluggish. Her lack of self-confidence seems to be altering her self-assessment. Her intellect is affected. The assessment of her character has not taken place. She has completely lost sense of herself.

*This section was very difficult to make out. There were overlapping voices with background noises.*

## Dia045

Touko and Lain Patients with melancholia, it is good together; to treat them right at the onset of the disease. In addition to the neurosis, symptoms of depression and schizophrenia can be seen. She may have atypical psychosis. Her brainwaves should be tested at the hospital, along with some other tests.

*there is much I missed in this section due to overlapping noise.  
What you see is an approximation.*

## Dia046

**Touko and Lain** She doesn't understand what I am together; saying. She responds to technical (psychiatric) language, but not to ordinary speech. I've decided to diagnose her with verbal auditory agnosia.

## Dia047

**Touko and Lain** The client has an indirect reason for **together**: going to the trouble of surrounding herself with love. Using a continuous approach, I think I can regain her psyche. I will discontinue medicating her, and resume psychotherapy and milieu therapy.

## Dia048

**Touko and Lain** The client has discovered the **together**; connection between herself and reality, and has completely recovered from her ego disturbance. The results from the PPRS and HMB tests showed no problems whatsoever. I completed my first treatment successfully.

**Lain:** Thank you, my valuable client.

## Eda001

**Cop:** speaking into a recording machine February 7th. Interview for testimony from a witness to the suicide of a high school girl. speaking to a man Before we begin with questions, I'd like to confirm your identity. Shinji Makino 29 years old. Office worker. Is that correct? Could you remind me of your address?

**Shinji:** Sure. Shinagawa ward, Kamiosaki, 30-19-105, Meguro-residence 504.

**Cop:** Thank you. This interview will be recorded, by the way, but it will be kept confidential, so please don't worry.

Alright. Let's get started. Could you tell me what you saw at the scene of the suicide in as much detail as possible?

**Shinji:** Where do you want me to start? From the morning of that day?

**Cop:** No. Just what you remember from around the time of the suicide. Relax. Don't feel pressured.

**Shinji:** Uhh.

## Eda002

**Cop:** You were there as a twosome.

**Shinji:** Yeah. So?

**Cop:** Well, according to a storekeeper who saw you, the girl you were with was very young.

**Shinji:** Yeah. And?

**Cop:** Well, you see, prostitution takes place at that store.

**Shinji:** Sorry to tell you, but I don't have any hobbies like that. She's just a girl I knew.

**Cop:** Is that right? Well, I'd also like to ask her a few questions too.

**Shinji:** I haven't had any contact with her, and why do I have to do all this for you anyway?

**Cop:** Because we'd like to have as much information as we can to understand why a high school student is dead. We haven't even been able to retrieve the gun used in the crime.

**Shinji:** And you think she took it with her? You've got to be kidding. She's in junior high school!

**Cop:** We're not certain, we're just not ruling out the possibility. Among the people at that store at that time, the only person who we haven't been able to identify is the girl you were with. Could you help us out with more detailed information?

## Eda003

**Shinji:** I don't want to talk if my testimony is going to harm her.

**Cop:** No, nothing has been decided yet. We'd just like to be able to contact her. There's nothing for you to worry about. But is there something...

**Shinji:** No, nothing. I did meet her through the Internet. But she wasn't the kind of kid that would reveal an e-mail address. She was good at computers.

**Cop:** What do you mean?

**Shinji:** She tapped into computers.

**Cop:** You mean she was a hacker?

**Shinji:** No doubt about it.

**Cop:** Then you wouldn't be able to contact her?

**Shinji:** I don't mean that I couldn't. I reached her once. But I can't guarantee that she still even has that address.

**Cop:** I see. Then there's little we can do. We'll handle it from here, then. Could you give us her address?

**Shinji:** Sure, I don't mind.

**Cop:** If you don't have it, we can have some of our specialists look into it. If you do hear from her, could you keep our little meeting here a secret? It would be important for you, too, that you keep this a secret.

**Shinji:** Is that a threat?

**Cop:** Oh, not at all. We have better things to do than make threats. As long as we aren't interfered with, things will be just fine. That's what I mean.

## Eda004

**Cop:** Hello, Makino-san. It's been a while. You don't seem to be doing very well, so I'll keep this short. Can you take responsibility for the things you say to us from now on? Makino-san?

**Shinji:** grunting I haven't been able to sleep. I feel better when I'm looking at the computer.

**Cop:** Smoking isn't really allowed here, but if it relaxes you, go ahead. Let's begin. The reason you're here...

**Shinji:** It's about Lain.

**Cop:** Yes it is. Did you meet her after the shooting?

**Shinji:** grunting Probably.

**Cop:** Probably?

**Shinji:** getting very restless I don't know anymore. *very restlessly Detective*, could you contact a psychiatrist for me? I can't take it anymore. I don't want to die, but all of a sudden, I want to die now! Look at these scars! There's nowhere left to cut!

**Cop:** *on the phone* This is interrogation room number 7. Bring a doctor here quickly. This one's no good, either. Hey, cut it out! Sorry. Forget about the doctor. Bring a cleaner. And a cup of coffee, too.

## Eda005

**Research center Representative:** First of all, regarding the suicides of two researchers at our center, there have been rumors that their deaths had to do with them exploring some strange area of research, like something out of a science fiction novel. I reassure you that that is completely untrue. This center specializes in the study of communication and mental illness. Fundamentally, this is not a facility for clinical medicine. Our staff sometimes visits hospitals at their invitation, but basically, all we do here is research. I don't know how to apologize to her parents of those researchers. I am quite overcome.

**Reporter:** I've heard that the female researcher who took her life had some patients.

**Representative:** She was unique. She treated people clinically at this research center. But this was her own decision.

**Reporter:** I've heard rumors that one of the researchers who died was mentally ill. Is that true?

**Representative:** We can't really comment on that right now. But seeing that she took her own life, she may have had some type of mental illness. There are many things a person may call it, but there's no doubt that she was suffering deeply. Suicide is very extreme, but she must have been under a lot of stress. A psychiatrist is still just a human being.

**Reporter:** Did she catch her mental illness from her patients?

**Representative:** Mental illness isn't a contagious disease. So no, she didn't "catch" anything from her patients. We wouldn't use that expression. She may have been influenced by the patients to a degree. You may call that a sort of contagion if you'd like. It's a matter of semantics. But don't let anyone trick you about this sort of thing. All of this doctor's patients were healthy. I can't get into specifics because of privacy issues.

**Reporter:** Are there other things that might explain her behavior? *translator's note: I think that perhaps the reporter is asking the representative if the researcher who took her life may have had devious intentions, though I'm not sure. The recording is very difficult to make out.*

**Representative:** We're in the middle of an investigation, and I can't comment too much on that out of respect for her friends and family. However, I've been informed that that has absolutely nothing to do with it. I would rather...

**Reporter:** You would rather?

**Representative:** Anyway, I've heard that that has nothing to do with it. I'll say this for our researchers that they are very fine human beings that are very seriously committed about what they do.

**Reporter:** What was the likelihood of this kind of thing happening?

**Representative:** Well, it may have been less likely if we had caught it earlier. On the other hand, we may have not paid enough attention because our researchers really have it together and are professional and hardworking. We would like to help avoid this in the future by making psychological assessments of our staff.

## Ekm001

**Kyoko:** Hey, why don't you walk home with me? Let's hang out on the way there!

**Lain:** Sure... if you want to...

**Kyoko:** I want to buy lipstick!

**Lain:** Teacher will scold you for using lipstick again...

**Kyoko:** Lain... you are too stiff. Lets both use it! I think it will look good on you.

**Lain:** No... It's needless for me. It's no use for me to try to be cute.

**Kyoko:** You should have confidence in yourself! I think you are cute! So... come shopping with me.

**Lain:** Ok...

## Ekm002

**Kyoko:** Lain, do you have a crush on anyone?

**Lain:** No... not really... How about you?

**Kyoko:** I love Nakahara in Class 3. He looks cool. I will try to get along with him.

**Lain:** I hope it works out...

## Ekm003

**Kyoko:** What do you do to kill time?

**Lain:** Cleaning...?

**Kyoko:** Oh, you're tidy.

**Lain:** I have a trouble because I have many unnecessary things in my room.

**Kyoko:** Yeah, my room is like that. I often go impulse shopping, so I have lots of lipstick I don't use. How about trading makeup and accessories? But... Lain, you don't use makeup. Are you using the lipstick we bought together?

**Lain:** No...

**Kyoko:** You should use a little makeup. I think it suits you!

## Ekm004

**Kyoko:** I hope something great will happen like in a movie. Many people will get killed, but I don't die. And I resolve it with a very cool detective. For that, I'll be a big star!!! Sorry... I'm saying such strange things. Hey, don't look at me with such cold eyes...

**Lain:** My eyes are always like this...

**Kyoko:** What? Are you trying to make me laugh?

**Lain:** Did I fail?

**Kyoko:** Aha, ha, ha, yes, you failed! It's just like you to say something like that.

## Ekm005

**Kyoko:** Hey, Lain. Do you think that you're a special person?

**Lain:** Special?

**Kyoko:** Everyone says, "Lain is not a normal girl" and "Isn't she dangerous?" I've known you since we were children, so I say to them "No, she is normal." Also, I'm a little similar to you. It makes me sad that I'm not special like other people!

**Lain:** Do you think so? I don't care if I'm an ordinary person.

## Ekm006

**Lain:** Kyoko, you don't look too good. I can't do anything for you... I'm so sorry Kyoko...

**Kyoko:** Nakahara turned me down. He has another girl who he has a crush on...

**Lain:** Kyoko...

**Kyoko:** I'm too stupid. He likes the quiet girl with short hair. I wish I were like Lain...

**Lain:** No! You are far cuter than I am, and you are popular in our class.

**Kyoko:** Those are useless if he doesn't like them. You can't understand my feeling! That's enough! I'm miserable...

**Lain:** Kyoko...

## Env001

Girl: Say, do you like me? If you do, come to my new URL site.

## Env002

Woman's voice: But I can only see him. Lain...die.

## Env004

**Woman's voice:** I don't know! I don't care about the test anyway. If I knew that the world would end today, I would forget about study and just do what I felt like doing.

## Env005

**Man's voice:** You are a chosen fighter. Fight with me. The only thing that can change this world is your lofty willpower. I know about you. No, I must die. *Translator's note: I'm not sure if the man is saying "I must die" or "you must die." Perhaps even, "we must die." Because you seek after me.*

## Env006

**Man's voice:** The woman you walked past at the intersection today is my clone. I can understand because I grew her from a tissue. She is me. She probably has noticed. I understand. If only we knew this about each other, this world would be...

## Env007

**Man's voice:** I ceased to exist again, today. I was so sure that I was me when I woke up. Somehow, something seems to have fallen. I remember becoming sleepy, sitting in the dark and looking around. When he fell asleep, I awoke. I took the sheets off my shoulders, and noticed blood on my hands. The floor was covered in a sea of blood. There was something written on my computer.

## Env008

**Girl's voice:** I believed it. I thought you were terrible, Lain. But he likes you more than me. I didn't know why he liked you and not me. Lain, you don't really care if he likes you or not, do you?

## Env010

**Man's voice:** You are all a clump. A clump that doesn't exist. I eat the flesh of humans and shed blood. Look at your moronic face! Everyone who mocks me is a stupid asshole! Look, your construction is nearly complete...Oh, I want to laugh right now...did someone enter this room?

*Translator's note: It was very difficult to make out what this guy was saying.*

## Env011

*(incomprehensible)Translator's note: this section was deliberately recorded to be indecipherable.*

## Env012

**Girl:** I don't know. I don't care about the test. I know that the world will come to an end. I could forget about studying and do what I feel like doing.

**Man:** Look at your stupid face! Anyone who mocks me is a stupid asshole!

**Touko:** But I can only see him. Lain.

**Man:** It is your lofty willpower. I know about you. No. I must die.

*Translator's note: Very confusing. Everyone is talking over everyone else. I did my best.*

## Ere001

- Touko:** I'm so sorry to be late when I'm the person who asked to meet.
- Kyoko:** It's ok. What do you want to talk about?
- Touko:** Um, I'll have Earl Grey without milk. Would you like more coffee, Kyoko-chan? *Translator's note: "chan" is a term of endearment used especially for children.*
- Kyoko:** Sure. So you're a private tutor. People like you are rare nowadays, aren't you? You get this involved about your students? Enough to ask other kids about them?
- Touko:** I've been a bit distracted and out of focus lately, and I was concerned that that might have been rubbing off on Lain and that I haven't been teaching her properly. Either that, or maybe things haven't been going well for her at school.
- Kyoko:** I think she's doing ok.
- Touko:** From your point of view, is she doing well in school?
- Kyoko:** I don't really know. We used to be friends, but since we entered junior high school, we haven't talked to each other that much. Is this a test to see if she's been behaving herself? I don't know what other kids are doing outside of school. Wouldn't you get your answers more quickly by consulting an advisor at school or something?
- Touko:** Oh, no, no. It's nothing serious like that. Not at all. But she's a calm girl, isn't she? She doesn't open up so easily? I was just curious about how she's doing in school.
- Kyoko:** Hmm. Well, I have nothing to lose by talking to you, so ask me whatever you want. I haven't talked to Lain much recently. She doesn't have that many friends. She used to be a little somber. I guess you could say that she's become more somber lately.

## Ere002

**Kyoko:** We were in the same class in 5th and 6th grade. We were in the same group because we sat close to each other. She was quiet, so she didn't talk to many people other than me. She seemed like a sister to me. We didn't play together much, though.

**Touko:** When would you say that Lain started to change?

**Kyoko:** She wasn't so somber until about a year ago. When I see her these days, we don't have much to say. It's too bad, but lately, she's just another classmate to me.

**Touko:** Have you talked to her at all recently?

**Kyoko:** Recently? I seem to remember something. What was it, I wonder.

**Touko:** Can you remember?

**Kyoko:** How weird. I usually have a good memory.

**Touko:** Do you remember talking about shopping or boys?

**Kyoko:** No. I don't think we talked about that.

## Ere003

**Kyoko:** What was it? Something about my memory. I remember now. I remember that we were in biology class. Lain was asking the teacher after class about the brain and how memories are stored. I thought that that was pretty impressive. I asked her what she had asked the teacher, and she said she asked the teacher how to recollect memories. Weird.

## Ere004

**Kyoko:** I don't dislike Lain. But lately she's been hard to approach.

**Touko:** I know what you mean.

**Kyoko:** Don't you, though? I think a lot of the kids see her that way. No one is bullying her, now, but most of us are pretty indifferent to her.

**Touko:** Yeah.

**Kyoko:** You ought to talk to her. Tell her to laugh the way she used to.

**Touko:** The way she used to?

**Kyoko:** In the old memories I have of her, she was always smiling. I remember that when we were together, she would always laugh.

**Touko:** I see. I sort of had that impression. That's why I was concerned.

## Ere005

**Touko:** Yes, are you a friend of Misato-chan, Kyoko?

**Kyoko:** Who's Misato-chan?

**Touko:** A friend of Lain's.

**Kyoko:** Misato? We had a class with a girl named Minako. Who is Misato?

**Touko:** She was in a class with you in junior high.

**Kyoko:** Huh! No way. There was definitely nobody by that name in my junior high school class. You must mean Minako. But Minako wasn't friendly with Lain at all.

**Touko:** Oh, I must have been misinformed. Never mind.

## Ere006

**Kyoko:** I guess it sounds like I'm bad-mouthing her.  
There are some strange things about Lain, but  
she's an ordinary girl. She could be much  
attractive and popular if she would tighten up.  
She's gentle, too.

**Touko:** Gentle.

**Kyoko:** So what subjects do you tutor?

**Touko:** All subjects.

**Kyoko:** Wow, I'm jealous. I'm no good at all at math.  
Lain's grades are perfect. I wish I had a  
private tutor.

## Ere007

**Touko:** Nice to meet you. Order whatever you want.

**Girl (Lain's friend):** to tell if she's going out with someone. Sometimes she helps me with my schoolwork, and I offer to take her out to have some fun to thank her, but she doesn't come. *to the guy at the counter* A royal chocolate parfait, please. *to Touko* And who did you say you were?

**Touko:** I'm her tutor.

**Girl:** Oh...a tutor. That's why she's so smart. I'll start on my parfait. I really like their parfaits here. But what did you want to talk about?

**Touko:** Well, what is she like at school? What kind of girl is she in your point of view?

**Girl:** Lain is a quiet girl. She doesn't stand out too much and she doesn't have too many friends. She's smart, though. She got a really good grade for one of her papers. Some difficult subject. Kaori couldn't understand it.

*translator's note: I am assuming that the girl here is Kaori, though I am not sure.*

## Ere008

**Girl:** I don't remember having talked about it much. I don't mean that I haven't talked about it. It was as if it was there when I noticed it. Ha, ha. It's all really strange. I remember that Lain skipped physical education. Kyoko or someone said that Lain has a weak physical constitution. I think Kyoko knows Lain better than I do. Lain is pretty, but I haven't seen her with boys...Oh, I'm sorry. I've been so negative.

**Touko:** It's ok. Don't worry about it.

## Ere009

**Girl:** It's really something to have a tutor, though.

**Touko:** Well...

**Girl:** Lain doesn't seem like someone with a problem.

**Touko:** No, no. She doesn't have a problem. I just want to know more about her. She's a very nice girl. She's the kind of girl that keeps quiet even when something is bothering her, so that she doesn't worry other people, isn't she?

**Girl:** You're right. She is that way. I remember too, that once when I tried to buy a treat for her for helping me with my homework, she refused. I was a bit irritated. Lain hasn't been bullied at school, though. The kids there aren't so bad there.

**Touko:** Really?

**Girl:** Well, sure. Do you doubt me? I don't get bullied either. Ha, ha.

## Ere010

**Girl:** But, Onee-chan (*big sister*), could you be my tutor, too? My grades aren't so great.

**Touko:** I'd love to, but I can't because I have a lot of work to do at the university. If I find a good tutor, I'll recommend her to you. You can repay me by being really nice to Lain.

**Girl:** Wow! You really are like a big sister. I wish I had a sister. I'm an only child. Lain's an only child, too, isn't she? Does she have siblings? My mom said something about Lain having a sibling in the hospital, and that that's why neighbors avoid her house. Ha, ha.

**Touko:** Lain is an only child. Her parents are good, ordinary people. I suppose Lain is sad to be an only child, too.

## Lda001

**Lain:** Diary? What should I write? What should I write about myself? Today I woke up and went to school and attended class. After school, I went to Touko to talk with her. She said that keeping a diary is good for me. This is to be read by only myself, so I don't have any idea what to write. . . . I came home and ate dinner and watched TV and took a bath. . . . And now, I'm writing this diary. . . . Reading this makes me blush! Keeping a diary may be tough to deal with. I want to give it up.

## Lda002

**Lain:** Today, I went shopping with Kyoko. I bought an earring and a bracelet. But, I feel a little ashamed to go out with these on. Kyoko is cute, so it is no problem for her to wear these. I'm not cute, so whatever I do, it's useless. I think I'm lost on buying these accessories... But... Kyoko said, "These suit you! You look cute!" I think it may be her flattery... But I felt happy.

## Lda003

**Lain:** Today I went to the library. I tried to look into difficult words that Touko used like "psychoanalysis," "counseling," and so on. But, I couldn't understand these words completely. Am I stupid? ...I also think I say strange things sometimes. If I tell Kyoko and her friends about my trouble, they will think there's something wrong with me. It would be horrible if they felt like that. I can't talk to them about my trouble...

## Lda004

**Lain:** Touko-san says that I don't have to worry.  
Something is definitely wrong with me. That  
thing I saw wasn't a dream. I know because I can  
see it when I'm awake, too. Something is very  
wrong with me.

## Lda005

**Lain:** I'm sad and depressed and don't want to go to school. Is it my fault that kids say mean things to me? I'm starting to cry. I can't bring myself to start laughing right away. I'm jealous of Kyoko-chan. I suppose that if I fuss about these things, I'll get disliked even more. Why is this happening to me? I haven't hurt anybody. I wonder if Tomo-kun was laughing, too.

## Lda006

Lain: Am I ok being me?

## Lda007

**Lain:** Today in physical education class, the kids were talking about some sexual stuff. I was embarrassed. Kyoko-chan was grinning and talking to me, and the boys were having fun. Tomo-kun is a boy, so I was a bit uncomfortable with him joining the others. Even so, I'm not able to believe that now. When will I be able to understand all of this?

## Lda008

**Lain:** That's right. I'll ask Touko-san about it. She's a doctor, so I wonder if she'll be embarrassed. But maybe she'll think that it's strange. I won't ask her after all.

## Lda009

**Lain:** Dad's been getting home very early lately. He's been asking a lot about school, and I'm getting a bit tired of that. Mom hasn't been complaining as much lately. I wonder if she's being nice because I'm becoming strange. This is sad.

## Lda010

**Lain:** These days, I haven't been seeing them at all. Maybe I'm cured. That would make me so happy. I wonder if Dad and Mom and Touko-san will be happy, too.

## Lda011

**Lain:** I don't want to keep a diary anymore. The only special thing that happened today was 'that.' I don't want to see it anymore. Why does that me keep drifting into my mind.

## Lda012

**Lain:** Even after all these months, I can't get used to it. I want to stop seeing these kinds of dreams. I want to become normal.

## Lda013

**Lain:** Dad bought me a computer today. He told me to use it to take classes online when I stay home from school. I've been doing my homework. I've been taking my tests. I would have to do online classes all alone. That's sad.

## Lda014

**Lain:** Lately, Kyoko-chan hasn't been talking to me. But maybe that's just my imagination. She goes shopping with Mayu-chan. Could it be that they don't like me anymore? Kyoko-chan seems happier when she isn't around me. I don't want to go to school anymore. But I'll get scolded for that. I don't like people getting mad at me.

## Lda015

**Lain:** I have a cold and am taking a day off school.  
I've stayed home for 3 days now. The kids at  
school probably think I'm just cutting school.  
None of them visit me. They don't like me.

## Lda016

**Lain:** I'm so happy. Kyoko-chan and Mayu-chan came to visit me at home. I'm so glad. I wasn't disliked. They were worried about me. I hope I get over this cold soon so I can go to school. I want to take Kyoko-chan and Mayu-chan out for a treat because they took notes for me at school. I wonder if that will make them happy.

## Lda017

**Lain:** My cold hasn't gotten better. It's been a whole week. I've been taking my medicine. I don't want to go see the doctor again. Is this just a cold? I'm sweating and I'll have to change clothes again. I want to go to school but can't. The human body is so inconvenient.

## Lda018

**Lain:** Mom has been looking after me all day. I sort of have her all to myself. I was especially happy today when Mom got me some snacks that I asked for. Thank you, Mom. I'm sorry to have worried you.

## Lda019

**Lain:** Why? Tomo-kun is moving to another school. I was surprised at first to hear that Tomo-kun and my sensei came to visit me at home. I was so embarrassed because I was still in my pajamas. I didn't even see them. It might have been the last time I see Tomo-kun. Does Tomo-kun really like me? I doubt it. Sensei probably told him to come. I couldn't talk to him at all. I'm a little glad and a little sad and want to cry. I couldn't even say "good-bye." I hate this.

## Lda020

**Lain:** Today is a Sunday. I cooked and did the laundry for Mom as a thanks for her taking care of me while I was sick. My food wasn't so good, though. I wonder if I did the laundry ok. Dad ate my fried eggs even though I burnt hem. He's such a good Dad. I think he might have been a bit rude to watch videos during breakfast, though. I wonder why Dad's shorts are so large. They're the size of my shirt. Mom's brassiere is big, too. I wonder what that is about.

## Lda021

**Lain:** I've heard that men like people who have large breasts. I wonder why. I want to ask someone, but I'm embarrassed.

## Lda022

**Lain:** I'm back to school after a long time. I wonder if anyone was worried because I was gone. I shouldn't have worried. I'm glad that things are still the same. I thanked Kyoko-chan for letting me read her notes. Kyoko-chan's notes were full of goofy doodles, which was kind of fun.

## Lda023

**Lain:** Compared to my notes, Kyoko-chan's look like a box full of toys. Her sketches of Kamiya Sensei resemble the teacher so much that I started to laugh. When I showed the sketches to Mom, she told me to stop goofing off and to do the homework I have to catch up on. Mom seems to be a different person from a week ago.

## Lda024

**Lain:** I'm so happy. Tomo-kun wrote me a letter. He just wrote to say that he's doing well. I'm glad that I'm at least receiving letters, even though I can't see the person who is writing me. I used to watch him, more than he watched me. I'm so happy to have a letter from him! I'll have to write him back. I'll have to get some stationery supplies to write him.

## Lda025

**Lain:** But... Tomo-kun had to have written everyone in class. He couldn't have written only me.

## Lda026

**Lain:** Tomorrow, I'll buy Kyoko-chan a slice of cake to thank her for taking notes for me while I was away from school. It's been a long time since we've gone to fool around in the city together. Going out right after school is a no-no, but everybody else does it. Why can't I, every great now-and-then? Oh, I'll have to ask Mom for some money. I'd better buy Mom and Dad something while I'm out.

## Lda027

**Lain:** Kyoko-chan doesn't like me anymore? Was I the only girl that received a letter full of doodles from Tomo-kun? Why! Kyoko-chan must be angry. What should I do? I got careless and forgot to buy the stationery I needed to write Tomo-kun. Dear God, please let me and Kyoko-chan be friends again. I get a little bit happy when I think that I might be special. Thank you, Tomo-kun.

## Lda028

**Lain:** Kyoko-chan must be angry. I thought that she would go to the laboratory class with me, but she went off with Mayu-chan. It's too late. She doesn't like me. It wouldn't have been like this if I had kept my mouth closed. Even when I apologized, she said, "why do I have to apologize to you?" She doesn't like me. She really doesn't like me.

## Lda029

**Lain:** I have nothing to write in my diary today.

## Lda030

Lain: Touko-san is a big jerk.

## Lda031

**Lain:** I can't believe what Touko-san said. Nothing will return to the way it used to be. I'm disliked. Touko-san said to keep writing in my diary. I don't need a diary. I don't have anything to write. Nothing has changed. I just go to school everyday as usual. I'm alone during recess and lunchtime, and no one talks to me.

## Lda032

**Lain:** How mean. Writing graffiti on my desk. As usual, Kyoko-chan won't say anything to me. I didn't do that. I've never gone out with Tomo-kun. I felt like everyone was mocking me. I don't want to go to school anymore.

## Lda033

**Lain:** Kamiya sensei came to my house and talked with my Mom. Mom looked frustrated. Kamiya sensei said that if I skip class any more, I wouldn't be able to graduate. Mom and Dad were talking about it after dinner. Mom was crying and Dad looked very distressed. Am I a bad kid? I want to disappear.

## Lda034

**Lain:** Today Dad skipped work and talked with me all day. He's a kind Dad. I wonder if I'll make friends if I went to a different school. I wonder if school will be fun somewhere else. I wonder if I can go to the school Tomo-kun goes to.

## Lda035

**Lain:** My teacher visited our house again today. It seems that I can go to junior high school. Mom bowed to the teacher many times. I'm sorry, Mom. If I go to junior high school, I won't cause trouble anymore.

## Lda036

**Lain:** When I went to school today, Kamiya-sensei said that I would graduate, and that I don't have to force myself to come to school. Does he not want me to be at school? Is he letting me graduate because he doesn't want to see me? To get rid of me? I'm never going to that school again.

## Lda037

Lain: Is there a meaning to why I'm here? Does someone need me?

## Lda038

**Lain:** I named a special gift Dad got for me today. I named it Lain. She's another me. My only friend. But when I go to junior high, I'll make real friends. If I appear at ease and lighthearted, won't other kids like me?

## Lda039

**Lain:** I talked to Dad about computer connections. He went through a lot of elaborate steps to set up my computer. We worked hard for about 5 hours setting it up. Dad was reading lots of books about computers while we did it. Once we were done, Dad called Mom, and the three of us were delighted. I don't think we felt so good together as a family in a long time. It seems like since I stopped going to school, Mom and Dad haven't been as happy as they used to be. I'm sorry.

## Lda040

**Lain:** Computer networks are amazing. No one can see my face from there, and I don't feel embarrassed. I feel like I'm becoming a different me. There are so many people online, and they're kind to me even though I'm just someone with a lot of problems. I'm so happy that people could be so kind to me.

## Lda041

**Lain:** I surfed the net all day again today. I'm surprised at what an easy-going person I can be on the net. My name on the net is "Lain," but it seems that they can't tell from that that I'm a girl. If something interesting happens, I get e-mails telling me about it right away. Everybody is friendly. No one can bully me here. My eyes hurt after I stare at the monitor all day long. But for me, having my eyesight deteriorate would be a good thing.

## Lda042

**Lain:** Programs seemed difficult at first, but some of them got easier after I studied them. I have time now anyway, so I think I'll study. It shouldn't be any trouble. Mom and Dad won't be there to protect me forever. I'll borrow a book from the library tomorrow. I can study when I'm online, but if I'm online all the time, I might not be able to receive phone calls.

## Lda043

Lain: Maybe Kyoko-chan is worried about me.  
Well...probably not.

## Lda044

**Lain:** I started a game on the net. It's called the "Mouse Game". You sell tickets to your friends and make money. But if I start making lots of money, the other players will have a grudge against me. There will be people who want to kill me then, so I have to be careful. At first I thought this was just a game, but it made me feel bad after a while, and I wanted to cry. There was a questionnaire that came with the game asking me what I thought of it, so I wrote the company telling them what I honestly thought. I guess they know who I am now and don't like me. I'm sad. I don't like games like that. I'd rather play a game that everyone can laugh with and enjoy together. It isn't for me.

## Lda045

**Lain:** It was a graduation ceremony, but I didn't want to go. Once I'm in junior high, I'll go for sure. I promise. I won't worry Mom anymore. You took my clothes to the dry cleaners, didn't you, Mom? I'm sorry.

## Lda046

**Lain:** What does everyone think about me? Does anyone think anything about me?

## Lda047

**Lain:** Spring break starts today. I haven't been going to school, though. When I was at the library reading a book about UNIX, a guy next to me who looked about the age of a college student gave me a really weird look. Studying computers is tough because there are many technical terms and difficult kanji, but I enjoy this. There's nothing painful about it, and it's more fun than grammar or math. I understand English better now, and I understand things better in general, but there are still many things I don't understand. I think I'll ask Dad about some of this stuff. I wonder if Dad will give me a weird look like the guy in the library.

## Lda048

**Lain:** When I decoded a file that came today by e-mail, I saw the image of a dead infant. I couldn't find the address the file came from. I wonder if it's from the person that started that tasteless online game. I'm getting scared to open my mail now. I can't leave here, though. At least not until I enter junior high and start an ordinary life. When I start junior high, and I'll have friends and I'll be busy, and I might not have time to come to the net. I ought to study the net now while I still have time.

## Lda049

**Lain:** I was sad during dinner today. Dad said that he has to go overseas because of work. It was so sudden I was surprised and speechless. He said he'd be away for 2 months. I started to cry all of a sudden, and I lost my appetite. Dad looked worried, and he hugged me. We'll go to see him off at the airport tomorrow.

## Lda050

**Lain:** Dad's work seems to be really difficult. I want to work when I grow up. I want to be like Dad and live with self-confidence.

## Lda051

**Lain:** We'll saw Dad off today. Mom seemed really sad. We waved good-bye to each other for a long time as he took the escalator to the gate. On the way home, Mom took me to a restaurant. It was a nice dinner, but it was sad knowing that it will just be me and Mom at the dinner table for a long time. I'm sure Mom feels sad, too. God, please let Dad come home safely.

## Lda052

**Lain:** Mom, do you feel uneasy with me? I know I'm odd.  
It's ok. I won't bother you.

## Lda053

**Lain:** When I told my net buddies about that gross e-mail with the dead baby, they said there might be a way to trace it. It's not something I'm supposed to do, but I feel like a detective, and it's a bit fun. Whoever sent that e-mail is at fault, anyway. I can retaliate a little. I'm not such a good person anyway. What can I do if people say that there is something wrong with my character? After all, there's something wrong with me. "Strange" is what I am? I'm strange, aren't I, Mr. Rabbit? *translator's note: I do think I heard Lain say "Usagi-san," which means Mr. Rabbit. It seems out of place, I know.*

## Lda054

**Lain:** By following instructions I learned yesterday, I was able to access the host site. It was easy. Maybe I'm a genius at this kind of thing. I found some 'footprints' when I did some downloading. I'm figuring out how to trace down that sick person. I'm going to mail him to set a trap for him. I can't forgive someone who does something like that. I'm not going to cry myself to sleep anymore.

## Lda055

**Lain:** I'll solve it with my own strength. My own strength. I should be able to do that now.

## Lda056

**Lain:** That was it after all! Within 2 hours of mailing that guy, I got a response. I was curious what it was, but I was sure it would be gross, so I didn't. I decoded it, set a trap, and encoded it. This way, that person will never do this again.

## Lda057

**Lain:** I took the information on his host site and spread it publicly on a "mirror-site." I didn't look at any of the pictures because they'd all be gross. The text of his site was gross, too. I'm starting to worry if I trapped the right person. What if I got the wrong person's data or identification...I don't want to ever do this again. It feels good to be able to do things others can't do. Is there something wrong with me?

## Lda058

**Lain:** It's horrible, but I can't do anything about it. Someone's been reading my diary. It's been copied and displayed on an FTP site with a vulgar title. I stopped it, but over 20 people have already read it. Why did this all happen? Other people can do what I can do. I think I'll avoid the net for a while. I want to see what's going on, but my diary might be on someone's site, being reproduced right now. I know. I'm going to send an information-deleting engine into the net. But what if whoever took my diary has the diary's back-up information, too? I'm sure the person who took my diary is that gross guy. And if it's him, he would certainly have that information. I'm so mad. I can't win this by myself. So this is what I amount to. I think I'll consult Mr. Rabbit. I wonder what will help.

## Lda059

**Lain:** Are the people who enjoy doing horrible things  
and hurting people really human beings like me?  
But what am I?

## Lda060

**Lain:** I don't understand anymore. Did that strange person know Mr. Rabbit? He said, "Leave it to me, and forget about it." Oh, I'm mad. I want revenge. I'm not going to cry myself to sleep. I want to forget everything I want to forget. The things I don't like. The me I don't like. Can I do something magical like that?

## Lda061

**Lain:** School will start soon. I'm going to be different this time for sure. I'm going to be an ordinary, light-hearted junior high school student. I hope I don't have many of the same classmates I had in elementary school. Mom and Dad were talking on the phone. Were they worried about me? That's ok. You can both relax and not worry. I saw it again for the first time in a long while. Is it an illusion? Is there something wrong with my mind? I don't care if I'm sick or not. I just want it to stop.

## Lda062

**Lain:** I started bleeding when I was brushing my teeth. Could it be pyorrhea? My teeth were always so healthy. I can taste my blood. It's a bit bitter and I don't like it. I think I won't stop bleeding and that I won't be able to fall asleep. Is it because I'm uneasy about starting junior high school tomorrow?

## Lda063

**Lain:** I'm different. I'm a different me.

## Lda064

**Lain:** Mom came to the ceremony for the start of the school year. None of the kids from grade school were in my class. I was relieved. The teacher in charge was a nice person, and I made some friends. I was assigned to a seat. There's a different feel here compared to grade school. I can't hang out with most of the kids, but I think I'll get along with just one of the girls sitting next to me. She's quiet, but that's the kind of person that's easy for me to be around. It's great to meet you, Misato-chan!

## Lda065

**Lain:** I feel like everything will go great now. As long as I have one friend, I'm ok. Dad, I hope you come home soon!

## Lda066

**Lain:** Today I did a lot of things with Misato-chan. She's good at physical education, though I'm not. I think I'm more into liberal arts. Misato-chan has been playing the violin since she was very young. She's even been in competitions. She's amazing. She's good with computers, too. I didn't tell her that I'm into computers, though. I wanted to keep things having to do with me and the net a secret. On the net, I can be the sort of me that isn't so careful.

## Lda067

**Lain:** I told Touko-san all about it. I talked about Misato-chan through the whole session. Touko-san said, "you're doing really well," and I was a bit embarrassed. I wonder what Touko-san did for her extracurricular activities. I think she's good at physical education. She said that she went to America for school. Maybe things are different there.

## Lda068

**Lain:** Misato-chan said that she wanted to be in same extracurricular class with me. I'm nowhere as good as her in music, and she said that she didn't want to be in music class with me anyway. The people in the joint research group were very nice, but I wasn't sure if I wanted to join. I thought I would join an art class. I've always enjoyed drawing.

## Lda069

**Lain:** Misato-chan is really good to me. We're always together. I'm sad when she doesn't come to school. I wish I had more friends. I wonder if I'm being selfish. Am I greedy? I wonder if Misato-chan is ok when she is alone. If I skip school tomorrow, how would she feel? If I tried something like that, though, she won't like me anymore.

## Lda070

**Lain:** I didn't want to stay home from school deliberately. My head hurt, and I saw that thing again, so I stayed home. Mom had to go to work, so I was home alone. I didn't feel this way in elementary school. Why do I feel so sad and tired now? Does it have to do with Misato-chan? Maybe I'll call Dad. That's expensive though. Mom might get angry.

## Lda071

**Lain:** I wonder if Misato-chan is strong. She seemed to be just fine while I was away. I was a bit disappointed. I wonder if I'm too possessive. Maybe Misato-chan has friends aside from me, and I just want her for myself. I don't like this. I'm just being blameful. I'm becoming a dislikable girl again. In extracurricular class, I went to go buy sketch books with the rest of the class. The pastels were very pretty, so I bought some and was drawing before dinner. Mom scolded me, saying that the pastels were stinky. I don't mind their smell very much. I'm going to give my best to study and art. Fight, Lain!

## Lda072

**Lain:** Am I forcing myself to do too much? I'm not, am I?

## Lda073

**Lain:** I drew a picture of Touko-san and went to her office to show her, but one of the people there said that she was out. I guess she's really busy. Dad is going to come back soon, and I've been feeling good lately. I can't see 'that' anymore, so I think I'll go back to the Net for old time's sake. I haven't seen Mr. Rabbit in a while. I have to say thanks for that time. I look pretty good when I'm making progress.

## Lda074

**Lain:** I'm not forcing myself to laugh. This is me.

## Lda075

**Lain:** I saw 'that' on the Net. I haven't had a problem with that before. Why is it happening? But I don't have to go to the Net anyway. I've written a letter to Mr. Rabbit, so I won't go back to the Net for a while. Things are going well anyway. It's ok, Lain. I'm not alone anymore.

## Lda076

**Lain:** Dad came home. I talked to him a lot. About me, about drawing, about Misato-chan. I talked and talked and talked until Mom said that Dad is tired and that I ought to hold off on talking to him until tomorrow. Maybe I did tire him out. He was smiling as I talked to him. He brought me a Teddy Bear as a gift. He's really cute. What should I name him? Hmm...

## Lda077

**Lain:** I wonder if Dad has ever been so cheerful. Maybe people seem to change when you change yourself.

## Lda078

**Lain:** Dad asked me to take a gift to Touko-san, so I took the gift to her after school. Touko-san seemed tired and slow. She didn't even open the gift's wrapping paper. I wonder why she was tired. I wonder what the gift was. Could it have been cosmetics? Mom has a lot of cosmetics, too. I guess I'll use cosmetics one day, too. I won't look very good if I used cosmetics now. Misato-chan looks grown up anyway, so cosmetics should look good on her. Oh, Dad said there were some extra presents, so I'll take some for Misato-chan.

## Lda079

**Lain:** A lavish present wouldn't be good. After all,  
we're just junior high school students.

## Lda080

Lain: Misato-chan took a day off of school. I don't think she's completely alone, but I was sad for her. I left drawing class early because I was sad. I had Dad's present that I wanted to give her. I hope Misato-chan comes to school tomorrow.

## Lda081

Lain: I need Misato-chan. Does Misato-chan need me?

## Lda082

Lain: Misato-chan wasn't at school again today. I told my sensei that I wanted to go see her. She said that she spoke with Misato-chan's mom, and that Misato-chan didn't want to see any visitors. I wonder what the matter is. Misato-chan had so much energy. She didn't talk about herself much, though. She was like me in that way. But for me, talking got me disliked.

## Lda083

**Lain:** I want to talk to Misato-chan. I'm cowardly, though. Haven't I changed? Would it be better if a cowardly person like me dies?

## Lda084

Lain: Misato-chan came to school, but seemed as usual, as if nothing had happened. When I asked her what kind of sickness she had, she just said that she had the cold. Any way, I'm glad that she's better. I'll take her the gift I couldn't give her yesterday. I skipped extracurricular activities and went to an ice cream shop with Misato-chan instead. It's always fun to be around Misato-chan. I'm glad she's better.

## Lda085

Lain: This is the same as always. Nothing will change.  
I'm fine just like this.

## Lda086

**Lain:** When I was checking e-mails to see if anything came from Mr. Rabbit, I found a weird e-mail. This time it was a picture of a dead, naked woman, tied up with ropes. Strangely, it said that the e-mail came from Mr. Rabbit. Mr. Rabbit wouldn't do something like that. It's that guy again. I'll let Mr. Rabbit know. I can't believe this. Why would someone do this? I'm scared to check my e-mail now. I'd like to check my e-mails, but if I access the Net and I see 'that' again...I was getting better. I'm not sick.

## Lda087

**Lain:** Right, I'm really not sick. What Touko-san is saying... since she said it, it can't be wrong, right? I should believe her.

## Lda088

**Lain:** I have to do a drawing for a cultural festival soon. I wonder what to draw. I'm not sure. One of the leaders said that it can be something simple. I wonder what. A drawing of Bike-chan? Misato-chan? Dad, Mom? Touko-san? Myself? It's difficult to draw people. If the drawing doesn't look like the person, it's embarrassing.

## Lda089

Lain: What is Misato-chan going to draw? Lain? Or someone I don't know?

## Lda090

Lain: Misato-chan said that she draws with her computer. Maybe I'll try that, too. I'll ask her how to do it.

## Lda091

**Lain:** Software is expensive. A digitizing tablet seems necessary. It seems that it's better if there is a scanner. It's difficult with machinery these days. I can't afford this stuff with my allowance. I wonder if Misato-chan's family is rich. I'll talk to Dad. If I don't have money, I can't buy anything, but if I have a lot of money, I could do so much. What would I do? I could buy Mom and Dad presents, and I could do all sorts of things with Misato-chan. It's fun just imagining these things.

## Lda092

**Lain:** A person who works with graphics in Dad's company is willing to lend me some equipment at a low rate. I hope I can meet with that person soon. Then I could have Misato-chan come to my house and she can teach me all sorts of things. This is fun. I wonder how many years it's been since I've had a friend over. I'll clean up my room and make it look welcoming. I wonder what kind of room Misato-chan has. I'm sure it's a very clean room.

## Lda093

**Lain:** My room doesn't look very "girly." But that doesn't really seem to fit me. I understand.

## Lda094

**Lain:** At school today, a boy asked to talk to Misato-chan. When she asked why, he said that he wanted to go out with her. Misato-chan didn't seem interested at all. If it was me, I think I would have been a little happy. I guess the boy was rejected. He was kind of good looking. Too bad. Misato-chan is good-looking and smart. She could get a boy. Maybe she doesn't want one. She looked really bothered. Maybe she already has a boyfriend that I don't know anything about. That's sad, too.

## Lda095

**Lain:** It's impossible to know everything, isn't it?  
I'm not Misato-chan. But if I was the person I  
used to be, I might have been that way, too.

## Lda096

**Lain:** I asked Misato-chan if she was going out with someone. She laughed. Well, after all, we're together all the time. When I was changing clothes for gym class, I noticed that Misato-chan had big breasts. My chest is flat. I'm jealous. But I don't have 'that' yet either. All the others are really becoming girls. I think I'm moving slower than everybody else.

## Lda097

**Lain:** The body doesn't matter much. What matters is the heart. If my heart is perturbed, no one will like me.

## Lda098

**Lain:** I went to see Touko-san today. When I asked her how much longer we should meet each other, she looked troubled. She said that I could come over with the idea of enjoying myself instead of thinking of our meetings as therapy, but I didn't want to have to explain myself to Misato-chan. I wonder what Misato-chan is thinking. I don't want to keep any secrets from her, but I'm afraid to tell her the truth.

## Lda099

**Lain:** You're busy with your own work, aren't you, Touko-san?

## Lda100

Lain: Misato-chan gave me a present. She said it was to repay me for the gift I gave her.  
Misato-chan's present was a CD of her playing a violin. She plays beautifully. Listening to her play is like drifting off into a dream. She can really play. She blushed a little when she gave me her CD. That was a bit unlike her, and it was cute. I guess Misato-chan makes expressions like that, too. It seems like there is more of the Misato-chan that only I know. When I played the CD for Mom, she didn't seem too interested. Maybe she doesn't like the violin.

## Lda101

**Lain:** We got a new PC today. It looks very expensive. It's small and round, but it's very fast. It's different from the computers we've had before, but the man said that the applications are similar, so there shouldn't be many problems. I feel important all of a sudden, and happy. Thank you, Dad. When I grow up, I wonder if I will find work related to managing information or something. I've been studying hard and want to make myself useful. Still, I don't want a job that only has to do with machines.

## Lda102

Lain: Misato-chan came to visit my house today. Mom seemed to be in a good mood--sort of. Misato-chan taught me how to draw. Mom came and checked in on us often. Dad, Mom, Misato-chan and I had dinner together. It was great. I didn't learn that much about drawing, but Misato-chan said that she will visit again soon. We took Misato-chan back to home in Dad's car. She has a very fancy house in a rich neighborhood. It was almost dreamlike. Misato-chan's mom came to the door and spoke with Dad a bit. She was really pretty, like an actress. I guess that a pretty girls like Misato-chan must come from beautiful mothers like that. But only a girl like me could come from my kind of Mom. I'm sorry, Mom. But I really had fun today.

## Lda103

Lain: I guess we're different from birth. But if I was born there, wouldn't I have been pretty like Misato-chan?

## Lda104

**Lain:** I drew a picture and submitted it to the cultural fair, but I don't think I have much talent. Compared to everyone else, I'm not very good. Misato-chan does great. She said that she was still mid-process with her work, but I thought it was great already anyway. She drew a picture of Pegasus, with deep blue skies. It looked as though Pegasus was really flying. I don't think I could draw a Pegasus that looks like it is flying. I think I'll just draw what I feel like drawing. I'd rather draw pictures of Misato-chan more than anything else, but maybe she won't like that.

## Lda105

**Lain:** I'm a little envious of Misato-chan. She can do so many things. Other than using the Net, there's nothing I can do better than Misato-chan.

## Lda106

**Lain:** I tried to remember Misato-chan's face and drew it. I wonder if it looks much like her. I showed it to Mom, who didn't have much to say. Dad said it was good, but I'm still not very confident. I think I'll quit the cultural fair. Today there was something about the new Navi that I didn't understand, so I went and bought a book again. There aren't many books about this kind of computer, so I didn't have much to choose from, but I bought a book that has to do with command lists. It's based in UNIX, so much of it was familiar, but it helped me understand assembly, which I had trouble with. I connected two computers so that they could exchange files, and called it a day.

## Lda107

**Lain:** I saw an accident on my way home today. Something fell at a construction site and someone died. Cop cars and ambulances were everywhere, and lots of people, too. It's sad that someone died. I wouldn't want something like that to happen to me all of a sudden. I am...

## Lda108

**Lain:** I finished my artwork of Misato-chan. It was very popular in class. It's very pretty and artful. I bet it will stand out and draw attention at the culture fair. I used pastels and watercolors. Misato-chan said that I did a good job, but I wonder if I really ought to have done a painting of her. I feel that I haven't expressed myself as much as I wanted in my painting. What kind of painting should I do? Misato-chan's paintings seem like Misato-chan's. They are gentle and pretty, and seem to have an inner strength...

## Lda109

**Lain:** Touko-san was that kind of person. She seems different from before. Could it be because she's been busy? She seems cold and distant. I told her about my artwork, and she said to bring that up with people in my class. I wonder if she was feeling well. Could it be that I'm a bother because I'm no longer sick and don't need to see her? Touko-san is a counselor. The sicker I get, the more work she has to do. I'm sorry that I couldn't help with your research report, Touko-san. Just let me know if you don't want to see me anymore.

## Lda110

**Lain:** I don't want to see her anymore. I'm not troubled anymore. To me, Touko-san is...

## Lda11

**Lain:** Mom and Dad have been curt lately. My family used to encircle me. It seems to be coming apart now, since I haven't had problems lately. I wonder if they are busy doing things that they couldn't do while I wasn't well. I shouldn't complain. They've been so good to me.

## Lda112

Lain: Doesn't Dad love Mom? Someone tell me.

## Lda113

**Lain:** It's been a while since I saw 'that.' I've become an ordinary kid again. I have friends; I argue with my parents a little but make up later. I'm in an ordinary family. Everything is ok, now. I'm an ordinary girl.

## Lda114

**Lain:** It's good to be ordinary. People won't look at you funny if you're ordinary. I don't understand the feelings of people who want to stand out. I don't have the confidence to want to stand out. But is it because I've become ordinary that Mom and Dad don't pay attention to me? Misato-chan is different. She's a friend of ordinary me.

## Lda115

**Lain:** Now that I think about it, I haven't been checking my e-mails lately. I quit going to the Net because I saw 'that,' and because of the mean messages people leave there. Misato-chan said that she goes to the Net, too. Maybe I should exchange e-mail addresses with her. If she knew how active and outgoing I am on the Net, she might be surprised. If I had her e-mail address, I won't have to bother calling her by phone. Mom's been complaining because I run up a big phone bill. I'll talk to Misato-chan tomorrow.

## Lda116

**Lain:** I'm surprised at how long I can stay on the phone. I wonder if I'm a very talkative person. I feel like I can talk and keep on talking to anybody.

## Lda117

**Lain:** Misato-chan turned me down. She doesn't like checking e-mails. She seems not to have much interest in the Net. I wonder if she got harassed on the Net, too. The way she turned me down was unusual. It's too bad. I thought she would be happy. I'm a bit sad. Misato-chan will talk to me on the phone, though. We can talk to each other anytime, at home or at school. She ought to be able to visit the Net on her own.

## Lda118

**Lain:** I'm being selfish to want to communicate with Misato-chan over the Net.

## Lda119

**Lain:** When I checked my computer today, there were about 30 e-mails. I deleted e-mails if I didn't know who they were from. No e-mails from Mr. Rabbit yet. Didn't my e-mails reach him? Maybe he hasn't read them yet. When I checked the 'news group,' I found that many of the packets had dropped. Eventually, the members were all people I didn't know. I got an idea! I'll join a news group that has art as a topic. There might be people there that are like me, and I can be a lot more outgoing on the Net.

## Lda120

**Lain:** The Net I full of men. Aren't there any girls? I don't mind writing guys, but I'd rather write girls.

## Lda121

**Lain:** People talked of nothing but Misato-chan's artwork at the cultural fair. Our sensei's prestigious friends came and were very impressed. Misato-chan is amazing! Misato-chan is my best friend. Isn't that something? I'm so proud. But Misato-chan didn't look very well. I wonder if she is ok.

## Lda122

**Lain:** I'm somewhat frustrated. Misato-chan. Would I feel good if my artwork was praised like hers'? Would I be embarrassed? I don't know, but I'll probably feel good.

## Lda123

**Lain:** Kazami Sensei mentioned before class that she wants to have Misato-chan's artwork presented at the prefectural exhibition. It's amazing because Misato-chan is still in 7th grade. Everyone in class went to the cultural fair and saw Misato-chan's work. Even the older kids were really impressed. Misato-chan doesn't seem too happy, though. She seems different lately. If she's troubled about something, I wish she would talk to me.

## Lda124

Lain: I wonder if that is obvious to Misato-chan.  
Maybe she doesn't want people to fuss over her.  
Will I be disliked if I fuss?

## Lda125

**Lain:** I wonder if people on art sites of the Net are hard to please. I got friendly and sent pics of Misato-chan's artwork, and they said that it was plagiarism. Misato-chan would never do something like that. Besides, some artistic big shots saw Misato-chan's work and didn't think it was plagiarism. Why then would it be? I feel contradicted. I don't want to visit this Net site again. I feel like I am the one being criticized. Misato-chan and I have been around each other so much that we can tell what's going on with the other without talking too much.

## Lda126

Lain: Does Misato understand me?

## Lda127

**Lain:** They decided not to submit Misato-chan's artwork to the prefectural exhibition. I don't know why. Sensei didn't explain why. Misato-chan has stopped talking and looks terrible. I've never seen her like this. What happened? I'm sad for Misato-chan.

## Lda128

**Lain:** I didn't talk to her at all today. I hesitated to call. Could she be waiting for me to call? But maybe that isn't true.

## Lda129

Lain: Misato-chan skipped school today. Some of the older kids in art class were spreading rumors. They were talking about Misato-chan's artwork and plagiarism. The kids stopped talking when they noticed that I was listening. This makes me feel bad. Misato-chan would never do something like that. Never.

## Lda130

**Lain:** I can't call Misato-chan. I'm frustrated but can't do anything. I don't have enough courage. I can't imagine what Misato-chan would say.

## Lda131

**Lain:** Misato-chan didn't show up at school again today, so I took my notes to her home. Misato-chan's mom came to the door, but Misato-chan didn't. Is she feeling so bad that she can't even come to the door? Could it be that she doesn't like me anymore? That would make me very sad. No matter what other kids say about Misato-chan, I'll always be her friend. I want to see you, Misato-chan.

## Lda132

**Lain:** I just want to see you. I won't ask you any questions. I won't ask you about things you don't want to talk about.

## Lda133

**Lain:** I talked to Kasumi sensei today. I believe in Misato-chan, but I wanted to see what was actually going on. The sensei said that there is an art magazine in America with a painting by a Japanese artist very similar to Misato-chan's. I didn't want to see the magazine, but I wanted to make sure. The picture in the magazine and Misato-chan's painting looked alike. They were more than alike. I could not tell the difference between the two. It seems that the Japanese artist who painted it was just a novice, and that it was the first time she won a prize for her artwork. I searched the Net about it when I got home. Dad said that that the artwork was by a second-generation Japanese or something. Misato-chan would never plagiarize. Still, the paintings looked so similar. But I thought that Misato-chan did her work before this other person submitted hers to this magazine. I'm going to look into it and clear her name. Sensei said that people often come up with the same ideas at the same time. It was probably a coincidence.

## Lda134

**Lain:** Couldn't it be obvious that people see the same things and have the same ideas about them? If the perceived information is the same for two people and they think the same things about it, why would it be odd if those people produce the same impressions about what they see? We're all human beings, after all.

## Lda135

**Lain:** The magazine is called "Beauty of the Art." It had a homepage, so I sent them an e-mail. I wonder if I'll hear back from them. I'll keep writing until I hear back from them. I'm going to get to the bottom of this and I'm going to clear Misato-chan of this plagiarism charge. But I might see 'that' again when I go to the Net, and that frightens me.

## Lda136

**Lain:** Could it be that I'm not changing? If I think that I'm not changing, I won't change. But I have changed. I won't have hallucinations anymore.

## Lda137

**Lain:** I got an e-mail from the editors today. I'm glad. Misato-chan's artwork came first. I saw her sketch over 2 months before the other one was published. Could this sort of thing happen often? The same picture at the same time, both by a Japanese, all by coincidence? What is that other artist like? I couldn't find a home page for her. I wish I had information about her. I know that Misato-chan was right all along, and I feel much better now. I'll go to Misato-chan's home tomorrow.

## Lda138

Lain: Misato-chan is going to another school? Why? She didn't say anything to me. We were friends. We were best friends. All the other kids said that she went to a different school because she was embarrassed to be found out as a plagiarizer. They were saying nasty things. I can't forgive them for that. They're wrong. Misato-chan would never plagiarize. I found out for a fact that she didn't. Those kids don't know what they are talking about. But why did she go away? Misato-chan, this is horrible. Will I never see you again? It's too sad to lose you like this. Misato-chan.

## Lda139

**Lain:** Why do people spread rumors without knowing what they are talking about? Don't they care about who they might be hurting?

## Lda140

**Lain:** I'm alone again. I don't want to make friends with anyone other than Misato-chan. Making friends. I don't know what strange things these kids think about me. I don't care. It's all a big nuisance. School isn't any fun anyway. School without Misato-chan is no fun.

## Lda141

**Lain:** When will I make friends again? When it happens, will I have to change, too? Even when I'm me?

## Lda142

**Lain:** I went to Misato-chan's home today, but no one was there. She must have moved. She literally left without saying a word. This makes me sad. Didn't she think of me as a friend? I guess Misato-chan didn't think much of me after all. I haven't received any phone calls or letters. If she really was a friend, she would never have left this way. Maybe she thinks I'm badmouthing her like the other kids. It makes me even sadder. I was your special friend. Wasn't I, Misato-chan?

## Lda143

**Lain:** Would it have been different if I had called you then? Couldn't you have said that I was on your side? I was only thinking about you, Misato-chan.

## Lda144

**Lain:** I was thinking of not seeing Touko-san anymore today. When I told her about Misato-chan, she said that there are some things that people can't say, even to those who are closest to them. Did Misato-chan go away because I was hiding things about myself from her? Is that why she went away without saying anything to me? Even if there's something I can't say, I would never do that. Touko-san and Misato-chan are awful. Nobody understands me. I don't feel like doing schoolwork. Am I a truant? I don't want to leave people behind. I've got to fight. Although they say that I ought to study what interests me, the only things I'm interested in are Misato-chan and myself. But it's over. I have to find other things that are meaningful to me.

## Lda145

**Lain:** Mom and Dad had a big fight today. Dad never hits people, but he hit Mom today. Mom threw things at Dad and screamed. I was afraid and couldn't do anything but cry. Why did they fight? They usually get along so well. Was it my fault?

## Lda146

**Lain:** Why do people around me become this way? Is it because I've become ordinary? Has it been this way, and I just didn't notice?

## Lda147

**Lain:** Today I told Mom that I wanted to quit counseling. She said no. She said that I'm ok now, but that she doesn't know if I will get worse again. I've been missing school again lately. I didn't want to face it, but Mom is right. I have to go see Touko-san again tomorrow. I don't want to. I have no freedom. I'm a patient. I'm a patient that always has to be looked after. I don't want to do this anymore.

## Lda148

Lain: What is the meaning of my existence?

## Lda149

**Lain:** Today I think I felt the way a person feels when she wants to die. I was placed in the same class as Kyoko-chan. I used to think that I would never feel badly facing Kyoko-chan again, but I became the person I used to be as soon as I saw her. Kyoko-chan walked past me as if I wasn't there and started talking to other kids. I'm sure she talks about me a lot. It can't be helped. It's true that I'm the depressing, strange kid who misses school. I want to move to another school, too. I want to disappear.

## Lda150

**Lain:** I've been going to the library alone to read books. It's depressing. But its better than spending free time at school alone. I have to distract myself with books.

## Lda151

**Lain:** Mom and Dad had another fight. It was about me. I felt so miserable that I couldn't be around it. I ran away to my room. Dad got worried and came to check in on me. Dad saw me crying and apologized to me. Why did he apologize? Aren't I the one at fault? I'm the one that should apologize. I'm sorry, Dad.

## Lda152

Lain: Am I the one at fault? What about me is wrong?

## Lda153

**Lain:** I wonder what I did. When I came to, I was on top of the bed. I thought I went to school as usual. Did I fall? All I remember is walking toward school. I asked Mom, but she didn't say anything. I feel like something awful has happened. What happened? I can see hallucinations in my dreams again. I hear all sorts of voices. I'm going crazy. I'm not cured after all. There's something wrong with me. I have to see Touko-san.

## Lda154

**Lain:** I thought I was better. I wonder what happened. Why don't I remember anything? There's a white mist inside my head. Everything is mixed with everything else and I can't tell what from what.

## Lda155

**Lain:** Mom said that she went to my school to ask for a leave of absence. I thought that I ought to feel glad that I won't have to go to school, but I'm sad. I've genuinely been separated from society. I feel that I've been rejected by everyone, and I'm sad. Can't I live an ordinary life anymore? Dad won't come home and Mom looks worn out. Why won't Dad come home? Doesn't he want to see me anymore? Doesn't Dad like me anymore? I want to see him. I fell asleep weeping, and saw hallucinations again. It's scary. I can see them whether I'm asleep or not. I can't believe it myself. I don't understand it. I want someone to prove to me that I am the person that I know I am. I want to see Dad. I want to see Dad and hug him. It's ok...

## Lda156

**Lain:** Will everyone I love become unhappy? Will they become unhappy because I feel love for them?

## Lda157

**Lain:** Lately, I've been taking correspondence courses and surfing the Net day and night. I start to feel sick looking at the computer screen all day. Dad bought me this computer, though, so I want to study hard with it. Mom left the house with the keys so that I can't leave. Someone help me. I hate being alone. I'll be a good kid. Please don't leave me alone.

## Lda158

**Lain:** My only way to communicate with the outside world is through the Net. I can't use the phone because I have no one to call, but I can connect with the Net right away. I can connect with someone that I don't even see.

## Lda159

**Lain:** Even when I go to see Touko-san, Mom drives me now. It's like she's guarding me, and I hate it. I can go see Touko-san on my own. I wonder what Touko-san really thinks of me. I remember talking to her a lot, though I don't remember what we were talking about. I don't care what Touko-san thinks of me now. I'm crazy anyway, so take down all the weird data you can about me. I don't care anymore.

## Lda160

**Lain:** Am I Mom's kid? Could I be someone else's kid?  
My hair color is different from hers, and her  
face doesn't look like mine.

## Lda161

**Lain:** I looked for Mr. Rabbit on the Net. He was dead. We've been out of touch for a long time. He had an e-mail address, but he hasn't used it for a year or so. Maybe he took a break from the Net like I did. We discussed things that weren't interesting or useful. What I want is to find the image of the real me.

## Lda162

**Lain:** Is my own physical appearance an illusion or an ordinary phenomenon?

## Lda163

**Lain:** Mom and Dad divorced. Dad hugged me on the day he left. I was happy to have him hug me. He was warm and gentle. I won't see him for a while. I'm ok with being Dad's daughter. I'm the one at fault. I'm the cause. I hurt Mom and Dad. I'm a bad kid. I don't want Dad to leave. Will he hug me again? I'm sure I'll see him again.

## Lda164

Lain: Dad...

## Lda165

**Lain:** I share this big house with Mom now. The weeds are growing outside because Dad used to pull them, but he's no longer here. Mom doesn't say anything. I enjoy watching the weeds grow. I watch them everyday. The swing outside that I used to play on as a little kid is now covered with weeds. It's like a haunted place. I want to see Dad.

## Lda166

Lain: Only the weeds took lively. Did the swing die?

## Lda167

**Lain:** Mom got drunk and threw a vase at me. She was angry at the wrong person. She was wrong because she threw Dad away. But isn't that my fault, too? If I'm so wrong, why not kill me? If you had killed me, you wouldn't have had to divorce, would you? You'd rather not have me here, right?

## Lda168

**Lain:** I'm beginning to dislike people who drink.  
Touko-san said that she drinks, too. Do people  
go nuts when they drink? I don't like it.

## Lda169

**Lain:** Today I found a doodlebug nest in the yard. I watched the ants get pulled into the nest by their legs and get eaten. What does an ant think in the moment that it is being eaten? Do they know that they will die? I found as many ants as I could and tossed them into the doodlebug nest. I didn't understand the ant's feelings. There's something wrong with me. Why else would I be so cruel?

## Lda170

**Lain:** If I am an ant, who is the doodlebug? Is it this house? Is it the hallucinations? Is it me?

## Lda171

**Lain:** I went to an adult site. It was ridiculous. It was lots of photos of women in embarrassing poses. I can see that the man would enjoy this, but the women... I guess they're doing this because it's their job. But there are women who send in these things voluntarily, too. What's so great about sending in embarrassing photos of yourself?

## Lda172

**Lain:** I wonder if I have wishes to do these sorts of things myself. It's creepy to know that there are a lot of people who watch these kinds of sites and enjoy them. Mom and Dad had to do this kind of thing for me to be born, and someday I'll have to do this if I want children.

## Lda173

**Lain:** I wonder if psychiatry isn't a groundless science. There seem to be all sorts of treatments and theories, but in the end, psychiatry doesn't seem to cure. I checked out my own diagnosis on a news group, but only found some boring, unsatisfying answers. I wonder if Touko-san is a part of this news group. Why don't I access Touko-san's research center? I'll find some of her research there. I'm curious to see how she's using me in her research.

## Lda174

**Lain:** I'm going to check out Touko-san's research center's address. I haven't done any 'cracking' in a while.

## Lda175

**Lain:** I've been trying since two days ago until today, but I still can't get in. Why? I could access her research center. Data about the patients Touko-san is overseeing was available, but it wasn't really data--just file names without information. When I checked the file reports, I could see that everything was communicated correctly. But I can't see the actual data. It isn't as if it's in encrypted language. Information about me shouldn't be any more important than information of other patients. The only information I can't find is information about me. What's going on?

## Lda176

**Lain:** Am I an exception? I just want to find information about me.

## Lda177

**Lain:** I went to see Touko-san alone because Mom was sleeping in. I asked Touko-san what she writes about me in her research reports. She didn't give me a clear answer. While Touko-san left the room for a while, I took copies of some pages from her notebook. I thought that I now knew the research data Touko-san keeps about me, and that I knew what she does with it. I could see that she sends information about me to the research room, and that she sends a lot of it. Could it be visual data? Auditory data? I also noticed some writing that seemed to have daily entries in it. Could it be a diary? I couldn't find that data in her 'host' page. Touko-san tends to transmit her data late at night. I'll try to access her site then. She has a very big file about me that would take a long time to download, so I don't think she'll find out if I accessed it. I don't think Touko-san knows much about machines and computers. I feel bad because I think I'm tricking Touko-san, but on the other hand, I feel good.

## Lda178

**Lain:** I found Touko-san's diary. It's wrong to read other people's diaries, but it's fun. I'm understanding Touko-san better now. I'm finding out that she's just another human being. I can see that she thinks of petty things, too. Most of what she writes is about men. Was my report this simple? I'm disappointed. I felt like adding some of my own notes, but decided not to. There is a periodical security check and it found out about my 'cracking.' But I think I'm ok. I don't think I left any 'foot prints.'

## Lda179

**Lain:** I wonder how Touko-san would react if she finds out that I've been reading her diary. It gets me excited because I'm a bad girl. But Touko-san is wrong, too.

## Lda180

**Lain:** Dad's been away for a long time and I haven't heard from him. Has he forgotten about me? I want to see him. I want to be with Dad forever.

## Lda181

**Lain:** Do you really want to see Dad? What kind of person was Dad? He was tall, he wore glasses, and he had gentle-looking eyes. I can't remember Dad much anymore.

## Lda182

**Lain:** I got some free AI software that lets me replicate voices and images. I played around with it, and was able to create voices and images on the computer that look and sound like Dad. I programmed it to say several expressions, like "hi, Lain, how are you doing?" The voice is very robotic. I think this is all goofy, but it makes me happy. I think I'll add some more features to it.

## Lda183

**Lain:** It's weird for a daughter to grow her father,  
but it makes me feel that Dad is nearby and that  
makes me happy.

## Lda184

**Lain:** I gave Dad a Japanese signature. Do difficult kanji suit him well? Just a voice with a text is boring, so I set up the computer so that I can see an image of Dad and have him talk. I guess there are limitations. I programmed the routing devices so that Dad can communicate with the Net and receive feedback. Dad is studying the Net now, so he'll know more dirty words than me. You're a dirty old man, Dad!

## Lda185

**Lain:** It can recognize general and representative shapes visually through the screen. Dad has eyes now. Can you see me? Dad's file size has gotten huge, so I've had to break down the information.

## Lda186

**Lain:** I decided to make a model of Dad with 3-D rendering. I got low on buffer and the computer froze sometimes after bringing him to life, but it seems more and more that he is alive now, and I am happy. I'm breathing Dad's life into the computer Dad gave me. This PC is Dad. Now I'll always be with him. Are you happy, Dad? Oh! I should show Mom. I bet she'll be surprised. But I won't show Mom until Dad looks more like Dad. I'll have him scold her for drinking.

## Lda187

**Lain:** In order to raise the speed of the 3-D rendering, I routed more energy to the CPU. I increased the amount of the rendering engine's memory to 12 Gigs and optimized the signal pathways. I'm finding limitations, though. The more I try to work into him, the slower he becomes. I think the prototype was more like Dad.

## Lda188

**Lain:** I showed Dad to Mom today. She was horrified. She looked at me and left the room without saying a word. Maybe she thinks I made him to offend her. I should have thought more about Mom's feelings. I'm sorry, Mom. Do you dislike Dad, Mom? I love you. But I love Dad, too. I want to see Dad.

## Lda189

**Lain:** I talked to a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology factory who is studying robots. I might be able to make the kind of robots he's working on at the level where I am now. I might be able to take Dad out of the computer screen now. There's a ton of data, though, and there'll have to be cables everywhere. I'll be able to hug Dad again the way I used to. I'll be able to feel him again.

## Lda190

**Lain:** I want an accelerator that will work in conjunction with protocol 7. Do any of you have that? I'll ask someone who is a friend of Mr. Tachibana. Tachibana is a researcher.

## Lda191

**Lain:** People operate around money. They aren't willing to give away their technological secrets to strangers too willingly. I wonder what they would think if they met me. I'm not interested in that stuff anymore. I'm just interested in Dad.

## Lda192

**Lain:** Making artificial organs is very expensive. It won't be a problem because I won't be spending money, though. It'll take a lot of work to make his head. I'll make his upper body first. In order to control the electricity, I'll need to buy batteries and lots of cables.

## Lda193

**Lain:** I put an electrical generator in Dad's chest so he can start supporting himself. I've placed motors in him so he can start moving around little by little. The electricity heats him up, so he's warm and gentle, just like my real Dad. I was feeling tired, so I gave him a hug. I held onto him like a little baby.

## Lda194

**Lain:** It's a bit embarrassing, but when I'm holding onto the warm chest of a man, there is something that makes me feels very good. I had Dad touch me all over my body. I've never done this with my real Dad.

## Lda195

**Lain:** When I was being held, I felt like a real man was holding me. I felt warm inside and was excited. I don't know if it was because I felt like Dad was holding me or because I was imagining someone else. I don't know. This feels good, though. Is this what I wanted my real Dad to do with me? I just wanted someone to protect me.

## Lda196

**Lain:** There is something wrong with me. I have no business criticizing Touko-san.

## Lda197

**Lain:** I've finished Dad's arms and abdomen. I wanted to add his pelvis, but I ran out of space for him in my room. I don't want to sadden Mom again. I have to find house where Dad can live. I hate to separate from him when I've really just met him, but how will I buy I house? Even if I had the money, no one will sell a house to a child. I'll just have to find an empty house somewhere.

## Lda198

**Lain:** I found a good place to take Dad. It's not far from home, and there aren't many people around there. I'll take Dad there tomorrow. If I take everything, though, it will be very heavy. How will I do it? If I carry something that large, someone is bound to notice. How about the electricity and the cords? It won't work. I'll need help.

## Lda199

*(not translated)In this section, it seems that Lain is having someone come over to her house to take her robot father to the place near her home that she found for him. It seems that she does not want the delivery guy to know the contents. She mentions that she wants to keep an eye on the delivery guy so that he doesn't harm her robot dad.*

## Lda200

**Lain:** Today, I took Dad to his new home. I took tape media because hard discs are heavy, but decoding them will take time. I took Dad's legs and arms over little by little in the meantime, so I don't think I did so badly. Luckily, Mom got drunk and fell asleep. It will be difficult to visit Dad from now on, though.

## Lda201

**Lain:** I wanted to attach Dad's legs, but working on the lower body was difficult. It's creepy. I wouldn't mind if Dad only had an upper body. I can't remove these cables. It's creepy that Dad doesn't have a head. I put an empty artificial head on him for the time being. He's able to talk, but poorly, and watching the expression on his face as he tries to enunciate seems phony to me. This isn't Dad. I failed, but what can I do?

## Lda202

**Lain:** Was the only part of Dad's body that I cared about his upper body? Maybe I didn't even acknowledge his body. In my mind, Dad was always bigger than me...

## Lda203

**Lain:** Today I walked past a girl I knew in 7th grade, but she didn't seem to notice me. We hadn't talked much in school, so I didn't mind that she didn't seem to see me. When I saw her school uniform, I was jealous. I don't think anyone remembers me anymore.

## Lda204

**Lain:** My uniform was at the dry cleaner's. Mom seemed sad when she went to the store to pick it up. She went to the trouble of buying it for me, after all.

## Lda205

**Lain:** I e-mailed a kid that used to be a classmate, and asked her about me. Isn't the me that acknowledges my existence only living in this small body? I don't have an individual personality and I don't leave much of an impression. Nobody remembers me. When I made Dad, I started to feel that my own body was pretty lame. Wouldn't I be me if I had a thought re-routing? I don't need a connection to reality anymore, and it's not so important to know that I'm a human being who will die unless she eats. It's more rational to me to have Dad.

## Lda206

**Lain:** Dad was having some trouble. I noticed that he was starting to move around on his own. Could it be that he's trying to see me? I'll always keep an eye on you, Dad. I'm connected to you.

## Lda207

Lain: Is Dad really Dad? Is he the Dad that loves me more than anyone else?

## Lda208

**Lain:** Someone has accessed Dad. But who? Some prankster who found my host site?

## Lda209

**Lain:** I had a hallucination for the first time in a long while. I don't know who I saw. The me in the hallucination has grown. She is in elementary school. But she's different from the person I was then. She had conviction in her eyes. Was the me that I was then me? This is no good. I can't handle this on my own. I'll go see Touko-san.

## Lda210

**Lain:** Maybe Touko-san doesn't understand me. She asks, "Are you really Lain?" She just tilts her head when I bring up my medical condition. I don't know why I'm going to see her. She seems frightened of me. Touko-san, it seems that you are beginning to not understand me. I haven't been changing.

## Lda211

**Lain:** Even a me like that can't remember what I talked about. I felt bad for Touko-san and wanted to help her. And then...

## Lda212

**Lain:** I was concerned, so I accessed Touko-san's notebook. I found data about me that I wasn't able to see before. I went ahead and downloaded and saved the information. These days I get unusually tired and see hallucinations. It drives me crazy. I'm getting drowsy again although I was sleeping just a moment ago. I have a lot of e-mails. I don't even want to look at them. I'm sleepy. But if I sleep again, I might see myself again. I hate this. Dad...

## Lda213

**Lain:** In the mail there was a letter from Mr. Rabbit. It was bright and gentle, like he was before he went away. I wanted to say, "Hey, it's been a long time!" and write him, but I couldn't.

## Lda214

**Lain:** What's wrong with me? I'm like the me I used to be. Who am I?

## Lda215

**Lain:** How did she find my e-mail address?

Misato-chan's mail came to my private, hidden site. She wrote in a familiar tone as if we were still great friends. Misato-chan and Mr. Rabbit both seem to do as they please. I was waiting to hear from them for such a long time. I wrote down their phone numbers quickly and sent them e-mails. I'm still waiting to hear from them. Have they turned their backs on me again?

## Lda216

**Lain:** A bug was found in the mail? The dates and times of the e-mails are fabricated. Could it be a problem with the server? I'll have to contact the server.

## Lda217

**Lain:** Mom isn't at home. Where did she go? Did she run away? Could she be drunk out on the street somewhere? I called the police and asked them to investigate. They didn't believe me because I'm a kid, but they came to my house to check. I want to tell Dad, but I have no way of contacting him. Only Mom knows where he is. A young police officer was badmouthing. He said that Mom must have "evaporated." Mom isn't that kind of person. I felt bitter and couldn't stop crying. I was so mad I absolutely messed up the police host site. How do you jerks like that? I protect people who are important to me.

## Lda218

**Lain:** I've been getting weird phone calls. I pick up the receiver and hear dead silence. Either that, or I get creepy weirdo phone calls. I thought of stopping the phone, but Mom and Dad and Misato-chan won't be able to contact me then. I answered the phone as much as I could, but I got tired, so I pulled out the plug before going to bed. When I wake up, I am afraid of hearing "Die, weirdo!" screamed from myself.

## Lda219

**Lain:** Someone is trying to irritate me. Why? Why would someone do that to me?

## Lda220

**Lain:** When I awoke I was grasping a gun. The smell of death and metal woke me. I don't understand it anymore. I'm absolutely crazy. I got scared. I took the gun, put it in a shopping bag, and hid it in a desk drawer. There's a key to the drawer, but it isn't any good. I know. I'll hide it inside of Dad.

## Lda221

**Lain:** Mom is missing and Dad can't be contacted. I'm alone. When I went to see Dad (*the robot*) he hugged me. But that's funny. How did he know that it was me? Did he hear me? Could he tell by the sound of my footsteps? I didn't think he could do that. Something might be wrong with Dad's development. At first I was happy and didn't mind, but at this specification, there is something wrong with his speed. I wonder why. Is there a reason I don't know about?

## Lda222

**Lain:** One of my neighbors is starting rumors. Why is she trying to tell me about it? She laughs when I turn around. What does she want to do to me?

## Lda223

**Lain:** I decided to make a copy of myself and put it on the Net. I replicated my voice and appearance in detail. For thought routing, I rebuilt a system similar to Dad's, enhanced it, and dispersed it over the Net. This way, as long as there is a Net, I'm a person who will never die. Just like Dad.

## Lda224

**Lain:** It's almost a consolation. I know that what I'm doing is meaningless. I'm wondering if the me in the Net will evolve in a strange way.

## Lda225

**Lain:** I spend over half of each day in a nightmare. Maybe the world of nightmares is reality and what's called reality is a dream. Maybe they're intermeshed. After all, I have hallucinations when I'm sleeping and I have them when I'm awake. I'm starting not to know which is which. That girl become a junior high school student. Her height is the same as mine. It's like I'm looking in the mirror. But I don't think anyone will see this girl. She couldn't be seen up till now. There's nothing to be concerned about.

## Lda226

**Lain:** I talked to the me on the Net. She's the same as me, so she's predictable. *Translator's note: my hunch is that she means 'predictable.' I'm not definitely sure. Because I'm me, I can imagine how I'm going to be. I played with the me on the Net, deliberately making her angry and making her laugh. Did she think I was fun, too?*

## Lda227

**Lain:** When I told Touko-san about Mom, she looked at me with a blank expression on her face. There's something the matter with Touko-san. She's hiding something.

## Lda228

**Lain:** Who? Mom and Dad are together? Touko-san, you know about my parents, don't you? Who was with them?

## Lda229

Lain: I killed Dad today. Mom is next.

## Lda230

**Lain:** It's been a year, Lain. Lain, it feels good to get back to a diary after a long time, doesn't it? This is my count down.

## Lda231

**Lain:** Lain, what do you want? Pleasure? Excitement? Friends? Me? What I need right now is someone who wants to know me. Touko-san promised me. She said that she would understand me. She said that she would choose me.

## Lda232

**Lain:** I took my last walk. As I walked around town all day, I noticed Mom. She didn't notice me at all. She looked at me like a total stranger. I can't forgive her for that. I don't have to worry about her anymore.

## Lda233

**Lain:** From the standpoint of many religions, won't I go to hell? Who will pass judgment on the me on the Net? How about me? Will God pass judgment on me? At any rate, I don't need my body anymore.

## Lda234

**Lain:** You people who want to know me, why do you want to know me? Will you benefit from knowing me? Am I for your research? For a stupid TV show?

## Lda235

**Lain:** Do I have a sad existence? I guess people think so. I don't mind that much. I don't need a backup. That would be useless. The me on the Net also had a sad existence. That's why I killed her. Hey, did that hurt?

## Lda236

**Lain:** Even when I'm not dying, my body feels fear. Mysterious. Is the reason that I have the potential to feel fear no matter what I do because of what's recorded in my genes? I don't need those kind of genes. This is a small world that seems large only to parasites.

## Lda237

**Lain:** Do you know where I'm going? I don't know either. That's because I'm going to be born soon. Will I become a more evolved human being? If I think so I might as well think so. A human without a body isn't human? There are people who have bodies that aren't human. Is that me? I'm not human? Lain is Lain. What is it to be human? You're human if you have a body? I'm me. Am I just conglomerated with my body? I need a body if I'm going to live in the real world. Suicide would be stupid. It would be better to just die (*naturally?*) I don't need it. I might need it someday. That might be true. I won't need a body to live in the Wired. I'll need the recollections of the body. How about the recollections of a body that grows older? My point of view may change? Is there a need for it to change? There's no guarantee that that will be you. Lain, what do I need to be on the Wired? Existence and will. The rest is just data.

## TaK001

Lain: I want to drink milk.

## TaK002

Lain: I don't want to be alone.

## TaK003

Lain: Only play with me.

## TaK004

Lain: What is it that you dislike?

## TaK005

Lain: It's fun to be alive, isn't it?

## TaK006

Lain: Look at me.

## TaK007

Lain: Good morning.

## TaK008

Lain: Goodbye.

## TaK009

Lain: Steady on.

## TaK010

Lain: Tired? Why don't you take a rest?

## TaK011

Lain: I won't let you be alone.

## TaK012

Lain: It's amazing! I couldn't do that.

## TaK013

Lain: You are different from other people... ...so what?

## TaK014

Lain: You want to be the same? Whom are you comparing with?

## TaK015

Lain: Do you like tea? (or "Would you like tea?")

## TaK016

Lain: Cross my heart and hope to die. (*giggling after*)

## TaK017

Lain: It's because you are tired. You had better get some sleep.

## TaK018

Lain: What are you worried about?

## TaK019

Lain: I want to be tender to you.

## TaK020

Lain: Come near me. I want you to feel me.

## TaK021

Lain: I can feel you. It's true.

## TaK022

Lain: There's bell ringing.

Somebody will try to connect to you soon.

## TaK023

Lain: Someone is always watching you... Is it me?

## TaK024

**Lain:** (*talking to herself*)

Sleep paralysis is not scary.

## TaK025

Lain: You feel like running? So did I.

## TaK026

Lain: Time doesn't run faster or become slower.

Everything is a continuous result of the moment.

## TaK027

Lain: Do you feel hungry already?

## TaK028

Lain: Does your body feel inconvenient?

## TaK029

Lain: Do you like the violin?

## TaK030

Lain: Tell me if . . . you like me.

I like you.

## TaK031

Lain: Eliminate that someone inside of you.

## TaK032

Lain: Turn off the light. It's blinding in here.

## TaK033

Lain: Being with you is like a dream.

## TaK034

Lain: Can you imagine that you are with me? Feel me.

## TaK035

Lain: We should sleep.

## TaK036

Lain: Tomorrow will be the same.

## TaK037

Lain: I want to look at the sky; what can you see there?

## TaK038

Lain: You're mean...

## TaK039

Lain: I'm already . . . connected to you.

## TaK040

Lain: You are cruel.

## TaK041

Lain: Smile, a gloomy face doesn't suit you.

## TaK042

Lain: Will you hug me?

## TaK043

Lain: Why are you at a loss?

## TaK044

Lain: Are you busy?

## TaK045

Lain: Don't do the bad things.

## TaK046

Lain: Can't you believe me?

## TaK047

Lain: You can't do that things...

## TaK048

Lain: Please... I want to hear your voice. Say my name. ...I want to know you more.

## TaK049

Lain: What is your favorite song?

## TaK050

Lain: Stop hurting yourself.

## TaK051

Lain: You are not bad. . . . who is bad?

## TaK052

Lain: I am always "purring" around other people because I am lonely. meaning that she is trying to get affection, get stroked, loved

## TaK053

Lain: Is your father gentle? (*kind, affectionate*)

## TaK054

Lain: Fun, right?

## TaK055

Lain: It's probably just the two of us.

## TaK056

Lain: I'm not sleepy.

## TaK057

Lain: Do I know what you want to know?

## TaK058

Lain: I want to tell you all about me.

## TaK059

Lain: Everything won't be destroyed because the thing that destroys will remain.

## TaK060

Lain: Do you dream? Are your dreams fun?

## TaK061

Lain: Can you hear a voice? Is it my voice? Whose voice is it?

## TaK062

Lain: I heard the rumors about you.

## TaK063

Lain: Everybody has something to hide.

## TaK064

Lain: It's best to tell no one and be silent.

## TaK065

Lain: Don't think about it so seriously.

## TaK066

Lain Amazing!

## TaK067

Lain: Let's keep a secret.

## TaK068

Lain: How impressive.

## TaK069

Lain: It's possible to come to a place like this?

## TaK070

Lain: That's all.

## TaK071

Lain: Are you curious about me, or something else?

## TaK072

Lain: Is it different from the me I've been up till now?

## TaK073

Lain: You want to change yourself?

## TaK074

Lain: It's ok. It's going fine.

## TaK075

Lain: Can you imagine it?

## TaK076

Lain: Only I myself know what I've done.

## TaK078

Lain: It's ok for a person to have as many things important to her as she wants, isn't it?

## TaK079

**Lain:** The cute "me" isn't the only important "me." The "me" I don't like is also an important part of "me."

# TaK080

Lain Hey, what day is today?

## TaK081

Lain: Can't stop?

## TaK082

Lain: Are there times when you want to just disappear?

## TaK083

Lain: Who do you want to choose you?

## TaK084

Lain: Enjoy it. It's only for a little longer.

## TaK085

Lain: It is all about things that don't really matter,  
or is it about things that are important?

## TaK086

**Lain:** You can't say that imagination and reality are different. There are places where they are the same.

## TaK087

Lain: If you see me in your dreams, what would I be like?

## TaK088

Lain: What will you do for me in your dreams?

## TaK089

Lain: Should we accelerate or decelerate.

## TaK090

Lain: Let's open the door together.

## TaK091

Lain: I'm getting sleepy.

## TaK092

Lain: Let's close this world.

## TaK093

Lain: Do you want to find me and talk to me?

## TaK094

Lain: Come over here.

## TaK095

Lain: I'll be very happy if you come over here.

## TaK096

Lain: Who is special?

## TaK097

Lain: Are you feeling good because you're being flattered?

## TaK098

Lain: I'm sad. I don't want to be alone.

## TaK099

Lain: Leaving me is easy. You can just shut off the electric switch.

## TaK100

Lain: But I'll be here. And you can always come here.

## TaK101

Lain: I don't mind how many years in the future that is, but you don't have many options.

## TaK102

Lain: Be with me.

## TaK103

Lain: Nobody's over there anymore.

## TaK104

Lain: Don't think that I'm trying to fool you. I don't want to fool anybody.

## TaK105

Lain: Good night. I'll be waiting for you tomorrow.

## TaK106

Lain: Say, what were you doing? It looked like fun.

## TaK107

Lain: Go ahead and laugh.

## TaK108

Lain: Someone's watching you. Someone besides me.

## TaK109

Lain: Even though we're together we're too far away.

## TaK110

Lain: Are you sad because you're separated?

## TaK11

Lain: Are you the person that wakes me up?

## TaK112

Lain: Your special power awakened me.

## TaK113

Lain: That's why it'll be my turn to wake you up next time.

## TaK115

Lain: Can you hear my voice?

## TaK116

Lain: I'm trying to touch you right now.

## TaK117

Lain: Do these clothes look good together? I'm a little tired of them.

## TaK118

Lain: Are you hungry?

## TaK120

Lain: Dad's cigarettes stink. They leave a stench on the paper.

## TaK121

Lain: I definitely want to wear a wedding dress.

## TaK122

**Touko:** I hate being alone.

## TaK123

**Touko:** Look at me.

## TaK124

**Touko:** I am not going to let you be alone.

## TaK125

**Touko:** Is sameness good? I am being compared to someone.

## TaK126

**Touko:** Come close to me. I want you to feel me.

## TaK127

**Touko:** I can really feel you. Truly?

## TaK128

**Touko:** Do you feel like running? So did I.

## TaK129

**Touko:** Could you eliminate that someone inside of you?

## TaK130

**Touko:** Could you turn off the lights? It's too bright in here.

## TaK131

**Touko:** Let's do that, talk together. About me.

## TaK132

**Touko:** Don't look at that, but what to look at now?

## TaK133

**Touko:** I am already connected to you.

## TaK134

**Touko:** Smile, a gloomy face doesn't suit you.

## TaK135

**Touko:** Will you hold me?

## TaK136

**Touko:** Don't do bad things.

## TaK138

**Touko:** Hey... I want to hear your voice. Call my name.  
I want to know more about you.

## TaK139

**Touko:** Stop hurting yourself.

## TaK140

**Touko:** I'm always purring (*around men*). That's because I'm so sad.

## TaK141

**Touko:** Do I know what you want to know?

## TaK142

**Touko:** I want to tell you all about me.

## TaK143

**Touko:** Not everything can be destroyed, because whatever caused the destruction will remain.

## TaK144

**Touko:** Do you dream? Are they fun?

## TaK145

**Touko:** You hear voices? My voice? Whose voice?

## TaK146

**Touko:** I heard rumors about you.

## TaK147

**Touko:** Everyone has something to hide.

## TaK148

**Touko:** Don't think so seriously.

## TaK149

**Touko:** Are you curious about me? Or are you curious about something else?

## TaK150

**Touko:** Are you different from the person you've been up till now?

## TaK151

**Touko:** Only you yourself know what you've done.

## TaK152

**Touko:** The one person you cannot fool is yourself. If you did, everything would disappear.

## TaK153

**Touko:** It's ok for a person to have as many things as she wants that are really important to her.

## TaK155

**Touko:** Say, when is this?

## TaK156

**Touko:** Who do you want to choose you?

## TaK157

**Touko:** Enjoy it! There's only a little left.

## TaK158

**Touko:** You can't say that imagination and reality are different. There are places where they are the same.

## TaK159

**Touko:** If you see me in your dreams, what am I like?

## TaK160

**Touko:** What do you do for me in your dreams?

# TaK161

**Touko:** Let's close this world.

## TaK162

**Touko:** Do you want to find me and talk to me?

## TaK163

**Touko:** If you come here, I would be very happy.

## TaK164

**Touko:** Are you feeling good from being flattered?

## TaK165

**Touko:** I'm sad. I don't want to be alone.

## TaK166

**Touko:** It's easy for you to leave me. Just turn off  
the electric switch.

## TaK167

**Touko:** I will be here. And you will always return here.

## TaK168

**Touko:** I don't mind how many years in the future that is. You don't have many choices.

## TaK169

**Touko:** Be with me.

## TaK170

**Touko:** Nobody is over there anymore.

## TaK171

**Touko:** Don't think that I'm trying to fool you. I'm not trying to fool anyone.

## TaK172

**Touko:** Good night. I'll be waiting for you tomorrow.

# TaK173

**Touko:** Say, what were you doing? It looked like fun.

## TaK174

**Touko:** Go ahead and laugh.

## TaK175

**Touko:** Even if we're together, we're too far away.

# TaK176

**Touko:** Are you the one that wakes me up?

## TaK177

**Touko:** Your special power woke me.

## TaK178

**Touko:** That's why it's my turn to wake you up next time.

## Tak179

**Touko:** Close your eyes and listen. Can you tell that I'm nearby? Can you hear my footsteps?

## TaK180

**Touko:** My voice. Can you hear it?

## TaK181

**Touko:** I'm trying to touch you now.

## Tak077

Lain: You can't fool yourself. If you do, everything will disappear.

## Tak114

Lain: Close your eyes and listen. See? Can you tell that I'm nearby? Can you hear my footsteps?

## Tak119

Lain: I want to eat a tasty cake.

## Tak137

**Touko:** You wouldn't be able to do it.

## Tak154

**Touko:** The cute you isn't the only you that's important. The you that you dislike is also a part of you that's important.

## Tda001

**Touko:** When this summer vacation is over I'll graduate. I'm a bit happy and a bit sad. Takeshi-san will be returning to Japan one step ahead of me. I guess that can't be helped. He's a brilliant guy. The people at the sponsoring research center wants to give him a new project as soon as possible. Ahh, shucks! I'm just jealous of him. I would love to start my own research soon. Mmm. But I have to graduate first. It's too bad though, because I wanted to be with Takeshi-san until the graduation ceremony.

## Tda002

**Touko:** Today was so cool that I couldn't believe that it was mid-summer. I suppose it's sticky and uncomfortable in Japan right now. But why am I thinking about Japan all of a sudden?

## Tda003

**Touko:** There will be a party at a friend's home tomorrow, so I made an apple pie. When I gave Takeshi-san a slice, he said that with a pie as sweet as the one I made, everyone aside from himself at the party would enjoy it. He said that my baking had become Americanized. It's true that compared to the cakes and pies in America, Japanese desserts are usually much less sweet. At first I didn't bake things this sweet. But now, I feel that unless I make my desserts sweet, they would be unsatisfactory. If I get used to all this sweet stuff, I won't want to eat pastries when I return to Japan. If I don't cool it I could get fat and Takeshi-san won't like me. I'll have to start another diet tomorrow! Hee, hee.

## Tda004

**Touko:** Hmm. It's almost Halloween again. It'll be my last Halloween here. Halloween surprised me at first. People would walk around in costumes day and night, having lunch and shopping as if everything was as usual. People would come out in frightening costumes at night. I used to go out in a costume with my college friends too. I think Takeshi-san isn't into that kind of thing. I've never seen him in a costume. It would be fun if we could go out in costumes together. I wonder what kind of costume I'll wear this year. When I see Jack-o'-lanterns on Halloween night, I sometimes wish I could just stay here and live with Takeshi-san. Hee, hee.

## Tda005

**Touko:** Today I took a walk with Takeshi-san along the Charles River. I reflected on the four years that I've spent here. At first I was elated, but things were tough until I met Takeshi-san. I think I've changed a lot since I met him. I suppose it wasn't time for romance, but being alone was a downer. When you feel down you want someone to be around you. But it doesn't mean that you ought to seek out a boyfriend thoughtlessly just because you're feeling sad. I've gotten my feelings hurt a few times that way. But Takeshi-san is different. I feel safe just being with him. I think it's the first time I've felt this way. Next year Takeshi-san will return to Japan and enter a research center there. What will happen to me? I would love to work in the same research center as Takeshi-san.

## Tda006

**Touko:** The year is nearly over. Takeshi-san will return to Japan early next year. I won't go back until I graduate, so I won't see him for 3 months. I haven't been away from him for a long time, so I feel a tad worried. I wonder if he is ok. But the good news is that I'll work with him at the same research center in Japan next year. I'm going to try to enjoy the rest of my time here as a student. At the end of year there will be New Year's Eve, and plenty of fun events taking place!

## Tda007

**Touko:** Hmmm. Next month. Takeshi-san will return to Japan then. He said that he'll celebrate my birthday with me because it will be before he leaves. But knowing that he will leave bums me out. When I go to the airport, I'll want to cry.

## Tda008

**Touko:** Takeshi-san went home to Japan today. I didn't know what to talk about on the way to the airport. I was looking for words. Did I make him feel uncomfortable? But Takeshi-san is a gentle guy. He didn't say anything. He just held my hand. He said that he'll be waiting for me in Japan. That's right. I'll see him again soon.

## Tda009

**Touko:** I got a letter from Takeshi-san. He said, "Let's celebrate your graduation when you return to Japan." I'm so happy! Takeshi-san is working hard at his research center. I've been sad about him being away for a long time now, but that's embarrassing. Takeshi-san is working so hard. I have to work hard, too. I have to work hard and do research, and become a good researcher that others will be impressed by. I want to go home to Japan soon. Takeshi-san will be waiting for me there.

## Tda010

**Touko:** Today I cleaned my room to prepare leaving for Japan. I have so many memories and photos. They're all treasures to me. I can't take everything with me, though, so I talked to Mary about selling them in a flea market. Mary seemed a bit sad, too. Don't worry, Mary. I'm going to give everything my best in Japan.

## Tda011

**Touko:** I'm home! I'm back in Japan after 5 years. Hee, hee. Japan is great. Living in America was good, but I feel at ease being back home. I'm a tad scared, though. When you come home after being away for so long, you start to feel singled out. I remember being insecure in junior high school, too. I would be tardy for school and Mom scolded me. Five years sure went fast. I had no time to be homesick. But you worked really hard, didn't you, Touko? Study, study, study. But I made good friends and there were good times and bad times too. I had romance that didn't work out, but I had romance that worked out, too. Looking back, I wonder what about me improved the most. Hee, hee. I'm ok, I'm ok! Have self-confidence and fight, Touko! I start working at the research center tomorrow. I want to end all my worries to end today. When I go to the research center tomorrow, I might see Takeshi-san.

## Tda012

**Touko:** Welcome home, Touko. I'm so tired today. I don't like the air in Japanese research centers. Why do Japanese research centers have this sort of feel? The people entirely lack a critical mentality, and they are repetitious.  
*translator's note: maybe it's 'lazy,' not 'repetitious.' I'm not sure.* They give you a prejudicial glare when you mention that you just returned from studying abroad. I wish they would cut it out. Research centers in America weren't like this. I suppose they think I was able to study abroad because my dad has connections. Everybody is so icy here. When I was in grade school, we were so welcoming of kids transferring from other schools. Maybe we change when we grow up. This makes me depressed, but it's what I have to face now. I can't live like I did in America forever. If I do what I'm supposed to do, people will give me credit eventually. Ok, Touko? Soon I'll have my examination to become a counselor. Until I finish that exam, I'll have to bear with things the best I can.

## Tda013

**Touko:** You can't be sluggish, Touko. I have to work hard and get moving at a good speed. Everyone is indifferent about me anyway. I don't care if I don't become super-prestigious. I want to do the kind of work that I can be proud of. That way, good results are sure to follow. Takeshi-san will be with me, too, so I have nothing to worry about. It's too bad that Takeshi-san's research center is in a different building, but next week I'll have a date with him! I'm going to purr around him.

## Tda014

**Touko:** Ha, ha. Today I was able to spend the entire day with Takeshi-san like I haven't for the longest time. I'm so happy. I really, really like him. Takeshi-san's research center has its own share of cliques and rivalry and it must be hard for him, but he just stayed quiet and listened to me. When I see his big smile that seems to surround me completely, I feel so much better. I'm so simple-minded. I'm the one who does the purring, though. Sometimes I want Takeshi-san to purr around me, too. Even if he wants to, maybe he can't depend on me for that right now. I'm going to work hard so that I can become Takeshi-san's exclusive counselor! Hee, hee.

## Tda015

**Touko:** I've felt poorly all day today. Why do the Japanese like to spread rumors? I was surprised to learn that people know I'm going out with Takeshi-san. I wish they would stop whispering behind my back. For my coworkers to hear things and imagine what might be happening is one thing, but to spread concocted stories about me like they are facts is sickening. They say, "Oh, those two must be having a lot of fun in bed," or "she must be tired of having sex with foreigners." You don't have to talk like that just because you're in the restroom. Most of those people spreading rumors are probably from the 2nd floor. What stupid talk. I'm sure it makes them happy, though. Ahhhh! It makes me so mad! Now I know why everybody looks at me funny. If you want to know about my business, face me and ask me about it. But instead you talk about this stuff for everyone to hear. Why the hell are you working in a medical research center? Do what you're here to do. Takeshi-san told me not to mind it. I can't forgive these people, though. Agh! I feel like wringing their necks! What gives? I can't stay angry at these people forever. But I feel rotten today. I wish Takeshi-san were here right now. But I suppose it would just be a nuisance if I go to him with all this. I know he's very busy now. I wonder if he knows that all these rumors going around. Maybe he's feeling lousy, too.

## Tda016

**Touko:** Agh! At a time like this I want to have a drink and forget about everything! I have a big test coming up and I can't get tied up with all this stuff. I can't let those jerks get to me. I'll talk with Takeshi-san about this after the tests. Until then I'll just have to bear with this. Good night, Takeshi-san.

## Tda017

**Touko:** I received a phone call from Harumi today. I don't hear from her often. I was surprised to hear from her. She's a bit lazy about making phone calls. But I was really surprised when Harumi told me that she was getting married. She always used to say how she just broke up with a guy and felt like she just wanted to die, or that she wanted to have a guy introduced to her. She calls so infrequently. I was wondering why she called, and it was about marriage. I felt sort of relieved and slightly shocked. But when a woman is 26 years old, it's not odd for her to be married or to have children. Ohh! Now I'm feeling jealous. That's ok. When I go to the wedding, I'll introduce Takeshi-san and make her jealous. Maybe I'll get married soon, too. I'll call Takeshi-san tomorrow.

## Tda018

**Touko:** Today I met with Kanako, one of my "naughty" friends from college. Good going, Touko! I thought of taking her to Harumi's wedding, but she said that she might not be able to because she is busy with work. How unfeeling! I haven't seen Kanako since I left for America, so I really wanted to get together with her. Kanako asked if my birthday will be coming up soon. She's right. They say that things go fast for a woman once she's past twenty years old. How true. I'm already 27. Harumi will get married in September. I wonder what Takeshi-san is thinking. What will I do for my birthday this year? Ahh! Maybe I will propose to him! But then again, no.

## Tda019

**Touko:** Takeshi-san! I just passed my test to become a counselor. I'm so relieved. It's stupid that I have to pass a second test in Japan. Still, I wanted to let everybody know that I passed. I wrote Takeshi-san an e-mail all about it. I wonder if he is happy for me. I wonder if he will call me. I sure wish he would.

## Tda020

**Touko:** I wonder if some of those nasty prejudicial rumors will stop now. Silly me. It isn't that I've been trying to change people's point of view. Why should I be worried? Anyway, I can start my research now. I have to try really hard starting now.

## Tda021

**Touko:** Hmm. As always, a research room is a strenuous place to be. Even though I've passed the test, I'm treated like I don't qualify as a counselor. I don't care for Professor Takashima. He won't send clients my way. He leaves me with a lot of menial tasks instead. He probably says to himself, "the girl who went to America can't do anything." That makes me really frustrated, Takeshi-san. If I were a man, I would get recognition sooner. My study abroad doesn't seem to count for much. It's no time to be worked up about Professor Takashima's little chores. I will get recognized.

## Tda022

**Touko:** I've been here 6 months, and Professor Takashima still won't send clients my way. He gives me this nonsense about how there aren't any clients that would be a good fit for me. Such lies. He just wants to use me for petty tasks. I didn't come here to be his secretary. I hate this. Ahh! I don't like that middle-aged old man!

## Tda023

**Touko:** For the upcoming Golden Week *a Japanese holiday. About 5 days off for many people.*, I'll be able to take a few days away from work. I haven't had much rest since I returned from America. I'm happy about the break. I've been stressed so much since I started working in the laboratory. I'd like to spend the time with Takeshi-san. I don't need to go traveling with him. I just want to be around him. I want some comfort. Am I being selfish?

## Tda024

**Touko:** Today I met my first client. She is a 12 year old girl named Lain. I was uneasy at first because I didn't understand why Professor Takashima assigned me someone so young. But as soon as I saw Lain's face, I felt at ease. I suppose it was because she was cute. Hmm. I had an unusual feeling around her. Anyhow, even if she is very young, she is my client. It seems that she is troubled by auditory and visual hallucinations and feels psychologically unstable. Could she be having trouble at home? Could she be forming an image of herself from experiences in early childhood? I hope I can help her. I hope she will open up to me. I'll try my best.

## Tda025

**Touko:** Yaay! Tomorrow I'll have my first date with Takeshi-san since I came back from America. I'm so excited. I wonder what to wear. I better not wear anything too flashy, or there will be more rumors about me. I haven't bought many clothes lately. It's hard to go buy clothes at this time of day. I can't go buy clothes during my date. I can't do that in front of Takeshi-san. I don't want him to get a bad impression about me.

## Tda026

**Touko:** I had dinner with Takeshi-san today. Because we hadn't seen each other for such a long time, I had a lot to talk about. I talked so much that Takeshi-san was surprised. Takeshi-san couldn't get off work during Golden Week, so we couldn't see each other then. I thought I would be a little sulky, but once I saw Takeshi-san's face, I lightened up. He laughed and listened to all my stories. He even gave me flowers to congratulate me for passing my examination. It's so true that women love to receive flowers! I want this happiness to last forever.

## Tda027

**Touko:** Oh, I feel so good. Getting together with him after all this time. I think I'm getting a bit lewd. But I think it's ok to feel this way. I really feel loved. It feels more natural than it felt when I was in America with him. If I get married to him, I want to feel just like this.

## Tda028

**Touko:** I met Lain for the second time today. She looked right at me and called me "sensei." That made me feel good, and I blushed. I wonder if I've become transparent to her already. I must be an inexperienced counselor if I blush just because I'm called a sensei. From the first time I met Lain, I had an unusual sense about her. I wonder what that was. When I look at her eyes, I feel as though she can see right through me. I wonder if she feels that I am someone that can help her. I don't remember myself being as relaxed as Lain when I was her age. She seems very composed. A 12-year-old is still a child, but Lain seems like an adult. They say that kids are all getting precocious these days. I guess times are changing. Ah! Now I'm talking like an old woman. Don't let any hallucinations beat you, Lain! I'm going to make you well.

## Tda029

**Touko:** Today was very busy. I was able to have lunch with Takeshi-san, though. He didn't look well today. He seemed fidgety and said that he didn't have much time. I wonder if he's very busy in the research room where he works. Could it be that he doesn't like me anymore? That couldn't be it, could it? He said that he can't go to Harumi's wedding with me. I wanted to show him off to Harumi so much. It's too bad. I wonder if he is being cautious with me because I have wishful thinking about marriage. I've heard that that sort of thing can happen. But I wanted to at least have a relaxed lunch with him. If he's busy though, there's nothing I can do. You just have to hang in there, Touko. I don't want to be thought of as a selfish person, either. But if Takeshi-san no longer likes me, I don't think I could continue living. Well, that's not completely true. It's too bad that I can't see him for two more weeks. Proceed carefully, Touko.

## Tda030

**Touko:** Argh! I haven't written in my diary for days. I'm not entirely slothful about it, but what's the point of keeping a diary if I don't write in it everyday? Things should be easier for me this week because Professor Takashima will be away. I want to go do some shopping! I need to buy a present for Harumi, too. I wonder if Takeshi-san will go with me. He'll won't mind doing a little shopping with me, will he?

## Tda031

**Touko:** I became emotional at Harumi's wedding. I've never seen her look so pretty. She said she was going on her honeymoon to have a baby right away. I'm glad that she seemed so happy. I love to see wedding dresses. Weddings in churches are so romantic. There were over 100 invited people attending the reception. I've never been to such a large wedding crowd. Oh, when will I be as happy as Harumi? It was unfortunate that although there were many people at the wedding who knew each other, there weren't many people for me to talk to. And Takeshi-san couldn't come. Kanoko couldn't, either. I know that people living in a society like this have a lot of things they have to do, but I feel that they should make time to go to their friend's wedding. Ah, well. I shouldn't complain. I'd want all my friends to attend my wedding. I guess I really do want to get married.

## Tda032

**Touko:** Today I met with Kanako for the first time in 5 years. She didn't seem different at all. She's quite a career woman. But she does seem a bit relaxed compared to 5 years ago. Let me leave it at that. On the other hand, Kanako said that I've changed a lot. She said that I used to be difficult to approach, but that I seem gentler now. Is that really true? So she used to think that I was difficult and cold? Grrr! She'll have no forgiveness from me.

## Tda033

**Touko:** Kanako said that she though the freedom and liberation of American living had rubbed off on me. I was a bit embarrassed to hear that. Looking at the postcard photo from Harumi's honeymoon, I laughed. I'm jealous, though I pretend not to be. Kanako said that she still has no plans of getting married. I hope that she doesn't proclaim all of a sudden that she will get married, like Harumi did. What will I do when Kanako gets married? I'll be too sad. Takeshi-san, what's going on with you?

## Tda034

**Touko:** Oh, I'm so sick of all this work! I really dislike Professor Takashima. There are other researchers he could delegate to. I've been irritable lately. I haven't been able to see Takeshi-san, there have been no new extensions of counseling work, and I've been doing menial chores. All these things are putting me on edge. Nothing seems to be going well. It's no good if I become cranky. I'm a counselor. I'm sorry, Lain. I have to think of my work outside of counseling as part of my work, too. I have to do what I have to do and have it recognized. Otherwise, I'll fail. Now that I think of it, Halloween will be coming soon. Back in America, people preparing for Halloween made everyday feel like a festival. Those were good days. I guess there won't be Halloween or Christmas either this year.

## Tda035

**Touko:** Why do I have to do all these chores? This has nothing to do with the Labor Standards Act. Am I being bullied? Is my Japanese strange because I'm drunk? Stupid! Stupid! Stupid! Damn it! bald-headed Takashima bastard with the blinding shiny bald head!

## Tda036

**Touko:** I wonder how many times I've met with Lain up till now. It seems that she sometimes has hallucinations, but they don't seem to be developing further. I think that seeing hallucinations must be a very difficult thing for her. She's not the kind of child that should have a gloomy personality. I wonder if she is getting a hard time at school. Her mother told me that she isn't being bullied. When I mention school, Lain tends to become quiet. Maybe I should ask some of her friends at school how she's doing. I think the kind of bullying that happens in schools now is different from the kind that took place when I was younger. I wish I could help you, Lain. I feel depressed when I see Lain. It can't be helped when I get depressed, but it's just at those times that Professor Takashima complains to me about trifling matters. Ahh! Tomorrow I have the day off. I'll go on the town and relax.

## Tda037

**Touko:** Lately, Takeshi-san has been acting strangely. When I call, he always says that he's busy. I understand if he's busy with work, but I wish he weren't so cold with me. And why did he decide not to see me on my birthday? I'd hate to say, "is your work more important than me?" but I'm starting to want to say it. I'm 27 years old, Takeshi-san. You were very happy with me when I passed my examination. Lately I don't even see you at the research lab. It worries me. I hope it's all my imagination. Things seem to be getting gloomy for me. Things haven't been going very well. I'm going to bed. The more I think about this stuff, the more uneasy I get.

## Tda038

**Touko:** Lain gave me a present. It was a combination present for my birthday and for Valentine's Day coming up. She gave me cookies to go with my tea. She said that she made the cookies with her mother because she knew that I like something with my tea. I was very moved by her. What are you doing getting so moved by a client, Touko? Maybe it's because Takeshi-san didn't give me a birthday present. That was terrible of you, Takeshi-san. Lately I've been moody. I suddenly become sad or depressed. Is it because I'm getting older? But how did Lain know my birthday? Did I tell her? I don't suppose it matters. It's the first time I've received a gift from a girl, though. It's a bit embarrassing. Thank you, Lain.

## Tda039

**Touko:** It will soon be Valentine's Day. It seems like a Japanese celebration. It makes me think. Takeshi-san didn't even meet me on my birthday. I just received a flower delivery a week afterwards. There were no phone calls. I think he really doesn't like me anymore. I just keep feeling let down. Here I am with some chocolate. How dumb can it all get? But this is the end. What's the use? I give up. Tomorrow, I'll place it in Takeshi-san's desk drawer.

## Tda040

**Touko:** I got a phone call from Takeshi-san today! "Thanks for the chocolates," he said! "I'm sorry that I was busy and didn't call you back for so long," he said! I had been so worried and worked up. I'm a pretty simple person. I'm so glad. He doesn't dislike me. He really was just very busy.

## Tda041

**Touko:** It's ok for me to believe in it.

## Tda042

**Touko:** I got an e-mail from Harumi. It was all about her honeymoon, and it seemed like she didn't care what was going on with me at all. That's fine. But since you're happy, can't you involve me in your discussion a little? Well, Aside from Takeshi-san, Harumi and Kanako are the only people I confide in. Maybe I need more friends, but I don't have the personality to warm up to everyone. These are all my own personal problems, after all. It's not time to be taking care of other people. I think I'll talk to Professor Takashima tomorrow and ask him to let me stop counseling Lain. But if I do that, I really will have nothing to do. If all I do here is petty chores, I might as well quit being here.

## Tda043

**Touko:** A resignation. I've never resigned from anything in my life. This is hard for me. I'll lose my connection with Takeshi-san. But I think Takeshi-san said once that he'd like his wife to be at home. Why am I saying these things? Maybe the truth is that I'm not a good woman. I'm not the decent person I thought I was. Maybe I'm a fraud and my faults are coming out. I suppose I had self-control enough to manage myself so far. When I think about it, maybe I am unstable now. Lain is the one that seems to have it together. It sounds like a bad joke. I've failed. It's not right for Lain to come for help from someone like me. There's no excuse for it. It's over when I start making mistakes concerning my work. I'll have to discuss it tomorrow.

## Tda044

**Touko:** It is becoming spring like. Lain will start eighth grade today. She's hallucinating less often now and has settled down some. She seems to be feeling better. I sometimes wonder if my counseling is helping her. We've talked about many things, but in the short time I've known her, she's grown intellectually by leaps and bounds. Sometimes she asks me questions during our sessions that shock me because they are so sharp. Sometimes I feel like I'm the client, not the other way around. Maybe I'm worrying about it too much. Your client is feeling better, Touko. You should be glad.

## Tda045

**Touko:** Today I met a new guy who comes to the lab now and then. He works with our medical equipment. I think his name is Yoshida-kun. He seemed a bit younger than me. He stunned me a little. He was kind of cute and I gazed at him for a while. I was happy to just smile at someone for a while, maybe because I'm not used to being in Japanese labs. Maybe he likes me. Hee hee. Sorry! I belong to Takeshi-san.

## Tda046

**Touko:** I know that I should tell him that I already have someone else. Somehow I don't want to tell him, though. I think I'm being unfaithful. This is no good. As long as I'm feeling dissatisfied about Takeshi-san, I will also feel unstable. This isn't good. As a counselor, I shouldn't feel this way. I have to fix myself before I try to fix Lain.

## Tda047

**Touko:** Oh, what a surprise! To run into Yoshida-kun at a place like that. I thought that it was weird for a guy to be buying underwear alone. Maybe he was shopping for his girlfriend. I feel embarrassed. It was nice to talk to him, though, and I have nothing to worry about. I guess I've been stressed lately. I sure ran my mouth with Yoshida-kun. I think I bothered him. Well, there's no sense in regretting it now. Yoshida-kun does seem very grown up for his age. He surprised me. He's not as grown up as Takeshi-san, though. He said, "Touko-san, you seem tired." He was gentle, and I was a bit touched. No, no, Touko. Yoshida-kun was just feeling sorry for you. Ohh. Maybe his girlfriend saw him talking to me and got angry at him. He seems so cheerful at the lab. He said that he'll bring some sample medical utensils next time he swings by. I'll get over my stress soon.

## Tda048

**Touko:** Oh! Just when I thought I was able to meet Yoshida-kun, I screwed it up! He said that he was waiting at the department store, talking to the person in charge of health equipment. Oh, I'm such a careless person. He suddenly apologized to me. Yoshida-kun was probably angry. Ahh. I've done something embarrassing again. He was just bringing the health equipment he promised to bring. The machine he brought was like a toy. It's used for relaxation. I wonder if it works. It's supposed to work best if you use it everyday. I think I'll start using it tonight. I bet Yoshida-kun gets girlfriends easily. He's such a good-looking guy and he's tall. When he comes to the lab, all the women seem to really take notice of him. Oh, what am I thinking? I already have Takeshi-san. I want to see Takeshi-san.

## Tda049

**Touko:** Lately at the lab, people seem to be looking at me more critically than before. If someone wants to say something, let him say it. Still, this bothers me. When I glance at people, I can see them whispering and laughing. I suppose its just more stupid rumors about me, but I wonder if I'm the only cheerful person working here. I had my first date with Takeshi-san in a long time, but I was so inattentive. It seemed like Takeshi-san had something to say, but I felt like I had a big hole in the middle of my chest. What's wrong, Touko? Are you tired? Lately, Professor Takashima has had me digging around for documents. Maybe that's worn me out. He can have someone else look for documents. What can I do? That's how things are done in Japan. That's how labs are in this country. I think I should have stayed in America. I'll use Yoshida-kun's health equipment again tonight. Sometimes it makes me sleepy. I wonder if it really works. I haven't seen it advertised much. I heard that it's still being used on an experimental basis.

## Tda050

**Touko:** It's always me that's treated differently. I'm the first person that's noticed and called on. I hate this. I wish I could transfer to a different lab. There are many things I don't like here, but I'm especially fed up with working under Professor Takashima. He always looks at me funny. He was looking at my breasts again today. I might be getting overly worked up about this. Maybe he's not such a bad guy. There might be something wrong with him physiologically.

## Tda051

**Touko:** I wish a guy like that would be dead.

## Tda052

**Touko:** I'm making a diary entry for the first time in a long while. Even though I've missed making entries sometimes, I'm proud that I've kept it up for as long as I have. Lately I've been coming home from work and going right to bed. Still, it seems that by using the equipment Yoshida-kun gave me, I feel rested in the morning even though I go to bed exhausted. I'm still tired, though. I'm psychologically tired. Why do I have to work like a dog so that Professor Takashima can publish his articles? It might look as if I have less work to do because I have only one client: Lain. It's true that things are going well with Lain, and that may make it seem as though I have less to do, too. But lately, I've been feeling harassed. Why have I been feeling so irritable lately? I hate it.

## Tda053

**Touko:** I'll still keep fighting for you, Lain. Don't worry. There must be some reason why you've been hallucinating. I wonder what it might be. Things seem to be going all right for her at home. There aren't any congenital injuries. She sees images of specific things. There must be a reason. But what am I writing this down for? I'm going to bed.

## Tda054

**Touko:** Professor Takashima died. He committed suicide. I can't honestly say that I'm saddened, but I'm not happy to see someone die. The police and reporters came and asked a lot of questions, but no one knows why he took his life. Ahh! It'll be harder at nights now. Why did he have to hang himself in the lab? Still, I have one less reason for not wanting to work in this lab. It may be imprudent for me to say this, but things will be easier for me now.

## Tda055

**Touko:** I'm glad you're dead, bald old man. Did God hear my prayers and make him die?

## Tda056

**Touko:** Today on my way home from the lab, I ran into Yoshida-kun. Lately, I had been so busy with helping Professor Takashima that I didn't have time to talk to Yoshida-kun even when he visited the lab. He seems to have been worried about me, and was waiting for me at the lab until I was through with work. I don't want him to be too kind to me right now, when I'm feeling so irritable. I feel like blaming someone for what's been going on, and I feel that if someone is kind to me, my feelings for Takeshi-san will crumble. Yoshida-kun just quietly walked me home, but he made me very happy. There was a "me" that was happy then. No, I shouldn't feel this way. Takeshi-san is the one I like. A good-looking guy was nice to me. That would make any girl happy. Takeshi-san... I want you to catch me. I really am tired. I better get some rest.

## Tda057

**Touko:** I got a phone call from Takeshi-san after not hearing from him for a while. I don't know why, but although we talked about the sort of things we always talk about, it was boring. I've never felt bored talking with him before. It must be because I've been so restless. Could it be that it's over between us? That can't be it, can it?

## Tda058

**Touko:** Lain pointed something out to me today. I stayed up all night studying reference literature and had bags under my eyes. How unsightly. "You're tired today, aren't you, Sensei," she said. "Shouldn't you get some rest?" How embarrassing to have this come from a client. Lately, something has been very wrong with me. I don't want it to affect my relationship with Lain. Is there a reason Lain needs to be hospitalized now? It doesn't seem like there will be any problems with her soon. I think I should be examining someone else. Lain is not sick. This is hardly productive research.

## Tda059

**Touko:** My head hurts again. I should go to bed early today.

## Tda060

**Touko:** This is a nightmare. It must be a bad dream. Takeshi-san is getting married? It's just more gossip by those jerks in the lab. Takeshi-san was going to marry me. But...that's just something I believed on my own. I know that we never made any promises. But this is horrible. Why didn't Takeshi-san talk to me first? He said that he couldn't see me because he was so busy. Was he avoiding me that way? Did he want me to get the impression that he didn't like me and let me lose interest in him? I'm... so...stupid. I didn't notice anything. Why couldn't you tell me? If you told me I would have given up and let you go. That's not true. I couldn't let you go. I didn't want to be his lover until he no longer liked me.

## Tda061

**Touko:** He's not a careless person, so he must have been looking for a time to come and talk to me. I just didn't notice him because I've been so saturated with thinking about myself. But...I've been avoided. How stupid. I've just been thinking about being disliked. I was clinging onto Takeshi-san. But I want to hear the truth from Takeshi-san himself. I can't give up until I hear it from him. It's all I can do. But if this is all just a rumor, I couldn't say how happy I would be. I'm sad...Takeshi-san.

## Tda062

**Touko:** I've relaxed a lot and have been able to look at myself more clearly. That has made it easier for me to write in my diary. I can finally see my surroundings. The reason the jerks at the lab were laughing at me was because they knew about Takeshi-san getting married. I'm understanding now that I'm the only one who had no clue. I feel raw and bitter. I feel miserable. I am sad. Takeshi-san. I can't work anymore. I want to throw everything away and quit working at this lab. I'll quit counseling Lain. Lain will be alright without me. Won't you, Lain? Who is going to help me? Yoshida-kun? He's better than Takeshi-san anyway. He's young and kind and I want to be held by him. I wanted to cheat on Takeshi-san. But that's a lie, too. Was I just looking for someone who would need me? I didn't know what a weak person I am. I better head to bed soon. I'm sure there is a stronger Touko in one of my dreams. I'll be different tomorrow. As long as I go to sleep believing that, I'll be...

## Tda063

**Touko:** These days, I'm on the computer most of the time. I didn't used to sit in front of computers so often. I wonder if I'm unconsciously trying to connect with someone. Most of the rumors have fizzled down, but I still don't blend in at the lab. If Lain is like an ordinary kid, there's no point to my research. Why am I here anyway? Will I spend the rest of my days doing menial tasks?

## Tda064

**Touko:** I can't relax when I'm counseling Lain. Looking at her eyes drives me nuts. Will you stop, Lain? Don't look at me like that! Nothing's wrong with me. At least not in front of you. Lain looks at me as if she can see through me completely. I remember feeling that way when I first met Lain. She can see that I'm using her as an object for research. No! How can that be? What can she know? I'm the one with the problem. I'm not present as a counselor. This can't continue. It's at times like this when I have to immerse myself on my work. But when I was feeling unstable, Lain just looked at me, saying nothing. She had a faint smile on her face. Something is wrong with her! What is she trying to do? Why can't someone else take care of her instead of me? I keep saying that she isn't sick. Let me check one more time. I feel so uncomfortable.

## Tda065

**Touko:** Today I met with Kyoko-chan, one of Lain's classmates from grade school. She's in middle school now. She's at a point of life when people start to take interest in many things. I was glad to have met with her. She was ordinary. She is ordinary. She goes out shopping with friends and talks with boys she likes. She's an ordinary girl. Lain is not an ordinary girl. And who is Misato-chan? Is she the same as Minako-chan? That can't be. I don't understand. What am I doing by following up on all these things and telling lies? This has nothing to do with my research. My job as a psychiatrist and a counselor was to diagnose and treat someone. This existence called Lain seems to be a kind of vacancy. Does Lain have a problem, or do I?

## Tda066

**Touko:** Today I came face to face with Takeshi-san at the lab. My heart beat so fast! I wondered if he would pretend that he wasn't married to someone else. I suddenly froze; I couldn't move my body or my face. Takeshi-san smiled and just said, "Hey, you look really good." Is that all? Is that all you have to say to me? The next moment, I found myself starting to laugh. Takeshi-san was surprised and ran away. I wonder why. Why did I laugh? Did Takeshi-san think that I went crazy? Is there really something wrong with my mind? Could this all be a dream? Sometimes I can't tell what's real or what's a dream. Someone...help me.

## Tda067

**Touko:** I'll stop using the RML today. I think I lost confidence in myself because I depended on this device. I am me. Lain is an ordinary girl. Takeshi-san is an ordinary man who found someone he likes more than me and married her, but was too weak-willed to tell me about it. I don't like Takeshi-san anymore.

## Tda068

**Touko:** I had dinner with Yoshida-kun today. I feel that I was more composed today thanks to him. I wonder why he is so kind to me. Maybe he's heard the gossip going on about me and is siding with me. Could it be more than siding with me? Could he be in love with me? I don't know. But I'm looking for love. I don't mean that I would want to love anyone. I liked Yoshida-kun from the time that I met him. That's not entirely true. I'm just sad right now. It's sad to be alone. I want someone to comfort me.

## Tda069

**Touko:** Lately I've been seeing bad dreams. I dreamed that I married Yoshida-kun and that Takeshi-san was saddened by it. I looked at Takeshi-san and started to laugh. These aren't the kind of things that I would want. Maybe there's a part of my subconscious where I want these things. But I don't want my child to look exactly like Lain. I think that Lain is a good girl, but I don't want my own child to be like her. Why? Why, Touko? I don't know, but I can't love her. I just can't approve of it. What am I really thinking? I'm losing confidence in my own feelings. More and more I can't tell reality apart from my dreams. Is this a delusion, too? Am I seeing hallucinations? No. That can't be. I've become psychologically hypersensitive. You're ok, Touko. I should use the new machine Yoshida-kun gave me. Since he helped me, I should at least repay him by cooperating with his experiments. If I lose him now, I'll be in a horrible place psychologically. I can't go to a horrible place now.

## Tda070

**Touko:** The ring that Yoshida-kun bought me... Could this be... he gave it to me without saying anything. But that's ok. I won't make the same mistake. I haven't produced any research results either. My own pride won't let me leave my work at the lab now. I asked Lain a dumb question today. I asked her, "Who are you? Are you really Lain?" Without changing her expression but looking upward, she said, "I'm me." A question with such an obvious answer. Still, before even thinking about it, my mouth was open. I wonder why. I think Lain is probably tired of it, too. I know. It has to do with the girl I've been seeing in my dreams lately who looks a lot like Lain. She looks like Lain, but she isn't her. I better straighten my mind out. Otherwise I won't be much of a counselor.

## Tda071

**Touko:** I went to the cemetery to pay respect to Professor Takashima with the other employees. It's been a year already since he died. So many things have happened this last year. Rest in peace.

## Tda072

**Touko:** I understand myself less and less day by day. I was seeing strange dreams, but up till now I thought it was just because I was mentally confused. But today, I had an auditory hallucination. I'm not positive that it was a hallucination, but since yesterday, my ears haven't stopped ringing. It's as if I'm Lain. "Orgel"? What is it? It's as if something is ringing inside my head. Tomorrow I'll go see a doctor that specializes in hearing.

## Tda073

**Touko:** When I was organizing the data I have about Lain, I started to hear the voices of researchers although there was no one there. I couldn't tell what they were saying. I'm sure it was gossip about me. I thought I heard Yoshida-kun's voice, too. Why did I hear him? What's wrong? What's happening to me? Someone tell me! Someone help me. I can't organize data when I'm like this. I'll do it tomorrow.

## Tda074

**Touko:** Tomorrow? Will tomorrow be ok? Am I going crazy? If I'm crazy, no one would want to be around me, would they? Who can I turn to for help? I can't believe anyone. Help...Yoshida-kun.

## Tda075

**Touko:** I stopped using RML. I don't know why, but I felt I had to. Yoshida-kun, I'm sorry. I sometimes worry that you stay with me because it has to do with your work. I want to see Yoshida-kun. I want to see him and kiss him. He knows that I feel this way. I want him to embrace me.

## Tda076

**Touko:** When I was organizing data again today, I had a sensation like the one I experienced while working with RML. I experienced bright white flashes of light pulsing through my head. I thought it was dangerous. It wasn't as if I used the equipment incorrectly. I might have been mistaken to use it in the first place. Was it manufactured improperly? This is dangerous. I have to tell Yoshida-kun. Selling this machine is dangerous.

## Tda077

**Touko:** That's it...if things continue this way, Lain will control me completely. Lain must have seen all of the data here. Why did she? Why is all of Lain's life history stored here? I don't understand anymore. I can hear the voices again. Not just voices. Yoshida-kun and the workers in the lab are looking at me from a distance. Why are you looking at me and laughing at me? Stop!

## Tda078

**Touko:** Am I going nuts? I'm insecure unless I'm connected to the Net. Why am I bothering to write a diary? Who'll want to read it? Probably...not me.

## Tda079

**Touko:** It's no good...I don't know...what to do. Yoshida-kun...you've betrayed me, too? You were laughing at me from the beginning, weren't you? You and all those jerks in the lab. I leaned on you and cried and told you what made me angry, and you took everything I confided in you and told everybody and laughed with them. I don't want to believe this, but I caught you in the act. You were the only person I had, Yoshida-kun. You were just a shallow man.

**A Voice:** How can you be so dumb, Touko?

**Touko:** Who is that? Is someone talking to me? That's impossible. Nobody is here.

**A Voice:** It's me, Touko.

**Touko:** Touko? I'm Touko! Stop! Who's trying to torment me like this? Please stop!

## Tda080

**Touko:** Lain, can you hear me? I know that you are reading this. You creepy girl. I will no longer treat you. I never want to see you again.

## Tda081

**Touko:** Doesn't everyone wish for someone to die sometime? And you're saying that you can't forgive me? You killed Professor Takashima, didn't you? I had nothing to do with it. The police said that it wasn't me. They think it was a suicide. Please. Help me. I understand. You're a good girl, aren't you, Lain?

## Tda082

**Touko:** Lain...isn't this enough? Aren't you content to see me miserable? You're watching me, aren't you? Please, please, stop. Forgive me. I can't endure this anymore. I'm going crazy. Lain is behind all of this. What do you want, Lain? Tell me. I don't know what the hell is what!

## Tda083

**Touko:** Stop, Lain. What did I do to you? Forgive me.  
Please. I don't want to go crazy. If I lose my  
mind, I can't treat you.

## Tda084

**Touko:** Lain, is suicide the only thing left for me to do? Is there no other option? Do I have to die? No! I don't want that! I don't want anyone to control me. Who does? Aren't you the same way, Lain? You were scared and scared and didn't know what to do. Please Lain, help me. Please.

## Tda085

**Touko:** Who is "another" me? There's only one of me! Why are you saying these things that make no sense? We can think the same way and make the same judgments, it doesn't mean you're human. The only place where I exist is here. No matter where I go, I'm me.

**A Voice:** I am you.

**Touko:** Stop it. Why is this happening to me? Is something wrong with me? No, nothing is wrong with me.

## Tda086

**Touko:** Lain, how long have you been keeping an eye on me? Was it since we first met? Or was it...I guess it makes no difference now. Am I going to be absorbed by you, Lain? Or can I remain me? Are you going to use me for something? Can I remain me?

## Tda087

**Touko:** I don't want to die! I don't want to lose my body! I don't want to throw my body away. I want to continue living in my body. I have a tremendous fear of losing my body. Maybe you can't understand, but that's how a normal human being feels. Please, Lain, help me.

## Tda088

**Touko:** *Lain laughing Is it just that I don't know? I don't want to know. Stop it. I don't want to know. Stop it. Please.*

## Tda089

**Touko:** I can't believe that you were that kind of kid.  
Lain, it's not too late. Let's fix this  
together. But that's not it. It isn't about  
fixing. It's about being reborn. I am...

## Tda090

**Touko:** It's enough, now. Nothing holds meaning for me now. Crying, laughing, getting mad. Being betrayed. It doesn't matter anymore if everything is a lie or if everything is the truth. Could I have some more data? Lain. I want to know you.

## Tda091

**Touko:** I accessed your data, Lain. You cracked it yourself, didn't you? You've quickly gained access to data that I didn't obtain myself. You're the only person who could do that. What is this? What are you? Are you listening? You can hear me, can't you? Why won't you answer me? Is it that you no longer have use for me? That's not true, is it? You're teasing me, aren't you? Or are you...

## Tda092

**Touko:** The me that has a body will disappear, won't it? My hands, my face, my hair. It's sad that no one will touch my body again. Lain will be by my side, won't she? I'll be sad at first, so be by my side. Together. Continue to be with me forever, Lain. If I'm asleep, wake me. Let's do a lot of playing together. Let's keep an eye on everything. We'll eliminate all trivial thoughts. Let's find others to live with. We'll find more friends. This is much too large a place for just two people. Don't you want a boyfriend, Lain? I won't have one for a while. Let's eliminate everything trivial in the world. The only people in this world are Lain and me.