



So it's easy for us to tell how the other one is feeling in the morning just by the atmosphere in the apartment.

It's been six years since Taneda and I started dating, and a year since we moved in together.



MORNING...

Like, watching a depressing story on the morning news...

...drags his spirit down to the bottom of the pit—he's so damn sensitive.



TANEDA...?



Taneda is especially easy to read.



WHAT'S
THE
POINT,
THEN?

GIVE A
DUDE
SOME
WARNING,
OKAY?

OH,
YOU
SCARED
ME...

GOOD
MORN-
ING!

...but now that I'm unemployed and have too much time on my hands, I've suddenly got the untapped personal resources to try to yank him out of his depression.

When I was working, I was too busy to bother with him...

AARGH!



TODAY,
THE T CITY
ZOO HELD A
PREPAREDNESS
TRAINING
SESSION IN
THE CASE OF
A POLAR BEAR
ESCAPE.

AND NOW
FOR OUR
LOCAL
NEWS...

HA
HA HA...
THAT'S NOT
TRAINING.

EVERYONE'S
RUNNING
AROUND
LAUGHING.

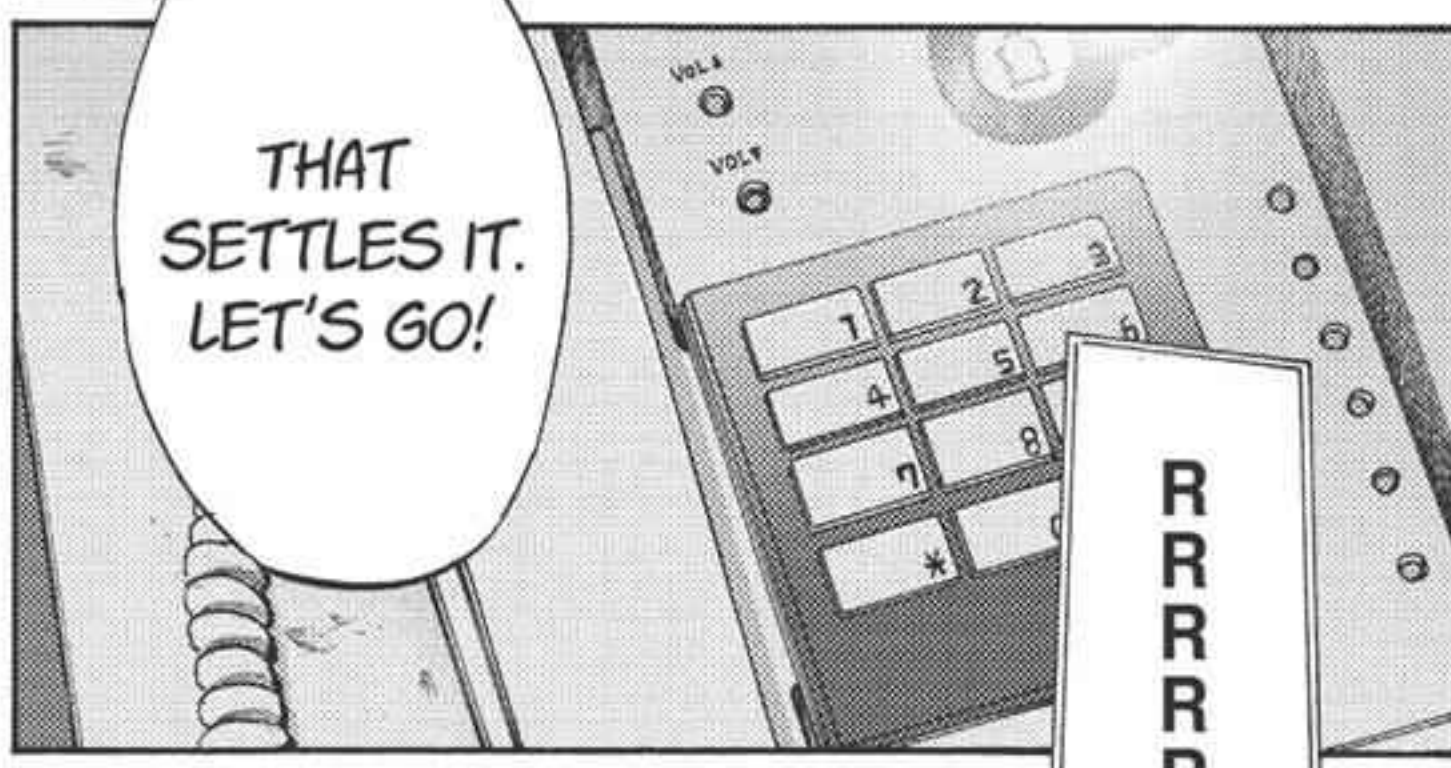


HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I WENT TO THE ZOO?

THE ZOO, HUH...?



HEY, I KNOW... IT'S A HOLIDAY AND THE WEATHER'S GREAT... WHY DON'T WE GO TO THE ZOO?



THAT SETTLES IT. LET'S GO!

RRRRR

THE ZOO...?



RRRRR

RRRRR



HELLO?

3



IT'S
BEEN A
WHILE...

...MOM.



I
WORRIED
ABOUT YOU
LIVING IN A
NOISY
NEIGHBOR-
HOOD
IN THE BIG
CITY...

...BUT
ONCE YOU
LEAVE THE
CITY CENTER,
TOKYO'S
JUST
LIKE AKITA,
ISN'T IT?

I
GUESS...
BUT WHY
DID YOU WAIT
UNTIL TODAY
TO CALL
ME?

YOU'VE
KNOWN
ABOUT THIS
REUNION
FOR AGES,
RIGHT?

THESE
TOKYO
HOTELS
COST AN
ARM AND
A LEG...

...AND
BESIDES,
YOU DON'T
WORK ON THE
WEEKENDS,
RIGHT?

WELL...
YEAH,
BUT...



AND...
AHH!

MOM,
THAT'S
MY
DIARY!

THAT'S
RIGHT.
AND LOTS
OF MILK.

MOM,
YOU STILL
TAKE YOUR
COFFEE
WITHOUT
SUGAR?

WHAT ARE
YOU SO
UPSET
ABOUT?
YOU ONLY
WROTE IN IT
FOR THREE
DAYS.

YOU
DON'T
HAVE TO
HIDE IT
FROM ME.

MY
BOYFRIEND
BOUGHT ME
THAT.

YOU'VE
NEVER BEEN
ABLE TO STICK
TO ANYTHING,
BUT YOU GO
AND WASTE
YOUR MONEY...

YOU'RE
AN ADULT,
AND PAYING
YOUR OWN
BILLS.

H-
HE'S
NOT...

SO...

THE
BOYFRIEND
WHO'S LIVING
HERE WITH
YOU?



THERE'S
SOMETHING
ELSE I
NEED TO
TELL YOU...

ACTUALLY
...

MOM...



MEIKO'S
MOM POPS
UP, SO YOUR
DATE'S CANCELLED
AND YOU HAVE
NOWHERE TO
CRASH TONIGHT—
A DOUBLE
WHAMMY!

I
FEEL
YOUR
PAIN,
BROTHER!



...WHEN I
KNOW I
CAN'T GO
SOMEWHERE,
IT MAKES ME
WANT TO GO
EVEN MORE,
YOU KNOW?

IT'S
JUST...

I
MUST BE
PRETTY
CRAZY TO
HAVE
AGREED
TO THIS.

BUT
WHY
ARE WE
DRINKING
AT THE
ZOO?

THAT'S
PRETTY
CRAZY
TOO.



HEY, KATO.
DID YOU
WATCH THE
NEWS THIS
MORNING?


Rip (24)

Real name: Yamada

Status: Working



...UHHH.
IS RIP
WORKING
TODAY
TOO?



YOU KNOW,
THE USUAL.
STOCK
MARKET'S UP
AND DOWN,
SOMEONE GOT
MURDERED,
TASTY FISH IN
SEASON, BUT...

NOPE.
DID
SOMETHING
HAPPEN?

NOPE.
HE BECAME
ONE WITH
THE WIND.



I MEAN,
WHAT THE
HELL AM I
DOING
MESSING
AROUND...

...WITH
THESE
PART-TIME
JOBS?

HUH?

...IT JUST
FEELS LIKE
THE WORLD
IS BALANCED
ON THIS
THIN LINE.



...BUT
ACTUALLY, IT'S
THIS TOTALLY
UNNATURAL
ENVIRONMENT
WHERE ANIMALS
ARE KEPT
PRISONER.

AND
WE'RE
RIGHT
IN THE
MIDDLE
OF IT!

RIGHT NOW,
I'M AT THE
ZOO TO
RELAX
AND WATCH
THE CUTE
ANIMALS...

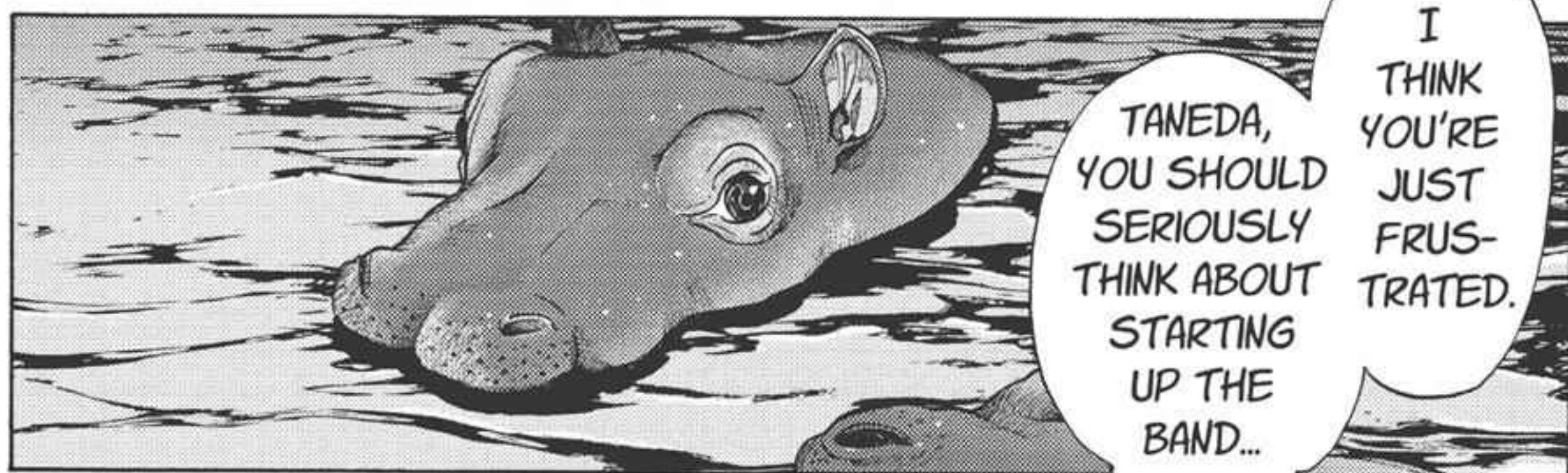


OKAY,
THAT'S
ENOUGH,
DUDE.

WHY ARE
YOU STILL
OBSESSING
ABOUT
THAT?

THE
WORLD IS
DROWNING IN
WEIRDNESS
AND LIES...

...AND
HERE
WE ARE,
SO USED
TO IT THAT
WE'RE
ACTUALLY
BORED!



TANEDA,
YOU SHOULD
SERIOUSLY
THINK ABOUT
STARTING
UP THE
BAND...

I
THINK
YOU'RE
JUST
FRUS-
TRATED.



WAIT,
AM I HEARING
THIS RIGHT?
YOU'RE SAYING
THAT IF I GET
SERIOUS
ABOUT THE
MUSIC AGAIN...

...KATO THE
SUPER-SUPER
SENIOR WILL
GIVE UP
EVERYTHING
TO FOLLOW
ME?



カバ
Hippopotamus
Hippopotamus amphibius

•Habitat: Africa
•Length: 3.5m.
•Food: Largely grass
Because it spends most of
its time in water, its eyes,
nose, and ears are positioned
to remain above the surface.



...AWGAIWN!



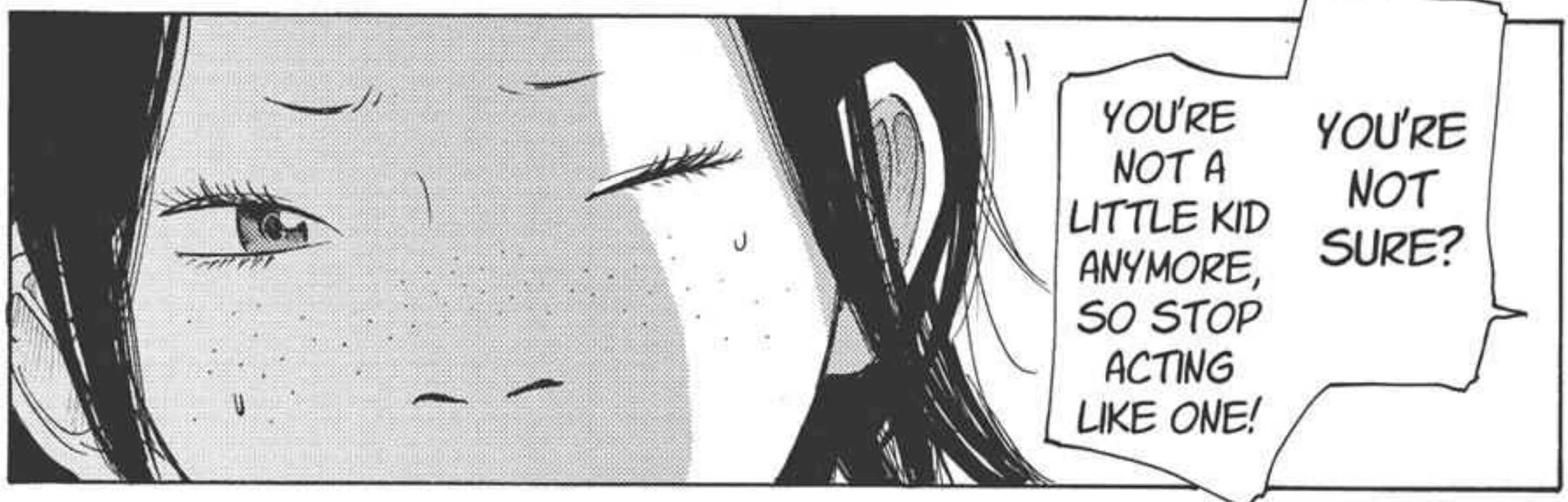




I'M
NOT
SURE
YET...

UMM...

BUT WHAT
ARE YOU
GOING
TO DO
HERE IN
TOKYO?



YOU'RE
NOT A
LITTLE KID
ANYMORE,
SO STOP
ACTING
LIKE ONE!

YOU'RE
NOT
SURE?



I
MEAN
REALLY,
MOM!

YOU
SHOW UP
COMPLETELY
UNANNOUNCED
AND START
CRITICIZING!

WELL,
I'M DOING
FINE! AND
WE'LL MAKE
OUR OWN
DECISIONS!

I'M
NOT
ACTING
LIKE A
KID!

AHH!

JUST
LEAVE
ME
ALONE!

