Natsu no Owari

Time: 1h 40; 3h 30; 1h 40; 1h 30;

DAY 1

>Completely depopulated village. Yuuji meets a girl who seemed to be starved and dehydrated. She was surprised when he called out to her but she was okay to come to his house and get some water. He served her water, served her a small snack, and prepared rice.

>They had to wait 30 min. He told her about himself. He left the city and lived in this village. He was the only one around this area, the house belonged to his grandparents. He started to earn money by making survival MeTube videos and bought himself more old school survival furniture.

>Mio wanted to go to the ocean but failed tremendously as she had walked in the opposite direction for three days. She almost added that she wouldn’t have minded dying but stopped herself.

>Yuuji also showed her a bath, it was one of those wooden barrel ones, Mio wasn’t sure if she should go in or not but her desire to bath one in the end. As she took a bath, she thought about how she had left to avoid human contact but ended up meeting a guy.

>They ate dinner together. Mio cried when she ate the rice gruel. Her emotions were overflowing. It was cold, it was scary. She explained that she had first thought he was a bandit that came to drug her. Yuuji was carrying leaves with him earlier. He looked like a bandit because he hadn’t shaved himself. Mio also trusted Yuuji because his eyes looked dead, there is no way he was after her body. Mio was saying some rude things and both laughed. It’s been a while since Yuuji had experienced something like this. This might be a short connection, it could end tomorrow. He made sure to savour it.

>He showed Mio her room, told her she could call him anytime and left. Mio was happy to have such a big room, there was even a fan. She decided to keep on the lights. As she lay down on her bed, she decided to try living for a bit longer.

>Incidentally, Yuuji was 24. It isn’t mentioned how old Mio was. Appearance-wise, Yuuji guessed she might be 5-6 years younger than him.

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DAY 2

>Yuuji shaved himself, prepared breakfast, Mio woke up and got herself ready. There was a bathroom but it was mainly used for freshening you up, toothbrush and mirror.

>As they ate onigiri together, Yuuji asked her about her plans. She wondered if there was a river, she might use that instead of the ocean but then wondered if she could stay at his place for a while. She didn’t mind living together with a man. Dead eyes? She had the feeling he was holding a grudge.

>He told her about the locations where they could get food or materials. The mountains. Various leaves/mushrooms as well as insects. Since they were living together, food supply would become important. Mio wasn’t into insects. The river had fish, crabs and shrimps but it was difficult to catch them. Then there was the option to collect stuff from other houses. It was easy to get stuff although one might feel uncomfortable. There was also a story of 50 years old umeboshi.

>Yuuji decided to take Mio to the mountains. She wore a school uniform for some reason. They checked out mushrooms, Yuuji wasn’t a survival man. He learned stuff for his MeTube videos and got taught by his gramps. Hunting deers or wild boars in the winter, collecting edible plants in spring, mushroom gathering in autumn. He really wished that his gramps had told him about what to do in summer but… Mio apologised but Yuuji didn’t mind.

>They reached the peak, Mio was admired the scenery while Yuuji was catching grasshoppers. She looked at him if he was trash for some reason.

>They sat next to each other on a bench and Yuuji told her how his gramps had often brought him to this spot whenever he came to visit them. Yuuji used to work at a company but quit because he wasn’t into human relationships. This spot wasn’t his favourite spot for memories sake. As a kid, he certainly would have found this place boring, so it weren’t his memories that made this place his favourite. After he quit the company and returned to the rural area, his grandparents decided to move to the city. He started to live alone, remembered this place, searched for it, found it and when he saw the view, he thought it was beautiful. There was still enough room in his heart to see something as beautiful.

>Mio felt the same. She also commented on why Yuuji had quit his job. Put on an act. Jealousy. Buttering up. Threats. Pushing on responsibilities. Bullying. Betrayal. Theft. Mio was fed up with that as well. She didn’t want to be involved with people anymore.

>They returned to Yuuji’s place. He planned to return to the mountains and gather wood to get fuel. He had noticed that Mio had gotten quieter on their way back and didn’t want her to overwork herself. She still wanted to work to some extent. Yuuji was doing a lot of things since there wasn’t anything else to do.

>Mio would do the laundry, clean her own room, air her laundry, clean the house area and also take out the trash. I.e. Yuuji let Mio do the cleaning job.

>He got the wood, and Mio was sweeping the floor. She had seen him off and welcomed him back. She wasn’t really a good cook, so Yuuji cooked their meals. Yuuji had also picked up a mushroom they had seen on their trip to the mountains. He had told her about a mushroom that could cause two weeks of diary so Mio was hesitant to eat that. Incidentally, they also ate sticky but delicious berries on their mountain trip.

>Mio asked if she could charge her phone. Yuuji didn’t mind but asked her to wait until it got dark. The dynamo was currently charging. Yuuji was using solar panels. That way, they could avoid living in total darkness. They couldn’t use a fridge though.

>Ah yeah, Yuuji had also skewered some grasshoppers and ate them, comparing the taste to the tail of shrimps. Mio seemed interested at some point but refused.

>She took a bath and thought about Yuuji. Shaved Yuuji was quite attractive. He was also a kind person, mature, never gets angry, and a good person. If it weren’t for the fact that he was eating grasshoppers. Mio laughed to herself. Indeed, living here made her feel more alive than living in the city. She’d make sure she wouldn’t be quiet. She decided to give her best tomorrow.

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DAY 3

>Mio checked herself in the mirror, seemed fine and decided to give her best.

>Yuuji prepared salted rice balls, and Mio ate them without complaints. Yuuji mentioned that they could go to various places. The mountains, the river or look for umeboshi by checking out the empty buildings.

>Yuuji decided to go to the mountains, walked up with Mio, and was surprised about her stamina. He showed her tsuyukusa (asiatic dayflower). You could pick them up and they’d regrow quickly. It was possible to eat all of it raw but also use it to prepare some meals. As they gathered those flowers, Mio asked Yuuji since he had been alone. Yuuji guessed it was half a year ago, that’s when he had seen the last one off. (Yeah, the description reveals that there is a pandemic/epidemic going on which kills most people, they don’t mention it explicitly but “seeing someone off” probably refers to the last person in the village passing away.)

>Did Yuuji feel lonely after that? He wasn’t sure. He had left the city to avoid human relationships. But he knew everyone in this village was close to them. Then they left. Yes, he had felt lonely. Mio could relate. She wasn’t into human relationships either but when you’re alone in the mountains, you kind of feel forlorn. She was impressed by him. He replied it was easy to get used to solitude, though it wasn’t a good thing.

>Then they talked about how pets could rid them from loneliness. There were no dogs. Stray cats had been around but after the people had left, they disappeared as well. They didn’t have anything to lure/feed them with.

>They gathered dead wood, Yuuji taught her how fresh wood won't burn well and create a lot of smoke. Most of this knowledge he had gotten from his gramps. There was much more he had wanted to know but then he had seen him off. One day Yuuji will also… He couldn’t do anything but live, is what he thought.

>They got back home, prepared dinner together, a lot of food words were mentioned but it seems they boiled some vegetables and also made a salad out of these tsuyukusa flower leaves. They had picked quite a lot but Yuuji explained that they were low calories.

>During dinner, Mio felt somewhat apologetic for prying into Yuuji’s past. She asked him if he wanted to ask her something. He asked her about what she had eaten in the city. She replied that it was cup ramen and retort. They didn’t have a lot of vegetables like Yuuji’s place after all. They’ve shared it with everyone. Mio frowned. She explained that all of them were from the same school. They gathered together and lived as a group. A leader immersed. That guy got somewhat ahead of himself, and insisted that only he could eat the salt of the cup ramen. Naturally, some people got close to the leader and got special treatment. A caste system was established, lower caste people were treated harshly, Mio decided to go to the sea. As for adults, no one was around anymore.

>He told her she could live here as long as she wanted. If she had something on her mind, she could feel free to ask. It’s been a while since Yuuji was talking to someone close to his age. And if he was doing something weird, she could point it out. She replied that he wasn’t. He was kind, paid attention to people. If they had someone like Yuuji, then maybe it wouldn’t have come to that. They decided to be frank with each other, as in, they didn’t mind talking about their past but would tell the other if they didn’t want to talk.

>Mio took her bath, murmured how she wanted to be lonely but didn’t want Yuuji to disappear.

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DAY 4

>Mio checked herself in the mirror. She felt like her skin was drier than before. She wished she had make up. Whatever. She decided to give her best.

>They shared their work, can’t be bothered to summarise it, Mio did the laundry, Yuuji took care of the garden, their futon got aired as well. As they shared their work, Yuuji kind of felt like he was starting to turn alive again, being alone must have worn his heart out but with Mio he was starting to recover.

>They formed onigiri together, but Mio failed to make them triangle-shaped.

>They got ready and Yuuji decided to go to the mountains once more. There was another spot, a small mountain river with crabs and frogs. Mio wasn’t into the latter.

>On their way, Mio took pictures of the scenery. She wasn’t into selfies it seems. They caught crabs together, Mio struggled quite a bit.

>At Mio’s request, they went to that sceneric spot. Mio took some pictures, thinking back on how she had taken a lot of pictures with her friends for no reason. Well now, she kind of understood that it wasn't a waste. This sentimental atmosphere was ruined as Yuuji was catching grasshoppers.

>They sat next to each other. Mio asked Yuuji about his videos. He still had them on his PC but Mio was against watching them. She’d watch them when everything went back to normal. Nobody knew if it’ll go back to normal. Everyone who had passed away was gone for good.

>Mio asked Yuuji about how his MeTube career went. He stopped uploading when the internet died. He wasn’t really into the idea of streaming, he wasn’t a talker. Mio had considered turning into a Vtuber. It wasn’t as scary as doing it IRL, she couldn’t get doxxed and stuff. She even practised her moe-voice. Yuuji laughed and she refused to show it to him.

>Dinner was prepared. Mio suddenly mentioned that this place didn’t have much yet felt super luxurious. Back in the city, they had a lot of food but because “they wanted to save it just in case”, they ended up rationing it to a degree where everyone ate just one cup of noodles a day. Naturally, the leader and co. did not. Mio was quite frustrated. She apologised for venting but Yuuji didn’t mind. If she had kept this to herself, it would have gotten to her eventually.

>Yuuji asked her about her friends. Mio had some in the school before her current one. They parted ways and lost touch with each other. She had no idea what they were doing or if they were still around. Yuuji was similar. He had one or two friends in university but lost touch with them after entering his company, there, he failed to make any friends. They were similar indeed, Mio and Yuuji, lonely friendless people.

>Yuuji felt a little bit miserable. Mio wasn’t dissatisfied with her current life at all. From the looks of it, the cities were doing worse than Yuuji. He had been the blessed one, which hurt a bit.

>Mio took a bath once more, she talked to herself, how delicious dinner had been, how much fun she had catching those crabs, complaining about Yuuji eating grasshoppers. Yuuji wasn’t someone who lied. Did they really taste like shrimps? She was struggling with the temptation.

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DAY 5

>Mio checked herself in the mirror. Her skin seemed dry and her lips seemed chapped. Was it because of lack of nutrients? Well, she ate better than in the city. She decided to give her best.

>Yuuji took care of the garden, Mio finished up doing the laundry and airing the futons. She wondered if the vegetables weren’t ripe yet. Yuuji didn’t know. He just said in a manual what the optimal time was to harvest them, so even if they looked ripe, he’d prefer to harvest at the right time, when there was a lot of protein and stuff.

>Mio asked him why he was so into protein. On one hand, it was a nutrient that was difficult to obtain. On other hand, he didn’t have any data that backed him up but after the old people passed away, the ones without stamina followed. He had collected info from TV and the internet but eventually that wasn’t possible anymore. So the people around him became his data. The ones who ate a lot of meat and fish lived longer. One had to be careful to keep their balanced diet. If you aren’t conscious of it, you fail to take in proteins, hence he held a great importance on it. He couldn't be negligent even at his age. He wanted to live healthy every day, he laughed wryly.

>Mio remained silent. They prepared onigiri together, enjoyed their breakfast in a pleasant silence. Mio wanted to wash the dishes, Yuuji taught her how to do it and also asked her to throw the remaining rice into a box, he could use it as fertiliser.

>Mio regretted that she hadn’t been able to help her mother with housework. Yuuji regretted not doing his filial piety, he had thought he’d do it one day after getting employed. “One is always sorry after the event.” Yuuji realised that she made a mistake, it was: “It is no use crying over spilt milk.” She claimed she hadn’t said what she said, dodged the topic and asked Yuuji where’d they go. He went with the mountains, they had to gather firewood this time.

>So they went up the mountains, gathered their dinner, Yuuji caught some grasshoppers and Mio looked at him with disgust, he ignored her. They gathered dead branches on their way down but Yuuji realised that it was somewhat inefficient; as they had to look for them and walk around, so he decided to cut branches with his nata.

>The fuel consumption was greater since the bath was used more often. He cut branches, Mio gathered them and put them in the bag. This felt like a true survival thingy, Mio enjoyed herself.

>Yuuji wondered about how they had dealt with fuel in the city. They used portable stoves. It seems, none of them could light fire like Yuuji. He was surprised that his MeTube video research had saved him this much. Mio regretted not being able to cook. Yuuji replied that she was able to cook rice. She felt like she had grown thanks to Yuuji, he confirmed without modesty. Yuuji replied that he was grateful to Mio as well. He wasn’t alone anymore.

>Was it fun? He immediately replied that it was. He explained that one had to be honest, else you’d miss the chance. Mio called herself twisted but he replied that she had talked about a lot as well. It seems she could be honest if she was with him. He didn’t seem too mature despite his age. Yuuji felt dissed. Mio quickly explained that Yuuji was a good person, she got along with him, even if she said that his eyes looked dad, she really li- She stopped herself.

>The bag was full, she went home and would return, Yuuji would continue to cut more wood. He kind of smiled to himself, seems like that he was liked.

>During dinner, they talked about food. How they used to have chicken but not anymore. When they circulation system got unstable, he had them killed and eaten. He ate a grasshopper. Mio seemed repulsed by hit but he managed to convince her to try a bite. She did. It indeed tasted like shrimp but she felt like she had lost something important, the mental damage was there.

>Mio asked him how he had bought stuff when the world was still okay. He replied that it was home delivery. There were people with cars but the elderly struggled to walk. So he ordered stuff online and had them delivered.

>Everyone was a farmer, they weren’t 100% self-sufficient but they got by. When the world stopped being okay, they lost the chance to sell their harvest, so they used it for themselves. They preferred that the young people ate first. Because of that, Yuuji hadn’t starved. There weren’t any vegetables anymore but rice was around.

>Mio then asked if no one wanted to hoard all the harvest for themselves. That did not happen in this village. No one had the strength to do such.

>In Mio’s case, the city turned into a lawless place. No public order. People fought each other until death. Corpses of the dead remained, no hygiene. That was one of the main reasons Mio decided to leave, other illnesses may follow after all.

>Yuuji had wondered about going to the city to restock on some stuff but Mio vehemently forbid it, that place was dangerous.

>Mio was somewhat glad that she got lost in the mountains rather than reaching the sea. After all, they’d be still people there and the situation might be the same as well. She wondered if this had been a miracle. She got lost in a mountain and met a guy that lived just by himself in a peaceful village. The guy was even super nice. Were they fated to be together? Who knows. Yuuji kind of agreed. Yuuji, who had been said to have dead eyes, felt like he was slowly coming back thanks to Mio. She got embarrassed. He thought about how the rest of the world had turned lawless. He wished that these peaceful days would continue.

>Meanwhile, Mio, in the bathtub, repeatedly murmured that she had eaten a grasshopper. Shrimp.

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DAY 6

>She looked at herself. She was seeing something(?). But in the end, it couldn’t be helped to constantly stare at herself in the mirror, so she decided to give her best once more.

>They went to the mountains, it was a good spot to do various things, like gathering food and wood. But on their way, Yuuji noticed that Mio was struggling. He made her rest. He asked her if she had a nosebleed. She firmly denied such, she wasn’t hiding anything. Yuuji calmed down and checked her complexion. He guessed it was anaemia. Their diet wasn’t the greatest and Mio was quite young, so she needed more. And before Mio had met him, she had been wandering around without food in the mountains. Yes, he had taken her to the mountains day by day. She might have gotten exhausted and her health deteriorated. He cursed himself.

>He told Mio they’d go home. He patted her head so she wouldn’t blame herself. He’d gather the food and wood. He gave her a piggyback ride. He served her onigiri. Mio’s POV. She realised how kind Yuuji was. She was surprised that her health went down like that. This was the worst. The people in town would be on edge in this kind of situation. She dislike being patted on the head.

>Yuuji returned in the evening, had gathered quite a lot of stuff. It seems that Mio had fallen asleep at the table in the living room. He woke her up and prepared dinner. He had managed to catch crabs and frogs this time. He revealed to her that this meat was frog but she ate it without complaints, saying it was like chicken. Yuuji had gathered this for her, she couldn’t just leave it. Though, she was still hesitant to eat grasshoppers. Frogs contained a lot of proteins as well.

>Yuuji prepared the bath for her, she thought to himself how kind Yuuji was, how she had made him worry. He was worried about her.

>Yuuji was in his room, thinking about how he had to get a lot of ingredients tomorrow. He knew he couldn’t pull it off every day but he had to give his best. He was helping Mio and when she apologised, he replied that she’d do this for him as well. She said she was “still” fine. Indeed, Yuuji might end like “that” as well. It was just luck that he hadn’t yet.

>But then Mio came to his room, sat next to him and asked her why he was so kind to her. Yuuji thought about it. He was selective towards whom he was kind. He was worried about Mio because it was her. He wanted her to get better asap. He admitted that he was sick of seeing people off. He wanted the ones he loved to be alive. Mio was surprised, she understood that this “love” wasn’t referring to the usual thing. But then Yuuji surprised her that he wished to live together with Mio forever. He enjoyed living with her. That’s why he was kind to her. Mio got it and left, somewhat stunned nevertheless. Yuuji thought about his words, realised he might have caused a misunderstanding but also understood that this was how he honestly felt. He might indeed love Mio.

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DAY 7

>Her complexion wasn’t bad but it didn’t feel like yesterday’s tiredness was gone. Maybe she didn’t sleep well? She still decided to give her best.

>As for breakfast, Mio suggested eating yuzuke. If I understood it correctly, usually you pour tea over rice. Since they didn’t have tea, they poured hot water over rice. It tasted like hot water and rice but still better than onigiri, it warmed and filled them up. Apparently, Oda Nobunaga had eaten this or something.

>Fast forward, Yuuji recalled that there were some traps owned by the hunter. He’d set them up. Mio seemed to be well but he still had her rest for a bit. She saw him off, joked about wanting to give him a goodbye kiss, Yuuji was fine with that, she puffed her cheeks and saw him off. She couldn’t really admit that she felt like they were a newly-wed couple.

>Yuuji went to the hunter’s place, got the four traps, set them up in the mountains, caught frogs and crabs and gathered a lot of ingredients. He was tired but he returned and was greeted with a nice “Welcome back!” Both prepared dinner together. He had Mio do the easy work, wondering how overprotective he was. Even when he went to the mountains by himself, he felt uncomfortable because Mio wasn’t by his side. It had been just one week but he didn’t want to lose her, he didn’t want to be alone anymore.

>They ate dinner together, Mio was surprised how delicious frogs were, and pointed out how surprised she was when she saw a bag full of frogs. She wanted to apologise but Yuuji had told her already this morning that she shouldn’t. He was the only one beside her family who showed kindness to her. So she thanked him. She was about to say something, how she felt when she was all alone in the house but stopped herself. Meanwhile, Yuuji admitted that he had felt lonely. He was supposed to be used to this but couldn’t help it.

>He made Mio take the bath first despite being the one who was tired and sweaty. She understood that she favoured it. She regretted not being honest with herself. She didn’t want to be alone anymore. She wanted to be with him forever.

>When she went back to her room, she realised that she loved Yuuji. It had been just one week but her feelings weren’t a sham. What if Yuuji loved her as well? Her heartbeat went faster and she felt somewhat excited as well. She was surprised how much of a pervert she was. If she doesn’t tell him, would she feel like this every day? Drowning herself into her wild fantasies? She decided to tell it to Yuuji asap but then got cold feet.

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DAY 8

>Rather than looking at her complexion, she seemed to gather up her courage or something. She looked at herself seriously while somewhat blushing. She decided to give her best.

>Mio woke up, tried to greet Yuuji, he wasn’t around. She went outside and found him in the garden. Edamame as well as tomatoes were ripe. Yuuji harvested his edamame and let Mio harvest her first tomato. They ate salad, tomatoes, edamame as well as parsley which Yuuji had always around but never used it. It was a colourful breakfast.

>As for places to go, Mio seemed healthy but kind stuttered a bit and asked Yuuji if they could go to that viewing platform.

>They walked up together, Mio wasn’t tired but she sighed a lot. They were silent on their way.

>They reached their destination. Mio struggled to speak, apologised for dragging him up here, she could have told him about it at home as well but she wanted the right atmosphere. She confessed that she had intended to end it. She was fed up with her painful life in the city. No hope. No desires. No dreams. No future. She wanted to sea the ocean and then end it. She got lost and found herself in the mountains. She was so glad that she got lost. She didn’t want to end it. It had been just a week but she had changed her mind. She wanted to live together with Yuuji.

>She had thought she’d return for a bit, she’d get her stuff and also some supplies and then live with Yuuji for real. She had been always on the receiving end, she wanted to return and bring him a souvenir. But she couldn’t muster up the courage. She didn’t know if they’d be able to meet again if she left him now. What if it was over with her? What if it was over with Yuuji? As Yuuji was older, the probability of him getting “it” was higher.

>Rather than wanting to return the favour, she’d just remain by his side and wouldn’t leave him. Yuuji wasn’t dense, he kind of understood where she was going with this. Yet he remained silent like a coward. Mio took deep breaths and told him that she wanted to live here. She wanted to be with him forever. She wanted to become his family. She got ahead of herself, quickly added that she loved him.

>Silence. Worries. He was an adult and yet couldn’t reply immediately. As if she wasn’t able to bear this silence, Mio added that it was weird. It was just one week of kindness. It must be the suspension bridge effect. Still, she felt like the place where she belonged was next to Yuuji.

>Yuuji apologised, Mio went down. He quickly told her that it was different. He apologised for being silent and apologising and making her afraid.

>He thought about his life with Mio. How it might have been love at first sight but he had kept his distance, thinking it’d be over soon and not wanting to destroy the relationship. But he loved her.

>So Yuuji confessed as well, then corrected herself. It wasn’t “suki” but “aishiteru.” He asked her to become his family.

>After that, they talked about their past. Yuuji had joined an advertising company. He was the newbie and his senior suggested that he should submit a proposal. Seniors always laughed whenever a newbie’s proposal got rejected. But Yuuji’s proposal got accepted by the client. He was happy. The seniors made him do all kinds of stuff. He thought it was normal to be treated like this as a newbie. He slept two hours a day. His heart started to wear out. It shattered when he heard about the rumours of Yuuji having stolen his senior’s idea, the senior trying to “protect” Yuuji despite being the one who spread such rumours.

>Yuuji ran away and went to the mountains. Mio said it might be rude but she was glad he did. She was able to meet him thanks to that. Both were glad that they had run away. And thus they become a couple that swore to live together forever.

>Well, although they had progressed in their relationship, they were still awkward with each other and ended holding themselves into their rooms. Yuuji hated himself for being so immature. He was the older one. He had stumbled into society, failed to get a job and ran away. He had thought of himself still as a child. He lacked confidence. But his feelings for Mio weren’t a sham, so that should become his confidence. He decided to get himself together tomorrow.

Meanwhile: Mio was felt kind of disappointed upon realising that Yuuji wouldn’t come. She was kind of expecting him to attack her but she knew he wasn’t that kind of guy, Well, they hadn’t kissed yet. She had noticed that Yuuji had always kept a distance between them, he had been betrayed by his senior after all. It would be nice to bridge that distance with one swoop but it wasn’t that easy. But she wanted him to come. No, she wanted to do it. She wanted him to do her. She might be a pervert. And in true pervert-fashion, she ended up masturbating.

>After she did it, she realised that was the best she had ever felt. Was it because she had kept holding it in. She felt super guilty. She was doing it at someone’s place. Well actually, they had declared to each other they’d be family, so it was her place? Shouldn’t they sleep together? She got horny once again.

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DAY 9

>Mio woke up, was quite sleepy. She had thought about stuff and struggled to fall asleep. Yuuji felt the same. Mio was surprised.

>Yuuji asked how old the oldest person in the city was. Mio replied that it was a 20-year old university student. That meant Yuuji was quite old already. He could die within a few months or days. Mio didn’t want to hear that.

>Yuuji quickly explained that he had changed. He didn’t want to die but also didn’t want to live back then. Now he was thinking about living with Mio. The best thing they could do is stay healthy, eat healthy and take care of themselves. Yuuji suggested making a field. He was thinking about the future and how they could live longer.

>Mio couldn’t hide how disappointed she was. Regardless, they worked together on the field, got rid of the weed. Yuuji talked about how he wanted to grow tomatoes, radish and edamame on this field. His plan was it to have enough stock and trade with people outside to get stuff they didn’t have. His dynamo wasn’t able to power a refrigerator, so storing something in the winter would be tough. There was a generator that could make electricity when fueled with gasoline. They had to get that gasoline from somewhere after all. Still, for the time being, Yuuji just wanted to spend peaceful days with Mio. From now on and after.

>After that, they ate dinner and went to bed. Mio gathered up her courage and entered his room. She asked him with puppy dog eyes if she could sleep with him. He let her into his futon and left his night light on because Mio was scared of the dark.

>He was quite a hetare, he turned his back towards Mio. He was quite bad in such situations it seems. Mio was happy that he thought about the future but Mio wanted to do things in the present, like lover-like things. Yuuji shut-down for a bit. He had been afraid to hurt Mio. No, he had been afraid of hurting himself, afraid of changing this relationship by crossing the line. He decided to stop making excuses.

>He was over her. They stared at each other. A kiss was expected but because they were staring at each other that intensely, they couldn’t help but laugh. Well, after that, they kissed and went further.

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>She came first but wanted him to do it again, he came but pulled at the last moment. She pouted a bit but he replied that pregnancy was quite a big deal around these times.

>They lay next to each other and talked about their happiness. Yesterday, today and tomorrow.

>Blood came out of her nose though.

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Natsu no Owari - No day

>So basically, there was an epidemic/pandemic going on. Cause is unknown, symptoms resemble a cold, sluggishness, loss of appetite but also nose bleeding. The incubation period is quite long. People with age 30 and above have almost a 100% death rate. So what happens if the pillars of society die? Well, no medical facilities, no treatment, society comes to a halt and humans are lost against this illness. Young people seemingly live for a while and the same goes for Yuuji.

>In Mio’s case, he suspected that she overexerted her body too much, wandering around without eating, following Yuuji to the mountains while having a shit diet. So even when she was young, her protection could have worn off and the illness was able to start.

>Still, there are still stories that show how one could recover from the illness, before the chain starts. Yuuji clung onto that hope. Meanwhile, Mio was using the word “still” quite a lot. I can “still” move. I “still” have an appetite. She apologised. He didn’t mind. He headed out in hopes to find meat. None of the four traps caught anything. So he went out to catch frogs. He minced them and prepared rice gruel. He almost collapsed, realising that he hadn’t eaten anything that day. He prepared a meal for himself as well. Mio was still able to eat. She felt nostalgic. Yuuji had frantically prepared rice gruel for her when they met for the first time. She was grateful. Yuuji told her to stop there. It was too early to lose hope. It was still possible for her to recover. Mio agreed.

>There were people who recovered before “the end” started. That’s how this phenomenon was called. Owari = “The end.”

>Mio felt a bit tired but didn’t really show any extreme symptoms. Though, occasionally, her nose started to bleed.

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>Yuuji started fishing. He needed meat. He ended up catching only one fish. Mio was asleep. Nosebleed. He wiped it off and she woke up. He ended up feeding her rice gruel and meat. She couldn’t really eat stuff that required a lot of chewing. He gave her a remedy for the cold and let her sleep.

>From the looks of it, one loses the appetite because the body prioritises the production of immune cells over digestion, so forcing one to eat would hinder the healing process. But in this case, it was “the end.”

>Yuuji had the feeling that had to attend Mio as long as possible. She couldn’t eat by herself anymore, nor get up. But if he remained by her side, they’d run out of food. So he decided to check the traps one last time.

>Actually, the main reason was this. Mio cried, regretting that she had told him that he loved her. If she hadn’t, he wouldn’t suffer this much. She fell asleep again. The illness wasn’t just eating away her body but also her heart. Even if they had remained strangers, he would have still wanted her to live. He decided to stay by her side.

>He had always eaten a lot of fish and meat. He was 24 and didn’t get “the end” yet. Everyone who ate well got it last. He believed that protein gave one the ability to keep it aways and humans could regain their health. There was no proof. People who could have proved it had passed away already. He just clung onto this last line of hope.

>For dramatisation, three of the four traps failed. The fourth trap caught a male deer. Yuuji hit it unconscious and then stabbed it. He struggled to carry it and ended up dragging his body down the mountain. He finally reached his place, Mio was still alive and asleep. He could now stay by her side and nurse her. They had enough food supply.

>Mio was surprised about the blood, she apologised but Yuuji replied that it was from the deer he had processed. He got home, used a food processor and created minced meat. Mio didn’t really have an appetite but wanted to eat the meat Yuuji had worked hard for. She managed to eat one third of the meal. She regretted not being able to eat this when she was healthy. They promised to have a BBQ when she recovered. She fell asleep. Now the food was secured, he’d stay by her side.

\*Natsu no Owari - 2nd

>Then there was a passage of time, 2nd day to the 6th day. Yuuji was feeding Mio with minced meat and tomato juice. Sometimes she was awake and they talked about their past. Back then, there had been recovery centres or something. Both of her parents started to have a nosebleed at the same time. They went to that hotel to not infect Mio. Needless to say, when Mio met them again, they were dead.

>As for Yuuji, he hadn’t met his parents since he had gotten to this village, they were only able to communicate with each other via phone. It was quite hectic, people from the city took refuge in this village. The villager bore a grudge but it had been over for them as well, that virus must have been within them already. The network broke down and Yuuji wasn’t able to contact his parents anymore. He kept seeing off everyone of this village. Both Mio and Yuuji were the same. Mio refused to die.

>And thus Yuuji couldn’t do anything but stay by her side, hold her hand, swap the towel on her forehead, feed her, wipe the sweat off her body.

>Around the 6th day, Mio started to breathe heavily. Suddenly, she was sweating an abnormal amount. Her fever hadn’t increased. It had gone down. He wiped off the sweat. He wondered if he should change the futon so she’d get warm. But wouldn't it be better to leave the sweat and let her body cool down? He panicked. Mio asked for water and he calmed down. Yes, her fever had gone down. He smiled. Mio had given her best. He fell asleep. He hadn’t gotten a good sleep the past few days. The relief hit him.

>He woke up and Mio smiled at him. Mio felt shit but she felt like drinking water. She was quite sweaty. She didn’t want him to wipe off her body but she’d like to change her clothes. She requested one of his clothes.

\*Natsu no Owari 3rd

>Mio recovered for the most part. She wasn’t able to move her body though, only bent her fingers slightly. Yuuji took her out and made her sit on an unused tatami chair. She felt kind of useless but Yuuji didn’t mind it at all.

>She wondered if he had a wheelchair around. He did not. He had a trolley though. Though, if Mio fell, it wouldn’t be good. Mio didn’t want to die, so no-go for the trolley. Yuuji carried her, gave her a piggy-back ride to a special place. He took a detour and reached the viewing platform. Mio told him that he could rest whenever he wanted but even if Mio wasn’t light, he didn’t mind it at all. She was warm. She was alive. That alone made him happy. Back then, he couldn’t do anything but just pray and watch her suffer. She had given her best.

>They reached the viewing platform. Yuuji put an arm around her and they leaned onto each other. Mio confessed that she had given up when blood flew out of her nose, when her health deteriorated, and when she made Yuuji suffer.

>But then he brought that deer. Yuuji was giving her best so she had to do the same. She wanted to live. Yuuji has lit up her fire of life once more, her desire to live. He had done it twice. He swore he wouldn’t lose Mio. It had been just half a month but he couldn’t live without her anymore. Both confessed their love for each other. Mio apologised for being unable to move. Yuuji didn’t mind, she’d recover. If not, he wouldn’t mind that either, he’d support her and they’ll grow old together.

>There was also the worry of Yuuji getting it but he swore he would overcome it as well.

>I.e., he had proposed to Mio. They’d live together.

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Epilogue

>Somme ended, autumn came, spring came and summer returned. One year had passed. There were other survivors who moved forward, who would live on and overcome “the end.” Mio had recovered and just suffered from slight after effects. They borrowed a bike from a nearby house, travelled for three hours, met a farmer and got potato seeds.

>They exchanged crops and clean water for medicine. There were rumours about the making of a new medicine as well as the restoration of the telephone network

>Even the town started to recover, well, it’ll take still quite a while for the countryside though.

>The city was still not safe but not as bad as before. They got to meet kind people. Everyone faced forward.

>Today, Mio and Yuuji were on their way to a great bartering meeting. They wanted to acquire seasoning. Mio couldn’t ride the bike but Yuuji needed her to accompany him. On one hand, because he wanted her to be by his side. On the other hand, there were thieves all over the place.

>Someone had to watch over their stuff. If they weren’t together, they would have never gone to the town where a lot of people were. Yuuji was thinking about getting his bride clothes. Mio didn’t mind, she could just borrow Yuuji’s clothes. She liked the idea of getting a chicken and having eggs. Mio was realistic. And thus, they lived on.

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DAY 2 - This time, there are some minor differences I guess?

>There are some text changes I guess? He was telling her about the umeboshi or how they could search through houses and use tools. He had just taken the rice and seasonings but with Mio around they might also get themselves some other stuff.

>They went up to the mountains and Yuuji was thinking about using traps. He’d like to borrow some. (Remember, back then he regretted not having those around.)

\*  
DAY 3

>This time they considered getting the traps from the hunter’s place or getting some fishing gear or maybe even looking for that 50-year old umeboshi. I.e., this time they wanted to add meat into their diet.

>They went to a large mansion, I guess? Yuuji told a story about a grandfather and grandmother as well as their eldest son and his wife, their eldest daughter and her husband and their second and her husband. It’s only clear if “Ojii-san” and “Oba-san” refer to grandparents or just old people. Regardless, all three couples got divorced. The gramps was the epitome of the countryside and the granny always teased the ones who got married into the family.

>Yuuji had met that gramps as well, after “it” had started. The gramps left but allowed the people to use his fishing gear.

>Yuuji and Mio found that gear on the second floor, tried out fishing, Yuuji wasn’t really knowledgeable but knew how to handle a fishing rod at least. Yuuji had no talent. For one person, two or three of these river fishes were needed. Mio managed to catch enough for both of them. Yuuji felt down but prepared dinner without complaining. The rest of the story remained the same after this.

>Mio in the bath. She found today enjoyable but wondered about Yuuji. In a sense, not catching anything at all was a talent as well. He wasn’t really into fishing, so should they stop going to the river? But fish was delicious! If Yuuji failed once more, she’d tease him quite a bit.

\*  
DAY 4

>She checked herself in the mirror and smiled. She was healthy, she’d give her best.

>They decided to go to the river again, Yuuji’s dead eyes lit up. This time, Mio wore her swimsuit. They went to the river, Mio felt weird walking with her swimsuit like a kid. Incidentally, this area was so remote, no kids, no convenience stores. If you wanted to get something, you had to take the car.

>They arrived, Mio swam around, Yuuji said he’d catch enough for both of them, failed. Mio teased him and suggested she could shoo the fishes in his direction. He didn’t want to believe that’d work but it did.

>And thus Yuuji caught a lot of fish. Mio went to take a cold bath and fell asleep, Yuuji relaxed on the veranda, waiting for her. She came by, he prepared dinner, they ate together.

>They talked about fun memories. Mio had something but in the end, she enjoyed the present with Yuuji.

>While bathing, she was surprised to see Yuuji’s smile. She liked it a lot. Then she felt tired. She had to avoid falling asleep in the bathtub.

\*  
DAY 5

>Mio seemed well but her hair wasn’t. She wondered if there was some oil or something homemade. Well, she had to keep up with it, she couldn’t live luxuriously. Or was it because of her diet? She decided not to mind it and give her best.

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>They went fishing again. This time, Mio would compete and thus she didn’t bring her swimsuit. 30 min passed and they didn’t catch anything. They were bored and decided to talk about stuff. Yuuji was a guy who lived alone in a village, there wouldn’t be any fun stories.

>How about memories? Mio wanted to stop herself but Yuuji didn’t mind. He had enjoyed living here. It was a fresh experience, leaving the city and returning back to the old school countryside. And the memories he had made had come in quite handy.

>Mio wondered if it wasn’t rough. Yuuji explained that at first, no one took it seriously, saying that it wasn’t their problem, they were doing well after all. Then the refugees came. And everything went downhill. One died after the other. They didn’t have any doctors. Eventually, Yuuji was the only one left. Indeed, it had been rough.

>In Mio’s case, the whole infrastructure broke down. First everything went remote. But the supply chains broke down, and food became scarce. They were disaster-conscious, and had emergency reserves. Eventually, Mio was alone. She could have survived if she had consumed her stuff slowly. But they said that they had to help each other and took her food. She was forced to survive together with her classmates.

>She was glad that she had come here. She was free, the scenery was beautiful and she got along with someone. She was sick being forced by people that didn’t go well with her. Yuuji felt the same, he wasn’t good with his human relationships.

>Mio didn’t think she was that good but Yuuji wondered if she wasn’t mature, she was able to get along with an old man like him. Mio replied that she had been thought to be childish. Was Yuuji a childish old man? Mio replied that he had seemed like an old man when he was unshaved. Now he seemed like an onii-san, she liked it. He had to shave himself every day it seems.

>Mio caught a fish and was super smug about it. Yuuji wondered if she could touch it. She went silent, asked him, and begged him for help. He caught a fish as well and turned smug. She sulked.

>In the bath, she thought about how fun it had been. Being with someone with whom you could feel relieved was good. If Yuuji thought the same way, that’d be nice. She noticed that she was thinking about Yuuji quite a lot these days.

\*  
DAY 6

>Mio felt swimmingly, she’d give her best. She seemed quite cheerful.

>They went fishing together, had a surplus, decided to eat lunch as well. Yuuji collected wood, Mio cried for help as she had caught a fish but couldn’t touch it. Yuuji processed the fish while Mio prepared a makeshift kamado. The fish was unsalted but it felt quite like a survival show.

>Mio suddenly noticed a cat behind Yuuji. She tried to feed it but it ran away. They put down two fish at the spot where it had been, when they returned to the kamado, the cat came and vigilantly ate the fish up.

>After that, they thought about pets. Touching the cat might seem nice but there was no medicine. Both they or the cat could die, infections and stuff.

>They got home early, were done with all their chores. Yuuji took a nap and Mio went out for a walk. When he woke up in the evening, Mio was washing the rice. He asked her if she had found the cat. She laughed, as he had figured her out, she hadn’t found it.

>During dinner, they talked about pets. Yuuji used to have a dog but it died when he was in uni, the most he had cried in his life. Mio always wanted to have a pet but their apartment complex forbade it and her mom was allergic. When she was by herself, she thought about picking up the pets that were no owner-less. She decided not to. She was afraid she’d be the one who’d let them die. Yuuji had felt the same.

>They talked about Mio’s dream, get married and have pets. Yuuji’s favourite pet was a dog, so they decided to get themselves cats and dogs and fulfil that dream together.

>In the bathtub, Mio thought about all that, pets and stuff but then realised that she had low-key proposed to Yuuji. Not only that, he didn’t seem to dislike it at all!

>She returned from the bath earlier than usual. Yuuji was looking for pet essentials, his grandparents used to own a dog. He didn’t find anything. He was thinking about putting food outside and having the cat getting attached to them, cats were cute after all. One step towards that dream. Mio turned red and declared that they should forget about it and ran away. Yuuji was confused.  
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DAY 7

>She looked at herself in the mirror. Indeed, she was cute as well today. She decided to give her best.

>Yuuji hadn’t picked a place to go yet, so she suggested going to the river once more. She wanted to meet that cat again. They got there, didn’t see the cat, and started to fish.

>They wondered if animals were like them, had to deal with “that” as well. Both Mio and Yuuji could die tomorrow. “The end.” Yuuji didn’t know how it was with animals, he wasn’t dodging the topic, he really didn’t know. The world had turned like this before they could figure that out.

>Then they talked about marriage. Yuuji guessed that people would want to marry especially around these times. Social status, income, all that stuff had lost its meaning. So the desire to be with someone must be great, i.e., the hurdle for marriage went down. On the other hand, if the world was filled with youngsters, like Mio, then it was less about marriage but more about dating people. Mio might be more informed than Yuuji who was single.

>Mio told him how “dating” was an attempt to get higher status, i.e. the one who dated the leader would get preferential treatment. Everyone was nice to each other on the surface but looked at each other as enemies.

>Mio preferred her days with Yuuji way more. She was at peace and could talk with Yuuji naturally.

>Yuuji laughed maliciously. He had successfully tricked Mio. She was scared. How cruel. He had given her filling meals every day, made her trust him, let her bath every day and gave her a good night sleep in a futon. And even after this, she could stay with him under the same room without any fear. Wasn’t all of this good. Indeed. Both laughed.

>In the end, the cat didn’t come, they ate dinner together and hoped they’d do better tomorrow. Yuuji was glad that they decided to go fishing. Before this healthy fish-based diet, Yuuji had been only eating vegetables, insects and frogs. Going to the mountains would have robbed them of their stamina, so it was indeed a good idea to go fishing.

>Mio took a bath, was sad about not seeing the cat but also felt guilty for making Yuuji go along with her whims. They had wasted stamina. More than the cat, she wanted to cherish Yuuji. She didn’t want him to tire himself out. She recalled how he had talked about “their dream”, couldn’t help but giggle creepily and be disgusted with herself.

>She realised her feelings.

DAY 8

>That one remained the same as before, confession, they became lovers, she masturbated because Yuuji kept being a wimp.

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DAY 9

>She worked on the field and didn’t seem tired at all.

>They had sex and Mio talked how this was the happiest day of her life, more than her confession at the viewing platform.

>No nosebleed this time. Today was a happy day but tomorrow will be happier. They wished each other a good night.

\*  
DAY 10

>He woke up, Mio was by his side and wished him a good morning. She was surprised how fast it had grown after just one day. Maybe stubbles weren’t too bad. She stroked his chin. They were considering working on the field, stocking up on stuff and trading with neighbours. Mio asked if they could do that in the afternoon, saying she wanted to go to the river; catch more fish and also to swim around for a bit.

>Turns out, she had wanted to go to the river for another purpose. She complained about Yuuji being so calm despite her conducting her revenge. She had been quite frustrated with Yuuji not attacking her. So she got back at him by seducing him with her swimsuit. He got a boner quite quickly and she smiled.

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>Bottom line: They ended up doing it the whole day and went to sleep without doing anything else. They ate, they had sex and they slept. Tomorrow, they’d do the farm work for real. Mio seems dissatisfied but Yuuji wouldn’t budge. It wasn’t like he didn’t want to have sex, just not to the extent of that day. Mio accepted that compromise and they fell asleep next to each other. This day was fulfilling, they were alive.

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DAY 11

>They worked on the field. The soil was put under good condition but they had to wait one or two weeks before sowing the seeds. They wondered about the cat. They went fishing, secured themselves dinner while thinking about acquiring other meat. The cat wasn’t around.

>They got home and Mio noticed that the fodder they had laid out for the cat was gone. She ran out to look for it. Yuuji had the feeling that the cat wouldn’t let Mio find it. The cat had gone out its way to eat the fodder when they were out of the house after all.

>Yuuji was dead-on. Mio returned, sat next to him. They talked about their dreams. Mio was super happy now. She’d be happier if she had a cat join their family. Yuuji was super happy already but if he was allowed to be selfish, he’d like to have a dog as well. Mio smiled.

>Night. Mio wondered if they could go out for a little stroll. Yuuji took electric torches with him, held Mio’s hand, and they went to the river where no fireflies could be found.

>They sat there and talked about the future. The butterflies usually come around obon time, so next year. They’d go for small happiness, acquiring it bit by bit.

>Mio wanted to make clothes for the winter. Yuuji was realistic, they had to kill some deers and boars to get the leather. Since Mio couldn’t make clothes, they’d end up just wrapping themselves with that cloth, like a damn tribe.

>Mio asked Yuuji about his future plans. They went on such talk, a lot of unrealistic dreams.

>90% of them would never come true but Yuuji replied he’d make them come true. They’d live. They’d live for many years. In this world, where one couldn’t desire anything, he had a dream and believed in it.

\*Natsu no Owari

>Mio woke up, was surprised to not find Yuuji by his side. He was fiddling around with his camera. He was considering to record stuff again. Originally, he had picked up his camera as a hobby and to gain recognition to restore his self-esteem. No one watched him for a while. But then he did stuff with the elderly, cooking old school tools with grannies and going hunting with gramps. They all felt like celebrities. But Yuuji ended up seeing all of them off and lost the desire to record anything.

>But now he considered this as “small happiness.” He’d record their everyday life. And when everything went back to normal, they could look back on those days and talk about how happy they were. That’s happiness.

>He thought it was cliché but Mio could agree. She hadn’t been able to let go of her phone after all. Memories were stored inside of it. These memories hurt but they were “happiness.”

>So they did the house chores, completed them, went out for a walk, picked up flowers. It was an uneventful day but yet their hearts were satisfied.

>On their way home, Yuuji recalled something he had forgotten to do. He talked about the future and them getting married and stuff but he hadn’t put it into words. So he casually asked her: “Marry me.” Mio started crying, complained about how out-of-nowhere that was. Yuuji apologised. Mio replied that she had just stalled time to hold back her tears. Obviously, the answer was yet. There was no ring nor ceremony. In general, who would even attend their ceremony?

>They exchanged their vows, swore to love each other until death would part them and kissed.

>They were no heroes, they couldn’t save the world. They could only spin their own tale and live.

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Epilogue - True Ending B

>Yuuji told Mio to face his way. She knew he was recording her and not taking a picture of her, complained and puffed her cheeks. Still, she went along with it and gave him a smile, a cat was in her arms. Also, her voice seemed different, as if it was coming from a recording.

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Extra

DAY 3

>They decided to set up traps to get meat. They went to the hunter’s place. In fact, it was a hunter club that hunted animals for the public office or something, as long they brought a proof, like a tail, they’d get rewarded with 10 or 20k yen.

>Yuuji and Mio went to the house of one of these hunters, got themselves four snare traps. They went to the mountains and set them up together while talking about the moodmaker uncles. All of them had to leave. In emergency cases, their daughter would come by and drive to the city where they could live together. Silence.

>They were exhausted after that, took naps, prepared dinner. Mio struggled with shiitake mushrooms but for some reason was able to eat them.

>During her bath, she thought about her growth and how animals had to die in order for them to live.

\*

DAY 4

>They went to the other side of the village. An old lady had lived their, her husband had already passed away. Yuuji kind of regretted not visiting her earlier before she passed away because of “it.” That lady had talked about a 50 year old umeboshi. They went into her storage room, found a bunch of bottles with umeboshi but also umeshu. Although it’d be a pain in the ass to carry everything back, Mio declared it’d be respectful to leave it behind, so they made quite a bunch of rounds and were exhausted.

>During dinner, Yuuji also prepared some umeboshi drinks.

>During her bath, she felt exhausted due to all the walk, was surprised about the flavour that still lingered in her mouth and also wondered how the others were doing.

>Then they drank umeshu together and talked about drinking parties, Yuuji’s non-girlfriend life and not-being-able-to-talk-to-girls high school days. Meanwhile, Mio felt the same, she was an introvert. Both were surprised, as they had thought of each other rather highly, Yuuji was kind and cool, Mio was cute. Both wondered if they had gotten slightly drunk already.

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DAY 5

>For breakfast, they ate ume onigiri.

>They checked out the traps, four fails

>They went to this mountain stream site, Yuuji caught two frogs and they also got themselves some crabs.

>Mio wasn’t enthusiastic about it. She didn’t want to look away when Yuuji processed those frogs, as they were taking lives to maintain their life.

>But then she finally ate a frog, it was delicious, tasted like chicken. She still refused to eat grasshoppers though.

>She took a bath, whined about how she had eaten a frog, felt a bit bitter about herself as Yuuji had tried to encourage her to eat protein-rich food while she was just complaining about it. She really wished that their traps worked and that they’d get some meet.

>After the bath, they drank umeshu and talked about how Mio talked to herself recently, her solo mountain trip ended up giving her that habit, as she was scared shitless in the darkness, all alone in the mountains. She was glad she had met Yuuji but was quite vigilant as well. Yuuji reminded her that he had thought of him a bandit that’d rape her.

>Yuuji’s first impression was: Oh, what a beauty. She denied being drunk. He was saying something very out of his character. He wasn’t drunk but as she kept complaining, he wondered if he was.

\*  
DAY 6

>They checked out their traps. Before doing that, Yuuji went to the hunter’s house to get a spear. Trap 3 had caught a deer, Yuuji stabbed its heart and killed it. Mio seemed quite shocked and saddened but she thought it’d be wrong to look away, so she helped Yuuji with the processing.

>Then they carried it back home, continued to process it. Before long, it had turned into a lump of meat and Mio’s weird feeling of having killed a life changed to “that looks delicious.” So they ended up eating spare ribs, used salt and parsley to garnish it. It was super delicious

>They talked about how it was almost a miracle that Mio had found her way to the mountains. Her life had been harsh. She hadn’t slept with everyone, they slept at their own homes. There were men after all, bloodshot eyes. It wouldn’t be a surprise if someone else would end up in the mountains. Yuuji wouldn’t save them though. He saved Mio and now he didn’t want to lose his life with her. A third person would be a further burden and if they didn’t get along with either Yuuji or Mio, they were no-good. Mio thanked him for cherishing her.

>Mio in the bathtub. She thought about how her blood flow felt better. How one had to take life to continue living. Life was important. She recalled the scream of that deer, it had lived until the very last moment.

>Yuuji and Mio drank together, talked about drinking parties Yuuji had attended. He admitted that once in a while, there had been a girl as well. What was Yuuji’s type? Someone like Mio. What was Mio’s type? Someone like Yuuji. They were drunk indeed.

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DAY 7

>They prepared themselves a meat onigiri. Yuuji decided to go to the mountains once more to retrieve the traps, otherwise they’d have too much meat. They were drying the remaining deer meat already to make dried meat, easier to preserve

>As they checked out the traps, they talked about how Yuuji was able to memorise their location while Mio didn’t really have any sense of direction. Yuuji suggested that she should try to memorise the shape of the trees. She looked around, and noticed something blue.

>They stumbled upon a human corps. Parts of it were missing, probably taken away by some wild animal. There was rope around the skull. Yuuji knew those clothes. There was an old uncle, in his 50s, he wasn’t really social and the last time Yuuji had seen him was around winter the year before. That guy had relatives in the city, so Yuuji had thought that he had gone there. He ended up offing himself in the woods for some reason. Maybe he been worrying about various things, and no one knew the answer.

>They interrupted their trap retrieval, picked up the remains, went to that guy’s place, buried the bones and prayed in front of the make-shift grave. They took baths in turns afterward.

>The clothes were washed and the bag where the corpse parts had been was thrown into a barrel and got burnt. Yuuji and Mio watched the smoke rising up to the sky.

>Mio wondered if Yuuji was okay. He was the one who had buried everyone in the village. First, he had conducted cremations but at some point he couldn’t do it anymore, so he buried their bones and made graves. He stopped visiting those graves as well. Mio was kind of used to it as well. First, the dead were carried to the hospitals but then those who carried them died as well, so a lot of dead bodies in the streets.

>They recovered more or less and enjoyed dinner together.

>Mio in the bathtub thought about suicide, how she could have sympathized with it before but now she wanted to live. She was worried about Yuuji. She had been able to part with her parents but Yuuji didn’t see his grandparents nor his parents.

>They drank umeshu together, she asked him if he was okay and he replied that he had “become okay” over time. He was grateful that Mio had come. She had made his empty life feel fulfilling again. When he met her, he was like: “Someone is alive!” Yuuji was honest, he didn’t believe their relationship would have lasted long. Well, it wasn’t long to begin with at the moment. But now, he wanted to live together with Mio as long as possible. Mio felt the same. She also called Yuuji somewhat dense but he didn’t get it. They decided to support each other and live.

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>Well, most of it went like before, just with new scenes such as them smoking meat and planning to get more meat or them drinking umeshu together while talking about the future. They weren’t researchers that saved the world. They would seize their own happiness, maybe make their own umeshu and ripe it for a year so they could look forward to something next year. Also, there were two new sex scenes, added to the “day where they did nothing but sex.”  
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>And the last bit, I presume only their “dream” slightly changed, the idea of them getting a cat and dog swapped to them just trying to seize their own happiness.



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