

Eternal Dream



Kodou
(throbbing)
by Takakura Row

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鼓動

Kodou

42

PAGES

A cold, glazed stare shoots through my heart.
Strong arms that coil around me won't release me.
Will these pent up emotions rob my spirit?

胸に爆弾、時を刻む愛

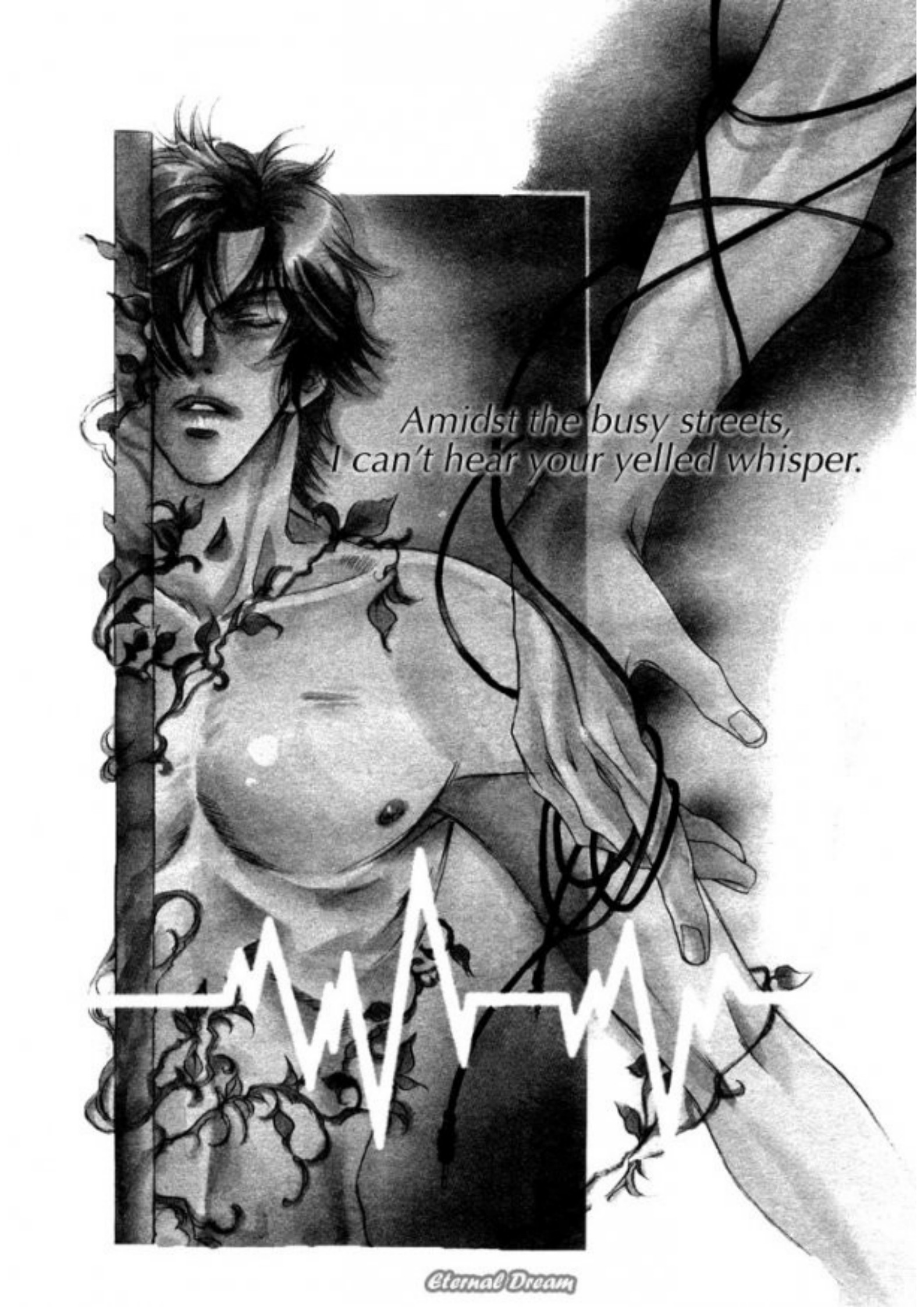
A BOMB IN HIS CHEST MARKS THE PASSAGE OF LOVE.

ROW TAKAKURA presents.

高座朗

In an instant, our worlds changed.
It feels like the raw wound on his chest
is binding him to me.

Eternal Dream



*Amidst the busy streets,
I can't hear your yelled whisper.*



This is about wanting to escape from reality.

HEY!

DID THE USUAL EMAIL COME IN YET?

A noisy society.

I feel as though many things from this era are unbearable.

Hectic every day.

THIS MAKES IT THE THIRD TIME, RIGHT?

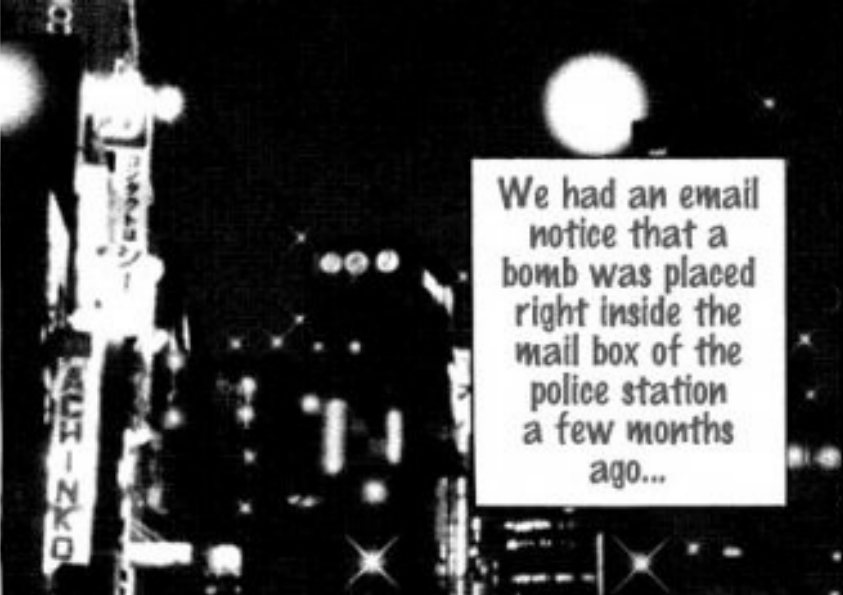


WHO KNOWS?

STILL, IT HAS TO BE DEALT WITH. WELL THEN, I'LL LET YOU FINISH THIS BUSINESS.

DO YOU THINK THIS TIME IT'LL EXPLODE?

In this occupation, the possibility of meeting someone who'll tell you off are high.



We had an email notice that a bomb was placed right inside the mail box of the police station a few months ago...



JEEZ, WHAT A STRANGE INCIDENT...



Just as a precaution, we urged civilians to take refuge while we lower-ranking officials disposed of it.



REMOVAL IS COMPLETE.



So far, these time bombs have never detonated.

OF COURSE, I DON'T THINK HE MISSED THIS.

THIS MUST BE THE TYPE OF CRIMINAL WHO DELIGHTS IN WATCHING PEOPLE'S REACTIONS, DON'T YOU AGREE?

THAT WAS QUITE UNSETTLING.

WASN'T THAT A VERY INTRICATELY BUILT BOMB?



Huh?

JUST
NOW...



The clock is
set to after
six, but...

For some
reason,
it always
stops like
this...



Kushi-
nada?



WERE
PICTURES OF
THE CRIMINAL
TAKEN?



SEEMS LIKE IN ADDITION TO THE WEATHER STORE SECURITY CAMERA AND CAMERAS FROM OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS, WE MIGHT BE ONTO SOMETHING.

I JUST DON'T GET THIS.

This cap...

KUSHI-NADA...



WHEN HE CAME OUT OF THE STORE, HE DIDN'T HAVE HIS BAG.

DOESN'T THAT KUSHI-NADA INDIVIDUAL LOOK SUSPICIOUS?

I DON'T KNOW, WASN'T HE JUST DOING THE GARBAGE?

That
certainly
was...

ER...

...NOTHING.

WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
MITANI?

Kushi-
nada
Takeshi.

During the
four years of
high school,
we were the
best of
friends.

YO,
YAKUMO!

WHY
ARE YOU
WORKING
OVERTIME BY
YOURSELF?

He was
frighten-
ingly
pretty for
a man.

I'VE NO
CHOICE.
ISN'T IT INEVI-
TABLE THAT
NEW MEMBERS
JOIN THE
CLUB?

He had better
reflexes, was
smarter and
overall better
than me on
many things.
He was a
proud friend.

THAT'S
NOT
WHAT I
MEANT.

YOU
WANNA
GO OUT?

And
then....

L
A
T
T
E
R

Eternal Dream



A short
while later,
Kushinada
changed
schools?

But...
why do I
remember
feeling
relieved at
that
moment?

I became
frightened by
his forcefulness,
and I fled from
the scene.

After that,
I couldn't face
him because
I didn't know
what to say.





COME
IN,
MAN.

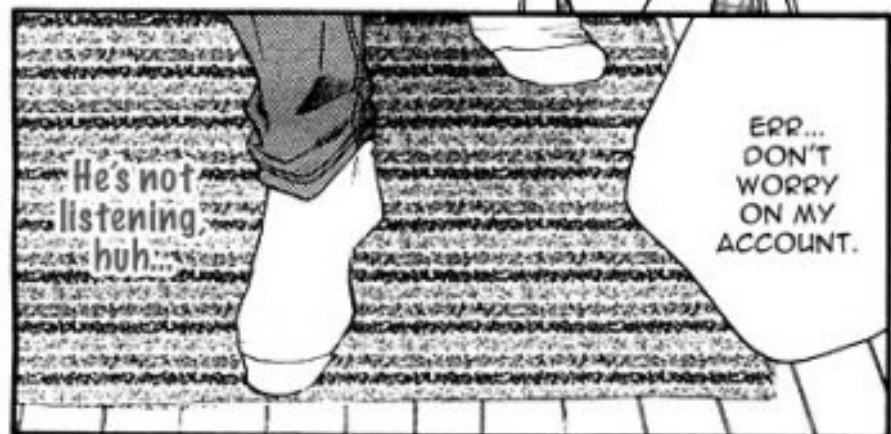
I JUST
RAN OUT
OF BEER
THOUGH.



WHAT'S
THE POINT
OF YOUR
VISIT?



YOU
HAVEN'T
CHANGED
AT ALL,
HAVE YA?
YOU SOLVED
IT RIGHT
AWAY.



He's not
listening
huh...

ERR...
DON'T
WORRY
ON MY
ACCOUNT.



I haven't
seen him in
a while.

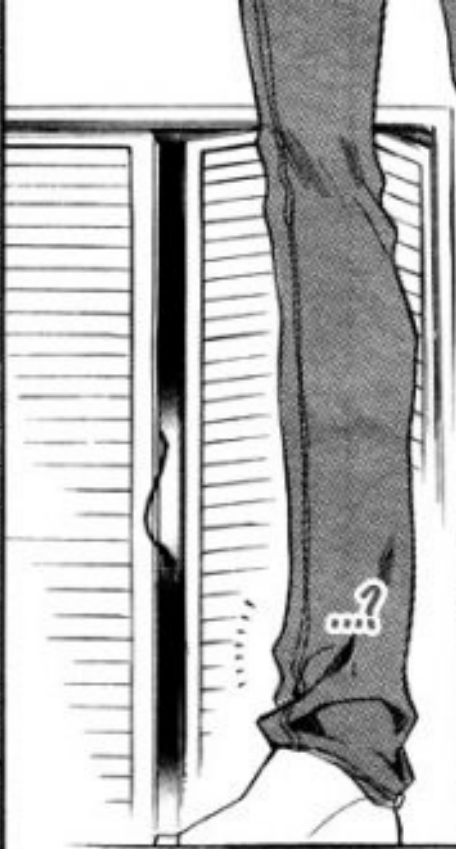
Have you
become a
criminal all
of a sudden...

...my old
friend?



BUT,
I DIDN'T
THINK THAT
YOU'D BE
THE ONE
COMING.

YOU
WERE
LOOKING
FOR ME,
RIGHT?





ABOUT
A HALF A
YEAR AGO,
I SAW YOU
BY COINCIDENCE
ON THE STREET.

BUT, YOU
SEEMED TO BE
IN THE MIDDLE
OF WORK,
BECAUSE YOU
DIDN'T HEAR
ME.



WHY ARE YOU
DOING THESE
THINGS?



I THINK THAT'S
EXACTLY WHAT
YOU CAME
LOOKING FOR.

.....



YOU WERE
WEARING A
POLICE
UNIFORM.



SO, I FIGURED
IF I PULLED ALL THE
POLICE OFFICERS
OUT QUICKLY,
IT'D BE A GOOD
WAY TO TRY TO
GET TO YOU.

YOU WERE
THE ONLY
ONE WHO
CAME OUT
NONCHA-
LANTLY.

I HATE
ASKING
PEOPLE...

...AROUND
THE POLICE
STATION FOR
NO REASON.



I WAS HAPPY
JUST LOOKING
AT YOU FROM
A DISTANCE.
THAT'S WHY
I DID IT RE-
PEATEDLY.

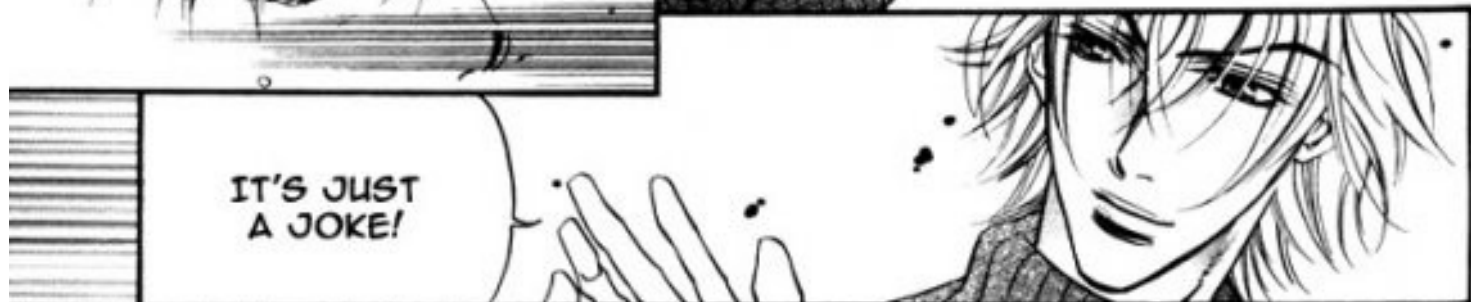
W-
WHY...

...WOULD
YOU DO
SUCH A
THING?

WOULD YOU
HAVE BEEN
HAPPY IF I
TOLD YOU?



IT'S JUST
A JOKE!



No way...

If this is
how it is...

CLINK

I'M
GONNA
GO OUT
FOR A
BIT.

ARE YOU
GOING
TO RUN
AWAY?!

NAH, SINCE I
DIDN'T HAVE
ANY BEER,
I'M JUST
GONNA GO
AND BUY
SOME.



WHAT
THE HELL
ARE YOU
DOING?

DON'T
YOU
NEED A
KEY...

...TO
UNFAST-
EN IT?

CLANK...

CLINK...

But now
there's a
small iron
cuff...

...that binds us
both together.

He hasn't
forgiven me
for running
away.

I ran away
from him
that time.

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HEY...
DON'T MAKE
A FACE LIKE
YOU'RE
ABOUT TO
DIE!

I DID YOU
A FAVOR BY
ENLARGING
YOUR
ASSHOLE.

...A
CUT?

OH, THIS
THING?

I PUT IN A
*PACEMAKER.

*TL-PACEMAKER IS A SMALL
DEVICE THAT'S PLACED
UNDER THE SKIN OF
YOUR CHEST OR ABDOMEN
TO HELP CONTROL ABNORMAL
HEART RHYTHMS.









...AH!

I couldn't help gasping for air.

No matter how hard I tried, I couldn't control my breathing.

Even though... He climaxed often.
Kushinada's heartrate didn't change. In fact, it always remained at a constant rhythm...

CAN...

...YOU EVEN HEAR MY HEARTBEAT PROPERLY?

Although...

ANYONE CAN HEAR IT. YOU DON'T HAVE TO LEAN OVER. I GUESS YOU COULD HEAR IT JUST AS WELL.

Huh?

IF I COULDN'T HEAR IT, WOULDN'T IT MEAN THAT YOU'RE DEAD?





TL: A URINARY CATHETER IS A PLASTIC TUBE INSERTED INTO A PATIENT'S BLADDER VIA THEIR URETHRA TO URINATE.





And you won't go anywhere either...

AT ANY RATE, THIS IS THE WAY YOU'LL LIVE FROM NOW ON, WITHOUT EATING OR DRINKING...

WHA....!

THIS MIGHT BE CLEANER THAN TOKYO'S WATER SUPPLY.

ARGH ...!

TWITCH

PULL

SLIDE

OW!

UH!

TWITCH

WHATEVER.
I'LL PUSH IT
IN DEEPER.
IT MAY BE
UNPLEASANT,
BUT IT'LL
MAKE IT
COME OUT.

WHAT,
YOU'RE STILL
HOLDING IT
IN?



SHOCK



SHUDDER

As usual...

...There isn't
any change in
his tone.

YOU
WON'T
DO IT,
HUH?

FINE,
I GET IT.

JUST GO
OUT WITH
ME?



SHUDDER



In those days, his tone didn't change...



CLENCH...



Why is that?



I miss it.

It's comforting.

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...Ever since then,
I've been...

...dragged by his
shadow
all along.

Perhaps...



In that
crowd,
amongst
the gar-
bage...



I found
Kushinada.







SINCE
THAT
TIME...

IT'S AS IF
EVERYTHING
INSIDE ME
STOPPED.



IT'S
THUMPING,
ISN'T IT?



...RAN
THROUGH MY
BLOOD.

AS THAT EXCITE-
MENT WENT UP
AND DOWN,
I COULD FEEL
THE SENSATION
IN MY CHEST.

...WHEN YOU
PUSHED ME
DOWN...

...THE
EXCITEMENT
ACCUMU-
LATED IN
MY BODY...

...at
that
moment,
would
we...

...have been
together
like this all
along?

If I hadn't
stopped him...

Now
that I
think
about
it...

...club
activities
ended at
six that
day.



Eternal Dream



YOU DID
SECURE A
CRIMINAL...



YOU'RE NOT
CALLIN' YOUR
COMRADES?



WHA...

?!

WHAT'S
THAT...?

THE LAST
PIECE.



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ANYWAY,
IT'S IMPOS-
SIBLE TO LIVE
LIKE THIS FOR
LONG.



IN TEN
MINUTES,
IT WILL
DETONATE..

BUT,
YOU CAN
CUT THE
RED WIRE,
THOUGH...



SAY
MR. POLICEMAN,
YOU DON'T
CHARGE YOUR
CELL PHONE ALL
THAT OFTEN HUH?

COZ' WHEN YOU
SNUCK IT OUT,
YOUR BATTERY
WAS DEAD.



I wonder
how big it
will be?

IF YOU
MAKE A MISTAKE,
WE'D BE THE
ONLY ONES
WHO'LL BLOW UP...
DO YOU THINK
YOU CAN MAKE IT
IN TIME?

ISN'T IT
YOUR DUTY
TO PROTECT
THE CITIZENS?



IS A
SIMPLE
THING TO
DO.

DID YOU KNOW
THAT IF THE
PACEMAKER IS
WITHIN 33CM
OF A CELL-
PHONE...

...IT COULD
MALFUNC-
TION?

Kushi-
nada...



C'MON,
PUT THE
BATTERY IN
QUICKLY!

YOUR
BACKUP
WILL HAVE
TO STOP
IT.

PUNCH

PUNCH



DIDN'T YOU
GO THROUGH
THE TROUBLE
OF GETTING
THE CELL-
PHONE?

09:39

Click

07:00

Ba-Dump

04:00



Click

03:00

02:50

Ba-dump

Dump! Click

Ba-





WHEN I
PUSHED YOU
IN THE CLUB
ROOM...

...YOUR WHOLE
BODY WAS
TREMBLING.



I SEE...



I admired
his looks,
and his
smarts.

AND THEN,
EVERY TIME
I'D SEE
YOU AT
SCHOOL...

WASN'T YOUR
HEART BEATING
SO FAST, THAT
IT COULD BE
HEARD BY
EVERYONE?



AND I WAS SO
NERVOUS,
THINKING THAT
ONE DAY, YOU'D
ATTACK ME
AGAIN.

Immersed
himself in his
superiority
complex more
and more.

And I
thought that
by being
with me,
Kushinada...

YOU TRIED
SO HARD TO
AVOID BEING
NOTICED.



I MIGHT
HAVE BEEN
WAITING...

I felt
relieved.

Because
that throb-
bing wasn't
there any-
more.



BUT YOU
SUDDENLY
DISSAPEARED.

... that the
bell that
marks the
passage of
time is
ringing.

It
seems

...

IT
ECHOED IN
MY HEAD.

YOU COULD
HEAR THE
WHISPER OF
MY HEART-
BEATS IN
THAT NOISY
SCHOOL?!

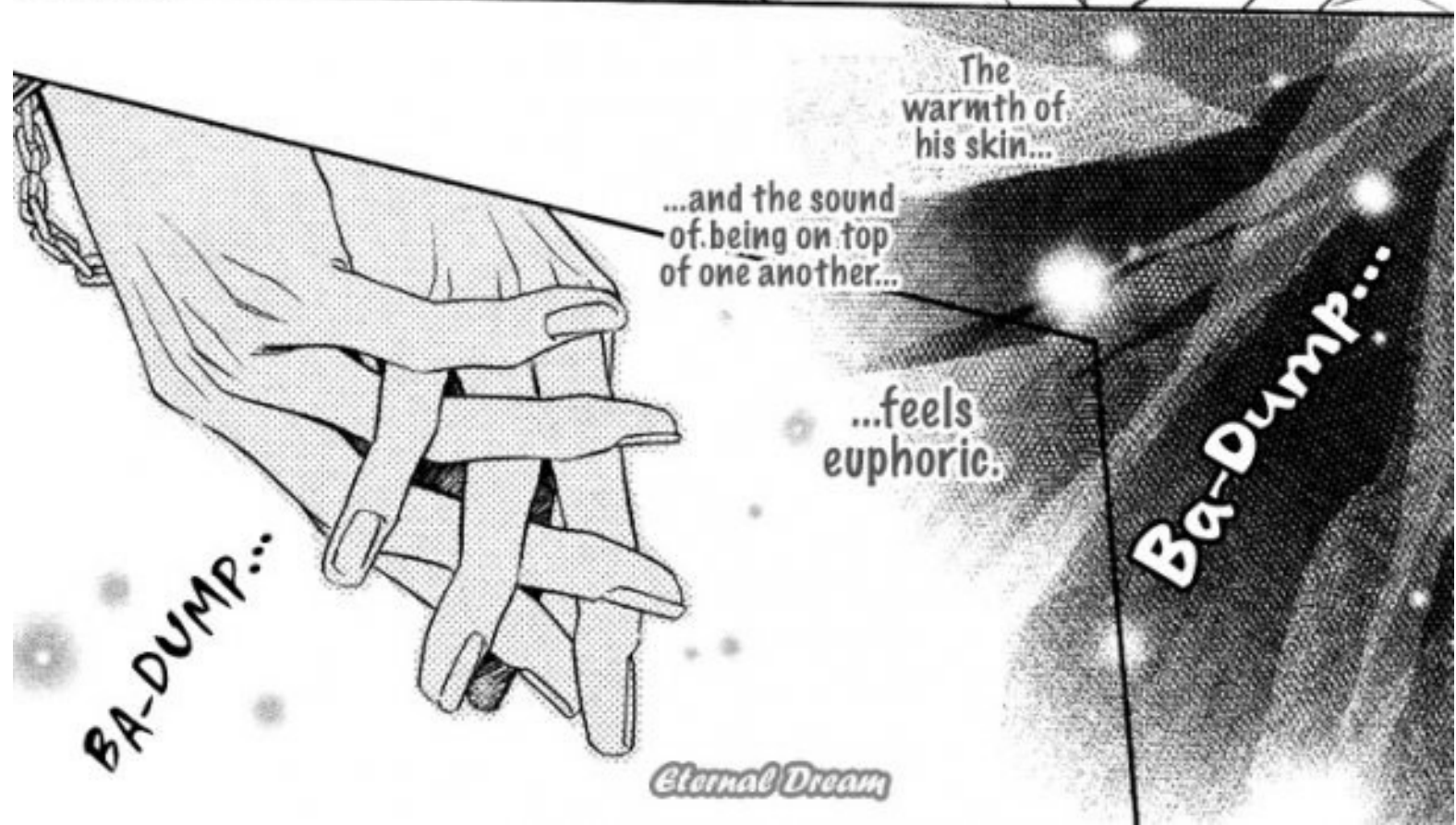
Poke...

Grip

HAA...

Thrust...

NNH...





WHAT?!

?!

clink...

HERE.



YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE, ARE YOU, MR. POLICEMAN?

YOU'VE GOT A CRIMINAL HERE AFTER ALL.

And you didn't have to do that toilet thing!!

YOU COULD'VE DONE THAT FROM THE BEGINNING!



OF
COURSE
NOT!

YOU'RE
NOT RUN-
NING AWAY
ANYMORE,
ARE YOU?

BECAUSE,
I'VE BEEN
CAPTURED.





But, if we
don't waste
time from
this point on,
we can
reclaim what
we lost.

If you hadn't
run away
back then,
we might've
finished this
journey of
ours.

IF IT MEANS
CATCHING
YOU, YAKUMO

...
I'D GO
ANYWHERE.

...has just
begun.

Because
our count-
down...



.....
Are you
planning
to hold
out that
long?

ERR, BUT...
I DO HAVE TO CHANGE
THE PACEMAKER'S
BATTERY ONCE EVERY
SEVEN YEARS OR I'LL
BE IN TROUBLE.

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Thanks so much!!

The Eternal Dream Team



WHICH SIDE WILL YOU BE ON?

ugh!
I hate claws.
They're
such high
mainte-
nance!

Who needs
claws when
your weapon's
as big as
mine?

Of course
I'm the
prettiest...
I'm the only
real woman!

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