
THREADS
OF
LOVE
Kyohei Azumi
BAMBOO COMICS
Qpa
TAKESHOBO



Kyohei Azumi

BORN ON JULY 20TH.

THIS IS MY SECOND COMIC.
IT'S JUST AS FLUFFY AS THE FIRST!
I HOPE YOU ENJOY IT.

COVER DESIGN: Hanako Miyashita and Kohei Nawata Design Office



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THREADS OF LOVE


CHAPTER
1
THREADS
OF
LOVE


MOM!
IT'S LATE! WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO PRAY AT THE SHRINE.
THE LAST TIME I DID THAT, YOUR FATHER CALLED.
WHAT...? WHY DON'T YOU JUST CALL H-
HE'S GOTTA BE THE ONE TO CALL ME!
RING RING!


OH...!
FLIP!
IS IT DAD...?
GRIND!
CRASH!
WHY'S... IT ALWAYS WORK, WORK, WORK?
SEE...!?
KATSUYA
HOW'S KATSUYUKI DOING?
...END...
THEN I GO AND GET MY HOPES UP...
AND HE ONLY ASKS ABOUT YOU...!
RING
BA-DUMP...
ドクン。。
BA-DUMP...
ドクン。。
MOM...
RING
RING


MMM...
WHAT A STRANGE DREAM...
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING...
JUMP!
TWITCH!!
RING...
.....
RING
RING
RING
RING
RING
B-BMP
RING
RING
B-BMP
RING
.....
HELLO?
RING...
SLAM
SHLIP!
MM!
HUFF...
HUFF...!
HUFF...
SHLIP!
SIGH...
...NOT AGAIN...


I STARTED RECEIVING CALLS LIKE THIS...
AFTER MOVING TO THIS TOWN...
THEY'VE BEEN GETTING WORSE SINCE MY GRANDMA DIED...
RING...!
SNAP!
EVERY DAMN DAY...
GET A LIFE!
PEOPLE ARE SICK...
CLATTER...
TWITCH!!!
CRUMPLE...!
...?
TWITCH!!
CLATTER...
ENOUGH ALREADY...
A STALKER? SERIOUSLY...?


OK.
CHATTER...
KATSU-YUKI...
LET'S WALK HOME TOGETH-ER.
CHATTER...
I TRIED CALLING YOU YESTER-DAY, BUT COULDN'T GET THROUGH.
OH...
I GOT PISSED WHEN SOME CALL WOKE ME FROM MY NAP, SO I UNPLUGGED THE PHONE.
FOR REAL?
YOU'RE TOO KIND.
SOME-BODY'S STILL MR. POPULAR.
OH, PLEASE.
EEK! OK. BYE!
SEE YA TOMOR-ROW.
BYE, YUGO!
OH!
WAIT, WHY DON'T YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE?
THEY'RE PRETTY HANDY...
WELL.....


I'M JUST NOT REALLY A BIG FAN.
WHY NOT?
I'M JUST NOT, YOU KNOW?
KATSUYUKI YUUKI!
WHAT'S UP, MR. SHIMO-JIMA?
DID YOU TALK WITH YOUR FATHER ABOUT YOUR COLLEGE PLANS?
UM...!
NO, I HAVEN'T HAD THE CHANCE...
SORRY, I KNOW IT'S AFTER SCHOOL...
HANG ON A SEC!!
HE'S OVER-SEAS ON BUSINESS, RIGHT?
I HEARD YOU'RE NEW IN TOWN...
AND NOW THAT YOUR GRANDMA'S GONE, YOU'RE LIVING ALL ALONE.
YEAH...
I'M ALSO NEW HERE, SO I MIGHT NOT BE THAT USEFUL...
BUT IF I CAN BE OF ANY HELP, JUST LET ME KNOW!
ANYTIME!
MR. SHIMO-JIMA...
.....I KNOW...
MAYBE I CAN TALK TO YUGO ABOUT IT...


OH...
THAT'S WHY YOU TWO HIT IT OFF SO QUICKLY...
KATSUYUKI'S ORIGINALLY FROM HERE.
YOU KNOW TAKAHISA HASEGA-WA?
THE SENIOR IN THE KENDO CLUB...?
YEP. THE THREE OF US HAVE BEEN FRIENDS FOREVER.
IS THAT SO? WELL, I'M GLAD TO HEAR YOU HAVE PEOPLE YOU CAN RELY ON, KATSUYUKI.
THANKS.
...FORGET IT.
MY FRIENDS WELCOMED ME BACK WITH OPEN ARMS AFTER TEN YEARS.
I CAN'T BOTHER THEM WITH MY WEIRD PROB-LEMS...
MAKE SURE YOU TALK WITH YOUR FATHER, OK?
BE SAFE GOING HOME!
HE'S FULL OF ENERGY...
...OOPS!


HUH...?
IT'S NOT HERE...
CLATTER...
HANG ON.
GOTTA GRAB MY GYM TOWEL.
I WANNA WASH IT.
I PUT IT IN MY LOCKER AFTER CLASS...
DID SOMEONE... TAKE IT HOME BY MISTAKE?
IT CAN'T BE...
DID SOMEONE... STEAL IT?
BA-DUMP!
MAYBE...
THIS ISN'T A STALKER...
BUT SOME KIND OF BULLY...!
IT SUCKS TO BE THE NEW KID...
WHAT'S UP?
UH...
TWITCH!


IT'S NOTHING.
HEH HEH...
I CAN'T SEEM TO CATCH A BREAK LATELY, THAT'S ALL.
IN THAT CASE...
YOU WANNA STOP BY THE SHRINE? IT'S NOT LIKE...
YOU NEED TO WARD OFF EVIL SPIR-ITS...
BUT IT'S RIGHT NEXT TO YOUR PLACE.
UM...!
SURE... WHY NOT...?
.....WARDING OFF EVIL SPIRITS...
WELL... IT CAN'T HURT...
HUH?


TAKAHI-SA...?
HEY, FELLAS.
WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE?
THE HELL...!!?
ACHOOOO!!
OH...
IT'S THAT CAT...
I USED TO BE ALRIGHT, BUT NOW I'VE GOT THIS ALLERGY.
I SNEEZE AND GET ALL TEARY AROUND CAT HAIR...
YAWN...
HE ALWAYS FOLLOWS ME WHEN I PRACTICE HERE.
I FEEL BAD. THAT'S MY CAT.
YOU OK, MAN?
OH YEAH!
I WAS GONNA SWING BY YOUR PLACE LATER.
YOU SAVED ME THE TRIP.
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE...


HERE.
WHAT'S THIS?
F-WUD!
SOME SUSHI.
MY MOM MADE IT FOR YOU.
SHE SAID IT MUST BE HARD ON YOUR OWN.
WOW...!
THANKS. I'LL EAT IT... FOR DINNER!
NO WORRIES.
WHATEVER YOU NEED, JUST LET ME KNOW!
I'LL BRING THAT BOOK YOU WANTED TO READ TO SCHOOL TO-MORROW.
SOUNDS GOOD.
YOOO!
WE DOING THIS SHRINE VISIT, KATSU-YUKI?
YEAH... I'M COMING, I'M COMING.


CLATTER...
...
UM...
I GUESS I'LL WISH FOR THAT WEIRDO TO STOP STALKING ME...
CLAP!
...?
BLINK...
.....WHO'S THIS KID...?
WHEN'D HE...?
BOW!
THAT'S SOME COSTUME...
YOU KNOW...
HE SHOULDN'T BE SITTING ON THE DONATION BOX...
YOU GUYS CAME HERE TO PRAY?
YEAH...
I'VE BEEN DOWN ON MY LUCK LATELY, SO YUGO SAID...
WE SHOULD TRY WARDING OFF EVIL SPIRITS.
EVIL SPIRITS?
YOU'RE DOING THAT AT THIS SHRINE?


IT IS...!?
BUT, IT'S FOR MATCH-MAKING!
HE'S GOT EARS AND A TAIL!
WAIT...
AREN'T THEY CURIOUS ABOUT THE KID ON THE BOX?
?!
OH, WAS IT...?
STAAARE!
PLUS, HE'S TOTALLY STARING AT ME...!
CAN'T THEY SEE HIM...?
IS HE A GHOST.....?
LET'S GO HOME!
NOW!
WAIT UP, KATSU-YUKI!


GLUG
GLUG!
TWIST!
PANT...
PANT...
YUUKI
RUSTLE!
TWITCH!!
PWAH!
WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT...?
FWIP!!
HEY!!
THAT'S MY DIN-NER!
MUNCH
MUNCH
THESE WON'T DO...
DO WHAT!?
AN OFFERING LIKE THIS JUST ISN'T ENOUGH...
KID...
THAT'S MY DINNER, NOT AN OFFER-ING.
JEEZ...
GLOOOM...


LOOK...
KATSUYUKI...
WHAT!?
HOW DO YOU KNOW MY NAME...?
HUH...?
YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME...?
?
...
.....THAT'S FINE...
THE HELL IT IS!
RUSTLE...
JUST LET ME FEED A LITTLE.
WHAT THE...!?
MM!
CLATTER!!
KISS
KISS
GULP...
SUCK
MM.


HE SWALLOWED MY SPIT!?
LICK...
STILL NEED MORE...
TUG!
WHA-...!?
HEY...!
WHOA!
HOLD UP THERE...
STOP TOUCH-ING...!
COME ON.
GRAB!
THUD!
M-...
MATE!?
JUST BE QUIET.
I WANNA MATE WITH YOU.
PUSH!!
YOU JUST MADE A WISH AT THE SHRINE, RIGHT?
I'M HERE TO GRANT IT.
TWITCH!
YOU ARE!?


OH!
CAN'T FIGHT BACK, HUH?
HUFF.
QUIVER!
WAIT... WHY...
AM I...?
TWITCH!
MM!
AH.
GROPE!
SHLP
SHLP
WHAT DO YOU...?
OH!
HUFF...
HUFF!
THAT'S THE AGREEMENT YOU AND I HAVE.
SHLP
TWITCH!
OH!
SHLP!
HE'S LICKING IT!?
HUFF.
HUFF...
LICK...
NN!
SPURT!
SPURT!
CRAP...
I'M CUM-MING!
AHN...
HUFF!
HUFF...


WHY'S HE GETTING TALLER AND TALLER...!?
HM...?
A LITTLE MORE.
SLIDE
AH!
NO.
NOT THERE...!
SHLIP
MM!
TWITCH!
HOLD STILL. I'LL LICK YOU LOOSE.
DAMN.
GRAB!
HUH!?
TWITCH!!
OH!
EEP...!
OH...
HF.
TWITCH!
OH!
NO...!
IT'S DIRTY...
AH!
AH!
PUSH!
SHLP!
NH!
QUIVER!


TREMBLE
HUFF...!
NN.
TWITCH!
HUFF!
TREMBLE!
RUB
SHLIP
MM.
TWITCH!
HUFF!
TWITCH!
OH!
NGH...!
SUCK
SHLIP
HUFF!
QUIVER!
CLENCH!
SUCK
SLURP
STOP!
I'M...!
OH!!
LICK
SLURP!
I'M...
CUMMING AGAIN...!
MM!
TWITCH!!
SUCK...!
SLURP!
SQUUURT—
HUFF...
HUFF...
HF...
KISS
MM!
HF.
SLUMP...
HF.


TWITCH!!
AHN!!
OH!
PUSH_!
!!
HUFF.
HUH...?
HUFF...
HUFF.
SLIIDE
NO WAY!
IT'S OK.
DON'T WORRY.
PANT...
HUFF...
MM!
AH...! AH...
TWITCH TWITCH!
MM...!
I'LL GO SLOW.
PUSH PUSH!
WHAT'S GOING ON?


TWITCH!
KISS
MM!
KISS
HF.
KISS
PANT
IT FEELS SO GOOD.....
MM...!
HF...
!
HUFF!
IT HURTS, AND YET...
MY HEART FEELS SO WARM...
BLINK...
WHAT!?
JUMP!!
ガバッ
I TOOK A SHOWER.
AND... I CLEANED YOU UP, TOO.
PUT YOU IN BED.
THROB
THROB
OW!!
YOU'RE FINALLY AWAKE.
...THAT WAS SOME WEIRD DREAM...
I'M HAVING A LOT OF THOSE LATELY...
ROLL...
.....THIS PAIN...
THROB
IT WASN'T A DREAM...!?
THROB


!?
BUT, YOU'RE A GHOST...!
RIGHT?
GASP!!
!?
THWACK!
TAKE SALT, DEMON!
WHOOSH!
OOF!!
DON'T THROW CONDI-MENTS!
CALM DOWN!!
HEY!
WHAT'D YOU DO TO ME!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN? I WAS HUNGRY, SO I ATE.
BLUNT!
RING...
TWITCH!
AH!
RING
RING...
?
RING
RING
WAIT!
DON'T ANSWER IT!
WHY NOT?
RING...
HUFF...!
!
HUFF.
SHUP


KER-CHIK...
WHAT WAS THAT?
.....AGAIN...?
SIGH...
A PRANK CALL.
HMMM...
F-...
FORGET THAT. WHAT ARE YOU?
I'LL CALL THE COPS IF YOU PLAN ON STAYING...
WHY'RE YOU SO CALM AFTER ASSAULTING ME...?
GO AHEAD, BUT MOST PEOPLE CAN'T SEE ME.
REMEMBER YOUR FRIENDS AT THE SHRINE?
URK...!
SO, THEN... YOU ARE A GHOST!?
I GUESS YOU'RE NOT WRONG, PER SE.
ORIGINALLY, I WAS A FOX.


I...
I GOT FUCKED BY A FOX...
SLUMP!!
カレ~~
YOU REALLY DON'T REMEMBER, DO YOU...?
WHAT...?
I DIDN'T ASSAULT YOU.
DAMN...!
NEVER MIND.
...YOU WERE JUST AT THE SHRINE, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT THAT WAS A MATCH-MAKING SHRINE...
YOUR WISH INVOLVED HUMAN RELATION-SHIPS, DIDN'T IT?
I CAN MAKE THEM AND BREAK THEM.
OH... SO, YOU...
WAIT...
HOLD ON...
DID YOU CAST A SPELL ON ME?
YOU FOXES DO THAT, RIGHT?
GRR!
WHAT A PAIN...
TWITCH!
!!?
LICK!


THOSE ARE THE "THREADS OF FATE."
I CAN SEE THREADS.
SO...?
?
OH...
HUH...?
CAN YOU SEE THEM?
MY EYE!?
TWITCH!
THERE ARE ACTUALLY TONS MORE.
DIFFERENT COLORS HAVE DIFFERENT MEANINGS.
RED ONES ARE FOR LOVE. GREEN FOR TRUST. BASICALLY, THERE'S A LOT OF CATEGORIES.
AND THESE THREADS MATCH UP?
YEP.
THE STRONGER THE FATE AND FEELINGS, THE THICKER AND MORE VIBRANT THE THREAD.
THE MORE VIBRANT THE THREAD, THE PURER THE EMOTIONS...
THE GREEN THREAD ON MY RIGHT HAND... DISAPPEARS HALFWAY...
REALLY...?
THAT'S 'CAUSE THERE'S NO ONE AT THE OTHER END.


IT LOOKED LIKE ONE OF THE THREADS WAS STRETCHING TOWARDS HIM...
TIME'S UP.
OH!
HM... THE THREAD ON MY LEFT HAND...
THEY'RE GONE...
SHIRO.
BUT, JUST NOW, ONE THREAD W-
AND WHO ASKED TO ME TO PLAY MATCH-MAKER.
LIKE, WHOSE THREADS ARE CONNECTED TO THOSE...
F.Y.I., I CAN'T BE SPECIFIC WITH STUFF.
HUH? NO... ISN'T THAT A DOG'S NAME...?
RING ANY BELLS?
OOPS!
SNAP!
.....
A DOG...?
... SORRY.
REALLY...
... SHI-RO...
THAT'S MY NAME.


...ARE YOU A GOD?
NO.
I DO THIS TO SERVE OUT A PUNISHMENT FOR A CRIME...
I COMMITTED LONG AGO...
CONNECTING PEOPLE REDUCES MY SENTENCE BY THE LIFE SPAN OF THE ONE CONNECTED...
AND DISCONNECTING PEOPLE INCREASES IT.
I'LL BE FREE WHEN I CONNECT THE EQUIVALENT OF 10,000 YEARS.
SERIOUSLY...!?
TODAY, I...
...
LOOK...
WISHED TO BE DISCONNECTED...
IF MY WISH IS KEEPING YOU HERE, YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO IT.
I'LL FIGURE IT OUT ON MY OWN.
SORRY...
JUST FORGET IT.







"SLEEP," HE SAYS...

BOOF...

HOW THE HECK CAN I...?

WHO CAN I TALK TO? NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE HIM.

I CAN'T ASK ANY-ONE FOR HELP.

...HANG ON...


JUST WHY CAN I SEE HIM...?
...WELL, MY LIFE'S NOT IN ANY DANGER... FOR NOW.
HE DID FORCE HIMSELF ON ME, THOUGH...
I AM PRETTY TIRED...
NOD...
RING
RING
RING...
RING...
RING
KER-CHIK...
...I KNEW YOU'D COME BACK...
AND IF IT WASN'T FOR THAT WISH...
I WAS JUST GONNA LEAVE YOU ALONE...
...WHY ARE YOU CAUGHT UP IN NONSENSE AGAIN...?
SHHHFFE...
SHHFF...


S-... SORRY.
THANKS...
!?
IT'S OK. TAKE CARE.
THUD!
EEK...!


NONE OF IT WAS A DREAM...
HE FOLLOWED ME TO SCHOOL...
MORNING!
MORNING!


GRAB!
WHAT!?
I THOUGHT...
PEOPLE COULDN'T SEE YOU!


I WON'T STAND OUT HERE, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY YOU WERE WEARING A UNIFORM THIS MORNING...
HEH HEH.
I WOULDN'T GO THAT FAR...


I CAN TAKE HUMAN FORM FOR A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.
ANYONE CAN SEE AND TALK TO ME THEN.
TO YOU. I'M JUST MISSING MY EARS AND TAIL.


は!?
WHAT'S THAT!?
TAKING HUMAN FORM DRAINS MY ENERGY, THOUGH...
I'LL HAVE TO MATE WITH YOU LATER TO REPLENISH IT.
I CAN CONSERVE MORE ENERGY WHEN I'M SMALLER.
IT'S LIKE A POWER SAVE MODE.
MATING WITH YOU RE-CHARGED ME, SO I COULD RETURN TO MY USUAL FORM.
TH-...THAT'S WHAT YOU MEANT BY "FEEDING"...?
BA-DUMP!
WAS HE SERIOUS JUST NOW?
SO, YOU GREW UP FAST YESTERDAY 'CAUSE...
WAIT... JUST STOP TAKING HUMAN FORM!
I CAN'T AFFORD TO.
I WANNA SEE HOW THINGS ARE UP CLOSE.
...
"THINGS"?
...
YEP...


ARGH...
THE HELL...?
WHAT THE...?
CLATTER...
カラン
WHAT'S WRONG?
CRUMPLE...
NO-THING...
IT'S JUST THE TOWEL I THOUGHT I LOST YESTER-DAY...
I GUESS SOMEONE DID TAKE IT HOME BY MIS-TAKE.....
HEY, KATSU-YUKI...
WHAT'S THIS...?
SOMETHING'S ON IT.....
SNIFFLE...
A-...
ACHOOO!!
UGH!
!?
SLAM!!
DRIP...


SNIFFLE!
...BLACK CAT HAIR...?
IS THIS FROM TAKA-HISA'S CAT...?
.....NAH, IT COULDN'T BE...
■END■


...THERE'S NO WAY THAT TAKAHISA'S BEEN THE ONE HARASSING ME LATELY...
SNIFFLE...
.....IT CAN'T BE HIM...
THREADS OF LOVE
CHAPTER 2


SIGH...
SNIFFLE...
PLUS, ACCUSING HIM JUST 'CAUSE OF SOME CAT HAIR DOESN'T MAKE SENSE...
...HE'D NEVER DO THAT...
GASP...!
"ORIGINALLY, I WAS A FOX."
FWIP...
HEY, YOU DON'T HAVE ANY IDEAS WHO THE CULPRIT IS, DO YOU?
WHAT, WITH YOUR HEIGHTENED SENSE OF SMELL.
YOU DON'T WANNA KNOW.
I DON'T...?


M-...
MORN-ING!
TODAY'S A HOT ONE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN...?
MORNING, KATSUYU-KI.
TWITCH!
...WHO'S HE?
HAVEN'T SEEN HIM BEFORE...
HUH...!?
UH...
HE'S A NEW KID.
I'M SHOWING HIM AROUND...
YOU REALLY ARE SLOW.
COME AGAIN...?
SIGH


HMPH!
WHO YOU CALLING SLOW?
ARGH!
YOU'VE BEEN HOUNDING ME SINCE LAST NIGHT.
"LAST NIGHT"?
BOYS... LITTLE EARLY TO BE ROWDY.
TAKAHISA!
M-... MORN-ING.
BEFORE I FORGET...
HEY... HERE'S THAT BOOK YOU WANTED.
STAAARE...
GIVE IT BACK WHENEVER YOU'RE DONE.
?
WHAT'S WITH THE STAR-ING...?
IT'S NOTHING.
...I JUST KNEW IT COULDN'T BE HIM...
WHOOSH!!


IS THAT YOUR CAT...?
IT SURE IS.
YOU FOLLOWED ME TO SCHOOL, LITTLE GUY?
KURO!?
MEOW
NUZZLE!
TMP!
SNIFFLE...
YOU SCARED ME...
...WAIT...
WHAT'S WITH HIS TAILS...?
SNIFFLE...
YOU SHOULD TELL THE TEACHER.
YOU'RE RIGHT.
AHOOO!!
YOU OK?
H-HE HAS TWO TAILS!!
HUH?
YOU MEAN TAIL, RIGHT?
PURR
PURR
GASP...!
...THEY CAN'T SEE THIS, EITHER!
YOU FELLAS AL-RIGHT?
NO...
IT'S COOL.


CAN I TAKE HIM HOME REAL QUICK?
MY CAT FOLLOWED ME TO SCHOOL TODAY...
BEFORE THAT...
WHISPER!
SHIRO...


GET TO CLASS.


LET'S GO. KATSU-YUKI.
...HE'S GONE!!
WHERE'D HE GO!?


WHAT'S THE DEAL...!?
SILENCE...


GIMME A BREAK.
HE JUST DOES WHAT-EVER HE WANTS!


YUGO...
WANNA HEAD HOME TOGETHER?
NOT TODAY.
I'VE GOT SOME-THING TO DO...
GONNA STAY BEHIND...
THAT'S COOL.
SEE YA TOMOR-ROW.
CHATTER
CHATTER...


KATSU-YUKI...
TWITCH!
!!
THE HELL'D YOU DISAPPEAR TO!?
HEY!
GRAB!
WHAT?
GROOOWL...
HAD TO TAKE CARE OF SOME-THING.
MORE IMPORTANTLY, I'M HUNGRY. LET ME FEED A LITTLE.
THUD...
NO WAY...
TWITCH!
KISS...


KISS
MM!
SUCK
GULP!
MM!
SUCK!
MM!
BLUSH...
HE SWALLOWED MY SPIT AGAIN...!!
HEY!!
KISS
GASP!
SHIRO!
KNOCK IT OFF!
WE'RE AT SCHOOL!!
NIBBLE
TWITCH!
!!
GRRR...
I KNOW THAT. BUT...
.....IT'S JUST NOT ENOUGH AT ALL.


I WANTED TO FAN SOME FLAMES.
WHY'D YOU EVEN DO IT AND FOLLOW ME IN THE FIRST PLACE!?
YOU WHAT?
HUH!?
SIIIGH...
WHOSE FAULT IS THAT!?
I'M TIRED FROM BEING A HUMAN ALL DAY.
GROOOOWL
POOF...
LET'S JUST KEEP GOING...
SST...!
TWITCH!
ARE YOU DENSE?
IF SOMEONE SEES US, MY HIGH SCHOOL LIFE IS OVER!
SO, IT'S OK AS LONG AS THEY DON'T SEE US?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
MAKE UP YOUR MIND.
I ALREADY HAVE!
HEY...
HO
SLAP!!


ANOTHER WEIRDO!
!?
HMPH!
SNIFFLE...
ACHOOO!!
SNIFFLE...
THIS FEELS LIKE...
YOU MENTIONED TAILS BEFORE.
SO, YOU CAN SEE ME.
I THOUGHT SO.
WOULD YOU STOP BEING ALL BUDDY-BUDDY WITH MY OWNER?
SEE HIM...?


WHAT THE WHAAAAT!?
SHUT UP.
.....THAT MEANS...
THIS IS THAT BLACK CAT.
TAKAHI-SA'S...?
BY...
MY-SELF...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE BY YOUR-SELF?
BA-DUMP!
RIGHT...
PEOPLE'LL THINK I'M CRAZY.
THE WHOLE INVISIBLE THING...
JUST ON MY WAY HOME.
NOTHING.
SEE...
YA.
REALLY? OK. BYE, THEN!
TAKAHISA'S MINE...


I CAN'T STAND IT.
STOP TAKING AWAY OUR TIME TOGETH-ER.
AND YET HE'S BEEN WORRYING ABOUT YOU SINCE YOU CAME.
HE GOES OUT AT NIGHT TO TAKE YOU DINNER.
HUH...?
YOUR WHAT...!?
WHAT'S WITH THESE GUYS?
JUST WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON!!?
THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT I HAVE TO SAY...
YOU'RE TOO CLOSE! BACK UP.
I'M ALLERGIC TO CATS!
OH... MY BAD...
SHOVE!!
?
I DIDN'T DO A DAMN THING WRONG!
ACHOOO!!
HIIISS!
WAIT, WHY AM I APOLOGIZ-ING!?
WHO CARES!?
THUD!
BLOOM!


BY THE WAY, I'M THE ONE WHO RUMMAGED THROUGH YOUR LOCKER.
SIGH...
.....
GRRR...
LIKE HELL I AM!
YOU IDIOT!
YOU MEAN YOU'RE MY STALKER!?
THAT WAS YOU...!?
...WHY CAN A NITWIT LIKE YOU EVEN SEE ME TO BEGIN WITH...?
HUH...!?
GRAB!
HEY! UH... WAIT...
TMP!
POOF...
HE REALLY IS A CAT...
SNIFFLE...


HE'S A TWIN-TAILED CAT.
AT LEAST, HE ALMOST IS.
IT'S RARE, BUT SOME CATS WHO LIVE LONG BECOME LIKE HIM.
A... TWIN-TAILED CAT...?
THE REASON YOU CAN SEE HIM...
IS 'CAUSE YOU AND I MATED.
SO, THAT MEANS HE LOOKS LIKE AN ORDINARY CAT TO TAKAHISA?
YEP.
ANYONE HE SWAPS BODILY FLUIDS WITH...
CAN SEE HIM, LIKE YOU CAN SEE ME...


.....
BUT...
...I WAS ABLE TO SEE YOU BEFORE YOU FORCED YOURSELF ON ME...
HMMM...
SO... YOU DO KNOW WHO'S BEHIND ALL THIS.
.....
IGNORE!
INCH...
AND WHY THE HELL DID A CAT MESS UP MY LOCKER...?
MAYBE HE PICKED UP ON THE UNREST SURROUNDING YOU...
AND GOT CONCERNED...
ABOUT HIS OWNER.
C'MON...
YOU'VE GOTTA TELL ME.
I JUST NEED TO KNOW.
GRAB!


SIGH...
...I DON'T ACCEPT WISHES WHEN THE TWO PEOPLE INVOLVED DON'T COME TO PRAY TOGETHER.
...THAT DAY...
SO THEN...
HE WISHED FOR US TO BE TOGETHER...?
SLIDE...
YUGO...
TWITCH!


LISTEN...
I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOME-THING...
UMMM...
HOW DO I SAY IT...?
CLATTER
WHAT'RE YOU DOING IN MY SEAT?
NO-THING.
JUST WAITING FOR SOME-ONE.
IS THAT SO...?
KATSU-YUKI...
CLATTER
WHAT'S THAT ON YOUR NECK?
HUH...?
WHAT...?
GRAB!
IT WASN'T THERE BEFORE.
BITE MARKS? A HICKEY?
OH...! FROM JUST NOW, WHEN SHIRO...
THAT BASTARD!
NO, THIS IS NOTHING.
WAS IT THE GUY FROM THIS MORN-ING?
YOU WERE TOGETHER YESTER-DAY, TOO, RIGHT?

ARE YOU GUYS DATING?
CLATTER!
CLENCH!
!!
I'VE BEEN...
TRYING TO GET YOU TO NOTICE ME.
...I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU.
I THOUGHT IT WAS OVER, THOUGH, WHEN YOU MOVED AWAY.
OW...!
WHAT'S WITH YOU!?
YOU'RE ACTING MESSED UP!
I AM MESSED UP!
TWITCH!
YUGO...
SO THEN, YOU...
SINCE YOU CAME BACK...
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL MYSELF...


SHUDDER!
LIKE YOU CAN SAY THAT?
A GIRL DIDN'T GIVE THIS TO YOU...
RIGHT?
KISS
THE HECK ARE YOU SAY-ING?
WE'RE BOTH DUDES...
GET OFF!
BA-DUMP...
BA-DUMP...
KISS
TWITCH!
SUCK
THOUGHT SO.
YOU DON'T DENY IT.
IT'S JUST, THIS IS LIKE, A DOG BITE OR SOME-THING...
CLENCH
HUFF.
BA-DUMP...
HF...
BA-DUMP...
I CARE ABOUT YOU SO MUCH...


MMM!
NGH!
STOP IT!
GASP-
NUDGE NUDGE!
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T WANT THIS...
SO I'VE BEEN HOLDING BACK...
OF COURSE I DON'T.
HOW COULD I!?
HF.
HF_
LIAR.
TWITCH!!
HUFF.
YOU WERE BETTER OFF NOT KNOWING.
SEE? THAT'S WHY...
KISS
HUFF.


NO ONE ELSE CAN SEE HIM IN THAT FORM.
CRAP.
!!
SHI-RO!
!
WHACK!
!!?
CLATTER!
Y-...
YOU SAVED ME...
SLUMP...
PHEW...!
HANG ON!
ARE YOU HERE TO TIE THE THREAD BETWEEN YUGO AND I!?
BUT, I WANTED THE OPPOSITE! WE CANCEL EACH OTHER OUT!


SST!
FWISH!
YOU'RE WRONG.


HE WISHED TO CUT TIES WITH YOU!
HE DID...!?
SST...
EVEN YOU CAN SEE THE POWERFUL LUST EMANATING FROM THAT THREAD.
WHAT'LL HAPPEN...
WHEN THE THREAD'S... CUT?
IS THIS... THE THREAD I SAW YESTER-DAY...?
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP...
YOUR CONNECTION WILL BE SEVERED.
YOU'LL FADE FROM EACH OTHER'S MEMORIES AND EVENTUALLY FORGET.
WHAT...!?
I...
I DON'T WANT THAT!


YUGO'S MY FRIEND. HE'S IMPORTANT TO ME.
I WON'T LET YOU CUT OUR BIND TO EACH OTHER!
.....!


SORRY.
I...
STAGGER
YOU AWAKE?
YOU OK!?
KATSU-YUKI...
FIDGET...
I DID SOMETHING HORRIBLE TO YOU...
?


I WENT TO THE SHRINE WITH YOU...
THINKING IT WAS MY LAST CHANCE.
EVEN IF IT WAS JUST SUPERSTITION, I THOUGHT IT WOULD HELP ME SETTLE THINGS.
IT DIDN'T WORK.
MY FEELINGS HAVE BEEN OUT OF CONTROL LATELY.
...BUT, I KNEW SOME-THING WAS BOTHERING YOU...
SIGH...


...
YUGO...
TO BE HONEST...
I DON'T HAVE THE SAME FEELINGS FOR YOU.
...BUT, I DO LIKE YOU.
.....
HAHAHA.
...SO CRUEL...
SORRY.
I GUESS WE'RE EVEN NOW, RIGHT?
AFTER WHAT YOU JUST DID TO ME AND ALL.
...SORRY.
CLINK_!
LET'S FORGET THIS WHOLE THING EVER HAPPENED.
I WON'T BRING IT UP AGAIN.
...SORRY.

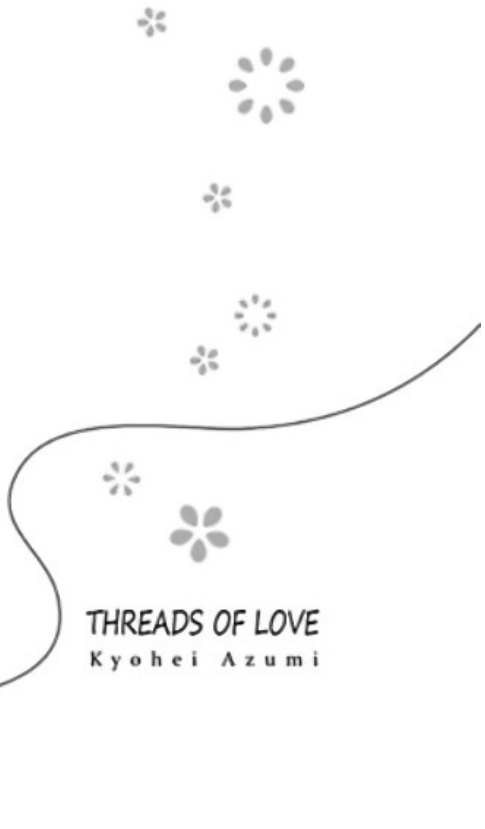

EXPRESSING THOSE PENT UP EMOTIONS...
MUST HAVE BEEN CATHAR-TIC.
I CAN'T SEE THAT BLACK STUFF ANYMORE.
YUUKI
PHEW...!
MAKES SENSE...
BUT... SO LONG AS MY BUSINESS GOES UNDONE...
I WON'T BE ABLE TO LEAVE YOUR SIDE.
THAT'S FINE.


I'VE BEEN LIVING ALONE EVER SINCE GRANDMA DIED.
IT'S NICE HAVING SOMEONE AROUND LIKE THIS.
NO ONE CAN SEE YOU.
YOU'RE NOT SUCH A BAD GUY...
KISS
KISS
GULP...
A LOT HAPPENED TODAY...
I'M BEAT...
HUH...?
SLUMP...
NOD...


HEY.
WHAT ABOUT MY MEAL?
NOD...
I SAW A THREAD BETWEEN US...
THAT REMINDS ME, THE DAY HE SHOWED UP HERE...
ZZZZZ...
JUST WHAT...
WAS THAT.....?
LOOK...
THIS IS GONNA HAPPEN REGARD-LESS.
DAMN...
END



THEY COULDN'T.



THREADS OF LOVE

Kyohei Azumi


THREADS OF LOVE
CHAPTER 3
TAKAHISA AND I HAVE BEEN TOGETHER EVER SINCE I WAS BORN...
WHEN I WAS JUST A REGULAR CAT.
I'VE BEEN BY HIM THROUGH THE GOOD TIMES AND THE BAD.
.....KURO?
KER-CHIK!
WHERE'D HE RUN OFF TO THIS TIME...?
AND YET NOW.....
P-TMP...


THREADS
OF
LOVE
CHAPTER
3


KATSU-YUKI...
YAWN...
あふ...
YOU TIRED?
...UH-HUH...
RUB...
I'M SCREWED.
I CAN'T STUDY EVERYTHING THAT'LL BE ON THE TEST...
YOU USUALLY DO FINE, DON'T YOU?
I GUESS SO, BUT...
GOTTA GET HOME AND START REVIEWING...


TWITCH!
SIGH...
HOW CAN I STUDY WITH ALL THAT'S GONE ON RECENTLY...?
UH!
... SORRY.
SLUMP...
NO, MAN!
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
IT'S THE FREELOADER AT MY PLACE.
WELL, IT'S NOT NOT YOUR FAULT!
HAHA...
OH...
FREE-LOADER? YOU MEAN THAT GUY FROM SCHOOL?
YEAH.
I'M STUCK WITH SHIRO AS A RESULT OF HIM NOT CUTTING...
THE THREAD OF YUGO'S PASSION FOR ME...
I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT THREAD.
I CAN'T SEE IT ANYMORE.
?


ACCORDING TO SHIRO, ONCE ONE CONFESSES HIS FEELINGS...
THEY WON'T LOSE CONTROL FOR SOME TIME.
...SO...
JUST HOW LONG IS THAT...?
YOU TWO REALLY ARE AN ITEM?
WELL, WE HAVE HAD SEX...
.....
N-...
NO WAY!
...YOU SURE?
...LET'S CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
GOT A SEC?
DASH!
YUGO! KATSUYUKI!
SO MUCH FOR A NEW SUBJECT.
DON'T GET THE WRONG IDEA!
SERIOUSLY, THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN US!


THAT ARROGANT, TWIN-TAILED CAT...
"...STOP BEING ALL BUDDY-BUDDY WITH MY OWNER?"
OH... HIM...
YOUR CAT?
HAVE YOU GUYS SEEN KURO?
"THE END"...? HE DIDN'T LOOK THAT OLD...
SIGH...
HE'S BEEN GOING OFF ON HIS OWN A LOT LATELY...
HE'S GETTING TOWARDS THE END, SO I'M KINDA WORRIED...
UH... I DON'T HAVE YOUR NUMBER.
THANKS!
I'LL CALL YOUR CELL IF I SEE HIM.
GREAT.
HERE.


YOU NEED A CELL PHONE, KATSU-YUKI.
I TOLD YOU...
I DON'T LIKE THEM.
YUUKI
KER-CHIK...!
I'M HOME.
...SO...
RIGHT...?
I HEAR PEOPLE TALKING...
IS IT SHIRO AND KURO?
...?
...TALK ABOUT A HAUNTED HOUSE...
CLATTER...
...I'LL CUT THE THREAD WHENEVER YOU WANT.


HE JUST LEFT.
WAS KURO HERE?
HUH...?
GUESS I DON'T NEED TO CALL TAKAHISA.
...OH, HI.
HEY.
...THREAD?
SST!
...
UH, WHY ARE YOU ALL SMALL AGAIN?
...LIKE I SAID...
I GO SMALL WHEN I'M OUT OF ENERGY.
YOU HAVEN'T LET ME FEED RECENT-LY.
CRAP.
CLENCH!
I WOKE THE BEAST!


I...
IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
IF MY GRADES SLIP, MY DAD'LL GET PISSED.
I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO FOCUS WITH YOU HERE.
I KNOW. THAT'S WHY I'VE BEEN HOLDING BACK.
MAKING ANY PROGRESS?
URK...!
PULL!
IN THAT CASE...
LET ME FEED ALREADY.


JUST HANG ON.
HEY...!
THUD...
MMPH!
WHAT?
I...
I THINK THIS IS THE KINDA STUFF YOU DO WITH SOMEONE YOU LOVE.
YOU CAN TAKE HUMAN FORM, RIGHT?
JUST GO DO IT WITH SOMEONE ELSE!


I CAN'T.
WHY NOT...?
BA-DUMP
BA-DUMP!
BA-DUMP!
.....
THERE'S SOMETHING CALLED COMPATI-BILITY.
BLUNT!
IS HE IN LOVE WITH ME OR SOME-THING.....?
I'VE BEEN WANTING TO ASK THIS...
WHY'RE YOU SO BOSSY?
WHAT?
MOST PEOPLE ARE POLITE WHEN THEY WANNA EAT.
YOU AL-WAYS HAVE THIS COLD LOOK.


...THAT'S ONLY 'CAUSE YOU FOR-GET.
SO...
I DUNNO HOW I'M SUPPOSED TO ACT NOW.
SUCK!
SUCK
MM... NH.
KISS!
MM!
WELL?
... HUH?
FORGET WHAT...?
GULP!
GASP!
WAIT!
SHOVE!!


JUST WHAT AM I FORGET-TING?
URK...!
HEY!
GRAB!
BA-DUMP!
WHY...
AH!
AH!
NGH...!
DOES HE LOOK SO HURT.....?


HF.
SLIIIDE!
SLIDE!
SHLIP!
SHLIP!
!
HF!
TWITCH!
OH!
NGH!
TWITCH!
HUFF!
OW...!
OH!
I'M...
AH.
TWITCH!
NH!
OH...
SLIIIDE...
OH...
TWITCH!
THRUST!
OH!
TWITCH!
SLIDE!


I SHOULDN'T LIKE THIS...
MM!
IT'S SO WEIRD.
SHLP
SHLP
KATSU-YUKI!
OH!!
PANT!
TWITCH!
TWITCH!
SHLP!
SHLP
SLIDE!
THRUST!
THRUST!
TWITCH!
I'M...!
CUMMING!!
SPLUUURT!
TWITCH
TWITCH!
TWITCH!!
HUFF...
HUFF...
HUFF...!
HU...
BUT IT FEELS SO DAMN GOOD.....


CLENCH...
HUFF...
BA-DUMP...
BA-DUMP...
.....IS THIS...
HUFF...
SMACK
HF.
SLIDE
SHLIP
MM!
HEY!
AGAIN!?
MM!
SMACK
AH!
AH...!
NH.
HUFF...
THRUST!
OH!
SHLIP!
MMM!
SLIDE
.....A THREAD...?
...GRAND-MA...


OH...
THAT YOU, KATSU-YUKI?
GUESS WHAT...
I MADE A NEW FRIEND AT THE SHRINE AROUND BACK.
THAT'S LOVELY, DEAR.
WHAT'S HE LIKE?
HMMM...
WELL...
HE'S GOT SHINY HAIR LIKE YOUR RING.
YOU KNOW, WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL...
I MET A MAN AT THAT SHRINE WITH SHINY, WHITE HAIR.
YOU DID?


SO, MAYBE YOU KNOW HIM...
I DON'T SEE SO WELL NOW, SO I CAN'T GO THERE.
IS IT OK IF I BRING HIM HERE, THEN?
OF COURSE.
..... MM.
BLINK...
WHAT...
TIME IS IT...?
CRAP, I'VE GOTTA STUDY...
RISE...!
THAT ASS. DOING WHATEVER HE WANTS TO ME...
THROB
THROB
QUIVER
QUIVER
SNIFFLE...
HEY...
URK!


HOW'D... YOU GET IN HERE?
SNIFFLE...
WIN-DOW.
OH... WELL THEN...
!?
ACHOOO!
SHIRO?
I... HAVE NO IDEA.
I'D LIKE TO KNOW THAT MYSELF.
... DAMN! SO USE-LESS.
WHERE'S HE AT?
ALMOST FORGOT HE'S A CAT...
DIRECT...!


GRR!
YOU KNOW...
TAKA-HISA WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
SIGH...
DID YOU EVER GO HOME?
MIND YOUR OWN DAMN BUSINESS.
JUST...
TRYING TO HELP...
GRAB!
JEEZ...
WHY ARE THEY BOTH SUCH ASS-HOLES?
HIM.
HIM TOO.
IS IT ME!?


YOU REALLY PISS ME OFF.
SNIFFLE...
GRAB!
!
SNIFFLE...
WHY'S THAT?
SLAP!
WE'RE ABLE TO TALK LIKE THIS.
SO WHAT?
HOW COME YOU CAN DO THAT...
AND TOUCH EACH OTHER...
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
SNIFFLE...
AND TAKA-HISA CAN'T...?
CLENCH...!
...I'M GONNA BE A TWIN-TAILED CAT.
I CAN'T STAY WITH HIM FOR-EVER.
I'LL LIVE LONGER THAN ANY HUMAN...
I'LL HAVE TO LEAVE HIM.


HE CAN SEE ME IN MY CAT FORM...
BUT HE WON'T BE ABLE TO RECOGNIZE ME AT ALL IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
...I DON'T THINK I CAN PART FROM HIM...
...IS THAT THE THREAD HE WANTED TO CUT...?
IF I COULD, I'D STAY A CAT AND HAVE HIM CARE FOR ME.
... KU-RO...
?
... HMPH.
CUTTING THE THREAD WILL APPAR-ENTLY CAUSE THOSE AROUND ME TO FORGET.
THAT GOES FOR YOU, TOO.
...BUT...
SHIRO SAID SWAPPING BODY FLUIDS...
MAKES HIS KIND VISIBLE TO HUMANS.
THAT MEANS TAKAHISA...
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
DING
DONG...


TMP
TMP...
YEAH?
KER-CHIK!
HEY, MAN.
HAVE YOU SEEN KURO?
HE VANISHED THE SECOND I TOOK MY EYES OFF HIM...
HUH...!?
GLANCE...
OH, RIGHT.
FWIP!


TAKAHISA CAN'T SEE HIM IN THAT FORM.
CLENCH!!
DASH!
FWIP!
HEY!
WAIT.
...MAYBE.....
HE'S ACTING OUT 'CAUSE IT HURTS...
TO BE WITH TAKAHISA WITHOUT BEING NOTICED...
WHO'RE YOU TALKING TO?
■END■


TAKAHISA CHANGES MY COLLAR WHENEVER HE FEELS LIKE IT



THREADS OF LOVE

Kyohei Azumi


.....I MEAN, I'VE BEEN THROUGH THE WRINGER HERE MYSELF...
I CAN SEE BOTH SHIRO AND KURO.
TAKAHISA CAN'T SEE KURO WHEN HE'S IN HUMAN FORM...
ONLY WHEN HE'S A CAT...
KURO
BOTH FORMS VISIBLE
VISIBLE
NOT VISIBLE
VISIBLE
NOT VISIBLE
TAKAHISA
SHIRO
THREADS OF LOVE
CHAPTER 4
...THAT ABOUT SUMS IT UP, RIGHT?
AND... EXCHANGING BODY FLUIDS CAN MAKE THEM VISIBLE, RIGHT...?
DUDE?


HMMMM...
TAKAHISA'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FIND HIM...
KURO WAS JUST IN HIS HUMAN FORM...
...BUT, WHAT DO I DO...?
YOU FEELING SICK OR SOME-THING?
OH!
DUDE?
HAD AN ERRAND.
SHIRO...! WHERE THE HECK HAVE YOU BEEN!?
YEAH.
YOU SURE?
UH... I'LL HELP YOU LOOK.
CRAP... TAKAHISA CAN'T SEE SHIRO...
YOU OK?
JUMP!
UH...
UM... LOOK...
PEEK!
ぴょこっ


HE'S DRIPPING WITH SWEAT..
I GUESS HE'S BEEN LOOKING FOR A WHILE...
IF YOU FIND HIM, CALL MY PHONE.
YOU GOT IT.
DASH!
DID YOU SEE KURO AROUND?
WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
THE SHRINE. HE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU.
HE JUST TOOK OFF...
DASH!
NOPE.
...STOP LOOKING.
SIGH...
HE WON'T JUST LEAVE HIS OWNER.
NO MATTER HOW HARD HE TRIES...
HIS INSTINCTS WON'T LET HIM.
...WHY DOES HE HAVE TO LEAVE HIM?
HE'S A CAT AND ALL.


HE WOULDN'T HAVE TO SO LONG AS IT DIDN'T HURT BEING WITH SOMEONE...
WHO DIDN'T EVEN KNOW YOU WERE THERE.
STARE.
じっ
...WHY DON'T WE JUST HELP THEM OUT?
YOU SAID IT YOURSELF...
JUST SWAP BODY FLUIDS.
DOES KURO KNOW ABOUT THAT?
...NO.
...IF HE BECOMES VISIBLE AND THEY GET CLOSE...
HE'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO LEAVE.


I HAVEN'T DONE IT YET.
THAT WAS YOUR IDEA...!?
THAT'S WHY I SUGGESTED CUTTING THE THREAD.
NOT THAT...
FOR HIS OWNER'S SAKE.
BLUNT!
TWIN-TAILED CATS LIVE MUCH LONGER THAN HUMANS.
TAKAHISA WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE IF KURO STAYS WITH HIM.
THEIR LIFE SPANS AND WORLDS ARE JUST TOO DIF-FERENT.
WHAT ABOUT TAKAHISA'S FEELINGS?
IF HE WANTS TO BE WITH KURO...
THEN THEY SHOULD BE TOGETHER.
THE CON-TRACTS I MAKE DON'T REQUIRE AP-PROVAL BY BOTH PAR-TIES.
I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT YOUR RULES.


WHY DOES ONLY ONE PERSON'S FEELINGS MATTER?
THE OTHER PERSON ISN'T EVEN AWARE OF WHAT'S BEEN DONE, AND YET IS DIRECTLY AFFECTED.
I THINK TAKAHISA HAS THE RIGHT TO KNOW.


SHOCK!
HE HAS NO IDEA KURO'S A TWIN-TAILED CAT.
IT'S NOT LIKE WITH YOU.
SO... YOU'RE GONNA EXPLAIN IT TO HIM?


SIGH...


KATSUYUKI!
.....WE WHAT?
...THAT'S 'CAUSE... YOU AND I FORMED A BOND A LONG TIME AGO.


...YOU'RE RIGHT.
JUST WHY WAS I ABLE TO SEE YOU FROM THE START?


OH!
DID YOU FIND KURO?
NO...
BUT IT'S LATE. YOU SHOULD GO HOME.
THANKS, THOUGH!
UH...
LISTEN...
WHAT'S UP?
JUST TO CHECK IN.
UM... YEAH.
YOU GOING HOME, TOO?
RIGHT...!
I GOT WORRIED I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CONTACT YOU.
I REMEMBERED YOU DIDN'T HAVE A CELL PHONE.
URK...!
...HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO TELL HIM...?
KURO'S... WELL...
MUMBLE...!


SILENCE
...NO WAY.
HELP...
SEE YA TOMOR-ROW.
THANKS AGAIN!
YEAH. G'NIGHT...
?
?
UM... SO...
YOU FEELING OK?
NEVER MIND...
...HE CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD IS ALL!
I'LL BE READY NEXT TIME...
SEE? TOLD YOU.
WHO'S THAT?
KER-CHIK!
RING
RING
RING...
RING...
HMMM...
GOOD LUCK WITH THAT.
YUUKI


HELLO?
KATSU-YUKI?
IT'S TAKAHI-SA.
I KNOW IT'S LATE...
BUT KURO CAME HOME.
...SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE!
YAWN
THAT'S GOOD TO HEAR...
OK, THEN. SEE YA...
UH...! SO!
YEAH?
CREAK...
URK...! ... UM...
HOW WOULD YOU FEEL IF KURO...
WASN'T A NORMAL CAT?
WASN'T A WHAT NOW?
YOU MEAN HOW HE'S A MIXED BREED?
UH, NOT QUITE. LIKE, HIS LIFE SPAN... UM...
OH...
PURR
PURR


YOU MEAN HOW CATS OFTEN DISAP-PEAR JUST BEFORE THEY DIE...?
I'VE BEEN WORRIED ABOUT THAT, TOO.
HE'S PRETTY MUCH A GRANDPA AT THIS POINT...
NO WAY...
O-...
OH...
...
A GRANDPA...
I DO GO OUT AND LOOK FOR HIM...
NUZZLE!
BUT...
AND MAYBE I'M BEING SELF-ISH...
BUT I WANNA BE THERE FOR HIM WHEN HE PASSES ON.
I WANNA BE WITH HIM...
PURR PURR
UP UNTIL HIS LAST MOMENTS.


LICK!
MM...!
NUZZLE!
C'MON... I'M ON THE PHONE!
SQUIRM!
LOOK, TAKAHI-SA...
KURO'S...
DAZE...
HM...?
TOUCH
I CAN TOUCH HIM?
WHAT THE...?
TOUCH!
BA-DUMP...
ONE MORE TIME...
BA-DUMP...
TWITCH!


GULP...
??????????
OH, WOW...
TAKA-HISA... YOU CAN SEE ME?
REALLY?
WH-...
WHO THE HELL... ARE YOU?
JANGLE...
IT CAN'T BE...
...KURO?


HUH...?
WHY...?
I CAN TOUCH YOU...
HOW'D YOU...!?
CLENCH!
...
LOOK...
YEP.
GRAB!
OH...
...RIGHT.
I THINK YOUR JOB'S DONE NOW.
...HEY!
CLICK
...I'M NOT A NORMAL CAT ANY-MORE.
WAIT...
...I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON RIGHT NOW...
AM I DREAMING!?
THAT'S WHY...
YOU CAN'T CARE FOR ME...
LIKE YOU WOULD A NORMAL CAT.


THIS IS ONLY A BORROWED FORM.
IT'S A LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN MY ACTUAL ONE, APPARENTLY.
YOU'VE TOTALLY LOST ME.
MAYBE IT'S NOT A DREAM...
THIS IS THE SAME COLLAR AS KURO'S...
JUST A LITTLE BIGGER.
JANGLE
JINGLE
MY LIFE SPAN'S LONGER THAN YOURS.
RIGHT... MAYBE...
YOU LOOK NOTHING LIKE A GRANDPA...
SO, YOU'RE SAYING YOU WON'T GET OLD?
TO BE HONEST, I'M STILL NEW AT THIS, TOO.


I GET IT.
HUG...
OH...
SIGH...
BUT... I'M...
THAT MEANS... I'LL GET TO SPEND MY WHOLE LIFE WITH YOU, RIGHT?
...!


SOB...!
.....IT'S GREAT.
HUH!?
WHY WOULDN'T IT BE?
IS THAT OK?
...NO...
YOU'RE A CAT.
THEN WHY'RE YOU CRYING?
RUB!
RUB
PRESS!
I MEAN, EVENTUALLY I'LL BECOME INVISIBLE TO EVERY-ONE...
EVEN AS A CAT.
I CAN SEE YOU, SO WHO CARES?
THAT'LL NEVER CHANGE... RIGHT?
...I DON'T KNOW...
I'LL ASK SOME-ONE WHO DOES.


YEP... ALSO, KATSUYUKI CAN SEE ME, TOO.
HE CAN...?
SO... THERE'S SOMEONE WHO CAN GIVE YOU ADVICE?
THAT'S GOOD.
PHEW...!
.....
HE WAS DESPERATE TO TELL ME SOMETHING TODAY...
HE WAS REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT YOU.
OHHH... I GUESS THAT'S WHY...
I'LL PROBABLY DO IT AGAIN WHEN YOU GET MARRIED IN THE FUTURE.
AND MAYBE YOU WON'T.
ON TOP OF THAT...
I KNOW I GOT IN BETWEEN YOU AND KATSUYUKI BEFORE.
SO...
...I CAN REALLY STAY BY YOUR SIDE...?
CLENCH...!


I KIND OF WANNA HAVE SEX WITH YOU.
?
WELL!? CAN I TOUCH YOU?
EXCITED
EXCITED!
TOUCH
TOUCH!
...I GUESS SO...
YOU ALWAYS TOUCH ME WHEN YOU WANT ANYWAY
HE SAID IT WAS OK!
おやるしら


!?
KISS
YOU KNOW!
I'VE ALWAYS WANTED...
TWITCH!!
HEY...!
NUZZLE..!
WHAT'RE YOU...!?
TO TOUCH YOU...
AND HOLD YOU...
NUZZLE
NUZZLE!
MM!
TWITCH!
QUIVER...
!
ROSTLE!
TWITCH!
C'MON!
AND MAKE YOU MINE.
MM.
SLURP!
OH!


PANT
MM!
ST-...
TWITCH!
SUCK-!
SLURP!
SHLIP!
WHAT...!?
SUCK!
SLURP!
SLURP!
TWITCH!
HF!
HUFF.
OH...!
MM...!
EEP...
TWITCH!
MM!
AH.
JERK!
MY KIND IS DIFFERENT FROM ORDINARY LIVING CREATURES.
RUB
RUB!
IT SEEMS WE SUBSIST BY MATING WITH PEOPLE.
OH!
...THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...!?
SUCK!
NGH!
SHLIP!
SLUUURP!
NH.
TWITCH!
AH!
SUCK!
SLURP!

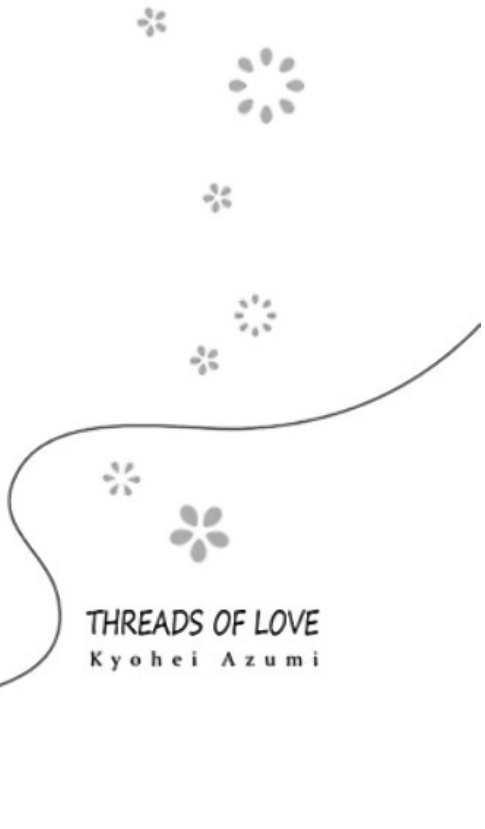

SUCK!
SLUUURP!
GULP!!
AH...
QUIIIVER!
AH!
TWITCH!
OHHH!
SUCK!
SLUUURP!
SLURP
!?
YOU SWAL-LOWED IT...?
PANT
PANT!
HUFF...
.....
LICK!
THIS IS HOW WE EAT. IS THAT OK?


SIGH...
...NO FAIR.
PUSH!
...NO?
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT YOUR EXIST-ENCE...
I HAVE TO NOD AND SAY OK...
HEH HEH...
WERE YOU ALWAYS THIS KIND OF CAT...?
I WON'T GO ALL THE WAY THIS TIME, BUT...
NEXT TIME, WATCH OUT!
HUH!?
ALL THE WAY WHERE...?
YUUKI
GRIN
GRIN


ACHOOO!!
ぶるぶるっ
STOP LOOKING SO HAPPY. IT'S GROSS...
DRIED SARDINE?
RUSTLE!
DRIED SARDINES
DON'T BE LIKE THAT.
IT'S NOT THAT I'M NOT APPRECIATIVE...
BUT GET CLOSE TO TAKAHISA AND YOU'RE DEAD.
TEE HEE...
.....
...WELL, AS LONG AS TAKAHISA'S HAPPY, I GUESS IT ALL WORKED OUT.
SNIFFLE...
I GET IT. SO GET AWAY ALREADY!
YEAH?
GREAT.
TAKAHISA'S HEART IS TOTALLY ACCEPTING OF WHO I AM!
SNIFFLE!
SNIFFLE...!
KATSUYUKI...


.....THERE'S SOMETHING I NEED TO TELL YOU.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT.
I'VE BEEN FORGETTING TO ASK WHAT YOU MEANT WHEN YOU SAID YOU BONDED US TOGETHER.....
DO YOU REMEMBER YOUR MOTHER?
MY MOM...?
I HEARD SHE LEFT WHEN I WAS LITTLE, SO NOT REALLY...
THE REASON SHE'S GONE...
IS BECAUSE I CUT YOUR THREADS TO HER.
.....YOU DID WHAT?
END


TAKAHISA'S TRAINING FOR A MATCH, SO HE WON'T PLAY WITH ME...
I'M BORED...
WHY'RE YOU HERE?
I THOUGHT YOU HATED ME...
OH... HE'S LONELY...
HE'S NOT SO BAD...
SNIFFLE
SNIFFLE...
TWITCH!!
!!
AUTCHOOO!
OOPS... SORRY.
ARGUE
WHAT WAS THAT FOR!?
I'M ALLERGIC TO YOU! GO DO SOME-THING ABOUT YOUR HAIR!
ARGUE!
.....



THREADS OF LOVE

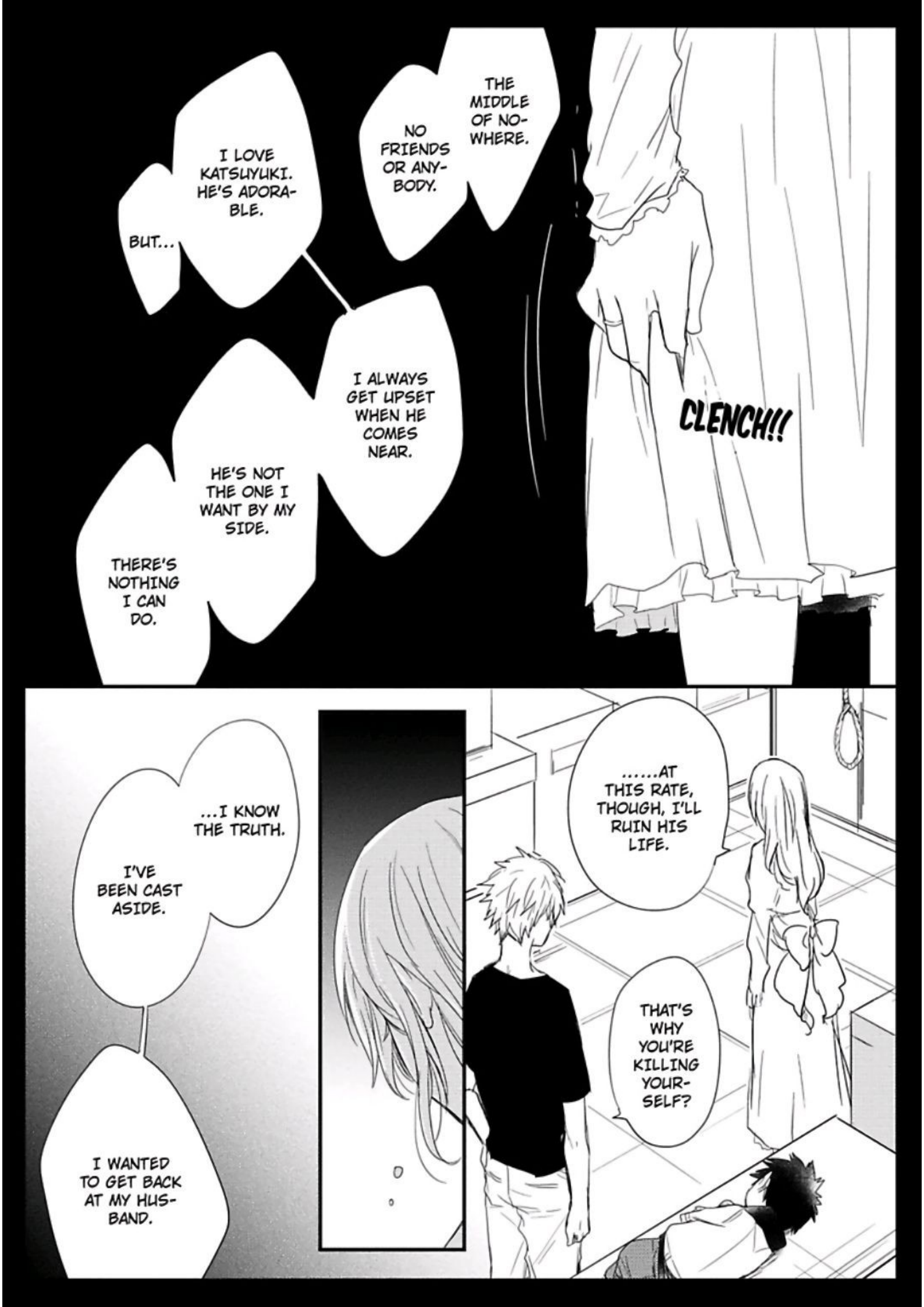
Kyohei Azumi


THREADS OF LOVE
CHAPTER 5
I'M SORRY, MOM...!
!!
SMACK!
I'M SORRY!!
SMACK!
MOM...!
...
...!
I'M SO SORRY!
I'LL BE A GOOD BOY!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE


SLIDE...!
THWACK!
SMACK!!
OH DEAR...
I WAS TRYING NOT TO BRUISE YOUR FACE...
...I'M SORRY, SWEETIE.
MOMMY...
JUST CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE.


CLATTER...
LOOK...
IT'S MY HOME AND ALL.
COULD YOU NOT KILL YOURSELF HERE?
...!
TWITCH!
YOU'RE ALWAYS BEATING KATSUYUKI HERE...
CAN'T DO IT AT HOME?
HUH ...!?
WHO ARE YOU...?
.....
CLATTER!
UM!
DO YOU KNOW MY SON?
TWITCH!
HE'S MY FRIEND.


WELL...
KATSU-YUKI'S LOVED BY HIS FATHER...
...HEY...
MUTTER
AND HAS LOTS OF FRIENDS HERE...
I, ON THE OTHER HAND, AM ALL ALONE.
MUTTER...
...HIS FATHER'S ALWAYS MOVING AROUND FOR WORK.
I'D INTENDED TO FOLLOW HIM WHER-EVER HE WENT...
BUT HE SAID CON-STANT CHANGE WASN'T GOOD FOR OUR SON...
SO KATSUYA LIVES ON HIS OWN.
MY MOTHER-IN-LAW'S EYE-SIGHT STARTED GOING AROUND THE SAME TIME...
AND I WAS ASKED TO BRING KATSUYUKI AND LIVE HERE WITH THEM FOR A WHILE...


THE MIDDLE OF NO-WHERE.
NO FRIENDS OR ANY-BODY.
I LOVE KATSUYUKI. HE'S ADORA-BLE.
BUT...
I ALWAYS GET UPSET WHEN HE COMES NEAR.
HE'S NOT THE ONE I WANT BY MY SIDE.
THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.
CLENCH!!
.....AT THIS RATE, THOUGH, I'LL RUIN HIS LIFE.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE KILLING YOUR-SELF?
...I KNOW THE TRUTH.
I'VE BEEN CAST ASIDE.
I WANTED TO GET BACK AT MY HUS-BAND.


I'M SORRY.
I'LL TAKE HIM WITH ME...
BOW!
I... CAN'T JUST LET KATSU-YUKI GO.
I HATE HIM FOR LOOKING LIKE HIS FATHER, BUT I LOVE HIM, TOO.
.....LET ME MAKE A SUGGES-TION.
WHETHER YOU GO THROUGH WITH IT OR NOT IS UP TO YOU.




I CUT THE THREAD BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR MOTHER.
!?
WH-...
WHY...?
I DON'T REMEMBER THAT...
I'M SURE YOU DON'T.
CLATTER!
.....
SO... WHY'D YOU DO IT!?
FWIP!
YOU JUST... DID IT?
THAT'S RIGHT.
I SUG-GESTED IT TO HER.
GASP


AND WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A THREAD BETWEEN US...?
YOU WERE AWARE OF THAT.
BUT, I GUESS YOU THOUGHT IT WAS A KIND OF SPELL SO YOU COULD RETURN TO THIS TOWN.
...I'M... NOT FOLLOW-ING YOU AT ALL...
?
I AGREED WITH YOU ABOUT HEARING THE OTHER PERSON OUT...
WHICH IS WHY I'M TELLING YOU ALL THIS.
MUNCH
MUNCH
.....!
I GUESS THAT MAKES SENSE...!
DRIED SARDINES
IF YOU'RE UNHAPPY, I CAN CUT OUR THREAD WHENEVER YOU WANT.
HEY!
THAT MEANS... YOUR SENTENCE WILL GET LONGER, RIGHT?
IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE...

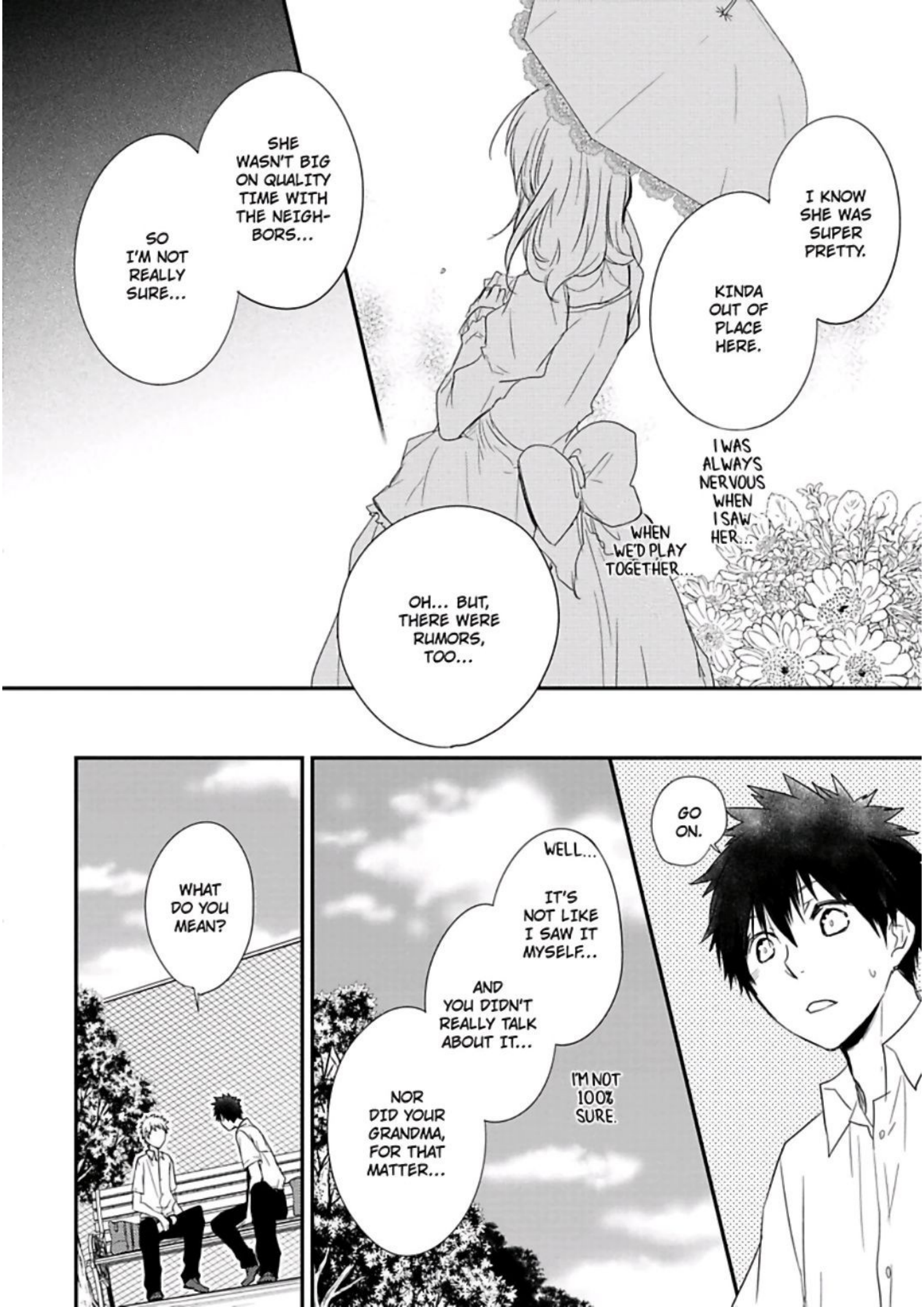

IT'S NOT LIKE I REALLY HAVE ANY CONCRETE IDEA OF HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
P-TMP...
WOW... CUTTING THREADS, HUH...?
SO, THAT'S WHAT THAT SHRINE'S ALL ABOUT...
WHAT... DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?
WELL...


THAT SHRINE WAS ALWAYS KNOWN FOR CUTTING TIES.
YOU USED TO SAY IT WASN'T, THOUGH.
THAT THERE WAS A SPIRIT WHO BOUND PEOPLE TOGETHER.
YOUR GRANDMA STEPPED IN AND CONVINCED THE LOCALS...


YUGO AND I USED TO TALK ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME.
SO, YOU REMEMBER MY MOM...?


THAT A SHRINE CONNECTING PEOPLE WOULD BE BETTER FOR THE TOWN'S IMAGE.
THEY USED IT AS A PROMOTION TOOL, WHICH WORKED FOR A WHILE.
AFTER YOU MOVED AWAY.
REALLY...?


HMMM...
YOUR MOM?


SHE WASN'T BIG ON QUALITY TIME WITH THE NEIGH-BORS...
SO I'M NOT REALLY SURE...
I KNOW SHE WAS SUPER PRETTY.
KINDA OUT OF PLACE HERE.
I WAS ALWAYS NERVOUS WHEN I SAW HER...
WHEN WE'D PLAY TOGETHER...
OH... BUT, THERE WERE RUMORS, TOO...
GO ON.
WELL...
IT'S NOT LIKE I SAW IT MYSELF...
AND YOU DIDN'T REALLY TALK ABOUT IT...
NOR DID YOUR GRANDMA, FOR THAT MATTER...
I'M NOT 100% SURE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?


THAT WOMAN WAS ABUSING YOU.
YO!
BA-DUMP!
ACHOO!!
C'MON.
I THOUGHT YOU OWED KATSUYUKI.
SAY THANKS.
YES, SIR.
WHOA!!
KURO!?
I THOUGHT...
YOU PROMISED TO STAY AWAY FROM TAKA-HISA!
NO, I DIDN'T!
ACHOO!!
FWIP!
...WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT ABUSE...?
YOU DON'T REMEM-BER AT ALL?
THAT SHRINE'S BEEN MY TERRITORY FOREVER. I OFTEN SPOTTED YOU THERE.
THIS...
TWO-FACED DEMON!
NAHHH!
ARGH...!


YOUR GRANDMA'S EYES WERE BAD, BUT HER EARS WORKED JUST FINE. THAT'S WHY YOUR MOM USED THE SHRINE.
NO ONE'S THERE AT NIGHT...
SO, THE RUMORS WERE TRUE...?
DOES SHIRO KNOW...?
HE'D ALWAYS TRY TO STOP IT.
NOT IN PERSON. HE'D MAKE NOISES AND STUFF.
IT DID THE TRICK.
SHE WHAT...!?
AS FAR AS I KNOW, THE ONLY TIME HE ACTUALLY APPEARED IN FRONT OF YOUR MOM...
WAS WHEN SHE TRIED TO KILL YOU.
BA-DUMP...
I HAVEN'T THE FOGGIEST IDEA WHY HE WAS SO...
MMPH!
I...
OBSESSED WITH YOU...
HEY!
BE QUIET!
OW!


...IS THAT TRUE...?
I DON'T REMEMBER IT AT ALL...
KATSU-YUKI...
I... NEED TO TALK TO SHIRO.
I DUNNO ALL THE DETAILS, BUT THANKS...
FOR HELPING THIS GUY.
HEH HEH...
THUD!
SURE.
BUT, I DIDN'T REALLY DO MUCH...
SHIRO'S THE ONE WHO TAUGHT HIM STUFF...
...THAT'S RIGHT.
SEE YA!
SHIRO'S ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR ME...
DESPITE HIS USUALLY PASSIVE NATURE.
"I SUGGESTED IT TO HER."
HE MUST REALLY HAVE A GOOD REASON...


SHIRO!
YOU HERE?
SIGH
HE'S GONE...!
TO WHERE...?
HE SAID I SHOULD COME IF I WANTED TO CUT OUR TIES.
WHERE'D HE GO...?
FWUD
GUESS I'LL WAIT TILL HE COMES BACK...
SIIIGH...
NOD...
HEY.


YOUR MOM'S BEEN BRINGING YOU HERE A LOT AT NIGHT, RIGHT?
YEP.
SHE SAYS "LET'S GO," AND WE GO.
WHO ARE YOU?
SHE GETS LONELY AT NIGHT.
I DON'T LIKE NIGHT-MOM MUCH...
BUT I LOVE DAY-MOM.
IT'S QUIET HERE DURING THE DAY...
BUT, IN THE DAYTIME SHE'S REALLY NICE.
HEH HEH...


DO YOU LIVE HERE?
YEAH.
SO PRETTY...
YOU'RE ALL SPARKLY.
?!
YOU THINK?
YOU'RE ALWAYS HERE?
YEP.
SEE YOU AGAIN?
OK.
HEY...
DO YOU HAVE A NAME?
ROLL
ROLL
NOPE.
YOU DON'T?


MY GRANDMA SAYS SHE MET SOMEONE LIKE YOU HERE A LONG TIME AGO.
HOW 'BOUT I GIVE YOU ONE, THEN?
THAT'S RIGHT.
...OH...
BUT IT'S HARD TO SAY... IS JUST "SHIRO" OK?
SURE.
WHAT-EVER YOU WANT.
SHIRO-... GANE?
I THINK THAT WAS IT!
CAN I CALL YOU THAT, TOO?
HEH HEH...



I GAVE HIM...

HIS NAME...




SHIRO!
JUMP!
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
DON'T WORRY, AND DON'T JUST SLEEP HERE.
CLINK!
OH... SORRY.
WAIT...! WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO!?
FWIP!
WHAT...? CUT OUR TIES. WHAT ELSE?
HANG ON! THAT'S NOT WHY I'M HERE!
OH... HI, THERE.
UH... HELLO...
LET'S... GO HOME FOR NOW.
WHISPER
I'LL LOOK RIDICU-LOUS...
WHISPER
IF WE TALK HERE...


'CAUSE I CUT THE ONE BETWEEN YOU...
AND YOUR MOTHER. YOU WERE GOING TO LIVE WITH YOUR FATHER...
SO...
...WHY'D YOU FORM A BOND WITH ME?
BUT, I DON'T...
WANNA LEAVE EVERY-ONE...
OK, THEN LET'S FORM A BOND.
A WHAT?
IF WE FORM A BOND, YOU'LL COME BACK HERE FOR SURE.
I CAN'T LEAVE THIS PLACE, SO...
LET'S DO IT!
...ABSO-LUTELY NO MEMORY...


MAYBE 'CAUSE YOU COULD SEE ME...
WHEN I CUT YOUR THREAD.
I GET WHY I FORGOT ABOUT MY MOM AFTER YOU CUT OUR CONNEC-TION...
BUT WHY'D I FORGET ABOUT YOU?
YOU DIDN'T JUST FORGET IT ALL AT THAT MOMENT.
IT'S LIKE A RIPPLE EFFECT, SLOWLY ERASING YOUR MEMORY.
I'M USUALLY NOT AFFECT-ED, SEEING HOW NO ONE KNOWS I EXIST...
BUT YOU AND I AL-WAYS HAD A STRONG CONNEC-TION...
SO EVEN I GOT CAUGHT IN THE WAVE.
IT'S NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE...
REALLY...?
YUUKI


TO BE HONEST, I WAS SHOCKED THAT YOU DIDN'T REMEMBER ME AT FIRST...
BUT I WAS HAPPY YOU'D FORGOTTEN ALL THE PAIN.
IS THAT WHY YOU NEVER TOLD ME...?
SLIDE...
HAVE YOU... ALWAYS PROTECTED ME BECAUSE OF YOUR FEELINGS FOR ME...?
YOU BEING HAPPY... IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME.
BUT...
CLENCH...
YOU REAPPEARED FOR THAT WHOLE THING... WITH YUGO.


YOU GAVE A SIMPLE FOX LIKE ME A NAME.
YOU'RE...
SPECIAL TO ME.
YOU TRIED YOUR BEST TO REDUCE MY SENTENCE.
WOW!
ARE YOU A GOD OF MATCH-MAKING?
NOT A GOD EXACTLY...
BUT IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN, SO SURE.
COMPARED TO THAT, I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING.
JEEZ...
YOU'RE SO HARD TO GET!
ARGH!
C'MON...


WHAT'S WRONG?
UUURK...
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST COME CLEAN FROM THE BEGINNING!!?
?!
YOU PROBABLY COULDN'T. BUT STILL!
HUG!
SIIIGH...
BA-DUMP
...YOU KNOW...
I LOVE YOU SO MUCH RIGHT NOW.
BA-DUMP...
I WANNA DO IT, BUT NOT AS YOUR MEAL.
NO... EVEN AS A MEAL IS OK.
I MEAN...
.....
BA-DUMP


BA-DUMP...
どきっ...
BA-DUMP
どきん
CAN WE?
NO...?
HAHA...
ALL YOU TRY AND DO IS MAKE ME HAPPY, HUH...?
BA-DUMP!!
どくん?
I...
...IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN YOU LAUGH.
IT IS?
KISS
HF...
MM...!
KISS


HUFF.
HUFF...
IS IT GOOD...?
GULP!
HF!
HF.
BA-DUMP
UH-HUH.
CAN I TRY YOURS...
TOO?
BA-DUMP
SURE, BUT IT WON'T DO ANYTHING FOR HUMANS...
Y-...
YEAH, IT WILL!
MAYBE!
LET ME TRY SOME-THING.
GLEAM!


HOLD STILL.
B-BMP
OK.
B-BMP
SUCK
SUCK
I CAN DO THIS.
HF.
LICK...
MM!
I WANNA MAKE HIM FEEL GOOD.
TWITCH!
CAN YOU TAKE IT IN DEEPER?
PANT!
MM.
JUST LIKE HE DOES IT TO ME...
SUCK
AH.
MH!
SUCK


YEAH.
PANT!
HF.
FEER ROOD?
SHUP
HIDYA-
MM.
WAG
WAG
GLEAM!
RIKE RIS?
...!
PANT!
TWITCH!
!
SPLUUURT!
EXCITED...
I... FEEL KINDA EM-POWERED NOW...
COUGH!
HF!
HF...
MM!
GULP!
I GUESS...
PANT!
IT'S MY TURN TO RECEIVE.
!?


AH...! NH...
PANT
UH-UH. LEMME FEED.
SHLIP!
HF!
HEY... WAIT!
MM!
HUFF!!
OH.
TWITCH!
HF!
KISS
MM!
OH!
HF!
SUCK
CLENCH!
YOU WERE STARV-ING...
WITHOUT ME HERE, WEREN'T YOU?
AH.
AH!
TWITCH
NNNGH...!
PANT
PANT
TWITCH
PUUUSH!
SLIIDE


TWITCH!
HF!
OH!
TWITCH!
THRUST!
AH!
NH!
SLIIIDE!
I DIDN'T FEEL THE NEED TO GET IT FROM OTHERS.
...BUT AFTER WE FORMED A BOND...
PUUUSH!
ANY BODY FLUID, EVEN BLOOD, IS FINE. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE FROM A HUMAN, EITHER.
HUFF.
IF I WANTED, I COULD'VE HAD SOMEONE ELSE.
HUFF!
HUFF.
!!
PANT!
CLENCH!
MM!
TWITCH!
TWITCH!
IT MIGHT SEEM LONG FOR YOU...
BUT NOT SO MUCH FOR ME.
OH!
NGH!
NO MORE...!
I'M CUM-...
SLIDE!
SLIIDE!
SHLIP!
HUFF!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JUST WAITED...
YOU'RE SO PATIENT...!
TREMBLE
OH!
SLIDE!
TREMBLE
QUIVER!
THRUST!
SHLIP!


HUFF!
PLUS...
THE ENERGY I GOT WHEN WE FIRST DID THIS IS NOTHING COMPARED TO NOW.
PANT!
AHHH!
I'M CUMMING...!
PANT!
HUFF...
TWITCH!
DOES THAT MEAN YOU LOVE ME...?
PANT...!
SQUEEZE
TWITCH!
HF.
CLENCH!
HF.
THAT'S RIGHT.
CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
OH.
HF.
MM.
MMM.
HF.
MM!


KATSU-YUKI...
PANT...
SURE.
AH!
OH.
SHIO
WAG
WAG
LET ME FEED SOME MORE.
TAKE ALL YOU WANT.
HF!
もじ
NUZZLE
もじ
NUZZLE
FLUFF!
もふっ
..... AH...
DAMN, IT'S SO FLUFFY AND COMFORT-ABLE...


...YOU KNOW...
I REMEMBER YOUR FULL NAME NOW.
SHIROGANE. RIGHT?
TWITCH!
THAT TICKLES.
OOPS.
SORRY.
JOLT!
BUT, "SHIRO" REALLY IS EASIER TO SAY. CAN I STILL USE IT?
HEH HEH...


...SURE.
SCREECH!
CALL ME WHATEVER YOU LIKE.
LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE HAUNTED BY THIS FOX FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE.
END


SO...
WILL YOU ALWAYS LOOK THE SAME?
AS I GET OLDER...
YEAH...
BUT I CAN CHANGE MY APPEARANCE TO AGE WITH YOU IF YOU WANT.
I NEVER THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
HMMM...
WOW... HE CAN JUST CHANGE IT...
THAT'S USE-FUL...
NAH, YOU'RE FINE AS IS.
I LIKE HOW YOU LOOK.
YOU DO?
WELL. THEN!!



THREADS OF LOVE

Kyohei Azumi


I'M A CAT.
MY NAME IS KURO.
ALL TO MYSELF
I WONDER IF TAKAHI-SA'LL BE LATE AGAIN.....
HE GETS MAD WHEN I CHECK ON HIM AT SCHOOL...
...BEING HOME ALONE SUCKS...
ROLL..
I'M A BLACK CAT ON THE VERGE OF BECOMING A TWIN-TAILED ONE.
BUT... I'M KINDA SLEEPY NOW...
MAYBE I'LL GO MESS WITH KATSUYUKI LATER...


I CAN'T REALLY RECALL WHEN THE FIRST TIME...
I TOOK HUMAN FORM WAS.
WHAT I DO REMEMBER IS BEING SURPRISED.
!?
ZZZZZ...
TAKA-HISA?
HEY, WAKE UP!
HE DIDN'T NOTICE ME, NO MATTER HOW MUCH I CALLED OUT TO HIM.
HE DIDN'T EVEN LOOK AT ME.
JUST WHEN I FELT TOTALLY LOST.....
SLUMP...
...RARE TO SEE A TWIN-TAIL HERE.
A HALF-A-ONE, THAT IS...
BA-DUMP!
...!!?
HE'S THE WEIRD GUY FROM THE SHRINE...
FWIP!


I DUNNO HOW CLOTHES WORK.
?
FORGET THAT.
BUT, I'M A CAT.
CAN YOU GET DRESSED ALREADY?
... LOOK...
MY POOR EYES...
SO WE NATURALLY GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER.
HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO COULD SEE ME...
JUST TRY TRANS-FORMING INTO SOME-THING YOU KNOW.
...?
THEN, WHY ARE YOU WEAR-ING THAT COLLAR?
THIS?
JINGLE


?
THEN, TRANSFORM LIKE THAT.
TAKAHISA ALWAYS PUTS IT ON ME.
IT STAYS ON!


THE FOX TAUGHT ME A LOT.
I FIGURED OUT WHAT WAS HAPPENING TO ME.
HE REALLY HELPED ME OUT...
PURR
PURR...
KER-CHIK!
I'M HOME!
TAKAHISA!?
PERK!
HE SAID HE WAS GONNA BE LATE TODAY...
DASH
DASH
DASH
DASH!
TAKA-.....
STOP!
YOU OK?
WANT ME TO TAKE YOU UP-STAIRS?
NAH, I'M GOOD HERE. THANKS.


I'LL LEAVE YOUR BAG HERE, THEN.
GREAT.
GLARE!
URK!
WHISPER
WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, OK!?
GAPE
WHISPER
GAPE
GET BETTER, MAN.
YEAH. SEE YA.
P-TMP...
JUMP!!
HEY!! WHAT HAPPENED!?
I TRIED TO SAVE THIS OLD LADY FALLING DOWN SOME STAIRS, BUT I FELL, TOO.
YOU WHAT!?
GIMME A HAND.
LET'S GO TO MY ROOM.
...OK.

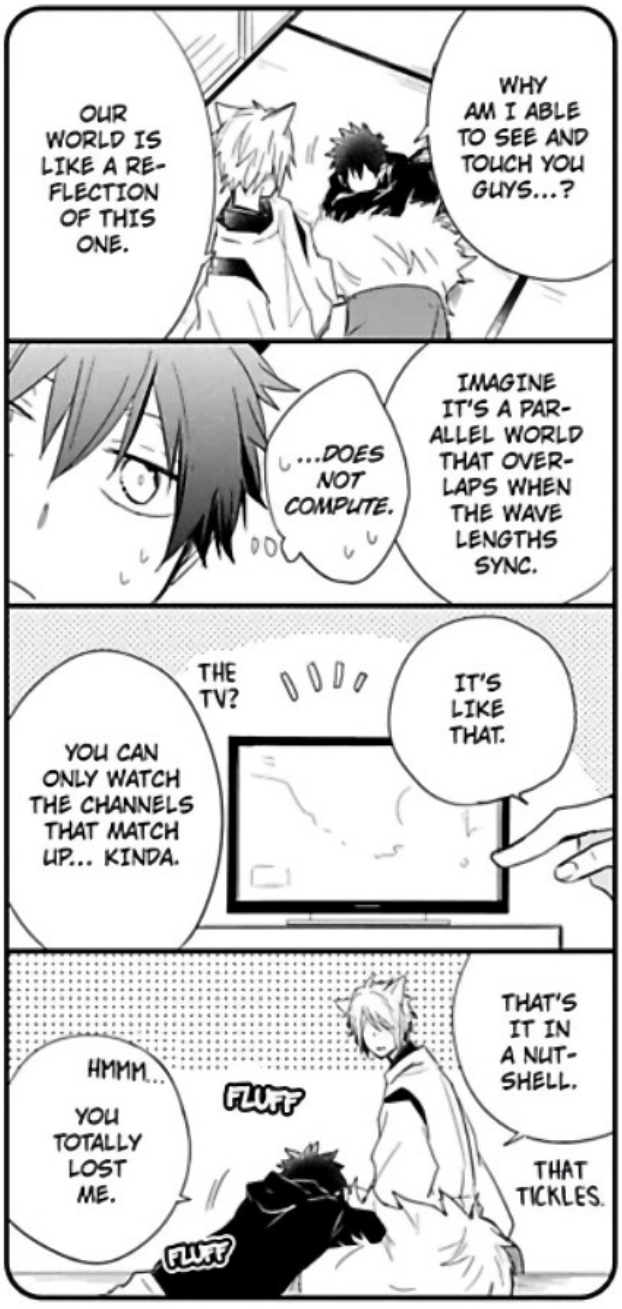

DARN...
I NEED TO LEARN HOW TO TAKE A FALL.
CREAK...
YOU JUST GOTTA ROLL YOUR BODY...
INTO A BALL.
WHY AM I TAKING ADVICE FROM A CAT...?
THANKS. I GUESS...
CREAK...
ONLY WHEN I PUT WEIGHT ON IT. IT'LL BE FINE IF I TAKE IT EASY.
...DOES IT HURT?
OH...
NAH.

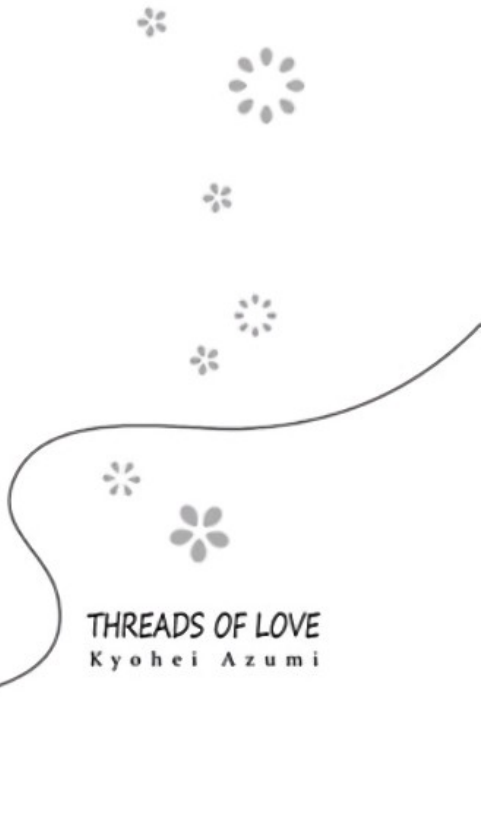

TWITCH!
SUCK
LICK
PURR
PURR
LICK...
GRIND...
PURR
C'MON, KURO?
PURR
TWITCH!
SUUUCK...
KISS
TWITCH!
HEY... THAT TICKLES.
SUCK
OOPS!
WHAT'S UP?
PURR
PURR
PURR
DO YOU LOOK SO HAPPY?
JUST WHY...
...HUH?


I...
IT SUCKS THAT YOU GOT HURT...
BUT I'M HAPPY YOU'RE HERE NOW.
SORRY...
HAHA!
...I GET IT.
C'MERE.
IT'S NOT LIKE I CAN PRACTICE FOR A WHILE.
LEMME SPOIL YOU.
WHOA...!
THUD!
HUUUG!!


HEH HEH!
AH!
NGH!
DOES IT HURT?
NN- NH...
HF!
SUCK
TWITCH!
TWITCH!
AH.
HF.
SUCK!
DON'T THRUST YET!
HF!
OH!
KISS
KISS
MM!
HF!
IS IT GROSS ?
OF COURSE NOT.
IT'S LIKE A CAT'S.
YOUR TONGUE'S ALL ROUGH.
KISS


HF...
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
RUFFLE
IT FEELS GOOD.
HUFF...
HEY...!
NOT SO... FAST.
OH!
HF!
HF!
FWUD!
HUH?
THIS ONE'S ON YOU.
WHY ME!?
■END■


OUR WORLD IS LIKE A REFLECTION OF THIS ONE.
WHY AM I ABLE TO SEE AND TOUCH YOU GUYS...?
...DOES NOT COMPUTE.
IMAGINE IT'S A PARALLEL WORLD THAT OVERLAPS WHEN THE WAVE LENGTHS SYNC.
THE TV?
IT'S LIKE THAT.
YOU CAN ONLY WATCH THE CHANNELS THAT MATCH UP... KINDA.
HMMM...
YOU TOTALLY LOST ME.
FLUFF
FLUFF
THAT'S IT IN A NUTSHELL.
THAT TICKLES.


THREADS OF LOVE
Kyohei Azumi


YOU BUSY, KATSUYUKI?
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT LET'S HANG OUT!!
STAY AWAY, CAT!
YUUKI
•SIGH•...
THAT WAS UNPLEASANT...
KER-CHIK!
MY TERRI-TORY
I GUESS KURO'S LONELY, WHAT WITH TAKAHISA SO BUSY LATELY.
I'M NOT THAT FREE, DAMMIT...
SNIFFLE...
SILENCE...
I'M HOOOME!
SLIDE...
SHIRO?


SST...
HEY.
OH, WELL. I'LL JUST REL-
FLICKER
HE MUST... BE OUT.
STOP JUST APPEARING OUT OF THIN AIR LIKE THAT!
YOU SCARED ME!
BA-DUMP!
BA-DUMP!
JUMP!
WHAT THE HELL!?
BA-DUMP!
...?
...WHAT IS IT?
URK...


すー
SNIFF...
SHUDDER!!
.....!
SST...
I'LL GO CUT HIS THREADS.
HEY...! NO MORE CUTTING!
I SMELL A CAT...
OH! IT'S KURO.
HE AM-BUSHED ME COMING HOME...
I WONDER IF HE DOESN'T GET...
WHAT A CAT ALLERGY IS!
HAHA...


SIGH...
LOOK...
CUTTING THREADS ONLY HURTS YOU.
FOCUS MORE ON CONNECTING PEOPLE...
.....
...WHY ARE YOU EVEN ANGRY?
...ARE YOU...
JEALOUS OF HIM?
...WHAT IF I AM?
IS THAT STRANGE?
N-...
NOT AT ALL...


I HAVE A KEEN NOSE, BEING A FOX AND ALL.
SO HOW CAN I BE FINE WITH YOU COVERED...
IN SOMEONE ELSE'S SCENT?
NOT SAY EMBARRASSING STUFF SO EARNESTLY LIKE THAT...?
...?
..... COULD YOU...
KISS
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME...
I SHOULD SAY WHATEVER I'M FEELING.





KATSU-YUKI...

I'M HUNGRY.

...YEAH, YEAH.

■END■



SOME PARTS STILL NEED WORK, BUT I'D BE REALLY HAPPY IF YOU WERE ABLE TO ENJOY IT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO THE PUBLISHER AND DESIGNER, MY EDITOR, EVERYONE INVOLVED, AND OF COURSE, YOU, READER.

THANKS AGAIN!



THREADS OF LOVE

by Kyohei Azumi



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Qpa

KATSUYUKI RETURNS TO THE TOWN HE LIVED IN AS A CHILD AFTER BEING AWAY FOR TEN YEARS, BUT HE'S FACED WITH NOTHING BUT TROUBLE. IN ORDER TO TRY WARDING OFF EVIL SPIRITS, HE GOES TO A SHRINE TO PRAY. THERE, HE MEETS AN ODDLY-DRESSED CHILD WITH FURRY EARS AND A TAIL, WHO ONLY KATSUYUKI CAN SEE. THE CHILD FOLLOWS HIM HOME, ASKING TO "FEED", AND PROCEEDS TO KISS KATSUYUKI AND SWALLOW HIS SPIT...
"WHAT THE? DID HE JUST GET TALLER...? AND NOW HE WANTS TO MATE WITH ME...!?"

THE THREADS OF FATE INTERWEAVE IN THIS MYSTERIOUS ANTHROPOMORPHIC FANTASY!




SO...
YOU USE LESS ENERGY IN THAT FORM, RIGHT?
WHY NOT JUST STAY LIKE THAT, THEN?
MUNCH
MUNCH
I GOT THIS FROM ONE OF THE NEIGHBORS.
THIS PASTRY'S GOOD.
I FEEL FULLER WHEN I EAT LIKE THIS.
WHY?
BUT, SOMETIMES YOU TAKE THAT FORM.
WHEN WE WERE APART, I USED MY POWER TO MAINTAIN THE THREAD CONNECTING US.
I DON'T NEED TO IF YOU'RE NEXT TO ME AT HOME.
I DON'T GET ENERGY. BUT STILL...
I LIKE DELICIOUS FOOD.
.....OK.
..... GOTCHA.
... OH...
HEH HEH!


DAMMIT!!
I TOLD YOU NOT TO OPEN THE CAT FOOD!!
SO WHAT IF YOU LEARNED HOW TO!?
SLAM!
NH!
TWITCH!!


THREADS OF LOVE
(BONUS STORY)
Kyohei Azumi 2016
MM.
MAYBE I PUSHED HIM TOO MUCH...
JUST THE OTHER DAY, HE WAS A KID...
OUR LIFE SPANS ARE DIFFERENT...
SO I GUESS IT'S TO BE EX-PECTED.
.....ONE DAY.....
SHUDDER
...!


...I'VE TRIED TO DISTANCE MYSELF FROM HUMANS...
BUT NOW THAT I KNOW ONE, I CAN'T LET GO.
RUFFLE!
SIIIGH...
THINGS WOULD BE SMOOTHER IF I MYSELF WERE ABLE TO FORGET.
MM... SHIRO?
...SORRY.
DID I WAKE YOU?
DID YOU PUT PAJAMAS ON ME...?
RISE...
DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
I CAN KINDA TELL WHEN YOU DO THAT, NOW.
WERE YOU OVER-THINKING STUPID STUFF AGAIN?
I'M A SERIOUS GUY, SO...


HUG!
FWUD!
!
GET OVER HERE.
HEY...
MY GRANDMA ALWAYS SAID TO GO TO BED EARLY...
'CAUSE OUR MINDS HAVE A HABIT OF BEING NEGATIVE AT NIGHT...
SQUEEZE...
ZZZZZ...
THINK ABOUT IT IN THE MORN-ING...
WAIT...
...ARE YOU HALF-ASLEEP?



...YOU'RE RIGHT.

UNTIL TOMORROW, THEN.

THANKS FOR BUYING!