

Moka Onmae

JP: *Ohayou, oyasumi, mata ashita.* (AKITASHOTEN)
ENG: *Good Morning, Good Night, and See You Tomorrow.*

Moka Onmae didn't start out wanting to be a manga artist—but she's a great example of someone who has a unique story to tell and has found that manga is one of the best ways to share her experiences, as a flight attendant, and in her journey navigating life as a cancer patient. Her art style is delicate, and she often weaves humor into her stories, but you can tell that she's telling a story that's very real, resonant, and relevant to people who are dealing with similar hardships, or anyone who wants to know more about a patient's point of view of these life-changing experiences.

We don't have enough of these types of manga memoirs centered around adult female protagonists published in English, and there's room for more graphic medicine manga stories to be shared with healthcare professionals, patients, and family members.

-Debora Aoki

Synopsis

When Momiji Akiyama receives an unexpected cancer diagnosis, her world shifts. Though single and living alone, she's never lived selfishly—always putting others before herself. But her illness sparks a journey of self-discovery, as she begins to explore what it truly means to care for herself.

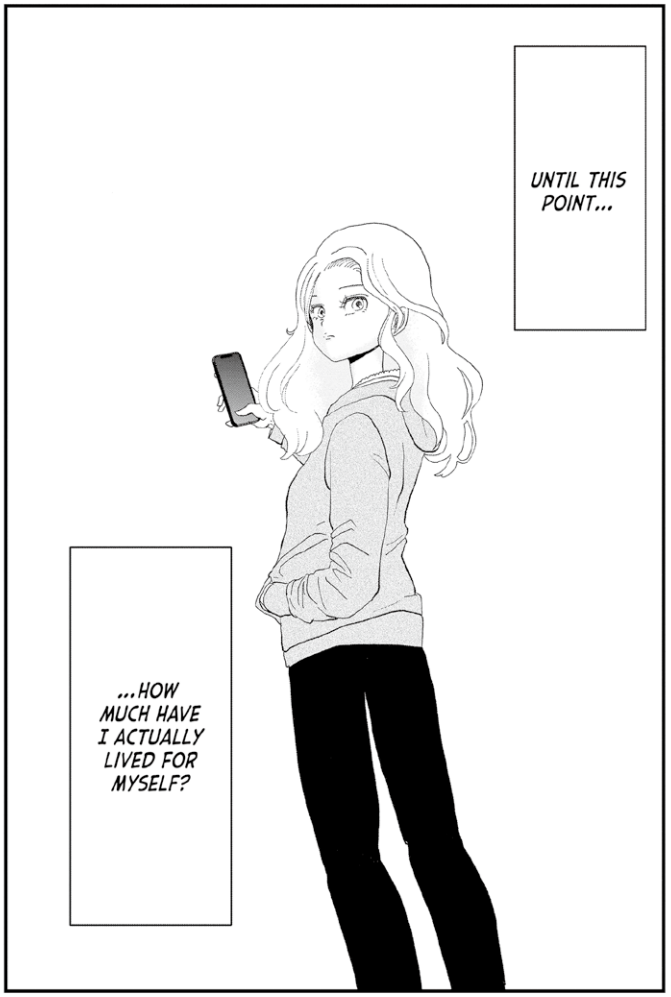
Artist Profile

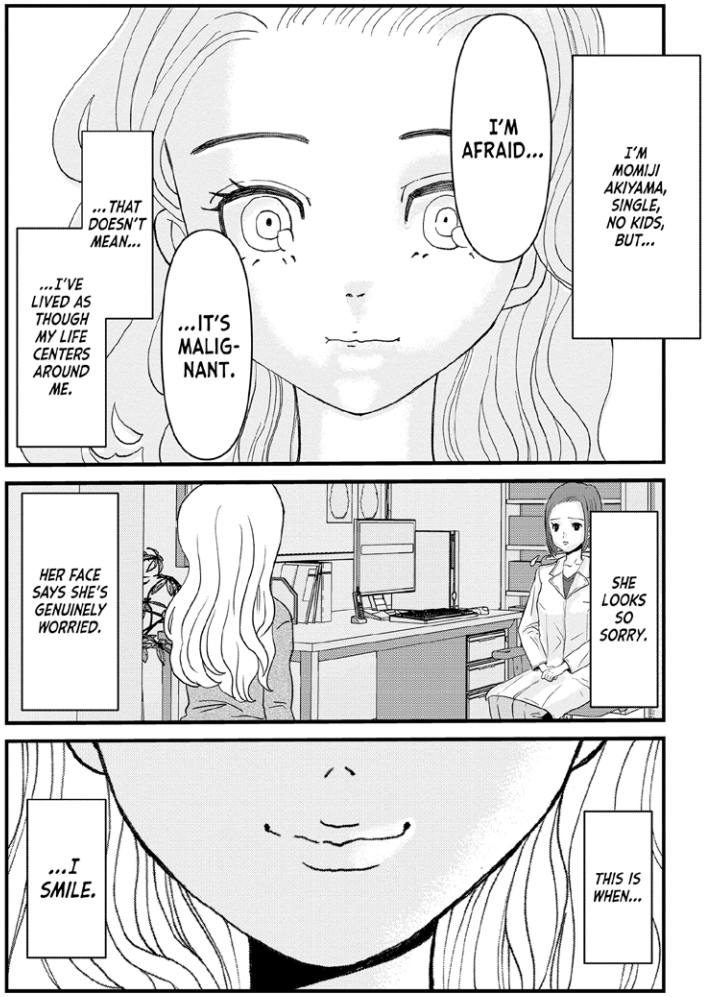


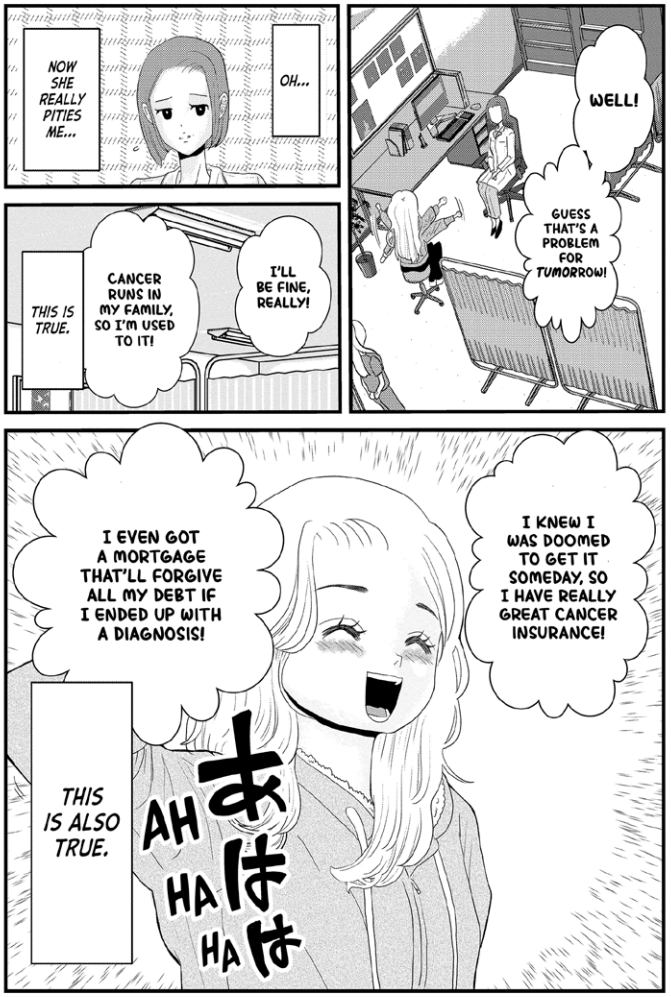
Moka Onmae is a former flight attendant who utilized her extensive experience to create a realistic portrayal of a flight attendant's world in her debut manga *CREW de gozaimasu!* (We are CREW!) in 2015. Currently, four volumes in the series are available in print with the bonus volume *CREW de gozaimasu! Kinkyu dasshutsu ni sonaeru tameno handobukku* (We are CREW! Emergency Evacuation Handbook) available in digital format. In 2023, Onmae's story about a woman living on her own and her life after being diagnosed with cancer, *Ohayou, oyasumi, mata ashita.* (*Good Morning, Good Night, and See You Tomorrow.*) began serialization on *Souffle*, AKITASHOTEN's online manga magazine. Onmae comes from a family where every member, the author included, is dealing with their own battles with cancer, and this experience gives the events depicted in *Ohayou, oyasumi, mata ashita.* depth and authenticity that has earned acclaim from critics and readers.

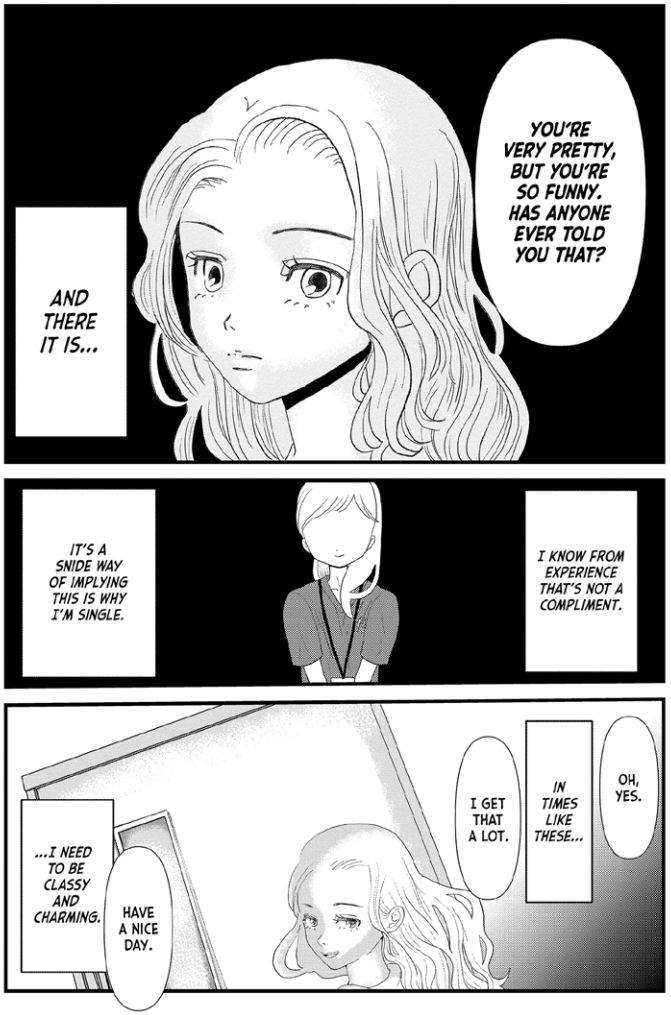
@Babylion_110 @moka_onmae

CHAPTER 1: So I Found Out I Have Cancer...

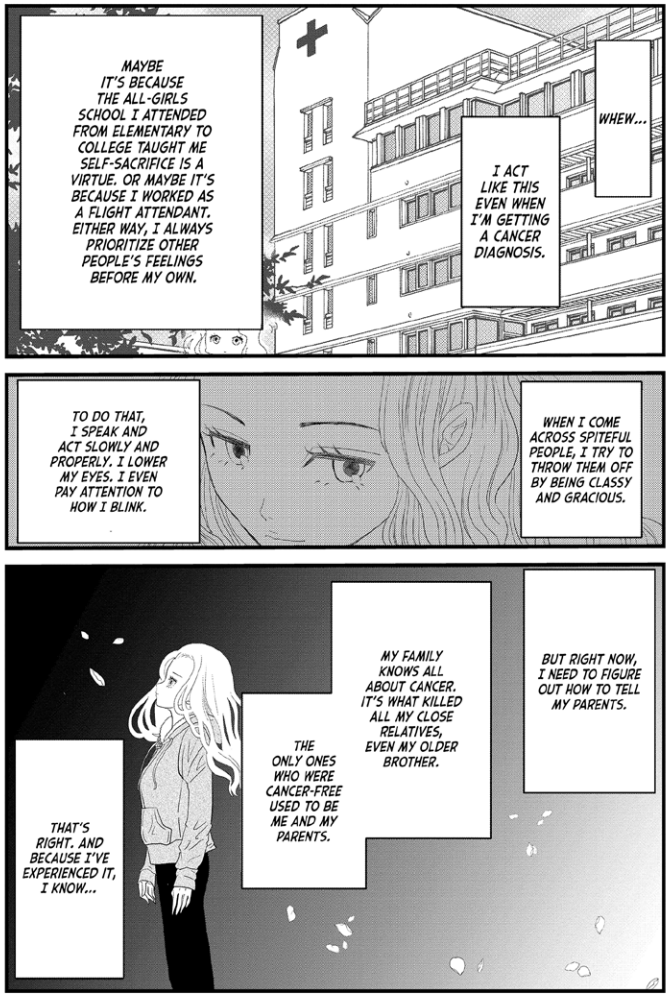


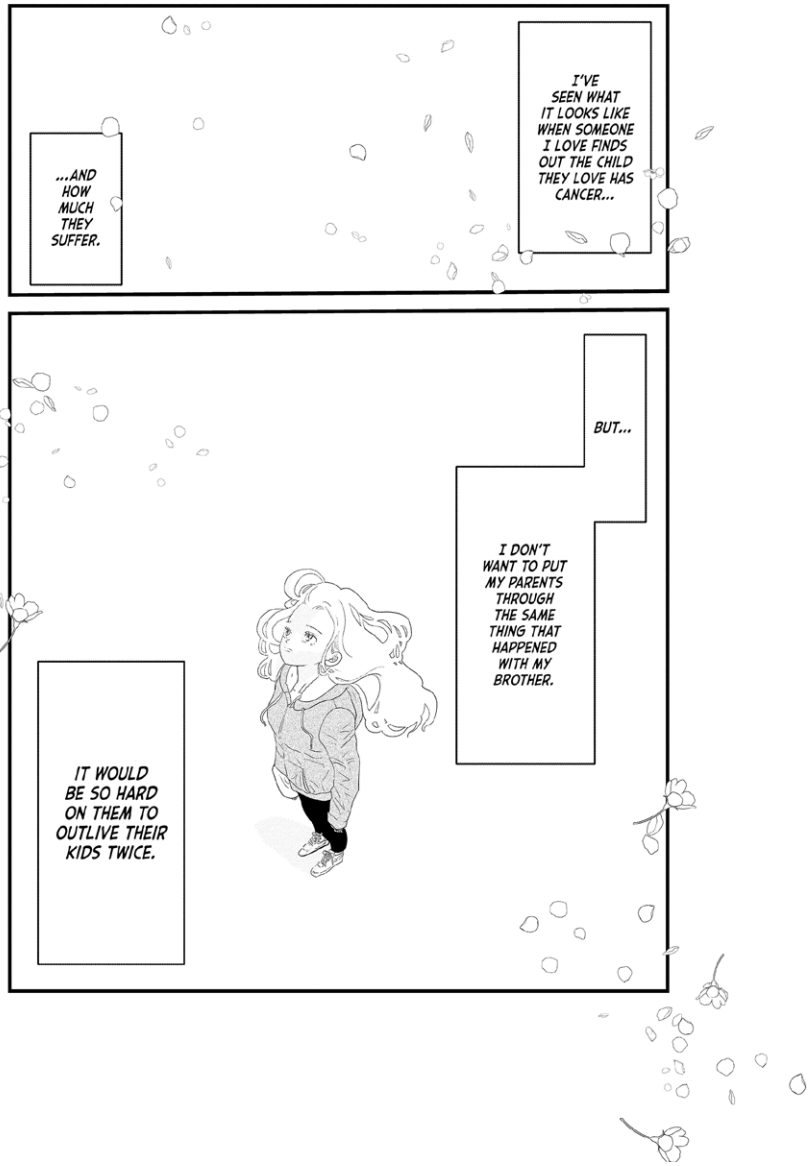

I'M MOMIJI AKIYAMA, SINGLE, NO KIDS, BUT...
I'M AFRAID...
...IT'S MALIG-NANT.
...I'VE LIVED AS THOUGH MY LIFE CENTERS AROUND ME.
...THAT DOESN'T MEAN...
SHE LOOKS SO SORRY.
HER FACE SAYS SHE'S GENUINELY WORRIED.
THIS IS WHEN...
...I SMILE.

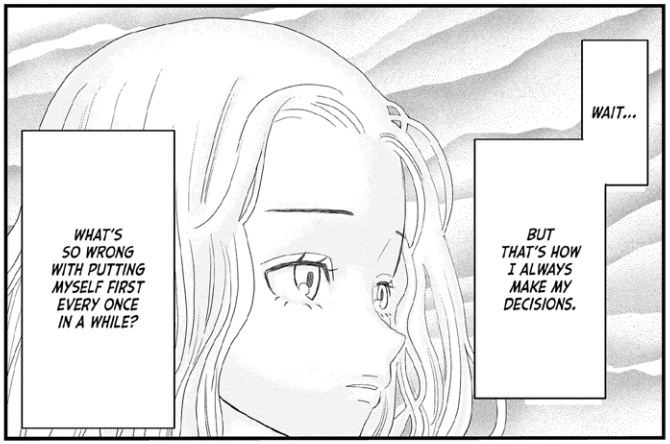

WELL!
GUESS THAT'S A PROBLEM FOR TUMORROW!
OH...
NOW SHE REALLY PITIES ME...
I'LL BE FINE, REALLY!
CANCER RUNS IN MY FAMILY, SO I'M USED TO IT!
THIS IS TRUE.
I KNEW I WAS DOOMED TO GET IT SOMEDAY, SO I HAVE REALLY GREAT CANCER INSURANCE!
I EVEN GOT A MORTGAGE THAT'LL FORGIVE ALL MY DEBT IF I ENDED UP WITH A DIAGNOSIS!
THIS IS ALSO TRUE.
AH HA HA
あはは

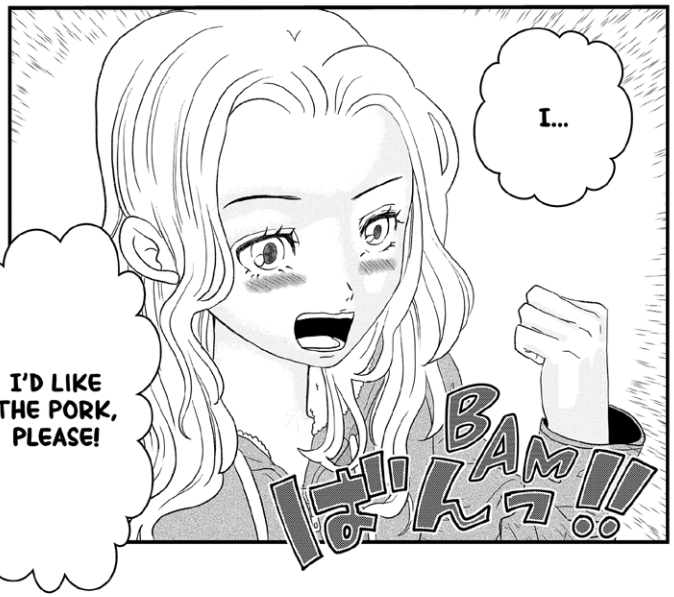

AND THERE IT IS...
YOU'RE VERY PRETTY, BUT YOU'RE SO FUNNY. HAS ANYONE EVER TOLD YOU THAT?
IT'S A SNIDE WAY OF IMPLYING THIS IS WHY I'M SINGLE.
I KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT'S NOT A COMPLIMENT.
...I NEED TO BE CLASSY AND CHARMING.
HAVE A NICE DAY.
I GET THAT A LOT.
IN TIMES LIKE THESE...
OH, YES.

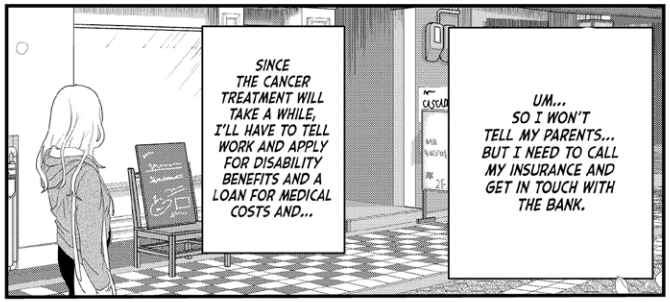

PFFT
I'LL BE FINE! I'VE GOT ALL MY DUCKIES IN A ROW, SEE!
SO I'LL BE BETTER IN NO TIME!
OH?
TELLING PATIENTS THE BAD NEWS IS PROBABLY HARD ON HER NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES SHE DOES IT.
ALSO TRUE.
I REALLY CARE ABOUT MY MONEY, SO I MADE SURE I WOULDN'T LOSE OUT IF SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED TO ME— LIKE CANCER!
MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!
...I'M RELIEVED TO SEE YOU'RE KEEPING AN UPBEAT ATTITUDE.
BUT MISS AKIYAMA ...
HA HA!
OF COURSE. USUALLY THE DIAGNOSIS IS WHEN THINGS BECOME BLEAK.
MISS AKIYAMA.
YES?
THE ONLY ISSUE IS THAT WE CAN'T TREAT YOU HERE...
OH, THEN I'D LIKE TO BE TRANSFERRED TO THE XXXX CENTER.

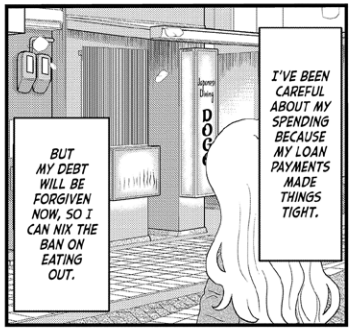

MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE THE ALL-GIRLS SCHOOL I ATTENDED FROM ELEMENTARY TO COLLEGE TAUGHT ME SELF-SACRIFICE IS A VIRTUE. OR MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I WORKED AS A FLIGHT ATTENDANT. EITHER WAY, I ALWAYS PRIORITIZE OTHER PEOPLE'S FEELINGS BEFORE MY OWN.
I ACT LIKE THIS EVEN WHEN I'M GETTING A CANCER DIAGNOSIS.
WHEW...
TO DO THAT, I SPEAK AND ACT SLOWLY AND PROPERLY. I LOWER MY EYES. I EVEN PAY ATTENTION TO HOW I BLINK.
WHEN I COME ACROSS SPITEFUL PEOPLE, I TRY TO THROW THEM OFF BY BEING CLASSY AND GRACIOUS.
THAT'S RIGHT. AND BECAUSE I'VE EXPERIENCED IT, I KNOW...
THE ONLY ONES WHO WERE CANCER-FREE USED TO BE ME AND MY PARENTS.
MY FAMILY KNOWS ALL ABOUT CANCER. IT'S WHAT KILLED ALL MY CLOSE RELATIVES, EVEN MY OLDER BROTHER.
BUT RIGHT NOW, I NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO TELL MY PARENTS.

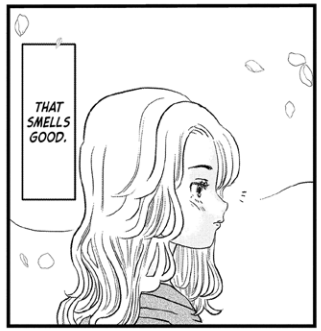

...AND HOW MUCH THEY SUFFER.
I'VE SEEN WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE WHEN SOMEONE I LOVE FINDS OUT THE CHILD THEY LOVE HAS CANCER...
IT WOULD BE SO HARD ON THEM TO OUTLIVE THEIR KIDS TWICE.
I DON'T WANT TO PUT MY PARENTS THROUGH THE SAME THING THAT HAPPENED WITH MY BROTHER.
BUT...


WAIT...
BUT THAT'S HOW I ALWAYS MAKE MY DECISIONS.
WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH PUTTING MYSELF FIRST EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE?

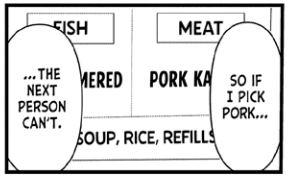

I...
I'D LIKE THE PORK, PLEASE!
BAM
ばんっ!!


SINCE THE CANCER TREATMENT WILL TAKE A WHILE, I'LL HAVE TO TELL WORK AND APPLY FOR DISABILITY BENEFITS AND A LOAN FOR MEDICAL COSTS AND...
UM... SO I WON'T TELL MY PARENTS... BUT I NEED TO CALL MY INSURANCE AND GET IN TOUCH WITH THE BANK.

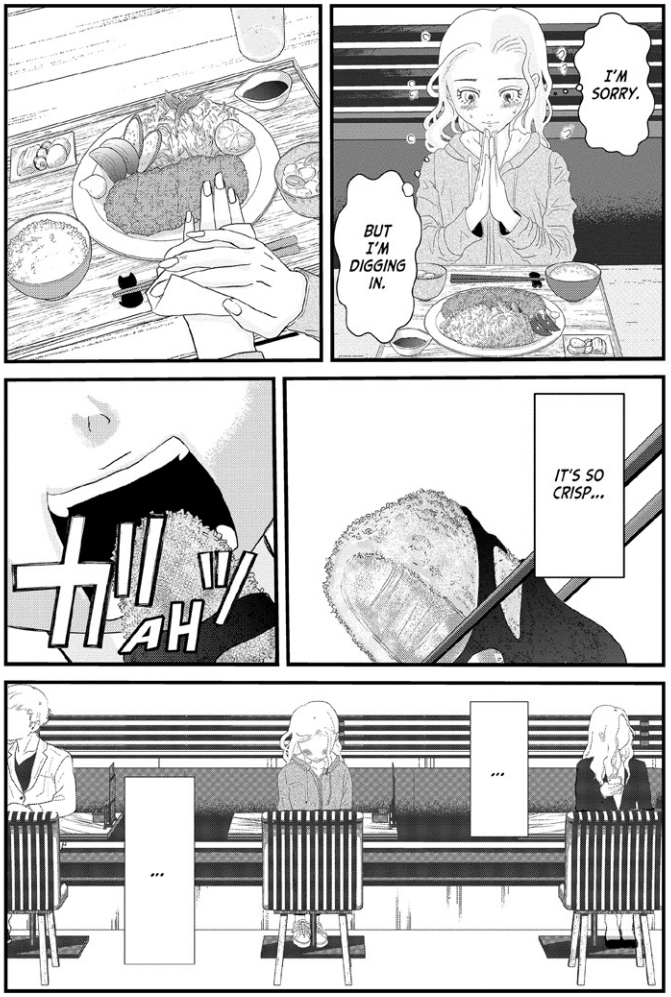

I'VE BEEN CAREFUL ABOUT MY SPENDING BECAUSE MY LOAN PAYMENTS MADE THINGS TIGHT.
BUT MY DEBT WILL BE FORGIVEN NOW, SO I CAN NIX THE BAN ON EATING OUT.


THAT SMELLS GOOD.

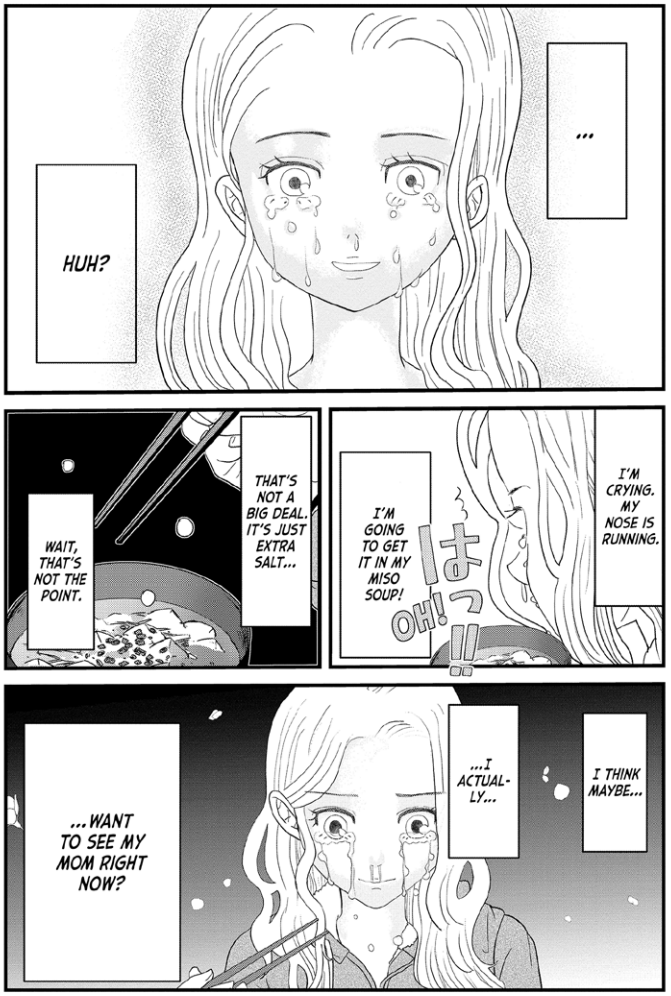

THE PORK'S OUR LAST ONE.
WE HAVE PORK OR FISH FOR OUR MAIN LUNCH OFFERINGS.

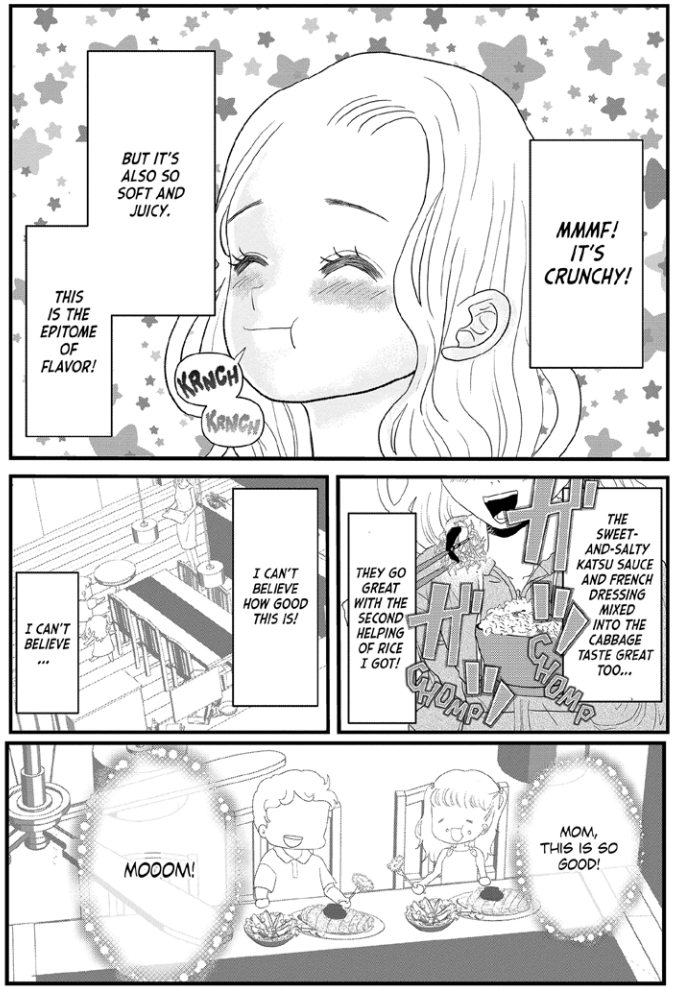

FISH
MEAT
...THE NEXT PERSON CAN'T.
SO IF I PICK PORK...
SOUP, RICE, REFILLS


HELLO!
WELCOME!

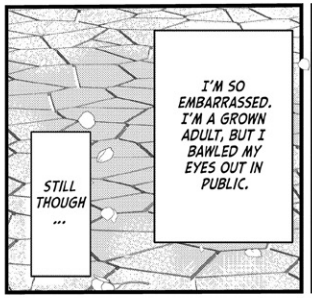

I'M SORRY.
BUT I'M DIGGING IN.
AH
IT'S SO CRISP...
...
...


HERE'S YOUR ORDER!
I'M... ...SO SORRY!
ALL RIGHT, I'LL PUT IN THE ORDER FOR THE LAST ONE!
I...
I ACTUALLY ORDERED IT...
WOW!
IT LOOKS SO GOOD!
...FOR THE PORK OPTION.
I WAS SELFISH AND PUT MYSELF FIRST...

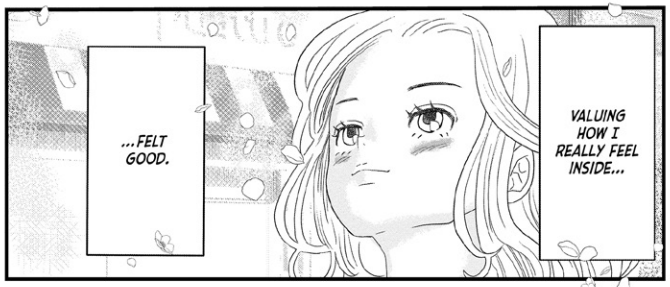

...
HUH?
THAT'S NOT A BIG DEAL. IT'S JUST EXTRA SALT...
WAIT, THAT'S NOT THE POINT.
I'M CRYING. MY NOSE IS RUNNING.
I'M GOING TO GET IT IN MY MISO SOUP!
はっ!!
OH!
...I ACTUAL-LY...
I THINK MAYBE...
...WANT TO SEE MY MOM RIGHT NOW?


MMMF! IT'S CRUNCHY!
BUT IT'S ALSO SO SOFT AND JUICY.
THIS IS THE EPITOME OF FLAVOR!
KRNCH
KRNCH
I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW GOOD THIS IS!
I CAN'T BELIEVE ...
THE SWEET-AND-SALTY KATSU SAUCE AND FRENCH DRESSING MIXED INTO THE CABBAGE TASTE GREAT TOO...
THEY GO GREAT WITH THE SECOND HELPING OF RICE I GOT!
CHOMP
CHOMP
CHOMP
MOM, THIS IS SO GOOD!
MOOOM!





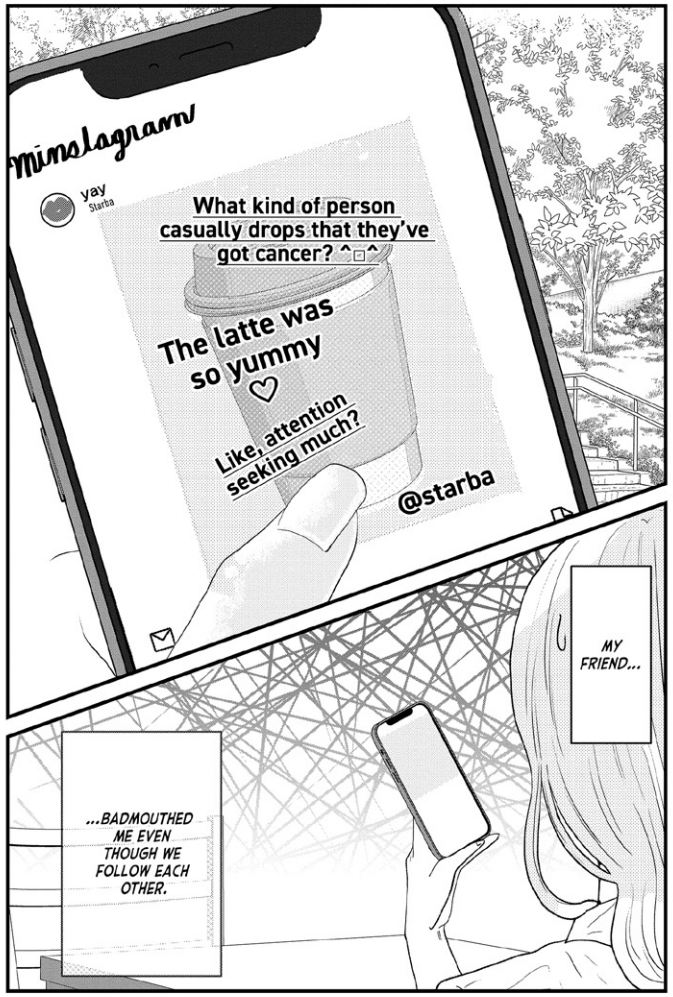


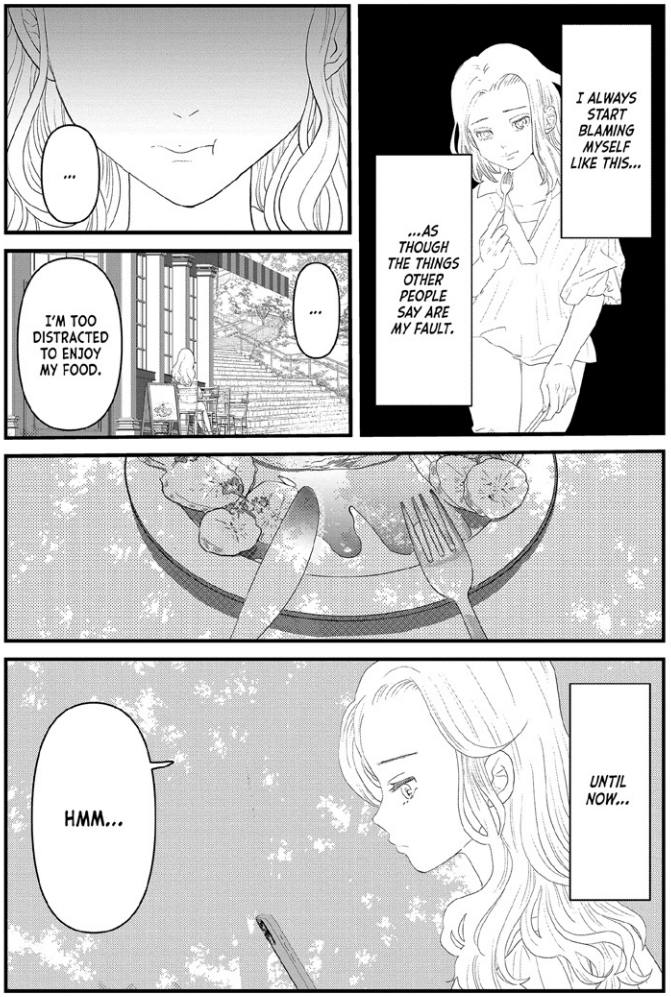




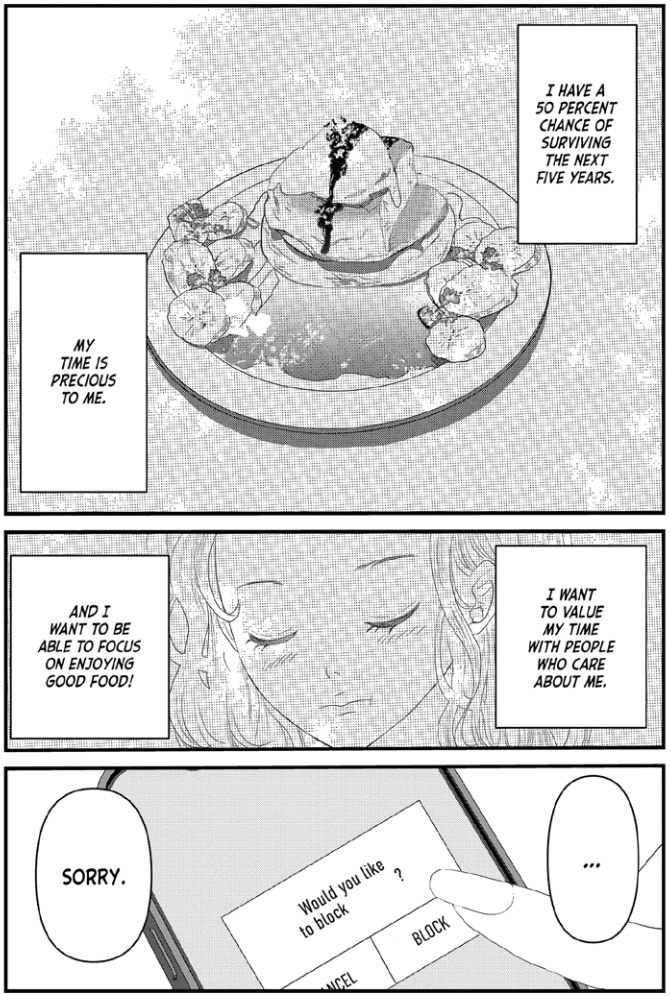
CHAPTER 1 – END

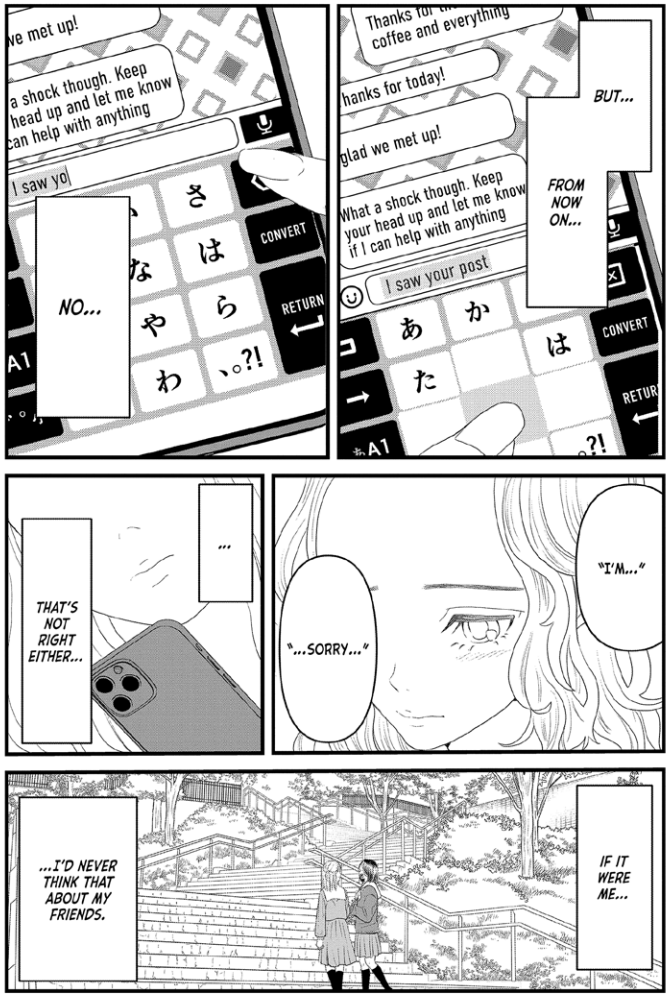
CHAPTER 2: So I Found Out My Friend Is Two-Faced...




WE PLANNED TO MEET AFTER MY APPOINT-MENT...
...SO I JUST MENTIONED IT IN PASSING WHILE WE WERE HAVING COFFEE TOGETHER.
B-BUMP
B-BUMP
B-BUMP
WE USED TO MEET UP EVERY DAY...
HERE IS YOUR ORDER OF THE SOUFFLE PANCAKE.
THANK YOU.
BUT MAYBE I WAS BEING INCONSIDERATE?
SO I'VE GOT CANCER.
IT WAS CASUAL, LIKE THIS...
WAS IT A SHOCK FOR HER?
MAYBE I MADE HER UNCOMFOR-TABLE?
TIME TO DIG IN...
MAYBE IT STARTED A LONG TIME AGO...

...
I'M TOO DISTRACTED TO ENJOY MY FOOD.
...
I ALWAYS START BLAMING MYSELF LIKE THIS...
...AS THOUGH THE THINGS OTHER PEOPLE SAY ARE MY FAULT.
UNTIL NOW...
HMM...

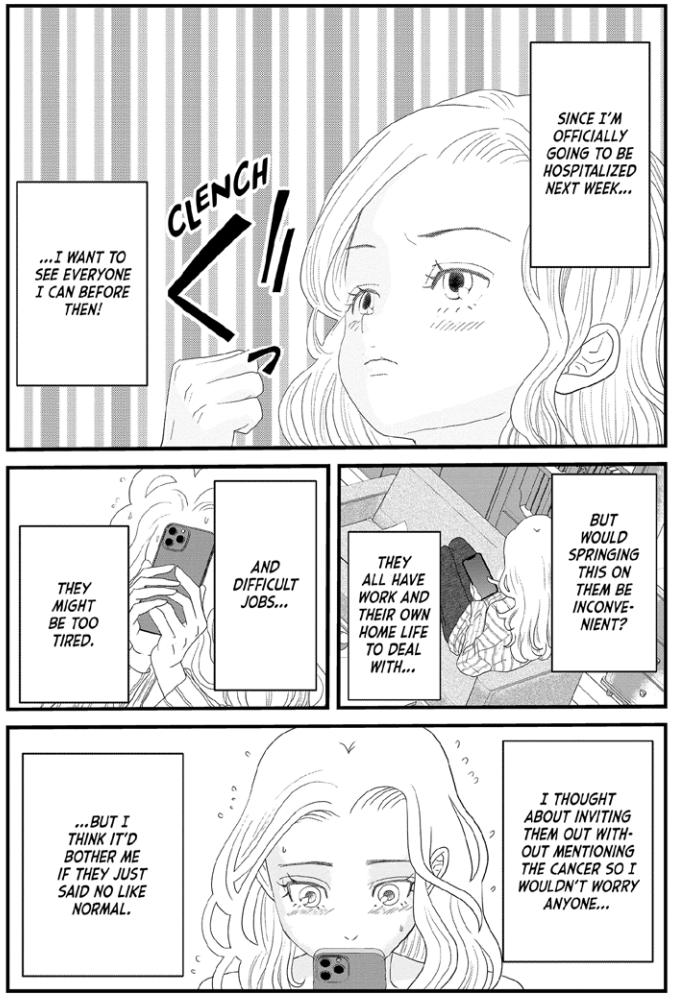

I HAVE A 50 PERCENT CHANCE OF SURVIVING THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.
MY TIME IS PRECIOUS TO ME.
AND I WANT TO BE ABLE TO FOCUS ON ENJOYING GOOD FOOD!
I WANT TO VALUE MY TIME WITH PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT ME.
SORRY.
Would you like to block ?
BLOCK
...


NO...
BUT...
FROM NOW ON...
THAT'S NOT RIGHT EITHER...
...
"...SORRY..."
"I'M..."
...I'D NEVER THINK THAT ABOUT MY FRIENDS.
IF IT WERE ME...



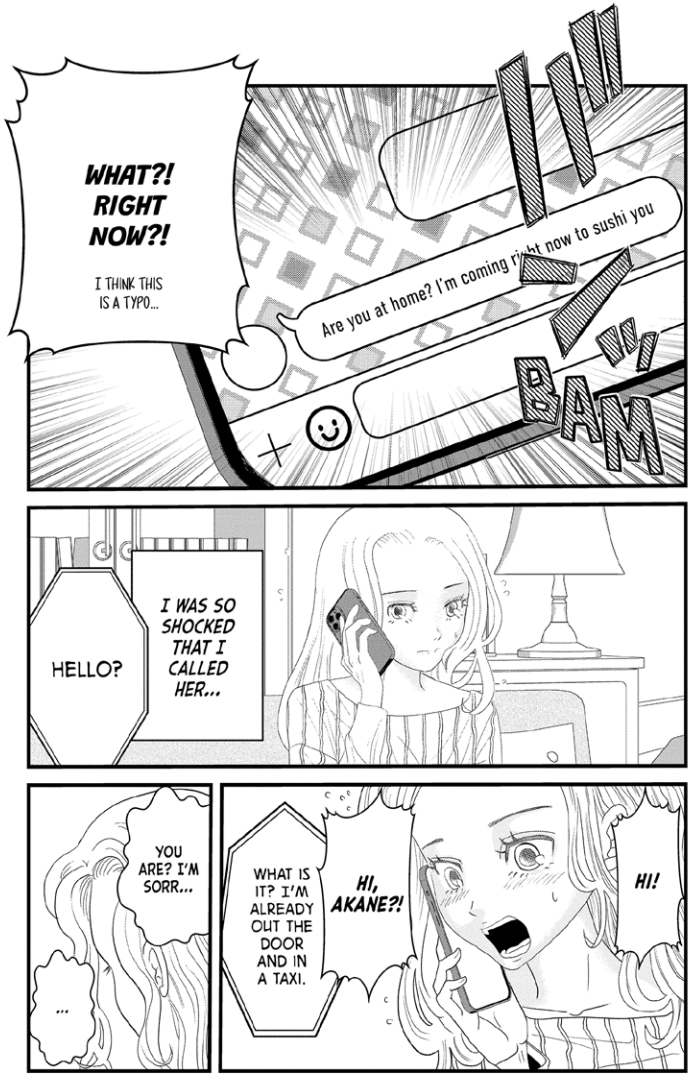
CHAPTER 2 - END

CHAPTER 3: So I Told My Friends I Wanted to See Them Before I'm Hospitalized...

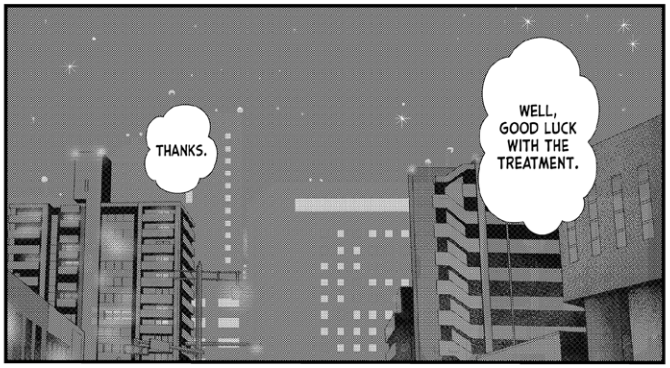


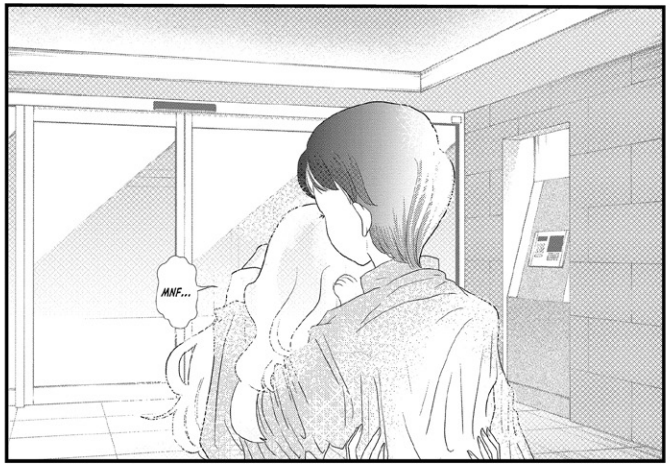

Thanks, Miyuki! Sorry for contacting you when you're so busy
So I actually have cancer and I'm going to be hospitalized next Monday. It'd be nice to see you before I'm in the hospital! (^-^)
"I HOPE YOU MAKE A FULL RECOVERY." "YOU'LL GET BETTER."
What? Thanks. Are you okay? People with cancer make full recoveries now!!! I'm sure you'll get better! Have you told your parents?
BUT MY CANCER... ...ISN'T THE KIND WHERE YOU MAKE A FULL RECOVERY.
...AND GENUINELY MEAN IT WHEN THEY SAY THAT.
THEY PROBABLY WANT TO CONSOLE ME...
BUT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THAT.
PING
SQUEEZE
THERE ARE SOME TYPES OF CANCER YOU NEVER RECOVER FROM, NO MATTER WHAT STAGE IT IS.


I'LL TELL THEM.
BUT IF I TELL THEM AND THEY STILL CAN'T MAKE IT, I'D FEEL CLOSURE.
I DON'T WANT TO HOVER HERE WAITING, SO I'LL HIDE THE CHATS.
PING
...
...
Akua
Miyuki
Saeko
Yuta
TOKYO METRO TOMORROW
ABEAKU LIFE INSURANCE


WHAT?! RIGHT NOW?!
I THINK THIS IS A TYPO...
Are you at home? I'm coming right now to sushi you
BAM
HELLO?
I WAS SO SHOCKED THAT I CALLED HER...
YOU ARE? I'M SORR...
...
WHAT IS IT? I'M ALREADY OUT THE DOOR AND IN A TAXI.
HI, AKANE?!
HI!


HELLO? HELLOOO?
NORMALLY I'D SAY SORRY FOR MAKING HER FEEL OBLIGATED, BUT...
WHAT?!
BE THERE IN TEN!
I'LL BE WAIT-ING.
HOPE YOU HAVE A SAFE TRIP OVER.
...
THANK YOU.
ブーッ
VRRM
AKANE!



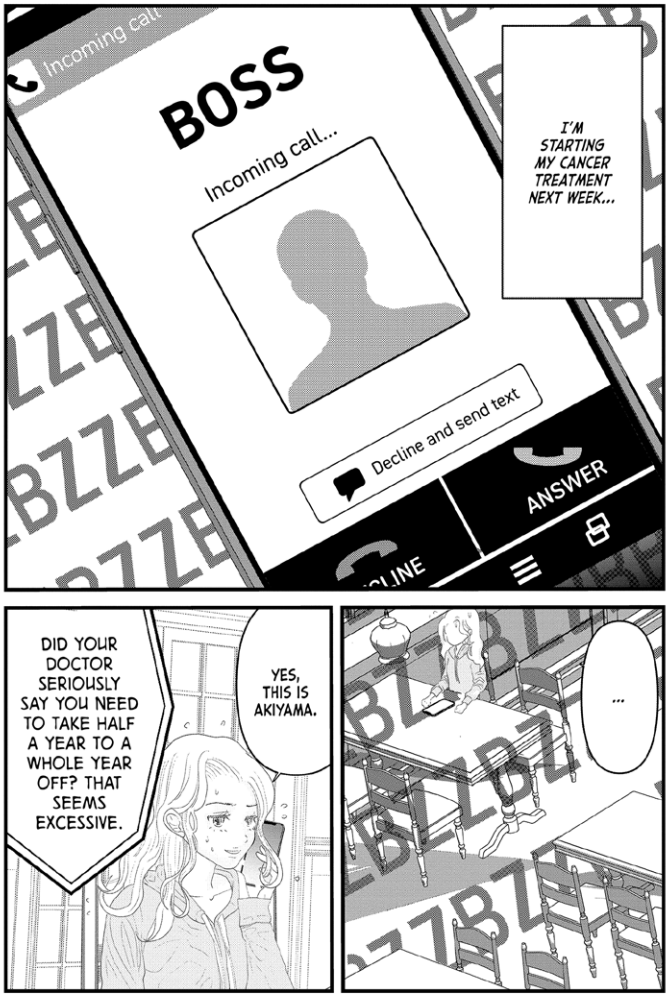


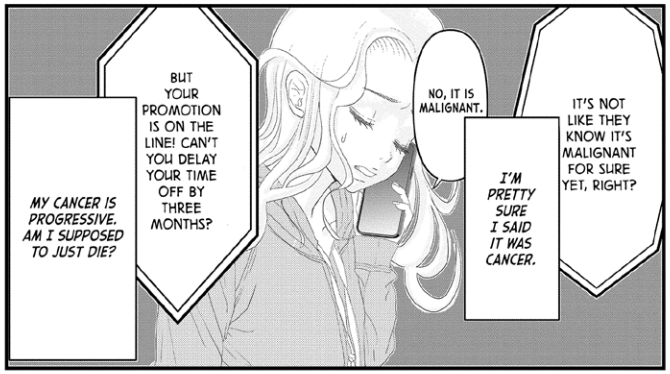




CHAPTER 3 - END

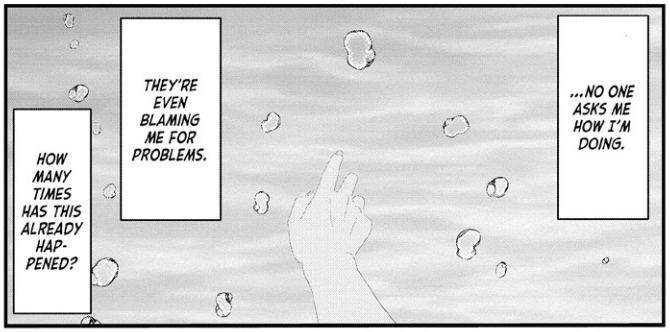
CHAPTER 4: So My Boss Called Me...

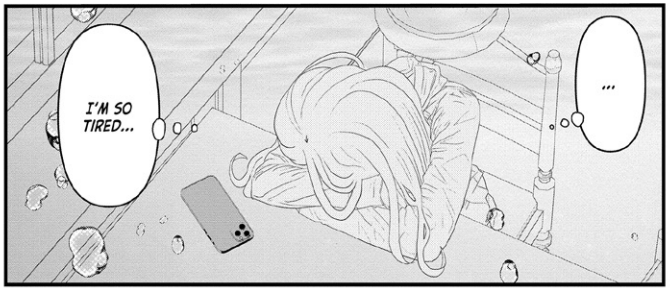


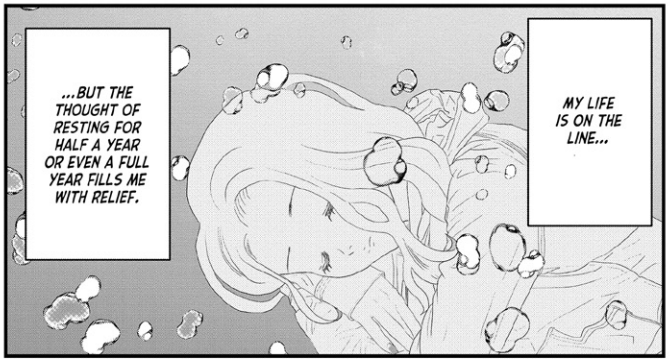

BUT YOUR PROMOTION IS ON THE LINE! CAN'T YOU DELAY YOUR TIME OFF BY THREE MONTHS?
NO, IT IS MALIGNANT.
IT'S NOT LIKE THEY KNOW IT'S MALIGNANT FOR SURE YET, RIGHT?
MY CANCER IS PROGRESSIVE. AM I SUPPOSED TO JUST DIE?
I'M PRETTY SURE I SAID IT WAS CANCER.


SO, I SHOULDN'T SAY THIS...
YOU CAN WORK WHILE YOU'RE OFF, RIGHT?
I LOVED MY JOB AND MY COMPANY.
SINCE WHEN DID IT BECOME TORTURE?
SHWAAAAA

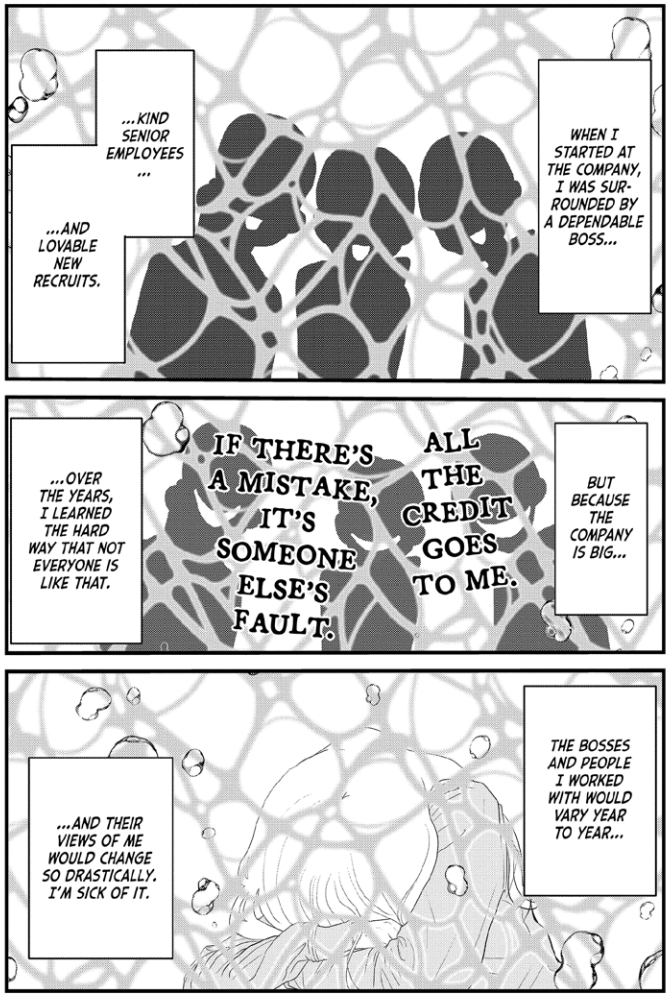

BUT EVERY-ONE'S SAYING IT WAS YOU.
NO, I HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH THAT.
BUT THEY'RE SAYING THE ISSUE WITH XXXX WAS YOUR FAULT.
WHILE I'M SUP-POSED TO HAVE TIME OFF...

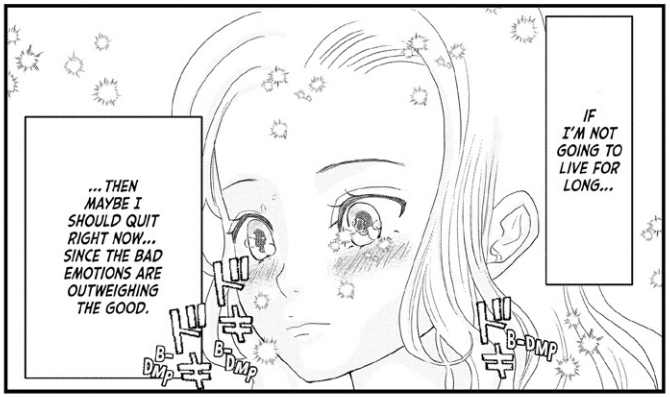

HOW MANY TIMES HAS THIS ALREADY HAP-PENED?
THEY'RE EVEN BLAMING ME FOR PROBLEMS.
...NO ONE ASKS ME HOW I'M DOING.

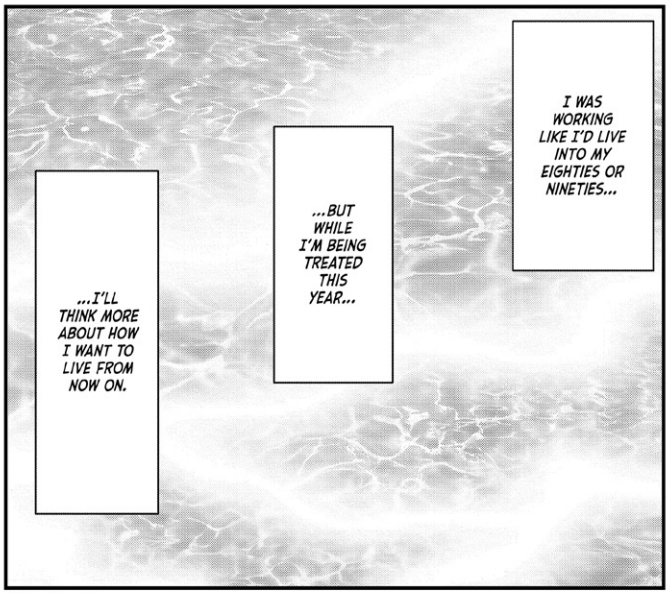

I'M SO TIRED...
...


...BUT THE THOUGHT OF RESTING FOR HALF A YEAR OR EVEN A FULL YEAR FILLS ME WITH RELIEF.
MY LIFE IS ON THE LINE...

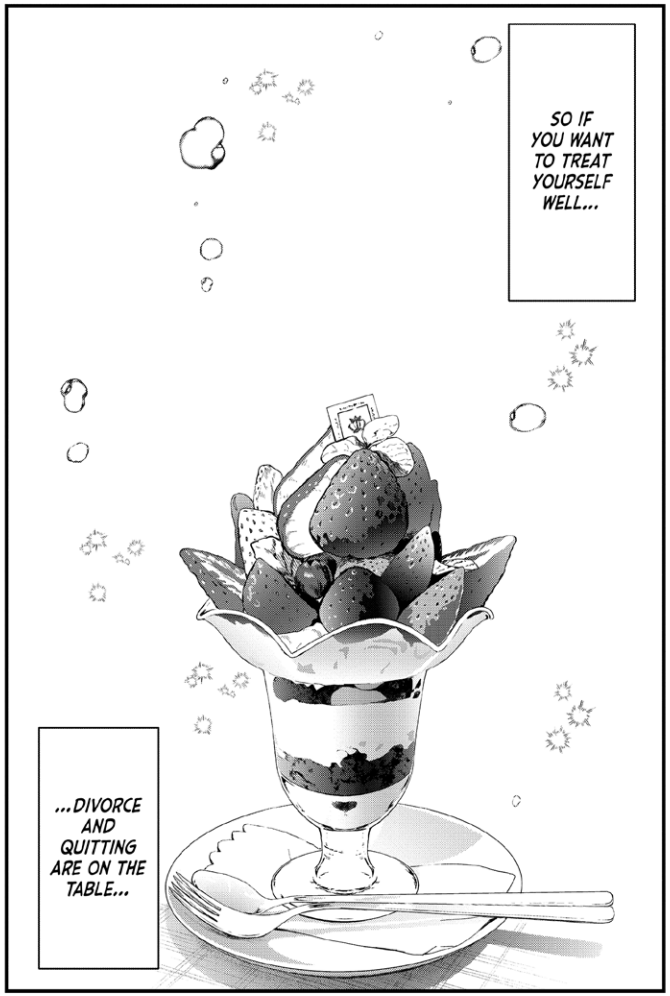

WOW! IT'S SO CUTE! ♡
THANK YOU FOR WAITING.
...MAYBE I'LL START LIKING WORK AGAIN?
WITH DISTANCE ...
SO IF HE'S NOT GONNA TREAT ME WELL, I'M CONSIDERING DIVORCE.
...BUT IT'S WORTH NOT HAVING THE STRESS OF BEING TIED TO SOMEONE I HATE.
SURE, IT'LL BE HARD ON ME FINANCIALLY...


WHEN I STARTED AT THE COMPANY, I WAS SURROUNDED BY A DEPENDABLE BOSS,...
...KIND SENIOR EMPLOYEES ...
...AND LOVABLE NEW RECRUITS.
BUT BECAUSE THE COMPANY IS BIG...
ALL THE CREDIT GOES TO ME.
IF THERE'S A MISTAKE, IT'S SOMEONE ELSE'S FAULT.
...OVER THE YEARS, I LEARNED THE HARD WAY THAT NOT EVERYONE IS LIKE THAT.
THE BOSSES AND PEOPLE I WORKED WITH WOULD VARY YEAR TO YEAR...
...AND THEIR VIEWS OF ME WOULD CHANGE SO DRASTICALLY. I'M SICK OF IT.

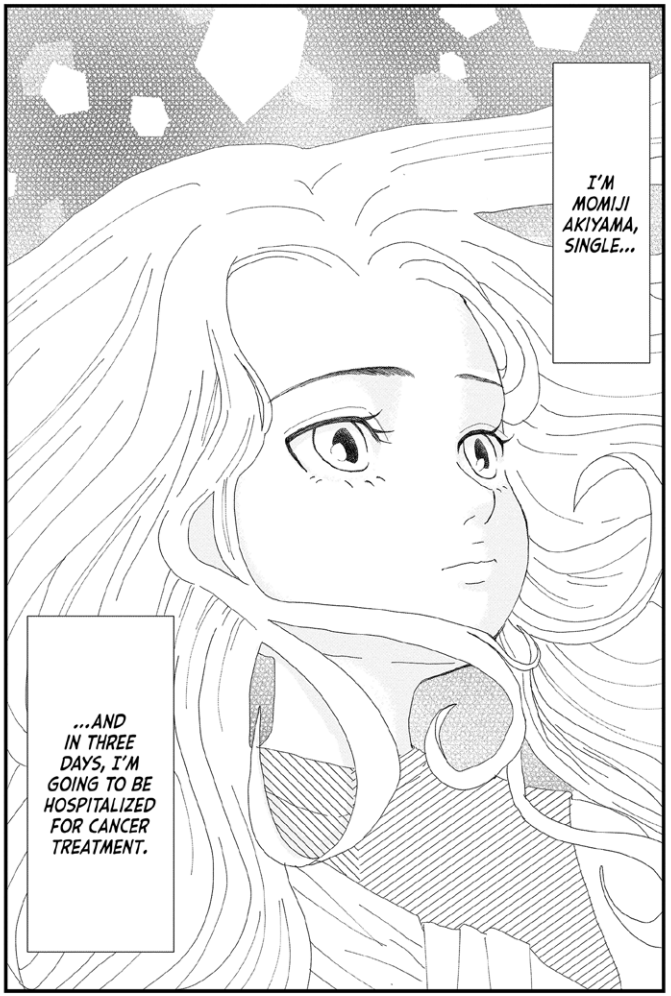


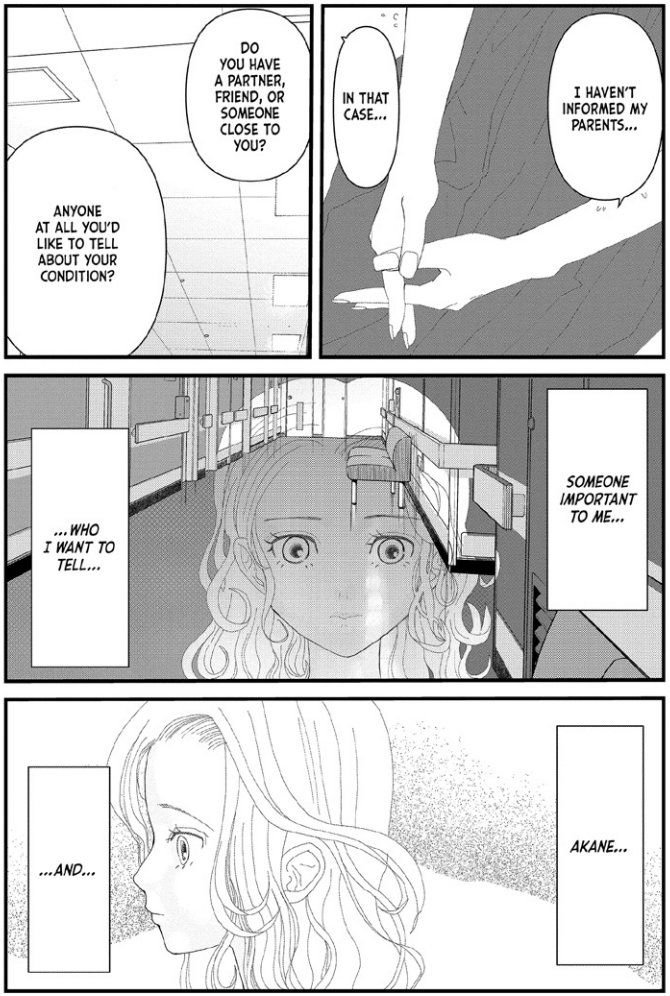


CHAPTER 4 - END

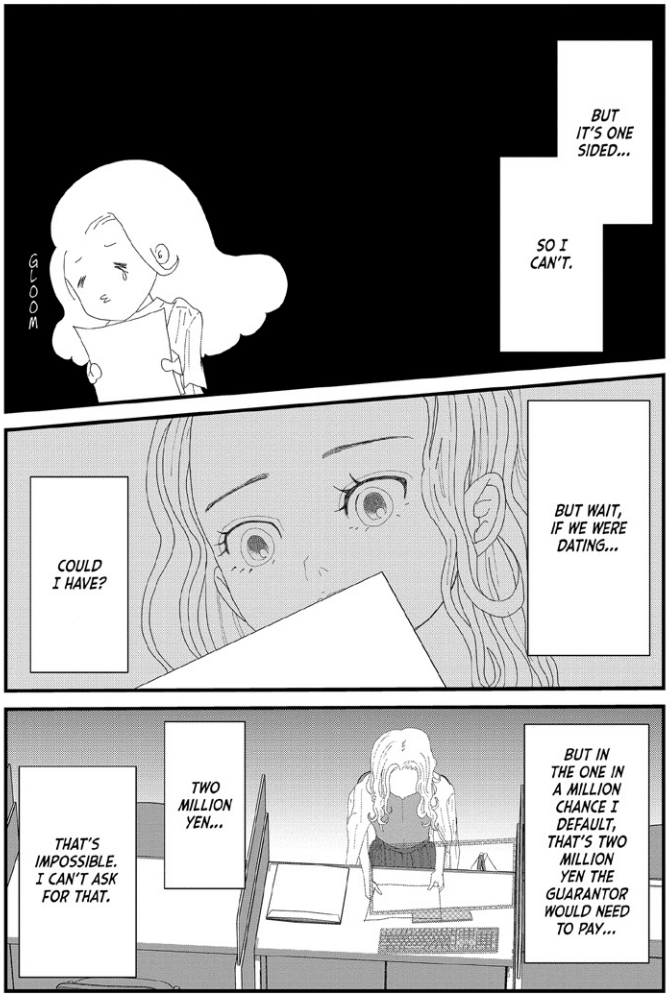


CHAPTER 5: So I Can't Get Myself to Depend on Anyone...

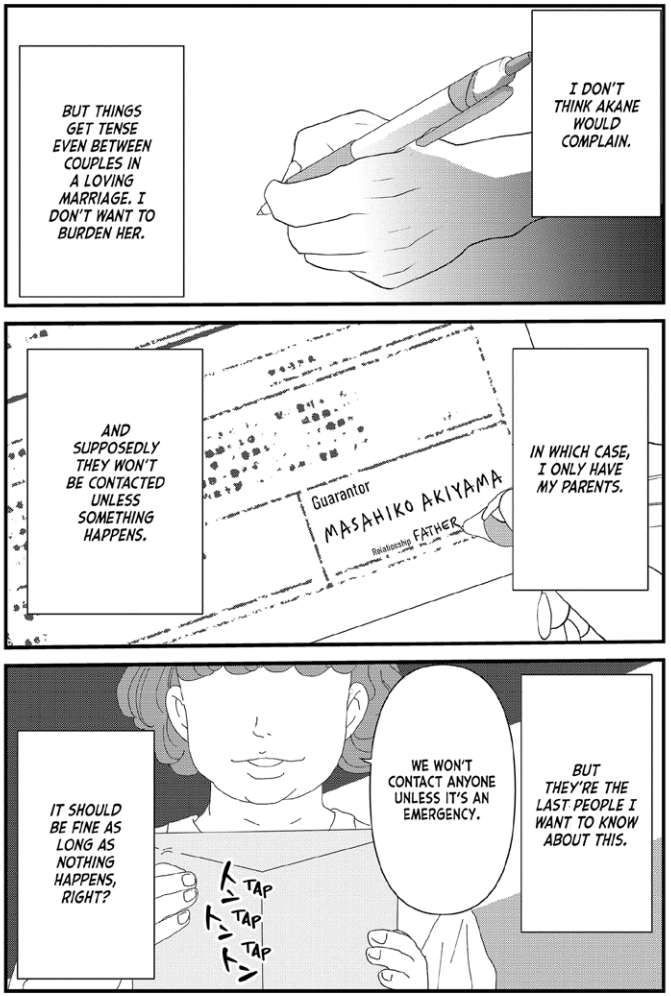



I'M GOING TO BE HOSPITALIZED IN THREE DAYS.
BUT I STILL HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD MY PARENTS THAT I HAVE CANCER.
AN EMERGENCY CONTACT...
...AND A GUARANTOR?
Emergency Contact
Guarantor
TREATMENT SUPPORT HOSPITAL
GENERAL HOSPITAL

DO YOU HAVE A PARTNER, FRIEND, OR SOMEONE CLOSE TO YOU?
ANYONE AT ALL YOU'D LIKE TO TELL ABOUT YOUR CONDITION?
IN THAT CASE...
I HAVEN'T INFORMED MY PARENTS...
...WHO I WANT TO TELL...
SOMEONE IMPORTANT TO ME...
...AND...
AKANE...


...SOMEONE I'VE BEEN IN LOVE WITH FOR OVER A DECADE.
THE PERSON MOST IMPORTANT TO ME WHO I'D LIKE TO TELL...

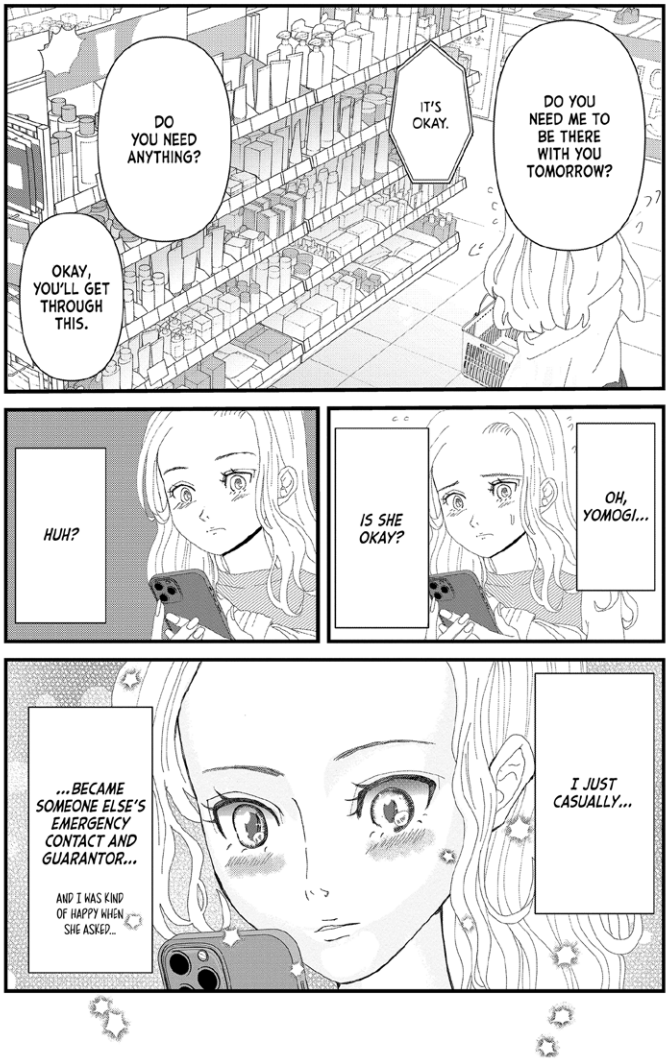
BUT IT'S ONE SIDED...
SO I CAN'T.
GLOOM
BUT WAIT, IF WE WERE DATING...
COULD I HAVE?
BUT IN THE ONE IN A MILLION CHANCE I DEFAULT, THAT'S TWO MILLION YEN THE GUARANTOR WOULD NEED TO PAY...
TWO MILLION YEN...
THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE. I CAN'T ASK FOR THAT.

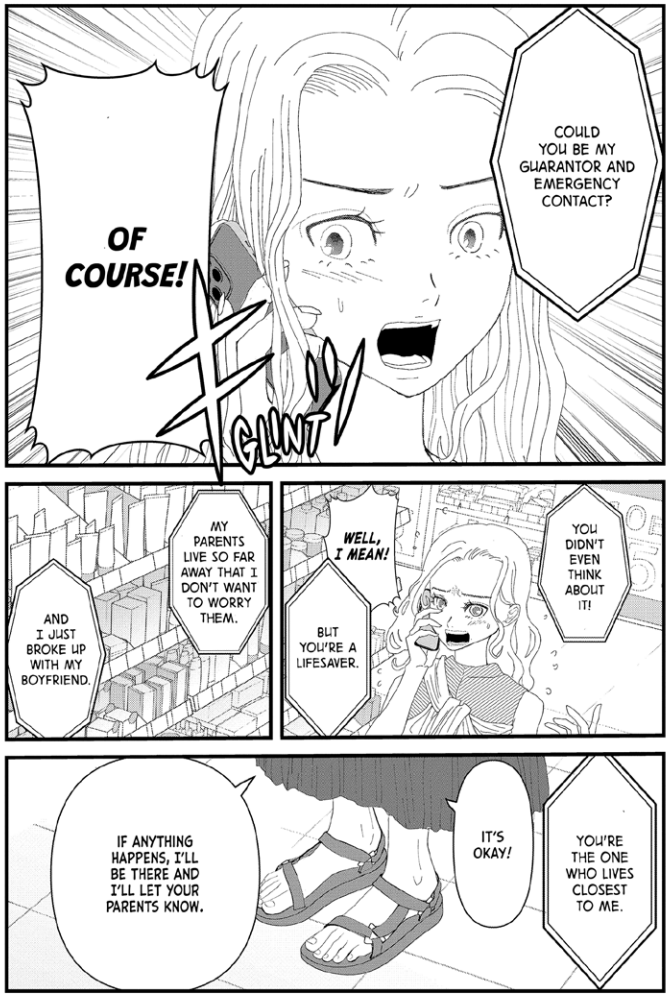

IF I'D BEEN MARRIED ...
...THEN WOULD MY HUSBAND HAVE NEEDED TO PAY THE TWO MILLION YEN?
NO, NO WAY!
I FOUND SOME BLOGS WHERE PEOPLE COMPLAINED ABOUT THEIR SPOUSE'S MEDICAL BILLS.
AND ACCORDING TO THE BLOGS WRITTEN BY PATIENTS...
...SOMETIMES THE SPOUSES COMPLAIN ABOUT THE TREATMENT ITSELF OR POST-TREATMENT LIFE...
AS IF THE STRESS FROM HAVING CANCER ISN'T ALREADY ENOUGH, THEY ADD TO IT...
MARRIED WOMEN ARE SO STRONG...
SOMETIMES THEY'RE TOLD TO DO CHORES STRAIGHT AFTER LEAVING THE HOSPITAL POST-SURGERY...
JUST IMAGINING IT STRESSES ME OUT SO MUCH...
I'D PREFER BEING SINGLE...

I DON'T THINK AKANE WOULD COMPLAIN.
BUT THINGS GET TENSE EVEN BETWEEN COUPLES IN A LOVING MARRIAGE. I DON'T WANT TO BURDEN HER.
IN WHICH CASE, I ONLY HAVE MY PARENTS.
Guarantor
MASAHIKO AKIYAMA
Relationship FATHER
AND SUPPOSEDLY THEY WON'T BE CONTACTED UNLESS SOMETHING HAPPENS.
BUT THEY'RE THE LAST PEOPLE I WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS.
WE WON'T CONTACT ANYONE UNLESS IT'S AN EMERGENCY.
IT SHOULD BE FINE AS LONG AS NOTHING HAPPENS, RIGHT?
TAP
TAP
TAP

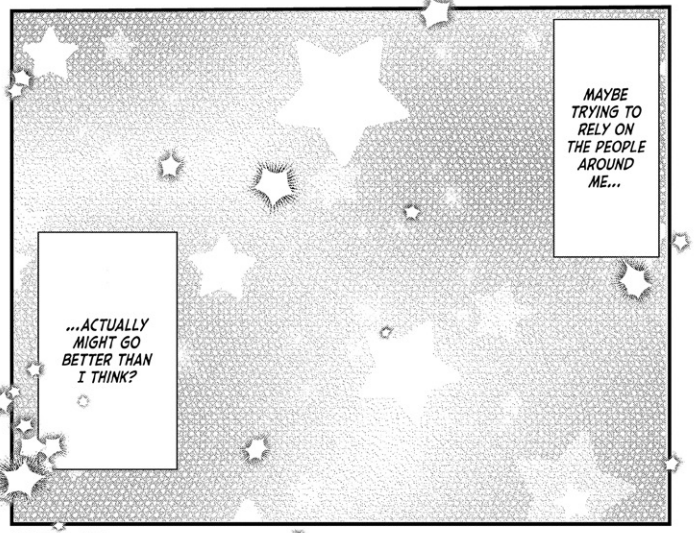

HELLO? YOMOGI?
WHAT IS IT? HUH? YOU'RE GOING TO BE IN THE HOSPITAL?
BZZBZZ
Yomogi
TH-THAT'S TERRIBLE!!!
YEAH, I AM! I'M GOING IN FOR APPENDICITIS SURGERY TOMORROW.
SO ACTUALLY, I DO NEED A FAVOR...
AW, THANK YOU.
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO, LET ME KNOW!!!


DRUG
DRUG STOR
PRESCRIPTIONS DAILY GOODS
I'LL BE IN THE HOSPITAL FOR TWO TO THREE WEEKS, SO I SHOULD PROBABLY GET A BIG BOTTLE OF BODYWASH...
HMM...


DO YOU NEED ANYTHING?
IT'S OKAY.
DO YOU NEED ME TO BE THERE WITH YOU TOMORROW?
OKAY, YOU'LL GET THROUGH THIS.
HUH?
IS SHE OKAY?
OH, YOMOGI...
...BECAME SOMEONE ELSE'S EMERGENCY CONTACT AND GUARANTOR...
AND I WAS KIND OF HAPPY WHEN SHE ASKED...
I JUST CASUALLY...

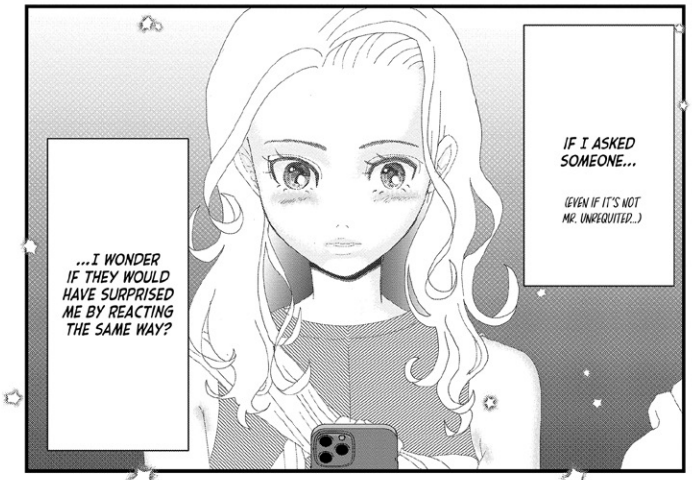

OF COURSE!
GLINT
COULD YOU BE MY GUARANTOR AND EMERGENCY CONTACT?
AND I JUST BROKE UP WITH MY BOYFRIEND.
MY PARENTS LIVE SO FAR AWAY THAT I DON'T WANT TO WORRY THEM.
WELL, I MEAN!
BUT YOU'RE A LIFESAVER.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT IT!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, I'LL BE THERE AND I'LL LET YOUR PARENTS KNOW.
IT'S OKAY!
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LIVES CLOSEST TO ME.





CHAPTER 5 - END





TITLE DETAILS

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Critical Acclaim

Review by Kazuhiro Ito. "Gan kanja no shinjo o sensai ni egaki, 'ikikata' o tou: Onmae Moka *Ohayou, oyasumi, mata ashita.* (Dai 144-kai) (Sensitively Portraying the Emotions of Cancer Patients and Questioning What It Means to Live: Onmae Moka's *Ohayou, oyasumi, mata ashita.* [No. 144])." *Asahi Shimbun*, Good Life with Books column, online. Jul. 2, 2024.
https://book.asahi.com/article/15323679.

Comparable Titles

I'm a Terminal Cancer Patient, But I'm Fine (manga by Hilnama, Seven Seas Entertainment)
Cancer Vixen: A True Story (graphic novel by Marisa Acocella Marchetto, Pantheon)
Down to the Bone: A Leukemia Story (graphic novel by Catherine Pioli, Graphic Mundi)
I Want to Eat Your Pancreas (manga by Sumino Yoru, Seven Seas Entertainment)
My Alcoholic Escape from Reality (manga by Kabi Nagata, Seven Seas Entertainment)
Our Love Doesn't Need a Happy Ending (manga by Fuyumi Yajima, Seven Seas Entertainment)
Kimiko Does Cancer (graphic novel by Kimiko Tobimatsu, Arsenal Pulp Press)
Guts (graphic novel by Raina Telgemeier, Scholastic Graphix)