



Summer Pockets Short Story [Nomura Miki]

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Summer Pockets

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Amidst the Summer Brilliance

Chapter Nomiki
Balance Isn't Always Perfect

I, Nomura Miki, amidst the heat of the summer, in the middle of town, had one of my legs stuck in a ditch.

"I can't believe this."

And it's quite the difference in level. If I hadn't worn bike shorts, this could have been pretty bad. Now then, how do I get out of here? I think I could put my other leg inside the ditch and thrust myself out, or maybe wait for someone to pass by and save myself the trouble spoiling my clothes even more. I ponder for a while as I look into the distance.

"Nomiki... What are you doing?"

"Hmm? Takahara?"

Takahara Hairi. An oddball of a guy who, for whatever reason, is spending his summer vacation on this island where nothing special ever happens. At least, in comparison to the half naked guy and the table tennis nerd, he's way more bearable. Besides, I've seen Shiroha, Ao, Tsumugi and Mizuori-senpai rely on him a lot, so he can't really be a bad guy. I suppose I can trust him as well.

"Can't you see? I'm stuck."

"Your hobby?"

"There's no way I enjoy this. Now lend me a hand, please."

"Sur-"

"...Why are you blushing?"

"I mean... your underwear is completely visible."

"Aren't I wearing bike shorts?"

"But they're under your skirt. No matter how you put it, THAT'S underwear."

"Not at all...plus, isn't a swimsuit way more revealing?"

"For the members of the swimming club, their swimsuit is like their formal attire."

"They have their own sensibilities, I guess..."

It seems like he attends a boy's school, so he's not that used to dealing with the girls of the island. To be honest, that's kind of charming in its own way.

"Well anyways, I'll help you get out of there."

"Yeah, please."

Takahara pulls my hand and helps me out. It wasn't such a deep hole at the end of the day, so my clothes didn't get all that dirty.

"Thanks, I owe you one."

"Don't worry about it. More importantly, how did you end up like that?"

"I sort of lost my balance."

"Were you feeling dizzy? It could be heatstroke. Here, let me help."

"No, I really just lost my balance."

"I get you... but I insist."

Takahara stares at me.

"Didn't you learn it's rude to look at people like that?"

"I'm sorry, it's just that you look kinda different today."

"Hmmm, so you noticed."

"I've heard if you praise a girl's change of look, no matter how small it is, it'll help you be more popular."

"I see. But you ruin it if you keep staring at them like that."

"I guess that's probably true..."

"Well, in any case, you helped me, so you're alright in my book."

"Sure, just be careful next time."

I turn my back and start walking again.

"Ah!"

Splash!

"..."

"Eeeh...?"

I got stuck again.

"Nomiki, what are you doing?"

"I lost my balance again."

"Like before? Are you sure it's not heatstroke?"

"Yeah, I'm pretty sure..."

"But you were wavering. Why don't you hydrate and cool down your body for a moment?"

"I'm telling you, it's fine."

"You could at least pour some of the water inside Hydro Gladiator
-Revision- on your head... Hmm?"

Looks like he finally, actually noticed what's different with me today.

"You're not carrying Hydro Gladiator!?"

"You finally noticed."

Takahara looks at me with a confused expression.

"Is it really that weird?"

"It's just that I have never seen you without it until now. It feels like meeting a new you."

"But don't you think it's pretty unusual, when you think about it?"

"What?"

"That a high schooler carries a water gun everywhere, I mean."

"Well... maybe a little bit."

He sounded unconvinced in his answer.

"I was actually on my way to go get it."

"In any case, can you help me get out of here again?"

"Sure."

I grab Takahara's hand and release my stuck leg once again.

We were holding hands very tightly.

"..."

Hmmm... Maybe this could work.

"Takahara, I have a favor to ask."

"What is it?"

"Can you walk with me...while holding hands?"

"Eh!? Errr..."

"It's fine if you don't want to."

"Is not like that! Is just that..."

"What's the problem?"

"It's embarrassing..."

"Are you a girl...?"

"Guys from all boys schools are even more shy than girls, you know."

He was acting really weird... He really wasn't joking about being shy.

"And anyways, why do we have to hold hands? Nomiki, don't tell me you have a crush on....!!!"

"If you really feel embarrassed, don't talk more than necessary."

"I'm sorry... So, why holding hands?"

"Because I can't keep my balance."

"...?"

"If I'm not carrying Hydro Gladiator. I lose my equilibrium."

"Haha, no way. It's not like you're a cat who got her whiskers cut."

Takahara laughs as he makes that comparison.

"No, I really mean it."

"Eh? For real...?"

"Don't believe me? Then let go of my hand and back off for a moment."

Takahara agrees, frees my hand, and puts a little distance between us. I try to walk towards him but... thud!

"Eeeeeeh...?"

"Look, now both of my legs got stuck, you think I'd do this on purpose?"

"Of course not... Eh, is this for real?"

Takahara helps me get out once again. Now both of my legs were dripping wet.

"Now you see. Sorry, but I'm counting on you."

"Alright."

We make our way to the beach while holding hands.



"It's around here?"

"Yeah, I think I left it around here."

"And why did you leave it? If I can ask."

"I immediately shoot at whoever I see half-naked, it's become an acquired reflex, and sometimes I shoot innocent bystanders who're just enjoying the beach. I leave here as a preventative measure."

"That's just insane."

"Ever since that exhibitionist starting running around town, this has become an habit of mine."

I start looking for Hydro Gladiator as we talk. The seashore, the rocky areas, the shallow ones, all while holding Takahara's hand...

"I can't find it anywhere."

"Is it possible it got washed away in the ocean?"

"It got washed away...?"

Should that be the case, then there's no point on looking for it anymore, and honestly, I can't think of any other possibility. A lot of time has passed since I left it here, so it is very likely that it got dragged into the open sea...

"What should we do now, Takahara?"

"...! Wait a m-minute."

Takahara's face suddenly turns red, and he avoids looking at me directly in the eye. To put it bluntly, he's feeling embarrassed.

"What is it...?"

"I mean, usually if you were to ask me what to do next, you'd sound way more confident. Why are you hesitating now?"

"I mean... Hydro Gladiator isn't here anymore, my Hydro Gladiator!"

"I don't really get it..."

How can you not get it!?

"What should I do now..."

"Uhm, is there any other place where it could be...?"

"I don't know..."

"Please stop with the crushed spirits, it's starting to affect me too..."

"I'll... do my best."

"No, I mean... you look like a normal girl now."

Where did I put my Hydro Gladiator... Without it I'm just...

"Takahara, can I count on you just a bit more...?"

"Yeah sure, but please get a grip."

"But I don't know what I should do anymore..."

I'm sure I'm causing trouble for him, but I'm seriously at my wit's end here.

"For now, why don't you try to relax?"

"But how?"

"Uhm, Tenzen taught me this method where you put seaweed on your head."

"Got it... I'll put it on my head."

"Eh...?"

"Can you go get me some... seaweed?"

"Yeah, sure..."

With a troubled expression, Takahara goes to the shore and grabs some seaweed for me. I quickly put it on my head.

"..."

"..."

"... Just say something."

"... The seaweed has the same color as your hair, if I looked at you from far away I'd think you hair grew."

"I see... so it suits me?"

"Kinda. I mean it's still just seaweed..."

But this smell... it stinks, and it's so cold... That's when I came to my senses.

"Whatever am I doing...?"

"Looks like you calmed down."

"Yeah, thanks a lot, I don't know what happened to me there."

I regain my composure after noticing how nonsensical everything I did was. There's no time to hesitate, I have to find Hydro Gladiator.

"Takahara, I know where to go next. Lend me a hand please."

"Sure."

We make our way to the residential area, still holding hands.

"Where should we go next then?"

"The candy store. If one of the kids on the island happened to find it, then they surely brought it to Ao so that she can appraise it."

"Ooh, your head really got clearer after that."

"I hate to admit it, but I'll have to give my thanks to Tenzen later."

"Speaking of the candy store... If Ao sees us holding hands, it's gonna cause a misunderstanding."

"That's no problem. I'm sure she'll understand if we explain the situation to her."

"By the way, how do you go about every single day carrying Hydro Gladiator? Even going to school, shopping and stuff like that?"

"Of course not. This only happens during summer."

"How so?"

"You see-"

It happened as I was about to answer Takahara's question.

"Ah?"

"Hmm?"

Takahara stumbles upon a dark haired girl as he lets out a small scream. She looks back at us with a puzzled face. It seems the two of them knew each other. The girl was pulling a suitcase as she approached us.

"You indecent...!"

"I'm not!"

Way to go for an opening speech.

"Takahara, do you know her?"

"Yes, he does!"

"You think I'm acquaintance with such an overly confident girl who makes statements like that?"

"Would you say I'm your adventurer partner then?"

"I see. Well, for the time being, if you're dating Takahara in secret from everybody, please excuse me and let me explain why we're holding hands."

"No, it's really not like that."

"But it seems like she's fond of you."

"Should that be the cause of why are you talking so loud in front of her?"

He has a point, I didn't pay attention to that detail.

"Well you see, what's going on is that I can't keep my equilibrium if I'm not carrying my Hydro Gladiator."

"Hydro?"

"A water gun."

"Before getting here, I got my feet stuck several times. Takahara helped me and now is helping me get around."

"Oh..."

The girl thinks for a moment.

"Like the tale of Urashima Tarou, right!?"

"No... not at all."

How did she come up with that conclusion...

"I don't really get it then. So like a cat who lost his whiskers?"

"Yes, like that."

I don't know if she really gets it or not, but with that explanation there hopefully won't be any misunderstandings.

"And there you have it. See you later, Kamome."

"Ah, wait a minute you two."

"Hm?"

The girl called Kamome stands in front of us and sits on her suitcase, then lifts her index finger and points at me.

"Hey gal! Don't you ride?"

"... What?"

"Oh I get it... That could work."

"Takahara!? You understand her?"

"You, sit. I, push. Hairi, pushes. Don't be shy and get on top ♪ "

"Oh, I get it now, but... is it really alright?"

"Yeah, we're both used to it."

"You've done this before!? And in any case, it looks like a really important suitcase."

"It's fine! As a member of the Scurvy Cats, I can't leave behind a cat who's lost her whiskers."

"... Scurvy Cats?"

"Yeah. It's a real thing."

"I see, in that case I'll accept the offer... Thanks, you two."

I get on top of the suitcase as the Kamome girl and Takahara push it forward.

"How's the ride so far?"

"Really good, it feels like a nice change of view."

"Right?"

"Thanks a lot, we owe you one."

"Don't mention it. By the way, Hairi."

"Yeah?"

"Isn't it actually harder to push the suitcase with two people?"

"You're right... it was definitely easier back when I was doing it alone."

"Riiiiight?"

As we talked, we finally made it to the candy store. Ao was inside looking completely bored, but she came to greet us once she noticed us. She had a few questions upon seeing us.

"Did you become Nomiki's slave now?"

"No, there's really an explanation for this."

"Hmmm? Huh? And who is she?"

"Nice to meet you, I am slave number 2."

"Hey! Then I'm slave number 1?"

"Are you not?"

"I'm not a slave!"

"Don't tell me that Nomiki's actually slave number 1, and Hairi is... the master...?"

"Ao?"

"Hah! I bet you're trying to make me into your third slave now!"

"What a wild imagination."

"I bet inside that suitcase there's tons of tools to..."

"Ao, please, get a grip."

"And Nomiki got recruited earlier than me!"

"I'm going to shoot you."

"Huh? But at point blank that's... Wait a minute, what?"

Ao comes back from her fantasy world as she finally realizes there's something unusual with me.

"Where's Hydro Gladiator?"

"I forgot it somewhere, and I thought it could be around here... but it seems like it's not."

"Yeah, not many kids have come to play today."

"I see..."

I thought that by coming here I could get a lead, but... I let out a sigh of frustration.

"Oh right! Why don't you try going to the lighthouse?"

"...? I haven't visited the lighthouse at all before, though."

"But look, Tsumugi's been picking trash recently, so if your water gun got washed away by the sea, surely she might have picked it up."

"You're right! Good idea!"

She picks all sort of stuff, from stuffed toys to Paringles cans, if my Hydro Gladiator fell into the sea, I'm pretty sure she's got it.

"Well then, take me there, please."

"The road to the lighthouse is pretty rough, I wonder if the suitcase will be alright."

"Then shall we walk?"

"Sure."

"Then here's where we part ways, I hope you can find your whiskers."

"I'm not really looking for my whiskers, but thanks."

I take Takahara's hand and we make our way to the lighthouse.

"Eeh!? Why are those two holding hands?"

"Allow me to explain, miss shopkeeper."

That was the last thing I heard as we left the store.

We kept walking along the road to the lighthouse. Every time I lost my balance, Takahara would pull me up and I'd cling closer to him.

"I'm really sorry."

"It's all good."

"You're acting kinda strange."

"Because it's embarrassing when you cling to me like that."

"I thought as much."

"But, just so you know, I don't have any ulterior motives."

"Okay..."

Even though he's not used to dealing with girls at all, he always gets involved with them one way or another. What a tough way of life.

"Maybe we should have linked arms instead?"

"That's even harder for me..."

"Really?"

Just as a test, I try to cross my arm with his.

"..."

"..."

"I'm sorry, you were right, it's kinda embarrassing for me too."

"Sho embarrassing you're messing your speech?"

"Look who's talking."

I let go of his arm and we hold hands again.

"Oh, I can hear someone humming."

"Seems like Tsumugi's at the lighthouse."

"We're going to cause a misunderstanding again..."

"It'll be fine if we explain it to her."

We finally arrive.

"Tsumugi, do you have a minute?"

"Mugyu, Nomura-san! And Takahara-san too!"

"Yeah. Are you free right now?"

"Totally. Should I call Shizuku as well?"

"Please do."

Looks like Mizuori-senpai was at the place too. They both were probably patching up and drying stuffed toys.

"My, what an unusual pair. And on top of that..."

"Mugyu? What is it?"

"They're holding hands."

"Oh! You two get along really well!"

"Indeed, they got along all too well ♪ "

"No, listen..."

"At least they're not on bad terms."

"And what is it that you need?"

I thought they were going to tease us really bad, but for everything to end without even needing an explanation feels rather odd... Well, whatever.

"You see, my Hydro Gladiator has disappeared."

"That angular looking water gun? But why have you come to the lighthouse?"

"I thought that maybe if it got dragged away by the sea, it would end up here."

"Tsumugi, did you happen to see Hydro during today's recollecting?"

"Now that I think about it, I didn't find anything like it at all."

"Right... what a shame."

"I'll let you know if it appears."

"Please do."

If it isn't here... then I have no other choice but to walk around until I find it, but if I keep going like this, I'll just cause more trouble to Takahara.

"You seem pretty down, was it really that important?"

"Kinda, yeah. Without it I can't keep my balance."

"How does that work?"

"I got used to carrying the gun fully loaded with water constantly, so without it I lose my balance."

"That's why!?"

"But is it really that extreme of a problem?"

"Well.. Shizuku, look at it this way. Let's say you were to lose one of your breasts."

"...!? That would be terrible! You're right, I probably wouldn't be able to stand..."

"Right?"

Sometimes Mizuori-senpai talks about breasts in an oddly natural way, but it seems like Ao and the guys don't really notice it.

"Tsumugi... do you have a moment?"

"Mugyu?"

Making sure those two weren't listening, I speak directly in Tsumugi's ear.

(It's about Mizuori-senpai, is it me or does she talks about breasts a lot?)

(You re right. I'd say Shizuku talks about breasts more than half of the time.)

(That much!?)

(Yes. However, it seems like no one else but Takahara-san and me can hear her talk about breasts.)

I thought so.

(Although it seems like Kamome-san can hear it as well.)

The girl from before?

Leaving Takahara and Tsumugi aside, why are that girl and I able to listen to her boob-talk? I put my hands on my own chest and think for a moment.

"..."

I think I sort of get it now. Anyways... I stop whispering and raise my voice once again.

"But that's the thing, I can't walk straight for the time being."

"I see, like a cat without her whiskers."

"How sad."

"Is not like that!"

"I get it. That's why you're holding hands with Pairi-kun?"

"Yes. I know I'm causing trouble for him, but he's been helping me a lot."

"So it's not because you two get along?"

"Correct."

"Eh?"

Takahara looked sad.

"Well it's not like I'm denying we get along. You're helping me after all, and I'm relying on you."

"R-Right..."

And now he's blushing. I thought Ao was simple-minded, but this one's the same.

"Fufufu ♪ You two get along so well."

"Uhm, Nomura-san, if you can't keep your balance, then how about this?"

"Hm? What is it?"

"You can carry it with you in one arm."

"Well... I don't want to imagine anything bad, but what are you talking about?"

"This is what I recommend to Nomura-san."

Tsumugi makes her way to the bench and comes back carrying something huge.

"My, if it isn't the stuffed crocodile toy we were mending and drying a while ago."

"Yes, he's Parii-chan, the spectacled caiman."

"It's quite big."

"Around the same size of Sagara-san, the flowery salamander."

"Isn't it cute? Parii-chan, I mean."

"Nomura-san, do you like it?"

"Sure... Is it alright for me to take it?"

"Totally. Plase take good care of him."

"Of course... Thanks!"

"Shizuku stuffed it with cotton so it feels really good when you squish it."

"Wanyu~..."

"Incidentally, I made sure its texture was as soft as a pair of breasts. Don't you want to touch it as well, Pairi-kun?"

"There's no man who would accept such a proposal, I think."

"When I get back home, I'll make sure to squeeze it very tightly."

"Great. Now then, please take care on your way back."

We leave the lighthouse leaving Tsumugi and Mizuori-senpai behind. The three of us, counting Parii-kun, head back into town.

"Is it helping you with your balance?"

"It's better than before, but I'm still a bit shaky."

I don't think I'll trip again, but I bend a little if I try to walk straight. There's tons of places where I could fall so it's still dangerous for me.

"Takahara, I don't think we have to hold hands anymore, but can I at least hang onto your shirt?"

"Sure, no problem."

I grab his shirt's sleeve and follow him. I'm a bit happy with my new gift, and it shows on my face... But there's no place for silly smiles when I'm causing trouble for Takahara. I cast my eyes downwards so that he can't see me.

"By the way, Takahara, where do you think it'd be better to leave Parii-chan?"

"What about the entrance of your house so he can look like some sort of idol?"

"Being welcomed everyday by a crocodile, huh... Sounds comforting."

"Eh? You liked the idea?"

"Not that I'm going to do it. With this size, maybe he's great as a hugging pillow."

"You'll get eaten."

We walked as we discussed where to place him... It'd be a shame if he got stepped on, so maybe leaving him at the entrance isn't the best idea.

"Ooh! Hairi and Nomiki! What are you doing?"

"Ryouichi, don't bother them, it seems like they're in the middle of a doubles match."

"And where's the ping-pong table...? So, whatcha doing, Hairi?"

"I'm helping Nomiki look for something."

"Eeeh, so what're you looking for? And why's Nomiki being so silent?"

"..."

The entrance... a pillow... Oh no, I'm getting all smiley again.

"Oh, hey hey hey! She's all happy looking while grabbing Hairi's sleeve!"

"Not only that, she's carrying a stuffed toy. Looks like it's a present!"

"Don't start some weird misunderstandings."

"Are you two dating?"



"What did I just say!?"

"Hairi... You know she can get a bit violent, but she's a really nice girl... please take care of her."

"It's not really like that."

I think I'll put him at the entrance. Once I get back home... Yeah, that'd be great.

"Nomiki, how about you say something too?"

"Hmm, aah. Ehehe... Fufu. That's right!"

"Uoooooh!? What's with that girly responseeeee!"

"Takahara, make sure you make her happy."

"No! Wait, Nomiki-san!?"

But a pillow... During summer nights...

"If we sleep while hugging each other, would it be too much?
Takahara, can you give me your opinion?"

"Eh?"

"!!! I think we heard something we shouldn't have..."

"We're sorry, we didn't know you went that far already."

"No, don't apologize! There's a misunderstanding here! Even I don't get it!"

"Fufu... Thing's will be really fun from now on~"

"Nomiki!?"

"Oh... Well then, I'll head back to the hideout for now."

"Me too, I have more training to do."

"Heeeey! Don't misinterpret things and just run away!"

Seems like we stopped for a moment, but now we're walking again.

"I think I heard Ryouichi and Tenzen's voices a moment ago, was it just my imagination?"

"Eh? You really didn't notice?"

"Maybe it's because I'm not carrying Hydro Gladiator with me, but my Naked Senses aren't working."

"Naked Senses...?"

"By the way, you haven't answered my question yet. If you think it'll be too hot to use Parii-chan as a hugging pillow or not."

"Well, he's a tropical animal, so I think it'll be fine."

"You're right, I didn't think of that... Well done, Takahara."

"S-Sure."

But anyways, walking around like this, we'll never find Hydro Gladiator. Did the sea really take it away? As a last ray of hope, we walk down the coastline, all the way from the beach to the harbor, until we reached the rocky areas and the tetrapods.

"... Ah."

"Hm? Shiroha?"

Seems like this is her fishing spot, as she looked at us with a troubled face. Lately she's been avoiding everyone, so maybe it's not a good idea to bother her too much.

"Let's go, Takahara."

"Ah, do you have a second?"

He went and talked to her.

"Hm, if it's just a moment, fine."

And she replied naturally.

"Nomiki's having trouble right now because she lost her Hydro Gladiator."

"... That name, so cool."

"Ah, thank you. You get my naming conventions."

"Yeah. And that stuffed toy?"

"He's Parii-chan."

"What a common name."

"That's because it was a present."

"In any case, I lost my Hydro Gladiator, and now I can't keep my balance when walking."

"... How does that work?"

"Seems like she developed a Hydro Muscle this summer."

Never heard of that one before.

"I think I get the idea."

... And she understood that.

"So, what do you need of me?"

"I want you to let us know if you happen to find it."

"Sure, If I find it... !?"

"What happened?"

Shiroha suddenly looks at the sea and pulls her fishing rod.

"The rod's moving"

"You think you got something?"

"Yeah... Wait a moment"

She says as she hurriedly rolls the reel up.

And then...

"Uhm, could this be..."

What she picked up was...

"Hydro Gladiator!"

What I was looking for.

"Thank you very much, Shiroha, you saved me!"

"Don't mention it. Though I wonder why I keep catching anything but fish..."

I receive Hydro Gladiator from her and load it onto my shoulder. I hug Parii-chan with both of my hands and start recovering my balance once again.

"Well then, let's head home."

"You're right. Takahara, thanks for today."

"Don't worry about it, I'm happy you found it."

I take once again the hand I've held the entire day. I share a handshake with Takahara. Once I let it go, I take one step forward.

"Wha...?"

The scenery in front of me turns sideways... The asphalt... draws closer...

"Nomiki!?"

Everything... turns white...

"... Thank you, Takahara."

"Did you calm down?"

"Yeah..."

When I came back to my senses, I was in Takahara's room lying in bed. Looks like I got a light heatstroke from all the walking. Thankfully, Parii-chan acted as a cushion and I didn't get hurt when I fainted.

"Takahara, I'm really sorry for everything today."

"I have tons of free time so it really wasn't a big deal at all."

"I can't be causing you any more trouble, I'll be taking my leave now."

"No no no, you rest a bit more."

"But..."

"You live alone, don't you? If something were to happen again, it'd be really bad."

"But if I keep abusing your hospitality like this..."

"I'm telling you to not worry about that, it's fine if you want to get spoiled as much as you want."

"I see... Then I'll let Takahara spoil me a bit more."

"No, but don't say it like that... It's embarrassing."

"Fufu... I know, that's why I say it."

I laugh as I remark. Takahara lets out an awkward laugh, what a fun guy to tease.

"Takahara."

"Hm?"

"Thanks... For coming to the island this summer."

"What's that all of a sudden"

"Because everyone's having so much fun right now. And it's been a while since I saw Shiroha acting like that."

"I see... If everyone's having fun, then I guess it was worth it to come to this place."

"Of course, I'm having fun too."

"Again... don't say it like that."

"Anyways, that's why I'm thankful to you."

I continue talking.

"That's why I want you to have fun on the island too. Don't worry about me, go out and play."

Takahara, blushing, looks out the window.

"Well, I... I never had a relaxed talk with you before. This is kind of fun on its own way."

And then looks back at me with a forced straight face.

"So this is my way of enjoying the island."

"Well... if you're having fun, then it's fine."

I relaxed a bit and looked at the ceiling of the Katou household. I let out a light giggle as I think, it doesn't matter if he's saying it out of courtesy, or if he really feels like that, in any case it made me happy.

"Then, I'll help myself and rest a bit more. If I fall asleep, you can wake me up whenever."

"Here, have some tea first."

I accept his offer. After I'm done, I lay in bed again.

"Nomiki... Once you're back home, should you feel bad again, tell me right away."

"Wh-What, will you come to help me?"

"Yeah, I'm free after all, so I can go at any time. Well, I don't know if I'll be of that much help, though."

"Right..."

I imagine Takahara coming to my room, where there's no one else but me.

"..."

...I get it now.

"Maybe it's not so bad to feel a bit sick from time to time..."

I think the balance of my heart started to incline towards someone, if only for a small bit.

