

# E11 - A single choice can change everything

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**[00:03]** ---

That... that gave me a fright.

**[00:06]** ---

Hey, Hinami...

**[00:07]** ---

You okay?

**[00:08]** ---

I can't stand up.

**[00:10]** ---

Um... are you asking me to help you up?

**[00:15]** ---

We're really doing this, huh?

**[00:17]** ---

H-Hurry up.

**[00:19]** ---

Right.

**[00:21]** ---

Hup.

**[00:23]** ---

Eh?

**[00:26]** ---

Huh?

**[00:27]** ---

What... what is it?

**[00:34]** ---

Uh... hey...

**[00:39]** ---

If I break eye contact now,  
I'll never hear the end of it.

**[01:03]** ---

Well, I won that round!

**[01:05]** ---

D-Damn you...

**[01:08]** ---

Now let's get going already.

**[01:10]** ---

R-Right.

**[01:14]** ---

What would have happened  
if I hadn't dodged?

**[01:17]** ---

Was she really so sure that I'd do just that?

**[01:35]** ---

"Bottom-Tier Character Tomozaki"

**[02:53]** ---

"Lv. 11: A single choice can change everything"

**[02:57]** ---

And that's it for the test of courage!

**[03:00]** ---

Nicely done.

**[03:01]** ---

I had a blast!

**[03:03]** ---

It sure wasn't very scary, though.

**[03:06]** ---

Not really.

**[03:09]** ---

C'mon! It was *terrifying*!

**[03:11]** ---

You were trembling like an idiot.

**[03:14]** ---

Hey! That "idiot" was uncalled for!

**[03:16]** ---

Yeah, okay. And back we go.

**[03:19]** ---

Wait up, Shuji!

**[03:22]** ---

What happened with those two?

**[03:24]** ---

Is this about the pairing-up plan?

**[03:25]** ---

Hmm. Doesn't look like anyone  
came clean about their crush.

**[03:29]** ---

Aw!

**[03:31]** ---

Although they *did* make plans  
to hang out together later.

**[03:35]** ---

Is that it? Just *plans* to hang out?

**[03:37]** ---

Yep. That's it.

**[03:39]** ---

Honestly, those two...

**[03:43]** ---

They're really taking it  
one tiny step at a time.

**[03:48]** ---

They should take some lessons from you,  
moving full speed ahead

**[03:51]** ---

with that girl from another school.

**[03:52]** ---

Right?

**[03:56]** ---

I hope things work out for  
the two of you, Takahiro.

**[04:00]** ---

Yeah. That'd be nice.

**SIGN** "I'll explain your task on the train tomorrow." "Roger" "You awake?"

**[04:16]** ---

Now for an overall review  
of your time at camp.

**[04:19]** ---

First, your assignment of messing with or  
disagreeing with Nakamura three times.

**[04:24]** ---

Yep! I got him three times.

**[04:26]** ---

The first time...

**[04:28]** ---

I-I mean, it's like...

**[04:30]** ---

What Shimano's doing--isn't she basically...

**[04:33]** ---

Isn't she just stringing you along?

**[04:36]** ---

The second time was  
during Tycoon, remember?

**[04:39]** ---

I don't know, Nakamura--

**[04:40]** ---

you never did get past Commoner.

**[04:42]** ---

And the third time...

**[04:45]** ---

Well? Out with it already!

**[04:47]** ---

Um, we were in the bath, and...

**[04:49]** ---

Dude, you are *tiny*!

**[04:53]** ---

Y-You guys are so dumb.

**[04:55]** ---

But you completed the task,  
so I guess you pass.

**[04:59]** ---

Wait. Someone's coming.

**[05:02]** ---

Well, you don't have to *hide*.

**[05:07]** ---

You couldn't sleep either, huh?

**[05:10]** ---

I thought you and Fumiya  
might be here together.

**[05:15]** ---

Guess I was wrong.

**[05:16]** ---

Oh?

**[05:18]** ---

Did we manage to miss each other somewhere?

**[05:20]** ---

Ah, it doesn't matter.

**[05:23]** ---

Since we're both here, we may as well chat.

**[05:26]** ---

What? Is he sticking around?

**[05:28]** ---

I'm glad those two made  
a *little* progress, anyway.

**[05:32]** ---

Same here.

**[05:34]** ---

Though given how carefully  
we set them up,

**[05:36]** ---

it's beyond awkward of them  
to end up with nothing but plans

**[05:39]** ---

to hang out sometime.

**[05:41]** ---

Absolutely! Like, how naïve can you get?

**[05:45]** ---

Yeah! Right!

**[05:47]** ---

Totally awkward idiots, those two, I swear.

**[05:50]** ---

Mmm-hmm.

**[05:56]** ---

But you know...

**[05:59]** ---

I'm actually kind of impressed.

**[06:02]** ---

Hmm?

**[06:02]** ---

It's like...

**[06:04]** ---

Yuzu and Shuji... and Fumiya, too.

**[06:08]** ---

They all do what they want, getting emotionally involved along the way.

**[06:14]** ---

Whether they're truly happy or genuinely sad,

**[06:17]** ---

they're always, like... so *sincere*.

**[06:22]** ---

Even though Yuzu and Shinji are into each other,

**[06:24]** ---

they're both so self-conscious that it doesn't go anywhere.

**[06:28]** ---

And Fumiya tackles everything with such earnest,

**[06:31]** ---

muddling his way on through.

**[06:34]** ---

They just look like they're having so much *fun*.

**[06:38]** ---

Yeah, maybe.

**[06:40]** ---

And so...

**[06:41]** ---

I see them being all sincere and it gets me thinking.

**[06:47]** ---

About what?

**[06:48]** ---

Maybe I should try being a little bit of an idiot, too.

**[06:51]** ---

An idiot?

**[06:52]** ---

The thing is--and Fumiya said this, too--

**[06:56]** ---

every day is like a game.

**[06:59]** ---

But I don't take it seriously.

**[07:02]** ---

Like, I'm holding the controller,  
but I'm moving someone else around.

**[07:06]** ---

If I screw up, that character  
takes the hit--not me.

**[07:11]** ---

I'm not the one who's happy  
when things go right.

**[07:14]** ---

I'm not the one who has fun.

**[07:16]** ---

So you're like the player,  
always watching yourself from a distance?

**[07:21]** ---

Something like that.

**[07:22]** ---

Emotions, feeling shy,  
liking or not liking someone,

**[07:26]** ---

whatever it is I truly *want* to do--

**[07:28]** ---

it's not about that, not really.

**[07:31]** ---

I'm just putting on a show, that's all.

**[07:36]** ---

Oh... I see.

**[07:38]** ---

Should I even be hearing this conversation?

**[07:43]** ---

So, you know... I get it.

**[07:46]** ---

Get what, exactly?

**[07:52]** ---

Isn't it the same for you?

**[07:56]** ---

You mean, am I watching myself from  
a distance as I go through the motions?

**[08:01]** ---

Yeah.

**[08:02]** ---

Actually... maybe I am.

**[08:06]** ---

A "yes"!

**[08:07]** ---

Yeah... I figured as much.

**[08:12]** ---

To be perfectly blunt,  
people expect a lot from me.

**[08:17]** ---

You know: "Aoi Hinami is great at everything!"

**[08:21]** ---

So I unconsciously suppress my real self.

**[08:25]** ---

I play the part that people want me to play.

**[08:28]** ---

Though there's pride involved, too--  
not wanting to let anyone down.

**[08:33]** ---

Oh! This is between us!

**[08:36]** ---

Those aren't the words of  
the genuine mask-off Aoi Hinami.

**[08:41]** ---

It sure does get boring, doing things  
just because you're supposed to.

**[08:48]** ---

And that feeling...

**[08:50]** ---

Yeah. I get that.

**[08:51]** ---

They aren't her usual overly-truthful words,  
coldly rational and logical.

**[08:57]** ---

I think just about every normal person  
does a little bit of acting.

**[09:02]** ---

So I figure we have to compromise a little:

**[09:09]** ---

by finding even one person  
we can show our true selves to.

**[09:15]** ---

That's just me talking!

**[09:17]** ---

Those trifling words, from the mask  
of the perfect high-school heroine.

**[09:22]** ---

She made it look like she'd removed her mask,

**[09:25]** ---

but beneath that mask

**[09:27]** ---

she'd readied another one entirely.

**[09:30]** ---

Wh-What is it?

**[09:32]** ---

You really are amazing, Aoi.

**[09:34]** ---

Huh? It's not like I said anything  
particularly meaningful...

**[09:38]** ---

Never mind that.

**[09:42]** ---

It's so strange.

**[09:44]** ---

Usually when I'm around girls,  
I play the part of the ideal boyfriend.

**[09:48]** ---

I find out how they really feel,  
accept their feelings--

**[09:52]** ---

and I've got them wrapped  
around my little finger.

**[09:54]** ---

That's how it's supposed to go, anyway.

**[09:56]** ---

So why am I opening up to you--  
and why are *you* the one acting?

**[10:00]** ---

It's all backwards!

**[10:02]** ---

This has never happened to me before!

**[10:04]** ---

Huh? I mean...

**[10:07]** ---

Yep. I'm simply no match for you, Aoi.

**[10:10]** ---

Is that supposed to be a compliment?

**[10:12]** ---

Listen, now that I've bared  
my soul to you and all,

**[10:15]** ---

let me say just one more thing.

**[10:17]** ---

Eh? What is it?

**[10:19]** ---

I like you, Aoi.

**[10:24]** ---

One day I'd like to find out  
how you really feel.

**[10:28]** ---

Yeah. Thanks.

**[10:30]** ---

But if I asked you out, you'd say no,  
wouldn't you?

**[10:36]** ---

I'm sorry.

**[10:38]** ---

We've come this far and  
you *still* won't open up?

**[10:42]** ---

Can't be dating like that, now, can we?

**[10:45]** ---

It does sting, though, I have to say.

**[10:48]** ---

Putting everything out there  
and getting turned down?

**[10:50]** ---

Not fun.

**[10:51]** ---

Uh-huh.

**[10:52]** ---

But you know what?

**[10:54]** ---

I got it off my chest!

**[10:56]** ---

I hadn't done that in a long time--

**[10:59]** ---

coming face to face with what I wanted

**[11:02]** ---

and giving it an honest shot.

**[11:05]** ---

So you like me that much, do you?

**[11:08]** ---

Yep. I'm not giving up now--  
not after everything I've said.

**[11:13]** ---

I see. But I'm one tough  
customer, you know?

**[11:16]** ---

Aoi.

**[11:18]** ---

Yes?

**[11:19]** ---

When are you...?

**[11:22]** ---

How long are you going  
to stay on that side?

**[11:28]** ---

I-I'm so sorry!

**[11:31]** ---

Fumiya?!

**[11:33]** ---

I didn't want to raise any  
weird suspicions, so I hid.

**[11:36]** ---

I never thought it would end up like this!

**[11:38]** ---

I'm sorry!

**[11:39]** ---

We ran into each other as we left the bathroom.

**[11:42]** ---

We talked for a while until you showed up,

**[11:45]** ---

then Tomozaki went into hiding and...  
never came back out.

**[11:50]** ---

What the hell?

**[11:52]** ---

The things you must have heard...

**[11:54]** ---

I'm sorry--I really am.

**[11:56]** ---

Looks like you didn't mean any harm.

**[11:59]** ---

Still, I didn't expect you to pop out  
and spill your guts, either.

**[12:04]** ---

Um... right.

**[12:06]** ---

Are you always this stupidly honest?

**[12:11]** ---

I just thought... it'd be weird to stay hidden.

**[12:15]** ---

And there we have it.

**[12:18]** ---

Huh?

**[12:20]** ---

Let's pretend this never happened, shall we?

**[12:23]** ---

Back to our cabins we go!

**[12:26]** ---

Well, / don't feel like  
pretending it never happened.

**[12:32]** ---

Mizusawa found his answer  
in this overnight camp:

**[12:36]** ---

To toss aside the mask he'd been wearing

**[12:39]** ---

and, with all sincerity,  
confront what he truly wanted.

**[12:44]** ---

And Hinami, who wasn't the slightest bit moved

**[12:46]** ---

for having heard his answer:

**[12:49]** ---

She chose to stubbornly defend  
the mask she wore

**[12:52]** ---

and to keep up her perfect performance.

**[12:56]** ---

They're similar in some ways,

**[12:58]** ---

but crucially different at heart.

**[13:03]** ---

Will you choose the mask?  
Or your true feelings?

**[13:07]** ---

Keep up the act? Or be yourself?

**[13:11]** ---

See reality as a player would,  
through a screen?

**[13:14]** ---

Or view it through a character's eyes?

**[13:17]** ---

The choices those two had made,  
the difference between them...

**[13:22]** ---

They were deeply connected to  
the situation I was in right now.

**[13:25]** ---

That's how it seemed to me.

**[13:30]** ---

"Tell Kikuchi."

**SIGN** "Today" "After the fireworks tomorrow, tell Kikuchi how you feel"

**[13:32]** ---

If Hinami wants me to, it must  
have a high chance of success.

**[13:36]** ---

Still, it's like she's telling me,  
"Just put on a show."

**[13:43]** ---

So what's my answer here?

**[13:45]** ---

Which way do I go?

**[13:59]** ---

Kikuchi!

**[14:01]** ---

Oh! Tomozaki!

**[14:04]** ---

A yukata!

**[14:05]** ---

Oh, um... uh-huh.

**[14:07]** ---

It's a special occasion and all, so I thought...

**[14:12]** ---

R-Right.

**[14:14]** ---

All this attention is... it's embarrassing.

**[14:17]** ---

S-Sorry.

**[14:21]** ---

And Takei's just taking pictures  
the whole time.

**[14:21]** ---

"Toda Bridge Fireworks Association"

**[14:26]** ---

I never really liked the idea  
of big group barbecues,

**[14:30]** ---

but surprisingly enough,  
it was more fun than I'd expected.

**[14:33]** ---

Oh, really?

**[14:34]** ---

"Candy Apples"

**[14:35]** ---

W-Want one?

**[14:37]** ---

Yes!

**[14:43]** ---

All set!

**[14:44]** ---

Oh, okay. So, uh, shall we?

**[14:53]** ---

Ooh, I bet we'll have a great view from here.

**[14:55]** ---

Yes, we really will.

**[14:58]** ---

I haven't been to a fireworks show  
in such a long time.

**[15:02]** ---

Same here... I think.

**[15:05]** ---

The last time I went, I think  
my folks might have taken me.

**[15:08]** ---

Right! That's how long it feels for me, too.

**[15:11]** ---

You don't say.

**[15:13]** ---

Uh-huh!

**[15:18]** ---

Only one thing's different about me  
today compared to our movie date:

**[15:23]** ---

I'm not using memorized conversation topics.

**[15:27]** ---

It means there's more silence.

**[15:30]** ---

But this way, I can be sure of  
the truth in that one little phrase.

**[15:38]** ---

Hey, it's starting!

**[15:39]** ---

Here we go!

**[15:48]** ---

Aren't they just so beautiful?

**[15:52]** ---

Yeah, they are.

**[15:56]** ---

Because I may have been ever  
so slightly wrong all this time.

**[16:03]** ---

And now for the grand finale!

**[16:24]** ---

Listen...

**[16:25]** ---

Yes?

**[16:26]** ---

You said before that I'm  
hard to talk to sometimes.

**[16:30]** ---

What about today?

**[16:32]** ---

Um... t-today?

**[16:35]** ---

Right. Just today.

**[16:38]** ---

Actually...

**[16:40]** ---

You've been easy to talk to all night.

**SIGN** "Today" "After the fireworks tomorrow, tell Kikuchi how you feel"

**[16:55]** ---

Kikuchi...

**[16:57]** ---

Yes?

**[17:06]** ---

Let's head back.

**SIGN** "After the fireworks tomorrow, tell Kikuchi how you feel" "Today" "Can I call you?"

**SIGN** "If there's been a big change, want to talk in person? I'm coming home from the fireworks myself--I can get to Kitayono no problem"

**[17:27]** ---

So? How'd your confession go over?

**[17:31]** ---

I didn't say anything.

**[17:34]** ---

Now look, I realize it was a tougher  
task than the others you'd done--

**[17:38]** ---

It's not that I *couldn't*.

**[17:42]** ---

What?

**[17:43]** ---

It's not that I couldn't. I just didn't.

**[17:48]** ---

Why not?

**[17:50]** ---

I went out tonight without  
memorizing any topics.

**[17:54]** ---

I didn't even use any of the topics  
I'd memorized earlier.

**[17:58]** ---

I talked only about what

I was thinking at the time.

**[18:01]** ---

Huh, and?

**[18:03]** ---

Our conversation naturally  
grew stilted, clumsy.

**[18:08]** ---

There were good-sized gaps between topics.

**[18:11]** ---

It didn't go so well.

**[18:13]** ---

Well, no.

**[18:14]** ---

But after the fireworks, I asked Kikuchi:

**[18:19]** ---

"Was I hard to talk to today?"

**[18:22]** ---

What do you think she said?

**[18:27]** ---

She said, "You've been easy  
to talk to all night."

**[18:33]** ---

In other words,

**[18:34]** ---

I thought I was hard to talk to back then  
because my skills were lacking.

**[18:39]** ---

But that's not it.

**[18:42]** ---

I was hard to talk to because I was  
*using* my skills in the first place.

**[18:48]** ---

I think she instinctively saw  
right through it--

**[18:52]** ---

the mask I'd been creating.

**[18:55]** ---

Oh. I see.

**[18:57]** ---

But there are countermeasures  
for that sort of thing.

**[19:00]** ---

Rather than memorize topics for Kikuchi,

**[19:03]** ---

speaking from the heart would  
be better, strategy-wise--

**[19:05]** ---

Hinami.

**[19:06]** ---

Would you stop that?

**[19:08]** ---

What do you mean?

**[19:09]** ---

All that talk of countermeasures and strategies.

**[19:13]** ---

What about finding out what I really want?

**[19:17]** ---

Do I truly like Kikuchi?

**[19:20]** ---

Shouldn't we start there first?

**[19:24]** ---

Mizusawa got to you, huh?

**[19:27]** ---

Well... yeah.

**[19:29]** ---

Ah.

**[19:32]** ---

You must have something you want to say.

**[19:34]** ---

Not particularly.

**[19:35]** ---

Being misled by an idea that doesn't even exist--like "what I really want" --

**[19:40]** ---

and being unable to move forward?

**[19:42]** ---

Textbook weak-human behavior.

I'm not even surprised.

**[19:47]** ---

What's that supposed to mean?

**[19:50]** ---

This "what I really want" that humans talk about

**[19:53]** ---

is nothing more than a fantasy, one they've mistaken for

**[19:56]** ---

what happens to be best for them at one particular moment.

**[20:00]** ---

So it's pointless to be constrained by such a temporary misunderstanding,

**[20:03]** ---

letting it distract you from truly productive activities.

**[20:10]** ---

I don't think it's pointless.

**[20:13]** ---

What are you talking about?

**[20:14]** ---

I need what I really want to come first.

**[20:18]** ---

I see. So what *do* you want, in the end?

**[20:21]** ---

You don't want to tell Kikuchi how you feel because you're not sure yourself, right?

**[20:26]** ---

You want the goal to be telling another girl who meets your standards?

**[20:29]** ---

Who might that be?

**[20:31]** ---

That's not the issue here.

**[20:33]** ---

Then what is?

**[20:35]** ---

Making friends, telling people you like them--

**[20:38]** ---

viewing those kinds of human connections in terms of tasks and goals?

**[20:43]** ---

That's weird, right out of the gate.

**[20:46]** ---

The next train on track number one is the 9:43 local, bound for Shinjuku.

**[20:55]** ---

Fine.

**[20:56]** ---

The local train bound for Shinjuku will soon arrive on track number one.

**[20:57]** ---

Working hard toward a goal was how you and I did things.

**[21:01]** ---

But if you're just going to abandon your goals in life,

**[21:02]** ---

For your safety, please stand behind the yellow line.

**[21:05]** ---

you're basically abandoning your personal development.

**[21:09]** ---

It's not that--

**[21:11]** ---

What, then?

**[21:14]** ---

So you're different, too.

**[21:16]** ---

Huh?

**[21:18]** ---

You can have this.

**[21:20]** ---

I'll be taking that bag back.

**[21:23]** ---

It's full of your stuff now, though. Next time.

**[21:27]** ---

You've given up on progress, so *you*  
certainly won't be needing it anymore.

**[21:30]** ---

But I--

**[21:31]** ---

Your turn is over the second  
you let go of the controller.

**[21:37]** ---

That's all this is.

**[21:40]** ---

I thought:

**[21:42]** ---

If I engage with her in earnest,  
we could find a way

**[21:46]** ---

to smooth over our differences,  
to bridge the gap between us.

**[21:50]** ---

No, not just bridge it--

**[21:53]** ---

I wanted to move forward over it, past it.

**[21:56]** ---

And yet I lost a relationship  
I thought I had--as easy as that.

**[22:05]** ---

All because

**[22:07]** ---

I'm a bottom-tier character.