

# E12 - Equipment for girls has special effects

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

Editor:

Timer:

QC:

(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

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

I've been knocking, you know.

**[00:30]** ---

Oh. What is it? Mealtime?

**[00:32]** ---

Yeah. Dinner.

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

Hurry up already.

**[00:36]** ---

Okay.

**[00:37]** ---

Hey, why are you turning back into a freak, anyway?

**[00:42]** ---

Huh?

**[00:45]** ---

I'm *asking* you...

**[00:47]** ---

Why did you go back to your old look?

**[00:52]** ---

Well... you know.

**[00:53]** ---

Ugh! And just when you'd gotten so much better, too!

**[00:57]** ---

Uh--

**[01:13]** ---

When you brought those cool kids over and called them your friends,

**[01:16]** ---

I was like, "Wait, this isn't my brother."

**[01:20]** ---

But playing games with such  
a bored look on your face?

**[01:23]** ---

That *really* isn't you.

**[01:32]** ---

And...

**[01:34]** ---

You haven't picked your phone up in a while.

**[01:37]** ---

Ignoring a girl's messages for two whole days

**[01:40]** ---

is a little too cocky, even for you.

**[01:42]** ---

Huh?

**[01:44]** ---

Oh!

**SIGN** "Fuka Kikuchi: I'm thinking of picking up  
Andi's latest, *Kind Dogs Stand Alone*,  
in Omiya on the 21st. Want to join me?"

**[01:49]** ---

Kikuchi!

**SIGN** "Sorry! I hadn't looked at my phone in a while! The 21st? Let's go together!"

**[01:58]** ---

What?

**[01:59]** ---

You must be going through some stuff.

Just do your best, okay?

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

"Lv. 12: Equipment for girls  
has special effects"

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

It wouldn't have been easy for Kikuchi  
to ask out a guy like that.

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

And here I let her message sit for two days.

**[02:14]** ---

This is after defying Hinami, too,  
telling her it's weird

**[02:19]** ---

to view human connections  
in terms of tasks and goals.

**[02:24]** ---

It's beyond selfish,  
no matter how you slice it.

**[02:29]** ---

I just don't want to run away, that's all.

**[02:32]** ---

Not when Kikuchi is trying  
to get involved with me--

**[02:35]** ---

regardless of how it all began.

**[02:38]** ---

Hi, there.

**[02:39]** ---

Hello.

**[02:44]** ---

S-So, um... should we get going?

**[02:47]** ---

Okay!

**[02:48]** ---

I'd stopped relying on memorized topics

**[02:51]** ---

or looking for opportunities to gain XP.

**[02:56]** ---

I wasn't even wearing any of the clothes  
Hinami had picked out for me.

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

For who I was now,

**[03:02]** ---

it was an act of the utmost sincerity  
not to wear those masks.

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

Our conversations were awkward, halting.

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

But it was like I was connecting with  
someone using only my true feelings,

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

and I realized that maybe I  
always *had* been--until recently.

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

And Kikuchi, who says  
I'm easy to talk to like this.

**[03:23]** ---

It warmed my chilled heart.

**[03:27]** ---

"Oseido Bookstore"

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

I love the way a bookstore smells.

**[03:32]** ---

Oh, I think I know what you mean.

**[03:36]** ---

Oh!

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

"If I'd Met You First"

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

This was really outstanding!

**[03:40]** ---

You read those kinds of books, too, huh?

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

Um... yes. I do.

**[03:46]** ---

S-Sorry. It was a little unexpected, that's all.

**[03:49]** ---

I-I, um... I'd actually like to...  
write like this.

**[03:54]** ---

Oh, really?

**SIGN** "Kind Dogs Stand Alone" "Hot Off the Presses" "Michael Andi's Latest Book"

**[03:57]** ---

Here it is! Michael Andi's latest!

**[04:03]** ---

"Kind Dogs Stand Alone"

**[04:03]** ---

*Kind Dogs Stand Alone.\**

[04:06] ---

*It's a dream come true!*

[04:08] ---

*Kikuchi faces her true desires more  
earnestly than anyone I know.*

[04:15] ---

"Kind Dogs Stand Alone"

[04:24] ---

*I'd thought that improving myself*

[04:27] ---

*by working toward goals like a player  
on the other side of the screen*

[04:31] ---

*wasn't what I truly wanted to do.*

[04:33] ---

*So I thought I'd be my real,  
unvarnished self today.*

[04:37] ---

*I gave no thought to my outfit  
and skipped the hair wax.*

[04:40] ---

*I felt those were made-up skills  
that masked the real me.*

[04:45] ---

*And the result?*

[04:46] ---

*Without the mask of those skills,*

*my expression and my posture*  
[04:50] ---  
*were weak, hollow, and immature.*  
[04:53] ---  
*I made myself sick.*  
[04:57] ---  
*What exactly did I want to become?*  
[05:00] ---  
*I remember seeing myself as a normie:*  
[05:02] ---  
*the strong sense of accomplishment I'd felt*  
[05:04] ---  
*as this Fumiya Tomozaki character,*  
*living in the real world.*  
[05:09] ---  
*In other words,*  
[05:10] ---  
*while telling Hinami it was pointless*  
*not to act based on what we really want,*  
[05:14] ---  
*I was happy from the bottom of my heart*  
[05:17] ---  
*when I met the goals she'd set for me.*  
[05:20] ---  
*I worked hard toward set goals*  
*from a player's perspective,*  
[05:25] ---  
*finding meaning in that growth and development--*  
[05:28] ---  
*so what did that make me?*  
[05:30] ---  
*Did my true desires really*  
*have to guide my actions?*  
[05:37] ---  
*Say, Kikuchi...*  
[05:39] ---  
*Yes?*  
[05:40] ---  
*I'm sorry. I'm all mixed up again.*  
[05:44] ---  
*You know how, after the movie,*  
[05:46] ---  
*you said I was easy and hard*  
*to talk to at times?*  
[05:51] ---  
*There's probably a reason for that.*  
[05:53] ---

*The truth is, someone's been giving me... lessons.*

[05:57] ---

*How to talk--things like that.*

[05:59] ---

*I'd record myself talking and listen to it later...*

[06:02] ---

*All kinds of stuff.*

[06:04] ---

*"Someone"?*

[06:06] ---

*And as part of that--*

[06:07] ---

*like, you can't start a conversation without a topic.*

[06:11] ---

*So I used flashcards to memorize various topics.*

[06:15] ---

*Before we went to the movies, too.*

[06:17] ---

*But at the fireworks show and then today...*

[06:19] ---

*I've only been talking about what's on my mind.*

[06:22] ---

*And you said I was easier to talk to like that.*

[06:26] ---

*So that's what that was all about.*

[06:29] ---

*It didn't feel right to be wearing a mask, cheating at conversation.*

[06:35] ---

*But using those memorized topics to talk with people*

[06:40] ---

*gave me a sense of accomplishment.*

[06:42] ---

*Should I keep making an effort to enhance my skills?*

[06:45] ---

*Or should I just be myself?*

[06:47] ---

*Which one do I really want?*

[06:52] ---

*I-I'm sorry. I know this is weird.*

[06:57] ---

*The reason I think you're easy to talk to*

[07:01] ---

*is because I can picture the things you say.*

[07:06] ---

*Picture them?*

[07:07] ---

*A lot of times, it's like you're saying  
whatever pops into your head.*

[07:14] ---

*And then this image pops into my head.*

[07:17] ---

*Just like when I'm reading a novel.*

[07:21] ---

*Like a novel?*

[07:23] ---

*I feel like you're conveying whatever mood  
and emotions you saw at the time*

[07:27] ---

*right into my head as is, directly and honestly.*

[07:31] ---

*That's what makes you easy to talk to.*

[07:33] ---

*Thanks.*

[07:35] ---

*But sometimes the pictures  
don't really come into focus.*

[07:38] ---

*That must be when you're using  
your memorized flashcard topics.*

[07:42] ---

*Yeah. So chatting with those shortcut skills...*

[07:47] ---

*But you know...*

[07:49] ---

*The images that came to mind  
when talking with you*

[07:52] ---

*were all black and white at first.*

[07:54] ---

*Huh?*

[07:55] ---

*It was a slightly sad and lonely world,*

[07:58] ---

*one that resembled the world I see.*

[08:01] ---

*I thought, "Could Tomozaki be like me?"*

[08:03] ---

*Could we both be seeing a world with no color?"*

[08:08] ---

*Maybe so.*

[08:09] ---

*Sometimes the world I'd see  
when reading a book*

[08:12] ---

*looked so much more beautiful  
than the real world.*

[08:17] ---

*And every time it did,*

[08:18] ---

*I'd think, "Does the author really see  
the world in such a colorful way?"*

[08:23] ---

*Lucky them. I'm jealous."*

[08:26] ---

*But now that we've met and talked so many times,*

[08:29] ---

*the images you've been sending me...*

[08:32] ---

*They've been taking on more and more color.*

[08:37] ---

*That was a surprise.*

[08:39] ---

*Ever since I was little, I'd felt like  
everything I saw was gray.*

[08:44] ---

*I figured it would stay that way forever.*

[08:47] ---

*But in such a short time, Tomozaki,*

[08:50] ---

*you completely changed  
the color of the world you see.*

[08:55] ---

*So I think it's really fantastic that you're  
working hard to change yourself.*

[09:01] ---

*And if there's someone in your world,  
a magician who gave it these colors...*

[09:09] ---

*Then you should treasure that someone.*

[09:14] ---

*Thank you, Kikuchi.*

[09:16] ---

*Just a token of my gratitude  
for having shown me*

[09:18] ---

*that I can still change the way  
I see the world.*

**SIGN** *"Today" "I want to talk one more time. Can we meet soon?" "Read"*

**SIGN** *"I want to talk one more time. Can we meet soon?" "Read" "Talk about what?"*

**SIGN** *"Talk about what? I've been thinking a lot. I'd like to talk again"*

**SIGN** *"Talk about what? I've been thinking a lot. I'd like to talk again" "Read"*

**SIGN** *"Talk about what? I've been thinking a lot. I'd like to talk again" "There's nothing I want to talk about"*

**SIGN** *"You wanted your bag back. It'd be a pain to bring to school--one more thing to lug around. Let me return it over break"*

[09:51] ---

*"Just keep it, then"*

**SIGN** *"It'd be a pain to bring to school--one more thing to lug around. Let me return it over break" "Just keep it, then"*

[09:55] ---

*"But if you insist, meet by the Beanstalk  
at Omiya Station tomorrow at 6 PM"*

[09:59] ---

*All right!*

[10:13] ---

*This spot's a little awkward.  
Let's find somewhere else.*

[10:28] ---

*Hi! I'm NO NAME!*

[10:36] ---

*So listen...*

[10:39] ---

*Did you come up with a new excuse?*

[10:42] ---

*I like games.*

[10:45] ---

*You're telling me this now?*

[10:47] ---

*I like Tackfam--along with RPGs and shooters.*

[10:51] ---

*I even enjoyed the student-council-election  
game I played against you.*

[10:55] ---

*But in Tackfam, I'm always the player.*

[10:59] ---

*I'm on the outside with my controller,*

[11:02] ---

*moving a character around on the screen.*

[11:04] ---

*Well, yeah. Obviously.*

[11:07] ---

*But I still poured my soul into it,*

*so I could become one with my character.*

[11:12] ---

*That made the game world feel more colorful.*

[11:17] ---

*There's a reason video games  
are what won me over--*

[11:20] ---

*not anime, not novels, not manga.*

[11:23] ---

*And that is...*

[11:25] ---

*In a video game, I can make  
the characters do what I want.*

[11:31] ---

*I don't have to experience my own  
weakness, pitifulness, or self-hatred.*

[11:37] ---

*That's what made the game world so attractive.*

[11:40] ---

*It's why I thought real life was a garbage game.*

[11:43] ---

*I mean, I couldn't do what  
I wanted in the real world*

[11:47] ---

*with this Fumiya Tomozaki character at all.*

[11:51] ---

*It's not like I meant to mumble.*

[11:54] ---

*I didn't want to have that  
gloomy look on my face.*

[11:58] ---

*But there was nothing I could do about it.*

[12:00] ---

*I was the only one on the outside looking in.*

[12:03] ---

*Every day was gray.*

[12:06] ---

*But there were ways to add color  
to the world around me.*

[12:10] ---

*Ways to control this game called "life,"  
to make it shine.*

[12:13] ---

*And you showed them to me.*

[12:16] ---

*I want to be a character  
in the game of life, too.*

[12:21] ---

*I actually like this game now, thanks to you.*

[12:26] ---

*This... this is what I really want.*

[12:29] ---

*There's no such thing as what you really want.*

[12:33] ---

*You're just drunk on idealism,  
wallowing in sentimentality.*

[12:36] ---

*A momentary hangup.*

[12:42] ---

*If you're saying it's more than just a hangup,*

[12:44] ---

*it means nothing if you can't prove it.*

[12:47] ---

*I figured you'd say as much.*

[12:51] ---

*True: If I can't prove it, what's the point?*

[12:54] ---

*Are you saying you can prove it?*

[12:57] ---

*I am. This "what I really want"? It does exist.*

[13:02] ---

*Huh? Then I'd like to hear it--*

[13:05] ---

*whatever proof you have for  
the existence of your true desires.*

[13:08] ---

*What are you talking about?*

[13:09] ---

*You really don't understand anything, do you?*

[13:12] ---

*Excuse me?*

[13:14] ---

*This proof consists of many simple  
rules in combination,*

[13:18] ---

*intersecting in complex ways  
that make them harder to grasp.*

[13:24] ---

*So... what are you going to do?*

[13:27] ---

*You can't tell if a game is godly  
or garbage without playing it.*

[13:32] ---

*Which means...*

[13:34] ---

*You're going to give it a shot.*

[13:36] ---

*That's right. You won't find out  
what you really want*

[13:38] ---

*just by asking for proof that it exists.*

[13:41] ---

*But by struggling to discover how you feel  
and making sincere progress--*

[13:46] ---

*that's when you first learn your true desires.*

[13:49] ---

*Why, you...*

[13:50] ---

*Listen up, Hinami.*

[13:52] ---

*You've only been going through the motions  
from a player's point of view.*

[13:56] ---

*You don't know what real fun is!*

[13:58] ---

*What's all this?*

[13:59] ---

*I'll tell you one thing:*

[14:01] ---

*You're a top-tier character, and that's no lie.*

[14:03] ---

*And yet...*

[14:05] ---

*Right now, when it comes to  
enjoying the game of life?*

[14:08] ---

*I've got you beat!*

[14:13] ---

*Starting today, I'll show you step-by-step*

[14:17] ---

*how to really get into the game.*

[14:20] ---

*How to find what it is you really want.*

[14:24] ---

*How to enjoy life--more than you do now.*

[14:28] ---

*Although I'm not as good as you are  
at putting rules into words.*

[14:33] ---

*It'll be a slow process.*

[14:35] ---

*Aren't you jumping the gun here?*

[14:38] ---

*I don't even believe there is such a thing as these "true desires."*

[14:43] ---

*Shouldn't you start there?*

[14:45] ---

*Maybe so. But what if you think of it like this?*

[14:48] ---

*Like how?*

[14:49] ---

*My true desires have always fueled my gaming.*

[14:55] ---

*That's how I became the top Tackfam player in Japan--*

[14:57] ---

*and why you can't beat me.*

[15:01] ---

*I mean, don't you think it's strange?*

[15:04] ---

*Academics, sports, social standing--*

[15:07] ---

*you continue to come in first place in all these games.*

[15:10] ---

*But you just can't take the top spot in Tackfam.*

[15:13] ---

*That's the effect--so what's the cause?*

[15:16] ---

*It has to do with the amount of effort, that's all.*

[15:19] ---

*No, that's not it.*

[15:22] ---

*What, then?*

[15:24] ---

*You must have an idea.*

[15:26] ---

*It's what makes me better than you in Tackfam:*

[15:30] ---

*I know what I really want, and you don't.*

[15:36] ---

*That's why you haven't managed to beat me even once.*

[15:41] ---

*There can be no better proof*

*for the existence of true desires.*

[15:47] ---

*I mean, I can see that from where I  
stand as Japan's best Tackfam player.*

[15:51] ---

*It's only natural that someone at  
your level wouldn't understand.*

[15:57] ---

*If that frustrates you,*

[15:58] ---

*just try beating me without  
knowing what you really want.*

[16:05] ---

*She uses a super-strong fighting style,*

[16:08] ---

*standing in her opponent's ring  
and crushing them head-on.*

[16:13] ---

*No one's made that much effort;  
no one has that much in reserve.*

[16:17] ---

*But I'm different.*

[16:19] ---

*Before the two of us were  
Fumiya Tomozaki and Aoi Hinami,*

[16:24] ---

*we were nanashi*

[16:25] ---

*and NO NAME.*

[16:29] ---

*So on that point alone,*

[16:31] ---

*in this ring, where once you master Tackfam,  
you'll understand--*

[16:35] ---

*where if you want to complain,  
you'll have to beat me first--*

[16:39] ---

*in this ring, where rationality means nothing,*

[16:42] ---

*I'm the only one who can be  
victorious over her.*

[16:46] ---

*And she's the only one  
who will step into that ring,*

[16:49] ---

*no matter how outrageous it may be.*

[16:51] ---

*Because no gamer hates  
losing more than she does.*

[16:59] ---

*I get it. You really put some  
thought into your empty logic.*

[17:03] ---

*But I can't argue against it.*

[17:06] ---

*Not that you've actually proven anything at all.*

[17:09] ---

*I guess not.*

[17:10] ---

*There's no telling who's right.*

[17:13] ---

*So I'll meet you halfway:*

[17:16] ---

*I don't accept that there's such a thing  
as "true desires" or whatever,*

[17:20] ---

*but I also can't definitively  
say that there isn't.*

[17:24] ---

*Hinami...*

[17:25] ---

*However...*

[17:26] ---

*If you're so certain that you're right,*

[17:28] ---

*you'd better take the time to prove it--*

[17:32] ---

*and convince me beyond a shadow of a doubt.*

[17:36] ---

*Got it.*

[17:44] ---

*So? What do you want to do now?*

[17:48] ---

*Keep trying to conquer life, same as before.*

[17:52] ---

*Ah.*

[17:53] ---

*I need the skills you've taught me  
to grow into the character I want to be.*

[17:59] ---

*You keep setting my goals and  
I'll keep working toward them.*

[18:03] ---

*But they might conflict with  
what you really want in life.*

[18:08] ---

*Sure. And I'll skip the ones that do.*

[18:11] ---

*So you want to use the skills,*

[18:14] ---

*but create goals based on what you really want?*

[18:18] ---

*Something like that.*

[18:20] ---

*In other words...*

[18:22] ---

*I'll have a hybrid play style:  
skills plus true desires.*

[18:29] ---

*Well, now I really need to see some proof.*

[18:33] ---

*Leave it to me, NO NAME.*

[18:36] ---

*I don't expect much, but sure:  
I'll leave it to you, nanashi.*

[18:51] ---

*I think I'll get the salted mackerel set.*

[18:53] ---

*What a coincidence! Me, too.*

[18:59] ---

*Oh, right.*

[19:03] ---

*That's why we really met today--  
so I could return this.*

[19:07] ---

*If you're going to keep  
trying to beat this game,*

[19:09] ---

*you may as well keep it.*

[19:12] ---

*I'm not inclined to use it myself,  
what with that frayed patch.*

[19:15] ---

*Still, take it. I'll buy another one like it.*

[19:19] ---

*It's something I want to do.*

[19:22] ---

*Ah.*

[19:25] ---

*This is...*

[19:26] ---

*It hides the frayed part pretty well, right?*

[19:29] ---

*You can have that back, too.*

[19:31] ---

*But I only got this in exchange  
for the backpack.*

[19:34] ---

*Look, it's fine.*

[19:36] ---

*It's my thanks for adding  
so much color to my world.*

[19:42] ---

*I see.*

[19:45] ---

*Well, in that case, I'll take it.*

[19:53] ---

*Now for your next task.*

[19:56] ---

*What?!*

[19:56] ---

*You're still trying to win at life, right?*

[19:59] ---

*We've already wasted so much time.*

[20:01] ---

*Now to make it up all at once!*

[20:04] ---

*What is it this time?*

[20:08] ---

*A part-time job.*

[20:18] ---

*"Hara" "Ochi"*

[20:23] ---

*Huh! You're the guy interviewing  
for the part-time position?*

[20:27] ---

*Mizusawa?!*

[20:29] ---

*Did you know I worked here?*

[20:33] ---

*No--it's a total coincidence.*

[20:35] ---

*You set me up, Hinami...*

[20:37] ---

*Spicy roe sauce...*

[20:41] ---

*S'ghetti Napolitan...*

[20:41] ---

"Narita"

[20:47] ---

*Another part-timer. If you're hired,  
she'll be your senior.*

[21:05] ---

*Hey, which do you think is best?*

[21:08] ---

*You're overthinking this.  
It's just a date with Shuji.*

[21:11] ---

*But I like your first outfit best.*

[21:13] ---

*Really? I prefer the second one.*

[21:17] ---

*Isn't the third one nice, though?*

[21:19] ---

*Aw, c'mon! What do you think, Tomozaki?*

[21:23] ---

*M-Me?!*

[21:31] ---

*Um, I-I think you look great in all of them!*

[21:35] ---

*That's the least helpful answer!*

[21:42] ---

*Look at these! Aren't they fabulous?*

[21:44] ---

*Totally! They're all so cute!*

[21:49] ---

*Are they?*

[21:52] ---

*Check this out! It looks just like you, Tama!*

[21:54] ---

*It does not!*

[22:02] ---

*The heck?*

[22:04] ---

*Mimimi likes it.*

[22:06] ---

*She does?!*

[22:09] ---

*I just knew she had great taste!*

[22:11] ---

*Talk about a mood swing...*

[22:17] ---

*I'm writing a new novel.*

[22:20] ---

*It should be finished before too long--*  
[22:22] ---  
*could I ask you to read it when I'm done?*  
[22:25] ---  
*Of course! If you think I could help.*  
[22:43] ---  
*"Tomozaki"*  
[22:43] ---  
*Your order is ready!*  
[22:46] ---  
*Huh? Army Boy's working here, too?*  
[22:49] ---  
*Yep. And I'm training him.*  
[22:51] ---  
*I expect freebies, Tomozaki.*  
[23:00] ---  
*Your job seems to be going well.*  
[23:02] ---  
*But don't let your guard down just yet.*  
[23:04] ---  
*I know. What's my next task?*  
[23:07] ---  
*Now, hold on. Before we get to that...*  
[23:13] ---  
*As heavy-handed as ever, I see.*  
[23:16] ---  
*Got a problem?*  
[23:32] ---  
*One more game!*  
[23:34] ---  
*All right--*  
[23:35] ---\*  
*bring it on!*

---

Revision #1

Created 2025-01-15 17:47:21 UTC by whimsee

Updated 2025-01-15 17:47:21 UTC by whimsee