

E12 - Sometimes the ancient tome in the first town is the key to the final dungeon

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[00:08] ---

Morning, Kikuchi.

[00:10] ---

Good morning, Tomozaki.

[00:13] ---

I read *The Popples*.

[00:16] ---

You did?!

[00:24] ---

I didn't know it was available as an ebook.

[00:27] ---

You said the book was almost impossible to find in stores,

[00:31] ---

so I thought, "Maybe..."

[00:34] ---

Here.

[00:35] ---

See?

SIGN The Popples on Raptor Isle

[00:39] ---

Wow...

SIGN Table of Contents

[00:49] ---

So, um, having read it... what did you think?

[00:53] ---

I thought the best part was at the very end,

[00:55] ---

where everyone used the power of words to convey the ocean's beauty

[00:59] ---

to the blind Popple.

[01:02] ---

I knew it!

[01:03] ---

There was something else that stuck with me, too.

[01:08] ---

Something else?

[01:10] ---

The firelings.

SIGN Chapter 7: The Firelings

SIGN 2nd Stage: Lv. 12 Sometimes the ancient tome in the first town is the key to the final dungeon

[02:55] ---

The Popple makes friends with everyone...

[02:57] ---

The Popple makes friends with everyone...

[02:58] ---

everyone but the firelings.

[03:01] ---

That's right. Not everyone can be friends.

[03:07] ---

The Popples is... kind of a grown-up story.

[03:12] ---

When I read that part of The Popples...*

[03:20] ---

it felt about as jarring as when Kikuchi was talking about her "ideal."

[03:28] ---

You said you see things from an author's perspective, right?

[03:33] ---

Right.

[03:34] ---

But if that's true... you should be able to accept that these firelings exist.

SIGN *The Popples on Raptor Isle*

[03:43] ---

The Popple was a freak, yet it made friends with all these other species.

[03:48] ---

The Popple was a freak, yet it made friends with all these other species.

[03:49] ---

And yes, that's ideal.

[03:52] ---

*Still, as the author Michael
Andi crafted that world,*

[03:55] ---

he included the firelings,

[03:58] ---

who couldn't make friends with the others.

[04:04] ---

*You said that you needed
to be like the Pople...*

[04:09] ---

but then aren't you rejecting the firelings?

[04:13] ---

*If you really *did* have
an author's perspective,*

[04:15] ---

*you'd say the world could have
both the Pople *and* the firelings.*

[04:19] ---

Saying that you have to be like the Pople

[04:22] ---

*shows that you're thinking about
how you should be for *yourself*.*

[04:27] ---

That may be true...

[04:30] ---

I know I'm playing with fire.

[04:33] ---

*I'm negating the words Kikuchi's
been using to define herself*

[04:37] ---

*and trying to suggest
different words instead.*

[04:40] ---

*But I see a Kikuchi who'd ushered
Kris to such a sad conclusion,*

[04:46] ---

*a Kikuchi who was doing
everything she could to fit in,*

[04:52] ---

and I think, "I want to help her."

[04:53] ---

Not that I should help her...

[04:56] ---

I want to.

[04:59] ---

I don't think you need a player's
or an author's perspective.

[05:03] ---

You can see life through your own
eyes: from a character's POV.

[05:08] ---

You've just lost sight of that
because you're overthinking things.

[05:13] ---

I just don't know.

[05:16] ---

I don't know what I'm looking
at, what my goals are...

[05:22] ---

I mean... everything I see is gray.

[05:31] ---

Well, that's easy.

[05:34] ---

Andi's books.

[05:36] ---

You love Andi's books.

[05:39] ---

That's one fact that's never going to change.

[05:43] ---

Is that enough?

[05:45] ---

Yep. After all, Andi's books are
what showed you a world of color.

[05:51] ---

Right now, you think you
have to change to fit in.

[05:56] ---

But if you were a fireling,

[05:59] ---

and everyone else were a different species...

[06:03] ---

you could find friends
at the firelings' lake.

[06:09] ---

Is this...

[06:11] ---

You'll find a bunch of friends
who like the same things.

[06:15] ---

Some of whom you'll want to meet in person.

[06:21] ---

I mean, that place is nothing *but* firelings.

[06:26] ---

You're really amazing, Tomozaki.

[06:30] ---

Nah. Just sneaky, that's all.

[06:33] ---

Still... are you sure?

[06:36] ---

You and Hanabi changed so splendidly, you fit in so well...

[06:42] ---

and only I stay the same?

[06:44] ---

Right.

[06:47] ---

I'll give it to you straight:

[06:49] ---

The friendships you make at school? They're nothing special.

[06:54] ---

I've changed myself over these past six months,

[06:58] ---

gotten involved with all kinds of people,

[07:00] ---

and, I think, made a lot of what I'd consider friends.

[07:05] ---

But that was all about me clicking with those people

[07:10] ---

and school was just what brought us together.

[07:13] ---

And in these past six months,

[07:17] ---

the encounter I'm most happy to have had

[07:22] ---

was the day I gave a blanket denial of this school and the normie way of life,

[07:29] ---

and Hinami threw it back in my face.

[07:33] ---

I did as she said, and set out to play the game of life.

[07:37] ---

My superficial way of thinking was actually sour grapes,

[07:42] ---

a sore loser not accepting defeat.

[07:45] ---

But that's not entirely true.

[07:49] ---

I can't say the grapes were all that sour.

[07:54] ---

*It's simply that some grapes are
sweeter or more sour than others.*

[08:01] ---

I came to know that truth.

[08:06] ---

You don't need to be friends
with everyone just because

[08:10] ---

you think the world demands it of you.

[08:14] ---

I see...

[08:16] ---

So I'm fine just as I am.

[08:20] ---

I'm not some freak who doesn't
belong in this world.

[08:27] ---

Right. Of course not.

[08:30] ---

Right...

[08:33] ---

Now, getting back on track...

[08:36] ---

With what?

[08:38] ---

With this here. Do you
know how to use this app?

[08:43] ---

Let's see... first
you make an account...

[08:48] ---

It's really very simple.

[08:53] ---

If the sweet grapes are hanging out of reach,

[08:56] ---

*seek out the sweet
strawberries on the ground.*

[08:59] ---

*If you don't care for sweet things,
look for tasty nuts instead.*

[09:04] ---

*And if you're not even hungry,
go have fun however you want.*

[09:10] ---

That's all there is to it.

[09:18] ---

Tomozaki!

[09:19] ---

Morning, Kikuchi. *You're* happy today.

[09:22] ---

I've made up my mind.

[09:25] ---

The previous draft ended with Kris leaving

[09:28] ---

and making an effort to fit
in with the outside world.

[09:32] ---

But now, Kris will apprentice at
a studio to become an artisan,

[09:37] ---

crafting her beloved flower decorations.

[09:39] ---

Hey, nice!

[09:49] ---

I'm sure Kris was lonely in her garden,

[09:52] ---

and she didn't know anything
about the outside world...

[09:55] ---

But I figured she'd like
working with flowers.

[10:00] ---

So I think she'll be happy,
having chosen that path.

[10:07] ---

Cool.

[10:38] ---

Hey, Kikuchi?

[10:40] ---

Yes?

[10:42] ---

I'd like to talk with you about
something after the festival.

[10:53] ---

Howdy, Brain!

[10:55] ---

Hey, Mimimi. Morning.

[10:57] ---

We're pretty much set with the play, right? The script and all?

[11:03] ---

Yeah, just about.

[11:05] ---

So I can ask you to start focusing on *our* thing now?

[11:11] ---

Oh, sure. I can get some real practice in now.

[11:15] ---

Excellent! We *are* a married couple, after all.

[11:19] ---

We're doing a married-couple *routine*: an *act*.

[11:24] ---

Nice comeback! Keep that up, 'kay?

[11:27] ---

You bet.

[11:31] ---

The days leading up to the festival were packed with rehearsals and prep.

SIGN Sekitomo High School Culture Festival Play My Unfamiliar Way to Fly

SIGN Manga Café Banchoo

[12:24] ---

- And now, finally...

[12:26] ---

the festival's tomorrow!

SIGN Bottom-Tier Character Tomozaki S2

SIGN Sekitomo Festival

SIGN Sewing Room 2

SIGN Medium Goal Have a girlfriend before starting year 3

[12:41] ---

Now, have you figured it out?

[12:44] ---

Do you know who you'll choose, based on your feelings: Fuka or Mimimi?

[12:50] ---

Yes. I've decided.

[12:52] ---

Good.

[12:55] ---

Hey, about the play's script...

[12:58] ---

How much influence did you have on the story?

[13:01] ---

I was just Kikuchi's sounding

board whenever she got stuck.

[13:05] ---

It's almost entirely her own work.

[13:08] ---

I see.

[13:09] ---

Why do you ask?

[13:12] ---

No reason.

[13:13] ---

I was just a little curious about
the extent of your involvement.

[13:18] ---

You were at our interview, after all.

[13:21] ---

Anyway, today's the big day!

[13:23] ---

Are you ready?

[13:25] ---

You bet I am.

SIGN Sekitomo Festival

[13:31] ---

*Today's the day I say what I feel,
so I can do what I want to do.*

[13:32] ---

*Today's the day I say what I feel,
so I can do what I want to do.*

[13:36] ---

I absolutely can't afford to fail.

SIGN Manga Café Banchoo

[13:42] ---

Brain!

[13:44] ---

Morning, Mimi... mi...

[13:46] ---

Ah! I see my appearance has you captivated!

[13:53] ---

Well? Well? Cute, right? Totes adorbs?

[13:57] ---

Yeah, real cute.

[13:59] ---

The crab, that is.

[14:00] ---

The *crab*?!

[14:04] ---

All right, everyone. Get
in here for a class photo!

[14:08] ---

Hey, finally!

[14:11] ---

Tomozaki...

[14:12] ---

Where's your T-shirt?

[14:14] ---

Don't worry. I'm wearing it.

[14:17] ---

See?

[14:19] ---

Okay, then.

[14:22] ---

This looks like it's gonna be one
fun festival. For both of us.

[14:26] ---

Right?

SIGN Sekitomo Festival

[14:45] ---

Mizusawa! Tomozaki!

[14:49] ---

Hey there, Gumi... and Mako and Sayaka!

[14:55] ---

We had no idea you guys
were Gumi's friends!

[14:58] ---

Long time no see!

[15:00] ---

Oh, y-yeah.

[15:02] ---

Huh? What happened to your nose glasses?

[15:05] ---

Those were a one-day-only deal!

[15:07] ---

Hey, have you seen this dude's Pinsta?

[15:10] ---

Here, look.

[15:12] ---

He really did post it!

[15:14] ---

Those look great on you, Mizusawa.

[15:16] ---

Here we go again with the non-compliments!

[15:19] ---

Leave it to Mizusawa...

No, I can't lose my nerve!

[15:25] ---

Y-Yeah, and that got a fair number of likes, too.

[15:29] ---

There you are, Brain!

[15:31] ---

It's almost time...

[15:39] ---

Are these girls *compensated*?!

[15:40] ---

Absolutely *not*!

[15:42] ---

Hey, shouldn't we get in one last rehearsal?

[15:46] ---

Yeah, we should.

[15:48] ---

Oh, are you doing something, Tomozaki?

[15:51] ---

Um, yeah. A comedy routine, actually.

[15:55] ---

Comedy?

[15:57] ---

There's more to you than meets the eye, huh, Tomozaki.

[16:00] ---

Now you're doing comedy with *this* cutie?

[16:03] ---

Huh?!

[16:04] ---

And after you were picking up girls at our girls' school...

[16:07] ---

Y-You went to a girls' school to *flirt*, Brain?!

[16:12] ---

I-I wasn't really *flirting*, per se...

[16:14] ---

B-B-Brain! Since when were you s-such a shallow guy?!

[16:22] ---

N-No! Mizusawa was—

[16:24] ---

You were with *Takahiro*?!

[16:26] ---

Now I *know* it's the truth!

[16:29] ---

All right—let's get rehearsing!

[16:33] ---

Don't change the subject!

[16:35] ---

Break a leg, you two!

[16:45] ---

Looking for Tomozaki?

[16:47] ---

He and Mimimi should be in the
multipurpose hall right about now,

[16:50] ---

doing their comedy routine.

[16:52] ---

Oh, um... yes, right.

[16:56] ---

Fuka?

[16:58] ---

I'll do my best to make
this performance a success.

[17:01] ---

I know. Thank you.

SIGN Multipurpose Hall Entrance This Way

SIGN Sekitomo Festival

[17:11] ---

Well, th-this is it...

[17:13] ---

Why are you so nervous?

[17:15] ---

Sh-Shouldn't I be?

[17:20] ---

Oh, it'll be fine! No one's
expecting too much, anyway.

[17:24] ---

It's not like we're going to be *good*.

[17:28] ---

Sh-Shouldn't we be?!

[17:30] ---

Yes, that—right there!

Nice and natural!

[17:34] ---

See? We'll be fine.

SIGN Comedy Haniwanya

[17:39] ---

Next up is a comedy routine from Haniwanya!

[17:43] ---

All right, give it your best shot!

[17:44] ---

All right, give it your best shot!

[17:46] ---

That's our name?

[17:48] ---

You don't like it? I was torn
between that and "Haniwaniwa."

[17:53] ---

They're both essentially the same!

[17:58] ---

Okay, Brain. Let's do this!

[18:00] ---

Yeah!

SIGN Sekitomo Festival Comedy Haniwanya

[18:01] ---

Hi there!

[18:03] ---

All right, here we go:

[18:06] ---

Just listen to this, Tomozaki!

[18:08] ---

What is it, Nanami?

[18:10] ---

We've been doing this
for years and years now.

[18:15] ---

We started this duo barely a month ago.

[18:19] ---

Heck, we only started talking to
each other a little while back.

[18:22] ---

Oh, don't say that!

[18:29] ---

So anyway—

[18:33] ---

Huh?

[18:42] ---

What's my next line again?

[18:47] ---

Um...

[18:50] ---

I-I have to...

[18:54] ---

I have to... to say something...**

[18:58] ---

Tomozaki!

[19:00] ---

Do you know how we got our name?

[19:03] ---

Um...

[19:05] ---

Because you and I both love haniwa!

[19:10] ---

Haniwanya!

SIGN Sekitomo Festival

[19:17] ---

*She'd go that far to cover for
me and my forgotten line...*

[19:23] ---

I've got to do something...!

[19:26] ---

So anyway, here we are doing comedy.

[19:29] ---

Are you ignoring me?!

SIGN Sekitomo Festival

[19:39] ---

But listen, Nanami: I managed
to get some time off.

[19:43] ---

Uh-huh?

SIGN Sekitomo Festival

[19:47] ---

Well, that went sorta okay.

[19:49] ---

Yeah.

[19:51] ---

Hey, I'm sorry. I totally blanked
out there. You really saved me.

[19:56] ---

No problem! All part of a wife's job.

[19:59] ---

Look, we are *not* married!

[20:03] ---

Next time, the ramen's on me.

[20:04] ---

You got it.

[20:07] ---

Thanks. I mean it.

[20:09] ---

All's well that ends well, right?

[20:13] ---

We did pretty good for rank
amateurs... didn't we?

[20:16] ---

Probably, yeah! We were definitely good!

[20:19] ---

Yeah. We definitely were. Probably.

[20:25] ---

I better get going.

[20:27] ---

Oh, the play?

[20:30] ---

The play... with Kikuchi?

[20:33] ---

Yeah.

[20:35] ---

I'll be back.

[20:37] ---

Of course.

[20:41] ---

Listen, Mimimi... I—

[20:43] ---

Tomozaki?

[20:47] ---

That was fun, huh? The comedy.

[20:52] ---

Yeah.

[20:54] ---

I really had a lot of fun.

[21:02] ---

Now get going, you.

[21:06] ---

Right.

[21:21] ---

Aw...

[21:25] ---

It's over!

[21:31] ---

It's all over...

[21:41] ---

Kikuchi!

[21:42] ---

Tomozaki...

[21:44] ---

Any minute now.

[21:48] ---

Yes.

[21:57] ---

And now for Class 2-2's
original performance,

[22:01] ---

"My Unfamiliar Way to Fly."

Revision #1

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