

# 22 - Sudden Turnaround!

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**SIGN** Sudden Turnaround!

**[01:36] ake**

Toku-chan... Guam was the right choice!

**[01:40] toku**

Yeah, this is awesome.

**[01:42] toku**

Maybe we'll come back for our honeymoon.

**[01:45] ake**

Oh, I'd love that!

**[01:47] toku**

Yeah! I'll have to work hard!

**[01:50] toku**

*Unaware that he'd been fired  
from his color commentary job,*

**[01:52] toku**

*Toku-san was enjoying sweet  
bliss in Guam with Akemi-san.*

**[02:01] hagi**

Toku-chan had a fiancée?

**[02:04] mat**

Yes. Which means he's going  
to marry while unemployed.

**[02:08] hagi**

Marrying while unemployed?  
Tough luck for him.

**[02:12] mat**

Ogiwara-chan, don't act like  
it's not your problem.

**[02:16] mat**

Couldn't you find some way  
of keeping him on staff?

**[02:19] hagi**

Of course I couldn't! I'm just an underling!

**[02:23] hagi**

Besides, they've already

officially signed Jinno-san...

**[02:28] hagi**

But, and this is just between us,

**[02:31] hagi**

Jinno-san's name wasn't on the list  
of potential color comms targets.

**[02:36] hagi**

But then apparently someone  
higher up told the chief,

**[02:39] hagi**

"Just shut up and hire Jinno-san!"

**[02:41] mat**

It came from above?

**[02:43] hagi**

Jinno-san's such a big name commentator,  
and he commands big paychecks.

**[02:47] hagi**

I feel bad for Toku-chan, but someone  
had to be cut to free up the funds.

**[02:54] hagi**

Anyway, it can't be changed now.

**[02:58] hagi**

So let Toku-chan know  
once he gets back, okay?

**[03:01] hagi**

Be sure to tell him quick!  
He'll need to get back on the job hunt.

**[03:04] mat**

H-H-Hey!

**[03:05] hagi**

See you later!

**[03:07] mat**

Darn it. Pushing all this on me...

**[03:14] mat**

Bonda-kun?

**[03:16] bon**

Hey, Matsumoto-san. This is Bonda.

**[03:19] bon**

I'm in the neighborhood.  
Would you like to meet up?

**[03:24] bon**

If nothing changes, Toku-san will  
get back from his pre-wedding trip

**[03:30] bon**

and go straight from heaven  
to the depths of hell.

**[03:33] mat**

Yeah...

**[03:36] bon**

So, I have a favor to ask.

**[03:39] mat**

What is it?

**[03:40] bon**

Couldn't you get Toku-san a job somewhere?

**[03:45] mat**

There's no way!

**[03:46] mat**

If it were that easy,  
we wouldn't be in this mess.

**[03:50] bon**

You need to try!

**[03:51] mat**

I'm not sure what to do...

**[03:53] mat**

Can't you introduce him  
to someone, Bonda-kun?

**[03:56] bon**

There's no way!

**[03:58] bon**

I'm still just a player, and I'm still young...

**[04:01] bon**

You know I don't have  
any connections like that!

**[04:05] bon**

It could be anything.

**[04:06] bon**

What about assistant director  
at your station?

**[04:09] mat**

Come on, it's Toku-chan. He was a  
color commentator until this year.

**[04:13] mat**

Offering him an AD job would be an insult!

**[04:16] bon**

I see...

**[04:17] bon**

Now that you mention it, I guess  
it couldn't be *anything*...

**[04:22] mat**

Besides, he was a major league pitcher  
with forty-nine wins to his name.

**[04:28] mat**

You can't ask him to  
take some nondescript role.

**[04:32] bon**

Are there really no color man jobs anywhere?

**[04:36] mat**

Everything's filled already.

**[04:38] bon**

What about local stations?

**[04:40] mat**

Not likely.

**[04:42] mat**

Local stations prefer to hire only  
players from their home clubs.

**[04:48] bon**

I guess that makes sense...

**[04:50] mat**

But Bonda-kun, you really  
care about Toku-chan, huh?

**[04:54] mat**

Of course. We're from the same area,

**[04:56] mat**

and he looked after me  
in my early pro career.

**[04:59] mat**

I want to help him if I can.

**[05:08] mat**

*Nothing here, I don't think.*

**[05:11] mat**

*A sports magazine?*

**[05:13] mat**

*But I doubt Toku-chan can write articles...*

**[05:17] mat**

*Independent leagues?*

**[05:22] bon**

An independent league?

**[05:23] mat**

Yes.

**[05:25] mat**

Five or six years ago, I was  
introduced to the GM

**[05:28] mat**

for an independent league's Fukui Dynamites.

**[05:31] mat**

I just found his business card!

**[05:33] bon**

Fukui, huh?

**[05:35] mat**

Yeah. And I called to ask if they  
have any open coaching slots.

**[05:40] mat**

Apparently, he's in Tokyo  
on a business trip right now!

**[05:45] mat**

He said we could meet up late tonight.

**[05:48] mat**

Bonda-kun, you'll come along, right?

**[05:50] bon**

Yes, of course!

**[05:54] gm**

Perfect timing!

**[05:56] gm**

We'd be happy to take on the former  
Spiders player, Tokunaga-san!

**[06:00] mat**

That was fast!

**[06:03] bon**

But what's the salary of a coach  
in an independent league?

**[06:06] gm**

If he'd be willing to take 300,000 a month...

**[06:09] gm**

No bonuses, of course.

**[06:11] bon**

*300 grand times 12...*  
*That's 3.6 million a year.*

**SIGN** 300k x 12

Yearly salary  
3.6 million

**[06:16] gm**

If he'll agree to that, we'd gladly take him on.

**[06:22] bon**

*Given his current situation, it's not  
a bad offer for Toku-san at all.*

**[06:27] bon**

*But he's getting married, too...*

**[06:30] mat**

Okay. We'll talk to him about your offer.

**[06:34] gm**

Oh, will you?

**[06:36] mat**

An independent league is a place  
where he can chase his dream.

**[06:40] mat**

Coaching will add to Toku-chan's skill set,

**[06:43] mat**

and he could get called back

to center stage someday.

**[06:49] mat**

*That's my hope, anyway.*

**[06:51] mat**

*But doing radio commentary is  
already a center stage position.*

**[06:55] mat**

*An independent league is  
moving pretty far into the wings.*

**[06:59] mat**

*Will Toku accept that?*

**[07:02] shi**

Fukui, eh? That's pretty far...

**[07:05] ono**

But coaching is a good job.

**[07:08] bon**

Better than being unemployed, anyway.

**[07:10] ono**

The guys in the minors play  
independent league teams a lot.

**[07:13] ono**

If things go well, some pro club  
might pick him up as coach.

**[07:18] bon**

Wasn't Takai-san,  
our minor league pitching coach,

**[07:22] bon**

a coach in an independent league once?

**[07:26] shi**

But that guy was a star player  
with 130 wins to his name.

**[07:30] shi**

He went there with a guarantee that  
he'd be back in our club someday,

**[07:35] shi**

so his case is different from Toku-san's.

**[07:38] bon**

You think?

**[07:39] ono**

I guess even the indies won't help  
unless you're a big-time star.

**[07:44] bon**

The real question is whether  
or not Toku-san will accept it.

**[07:48] bon**

It all comes down to how he feels.

**[07:50] bon**

And whether Akemi-san is willing to follow him to Fukui or not.

**[07:54] shi**

So, when's Toku-san getting back?

**[07:57] bon**

Tomorrow.

**[08:00] bon**

*And so, Toku-san returned.*

**[08:04] toku**

Make sure you quit your job in Roppongi once we're married, okay?

**[08:08] ake**

I hear you, Toku-chan.

**[08:11] bon**

*As I thought, Akemi-san works in Roppongi.*

**[08:16] bon**

I think this is the right flight...

**[08:21] toku**

Huh? Natsunosuke?

**[08:23] toku**

And Matsumoto-san?

**[08:25] toku**

What's going on?

**[08:26] both**

Toku-chan!

**[08:26] both**

Toku-san!

**[08:51] toku**

S-So, what you're saying is...

**[08:53] toku**

I'm... fired?

**[08:57] mat**

I hear you're getting married?

**[08:59] toku**

Yeah. To her.

**[09:03] toku**

Wait... I'm marrying while unemployed?

**[09:07] toku**

*After I worked so hard!*

**[09:11] bon**

Toku-san!

**[09:13] mat**

Toku-chan! Toku-chan!

**[09:15] mat**

I know it's a shock.

**[09:17] mat**

But there's more to it.

**[09:19] mat**

I got you a job as a coach  
in an independent league.

**[09:23] toku**

Huh?

**[09:30] mat**

I'm just a play-by-play man.

**[09:33] mat**

What I did was the best I could do.

**[09:36] bon**

Still, thank you.

**[09:38] bon**

I'm sure he appreciates  
having the option, at least.

**[09:47] toku**

*An independent league? The Fukui Dynamites?*

**[09:54] (Flashback) mat**

They said they'll guarantee  
a salary of 300,000 a month.

**[09:58] toku**

*300,000 a month. That's 3.6 million a year.*

**[10:02] toku**

*It's actually a bit better than  
what I made at Otowa Radio.*

**[10:08] toku**

*But I was hoping to marry her next year...*

**[10:12] toku**

*Fukui's so far away. Would she follow me there?*

**[10:17] toku**

*A woman who's been belle  
of the ball in Roppongi, Tokyo...*

**[10:21] toku**

*Would she move to Fukui?*

**[10:23] toku**

*But...*

**[10:24] toku**

*What other work can I do in Tokyo?*

**[10:28] toku**

*Absolutely nothing.*

**[10:30] toku**

*No. Even if there were something,*

**[10:32] toku**

*I don't want a job that  
takes me out of baseball!*

**[10:35] toku**

*That said, the indies?*

**[10:37] toku**

*Being a baseball commentator at Otowa Radio  
was keeping me in the pro baseball world.*

**[10:42] toku**

*I was hoping to become a coach for  
the Spiders or some other team someday.*

**[10:48] toku**

*But as an ex-player with  
no accomplishments to his name,*

**[10:52] toku**

*if I leave the pros, there's no guarantee  
I'll ever make it back in.*

**[10:57] toku**

*Anyway, I can't tell her about this yet.*

**[11:02] toku**

*But this independent league coaching offer...*

**[11:06] toku**

*He made it sound like it fell into his lap,*

**[11:08] toku**

*but is it possible that Matsumoto-san  
went out and found the job for me?*

**[11:25] bon**

*The day after Toku-san got back from Guam,*

**[11:28] bon**

*Jinno Jiro, the big-name commentator  
who was the cause of his firing...*

**[11:33] jin**

*Nice shot, Mr. Head.*

**[11:36] kug**

*Stop it. That's not me.*

**[11:40] jin**

*The new head coach of the great  
Bunkyo Mops, Kugutsu Akihiko-sama.*

**[11:48] jin**

*For over ten years after  
we joined the Blue Comets,*

**[11:51] jin**

*you and I were fixtures  
at second and shortstop.*

**[11:55] kug**

*Then, after we hung up our jerseys,*

**[11:57] kug**

*we ended up as coaches and commentators,*

**[11:59] kug**

*following similar paths.*

**[12:03] jin**

*That's why, when I heard you  
got named the Mops' head coach,*

**[12:06] jin**

I was as happy as if had been me.

**[12:10] kug**

And I heard you ended up  
back at Otowa Radio, right?

**[12:14] jin**

Yeah, I managed to sneak my way in.

**[12:17] kug**

I hope you'll take today to share  
some of your experiences

**[12:20] kug**

as head coach of two ball clubs with me.

**[12:23] jin**

Well, I was just head coach of the  
Setouchi Carnabeats and the Kobe Oxen.

**[12:31] jin**

I doubt it'll be much help.

**[12:34] kug**

I suppose not.

**[12:36] kug**

Frankly, being head coach of the Bunkyo Mops

**[12:40] kug**

comes with much greater pressure than  
being manager of a rinky-dink club.

**[12:46] kug**

I know it's harsh, but it's true.

**[12:53] jin**

Kugutsu.

**[12:54] jin**

I guess my stories of being head coach  
won't be much use to you after all.

**[13:00] kug**

I'm sure that's not true.

**[13:02] kug**

But when I was younger,

**[13:05] kug**

I was a base coach for the Mops,  
if only for a year.

**[13:10] kug**

Some stories from that time  
might be more useful to you.

**[13:14] kug**

Base coach?

**[13:15] kug**

I'll be *head* coach, though.

**[13:20] jin**

The point is they run a tighter ship

over there than you might imagine.

**[13:24] jin**

In all respects.

**[13:28] kug**

Yeah, but that can be a good thing.

**[13:32] kug**

You don't get that kind of atmosphere  
in just any old ball club.

**[13:34] kug**

Good luck with your commentary.

**[13:37] jin**

*What's with this guy?*

**[13:39] jin**

*I think that head coaching job  
has really gone to his head.*

**[13:44] jin**

Also, Kugutsu. I might be worrying  
too much here, but...

**[13:49] kug**

What's this?

**[13:50] jin**

Well, you're joining a very  
popular club, you know.

**[13:54] jin**

You never know when someone might get  
jealous and try to dig up some dirt on you.

**[13:58] kug**

And you think that's a concern?

**[14:03] kug**

I doubt it's anything to worry about.

**[14:06] kug**

I'm totally clean.

**[14:08] kug**

There's no dirt for anyone to dig up.

**[14:12] jin**

*This guy... Even the way he talks has changed.*

**[14:16] jin**

*Why do people have to be like this?*

**[14:24] ake**

Coach for an independent  
league team in Fukui?

**[14:28] toku**

They're setting up their team for next season,

**[14:31] toku**

so they want an answer within the week.

**[14:34] ake**

You can't do commentator work

for Otowa Radio anymore, then?

**[14:38] toku**

Yeah... At least not next season.

**[14:44] ake**

So, what are you thinking?

**[14:47] toku**

Well, I don't know.

**[14:49] toku**

How do you feel?

**[14:51] ake**

What does it matter how I feel?

**[14:55] toku**

R-Realistically speaking,  
I think it's the only choice.

**[15:01] ake**

That's right. Of course it is.

**[15:04] ake**

You can't work in any field  
other than baseball, right?

**[15:07] ake**

Because if you leave baseball,  
you might never make it back in, right?

**[15:11] ake**

Then I suppose you have  
to go to Fukui, don't you?

**[15:15] toku**

Wh-What about you?

**[15:17] ake**

I...

**[15:20] bon**

*While Toku-san was talking  
to Akemi-san about that,*

**[15:23] bon**

*another situation was progressing.*

**[15:27] jin**

What's the matter, Kugutsu?

**[15:29] jin**

Why'd you call me out like this?

**[15:31] kug**

L-Look at this, would you?

**[15:34] jin**

What's this? A copy of a picture?

**[15:36] jin**

A golf course?

**[15:37] kug**

Y-You know *Weekly Buncho*, right?

**[15:41] jin**

*Weekly Buncho?* Yeah, what about it?

**[15:44] kug**

One of their reporters came by with that.

**[15:46] jin**

And?

**[15:48] kug**

That's from ten years ago,

**[15:49] kug**

when I went golfing with executives  
from a certain real estate company.

**[15:55] kug**

At the time, I was on their  
payroll as a spokesman.

**[16:00] kug**

But since then,

**[16:02] kug**

it's come out that that company  
had secret ties to a mob syndicate!

**[16:09] jin**

What?!

**[16:11] kug**

He came to me asking  
for an interview about it,

**[16:14] kug**

but obviously, I don't know anything about it!

**[16:17] kug**

The guy on the far right was in the mob!

**[16:21] kug**

D-Do you think this will affect  
my position with the Bunkyo Mops?

**[16:25] jin**

Of course it will! This is terrible!

**[16:28] jin**

And not just the Mops! There's no  
ball club that would ever let this slide!

**[16:36] ake**

Listen, Toku-chan...

**[16:38] ake**

I...

**[16:40] ake**

I...

**[16:41] toku**

*Oh, my marriage is over!*

**[16:44] ake**

I'd go with you, of course!

**[16:48] toku**

What?

**[16:49] toku**

Really?

**[16:51] ake**

Toku-chan?

**[16:52] toku**

Yes?

**[16:54] ake**

You weren't thinking,

"My marriage is over," were you?

**[16:58] toku**

No...

**[16:58] ake**

I can't believe you thought that!

What an insult.

**[17:02] toku**

But are you sure it's okay?

**[17:07] ake**

It's fine.

**[17:08] ake**

To be honest, if we'd stayed in Tokyo,

**[17:14] ake**

I might not have been able  
to quit my job in Roppongi.

**[17:18] ake**

I think we'd have a rough time  
living on just your salary.

**[17:24] ake**

I've made up my mind!

**[17:26] ake**

Now I can graduate from that risqué stuff!

**[17:30] ake**

If we live in Fukui, we can probably  
get by just on your salary.

**[17:35] ake**

It'll be fine.

**[17:37] ake**

I'm going to be your wife, Toku-chan.

**[17:42] toku**

I... I...

**[17:45] mat**

I'm so glad I didn't get married  
when I was a player!

**[17:48] mat**

I'm so glad that I waited!

**[17:51] mat**

She was totally the right choice!

**[17:55] ake**

Oh, don't cry, now!

**SIGN** Bunkyo Mops' New Head Coach Kugutsu's Underworld Connections

**[18:00] bon**

*The Weekly Buncho scoop  
resulted in a media firestorm.*

**[18:06] kug**

I-I don't know anything! I'm not involved!

**[18:09] kug**

That was ten years ago!

**[18:11] [SONG] sign**

Bunkyo Mops' Head Coach Kugutsu Scrapped

**[18:11] mat**

Boy, this is the kind of scandal  
the Mops hate the most.

**[18:18] jin**

Poor Kugutsu...

**[18:21] jin**

Phone for you, dear.

**[18:22] jin**

From whom?

**[18:24] jin**

Someone with the Bunkyo Mops.

**SIGN** Otowa Radio Z

**[18:29] man**

What? Head coach of the Mops?

**[18:32] jin**

They chose me to replace Kugutsu.

**[18:35] man**

J-Jinno-san?

**[18:37] jin**

I-I'm sorry. I'll have to drop  
the commentator deal.

**[18:41] man**

I understand, Jinno-san.

**[18:43] man**

It's natural that a man of your caliber  
would receive an offer like that.

**[18:46] jin**

I'm sorry!

**[18:47] man**

We'll withdraw our offer.

**[18:49] man**

I hope you'll join us some other time.

**[18:52] jin**

I see. I'm so glad to hear that.

**[18:55] man**

We'll find a replacement for you, Jinno-san.

**[18:58] jin**

I'm really, really, really...

**[19:01] jin**

...grateful!

**[19:04] man**

*Jinno-san looks so happy!*

**[19:07] jin**

*Kugutsu, someone got dirt on you.*

**[19:10] jin**

*Don't say I didn't warn you!*

**[19:13] hagi**

That's the story.

**[19:15] hagi**

So now we have to ask Toku-chan to come back for commentary next season...

**[19:20] mat**

Well, it's great news, but...

**[19:23] hagi**

Right?! You'll tell him yourself, won't you?

**[19:28] hagi**

Please!

**[19:30] mat**

Fine.

**[19:32] hagi**

I'm so glad!

**[19:34] hagi**

I made you break the news of his firing to him,

**[19:38] hagi**

so I can't really poke my nose in now, can I?

**[19:42] mat**

Very true.

**[19:43] mat**

But afterward, you need to apologize to Toku-chan,

**[19:47] mat**

and officially ask him to work with us again, okay?

**[19:50] hagi**

Leave it to me!

**[19:52] hagi**

I'll talk to the manager, have him for dinner, and get it done.

**[19:58] mat**

And that's that.

**[19:59] mat**

You'll take it, won't you?

**[20:02] toku**

Oh... Well, I guess...

**[20:05] mat**

Apparently, the Fukui Dynamites were kind of straining to hire you anyway.

**[20:11] mat**

Their budget was really tight.

**[20:14] toku**

I was starting to look forward to it, though...

**[20:18] toku**

*But if they withdrew that quickly when they heard the new situation,*

**[20:24] toku**

*I guess they didn't actually need me that badly?*

**[20:29] mat**

So, can we count on seeing you next year?

**[20:32] toku**

Yeah... Though I'm still a little dazed.

**[20:38] bon**

Boy, Toku-san, you've really been through the ringer,

**[20:41] bon**

but I'm glad to hear you'll be a commentator again!

**[20:44] toku**

I guess.

**[20:46] toku**

Now you can get married without any worries.

**[20:50] toku**

And now it's you guys' time to have contract negotiations.

**[20:53] toku**

They've started, right?

**[20:55] bon**

Ours are next week.

**[20:57] bon**

Y-Yeah...

**[20:58] bon**

Y-Yes.

**[20:59] bon**

I'm gonna do my best!

**[21:01] bon**

It's our once-a-year battle with the ball club!

**[21:04] bon**

Cheers!

**[21:06] toku**

But, man, I really am glad I chose her.

**[21:14] toku**

*But wait, does that mean...?*

**[21:17] ake**

Well, I guess I'll stick with  
my Roppongi job after all!

**[21:21] toku**

*Is that what she'll say?*

**[21:24] bon**

*That was the only thing  
Toku-san had left to worry about.*

**[21:28] bon**

*Money Pitch!*

**[23:01] bon**

Natsunosuke here.

**[23:02] bon**

The baseball world is in the  
middle of contract negotiations.

**[23:05] bon**

Shibuya Akira and Ohno Yukio  
get great news on their first try.

**[23:08] bon**

And now, at last, it's my turn.

**[23:10] bon**

But I'm also identified at the  
place where Yuki-works,

**[23:13] bon**

and Yuki-chan finally recognizes me,

**[23:16] bon**

and I head towards negotiations  
with a spring in my step!

**[23:18] bon**

But the club's assessment  
process is really harsh, you know?

**[23:22] bon**

Next time: "Contract Renewals, Part One."

**[23:24] bon**

Seize tomorrow's success and today's money!

**SIGN** Contract Renewals, Part One

**[23:26] bon**

Money Pitch!

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