

E1 - From This First Step

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[00:04] ---

Everyone.

[00:05] ---

I know everyone here worked hard
for today's performance.

[00:11] ---

Kotono.

[00:12] ---

Yes.

[00:13] ---

Sakura.

[00:14] ---

Yes.

[00:15] ---

Rei.

[00:17] ---

Yes.

[00:18] ---

Nagisa.

[00:19] ---

Yes.

[00:20] ---

Suzu.

[00:21] ---

Yes, indeed.

[00:22] ---

Saki.

[00:23] ---

Yes.

[00:25] ---

Chisa.

[00:25] ---

Y-Yes.

[00:27] ---

Shizuku.

[00:28] ---

Yeah.

[00:29] ---

Miss Haruko.

[00:31] ---

Yes.

[00:32] ---

Mei.

[00:33] ---

Yup!

[00:35] ---

To be honest, technique-wise,
we're far from perfect.

[00:39] ---

But all your efforts up until today
are engraved in you.

[00:44] ---

Give it everything you've got
now for this performance!

[00:48] ---

Yes!

[00:54] ---

Ready Kotonno?

[00:56] ---

Yeah.

[01:04] ---

Hoshimi Productions!

[01:05] ---

--Let's...

--...go!

[01:06] ---

Fight!

[01:07] ---

Go, go, go! Yeah!

[01:19] ---

This stage is our very first step.

[01:23] ---

Are you watching...

[01:25] ---

...Mana?

[01:31] ---

"5 YEARS AGO"

[01:35] ---

"Hoshimi High School"

[01:37] ---

"Congratulations "Welcome "Spring
on your admission!" New Students!" Festival"

[01:40] ---

Hey, new students!

[01:42] ---

Promise me you'll make the next three years
an unforgettable high school experience!

[01:51] ---

--The light and shadow of youth.

[01:52] ---

--Next, each club will be coming up
to promote themselves!

--The light and shadow of youth.

[01:55] ---

--Next, each club will be coming up
to promote themselves!

--Of course, she's the light and I'm...

[01:56] ---

--Make sure to stay for it
if you're still undecided.

--Of course, she's the light and I'm...

[01:58] ---

--Makino, hurry up!

[01:59] ---

--But I'd recommend staying for it
even if you've decided, too!

--Makino, hurry up!

[02:01] ---

--But I'd recommend staying for it
even if you've decided, too!

--Coming!

[02:02] ---

They go all out for these presentations,
so please check them out!

[02:05] ---

After that, we'll move on to
the fun recreational activities!

[02:13] ---

Light and shadow don't mix inherently...

[02:22] ---

Why is she sitting next to me?

[02:25] ---

It's science next.

[02:26] ---

I'm so going to fall asleep!

[02:29] ---

After class?

[02:30] ---

Yup.

[02:31] ---

I want to talk to you about something.

[02:41] ---

It can't be now?

[02:42] ---

No!

[02:44] ---

Listen.

[02:45] ---

I better see you after school!

[02:53] ---

What was that about?

[02:56] ---

The emperor has abdicated

[02:59] ---

and by next autumn,

[03:00] ---

--As far as these things go...

--he shaved his head

and entered priesthood.

[03:02] ---

--It's usually a confession...

--He wandered the mountains

here and there

[03:06] ---

--No... There's no way that would happen to me.

--and devoted himself

to Buddhist training.

[03:09] ---

--The narrator speaks in a distinct tone
regarding the emperor.

[03:10] ---

--It must be one of those pranks or something.

--The narrator speaks in a distinct tone
regarding the emperor.

[03:12] ---

--They have great respect
towards the emperor.

[03:13] ---

--Do people still do those things?

--They have great respect
towards the emperor.

[03:15] ---

This will be on the test.

[03:17] ---

I guess so...

[03:24] ---

A prank?

[03:26] ---

What is?

[03:27] ---

What do you mean? Um...

[03:29] ---

This scenario...

[03:31] ---

I'm not sure what you're talking about.

[03:35] ---

Anyway, I have a favor to ask you, Makino.

[03:43] ---

An idol...?

[03:44] ---

Yeah...

[03:47] ---

Is that weird?

[03:48] ---

No.

[03:49] ---

I was just surprised because it was abrupt.

[03:52] ---

But well, I'd say you can become one.

[03:55] ---

Nagase, you can be an idol.

[03:58] ---

I think it would suit you, Nagase.

[04:00] ---

It's Mana!

[04:02] ---

What?

[04:03] ---

Just call me Mana.

[04:05] ---

Everyone else calls me that, too.

[04:07] ---

What... Um...

[04:09] ---

That's a bit...

[04:10] ---

It's totally fine!

[04:17] ---

All right...

[04:19] ---

Then...

[04:20] ---

Mana.

[04:21] ---

Good!

[04:23] ---

Then, Makino...

[04:25] ---

Oh, my first name is Kohei.

[04:30] ---

I knew that.

[04:31] ---

You can call me Kohei, too.

[04:33] ---

No, that would be weird.

[04:35] ---

I'm calling you Makino, okay?

[04:37] ---

If we call each other by our
first names out of the blue,

[04:39] ---

everyone would get suspicious.

[04:41] ---

That doesn't make any sense.

[04:44] ---

So...

[04:45] ---

It seems like the person who
scouted me is a famous producer.

[04:51] ---

Nagas--

[04:53] ---

That probably happens to you a lot, Mana.

[04:56] ---

That's not true.

[04:58] ---

It's never happened to me before,
so I don't know what to do.

[05:03] ---

But I am interested...

[05:05] ---

So I thought about it a lot
and consulted my little sister...

[05:09] ---

So, why me...?

[05:12] ---

W-Well.

[05:14] ---

Boys can be knowledgeable about idols, right?

[05:18] ---

It's not like all the guys are...

[05:22] ---

There's that complicated
Venus-something system, right?

[05:26] ---

I thought I'd consult someone
knowledgeable about that.

[05:30] ---

I'm not knowledgeable at all, either.

[05:32] ---

I would ask Furuta or Kawano about that--

[05:36] ---

I'm asking you, Makino!

[05:43] ---

I haven't told anyone else about this,

[05:46] ---

so don't tell anyone, okay?

[05:47] ---

I don't get it... Why me?

[05:50] ---

That's because...

[05:57] ---

You sit right next to me and it was convenient!

[06:00] ---

Purely proximity, huh?

[06:07] ---

So... About that favor I wanted to ask...

[06:11] ---

Yeah.

[06:13] ---

Actually...

[06:17] ---

"Hoshimi Productions"

[06:22] ---

Kohei Makino, a second-year in high school.

[06:25] ---

So you're classmates with Mana?

[06:27] ---

Yes.

[06:29] ---

What's your relationship?

[06:31] ---

Well...

[06:32] ---

We sit right next to each other.

[06:34] ---

Sit next to each other?

[06:36] ---

That's it?

[06:37] ---

Naga--

[06:38] ---

Mana and I've never really spoken at school...

[06:42] ---

That's not true!

[06:44] ---

We've spoken three times...

[06:46] ---

Or was it twice...?

[06:50] ---

Are you familiar with the Venus Program?

[06:53] ---

Yes, the general idea of it.

[06:56] ---

It's a ranking system for idols, right?

[06:59] ---

That's right.

[07:00] ---

Based on various data like popularity,
performance, and audience reaction,

[07:06] ---

an AI makes a judgment and
spits out the numeric data.

[07:10] ---

An AI...?

[07:11] ---

It's an attempt to have idols
compete under equal conditions.

[07:15] ---

It's sounding more like a sports game.

[07:18] ---

We'll be registering idols from our
agency in the Venus Program, too.

[07:22] ---

Mana, too, of course.

[07:26] ---

It's true that we're short-handed.

[07:29] ---

We'll have to hire someone eventually
to keep things running.

[07:32] ---

Since you're in school, you'll be
part-time until you graduate.

[07:36] ---

What? So that means...

[07:38] ---

You're hired.

[07:40] ---

Thank you very much, President.

[07:42] ---

That's too stuffy, just call me Saegusa.

[07:46] ---

To hire you part-time was one of the conditions to get Mana to sign with us, anyway.

[07:51] ---

--Hey!

--What?

[07:53] ---

We had already decided to hire you.

[07:55] ---

Mr. Saegusa, you promised you wouldn't tell!

[07:59] ---

Oh, yeah?

[08:00] ---

Gosh!

[08:07] ---

Mana, I'm coming in.

[08:09] ---

Okay!

[08:12] ---

It's almost time for rehears--

[08:21] ---

What do you think?

[08:23] ---

It's... all right.

[08:24] ---

Look at me and say it.

[08:26] ---

I am looking.

[08:28] ---

How would you rate me out of 100?

[08:30] ---

Eighty-five...

[08:32] ---

Apparently, not being able to say 100 is the nature of Japanese people.

[08:36] ---

If I rated you 100 already, what happens when you improve?

[08:41] ---

I, Mana Nagase,

[08:43] ---

will aim to be an idol that can't
be rated on a 100-point-scale!

[08:49] ---

Miss Nagase, it's time for rehearsal!

[08:52] ---

Coming!

[09:45] ---

"Newcomer Award"

[09:58] ---

"Idol Championship"

[10:00] ---

Pretty soon, I'll be a high school graduate.

[10:02] ---

Time flew by quick!

[10:04] ---

Oh, yeah!

[10:05] ---

Let's go for a drive soon!

[10:07] ---

Hey! Don't talk to me right now.

[10:10] ---

I just got my driver's license...

[10:11] ---

Here, say, "ah."

[10:20] ---

We're gonna be even busier after we graduate.

[10:23] ---

So you better brace yourself!

[10:26] ---

You better not forget you said that.

[10:32] ---

Graduate representative, Mana Nagase.

[10:32] ---

"Graduation"

Graduate representative, Mana Nagase.

[10:35] ---

Yes!

[10:38] ---

During my six years attending
Hoshimi Junior High and High School,

[10:42] ---

I've had various encounters.

[10:45] ---

Each encounter contributed to who I am today
and led to my current entertainment career.

[10:50] ---

I am grateful for the open-minded teachers at this school...

[10:54] ---

Senpai!

[10:55] ---

Congratulations on graduating!

[10:57] ---

Are you staying for the concert?

[10:59] ---

"Mana Nagase Special Concert Stage"

Of course!

[11:01] ---

"Mana Nagase Special Concert Stage"

It's a privilege as a

Hoshimi High School student.

[11:03] ---

Happy graduation, Makino.

[11:06] ---

Congratulations, Mana.

[11:11] ---

Well, I better go!

[11:13] ---

Make sure you watch my last concert as a high school student!

[11:18] ---

I will.

[11:32] ---

Wow!

[11:37] ---

After graduating high school, I was promoted from a part-time

[11:42] ---

to a full-time employee at Hoshimi Productions.

[11:44] ---

"Hoshimi Productions"

[11:47] ---

"Reception Room"

[11:48] ---

The 14th Next Venus Grand Prix.

[11:52] ---

Will we be entering it this time?

[11:55] ---

I'll leave that decision to both of you.

[11:58] ---

Why didn't we enter it last year?

[12:00] ---

I deemed it was too early.

[12:03] ---

The Venus Grand Prix is
limited to newcomer idols only.

[12:07] ---

"14TH NEXT VENUS GRAND PRIX
Project Proposal"
If I win, I instantly join
the ranks of top idols.

[12:11] ---

Your current popularity doesn't apply.

[12:14] ---

Every participant starts off
from an equal baseline.

[12:19] ---

It will test your true abilities.

[12:21] ---

Um, I think I'll--

[12:23] ---

--I'll enter!
--What?

[12:25] ---

Let's do this!

[12:26] ---

You are my senior, Haruko!

[12:28] ---

It's our chance!

[12:30] ---

Only by two months...

[12:33] ---

Well, if you are entering...

[12:35] ---

I'll make sure I win, of course!

[12:38] ---

Haruko and I will both participate!

[12:41] ---

What?! What?!

[12:43] ---

M-Mana...

[12:45] ---

Let's do this together!

[12:46] ---

--All right!
--Oh, no...

[12:52] ---

I'm so nervous.

[13:05] ---

Do you have the confidence

to defeat all these rivals?

[13:10] ---

Who do you think I am?

[13:12] ---

Jeez.

[13:14] ---

You haven't changed at all, huh?

[13:17] ---

I can't afford to lose at this point.

[13:18] ---

I want to meet everyone's expectations.

[13:21] ---

For Haruko, who unfortunately lost...

[13:24] ---

For Mr. Saegusa and the staff...

[13:26] ---

And most importantly,
for my fans who support me.

[13:31] ---

You're right.

[13:32] ---

And plus a little for you, too, Makino.

[13:35] ---

I'm just an after-thought, huh?

[13:41] ---

This is as far as I go every time.

[13:46] ---

I can only watch you from here.

[13:49] ---

That's your job right, Makino?

[13:56] ---

Yeah.

[13:57] ---

Plus...

[13:59] ---

You being there...

[14:01] ---

...could be a source of power for me.

[14:04] ---

Here I go!

[14:09] ---

"Mana Nagase"

[14:14] ---

She did it!

[14:15] ---

Go, Mana!

[14:38] ---

"Mana Nagase"

[14:54] ---

"Hoshimi Productions"

[15:00] ---

It's the monumental final round.

[15:03] ---

I wanted you to take me there, Makino.

[15:06] ---

The traffic seems to be bad right now.

[15:08] ---

You better be there for my performance!

[15:11] ---

I'll head over as soon as I finish this errand.

[15:13] ---

All right, then.

[15:15] ---

I won't forgive you for being late,
even if you apologize.

[15:19] ---

Mana.

[15:22] ---

You made it to the final round.

[15:24] ---

You really are amazing.

[15:30] ---

Doing what I said I would is my policy.

[15:33] ---

Have I ever said any lies?

[15:35] ---

Lots of them.

[15:37] ---

Did I really?

[15:41] ---

You better be there no matter what, Makino.

[15:44] ---

If you're not there...

[15:53] ---

I'll be waiting for you.

[15:56] ---

Sorry for the wait.

[16:11] ---

It's true that she said a bunch of little lies.

[16:14] ---

But she never told a big lie.

[16:19] ---

Mana declared that she'd win.

[16:22] ---

Because she did, she really would.

[16:26] ---

That's how it felt.

[16:27] ---

Excuse me!

[16:30] ---

Are you from Hoshimi Productions?

[16:33] ---

Yes, I am.

[16:37] ---

Still nothing?

[16:38] ---

Come on.

[16:39] ---

They're taking too long.

[16:40] ---

It could be part of the performance.

[16:43] ---

"Hoshimi General Hospital"

[16:53] ---

"East Tower | West Tower"

"Emergency Room | Internal Medicine"

"Endoscopy Center | Cardiology"

[16:59] ---

"OPERATION IN SESSION"

[17:05] ---

Mana's accidental death became the biggest news of the year when it reached the press.

[17:12] ---

And so...

[17:13] ---

The final round of the 14th

Next Venus Grand Prix

[17:19] ---

never commenced.

[17:24] ---

"2 YEARS AGO"

[17:26] ---

"Hoshimi Productions"

[17:29] ---

Makino?

[17:32] ---

Makino.

[17:34] ---

Oh, yes?

[17:35] ---

Is that your phone?

[17:39] ---

Yes, thank you for your call.

[17:42] ---

Yes, yes.

[18:19] ---

Being in the industry can make you
develop weird habits.

[18:23] ---

The day of the accident, I thought in the back
of my mind I was being involved in a prank.

[18:30] ---

The day of the final round...
She was sent off by herself...

[18:34] ---

The conditions were perfect.

[18:40] ---

Nothing's changed.

[18:45] ---

The instigator is Mana herself.

[18:48] ---

She'll come out laughing at
my dumbfounded face.

[18:52] ---

I would've been really mad.

[18:56] ---

But...

[18:57] ---

Even then...

[18:59] ---

That would've been...

[19:02] ---

...a lot more...

[19:06] ---

Makino.

[19:15] ---

No way.

[19:17] ---

Makino, over here.

[19:23] ---

Did I surprise you?

[19:27] ---

Mana...

[19:35] ---

Hey... So, it was a prank.

[19:40] ---

Suspicious as always, I see.

[19:42] ---

We've known each other so long,
let's have a little more trust.

[19:47] ---

Then stop doing things to startle me.

[19:51] ---

You're right.

[19:52] ---

Sorry!

[19:54] ---

That day, I met Mana again.

[19:58] ---

This time, as a ghost.

[20:03] ---

"TODAY"

[20:08] ---

Morning!

[20:10] ---

Well, don't you seem fired up?

[20:13] ---

Of course I am.

[20:14] ---

Interview day, was it?

[20:17] ---

What is it?

[20:19] ---

You look more like an interviewee
than an interviewer.

[20:24] ---

Well, excuse me.

[20:25] ---

But I'm three years older now,

[20:28] ---

unlike you.

[20:30] ---

Ghosts don't age!

[20:32] ---

You can still grow mentally.

[20:34] ---

I've been growing, thank you very much.

[20:37] ---

I'm a ghost, so let me take my time.

[20:40] ---

I feel like you're becoming more
and more of a slacker.

[20:43] ---

You used to shine brightly back in the day.

[20:47] ---

You know that's a taboo thing
to say to a popular idol!

[20:51] ---

That was when you were alive, right?

[20:58] ---

Were you doing interviews today?

[21:00] ---

Yes.

[21:01] ---

There may be a great increase in junior idols.

[21:04] ---

I'm happy to hear that.

[21:06] ---

Thank you very much.

[21:08] ---

But it gets me thinking of
my future career, too.

[21:12] ---

I'm sorry that I've been so useless...

[21:15] ---

That's not what I meant.

[21:16] ---

That's right. It's all your fault, Makino.

[21:20] ---

You're failing to bring out Haruko's charms.

[21:23] ---

I agree...

[21:24] ---

Huh?

[21:25] ---

I'm sorry, I was talking to myself!

[21:27] ---

Dummy.

[21:29] ---

I wonder what kind of girls we'll see today.

[21:32] ---

I'm looking forward to it.

[21:36] ---

"Hoshimi Productions"

[21:59] ---

Are you okay?

[22:02] ---

Thanks...

[22:07] ---

"From This First Step"

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