

E19 - Confrontation

Source: [Crunchyroll](#)

Translator:

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(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.)

[00:01] ---

My older brother would run back home
from school in the afternoon.

[00:06] ---

He would dash straight to his koto
and play his favorite pieces.

[00:13] ---

Mom would soon join him and the room
would be filled with fun sounds.

[00:20] ---

I liked that gentle time.

[00:25] ---

I really loved it.

[01:59] ---

"The Tsubaki School
First Performance of the Year"

[02:00] ---

"The Tsubaki School
First Performance of the Year"
"#19 Confrontation"

[02:03] ---

"#19 Confrontation"

[02:07] ---

Keishi's performance really does
put adults' to shame.

[02:10] ---

You two must be so proud
to have such an excellent heir.

[02:15] ---

Oh, well, um...

[02:21] ---

Akira. Did you like your
brother's performance?

[02:24] ---

Yep! I loved it!

[02:26] ---

Since I received a passionate encore from my cute sister, I'll play another piece!

[02:30] ---

A song by the rock band that I'm so into right now, with my special arrangement!

[02:36] ---

Yaaaay!

[02:41] ---

I'm so exhausted! Grandma's scolding always takes forever!

[02:45] ---

It was a great performance, though.

[02:47] ---

I know, right?

[02:48] ---

Yep!

[02:49] ---

Will I be able to play like you?

[02:56] ---

You'll be able to play a lot better than I can... Akira!

[03:04] ---

"First Place" "Best Performance Award"

[03:04] ---

"First Place" "Best Performance Award"
Keishi really is amazing! He gets first place in every competition he's in.

[03:09] ---

I saw your brother on TV the other day.
I wish I had a big brother like him!

[03:15] ---

I'll enter a competition, too!
I'll be a genius, too!

[03:19] ---

I'll get first place in a competition
and shine like Keishi!

[03:25] ---

"Participation Award"

[03:26] ---

Participation Award...

[03:28] ---

When Keishi gets first place...

[03:32] ---

What's wrong with Akira?

[03:34] ---

She's feeling down because

she didn't get first place.

[03:37] ---

Akira! Let's play the koto together!

[03:39] ---

No. I'm a failure as your sister.

[03:43] ---

Akira...

[03:45] ---

Keishi. How can I be first place like you?

[03:51] ---

You know, I was practicing backflips
with my friends the other day.

[03:55] ---

What?! That's dangerous!

[03:57] ---

I failed many times and I
even injured myself a little...

[04:00] ---

...but I kept trying to do it, and I did it!

[04:06] ---

Mom! I'll enter the next competition, too!

[04:09] ---

I'll keep entering them until I get first place!

[04:12] ---

Since then, I've participated
in many competitions.

[04:16] ---

I wanted to catch up with Keishi.
I wanted to shine.

[04:21] ---

But what I started seeing after working hard
and becoming more skilled

[04:25] ---

was not me shining like my brother
but his true self and talent.

[04:32] ---

I came to realize that he
really was a true genius.

[04:36] ---

But still, he practiced and
worked harder than anyone.

[04:43] ---

So I thought, "It's okay that I'm not
a genius. I can still work hard."

[04:50] ---

Akira has been working hard lately, huh?

[04:53] ---

She finally got second place the other day!

[04:56] ---

I hope she can get first place soon.

[04:58] ---

It'll be fine. I'm sure she'll--

[05:05] ---

Akira! Grandma!

[05:09] ---

Keishi...

[05:18] ---

Then, all too suddenly and unexpectedly,
our parents were gone.

[05:28] ---

"Dojima"

[05:29] ---

"Dojima"

What?

[05:30] ---

What did you just say?

[05:32] ---

I said I decided to quit college
and start working!

[05:35] ---

But aren't you gonna succeed
the Tsubaki School?!

[05:39] ---

Forgive me, Akira.

[05:40] ---

I'm quitting koto.
I'll leave the Tsubaki School to you.

[05:48] ---

W-Wait a sec!

[05:50] ---

Why are you quitting koto?!

[05:53] ---

Hey! Keishi!

[05:57] ---

Why...?

[05:58] ---

The income from the Tsubaki School alone

[06:00] ---

is nowhere near enough
to support the two of you.

[06:04] ---

But Keishi is good enough to perform--

[06:06] ---

Things aren't easy in this industry.

It'll take a while

[06:09] ---

before he can start earning money.

[06:11] ---

Then I'll quit high school and work!

[06:14] ---

Don't be ridiculous!

[06:16] ---

You're the only one who can
succeed the Tsubaki School now!

[06:19] ---

Come to terms with that!

[06:20] ---

But to think that Keishi would quit koto...!

[06:22] ---

Keishi...

[06:24] ---

Keishi entrusted everything to you!

[06:27] ---

Are you saying that you're
going to betray his wish?!

[06:33] ---

What...? Why is Keishi the one quitting?

[06:37] ---

Why...?

[06:39] ---

"Mizu no Hentai"?

[06:41] ---

That's right. Technique, singing, expression...

[06:45] ---

It's an unsurpassed masterpiece on all counts.

[06:48] ---

I'll have you focus on this piece
for the next two years.

[06:52] ---

What?

[06:53] ---

Your current ability is nowhere near Keishi's.

[06:57] ---

Many of the disciples are unhappy, too.

[07:01] ---

So I'll intensely retrain you from
the basics using this piece.

[07:04] ---

After your ability has improved,
I'll have you get first place

[07:06] ---

in the competition that attracts
the most attention in the koto industry.

[07:10] ---

Then no one should have any more complaints.

[07:13] ---

First place...

[07:14] ---

Understood? Work hard...
on behalf of Keishi as well.

[07:20] ---

On that day... my days of devotedly
facing the koto started.

[07:26] ---

I worked frantically...
so that I could replace my brother...

[07:31] ---

...and so that the choice he made
wouldn't become a mistake.

[07:34] ---

I heard that girl from Hozuki will
also be in the upcoming competition.

[07:38] ---

What? Isn't she still a middle school student?

[07:41] ---

She is. What a conceited girl...!

[07:44] ---

Hozuki is the parent school that
the Tsubaki School belongs to.

[07:48] ---

The Hozuki heir was a girl
who was also called a genius.

[07:53] ---

I've heard her performance before.
It was indeed incredible.

[07:57] ---

Perfect... No flaws... Hard to approach...
It was a performance like that.

[08:05] ---

Akira. The competition is today, right?

[08:08] ---

I can't get away from work today
to go see your performance.

[08:12] ---

That's okay.

[08:13] ---

A-Akira... Um...

[08:14] ---

Sorry. I have to go.

[08:17] ---

If I get through today,
I'm sure something will change.

[08:23] ---

I'm sure the light is waiting
for me! I'm sure...!

[08:27] ---

Entry number 5. Akira Dojima.
"Mizu no Hentai."

[08:39] ---

She's good.

[08:45] ---

--# In Oyamada... #

[08:48] ---

--What a player... She puts such care
into every single note she plays.

--# In Oyamada... #

[08:53] ---

--Both her singing and
koto technique are so pure.

--# In Oyamada... #

[08:57] ---

--Every single note is beautiful.

--# In Oyamada... #

[09:01] ---

I wonder how much she devoted herself
to playing the koto to get here...

[09:05] ---

--# ...in the fog... I thought... #

[09:08] ---

--It's okay that I'm not a genius.
I can still work hard.

--# ...in the fog... I thought... #

[09:14] ---

--Then someday, I will...

--# ...in the fog... I thought... #

[09:17] ---

--I will be able to get there, too!

--# ...in the fog... I thought... #

[09:22] ---

...someone was making
their way through... #

[09:40] ---

I did it... I was able to give
my best performance ever.

[09:47] ---

I did it!

[09:49] ---

That performance pretty much sealed first place for you.

[09:52] ---

That's not really...

[09:53] ---

Entry number 13. Satowa Hozuki.

[09:57] ---

"Yaegoromo."

[09:59] ---

The Hozuki girl...

[10:01] ---

It's amazing that she can play "Yaegoromo" at her age.

[10:04] ---

But it's okay. I know her performance. Even if she's a genius...

[10:20] ---

A single note was all it took...

[10:23] ---

The technique and expression I had attained

[10:25] ---

in the two years I devoted myself entirely to koto...

[10:28] ---

Her single note crushed them all.

[10:31] ---

Wh-What's this piece?!

This isn't "Yaegoromo"!

[10:35] ---

This will get her disqualified!

[10:38] ---

I realized then... that no matter how hard I worked,

[10:42] ---

I would never be able to reach that place.

[10:47] ---

The best performance award goes to Akira Dojima.

[10:51] ---

See! Akira! They called you.

Stop being dazed and go up already!

[10:57] ---

What? That girl isn't first place?

[10:59] ---

You dummy. She got disqualified, remember?

[11:02] ---

Oh, that's right.

[11:05] ---

Wait, what kind of piece did
the first-place person play again?

[11:09] ---

"Second Place"

"Outstanding Performance Award"

"Third Place"

[11:12] ---

"The 36th National Koto Competition
Best Performance Award"

[11:13] ---

Will I be able to play like you?

[11:25] ---

Disqualified?! That's BS!

[11:27] ---

After giving that performance?!

Don't mock me!

[11:31] ---

"Participation Award"

Don't insult me!

[11:54] ---

I thought the light was waiting for me.

[11:58] ---

But what I found there was...

[12:01] ---

"The 36th National Koto Competition
Best Performance Award"

[12:01] ---

"The 36th National Koto Competition
Best Performance Award"

...an even deeper darkness with no exit.

[12:12] ---

A short time after the competition,

[12:14] ---

I heard that girl was excommunicated.

[12:17] ---

This is a perfect opportunity.

[12:20] ---

The heir of the Hozuki School is gone.

[12:24] ---

You can take that position!

[12:27] ---

That grand master of Hozuki isn't
capable in the first place.

[12:30] ---

And look at the state her daughter,
their only hope, is in.

[12:33] ---

The school is just an empty shell now.

[12:37] ---

Yeah...

[12:39] ---

What's with her?

[12:41] ---

I wonder why she doesn't get it...

[12:43] ---

Ever since Keishi left, the Tsubaki School
has been the empty shell.

[12:50] ---

How have I been playing the koto
up until now? How have I been facing it?

[12:56] ---

When talented people are rapidly
moving away from koto...

[13:00] ---

...why is someone like me still hanging onto it?

[13:04] ---

It hurts... It hurts... I'm exhausted.

[13:09] ---

I don't care anymore.

[13:14] ---

I joined the koto club at my high school.

[13:19] ---

Please...

[13:21] ---

What? A school club?

[13:23] ---

Talent, a big house, an outstanding future...
She threw everything away.

[13:28] ---

What's her problem?

[13:29] ---

How far will she go to insult
someone who's serious about--

[13:38] ---

I just wanted to know what it was

[13:40] ---

that you wanted so badly
that you threw everything away

[13:42] ---

and even messed things up
for those around you.

[13:47] ---

I want to know its value.

[13:50] ---

That's all.

[13:54] ---

Just kidding. I'm sorry.

I carried the joke too far.

[13:58] ---

Please forget it.

[14:06] ---

The value...

[14:08] ---

Just a single note...

[14:13] ---

That's all it takes.

[14:15] ---

You don't need to hear it.

You don't need to know.

[14:20] ---

You no longer need the light...

[14:23] ---

...because you're not capable
of handling it anyway.

[14:35] ---

Well then, I'll start with the 17-string part.

[14:39] ---

Start from the beginning.

[14:43] ---

That's not good at all.

[14:45] ---

The sound isn't clear. One more time.

[14:50] ---

This boy is very quick to learn.

[14:55] ---

He absorbs what I teach
as fast as I can teach him.

[14:59] ---

This boy is a typical hard-working type.

[15:02] ---

I think he's got good intuition,
but he's almost pitifully...

[15:06] ---

...ordinary.

[15:11] ---

Mr. Takinami is cruel to have
these two play the same part.

[15:19] ---

Well then, next is the second koto part.

[15:21] ---

Okay.

[15:27] ---

Stop there.

[15:28] ---

You're not putting the right
pressure on the string.

[15:30] ---

Press harder.

[15:33] ---

Harder. That's only raising
the note by a half step.

[15:38] ---

But I can't do it any harder than this.

[15:42] ---

Your arm is open and shoulder is raised.
You can't press hard like that.

[15:47] ---

Try not to press with just your arm.
Put your weight on it.

[15:52] ---

Close my arm and put my weight on it.
Don't raise my shoulder.

[15:59] ---

Good. Let's move on.

[16:02] ---

"Nishina Instruments"

[16:06] ---

Argh! Dammit! Since that woman
told me about this unclear sound,

[16:09] ---

I can't stop thinking about it!

[16:15] ---

What?

[16:18] ---

Wh-Wh-What're you doing all of a sudden?!

[16:20] ---

Well, I was trying to remember
how hard your fingertips were.

[16:24] ---

Even so, don't touch me
so casually, stupid! Perv!

[16:27] ---

Per--?!

[16:30] ---

Could she still be holding a grudge?

[16:34] ---

Hey, you're fine.

[16:37] ---

What?

[16:38] ---

You've been kinda quiet today.

[16:42] ---

I just had a sore throat, that's all.

[16:45] ---

Throat...

[16:48] ---

Here.

[16:54] ---

You really do like strawberries, huh?

[16:56] ---

Shut up. Got a problem with that?

[17:02] ---

Thanks.

[17:04] ---

Missy.

[17:06] ---

A koto teacher I know had
that DVD you were asking about.

[17:10] ---

Really?!

[17:12] ---

Thank you very much!

[17:13] ---

Hm? What's that?

[17:15] ---

Miss Dojima's performance in that
competition where she got first place.

[17:20] ---

I felt... that I should listen to it.

[17:24] ---

I'll listen to it, too!

[17:25] ---

Hey, let's listen to it together.

[17:29] ---

Wow... I'm kinda nervous.

[17:31] ---

I'm gonna play it now, okay?

[17:37] ---

Entry number 5. Akira Dojima.

"Mizu no Hentai."

[17:58] ---

Is something wrong, Satowa?

[18:02] ---

I listened to your
"Mizu no Hentai" performance.

[18:09] ---

I'm sorry!

[18:12] ---

What...?

[18:13] ---

At first, I thought you might
be up to something.

[18:19] ---

But after listening to your performance,
I felt very ashamed for thinking that.

[18:25] ---

I've never heard a performance so sincere
towards a piece and the koto.

[18:30] ---

To someone who gives
a performance like that, I was--

[18:33] ---

Please stop it.

[18:34] ---

Satowa. Please raise your head.

[18:39] ---

Please don't make me feel any
more miserable than I do now.

[18:47] ---

U-Um...!

[18:48] ---

That time... why did you do it?

[18:51] ---

What?

[18:52] ---

You were good enough to win first place.
Did you play a different piece

[18:56] ---

to purposely get disqualified
in order to stand out?

[18:59] ---

--It's not like--
--After that competition,
you don't know how many times I heard...

[19:03] ---

"Poor thing. Her performance was first place,
but the disqualified one was better."

[19:08] ---

"Poor thing," they said.

[19:10] ---

I don't wanna hear a compliment
from you after all this time.

[19:20] ---

I wanted... to get my mother back.

[19:25] ---

Sh-She was under all sorts
of pressure and changed rapidly.

[19:30] ---

At that time, I was invisible to her.
My words didn't reach her, either.

[19:36] ---

So... I threw a tantrum on that big stage
screaming, "Look at me, Mom!"...

[19:45] ---

...like a small child...

[19:51] ---

But in the end, all I did was
hurt her and mess up the school.

[19:57] ---

You said I wouldn't need any lessons,

[20:00] ---

but there are a lot of things
that I'd like to learn from you.

[20:04] ---

So I came to formally
ask you for your guidance.

[20:09] ---

The truth is, I knew it even before she told me.

[20:13] ---

That performance was not a game
or her having fun. I knew that much.

[20:18] ---

Ahh, that's right. She's only
a first-year student in high school.

[20:24] ---

She's about the same age as me
when I could do nothing

[20:27] ---

but be protected by Keishi.

[20:44] ---

Oh, her long-sought-after first place
has been totally eclipsed.

[20:47] ---

Even though she spent two whole years...

[20:49] ---

She'll never be able to surpass her brother.

[20:52] ---

Poor thing...

[20:54] ---

Where're you going?

Do you want to escape from here?

[20:58] ---

Even if there's an exit in this darkness,
all that lies beyond it is...

[21:04] ---

...an endless series of walls
that you could never overcome.

[21:15] ---

Um...

[21:17] ---

I studied "Mizu no Hentai" for two years.

[21:21] ---

But those two years were instantly
crushed by one single note of yours.

[21:29] ---

What are you saying I should teach you?

[21:33] ---

It's time... I put an end
to all my struggling.

[23:11] ---

Oh, Miss Dojima.

[23:14] ---

I'm sorry to tell you this so suddenly...

[23:19] ---

"Koto Club"

[23:19] ---

"Koto Club"

I'm going to quit teaching
your koto club as of today.

[23:38] ---

Next time, "Another Chance."

[23:41] ---

"#20 Another Chance"

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