

E4 - Budget, Deadline and New Development

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.)

[00:01] ---

Tomorrow should be fine, Machida-san.

[00:04] ---

I'm also making good progress
on the plot for the new books.

[00:08] ---

I can trust you on that?

[00:10] ---

Have I ever lied to you before?

[00:13] ---

About your books? Never.

[00:16] ---

About deadlines? All the time.

[00:19] ---

I see.

[00:21] ---

In that case, I can't spare any
time for an interview tomorrow.

[00:25] ---

I retract my previous statement.

[00:28] ---

Hold on!

[00:29] ---

Wait just a little bit, Shi-chan!

[00:32] ---

I'll give you just three seconds
if you call me Shi-chan again.

[00:36] ---

How does that sound?

[00:37] ---

We've already reserved some pages,

[00:39] ---

*and we ran the announcement
in last month's magazines!*

[00:42] ---

*An exclusive interview with Miss Utako
Kasumi announcing her next book!*

[00:46] ---

Look, my job is to put
words on the page,

[00:49] ---

not to speak in front of someone.

[00:51] ---

Oh, so that's the problem.

[00:54] ---

*I worked hard to make these arrangements
because I thought you would be happy.*

[00:59] ---

Meaning what, exactly?

[01:00] ---

You see, I...

[02:44] ---

I have to go.

[02:48] ---

I'm sorry, Naoto-kun.

[02:50] ---

Why are you apologizing, Sayuka?

[02:53] ---

I can't be a girl
who tearfully clings to you.

[02:55] ---

I'm sorry that I chose
my dreams over love.

[03:00] ---

I'm sorry.

[03:02] ---

Goodbye.

[03:07] ---

And I'm sorry that I will
always love you anyway.

SIGN #4 "Budget, Deadline and New Development"

[03:18] ---

You read it all the way to the end?!

SIGN "Metronome in Love"

[03:21] ---

So, what did you think?

[03:23] ---

I'm a little short on sleep
today because of it.

[03:26] ---

I couldn't find a good
place to stop reading.

[03:28] ---

Wow, really?

[03:29] ---

I had always thought that light
novels were strictly for boys,

[03:33] ---

but this one is a tearjerker
even for a girl.

[03:36] ---

Kato...

[03:38] ---

I'm so proud of you!

[03:40] ---

Are you sure it's okay
for me to keep all these?

[03:43] ---

Of course it's okay!

[03:44] ---

Anyway, the ones I gave you
were for advocacy.

[03:47] ---

I have two other sets: one for
reading and one for archiving.

[03:50] ---

Really? Well, if you have extras,
I guess I'll accept them with gratitude.

[03:53] ---

I'll buy more, of course!

[03:55] ---

We have to replenish your stocks
when your advocacy runs low!

[03:58] ---

Sorry, I haven't gotten the hang
of standard otaku procedure yet.

[04:02] ---

I have to say, I can
still hardly believe it.

[04:05] ---

It boggles my mind that it was
Kasumigaoka-senpai who wrote these.

[04:09] ---

True, when it comes to
high school girls and authors,

[04:11] ---

they usually just see light novels.

[04:14] ---

Um... Well, yes.

[04:17] ---

That's part of it, but
when you see her at school,

[04:20] ---

you'd never picture her as someone
who would write a romance novel.

[04:25] ---

It's that dichotomy that really
establishes her character!

[04:28] ---

Learn from her example, Kato!

[04:30] ---

No ordinary human could
hold down a job writing books

[04:34] ---

while being a top student in school.

[04:36] ---

Yeah, it's not just God-given talent,

[04:39] ---

she must also be working
hard enough to sweat blood!

[04:42] ---

Utaha-senpai...

[04:43] ---

or rather, Miss Utako Kasumi is like a god to me!

[04:47] ---

Yes, I can see.

[04:48] ---

You've got the eyes of
a true believer, Aki-kun.

[04:51] ---

Man, I can't wait until her next book.

[04:53] ---

There has to be an anime
adaptation for this one!

[04:55] ---

I wonder what the story will be about?

[04:57] ---

Another pure love type along the
same lines as *Metronome in Love*?

[05:01] ---

Good point.

[05:02] ---

I'll have to ask her about that, too.

[05:04] ---

Will she tell you
something that important?

[05:07] ---

Isn't that bad, ethically speaking?

[05:10] ---

Ethical...

[05:15] ---

What's with that reaction, like
you're reliving past trauma?

[05:18] ---

I'm not reliving anything!

[05:20] ---

I'm not hurting in the least,

[05:22] ---

so don't get the wrong idea!

[05:26] ---

Um, okay...

[05:27] ---

I won't pry any deeper
on that particular topic.

[05:30] ---

Anyway, today is the one day
I can ask her about anything.

[05:34] ---

Why's that?

[05:37] ---

You see, the reason is...

[05:40] ---

My name is Aki, and I'll be
conducting today's interview.

[05:45] ---

It's good to meet you, Miss Kasumi.

[05:49] ---

What in the world is
the meaning of this, Mr. Ethical?

[05:52] ---

Um, I got a job offer email

[05:55] ---

from your assistant editor
last week through my website.

[06:00] ---

I mean, you're shy around strangers,
uncooperative, and foul-tempered,

[06:05] ---

so an ordinary writer wouldn't be able to
get any comments out of you, right?

[06:09] ---

So I figured that if it was someone
you knew, it would help you relax.

[06:13] ---

I'm leaving. I'm going
home and sleeping.

[06:15] ---

Wait a minute, Utaha-senpai!

[06:17] ---

But I'm shy, uncooperative,
and foul-tempered.

[06:21] ---

Well, that's certainly true...

[06:24] ---

Thank you for your time, then.

[06:25] ---

I'm sorry, I mixed up polite
euphemisms for genuine opinions!

[06:29] ---

You still seem to be doing so.

[06:31] ---

I also thought that you wouldn't
want to do this, Utaha-senpai.

[06:34] ---

But when I was told
this is my chance

[06:36] ---

to learn about your
new book before others,

[06:39] ---

there was no way that
I could turn it down!

[06:42] ---

Just let it happen, Shi-chan.

[06:44] ---

This is childish behavior for
an author who's sold 500,000 books.

[06:48] ---

Says the immature woman who has defiled our
sacred workplace by bringing in an amateur!

[06:55] ---

Utaha Kasumigaoka.
Toyogasaki Academy, Class 3C.

[06:59] ---

Her true identity is that of
best-selling author Utako Kasumi,

[07:02] ---

who won the Fushikawa Fantastic
Grand Prize in her first year,

[07:04] ---

and had a hit in her second year when her
five-volume debut series sold 500,000 copies.

[07:08] ---

And now, in her third year,

[07:10] ---

she is about to embark on her
eagerly-awaited new series

[07:14] ---

with the full backing of
Fushikawa Shoten!

[07:19] ---

So, I'm told your new book
that fans are dying to read

[07:21] ---

is going to be unveiled in this
issue of Undead Magazine.

[07:24] ---

True, it is.

[07:26] ---

I see this series is, like *Metronome in Love*,
going to be set in Wago City.

[07:30] ---

I'm reusing it, yes.

[07:32] ---

Does that mean we can expect
a link to the previous books?

[07:35] ---

For instance, is it set in the same school,
or will the same characters appear?

[07:39] ---

Possibly.

[07:41] ---

Don't fall asleep 30 seconds
into the interview, Senpai.

[07:44] ---

I can't help it. I was up all last night
working out the plot for the new series.

[07:50] ---

We're the ones who are worried sick
over you making no progress

[07:53] ---

despite your all-nighter and not
getting an introductory article.

[07:57] ---

Can't say that's me.

[08:00] ---

Goodnight... forever.

[08:06] ---

Your new series is the
eagerly-awaited follow-up

[08:09] ---

to your previous hit series,
Metronome in Love.

[08:11] ---

I expect that you're under pressure
from high expectations.

[08:14] ---

Not especially.

[08:15] ---

Um, by that, are you saying "Regardless of
how much my circumstances have changed,

[08:19] ---

it doesn't affect the job at hand.
I will continue to give it my all"?

[08:23] ---

Is that what you mean?

[08:24] ---

Actually, I don't think that my last series
sold as well as it did because of me.

[08:29] ---

Oh, I see!

[08:30] ---

"It was thanks to
the support of my readers

[08:32] ---

that *Metronome in Love*
was such a big hit.

[08:35] ---

So I'm praying that you all enjoy
my new series just as much."

[08:40] ---

I said no such thing.

[08:41] ---

I have to hand it to you,
Miss Utako Kasumi!

[08:44] ---

Your sincere engagement is
the key to your popularity!

[08:47] ---

It was because of you that *Metronome in Love*
sold so well, Mr. Ethical.

[08:52] ---

Hang on a second.
What I do isn't that important.

[08:56] ---

Well, what Shi-chan
says is about half right.

[09:00] ---

There was a clear jump in sales after
we were featured on your site,

[09:06] ---

super-blogger TAKI-kun.

[09:09] ---

Prior to that, it seemed like we were going to
have to wrap it up in volume 2 or 3.

[09:13] ---

They were never on display,
there were no reprints,

[09:16] ---

we were getting no word of mouth.

[09:17] ---

To be honest, it wouldn't exist if it weren't
for hardcore Fantastic Bunko fans.

[09:23] ---

Come on, don't give me dodgy
revelations like that, not now!

[09:26] ---

Anyway, that's because
the publisher wasn't doing its job!

[09:30] ---

That's for sure.

[09:31] ---

Fushikawa Shoten is cold to newcomers.

[09:34] ---

That's for sure.

[09:35] ---

Our sales department
has zero enthusiasm.

[09:38] ---

I can't write a single thing
you've told me in this interview!

[09:47] ---

Okay, let's start to wrap things up.

[09:50] ---

Considering how long
we've been at it,

[09:52] ---

this interview has been

precious thin on content.

[09:55] ---

If the subject had been
a little more cooperative,

[09:58] ---

we wouldn't have
had to do it like this.

[10:00] ---

Your mistake was trying to get a bunch
of inoffensive comments from me.

[10:05] ---

Then let's wrap things up
with one honest answer!

[10:09] ---

Please tell my readers what you hope
to accomplish in your next series.

[10:14] ---

Just recently, I was able to bring my maiden
effort, *Metronome in Love*, to a happy conclusion.

[10:21] ---

In addition, whether or not I am
a maiden has no bearing on this.

[10:25] ---

Keep your mouth shut...
Keep your mouth shut...

[10:27] ---

And, thankfully, it has allowed me new
work opportunities such as this one.

[10:32] ---

And that is the result of
you, my readers,

[10:36] ---

supporting the books of this newbie
who doesn't know right from her left.

[10:40] ---

And so, in order to
repay that kindness,

[10:43] ---

I will give my best in
my upcoming projects.

[10:45] ---

No, even more than that.

[10:49] ---

I look forward to your
continued support.

[10:53] ---

How was that, Mr. Part-time Editor?

[11:00] ---

It was fine.

[11:01] ---

"My gratitude will be repaid
in full with my books."

[11:04] ---

That's the Utako Kasumi I know!

[11:06] ---

Is that all?

[11:10] ---

You'll note that I used the plural.
"Upcoming projects."

[11:13] ---

Are you sure that you aren't
forgetting something, Mr. Ethical?

[11:16] ---

Do you mean...

[11:17] ---

It means that I currently have
two job offers on the table.

[11:22] ---

Client.

[11:25] ---

My project proposal...

[11:26] ---

You're going to do it?!

[11:28] ---

Can I take part in your circle
starting from next week?

[11:32] ---

Utaha-senpai!

[11:33] ---

In return, prepare yourself.

[11:35] ---

If I'm going to participate, I won't
stand for any slacking off from anyone.

[11:39] ---

I'm a little concerned that
Sawamura-san might quit, though.

[11:42] ---

Thank you...

[11:44] ---

Thank you, Utaha-senpai!

[11:46] ---

So I suggest that you do your damndest
to keep up with me, Mr. Ethical.

[11:50] ---

I'll run for dear life to make sure
I'm not left in your dust!

[11:55] ---

Now, you two,

[11:57] ---

can we have a quick meeting
to discuss work priorities?

[12:02] ---

How long have you been awake?
How long have you been watching?

[12:04] ---

And wow, it's late!

[12:06] ---

It's fine, it's fine.

[12:08] ---

This is pretty much when our
editing department starts work.

[12:12] ---

Wow, life in the publishing
biz sounds rough...

SIGN Audio-Visual Room

[12:28] ---

Get this straight, I haven't
decided if I'm going to join up.

[12:31] ---

But I can see that you're
helpless by yourself,

[12:34] ---

so I guess I can help out just a little.

[12:37] ---

If you have time to showcase
the appeal of tsundere characters,

[12:42] ---

perhaps you should simply
join up, Sawamura-san.

[12:45] ---

What kept you, Erii?
We've already started.

[12:49] ---

Wait, why are you here before me,
Utaha Kasumigaoka?!

[12:52] ---

We were all informed that the club
meeting would begin at 3:30, yes?

[12:56] ---

You arrived late, that's all.

[12:58] ---

No, not that!

[12:59] ---

That's not what I meant!

[13:01] ---

Last weekend, I was personally courted
by Mr. Ethical here, so I had no choice.

[13:07] ---

What's up with that?

I wasn't courted!

[13:10] ---

Please stop saying things that could
be misconstrued, Utaha-senpai.

[13:13] ---

And you should pay attention
to what you say, Erii.

[13:17] ---

Honestly, you're the type who can never
rest unless she's top dog at everything.

[13:22] ---

A person who would be
a poor choice as a lover.

[13:24] ---

Or one who loses everything as
she doesn't know how to back down.

[13:27] ---

Utaha Kasumigaoka!

[13:31] ---

Fine! Fine! It's all my fault,
so please take your seat!

[13:35] ---

Without any further ado, here is the production
schedule for our ultimate dating sim!

SIGN Scenario 69 ~~Master UP Illustrations 710~~

[13:42] ---

The game will be
complete in December!

SIGN Plot Scenario 69

SIGN ~~Character Design Illustrations 710~~

[13:44] ---

The unveiling will be at
the Winter Comic Market!

SIGN Master UP

[13:49] ---

In short, our legend will begin
on New Year's Eve this year!

[13:54] ---

Impossible.

[13:55] ---

That's insane.

[13:57] ---

I'd have to devote 100% of my time
to meet such a tight schedule.

[14:01] ---

I have my own club and
circle activities, remember?

[14:05] ---

And this conflicts with the writing
period for my own book.

[14:08] ---

Let's see...

[14:09] ---

If we push back the scenario
start date a month...

SIGN Plot Scenario 7~10

[14:13] ---

I could manage that.

[14:14] ---

Wait a minute,
wait a minute, wait a minute!

[14:16] ---

There isn't enough time
for me to do my work,

[14:19] ---

so what's with pushing back
the scenario development to the end?!

[14:22] ---

Please don't shorten other people's
schedules at your convenience.

[14:25] ---

If the scenario isn't done,
it will just be a crap game!

[14:28] ---

Dating sim players only
look at the pictures, anyway!

[14:31] ---

Isn't it because of people who say such
things that the industry is shrinking?

[14:33] ---

Mr. Ethical is a slacker.

SIGN Small boobs

[14:35] ---

Stop it, stop it, stop it!

SIGN Gloomy loner

[14:37] ---

For now, let's just have you two
focus on the plot and character designs.

SIGN Plot: May Character designs: May-June The rest: Adjusted separately

[14:42] ---

For now, roger.

[14:43] ---

For the time being, I'll try.

[14:45] ---

Great! Now that we've settled
on a course of action for now,

[14:47] ---

let's all get down to work.

So, what should I be doing?

[14:50] ---

Let's see... For now, go out
and buy us some snacks.

[14:53] ---

I'll have a sweet bun.

[14:55] ---

And a coffee-flavored milk.

[14:56] ---

Um, excuse me?

[14:58] ---

I'm this circle's representative-
slash-producer-slash-director.

[15:06] ---

If you're that eager to do something,
you're welcome to do the character designs.

[15:10] ---

And if you're so gung-ho, you can handle
the plot, scenario, and everything else.

[15:14] ---

Are chocolates
and a melon bun okay?

[15:17] ---

Oh, come to think of it, I remembered
one more vital mission for you.

[15:21] ---

What? What?

[15:22] ---

Fundraising, Mr. Producer.

[15:25] ---

Beg pardon?

[15:26] ---

Making a game also involves
DVD pressing fees,

[15:29] ---

packaging and manual design
and printing fees, and so on...

[15:32] ---

That can cost anywhere from
hundreds of thousands to a million yen.

[15:35] ---

A million?!

[15:38] ---

A high schooler doesn't
have that kind of money!

[15:40] ---

Really? At a single Comiket,
I sell ** books for ** yen.

[15:44] ---

My printing costs are **0,000 yen**
so the remaining 0,000 is profit.

[15:49] ---

When I put out a light novel,
the first printing is ** books at ** yen each,

[15:53] ---

and since my royalties are %,
I earn 0,000.

[15:56] ---

You guys file income tax returns?

[16:01] ---

That being the case, I can
front you the money if needed.

[16:05] ---

Utaha-senpai?

[16:07] ---

It won't be for free, of course, but I won't
charge you illegally high interest rates.

[16:12] ---

You simply need to agree
to do a little favor for me.

[16:16] ---

F-Favor?

[16:18] ---

You see, it's my...

[16:22] ---

Th-That's about enough of that,
Utaha Kasumigaoka!

[16:25] ---

But the money issue cannot be avoided.

[16:28] ---

Someone has to see
that it's taken care of.

[16:31] ---

Oh, you know that isn't what I'm objecting to, so don't play dumb!

[16:34] ---

Please don't denigrate my desire to help the circle run smoothly.

[16:39] ---

You're always doing that, talking to people like you're looking down on them!

[16:41] ---

Look, cut it out!

[16:43] ---

Enough with this infighting that's the cliched model of a circle that's going to implode!

[16:48] ---

I'll come up with something to deal with the money situation.

[16:51] ---

But...

[16:53] ---

Are you sure, Mr. Ethical?

[16:54] ---

And in return!

[16:55] ---

Erii, you draw seriously moe artwork!

[16:58] ---

Utaha-senpai, you write a scenario that will make people cry!

[17:00] ---

Can you do that, you two?

[17:05] ---

Who do you...

[17:06] ---

...think you're talking to?

[17:14] ---

So, what should I be doing?

[17:18] ---

Well...

[17:20] ---

She was here.

[17:21] ---

...if you could be a wee bit more conspicuous,

[17:21] ---

I'd completely forgotten.

[17:23] ---

sorta like a main heroine, that would be great.

SIGN *Target is 1,000,000 yen!!*

[17:38] ---

I'll do it!

[17:39] ---

I'll see this through, mark my words!

[17:42] ---

*We're gonna make the ultimate
dating sim with our own two hands!*

[17:46] ---

And I'm gonna make Kato...

[17:47] ---

*I'm gonna take that utterly
moe-less heroine and...*

[17:50] ---

*...raise her into the ultimate main heroine
that everyone will worry about!*

[17:57] ---

Welcome. How many are you?

[17:59] ---

Gosh, when was the last
time we were here?

[18:03] ---

Oh, Aki-kun?

[18:05] ---

Oh, is this a friend of yours, Megumi-chan?

[18:07] ---

Who is this?!

[18:09] ---

You can't be doing this!

[18:14] ---

Oh, you mean Keiichi-kun?
He's my cousin.

[18:17] ---

Cousin?

[18:18] ---

His whole family came yesterday for a visit,
but our parents went out to see a play.

[18:23] ---

We got tired of waiting for them, so we thought
we'd go out for dinner by ourselves.

[18:27] ---

Cousin?

[18:28] ---

I had no idea you had a job
at that restaurant, Aki-kun.

[18:32] ---

I go there about once a month.

[18:35] ---

What's the matter, Aki-kun?

[18:37] ---

I know I told you to stand out more,

[18:41] ---

but I didn't say it was okay for you
to stand out in a bad way like that!

[18:45] ---

Kato, do you understand
your position here?!

[18:49] ---

I'm a second-year high-school girl
with absolutely no agency

[18:51] ---

who was brought into a game circle
by the biggest otaku in school?

[18:55] ---

That's your pre-transformation,
assumed identity!

[18:58] ---

The real Megumi Kato is a pure
beautiful dating sim heroine

[19:02] ---

who makes everyone's
hearts beat faster!

[19:04] ---

Hearing you say that out loud again,
I'm really stumped as to how to react.

[19:09] ---

A heroine who exists solely
for the protagonists

[19:11] ---

who will play the game
would never do such a thing!

[19:14] ---

She would never forsake him
to mess with some other man!

[19:17] ---

"Other man"?

[19:20] ---

You mean Keiichi-kun, my cousin?

[19:22] ---

The "cousin" thing makes it
even more problematical!

[19:27] ---

Days long gone by when
you two played at your granny's...

[19:30] ---

You ran too much and sprained
your ankle, and your cousin carried you.

[19:34] ---

The two of you walked
home that night as you cried.

[19:36] ---

Memories of the faint
signs of love...

[19:37] ---

C'mon! In dating sims,
that always leads into memories!

[19:40] ---

Even so...

[19:45] ---

So please, Kato. I'm begging you.

[19:48] ---

Fine.

[19:49] ---

Maybe I'm being unreasonable.
Maybe I'm being obnoxious.

[19:52] ---

Maybe you're thinking,
"What kind of idiot is this guy?"

[19:54] ---

Um, I'm sorry. Leave off the "maybe."

[19:58] ---

But still, I don't want you
to see your cousin anymore!

[20:01] ---

Stay as a heroine who's saving herself
for the users, at least until the game is finished!

[20:05] ---

Aki-kun...

[20:06] ---

Please, Kato!

[20:08] ---

Um, I'm sorry.

[20:10] ---

We're supposed to go out
together this weekend.

[20:14] ---

That's right out!

[21:49] ---

Look, it isn't a date or anything.

[21:52] ---

See?

[21:52] ---

Finally Open!
Grand Opening Sale!
Everything 20% Off!!

[21:53] ---

Rokutenba Mall?

[21:55] ---

Some girls in class invited me, but
I said no because it would be crowded.

[21:59] ---

But then Keiichi-kun asked me, and-

[22:00] ---

Spare me the farfetched excuse!

[22:03] ---

Going shopping with
a guy is totally a date!

[22:07] ---

Your delusions sure
are impressive, Aki-kun.

[22:10] ---

In the bad way, as well as...
No, just the bad way.

[22:13] ---

If you're going to be that
stubborn, I have a plan!

[22:18] ---

What?

[22:19] ---

Go, but with me, not Keiichi-kun!

[22:23] ---

With you?

[22:24] ---

With me!

[22:25] ---

It's not a date, right?

[22:27] ---

You just want to buy
some things, right?

[22:29] ---

So going with me shouldn't
be a big deal, right?

[22:34] ---

Sure. I don't mind going with you, Aki-kun.

[22:37] ---

I'll turn down Keiichi-kun, then.

[22:40] ---

Wait, seriously?

[22:41] ---

You're okay with
going out alone with me?

[22:45] ---

This really is a date, right?
Is this a good idea?

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