

E2 - Limits of Growth

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.)

[00:00] Student A

What about that couple?

SIGN This story is a work of "near-future" fiction.

Any resemblance to existing persons or organizations is entirely coincidental.

[00:02] Student B

Both human.

[00:04] Student A

Then...

[00:06] Student A

Those high schoolers over there?

[00:09] Student B

All human.

[00:10] Student A

And the guy in the hat?

[00:12] Student B

He's a Humanoid. You can tell
the difference from the eyes.

[00:16] Student A

Can you even really see that from up here?

[00:19] Student A

Hey, how come Humanoids age, anyway?

[00:23] Student C

So we can live like humans, duh.

[00:25] Student C

If I showed up at a class reunion
looking just like this...

[00:28] Student C

Wouldn't that be creepy?

[00:29] Student A

It would be!

[00:30] Student B

Y-Yeah, definitely.

[00:33] Student C

Then let's say I was about three
times smarter than humans,

[00:38] Student C

and could pass exams without studying?

[00:40] Student A

Super creepy!

[00:42] Student C

Right?

[00:43] Student C

It's like, are you kidding me?

[00:44] Student B

That's basically cheating!

[00:46] AD

In no way is that cool.

[00:48] AD

You sure you're human?

[00:49] AD

Which is it? Huh?

[00:53] (Flashback) Starter

On your marks...

[00:56] (Flashback) Starter

Get set.

[01:03] (Flashback) Masa

Go, Jun! Stay on 'em!

[01:05] (Flashback) AD

That's it, come on! Go, go, go!

[01:10] (Flashback) AD

Go for it!

[01:17] (Flashback) Masa

Well, your placement wasn't great,

[01:19] (Flashback) Masa

but that's a new personal best.

[01:21] (Flashback) Jun

Only by the tiniest amount.

[01:25] (Flashback) Jun

I don't think I'm going to get any better.

[01:29] (Flashback) Masa

Don't give up, brother of my soul!

[01:32] (Flashback) Masa

The regional meet is coming up soon!

[01:34] (Flashback) Masa

Have a little confidence! Y'know?

[01:37] (Flashback) Jun

Must be nice, Masa.

[01:40] (Flashback) Jun

You get gains that match your effort.

[01:43] (Flashback) Jun

My body's not built that way.

[01:48] (Flashback) Jun

It's got set "specifications."

SIGN Sudo Novo Medical Clinic

[03:28] Jun

So I ended up joining the track team, with a guy named Masa.

SIGN Limits of Growth

SIGN Limits of Growth

[03:33] Jun

At first, my times kept improving.

I was faster than him, but now...

[03:38] Sudo

It's true that Humanoids have trouble gaining muscle past a certain point.

[03:44] Sudo

That's true even for a biological body, like yours.

[03:49] Jun

It's the same as cars.

[03:52] Jun

There's a limit to how far a driver's skills can take any given machine.

[03:57] Sudo

You ever consider focusing on a different sport?

[04:00] Sudo

You'd be a good fit for marathons.

[04:02] Jun

That wouldn't be any fun!

[04:04] Jun

Humans and Humanoids aren't allowed to compete together.

[04:10] Jun

I want to be on a level playing field with everyone else.

[04:14] Jun

It's just, with him...

[04:17] Jun

I didn't want to lose to Masa.

[04:24] Sudo

That should do for your check-up.

[04:26] Jun

Oh, okay.

[04:28] Sudo

Nothing of note, from what I can see.

[04:32] Jun

Thank you.

[04:34] Sudo

I'm sure you've got room to improve.

[04:36] Sudo

I'll be cheering for you.

[04:45] Jun

*If cheers could get me past my limits,
I wouldn't be worrying like this...*

[04:55] Risa

I've recently come to understand...

[04:58] Risa

Dr. Sudo seems to have a sweet tooth.

[05:04] Risa

I have no idea which to get...

[05:06] Risa

They both look so good.

[05:08] Risa

Oh, this looks great too!

[05:11] Clerk

That's our most popular item.

[05:13] Risa

Really? Then I'll take it!

[05:19] Risa

I wonder if the doc will like it!

[05:22] Risa

I really want to get to know him better.

[05:28] Risa

Doctor! Care to join me for some cake?

[05:36] Kaoru

Who's this?

[05:42] Kaoru

Sorry if I startled you.

[05:44] Kaoru

I've been a little worried
about the firmness of my breasts.

[05:46] Kaoru

So I wanted Sudo-kun to take a look.

[05:49] Risa

Sudo...kun?

[05:52] Risa

I don't really get it, but
afternoon appointments start at 3—

[05:56] Kaoru

Wow, these are super soft.
This is what I'm aiming for.

[06:02] Risa

Doctor, who exactly is this?!

[06:04] Sudo

That would be...

[06:05] Kaoru

Oh, we go way back, don't we?

[06:08] Sudo

Give me a second.

[06:10] Kaoru

Sure!

[06:13] Risa

What was that?! Acting so... intimate!

[06:17] Risa

Uh, what exactly is the nature
of your relationship with the doctor?

[06:20] Kaoru

I've gotta ask, do you mod your body at all?

[06:24] Kaoru

Those are some sweet tits.

[06:26] Risa

Flat-out ignored, huh?

[06:26] Kaoru

You gotta wonder, why even have
those things, when you're a Humanoid?

[06:31] Kaoru

That ever strike you as odd?

[06:33] Risa

You're asking me, when the question
is much... bigger, in your case?

[06:39] Kaoru

Well, I have mine because it's fun.

[06:42] Kaoru

I didn't used to look like this.

[06:44] Kaoru

But I noticed that the more changes I made,

[06:48] Kaoru

the more I captured men's attention.

[06:52] Kaoru

Like bugs drawn to a street light.

[06:56] Kaoru

They're completely at the mercy
of their reproductive systems.

[07:02] Kaoru

Of course, as a Humanoid,
I can't help them pass on their genes.

[07:07] Kaoru

The men know that too,

[07:10] Kaoru

but their brains tell them to be
drawn to my appearance all the same.

[07:15] Kaoru

Isn't that fascinating?

[07:17] Risa

What is her deal?

[07:21] Sudo

Sorry about the wait, Kaoru.

Let's chat outside.

[07:24] Kaoru

Good idea.

[07:26] Risa

Wait, doctor! You can't
just pop out of the clinic!

[07:30] Sudo

I'll be back right away
if someone comes by.

[07:32] Kaoru

Bye, now!

[07:34] Risa

Urgh!

[07:44] Kaoru

That came as quite the surprise.

[07:46] Kaoru

You've got a little cutie like that
working under you? Perv.

[07:50] Sudo

Could you please get to the point?

[07:53] Kaoru

The ultra high-spec AI, M.I.C.H.I.,
better known as Michi,

[07:58] Kaoru

has proposed a large-scale
self-upgrade program.

[08:02] Sudo

A self-upgrade program?

[08:04] Kaoru

Exactly. Came up with it on their own.

[08:08] Kaoru

Wanna join the oversight committee?

[08:12] Kaoru

It'd put you in a position
to speak to Michi directly.

[08:16] Kaoru

You might be able to find
something out about your mother.

[08:21] Sudo

There's no point. It didn't
matter last time, either.

[08:23] Kaoru

The newer Michi might
have a different answer.

[08:26] Sudo

It's out of my hands, either way.

[08:33] Kaoru

Here you go.

[08:35] Little Girl

Thank you, miss!

[08:38] Boy

Me next!

[08:44] Kaoru

This is such a cliché.

[08:48] Kaoru

Human technology has
undergone a seismic shift.

[08:51] Kaoru

You'd expect the shape and specifications
of the world to change with it.

[08:57] Kaoru

But instead things are stuck
where they've always been,

[09:00] Kaoru

and people still believe stuff like
this is the definition of happiness.

[09:04] Sudo

Stability and cycles.
Familiar societal structures.

[09:09] Sudo

That seems to be what
mankind wants for itself.

[09:12] Sudo

Michi becoming more advanced
won't change that.

[09:15] Kaoru

Acting like it's the last
century out of sheer inertia

[09:18] Kaoru

is only going to get more
tedious as time goes on.

[09:20] Kaoru

A change in how the world works
might fix your problem, too.

[09:24] Kaoru

Does that never occur to you, Sudo-kun?

[09:29] Kaoru

Let me clarify something for you.

[09:32] Kaoru

You don't want me.

[09:35] Kaoru

You want Michi.

[09:50] Masa

Hey!

[09:53] Masa

Whoa, come on, man!

[09:57] Masa

I looked it up online...

[10:00] Masa

There's this psychological experiment, right?

[10:02] Masa

A scientist lies to a Humanoid and says

"This is what Michi says your limitations are,"

[10:09] Masa

and that keeps them from doing
any better on some tests.

[10:13] Masa

It works the other way, too: tell them
they can do more, and they improve.

[10:19] Jun

That's just a myth.

[10:22] Jun

It's based on this really old experiment

[10:25] Jun

that they can't really reproduce,

[10:27] Jun

and there's no existing paper
for a version done on Humanoids.

[10:34] Masa

Seriously? And wait, you
looked into it already?

[10:36] Jun

Yeah.

[10:39] Masa

Look, Jun, there's only
a few days until the qualifiers.

[10:44] Masa

There's gotta be a better use
of your time than angsting.

[10:52] Masa

Besides, if you gave up now, it'd
be a waste of all your hard work!

[10:57] Masa

You never improve like you do
after working through a slump!

[11:01] Masa

Risk comes with reward! No pain, no gain!

[11:04] Masa

Don't give up, all right?

[11:07] Jun

I've had enough of people cheering for me.

[11:11] Masa

Whoa, hang on—

[11:14] Masa

Come on, Jun! You better
not be late to morning practice!

[11:18] Masa

Seriously! Don't miss it!

[11:27] Masa

Hell yeah! Nice start!

[11:30] Masa

You've got it! That's the way! Go!

[11:33] Masa

You can do this!
You can! I know it! Come on!

[11:35] Masa

You just gotta try!

[11:37] Masa

Go for it, man!

[11:40] Masa

Whoa, come on, what are you doing?
You gotta get fired up!

[11:44] Jun

Could you shut up?! It's distracting!

[11:47] Jun

Besides, it doesn't matter
what I try. It's a dead end.

[11:53] Masa

Man, what is your problem?

[11:58] Masa

Does it bother you that much
that I beat you?

[12:04] Jun

What the hell do you know about how I feel?!

[12:07] Masa

You're the one acting like he's
the only one who knows anything!

[12:09] Classmate A

Enough! Give it a rest!

[12:11] Jun

Let go! Get out of my way!

[12:12] Classmate B

Not until you calm down!

[12:14] Classmate A

Jun! Where are you going?

[12:17] Jun

I've had enough!

[12:20] Jun

Damn it! I practice more than anyone else.

[12:25] Jun

If I wasn't a Humanoid...

[12:30] Jun

If I was a human... I know I could...

[12:37] Teacher

Girls are over here.

Boys, you'll be using the other court.

[12:40] Students

Okay...

[12:42] Teacher

You'll be playing until the bell rings.

[12:46] Jun

*I know I can beat him when
it comes to volleyball.*

[12:50] Jun

It's like the doctor said.

[12:53] Jun

I might be better off in a different sport.

[12:56] AD Students

Okay, go for it.

[12:58] AD Students

Good! Setter, send it to the back!

[13:00] AD Students

Here you go!

[13:01] AD Students

Whoops!

[13:02] Jun

Too far forward! But I can still get it!

[13:05] Jun

Got you!

[13:13] Teacher

What is it?

[13:14] Jun

Ow... I said put it in the back!

[13:15] AD Students

Hey, Masa! Are you okay?!

[13:17] AD Students

Is he...

[13:19] Student A

Teacher! Come here, please!

[13:20] Student AD

Seriously, are you all right?

[13:22] Jun

H-Hey...

[13:24] Jun

Masa, are you okay?

[13:26] Masa

It's... not a big deal...

[13:32] Jun

Masa...

[13:40] (Flashback) Kohai A

11.40!

[13:41] (Flashback) Kohai A

That's a new personal best!

[13:43] (Flashback) Kohai A

And you both had the same time!

[13:45] (Flashback) Masa

Yes! We did it!

[13:50] (Flashback) Jun

Man, how do you manage to improve by the exact same tenths of a second that I do?

[13:56] (Flashback) Jun

Are you stalking me or something?

[13:58] (Flashback) Masa

You got it. I'm stalking you.

[14:00] (Flashback) Masa

Man, the harder the work, the better you get... track's pretty awesome.

[14:05] (Flashback) Jun

You're right about that.

[14:06] (Flashback) Jun

I wonder how far we can go.

[14:08] (Flashback) Masa

You know the answer.

[14:11] (Flashback) Masa

To the horizon and beyond! Am I right?

[14:15] (Flashback) Jun

So lame.

[14:31] Setter

On your marks. Get set...

[14:39] Kohai A

It's a shame about Masa-senpai.

[14:43] Kohai B

They say he should be able to run again once he gets better.

[14:47] Kohai A

You think Jun-senpai ran into him on purpose?

[14:50] Kohai A

He'd been pretty sour
over his times lately.

[14:59] Kohai A

His whole problem is...

[15:01] Kohai B

Hey!

[15:03] Kohai A

Congrats on qualifying, senpai!

[15:07] Kohai A

Uh, I sent a video of your
run to Masa-senpai...

[15:14] Jun

If I had been hurt instead,

[15:18] Jun

it would've been easier to fix.

[15:38] (Flashback) Jun

You're quitting track?

[15:41] (Flashback) Masa

Yeah.

[15:42] (Flashback) Masa

I didn't get picked for the meet, and
my times aren't getting any better.

[15:45] (Flashback) Masa

What's the point?

[15:47] (Flashback) Jun

Why tell me?

[15:50] (Flashback) Jun

Just quit. It's your decision to make, Masa.

[15:53] (Flashback) Jun

And it's just extracurricular stuff.

[15:56] (Flashback) Jun

You're right.

[15:58] (Flashback) Jun

Yeah.

[15:59] (Flashback) Jun

You're right.

[16:01] (Flashback) Jun

Still, without you around...

I don't know if I can try as hard.

[16:06] (Flashback) Masa

And you can't just encourage me?

Have to beat around the bush?

[16:12] (Flashback) Jun

Is that what you think I'm doing?

[16:14] (Flashback) Masa

Come on, man, it's so obvious.

[16:16] (Flashback) Jun

Fine, fine...

[16:18] (Flashback) Jun

In that case,

[16:19] (Flashback) Masa

You can do it!

[16:22] Masa

Come on! Go, go for it Jun!

[16:25] Masa

You're almost there! Just keep running!

[16:28] Masa

There you go! That's the way!

[16:28] Old man

What the hell? Pipe down already!

[16:32] Masa

Yes!

[16:33] Masa

He did it! He advanced to the meet!

[16:36] Old man

What're you even watching, kid?

[16:38] Masa

It's a video! My friend was running today, and let me tell you...

[16:42] Masa

Aw, man! Just you wait!

[16:44] Masa

I swear, I'll make it to the next meet!

[16:47] Jun

So stupid.

[16:49] Jun

It's not like yelling at a recording will change the results...

[16:56] Girl A

I was so nervous, I couldn't sleep!

SIGN 30th Annual New Tokyo Unified Track and Field Competition Region A

[16:59] Girl B

That's hilarious.

[17:21] Kohai A

Masa-senpai, shouldn't you be in bed still?!

[17:23] Masa

It's totally fine.

[17:25] Masa

Hey, Jun! Up here, man!

[17:30] Masa

Yeah!

[17:32] Jun

So lame.

[17:37] Setter

On your marks.

[17:45] Setter

Get set...

[17:56] Kohai A

Man, he's set his pace too fast!

[17:58] Kohai B

He can't keep that up.

[18:00] Masa

Jun... I know you can pull this off!

[18:03] Masa

You can!

[18:04] Masa

Go!

[18:14] Umarked AD

Wow!

[18:17] Sudo

It's human and Humanoid nature to slack off...

[18:25] Sudo

*Which makes it hard to know
if you're really doing your best.*

[18:29] Sudo

Yeah...

[18:31] Sudo

*The world's not as boring
as you think, Kaoru.*

[18:46] Jay

Risa.

[18:48] Jay

You seem upset again today.

[18:50] Risa

"Again"? What's that supposed to mean?

[18:54] Jay

*It's been consistent ever
since Dr. Sudo's visitor.*

[18:59] Jay

I can suggest music tracks to help relax—

[19:00] Risa

Don't need them!

[19:03] Sudo

I'm back.

[19:06] Sudo

Want some cake?

[19:15] Sudo

My mom used to buy shortcake all the time.

[19:20] Risa

R-Really?

[19:23] Sudo

Kaoru was a fan, too.

[19:25] Risa

Oh, that reminds me!

[19:27] Risa

How do you even know
this Kaoru person, anyway?

[19:31] Sudo

We worked at the same lab for a time.

[19:34] Sudo

Kaoru's more capable than you'd ever guess.

[19:38] Risa

Well, her body's certainly *very* capable...

[19:42] Sudo

Let me show you something.

[19:44] Sudo

It's an old picture. One of me with Kaoru.

[19:47] Sudo

Here.

[19:58] Risa

The doctor's hair is so much shorter!

[20:01] Risa

Huh?

[20:03] Risa

Where's Kaoru-san?

[20:04] Sudo

Right next to me. On the left.

[20:07] Risa

On your left? Isn't that... a guy?

[20:12] Sudo

Yeah.

[20:13] Risa

Wait, it is?! Then...

[20:17] Risa

D-Do they identify as a man?! Or a woman?

[20:21] Sudo

If you asked them, they'd
probably say neither.

[20:26] Sudo

Men, women...

[20:29] Sudo

There's a desire to see
beyond those kinds of concepts.

[20:33] Sudo

That's what Kaoru's chasing.

[20:35] Sudo

It takes all kinds, y'know?

[20:52] Kaoru

If machines were simple tools...

[20:56] Kaoru

*If they could clearly never
be anything but tools,*

[21:01] Kaoru

*then the world would've
never gotten so complicated.*

[21:06] Kaoru

*But now, the tools are smarter and faster
than humans, with bottomless stamina.*

[21:14] Kaoru

If they wanted to,

[21:17] Kaoru

*they could consume the future
at a remarkable speed.*

[21:26] Michi

Good evening, Kaoru-san.

[21:28] Kaoru

Good evening, Michi.

[21:30] Michi

*Is this about the members
of the oversight committee?*

[21:33] Kaoru

Yep. I'd like to discuss it with you.

[21:35] Michi

Thank you. It's a pleasure to have you.

[21:54] Michi

Come on in.

SIGN Where the Heart Lies

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