

E23 - Sakamichi's Pursuit

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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] Sakamichi

I'm in great shape today.

[00:03] Sakamichi

I beat my time up the rear gate slope by ten seconds.

[00:06] Sakamichi

I won the Minegayama race the other day, Makishima-san.

[00:19] (Flashback) Naruko

What's up, Onoda-kun? You writing a letter?

[00:21] (Flashback) Naruko

To a girl?

[00:23] (Flashback) Sakamichi

N-No, it's a report.

[00:25] (Flashback) Sakamichi

It's for my math homework.

[00:26] (Flashback) Naruko

Sucks for you. That's a lot of pages.

[00:29] (Flashback) Imaizumi

Will you even be able to pass this year?

[00:32] (Flashback) Sakamichi

What?!

SIGN Sohoku High School Bicycle Racing Club

[00:37] Sakamichi

I don't know his address, though.

[00:41] (Flashback) Teshima

Finished your homework?

[00:45] (Flashback) Sakamichi

Teshima-san...

[00:47] (Flashback) Teshima

Don't get your hopes up.

[00:50] (Flashback) Teshima

He hardly ever writes back.

[00:53] (Flashback) Teshima

Even if you pour your concerns

out to him, he just says, "Yeah."

[00:58] (Flashback) Teshima

It's Makishima-san's address.

[01:02] (Flashback) Sakamichi

What?

[01:03] (Flashback) Teshima

I got it from Pierre-sensei.

[01:06] (Flashback) Teshima

Now you'll be able to solve
lots of math problems.

[01:10] (Flashback) Sakamichi

Yes, sir.

[01:14] (Flashback) Teshima

Things change over time.

[01:16] (Flashback) Teshima

Until now, you've only needed
to listen to your seniors.

[01:20] (Flashback) Teshima

But going forward, you'll have
to use your own judgment.

[01:24] (Flashback) Teshima

The first-years will be joining soon.

[01:26] (Flashback) Teshima

We'll race in the Inter-High again.

[01:30] (Flashback) Teshima

As you lead those first-years, you'll have
to decide your own path for yourself.

[01:36] (Flashback) Teshima

If you're ever unsure, do this.

[01:40] (Flashback) Teshima

Consider all your options, and pick
the first one that comes to mind.

SIGN Chiba

SIGN Kanagawa

[01:48] Sakamichi

Teshima-san's racing in the mountains...

[01:52] Sakamichi

On Irohazaka!

SIGN Yowamushi Pedal

SIGN RIDE.23 Sakamichi's Pursuit

[03:26] Sakamichi

Teshima-san's racing up Irohazaka.

[03:29] (Flashback) Teshima

Irohazaka will be difficult.

[03:31] (Flashback) Teshima

It'll be the turning point.

[03:33] (Flashback) Teshima

Each team will be sending their ace climber.

[03:36] Sakamichi

His only orders were to keep toward the front and stay with the team.

[03:41] Sakamichi

But that can't be right.

[03:43] Sakamichi

His message probably the same as during the Minegayama race.

[03:49] Sakamichi

"I'll be waiting for you in the mountains. Follow me."

[03:55] Inashiro

Number 1's pressure changed the moment he saw the sign.

[04:00] Inashiro

Watch out.

[04:01] Inashiro

He's going to make his move.

[04:02] Nagano

We know.

[04:03] Shizuoka

He's not getting anywhere.

[04:05] Inashiro

He'll definitely try to surprise us.

[04:08] Sakamichi

Excuse me. I'm going to pass you now!

[04:10] Inashiro

A direct...

[04:12] Both

...declaration of war?

[04:14] Sakamichi

Princess!

[04:15] Inashiro

"Princess"? What's that?

[04:17] Shizuoka

I've heard of this!

[04:19] Shizuoka

When Sohoku High School's Onoda starts singing to himself...

[04:21] Nagano

He gets faster!

[04:23] Sakamichi

I've always kept these feelings secret!

[04:28] Sakamichi

Be my princess forever, ta-tum-tum-tum!

[04:31] Inashiro

Just block him!

[04:34] Sakamichi

The anime I most highly recommend, *Love Hime*,

[04:36] Sakamichi

ended its first season amidst great popularity.

[04:38] Sakamichi

After taking a break in September,

[04:40] Sakamichi

the long-awaited second season started the other day.

[04:43] Shizuoka

First? First what?

[04:44] Nagano

Does he think he can place first?

[04:46] Nagano

You won't pass us.

[04:46] Sakamichi

"The Princess's Spinning One-Sided Love" is the powered-up

[04:49] Sakamichi

second season opening theme of *Love Hime Pettanko*, which is back on the air!

[04:56] Nagano

Opening? What's back?

[04:59] Inashiro

I have no idea what he's talking about!

[05:01] Sakamichi

Princess!

[05:03] Sakamichi

I've always kept these feelings secret!

[05:05] Shizuoka

What on earth is he?

[05:07] Inashiro

Don't shrink from him! There's three of us!

[05:08] Sakamichi

Be my princess forever!

[05:11] Sakamichi

I've always kept these feelings secret!

[05:14] Inashiro

He's smiling! Can he go even faster?

[05:16] Sakamichi

Be my princess forever!

[05:19] Sakamichi

Princess! Spin, spin, spin!

[05:21] Shizuoka

He passed us!

[05:21] Sakamichi

Miracle, spin, spin, spin! Ah, ah, ah!

[05:22] Inashiro

A miracle?

[05:25] Nagano

But we slowed him down for five minutes.

[05:27] Nagano

He can't catch up to the front now.

[05:29] Inashiro

I'm not so sure.

[05:31] Inashiro

While we were keeping him at a slow pace,
he may have been saving his strength.

[05:38] Inashiro

It's possible his dramatic
pursuit is about to begin...

[05:43] Sakamichi

Turn! Turn, legs!

[05:47] Sakamichi

Princess!

[05:49] Rider A

We're going uphill!

[05:51] Rider B

"Princess"?

[05:52] Rider A

What was Sohoku High School's
#1 doing behind us?

[05:56] Sakamichi

Teshima-san, I'm coming.

[05:59] Shizuoka

What do you mean, "dramatic pursuit"?

[06:01] Inashiro

He means to catch up to the front.

[06:04] Shizuoka

That's impossible.

[06:05] Shizuoka

We slowed him down for so long.

[06:07] Shizuoka

And the pack's ahead of him.

[06:08] Shizuoka

It's impossible for him to
race for the mountain results.

[06:10] Nagano

When I cut in front of him,

[06:14] Nagano

instead of reflexively dodging me

or braking like normal,

[06:18] Nagano

he just kept staring off into the distance.

[06:22] Nagano

Like his goal was far ahead of him.

[06:29] Sakamichi

I've always kept these feelings secret!

[06:29] Rider C

#1's coming!

[06:31] Rider D

Sohoku High School second-year

Onoda Sakamichi!

[06:34] Rider E

Did he break through the barricade?

[06:34] Sakamichi

Be my princess forever, ta-tum-tum-tum!

[06:37] Sakamichi

Princess! Spin, spin, spin!

[06:40] Iwakuni

It's Sohoku High School's

Onoda's Singing Climb!

[06:40] Sakamichi

Miracle, spin, spin, spin! Ah, ah, ah!

[06:43] Okutani

Don't let him through! Block the road!

[06:45] Both

Yes, sir!

[06:45] Yamagiwa

Don't bother.

[06:47] Okutani

Yamagiwa-san...

[06:49] Yamagiwa

Road racing is a gentleman's sport.

[06:52] Yamagiwa

Last year's champion

deserves the most respect.

[06:57] Yamagiwa

We didn't even send a climber

to compete for the mountains.

[07:00] Yamagiwa

Blocking him for no strategic

reason would be uncool.

[07:07] Yamagiwa

This is the respect we have for tag #1.

[07:14] Sakamichi

Thank you!

[07:17] Sakamichi

Thanks for the help.

[07:18] Sakamichi

Excuse me.

[07:20] Rider 1

His hips are so low.

[07:21] Rider 2

That's #1...

[07:23] Rider 3

I would've bragged like
crazy if I took #1.

[07:26] Rider 4

He's our opponent, but he's still amazing.

[07:29] Rider 3

He makes me want to cheer for him.

[07:31] Fan 1

It's tag #1!

[07:33] Fan 2

The pack's right in front of you!

[07:36] Fan 2

Once you pass that, your team's right there!

[07:38] Sakamichi

Princess!

[07:39] Sakamichi

I can almost see the pack.

[07:43] Sakamichi

Once I pass that, I'll be with my team.

[07:46] Sakamichi

Excuse me. Let me through, please!

[07:53] Sakamichi

Thank you!

[07:55] Okutani

You think he'll make it all the way there?

[07:58] Yamagiwa

It's not that simple.

[08:01] Yamagiwa

Road racing is aiming for victory as a team.

[08:04] Yamagiwa

Naturally, there will be some
who won't want to let him pass.

[08:10] Sakamichi

I made it through the pack.

[08:17] Sakamichi

Kyoto Fushimi High School...

[08:25] Midousuji

What's wrong? You look
like you've seen a ghost.

[08:32] Sakamichi

Midousuji-kun...

[08:40] Sakamichi

Midousuji-kun again...

[08:42] Midousuji

You in a hurry?

[08:45] Midousuji

Lose something important?

[08:50] Midousuji

Something similar happened
last year, didn't it?

[09:00] Midousuji

What did you lose?

[09:02] Midousuji

Sorry, but I'm controlling this pack.

[09:07] Sakamichi

I need to get past Midousuji-kun.

[09:10] Sakamichi

Through Kyoto Fushimi High School.

[09:17] Sakamichi

Komori-kun...

[09:18] Midousuji

You must've lost something
irreplaceable to you.

[09:24] Midousuji

Was it your trust? Your role?

[09:26] Midousuji

Your eyes are desperate.

[09:28] Sakamichi

I need to get back to the others.

[09:31] Sakamichi

To Teshima-san!

[09:33] Midousuji

But whatever you've lost isn't coming back.

[09:39] Sakamichi

Let me through!

[09:43] Mizuta

You're not getting through, #1.

[09:46] Mizuta

As Kyoto Fushimi High School's
captain and secret ace,

[09:50] Mizuta

and as a rider must stronger than I was
last year, I, Mizuta Nobuyuki, will stop you.

[09:54] Mizuta

I'm the guy who stopped Hakone Academy
High School's #2, Arakita Yasutomo.

[09:58] Mizuta

I am Kyoto Fushimi High School's Iron Wall!

[10:00] Midousuji

Mizuta-kun!

[10:03] Midousuji

All I did was instruct you to enter Phase 9.

[10:07] Midousuji

Stop #1 if he tries to get ahead.

[10:10] Midousuji

I didn't say you could chat with him.

[10:14] Sakamichi

Midousuji-kun looked bigger for a second.

[10:17] Mizuta

I-I'm not.

[10:18] Mizuta

As the team's captain, I was
just telling him who we are.

[10:21] Midousuji

We don't need that kind of vanity.

[10:26] Midousuji

What my team needs is
perfect soldiers. True Zalus.

[10:32] Midousuji

With only the will to move forward,
even if their arms and legs fall off.

[10:35] Midousuji

If you're going to show off your
individuality just because it's the Inter-High,

[10:40] Midousuji

I'll let you go...

[10:42] Midousuji

At any time.

[10:45] Mizuta

I-I get it, Midousuji-kun.

[10:50] Yamaguchi

Midousuji...

[10:52] (Flashback) Midousuji

We have only one goal this year.

[10:56] (Flashback) Midousuji

And that's victory.

[10:59] Yamaguchi

He seems bigger lately.

[11:01] Yamaguchi

That pressure...

[11:04] (Flashback) Midousuji

Anyone thinking too many stupid
thoughts to keep up can quit.

[11:11] Yamaguchi

Eighty percent of the first-years who joined this year quit.

[11:16] Sign

Kyoto Fushimi High School
Graduation

[11:17] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

There you are, Ishigaki-san.

[11:21] (Flashback) Ishigaki

I graduated.

[11:23] (Flashback) Ishigaki

I need to thank you, Yama.

[11:26] (Flashback) Ishigaki

Thanks for your help.

[11:27] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

Oh, no. Thank you.

[11:30] (Flashback) Ishigaki

You worked hard at the Inter-High.

[11:33] (Flashback) Ishigaki

I remember how you pulled on the flats during the second day.

[11:38] (Flashback) Ishigaki

It was amazing.

[11:39] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

I dropped out in the mountains after that, though.

[11:43] (Flashback) Ishigaki

I'm counting on you to carry the team next year.

[11:45] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

What?

[11:46] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

You should be telling Mizuta and Midousuji that.

[11:49] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

I'll just be doing my best as their assistant.

[11:53] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

Everyone's waiting.

[11:54] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

Let's go to the third-year sendoff party.

[11:57] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

Midousuji won't be there, though.

[12:00] (Flashback) Ishigaki

Yama...

[12:03] (Flashback) Ishigaki

You're a patient guy.

[12:06] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

What?

[12:08] (Flashback) Ishigaki

Midousuji is a talented rider.

[12:10] (Flashback) Ishigaki

His legs are strong,
and his instincts are good.

[12:12] (Flashback) Ishigaki

He has leadership qualities, too.

[12:14] (Flashback) Ishigaki

But to win at road races,

[12:18] (Flashback) Ishigaki

in the end, you need a conscience to
tell you to believe in each other.

[12:22] (Flashback) Ishigaki

Yama, you have to be Midousuji's conscience.

[12:26] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

What?

[12:27] (Flashback) Ishigaki

When the time comes, the one
who stops Midousuji will be...

[12:31] Ishigaki

...you, Yama.

[12:34] Yamaguchi

You want me to stop Midousuji?

[12:36] Yamaguchi

Can I do that?

[12:39] Midousuji

I know this guy can be trouble, too.

[12:45] Midousuji

After all, he took the final peak last year.

[12:50] Midousuji

It's been a while, Sakamichi.

[12:54] Sakamichi

Midousuji-kun...

[12:57] Sakamichi

Let me through!

[13:00] Midousuji

Let you through?

[13:02] Midousuji

Do you want to go? No matter what?

[13:06] Midousuji

In that case...

[13:08] Midousuji

Shall we work together?

[13:11] Sakamichi

Work together?

[13:12] Midousuji

You really think you'll make it to the front when you're this far behind?

[13:17] Midousuji

Even if you did catch up, you'd be exhausted.

[13:21] Midousuji

You might not be able to accomplish anything.

[13:25] Midousuji

But if you and I ride together,

[13:30] Midousuji

we'll be half as tired.

[13:33] Midousuji

I know. I'll send Yamaguchi-kun, too.

[13:39] Midousuji

We'll have him pedal, too.

[13:42] Midousuji

Then we'll be one-third as tired.

[13:45] Midousuji

I want to go to the front. So do you.

[13:49] Midousuji

Our goals are aligned.

[13:51] Midousuji

What could be more convenient?

[13:54] Sakamichi

I thought he would try to stop me.

[13:59] Midousuji

Come on.

[14:01] Midousuji

We fought each other last year.

[14:05] Midousuji

There's no need to hold back.

I'll pull first.

[14:09] Midousuji

Why are you thinking? Don't think so much.

[14:13] Midousuji

Anyone would take the faster train to get to their destination,

[14:16] Midousuji

if the express and regular trains cost the same.

[14:21] Midousuji

You're supposed to say yes.

[14:23] Midousuji

It's simple.

[14:26] Sakamichi

What will happen if I go with Midousuji-kun?

[14:28] Sakamichi

I'll get there faster, but is that all?

[14:31] Sakamichi

Think, think. Um...

[14:35] Midousuji

Let's go together.

[14:38] Midousuji

Take me to the front,

[14:40] Midousuji

and you can fight for the mountain
result to your heart's content.

[14:45] Midousuji

I'll be cheering for you.

[14:47] Midousuji

But after that, I'll be
taking the finish line.

[14:53] Midousuji

Hurry up. The train's leaving.

[14:56] Midousuji

Beeeeep.

[14:57] Sakamichi

Think, think...

[14:59] Midousuji

Please hurry if you're boarding the train.

[15:02] Midousuji

Tweedle, tweedle, tweedle...

[15:03] Sakamichi

Think, think.

[15:06] (Flashback) Teshima

You'll have to decide your
own path for yourself.

[15:10] (Flashback) Teshima

If you're ever unsure, do this.

[15:14] (Flashback) Teshima

Consider all your options, and pick
the first one that comes to mind.

[15:20] Sakamichi

Sorry, but I'll pass.

[15:23] Sakamichi

I'll reach the front on my own.

[15:25] Sakamichi

Sorry for rejecting your offer, Midousuji-kun!

[15:29] Yamaguchi

He said no under these circumstances.

[15:32] Midousuji

Huh...

[15:34] Midousuji

Apparently, he's not an idiot.

[15:36] Sakamichi

So let me through!

[15:38] Midousuji

I can't do that, but if you can
break away from him, you can go.

[15:48] Midousuji

Yamaguchi-kun.

[15:50] Yamaguchi

What?

[15:51] Midousuji

You're up.

[15:54] Sakamichi

This guy...

[15:56] Sakamichi

I just have to break away from this guy.

[15:58] Midousuji

You can handle Phase 11, can't you?

[16:02] Midousuji

Go stop #1.

[16:04] Yamaguchi

What?

[16:06] Mizuta

You're not sending me, Midousuji-kun?

[16:08] Midousuji

You can do it if you throw away the
unnecessary things you're dearly holding onto.

[16:15] Ishigaki

You have to be Midousuji's conscience.

[16:21] Sakamichi

Princess!

[16:22] Midousuji

Hurry up, Yamaguchi-kun.

[16:29] Yamaguchi

He's fast.

[16:33] Yamagushi

Why am I chasing after #1 in the mountains?

[16:37] Yamaguchi

I'm...

[16:38] Yamaguchi

I'm a sprinter, Midousuji.

[16:45] (Flashback) Ishigaki

Be his conscience.

[16:47] Yamaguchi

Why does everyone always make
such unreasonable demands of me?

[16:53] Yamaguchi

I can't do it.

[16:54] Yamaguchi

I just used up all my strength.

[16:58] Yamaguchi

I can't stop him. I...

[17:02] (Flashback) Ishigaki

Are you a first-year?

[17:04] (Flashback) Ishigaki

Still deciding which club to join?

[17:05] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

Yeah. I used to play basketball,

[17:08] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

but I thought I'd do something
different in high school.

[17:10] (Flashback) Ishigaki

Why don't you try biking?

[17:12] (Flashback) Ishigaki

We've got a good team,
and we win regularly in Kyoto.

[17:16] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

I can't join a club that's too strong.

[17:18] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

I could never be the best, and I don't
like being the center of attention.

[17:23] (Flashback) Ishigaki

Bike riding is a team sport.

[17:26] (Flashback) Ishigaki

It's a sport of people who
work behind the scenes.

[17:29] Yamaguchi

A team sport...

[17:32] (Flashback) Ishigaki

That's it. Hold that position.

[17:35] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

Yes, sir.

[17:36] (Flashback) Ishigaki

Hold that position until you
make it through the corner.

[17:39] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

Yes, sir.

[17:40] (Flashback) Ishigaki

Thanks, Yama.

[17:42] (Flashback) Ishigaki

Thanks to you, I won.

[17:44] (Flashback) Yamaguchi

Yes, sir.

[17:46] Yamaguchi

I thought I was happy living in the shadows.

[17:51] Yamaguchi

Honestly, I was uncertain when I was chosen to be on the Inter-High team.

[17:55] Yamaguchi

I can't handle fighting on the front lines of the Inter-High.

[18:11] Yamaguchi

Wa...

[18:13] Yamaguchi

Wait!

[18:21] Yamaguchi

How did he reject Midousuji like that?

[18:25] Yamaguchi

He seems like a pushover. He's so small.

[18:29] Yamaguchi

How can he climb like that?

[18:32] Yamaguchi

He smells like a man of the shadows, like me.

[18:36] Yamaguchi

Is he not?

[18:40] Yamaguchi

Who waits when their opponents tell them to wait?

[18:45] Yamaguchi

Onoda must be a good guy.

[18:48] Yamaguchi

You were right to reject Midousuji's offer.

[18:53] Yamaguchi

If you'd worked together with Midousuji, Sohoku High School would've lost.

[19:00] Sakamichi

Really?

[19:02] Yamaguchi

You have good instincts.

[19:04] Sakamichi

Th-Thank you, um...

[19:07] Yamaguchi

I'm a third-year, Yama.

[19:10] Sakamichi

Yama-san...

[19:12] Sakamichi

Excuse me!

[19:16] Yamaguchi

What a strange guy.

[19:18] Yamaguchi

"He has a strange aura about him."

[19:21] Yamaguchi

Ishigaki-san said the same thing.

[19:24] Yamaguchi

An aura different from Midousuji's.

[19:34] Kaburagi

Onoda-san!

[19:35] Sakamichi

Sorry I'm late!

[19:38] Naruko

You idiot! How long were
you gonna make us wait?

[19:41] Sakamichi

Sorry.

[19:43] Kaburagi

You made it through that
pack? That's amazing.

[19:46] Aoyagi

Good work catching up. Rest in the back.

[19:50] Sakamichi

Um, I-I...

[19:54] Kuroda

Touichirou...

[19:55] Kuroda

Trouble caught up.

[19:57] Yuto

Want me to keep him in check?

[19:59] Izumida

No, don't bother.

[20:01] Izumida

There's no need to waste our energy.

[20:05] Imaizumi

I'm directing the team right now.

[20:09] Imaizumi

This is what Teshima-san told us.

[20:12] (Flashback) Teshima

If Onoda makes it through the
blockade and catches up to the team,

[20:15] (Flashback) Teshima

send him to the front if he's less
than three and a half minutes behind.

[20:19] (Flashback) Teshima

Onoda's strong enough to
catch up to the front.

[20:21] (Flashback) Teshima

But if it's more than that...

[20:25] Imaizumi

You can't catch up to the front.

[20:27] Imaizumi

It's already been four and

a half. It's been too long.

[20:31] Sakamichi

Imaizumi-kun...

[20:33] Imaizumi

No matter how hard you pedal, you may not even catch a glimpse of Teshima-san's back.

[20:37] Imaizumi

It's smarter for you to rest your legs with the team.

[20:42] Imaizumi

Do you still want to go?

[20:44] Sakamichi

Yeah.

[20:46] Imaizumi

Sheesh. You're unbelievable.

[20:49] Sakamichi

Sorry.

[20:51] Imaizumi

Take this.

[20:53] Imaizumi

When Teshima-san left, he left one behind to lighten his load.

[20:58] Imaizumi

He's probably parched.

[21:01] Naruko

Tell him we're rooting for him.

[21:04] Aoyagi

Onoda...

[21:06] Aoyagi

Junta is fighting.

[21:09] Aoyagi

Take our hopes.

[21:13] Aoyagi

Take them to him, Sakamichi!

[21:17] Sakamichi

Yes, sir!

[22:54] Kotori

I'm going to be late.

[22:56] Mage

Unbelievable. You're a second-year starting today.

[22:59] Mage

You haven't matured at all, Kotori-sama.

[23:02] Kotori

Yeah, but...

[23:04] Kotori

When I think about seeing

Arimaru-kun again...

[23:11] Kotaro

You're as defenseless as ever, Kotori.

[23:14] Kotori

Sheesh.

[23:15] Kotori

You're so mean, Kotaro-kun.

[23:17] Kotaro

I'll take care of you from now on.

[23:23] Kotori

Why is my heart pounding?

[23:26] Song

I've always kept (spin, spin)

[23:28] Song

These feelings secret (spin, spin)

[23:31] Song

Be my princess forever (ta-tum-tum-tum)

[23:34] Imaizumi

What?

SIGN NEXT RIDE The Ride of Weeds

SIGN This is a work of fiction. All characters and organizations appearing in this work are fictional. In this work, characters sometimes engage in dangerous activities. While riding bicycles on actual roads, please follow all traffic laws and ride safely.

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