

BASIC INFO

Shipname: KenUme

How Ume calls Kenjiro: Shirabu-san (at first), Kenji-kun (later)

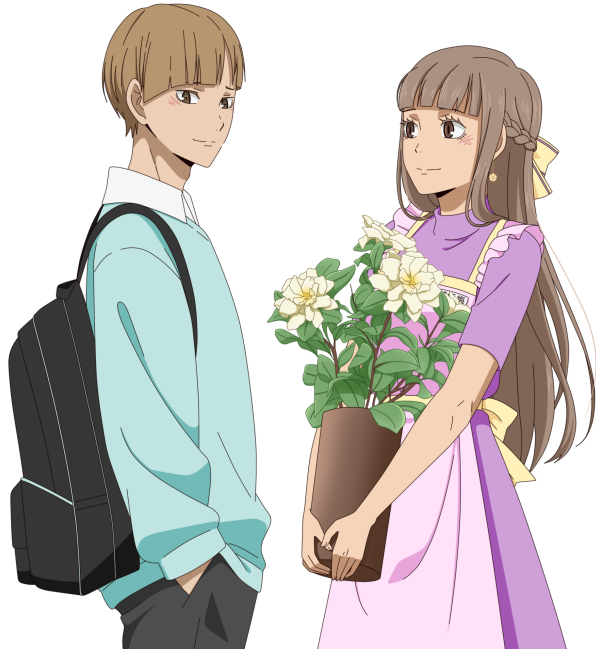
How Kenjiro calls Ume: Ayasaka-san (at first), Ume-chan (later)

PDA: holding hands

First date: public garden

Favourite places to hang out: Ume's flower shop, at home, park, campus

Favourite dating spots: gardens, movie theatre



SHORT SUMMARY / HOW THEY MET

Spoiler Alert for Shirabu Kenjiro's Timeskip Info!

Kenjiro and Ume once accidentally meet at a Shiratorizawa vs. Aoba Johsai game, because Chinatsu dragged Ume with her to cheer for her boyfriend Yahaba. While Chinatsu met her boyfriend Yahaba, Ume ran into Tendou and Ushijima, and being the scaredy-cat that she is, she was on the verge of tears because of their scary appearances. Kenjiro helped her out of the situation and remembered her as the 'crybaby with silky hair'.

After that, they haven't met each other again during their high school times. Kenjiro started studying medicine in Tokyo, while Ume decided to focus on her family's flower shop and not to pursue a university career. Soon, however, they would meet again, because it just so happens that Ume's flower shop is located right at Kenjiro's everyday commute to campus.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THEIR RELATIONSHIP

[The following events take place in spring/summer 2015, after Kenjiro started his second year at university.]

It happened on an early morning – Ume was outside the flower shop arranging the pots and preparing to open up. Being submerged in her tasks, she did not hear the frantic footsteps approaching her. Before she knew it, someone bumped into her causing both of them to fall onto the ground. While Ume was still dizzy from the fall, she heard a young man's angry voice: "Please look where you're going, you were blocking the-" "I'm sorry!!", Ume panicked, she could feel her eyes fill up with tears from embarrassment. As she looked up to the man that was already back on his feet, she recognised the kind boy she met almost two years ago – it was that boy from Shiratorizawa. Kenjiro quietly gazed at the girl before checking his watch, voicing a small "shit I gotta go" and hastily running away without saying anything. Ume slowly stood up, patted away the dirt from her apron, hid her face behind her hands and embarrassingly shook her head: "Ahhh, I'm such a clutz, I shouldn't be blocking the way like this!" As she gazed towards the

direction where Kenjiro ran off to, she thought to herself: *“He probably didn’t recognise me, did he?”*

[Meanwhile in the subway.]

“Okay, I think I can get there in time”. Having stayed up too long yesterday for a study session, Kenjiro overslept and had to run to the subway station in full speed not to miss his morning lecture. He squeezed into the fully packed subway, grabbed a strap and thought back to the encounter less than 5 minutes ago. *“I was probably too harsh to her...”* He sighed. *“But what’s this feeling... I feel like I’ve seen her before...”*. The silky long hair, the regretful eyes and that expression which makes it obvious she’s about to cry. Remembering how she desperately held back her tears, he couldn’t help but think that she looked kind of cute. *“Ah, I remember!”* He screamed out loud, causing the people around him to turn their heads. *“Ah, I’m sorry”*. He swiftly bowed in embarrassment and returned to his thoughts. *“It’s the crybaby from that day. Seems like she’s still the same.”* He chuckled softly upon remembering that day.

[That same evening.]

The sun was setting and an orange light hit the flowers in front of Ume’s work place. She was cleaning the street and preparing to close while humming to herself – it was an anime song she kept hearing from her friend Chinatsu. She didn’t know much about anime, but she liked the tune. Ume kept sweeping, making sure to watch her surroundings and not to make the same mistake as this morning. That’s when she saw Kenjiro approaching from the direction he ran off to this morning. She could feel her head turning red from embarrassment and quickly looked away to avoid his gaze. However, he stopped in front of the shop and mumbled a quiet *“Uhm...”*, upon which she shyly turned towards him, but she kept her look focused on the ground. *“I don’t know if you remember me, I ran into you this morning... Um, I’m sorry for shouting at you, I shouldn’t have run in such a crowded place in the first place. I’m a bit hot-headed so...”* Kenjiro turned away his head and scratched his cheek. Ume immediately raised her head in surprise. It wasn’t his fault, she knew that, but she didn’t know what to say and was starting to panic again. She was never good at holding conversations, even less so with people she barely knew. Instead, she bowed and hurriedly disappeared into the shop. Upon seeing her reaction, Kenjiro sighed: *“She’s probably terrified of me...”* He decided to make his way home, but he couldn’t stop thinking about the girl with the silky hair. And he didn’t even know her name.

- After this, Kenjiro keeps thinking about Ume and the same happens vice versa.
- Since the flower shop is located exactly on the way from his apartment to the subway station, Kenjiro would often find himself looking into the shop from outside while walking past it.
- He still felt bad about shouting at her, so one day, he decided to go in and buy a flower as an excuse to talk to her and apologise once more. This time, Ume managed to apologise as well and both of them smiled. He also found out her name from the nameplate on her apron.
- Kenjiro initially thought that the reason why he kept thinking about the girl was because he felt bad, but now, even after apologising, she keeps walking around in his head. He realised pretty soon that he had a little crush on her.
- He keeps entering the flower shop and buying something just to talk to her and he soon learns about her extensive knowledge about plants. She seemed much more comfortable with talking when the topic was plants, so he kept asking all kinds of stuff: flower meaning, how to take care of them, where and what season they grow.
- He visits her shop about 2 times per week, sometimes less (he’s still a busy medicine student after all), but he tries very hard to go as much as he can.

- Through these conversations, Ume grew much more comfortable talking to him about other stuff too and eventually even managed to muster up the courage to ask for his name.
- Ume started anticipating his visits to her shop, she'd find herself looking for him on the streets and wondering if he'd come by today. When he visits, she'd skip around and hum happily after he's gone.
- Eventually, Ume told her best friend Chinatsu about him and what she feels towards him. Chinatsu told that it means she likes him, upon which Ume transforms into a tomato and thinks to herself: "*I like him?*".
- After that, she starts blushing way more at him during his visits.
- Kenjiro once brought a friend to his home to study. When they passed the flower shop, his friend picked up pretty quickly how Kenjiro looked at the girl and later on teased him about his crush. He laughed at the ridiculous amount of flowers decorating Kenjiro's small apartment knowing that he isn't even interested in flowers. Over the weeks, he keeps pushing Kenjiro to confess or at least ask her on a date. It takes 3 months until he finally made a move.
- It was more of a coincidence, but that day he walked past the flower shop and found himself feeling really attracted to a specific flower, thinking that it reminded him of Ume. The flower was labelled, it was a gardenia. He didn't have time today to say hello, so he went home and looked up its meaning on the internet: "Gardenias symbolise pure attraction, secret love or starting something new. In flower language, they mean 'you're lovely'". Kenjiro immediately felt his heart beat and his face flushing.

CONFESSION

The next time he visited, he stood in front of the entrance for a while. He was thinking about how he was just about to do this stupidly romantic move and couldn't believe himself to be this cheesy. He kept bickering and mumbling to himself, thinking stuff like "Are you actually gonna do this? Isn't this way too lame? You were never the romantic type! What if she's creeped out? What if-" His monologue was interrupted by the sound of the opening entrance door and a sweet voice: "Shirabu-San! Hello, are you here to buy some flowers?" Ume smiled at him, giving him the last push he needed. "Um, yeah... I wanted to buy some gardenias." "Ah, I see, I'll get you some! You can wait inside." With a blushing face, he hastily made his way into the shop. As Ume returned, she calmly said to him: "Gardenias are actually my favourite flowers... their meaning is also really poetic!" "I see..." Kenjiro mumbled in a quiet voice. Ume was taken aback, curious as to why he is so quiet today, when usually he would be talking rather comfortably, sometimes even bickering about his professors. As soon as the flowers reached his hands, he returned them to her. Surprised, Ume asked him: "Is something wrong with them?" "No... they're for you." It took a minute for Ume to realise what he said, but as soon as she understood, all the heat streamed into her head. It was summer, mid-July to be precise, so the shop was nicely air-conditioned. Nevertheless, she felt incredibly hot and her heart couldn't stop beating. An awkward silence had spread into the room, and Ume finally managed to break it: "Do you... uhm... do you know what gardenias mean?" "Yes... that's why I'm giving them to you. So..." Kenjiro quickly looked away and scratched his head. After taking a deep breath, he turned his head once more to face her. "Would you... go out with me?" Ume directed her look to the ground, not being able to face him. She could feel a smile spread across her face and her cheekbones rising, but how could she get her feelings across as well as he did? Ume put down the gardenias, hurriedly walked across the room, picked up a pink ambrosia and placed the flower in his hand. "T-This is my answer!" Shocked by her own boldness, she ran into the backroom where her knees gave in and she sacked down onto the floor. "*He- He likes me!!*" She couldn't stop smiling.

Kenjiro, on the other hand, was left alone in an empty shop. He didn't realise what just happened and quietly stared at the flower in his hand. After it clicked in his head, he looked up the meaning for ambrosia on his phone: "Your love is returned".

A loud "YES" filled the room, even Ume could hear it. "I'll come back tomorrow!", he happily shouted so that Ume would hear it.

After that Kenjiro went home and on the next day he asked her on a date. They went to take a walk in a garden together for their first date.

HEADCANONS

- Kenjiro is a very protective boyfriend and when she has to serve male customers (and Kenjiro is present), he intensely stares at them but doesn't say anything because he doesn't want to bother Ume's work. She always pats his head later.
- They were veeeery slow in terms of physical affection. Hand holding was already quite a hurdle, but in the future they'll be quite affectionate. Ume won't ever get used to PDA though, except for hand holding (and only when there are not many people around or if it's a dating spot with lots of couples around doing the same).
- Kenjiro's favourite kisses are hand-kisses, he loves taking her small hands and kissing them.
- Ume once picked Kenjiro up from his university classes. From then on he keeps getting jealous stares from his fellow students for having good marks AND a cute girlfriend.