

✿ Scout! Snowdome ✿



If you have a high-quality frameless image of bloomed Snowdome Shu, please feel free to send him over. I will gladly give him a loving home in place of this banner.

Hello there! This is Emily ([@harmonyleaf](#)).

This gacha story—written by one of the newer Enstars writers, Nishioka Maiko—is an absolute delight. Featuring Shu, Mika, Hajime, and Mitsuru, this story starts off quite silly and fun, and towards the end becomes surprisingly heartrending. ValkyriePs, you won't want to miss out on this one. Trust me, I promise.

Please note: If you happen to spot any mistakes, do not hesitate to let me know. I am open to criticism, and have no intent to spread misinformation. I crave feedback!!!

Shu's lines that are completely italicized are him speaking through Mademoiselle.

Thank you so so so much to Euni ([@0918seigi](#)) for proofreading!!! She is the absolute best so go follow her if you haven't already. I don't know what I'd do without her.

Also, special shoutout to Poppy for supporting my descent into madness over the past week (lol). She's currently doing a [Mikamas thread](#) so go check that out!!

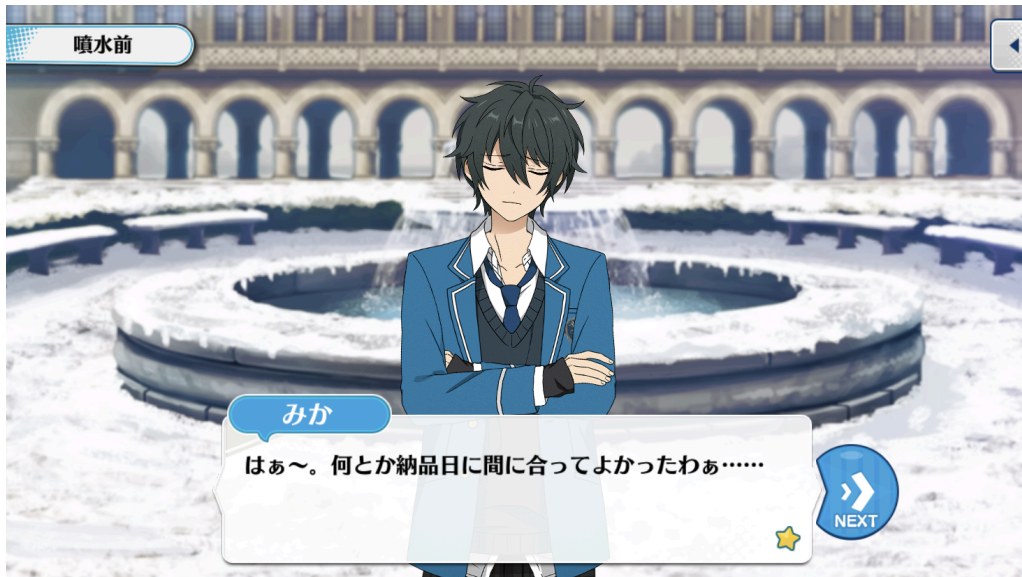
If you have any other questions/comments/suggestions, please reach out to me on Twitter! My profile is linked above.

Thank you, and I hope you enjoy!

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Chapter 1



In front of the fountain

Mika: Haaah~. 'M glad we managed t'make it in time for delivery day somehow...

(Oshi-san is real meticulous, so we're aalways jus' making our deadlines. I really thought we wouldn't make it this time.

"Everyone helped out, but we still didn't make it in time~"—we wouldn't have been able t'face people with an excuse like that.

But really, jus' how big is this StarFes gonna be anyways, needin' so many outfits?

Well, I guess it *is* Christmas. Everyone's gettin' all festive, huh.

In the place I was in before, nobody really wanted huge cakes or presents or anythin' like that. Really, jus' to decorate up a bit, and t'have everyone singing together...

But even with jus' those things, it was really fun... if we were to do Christmas in such a way, I wonder what'd be like? I can't even imagine~

Even I'm a little excited, huh~

I wonder if *Valkyrie* is gonna take part?

'M not gonna ask somethin' like that of Oshi-san though, since he's all fatigued now that our work is done. Maybe I'll try asking once he's recovered a bit.)

Brrr...!

Agh, the wind is so cold... I guess I didn't notice, bein' holed up in the clubroom for so long. Over the past few days, a *ton* of snow piled up, huh?

Nnah~, at this rate, it might turn out t'be a white Christmas this year.

...Hmm? Sounds like some beautiful song...

Hajime: ♪~♪~

Mika: So, the source of that song is Hajime-kun, huh.

Hajime: Ah, hello Kagehira-senpai. Ehehe, I suppose you heard my humming.

Mika: Yep~. Hi there ♪

...Wait. I shouldn't greet'ya with a smile. "Ra*bits" is the enemy who stole Nazuna-nii away, after all.

Hajime: Fufu. You always say that, Kagehira-senpai, but you never fail to call out to us, right? If we're really enemies, you wouldn't do that.

Mika: I guess you're right. It's all that angelic smile of yours... 's no fair~

Anyways, what're you doin' here? You've got one of the school's brooms, so are ya in the middle of a "School Part-Time Job"?

Hajime: That's right. I'm cleaning up right now. But since the snow keeps piling up, I can't make any progress.

Though it's not like I can just skip out on working. Since I can't do much about the snow, I'm searching for and cleaning up any trash that is sticking out, instead.

Mika: Sounds pretty rough... if there's anything I can do, maybe I can help out?

Hajime: Oh, no! There's really nothing like that. Actually, it's kind of like a treasure hunt, so I'm almost having fun with it ♪

Look. Right around here, I search for the little bit that's sticking out and dig it up. Just like this...

There, I got it. ♪ See? Isn't it like a treasure hunt?

Mika: Nnah~ I think I get what you're saying~. It's fun to go searchin' for something. Y'might dig up somethin' really good.

Hajime: Ehehe, that's exactly it~. I'm glad you get it, Kagehira-senpai.

Besides, weren't you and Itsuki-senpai in much more of a pinch? Great work finishing all those StarFes costumes. I'm glad you made it in time.

Mika: Thanks so much for your help before ♪ Thanks to that, we were able to deliver all the outfits~

Oshi-san's outfits are the absolute best, so it'd be bad if he were t'miss the deadline and end up losing the value he deserves.

I really am happy we made it. It's really all 'cause everyone helped out.

Hajime: No, no! I'm glad that I could return the favor just a little, since you're always looking out for me. ♪ If you ever need me again...

cough, cough!

Mika: Nnaaah!? Hajime-kun, did'ya catch a cold?

Y'overworked yourself while we were making StarFes outfits, and that weakened ya...! You worked super late that night, after all...

What should I do~!? I can't let one'a the kids from Nazuna-nii's unit get sick...! Wait, I know! How 'bout you come with me to the hospital right now!?

Hajime: Kagehira-senpai. Please calm down...! I'm alright, see~?

I probably just started coughing since it's so dry. So, I don't think I'm sick, really! The air is really dry this time of year.

Mika: Huh~...? Are ya seriously okay...?

Hajime: Yes. Thank you for your concern ♪

Mika: Nnah! 'S not like I was worried or anything!?! It would just be inexcusable to Nazuna-nii, that's all!

Hajime: Fufu, I get it. It's for Nii~chan's sake, right?

Mika: 'M glad you understand. Don' scare me like that, coughing all of a sudden.

Y'worked too much before, an' it's gotten real cold lately. It wouldn't be strange if someone's health got bad, y'know? That's why I thought y'caught a cold too, Hajime-kun.

Seems like everyone's catchin' colds in my class, too. I can hear people coughing all over the place.

Hajime: Yeah, you're definitely right~. My class is the same way. Yesterday, there were a bunch of people out sick... people need to be careful, since it's the time of year where it gets cold very fast.

Mika: Yep~, brr...! Talkin' about the weather made *me* cold~

Hajime-kun, isn't it best to call it a day? You've cleaned plenty enough. If y'keep going, you really will catch a cold at this rate, yeah?

Hajime: I'm alright~ I actually have a heat pack on my back, so I'm nice and warm ♪

Besides, I'm only part of the way through my work, so I can't just leave it unfinished now. All there's left is to clean this spot, after all.

Mika: Yeah... y'can't just abandon your part-time job, I guess.

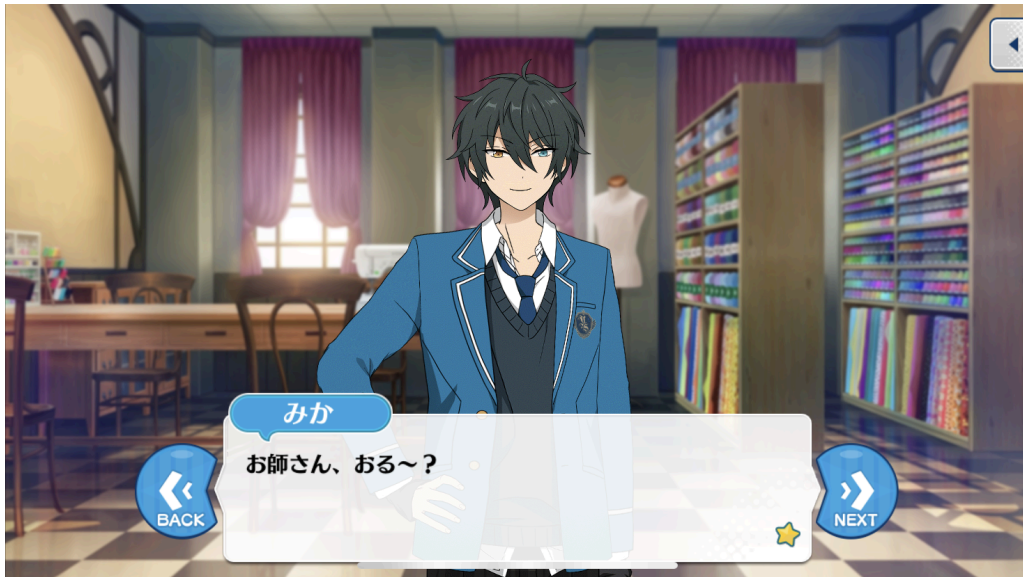
Hmmm..... Oh, that's right!

If you're gonna keep goin', then at least eat this~? Here, it's a candy. If y'have this, it should make your throat less dry, I'd hope?

Hajime: Uwaah ♪ Thank you very much, Kagehira-senpai.

Mika: Yep! Do your best~ ♪

Chapter 2



Handicrafts Clubroom

The next day

Mika: Oshi-san, y'here~?

Shu: Welcome, Kagehira ♪

Mika: ...O-Oshi-san? What's goin' on? Y'seem like you're in a very good mood...

I don' think you've ever greeted me with a smile like that up till now?

Shu: Is that so? Then I shall be sure to do so from now on.

Mika: Huh!? Oshi-san's bein' honest!? Usually I get a barrage of insults flyin' at me! Y-You're *seriously* in a good mood, huh...?

By the way, are ya sewing again, Oshi-san? Didn't we finish delivering all the StarFes outfits just yesterday?

I think it'd be best if y'let your body rest for just a little while, y'know? You're really strainin' your nerves.

Shu: You're as kind as ever. You always are worrying over me...

But you don't need to sacrifice yourself just to worry over me. Well, in turn—I've surely become spoiled by that kindness of yours.

Mika: O-Oshi-san!? Did'ya just call me kind!?

Huh? Did my ears get broken somehow? Oshi-san, won'tcha do some maintenance on me?

Shu: *Oh, I too know that Mika-chan is always kind. Right? Shu-kun.*

Mika: Madonee!? Wooow~, it sure's been awhile ♪ Y'haven't really been talkin' much lately? I've missed ya~

Shu: *Fufu. It's nice to see you ♪ You sure say sweet things.*

Mika: (whispering) Hey, Madonee. Ain't Oshi-san in a real weird state...? For some reason, he's bein' all sugary sweet...

Ah.....! Maybe Oshi-san fell into the school fountain!?

There's this legend. The one where you're asked if you'd prefer the "Beautiful Oshi-san" or the "Normal Oshi-san" who fell into the fountain!¹

Look, there's a fountain spirit right over there! Did it switch out Oshi-san while I wasn't looking~?

Shu: (whispering) *Oh dear. Isn't that the tale of the Golden Axe?*

I don't think that's it. There's only one Shu-kun in this world, after all. Isn't it simply that Shu-kun became honest towards Mika-chan's kindness?

Mika: Huh--? If I'm treated with kindness like that all of a sudden, my back starts gettin' all itchy somehow, though~...?

Shu: *It's alright. I'm sure you'll get used to it sooner or later.*

Mika: I wonder~...? Nnah? Come t'think of it--Oshi-san, we just finished makin' all the StarFes outfits yesterday, so what are you makin' now...?

¹ Mika is thinking of the legend of the golden axe, just as Mademoiselle suggests further on. If you aren't aware of the full legend, you can read it here: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Honest_Woodcutter

'Sides StarFes, there shouldn't be any other events that you have to make outfits for a while, right?

Shu: This garment, you see, is a "hula skirt".

Mika: H-hula skirt...? Um, the thing you put on your waist that flutters a lot? Looks like a mop?

Shu: This is an essential piece for the dance of offering for the *Memento Mori*². I need to put the utmost effort into every single stitch, or else it will never be complete.

Mika: Who the heck is that!? A dance of offering? For "Memento Mori"-san?

Is he some dark magic type'a guy...? I think y'should be able to follow whatever religion you want, Oshi-san, but I'd want it t'be someone you can relate to, at least

Shu: *We will all be clad solely in the "hula skirts", and must perform the wild and sacred dance from day till night as an offering.*

Mika: *We're gonna wear them!?* Well, if you say y'want us to do it, then I'll do it. But in *just* the "hula skirts"? Won't Oshi-san faint if we do somethin' like that?

Shu: *They were a warrior tribe, you see. Thus, those with breakable wills have no choice but to collapse.*

Mika: Wooow~. They sound like the type of people Oshi-san hates. He'd usually say something like, "What primitive savages. Completely lacking in elegance." to that.

No, wait a second! What do you *mean* by tribe? Did something like that ever even form in this country? And why're y'even making their outfits, Oshi-san?

Shu: *Because Shu-kun is someone who appreciates the "Muhammad Ali".*

Mika: The person's name is different from earlier...! He turned into the world champion! Ahh, but there sure is someone persuasive there, in that fighting tribe.

Shu: That outfit is specially made.

Mika: Don' just keep the conversation goin' and ignore meeeeeeee!

² "Memento Mori" is written using the kanji 森 ('mori') for some reason. I'm not sure exactly why, but I am making a note of it just in case.

Shu: That outfit cannot be knit with anything but harvested nyowool.

A garment made of 100% nyowool is the absolute warmest. It will keep one warm, no matter the depth of cold.

Mika: Hmmm. If it's just the hula skirt that keeps your waist warm, then won't the rest of you get really cold...?

And just what is nyowool anyways? Is it different from wool? And y'said it has to be harvested... is there somethin' growing nyowool in this clubroom?

That's really scary. And no matter how y'look at it, what you're doing Oshi-san is sewing, not knitting...

This is baaaad! There's so many loose threads to pick at, here!

(...Th-they're both acting *weird!*)

Shu: *When it's time to harvest the nyowool, you shear it in straight lines, Mika-chan! Fufu. Fufufufu...*

Mika: (Whaaaaaat?? Scary...! This is so scary! Did they both eat somethin' strange?)

(They need t'stop sewing for a bit and take a break... Maybe then, they'll go back to normal...!)

O-Oshi-saaan... Y'know? Maybe it's time for a break? I'm pouring some reaaal tasty tea here. And I've got your favorite croissants! How 'bout it? A break?

Shu:

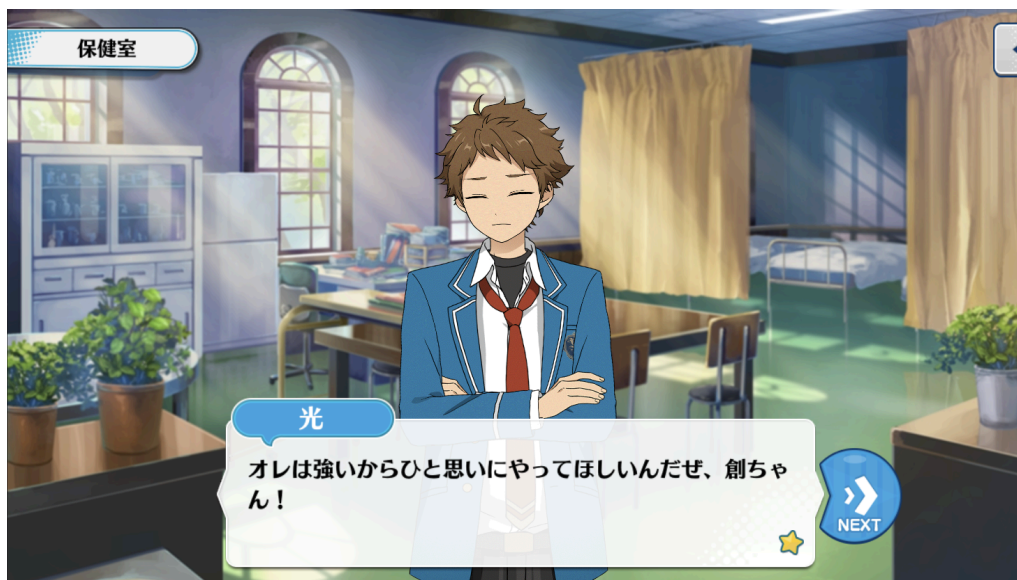
Mika: Nnah~! Oshi-san, don' ignore me now~! You've gotten this sweaty from sewing wholeheartedly, so please listen to what I'm saying~

....hm? Now that I think about it, isn't it rare for you to get sweaty like this? And it kinda looks like your head is swaying... back and forth...?

Shu: (collapses)

Mika: Uwaaaaaaaah!? Oshi-san and Madonee fell oveeeeeeeer!?

Chapter 3



School infirmary

Mitsuru: I'm tough so I want you to do it all in one go, Hajime-chan!

Hajime: Okay...! Here I go, Mitsuru-kun.

There!

Mitsuru: Owww! Hajime-chan, that's way too much! The disinfectant's stinging the scrape~!

But I'm gonna hang in there. 'Cause I'm strong, adventurous, and full of spirit!

Hajime: Mitsuru-kun, you sure are amazing~ I respect you. But you shouldn't run in places with bad footing.

This time, you only got some scrapes, but you could've gotten seriously hurt.

...Alright. That should be everything.

Mitsuru: Ehehe. Sorry for making you worry~

Huh? Hajime-chan, I hear Mika-chan-senpai's voice. It sounds like he's in a big hurry?

Hajime: What? You hear his voice...?

...Hmm. I can't hear it at all. Mitsuru-kun, even your ears are good.

Mitsuru: Yep ☆

...Huh? The voice is getting louder than before? Or, like, it's getting closer and closer to the infirmary.

Hajime: Huh?

Mika: Sagami-sensei—!!!! Please help Oshi-san and Madonee—!!!!

Nnah? Wh-what? It's jus' Hajime-kun and Mitsuru-kun? Is sensei not here?

Hajime: Waaah, you're amazing Mitsuru-kun! Kagehira-senpai really did come here.

Hello there, Kagehira-senpai~. Sagami-sensei is at a temporary staff meeting, so he's not here right now.

Mitsuru: Is that Oshi-san-senpai that you're holding up? He looks super-duper exhausted, like totally under the weather~

Mika: O...O-O-Oshi-san and Madonee collapsed! It seems like they were hangin' in there, until they started acting completely incomprehensible...!

Why're they havin' a staff meeting during the lunch break? It's bad! This's so bad! If we wait for the meeting to be over or whatever, Oshi-san 'n Madonee might die!

Wh-what 'm I gonna do... awawawawa...

Th-that's it! An ambulance! We got no choice but t'call an ambulance!

What's the number for the ambulance again!? Nnnn, umm...

I got it! It's 9-9-4!³

Hajime: P-please calm down, Kagehira-senpai~! I don't think that's right! What you're saying isn't making a lot of sense?

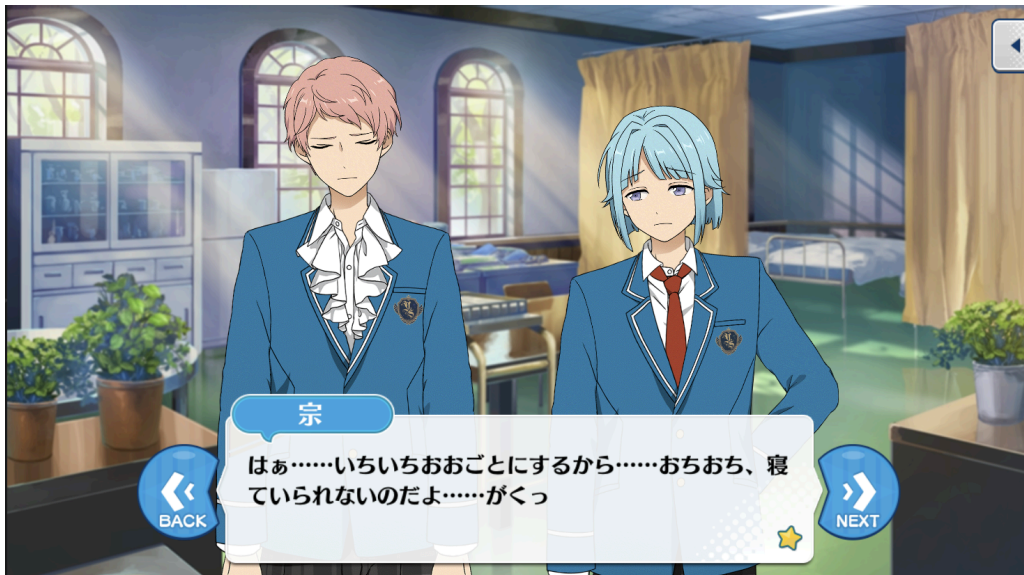
³ This was originally a play on words; Mika explicitly says 9-9-4 as *kyuukyuuusha*, or 'ambulance'. He's so flustered that he believes this to be the correct phone number. Hajime originally comments on this in the next line as well.



Shu:Ka...Kagehi...ra... stop this ruckus... This...is simply... a cold..... *pant, pant*

Mika: Oshi-san! You came to!?

Hajime: Are you alright, Itsuki-senpai?



Shu: Hah..... you keep making lots of noise... so I cannot soundly fall asleep... Ngh--

Mika: Uwaaaah! Y'collapsed again!? Don' overdo it, Oshi-san~?

C-cold!? Did'ya say cold? Huh!? What's a cold!? An incurable illness!?

Hajime: Kagehira-senpai, *please* calm down~! It's just a cold. A normal one, with coughing and a fever and such. As long as he rests up, he'll get better, okay?

Mitsuru: It seems like you're in total chaos right now! Try and calm down~ It's good to take deeeep breaths. Innnnn, and ouuuut.

Mika: *breathes in and out*hah.

Aah... a cold. I see, it's a cold... I know that sickness.

I was in too much of a hurry, and heard it as some unknown disease... I guess I got a little too panicky, there.

Hajime: When someone important to you collapses, it's only natural to be flustered. For the time being, let's lay Itsuki-senpai down on the bed.

Mika: Yeah, I got it. There we go... I'll put up a futon. Madonee can rest right here. Is this okay, Hajime-kun?

And, hmm... a cold. When you have a cold, you should...

Huh!? I can't remember anything!? Even though I used to take care of the little kids a long time ago!

Nnah~! What did I do back then!? 'M so out of it that my mind's completely blank right now! Nnah~ c'mon, Mika, remember~!

And on the other hand, I can't remember how I was taken care of when I was sick~! I haven't caught a cold that much anyways...

Oshi-san does maintenance on me before I could ever get sick. What should I do~!?

Mitsuru: Oh, oh! Pick meeee! I know a whole bunch of ways to get rid of a cold!

I've never caught one myself, but I heard 'em from Tomo-chan so they should be perfect!

Hajime: Huh? They're from Tomoya-kun? He sure knows a lot.

Mitsuru: He said that he was taught them by one of his senpais or something! I think it was "A Grandmother's Wisdom"⁴ or something like that.

A totally-successful, special... remedy, he said? I think it was that.

Mika: Mitsuru-kun, are y'sure!? Can you teach me that special remedy?

Mitsuru: Sure thing! Ummm, let's see... First, you put cabbage on their forehead, and dried plums on their temples, and tie a green onion around their head. I think that should be good~

Mika: Cabbage and dried plums and green onion! Alright, I got it!

Hajime: Wha—!? Wait just a second, Kagehira-senpai. I don't think you should do that...

Mika: It's okay, Hajime-kun. You're worried 'bout whether I can get everything right away, yeah?

But if it's for Oshi-san's sake, I can do anything! So jus' leave it to me!

Hajime: No~? Um, I'm not terribly worried about the amount of time it'll take, or anything like that, though...!?

Mitsuru: Mika-chan-senpai, dash dash~!

Mika: I'll have the stuff real soon, so jus' wait, Oshi-san and Madonee~! Dash dash~...!

Hajime: ...Ah, Kagehira-senpai...! ...Aah. He went running.

Mitsuru: Don't worry, Hajime-chan! I'm sure Mika-chan-senpai will be able to get everything right away!

Hajime: Huh? Um, yeah... That's not really what I'm worrying about, though...

Mika: Sorry 'bout the wait! Oshi-san, Madonee!

Hajime: Wh—that was fast! Did you bring everything already!? I know you said *anything* for Itsuki-senpai but wasn't that way too quick!?

⁴ In case it wasn't clear, this advice likely comes from Hokuto; he has a very close relationship with his grandmother.

Mitsuru: Super duper fast! You're awesome, Mika-chan-senpai~! I wanna have a sprinting contest! Won't you race with me?

Mika: If it's for Oshi-san's sake, I'll break the speed of sound~... is what I'd like to say.

They were in the middle of bringing in the ingredients for garden terrace just now, so I grabbed the things you told me about.

They probably wouldn't have let me do that in any other situation, but I do a lot of "School Part-Time Jobs", yeah? So they let me off the hook.

Up till now, I've never been *this* thankful for doin' so many part-time jobs.

Mitsuru: So thaaat's what it was. You came over way too fast, so I was really shocked~

Mika: Now, let's hurry up and get Oshi-san and Madonee all better~

Hajime: Ah, w-wait just a second, Kagehira-senpai...!

Mika: First, put the cabbage on his forehead...

Shu: Th... that's quite enough, you fool!

huff, huff Attempting to use such a hideous method without an ounce of credibility on myself and Mademoiselle... what in the world are you thinking!

pant, pant In the first place, I never thought you... to be particularly shrewd in the slightest—but there must be a limit... to your foolishness.

Mika: Oshi-san, you woke up!? And you're even back to normal!

I was jus' about to do the special remedy, though. But, 'm really sooooo happy!

Shu: *huff, huff* I... have been awake... for some time now. I simply... lacked the strength... to sit up...

If I were to remain silent—I thought that something dreadful... would be done to myself and Mademoiselle... and so I mustered up the strength to sit up, somehow...

Mika: Ahaha. No way, no way. What 'm doin' ain't "dreadful", but "helpful". The words sound real similar, but their meaning is totally different. Oshi-san, you... ☆

Shu: *Non!* How can you possibly think so positively!? There mustn't be any brains stuffed inside your head!

Is it sawdust in there!? It *must* be! Anything else is unimaginable, you scarecrow!
huff.... *huff*

Hajime: I-Itsuki-senpai, please calm down~. If you get that agitated, it'll harm your health more and more~!

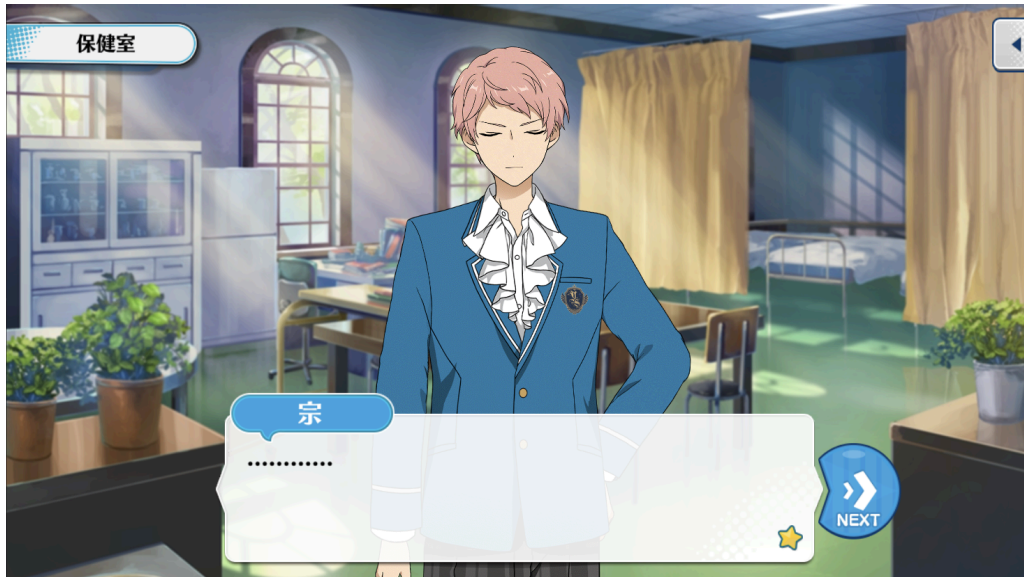
Shu: *cough, cough* Alright, Kagehira. I'm only going to say this once, so listen well.

Try to use such a disgusting method... *pant, pant*.... On Mademoiselle and I...

And you will never again cross the threshold of our house... until you bear it... in mind...

Mika: Uwaaaah!? Oshi-san collapsed again! We really should've gone for an ambulance after aaaaaall!!!!

Chapter 4



School infirmary

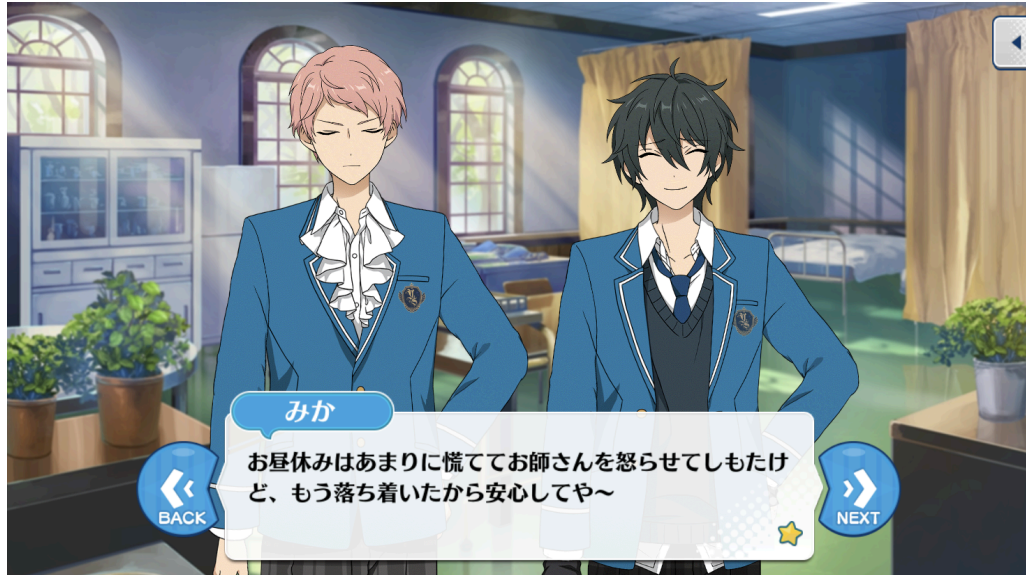
Shu:

Mika: Hmmm. Your fever keeps goin' up and down, huh. The towel I put on your forehead is already warm. I only jus' put it on not too long ago, though.



Oshi-san, wait jus' a second~. I'll change it for a cold towel right away.

So Oshi-san and Madonee's weird state ended up bein' because of a cold. You guys were bein' way too weird, so much that it shocked me.



Durin' lunch break, I was bein' too hasty and ended up makin' Oshi-san all agitated, but now 'm all calmed down, so don't worry~

Once I calmed down, I was able t'remember how I used to take care of the little kids way back when. I got a bunch of nursing advice from Hajime-kun, too.

You're not angry with how 'm takin' care of y'right now, right...?

So Oshi-san and Madonee, I hope y'get better soon. 'M lonely all by myself, here.

Shu:

Mika: 'S no use. Talkin' to myself is kiiiinda pointless, huh.

When Oshi-san is completely engrossed in sewing and I end up talkin' to myself, I don' mind it at all, though... sure is strange.

Shu:ry, f.....ome...

Mika: Huh? Oshi-san, you woke up?

...Nope, you're definitely still passed out. Then, what was that? Sleep-talking...? Is there somethin' you wanna tell me, maybe?

I couldn't really hear ya that well before, so lemme listen closely again...

Shu: So, rry..... For break..... The..... sn... ome...

Mika: "Sorry"...? He's apologizing for somethin'... But it doesn't seem like he's apologizing t'me or anything. What is it?

Hmmm... Something ending in "ome"...

Ah, is it "metronome"? Oshi-san, wait just a sec. I'll play the metronome on my phone, and—

Shu:

Mika: ...Yeah, that's no good. Oshi-san's face is gettin' more and more tense, and he's already all tensed up from the fever... It's probably annoying so I'll turn it off.

If not "metronome"... then maybe "super ball"?

Ehh... But Oshi-san is already weak from fever, so if he got hit with a super ball, I think he'd get really mad...

'Sides, I think Oshi-san dislikes that type of violent stuff.

So then, ummm...? Maybe it's "matador"...

No, that can't be it either. He'd probably dislike "bullfighting" more than he would for "super balls".

I'm bad with painful-looking or bloody things too. There's a slight difference between gory stuff and scary stuff, so...

Nnnn. I really can't think of anything else...

Nnah, didn't someone knock on the infirmary door jus' then?

Hghhh~... Do I have t'interact with someone? I don't wanna... I get stressed out by strangers, so...

Sagami-sensei, I really want ya t'stop leaving so much.

I wanna hold my breath and act all sneaky. But the person who's come to the infirmary might be injured or sick.

If I keep this up and don't let them in, it'd be like I abandoned them, and I wouldn't be able t'sleep at night.

I guess I'll just have to pull myself together and do this.... Gotta ...Hello, who is it?

Ah, it was Anzu-chan. I sure am glad~. Oh, no. I was only talkin' to myself, so no worries. So, what's the matter?

I see~. You came to visit Oshi-san and Madonee. Thank ya kindly ♪ I think they'd both be happy 'bout that.

Yeah. You're totally right. They're both sleepin' at the moment, so let's talk real quietly so we don't wake 'em up, yeah?

Oh, that's right. This is actually great timing—I wanna ask you somethin', Anzu-chan.

So, y'see. It seems like Oshi-san keeps apologizing for somethin' in his sleep, but I can't figure out what he's saying. Can you understand him, Anzu-chan?

Hmm? "snowglobe"?⁵

...Nnah, you're right! If y'listen closely, he's sayin' "Sorry for breaking the snowglobe"!

When y'don't know what someone's saying, it really sounds like you're hearing a different language and y'can't follow it at all.

Yet as soon as y'know what it is that they're saying, you end up only being able to hear that... I wonder why?

Getting the wrong impression of something sure is scary. We have such careless minds, that it's easy to get tricked into thinking one way or another.

Oshi-san tells me I'm a good-for-nothing a lot, but I feel like it's just something out of my hands, sometimes~

Nnah. I really got sidetracked there, huh. Sorry 'bout that, Anzu-chan.

⁵ The original word here was 'snowdome', as in the title of the gacha. However, they are more commonly referred to as 'snowglobes' in NA eng, so I decided to change it as such.

Anyways. So why *is* Oshi-san apologizing for having broken a snowglobe?

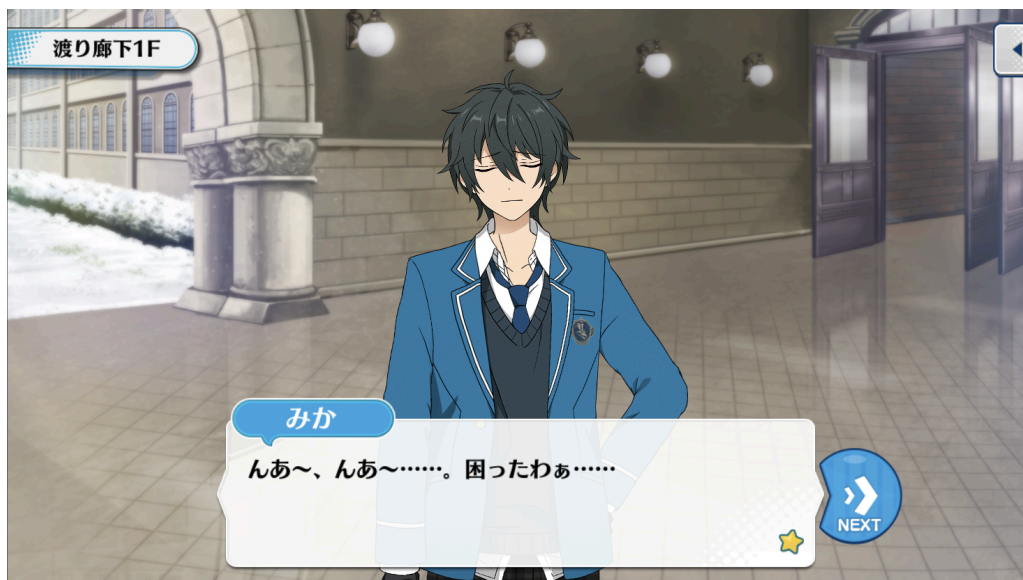
Nope. I don't think he's sayin' it to me. I don't have a snowglobe.

Huh? 'S that right? When you're weak, the things that worry you from the bottom of your heart come out? Then, that might be what Oshi-san's doing...

Hmmm... Okay, Anzu-chan. I think I just got an idea.

Maybe, if I bring Oshi-san an unbroken snowglobe, his mood will clear up a little, and at the same time, he might recover faster...?

Chapter 5



First floor corridor

Mika: Nnah~, nnah... this sure is troublesome...

I thought I'd be able to get my hands on a snowglobe for Oshi-san and left, but I have no clue at all where snowglobes are sold.

I know there's no way I can get the exact same one that Oshi-san broke, but I thought that if I could find one even prettier than the original, I could give it to Oshi-san and make him happy~

I thought it was a good idea~

But I'm already stuck at what to do t'get one... how cruel~

No, maybe I've acted foolish? I'm rushing out without even thinking first.

At times like this, Oshi-san would typically get mad at me, sayin' "You truly are a bungled, failed creation!". But I don' even have that now, so that's why I'm all off~

If it's for the sake of him getting back to normal, even his criticisms are fine, I just wanna hear Oshi-san's voice!

Ah, but ain't that snowglobe necessary to make him healthy again...? But since I can't hear his voice, now *I'm* all off too~?

Nnah~! My head's spinning~! It's a never-ending cycle~!

Mitsuru: Ummm... Mika-chan-senpai, what have you been muttering to yourself about for a while now? You okay?

Mika: Eeek!? Y'scared me, suddenly talkin' to me from behind like that~. Don't come outta nowhere~

Mitsuru: I've been here the whole time since you started tugging at your hair, yanno? So rude, hmp hmp!

Mika: 'S that right. Then I jus' didn't notice ya, huh. Sorry for not seein' ya, Mitsuru-kun.

Mitsuru: It's okay, as long as you get it! By the way, did Oshi-san-senpai get all better?

Mika: Thank ya kindly for your help during lunch break, Mitsuru-kun and Hajime-kun both ♪ Thanks to your help, I was able to take care of him jus' right.

But Oshi-san's condition hasn't changed much. I do think he got a little better, though...

Mitsuru: I see~. I'll cheer him on too so he gets better super fast!

Mika: Ahaha. Ain't cheerin' him on a little weird? But thank ya kindly ♪ I think he's gonna get better real soon~

Mitsuru: Hmm? But then why are you worrying, Mika-chan-senpai?

Mika: Aah. I actually want a snowglobe to bring to Oshi-san, but I don't know a good place where I can get one, so I don't know what to do.

D'you know where they're sold? ...well, there's no way you do, huh.

Y'know that moment where you feel like you see 'em around all the time, but now that you wanna buy one you don't know where they're sold at all? That's what it's like right now.

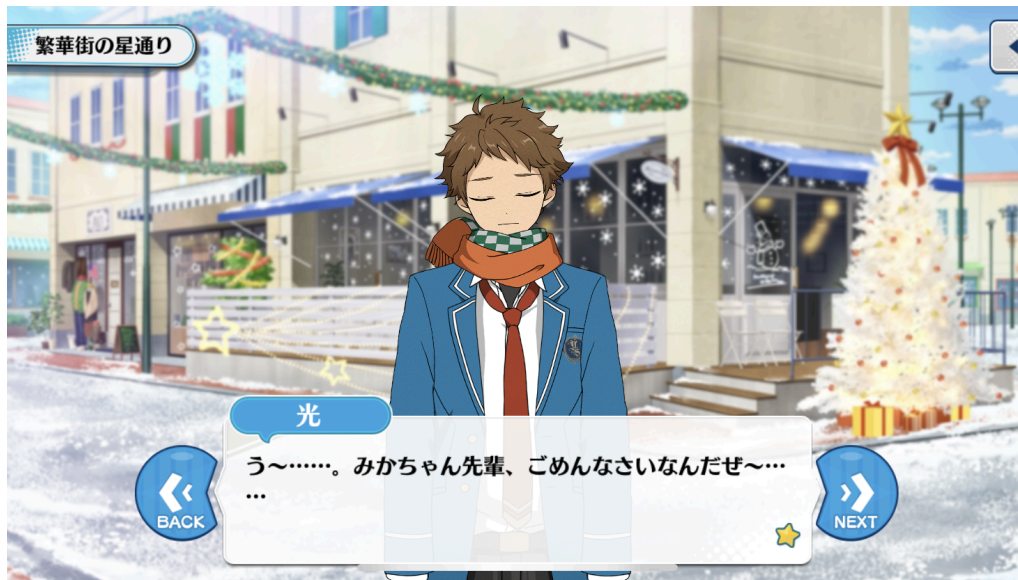
Mitsuru: I know where they are.

Mika: Yeah, I figured... there's no way you'd..... wait, you do!?

Mitsuru: Yep. A snowglobe is one of those thingies, right? A see-through ball with little dolls and stuff inside. It's an ornament with sparkly snow falling inside it, right?

Mika: Yes, yes! That's it~! Can y'tell me where they sell 'em!?

Mitsuru: Sure thing~! I've got the perfect amount of time right now, so I'll take you right to the store itself!



Street in the shopping district

Mitsuru: Uuu~... Mika-chan-senpai, I'm really sorry...

Mika: No, don' worry about it. There's no helping somethin' like this~ ...it's just a shame.

T'think that all the snowglobes already sold out, huh.

Mitsuru: When I came with Hajime-chan a little while ago, there were a whole bunch of them, though...

Mika: Well, it's probably 'cause of the season. It's almost Christmas, so. The person in the store said this is the time of year when they sell the best.

But what am I gonna do now~? We're basically back at square one in searching for a snowglobe.

Hmmm... Searching one at a time through stores similar to this one might be the fastest way to go. Mitsuru-kun, do you know any stores like this one?

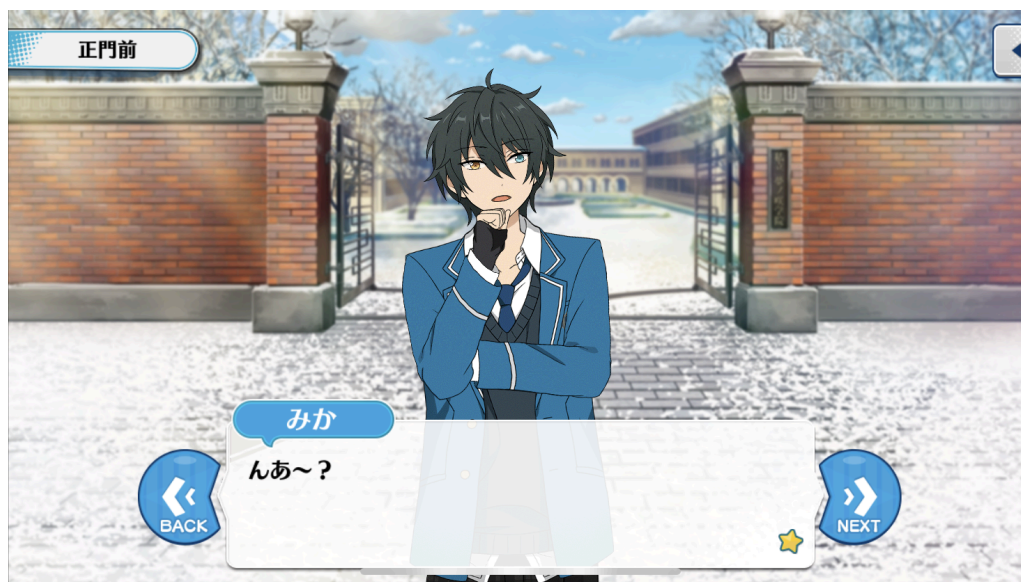
Mitsuru: Not really. I sometimes come to this store with Hajime-chan, but I haven't gone anywhere but here.

.....Huh? Now that I think about it... The last time we came here, Hajime-chan did buy...?

Mika: Mitsuru-kun, what are you sayin'?

Mitsuru: Mika-chan-senpai, I got a great idea! We might be able to get our hands on a snowglobe after all!

Mika: Eeh, is that true!?



School gates

Mika: Nnah~?

Hey, Mitsuru-kun. No matter how y'look at it, 'm pretty sure this is our school. Are my eyes failin' me?

Mitsuru: Nope! You're totally right, Mika-chan-senpai! It's our school building~

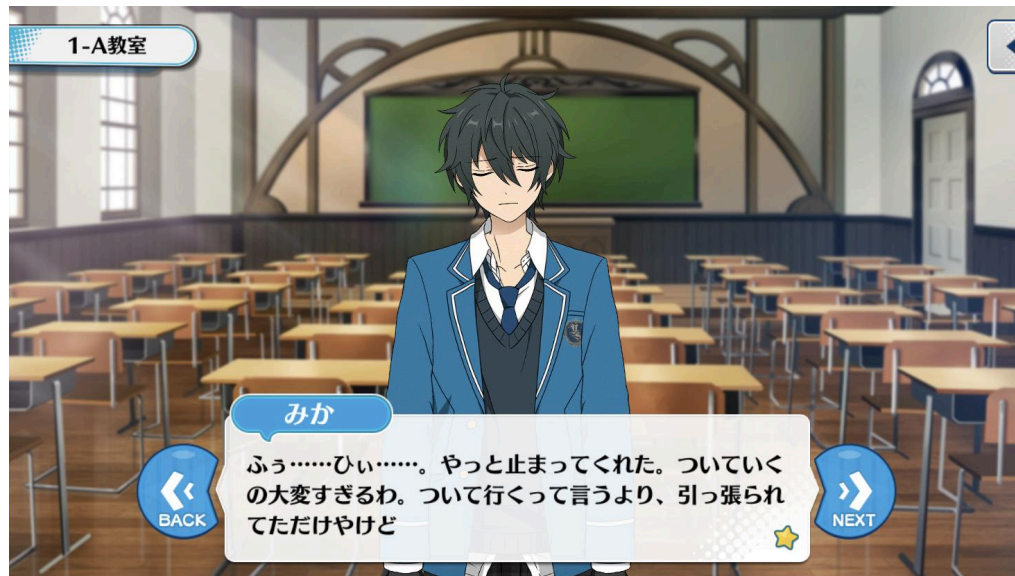
Mika: Huh, so it isn't my mistake! Why are we comin' back? If we do this, then there's no reason why we left in the first place.

'Sides, do they actually sell snowglobes here?

I don't think I've ever seen that before~? Or, is there a place to buy them that I just don't know about?

Mitsuru: Hmhm ♪ We're not gonna buy one. Come on already, follow me!
Mika-chan-senpai, hurry up! Dash dash~ ☆

Mika: Nnah~! I got it, alright~. I can walk by myself. So stop pullin' on me so hard~



1-A Classroom

Mika: *huff, pant* ...Y'finally stopped. Followin' you was real difficult. Well, rather than followin' you, it's more like I got pulled along.

You just grabbed on t'me and ran at an incredible speed...

Nnah? Isn't this one'a the first years' classrooms? Is there really a snowglobe in a place like this?

Mitsuru: Yep! Everything's gonna be great. Our savior is here~

Hajime-chaaaan!

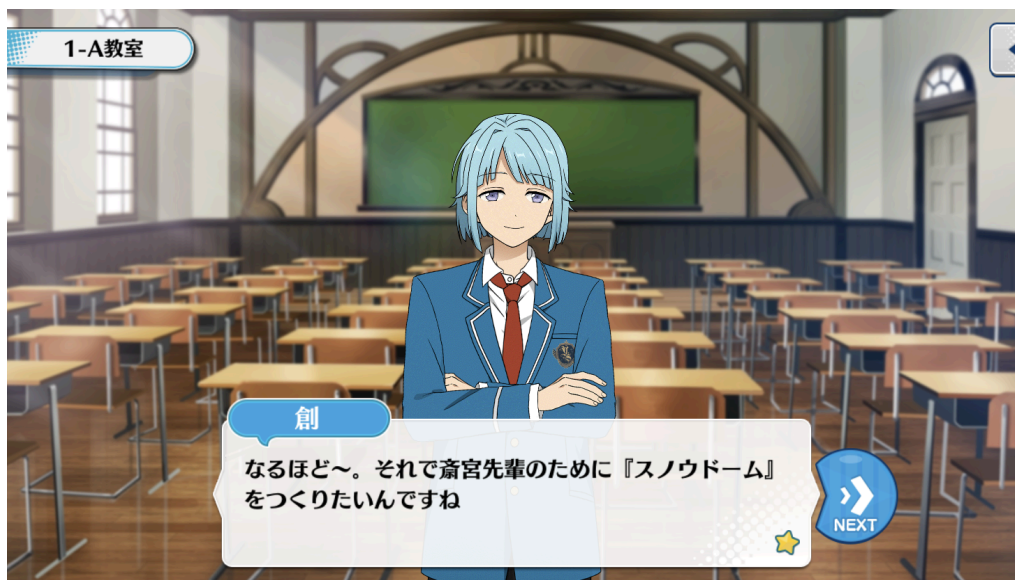
Hajime: Uwaaah!? ...Calling out to me in a loud voice like that really scared me...
Haaah... my heart is still beating so fast.

Mitsuru: Oh, I scared you? Sorry about that! We're in a hurry, that's all.

Hajime: Mitsuru-kun and Kagehira-senpai, what are you doing here? Is there something you need from me?

Mitsuru: Hajime-chan. You see, we want you to make snowglobes with us!

Chapter 6



1-A Classroom

Hajime: Ohhh~. So, you want to make a snowglobe for Itsuki-senpai?

I understand. In that case, I might not be very good at it, but I may be able to help.

Mika: Really, Hajime-kun!?

Hajime: Yes. I actually have a snowglobe-making kit.

Mitsuru: That's right! Hajime-kun, last year you made snowglobes and gave them to your little brother and sister as Christmas presents.

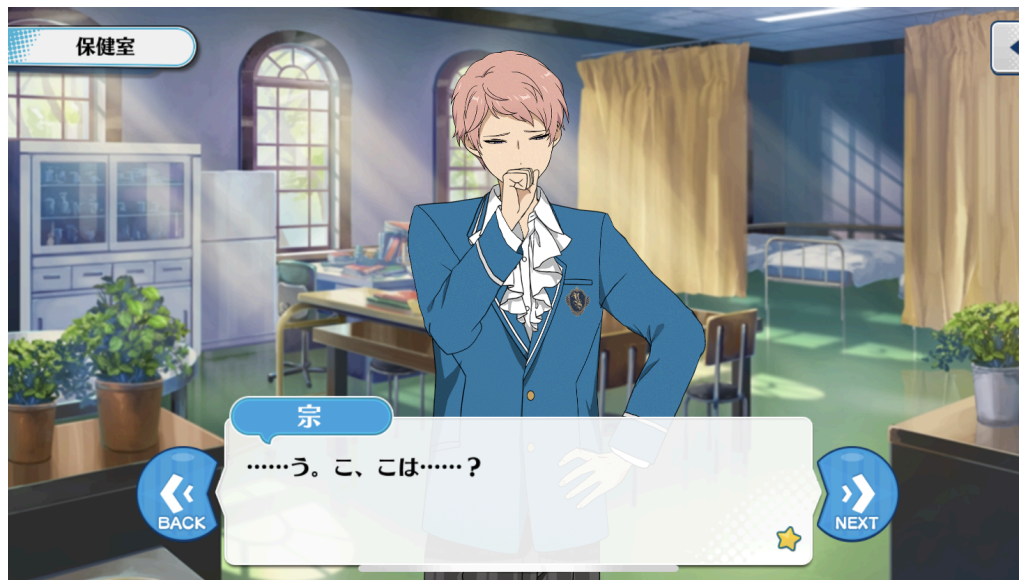
Hajime: Oh, yes, I *did* tell you that story, Mitsuru-kun~♪ I was reminded of it right when we saw the snowglobes in the store.

Mitsuru: Yep. You said that your siblings were both really happy with them, right? So, I think it'd be great if you made one for Oshi-san-senpai too, Mika-chan-senpai!

Hajime: That sounds like a wonderful idea ♪ I'm sure Itsuki-senpai will be pleased and get better right away.

Mika: Y'think so...?

...Yeah, you're right. 'M gonna work hard for Oshi-san's sake and make somethin' great!



School infirmary

Shu:Ah. Th—this is.....?

(A bed.....? This seems to be the infirmary.....)

Agh...! Where is Mademoiselle!?)

Mademoiselle!Aah, she's sleeping at my bedside. What a relief.

I am alright, Shu-kun. Rather, how are you doing? It seems that you had a fever. You're covered in sweat.

Aah. I've perspired so much that I feel rather unpleasant. However, it seems that as a result my fever has receded slightly. My condition has improved a bit.

I am still dizzy, but I think I can sit myself up.

Hm? Because I roused, this towel that was on me fell off...?

It was on your forehead, Shu-kun. Mika-chan did his absolute best to take care of you, you know.

Hmm. I thought that to be the case. All around me, there are signs of a rough nursing job. Honestly... his quality of work is as careless as usual.

Oh, come now. Don't speak like that! It's thanks to Mika-chan that you've gotten better, Shu-kun, so you must thank him properly.

Thank him? For this barely passable, downright sloppy assistance? *Non!* Do not jest with me.

...is what I'd like to say, but he did not handle you forcefully, and on that point alone I must say he did well.

Speaking of which, where did the boy himself run off to? It doesn't appear that he's present...

I'm very sorry... By the time I realized it, Mika-chan had already left the infirmary... I don't know where he went.

Hmph. There is nothing for you to apologize for, Mademoiselle. If he's gone, he's gone. At least I can rest up without any interference.

Ohh, there you go with that again! You're not being honest. If he truly disappeared, you'd be overcome with grief, I'm sure of it.

Hmm... I don't believe for a fraction that such a future will ever come.

Regardless. Kagehira is not here, and I have come to. As such, prolonging my stay here is unnecessary. Let us head back, Mademoiselle..... Ngh—

Aah, don't do that, Shu-kun. Aren't you still dizzy? You mustn't overdo it—please lie down for a little while longer, okay?

I'd love to take care of you this time, but I'm afraid that might be a bit difficult. I'm sorry, Shu-kun.

The fact that you feel that way is plenty enough for me. Nothing to fret over, I assure you.

At any rate... I see now. Perhaps the reason I had such a nostalgic dream was because of Kagehira taking care of me...?

A dream? What kind of dream was it?

When I was young, I suddenly came down with a fever, much like what happened now. My mother took care of me, constantly at my bedside.

It's not as if she did anything particularly special.

It was simple—once the towel upon my brow had become lukewarm, she replaced it right away; she made me food that was easy on my stomach; and she stayed at my side all throughout the night.

Her hand scratching my back was so warm.

Consider the word "assistance"⁶. In the old days, one would constantly stand by another who was ill, and thus the phrase had been created. I do not believe that was simply a mistake.

Mysteries and agonies had been mitigated.

I had been such a burden on my mother, I am fairly certain I shed tears in remorse.

I see. What a wonderful memory. But isn't it rare for you to collapse, Shu-kun?

This time, it's fairly clear that the reason you collapsed is because you overworked yourself. Aren't you typically stricter in taking care of yourself?

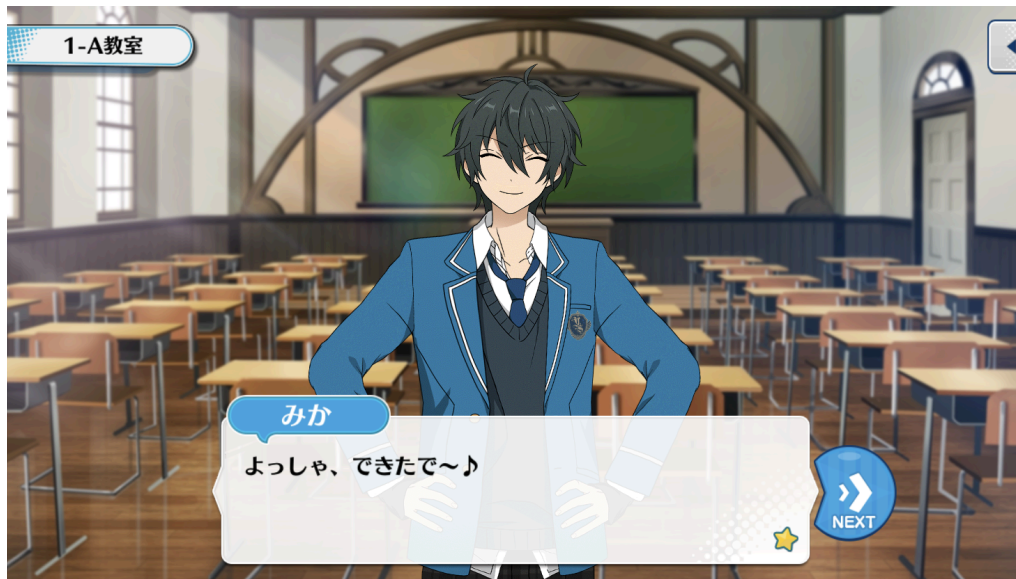
Or perhaps, did you have quite a few of these slip up moments when you were a child?

How rude of you. I have constantly been pursuing perfection, ever since childhood.

However... you may be correct. Why did I come down with a fever that one time...?

⁶ Originally, Shu spoke of the word 手当て, 'treatment'. He talks about the origins of the word, and how he believes it to be still relevant today. I decided to alter this slightly, using 'assistance' instead, as its etymology fits the context better, in my opinion.

Chapter 7



1-A Classroom

Mika: There, 'm all done~ ♪

Mitsuru: I'm done too! Look, look~!

Hajime: Woow, Mitsuru-kun, your snowglobe sure looks delicious ♪ You put a big hamburger inside.

Mitsuru: That's right! It's something that isn't sold in stores, my very own snowglobe!

Mika: I totally get it, Mitsuru-kun~! Since we're makin' them ourselves, I wanted t'make a snowglobe that's one of a kind.

Mitsuru: Yep! By the way, what kind of snowglobe did you make, Mika-chan-senpai? I wanna see!

Hajime: Ah, yes. I'd like to see too... ♪

Mika: Aah, no way, no way! The kind I made is a secret!

Mitsuru: HUUUuh~? Why are ya hiding it behind your back....? I wanna do show and tell with everyone~

Mika: Sorry 'bout this~. This is the snowglobe I made for Oshi-san, so I want him t'be the first one t'see it.

You two did this all for my sake, so 'm real sorry...

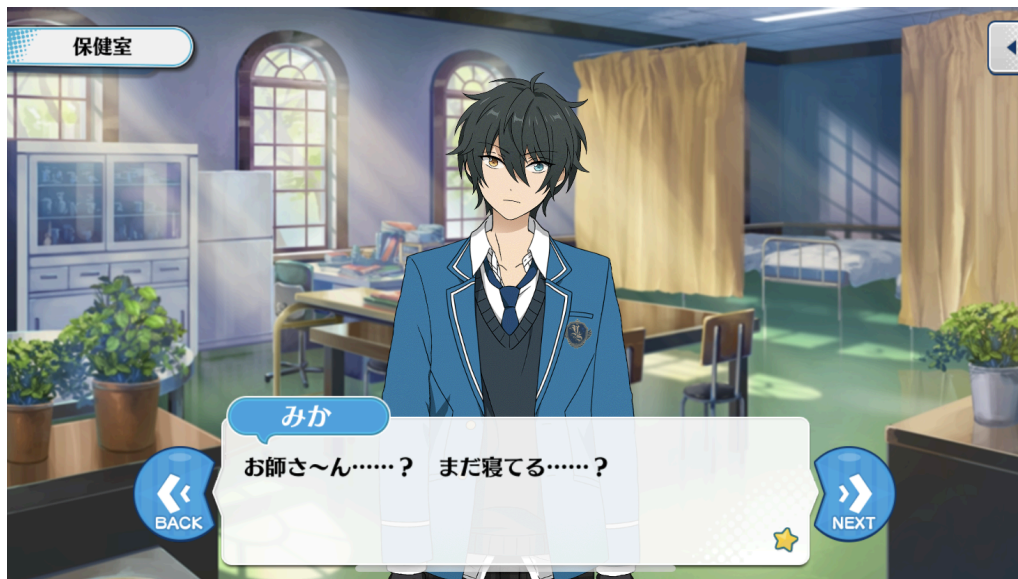
Mitsuru: Awww... it's sad, but I guess there's nothing we can do about it~

Hajime: Fufu. I agree... I completely understand your feelings, Kagehira-senpai, so I'd like Itsuki-senpai to be the first to see it as well.

Mitsuru: I know Oshi-san-senpai's gonna be super-duper happy when he sees it! Maybe he'll be so amazed that he'll jump right out of bed~

Mika: Sorry 'bout this, you two. And thank ya kindly... ♪ It'd be real nice if this makes Oshi-san happy.

Alrighty, 'm gonna go give the snowglobe to him now.



School infirmary

Mika: Oshi-saaaaan...? Are y'still asleep...?

Shu: Kagehira.

Mika: Nnah! Oshi-san, you're awake!?! 'M so glaaad~... Has your fever gone down? Maybe I should take your temperature again?

Aah, but y'shouldn't be sittin' up yet! I'll take it while you're lyin' down. Don' overdo it and lay back, okay, Oshi-san?

Shu: Kagehira... you're being too loud. Stop asking so many questions at once. Your voice is rattling around in my head.

You truly are an ineffective, inferior work.

Oh, not this again, Shu-kun! Mika-chan has gone at length to take care of you, so those sorts of comments are unnecessary, okay?

Mika: I'm okay, Madonee.

Ehehe~ ♪ Oshi-san's insults have finally returned. That's the Oshi-san I know.

Shu: Hmph. To be pleased, even when spoken ill of... How unsightly.

By the way, Kagehira. Where have you been loitering around until now?

You've only left behind signs that you took care of me. Were you always the type of fool who can never follow through with whatever they decide on?

Mika: Nnah~! That's not right at all...! There's no way that I would ever neglect takin' care of ya~!

I was by your side the whole time? But then, y'kept muttering and apologizing for somethin', Oshi-san. I thought that somethin' was plaguin' your heart and I got worried.

I thought if I could somehow ease your worries jus' a little bit, that might make you feel better faster, Oshi-san.

Shu: Muttering...? What in the world are you talking about?

Mika: Well, y'kept apologizing for breakin' a snowglobe? That's what you were mutterin' about.

Shu: A snowglobe...?

Do you have any idea what that's about, Shu-kun?

.....

.....Aah. That's it... I've remembered. So that's why I came down with a fever that time. I wonder why I happened to forget...

Mika: Nnah? Did somethin' happen a while back?

Shu: ...That's correct. It's a story from when I was but a child. The snowglobe my mother had was exceptionally beautiful.

I desired it very much, so I pestered my mother about wanting it.

But it seemed that my mother had memories attached to it and treasured it very much. And so, in the end, I never received it.

Mika: HUUUH~. So Oshi-san *did* have an age where he was cute.

Shu: Of course I did. Just what do you think of me?

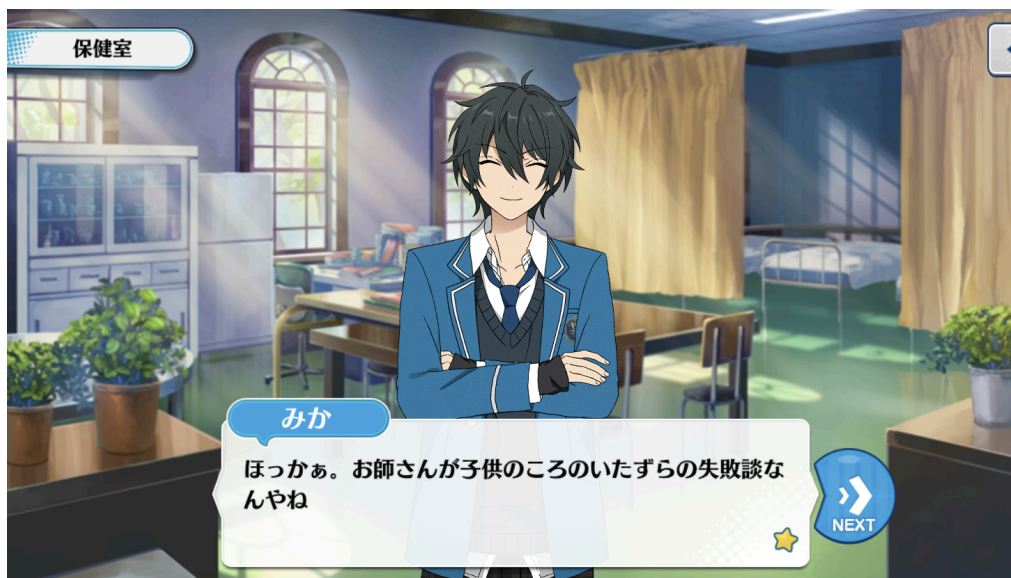
Mika: So you wanted that snowglobe so much that y'caused trouble for your mother?

Shu: Hmph. I was an obedient, good child back then. It's not like I threw a tantrum or anything like that.

It's just... no matter what, I wanted to look at that snowglobe again. I purposefully waited for a time when my mother left the house, and secretly took it out of the display case it was in.

But I unintentionally let it slip out of my hand, and ended up breaking it.

Chapter 8



School infirmary

Mika: Gotcha. So, it's a story of Oshi-san childhood when mischief made ya mess up.

Shu: No, that's not it. It's... not a story of childhood mischief or blunders or the like.

My mother kept telling me not to touch it, and yet... I let my selfish desires get the best of me, and reached out my hand and ended up breaking it.

I had the feeling that the snowglobe was not the only thing broken; at that instant, my mother's memories and her trust in me—such priceless things—had been broken alongside it.

It may seem that the snowglobe had broken, but in reality, what received the blow was my mother herself, I believe.

Even if you intend to treat everything with care, there is the possibility that it will break the moment you reach out for it.

No. Well, there might be things that break naturally, too.

However. If I had not sought out the snowglobe then, it might still be glittering inside that case at this very moment.

I never had any intent to break it or damage it. But the result is that it broke, it smashed, it was damaged. It would never again emit its radiance.

The fact that it happened sent me into a shock, so much that I came down with a fever.

Mother didn't blame me at all, and devoted herself to caring for me... but I'm certain that she was upset about it.

After all... In my memory, my mother would make such a sorrowful face.

Mika:

Shu: How did I manage to forget such an important thing...? Time takes with it memories, I suppose. How deplorable...

...Kagehira. I've been going through the trouble of recalling the story for you, yet you're making quite the strange face.

Aah, don't twist up your face like that. Do you plan on throwing away your sole redeeming feature?

Mika: No... Oshi-san, I don't think that's right? I don't think you hurt your mother.

Shu: What do you mean?

Mika: Well, people always say it—happiness is doubled, sad things are halved.

So, your mother wasn't sad that y'broke the snowglobe. Seeing you get so sad that y'came down with a fever, she shared in the sadness with ya, I think.

Shu: Hmph, I'm envious of that optimistic mind of yours. I feel quite foolish for being so worried.

Mika: Ahaha. Y'tend to overthink things, Oshi-san. If y'put the two of us together and split us in half, it would be perfect... ♪

Shu: *Mika-chan, that's a great idea ♪ Shu-kun is a bit too much of a high-strung and pessimistic person.*

Non! Be silent, Mademoiselle. Being put together and divided with such a good-for-nothing doll is nothing to joke about. Kagehira—do not get carried away with yourself.

Mika: Nnah, sorry 'bout that.

Hey, will ya take this snowglobe, Oshi-san? I made it so y'might feel just a little bit better.

Shu: *Oh, how cute ♪ This ornament... inside, are there two people going home, perhaps?*

This western-style house and the clothes the people are wearing... I have recollection of them. Is there a chance that this misshapen thing inside is meant to be us?

Mika: Nnah~, don' say it like that. I got help from Hajime-kun and Mitsuru-kun, so even though it looks like that I really did do my best t'make it.

I actually wanted t'make a snowglobe exactly like the one that y'broke, Oshi-san, but I didn't know how it looked, so~?

So, I put what I think the most lovely thing in the whole world inside as an ornament.

Shu: The thing you think is the most lovely in the whole world...?

Mika: Lovely, or maybe y'can say important...? Nnah~, I'm not sure how to say it right...

Shu: You mean, the most precious thing to you, Kagehira?

Mika: Yeah, that! As expected of Oshi-san ♪ It's not just this, either. It doesn't matter which moment y'single out from the rest. *Every* moment I spend with Oshi-san is the most precious moment in the world to me.

Shu:

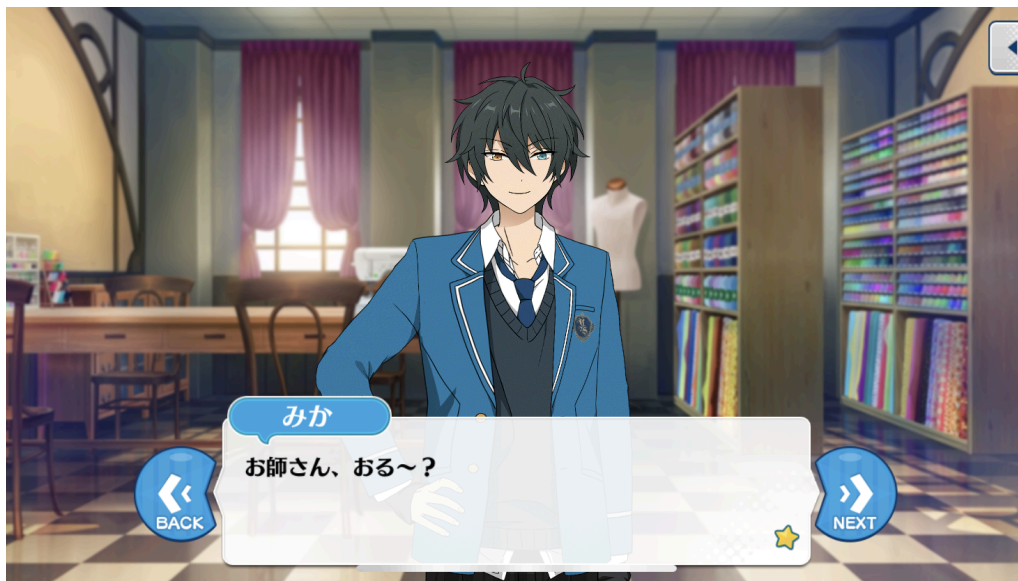
Mika: Oshi-san, y'know. I won't break from a few little gestures, so you can reach out to me as much as you'd like.

So make sure you take me along to all the places you go, okay?

I might belong to ya, but jus' bein' left up as a decoration on a shelf is real lonely. I wanna see the things you see, and smell the things you do, and feel the same light as you—all of it, together.

Just being in the same place as you makes me happy.

I hope you feel even the slightest bit the same, Oshi-san. Then, our happiness would be doubled.



Handicrafts clubroom

The next day

Mika: Oshi-san, y'here~?

Shu: Kagehira, don't come rushing in like that, you'll kick up dust!

Mika: Nnah? Oshi-san, you're already sewing again? Y'might fall ill again, so at least for today I'd like ya t'take it easy, okay?

Shu: It seems it's already become something of a habit. I do not feel relaxed unless I do it.

Mika: C'moon. Well, at least take a break. I'll go pour some delicious tea~

Nnah? Oshi-san, you decorated the cabinet in the clubroom with the snowglobe I gave ya? That makes me sooo happy, thank you so much ♪

Shu: My health has recovered, and I feel fine, you know. It was simply just a fluke.

And you said so, didn't you? That you wanted to be taken along. So I put the snowglobe in the cupboard in exchange for your place.

That's why you're not allowed to break without my permission. Promise me you'll stay by my side, Kagehira.

Mika: Yep. Of course, I'll aaaalways be by your side, Oshi-san ♪ Alrighty, I'll go and prepare the tea now~

Shu: Aah, Kagehira. Those children from Nito's unit... Shino and Tenma, and Anzu as well. Go and invite them as well.

They helped make the snowglobes, and helped in nursing me as well, correct? Then it's only a matter of courtesy to give them thanks.

Mika: Huh, really!? 'M sure Hajime-kun and Mitsuru-kun and Anzu-chan'll be real happy~

Shu: Yes. And then, as for snacks to go with the tea...

Mika: I'm gonna go invite the three of 'em right away. Wait just a sec~!

Shu: Ah, Kagehira! I wasn't finished saying...

Ugh... He ran off without listening to all I have to say... that fool.

I hoped that he'd get even a little easier to handle. He really is a doll that never moves the way I desire.

Fufu. You may be throwing out insults, but I can see that you are smiling, Shu-kun ♪

What are you trying to say, Mademoiselle? I have recovered and thus I am feeling quite good -- That is all that there is to it.