

Miku Nakano: In Between the Crossfire of Her Sisters and the Series

Written by XenoTime

INTRODUCTION:

Originally, this introduction section was going to be more comedic, with an ill timed Christmas skit that I just decided to stick at the very end of this. But, as I kept expanding this and it turned into something that is probably too long, I decided to change it. Normally, when reading romance or harem series, it can be pretty clear on who would win, even if my favorite has no chance of winning, that doesn't mean I hate the series. However, as this series has gone on, there has been this lingering feeling that has blossomed in me that it just wouldn't feel right continuing the way the series currently is. What the author, Negi Haruba does with the ending is up to him, but I hope the series concludes in a satisfying manner. I've had the idea of making my own Miku theory for a while, but as we reach the end of this series and the opportunity to make one keeps getting slimmer and slimmer, I finally buckled down and made it. This was originally a Miku-only theory, but it eventually evolved into other aspects of the series getting involved; Some were to tie back to Miku, and others were to try and see how the series could be wrapped up in this minimal amount of chapters we have left. I went through the series to find any amount of foreshadowing, clues and made a set of analyses for the series and have also made an attempt to create some theories that would fit thematically in the romance between Miku and Fuutarou. I didn't join this fanbase too long ago, in late January, 2019. But, Seeing the new anime episodes come out, catching up to the series, and staying up in the middle of the night on to see what new developments would come out, along with overreacting to vague events that would come as the leaks came out were some of the most memorable moments of 2019. Think of this as a love letter to this series which has taken me by surprise from how much it captivated me, the community which has been so fun to be around even in these times of war, and the character who quickly became one of my favorites in all of fiction.

Spoiler Alert: This probably shouldn't be read if you're not caught up to the current events of the manga (Chapter 115).



“Chapter 22 Cover”

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	1
Meta	4
Success.....	4
Editorial Interference.....	5
Burnout.....	6
Advertising.....	7
The Bride's Hair.....	8
Volume 14's Length.....	10
The Nightmare of all Manga.....	11
Plot Omission.....	11
Character Assassination.....	12
Miku vs Everyone.....	13
The Bell Kisser.....	21
Does Ichika Know?.....	25
Does Yotsuba know?.....	26
Poses.....	27
Is the Bell Kisser a red herring?.....	31
How costumes change.....	32
Miku's High and Low Points in the Story.....	34
Yotsuba's Inferiority and God Complex	38
The Farce of Sisters War	44
Miku Forgives.....	45
Logic vs Emotion.....	47
Fuutarou's Regret.....	50
Fuutarou is blind but he understands Miku.....	50
Miku understands Fuutarou.....	52
Ichika:The Walking, Talking Red Herring.....	54
The Girl Who's Special vs The Girl Who Isn't Special.....	57
Overlapping Circles.....	59
A Mysterious Yukata.....	61
Am I Weird?.....	62
Miku's Confessions.....	63
Miku's Kisses.....	64
How Love Stays Through the Course of Time.....	65
Future Accessories.....	66
The One-Shot.....	67
Conclusion.....	69
Extra.....	70

META

-Success:

Let's take a look at the author of the series proper, Negi Haruba. He's a relative newcomer to the scene, with his first official work coming from 2013, under a one-shot called "*Coward Cross World*", where he would show his knack for misleading the reader until the last second. Along with a couple more one-shots and illustrative help for "*Rengoku no Karma*", Negi Haruba eventually began piloting his very own manga, a harem known as "*Go-Toubun no Hanayome*", with its first chapter released to the world on August 9, 2017. If you're reading this, I assume you know what this series is about.



"Coward Cross World" Negi's first original work.



"Negi awarded with a Gold Award in the 21st Dengeki Grand Prize."

While the series had relative success, gaining a small, but strong fanbase, it wasn't until it's anime adaptation in January 2019, where the series was given its first taste of the mainstream. The anime's...questionable look at times aside, it was a massive hit. It was the start of a brand new Waifu war in the anime community where the premise promised a real winner, and you had to figure out who it was before the official reveal.

Now, let's go into not only Negi's shoes, but the magazine and his Editor's. You have a relatively popular series that you were planning to end pretty early, but it was able to be extended due to its success and your ideas are being fleshed out, as you're still relatively new. Then, BAM, the anime helps your series skyrocket in popularity and it's becoming a household name in the anime and manga fanbase. Now, you're suddenly competing and surpassing other series, if even for a year, big series like Kaguya-sama, One Punch Man, Attack on Titan, and My Hero Academia. You are the author with the best selling current series on Weekly Shonen Magazine. There's also a push to have events that have your characters, down to even museums that show replicas, drawings and other goodies for fans to enjoy. It must be an unbelievable feeling at first, so many people are picking up the series and are anxiously waiting for the next chapter in the budding author's series. However, can that feeling truly stay so euphoric?

-Editorial Interference:

Due to the fact that Negi is still very new to this, he would look towards his editor and magazine for ideas on how to make the series more engaging. Hell, it's not exclusive to new authors. Even someone like Akira Toriyama had to change and extend his series far beyond originally planned, and we can see that immediately with how the quintuplets are introduced. In an interview conducted by Negi in April 2019, this was mentioned:



"April 2019 interview"

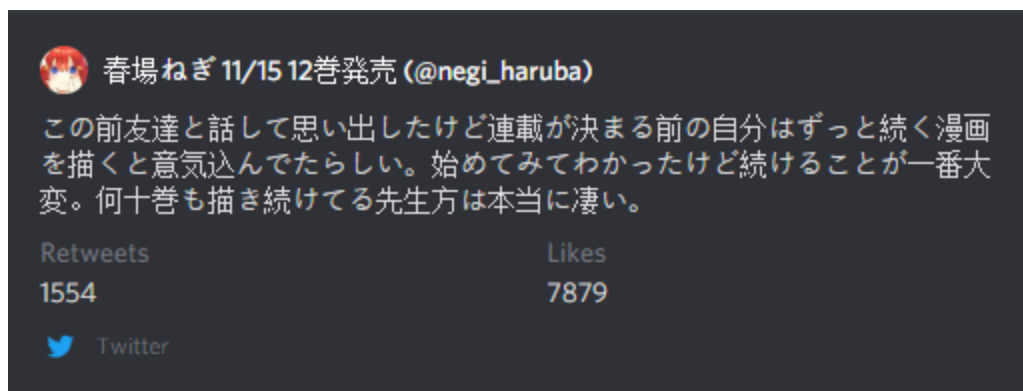
-To avoid people saying "first girl wins" he introduced all the girls in the first chapter

-However the editor made him introduce Itsuki first (and have her in the center of the Vol 1 cover) to make it easier for readers

Now, whether having Itsuki be first changed Negi's plans for her or she was chosen due to her more neutral role in the story remains to be seen, we would need to wait after the series ends for Negi to tell us straight up. But, this confirms the idea that corporate interference has already changed the perspective of the story to have many believe that Itsuki will win from the simple idea that she was the first one we see, so that must be it. It didn't matter how well or badly thought out Itsuki's character arc was, that stigma would haunt Negi's work, even now.

-Burnout:

On December 3rd, 2019. Negi Haruba announced that "Go-Toubun no Hanayome" would end in its 14th volume.



Translation: "This is something that I remembered a while back when I was talking with my friend before the serialisation of my manga began. I was apparently very enthusiastic about making a manga which will serialise for a long time.

But when I actually started doing it, I understood that continuing the serialisation is the most difficult part. The mangakas who have continued their series for dozens of volumes are really amazing."

Adding the corporate interference to the equation, the idea of extending the series far more than would organically be possible seemed like an option just ripe for the taking. As the series *Bakuman* told us, the job of a mangaka is a tough and cruel one. If you are making money, continue that series as long as possible, if not, time to get axed. As for Negi's original idea, he had said that he knew how many volumes were left, but pressure from the editor could have almost changed that. To see what I mean, I fully believe that 14 volumes (122-125 chapters) was the original length as it's more than enough for the original vision to pull through, but there is no denying that "The Final Festival" was a very slow, yet rushed arc. With a completely messy timeline, having conflicts that seemed out of nowhere, and a seeming obsession to keep everything at the status quo right before a supposed choice that wasn't even guaranteed. This could have been caused by the pressure of success. This pressure can cause a lot of burnout, whether you become sick of your own series or your health started taking a hit, it would become clear that Negi simply couldn't do it. Once he announced that it would end, he posted on his official Twitter how he was not yet capable and how he envied those mangaka that could keep a series running for so long. This is why this final arc seems so disjointed, there's an end goal, but the steps to get there are now being shot out really fast rather than the more methodical approach.

-Advertising:

Let's quickly wrap up this point by saying that yes, at the end of the day, Weekly Shonen Magazine is a company that wants to make money. The idea that this series, that focuses on finding out who the overall winner is, could have the final winner revealed before the final volume just seems preposterous. Negi knows that as well, which is why he's had to backpedal on some moments to keep everyone from getting kicked out of the race, he's mentioned that he likes seeing fans have waifu wars. A misdirectionalist such as himself, who has seen what some series do to people, like writing an overly long analysis on said series, knows how to pull the strings of the fans, even if the story beats themselves can have certain leaps in logic.

Sub Point: The Bride's Hair

Recently the cover for Volume 13 became public and it looks like this:



“Official Volume 13 Cover”

While it certainly seems that it confirms that this is Yotsuba. I'm here to tell you that the color of the bride's hair means jack diddly.

If hair color and patterns confirms it, then how about The Bride from chapter 67, which was on the cover of an important moment in the manga, does this confirm Nino is the winner?



“The Bride from the chapter 67 cover compared with Nino”

How about this shot of The Bride from the last episode of the anime, which most closely resembles Miku's anime hair color?



“Go-Toubun no Hanayome Anime Episode 12”

Then, how about the official anime version of The Bride, which goes more towards Itsuki's Anime style?



“Official render of The Bride from the anime”

Let us go back to that April interview once again, where after Negi explains why the characters have different hair colors (being the anime, which makes sense as he was very much involved in the production) noted that:

- "The interviewer calls the different hair colours a necessary lie."

Giving away The Bride's identity from something as simple as hair color is marketing suicide and it's a clear, conscious decision by Negi and probably his editor. While the hair can help the audience discern who it is, it can also be used to misdirect the view in simple terms to make them think, "Could it be..?" If The Bride's hair was shown as blue tomorrow, someone would say that it's clear that Takebayashi will win. The Bride is meant to be as ambiguous as possible, and that's that.

The cover for Volume 13 is also just bad marketing. If people who are interested in the series see the orange hair and it turns out that Yotsuba won, then what's the point, you just spoiled your biggest mystery to new readers.

VOLUME 14'S LENGTH

This will be a quick point. It's clear that this series is not ending in its 14th volume due to it being axed, the popularity is far too high right now. If Bakuman taught us anything, it's that an author really has to fight to end their story on their terms. So, what does that have to do with the final volume? Assuming Negi now has the reins to not rush the ending even more than it already is, then we can also assume that the volume could be anywhere from 1-3 chapters longer than the usual 9 chapter length. This practice isn't...uncommon in the industry, but it's also not the status quo. While there may not be enough for a volume 15, this final volume can be longer chapter wise. On a side note, this volume would only need 2-3 more chapters to get VERY close to March 9th, also known as Miku day.

THE NIGHTMARE OF ALL MANGA

Tell me, what's the last anime or manga with a continuous story where the characters weren't still in conflict until the very last episode or chapter? While there are exceptions, this is far more common. A manga author has to look at the bigger picture, while the goal is to sell volumes, another goal is to keep eyes on the series constantly on the magazine proper, for the weekly popularity polls. This is why cliffhangers are so prominent for every chapter, there always has to be a promise for more, and let me say that this current final arc will milk itself as much as it can. Here is what I believe will happen. This current of next drama following the quintuplets will continue full throttle until the second to last chapter and will end on a vague note at the end of said chapter. Then the final chapter will start with the wedding, followed by 15-20 pages of backstory that really finishes that story, 10 pages of graduation, to then go back to the wedding where the bride will finally be revealed. A montage of the characters will flash in a "Where are they now?" style as the wedding finishes. Then, maybe, we'll get 2-3 pages of epilogue for our bride and groom. It's a shame, but that's usually how these things go. I can only hope I'm wrong on this one.

PLOT OMISSION

The three most important sleeping plot points that are still important to Fuutarou's development are as such:

- 1-The Bell Kisser and all that surrounds it.
- 2-Lolikano
- 3-Rena

Before the end of the series, these need to be noticed and answered, hopefully by the mouth of those that were the cause. But, while I'll go into more detail, there is a part of the fanbase that believes that these events are not really that important. The arguments are that: It doesn't matter at all, and it was a misdirection, and that Fuutarou doesn't need to know who Lolikano and Rena are, and that he needs to focus on the present. I can't understand the last two AT ALL. If those two aren't important, not only will Fuutarou never get the whole story, he will have been lied to, and as I'll talk about later, he doesn't like it when he's lied to. This would not qualify as a red herring, it would be straight up plot omission, it's completely ignoring the elephant in the room. Lolikano and Rena are essential, not only for Fuutarou, but for Itsuki and Yotsuba to fully move on and come to terms with their actions.

CHARACTER ASSASSINATION

Alright, let's move away from the meta sense and let's go back to the series proper. What is character assassination? The Oxford definition describes it as, "The malicious and unjustified harming of a person's good reputation." How does this pertain to the series? Well, let's look at it like this:

- Despite coming to terms with your own actions, there is still a part of you that wants to go back to your old, snake way.
- Wanting to completely cut ties to your family because an idiot doesn't know what she's doing, and going back to the far too vixen ways.
- Being "guilty" over winning and rejecting the one you love to apologize(brag) to those who seemingly lost, having learnt NOTHING despite other's best efforts.
- Not seemingly being in the race for so long only to change your mind at the very last minute for the sake of drama.

And finally:

- Completely going off the deep end and trying to turn into someone else to replace someone in a relationship.

The fact that ANYONE believed that last one even for a SECOND proves 2 things

- 1-Negi's writing has gone completely whack and the fanbase has accepted anything can happen for the sake of drama.
- 2-People jump to conclusions insanely early.

Let's assume that all of these are true, for who would this be good for?

For Ichika? Her confidence keeps dropping, if we keep going like this, we'll have another ribbon case on our hands.

For Nino? While I agree with her feelings a little, I don't think her current actions are fully justified and it's just making her look like chapter 2 Nino, and no one wants that.

For Miku? I don't think going yandere is good for anyone right now, and while she can have bouts of jealousy, there is nothing to indicate she would ever act like this.

For Yotsuba? I think this is the first time a real definition for "sore winner" has become applicable.

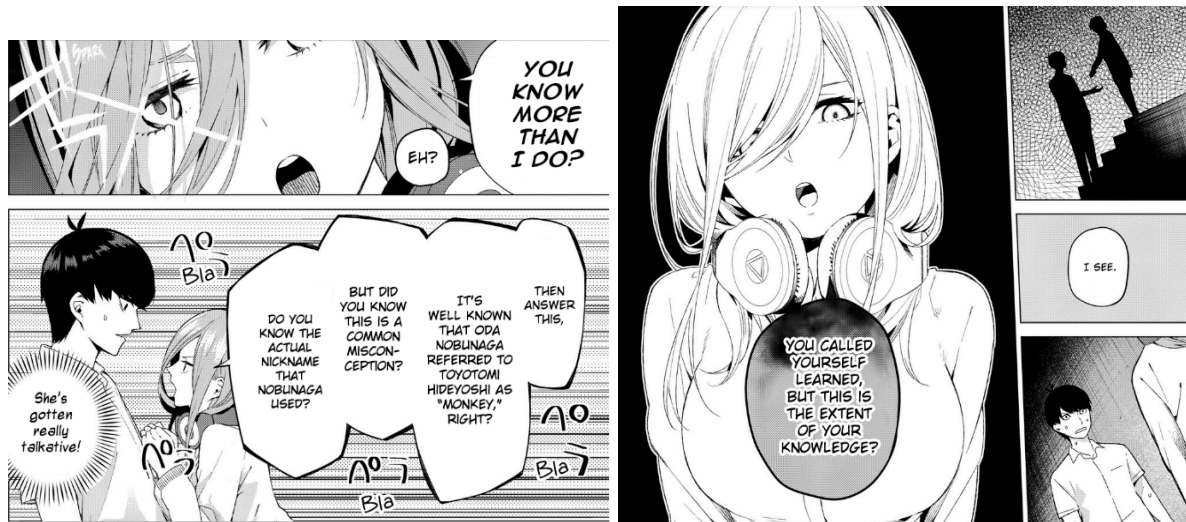
For Itsuki? I can't even call her a sore loser, since she wasn't really in the race, unless a new flashback shows she's always been in love.

For Fuutarou? It certainly would be interesting if this led into a loner ending, but we already know he marries one of them. If this is the direction their characters are taking and Fuutarou's options now consist of 5 crazy, broken snakes. I mean, just take Takebayashi at that point. Obviously, I don't believe in any of that, so I can only hope everyone gets into a logical conclusion. But, that's enough about that, I want to take a look at Miku's story through the manga.

MIKU VS EVERYONE

Let's look at Miku's antagonists. What do I mean by that? I basically see it as anyone important to the story who has gone against Miku, whether directly or not, mostly due to the flow of the story. As the story goes along, not only does Miku's main antagonist change, the stakes also increase as Miku has more and more that she has to overcome.

In the first story arc, the antagonist is Fuutarou. Fuutarou threatens to change the hole which Miku had safely stuck herself in. Fuutarou is the shortest antagonist, as the conflict ended after their word battle. However, now that she accepted Fuutarou, this meant that the one who mainly rejected him became the new antagonist.



"Chapter 3 Pages 24 and 30"



"Chapter 4, page 27"

Nino is our second antagonist. She was technically on Miku's side at the very start, but once Fuutarou was accepted by Miku, she became the main border. Nino's main goal during the first and second arcs was to keep Fuutarou away from her sisters. Nino was not a constant threatening force as of the end of the fireworks festival and midterms, she had mellowed out as she began to slowly accept Fuutarou. She had one final hurrah in 7 Goodbyes, where she was presented at her worst. It took the combined force of Miku and Fuutarou to make her realize her true feelings, which helped in officially ending Nino's antagonistic nature. However, during the mid-terms, the seeds were planted for our third antagonist.



“Chapter 5, page 9” “Chapter 40, page 1” “Miku and Fuutarou team up”



“Chapter 46, page 14” “Miku helps Nino's problem”

Ichika is our third antagonist, her's is the longest due to the build up and the fact that 7 Goodbyes took place in the middle of it, which was Nino's turning point, where she officially stopped being a block. At first, she supported Miku's feelings before and after Miku's self confession during The Legend that Binds. However, as Ichika started to be open about her feelings, she had her first antagonistic bout during the Final Exams Arc. In here, her score stopped Miku from confessing, which is something she delighted in. Her final hurrah began during the New Class Arc and came full force during Sisters War. Here, she did everything in her power to stop Miku. From lying to Fuutarou in Miku's outfit, to constantly trying to sabotage her. Once again, both Miku's and Fuutarou's actions were what changed her. Even the previous antagonist, Nino, had her shots at Ichika. Once again, as Ichika was having her worst moments, the seeds for our final antagonist were being planted.



"Chapter 31, page 8"



"Chapter 58, page 19"



Chapter 74, page 19"



"Chapter 86, page 5" Ichika and Miku hug it out"

Itsuki can also be considered an antagonist, as her actions helped go against Miku, however, she was not malicious until the series states otherwise.

Yotsuba is the fourth and final antagonist. While her first public outing was during the New Class, she was also the unknowing mastermind behind Sisters War main plot, as she was the one who encouraged Ichika during Scrambled Eggs. Her role as final antagonist during Sisters war, seemingly being the most neutral during most of it, now she was at the forefront of the battle. This is the hardest of them all, as her backstory, which extended far past Ichika's small outing with Fuutarou 6 years ago, was the main reason why Fuutarou became the person that he is today. She also has some mental issues that directly go against her ability to believe in herself, but she also has a tendency to become a different person that believes that she's the best of her sisters. Due to her seemingly not being -directly- hostile towards Miku, her most antagonistic arc is unlike the other two, however, the risks going against Miku are far higher than ever before. That is due to, as of chapter 115, she has successfully taken Fuutarou away, if even for a split moment. The reason why Fuutarou chose her is something I'll go into detail, but this is Miku's hardest challenge yet. Before, her actions along with Fuutarou's resolve is what won the day, but now, Yotsuba is still in the green to Miku(unless told otherwise), and Fuutarou seemingly is now devoid of the previous resolve he showed in other arcs. Right now, our second antagonist, Nino, is going against Yotsuba, what Ichika does after this is up to her. If anything, Yotsuba is the perfect opposite to Miku. A quiet, reserved girl vs a loud, outgoing girl. How do you fight someone who's constantly being nice to you?



"Chapter 51, page 18"



“Chapter 86, page 18 and Chapter 115, page 20”

To recap, this is how the story has raised the stakes against Miku:

Nino-Tried to keep Fuutarou away from Miku

Ichika-Tried to take Fuutarou from Miku

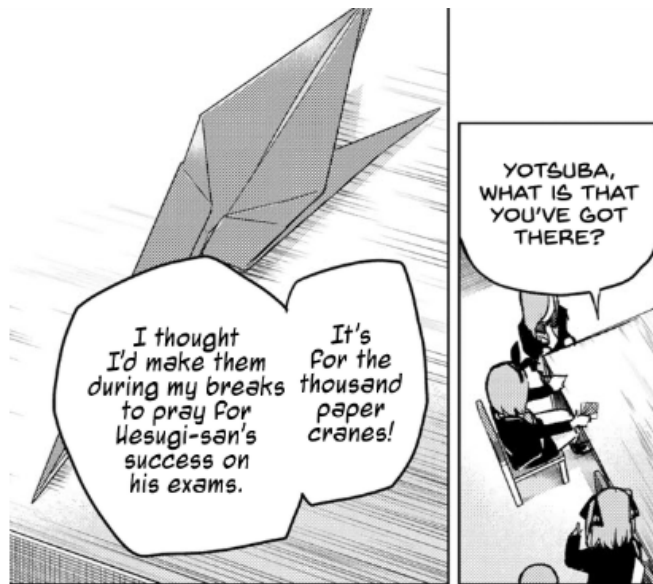
Yotsuba-Actually took Fuutarou away from Miku

I think the best example of this situation is from chapter 75, the arc where it started getting more serious. In it, there is an exchange between the previous antagonist and the current antagonist declaring their love, ready to go in a head to head battle.



“Chapter 75, page 12”

In the next scene, they meet with the final antagonist showing both of her traits. She is already making the presents for Fuutarou, ready to be first in line to surprise him,



“Chapter 75, page 13”

But as soon as Nino mentions keeping the secret,



“Chapter 75, page 13”

she immediately flips her switch into her defenceless persona, gaining the sympathy of her sisters, while at the same time, throwing shade



"Chapter 75, page 14"

Nino and Ichika don't know what to do in this situation



"Chapter 75, page 14"

However, the conflict ends once Miku steps up. Miku also has self image problems and believes that she is naturally the worst of the five. She mentions her gift, without the slightest jab or mention that anyone other than her could have done this. This side of Miku immediately is what calms the situation down, and that ends the conflict. Nino and Ichika even have a moment where they make up just fine.



“Chapter 75, page 15”

THE BELL KISSER

This moment has been analysed to death, but I think constant talk over one topic is good for the momentum of the series and how important this moment really is. This moment matters, not only is it portrayed as the moment when Fuutarou believes that he found someone he thinks of as more than a friend, but it's also the half-way point of the series. This is where it goes from a normal harem/comedy and goes full on battle romance. 7 Goodbyes and the Final Exam had some drama, but the second half of the series fully embraces it and more. So, I would like to throw in my perspective, and how it connects to future moments, especially Sisters War.

Miku is usually very methodical, even when she's blunt, more often than not, there is a lot of thought that goes into her actions. For better or worse, this is due to her mental block, where she looks into the worst that could happen. However, Miku can also act impulsively, especially in the first half of the series. From rejecting Fuutarou during the trial when Nino suggested that she likes him, to wanting to fight Nino in a cooking competition that she can't win...twice. This could be a side-effect of her being able to mimic her sisters, and applying their personalities into her actions. But, the biggest moment of this, is when she asks Fuutarou out in chapter 38. This occurs because Fuutarou completely overwhelmed her feelings when giving advice to Kiku. Even through her thoughts, she immediately went for it, with no regard of who was there, and as soon as Fuutarou started to respond, she realized what she did and couldn't follow up on it.

So, as we could see there, Miku does something bold after being in a high or a low of sorts, without concern, but once it happens, she doesn't know how to handle the situation anymore. Let's start with the end of the Final Exam Arc, where Miku suffers her first big loss to Ichika, who beat her in test scores. This, along with chapter 61, where Miku calls herself "a coward", go into her decision to try and sever her connection with Fuutarou. She even begins to consider giving Fuutarou a kiss in chapter 51 during her daydream while her sisters are right there. Here, at the mid-way point of the series, she became her own antagonist, even more than usual. But, as she's about to completely give up, even with Itsuki's assurance, chapter 67 happens. Fuutarou does the impossible, and, if just for a second, he could tell who Miku was. Miku immediately showed her impulse by jumping into Fuutarou's arms. This is her biggest high, along with Fuutarou mentioning her Valentine's Day gift. It would make sense that Miku could do something so drastic as to try and kiss him. This is the same person who straight up asked the guy out, so it's not outside the realm of possibility.

But, let's look at the scene fully.

It starts with Fuutarou reminiscing about his moment with Miku right after the sisters mention being able to see who they are using love before being interrupted by Raiha, similar to how the scene at the beginning with the wedding was interrupted by Raiha's transition.



“Chapter 68, page 20”

Once the Bell Kisser makes it to Fuutarou, she stops. Fuutarou even gets a line in, it's clear that she's expecting him to recognize her or at least accept the kiss. She didn't even jump to reach his lips, as she should already know she's not going to reach him like that, she just stood there. The only reason they kissed was because they slipped, their first kiss was nothing more than an accident.



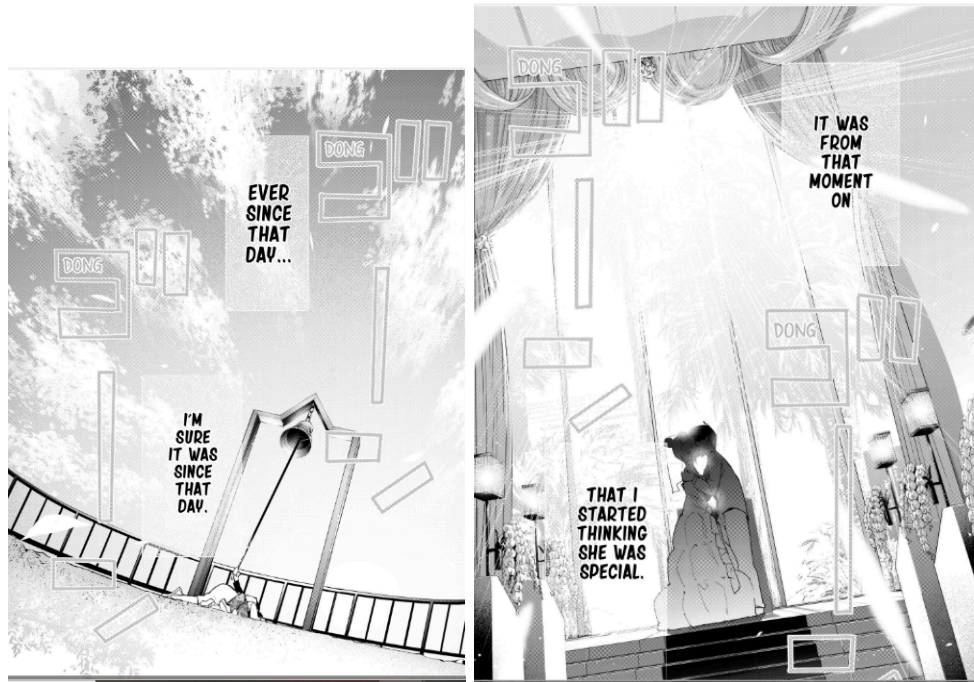
“Chapter 68, page 23”

The face that the Bell Kisser makes shows how disappointed she is, not only in how Fuutarou wasn't able to recognize her, but in herself for once again, acting impulsively without being able to handle the consequences. Now, both of their first kisses have been taken, and it wasn't due to love. Imagine thinking someone likes you, but that person doesn't know who you are literally the next time you see them. That must be heartbreaking.



"Chapter 68, page 26"

The contradiction between Fuutarou's ability to see through the disguise and the lines said in Chapter 68, page 20 go hand in hand. Fuutarou was able to find her with love, but it was because of that very same love, that Fuutarou couldn't see through the disguise. Both Fuutarou and the Bell Kisser were confident, but it was soon followed by Fuutarou's confusion and the Bell Kisser's disappointment. Even down to the kiss, the accidental kiss caused by the Bell Kisser is in direct contrast to the consensual kiss which is initiated by Fuutarou.



"Chapter 68, pages 24 and 25"

Does Ichika know?



“Chapter 74, page 6 and chapter 80, page 14”

In Chapter 74, Fuutarou makes a comment to Ichika that he was able to tell Miku apart with no hints, then Ichika starts a comment that isn't finished. This would also become the same chapter where Ichika starts becoming a villain. But why? I understand that she was becoming jealous, but to try to completely undermine Miku by lying to Fuutarou's face? Here, she clearly sees Miku as the biggest threat to her. She feels like she needs to stop Miku from... Confessing to Fuutarou? Something that not only Nino already did, but Miku did too, she was even there for that one. She must've thought that Fuutarou would have accepted, and while he didn't since he's so damn blind, Ichika hasn't been the same since. There is the possibility she saw the kiss, and like when Yotsuba kissed him on the cheek, she probably didn't think much of it. But, with Fuutarou admitting his achievement, it would explain why she went directly against Miku here.

Does Yotsuba know?



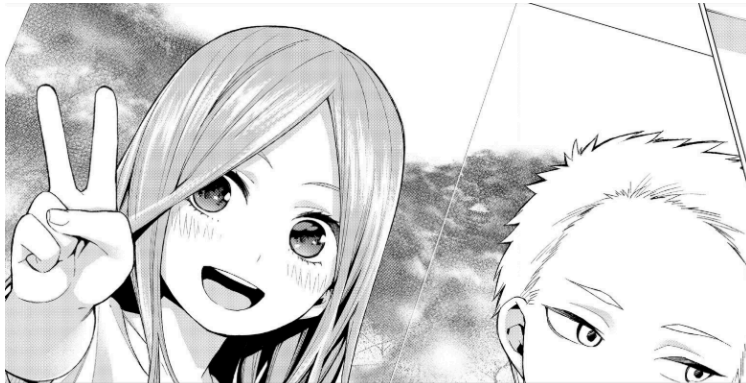
“Chapter 8, page 7, Chapter 68, pages 7,20,26 and Chapter 72, pages 14 and 15”

This one is less probable, but there is always the possibility. Since the beginning of the series, Yotsuba has kept a close relationship with Raiha, specifically trying to be on her good side. We can also see that Raiha will gladly tell Yotsuba anything, being none the wiser. As chapter 68 shows, Raiha is in the vicinity of the kiss. What if Raiha told Yotsuba something along the lines of, “Miku/One of your sisters and Fuutarou were on top of each other!” and Yotsuba came to the conclusion. Now, that’s kind of a stretch, but it could explain why she doubled down on “helping” Miku after this.

Sub Point: Poses

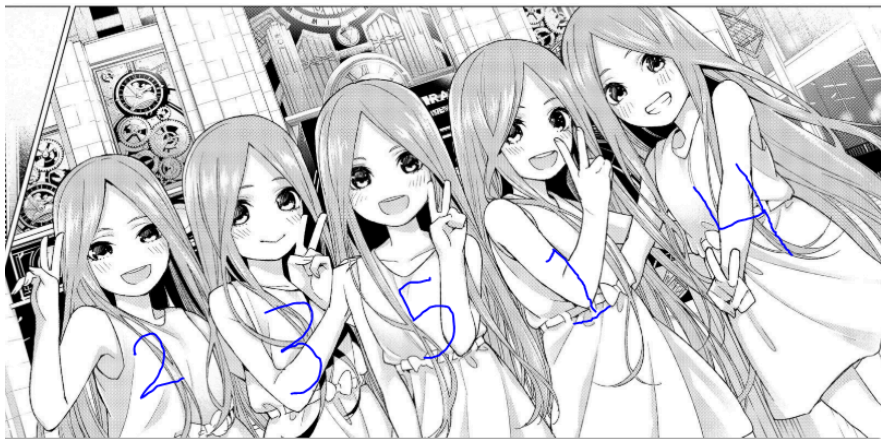
From time to time, I've seen that there's been some talk about how the poses that the sisters do don't really matter as they're just something that they do, and to that I say, why not?

Look at this picture



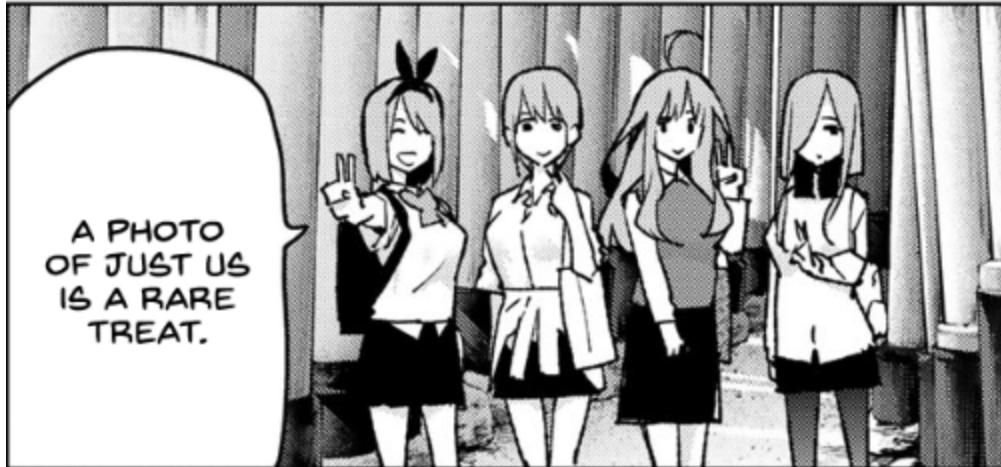
“Chapter 14, page 18”

This is the first time that we see the photo Fuutarou took six years ago. It shows one of the quintts giving the peace sign while stretching her arm outwards.



“Chapter 14, page 18”

That photo is then followed by all five giving the peace sign. But, only the one on the right has her arm stretched. That's Yotsuba.



“Chapter 80, page 7”

This is confirmed in chapter 80, where we see the quintes, barring Nino, do their poses yet again, and Yotsuba has her arms stretched. Even Ichika and Itsuki are doing similar poses, with Ichika having her hand backwards and Itsuki being more formal. And what happened to be the case, it was Yotsuba who met Fuutarou.

So, my point here is, if such a simple pose is what clued us in to Yotsuba's identity, and keep in mind, they're doing these same poses SIX years later, then why shouldn't other poses be taken into account?

The main ones that I want to bring attention to are both of Miku's poses.



“Chapter 3, page 25 and Chapter 1, page 1”

This is Miku's signature pose which looks awfully similar to how a bride-to-be holds her bouquet of flowers



“Chapter 51, page 13 and Chapter 68, page 23” “Expectation vs Reality”

Her signature pose in her daydream next to the real event, which didn't go quite as well as Miku expected.



“Chapter 1, pages 43 and 48”

The “Hand Pose” that both Miku and The Bride showed during chapter 1.



“Chapter 67, page 14”

“Devoting time...Getting to know a person’s behaviours, voices, unconscious habits...Would you not say that is love?”-Grandpa Nakano

In this series, where it’s been established that the unique movements that the characters have are important and necessary to tell the girls apart without their external accessories; If Fuutarou is expected to understand this, then why shouldn’t we, the audience also keep track of it? This is not only for Fuutarou to figure out, but it’s also for us to analyze, if subconsciously.

Sub point: Is the Bell Kisser a red herring?

This will just be a footnote. There has been some talk about if the Bell Kisser is honestly important or if Fuutarou wanted it to be someone else. This became more popular due to Ichika saying this:



“Chapter 101, page 13”

While an interesting point, I believe it would make more sense thematically if the Bell Kisser really mattered in Fuutarou’s final choice. Considering the possibility of Miku, it wouldn’t just be the kiss. This would include the chapter 67 hug, Fuutarou solving Miku’s problem and the actual kiss. But, it’s up to Negi.

There’s also this right before the kiss, so...



“Chapter 68, page 20”

Sub Point:How costumes change

Through the first half of the series, the quintuplets would use disguises to fool Fuutarou completely constantly. From the first time in the series when Miku dressed as Yotsuba to everyone dressing as Itsuki, which was the biggest hurdle Fuutarou had to overcome. However, once he found Miku and the Bell Kisser happened, the second half of the series has shown far less disguises, especially Miku. Not to mention, the idea of disguises became more risky and seen as more of a bad thing. This comes from the idea of lying, despite the fact they became friends as stated in Scrambled Eggs.

We have Itsuki disguising herself as Rena, which was introduced as a whimsical event in the first half, now became a nuisance to Fuutarou in the second half, with Fuutarou getting sick of the idea of the quintuplet game.



“Chapter 41, page 17 and Chapter 79, page 15”

There is also Ichika dressed as Miku. This disguise was intentionally used to hurt another by lying using someone else’s accessories. This moment was also condemned by Fuutarou, leaving Ichika crying.



“Chapter 83, page 6”

There is also the idea of risk, as Fuutarou slowly becomes aware of his feelings, the costumes simply don't work as well as they used to. Earlier, Fuutarou had the suspicion that something was amiss with the Miku that lied to him. He couldn't quite put his finger on it, but Fuutarou was starting to learn.



“Chapter 81, page 9”

How interesting that Miku, the best at disguising as her sisters, completely stopped using costumes between the end of Scrambled Eggs all the way to the Biodad sub-plot, after she regained her confidence in Sisters War, and after her liberation in chapter 92. Not to mention, it was a rush job that she did only because of her sisters, she's also dressing as Yotsuba now to possibly relieve her of some of the guilt she was feeling. Could Miku have felt so bad after the

bell kiss that she stayed off of disguises from her sense of guilt? It's also interesting that, even though Miku was perfectly happy in chapter 67, even jumping into Fuutarou's arms, she started acting more shy afterwards, not even being able to speak up to Nino, something she could so easily do before, when it came to choosing teams.

Considering the first time the quintuplet game being Miku dressing up as Yotsuba, which fooled Fuutarou with a disguise that was made in 10 seconds. Wouldn't it make a great thematic tale for Miku, the best at disguising herself, the one who Fuutarou found to be the hardest to get a read on at first, to be the most vulnerable to Fuutarou's ability to find her? Now, dressed up as Yotsuba one more time, to fool Fuutarou in a new way, not with a quick rush job, but at her best. Even with all that, it still won't be enough.

MIKU'S HIGH AND LOW POINTS IN THE STORY

Nakano Quintuplets Arc: The introductory arc, it was mainly an all-quint arc, however, the middle of it was focused on Miku and Fuutarou's quest to get her to study with the rest of the group.

Fireworks Festival Arc: Mainly and all quint arcs, some Nino, some Ichika. But, Miku was now being put into situations that made her wary of Fuutarou. They were pushed together, they held hands twice, Fuutarou tried to lift her, and Miku tried a new hairstyle,

Second Year Midterm Exam Arc: Mainly All-Quint arc, with Miku still trying to improve her cooking.

School Camping Trip Arc: Mostly portrayed as an all quint arc, with moments for everyone. However, this was the arc where Miku officially declared her love for Fuutarou. At the beginning of the arc, we are introduced to Maeda, who confessed to an Ichika-looking Miku. This is when Miku would first see her disguise not work as well as she was used to. Maeda, while having some trouble, was still in love with Ichika, and could tell there was something different with the Ichika he had come to fall for. Fuutarou came to bail her out, and she did some brave things with him with the guise of "being Ichika". During most of the arc, she was separated from Fuutarou, either by choice or due to being embarrassed. That is, until the third day. The actions that Fuutarou took the previous day, turning into Kintarou, was coming back to bite him, as Nino thought she found him. Fuutarou had dug his grave with Nino and Yotsuba ready for a pincer attack. But now, it was Miku's turn to bail him out. During their interactions in the igloo, Miku does some impulsive things, like asking Fuutarou to stay with her, despite her asking herself why she's doing this. Once Miku and Ichika are the fire, Miku finally gathers her feelings and ends this section of the story realizing she's in love. In the flash-forward, Maeda is reintroduced, now as a friend, as he was hostile during their first meeting. Maeda discusses that thanks to Fuutarou and Miku's stunt, it eventually led to him finding his true love. This is Miku's first high.

Fuutarou's Flashback Arc: Main Fuutarou arc. But, there is a moment where Miku shows her interesting daydreams and willingness to do crazy things out of nowhere.

Labor Thanksgiving Arc:Mainly Yotsuba arc, with sparse Miku moments, where she was trying to get a date.

Seven Goodbyes Arc:In terms of development, it was mainly about Nino and Itsuki, with a last minute plot by Yotsuba. However, through the whole arc, Miku teamed up with Fuutarou to help the two main culprits come together again and stop fighting. They worked together in unison and they eventually came together in the end. Miku even asked Fuutarou if he was glad of the outcome. However, the biggest moment come from the beginning and the end.

The arc starts with Fuutarou saying...



“Chapter 38, page 8”

This line is even ridiculed at first by Kiku.

But, as the arc ends with Miku now giving Fuutarou the same line, which could tie into the overarching story of Fuutarou trying to find Miku. He may fail many times, but every time he fails, he learns little by little, resulting in Fuutarou finally succeeding.



"Chapter 50, page 13"

New Residence Arc: All quint arc, some Miku daydreams

Second Year Final Exam Arc: This arc is when Miku tries to confess once again, with the declaration that she will have the highest score. With Fuutarou eating and complementing her chocolate, she was confident in her abilities...before losing to Ichika. Miku losing during the Final Exams is her first true loss in the series and is the catalyst for her actions during Scrambled Eggs. If that wasn't enough, Nino confesses here, making it seem like Miku was being pushed more than ever before. This was her first big low. This is an all quint arc that then focuses on the loss of Miku.

Scrambled Eggs: An all quint arc that turns into a Miku arc. The arc literally starts with Miku believing she's a coward, and the arc continued with her trying to cut ties with Fuutarou. Her mental state was pretty low, but as soon as Fuutarou found her, she bounced right back to her highest point yet, maybe a little too high, as she immediately went to change the course of the series moving forward.

New Class Arc/

Fuutarou's Birthday Arc:



“Chapter 68, page 10”

Miku simply sailed through this arc with minimal moments, but there was this feeling that something was wrong, as if she was trying to go back to basics with Fuutarou.

Kyoto Trip Arc: Another quint arc that turns into a Miku arc. Once again, Miku reaches another low as she's betrayed by her sister in a directly malicious set of actions. However, Miku and Fuutarou eventually get Ichika to turn back despite the fact that they were separated most of the arc. This then turns into the four sisters helping Miku get closer to Fuutarou, which results into Miku gaining her confidence once again. Yet another massive roadblock conquered. As a side note, Miku also apologizes to Nino and Ichika, her current two rivals, meaning she felt sorry for something that she did. Whether it was just for acting like that during a “fair fight” or something else remains to be seen.



“Chapter 82, page 10. Chapter 83, page 17”

Quintuplets Flashback Arc: Seemingly a Yotsuba arc, where Yotsuba became her own enemy by becoming far too confident and believing she was far better than her sisters. Even though it was portrayed like this, the first sister Yotsuba attacked in this state was Miku, but Miku didn't falter and tried her best to get Yotsuba back. Once the quintts revealed they cheated, it was Miku that

gave Yotsuba her big speech, which supposedly helped Yotsuba get over that God Complex part of her life, maybe.

Summer Vacation Arc: Miku shows her new confidence by revealing that she feels different after Sisters War, having a new perspective on her world. Fuutarou and Miku try to get Ichika to rethink her decision to leave school by having her not to worry about what she did. While they kind of failed, Miku and Fuutarou came together, now in the workplace by working most of summer together.

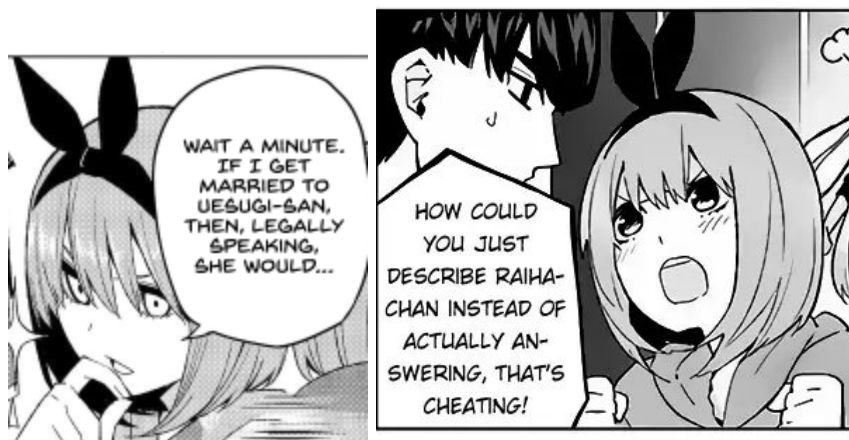
School Festival Arc: While it should seem that this would be Miku's new low, which she almost reaches, she is able to look into herself and fix the boys vs girls subplot of the festival, and has finally used disguises(though not perfect) in order to fix more family issues. Now, as of the recent chapter, it seems like we have a situation quite similar to Seven Goodbyes. At this point, Miku is far too used to this, which means that she'll be helping yet again to fix her family's problems. Have you ever heard of the saying that you can just feel the love for a character? I can feel that with Miku to make her into a phenomenal character by the end of the series.

YOTSUBA'S INFERIORITY AND GOD COMPLEX

Yotsuba is a very broken character, so much to the point she should honestly go to therapy. She constantly believes that she is worthless and that she only exists to help others. In a way, it's similar to Miku, but due to Miku being a veteran to this song and dance by this point, she can look past it and try to fix the problems that are currently happening. But Yotsuba hasn't done that, in fact, I would argue that she's almost the exact same person from the beginning, including her superiority complex.

That sounds like an oxymoron, doesn't it? Especially how Yotsuba keeps calling herself worthless, it would seem that she's the most selfless, right?

Come on, you know that's not true. While she does plenty of selfless actions, there are many times where she shows how she might not be quite so innocent.





“Chapter 8, page 7. Chapter 17, page 6. Chapter 19, page 6. Chapter 29, Page 6. Chapter 36, page 7”

At first, they are just portrayed as simply comedic bits about her. But, once her Lolikano reveal comes, these moments change in their meaning and now just seem like this Yotsuba is not too dissimilar to her old self, even if she can hide it better...

Once the second half of the series kicks off, her actions become more and more selfish.

Who was the one who forced Fuutarou into class representative, which just made the tension between him and Takeda worse?



"Chapter 70, page 10"

Who was the one who just announced that no matter what, she would always be there to bail Fuutarou out as if to announce ahead of time that she would be the only one special to Fuutarou?



"Chapter 72, page 15"

Who was the one that tried to force Fuutarou to speak up about the girl in the photo, despite her being the very same girl?



"Chapter 79, pages 9 and 10"

Who was the one who forced herself on Fuutarou to find Miku to get Fuutarou to give the details after HER mistake?



"Chapter 81, page 5"

Who was the one who immediately asked Itsuki about secrets once she had started acting odd despite how she had been lying for months about knowing Fuutarou?



"Chapter 82, page 18"

Who just mysteriously forgot about Miku's bread, but just had to make sure to announce that she picked it up and was TOTALLY going to use it?



"Chapter 85, page 10"

Who didn't even react to Ichika bringing the bread that she forgot?

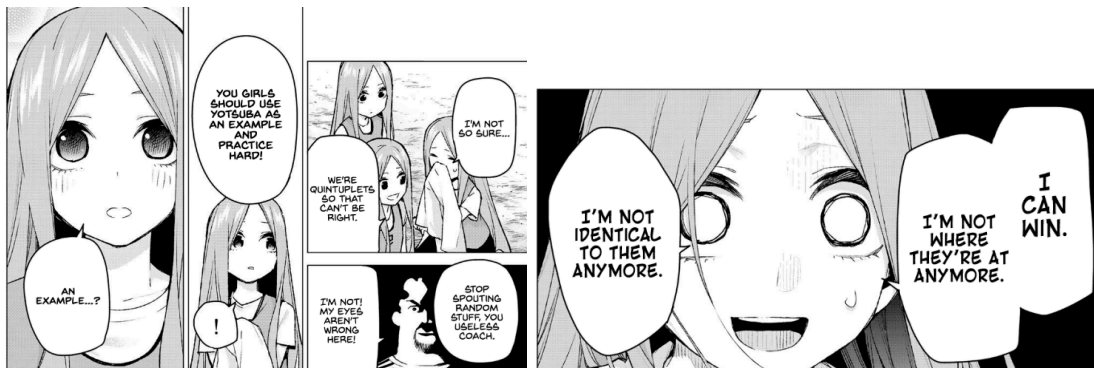


"Chapter 85, page 11"

Who immediately whipped out her Lolikano card as soon as Takebayashi started to mention her past with Fuutarou in an attempt to assert dominance?



"Chapter 100, page 33"





“Chapter 87, page 9. Chapter 88, page 18. Chapter 89, pages 10 and 11”

A reddit user by the name u/plattbagarn, made a great timeline about how Yotsuba was acting during this portion of the story, and how she acted during the flashback, with some traits that would simply carry over into the current timeline.

1. Coach Maradona says Yotsuba is special.
2. She gets lost and ends up meeting Fuutarou.
3. Ichika goes to play with him and can't see that it isn't her.
4. She realises that she's not particularly special.
5. Tells their mom that she's gosh darned special, alright.
6. Decides that no one except her is allowed to be special.
7. Is a massive, egotistical vixen towards her sisters for roughly four years.
8. Completely forgets how to have desires after a couple months.
9. Hides her feelings and lies to everyone for a year.
10. Has Itsuki take care of the problem she feels guilty about.
11. The girls resolve her problem for her.

https://www.reddit.com/r/MikuNakano/comments/ehu0b0/the_possibility_of_one_last_twist/

Considering how Yotsuba still loves Fuutarou after 6 years with no change in her mentality, how is one expected to believe that Yotsuba is still not the selfish girl that she was only a few years ago? Hell, did anyone honestly believe she would stop acting the way she had in chapter 108? Just because she said it means nothing, considering her past record. Just the simple fact that Yotsuba doesn't want to tell Fuutarou about who she is, is the most selfish thing she could do. Thinking that she is so special to the point that you'll lie to Fuutarou so much because you think he'll fall head over heels for you is the definition of egotism. Even Itsuki, the most neutral here, can't even congratulate her. Why? Because she tried to help Yotsuba reveal her identity herself to Fuutarou to help her move on. But, not only does she not do it, she then has to apologize to her sisters for winning. Yotsuba always blames herself for things like this, like she's the center of the world, and she has to help everyone. It's nothing more than bragging disguised as an apology. Some will say that she does this to have her sisters be happy. But, who does Yotsuba really think she is, deciding other people's happiness for them? Negi has created this perfect

“No bulli” zone around Yotsuba to make people believe that anything or anyone that challenges Yotsuba is in the wrong. That is the hardest type of person to win against, someone who constantly seems selfless but is doing nothing but hurting those around them by not being honest.

THE FARCE OF SISTERS WAR

Taking into account how Yotsuba turns selfish almost subconsciously, then this could mean that Miku had far more to worry about during the Kyoto Trip, especially if both Ichika and Yotsuba knew about the Bell Kisser.

Ichika tried to stop Miku by taking a more direct approach. She misled Fuutarou to believe that Miku didn't like Fuutarou. While the plan was very flawed, she would always get in the way of Miku and Fuutarou to keep them away from each other. Ichika wanted to prevent Miku from confessing and being accepted. Ichika was lying to Fuutarou.

Yotsuba seemed to support Miku, but considering how she can act, what if there was a deeper meaning to her actions? Like Yotsuba screaming Ichika's plan in detail. Even after Miku is holed up in her room, she cares more about Fuutarou and tries to interrogate Itsuki. Then, when Miku and Fuutarou are having their date, she just forgets about the bread she picked up. Then, when Ichika had the bread ready to go, there was absolutely no reaction from Yotsuba. Yotsuba then asked Miku in chapter 86 about not going through with the confession fully. Yotsuba wanted Miku to confess to Fuutarou and get rejected. Does this mean that Yotsuba was doing this on purpose? Probably not. Much like Yotsuba's many actions, it's subconscious, but it doesn't change that Yotsuba was lying to Fuutarou.

Considering how both Ichika and Yotsuba both met Fuutarou six years ago and both were in love with him, the idea of both of them going against Miku here, the girl with no backstory with Fuutarou, seems more likely.

MIKU FORGIVES



“Chapter 85, page 16. Chapter 81, page 17”

The way Miku says sorry to both of them also seems similar, yet different. When Nino mentions Miku never believed Ichika was in the wrong, there is also nothing from Yotsuba, even though she was the first to apologize to Miku.

Having both Ichika and Yotsuba have different secrets also connect them. Ichika tried to be honest about her past, but lied with her current actions, while Yotsuba tries to be honest to Fuutarou about her current actions, but constantly lies to him about her past. Either way, they lied, and Fuutarou does not like that, especially now.

Once Fuutarou caught Ichika red-handed, he was merciless in judging her, leaving her in tears, so what would happen when he finds out that Yotsuba has been lying to him since day 1? I would assume that he would be furious, or at the very least, very disappointed. However, that is why Miku is there. She will help Fuutarou with forgiving Yotsuba, similar to how Miku always forgave the other girls, no matter what. This will lead to Fuutarou to forgive her and thank her for helping shape Fuutarou into the man he eventually became. With that in mind, Yotsuba will FINALLY move on, and truly let go of her past.

I believe Miku knows or at least has an idea of who Yotsuba really is, which also would go into why Miku is helping Yotsuba first, as opposed to consoling the rest. This could also explain as to why Miku was downstairs so soon in 113.

In chapter 100, after Yotsuba almost spills the beans, there is an extra shot of Miku next to Fuutarou's panel. With her close-up shot showing a knowing smile, it seems like she's figured something out.



“Chapter 100, page 36”

In chapter 106, Miku mentions that she’s still holding back a lot.



“Chapter 106, page 18”

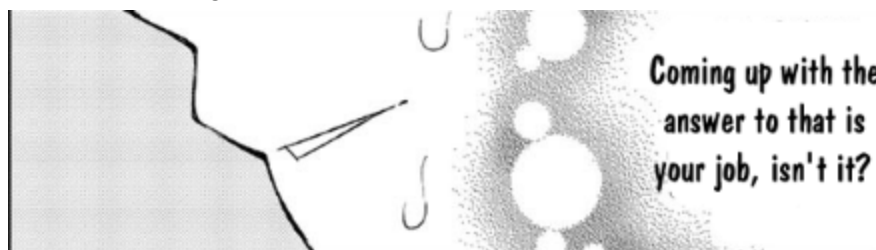
What if Miku led Fuutarou towards Yotsuba’s room or gave him hints? It seems that Fuutarou knew there was something wrong with Yotsuba, but as the end of chapter 114 and 115 showed, he seemed surprised that she loved him.

LOGIC VS EMOTION

But, why would Fuutarou agree to this? Why did he pick Yotsuba? That's simple, he didn't want to have anyone be hurt anymore, but all that did was backfire. As we know, while he's very stubborn, when Fuutarou tries to fix something by himself, it just doesn't work, he needs the help of others, even when he's in a position where he should do it himself.



"Chapter 41, page 12"



"Chapter 16, page 2"

Look at it from Fuutarou's point of view. There has been so much drama around him. The events of Sisters War left all the quintuplets worse for wear. Their bonds were pushed to the limits here. Hell, Ichika was never the same. Now, we got to the final festival right before final exams and graduation, what crazy things would happen if he didn't try to quell the drama? He wanted to help everyone get over their regrets, but in the way Fuutarou knows, through his head. In chapter 91, Raiha found a book on love that Fuutarou was reading, which he then tested on Nino like he was having a test. Having Yotsuba be the neutral choice would make sense as just like the audience, he believes no one would be against Yotsuba winning, right?

Now, let's take a look at confessions

Here's Miku



"Chapter 38, page 14"

Here's Nino



"Chapter 59, page 22"

Here's Yotsuba herself, the one who kept trying to keep it a secret.



"Chapter 114, page 16"

All three show that their emotions took over and confessed right at that moment, because love doesn't make sense, it doesn't follow the traditional rules of logic.

Now, what about Fuutarou. The guy isn't emotionless, and nowadays he understands the concept of love. As far back as chapter 3, he became giddy when he thought that Miku was going to confess to him. But, his confession in 114 was cold, calculated, even questioning himself as to why he was even there.

Fuutarou even seemed fine with being rejected, but kept pressing on once he saw Yotsuba just making excuses.

He seemed more concerned with the reactions of the others than with Yotsuba.

Fuutarou even played the perfect victim card and buttered her up, just to get a response out of her. Fuutarou blushed more at Yotsuba mentioning other choices than with her confession. He straight up gave them a 3 day notice, but told Ichika he would choose no one as he felt that 3 days weren't enough. He didn't even say he loved Yotsuba, there was no overflowing emotions, there was nothing. Looking at how important Yotsuba was for Fuutarou's past, it sure would seem logical for Fuutarou to choose Yotsuba, but that's not how love works.



“Chapter 101, page 2”

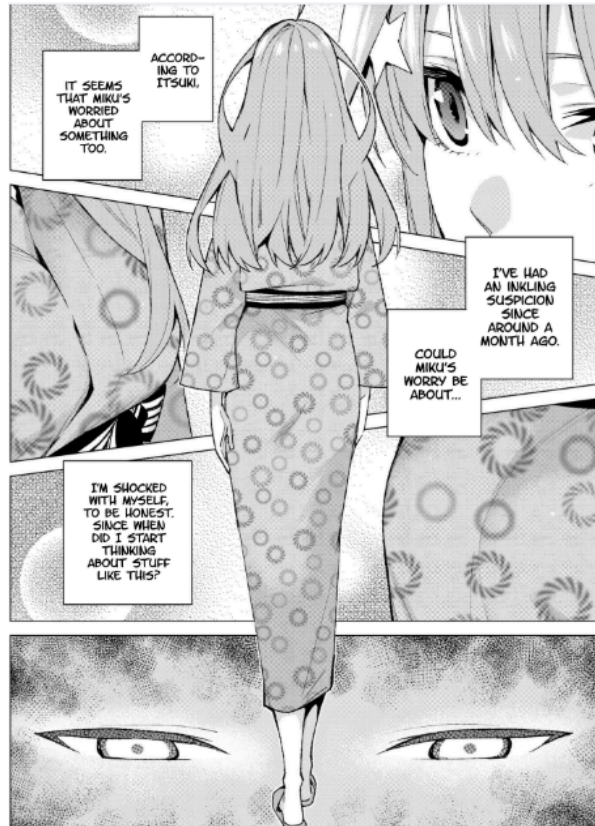
FUUTAROU’S REGRET

Despite Fuutarou trying to get all the sisters to leave their regrets behind, at the end of the day, it was him with the biggest regret. Chapter 98 showed that Fuutarou was very against Miku’s decision to go to a different school, especially after he had always brought up Miku’s scores and how well she was doing. He’s been trying to keep himself in a positive platonic state with the sisters. Now, just as Fuutarou was Miku’s first roadblock, he will be the last, as now it will become Miku’s turn to help him.

Sub Point: Fuutarou is blind but he understands Miku

Going back to Scrambled Eggs and the comment about being blind with love. I believe that Fuutarou is in love with Miku, but he doesn’t know it yet. Why would Fuutarou not know himself, instead of knowing it and simply hide it? Because Miku would find out.

In Scrambled Eggs, we see that Fuutarou was able to discern there being something up with Miku by himself, even if it was only the slightest of feelings.



"Chapter 64, page 14"

Moving on to Sisters War, Fuutarou was able to discern by himself that Miku not only liked him, but that the "Miku" that lied to him clearly wasn't the real one. I also want to bring up that Fuutarou's face is constantly blocked by something, not letting us see his face fully, could he be smiling?



“Chapter 81, pages 8 and 9”

Here, Fuutarou came to the correct conclusion due to his subconscious feelings.



“Chapter 96, page 11”

Sub Point: Miku understands Fuutarou



“Chapter 16, page 12. Chapter 31, page 5. Chapter 86, page 4”

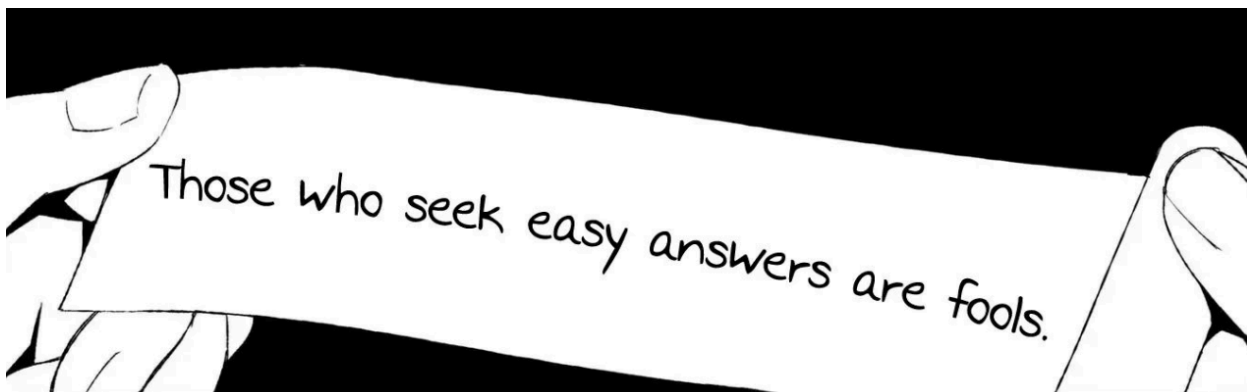
Miku is able to understand Fuutarou, if slightly, thanks to her love for him. As in chapter 16, it was more of an inkling, similar to how Fuutarou's moment in Scrambled Eggs was an inkling as well.

If Fuutarou fully accepted his love for her, she would find out, or have a better idea. Both of them understand each other, what Fuutarou need right now is for Miku to help him come face to face with his feelings, similar to how he helped Miku come to terms with her feelings. Then, he can finally give her the answer he himself has been wondering about.



"Chapter 98, page 13"

There is no easy answer, but that answer is necessary for him and everyone else.



"Chapter 49 page 16"

ICHIKA:THE WALKING, TALKING RED HERRING

Poor Ichika, the plot loves to mess with her.

Is Ichika the fake Itsuki that wanted to break all ties to Fuutarou?



"Chapter 65, page 10"

Sike, it was Miku. She did hurt her leg though.



"Chapter 66, pages 18 and 19"

Is Ichika the one who kissed Fuutarou?



"Chapter 69, page 17"

Sike, Fuutarou's checking multiple people, she was just the first one.

Is she the girl Fuutarou met with six years ago that changed him forever?



“Chapter 85, page 14”

Sike, it was Yotsuba. Ichika played a mean card game with him, though.

Is Ichika the big bad now?



“Chapter 82, page 19”

Nah, she was just a warm up and distraction for Yotsuba, the final antagonist.

Is Ichika out of the race?



“Chapter 91,page 3”

Kind of sike, she's just taking a break, but she's still in.

All I'm bringing is the idea that we should take Ichika with a grain of salt.

Did she mention the idea of the Bell Kisser only being a catalyst because the Bell Kisser isn't the bride or is this just misdirection?

Is Ichika's flashback showing the juice in Fuutarou's hand truly his genuine choice, or does she just think like that since she doesn't know Raiha loves juice?

Did she REALLY slap Fuutarou or is his injury from somewhere else?

It's just an idea.

THE GIRL WHO'S SPECIAL VS THE GIRL WHO ISN'T SPECIAL

Let's compare what both Miku and Yotsuba have from the beginning of the series

Let's see what Yotsuba has.

She's athletic, popular, gets along with everyone and has this perfect aura around her that many give her the benefit of the doubt for anything. She started the accessory thing to help people differentiate her from the others. So many people depend on her due to her selfless acts and it helps her get even more popular. Those same people will then help Yotsuba for everything she's done as shown in chapter 108. The most important thing that Yotsuba has over everyone is her influence over Fuutarou. Since this happened chronologically before the start, I'm counting it. She has the perfect backstory card, with her personality in tow, she sure seems like the most special(in the traditional sense) out of all of them, doesn't it? The flashback that she has is really the biggest part of this, one could say Yotsuba never fought fair.

Now, let's look at Miku.

She's the "smartest", with a great score of F-(32).

She's a shut-in, playing a game that Yotsuba gave to her.

She's not athletic.

She's not very popular.

She can't cook.

She can't act outside of imitating her sisters.

She has self image problems as she thinks she's the worst sister..

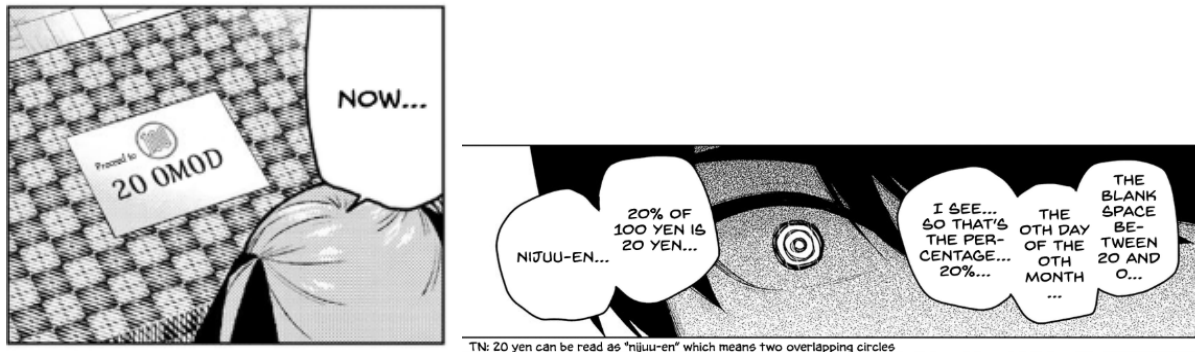
What am I trying to get at here? It's simple:

Miku isn't special...and that's exactly what makes her special.

Miku has constantly tried to better herself through the course of the series. She studies hard to try and get the highest score. She's improved her social skills and is now able to convey her feelings to others outside of her family better. She bought gym tickets to get over her low stamina. She's been improving her cooking throughout the whole series. She's even started getting into imitating people other than her sisters (small glimpse in chapter 95, confirmed in vol 12 extras). She's also tried to get over her self-esteem problems, even if she has a mental block, she eventually finds the courage to go beyond. A core theme of the series is to move on from the past. It's not a case of ignoring it, as it should be remembered in order to avoid making past mistakes, but it's best to look towards the future. While all the sisters have tried this to some extent, it's Miku who is constantly changing, evolving, trying new things. It's a fierce trial and error process, similar to Fuutarou and the quint game. But, both of them continue to try, always getting back up and taking the challenge head on, because "Failure is the stepping stone for success". Miku has lost and failed the most as the series has progressed, all for her eventual big success at the end of the series. Miku isn't naturally gifted at much, if anything, but those actions will result in Fuutarou viewing her as special.

OVERLAPPING CIRCLES

Here's something random from the school festival. There was a puzzle that Fuutarou solved that revolved around "overlapping circles". This puzzle is then never brought up again and is promptly forgotten.



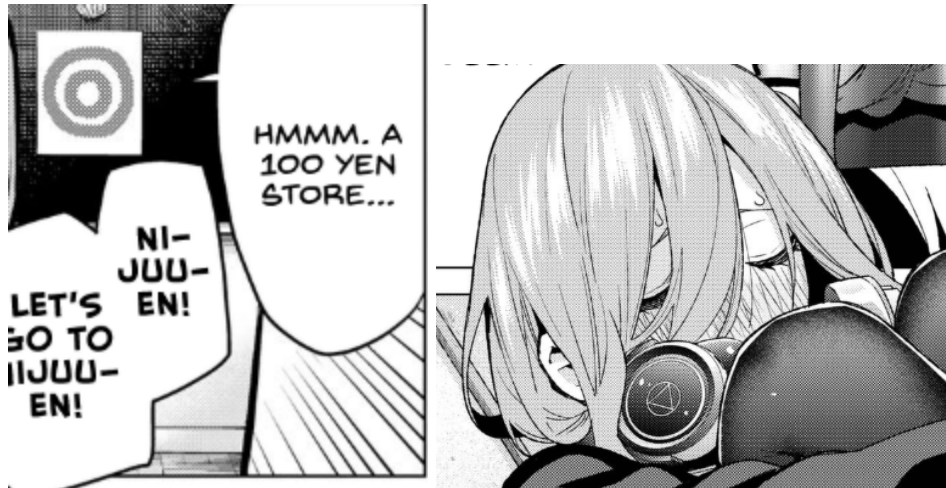
"Chapter 103 pages 4 and 5"

Having such a random thing take up page space in the last story arc seems really out of nowhere. But, overlapping circles? What does that remind you of, perhaps the two circular parts of Miku's Headphones from the side?



"Chapter 51, page 13"

Even the version in the page below seems quite reminiscent of the two circle symbols that One of the sides of Miku's headphones has.



"Chapter 103 page 5, Chapter 51 page 13"

This plot point was never resolved, with Fuutarou not having found the answer(on screen). However, he'll find those circles, he'll find that special 20%. He'll find them the moment he finds Miku in a subconscious manner. After all, Fuutarou still needs to give her an answer.



"Chapter 67, page 14"

A MYSTERIOUS YUKATA

Speaking of subconscious, there's this shot of a yukata flowing in the wind, assuming this is from Fuutarou's perspective, that would mean the first yukata that caught his attention was Miku's



“Chapter 51, pages 3 and 4”

This very same chapter started with Fuutarou making fun of love, but as soon as he got his fortune, he started thinking of the girls, then followed by Miku's attire.

AM I WEIRD?

Miku's stance on being "weird" changes through the series changes , as she goes from using it as a negative against her, to wondering if she's weird after she's changed the definition, to resemble something towards love. Finally, she fully embraces the weirdness that is love and now uses it in a positive way in front of Fuutarou, the same person who she mentioned it to first.



"Chapter 3, page 22. Chapter 25, page 15. Chapter 98, page 12"

I mention this mainly because this part of her development worked in a set of three. As the saying goes, third time's the charm. Miku also has 3 of her sisters become antagonists to her path of love. So, how about some moments that could use a third version?

MIKU'S CONFESSIONS:



"Chapter 38, page 14"

Miku's first confession is a result of her letting her feelings overflow and thus she asks Fuutarou out of a complete whim, almost having her chances ruined as she does it with no regard for anything around her, something that she would keep doing, but less and less as the series progressed.



"Chapter 84, page 20"

In her second confession, it came as a result of Miku's sisters helping her along the way, essentially giving her the win. This would not have made Miku happy in the long run, to win in such a way, so this time, she puts an end to it herself by redirecting her vague line of love towards her sisters.

So, now the stage is set. Her confidence is high, she's become a far more reliable person, and all of her efforts are paying off. Now, Miku will have a third confession won't be done on a whim, it won't have the help of her sisters behind her. Miku will look directly at Fuutarou and tell him the line that she hasn't said once through the whole series in full, "I love you".

MIKU'S KISSES:



“Chapter 68, page 24”

Going with the idea that Miku is the Bell Kisser, both of her kisses follow simple progression. The first kiss is a complete accident where both of them fall and give each other a non-consensual kiss.



“Chapter 106, page 16”

The second kiss goes further, as Miku is the one that pushes him and kisses a Fuutarou who still hasn't really consented. Where could we go from here?

The third and final kiss would require both Miku and Fuutarou to give their kiss together. With the other two as an example, this kiss would need to continue the pattern both of them being on the floor once again. Maybe, this time, it will be Fuutarou who pushes her, finally letting his emotions get the better of him.

HOW LOVE STAYS THROUGH THE COURSE OF TIME

I'm not bothered by both Yotsuba and Ichika still being in love Fuutarou after so long, as it gives us the idea that characters can still be in love, despite being apart. How does this apply to Miku? Well, she's going to go to a different school than Fuutarou. As we saw in chapter 98, Fuutarou has a "conflicted" look, could this be him believing that they wouldn't be able to keep any form of relationship and drift apart? I believe that no matter where they go, their love will be able to stay strong. Even when years pass by, they'll both return to their place of beginnings, still fully in love with each other.

This also applies to the sisters. Even when they go their separate ways, all the sisters will love each other all the same, supporting each other even when far apart.



"Chapter 88, page 20"

FUTURE ACCESSORIES



“Chapter 75 cover”

The way Nino, Ichika and Yotsuba are lined up mirror their order of antagonists that came through the series, leading straight to Miku. The only one who has a full view of the young quint, the current quint, and the future quint, looking back at the life of her and those around her.

Let's take a look at the quint's accessories. Why did they start wearing them in the first place? To have others not mistake them for each other, as they were all special as Yotsuba pointed out once she started this trend in the first place. So, what about the future quint?

Itsuki still has her stars.

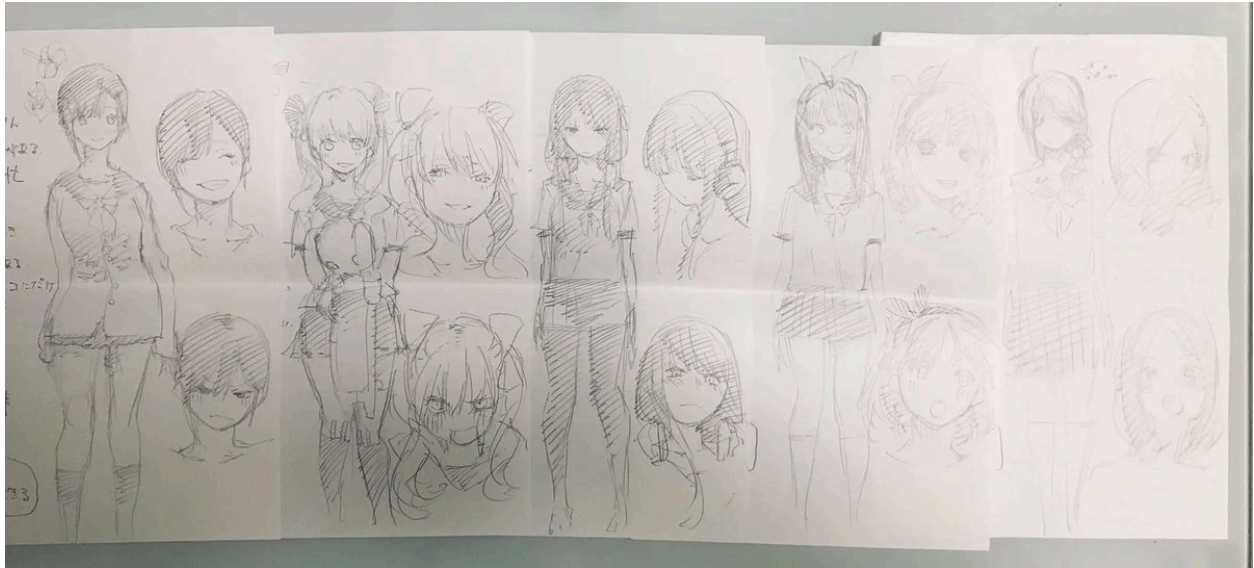
Nino still has her ribbon things.

We can't see Ichika's earrings, but she's still keeping her hair short.

Yotsuba still has her ribbon.

But Miku's headphones are missing. She's even gotten her hair back to its original way from when she was a kid, having her face be far more visible. I believe that is because she no longer needs to give herself such things. That is because the one man whose opinion matters to her, will continue to recognize her, even when she's not wearing anything. By the end of the series, Miku will have no need for costumes or accessories. That person is Fuutarou. Everything she wears will be useless against him, as he'll find her every single time, with the love he has for her.

THE ONE SHOT



“Prototype quint designs”

Extra point: Did you know that in the second One Piece One-shot that would serialize in the same magazine in the future, Eiichiro Oda changed some details about the story and characters to give the readers a sense of surprise once they saw the differences between the One-Shot and the full serialization?

What’s the point of this trivia?

If you look at the screenshot above, you’ll notice how everyone has slightly different designs than what would end up in the final designs. But, you’ll see that the sisters already had their accessories planned out, even if they were in different spots. But, once the one-shot appeared in the magazine, what did we get?



“One-Shot Miku vs Final Miku”

Everyone else has similar designs to their final ones. However, Miku is almost unrecognizable. Even her headphones are nowhere to be found, even though they were right there in the original designs. Could Negi have done this as a way to surprise the readers who read the one-shot?

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Miku is the string that not only keeps her family, but the series together. If a character is in the center, they're usually the most important. Miku is naturally in that spot being the middle sister. She can be the older sister and the younger one in perfect harmony. In a way, her headphones covered far more than just her. Now, everything said here is not fact, nothing more than a set of ideas of a man who probably cares a little too much for this series. But, seeing this amount of love that was given to the character of Miku to make her into such a fantastic character, I simply refuse to just sit by as the current events seem to try and have her lose. At the end of it all, these are just thoughts and theories, how it ends is up to Negi. If he wants to add aliens and do Go-Toubun 2, that's on him. All we can do is wait and hope for the best.



Believe in what you love
Believe in who you love
Believe in Miku



Happy New Year!

Credits + Extra

Thank you to “Anonymous” and “Dropout” for the translations

All screenshots from the manga taken from Mangadex.org

<https://mangadex.org/title/20679/5toubun-no-hanayome>



Original edit made by u/Wedigar

https://www.reddit.com/r/5ToubunNoHanayome/comments/b6z78s/the_answer_has_been_there_since_the_beginning/

List of Yotsuba's problems made by u/Plattbagarn

Coach Maradona says Yotsuba is special.

She gets lost and ends up meeting Fuutarou.

Ichika goes to play with him and can't see that it isn't her.

She realises that she's not particularly special.

Tells their mom that she's gosh darned special, alright.

Decides that no one except her is allowed to be special.

Is a massive, egotistical vixen towards her sisters for roughly four years.

Completely forgets how to have desires after a couple months.

Hides her feelings and lies to everyone for a year.

Has Itsuki take care of the problem she feels guilty about.

The girls resolve her problem for her.

https://www.reddit.com/r/MikuNakano/comments/ehu0b0/the_possibility_of_one_last_twist/

If you want one extra theory, there's this great set by reddit user u/lolgreato. It has some fun insights and something about a tanuki, which goes perfectly into the core of the series of disguise and such.

https://www.reddit.com/r/MikuNakano/comments/ef6f1j/spoilers_state_of_the_miku_chapter_115_analysis/?utm_medium=android_app&utm_source=share

If you would also like an alternate take of chapters 113-114, check out u/OharaLibrarianArtur's version on it!

https://www.reddit.com/r/5ToubunNoHanayome/comments/ebxdpo/i_tried_to_recreate_chapters_113114_from_the/?utm_medium=android_app&utm_source=share

Note: This is sponsored by the Church of Miku.