

その花びらにくちづけを 二人の熱い夏



Presented by
ルナティ&ふゆ屋

**A Kiss For The Petals
Our Hot Summer Together**

Presented by Luminocity and Fuguriya

Foreword

Good day to you, and welcome to St. Michael's.
I'm Peko, responsible for the art in *The Petals* series.
This book serves as a supplemental story to *A Kiss For The Petals –
Joined in Love with You*, released by the circle Fuguriya.
It's a mushy, lovey-dovey sequel featuring Mai and Reo!
As this is a supplemental story, this time the story is told from Reo's point of view.

Following in the vein of *Our Christmas Together*, we have Sano Shin'ichirou on the script
with Peko in charge of illustrations, once again making this book nearly official.
Naturally, it's chock full of yuri goodness, so please indulge yourself in the world of this
couple that's brimming with love.

Now, without further ado, please enjoy the story!

August 2007 – Peko

Prologue – The Melancholy of a Ferocious Beast

Back then, I felt like the whole world had abandoned me.

My mother, my father... Even my classmates and teachers. I didn't have anyone by my side. There was this deep, dark gulf separating me from the rest of the world. But at the same time, that gulf was also protecting me. If I never needed anything from anyone, I'd never be let down. If I never trusted anyone, I'd never be betrayed. At some point I had managed to convince myself of that. That's how I came to live in "My World." Nobody could get close to me. Nobody could interfere. It was a place for me, and me alone.

And yet there was one person who brought all that crashing down. A person who defiantly crossed that gulf, and beat her fists against the world I had built to protect myself until it shattered. The first person to gain entrance to my world. The person who offered me a helping hand when strangers could only hurt me. It would be impossible not to harbor special feelings when faced with a person like that. The same way a baby chick imprints on the first thing it sees from the moment it hatches. Basically, what I'm trying to say is... I had fallen in love.

* * *

It was after class when a shout of unholy rage rang down the hallway.

"Reo!"

The moment I heard it, I jumped in surprise. "Reo" was my name, after all. I'd like to meet the person who could keep their composure after hearing their name shouted in such an obviously pissed off voice. But more to the point, I had to find some way to get out of there.

"Where are you?! Get out here!"

Judging from the sound of her voice, I would say she was at Rage Level 3. Her maddest moments would max out at Level 5, so that meant it was pretty high right now. It was around the same level as the time I bit a classmate so hard it left a mark on her hand. But that time, it had been just as much the other girl's fault for trying to touch my hair without asking, so I had gotten off with a warning. This time, I was bound to at least get a smack or two on the rear.

"I- I gotta hide..."

I scanned my surroundings looking for a place to hide myself. I knew my legs weren't anywhere near fast enough to run. In terms of athletic prowess, we were worlds apart. In this case, my best bet was to take advantage of my small size.

"Yeah, this should work."

I squeezed into a narrow blind spot between the fire hose and a support column. Holding my breath to keep from making any noise, I stood completely still. It wasn't long before I heard the *stomp-stomp-stomp* of furious, unladylike footsteps approach.

At the same time, my heart began pounding just as furiously. Please let her pass me by... I waited prayerfully for the tempest to pass over me.

"...Huh?"

Suddenly, I couldn't hear the footsteps anymore. Could she have gone back the way she came? I held out a little bit longer, but finally I couldn't stay still anymore, and carefully poked my head out to peek down the hallway.

"Is she gone...?" I murmured to myself, but before I could finish my thought...

"THERE. YOU. ARE."

I found myself staring down a beast.

"M- Mai?!"

Standing before me was a tall girl wearing the expression of an ogre. She was a shapely girl with long arms and legs, and slender features. Her eyes, stern as usual, were slanted into sharp triangles.

"I'm not letting you off the hook this time..."

"Eeyaaaah?!"

Mai was enveloped in an aura of rage. I screamed uncontrollably.

* * *

"Owowwoww!!!"

We were back in the classroom, where Mai had dragged me by the scruff of my neck like I was a cat or something. I was howling with tears in my eyes from how hard she was pinching my cheeks.

"Well? Are you ready to apologize yet?"

"Webbe go! (Lemme go!)"

"Looks like you still haven't learned your lesson."

"Noo!"

Narrowing her eyes, Mai pulled on my cheeks even harder. I continued to endure Mai's "disciplining" like this for some time. Once it was over, I turned away in annoyance as I nursed my now bright-red cheeks.

"Reo, those cookies you ate were given to me as a gift by a freshman girl."

"Hmph. I know that. I saw her give them to you with my own two eyes."

"They why did you go and eat them?"

"I dunno. I wanted to see what they tasted like. They weren't very good, by the way."

"Reo!"

I cringed reflexively hearing her shout.

"Reo... Why are you always trying to make enemies with the other girls?"

"Me?! You're the one flirting all over campus just because you've gotten a little popular lately!"

"I've done no such thing!"

"Have too!"

In all honesty, I knew Mai hadn't actually been doing anything like that. But still... Whenever I saw her smiling sweetly at the freshman girls fawning over her, it gave me a sinking feeling in my stomach.

"What's been with you lately, Reo?"

"Me? You're the one who..."

"The one who what?"

I almost said something I hadn't meant to, so I bit my tongue.

It was just before finals. "Let's go to the pool together over summer break," the two of us had promised. And now the start of summer break was just two days away, and I couldn't stop thinking about those plans.

"Well, I'm at least going to go apologize to the girl who gave me the cookies. I want you to think about what you've done, Reo."

"...Yeah, okay."

What was I going to do? Should I just come right out and ask her? Did she even remember our plans? Argh, it was driving me crazy! I really didn't want to start summer break with this weight on my shoulders.

"H- Hey, Mai?"

"Yeah?"

"Um... Well..."

"What's the matter?"

"Do you remember... about our promise?"

I watched Mai's expression apprehensively after asking the question. And then...

"Promise? What're you talking about?"

"Hrk!"

"Forget about that, how'd you do on your finals? You didn't get too many red marks, did you? It'd really suck to have to spend your whole summer cramming after-"

"M- Mai, you idiot!!"

[Image on page 9.]

"...Huh?"

"Forget you! Go run into the arms of your freshman lover for all I care!"

"W- Wait, where are you going, Reo?!"

"Waa-haaa!"

That dumb jerk! How could she be so clueless?!

Chapter 1: The Busy Big Sister

It was the next day – the last day of the first semester. It should go without saying, but there were no classes that day because of the closing ceremony. Nothing does a better job of spoiling the mood of summer vacation than having to sit through the Principal's long, boring, seemingly endless speech, followed by a return to the classroom only to be admonished by our homeroom teacher to "Study hard" and "Don't goof off." Obviously, no one paid either of them much heed. Everyone's thoughts were on the

looming start of summer vacation, already flying off to some tropical paradise or whatever. And me? My thoughts weren't quite so festive. In fact, I had much bigger, more pressing concerns demanding my attention. Specifically...

"I don't believe this..."

It was indeed, unbelievable. After surviving all our ups and downs and twists and turns, Mai and I had finally become an official couple. But I continued to have absolutely no power over anything. No, what upset me most was how I was always at the mercy of Mai's every whim. She should have been falling head over heels for me.

"Why do I always have to be so jealous?" I murmured to myself, with absolutely no one around me paying the slightest attention to the teacher's mind-numbing lecture.

"But what's the deal with those damn freshman girls in the first place?"

I ignored the girl sitting next to me who was eyeing my muttering somewhat uncomfortably.

"First they swarm out of nowhere, and now they won't leave my Mai in peace!"

Overcome with rage, I plunged my mechanical pencil into my desk. The pencil shattered and the tip went flying, causing the girl next to me jump in surprise.

"But then again, summer vacation does start tomorrow. And then those obnoxious little so-called 'fans' of Mai's won't be able to get in the way..."

And if that was the case, I'd get my way, no problem.

"...Heheh, heheheh..."

Now I was feeling a smile spread across my face. Meanwhile, the increasingly frightened girl next to me was hiding behind her textbook to try to keep from looking at me.

"Just you wait, Mai... Hehehehe..."

But for all my positive attitude, I was about to be in for a spectacular letdown. It happened right after summer vacation started...

* * *

"Wh- What did you say?!"

Hearing what had just come out of Mai's mouth, I totally forgot where I was and leapt to my feet, shouting. And oh yeah, we were in a family-style restaurant by the train station. It was a weekday, but since summer vacation had just started, the area around the station was bustling with people. And of course, the restaurant itself was jam-packed with people taking a break, or getting something to eat, or just looking for a place to kill some time. Shouting out loud in a setting like this was a surefire way to draw everyone's attention, whether you wanted to or not...

"Hey Reo, lower your voice."

"R- Right."

I was really embarrassed, but I sat back down trying to look nonchalant. I felt the other patrons continue to eye us for a while, before little by little they went back to their own business.

"Now, what the heck are you talking about? What do you mean you can't hang out with me?" I asked again, trying to keep my cool, even though it was a little late for that now.

"Like I just told you, I have to help watch my little brother and sister."

"But..."

I was about to ask, "But why?" before catching myself.

"Th- Then does that mean you won't get to go anywhere this summer?"

"We've still got plans to go visit my grandmother on my mom's side."

"That's not what I meant!"

I was shouting again.

"Geeze... What's been with you lately, Reo?"

"Nnnn..."

I couldn't even find any words to say. I just puffed out my cheeks and groaned.

"Those two are a handful enough under normal circumstances. Now that it's summer vacation, they're going to be home all the time. It's not going to be any fun having to deal with them all day."

Mai shrugged her shoulders in exasperation.

"All our classmates get to be off frolicking in Okinawa, or Hawai'i, or the Caribbean, but that stuff is just a dream for commoners like me."

Where did she get off talking like that when she had totally and utterly forgotten about our plans together?! And after I spent so long looking forward to it too! It was finally going to be our chance to be alone together!

"Well, it's hard for me to complain when I think about how hard both my parents work all the time... But at least there's one good thing in all this."

Mai's tone of grumbling like some bored housewife changed slightly.

"Uh.... And what's that...?"

"You and I can do it all night long and not have to worry about having to be anywhere the next morning," she said, flashing a smile.

"Gh-?!"

My face flushed so hot, even I could see it.

* * *

With both hands full, I turned the key and pushed against the pointlessly heavy and sturdy door... I had arrived home. It was a spacious four bedroom apartment with living, kitchen, and dining areas. More than enough for any one person. I threw down my bags in the entryway with a *whump*. The plastic bag I had been holding in my right hand was stuffed full of bags of candy. The other contained assorted cleaning supplies.

"...All right, time to get to work!"

I kicked off my shoes and headed inside.

"I'll start with the living room first."

* * *

Ordinarily I can't stand cleaning, although it's not like I'm of those people who feels claustrophobic when things are too orderly or anything like that.

It may be presumptuous of me to say, but I'm a member of a pretty wealthy family. So much so, that they arranged for their daughter to live by herself in a newly constructed four bedroom apartment without even batting an eye. Obviously when you grow up in a household like that, the housework gets taken care of by someone else. That's why when I first started living by myself, things were pretty rough for a while. With every passing day, the pile of garbage grew bigger. So did the mountain of dirty dishes. It was only through the grace of delegating my laundry to a dry cleaner's that I managed to survive at all...

Anyway, if you were wondering what eventually happened, after several days it had gotten so bad that when Mai saw it, her face went slack and she said, "...Did I wander into a landfill?" Ever since then, she's been coming over regularly to clean for me. Now, thanks to her, people can actually come into the entryway and walk down the hall without tripping over piles of trash.

There was only one reason someone so utterly incompetent at housework as I was would get it in her head to try her hand at cleaning. Mai was coming over to spend the night, so naturally I was pretty psyched up. Of course I only planned on straightening up for this one magical night that Mai and I were going to spend together. With that in mind, I tackled the daunting challenge of cleaning the apartment...

"....."

I stood motionless as I took in the view from the entryway to the living room. Somehow it looked even more messed up than when I started.

"What the hell happened?" I asked no one in particular. Obviously I didn't get any reply.

"...Okay! Let's call the living room good enough for now."

That's one of the great things about me. I can look at anything in a positive light.

* * *

The next stop on my cleaning adventure was the bathroom. Taking it in with fresh eyes, I realized just how huge it was. It was so impressive, it had actually been one of the apartment's selling points. Mai and I could sit side by side in the tub and still have plenty of room.

"A bath with Mai..."

No sooner had the words left my mouth than my pulse began to quicken.

"Heh... Hehe... Hehehehe♪"

Once again I couldn't contain myself.

"This time for sure!"

[Image on page 13.]

* * *

Ding-Dong.

About 10 minutes after the time we agreed upon, my doorbell rang.

“Coming, coming!”

I buzzed open the lock to let Mai inside. I used the few minutes it would take her to get from the building’s entrance to my apartment door to do one last check.

First, my outfit. It was a brand new summer dress in pale-blue that looked suggestively like a teddy. I was sure Mai would say it was cute. And I’d bite her if she didn’t.

Next, the living room I’d worked so hard to pick up... Well, it was probably neat enough.

Finally, the bathroom. Thanks to all my hard work, it was sparkling from floor to ceiling. I’d fallen flat on my butt twice. I banged my shin on the faucet three times. The showerhead had fallen and hit me square in the face once. My cleaning had left me covered in bruises from head to toe.

“Yep, it’s perfect♪”

Ding-Dong.

And then, the intercom rang again.

“She’s here!”

Excitedly I flung open the door.

“Mai! It’s great to see you!”

But standing there before my beaming face was...

“What’s up, Reo.”

“Good evening, Reo-chan.”

“Huh...?”

Standing there were two people with wash bowls under their arms. They certainly resembled Mai, but they were a little on the short side. Also the fact that there were two of them was strange.

“Sorry we’re late.”

This time it was the real Mai talking.

“Wh- Wh-wh-who-!”

My tongue had gotten tied.

“When these two heard me talking about what a huge bathroom you had at your place, they absolutely insisted on coming over. I hate to do this, but would you mind if they took a bath here?” Mai asked with her hands clasped, one eye closed.

“M-... M-...”

“Muh?”

“Mai, you idiot!!”

Chapter 2: Let’s Go to the Mountains!

I wasn’t about to let myself get discouraged. The summer of your junior year only happens once.

I had to get closer, *much* closer to Mai this summer. But no matter how hard I tried, Mai was too busy watching after her younger siblings to be able to make any time for

me. Well, as far as something to do together, at least we still had our summer homework we could finish at her house.

And so, one day as summer vacation was reaching its halfway point...

"Huh? I'm not going there," Mai informed me matter-of-factly after I asked when she was planning to visit her grandmother's house like she had mentioned.

"What? But you said you go there with your family every year..."

"Usually, yeah. But this year I decided to stay behind."

"How come?"

Mai looked a little surprised to hear me ask, but then, with a malevolent smile instantly spreading across her face, she said, "You really can't figure it out?"

Her face was right in front of mine.

"Uhh, ahh..."

I suddenly found my mouth flapping open and shut like some kind of fish.

"Because even if it's only for three days, I wanted a break from watching my little brother and sister," Mai said, as she planted a gentle kiss on my forehead.

* * *

"In other words, she set aside three days for me..."

Now back at my apartment, I sat cross-legged on my couch mulling things over. Although my eyes were locked onto the TV out of habit, I couldn't have told you a single thing that was happening on the screen.

"Three days... What can we do in three days...?"

Three days was ridiculously short when compared to the lengthy summer break. But still, it was a heck of a lot better than nothing. The real question was, how much could we get out of those three days?

"The beach... The mountains... Shopping..."

They all seemed so ordinary.

"Hmmm..."

I sat like that, going over everything in my head, when...

"Due to the growing popularity of overseas travel these recent years, tourism has been on the decline here in Karuizawa..."

Karuizawa...? The voice on TV had snapped me out of my trance.

"Karuizawa... That's it! It was right in front the whole time!"

* * *

"Mai! Let's go to Karuizawa!"

The next day I headed straight to Mai's house. Before she could even greet me at the door I issued my decree.

"Karuizawa? Where's this coming from?"

Her expression said she had no clue what I was talking about.

"Let's spend the three days you have free in Karuizawa."

"That would work... I guess. But why Karuizawa?"

“Our family has a vacation home there.”

“A vacation home?!”

Mai reeled dramatically, bumping into the umbrella stand in the corner and making a loud clattering sound.

“Why are you so surprised?”

“A vacation home? Seriously? You’re rich enough that you can afford something like that? ...Oh yeah, I forgot. Your family *is* that rich.”

“There’s nothing special about having a vacation home. Even you were talking about going to Shizuoka.”

“Yeah, but that’s my mom’s family’s house.”

But I was pretty sure our vacation home belonged to my dad’s family. Hmm, I didn’t really get the difference.

“Anyway, let’s go. Karuizawa, just you and me!”

It’s good to get away from the hustle and bustle of the big city to a nice, quiet mountain resort... Or so they say. Besides, if we stayed near St. Michael’s, we were more likely to bump into someone we knew from school. But more importantly, since being helpful was in Mai’s blood, I knew she was going to end up finding work for herself one way or another. That’s why I wanted to take her away some place where she could forget about all her obligations. That way she would spend all day every day with me, and her thoughts would be only of me! It was the perfect plan.

“So what do you say?! Are we going, or not? But I won’t take no for an answer!”

“Okay, sure.”

She agreed readily.

“Huh? Y- You really mean it?”

“It’s not every day you offer to take me somewhere. Besides, what else am I going to do?”

“Mai!”

I did a fist-pump in my head. Mai and I were going on a trip, just the two of us. I was quickly developing a lump in my throat thinking of how we would spend those three glorious days.

* * *

The day had finally arrived. Our method of transportation to Karuizawa was by train. First we had to get on the bullet train in Tokyo. This would be my first time riding it, by the way. Mai seemed a little surprised when I told her that.

“Well, whenever I’ve been to our vacation home in the past, I’ve gone in my father’s company car. Besides, normally when you take a trip somewhere, you go overseas, right?”

Mai looked incredibly peeved when I said that. For a while afterward, she would respond to everything I said by spitefully calling me “Bourgeois.” What the heck was her problem?

Anyway, eventually we finally boarded the train. My first time on the bullet train. As I was still getting over my surprise that the seats were in rows instead of facing inward like on a regular train, the bell rang announcing our departure.

“Apparently it’s just a little over an hour to Karuizawa,” Mai said, reading from the information pamphlet.

“An hour, huh...” I murmured, although my thoughts were somewhere else altogether. The two of us were sitting side by side, the seats so narrow that our shoulders were touching. The problem was that both of us were wearing sleeveless tops. You may say that’s no big deal, and normally I would agree with you. But for some reason, maybe because it had been so long since Mai and I had any alone time together, I was keenly aware of this fact. Maybe it was the warmth of Mai’s bare flesh against mine, or maybe it was the sensation of her slightly perspiring skin, but I couldn’t help but fixate on it.

“H- Hey, Mai...” I spoke up as I glanced repeatedly in her direction. She gave no response. Instead, she simply placed her hand on top of mine.

[Image on page 17.]

“M- Mai...”

My heart felt like it was going to beat out of my chest. My pulse raced as though it had a mind of its own. Mai squeezed my hand tighter.

“D- Don’t... Geeze, we’re in public...”

I mean, come on, just how desperate was she? This seriously couldn’t wait a little longer?

“Not here... People are looking...”

But despite my protests, Mai’s grip remained firm. Fine then. I guess I had no choice but to grin and bear it. But as long as Mai wanted me so badly...

“Fine... Y- You can kiss me, but that’s all.”

“.....Zzzzzzz”

“Huwah?!”

She was asleep. Not only that, her mouth was gaping wide open, like she was in a really deep sleep.

“Rr... Rrrrr... Mai, you jeeeeerk!!”

Chapter 3: In the Shade of a Tree-lined Path

“Hnnng! What a great nap.”

No sooner had we left Karuizawa Station than Mai stretched her arms, looking refreshed. I gave her a cold, hard stare.

“Huh? What’s wrong, Reo? You seem upset.”

“Just shut up. Whose fault do you think that is?”

“What?”

For a moment I thought about unloading on her, but I decided to restrain myself for the time being. After all, we were finally alone at a summer resort town. This was our chance to get all cozy and lovey-dovey together!

* * *

Apparently it was about 15 minutes by car to get from the station to our vacation home. I'd arranged in advance for the caretaker to come meet us with a car. When Mai had looked at the map, she remarked that it was "pretty far from the station," so the request had been on short notice. Even though I'd looked at the map myself, I had no clue how far it was or how long it would take. If Mai hadn't pointed it out to me, we would've been stuck walking for nearly an hour.

"This building may have some miles on it, but that just adds to its character," Mai said with some enthusiasm upon entering the villa.

"I heard it was built back when my grandfather was still in his heyday. Um... So like 20 years ago or something."

"Wow..."

"And they used to hold parties where nearly 100 people would gather in the garden."

"Parties with 100 people... The other half really does have it different."

For some reason Mai made a gesture like she was wiping sweat from her forehead. She seemed to be enjoying herself though, so I was happy. It meant my plan to bring her up here was working.

"Ahhh! Reo, look at this!" Mai suddenly shouted loudly. She was pointing out from the terrace.

"What is it?"

"You've got a tennis court in your yard!"

"Yeah, so?"

"What do you mean, 'So'?! You've got a tennis court in your yard!"

"Yeah, and we've got a driving range on the other side."

"What?!"

Mai was speechless.

"Seeing all this gives me a whole new appreciation for just how filthy rich your family is."

"My grandfather is the rich one. We're just average."

"Nuh-uh, no way are you average."

Geeze, why did Mai have to make such a big production out of everything? This was no time to relax, though. With only three days together, I had to make every last second count. I wondered if first taking a stroll around the area might help set the mood. For some reason just the thought of having a date at a summer resort town made my heart race.

"H- Hey, Mai, why don't we..."

"All right, let's play tennis!"

I had gathered what tiny amount of courage I could muster only to have my proposal utterly squashed by Mai's unnecessarily loud voice.

"Wh... Wait, where'd that come from?"

"Because, when you're at a summer resort you play tennis. Everyone knows that."

"Says who?"

"I'm gonna go get ready!"

With my words falling on deaf ears, Mai rushed off to prepare to play tennis.

* * *

[Image on page 21.]

"Here it comes, Reo!"

With a satisfying *pock!* the ball came flying back from the opposite side of the court with a ridiculous topspin.

"W- Wait, I wasn't ready ye- Eeeyaaagh?!"

Despite my desperate attempt to go after it, Mai's ball landed just barely inside, hopping the baseline and sailing off behind me. At the same time, my spectacular swing-and-a-miss caused me to go tumbling hard to the ground.

"Owww..."

"Are you okay, Reo?"

"Hnnng... One more round!"

"Sure thing. Should I go easier on you, though?"

"No way!"

As tough as I tried to sound, I could tell Mai had already been going easy on me this whole time. That's why I had to beat her.

"I'll get you for sure this time!"

"We can go as many rounds as you want, but they'll all end up the same way."

"Shut up!" I shouted, feeling seriously worked up now.

"Okay, here goes then," Mai said, tossing the ball high in the air. Then, in one fluid motion, she served the ball. It cleared the net, landing just past the service line, before bouncing toward me. I was in the perfect position. All I had to do was hit it back...

"Hnnyaa?!"

Of course I missed.

* * *

The hot shower rained down on my tender, bruised body.

"Hoooh... Ow..."

I was in the tennis court's adjacent shower facilities. The showers were all in a row, each separated by a partitioning wall. I could hear Mai's voice coming over the partition.

"I told you, didn't I? We should have just had fun instead of making it a competition."

"Tennis wouldn't be tennis if it wasn't a competition."

"It's not like it was much of a competition though."

"Shut up!"

There was no way I could have beaten Mai. Even I knew that much. But it wasn't in my nature to admit defeat so easily. I just couldn't help it.

"Well, at least you're cute as a sore loser."

"Gh?!"

That took me off guard. I got flustered and slipped, banging my head on something. At least I was spared the shame of being seen. I swear, lately it seemed like every time I let my guard down, Mai was right there, ready with some remark to send me into a fit. And what's worse, she didn't even have the slightest clue she was doing it. Even now, she was in the shower, humming away obliviously. And another thing, had her chest gotten even bigger since the last time I saw it?

"And mine..."

Casting a casual glance down, it was like looking at the great plains. In other words, I was totally flat. To be honest, I really didn't even need a bra. When we were naked like this, the difference between me and Mai was painfully obvious.

"Haah..."

"What was that sigh for? Is something wrong?"

Once again, Mai peeked over the partition at me.

"...It's nothing."

I stuck my head under the shower, trying to wash away my unpleasant thoughts.

* * *

Once we'd cleaned up from playing tennis, we headed back to the villa for lunch. Naturally Mai did the cooking. Then the two of us went out for a walk. Our destination was a forested path a short distance from our vacation home. In the midst of the hot summer sun, the path was shaded by a canopy of tall, dense trees, which kept it so cool that it was like stepping into another world.

"Mmmm, this must be what people mean when they talk about fresh air."

"Yeah... You can say that again."

It was a pretty enjoyable date with Mai. Or rather, it would have been, if I had been able to lift my spirits.

"Tokyo sure doesn't have anything like this."

Even here, Mai was still cooking for me. In terms of academics and athletics, I couldn't hold a candle to her. And as far as our figures went, we were in totally different brackets. There wasn't a single area where I came out on top. Was I even worthy of walking next to her? Was my whole existence just a burden to Mai? All this time I'd just refused to acknowledge it, but the signs were becoming increasingly apparent.

Chapter 4: My Cute Darling

This sucked. The closer I got to Mai, the more trapped it made me feel. Something dark and ugly had taken up residence in my heart. It was telling me, "You'll never be good enough for her."

* * *

"Reo. Hey, earth to Reo."

"Huh...?"

I realized my name was being called and looked up. I was seated on the L-shaped sofa in the living room with Mai was standing in front of me.

"Geeze, how many times do I have to call you?"

"S- Sorry."

Mai looked surprised when I apologized.

"What's the matter? I never thought I'd hear an apology out of you."

"It's nothing, really..." I said, purposely avoiding eye contact. I just couldn't look Mai in the face right now...

"Like hell, it's nothing. I can tell from your expression."

"When I say it's nothing, I mean it's nothing! Now leave me alone!"

I instantly felt bad for shouting. Now I'd hurt Mai's feelings when all she'd done was show concern for me.

"Sorry. I didn't mean to upset you..."

That wasn't the case at all. I was entirely to blame here. The feelings I wanted to convey were weighing on me like a ton of bricks, but no matter what I did, I just couldn't seem to make the words come out.

"Yeah right..."

"Huh?"

"If you were thinking I'd say something like that, think again!"

Something extremely hard came crashing down on my head. A shock radiated through my entire body as sparks flashed in front of my eyes.

"Ooowwww!! Wh- What the hell are you doing?!"

"Oh, so you've snapped out of it," Mai said, brandishing her fist.

"You may think you can hide it from me, but it's written all over your face."

"What're you..."

I looked up at Mai, rubbing the knot she'd left with her fist.

"You've been wearing that gloomy look ever since we left the tennis court. That's how I knew something was up."

"I just..."

"Just tell me already. I'm here to listen to whatever you have to say."

Doing a complete 180, Mai now donned a gentle smile.

"Mai... Nn, hnn... Waaaaah!"

All at once, the dam that had been holding back my tears burst and they just started pouring out. I buried my face in Mai's chest, sobbing my heart out, unloading everything I'd been holding back.

* * *

My tears had run out, and I finally spilled everything I'd been wanting to say. Outside was bathed in twilight.

"So you don't think we're a good fit, huh?" Mai murmured quietly, while rubbing my back with her hand. "Is that really that important?"

"B- But all you ever do is take care of me..."

"I don't care. It makes me happy when I'm able to do things for you."

"It does...?"

Mai's smile was even gentler now than the one she had on earlier.

"It's true that you're usually pretty hopeless."

"Aww..."

She'd just confirmed my fears.

"I mean, you don't know how to cook or clean, and you're terrible at schoolwork and sports. But your cuteness more than makes up for it in my opinion."

"But I'm so short and flat-chested... And my looks can't even compare to yours."

"Who cares about that?!" Mai shouted, almost snapping when she said it. "You're small and easy to hold in my arms. Even though you're such a sore loser, you give up the game the moment something trivial gets in your way. These things and everything else about you are the things I love, Reo."

"Mai..."

"I wouldn't change a single thing about you. You stay every bit as Reo as you are."

I felt as if some part of me that had been missing had been recovered. Just like that, all my worries were washed away by Mai's simple words.

"Thank you, Mai... I guess I was just getting too worked up over things."

Mai said nothing and just bowed quietly. And then, wearing a devilish grin, she said the following.

"It's so sad though."

"What is?"

"The fact that you were so worried means you had no faith in my love for you."

"Uh... Th- That's not true at all."

"Oh, why?! Why does my Reo, even to this day, have so little faith in me after all I've done for her?!" she shouted in an overly-theatrical tone. She was really hamming it up with the gestures too. Reeling back with her hand against her forehead, she looked like something out of an old movie.

"From here on out, I guess I'll just have to make sure she appreciates how much I really do love her."

"Hey... Wait, what're you- Gaaah!!"

Grasping hold of the bottom of my dress, Mai had it up and over my head before I knew what was happening. Since it was a one-piece dress, I'm sure you can guess how I looked once it was turned inside out.

"Wh- Why're you taking my clothes off?!"

"This is all to better express my love for you. This is no picnic for me either, believe me!"

"Yeah right, so why are you smiling when you say that?!"

My scream echoed across the Karuizawa sky at sunset.

* * *

[Image on page 27.]

"Yaaah... Ah! Haaah!"

The waves of sweet pleasure coursing through my body teased tortured cries from my mouth. Mai was embracing me from behind, restraining my movement and toying with me to her delight.

"Hehe... You're just too darn cute, Reo."

Her breath tickled my ears.

"Goodness, just look how hard your little nipples have gotten."

She pinched their sensitive tips with her fingers. On top of that, she was intently yet delicately caressing my chest, which had swollen ever so slightly.

"Fwaaah... Mai-!"

"What is it? Are you going to come just from having your chest rubbed? Oh, but we can't have that. There's still so much more to come."

As she said that, her free hand slipped down between my thighs.

"Ahh! Mai, not there!"

Without even pausing, her fingertips traced over my petit cleft.

"Hyaah?!"

A jolt shot through my body. Pressing onward, Mai's fingers continued over my clitoris which was poking its little head out.

"Aaah! Haaah!"

Once again, a shock rippled through me. Mai continued on like that, caressing around its edges. Then, just when I thought she was going to insert her finger up to the first knuckle, she suddenly penetrated me two knuckles deep. Soon one finger became two, and then two became three...

"I've already got three fingers inside. I had no idea you could be so obscene."

"I- I-m not... Nnnn! You're... You're the one who's doing everything... Hrnn!"

"Oh, so you're saying it's my fault then?"

Mai pulled hard on my nipple with her right hand.

"Hnng!"

Her three fingers continued their vaginal violation.

"Ah, ahh, haaah?!"

“Hehe... I can’t believe how much is already pouring out of you. You’re always so quick to get sopping wet down here, Reo.”

“I... I am not...”

“Are so. And who do you think always has to change the sheets after you’ve made a mess of them... Hmm?”

“Nn, aah! Take it easy down there!”

Mai’s fingers had found the most sensitive spot inside me and she was unleashing a furious attack with pinpoint accuracy. Try as I might, I couldn’t stifle my voice.

“Reo... My dear Reo...” Mai said as she kissed the nape of my neck. Feeling the warmth of her body against mine filled me with joy. But it wasn’t enough. I loved her, after all. I needed to feel her even more. So...

“M- Mai...”

“Hm...? Yes?”

“Is it okay if I do something for you too?”

“Huh...?”

“I want to make you feel good too, Mai.”

* * *

[Image on page 29.]

“Hold on now... This is really humiliating,” Mai said in a nervous voice as she looked up at me. I think she was less disoriented by her inverted position and more flat-out embarrassed.

“I can see your whole pussy like this.”

“D- Don’t say stuff like that!”

“Heheh.”

Without any delay, I opened my mouth wide and extended my tongue toward Mai’s pussy.

“Eeyaha?!”

Just barely making contact with the tip of my tongue sent a shiver through Mai’s body.

“You’re so cute, Mai.”

“Wh- What’re you talking about?”

I was surprised to see how hard she was blushing.

“Nn... Mmf... *slrp...*”

I tended to her with my tongue in the same way she always did with me.

“Ahh, haah! Not there... Hnn?!”

With my tongue, I teased open the fleshy petals guarding her entrance. As I did, a shrill cry escaped Mai’s mouth.

“Geeze Mai, I can’t believe how much juice I’m getting to come out of you.”

“Actually... Your beloved Mai is the one who’s making it come out for you.”

If she was going to make sarcastic remarks, I was going to turn her words against her.

“Well then, I’ll just have to double your pleasure...”

I extended my tongue as far as it would go, penetrating Mai. The soft, warm sensation of her insides enveloped my tongue. And inside there was just as much hot fluid pouring out endlessly, soaking my face. I slurped obscenely, lapping up all I could from the seemingly eternal spring.

"Nn, *slrp, shlp, zhrrp*."

"No... Don't suck so much!"

"Your juice is delicious, Mai. It's so hot and syrupy, I can feel it sliding down my throat when I swallow it."

"Aww, Reo, you idiot..."

Her body was contorted in embarrassment. Just a little more... I wanted to deepen our bonding just a little bit more. With that thought in mind, I redoubled the efforts of my tongue.

"*Chrrp, shlrp, nnn... Nnng!*"

"Haah! Oh God! Your mouth is latched on to my pussy!"

Mai's entire body shook in spasms.

"Hnnn, ghh?!"

I wasn't sure when it had happened, but the sounds escaping Mai's mouth had changed in tenor. I took that as a sign that she had surrendered all control of her body. From my point of view, this was the greatest gift of all.

* * *

[Image on page 31.]

"Ahh, Reo!"

Mai cried out in rapture as she clutched my head. Meanwhile, I was suckling from her breast like an infant.

"Hnnh, keep sucking on my breasts, Reo. J- Just like that. Move your tongue around the nipple more."

"Mmm, *slrp, chrp...*"

I did as she said, tracing the contours of her nipple with my tongue, occasionally giving it a flick.

"Hyaah, ah! Ahhh!"

As I gauged her reaction, I reached one hand toward her privates.

"Hnnh?!"

Still sopping wet from having just gone down on her, her vagina readily accepted my fingers.

"Ahhaah! Y- You're fingering me?!"

"I want to make you feel even better," I informed her as I began to work both my fingers and tongue doubly hard. I vigorously stirred my fingers around inside her hot, damp entrance.

"Ahh, hnn, khh!!"

Each time I plunged my fingers in, clear fluid spurted out. Mai's thighs were completely soaked, glistening like they had been coated in a layer of varnish.

"It's no fair for you to have all the fun..."

"Hn? ...Hnn, nnnh!"

Now Mai was making her move. Her arm reached around over my bottom, finding my pussy from behind.

"Haah, aaah!"

Mai's long, slender fingers stirred inside me. They stimulated every part of my insides, searching for the sweet spot.

"Ahh! Mai, your fingers are so good...!"

"You're just as amazing, Reo... Hnn!"

Mai tightened her grasp around my head. She was clutching so hard, I felt like I couldn't breathe.

"Haaah, Reo! Reo! I'm about to come...!"

Her voice was unusually strained.

"Yeah... Me- Me too... Nhaaa!"

My body stiffened up, and at the same time I felt something welling up from deep inside me.

"Hyah! H- Here it comes... Here it comes...! Ah, hah, hnnnn!"

"I- I'm coming! Reooooo!"

In that brief moment, our senses were completely blown. My head went totally blank and my body lost all feeling.

"Mai..."

"Reo..."

After gazing at each other and smiling, the two of us kissed. The afterglow lingered on in slow, rolling waves for what seemed like an eternity.

* * *

I wasn't sure how long we had been like that. At some point it had gotten dark outside. This whole time we'd just been holding one another, still naked from earlier. There, in the villa in the woods, all that you could hear was the just barely audible chirp of insects. I was the first one to break the silence.

"Mai... I'm sorry I'm always so selfish."

"Come on, what're you talking about?"

Mai smiled as she twirled my hair around her fingers.

"I'm should be sorry for being such a pain in the butt."

"What do you have to apologize for, Mai? You didn't do anything wrong."

Mai responded by shaking her head slightly.

"That's not true. I'm the one to blame. I should have put more effort into showing my love for you."

What just happened? I felt a sudden chill run down my spine.

"That's right. I need to put everything I have into conveying my feelings to you."

There went another chill. This one was much stronger than the last one.

"Starting now, I'm not going to hold back anymore. I don't care if anyone else sees or anything, from now on I'm going to express my love for you full throttle, all the time!"

"H- Hold on a second, Mai!"

"What is it?"

"Doing it in front of other people is... Well, I'm not so sure about that."

"Not to worry! I've got no problem with it whatsoever!"

"I don't care what you think!!"

Epilogue – A Promise Not Forgotten

Leaving the vacation home behind us, Mai and I carried our bags to the car. Just as when we arrived, it was there to take us back to the train station.

"Man, that went by in a flash," Mai said, stretching her arms overhead.

"Yeah... It was fun though."

And it was fun. Somehow it felt good to be able to say what I meant.

"And we got to make some great summer memories. I'm satisfied with that."

"Hey now Reo, not so fast."

"Huh...?"

"Come on, there's still one important thing we haven't done yet."

I tilted my head to the side, having no idea what she was talking about. And then...

"We made a promise, didn't we? To go to the pool together," Mai said with a gleam in her eye. It was as if she meant to say, "I got you good, didn't I?"

Image on page 35:

“By the way, Reo. You’ve been trying to kiss me in my sleep, haven’t you?”

“Wha?! Wh- What’re you...”

“What am I going to do with you... Going after people in their sleep deserves punishment♪”

“Hnyaah?!”

[Rough illustrations on pages 36 and 37.]

A Kiss For The Rejected Roughs

I had the pleasure of being asked to draw a page for a special sealed-page segment in the April issue of *Dengeki Moeoh*, called "Adult Moeoh".

And the theme was **yuri**, no less!

It goes without saying that I was absolutely giddy to be working on it (;∀°)=3

In the process, I ended up with some rough cuts that didn't get used. If not for this opportunity, they would have remained locked away in the vault forever...

[Inset of image on page 36.]

↑ This one was designed with the theme of gentleness in mind. The girls embrace one another dreamily, in a luxurious room with high windows. Looking back, it's actually a good thing this one wasn't selected. The background would have been murder... orz

[Inset of image on page 37.]

← This one goes the other direction with more "pop" appeal. Unable to contain herself, she engages in a spontaneous embrace even though they're in the middle of changing into their gym clothes. Also, I think I just wanted to draw some buruma. Buruma, school swimsuits, and sailor uniforms are and always shall be the holy trinity! (I'm hopeless).

***A Kiss For The Petals* Round-Table Discussion**
~Getting Yuri With You~

The Players:

Peko – Erogame artist. Recently also involved in non-erotic work. Stuff he could show his parents.

Sano – Scenario writer. Doesn't do any work outside of erogames. Ouch.

Fuguriya – Representative of Fuguriya. Always getting in the middle of the other guys' erogame work.

Fuguriya:

Fuguriya here.

Peko:

Erogame artist Peko over here.

Sano:

I'm Sano. Professional dream-chaser.

Fuguriya:

Dream-chaser...?

Sano:

That's right. My job is to say things like "I'm gonna make it big some day" while I mainly just sponge off my girlfriend's paycheck and spend all day wasting time and money on pachinko.

Fuguriya:

That doesn't sound like a job to me.

Peko:

That actually sounds like the lowest existence imaginable.

Fuguriya:

You're not even chasing dreams.

Sano:

Aww, you guys are too kind.

Fuguriya:

No, we're not, really.

Peko:

Since when do you have a girlfriend to mooch off of anyway?

Sano:

Oh, she's real. But only those who are pure of heart can see her.

Fuguriya:

Pure of heart my ass... So what kind of person wouldn't qualify?

Sano:

Guys who've taken the recorder of the girl they liked and switched it with their own.
Aw crap, then that'd mean I couldn't see her!

Fuguriya:

What the heck...?

Peko:

So you've done that then...

Sano:

Damn it! Now the secret's out that she was all just inside my head!

Fuguriya:

Yeah, I don't think that was much of a secret to begin with.

Sano:

I even crafted the ingenious alibi of disconnecting my home phone and cell phone for major events like Christmas to make it seem like I was out on dates! All for nothing!

Fuguriya:

.....

Peko:

.....

Sano:

All that time in restaurants, self-importantly expounding upon my views of love, rendered meaningless in an instant!!

Peko:

Maybe we should give him some space?

Fuguriya:

Let's.

* * *

Fuguriya:

So, allow us this opportunity to introduce you to this book once more.

Peko:

Yeah, whoo!

Fuguriya:

A Kiss For The Petals is a series of self-published adventure games of a sort. The protagonists are female. The heroines are female. The stories are full of all kinds of mushy, lovey-dovey, girl on girl, 100% yuri goodness!

Peko:

It's all yuri. No exceptions. Hehehe...

Fuguriya:

There are currently three games available in all.

Fuguriya:

This book was written to continue the story of the couple of Mai and Reo, the main characters from to the third game in the series, *A Kiss For The Petals – Joined in Love with You*.

Peko:

Basically it's a supplemental story. Hm? What's that? You're wondering if people who haven't played the original game can enjoy this book?

Fuguriya:

I'd say so. Although you'll certainly appreciate it more if you're familiar with the game.

Peko:

That's right. So we highly recommend you step in to your local game shop and pick it up along with this book.

Fuguriya:

In fact, you'll appreciate it even more if you play the prior game, and the one before that as well.

Peko:

And for you scoundrels who don't want to play the original games for whatever reason, we've prepared just the thing for you!

Peko:

Ta-da! Presenting, "The Scriptwriter Gives a Basic Plot Summary!"

Sano:

Thank you, thank you.

Fuguriya:

What the...

Peko:

So, Shin'ichirou-kun, if you would, please explain *The Petals* series to our big fans who aren't familiar with the story.

Sano:

Buttfucking! It's all about buttfucking!

Peko:

Goodness, do you kiss your mother with that mouth?

Peko:

Those scenes go something like, "Shuutarou applied his rigid, towering member to the chrysanthemum bud delicately blossoming between Yumiko's butt cheeks..." "

Fuguriya:

Whoa, whoa, whoa! This is getting way off track! And how did we end up talking about dickings in the afterword of a yuri book?!

Peko:

Huh?

Fuguriya:

Come on now, explain them correctly.

Sano:

"In between Yumiko's butt-"

Fuguriya:

And stop reading that!

Peko:

Um, okay, it seems we've upset you. We'll take it seriously now. Albeit grudgingly.

Fuguriya:

Don't say that.

Sano:

Grudgingly! Grudgingly!

Fuguriya:

Enough already! Fine, forget it! If you're going to be like that, I'll do it myself!

* * *

Fuguriya:

The story takes place at Saint Michael's Academy for Girls, which, as its name would imply, is a girl's missionary academy.

Fuguriya:

All of the characters are girls who attend this Saint Michael's Academy for Girls, or "St. Michael's" as it's more commonly known.

Fuguriya:

The first game in the series features Oda Nanami as its protagonist, a bright and energetic freshman.

Fuguriya:

As well as the upperclassman Nanami aspires to, Matsubara Yuuna.

Fuguriya:

In her pursuit of Yuuna, Nanami joins as a fellow member of the Campus Beautification Committee. But there she catches Yuuna one day in an outrageous act...

Fuguriya:

The protagonist of the second game is Kitajima Kaede, a generally nondescript girl with glasses and braided hair.

Fuguriya:

One day a girl by the name of Kitajima Sara begins attending St. Michael's.

Fuguriya:

She turns out to be a well-known fashion model. She also happens to be Kaede's cousin...

Fuguriya:

The name of the protagonist in the third game is Sawaguchi Mai. Because of her active and fearless nature, she's always ready to lend a hand, and is relied upon by many.

Fuguriya:

It's for this reason that there's one classmate in particular she just can't seem to ignore: Kawamura Reo.

Fuguriya:

Small and adorable, she's the spitting image of a porcelain doll, but you would never guess to look at her just how ferocious she really is.

Fuguriya:

She doesn't fit in with her classmates and she's always driving Mai up the wall, but her outward attitude is really just the opposite of her true intentions...

* * *

Fuguriya:

So, all three of these games are currently on sale. You can get them on download sites, or at any store that carries self-published works.

Peko:

So please buy them, won't you?

Sano:

Facefucking! Facefucking!

Peko:

I told you, I don't like that term for oral. Those scenes are more-

Fuguriya:

Not this again...

Peko:

Come on, we're just trying to liven things up a little...

Sano:

Facefucking! More facefucking!

Fuguriya:

God... This is supposed to be yuri...

Afterword

How did you enjoy it?

This completes the stories for the three couples originally planned by Fuguriya.

However, we still have plans to keep the series going.

Expect more developments from us in the future!

And so, I bid good day to you.

A Kiss For The Petals – Our Hot Summer Together

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