

Fruits Basket™

TOKYOPOP



The #1 selling
shojo manga
in America!



11

Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket

Volume II



Natsuki Takaya

Fruits Basket™

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STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!



Filler
sketch



I too...
feel
like it's
summer
...

In the
story, it's the
height of
summer...

We get hot just looking at you, Hana-chan!



Fruits Basket™

Chapter 60

Filler
sketch



A flower with a flower.



WHEN MY LIPS
TOUCHED HER
LOVINGLY...

...IT WAS A
SYMBOL OF
THE END...

...AND A NEW
BEGINNING.



ISUZU?



*Nameplate: Sohma





THEY SAY
EVERYONE'S
THERE NOW!

WANT TO
GO TO THE
SUMMER
HOME?!

ARE YOU
GOING OUT
AGAIN?

WE SHOULD
GO OUT
TOGETHER
SOMETIME.
...OH! I KNOW!



WHY DON'T
YOU STOP
FORCING YOUR-
SELF ON HIM
AND CALLING
IT LOVE?

IT'S PAINFUL
TO WATCH.

PROBABLY YUN-
CHAN, PROBABLY
SHII-CHAN, AND
HARU-CHAN...

AND I BET
KYO-KUN IS
THERE!!
♡

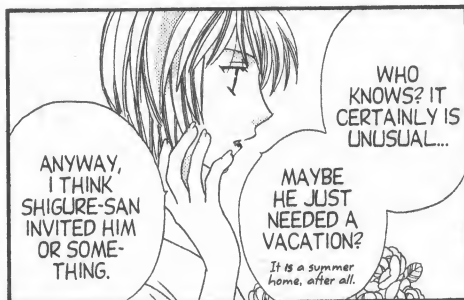
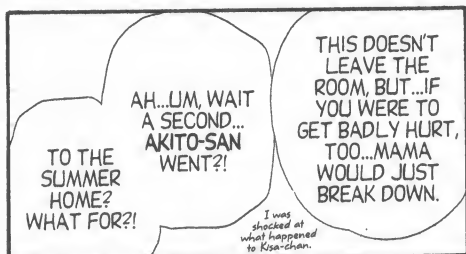
AND,
ISUZU, YOU
HAVEN'T MET
TOHRU-KUN
YET, AND--

KAGURA.



WHY...







SHII-
CHAN,
YOU SON
OF A
BITCH!!

KAGURA, YOU
KNOW THAT'S
THE SECOND TIME
YOU'VE DESTROYED
THAT DOOR IN AS
MANY MONTHS.

...I WON'T
LOSE.

Next time
we meet,
I'll show
you no
mercy!



I'M
SURE
OF IT.

I'LL
KEEP GOING
FORWARD.

I CAN GO ON
BELIEVING.

YUKI-
KUN...

...DIDN'T SAY
ANYTHING
MORE.

EVERYONE
ELSE HAD
RETURNED...

...AND WE
ALL ATE
PANCAKES
TOGETHER.

EVERYONE
SEEMED TO
BE HAVING SO
MUCH FUN.

WE WENT
BACK TO
THE HOUSE
TOGETHER.

EVEN YUKI-
KUN WAS
SMILING.

BUT I...

...WAS LOST
IN MY OWN
THOUGHTS.

Fruits Basket 11
Part 1:

Hajimemashite
and konnichiwa!
Takaya, here! I'm
pleased to present
Furuba volume 11!
Eleven is Hiro-kun.
Could it be that
his desire to be an
adult is the basis
for his recent
decline in his
smart-aleck com-
ments, and that
he's about to grow?
You never know...
He might shoot up
like a weed. I hope
it's not too much
of a shock, but,
starting with
Volume 11, the
"Ultra-Special
Blah Blah Blah"
columns are gone.
Not to worry,
though. These
side columns are
still going strong,
so you'll still hear
plenty of me going
on about whatever
crosses my mind.
Well, please enjoy
Furuba.



A
SMALL...

I LISTENED
CLOSELY
...

...TO THE
SMALL
VOICE THAT
FELL IN
DROPS...

...INSTEAD
OF WORDS.

...KUN?.



Oh.

AND THIS WAY, I GET TO MIND THE HOUSE, SO I'M HAVING FUN!

OH, NO! UM! PLEASE DON'T APOLOGIZE!

HATORI-SAN, ARE YOU DOING WELL--

KYO-KUN WAS HERE WITH ME, SO YOU COULDN'T SAY I WAS BY MYSELF.

I'M SORRY.

I'M SURE YOU CAME TO HAVE FUN WITH EVERYONE...

...BUT WE LEFT YOU ALL BY YOURSELF.

THAT'S RIGHT.

The maids are all with Akito.

I REALLY DON'T MIND. THERE'S REALLY NOTHING THAT HATORI-SAN HAS TO APOLOGIZE FOR...

...

AH!

EVERYONE WENT OUT TO SEE AKITO-SAN AGAIN TODAY...

...SO KYO-KUN AND I HAVE BEEN TAKING CARE OF THINGS HERE TOGETHER.





I'M SO
VERY
HAPPY!

SO
PLEASE
...

...DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT ME.
I'M FINE!



AH...

KYO.

DON'T
LEAVE HER
ALONE.

...

SHUT...



THAT'S
ALL...

...FOR
TODAY.

scruff

...



I'M EVEN
MAKING KYO-
KUN WORRY
ABOUT ME!!

O
H,
N
O!

KY-KYO-KUN!
WOULD YOU
LIKE TO GO TO
THE BEACH?!

HUH?

?

HMM?

Let's
play in
the sand!!

Were you
going to say
something,
Kyo-kun?

AND THAT
WOULD BE...
FUN?

YES!

I'm sure
it will
be fun!

...If
you
say
so.

DON'T WORRY!
I DON'T MEAN
TO SWIM.

LOOK,
YOU...





NO...

THAT
DAY
WON'T
COME...

...FOR A
LONG TIME
YET.



SATISFIED?



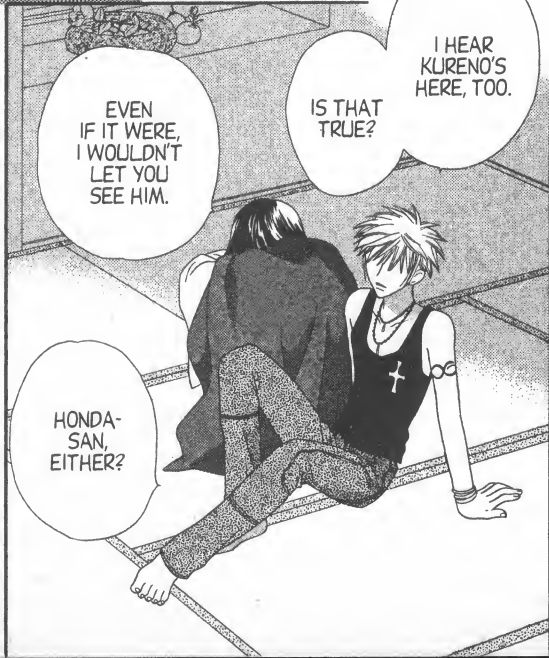
.....



WHY MUST
YOU BRING
HER UP?

BECAUSE
KURENO'S...

...A
MEMBER
OF THE
ZODIAC,
TOO.

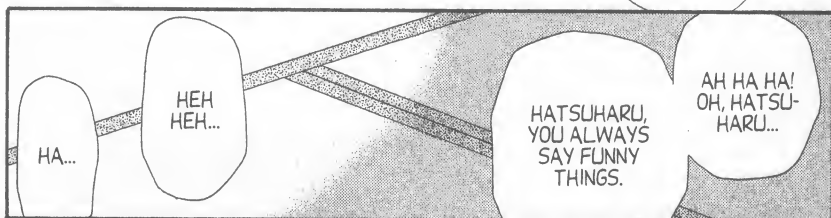


EVEN
IF IT WERE,
I WOULDN'T
LET YOU
SEE HIM.

IS THAT
TRUE?

I HEAR
KURENO'S
HERE, TOO.

HONDA-
SAN,
EITHER?





DID I
HURT YOUR
FEELINGS?

OH...?

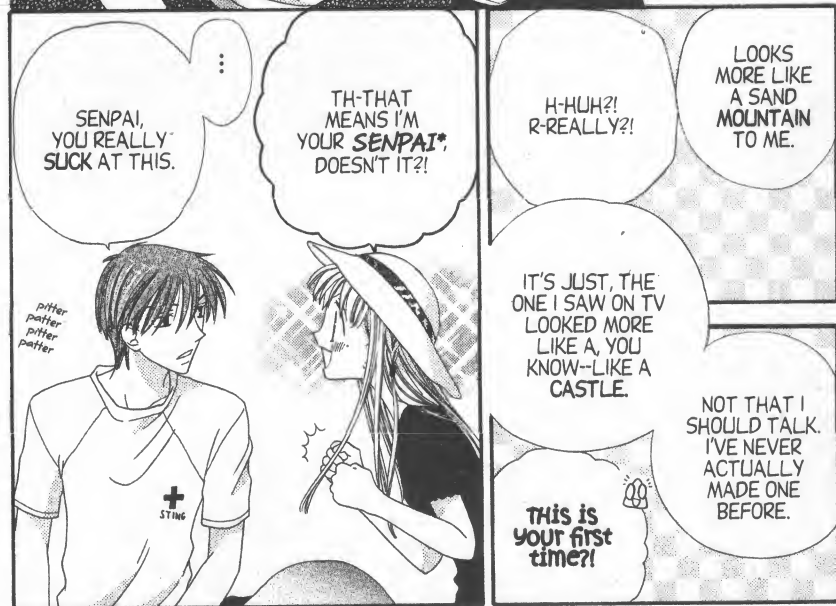
...BUT
IT'S FUNNY,
HATSU HARU.

WHY SO
GLUM?



JUST LIKE
YOU.

THE BIG,
DUMB,
FUNNY OX.



*Senpai = a more advanced student.

I'M BACK!
I'M BACK!
I'M BACK!

Y-y-
you
startled
me...

MOMIJI!
WHY, YOU
LITTLE-!

TOHRU!!

WE'RE
BACK,
ONEE-
CHAN...!

W--
WELCOME
BACK!

WHAT'S THIS?
AREN'T YOU
TWO A LITTLE
OLD TO BE
PLAYING KIDS'
GAMES?

I wanna
play, too!

I'M BACK!



WHAT ABOUT YOU, YUKI? ARE YOU DOING ALL RIGHT?

NAH...



YUKI-KUN...

YOU MUST BE TIRED TODAY...

...HARU.



...CAUSE NOTHING BUT WORRY FOR EVERYONE...

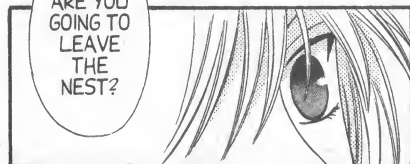
...!

...REALLY DO...



...

ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE THE NEST?



POOF

BUT I'M ALL RIGHT...

...THIS TIME.



HA HA
HA!

REALLY,
HARU...

YEAH.

I DON'T KNOW IF
YOU'RE SAYING
THAT BECAUSE
YOU UNDER-
STAND OR NOT.

I LIKE
THAT...

...ABOUT
YOU.

HA HA
HA!



AH...

UM... W-
WELCOME
BACK!

HELLO, HONDA-SAN. HAVE YOU BEEN PLAYING HERE THIS WHOLE TIME?

OH,
NOTHING.

HM?
WHAT?







I WON'T
APOLOGIZE...

...FOR
KISSING
YOU...



BUT IF
YOU'D
PREFER...

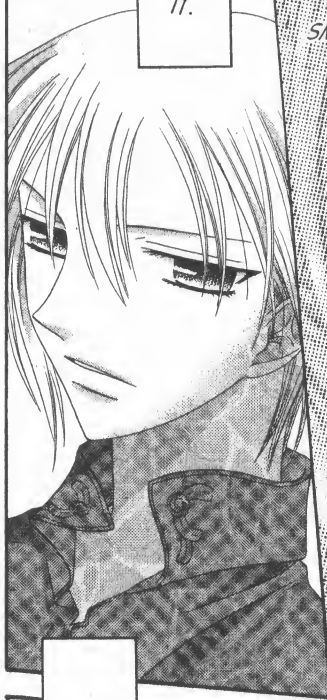
...BECAUSE
I DON'T
THINK...

...I DID
ANYTHING
WRONG.



...I DON'T
MIND...

...IF YOU
FORGET IT.



...I
CAN'T
HEAR
IT.

THE VOICE
IS SO
SMALL

SO
SMALL

I CAN'T
HEAR IT.



HIS
TRUE
VOICE...

NO MATTER
HOW HARD
I LISTEN...



BUT
...

BUT...
I COULDN'T
POSSIBLY
FORGET! I ADMIT
THAT I DIDN'T
UNDERSTAND
EVERYTHING YOU
WERE SAYING...

...BUT I'M
SURE THAT
IT WAS VERY
IMPORTANT
TO YOU...



...WASN'T
IT, YUKI-
KUN?

YOU TOLD ME
SOMETHING VERY
IMPORTANT,
DIDN'T YOU?

BUT
IT'S SO
SMALL.



THAT'S
WHY...

...



THERE'S
A RIGHT
TIME AND
A WRONG
TIME...

...TO TELL
THE WHOLE
TRUTH...



...
WOULDN'T
YOU SAY?

whisper

...SOME-
DAY...



OKAY?

SOME-
DAY...

FOR NOW,
ALL I CAN
TELL YOU...

I THINK
THERE'S
SOME-
...I SHOULD
TELL
YOU...

...IS THAT
I'M DOING
WELL.

SO, DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
ME.

Totaru!
Yuki!

I THINK
HE WAS
TEASING ME!

I...

YEAH.

GACK!

Yes!! I-I-I
under-
stand!!

Y-

YOU...

shake
shake
shake
shake
shake

SOMEHOW,
IT SEEMS
LIKE HE'S
SUDDENLY
GOTTEN
TOUGHER.

IT'S A
DUMPLING!
DID I DO A
GOOD JOB?

YES,
YOU DID.

YUKI, LET'S
GO BACK
SOON.

I'm
hungry.

YEAH,
OKAY.

IF YOU
HAPPEN TO
SEE AKITO...

...DON'T GET
STUPID AND
LOSE IT.

GRAB



WHY DO I HAVE
TO HEAR THAT
FROM YOU?!



DON'T
TALK DOWN
TO ME!!

WHO THE
HELL DO
YOU THINK
YOU ARE?!

Ah?!



I'M
ME.



I REALIZE
IT MUST BE
PAINFUL TO
ALWAYS BE
SCORNE THE
WAY YOU ARE...

...BUT I CAN'T
HAVE YOU DOING
ANYTHING TO
SEND AKITO'S
SPARKS FLYING
AT HER.





I'LL
KILL
YOU!!

AH! UM,
UH!!

YUKI,
YOU'RE SO
COOL.

HE SURE
AS HELL
IS NOT
COOL!!

Not in the least!

Um!

THE
SMALL
VOICE...

...IS STILL
FAR AWAY,
BUT...



...I KNOW
I'LL HEAR
HIS VOICE...
SOMEDAY.

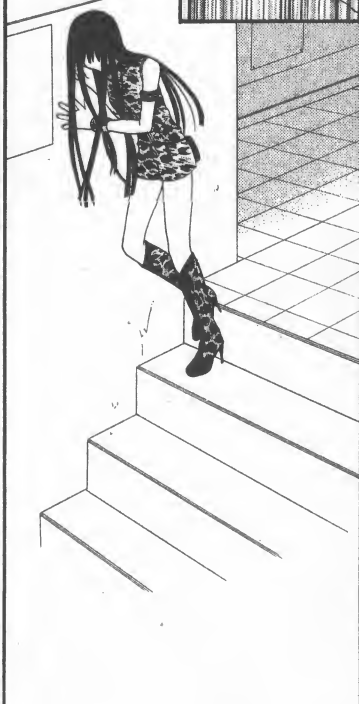
SAY,
KURENO.

WOULD
YOU LIKE
TO...

...GO MEET
TOHRU
HONDA?

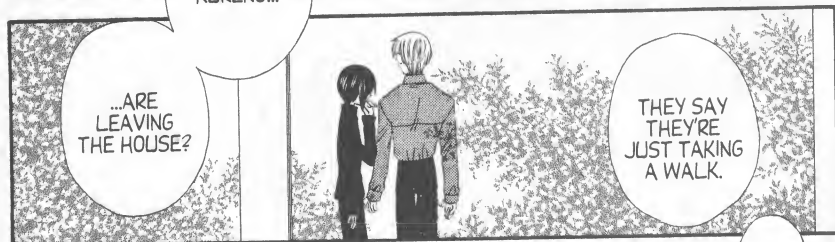








AKITO AND
KURENO...



...ARE
LEAVING
THE HOUSE?

THEY SAY
THEY'RE
JUST TAKING
A WALK.



WHETHER THEY
ARE OR NOT, IT'S
OBVIOUS THAT
AKITO-SAN HAS
A SUPERIORITY
COMPLEX...

...WHEN IT
COMES TO
TOHRU-KUN.

BECAUSE
HE'S TAKING
US AWAY
FROM HER
LIKE THIS.



TO
WHERE
HONDA-
KUN IS?

OH MY...
I WONDER.



BESIDES, THE
EXISTENCE OF
THAT GORGON IS
ANNOYING IN AND
OF ITSELF.

I'D BE QUITE
JUSTIFIED IN
EXTERMINATING
HER.

SHE SHOULD
BE ISOLATED.



...



BUT,
YOU
SEE...

...I'M SUCH A
KIND PERSON
BY NATURE.

I THINK IT
MIGHT BE NICE
TO GRACE THE
GORGON WITH
A LITTLE
ENJOYMENT.



THAT WOMAN
DOESN'T
BELONG WITH
US, AFTER
ALL.



...YOU
ARE TO ACT
AS A PROPER
MEMBER OF THE
JULNISHI.

I THINK I'LL
INTRODUCE
YOU TO HER
MYSELF.

I WORRY
ABOUT YOU
BECAUSE
YOU'RE
INFERIOR.

SO,
KURENO...



...WE'LL
LEAVE THE
GORGON ALL
ALONE AGAIN.

AFTER
THAT...



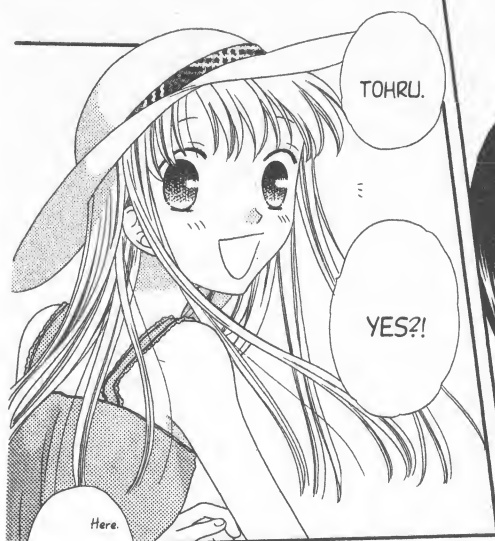
BUT
SHE'S NOT
ALONE.

AS LONG AS
SHE'S HERE,
SHE WILL
ALWAYS BE
ALONE.

KYO-KUN'S
WITH HER,
ISN'T HE?

SHE'S NO
MATCH
FOR ME...

SHE NEEDS
TO REALIZE
THAT SHE'LL
NEVER
BEAT ME.



TOHRI.

YES?!

Here.

A
SOUVENIR.



Ah!

Hermit
crab-san!!



S
P
L
A
S
H

YOU GOT IT
INTO PRETTY
GOOD SHAPE,
DIDN'T YOU?

Still doesn't look like a
castle, though.

It's
adorable!

Yes!



IS IT FUN
BEING WITH
A MONSTER?



BESIDES...

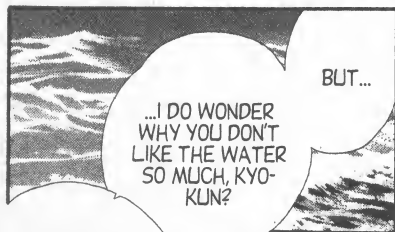


ARE YOU
OKAY NOT
SWIMMING?

IF YOU'RE
WORRIED
ABOUT ME--

THAT'S
NOT IT!

IT'S JUST
MORE FUN TO
BE TOGETHER!



BUT...

...I DO WONDER
WHY YOU DON'T
LIKE THE WATER
SO MUCH, KYO-
KUN?

THEY SAY
IT'S BECAUSE
THE SPIRIT
OF THE
CAT HATES
WATER.



APPARENTLY
THE PREVIOUS
CAT DIDN'T LIKE
WATER, EITHER.



THAT'S
SOME
DREAM...

I want to
make SUCH
a good
castle that
it **SHOCKS**
and **amazes**
everyone!!

With a
bang! And
a boom!





I'VE
ALWAYS

...THOUGHT
THAT WAS
STRANGE.

EVER
SINCE I
WAS A
LITTLE
KID.

I DON'T KNOW
HOW MUCH OF
THAT'S TRUE,
THOUGH.

*Since the color
doesn't fade...*

APPARENTLY,
BECAUSE IT
WAS MADE

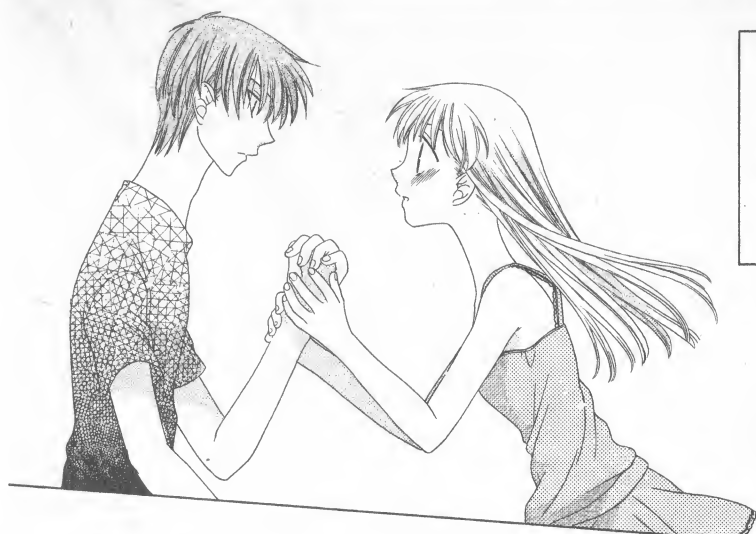
...BY SACRIFICING
THE LIVES OF
OTHERS, IT'S
SUPPOSED TO BE
A POWERFUL
PROTECTIVE
CHARM.

"STEALING
EVERYTHING,
TRAMPLING ON
EVERYTHING..."

WHAT
DO THEY
MEAN...

...UNTIL
THERE'S
NOTHING
LEFT."

... "AN
EXISTENCE
BUILT ON OTH-
ERS' SACRI-
FICES...
ON OTHERS'
LIVES?"



*EVEN
SO...*



THAT
WAS SO
SCARY!

I-I-I thought I would
be carried away...

...

SPLASH

Watch
out for
big
waves.

TH--



Why
you...

DAMN
YOU,
OCEAN!!

!

I'M GONNA
KILL YOU!!
YOU HEAR
ME?!

I'LL
TEACH
YOU TO
MESS
WITH ME!

...

DON'T BE
SILLY,
KYO-KUN!

YOU'RE NO
MATCH FOR
THE OCEAN!







WE'RE
GOING
BACK.

I'M HOT.

S
P
L
A
S
H

I DON'T
FEEL
WELL.



THE BIGGEST
MISUNDER-
STANDING...

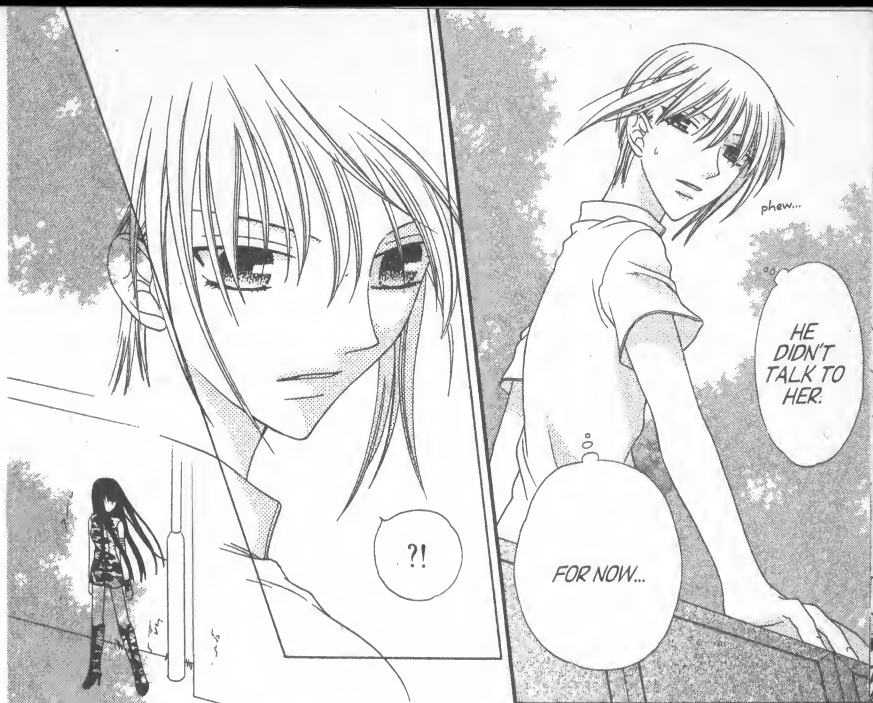
...IS THAT
MONSTER.



...

BUT...

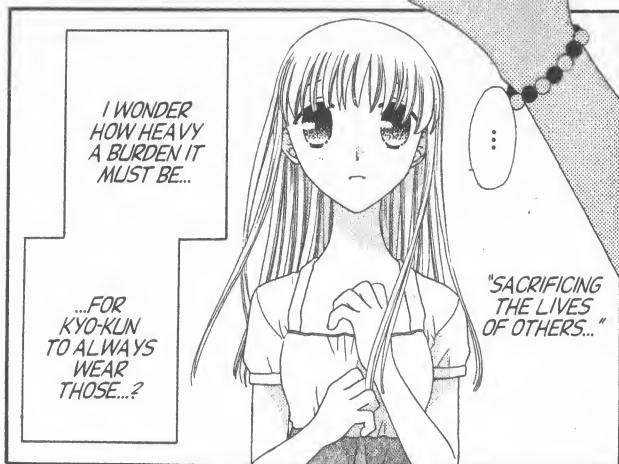
...I UNDER-
STAND
NOW.



Okami-san



If Okami-san ever came at me with all that tension, I would either run away with all my might, or be scared stiff. At least when she speaks with Ritchan she can be quiet. She's not always thorough in fulfilling her duties as hostess--could it be calculated neglect? Is she as shameless as her son? Anyway, because she shouts a lot, I have a hard time fitting all her lines inside her balloons.



I WONDER
HOW HEAVY
A BURDEN IT
MUST BE...

...FOR
KYO-KLIN
TO ALWAYS
WEAR
THOSE...?

"SACRIFICING
THE LIVES
OF OTHERS..."



I COULDN'T
HEAR IT.

KYO-KLIN'S
VOICE WAS
SMALL,
TOO.



EVEN
SO...



...I WONDER IF
I SHOULD DO
EVERYTHING IN
MY POWER TO
TRY TO HEAR.

"SOMEDAY...
OKAY?"



BUT...EVEN I
HAVE THINGS
THAT, NO
MATTER
WHAT...



...NO MATTER
WHAT, I DON'T
WANT TO BE
HEARD.



う
flutter
う
ち

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

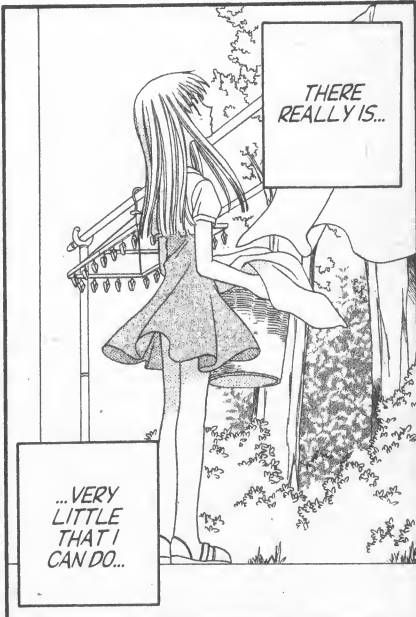
RUSTLE

OH?

OHH!!

PLEASE
DON'T FLY--

P-P-
PLEASE
COME
BACK!!



THERE
REALLY IS...

...VERY
LITTLE
THAT I
CAN DO...



...AWAY
...?

...HO...





I SAW HER
EARLIER AND
FOLLOWED,
THINKING IT
MIGHT BE RIN.

IT IS
YOU, RIN.

THANK YOU
FOR FINDING
HER, HONDA-
SAN.

N-NO, UM,
IT WAS AN
ACCIDENT...!

Eh...

H-HUH?
YUKI-KU-?!



AS YOU CAN
SEE, SHE'S
THE HORSE.

BUT WHY
ARE YOU
TRANS-
FORMED,
RIN?

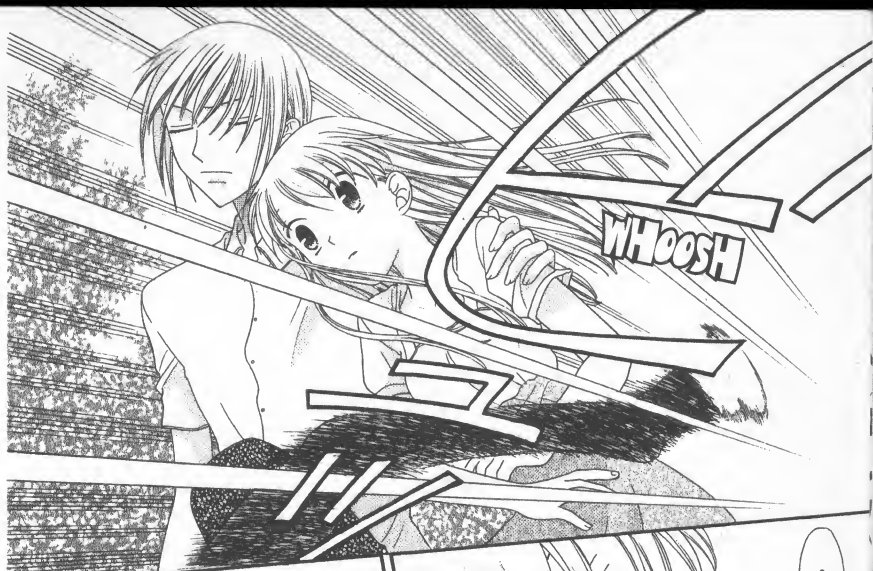
THIS IS
RIN... ISUZU
SOMA.

ISUZU...
SAN...?

...SOMEONE
CALL
HATORI-
SA-?

UH, UM...

YOU MUST
BE SICK.







*SHE'S
INCREDIBLY
STUBBORN.*

*Did she change
back through
stubbornness?*



*AND
SUCH A
GRACEFUL
FIGURE...*

AAHH!

*THEY MUST BE
REFERRING TO
PEOPLE LIKE
HER WHEN
THEY SAY
"BEWITCHING
BEAUTY."*

*I GET THE
FEELING MY
CLOTHES
WON'T FIT
HER...*

*I really get that
feeling...*



*POSSESSED
BY THE
SPIRIT OF
THE HORSE...*

*SUCH A
BEAUTIFUL
FEISTY...*

*...YOUNG
WOMAN!*

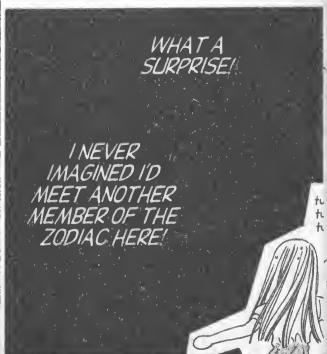


*UH, UM, I'LL
GO GET YOU
A CHANGE
OF CLOTHES!
OKAY?!!*

*Th-th-they're
dry, so...*

*AH...
OKAY.*

*Please
do.*



*WHAT A
SURPRISE!!*

*I NEVER
IMAGINED I'D
MEET ANOTHER
MEMBER OF THE
ZODIAC HERE!*



"I'VE BEEN DUMPED."



"IT WAS KIND OF A SECRET THAT WE WERE GOING OUT."



DID YOU COME HERE TO SEE SOMEONE?



DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD.

YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL, ARE YOU?

WHY ARE YOU HERE, ANYWAY...?



GRAB!



SHUT UP!

WHERE I GO AND WHAT I DO...

...IS MY BUSINESS!

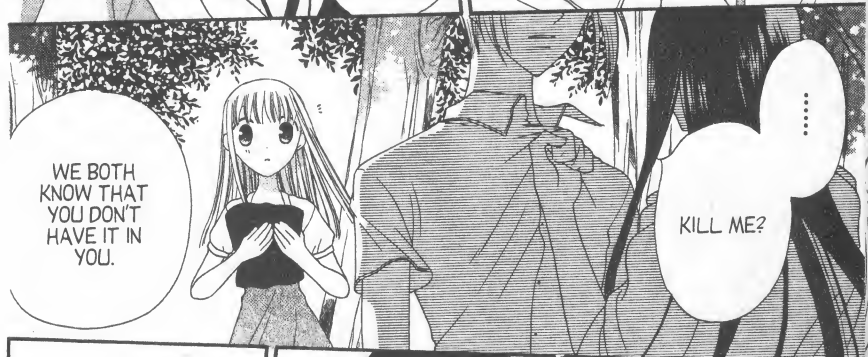


...I'LL
KILL
YOU!

ALL
RIGHT?!
AND WHAT-
EVER YOU
DO...

...DON'T TELL
ANY OF THE
OTHERS
THAT I WAS
HERE.

IF YOU
DO...



WE BOTH
KNOW THAT
YOU DON'T
HAVE IT IN
YOU.

.....
KILL ME?



...BUT
YOU'RE
NOTHING
BUT...

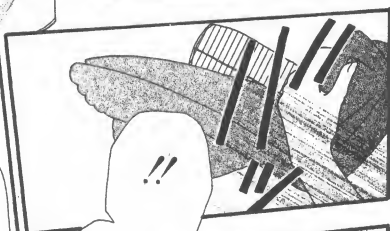
...AKITO'S
TOY!

YOU
TALK
BIG...

UM...

tup
tup

?



SH-SHE'S
GONE!

She's so fast...

BUT WHY...?
WHAT
WOULD RIN
COME HERE
FOR?

I HOPE
SHE'LL BE ALL
RIGHT... SHE
SEEMED TO BE
FEELING SICK.

YUKI-
KUN...?

ISUZU-
SAN!!

UH, UM,
PLEASE
WAIT--!

A WOMAN
WHO CAN TALK
TOUGH WHILE
COMPLETELY
NAKED...
AMAZING.

LEAVE RIN
TO ME.

IT'S ALL
RIGHT.

Y-YES,
BUT, UM...

FOR NOW,
LET'S KEEP
QUIET ABOUT
SEEING HER.

I KNOW. I
WANT TO GO
AFTER HER,
TOO. BUT I'LL
BE IN TROUBLE
IF I DON'T GET
BACK...

...SINCE
I SNEAKED
AWAY.

EH?!

Really?



THERE'S...
...LITTLE...

NN...?

...THAT I
CAN DO,
BUT...



YUKI-
KUN...

I'LL TRY TO
GET BACK
EARLY,
TODAY.



WELL...
SORRY FOR
RUSHING
OFF.



I'LL...

...BE
WAITING.

I HAVE
TO MAKE A
DELICIOUS
DINNER!

NOW,
THEN!

TODAY
WAS AN
AMAZING
DAY.

I ENDED UP
MEETING THE
HORSE-SAN.

NOW, ALL
THAT'S LEFT
IS ROOSTER-
SAN...

OKAY.

WAIT
FOR ME.

DAMN...

DAMN!

DAMMIT!

SO...

...THAT
MUST
MEAN...

DAMMIT!

.....

.....!

THAT
MUST
MEAN
THAT...

...AKITO-
SAN IS...

TOMOR-
ROW...



DON'T
FAIL ME.

...BRING
KYO
HERE...

...WITH
YOU.



SLAM



COULD
THIS
MEAN...

...A STORM
IS BREWING?

YOU REALLY
ARE ENJOYING
THIS, AREN'T
YOU?



Chapter 62

Filler
Sketch



Summer Memories



...I WONDER
IF THE
LAST ONE...

...THE
ROOSTER...

I MET ISUZU
SOHMA-SAN,
WHO IS
POSSESSED
WITH THE
SPIRIT OF
THE HORSE...

...AND
THEN...

...I
THOUGHT...



TOHRU-KUN,
MAY I HAVE
A MOMENT?

BUT, FOR
SOME REASON,
I'M KIND OF
AFRAID TO
ASK ANYONE!

...IS
REALLY
...

...AKITO-
SAN?"



AKITO-SAN
TOLD ME TO
BRING YOU...

...OVER
THERE.

SO, I'M
SORRY. I'M
BORROWING
HIM TODAY,
TOHRU-KUN.



YUP. BUT
I FORGOT
SOMETHING.
KYO-KUN.

YES...HUH?!
SHIGURE-SAN,
I THOUGHT YOU
HAD ALREADY
LEFT FOR
AKITO-SAN'S?

HUH?



E H H H ?!

OH, WOW.
YOU'RE IN
SYNCH.

JUST
A... WAIT.
THAT MEANS
SHE'S...!

WOW...

THAT'S
AMAZING...
THAT'S
WONDERFUL!

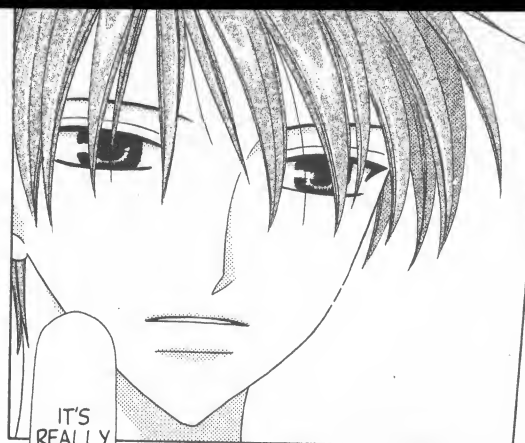
HUH?

IT'S NOT
TO THE
BANQUET...

BUT
EVEN SO...

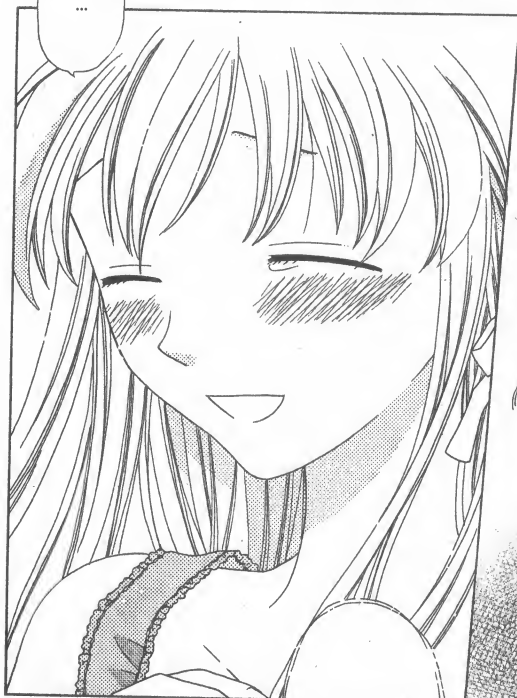
YOU'VE BEEN
INVITED,
KYO-KUN...

YOU TOO,
KYO-KUN!!



IT'S
REALLY

...



...WONDERFUL...
ISN'T IT?



KYO-
KUN!

THE CAT
SAN GETS
TO JOIN
THEM.

THAT'S
WONDER-
FUL...



IT'S
WONDERFUL,
ISN'T IT?



Yes...!
Come
back
safe!



IT'S
"WONDERFUL,"
ISN'T IT?



BE A
GOOD
GIRL...

tonk

...AND WAIT
FOR ME TO
COME BACK,
OKAY?



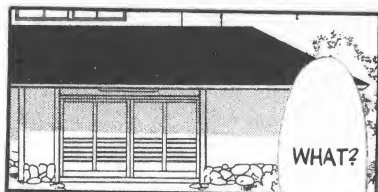
OOH,
SCARY.

ARE YOU
ONLY NICE
TO TOHRU-
KUN, THEN?



SHUT UP.
BE QUIET...

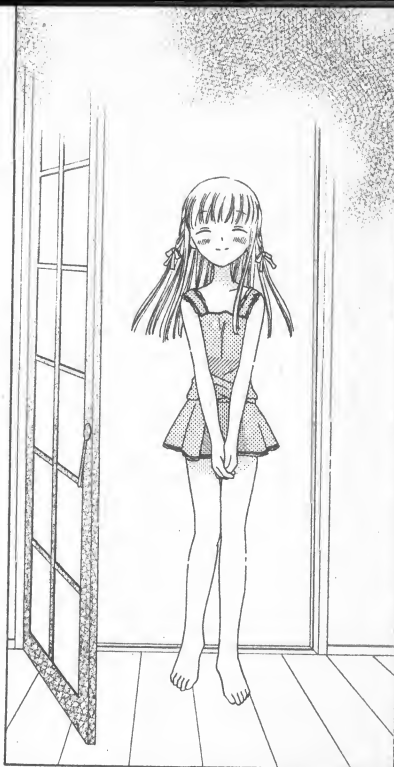
THIS SUMMONS
CAN'T BE A
GOOD THING...



WHAT?



WHAT'S
GOING ON?



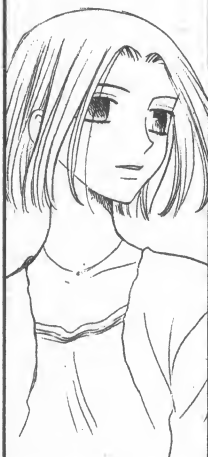
GO SEE
HIM.

DON'T TELL
ME AKITO
CALLED
FOR HIM?

I ONLY DO
WHAT I'M
TOLD.

KYO-KUN,
AKITO-SAN IS
IN THE INNER
ROOM.

Kana



Actually, I've been asked the "When snow melts..." question. A loooong time ago. At the time, I thought I would be moved to tears if I heard them answer "It becomes spring." Because I, of course, would have answered, "It becomes water."



SHE'S BEEN...

...LEFT ALONE AGAIN!



IT'S THE SAME...

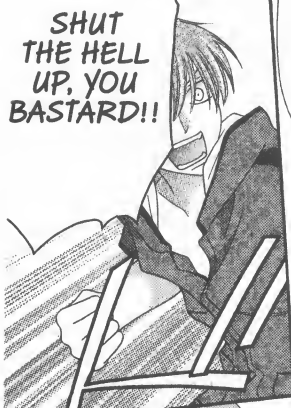
...AS ON NEW YEAR'S.



WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU ALL DOING?!

DID YOU...

...COME HERE ON VACATION SO YOU COULD JUST LEAVE HER BY HERSELF?!



**SHUT
THE HELL
UP, YOU
BASTARD!!**



I'LL WARN
YOU ONE
MORE
TIME...



DON'T BE
STUPID AND
LOSE IT IN
FRONT OF
AKITO.



THEN
WHY...



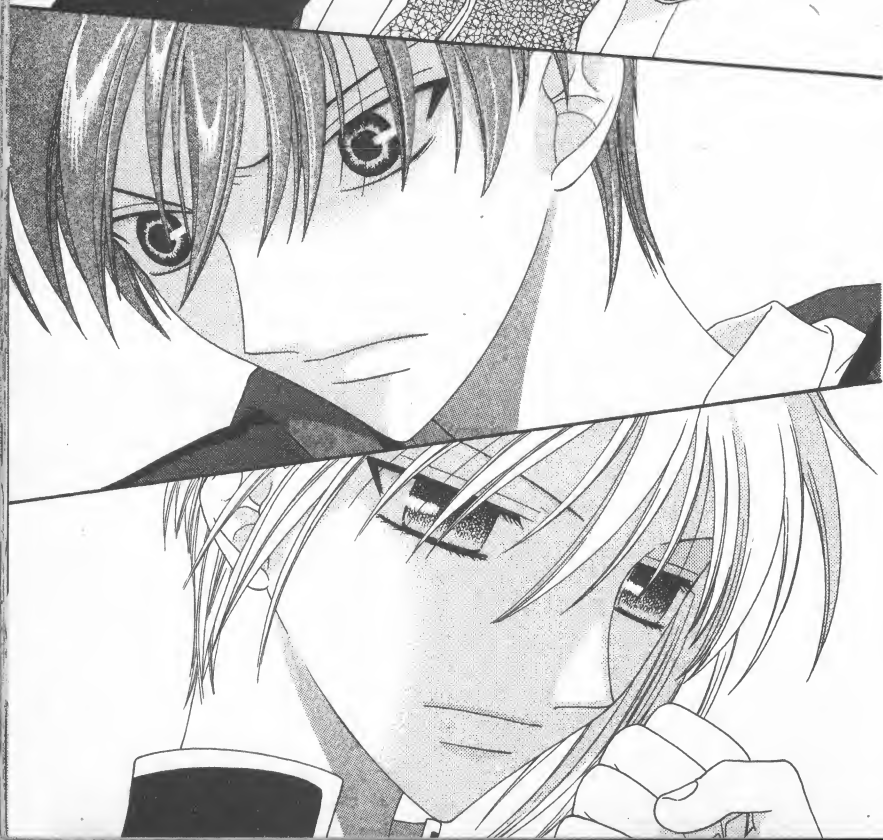
...ARE YOU
HERE?



YOU CAN'T GO
AGAINST AKITO
EITHER...



...SO DON'T
TALK LIKE
YOU'RE SO
SUPERIOR.





...ARE BOTH
MADE THAT
WAY.

HE NEEDS
TO REALIZE
THAT HE...

...AND I...



WHY DIDN'T YOU
FIGHT BACK LIKE
USUAL, YUKI? IT
WOULD HAVE
BEEN FUN.

NO...

NO
MORE.

WELCOME...

IT'S BEEN
A WHILE
SINCE WE'VE
SPOKEN
FACE TO
FACE.

IT'S ALL
RIGHT.

RIING

COME IN.

MY...

ring

MY POOR
LITTLE
MONSTER...

THAT...

...IN THE
END...

...THAT'S
ALL WE
ARE.

RIIIING

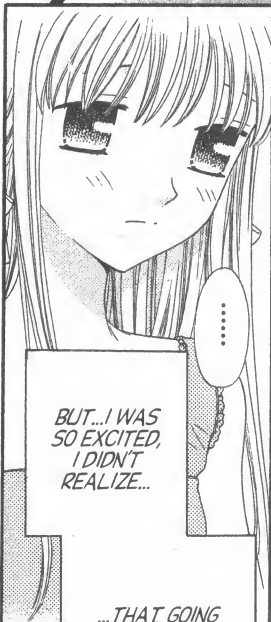


XXX

SPLAASH

I WONDER IF,
WITH KYO-KUN
TOO, AKITO-SAN
HAS A SPECIAL
RELATIONSHIP...?

...IF AKITO-
SAN IS SOME-
ONE KYO-KUN
FEARS...?

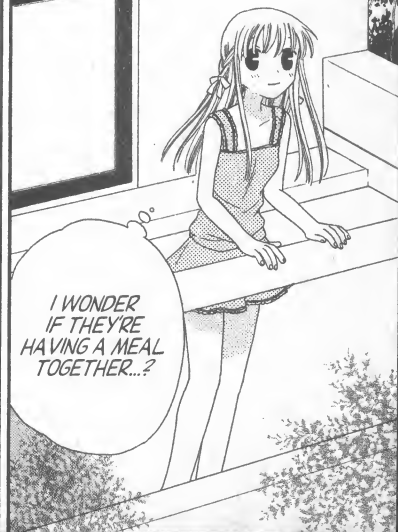


BUT...I WAS
SO EXCITED,
I DIDN'T
REALIZE...

...THAT GOING
OVER THERE
MEANS THAT
HE'LL SEE
AKITO-SAN.

KYO-
KUN...

HE MUST
HAVE
ARRIVED AT
THE OTHER
HOUSE BY
NOW.



I WONDER
IF THEY'RE
HAVING A MEAL
TOGETHER...?



I SHOULDN'T
WORRY ABOUT
THAT RIGHT
NOW.

shake
shake



"BE A GOOD
GIRL AND
WAIT FOR
ME TO COME
BACK, OKAY?"



.....

HOW...

...IS OUR
BET
GOING?

PLEASE
LET KYO-
KUN...

...COME BACK
FEELING EVEN
A LITTLE BIT
HAPPY.

IS AKITO-
SAN...

...REALLY
THE
ROOSTER?



FROM THE
BEGINNING, THE
CAT WAS MADE
SUCH THAT...

IT'S
IMPOSSIBLE,
ISN'T IT?

THE
BET YOU
MADE
WITH
ME...

...ABOUT
WHETHER
OR NOT
YOU COULD
BEAT YUKI.

YOU CAN'T
WIN, CAN
YOU?

YOU JUST
CAN'T BEAT
HIM, CAN
YOU?

...IT CAN
NEVER BEAT
THE RAT.

I TOLD YOU,
DIDN'T I?

YOU
CAN'T
...

...CAN
YOU?



...THAT'S
JUST
HOW IT IS,
HAVEN'T I?

THE FATE
SET BY
YOUR
BLOOD.

"SHUT
UP!"

"YOU
THINK...
YOU THINK
I CARE
ABOUT
FATE?"

"I'LL
SMASH
THAT
FATE!"

"I WILL
BEAT
YUKI..."

"I WILL BEAT
HIM... I WILL
BEAT HIM!!"

I'VE
TOLD
YOU...

YOU WILL
NEVER IN YOUR
LIFE BE ABLE
TO BEAT YUKI.

THAT'S HOW
YOU WERE
MADE FROM
THE BEGINNING.

IT'S THE COURSE
OF DESTINY
CARVED OUT BY
THOSE POSSESSED
BY VENGEFUL
SPIRITS...

IT
LOOKS
TO ME...

ring

"BECAUSE IF
YOU CAN'T BEAT
HIM, THEN YOU
REALLY ARE..."

"I'LL EVEN
LET YOU JOIN
THE ZODIAC."

"WELL THEN,
SHALL WE
MAKE A BET?"

"IF YOU REALLY
CAN BEAT YUKI
BY THE TIME
YOU GRADUATE
HIGH SCHOOL..."

"BUT..."

...IN THE
CASE THAT
YOU DON'T
BEAT HIM...

"I'LL STOP
CALLING YOU
A MONSTER."

...LIKE I'LL
BE WINNING
THAT BET.

...NOTHING
BUT DIRT."

"I'LL PUT YOU
IN CONFINEMENT
UNTIL YOU DIE."



YOU WOULD
TELL ME...

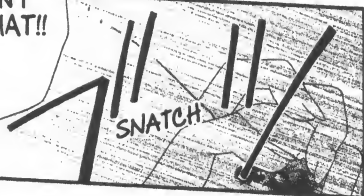
...THAT
WHICH
I DON'T
KNOW?



HOW... HOW
DARE YOU JUST
DECIDE THAT?!

THERE'S
STILL TIME!!

YOU DON'T
KNOW THAT!!



WHY...?

HAVE
YOU
FORGOT-
TEN?

WHY WON'T
YOU UNDER-
STAND...?



SMACK



WHA...

THAT...

THAT'S
NOT...

THAT IS
WHY.

NO...! IT'S...
NOT MY
FAULT!

IT IS YOUR
FAULT.

YOU...

...KILLED YOUR
MOTHER.

THAT
YOUR
MOTHER
DIED.

YOU NEED TO
REMEMBER.
REMEMBER...

WHY DO YOU
MISUNDER-
STAND SO
MUCH?

...THAT
YOU ARE A
MONSTER.

AND IT IS
BECAUSE
YOU ARE A
MONSTER...



DON'T
GIVE ME
ORDERS.

STOP
IT!

STOP IT!
DON'T
TOUCH
ME...!



EVEN THOUGH
SHE GAVE BIRTH
TO A MONSTER
IN HUMAN SKIN,
SHE BRAVELY
PROTECTED IT...
RAISED IT...

BUT IN THE
END, IT WAS
TOO MUCH
FOR HER.
THE LITTLE
MONSTER
KILLED
HER.

AND NOW THAT
MONSTER, HER
SON, WON'T
EVEN MOURN
HER DEATH.

YOUR POOR
MOTHER...

"KYO..."



...BECAUSE
OF YOU."

"KYO,
DON'T
YOU..."

...UNDERSTAND
YOUR MOTHER'S
FEELINGS?"

"SHE KILLED
HERSELF..."

"DON'T YOU
UNDERSTAND
HOW HARD IT
WAS ON HER?"

"THAT
WASN'T AN
ACCIDENT. IT
WAS SUICIDE."



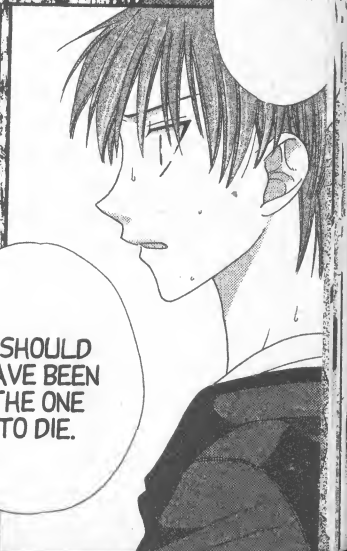
"CAN A
MONSTER
LIKE YOU
UNDER-
STAND?"

YOU...



...IF YOU HAD
NEVER BEEN
BORN.

HOWEVER
YOU LOOK AT
IT, EVERYONE
WOULD HAVE
BEEN A LOT
HAPPIER...

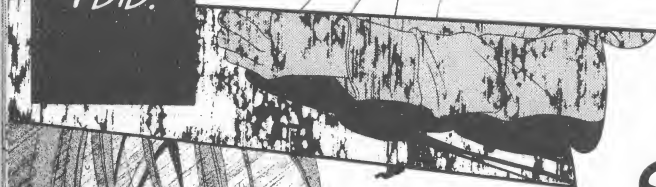


...SHOULD
HAVE BEEN
THE ONE
TO DIE.



I KILLED
HER.

I DID.



STOP
IT!!



PLEASE...

JUST
STOP.



PLEASE
STOP.



...BECAUSE
OF TOHRU
HONDA?

YOU KNOW...
I'VE BEEN
THINKING.

PERHAPS THE
REASON YOU'VE
BEEN SPURRED ON
IN YOUR MISUNDER-
STANDING IS...



JUST LIKE
AN ANGEL?
OR THE HOLY
MOTHER?

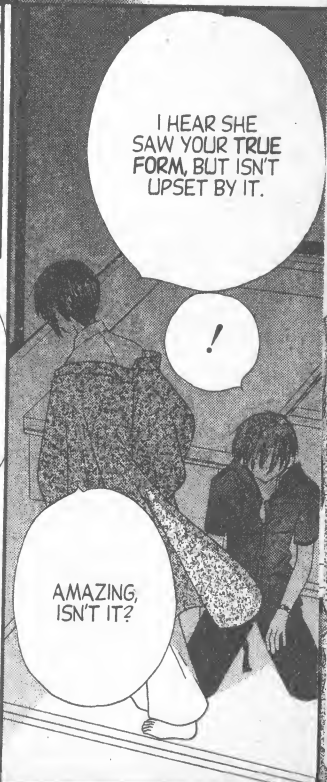
HOW...
DO YOU
KNOW?

IT REALLY
IS AMAZING,
ISN'T IT?



OR
RATHER...

...A
MONSTER?



I HEAR SHE
SAW YOUR TRUE
FORM, BUT ISN'T
UPSET BY IT.

!

AMAZING,
ISN'T IT?



I MEAN,
IF ANY
SENSIBLE
PERSON
SAW YOU
IN THAT
FORM...

...THEY
WOULD RUN
AWAY.

ISN'T SHE
JUST A
LITTLE
TOO GOOD?

TOHRU
HONDA IS A
MONSTER.

HOW...

SO GOOD
NATURED,
IT'S REALLY
RATHER
FRIGHTENING?

NO HUMAN
BEING IS
LIKE THAT.

HOW CAN
YOU...

SHE'S A
FREAK, JUST
LIKE YOU.

HOW CAN
YOU SAY
THAT ABOUT
HER?!



IT'S NOT LIKE
YOU WERE BORN
A MONSTER, SO
HOW WOULD
YOU...?!

YOU DON'T
KNOW ANY-
THING...

YOU
DON'T...

YOU DIDN'T
SEE IT, SO
HOW...?

YOU WEREN'T
THERE WHEN
IT HAPPENED!



HER
HANDS...

YOU DON'T
KNOW HOW
SCARED SHE
WAS THEN!

SO HOW
CAN YOU
SAY THOSE
THINGS?!

HER FACE
WAS PALE...

...AND HER
VOICE...

SHE WAS
TERRIFIED.

...WERE
SHAKING...

...WITH
FEAR.

AND
SHE
STILL
...

SHE STILL
DIDN'T
RUN AWAY
BECAUSE--

OH,
SHUT UP.

A
A
H
H
H
!!

SHE--

SHE STILL
DIDN'T RUN
AWAY FROM
ME BECAUSE--

SHE HELD
ON TO
MY HAND
BECAUSE--

SHUT UP!
SHUT UP!

A
A
H
H
H
!!



...SHE TOOK
AWAY ALL
OF MY PAIN.

THERE'S
NO WAY
SHE COULD
FILL THAT
CHASM.

BUT THAT
DOESN'T
MATTER.

I COULDN'T
EXPECT
HER TO
"FIX" ME.
WHAT'S
IMPORTANT
IS...

IT'S NOT
LIKE...

I MIGHT
NEVER
HAVE...

...TRUSTED
ANYONE
EVER
AGAIN.

SHE KNEW
THAT IF
SHE LET
GO OF MY
HAND...

...I WOULD...

...PROBABLY
NEVER HAVE
COME BACK.



...IS THAT...

...SHE'S NOT
AFRAID TO BE
BY MY SIDE.

...AND
BE HAPPY
WHEN WE'RE
TOGETHER.

THAT
SHE'LL GET
EXCITED
ABOUT TINY
THINGS...

...AND
SMILE...

WHY?

OR
THINK IT'S
STUPID?

I WISH SHE
WOULD
THINK ABOUT
ONLY HER-
SELF MORE.

OR REALIZE
THAT I HAVE
NOTHING TO
OFFER?

DOESN'T SHE
EVER REGRET
WASTING TIME
WITH ME?

SO, WHY?

"YUKI?"

"THAT
MIGHT
JUST BE
STUPID
TO SOME
PEOPLE..."

...BUT IT'S
NOT STUPID
TO ME."

"KYO?"

"WHEN YOU
CLOSE YOUR
EYES, WHAT DO
YOU THINK?"

"IT'S
POINTLESS
TO JUST
THINK ABOUT
THOSE
THINGS."

"THE
TRAVELER
DIDN'T THINK
ABOUT THEM."



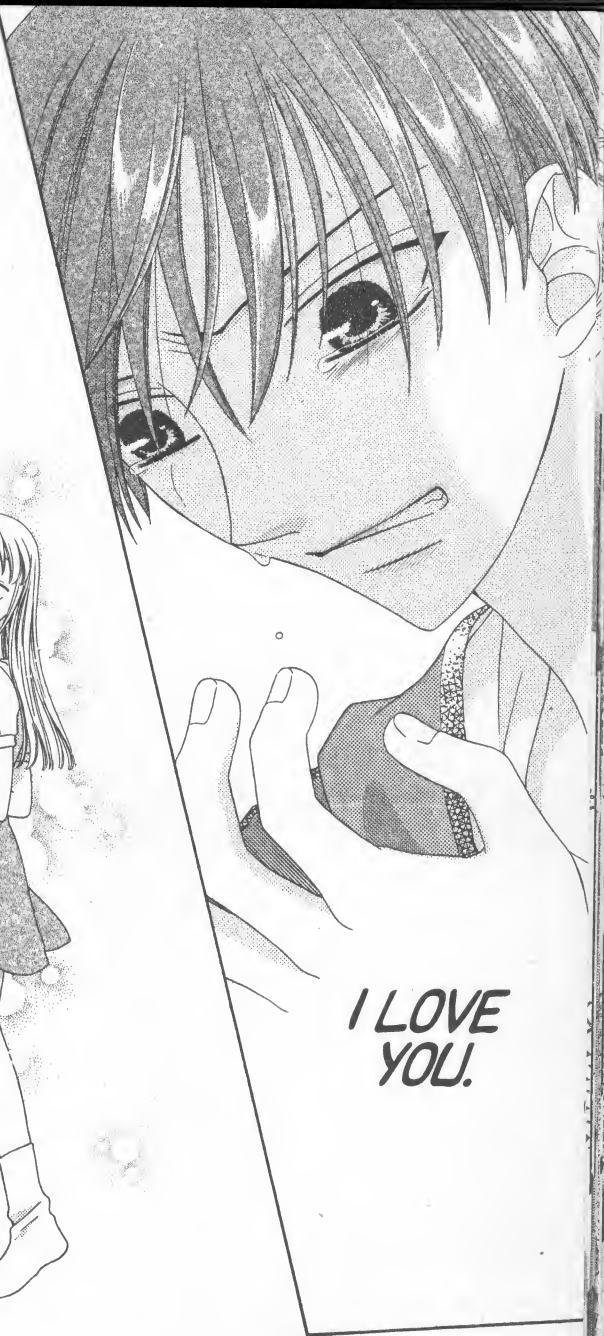


I LOVE
YOU...

...THE WAY
YOU ARE.



I LOVE YOU
SO MUCH!



I LOVE
YOU.

Chapter 63



Filler
Sketch



Somehow, it seems like I've gotten into a rut of only drawing girls.
By the way, this is Kagura.

...WOULD
DO ANY-
THING...

...OVER
AND
OVER
AGAIN...

...IF I KNEW IT
WOULD MAKE
HER SMILE?

WHEN
DID I
START...

"THIS IS
FUN!"

WHEN
DID IT
START?

"KYO-
KUN!"

WHEN DID
I START
THINKING
THAT...

WHEN DID
I START
TELLING
MYSELF
THAT I...

...MY NAME
HAD A SPECIAL
RING TO IT
WHENEVER SHE
WOULD SAY IT?





...LOVING YOU
SO MUCH I
COULDN'T
STAND IT?

TOHRLI...



ARE YOU
CRYING?

KYO...

WHY
ARE YOU
CRYING?

...TO FALL IN
LOVE WITH A
MONSTER.

FOR A
MONSTER...

snicker

.....
!

...WHAT?

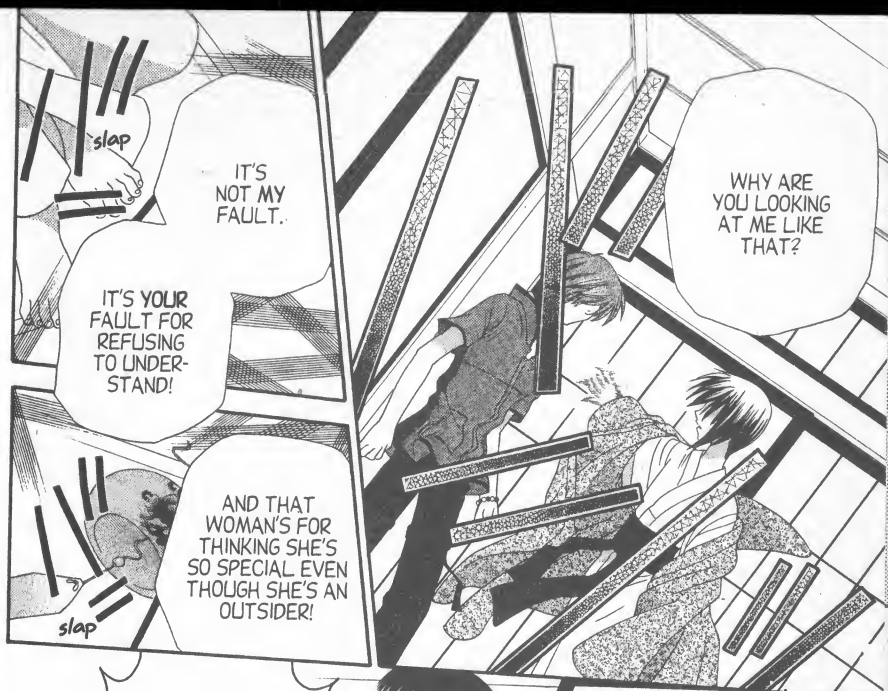
ARE YOU
MORTI-
FIED?

COULD
IT BE...

...THAT
YOU "LOVE"
HER?

YOU AND
TOHRU
HONDA...

THAT
WOULD BE
PERFECT!



slap

IT'S
NOT MY
FAULT.

IT'S YOUR
FAULT FOR
REFUSING
TO UNDER-
STAND!

AND THAT
WOMAN'S FOR
THINKING SHE'S
SO SPECIAL EVEN
THOUGH SHE'S AN
OUTSIDER!

WHY ARE
YOU LOOKING
AT ME LIKE
THAT?

IF YOU HATE
HER THAT
MUCH...

...THEN WHY
DID YOU LET
HER LIVE
IN THAT
HOUSE?!

IF
YOU--!!

WHAT
ARE
YOU-

SCHEMING.

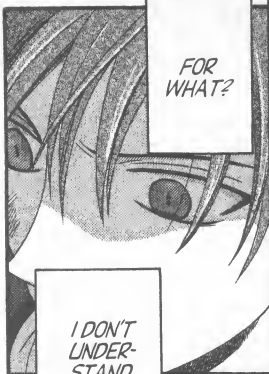
WHAT
ARE YOU
THINKING?!

THAT'S
MESSED UP!!
YOU COULD
HAVE JUST
SAID "NO"!!

Mayu-chan-
sensei



She might be the type who's kind of sad that she's a woman. That might be why Shigure likes her. Poor thing... At any rate, she's popular among the female students and has problems like getting love letters from them. Also, she's secretly insecure about how tall she is. But Hatori is tall, too, so they might look pretty good together as a tall couple.



FOR
WHAT?

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND.

BUT...

--DRAGGING
HER INTO
THIS FOR?

IS HE
TRYING
TO USE
HER?

IS HE...

...USING
HER?





AKITO...!

WHAT'S
YOU'RE
PROBLEM?
DO YOU
ACTUALLY
...

...LOVE THAT
WOMAN?!



YOU
ALWAYS
MAKE...

...ME...

...OUT TO
BE THE
BAD GUY!



YOU KILLED
YOUR OWN
MOTHER,
AND NOW...

...YOU THINK
YOU HAVE
THE RIGHT
TO FALL IN
LOVE?!

YOU
DESPICABLE
MONSTER!

YOU'RE
EVEN MORE
FOOLISH
THAN I
THOUGHT!

!...



YOU THINK
YOU'D BE
ALLOWED
SUCH A
THING?!

"I WON'T ALLOW IT."

WHO IS
THE ONE
MOST AT
FAULT?

THINK
CAREFULLY.

SAY,
KYO...

...KYO.

"I WON'T ALLOW IT."

...IS THE ONE
RESPONSIBLE
FOR PUTTING
YOU IN THIS
AWKWARD
POSITION?

WHO...

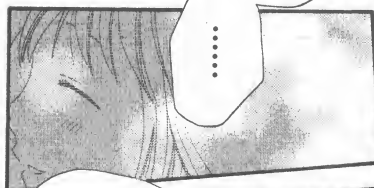


BUT SURELY
MUCH OF THE
FAULT LIES
WITH THAT
SCHEMING
WOMAN.

I--!!



NO. I
DON'T...



...



I DON'T...

...LOVE
HER.



PERHAPS
A LITTLE...



"IT'S YOUR
FAULT!"

...IT'S...

...ME.



I'LL NEVER
FALL IN
LOVE...

THERE'S
NO WAY I'D
LOVE HER!!

I DON'T
WANT
HIM...

I WOULD
NEVER...

...TO SAY
BAD THINGS
ABOUT HER
BECAUSE
OF ME.

NO
MORE.

....IN MY
WHOLE
LIFE LOVE
ANYONE!

THAT'S
...

...RIGHT ...

....

I SEE I WAS
JUMPING TO
CONCLUSIONS.

FOR ONCE,
YOU'VE JUDGED
WISELY.

THAT'S RIGHT.
OBVIOUSLY,
YOU DON'T
LOVE HER.



IT'S ALL
RIGHT.



EVEN WHEN
YOU'RE LOCKED
UP, I'LL GO
SEE YOU.



I'LL
BE WITH
YOU...



...SO YOU
WON'T BE
LONELY.



BUT...



clench



...YOU CAN'T
STAND ME...



IF YOU
DRAG IN
THAT WOMAN...



...OR
KAZUMA
...



...OR ANYONE
ELSE, ANY
FURTHER,
IT WOULD
ONLY END
UP HURTING
THEM.



THE BEST
THING
WOULD BE
FOR YOU TO
NOT EXIST.



BUT
THAT'S...



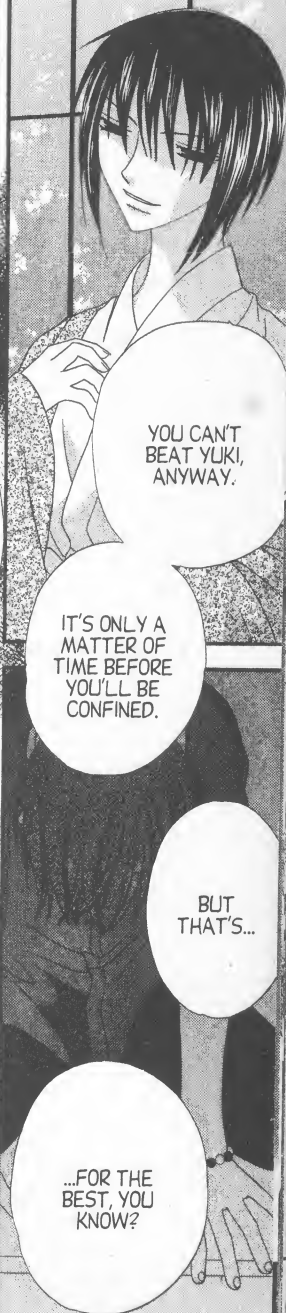
IT'S ONLY A
MATTER OF
TIME BEFORE
YOU'LL BE
CONFINED.



...FOR THE
BEST, YOU
KNOW?



YOU CAN'T
BEAT YUKI,
ANYWAY.





I LIKE
YOU.

I REALLY...

...DO LOVE
YOU...

...KYO.



FROM
NOW ON...

...BE A
GOOD BOY...

...DURING THE
SHORT TIME
YOU HAVE
LEFT...

...LIVING
ON THE
"OUTSIDE."



AKITO...

WHAT
HAPPENED
TO KYO?

I LET
HIM GO
HOME.



I DON'T
NEED TO
CALL FOR
HIM ANY-
MORE.

I'VE
FINISHED
MY BUSINESS
WITH HIM.

W
A
S
H



W
A
S
H



...FROM
TOUCHING HIM
SO MUCH.

I FEEL
SICK...

W
A
S
H



W
A
S
H

W
A
S
H



I WONDER
IF THAT'S
TRUE...?



OH...
THAT'S
RIGHT.

KYO...



...SAYS HE
HATES TOHRU
HONDA.



W
A
S
H



W
A
S
H



W
A
S
H

PROBABLY.



...YOU HAVE
THE RIGHT
TO FALL IN
LOVE?"

"YOU
THINK..."



THERE'S
NO WAY...

...HE COULD
HATE HER.



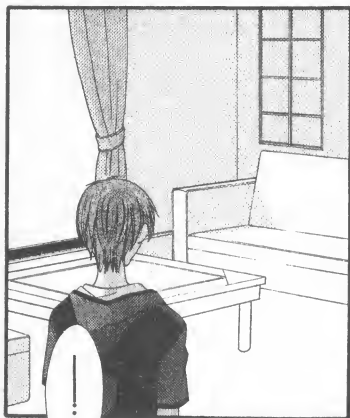
"THE BEST
THING..."

I KNOW...

"...THE ONE
RESPONSIBLE
FOR PUTTING
YOU IN THIS
AWKWARD
POSITION..."

...WOULD BE
FOR YOU NOT
TO EXIST."

I KNOW!!



...AM I
ALIVE?



SHAME-
LESSLY
FORCING
MY EXIS-
TENCE ON
PEOPLE...



SO
WHY AM
I STILL...



...LOOKING
FOR HER?

CREAK



I KNOW.

I'VE
NEVER...

...DONE
ANYTHING
BUT HURT
PEOPLE.



WHY
DIDN'T MY
MOTHER...

...JUST
KILL ME?



SHE
SHOULD
HAVE
KILLED
ME.

SO
WHY...



...IF YOU
STEPPED
ON IT."

"IT WOULD
BE A SHAME..."

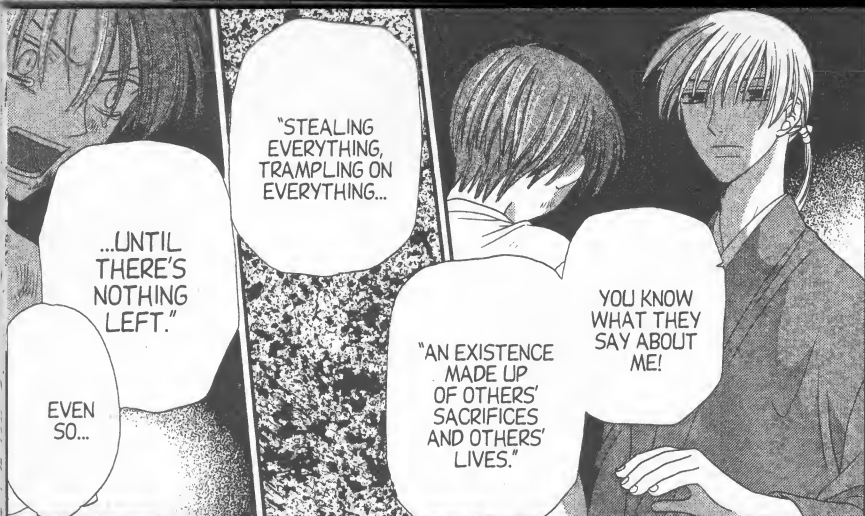
"WAIT,
KYO."

"KYO..."

WHY BOTHER
PROTECTING
SUCH A TINY
FLOWER?

WHAT'S
THE
POINT?

SHISHOU...



"STEALING
EVERYTHING,
TRAMPLING ON
EVERYTHING..."

...UNTIL
THERE'S
NOTHING
LEFT."

EVEN
SO...

"AN EXISTENCE
MADE UP
OF OTHERS'
SACRIFICES
AND OTHERS'
LIVES."

YOU KNOW
WHAT THEY
SAY ABOUT
ME!



...YOU
HAVEN'T
GIVEN UP
HOPE, IS IT
NOT?

...THE
REASON YOU
ARE ALIVE
NOW...

...IS
THAT...



YOU KNOW
THIS, DON'T
YOU?

...IN THIS
WORLD HAS
REJECTED
YOU.

IT'S NOT
TRUE THAT
EVERYONE...

JUST AS, NO
MATTER HOW
HARD YOU TRY
TO KEEP IT
AWAY...

...DESPAIR
WILL ATTACK
YOU AGAIN
AND AGAIN.

IN THE
SAME
MANNER...

EVEN
IF...

...YOU DON'T
HAVE ANY
NOW...

...SURELY
IT WILL
COME TO
YOU AGAIN.

...HOPE
WILL
RETURN
TO YOU.

I DON'T
...

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE
TALKING
ABOUT.

I DON'T...
HAVE ANY
HOPE.

YOU
DO.

NO I
DON'T
!!

I DON'T...

...

I'M SORRY,
SHISHOU.
NOW...

I'M
SORRY...

"...IT WILL
SURELY
BLOOM."

...I
UNDER-
STAND.

BACK THEN,
I PRETENDED
NOT TO UNDER-
STAND YOU...

...BUT DEEP
DOWN
INSIDE,
I KNEW.
REALLY.

I KNEW.

JUST LIKE
THERE IS
DESPAIR
IN THE
WORLD...

THERE ARE
PEOPLE...

...WHO WILL
HOLD OUT
THEIR HAND
TO YOU.

AND
AGAIN...

AND
AGAIN...



"YOU'RE
LONELY,
AREN'T
YOU?"

SHE
WON'T...

...EVER
COME
BACK.

...SAD."

I COULDN'T
FULFILL
IT, BUT...

"A MAN'S
PROMISE."

"I
THINK...

...I MADE
HER...

"COME
ON...

...SPUNKY."



*IT KEPT
BLOSSOMING.*

*"I'M
SURE..."*

*"MY
TREASURE."*

*...SHE'S
LONELY,
TOO."*

*...EVEN
SO...*

*...IT
BLOSSOMED
IN FRONT
OF ME.*

*A
SMALL...*

*...SMALL
FLOWER.*

...FLOWER.

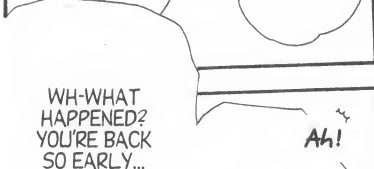
A TINY...



...PRECIOLIS...

MY...

...PRECIOLIS--





YEAH...

I HAD A...
LITTLE
FIGHT.

EH?!



KYO-
KUN!

YOUR
CHEEK...



EEH
?!

HE SAID
I DON'T HAVE
TO GO AGAIN.

A-A-A
FIGHT? WITH
AKITO-SAN?!

...was it?!

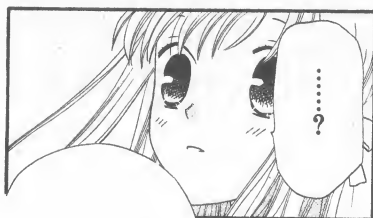


I GUESS...

BUT I
DON'T MIND
NOT BEING
INVITED.

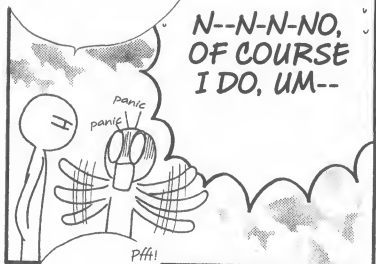
I DON'T
MIND.

I FEEL BAD
FOR YOU,
SINCE YOU
WERE HAPPY
FOR ME.



WHAT? DO
YOU NOT
WANT ME
BACK?

EH
?!
N--N--N--NO,
OF COURSE
I DO, UM--



I WAS
KIDDING.



WELCOME
BACK, KYO-
KUN!

WELCOME
BACK...





I DID
WISH...

...THAT YOU
WOULD STICK
WITH ME
WHEREVER
I ENDED UP...



I DON'T WANT
TO TRAMPLE
ANYTHING...

...EVER
AGAIN.



"I WON'T ALLOW IT."



...AT LEAST,
DURING THE
TIME I HAVE
LEFT...

BUT
PLEASE...
AT LEAST...

...I DON'T
WISH
THAT
ANY-
MORE.

BUT...

I COULDN'T
POSSIBLY...

"IF YOU
DRAGGED THEM
IN ANY FURTHER,
IT WOULD ONLY
END UP HURTING
THEM."

AH!

I WANT--

...WISH MY
FATE ON
YOU.

I WON'T
WISH IT.



ROGER!!
TODAY, I WILL
WAVE MY
ARMS AND--



Uwatt!



THAT'S RIGHT,
KYO-KUN!

WHAT WOULD
YOU LIKE FOR
DINNER?!



MAN...

YOU'RE
HOPELESS.



カラ
grab!



badum

badum

badum

badum

badum

LOOK,
YOU.

YOU DON'T
HAVE TO WAVE
YOUR ARMS, JUST
WATCH YOUR
STEP.

Y-yes!
I-I'M
SORRY!

Tha-tha-that was
close...wasn't it...?



I WANT
TO BE
NEAR YOU...

I WANT TO
BE WITH
YOU 'TIL
THE END.

...UNTIL THE
TIME WHEN
I MUST GO
AWAY.







BOTTLE
ROCKETS,
ROMAN
CANDLES...

THERE
ARE SO
MANY!

YOU BOUGHT
ALL THESE,
YUKI?

What
kind
is your
favorite?

Sparklers

NO.
MOMIJI
BROUGHT
THEM.



WELL...
WE'RE
PLANNING...

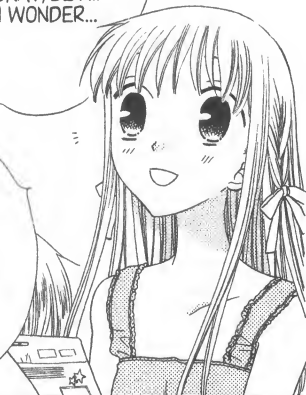
...TO GO
HOME THE
DAY AFTER
TOMORROW,
AREN'T WE?



HE SAID WE
SHOULD ALL
SET OFF
FIREWORKS
TOMORROW
NIGHT.

I THINK IT'S
OKAY, BUT...
I WONDER...

HUH? WHY
TOMORROW?



I-I just...

Y-YES...I
SUPPOSE
I DID.

THAT'S
RIGHT.
WE ARE.

I FEEL
LIKE SO
MUCH HAS
HAPPENED...

...AND
TIME JUST
FLEW BY!



chuckle

DID YOU
FORGET?



So loud...



AFTER
ALL...

MOMIJI SAID
WE SHOULD
AT LEAST...

...END OUR
VACATION
WITH A
PLEASANT
MEMORY.



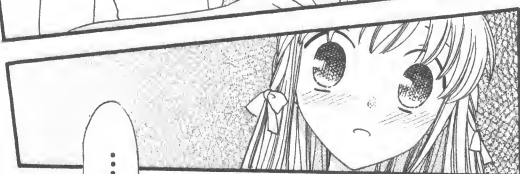
...THE WAY
THINGS
ENDED UP...

...WE MIGHT
HAVE MADE
YOU VERY
LONELY.

I-I
WASN'T!

I WAS
HAPPY.

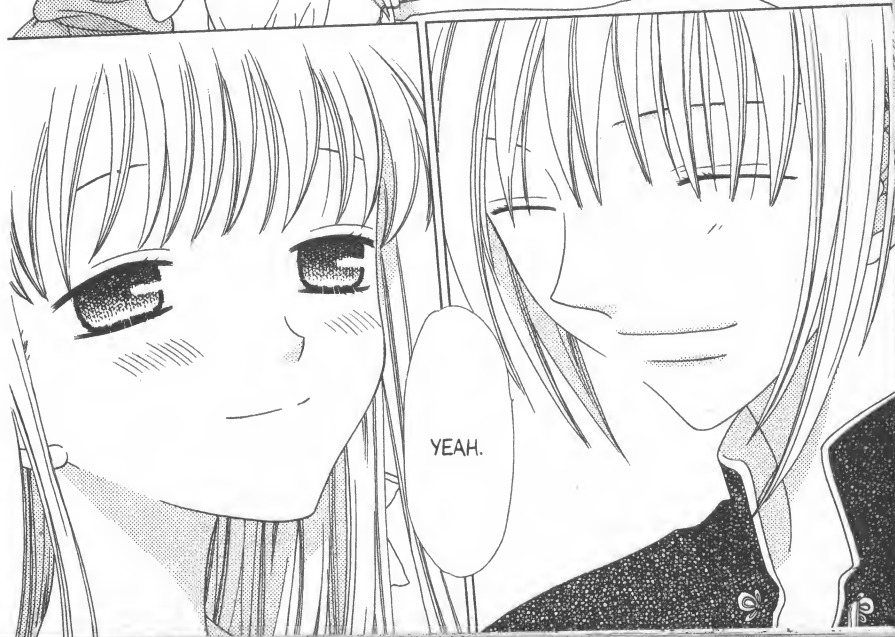
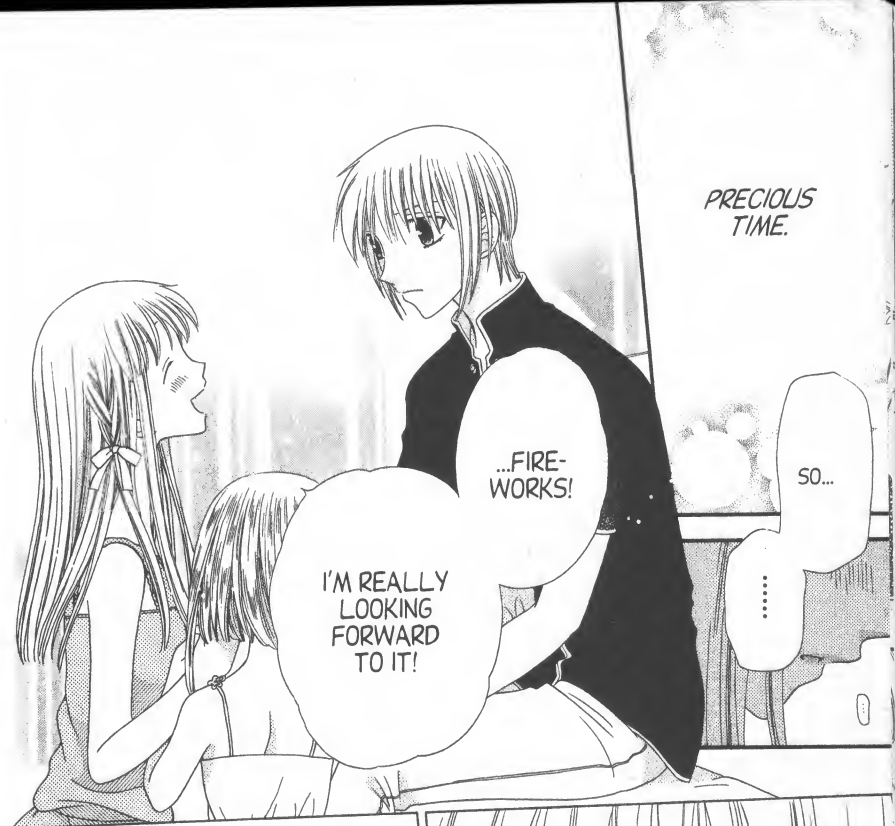
BEING ABLE TO
SPEND SUMMER
WITH EVERYONE
LIKE THIS...



I REALLY
WAS...

...SO VERY
HAPPY.

I...



Shishou

I always
end up
drawing
him so
young...

...but he's
actually
almost
forty.

There was a woman he was going out with, but they disagreed on so much that they had to break up. His head is so full with thoughts of his "son" that it seems he's content. Even though they're not close blood relatives, he became Kyo's father because he felt he should, or something. His over-fondness for his child may not surpass Kyoko's, but it's at least on par with hers. Oh, and he's clumsy with his hands and has no sense of flavor.

WE DON'T
HAVE ANY FIRE-
WORKS THAT
BIG, JUST SO
YOU KNOW.

WE'LL
LAUNCH
THEM WITH
A **BANG...**

...THAT
RENDERS THE
DARKNESS.

Ah!

IT'S TIME FOR
THE MOGETA
ANIME SPECIAL!

KISA, LET'S
WATCH!

jolt

YEAH!

OH...
YEAH...

HE SAID
HE WOULD
WATCH,
TOO...

H...UH?
WHAT ABOUT
MOMIJI ONII-
CHAN...?

I wanted
to be just
the two
of us.



WHEN YUKI-KUN CAME HERE...

...SOME-THING CHANGED.



AND KYO-KUN, TOO.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS...

EVEN FOR YUKI-KUN...



...AND KYO-KUN.



I'LL GO TELL HIM IT'S ON!

たし

PRECIOUS TIME.



What's Mogeta?

What's it like?

THAT'S WHAT THIS IS TO ME...



A fantasy

No, it's an intense drama!

Romance...

A mixture?

...AND I'M SURE THAT IT IS FOR EVERYONE ELSE, TOO.



...TO SEE
AKITO,
RIGHT?

TOMORROW,
YOU'RE NOT
GOING...

WHAT
ABOUT...
ME?

KYO?



...BUT I'M SURE
IT'S A VERY
GOOD THING.



.....



IF...

...I
THOUGHT
THAT...



...WOULD
YOU BE
MAD?



RIGHT.

REALLY?!

THAT'S
GREAT!!



IT WOULD
JUST PUT
HER IN MORE
DANGER.



BUT
YEAH... IF
YOU CHOSE
HER OVER
AKITO...

...AKITO...

...WOULD
GET MAD.

...AND
GO TO SEE
AKITO.

...WHY ALL OF
YOU WOULD
LEAVE TOHRU
HANGING...

I WON-
DERED
...

YOU WERE
ALL...

...

...EVEN
YUKI...

...FROM
AKITO.

YOU WERE
ALL...

...PROTECTING
TOHRU...



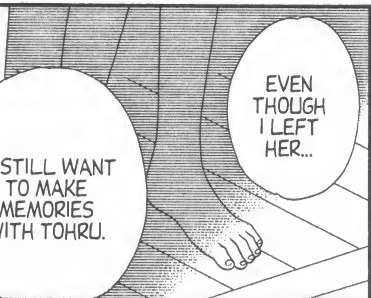
...FROM
THE BE-
GINNING.

BUT
WE'RE
NOT.

WE... I WAS
WRONG...

WHEN
YOU...

...SAY
IT LIKE
THAT...



I'M SO
SELFISH.

...I STILL WANT
TO MAKE
MEMORIES
WITH TOHRU.

EVEN
THOUGH
I LEFT
HER...



I CAN'T
HELP IT.
I JUST...

...LIKE
TOHRU
SO
MUCH.



...YOU
MAKE
IT SEEM
LIKE...

...WE'RE DOING
SOMETHING
VERY GOOD.

...WARM
PEOPLE.

WELL,
SQUIRT...

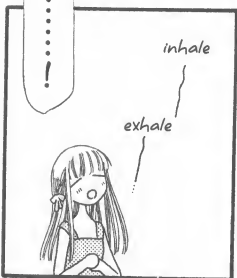
I'M
SELFISH,
TOO.

SUCH...

SUCH
KIND...



wipe
wipe



inhale

exhale



ANYWAY,
WEREN'T YOU
FUSSING ABOUT
SOME SHOW
YOU WANTED
TO WATCH?



...NOTHING.



MM?

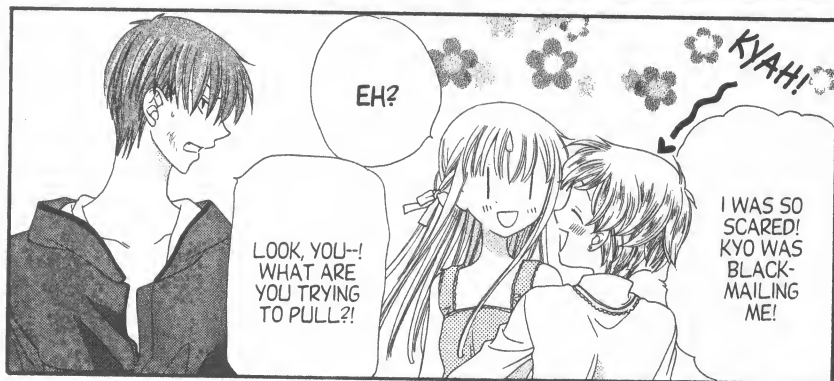


AH!!

TUP

MOMIJI-
KUN!

KYO-KUN!



EH?

LOOK, YOU--!
WHAT ARE
YOU TRYING
TO PULL?!

KYAH!

I WAS SO
SCARED!
KYO WAS
BLACK-
MAILING
ME!

JUST LIKE
EVERY-
ONE HAS
GIVEN ME SO
MUCH...

...I
WISH...

...THERE WAS
SOMETHING...

...I COULD
DO FOR
THEM.

I WANT
TO...

...DO
SOMETHING
MORE.

I WANT...

THAT'S
RIGHT!
MOGETA!

MOMIJI-
KUN, YOUR
SHOW'S
ABOUT TO
START.

Mogeta...?

OH...THAT
WEIRD
ANIME?

!...





LET ME GUESS.
YOU LIKE HIM SO
MUCH THAT YOU
CAN'T LET HIM OUT
OF YOUR SIGHT, LEST
OTHERS CATCH A
GLIMPSE OF HIM.
AM I RIGHT?

NO
REASON.



HE DOESN'T
SEEM QUITE
WELL
RECENTLY.

I JUST
THOUGHT
A LITTLE
VACATION
WOULD BE
GOOD FOR
HIM.



...



MAYBE HE'S
BEEN UNDER
TOO MUCH
STRESS?

...STRESS?

*I WISH
I COULD
HELP
THEM.*

SO
WHY...

...DID
YOU MAKE
KURENO-KUN
COME WITH
YOU THIS
TIME?

I'M
EXTREMELY
CURIOUS.



ARE
THERE STILL
THINGS THAT
OFFEND YOU?

AND
WHAT...

...MAKES
YOU SAY
THAT?



FROM
WHAT?
THAT'S
STUPID.

IF ANYONE
HAS BUILT
UP STRESS,
IT'S ME.



FOR
EXAMPLE?

OF COURSE
THERE ARE!
SO MANY I
COULD DIE.

...

YOU
REVOLT
ME.



NOT
NICE AT
ALL.

...AT
ALL.

YOU'RE NOT
NICE...

.....

AREN'T
I BEING
NICE TO
YOU?

BE
NICER!!

HER...

YOU DO!

NICER,
NICER,
NICER!

YOU USED
TO BE
MUCH
NICER.

YOU
LOOKED
ONLY AT
ME.

AS IT
SHOULD
BE!

THAT
WOMAN... YOU
REALLY--

AT ME...



THERE'S A
CALL FROM
THE MAIN
HOUSE.



WHAT
IS IT?

AKITO?



WHO DOES
SHE THINK
THE HEAD
OF THE
FAMILY IS?

AGAIN...
ACTING
WITHOUT
PERMISSION!

THEY SAID
THAT IF YOU
HAD RETURNED
SOONER, THE
MATTER WOULD
HAVE BEEN
SETTLED MORE
QUICKLY.



DID SHE
THROW
ANOTHER
TANTRUM?



.....
!



WHAT?

WHAT
BUSINESS
IS IT OF
YOURS?

SUCH
SUSPICION!

REN-SAN,
I MEAN?

REALLY,
AKITO...

...I DON'T
KNOW
WHAT
I DO TO
DESERVE
IT.



KURENO.

WE'RE
LEAVING.



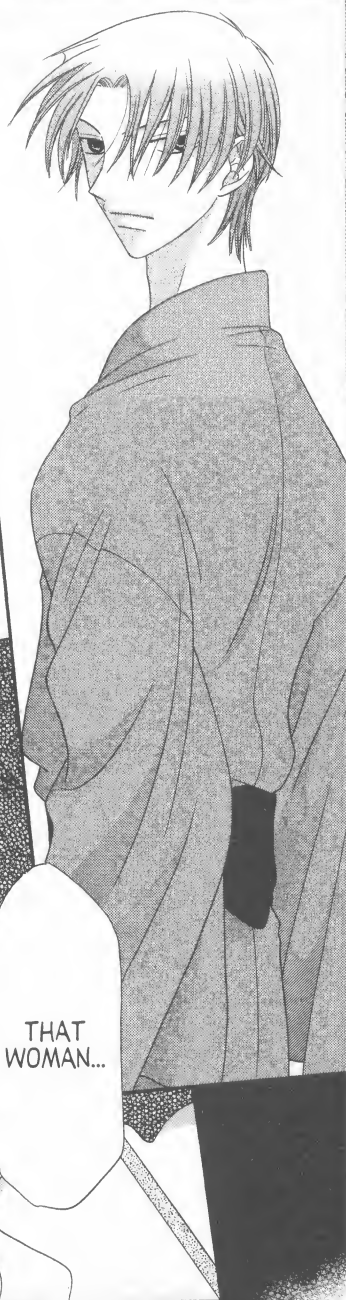
THAT
WOMAN...

THAT
WOMAN...

.....



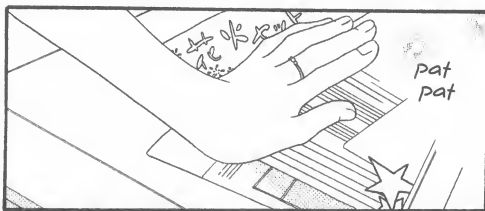
.....
!



THAT
WOMAN...



*Label: Firework Set. Safety Warning



*Label: Firework Set.





AKITO...



IT'S... SO
LATE...

WHAT'S
...

...THE
MATTER?

I'VE COME
TO SEE...

...

...TOHRU
HONDA-SAN.

SOMETHING
CAME UP.

I HAVE
TO GO HOME,
NOW.

BUT I
REALIZED
...

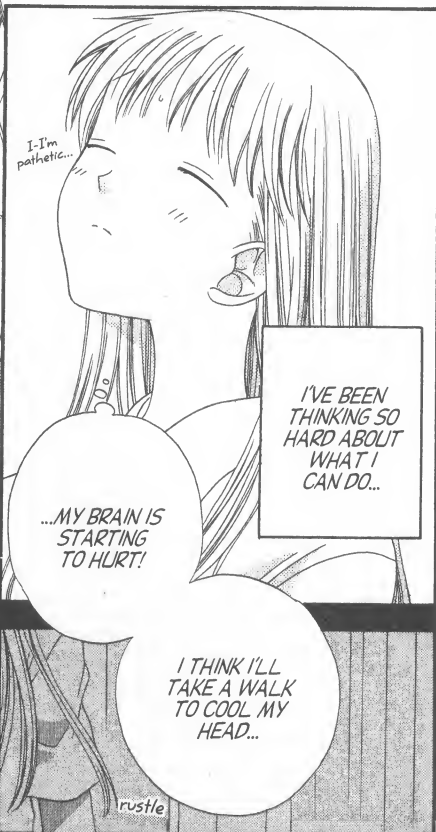
...I HAVEN'T YET
HAD A CHANCE
TO MEET WITH...

...TOHRU
HONDA-
SAN.



UUHH...

I CAN'T
SLEEP.



I-I'm
pathetic...

I'VE BEEN
THINKING SO
HARD ABOUT
WHAT I
CAN DO...

...MY BRAIN IS
STARTING
TO HURT!

I THINK I'LL
TAKE A WALK
TO COOL MY
HEAD...

rustle



YOU
CAN'T!

.....
!

NOW...?

BUT TOHRU'S
ASLEEP,
I'M SURE.

WAKE
HER UP.

.....



AKITO,
WHAT'S
WRONG?

WHY ARE
YOU SO
MAD?

DID SOME-
THING...
HAPPEN?



AKITO,
YOU'RE...MAD
RIGHT NOW,
AREN'T YOU?

WHEN
YOU'RE MAD,
YOU TAKE
IT OUT ON
OTHERS.

YOU...CAN'T
TAKE IT OUT
ON HER.



DO YOU
WANT TO
KNOW WHAT
I HAVE TO
DEAL WITH?

WHAT
WOULD
YOU DO IF
I TOLD
YOU?

"SOME-
THING"...?
"WHY"...?



UNDER-
STAND?

ARE YOU
HAPPY
NOW?!



DO YOU...
WANT TO
UNDERSTAND
ME?

... "WHY?"

YOU JUST
WANT
TO LOOK
DOWN ON
ME!

YOU JUST
WANT TO
ANALYZE ME
WITH YOUR
HOLIER-THAN-
THOU LOGIC!!



BECAUSE
I FEEL
SICK!!

**PLEASE,
STOP!!!**

TO--

PLE--

PLEASE
STOP!





...A
HORRIBLE
PERSON,
AREN'T
YOU?



THAT'S
TERRIBLE.

TERRIBLE.



YOU'RE
...



"STOP"...?

THAT
SOUNDS LIKE
AN ORDER.



NO MATTER
WHAT KIND
OF RUDE
BEHAVIOR YOU
SHOW ME...

...CAME
HERE TO
SEE YOU.

AKITO...!

BUT
TOHRU...

TOHRU
HONDA, I...



...I WANT
TO TELL
YOU.

...THERE'S
SOMETHING...

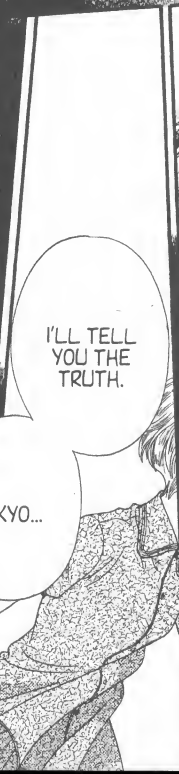


...YOU
LITTLE
BITCH.

DON'T GET
CONCEITED...



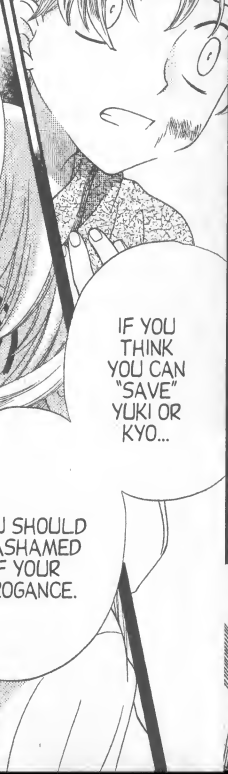
...WILL BE
CONFINED JUST
AS SOON AS HE
LEAVES HIGH
SCHOOL.



LET ME
TELL YOU...



I'LL TELL
YOU THE
TRUTH.



KYO...

IF YOU
THINK
YOU CAN
'SAVE'
YUKI OR
KYO...

...YOU SHOULD
BE ASHAMED
OF YOUR
ARROGANCE.



JUST
LIKE THE
PREVIOUS
CAT
BEFORE
HIM.

FOR HIS
WHOLE
LIFE.

UNTIL HE
DIES.

AND
YUKI...

...WILL LIVE
AND DIE
WITH ME.

ALL OF
THEM...

...WITH
ME.

...WILL
RETURN TO
THE FAMILY
COMPOUND...

ALWAYS
REMAINING
THE SAME.

...NO ONE
WILL BE
STOLEN
AWAY.

NO ONE
COMES IN...

...IN THE
SAME HOME,
FOLLOWING
THE SAME
PATH.

ALL OF
THE JIJINSHI
WILL LIVE...



AND I
WON'T...

...LET YOU
JOIN US!

A HAPPY
FUTURE.

AN ENDLESS
BANQUET.

UNCHANGING.

Filler
Sketch

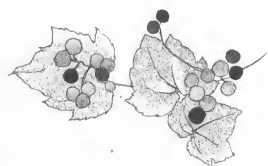


This is the rough sketch for the title page for chapter 65.



Chapter 65

I feel so grateful!



Sheesh...
That's all she
ever says...

Harada-sama, Araki-sama,
Mom, Dad, and everyone
who reads and supports this
manga... Thank you so much!



Next is "I... I'm sorry..." Ritchan!

—Natsuki Takaya

*Nameplate: Sohma



"AN
ENDLESS
BANQUET."



WOULD
THAT...





... "HAPPY"?

WOULD
THAT...

...REALLY
BE...

BEING
"UNCHANGING"...

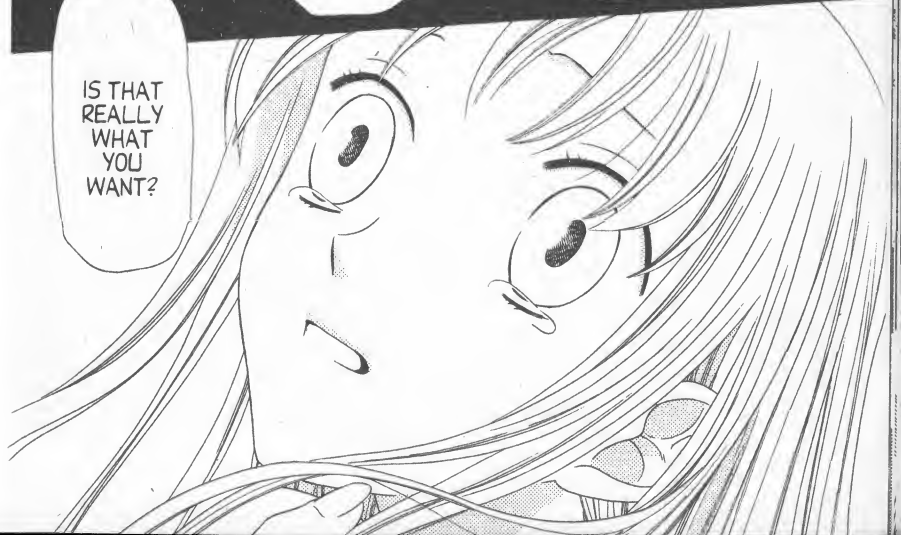
...TO THE
SOHMA
HOME...

FORCING
PEOPLE
BACK...

...

LOCKING
PEOPLE
UP...

IS THAT
REALLY
WHAT
YOU
WANT?





...AS IF
IT'S A BAD
THING?

OUR WAY
OF LIFE IS
DIFFERENT
FROM YOURS,
OUTSIDER.

WHO DO YOU
THINK YOU ARE
TO JUDGE OUR
WAYS WITH
YOUR STORYBOOK
VALUES?

drip

drip

WHO...



...ARE
YOU...?

BUT
THAT...

...WOULD
STOP
EVERYONE...

...AS
THEY'RE
TRYING
TO MOVE
FORWARD.

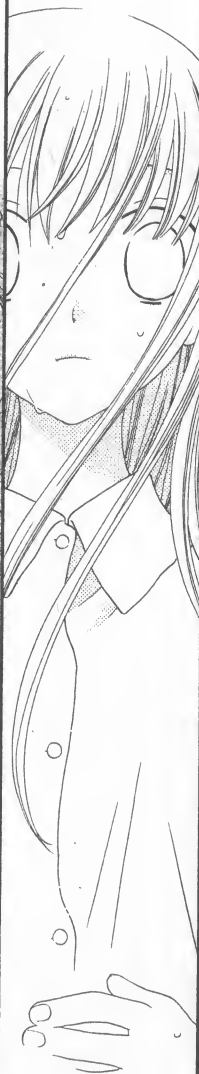
EVERY-
ONE'S
FEELINGS
...

WOULD
YOU STOP
TALKING...

"ONCE UPON
A TIME..."



...GOD TOLD
ALL THE
ANIMALS..."

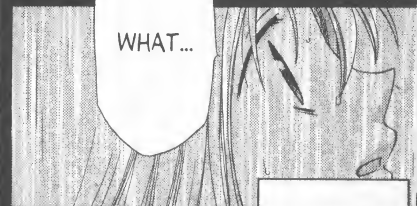


AKITO-
SAN...

...ISN'T THE
ROOSTER.

7
7
7

WHAT...



AKITO-
SAN IS
DIFFERENT.

A
DIFFERENT
EXISTENCE
...



...IS YOUR
PLACE
IN THE
ZODIAC?

WHAT
ARE YOU?

"ONCE
UPON A
TIME..."

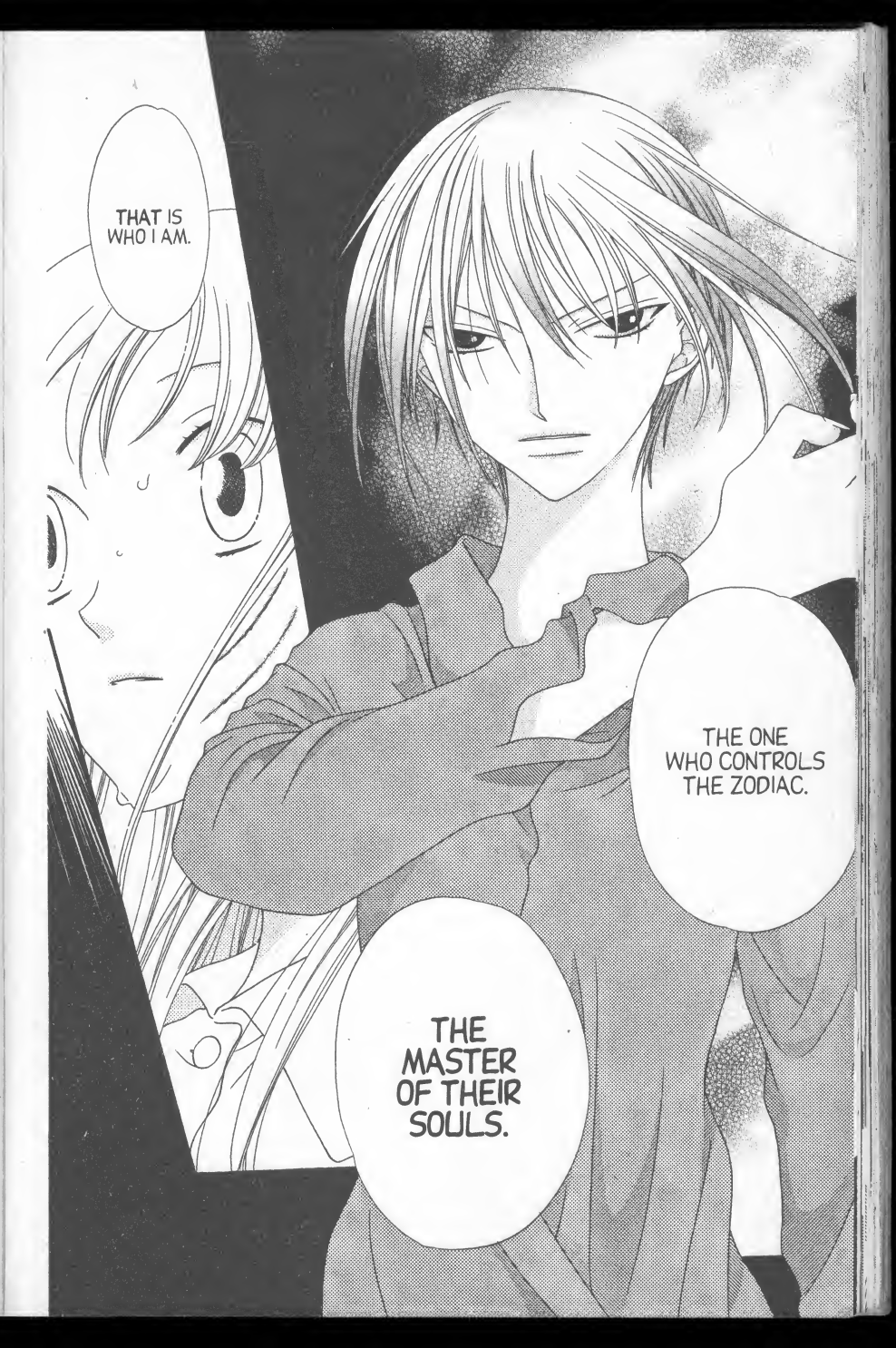


TO
THEM...

...I AM THE
CLOSEST
THING...

...THERE IS
TO GOD.

"GOD..."



THAT IS
WHO I AM.

THE ONE
WHO CONTROLS
THE ZODIAC.

THE
MASTER
OF THEIR
SOULS.



I'VE BEEN
LOOKING
FOR YOU.

gasp!

AKITO...!



I'M SORRY,
KURENO.

I JUST
HAD TO SAY
HELLO TO
HER.

I WONDERED
WHERE
YOU'D GONE.

I'LL GO
BACK NOW.

YOU'LL
CATCH COLD
OUT HERE.



...TO MEET
YOU.



EH...?

PLEASED...



OH... YES.

LET ME
INTRODUCE
YOU.



THE
ROOSTER
...



EH...UH,
P-PLEASED
TO...MEET
YOU, TOO!



THIS IS
KURENO
SOHMA.



THIS
MAN...



...IS THE
ROOSTER.



REMEM-
BER THIS,
TOHRU-
SAN.



THE
ROOSTER.



...WE CANNOT
BE APART.

IN THE
END...

BECAUSE...

...THEY'LL
ALL COME
BACK TO ME.



STAY
OUT OF IT.

BE A
GOOD GIRL.

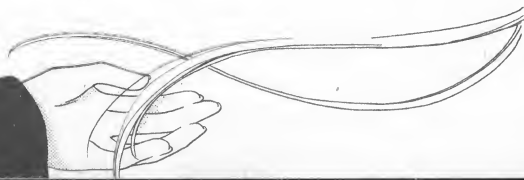
SO
STOP...

...TRYING TO
DESTROY OUR
"HAPPINESS."



...YOU'LL BE
PUNISHED.

OTHERWISE...





THEN
THE
CURSE
IS...?



"THE
MASTER
OF THEIR
SOULS."

"WE..."

...CANNOT
BE APART."

THE
CURSE--

THE
MYSTERIOUS
CHAINS...



...THAT BIND
ALL THE
MEMBERS OF
THE ZODIAC...

THE ONE
WHO
STANDS
ABOVE
THEM ALL

IS THAT
WHY NO
ONE...

...CAN GO
AGAINST
HIM...?



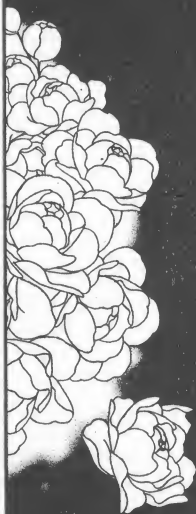
slump

AKITO-
SAN...

...IS
GOD.

...BINDS...
GOD?

THE CURSE
THAT BINDS
EVERYONE...





HAA-SAN,
I CAN
BANDAGE
HER UP.

I SEE
HE GOT
YOU.

YOU'RE GOING
BACK WITH
AKITO-SAN,
AREN'T YOU?



MOMITCHI.

HE CAME TO
GET US, LOOKING
DESPERATE, SO
WE WONDERED
WHAT HAPPENED.



OH!
MOMIJI-
KUN...



DON'T
WORRY.

MOMIJI-KUN
WAS HURT!!
HOW IS HE...?



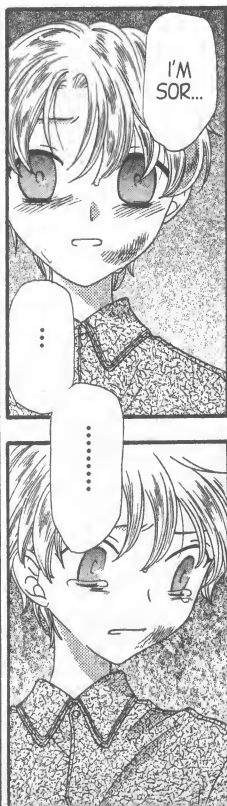
EH
?!

HATORI-SA...
SHIGURE-
SAN?!

HE SHOULD
BE FINE
WAITING
A LITTLE
WHILE.

I
guess.

EH? UH,
WHY, UM,
ARE YOU
HERE?





DON'T LET
HIM CATCH
COLD...

poof

SUCH...



WELL,
MOMITCHI
REALLY DID
HIS BEST,
DIDN'T HE?

COMPARED
TO HIM,
THOSE YOUNG
PEOPLE...

"COMPARED
TO HIM, US
ADULTS"...

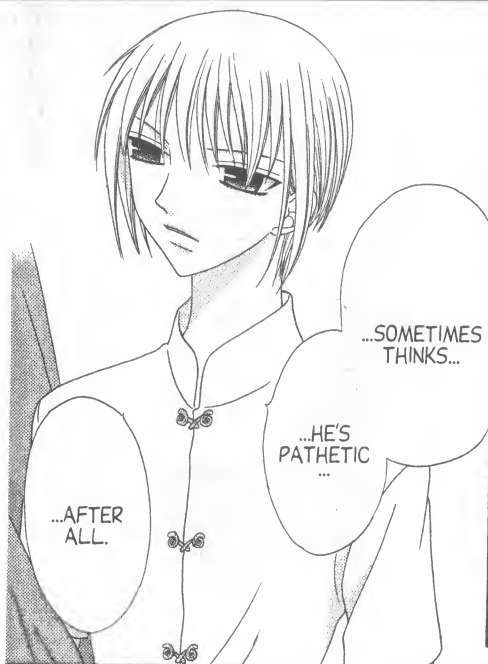


...YOU
MEAN.



...PRETTY
TEARS.





...AFTER
ALL.

...SOMETIMES
THINKS...

...HE'S
PATHETIC
...



SO,
EVEN
HE...



NO, I'M
SERIOUS.

...?
SARCASM?



PROTECTING
SOMEONE ISN'T
ALWAYS AS
SIMPLE AS IT
SEEMS.

....
I KNOW
HOW HE
FEELS.



...EVEN
SO...

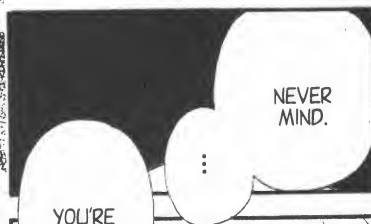


BUT...



HM?

IT
CAN'T
BE...

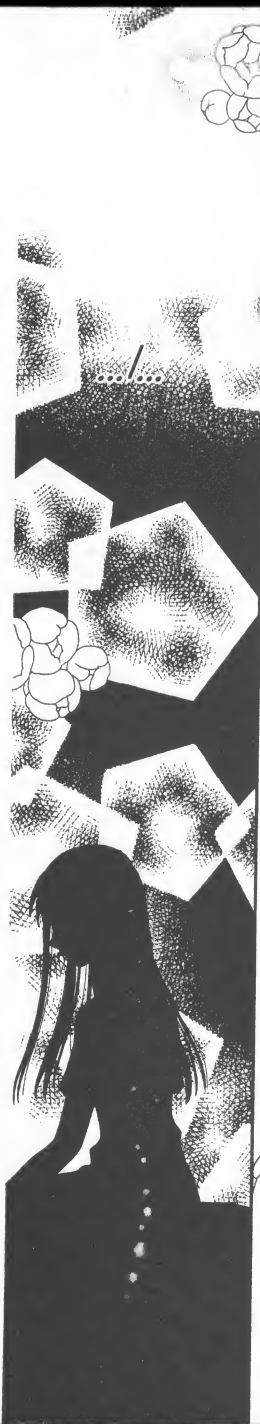


NEVER
MIND.

YOU'RE
RIGHT.



PROTECTING
SOMEONE ISN'T
SIMPLE.



I WANT
TO
PROTECT
HER
ABOVE
ALL
ELSE.



...I
WANT TO
PROTECT
HER.





IT
CLEARED
UP!!

IT CLEARED
UP, IT CLEARED
UP! THE RAIN
STOPPED!

WE CAN DO
FIREWORKS
NOW!!



ARE YOU
SURE? THE
SUN'S STILL
UP...

*I'm
sure!*

I CAN'T
WAIT UNTIL
NIGHT!



RIGHT?

Yes
...





YEAH.



HEY, WHY DO YOU BOTH HAVE BAND-AIDS ON YOUR FACES?

AH...! YOU MEAN THESE?



LAST NIGHT, WE WERE OUT WALKING... AND...UM...WE FELL!

Right, Momiji-kun?



YOU MEAN "BIRDS OF A FEATHER"...

WE'RE LIKE BIRDS ON A WIRE!



HERE WE GO!!

LEAVE IT TO ME! I'VE DECIDED THE TOP BATTER!

HEY.

ARE WE GONNA LIGHT THESE THINGS, OR WHAT? WHICH ONES DO WE START WITH?



IS
THAT...

sizzle

sizzle
sizzle
sizzle

sizzle

...SUPPOSED
TO BE
FUN?

OOOOH...

YEAH...
I MEAN,
WHEN
I WAS
LITTLE.

KYO-KUN, HAVE
YOU SEEN A
SNAKE FIRE-
WORK BEFORE?

WHEN I SAID
I HADN'T DONE
FIREWORKS
BEFORE, SHISHOU
WENT OUT AND
BOUGHT A TON
OF THEM.



BUT-! YOU
HAVE TO TRY IT
AT LEAST ONCE!
IT'S REALLY
WORTH SEEING!

I CAN'T SEE
ANYTHING
IN ALL THIS
SMOKE.



FIREWORKS,
I MEAN.

BUT YOU'VE
DONE IT
TOO, RIGHT?

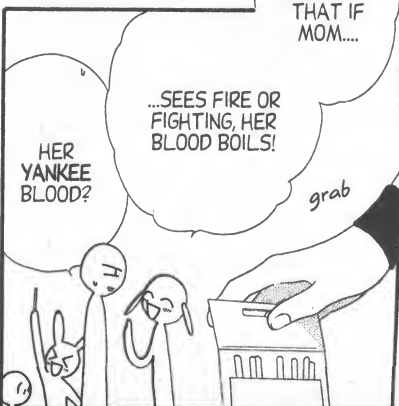
WITH YOUR
MOM?

Ah!



Yes!
IT WAS
FUN, BUT...

...IT
SEEMS
THAT IF
MOM....



HER
YANKEE
BLOOD?

...SEES FIRE OR
FIGHTING, HER
BLOOD BOILS!

grab



I COULDN'T
BELIEVE
THAT THERE
WAS ANY-
THING...

...SO
FUN.



Oh.

IT SAYS NOT TO
HOLD IT IN YOUR
HANDS OR POINT
IT AT PEOPLE OR
BUILDINGS.

HE'S
POINTING
IT AT
ME!!



WHAT
KIND ARE
THOSE?

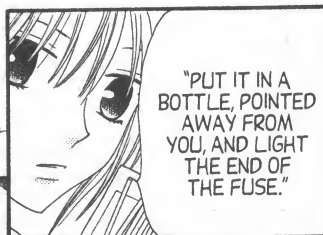
Do they fly?

I WANT
TO DO
THESE.

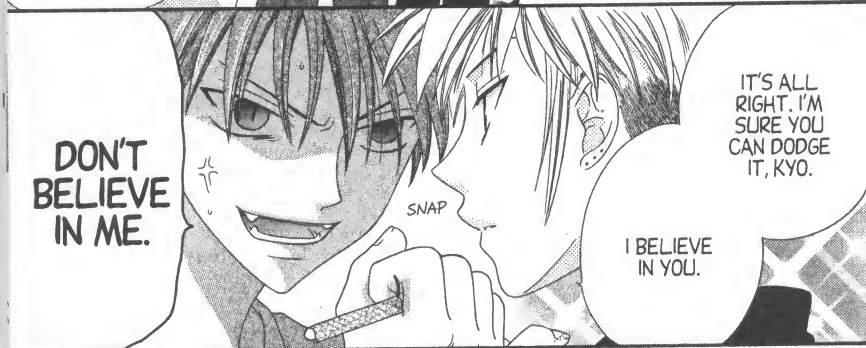
Bottle
rockets.

RUSTLE
RUSTLE

DUNNO.
READ THE
INSTRUCTIONS,
YUKI.



"PUT IT IN A
BOTTLE, POINTED
AWAY FROM
YOU, AND LIGHT
THE END OF
THE FUSE."



DON'T
BELIEVE
IN ME.

SNAP

IT'S ALL
RIGHT. I'M
SURE YOU
CAN DODGE
IT, KYO.

I BELIEVE
IN YOU.

**Don't try this at home!*



HEY,
EVERYBODY!

UH,
UM...

DON'T
POINT
THEM AT
PEOPLE!!

LOOK
YOU!!

THINK OF IT
LIKE DODGE-
BALL WITH
ROCKETS.



WELL, THEY
ARE FIRE-
CRACKERS...

NOT SO
LOUD!!

POP
POP
POP

FIRE-
CRACKERS
!!!

POP

POP

BUT
THEY'RE
PRETTY!

DON'T
YOU SAY
THAT!

YOU COULD
HURT SOME-
ONE, YOU
KNOW.

MOMIJI! WHAT
ARE YOU DOING
WITH THAT?!



AND I
KNOW THAT
YUKI-KUN
HASN'T
REFRAINED
FROM
FIGHTING...

SHISHOU-
SAN DIDN'T
SHOW KYO-
KUN THE
BEAUTY OF
FIREWORKS...

...BECAUSE
HE WANTS
TO GO BACK
TO THE
SOHMA
HOUSE.

...SO THAT HE
COULD SPEND
THE FUTURE IN
CONFINEMENT.



*BUT THE
CURSE...*

*...BINDS THEM,
AND KEEPS
THEM FROM
ACHIEVING
THEIR WISH.*

*I WANT
TO...*

*...BREAK
THE
CURSE.*

*I HAVE A
FEELING
THAT...*

*... IN THE
BOTTOM
OF THEIR
HEARTS...*



*...THEY
ALL HAVE
A WISH TO
BE FREE.*



...IF THERE
IS A WAY...

...TO FREE
EVERYONE
FROM
THEIR
CHAINS...

...I WANT TO
BREAK THE
CURSE.

...SO THAT
THEY CAN
CRY, AND
LAUGH,
WITH ALL
OF THEIR
HEARTS...

I KNOW IT'S
PROBABLY NOT
MY PLACE...

...AND SAYING
YOU WANT TO
PROTECT DOESN'T
MEAN YOU CAN...

"STAY OUT
OF IT."

BUT...

...EVEN
SO...

...EVEN IF
IT MEANS
I'LL BE
PUNISHED...



step

FOR
YOU,
HONDA-
SAN.

PRETTY!

W
H
O
O
A
!!





YOU
KNOW...

...WE'VE
NEVER ALL
GOTTEN
TOGETHER...

...TO HAVE
FUN LIKE
THIS...UNTIL
NOW.



IT'S SO
PRETTY!

EVERYONE
SEEMS TO BE
HAVING FUN.

YES.



I, TOO...

...TREASURE
THE TIME I CAN
SPEND LIKE
THIS WITH
YOU...

...HONDA-
SAN.

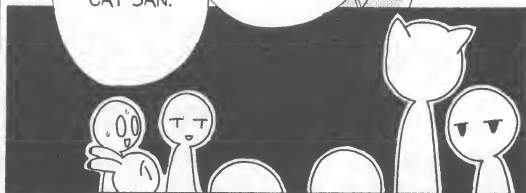


...BUT
THE SAME
SUMMER
NEVER COMES
TWICE.

IT'S
STRANGE,
ISN'T IT?

SUMMER
COMES EVERY
YEAR...







I WANT TO
PROTECT
THEM.

Shut
up!



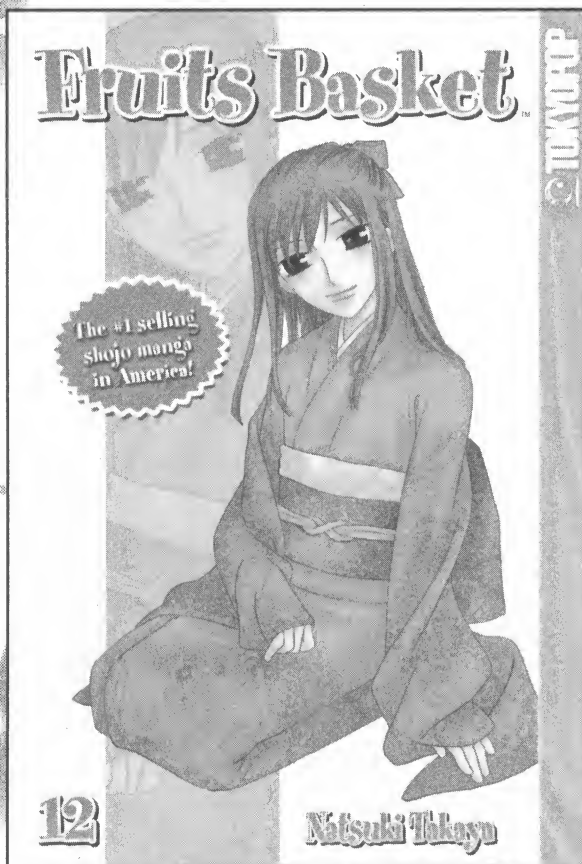
I WANT TO
PROTECT THE
PATH THAT
EVERYONE IS
WALKING...

...WITH
ALL THE
POWER...

...I CAN
MUSTER.

To Be Continued in Volume 12...

Next time in...



Council Clash and Past Rehash...

Summer vacation comes to a close, and school begins again. Student life, however, is full of strife. A new student council has been assembled, featuring two controversial secretaries: Naohito, who has declared himself Yuki's rival, and Kimi, a devil woman who steals men's hearts. While classmates clash, Tohru becomes convinced that she may have finally discovered a way to break the Sohma's curse. However, Tohru has her own family crisis to deal with--her grandfather has thrown out his back, and while Tohru visits him, he is bent on discussing a painful part of her past.

Fruits Basket Volume 12
Available December 2005