

COLLECTOR'S EDITION

Fruits Basket

NATSUKI TAKAYA

1



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1



ONE THAT
NEVER ENDS.
THAT'S FUN
FOR EVERY-
ONE...

LET'S GET
THIS PARTY
STARTED.

WHOA...

LOOKS
LIKE WE'RE
IN FOR
ANOTHER
HOT ONE.

MOMO: JAPANESE LANGUAGE

OH...
NOT
FORGET-
TING ANY-
THING...

WELL, MOM,
HOLD DOWN
THE FORT
WHILE I'M
GONE.

国語 I

...AND NOW,
DUE TO A
PARTICULAR
SET OF
CIRCUM-
STANCES, I'M
SECRETLY
LIVING IN
A TENT.

MY
MOM DIED
THIS MAY.
SHE'D BEEN
RAISING
ME ON HER
OWN...

I'VE GOT
PLENTY OF
TIME TODAY,
SO I THINK
I'LL TAKE A
WALK BEFORE
HEADING
OFF.

SEE YOU
LATER!!

...BUT I GET
BY, KEEPING
MY CHIN UP,
NO MATTER
WHAT...

I CAN'T
SAY IT'S
A CUSHY
LIFE...

GOOD
MORNING.
I'M TOHRU
HONDA.

...IS MY
SAVING
GRACE.



IT FEELS
SO PEACE-
FUL...

I DIDN'T
KNOW
THERE WAS
A HOUSE
HERE...

A
HOUSE...



HELLO!

A GIRL ALL
THE WAY OUT
HERE...

AND A HIGH
SCHOOL GIRL
TO BOOT...

AH...
HOW
CUTE...

THIS IS
SOMETHING
YOU DON'T
SEE EVERY
DAY.

I APOLO-
GIZE FOR
SNOOP-
ING!

YIKES!

I DIDN'T
KNOW SOME-
ONE WAS
HOME.....!

LOOK ALL
YOU LIKE.
THEY'RE
DRYING IN
THE SUN.



O-ON THE
CONTRARY! YOUR
CHINESE ZODIAC
PAPERWEIGHTS
ARE ADORABLE!!

OH MY
GOSH...HE
COULD BE
A MODEL!

ALTHOUGH...
...I DOUBT
THEY'D
INTEREST A
TEENAGER.



HUH YOU
SURE
KNOW YOUR
ZODIAC...

CAT? OH,
DO YOU
MEAN...

...THE CAT
FROM THE
OLD ZODIAC
STORY?

YES...MY
MOM OFTEN
TOLD IT TO
ME...



LONG,
LONG
AGO...



BUT
JUST AS
I THOUGHT,
THERE'S
NO CAT...

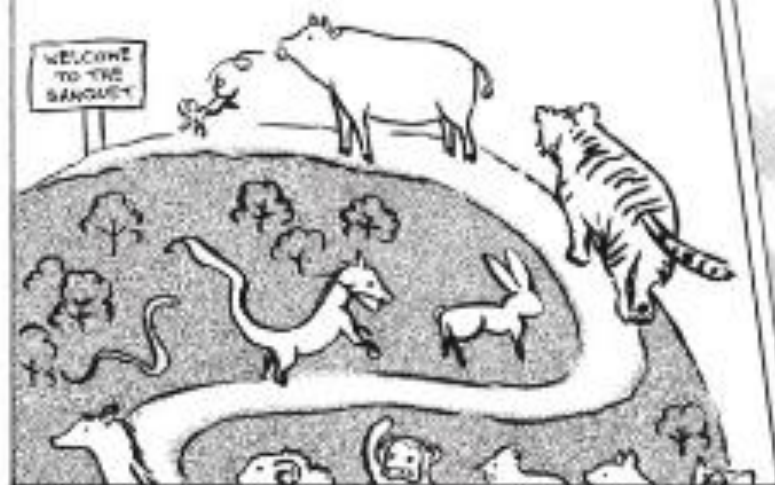
I AGREE
WITH YOU
THERE.
I'M FOND
OF THEM
MYSELF.



...GOD SAID TO THE ANIMALS...

THEN THE OX, THE TIGER, AND THE OTHERS FEASTED 'TIL MORNING.

THE NEXT DAY, THE RAT RODE ON THE OX'S BACK AND JUMPED OFF RIGHT BEFORE REACHING THE VENUE.



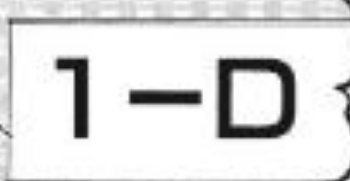
THE CAT... THE POOR, POOR CAT...

WHY ARE YOU CRYING, TOMRUI?

ONLY THE TRICKED CAT MISSED OUT—

"I'M HOLDING A BANQUET TOMORROW, AND YOU'RE ALL INVITED. JUST DON'T BE LATE."







AND THAT PICTURE YOU'RE PAINTING SEEMS A BIT EXAGGERATED...

IT WAS JUST A COINCIDENCE...

OUT WITH IT!

YOU BETTER HAVE A DAMN GOOD REASON FOR WALKING TO SCHOOL WITH SOHMA-KUN!!

TOTALLY EXACTLY THAT'S RIGHT!



DON'T GET FULL OF YOURSELF JUST BECAUSE SOHMA-KUN IS A NICE GUY...

WAIT! YOU REALLY THINK YOU'RE SOMETHING SPECIAL, DON'T YOU!?

HEY.....



THAT'S RIGHT EXACTLY TOTALLY!

IF COINCIDENCES WERE ACCEPTABLE EXCUSES, WE WOULDN'T NEED COPS—

DON'T MAKE A SCENE IN THE HALLWAY!!

AS YOU CAN SEE...

!D-I-O!!

...IS ONLY A FIRST-YEAR STUDENT, BUT HE'S LIKE THE PRINCE OF OUR SCHOOL.

...THE HANDSOME YUKI SOHMA-KUN...



WH-WHAT THE HECK? DELINQUENTS THINK THREATENING PEOPLE CAN SOLVE ANYTHING!!

HO-CHAN, HANA-CHAN...

WHERE ARE THESE GIRLS COMING FROM!

GOOD MORNING...

KOSO (SHINJI) KOSO コソコソ



I'LL REEEEEEP

YOU WITH MY POISONOUS ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVES...

DON'T REALLY SEND OUT YOUR VIBES, HANAJIMA.

THAT WAS A CLOSE ONE...

EASY... EASY...

THANKS FOR THE ASSIST...

I SEE! SO YOU AND YUKI-KUN ARE CLASSMATES.





WELL,
WHATEVER.
I DON'T
WANT TO
BE LATE.

SINCE
YOU'RE HERE,
WHY DON'T WE
WALK TO SCHOOL
TOGETHER?

I WAS
FLUS-
TERED...



I COULDN'T
EVEN
CARRY ON
A DECENT
CONVERSA-
TION WITH
HIM...

SOHMA-KUN
IS SO GOOD-
LOOKING
THAT I WAS
QUIVERING...



NICE TO
MEET YOU.
I'M TOMRU
HONDA...

I'M
SANGURE
SOHMA,
YUKI-KUN'S
COUSIN.



HUH!?

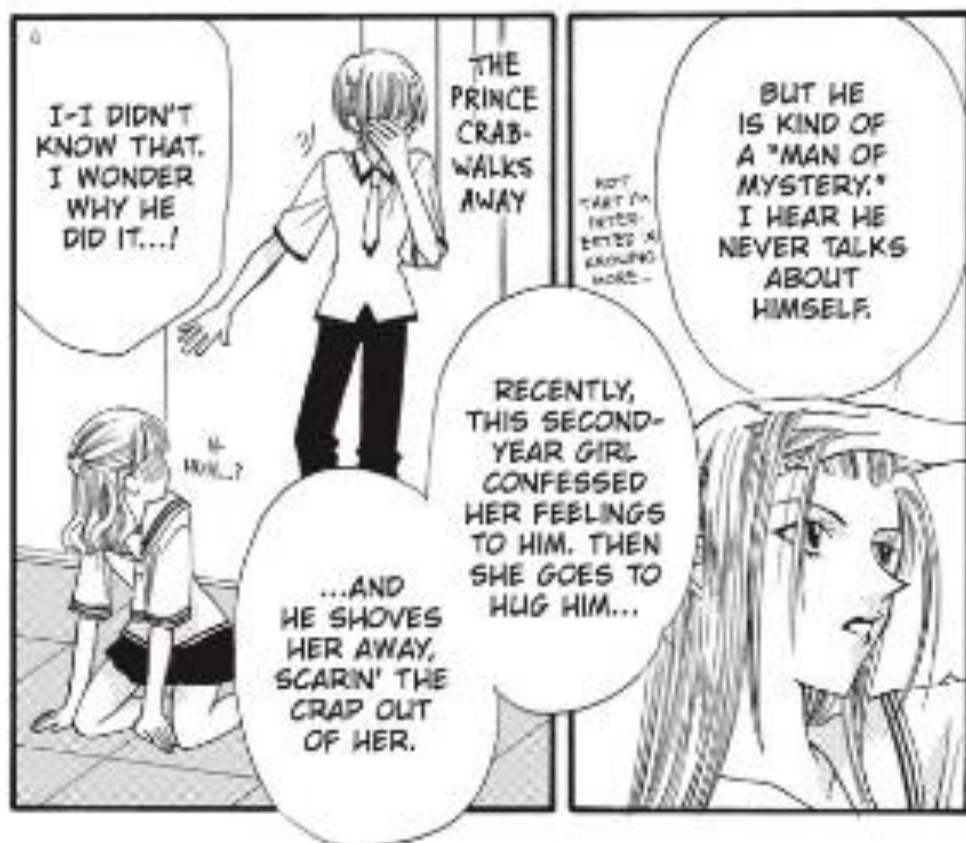
WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING
HERE,
HONDA-
SAN?

AH...MY
HOUSE IS
NEARBY!!



NEARBY?

HUH...





..... EH.

HUH
.....?

きんぎょ

RECEIVE DIRECT



LIKE I SAID,
HE'S STRANGE
...

WELL...
THAT MAKES
GIRLS
EVEN MORE
INTERESTED
IN HIM.

YOU
THREE!!
CAN THE
CHATTER
AND GET
TO WORK!!



OH...
THE
RICE IS
READY
TOO...

OH YOU
THOUGHT
YOU'D TELL
US OFF,
BLACK-
HEAD!

DON'T
GIVE ME
ATTITUDE!!
I KNOW
HONDA-SAN
MADE THE
WHOLE
THING!

WE
ALREADY
FINISHED.

CCO



A HEARING
HELPING...

MAN,
YOU GOT
IT ROUGH.
PROMISIN'
TO PAY
YOUR OWN
TUITION...

BUT
I DOUBT
YOU NEED
TO WORK
EVERY DAY
TO PAY IT.

THIS
IS JUST
A PUBLIC
KITCHEN...



SENSEI
TEN NAYI
EDIBLE...

AH...
YES.

ARE YOU
WORKIN'
AGAIN
TODAY?

OH YEAH.
HANAJIMA
AND I
ARE GOIN'
SHOPPIN'
AFTER
SCHOOL.

AH...





HE EVEN SHOWED ME HIS CHINESE ZODIAC PAPER-WEIGHTS.

OH, THAT'S ALL RIGHT!! HE WAS A COMPLETE GENTLEMAN.

OH... YES, YOU WERE SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT WANTING TO BE THE YEAR OF THE CAT.

AH...



NOT AT ALL. I APOLOGIZE FOR SHIGURE'S BEHAVIOR.

SOHMA-KUN...!! THANK YOU FOR WALKING WITH ME THIS MORNING...



HUH?

THEY'RE NASTY?

HONDA-SAN, DID YOU KNOW...

...THE TWELVE SIGNS OF THE CHINESE ZODIAC ARE REALLY PART OF THE TEN HEAVENLY STEMS AND TWELVE EARTHLY BRANCHES?



CATS ARE STUPID.

NOT TO MENTION NASTY.

I WAS AN ECCENTRIC CHILD.

I'LL SAY.



THE QUESTION IS, WHEN WERE ANIMALS ADOPTED INTO THE SYSTEM AND ON WHAT GROUNDS?

APPARENTLY, NOBODY KNOWS.



BUT CATS NEVER MADE IT INTO THE ZODIAC.



I MEAN, SHOULD THEY GET IN JUST BECAUSE THEY'RE FRIENDS WITH THE OTHER TWELVE? WHO CARES?

...AND I'M GLAD THEY DIDN'T.

CATS ARE SO DUMB.



LATER ON, THE COSMIC DUAL FORCES AND THE FIVE ELEMENTS OF CHINESE COSMOLOGY WERE INCORPORATED, AND IT TURNED INTO A FORTUNE-TELLING THING.

ORIGINALLY THEY WERE USED AS A NUMERIC SYTEM OR TO TELL TIME..

THEN ANIMALS HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH IT...!?

NOPE.