

LIKE

"Hi, Diana? I'm Shinjiro." Shinjiro knocked on wooden door. It was 3 am. There was only a gas lamp and so the passage was little bit dark. His breath was frozen. "Taiga, just ... a moment." woman's voice carried through the door. Waiting for her, he felt his heart heating fast. A girl whose eyes were sky blue opened the door and received him. "I'm expecting you, Taiga.", the girl, Diana smiled. "So do I." Shinjiro gave a slight nod as he entered her room.

"You have many baggages. What's happen?" Diana giggled, looking at Shinjiro's baggages on his back. There were a blanket, a sheet and so on. "Don't you know it is unbearably cold before daybreak? And so they are valuable friends." he grinned really laid on the charm. "Diana, are you ready?" he asked her. "Okay," she took two pots and had a glimpse of his face "well ... you like some hot milk, don't you?" "Yeah, good." She heard his reply, two pots were packed in her handbag. Shinjiro saw out of window. The late night view of New York was like calm sea. "Diana, here we go."

暖房は入れてなかったけど、ダイアナさんの部屋はやっぱり暖かかった。夜風に頬を打たれ、新次郎は玄関口で大きく身震いをした。底冷えする二月の夜、街灯に照らされる空気すら白く霞んでいる。紐育の冬は江田島よりも栃木よりも遥かに寒かった。"It is cold just as you told me to." Diana said. Shinjiro turned back toward her. She beckoned him. "You are lightly dressed. I'll rent you my muffler." She spread a tartan check muffler, then he blushed. "Thank you Diana, but ... I think it is too pretty for me. I'm all right and so it should be used by you." He shook his head but she wouldn't. "Don't worry. It'll be match your coat." While whispering, she wear the muffler around his neck. マフラーの柔らかな生地が頬に触れ、鼻先をほのかな香りが掠めた。あ。漏れそうになった声を、新次郎は喉の奥に飲み込んだ。手袋に包まれたダイアナの手が、マフラーを緩く結ぶ。その腕の間に、彼女の顔を真正面に見た。背が同じくらいで良かったと、胸の縁でふっと思う。彼女が立ち上がってくれてよかったと、"Fine. It is just matched as well as might be expected." she was grad with her hands together. "Thank you Diana. Now I'm warm up."

They started walking toward the Central Park. There was no figure of a man. Silent night lay on all street. The stars were twinkling over them. "There is not a speck of cloud in sky. The weather today is ideal." Shinjiro remarked. Diana looked into his face and asked, "What plot do you have?". "A secret!" he replied thus, and took her hand which was more slender than his. "I'm looking forward ..." Diana chuckled.

"Diana, come on." Shinjiro crossed a road with taking Diana's hand. They stepped on a grass which tweeted gracefully. "Okay. I decided." he surveyed. "Diana, wait a moment. I'll prepare soon." Diana nodded. He took his many baggages off his back, first spread a sheet on grass plot. Since he was humming while he worked, Diana was bubbling with expecting though it was ordinary to come here. "Diana, please lie down on the sheet!" he asked. He had been covered with a blanket, thus he looked like a monster of blanket. "You're funny, Taiga. Thank you." She sit down on the sheet. He put the blanket over her. Diana thanked him in a gentle voice. He sit down next her and

pointed the zenith. "Since the weather today is ideal, we can look certainly."

新次郎は目を凝らした。頭上高く、摩天楼に開いた夜空をじっと見つめる。ダイアナも何も言わず、毛布に包まって同じように星空を見上げてくれていた。真っ白い息が零れて行く。"I likely twist my neck. Can I lie on?" ちらりとダイアナを窺うと、彼女は毛布に顔を埋めてかすかに頷いた。"Sure." 冬は空が澄んでいる。街灯からも離れたセントラルパークの芝生の上なら、きっと見つけられる筈だ。新次郎は寝っ転がって向き合う夜空を、上から下まで見渡した。その時だった。

"Ah!" ダイアナが声を上げた。"A shooting star! Did you witness it?!" 目を細め、ダイアナが微笑んだ。大河は首を振って応える。"No. I missed it. Was it lovely?" Diana smiled and nodded with sparkling eyes. "Yes! I'd like to let you see it!" Shinjiro responded her with a clear voice. "We can see a lot of them within tonight." When he said so, Diana stared at him in round-eyed wonder. Shinjiro laughed, "Since a meteor stream is coming today."

"A METEOR STREAM?" Diana repeated his word. "Yes." Shinjiro was receiving her word, "It will yellow rain. The peak of the stream is just before daybreak. Shortly stars will start falling down." As she blinked her eyes, another shooting star scratched the night sky. "LOOK! Behind!" he shouted thus reflexively, but she missed it. While she looked back, the little light faded. "How wasteful to miss it is." she puffed out her cheeks in dissatisfaction, and muttered "Yeah, here I go.". She lay on next Shinjiro. "Now I can look over a panorama of the starlit sky."

"Taiga, would you be covered with this blanket? Our breath are dyeing white." Diana called him, but he was hesitate. Soon he came near to her. "It's warm." He had been thinking that they would feel chilly if he brought a blanket and a sheet only, but wouldn't. Diana smiled at him. "I'm grad." Something touched his fingertip. It was her hand. They interlaced little fingers. If her hand hadn't been gloved, he wished.

It was the very star-spangled sky. Lying on the ground, he was imaging that he fell into the universe filled with starlit. "Ah!" Diana was pointing left of the sky. "Did you observe just now a meteor shot!"

多くの流星が紐育の頭上を落ちて行った。横たわる二人の前を駆け抜けて行った。数えきれなくくらい見たのに、見つけた時には消えてしまう一瞬の光だ。星々の間を行き交う姿を、幾度も胸の奥に描いた。"Taiga," Diana called him, "if someone can say one's wish three times to a meteor, it will be fulfilled." "Three times? It's unreasonable." Shinjiro goggled in astonishment "And then, Soon the sun will rise.". She nodded. "Yeah, unreasonable."

The sun had begun to shine. The sky had been dyeing light blue. Some birds was chirping. "The beginning of a new day." Shinjiro got his upper part up. "I like the time in which I'm waiting for daybreak." He had peered into her whose eyes were "The sky is CLEAR and SHINE blue like your eye." そう告げると、ダイアナはそっと口をつぐみ空を仰いだ。日が空に満ち、薄い雲が紫から黄色へと変わる。グラデーションを描き眩しくなる、地平に向かう空の色は、そう。