

# KUMAMIRU BIYORI

Episode 1

THE MORNING WE FORGOT THE ICE CREAM





## A Day That Begins with Laundry

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Spring morning sunlight gently illuminates the old Japanese house.

Every morning, Kumami begins her day by washing and carefully hanging the dishcloths, work aprons, and headscarves used at the pickle shop.

Doing the ordinary things the same way, day after day.

That was Kumami's most important daily routine.



## Today's Menu

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After finishing her morning chores, Kumami makes breakfast without fail, just as she does every day.

Freshly steamed rice, warm miso soup, and homemade pickles. Each one is an important taste of morning that helps the family begin the day.

Today's main dish is fish grilled until golden. As its savory aroma fills the old house, it will not be long before Miruku wakes up.



## Wrapped in Gentle Light

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Soft morning light gently fills the quiet room.

Kumami's daughter, Miruku, is still sleeping peacefully in her futon.

When Kumami gently rests a hand on her shoulder, Miruku, still half asleep, gives a tiny twitch of her nose.

Another familiar morning begins.



## I'm Off!

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Miruku has just started middle school.

Today, her friend Monaka has come to pick her up.

In front of the pickle shop, Miruku waves and calls, "I'm off!" Kumami smiles and waves back. "Have a good day!"

Under the gentle spring sunshine, Miruku sets off for school, bright and cheerful.



## Something in Common

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The ride to school is a happy time filled with lively conversation.

Today, Monaka and Miruku watch the popular dating reality show "Today, I Become the Moon," absorbed in their favorite scenes.

As rows of cherry trees drift past the windows, one of them asks, "Who are you rooting for?" Their smiles fill the car.

The trip to school is precious time shared between friends.



## Oh No!

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After breakfast, Kumami returns to the sitting room to clear the table.

There, on the low table, is the cooler Miruku was supposed to take to school.

"Oh no!"

Kumami grabs her bicycle key and rushes outside to take it to Miruku.



## Temporarily Closed

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To deliver the forgotten cooler, Kumami quickly puts a "Temporarily Closed" sign in front of the shop.

Then she jumps onto her bicycle. The peaceful morning from only moments ago now feels like a distant dream.

"Please let me make it in time!"

With that hope in her heart, she pedals as hard as she can toward Miruku's school.



## A Watchful Figure in the Shade

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When Kumami reaches the school, she finally spots Miruku and her friends.

Nearby, someone stands quietly in the shade of a tree, watching the children.

It is Tsukikage, the butler who serves Tsukito's family.

When Kumami tells him about the forgotten cooler, Tsukikage gives her a calm, gentle nod.



## Everyone in a Panic

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Just as Kumami is about to deliver the forgotten cooler, something happens.

Miruku's body begins to melt, little by little.

Kumami, Monaka, and Tsukito rush to her in shock.

Only Tsukikage stays calm. Holding a paper bag, he quietly walks toward them.



## What He Offered

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What Tsukikage offers her is a cold ice cream cone.

Miruku takes it and begins eating eagerly.

Little by little, her melting body returns to its usual shape, and at last, a smile returns to her face.

Kumami and the others breathe a sigh of relief.



## Have a Good Day

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"Thank you." Miruku smiles as she thanks Kumami and Tsukikage.

She returns to Monaka and Tsukito, and the three head toward the school building, chatting happily. Kumami and Tsukikage quietly watch them go.

A little lonely, but even happier. The same words come to both of their hearts: "Have a good day."

Then Kumami suddenly gasps. "I left the shop closed!" She hurries back to the pickle shop.



## I'm Home: Guess What Happened Today

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Now that Miruku is in middle school, perhaps they will gradually have less time together. Kumami had been a little worried.

But when Miruku comes home, she brings an endless supply of stories. "Guess what happened at school today..."

Over their familiar warm dinner, Miruku happily tells Kumami about her day. Before she knows it, Kumami has forgotten her loneliness and is listening so intently that her chopsticks stop in midair.

Tomorrow will surely be another lovely day. - Kumamiru Biyori.

To be continued

# COLOPHON

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