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In page 13 Maya is refering to some characters from manga titles running in the 70's. I have no idea who 'Ran' is but here's some info about the rest.



Kurt from Pygmalio

Kurt is the main character of the manga Pygmalio by Wada Shinji. He's the prince of a faraway kingdom who leaves home to find a way to heal his petrified goddess-mother. On his journey he'll face many challenges and enemies.



Mimi-chan from Ano ne Mimi-chan

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Mimi-chan is a cute and vivacious main character of a children's educational manga by Kawasaki Sonoko. It depicts the life and adventures of Mimi-chan and her friends with a touch of comedy.



Patalliro

Patalliro is a long-running manga by Mineo Maya. The main character, for which the manga is named, is the King of Malynera. Patalliro the Eighth a hyper, ten year old boy who has flashes of genius. He can be thoughtlessly cruel at times and has the uncanny ability to make anything into a bad pun. Although extremely smart, he often does very stupid things due to his age.





SOME NOTES ABOUT THIS CHAPTER.

Omiai

Omiai (見合い) is a Japanese custom whereby unattacked individuals are introduced to each other to consider the possibility of marriage.

The initiative for these introductions often comes from the parents who may feel that their son or daughter is of a marriageable age, but has shown little or no sign of seeking a partner on their own. Parents may enlist the aid of professional matchmakers, nakodo, who charge a fee to provide pictures and resumes of potential mates who are rich, cultured and/or well-educated. The word "Omiai" is used to describe both the entire process as well as the first meeting between the couple with the matchmaker and often couple's parents present. Omiai's are often carried out in expensive tea shops or hotels with all present dressed in formal attire. At this meeting, resumes are presented and the parents of the potential groom and Bride may engage in a friendly chat for ten to fifteen minutes, revealing details about themselves or their marriageable child. The parents and mediator will then leave the prospective couple alone, during which time they are free to converse freely for as long as they wish. After the initial meeting, each party will contact the nakado whether or not they wish to arrange additional meetings. Over the next few subsequent dates, the couple will discuss wether they want to get married or not.

Although this custom is sometimes described as "arranged marriage", in its modern form, it is the couple that makes the final decision whether to marry or not. Quite often one side or the other will veto the idea of a union, and the matchmaker will then introduce other prospects. Japanese children seek to take their parents' wishes into account, and may, for example, turn down an attractive prospect if the parents are opposed.

If a union is successfully negotiated, the groom and his parents will pay a visit to the Bride's family and present them with a dowry, intended in part to offset the expenses involved in paying for the wedding.

In Japan, there is considerable debate about the relative merits of omiai marriages versus ren'ai marriages (i.e. love matches based on romantic love). The traditional perspective of ren-ai marriages mark them as volatile, unpredictable and short-lived; traditionalists present Omiai as a practical alternative, focusing on the man's ability to provide for the family, and the woman's cultural attainments, such as the ability to arrange flowers or do the tea ceremony.

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