

Issue 51 | 2023 January Edition

WISH TIMES

“Season of Giving”

Resident's daily lives: Balance and Gratitude
Walking a Mile in their Shoes

Songs from around the world
Winter Song Recommendations

Love of all kinds. Different forms of self-love
What is Love?

Through the lens of a resident
Photos by Marina

Interview article
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RA YEARBOOK

Walking a Mile in their Shoes

Having balance is a significant practice to integrate into our lives as university students. As young adults, we all have our own priorities and motivations. We are all dreamers that work hard to be able to give back in some way or form; may it be for our future selves, our parents, or a community. Everyday, we wake up and work towards something bigger without even realizing it. During this season of giving, we are going to take a peek into the daily lives of some of our WISH residents, and discover the motivators that drive them everyday..

Writer:
Xan

Translator:
Yuha

Designer:
Marielle

Fu-Chen

SSS(TAISI), 1st Year

Get Ready with Fu-Chen

Fu-Chen starts her day by refreshing herself by washing her face as soon as she wakes up. She then takes breakfast to gain energy for her day.

Fu-Chen's Class Recommendations

As an SSS student, Fu-Chen recommends the Contemporary Social Affair's class. The class covers one of her academic interests - capitalism, the concept of taking and giving.



Who would Fu-Chen like to thank during this season?

“My family, friends, and also the people I met in my life.”

Fu-Chen's Downtime

Fu-Chen has a variety of hobbies and interests. On her free days, she likes watching sports games or music concerts with her friends. However, don't let her pastimes fool you, her artistic side takes center stage when she gets to hold a guitar. She channels her inner Taylor Swift as she loves to play guitar, sing, and dance.

Who does Fu-Chen work hard for?

“ I work hard for myself to have a better capability of knowledge, but also for my parents to make them be proud of me. I would like to give them my trust and love to those around me.”

Riho

SILS, 1st Year

Get Ready with Riho

“After waking up and quickly washing my face, I usually have a simple breakfast of just some yogurt and a banana, sometimes bread too. Then I brush my teeth, do the dishes, pack my bag and get ready to leave!”

Riho's Class Recommendations

“I definitely feel the most motivated in my Korean class, especially because I'm such a K-pop and K-drama addict. It's been fun slowly understanding the meanings of lyrics and conversations held in the TV shows.”

Riho's Downtime

“Since I'm usually out during the day for classes and my part time job, I like to stay in my room in my free time to relax. I often watch TV shows or movies while munching on some snacks. Ever since I moved to WISH I've also been enjoying cooking with my friends!”

“I've been learning Chinese outside of classes. I enjoy it because I get to see my brother online who takes the class with me, and it feels nostalgic seeing our house and hearing things happening outside.”



Who does Riho work hard for?

Probably my parents. I feel like I've realized I should be more thankful of them after moving into WISH and adapting to an environment where I have to be more independent. If it weren't for them, I wouldn't be studying back here in my home country surrounded by such nice friends and relatives.”

Who would Riho like to thank during this season?

“Marty! Although we rarely see each other because we're out at different times, I want to thank her for being such an amazing roommate and making the living environment so comfortable.”



Nanako

PSE 1st Year

Get Ready with Nanako

"I usually wake up, do 10 minutes of stretching, and brush my teeth. After that, I usually make a protein smoothie for breakfast, and then get ready!"

Nanako's Class Recommendations

"I am having so much fun in my badminton class since I used to play badminton competitively but I couldn't make time to play it when I was in high school. I'm always excited about the class, especially looking forward to the matches in the last two classes."

Nanako's Downtime

"When I need time to relax, I usually stay in my room, put on a Netflix show, and do my nails. I also enjoy baking and sharing them with my friends!"

"I recently joined a boxing fitness gym and a hot yoga studio. I'm still trying to balance out my university life, part time job, and working out, but I'm so far enjoying the process of adjusting!"

Who does Nanako work hard for?

"My parents.
Moving into WISH made me realize how blessed I was to be able to live with them and not worry about things while I was going through IBDP (high school program).
I would like to thank them for all the support they gave me and still giving me right now."

Who would Nanako like to thank during this season?

"My friends!
I never imagined having so much fun in my dormitory life before I moved to WISH.
Since the first day, I have met a lot of people and made friends who make me feel like I'm at home."

Studying and working hard are some of the given responsibilities we expect as university students, but we often forget the sacrifices and hard work we had put in to be where we are today. Some of us may have romanticized the ideal lives we expect from ourselves and often wish that our world was filled with rainbows and sunshine. However, the pressure is real, and sometimes finding ways to alleviate it is just as important as studying hard. It is not uncommon to lose sight of yourself, so indulging in your hobbies and placing yourself in environments where you can breathe is not a luxury but a basic human necessity. Too much of anything is harmful, like our WISH residents, finding the balance between work and life is vital.

When things get hard, we must not forget the people around us. Who do we work hard for? Who is fighting with me? The season of giving could be more than receiving physical gifts. It could be through: support, company, and help. Let us carry kindness in our hearts as we give and receive with grace this festive month.



Winter Playlist Recommendations

You know we're entering a new season when Starbucks releases another seasonal drink menu. This year's lineup includes a creme brulee latte, gingerbread latte, toasted white chocolate mocha... which is good news for anyone with a sweet tooth, for sure! I for one, am freezing to the bone and am only beginning to learn how to dress to adapt to this weather. (Singapore's usually 30-34 degrees Celsius on average, and it's considered cold when it drops to 28 degrees Celsius on rainy days.) I've interviewed some WISH residents to share with me their winter playlist and their most memorable winter experiences.



Writer: Natsumi
Translator: Momo
Designer: Hanna



Ysa
(11F, SILS,
from the Philippines)

Fun fact:

**December is National
Volunteer Month
in the Philippines.**

- "Snowman", Sia
- "BUILT FOR LOVE", PJ Morton
- "Look at me", George
- "Winter Bear", V (BTS)
- "Is this the love that I need?", FLU



"I thought that during the Covid-19, I could be either of two types of people - either someone who stays in their bubble of comfort with the extra time they have or someone who spends that time helping others. I wanted to be the latter." Over the handmade cake that she shared with me, Ysa recalled her volunteering experience during the first Covid-19 winter in 2020 back in the Philippines: having ZOOM sessions with children who couldn't attend school and distributing rice bags to people in need on Christmas. As the economy came to a chilling stagnancy at the height of the pandemic, more livelihoods were affected. The smiles Ysa managed to put on others' faces made her feel warm and inspired her to do more. The songs recommended by her were the songs she listened to most that winter as she planned to volunteer initiatives.



- "Qaafirana", Arijit Singh
- "You", Armaan Malik
- "Night Changes", One Direction
- "Rangisari, Kanishk" & Kavita Seth
- "Ek Main Aur Ekk Tu", Benny Dayal

This is Divija's first winter in Japan. Trees and shops are decked with red, white, and blue lights, and many Japanese families rush to prepare KFC fried chicken for their Christmas meals; but December in India does not see much activity. The most prominent winter activity is the Makar Sankranti (kite festival) practiced in mid-January mainly in western India. People enjoy kite flying and eating special delicacies, though celebrations vary based on region. Although not in winter, gifting culture is present in India too. Diwali is celebrated for 5 days, each day with a different symbolic meaning, where people will gather with family and friends to exchange gifts, chat and enjoy fireworks. During Raksha Bandhan, which celebrates brother-sister relationships, brothers gift sisters items to show their love too!



Divija
(9F, SPSE, from India)

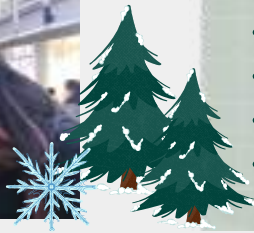




Aisha (11F, SILS, from Kazakhstan)

Fun fact: Kazakhstan's Independence Day is on 16 December.

- "Poison Tree", Grouper
- "White Winter Hymnal", Fleet Foxes
- "The Perfect Girl", Mareux
- "Oblivion", Grimes
- "Dayflower", Cathedral Bells



"People don't get enough Vitamin D because the winters in Kazakhstan are so harsh, everyone has seasonal depression in the winters. Maybe that's why all the songs I added to my winter playlist are depressing," Aisha jokes. While I complained that my Singaporean blood can't stand the weather changes and coldness in Japan (especially the strong winds in Nakano), Aisha bore snow storms and hail in Astana, the second coldest capital in the world after Ulaanbaatar, the capital of Mongolia.

"Do Kazakhs have a gifting culture as people do during Christmas?"

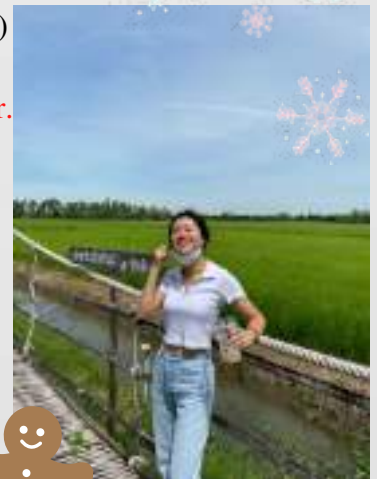
Apparently, New Year is the only reason to celebrate during dull winters, when everyone magically forgets the winter blues and starts jovially exchanging gifts. Surprisingly, Kazakhs don't exchange gifts during Nauryz/Nowruz, the Kazakh New Year during the spring equinox. (I also heard that Aisha's family feasts horse meat dishes at Nauryz since horse meat is part of traditional Kazakh cuisine).



"Emma" (11F, SILS, from Taiwan)

Fun fact: 冬至 (Dongzhi, extreme winter/winter solstice; 冬至), a traditional Chinese festival, beginning on 21 December this year.

"Can you believe that 2022 is almost ending?" The arrival of winter signals the end of another year, and this inspires Emma to wonder about the meaning of life. "Boulevard of Broken Dreams" and "The Meaning of Life" are apt for reflection during walks back from Nakano station. If anyone asks if she achieved any of her New Year's resolutions, she dejectedly admits that she has been doomed. For anyone who's feeling similar melancholic blues, "Iridescent" will come in handy! When Emma was celebrating Christmas, "Back to December" and "Feliz Navidad" are great songs that put her in the mood! "I hoped everyone had a great Christmas." While most people celebrating Christmas busily exchange presents, another thing Emma and I have in common is celebrating Dongzhi, which season depends on the annual lunar calendar. Taiwanese eat 汤圆 (tāng yuán, glutinous rice balls), whereas some people from China eat 饺子 (jiǎo zi, dumplings). My grandmother cooks tāng yuán for me even though Singapore is summer all year round. Emma, on the other hand, is making handmade tāng yuán with friends this year in Japan.



- "Boulevard of Broken Dream", Green Day
- "The Meaning of Life", The Offspring
- "Iridescent", Linkin Park
- "Back to December", Taylor Swift
- "Feliz Navidad", Jose Feliciano

Yuna celebrates Christmas every year and she is planning to celebrate it at her friend's this year. Exchanging gifts with friends, and watching movies together... Times sure flies on Christmas! After Christmas, Yuna would immediately become busy with spring cleaning and writing New Year's cards leading up to the New Years. However in the midst of everything, she would definitely watch the Kohaku Utagassen. She loves watching each artist prepare to perform on the show. "Speaking of the New Years, I recalled the time when I was in my 2nd year of high school, my parents surprised me with a Disneyland ticket on Omisoka (New Year's Eve). I've been wanting to go for a long time so I was thrilled." This time, surprisingly, her recommended songs are mostly Christmas songs instead of Kohaku Utagassen.



Yuna
(11F, HSS, from Japan)

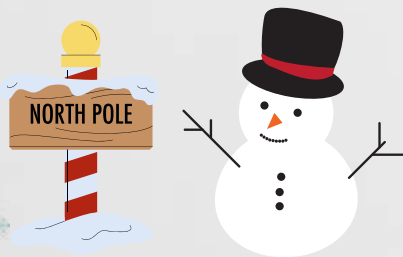
Fun fact: The Japanese New Year's Eve, called Omisoka (大晦日), is on 31 December.



- 『silent,』 SEKAI NO OWARI
- メリクリ (Meri Kuri), BoA
- Santa Tell Me, Ariana Grande
- 雪の華 (Yuki no Hana), 中島美嘉
- クリスマスソング (Christmas Song), back number



Yukino
(11F, SILS, from the US)



- "Anti-Hero", Taylor Swift
- "It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas", Micheal Bublé
- "So Much Wine", Phoebe Bridgers
- "I Wanna Be Yours", Arctic Monkeys
- "Matsuri", Fujii Kaze

Christmas is coming, and hopefully, we can expect to receive many presents and create new memories before the year ends. Yukino shares childhood memories of her parents leaving Christmas presents under the Christmas tree and in her stockings, doing Secret Santa gift exchanges with friends, visiting New York to see the Rockefeller Christmas Tree, watching performances like The Nutcracker by New York City Ballet and Radio City Rockettes. In winters with snowfall, one can look forward to ice skating and skiing, but heavy snowfall can mean school being canceled in replacement of a day of shoveling snow with the family. Living in the dorm separated from family - I'm sure many of us, including Yukino, seek company in music spending time in our dorm rooms. "So Much Wine" sets the tempo for late night studying (or "hermitting") in the warm and cozy dorm room during cold winter days, while Slow beats in "I Wanna Be Yours" help for winding down at the end of the day.

The autumn leaves are gradually disappearing, sadly - most of them have been blown off the trees by strong winds and rainfall in the past few weeks. It seems that winter approaches without a warning - daytimes are shorter with each passing day, and nights seem to stretch endlessly. Longer nights outdoors are accompanied by Christmas lights twinkling among the trees in replacement of missing leaves. The inner child within screams in joy.

It has been a very short semester. While I'm sure that we're all looking forward to the upcoming winter break, please don't forget to hydrate and keep yourselves warm as you finish up midterms and finals!

What is Love

writer: Kokone
translator: Mei
designer: Shiki

The winter season brings Christmas and the New Year, and many other exciting events. This year, this author turned 20 years old and I am excited to gather with and see friends from highschool for the first time in a while at my Seijinshiki (Coming of Age Ceremony). Winter is the special season to express your feelings of gratitude, or this article's theme "Love," to your family and friends, or that special person. This time, we asked WISH students about times when they felt this "Love."



Mako

Sophomore at the School of
Political Science and Economics



Yuna

Second Year Student at the School of
Humanities and Social Sciences



Shotaro

First Year Student at the School of
Education

1. Things you are pouring your love into recently.
2. Recent events where you felt love.
3. Special Self-Love Methods



(Photo of the Kohiken Hand-drip Tournament)

Mako

【Things you are pouring your love into recently.】

The things I am pouring my love into recently is, honestly, coffee! When I was in high school, I used to eat snacks with coffee but since becoming a college student and joining the Coffee Club (Coffee Kenkyūkai A.K.A Kohiken), I have been completely captivated by coffee. I have also made friends with fellow coffee-fans at WISH, and I have been having lots of fun going to cafes with them!

【Recent events where you felt love. 】

Recently, I became the Chief Secretary of the Coffee Club! This year is actually the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Kohikenn! I am honored to have the responsibility of Chief Secretary at such an important turning point. In the future, I would like to create more and more plans and events.

【Special Self-Love Methods】

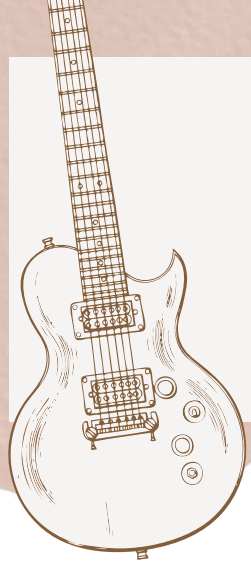
Brewing my favorite coffee after breakfast is my healing process. The smell of freshly brewed coffee puts my heart at ease. Exploring coffee shops is another healing routine. Luckily, there are many shops where you can drink good coffee around Nakano and Koenji, so it is very rewarding. There are many friendly shop owners and talking with them is very fun.



(A latte from Porta Coffee Stand in Koenji)

【Author's Comments】

I actually have had Mako brew me coffee before. (To think that I got to have coffee brewed by the future Chief Secretary of Kohiken!) I am not really used to the bitter taste of coffee, but Mako introduced a coffee that even I could drink. Mako told me about the different flavors of coffee and how based on the method of brewing, the spread of the smell is also different. It was very interesting to get to hear all these little details.



Yuna

【Things you are pouring your love into recently】

Two weeks ago, I purchased a bass guitar; it's color and design is really beautiful and I fell in love with it at first sight. Since then, I have only been practicing bass. I am still only a beginner, but through lots of practice, I hope to be able to play my favorite songs.

【Recent events where you felt love. 】

I feel lots of love in the circle I am in; an acoustic-band circle called “Yokoshima.” This circle is a very special home to me: we have live performances once a month, perform together, and outside of the circle meetings go to karaoke, and hang out. Recently, I am really fond of the talks we have in the club room about music and our hobbies.



(Kagurazaka Saryo in Kagurazaka)

【Author's Comments】

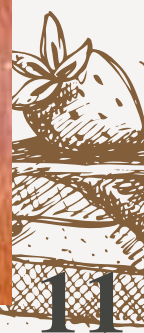
Yuna always knows various restaurants and I have had the pleasure of her taking me to dinner a couple times before. As mentioned above, we talked about Yuna's love for matcha sweets, and it seems that she couldn't choose just one photo for publishing, so she sent me a whole bunch! When I saw her LINE message, I got hungry and regretted opening her message at such a late time at night...

【Special Self-Love Methods】

Eating a lot of sweets is my method to self-healing. I just love sweet things and have been finding new shops and cafes to visit. I am especially keen on sweets made with matcha: matcha pudding, matcha terrine, matcha parfaits, etc. Until now, I have explored all sorts of matcha sweets. Next, I have plans to go to a shop that is rumored to have a delicious matcha macaron, I can't wait!



(Café 1 Part in Shibuya)



Shotaro

【Things you are pouring your love into recently】

I am pouring my love into going to see performances by overseas orchestras. I have interest in the conductors and am drawn to things like “How only a certain conductor can produce a certain music.” I guess you could call it the conductor’s appeal or pull-factor. These days, I have been paying special attention to the performances of the London Symphony.

【Recent events where you felt love. 】

Through orchestra, I have been able to meet many different people, and it is in those moments I often feel the love. For example, I went to listen to an orchestra where there were many students in the audience, and I started talking with an audience member sitting to my right. I later went to a performance they were appearing in and they remembered me. In another event, I had to leave a class early due to a performance the brass band I’m in was having. I had been advertising the performance in that class and my classmates came to the performance. I even received gifts. Because of that, we are going to hang out again with those same friends and I am very excited.

【Special Self-Love Methods】

A book called Suichū No Tetsugakusha by a philosophical researcher Rei Nagai has been my solace. I often read this book when I am tired but want to take a breather. Nagai does not use difficult language, but because of this, she has an honest style of writing that I think is lovely. It is a book filled with excitement, so for those of you who are interested, please read it!





【Author's Comments】

When I opened the cover of the book that Shotaro introduced, I was met with the author's signature! "I went to go meet her... just to meet her!" Shotaro says this while laughing, and I found his childishly mischievous demeanor very cute. He has work related to the orchestra and seems very busy but I am rooting for him!

My heart has been warmed after listening to all the dorm students share their various forms of "Love" with her. Though the cold days have been continuous, I would be happy if, through this article, your feelings have also been warmed.

I opened my camera roll to see if I could find any wintery photos, and I found a photo of a cute snowman I met on the roadside in the beginning of 2022 when it snowed in Tokyo. It has ears though, so more than a snowman I guess it's a snowcat...?



Just the other day, for the WISH Floor Event, we went to see the Roppongi Illuminations. I am not fond of the cold, but looking at that view, I thought that the cold wasn't so bad after all. I hope that you all get to see many pretty views this winter as well!

Photos by Marina



Going places

Designer: Miho



Old couple on the beach



Obaachan



Hokkaido

Best SI Program, WISH Event of 2022

Writer: Rin
Translator: Joan
Designer: Lindsay

Rin: It's December already... Time sure flies fast! Do you remember what you did during this time last year?

Lisa: Studying maybe? I remember doing a mock exam during Christmas!

Rin: That sound's familiar. I remember doing one during Christmas too!

Lisa: I can't believe it's been one year since that happened...

Rin: Me neither. What do you remember the most from this year?

Lisa: I think meeting new friends in WISH made me the happiest this year

Rin: Well, isn't that lovely?

Lisa: Right. We sure get along really well since we all live together. We're basically like a family!

Rin: Yes, for sure. What about the most memorable WISH event this year?

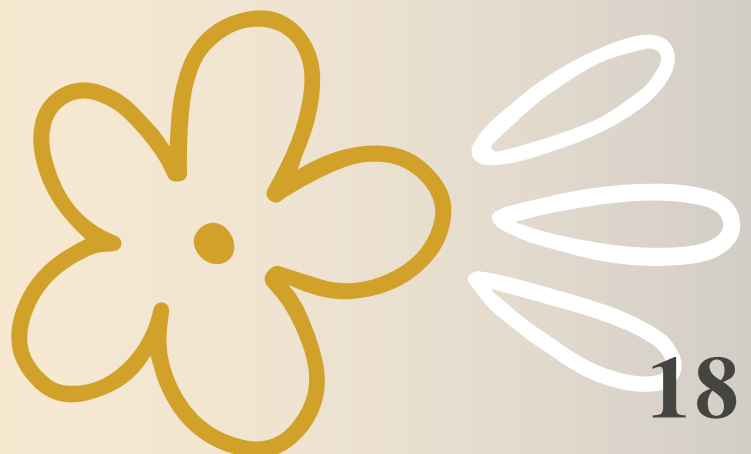
Lisa: Hmm...I think it has to be the night walk! We walked all the way from Tokyo Station to Odaiba in groups. Although it was tiring, I was glad to be able to chat about many things with the people in my group!

Rin: Ah! The night walk! I heard that it was fun! I couldn't go to that event but I really want to participate in the one next year.

Lisa: I see, then you can have your revenge next year!

Rin: What about the SI Programs?

Lisa: The most unforgettable SI Program for me was about the guest speaker, currently a working adult, who went to study abroad in university. Through this SI Program, I learned that I should spend my university years thinking about what I really want to do and how I can put that into action rather than following someone's path and comparing myself to others.



Rin: Is there anything that changed in your daily life from the things you've learned from that SI?

Lisa: I think most importantly I have decided to apply for a study abroad program. The guest speaker in that SI program has inspired me to challenge new things like he did. I have also started to do self-analysis for the things I want to do by backtracking from my future goals and focusing on what I can do right now to achieve it.

Rin: I see! Do you have any resolutions for next year?

Lisa: Before I leave to study abroad, I hope to spend each day carefully recalling the purpose of why I am studying abroad and will be able to acquire what I want to learn through my study abroad experience. I hope my study abroad experience will lead me to a better future.

Rin: I agree, you should certainly cherish the preparation period before studying abroad! Lastly, I'd love to know what you'd like to see at SI next year!

Lisa: Instead of online SI Programs, I hope there are more SI Programs where people can exchange opinions with each other face to face because it's quite hard to communicate with each other through ZOOM's breakout room. It may sound a little rigid, but I prefer to join an SI Program where we can all discuss things together, like social issues for example!

Rin: That's true, it sure is nice if we can exchange opinions directly.

Lisa: Yes. It sure has been a good year! I hope next year will be a good year too.



RA YEARBOOK

Photos by Nicholas / Designer: Amm



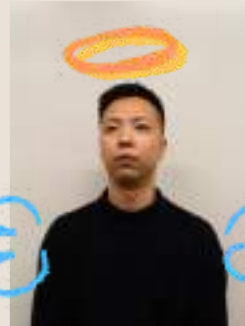
Takayama Yukinari

Just saying doesn't
move people's hearts.
Actions move people's
hearts.



Yamagata Reo

Dorm life taught me
why Superman is
alone;
be an Avenger.



Izuma Kaito

This is me, that is me.



Tokuhisa Musashi

【My life goal: WISH
House Master】
I'll be back!



Kawaguchi Rio

Eat well, Live well
-Ajinomoto



Kitamura Reiko

Education without utilization is
equivalent to uneducated.
-Fukuzawa Yukichi
(Founder of Keio University)



Kawai Miho

If you're having trouble,
it's okay to ask your help.
-Snoopy (Charles M. Schulz)



Cho Sunwoo

I used my rice cooker
only once in the whole
4 years.



Yamamoto Arisa

I want to say thanks to
all of you I met here in
wish!!!
Thank you soo much!!



Tsuji Moeka

CARPE DIEM

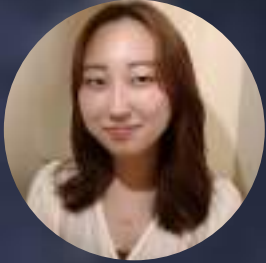


Tanaka Yukiko

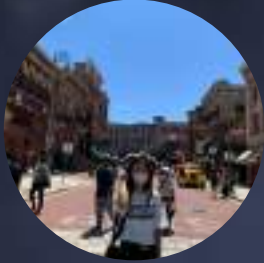
I get high at 2am

Contributions

Writers



Rin



Natsumi



Xan



Kokone



Chrisanne

Designers



Marielle



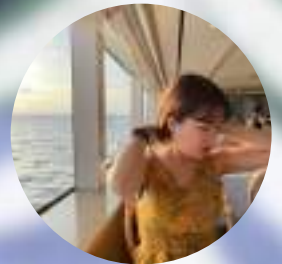
Shiki



Lindsay



Hanna



Miho

Translators



Mei



Yuha



Momo



Moeka



Joan

Creatives



Nicholas



Marina



Yijing



Amm

RA Supporters