



## **Hidemi's Rambling No.81**

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The holiday season is coming to an end. People are stowing away the New Year's decorations, TV stations are airing the usual programming, everything is back to normal and I feel blue. For a change, I went to the mall today. I had a sub at Subway. For a discount, I looked up online coupons with my cell phone. The coupons were all expired. Instead of a discount, I paid the data communication fee...

## Hidemi's Rambling No.82

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I got a broiled porgy at 75% off at the supermarket. A porgy is a symbol of good luck in Japan, and they eat it to celebrate something. The reason is simple. 'Porgy' is said 'Tai' in Japanese, and 'Medetai' means auspicious. So, it really is a pun. New Year's is an ideal occasion to eat a porgy. I felt extra lucky to get it only at \$4, but soon came to myself. A porgy's price dropped because the holiday season is over. Why am I feeling down eating an auspicious fish?...

## Hidemi's Rambling No.83

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Today I stowed away my Christmas tree and the decorations, and my melancholy reached the peak. At least I still have the New Year's decorations because New Year's celebrations continue through the 15th of January on a local custom of my hometown, while people here around me end the celebrations much sooner. To cheer me up, I began the countdown to the next Christmas. 353 days to go...

## Hidemi's Rambling No.84

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I watched a DVD of 'Curb Your Enthusiasm' yesterday and I was amazed. There was a scene that Larry, who wasn't in the car, tried to order on the drive-thru line of a fast food restaurant, which was closed for the day except for the drive-thru. That is exactly what I have tried to do for several times and managed to stop doing because my partner begged me intensely not to do it each time. Somebody thinks just like me about the drive-thru and I am not the only one! In 'Curb Your Enthusiasm', Larry often does what I have done in the past or feels how I feel about a certain thing. There are a lot of cool characters on TV shows but why him?...

## **Hidemi's Rambling No.85**

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I awoke exhausted. I felt all energy was drained out. My strain of the holiday season had snapped and I thought that was the reason. Finally I found a website where I could watch US TV shows in Japan for free and I watched 'The O.C. Season 2' online last night. As they have an expiration date for viewing, I watched three episodes at a stretch before going to sleep. Another possible reason for exhaustion is the intense hearing of English for many hours. My physical strength is not enough even for TV...

## Hidemi's Rambling No.86

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The expiration date for free online viewing of 'The O.C. Season 2' is approaching and that led me to an OC marathon. I watched three episodes today too. Watching 'The O.C.' evokes my memories because I used to live in OC. My apartment was in Anaheim and I would often go to the mall in Newport Beach. A big difference between my life and the show is that I didn't get there by one of those gorgeous cars. I always took the free shuttle van of the mall. The van was a completely ragged, worn-out vehicle which seemed to be a miracle to run so fast on Interstate 5. The windows, interior, the floor and the door all clattered and looked on the verge of falling apart. In a way, it was totally a thrill ride. But I should thank that van for what I owe. My new song for which I have been working now was born in that shabby van...

## Hidemi's Rambling No.87

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My OC marathon is going on. I watch three episodes of 'The O.C. Season 2' every night before going to sleep. PCH often appears on the show. Before I lived in OC, I had visited there as a traveler. First time in OC, I transferred a local bus at the entrance of Balboa Island on PCH. There was nobody but a man wearing sunglasses at the bus stop. He talked to me about the bus being late. As a person who fears everything, I started panicking with bad imaginations. What if he is a serial killer? I'm wearing cheap clothes but he must know I'm a traveler and have traveler's checks. Isn't this a perfect place for murder with no buildings or people around and just the bush behind the bus stop? I was about to be sure I would be killed here by this man, when he began to rummage through his big bag. Now I was more than sure it would be a gun. My fear culminated when he held out something to me. It was a pack of biscuits. 'I got three packs for a dollar! Good deal, huh? Take one, I've got plenty!', he said, and the bus came. He was just a kind, friendly man and I was a paranoid traveler. Those were the best biscuits I'd ever had...



## **Hidemi's Rambling No.88**

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To my big surprise, my blog got the first comment and two more kudos. It was a totally unexpected event for me. You never know how grateful I am. Though I am just rambling what happened to me on and on, someone is kind enough to give me a nice gesture. Now I should repay you with good posts. That thought led me to huge pressure and I can't find what to write. Usually I've got a lot of things I want to write about, but today, nothing but pressure. And that's only because of one comment and a few kudos. What a small person I am...

## Hidemi's Rambling No.89

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The goal of my OC marathon is drawing near. I watched another three episodes of 'The O.C. Season 2' today. They were about Ryan's brother. I have a younger sister with whom I don't get along at all. After a number of unpleasant incidents over the years, I've developed a terrible relationship with her. I don't even talk to her anymore. When we were kids, I took care of her because my parents were busy with work. I looked after her carefully, teaching her to have fun, but she has grown to be a proud and prim adult, and, above all, to be my parents' favorite to live with them in my hometown. Sometimes I wonder what I did wrong with her. And I know they wonder vice versa, what went wrong with me...

## Hidemi's Rambling No.90

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At the end of the last year, I won a prize drawing of a snack company and got a boxful of potatoes. I was very pleased to receive it but I had forgotten that I wasn't a frequent cook. I finally found time to cook potatoes yesterday. The potatoes have already begun to bud. I've heard that a potato's bud is poisonous and I was afraid enough to decide to eat them as soon as possible. I cooked them into tempura. The whole dinner was potato tempura. It was delicious, but eating from a mountain of potato tempura, it looked more and more like a confrontation. The leftovers still sit in the fridge and there are a lot more potatoes in the box waiting for me. They should have been a prize, not a punishment...