## Hikkoshi

## Akihiro Nitta

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One day, Alan woke up from a very long and deep sleep. Although he was completely awake, he could not see anything. He thought there must have been something covering his eyes. He tried to remove it, but nothing was covering his eyes. Next, he thought that his eyes didn't open for some reason, and then he tried opening his eyes with his hands. His eyes had already been open, and he realised that it was just very dark where he was. He wasn't in just a dark place. He had been uncomfortable since he woke up because every time he moved his body, he felt so heavy like he was in a pool. He knew there was some kind of liquid all around his body. He was so curious about the liquid filling up around him that he drank a bit of it. It had no taste. It was just water. He said to himself with an anger, "I have no idea why I am put into this water world! So many bad people are now committing crimes outside there! I have never ever stolen anything like my friends' pencils or rubbers. I've never even lied in my whole life!!!" At this time, he knew the situation in which he found himself was. There were no lights, no air, and no sounds. While he was trying to figure out how to get out of this world, he realised one big thing. He said to himself, "well, I am where water's filling the space, then, why am I capable of breathing? This water's also filling my lungs?" As soon as he started thinking that he was completely in the water, he went into a panic and lost his senses. His body began to go down to a deeper place. Some time later, he woke up with a comfortable feeling. Still, there was no air. Nothing had changed while he was falling down. However, Alan said to himself, "okay, I am now breathing. I don't need to care about this ton of water anymore." He finally calmed himself and started to think of other people. He was somehow very sure that there must have been someone else like him who was put here for no reason. He swam in the water very hard to find people for a while, but he couldn't find anyone. Although he quit searching for someone because he really got tired physically, he still kept believing that there were people. He was really starving, and began to gradually lose consciousness. After several minutes passed, he completely lost his senses again. When he woke up from a very long and deep sleep, he was lying on his bed where much air filled the space. As soon as he tried to get out of the bed, he realised he couldn't breathe as human can't breathe underwater. He just concentrated on only breathing, but he couldn't. His body gradually stopped moving. His face became pale. His eyes completely closed, and finally, Alan died of suffocation in the air with his mouth wide open.