

Dear TOKYO

[ディア・トーキョー]

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日の出棧橋から船に乗って

Taking a Boat from Hinode Pier

When I asked her, "Is there somewhere you want to go on your birthday?" she said, "I want to take the water bus." Whenever we went on a date, we would go to see an old movie at a revival house, so I was thinking I'd at least do what she asked on her birthday. But I hadn't imagined that she'd want to take the water bus.

Saturday afternoon. We had arranged to meet at 2 p.m. at Hinode pier, but just as I came out of Daimon Station on the Toei Asakusa Line, I received an e-mail: "Something has come up. Can you take the water bus by yourself? I'll take the subway to Asakusa Station. See you in front of Kamiya Bar."

I got a ticket at the water bus station and waited for the 2:30 departure. In front of me there were only two families waiting at first, but as the departure time approached, more and more groups showed up. I had pictured an easygoing ferry ride with a few passengers scattered here and there, but it seemed I'd been wrong.

Soon boarding started, and I immediately sat down on a bench at the stern. The young couple who boarded the boat

just behind me sat down to my right diagonally. They looked happy. After sitting down I realized that this stern deck was the best place for tourists and couples.

Having taken on an amazing number of passengers, the boat started off. The young couple immediately started taking photos of themselves with their smartphones. This good-looking pair were scowling profusely. If my girlfriend had boarded the boat as planned, would we have been taking photos like that?

A lovely, sunny day, perfect for a date. The wind and sea spray felt really nice. Taking a ride by yourself on a boat filled with couples, tourists and families is actually fun in a way — if there's someone waiting for you at the destination. I finally realized I should at least have bought her flowers for her birthday.

Kuramae Bridge, painted yellow; Umayama Bridge, painted green; Komagata Bridge, painted blue; and Azuma Bridge, painted red. I got off the boat and followed the street map, and soon I came to an intersection. I saw I was at 1-1-1 Asakusa. She was waiting in front of Kamiya Bar. It was just the beginning of our long date.

お誕生日に、どこか行きたいところはある？ そう尋ねると、水上バスに乗りたいたい。デートといえはいつも名画座で古い映画を観るばかりだったから、誕生日くらいは彼女の言う通りにしよう、と考えていたが、水上バスとは予想もしていなかった。土曜日の午後、日の出棧橋で二時に待ち合わせ、と決めていたのに、都営浅草線・大門の駅を出たところでメールが届く。ちょっと用事が出来ました。水上バスにはひとりで乗ってください。地下鉄で浅草に向かいます。神谷ハーの前で。

いる。この最後尾のデッキが観光客や恋人同士には最上の席なのだ、座ってから知った。驚くほどの乗客を飲み込んで、船は出発する。さっそく若いカップルはスマートフォンで自分たちふたりの写真を撮り始めた。なかなか美美女のふたりが、やたらとしかめ面を作っている。彼女が予定通り船に乗っていたら、自分たちもこんなふうにかメラを構えたのだろうか。デートには申し分のない快晴の日。風と波しづきが本心に心地よい。カップルと観光客と家族連ればかりの船に独りで乗るのも、それはそれで楽しい。目的地に待っている人がいるのなら、せめて誕生日の花束でも買っておくのだった、とようやく気づいた。

小西康陽

音楽家。1985年、ピチカート・ファイヴのメンバーとしてデビュー。2001年の解散後も、数多くのアーティストの作詞／作曲／編曲／プロデュースを手掛ける。2011年、PIZZICATO ONE 名義で初のソロアルバム『11のとても悲しい歌』を発表。今年、セカンドアルバム『わたくしの二十世紀』を発表。著書に『僕らのヒットパレード』（片岡義男と共著）ほか。

Yasuharu Konishi

Musician. In 1985 he made his debut as a member of Pizzicato Five. Since that group disbanded in 2001, he has been active as a lyricist, composer, arranger and producer in collaboration with numerous artists. In 2011 he released his first solo album, *One and Ten Very Sad Songs*, under the name Pizzicato One. This year sees the release of his second album, *Watakushi no Nijuseiki* [My 20th Century]. His books include *Our Hit Parade* (co-authored with Yoshio Kataoka).

