

**// PROLOGUE 0.** he was the result after two miscarriages and a difficult relationship both parties knew they couldn't continue. a trip to yokohama, japan made everything fall into place and on the day after the new year, park junhyuk was born. the family of three lived in bliss for the next week or two before both adults agreed taking care of their child was too difficult to do when the ~~grave of~~ white powder was constantly taunting them. he was then dropped off in front of an apartment complex with a note stuck to his carrier and before he could let a cry out for the warmth of his mother's hands, the couple ~~had~~ left.

**// CHAPT 7.** he's grown a bit, still in yokohama, but now he's yamazaki hiraku and living in a house with a woman who he ~~now~~ calls "mom." she's an orthopedic surgeon, skilled, precise, a leader in her job. as he hears his "mother" rustle late at night, keys in the lock of the front door, he can't help but think he should be like her one day. not exactly as an orthopedic surgeon but hard-working, dedicated, responsible, not only for him but his job as well.

**// CHAPT 8.** the world as he sees it doesn't seem right. he's now aware she's not his real mother, and though he knew from looking in the mirror every night and ~~notices nothing similar to her,~~ he can't help but feel cheated. he's now pretending it doesn't bother him, but he does that all the time: telling her nothing's wrong when there's something pestering him. that was his thing. maybe he didn't get that from her, but rather his biological mother. he's trying not to let it get to him, especially since he knows she practically saved his life but now he's confused. who is yamazaki hiraku?

**// CHAPT 13.** by the time he's finished his first year in junior high school, he's learned to accept his new identity. he's actually japanese and korean, nothing more ~~and~~ nothing less. his real parents aren't in japan anymore and that's all he knows, ~~that's~~ all his mother is willing to tell him. **he continues life as if he never knew he was adopted, although it's becoming harder to do so when his peer pick on him about his status. being in the "gifted" program and having been adopted,** they tease him, throw food at him, make silly faces and tell him his mother threw him on the streets because he was too weird for anybody to care for. he isn't so much of a master at ignoring the stares and comments and rumors about him going around at school and he tries to talk about other things whenever his teachers ask if he's alright but he's fighting not to let it get to him. he built a wall around himself and the rest of the world. now blunt and ~~plays~~ insensitive, when someone tries to ask him something he comes off as "rude" and carries on with his day. he's learned how to cope with his loneliness. **of course, he's not really like that.** his mother raised him to be respectful, caring, kind, energetic and bright, all of which he'd be glad to show, ~~little by little,~~ to those who do care about him and those who've caught his attention.

**// CHAPT 18.** as his last year is coming to a closing, he's managed to keep his grades up ~~as a "gifted" student and~~ he still has no friends. his curiosity about his biological parents have grown beyond his capabilities and now he's left limp and unable to control himself, he wants to find ~~them,~~ the people who left him in front of an apartment complex with a small note ~~and~~ measly words written on it. he tells his mother staying in japan won't do any justice. he's packed his bags for korea, being accepted as an international student at a well-rounded college with hopes of finding his biological parents along the way. **he still thinks he should be like his mom: hard-working, dedicated;** **he's found something he truly enjoys and is quite good at it and hopes to make her**

proud. he's prepared himself for this very moment. started learning korean when he was fourteen and now he'll finally get to put his blood, sweat, and tears to use. he's nervous and unsure how the rest of his life is going to play out but he's told himself not to be afraid of obstacles, rather be strong and face them.

// **CHAPT 22.** one last year and still nothing about his biological parents. countless hours of studying and finishing essays, he walks the halls like a living corpse but he's happy. korea makes him happy. the people make him happy and the school makes life a little more interesting. he still misses his mother and japan, but he knows korea is where he needs to be for a while. he's willing to put in more work, more blood, more sweat, and more tears. he's willing to put everything on the line in order to figure out who he really is and what life has to offer.

