

MONSTER GIRL CARMELISE

WRITTEN BY

JOSH A. STEVENS

BASED ON THE MANGA SERIES

"KAIJU GIRL CARMELISE" (OTOMEKAIJU CARMELISE)
BY SPICA AOKI

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JOSH A.
Stevens

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

KUROE AKAISHI, an 8 year old girl, is having a slumber party with a group of friends. All have fallen asleep except for her and ISHIRO, a boy. They are sat next to each other watching a classic *Godzilla* movie. Ishiro is laughing while Godzilla wreaks havoc on Tokyo, but Kuroe is sat in nervous anticipation.

She sneaks a glance at Ishiro, before snapping back to the film. Then, she glances again. Kuroe tries to build up the courage to say something, but can't. Defeated, she pushes back a present that she had hid behind her. She looks back at Ishiro, who is watching the TV in awe.

ISHIRO
Monsters are so cool!

EXT. PLAYGROUND - DAY

ISHIRO and some friends are playing at lunch time. He is stomping around pretending to be Godzilla, while other kids are pretending to be fleeing citizens, or making machine gun noises as they circle Ishiro pretending to be fighter jets. KUROE, however, is watching them from across the playground, clutching the present behind her back.

She finally takes a step forward and makes her way towards Ichiro. Each time she passes a playing kid, they stop and follow her with their eyes. It isn't long before she reaches Ishiro, who stops mid-Godzilla pose.

ISHIRO
Kuroe? What's up?

KUROE
I-Ishiro. I...

Kuroe thrusts the present towards Ishiro.

He screams. Kuroe feels the present break between her fingers.

ISHIRO
Monster!

Kuroe looks at Ishiro. He's *terrified*.

Her own scared face turns to her outstretched arms. They're no longer human, but have grown larger, are covered in purple scales, and her hands have the sharp claws of a lizard.

ISHIRO

You're a... a real monster!

He turns around and, with the other kids, runs. Kuroe is left standing alone in an emptied playground, holding out the present.

KUROE (V.O)

The first time that I transformed, was when I had my first crush.

INT. DOCTOR'S OFFICE - DAY

Kuroe is being held by her MOTHER in a consultation room, where they are sat with a perplexed looking DOCTOR. Kuroe is looking at the floor, dejected.

KUROE (V.O)

It comes and goes, but no-one knows why. A few doctors suspected a genetic abnormality, but gave up pretty quickly. They just told me to try and live a normal life.

INT. SCHOOL GYM - DAY

Kuroe, now in middle school, is playing dodgeball in class, laughing as she dodges a barrage of her classmates' throws. One comes in too fast, however, and all she can do is cower to cover her face.

KUROE (V.O)

But how can I? When at any moment-

But she doesn't feel any impact. Just the ball bouncing away, and a sudden silence. Kuroe reluctantly opens her eyes to find her view obscured - by a long tail sprouting from her. It had deflected the ball, but not all of the eyes in the room that were on her.

KUROE (V.O)

I could become a monster?

INT. CLASSROOM - SUNSET

KUROE is standing by her desk, looking down at the insults, crude drawings of Godzilla, and the like scrawled all over it. She's on the verge of tears.

KUROE (V.O)

And whenever I did, it ended up the

same, wherever I went. So, eventually,
I just stopped trying.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY - 8 YEARS LATER

KUROE, now a sullen 16 year old wearing a school uniform that's a few sizes too big for her, walks into her classroom to find NAGIKO, a stylish girl, sat at her desk. She and a LACKY GIRL are hovering around and making a fuss of ARATA MINAMI, a remarkably handsome boy sat in the desk next to KUROE's. Kuroe watches them and clicks her tongue in frustration.

NAGIKO (TO MINAMI)

So, Minami, wanna hang out after school?

LACKY GIRL (TO MINAMI)

Is it true that you're getting modelling offers?

NAGIKO

As if you even have to ask that!

Nagiko and her lucky laugh, but stop when Kuroe walks behind them and places a hand on Nagiko's shoulder. She swings around.

NAGIKO

Urgh. What do you want?!

Kuroe isn't looking at Nagiko. Her eyes are lower, fixated on the desk.

NAGIKO (CONT'D)

Is this your seat? Look, lemme sit here until class, okay? I need to talk to Minami-hey!

Kuroe turns around and scurries away.

LACKY GIRL

What's her problem?

NAGIKO

Freak.

EXT. SCHOOL STAIRWELL - DAY

KUROE is sat on the steps of an empty stairwell, furiously sketching a picture of a cityscape. Despite the different

colours in the pencil case next to her, Kuroe's picture is entirely grey.

KUROE
Frickin' posers. What's so special about *him* anyway?

MINAMI (O.S.)
Who?

KUROE
That damn Minami. Thinking he's so great-

Kuroe stops herself and looks up. MINAMI is standing over her, offering a can of diet cola.

MINAMI
Thirsty?

Kuroe swats the can away from her, and goes back to drawing.

KUROE
Leave me alone.

MINAMI
I just wanted to-

KUROE
I'm not thirsty, unlike those groupies back there.

Minami sits down next to Kuroe, who inches away from him. He cranes his neck over to look at Kuroe's drawing.

MINAMI
Hey, you're really good.

Kuroe clutches the sketchpad against herself, hiding its image from view.

MINAMI
But why grey, when you have all those colours to choose from?

KUROE
Someone with a life as colourful as yours wouldn't understand.

MINAMI
I get you. Sometimes, I just want to

be left alone too.

Kuroe lifts her head up and looks at Minami.

KUROE

What is there for you to "get"? People always buzz around you like flies to shit.

MINAMI

When everyone buzzes about you all the time, you just kinda go numb to it all. Y'know?

Kuroe clenches a fist to try and hide that it's started to grow into claws.

KUROE

You know I don't. And that attitude of yours is what's really shit. You're tired of something most people can only dream of?

MINAMI

If it bothers you, I could-

KUROE

It doesn't bother *me*. Just, when so many people think of you, maybe try thinking of *them* for a change.

MINAMI

Sorry. You're right. It's just... sometimes I wonder, what's so great about me anyway?

Kuroe stands up and puts her sketchpad back in her bag.

KUROE (CON'T)

Nothing. And if you're just here fishing for compliments, you won't get a bite here.

She goes to leave, but Minami grabs her (fortunately still human) hand. However, the claws on her other hand become more pronounced.

KUROE

What?

Minami takes out his smartphone and shows it to Kuroe. On the

screen is an advert for an upmarket café, featuring a picture of a seriously fluffy looking pancake stack.

MINAMI

I was thinking of checking this place out after school. Wanna tag along?

KUROE

Why should I?

MINAMI

My treat. For earlier.

Kuroe turns away, to avoid making eye contact.

KUROE

Well, I guess if you're paying.

INT. CAFÉ - DAY

KUROE and MINAMI are sat at a table in a quaint café. Kuroe's hand has settled back down to its normal human form. Minami is looking at Kuroe, who is gazing out of the window to avoid making eye contact.

MINAMI

I guess pancakes take a while to cook, don't they?

Kuroe doesn't respond.

MINAMI (CONT'D)

That picture you drew earlier was really good. You have ta-

KUROE

I'm not here to talk. Only pancakes.

MINAMI

Why not humour me a little? I am paying, remember?

KUROE

Urgh. Fine, but only until they're here.

Kuroe finally, reluctantly, turns to look at Minami

MINAMI

Deal. Anyway, I wanted to thank you.

KUROE

Oh yeah? Why?

MINAMI

I've been thinking about what you said earlier, and you're right.

Kuroe perks her head up ever so slightly.

MINAMI (CONT'D)

I've been taking how much people admire me for granted. I'm fortunate to be in that situation, so I should give some of it back. You really helped me get my head straight.

KUROE

So what you're saying is, hanging out with a loser like me is some kind of community service?

MINAMI

That's not it. I-

KUROE

Look, I'll admit that you're hot. Gorgeous even, and I can see why those maggots squirm around you. But, I don't need your pity.

KUROE stands up to leave, but right at that moment, a WAITRESS walks up carrying two plates of pancakes, each with a side of ice cream.

WAITRESS

Sorry about the wait.

The waitress sets the plates down. Kuroe looks at them, and sits back down.

MINAMI (TO THE WAITRESS)

It's no worry. Thanks.

The waitress leaves, and Minami notices that Kuroe has already picked up her cutlery. She freezes.

MINAMI

Go ahead.

Kuroe cuts into and takes a big bite into the pancakes. She squeals in joy. Minami can't help but laugh.

KUROE

What?

MINAMI

I didn't expect someone with a bitter tongue to have such a sweet tooth.

Kuroe notices that Minami has yet to touch his pancakes.

KUROE

What about you?

MINAMI

You can have mine.

KUROE

Why even choose this place if you're not going to eat?

MINAMI

It wasn't for me. I thought this might be a sweet spot for the others.

KUROE

So you *do* think about other people sometimes.

Minami quickly looks around, to make sure he isn't overheard.

MINAMI (CONT'D)

Look, don't go telling anyone this-

He takes out his smartphone, and shows Kuroe a picture of a younger, and chubbier him.

MINAMI (CONT'D)

This was me in Junior High. I pile on weight too easily, then can't shift it. I had no confidence or friends, and I'd rather not go back to that. Just the thought makes food not taste that good any more.

KUROE

Well, you are surrounded by a shallow lot.

MINAMI

You're not wrong. You know, Akaishi, that's something I've always liked about you.

KUROE

What?

MINAMI

You're always true to yourself, and just say what's genuinely on your mind.

KUROE (UNDER HER BREATH)

True to myself, huh?

MINAMI

Hmm?

KUROE

Nothing. I guess we all have our secrets, huh?

MINAMI

I've told you mine. What's yours?

Kuroe jabs a fork into one of Minami's pancakes and holds it up to him.

KUROE

Never mind. Eat. Nothing good comes from living your life worrying about what others think.

Minami looks surprised.

MINAMI

So you *do* say nice things sometimes.

KUROE

Shut up.

MINAMI

All right, I will.

He leans over the table and takes a bite, with the fork still in Kuroe's hand. She pulls back, embarrassed, but stops when she feels spines protrude from her back and poke her chair.

MINAMI

This is good. Real good.

KUROE

Take the fork, you idiot. What if someone sees us?

EXT. CAFÉ ENTRANCE - DUSK

KUROE and MINAMI walk out of the café. Minami is nursing a food baby, while Kuroe is sheepishly avoiding his gaze. They stop outside the front to say their goodbyes, just as NAGIKO spots them while walking her dog.

INT. SCHOOL GYM - DAY

After gym class the following day, the students are helping to clear up while KUROE sits at the side. She's wearing a jacket to try and hide the spines on her back, which have yet to go down.

KUROE (TO HERSELF)

Stupid things. This is all your fault.

NAGIKO (O.S.)

Hey, Akaishi!

Kuroe looks up to see NAGIKO and LACKY GIRL. They're both carrying bundles of volleyballs.

NAGIKO (CONT'D)

If you're gonna sit out class, at least help us clean-up.

They drop the volleyballs in front of Kuroe, causing them to bounce and roll everywhere. Kuroe groans.

KUROE

Fine...

She peels herself off the floor, and starts picking the balls up.

INT. GYM STORAGE ROOM - DAY

KUROE is finishing putting away the last of the volleyballs when NAGIKO and LACKY GIRL approach from behind.

NAGIKO (ACCUSINGLY)

Tell me. What were you doing with Minami yesterday?

Kuroe cautiously turns around to see Nagiko and her lacky standing in the only doorway.

KUROE

What are you talking about?

LACKY GIRL

Don't play dumb. Nagiko saw you with him yesterday.

NAGIKO

There's no way *the* Minami would hang out with you. So what's the deal?

LACKY GIRL

You got something on him?

KUROE

Nothing. It was nothing.

NAGIKO

No shit. Listen, Minami's just nice to everyone. He just took pity on you.

LACKY GIRL

Your first date was out of pity?

The lucky girl laughs.

LACKY GIRL (CONT'D)

Can you imagine? I'd just die.

Nagiko joins in her cruel laughter.

KUROE

Well, at least I know that he's also not into shallow bitches like you.

The girls stop laughing. Nagiko stomps over to Kuroe, and shoves her to the ground.

NAGIKO

Learn your place, freak!

Nagiko and her lucky close the door behind them as they leave. Once she can no longer hear their footsteps, Kuroe gets up and slinks over to the door.

She tries to open it, but it's locked.

KUROE (SHOUTING)

Don't worry, I know my place better than anyone. I just wish you'd all stop coming into it!

She smacks the door with full force. To her surprise, it splinters. Kuroe's arm has transformed. She pulls her arm

back and holds it against her chest.

KUROE

Crap. Okay Kuroe, calm down. It's okay.

She starts taking deep breaths.

KUROE (CON'T)

Just think about the pancakes. Just think about the pancakes.

Rip. Thud.

She looks behind her to see that she has suddenly grown a large, reptilian tail. She dejectedly sinks down to the floor.

KUROE (CONT'D)

You've got to be kidding.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY

MINAMI is sat in class, with NAGIKO and her LACKY at desks nearby. Minami isn't paying to the TEACHER, as he's more concerned with the empty seat next to him: Kuroe's.

TEACHER

Minami, eyes up.

MINAMI (STARTLED)

Yes sir.

The class laughs, except for Nagiko, who looks annoyed, and her lacky.

MINAMI (TO THE TEACHER)

Sir, do you know where Akaishi is?

NAGIKO

She's at the nurse's office. Wasn't feeling well after gym.

TEACHER

There you go. Now that urgent business has been tended to, can we please get back to class?

As the lesson continues, Minami glances at Nagiko. She notices and smiles with a wave, but he doesn't react.

INT. CLASSROOM - DAY (LATER)

After class, MINAMI is packing his bag when he overhears NAGIKO and her LACKY talking.

LACKY GIRL
Hey, should we let *it* out soon?

NAGIKO
Let what out?

LACKY GIRL
That freak's still in the gym storage room, right?

NAGIKO
I'm sure the volleyball club's already let her loose by now.

The girls start to leave, but they stop when they hear Minami talking under his breath.

MINAMI (TO HIMSELF)
I really am the worst.

NAGIKO
You good?

Minami doesn't turns around. He just stands still.

MINAMI
Trying to be nice to everyone really does end up hurting people.

NAGIKO
Don't worry, it's not your fault. It's that Aka-

MINAMI
It's yours.

Minami turns around and glares at Nagiko, before exiting the classroom, leaving her dumbfounded.

INT. GYM STORAGE ROOM - EVENING

KUROE is standing by the storage room door, desperately holding it shut with arms that have since both turned reptilian. Outside, a TEACHER and STUDENT can be heard talking.

STUDENT (O.S.)
See? It won't open.

TEACHER (O.S.)
Weird. I guess we'll have to get
maintenance to look at it tomorrow.

STUDENT (O.S.)
But what about practice?

TEACHER (O.S.)
I guess we'll call it early today.

Kuroe listens as the teacher and student walk away, and their footsteps grow quieter until they fade away. After confirming that they've left, she removes her hands from the door, and looks at them.

KUROE
I guess being stuck in here a bit
longer is better than being seen like
this. I doubt anyone's looking for me
anyway. Not even-

MINAMI (O.S.)
Akaishi!

Kuroe jumps.

INT. SCHOOL GYM - EVENING

MINAMI is in the now-empty gym, standing by the door to the storage room. He knocks, and hears movement on the other side.

MINAMI
Akaishi, you there?

KUROE (V.O)
Don't come any closer!

Minami rests his forehead against the door.

MINAMI
Will you at least listen to me from
here?

Minami waits for an answer, but Kuroe is silent.

MINAMI (CONT'D)
I'm sorry. I'm so sorry that all this

happened because you got mixed up with
a guy like-

KUROE (V.O.)
Because I? Yeah...

INT. GYM STORAGE ROOM - EVENING

KUROE is sat with her back against the door, huddled into herself. Her claws and tail have grown slightly larger.

KUROE:
They were right. A guy like you
shouldn't be seen with a loser like
me. You should have enjoyed those
pancakes with your real friends.

MINAMI (V.O.)
I never wanted to go there with those
so-called "friends" - that was a lie.

INT. SCHOOL GYM - EVENING

MINAMI is still stood by the storage room door, and caught in a rush of adrenaline, smacks his fist against the nearby wall.

MINAMI
I only ever wanted to go with you!
I've always wanted to know more about
you!

INT. GYM STORAGE ROOM - EVENING

KUROE, still on the floor listening to Minami, is now sat bolt upright with a flustered expression.

MINAMI (O.S., CONT.)
I want us to be closer!

Kuroe feels a shockwave run up her spine. Then, her claws start to grow larger, and her tail thrashes as it also increases in size.

KUROE
You're so unfair.

EXT. THE SCHOOL GROUNDS - EVENING

With most students having already left for the door, the school grounds are almost entirely empty - which is a relief

as the gym building's roof bursts open as a colossal dinosaur-like lizard rises from the wreckage.

It grows bigger, and bigger, until it towers over the area at roughly 100m tall. It's purple with dark red claws, spines, and eyes. It's Kuroe.

MONSTER KUROE (V.O)
You're unfair, Arata Minami!

She lets out an earth-shattering roar.

INT. NEWS ROOM - NIGHT

A NEWS READER is reporting live on air from a studio, while footage of MONSTER KUROE is being shown on-screen, clearly shot from a news helicopter flying nearby. The news ticker reads "GIANT MONSTER HAS EMERGED IN TOKYO".

NEWS READER
As a reminder, this isn't special effects or a movie - although it might look like one. A giant creature really has emerged on the grounds of a Tokyo High School. Evacuation efforts are in progress-

EXT. THE SCHOOL GROUNDS - NIGHT

A flight of military helicopters approaches MONSTER KUROE from behind.

NEWS READER (CONT., V.O)
-and the JSDF have been deployed.

The helicopters fire at MONSTER KUROE from behind. However, the bullets simply ricochet off her scales.

MONSTER KUROE (V.O)
What was that? It tickles.

She turns around to see a helicopter right in front of her face. Its pilot is terrified. Another pair fire missiles that strike her from behind, causing her to stumble forwards.

MONSTER KUROE (V.O., CONT'D)
You people... always pushing me around... stepping on me. Maybe it's time I show you all what that's like!

Monster Kuroe opens her mouth wide. A ball of glowing energy

starts to form inside it.

MINAMI (O.S.)

Kuroe? Kuroe, where are you?!

Monster Kuroe looks down and quickly shuts her mouth. Smoke from the extinguished energy drifts out of the gaps between her fangs.

MINAMI is on the ground below, being held back by two SOLDIERS as he tries to reach the rubble of the school gym.

MINAMI

Let me go! Kuroe's still out there!

SOLDIER 1

Everyone from this area's been evacuated already. We'll take you to the shelter.

MINAMI

No, she was right here with... me.

Minami notices the large shadow looming over him and looks up. His eyes meet Monster Kuroe's. Hers are full of surprise, and his, fear.

KUROE (V.O).

Why? You were supposed to be different. So why... are you looking at me like that?

Monster Kuroe flings her head back towards the sky and roars. The JSDF soldiers near Minami make a quick retreat, but Monster Kuroe doesn't acknowledge them. Once the sound of the roar dissipates, she puts her head in her hands and, falling on her knees, curls up into a monster-sized ball.

Minami doesn't move, but he notices Monster Kuroe looking at him. The moment he does, she looks away.

MINAMI

Kuroe?

EXT. THE PARK - DAY

KUROE slowly wakes up. The pink leaves of cherry blossom trees are waving in a gentle breeze. She pulls her hand out of a school blazer that's been draped over her, and reaches out to them. Her hand is small, delicate, and human again.

As her eyes adjust to the light, she tilts her head back and sees Minami. She's lying on a bench, using his lap as a pillow.

MINAMI

Morning.

He smiles.

MINAMI (CONT'D)

Aren't the cherry blossoms pretty?
Good thing you didn't stomp on them,
huh?

Kuroe sits straight up, and notices that she's wearing an unfamiliar white shirt. She looks at Minami, who is topless. It takes a moment, but she puts two and two together, and quickly fixes her gaze to the floor.

KUROE

You saw?

Embarrassed himself, Minami also looks away.

MINAMI

Your clothes were destroyed when you transformed. I didn't know where you live, and couldn't just leave you-

Kuroe turns to Minami with a look of shock.

KUROE

Transformed? Oh God, you saw-

MINAMI

The whole country saw.

There's an awkward pause.

MINAMI (CONT'D)

The monster part, I mean.

KUROE

That's the part I'm worried about!
Weren't you scared?

MINAMI

Terrified.

Kuroe looks down at her outstretched palms, and curls her fingers to mimic claws, and sighs.

MINAMI (CONT'D)
Until I realised it was you.

Kuroe looks back up at Minami.

KUROE
What do you mean?

MINAMI
I've told you before. That I know
behind your tough exterior, is a sweet
girl.

Kuroe starts to feel spines starting to form on her back.

KUROE
Oh shut up. How'd you get me out of
there anyway? I thought I'd be taken
to a top-secret government lab or
something by now.

Minami stifles a laugh.

MINAMI
That's the funny part. Once everyone
had been evacuated, the army ran off
scared. So when you turned back, I
just scooped you up and ran.

It was Kuroe's turn to try and contain a chuckle.

KUROE
Imagine Nagiko's face if she'd seen
you princess carry me across town.

MINAMI
About her. You got hurt because of me,
so I'll speak to her, and make sure it
never happens again.

Kuroe gets up from the bench and puts Minami's blazer on.

KUROE
No. It was my fault for trying to live
in your colourful life. I know my
place, so I'll go back to my grey.

She starts to walk away, but Minami surprises her with a hug
from behind. Kuroe's spines grow larger and press into
Minami, but he doesn't care. He doesn't let go.

MINAMI

How can you say your life is grey after all this? Besides, we're more alike than you think. We both have our secrets.

KUROE

Getting fat is hardly the same as turning into a monster.

MINAMI

But we're both scared of losing people because of who we really are. So, why don't we just accept each other? For every part of yourself that you hate, I'll find lots more to like about you, and will tell you.

Kuroe is stunned into silence, but then, the spines on her back retract. She moves Minami's arms aside and steps forward.

KUROE

And you'd want me to do the same with you?

MINAMI

That's up to you, but I want to know more about you. To mix our lives together into one colour.

Kuroe looks up at the cherry blossom trees around them.

KUROE

I guess a pink world wouldn't be too bad. I do have one question though.

MINAMI

What is it?

Kuroe turns to Minami and looks him in the eyes. Her face is bright red, but she has the sweetest smile beaming on her face.

KUROE

Can we go for pancakes?

THE END.