

## Synopsis

Kochan is a boy born in Tokyo on January 4, 1925. He and his parents together with his grandparents live in a rented house in Tokyo. When he was still a child, Kochan's grandmother is being so protective to his first grandson as she forbids him to play with neighbourhood boys because she does not want him to learn bad things from them. Instead of this, Kochan has only, except maids and nurses, girls from neighbourhood whom his grandmother has chosen to play with.

He gets so fond of young man whose occupation has something to do with roughness, danger, and death as he likes so much a night-soil man, the Maid of Orleans (the bodyguard to Joan of Arc), and male soldiers which he once happens to encounter at the time of his childhood. Yet he also likes Tenkatsu (a Japanese female magician) very much as he once dresses like her after seeing her show. And he also likes Cleopatra after he had once seen the movie. He always likes stories which tell about murdered princes. And when the princes are murdered not in the way Kochan wants, he makes changes on the story into his own desired version, in which the princes are more sadistically killed. Yet on the other hand, he is delighted to imagine he is being killed.

When Kochan enters the age of twelve, he makes changes to pictures in adventure-story magazine whenever the pictures dissatisfy him. He changes those pictures into ones he desires and hides them away in a drawer. He dislikes the pictures of nude women he finds in his father's cupboard. Instead he is really fond of a picture of Guido Reni's painting St. Sebastian. It is a picture of Roman

soldier called Sebastian tied to a tree with some arrows stabbed into his body. It is due to this picture Kochan commits his first masturbation. And then he writes a poem about Sebastian several years later.

In the middle school at the age of fourteen, Kochan falls in love for the first time with a boy called Omi. Omi is a new comer student in the school. Omi, who has been expelled from former dormitory and several years older among the students in the school, is a specially well-build body boy. When in the middle school, manhood games are very popular among the students and Omi has always come out as the winner. One day, Kochan does masturbation in the middle of the day during a vacation in a beach with Omi as his object of his fantasy. Kochan never declares his feeling to Omi. Omi is finally expelled from the school because of something bad he has done.

Kochan also has once a daydream about to have a classmate to be served as his dinner. He imagines that this classmate's chest is stabbed with a knife and then the blood spread out freshly. He also once does masturbation during a class with his good-physic teacher as the object of his fantasy. Yet Kochan feels strange with what happens to him. However, he tells himself he has to continue his life in this way, keeping his true self inside.

In September 1944, during the World War II, he has graduated from the middle school and entered a Law Department in Tokyo as his father has wanted. The air attacks are becoming so often. This doesn't fear Kochan. Instead he wishes he would die in the battle. He has enlisted to the army but has been rejected. In the university, Kochan has a close friend called Kusano. One day

when he visits Kusano at his house, he hears someone playing piano. This is Sonoko, Kusano's seventeen year old sister, who is playing the piano. Kochan falls in love with her. They begin to meet often. Kochan often lends her some novels and is being so nice to her. This makes Sonoko love him, too. And when they apart, they exchange letter each other. Sonoko hopes that Kochan will marry her. Kochan kisses Sonoko several times but indeed nothing he feels but misery. Kochan can't deny his true self.

Kochan refuses to marry Sonoko and tells that he is still too young to get married, he is still twenty. Thus, Sonoko gets engaged and then married with a government officer. Kochan pretends himself that he is pleased for this. A friend of his offers him to go to prostitute. He goes there to prove his manliness as a normal guy. But again he fails.

One day, Kochan happens to meet Sonoko. And then they become to meet often, only to have conversation. Sonoko fears that if they keep meeting like this, something unwanted would happen because Sonoko now is a married woman.

On an occasion when they have their meeting, Kochan, ignoring Sonoko's presence, drags his mind to a group of a street gang on the street. Sonoko doesn't realize this. Kochan is interested in a guy of the group whose nice body is half naked. Kochan imagines that the guy is struggling against a rival gang and violently tortured in the battle. As Kochan gets apart from Sonoko after the meeting, he steals a glance at the guy.