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WORK IS, AFTER ALL, WORK, WHATSOEVER GOVERNMENT YOU SERVE, AND SCHOOL IS SCHOOL, NOT THAT THAT'S A GOOD THING. SEE? WE GOT GOOD, WE GOT BAD. CAN YOU SAY ANY DIFFERENT?

THOUGHT NOT. SPEAKING OF BAD, JUST HOPE YOU'RE NEVER SUBJECTED TO WHAT PASSES FOR MUSIC AROUND THESE PARTS. MUSIC, MORE LIKE. YOU WANNA ROCK, YOU BETTER GROW EYES IN THE BACK OF YOUR HEAD, KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

WHAT KIND OF GAME ARE WE TALKING HERE? PRIME-TIME BULLSHIT. I KID YOU NOT.

CONTESTANTS FALL INTO MY AGE GROUP THAT'D BE NINTH GRADE GIVE OR TAKE A YEAR OR TWO FOR THE OCCASIONAL NIMROD REPEATER.

AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF BAD, LET ME TIP YOU OFF ON THE ABSOLUTE WORST.

A STATE-SPONSORED TV SHOW. A "GAME SHOW." RATINGS THROUGH THE ROOF. THEY CALL IT THE PROGRAM. YEAH... CREATIVITY AROUNDS.

Chapter 1: The Worst Game in History
BATTLE ROYALE
HURRY UP! IT'S COMING ON!

SHUUYA!

JIKIKAAN
ORPHAN
CARE
FACILITY.

ALL RIGHT!

100 COOL, EH, YOSHIKOKI?

WAY COOL!

COME ON! IT'S STARTING!

THE PROGRAM SEASON FINALE WILL AIR TONIGHT AT 8:00 P.M. STANDARD TIME. ALL NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES WILL BE SUSPENDED TO MAXIMIZE VIEWER PARTICIPATION IN THE EVENT.

HEY! NO FAIR!

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM FOR A SPECIAL REPORT. ATTEND.
Ah... I wanna see maximum carnage.

A reminder that the contestants for this season of the program were chucked from class B candidates put forward by the administrative staff of Third Ward Junior High School, Kagawa District. Honor them in thought and deed.

... missing the record by a scant nineteen minutes. Ah... I'm being told we have live coverage of...

We're missing our show!

Huh?

A girl! It's a young girl. This is one for the record books!

Yes, we have live coverage of the winning contestant being escorted by an honor guard of.
She looks like a monster. Shuuya, why does she look like a--

She's not a monster! She's... she's just laughing.

Poor child...

Ms. Ryoko! Our show!
That girl was laughing, but I don't think she was happy.

No... when we get to ninth grade, do we have to go on the program too?

Um... Ms. Ryoiko?

Hrm?

Are you trying to buy time, Yoshitoki?

No. She wasn't.

One I won't let you win.

I don't think you have to worry about the program. It's... like a lottery. A bad lottery.
OF COURSE NOT. THE ODDS ARE WAY TOO HIGH.

AND YOSHIKI AND I ARE MEN! WE'LL USE MAXIMUM CARNAGE!

YOSHIKI AND I WILL PROTECT YOU. THAT'S WHAT MEN DO, PROTECT LADIES...

THAT'S COMFORTING TO KNOW, LITTLE WARRIORS...
Wendy, when we're together,
If we embrace the sorrow
we can make it forever.

And find the forgiveness that comes from
the heart, forgive and forget and we'll
make a new start...
There will come a day you'll know
that it's true...

Know there's no one who loves
you the way that I do...

But until that day comes, when
you're back in my arms...

Until we're no longer apart.
Deprived of your charms, there's
not much I can do...

But live in the shadow cast
over my heart.
LOOK AT YOU. ALL PARANOID AND WORRIED AND STILL LOVING EVERY NOTE OF IT.

TELL ME I'M WRONG.

LEVEL WITH ME, YOSHI. WAS I NOT BORN TO ROCK? THAT'S ROCK AS IN ROLL, MY FRIEND. JUST IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T BEEN PAYING ATTENTION.

OR DO YOU WANT THE WRONG BARKS HEARING YOUR TONE-DEAF SCREECHING?

YOU WANT TO HOLD IT DOWN TO A FULL ROAR?

ASK ME IF I CARE. I'LL TELL YOU THAT I DON'T...

TELL ME THAT I DON'T A STOP YOU KNOW WHAT WELL I WORK...

COULD I EVER?

ROCK ON, YOSHI-TOKI.
AND I DO SO HATE TO DISAPPOINT A CUTE GIRL... WHAT THE HELL, I'LL IMPROVISE.

BAD TIME TO COME UP WALT LIGHT ON LIL' SHINJU'S RAINCOATS.

NINTH GRADE/CLASS B - BOY #19: SHINJI MIMURA
BM

VeAH.

THAT'S ONE TOUCH CUSTOMER.

'STRONG SILENT TYPE, Y'KNOw? ATTITUDE TO SPARE.

HE SEEMS A BIT... I GUNNO... BIG FOR JUNIOR HIGH?

GOT IN OVER HIS HEAD AT HIS LAST SCHOOL. DIDN'T YOU HEAR? HE'S A JUVEE BOUNCE.

YOU HEAR? HE'S A JUVENILE OFFENDER.

ISN'T THAT THE TRANSFER KID FROM CLASS B?

YEAH. STREET SMART. THAT'S ONE TOUGH CUSTOMER.
Wound up missing most of the year and got left back. “Lucky” us he wound up here, eh.

Messed with the wrong crowd, got himself damn near killed.
DEAD BANG!

HNNH... MY ARM... SON OF... HNNH... OF A BITCH BROKE MY ARM...

NOT... NOT SMART, KID... YAKUZA DON'T TAKE TO... TO PUNK-ASS KIDS...
Boss?! You?! But you... you're just a... a kid!

NINTH GRADE/CLASS B - BOY #6: KAZUO KIRIYAMA

There... you see? It's all a matter of perspective, isn't it?

Do I look like a kid to you?

You like?
Name it! Name your price! I... I...

A peek... Just a peek of pink...

Tell me and it's yours.

Anything! Please!

So.

We understand one another, eh, little man?
I, um... I think I found a girl I kinda like.

Kinda?

Shuiya?

Hey, Shuiya.

Mmp?

She "kinda" got a name?
Huh?

Heh heh heh... that makes four!

Not again!

You couldn't have timed it better, yoshi.

What with tomorrow being the graduation trip and all.

These cookies are for school tomorrow. I'll make you a batch if you promise to leave these alone.

Do I have to post a guard?

What's that supposed to mean?

Huh?
Oh, baby though I can't tell you how I feel 'cause I'm pretty much a dork with a limited vocabulary...

and social skills that are the shame of my family. So my friend here wrote a song to tell you how I feel...

...just don't get the kifs for him 'cause he's so much better looking than me...

OH YEAH.

NOT FUNNY, SHU!

BESIDES... IT'S NOT LIKE I'M READY TO...

I MEAN, SHE'S NOT...
Just as soon as we... on terms with the neighbors... 

If it's all the same to you.

I'd just as soon remain on good terms with the neighbors...

Boys! It's getting a bit late for that kind of racket.

Shinya! No! Don't listen to him! He's delusional!

Our little Yoshitoki's come down with a bad case of the screaming thigh sweats.

Love is in the air.

Ms. Ryoko, have you heard?
SHUWA, WOULD YOU JUST SHUT THE HELL UP!

YOU NEED ANYTHING, JUST SAY THE WORD, BOSS.

SHUWA?

I SAID I WAS SORRY. LOOK, LOOK HOW SINCERE I AM.

C'MON, YOSHI. IS THAT ANY WAY TO BE?
I thought you might... I mean, you and Yoshinori might like—

There were, ah... Some left over and you know how cookies get if they... If they sit too long?

Um... yesterday my pain-in-the-a... but little brother begged me to bake up a batch of cookies for him and...

That is so cool! No, really, they must be really good.

Really? Wow! You made them yourself?

"Kinoa" does have a name...

No, Con, I had it down a few.

That's so sweet of you to say.

Hmm... Mmm... Yup, I knew it really good really.

Pssst... Should I get my guitar?

Hey, Yoshi?

Rigged?
WHAT

COOKIES

HGH...
LOOKA
THA'
WHUZZA
HAPPEN

ZZZ-
MNF

WHAT'S
NORIKO
TOO?

WHAT D' YOU
PUT IN THEM
COOKIES
GIRL?

EVER'BODY
SLEEPIN'...
HOW'S THAT?
WHAT KINDA
CLASS TRIP...
EVER'BODY
PULLS
ASLEEP?

'KAY...
OKAY.
MEBBE...
MEBBE I
TAKE A NAP
TOO...
SOUN'
RIGHT...

HEY,
EVER'BODY...
CALL THIS A
GRADU...
LATION TRIP?
HELLO?

ZZZ

WHA'S
HE...?

HMM...?
KANADA?
Hell yeah! A gas mask...

Damn them so...

N-nosh...

Can't just break win' on big trouble... Try'n break win' on? Wha's...

Hey...

Looka bus 'river... got set? A... like a gas mask?
JUS' STRAP ONNA MAS' WHEN IT DROPS AND YOU BE HUNKY DORY A-OKAYY...
'SPECIALY YOU BE DRIVIN' TH' BUS... HOWZAT FAIR? BUS DRIVER GETS A OSHEGEN MAS' AN' WE DON'...

LADIES AN' GEM'IN...
IN CASE OF CABIN DECOM... DECOMPRESSIN' WE GOT THESE HEAR OSHEGEN MAS' GONNA HE'P YOU ALL BREEVE...

'LIKE ONNA AIRPLANE...
LIKE A OSHEGEN MAS'...

WHAS' UP WY' THAAT?

DON' SEEM FAIR T' ME... NOT FAIR...

... AT ALL...

LOOK LIKE A SPACE... SPACE ALIEN'R SUM'IN...

NO...
I... I WON'T ACCEPT THIS!
I CAN'T...

SHINWA? AND YOSHIYOKI? THE WHOLE CLASS?

NO! I WON'T HAVE IT! DO YOU HEAR ME!?

RYOKO!

HOW DARE YOU!

THOSE POOR BOYS!

THEY'VE DONE NOTHING TO DESERVE THIS! NOTHING!

TYPICAL.

SIGH...

I WILL NOT HAVE THOSE BOYS PUNISHED FOR BEING ORPHANS.
WHERE IS... WHERE ARE WE?

DOES ANYONE KNOW HOW LONG WE WERE OUT? WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?

HOW COULD ALL OF US FALL ASLEEP AT THE SAME...

IS THIS A CLASSROOM? ARE WE BACK AT SCHOOL?

SOMEONE'S SCREWING WITH OUR HEADS. THAT'S GONNA BE...

AH, SEEZ, THERE GOES YUKIO, TURNING ON THE WATERWORKS. GET A GRIP, GIRL.

WHAT IS THIS? IT'S LIKE A DOJO WITH DESKS.
LADIES, GENTLEMEN. IF YOU'LL PLEASE SETTLE DOWN.

IF I CAN HAVE YOUR ATTENTION, PLEASE...

NOT GOOD, MOST DEFINITELY NOT GOOD.
CAN'T HAVE YOU HURRY OVER, CAN WE?

SHOULD'NT BE, THE GAS WAS DESIGNED TO BE FREE OF UNGERING EFFECTS.

WHO THE HELL IS THAT?

THAT SAID, LET ME BE THE FIRST TO WELCOME YOU TO OUR LITTLE COMPETITION.

YOU MAY CALL ME "SIR."

SO, WE BEGIN. I AM YOUR NEW TEACHER. MY NAME IS YONEN KAMO.

AN ATTENTIVE CLASS IS AN EFFICIENT CLASS. AS FIRST IMPRESSIONS GO, VERY GOOD!

ATTENTIVE, VERY GOOD.

KEEP THIS UP AND WE CAN SPARE OURSELVES ANY UNPLEASANTNESS DOWN THE LINE.
Among you might even "get off on it," to use the vernacular. I think you'll find the next few days... interesting, to say the least. So...

Is this only serious?

Some among you might even "get off on it," to use the vernacular. I think you'll find the next few days... interesting, to say the least. So...

Get real!

It's all a matter of personal preference.

Some opt for foolhardy courage, others, deliberate caution.

Still others, craven cowardice.

There are stoic loners and those who find strength in numbers.

I would advise against that except as a temporary necessity.

Stomp

Ah, ah... I never said it would be easy.

Sanity even more fragile.

This... it can't be...

Friends, I'm sorry to say, all too soon become liabilities. Trust, fragile.

Yes...
FORTY-TWO COMPETE UNTIL A WINNER IS DETERMINED.

SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST... OR SO WE LIKE TO BELIEVE.
We're going to be on the program!

...Just be sure you make it stick.

Do unto others...

Kill or be killed.

Would they? Could they? God help us... The fucking program!

Yoshitoki... Noriko... I-I can't...
BATTLE ROYALE
SHIRO IWA Junior High School - Grade 9/Class B - Student Roster
Boys: 21 - Girls: 21 - Total: 42

15: Noriko Nakagawa 8: Kayoko Kotohiki 1: Mizuko Inada
16: Yuka Nakagawa 9: Yoko Sakaki 2: Yukio Utsumi
17: Satomi Noda 10: Hirono Shimizu 3: Megumi Etou
18: Fumiyo Fujisaki 11: Mitsuko Souma 4: Sakura Ogawa
19: Chisato Matsui 12: Haruka Tanizawa 5: Izumi Kanai
20: Kaori Minami 13: Takako Chigusa 6: Yukiko Kudo
21: Yoshimi Yahagi 14: Mayumi Tendo 7: Yumiko Kusaka
21: Kazuhiko Yamamoto 14: Sho Tsukioka 7: Yoshitoki Kuninobu

15: Shunya Nanahara 8: Yoji Kuramoto 1: Yoshio Akamatsu
16: Kazushi Niida 9: Hiroshi Kurenaga 2: Keita Iijima
17: Mitsuru Numai 10: Ryuhei Sasagawa 3: Tatsumichi Ooki
18: Tadakatsu Hatanomi 11: Hiroki Sugimura 4: Toshinori Oda
19: Shinji Mima 12: Yutaka Sato 5: Shogo Kawada
20: Kyoichi Motobuchi 13: Yuichiro Takiguchi 6: Kazuo Kiriyama
21: Kazuhiko Yamamoto 14: Sho Tsukioka 7: Yoshitoki Kuninobu
It’s a lottery. But in this lottery, there’s no multimillion-dollar check to turn your life around. No, this is the worst thing that could happen to you if you’re a ninth grader in the economically and sociologically bankrupt future that creators Koushun Takami and Masayuki Taguchi have dreamed up. Their controversial series about “The Program”—a game that picks random classes and puts them on an abandoned island for a televised fight to the death—has drawn an incredible following in Japan. Is America ready for it? Are you ready for it? TOKYOPOP brings you this groundbreaking series featuring an English adaptation by renowned writer Keith Giffen. Put aside your morals, hold on to your seats and prepare yourself for an unforgettable manga experience... Prepare yourself for BATTLE ROYALE!
DO UNTO OTHERS...
... PROGRAM... CHOSEN FOR THE PROGRAM... CAN'T... WON'T... HOW COULD THIS HAPPEN...?

FORTY-TWO COMPETE UNTIL ONLY ONE REMAINS.

NO TAKERS? HRM... JUST AS WELL.

BASIC SUBTRACTION, CLASS. FORTY-TWO MINUS FORTY-ONE...
YOU SEE?
YOU'VE GOT
THE WRONG
CLASS, MY...
MY FATHER
WOULD
NEVER
ALLOW...

MY FATHER...
HE WORKS
FOR THE
GOVERNMENT.
DIRECTOR
OF... OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
AFFAIRS.
AN AMUSING CONCEPT AND ONE THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO EXPLORE.

"HAVING THE SAME STATION, PRIVILEGES OR RIGHTS."

MOST OFTEN DEFINED AS, AND I QUOTE...

EQUALITY.

"OF COURSE I'M RIGHT. LISTEN WELL, "CLASS PRESIDENT" MOTOBUCHI."

WHY...

JUST IMAGINE...

BOOST THE FIRST TIME A RANKING OFFICIAL'S SON IS TAKEN DOWN BY A COMMONER'S BASTARD...

...NONE ARE EXEMPT. AND ISN'T THAT THE WAY IT SHOULD BE?

ALL ARE NOW EQUAL IN THE EYES OF THE PROGRAM.

RICH, POOR, INFLUENTIAL, DOWNRODDEN...

NO SUBS, CLASS PRESIDENT, MOTOBUCHI.

ESPECIALLY AS APPLIED TO THIS PARTICULAR PIECE OF ENTERTAINMENT.

SO, CLASS PRESIDENT MOTOBUCHI, WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED SO FAR?

OUR SO-CALLED TEACHER IS A FUCKING LOON

GREAT...

...OR THE FIRST TIME A YAKIYA BOSS' PRECIOUS DAUGHTER GIVES UP HER VIRGINITY TO... WELL, TO WHOMEVER DECIDES TO TAKE IT, EH?
WE HAVE
LEARNED...
HAVE WE NOT,
CLASS
PRESIDENT
MOTOBUCHI?

EXCELLENT. MOST EXCELLENT.

I AM AMONG... SIR.

I AM...

DO THEM PROUD, LITTLE WARRIORS, IF ONLY TO RUB THEIR FACES IN YOUR VICTORY.

THEY SEND THEIR BEST WISHES... LOVE, KISSES, YADDA, BAH... THAT WOULD BE EXCEPTING THOSE GLAD TO BE RID OF YOU. YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

IN CASE ANY OF YOU WERE WONDERING YOUR PARENTS GUARDIANS, WHATEVER HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED ABOUT YOUR PARTICIPATION...
Perhaps a visual aid will help move things along.

I know.

Still... can't have you zoning out on me.

A bit much to take in in one sitting, I know.

A body bag... most definitely not good...

!?
The suspense is killing you? Attend...
MR. HAYASHIDA AAAA!!!

MR. HAYASHIDA...

GLARK...

WHAT?!
MR. HAYASHIDA WAS DEAD SET AGAINST THIS CLASS PARTICIPATING IN THE PROGRAM. NOT QUITE AS VOCAL AS HIS ORPHANAGE WHERE, BUT THEN FEW TONGUES CUT SHARPER THAN A WOMAN'S.

AND DOES OUR LITTLE MISS NAKAGAWA KNOW WHY MR. HAYASHIDA JOINED US TODAY?

SUCH A SPECIAL GIRL. YOU'D BE OUR LITTLE MISS NAKAGAWA, NO?

EVEN WITH THE MODIFICATIONS MADE TO HIS APPEARANCE. AREN'T YOU SOMETHING? RECOGNIZED HIM AS YOUR TEACHER...

SEEMS WE Miscalculated the extent to which MR. HAYASHIDA would decompose. OurBAD.

SNF... AH... MY APOLOGIES.

YOU'RE PART OF THE PROGRAM NOW.

SNAP OUT OF IT, SHUNYA.

THERE'LL BE NO WAKING UP FROM THIS NIGHTMARE.
THINK, SHUUYA. THINK. THERE’S GOT TO BE SOMETHING... ANYTHING YOU CAN DO TO GET OUT OF...

AND ALL THEY ASK IN RETURN IS THAT YOU KILL ALL OF YOUR FRIENDS.

THINK!

THINK, GODDAMN YOU, THINK!!
SHUT UP!

SHUT UP AND SIT DOWN! PLEASE!

SIT DOWN AND SHUT UP, YOSHI.TOKU.

SIR...

YOU HAD ME AT "SIR."

SPIT IT OUT, YOUNG MASTER.
A CAULDRON OF SUBLIQUID THINK, OUR WELFARE SYSTEM, AND AFTER ALL WE GIVE...

AH... ONE OF THE ORPHAN BOYS.

WHO DID YOU TELL... ABOUT THIS? ABOUT ME?

I HAVE NO PARENTS.

I...

PROOF POSITIVE THAT NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED.

!!

NOT HIM! ME! I'M THE ONE YOU WANT!

ONE WANTED TO BE A ROCK STAR. WOULD THAT ONE BE YOU?

SHE WAS A SHARP-TONGUED BITCH, THAT ONE. TOO TOLERANT FOR HER OWN GOOD, YOU ASK ME, MISPLACED TOLERANCE.

HEH!

THE ORPHANAGE BITCH WAS NOTIFIED ABOUT THE BOTH OF YOU. A PITY...

NANAHARA AND KUNINOBU, RIGHT?

HARDLY... I JUST LIKE TO KNOW WHO'S WHO.
SIGH... IT'S ALWAYS THE SUBVERSIVE ONES.

YOU SEE? I SMILE TO REMEMBER HER.

SUCH A DELICATE BEAUTY...

SO DELECTABLE...

WHAT DID YOU DO TO MS. RYOKO?

WHA...

WH...

BUT THEN, IS THERE ANY OTHER KIND?

MMM...

TOUGH LOVE, YOURS MASTER.
SO PINK, YOUNG MASTER...

AND GIVEN PROPER PERSUASION...
Now then, where were we?

Sorry, sorry, got lost in the memory.

... More than willing to share it.
MS. RYOKO...

NO, MS. RYOKO.

MS. RYOKO...

YOSHIKO AND I WILL PROTECT YOU. THAT'S WHAT MEN DO, PROTECT LADIES...

... AND YOSHIKO AND I ARE MEN!

ULTIMATE POWER. YEAH!

YEAH! MAXIMUM CARNAGE! ULTIMATE POWER!
MORE THAN WILLING TO SHARE IT

THAT'S...
COMPARING TO KNOW, LITTLE WARRIORS.

I FEEL SAFER ALREADY.

... SO PINK...

MORE THAN WILLING

... SHARE IT...

MORE THAN WILLING

MORE THAN WILLING
AND SHIT DOWN YOUR THROAT, YOU MISERABLE SON OF A BITCH!

I’LL RIP OFF YOUR HEAD...

YOU... COLD BLOODED BASTARD!
TYPICAL.

YOSHI...

YOSHIKI!
PLEASE...

HNNNG!

HNNHNG!

HNNNG!

SHUT UP!

DID YOU REALLY
THINK THE B**CH
WAS SAYING IT
FOR THE L**KES
OF YOU?

HONESTLY...

THREATEN ME,
YOU THREATEN
THE GOVERNMENT.
YOU MIGHT
WANT TO
RETHINK
THIS.

STeady,
LIttle
WARRIOR.
I'll kill you! You're dead, you fucking bastard! Dead!!

You stop talking about her like that!

Too fast! It's all happening too!

Yoshi!

Yoshitoki! Do something, damn you! Stop him! Help him!

I'll kill you! I'll kill you! I'll kill you!

He's your best friend! Do something! Stop thinking about it and—

Yoshitoki! No! Don't do it!
ALWAYS
THAT POPEY
YOSHI
SMILE...

THAT IS
SO YOU,
SHUUYA.

THAT'S
THE WAY,
SHUUYA!

HEY,
SHUUYA!

MY BEST
FRIEND...
ALWAYS
THERE...
ALWAYS
CARING...

ONLY EVER
SEEN HIM
ANGRY
TWICE...

YOU KILLED
EDDIE!
STOP HIM!
SOMEONE!
STOP...

THE ORPHANAGE
DOG, EDDIE.
STUPID NAME
FOR A DOG. CAR
HIT HIM... YOSHI
CHASED THAT CAR
SIX BLOCKS
BEFORE HIS
LEGS SAVE
OUT...

THIRD
TIME'S THE
CHARM...
MY ASS!

SECOND TIME WAS
THAT COLLECTIONS
AGENT, CAME
AROUND SMART-
MOUTHING MS.
RYOKO...

YOU SHUT UP!
YOU SHUT UP
AND GO!
NOW!

CASP...
YOSHI!
I, um... I think I found a girl I kinda like.

Kinda? She "kinda" got a name?

I thought it was Noriko.

Yoshi! I didn't put it together...
NO
00000
0000
00!

YOSHITOIKI!
Yoshitoki... he's always there. In every memory worth revisiting... he's always there.

Since we were kids...

My best friend...

... and laughing that contagious Yoshi laugh.

Always smiling that big, dopey Yoshi smile.

Whenever I needed him... There for me whenever it counted.
TOO FAST...
IT ALL HAPPENED
TOO FAST
I COULDN'T...
NO...

AND WHEN HE
MOST NEEDED
ME? WHERE
WAS I WHEN HE
MOST NEEDED
ME?!

MY BEST
FRIEND...
I COULDN'T
MOVE;
I COULDN'T
BE THERE
FOR HIM!

YOSHI...
NO
SWEAT,
SHUUYA.

THAT IS
SO YOU,
SHUUYA!!

SHU...

SHU...

I CAN'T...

CAN'T...
YOSHITOK!!!

SIGH... SOME NEVER LEARN

!!

NO...

NORIKO TOO?!!
NORIKO!!
STAY DOWN! STAY DOWN, NORIKO!

FBI, AND WERE YOU NOT THE LEAST BIT DISCIPLINED? I WOULDN'T HAVE TO EMPHASIZE THIS...

NO ONE LEAVES THEIR SEAT WITHOUT TEACHER'S PERMISSION.

PLEASE, SIR?

LISTEN TO YOUR FRIEND OR THE NEXT SHOT COUNTS.
PLEASE HELP HIM...

YOSHITOKI...
PLEASE HELP HIM, SIR.

NOT NORIKO TOO...
HE'S DYING!

YOSHIKI IS DYING! ARE YOU JUST GOING TO... TO LET HIM DIE?

RETURN TO YOUR SEAT, MISS NAKAGAWA, AND STOP WASTING TEACHER'S TIME WITH DAMAGED GOODS.

SO SELFLESS, SUCH A SPECIAL GIRL, LITTLE MISS NAKAGAWA. DIDN'T I SAY SO?

HARD LESSONS ARE BEST LEARNED AT ANOTHER'S EXPENSE.

THAT'S, PRETTY MUCH WHAT I HAD IN MIND.

YOU SHAME ME, MISS NAKAGAWA. I SHOULD DO MORE THAN WATCH THE POOR BOY DIE...

SUCH A LOOK!

OR PERHAPS I'M MISINTERPRETING? COULD HE HAVE BEEN MAKING A LAST REQUEST TO MISS NAKAGAWA?

SUCH LANGUAGE...
I should finish what I started.

There is dark beauty here, if you've an eye for it.

Do you see?
NO MORE!

YOU PSYCHOTIC SON OF A BITCH!

NO FUCKING MORE!
SHIYAA! NO!

KILLYOU! YOU SICK PSYCHO BASTARD!!

BUT NOT FOR LONG IF HE DOESN'T PLANT HIS ASS BACK AT HIS DESK.

WHAT DO YOU KNOW... ELVIS LIVES.
YOU'LL THANK ME FOR THIS LATER.

IF WE LIVE.
The man with the gun says stay in your seat and you take that to mean...

Sigh... let me get this straight...
MimuRA!

HE... HE STANDS BY ME!

THE WAY I SHOULD HAVE WITH YOSHI.

JUMP AROUND THE ROOM LIKE DEMENTED GRASSHOPPERS?

DOES HE DIE TOO? DO THE BOTH OF US DIE NOW?
THE TWO OF YOU WILL RETURN TO YOUR SEATS. NOW!

NOT BECAUSE OF ME, MIMURA... PLEASE...
Chapter 4: The Oath
HOW MUCH PER DEAD BODY?

HOW MUCH DO THEY DEDUCT FROM YOUR FEE FOR EVERY "CONTESTANT" YOU TAKE DOWN?

WHAT'S THIS NOW?
AND HOW BADLY ARE THE RATINGS AFFECTED IF THERE ARE TOO FEW OF US TO MAKE A RUN AT THE '07 RECORD?

BET THERE'S ALL KINDS OF PENALTIES FOR FUCKING UP THAT PARTICULAR CASH COW.

I'M THINKING YOU MIGHT WANT TO RECONSIDER YOUR MOTIVATIONAL TACTICS...

YOU SAID FORTY-TWO START THE GAME. YOU'RE ALREADY DOWN TO FORTY-ONE.

HOW MUCH DO YOU FORGET AT FORTY? THIRTY-NINE? I'M GUESSELLING THE PENALTIES RUN KIND OF SLEEP.

THEY PAY YOU TO SEE TO IT WE DIE OUT THERE IN FRONT OF THE CAMERAS.

"SIR..."
HAHA HAAA... HAHA HAAA... HAHA HAAA...

PRICELESS! HAHA HAAA...

HE'S PLAYING HIM... THE SADISTIC BASTARD!

AND SO WELL THOUGHT OUT I ALMOST BOUGHT INTO IT MYSELF!

PLAYING US!
SIR!

THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE.

BACK DOWN, MIMURA.

MOST EXCELLENT, YOUNG MASTER... WHOEVER, IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE I'VE ENJOYED A GOOD LAUGH.

NOW SIT DOWN BEFORE I FORGET I'M IN A GOOD MOOD.

WELL... FORTY-ONE DOESN'T BREAK DOWN... IT'S NOT AN EVEN MATCH. YOU SEE? NORIKO'S JUST WOUNDED.

IT'S JUST... THE ODDS ARE LOPSIDED, IN FAVOR OF A GIRL WINNING. ONE OF THE BOYS... YOU SHOT HIM AND...

I'M BEGINNING TO REMEMBER WHY I LOATHE TEENAGERS.
I see... Male pride, yes...

Perhaps we should postpone until a replacement boy can be found... eh?

What is he...?

Miwa, what...

And while we're at it, clear the air of any misconceptions about your lives being of any worth to me.

Better still...

Let's just even up the odds here and now.

And so faux macho! Now get the fuck back to your desk.

Objection!
ATTEND. MINURA WAS, IN HIS OWN WAY, RIGHT ABOUT THE SAME BEING SOMewhat LOPSIDED.

BUT IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH GENDER ABILITY. IT'S ALL ABOUT INHERENT ABILITY.

WHICH VARIES FROM PERSON TO PERSON, EH?
UNBELIEVABLE!

NO TALKING DURING CLASS SHOULD BE A GIVEN!

NNN...

!!
... as in the young lady's inherent ability to aggravate the teacher.

There you go. A perfect example of inherent ability...

This lack of parity is a big part of the program's appeal.

Say but true.

To continue, your abilities already render you unequal.

Cattle

Cattle

That's all we are to him.
"FAIR" does not enter into this. You might want to keep that in mind.

The underdog triumphing over near-impossible circumstances... you know the drill.
"I will kill," followed by the name of a classmate.

Take up your pencils and write... before we get into the rules and regulations... so...

Repeat until all of your classmates have been named.

Buy a bullet to the head? Then what?

Up his! I'm not writing shit!

He's getting off on this... pervert fuck!

To make up for Yoshi!

Play along... choose the moment to... to... to what?

No. follow Mimura's lead.

Noriko...
WHO WROTE YOURS FIRST? MINE?

WHOSE NAME DID YOU WRITE FIRST?

scribble
scribble

SMILE FOR ME, YOSHI...

Huh...
HEYY, SHUNYA!

I'VE NEVER NEEDED IT MORE.

HEY, SHUNYA! OVER HERE!

UH-OH... THAT'S NOT A HAPPY YOSHI FACE.

ABOUT OI-IERRLS, I BET.

I BEEN THINKING...
V0U WANT TO KISS AND HUG AND MARRY THEM AND HAVE A MILLION BABIES AND--

I THINK ABOUT MORE THAN GIRLS!

NO. NO BABIES. EVER.

EVER?

THE MOM AND THE DAD AND... AND THE GRAN'MA...

T0 KISS AND HUG AND MARRY THEM AND HAVE A MILLION BABIES AND--

I LIKE IT THE WAY THEY SHOW IT ON TV. THE FAMILIES.

THEY REALLY LOVE THE KIDS A LOT.

ON TV THE PARENTS ALWAYS LOVE THEIR KIDS. Y'KNOW?

ON TV THEY KEEP THEIR KIDS. LOVE THEM.

IT'S NOT REAL...

I DON'T CARE!
Jeez, Yoshi...

THAT'S WHY I LIKE THE GIRLS ON TV BETTER.

IF THEY MAKE A BABY, THEY KEEP IT. NOT LIKE... Y'KNOW... GIRLS.

AHHH... DAMN!!

WHY AM I DRESSING ALL OF THIS UP NOW!!?

TOO STUPID. IT WAS SO EASY TO BLAME IT ALL ON GIRLS. WHAT DID WE KNOW?

I DIDN'T GET IT BACK THEN... TOO YOUNG...

UM... OKAY...
YOU WERE MY BEST FRIEND! I WAS SUPPOSED TO KNOW YOU!

... I KINDA LIKE.

SHUUMA? I THINK I FOUND A GIRL...

KINDA?

NORIKO! IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE NORIKO!
TOO FULL OF MYSELF TO SEE...

NORIKO... IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE NORIKO.

IF ONLY FOR THAT I WILL PROTECT HER TO MY LAST BREATH.

I'M SORRY YOSHI!
I'M SORRY YOSHI!
I'M SORRY YOSHI!
I'M SORRY YOSHI!
NOW, TO THE RULES, AND I'D ADVISE YOU TO LISTEN AS IF YOUR LIVES DEPENDED ON IT. THEY DO.

A TESTAMENT TO MY GENEROSITY, NO?

OH... POINTS FOR CREATIVITY TO YOUNG MASTER SHIYU. A TRULY TOUCHING "ESSAY"... IF INEFFECTUAL.

Chapter 5: Other Side Of The Door
NOW WHAT?

WITHIN
YOU WILL
FIND WATER,
FIELD RATIONS,
A MAP,
COMPASS,
WATCH...

AND A
RANDOMLY
SELECTED
WEAPON WITH
WHICH YOU
WILL...

THESE
ARE YOUR
SUPPLY PACKS
ONE FOR EACH
OF YOU

ATTEND

EACH BAG
CONTAINS A
DIFFERENT
WEAPON
VARIETY BEING
THE SPICE OF
LIFE, OR SO
I'VE HEARD.

WHY
BELABOR THE
OBVIOUS,
EH?
Looks can deceive. All of you might want to take note of that.

Male pride, gentlemen. The young gentlemen might want to take note that the last winner was a girl.

Weapons range from knives to semiautomatic machine guns, plus the odd surprise or two.

The young ladies might want to lay hands on a firing weapon as soon as possible.

The entire island is your arena. There are no "out of bounds," no safe zones.

The school is marked with an 'X.' We are on an island.
... OVERSEEING THE TROOPS MONITORING YOUR PROGRESS... OR LACK THEREOF.

I WILL BE ON THE SCHOOL PREMISES THROUGHOUT THE COMPETITION...

THE OCEAN IS NOT AN ESCAPE OPTION. ANYONE FOOLHARDY ENOUGH TO TRY SUCH A COURSE OF ACTION...

... WILL BE USED FOR TARGET PRACTICE.

COASTAL PATROL HAS ORDERS TO SHOOT TO KILL.
Sigh... I wish you could have seen how honored the former residents were at the opportunity to sacrifice for the good of the program.

Collateral damage is not an issue.

The island is quite deserted... present company excepted.

Still, feel free to use any standing structure to your best advantage. Hide if you feel you must...

Patriots all, but I digress... phone and power lines are down, as are the water mains.

The island has been divided into somewhat equal zones.

Note the grid.

I'd advise against it.

You'll be flushed out, sooner or later, by the more ambitious. Attend.

!?
FAILURE TO DO SO... MOST UNPLEASANT.

YOU WOULD BE WELL ADVISED TO VACATE THAT ZONE WITHIN FIVE MINUTES OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT.

AT ANY MOMENT, CERTAIN OF THESE ZONES WILL BE DESIGNATED DANGER ZONES.

GIVEN THAT...

VERY EFFECTIVE. AND SHOULD IT RECEIVE THE APPROPRIATE SIGNAL...

WHICH BRINGS US TO THE COLLARS EACH OF YOU HAVE BEEN FITTED WITH. VERY HIGH-TECH.

!? ping!

THE DANGER ZONES WILL BE P.A. BROADCAST 'D-5 IS NOW A DANGER ZONE.'

---

EXPLOSIVELY LETHAL.
THE COLLARS ALSO RELAY VITAL SIGNS AND LOCATION TO OUR COMPUTERS.

OH...

THE SCHOOL GROUNDS BECOME A PERMANENT DANGER ZONE ONCE THE LAST OF YOU PASSES THROUGH THE PERIMETER.

THAT SAID...

SO...

SHOULD YOU ALL BAND TOGETHER AND REFUSE TO FIGHT...

... ALL OF THE COLLARS DETONATE.

ALL DIE. NO GLORY. SO SAD.

AND TWENTY-FOUR HOURS PASSES WITHOUT AN ELIMINATION...

KILL OR BE KILLED, LITTLE WARRIORS!

YOU SNOOZE, YOU LOSE.

FILE THAT UNDER...
STARTING WITH...

EXCELLENT, YOU’LL BE EXITING AT TWO-MINUTE INTERVALS EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

WE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE?

STEP LIVELY, YOUNG WARRIOR.

BOY NUMBER ONE, YOSHIRO AKAMATSU.

SEE HOW WE EVEN ALLOW YOU YOUR PERSONAL EFFECTS?

HERE NOW! WHAT KIND OF EXAMPLE ARE YOU SETTING FOR THE OTHERS?

GET ON NOW, SHOO. OFF WITH YOU.

SNIFF...
AKAMATSU WOULDN'T HURT A FLY.
C'MON GIGANTOR, ONE MORE SET.

THAT'S... THAT'S DONE ME IN SHUUYA.
NUFF...

THE BIGGEST KID IN THE CLASS...
BAWLING LIKE A BABY...

WILL I LOOK THAT SCARED WHEN IT'S MY TURN?

AKAMATSU...

BOY NUMBER FIVE.

HURRY AND YOU CAN HAVE THE BIG CRYBABY FOR FIRST KILL.

DON'T DASH, LITTLE MISS.

MOVING RIGHT ALONG...

GIRL NUMBER FOUR

A PERSONAL FAVORITE...

AH.

LET'S SNOW SOME HUSTLE HERE...

Number Seven

Number Ten.
MASTER NANAOKA

ELVIS IS LEAVING THE BUILDING

? NORIKO.

I'LL WAIT FOR YOU OUTSIDE.

LORD KNOWS MY NIPPLES ARE HARD.

MMM... MUY MACHO...
YOUNG LOVE. NEXT UP...

Ah...

Clat
We gotta pull together and think this through.

This is such bullshit.

Together we can get through this.

Gotta think this through.

Nobody's gonna buy into this program shit. Shinji... Shinji wasn't buying into it. I could tell.

If it wasn't for him I'd be dead already. We can rally the others.

Lucky for you I wasn't.
EASY...

Hiroki! Subimura! SURE!

He'd be all for turning this around! Got all the right moves.

He's perfect!

Just the guy to crack a few heads.

Unbelievable!

Kick ass moves!
How sure are you that nobody bought into this?

He's never shown he gives a rat's ass for anyone.

How much of your bravado is just wishful thinking?

And how well do you really know Kuriyama?

How well do you really know Class B?

How well do you really know Noriko?

You're taking a lot on faith.

Hard truth is...

Well enough to trust any of them with your life, Kawada?
PARANOID...
RUNNING
SCARED...

WHAT ARE YOU THINKING?!
THIS IS THE WAY THEY WANT US!

GIVE IN TO THAT AND THEY WIN!

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN!

ONE STEP AT A TIME. FIRST NORIKO...

OKAY...

THEN MIMURA. THEN...
THEN PLAY IT AS IT COMES.

WE'LL STILL HAVE TWENTY-FOUR HOURS.

WE CAN COME UP WITH SOMETHING. I KNOW IT!

AND SUBIMURA! HE'S ALREADY OUT THERE.

PROBABLY ALREADY WITH THE OTHERS OUT THERE.
WHO... WHO COULD...

DON'T!

AHH!

NO...

H-HEN!

H-HEN!

H-HEN!

NN-NOH...

!!
A-HEH!

AKAMATSU!!!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? WHY?!

IT'S ME! IT'S ME!

WE CAN BEAT THIS IF WE STICK TOGETHER!

WE DON'T HAVE TO PLAY!

IT'S YOU... I SEE THAT.
I'M SORRY. LASS HAS ROOM FOR ONE MORE.

I'M SURE THE GIRL'S CLASS HAS ROOM FOR ONE MORE.

WELL, HEY, AKAMATSU, NO PROBLEM.

I CAN'T... IT'S... I JUST CAN'T...

AKAMATSU... I THINK SOMEONE NEEDS BYPASS SURGERY...

I JUST... I JUST...

I REALLY, REALLY TRY, BUT... BUT...

I TRY...

WHIP!

FINAL WARNING, BLUBBERBALL. STAY OUT OF MY SIGHT!

I DON'T WANT TO BE KILLED BY A GIRL!

NO! IT'S ME! THEY'LL KILL FIRST! IT'S ME!

BECAUSE... BECAUSE I CAN'T! I CAN'T!

IT'S NOT MY FAULT! WHY IS IT ALWAYS MY FAULT?!
THAT'S WHY I DID IT! THAT'S WHY I HAVE TO KILL FIRST!

TH-THAT'S WHY!

NO! NOBODY HAS TO KILL! LISTEN TO ME!

WE CAN BEAT THIS! LISTEN!

WAIT HERE WITH ME! WE CAN HOOK UP WITH THE REST OF THE CLASS!
Promise you won't kill me.

We play their game, we all lose! All of us lose!!

It's us against them! Not against each other!

Don't let them kill me...

Or... or let the others...

Swear...

No one is going to kill you.

If! If we all put our heads together and figure a way out of this!

How's this then? I swear that no one is going to kill anyone!

Want a pinky swear?! Good enough?
You with your big smile! Just like the others!

Big smiles till it's time to dump on the doofus! Big joke!

grind...

SH...SHU?
As for smiling... it's what friends do. Right?

Trust me on this, Akamatsu. Like I'm trusting you not to shoot me.

You're not a doofus. Not to me.
TAKE IT OUTSIDE, MAN TITS!

BEEP-BEEP-BEEP-BEEP-BEEP! COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE MORE ANNOYING?!

AIEE!

AIEE!

SHU!!

...
THINK
NANAHARA TWICE. GIVES AS GOOD AS HE GETS.

OMG.

THAT SOUNDS LIKE THE GAME THAT'S BEEN GIVING ME FITS. ANY POINTERS FOR A PAL?

AKAMATSU.
COULDN'T HELP OVERHEARING.

WHAT DO YOU--

SURE...

UM...
PONTERS?

SEE? SEE? THEY GOT ME!

DIE, FLESH-EATING SCUM!

NO NO!

HA! HA-NO!

HERE, LEMME SHOW YOU.

JUMP, THEN FIRE! JUMP.
GIVE IT UP, SHIYU.

THAT'S 'CAUSE YOU DON'T JUMP!

EVERY TIME!!

IT'S A GAME OF FINESSE. TAKES A CERTAIN TOUCH...

DON'T MIND SHI. GOT A BAD CASE OF THE ROCK AND ROLL PNEUMONIA.

MIMURA MAKES A GOOD POINT... HMM...

THOSE CHIMPANZEE HANDS JUST AIN'T GONNA CUT IT.

CAN'T HAVE IT ALL, SHI.

WHAT? NO BOOBOE-WOOGIE FLU?
IT'S REALLY PRETTY EASY.
SURE... UM...
C'MON! SHOW "ALMOST ELVIS" HERE NOW IT'S DONE.
AKAMATSU LOOKS LIKE YOU GOT THE RIGHT TOUCH.

おおーー?!
Nah... it's nothing...

Way cool!

M'Man got the touch!

Nanahara...

Friends...
C'mon down. Let's get things going. Our way.

Now you're getting it.

You got it.

Our... way...

Mayumi...
WHOSE FRIEND AM I NOW?! I KILLED HER!

I'VE ALREADY PLAYED! I'VE PLAYED THE GAME!

WHO TRUSTS A KILLER? WHOSE FRIEND AM I NOW?!

MAYUMI! MAYUMI!!! TOO LATE! TOO LATE FOR ME! MAYUMI IS DEAD!

MADE ME KILL HER! DOOFUS! DOOFUS!!

MADE ME GO FIRST!

THEY DID THIS!

AKAMATSU! DON'T DO THIS!
IDIOT GIRL! GET WITH THE PROGRAM!
THE WOUND!
CAN YOU RUN?
NORIKO! YOUR LEG!

THEN RUN!
!!

I...
YES?
IT'S HAPPENING!
THE PROGRAM...

THIS WAY! STAY WITH ME!

WE'VE GOT TO FIND SHELTER!
WE'RE SITTING DUCKS OUT HERE!

THEY'RE PLAYING! I THOUGHT WE COULD...
THAT WE WOULD...

GROAN...

PROTECT NORIKO.
GET HER TO SAFETY AND...
AND...

PROTECT HER...
... PROTECT HER FROM...

WHAT HAPPENED BACK THERE?

DON'T FORGET. JUMP FIRST.

... FROM AKAMATSU? I'M PROTECTING HER FROM AKAMATSU!?

MIMURA? SUSIMURA? ALL OF THEM?

!!

NO...

WAAA...
PLEASE GOD, NOT FROM ALL OF THEM...

THESE ARE MY FRIENDS... PLEASE STILL LET THEM BE MY FRIENDS...
OKISHIMA
6 KILOMETERS AROUND

BATTLE ROYALE
Chapter 7: Trust

CATCH A QUICK BREATHER...

WE SHOULD BE OKAY FOR NOW...
ARMY KNIFE... IT'S A STARY
Huh?

Let's have a look at that leg.

Sorri about this... priorities, you know?

Give me a fucking break!

Easy, okay?
SORRY! I DIDN'T MEAN TO HURT--

I KNOW.

IT'S... I'M FINE. REALLY.

OW-OW-OW!
NOT EXACTLY THE CLASS TRIP I EXPECTED.

RIGHT NOBODY ASKED ME.

PRETTY DECENT FIELD DRESSING, YOU ASK ME.

THIS MIGHT STING A BIT.

IT'S VERY, UH... THANK YOU.

YOU'RE WELCOME.
I figured he'd be targeted by the kids who used to pick on him. Kill or be killed, y'know?

Got me wondering who might be looking to take me down.

He was probably right.

That's the hell of it. He was probably right.

Now I'm wondering which of my "friends" might kill me.

Now's that for you? Not five minutes ago I was preaching solidarity.
I mean, that's the idea, right?

Well, sure.

This all... it's happening so fast.

Me too.

Keep us off balance...

Keeping kids on edge, I mean. Oh hell, I don't know what I mean. Feel free to jump in anytime.

A panicked hero stampedes more easily. And these program guys, they've had a lot of practice.

Especially when I'm nervous, and I gotta admit...

... This is as nervous as I've ever been.

Is okay.

I can talk enough for two.

Huh?

I don't think I'm a good person. Not always.

Do you think you're a good person?
I see things... How trustworthy does that make any of us?

None of us is. Not even the girls I hang out with.

...It's over here 'n' grease daddy's pole.

Bleedin' like a stuck pig 'n' bawlin' like a baby. Hai.

Things the... the bad girls do.

Would I do right by them... if I... "flipped out on fear and adrenaline"?

Would I trust any of them to do right by me?

Things good girls, so-called... things they tolerate.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE FEAR TAKES HOLD?

SAY ENOUGH OF US DID JOIN FORCES...

AND IT WILL.

WHO CRACKS FIRST? IT'S KILL OR BE KILLED.

TWENTY-FOUR HOURS WITHOUT A KILL AND WE ALL DIE.

JEEZ... HEARING IT JUST LAID OUT LIKE THAT...

NOT TOO COLD-BLOODED, NORI.

ONLY ONE SURVIVES THAT'S IRREVOCABLE GIVEN THAT... WHY NOT ME?
HOW CAN YOU!

ME?!

IT'S OFFICIAL!

TRUST IS DEAD!

NEEDED TO HEAR

SOMEONE ELSE

SAY WHAT I

COULDN'T BRING

MYSELF TO SAY.

I TRUST YOU.

GUESS I

NEEDED TO

HEAR IT.

I KNOW

ENOUGH

YOU DON'T

EVEN KNOW

ME!

TRUST ME?!

HOW DO YOU

KNOW I'M

NOT JUST

WAITING

FOR YOU

TO FALL

ASLEEP?

HOW DO YOU

KNOW I DIDN'T

BRING YOU

OUT HERE

TO DISPOSE

OF YOU IN

PRIVATE?

THIS IS

A FACE YOU

CAN TRUST!
WHEN YOU DID MY LEG...

SAY WHAT?

YOU DIDN'T PEER AT MY PANTIES.

YOU JUST DIDN'T. OKAY?

YOU...

I KNEW YOU WOULDN'T...

THAT YOU'RE NOT... THAT KIND OF BOY.
I see you at school... with your friends. So much fun to be with...

I've seen you do things for them with nothing in it for you.
YOU THINK I'M ONE OF THE PRETTIEST GIRLS?

PRETTIEST?

PRETTIEST?!'

OUR FRIENDS ARE DYING AND... AND HERE I AM CARRYING ON ABOUT...

OH! LISTEN TO ME!
ME TOO, YOSHI...

...FOUND A GIRL I KINDA LIKE.

NOT GOOD.

...AND OPTED FOR "HOPE."

YEAH, I'VE THOUGHT IT THROUGH...

WE'LL CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION. SEE WHERE IT LEADS.

TELL YOU WHAT, ONCE WE'RE SAFELY OFF THIS ISLAND...

YOU MUST THINK I'M SO...

OFF THE ISLAND?
But I'm willing to take a chance on believing there has to be a way...

I wouldn't go that far.

Are we back to trusting again?

Opted? Hope?

All I need is someone to believe with me. What do you say?

All I need is someone to believe with me. What do you say?

Eph?

I see. That's what they want these program to do.

I never doubted it.

I... I can do that.

Y'see, that's what they want these program to do.

I never doubted it.

I... I can do that.

I... I can do that.

Bullshit to that. We can't be the only two thinking this.

They want us to believe that their way is the only way.

They want us to believe that their way is the only way.

They want us to believe that their way is the only way.
I have faith in you, Shuuya.

Faith in your friends... and, most important, faith in yourself.

I guess it really comes down to faith.

GOT TO BELIEVE.

GOTTA BELIEVE!

Okay?

!!
WHHHH...

H-HHWWW!

SHUNA?

SHHH?

NEED... NEED MY CROSSBOW!

SHUNA

!!
BAGGED ME A DOOFUS MAN TITICUS... NAW!

GOTCHA

DEAD, BANG.

GOTCHA

YO, MAN... YO...
NO MATTER.
PREY'S PLENTIFUL, EH?

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT.

DUMB-ASS GOOFUS.
SHOULDA FUCKED HER FIRST.

MAYUMI TENDO...

SEE YOU BAGGED YOURSELF A TROPHY. DUMB LUCK'S MY GUESS.

GONNA GET ME ALL I CAN GET, MAN TITS BLOOD "N" BOO-TAY!

GONNA BE A STAR.
OOOFUS, M'MAN.
GONNA BE THE MAN!

THERE FOR THE PICKING, EVERY FUCKING FANTASY I EVER HAD!

NOT LIKE YOU GOT ANY USE FOR DAMN ALL NO MORE, EH?

I'LL HANG ONTO THE CROSSBOW, IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU.
FAITH
in your
friends...
and, most
important,
faith in
yourself.

WE CAN'T
BE THE ONLY
TWO THINKING
THIS.

HA!

LIVE
AND
IN LIVING
COLOR!
IT'S
THE...

... STONE
COLD KILLER
KAZUSHI NIIA
SHOW!
YEEAHHH!
Chapter 8: Mitsuko Souma
I WON'T DO IT. I CAN'T.

...I JUST... I CAN'T...
I CAN'T GO OUT THERE...

PLEASE...

PLEASE, PLEASE DON'T MAKE THIS A DANGER ZONE...

PLEASE LET NO ONE COME

I WANT TO GO HOME...

BE DONE WITH IT.

WHY DON'T YOU JUST RUB IT RIGHT ONTO YOUR THIGHS?

I'M STILL YEARS AWAY FROM COTTAGE CHEESE THIGHS.

UNLIKE A CERTAIN OLDER SISTER...
It's not my fault you've grown old and dumpy!

Hey! Stop!

You little brat! Just for that...

Dibs on the strawberry!

But the strawberry's the best part!

They're sisters close enough.

Sigh... you'd think they were sworn enemies.

Right here.

Not so little. Did you give her the cell?

They grow old so fast. Little Megumi off on her first overnight trip tomorrow...

I know it's probably "uncool," but...
I've got a cell phone!

The cell phone!

...you call if you need us...

DID THEY SCREEN FOR CELL PHONES? DON'T THINK SO!

PHONE LINES ARE DOWN... THAT'S WHAT THEY SAID...

THEY DIDN'T TAKE IT!

IT'S STILL HERE!

Yill HOME!!
THANK YOU
THANK YOU
THANK YOU

COOLEST EVER, MOM.
COOLEST EVER.

A SIGNAL!

IT CONNECTED!

klik

!!

klik

HELLO?

PICK UP...
PICK UP...
PICK UP...

brrt...
brrt...
DADDY WILL MAKE IT ALL RIGHT...

DADDY WILL EXPLAIN TO THEM... MAKE IT RIGHT...

THEY TOOK US, DADDY! THEY TOOK ALL OF US!

DADDY, IT'S ME! MEGUMI!

THANK YOU... OH, THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

DADDY?

ALL RIGHT... EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE...

YOU CAN FIX IT, RIGHT?

THEN... THEN I CAN COME... COME... THEN I CAN...
YOUR TURN, YOUNG MISSY. TELL ME SOMETHING I CAN MASTURBATE TO, HMMMM?

MMMM... WHAT ARE YOU WEARING, YOUNG MUFFIN? DADDY MISSES HIS PEER OF PINK... YES, HE DOES.
IZUMI'S DADDY'S WIDDLE GIRL?

GAHH!
NO! STAY AWAY! STAY AWAY!

WHO...

click!
THEY TOLD SOMEONE!

!!

They said girls would get... would get guns... better stuff...

Too small... they lied...

Told someone where I am...

Huh!
PRETTY LEGS... PRETTY LEGS... WHO?
WHO?
SKIRT...
PRETTY LEGS...
WHO DO I KNOW...
A GIRL... THANK GOD...

MIZUHO!

KAORI HAS PRETTY LEGS... PLEASE BE KAORI...

NO...

MIZUHO...
MIZUHO SCRapped HER KNEE IN GYM...

!!

MITSUKO!

EMPTY...
NO ONE... THANK GOD...

SIGH...
HARDCORE SOUMA! SHE... SHE'S CRAZY!

MITSUKO SOUMA!

SHE CUT A BOY... HE HAD TO... HAD TO... THIRTEEN STITCHES!

CRAZY AND... AND HERE! WITH ME! ALONE!

WHAT IF SHE HAS A GUN? OH, PLEASE NOT ME!

She's crazy!

I can't fight her! She cut a boy!

NOT ME...

TOO SMALL!
HUM?

NO...

MY PHONE! IF SHE...

NNGH!

WHAT'S THIS?!

!!

10
WHO... WHO'S THERE?

PLEASE... I DON'T WANT TO... IS ANYBODY HERE?

NOT ME... NOT MEEE...

NN-NNNOOOHHHH... NO!!
MAGUMI...

MITSUKO?

I CAN'T DO THIS.

THANK GOD...

I... I'VE BEEN RUNNING EVER SINCE THEY... I'M SO GLAD IT'S YOU!
I... I need someone I can...

Look... I don't have a weapon.

Please...

We can... we can hide together.

See? No weapon. I need someone to trust... to trust me...
JUST A KID LIKE ME.

JUST A KID... LIKE...

SHE'S...

SHE'S...

SHE'S JUST AS SCARED AS I AM...

I'VE SEEN THE WAY THEY LOOK AT HER... WHAT THEY SAY TO HER...

STICHES...

BOYS... BOYS CAN BE SO... SO...

MY SISTER... HER REPUTATION WAS... BUT SHE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING... MITSUKO...
FOR-REAL FRIENDS, MITSUKO. I PROMISE!

FOR-REAL FRIENDS? I'VE NEVER HAD A FOR-REAL FRIEND.
I THOUGHT you were coming to... TO GET ME...

I WAS SO SCARED AND... AND I THOUGHT...

TO KILL ME. I...
I THOUGHT you were...

I THOUGHT you were playing the game.

I KNOW...

A LOT OF THEM WILL PLAY...

I THINK A LOT OF THEM WILL... PLAY THE GAME. A LOT.

I THINK...

MITSUKO...

NOT ALONE...
I'M NOT ALONE... ANymore...

FOR-REAl FRIENDS... FOR RE--

JUST LIKE MY SISTER... BAD REPUTATION,
GOOD GIRL...
PEOPLE CAN BE SO MEAN...
SURPRISE.
OH... AND RED? MOST DEFINITELY NOT YOUR COLOR.

... MAKE TO WIN. NO SENSE PLAYING OTHERWISE, HMM?

YOU CALLED IT RIGHT, MEGUMI. A LOT OF US WILL PLAY...
GIRL NUMBER FIVE HAS BEEN ELIMINATED

REALLY? AT THIS FACE, WE MIGHT BE LOOKING AT A NEW RECORD.

DO ME PROUD, LITTLE WARRIORS. DO ME PROUD.

TO BE CONTINUED...
THE PROGRAM: UPDATE

PROGRAM CONDITIONS:
All members of the class must kill each other until one survivor remains • All students are supplied with a ration of food, a map of the island and a weapon • All students will wear an explosive bomb collar which also monitors life signs • Students are free to move about the island but must stay out of designated danger zones that will frequently change locations • If there is more than one survivor at the end of the game, the remaining bomb collars will detonated.

CHAPTER 7: Shunyu and Noriko rest.

CHAPTER 2: Yoshitoki is shot.

CHAPTER 8: Mitsuko Souma kills Megumi Etou.

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IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF BATTLE ROYALE:

The demented Mr. Kamon has kicked off the program with more than a few “bangs,” and it looks like he’s going to get his share of sick kicks now that the carnage has started. While Shuuya reels from this nightmare, he continues his search for friends he can trust. But will his hopes to form an alliance to defeat “The Program” be dashed by the deception and manipulation of those who wish to win the game?