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In the near future, a random class of 9th graders has been chosen to compete on "The Program," a popular reality show that requires its contestants to battle to the death in a secret location. Included in this class are Shuuya Nanahara, Noriko Nakagawa, Shogo Kawada, Kazuo Kiriyama, and Mitsuko Souma. Five students that couldn't be more different, yet now find themselves sharing a common plight. Either they put aside their humanity and hunt their fellow classmates or they die, as the only rule of "The Program" is kill or be killed. Yoshitoki Kuninobu becomes the first victim. He is shot without remorse for his insubordination by the homicidal maniac in charge of "The Program," Mr. Kamon.

Unwilling to join in the slaughter, Shuuya, Yoshitoki's best friend, attempts to rally his fellow students together to stand against the government that ruined their lives. As Shuuya pursues his dream of an alliance, the beautiful but deadly Mitsuko's brutal behavior proves that some students have no use for allies. Some students are playing to win. With uncertainty around every corner, tension setting in, and death a possibility with every student he meets, Shuuya finds himself clinging to hope in a nightmare from which he will never wake.
CHAPTER 9: Kazuo Kiriyama (Part One)

Suck it up... Almost there...

Almost there...

NINTH GRADE/CLASS B - BOY #17:
MITSURU NUMAI

Akamatsu... Doofus just didn’t get it.

Take the tears outside. Go, go. Off with you.
FROM KAZUO...

MAM.

MITSUI!

POST...

MEET ME AT THE SOUTHERNMOST END OF THIS ROCK! BE CAREFUL.

GIRL NUMBER TWO, YUKIE UTSUJI. STEP LIVELY NOW!

Sshhh...

DAMN STRAIGHT!

SAVE THE HISTRIONICS FOR THE CAMERAS, EH?
KAZUO KIRIYAMA. THE UNTOUCHABLE!

SHOULD'VE FIGURED. ANYONE'S GONNA GET A HANDLE ON THIS, KAZUO'S THE GUY.

WHAT THE HELL, WHATEVER IT WAS AND LET ME IN!

MADE ME ONE OF HIS LIEUTENANTS. ME! WHAT DID I HAVE TO OFFER A GUY LIKE HIM?

MADE ME A SOMEBODY! MORE 'N I EVER GOT AT HOME...

BIG BOSS, A-NUMBER ONE, BES! BELIEVE IT!

STILL CAN'T BELIEVE HE TOOK ME IN.
TURN 'AT FUSIN' GRAP DOWN...

NO ACCOUNT, MUSH-MOUTHED LUSH ALWAYS GIVIN' ME GRAP ABOUT MY GRADES... WHAT ALL!

CONSIDER IT A DOWN PAYMENT ON THE LIFE YOU TWO LOSERS OWE ME!

FAMILY?? ARE YOU ON DRUGS OLD WOMAN??

STEALING? FROM FAMILY?!

OH, YEAH... I WAS A GEM.
I GIVE YOU A CUT LIKE THIS... WHAT'RE YOUR PARENTS GONNA THINK?

I DUNNO, KID...

COULDN'T EVEN GET A HAIRCUT WITHOUT SOMEONE GIVING ME BRIEF.

YOU WATCH THAT TONE, YOUNG MAN!

PEOPLE GIVE YOU CRAP...

I'M LOOKING LIKE I CARE?

SAY IT!!

WHO'S STRONGEST? WHO'S STRONGEST IN THE SCHOOL?

...YOU GOTTA GIVE IT RIGHT BACK. HARD!

LEARNED THAT LESSON EARLY ON.

SAY IT! C'MON! SAY IT!
HARD'S THE WAY. 'COUSE YOU'D BEST BE STRONG ENOUGH TO BACK IT UP.

JUST LIKE I SAID. RIGHT.

I WAS.

THE OLDER I GOT, THE HARDER I GOT. HAD TO.

SAY IT!
IT'S A HARD WORLD OUT THERE

HARDEST MAN WINS. TOP O' THE WORLD, MA!

WHO'S STRONGEST IN THE SCHOOL, PUNK?

GIVE YOU A HINT. M'B, YOU SPELL, PUNK?
SOONER ADULT FROM HERE.
FROSH

FUCK YOU.

WRONG ANSWER, PUNK.

YEAH...
NEVER TOL' YOU 'N' GOTA PLAY NICE?

MOMMY 'N'
PADDY NEVER TEACH YOU NO MANNERS?

S'MATTER?

ALWAYS SOMEONE...

THREE ON ONE MAKE YOU FEEL LIKE BIG MEN?

THIS THE WAY, GUYS?
ALWAYS SOMEONE GIVING ME GRIEF...

BRING IT ON!

FIRST Dibs!

WH- WHOA!
M-kun... you should always respect your elders. Elders being us.

![Character: They can't be serious! Can't...]

![Character: Wh-what are they...]

Grrrrrrrr!
UNDERCLASSMEN BELONG TO US. ANY WHALIN' ON GONNA BE DONE BY UPPERCLASSMEN. FOLLOW?

A-HEH...

A-HEH...

HARD LESSON. HARD TAUGHT. PROSH.

BAS-TARDS! SCALIN' CRAZY BAS-TARDS BROKE MY--

I'M SORRY? I'M...

NO... NO, NO, NO... THIS ISN'T THE WAY... I'M STRONGEST. I'M...

WHAT SAY WE MAKE ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN THE LESSON STICKS?

SOME OF US ARE TRYING TO STUDY!

GONNA HAVE TO FINGER YOUR HONEY LEFTY FOR A WHILE.

BUT... TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE.

PROGRESS! HE SEES THE LIGHT!
TAKE IT OUTSIDE. YOU'RE DISTURBING ME.

YOU GOT SOMETHING TO SAY?

YOU DON'T WANT TO DISTURB ME.
THAT WHAT HE GOT HERE, FROSH-HEAT? EH? EH?

GOT US A REGULAR ATTITUDE EPIDEMIC GOING HERE.

LISTEN TO THIS. ANOTHER FROSH WITH ATTITUDE.

BEST LOOSEN YOUR TONGUE AND ANSWER THE MAN, LESS YOU WANT US LOOSENING IT FOR YOU!
SON OF A...
CHEAP SHOT, BASTARD!
THAT WAS HARD, MAN! EXTREME HARD!

HOW'D YOU DO THAT? HOW'D YOU...

I DON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR USE OF THE WORD.

TAKE NO SHIT, GONNA AND DIRTY, HARD CASE PRIME!
I simply used what I learned from this book.

No attitude... No swagger...

He didn't need that crap. He knew, and that was enough.

He knew...

Know what is breakable. It wasn't very hard at all.
SAID LIKE IT DIDN'T MATTER. BUT IT DID. IT DID.

KAZUO. KAZUO KIRIYAMA.

AND NOW I KNEW.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

HE WAS ALL I EVER WANTED TO BE. HE WAS...

THANK YOU, KAZUO KIRIYAMA. I AM IN YOUR DEBT.

THANK YOU...

... HARD!
PP06PAM MY
ASS/ BOSS
PONT 00 NO
PP06PAMS.
& ONNA MAT
this, see
He
PUN TNCSC
eovepNMeur
mpesute
TNev WAS
PATS IN A
HAZE. Veak
oss
A-Nmeep
hazuo
MIYAMA,
60NNA
SHOHTHeM
ALU

Make them sorry they ever chose this class. Bitcher ass!
KIRIYAMA'S GANG DON'T PLAY NO GAMES...

LESS KIRIYAMA'S CALLIN' THE SHOTS

YO! BOSS!

WHO KNEW THEY'D BLEED OUT SLIPPERY?

WHO KNEW?

WATCH YOUR STEP.

BLEED? BLEED OUT?

WHAAAAAA....
GREATER EAST ASIA REPUBLIC (COMMONWEALTH)

Located in the chain of islands composing Eastern Asia, the Commonwealth was established in the 21st century as a socialist nation. With its strong police force and military, the Commonwealth unsurprisingly enjoys one of the lowest national crime rates in the world, with the majority of the population living in peace and tranquility. The occasional protestor or resistance movement is dealt with quickly and efficiently, with the guilty party facing charges of treason. When convicted, they are punished and removed from the country. Heavy limitation on imports has led the Commonwealth to accept a de facto isolationist policy. However, despite widespread humanitarian concerns within the international community, the Commonwealth exports billions in manufactured goods each year, due to the superior quality and low price of their products. As a result, the Commonwealth's economy has the highest per capita GNP in the world.

THE PROGRAM

Official name: Greater East Asia Republic Combat Experiment Program Number 68, aka The Battle Royale Act. This once-controversial yearly program randomly selects a single 9th grade class from a list of 50 possible candidates to engage in a gladiator-style fight to the death. Declared necessary for national defense and safety, the first Battle Royale took place in 1947 and met with fierce opposition from the national anti-military movement. Today, however, the Battle Royale Act has become standard government policy. Participation in The Program cannot be refused, and families of participants view their children's sacrifice as a civic duty. The setting in which the combat takes place varies, usually changing every few years. Past locations have included former prisons, military bases, and remote valleys secured by electric perimeters. The Program's current location is Okishima, a small island north of Takamatsu in the Seto Island Sea.

THE NECKLACE

Official name: Personal Electronic Surveillance and Restraint System. The result of a three-year project funded by the state to develop an infallible restraint and surveillance system for use in government prisons. "The Necklace" is a shock absorbing and waterproof collar that utilizes a triangulation-based tracking device and an internal explosive that can be detonated electronically.
The horror of The Program escalates in this second volume of Battle Royale, Koushun Takami and Masayuki Taguchi’s terrifying tale of friendship and betrayal. Shuuya’s attempts at forming an alliance lead him to the mysterious Shogo Kawada, a transfer student with uncertain motives. Shogo could be a powerful ally...if he can be trusted. Meanwhile—having also decided not to play the game—what fate is in store for devoted couple Sakura and Kazuhiko? And the deadly Kazuo must decide what to do about his gang. Will he allow them to join him? Or will Mitsuru and the rest just slow him down?
STILL COLD.
OFF THE DEEP END SOMETIMES.
NOT THAT ANYONE'D EVER SAY...

BOSS WAS DEEP.

BOWLING BALL...
HUMAN HEAD...
SAME HEPT.

THE HEPT IS THE SAME,
MITSUJI.

YOU SAY SO,
KAZUO.

NOT OUT LOUD.
DISRESPECT THE BOSS
AT YOUR OWN RISK.

...AND SMART, DA-ANN...

VEH.

PERFECT.

VO,
MITSUJI...

CHECK IT OUT.
KAZUO SCORED PERFECT
AGAIN.
ACROSS THE BOARD PERFECT IT WAS HE PUT HIS MIND TO...

...ACROSS THE BOARD, DEAD ON PERFECT.

NO WAY! TEACHER'S A THIRD DEGREE BLACK BELT!
YOU COME FROM THAT KINDA STOCK, THERE'S ALL KINDS OF EXPECTATIONS, PRESSURE, Y'KNOW?

WHAT WITH HIS DAD BEING A HIGH HUCCY-NUCK 'N ALL.

GUESS HE PRETTY MUCH HAD TO BE PERFECT.

BOSS BE WAY TOO HARD TO EVER LET ON.

NOT THAT KAZUO'D EVER LET ON.
OPPOSITES ATTRACT... I GUESS. MAYBE IT'S HIS WAY OF REBELLING...

HARD TO FIGURE WHAT DREW HIM TO THE LIKES OF US... LIKES OF ME.

AIN'T LIKE HE POINTS 'N WE PETCH BOSS DON'T NEED NO SO BOOSTH.

HE WANTS TO DO IT WITH ME ALONG? NO PROBLEM.

LIKE I GIVE A CRAP, BOSS DOES WHAT BOSS WANTS.

GOTTA LOOK THE PART... KNOW WHAT I MEAN?

HE KNEW, PROBABLY KNEW BEFORE I DID.
MAPP US

THE HARDEST
DICTATES
THE LOOK.

GOTTA DO
FOR MAX
IMPACT.
IMAGE IS
EVERYTHING.
EH?

NOT LIKE
 THERE WAS
ANYTHING
WRONG
WITH
BEFORE... 
'S JUST...

THAT
MADE US
A NUMBER
ONE.

BOSS
HAS
A NUMBER
ONE...

THE REST
OF US... WE
KNOW THE REAL
THINGS WHEN WE
SAW IT.

BOSS WAS
HARDEST OF
THE HARD.

THAT
MADE US
HARD WHAT
MORE DID
WE NEED?

THAT WAS
HAS
THE HARVEST
OF
THE MAPs.
WHAT
MORE
DO WE NEED?

HARD
IMPLIES A
LOOK...

WASN'T
NO
HACK
BOY
STUFF
INVOLVED...

WELL,
MAYBE
TSUKIOKA
BIG
SURPRISE
THERE.
THE GROUND... WET... RED WET...

WHO KNEW THEY'D BLEED OUT SLIPPERY?

WATCH YOUR STEP.

WHO KNEW?

HIROSHI!!!
KAZUO?
WHAT...
WHAT...

RYU?

RYUHEE!!!
YOU GOTTAPATALK TO ME...BOSS?

LITTLEMORETHAN SACKSOF FLUIDONCEPUNCTURED.

MOI??I HAD NOIDEA PEOPLEWERE SO...
LYING...
HE'S LYING...

HE KNEW,
HE READ
THE BOOK...

YOU... YOU
HAD NO
CHOICE. THEY
WAS PLAYIN'...
RIGHT?

RIGHT?
THEY BOUGHT
INTO THE
PROGRAM.

THEY...
THEY BOUGHT
IN.

YOU... YOU
HAD NO
CHOICE. THEY
WAS PLAYIN'...
RIGHT?
F*ck 'em. Who... who needs 'em.

Not me! That's for damn sure. Not us! Right?

Sure... sure, boss... had to be. They never was all that bright... heh... Um...

No... I don't need them.

Not us...

Sh-she was with them? She...Damn straight! He...
IZUMI KANAI? IZUMI HATED US! WHY WOULD SHE--

THAT'S... SHE...
They thought I might enjoy kicking things off with a "pink party."

Sigh... by force.

No! A distraction, right, boss? Please?

They... didn't...

But then they...
Heads, I partake of the offering...
I opted to leave it to chance.
And once turned over, they all look the same...
There are, after all, more attractive girls than Izumi.

I guess I just wasn't in the mood.

Response of some kind was required.

Still... they did make the gesture.

As gestures so... let's just say their intentions were good.
DIDN'T MATTER TO ME.

HE INSISTED ON FIRST TOSSED.

HE THOUGHT WE WERE TOSSENG FOR ORDER OF... YOU KNOW.

TAILS, I PLAY TO WIN. I EVEN ASKED HIROSNI FOR THE COIN.

AND STAND UNITED IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROGRAM.
NO!

SAY IT! SAY IT, GODDAMN YOU!

SAY IT ISN'T TRUE!!

TAILS IS TAILS, WHOEVER CALLS IT.
LAST MINUTE REVELATIONS SUCK.
NO CHOICE BUT TO LET THEM BULLET THROUGH YOUR HEAD BEFORE THE BLACKNESS HITS.

... AND COMING AT YOU SO FAST, YOU GOT NO CHOICE.

MOSTLY CAUSE THE TRUTHS IN THEM ARE FINAL.

WHY DOES A GUY LIKE KAZUO HANG WITH LOSERS LIKE US?

END RESULT OF AN EARLIER COIN TOSS NONE OF US KNEW ABOUT? I'M THINKING YES.
LIKE HOW LITTLE A CHANGE IN HAIRSTYLE MATTERS.

AND HOW LITTLE BOSS EVER SAID THAT MATTERED TO ANYONE BUT HIM.

BUT LATE TO START THINKING ABOUT THINGS...

HELL, THOUGHT I WAS HARD RIGHT UP 'TIL... 'TIL I STEPPED IN...

THOUGHT I WAS HARD 'TIL I MET HIM.
WHAT I know... 

BOSS taught me...

TAUGHT ME THE TRUE MEANING OF HARD.

... I just might get it.

TAUGHT ME TO BE CAREFUL WHAT I WISH FOR...

THANK YOU KAZUKO KIHAMA. I AM IN YOUR DEBT.

OH, I GET IT ALL RIGHT.
HARD DON'T CARE. HARD IS COLD... DEAD SOUL COLD.

HARD... HARD DON'T SMILE.

BIT LATE TO DO ME ANY GOOD, BUT I DO GET IT.

NOW... NOW IT HITS ME...

AIN'T THAT A KID...

EVER.

NEVER... NEVER SAW BOSS... SMILE...

SO... MOIST.
CHAPTER 11: Treasure
It's so peaceful.

Yeah.

Peaceful.
NINTH GRADE/CLASS B - GIRL #4:
SAKURA OGAWAI

NINTH GRADE/CLASS B - BOY #21:
KAZUHIKO YAMAMOTO

I'M... GRATEFUL FOR THIS, KAZ.

REALLY IT...

IT MAKES IT... LESS SCARY.

SURE.
That was... pretty bad... guess they mean business... yea.

To Yoshitoki and Fumiyu... after what they did to...

It was, wasn't it? Akamatsu and Tendo are gone, too.

That was Akamatsu and Tendo... outside

You can't know that wishing won't make it so.

You can't know that wishing won't make it so.

Yeah. Not most... some.

Some of us are playing. Maybe most of us...
... but seeing you die... You have to play, Kaz. Play to win.

I don't want to see you die, Kaz! I don't want to die...

They'll come for me! They'll come for me and... and...

I can't! I won't!!

I'm already dead.
TOGETHER, SAKURA. ALWAYS TOGETHER. WE'RE BOTH ALREADY DEAD.

YEAH.

YEAH...
LOOK.
YOU CAN
SEE TOWN
LIGHTS
FROM HERE.

LIKE
STARS.

... FAMILY
THINGS

DOING...

EACH STAR
A FAMILY
EACH
FAMILY
DOING...
THINGS

THEY... THEY
CHOOSE
FAVORITES...
DID YOU KNOW
THAT? MY
BROTHER...

HE HANDICAPS
EACH...
CONTESTANTS.
HE CALLS THEM...
HANDICAPS THEM
FOR HIS
FRIENDS...

GETTING
READY FOR
BED, TALKING
ABOUT THEIR
DAY, STUDY-
ING FOR
EXAMS...

WATCHING
TV...

MAYBE
WATCHING US...
WATCHING THE
PROGRAM...
YOU CAN'T THINK THAT YOU CAN'T!

UM

SACRA.

DON'T!

I CAN'T HELP IT.

DID YOU KNOW... DID YOU KNOW I BET ON THE LAST PROGRAM?

WON'T THEY BE DISAPPOINTED.

DO YOU THINK ANYONE BET ON ME?

SHE WAS KILLED THE NEXT DAY.

I DON'T C-CANT.

SACRA.

EVERYTHING HURTS INSIDE AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT STOP!!

I... I FEEL LIKE I'M LOSING MY MIND!

GOD... LISTEN TO ME!
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE IT BETTER.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO, SAKI.

DAMN THEM ALL TO HELL!

DAMN THEM FOR DOING THIS!

KAK...OO 'RUISHI' M'...

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN THERE FOR YOU... TAKEN BETTER CARE OF YOU WHILE I HAD THE CHANCE...

I'M SORRY, SAKI. I NEVER KNOW WHAT TO DO EVER!

SORRY...

SO SORRY FOR--
YOU WERE CRUSHING ME... I COULDN'T BREATHE.

SEE?
SEE WHAT I MEAN?

STOP LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT AND ANSWER. DO YOU REMEMBER THIS?

HERE.

REMEMBER THIS?

YOU BROUGHT IT ON THE TRIP?
MY BIRTHDAY PRESENT. THE FIRST THING YOU EVER BOUGHT FOR ME.

SILLY!

IT'S A PURSE. I BRING IT EVERYWHERE, ESPECIALLY THIS ONE.

KAIZ? WHAT DO YOU THINK? FUNCTIONAL OR CUTE? KAIZ?

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE YOU PUT ME ON THE SPOT LIKE THAT ON OUR SECOND DATE.

I COULD USE A LITTLE HELP HERE. EARTH TO KAIZ?
... how important it was to me that your gift be perfect.

Well?

Too Ziggy Stardust?

I don't think you understood...

7:

That's why I couldn't decide.

That's why it took so long.

Do you remember? How late it got?

And you... you were no help at all.
BRAW-WWK!

I CRACKED UNDER THE PRESSURE, THERE. NOW YOU KNOW.
I CRACKED OKAY?

HOW'S THAT?

YOU MUST BE BORED TO TEARS.
I'M... SO SORRY, KAI.

... AND I CAN'T BELIEVE I WAS SO BORING!

IT WAS A PRESENT FROM YOU AND... AND IT HAD TO BE SPECIAL 'CAUSE... 'CAUSE... 'CAUSE IT HAD TO BE!

AND... AND I DIDN'T WANT TO... IF MY CHOICE COST TOO MUCH...
ALL MORNING?

FOR YOU.

IT TOOK ME ALL MORNING TO DECIDE WHAT SHIRT TO WEAR.

LISTEN TO ME. GO ON... AS IF A GUY COULD UNDERSTAND.

BUT... I WANTED YOU TO... IT HAD TO BE SPECIAL...

...I'M SUCH AN IDIOT.

I'M SUCH AN IDIOT. I SHOULD HAVE JUST BOUGHT SOMETHING.

ANYONE CAN PULL OFF FUNCTIONAL. DEFINITELY CUTE. BUT CUTE...
THEY WOULDN'T DARE! C'MON!

BUT YOU KNEW. SOMEHOW YOU KNEW.

KAZ... WE CAN'T... THE STORE'S PROBABLY CLOSED...

I DIDN'T THINK YOU WERE PAYING ATTENTION.

... AND POINTING AT THE TWO CRAZY KIDS AND IT WAS...

AND OFF YOU WENT YELLING AND PULLING AND EVERYONE STARING...

... AND SPECIAL.

EMBARRASSING AND WONDERFUL AND...
... because you were paying attention after all.

SPECIAL MOST OF ALL...

YEAH. I WAS.

NOT WITH YOU.

OH, AND KAZ? YOU'RE NOT AN IDIOT.
SAKI! C'MON!
creak...

Together?
EVERY MOMENT WITH YOU, KAZ... ALL SPECIAL.

TOGETHER.

Yeah.
WE CAN STILL MAKE IT!

THERE! YOU SEE?

WE CAN STILL--
YUKIE? YUKIE, WHERE ARE--

I WASN'T PLAYING... I WASN'T PLAYING THE GAME!

NO... NO... NO...

JUMPED! THEY JUMPED!

JUMPED?

BUT WE... WE WEREN'T... WE WOULDN'T...
ALWAYS SPECIAL WITH YOU, KAZ...
**DHK**
The Greater East Asia Republic's public television channel, DHK is the government's primary means of dispensing information. Commonwealth law imposes strict guidelines on the network, and all programming is monitored. However, this is either unknown by the general population or ignored.

**THE ORPHANAGE**
A privately-operated child welfare institution in Shiroiwa. The Orphanage serves as the home for abandoned children found within the Kagawa Prefecture. Older children at The Orphanage all attend Shiroiwa Junior High, a private school. Although a public school exists in Shiroiwa, it is rumored to be a self-defense army training ground, and is largely unattended.

**WILD SEVEN**
Shogo Kawada's cigarettes of choice. Other domestic brands include "Buster" and "High Night."

**AIRWAVE CONTRABAND**
Foreign pop culture is strictly limited within the Greater East Asia Republic. Rock music, long affiliated with rebellion, has been declared illegal within the Commonwealth under the Airwave Contraband Act. Violation of this statute carries a steep penalty; however, tapes, CDs, sheet music, and guitars are easily available on the Black Market. Surprisingly, government-approved electric guitars may also be purchased legally, as the state recognizes they serve a function outside of rock music. Of all restrictions within the Commonwealth, the ban on rock music may be the least effective, and has been compared to the American prohibition of alcohol in the 1920s.
CHAPTER 12: Those Who Come Forth
I know you wouldn't... Ah... Sorry about dozing off.

'OKAY...

The jacket slipped and I... UH...

SIS. YOU WERE...
CONSIDER... OKAY.

NOT A PROBLEM.

HOW'S THE LEG?

MAYBE WE SHOULD SEARCH FIRST?

WE SHOULD FIND US A SAFE PLACE TO HOLE UP IN.

UP FOR A WALK?

I CAN WALK.

SEARCH?

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU SAID. I THINK YOU'RE RIGHT.

WE CAN'T BE THE ONLY ONES.

FOR OTHERS NOT PLAYING THE GAME LIKE US.
WE’LL KEEP AN EYE OUT WHILE WE HUNT DOWN SHELTER.

RIGHT!

BETTER SAFE THAN SORRY, OKAY?

JUST REMEMBER... SOME ARE PROBABLY PLAYING.

OKAY.

BEFORE WE SING OUT, LET’S BE SURE THEY’RE NOT PLAYING.

RIGHT!

!!
A FRIEND... PLEASE, DEAR GOD, LET IT BE A FRIEND...
AND HE'S DECIDED HE WANTS YOU TO HIMSELF.

LOOKS LIKE YOU MADE A NEW FRIEND.

ISN'T HE CUTE?

ISN'T HE JUST THE CUTEST THING?
YOU'RE THE NEW KID. TATSUMICHI, RIGHT?

YOU'RE SAFE WITH US. WE'RE NOT PLAYING!

IT'S OKAY! WE'RE NOT PLAYING!
It doesn't have to be this way. This... but we're not gonna play. You don't have to either.

It's okay... you were scared, right?

We can beat this! Together! Teamwork, right?

...if no one kills.

No one dies...

It doesn't have to be their way!

Remember how we ranked on them?

Like the time we kicked Class A Dragonfly Bun.
WE DID IT THEN, WE CAN DO IT NOW.
TEAM WORK, TATSUMICHI.
TWO WEEKS IN A NEW SCHOOL AND ALREADY A CHAMPION.

WHADDAYA SAY?

SO VERY GLAD.
... SO GLAD, SHUUYA.

I'M...

GLAD YOU'RE WITH US, TATSUMICHI. THAT MAKES THREE OF US.
SO VERY GLAD YOUR PUNY ARMY KNIFE...

... IS NO MATCH FOR MY MACHETE.

SO VERY, VERY GLAD...

OH... SHIT...
NORIKO! RUN!

NEW KID TAKES IT ALL! NEW KID TAKES IT ALL!

GYAH ...

FIRST BLOOD! HAI!

SHUUNA!

HAI!!
TATSUMICHI!

HUUH!

H-NNNNH
"WHY? WHY? WHY ARE THEY PLAYING?!

IT'S NOT A GAME!

WHY IS EVERYONE PLAYING?!

WE'RE DYING OUT HERE!

KILLING! KILLING IS NOT A GAME!

IT'S NOT A GAME, GODDAMN IT!"
AND NOW HE'S... HE'S...
IT'S NOT A FUCKING GAME!!

WE... WE RAN... ON THE
DRAGONFLIES...

NOT A GAME...

NORIKO!

SHE'S ALONE UP THERE!

LIVE UP TO IT

PULL IT TOGETHER, SHI... YOU MADE HER YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.
MY FATHER... A BIG MAN, MY FATHER... BIG, BIG, BIG...

NOTHING LESS THAN A WIN FOR THE BIG MAN, EH?
CLASS PRESIDENT TAKES IT ALL, EH?

NO FAGGOTS! NO FAGGOTS FOR THE BIG MAN!

SHOULD HAVE! SHOULD HAVE, SHUICHI! IT'S WHY I'M HERE!

I NEVER BELIEVED...
THAT DOESN'T EXCUSE THIS! THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO PLAY!

I DON'T CARE WHY YOU'RE HERE!

I DON'T CARE WHY ANY OF US ARE HERE! WE ARE!
MINE!

CHEATER!
NO FAIR
SNEAKING
UP!

GOT TO!

AHN...
AR SHIT!

KYO...

MINE!
MINE!
MINE!

WIN FOR
THE BIG
MAN!

KYO!
NO!
YOU MOVE, I SHOOT.

THEN DON'T MAKE ME.

WE CLEAR?

WELL?

FREEZE! HANDS WHERE I CAN SEE THEM!
ARE YOU?
DOES THIS MEAN... YOU'RE NOT PLAYING?

I... NO.

YOU BRINGING?
YOU BRING IT TO ME, I PLAY.

HOW LONG...
YOU'VE BEEN...

WHAT? WHAT'S WITH THE LOOK?
ALL THAT ABOUT TEAM WORK 'N ALL? YOU MEAN IT?

THEN YOU KNOW! YOU KNOW I MEAN IT!
YOU'VE BEEN SPYING ON US?

BEFORE. ABOUT NOT PLAYING?
YOU MEAN WHAT YOU SAID?
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT I SAID ABOUT TEAM-WORK?!

THEN HOW DO YOU KNOW?

I WASN'T SPYING ON ANY-ONE!

FREEZE, DAMMIT!

WHY DIDN'T YOU HELP SOONER? TATSUMI-CHI! TOGETHER WE COULD HAVE--

HOW DID YOU KNOW I WON'T PLAY?!

THEN... OTHERS MIGHT HAVE...

UM...

VOICES CARRY OUT HERE.

IDIOT.

GOTCHA, HIH? EH?

OMG! HOW MANY OTHERS HEARD? HOW MANY--

SHIT...
SHUHYA

NORIKO!!

She's not playing either!

Don't! She's with me!

That's far enough!

We're all in the same class!

Of course you know her!

I know her. Noriko, right?

I...
NEXT ONE HEARS YOU'S LIABLE TO BE PLAYING. STOP YELLING.

HOW YOU FIGURE? TEAMWORK'S GONNA GET YOU ANYTHING BUT DEAD?

ONLY ONE SURVIVES.

RULES SAY KILL OR BE KILLED. ONLY ONE SURVIVES.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN IT'S JUST THE TWO OF YOU? IF YOU GET THAT FAR.

I TRUST SHUUYA TO DO RIGHT.
Yeah together

We can show everyone that you don't have to play! Together!

We can do this! Together we can get off this island!

Even if escape were possible, which it's not...

What kind of crap have you been feeding her?

What?

What else is there?

Faith.

You think you're the first two to cook up a scheme like this?

Think about it.

That's "wanted," as in "dead or alive." Escape is illegal!

What makes you think you can
I have faith in one another's intentions. In our ability to see this through... no matter what.

Especially here. Especially now. We've got to have faith.

I have faith in us.
KEIKO!

KEIKO! PLEASE!
I didn't know!

I'm sorry! Keiko!

Please...

A-huh...

I trusted you! I trusted you to be there!
THIS TIME...

I CAN DO IT THIS TIME.

KEIKO...

I TRUSTED YOU TO BE THERE!

THIS TIME I CAN BE THERE.

HARD ENOUGH LOOKING OUT FOR OURSELVES. ADD ON A FEW AND...

THIS COMPLICATES THINGS... FOR ALL OF US.

SIGH...

WE GIVE IT A GO.

Okay then...

Okay.
Gruh... I am such a doofus around girls. That is...

She doesn't have to hear that.

Hey! Hey!

That includes defending ourselves.

Just got to play it smart.

Story for another day.

Keiko?!

'Least that's what Keiko always said.

Part a my charm, eh?

I'm hanging my... "faith" on you, Nanahara.

Shuuka Nanahara, right?
OUR LIVES ARE IN EACH OTHER'S HANDS.

BELIEVE IT.

AND KNOW THIS NANAURA. SOMEONE DRAWS DOWN ON ANY OF US, YOU TAKE THEM OUT.

BUZZ BUZZ... IF NOT FOR YOUR OWN SAKE, THEN FOR YOUR LITTLE HONEY HERE.

YOU DON'T THINK, YOU DO.

I...

I DON'T...
WANT TO KNOW WHAT I'M THINKING?

WE'RE NOT... NOT WHATEVER YOU'RE THINKING!

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

NO, NO! IT'S NOT...

I'M THINKING I HIT A NERVE, EH?

HEAR THAT? SHE'S NOT SO FAR OFF.

LISTEN UP...

YOU HEARD HER. I'M "HORRIBLE." DON'T FORCE ME TO PROVE IT.

I'M NOT DYING ON ACCOUNT'A YOU NEEDING TO PLAY HERO.

YOU DECIDE TO GET CARELESS, I LEAVE YOU TO IT.
WE'RE THREE NOW... LIKE THE THREE MUSKETEERS.

DIAL DOWN THE VOLUME A NOTCH, WOULDJA?

BUT, FOR GOD'S SAKE, NANAHIRA ...

YEAH...

WE CAN DO THIS, KAWADA.

GOTCHA!

C'MON. IT'S NOT SAFE OUT IN THE OPEN.

ALRIGHT!

ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL.
MOST SOLID! SOLID!

FUNNY GUY!

GONNA SEND A FEW OF THOSE MOVES MY WAY?

THE LADIES DO LOVE THE SHU-MAN.

SHUU-YAH!

Hey, hey!

SINCE WHEN DOES THE GREAT AND MIGHTY MIMURA NEED ANYONE ELSE’S MOVES?

RIGHT MOVES CAN MAKE ALL THE DIFFERENCE, SHU.

NAME?

HEY, SLICK’S MY...

PRETTY SLICK MOVE YOU RAN ON ME.
LIKE THAT MIDAIR TWIST MOVE...

WAY COOL!

LINED ME UP PERFECT FOR THE BIG CHOP.

BELIEVE IT? DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN, SHU-MAN. IT'S ALL IN THE WAY YOU PLAY.

THAT WASN'T I...

HUM...
I played.

DID IT FOR THE OLD MAN.

IT'S ALL A GAME, SHU. EVERYONE PLAYS!

BODY AND SOUL, SHU! BODY AND SOUL!

PLAY? GAME?
NO! I'M... I'M NOT PLAYING!

DON'T, SHU! DON'T DO IT!

!!

YOUSHI? DON'T...

I'M NOT PLAYING!!
DON'T WATCH HER DIE LIKE YOU WATCHED ME DIE!

DON'T FUCK UP AGAIN!

SHUUYA!

TOO FAST, YOSHI!

IT ALL HAPPENED TOO FAST!

I...
TOKO PAST...

OO...

YOSHI... I LET THEM KILL YOSHI...

I LET THEM

NOT A DREAM...

NO...

IT WAS JUST A DREAM.

SHULYA.

I PUCKED UP!

NO...

THEY WOULD HAVE KILLED YOU TOO.
AND HOW LONG WOULD I LAST WITHOUT YOU TO PROTECT ME?

YOU WOULD.

THEN WHO WOULD KEEP YOSHITOKI’S MEMORY ALIVE?

YOU SMELLED... NICE.

I’M NO STRANGER TO THEM.

DON’T SAY THAT! I HAVEN’T SHOWERED SINCE YESTERDAY!

I AM A GUY. SORRY... IT’S JUST...

WE MIGHT HAVE TO CONSIDER GAGGING YOU.

HEAR ME OUT HERE...

EVEN ASLEEP YOU’RE TOO LOUD.
THE STUFF YOU WISH YOU COULDN'T TAKE BACK.

GUilty stuff.

IF THAT'S TRUE, THEN NIGHTMARES MUST BE YOUR HEAD SORTING THROUGH UNPLEASANT STUFF.

I'VE HEARD THAT DREAMS ARE THE WAY YOUR HEAD SORTS THINGS OUT...

DEEP THINKER...

NEVER KNOW TO LOOK AT HIM.


... AS YOUR HEAD MAKING SURE THE LESSON STICKS.

THINK OF IT AS...

THAT KINDA STUFF'S NEVER PLEASANT... IT'S NOT SUPPOSED TO BE.

LEARN, AND IT'S ALL RAINBOWS AND WET DREAMS...

WENT BACK FOR...

YOU AIM...

STOW THESE. THAT'S 'N' KYO'S.

JEEZ... LISTEN TO ME RATTIN' ON. IT'S COLD SWEATS AND--
Waste not want not dump everything in one bag easier to carry.

Careful. Odds are it's loaded.

What's with the... whatever that is?

Um... Kaido?

This is what you call your basic alarm system.

Sigh... amateurs...
There's that word again, eh?

Primitive...

But effective. Trust me.

Someone trips a string...

I've strung out a twenty meter perimeter, give or take.

... Down comes Mister Wood. Thudda bump. No more element of surprise.

Um...

You're pretty... up on things like... like this?

Oh... and watch you don't trip it if you gotta offload.

Unless we got us a trust issue here?

Ask me no questions, I'll tell you no lies.

noticed that, did you?
CHECK THAT PIECE OUT. MAKE SURE IT'S CARRIVING A FULL CHAMBER.

GRUH... DON'T MIND ME. I'M JUST JERKING YOUR CHAIN.

SOMEONE STILL DOESN'T GET IT...

WHY'M I LOADING... I THOUGHT WE AGREED...

HEY! BACK IT UP!

NOW YOU GOTTA BELIEVE IT.

YEAH... YOU KNOW IT...

... DOESN'T MEAN THEY'RE NOT PLAYING...

I KNOW THAT!

ONCE MORE JUST BECAUSE WE'RE NOT PLAYING...
I JUST WANT TO BE SURE WE'RE TALKIN' SELF DEFENSE HERE.

I WAS THE ONE ALMOST GOT HIS HEAD HANDEO TO HIM BACK THERE.

I BELIEVE IT!

TIME? FOR WHAT?!

YEAH ALMOST TIME.

OHHHH UP!

AND ONLY SELF DEFENCE

AHH A QUICK REMINDER BEFORE WE GET DOWN TO IT...

... SO I'LL TRY TO KEEP THIS BRIEF.

I KNOW HOW PRESSSED YOU ALL ARE FOR TIME...

WHAT SAY WE FORGO RITUAL AND GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT, EH?

AND SHINE, LITTLE KILLERS.

TIME FOR HOME ROOM.
RIGHT THEN. ON TO THE DEAD. BOY NUMBER ONE; YOSHIKICHI AKAMATSU...

MULTIPLE ANGLES MAKE IT THAT MUCH EASIER TO PACKAGE THE HIGHLIGHT REEL FOR DVD. YOU UNDERSTAND.

DO TRY TO LIMIT YOUR ACTIVITIES TO THOSE AREAS COVERED BY MORE THAN ONE CAMERA, IF YOU COULD.

AKAMATSU!

HE WAS... HE WAS ALIVE WHEN WE... WE...

LEPT HIM TO DIE.

ENOUGH OF THAT!

YOU DIDN'T KILL HIM. END OF STORY.
A record breaking pace set from the start!
0900; F-1

Effective from 0700; area J-2.

1100; H-3.

Moving on to "restricted" areas... I hope you have your pencils ready...

Bugs us a bit more r and r... so to speak.

Not us this time.

Hihi!

Sorry, couldn't resist. 'Til next time...

![Map Image]

Some... you heard. They're playing.

Look not to pull an "I told you so"...
FROM NOW ON, EVERYONE WE RUN ACROSS, WE ASSUME THEY'RE PLAYING.

I DON'T CARE IF IT'S YOUR F**KING MOTHER, ASSUME SHE'S PLAYING, GOT IT?

YUMIKO KUSAKA YUKIKO KITANO
I MEAN... WILL THEY BELIEVE US AND COME?

WE DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL BELIEVE US!

LIKE YOU SAID, RIGHT? GOT TO TRY.

TOGETHER, RIGHT? WE DO IT TOGETHER.

OKAY... OKAY! WE DO IT.

IT'S OKAY, YUKI. I CAN DO IT ALONE.

NO, WE DON'T...

MAYBE... MAYBE THEY WILL COME. SURE!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I...

OH NO! THAT'S... OH!

DO YOU... UM...

SURE THEY WILL... SURE...

DO I WHAT?
THIS AGAIN?

DO YOU THINK SHUUKA WILL COME?

DO YOU THINK... IF... UM...

I WAS JUST...

Y'KNOW... IF ANYONE COMES... Y'KNOW?

AND?

I DON'T HAVE A MOTHER... KAYADA...
I want that on the record too.

Speaking of which... I'm not giving up hope.

Just setting the record straight.

Not everyone is playing. Count on it!

Let's find out.

Let's find out if he'll come together!

He will. I just know he will!
CHAPTER 15: Conditions

![Image of a mountain scene with a building and children]

Well...

Here... Here we are.
Viki...
You don't have to be a part of it.
I don't know.
I...

I don't...

What if they're playing?

If we do this...

Call out to...

If we...

Who's to say it won't be fifteen dead?

And here we are.

And thirteen of us are dead.

And...

Huh?

I'm sorry, Yumiko...

I know that!

I know that!

I'm always doing this to you.

I'm always in your way.

Maybe I should order for you.

I...

There's so much!
Always giving with a smile...
Always there with a happy thought...
Always in the way.

Poor, Yuki. Such a nuisance...

It matches mine!

I think I even made the same mistakes!

We always end up blushing.

I know.

There... See what you've done, now?

Being there was always enough, Yuki...

Yuki? You baked this yourself?

I wanted to be your friend and... And friends do things for friends...

I wanted to do those things!

I wanted to!
Ms. Takata's Home Ec Class?

I can't believe we're sitting here talking about this.

Viki? Help?

Ah! Hmmm...

It's because I broke the shell, isn't it?

What brought this on?

Ms. Takata!
IT... FELT GOOD.

YOU HAD TO DEPEND ON ME THAT TIME. REMEMBER?

WAY COOL...

HERE, SEE? IF YOU USE CHOPSTICKS...

THE YOLKS WON'T HARDEN UNEVEN.

A VERY GOOD TEAM.

YOU TWO MAKE A GOOD TEAM.

OH MY, THESE ARE SO APPETIZING!

AM... AM...

ONE THING THOUGH... YUKIKO?

A LITTLE LESS TIME BOILING. SEE HOW YUMIKO'S YOLKS ARE BRIGHTER?

Ouch...

I'D FORGotten HOW HELPING ME MESSED YOU UP.

NO GOOD deed goes unpunished, EN?

SEEZ... NOT TOO Awkward HERE...
COOKING'S ALL
I'VE EVER BEEN
BETTER AT, THE
ONLY THING YOU
NEEDED MY
HELP WITH.

STUPID, I
KNOW, BUT
THAT'S THE
WAY I FELT AT
THE TIME.

DON'T.
THAT'S NOT
WHY I
BROUGHT
IT UP.

DOES THAT MAKE
ANY SENSE?
GOD, I WAS
SUCH A DILW.

OH MY...
I DIDN'T
MEAN... OH
MY...

I-IT'S
NOT...
UM...

I THOUGHT
IT'D... I
QUICKLY
HELPED YOU
PASS ME...

OBESE-
LICIOUS!
YOU SCREWED UP
OUR GETAWAY
BEFORE WE EVEN GOT IN!

NOW YOU'VE DONE IT!

SHU...

CHECK IT OUT,
YOSHIKOU! WAY GOOD!

OH MY!

OH....

ACTUALLY... UM...

VUKO...

VIKI, YUMI,
THESE ARE YOURS?

I DON'T CARE.

THESE ARE SO GREAT!
YUKI AND YUMI ARE LIKE ME AND YOSHI.

TOGETHER WE ARE INVINCIBLE! EVIL BEWARE!

KARATE MASTER HIROSHI AND GENIUS SCIENTIST TAKESHI... ALONE WE ARE STRONG!

WELL NOW, AREN'T YOU TWO SOMETHING?

BARON GONZ IS SO COO...

HM...

ALL THAT JUST TO POINT OUT THEY'RE AN ODD COUPLE? YEEGH!

OKAY... ARE WE EMBARRASSED ENOUGH YET?

JUST LIKE ME AND YOSHI.

YEAH... EXCEPT FOR BEING GIRLS...

EHM...
Back then I was... kinda afraid of boys.

Pretty stupid, huh?

Then with Shuuya and Yoshi... it was like...

They were... so loud... always fighting and...
CHANGE! COMBINE!!
GO! GO!
BARON GONG BATTLE!

MADE MORE AWESOME WHEN WE...

HA! TWO COMBINE TO MAKE A STRONGER ONE!
BARON GONG POWER!

SHUWW! YOU'LL GET US BOTH KEEP AFTER SCHOOL!

Neeee!! I AM RENEWED!

?!?!
LIKE US?

I HAVE THE
POWER OF
TWO! JUST
LIKE VIIMI
AND YUKI!

DON'T
LISTEN TO
HIM, NO ONE
KEEPS BARON
GONG AFTER
SCHOOL!

THEN WE
CAN LEAVE?

AHHH... UH...

BARON
GONG
POWER!

LET'S
SHOW THEM
HOW IT'S
DONE!

COME ON,
LOYAL SIDE-
KICK! UP
HERE WITH
ME!

THAT'S THE
SHADOW!

WHO
KNOWS
WHAT EVIL
LURKS IN
THE--

UH...

BARON GONG
PLEASE! GO!
GO! YOSHIKI!

AH...

TEAM
UP TO
FIGHT
EVIL!
HE WAS SPYING ON US?

MAYBE HE SAW HOW UPSET YOU WERE.

I MEAN... ALL THAT OVER A HARD BOILED EGG?

CRAZY, SURE... THEY ARE BOYS, Y'KNOW?

NOT SCARY AT ALL.

NO ONE WAS ALLOWED TO BE BAD WITH SHUIYA AROUND.

SHUIYA ALWAYS HAD HIS ANTENNAE OUT...

NOT LIKE THAT! YOU KNOW...

I LIKE TO THINK... THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED.

THAT WHOLE "ONE FROM TWO" BIT... MAYBE HE SAW WE NEEDED TO HEAR IT.

ONE COO COUPLE TO ANOTHER.
YUKI?
LIKE SHUNYA AND YOSHI, RIGHT?

TOGETHER!
LIKE BARON GONG!

LET'S DO IT. LET'S CALL THEM ALL!

TOGETHER, ODD COUPLE TO ODD COUPLE.

CHANGE... COMBINE. RIGHT?
I don't know how much longer I can pretend to be brave.

Just a little longer, Yuki...

Just... let's hurry. Okay?

Just a little longer...
Yeah?

It's probably gonna come to that. Best be ready.

Cut 'n run?

Just wanted to hear you say it. Okay.

That doesn't...

Just because I refuse to play...

Figure a way out of these collars, see how fast I book!

How stupid do I look, Kawada?
Nothing is ever 100 percent. Not even this game.

There's got to be a way!

Easier said than done.

The collars... you called it. Ditch the collars and...

You may have a point.

There's always something overlooked! Always!

Then again... you may not.

Big help there, Ace.
THAT THERE IS A WAY OFF THIS ISLAND.

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THERE IS A WAY.

Huh!

LESS VOLUME, DAMMIT!

SWEAR TO GOD THAT BIG MOUTH OF YOURS WILL GET US ALL KILLED!

A WAY?! WHERE?! HOW?!

GO ON.

... THERE'S TWO THINGS I GOTTA HEAR.

BEFORE I SAY ANY MORE...
EVERYBODY! PLEASE LISTEN!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLAY!

A-HEM

!!

!!

!!

YUMI AND YUKIKO!

AND YUKIKO!

YUKIKO?

WHO...

RUMA...
TO US' YOU PONT HAYS TO PLAY/

WE'RE NOT ALONE! WHAT? I TELL YOU? HAH? ALRIGHT!

JOIN US!

JOIN US AT THE HILLTOP LOOKOUT!

LISTEN TO US! YOU DON'T HAVE TO PLAY!

NO! WE CAN'T LET THEM-

IDIOTS! ALL THEY'RE DOING...

THEY'RE SITTING DUCKS UP THERE!

THEY'RE AN EASY OUT FOR WHOEVER GETS THERE FIRST!

DIE UP THERE WITH THEM?!

GOT TO WHAT?!

LET GO! WE'VE GOT TO

NOT IF WE GET THERE FIRST! WE CAN--
Hope that whoever takes them out doesn't tumble to us down here.

END OF DISCUSSION.

Let everyone else die without lifting a finger to help?!

Then what? Just step over the corpses as we leave?!

That's bullsh*t!

Is this part of the big escape secret?

What does that make us, Kajama? What does that make us?!
CHAPTER 16: The Right Thing To Do

NOW'S THAT BETTER THAN PLAYING?!

HOW'S THAT MAKE US ANY BETTER THAN...

THAN...

THAT'S IT, ISN'T IT?

EVERYONE DIES AND WE WALK!

DAMMIT, KAWADA!

THAT MAYBE THEY'RE NOT THINKING STRAIGHT?!

EVERY THINK THEY DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER?!

LINE?

BUT DRAWING UNWANTED ATTENTION? THAT'S WHERE WE DRAW THE LINE!

ANYONE WHO WANTS CAN JOIN US. ANYONE!

WILL YOU SHUT UP AND LISTEN?!
How many more times you gotta be ambushed?

There's a lot of open field between here and that lookout.

How about you? You thinking straight?

You think they'd be up there announcing their location if they were thinking straight?!

Of course they're not thinking straight!

Didn't Kyohachi and Taishi teach you anything?!

But you will not take us with you!

Now... You thinking straight?

You want to throw your life away... fine!
...KANADA?

HEAD COULD USE AN OVERHAULING, THOUGH...

TELL YAH, SHII... YOUR HEART'S IN THE RIGHT PLACE, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

BUT...

THEY...

WE CAN FIND A BETTER WAY!

WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

WE... WE CAN'T JUST... KANADA...

NOT SMART...

DOESN'T MEAN WE WON'T FILE THIS UNDER...

WE DON'T HAVE TO DO DAMN ALL!
Take the hint, Luger. That has a shotgun...
YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS! WE KNOW YOU DON'T!

PLEASE! STOP SHOOTING! LISTEN TO US!

C'MON...

BOLT! RUN! GET OUT OF THERE!

PLEASE LISTEN...

FIRE AGAIN!

IT DIDN'T WORK!

OH!
BUT...

TWICE? NOT AN OPTION.
ANOTHER SHOT AND OUR POSITION IS BROADCAST. ONCE WAS RISKY...

I DON'T DO SUI-CIDE

SHIT...

WE KNOW YOU DON'T WANT TO DO THIS!
WE KNOW YOU ALL!

TOGETHER WE CAN FIND A BETTER WAY!

BARON GONG! CHANGE! COMBINE!

LOOK!
THIS IS HIM, RIGHT?

YEAH!

YUMI...

YUKI...
NO... I CAN'T... I WON'T ACCEPT THAT.

THEY'RE AS GOOD AS DEAD.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO GET THROUGH TO YOU?!

WHAT?!

BARON GONG... CHANGE, COMBINE.
I'm going to pull them out of there. See if I don't.

All I've done is talk about it. They're trying to do it.

Given the opportunity... it's what I'd do.

I'm... I'm going to try...

Because... it's the right thing to do.

Because what they're doing... the risk they're taking...
RAT-A-PUCK-IN-RAT...

HK-UK-KK...

SOMEONE CAME... YUMI...

HO-HRAH!

NOT SHUUYA... NO...

DON'T... DONT THINK IT WAS SHUUYA.

I DON'T THINK...

SHUUYA...

VUMI?
I WAS SCARED ENOUGH FOR BOTH OF US.

REMEMBER? NO. I'M THE 'FEARFUL CAT.'

SO SORRY, YUKI. I... I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE SCARED...

STUPID IDEA...

STUPID...

NO... NO...

NOT WITHOUT ME...

NO...

VUHM? YUNI?!

VEH...

SCARED...

YEH...

NO!

OH...

TOGETHER! ALWAYS TOGETHER!

NO!!

COME BACK!
AHEN...

NOT WITHOUT ME!!

NOT... WITHOUT ME!

SORRY...

SO... SOR...

SHUUYA...

SHOULD HAVE BEEN...

SHII... SHOULD HAVE...

THAT... THAT WOULD HAVE...

SHUUYA... SHOULD HAVE BEEN...

VUKI... SHOULD HAVE BEEN...
...so nice if... Shinya had... had come...

Shinya...

You couldn't know...

I...

I'm sorry! I didn't...

A-ah! Hurts!
Don't leave me... Don't you dare!

Just... just don't! Okay.

Oh... you're bleeding...

A little...

![Image](image_url)

Right? Look at us... we even... even bleed together.

We'll go together always together.

Well...

Yuui...? Yumiko?

The odd couple.

Right?

That's us alright...

Yeah...
NNNNNNNOOOO
OOOOOOOO
!!

NOHH...

CURRENT STUDENT TALLY:
15 DEAD
27 SURVIVORS

BLAM!
Mostly because that's me. I'm looking at younger, but still me.

Huh...

Ever have one of those dreams where you know you're dreaming?

Like now... I know I'm dreaming this.

There I go again. Miss indecision.

It's just... Everything looks so...

Oh! Um...

Hah...

Always thought I was cuter than that. Go figure.

Dammnit. I was cuter than that!

You gonna be at it all day?

Good.
SIDE STORY: Energy

NORIKO! YOU MADE IT!

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER, EH?

I REMEMBER THIS! THE BALL GAME! SURE...

SORRY... MY BAD.
SCHOOL SPIRIT AND ALL THAT, DONCHA KNOW.

GRIN AND BEAR IT.

HOW COME IT WE ALLUS GOTTA COME OUT 'N CHEER 'N STUFF?

HOW COME...

ARE WE WINNING?

SO...

LOOK ON THE BRIGHT SIDE. IT'S THE AMERICAN NATIONAL PASTIME, TOO.

AMERICAN GIRLS ARE SUFFERING, TOO.

JEE HUH...

BASEBALL, OUR NATIONAL PASTIME. LUCKY US.

...YOU GET TO EYEBALL MIMURA IN SHORTS.

AT LEAST WITH BASKETBALL...

I WISH IT WAS BASKETBALL SEASON.

DO WE CARE?
GOT IT.

GOT IT?

THEY'RE WEARING KNICKERS!

I MEAN, COME ON!

COACH SAYS YOU'RE CUT IF WE LOSE THIS ONE.

BAD NEWS FROM THE BENCH. NOT GOOD.

BASH OUT! LET'S GO! WHIFF HIM!
LET'S WIN THIS SUCKER BEFORE WE ALL GET NEAT STROKE.

WHAT YOU WAITING FOR?

BASES LOADED, NO ONE DOWN, BOTTOM OF THE NINTH...

HUH!

NOT AS HELL OUT HERE...

YEH...
That's one!
THAT'S TWO!

INCOMING!!

AND THREE!

PIECE'A CAKE!

SWEET CATCH!

THAT'S THE GAME!
WHO'S THE NEW KID?

HUN?

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY. AND ME. HMM...

THAT'S SHIYAMA NANAHARA. GEEZ, NORIKO. YOU GOTTA GET OUT MORE.

NOT ALL THAT NEW.

OH... MY... GOD...

I CAN'T BELIEVE I ACTUALLY SAID THAT!

THERE'S NOT A GIRL IN SCHOOL DOESN'T HAVE A CRUSH ON HIM. ME INCLUDED.

SIGH... HOW COME EVERYONE IN MY DREAMS LOOKS BETTER THAN ME?!
HE WON THE GAME! NOW'S HE OFF THE TEAM?!

OFF THE TEAM?!

NOW SHUVA... SHUVA CAN NEVER LOOK TOO GOOD.

HE LOVES THE GAME AS MUCH AS ANY OF US!

THIS IS SO UNFAIR!

SHUVA?

END OF STORY. HE'S CUT. PERIOD.

HE PUT US IN A HOLE. YOU DUG US OUT.

YOU DID.

HE DIDN'T WIN THE GAME.

YOU ABOUT DONE?
WINNING IS ALL THERE IS! LOSERS STAY LOSERS!

YOU WATCH THAT TONGUE, BOY.

THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN WINNING!

THAT'S BULLSHIT!

YOU KNOW HIM?

KID OVER THERE DIGGING HIS OWN GRAVE...

WOMPF!

'IS THAT NANAHARA KID, AIN'T IT?

VO!

WE BUNK TOGETHER AT THE ORPHA... UH... HOME.
He keeps it up, not only's he gonna get cut...

Doesn't know when to quit, does he?

He'll wind up red checked on his permanent record.

You think?

He doesn't care.

I know Shuuya... he...

He does what he thinks is right. Consequences be damned.

Join him then! You are so cut, Nanahara!

Good to know...

Really?
OH... HEY, SHII!

Hey, hold up a sec!

Don't let it get to you.

WE DON'T NEED THEM TO PLAY BALL.

Their way's no damn fun anyhow.

Screw 'em!

He's crazy!

No performance bullshit. Just baseball. Clean and simple!

Good crazy!

You know our own team.

What say we start our own?

Yeah... right...

What?
NEITHER DO YOU.

WISE UP, NANAHARA. STOP BUCKING THE SYSTEM.

I GOT HIGH SCHOOL ENTRY EXAMS NEXT YEAR.
I DON'T NEED THIS, OKAY?
I DON'T NEED NO TROUBLE.

THAT WAS SO UNFAIR! SHUIYA... HE...

SHUIYA...
HOW COME I CAN ONLY REMEMBER BAD DREAMS?!

THAT'S ANOTHER THING...

SIGH...

MIMURA... WHY THE HELL ARE YOU HERE?

OH, I FEEL MUCH BETTER NOW.

SHE'S SKIN'S THICK ENOUGH. HE'LL GET OVER IT.

GONNA BACK THE SYSTEM, BEEP GROW THICK SKIN.

HE'S STILL PLAYING MARTYR?

BORISNOW, FOR THE MOST PART.

HRM...

NOW!

TOO MUCH TIME AND TOO LITTLE TO FILL IT.
IS THIS WHERE SHUUYA NANAONOO LIVES?

Agh! Shu... here... hum?

I sound like a jerk!

Is he okay?

Some of the girls... we heard Shuuyu got cut and...

They wanted me to... is, um...

He's out back working on his tan.

That or he's dead.

The "girls," eh?
SHUUIYA?

TOTAL DISCONNECT TOTAL.

THAT PRETTY MUCH SUMMER BREAK.

BARELY SHUUIYA...

SHUUIA!

WAITING FOR SHU TO SNAP OUT OF IT.

HEY! YOU ARE NOW LISTENING TO PIRATE RADIO, HOME OF THE ROCK 'N' ROLL RESISTANCE!

THAT'S HOW IT STARTED.

HANGING WITH YOSHI AND MIMI.
NO WAY!

ALLLL THE BEST ROCK 'N' ROLLERS ARE OUTLAWS! LISTEN 'N' LEARN!

NO WAY THAT'S ARMADA!

GUESS NO ONE EVER SAID IT OUT STRAIGHT FOR HIM...

BIG BROTHER MAY HAVE OUTLAWED ROCK 'N' ROLL, YES HE DID, MY PEEPS, MY PEEPS...

UM...

WHO?

JUST LISTEN.

TILL I FIND OUT.

WHO'S THIS?
I HAVE SEEN THE LIGHT!

THE MUSIC IS THE MESSAGE!
LONG LIVE THE ROCK 'N' ROLL RESISTANCE!
SIGH...

HEY! WHO'S THE CHICK!

WHAT? TOO SUDDEN?

SEEN YOU PLAY, MAN. YOU GOT ALL THE RIGHT MOVES!

AREN'T YOU SHUJI MIMURA? HOOP KING MIMURA?

YOU REALLY WERE OUT OF IT. WELCOME BACK.

TOOK YOU THIS LONG TO NOTICE HER?

AND NOT ALL RESTRICTED TO THE BEEBALL COURT.

UH... HUH...

SHUHYA'S FOUND HIS CALLING. LET'S HEAR THAT GUITAR TALK, M'MAN!

SHUHYA, WHAT JUST HAPPENED HERE?

NORIKO I... UM...

THE "CHICK" HAS A NAME.

HEL-LO!

STOP STARING AT THEM, YOU IDIOT!
YOU WANT TO BECOME A ROCK STAR...

IN A COUNTRY THAT HAS OUTLAWED ROCK 'N' ROLL.

WITH ME MANAGING YOU, NATCH.

I SAY GO FOR IT!

I NEVER SAID IT'D BE EASY...

SAY IN A YEAR OR TWO? OR MORE...

TAKE A RAIN CHECK ON THAT?

THAT'S AHH...

EVERYONE STARTS SOMEWHERE. I JUST GOTTA PRACTICE AT IT.

BUT NOT A PROBLEM.
THEN YOU JUST BOUNCE BACK LIKE... LIKE... I WISH I HAD YOUR SPIRIT!

I CAN'T BELIEVE THE CHANGE IN YOU!

WE THOUGHT YOU'D GIVEN UP ON... ON EVERYTHING!

I THINK YOU SHOULD... UM... GO FOR IT?

UM... THAT IS... AH...

I NEVER SAID I WAS... THREE FANS! TWO MORE, MAN!

HELL, I JUST STARTED AND ALREADY I GOT THREE FANS!

GONNA MAKE IT HAPPEN, GONNA ROCK!

DAMN STRAIGHT!
Damn straight, go with it!

It's hard to be sad around Shu... even in a dream...

I just wish I hadn't worn that dress. God, I was such a dweeb!

Rock and roll!

To be continued...
SHIRO IWA Junior High School - Grade 9/Class B - Student Roster
Boys: 21 - Girls: 21 - Total: 42

15: Noriko Nakagawa  8: Kayoko Kotohiki  1: Mizuho Inada
16: Yuka Nakagawa  9: Yuko Sakaki  2: Yukio Utsumi
17: Satomi Noda  10: Hiroko Shimizu  3: Megumi Etou
18: Fumiyo Fujiyoshi  11: Mitsuko Souma  4: Sakura Ogawai
19: Chisato Matsui  12: Haruka Tanizawa  5: Izumi Kanai
20: Kaori Minami  13: Takako Chigusa  6: Yukiko Kitano
21: Yoshimi Yahagi  14: Mayumi Tendo  7: Yumiko Kusaka

15: Shuuya Hanafara  8: Yoji Kuramoto  1: Yoshio Akamatsu
16: Kazushi Niida  9: Hiroshi Kuronaga  2: Keita Iijima
17: Mitsuru Numai  10: Ryouhei Sasagawa  3: Tatsumichi Ooki
18: Tadakatsu Natagami  11: Hiroki Sugihara  4: Toshinori Odza
19: Shinji Minura  12: Yutaka Sato  5: Shogo Kawada
20: Kyoichi Motobuchi  13: Yuichiro Takiguchi  6: Kazuo Kiriyama
21: Kazuhiko Yamamoto  14: Sho Tsukio  7: Yoshitoki Kuninoebu
THE PROGRAM: UPDATE
CHAPTERS 9-16

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 be detonated.

CHAPTER 10:
Mitsuru Numaj is killed by Kazuo Kiriyama.

CHAPTER 11:
Mitsuru Numaj is killed by Kazuo Kiriyama.

CHAPTER 15-16:
Yukiko Kitane and Yumiko Kusaka call out to the others.

CHAPTER 13:
Shige Kowa shoots Kyoichi Motobuchi.

CHAPTER 13:
Kazuhiko Yamamoto and Saka Ogaewa commit suicide.
IN THE NEXT VOLUME OF BATTLE ROYALE:

The futility of the situation begins to set in for Shuuya and Noriko, as the students realize they might not be able to save their friends. However, just when things are at their darkest, a new wave of hope comes with a startling revelation by Shogo. But can he be trusted? While Shuuya considers his next move, the motives of some other key players become clear as we learn whether the enigmatic Hiroki and the innovative Shinji wish to escape from the game or win it.

Plus: The sordid past of the dangerously sexy Mitsuko is revealed. Can you handle it?
CREATOR’S NOTES

Even though Shuuya Nanahara eventually turned out to be an “optimistic protagonist”, he started out differently. I originally created a typical impulsive and hot-tempered character who would fit in technically, but in the end, I think his optimistic and naïve character is more appropriate.

For example, we face numerous trials in our daily lives, but even when it looks completely hopeless, we shouldn’t make the mistake of simply saying “the end.” One who always has hope can be called optimistic, but in emergencies or other times of tribulation, hope becomes essential. So in this story, the students may be helpless, but without hope they cannot confront their dilemma.

As many American novelists say, nothing is worse than hopelessness...although in this case, the students must hold onto what little they have in order to survive.

November 2000 Koushun Takami

熱血正義/ムラ* 田村雅之

* Not-tempered prick

Let's fill our minds with energizing ideas such as “We live honestly!”

Masayuki Taguchi