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In the near future, a random class of 9th graders has been kidnapped, marooned on an island, and forced to compete on The Program, a popular reality show that requires its contestants to battle to the death.

Shuuya Nanahara, Noriko Nakagawa, and transfer student Shogo Kawada have agreed not to play the game. However, their fragile alliance has become even more tenuous since Shogo revealed that he actually played—and won—last season's deadly game.

Meanwhile, Yutaka Sato, the boy who could never catch a break, believed his luck was changing when he teamed up with basketball star Shinji Mimura. Unfortunately, Shinji's attempt to hack into The Program's mainframe was shut down, leaving the two boys back where they started.

Finally, martial artist Hiroki Sugimura has been searching for Takako Chigusa, but the crazed Kazushi Niida found her first. Niida drew first blood, but Takako swore not to go down without a fight...
CHAPTER 25: Honor
KAFF KAFFAK!
PANTY RAID!

UH-HUH... UH-HUH...
H-OW!
I'll die first!

Not me...

Hey now!

GOT US A PIECE'A BIG MOUTH BITCH!

Now what do you figure that big ol' mouth'd be good for?

Ain't this something!

Look what we got here! Got us a piece!
YOU’LL HAVE TO KILL ME! YOU HEAR ME?!

I’D RATHER DIE THAN...

THINK YOU CAN DO THAT, BIG MAN?!

GETTING OFF ON IT, YOU TWISTED FUCK?!
HAVING FUN?

TSK...

!?
YOU STILL DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?

SAY IT.

GASP!
STOP HITTING ME! I WANT IT!!

COLO AS A MACHINE, THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY. LET'S SEE IF I CAN'T WARM YOU UP...

I WANT IT! I WANT IT! STOP!

THERE NOW... THAT WASN'T SO HARD.

WASN'T SO HARD AT ALL...

AROUND SCHOOL... KNOW WHAT THEY CALL YOU?

ROBO-BITCH.
NOT SO HIGH TONE NOW, ARE YOU?

BIG MOUTH BITCH...

ROBO-BITCH...

NOT SO F***ING HIGH TONE NOW!!

STOKE THE FURNACE 'N' YOU'RE BEGGIN' FOR IT.

WHAT? NOTHING TO SAY?

YOU COLD BITCHES'RE ALL THE SAME...

YOU LIKE THAT? SURE YOU DO...

WELL DONE, LADIES. DISMISSED!
CHECK WHAT OUT?

OHHH?

WE'VE GOT TO CHECK IT OUT AFTER CLASS!

WAY COOL!

... SWERS BY IT. SHE SAYS THE PASTRIES ARE TO DIE FOR!

JUST GIRLIE STUFF

YEH

YOU... AH... TAKAKO...

AH... YOU WOULDN'T BE INTERESTED.

YEH... LATER... BYE.

WE'LL... CATCH YOU LATER, OKAY?

I KNOW! I KNOW!

IT'S LIKE SHE...
EVER TRY TALKING TO HER? ZERO RESPONSE. I MEAN... ZERO.

ALL QUEENIE LIKE THAT. YEAH! THAT'S IT!

...LIKE SHE'S SO MUCH BETTER THAN US!

LIKE WE'RE IMPOSITIONS, Y'KNOW?

HUH!

HI, TAKARO... WE Gotta...

MAN...

SEE YOU TOMORROW...
TELL THEM THAT!

THEM CAN'T JUST GO AROUND

YOU SHOULD HAVE CALLED THEM ON IT!

THEY ACTUALLY SAID THAT?

GOO! THEY MAKE ME SO MAD!

WHAT'D I DO?

HOW'M I...

THE "SUGI TAP," AT A LOSS FOR WORDS AGAIN?

THERE IT IS AGAIN!
SORRY... BAD MOOD.

THAT HARD TO GET TO KNOW?

SUGI? AM I... REALLY THAT UPTIGHT?

WHERE DID THAT COME FROM? DAMMIT, SUGIMURA!

WHAT?

YOU'RE... YOU'RE WORTH THE EFFORT.
C'mon, Shou. Give me a break.

Taka! Hello!

Hello!

Fine, but Hanako knows, don't you, boy?

We've known each other too long.

So don't go getting any ideas about... you know!

Don't go getting all weird on me.

...You'd never pass by without stopping to pet him.

Always so gentle... so kind...

I'm just saying... ever since Hanako was a puppy...
AN ACT OF KINDNESS IS AN ACT OF KINDNESS.

PERSON... DOG...

HFF ...

I HEARY

HE GIVES ME DOGS. THANKS
A HEAP, SUGI.

GREAT...

I ASK HIM ABOUT PEOPLE...

TAKA! HELLO!

OKAY... MAYBE SO...

HUN...

THEY'VE GOT YOU ALL WRONG. I KNOW.

LOOK... WHAT I'M REALLY TRYING TO SAY...

YEAH.

THAT'S NOT A BAD THING TO HAVE. PRIDE.

YOU'VE GOT PRIDE. IN YOURSELF...

IN WHAT YOU DO.
AS LONG AS THERE’S HONESTY...

AND I’VE NEVER MET ANYONE MORE HONEST THAN YOU. YOU KNOW YOUR LIMITATIONS...

THAT’S NEVER STOPPED YOU FROM TRYING TO EXCEED THEM. TO SOME, THAT CAN BE... INTIMIDATING.

IN A GOOD WAY.

NOW I’M INTIMIDATING!

GREAT...

I WAS BETTER OFF WITH YOU TAPPING YOUR NOSE!

I SHOULD KNOW BETTER BY NOW!

YOU’RE NEVER ANY HELP AT ALL!

WHY DO I BOTHER?

YOU’RE TWISTING MY WORDS!

THAT’S NOT...

HMM...

Huh?!
THANK YOU

SOME PEOPLE JUST GIVE UP TOO EASY.

I KNOW IT.

SIGH... YOU'RE WORTH THE EFFORT...

I MEANT... THAT IS...

YOU DO

SOME PEOPLE... THEY DON'T GET IT...
I'M WORTH MORE THAN YOU'LL EVER BE...

SOME PEOPLE DON'T GET IT!

GET YOUR PILLY, FUCKING HANDS...

MY EYE! SHIT! SHIT!!

THANK YOU, SUGI!!
I’ll see you dead for this! Dead by my hand!

...Off of me!!

Intimidating? Oh, Sushi...

...If only you knew!
Shogo Kawada

HEIGHT: 183 cm (6 ft.)
WEIGHT: 84 kg (185 lb.)
EXTRA CURRICULAR: N/A
PRIMARY TALENTS: survival
PRIMARY WEAKNESS: intransigent nature
DESIGNATED WEAPON: Remington M32 shotgun
PERTINENT BACKGROUND: ref: The Program / 2005 season.
CONCLUSION(s): Subject must not be permitted a second victory.
YOU'RE WORTH THE EFFORT...

GIVE UP...

GIVE UP TOO EASY.

SOME PEOPLE JUST...

...100 EASY...
CHAPTER 26: Bond
CRAWL IF YOU HAVE TO.
STAY AND I KILL YOU.
YOUR CALL.

GO BEFORE I CHANGE MY MIND.

DON'T EVEN THINK IT. I WILL KILL YOU.

HEH HEH HEH... PAST TIME TO GO BITCH...
SHOULDA KILLED ME WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE!

DUMBASS BITCH!

YOU HAD ME! HAD ME DEAD TO RIGHTS!

THINK YOU PUT A HURTIN' ON ME?

'CAUSE NOW... NOW WHO'S PACKING?

Huh?

THINK YOU CAN TAKE ME DOWN?!

WHO'S GOT THE GOODS, BITCH?

WHAT?

NOT A THREAT... A DEAD-ON PROMISE.

MOVE ON ME AND DIE.
YOU'RE DOWN TO ONE EYE...AND ONE NUT.

FEEL IT LET GO...LIKE STEPPING ON A GRAPE.

JUST...GO!

HOW MUCH MORE YOU UP FOR?

GUESSE I'M GONNA HAVE TO F**K YOU...

GUESS THERE'S A CHANGE OF PLAN...

MASHED MY NUTS GOOD...

YEAH...

WITH THIS!

GONNA PLAY PIN THE HURT ON THE BITCH! YEAH!!

PARTY'S JUST GETTING STARTED!

HEY! DON'T BE LIKE THAT!
GONNA GETCHA! GONNA GETCHA, GETCHA!

NO- OH!

Bitch Bomb Incoming!!
NO! NOT HIM! NEVER HIM!
NOT SO FUCKING HIGH TONE...

EAT SHIT AND DIE, PERV!
How’s your memory, Pery?

Huh?

Remember this little beauty?
SURE I REMEMBER IT.
SURE DO...

JUST LIKE I REMEMBER IT AIN'T LOADED.

POINTS FOR TRYING...
ENDGAME, BEYOTCH!
START REALLY HURTING ON...
RIGHT... START...

HE'LL... HE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO...
I CAN FIND HIM... SUGI...

THAT COUNTS FOR SOMETHING...
I CAN STILL WALK...
...I KNOW HE WILL...

...HE'LL TAP HIS NOSE...

BUT HE WILL...

...BECAUSE... SOMETIMES NO WORDS ARE NEEDED...

AND... AND IF HE DOESN'T...
YOU'VE BEEN BUSY, BUSY, BUSY AND I, FOR ONE, COULDN'T BE PROUDER.

HIGH NOON, LITTLE WARRIORS, AND TIME FOR THE LATEST UPDATE FROM COMMAND CENTRAL.
CHAPTER 27: Respect and Affection

OKAY THEN... LET'S START WITH GIRLS SIX AND SEVEN...
MOVING ALONG...

... AND SWEET LITTLE YOSHIMI YAHABI, GIRL TWENTY-ONE.

YOU DON'T THINK THEY DID EACH OTHER?

WEREN'T YOJI AND YOSHIMI GOING TOGETHER?

FORGET THEM. LISTEN FOR THE RESTRICTED AREAS.

WE SCREW THAT UP AND IT'S "ADIOS MUCHACHOS."

A SKANK AND A WANK...
I'M LISTENING.

OH... SURE.

... SIXTEEN, KAZUSHI NIUDA. AND WRAPPING IT UP...

THE, ONCE-LOVELY GIRL NUMBER THREE--

TSK... SOMEONE GOT SLOPPY!

NOT DEAD? WHAT?

IF IT'S NOT TOO MUCH TROUBLE, COULD ONE OF YOU SEE TO THAT?

TAKA! OVER HERE!

TAKA?
Why do you have to go? Don't go.

Ayako? Why are you crying?

Stop crying! I'm not going anywhere!

You too? What's the matter with--

Tell them...
TELL THEM NOT TO CRY...

I'M NOT GOING ANY WHERE...
LOOK HIM!

LOOK THE CRYBABY CRY!

SUZIMURA!
YOU STOP THAT RIGHT NOW! BOYS DON'T CRY!

SHAME ON YOU FOR CRYING LIKE A BABY!

SHAME ON YOU!

SUCH A CRY-BABY BACK THEN...

...MARTIAL ARTS... SOMETHING...

THANK GOD HE OUTGREW IT... NOW...
TAKAKO...

STILL... STILL TAPS HIS NOSE... SO... ANNOYING...

SUGI...

TRY TO HOLD ON!

HOLD ON!

NO, NO... OUTGROW CRYBABY...
NO, NO! NO, NO! YOU STAY WITH ME DAMMIT.
SEE YOU AGAIN BEFORE... BEFORE... WHY IS EVERYONE CRYING?

WAITED FOR YOU...

NEVER LOSE TO... PERY...
NO...

SICK, LITTLE PERY...

SIE...

NIODA? WAS IT NIODA? WHO DID THIS TO YOU?

SAW... JUST HER BACK...

SOUMA... IT WAS SOUMA...

MITSUKO...

HARDCORE SOUMA...
Sorry?

Takako... I'm so sorry...

... for that one...

But Akamatsu...

I was so busy watching him...

I missed you.

And when you took off full tilt... I couldn't keep up.

Who could? I... lost you...

YOU WATCH OUT FOR...

Back at the school... I hid... waited for you...
THAT'S NICE

HOLD ME? I CAN'T...

I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS...

YOU WERE LOOKING FOR ME...

YOU WERE...

THAT'S

NICE...

STAY PLEASE STAY

SUO!

WAS I...

FOR YOU LOOKED FOR...
WAS I EVER MORE THAN A FRIEND TO YOU? COULD WE HAVE BEEN MORE?
Sugi tap...
Too... intimidating for you, huh?

Close mouth... gonna draw... draw flies...

Betch she doesn't know... that'd be just... just like you.

Lucky girl...

Bet she in this class? Ah...

And here... you waste time with... ro... robo-bitch...

Is she in this class? Ah...

We never...

I didn't...

!!
You were never a waste of time! Never!

You were... You're my rock!

Ever since we were kids... You've always been there...

What I am I owe to you! Who I am!

Always making me want to be... Better somehow...
SO... PRECIOUS TO ME...

THAT'S NICE...

YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND...

... PRECIOUS...
I'm gonna learn all the martial arts. Yeah!

When I grow up? I'm gonna know it all!
YOU WERE... EVERYTHING TO ME... PRECIOUS... FRIEND...
DON'T... DON'T DO THIS... YAKA? TAKA?

PLUSH?
OKAY... WE'RE STILL GOOD HERE.

DOESN'T ANY OF THIS GET TO YOU?

DAMMIT, KAWADA!

MORE PLAYING THAN YOU THOUGHT, EH? EITHER THAT OR...

SOMEONE'S GOT AMBITION TO SPARE.

ONLY IF I LET IT.

SO... SHUWA... YOU HEARD?

NOT TOO COLD...
OH CRAP! KAWADA!

NORIKO?!
CHAPTER 28: Insanity
SONUVA... SHE'S PUMPING HEAT LIKE A BLAST FURNACE!

NOT GOOD.
HERE LET ME...

SHE'S BURNING UP

THIS HELPS NOW?

OPEN FOR ME... THAT'S IT...

!!
YOUR DAD... DOCTOR... THAT'S RIGHT... CHILLS... YOU FEEL COLD? ANY CHILLS?

DAD'S A DOC, REMEMBER? EAT.

BUT... NOT RIGHT NOW.

HERE. EAT THIS. ALL OF IT.

EAT AS MUCH AS YOU CAN.

THAT'S IT...

KAY...

I'LL TRY...
AND THIS. ASPIRIN.
NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT IT.

AND WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, GIVE ME YOUR COAT.
GIVE THE ASPIRIN TIME.

SHE'S STILL AWFUL HOT.
OKAY...

BASE HER DOWN.
THAT'S EASY...

SHU...

TOO HOT FOR COATS...

SURE...

Yeah...
COULD JUST BE A BUG... TILL WE KNOW WHAT WE'VE GOT HERE.

IT'LL CUT THE CHILLS. TILL WE...

Y'KNOW...

SHE'S GOT A POINT--

AND THAT, MY FRIEND, IS A DEFINITE "NOT GOOD."

... THOSE ASPIRIN WON'T DO JACK SHIT.

COULD BE THAT LEG WOUND GOT INFECTED, AND IF THAT'S THE CASE...

So we wait. And hope for the best. Time will tell. If it's infected, we'll be smelling it soon enough.

How can we know which--

How can we tell...
We wait and see... I'll say it again.

Watch her die?! Leave her for one of... of them to find?!

What if it is infected? Then what?

Then act appropriately.

Well? Well?!

If we need it, we go. If we need it.

There's an infirmary... Okay. It's marked on the map.

Ahh... define "appropriately."

I just need to rest... just for a bit...

I'll be fine... honest.

It'll be there... if we... if we need it...

I'll be fine... you'll see.

Sh-shulva?

We should go now!
IF IT'S OUT THERE TO CATCH, I CATCH IT.
I'M ALWAYS CATCHING...

SURE... JUST A BUG...

JUNYA...
But we can do it, right? Together right?

Can't let anything happen to my bestest fan!

That's me... Bestest fan...

You know it, Kgal!
Said the bad sorry words... sorry...

No fucking poking! Goddamn it!!

If you poke them it gets worse, pizza face worse.
Bath... I just need a bath... that's all...

Wash away excess oil...

Acne cream and hot cocoa and jinya... bestest...

No more pizza face...

No more...
SHOT IT... SHOT...

JUNYA?

IT WAS... IT WAS... HAD TO... SHOT IT...

KILL OR BE KILLED, SO I SHOT IT.

KILL... THAT'S THE WAY TO PLAY, RIGHT?

THE KITTY...

SHOT THE KITTY...
IT WAS GONNA POKE ME! MAKE IT WORSE!
NO MORE...

NO MORE PIZZA FACE...

POKE...

POKE...

POKE...

POKE...

POKE...

KILL THEM FIRST, RIGHT?

KILL THEM ALL LIKE THE BAD POKING KITTY! RIGHT?!

LOL!
DO YOU...?

I SAY WE GO... NOW.

WE CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES HERE.
WE Gotta GET HER TO THAT INFIRMARY.
SHE'S NOT GETTING ANY BETTER.

SHE'LL JUST HAVE TO MANAGE TILL THEN.
THEN WE MOVE. FINE. WE WAIT TILL AFTER DARK.

KAWADA?
WHAT IF THE INFIRMARY AREA GOES DANGER ZONE?!
KAWADA?!

SHIT!

MANAGE TILL THEN?!

NOT ASKING TOO MUCH OF HER, ARE YOU?!
WHAT IF SHE GETS EVEN WORSE?

YOU GOT THE RAP DOWN, HOW ABOUT BACKING IT UP WITH SOME ACTION?!

STOP YELLING...

THIS HOW YOU WON LAST TIME? I GOT MINE, MOTHERFUCKER!?
SURE... OKAY...

PLEASE HELP HIM, SIR...

PLEASE...

... BROTHER BEGGED ME TO BAKE UP A BATCH...

SUCH A LOOK, SHUUYA...

HUUH...

... NOT ALL OF US WILL PLAY...

FIND OTHERS... TRUST...

... OTHERS WHO THINK THE SAME WAY...
... FOUND A GIRL I KINDA LIKE...

SHOULD HAVE BEEN NORIKO...

... TRUST...

I TRUST SHUIYA TO DO RIGHT...
Especially here... Now... got to have faith.

Faith in one another's intentions... ability to see this through... no matter what.

I have faith in us...
‘Kay...

Think it through, Shuya.

NOT SMART!

To the infirmary, now. Easy... we're going.

She trusts me to do the right thing. This is it.

Consider it thought through.

Probably wouldn't have made it this far without you, y'know? That counts for something.

You do what you think's right. No hard feelings. We owe you...

So you do what you gotta do. No pressure. No guilt.
SHUNYA...
DON'T...
WE NEED
HIM...

I'M
GONNA DO
WHAT
I GOTTA
DO. NO
PRESSURE.
NO GUILT.

WE
COULD BE
QUIET A
TEAM...

WISH YOU'D
RECONSIDER
THOUGH...

SERIOUSLY...

NOTHING.
TOLD YOU
BEFORE... I
DON'T DO
STUPID.

I
DON'T DO
HERO.

NOTHING'S
CHANGED,
NANAHARA.
I KNOW DIFFERENT. I'VE SEEN DIFFERENT.

YOU SAVED MY LIFE, MAN.

YOU KEEP TELLING YOURSELF THAT.

SERIOUSLY WISH YOU'D RECONSIDER...
Shinji Mimura

HEIGHT: 172 cm (5 ft. 8 in.)
WEIGHT: 59 kg (130 lb.)
EXTRA CURRICULAR: Varsity basketball, yearbook
PRIMARY TALENTS: Innate athleticism, intuitive grasp of abstractions with regard to complicated situations
PRIMARY WEAKNESS: Anti-authority tendencies, megalomania, overactive libido
DESIGNATED WEAPON: Beretta M92F
PERTINENT BACKGROUND: Athletically gifted; arguably the most physically fit of the current crop of contestants. Parents N/A. Patriarchal uncle (name withheld) exerted primary developmental influences (ref: Acts of Obedience / sub ref: rebellion / grass roots). Although sexually active, subject displays marked misogynistic tendencies.
CONCLUSION(s): Strong "bad boy" marketing potential regardless of survival.
NEXT WE HAVE...

READY, SHOOO?

IT'S NAME IS DERIVED FROM ITS EARTH TONE MARKINGS...

BUT OF COURSE.

AND...

SIT THAT...AND THAT...

IT'S CRY WAS OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR THAT OF A LARGER BIRD.

TORATSUSUMI.

THERE'S A MOUTHFUL FOR YOU...
CHAPTER 29: The Right Answer

I suppose you knew all of this already?

Oh, look at you! Mr. Smug!
Actually, once I read something, it tends to stick for a time.

And I'll lie, cheat and openly deceive to be with you.

The study date? That's more about you than any bird in that book. What can I say? I like your company.

Shogo! Quickly!

You're impossible!

That's... Um...
RIGHT BACK...
THAT'S... USUALLY THE CASE.

SHOOG? IS SOMETHING WRONG?

IS...

RIGHT WITH YOU, DAD. WHAT WE GOT?

THAT'S ONE NASTY BURN.
AH... JEEZ...
WHAT' HYDRATED?

!!

WE'VE GOT TO GET HIM HYDRATED.

I'M OUT OF RINGER'S SOLUTION.

MIX IN A BIT OF MILK.

COCKTAIL? WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY--

STANDARD COCKTAIL, NO EXTRAS, RIGHT?

I'M ON IT.

YOU THINK MY BABY'S PAIN IS FUNNY?!

YOU THINK THAT'S FUNNY?

HMMM!

OR YOU WANT IT ON THE ROCKS?

STRAIGHT UP?

TWO LACTIC ACID TO ONE RINGERS...
I'm calling an ambulance! At least the ER nurses are licensed for--

You're not a doctor! You're just... just...

Just what do you think you're doing?

Dammit, shobo!

That was uncalled for--

Stop being an obstacle

Your baby's suffering, lady

Shobo! What are you...
Here, better?  Oops...

Should you be doing that?  Hey!

Smoking in front of a child?

You can call your ambulance now.

Support your own dirty habit. Just the one. Just the one. You mind?
CALLS HIMSELF A DOCTOR...
HMPH ...

LIKE A NAME BRAND WOULD BREAK YOU?
JEEZ, DAD...

A' BETTER NOW... 'KAY?

MAMA...

'NO TOUCH POTS ON THE OVEN! NO TOUCH!
NEVER!

HOW MANY TIMES DOES MOMMA HAVE TO TELL YOU?

NO! NOT OKAY!

YOUR TURN, "MOMMA."

YOUR TURN TO SAY "SOWWY."

SOWWY...
I SOWWY...

DON'T YOU EVER WORRY MOMMA LIKE THAT AGAIN! EVER!!

I...
KIDS ARE CURIOUS ABOUT ALL KINDS'A STUFF.

MOMMAS'RE SUPPOSED TO BE THERE TO SEE TO IT THAT CURIOSITY DOESN'T HURT. RIGHT?

THAT'S WHAT "MOMMA'S" THERE FOR...OR NOT, AS THE CASE MAY BE.

BACK TO STUDYING THE BIRDIES? OKAY...
IT WAS AN ACCIDENT, SHOGO!

IT'S NOT LIKE SHE WANTED IT TO HAPPEN! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

WASN'T SHE UPSET ENOUGH WITHOUT YOU RUBBING HER FACE IN IT? SURE SHE WAS... CARELESS...

THAT WAS... WHY SO HAUSN, SHOGO?

HUH?

THAT IS SO UNFAIR!

CUTS AND BREAKS AND BURNS... ALL ACCIDENTS...

AND ALL PREVENTABLE IF "MOMMA'O" BEEN PAYING ATTENTION.

THAT'S JUST IT! THEY'RE ALL ACCIDENTS!

IT'S MORE THAN JUST PHYSICALLY BEING THERE...

BEING THERE FOR SOME-ONE...

AND YET NEVER BE THERE TO UNDERSTAND WHY IT NEEDED DOING?! UNDERSTAND THE FEELINGS INVOLVED?!

HOW CAN YOU ALWAYS BE THERE TO DO WHAT NEEDS DOING AND YET...
DOING THE RIGHT THING... WHAT GOOD IS IT IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHY?

THERE'S EMOTIONAL SUPPORT AS WELL.

FEELINGS, SHOGO. PEOPLE HAVE FEELINGS.

I-I'M SORRY...

I'VE GOT TO GO NOW...

c'MON... KEIKO?

KEIKO?
WE'VE GOT TO TRUST ONE ANOTHER...

TRUST HOPE

I TRUST SHUUYA...

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE IT...
TOGETHER WE CAN DO THIS...
TRUST...

TRUST...

DO WHAT YOU GOTTA...

... SHUUYA...
TO DO THE RIGHT THING...
WHAT GOOD IS IT IF YOU DON'T KNOW WHY?

DOING THE RIGHT THING... WHAT GOOD IS IT...

HF...

HF...

HF...

HF...
YOU TELL... TELL KAWADA... SORRY GOT... GOT SICK...

ALL'A TIME... GETTING SICK AT... WORST TIME I'... SICK...

SORRY... SHI...
FIRST YOU, THEN BACK TO KAWADA.

WE'LL SEE TO YOU, THEN YOU CAN TELL HIM YOURSELF. OKAY?

DON'T WORRY

YOU WITH ME?

HEY, YOU GOT DOCTOR NANAHARA ON DUTY HERE.

RIGHT. LIKE YOU GOT A CHOICE BACK THERE.

LOOK... WE'RE GONNA BE FINE. YOU MOST OF ALL.

DO YOU UP RIGHT!

KAY...
WHICH IDIOTS ARE PLAYING NOW?

WHO NOW? WHO'S AT IT THIS TIME?

CAN I JUST WALK AWAY?

DO I WALK AWAY OR... DAMN!!

YOU CAN'T SAVE EVERYONE!

DAMN!

DAMN IT! STAY FOCUSED ON NORIKO! SCREW 'EM!

TWO SETS OF SHOTS...
... NOT... NOT SICK ENOUGH TO NOT KNOW... RIGHT THING TO... TO DO.

MAYBE FRIEND... MAYBE...

SHOOTING... WHAT IF... SOMEONE DEFENDING SELF... ATTACKED...

LIKE ODD COUPLE... KNOW... OKAY NOT TO PLAY...

OR MAYBE... BOTH SCARED... NEED TO KNOW... LIKE...
JUST... JUST A QUICK LOOK.

MAYBE... MAYBE NOT ALONE, EH?

I'LL BE RIGHT BACK...

NOT TOO LOUD...

CAREFUL, SHUUYA... CAREFUL...
OKAY... NICE AND EASY NOW...
NO MORE PIZZA FACE!

DIE DAMMIT! DIE!

I CAN'T BE SERIOUSLY CONSIDERING THIS!

GREAT... JUST GREAT!

THE CATFIGHT FROM HELL.
PLAY TO WIN! PLAY TO WIN!

DIE ALREADY!

PISSED OFF GIRLS WITH GUNS...

SHIT!

GIRLS WITH GUNS...

OKAY...
CHAPTER 30: Persuasion

REality check... do not get involved!
GET BACK TO NORIKO SEE TO HER SAFETY...

WHICH IS EXACTLY WHAT I SHOULD DO. WALK AWAY.

RIGHT...

LIKE I CAME THIS FAR TO WALK AWAY.

!!
スワァ。
Playing it the way they want, are you?

Playing the game like good little government patsies... that it?
SHE TOOK FIRST SHOT!

WHAT? I'M SUPPOSED TO DUCK 'N COVER 'N ASK HER TO STOP?

I DIDN'T ASK FOR THIS ANY MORE'N YOU DID!

WHAT THE HELL, IT'S WORTH A TRY.
NO MORE SHOOTING NO KILLING PLEASE... STOP

ONLY THEY'RE SAYING IT HAS TO BE THIS WAY.

I'M SAYING IT'S NOT KILL OR BE KILLED. AND I'M NOT ALONE.

IT'S THE WAY THEY'VE SET IT UP THAT GETS TO YOU.

THE FEAR THEY INSTILL IN YOU.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE IN THIS.

THERE ARE OTHERS, NORIKO, KAWADA...

Huh...
YOU GUYS WERE HAVING AT IT...

THANK GOD YOU'RE BOTH CRAPPY AIKS.

Yeah... well... y'know...

I don't see anyone else with you.

Kawada knows a way out of this shitty game!

Listen to me...

So... we're just supposed to trust you?

Not... I'm not the one packing heat.

Why not?

NOT ALONE?
Together, we can get past this, together.

That's right, not alone, Kaori.

Get off this goddamn island...

Kick back and mellow out to some Junya times, eh?

Sounds like a plan.

Maybe... Maybe we can... escape?

Bestest ever...

Kick back with Junya...

CLK

Junya...
KEEP THINKING THAT. JUNYA... RIGHT?

JUNYA. YES. JUST... JUST...

JUNYA. YES...

GUESS I DO.

...YOU DO KNOW THAT, RIGHT?

YOU'RE CRAZY...

GOOD CRAZY... I CAN RELATE TO THAT.

YEAH... BUT GOOD CRAZY...
CRAZY'S ALWAYS BETTER WITH COMPANY.

GLAD TO HEAR IT.

You shot the kitty...

The kitty...

ESCAPE, JUNVA... GONNA ESCAPE...

HNG

And when they find out? What then, pizza face?

Shot it!

BUT STEPPING INTO THE MIDDLE OF A GUNFIGHT... GODDAMN, SHUIYA!

... SEEN SOME WAY STUPID MOVES...

YEAH... COMMON SENSE WAS NEVER MY STRONG POINT...
HIEEE!

IT WAS A BAAAD KITTY...

HIROHO!!
JUNYA FORGIVES ME... JUNYA KNOWS...  

A BAD POKING KITTY...

NOT GOOD!

Play to win!

HIRONO!

HREG!

HIRONO! DON'T WAIT!
K-KAORI? YOU...YOU DON'T HAVE TO... UHH...

BOYS ARE HARDER THOUGH... BOYS NEVER GO AWAY...

YOU SEE? YOU SEE? I MADE HER GO AWAY!

DAMN!

SMH!

HIRONO! PLEASE!
JUST LIKE THE BAD POKING KITTY!

BOYS JUST LOVE TO POKE!
GO ON... TELL HER HOW IT'LL BE ALRIGHT...

TALK YOUR WAY OUT OF THIS SHU...

NO!

WE NEVER SAID THAT! WE BELIEVED!

ALWAYS GOTTA BE PROVING A POINT, DON'T YOU?

LIKE ANYONE REALLY LISTENS!

WAY TO TAKE CARE OF NORIKO, HOT SHOT.
BELIEVED IN ME...

LIKE NORIKO...

SHE BELIEVED...

... IN ME...

NORIKO...
I'M SORRY...
I REALLY PUCKED UP THIS TIME...

... FOR ALL THE GOOD IT DID HER...

NO MORE PIZZA FACE...

NO MORE, BOY...

NO MORE, BOY...
HERE I WAS, RID OF YOU ONCE AND FOR ALL...

AND WHAT DO I DO? GET AN ATTACK'A CONSCIENCE, THAT'S WHAT.

WHY I BOTHER'S BEYOND ME...

HUUH...
DON'T "KAWADA" ME! WHAT WERE YOU THINKING? LEAVING HER ALONE LIKE THAT SO YOU COULD RUN OFF AND GET YOURSELF KILLED!

KAWADA!

AND FOR THE HUNDREDTH TIME...STOP YELLING.
WE ARE HERE AND IN THE CLEAR.

COOL ...

ALL CLEAR ALL RIGHT!
Chapter 31: Everybody’s Thoughts
I JUST... I WON'T... UM...

LIKE A BABY.

SHE SLEEPING?

WHERE DID YOU FIND RICE? AND A COOKER?

JEZ, KAWADA...

GET SOMETHING OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT ISSUE BREAD INTO HER.

AND HAPPY TO HAVE IT. RICE. RIGHT.
Huh...

Good move...

For example... Kaori's piece. Noriko's now... if she'll have it.

You'd be surprised what turns up. Scrounge around enough...

!

I... uh... Kanada?

...

Just remember I shot her to save you.

Okay... let me have it.

No one home. I did what I had to. Doesn't mean I liked it.

She was gone, Shu. You saw the look in her eyes up close and personal.
I THINK I OWE YOU AN APOLOGY.

I COULD NEVER HAVE DONE THAT... GIVEN HER THE SHOT... PROBABLY WOULD HAVE BLOWN AN AIR BUBBLE INTO HER HEART TRYING...

SHIT... I DRAGGED OFF NORIKO NEVER EVEN THINKING WHAT I'D DO ONCE WE GOT HERE.

YOU'VE BEEN RIGHT ABOUT... WELL... ABOUT EVERYTHING SO FAR... I TEND TO RUN ON EMOTION... NO NEWS THERE, EH?

"DICK" SUITS YOU. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CAREFUL.

OKAY... COOL...

I'VE BEEN KIND OF A DICK... SORRY.
I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE BOTH OF THEM!

I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT IT THROUGH... DAMN!

GOOD CRAZY...

SHE GOT AWAY... TOOK A BULLET AND RAN... CAN'T SAY I BLAME HER.

SHE WAS THERE TOO.

HIRONO, ONE OF MITSUKO'S CREW.

I CAN RELATE...

AND KAORI... SHE...

TOOK A BULLET LISTENING TO ME SOUND OFF.

SHE HAD DREAMS. BIG DREAMS... MOSTLY ABOUT THAT JUNYA SINGER... THE POP STAR...
It's not good doing the right thing...

Maybe if I'd thought it through...

Too quick to act. All impulse, no thought.

There's emotional support as well feelings shogo...

If you don't know why you're doing it?

Knock it off.

But you...

Doesn't make anyone righter than anyone else.

You do what you have to. We all do.
I care too little, you care too much.

Guess we're best off meeting each other halfway.

Real good.

Halfway sounds good.

There's a limit to the ol' shoggo generosity.

Damn well better.
NO, NO... YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG...

SWEE-

SWEETIE'S UP AND ABOUT SHE'LL BE WANTING A SAY TOO.

MAYBE HALFWAY'S TOO FAR...

FIGURES... GUYS ALWAYS THE LAST TO KNOW.

THAT A FACT?

SST

SSK

WE'RE JUST... IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!

IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! NORIKO...

I THOUGHT YOSHI HAD A THING FOR HER

I... I THOUGHT...

YOSHITOKI

GOT HIMSELF SHOT IN THE FACE... THAT KID?

YOSHITOKI...

THE KID THAT WENT BUS PUCK BACK AT THE SCHOOL?
HIS PARENTS... HIS PARENTS... HIS PARENTS...

MOM DESERTED HIM... MOM DESERTED HIM... MOM DESERTED HIM...

HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND... HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND... HE WAS MY BEST FRIEND...

SMALL WONDER HE HAD GIRL ISSUES... GUESS HE OVERCAME THEM... FOUND A GIRL HE LIKED...

I THOUGHT IT WAS NORIKO. I THOUGHT IT WAS NORIKO. I THOUGHT IT WAS NORIKO.

GUESS HE OVERCAME THEM... FOUND A GIRL HE LIKED...

AND I THOUGHT IT WAS NORIKO... MS. RYOKO? NEVER CROSSED MY RADAR.

I THINK I FOUND A GIRL I KINDA LIKE.

IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN NORIKO...

BUT IT MAKES SENSE. SHE WAS ALWAYS THERE... FOR...
YOSHI LOVED THE ONLY WOMAN HE KNEW WOULD NEVER LEAVE.

SOME BEST FRIEND I AM, EH? COULDN'T EVEN PUT TWO AND TWO TOGETHER...

I TELL MYSELF IT'S BECAUSE IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN HER...

ME? I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT THAT TILL WE'RE SAFELY OUT OF HERE.

AND YOU?

SHE'S... SPECIAL.

DON'T YOU THINK SO?
I mean... she's been shot and... and...

Talk about looks deceiving... who'd have thought her so tough?

I think she's amazing.

Are you just going to let him die?!

I have faith in you...

Considering the circumstances...

The fact that she hasn't completely gone to pieces...

...always catchin' something...

I mean... she was fucking shot!
DOESN'T MATTER. IT MAKES SENSE TO ME. I NEED HER, KANADA. I NEED THE SENSE OF...OF PURPOSE SHE GIVES ME. I NEED THE WAY SHE MAKES ME FEEL. THAT MOST OF ALL.

SHE'S BECOMING A PART OF ME...DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?

MOST OF ALL...

YOU'RE A LUCKY GUY, NANAHARA. DON'T BLOW IT.
DON'T YOU DARE BLOW IT!

TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP

FLUSH

SHUHARA...
But here you are getting yourself all worked up over something you overheard. On purpose!

You should be so far down you'd have to reach up to tie your shoes.

You've been shot, taken sick and been lugged around like a sack of potatoes...

Get a grip! Your friends are still dying out there.

Eavesdropping! What's next? Peeking at them while they shower?

Talk about your bad timing. Way to go, Nori!

The program is still on and Shinya cares...

It's still on...
... and all the horrible things in the world...

I bet this happens all the time, even with war and famine...

Bad timing is just... bad timing.

No. No one asked for this.

... people find one another. People learn to care.
How much have you seen from up there?
HOW MANY GAMES HAVE YOU WITNESSSED?

DID FRIENDS COME TOGETHER?
OR WHERE THEY LOST TO ONE ANOTHER?

DID THEY PLAY TO WIN...

... OR JUST TO SURVIVE?
DID ANY OF THEM LEARN TO CARE?
A certain mindset to come up with this.

Pretty fucking awesome!

Get it down!

Strictly Bush League.

This is, at best, harassment...an annoyance.

Hm?

You think wrong. You think so?
TRY ANYTHING MORE SUBSTANTIAL AND...

...LET'S JUST CALL IT A BAD IDEA AND LET IT GO AT THAT.
Still, you gotta admit... It's tempting.

Right... Gotcha...

Turn up the heat a bit... Make them sweat...

Guerilla warfare, Uncle. Hey, it's all the rage, don'tcha know?
BASTARDS ARE LOOKED DOWN TIGHT.

NOTHING...

TAKKA TAKKA

CAN YOU FIX IT UP AGAIN?

IS IT GONNA BE...

SO I NEED QUIET. I'VE gotta CONCENTRATE ON THIS.

BUT QUIETLY.

WHAT'S WITH THE FINGER?

I NEED YOU TO KEEP AN EYE OUT WHILE I WORK THIS. OKAY?

OKAY...

NEW PLAN. HERE'S WHAT I NEED...

MIR.

!!

NO TALKING! HERE'S HOW THEY FOUND OUT I WAS HACKING INTO THEIR SYSTEM...

TAH TAH

RIGHT... JUST PLAY ALONG...
FIGURES THE PROGRAM WOULD HAVE AN AUDIO UPLINK.

IT FIGURES THE PROGRAM WOULD HAVE AN AUDIO UPLINK.

...THEY CAN HEAR US. MY BAD.

PROBABLY THE COLLARS. NO, DEFINITELY THE COLLARS.

WE'RE WIRED FOR SOUND SO, FROM NOW ON, YOU WRITE IT OUT IF YOU DON'T WANT IT HEARD.

NO WAY THEIR SYSTEM COULD HAVE PICKED UP THE "WORM."

FILE MISSING THAT UNDER 'TOO STUPID TO LIVE'.

SHIT!

WIRED FOR SOUND?

WIRED?
IT WAS OUR MISTAKE. WE BOTH MISSED IT.

COULD YOU POSSIBLY BE A BIGGER DORK?

If it wasn’t for me, it would have worked.

They heard because you had to explain to me.

TAKKA TAKKA

BESIDES... AIN’T OVER YET.

WE’VE JUST GOT TO BE MORE CAREFUL.

WE’RE A TEAM. REMEMBER.

TAK TAK

UNFORTUNATELY IT’S A MUCH RISKIER PLAN.

I MEANT IT WHEN I SAID I HAD A NEW PLAN.

YOU UP FOR TILTING AT A FEW WINDMILLS?
NO BUILDING, NO COMPUTERS, NO COLLARS... ALL FREE!

TAKE THEM ALL OUT AT ONCE. A BIG ENOUGH BANG OUGHT TO DO IT.

IN A NUTSHELL... WE DESTROY THE ENTIRE SCHOOL BUILDING.

MAINLAND'S CLOSE ENOUGH. A JURY-RIGGED RAFT OUGHT TO DO IT.

Besides, the school's in a Danger Zone! Always!

You call Blow that up the plan? Just like that?
Hajime Mimura Funeral Service

...accident. Faulty wiring, they say...

...tragedy. And so young...

...how awful...
SHINJI... OK PLEASE DON'T... SHINJI!

NEWS FLASH, PEONS. THIS WAS NO ACCIDENT. BELIEVE IT!

IT APPEARS WE HAVE A SLIGHT CREDIBILITY PROBLEM HERE.

OH YEAH...
WALL TO GO, UNCLE...

THAT'S A JOKE, M'MAN... SAVES ME THE TROUBLE OF DIGGING HIM UP LATER.

WHAT IS THIS?!

Huh!

Um...

IT DOESN'T END HERE.

OKAY...

SHINJU!
GOT THE WILL. GOT THE WAY. GOT THE NEED TO SEE IT THROUGH! BET ON IT!

YOU TAUGHT ME WELL, UNCLE. MAYBE TOO WELL.
I take it you've never met my mom.

Sure he never got at your mama?

You even look like him.

You're everything he said you were, and he said a lot.
HUH...YOU LOOK ABOUT RIGHT. DROP DEAD GORGEOUS WITH ATTITUDE.

HE HAD A THING FOR STRONG WOMEN.

Y'KNOW... PROMISE TO TRY TO TALK ME OUT OF IT IF HE...IF NE...

I MEAN, JUST IN CASE HE MADE YOU PROMISE...

IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING.

CARRY ON THE FIGHT IN HIS NAME.

I'M GONNA HONOR HIM...

WHY'D HE TELL YOU A SECRET?

HE SAID THAT?

HE WAS RIGHT ABOUT YOU... IT'S ALL SUPERFICIAL.

DOES IT MATTER?

NOTHING LIKE THAT.

JEEZ... WHY'D HE KEEP A LOOKER LIKE YOU A SECRET?

OKAY...
That you'd never know love from the heart, only lust from the loins.

His words, not mine.

What kind of girl would melt the ice that covers your heart?

...when would it matter to you?

He wondered...

Sounds like him...

Yeah...

Sounds just like him.

Yeah...

Yeah...

And Conquest's often messy aftermath.

His words again. He wanted you to know that there is more to life than Conquest...

Part of his charm, don't you think?

He... worried too much...
You only use it when things get... ugly.

He wanted you to have it.

Okay, I'll bite. What is it?

He meant to.

How am I supposed to figure it out?

I don't know.

If you paid attention.

You will. If he taught you right...

He said you'd figure it out.

How are you sure?

Have a good life, Mim.
THE REST IS UP TO YOU. DO AS YOU SEE FIT.
I'VE DONE MY PART.
THAT'S NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE.
Y'KNOW... BETTER QUALIFIED 'N LIKE THAT.
ARE YOU SURE I'M MEANT TO HAVE THIS? THERE MUST BE OTHERS...

AUNT?
YOU HAVE NO IDEA, MIM. NO IDEA AT ALL.
TOO MANY SECRETS?
AS I SEE IT...

SURPRISED? YOU SHOULDN'T BE.

DID YOU THINK HE WOULD ENDANGER ME BY BROADCASTING MY EXISTENCE?
It's the price we pay, Mimi... It's why we love from the heart.

Bad enough he had family the government knew of.
FROM THE HEART...

AN IGNITION KEY SMALL AND SEVERE

A BOMB.

NO, THAT'S NOT RIGHT.

SEVERE ENOUGH TO SET OFF MOST ANYTHING THERE IS TO SET OFF.
FIND THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS AND BÀ-BOOM!

SCHOOL GO BYE-BYE, NOT TOO SHABBY, EH?

TRUST ME, IT'LL COME TO ME.

AND WHEN IT DOES, WE GONNA GET US SOME PAYBACK.

ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY. I'M WORKING ON THAT.

How do we get close enough?

The school is a constant Danger Zone!

BIG TIME PAYBACK.
I know you wouldn't have it any other way, uncle.

Should have used it when you had the chance.

Not that I'm complaining. I'll make mighty fine use of it, thanks for asking.

Dedicate it to you and your fine lady. Make sure they know who it's coming from. Damn straight!
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: Hirono 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 Nanahara 8: Yoji Kuramoto 1: Yoshio Akamatsu
16: Kazushi Niida 9: Hiroshi Kuronaga 2: Keita Iijima
17: Mitsuru Numai 10: Ryuhei Sasagawa 3: Tatsumichi Ooki
18: Tadakatsu Hatagami 11: Hiroki Sugimura 4: Toshinori Oda
19: Shinji Mimura 12: Yutaka Sato 5: Shogo Kawada
20: Kyoichi Motobuchi 13: Yuichiro Takiguchi 6: Kazuo Kiriyama
21: Kazuhiko Yamamoto 14: Sho Tsukioka 7: Yoshitaka Kusinobu
THE PROGRAM: UPDATE
CHAPTERS 25–32

Kaen Minami shoots Hiroko Shimizu.

Mimura and Yutaka form a new plan.

Hiroko Sugimura finds Takako Chigusa.

Shuuya and Shogo care for Noriko.
On the next exciting episode of THE PROGRAM!

With the failure of their first plan to disable The Program’s collars, Shinji Mimura and Yutaka Sato are already working hard on Plan B, with some help from their chemistry coursework. With a little methane, a little sulfur, and a lot of luck, the pair can construct quite a combustive concoction. But where will they turn in this sinister science project? Why, the school, of course! And what will become of poor Hirono? She’s had one friend turn on her, another friend murdered, and now she’s been shot in the arm. While the wound may not be lethal, it would appear that her bad luck might be. Only 22 students remaining!
The 42 students of Ninth Grade Class B have been kidnapped, marooned on an island, and ordered to kill everyone else or they all die. They’re not victims of a sick, cruel joke; they’re contestants on the top-rated, government-sanctioned television reality show called The Program.

The students have been given food, water, and random weapons and, to ensure their cooperation, they’ve been fitted with explosive collars. However, it takes surprisingly little to get some members of Class B to play the game.

Soccer player Kazushi Niida gets his kicks by treating The Program like an exhibition game. How many goals will this crossbow-toting all-star score before he gets a permanent time-out?

Only 25 students remaining!