#Manga-Sketchbook@Mtff#- IrcHighWay

http://www.manga-sketchbook.org
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 televised reality show that requires its contestants to battle to the death. Each contestant has been given food, water, and a random weapon (which could be anything from a machine gun to a frying pan.)

Though forty-two students started the game, only seven remain. Of the seven, they can be broken down into two groups: those who are playing the game and those who are not. Those in the latter category are Shuuya Narahara, an optimistic, world-rock star; Noriko Mahagawa, a girl who started the game with a gunshot wound to the leg; Shoro Kawada, a former winner of *The Program* who claims to have a secret way off of the island; and Hiroki Sugimura, a shy, gentle, martial arts master.

The two people playing the game with gusto are Mitsuko “Hardcore” Soma and Kazuo Kiriyama. Soma has been using her sex and psychoses to increase the body count while Kiriyama has remained cold, clinical, and calculating when carrying out his many, many murders. Though Sugimura is united in purpose with Shuuya’s group, he was compelled to leave them in order to find Kayoko Kishitani, a girl he apparently has feelings for. Sugimura lost his closest friend, Takako Chigusa, to *The Program*, and his final moments with her have only fueled his desire to protect Kayoko from a similar fate. Sugimura’s randomly distributed weapon is a hand-held tracking device that can detect other players, though it only indicates that another student is nearby—it doesn’t tell him who that person is or if they’re friend or foe.

Knowing who wants to kill you and who doesn’t is one of the most important things in *The Program* and there’s no way for anyone to know for sure whether Kayoko’s playing or not until she’s found. With so few students left alive, it should be noted that the winner is not the one with the most kills; it’s the person who is still alive at the end... and the winner of the last game was a girl.
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LITTLE WARRIORS...
LET'S GET RIGHT DOWN TO IT. SHALL WE?

MOST EXCELLENT!

SUCH UNBRIDLED ENTHUSIASM. SO MANY ELIMINATED.

...GIRL NINE, YUKO SAKAI...

...GIRL NUMBER TWO, YUKo UTSUMI...

...GIRL NUMBER ONE, MIZUKO INADA...

...TWELVE, HARUKA TANIZaka...

...GIRL SIXTEEN, YUKA NAKAGAMA...

...SEVENTEEN, SATONIKO NOzA...

...GIRL NINETEEN, CHISATO MATSUMI...

...AND GIRL NINETEEN, CHISATO MATSUMI...

SEE WHAT YOU'RE CAPABLE OF IF YOU JUST APPLY YOURSELF!
...ALL YOUNG LADIES, NOT DELIGHTFULLY IMAGINARY...

AS FOR RESTRICTED AREAS...
D-7
AS OF ONE O'CLOCK...

...H-H AS OF THREE O'CLOCK...

ALL OF THEM?

WHO...
SHULYA... I LEFT SHULYA THERE...

NOW...

YOUR CONCERN FOR HER...
YOU HEAR IT WELL.
You're the one out!

ME! I deserve it??

I deserve to live!

There are no fair fights...

...didn't figure you gents'do mind my making it a fair fight!
SOMEBODY'S ALWAYS GOT AN EDGE...

THERE IS MORE THAN STRENGTH AT PLAY HERE. ...WE LEARN AS WE DO, NO?

THAT WAS... ENLIGHTENING, THANK YOU, MASTER.
I thought as much. You are placing too much importance on physical strength... on becoming stronger...

Not that that is a bad thing.

Feel, Subimura.

Feel all there is to be felt. Embrace every circumstance.

As long as it is not the only thing.

Small matter soon enough, you will.

You do not understand.

Sensitive as well as strong... Be aware.
KNOW YOUR PRIORITIES, SUGIMURA.

STRENGTH WITHOUT SENSITIVITY IS AGGRESSION.

SHE'S... I KNOW HER...

FROM CLASS... KANOKO, I THINK.

SHE'S...
I'M COMING!

MEW!

OKAY... NOT HEARING THINGS.

MEW!

MEW!

Huh?
MM?

R-RROW...

AREI... SOKOVARA?

IS THERE A PROBLEM?

WHAT?! WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

SHH! SHUT UP, ALREADY!

THAT IS... UMH...

I MEAN... UMH...

YES, SIR—ER, NO, SIR!

...I WAS KIND OF RUNNING LATE THIS MORNING AND...

MY STOMACH'S KINDA GROWLING? Y'KNOW? BEEN...

...EMPTY N' ALL...

...I HAD TO SKIP BREAKFAST, SO MY STOMACH...

...UHM...

...YEAH.
UNLESS THE NOISE IS MEANT TO DISORIENT THE COMPETITION? IF SO, WELL DONE, SUSHIURA. WELL DONE...

...THAT LUNCH IS NOT ALL THAT FAR OFF? PERHAPS THEN IT COULD BE PERSUADED TO SHOW A BIT OF PATIENCE?

I... PERHAPS IF YOU WERE TO TELL YOUR STOMACH...

AND YOU A MARTIAL ARTS TUTOR... MY, MY...

AREN'T THE MARTIAL ARTS ABOUT SELF CONTROL? I THINK THEY ARE.
WHAT IS IT?!

I CAN'T HELP IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT HURTS!

O'HON!

SWISH... NO GOOD DEED GOES UNPUNISHED. WHAT'S WRONG?!

A HINT? A CLUE? ANYTHING?

A HINT?

ARE YOU HUNGRY? IS THAT IT?

MEEW...... DAMN!
SUGIMURA, RIGHT?

OWN... SO YOUNG.

POOR LITTLE KITTY...

MEOW...

MEOW...
There we go...! Good kitty!

...Why are you rubbing... there?

That's better, isn't it? Good kitty. Good little girl...

Hrrrkk...

Right, um. What just happened here?

Just now...

Are you a cutie? Aren't you just the cutest thing?

Good as new, aren't we? Yes we are!
I have three kittens at home. Isn't she cute?

It's okay.

She needs a bit of help. Don't you? Yes you do!

She's too young. She can't make pee by herself.

Help to pee?!

Help...

I guess this little sweetie's mother is long gone. You'll do for now.

Me?! That's not... I don't think...

Help to pee?!

The mother usually helps by licking them.
I FOUND IT...HER! I FOUND HER THIS MORNING... I...

THAT IS...

NO...

YOU REALLY SHOULDN'T BRING HER TO SCHOOL THIS YOUNG.

SHE'S YOURS, NOW.

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'D CONSIDER... FOUR KITTENS?

BOOKS...

I DONT KNOW. TELL YOU ALL YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT KITTENS 'N' STUFF. I'D INVEST.

I GOTA SCOOBY!

I USED TO BE AFRAID OF YOU.

I'M GLAD I WAS WRONG.

'S JUST... YOU WERE KINDA SCARY.

YOUR DOJO'S ONE FLOOR UP FROM MY FLOWER GLASS. ALL THAT YELLING AND THUMPING... AND WITH YOU SO BIG 'N' ALL...

ME? WHY WOULD... ME?!
I’m glad you’re not scary, Sugiura. Really, really glad.

You’re not scary at all. You’re... nice.
YOU'RE NOT SCARY, SUSUMURA. REALLY, REALLY GLAD.
KAYOKO! THANK GOD!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA...
GET AWAY FROM ME OR... I WILL! SEE IF I DON'T! I'LL DO IT!
“Royale hits all the manga bases (martial arts, creepy old men, panty shots) without being Sailor Moon silly... A-”
— Marc Bernardin, Entertainment Weekly

So much unbridled enthusiasm, so many eliminated—the blood and lies are overwhelming the remaining few who scurry to survive the ongoing splatterfest that is Battle Royale.

When Sugimura and Kotohiki are reunited, hope leads to a momentary respite from The Program, but the noxious fumes of death and decay soon consume their hearts and souls. The monster that is Kiriyama is hot on the duo's trail, and he won't stop until they are dead...or he is. In this lethal battleground of madness and despair, the time for running is over, and Sugimura confronts the horrific moment that all who play the game must face...
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YOU... YOU WON'T BE THE FIRST! I WILL!

NOT TRUE...

YOU'RE THE ODD ONE OUT!

I DESERVE TO LIVE!
I'll kill you dead! Go away or... or... I will!
YOU DON'T GET IT YET, DO YOU?

YOU'RE THE ODD ONE OUT HERE!

NO! NO CLOSER! NO CLOSER OR I SHOOT!

KAYOKO... PLEASE. LISTEN TO ME...
YOU WON'T BE THE FIRST! GO AWAY OR I'LL... GO AWAY!!
YOUR CALL MAKE IT.

!!

SHE SLEEPS AT THE FOOT OF MY BED.

I NAMED HER FUETSU.
Do you remember the kitten?

You called your arrangement Moon Wind, so I named her Fubuki... to honor you.

I took the name from your flower arrangement in class.

Newborns can't, so the mother helps by licking them. You suggested I buy a book. I did.

You have three at home, right?
YOU'RE NOT SCARY AT ALL.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT SCARY, SUZIMURA.

REALLY, REALLY GLAD.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT SCARY, SUZIMURA.

I'M GLAD YOU'RE NOT SCARY, SUZIMURA.

UH...

GLAD
I WOULD NEVER DO ANYTHING TO HURT YOU. I'M NOT SCARY—REMEMBER?

I'M NOT HERE TO HURT YOU. YOU'VE GOT TO BELIEVE THAT... PLEASE.

I...
I CAN'T DO THIS! I CAN'T!
I WASN'T GOING TO SHOOT...
I WASN'T!
SUGIMURA...
PLEASE...

IT'S OKAY!

OKAY...
OH! ARE YOU HURT?! SUGI-HURA?!

I’VE BEEN SO WORRIED...

I’M JUST... SO RELIEVED... YOU’RE OKAY...
MWA HA HA HA!!

Ooh... Oh... I thought I'd never laugh again... And then you... you...

UHH-HUH... Snk...

...I WAS BEING FUNNY...?

THANKS FOR MAKING ME LAUGH!

IF YOU'D SEEN YOURSELF! THANK YOU... THANK YOU, SUGIMURA!

SURE...I GUESS...

BIG, STRONG SUGIMURA GOES WEAK IN THE KNEES?!

IF YOU'D SEEN YOURSELF!
THANK YOU...
THANK YOU, SUGIMURA!

A RIOT!
I wasn't laughing at you! I—I thought you were trying to be funny—honest!

You were so brave! You threw your stuff away, and me holding a gun on you, and...and...

I didn't mean to hurt your feelings. It's just...
"'CAUSE YOU'RE A FUNNY GUY, IN A GOOD WAY, Y'KNOW?"

"YOU DIDN'T, I..."

"I'M SORRY IF I HURT YOUR FEELINGS."

"NO..."

"WE COOL?"

"BUT THEN YOU'RE ALL "WHAT DO I DO?" WITH THE KITTY AND THE CARING AND..."

"NOW HERE YOU'RE ALL "WHAT DO I DO?" AGAIN."

"...AND THIS TIME IT WAS ME."

"I HEAR IT FROM CLASS... THE YELLING AND THE FOUNDING... AND YOU'RE SO TALL AND STRONG AND SCARY LOOKING..."

"YOU MADE ME LAUGH."

"IN THE MIDDLE OF ALL OF THIS... THAT'S SOOOO..."
YOU'LL STAY WITH ME, RIGHT? PLEASE SAY YOU WILL.

I THINK I CAN BE BRAVE IF YOU STAY WITH ME. I REALLY DO.

PROTECT HER. YOU KNOW YOU CAN.

HOME IN ON THE BIRD CALL...

I KNOW... I KNOW YOU CAN.

I MEAN IT. I CAN BE BRAVE.
I believe him. We hook up with them. We're out of here. I know it sounds too good to be true...

...but that's not always the case. I think Kawada's got something.

Not what I meant. Shulma, Noriko, and—

That transfer with the scard? Kawada?

Well, they're together. I'm with them. Kawada—

He knows a way off the island.

Either way, I stay with you. You have my word on that. So...

What's it going to be?

The choice is yours.
SMOKE’S BOUND TO ATTRACT UNWANTED ATTENTION, AS WELL.

C’MON. STAYING’S OUT OF THE QUESTION.

THAT’LL DO IT.

KAY.
IT'S OKAY... I DON'T HAVE COOMBS.

YOU ARE SO SWEET!

LET'S GO...

AND LISTEN FOR BIRDS.

LOOK AT YOU BLUSHING W' ALL!
AND THIS TIME I'LL NEVER LET GO!

SHUUYA...
I FOUND HER, SHU!

RIGHT WITH YOU, SHU!

WE'RE GONNA BEAT THIS, SUGI... JUST SEE IF WE DON'T!

FIND HER AND DO RIGHT BY HER.
YOU FIND HER...

WE'RE COMING... GET ON IT!
WE'RE GONNA BEAT THIS!
I'm good.

You should know if you get tired.

I can keep up.

Not like Takako... Not this time!

Not ever again!
Fifteen seconds... Every fifteen minutes! Listen for it, SAGU!

That's I'm so sorry.

Get she doesn't even know...

To find her after...

...like that... OH...
YOU TWO WERE SO CLOSE... EVERYONE KNEW...

WANT TO HEAR A SECRET?

EVERYTHING... PRECIOUS FRIEND...

YOU WERE... EVERYTHING TO ME...

WE... IT WAS TOO LATE...

WE KNEW AND... SHE DESERVED BETTER.

THE THINGS WE SAID... WE SAID THEM TOO LATE...
I THINK... I THINK SHE KNEW HOW LUCKY SHE WAS... TO HAVE YOU.

WHY DID YOU LEAVE HIM AGAIN? WHY DIDN'T YOU ALL JUST ESCAPE?

AND SHIYUKA... YOU FOUND HIM, SUGIMURA...?

TAKA.

SHE WAS SO LUCKY TO HAVE YOU.

THAT BOX THING. I GUESS YOU WERE MEANT TO FIND HER. THAT IS HOW YOU FOUND HER... RIGHT?

I GUESS YOU WERE MEANT TO HAVE IT.

I...

WHAT AREN'T YOU TELLING ME?!

WHY?!

I...

I...

I HAD TO.

I... I HAD TO FIND SOMEONE.

THERE WAS... UM...
WHY ARE YOU KEEPING SECRETS FROM ME?!

SUGI?

IT WAS...

OH!

WHO?

HIS FRIEND WAS DEAD! JUST LIKE TAKA!

I...I FOUND...

I'M SO SORRY!
I CAN BE SUCH AN INCONSIDERATE DOOFUS!

I MEAN, YES! FORGIVE!

NO, NO... FORGIVE?

I'M SO VERY, VERY SORRY! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

YOU'VE ALREADY BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH-- I'M BEING SUCH A BITCH!
YOU'RE... OKAY, REALLY. I... I...
NOT AT ALL...
NO...
YOU REALLY KAY. ARE A NICE GUY, SUSUMA.

WELL, SURE!

HUH?

YOU ARE?

I'M REALLY GLAD WE FOUND EACH OTHER.

YOU BET! BATMAN AND... Y'KNOW... THAT KID, THAT'S US!

NOW WE'RE, LIKE, A TEAM. WE CAN WATCH OUT FOR EACH OTHER, Y'KNOW?
You remember that Phys Ed teacher everyone hated?

Kim? What's that supposed to mean?

What I am is really good at hiding my weakness.

I'm not all that tough, you know.

See what the "Master" here can teach us.

What say we lead off with Mr. "Big Shot Shaolin Master" Susimura, eh?

...time to get serious!

Okay, ladies...

Kenichiro Sakakibara, or Saranawa—somethin' like that. Made the Olympic judo team. Called himself Jaguar. Guy was a Class-A Moron.

Today, "Master" Susimura. Move your ass!

Feed him his teeth! Yeah!

Fucker's calling you out, man!

Um... shee.
He was looking to score points for his discipline by dumping all over mine. Called it an exhibition. Like the outcome of any bout with a teacher’s in doubt.

I’ll go easy on you. Wouldn’t want you losing face in front of the whole class, now would we?

Pounded some manners into his thick skull, right? Right?

Bet you cleaned his clock but good! Wham! Pow!

Always blowing their own horn!

Not quite.

In judo... there are no kicks... no punches...

Which means he couldn’t hit back.
I COULD HAVE TAKEN HIM DOWN EASY... BUT...

COME ON!

THERE WERE OPENINGS... A LOT OF OPENINGS.

SO... HE HAD HIS WAY WITH ME.

...I DON'T FIGHT FROM BEHIND. I DON'T HIT PEOPLE WHO CAN'T HIT BACK.

I DON'T WANT TO USE IT.

WHAT'S THIS, A SOLO ACT?!

SKILL WITHOUT THE WILL TO USE IT?

TAP
TAP

TAP OUT, "MASTER! I'M GETTING BORED."

WHAT'S THIS, A SOLO ACT?!

PRETTY MUCH USELESS.
IF YOU DON'T KNOW, YOU JUST LICKED YOUR FINGERS ON YOUR HEAD?

I THINK HE WANTED A FIGHT.

EVEN IF YOU'D HIT HIM... HE'S A TEACHER! ASSHOLE knew it was a no-win!

LIKE YOU HAVE TO WASTE YOUR SKILLS ON THAT KIND OF GARBAGE? NO WAY!

YOU MEAN, IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE, YOU JUST LET WHOEVER FOUND ON YOU?

HOW'S THAT?

IF I DO FIGHT, IT'S NOT TO BE BECAUSE I BELIEVE IN IT.

I NEVER WANT A FIGHT... NOT A REAL FIGHT. I MEAN, DOJO SPARRING. THAT'S JUST SKILL.

I JUST WON'T FIGHT BACK...
HOW'S HE GONNA FIGHT A TEACHER?! HOW'S THAT A FAIR FIGHT?!

C'MON! TRY ME ON FOR SIZE, "BIG MAN"!

BIG MAN PUTS THE SQUEEZE ON A TAP OUT! WANNA TRY PUTTING ONE ON ME?!

SHU... HE UNDERSTANDS... PICK YOUR FIGHTS.

OH, YEAH! THAT'S SHUNYA ALL OVER! MINA HA HA HA HA HA!!

BITE ME, TEACH!

SNKT...

GOT BOUNCED FROM CLASS FOR HIS TROUBLE.

LOOKING TO FAIL? IS THAT IT, SMART MOUTH?! GIMME A REASON! C'MON!

HE PUT ON QUITE A SHOW...
THAT'S WHY WHEN HE SAYS THERE'S A WAY OUT OF THIS...

YEAH, I KNOW.

Yeah, he's got that...

Shu's got pretty set views when it comes to right and wrong.

Shu's got this...

right.

Gle

BLK...

...and Noriko.

Huh... Noriko gets along with just about everybody.

Talk about your odd pairing. Kawada, Shu...

...but Shu vouches for him, and that's good enough for me.

Look, I don't know this Kawada guy from a hole in the wall...

SORRY... I TEND TO RAMBLE. GUESS YOU'VE NOTICED?

Listen to me going on and on.

Huh?

You were trying to convince me that you're not all that tough. But... I think you're a lot tougher than you think.

Sure you are!
BEING HERE WITH A TOUGH GUY LIKE YOU... THAT'S WAY TOUGH! SO, HOW LUCKY AM I, HUH?

THE WAY YOU STAND BY YOUR FRIENDS ‘N’ ALL... AND THE WAY YOU ALWAYS TRY TO DO THE RIGHT THING, EVEN IF IT WINDS UP HURTING YOU...

THEY DON'T COME MUCH BETTER THAN YOU, SUSIMURA!

GUESS I'M JUST ABOUT THE LUCKIEST GIRL ON THE ISLAND!

WHY... UH.

SO... JAGUAR... HE...

RIGHT... RIGHT!

MMM?

AH...

DRIK!
NOTHING TO MARK THE OCCASION? S'MATTER? CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?

MIMURA, HEAR TELL YOU'VE GOT A SMART-ASS COMMENT FOR EVERYTHING.

CALLING YOU AN ASSHOLE WOULD BE REPEATED.

MIM... HAD HIS WAYS.

NOT THAT THE BIG JERK DIDN'T DESERVE IT... BUT STILL.

WOW! I MEAN... WOW!

HE REALLY SAID THAT?!

SIR! NOW THAT'S MORE LIKE IT! HA!

ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT, ALREADY! LESSON LEARNED, SIR!

NO MORE...

NOT EVERYONE CAN PULL OFF THAT LOOK.

OH... AND PROPS FOR THE FASHION STATEMENT.

JAGUAR HAS ALL OVER HIM. MIM DIDN'T EVEN TRY.

VAM... MIM SURE HAD HIS WAYS...

LOOK...
LIKE I SAID, A TOUGH ONE TO PULL OFF.

BUT A THONG?

I MEAN, BAD ENOUGH THE JAGUAR SPOTS...

AHHHHH!!

YOU'RE TOO KIND...

YOU'RE TIGHT...
Always a step ahead of everyone else. Always playing an angle.

Mim’s the man. Got that right.

Count on Mimura to pull that one off! I wish I could’ve seen the look on Jaguar’s face!

That is too rich! Ha! Jaguar spots!

He was a good friend. The absolute best.

You were so right! Mimura’s definitely got his ways!

Realize how important good friends are...how lucky you are to have them in your life.

Mimura, Shiiya, Noriko...

Funny how it takes something like this to make you realize...

I...I heard his name announced.

All of my friends are gone... every last one.
I've seen things. They're gone. It's real. It's still hard for me to believe they're gone... that this isn't all just some... elaborate practical joke...

I'd keep hearing their names, you know? One after another...

There're kids out there playing to win... one's even getting off on it.

Sousa...

How sick is that?

Mitsuko... she's still out there.
STONP COUP CRAZY, IP YOU ASMT MR ANP SUP'S not me HORST. PAR PROM IT. KIRIYAMA...

AND SHE'S NOT THE WORST. FAR FROM IT, KIRIYAMA...

STONE COLD CRAZY, IF YOU ASK ME.
I've seen what he's capable of. Ever wonder why Jaguar resigned?

Guess I'm going to have to take off the kid's gloves. Poun home some real lessons.

That's the way it's gonna be, eh?

Talk about your bad choices...

Waiting for something like this to define him.

Happened right after Mum's stunt...
OVER HERE...! LET'S SEE WHAT YOU GOT!

YO! BOOKWORM BOY KIRIHAMA, RIGHT?

CHUNK

!!

INTRODUCTION TO JUDO

RELAX. IT'S NOT BRAIN SURGERY.

I... Ah... BOSS?
IT WAS RIDICULOUS! KIRIYAMA KNEW JUDO LIKE I KNEW NUCLEAR PHYSICS!

WELL? GONNA MAKE ME HATE ALL DAY?

LET'S SET IT ON!

IT WAS...

AND YET... THERE WAS SOMETHING ABOUT HIM THAT MADE ME BELIEVE...

THAT SOMEHOW, HE WAS GOING TO MAKE IT WORK!

I MADE HIM BELIEVE HE'D TAKEN WHAT HE NEEDED FROM THAT BOOK...
LET'S GO, KIRIHAMA! TAKE YOUR BEST SHOT!

Chapter 83

I SAID LET'S GO!!
CHAPTER 83: The Devil’s Tactics
F*CKING OLYMPICS DON'T COUNT FOR SQUAT!

YEAAH!

BITCH MY ASS!

DAMN! WASN'T JAGUAR ON THE OLYMPIC TEAM?

MAYBE THEM JAGUAR PANTIES'RE BUNCHED UP TOO TIGHT?

HAAH!
Sure you are. Guess I played you too soft... My mistake.

Guess you're feeling pretty good right about now, eh?

Sweet move, Bookworm. Yeah...

Let's see what kind of moves you really got.

Been a while since I could really cut loose.

Coming at you, Bookworm!

Ha!
YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHIN' YET!

LIKE IT, PUNK?!
TWO POINTS SHORT OF BRONZE, PUNK! TAKE THAT HOME TO MAMA!

HOLY... BOSS!

DA-ANN!

ONE LUCKY MOVE DON'T WIN THE FIGHT, BOOKWORM!

HA! NOT SO COCKY NOW!
HE MADE KIRYAMA BLEED?
I think he might even be a genius... yeah...

KIRIYAMA... he's... different. Don't ask me how. It's just... he is.

I don't think he feels.

How's a guy like that wind up scaring a guy like you? Shouldn't it be the other way around?

But he's, like, so quiet... he's always reading or day-dreaming...

...but he's, like, so quiet... he's always reading or day-dreaming...

Well, sure, he's smart 'n' all...

I just don't think he can. He acts. Period. That's what scares me the most. A man with no regrets is capable of anything.

It's not that he doesn't care...

Least not the same way we do. Ever seen him happy? Sad? Angry? Anything?

It's like he's totally disconnected from anything that's not him.
I care too much about the consequences of my actions. He doesn't care at all.

You're the odd one out, here!

Look — the point I'm trying to make is... I'm not some superhero.

I wasn't trying to scare you, or... um...

Sorry, I don't mean to...

He's that bad?

You really are a nice guy.

But I can still protect you, Kayoko... limitations and all.

I won't let anyone hurt you. Promise.
There's so much more to tell...

You must have heard. It was the talk of the school...

Worse still... It's all true... Every single word...

Do nice guys keep secrets?

Tell half-truths?
Round two, bookworm.

Looks like someone grew a backbone. I'm impressed.

Well, well...

Ain't gonna be no round three!
DAMMIT!

IT ALL EVENS OUT IN THE END, JAGUAR!

SOONER OR LATER, YOU'LL PICK ON THE WRONG GUY!

WHAT'S COMING TO THEM!

WHO'S IT THIS TIME?!
WHO'RE YOU PICKING ON NOW?!
I just hope I'm there to see it!
...PICK ON THE WRONG GUY...

H-AACK!

POPPEO MY FUCKING EYE!!

MY EYE! SHIT! WHAT DID YOU...?!

MY FUCKING EYE!!
PLEASE... MY EYE...

NO! DON'T!!

PLEASE!!

WHAT ARE YOU--?!

WHAT ARE YOU--?!

WHAT ARE YOU--?!

WHAT ARE YOU--?!

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WHAT ARE YOU--?!

WHAT ARE YOU--?!

WHAT ARE YOU--?!
HUH?

NYAA!!

AAAH!!

AH!!

AH!!
HOW DO YOU FIGHT SOMEONE LIKE THAT?

SUGIMURA? HELLO? EARTA? TO SUGIMURA?

KIRIMAHA. HE'S OUT THERE. HUNTING... HUNTING AND NOT CARING WHY...

CAN YOU FIGHT SOMEONE LIKE THAT?

WOULD ANYONE CARE TO SHARE IN THE EXPERIENCE?

NOT BLOOD. MURKY, BUT NOT BLOOD. ALMOST LIKE EGGS WHITE.
SOONER, BETTER THAN LATER... RIGHT!

YOU HAVE TO ASK?

WELL, D'UH!

I CAN...
I WILL PROTECT HER! NOT LIKE TAKAKO!

I CAN PROTECT HER...

AND IF IT COMES TO IT... I CAN KILL FOR HER! I MUST!

I WILL!

KIRYAMA... MITSURO... I WILL NOT LET YOU HAVE HER!

NOT LIKE TAKAKO!
FOR HER,
I WILL
KILL WITHOUT
THOUGHT
GIVEN TO
CONSEQUENCE!

FOR HER, I
WILL
DO IT!

I FOUND
HER...
I FOUND
HER AND
NO ONE
WILL TAKE
HER AWAY!
CHAPTER 84: Truth and Untruth
EASY. THEY'RE SLIPPERY.
Why are you doing all of this for me? I mean, it's not like I could help in a fight or... whatever.
You could have shot me back there. You didn't. I know for sure.

But how do you know that for sure?

Not that I would! All that talk about killing 'n' all... I was really, really scared, you know?

Subi-Mura...

There's something you're not telling me...

!!

It's you... I...

I...

No...

I don't...
HAI!

YOU'RE THE MOST REAL PERSON I KNOW.
WHY IS TODAY SO DIFFERENT?

TELL ME...

SO...

THAT WAS... ENLIGHTENING. THANK YOU, MASTER.

BUT TODAY THERE WAS NO RELUCTANCE... MOST UNLIKE YOU. IS THERE SOMETHING YOU WISH TO SHARE?

THERE IS ALWAYS, WITH YOU, A RELUCTANCE.

AS IF YOU FEAR YOU WILL COME TO LIKE IT... PERHAPS EVEN NEED IT.

Huh?
He didn't see her more with thought ever. That makes him strong. No... stronger if I'm to become stronger...

Almost like egg white.
MURKY, BUT NOT BLOOD.
KIRYAMA knows no limitations. He is without conscience—and that much stronger for it.

There must be a way to become stronger without becoming like him. There must!

I... My reluctance binds me. I hesitate even when I know I must act.

Is strength so important? Does it mean so much to you that you would betray who you are?

AND THEN WHAT?

And so you try to push past your... "limitations."

You seek strength by way of forfeiture. Hmm...

Who is stronger than he who knows himself? How can there be strength without self-awareness?

Tell me, SUSIMURA...
SELF-AWARENESS MAKES US REAL.

FIND WHAT MAKES YOU REAL AND YOU WILL FIND STRENGTH.
She...

THE LIGHT CARESSES HER...
Both express the reality within. Both expose the hidden truths. I was just... um... I...

Yes. She is very real, no? Very pretty, too, don't you think?

Soth express th6 psalitv within. Both expose the hidden truths. Separate paths to the same destination. You see?

Martial Arts... Flower arranging.

Open your eyes. Do you think the beauty ends with the flowers?

And see what?
SUNLIGHT BECOMES HER, YES IT DOES.

THE FLOWERS REPRESENT THE BEAUTY OF THE ONE DOING THE ARRANGING, THE INNER BEAUTY.

ONCE MASTERED, WHAT DO THE MARTIAL ARTS DISCIPLINES TELL US ABOUT THE ADEPT?

IN FORM AND MOVEMENT, CAN WE NOT SEE THE TRUTH WITHIN?

YOU WONDER HOW THINGS SUCH AS THIS CAN HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH MARTIAL ARTS?

MAKE PEACE WITH YOUR INNER SELF.

YOU WOULD DO WELL TO EMULATE HER.

HOW SHE EXPOSES MORE AND MORE OF HERSELF...

SEE HOW SHE MAKES MINUTE ADJUSTMENTS...

THAT'S...

I NEVER...
YOU MUST BE WORTHY OF YOURSELF BEFORE YOU CAN EVER BE WORTHY OF ANOTHER.

ACCEPT WHO YOU ARE AND DRAW STRENGTH FROM THAT TRUTH!
YES.

A VERY PRETTY YOUNG GIRL. I THINK SHE WOULD BE GOOD FOR YOU.

I DON'T... I'M NOT... IT'S NOT... D-DO IT?! NO, NO...

I SEC. THE MOTION, SUBIMURA. STOP DITHERING AND DO IT.

I'M... AND I SUPPOSE YOU STAND HERE DAY AFTER DAY TO TAKE IN THE SUN?

HOW IS IT YOUR COLORFUL FRIEND TAKAKO PUTS IT? "STOP DITHERING AND DO IT!"

FOR ME? ME? GOOD?
Strength from the truth within...

No dithering, then... Then... I do it!

I'll be worthy of you one day soon...
WHEN YOU FINALLY GONNA TAKE THE PLUNGE, MAN? EVER SINCE I'VE KNOWN YOU, IT'S BEEN THE SAME OLD SAME OLD.

FALL FOR GIRL, MOON OVER GIRL, HOPE AROUND WHEN ANOTHER GUY ASKS GIRL OUT AND—SURPRISE!—GIRL ACCEPTS.

HEY! I DON'T...

BATTLE VIKINGS II? RING ANY BELLS? WE ALL AGREED TO CATCH IT TODAY?

SO... WHAT BRINGS YOU DOWN HERE TODAY...

UH... MIAZUMI.

WOW, YOU REALLY GOT IT BAD THIS TIME.
DO YOU EVEN KNOW HER NAME?

THOUGHT NOT.

IF YOU SAY SO.

BEEK A HECTIC DAY...

THAT'S WHAT MIM SAID? FALL FOR?!
Miu: Hey, you know what a kidder Mimura is... was?

Sugimoto: Hey, don't... where did this come from?!

I... no, he wasn't.

Miu: I'm just a little troll compared to Takako! That was him just being a jerk!

I mean... you hung out with Takako. This isn't funny, okay?

Your beauty comes from within, from the real you.

Miu: Beauty? Me?! From within...?
A-HEH... HEEH... YOU ARE SO FUNNY! THE REAL ME... SNRK... BEAUTY FROM WITHIN...

OH... NO ME GOING FOR A WHILE, THERE...

WE'D BETTER MOVE ON.

YEAH. SURE. SO...

SIGH...

JUST LET ME CATCH MY BREATH.

WAIT...

WAIT...

OH... NO ME 60IN6...
#Manga-Sketchbook@MinecraftHighWay

http://www.manga-sketchbook.org
I WAS WONDERING...

I'M KNOW... ABOUT THAT WHOLE "BEAUTY FROM WITHIN" THING?

UH, SHIIMURA? I WAS WONDERING...

THAT WAS... AH...
THAT'S, UM...

REALLY...

YOU MEANT, LIKE, KI... RIGHT? INNER ESSENCE EXTERNALIZED.

OUR FLOWER ARRANGING TEACHER. SHE WAS REALLY INTO THAT KINDA STUFF.

WHAT'S INSIDE...

NOT THAT THERE'S ALL THAT MUCH TO SEE... OMIGOD! I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT!

I DIDN'T MEAN LOOK AT MY...

NO, NO, NO! THAT'S NOT WHAT I...

WE SHOULD MOVE ON.

I CAN'T...

THAT'S NOT...

LOOK RIGHT HERE.

SHE SHOWED US THIS...

HERE...

LOOK...
JUST IN
FRONT...
SURE
THING.

O-
OK.

SURE...

FOCUS
RIGHT
OVER
HERE.

LIKE
HERE.

I MEANT
FOCUS
ON A SPOT
JUST IN
FRONT
OF ME.

I'M
WATCHING.

WHAT
AM I
WATCHING?

I'M...

NEAH.

RIGHT
HERE,
YOU
WATCH-
ING?

HERE
OKAY?

TRY NOT
TO BLINK
AND REALLY,
REALLY
FOCUS...!
THIS IS SO
COOL!

WHAT...

WAIT FOR IT,
YOU'VE GOT
tO REALLY
CONCENTRATE,
OKAY?
TEACHER'D SAY IT WAS A KI SIGNATURE—LIKE IN DRAGONBALL Z.

IF YOU STARE HARD ENOUGH, YOUR EYES KIND OF BLEND MAKES IT LOOK LIKE SOMETHING'S THERE.

SEE IT? IT'S LIKE AN OPTICAL ILLUSION OR SOMETHING.

!!

PRETTY COOL, HUH?

I TOLD YOU IT WAS JUST AN OPTICAL ILLUSION-TYPE THINGY.

OF COURSE IT IS!

M'N?

THAT'S JUST ANIME STUFF.

BUT...
We'd all goof around whenever Teacher wasn't around. We'd pretend the ki balls were real...

...and that we could make them grow and twist and all.

I mean, if you could really do stuff like that?

But... how cool would it be?

We were just being silly, y'know?
It's just playing.

It's like an exercise, right? To feel what's within.

Pulling strength from within...

I...

Very cool.

It's like, ta-dah!

The one and only Toushi Ki Master, Kayoko Kotohiki!

Silly, huh?

Then we'd all have to hold the pose long's we could.
I WAS REALLY GOOD AT THIS PART. I'VE GOT REALLY GOOD BALANCE. SEE?

IT'S ALL WILL-POWER, Y'KNOW?

STOP DITHERING AND DO IT.

SURE! WHOEVER HOLDS LONGEST WINS! WE'D ALL, LIKE, PRETEND WE WERE SENDING OUT, LIKE, KI RAYS!

SHOOTING OUT ENERGY TO UNBALANCE THE OTHERS AND KNOCK THEM DOWN.

SHE SHOULDN'T DISCONNECT, Y'KNOW? GO ALONG WITH THE MAKE-BELIEVE.

I WON A LOT.
Martial arts is all about willpower.

Yeah...

She looks to be about your age. Give or take...

A very pretty young girl. I think she would be good for you.

Test myself by bringing my leg way up, like a ballerina. Y'know? Really stretch...

Right! Okay! Leg up! I get it!

We've got to move on!
OMG! Subumira! Look over there!

IT'S A KITTY! LOOK!

So cute! C'mere, kitty... c'mon...

Right. A kitty...

Kitty...
Kitty?

What do I do?

Do you think I scared it?

I didn't.

No, not at all.
THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU SO SPECIAL. I MEAN...

THAT'S... YOU'RE JUST SO CONFIDENT. SO... REAL.

NO.

I KNOW I CAN COME ON KINDA STRONG... Y'KNOW, BRASH 'N' ALL?

IT'S LIKE YOU... GLOW FROM WITHIN. I'VE SEEN IT. I...

NO.

KAYOKO? I... I DIDN'T MEAN TO... KAYOKO?

UM...

MY MOM MADE ME TAKE IT EVER SINCE I WAS A KID...

I'M NOT SPECIAL. I'M JUST... THE FLOWER ARRANGING?
SHE'S ALWAYS LOOKING OUT FOR ME LIKE THAT... ABOUT BOYS 'N' ALL.

MY MOM KNOWS ALL ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT. BOYS AND MEN... WHAT THEY

SHE'S... SHE'S THE BEST.

YOU'RE... YEAH...

YOUR MOM'S THAT OPEN WITH YOU? THAT IS SO GREAT!

HOLY...

MY DAD... MY MOM'S HIS MISTRESS.

SHE... SHE DOESN'T WANT THAT FOR ME.
He set my mom up pretty. Her own bar... club... whatever.

My dad's a high wack at some bank or other. Money to burn, you know?

Nowhere near often enough, but... me 'n' mom... we get by.

He stops by whenever he can.

Guess you don't talk to girls much, or you'd have known, too...

It's no big secret. Most of the girls in school know. No one makes a big deal of it.

Uh...
I'm like the mascot. Everyone there's so nice. Sometimes I even get to see my dad. That's pretty cool.

If my mom's sick or like that, I'll go down and help with snacks, wait tables... basically whatever needs doing.

I try to help out.

It's not like they want to do it or nothing. But it's just-touching, you know?

There's some guys there who, like, rub your butt and... other stuff...

Weird life, huh? Even still, I wouldn't have it any other way. I just wish my mom wouldn't fret about me so much.

It's not like they want to do it or nothing. But it's just-touching, you know?

There's some guys there who, like, rub your butt and... other stuff...

I guess that's why I never quite fit in with the other girls.

Noriko and her group, Yukie... definitely not Mitsuko! Never that bunch!
WAY TOO BLUNT...
BUT I DON'T CARE. IT'S WHO I AM, AND YOU ALREADY SAID YOU LIKE WHO I AM...

I LIKE WHO YOU ARE TOO, SUIMURA. YOU MAKE ME LAUGH AND...

OMGOD! I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT TO YOU!

KAYO...
I'm glad you found me and that you like me, and...

I'm glad I did.

And that my mom was right about the flower arranging.

And the nice boys, especially that, especially you.

I'll do whatever you say... I won't let you down!

I'll try to keep up... honest.
WE... 
IT'S NOT SAFE TO STAY IN ONE PLACE TOO LONG!

WE CAN'T JUST... DAMN!

WE'LL FIND THEM AND BEAT THIS GAME! SEE IF WE DON'T!

I WON'T LET YOU DOWN, SUSIMURA! WE'LL FIND YOUR FRIENDS!

KAYOKO!
MUST EVERY GIRL YOU FALL FOR BE A MENTAL PATIENT?!!

SHE'S NOT CRAZY!

SHE'S SCARED AND I... I...
Sue's RUNNING SCARED AND LOOKING TO... WHAT? IMPRESS ME? IS SHE AFRAID I'LL ABANDON HER? I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE I LET THAT SLIP! SO WHY IS SHE... DOES SHE THINK SHE HAS TO?

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROVE ANYTHING TO ME!

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PROVE ANYTHING TO ME!

KAYOKO, NO!

TELL HER, YOU MORON!

NO MORE DITHERING...

NOW!
SHE KNOWS I LIKE HER, BUT IT'S SO MUCH MORE THAN THAT... TELL HER, DAMN YOU!

KAYOKO! YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS! NOT FOR ME!
YOU... YOU'RE...

NO.

NO? BUT I HAVEN'T...
NO... DEAR GOD, NO...
...it all goes wrong.

And just like that...

I dithered away our time together... and now she may never know...
CHAPTER 86: Violent Fist
XcAN'T.

HNSH-
NNSH!
But I felt it!

As if he were... projecting from within... using ki...

DAMMIT, SUGIMURA! FOCUS! HE'S GOOD, BUT SO AM I!!

NO! THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! IT'S...
He's NOT sure...

He POPSHT KNOW consequence...

He's a KILLER and DOESN'T CARE...

HE DOESN'T KNOW CONSEQUENCE! HE'S A KILLER AND DOESN'T CARE...

THAT'S HIS EDGE... HE DOESN'T CARE...

HE'S MERCILESS...

DAMMIT. HE'S NOT SUPER NATURAL. KI BELONGS IN ANIME...

I...

I CAN'T...

THAT IS HIS STRENGTH...
MY RESISTANCE BINGS ME. I HESITATE EVEN WHEN I KNOW I MUST ACT. KIYAMA KNOWS NO LIMITATIONS. HE IS WITHOUT CONSCIENCE--AND THAT MAKES HIM STRONGER FOR IT.
STOP DIMENSION AND DO IT!

SUCH A BOY SCOUT...

DON'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO WIN!

YOU'RE THE ODD ONE OUT, HERE!

YOU ARE SO THICK!

SSS...

STEELED IN IT, SHI...

THERE ARE NO FAIR FIGHTS...

FIRST KAYOKO, THEN BACK TO US. DON'T MAKE US COME AFTER YOU.

I FOUND HER...

HE FOUND US...

WE'RE GONNA BEAT THIS GUY JUST SEE IF WE DON'T YOU BE THERE FOR IT
I CAN...

!!

...DO RIGHT BY HER!

!!

!!

HII!

FINISH HER AND DO RIGHT BY HER!
I WILL PROTECT HER!

SUZUMURA! SUZUMURA, NO...

HE'S PUKED IMPULSE....!!

ALL TECHNIQUE, NO PASSION....!!
I can exploit that! I know I can!

HGH!

I know these forms too! Anticipate his move!
ANTICIPATE THE MOVE! I CAN DO THIS!

PURE TECHNIQUE...

BY THE BOOKS! NO VARIATION!
I CAN DO THIS FOR HER! KAYAKO!

OH PLEASE, NO...
I SEE IT!!
I SEE IT,
YOU MURDERING BASTARD!!
I can do this for her!!
Chapter 87

I CAN'T...

I...
HE'S TOO FAST!
I'M BARELY CLIPPING HIM! IT'S LIKE HE KNOWS!
CAN READ MY MIND!

LIKE HE...

HE'S ANTICIPATING MY MOVES!
ANTICIPATE THIS, KILLER!

HRRR - AH!!
DAMMIT! TOO FAST!
PAIN? OUT

TOUCH ME!
I never felt... He couldn't...
MY HAND!

I NEVER FELT THE BLOW!

HOW?!

I DIDN'T.

HOW COULDN'T HE....?

NEVER SAID IT COMING!

CRIPPLED MINE!! FUCKING CRIPPLED ME AND I NEVER SAW IT COMING!!

!!
SUGIMURA!! NO!!
Wind him up and watch him kill... How do I fight that?

...barely human...

Like a machine...

He doesn't care what happens to himself... Empty inside...

H-H...

I gave him everything I've got... And he...

No consequence... It's not just us he doesn't care about... Himself...
NO CONSEQUENCE...
A MACHINE...
HOW DO I FIGHT
THAT? KIRIYAMA...
ARE YOU EVEN
REMTELY
HUMAN!
HOW DID YOU COME TO THIS?

HUM I NO OUT...
CANT...

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HUMANITY, KIRIYAMA? WHEN DID YOU BECOME THIS... THING?

WHAT HAPPENED, KIRIYAMA? HOW DID YOU...

BLURRING OUT... CAN'T... KIRIYAMA...

SURVIVING CONTESTANTS: 7 and counting.
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 that 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.