
セキレイ
15
極楽院櫻子


BATCHMANGA.IN
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Sekirei
15
SAKURAKO
GOKURAKUIN


Sekirei 15
SAKURAKO GOKURAKUIN

SEKIREI ⑮

Sakurako Gokurakuin



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MINATO-SAN!!
MINA-TO!?
As I explained to you all earlier...
...the very substance Kamikura Island is made of is like a poison to Ashikabi.
No doubt you fine Ashikabi are already feeling its effects.
But not to worry.
There are certain items that can render the island's energy harmless.
They are...
...the "Jinki."



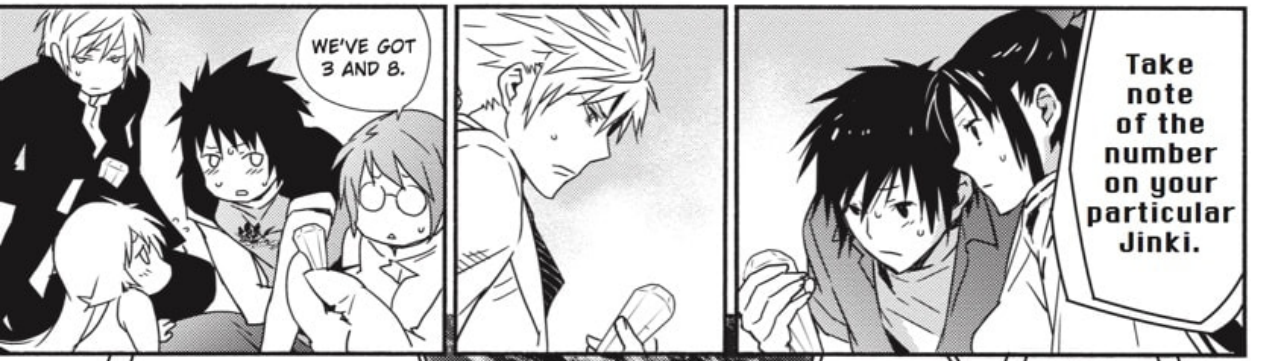
Chapter 142: The Eighth Ashikabi

There are eight spots around the edges of this island...

...connected to a system that can disable the energy.

Each number in the sky indicates one of those locations.

When you place your respective Jinki in those spots, the system will activate.

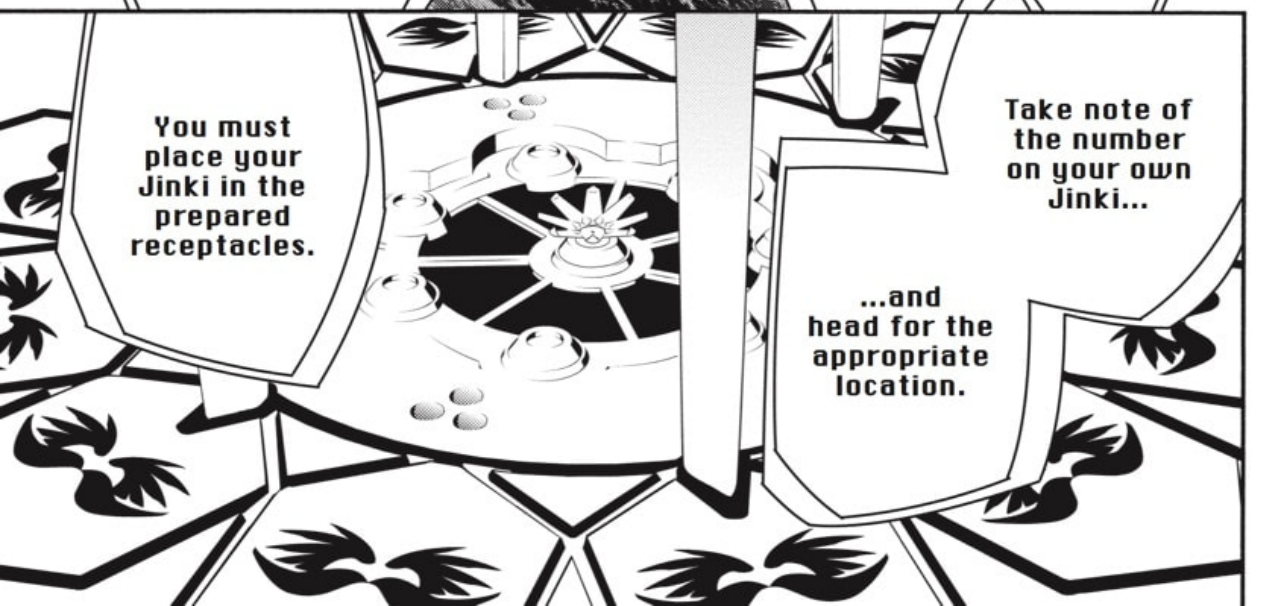


Each location has a number.

And each Jinki does too.



Naturally, the numbers indicate where each Jinki is to be placed.




MUSUBI WILL RUN OVER THERE REALLY QUICKLY AND PLACE THEM!
M-ME TOO!
IF WE DON'T, MY NATSUO WILL BE IN TROUBLE...
How-ever!
The act must be performed by an Ashikabi if it is to have the desired effect.
Unless the Ashikabi himself places the Jinki, it will not activate.
One more thing.
The island's harmful energy will continue to flow until all eight Jinki are placed.
In the current state, you will be unable to use your noritos, even.
SO BASI-CALLY ...
...IF WE TRY TO SLOW DOWN THE OTHER ASHIKABI, MIKO-SAMA'S LIFE IS IN DANGER...?
.....IF OUR MASTER DIES, ALL OF HIS SEKIREI WILL CEASE TO FUNCTION..... WE'LL DIE...


THAT MEANS STAGE ONE...
...IS ALL ABOUT COOPERATION AMONG ASHIKABI?
BECAUSE, OTHER-WISE...
...ALL OF US WILL DIE BEFORE THE BATTLE CAN EVEN BEGIN.
MM-HMM. MM-HMM.
SKREEE
Correct!
So you hardly have time to lollygag!
G-GOTTA GET GOING.
SWAY
BIG BROTHER.
MINA-TO!
BIG BROTHER.
ACK.
SLUMP
With every second that passes, the energy eats away at your Ashikabi bodies.
I'm afraid my explanation has been a bit long-winded.
Apolo-gies for that.
Needless to say, you don't have much time left, my fine Ashikabi.
In fact, I'd say you have about...


FIVE MINUTES!?
...five minutes.
AT LEAST 6 MINUTES TO REACH BOTH
8
1
7
2
6
5
4
3
4 MINUTES
CURRENT LOCATION
2 MINUTES
IT'S SO FAR AWAY!
OUR NUMBERS ARE 3 AND 8... ON OPPOSITE SIDES OF THE ISLAND...
OH.
EVEN WITH A SEKIREI CARRYING THEIR ASHIKABI, REACHING THE DROP POINT WILL TAKE A FULL TWO MINUTES.
EX-PLAIN.
THIS IS BAD.
EXTREMELY BAD.
WE JUST HAPPEN TO HAVE TWO JINKI.
SAHASHIII.
COME ON, DUDE.
DAMN YOU!
NORTH!!
NORTH...!
TCH!
UWAAAAH!
うわあああ


SEVEN ASHIKABI... BUT EIGHT JINKI...
BADUM
CRAP... CRAP!
BADUM
THIS IS BAD.
BADUM
Not quite.
STEP
Need an Ashikabi?
Here's one more.


CEO MINAKA !?
CEO...
Sahashi-kun...
...One of your Jinki was originally the property of MBI itself.
I won't presume anything about how you got your hands on it, but...
I still consider that particular Jinki my responsi-bility.


Entrust me with the Jinki labeled "8" and allow me to place it.
Now, hand it over!
MATSU-SAN.
THE JINKI, PLEASE.
DON'T DO IT, SAHASHI!
NO TELLING WHAT HE'S PLAN-NING...
MINA-TAN.
...IS UP TO ME, HERE.
...WHILE STILL BEING A LITTLE WARY OF HIM...
...TRUSTING THE CEO...
...THAT RIGHT?
ISN'T...
MINA-TAN...

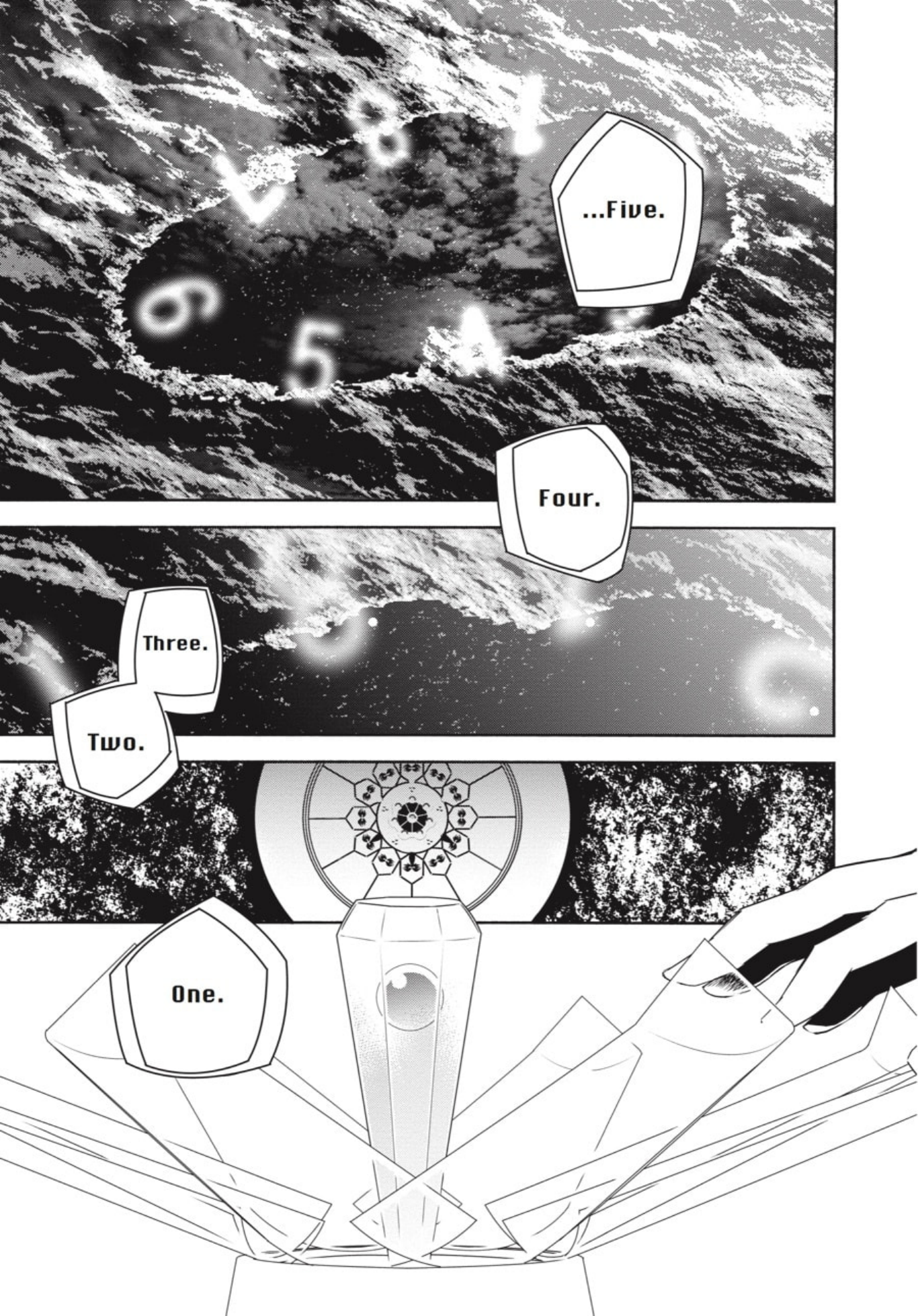

BECAUSE I...
WHENEVER THERE'S HOPE, I THINK YOU JUST HAVE TO CLING TO IT.
...I ACCEPT THAT.
...I CAN'T BE MAD...
...I GUESS...
WHAT'S THE FOOL THINK HE'S DOING...?
MINAKA IS OUT THERE!?
THAT WASN'T IN THE PLAN.
WOBBLE
OOF.
SHOCK

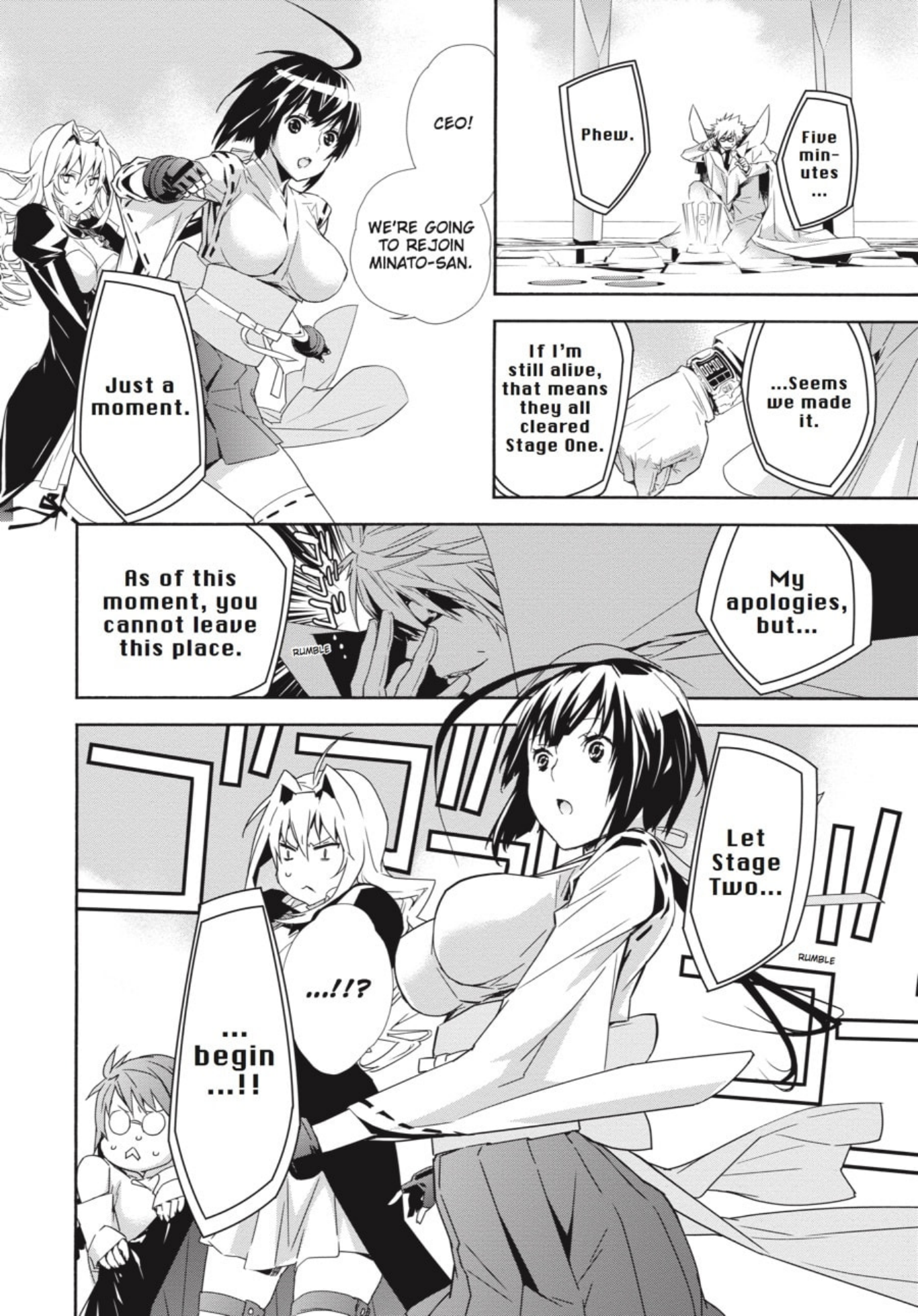

...use your strength to carry me...
...and get us to location 8.
Testing, testing. Hello?
As an Ashikabi, I'm taking the same risk as you all by being here.
C—
CEO!?
So if you will, No. 88, fist-type Musubi-kun...
SURE.
MINATO-SAN?
WAIT, MUSUBI!
YOU MUSTN'T GET CARELESS AROUND HIM!!
GO AHEAD.


I WILL GO AS WELL.
TSUKIUMI-SAN?
GUESS I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND GO WITH THIS GROUP.
IN MY ABSENCE ...
...YOU MUST PROTECT MINATO, EVEN AT THE COST OF YOUR OWN LIFE!
HOMU-RA!
I SAY THIS AS YOUR RIVAL.
THAT WAS ALWAYS THE PLAN.
I'VE GOT 7.
SO I'M GOING TOO.
SEO-SAN?
I STILL DON'T TRUST THAT GUY, BUT...
...WE'RE ALL OUT OF OPTIONS.
...GOTTA COUNT ON HIM, NOW.
SEE YA LATER, IF WE LIVE.
RIGHT.


SWAY
HEH HEH...
HIGA-SAMA!?
...HMPH!
...SO EVEN THE GREAT HIROTO MINAKA CAN ACT LIKE A PARENT.
HOW DISEN-CHANTING.
...I SUPPOSE I SHOULD GO TOO.
FU-FU... EVEN THE CEO CAME OUT TO PLAY...
WHAT AN AMUSING MAN.
LET'S MOVE.
...C-C-CARRY YOU.....
NA-NA-NA—
NATSUO, LET ME...
PLUCK

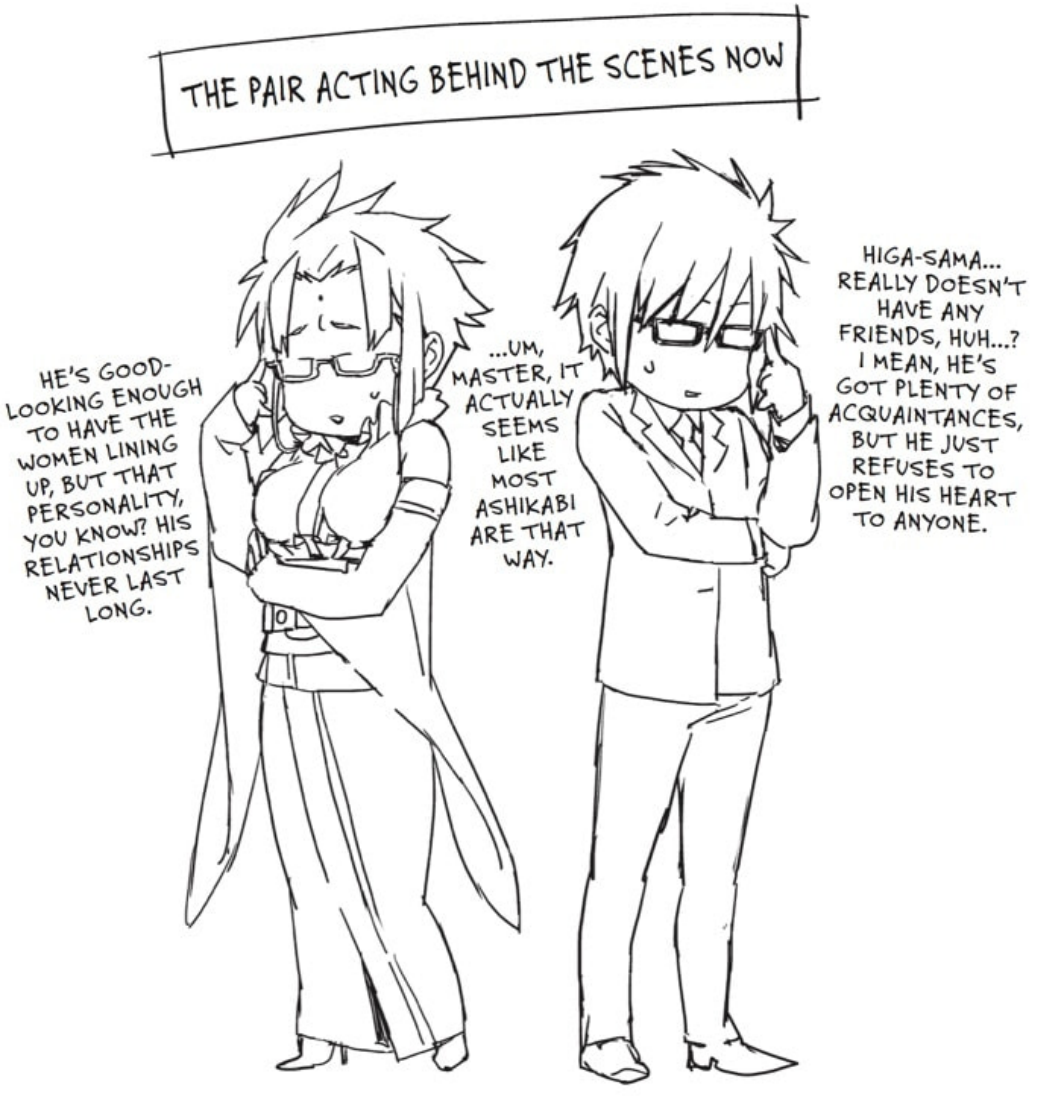

MU-CHAN!
UNTIL LATER.
YES, KARA-SUBA-SAMA!
WE'LL MEET AGAIN!!
THAT MEANS OUR DESTINATION IS...
3.
OVER THERE.


...Five.
Four.
Three.
Two.
One.


Phew.
Five min-utes ...
If I'm still alive, that means they all cleared Stage One.
...Seems we made it.
CEO!
WE'RE GOING TO REJOIN MINATO-SAN.
Just a moment.
As of this moment, you cannot leave this place.
RUMBLE
My apologies, but...
Let Stage Two...
RUMBLE
...!!?
... begin ...!!


RUMBLE
As of this moment, you cannot leave this place.
My apologies, but...
... begin...!!
Let Stage Two...
MINATO-SAN...!


Chapter 143: Stage Two


THE PAIR ACTING BEHIND THE SCENES NOW
HE'S GOOD-LOOKING ENOUGH TO HAVE THE WOMEN LINING UP, BUT THAT PERSONALITY, YOU KNOW? HIS RELATIONSHIPS NEVER LAST LONG.
...UM, MASTER, IT ACTUALLY SEEMS LIKE MOST ASHIKABI ARE THAT WAY.
HIGA-SAMA... REALLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS, HUH...? I MEAN, HE'S GOT PLENTY OF ACQUAINTANCES, BUT HE JUST REFUSES TO OPEN HIS HEART TO ANYONE.


One.
Two.
Three.
Four.
Five.
SAHASHI!!
SAHASHI! ARE YOU OKAY?
BIG BROTHER?


SAHASHI!!
HAAH...
...?
H-HUH??
NO MORE PAIN...
PHEW...
I'M GUESSING EVERYONE ELSE SURVIVED TOO, THEN.
HOW WONDER-FUL.
BIG BROTH-ER!
R-RIGHT.
MUSUBI-CHAN, TSUKIUMI, AND MATSU-SAN...
LET'S GO FIND THEM AND REGROUP ...


RUMBLE
!?
ゴゴゴ...
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴゴ!!!
WH—
WHAT NOW ...!?
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH
FLASH


My apol-ogies, but...
As of this moment, you cannot leave this place.

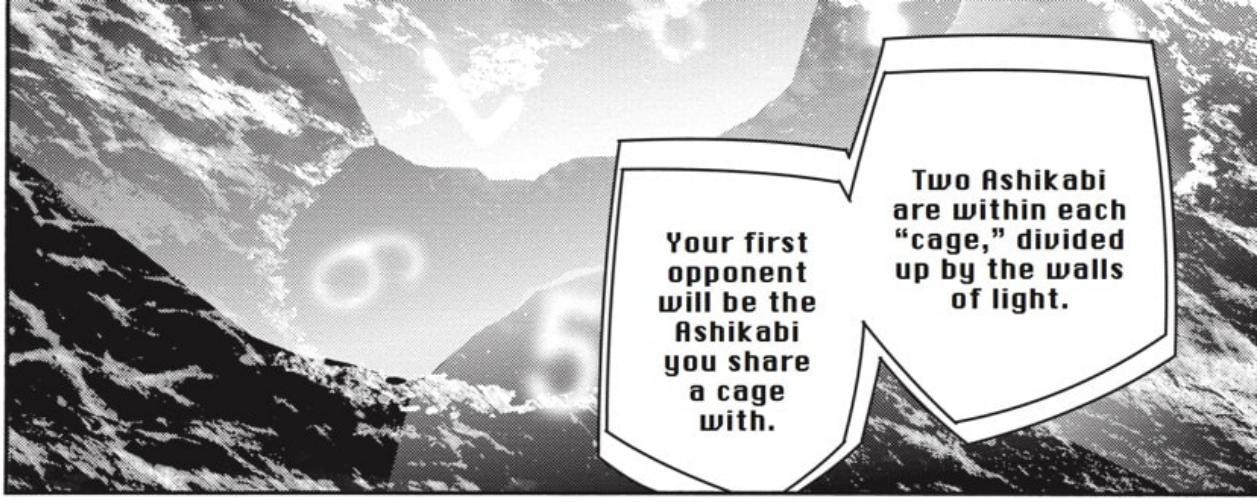

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE...
...SEALED UP WITHIN THESE WALLS OF LIGHT...


KIZT
KAGARI-SAN!?
OUCH ...




Let Stage Two... ... begin ...!!


MUSUBI-CHAN...!
CEO!
EXCUSE ME, CEO!
WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING ON?
WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO TO US!?
Oh-ho.
The rules are simple.


Two Ashikabi are within each "cage," divided up by the walls of light.
Your first opponent will be the Ashikabi you share a cage with.


By the way— I am not a patient man.
Your time limit is one hour.
If your battles are not decided within one hour, then Ashikabi and Sekirei alike...
...will be terminated by the cage.


TCH... YOU MAKE ME SICK.
SO IT'S A DEATHMATCH, YEAH?
JUST SO!
YOU'RE ALWAYS QUICK TO CATCH ON, SEO-KUN.

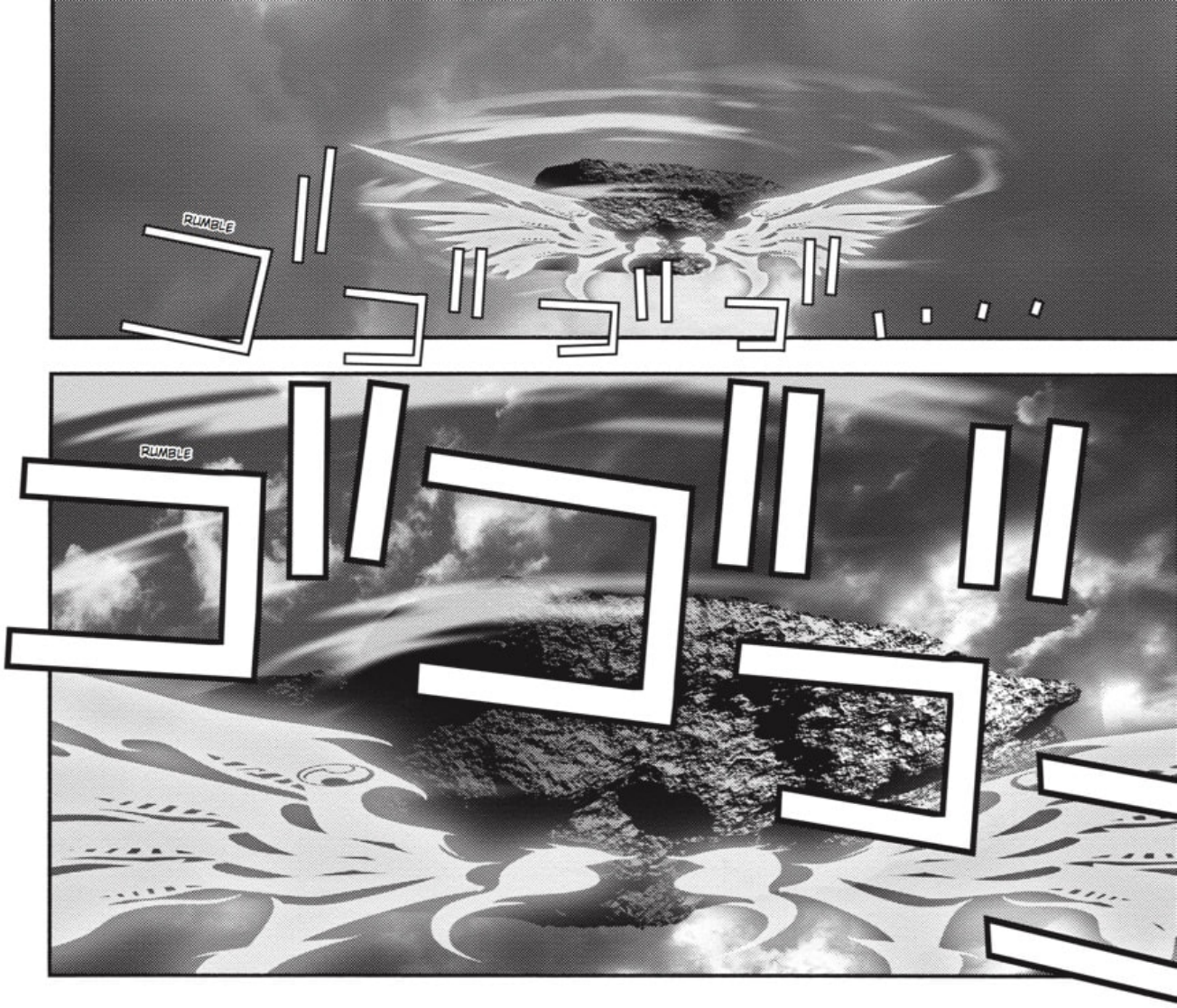

I'VE HAD IT UP TO HERE WITH YOU.
AND I AIN'T GONNA BE SATISFIED 'TIL I GET TO BEAT YOU BLACK AND BLUE.
CRACK
CRACK
POP
SHITTY MINAKA ...
I wish you all good battles.
WHIRR
ACK. DAMN YOU!
STOP RUNNING.
This is where ...
...I make my exit.
AN ESCAPE HATCH !?
PSSHH

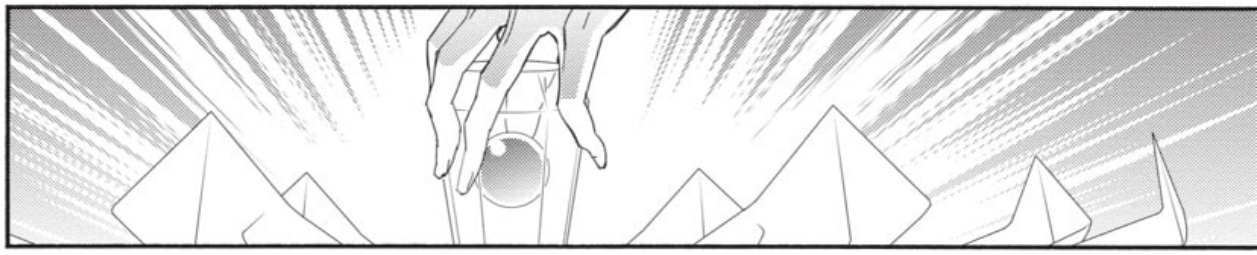

HEH HEH.
YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BEAT US?
WHAT DO WE DO?
FIGHT EACH OTHER!?
WON'T YOU STOP THEM!?
SEO-TAN!
HEY, SEO-TAN!
WHOA, WHOA ...
THE TWINS ARE ALL FIRED UP!!
...EVEN THOUGH TAKEHITO NEVER WOULD'VE WANTED IT TO BE LIKE THIS.
WHY SHE ISN'T PUTTING A STOP TO THIS...
WHY SHE PUT KOUTEN INTO MOTION...
MIYA-CHAN.
COME ON...
YOU OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD KNOW, MATSU.


.....
...BE-
CAUSE...
SHE'S THE
QUEEN OF ALL
SEKIREI.


SMACK
YOU'RE STARTING TO SOUND LIKE A MOTHER.


"IZUMO INN."
THIS IS YOUR HOME, STARTING TODAY.
THIS IS A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN LIVE AS AN ORDINARY WOMAN...
...WITH ME.
...TAKEHITO-SAN...
...I'M SORRY.
WHOOSH

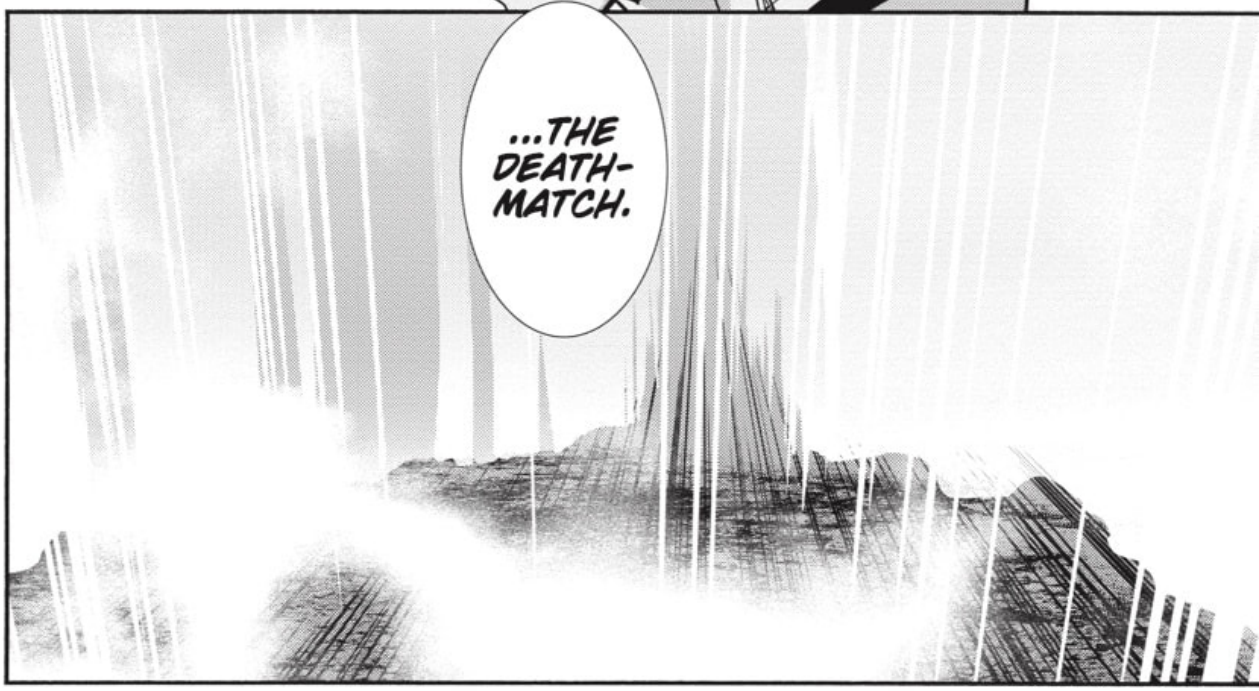

RUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴゴ……
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴゴ






I DIDN'T MANAGE TO DIE...
...HEH HEH.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT, NATSUO?
I'M NEVER GONNA LET THAT HAPPEN!!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA DIE! NO WAY!
STAGE ONE IS OVER.
...KAMIKURA ISLAND'S TOXIC ENERGY HAS BEEN QUELLED BY THE JINKI.
As of this moment, you cannot leave this place.
My apol-ogies, but...


EVERYTHING IS GOING ACCORDING TO MBI'S PLAN SO FAR.
NEXT IS...


...THE DEATH-MATCH.






KARA-
SUBA-
SAMA...!



Chapter 144: Bloodstained Wings

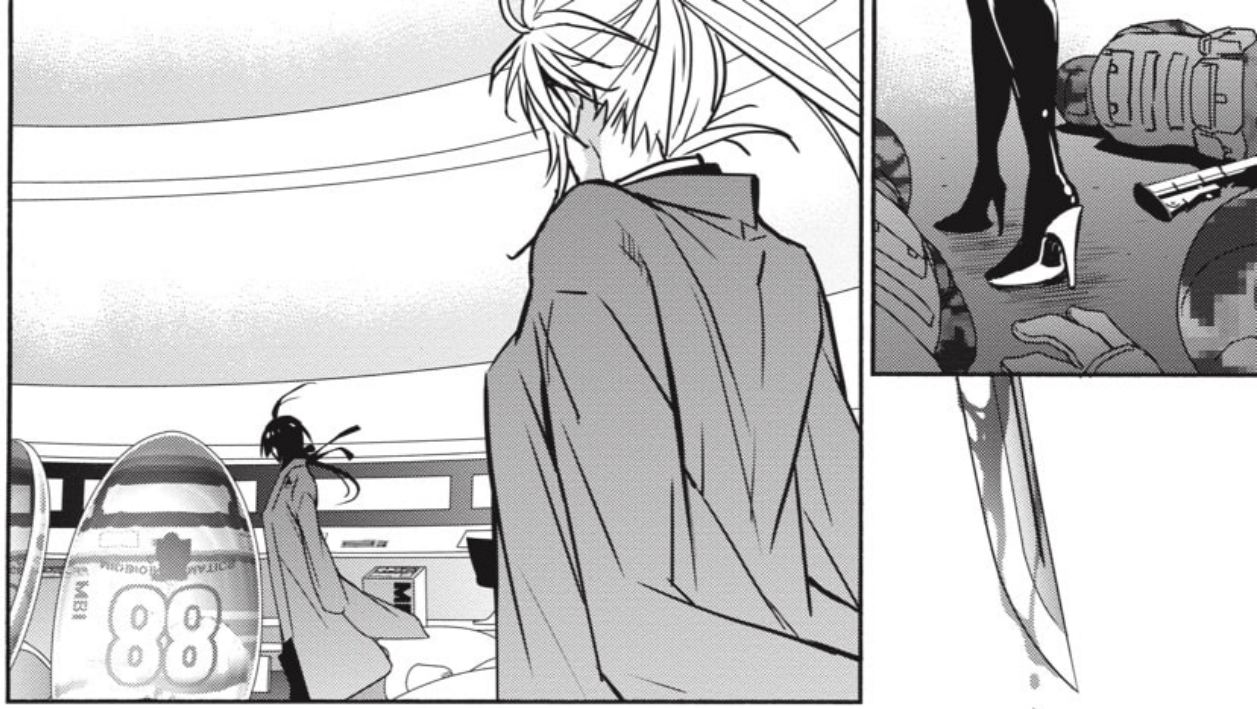



...YOU WERE A FOOL WHO GOT KIDNAPPED BY HUMANS.
BACK DURING THE SECOND INVASION OF KAMIKURA ISLAND...
AHH... YES.
YOU'RE NO. 87, RIGHT?
IT ALL HAPPENED WHILE WE WERE GONE.
ON THAT DAY...
...THE DISCIPLINARY SQUAD WAS CALLED AWAY FROM THE ISLAND TO TRANSPORT A MODIFIED UNIT TO TEITO.
"THE SEKIREI CHAMBER."
WITH THEIR MILITARY MIGHT AND POSSESSION OF THE ISLAND, MBI HAD JUST SET UP A FACILITY OUTSIDE THE "ARK" WHERE SEKIREI WOULD BE MODIFIED.
MBI
MBI
MBI
88
MID BIO INFORMATICS Co.LTD.


87
88
MIDBIO INFORMATICS Co.LTD.
NO. 87... AND...
...NO. 88.
AT THE TIME, THE ONLY ONES HOME WERE A FEW MBI RESEARCHERS...
...AND TWO UNLUCKY LITTLE SEKIREI.


THEY HAD NO CLUE WHAT TO DO WITH THE SEEMINGLY SUPERNATURAL RELICS, SO THE ARK AND ITS INHABITANTS WERE SAFE.
...BUT THE ISLAND HAD ALREADY BEEN TURNED UPSIDE DOWN BY THE HUMANS.
THE DISCIPLINARY SQUAD GOT THE CALL AND RUSHED BACK...
BUT THE SEKIREI CHAMBER ...
...WAS A BLOOD-BATH.
MBI
MBI


カリカリカリ
カリカリカリ
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
……
……
GRIT
ギリ…






IT'S NO GOOD, YUME.
THAT ONE'S CORE IS ALREADY DESTROYED.
THEY MUST'VE STOLEN HER DATA BY FORCE...
...AND THE STRESS OF IT ALL WAS JUST TOO MUCH FOR THE LITTLE ONE TO BEAR.


...KARA-SUBA.
LOOKS LIKE ANOTHER ONE WAS TAKEN.
SHE'S ALL BUT USELESS NOW.
GET HER BACK, PLEASE.
THAT'S AN ORDER.
VERY WELL.


.....
.....
GYAAAH!
GAH!
GYAAH!
BORING.
BORING.
BORING...!!


DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY YOU'VE GOT.
YOU'RE STILL WEAK-LINGS.
.....
.....
THUD
SLASH


.....HEY.
I GET THAT YOU'RE YOUNG, BUT TO GET KIDNAPPED BY THESE FOOLS?
YOU...
YOU'RE WEAKER THAN WEAK.
IF THEY'D MANAGED TO CART YOU OFF...
SURE, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE LEARNED ANYTHING, EVEN FROM RIPPING YOU APART CELL BY CELL, BUT...
...THEN THE WHOLE WORLD WOULD STILL LEARN ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF SEKIREI.
ALL BECAUSE YOU WERE SO WEAK.


IT PISSES ME OFF!
HEY, DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
BEING WEAK...
...MEANS YOU DON'T MATTER ENOUGH TO LIVE.


HEY.
SINCE YOU'RE SO WORTHLESS...
...HOW ABOUT...
...I JUST TERMINATE YOU HERE AND NOW? NO ONE WOULD CARE.
TWITCH
KARASUBA.
OH.
YU-CHAN.



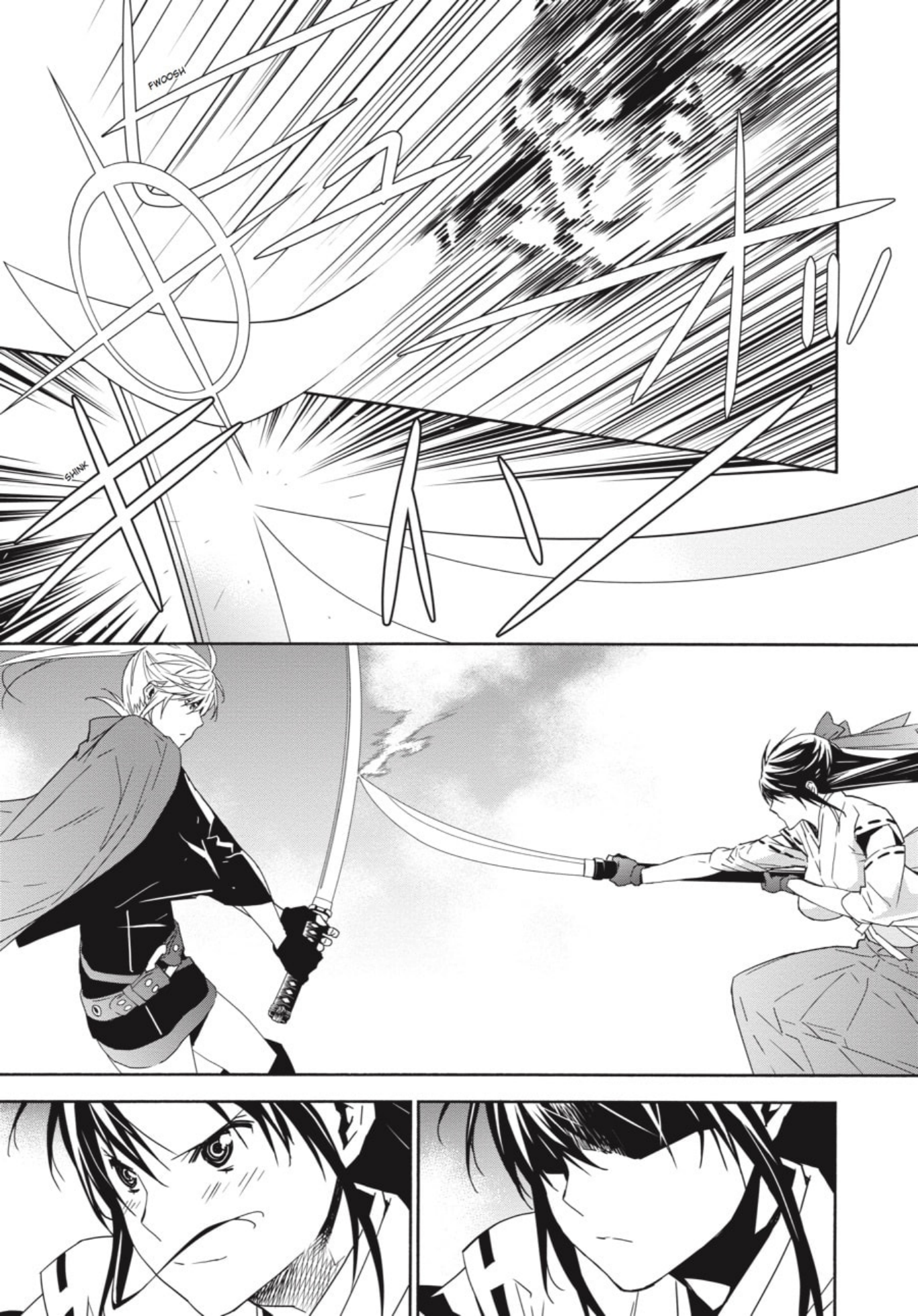

...WHAT A RIDICULOUS STORY.
WHY REMIND ME OF IT NOW?
KARA-SUBA-SAMA...
I WAS SO SCARED OF YOU.
...NO...
I STILL AM, IN FACT.
HOW-EVER!


FREEZE
SPIN
HAH!
I'M NO LONGER THE SAME LITTLE WEAKLING ...
...YOU LOOKED DOWN ON BACK THEN!


I'VE DISCOVERED MY DESTINY.
I'M NO LONGER HELD BACK BY DOUBT.
I'M HERE TO DESTROY THE DARKNESS YOU REPRESENT.
THAT'S WHAT I'VE COME HERE TO TELL YOU!
MY CONVIC-TION...
...WILL BE THE BLADE THAT JUDGES YOU!!
...AMUS-ING.
SO YOU WANT TO PLAY, DO YOU?
YOU MIGHT JUST MAKE A GOOD APPETIZER.

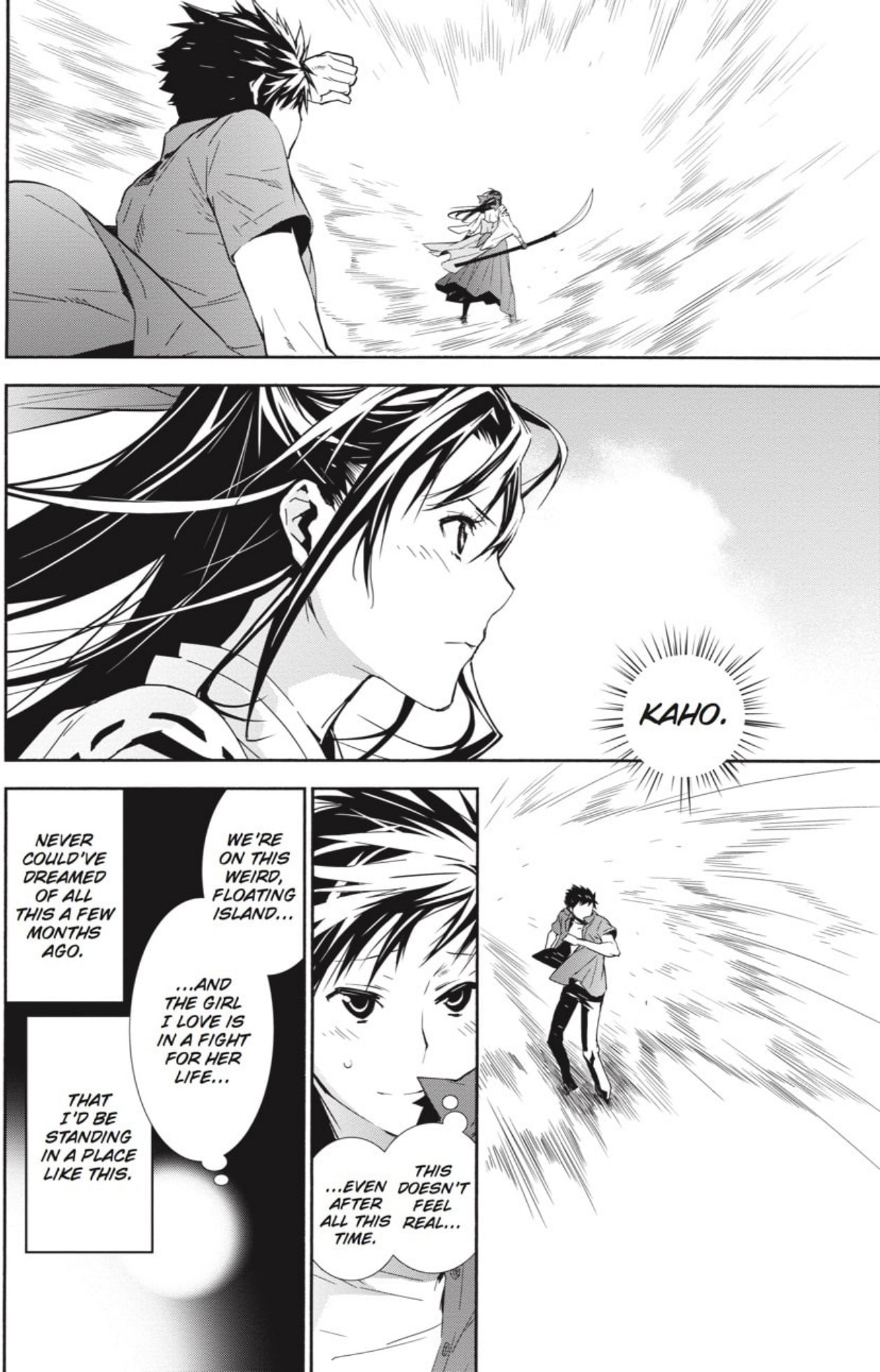

Chapter 145:
A Certain Ashikabi
I'M HERE TO DESTROY THE DARKNESS YOU REPRESENT.
MY CONVICTION...
...WILL BE THE BLADE THAT JUDGES YOU!!!
...AMUSING.
SO YOU WANT TO PLAY, DO YOU?
YOU MIGHT JUST MAKE A GOOD APPETIZER.


KERWHAM
BLOOM PRIN-CESS !!
WAR DANCE!
!
BURST


FWOOSH
SHINK

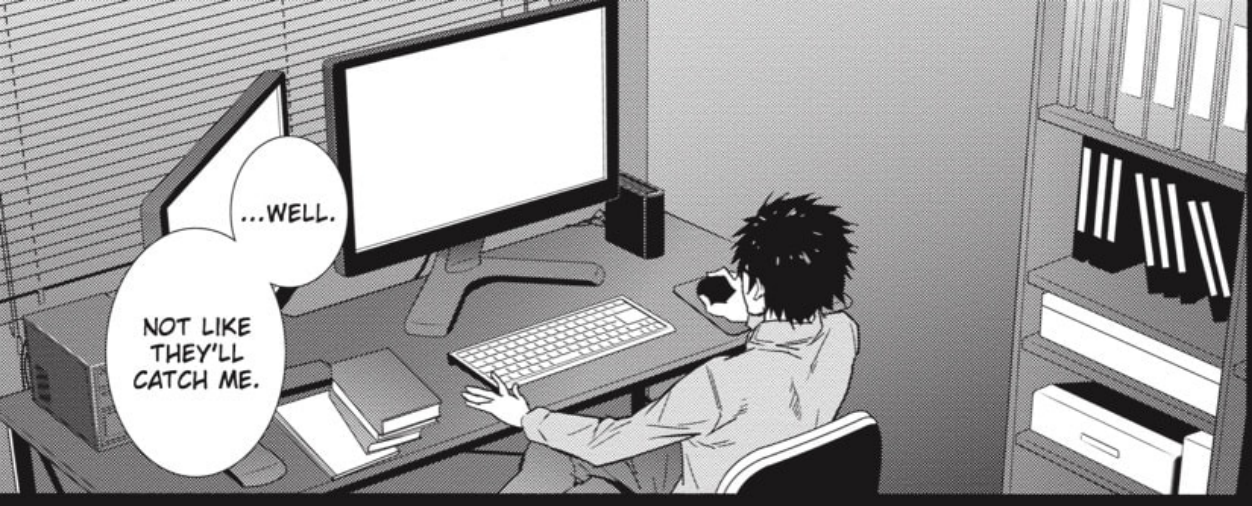

WARRIOR DANCE!
HUNDRED BLOOMS!!
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM


SKLIT
DRIP
HEY, BLACK.
YOU HAVING TROUBLE OVER THERE?
IF YOU'RE STRUGGLING, I'D BE HAPPY TO LEND A HAND.
DO YOU WANT TO DIE?
THIS ONE IS MY PREY.
MAKE A MOVE, AND YOU'RE DEAD.
GRIN


KAHO.
NEVER COULD'VE DREAMED OF ALL THIS A FEW MONTHS AGO.
WE'RE ON THIS WEIRD, FLOATING ISLAND...
...AND THE GIRL I LOVE IS IN A FIGHT FOR HER LIFE...
THAT I'D BE STANDING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS.
THIS DOESN'T FEEL REAL...
...EVEN AFTER ALL THIS TIME.


I WAS ON MY WAY TO SCHOOL.
SAME OLD STREET, SAME OLD SCENERY. AND THEN...
...OUT OF NOWHERE, YOU APPEARED.


THINKING BACK TO THAT TIME...
...I WAS JUST A SMART-ASS COLLEGE STUDENT, FED UP WITH THE WORLD.
In a follow-up from last week's story, an unknown party has been hacking into companies' servers.
This makes another three incidents where the hacker left a warning about vulnerable systems.
EXCUSE ME, ARE YOU AN ASHIKABI?
ARE YOU AN ASHIKABI?
I'LL JUST CROSS THE STREET.
DON'T WANNA GET ROPED INTO ANY-THING...
WHAT A WEIRD OUTFIT.
HUH?
SHE RECRUITING FOR A CULT OR SOME-THING?
...In our next story ...
... Police are in pursuit of the perpetrator, but the special hacking methods are confounding the authorities...
I DIDN'T REALLY HAVE A REASON FOR WHAT I WAS DOING. IT WASN'T EVEN ALL THAT FUN.
JUST A WAY TO PASS THE TIME.


...WELL.
NOT LIKE THEY'LL CATCH ME.

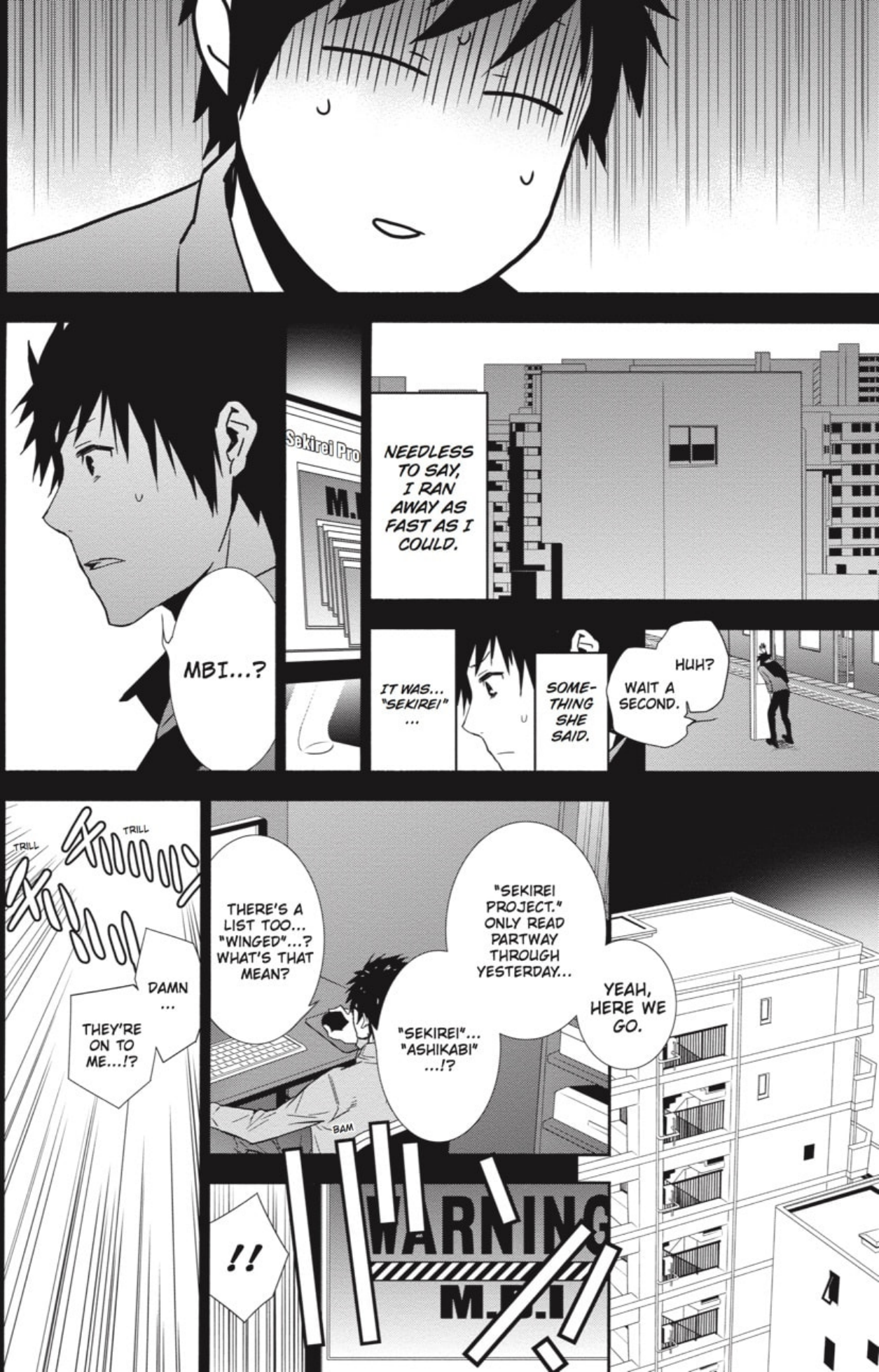

WITH THE SAME FLIPPANT ATTITUDE AS EVER...
...I HACKED INTO MBI.
WHILE FOLLOWING THE TRAIL LEFT BY SOMEONE ELSE, I STUMBLED UPON SOME CLASSIFIED FILES.
LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE GOT HERE BEFORE ME...
AND THEY'VE LEFT A TRAIL ON PURPOSE.
WHAT'S... THIS?
...HUH?
M.I
SE_MAO2
IS THIS A SIGNATURE...?
"SE_MAO2"...?


Sekirei Project Overview
...PROJECT...?
SEKIREI...


ARE YOU AN ASHIKABI?
ASHIKABI?


ACK... SHE'S HERE AGAIN TODAY.
STEP
STEP
DON'T HAVE TIME TO GO THE LONG WAY AROUND TODAY...
JUST GOTTA WALK PAST QUICKLY.


AH...
AH.
WE LOCKED EYES.
DAMN ...
SHE'S CUTE.
WHOA.
I AM YOUR SEKIREI.....
I AM ...
MY ASHIKABI-SAMA...!!
I FINALLY FOUND YOU...!
I FOUND YOU...


MBI...?
Sekirei Pro
M.I
NEEDLESS TO SAY, I RAN AWAY AS FAST AS I COULD.
IT WAS... "SEKIREI" ...
SOME-THING SHE SAID.
HUH? WAIT A SECOND.
TRILL
TRILL
DAMN ...
THEY'RE ON TO ME...!?
THERE'S A LIST TOO... "WINGED"...? WHAT'S THAT MEAN?
"SEKIREI" PROJECT." ONLY READ PARTWAY THROUGH YESTERDAY...
"SEKIREI"... "ASHIKABI" ...!?
YEAH, HERE WE GO.
BAM
!!
WARNING
M.I.I


TRILL
TRILL
GULP
BEEP
...
...Orihiko Oosumi-kun, I presume?
Your little mischief has gone too far this time.
Normally, I would do the right thing and inform the authorities, but...
...it would seem a shame to end the life of such a promising young man.
So I'll forgive you, this time.
...WH-WHO'S THIS?
Such timing can't be coinci-dental. ♪
Can't you guess who I might be?
WH-WHAT'RE YOU...?
As I said, you're *promis-ing.*
If you want to know *what lies ahead,* open the door yourself.
You have the qualifi-cations.


...I DIDN'T UNDER-STAND.
BEEP
BEEP
I'm ex-pecting big things.
CLICK
ANY-WAY...
THAT PHONE CALL YESTERDAY HAD TO BE FROM MBI...
NO. THEY SAID I WAS FOR-GIVEN.
DID THEY REPORT ME?
...!


GLANCE
チラ
GIMME A BREAK...
I DON'T FEEL LIKE WASTING MY TIME.
COULD SHE BE LOOKING FOR ME...?
AGAIN ...!


DRIP
DRIP
...AH.
DRIP
FSSHH


IT'S A SEKIREI ...
IT'S A SEKIREI ...
... PROMISE.
WE'LL FIGHT THE NEXT TIME WE MEET!!
AND ME, WITH MY BLADE!
WE'LL BRING ALL OUR FEELINGS TO BEAR IN BATTLE.
ME, WITH MY FISTS!


UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN. ♡
YES, INDEED.
WE'LL FACE EACH OTHER ON THE BATTLE-FIELD.
FSSHH
ハアア...
...OOH. ANOTHER DAY...
... WITHOUT SUCCESS.



Chapter 146: Joined Hands, Joined Bonds


I'M EXPECTING BIG THINGS.
THIS IS BAD. DEFINITELY BAD.
DON'T GET INVOLVED. DON'T GET INVOLVED.
...YUP. SHE'S DEFINITELY BEEN LOOKING FOR ME.
...CRAP. WHY?
I MEAN, SERI-OUSLY, WHY?
HEY, GIRLIE!
YOU'RE LOOKING FOR AN "ASHIKABI," EH?
!


TRUTH IS, Y'SEE, I'M AN ASHIKABI.
ME TOO.
SO HOW ABOUT WE HAVE A LITTLE CHAT OVER THERE?
HUH...? BUT, UM...
COME ON ALREADY. THIS WAY!
SLAM
EEEK...
WH—
WHAT DO YOU WANT?


YEAH, YEAH.
THIS IS JUST WHAT ASHIKABI DO.
RIGHT?
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
TUG
AH...
GRAB
IS THAT SO...?
OH...
BONK
OUCH!
QUICK, NOW...
WE'LL TAKE TURNS! I'M NEXT!
COOL. SHE JUST LISTENS TO WHATEVER WE SAY.
SHOULD WE? I MEAN, SHOULD WE GO FOR IT?


THEY WERE THE ONLY THINGS I COULD THINK OF TO USE AS WEAPONS, IN A PINCH...
BOUGHT THESE CANNED DRINKS OVER AT THAT VENDING MACHINE.
D-DID THAT LAST ONE HIT?
DRINK UP. MY TREAT.
WHO THE HELL'RE YOU!?
WHAT THE —!?
I'M USUALLY SO WARY OF GETTING INVOLVED WITH ANYONE MORE THAN NECESSARY.
BUT I KNOW I'VE GOT TO HIDE THOSE FEELINGS IF I WANNA GET ALONG IN THIS WORLD.
THAT'S NOT LIKE ME... NOT LIKE ME AT ALL...
ACK...
DID I REALLY THINK I COULD BEAT THEM ALL?
YOU LOOKIN' TO DIE!?


SO I DO THAT STUPID HACKING AS AN OUTLET, KNOWING IT'LL MAKE THE NEWS.
ALL TO KEEP THE DARK FEELINGS HIDDEN AWAY.
LAUGHING ABOUT DUMB CRAP WITH OTHERS, PRETENDING TO ENJOY MYSELF.
I THOUGHT THAT'S HOW I'D GO ON LIVING, BUT NOW...
WHAT THE HELL AM I ACTUALLY DOING?
...AH.
MAYBE...
IS THIS...
...WHAT THEY CALL LOVE?
MY LUCK RAN OUT THE DAY WE MET.
STILL, THOUGH .....


FLIK
FLIKER
...
FLIK
SCREW YOU!
FWOOM
GYAAH!
HOT!
HOT!
HUH...?
HEY, GIMME THAT CAN!
WATER, WATER!
IF YOU DON'T ...
LEAVE THAT GIRL ALONE AND GET OUT OF HERE.
!


...MY FLAMES WILL BURN YOU TO THE BONE.
HOT!
FLIKER
HOT, HOT!
FLIK
TH-THAT GUY'S BAD NEWS!
I'M OUTTA HERE!
H-HEY, WAIT UP!
ME TOO!


NO. 06, HOMURA...
...THE SEKIREI GUARDIAN.
AH...
WHO ARE YOU...?
I'VE BEEN WATCHING OVER YOU THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS.
THERE IS A PAIR OF VIOLENT SEKIREI TARGETING THE UNWINGED HERE IN TEITO.
VIO- LENT...
YOU TALKIN' ABOUT US?
YOU'RE AN ESPECIALLY VULNERABLE TARGET, HAVING ONLY JUST EMERGED INTO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
THAT, JUST NOW, WAS ALSO DANGEROUS, THOUGH FOR DIFFERENT REASONS...
?
?? JUST NOW? DANGER- OUS?
...OH...WOW. INCREDIBLE. YOU DON'T EVEN UNDERSTAND THE DANGER YOU WERE JUST IN...
...THE WORLD IS A SCARY PLACE FOR A FLEDGLING WHO KNOWS NOTHING OF IT...
IT SEEMS ...
...LIKE YOU'RE IN A RUSH TO BE WINGED.
WHY IS THAT?


...
...THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO DEFEAT.
NO. I MAY NOT BE ABLE TO DEFEAT THIS OPPONENT MYSELF.
...BUT STILL...
...EVEN SO...
...I NEED TO FIND IT IN ME TO STAND UP TO HER.
I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO FORGET THAT COLD STARE, LOOKING DOWN ON ME.
IF NOT, I'LL ALWAYS BE THAT WEAK CHILD.
SO YOU WANT TO BE WINGED IN ORDER TO FIGHT...
FOR SEKIREI, THAT IS THE NOBLEST OF CAUSES.
... LOOK.
OVER THERE.


HE'S... YOUR ASHIKABI, RIGHT?
FOR THE PAST FEW DAYS...
...HE'S BEEN STARING AT YOU FROM THE SHADOWS.
...I...
UH...
... UMM...
BADUM
トクン
"YOU ARE WINGED FOR MORE THAN JUST FIGHTING...
NOW PUT YOUR CLOTHES ON.
"...AND ASHIKABI EXIST FOR MORE THAN JUST WINGING..."
OR AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT TAKAMI-SAN SAYS.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT I MEAN?
IF YOU LOOK INTO HIS EYES...
...AND OPEN YOUR HEART...


TMP
SORRY...
I'M SORRY FOR RUNNING.
UMM... I...
I...


I'M SO HAPPY.
TO FINALLY MEET YOU...
TO MEET MY ASHIKABI...
I'M...
...SO VERY HAPPY.
...FOREVER. ♡
TOGETHER ...
WITH WHAT!? AGAINST WHOM!?
FIGHT... FIGHT!?
SQUEEZE ぎゅ♥
GROW STRONGER TOGETHER!!
WE'LL FIGHT TOGETHER.


FSSHH
HAH.
HAH...
GRIN
!
YOUR NORITO!!
KAHO!
MY LUCK RAN OUT THE DAY WE MET.
...I'M READY TO TAKE HER HAND AND PLUNGE INTO THIS WORLD OF THE IMPOSSIBLE.
STILL, THOUGH .....
LET'S FIGHT TOGETH-ER!



Chapter 147: The Power of Bonds


...I HAVE TO ACCEPT HER CHALLENGE WITHOUT HOLDING BACK.
...IN THAT CASE, NATSUO...
RIGHT.
DO AS YOU PLEASE.


THANK YOU, ORIHIKO-SAN.
BECAUSE YOU WERE HERE FOR ME...
BECAUSE YOU WERE MY ASHIKABI-SAMA...
...I'VE MANAGED TO MAKE IT THIS FAR.
I CAME DOWN INTO TEITO TO FIND MY ASHIKABI.
A BRAND-NEW CITY, WITH BRAND-NEW THINGS...
...AND SO MANY NEW PEOPLE.


SO WEAK, READY TO CLING TO ANYTHING.....
AMIDST ALL THAT, I WAS COMPLETELY ALONE.
KAHO...
...AND REACHED OUT YOUR HAND TO ME.
THEN YOU CAME ALONG...
...NO.
I'M THE ONE WHO SHOULD BE THANKING YOU.
I WAS ROTTING AWAY IN MY OWN LITTLE WORLD.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAVED ME FROM THAT.


I LEARNED THERE WAS THIS WHOLE, VAST WORLD...
...BEYOND THE ONE I KNEW.


YOU SHOWED ME THAT.
I LOVE YOU, KAHO.
WILL YOU... STAY WITH ME?
FOREVER AND EVER...?


YES, ORIHIKO-SAN!
YES.
FOREVER AND EVER.


BY THE DANCE OF MY CONTRACT ...
...MOW DOWN...
...THE TROUBLES OF MY ASHIKABI!


BY THE BLADE OF MY CONTRACT ...
...EXTER-MINATE...
...THE ENEMIES OF MY ASHIKABI ...!


SEKIREI KAGURA!
WINGED DANCE!!
...
HELLISH BLADE!
OLD GRUDGE!






HAH!
CLASH
CLASH
HEH HEH...
...?
TCH ...


I'M...
...BEING PUSHED BACK?
HOW ...?
HAAAH!
FWOOSH


KAHO!!
SKID
...!
ORI-HIKO-SAN!
KARA-SUBA-SAMA...
THIS IS MY POWER.
THE POWER OF THOSE YOU CALLED WEAK AND WORTHLESS.
AND...
THE POWER OF BONDS BETWEEN HUMANS AND SEKIREI!!




...NO. 87, KAHO.
THIS TIME, I'LL REMEMBER THAT NAME.
OUR "PROM-ISE."
IT WAS FUN.
I HAVEN'T FOUGHT SO HARD IN QUITE SOME TIME.
...KAHO?
.....
TWITCH
MUSU...
...BI...
I HAVE TO...
...PASS ON MY WILL TO YOU.


...NO. 87, KAHO.
THIS TIME...
...I'LL REMEMBER THAT NAME.
...YES.
THAT DAY...
THE IMAGE OF HER BACK, BURNED INTO MEMORY ...
I'VE DONE IT.
MY BLADE...
THE POINT...
THE BLADE OF MY HEART...
SO TERRIFYING AND HATEFUL..... AND...
ALL MY FEELINGS...
THAT BLACK IMAGE HAS BEEN BURNING ALL ALONG. BUT NOW...



Chapter 148: Linked Hearts


KAHO!!
KAHO...!
O... RI...
...HIKO-SAN.....
THANK YOU, ORIHIKO-SAN.
MY POWER ALONE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ENOUGH TO REACH HER.
KAHO!!
... YOU.....
...A WEAKLING LIKE MYSELF WAS FINALLY ABLE TO TRIUMPH.
BY MEETING YOU...
BY GAINING A PARTNER LIKE YOU...
THANK...


KAHO.....
A PROMISE...
...BETWEEN SEKIREI.
AFTER WE FIND ONES TO LOVE AND GET WINGED...
...WHEN NEXT WE MEET, WE'LL BRING ALL OUR FEELINGS TO BEAR IN BATTLE, WITH ALL OUR STRENGTH.
AND WHEN ONE OF US IS THE LAST SEKIREI STANDING...


...ALL THOSE SEKIREI WITH BROKEN WINGS...
...WE'LL RELEASE THEM INTO THE SKY AGAIN. THEY'LL BE FREE.
MUSUBI.
FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
YOU, WHO HAVE FOUND ONE TO LOVE.
YOU, WITH THE SPIRIT OF YUME-SAMA WITHIN.
...IT HAS TO BE YOU.
FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM


MY WILL...
I PASS IT ON TO YOU.
.....
...KAHO?
...HEY.
GOOD WORK OUT THERE.
...YOU STRUGGLED A LITTLE, THOUGH.
WHY WAS THAT?
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN OPERATING AT MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY, AFTER USING YOUR NORITO.


GRAB
I'M NOT SUPPOSED TO KILL MY ASHIKABI.
...OH... RIGHT.
...FOR A MOMENT THERE, YOU STRUGGLED AGAINST ONE WHO SHOULD HAVE BY ALL MEANS BEEN WEAKER THAN YOU...
THAT, KARASUBA... WAS PROBABLY BECAUSE...
WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA, BLACK!?
YOU OKAY, NATSUO!? NATSUO!


...WE'RE BOTH COMPLETELY EMPTY INSIDE.
FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
FWOOM
Ladies and gentlemen! Your attention, please!!
A-ATTEN-TION??
We already have our first disqualification!
FLASH
パアッ


OOSUMI-SAN...!
Only six Ashikabi remain!!
The winning Sekirei were his own three — the members of the Disciplinary Squad.
The winner was our very own employee, Natsuo Ichinomiya!
THE DISCI-PLINARY SQUAD DID THAT...
I think it's about time for the rest of you to find your given opponent and settle this thing, no?
BIG BROTH-ER...
SQUEEZE
...KU-CHAN.
YOU'VE SEEN IT, HAVEN'T YOU? HOW HARD THEY'VE BEEN TRAINING ALL ALONG?
...ARE MU-CHAN AND THEM OKAY?
AND THE LANDLADY EVEN SAID SHE HAD NOTHING LEFT TO TEACH THEM.
THAT MEANS THEY'VE GOTTEN REALLY STRONG, Y'KNOW?


I MEAN, SURE, I'M A LITTLE WORRIED, BUT...
WE CAN DEFINITELY RELY ON THEM.
...AT A TIME LIKE THIS, I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT MUSUBI-CHAN WOULD SAY.
"WE'RE A-OKAY!"
...RIGHT?
...RIGHT NOW...
THAT'S WHY...


...WE HAVE TO FIGHT OUR OWN BATTLE, SO WE CAN TELL MUSUBI-CHAN AND TSUKIUMI...
..."WE'RE OKAY TOO!"




HUH!? YOU GOT A PROB-LEM WITH THAT?
MY OPPONENT IS YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE?
HMPH.


A MORONIC PUNK AND HIS LITTLE GIRLS...
SIGH... I JUST CAN'T GET MOTIVATED.
TAKE THAT BACK, YOU SHITTY KID!!
... HMPH.
LISTEN UP, BRAT FROM THE SOUTH.


YOU EVER HEARD OF AN ACE IN THE HOLE?


...!?


...KAHO.


KAHO...
...OUR "PROMISE" ...
NO. 88, MUSUBI, WILL SEE YOUR WILL FULFILLED!
MUSUBI WILL FREE ALL THE SEKIREI.
SO THEY CAN FLY FREE IN THE SKY.
M—
MUSUBI-TAN??


YOU READY TO GET BEAT?
YOU'LL GET NO MERCY FROM US.
RIGHT BACK AT YOU!


OKAY.
LET'S GO!


WHEN I CAME TO TEITO...
...THE VERY FIRST SEKIREI I MET...
UMM!
I...
...WERE THE TWO OF YOU!!
CLASH


Chapter 149:
Loving Spirit,
Rough Spirit


XII
I
II
III
IV
V
VI
VII
VIII
IX
X
XI


IN TEITO FOR THE FIRST TIME! ♡
TEITO! ♡
TEITO! ♡
...MUSUBI'S ASHIKABI IS WAITING FOR HER!
SOME-WHERE IN THIS BIG CITY...
TMP
TMP
WONDER IF NO. 87 AND NO. 88...
...LEFT THE NEST SAFELY...
HMM?
WITHOUT THIS, HOW'S SHE GONNA FIND HER MEALS AND A WARM BED?
...SHE'D BE THE FIRST TO FORGET THE CARD.
OF COURSE...
MBI MEMBERS CARD
THAT NO. 88 REALLY IS AN AIRHEAD... DEFINITELY SOMETHING MISSING UPSTAIRS.
SHE LEFT WITHOUT HER CASH CARD.
SHE SURE WAS IN A RUSH TO FIND HER ASHIKABI.


ASHIKABI-SAMA. ♡
ASHIKABI-SAMA. ♡
GLANCE
きょろっ
GLANCE
きょろっ
OH.
WHEN MUSUBI GETS HUNGRY, SHE STARTS GLANCING AROUND FOR FOOD LIKE A BEAR.
MUSUBI...
...ISN'T GOOD AT BEING MODEST.
HAVE TO CALM DOWN A LITTLE!
AT TIMES LIKE THESE...
...TAKE DEEP BREATHS.
AAHHH.
HAAH.
AAHHH...


.....?
THAT WAY...IS NORTH...
IS THAT...? WHAT IS THAT...? IT'S WARM...
A WARM LIGHT, SHINING OUT.
LIKE THE ARMS OF SOMEONE WARM AND COMFORTING...
...REACHING OUT TO HOLD ME.....


HEY, YOU!
AH.
YEAH, YOU.
YOU'RE AN UNWINGED SEKIREI, RIGHT?
SORRY, BUT...
...WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO TERMINATE YOU.
BLANK
きょとん。
INATE?
TERM?
FLIP
しゅん


SKID
DASH
THINKING BACK TO THAT TIME...
...IT WAS ALL THANKS TO YOU TWO THAT I BUMPED INTO MINATO-SAN!
ALTHOUGH, IN MY CASE...
...I WAS THE ONE IN PURSUIT...
COME TO THINK OF IT, A SIMILAR THING HAPPENED TO ME...
OH! ♡ THAT'S RIGHT!
YOU TWO ARE LIKE SEKIREI MATCHMAKERS. ♡♡
YOU MIGHT EVEN CALL THEM A PAIR OF CUPIDS, MUSUBI.
WAAH! ♡ CUPIDS, CUPIDS.
.....WHY DOES IT FEEL LIKE WE'RE THE BUTT OF SOME COSMIC JOKE...?
LIKE EVERY-THING IS JUST A REJECTION OF WHAT WE'VE DONE?
WE WERE TRYING TO KEEP YOU FROM FINDING YOUR ASHIKABI, YOU JERKS!
WE'RE NOT MATCH-MAKERS OR CUPIDS!


KEEP US FROM FINDING...? BUT WHY?
IT TOOK YOU THIS LONG TO ASK!?
GRIN
GRIN
HUH?
THAT GUY
.....
...IT'S ALL THAT GUY'S FAULT.
EVER SINCE WE BONDED WITH HIM...
...IT'S BEEN NOTHING BUT SUFFERING FOR US...!!
WE WERE MADE DAMAGED GOODS THE DAY WE MET HIM.
SINCE THEN, WE'VE HAD TO SLAVE AWAY AT PART-TIME JOBS JUST TO SURVIVE !!
HUH? DAMAGED GOODS?
TO SURVIVE ...?
WHAT OF YOUR CASH CARDS?
ALL CASHED OUT THE DAY WE HANDED THEM OVER TO HIM.


YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS? IT'S TRUE THOSE MBI CASH CARDS DON'T HAVE AN UPPER LIMIT, BUT...
IF YOU TRY TO WITHDRAW TEN MILLION YEN AT ONCE, THE CARD GETS CANCELED.
N-NO, I DIDN'T KNOW THAT.
Y-YOU'RE REALLY SOMETHING ELSE.
SEO-TAN...
...EVEN MATSU HAS TO TAKE ISSUE WITH THAT.
DON'T LOOK AT ME THAT WAY.
I HAD NO CHOICE.
THAT BASTARD TAKEHITO SHOWED UP ONE DAY WITH THEM AND SAID, "TAKE GOOD CARE OF THESE GIRLS!"
WE BONDED BEFORE I KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON.
AND THEN, TAKEHITO WENT AND DIED BEFORE I GOT A CHANCE TO LEARN ABOUT THE SEKIREI PROJECT.
STILL, I HAD TO PROTECT AND PROVIDE FOR THOSE TWO...
...AND THE FIRST THING I NEEDED WAS INTEL.
BUT EVERYTHING ABOUT MBI IS CLASSIFIED... ESPECIALLY STUFF ABOUT SEKIREI.
IT TOOK A TON OF DOUGH TO GET THE INFO I NEEDED THROUGH SOME LESS-THAN-LEGAL METHODS...
...SEO-TAN...


I ALSO BLEW A BUNCH OF IT ON GAMBLING, OF COURSE.
DAHHHH.
SO FOOL-ISH.
MATSU WAS A FOOL TO BE MOVED BY THIS GUY, EVEN FOR A SECOND...!!
MUSUBI UNDER-STANDS!!
BOTH OF YOU JUST REALLY LOVE SEO-SAN! ♡♡
RIGHT? ♡


DIE!
SERI-OUSLY, JUST DIE ALREADY.
ZAP
GO ON, ADMIT IT.
LAVISH ME WITH PRAISE, LADIES.
ENOUGH TO KILL YOU, THAT IS!
YEAH! WE LOVE YOU.
I UNDERSTAND, TRULY!
AS ONE WHO WANTED TO KILL HER OWN ASHIKABI, I KNOW HOW THAT DESIRE IS TIED TO A SEKIREI'S SENSE OF SELF!
YES!
...GAVE ME THE CHILLS, EVEN...
...I JUST FELT THIS SUDDEN BLOODLUST DIRECTED AT ME...
I'M SO STRESSED THAT...
AH... SORRY.
WHAT'S WRONG, SAHASHI?
ACHOO!


AND MUSUBI LOVES MINATO-SAN AS WELL!
I HAD NO REASON TO FIGHT BEFORE HE WINGED ME, BUT NOW I DO!!
AND I'VE RECEIVED SPECIAL TRAINING FROM LANDLADY-SAMA.
SO MUSUBI WON'T BE BEATEN AGAIN, LIKE THE FIRST TIME WE MET! ♡
BECAUSE WE'RE NOT PLANNING ON LOSING HERE EITHER.
WE'LL SEE!
THUNDER-BOLT!!


SPLASH
WATER-FALL SHIELD!
HEH HEH!
I BELIEVE THIS IS MY TURN!
CLASH
FOLLOW UP WITH...!
PIN-NEEDLE ...


...BOLT!!
TMP
TMP
TAP


FIST...
...OF THE...
HIKARI!
...BEAR!!
KERWHAM


CRAKL
CRAKL
CRAKL
SPARK
HIBIKI.
LET'S DO IT.
!?


ELECTRIC
...
...SPIDER
!!
SMASH
MUSUBI!
KYAAH!
ZOOM
ポーン

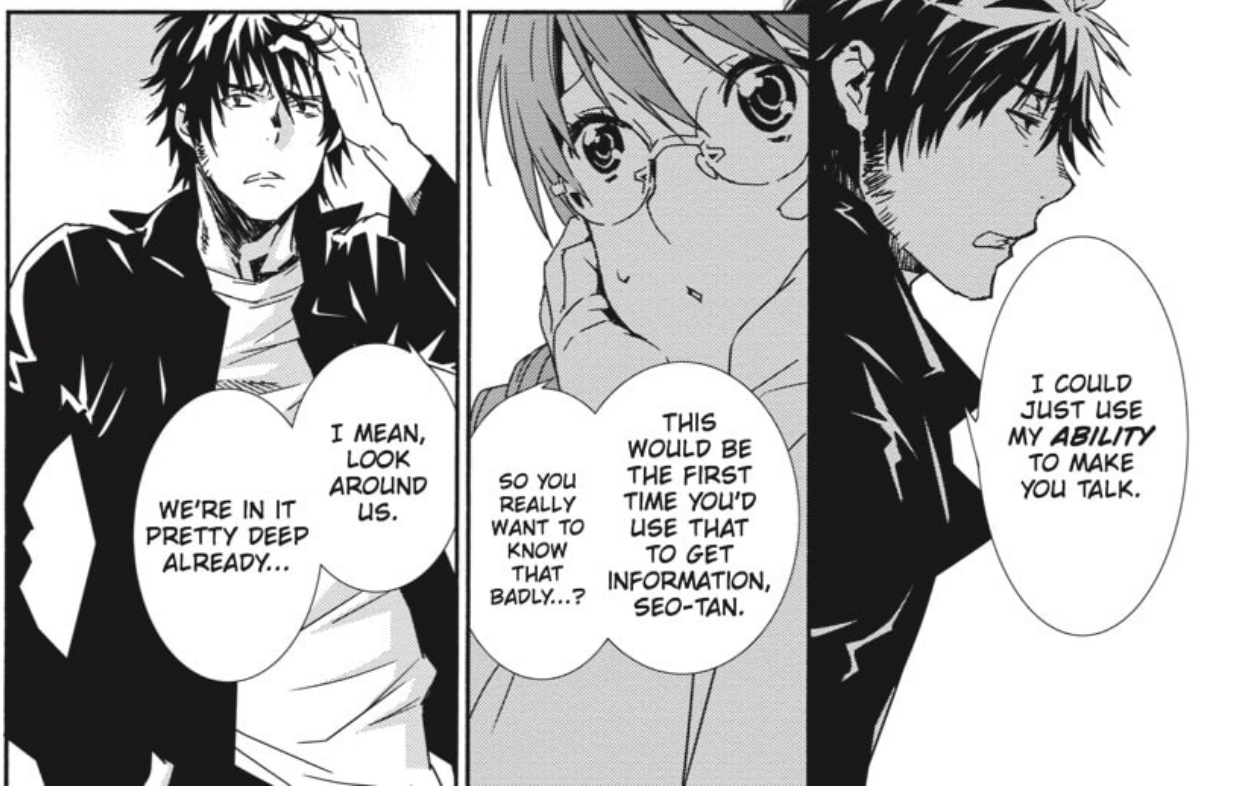

SPLASH
WATER DRAGON !!
PUSH
YOU SIMPLE-TON.
DON'T GET CARELESS AGAIN.
EH-HEH-HEH... SORRRRY.


THE IZUMO INN GANG IS BETTER THAN EXPECTED.
THIS IS GETTING FUN.
AND THE SAME TO YOU.
LET'S GO!


Chapter 150:
Queen of
Sekirei
SPLASH
CRAKL
BAM
WHAM
BAM
BAM
BAM


MIYA-CHAN... NO, NO. 01...
SHE GAVE UP HER GODLY THRONE AND CHOSE TO LIVE WITH TAKEHITO.
SO WHY'S SHE GONE AND PUT KOUTEN INTO MOTION NOW?
THEY'RE ALL HAVING FUN WITH THIS FIGHT, HUH?
HMM?
... "WELL" WHAT?
WELL?
WHAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
YOU KNOW, DON'T YOU?


CUT THE CRAP ALREADY.
SLAM
ONCE AGAIN, IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S THE QUEEN.
CRAKL
CRAKL
CRAKL
IF ANYONE ELSE KNOWS, IT'S GOTTA BE YOU.
I TRIED ASKING HER AT IZUMO INN, BUT SHE BRUSHED OFF THE QUESTION.

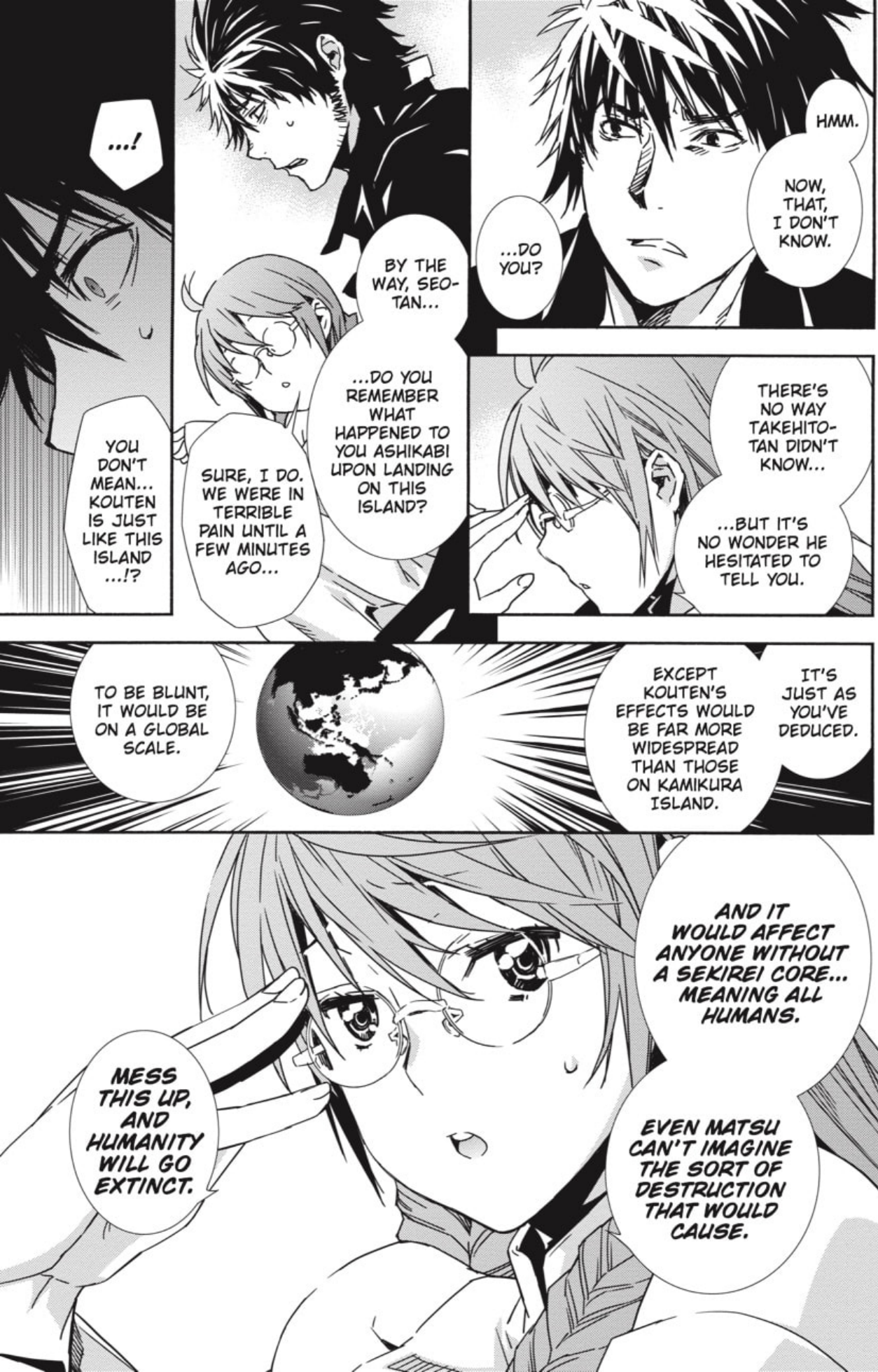

I MEAN, LOOK AROUND US.
WE'RE IN IT PRETTY DEEP ALREADY...
SO YOU REALLY WANT TO KNOW THAT BADLY...?
THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME YOU'D USE THAT TO GET INFORMATION, SEO-TAN.
I COULD JUST USE MY ABILITY TO MAKE YOU TALK.


WHY DO YOU KEEP PARTICIPATING IN THIS GAME, SEO-TAN?
BUT MATSU HAS A QUESTION OF HER OWN.
...VERY WELL. I UNDER-STAND.
YOU COULD HAVE EASILY SWEPT THIS ENTIRE GAME WITH THAT POWER, BUT YOU'VE NEVER SHOWN THAT INITIATIVE.
THE POWER TO CONTROL SEKIREI YOU'RE NOT BONDED WITH.
...YOU HAVE AN ABILITY LIKE NO OTHER ASHIKABI.
IF YOU'D WANTED TO FLEE TEITO, I'M SURE YOU COULD'VE MANAGED IT... FURTHER-MORE...
I'LL EXPLAIN, BUT THEN I WANT MY ANSWER.


NEEDLESS TO SAY, THE ONE WHO GAVE ME THIS POWER AND FIGURED IT OUT...
...WAS TAKEHITO ASAMA.
TAKEHITO-TAN...
WHY GIVE SUCH A TERRIFYING POWER...
...TO A PIECE OF SCUM WHO'D GO AND USE UP HIS OWN SEKIREI'S CASH!?
SHUUU
HEY, HEY, WATCH THE TONE.
AS YOU CAN SEE, THOSE TWO ARE SPECIAL SEKIREI. THEY WIELD THEIR OWN POWERS AS A PAIR.
NO ONE BUT ME WOULD'VE BE ABLE TO WING THEM AND KEEP THEM TOGETHER.
MY ABILITY WAS ORIGINALLY MEANT FOR WIDE-RANGE USE. THAT'S THE SORT OF ASHIKABI I WAS SUPPOSED TO BE.


ANYWAY, I WAS DRUGGED ONE DAY, AND I WOKE UP IN SOME MBI FACILITY.
HE PERFORMED HIS LITTLE MODIFICATION ON ME BY FORCE.
WHOA...
EVEN NOW... I GET THE CHILLS WHEN I REMEMBER THAT SMILE OF HIS.....
YOU'RE OKAY, YOU'RE OKAY.
YOU'RE JUST GONNA FEEL A LITTLE PINCH! ♪
THIS IS INSURANCE. THERE MAY COME A TIME WHEN YOU'LL HAVE TO HANDLE SOME SEKIREI. ♪
OH, ALSO, BE SURE TO KEEP UP WITH THE CLEANING AT IZUMO INN WHILE I'M GONE. ♡
WH-WHAT A MAD SCIENTIST...
IT'D TAKE A MAN LIKE HIM TO BRING MIYA-TAN TO HEEL...
RIGHT? PRETTY AWFUL. HE WAS ALWAYS LIKE THAT SINCE WAY BACK WHEN.
SUPER SCARY, EVEN AS A KID, AND OUR POWER DYNAMIC NEVER REALLY CHANGED.
WHEN WE MET, HE WAS MY OLDER NEIGH-BOR.
...SO THE REASON YOU HAVEN'T LEFT TEITO, SEO-TAN...
...IS BECAUSE YOU'RE HONORING TAKEHITO-TAN'S REQUEST...


I'VE GOTTA SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END.
THIS WHOLE BATTLE.
IN HIS PLACE.
SEO-TAN...
WHY'S KOUTEN ON THE MOVE?
THERE.
NOW IT'S YOUR TURN.
TALK.
...YOU KNOW KOUTEN CAN ONLY BE MOVED BY ONE WHO'S SYNCHRONIZED WITH IT, RIGHT?
YEAH.
WELL, IF THAT INDIVIDUAL WAS GONE FOR WHATEVER REASON, WHAT WOULD HAPPEN?


HMM.
NOW, THAT, I DON'T KNOW.
...DO YOU?
BY THE WAY, SEO-TAN...
...DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU ASHIKABI UPON LANDING ON THIS ISLAND?
SURE, I DO. WE WERE IN TERRIBLE PAIN UNTIL A FEW MINUTES AGO...
...!
YOU DON'T MEAN... KOUTEN IS JUST LIKE THIS ISLAND ...!?
THERE'S NO WAY TAKEHITO-TAN DIDN'T KNOW...
...BUT IT'S NO WONDER HE HESITATED TO TELL YOU.
IT'S JUST AS YOU'VE DEDUCED.
EXCEPT KOUTEN'S EFFECTS WOULD BE FAR MORE WIDESPREAD THAN THOSE ON KAMIKURA ISLAND.
TO BE BLUNT, IT WOULD BE ON A GLOBAL SCALE.
AND IT WOULD AFFECT ANYONE WITHOUT A SEKIREI CORE... MEANING ALL HUMANS.
EVEN MATSU CAN'T IMAGINE THE SORT OF DESTRUCTION THAT WOULD CAUSE.
MESS THIS UP, AND HUMANITY WILL GO EXTINCT.


...NOW I'M WISHING I NEVER ASKED.....
OF COURSE, THAT'S ONLY IF THE ONE IN SYNC WITH KOUTEN WERE TO DIE.
IT'S MORE LIKELY...
...THAT MIYA-TAN HAS A FAR SIMPLER REASON FOR MOVING KOUTEN.
SIMPLER?
YES.
I'LL GIVE YOU A HINT. IT'S THE INDIVIDUALS BEFORE YOUR VERY EYES, WHO MIYA-TAN TRAINED HERSELF...
I BELIEVE IT'S TIME TO END THIS, TSUKIUMI-SAN!
INDEED!


RIGHT.
LET'S GO, HIBIKI !!
THAT'S OUR LINE.
...DON'T YOU SEE?
AND THIS IS A DESPERATE BATTLE TO FIND A SINGLE WINNER.
FUNDA-MENTALLY, THEY'VE GOT MUSCLES WHERE THEIR BRAINS SHOULD BE.
THEY'RE HAVING TOO MUCH FUN.
THAT'S JUST THE SORT OF BEINGS SEKIREI ARE.
...WILL BE CROWNED QUEEN OF SEKIREI.
THE LAST ONE STANDING AT THE END OF THIS GAME...


RUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴ!!
ゴゴゴゴ!!
ゴゴゴゴ...


WHICH MEANS MIYA-TAN ISN'T MOVING KOUTEN OUT OF SOME WILLFUL INTENTION.
MIYA-TAN... NO, NO. OO, IS JUST OBEYING HER INSTINCTS AS THE CURRENT QUEEN...
WE'VE ALREADY REACHED THAT POINT.
TCH... TAKEHITO, YOU BASTARD.
YOU LEFT ONE HELL OF A WOMAN BEHIND...
CRAKL
CRAKL
CRAKL
BAM BAM BAM
SO... SEO-TAN...
...WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING TO DO WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER?
NOTHING SPECIAL, REALLY.
LIKE I SAID, I'M JUST SEEING THIS THROUGH TO THE END.
IN THAT CASE, MATSU'S COME UP WITH A SCHEME OF HER OWN.
CARE TO TAKE PART?
HEHEHEH.
IT COULD GET A LITTLE VIOLENT.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?


KEEP PUSHING, MUSUBI.
YES, TSUKIUMI-SAN! ♡
WATER DRAGON!
HMPH! YOU ONE-TRICK PONY!
PIN-NEEDLE BOLT!!


CLASH
WATER FENCE!
WHIRL
!?
SPLASH
...THE...
...OF...
HAND ...


FLASH
ナッッ
...
BEAR!!
KERWHOOM
I-I DON'T EVEN FEEL LIKE DODGING...
SEALED IN BY WATER FENCE, AND NOW HER ULTIMATE MOVE...?
THESE GIRLS ARE AS CRUEL AS THEY COME.
WHILE WE WERE WORKING ODD JOBS... THEY WERE GETTING BATTLE TRAINING... THE DIFFERENCE SHOWS.
REALLY COMES DOWN TO ASHIKABI QUALITY, THOUGH...


WE WON!
HMPH!
HUH?
NOT YET, YOU HAVEN'T.
SEO!
DAMN... WANTED TO MAKE THIS A FAIR FIGHT, BUT...
... LOOKS LIKE WE DON'T HAVE THAT LUXURY.


ALL RIGHT.
I'LL GIVE 'EM THE BOOST THEY NEED TO END THIS!
HOLD ON— SEO-TAN!?
WHAT ABOUT OUR TALK?
MY SCHEME?
A FIGHT'S A FIGHT, AND SCHEMES ARE SCHEMES.
SO WHAT SORT OF POSITIONING ARE WE GOING FOR HERE?
ON TOP? ON THE BOT-TOM?
YOU DISGUST-ING PIG OF A MAN.
JUST A KISS. A KISS!!
POSITION-ING??
H-HOW DIRTY...!
WHAT LEWD TALK...!!
DON'T THINK ILL OF ME...
GRIN
...SAHA-SHI.
ACHOO!
S-SORRY. JUST CAN'T STOP SNEEZING...
ACHOO!
BIG BROTHER.



Chapter 151: Tactician and Muscle-Brained Idiots


WHOA... SEO.
NO, STOP TOUCHING THERE.
NO... NOT HERE, OUT IN THE OPEN!
YOU SCUM!
SCUMMY, SCUMMY SCUM!!
S—
...MM.
WHOA! ♡
NORITO! ♡
NORITO! ♡
THOSE TWO ARE NOTHING BUT HARLOTS .....!!
HARLOTS.


BEAM
THAT SAID...I DO WISH...
...THAT MINATO WOULD SHOW ME SUCH KINDNESS.
MY FISTS ARE WARM.....
MY CHEST... MY BODY...
...AHH.
AHH...!
!?
I FEEL IT IN MY SOUL.
THIS WAVE OF LOVE.
THIS IS A BATTLE OF LOVE...!!
THIS IS A NORITO...
M...
MUSUBI ...?


JOLT
SPIN
YES?
SPARKLE
A-AREN'T YOU GETTING JUST A BIT TOO EXCITED ...?
AWW, BUT IT'S A NORITO! ♡ A NORITO! ♡
TSUKIUMI-TAAAN. MUSUBI-TAAAN.
COME, NOW.
WE CAN'T USE OUR NORITOS, WHICH PUTS US AT A DISADVANTAGE.
YOU'RE CLEARLY ENJOYING YOURSELVES, BUT REMEMBER WHAT'S GOING ON?
OH RIGHT!
YOU SERI-OUSLY FOR-GOT?
NO SQUABBLING, NOW.
YOU DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE HOW CRITICAL THE SITUATION IS.
BUT MATSU HAS A PLAN.
PLEASE TRY TO DRILL WHAT I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU INTO THOSE MUSCLE-BRAINS OF YOURS.


WE WON'T BE HOLDING BACK LIKE WE DID *EARLIER*. NOT ANYMORE.
WE'RE SURROUNDED BY WALLS OF LIGHT... THERE'S NOWHERE FOR YOU TO RUN.
BETTER GIVE UP.


FOOM
FOOM
FOOM
FOOM
IT'S NOT OVER YET!
WATER ARROW !!
BY THE THUNDER-CLAP OF OUR CON-TRACT...
...PIERCE THE MISFOR-TUNES...
...OF OUR ASHIKABI !
KRRRAK
THUNDER-BOLT!!


RUMBLE
BEAR FIST!
SLAM
SPLIT


TATAMI FLIP!
SHE USED THE GROUND ITSELF AS A SHIELD!?
WHA—?
CLASH


!!
WELL?
WHAT IS IT?
WHATCHA SMILING ABOUT?
THAT.
?


MBI PL_11
A BOAT?
IT'S MBI'S MONITOR SHIP.
THERE ARE SEVEN OF THEM DEPLOYED AROUND THE ISLAND'S PERIMETER.
MATSU CONFIRMED IT WITH HER PEEPING ABILITY.
ONCE YOU GET THAT FAR OFF THE ISLAND, YOU WON'T BE AFFECTED BY THE DAMAGING ENERGY.
IT'S JUST A MONITOR SHIP, SO THERE'S NO SUPERNATURAL TECHNOLOGY OR ANYTHING.
...SO?
OH...
NOTHING, REALLY.
WHAT'RE YOU SCHEMING TO DO NOW?
GETTING REAL BAD VIBES HERE.
SEO-TAN, YOU SAID YOU WISHED YOU COULD LEAVE THE SEKIREI PROJECT...
...BUT YOU HAD TO SEE IT THROUGH TO THE END.


I GUESS THAT WOULD BE MY ONLY OPTION...
"SAFETY," HUH?
...ESPECIALLY NOW, WHEN NOBODY CAN SAY WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN.
IF YOU COULD ESCAPE TO SAFETY, THAT'D BE TWO BIRDS WITH ONE STONE...
MATSU HAS COMPLETE AND TOTAL CONFIDENCE IN MINA-TAN. ♡
HEHEHEHEH.
MAYBE YOU'RE JUST TRICKING ME TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR HIM TO WIN THIS THING?
BUT I GOTTA FEEL BAD FOR SAHASHI, HAVING A SEKIREI LIKE YOU.
NO CHOICE. I'LL GO ALONG WITH YOUR SCHEME.
...WHICH IS WHY...
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANYONE TERMINATED...
...I WOULD PREFER TO AVOID ANY MORE "SHOWDOWNS" BETWEEN SEKIREI, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE.
SORT OF LIKE AN OLDER SISTER TO ALL SEKIREI.
PLUS, MATSU IS NO. 02.
I KNOW IT'S A NAIVE THOUGHT, BUT STILL.....
I SUPPOSE WE REALLY SHOULD FEEL BAD FOR HIM...
YOU FIGURED IT OUT?
HEHE HEH.
I MEAN, RIGHT?
OH.
IT'S GONNA BE ON SAHASHI TO MAKE IT HAPPEN, RIGHT?
WHAT YOU'RE SAYING'S PRETTY ADMIRABLE, BUT...
...SO...


WATER BINDING!
SPLASH
MU-SUBI-TAN!
RIGHT!
WHA—?
WHIRL
WHAT!?
EEEK!
PLUCK


GLOW
ACCESS ...
...SEARCH.
TARGET— MBI MONITOR SHIP.
COORDINATES CONFIRMED.
MUSUBI-TAN! EMPTY THAT MUSCLE-BRAIN OF YOURS AND LET YOUR MIND SYNC WITH MATSU'S.
THERE!
RIGHT.
AH, I SEE IT! THAT'S AMAZING! ♡
OKAY.
HERE I GO.


HUP! ♡
FWOOSH
FLING
WAAAH!
ZOOM
GRAB
...SORRY, SAHASHI.
THE REST'S UP TO YOU...
FWOOSH
FLING
GYAAAH!


SLAM
DAMN THEM...
YOU OKAY, HIKARI?
FWISH
ヒューッ
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT.
WE COULDN'T MEASURE UP TO GIRLS WHO TRAINED EVERY DAY.
HMPH.
IT PISSES ME OFF, BUT THIS IS CLEARLY OUR LOSS.
OH. IT'S SEO.


MBI PL_11
GYAAAH!
ZAP
ZAP
ELECTRIC SPIDER!
RING-OUT! ♡
YUP!



Chapter 152: Ace in the Hole


YOU COULD EVEN SAY I HAVE A GRUDGE AGAINST YOU...
...BUT YOU AND I ARE DESTINED TO CLASH.
...IT HARDLY SEEMS NECESSARY TO SAY AT THIS POINT...
...I'VE GOT NOTHING BUT ANGER.
CLENCH
SO WHEN IT COMES TO YOU...
I LOST A DEAR FRIEND, THANKS TO YOU.
...SAME TO YOU...
...TO BE BLUNT, I DESPISE YOU.
..."ASHIKABI OF THE NORTH," MINATO SAHASHI.
..."ASHIKABI OF THE EAST," IZUMI HIGA-SAN.

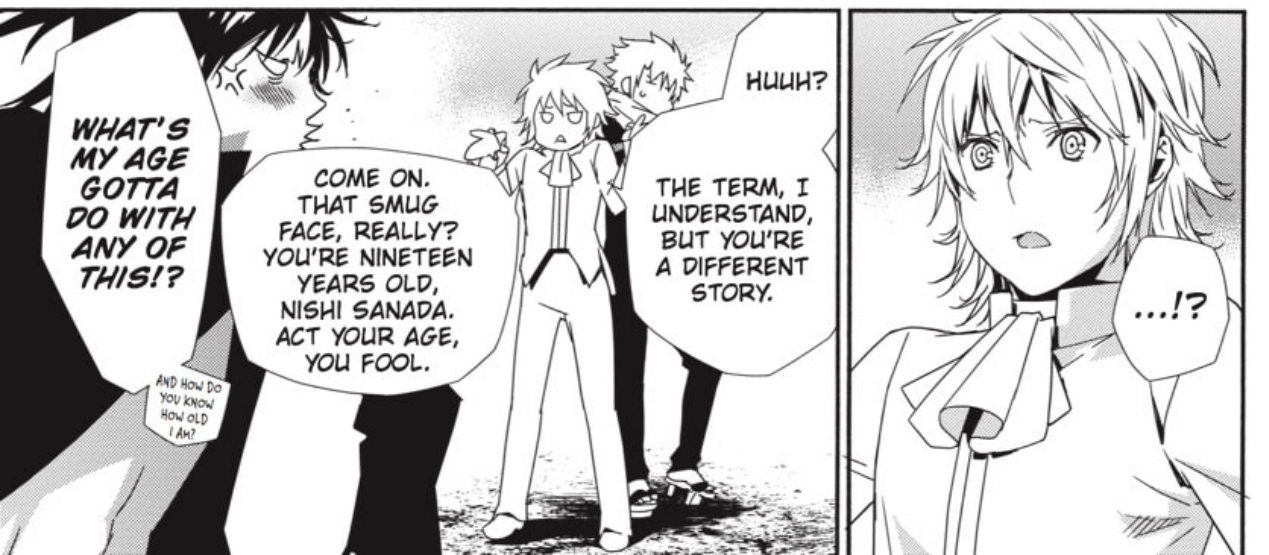

...I DON'T THINK THE LAST ASHIKABI STANDING...
AND...
...SHOULD BE YOU.
BUT I'M NOT GONNA LOSE WHEN IT COMES TO SEKIREI!
BECAUSE YOU KNOW SO MUCH MORE ABOUT THE WORLD, HUH?
...DON'T TALK LIKE YOU'RE SO WISE, YOU PATHETIC ROUNIN.


SAHA-SHI...
OOH, SO VALIANT! ♡♡
HIGA-SAMA...
BEEP BEEP
Your coordinates are confirmed.
Every-thing is prepared, Higa-sama.
YES, I SUPPOSE YOU DO KNOW YOUR WAY AROUND SEKIREI, DON'T YOU?
...BUT THAT'S ALL YOU KNOW.
...!?
THIS APPLIES TO MORE THAN JUST THIS BATTLE, BUT...
...I'VE DECIDED TO STOP CARING ABOUT APPEAR-ANCES.
...EVEN... THE MBI SATELLITE YOUR SEKIREI HAS BEEN TOYING WITH.
I'LL USE WHATEVER IT TAKES TO GET WHAT I WANT...


MBI
Do it, Kakizaki.
Be sure not to hit me, of course.
CUT IT OUT, THIS IS NERVE-RACKING ENOUGH AS IT IS.
CLAK CLAK カタカタ CLAK CLAK
YES.
VERY WELL. WE'LL DO OUR BEST.
KO-CHOU.
S-SATEL-LITE!?
HUH ...?
DOES HE MEAN...THE SBL MATSU IS ALWAYS HACKING INTO...!?
IT'S GOT A MILITARY-GRADE LASER... SHIT. HE MUST HAVE PEOPLE WORKING FOR HIM ELSE-WHERE.
HUH...? SB-WHAT ??
OH YEAH. HIS FRIEND WITH THE GLASSES ISN'T HERE NOW.
Hold on... MATSU'S BEEN USING A THING LIKE THAT!?
FLASH


BLAST
ALL THE PLATITUDES IN THE WORLD DON'T MATTER. TO THE VICTOR, GO THE SPOILS.
AND THE VICTOR IS THE ONE WHO DOES WHATEVER IT TAKES TO CRUSH HIS OPPONENT...
...WHETHER *HERE* OR IN *SOCIETY* AT LARGE.


ISN'T THAT RIGHT, CEO MINAKA?
LISTEN UP, BRAT FROM THE SOUTH.
YOU EVER HEARD OF AN ACE IN THE HOLE?


WHAT'S MY AGE GOTTA DO WITH ANY OF THIS!?
AND HOW DO YOU KNOW HOW OLD I AM?
COME ON. THAT SMUG FACE, REALLY? YOU'RE NINETEEN YEARS OLD, NISHI SANADA. ACT YOUR AGE, YOU FOOL.
HUUH?
THE TERM, I UNDERSTAND, BUT YOU'RE A DIFFERENT STORY.
...!?


SHEESH ...
REALLY DIDN'T WANNA HAVE TO RESORT TO THESE PARTICULAR ACES.
ZOOM
ザアッ
BUT, I MEAN, WHAT THE HELL!!?
TWIST

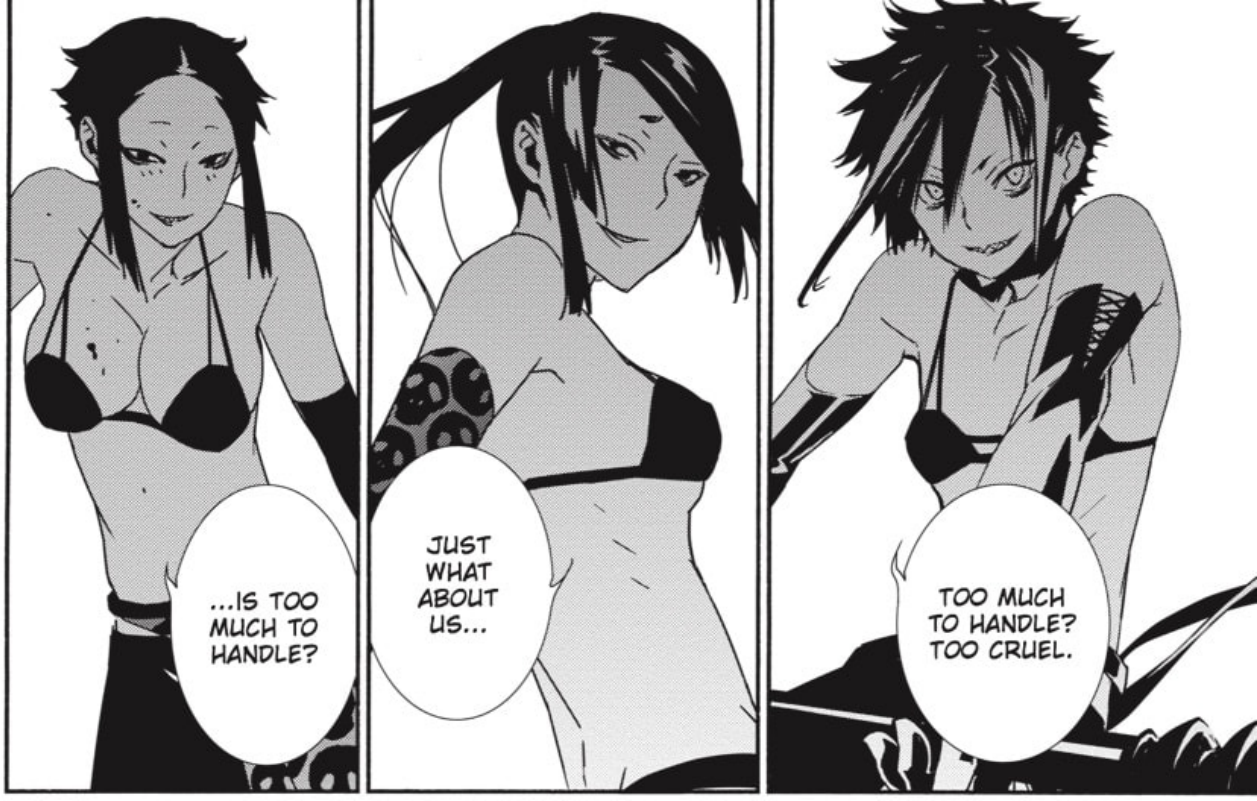

KU-HEE! ♪
...NO. 14, CHIYO.
WHAT!?
MIKO-SAMA!!
THEY WERE HIDING ALL ALONG!?
WHIP
KUU


WHA...?
AH...
!!
MITSU-KI!
JUU-ZA!!
KE-HEE! ♥
SKID


...NO. 17, YUNA.
TAKI!
PLEASE GET BACK, MASTER!!
FSSHH
FOG CURTAIN!
WHOOSH


PIERCE
FU-
HEE.
GHK...
MAS...
TER...


HEYYY.
HATAE!
CHIYO.
YUNA.
...NO. 20, HATAE.
I DIDN'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THAT RESPONSE! YOU BETTER LISTEN TO ME!
WHAAA ...? FINE.
THAT'S AN ORDER.
YOU BETTER NOT KILL THAT ASHIKABI, NO MATTER WHAT!
THAT'S JUST HOW THEY ARE! TOO MUCH EVEN FOR ME TO HANDLE SOMETIMES!
CALL ME A COWARD ALL YOU LIKE.
AND A SNEAK ATTACK! WHAT A COWARD!!
YOU WERE HIDING EXTRA SEKIREI!?
...WHAT THE...?
WHEN SOMEONE GETS TERMINATED, WE CAN'T PLAY WITH THEM ANYMORE. NO FUN!
THEY COULD NEVER FINISH ANYONE OFF.
WAIT, YOU DIDN'T THINK I HAD THE WHOLE WESTERN DISTRICT LOCKED DOWN WITH JUST THREE SEKIREI, DIDJA?
MY LITTLE LOVELIES HERE ARE MADE FOR PLAYING, NOT FIGHTING.

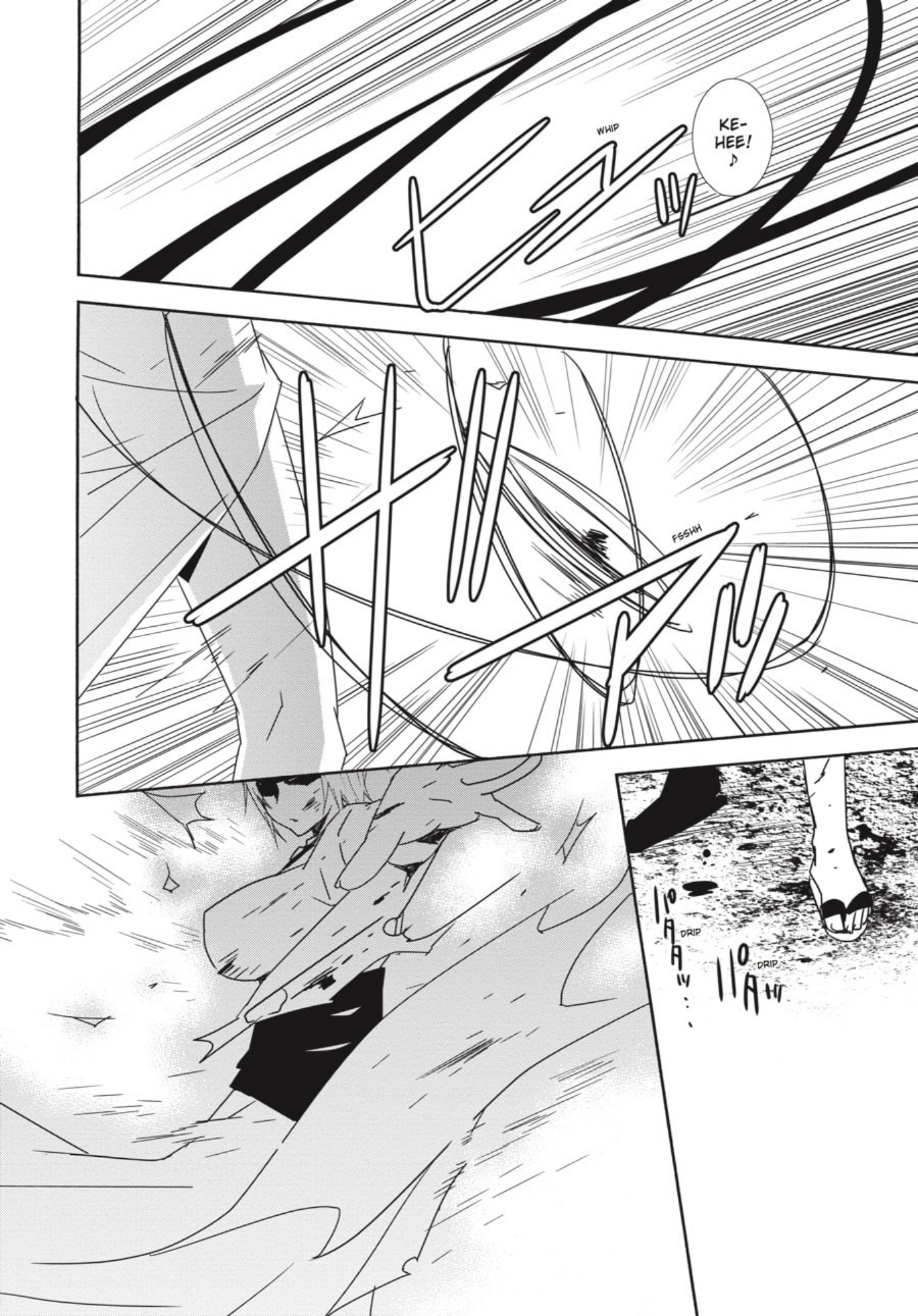

...IS TOO MUCH TO HANDLE?
JUST WHAT ABOUT US...
TOO MUCH TO HANDLE? TOO CRUEL.


OH, WHAT-EVER. LET'S JUST WRAP THIS UP.
I LOVE TO FIGHT, BUT I CAN'T TAKE THE SIGHT OF BLOOD.
THAT'S THE SORT OF CRAP I CAN'T HANDLE, LIKE I'M ALWAYS SAYING.
YOU'RE COVERED IN BLOOD SPATTER! DON'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE ENJOYING IT!
ANY-WAY...
SORRY, KID.


EEK...
MOMO !!
...SHIT.
!
FWIP
FU-HEE! ♡

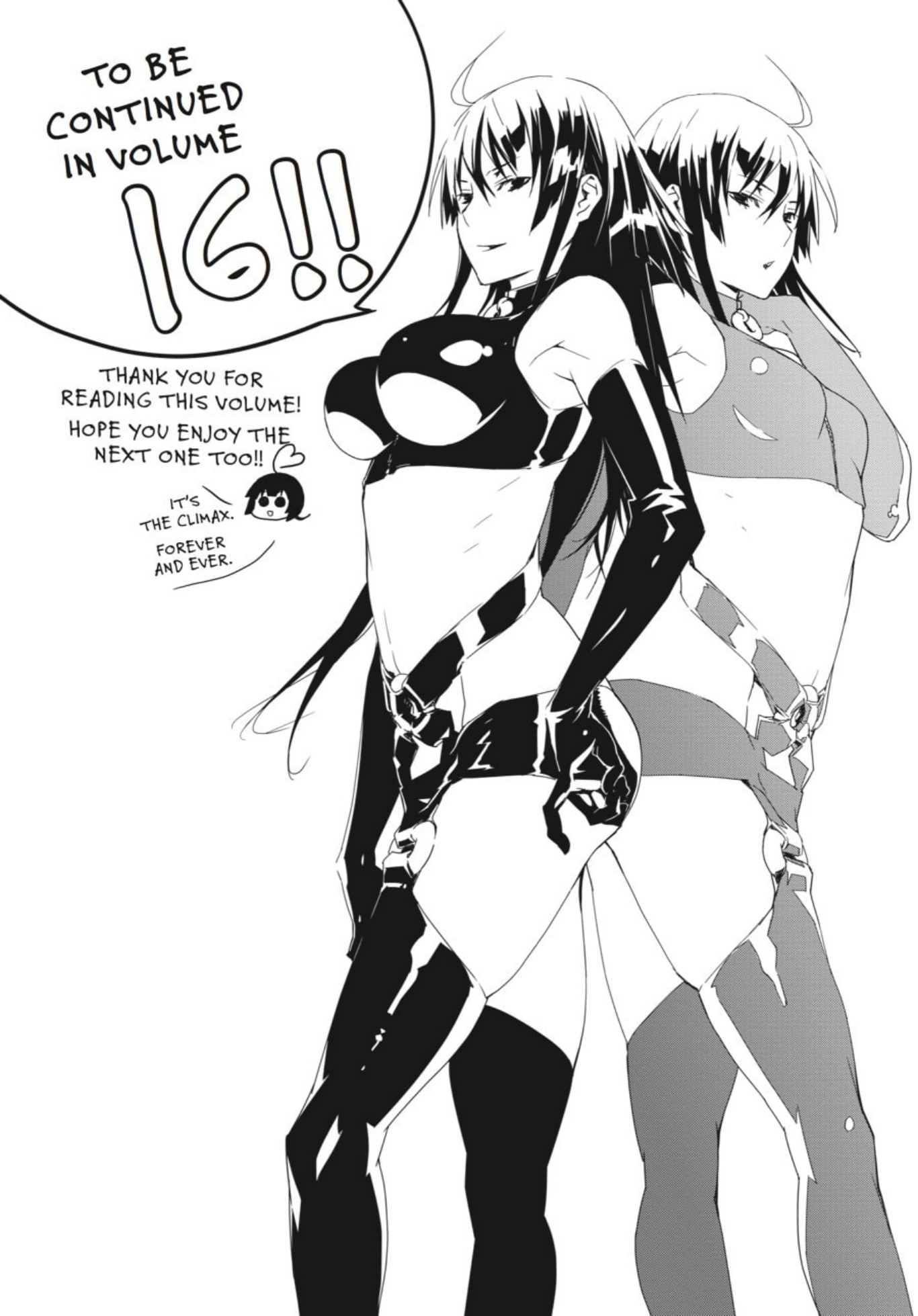

...REVERSE ICICLE.
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
AKITSU !?
NO. 15... YOU... STAY BY... MASTER'S SIDE...
!
I...WILL... BE THEIR OPPONENT...
THEY'VE... DONE QUITE ENOUGH ALREADY...!


FWOOSH
AHHH! ♡
HERE WE GO... SOMEONE STRONG... ♡
AH.
I'M ALL FROZEN.
FLYING ICICLE.
SLASH
SLASH


WHIP
KE-HEE! ♪
FSSHH
DRIP
DRIP


AH...
AKITSU!!
FSSHH
M-MY...
MY SEKIREI .....
NO...
...OH NO...


...WON'T LET YOU...
I...WILL PROTECT ... MASTER ...
SWAY
AKITSU ...!
I...MAY NOT BE... MASTER'S SEKIREI...
KE-HEE.
KE-HEE-HEE! ♪
AND... I HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE HERE...I'M A BROKEN SEKIREI... BUT...
MASTER... GAVE A SEKIREI LIKE ME... A PLACE TO BELONG...
HE GAVE ME... FRIENDS ...
IF I DON'T... REPAY THAT DEBT... MY LIFE... HAS NO VALUE...
THAT'S WHY...I WILL... DEFEAT YOU.....!!!


TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 16!!
THANK YOU FOR READING THIS VOLUME!
HOPE YOU ENJOY THE NEXT ONE TOO!!
IT'S THE CLIMAX.
FOREVER AND EVER.


THE FINAL BATTLE...
WHAT DOES FATE HAVE IN STORE FOR THESE MANLY MAIDENS...!?

MINA-TAN, BEYOND THE NIGHTMARE...



THE EXCITEMENT CONTINUES IN THE NEXT VOLUME!

SEKIREI ⑮

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