
セキレイ
Sekirei
18
極楽院櫻子


BATCHMANGA.IN
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SAKURAKO
GOKURAKUIN



Sekirei

18


Sekirei 18
SAKURAKO GOKURAKUIN

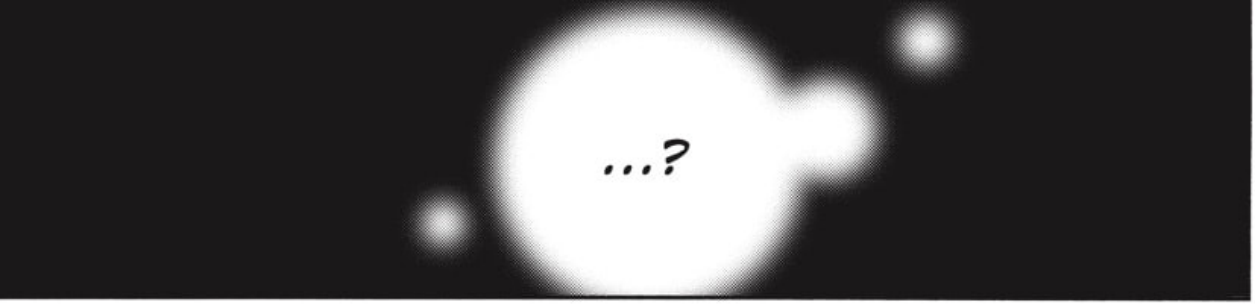
SEKIREI ⑱

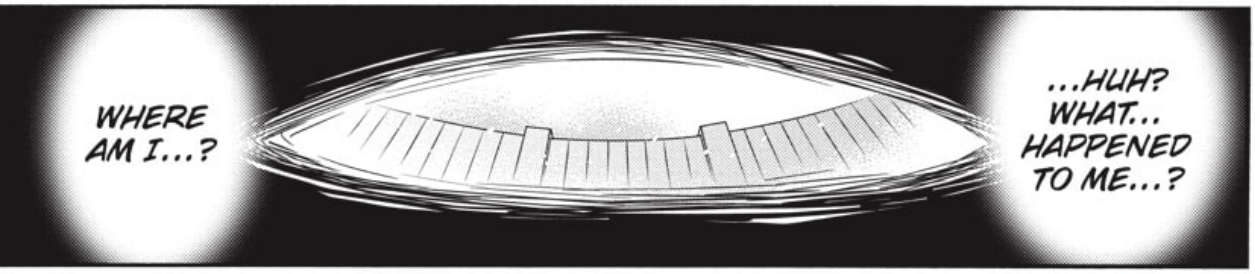
Sakurako Gokurakuin



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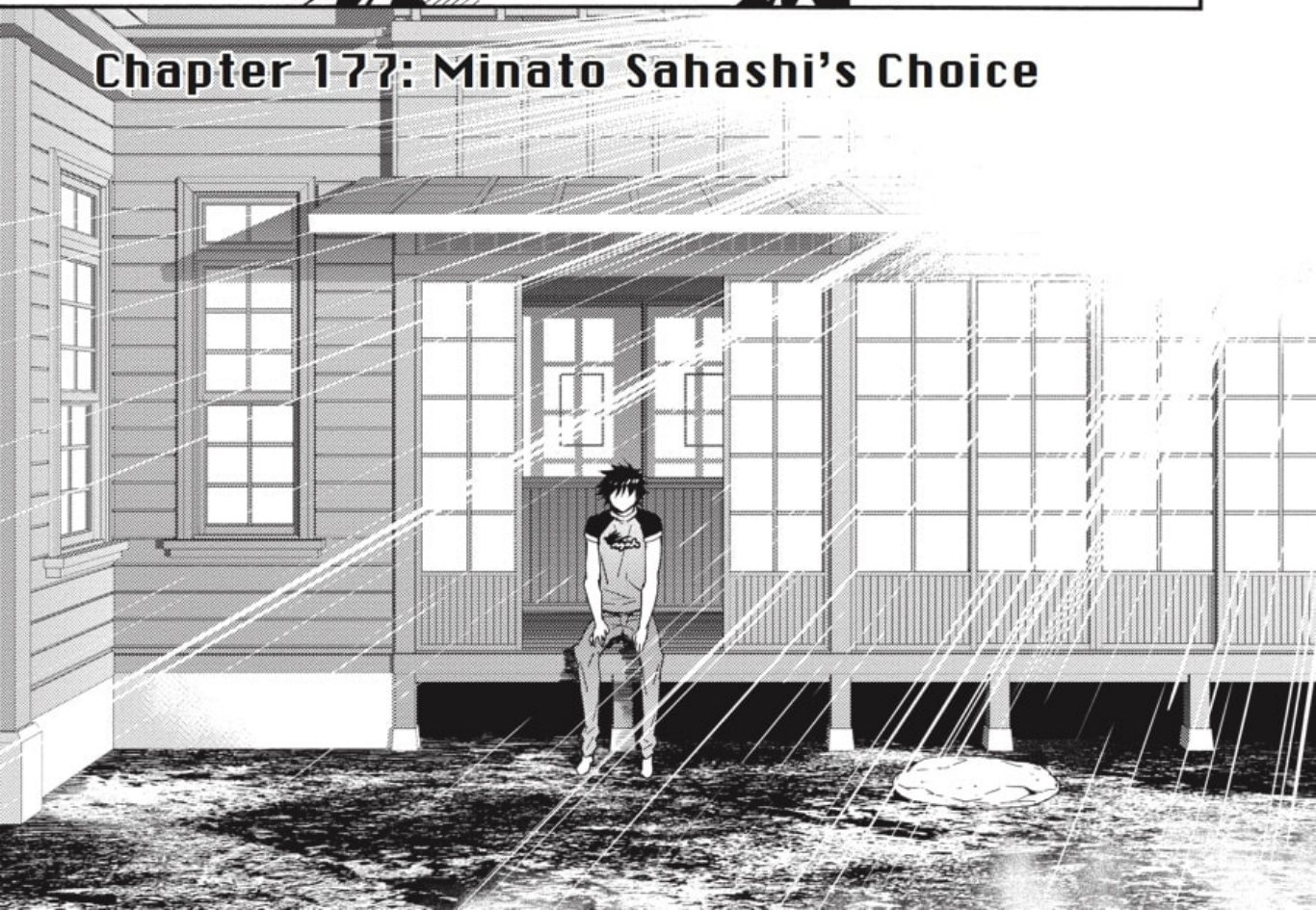
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Chapter 177: Minato Sahashi's Choice




IT'S IZUMO INN.....
...BUT NOBODY'S HOME...?


...LAND-LADY?
KU-CHAAAN.
MUSUBI-CHAN!
TSUKI-UMI.
KAGARI-SAAAN.
KAZE-HANA-SAN.
ON THE ROOF?
カン
THUNK
...MATSU-SAN?
...OH...
...YOU'VE COME BACK.


UZUME-SAN.
UM... WHERE IS EVERY-ONE...?
...AH, WELL—
THIS PLACE ISN'T MEANT FOR THEM JUST YET.
...HUH?
SENDING AN ASHIKABI HERE, AHEAD OF THE PACK, REALLY...
SHEESH! WHAT'RE THEY THINKING?
KNOWING THOSE GIRLS...
WELL, S'OKAY.
...THEY'LL FIGURE SOMETHING OUT. NO DOUBT.


HEY, SAHASHI-CHAN. TAKE A LOOK.
? ?
IT'S KOUTEN.
BUT THE SAD TRUTH IS...
...NOT ALL OF THEM CAN GET THERE.
INVITATIONS ONLY GO OUT TO A SINGLE ASHIKABI AND A SINGLE SEKIREI.
NO MATTER HOW MANY YOU'VE BONDED WITH...
...ONLY ONE'S ALLOWED TO RISE TO THOSE HEIGHTS.
SO, SAHASHI-CHAN...
...WHO DO YOU CHOOSE?


DASH
MAS—
—TER
...
H-HE JUST FAINTED...
WHY ...?
SAY SOME-THING!
NATSUO! NATSUO!!


NATSUO!!


WAAAAH!
WAAAAH!
WAAAAH!
MASTER!
MASTER'S DIIIEEEEED!
WAAAAH!
WAAAAH!


MINATO-SAN!!
WHAT HAP-PENED TO HIM ...!?
MIKO-SAMA!
OH NO...! MIKO-SAMA!!
HIS HEARTBEAT IS FAINT.
...
HE'S...
..."CEASED FUNCTION-ING"...


MUSUBI ...!
MINATO ...
...SAN...?


SO HOW DO WE SAVE HIM NOW!?
MINATO'S ALREADY OUT COLD!


THE JINKI ARE LIKELY THE CULPRIT.
SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE ARK'S INSTABILITY —
ARGH! WHO GIVES A DAMN ABOUT THE CAUSE!!?


IF OUR ASHIKABI'S BEEN TERMINATED .....
...THEN WE DON'T HAVE LONG EITHER.

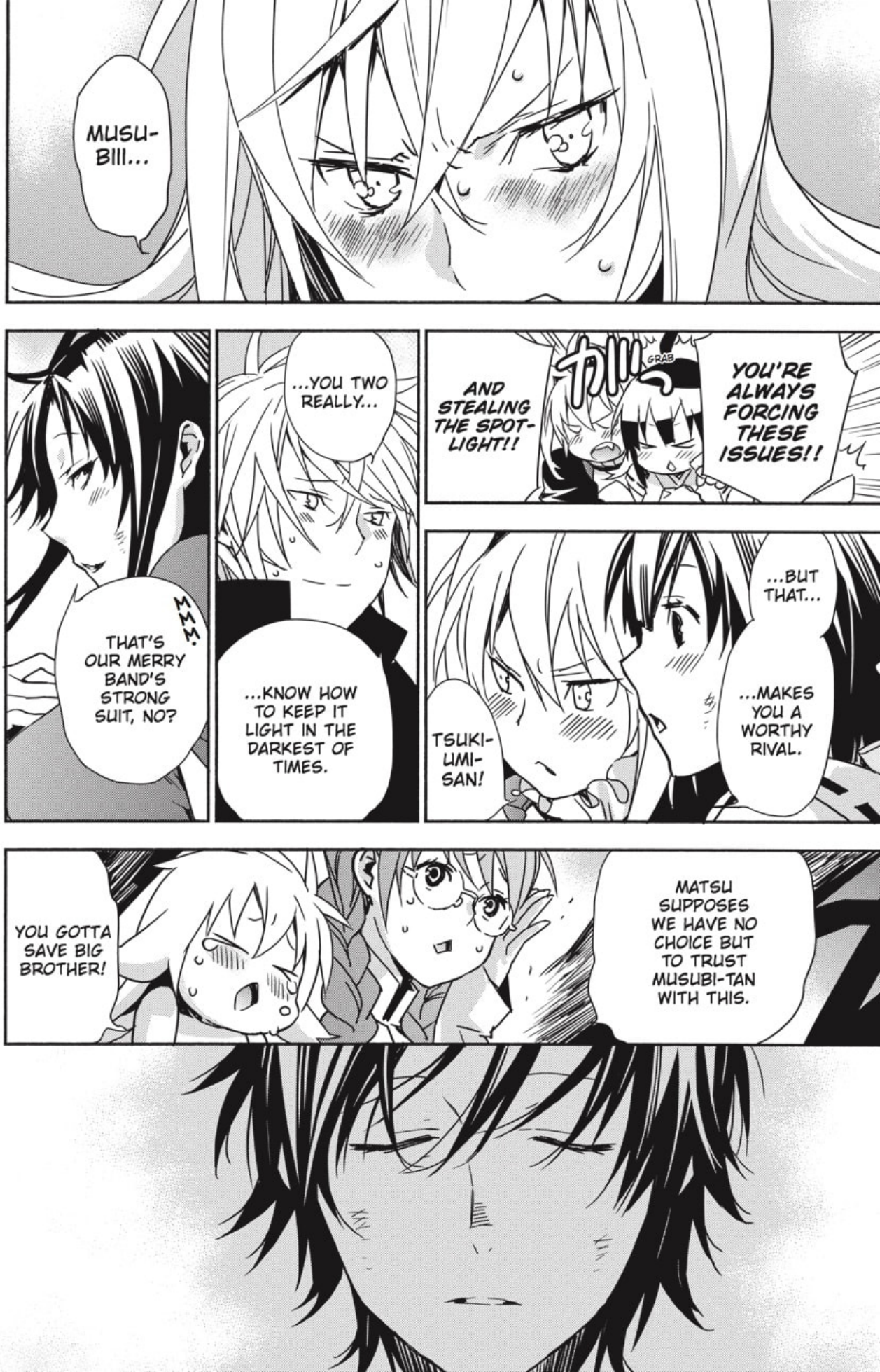

IF WE CAN'T HELP MINATO-KUN SOON, WE'RE ALL DOOMED... RIGHT?
IT'S NO LAUGHING MATTER.
...MMGH!
KU-SANO-TAN!?
WHAT ARE YOU...?
KU CAN DO NORITO ONE MORE TIME!
THEN KU'S GLOWY POWER CAN...
...GET BIG BROTHER TO WAKE UP AGAIN!
BUT, BUT!
WAAAAH!
BIG BROTHER IS...!
C-CERTAINLY NOT! YOU MUSTN'T!!
USING YOUR NORITO IN YOUR CURRENT CONDITION WOULD KILL YOU, KUSANO-TAN.
BESIDES, WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW ISN'T LIKE WHAT OCCURRED EARLIER.
I DOUBT EVEN YOUR ABILITY COULD HELP MINA-TAN.....
WHAT CAN WE DO, THEN!?
AT THIS RATE, HE'LL... MINATO WILL...!!
TSUKIUMI-SAN.
EVERY-ONE.


GIVE THEM TO ME!
ENTRUST ME WITH YOUR SOULS, OKAY?
M—
MUSUBI ...?


UH...!
MY CORE FUSED WITH YUME-SAMA'S.
UM, SO I KNOW I MUST HAVE THE SAME CORE AS MINATO-SAN...
...!
...BUT MINE HASN'T STOPPED!
YUME, NO. 08... SHE HAD A "PAIRED SEKIREI CREST"...
SHE CEASED FUNCTIONING IN ORDER TO SAVE NO. 88.
SHE POSSESSED BOTH AN ASHIKABI CORE AND A SEKIREI CORE.....
RIGHT...! YES, OF COURSE ...!!
PLEASE EXPLAIN, MATSU.
I DON'T WANNA LUMP MYSELF IN WITH TSUKIUMI, BUT I'M FEELING COMPLETELY LOST TOO.
I'LL SKIP OVER THE DETAILS, BUT...
...ROUGHLY SPEAKING, MUSUBI-TAN'S CORE...
...HAS A BIT OF ASHIKABI CORE MIXED IN.
MATSU ONLY KNOWS ABOUT NO. 01 FROM THE DATA.
AND SINCE MUSUBI-TAN IS FUNCTIONING JUST FINE... THAT MEANS ...
...THE SEKIREI CORE PORTION IS PROTECTING THE ASHIKABI CORE.
LIKE SO.
WH-WHAT NONSENSE IS THIS, MUSUBI??
DID YOUR BATTLE AGAINST NO. 04 SOMEHOW ADDLE YOUR BRAINS!?
A-AND WHAT HAPPENED TO NO. 04, BY THE WAY...?
SHAKE
SHAKE
OH! MUSUBI WON THE BATTLE. ♡
WHAAAT —!?


IN OTHER WORDS, IF WE CAN DIRECTLY PROTECT MINA-TAN'S CORE WITH A SEKIREI CORE...
...HE'LL BE SHIELDED FROM THE POISONOUS EFFECTS OF THE JINKI.
S-SO HOW DO WE ACCOMPLISH THAT!?
I GET THE IDEA...
...BUT HIS CORE'S ALREADY STOPPED RUNNING. SO...?
MUSUBI WILL REIGNITE IT.
THE CORE FROM YUME-SAMA WILL PROVIDE THE SPARK.
JUST LIKE WHEN YUME-SAMA REACTIVATED ME...
...I'LL LIGHT A FIRE WITHIN MINATO-SAN'S SOUL!
BUT MUSUBI ALONE ISN'T ENOUGH.
PLEASE LEND ME YOUR POWER!


...NO TIME TO THINK THIS OVER, HUH?
IT SEEMS NOT.
MUSU-BI...
...!
SLUMP
MUSUBI WILL PROTECT YOU.
MINATO-SAN...
...AND ALL OF YOU!


MUSU-BIII...
...YOU TWO REALLY...
...KNOW HOW TO KEEP IT LIGHT IN THE DARKEST OF TIMES.
MMM.
THAT'S OUR MERRY BAND'S STRONG SUIT, NO?
GRAB
YOU'RE ALWAYS FORCING THESE ISSUES!!
AND STEALING THE SPOT-LIGHT!!
TSUKI-UMI-SAN!
...BUT THAT...
...MAKES YOU A WORTHY RIVAL.
MATSU SUPPOSES WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO TRUST MUSUBI-TAN WITH THIS.
YOU GOTTA SAVE BIG BROTHER!



MINATO... YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO DIE BEFORE ME.

I'LL NEVER FORGIVE YOU IF YOU DON'T AWAKEN NOW.

SO BE READY FOR A SOAKING ONCE YOU'RE BACK!!

SAHASHI, MAY MY BURNING SOUL...

...BE THE SPARK THAT BRINGS YOU BACK TO LIFE.

MINATO-KUN...

...ONCE YOU'RE UP, WE'LL BE UP ALL NIGHT LONG! ♡

MATSU WANTED TO RUN SOME EXPERIMENTS WHILE YOU WERE OUT OF COMMISSION...

HOW LOW CAN YOU SINK?

...BUT IT'D BE NO FUN WITHOUT A REACTION FROM YOU, SO HURRY UP AND REVIVE SO I CAN WORK MY MAGIC!

KU LOVES BIG BROTHER!

KU LOVES BIG BROTHER SO, SO MUUUCH!

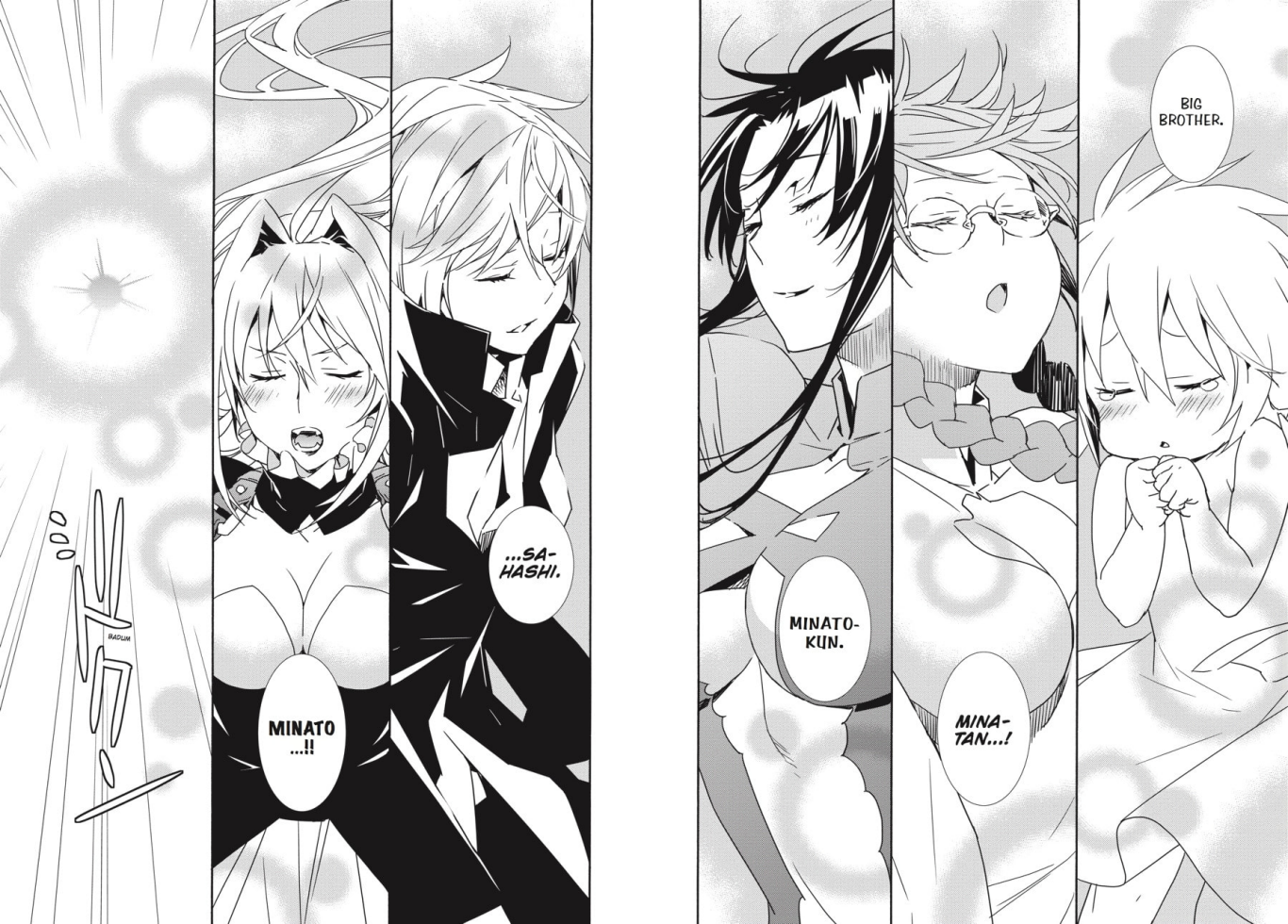

GLOW
MINATO-SAN...!







Chapter 178: Riding on Hope


BIG BROTHER.
MINATO-KUN.
MINA-TAN...!
...SA-HASHI.
MINATO ...!!
BADUM


BADUM
ドクン
...I...
CLENCH
I.....
I'M NOT...
...LEAVING ANYONE BEHIND!
abytail


I'M PRETTY MUCH A FAILURE.
I'LL ADMIT IT... I'M A LOSER. A TWO-TIME RONIN.
I WAS EMPTY INSIDE...NOT A SHRED OF CONFIDENCE.
BUT... MEETING MUSUBI-CHAN...
...AND LIVING AT IZUMO INN WITH EVERYONE ...
IT GOT ME THINKING.
ABOUT MYSELF... AND THE WORLD AROUND ME...
I KNOW WHAT I'M SAYING IS UNFAIR.
BUT I'M A FAILURE.
A GUY WHO'S SERIOUSLY NOT WORTHY.
AND I DOUBT I CAN TAKE A STAND UNLESS THEY'RE ALL THERE BESIDE ME.
SO...
ALL THOSE HANDS THEY REACHED OUT TO ME...
I'M HOLDING THEM TIGHT!
I'M NOT LETTING EVEN ONE OF THEM GO!


FLAP
HMPH... UNBELIEV-ABLE.
UNBELIEVABLY, CUNNINGLY SELFISH!
WELL...I CAN'T SAY I LIKE IT, BUT...
...IT'S SO VERY LIKE YOU!
THINGS ARE ALWAYS COMPLICATED WITH US, HUH?
OH MYYY! ANY GOOD BOY WORTH HIS SALT OUGHT TO BE SO GENEROUS! ♡
KU FU. KU FU.
SUCH AN INNATE PREDISPOSITION TO HAREMS!
BIG BROTHER IS SO KIND TO EVERYONE!
YOU GUYS ...!?


BUT HOW ...?
UZUME ...!
WHOA!
WHAT'RE YOU THINKING, BRINGING ALL OF THEM HERE?
THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS TOO MUCH TO HANDLE!
HEH. TAKE A GOOD LOOK, THOUGH!
AREN'T WE MISSING SOMEONE?
.....!


...YOU ALL WENT AND.....!
OH, I SEE...
FOR MY SAKE...
MINATO!
HUH?


ACK!
TSU-TSUKIUMI...
...MINATO!
I MAY HAVE RELIN-QUISHED YOUR BODY TO MY RIVAL FOR NOW...
...BUT WE SHALL PROTECT YOUR SOUL!
SO WORRY NOT!!
HISS
GETTING THE JUMP ON US!?
TSUKI-UMI.....


NOW GO, MINATO!!
MUSUBI IS WAITING!!
.....
FLASH
...RIGHT!

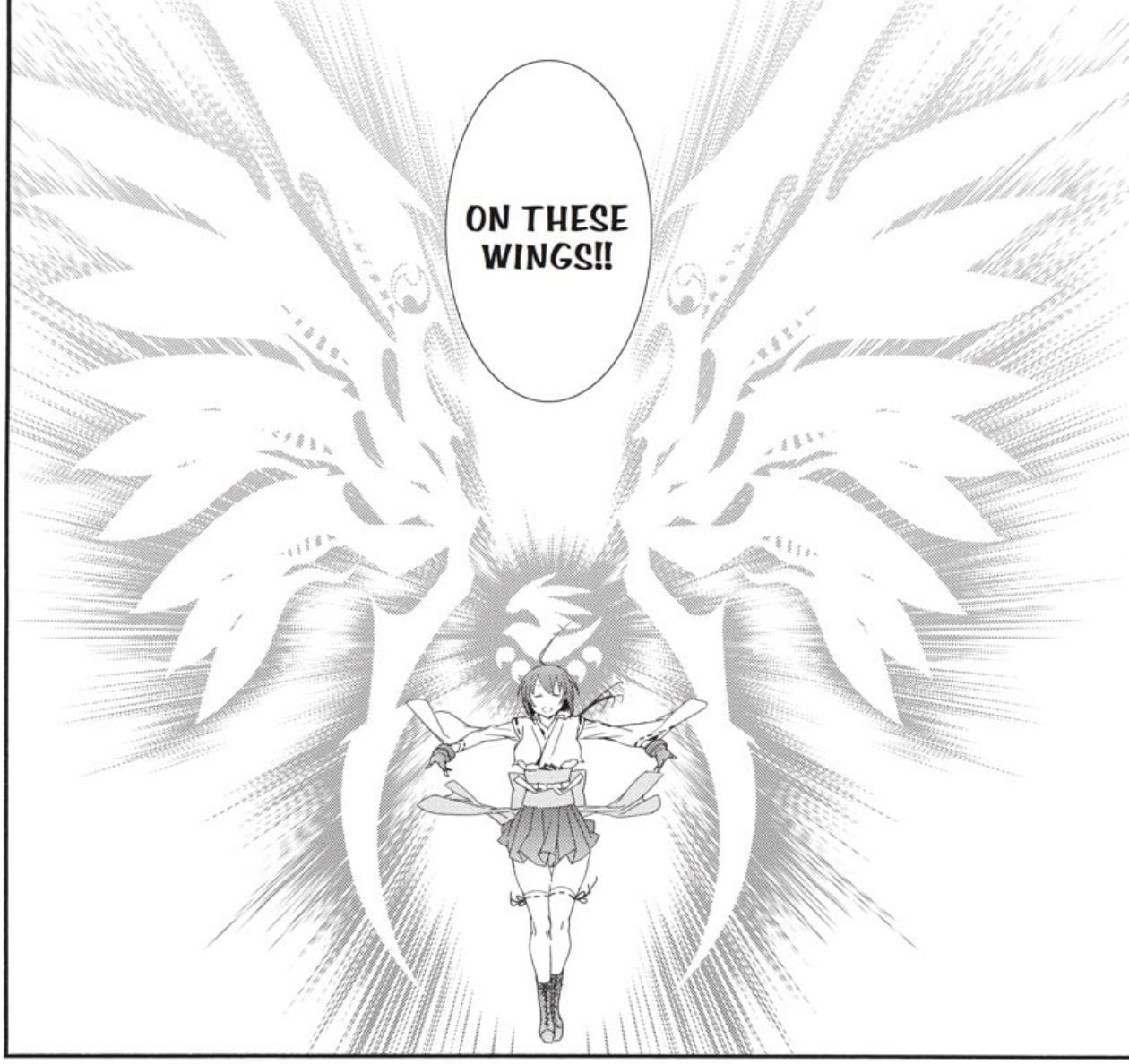

FLASH
WH-WHAT THE —!?


WELCOME BACK...
... MINATO-SAN!
...?
.....!?
MUSUBI-CHA—
!




EVERY-
ONE...!


ALL
OF THEIR
FEELINGS
...
I...
GLOW
MUSUBI IS
CARRYING
THEM
FORWARD!


ON THESE WINGS!!


FLASH!


...IT SEEMS...
...A DECISION'S BEEN MADE.


AS TO WHO...
...SHALL FACE ME.




...IT SEEMS A DECISION'S BEEN MADE.
KOUTEN IS REACTING.....
AS TO WHO...
...SHALL FACE ME, NO. OO.



Chapter 179: To Kouten!


SEKIREI


HEH-HEH... LIKE WHEN... SHE REVIVED ON THE BRIDGE...
EVER SINCE... I HEARD HOW... THAT "08" SHOWED UP ON HER BODY... I'VE BEEN THINKING...
NO. 88 ...!!
SHIT! WHAT'S GOING ON WITH HER!?
GLOW
...BUT...
...SHE'S CHEAT-ING.
NO. 88..... IT'S LIKE...


SHE BEAT... NO. 04...
AND BLACK...WAS STRONG.....
REALLY STRONG...
...BUT SHE WENT..... AND BEAT BLACK.
NO. 88.
CHEATING OR NOT...
...SHE'S STRONG...
WHAT...!!? HEY!! BLUE!!
IS THAT HOW YOU SEE ME, REALLY !?
BENITSUBASA... YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE... WHO ACTUALLY THOUGHT YOU HAD A CHANCE OF BEATING HER...
HEH HEH...
NORTH ...!
!
TENSE


SAVE...
...MY MASTER ...!
PLEASE.
SAVE HIM.
WAAAH! WAAAH!
MASTERRR!
WAAAAH!
MASTER!

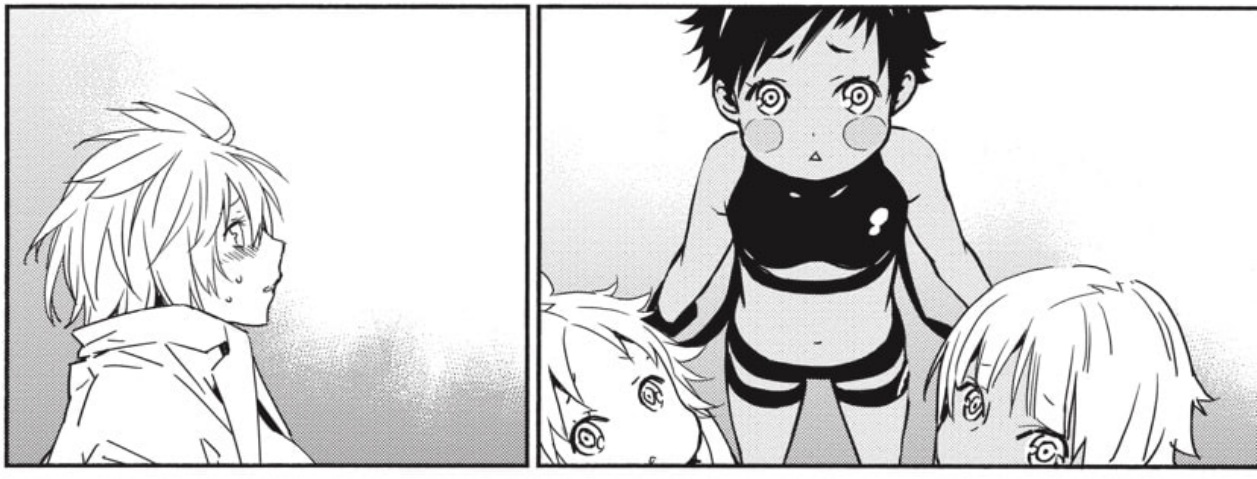

THEY'RE SPEAKING TO ME...
...THROUGH THESE WINGS OF LIGHT.
EVERYONE'S FEELINGS.
AND NOW...
I'LL BRING THOSE FEELINGS UP HIGH!!


TO KOUTEN!
RUMBLE
M-MUSUBI-CHAN...
SHE'S THE JERK WHO KILLED OFF OUR NO. 43!
MUSUBI-CHAN...!
GAAAH! YOU PISS ME OFF!!
NO. 88!
SO PLEASE, EVERYONE, JUST RELAX AND LET YOURSELVES STOP FUNCTIONING! ♡


THE DAMAGE TO THE ARK... KNOCKED OUT THE ASHIKABI...
IT DOESN'T GET ANY WORSE THAN THIS.
AND IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL, ONLY ONE ASHIKABI IS LEFT STANDING...
IT'S PROOF HE HAS WHAT IT TAKES...
...TO BE THE WINNER OF THIS GAME.
...THAT'S THE TAKEAWAY HERE.
...MIKOGAMI WOULD BE FRUSTRATED BEYOND BELIEF IF HE KNEW.
EVEN THOUGH WE CAUSED THIS TROUBLE IN THE FIRST PLACE.
WELL, IT WAS ACTUALLY ME..... SORRY...
...RIGHT...
...THAT MEANS WE...
...HAVE NO CHOICE...


...BUT TO ENTRUST OUR HOPES...
...TO THEM.
RUMBLE
...KOUTEN IS CALLING US.
I CAN HEAR IT TOO.
YEAH.


SOMEONE... UP THERE...
...IS WAITING...
...FOR US.




KOUTEN..... WHEN THE FINAL SEKIREI MAKES IT THERE...
...THEY GET THEIR REWARD...
THEIR WISH... GETS GRANTED .....
.....
GRIND


NO.—
—88!!
I COULDN'T HATE YOU ANY MORE IF I TRIED, BUT...
THAT'S FINE FOR NOW!
YOU CAN HAVE THIS WIN!!
SO...
PLEASE!
SAVE NATSUO !!!


OUR BEST FWEND'S BESTEST FWEND!
88!
EIGHTY-EIIIIIGHT!!
NO. 88...!
I SWEAR...
...ON MY SOUL ITSELF!
ALL THE SEKIREI WITH BROKEN WINGS...
I'LL RELEASE THEM INTO THE SKY! THEY'LL BE FREE!


MUSUBI-CHAN...
OKAY! ♡
GRAB
SHALL WE, MINATO-SAN?
S-SURE.
HUH?
SO PLEASE, EVERYONE, JUST RELAX AND LET YOURSELVES STOP FUNCTIONING! ♡ (FOR THE SECOND TIME)
GAAAH! YOU PISS ME OFF SO MUUUCH!!
GET GOING ALREADY, AIRHEAD!
...WE'LL BE BACK...
...EVERY-ONE!


SO, UH, HOW EXACTLY DO WE GET UP THERE?
THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY FAMILIAR ABOUT THIS PARTICULAR BAD FEELING...
OH.
YOU KNOW HOW! ♡
FLING
EEP...
E
E
E
E
EEE...
WHIRL


SPIN
EEE...
Chapter 180:
The Final Pair
WHIRL
E
E
E
E
E
E...
ゴオオ
F.WOOM
ゴオオ..


JUST REAPING WHAT WE SOWED...
LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THE END OF THE LINE.
...SORRY, MIKO-GAMI.
I HOPE...
...WE CAN MEET AGAIN...
.....
SOME-DAY—
STRAIN
ぐぐぐ...
MAS—
—TER
.....


I WON'T LOSE TO YOU...!!
NEXT TIME...!
NEXT TIME...
...FOR SURE!
...EIGHT ...!!
THUMP
...
NO.—
...
EIGHTY
...
WHIRL
SPIN


KOU—
—TEN
...!


UH, STILL IN MIDAIR, THOUGH...
OH, YUP. WE'RE DOING THIS AGAIN, I SEE.
WHOOSH
IT'S ALWAYS LIKE THIIIS !!
WE'LL BE OKAY!
HAND OF THE...
WHAM
... BEAR!!
FWOOSH


TMP
...SO THIS IS...
"KOUTEN" .....


!
CORRECT.
THE PLACE THAT WATCHES OVER ALL CREATURES LIVING ON THIS EARTH.
HOLY GROUND, NEVER TO BE DEFILED ...
YOU ARE THE FIRST ASHIKABI AND SEKIREI TO SOAR TO THESE HEIGHTS.
I'VE HEARD THAT VOICE BEFORE...
...MATSU-SAN SAID...
...THE QUEEN OF THE SEKIREI CONTROLS KOUTEN.
SO I WAS PRETTY SURE WE'D END UP MEETING HER IF WE EVER MADE IT HERE.
... MEETING YOU...


...LAND-LADY.
...NO, WAIT.
NO. 01!


LAND-LADY-SAMA...
...BUT YOU SAID YOU WANTED NOTHING TO DO WITH MBI AND THE SEKIREI PROJECT?
SO I DON'T UNDERSTAND .....
...WHY YOU'RE UP HERE NOW.
...I...
...AM NO. 01.
AND NO. 00.
THE ONE WHO JUDGES THE SOULS...
...OF ALL SEKIREI AND ASHIKABI.


THE ONE WHO TESTS THE FINAL ASHIKABI AND SEKIREI.
TO DETERMINE IF THEY ARE WORTHY TO INHERIT THIS "POWER"!
JUDGES .....?
POWER ...?
MEANING ...!


SHOULD YOU DEFEAT ME, NO. 00...
...THE "REWARD" IS YOURS.
UNDER-STAND? ♡
SMILE
00.
HUH ...?
...I DON'T GET IT...!
WHY DO WE HAVE TO FIGHT YOU!?
...SAHASHI-SAN.
WHAT A FOOLISH QUESTION.
!?
YOU, OF ALL PEOPLE SHOULD, KNOW.


EXCITED
わくわく
OH...!
I GET TO FIGHT LANDLADY-SAMA!!
EXCITED
EXCITED
わくわく
...!?
EXCITED
FU-FU...
A SEKIREI WHO'S CLIMBED THIS HIGH HAS NO MORE NEED FOR WORDS.
SO LET THIS BE MY FINAL QUESTION.
ASHIKABI AND SEKIREI...
WHAT DO YOU ASK OF KOUTEN?


MUSUBI-CHAN...
OH... R-RIGHT...
THIS'S JUST HOW SEKIREI ARE...
...YOU'RE READY AND RARING, HUH...?
MUSUBI-CHAN'S HEART IS SET ON THIS.
SO I'VE GOT NO REASON TO DOUBT HER.
...OUR WISH CAN ONLY BE...
...ONE THING.
LET THEM FLY FREE!!
...AND ALL THE ASHI-KABI...
ALL THE SEKIREI...


IF THAT IS YOUR WISH!
THEN USE THOSE FISTS...
...TO MAKE IT COME TRUE!!
YES!


MUSUBI-CHAN!!
DON'T WORRY!
...CAN'T LOSE!
WE...
BADUM


I WON'T HOLD BACK...
...MUSUBI-SAN, NO. 88!
HERE I COME!
LANDLADY-SAMA, NO. 00!!
FIST OF THE...
...BEAR!!
WHAM





Chapter 181: Final Battle on Kouten


HAH!
BAM
BAM
BAM
BAM
SHUDDER
!


SINGLE-STRIKE CLEAVE!
SLASH


SPIN
TMP
GUH ...!
MUSUBI-CHAN!!
SHOULDN'T EXPECT ANYTHING LESS FROM NO. 00!!
SO STRONG ...!
.....DID YOU TRULY THINK SUCH EFFORTS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO DEFEAT ME?


BEFORE THE SEKIREI PROJECT...
NOW, I SAID YOU TWO WERE THE FIRST TO REACH THIS PLACE, BUT...
...AGES AGO, IN THE TIME OF THE GODS...
...THERE EXISTED SEKIREI WHO BATTLED ONE ANOTHER IN THE HOPES OF BEING THAT FINAL SURVIVOR.
THEY FOUGHT FOR THEIR ASHIKABI'S DESIRES...FOR THEIR OWN HOPES AND WISHES...
FOR THE "POWER" TO GRANT THOSE WISHES ...
...THE "JINKI"... AND...
...FOR THE CHANCE TO SEIZE "KOUTEN" FOR THEMSELVES.
BUT THEY WERE EACH FELLED, ONE AND ALL.
BY US.
BY THE OVERSEERS OF KOUTEN.
BY EVERY ITERATION OF NO. 00, THE ADJUDICATOR OF ALL SEKIREI.


...I HAVE ALLOWED YOU TO REACH THESE HEIGHTS...
... MUSUBI-SAN.
SO I'LL BE QUITE DISAP-POINTED...
...IF ALL YOUR TRAINING WAS FOR NAUGHT, WON'T I?
RIGHT!
THAT'S WEIRD.....
ALMOST... AS IF...
IT'S AS IF SHE...


SHE ACTUALLY WANTS TO BE BEATEN.
NO. OO ……!


…I'M SORRY.
I'M SORRY. IF ONLY I WERE AN ASHIKABI…
…I COULD'VE RELEASED YOU FROM THE BURDEN OF KOUTEN.
…TAKE-HITO-SAN.


MY DESTINY AS NO. OO THAT YOU SOUGHT TO FREE ME FROM...
I'M BEING UNFAIR, I SUPPOSE.
...I'M PASSING IT ON TO THESE YOUNG ONES.
NOW...
THE FATE I COULDN'T RUN FROM...
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
WE ALL GOT STRONGER BECAUSE OF YOU, LANDLADY-SAMA!
I... NO, WE!
NO. OO!!
SO PLEASE!
FIGHT LIKE YOU MEAN IT! ♡
!


NO NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT.
...FU FU.
I'VE BEEN TAKING THIS SERIOUSLY...
...FROM THE START! ♡


KICK OF THE...
BOOM
...BEAR!!
MUSUBI-SAN...
...I CAN SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOUR EVERY ATTACK.


LIKE SO! ♡
SLASH
THUD


THIS IS...
MU-SUBI-CHAN!!
SHE'S... TOO MUCH.....
...NO. OO FIGHTING FOR REAL...!
MUSUBI-CHAN.
MINATO... SAN.


YOU'RE GOOD.
...I MAY BE A USELESS FAILURE, BUT...
AT THE VERY LEAST...
YOU...
...I CAN WATCH OVER YOU WITH A SMILE.
...WON'T LOSE!
OUR WISHES ...
MUSUBI-CHAN...
...WHEN I LOST YOU THAT DAY...
MINATO-SAN...?
EVERY-ONE'S FEELINGS ...
THEY'VE BROUGHT US THIS FAR.
SO I KNOW FOR SURE...
THAT FEAR I FELT...
...THEY'LL REACH NO. 00 TOO.
YOU'LL... DELIVER THAT MESSAGE !!
...JUST AS THAT SMILE OF YOURS HAS GIVEN ME SO MUCH...
...I'M GOING TO SMILE AND WATCH OVER YOU.
MINATO-SAN...
AND THE FEAR OF LOSING YOU AGAIN NOW...
...HAS ME TREMBLING. BUT...

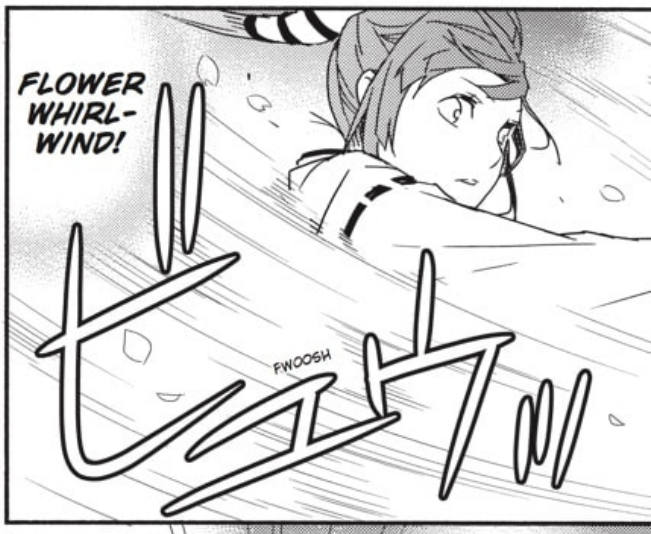

YOU CAN DO IT!
YOU'RE GONNA WIN.
WHICH IS WHY I CAN SAY THIS!
YES!
...DEAR ASHIKABI! ♡
MY...


TEE HEE! ♡
GOT CARRIED AWAY AND STOLE A KISS! ♡
THANK YOU, MINATO-SAN!
WE'LL DO OUR BEST!!
GETTING THE JUMP ON ME LIKE THAT!
OF ALL THE...!
MUSUBI-CHA—


WHOOSH
!
KICK ...
GLINT
...OF THE...
I'M SORRY TO SAY ...
...YOUR ATTACKS ARE BEYOND TRANS-PARENT—
WATER FESTIVAL !


SPLASH


SERPENT BLAZE!
BWOOSH


FLOWER WHIRL-WIND!
FWOOSH

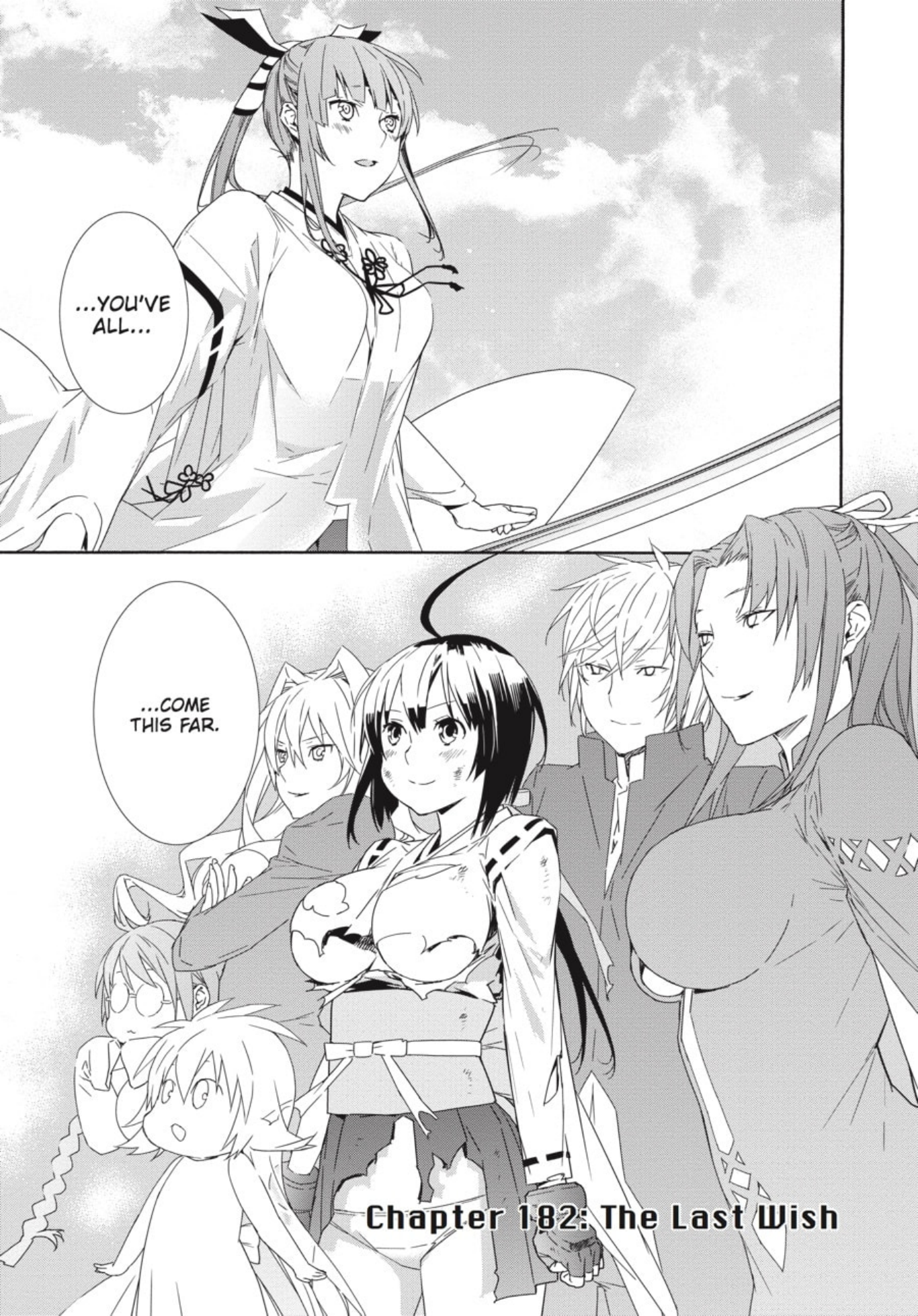

WRAP


POP
OOF!


KU-FU-FU! ♡
WOBBLE
MY CONTROL OVER KOUTEN ...!
WWWM


...BEAR!!
KERSLAM
... KUH...
STEP
... AHH.
YOU BUNCH ...
...ARE UNBELIEV-ABLE.
ONLY ONE SEKIREI IS PERMITTED TO REACH THIS PLACE.


YOU ALL UNDERSTAND THAT, DON'T YOU?



Chapter 182: The Last Wish


...EVERY-ONE...?
...BY MYSELF, I...
...COULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT MINATO-SAN THIS FAR.


...IS THAT YOUR WAY...
...OF ADMITTING DEFEAT?
TEE HEE!
MUSUBI ALONE...
...IS NO MATCH FOR NO. 00!
NOT AT ALL!
NO.
...AND RETURN YOU TO WHERE YOU BELONG...
NO. 00.
YOU'RE STRONG... SO STRONG, BUT SO VERY ALONE.
WHICH IS WHY...
...WE HAVE TO TEAR YOU OFF OF THIS LONELY THRONE...
...DOWN AT IZUMO INN!




GIGGLE
YET— YOU'RE NO MATCH FOR ME?
...THAT THESE GIRLS...
MY HUNCH WAS RIGHT. WHEN I WAS TRAINING THEM, I HAD THE FEELING...
...WANT TO SET ME FREE...
OR CLEANING OR LAUNDRY!
NOT AT FIGHTING! OR COOKING!
NOPE! ♡
NOT JUST YET!
...ME AND ALL MY DEAR FRIENDS!!
MINATO-SAN BROUGHT US TOGETHER...
BUT!
WITH ALL OF US COMBINED!

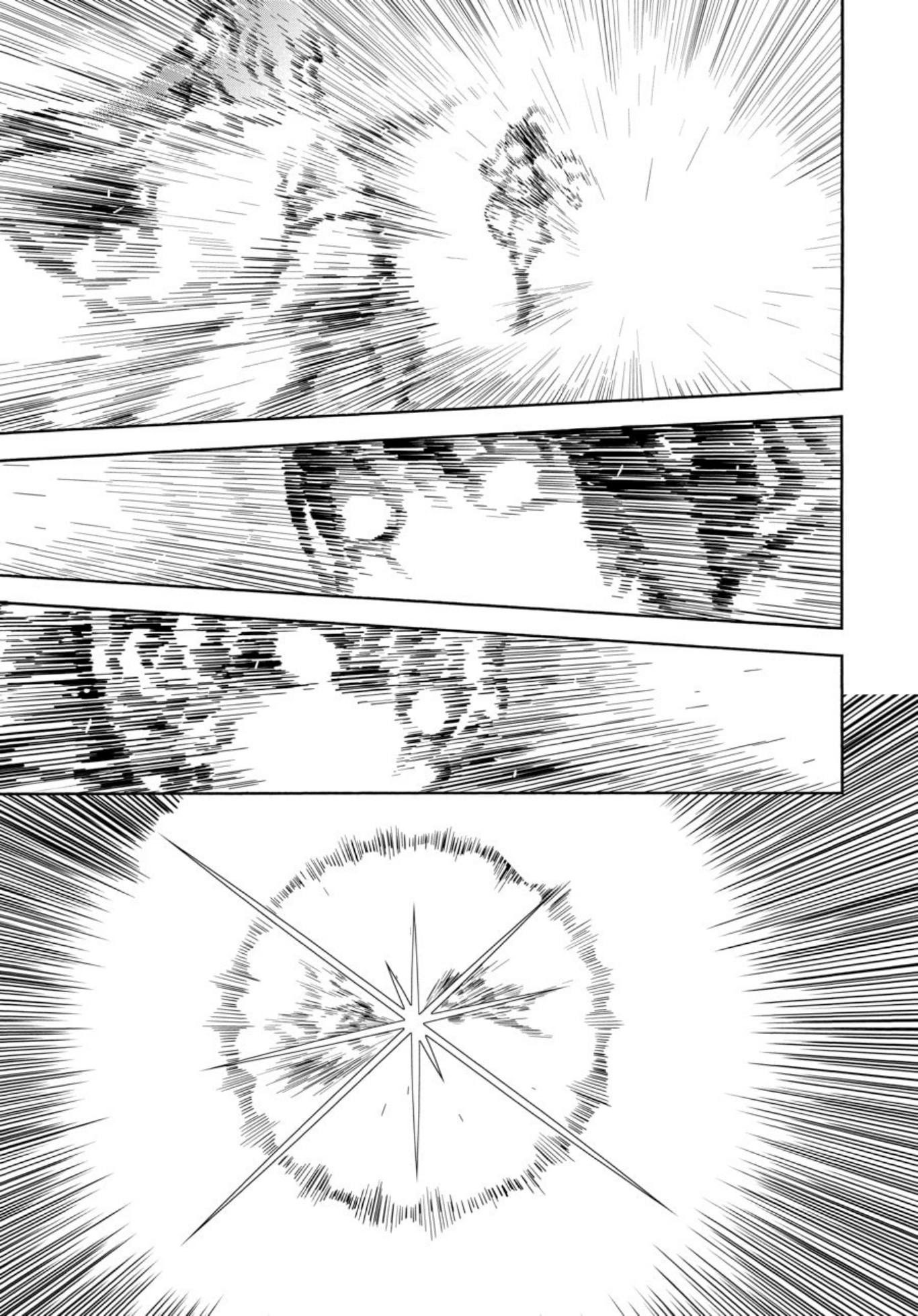

GOOD LUCK, MU-CHAN!
YOUR STRATEGIST HAS NOTHING LEFT TO SAY...!
MY FRIENDS... AND ALL THE SEKIREI WE'VE MET SO FAR...
GO FORTH, MUSUBI! SHOW LANDLADY-DONO THE FRUITS OF OUR TRAINING!
OUR WILL IS IN YOUR HANDS.
GIVE HER HELL FOR ALL OF US! ♡
WE ALL...
...FORMED THESE BONDS.


CLENCH
SO— THIS FIST OF MINE!
GET READY, NO. 00!
BECAUSE IT'S COMING FOR YOU!
AS MUCH AS IT TAKES!!!
...SIX WINGED SOULS.
...YET THE ONLY ONES TO CLIMB THIS HIGH...
...ARE ONE HUMAN...
...AND ONE SEKIREI...
ACCORDING TO THE RULES BY WHICH I JUDGE...
...KOUTEN RECOGNIZES YOUR EFFORTS.
THOUGH, IT'S A BIT UNDER-HANDED. ♡


GO ON. USE THAT FIST...
...TO MAKE ME TASTE DEFEAT.
BRING DOWN ME, NO. OO—
THE JUDGE OF YOUR SOULS!
WHATEVER FUTURE AWAITS YOU...
...LIES BEYOND.
YES!


BY THE BONDS...
...OF MY CONTRACT...
MUSUBI-CHAN...!
...SEND MY ASHIKABI'S WISH...
...AND THE WISHES OF ALL SEKIREI...
...TO THE HEAVENS!






CLASH
SPLASH


RUMBLE
THIS IS YOUR HOME, STARTING TODAY.
IN THIS PLACE...
...YOU CAN LIVE AN ORDINARY LIFE.
...YES!
YES, TAKEHITO-SAN.
TOGETHER FOREVER.....

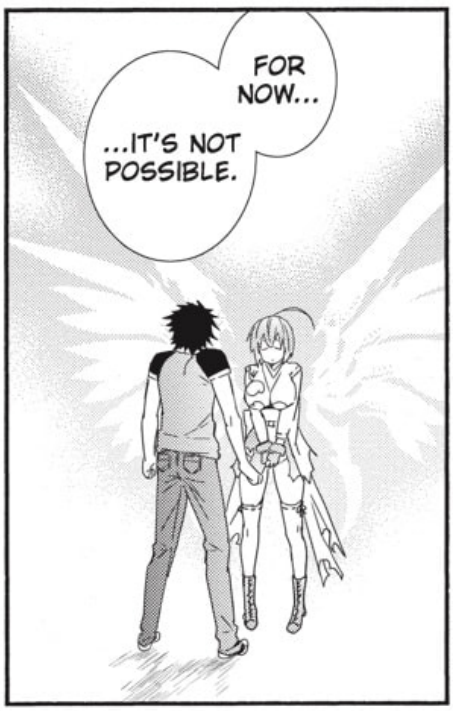



...DON'T WORRY.
NO. 01 HAS ONLY CEASED FUNCTIONING.
SHE HASN'T MET HER DEATH.
...MUSUBI-CHAN.


KOUTEN IS REACTING TO MY CORE NOW.
WITH THE *FORMER* OVERSEER BEATEN, AUTHORITY OVER KOUTEN HAS TRANSFERRED TO ME.
AS AN ASHIKABI, TELL ME YOUR WISH.
NOW, MINATO-SAN.
MUSUBI-CHAN... I WANT...
...TO BE...
PLUS, ONE MORE THING.
...IF YOU'LL HEAR ME OUT...?
THERE'S ANOTHER WISH I'D REALLY LOVE TO GET GRANTED ...
"TO LET ALL THE SEKIREI FLY FREE."
...LIKE I SAID BEFORE, MY WISH IS THE SAME AS YOURS.


...WITH YOU.
WITH YOU AND EVERYONE ELSE — TOGETHER FOREVER.
BUT I GET IT.
THAT'S NOT... ...A WISH THAT KOUTEN OR ANYONE ELSE CAN GRANT.
TO MAKE MY WISH A REALITY...
...I'VE GOTTA MAKE THE EFFORT MYSELF.


I'VE BEEN THINKING ON IT FOR A WHILE NOW.
THIS WISH OF MINE.


FOR NOW...
...IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.


MINATO ...
...SAN...


...BUT...


YOU'VE MADE MUSUBI SO VERY HAPPY!
HEE HEE!
HEE HEE HEE!
I'M SO HAPPY!
HEE HEE HEE!
...EE HEE!


BUT—! MUSUBI'S GOT AN ASHIKABI CORE TOO, SO YOU DON'T NEED TO STAY!
UM, BECAUSE KOUTEN...
...ACTUALLY REQUIRES AN ASHIKABI AND A SEKIREI, AS A SET.
... HUH...?


MINATO-SAN, YOU GET TO...
...GO BACK HOME WITH EVERYONE.
MUSUBI-CHAN?
WHAT'RE YOU SAY—?
BUT!
I'LL WORK HARD TO MAKE MY WISH A REALITY TOO!!
AT THE START, YOU SAID "I KNOW YOU CAN DO IT."
SO I...!


SHOVE
...I'LL MAKE IT BACK HOME SOMEDAY.
BACK TO YOU.
TSUKIUMI-SAN...
...KU-CHAN...
...KAZEHANA-SAN...
...MATSU-SAN...
...KAGARI-SAN...
TAKE CARE OF MINATO-SAN, OKAY!? ♡


M—
MUSUBI-
CHAAAN!!


...MUSUBI-CHAN.


LANDLADY-SAMA.
YOU'VE DONE YOUR DUTY.
YOU CAN REST NOW.
MY DEAR FRIENDS...
...CAN HANDLE THINGS FROM HERE! ♡
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴゴ


RUMBLE
RUMBLE
LEAP
TMD
.....ALL RIGHT, KOUTEN.
LET'S SYNC UP, OKAY?
GLOW

Chapter 183: Ode (Part 1)




HMPH.
BAM
...ANOTHER FULL NIGHT OF STUDYING...?
... MMM ...
WAKE THE HELL UP!!
BREAK-FAST'S READY!
MORNING, TSUKIUMI.
AND KU-CHAN...
...AH...
THRUST
MINATO!
WH-WHAT ON EARTH!?
SORRY, TSUKIUMI! NO BREAKFAST TODAY.
WAIT, CRAP! HOW'D IT GET THIS LATE!?
I GOTTA RUN!


I'VE PREPARED YOUR LUNCH— AND SOME RICE BALLS TO HOLD YOU OVER UNTIL THEN.
BE SURE TO EAT UP ONCE YOU ARRIVE!
BREAKFAST IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MEAL OF THE DAY!!
THANKS.
AND SORRY, REALLY!
ONE YEAR SINCE THE FINAL BATTLE...
IN THE AFTER-MATH, ON THE ISLAND...
...THE FALLEN ASHIKABI ALL STARTED BREATHING AGAIN...
...AND THE SEKIREI WHO'D GONE DOWN WITH THEIR ASHIKABI WERE ALSO REVIVED.


...ARE YOU?
... WHO...
.....
YOUR SEKIREI CRESTS HAVE ALL DISAPPEARED, THOUGH.
MUTSU!!
THANK GOD! I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER WAKE UP AGAIN.....
TAKI! MITSUKI!!
MUTSU!!!
THERE WERE SOME... UNFORTU-NATE SIDE EFFECTS.
...THE SEKIREI IN QUESTION LOST ALL MEMORIES OF THE TIME THEY WERE BONDED TO THEIR ASHIKABI.
IF A SEKIREI HAD CEASED FUNCTIONING BECAUSE THEIR ASHIKABI DID TOO OR IF TOO MUCH TIME HAD PASSED SINCE THEY WERE TERMINATED...
... AFTERWARD, MBI CAME UP WITH A CONCLUSION ABOUT THAT PHENOME-NON.
USING KOUTEN'S "POWER," OF COURSE.
THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND IT WAS MUSUBI-CHAN WHO REVIVED ALL THE ASHIKABI AND SEKIREI.
...OUR HARDWARE (BODIES) MAY HAVE STOPPED, BUT OUR SOFTWARE (SOULS) WERE STILL ACTIVE, SO TECHNICALLY, WE NEVER CEASED FUNCTIONING.
IN OUR SPECIFIC CASE...
THAT EXPLAINS WHY WE LOST NEITHER OUR SEKIREI CRESTS NOR OUR MEMORIES!


IT JUST CAN'T!!
IT CAN'T BE!
ME TOO...
I-I'VE FORGOTTEN AS WELL.
...AND I... WERE...?
...WHAT THE...? I'M SUPPOSED TO BELIEVE THIS ABANDONED PUPPY-LOOKING CHILD...
YOU'RE ALL SO DUMB!!
HOW COULD YOU FORGET ABOUT ME!?
COME HERE, EVERYONE!!
MAYBE YOU'LL REMEMBER IF I WING YOU AGAIN!
I KNOW!
MY LOVE-LIES!
MAS-TER!
FOR REAL...?
...THAT'S WHAT MOM SAID ANYWAY.
MAYBE ALL THE MEMORIES RETURNED BECAUSE NOT THAT MUCH TIME HAD PASSED BETWEEN TERMINATION AND RE-WINGING?
...THINGS WENT BACK TO NORMAL ONCE THEY WERE ALL WINGED AGAIN.
IN THE END, THOUGH...
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO HEAR THAT?
...I'D REALLY PREFER TO DO THIS WITH A YOUNG LADY...


BECAUSE THE BONDS THEY'D FORMED STILL LAY WITHIN EACH OF THEM.
RUMBLE
ゴゴゴ...
Ah-ha-ha-ha-ha!! Ladies and gentlemen!!
WHEN IT CAME TO CEO MINAKA ...
AND THEN ...
Now the game can continue and—
Temporary repairs to the ark are finished at last!!
CEO.
EVERYTHING'S... ALREADY OVER.
IT'S OVER.


VOOM
VOOM
VOOM
VOOM
MBI
...!
MBI'S HELICOPTERS...
THEY MUST HAVE STOPPED THE INVASION IN THE CITY.
BIG BROOOO!
WE CAME TO GET YOUUU!!
THE FINAL BATTLE...
...IS OVER.
...EVERYONE.
YUKARI ...


BACK TO SHINTOU TEITO.
LET'S GO HOME.
SAHASHI-KUN!
LONG TIME NO SEE.
OH...!
OOSUMI-SAN!?
YEP.
HOW ABOUT YOU, OOSUMI-SAN?
YOU STARTING WORK AT MBI?


BESIDES, I'VE DREAMED OF WORKING FOR A HUGE CORPORATION I ADMIRE!!
I THOUGHT IT'D BE BEST TO GET A JOB THERE, 'COS OF KAHO.
YEAH, WELL...
BAD KARMA FROM MY DAYS OF HACKING THEM, I GUESS!?
RIDICULOUS, HUH? I JOINED MBI HOPING TO BE AN ENGINEER, BUT I WOUND UP IN SALES.
THEY'VE GOT ME RUNNING AROUND TOWN.
STILL, THOUGH ...
NEVER EXPECTED YOU'D WORK FOR MBI, OOSUMI-SAN.
HA HA...
AND HOW'S KAHO DOING?
WELL ...
SHE SEEMS A LITTLE LONELY STILL.
ALWAYS STARING UP AT THE SKY.
THE SKY...
...I SEE.....
I'M REALLY GLAD KAHO DECIDED TO CHOOSE ME AGAIN, HONESTLY.
KEEP THIS BETWEEN YOU AND ME, BUT I FELT LIKE MY HEART WAS GONNA BEAT OUTTA MY CHEST.
OH YEAH...? DIDN'T KNOW YOU TWO HAD A CONNECTION LIKE THAT.
WELL, SURE. BONDING WITH A SEKIREI IS AKIN TO BEING IN LOVE...
THOUGH, I DON'T THINK THINGS'LL BE QUITE THE SAME AS BEFORE.


I HEAR HIGA-SAN'S GOT WAY FEWER SEKIREI NOWADAYS.
HE'S A BIT OF AN EXCEPTION, YEAH...
BEEN TURNING DOWN SEKIREI WHO CAME TO HIM WANTING TO BE WINGED.
THAT GUY'S CHANGED, FOR SURE...
I THINK TAKING PART IN THE SEKIREI PROJECT REALLY MADE HIM SEE THINGS DIFFERENTLY.
SPEAKING OF...
WHAT ABOUT HER...?
GOTCHA ...
WHOOPS. GONNA BE LATE.
SEE YOU AROUND.
I'LL BRING KAHO OVER, AND WE CAN HANG OUT SOMETIME!
YEAH. SOUNDS GOOD!
...ONE YEAR SINCE THEN.
AND MUSUBI-CHAN...
... HASN'T COME HOME.



Chapter 184: Ode (Part 2)


THE SEKIREI PROJECT UNFOLDED IN THE CITY OF TEITO.
A YEAR'S GONE BY SINCE THEN...
...AND THE CITY'S BACK TO ITS OLD, PEACEFUL SELF.
AS FOR ME...
THIS YEAR, I FINALLY PASSED THE ENTRANCE EXAM AND GOT INTO COLLEGE.
AND I'M WORKING PART-TIME AS AN ASSISTANT AT MBI'S RESEARCH FACILITY.
YOU WANNA HELP WITH THE SEKIREI PROJECT?
IS THAT A JOKE...?
NOT WITH THE WHOLE FIGHTING ASPECT, OF COURSE...
...BUT LISTEN, MOM.
I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SEKIREI.
WINGING... CRESTS... NORITO...AND HOW THEY CEASE FUNCTIONING.
BECAUSE, RIGHT NOW, I'M STILL TOTALLY IN THE DARK.
AND IT'S BEYOND FRUSTRATING.


I KNOW I'LL GET INTO COLLEGE THIS TIME.
THAT'S WHY I'M STUDYING, NIGHT AND DAY.
BUT ALL THAT STUDYING IS ALSO TO HAMMER HOME THE FUNDAMENTALS OF WHAT MAKES THEM TICK SO I CAN UNDERSTAND THEM SOMEDAY.
...AND EVENTU-ALLY...
...I WANNA FREE THE SEKIREI...
...FROM THE SYSTEM THAT BINDS THEM.
BEING AT MBI MYSELF IS PROBABLY THE BEST SHORTCUT FOR THAT.
WHOEVER WON THE BATTLE ROYAL WAS SUPPOSED TO GET A REWARD, RIGHT?
SO THIS IS WHAT I'M ASKING FOR INSTEAD.
BESIDES, I'M ASHIKABI TO THE SEKIREI UP ON KOUTEN.
IT'S NOT A BAD DEAL FOR MBI.
...OH, MINATO...
...FINE.
YEESH...
APPLE DOESN'T FALL FAR FROM THE TREE...


...FROM THAT LOOK, I'M GUESSING YOU ALREADY KNOW?
ZIP IT. DON'T ASK.
...UM... MOM, WHILE WE'RE AT IT...
ABOUT MY FATHER...
COME TO THINK OF IT, HEARING THE FINAL BATTLE HAD ENDED SERIOUSLY SHOCKED HIM.
HOLED UP ON KAMIKURA ISLAND, NOT DARING TO SHOW HIS FACE BACK HERE!!!
WE'RE STILL NOT DONE CLEANING UP AFTER THE BATTLE ROYAL IN TEITO, AND WHERE IS HE?
OF ALL THE...!
THERE'S ANOTHER PERSON WHO SAID THAT, ONCE UPON A TIME.
"FREE THEM FROM THE SYSTEM THAT BINDS THEM"...?
BUT...
SOMEONE IN A DEEP SLUMBER, WHO MIGHT NEVER WAKE UP.....
SOMEONE CAGED IN MBI'S RESEARCH FACILITY NOW...
YOU...YOU MEAN.....!
...!


...MORNING.
MADE IT JUST IN TIME...
...GOOD...
YOU'RE HERE TOO, YUKARI?
JUST AS A CHAPERONE.
SHIINA'S HERE FOR HIS CHECKUP.
AH, BIG BRO!


DON'T YOU HAVE CLASSES, BIG BRO?
IN THE AFTER-NOON, YEAH.
JUST HAD SOME BUSINESS HERE AT MBI FIRST...
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
NO CLASSES TODAY.
ALL FINISHED.
NO IRREGU-LARITIES TO SPEAK OF.
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING, YUKARI-SAN.
HELLO, SAHASHI-SAN.
HOW IS KU DOING?
SHE'S WELL.
YOU SHOULD COME VISIT.
HEY, HEY, CAN I PEEP WHILE YOU GET CHANGED?
MWA-HA-HA!
Y-YUKARI-SAN.
YUKARI... SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE .....
WAY TO EMBARRASS YOUR BIG BRO...
OH, MOM.
I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME "CHIEF" HERE.
SO ABOUT HER...
YOU SAID SHE WAS GETTING OUT OF THE CAGE TODAY, RIGHT?
...YOU JUST MISSED 'ER.
SHE MADE A BREAK FOR IT BEFORE WE KNEW IT.
WHAT!?


SH-SHOULD'VE EXPECTED THAT FROM HER, BUT STILL...
HOW DO WE FIND HER?
YEAH, WE EXPECTED HER TO FLY THE COOP.
BUT SHE'LL BE FOUND SOON ENOUGH.
AFTER ALL, ANOTHER CERTAIN SOMEONE IS GETTING OUT OF THE HOSPITAL TODAY.
OH...!
YOU SYNCED UP THE DATES.
IT'S NO MYSTERY WHERE THEY'RE BOTH HEADED.




...but you were supposed to call Matsu when Target 1 left the cage!?
The targets are about to make contact...
Mina-tan, Mina-taaan.
RRRING
RRRING
S-SORRY. SHE MADE A GREAT ESCAPE.
...YEAH.
THEY LET HER KNOW WHERE IZUMO INN IS LOCATED BUT NOTHING ELSE.
AND HER PARTNER WAS TOLD THAT, POST-TERMINATION, SEKIREI WON'T EXACTLY BE THE SAME...
"ALL THE SEKIREI GET TO FLY FREE," RIGHT?
...PART OF THE RULES FOR REACTIVATION IS THAT WE DON'T INTERFERE WITH SEKIREI WHO'VE LOST THEIR CRESTS.
COME WHAT MAY, IT ALL DEPENDS ON HER AT THIS POINT...
BUT, MATSU-SAN.
I'M NOT WORRIED AT ALL, HONESTLY.
BECAUSE I'M SURE THOSE TWO WILL...


HELLO ...
AH... H—
...HELLO.
...
WE'VE NEVER MET... BUT...
I MEAN..... WE HAVEN'T MET, RIGHT?
THERE'S NO REASON... I WOULD KNOW YOU, SO...
WHY?
WHY DOES IT FEEL...
...LIKE I'VE MISSED YOU SO BAD?


UZUME-CHAN...!
...UZUME-CHAN.
UZUME-CHAN!
I...!
I...!
YOU'RE... FAMILIAR.
IT'S LIKE... I DO KNOW YOU...!
...ONCE MORE.


...ONE MORE TIME?
WOULD YOU BOND WITH ME...
YES...!
...YEAH.


I LOVE YOU, CHIHO.
AND THIS TIME...
...IT'S FOREVER.
TOGETHER FOREVER .....


...
GOTCHA.
YEAH... THAT'S GREAT.
ALL RIGHT. THANKS, MATSU-SAN.
I'LL HEAD HOME ONCE I FINISH MY BUSINESS HERE...
...MM-HMM.
...AND NOW...
WE'LL BE THERE!
FOR REAL?
YUKARI...
...WE'RE MAKING DINNER FOR EVERYONE TONIGHT... WANNA COME?
ONLY TWO LEFT TO AWAKEN.
ONE HUMAN ...
...AND ONE SEKIREI .....


04
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Dr.ASAMA


THE LIGHT...OF BONDING...
THE FEELINGS... IN THOSE WINGS.....
SO WARM.....
RRRING
RRRING
ACK.
SAHASHI SPEAK-ING.
Hello there.
PHONE'S STILL WORKING! ♪
Oh, the call went through.
RUMBLE
THIS IS ICHINOMIYA. ☆
BAM
WHAM
WHAM
WHAM



Chapter 185: Ode (Part 3)

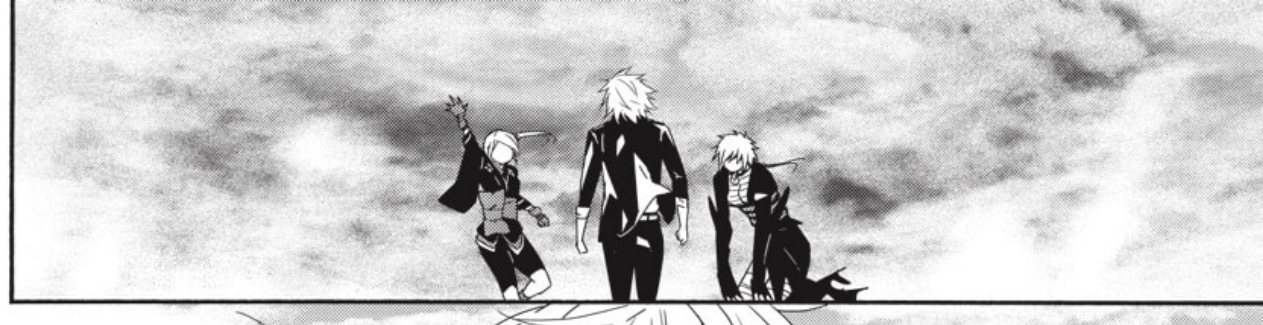




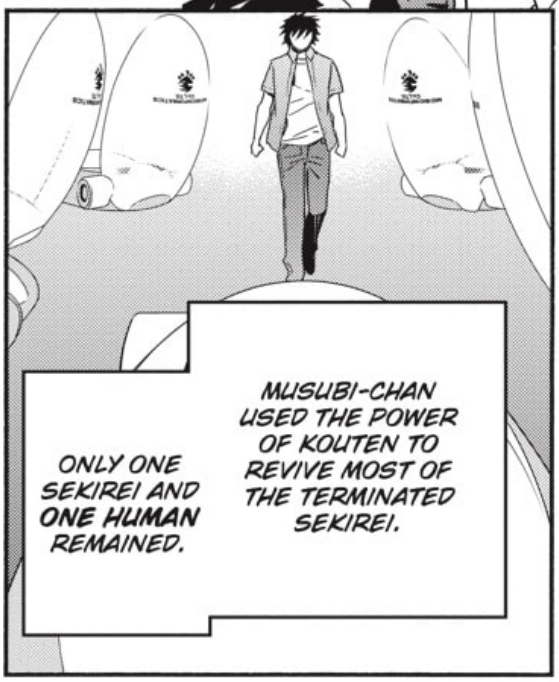



CLUES ABOUT THE FRIEND YOU LOST?
...FIND ANYTHING YET?
THIS GUY HASN'T CHANGED SINCE WE FIRST MET.
Tee hee! ☆
T-TEE HEE.
←ROPED IN
I HAVE A FEELING WE'LL GET THERE.
...HOW-EVER...
NOT SURE JUST YET.
HARD TO IMAGINE PEOPLE WON'T FIND OUT ABOUT YOU WAGING A MINI WAR IN ANOTHER COUNTRY...
AH-HA-HA...
I-I SURE HOPE YOU DON'T GET FIRED.
Though, I'm not sure if they'll keep me on the payroll after all this. Ah-ha-ha! ☆
Ah, and let's keep it between us that I'm using the Disciplinary Squad for personal reasons.
I HAVE MY GIRLS WITH ME, AFTER ALL.
HEY, YOU. ASHIKABI TO THAT BEAR!


WHERE'S NO. 88!?
BADUM
BADUM
S—
STILL UP THERE.
LEMME KNOW WHEN SHE'S BACK!
'COS, NEXT TIME WE MEET, I'M GONNA WIN!!
ENOUGH OF THAT, BENI-TSUBASA.
SORRY ABOUT HER.
Ah-ha-ha... It's fine.
...STILL SLEEPING.
04
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OH, ALSO...
HOW'S... SHE DOING?
RIGHT.
...OF COURSE.
UNTIL WE SPEAK AGAIN, THEN.
YES.
TAKE CARE OUT THERE.



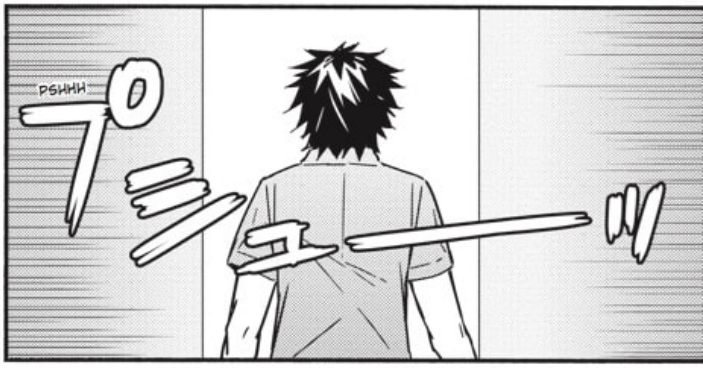








PHONE: CALL ENDED



04

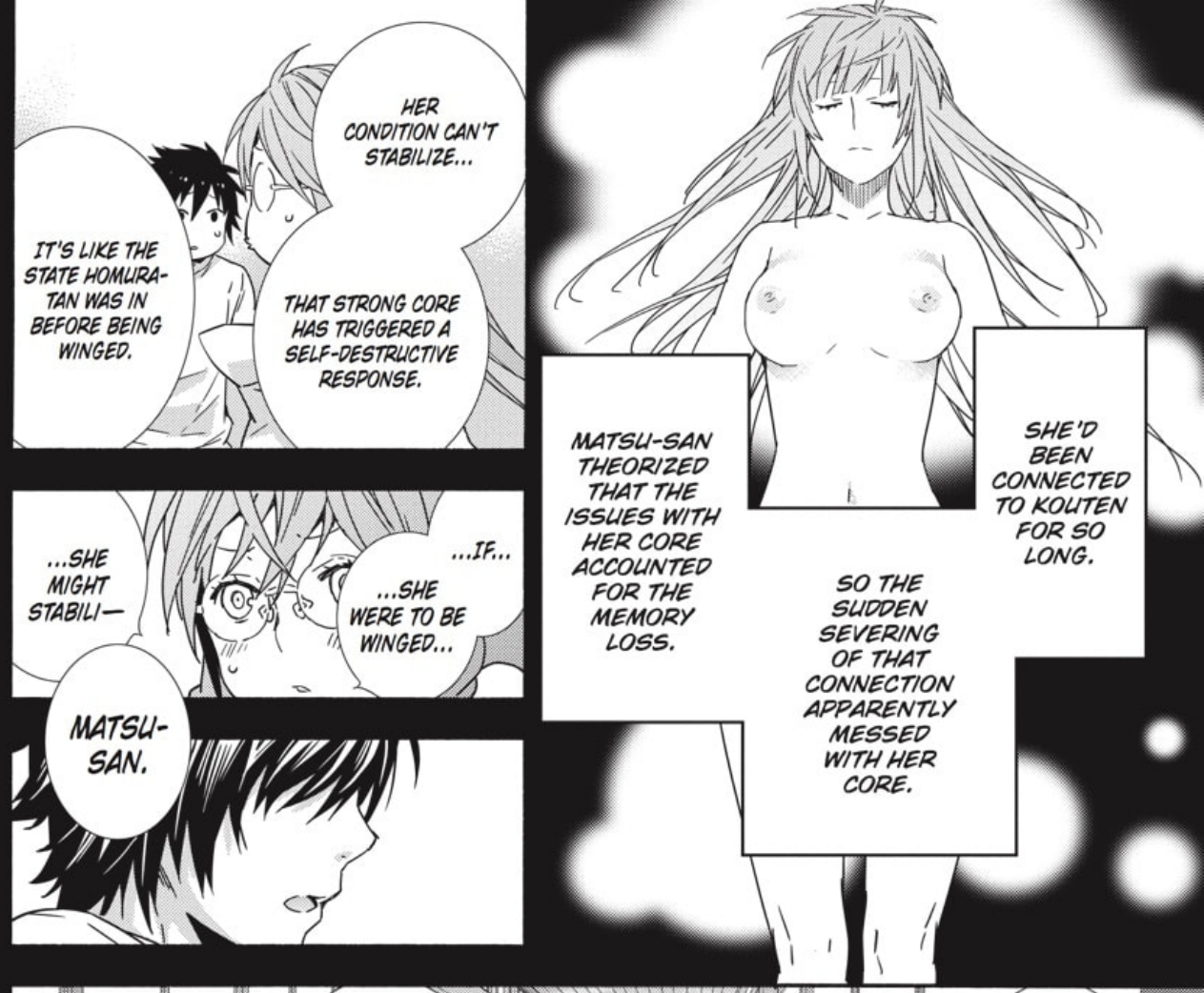
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THE SEKIREI HAD FALLEN INTO SLUMBER WITH HER CREST STILL INTACT.

SHE REJECTED MUSUBI-CHAN'S HELP.

SINCE THAT WAS HER CHOICE, THOUGH, WE HAD NO CHOICE BUT TO WATCH OVER HER.


...LAND-LADY.
THERE-FORE, THERE WAS NOTHING MUSUBI-CHAN COULD DO FOR HIM.
AS FOR THE OTHER, HE LACKED A CORE ENTIRELY.
WHAAAT!? MIYA-TAN?
SHOULD YOU REALLY BE UP AND ABOUT!?
YES. I'M FEELING WELL TODAY.
AM I RIGHT IN THINKING SOMEONE'S MET WITH GOOD FORTUNE?
I SAW A LIGHT... AND FELT WARM.....
...A DEAR FRIEND OF OURS HAS RETURNED HOME, YES.
AND SHE'S BROUGHT HER BRIDE WITH HER.
AFTER KICKING ME OFF KOUTEN, MUSUBI-CHAN DID THE SAME TO NO. 01.
...OUR LANDLADY WOKE UP SOON ENOUGH, BUT...
...AT FIRST, SHE DIDN'T REMEMBER ANY OF US.


HER CONDITION CAN'T STABILIZE...
IT'S LIKE THE STATE HOMURA-TAN WAS IN BEFORE BEING WINGED.
THAT STRONG CORE HAS TRIGGERED A SELF-DESTRUCTIVE RESPONSE.
MATSU-SAN THEORIZED THAT THE ISSUES WITH HER CORE ACCOUNTED FOR THE MEMORY LOSS.
SHE'D BEEN CONNECTED TO KOUTEN FOR SO LONG.
SO THE SUDDEN SEVERING OF THAT CONNECTION APPARENTLY MESSED WITH HER CORE.
...IF... ...SHE WERE TO BE WINGED...
...SHE MIGHT STABILI—
MATSU-SAN.


MATSU KNOWS... EVEN SO, MINA-TAN, HE'S STILL.....
YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
...BUT I CAN'T BE THE ONE TO DO IT.
THAT MIGHT BE TRUE...


YEAH, I KNOW, BUT...
I CAN'T.


...YOU CAN RELEASE NO. 01 FROM HER SHACKLES YOURSELF...!
AND THEN...
Mr.ASAMA
WE'LL FIND A WAY TO WAKE YOU UP.
MARK MY WORDS.
HERS IS TOO HEAVY A BURDEN TO BEAR...
BECAUSE I'M NOT CUT OUT FOR THE TASK.
ALL RIGHT, MO— I MEAN CHIEF.
I'M OFF TO SCHOOL.
BE CAREFUL OUT THERE.
M.B.I
M.B.I
BY THE WAY... IS THE CEO STILL ON THE ISLAND?
YEAH. AND NO SIGN HE'S COMING BACK ANY-TIME SOON.
HOW LONG'S THAT IDIOT GONNA MESS AROUND?
WHO DOES HE THINK RUNS THIS COMPANY WHEN HE'S AWAY?
LISTEN, MINA-TO...
...IF NOTHING ELSE, DON'T GROW UP TO BE LIKE HIM.
HA HA...
S-SEE YA LATER.


I GET TO THINKING SOME-TIMES.
ABOUT HIROTO MINAKA.
ABOUT WHY HE STARTED THE WHOLE SEKIREI PROJECT.


ABOUT HOW HE'S ACTUALLY MY FATHER.
MOM FINALLY ADMITTED IT AFTER THE FINAL BATTLE.


WELL, ALL TOLD...
...IT'S NOT LIKE MY WHOLE LIFE HAS CHANGED.
I STILL THINK OF HIM AS "HIROTO MINAKA: CEO OF MBI."


YET...
KNOWING WE SHARE THE SAME BLOOD...
...MADE ONE THING VERY CLEAR TO ME... THAT IS—
I'M SURE HE LOVES SEKIREI TOO.
NO DOUBT.


BOOM
BUT INSTEAD, HE WANTED THEM TO CHOOSE THEIR OWN DESTINIES.
!?
...OR BURDENED THEM WITH A MUCH CRUELER FATE.
HE COULD'VE SOLD THEM OFF AS WEAPONS...
WE NOW LIVE IN THE WILD WORLD HE ENVISIONED.
AWESOME!! LET'S GO WATCH!
SOUNDS LIKE A BATTLE BETWEEN SEKIREI OVER THERE.
THIS HAPPENS A LOT LATELY.
KYAAH!
WAAAH!
ALL THIS MIGHT'VE BEEN A WAY FOR HIM TO ACHIEVE THAT GOAL.
THE WORLD I WISHED FOR TOO.
THE SAME WORLD SHE WISHED FOR. THE ONE SHE WATCHES OVER.


WOW.
TSUKIUMI'S GOTTEN GOOD AT THIS.
MAYBE KU-CHAN MADE THE OCTO-DOGS?
HEYYY, SAHASHI!
THANKS FOR THE FOOD! OH, AND I ATE THE RICE BALLS AT MBI.


OH HEY, SHIGI-KUN.
LONG TIME NO SEE.


HOW'S KUNO-SAN?
EVEN THOUGH WE'RE AT THE SAME SCHOOL...
...BEING IN DIFFERENT DEPARTMENTS MEANS WE BARELY EVER RUN INTO EACH OTHER.
YEAH, RIGHT?
300-LEVEL SCIENCE CLASSES, THOUGH? SERIOUSLY, SAHASHI?
WHAT KINDA SMARTY-PANTS NERD ARE YOU?
LIT 101
AH-HA-HA.....
SHE'S FINE.
WELL, JUST AS NO GOOD AS EVER.
CAN'T EVEN DO HOUSE-WORK RIGHT.

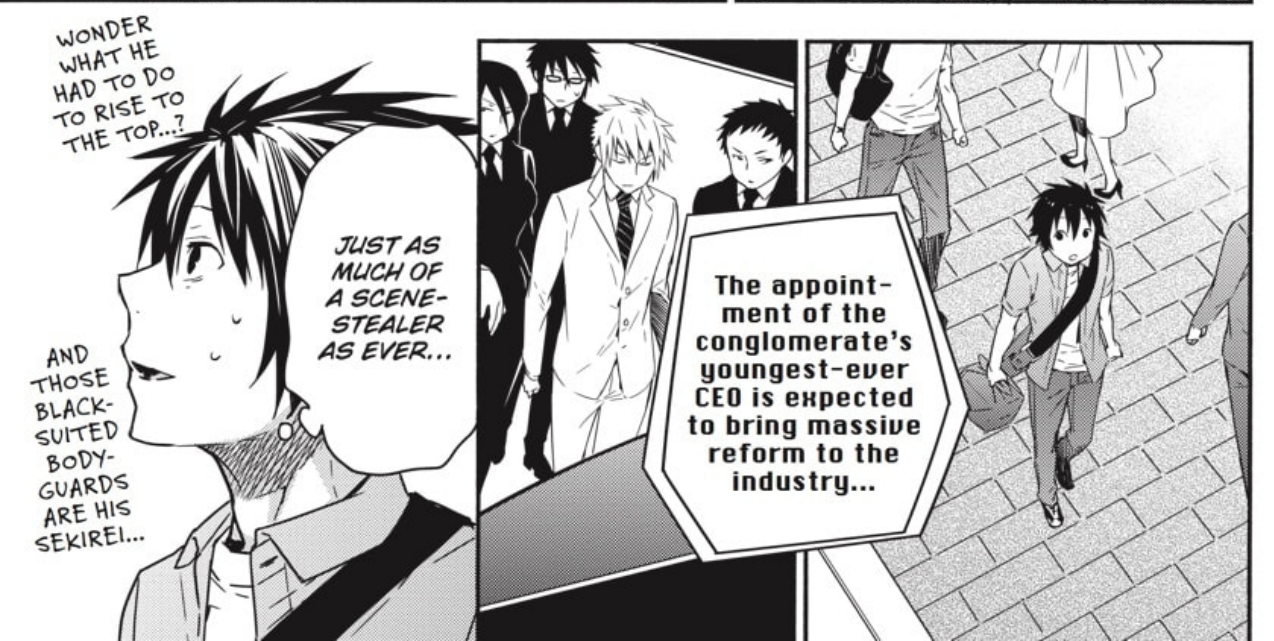

A HAREM BANQUET, HUH?
SURE, WE'LL COME.
AFTER THAT FINAL BATTLE...
OH, WE'RE HOSTING A DINNER TONIGHT! YOU AND KUNO-SAN ARE WELCOME TO COME.
THAT'S RICH COMING FROM YOU, HAREM KING!
GAH...!
CONGRATS, MR. NEWLYWED.
OH RIGHT. I HEARD YOU'RE LIVING TOGETHER NOW?


...EACH ASHIKABI WENT HIS OR HER SEPARATE WAY.


...Our next story...
One of Japan's leading medical conglomerates, Hiyama Corp., has found its new CEO.
Izumi Higa will be taking over his father's job.






WONDER WHAT HE HAD TO DO TO RISE TO THE TOP...?
AND THOSE BLACK-SUITED BODY-GUARDS ARE HIS SEKIREI...
JUST AS MUCH OF A SCENE-STEALER AS EVER...
The appoint-ment of the conglomerate's youngest-ever CEO is expected to bring massive reform to the industry...


It's me.
LOTTA CALLS TODAY...
HELLO ...?
RRRING
RRRING
OH!
YEAH! ONE AND THE SAME!!
U-UMM, MIKOGAMI-SAN...
...OF THE SOUTH?
LISTEN!
WE FOUND SOME FRAGMENTS MADE OF THE SAME MATERIAL AS THE ARK ON THE ISLAND.
HUH? R—
REALLY ??
Yeah, so tell that old hag at MBI to send an excavation team our way!!
OLD HAG...? YOU MEAN MY MOTHER ...?
I just can't handle her, you see.
And we can't get in touch with the CEO!


G-got it.
GREAT. APPRECIATE IT.
THE BOY FROM THE SOUTH ...
...STARTED COMBING THE EARTH FOR TRACES OF SEKIREI.
MAS-TER!
OUR METHODS DIFFER, BUT HE'S PROBABLY AFTER THE SAME THING I AM.
HE WANTS TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ONES HE LOVES.
THAT IS...
INCIDENTALLY, EVERY ONE OF HIS SEKIREI— EVEN THE REVIVED ONES— DECIDED TO STICK WITH HIM.
AND NOW, HIS PARTY IS OFF ON A GRAND QUEST.
SOUNDS FUN, IF YOU ASK ME.
TINGLE
I...
...WON'T LOSE TO HIM!!
WE'RE ALL WORKING HARD.
OH, BUT...
MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, A CERTAIN GUY'S LIFE HAS BEEN TURNED UPSIDE DOWN...
I'M HOME...
ZZZAP


SIZZLE
SIZZLE
...YO, SAHA-SHI.
DON'T MIND ME.
S-SEO-SAN.
WELCOME.
SORRY FOR ALL THIS CRAZINESS.
ZAP
I'M HERE FOR THE FEAST TONIGHT...
GOO-GOO!
GOO-GOO!
GAH-GAH!
YOU MUSTN'T SHOCK YOUR DADDY LIKE THAT!
RAIZOU! RAIDEN!
RAIMEI! RAIGOU!



SEO-SAN IS FATHER TO A WHOLE LITTER.

EACH OF THE TWINS HAD THEIR OWN TWINS ON THE SAME DAY. ALL BOYS.

YOU CAME FOR THE MEAL. RIGHT.....

WAIT. WHO TOLD YOU!?

MY INTUITION, KID!

I BELIEVE IT.

YOU'VE GOT A NOSE FOR THIS.

MOM MADE SURE HIKARI-SAN AND HIBIKI-SAN HAVE EVERYTHING THEY NEED.

(...I'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO COMMENT ON THE SOCIAL ETHICS OF THE SITUATION.)

IT'S A LITTLE CONCERNING THAT SEO-SAN HIMSELF HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL, BUT...

...THEY SEEM HAPPY, AT ANY RATE.

...SAHASHI-CHAN.

...OH...


I'M BACK.
WELCOME HOME.
...AND, UH, ALSO...


...UZUME-SAN.


...HEH HEH.


...ONE LONG WALK YOU WENT ON.....
...THAT WAS...
...WELCOME BACK...!


MINA-TOOO!
MIND LENDING A HAND, NOW THAT YOU'RE HOME!?
WELCOME HOME, BIG BROTHER.
NOD
WELCOME ...
...TO IZUMO INN.
WAIT. IS TSUKIUMI THE ONLY ONE IN THE KITCHEN?
WHERE'S KAGARI-SAN...?
KU'S HELPING TOO!
DOING THAT GAR-DEE-AN WORK!
NOT HOME YET!
RIGHT. REVIVED SEKIREI ARE POPPING UP ONE AFTER ANOTHER LATELY, SO.....


HEY!
HEY! WAIT!!
I SAID "WAIT."
YOU REALLY FORGOT ABOUT ME?
YASHI-MA!!
...WHO ARE YOU?



Chapter 186: Ode (Part 4)


BRING US SOME DRINKS FROM THE KITCHEN, KUSANO!
TMP
TMP
たたっ
OKAAAY!
WE ONLY HAVE SODA LEFT, TSU-CHAN.
WHAT!?
ALL OUT OF DRINKS?
I'LL GO BUY SOME.
MUCH APPRE-CIATED, MINATO!!


THAT DAMN KAZE-HANA!!
IF SHE DIDN'T STEAL ALL THE LIQUOR, MINATO WOULDN'T HAVE TO LEAVE THE BANQUET JUST TO RESTOCK...
KAZE-HANA!
WHERE IS SHE!?
I-I'LL BE BACK SOON.
HA HA...
TWELVE
THANKS FOR YOUR PURCHASE.
SAHASHI.
KAGARI-SAN!
OUT ON A SUPPLY RUN?
LOOKS HEAVY. I CAN TAKE HALF.


SORRY FOR FILLING YOUR SCHEDULE, KAGARI-SAN.
GIVEN HOW THE TIMING OF YOUR RE-MODIFICATION... IS OVERLAPPING WITH ALL THESE REVIVED SEKIREI.
OH...YOU MEAN MY "GUARDIAN" WORK?
THAT'S A DUTY I DECIDED TO TAKE ON, THOUGH.....
STILL, PASS A MESSAGE TO TAKAMI-SAN?
SHE'S GIVING ME MORE THAN I BARGAINED FOR.
AH HA HA...
SORRY.
YEAH... STILL A FEW WHO HAVEN'T BEEN WINGED YET.
BUT MOST ARE ENDING UP WITH THEIR ORIGINAL ASHIKABI.
IT'S LIKE... THEY'RE DRAWN TOGETHER BY AN INVISIBLE FORCE.
THE SEKIREI... ARE THEY MAKING THOSE BONDS AGAIN?
I RAN INTO AN INTERESTING ONE RECENTLY.
"YASHIMA" WAS THE NAME, I THINK?
THAT'S THE POWER OF "BONDS"...
...OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
YASHIMA... YEAH, THAT'S NO. 84.
YOU MEMORIZED ALL 108, HUH...?
YOU'RE A BONA FIDE SEKIREI OTAKU.
OTAKU...? COME ON, KAGARI-SAN...


YASHIMA!
WAIT, YASHIMA!!
I SAID "WAIT"!
GRAB
FLIK
ACK, HOT!
BEST NOT FORCE THE ISSUE.
...!
WHY'RE YOU RUNNING?
AND WHADDAYA MEAN, "WHO ARE YOU?"—
WHO THE HELL'RE YOU!?
WH—
THE SEKIREI GUARDIAN.
GET VIOLENT WITH HER AGAIN. I DARE YOU.
BUT KNOW I'M WILLING TO STOP YOU BY FORCE IF NECESSARY... CAPISCE?


YASHIMA! HANG ON!
STEP
YASHIMA!!
SO.
WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?
I...
I KNOW IT'S GOING TO BE HIM.


BUT NOT LIKE THIS.
NOT AS WE ARE NOW.
I'M NOT GOING TO BOND WITHOUT REALLY KNOWING WHY.
I WON'T THROW MYSELF AT HIM LIKE A SLAVE.
WE HAVE TO DO IT RIGHT THIS TIME.
I'M STILL NOT SURE HOW TO GO ABOUT IT.
SO I'LL THINK ON IT.
AND HE WILL TOO.
THANKS FOR LOOKING OUT FOR ME.
I...
WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT SOMEHOW.
YASHI-MAAA!
WAIT FOR ME!
I... I...
I NEED YOU IN MY LIFE...


.....
THAT'S THE THING.
THE "MASTER AND SERVANT" RELATION-SHIP POST-BONDING.
THE PROBLEM LIES IN THAT POWER DYNAMIC.
MUTTER MUTTER
MUTTER
BECAUSE THE SEKIREI ARE THE ONES TAKING A BIG RISK.
FOR INSTANCE, IF THEY COULD CHOOSE TO SPLIT UP AFTER BONDING, FOR WHATEVER REASON...
...THEN THE SEKIREI-ASHIKABI DYNAMIC WOULD BE FAIRER.....
HEH HEH ..... HEH ...
HEH...
WH—
WHAT'RE YOU LAUGHING FOR?
DID I SAY SOMETHING WEIRD??
...NO.


JUST THINKING HOW...
...YOU REALLY ARE THE ASHIKABI I CHOSE.
TOGETHER FOREVER.
OH.
T—
TO-GETHER FOREVER ...


!!
BUZZ
BUZZ
MY CELL!
WHAT!? TROUBLE BETWEEN SEKIREI IN THE SOUTH DISTRICT!?
BADUM
BADUM
TAKAMI-SAN!? WHAT IS IT!?
YES!?
DAMN... MAYBE I'LL USE MY NORITO.
GOTTA RUN.
...DUTY CALLS.
GOD-SPEED...
...AND GOOD LUCK!
TMP


KAZE-HANA-SAN.
AHHH. THOUGHT YOU'D BE UP HERE.
TSUKIUMI'S MAD, Y'KNOW. SINCE YOU RAN OFF WITH THE BOOZE.


NO BIG DEAL, RIGHT?
WE'RE CELEBRATING, TODAY.
WHOA.
THIS MOUNTAIN OF CANS!! HOW MUCH DID YOU DRINK!?
KAZE-HANA-SAN, YOU...
...CLEARLY HAVE A PROBLEM! WORSE THAN EVER RECENTLY!!
BETTER CLEAN THESE UP...
...MY MIND'S BEEN WANDERING LATELY.
KAZE-HANA-SAN...
BECAUSE SOMEONE WHO SHOULD BE MAD AT ME ISN'T.
... MAYBE.
HEY, MINATO-KUN.
DO YOU KNOW WHY A SEKIREI SHUTS DOWN WHEN HER ASHIKABI DIES?
DO YOU?


BECAUSE WE'D BE LONELY.
LOSING THE ONE WE LOVE... AND HAVING TO GO ON LIVING AFTER THAT?
IT'S TOO PAINFUL A FATE...
KAZE-HANA-SAN...
GRAB
SHE'S OKAY.
NO MORE DRINKING TODAY!
OUR LANDLADY IS FINE.
BECAUSE I'LL HELP HER GET BACK TO NORMAL.
SAME GOES FOR THE ONE SHE LOVES.


SO DON'T WORRY.
FU-FU...
WELL.
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO HAVE MY WAY WITH YOU...
RIGHT.
...ONCE AGAIN... YOU'RE...
...GOING TO SHOW ME WHAT A MAN YOU ARE.
FSSHH
...SUCH A NICE BREEZE.
MINATO-KUN.
WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER ...
...I FEEL SO GOOD, IT'S LIKE I'M DRUNK ON YOU.


MAKE ME MELT, WON'T YOU? ♡
POP
POP

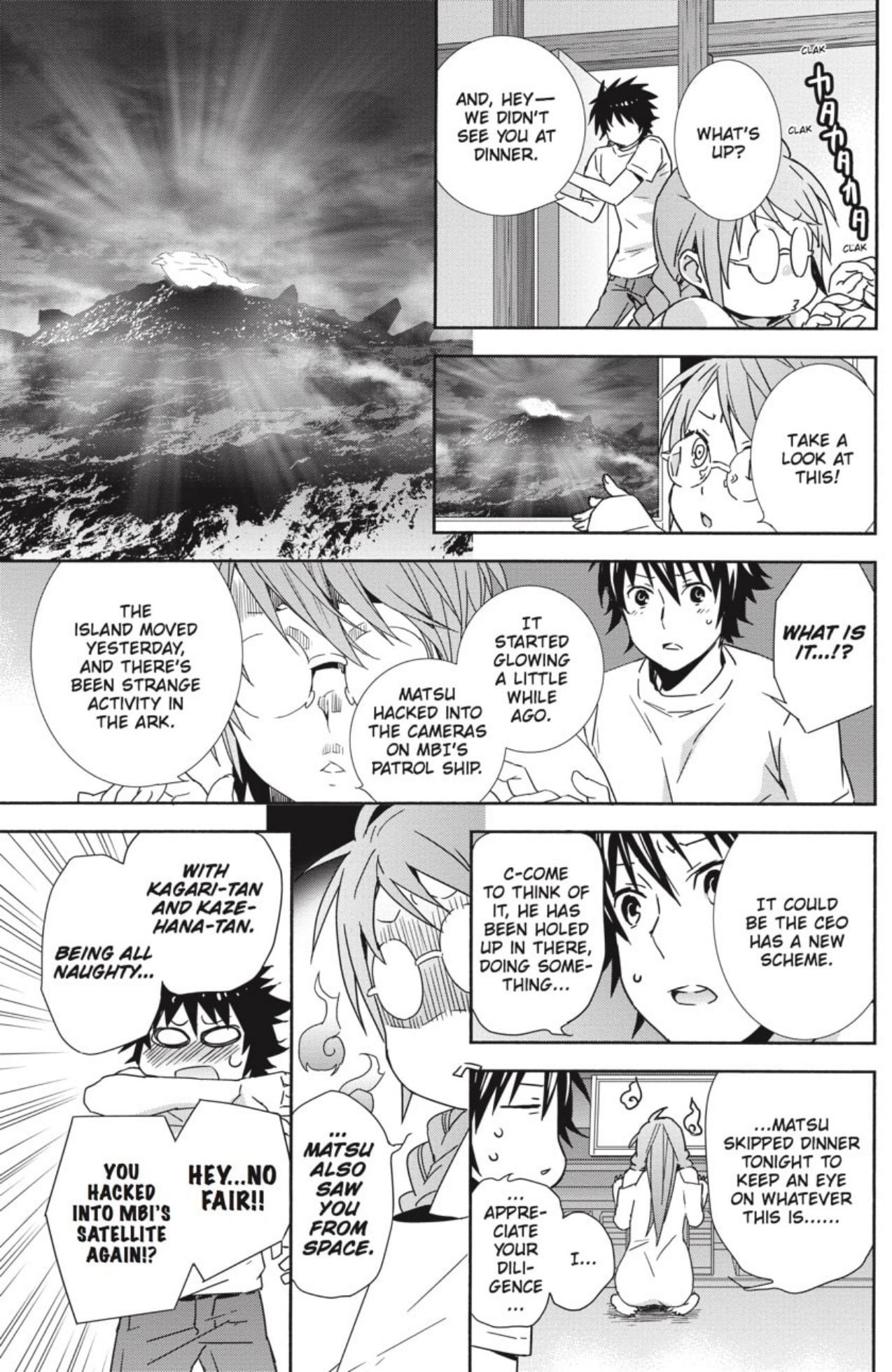

POP
POP
SOMEONE'S SHOOTING OFF FIRE-WORKS?
WOW ...
FU FU! ♡
GOOD THING THE FLASH FROM THE FIREWORKS DISGUISED MY LIGHT! ♡
K-KAZEHANA-SAAAN!
?
TOGETHER FOREVER...
...MY DEAR ASHIKABI. ♡


LATER.
AND THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
SEE YA AROUND, SAHASHI.
SEE YA NEXT TIME, BIG BRO!
DROWSY
うう
LET'S HEAD INSIDE, KU-CHAN.
...OH.
YOU WORKED HARD.
THANKS FOR HELPING OUT TODAY.
Chapter 187: Life With You, All of You


...LOVES THIS.
BEING TOGETHER.
.....UM.
KU ALSO...
I'LL LAY OUT YOUR FUTON RIGHT AWAY.
HERE WE GO.
KU SAW KAGARI-CHAN AND FU-CHAN'S WINGS.
?
BLUSH
かぁ...
...ALSO WANTS TO BE TOGETHER FOREVER...
SO, UM, KU...
SECRET'S OUT...
ACK.
...THAT PSYCHIC CONNEC-TION...!
I WANT US TO STICK TOGETHER.
ME TOO, KU-CHAN... ME, YOU, EVERY-BODY...
THAT'S WHY I'M LEARNING EVERY LITTLE THING ABOUT MBI'S RESEARCH. WHY I'M FILLING MY BRAINS WITH THOUGHTS OF NOTHING BUT SEKIREI.
AND I'LL DO WHATEVER IT TAKES.
...MM-HMM.
GRIP
ギュッ...
...WITH BIG BROTHER AND EVERY-ONE.
WANNA ALWAYS BE TOGETHER.


BECAUSE I'M THINKING ...
...ABOUT ALL OF YOU, KU-CHAN!
...YEAH!
HEH-HEH-HEH...
EH-HEH .....
SNOOZE
すぴー...
SNOOZE
すぴー...
SLUMP
ぽてっ
SMOOCH
むちゅ
WHOA!
K-KU-CHAN...


TOGETH-
ER...
...FOR-
EVER.
YEAH...
YEAH.
TOGETHER
FOREVER.
...YOU'VE
GOTTEN
HEAVIER...!
OOF...OVER
THIS PAST
YEAR...
MINA-
TAAAN.
MATSU
SAW
EEEVERY-
THING.
THAT
PECK ON
YOUR
CHEEK!
♡
M—
MATSU-
SAAAN!
COME TO
MATSU'S
ROOM,
WOULD
YOU?
THERE'S
SOMETHING
YOU NEED
TO SEE!


CLAK
CLAK
CLAK
AND, HEY— WE DIDN'T SEE YOU AT DINNER.
WHAT'S UP?
TAKE A LOOK AT THIS!
WHAT IS IT...!?
IT STARTED GLOWING A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
MATSU HACKED INTO THE CAMERAS ON MBI'S PATROL SHIP.
THE ISLAND MOVED YESTERDAY, AND THERE'S BEEN STRANGE ACTIVITY IN THE ARK.
IT COULD BE THE CEO HAS A NEW SCHEME.
C-COME TO THINK OF IT, HE HAS BEEN HOLED UP IN THERE, DOING SOMETHING...
...MATSU SKIPPED DINNER TONIGHT TO KEEP AN EYE ON WHATEVER THIS IS.....
I...
...APPRECIATE YOUR DILIGENCE...
...MATSU ALSO SAW YOU FROM SPACE.
HEY...NO FAIR!!
YOU HACKED INTO MBI'S SATELLITE AGAIN!?
BEING ALL NAUGHTY...
WITH KAGARI-TAN AND KAZE-HANA-TAN.


ENOUGH FOREPLAY! YOU KNOW WHAT MATSU WANTS...!
B—
BUY YOUR SILENCE?
M-MATSU-SAN...
YOU HAVE TO BUY MATSU'S SILENCE... ♡
MATSU WON'T TELL OUR RESIDENT DEMON.
BUT IN EXCHANGE ... ♡
GLOW
SMOOOOCH
ちゅ♡
ア
ラ
ー
ア
ア
SMASH
カミカ
!!
NNGH ...
?

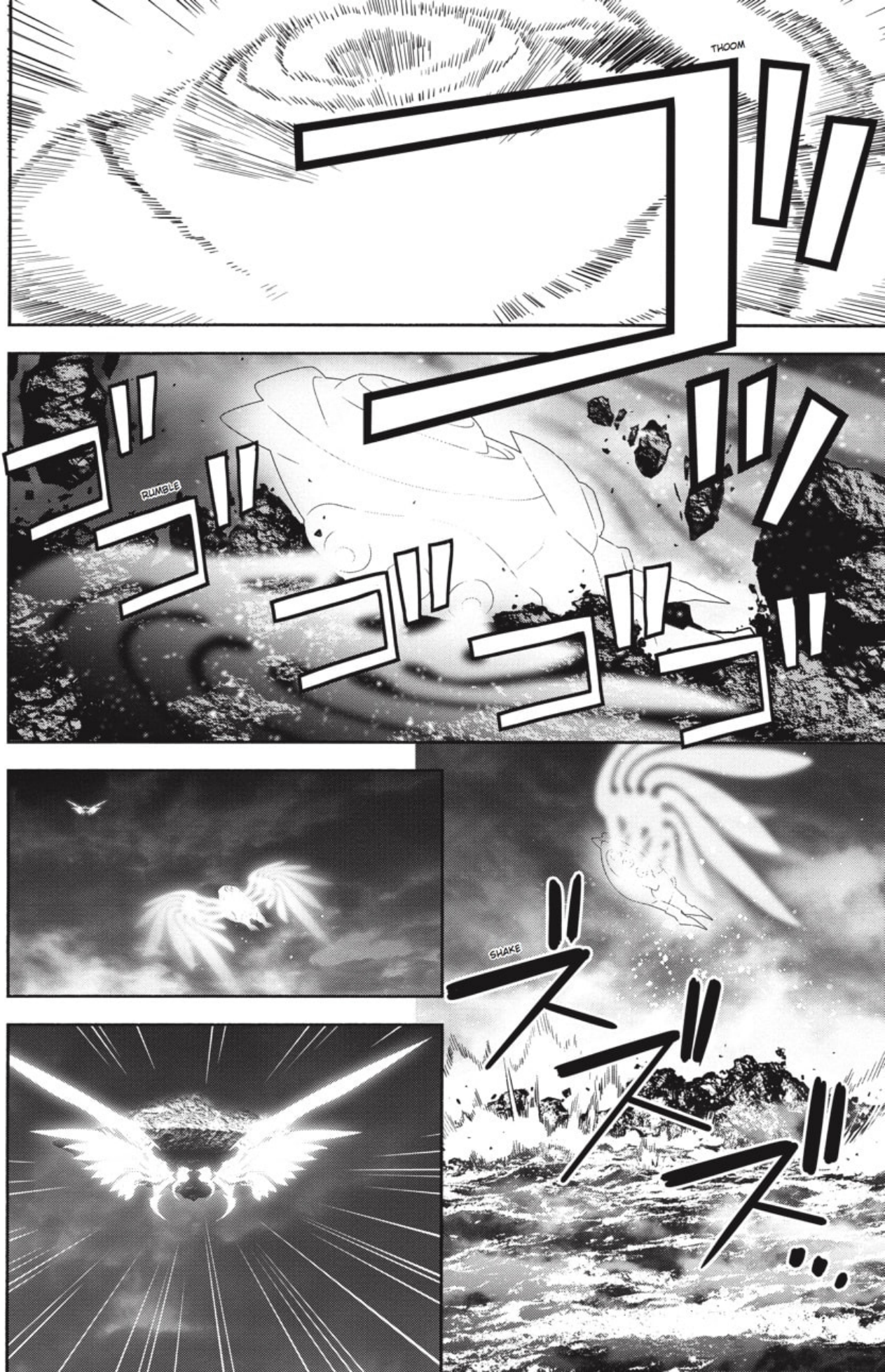

MY SEKIREI CREST HAS BEEN AWFULLY ITCHY TODAY.
PERHAPS SOMEONE IS GETTING THE JUMP ON ME?
I THOUGHT WE PROMISED TO PUT THE BATTLE FOR THE TRUE WIFE'S THRONE ON HOLD UNTIL SHE RETURNS...!
DID I HEAR SOMETHING BREAK...?
TSUKI-UMI?
M-MINATO!
SORRY! I BROKE A PLATE.
YOU CAN LET ME DO THIS MUCH.
N-NO, I WILL...
YOU OKAY?
I'M NOT WOUNDED, NO.
THANK GOODNESS... LET ME CLEAN IT UP. DON'T WANT YOU GETTING HURT.
SORRY ABOUT TODAY, REALLY. I KNOW I INVITED ALL THOSE PEOPLE OVER OUT OF THE BLUE.
AND YOU MUST'VE GOTTEN UP EARLY TO MAKE MY LUNCH...? I'M SURE YOU'RE EXHAUSTED.


MINATO ...
MY BOXED LUNCH WAS DELICIOUS.
THANKS, AS ALWAYS.
N-NO NEED FOR APOLOGIES!
A BANQUET WAS NEEDED IN LIGHT OF OUR COMRADE UZUME'S HOMECOMING.
A-AND MAKING LUNCH FOR ONE'S HUSBAND IS A WIFE'S DUTY!
I CONSIDER IT ALL TO BE BRIDAL TRAINING.
YOU WORK SO TIRELESSLY, SO IN ORDER TO KEEP UP...
...I MUST PUT IN EQUAL EFFORT.
TSUKI-UMI...


WH-WHAT IS IT!?
IS THERE SOME-THING ON MY FACE??
NAH... UMM.
TSUKIUMI, YOU...
YOU'RE SO... FIERY AND STRAIGHT-FORWARD.
I JUST THINK YOU'RE REALLY COOL.
THIS PAST YEAR...
...YOU'VE DONE SO MUCH TO KEEP ME GOING...
THROB
MY
...
MINATO.
...
THEN
...
...ONCE... IN A WHILE...


...A REWARD OF MY OWN...
...I...
... WOULDN'T MIND...
TSUKI-UMI.
R-REWARD?


TSUKI-UMI.....
GRIT
...I'VE GOTTEN THE JUMP ON HER.
THIS ISN'T FAIR PLAY...
...NOT FAIR TO HER.
IT'S ALL HER FAULT. HER BEING GONE...
...HAS TURNED ME INTO AN UNDER-HANDED SNAKE.....
COME BACK TO US!!!
...MU-SUBI!
MUSUBI!!!


THOOM
RUMBLE
SHAKE


M—
M—
M—
MINA-TAN!!
THIS IS BIG.
THE ARK— IT'S ...!!

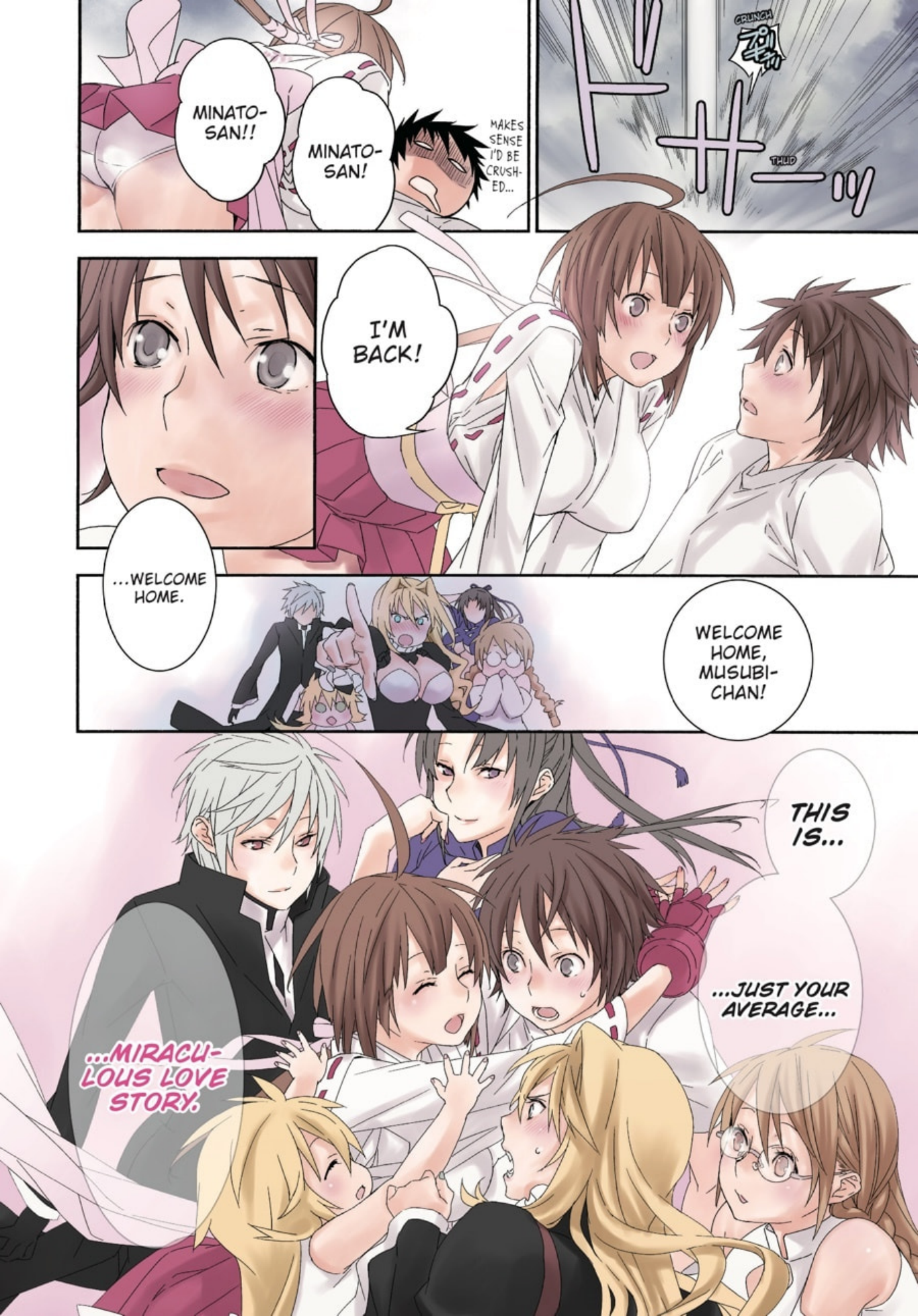

IS IT...
...FLYING UP TO KOUTEN ...?
I GOTTA RUN OVER TO MBI.
MINATO!
WE'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!
MUSUBI-CHAN.


FLAP
...!?
...MUSUBI-CHAN.
YOU APPEARED BEFORE ME OUTTA NOWHERE WHEN I WAS ALL ALONE.
THAT'S WHEN EVERYTHING REALLY STARTED.
WITHOUT YOU, I'M SO LONELY.
WITHOUT YOU, TSUKIUMI CAN'T HELP BUT CRY.
MUSUBI-CHAN...!!
WOW!
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS!?
INDEED. THE ARK AND THE JINKI ON BOARD WILL TAKE OVER YOUR DUTIES.
I WAS SO DISTRAUGHT OVER MISSING THE END OF THE GAME, I DOUBLED DOWN ON THE WORK AND ACCOMPLISHED WHAT SHOULD HAVE TAKEN TEN YEARS TO COMPLETE!
I'VE ALSO PREPARED YOUR DEFAULT OUTFIT!!
NOW GET GOING! HE'S WAITING FOR YOU.


LEAP
AT LONG LAST, THE GODDESS DESCENDS ...
... BRINGING THIS TOUCHING TALE OF BATTLE TO A CLOSE.
AND SO BEGINS THE AGE OF THE GODS!


...INTO THE FUTURE.
FOR NOW, THEY CARRY THOSE FEELINGS, THOSE BONDS...
BUT THEIR STORY IS ONLY JUST BEGINNING.
KYAAAH!!
PLEASE WATCH OUT!
...THIS HEART-BEAT...
...WHAT'S GOING ON?
I FEEL THIS POUNDING, BUT HOW?
IT FEELS LIKE...
I'M HERE TO CATCH YOU!
DON'T WORRY.
...IS YOURS.

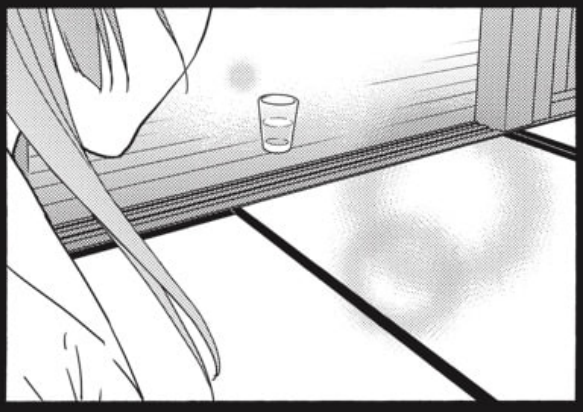
MUSUBI-
CHAN!

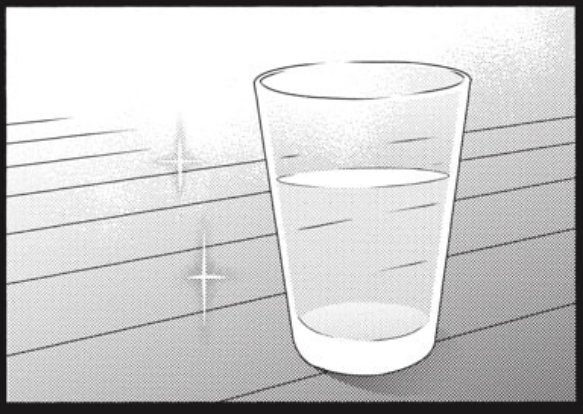

MINATO-SAN!!
MINATO-SAN!
MAKES SENSE I'D BE CRUSH-ED...
CRUNCH
THUD
I'M BACK!
...WELCOME HOME.
WELCOME HOME, MUSUBI-CHAN!
THIS IS...
...JUST YOUR AVERAGE...
...MIRACU-LOUS LOVE STORY.


THANKS SO MUCH FOR READING ALONG ALL THIS TIME!
PLEASE BEAR WITH US FOR JUST A LITTLE BIT MORE.

JUST THEN, AT IZUMO INN...





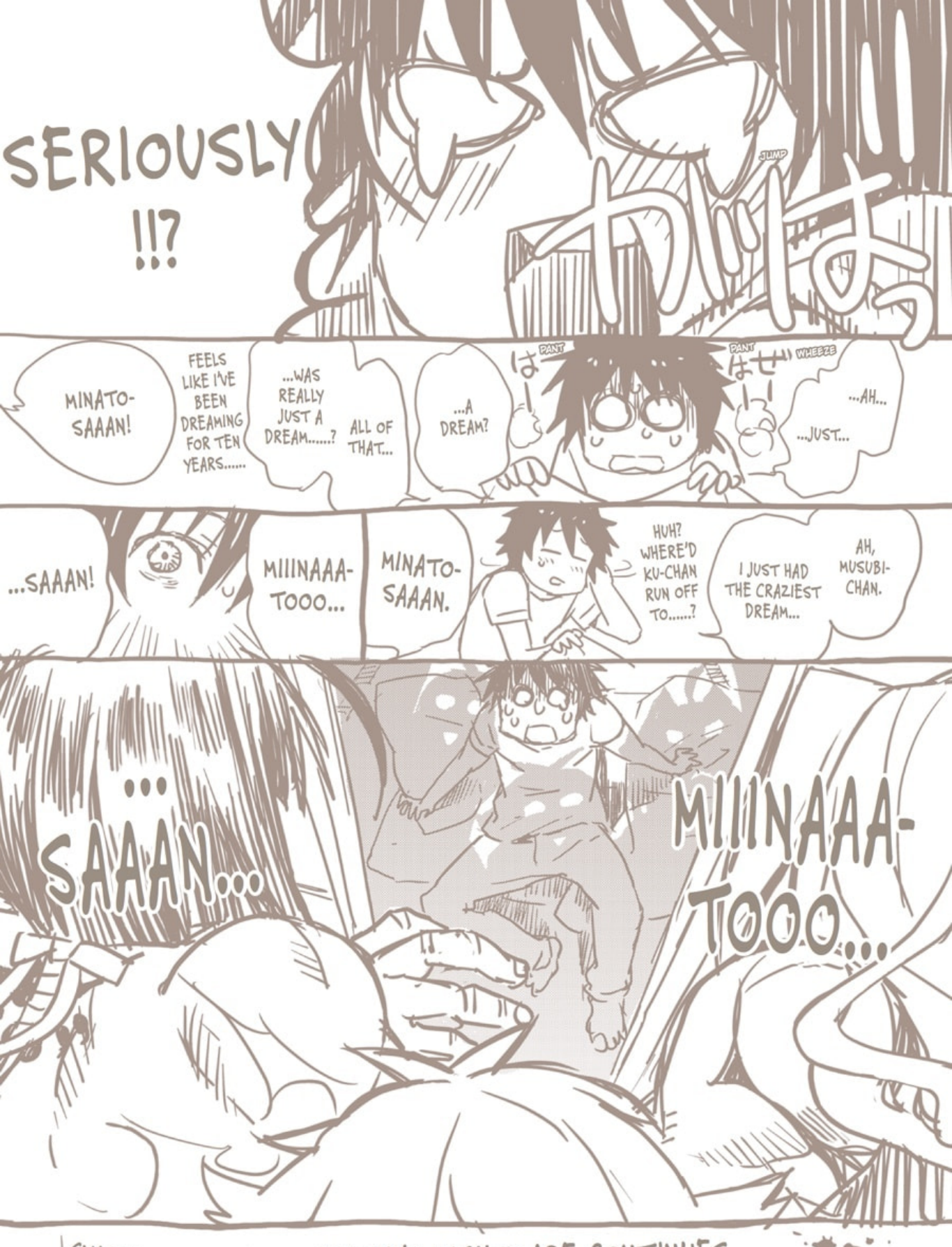






END ♡


POP
カポ…
THE TRUTH IS...
...MUSUBU AND FRIENDS...
...WERE JUST US ALL ALONG!


SERIOUSLY !!?
JUMP
MINATO-SAAAN!
FEELS LIKE I'VE BEEN DREAMING FOR TEN YEARS.....
...WAS REALLY JUST A DREAM.....? ALL OF THAT...
...A DREAM?
PANT
PANT
WHEEZE
...AH...
...JUST...
...SAAAN!
MIIINAAA-TOOO...
MINATO-SAAAN.
HUH? WHERE'D KU-CHAN RUN OFF TO.....?
I JUST HAD THE CRAZIEST DREAM...
AH, MUSUBI-CHAN.
...SAAAN...
MIIINAAA-TOOO...
GYAAAH...!
MINATO SAHASHI'S NIGHTMARE CONTINUES.....

Translation Notes

COMMON HONORIFICS
no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.
-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.
-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.
-dono: A more archaic form of address similar to *-sama*.
-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.
-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.
-tan: A more cutesy version of *-chan*.

Page 6 - Minato's wagtail T-shirt
The Japanese wagtail is a common species of bird that prefers freshwater environments. The Japanese name for it, *sekirei*, also happens to be the title of the series.

Page 23 - *Rounin*
Though *rounin* once referred to masterless samurai, in modern Japanese society, it's used to denote prospective college students who've failed their entrance exams and exist in a sort of societal limbo.

Page 146 - Kuno/No good
Kuno's name sounds very similar to *munou*, which means "incompetence."

Page 150 - Raizou, Raiden, Raimei, Raigou
All of these baby names start with *Rai-*, meaning "lightning."

SEKIREI 18

Sakurako Gokurakuin

Translation: Caleb D. Cook

Lettering: Phil Christie

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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