



THE FIRST STORY  
RAIRAKU REI / GoRA

## TRANSLATION: NARU-KUN / K – PROJECT WORLD

### CHAPTER 2: FLAMES

December 7th. That day was the day before the important girl's birthday.

Tatara Totsuka, who is not the only one from "Homura", has been preparing for a few days with his friends for the eleventh birthday of Anna Kushina, the girl who is everyone's princess.

She is an important girl to Totsuka.

She is like a sister, a good friend and a comrade.

Totsuka thought that she had the ability to get closer to the "King" than anyone else in Homura.

When Totsuka looked up, his Supreme "King" Suoh had just descended from the second floor.

A man whose red hair is slightly raised like a lion and looks like a gangster boss, but today, he loosened his poor eyesight a bit and looked around the bar.

The first floor is the HOMRA bar, which is also the base of "Homura", and the second floor is a residence where Suoh and Anna live.

From inside the counter, Izumo Kusanagi, the bar master, speaks lightly.

"Mikoto. Anna fell asleep?"

"Yes."

Although the preparation for the birthday party is directed to Anna, who is the protagonist, at the moment, it is a secret, but Anna is a very intelligent girl with sensitive abilities. Of course, she will know that Homura members are restless to celebrate her birthday, and she may even be careful to look away. However, Totsuka thinks this kind of thing is very important.

Totsuka gave Suoh a red rose to give to Anna tomorrow.

"So, King. Yes. Give it to Anna tomorrow and congratulate her."

Anna has a color vision deficiency and can only recognize colors in red. Perhaps that is why Anna is deeply concerned with the color "red". Tomorrow, he plans for Anna's arms to hold the bright red roses given by each of the members.

For a few seconds, Suoh looked at the red flower Totsuka offered him and received it.

"Oh, what honesty."

Kusanagi lightly mocks the king who obediently holds the flower without complaining.

"Keep Anna upstairs until noon tomorrow. In the meantime, I will prepare for the party."

Totsuka laughs at Suoh and asks Kusanagi, who works at the counter, "Do you have anything to help?"

Misaki Yata, a boy who cuts Homura's bark, broke in and said, "I will do some work for you." (Yata is nineteen, but because he has a baby face and is always skating in clothes with his knuckles on his knees, he looks more like a boy than a young man.)

Glancing at Yata, whom Kusanagi told him to do a chore, Totsuka raised his favorite camera.

Totsuka has an old camera. Because he likes the taste of digital movies that are different from the ones he takes with the PDA, Totsuka has a hobby of using this camera to take photos of Homura's everyday life. Totsuka has many hobbies but this is the hobby that continues the longest.

"Then, I should go home after a while."

"Totsuka, do you have something to do?"

Totsuka laughed and said that he had something to record to show Anna tomorrow, on her birthday.

He wanted to show her the scene where Anna, who can only see the color red, would surely think it would be great, using the camera that always records his friends.

Hearing Totsuka's story, Kusanagi and Yata laughed as if convinced. Suoh didn't say anything, but snorted a bit with a softer look than usual.

Totsuka, wearing a coat and holding a camera, laughed at his friends, "See you tomorrow!" And left the HOMRA Bar.

There is an application called "Candle". It's that kind of app that when you turn it on, a red candle-shaped light comes on the screen. There is no usage conference, etc.

But everyone who puts it on their PDA, is using the app for a purpose.

It was an urban legend.

When you direct a "candle" light at the airship, the airship lifts you off the ground.

Such rumors have sincerely been told. Actually, he has heard stories that they've been on the airship, but generally think of the common phrase in urban legend that says "friend of friend."

The airship flying over Tokyo is rumored to carry a globally wealthy person, but the actual situation is shrouded in mystery, there are various theories like alien theory and living god theory, and some of it is the object of faith.

The general public recognizes that a strange rich man who continues to fly on the airship, but his mystery, believe it or not, attracted many.

Totsuka and the "people related to the Slate" know his identity. He is just a "King" similar to Suoh. Adolf K. Weissmann, the first king, the "Silver King". The King, who has been flying in the sky for more than half a century and does not interfere with the ground, must be an old man as much as the "Golden King", but he has an immutable attribute and is still young. Apparently. He only knows what information appears to be, but Totsuka has never met another "King", and has no particular interest.

However, for those who did not know the existence of the heavenly royalty of the "King", Totsuka was interested in those who wanted salvation in a mysterious "something" full of mystery.

Everyone who points the "sail" towards the airship has something to do with this land, dreaming of another world, not here. The red light shining on the PDA seemed like a lot of colors in their lives.

When he stands on the roof of a building at night, he can often see the red light of a "candle" shining everywhere. He believes that the red light of the "candles" can be seen in the city at night, as if the entire city were a large cake with lit candles. He wants to show Anna that on her birthday tomorrow. Totsuka was heading to the building, which is a hidden place where the night view looks particularly beautiful, camera in hand.

Will Anna say that the red light on the candle is clear or will Anna, who has the ability to respond, feel the emotions of the people in the candle and feel the pain? However, Totsuka thinks the scene is beautiful, including the fact that each red light is full of people's thoughts.

Totsuka reached the target building and went up to the rooftop.

There was an unexpected customer on the rooftop.

From behind, he can see that he is a little boy like a high school student.

Did he come to see the night view? Or he may be trying to aim the sail at the airship. His body seems to sway a bit, but it's suspicious behavior, but he can hear him sing a song of joy with a buzz, and he doesn't think he's reached the rooftop to commit suicide.

Totsuka sometimes met a person who lit a "candle" when he came to record the night view.

At those moments, Totsuka decides to speak. People who light the "candles" often have some kind of worry and dissatisfaction, and when he listens to them, they can glimpse their lives and they can spit out a lot of regrets, and often cry.

Between the clear night sky with the stars and the lights of the city with human activity, Totsuka walked towards the boy's back while pointing the camera at him.

"Hello, it's a nice night."

A cold winter breeze blows high, stroking his cheeks. An illuminated night. It is a nice night, with the beautiful starlight, the city lights and the red lit candles.

"I came to film the night view, what are you doing in such a place?"

There is no response from the boy. He doesn't even look back.

"I am Tataru Totsuka. What about you?"

The boy suddenly turned around. He could see something black glittering in his hand.

Soon after what he thought, a shot rang out.

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The news of the death of Totsuka Tataru, the executive of "Homura", reached "Scepter 4" at midnight near dawn.

The first report was brought to Seri Awashima, Lieutenant of "Scepter 4", by Izumo Kusanagi, the executive staff of "Homura".

Awashima heard Kusanagi's voice so cold for the first time. Kusanagi was calm and not bothered at all. However, the calm he usually shows in front of Awashima is not so fragile, and he simply announced the minimum deeds and will necessary.

The fact that the executive, Tataru Totsuka, was shot dead by a person claiming to be the "Colorless King." Since this case is a problem between clans and the police intervention does not make sense, they did not denounce it and they report that those who took the body was "Homura". The report states that "Homura" will use all of his strength to pursue him after all. She knows that "Scepter 4" cannot be used in places where it is useless, but "Homura" goes after the criminal on his own and does not require any cooperation from "Scepter 4".

Kusanagi said it terribly clerical and one-sided. He barely answered Awashima's words. Kusanagi reaction remained the same whether he called as "Kusanagi Izumo" deputy director of "Homura" to "Scepter 4", or as "Kusanagi-kun" and her acquaintance to Awashima Seri.

When he hung up the phone, Awashima immediately manipulated the PDA, took off her garment and put on her underwear while calling out to the "King" and "Head of Scepter 4".

Despite arriving late at night, Reisi Munakata, the head of the office, responded with a single call.

"What's happen?"

"There was a report from Izumo Kusanagi, the executive member of 'Homura'. Tatara Totsuka, an executive of 'Homura', was assassinated by someone claiming to be the 'Colorless King'."

Awashima made a simple statement, inserting a jacket between her shoulder and face and pulling the sleeves into her uniform.

Munakata replied, "I understand."

"We will call members on an emergency call. Please meet at the base immediately."

"Yes!"

When the call ended, Awashima was already well dressed in her uniform. To finish, she quickly tied her tousled hair in front of the mirror, fixed it with a hair clip, put on her boots, and left the room.

As she hurries down the hall, Awashima feels the rush of blood close to her heart.

A member of the clan dies. That's sad. She also experienced it in "Scepter 4". However, if the criminal becomes another "King", a clan war is inevitable. Furthermore, Tatara Totsuka is surely the oldest member of the clan with Suoh and Izumo Kusanagi.

Remembering Kusanagi's voice on the phone, when she entered the captain's office of "Scepter 4", which was adjacent to the bedroom, she was led into the twister due to the commotion that might occur. Munakata and the members of the special affairs team were already prepared.

Awashima bowed to Munakata, who was sitting in the office, and looked briefly at the faces of the hurried members. After thinking that Fushimi was missing, the door opened at the same time with a loud bang.

Saruhiko Fushimi, who has entered the office, said with a sulky look that the "Homura" executive was killed.

The eyes with black rimmed glasses and slightly long bangs carry a somber light. She has never seen Fushimi in a good mood, but today he seemed more frustrating than ever.

Fushimi is a young man with a unique past who has changed from "Homura" to "Scepter 4."

He lacks coordination, but he has a lot of power to make up for it, and although he is still 19 years old, he is at number 3 on "Scepter 4."

"Scepter 4", which plays the role of a police force against the Strains, and "Homura", which started from a street gang, are conflicting organizations that collide frequently. What happened to Fushimi's turn, Awashima doesn't know the detailed circumstances and never felt the need to know in particular.

However, she was deeply impressed by how he received the news that the "Homura" executive with whom he had been involved was assassinated.

Munakata bypassed the members and began to explain the current situation.

Shortly after receiving the news from Awashima, Munakata had contacted the police and made the minimum necessary adjustments.

Police had already launched an initial investigation after receiving a report from the general public that heard the shot, and had also obtained sightings of men carrying what appeared to be the body. However, Munakata received notice that the right of investigation was moved to "Scepter 4" and that the police would only deal with the backup because it was a "male case" involving a person with special abilities. Police investigations have stopped.

Fushimi irritated his hair in front of Munakata, who insisted that they conduct an investigation.

"Isn't this dangerous? If it goes wrong..."

"Yes, we cannot do bad things. We will catch the criminal."

Fushimi's words were accepted and Munakata said in a rejecting tone.

"We cannot let criminals who get out of order and commit crimes go unchecked, and we cannot afford to ignore a private sentence that could involve hundreds of thousands of unrelated people."

Awashima took a breath in the current crisis that was clearly declared by Munakata.

Suoh wants to kill the "Colorless King". It was a possible future, where Awashima tried not to look ahead, feeling what would happen if he killed the King due to the instability of Suoh's Weissmann deviation.

Awashima reconsidered Munakata. The orderly "Blue King" did not disturb his calm and graceful face, his eyes beyond his glasses were calm, but his feeling was not always the same.

"Let's find the criminal. In our cause, without cloudiness."

They all corrected their attitude and welcomed Munakata's statement.



Awashima casually stopped next to Fushimi and walked side by side as they moved to their respective posts.

"Totsuka Tatara, who was killed, what kind of person was he in "Homura"?"

She asks Fushimi in a calm tone. She thought that he wouldn't reply deeply if he was astonished, but Fushimi looked at Awashima, and replied without emotion.

"He was a non-combatant. He mainly played the role of turning situations well, such as taking care of the education of newcomers or dealing with problems from his colleagues. Usually, Izumo Kusanagi was in charge of negotiations with the outside, but there were times when Totsuka was good at correctly engulfing the opponent in smoke and deceiving them."

Does it have a purpose to respond only with the performance without touching the personality? Awashima looked at Fushimi's profile. After all, his emotions don't show up there, but she felt that his always pale cheeks were paler than usual, probably because he woke up at dawn or because of the content of the news.

"Suoh Mikoto is..."

Awashima muttered as she recalled the "current crisis" she told Munakata.

"Even if he knew he would repeat the tragedy of 13 years ago, would he kill the 'Colorless King'?"

Nobody knows Suoh like Awashima. Awashima, the first member of the Munakata clan, was alongside Munakata when he first collided with Suoh. At that moment, Suoh laughed at Munakata's persuasion and concessions and removed his fangs. Facing Awashima, Munakata, who was always calm, disturbed his feelings at the situation of the fire beast or the disaster of the human form.

She believes that he is a terrifying man who has a violent orientation and destructive power. Awashima couldn't qualify that man, that even Munakata couldn't understand, he was immeasurable.

"The role of Tatara Totsuka. I think there was also an aspect like Suoh's security device."

Fushimi said bluntly. In the end it was a completely self-talking tone.

Before Awashima answered anything, Fushimi suddenly left Awashima.

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A shot sounds.

The sound he doesn't know how many times, Kusanagi heard at the bar. The images taken by the old camera of Totsuka are converted into data and now played back on a personal



computer. The video data was sent to the PDA of all the members of Homura to report the face of the criminal.

Seeing the images of his friend being killed over and over again gave him the feeling of falling asleep in his chest, but when anger and sadness find a place in his heart, those emotions are felt. No more irrational fuss. It may be okay to say that you are used to it.

Hearing the criminal boy make a name for himself, Kusanagi paused the video and spread the boy's hands. He intended to identify the type of weapon and follow the weapons acquisition route.

Kusanagi's PDA by his side, receives reports from "Homura" members one after another. Now they are gathering information about sightings around the building where Totsuka was killed and they go to the information store and the people behind the scenes to ask, but the results have yet to be achieved. There are many reports that members with blood on their heads were rude and had trouble, or had a fight with a member of "Scepter 4" who rushed in.

In particular, Yata, who is the leader of "Homura's" vanguard, was prone to ruin now because he was prone to getting caught in a direct path. He uses Kamamoto as an immobilizer to keep his balance, because otherwise he could hit some average person and hurt him. He was still a teenager and often played the role as his brother. Above all, it was Yata who saw Totsuka take his last breath, it can be said that it is reasonable.

As Kusanagi worked diligently, he heard footsteps descending from the second floor. Kusanagi removed his sunglasses and narrowed his eyes slightly, where the loud noise of stepping on the stairs and the soft noises of light weight, overlapping each other, made noise. "It's about time.", he mutters under his breath. Soon the other members will join as well.

Suoh and Anna appear at the bar. Anna's hand that was clinging to Suoh's back to hide in the middle, had a red flower. Anna held her in her hands, holding her to her chest.

The flowers were planned for everyone to give as a gift one by one on Anna's birthday. It seems that the rose that Totsuka gave to Suoh to give to Anna last night, was correctly given to Anna by Suoh. Kusanagi couldn't do it. The rose that could not be delivered or thrown away remains alive in a glass vase in Kusanagi's room.

Totsuka was supposed to give it to Anna when she brought that ribbon. He felt sad when he thought about the gift Totsuka prepared, but when he saw Anna holding the rose in her hand in an important way, he also thought that it was the best gift that could be given to Anna.

"Well, everything is ready."

Kusanagi stands up off to a good start.

"Anna, wait here. Mikoto..."

At the call, Suoh follows Kusanagi without answering.

As he climbed the stairs, Kusanagi looked back and saw Suoh behind him. A simple ring-shaped earring was on the cartilage part of Suoh's left ear, which follows Kusanagi after slightly dropping his line of sight. Sometimes it glowed red when it received light. Kusanagi turns forward, looking at the earring he's not used to in his ear.

"Do you think the boy who killed Totsuka is the 'Colorless King'?"

"Perhaps."

"Do you understand that between 'Kings'?"

"No. It's just intuition."

Kusanagi sighed. It was a small sigh, but the exhaled emotions were heavy. The opponent is a "King". Kusanagi understood the meaning well.

"The previous seventh king, the 'Colorless King' Miwa, died in late September. After that, I don't know the story of the birth of the new 'Colorless King'. He was born in secret. We also don't know why he murdered Totsuka."

"Never mind."

It was an audible voice that he couldn't hear.

Suoh doesn't care who he is or why he did it.

Just find him and kill him. He's probably thinking that's enough.

Kusanagi said nothing more and approached Totsuka's body that was lying in Suoh's room on the second floor of the bar.

He closed his eyes and smelled the blood from Totsuka's cold body. There is not the piercing that he always wears in his left ear, just a small hole in the cartilage.

Behind Kusanagi, Suoh made a noise that lit a cigarette and the familiar smell of smoke wafted through. The smell of the cigarette slowly replaced the smell of blood.

Kusanagi looks at his friend's white eyelids, which no longer open.

The graceful face whose auditory hair casts a shadow on the blood-boiled cheek looked like a doll, and was like a stranger.

"Even though I'm always calm, I'm dying to face it."

From now on, he will be cremated with the flame of Suoh.

It was also the smoke from Homura's battle of retribution.

The body was burned near the sea.

Kusanagi and his friends, who were cheerful, spoke well and laughed at all times, lay silently and without expression in front of the coffin.

They couldn't erase Kusanagi's mood as if he was dying, his expression was so calm that he suddenly stood up and said, "Is it just a surprise?" And serious. Totsuka didn't wake up and closed his eyes with a disgusting look. The contrast between Anna's soft reddish color next to Totsuka and the pure white color of his skin, which is no longer bloody, stays strangely in the eyes.

The moment Totsuka was cremated it felt strangely quiet and calm. Only this time, everyone was filled with sadness and regret rather than anger, and Suoh seemed to be as clear as usual from the edge.

Suoh's flame of extraordinary power instantly burned the coffin that contained Totsuka, leaving nothing behind.

No Blood! No Bone! No Ash!

It was the last moment that he embodied the words of "Homura", but like the remains of Totsuka in this world, the earring that Totsuka wore shone on Suoh's left ear.

After three days.

It seems that the quiet moment of Totsuka's funeral was a dream, time was running out and it was too difficult.

"Homura" did his best to search for the criminal boy, and even the members who had little relation to Totsuka were burning with the spirit of battle and revenge.

When it's normal, there are a lot of nice people who get together and make stupid noises, and that's why they get excited like children to celebrate a girl's birthday, but once they get angry and have a fighting spirit, they burn like a flame and they don't fit in until the other part is burned.

Kusanagi usually sprinkles water on those people as needed to control them, but this time, Kusanagi lets them burn as well.

Using all kinds of information networks and some rough means, he was able to find out how the killer got the gun, although the whereabouts were unknown.

Kusanagi, who got the information at midnight, hurriedly returned to the HOMRA bar and made his way to the second floor room where Suoh was the first to live.

"Mikoto."

Suoh was lying on the couch in the room, lazy with a cigarette in hand. When he turned to Kusanagi, the long ash that had accumulated on the end of the cigarette fell to the ground.

"What happened?"

"I discovered the origin of the weapon that killed Totsuka. A multinational mob that wins a large business. Recently, it seems to have focused particularly on arms trafficking."

"I see."

"I need to ask the 'customer' who sold the weapon if he knows him or has a relationship with him. Muko-san doesn't speak so easily, but the time and effort of using the hands to fry is pitiful. I think I'll just take the elite around Yata and Kamamoto to the question."

"No."

Suoh with a low voice, carelessly interrupted him.

"I'm going too."

Kusanagi stared at Suoh's apparition, who said that while still in a lying limbs position, and blinked several times.

"When you go, it will be important."

"Yes."

"Even for the last few days, 'Scepter 4' has been keeping an eye on us. If you move there, maybe those guys will be out there big."

Suoh smiled.

He grabs the cigarette that has been too short, squeezes it in his fingers and extinguishes it with his own flame.

"Let me be."

In a word, Kusanagi somehow sensed Suoh's heart and sighed with a bitter smile.

"Goodbye to the plan, right? It's weird, but if you call, you can gather members right now."

"No, tomorrow is fine. You should take Anna with you to see if he's lying."

"I agree."

When he tested the calculations for tomorrow in his head and solved the difficulty, there was a voice from behind calling him, "Kusanagi."

When he turned around, Suoh had a mocking smile and cheered at Kusanagi lightly.

"Go to sleep."

Kusanagi slightly opened his eyes, squeezed his face for about two seconds, then bent down and shook his face.

"Yes, thanks."

"You can't sleep well all the time."

"I will return that word exactly as it is."

On the contrary, it seems that there are few humans who sleep properly after the incident among the members of "Homura".

But surely, he should have slept well. From now on the situation of having to move the head and body continues. He needs sleep.

The same thing happened with Suoh, but Suoh shrugged slightly at Kusanagi's words.

"If you do it now, you will be asleep."

Guessing the meaning of the word, Kusanagi frowned.

From before, Suoh was sometimes "sleeping". While sleeping, control of the power is removed and the flame escapes accidentally, burning the walls of the room. It is usually when Suoh has a nightmare. He hasn't asked in detail about his dream, but he can imagine.

Although it is true. He thinks now it's even better.

"No matter how much you sleep; you will not sleep."

Suoh chuckled slightly when he said that he had no words to say to the ground, neither poison nor medicine.

Probably tomorrow, he will meet "Scepter 4". If Suoh moves, so will the "Blue King" Munakata.

Kusanagi thought silently, looking at Suoh's expression, thinking that that might be a good thing.

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That day was a very cold day.

However, if she walks alongside Suoh, the cold recedes.

Anna looked at the back of Suoh, who is walking at the beginning of "Homura". In the sight of Anna, the color of his power is visible from Suoh's body.

The most beautiful red than anyone.

Suoh, who was visible to Anna, always wore a clean red. Red has a terrifying power, but it is very beautiful and warm.

Even now, Suoh's red is transmitted to Anna from the hand that holds his jacket and warms Anna.

"Ok, let's go ask."

"Sorry, Shohei! Open the door first!"

"Ok, San-chan. I've worked part-time at a pizza parlor, so I can go naturally. I'll pretend to deliver pizza, and when the other door opens, they'll attack!"

"Yata-chan, run after the signal. Don't run ahead."

"Yes."

Behind Suoh and Anna, Kusanagi and his friends make the final confirmation.

From now on, "Homura" will attack a multinational mafia office.

According to a Kusanagi survey, the weapon that killed Totsuka appears to be a modified pistol sold by the mob. The criminal boy is unlikely to be a member of the mob, but it would be a great clue if there was a firearms trade between the mob and the boy.

Anna had a reason to accompany this storm. Anna has the ability to see through everything. Even if the other person is reluctant to give out information, Anna can reveal the lies and secrets.

Suoh's hand was clutching the lid of the lighter he had, playing with a clicking sound. In this way, Suoh's strong emotions do not flow towards Anna even when he is close to her. Suoh's emotions sank deep into Suoh, and the surface even seemed to calm down.

Suoh flips the lighter with the lid open and places it near the cigarette still in his mouth. There was a little noise.

Suoh turned around and looked at Kusanagi. Kusanagi cleared his eyes, followed by Suoh from behind and slightly raised his hand to greet him.

"Good, go ahead. Mikoto, come as slow as possible."

When Kusanagi said that, he passed Suoh's side and advanced, Yata and his colleagues bowed slightly to Suoh and continued.

Suoh and Anna became the only two to part with Homura's people, who were moving fast.

Anna takes a red marble out of her pocket.

She often uses this marble as a vehicle when using her sensitive abilities.

Anna looks at the monochrome world through red marbles. Suddenly, she saw small snowflakes fluttering from the sky.

Anna looks up at the sky. It was starting to snow. Small snowflakes fall in the wind as they dance. No wonder it's cold. It's cold today, like that night Totsuka died.

"Mikoto."

When Anna called softly, Suoh looked at Anna. Suoh's left ear glows red with the earring.

"Are you going to kill him?"

In response to Anna's question, Suoh makes a selfish smile.

"It's not that good."

Anna pursed her lips tightly and concentrated on her hand that was holding Suoh's jacket.

"Just do what you want to do."

Suoh's steps remain the same, slowly, but in a straight line without hesitation.

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Sitting next to a mob member who was shaking after being beaten by Yata and his friends, Kusanagi was smoking slowly.

On the floor of the spacious mafia office, who had been drunk, there were men rolling on the floor after "Homura's" attack.

Sitting next to Kusanagi, a member of the mob staring with his swollen eyes, at his comrades sprawled on the ground. Kusanagi brings the image projected on the PDA closer to his eyes.

"So, this is the guy we are looking for..."

Speaking to a foreign mobster in English, he points out the image of a boy claiming to be the "Colorless King" who killed Totsuka.

"Look the gun he has. It's from your place. Don't you know anything about it?"

The mob executives just flinch and don't respond. The weapons they brought to this country, modified and distributed, killed Totsuka. They needed to be remembered carefully.

Kusanagi put his arm around the back of the couch where the mob member was sitting, and he spoke so low and close that his breath was very close to his face.

"Relax and take your time to remember."

At that moment, a roar was heard. Dust enters through the entrance that Kamamoto broke during the attack. It seems that more tough customers have arrived.

Kusanagi smirked. He wanted to shake it some more, but the King had already arrived.

A heavy step was heard from the dust. Suoh stands in a relaxed look, hidden behind him, a pretty girl looks uncomfortable in this place.



"King!" Yata, Kamamoto and other members of "Homura" bowed at the same time.

"It's early, Mikoto."

Kusanagi says that, the lower part of his eyebrows are lowered. Suoh paused for a moment as if he had come to the neighborhood for a walk.

Anna stepped out from behind Suoh's waist, and when she noticed the shaking member next to Kusanagi, she hurried to run.

A mafia man with a swollen face and a nosebleed looked scared at a doll-like girl. Perhaps another kind of fear was felt in the appearance of the girl who appeared in the middle of such a disaster.

Anna took a red marble out of her pocket and hung it in front of her left eye.

She is a Strain with unique abilities before she was a member of the Red Clan. Her eyes communicate with various things like the past and the future, distant places and human hearts, and "see" by her total feeling. There is no such thing as looking at the thought of a scared man. If it's still hard to see, just push a little harder and try to uncover the hidden stuff.

However, Anna, looking into the mafia man's eyes through the marbles, simply lowered her arm.

"He does not know it."

Anna's words spread an air of disappointment among the members of "Homura". There are no leads on the criminal. Although some sighs ended, Suoh seemed not to care and said in a low voice.

"Let's go."

Suoh turned his back on him slightly and started walking.

Unfortunately, the members of "Homura" chase after him, and Kusanagi also offers a sincere apology by raising a hand towards the crushed mob and continues.

Suoh did not use the regular entrance and exit, and hit the wall protruding from his body slightly on the nearest wall and made a large hole, and got out of there. It's exciting.

"Mikoto-san, Kusanagi-san."

Fujishima and Eric, who are the "Homura" members who were watching, run down the hall.

"The boys in blue are coming. It seems that riot police are also deployed on the first and second floors of the building."

Behind Fujishima's report, Eric also says with a strange face. "The "Blue King" is also coming out. It only hits the mafia, it's an overdone team."

"I'm sorry. Right now, the Blues should want to stop us, even if we push a bit. Normally we wouldn't squeeze as much as we did a bit of force to ask at the yakuza shop, but this time we want to catch ourselves the hard way. The harm to the general public by people with powers is a great cause for the Blues due to the violation of accord 120."

"Agreement?" Yata greatly distorted her youthful face.

"The damage to the general public was just the wall that flew off, right? If the Blues get in the way, let's attack!"

Kusanagi shrugged, with Yata's breath at his side, and put his hand on Anna's shoulder, which was attached to Suoh's back, and gently pushed her towards Fujishima and his friends.

"Anna, evacuate with Fujishima and Eric. It's going to be difficult."

Anna gently approached Fujishima and others, but looked at Suoh with concerned eyes. Suoh doesn't look at Anna, but starts walking again.

Kusanagi smiles and looks at his back, and puts his hand gently on Anna's head and follows Suoh.

A red flame arises again from Suoh's body and deflects. The flame breaks the wall of Suoh's hand slightly like chocolate and opens a path. Apparently, it seems that the structure of the building is completely ignored and a hole is drilled in the desired location.

Maybe he has settled on a horizontal route, or maybe he just wants to spit out the flames swirling around his body.

When he went down to the second floor, Suoh burned the wall again. A red, tsunami-like flame penetrates the wall easily and the heat melts nearby metal. The flames in Suoh still burned so that he couldn't calm down, a loud sparkling noise crackled under Suoh's feet, who stomped on the ground.

Behind the hole in the wall that Suoh opened was an entrance hall. As Fujishima said, riot police stationed with gear and a duralumin shield attached. However, they show clear confusion in the face of Suoh's flame and heat.

In the entrance to the first floor, there were people dressed in blue uniforms and hanging their swords at their waists. Unlike the riot police, they stand their ground against Suoh's flames.

"The Blues!"

Yata, who recognized their existence, released a scathing voice. Kusanagi smiled slightly to make it seem intimidating at best.

"Scepter 4" has arrived. What will you do, Mikoto?"

Suoh looked at "Scepter 4" from the second floor of the colonnade and laughed slightly.

A special task force, an elite group of "Scepter 4", is side by side, and Seri Awashima, the Lieutenant who is familiar with Kusanagi, is in charge of that.

And they are followed by Reisi Munakata, the fourth "King", the "Blue King".

Munakata watches silently, looking at Suoh from the other side of the lens of his glasses.

Suoh also silently looked at Munakata and said in a low voice.

"Burn them."

Yata thrusts his fist at the command of his "King". Led by Yata, who inspires with "Let's do it!", Kamamoto, Akagi, Bando, etc., responded like members of "Homura", raising their fists and raising their voices.

"No Blood! No Bone! No Ash!"

At the same time that he heard the voice of the "Homura" members, Suoh gently jumped over the railing with his hand in his pocket and jumped into the entrance hall on the first floor.

The intense red light bleeds and overflows from Suoh's body, who lands and stands up. It rages like a beast unleashed, swirling and swelling throughout the lobby.

The flame burns the wall, breaks the window glass and goes out.

The flame ran across the ceiling and the high heat caused the lights to fall to the floor and melt like butter.

Facing the raging flame, Reisi Munakata, the "Blue King," did not waver. A harsh blue light also overflows from Munakata's body, forming a dome-shaped wall of light that blocks Suoh's flames and protects himself and his men.

Suoh also smiled deeply at Kusanagi behind him.

Suoh's strength relaxes even more and the pressure exerted by Suoh increases.

Kusanagi looked up. There is a skylight over the entrance hall of the colonnade, and sunlight shines on it. The sky, which had been flashing with snow, was regaining blue sky now, but a red light was shining through the blue sky.

The red light that explodes in the sky swells as it distorts space, and a huge sword appears in the center.

It is a sword of Damocles.

A symbol of that person's royal authority and power status.

Suoh's sword of Damocles was huge, but it was cracked and crumbling.

"Ok."

Munakata pulled up his glasses and said.

"Control the sword with the sword. There are no clouds in our cause."

"Everyone, draw your swords!"

Awashima orders her subordinates in response to Munakata's cheerful comments.

The members of the Blue Clan, members of "Scepter 4," dressed in blue uniforms, lined up in a row, drawing their swords fluidly along with their names.

"Akiyama, Batto!"

"Benzai, Batto!"

"Kamo, Batto!"

"Domyoji, Batto!"

"Enomoto, Batto!"

"Fuse, Batto!"

"Goto, Batto!"

"Hidaka, Batto!"

Munakata, standing vertically and facing a forest of white swords, also placed his left hand on his sword sheath.

"Munakata, Batto!"

With that voice like a key, the saber opened and Munakata drew his sword in a beautiful manner. A sword white glossy leaf appears and looks up at the sky.

At the same time, the space next to Suoh's red sword of Damocles distorted and the blue sword of Damocles appeared.

Munakata unleashes his power. The barrier, "Sanctum", emitted by the "King" unfolds, and the blue light escaping from Munakata and his clansmen attacks Suoh. Suoh played the blue power with his own Sanctum without making a slight move.

Kusanagi jumps onto the railing, follows Suoh, and jumps to the first floor of the entrance hall. Followed by Yata and Kamamoto, the Red Clansmen who were behind Suoh.

Suoh and Munakata's centrally emitted red and blue powers collide and conquer.

It was Suoh with a slight smile who broke that balance.

Suoh spins the flame around his body with his hands in his pocket and slams it towards Munakata and "Scepter 4".

Munakata took off Suoh with sharp eyes, strengthened the exit of the blue barrier and reached for the fierce flame. Munakata's hair flutters in the hot air.

"Fu!"

With a little spirit of encouragement, Munakata waved the saber sideways. The flames that Munakata accepted and repelled are pushed towards Suoh and "Homura".

Kusanagi and others flew back slightly to avoid it, and Suoh was exposed to his own flames as if he was exposed to the breeze.

Suoh's flame gently melts around the body, turning into hot air.

Suoh leaned down and jumped like a beast. Break the barriers of blue power, attack Munakata and wield a fist with fire.

Munakata's sword flashes, hits Suoh's fist and plays with them. The sword and the fist that possess the power of the "King" are equivalent weapons.

Suoh laughs. The flame flutters over Munakata, and Munakata rejects Suoh's attack as if he is fighting with a sword.

Thinking it was a brilliant bullfight, Kusanagi smiled brightly, wondering if he could call his "King" bull.

"Mikoto-san! We too...!"

Yata, who was excited about the blood, showed that he had jumped before the battle between Suoh and Munakata, but Kusanagi raised his hand slightly and stopped him.

"But don't move. Don't let go."

Awashima, the member of the blue clan holds the barrier with her sword raised. Even if a clan member plunges into the battle between the kings, they will be annihilated.

Further...

(In any case, this is a sham.)

Kusanagi, with a complicated feeling, continued looking at the "King" who was fighting.

Munakata repels the flames emitted from Suoh's body with his blue sword.

"Suoh Mikoto. I understand the feeling for the death of a member of the clan. But we cannot forgive an audience so upset that it could harm people, much less retaliation that could involve unrelated citizens."

"I don't even want anyone to forgive me!"

Suoh says that laughing and kicking. Munakata brought his sword upright and linked his left hand to the peak of the blade to catch the kick. The flame protrudes from the kicking foot and tries to swallow Munakata.

Munakata's graceful face was slightly distorted, and he could see a small amount of irritation mixed with calm.

"Do you know the state of your sword?"

The end of Munakata's words turned harsh, and the eyes on the back of the glasses sharpened to lift Suoh off. As if angry at Suoh who raised the tip of his mouth, Munakata thrust his saber with force and flew away from Suoh.

The powers of red and blue collide violently for a moment and spark.

Suoh bounced and was thrown through the air, and when he made a revolution in the air, he landed in front of Kusanagi and the others.

Munakata also slid across the ground in reaction and came down in front of Awashima and his friends. A trace from the sole of Munakata's shoe rubbed against the ground, kicking up friction heat smoke.

Munakata, who had been irritated for a moment when he rebuilt himself, returned to his cool and calm expression, and when he repositioned his position, he put the sword in its sheath.

Looking at Munakata, who was holding the sword in front of the enemy, Suoh shrugged slightly, but did not provoke further and held back the flame he carried.

Munakata approached while stomping on the ground in his military shoes, and stopped in front of Suoh.

"I'll detain you under Settlement 120. Do you have any objections?"

Munakata asks a question.

Alongside Kusanagi, Yata is taking off against Munakata in a hostile manner. Kusanagi casually appeared in front of Yata to prevent him from attacking.

Suoh laughed, her voice slightly leaking.

"But that's not true. Well, take care of me."

Suoh presented Munakata with both fists, just as a sinner would admit his sin and surrender.

Kusanagi closed his eyes for a moment, then immediately opened them and ordered in a low voice to the impressive and disappointed Yata.

"Homura", retired."

Suoh was held back by "Scepter 4." If it was Suoh's choice, then with such a "King" in place, they followed the choice of Kusanagi, who is Suoh's second in command.

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An attack on a multinational mafia office by "Homura" and a collision between "Scepter 4" and "Homura" in the building where the office was located. After reporting the damage and further processing caused by him, Fushimi lowered the tablet displaying the report and looked at Munakata sitting on a chair in his office with messy eyes.

"Still, it was a bag that carried a lot of problems."

Munakata smiled in response to Fushimi's displeasure.

"Uncomfortable luggage is uncomfortable to put anywhere. It should at least be stored in a place that has the ability to handle it."

Munakata naturally understands that Suoh was restrained by "Scepter 4" without resistance and the members who were in the underground prison of "Scepter 4" were scared by him.

Fushimi frowned.

"Only the Captain will have the ability to handle it. As long as you have Suoh held in the basement, you won't be able to take care of him all the time."

"Yes, but I can't leave he on the streets."

Fushimi returned his gaze with a complicated expression. He was originally a member of "Homura". Both the "Red King" and the old friends have something to think about.

"If Suoh Mikoto gets out of control when I'm away, please prioritize the safety of the members over repression. Awashima-kun is too responsible, so I entrust it to you, Fushimi-kun."

Fushimi said reluctantly: "...I understand." Munakata thinks it's cute that he shows his emotions.

"Then, while still paying attention to "Homura's" movement, look for the assassin who is known as the "Colorless King"."

Munakata gets up and walks to the door.

"Where are you going, Captain?"

"I'm going to see the problem luggage."

After smiling at Fushimi and leaving the office, Munakata erased his expression and headed for the underground warehouse of the barracks.



The "Scepter 4" underground depot is a place to temporarily detain those who commit a crime.

The power possessed by a Strain, which appears spontaneously without being empowered by a "King", has various powers, including its strength, and this underground reservoir is made quite strict to maintain them.

As Munakata walks in the cold underground and approaches the entrance to the detention center, the sensor reads Munakata's iris and the lock is released. Passing through several automatic lattice doors and walk to the desired cell.

All doors have multiple electronic locks and are equipped with a Strain control device, and it is basically impossible to break them with powers. Also, in case of an emergency, there are escape prevention measures, in which the blinds also have the effect of suppressing powers in multiple layers, but all of them will be like paper boats if the King gets serious. It's an order of magnitude less powerful than the King's power, and it's an S-type that's great for anyone.

So that power comes with great responsibility. Nevertheless...

Munakata was left alone on his chest and stopped in front of a single cell.

In that dark cell, a red-haired man was lying on his bed with his back to him.

Munakata opens the cell door and enters.

A red-haired man, Suoh, a "dangerous baggage" that "Scepter 4" brought to his headquarters, was sleeping comfortably. Sleep peacefully, despite the inconvenience of having humiliating handcuffs on his hand that stifles his power.

Munakata was a man who had little emotional influence from the beginning, but only before Suoh. When he faced this guy, he got mad.

Munakata grabbed Suoh's sleeping head with one hand, lifted it, and slammed it against the wall.

A dull sound echoed through the cell, and Suoh opened his eyes, "Hm?" He doesn't look good.

"Oh, it's you."

With a face that looks like a yawn, Suoh looks at Munakata with only his eyes, his body slammed against a concrete wall.

"Suoh Mikoto. I'll get straight to the point."

Munakata sank his emotions and silently cut the matter off.

"Your Weissmann deviation is already close to the limit. If the sword of Damocles falls, it will be the reincarnation of the crater of Kanto. If you want to get more out of the Dresden Slate, I must kill you."

Only the facts are listed.

The Weissmann deviation shows the stability of the King's power. Abuse of power, lack of balance of spirit and interference of power with other kings, in particular, having a "King" kill another "King". It endangers the Weissmann deviation, which ultimately leads to the fall of Damocles, where the sword of Damocles, the symbol of the "King" falls.

The consequences of that are explained 13 years ago, when the southern region of Kanto disappeared and left a huge crater.

However, Suoh leaned against the wall, and said, "I don't know what you're talking about."

Suppressing the urge to hit him, Munakata put his hand on the side of Suoh's face and looked down at him.

"I am telling you to renounce the throne."

Originally, Suoh's Weissmann deviation was dangerous. The power was great, but it had instability as if it had an excess of power, perhaps because it was not used for a definite purpose.

Originally an unsuitable man to be "King". No, maybe he's a man who can't handle the power of the "Red King". Like the predecessor "Red King", Kagutsu Genji, who died by destroying the sword of Damocles, causing destruction, ruin, and the death of seventy thousand people.

Suoh has been in the last minute so far. But now, with the death of a clan member, Suoh seems to have somehow abandoned his stability. It's like he's blaming himself, but he seems to be running straight to ruin. The fall of Damocles is inevitable if he kills a "King" in this state.

For Suoh to stay alive without causing harm, there is no choice but to stop wielding the King's power and live a quiet life.

However, Munakata himself understood that Suoh could not choose that path.

Suoh smiled a bit embarrassed, as if to be surprised.

"What you say is still not interesting, Munakata."

"Then you have to figure out how to stop for the rest of your life."

Suoh smiled slightly. Looking at Munakata with a provocative look.

"There is only one. One way to keep me locked up all the time... and that is if you, Munakata, the "Blue King", take care of me directly. In this room for twenty-four hours. If I start to wreak havoc, you will use all your power to hold me down."

Suoh's eyes glow dark red, and a red aura rises from Suoh's body like a haze of heat.

Only a "King" can control another "King". That was what Fushimi had pointed out earlier. Including that Munakata, who has the power, couldn't stay in the same place all the time.

"The fact of having to breathe the same air as you makes me sick. And unfortunately I am too busy. I can't just get involved only with you."

Munakata returns to his posture and turns his back to Suoh.

"Sorry, Munakata."

Suoh says it in a voice that can't get serious or play. Munakata comes out of the cell and looks back.

Suoh was rolling in bed again and starting to sleep. His shoulders wrapped in a white t-shirt move slightly every time he breathes.

"Me too, Suoh."

Munakata's true intention spilled out and he didn't reach Suoh, and the cell door closed to separate the two.

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Akagi Shouhei sat on the counter seat in front of the cafe's large window and vaguely looked at the crossroads in front of Shizume-cho station.

He couldn't drink the iced coffee he bought, starts sweating on the surface of the plastic cup.

Akagi has been a member of "Homura" for about two years and is relatively new among the main members who often come and go to the "HOMRA" bar. However, two years, which is shorter than life in high school, was enough time for Akagi to decide on "Homura" as his place and to connect with his friends.

Totsuka Tatara who was killed also had the role of caring for a newcomer, so when he arrived at "Homura", Akagi was cared for in various ways. He was a strange person with a smile and a fluffy atmosphere all the time, but he thinks "Homura" was always filled with a happy atmosphere.

Akagi will never forgive anyone who has killed a friend. Since that incident, Akagi runs every day looking for clues about the criminal. However, the result has not yet been achieved.

The other day, they went to visit the mafia office that sold the gun to the murderer, but in the end they couldn't get a powerful clue, on the contrary, Suoh and the others collided with "Scepter 4" who arrived at the scene.

"Ah, now!"

Akagi was alone and scratched his head on his cap.

Suoh was captured by Munakata, the "Blue King". Although he had even dropped the sword of Damocles, Suoh did not fight seriously for some reason, but he held out both hands to Munakata, who claimed he was breaking the agreement, and was arrested.

That caused a great commotion in "Homura".

Suoh is in the heart of "Homura". What happens? That shook "Homura". Of course, Kusanagi, who is number two, is in charge of carrying out his own activities, and it was thought that Suoh had been arrested, but...

Akagi, who was in a bad mood, sighed once more and looked out the window.

Although it is a weekday, the front of the station is crowded with people.

Looking at the people waiting for the signal at the crossing, Akagi stared wide-eyed.

He hastily pulled his PDA out of his pocket and pointed it at the person waiting for the signal. Repeat enlarging the person who appears small, until the face is clearly visible.

"Yes."

That boy.

The boy who pointed a gun at Totsuka Tatara and pulled the trigger to take his life. Unlike the ghastly expression at the time, he looks like a harmless person and looks harmless, but this is definitely a characteristic.

The criminal who they have not been able to find a clue of so far, proudly walks down the main street of Shizume-cho, which is the territory of "Homura".

Well, Akagi bit his teeth, quickly moved his finger and sent a photo of the boy and his current position to his partner Saburota.

Akagi hurried to follow the boy's figure out the window so as not to lose sight of him.

When he left the store, just as the traffic light changed, the killer boy crossed the crosswalk. He had a red Japanese umbrella on his shoulder and a kitten on the other shoulder.

Akagi only sees the boy's rear view and follows his back as he hits a person.

The boy walked through the crowd without seeming to care about the killer and finally entered the "Kadamaya" fireworks store.

Akagi hides in the shadows and waits for the boy to come out.

When he made the concession, a motorcycle came up behind him and stopped next to Akagi.

"Kamamoto-san."

Rikio Kamamoto, a handsome man with a lot of fat accumulated around his belly, saw Akagi. He gives him a helmet and a bat.

"Get in behind. Yata-san will come here immediately. Hit it in the middle."

Akagi clenched his expression, pulled on his helmet and held his weapon tightly.

+++++++

Kusanagi leaned against the dirty wall in the back alley and lit a cigarette.

With the torch in one hand, he instructs the members of "Homura" to lay siege to the criminal.

Smoke deeply and exhale slowly and long.

A mysterious boy who has killed Totsuka Tataru and claims to be the Seventh King, the "Colorless King". Kusanagi has no idea what he's thinking. However, no matter what the speculation is, "Homura" will see to it that he receives the damage he deserves.

When he was standing while smoking, he hears an angry familiar voice and some footsteps from the alley. They have been deployed so that he does not escape where he runs, but the boy seems to have chosen this alley with Kusanagi.

The boy who jumped out of the alley had a slender and cute appearance that looked like a girl. The appearance of rushing and running can only be seen by a good citizen who is chased by a bully, but Kusanagi, who has seen that terrifying video over and over, knows how terrifying his face can be.

"Sorry, get out of the way!"

The boy noticed that Kusanagi was on the way and made a panicky voice.

Kusanagi slowly inhales another puff of smoke and focuses his attention on the smoke coming out of his mouth. The power of the Red Clan member received from Suoh in his body is linked to the small fire at the tip of the cigarette, and Kusanagi's flame is reflected there.

At the moment, he doesn't control the killing intent that silently erupted.

Kusanagi touches a cigarette with his thumb and tosses it into the air. The cigarette spun, and a small tip of the fire bulged out enormously in accordance with Kusanagi's will, turning into a ball of fire and splitting, flying towards the boy like a bullet.

The child stiffens and stops.

If he were the "Colorless King", he would avoid this kind of attack. When Kusanagi thought that he should throw away his innocent boy mask, a young man dressed in a black coat leapt from the sky and landed between Kusanagi's fireball and the boy.

The black clothed youth deflected all the fireballs with the palm of his right hand holding a transparent power. Furthermore, Yata, who was chasing the boy, is drawn into his hand in an instant with the power of his right hand, and silenced is knocked down with a single elbow strike.

A power like a transparent hand that compresses space and grasps distant objects, a Japanese sword worn at the waist, about 20 years old, a long black mane attached like a dog's tail. Kusanagi knew a person with these characteristics.

A young man dressed in black holds the criminal boy and quickly walks away from Kusanagi and his friends.

Kusanagi and the others, who had their prey abducted in front of them, looked in the direction in which they were disappearing.

"Damn! Who is that guy?"

Yata squeezed his elbow-struck belly and stood up, furious.

"He's the 'Black Dog', Kuro Yatogami. It has been troublesome again."

Kusanagi said, picking up his PDA.

"Well, we'll have to use the next move."

+++++

"Hi, it's a good night. I came to photograph the night view, what are you doing in such a place? I am Totsuka Tatara, and you?"

The sound of gunfire rang out and the cameraman, Totsuka Tatara, fell. Then the camera that fell to the ground moves and faces the person who shot. The person was still a teenager.

"I am the Seventh King, the 'Colorless King'. Waiting for people here. It's a good night. Oh, sure it's a good night!"

Awashima was watching the image on the monitor in the "Scepter 4" briefing room.

Among the members who are upset by unexpected situations, Fushimi says without changing his sullen expression.

"The urban network in Tokyo is hijacked."

"Specify the font!"

"I'm doing it now."

Fushimi's euphoric attitude isn't a compliment, but he's probably already working on it.

In Tokyo, mainly in city chains, electronic devices ranging from visions of street lamps, televisions and even personal PDAs were temporarily stolen and video of the murder was released.

The one who did it was "Homura". There is no doubt that it will be considered as a strategy of that clever person, Izumo Kusanagi.

"To catch the criminal, does he expose the death of his friend?"

Awashima was alone with a small, low voice that no other human could hear.

This is the first time that "Scepter 4" has obtained this image because "Homura" refused to investigate the case with "Scepter 4" and did not pass any information.

While it will be a great lead to proceed with the investigation, matters related to sovereignty should be kept secret only from those with powers, and that form of informing the general public is overlooked. Cannot be. It was a headache when she thought about canceling the videos that had flown and stopping the release to the media. Either way, they will soon have to ask the "Golden King" for help.

Above all, Awashima was terribly frightened by "Homura's" unwillingness to try to pursue the criminal, even after revealing the vision of how his ally was killed.

Domyouji, a young middle-aged staff member in the Information Room, looked at the screen stopped by the criminal with a pistol and said, "He is saying 'Colorless King', but he is a child like a high school student!" He is horrified.

Awashima once again looked at the face of the mystery boy who claims to be the "Colorless King".

No matter what, they have to find and catch him before "Homura".

Before the raging flame becomes irreversible.