

TATENO MAKOTO

立野真琴

荒野の如く

LIKE THE BARREN WASTELAND

WE WILL
NOW BEGIN
THE DUEL -

BETWEEN
LORD WILLIAM
PRESTON...

AND LORD
CHRIS CLOUDER,

AS
WITNESSED
BY THEIR
SECONDS,

PETER
LARKIN
AND JOHN
AUSTIN.

立野真琴

MAKOTO
TATENNO
PRESENTS

BOOK OF THE WHEEL 英雄と悪漢
『BOOK OF THE WHEEL』大好評発売中!!



荒
あれ



DRAW
YOUR
WEAPONS.

There was something I wanted so badly,
どんな手段を用いても、

手に入れたいものがあった——。

I was willing to do anything to have it.

野の如く
の こと

LIKE THE BARREN WASTELAND

SO HOT...

MY CHEST
HURTS...

MY BODY,
MY ENTIRE
BODY IS...

WILLIAM,

AREN'T YOU
GOING TO GET
UP SOON?

WHO'S
THERE...?

OPEN
YOUR
EYES...

AND LOOK
AT ME, LORD
PRESTON.



WHERE
IS THIS?

FELL
CASTLE,

MY
COUNTRY
HOUSE.

YOUR...?

CHRIS...

LORD
CLOUDER...?



HUH?

AH!

HOW
YOU
GOT
THAT
WOUND?

DON'T
YOU
REMEM-
BER
ANY-
THING?

WHY
AM...

I...?



TAKE 20
PACES AND
TURN.



THE ONE
WHO SHOOTS
FIRST IS THE
VICTOR.

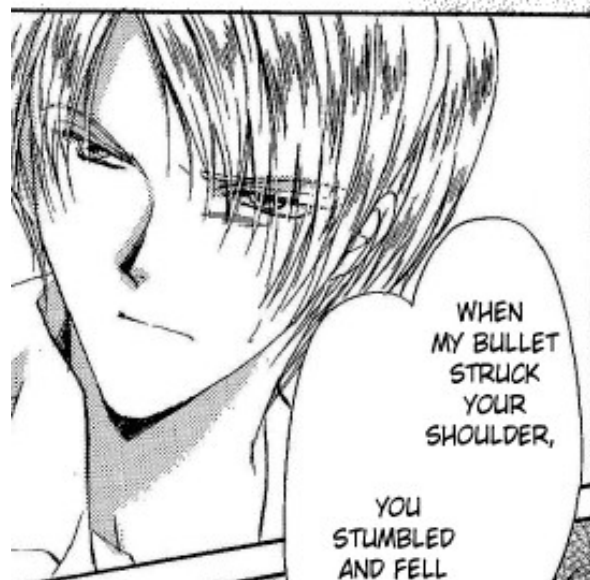


THAT'S
RIGHT...

I WAS...

BANG!

—
O!
—



WHEN
MY BULLET
STRUCK
YOUR
SHOULDER,

YOU
STUMBLED
AND FELL
OFF THE
CLIFF.



LUCKILY,

MY
MANSERVANT
WAS UNDER
THE CLIFF WHEN
YOU FELL AND
SAVED YOU.



LUCKILY...
YOU SAY?



THAT'S
RIGHT.

YOU...

...WERE
DEFEATED
IN YOUR DUEL
WITH ME.





YOU
SHOULD
BE
HAPPY.

YOU'RE
ALREADY
"DEAD."



THE
ELDEST
CHILD
OF THE
EARL OF
PRESTON...

IS
DEAD.

DO YOU
UNDER-
STAND,

ISAAC?



BECAUSE EVEN IF HE'S ALIVE, HE'LL BRING NOTHING BUT SHAME.



IT'S SO
OBVIOUS!
THE HOUSE OF
PRESTON HAS A
DISTINGUISHED
HISTORY, DATING
BACK HUNDREDS
OF YEARS!
UNLIKE YOU...

I DON'T
UNDER-
STAND.

FATHER
IS RIGHT.
IT'S BETTER
THIS WAY...

IF I
WERE TO
RETURN,
IT WOULD
ONLY CAUSE
PROBLEMS
FOR THEM.

UNLIKE
ME?

A PERSON
WHO RECENTLY
BOUGHT HIS
BARONY...
I SUPPOSE
YOU THINK
IT'S EXPECTED
THAT I NOT
UNDERSTAND?

IS YOUR
"HOUSE"
MORE
PRECIOUS
TO YOU
THAN YOUR
LIFE?



THAT'S
RIGHT...

YES...

LIKE A
SERVANT'S
QUARTERS?

WHY IS
THIS ROOM
SO SPARSE?
IT DOESN'T
SEEM LIKE A
GUEST ROOM.
IT'S ALMOST
LIKE...

EH?

turn

I'D HEARD
THAT THE
CLOUDERS WERE
BOURGEOIS,
ADVANCING
THEMSELVES
THROUGH
TRADE,
BUT...



YOU ARE
CORRECT.

THIS IS A
SERVANT'S
ROOM...

WILLIAM.



YOU'RE
LESS THAN A
COMMONER.

IT'S
FITTING,
ISN'T IT?
YOU'RE NO
LONGER THE
SON OF AN
EARL.

OW!

WHAT...

Plump



WELL
THEN...

WILLIAM,
WHO'S NOT
EVEN A
COMMONER...

WHAT THE...
WHAT THE
HELL ARE
YOU DOING?

LET
ME
GO!

YOU'RE
THE ONE
BEING
INSOLENT.

I AM
A BARON,
YOU KNOW.

DON'T BE
INSOLENT,
CLOUDER!





BECOME
MY LOVER.

I'LL GIVE
YOU WORK,
WILLIAM.

AAAAH!

thrust

LINH...

AAH...

WHY
DID
THIS...?



CLOUDER,
SHE'S BEEN
DEPRESSED
SINCE SHE
HASN'T BEEN
ABLE TO SEE
YOU.

I'M NOT
SURE WHAT
HAPPENED
BETWEEN THE
TWO OF YOU,
BUT YOU'D
BEST...

YES,
LADY
BEATRIX.

YOUR
COUSIN?

THAT'S
RIGHT,
IT'S
BECAUSE
HE...

WHY DID
IT TURN OUT
LIKE THIS?

WHAT
DO YOU MEAN
"WHAT HAPPENED"?
I MERELY HAD
TEA WITH HER
ONCE.



I DON'T
THINK SO.

I CAN'T
IGNORE
THAT
INSULT.
RECALL
AT ONCE!

AN EXCESS
OF SELF-
WORTH...

IS SO
UNBECOMING
IN A LADY.

SHE
MUST
HAVE...

MISUNDER-
STOOD MY
INTENTIONS.

WHAT?

WHAT DID
YOU SAY?



MURMUR
MURMUR

WILLIAM!

SLAP

!

WHAT'S WRONG
WITH CALLING
A WOMAN WHO
WOULD LOOSEN
HER OWN CORSET
IMMODEST?



SHOCK

HE
PICKED
UP THE
GLOVE...!



I
DEMAND
A DUEL
FOR HER
HONOR!

DO
YOU
ACCEPT?

LORD
CHRIS
CLOUDER,

YOU
JUST
INSULTED
MY
COUSIN!



I NEVER
EXPECTED
SOMETHING
LIKE THIS TO
HAPPEN...

IT'S
A DUEL!



GET
USED
TO IT,
WILLIAM.

CLOUDER...

IT
HURTS,

IT...

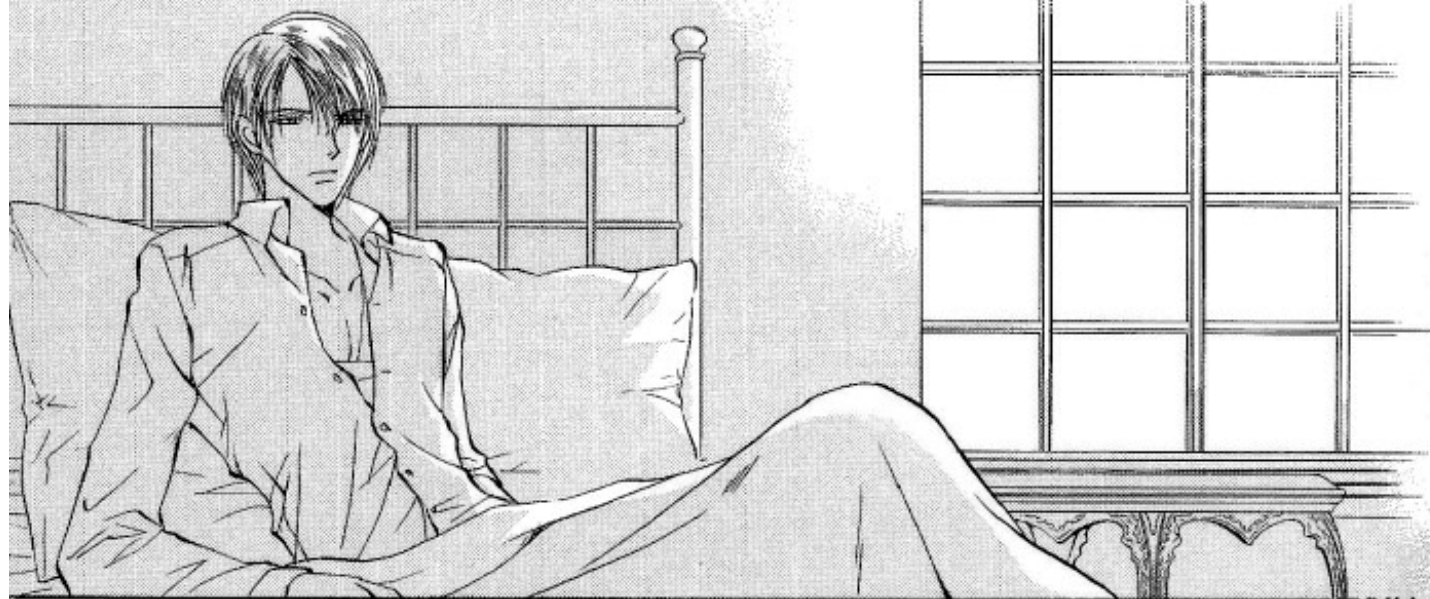
creak

creak



HONESTLY, I'D RATHER DIE...

I TRULY THOUGHT THAT.



...

YOU DON'T INTEND TO EAT?



*BITING THE TONGUE IS A TRADITIONAL JAPANESE WAY OF COMMITTING SUICIDE WHEN THERE IS NO OTHER CHOICE.





THIS...

LICK

GO
ON...

EAT
THIS...

WHILE
YOU'RE
STILL
ON TOP
OF ME.

NOW
THEN...

THAT'S
IT...

LIWAAH...

thrust





AAAAH...



THIS IS NOT ME.



I'M
SORRY,

FORCING
YOU LIKE
THIS WHEN
YOUR WOUND
IS NOT YET
HEALED.



WELL,

I HIRE
TEMPORARY
HELP WHEN
I NEED IT.

ISN'T
THAT AN
INCONVE-
NIENCE?



I EMPLOY
A BUTLER
AND A FEW
OTHERS.



THIS
HOUSE-

HM?

IT'S
QUITE LARGE,
BUT I HAVEN'T
SEEN MANY
SERVANTS.





IF I
WERE
A MERE
COMMONER,

I
COULDN'T
EVEN KISS
YOU.

—I DON'T UNDERSTAND.





EH?



THAT CLIFF
IS MORE
UNSTABLE
THAN IT
LOOKS.

THE OTHER
DAY, SOMEONE
FELL FROM
THERE AND
GOT HURT.



EVEN
THOUGH
HE'S A
MERCHANT...



HMM...
I WOULD HAVE
THOUGHT IT WAS
THE "CRUEL" OR
"FEROCIOUS"
MEANING OF
FELL.

THIS
MANSION'S NAME IS
"FELL
CASTLE."

IT MEANS
"CASTLE ON
THE BARREN
WASTELAND."

HA, HA,
VERY
FUNNY.



THE PEOPLE
OF THIS
REGION ARE
USED TO
HARDSHIP.

WELL,
THAT
SORT OF
THING...

AS THE NAME
SUGGESTS, THE
LAND WAS
BARREN,

SO MY
GRANDFATHER
AND HIS FAMILY
HAD A HARD
TIME OF IT.



SUCH A
LAND IS
A PLACE
BATHED
IN LOVE.

MY DAD
SAID TO
PROTECT THE
PEOPLE HERE
THAT GIVE IT
THEIR ALL.



IF
I HAD...

HAVE I EVER
REALLY THOUGHT
ABOUT THE PEOPLE
WHO WORK ON
MY LAND?

DIDN'T I THINK
OF THEM AS SIMPLY
SOMETHING THAT
WOULD COME ALONG
WITH THE TITLE
I WOULD INHERIT?



IS
THAT
SO...?

SUCH A
THING MUST
BE NATURAL
TO YOU,
A BORN
NOBLEMAN.



knock
knock

ah!

...CONSIDERED MYSELF
IMPORTANT TO THE PEOPLE
WORKING ON MY LAND THE WAY HE DOES,
I MIGHT NOT HAVE CHALLENGED
HIM TO A DUEL...



MASTER
WILLIAM.

I AM
SORRY TO
INTRUDE,



WHO'S
THERE?



LET US
GO BACK,
MASTER
WILLIAM.

THERE'S
NO POINT
IN STAYING
HERE.



IT
DOES NOT
APPEAR
THAT YOU
ARE BEING
TREATED AS
A GUEST.



ONE OF THE
SERVANTS OF
THE ESTATE
TOLD ME...

THAT
THERE WAS
A GUEST WHO
HAD FALLEN
FROM THE CLIFF
AND BEEN
INJURED.



HOW...

HOW
DID YOU
FIND ME
HERE?

MASTER
WILLIAM,

I WAS
POSITIVE
THAT YOU
WERE
ALIVE.

NO,
MASTER
WILLIAM.

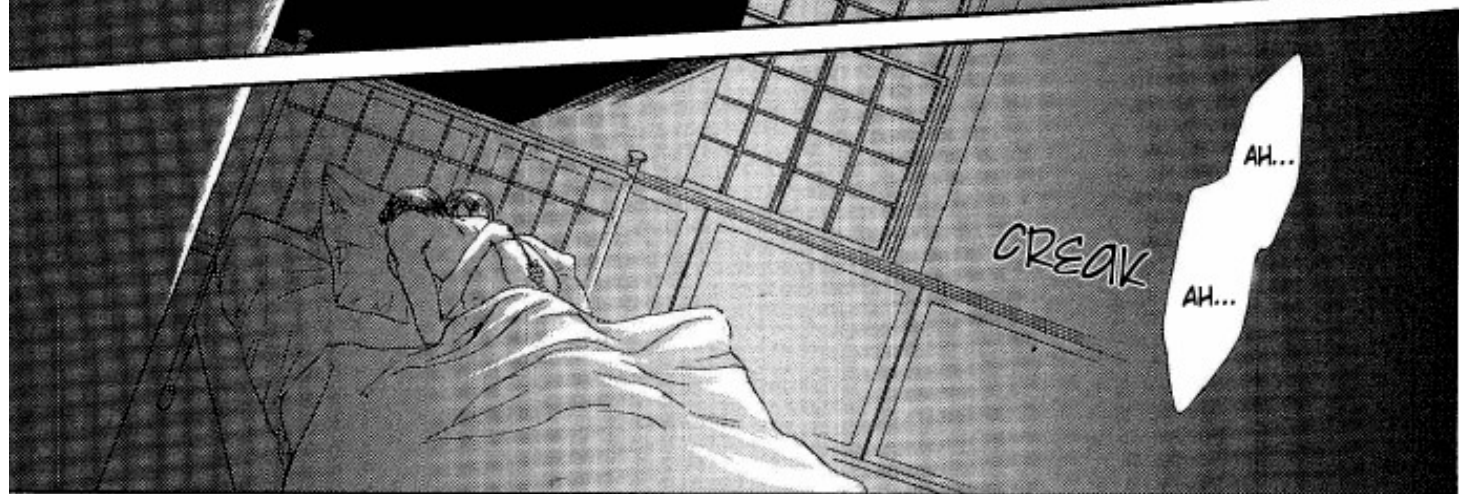
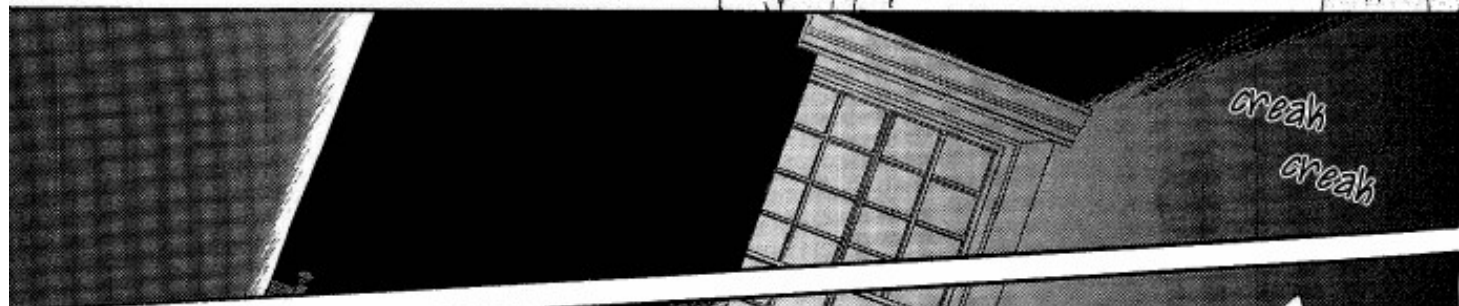
NO...
I CAN'T!

IF I
RETURN NOW,
IT WILL ONLY
SHAME MY
FATHER.



PLEASE
ENTRUST
IT TO ME,

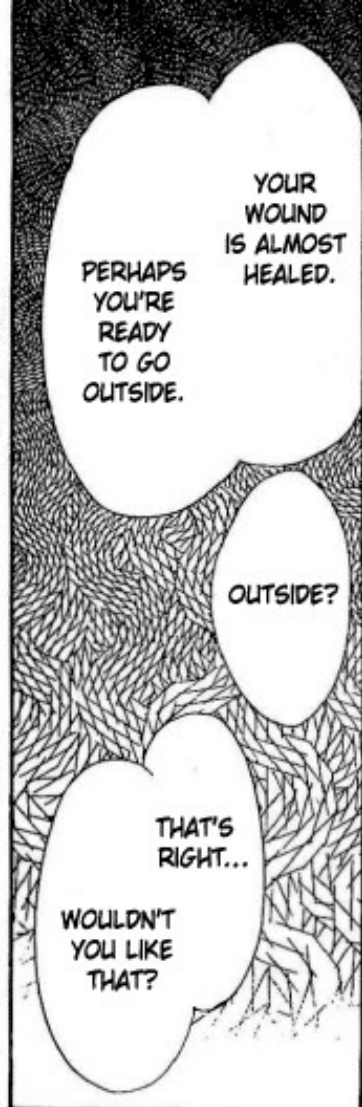
TO
ISAAC.



WHAT'S
WRONG?
YOU'RE SO
WILLING
TODAY.

NNNN...







ARF

ROB,

DON'T GO
TOO FAR
AWAY!

...TO GO
HUNTING?



IT'S BEEN
QUITE A
WHILE,
SO HE'S
EXCITED.

DON'T YOU
GO HUNTING
ALL THAT
OFTEN?

WOOF
WOOF



SORRY...

I WAS JUST
THINKING THAT
OUTFIT SUITS
YOU.

WHAT?



ONCE HE
IS DEAD,
WE CAN
SOMEHOW
MANAGE
EVERYTHING
ELSE.

WE CAN SPREAD
A RUMOR THAT,
ON THE DAY OF THE DUEL,
CLOUDER SOMEHOW SET
A TRAP AND THEN
IMPRISONED YOU.

YOU MUST
KILL THAT MAN,
MASTER WILLIAM,
AND MAKE IT
LOOK LIKE AN
ACCIDENT.



IT
SHOULD.

HUNTING
IS A
NOBLE-
MAN'S
SPORT.

THE MOST
IMPORTANT
THING IS TO MAKE
IT LOOK AS THOUGH
HE USED SOME
COWARDLY MEANS
TO WIN.

IF THE DUEL
APPEARS TAINTED,
THEN THE OUTCOME
WILL NO LONGER
MATTER.



EH?

...RIGHT?

Ah!

I DOCTORED ALL
OF CLOUDER'S BULLETS.
ALL YOU NEED TO DO IS
INVITE HIM TO GO
HUNTING.



WHAT?

TO A MERE
BARON WHO
PURCHASED HIS
TITLE, THE HOUSE
OF PRESTON IS
COMPLETELY OUT
OF REACH.



BECOMING
A NOBLEMAN
HASN'T CHANGED
THINGS THAT
MUCH...

EVEN IF WE
HAD GONE
FOX HUNTING
TOGETHER,

I WOULD
ONLY HAVE
BEEN ABLE TO
GAZE AT YOU
FROM AFAR.



I DIDN'T
THINK THAT
A DAY WOULD
COME WHEN
YOU WOULD
BE STANDING
NEXT TO ME
LIKE THIS.



FROM WHEN
I WAS ONLY A
TRADESMAN.

SHE'S
BEAUTIFUL,

BUT NOT
COMPARED
TO YOU.

BA-
BUMP

THE ONLY
REASON I
HAD TEA
WITH LADY
BEATRIX...

WAS
BECAUSE
SHE'S YOUR
COUSIN AND HAS
THE SAME HAIR
AND EYE COLOR
AS YOU.

BA-
BUMP



I'VE ALWAYS
LOVED YOU...



LORD
PRESTON.



FOUND
'EM!

COULD
IT BE...?

BA-
BUMP

WOULD
HE SAY
THAT...
AT A TIME
LIKE THIS?

LET'S
GO!

WELL,
THEN-

MY
LORD!

THE DOGS
JUST RAN
OFF AFTER
SOME
GAME!

WHY...

WOOF
WOOF

BA-
BUMP



DOES HE KNOW?

NOW...

IF YOU
FIRE THAT
GUN...

CLOUDER!

YOU'LL...



BANG

**DON'T FIRE!
CLOUDER!**





...LIAM...



WILLIAM...



IT'S
ALL RIGHT.



I'M
ALL RIGHT.



TO BE A GENTLEMAN.

THAT MY HEART,

WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN RAISED PROPERLY,
WAS COWARDLY AND SMALL.





CARE FOR ME WITH
THOSE STRONG ARMS?



I'M PENNILESS,
AND LIKE A BARREN WASTELAND,
BUT...

WILL YOU HELP ME TO BE REBORN...

LET'S
GO
HOME...

WILL.

I'LL TAKE
YOU TO MY
ROOM...

LIKE THIS LAND...

THAT YOU LOVE...?

AND
TOGETHER...

AND WE'LL
STAY THERE
A FEW
DAYS,

UNTIL YOU
GET USED
TO IT...

WE'LL
THINK OF A
NEW NAME
FOR YOU.



END