

Happy Lesson - Extra Credit

By The_S

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The continued adventures of the Happy Lesson gang. This time, it centers mostly around Hazuki and her new boyfriend.

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1. Lesson 1 - Obligatory. Hantou Attends a Concert

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Lesson 1 - Obligatory. Hantou Attends a Concert

Hantou Minamoto thrust open the windows and breathed in the cool night air. It had simply gotten too hot and stuffy in his small New York apartment. Most nights when it got like this, he welcomed the outside wind to come into his humble abode. Living on the top floor of seven-story building, he need not fear someone entering his window uninvited.

Hantou had lived in Japan for sixteen years before moving out on his own to America, where he sought to become a pop star. He had achieved his dream, but after a year or so, he fell out of the public eye. Now twenty-two, he worked as a sensei in a shotokan karate dojo. It was not very good pay, but it kept a roof over his head. All he could afford was a three room apartment, but it was good enough for him. Aside from his bathroom and kitchen, all he had was his living room/bedroom/dining room/weight room/whatever room. Of course, this is where he spent most of his time.

As a martial arts teacher, he had to keep himself in peak physical condition. Combating this necessity was his love of food. Thus, his workouts needed to be strict and rigid. He needn't really worry, as he was able to bench press 350 pounds and his muscles were pulled taut all around his body, but he always feared his insatiable appetite would get him in physical trouble someday. Other than singing and shotokan, he didn't really have any other skills, so he didn't want to end up losing his job.

Hantou climbed back into bed and fell asleep nearly instantly. He slept a dreamless sleep, and was then awakened by the shrill sound of his phone ringing. Hantou muttered to himself as he slowly got out of bed; it had rang eight times before he got over to the phone and answered it. "Hello, this is E-P-O-C-H Radio. If you can answer this question, you win two free tickets to tonight's Hazuki Yazakura concert. Are you ready?"

Hantou, irritated at having been woke up an hour early, was obviously not in the mood for such trivial things. And besides that, he knew nothing about popular music. Being a has-been pop star had turned Hantou cold toward the music world. He still sang to himself while showering or working out, but he never paid any attention to the popular singers of today. He had come to America with hopes that his brand of Japanese pop music would be a different change of pace for the Americans, and that they would find him sensational. Instead, he was only popular for a short amount of time before his CD's ended up on the discount rack. Ever since then, he had turned a deaf ear to all music outside his own. He never listened to the radio, he went out of his way to shop at stores that didn't play music... he even muted the TV when a commercial jingle came on. You might think it sounds a bit obsessive, and it is. But given his big disappointment, it just might be justifiable.

So, just to humor the guy, he decided to just take a guess. "All right, I'll give it a shot. What's the

question?"

"Okay. What was the name of the Japanese pop star who sang "Genki Genki Love"?"

This was just too easy. Too perfect. This guy was asking him a question about... himself. There was no way that he could have ever thought that this would happen. Today would have to be his lucky day.

"Hantou Minamoto."

"Congratulations, you've won the prize! Now, all you have to do is come down to the station and pick them up. What's your name?"

"Hantou Minamoto."

"Right, you've already told me the answer. Now what is your name?"

"Hantou Minamoto. My name is Hantou Minamoto."

"Uhhhh... yeah. Anyway, come down to the studio later today, and you can pick up your tickets. Bye now!"

Hantou hung up the phone. He was so excited about having an easy question, he lost sight of more important matters. For one, he didn't even know who this Hazuki Yazakura was. Second, he didn't know anyone who would want to go with him. He had few friends since his singing career went downhill, and those friends he did have, he didn't know what kind of music they liked. He assumed since Hazuki was a Japanese name, that she sang J-Pop or J-Rock. Everyone he knew liked heavy metal or rap.

About noon, he took a taxi down to the radio studio and got his tickets. It wasn't easy; even after showing them his ID, they didn't believe he was actually Hantou Minamoto. It took about an hour to convince them. After he finally left the studio with his tickets, he sold the extra one to the first person he saw for ten dollars. The lady that he sold them to acted like she had won the lottery. Hantou shrugged it off and decided that although he had no idea who this singer was, he would go to the concert anyway. It had been years since he had actually heard a song, and he thought that perhaps it was about time he changed that. Maybe winning the contest was an omen.

The concert was six o' clock that night, and Hantou's seat was reserved for front and center, so he didn't even leave the apartment until five-thirty. He got there at five-fifty, and the concert hall was completely packed. In fact, the only seat that was empty was his. He took his seat and awaited the concert to start. The concert began promptly at six, and Hantou was enchanted from the very beginning. Never had he seen such a beautiful woman as Hazuki Yazakura. Her long brown hair coyly covered her right eye, her ample curves seemed to call out to him, and her outfit screamed style. Even her voice was exquisite enough to put him in a trance.

He knew what was happening.

He had fallen in love.

2. Lesson 2 - Awesome! Hazuki Develops a Crush

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Lesson 2 - Awesome! Hazuki Develops a Crush

"Come on, darling,
Take my outstretched hand!"

The audience exploded in uproarious applause. Many of the audience members stood up, bowing as they clapped. One man, in the front row, merely sat in his seat, an obvious look of awe plastered on his face. All this let Hazuki know that her first concert in America was a smashing success.

Backstage before her next song, Hazuki and her manager, Tomabuki, talked about which member of the audience would win a chance to meet her backstage after the concert.

"So which teenage girl are you going to choose this time, Hazuki?" Tomabuki asked, his flamboyant curls shaking.

"I'm not going to choose a girl this time," Hazuki said in-between bites of bok choy. "There's a guy in the front row who looks absolutely astonished. I think I'll do him a favor and bring him back here."

"But Hazuki, you've NEVER let a guy win the backstage contest! You always pick teenage girls who like you so much they want to be you!"

"Yeah, but this guy's pretty cute," Hazuki said with a wink.

"Oh, you mischeivous little..."

"Tomabuki, you don't know what it's like to have never gone on a date in your life..."

"Yes I do!" Tomabuki protested.

"Okay, forget it. I just want to get to know this guy a bit. It's time for me to live! Besides, if I decide to get serious with him, I'll only know he's the one if he can stand my family." Hazuki winked again.

"Oh, all right, Hazuki. Do what you wish. It's not like I'd be able to talk you out of it..."

"All right, it's time to choose who will win our Happy Backstage With Hazuki Contest!" Hazuki called into the microphone. "Who will it be?"

A spotlight seemed to randomly move across the audience. It swirled around for about twelve seconds, and it finally rested on the man in the front row that Hazuki had been talking to Tomabuki about earlier.

"I'll see YOU after the concert," Hazuki said, pointing to the guy with a wink. She then proceeded to sing her final song.

After the concert, Hazuki eagerly sat awaiting for her guest to arrive, twirling a lock of her hair. When he finally arrived, she could hardly contain herself. She had never really found herself attracted to anybody before, but this guy was quite intriguing. His long black hair flowed as he walked, his clean-shaven face appeared smooth and soft. She especially liked his physique -

broad shoulders and thick muscles. But appearance was only about ten-percent. For some reason, she felt a connection with him just by looking at him. She even felt compelled to leap off of the stage several times and just run over to him.

"Hey, you came," Hazuki said slyly, trying to keep calm. "I thought maybe I scared you off."

"Not at all. I was just sidetracked by that weirdo with the glasses and moustache. He kept asking me odd questions."

Hazuki laughed. "Oh, that's just my manager, Tomabuki. He's absolutely harmless. A little strange, but harmless."

They both shared a laugh, and then they just stared into each other's eyes in silence for a few moments. Finally, Hazuki spoke up. "So, what's your name, handsome?"

She expected him to blush and stammer, but he kept looking into her eyes, and stated in a calm, clear voice, "My name is Hantou Minamoto."

Hazuki's eyes grew wide. "H...Hantou Minamoto?"

"Yes. Is there a problem?" Hantou asked.

Hazuki thought back to the CD that her little sister Minazuki had gotten her for Christmas. It was imported from America, and was called "From Japan With Love", by Hantou Minamoto. Although it wasn't her absolute favorite CD, it had spent a lot of time in her CD player.

"It's just... I have one of your CD's." Hazuki said, she herself blushing. "I must say you're a pretty good singer. So tell me, what brings you here?"

"Well, I won a radio contest. To tell the truth, I've never even heard of you. But don't feel bad, ever since my music career ended, I haven't kept up on music in general."

"Your career ended, huh? How come? You were so good!"

"I guess the Americans just didn't care for me. I was on the top 20 for about a year, but suddenly, sales dropped to the bottom. I tried to retaliate by putting out a second album, but that disc did lousy. So I decided to quit the music biz altogether and pursue my second passion - the martial arts. I'm one of three sensei at the All Nippon Shotokan Dojo."

"Hmmm..." Hazuki sounded genuinely interested. "You know what? I'm pressed for time. But I'll tell you what. How about we go out for lunch tomorrow?"

"Are you actually asking me out?"

Hazuki gasped. She had always thought that her first date would be a big fan of hers asking her out. It was actually the other way around - she was the fan asking HIM out! "Well... I'm... sorry... I..."

To her surprise, Hantou laughed. "No need to apologize. Of course I'll go out with you. I know a great little place that serves just about everything. It's called the Iron Cleaver. You know where it is?"

Hazuki giggled. "No, but I'm sure I can find it. I've only been in New York for three days, but I'm positive I can get directions if I get lost. Noon sound good to you?"

"I'll be there. Trust me, I wouldn't miss it for the world!"

The two parted their own ways, each with a song in their heart - a song that the other had sung.

3. Lesson 3 - Lovely! Hazuki and Hantou's First Date!

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Lesson 3 - Lovely! Hazuki and Hantou's First Date!

Hantou set his alarm to wake him up at nine - a time foreign to him, as he usually slept until eleven. The dojo opened at ten, but he didn't have to come in until three, so he was normally content to sleep the day away. But his date with Hazuki was at noon, so he had to make sure he was ready to go on time. He wasn't terribly nervous, but he wanted some leeway. He didn't want anything to go awry. In fact, he had called to tell the other sensei to tell them that he might not be in today - he didn't want to have to hurry through anything.

Hazuki was a bit more nervous than Hantou, but she wasn't stressing anything. The first thing she did when she got up was shed her pajamas and head straight for the shower. As was customary in Japan, after showering, she sat in a nice relaxing bath. She spent a lot of time while in the bath thinking about Hantou and their date. She wondered if she would scare him off with her appetite. She wondered if they were going to have a good time. She wondered if she should wear a bra. In the end, she decided that she was going to order a lot of food, and if he didn't like it, it was his problem, not hers. But she was very hopeful that they would have fun. And she wasn't going to wear a bra.

When Hazuki stepped out of the bathroom, she saw her little sister, Minazuki standing there. Minazuki and Hazuki were not really sisters, but they met at the orphanage and adopted one another. They also had an adopted brother, Chitose. Minazuki went to America with Hazuki, while Chitose stayed back in Japan at his home.

"Mina, what's up?" Hazuki asked.

"You're going somewhere special today, aren't you? Where are you going?" the cute little redhead asked.

Hazuki thought for a moment. "I'm going out to meet a friend."

"Really? Can I come with you?"

"Uh, no, sorry Mina. Listen, it's nothing personal, just this is only going to be the second time I meet with this friend. I want to get to know him a little bit better before I introduce him to you."

"That's okay," Minazuki said. "I hope I get to meet your friend soon, though."

"Tell ya what. If all goes well today, I'll see if I can take him back with us when we go home. How's that sound?"

"That sounds like fun. "

"Yeah, I'll see you when I get back!" Hazuki turned down the hallway and went into her room. She closed the door and dropped her towel. Doing a few stretches, she looked at herself in the full-length mirror. She was going to have to decide what to wear. Usually she just threw on any ol' thing. But she wanted her first date to be special, so she decided to go with a traditional kimono. No doubt Hantou would be wearing Western-style clothes, but she really wanted to impress him. She also made sure the kimono was tied just right so that a fair amount of her cleavage was showing.

When she was ready to go, Hazuki looked over at Minazuki, who was on the phone chatting, no doubt to Chitose. She called him every morning to see how he was. Hazuki was at first worried that she'd run up the hotel's phone bill, but decided that they'd be able to afford it, and let her little sister do as she wished. As she walked out the door, she blew a kiss and said, "Give my love to Chii!" Minazuki smiled and nodded.

Hantou stood outside the Iron Cleaver with his hands in his pockets, waiting for Hazuki to arrive. He had been there since eleven, just to make sure he was prompt. Now it was three after twelve. He wasn't worried, as he reasoned that it was only a couple of minutes. Sure enough, within the next minute, he saw Hazuki walking toward him. He gave a grin and walked toward her.

"So glad you could make it, m'lady," he said with a bow.

"Oh, you're so chivalrous," Hazuki said with a giggle. "Please, can we go in? I'm starving." Hantou swung open the door and bowed again. "After you, madam."

The Iron Cleaver was a family restaurant that served nearly any kind of food. It had two floors and seating for 300 people. When Hantou had referenced it as a "little place", that was a gross understatement. It was HUGE.

"Holy crap, this place is amazing!" Hazuki exclaimed.

"I thought you'd like it," Hantou said. "I eat here all the time. I hate to admit it, but I can't cook."

"Don't worry about it. I can't cook either. But I sure can eat! Let's get a table!"

Hantou was going to order a salad, as to not eat his regular amount of food and scare off Hazuki. But when she ordered an All-You-Can-Eat platter, he decided to change his order to match hers. He figured he wouldn't have to hide his appetite if she was eating a lot, too. But when he thought she was going to eat a lot, he couldn't imagine how much she'd actually eat. Hantou stopped at twelve plates. Hazuki was on her twenty-first and still going.

"Jeez! I thought I was a heavy eater. Where do you pack all of that food?" Hantou asked.

"It's the Art of Eating - Ogado. I can eat all I want and not get full or gain a pound!"

"Damn, that's impressive! If everybody trained in Ogado, they'd all be in great shape!"

"Well, it's not that easy. The training is very rigorous and demanding. A lot of people drop out of the training within the first week! Now excuse me, I'm going to go get some more!"

Hantou was amazed. They had so much in common. They both enjoyed singing, eating, ice cream, and hot baths. Hazuki, although she hadn't studied them, had always admired the martial arts. He could easily see himself going on a second date with her.

When Hazuki returned, Hantou respectfully requested to pick a few things off of her plate. She said she didn't mind, especially since he was paying. They shared a laugh over that. Hantou then asked her if she'd go on another date with him later that week.

"Actually," Hazuki said coyly. "I have to go back to Japan this Thursday."

"Oh." Hantou looked downward in dejection.

"Um, Hantou... I was wondering if you'd come with me...?"

"Oh?" Hantou instantly perked up. Over the last few months, he had been contemplating returning to Japan, but he couldn't afford it. Now that he was going to be traveling with his new girlfriend, the world's most famous pop star, there was no way in Hell he was going to miss an opportunity like this. "You bet I will!"

"I thought you would." Hazuki placed a hand on top of Hantou's. "From the moment I saw you out in the audience, something clicked. I have never looked out in the audience and thought "Wow, that guy's cute" or whatever. I usually ignore who's out in the crowd and just sing. But there was something about you that caught my attention..."

"You know, the call I got from the radio station asked the question "Who sang Genki Genki Love?" I think you might know the answer to that one..."

Hazuki smiled. "Of course. You sang it. So what you're saying, that you think that fate had a little hand in our meeting...?"

"I don't really know what to think. But all I know is, we've only been on one date, and already you're the greatest thing to happen to me."

"You know what, Hantou?" Hazuki said. "I feel the same way."

After Hazuki had finished her thirty-third plate, she finally decided she was finished. Hantou offered to walk her home, or perhaps catch a cab with her, but she said she'd be fine going home on her own. Before they parted, Hantou bent down on one knee and kissed her hand. She giggled, and then when he stood up, wrapped her arms around him and caught him in a strong liplock. When finished, she turned her back to him and began to walk off, giving a slight wave as she disappeared around the corner.

Hantou walked down to the corner and hailed a cab. After getting into the taxi and telling the driver where to drop him off, all he could think about was Hazuki. He could still feel her lips on his. Her wonderful voice still rang in his ears. And it was all set - he was to pack up everything he wanted to bring with him and meet her at the Iron Cleaver Wednesday at 6 PM. She would bring her little sister, and the three of them would have dinner. Then, he would go back to the apartment with them, and stay the night over there. At 3 PM Thursday, they would board Hazuki's personal plane, and head off to Japan.

"Hey bud, that'll be \$10.50." The cabbie interrupted Hantou's thoughts.

"Oh, sorry. Thanks a lot." He paid his fare, plus tip, and exited the vehicle. He was now in front of Castle Records, the largest music store in the Big Apple. The moment he walked in, he saw a life-sized standee of Hazuki. It was promoting her newest CD, "Ai no Kazoku". Hantou grabbed a copy of the CD without hesitation. He then asked an employee to help him find any and all Hazuki Yazakura CD's. It turned out that there were eight of them other than "Ai no Kazoku". He bought all of them, then walked the two blocks home.

4. Lesson 4 - Life-Changing! Trip to Japan

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Lesson 4 - Life-Changing! Trip to Japan!

Hantou's heart leapt for joy when he saw Hazuki turn around the corner. Next to her was a girl much shorter than Hazuki, with red hair and a cute face. He could only guess that this was Minazuki, Hazuki's younger sister. She looked as if she were about ten or twelve, but Hazuki had said she was nearly sixteen. Hantou told her that she was probably just a late bloomer.

"Hi there, Han," Hazuki whispered in Hantou's ear as she threw her arms around him.

Hantou kissed the back of her neck. "Hi yourself."

Hazuki released her boyfriend, and then bowed. She held a hand out toward him, and turned toward Minazuki. "Mina, this is Hantou. Han, this is Mina."

Hantou bowed deeply. "A pleasure to meet you, little lady."

Minazuki also bowed. "Nice meeting you."

Hazuki's stomach growled loud enough for all of them to hear. "I'd like to stick around and exchange pleasantries a bit longer, but I'm famished. I haven't eaten since those twelve box lunches an hour ago!"

"Oh, Hazuki," Hantou said. "You're always famished, aren't you?" He grabbed the door and swung it open. "After you, ladies."

Once they had been seated, they all three ordered the All-You-Can Eat special. Mina stopped at two plates, but Hantou and Hazuki had a little competition to see who could eat the most. Hantou, who hadn't eaten all day in anticipation for this meal, stopped at seventeen. Hazuki, who had just eaten at five-o'clock, ate thirty-five plates full of food. By the time they had left, it was already eight-thirty, and Minazuki was feeling sleepy. So the three of them turned the corner, and entered the hotel that Hazuki and Minazuki had been staying in. Mina got her pajamas on and instantly went to bed, while Hazuki and Hantou lay on the couch holding one another, whispering softly. Bye nine-forty-five, they had both drifted off to sleep.

Hantou was awakened all at once by the feeling of something in his mouth. His eyes flew open instantly to see Hazuki, plunging her tongue into his mouth. He returned the favor, and they kissed for ten minutes before they both decided simultaneously to get up and prepare for their flight.

Shortly after Hazuki finished nuking up some Chinese food that was in the refrigerator (it wasn't technically leftovers, more like "food set aside for later so that Hazuki wouldn't end up eating it"), Minazuki got up and complained that she was hungry. Hazuki moaned about having just made enough noodles for her and Hantou (which consisted of about twenty pounds of chow mein), but Hantou happily cut his portion by a third to give to Mina. Eventually, Hantou brought up the subject of his dojo, and how he had to call in and say he wouldn't be coming back for quite a while. Before he met Hazuki, he had never taken time off, even when he had the stomach flu, so he had plenty of vacation days to use up (quite handy when your dojo is part of

a union). Hazuki mentioned that back home, she had an entire collection of Bruce Lee DVDs. Mina said that she had taken Tai Chi in school. Hantou was about to ask Minazuki what she thought of the art, when the phone rang.

The phone was directly behind Hantou, so he asked permission to answer it. After receiving confirmation, he picked up the receiver.

"Hello?"

A woman's voice. "Oh, sorry, I must have the wrong number." Click.

"It was a wrong number," Hantou explained after hanging up the phone himself. He barely had enough time to sit down, when it rang again.

"Hello."

The same woman. "Oh, I must have dialed the number incorrectly again. Excuse..."

"Wait," Hantou interrupted. "Who are you calling for?"

"Hazuki Yazakura. This is Yayoi Sanzein."

Hantou pulled the receiver away from his ear. "Hazuki, it's for you. It's someone named Yayoi."

Hazuki's eyes lit up. "Oh, Mama Yayoi!" She hastily grabbed the phone that was offered to her.

"Mama Yayoi?" Hantou asked Minazuki. "That's your mother on the phone? She sounds a little young..."

"Yeah, she is. One of, at least."

"One of? What do you mean 'one of?'" One of your... mothers?"

Minazuki giggled. "Don't worry about it. You'll find out soon enough..."

"Mama Yayoi says that Chii has a stomachache," Hazuki said, hanging up the phone. "And he refuses to let her cut him open or use herbs to heal him. So she says that she wants us to bring some American stomach medication."

"Wait... herbs? Mothers? Cutting open? What the...?" Hantou collapsed in confusion.

Minazuki and Hazuki giggled. There was something they weren't telling him.

"Okay, spill it girls. Hazuki, I know your tickle spots, so don't make me use them!" Hantou exclaimed.

"Why don't you come and get me?" Hazuki taunted, throwing a piece of beef at Hantou and hitting him in the face. She then tore off running down the hallway. "Run, Mina!"

Mina leapt up from her seat and pushed her chair in Hantou's way. He tripped over it and went sprawling on the floor. He could hear Minazuki running off in the distance, when he just happened to glance down at his watch.

"HOLY CRAP!" he yelled. "Ladies, I believe we've let our fun run a little too long. It's already one-o'-clock! We've got to start packing!"

Obviously, the girls thought he was bluffing so he could catch them. Minazuki was the first to peek to see if their assumptions were correct, and indeed, he was making sure everything he needed was in his bags. Mina whispered to Hazuki that it was okay, and seconds later, they too, began tending to their suitcases.

A little over two hours later, they were on their plane and in the air. Mina had the window seat; Hazuki sat in the middle, laying her head on Hantou's shoulder. Tomabuki sat on the opposite side from them, talking to Hazuki, who was obviously not listening to him. The guitar-playing manager seemed to be oblivious that his ranting fell on deaf ears.

They were aboard Hazuki's private plane, and she would have delayed her flight for at least a day or two, if Tomabuki wasn't such a stickler for time. Sometimes he irritated her terribly, but

he was a very good manager, and they had been together so long, she didn't even recall how and when they met. Still, his constant complaining was enough to drive one to madness. Hazuki desperately tried to tune out her annoying manager, and focus on Hantou. Although she would have thought they were rushing their relationship, there was something about him that made her feel otherwise. It seemed he felt the same way. He he only met her earlier that week, and now he was coming home with her. That wasn't too bad, was it? Hazuki felt a tad confused. This was the first serious relationship she had ever been in. She didn't know enough facts about dating to tell if this was too fast for them. If she trusted her heart, it wasn't. If she listened to her brain, there was a two-percent chance they were rushing things. Two percent was not a large percentage, but she wished it were zero. That would have made her more comfortable. And what if the Moms scared him off? She loved each and every one of them, but they were rather manic. Before long, Hazuki's eyelids began to become heavy, and she nodded off, her head slipping off of Hantou's shoulder and onto his lap.

When she awoke, Hantou was carrying her limp body. They were no doubt off of the plane... but she couldn't place where they were. They definitely weren't at the airport... where they in downtown Tokyo?

"Morning, sunshine," Hantou said, noticing that Hazuki was now awake. He slowed his walking to a near shuffle.

"Uhh..." Hazuki stretched and popped her shoulders with a yawn. "Where are we?"

"We're looking around for your brother's house. Mina's telling me how to get there."

For the first time, Hazuki noticed the petit pair of hands enclasped at the bottom of Hantou's thick neck. Minazuki popped her head up from behind Hantou's. "Hi, Hazuki! We're almost to Chitose's!"

"Wait... where's our bags?" Hazuki said, looking around for their luggage.

"I already dropped them off at your and Mina's apartment," Hantou began to explain. "Mina's leg fell asleep, so I offered to carry her. You weren't in any condition to walk yourself, so I obliged in carrying you, too. As well as all of our luggages. That fink Tomabuki didn't even stick around to help. He just grunted at me and left. I don't think he likes me too well..."

"Well, that's Tomabuki for you. He probably thinks you're going to distract me from my tours. His heart is in the right place. It's just that his brain isn't."

Hazuki wiggled a bit. "You can put me down now, Han."

"Why?" Hantou seemed a bit offended. "I rather enjoy carrying you. Besides, we're almost there. I'll set you down just before we get to Cheese's place."

"Chitose."

"What'd I say?"

"Cheese."

Hantou shrugged. "Whatever. I just hope we get there before it starts raining. I'd hate to get caught in a thundershower; it looks pretty bad, and I left my umbrella back at your apartment."

Minazuki let out a soft giggle. "Don't worry, it shouldn't take us too much longer. I can actually see the house from here!"

Within the span of two minutes, they had reached Chitose's front door. Hantou carefully set Hazuki down, allowing her to stretch.

"Allow me to do the honors?" Hantou requested, grabbing the doorknob.

Hazuki laughed. "Be my guest, but I'm warning you..."

"Warning me?" said a puzzled Hantou, slowly turning the knob.

Suddenly, the blade of a katana came towards Hantou from out of the doorway.

5. Lesson 5 - Exciting! Meeting the Family

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Lesson 5 - Exciting! Meeting the Family

Acting purely on reflex, Hantou hopped backwards out of the katana's range and placed his left foot on the side of the blade, guiding it quickly to the ground. Still placing pressure on the sword so that his assailant could not attack him again, Hantou eased into a shotokan stance, ready for the next move.

"Mama Yayoi!" Minazuki squealed, hopping down off of Hantou's back and hugging the attacker. The sword's owner was a woman with long, flowing brown hair who was wearing a white-and-red shinto priestess' kimono. She dropped the katana while she hugged the red-headed girl in return.

"Wha?" Hantou gasped. "This is your MOTHER? She almost killed me!"

"I do apologize." Yayoi bowed deeply. "Kisaragi's security system designated an unknown presence accompanying Hazuki and Minazuki. We thought you might have been a stalker."
"Did you say Kisa..."

Hazuki took a step forward and put a hand on Hantou's shoulder, interrupting him. "This is Hantou Minamoto. My boyfriend."

"Hazuki's got a boy toy, eh? Lemme see how strong he is!"

"Huh?" Hantou said, looking around in confusion. "Where'd that voice come from?"

From inside the house, a woman with short-cropped blue hair, a white t-shirt, and black shorts came running toward him at the speed of sound. From out of nowhere, she pulled out a giant barbell and tossed it to Hantou without effort. Hantou caught it above his head, and realized that the barbell was extremely heavy - much heavier than he was used to lifting. However, he was still able to hold it with minimal strain.

"What... how much is this?" Hantou grunted.

The blue-haired woman laughed. "Hey, you ARE pretty strong. That's five-hundred!"

"No way!" Hantou protested. "Five-hundred pounds?"

"Yeah," she responded, easily taking the weight from him. "Not too shabby."

Hazuki giggled. "Leave him alone, Mama Satsuki. He's probably jet-lagged."

"MAMA?" Hantou yelled. "She is your mother, too? Holy crap, how many do you have?"

Without warning, Hantou felt something strange on his body. He looked down and saw he was wearing a girl's school uniform.

"WHAT THE HELL?!?"

A short, blonde girl with a similar outfit stood next to him. She began dancing back and forth. "How, you're such a pretty Sailor Scout! You can be Mars! I'll be Moon!"

"Mars? Moon? Sailor Scouts? I don't think I wanna be a part of this!" He tore off the uniform. Underneath, was a tuxedo. The short girl threw a mask and top hat at him. "Fine. Then you can be Tuxedo Kamen!"

Hantou put the mask and hat on. In a much deeper voice than his own, he said "Yes, this is much better!"

Hazuki gave him a quizzical look. "Uh, Hantou, what exactly are you doing?"

Hantou turned toward her. "Hey, if I'm going to be spending time with these nutballs, I might as well make the most of it!" He turned back toward the girl. "I am Tuxedo Hantou! Now what are you again, little girl?"

Hazuki interrupted the girl. "Um... actually, that's Mama Uzuki."

"Mama? She looks younger than me! How can she be your mother?"

Before any answer could be given, a large tray of food was thrust into his face. "Please, take some," said the brown haired woman with glasses and a french maid's outfit, who was holding the tray. "You must be famished from your trip."

"Lemme guess. This is one of your moms, as well?"

Hazuki had ignored Hantou's question. Instead, she was scarfing down the food. "Thank you very much, Mama Mutsuki."

"Actually," said Mutsuki, "This was for him." She pointed at Hantou.

"Oh, sorry. Here, then." Hazuki held out the remaining food for Hantou. It was very little - not even enough for Hantou to consider a small snack. "Thanks, honey..." Hantou said sarcastically.

Just as he was about to eat the minute portion of food, a trap door opened near Hantou's feet, and a purple-haired woman with a lab coat popped out. "Oh, hi there."

"KISARAGI?" Hantou yelled.

Hazuki was puzzled. "You know her?"

Hantou turned toward Hazuki. "KNOW her? She's my HALF-SISTER!"

"Hi, Hantou," Kisaragi said, in her usual, soft-spoken voice. "I haven't seen you since you left for America, exactly six years, seven months, ten days, thirty-two minutes, and eleven seconds ago."

"You've been keeping track of exactly how long I've been gone?"

Kisaragi nodded. "Mmm-hmm. I missed my little brother." She gave a little smile.

Hantou recalled the day that he had met Kisaragi. His father had begun dating Kisaragi's mother, and she had brought Kisaragi over to play with him one day. He was merely four at that time, and Kisaragi was ten. They got along quite well back then, but as Hantou got older, he realized just how strange she was.

"I suppose she's your mother, too?" Hantou said.

Hazuki nodded.

"Okay, this is just way beyond bizarre! You have what, FIVE mothers now?"

"Yep. Five of 'em."

"And one of them is my half-sister Kisaragi. That means I'm dating my own niece?"

"None of them are my real mothers. Remember, I grew up in an orphanage. We just consider each other mothers and daughter because they adopted Chitose."

"That makes a bit more sense. But at the same time, it's totally insane! These five women adopted one boy?"

"We're also his teachers," stated Kisaragi.

"Teachers? Oh, man, this is definately weird..."

Hazuki appeared hurt. "Does this mean... you don't like me anymore? On account of my family?"

Hantou grabbed Hazuki's hand between both of his. "Hazuki, nothing could be further from the truth. I love you. It'll just take me some getting used to all these weirdos." He turned toward his half-sister. "And you're the weirdest of anyone, Kisaragi. I know from experience!"

Kisaragi grinned.

"Hey! Can you keep it down! I'm SICK here!"

"The Hell was that?" Hantou asked, cautiously picking up Yayoi's katana.

"That was Chitose," Yayoi answered, taking her sword from Hantou and resheathing it. "Hazuki, did you bring the medicine?"

"Oh, damn, I forgot," said Hazuki, slapping her forehead.

"I've got some," Hantou said. "I had it in my suitcase, but I remembered your brother was sick, and slipped it in my pocket." He walked over to the couch, where a black-haired teenager was lying in a sleeping bag zipped all the way up.

"So you're Hantou," Chitose said.

"Indeed. Nice to meet you, Chitose."

"I'd shake your hand or bow, but Mama Yayoi's got me wrapped up like a mummy. I can't even move."

Hantou took out some medication from his back pocket. "Here then, lad. Take some of this, and you'll feel better."

"Did that stuff touch your butt?" Chitose complained.

"It was in my pocket. But then again, I did have beans before I left."

"ARE YOU INSANE? I'M NOT TAKING ANYTHING THAT HAS BEEN MARINATED IN YOUR GAS!"

"Calm down, kid. I'm kidding. I had Chinese for breakfast. Now lie still and open wide, or I'll pour this whole bottle down your throat."

"But gluggodogdogo!" Chitose attempted to continue complaining, but Hantou had shoved the medication into his mouth. Hantou turned toward Hazuki and the others. "Jeez, he sure is a whiner, isn't he?"

"Yep. That's our Chitose!" Satsuki said. "We're so proud of him!"

An hour later, the eight of them were eating dinner. Chitose was feeling much better, but still just picked at his food. Hazuki and Hantou devoured an excessive amount of the food, consuming nearly fifty-five pounds between them. They were still hungry after they ate all of the food, as they were not planning to have another guest, let alone one that ate nearly as much as Hazuki. Uzuki and Satsuki got into a food fight over something as trivial as pronunciation of a word, and began throwing their food at each other. Hantou grabbed most of the airborne food and shared it between himself and Hazuki. The two bickering moms stopped when they decided that it wasn't any fun since much of their ammo wasn't hitting their targets. Chitose began complaining how nuts his family was, when Hantou slapped a strip of duct tape on his mouth. Chitose removed the duct tape and began shouting at him.

"What gives you the right to shut me up? You're not even family!"

"Of course I am, Chii. Kisaragi's my sister, so I'm your uncle. Plus I'm dating Hazuki, so I'm sort of your brother, too!"

"That just proves how screwed up my family is! My uncle is dating my sister, and it's not at all

considered incest! And don't ever call me Chii again! Only Hazuki can call me that!"
"Oh, calm down. I told him he can call you that," Hazuki said. "And if you don't like it, tough."
"Yeah, if you don't cooperate, I'll just have Kisaragi do some weird experiment on you."
Kisaragi, who a mere second ago was sitting at an empty apple box that was her makeshift table, suddenly popped out of the ceiling above Chitose with an electrode in her hand. "You called, Hantou?"
"OKAY, OKAY!" Chitose yelled. "You can call me Chii! Just get her electrode away from me!"
Kisaragi dropped the electrode on Chitose. "Oops."
Seconds later, 10,000 volts of electricity coursed through Chitose's body, sending him flying through the air and forcing him into the wall behind him.

The entire family rushed over to Chitose's unconscious body. "Is he dead?" Hantou asked, poking Chitose in the side with a finger.
"I don't think so," Satsuki said. "Chitose's survived every one of Kisaragi's bizarro experiments and contraptions. This was actually mild compared to some of the stuff she cooks up!"
"Chitose!" Minazuki cried, wrapping her arms around her brother. Chitose merely moaned in pain.

6. Lesson 6 - Heart-filled! Touching Reunion

Happy Lesson - Extra Credit

By The S

Lesson 6 - Heart-filled! Touching Reunion!

The mothers had offered to let Hazuki, Hantou, and Minazuki stay overnight with them, and they gladly accepted. Satsuki volunteered to give up her room so that Hazuki and Hantou could be alone together; she temporarily bunked up with Kisaragi. Minazuki slept in Mutsuki's room, and Chitose complained about still having to sleep on the couch.

About ten-o'clock, Hantou and Hazuki were still lying in bed awake. Up until then, they had been silent, but Hazuki had a nagging question on her mind.

"Hantou."

"Yes, m' love."

"You find my family insane, right?"

"Nuttier than a fruitcake."

"So why have you been so... LIKE them? I mean, you acted offended when we first arrived, but after a while you started acting like you enjoyed it."

"To be honest with you, first and foremost, I did it for you. But also, hey, they say, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em, right? And then when I saw Kisaragi was here, that cinched it. She might bug me a lot, but we did have some good times together."

Hazuki let out a low chuckle. "Something really strange had to be going on for all of this to happen. I mean, first Mina and I meet Chitose. Then, all five of Chitose's teachers decide at once to adopt him and come live with him. Then Chii, Mina, and I all reunite. Then you get a call for a contest, where the answer to their question is you. You win the tickets to my concert, we instantly fall in love, and to top it all off, come to find out Mama Kisaragi is your half-sister."

"It's destiny, babe. It was all set in motion before any of us were even born. There's no way that it could all be coincidence."

Then, for a good while, they were silent again. Hantou couldn't fall asleep, but Hazuki was out by ten forty-five. By eleven-thirty, he decided he'd go out on the roof and get some fresh air. When he stepped out and saw Kisaragi there, he was obviously surprised.

"Kisa, what are you doing up at this hour?"

Kisaragi answered him without turning around. "I couldn't sleep. Satsuki's snoring is murder."

"Ha ha. So I guess that's why you sleep alone in the basement, huh?" Hantou crossed the roof and put an arm around his half-sister's shoulders. "Still coming outside when you can't sleep, eh?"

"You've always done the same, Hantou."

A short pause. Then, Hantou said "You know what? Most of my life I kind of shunned you because I thought you were weird and strange. I mean, when we were little kids, it was fine, because kids are supposed to be weird. But as you grew up, you became obsessed with dangerous creatures, and ruling the world. Then you started hanging out with that Kama chick..."

"Kanna."

"Whatever. The point is, now that I've seen you again today, I realized how much I missed you."

"I've missed you too, Hantou."

"Well, yeah. You freakin' calculated my absence to the second."

"Yes. I, too, thought you were odd."

"Oh? What do you mean, Kisa?"

"When you were ten, you became obsessed with shotokan. Father could not pry you away from your training no matter what."

"Ha ha... yeah."

"But I saw past that. You are my brother. Forget the "half" part. I love you infinitely. Fate brought our family together, and it brought you to me once again."

Hantou was taken aback. That was exactly what he and Hazuki was talking about.

"Even with my great scientific knowledge, I cannot begin to describe what fate and destiny are. All I know, they are forces that make things happen for a reason. Perhaps it is some all-seeing, all-knowing god. Perhaps we're simply an experiment for some larger, more advanced species. Whatever it is, it flows through our lives like an endless river."

"Kisa, are you a mind reader or something? That's exactly what Hazuki and I were talking about earlier!"

"I know. I had to pass Satsuki's room on my way up to the rooftop. I apologize for eavesdropping."

Hantou laughed, and it echoed across the night sky. "And I thought you were getting all mystical on me."

"Indeed I am, Hantou. You see, I had just been thinking about that very subject while trying to fall asleep."

"Uncanny."

Kisaragi turned around and threw her arms around Hantou's shoulders. "There was something set in the ways of the universe that made our family come all together. There is no way that all of us here could have come together on accident."

"Can you can the theatrics for a while, Kisa? I'd just like to enjoy your company for a while."

Hantou brought Kisaragi closer to his chest and embraced her in a tight hug. After ten minutes, Kisaragi spoke. "I believe I will return to bed. If Satsuki's snoring gives me any trouble, I will come up with an invention of some sort. You take care of Hazuki. She's my daughter, you know."

Hantou chuckled. "Will do, "Mama" Kisaragi. I'll see you in the morning."

When Hantou awoke, he noticed that Hazuki was still asleep. She must have had terrible jet lag, even though she slept through nearly the entire trip. He didn't really sleep that much at all, especially considering that he was up for so long with Kisaragi. He wondered how Mina had slept. Hantou looked down at Hazuki, resting comfortably on his chest. Just by staring at her, he felt ecstatic. He had lost himself in her presence, when a knock on the door brought him back to reality.

"Yeah?"

"It's me." Kisaragi's voice. "Mutsuki has made breakfast. I came to wake you up."

"All right. Say, Kisa? Can you come in here a second?"

Kisaragi opened the door. "What?"

"So how'd you sleep last night? Did you have to deal with Satsuki's orchestra of a bad sleeping habit."

Kisaragi held up what appeared to be a gas mask. "Snore No More, Version 1.3"

"Ha ha. Anyway, I'll be sure to get Hazuki up. We'll be there soon."

"All right. Goodbye for now." Kisaragi turned and shut the door behind her.

After Kisaragi had left, Hantou gently shook Hazuki and called her name until she woke up. She looked up at him, brushed the hair away from her eye, and said "Hiya, Han."

Hantou kissed her forehead. "Hiya yourself. Anyway, Mutsuki's got breakfast ready, so..."

"Where did you go last night? I woke up at midnight, and you were gone."

Hantou cleared his throat. "I couldn't fall asleep, so I went to the rooftop for some fresh air. Kisa was up there, and we talked at length. I hadn't seen her in more than six years, so we had some catching up to do."

"Okay. Now what say we get to that breakfast. It's not going to eat itself."

When they got to the kitchen, everyone had already begun eating. Hantou and Hazuki sat down, and began digging in. Hantou asked how Mina had slept, and she said she slept great. Satsuki said that Kisaragi had kept her up all night with her snoring. Kisaragi and Hantou looked at one another and chuckled. Chitose resolved to complaining about his family again.

"Why is it Hantou gets to sleep in a room and I don't? It's MY freaking house, and I'm stuck on the couch all the time!"

Yayoi whipped out her sword and held the sharp edge of the blade against the bottom of Chitose's chin. "Because we're the mothers, and we make all of the rules around here. Am I making myself perfectly clear, Chitose?"

Chitose held his breath. "Yes, Mama Yayoi."

Yayoi sheathed her katana. "Besides, Hantou is our guest. It would have been rude to force him to sleep on the couch, now wouldn't it have been, my son?"

Chitose nodded his head vigorously.

"Ah, leave 'im alone, Yayoi," said Satsuki, grabbing Chitose in a headlock and giving him a violent noogie. "Chitose is a good boy. He's just not happy unless he's complaining, that's all!"

"That's not true! I'm just tired of being treated unfairly in my own house! And you people are adults! You should START ACTING LIKE THEM!"

"Oh, Chitose, you're so cute when you're pissed off! BOOBY TRAP!" Satsuki stuck Chitose's head in-between her breasts and began furiously rubbing them on him.

Hantou turned to Hazuki and whispered "How about you give me one of those later?"

Hazuki snickered. "Oh, Hantou, you're so naughty."

"Is that a no?"

"It's a maybe."

"Get me out of here!" Chitose yelled amidst his prison of cloth and flesh.

A large explosion outside fulfilled the boy's request. A second sent them all scurrying outside to see what was causing the noise.

Hantou gasped when he saw the person responsible for the destruction. She seemed awfully familiar. The dirty-blond girl with thick glasses and a jet pack was flying around, tossing smoke bombs.

"I want my Chitose! Give me Chitose!"

"Kanna!" Kisaragi said. "Stop this at once!"

"Kanna?" Hantou yelled. "That's your friend Kanna?"

Kisaragi nodded. "She's developed an unhealthy obsession with Chitose."

"Kanna!" Hantou yelled, taking a step forward. "This is Hantou, Kisaragi's brother!"

"Hantou?" Kanna was confused. "What are you doing here?"

"I want you to stop this foolishness at once!"

"Never! I must have the man of my dreams!"

"All right then, you've asked for it!" Hantou turned toward the others. "You guys are my family, and nobody messes with my family. Not even whiny teenaged brats like Chitose. Today, we FIGHT!"

7. Lesson 7 - Dangerous! Kanna's Diabolical Plot!

Happy Lesson - Extra Credit

By The S

Lesson 7 - Dangerous! Kanna's Diabolical Plot!

Yayoi rested her hand on her katana, ready to draw it at a moment's notice.

Satsuki did some stretching, popping nearly every bone in her body in the process.

Hantou slid slowly and easily into the shotokan karate fighting stance.

"Get ready, Kanna!" Hantou yelled. "Jetpack or not, we're taking you down!"

"You're not keeping me from Chitose!" Kanna yelled back.

"The Hell we're not!" said Satsuki. "All right, buddy boy, let's do this!"

Satsuki began sprinting towards where Kanna was floating. Hantou ran along the top of a concrete wall that stretched across several neighbors' yards. At the exact same moment, Satsuki and Hantou leapt, aiming their attacks at Kanna. Kanna, however, simply flew out of the way, and Hantou ended up kicking Satsuki in the face. She squeezed his groin.

The two fell to the ground. Satsuki swore at the top of her lungs, while Hantou clutched himself in seething agony. Kanna merely flew around, laughing and taunting.

Suddenly, a flash, and an explosion. Yayoi had used the art of zanzoken, appearing quickly behind Kanna in mid-air without notice. She had slashed Kanna's jetpack twice before landing, ensuring that the mad scientist's transportation was thoroughly disabled. Kanna hit the ground in a slump.

"Hey, that's not fair!" Kanna whined. "I was winning!"

"Oh just shut up and admit that you were beaten!" Satsuki said, standing up and rubbing her face.

Hantou lurched to his feet. "Ugh. Yeah. Now why don't you give up your little plot to kidnap Chitose, and get the heck outta here?"

"Never!" A small puppy walked by Kanna at that moment. "Oh, hi, Chibisuke!"

Chibisuke was a puppy that had been hit by a car one day while Kanna was stalking Chitose. Chitose took it to the vet, and then to his place to recuperate. Kanna, who had come to his house pretending to be concerned about the dog, became attached to Chibisuke, forgetting that she went over there to seduce Chitose.

Chibisuke walked over to Kanna and began yipping in excitement. He obviously recognized her.

"Now," Hantou whispered to Satsuki. "While she's distracted!"

Just before Chibisuke reached Kanna, Satsuki dashed over to her and put her in a figure-four leglock.

"Help! Help! Help!" Kanna screamed.

Chibisuke barked.

"All right, Satsuki!" Hantou said. "My turn!" Satsuki released Kanna. Hantou grabbed Kanna by the jacket and jetpack and lifted her above his head.

Chibisuke barked again.

Hantou took a deep breath. "Stay. Away. From. My. Family!" With that, he threw Kanna clear over ten city blocks. He laughed as Kanna screamed.

"That certainly was fun," said Yayoi.

"Yeah, well, you didn't have a foot in your face," Satsuki complained.

"Or a hand squashing your... wait... never mind," Hantou said.

"Well, I don't think we'll be seeing her again any time soon," Satsuki said in a more cheerful tone. She grabbed Hantou and put him in a half-nelson. "Yeah, I think this guy's gonna make a welcome addition to the family. Whattya all say?"

Everyone agreed, except Chitose, who just groaned.

"Stay out of the way! I want Chitose!"

Everybody looked toward where the voice was coming from. Kanna had returned, and had a belt that had four giant mechanical legs, and two giant mechanical arms ending in claws.

"How the Hell did you get back here so fast?" Hantou yelled in confusion. "I just threw you into the next prefecture!"

"Mister Crabs Belt, Version 3.0," said Kisaragi. "She apparently used the belt to stop herself from falling."

"That makes no difference," Hantou said. "She's going down again. You guys ready?"

A large claw swung in the family's direction, knocking most of them down. The only ones left standing were Hantou, Chitose, Uzuki, and Kisaragi.

Chibisuke ran over to Chitose.

The other claw of Kanna's machine held a large sack. "Now, my sweet Chitose, you will be MINE!"

"You've got to go through me first, Kanna!" Hantou yelled.

Hantou didn't see the right claw come up to his side and whack him in the head. He went down to the ground, struggling to keep conscious. But ultimately, he blacked out.

When he awoke, it was completely dark, and he felt something hairy on his leg. He couldn't tell how much time had passed since he had been knocked out, but he guessed it had probably only been twenty-five to thirty minutes. But that was way too long when he wasn't even aware of what had happened. And what was that hairy thing there with him?

Hantou moved his leg and heard a yip. He figured that it was the puppy that Kanna was with. What did she call him? Chiske? Cheesecake? Chibisuke! That was it!

"Oh, sorry little fella. You okay?" he asked.

Chibisuke let out another yip, this one more friendly-sounding.

Hantou felt around until he had found the top of Chibisuke's head, then scratched him behind the ear. After doing that, he felt the bottom of the place he was encased. It felt rubbery, and, at the same time, solid and thick, like metal. He reasoned that he was inside Kanna's sack.

"Great," he moaned. "I try to save Chitose's worthless butt, and what do I get? Captured by that psycho scientist Kanna. Blast!"

The top of the sack suddenly opened, letting blinding daylight inside. Seconds later, Hantou and Chibisuke started tumbling over each other, and were at last thrown out of the sack onto solid

ground. He looked around, and realized they were in a large cage in the middle of a forest. "Hiiii, Chito..." Kanna stopped short of her greeting. "Wait, you're not Chitose! Oh, damn, I grabbed the wrong boy!" "Great," Hantou said. "Now you can let me go." "Oh, no, I just can't do that," Kanna replied. "You foiled my last plan. I can't let you do that ever again!" "You're freaking nuts, Kanna!" yelled Kanna. "You need help. MENTAL help!" "You just leave me alone! I don't need help, I need Chitose. Once I have that wonderful beautiful boy, I can do naughty things to him and then I will be happy!" Kanna's face turned red and steam spouted from her ears. "Oooh, dirty thoughts!" She then flew off to the Gods know where... "What a screwball," Hantou muttered to Chibisuke. The puppy barked in agreement.

Hantou tried to find some way out of the cage. He knew he couldn't pry the bars apart, but he tried anyway. He also attempted climbing the cage, lifting the cage, slipping through the bars... everything he could think of. It was completely useless. Even Chibisuke couldn't find a way out of there. Hantou sat down in exhaustion, the puppy sitting next to him. If Satsuki were here, she would definitely be able to pull apart the bars, or at least lift the cage. Yayoi would be able to slice the bars. Kisaragi would use some contraption to get them out. He had only met them the previous day, but already, he was missing his new family. Even Chitose. Most of all, he missed Hazuki. The only time he had kissed her that day was on the forehead, when he woke her up. This was the woman he wanted to spend the rest of his life with, even though they had been together less than a week. And Kisaragi... his half-... his sister. He hadn't even talked to her in so long. But now he felt a newly formed kinship with his estranged sibling. And if he didn't get out of here, chances were that reunion would have been in vain.

As the sun went down, Hantou lay down on the ground and curled up into the fetal position. Chibisuke lie down next to him. He had never felt so weak before in his life. When the torrential rains started, he did not even have anything to shelter himself. He let Chibisuke sleep in his shirt, for although it was already soaked, it would at least be some sort of protection from the weather. Eventually, he fell asleep, not knowing if he was going to survive through the night.

8. Lesson 8 - Enraged! Hazuki's Revenge

Happy Lesson - Extra Credit
By The S

Lesson 8 - Enraged! Hazuki's Revenge

"HAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAANNTOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO!"

Hazuki screamed at the top of her lungs as she watched her beau being taken away. She was utterly distraught at the thought that she couldn't have saved him before he was kidnapped by Kanna. She began sobbing loudly.

Uzuki went over to her. "It's all right, Hazuki. We'll find a way to get him back."

Satsuki put a hand on Hazuki's shoulder. "Yeah, we'll be able to do it. There's nothing we can't do!"

Hazuki grabbed Uzuki in a tight hug. "M...Mama Uzuki... Mama Satsuki."

Suddenly, something went off inside her head. You could say that it clicked, but it would probably be best to say that it snapped. She used the back of her hand to wipe her tears away, and abruptly flung them outward. Hazuki then stood up slowly, a menacing expression on her face.

"Hazuki, are you all right?" Mutsuki asked.

A strange, dark-looking grin appeared on her face. "Better than all right."

A wave of genuine horror spread across the family. "Are you sure?" asked Uzuki.

"Yes, I am," Hazuki said. "I'm going to go get Hantou back."

"Great idea, kid!" Satsuki said, slapping Hazuki on the back. "Let's all get ready to go!"

"No, you don't understand, Mama Satsuki. I am going to get Hantou back. And I'm going alone."

"What? You can't be serious! That's suicide!" Satsuki exclaimed.

Hazuki's head turned so that she could see her blue-haired mother out of the corner of her eye.

"No, I am going alone. I have made my decision, and that's final. I will not allow anybody to follow me."

Minazuki ran to her sister with tears in her eyes and grasped her in a firm hug. "No, Hazuki, don't go!"

Hazuki used the palm of her right hand to push on Minazuki's forehead, moving her away.

"Sorry, Mina. You can't stop me from chasing after Kanna. I will rescue Hantou."

Hazuki turned back around. "Mama Kisaragi, I will need directions to Kanna's island, and your boat. Mama Yayoi, I request permission for the use of your sword. I will take care of everything else myself."

"Hazuki, you're insane!" Chitose yelled. "There's no way..."

Hazuki interrupted her brother by grabbing his shirt. She stared into his eyes with pure anger, an emotion he had never seen her show before. "There will be no more interruptions. You got that, Chii? The longer I stand here arguing, the longer it will be until I save Hantou. Besides, this is all your fault anyway."

"How is this my..." Chitose began.

Hazuki dropped her brother on the ground. Not especially hard, but not softly, either. "I don't have time for this. I'm going to get ready to take off."

Less than an hour later, Hazuki was steering the boat at an amazing velocity through the whipping ocean waves. She had learned how to steer the boat from Kisaragi almost a year ago, and was quite capable of maneuvering the sleek white boat. The only thought on her mind was reclaiming Hantou, no matter what the cost. She didn't find it at all silly that she was risking her life to save a man she barely knew. He would have done the same for her. She flashed back on the time they had spent together. One week ago, she had been just content to touring around the globe, singing. Now she had a higher calling. She had a man that had charmed her heart. A man that she would give up everything for.

In a span of time of less than an hour and a half, it had begun raining. Drizzling at first, then it became increasingly stronger. Hazuki refused to relent against the storm, despite the fact that the conditions would have forced the most experienced sailor to return to port. She was more determined now than she had ever been before. Hazuki vowed that she would save Hantou or die trying.

Back home, Kisaragi was working furiously on her laptop.

"Whatcha doing there, Kisaragi?" Satsuki asked, looking over her shoulder.

"I have a tracking device on the boat," she explained. "I can find the coordinates of exactly where Hazuki is, what she's doing, the weather conditions, and the size of the waves."

"That's amazing! So what's going on right now?"

"Hazuki's exactly fifty-six miles from Kanna's island. She's steering the boat in a perfectly straight line. However, the weather is nearing typhoon status, and some waves are two-to-five stories tall."

"What? Are you certain? Hazuki would never be so stupid as to endanger her life like that?"

"She's not stupid," said Kisaragi. "She's determined. Hazuki has found love, and she is willing to do anything to retain it."

"Well I'll be," Satsuki said, standing up and putting her hands on her hips. "Well, I do hope she makes it. I would hate to think of Minazuki as being an only child."

"HEY!" Chitose yelled from the table. "WHAT ABOUT ME?"

"Right, right," Satsuki said. "My mistake. Forgot all about you, Chitose."

Chitose sighed and muttered under his breath. "I'm the entire reason these psychos are even here. And yet they forget about me like leftovers in the back of a refrigerator..."

Hazuki eventually reached the island, and immediately set off to search for her beloved. She wasted no time, using Yayoi's katana to slash anything that got in the way. At one point, a large boulder stood in her way. She was not especially talented with the sword, but she decided to give it a shot anyway... with a strong diagonal slash, she sliced the rock clean in half.

"I have cut a worthless object," she said before inspecting the sword. Not even a nick in it. She was pleased that she had not damaged her mother's prized possession. But she still had a long way to go.

After fighting through the jungle for another twenty minutes, it became too dark to even see an inch in front of her. Fortunately, Hazuki had thought ahead, and brought a flashlight from the boat with her. When she clicked it on, she saw an electrical outlet on the tree in front of her.

"Now what the Hell is that?" she wondered aloud.

Brandishing the katana once more, she slashed the tree in half. However, when she did, a resounding metal CLANG echoed through the air. Hazuki flipped her soaking hair out of her face and looked inside the tree. Inside was a plethora of expensive-looking high-tech circuitry.

"Now this is indeed puzzling..." she muttered to herself as she decided to press on.

Because Kisaragi had not explored Kanna's island to the fullest, she left it uncharted on the map that she had made for Hazuki. As a result, Hazuki had to blindly make her way across the island. It was now morning, and she was still trying to find Hantou. Hazuki had not eaten or slept in almost twenty-four hours, but she had never felt so pumped. Step, step, step, slash, slash. Step, step, step, slash, slash. It was an unending pattern through the vast jungle. She had had run-ins with many branches and thornbushes that she had missed with the katana, and patches of dry blood were scattered across her body, and her clothes were ripped in places. Finally, she hacked her way into a clearing. There in the clearing, was a large steel cage. Lying on the floor of the cage was Hantou and the puppy that had been there the day before.

"Hantou!" she shouted, sheathing the katana and running up to the cage. She grabbed the bars and shook the cage. "Hantou, can you hear me?"

The figures on the bottom of the cage remained unstirred.

"Hantou, wake up! Hantou! HANTOU!"

Neither Hantou nor the dog moved.

She was beginning to lose her cool. There was definitely something wrong. Hazuki unsheathed the katana and slashed the bars to create a makeshift doorway. While resheathing the sword, she wasted no time running to the center of the cage and kneeling next to Hantou.

Hazuki shook Hantou violently, tears streaming down her face like the previous night's rain.

"WAKE UP! WAKE UP! WAKE UP, DAMMIT! PLEASE! OH, GOD, WAKE UP!"

"Ha...Ha...Hazuki...?" Hantou moaned weakly. It was as if he had no strength left in his body.

"HANTOU!" Hazuki clutched Hantou's body closely to her. "Please, Hantou... stay alive!"

"Heh... I may... be lacking strength... but you won't... get rid of me... that easy."

Hazuki kissed Hantou's forehead. "Is there something I can do to help you gain your strength?"

"As long... as I'm with you... I'll manage."

Hazuki looked at the seemingly lifeless pup. "Is he all right?"

"Oh, Chibisuke? He's... okay. He just spent an hour... barking at the top of his... lungs. He's just... exhausted. Dog tired, if you... know what I mean?"

Hazuki looked at Hantou sternly. "At death's door and you're still cracking jokes?"

"I told you, I'm all right. Hey. You know from this angle... by looking through... that rip on your shirt... I can see one of your nipples."

"Yeah?"

"Yeah." Hantou waited for some sort of admonishment. Instead, she just stared at him. "So..."

"What," Hazuki said. "You think I've got a problem with that?"

Hantou laughed, more to himself than what Hazuki said. "No, not really. So let's.. get out of here. This place is horrible and... Kanna scares me."

"Agreed. C'mon, let me help you up." Hazuki pulled with every ounce of her strength and got Hantou onto his feet. She then picked up Chibisuke, who was snoring lightly, and handed him to Hantou to carry.

"Stop right there!" Hantou and Hazuki spun around to see Kanna standing about twelve feet away from them, steaming mad.

"Crap!" Hantou exclaimed. "It's Kanna!"

"I'm taking Hantou back with me, and that's FINAL!" Hazuki withdrew Yayoi's katana and held it outward.

"That sword, eh?" Kanna said. "Well, seeing as how it was the source of my defeat last time, I've come prepared."

From out of the ground beneath Kanna came a gigantic blue suit of samurai armor with a katana in one hand, and a wakazashi at its waist.

"Allow me to introduce the Super Samurai Shogun Showdown Robot, Version 1.5!" Kanna bragged from her perch on the massive machine's shoulder.

"Let's fight it, together, Hazuki," Hantou said.

"No, you're too weak to fight now. Besides, you've got to take care of Chibisuke," Hazuki said, swinging the katana. "I'll take on this creep all on my own!"

9. Retribution! Kanna's Last Stand

Happy Lesson - Extra Credit
By The S

Lesson 9 - Retribution! Kanna's Last Stand

Hazuki tried to stare down Kanna, but with her being atop of a giant robot, that was literally impossible. Instead, Hazuki decided to turn her sights on the enormous robot's body, trying to size up her enemy. She wasn't a proficient fighter, but she had learned some tricks from observation. Nevertheless, even she was not sure she would be able to stop the mech. But she had to try, for Hantou.

Hazuki tightened her grip on her mother's katana, ready for battle. She gritted her teeth and swallowed the fear welling up inside her.

"I am ready," she said in a monotone voice. "Come at me."

Kanna shifted a joystick and the Super Samurai Shogun Showdown Robot (Version 1.5) took one step forward with its left leg. Another shift and its right leg was positioned behind it. The psychotic scientist flipped a switch and the mech brought its sword above its head horizontally. Kanna then slammed her palm on a button and thrust the joystick forward, making the robot run toward Hazuki. Hazuki merely stood her ground, waiting for the moment when the robot leapt into the air, then casually blocked the mech's sword with Yayoi's. At first, it was easy to defend against the robot, but after Kanna mashed a few buttons, the robot's offensive stance changed, and Hazuki found herself on the losing side of the battle.

A loud clang startled both Hazuki and Kanna. Kanna's robot vibrated, causing both the robot and Hazuki to slip out of their posture. Hazuki took a brief glance back and saw Hantou, holding Chibisuke with one arm, and casually tossing a stone lightly into the air.

"I don't really give a crap what you said, hon. I'm not going to stand by idly while you fight something three times your size."

Instead of feeling anger towards Hantou, she felt relief. Hazuki had started to think that she was perhaps in way over her head. Hantou's impromptu assistance allowed her precious time to regroup, as well as to aid in Kanna's defeat directly.

As the distraction's purpose waned, Kanna, pulled a lever that made the mech draw its other sword, a wakazashi.

"Oh God, this isn't looking good!" Hazuki muttered, trying to find a stance that would give her an edge over the opponent. However, before she could react, the robot spun and swung both swords at her. She barely dodged the katana, but the wakazashi grazed her cheek. Blood gave a quick spurt on initial contact, then began dripping down her face. Hantou caught Hazuki with his spare hand when she staggered back.

"As much as I hate to say this, I don't think we're going to beat this thing," Hantou said. "But we can't give up. Somehow, we'll make it through..."

Kanna was doing some sort of victory dance high atop her robot. Hazuki attempted to take this time to lean the fight in her advantage, but had begun to feel dizzy. Hantou carefully set Hazuki on the ground, and the sleeping Chibisuke on her stomach.

"Don't worry, honey. I'll take over for now. You just rest," Hantou said.

Hazuki moaned weakly in reply.

Adrenaline pumped through every fiber of his being. It didn't matter that a dull pain roared throughout his body. He was ready to take a stand. It mattered not to him if he won this duel. The only thought on his mind was to allow he, Hazuki, and Chibisuke to get off this forsaken island and return home alive.

Still a tad lightheaded, but determined, Hantou slid into his fighting pose and waited for Kanna to make a move. A slight warm breeze blew across the area. Finally, Kanna forced the robot to strike. The mech swung its katana, and Hantou leapt straight up, landing directly on the flat of the blade.

"Wh... what the? How did you do that?" Kanna yelled in obvious disarray. Hantou then leapt from the katana and aimed a jumping snap kick directly at Kanna, ready knock the pilot from the robot's cockpit.

Before Hantou could strike, the wakazashi came up from the opposite direction and smacked him across the head, shoulder, and body with the reverse side. Hantou went crashing to the ground hard enough to cause a miniature dust storm upon impact.

"D...damn," Hantou groaned.

Chibisuke, who had awakened just prior to Hantou hitting the ground, began yipping excitedly. At what, God only knows. But the fact of the matter is, his barking was consistent and rapid.

"What is it, boy?" Hantou mumbled, trying to shift his body so that he could look at the puppy.

A loud thumping noise occurred at the same time as the island began shaking.

"Earth... quake?" moaned Hazuki. She tried to get up, but was becoming weaker by the moment from a combination of exhaustion and loss of blood.

"No, I don't think so!" Hantou yelled in attempt to make his voice heard over Chibisuke's barking. Two more loud thumps shook the island even more violently.

"God, what... is it?" Hazuki asked.

After the thumping/shaking event repeated itself about a dozen more times, Hantou was finally able to see the source of it.

"Is... is that Chitose's house?" asked Hantou as the object came into view above the treetops.

Indeed it was. Well, sort of. The house now had two large stone slab legs, each the size of Kanna's samurai mecha. It also had two arms coming out of the side of it that resembled semi-truck trailers. And a huge Voltron-eque head on top.

"What the Hell?" Hantou exclaimed in an unfamiliar, high-pitched voice.

A voice familiar to all people on the island rang out. "Kanna, I don't want to have to hurt you. But if you do not return my family to me, I will have to crush you."

"MAMA KISARAGI!" Hazuki yelled.

"Hello, Hazuki, Hantou," Kisaragi replied in greeting.

"Hey, we're all here and ready to kick butt!" came Satsuki's voice, also from inside the house-

robot.

"Why did you do this to my house?" Chitose whined from the background. "I don't think these modifications are covered by the insurance. If you blow up my house, you owe me a new one!"

"KISARAGI!?!!" Kanna shrieked, interrupting Chitose's ranting. "What are you doing here? Get off of my island! Get off get off get off get off!"

"Kanna," said Kisaragi. "Let me take Hazuki and Hantou back with me. And the dog as well. I am sure it misses its mother."

"Fine, then! Only if you give me Chitose!"

"It's a deal," Kisaragi said to her ex-friend. "I will send Chitose down immediately. In exchange, you must give me those three."

"HEY!" Chitose yelled, this time closer to the microphone. "WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT? YOU'RE GOING TO..."

A soft click cut the young Hitotose off from outside the house-robot. There was not a sound or move made for several minutes, including Chibisuke.

After that period of time, a hatch opened at the bottom of the house-bot, and a platform lowered Chitose to the ground. Chitose, stone-faced, walked off of the platform and assisted Hazuki, Hantou, and Chibisuke onto the platform. He then watched as the platform lifted the three up into the house-bot, and walked away as the jet engines on the feet of the house-robot blasted it off high into the air.

"Ohhh, my darling Chitose!" Kanna cooed as she leaped from her robot to hug the boy. "I've finally got you in my grasp!"

"Sure. Let's do it. Let our love lead to adult situations."

"Ohhhhh!" Kanna's face turned red. "NAUGHTY!"

Back on the house-bot, Yayoi was treating to her rescued family's wounds. Chitose walked up to them to complain about how lousy he'd been treated.

"Wait a minute!" Hazuki exclaimed. "If you're here, then who's..."

The house-bot rocked softly from a sonic boom resulting from an explosion on the island. Kisaragi turned toward the rest of the family. "Short-Fuse Horny Exploding Bomb Son Chitose. Version 1.0."

Rather than trek back to Hazuki's apartment after the tough ordeal, Hantou, Hazuki, and Minazuki boarded at the Hitotose house once more (after it transformed back to normal, that is). Hantou and Hazuki both fell asleep almost instantly after going to bed, but three hours later, Hantou was forced awake by the sensation of needing to use the restroom.

On his return trip, he spotted Kisaragi in the hallway. He padded his way over to her, and put a hand on her shoulder.

"What's up, Kisa?" he said in a whisper, as to not awaken the rest of the family.

"I woke up and needed juice. What are you doing up, brother mine?"

"Had to take a leak. Anyway, thank you."

Kisaragi finally turned her head to face her brother. "For what?"

"For saving Hazuki and I. If it weren't for you and your robot house thing, I'm pretty damned sure we'd have been killed by Kanna's scrapheap samurai."

"You do not need to thank me, Hantou." Kisaragi turned completely toward him and wrapped

her arms around his waist, resting her head on his chest. "I would gladly save you any day of the week. I did what any good sister would."

"I doubt that any sister would turn her son's house into a giant robot and make an exploding clone of him."

"I meant about saving you. Hazuki, as well. I love you all."

Hantou put his left hand on top of her head. "Well, I love you too, Kisaragi. I love all of you. Hazuki, Mina, the other moms... even that scamp Chitose. Two weeks ago I had nobody. I had left my family behind for fame and lost it. I was barely getting by on my salary as a dojo sensei. Then Hazuki came into my life and I have a new family, albeit with a member of the original family in it. My life has been changed forever, and for the better."

Hantou moved his hand and kissed Kisaragi on the very top of her head. "I'd better head back to bed. G'night, Kisa."

"Good night, little brother."

It was silent as they both traveled back to bed. Then, as they reached their respective rooms, they each whispered, "Sweet dreams." Neither of them heard the other say it, but they both knew what had been said.

10. Lesson 10 - Finale! Hantou's New Job?

Happy Lesson - Extra Credit
by The S

Lesson 10 - Finale! Hantou's New Job?

"HEY HANTOU! I'VE GOT AWESOME NEWS FOR YA!" Hantou had been sleeping heavily, when suddenly a sharp voice cut through his dreams like a hot knife through butter. He struggled to open his heavy eyelids, and viewed Satsuki standing in the doorway.

"Eh? Satsuki? What the Hell are you talking about?"

"Well, last school year, Koyomi High's karate teacher retired. Well, come to find out, the school board couldn't find a replacement. So the other moms and I pulled some strings, and well, the job's yours if ya want it!"

"Seriously? Holy crap! That's awesome! You guys are the best!" Hantou turned around and saw that Satsuki's wakeup call had worked on Hazuki as well. "You hear that, hon?"

"Of course," said she. "That's wonderful." She kissed Hantou on the neck.

"I'll leave you two lovebirds alone, then," Satsuki said, heading out the door.

"Satsuki, wait a sec!" Hantou called.

"Huh?" She poked her head back into the room.

"When do I start?"

Satsuki grinned. "Oh, in about an hour."

"AN HOUR? Jeez, talk about fair warning..." As Satsuki left, Hantou kissed Hazuki on the lips.

"Sorry I can't stick around, love, but I've gotta go to work."

"No worries. I'll be waiting for you when you get back." She paused. "Actually, I'll probably be back at the apartment, so why don't you just head over there when you get off work?"

"Yes, ma'am!"

Hantou's first class was small. It only consisted of seven students, and that didn't include his assistant...

"Minazuki?"

"Hi, Hantou!" Mina exclaimed, throwing her arms around him in a gigantic hug.

"Please, Mina, call me Minamoto-Sensei while in class."

"Oh, that's not fair!" Minazuki whined. "I wanna call you Hantou!"

"Hey, Chitose's moms make him call them by their last names in class! You could at least call me by mine!"

"How about I just call you Hantou-Sensei?"

Hantou sighed. "Oh, all right, I suppose. Just don't hug me so much. This is a karate class, not touchy-feely class."

Minazuki ignored Hantou's request. She squeezed him into a hug again. "Yay! I get to call Hantou by his first name in class!"

Hantou began his class shortly after that. He insisted that all of the other students call him Minamoto-Sensei, and Minazuki could only call him Hantou-Sensei because she was his sister-in-law - kind of a stretch on the truth, but it would suffice. One of his students, Fumitsuki Nanakorobi, kept complaining that she was only in that class because she needed an advanced

gym credit, but Hantou convinced her to make the most of it. As it turned out, she had a nasty uppercut.

At the end of the day, he had altogether twenty students. He was understandably exhausted, for despite the fact that he had taught karate for such a long time already, it took extra energy to put up with these teenaged newbies. All but three of his students had never even thrown a punch before. He was used to teaching advanced training courses, but this was just something he was going to get used to. He was staying in Japan, and the fact that he had gotten a job after only being there three days was a Godsend.

Hantou, Minazuki, and Chitose walked home together. The moms had gone shopping with Hazuki, so when they got back, it would only be Mina and Hantou for a while. As they walked, Minazuki and Hantou talked at length about school. Mina attempted to get Chitose to join the conversation several times, but he ignored her. Hantou and Mina finally reached the apartment, said goodbye to Chitose, and went inside.

Minazuki decided to get dinner done before Hazuki got home. Hantou really wanted to help, but would have probably ended up screwing things up. Instead, he went to go soak in a bath. He had been there ten minutes, when the door suddenly opened.

"Mina, I said I was... oh."

Hazuki walked in the door, covering the front of her body with a towel. "Hey, I just got home. Mina said that you were in here. You don't mind if I join you, do you?"

"No, I don't mind at all."

Hazuki dropped her towel on the floor and dipped her left foot into the warm tub.

"Hey, aren't you going to take a shower first?" Hantou asked.

"I'd rather get in the tub with you."

"Then, by all means, continue..."