THE ASTERISK WAR
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EASTERISK WAR
It comes to a theme and an expert in the subject.
THE WORLD OF ASTERISK

Rikka: the Academy City on the Water
A city that floats on the surface of the North Kanto crater lake, surrounded by six schools. Its hexagonal shape earned it the nickname Asterisk.

Seidoukan Academy
The school our main characters attend, ranked fifth in Asterisk. Seidoukan used to dominate in all three Festi events but has recently been in a slump. A campus culture that emphasizes students' independence attracts many Dante and Stregas as students.

St. Gallardworth Academy
One of the top-ranking schools ever since its founding. Gallardworth also boasts the most overall victories in Asterisk. The rigid culture values discipline and loyalty above all else, and in principle, even duels are forbidden. Students are on poor terms with Le Wolfe.

Queenvale Academy for Young Ladies
The only all-girls' school, Queenvale is consistently ranked last, and the matriculation requirement of "good looks" makes it an odd sort of academy. Students' beauty is on a level with top-class idols, and despite the rankings, they have plenty of fans, even from other schools.

Le Wolfe Black Institute
Fiercely strong when it comes to one-on-one battles, Le Wolfe has a tremendously belligerent culture, to the point of encouraging duels with students from other schools. The place is practically lawless, and more than a few students end up in mercenary or criminal activity. Whenever there's commotion in the city, Le Wolfe students are likely to be involved.

Jia Long Seventh Institute
The largest of the six schools, and the only school that has never once fallen to last place in the overall rankings. Bureaucracy clashes with a laissez-faire attitude, making the school culture rather chaotic. The atmosphere has strong Far Eastern leanings, and students boast their own martial art technique known as Xianhu.

Allekant Académie
Specializing in meteoric engineering. Allekant is the only one of the six schools with an actual research department. Students' technological test scores show the quality of their Lux weapons, which far surpass those of the other schools. With a culture driven by results, they have rapidly progressed to the rank of second place in the last several years.
COMENCING ATTACK.
She's fast...

Kirin...

Do not cross blades with that orga lunn. It will cut through your katana.

...and everything else.
OH MAN. NOW WHAT...?
UH-HUH, I SEE.

THOSE TWO FROM ALLKANT AND SASAMIYA HUH...?

SOLD!

I'LL TELL YOU ON THE WAY TO THE CAFETERIA.

...HOW ABOUT I GET YOUR LUNCH TODAY...?

...DO YOU KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THEM?

RIGHT, SO...

INFO ON STUDENTS FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL...

NOW, THAT MIGHT BE A TAD STEEP.
She represents Ferovis, the largest faction in Allekant.

THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE HAS THE POWER OVER THERE, INSTEAD OF THE STUDENT COUNCIL.

Also—apparently she was the mastermind behind getting Sasanya’s father expelled from Allekant...

...used Lukes developed by her group.

...and the team that won last year’s Phoenix...

She specializes in Lux development.

Oh, so that’s why...

...Saya seemed to hate her...

Let’s see now, the other one...

First, we have this exotic beauty...

Her name is Camilla Pareto, and she’s with Allekant’s research institute.

She represents Ferovis, the largest faction in Allekant.

The research institute has the power over there, instead of the student council.

Also—apparently she was the mastermind behind getting Sasanya’s father expelled from Allekant...

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Let’s see now, the other one...

Her name is Camilla Pareto, and she’s with Allekant’s research institute.
I've told you time and again...

...that is not your concern, Kirin.

DID I GIVE YOU PERMISSION TO SPEAK?

B-But uncle, I—

...hold it right there.

...and who are you?

Huh...?
I don't think you should raise your hand against a defenseless girl.

...I wasn't just disciplining her.

This is a family matter. Stay out of it.

My name is Kouchirou Touhou.

Kirin Touhou is my niece.
NOW GET OUT OF HERE, BOY.

IT'S NOT AS IF A LITTLE SLAP COULD REALLY DO ANY DAMAGE...

...TO YOU GENESTELLA.

...BUT IT'S ALSO NOT AS IF WE DON'T FEEL PAIN.

YOU'VE GOT QUITE THE MOUTH ON YOU FOR A STUDENT.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
A nobody. Not even in the named cult.

Ach. I suppose he's not completely worthless...

Very well, boy.

I see. Then if you disapprove of my actions...

If you approve of my actions...

Then tell me what you'd have me do.

I'm willing to hear you out.
Can you promise...

...never to strike her again?

Hmph.

Fine, I will...

...but only if you win in a duel.

That's right. That is the rule of this city—

—the rule you lot abide by, isn't it?

Uncle! Please don't!
OF COURSE NOT!

BUT YOU DON'T SEEM TO BE A GENESTELLA, SO—

THAT'S TRUE. IT IS OUR RULE.

HOW DARE YOU SUGGEST I'M ONE OF YOU MONSTERS...!

YOUR OPPONENT...

...IS RIGHT HERE.
UNCLE! I-

QUIET. JUST DO...

...AS I TELL YOU.

BUT

...I WON'T DEMAND ANYTHING FROM YOU.

NOT TO WORRY. EVEN IF YOU LOSE...

WHAA-!? 

Bikun (Shaved)

......NO.

Would you disobey me?

......KIRIN.
YOU'RE VERY STRONG, AMAKIRI-SENPAI.

YOU TOOK THE WORDS RIGHT OUT OF MY MOUTH...

I'M IMPRESSED.
...WHY DO I HAVE TO FIGHT YOU IN THE FIRST PLACE!? 

...Toudousan, let's—
...BUT...

I DON'T WANT...

FIGHT YOU EITHER...

WE HAVE NO CHOICE.

NO CHOICE?
...I HAVE TO DO AS MY UNCLE SAYS...!

BUON (YOGO)

I... HAVE A WISH.

AND TO MAKE IT COME TRUE...
PLEASE, SENPAI.

IF YOU WITHDRAW HERE...

...THIS WILL BE OVER.

...BUT THEN WHAT ABOUT YOU?

WHAT'LL HAPPEN TO YOU?

Huh?

...IT DOESN'T MATTER.

There's no hope for me.
...Then I can't back down either.

Hey! What's the meaning of this?!

Princess!

Then this is how it has to be.

You're so kind, Amagiri-senpai.

I see...

...Ta (thinking)

And I will not lose.
WOOOW!

END OF OUEL!
WINNER: KIRIN TOOOOU!

UGH, GEEZ...

HE'S UNBELIEVABLE...

YEEEEEAAAH!
...THAT TOOK LONGER THAN EXPECTED.

I'M SORRY, UNCLE...

HE WAS SKILLED, I'LL GIVE YOU THAT.

...DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME ON A STUDENT...

...WHO ISN'T EVEN IN THE NAMED CULT.

BUT EVEN IF HE DOES WIELD AN ORGA LUX...
YOU'LL DIRTY YOUR GOOD NAME.

THEN YOUR RANKING AT SEIDOUKAN...

...WILL BE SECURE.

THAT'S THE FIRST STEP.

WE'LL TAKE CARE OF MOST OF THE PAGE ONE STUDENTS WITHIN THE YEAR.

LOOK THROUGH THIS DATA LATER.

YES.

TCH.
...TO BE A FIRST-RANKED STUDENT WHO'LL GO DOWN IN SEIDOUKAN HISTORY.

YOU LISTEN TO ME! I EXPECT YOU...

DON'T YOU EVER FORGET THAT...

... KIRIN!

YOU'RE A SLOW-WITTED BRAT, GOOD FOR NOTHING BUT SWORD-PLAY.

BUT I CAN MAKE SOMETHING OF YOU!

...YES, UNCLE.

I KNOW...
AFTER THE DUEL, JULIS WHISKED AXATO AWAY FROM THE CROWD...

SO THAT GIRL...

...IS REALLY RANKED FIRST IN THE WHOLE SCHOOL? IS THAT TRUE?

...YOU DON'T KNOW WHO THE TOP-RANKED STUDENT IS...

OW.

IN YOUR OWN SCHOOL, HOW CLUELESS CAN YOU BE?

AND TO THINK...

WHY WOULD I LIE ABOUT THAT?
HMPH...

WELL, UH...

SORRY.

APPARENTLY KIRIN TOLDOU IS SO STRONG...

...THAT EVEN YOU CAN'T BEAT HER.

...IT PAINS ME TO ADMIT IT, BUT...

...SHE'S GOT ME BEAT WHEN IT COMES TO SWORDPLAY.
While Kirin Toujou has never been defeated in all her time here...

...What's more impressive is that she's only thirteen.

Well, I suppose...

...I should be praising her.

...That so...

Claudia is one of the only other undefeated fighters.

But what distinguishes her from you and Claudia...

Don (boom)

...NOR A STREGA.

...Is that she is neither an Orga Lux Wielder...
I know I said the rankings don't really mean anything...

...but still, Rank One is special.

The fact that she's defended her rank for three months...

That fighter becomes the face of the school...

...and competition for the spot is fierce.

...with just an ordinary katana—it's unheard of.

Anyway...

Now that everyone knows about your real power...

Regretting that duel now?

Our strategy won't work anymore.

We'll have to think of a different plan...

Hm.

Don't make that face. It wasn't going to be a secret forever.

But the first thing you need to do is get your crest replaced.

Sorry.
I never imagined that you would duel Touhou-san.

But I was surprised, you know.

Yes, of course, a new school crest.

There were reasons why I couldn't avoid it.

Don (Boom)

Do you mean Touhou-san's...

...uncle?
HER UNCUE, KOUCHIROU ROUPU-HI, WORKS FOR OAUAXY.

...WHICH IS THE INTEGRATED ENTERPRISE FOUNDATION... THAT BACKS SEIDOUKAN ACADEMY.

HE SUPERVISES SCOUTING OPERATIONS IN THE FAR EAST.

THAT GIVES HIM CONSIDERABLE AUTHORITY IN MATTERS THAT INFLUENCE OUR PERFORMANCE IN THE FESTA.

...YOU KNOW ABOUT HIM?

CLAUDIA...

OF COURSE.

HE'S QUITE A TROUBLE-SOME MAN.

...you KNOW LAUPIA ABOUT HIM? OP COURSE. HE'S OUITE A TROUBLE-V!

SOME MAN.
YOU COULD SAY HE'S A CANDIDATE FOR AN EXECUTIVE POSITION.

HMM.
NOT QUITE.

GOKU (CHIL.

HE'S PRETTY MUCH A V.I.P?

Toudou-shi does seem fully intent...

...on gaining an executive seat.

AND HE SEEMS TO BE...

...actively using his niece for that purpose.

I HAVE A WISH.

NO SO FAST.

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE HER OWN REASONS.

SO SHE'S BEING FORCED TO FIGHT AGAINST HER WILL —

USING HER...? I KNEW IT.

AH!
It's true that if a student he's favoring does well...

...it could serve as a foothold for promotion.

The more noteworthy thing is Toudou-shi's tactics.

Plus, because she's related to him, the criticism would be much worse.

The potential harm to one's career if the student fails is too great.

But it's unusual...

...for someone to become so invested in a single student.

...he must be very confident...

...what Koushirou is doing.

But, even so, that is exactly...

...in Toudou-san's skill.
...WHAT WILL YOU DO NOW, AYATO?
I'm sorry for my rudeness in calling you out here!

And I'm very sorry about the other day!

It seems like I only caused you trouble.

Oh no—

You don't have anything to apologize for...

N-no, not at all......!

I'm the one who should apologize.
WHAAAT?

WHY WOULD I BE?

...YOU DON'T HAVE TO APOLOGIZE.

NO, LIKE I SAID...

I'M TRULY SORRY FOR—

FURU (TREMbled)

...I CAN'T SAY I'M TOO HAPPY WITH HIM.

NOW, YOUR UNCLE, ON THE OTHER HAND...

IT'S LIKE NIGHT AND DAY...

SHE'S SO ASSERTIVE WHEN SHE'S FIGHTING...
YOU DIDN'T COME ALL THE WAY HERE...

HUH?

...JUST TO APOLOGIZE, DID YOU?

UM, SO WAS THERE SOMETHING ELSE YOU NEEDED?

KUOTON (BLANK).

...BUT I DID?

UM...

BUT, ER—NOT ONLY THAT...

OH, OKAY...

HAHAHA

SHE'S SO CONSIDERATE.
DESPITE THE WAY THINGS TURNED OUT...

...I-I'M REALLY GRATEFUL!

E-EVEN THOUGH YOU BARELY KNOW ME...

...YOU STOOD UP TO MY UNCLE FOR ME...!

NO NEED TO THANK ME. IN THE END, I WASN'T ABLE TO DO ANYTHING FOR YOU.
...while I walk you back to your dorm?

She said... looks like the wind's picking up.

Why don't we keep talking...

O-okay!
Toudou-san, are you... nervous?
...A family member, and...

...With a man who isn't...

This is the first time I've ever walked like this...

I've heard that the Toudou style is all about strict training...

WOW, really?

My da—

—er, my father is quite strict.

I see...
YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR STYLE?

THERE'S NO WAY I WOULDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE TOUCHOU STYLE. SO PRECISE...

I MEAN, I DO A BIT OF SWORDPLAY MYSELF.

...IT'S LIKE FOLDING A PAPER CRANE, THEY SAY.

SPEAKING OF STYLES—YOUR'S IS AN OLDER ONE, ISN'T IT?
When we dueled the other day, I noticed you took a stance where you dropped your hips low...

...and I thought that might've been it!

Hff?

These are both typical of older styles!

If we had crossed blades, I would have been able to learn more...

Yeah, it is, but...

Wow...

Hff?

You dragged your feet when moving from a defensive position...

...and the point of your blade was held high when you were in a low stance.
BUT THAT WASN'T REALLY AN OPTION WITH YOUR SER VERESTA...

YOU REALLY LOVE SWORDPLAY, DON'T YOU?

I-I'M SO SORRY.

I JUST GOT CARRIED AWAY...
Y-yes, I do!

Because...

...sword-play is...

...the only thing I'm good at.

No, it's true.

You shouldn't say—
I'm clumsy, a coward, and I'm not even good at cooking or anything...

I'm not smart...

When I pick up a sword...

...I can be useful to somebody.

That's what makes it fun...

...and why I love it.
AND BESIDES, I HAVE A WISH THAT I WANT—

...NO, I HAVE TO MAKE IT COME TRUE.

OH...

WHAT'S THAT?

...TO HELP MY FATHER.
...YOU DO EVERYTHING YOUR UNCLE SAYS?

...THE BEST AND SHORTEST PATH TO MAKING MY WISH COME TRUE.

HE'S BEEN KIND ENOUGH TO SHOW ME...

UNLIKE ME... MY UNCLE IS VERY CLEVER.

AND I APPRECIATE WHAT HE'S DOING FOR ME VERY MUCH.
Even if he's only using you to advance his career...

My uncle shows me the path to achieving my wish...

So you see, this is an equal exchange.

It didn't look that way to me.

That's just because...

...my uncle hates Genestella.
SURE, WHAT IS IT?

MAY I ASK YOU SOMETHING?

AMAGIRI-SENPAI...

... HOW DO YOU USUALLY TRAIN?

HUH?
...and I can't spar by myself.

I've been training on my own since I started school here.

So there are some things I'm not sure about...

Always heard lots by hearing how good fighters told.

W-what? What?

Would that really be okay?

...why don't you join our sessions?

Well, in that case...

...why?

There you go. Jumping into things again!

Umm...

...well, I'll have to ask Julis first....

But I think it'll be fine.
...BUT MY UNCLE GAVE ME STRICT INSTRUCTIONS...

...TO KEEP MY DISTANCE FROM OTHER PAGE ONES.

...SO, YOU MEAN, IT WOULD BE...

OHH...

TO THE COMPETITION....

I GET THAT.

HE DOESN'T WANT ME SHOWING MY SKILLS UNNECESSARILY...

JUST THE T—

TWO OF US?

FOR MY EARLY MORNING WORKOUTS?
HUH?
Somehing
Wrong
With that?

N-NO,
Um, I...

I WOULD LIKE TO TAKE YOU UP ON YOUR OFFER.

OKAY, I'LL TEXT YOU LATER...
ABOUT WHERE AND WHEN, SO...

O-OKAY!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR TODAY.

Yeah, see you!
I'LL SEE YOU TOMORROW, THEN!
Auam
CBAM^3
WAIT~
SAYA!!?

NEARLY GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK.

WHO...
...WAS SHE?

UHH...
C'MON.

DON'T SCARE ME LIKE THAT...

NEARLY GAVE ME A HEART ATTACK.
SORRY BUT I'M TEAMING UP WITH JULIS.

THAT WAS TOUCHOU-SAN. SHE'S A MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENT.

HRMM ...

WHAT WERE YOU DOING UP THERE ANYWAY?

LOOKING FOR YOU.

I WANT AN ANSWER FROM YOU ABOUT THE TAG TEAM PARTNERSHIP.

NOW... WOULD YOU MIND GETTING OFF ME?

OKAY ...

......

I SEE.

ALL RIGHT.

IT'S NOT NEGOTIABLE.
MRROW...

WHAT YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR...

IT'S HAPPENING.

RISE AND SHINE...

...ERNESTA.
GOOD MORNING, AMAGIRI-SENPAI.

MORNING, TOUDOU-SAN.
Okay, so let's start with a run......

Right!

Oh, actually we should stretch first.
...MAKING IT AWKWARD TO LOOK AT HER...

OH—

NO!

IT'S NOTHING.

IS SOMETHING WRONG?
START
FINISH

I LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS ...

... AND RUN AROUND THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE ISLAND.

GUESS I'LL TRY IT TOO.

OKAY, SOUNDS GOOD.

I ALWAYS DO SHORT-DISTANCE SPRINTS. SO...

OH, YOU GO OUTSIDE?

ALL RIGHT ...

I'LL LEAD, THEN.
HER FACE IS ALWAYS SO EXPRESSIVE...

N-NOPE. NOTHING.

PLEASE LEAD THE WAY!

I WILL!

IS SOMETHING WRONG?
A WEIGHT?

DO YOU USE A WEIGHT, AMAGIRI-SENpai?

OH...

BUT BEFORE WE START.....

SU (LIFT)

UM.....

LIKE THIS.

ON SCHOOL GROUNDS, IT'S NO PROBLEM IF WE RUN AT OUR NORMAL SPEED...

BUT OFF CAMPUS, IT'S A DIFFERENT STORY.

WHOA-- IT'S HEAVY....!!

TRY AND LIFT IT
IF WE WEAR THESE, IT SLOWS US DOWN.

IT'S A GOOD WORKOUT TOO.

GOTCHA.

OH, RIGHT.

I GUESS IT'S NOT VERY SAFE.

ALL RIGHT. LET'S GO.

THANKS.

I'LL GIVE IT A TRY.
THE FOG IS PRETTY HEAVY TODAY, HUH?

YES, IT IS...
This is plenty heavy for me.

Oh, but I've heard...

That in the winter, it can be even heavier.

Really?

Ha-ha...

Think we should hold hands or something?

We could lose track of each other...

Oh—yes...

I suppose...
I was just kidding, actually......
I KNOW..... WE'RE NOT ALONE.

YES..... BUT SOMETHING'S OFF.

THIS PRESENCE... IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE PEOPLE, BUT—
...WHERE I GREW UP.

Uh, I don't think we have things like this...

What kind of animals are they?

hiruru!

They're kind of cute, aren't they?

YEAH, SURE...

But they're kind of cute, aren't they?

wait, what?
...VERY TOUGH TO ME!

AMAGIRI-SENPAI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

MORE OR LESS.

THEY DON'T SEEM...

AMAGIRI-SENPAI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
What the—!? It regener-ated...!?
AMAGIRI SHINMEI STYLE, FIRST TECHNIQUE—

I DON'T WANT TO KILL THEM IF WE DON'T HAVE TO, BUT...

...doesn't look like we have much choice.

LINE OF HORNETS!
I've always been sensitive to that kind of thing.

Something's odd about the flow of their prana.

How could you tell?

It looks as if they have some sort of core.
WELL, IT'S A LONG STORY, BUT—

ALLEKANT?

SO......

...I'M GUESSING ALLEKANT IS BEHIND THIS.

DO CRUMBLE!

WHOA!

AMA-GIRI-SENPAI!
THAT'S THE END OF ACT ONE?

I HEAR THERE WAS CONSTRUCTION PLANNED THERE ANYWAY.

AND NOW THERE'S A HUGE HOLE IN THE GROUND...

SO THAT SHOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM FOR A WHILE.

WON'T THERE BE TROUBLE IF THE CITY GUARD FINDS OUT?

SO THAT'S THE PHRY-GANELLA VISCOSOUS ATTACKER, HUH...?

FOR TENORIO'S ACE IN THE HOLE...

IT'S NOT VERY IMPRESSIVE.

WHA AA!!

WHY...? IT'S HOLE... NOT VERY IMPRESSIVE.
THEN LET'S SEE WHAT THEY'VE GOT!

I'M TOLD THIS NEXT PART IS WHAT THOSE GUYS WERE BANKING ON.

THAT'S A BIT HARSH...

OH, IS IT NOW!
THANK YOU, AMAGIRI-SENPAI!....!

TH- HACK...!

KOFF!

...CAN'T SWIM...

TOUDOU-SAN! ARE YOU OKAY?!

I THINK WE'RE UNDER ASTERISK.

ANYWAY... WHERE ARE WE.....?

THAT'S SURPRISING.

OH... IS THAT SO?
...so they use the weight of the water...

...for stability, I think.

Asterisk is a megafloat structure...

Then... are we in the ballast area?

Oh, I see.

Ballast area?

So there must be a maintenance hatch somewhere.

Koff!

Now what...? !?
THIS IS SOMETHING ELSE...

HOO-BOY...
WELL, THEY DID GO THROUGH ALL THAT TROUBLE TO DROP US DOWN HERE.

AA-WOIRI-SENPAI...

THIS DRAGON FEELS THE SAME AS THOSE LITTLE GUYS ABOVE-GROUND.

AMA-GIRI-SENPAI...

SUPPOSE IT WAS SILLY TO THINK THEY'D JUST LET US GO.

I GUESS WE JUST HAVE TO GET RID OF IT...

SUPPOSE IT WAS SILLY TO THINK THEY'D JUST LET US GO.

I GUESS WE JUST HAVE TO GET RID OF IT...
This is nothing I can't handle, but...

...it might be a little touch and go...

...if I'm going to slow you down, please let me go!

Um, if...

Wha...?

I-if you get hurt because of me...

Then I...

I...!
...I HATE THIS.

SOMEONE GETTING HURT...

...ALL TO PROTECT A WORTHLESS PERSON LIKE ME—IT'S JUST...!

YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.

IT'S OKAY.
...THAT THING WOULD BE NO MATCH FOR YOU, RIGHT?

AND, Y’KNOW— I DID GIVE YOU A PRETTY DECENT FIGHT BEFORE...

...SO SHOULDN'T YOU HAVE A LITTLE MORE FAITH IN ME?

IF WE WERE ON LAND...

...THAT THING WOULD BE NO MATCH FOR YOU, RIGHT?

YOU'RE A KIND, STRONG...

...DON'T EVER TALK ABOUT YOURSELF LIKE THAT AGAIN.

OH, AND ONE MORE THING...

AMAZING YOUNG WOMAN.

...O- OKAY!
TOUOU-SAN, CAN YOU READ THE FLOW OF ITS PRANA...

OH—YES, SORT OF...

HOWEVER, IT SEEMS LIKE THE CORE IS CONSTANTLY MOVING AROUND INSIDE ITS BODY.

...THAT COULD CONTAIN MY PRANA.

YEAH.

I'VE NEVER HAD A LUX...

WELL THEN, I'LL HAVE TO TEST IT OUT.

TEST IT OUT...

METEOR ARTS!?
THIS ONE SHOUL BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT!
...so you can only fight at full power...

...for five minutes?

I think I could go longer if I pushed it...

But even then I probably wouldn't last ten minutes.

Yeah.
...Why do you fight, if this is what it does to you?

...There's someone I want to help.

Why are you fighting here, Touko-san?

Can I ask you the same question?

Well......yes.

...Riessfeld-Senpai?
I WANT TO HELP MY FATHER.

HE'S INCARCERATED AS A CRIMINAL.

FIVE YEARS AGO... SOMEONE TRIED TO ROB A STORE WHEN MY FATHER AND I WERE INSIDE.

THE ROBBER TRIED TO TAKE ME HOSTAGE, AND MY FATHER SAVED ME...

...BUT HE ENDED UP KILLING THAT MAN.

A NORMAL PERSON WOULD'VE BEEN FOUND INNOCENT FOR PROTECTING HIS FAMILY...

...BUT MY FATHER IS A GENESTELLA AND THE ROBBER WAS NOT.
THINKING BACK ON IT NOW, IT WOULD'VE BEEN EASY FOR ME TO OVERPOWER THAT MAN MYSELF.

OH... SO HE WAS CHARGED PRETTY HARSHLY, WASN'T HE?

BUT...

...I'M SUCH A COWARD, I COULDN'T EVEN MOVE ......

AT THE TIME...

...MY UNCLE TOLD ME THERE WAS ONLY ONE WAY I COULD SAVE HIM....

AND NOW MY FATHER IS IN JAIL. HE STILL HAS DECADES TO SERVE.
THE ONLY CHOICE I HAVE IS TO DEPEND ON MY UNCLE...

IF I JUST DO AS HE SAYS, THEN MY FATHER—

WRONG...

YOU'RE WRONG, TOUPOU-SAN.

EVEN IF YOU MANAGE TO HELP YOUR FATHER...

...YOU CAN'T HELP YOURSELF THAT WAY.

EVEN IF YOU HAVE THE SAME GOALS...

...THIS ISN'T A PATH THAT YOU CHOSE FOR YOURSELF.
...I don't think this is what your father would want for you...

Maybe I'm not saying this very well, but...

I don't know.

Besides, there's just no way I can...

Do this alone...

At the very least, you've got me.

As long as you're following the path you choose for yourself.

It's all right. You're not alone, Touhou-san.
DOES IT BOTHER YOU?

HUH?

OH...

...PAT MY HEAD A LOT...

LIM...

...AMAGIRI-SENPAI, YOU...

MY FATHER USED TO DO THAT TOO.

NO...

HELLOOO!
NOW, BACK TO THE SUBJECT AT HAND...
THE
ASTERISK WAR

DRAGON ON
STANDBY
SOMETHING TO SAY, KIRIN?
YOU JUST SAID THAT YOU WERE...

...WORRIED ABOUT ME.

...ABOUT KIRIN TOUJOU, YOUR NIECE?

OR ABOUT KIRIN TOUJOU, YOUR TOOL?

WHAT I NEED FROM YOU IS YOUR STRENGTH. NOTHING ELSE.
They say he got into an altercation with Allekant not long ago.

...When you were attacked?

By the way, I hear you were with the Server Estar User...

I see...

I don't want you getting involved in any of that trouble.

Stay away from him.

...I'm afraid I must refuse.
...WHAT WAS THAT?

AND I THINK I HAVE MANY MORE THINGS...

...TO LEARN FROM HIM.

HMPH. WHAT NONSENSE.

...TAUGHT ME SOMETHING IMPORTANT.

AMAGIRI-SENPAI...

GIRL COLARED.
All you need to know is enough to do what I tell you!
WHO DO YOU THINK GOT YOU TO THE TOP RANK?!

YOU INTEND TO DISOBEY ME...!?

YOU THINK YOU HAVE A CHANCE OF WINNING THE FESTA WITHOUT ME?!

DON'T TAKE ASTERISK SO LIGHTLY!

NO...

...I DON'T THINK I DO.
YOU LITTLE BRAT! YOU THINK YOU KNOW BETTER?!

DON'T YOU WANT TO SAVE YOUR FATHER AS QUICKLY AS YOU CAN?!

...THAT I CAN DO IT YOUR WAY, UNCLE.

BABA!! (GINAGA)

THEN STOP MISBEHAVING AND OBEY ME!

BUT I DON'T THINK...
I'm sorry, uncle...
I however...

I've decided to fight my own way.

I'm grateful for your help so far.

Because if I don't...

I know I'll regret it.

What are you going to do on your own!? 

W-wait!
...First, I think I'd like to have a duel.

With an opponent of my own choosing...

...and by my own will.
RAAAAH!
THIS WAS A RATHER FORWARD REQUEST. THANK YOU FOR ACCEPTING...

AMAGIRI-SENPAI.
...WHY DO YOU WANT TO DUEL ME?

SURE, NO PROBLEM. BUT...

I THOUGHT THIS WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY...

YOUR FIRST TRUE STEP?

...FOR ME TO TAKE MY FIRST TRUE STEP FORWARD IN ASTERISK.

.......YES.
WELL, IT'S NOT LIKE I DID BEFORE EITHER.

...I WON'T HOLD BACK!

YOU'RE NOT USING THAT ORGA LUX?
IF I LOST THE SAME WAY TWICE...

...I'D NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT FROM JULIS.

...IF I USE THE SER VERESTA.

I CAN'T KEEP UP WITH YOUR SPEED...

SO I HAVE TO TRY SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

.....THAT IS EXCITING.
DID YOU REALLY NEED TO SET UP THE BIG STAGE FOR THIS...?

BUT STILL...

OH, I THOUGHT IT WAS ONLY NATURAL...

...FOR SUCH AN ANTICIPATED MATCH, NO?

YOU CAN SAY THAT, SASAMIYA...

...BUT HE'S UP AGAINST OUR SCHOOL'S NUMBER ONE.

AND HE'S ALREADY BEEN BEATEN BY HER BEFORE.

DON'T WORRY SO MUCH, RIESSFELD.

AYATO'S TOUGH.
DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING I DON'T?

YOU MEAN HE ASKED YOU?

OH REALLY? HE ASKED YOU TOO?

HE ASKED ME IF HE COULD BORROW A LUX. THAT'S ALL.

WELL, OKAY THEN.

OOH, IT LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GETTING STARTED.
RAAAHH!

COM-MENCING ATTACK!

DUEL START!

CLANG!
NOW!

YEAH!
THAT WAS LIKE ATTACKING A THICK SHEET OF STEEL.

YOU'RE AMAZING, AMAGIRI-SENPAI.
INTEGRATING ALL FORTY-NINE COMBINATION TECHNIQUES...

ACHIEVES THE PERFECT SERIAL ATTACK—THE LINKED CRANES.

AND THAT WAS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN ANYONE ESCAPE IT.

WINGS IN FLIGHT, WAVES ON THE BLUE SEA...

...THE FAMOUS LINKED CRANES.

The attack has no end.

I WILL FINISH YOU WITH THE NEXT ONE!

THE SEI KAI WAS...

IF NOTHING ELSE, I'VE GOT A LOT OF PRANA TO USE.

NESTING, FLOWERING TACHIBANA...

THEN I'LL MEET YOU...

WITH EVERYTHING I'VE GOT!
DID HE TRY TO USE A METEOR ARTS MOVE AND FAIL...?

DID HIS LUX BREAK!?!?

AMAGIRI SHINMEI STYLE SPEAR TECHNIQUE—NINTH CLOUD HORNET!
A TRICK IS JUST A TRICK!

STILL...!

AND A SPEAR TECHNIQUE AT THAT!??

A TRIPLE STRIKE...!

AMAGIRI SHINMEI STYLE KODACHI TECHNIQUE—

TWO TRICKS...

...WORK BETTER THAN ONE!
WARRIOR'S REARING!
Was he planning this from the start?

It can’t be—

Grauen Ring of Purification!

Koff!
CREST BROKEN! END OF DUEL!

WINNER—AYATO AMAGIRI!

CONGRATS, AYATO. YOU LOOKED REALLY GOOD OUT THERE.

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU ACTUALLY BEAT HER.

FRANKLY, I'M SHOCKED.

WELL, NOW YOU'RE THE NEW NUMBER ONE.

HONESTLY...

YOU REALLY ARE SOMETHING.

I SURPRISED MYSELF TOO.

HA HA.

WHEW...
HEE-HEE, HELLO, SORRY TO INTRUDE.

OH... HUH? AND TODOKU-SAN TOO?

CLAUDIA!

UH... CLAUDIA...

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE SOME BUSINESS WITH YOU.

LIM, PARDON ME...

WHAT IS IT, TODOKU-SAN?

ER, UM...
C-Could I please...

...Join your training sessions?

Amagiri-senpai invited me before, and...

Um, that is...

Oh, dear. That must be Toudou-shi.

You come out right this second! Damn it, open this door!

Kiri! I know you’re in there!
Kirin! I can’t believe...

...what a fool you are!

—And then you were clumsy enough to lose!?

You had the nerve to duel without my permission.

Now come with me!

Ka (statement)

You need my help! You see now, don’t you!? 

Ka (statement)

!!!
I've decided to fight in my own way.

Yes— that's right!

If you won't do as I say...

...I'll reveal everything!

...As I tell you!

I'm the one who kept your father's crime out of the media!
...you have such interesting things to say.

...oh my...

You! You're Enfield's...

Her reputation is property of the academy and of our integrated enterprise foundation.

If you mean to besmirch it for personal reasons...

I have no comment about your relationship with your niece.

However, she is a student of Seidolukan Academy.

Ah!

G-Guy...
H-UNCLE!

IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU, I WOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN ABLE TO COME TO ASTERISK...

...AND MAKE THE FRIENDS I'VE MADE HERE.

I'M GRATEFUL TO YOU.

I TRULY MEAN IT.

...TO THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME!

...THAT'S WHY... SO...

I WANT...
UNCLE...

ME TOO!!

I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO TRAINING WITH YOU...

TOUDOU-SAN.

Ah!

NIKO (SMILE)
WHAT?

Um... President?

Are we going to the...

Catch up.

The hell're you doing, Korona?

We're going to the discipline rooms, obviously.
Hey, you alive in there?

Hey, you crazy bitch.
I was wonderin' who was here to see me. You?

What the hell brought you all the way down here?
Hi, it's Ningen again. Thanks to all your support, here's the fourth volume!

The first season of the anime aired, and there's a game out too—the world of *The Asterisk War* just keeps getting more exciting. I hope this manga series adds to the fun at least a little bit.

Once again, thank you so much to Yuu Miyazaki-sensei and okiura-sensei, who brought us the original novels and their illustrations; to the *Comic Alive* editorial staff; and to Shimada-kun and Jou Yukino-sama for all your help!

See you next time in Volume 5!
TRANSLATION NOTES

COMMON HONORIFICS

no honorific: Indicates familiarity or closeness; if used without permission or reason, addressing someone in this manner would constitute an insult.

-san: The Japanese equivalent of Mr./Mrs./Miss. If a situation calls for politeness, this is the fail-safe honorific.

-sama: Conveys great respect; may also indicate that the social status of the speaker is lower than that of the addressee.

-kun: Used most often when referring to boys, this indicates affection or familiarity. Occasionally used by older men among their peers, but it may also be used by anyone referring to a person of lower standing.

-chan: An affectionate honorific indicating familiarity used mostly in reference to girls; also used in reference to cute persons or animals of either gender.

-senpai: A suffix used to address upperclassmen or more experienced coworkers.

-sensei: A respectful term for teachers, artists, or high-level professionals.

Onii-chan, Nii-san, etc.: Terms used for older brothers/older brother figures.

Oniie-chan, Nee-san, etc.: Terms used for older sisters/older sister figures.

-shi: A polite and impersonal honorific used in formal speech or writing, often when the speaker/writer has not met the person in question.