Chapter 20 First Move

KRUNCH

...?!

I HEARD RYUK'S BEEN TURNED INTO SOME HUMAN'S PET OR SOMETHING.

WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT?

THERE'S LOTSA GUYS LOOKING DOWN REAL HARD AT THE HUMAN WORLD THESE DAYS.

HMM?

ACTUALLY, I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE HUMAN.

YEAH, MAN. GUY AIN'T GOT NO SHINIGAMI PRIDE.

WHAT THE HELL'S HE THINK-ING...?

I DUNNO ...

SO WHAT KIND OF HUMAN IS IT? MALE OR FEMALE?

KEK, KEK... YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT THAT.

WHO'D WANT ***RYUK*** FOR A PET? HE AIN'T CUTE OR NOTHIN'.

JEEZ, MAN...

I'M GOING FOR A LOOK-SEE MYSELF.

KRUNCH


TO-OH
UNIVERSITY

HEY, RYUGA. WHEN YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER PLAYING TENNIS, DID YOU KNOW HOW GOOD I AM?

DON'T WORRY, LIGHT. I USED TO BE THE BRITISH JUNIOR CHAMPION.

NOW IF I ASK HIM IF HE'S A BRITISH CITIZEN, WILL HE THINK I'M PROBING HIM BECAUSE I'M KIRA?

WHO CARES... I'LL TRY ANYWAY.

SO YOU GREW UP IN ENGLAND?

I LIVED IN ENGLAND FOR ABOUT FIVE YEARS.

BUT PLEASE RELAX. IT'S ABSOLUTELY IMPOSSIBLE TO FIGURE OUT L'S IDENTITY FROM THAT FACT.

HYUK HYUK

OH REALLY...

FINE.

SO, JUST ONE SET. WHOEVER WINS SIX GAMES FIRST IS THE WINNER. ALL RIGHT WITH YOU?

BUT KIRA HATES LOSING ...

THIS IS JUST A SIMPLE TENNIS GAME. IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO DETERMINE IF HE MIGHT BE KIRA.

HE COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE PLANNING TO DO SOME PSYCHOLOGI-CAL PROFILE OF ME AS KIRA, JUST FROM THE WAY I PLAY.

THWAK

PWOOSH

WOO-HOO!

HE WHO MOVES FIRST ALWAYS WINS.

HA HA

HEY, RYUGA. YOU EVER HEAR OF WARMING UP?

TUMP

TUMP

FIFTEEN-LOVE.

OH REALLY ...

...

HEY, CAPTAIN. A COUPLE OF FRESHMEN ARE USING THE TENNIS COURTS.

PEOPLE WHO JUST JOINED OUR TENNIS TEAM?

HA HA HA

YOU... HAVEN'T HEARD? THEY'RE THE GUYS WHO ENTERED WITH THE TOP SCORES.

WHO'RE THEY?

IT'S *THOSE* TWO. HIDEKI RYUGA AND LIGHT YAGAMI!!

NO...

WHOEVER THEY ARE, WE AREN'T LETTING THEM USE OUR TENNIS COURTS WITHOUT ASKING.

WELL, ANYWAY.

THEY SEEM TO BE HANG-ING OUT TOGETHER SINCE THE ENTRANCE CEREMONY... LIKE NOBODY ELSE IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR THEM OR SOME-THING...

...

TOP SCORES? THAT'S NEWS TO ME.

THWAK

THWAK

HUBBA

HUBBA

SO IF WE GET THEM TO JOIN, OUR TEAM'LL BE REALLY POPULAR...

...WELL, IF THEY'RE SUCH HOT-SHOTS... A GAME BETWEEN THEM DRAWS PEOPLE...

HUH? NOBODY WAS WATCH-ING WHEN I LEFT THREE MINUTES AGO.

DAMN, LOOK AT THIS CROWD.

THESE GUYS ARE AMATEURS?

THWAK

THWAK

RELAX, YAGAMI. KIRA HATES TO LOSE, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE KIRA TO WANT TO WIN A TENNIS MATCH.

IF I LOSE ON PURPOSE, HE'LL THINK THAT I THOUGHT TRYING TOO HARD TO WIN WOULD MAKE ME SEEM LIKE KIRA. SO LOSING MAKES ME SEEM LIKE KIRA TOO—RIGHT?

ON THE OTHER HAND ...

IF I TRY TOO HARD TO WIN, DOES THAT MAKE ME SEEM LIKE KIRA...?

SAME THING, EITHER WAY.

HE'S GOT SOME OTHER REASON FOR DOING THIS.

THERE'S NO WAY HE'D PROFILE ME THROUGH THIS TENNIS MATCH.

SWAP

SO I'M BEATING HIM AT TENNIS, TOO.

ZAW OK

HE'S TRY-ING TO WIN

SEE ...?

ZING

GAME COUNT, FOUR ALL.

hnnh hnnh hnnh

HYUK HYUK! LOOK, YOU GUYS SUDDENLY HAVE A REFEREE AND LINES-MEN, TOO.

hanh

hanh

hanh

WHEN HE WON IN 2000, HE ANNOUNCED HE WAS QUIT-TING ONCE HE STARTED HIGH SCHOOL, AND HE HASN'T BEEN IN A SINGLE TOUR-NAMENT SINCE...

...!

I THOUGHT I'D HEARD OF LIGHT YAGAMI BEFORE, SO I LOOKED HIM UP. HE WAS THE JUNIOR HIGH CHAM-PION IN 1999 AND 2000!

HMM?

CAP-TAIN!

THAT'S THE THING. I CAN'T FIND ANY-THING ON THE GUY...

KYOKO ...

SO HEY, WHAT ABOUT RYUGA, THEN? HE'S TOTALLY HOLDING HIS OWN AGAINST THIS JUNIOR HIGH CHAMPION. IN FACT, HE'S EVEN BETTER!

WOW...

blah blah

NO WONDER ...

NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH CHAM-PION...

STILL, I *WILL* GET THEM TO JOIN THE TENNIS TEAM...

...

ON TOP OF ENTERING TO-OH WITH HUNDRED PERCENT SCORES, THEY'RE BOTH GREAT ATHLETES...?

HUH?

IS THIS A SICK JOKE...?

THIS IS JUST A PRETEXT FOR US TO SAY "NOW WE'RE FRIENDS."

AS IF WE'D REALLY "GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER" BY PLAYING TENNIS.

hff

hff

hff

SO FAR, NEITHER OF US HAS BROUGHT UP THE KIRA CASE.

IT WOULD BE WEIRD TO TALK ABOUT IT WHEN WE DON'T EVEN KNOW EACH OTHER.

THE MOMENT WE FINISH THIS MATCH, HE'LL BRING UP THE KIRA CASE. HE'LL TRY TO MAKE LIGHT YAGAMI SAY THINGS ONLY KIRA WOULD KNOW.

YOU'LL THINK THAT, BY PLAYING THIS MATCH, I'VE LAID THE GROUND FOR MOVING A STEP CLOSER TO YOU.

BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE KIRA CASE, IT'S OBVIOUS THAT LIGHT YAGAMI WOULD WANT SOME PROOF THAT HE REALLY IS THE ONE IN CHARGE OF THE INVESTI-GATION.

I TOLD YOU I WAS L, SAYING I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP US SOLVE THE KIRA CASE. I'M POSITIVE YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE USE OF THAT.

AND THEN—

YOU'LL SAY, IF WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THE KIRA CASE, YOU'LL FIRST NEED TO HEAR SOME DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION SO YOU KNOW YOU CAN TRUST ME.

TWAP

IF HE SHARES DETAILS OF THE INVESTIGATION WITH ME, THAT'LL GIVE KIRA AN ADVANTAGE. AT THE SAME TIME, GAINING SUCH INFORMATION WILL REDUCE THE RISK OF LIGHT YAGAMI SAYING SOMETHING ONLY KIRA WOULD KNOW.

...IS TO MEET WITH A RELIABLE THIRD PARTY WHO CAN CONFIRM THAT I'M L...

WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO ASK ME TO DO NOW...

SO WHAT I NEED TO SAY TO HIM FIRST IS—

SO WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO SUGGEST TO ME IS—

WHO-EVER MAKES THE FIRST MOVE WINS.

THAT WE SHOULD GO TO THE TASK FORCE HEAD-QUARTERS TOGETHER.

TO WIN, YOU HAVE TO ATTACK.

DASH

YOU CAN'T EVER WIN IF YOU'RE ALWAYS ON THE DEFEN-SIVE.

THWAK


LOST

KA-CHUNK

...

YOU BEAT ME, YAGAMI-KUN...

SET! WON BY LIGHT YAGAMI, SIX GAMES TO FOUR!!

TCH...!

WHAT, IT'S JUST ONE SET?

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I PLAYED FOR REAL IN AGES, RYUGA.

WHAT?

BUT THERE'S SOME-THING I OUGHT TO TELL YOU FIRST.

WELL, YOU JUST BEAT ME, SO... YOU CAN ASK ME ANYTHING YOU WANT.

HOW ABOUT GETTING A DRINK SOME-WHERE?

I THINK WE'RE BOTH THIRSTY, AND THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU, SO...

THE TRUTH IS, YAGAMI-KUN...

...I SUSPECT THAT YOU MAY IN FACT BE KIRA.

IF YOU STILL WANT TO ASK ME, KNOWING THAT... GO RIGHT AHEAD.