

戦い 格闘ゲーム

Tatakai:
the Fighting Game

“Tatakai: the Fighting Game”

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BLACK.

In the blackness, we hear
birds chirping all around us.

Animals squawk and yell from all directions.

FATHER'S VOICE

Iku, sono! Iku!

EXT. OUTDOOR WOODS - SUNRISE

We are LOOKING UP AT THE TREES,
and the early-morning sky that lies beyond them.

At the ground-level, a 10-year-old boy is walking,
carrying a large wooden staff weapon.

Captions identify the area as:

“Miyako, Japan”

(390 miles from Tokyo)

JAPANESE FATHER

Iku, sono! (Go, son!)

The boy walks forward, meeting his
sparring partner, the same age as himself.
The boy stops and bows his head.

His father watches, both arms folded,
with the cold stare of a man who is very
difficult to satisfy.

The sparring begins. Both young boys
jab their wooden staffs outward, clashing
and striking them together.

BOY 1

Haaa! Ho!

BOY 2

Hua! Yah!

The father continues to watch, still
looking angry, analyzing the details

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of their performance.

The sparring continues. The boy is weak. Slow. His enemy is fast. Full of energy. His stamina lasts long enough to carry him through the fight.

BOY 1
Yyy-AHHH!

He strikes his foe repeatedly, but does not correctly take him on.

Clang! Clang! Clang! His enemy strikes his weapon, until the boy drops his staff entirely.

JAPANESE FATHER
Jūbun'na! (Enough!)

Both young boys look at the older man.

The dragon-like gaze of a man whose facial hair is starting to turn gray looks back at them, mad.

The sparring partner walks away.

The father motions for the boy to come over.

As the boy approaches him, his father slaps him.

The boy looks at his Dad again, a tear rolling down one face.

FATHER
Mada anata wa, musuko ga watashi o shitsubō.
(Still, you disappoint me, son.)
Mada anata wa, jiko bōei no hōhō o manabu koto ga dekinai.
(Still you fail to learn the ways of self-defense.)

The boy lowers his head sadly.

BOY

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Hai, Chichi. (Yes, Father.)

He looks up again.

BOY

*Watashi wa watashi ga yūri ni naru-
darou jikai o o yakusoku shimasu.*
(I promise I will do better next time.)

JAPANESE FATHER

*Hō ga yoi to omoimasu! Jikai wa, watashi
wa anata ga kare no buki no hito o busō
kaijo mitai to omotte, sonogo chōkuhōrudo de
kare o kyatchi shimasu.*
(You'd better! Next time, I want to see
you disarm the man of his weapon, then
catch him in a chokehold.)

The boy bows his head again.

BOY

Watashi wa yakusoku shi, jikai ga yoideshou.
(Next time, I promise, will be better.)

His father, still cold, turns away.

The boy looks out into the Japanese woods.

NARRATOR

When I was a boy, I was beaten if I did not
do good enough at martial arts. This taught
me to better shape myself over time. This was
what helped me grow from being weak and
fragile to becoming the martial arts master I am
now. My childhood in Japan was what inspired
me to craft my martial arts competition . . .

Tatakai.

FADE TO: BLACK.

Then, we FADE TO the TITLE SHOT:

TATAKAI:
THE FIGHTING GAME

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After about five seconds, we begin to hear the sound of thousands of people clapping, cheering, and whistling.

FADE TO:

INT. OUTDOOR FOOTBALL FIELD - EVENING

Four men form a tight, close huddle, three wearing black-and-white vertically striped shirts, one wearing all white.

Finally, at the end of their talk, all four men walk off in four separate directions.

Across the football field, many men are walking around, but nobody is in the middle of a play yet. Half the men are wearing dark blue shirts and white pants - the attire of the Virginia Cavaliers team - while the other half wears the white shirts and green pants of the Oregon Ducks team.

Although everyone is walking around freely for a moment, everybody quickly gets into position.

ANNOUNCER 1

I tell you, there is no greater sport than football. Or "kickball", as they say in the U.K.

ANNOUNCER 2

Yeah, football is generally a great game, and today, we're gonna see whether MY Virginia Cavaliers will win, or if the Oregon Ducks will walk home the winners instead.

CLOSE ON one football player in particular, Ruth Stevens.

As the game begins, all the men run into action at once. Ruth runs into play.

CUT TO a farther away aerial angle of the football stadium as the game goes on.

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ANNOUNCER 1

And we have kickoff! The last game of the season begins!

CUT TO the audience, standing up, roaring, applauding.
We FLOAT THROUGH the many rows of seated people.

Out in the football field, through the silhouettes of chanting fans,
the football field can be seen. Both teams of men continue to
run quickly to win the game.

RUTH'S NARRATION

This is what you see on TV: the glory. The action.
The kickoff. The game.

CLOSE ON the two announcers, hours later.

ANNOUNCER 1

And it looks like the game is over, won,
officially, by the Oregon Ducks.

ANNOUNCER 2

It was a wild, unpredictable ride the whole way through.
But it looks like this game is over in favor of the Ducks.

CLOSE ON Ruth, walking away, in shame:
part of the losing team.

RUTH'S NARRATION

There's a couple things they don't show you on TV.
How fucking hard everything actually is. How much of
a beating you actually take - fighting for what you
believe in, fighting for your own personal passion.
They don't show you on TV what it's like to lose the game.

CUT TO the camera's view of some close-up shots
of the Virginia Cavaliers.

RUTH'S NARRATION

It used to be my best possible dream to see myself
on TV, winning a football game. Now I see the truth.
It's actually my worst possible nightmare to see
myself on TV as the loser. They get close-ups of
the losers. That's the worst thing they could ever
possibly do to us. The coach yelled at us a long time,

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but it was supposed to be worth it. Now . . .
now it's nothing.

LATER - the coach is yelling at his group.

COACH

This ain't what we're here for!
We ain't here to lose! We ain't
here to lose games! This is
UNACCEPTABLE! COMPLETELY
UNACCEPTABLE!

Ruth walks away in shame.

INT. VIRGINIA STREETS - NIGHT

Ruth drives around, alone.

INT. RUTH'S CAR - FRONT SEAT

RUTH'S NARRATION

They don't show you on TV what the rest of the day
is like. Going home the loser. Going to bed the loser.

He drives on, horribly depressed.

INT. BAR - LATER

Ruth sets a glass mug on the counter.

RUTH
Toast!

The bartender raises his mug to Ruth.

Ruth starts to drink his beer.

Two people slowly approach,
one guy and one girl.

BAR GIRL 1
Excuse me?

RUTH
Y-yeah?

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BAR GIRL 1

Are you that . . . football guy?

BAR GUY 1

Yeah. Are you that Cavalier?

Ruth gets angry.

RUTH

What do you WANT??

BAR GUY 1

What?

RUTH

What do you WANT, huh?
All right. SO I FUCKING LOST
THE GAME!

BAR GIRL 1

What??

BAR GUY 1

Wh . . . I . . .

RUTH

ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU'RE HERE TO SAY?!

BAR GUY 1

N . . . no! I . . . I was just . . . ASKING if
you were the football player . . . that's all.
Jeez. Don't be so . . . on-edge. At least
you got to go out there in uniform and be on TV.

A moment of silence, after which
the guy and girl leave.

RUTH

Hmm.

EXT. BAR - LATER

A bit drunk, Ruth staggers outside the bar.

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There, he meets a Japanese man wearing a black
and white suit and red tie.

FUSHI

Excuse me.

RUTH

Wha . . . ?

FUSHI

Excuse me. Are you . . . Ruth Stevens?

RUTH

. . . Yeah, what's up?

How did you know my name?

FUSHI

You *are* a famous football player.

RUTH

. . . Well, yeah.

FUSHI

Earlier tonight, you played well in your game.

RUTH

Did you FOLLOW me here?

FUSHI

Ruth . . . don't worry that you lost.
Because you can win a much bigger
game. Tatakai.

RUTH

Ta-ta-kah-wha? Hawaii?

FUSHI

Tatakai. Martial arts, self-defense, competition.

RUTH

Whoa. Whoa. You got the wrong guy.

I play football, pal. Not karate.

. . . Well, good night.

Ruth walks away.

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He starts to whistle as he leaves Fushi.

Soon, Fushi has caught up with him.

FUSHI
Ruth . . . wait.

RUTH
JEEZ you move fast! What ARE you?

FUSHI
I really think you would think differently
if you learned more about Tatakai.

RUTH
You got a brochure? A pamphlet?
A web-site, what? . . . Maybe a mobile app?

FUSHI
Tatakai is a competition coming directly from Japan.
It was fought in the outdoor wilderness and hillsides.
Here, in the United States, Tatakai will be held in the
Tatakai Stadium.

RUTH
When?

FUSHI
14 days.

RUTH
Well, okay, that gives me plenty of time to prepare.

INT. POLICE HEADQUARTERS - MORNING

We PULL BACK from a white light bulb, and
PAN RIGHT to drift through a small crowd of
police officers, seated, facing the wall, receiving
their orders from O'Neill.

O'NEILL
ALL RIGHT, listen up, you lazy sons of bitches!

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This past year, as you know, has been no bed of roses. We've got our hands full with several problems to tackle at once. So stay alert.

He shows his staff a slideshow presentation which outlines all the department's problems.

O'NEILL

Number one, narcotics. We need to stop marijuana, because, *un*-like tobacco, marijuana is both harmful and addictive. However, that stuff has been around forever . . . another problem worth our concerns is that new drug trades have been building up in just the last couple of months. Now you've got drug trades going around that did not necessarily exist only one year ago . . . like this "Snooze", for instance.

The slideshow presentation shows a picture of a narcotics agent holding Snooze.

O'NEILL

It's called Snooze: made primarily with all natural South American leaves, baking soda, and a couple other varying ingredients. It's called Snooze because taking too much at once knocks you right out. Cheap and easy to make, it produces a short-lived high, and immediately creates physical addiction. Long-term effects: body decay, comparable to the effects of crystal methamphetamines, only about twice as fast. Given that this is a very new drug, we hope to be able to stop and contain it quickly.

OFFICER 1

Agreed.

O'NEILL

Number two: costumed vigilantes. They "fight crime" - which is OUR job - and idolize dangerous, illegal behavior. There's plenty of these freaks running rampant . . . but right here, locally, in Virginia, lives the Jaguar.

The slideshow presentation shows a vigilante dressed in a black-and-blue costume and mask.

O'NEILL

The Jaguar is getting involved in our war against Snooze.

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We are now afraid that he is going to attempt to kill gang members. We want these gang members alive, and in our custody. We want to stop Snooze - but we want it done by the books. By us. As for the Jaguar, he too should be in our custody.

OFFICER 2

Uhhh, it's HER, sir . . . Jaguar's a her.

O'NEILL

Whatever. Number three, costumed criminal Kodiak, apparently, has been taking advantage of our preoccupation on Snooze, to steal a statue from a museum two days ago, and still he has not been caught.

OFFICER 3

These costumed crazies.

O'NEILL

Now. How do we plan on capturing Jaguar and Kodiak? By figuring out their real names. Their real identities. This would allow us to obtain arrest warrants, and knock on their doors to make our arrests. And that's what we've got the detectives for.

DETECTIVE

That's right. Nyah!

O'NEILL

Boy! That's an awful lot of shit on our plate! Narcotics, vigilantes, and costumed criminals. You lazy bastards have been lounging around too long anyway! Need to put you zombies to work!

OFFICER 3

Who you calling a zombie??

O'NEILL

Now, this you should know. Connecting all these threads together . . . is the Tatakai tournament.

The slideshow presentation gets to the name of the competition.

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戦い 格闘ゲーム
Tatakai: Kakutō Gēmu
Tatakai: the Fighting Game

OFFICER 2
Tatta-what??

O'NEILL
Tatakai. That's Japanese for "fight".

DETECTIVE
What is this? An anime?

O'NEILL
Tatakai is a Japanese martial arts competition, apparently coming from Japan to the United States for the first time ever. So they SAY. But is it really about Japanese martial arts? Or is this just another typical cover story to cover up their drug operations?

Many people in the room begin to murmur amongst each other at once.

DETECTIVE
That's a bit speculative . . .

OFFICER 1
Based on what, sir?

O'NEILL
Based on what the FBI tells us - that's what. They say that Columbian druglord Angel Caro - the son of a bitch that first cooked up Snooze in the first place - is going to be at the Tatakai tournament. Furthermore, the FBI tells us that, according to MORE than one recorded phone call, both Jaguar and Kodiak are going to be at the Tatakai tournament as well. That's three of our enemies going there at once.

DETECTIVE VINCENT GADDS
Where is this Tatta . . . thing?

OFFICER 1

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Yeah, we gonna have to fly to Tokyo for this?

O'NEILL

Tatakai, although *coming from* Japan, is being held right here in Alexandria, Virginia, otherwise we'd be contacting departments from other states. It's all gonna take place inside the Tatakai Stadium.

The slideshow presentation shows the men the enormous black building that is the Stadium.

O'NEILL

This black building has existed for years. But it's come under new ownership within the past 10 years. It's been redesigned - terraformed, if you will - to become a stadium for the tournament.

OFFICER 1

How does he make a profit?

O'NEILL

That's the question. Clearly Snooze must be getting sold at the tournament. Angel Caro is going to be there. Jaguar will be there. And Kodiak will be there.

OFFICER 1

Who's being sent inside? S.W.A.T.?

O'NEILL

Are you fucking stupid? Why would we send S.W.A.T.?
Were you dropped on the head as a baby?

OFFICER 1

You don't have to talk like that, you know!

O'NEILL

Jason: shut up. Anyway: to answer the question, the agency that's going after the Tatakai tournament will be the Drug Enforcement Agency, the D.E.A. After they raid the place, and arrest people for distributing Snooze, we will also have taken down both Jaguar and Kodiak with one stone.

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DETECTIVE VINCENT GADDS
Sir . . . if I may . . . is there enough proof
yet to warrant a D.E.A. raid?

O'NEILL
Maybe not. That's why *you're* going there -
to investigate the building, and find out what
goes on inside.

DETECTIVE VINCENT GADDS
What??

O'NEILL
That's right. Once you find enough proof,
on the inside of the building, we can get the
raid going. That's what we've got detectives
like you around for, after all.

DETECTIVE VINCENT GADDS
Really.

O'NEILL
What's wrong, are you not the man for the job?

GADDS
Oh, I'm the man for the job, all right.

O'NEILL
Then get to work!

INT. CITY STREETS - LATER

Detective Gadds is driving around the city.

INT. DETECTIVE VINCENT GADDS' CAR - FRONT SEAT

From the viewpoint of his steering wheel,
we watch as he drives anxiously.

NARRATION

Detective Vincent Gadds. 15 years, I've been a
police detective. Not just some private investigator -
a police detective, going after crime. Now I'm going
after a martial arts competition; that's a new one.
I don't much understand the connection between a karate

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competition and all those other crimes . . . although, the cost of real estate, especially on a building that size, would certainly put pressure on Fushi Chokei to make some money off the building. If he is to stay afloat, perhaps he *has* resorted to selling drugs to make his money. I don't have any proof. I can't yet make any arrests. But I'll learn just how deep this all goes.

INT. ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA - NEAR THE TATAKAI STADIUM

We FOLLOW GADDS' CAR as it drives on.

Then we FLY AHEAD down the road, to finally settle upon a giant black building.

The Tatakai Stadium, in Alexandria, Virginia. Right now, early in the morning, the time has not yet arrived for the fighting and action.

Looking at the building, starting at the ground level, we slowly RAISE UPWARD to finally see the roof, whose borders and corners are decorated to look like a 12th-century Japanese castle.

Standing over 30 stories tall, this enormous black building is quite a sight.

We LOOK DOWN at the ground level, as Gads approaches the building on foot, looking up at the sky.

We slowly COME CLOSER to the ground, and finally settle upon a grounded angle. Gads attempts to open the door, only to find that it's locked.

He doesn't move, for a second. Then he whispers curse words. He thrashes and pulls on the door for a moment. Then, finally, he knocks on the glass angrily.

INT. TATAKAI STADIUM - FRONT LOBBY

From inside the building, we look outward at the distorted sight of Vincent banging on the glass.

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VINCENT GADDS

Police, open up.

From the back, we see Fushi Choikei approach the door to open it.

EXT. TATAKAI STADIUM - FRONT DOOR

FUSHI CHOKEI

Can I help you, officer?

GADDS

You sure can - by cooperating with me.

FUSHI

What is this about?

GADDS

It's about Tatakai. I need to speak with you a few minutes.

INT. TATAKAI STADIUM - SOON

Detective Gadds and Fushi Choikei walk slowly through the inside of the building, which is decorated much like a Japanese restaurant. Calming Japanese music plays from overhead.

FUSHI

My name is Fushi Choikei - and this is my building.

GADDS

Fushi Choikei? I take it you're from Japan?

FUSHI

Correct - from Miyaki, Japan.

GADDS

Hmm. And you own this building?

FUSHI

Correct. For 10 years, now, I have owned this building.

GADDS

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Okay. Now. The real estate. I'm guessing
it costs a lot of money.

FUSHI
Correct.

GADDS
How do you . . . you know. Raise money?

FUSHI
Restaurant.

GADDS
Restaurant?

Fushi points with one finger.

On the far wall, a red arrow points to the left.

Turning his head to look, Vincent sees that
the arrow points to a door in the hallway.
The door has a red X on it.

Fushi opens the door for Vincent, who steps
through. He enters the restaurant area, and
Fushi walks beside him.

FUSHI
Here you will find the restaurant.

GADDS
Oh my God. So. This is how you
make your money.

FUSHI
Correct. You have to make money somehow.
Otherwise I lose money by owning this building.
But I don't know how to run a restaurant.
I leave that to the experts. I hire them as
tenants in this building.

GADDS
Hmm. Wow. Okay. So, I guess it's
not all some big drug-house, as I was
thinking it would be. But. You care to

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explain Tatakai?

FUSHI

Tatakai. Martial arts competition.

GADDS

Yeah - I was wondering what all the *other* floors in this building were being used for . . .

FUSHI

Tatakai is to be fought for the honor and the greater glory of the martial arts. You see, I have been a martial arts instructor for 20 years now.

GADDS

Is that so? 20 years?

They now leave the restaurant area, and resume the walk through the hallway.

Now Vincent begins to walk in the direction of the red arrow on the far wall.

FUSHI

10 years in Japan. 10 years in America.
Now I intend on hosting the Tatakai tournament here.

GADDS

And when, exactly, are you intending on doing this?

FUSHI

Tatakai will happen in 10 days. Senshi! No!!

An enormous green komodo dragon appears from the corner ahead. It begins to walk toward Vincent.

VINCENT GADDS

What . . . on Earth is that?

FUSHI

Her name is Senshi. *Senshi! Teishi!* (Stop!)

GADDS

Is that a . . . dragon?

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FUSHI

Komodo dragon.

GADDS

What does Senshi mean?

FUSHI

It means “warrior”.

GADDS

You have komodo dragons running around
this close to the restaurant area?

FUSHI

She thinks you are trying to attack me.
Senshi, *Teishi! Teishi!* (Stop! Stop!)

Senshi backs off.

VINCENT GADDS

There are still some other questions to be
asked. Namely about your intent to
distribute the narcotic Snooze - as well as
your cooperation with the Jaguar, *and* with
Kodiak, to be involved in this Tatakai
tournament. However, now . . . now I think
I’ve got a lot of good info for a starting
point of understanding.

INT. CITY STREETS - SOON

Gadds drives on.

NARRATION

God, does this case get more and more
complicated the more I try to untangle it.
First it was martial arts. First it was that
being used as a cover story to hide other
crimes. But this guy CAN’T be out to
peddle Snooze if he’s been a martial
arts instructor for 10 years here, and 10
years there. Snooze is so new. And he
does have a restaurant around, to raise
money. So, I don’t know now . . . and

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I really found no way to PROVE Jaguar's involvement, or Kodiak's. It's still all just speculation - I knew it would be. (Sigh) . . . well . . . I'm gonna track down all these obstacles . . . God, that komodo dragon was so weird!

INT. CITY STREETS - LATER - EVENING

The Sun is lower in the sky now.
Detective Gadds is still driving around.

NARRATION

Boy, do I need to clear my head and loosen up a little. I've literally got a pounding headache now. I need to take two Aspirin and wash it down with some beer. Two or three beers can't kill me.

His car pulls up to a parking space,
outside a bar.

INT. BAR - NIGHT

Thwok! A dart hits the wall, and bounces off.

Detective Gadds, finishing his bottle of beer,
screams angrily.

GADDS
Ahhhh!

He walks up to all the fallen darts, to pick
them up and try again.

He throws another dart.

GADDS
This one's Kodiak!

It pierces the board, but not quite
at the bullseye.

GADDS
This one's Jaguar!

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The second dart hits the board, also missing the bullseye.

GADDS

And this one's Snooze!

He throws the dart right into an inch away from the bullseye.

GADDS

Ohhhh! You saw that!

NARRATION

I have learned that this stuff will help me to get my mind off things.

INT. BAR - BILLIARDS ROOM - SOON

Thwok! Gadds' wooden pool cue strikes the white ball, sending it across the pool table.

Pool balls collide, rolling around everywhere.

VINCENT

No, no! No! The Stripe went in!

HENRY

You're the Stripes.

VINCENT

I know! It was . . . a little friendly fire.

HENRY

Hey, thanks for the *favor*. Since it was a Stripe, you don't get to go again. Now.

Henry rubs the end of his wooden pool cue against the blue powder chalk.

Then he sits on the side of the pool table, positioning the pool cue behind his back and outward on his right side.

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HENRY

Remember. Tournament rules, for pool:
announce the ball, announce the pocket.
4-ball in the right pocket.

Henry strikes the white ball, to quickly sink a
Stripe into the right pocket.

HENRY

Thus I get another turn. Watch. 6 in the side pocket.

He strikes again. The white ball rolls quickly,
and indeed strikes some pool balls, but the 6-
ball is not sunken in.

HENRY

Dang it. Whatever. Your turn, Vince.

Vincent Gadds rubs his pool cue against chalk.

VINCE

I'm tracking down the Solids. Let's see.
Hmm. 9-ball in the right pocket.

He strikes the white ball again.

NARRATION

Drinking, throwing darts, playing pool.
It's what I need to get my head clear again.

INT. BAR - BARSTOOL AREAS - SOON

He's back to drinking from a glass mug
at the counter. Looking up, he sees a
few big screen TVs play the same sight.

The boxing match. Two boxers fight in the ring.

VINCE

Hmm. Who's playing?

BARTENDER

Wilson Woodrow.

VINCE

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What? The new kid?

BARTENDER

Yeah - the new kid. He's been kicking
a lot of ass.

VINCE

You're kidding.

BARTENDER

Going up against Harry "Mountain Lion" Saunders -

VINCE

What?? You're shitting me. Wilson is
taking on the Mountain Lion Saunders??

BARTENDER

Bet you \$100 he wins, too.

VINCENT

This is chaotic. Okay. Let's check
this out. Let's see how it goes.

He pays his full attention to one of the
TV screens, amidst the sea of the sounds
of the clattering of forks and knives and
plates and glasses.

We slowly DRIFT CLOSER to the TV screen . . .

. . . until we are absorbed into the boxing ring itself.

INT. BOXING RING - JUST THEN

Wilson Woodrow, 24 years old, is wiped out, exhausted.

The crowd is just so loud. There's so many
voices around him. His senses feel highly sensitive.

CROWD PEOPLE

Yeah, that's right! Whoop his ass!
No! Wilson! Stop that! Get up!
Come on, Wilson! Do this!
Get up there, Woodrow!

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WILSON
Ahhhh . . .

He steps forward again.

WILSON
Come on, Mountain Lion! Bring it on!

He slams his red boxing glove into
Harry the Mountain Lion's jaw.

He slams his fist again.

Then he takes a beating in the chest
and torso from his enemy. Harry is
ruthless. He punches, with alternating
hands, once, twice, three times, four.
Wilson can do nothing but take the beating.

WILSON
Ahhhh!

MOUNTAIN LION
You little wuss! I knew I would win!

WILSON
Rrrrgh AGH!

Wilson steps forward and swings another punch,
connecting with Harry's head.

WILSON
There!

Wilson punches him again in the torso, then the chest,
quickly, faster than his enemy had been, side-
stepping his foe swiftly to avoid him.

Harry swings a punch that hits Wilson
square in the eye.

He looks away. Dozens of people are
whistling at the sight. People snap his photo.

WILSON

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No.

He steps forward and turns the fight
against Harry again, beating him
repeatedly.

The people are going nuts. A
throbbing sound plays over the crowd.

BOXING NARRATOR 1

I cannot believe it!! I cannot believe it!!
The newcomer kid, who 6 years ago was
still skipping high school, is taking on the
Mountain Lion!! And he's . . . AND HE'S
WINNING!!

NARRATOR 2

Is this staged?? Is this rigged?? Did he
throw the fight? I suspect foul play here, Tom!

BOXING NARRATOR 1

Throwing the fight? Hold on, now -
it's still anyone's game!

Wilson channels everything in him into the fight.
He pummels his foe again, and again, and again.

Finally, the Mountain Lion is down.

The referee approaches Harry.

REFEREE

You son of a bitch, don't die on me!
Get up! Get up! Okay. One . . .
two . . . come on, now . . . THREE!

Ding ding ding! The match is over!

The crowd has never been louder!

The stadium is roaring with applause!

Wilson stands, grinning enthusiastically,
both hands outstretched. Victory is his!

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WILSON

Victor! I am the Victor!

He approaches his fallen enemy.

Wilson extends his hand, helping
his enemy back up to his feet.

Together, they both raise their hands
up in the air, as though they both
share equal glory.

INT. FOOTBALL FIELD - MIDDAY

We see a very CLOSE ANGLE of a
football . . . just before it gets kicked up
into the air.

(football player gets found and invited to Tatakai.)

EXT. BOXING STADIUM - NIGHT

Boxer Wilson Woodrow walks away from
the building, to go find his car.

FUSHI

Excuse me.

Wilson walks on, not minding him.

FUSHI

Young man! Excuse me!

Wilson looks, and eyes Fushi.

WILSON

Yeah? . . . What's up?

FUSHI

You are a boxer. Yes?

WILSON

Yeah, I'm a boxer. Why, what's up?
You want an autograph?

27

Fushi hands him a paper invitation.

WILSON

What's this?

FUSHI

Tatakai. Fighting competition.
I invite only the best to Tatakai.

WILSON

Tata-kai? Hmmm . . . a tournament?
I - I don't know. I box.

FUSHI

You may box. You may enter the
tournament fighting in any style you wish.

WILSON

Yeah? I could come in as a boxer?
. . . Yeah? Hmm. I-I'll look into it.

FUSHI

Please participate in Tatakai.
It will be held in 8 more days.

WILSON

8 more days. Hmm. Let me talk to Mike first.

FUSHI

Thank you. Good night, Wilson.

Wilson feels shocked, for the first time,
at the sound of his own name.

Fushi Chokey walks away, and leaves.

EXT. FOOTBALL STADIUM - NIGHT

RUTH STEVENS

What's Tatakai?

FUSHI

A martial arts competition.
Only the best are invited.

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RUTH STEVENS

I . . . I don't understand. I'm a
football player. A linebacker.

FUSHI

And I am only an instructor.
You see, all kinds of people
come to Tatakai - boxer,
detective.

RUTH STEVENS

I'm a football player. Why on Earth
would you seek me out for this?

FUSHI

As I said - only the best are qualified.
You are the best at football. It may not
be martial arts. But it means you are good
at this sport - you are qualified for Tatakai.

RUTH STEVENS

I . . . don't understand. I . . . just lost the game.

FUSHI

Many people lose the game, when the
TEAM has lost. But you are not a TEAM.
You are an individual.

RUTH STEVENS

. . . I still lost.

FUSHI

You may have lost this game. But I am
not looking for a team. I am looking for skilled
individuals. Please consider invitation to Tatakai.

RUTH STEVENS

Yeah. All right. I'll consider it.

Fushi smiles, and bows his head.

FUSHI

Thank you.

Ruth, not smiling, bows his head back.

29

INT. CITY STREETS - SOON

Ruth is driving back home.

NARRATION

Some football player. God. I'm such a loser. Ohhhh. Why don't I just hang myself. Every football career is meant to last less than five years anyway. Here I am, trying to enjoy my time while I've got it . . . but . . . I sense it's already all over. I just . . . I just don't know.

INT. RUTH'S HOME - LATER

He eats spaghetti and meatballs with tomato sauce, twirling the pasta around on a fork.

He looks at his paper invitation again, which now gets a little tomato sauce on it.

Eyeing it again, he thinks its words over.

Tatakai

NARRATION

How stupid was I? Of course I should go. When it comes to these maybe, maybe-not questions - should I go, should I not go - most of the time, I should go. I had my first football game at some point. I'll have my first . . . foray into this . . . Tatakai thing.

He sits and ponders it all some more.

NARRATION

Why would the guy pick me? I lost the football game. I sucked! But he believed in me, as an individual, even if the team has lost. God . . .

His eyes dart over the paper.

NARRATION

8 more days, huh? I should do this.

30

Doctor Danielle Peterson is convinced to join.
Lawyer Allen Bosc is convinced to join.

INT. TATAKAI STADIUM - FIGHTER'S CAGE

Standing up against the wall are all 10 fighters.

FUSHI'S VOICE

Contestants, prepare. Tatakai will soon begin.

We slowly PAN ACROSS from one
end of the line of humans to the next.

FUSHI'S VOICE

Tatakai will test your skill, your strength,
your coordination. It will test your ability
to fight each other, but it will also test your
ability to work together, as a team.

JESSICA MOORE

This man cannot be serious.

Again, we hear Fushi's voice, while
PANNING ACROSS from one end
of the human line to the other.

FUSHI'S VOICE

All 10 of you are here for a reason.
You are all here because you are
uniquely qualified for Tatakai.

DETECTIVE VINCENT GADDS

Uniquely qualified? I'm a detective!
I'm not here to fight anyone!

DOCTOR DANIELLE PETERSON

At least you're specifically trained for taking people down.
I'm a doctor. I'm here to treat injuries - not cause them!

LAWYER ALLEN BOSC

Is this man serious? We are not cavemen!

WARDEN EDWARD KANE

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Yeah. I'm the warden of a jail -
not some lab rat! I should be having
him in a cage!

FBI AGENT JESSICA MOORE
So *this* is what Tatakai really is! This doesn't
fit any single profile we know of!

FOOTBALL PLAYER RUTH STEVENS
So it's all just a big sporting event, huh?
A fighting sport, with tournament rules.

BOXER WILSON WOODROW
(*getting pumped up with his boxing gloves*)
Come on! Let's start the matches, then!
Heavyweight champ right here!

DRUGLORD ANGEL CARO
Says you! I'm gonna rise to the top, baby!

JAGUAR
We'll see about that, scumbag!

KODIAK
I'm already *at* the top.

FUSHI'S VOICE
Fighters: proceed to the next room.

A wall slowly slides up toward the ceiling.

Now all 10 players are free to walk ahead, into
a pitch-black room where nothing can be seen.

All 10 people are unsure of what to do next.

FUSHI'S VOICE
Walk!

Nervously, they all step forward.

INT. TATAKAI STADIUM - SECOND ROOM

All 10 people enter the room, which is
completely blackened.

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Lights turn on. White spotlights, hung from the ceiling, wildly flail around the room. Colored lights are blue, pink, red, and green. They illuminate the black bars that make up the walls of these rooms.

EDWARD KANE

God, look at this! He's got us behind bars!
This Fushi Chokey's gonna be the next one
in my jail!

FUSHI'S VOICE

Edward Kane.

Edward looks around, puzzled.

FUSHI'S VOICE

You will fight Angel Caro.

Angel hits his fists together.

ANGEL CARO

Bring it on, old man.

EDWARD KANE

Seriously?

VINCENT GADDS

Hey. Edward.

Kane looks at Vincent.

VINCENT GADDS

Stop this son of a bitch.

EDWARD KANE

You got it.

FUSHI'S VOICE

Everyone remain in this room.
The two fighters who are to fight,
proceed to the next room.

Another wall slowly begins to slide up

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toward the ceiling.

FUSHI'S VOICE
Tataikai will now begin.

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Detective Vincent Gadds.
Doctor Danielle Peterson.
Lawyer Allen Bosc.
Warden Edward Kane.
FBI agent Jessica Moore.
Football player Ruth Stevens.
Boxer Wilson Woodrow.
Druglord Angel Caro.
Crime-fighting female vigilante, Jaguar.
Costumed criminal Kodiak.

Three enormous cages stand side-by-side. Two are filled with the audience. The one in the middle has the two fighters battling each other. The people in the audience are hungry for action. Fushi sells bottled water to the people in the audience, and he plans on making money off the water, enough money to compensate for the cost of the tournament. In the audience cages, people grab the vertical bars and shake them, demanding more violence.

Detective Vincent Gadds now realizes that his investigation into Tatakai has turned into full-blown involvement. But he refuses to be a part of this. Warden Edward Kane challenges druglord Angel Caro to Tatakai. Now he shall stop the movement of Snooze himself, Kane says. Detective Gadds watches as the warden and criminal settle their differences in a Tatakai fight inside the Stadium. But Angel wins the fight, beating Edward Kane. Defeated, Kane remains on the sidelines. Angel, arrogant about his victory, remarks that his plan to peddle Snooze will never be stopped. Detective Gadds is saddened to see the victory of the bad guy.

However, his arrogance is his downfall: now that he has admitted to his own involvement with Snooze, Detective Gadds arrests him, having brought handcuffs. He reminds Fushi Chokei, after all, that a detective can make arrests. For right now, he can nail him on charges of conspiracy to peddle an addictive drug, and most likely possession. It may not yet be a recognized illegal chemical, but he can still be arrested. Chokei arrives to tell Vincent Gadds to stop. But he won't. The arrest is happening, he insists. But he cannot leave the Stadium until Tatakai is over. Gadds tries to escort Angel out of the stadium. But Fushi stops him, and says that if he wants to settle his differences with Angel, it will be in the fight - later. For now, Detective Gadds keeps Angel in handcuffs. Angel complains that he won his fight with Kane. Gadds tells him to shut up.

Doctor Danielle Peterson is set to fight FBI agent Jessica Moore. Moore was here because the Tatakai Stadium was supposed to be the place to find Angel Caro, who now seems to have defeated a warden. But now Moore is fighting a doctor instead. The two fight, and Jessica wins. The doctor remains on the sidelines.

Football player Ruth Stevens fights boxer Wilson Woodrow. Wilson wins.

Detective Vincent Gadds takes on Kodiak, the costumed criminal whose costume looks like a bear. Kodiak wins the fight.

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The lawyer, Allen Bosc, fights Jaguar, the female crime-fighting vigilante. Indeed, her career as a vigilante is against the law, and she must be brought to trial, he says. As she fights him, he will not fight her back, until enough jabs and blows convince him to do so. He loses the match, and Jaguar wins.

In a tournament of 10 people, detective Vincent Gadds, doctor Danielle Peterson, lawyer Allen Bosc, warden Edward Kane, and football player Ruth Stevens have all been disqualified. Ruth feels sad about losing the game. Edward is furious that Angel will get away with it. But Vincent reminds Kane that he's not the only one going after Angel. Vincent is still tracking Angel down. Though he may officially be disqualified, his work is not yet done. Doctor Danielle Peterson and lawyer Allen Bosc, two losers of fights, meet and fall in love.

Still in the game are FBI agent Jessica Moore, boxer Wilson Woodrow, costumed crime-fighter Jaguar, costumed criminal Kodiak, and druglord Angel Caro. Angel and Kodiak form an alliance, becoming best friends for right now. Together, they will take on the three people who remain in the game and on their trail, Jessica, Wilson, and Jaguar.

The next challenge is going to be the Fire Round. The five survivors of the first round have made it here, to a place where they must walk across an arrangement of flame-throwers embedded into the ground, firing flames upward. There is one more rule about the Fire Round. Although five losers of fights have been disqualified, any that choose to try the Fire Round, and who survive, can find themselves back in the game, to challenge anybody of their choosing. Detective Vincent Gadds sees a way to get himself back in the game. The other five think that this cannot be serious. But, indeed, this is the Fire Round.

Here, the floor slowly moves, like a conveyer belt, to bring people closer to the flame-thrower traps. One must study their rhythm, and know when to run over them. Kodiak has problems, being the biggest person, and not having much ability to stop, drop, and roll until he has finished getting through the round. He removes himself from his bear costume, and puts out the fires wearing his regular clothes. Everyone else has survived the Fire Round.

Now they have all made it to the Kenjutsu round. Indeed, 5 men step forth from an opening door, all dressed for the Japanese martial arts form of Kenjutsu, including the face-covering masks. They all drop their wooden staffs, to fight the 6 survivors hand-to-hand. All 6 survivors take on the Kenjutsu warriors, only to find 5 more stepping forth, followed by another 5, to make a total of 15 of them. At last, they have all taken on the Kenjutsu warriors.

Everybody is thankful for being pushed along through this crazy tournament, which shows them what they can do. FBI agent Jessica Moore is ready for the next match. Next up, the 6 survivors will make it to the second round of matches. Still in the game are detective Vincent Gadds, FBI agent Jessica Moore, boxer Wilson, druglord Angel, costumed Jaguar, and criminal Kodiak. Now they will all fight one another in the second round.

Jessica Moore takes on Wilson. Vincent Gadds takes on Angel. Although Angel had previously beaten warden Edward Kane, there is no way he will get past Vincent. Wilson seems to be beating Jessica Moore, but she attacks his groin and then imitates his boxing moves with her own fists. Now her own inner animal is truly coming out. This Tatakai tournament is such an unexpected thrill. Jessica

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Moore beats the boxer Wilson. Vincent Gadds is taking quite a beating from Angel, who is determined to see his crime run rampant. One day, he will spread his drug through all of Mexico, the U.S.A., and Canada, like a virus across the entire continent. All the taunting only further motivates detective Vincent to fight him harder. Vincent wins, finally taking down Angel. However, Kodiak beats Jaguar, who becomes a disqualified loser.

Only Vincent, Jessica Moore, and Kodiak remain in the fight now. They are all near the end of the tournament. They have made it to the Yamato round. Warriors dressed as 8th century Japanese Yamato generals emerge from an opening door, to do battle with all three warriors. Jaguar, beaten, emerges to attempt to fight these Yamato warriors. All four fighters, Vincent, Jessica, Jaguar, and Kodiak, get their asses kicked. Finally, they all agree to work together, for right now - even with Kodiak. Together, all four turn the tables on the fight, quickly kicking the asses of the Yamato warriors. A second wave of Yamato men emerge, but they all get overwhelmed by the teamwork of the four.

After stopping the Yamato warriors, and encountering the Swinging Spikes, each individual is free to take on the final challenge, Fushi Chokei himself. He unleashes his true martial arts mastery, stopping Kodiak himself. Next, he takes on Jaguar, and stops when he thinks she's down. Then he takes on Jessica Moore, and, again, stops when he thinks she is down. Finally, he takes on detective Vincent Gadds, who loses the fight, but is not killed.

Fushi Chokei is the winner of the tournament. He is the strongest and most highly skilled martial artist of them all. That may be - but the other 10 people who have come to Tatakai have learned more than they could have ever imagined they would from coming here.

Detective Vincent Gadds leaves the stadium, the final man to lose to Chokei. He waits outside as Angel Caro leaves, and then Vincent makes his arrest. Now, at last, he realizes that Tatakai and Fushi Chokei were critical in leading him to this critical arrest. Finally, the police department can work on stopping the spreading of Snooze. FBI agent Jessica Moore shares her experience with the rest of the department. Lawyer Allen Bosc and doctor Danielle Peterson have fallen in love. Warden Edward Kane goes back to his job, screaming more than ever at the surrounding criminals. Football player Ruth Stevens learns that perhaps there's more to the game than winning or losing. Boxer Wilson returns to boxing, and Jaguar and Kodiak return to their game of cat and mouse across the city. The next day, a storm of policemen arrive at Fushi's building, only to find that he has left by helicopter already. As he flies away, to go back to Japan, he leaves it to his men to wrap up the legal mess in the Tatakai Stadium. So the place is cleaned up, and Yamato warriors fight the police in the streets.

Fushi Chokei leaves. Now he realizes that the cost of winning his own tournament is the arrogance he appears to have. At least now he will be safe in Japan. He hopes that he has taught the participants what they are capable of.

Overall, the players fight in large cages, then proceed through various other small obstacles.

Fushi Chokei.

Emperor Fushimi was Emperor of Japan from 1287 to 1298.

Emperor Chokei was Emperor of Japan from 1368 to 1383.