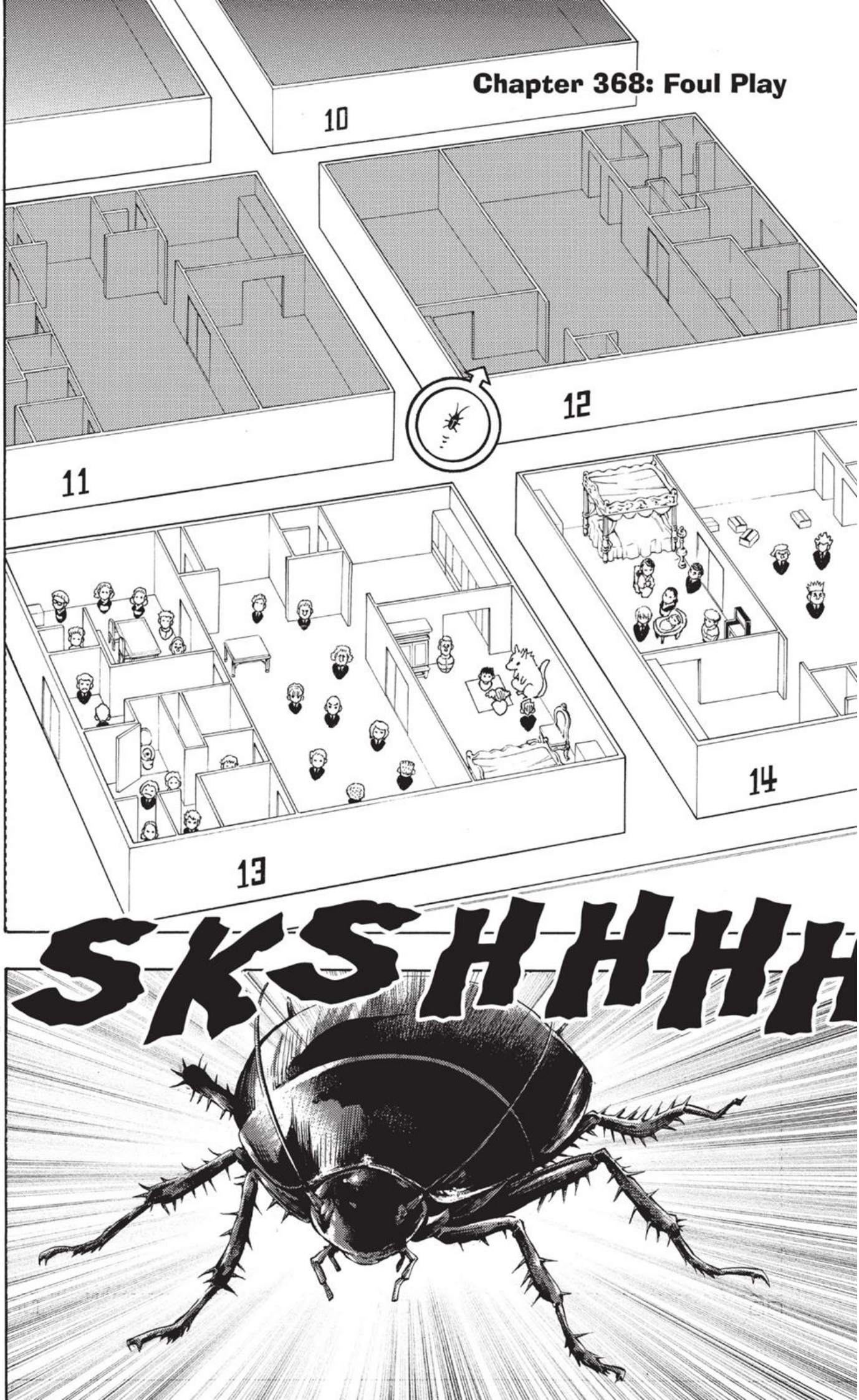

THERE ARE 18 GUARDS AND HUNTERS IN THE ROOM!! AND SIX SERVANTS ...!!
THIRTEENTH PRINCE MARAYAM'S NEN BEAST IS A DINOSAUR-LIKE MONSTER ...!!
IF I'M RIGHT, THERE SHOULD BE SIX GUARDS IN TWELFTH PRINCE MOMOZE'S ROOM...!
THEY EXCEED THE DESIGNATED 15... PROBABLY BECAUSE THEY'RE USING HIS SISTER'S—THE TWELFTH PRINCE'S—GUARDS!
NOW WE KNOW HOW MANY PEOPLE ARE WITH PRINCE MARAYAM...
A NEW PAGE...THE SIGNAL THAT SHE'S DONE WITH ONE PRINCE...!!
THROB
THROB
FLIP
EN CAN'T HELP ME FIGURE OUT WHAT SHE'S WRITING...
THE PHYSICAL TOLL IS MORE OF A PROBLEM THAN THE REDUCTION IN LIFE SPAN...
THROB
THROB
THROB
THROB
IT TOOK MORE THAN AN HOUR... IT'S BEEN ALMOST THREE HOURS SINCE MY EYES TURNED CRIMSON...!!


Chapter 368: Foul Play
10
11
12
13
14
SKSHHH


SKF
IT'S DARK... IS SHE NOT HERE...?
NEXT... THE TWELFTH PRINCE'S BEDROOM.....!!
SCURRY SCURRY SCURRY


STOP !!!
NO !!!!
STOP HIM !!!
QUEEN OITO, CALM DOWN!!
PRINCE MOMOZE IS GOING TO BE KILLED!! YOU HAVE TO STOP HIM!!!
HE DOESN'T KNOW YOU CAN USE NEN YET...!!
BABIMYNA IS HERE!!
YOU'RE TIRED AND YOU'VE HAD A NIGHTMARE.
WE'RE IN YOUR BEDROOM.


SWAT

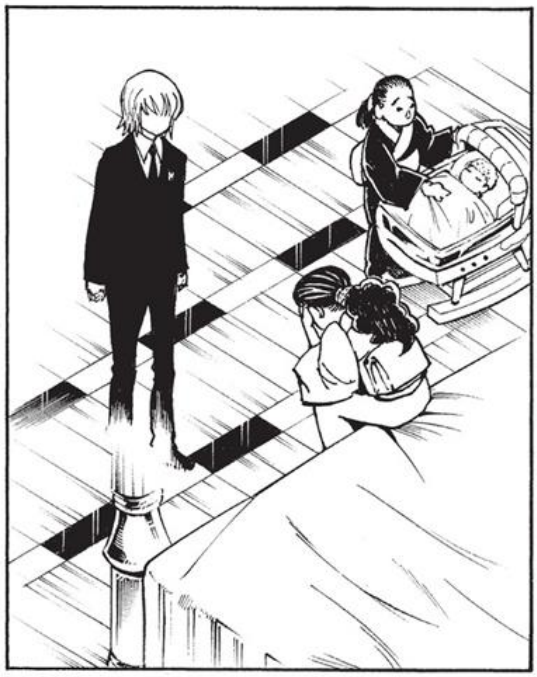

IF YOU WON'T DO IT, I'LL GO!!
THIS IS NO TIME FOR GAMES!!

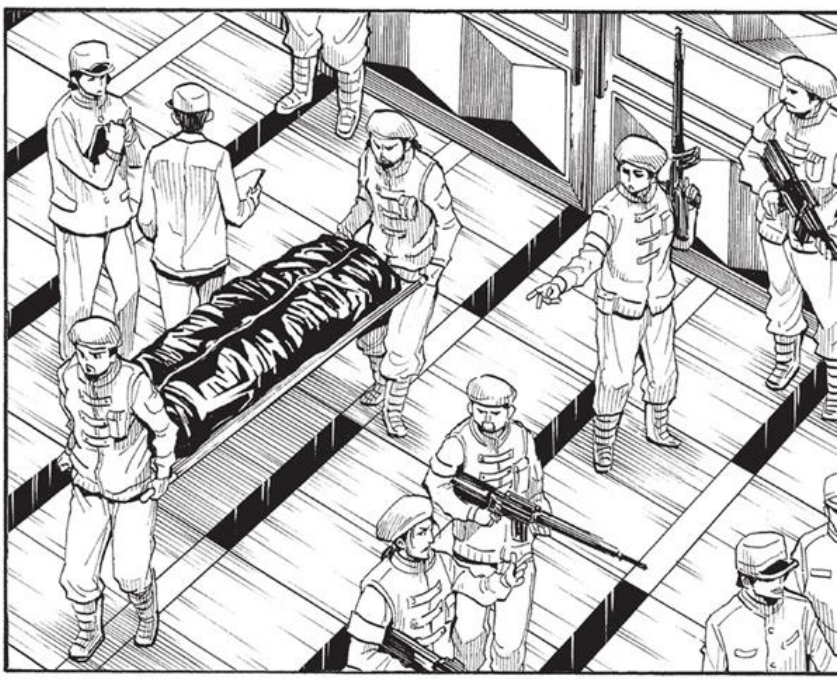

I'LL ACT AS GO-BETWEEN.
THEY WON'T CONNECT YOU UNLESS YOU WORK FOR A HIGHER-RANKING PRINCE.


ALL RIGHT, WE'LL FIND OUT.
BILL! CALL ROOM 1012 AND CHECK UP ON PRINCE MOMOZE!










I MIGHT'VE BEEN ABLE TO SAVE HER...!!
I COULD'VE STOPPED IT...!!


CAUSE OF DEATH WAS SUFFO-CATION.
THEY ALWAYS GUARDED THE OUTSIDE OF HER ROOM WHILE SHE SLEPT.
BESIDES THE TWO ON BREAK, THE TESTIMONY OF THE FOUR GUARDS MATCHES— NOBODY WENT INTO HER ROOM.
QUEEN SEVANTI TOOK THIS TO MEAN ALL SIX GUARDS ARE COLLUDING, AND SHE REPORTED THEM TO THE KING.
THE SIX WERE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY TO FACE A COURT-MARTIAL.
PUT THEM ALL TO DEATH !!
RIGHT NOW !!!
THE TIMING WAS TOO PERFECT...
EXTRA CAUTION IS NEEDED.
GOT A SECOND?
YOU SAID EACH PRINCE HAS A GUARDIAN BEAST.
YES.
THEN WHY DIDN'T TWELFTH PRINCE MOMOZE'S BEAST PROTECT HER?


THERE'S A CLUE IN THE TIME SHE WENT TO BED.
?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
SHE RETIRED MUCH EARLIER THAN USUAL.
SOMETHING MUST'VE WORN HER OUT TODAY.
RIGHT.
THE BEASTS ARE PARASITES! THEY FEED ON THEIR HOSTS' AURA FOR ENERGY!
EXACTLY.
IF ONE OF THE TWO NEN BEASTS THAT ATTACKED OUR GUARDS BELONGED TO PRINCE MOMOZE...
...SHE MUST'VE EXPENDED CONSIDERABLE AURA.
SHE RAN OUT OF ENERGY, AND THAT'S WHEN THEY GOT HER...
SO THE CRIMINAL MUST BE FAMILIAR WITH NEN.
BUT THIS CASE WILL INCREASE THE DEMAND FOR INFORMATION ON NEN.
USING NEN AS THE INCENTIVE FOR FURTHER COOPERATION IS TO OUR ADVANTAGE.
THAT'S THE PROBLEM...


I NEED AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POS-SIBLE...
THROB
...TO REDUCE THE RISKS TO FOURTEENTH PRINCE WOBLE...!
THROB
...
I'D LIKE HER TO CONTINUE THE INVESTI-GATION...
THROB
BUT IT'S TOO CRUEL TO BADGER HER NOW.
MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?
YOUR MAJESTY.
IT WAS TOO OBVIOUS... HE FIGURED OUT THAT SHE WAS USING NEN...!
BUT... WHY IS HE ASKING THIS?
THERE WERE NO BENEFITS TO YOU BY CRYING OUT.
WHY DID YOU DO IT...?


...IT MUST SEEM SO ODD THAT I DIDN'T SIMPLY ALLOW MY STEPDAUGHTER TO BE KILLED.
FOR YOU PEOPLE TOO CAUGHT UP IN THE SURVIVAL GAME...
HEH.
HEH HEH HEH.
...
NO "BENEFITS" ...

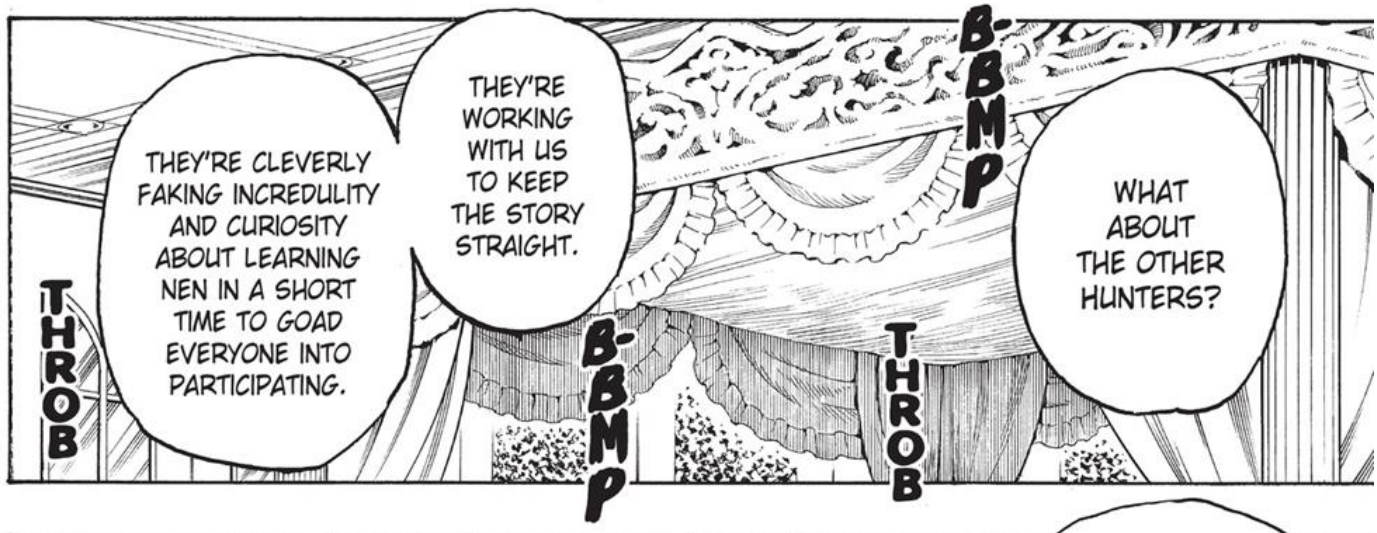

I HAVE NOTHING MORE TO SAY TO YOU.
I UNDER-STAND.


SHF
HUH ...?
SAKATA, LET'S GO.


...


...
LEAVE KURAPIKA IN CHARGE.
BUT...
THE QUEEN CAN'T REST WITH US IN HERE.
I'LL TALK TO SLACKA, TOO.
FFT
!
HIS EN IS GONE ...?!
IT'S FOR WOBLE.
I'M NOT DOING IT FOR YOU.
YOUR MAJESTY...! DON'T PUSH YOURSELF...


WE'LL BEGIN 9 A.M. TOMORROW.
CALL ME AGAIN IN 15 MINUTES. WE'LL DECIDE BY THEN.
KURAPIKA, WE GOT THE COUNT.
TEN PRINCES BESIDES THE SECOND AND SIXTH PRINCES WANT TO SEND THEIR GUARDS.
MORE THAN EXPECTED. THE FIRST PRINCE, TOO?
YES.
IT'S MORE THAT THE CAPTAIN OF HIS GUARDS WANTS TO CHECK UP ON US.


WHAT ABOUT THE OTHER HUNTERS?
B-BBMP
THEY'RE WORKING WITH US TO KEEP THE STORY STRAIGHT.
THEY'RE CLEVERLY FAKING INCREDULITY AND CURIOSITY ABOUT LEARNING NEN IN A SHORT TIME TO GOAD EVERYONE INTO PARTICIPATING.
THROB

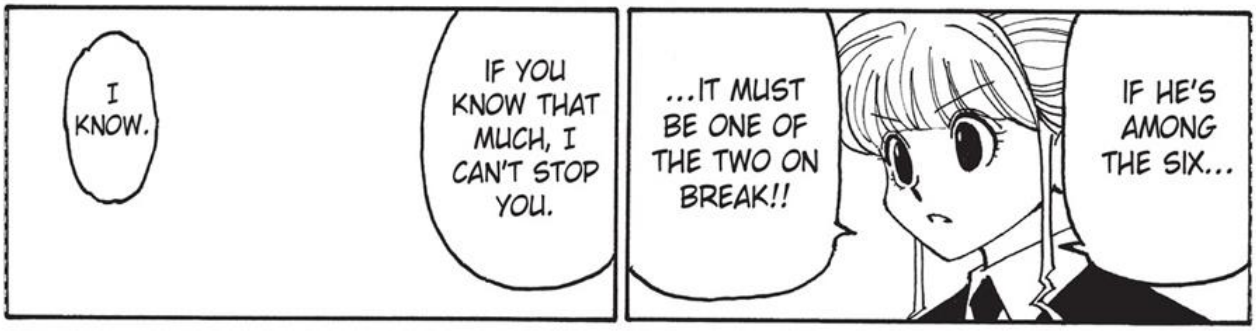

BUT... THEY WERE ALL CONCERNED THAT WE SPECIFIED A TWO-WEEK LIMIT.
I UNDERSTAND THE RISKS, AND I HAVE A PLAN.
THERE ARE TWO OTHER PROBLEMS.
TWO ...?
ONE IS THAT SEVERAL PRINCES WANT TO SEND MULTIPLE GUARDS.
THAT'S A SAFETY CONCERN FOR US.
...
LET'S LIMIT IT TO TWO.
THE PAIN IS TOO PIERCING...
I CAN'T HEAR BILL...
B-BBMP
THROB

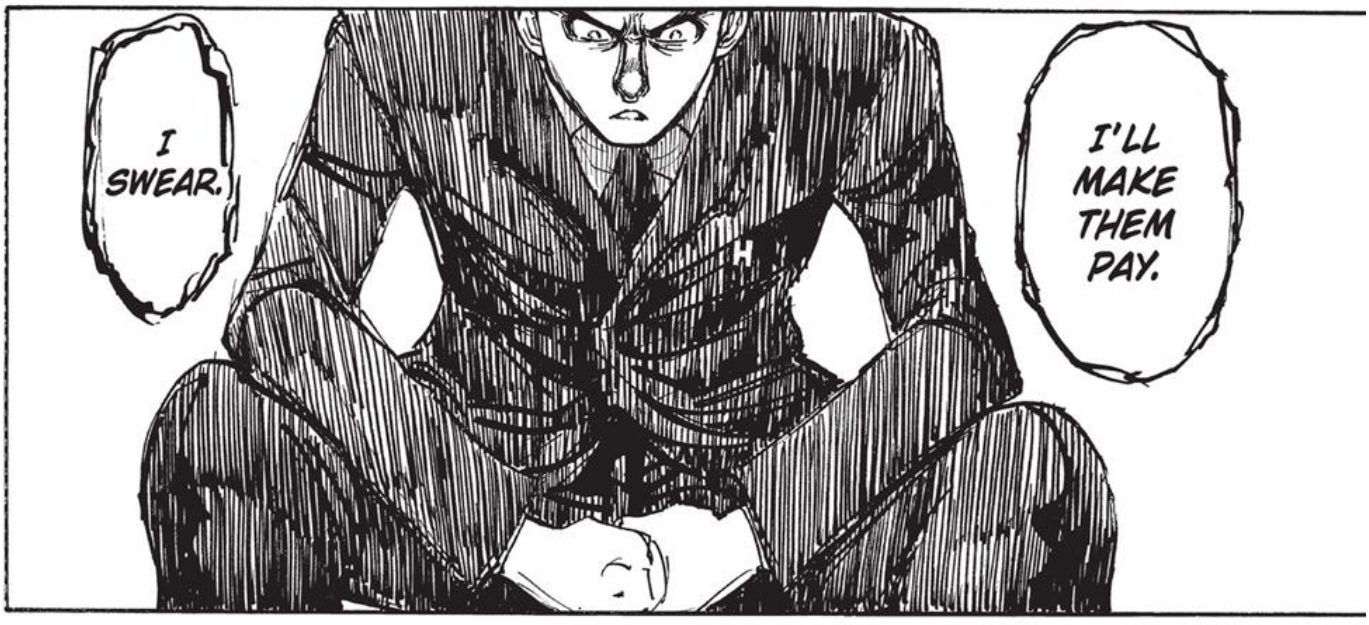

THUD
AND ABOUT THIRD PRINCE ZHANG LEI...
THUD
KURA-PIKA ?!

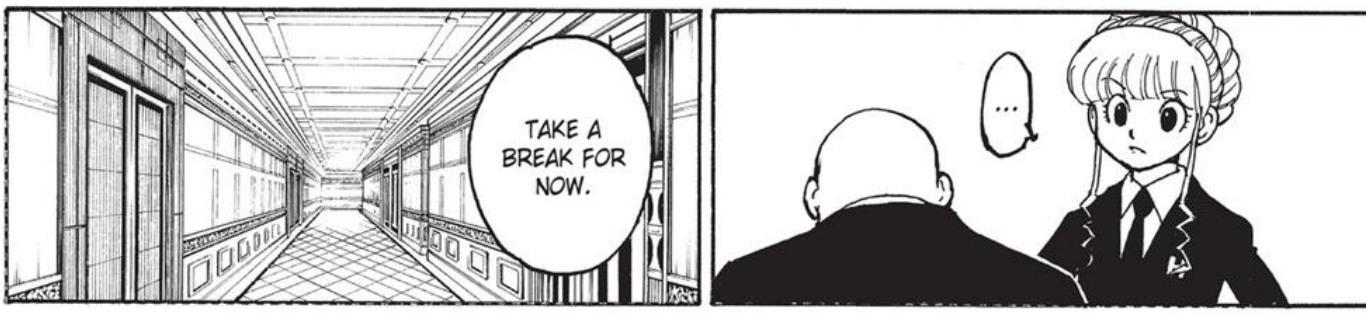

IF I'D BEEN THERE, I COULD'VE STOPPED IT.
HANZO.
GETTING REST IS PART OF OUR JOB TOO.
YOU'RE NOT AT FAULT.
YOU FOLLOWED THE QUEEN'S ORDERS.
HE'LL STRIKE AGAIN ...!

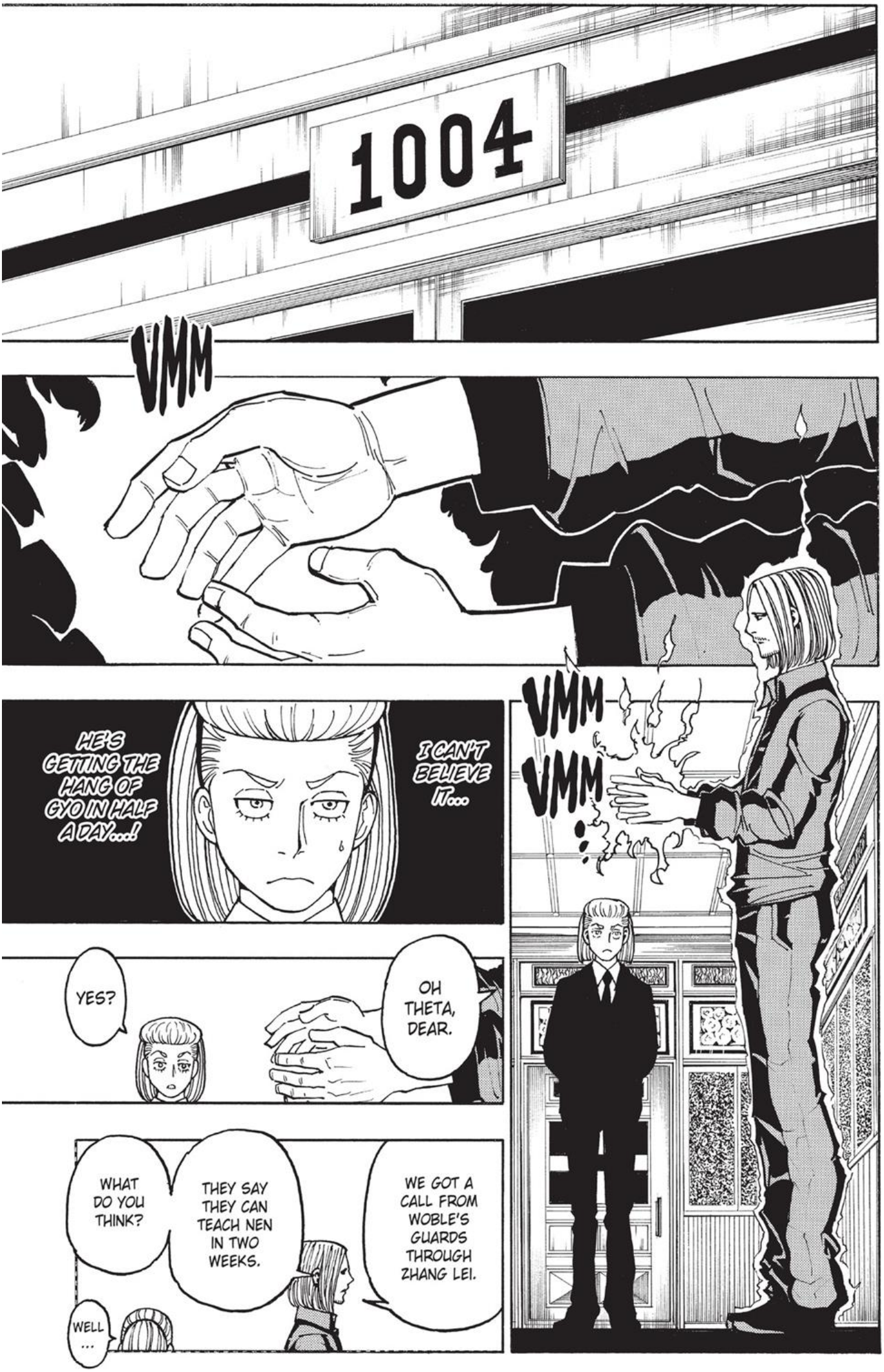

KURAPIKA'S STORY AND THE TESTIMONY FROM THE SIX GUARDS POINT TO THE CULPRIT HAVING USED A DOPPELGANGER.
THEN HOLDING THEM IN CUSTODY WON'T BE DETERRENCE. IT'LL PROVIDE AN ALIBI FOR THE NEXT MURDER.
THINK THIS THROUGH.
IF THERE WAS A DOUBLE, THEN THE SUSPECTS AREN'T LIMITED TO THE SIX.
TRUE.
IF HE'S GOING TO PIN THE CRIME ON THE SIX, HE'LL CHANGE HIS PLAN. IF HE WANTS TO SOW CONFUSION, IT'LL BE THE SAME.
IN ANY CASE, HE'LL STRIKE AGAIN.
I'LL STOP HIM THIS TIME.
HOW?
HE'S JUST USING ME AS A SOUNDING BOARD...
BUT I BETTER LET HIM TALK IT OUT OR RISK HIM GOING BERSERK...
HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN USE DOUBLES.
BEING A NINJA IS MY REAL JOB, AFTER ALL.
BUT ...
...A CONTROLLABLE DOUBLE AND NOT AN AUTOMATON WOULD REQUIRE THE USER TO SET A LOT OF CONDITIONS.
IF HE CAN SEND AND MATERIALIZE IT INSIDE THE PRINCE'S BEDROOM, AWAY FROM HIMSELF...


...HE MUST'VE BEEN IN A SITUATION WHERE HE COULD FOCUS ON NOTHING ELSE!

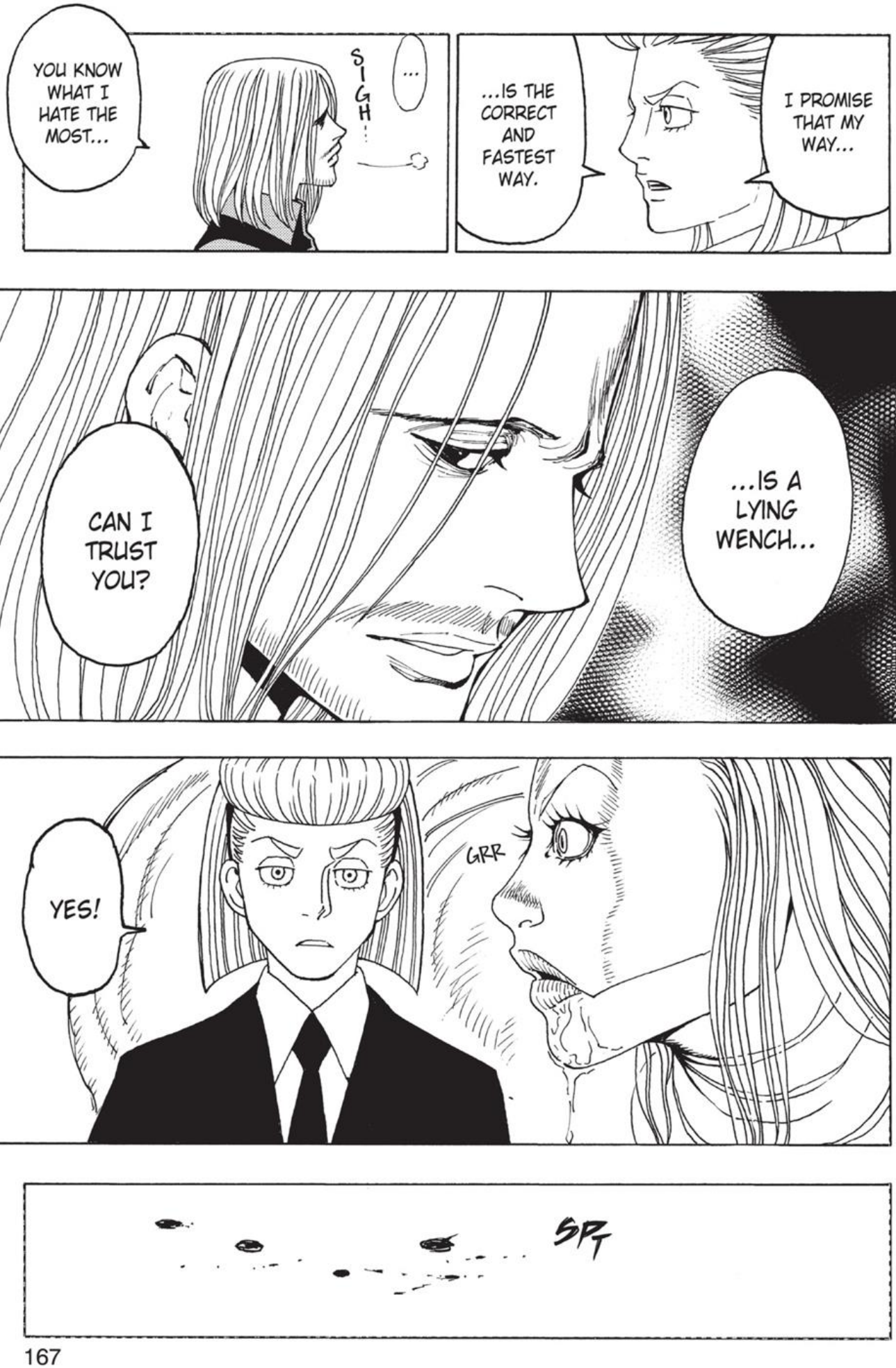

I KNOW.
IF YOU KNOW THAT MUCH, I CAN'T STOP YOU.
...IT MUST BE ONE OF THE TWO ON BREAK!!
IF HE'S AMONG THE SIX...


I SWEAR.
I'LL MAKE THEM PAY.


TAKE A BREAK FOR NOW.
...


1004
VMM
VMM
VMM
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
HE'S GETTING THE HANG OF GYO IN HALF A DAY...!
OH THETA, DEAR.
YES?
WE GOT A CALL FROM WOBLE'S GUARDS THROUGH ZHANG LEI.
THEY SAY THEY CAN TEACH NEN IN TWO WEEKS.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
WELL ...


VMM
VMM
VMM
THAT'S QUITE DIFFERENT FROM YOUR STORY.
YOU SAID SIX MONTHS AT THE EARLIEST TO MASTER THE BASICS.
YES.
WHAT I TOLD YOU IS TRUE.
IT'S POSSIBLE ...
THEN THEY'RE BLUFFING?
HEY.
ARE YOU ASLEEP?
I'M ASKING WHO'S LYING, THEM OR YOU?
GOT A DEATH WISH?
VMM
THERE ARE FAST BUT EXTREMELY DANGEROUS WAYS TO LEARN NEN.
OR MAYBE THEIR ABILITIES HAVE TO DO WITH DEVELOPING OTHERS' ABILITIES.
AT THE LEAST ...
...THEY WON'T BE USING PROPER METHODS.
GRRR...


I PROMISE THAT MY WAY...
...IS THE CORRECT AND FASTEST WAY.
...
SIGH...
YOU KNOW WHAT I HATE THE MOST...
...IS A LYING WENCH...
CAN I TRUST YOU?
GRR
YES!
SPT


HUNTER
ハンター
×
ハンター