



The Boccia Mountain

by Reptilian

with the kind collaboration of Sonia Heckel



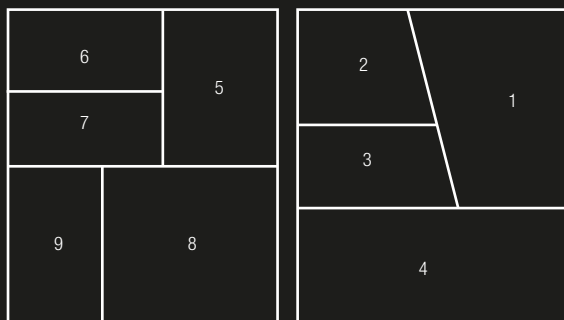
The Boccia Mountain



WARNING!

This book is printed in the Japanese reading direction:
from right to left.

Follow the box guide.



Enjoy!

At the age of 20, Céline Gaudet decided to transform her passion for manga into a profession. She left Montreal to take courses under the direction of a Japanese manga teacher, at AAA-Ecole de Manga. She writes under the pseudonym **Reptilian**.

Sonia Heckel, a 31 year old athlete from Nancy, France, has myopathy. This genetic disease prevents her muscles from regenerating, which, since the age of 13, has required use of an electric wheelchair. Sonia has been practicing Boccia since she was 18. She immediately fell in love with having to fight to "score a point" and quickly understood that this sport suited her perfectly. To date, she is a triple French Champion, with her sports assistant, Florent Brachet, and European Team Champion. In parallel to her sporting career, Sonia is an Accounting Secretary at Vandoeuvre Nancy Volley Ball.

ISBN: 978-2-490660-42-1 (printed book_French version)/ 978-2-490660-43-8 (ePub_French version)/ 978-2-490660-80-3 (printed book_English version)/ 978-2-490660-44-5 (ePub_English version)/ 978-2-490660-45-2 (ePub_Spanish version)/ 978-2-490660-46-9 (ePub_Japanese version)

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Fondation Ipsen is under the aegis of Fondation de France.

www.fondation-ipsen.org

Text & Illustrations: Reptilian (with the kind collaboration of Sonia Heckel)

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Editorial direction: Céline Colombier-Maffre

In collaboration with AAA - École de Manga, 21 rue d'Antin, 75002 Paris



First published in French, in July 2021

Original title: La Montagne de la Boccia

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Act No. 49-956 of 16 July 1949 on publications for young people, amended by Act No. 2011-525 of 17 May 2011

Legal Deposit: August 2021

Print on demand, by Fondation Ipsen, Paris, France

Not for sale - free book

*I would like to thank Sonia Heckel for her time and testimony,
which enabled me to create the story's core.
Kaori Yoshikawa, Sébastien Salle and Céline Colombier-Maffre
for giving me the opportunity to publish this second manga.
JD (Jean-Daniel Veylet) for his help and constant constructive criticism of my
work, as well as my parents and Maëlle, who have always believed in me.*

- Reptilian

*Being part of this project has been a real pleasure.
The ability to share my story in the form of a manga was a very original experience,
totally different from the ordinary (tv, radio...). This form makes it possible to reach
different audiences, and to share once again my beautiful discipline, Boccia.*

- Sonia Heckel

*The mission of the Fondation Ipsen is science for people.
In our Manga series we have connected leading young manga artists with established
scientists. This book has emerged through this collaboration.
This is a powerful medium and we are thrilled to bring you these books.*

*- James A. Levine
MD, PhD, Professor, Fondation Ipsen, President
www.fondation-ipsen.org*



... PUSHING
ONE'S LIMITS TO
GO HIGHER AND
HIGHER...

...ALWAYS A
BIT FURTHER!

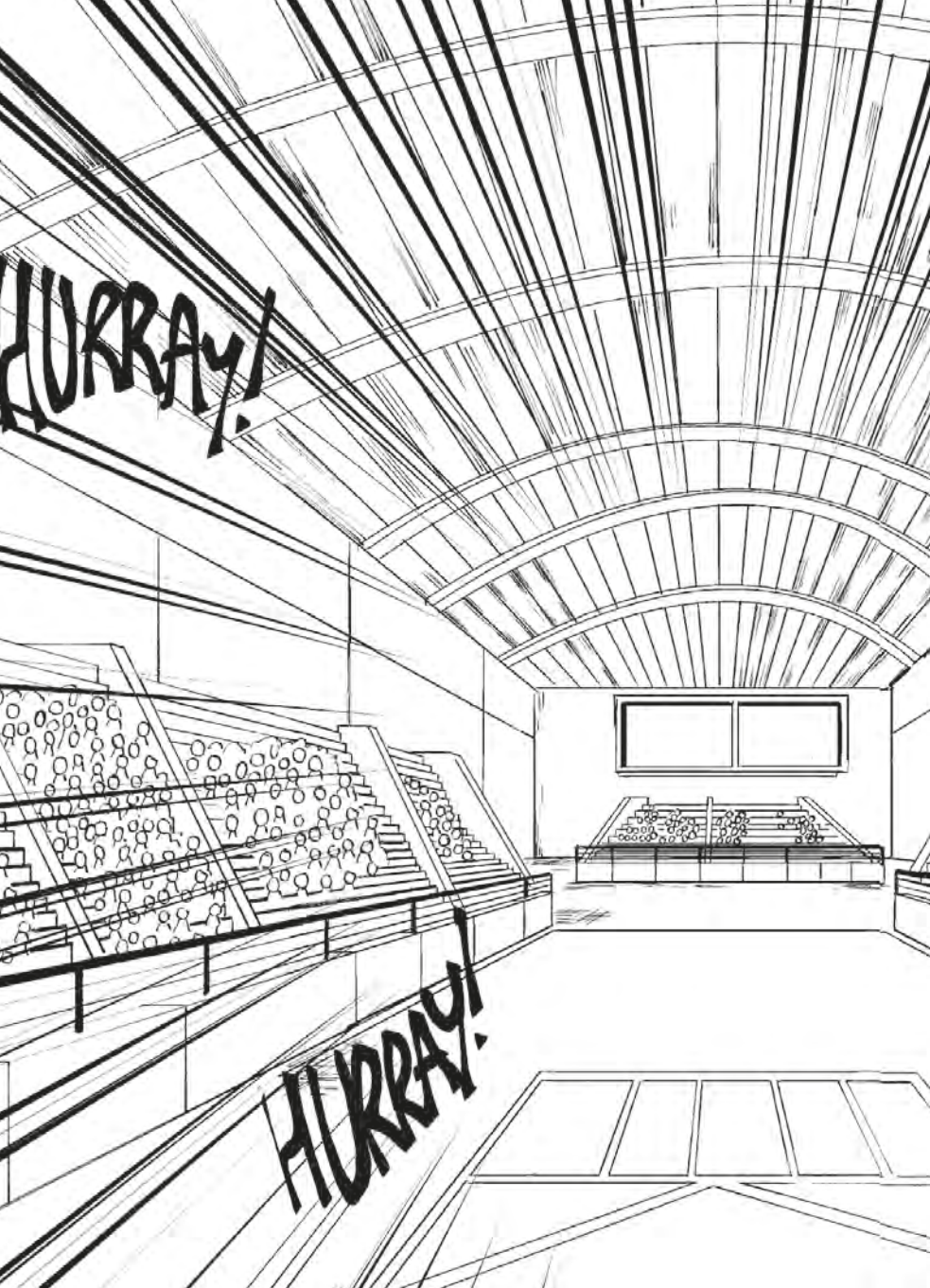


I KNOW,

IT'S NOT EASY !
OFTEN, WE FORGET
THAT...

...
IN THE END, WE ALL HAVE
OUR OWN MOUNTAIN TO
CLIMB.





HURRAY!

HURRAY!



THAT STEP
THAT
SEEMED SO
HIGH...



... IS SO
CLOSE,
NOW.





I'M GOING
TO BE AT THE
PARALYMPICS IN
TOKYO
!!!

TADAM!

FINALLY...



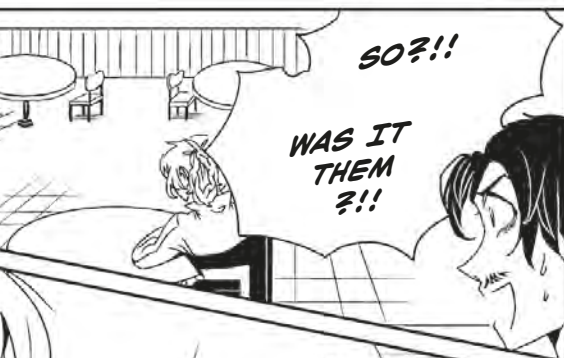
**YEAH
!!!**







YES, IT'S
ME !





Ahh

ARE THEY
REALLY
GOING TO
CALL ?

MAYBE THEY'LL
ONLY CALL
THOSE WHO'VE
BEEN CHOSEN.



HA...YES, MUM,
I'M FINE, HOW
ARE YOU ?



...

Vish

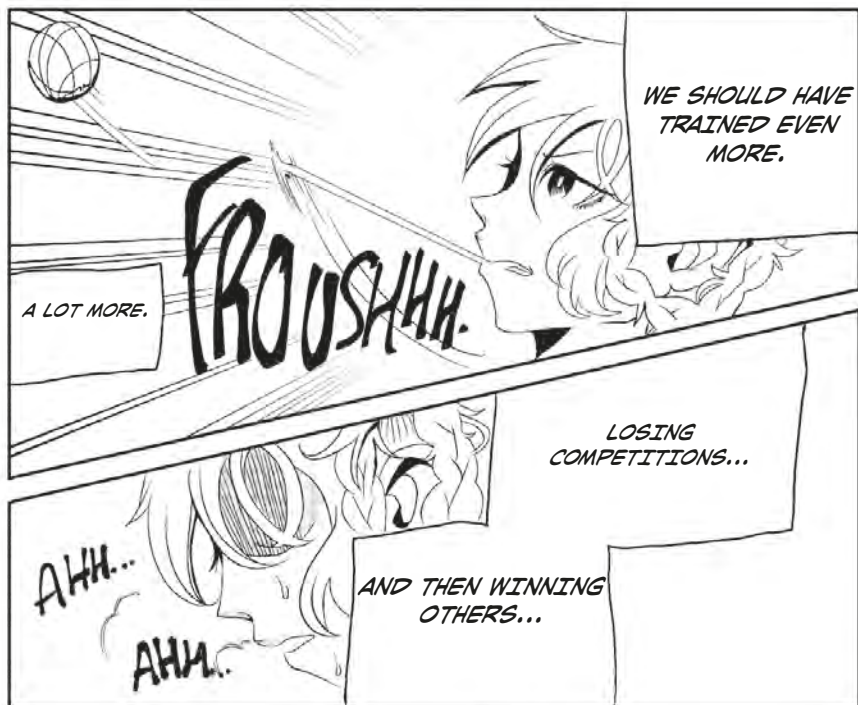
I'LL CALL
YOU BACK,
OK?! I'M
EXPECTING A
PHONE CALL.



BE
PATIENT.
YOU...

DR









ARE OFFICIALLY
THE REDS,

THE WINNERS OF
THE INDIVIDUAL
BC3 END...



LED BY THE
ATHLETE GREGOIRE
RODRIGUEZ.





DO WHAT YOU CAN.

TAN
TAN

IT'S THE ONLY
THING THAT
MATTERS FOR
THIS GAME.

HUM...

UFF...

EVEN WITH ENCOURAGING
WORDS...

DAMN IT!

I'M ONLY
PUSHING MY
OPPONENT'S
BALLS
CLOSER !

KUH!

Poc! Poc!

AND I ONLY
HAVE TWO
LEFT...

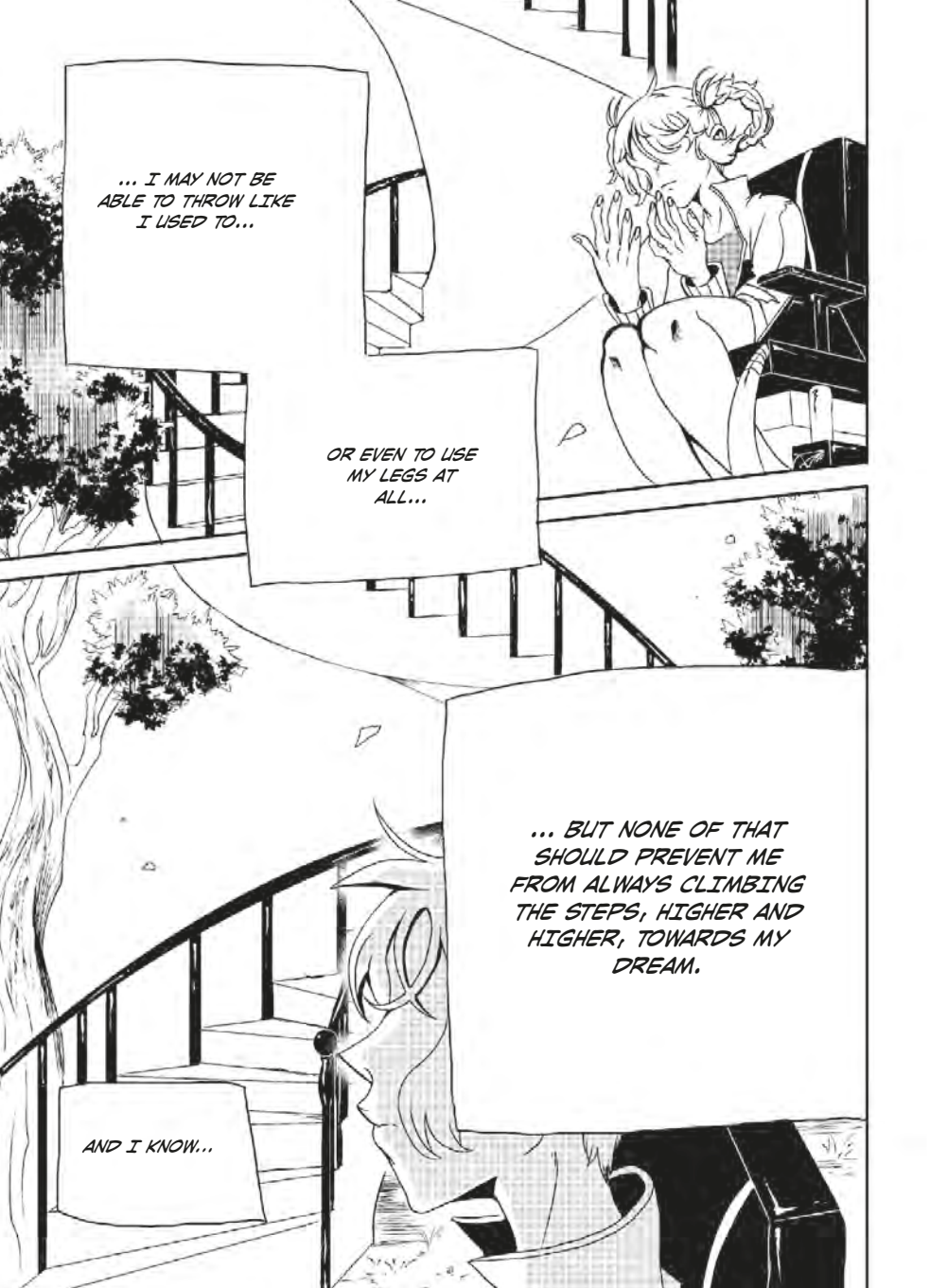
GNiii

PAE!

!







*... I MAY NOT BE
ABLE TO THROW LIKE
I USED TO...*

*OR EVEN TO USE
MY LEGS AT
ALL...*

*... BUT NONE OF THAT
SHOULD PREVENT ME
FROM ALWAYS CLIMBING
THE STEPS, HIGHER AND
HIGHER, TOWARDS MY
DREAM.*

AND I KNOW...



THAT IT'S STILL TOO
EARLY TO FACE THE
COMPETITION ?

DO YOU THINK,
MAYBE...



Swing!

...!!!

NO, DON'T
WORRY.

WE'VE WORKED
HARD TO GET TO
THIS POINT.



SAMARA, ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?

Bee...
Bee...

Bee...

Bee...

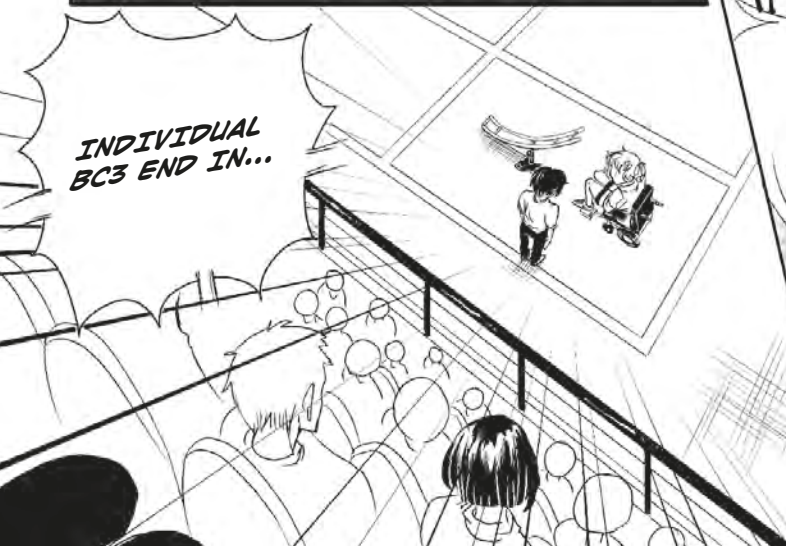
15
MINUTES !

Bee...
Boom
BoBoom

Bee...
Bee...

YE...YES, SORRY. I
DON'T KNOW WHY.

I'VE BEEN TO MANY
COMPETITIONS,
THOUGH...

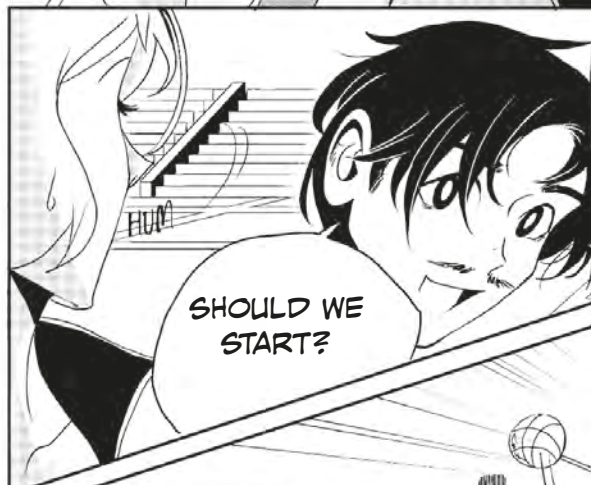




I CAN'T COMPARE
THEM.



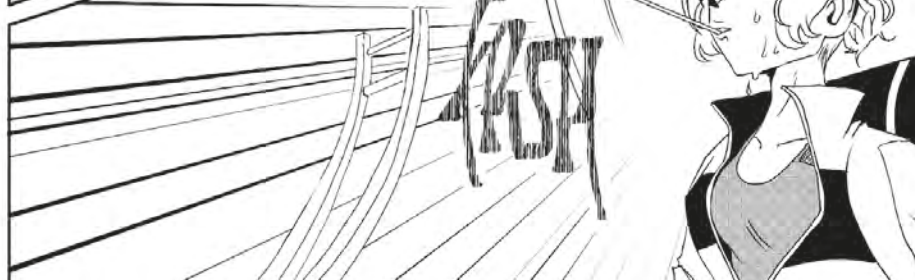
LET ALONE GIVE UP
ON MY DREAM.



ESPECIALLY SEEING
HOW SOME PEOPLE
BELIEVE IN ME.



SHOULD WE
START?



GASH









LOOK AT ALL
THE PLAYERS
IN BC3!

YOU'RE NOT THE
ONLY ONE IN THIS
SITUATION.



WHY DON'T
YOU CHANGE
CATEGORIES?

Vish



AH...

YES,
BUT ...



THAT WOULD MEAN
STARTING OVER
FROM SCRATCH ...

PFF...

AND WHO WOULD BE
MY ASSISTANT?

YOU WANT TO
QUIT? BUT, WHY?!

CLING

NO, BUT ...

THROW IT!

THROW
IT!

COME
ON!

shibb...

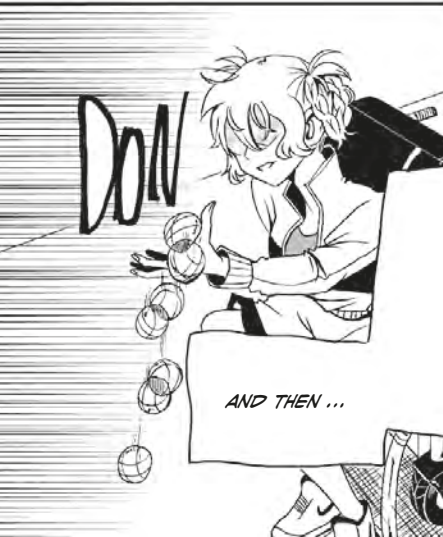
HOW CAN I
CONTINUE IF I
CAN'T THROW?





*I GREW WEAKER
AND WEAKER.*

*BUT I DID
EVERYTHING
TO IGNORE IT,
BECAUSE ...*



*... I COULDN'T
IMAGINE MY LIFE
WITHOUT BOCCIA.*

AND THEN ...



THAT THIS
FIRST VICTORY
WOULD OPEN
THE WAY FOR
THE OTHERS ...

... THAT WOULD
COME IN THE
FOLLOWING
YEARS?



BUT ...

... IT WASN'T NEARLY
AS PERFECT AS IT
APPEARED.

**EUROPEAN BOCCIA
BC4 CHAMPION**

...

Woo Hoo!

Woo
Woo



**FINAL END:
REDS 3,
BLUES 1**



CLAP!

CLAP! CLAP!

**SAMARA
DUVERT
!**

WHO WOULD
HAVE
THOUGHT...

...!!!

3RD END: REDS
1, BLUES 2

POC!

I'M NOT GOING
TO LET YOU WIN.

KSS!

KSSH!!

KSSH!!

GO,
SAMARA!!!

OVAais!



THIS IS
THE TIME
...

DUN

DUN

hen

DUN

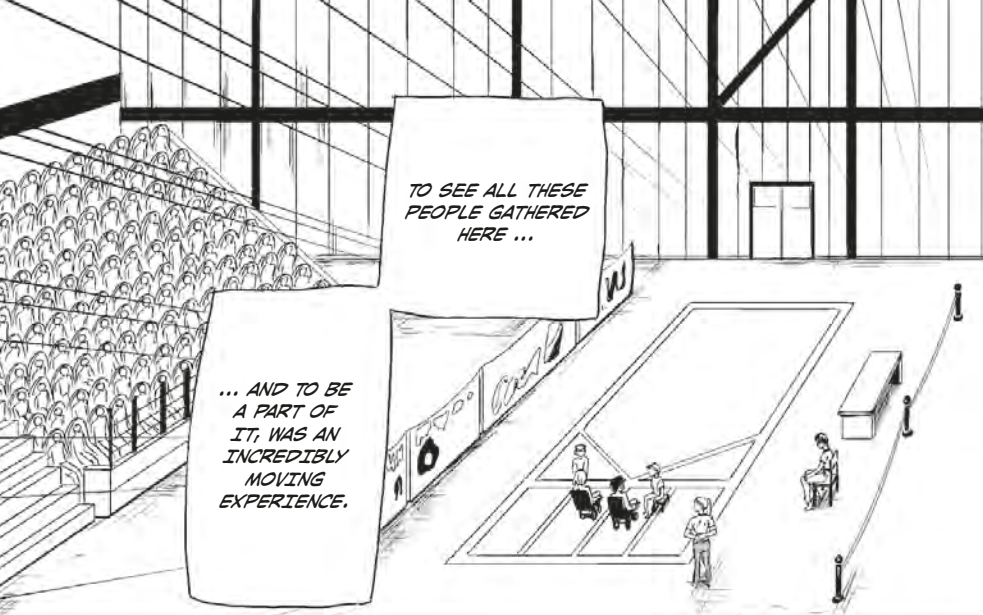
DUN

SAMARA
DUVERT
!!!

Wooo!!

... TO SHOW WHAT
I CAN DO!

KROOSH

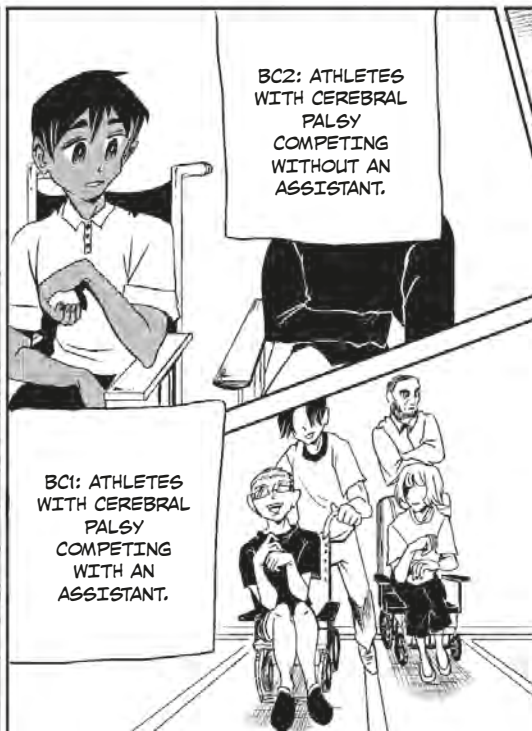


TO SEE ALL THESE
PEOPLE GATHERED
HERE ...

... AND TO BE
A PART OF
IT, WAS AN
INCREDIBLY
MOVING
EXPERIENCE.



**FIRST
INDIVIDUAL
BC4 END:
FRANÇOIS KRAUS
VERSUS ...**



BC2: ATHLETES
WITH CEREBRAL
PALSY
COMPETING
WITHOUT AN
ASSISTANT.

BC1: ATHLETES
WITH CEREBRAL
PALSY
COMPETING
WITH AN
ASSISTANT.



... THAN
BY DOING
MY FIRST
EUROPEAN
COMPETITION
AT 19.

I COULD NOT BE
HAPPIER ...



BC3: ATHLETES
WITH LOCOMOTOR
DYSFUNCTION WHO NEED
AN ASSISTIVE DEVICE
TO THROW THE BALL
AND AN ASSISTANT.



BC4: ATHLETES WITH
LOCOMOTOR DYSFUNCTION
BUT NO CEREBRAL PALSY
AND NOT ELIGIBLE
FOR ASSISTANCE.

OK ... YES,
THANK YOU.

WHO WAS
IT?

**WHAT?
REALLY?**

HUH, HUH ...
YEAH

YES,
HELLO?

Bip.

HMM ...
HMM ...
YEAH.

WAA!!

**WHAT
?!!**

**I'VE BEEN
SELECTED FOR AN
INTERNATIONAL
COMPETITION!!!**



COME ON,
COME BEFORE
IT GETS
COLD.

RÉMY!

YOU HAVE TO BE THE
FIRST TO TASTE
MY NEW RECIPE!



Driiiiing

THIS IS A
SECRET
...

HI HI HI ...
WELL, THAT ...

Driiiiing!



BUT SERIOUSLY, HOW DO
YOU DO IT? THE TASTE
IS SO BALANCED!



... THANK YOU,
SIR. GOODBYE.

A character in a wheelchair is leaving a building. A large speech bubble contains the text "... THANK YOU, SIR. GOODBYE." The building has a sign that says "DON".

Student residence

DON DON

Dzzz...



SAMARA!



UNFORTUNATELY,
YOU CAN ONLY
LOSE STRENGTH
IN YOUR ARMS.

A large, close-up image of a character's face, smiling. A large speech bubble contains the text "UNFORTUNATELY, YOU CAN ONLY LOSE STRENGTH IN YOUR ARMS." The character has long hair and is wearing a headband.

BUT YOU
PROBABLY
ALREADY
SUSPECTED THAT.







THIS IS THE GOAL
I WANT TO REACH
WHEN I'M OLDER.



A few years later
...



WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU
TALKING ABOUT?

THE PARALYMPICS
DO EXIST! DIDN'T
YOU KNOW THAT?

SHHH...



IT'S ALREADY
3PM ...

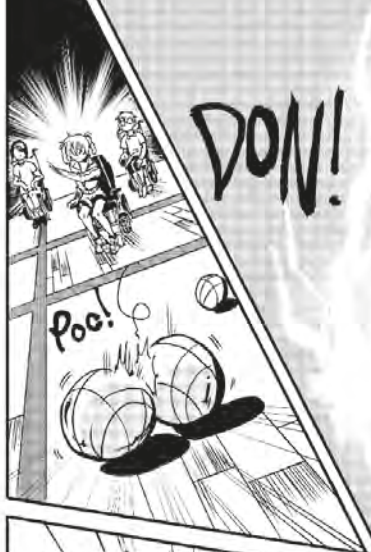
LET'S
TIDY UP
EVERYTHING
!

MISS!!!
TODAY WAS
AWESOME!

ARE WE
GOING
TO PLAY
BOCCIA
AGAIN?!!

TING!

...



DON!

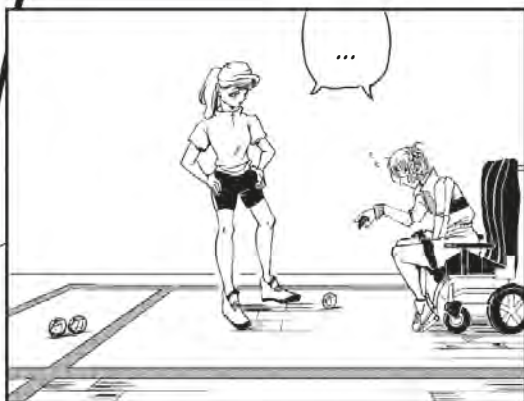




IT... IT WASN'T
MY REAL
ATTEMPT!

LET ME START
AGAIN!

VISH!



OH, WHAT'S
WRONG, SAMARA?

YOU NEED TO
THROW THE
BALL, NOT
DROP IT!

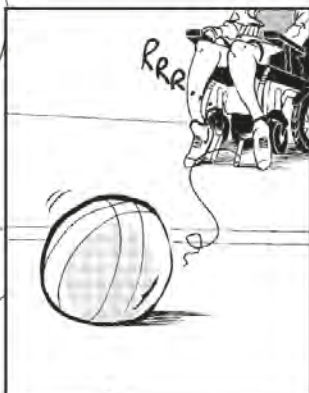
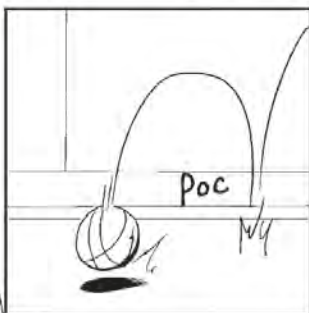
VROUSH!

GR2



MEH ...

Hop.







IT'S MOSTLY LIKE
PÉTANQUE, BUT ITALIAN!
HAHA!

BAM!

YES!!!

YOU ALL KNOW HOW
TO PLAY PÉTANQUE,
RIGHT?

NO?

eh.....

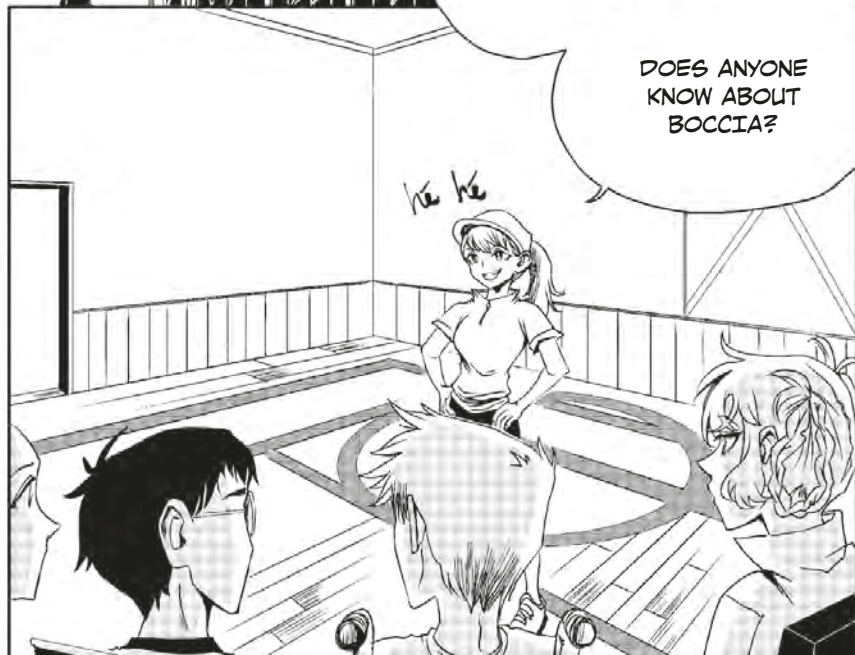
WHAT'S THIS
NEW WEIRD
SPORT ABOUT
?

GREAT!

WE'RE GOING TO
HAVE TWO TEAMS,
BLUES AND REDS.



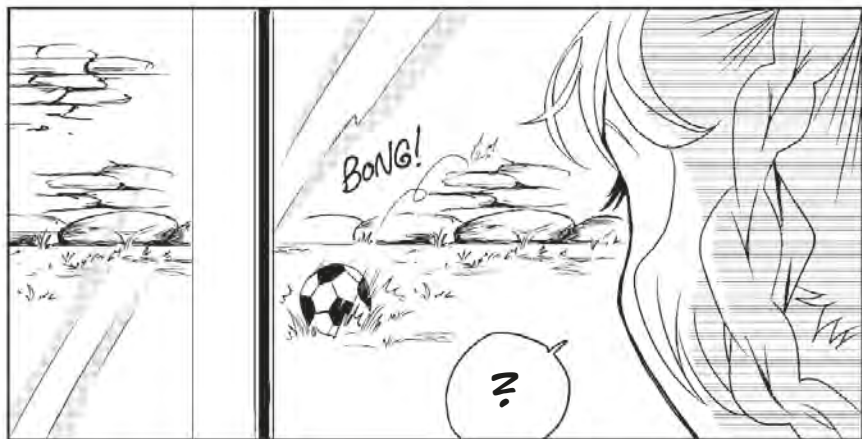
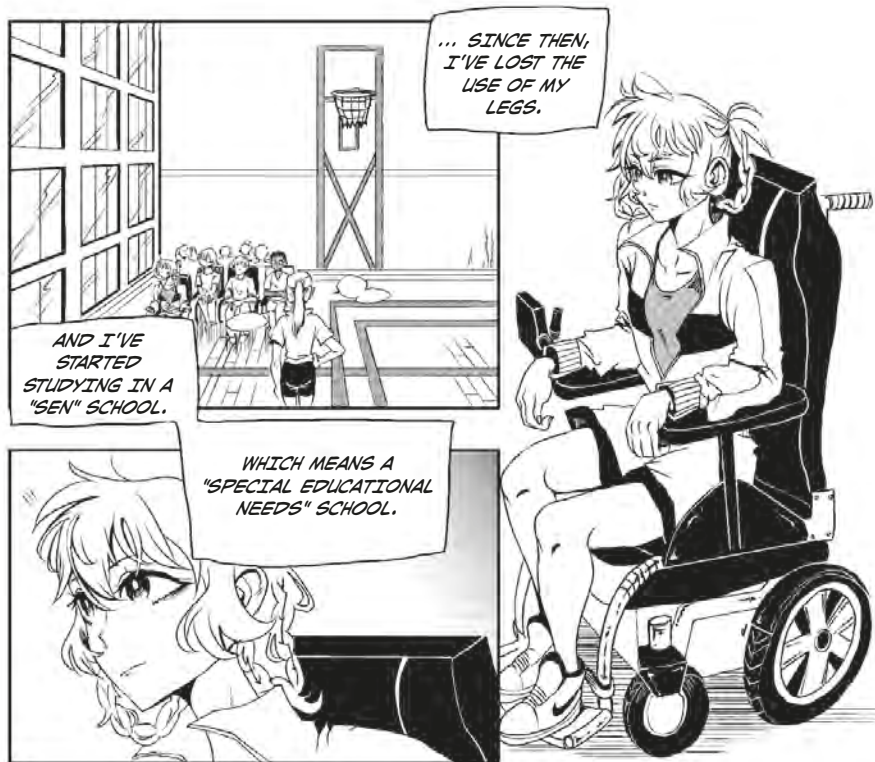
WE'RE
GOING TO
TRY OUT A
NEW SPORT.











SAMARA,
ARE YOU
OKAY?

WHAT
HAPPENED?



FRoooo...

WHAT
IS ...



MY LEGS ...

I CAN'T GET UP
ANYMORE.

SAMARA
?!!





MY MUM WAS WORRIED,
BECAUSE ...

DONG!



COME ON,
PASS THE
BALL!

... AS A
CHILD, I HAD
ALWAYS LOVED
MOVING.



AND I MADE
THE MISTAKE OF
NOT TAKING HER
SERIOUSLY.

SHE TALKED TO
ME OF "MUSCLE
DEGENERATION".

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