

LASTChancePUBLICATIONS

# 白 武 装 者 知 道 者

written

by

Dave Clark a.k.a Dust

Copyright © 2005 David Clark June 2005

第 一 部 曲：

## 知 道 者



## episode 11

In Episode 10...

*"Crying isn't going to let me get near you." Kaio replied, without taking his eyes off the sniper.*

Kaio meets the feared Ranger Crying, but can he take him down on his own?....

*"You're gonna need my second shot Kaio" he repeated as his dematerialized*

*"Perhaps" Kaio muttered.*

Crying looked down on the scene below him. The downed Ranger had decided to respawn, that showed experience; he was disappointed his bait was gone but he still had the advantage of cover. It would take a very accurate shot to hit him up here and although he did not doubt this red Ranger's accuracy, one shot was not enough to kill.

He smiled at his advantageous position. He could hide and heal-up quick enough to keep the Ranger pinned, at least until the Techs re-spawned, which he was informed, was only a matter of seconds away. In truth though he wanted to cap this Ranger before they arrived.

He watched through his scope as the red Ranger increased the speed of his dodging; this wouldn't be an easy target. He had settled into a pattern of quick dodges from side to side, Crying immediately recognized Kaijiki and smiled.

*"He has knowledge of forms beyond simply Kihon-teki, perhaps some sport yet".*

Crying knew that Kaijiki was a good choice for the Ranger to use to evade any incoming shots but he also knew its dodging patterns and that its weakness lay in its constant movement, making strong aiming impossible. Crying's smile remained; all his opponent had succeeded in doing was making it harder for himself to threaten Crying's position.

He began to track the red Rangers movements, wide, quick dodges interspersed with short changes in direction. Clearly the Ranger was well practiced in this form and Crying almost enjoyed watching the style with which he executed its defensive side. What was puzzling was that he had not lifted his rifle to take aim at Crying; it sat gently in his grip pointing to the ground. Did he expect to simply avoid Crying's attacks until his partners re-spawned?

*"If so, you are underestimating me"* Crying thought as he tracked the pattern of dodges closer and squeezed the trigger of his rifle, aiming directly at his opponent's head.

. . .

Behind his helmet Kaio had closed his eyes and his mind began to detach from his body, his movements began to feel light and effortless, each dodge feeling as though it was the most and least important thing happening. He slipped further into his meditative state and began to become aware of his surroundings and that ahead of him there was a slight disturbance and it was coming closer. Kaio didn't open his eyes to avoid this; he gently corrected his current dodge to include the disturbance and flow around it. Once it had passed he raised his weapon in front of him and began to concentrate, focusing on the point ahead of the rifle, all the while his eyes were closed.

. . .

Crying watched as the shot trailed towards its target, but then, just before it connected, the red Ranger's dodging pattern seemed to stutter and the shot flew past his helmet and into the dirt behind him, a miss. Crying's eyes widened, was that intentional he wondered as he watched the Ranger continue the same steady pattern of dodges. But wait, this wasn't the same pattern of dodges anymore, this style was different. Rather than the quick wide dodges of the third form his opponent was now taking short, simple dodges at a much steadier speed, this was form two.

"Saikaku na shi" Crying said aloud

Well this was surprising, he thought, a more interesting opponent it seemed. He saw through the scope that the Ranger had now shouldered his rifle and was aiming directly at his head, whilst still dodging. Crying readied himself to dodge behind cover should the shot come in. He began to track his opponents dodging once again, this time with a little more urgency.

*"His movements are sublime to watch"* he thought, *"He does Saikaku na shi justice, a shame he will die so easily."*

He squeezed the trigger again; the shot aimed and timed exactly to meet its location at the same time as its target's head. Once again the red Ranger interrupted his pattern just enough to arrive a fraction of a second after the sniper shot, which sailed past and into the ground, a miss.

Crying was surprised once again, that was Saikakunashi dodging to perfection, the slightest effort to affect the biggest bonus to aiming. Yet no return shot came, the Ranger simply continued to aim his rifle and maintain his flawless dodging pattern.

*"Excellent form, or is it something more?"* Crying wondered, *"Could this Ranger be..."*

. . .

"Here they come again!" Silver shouted as the two enemy Techs reappeared at the crest of the cliff. Since they had arrived to defend the Deploy-point Chance and Silver had been under almost constant attack.

The auto turret Chance had erected beeped as it picked up one of the enemy Techs and burst into action sending rapid assault rifle fire at its target. The Tech was expecting this and had his grenade launcher at the ready, he fired an EMP grenade, destroying the turret, as he dodged and boost jumped off the cliff towards the Deploy-point. What he wasn't expecting was the rocket that came at him from the RL Turret that Chance had also placed. It flew towards him, forcing him to twist in mid-air. He avoided the rocket but landed his dodge badly, immediately Chance was upon him with his shotgun. The Tech was engulfed in explosive shotgun fire and taken out of action.

The second blue Tech was subtler with his movements, staying on the cliff top firing grenades at the remaining defences. Silver's Raptor turret ripped up the cliff face convincing the Tech not to be too bold.

Suddenly the Raptor was engulfed in electrical lightning.

"Rangers!" Chance shouted, seeing the shock lance blast impact with the vehicle. At that same moment Chance was hit with a sniper shot.

"Shit" he said and launched into a form six dodging pattern, while he scanned the area for the two assailants. Up until now it had only been the Techs attacking. The blue Rangers had avoided combat and headed straight for the red base and Chance and Silver had simply warned their defensive team over Comms when they had spotted them. Now it would seem the four enemies intended to attack the Deploy together.

"Not good" Chance said.

At that moment the deploy point initialised and Cage and Dio materialised.

"Good timing fellas, gonna need your support here" Chance called to them over the comms. The two Techs immediately began moving to defensive positions

"What's the situation?" asked Cage as he jumped behind a rock.

"Rangers, two of 'em, and one Tech."

"That's it, just a couple of Rangers? You and Silver shouldn't have any trouble dealing with them; you've got the Raptor too."

"Hmm, yea that would be correct if it was *just* a couple of Rangers" Chance replied

"Huh?"

"Its JBC's attacking duo" Silver continued for Chance "Delacruz and Boockerr. Impressive reputation, I've not seen them before, but Chance has"

"Well Chance?"

"Excellent tactics and great individual skill, but their real strength is in their teamwork. As a partnership they are formidable opponents. I served with them once some years back, Silver was laid up with an injury."

"How can you be sure it's them?" asked the Dio.

"The fact that I am still standing"

"What?"

"They like to announce their presence in situations like this by weakening the enemy, but not killing them. Then they wait a moment or two to allow their reputation to unsettle their opponents, before they strike."

"Psychological warfare?" Cage muttered

"I always figured it was because they were showmen, enjoying the big entrances" Silver said with a chuckle. The two Techs looked at each other.

"They are formidable opponents" Chance finished

"Well, we're pretty formidable ourselves right Dio?" Cage asked his partner.

"Damn right man" Dio replied.

Chance laughed to himself. He had spent two months in the same Merc force as JBC's attacking team, about six years ago. They were nice guys and Chance got along with them well, out here though they were something to be feared.

## **In episode 12 of 8 WAYS TO LOSE...**

*He squeezed the trigger again; the shot aimed and timed exactly to meet its location at the same time as its target's head..*

The battle between Kaio and the mysterious Crying reaches its conclusion, but who is victorious?

And a new battle begins...

*As the smoke cleared two Rangers were standing in front of the red Deploy-point, in their hands they held Shock Lances.....*