This volume's scans were taken from the original Japanese version, therefore you should read the pages from right to left.

-Ed.
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CHIBO, DON'T DIE! HURRY UP, SNAP OUT OF IT!
WHERE IS THIS?

WHERE IS THIS?

WHY

WHY

CONTROL-LER...

YOUR PERSONALITY HAS BECOME YOUR ELECTRONIC BODY. YOU PROBABLY APPEARED HERE DUE TO YOUR DATA CONNECTION TO THE ONE CALLED KILLY.

A BACKUP CYBERSPACE CONNECTED TO THE NETSPHERE AND THE BASE REALITY.

IF I DON'T GO BACK.

YES.

THE SAFE-GUARD

AMONG THE INFORMATION IN YOUR BRAIN, SOMETHING HAS RADICALLY CHANGED FORMAT.
But there is still time. The medium of this backup space is accelerated so subjective time is altered.

If you return now, your personality will be completely erased.

In the base reality, your brain ceased functioning several nanoseconds ago.

Gardless, the means to stop the safeguard is here.

Huh?
This is the vehicle the safeguard is using to attack you and your friends.

There is a limit to what we can do. We require your cooperation.

If you upload external data—in other words, if you connect with it, it will overload.

This vehicle is operating at just below full capacity.

What do I have to do?

But you will face interference of some sort.
I really don't want that.

If I return to reality, I'll die anyway, so I don't really mind.

Show me how to connect.

You could also remain here in your electronic body for eternity.

Just getting near and touching it should be enough.

The vehicle doesn't have any protection mechanisms.
WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?
FATHER, THE ENTRANCE, IT'S HERE!

IT'S NOT ENOUGH, WE HAVE TO GET TO THE MIDDLE!

MOVE THIS!
controller, there is one thing I want to ask.

You communicate well, but not perfect. Continue like that for a moment.
IS KILLY REALLY OF THE SAFE-GUARD?
Killy is... no... a secret agent... of a... pre-safeguard system.
DAMMIT, IT'S STUCK!

SOMEONE LEND ME A HAND! IF WE PULL THIS OUT, THE DOOR WILL OPEN!

NOT YET? FATHER! THE SAFEGUARD IS MOVING!
Zuru, move!
EVERY ONE'S GONE ON AHEAD.
CIBO...
IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME TO GET USED TO IT.

IT'S SO STRANGE, TO HAVE A BODY WITH NO CROWNS.

EVERYONE'S INSIDE?
WHEN I GOT HERE, THE DOOR WAS ALREADY OPEN.

I THINK SO.

ANYHOW SHALL WE GO INSIDE?
THE CONTROLLER SAID THE BACKUP SPACE WAS SEPARATE FROM THE NET SPHERE

IT DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT THE NET TERMINAL GENE
BUT ...
THE ENTRANCE!
The net sphere probably can't interfere with Toha Heavy Industries.

The controller said that it can't enter the cylinder.

The safeguard wasn't able to enter just now, either.
There's one.

No good the safeguard may have done something.

Let's hurry.

We have to find another entrance.

Can you see it?
The electromagnetism is strong here.

Yes, there's a mega-structure above.
KILLY!!
ANON

CLANG
PIK
I'm pretty stable.

Let's go.

The moment I entered Toha Heavy Industries, Sanaka's consciousness was extinguished. The safeguard's orders became stronger the closer we got to the mega-structure.
...THE CONTROLLER AND THE SAFEGUARD CANNOT ENTER TOWA HEAVY INDUSTRIES. IT'S A SEPARATE STRUCTURE.

NO MISTAKE.

WE MIGHT FIND THE NET TERMINAL GENE.

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING HERE.
CAREFUL. THERE’S NO GRAVITY HERE.
PSH

I'm worried about Zuru and the others. Let's go down.
IT WOULD BE NICE IF THERE WERE A MAP
BUT THE BUILD IS DIFFERENT...

IT LOOKS LIKE WHAT THE FISHERMEN WEAR...

...RATHER CLOSER TO YOUR SIZE, I THINK.
IF TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES OPERATES INDEPENDENTLY, THERE HAS TO BE A CONTROLLING INFORMATION SYSTEM. I SHOULD LOOK FOR IT, I THINK.
I can probably connect from here.
I'VE CONNECTED

...BUT I CAN BRANCH OUT FROM HERE.

THIS IS... A PURIFICATION TANK CONTROL SYSTEM...
IT'S ALRIGHT
IT JUST SEEMED
LIKE I WAS BEING
COUNTER-PROBED,
SO I CUT OFF
CONTACT.
TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES' CONTROL SYSTEM IS AN AI...
IT'S SELF-AWARE.

UNBELIEVABLE.

THAT'S EXTREMELY DANGEROUS GIVING A MANAGEMENT SYSTEM INTELLIGENCE AND SELF-AWARENESS.

I THINK I ACTIVATED SOME KIND OF PSYCHOLOGICAL BARRIER.

...IT WAS TRYING TO KILL ME JUST NOW.
I was only connected a moment, but I got a map this way.

Little by little I'm learning to use this body.
There must have been some reason they had to close it.

The cyber-life society uses something similar.

This is probably an emergency partition.
I'll just search for another route.

It's penetrated the material of the corridor. They're very careful.
NO. IT COULDN'T BE

SAFEGUARD!
KILLY!

[Image of a character holding a gun, which clicks.]
INSIDE TOMA HEAVY INDUSTRIES THE WEAPONS OF THE SAFEGUARD ARE NULLIFIED.
...we are Silicon Life. Remember?

You did some really horrible things to some of our comrades didn't you?

Now, you are going to pay.

More than that though we've got an ancient ages-old score to settle.
SILICON LIFE?!

BE CAREFUL, MAEVE. EVEN WITHOUT HIS GUN, THIS GUY IS DANGEROUS.

KTCHINK
NO WAY, IVY.

I'M GONNA TAKE IT SLOW.
COME ON!

FSHA

BLAM

DAMN WHY NOW?
I am Mensab. I represent the colonists by Toha Heavy Industries.

You're a messenger from the Net Sphere?
WE'VE REFUSED HELP FROM SAFEGUARDS TIME AND TIME AGAIN.
EVACUATE THIS PLACE IMMEDIATELY.

ACCORDING TO OUR AGREEMENT WITH THE CONTROLLER, INTERFERENCE IS FORBIDDEN.

TSHH
JUST NOW? THAT WASN'T ME.

YOU'VE KILLED THEM FOR US, HUH?
HAND OVER THE COLONISTS.

MENSAB, HOW ABOUT YOU GIVE IT UP.

SEIU, REMOVE THE INVADERS.
HEY, YOU!

CLANK
CAN YOU MOVE?

APPARENTLY. HE'S LOOKING THIS WAY.

CAN THIS PERSON EVEN UNDERSTAND OUR LANGUAGE?

THIS WAY, HURRY!
QUIET! SHUT UP AND CARRY!

THAT WAY! LIFT HER UP MORE!
IT'S ALRIGHT. DON'T COME AFTER US.

WHAT ABOUT THEM?
WE'RE THERE
IVY, HURRY UP AND KILL HIM!

SEU, STAND DOWN.

BUT MISS MENSAB, I HAVEN'T
MEN-SAB!!
UWAH!

NNN
NNN

HOLD ON, DON'T MOVE SO MUCH.
YES, OUR VOICES ARE TOO QUIET FOR HUMANS TO HEAR.

YOU'RE SPEAKING USING RADIO WAVES?

IT'S ALRIGHT, HOLD ON... I CAN WALK BY MYSELF.

YOU CAN HEAR OUR SIGNALS... GOOD.

WE'LL EXPLAIN LATER.

ANYHOW, SHALL WE GO IN?

KILLY, WHAT HAPPENED?
YOU'RE MESSAGERS FROM THE NET SPHERE, RIGHT?

WHAT WERE YOU DOING WITH MENSAB?

WE SHOULD BE SAFE HERE FOR NOW.

ARE YOUR INJURIES OKAY?

WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO WITH US?

SHE'S CRAZY. YES, SHE'S REALLY SCARY.

MENSAB? SHE SAID SHE WAS THE WILL OF TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES.

PEOPLE-KILLING POISON. THEY'VE SPREAD POISON.

CYBORGS HAVE COME... THEY'RE SCARY.
MENSAB HID THEM.

THEN... THERE WERE PEOPLE HERE?

SO ......

SHE'S REALLY AN AI.

THE NUMBER & CAVE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

SHE WAS REALLY NICE BEFORE THE CYBORGS CAME.

HID THEM?

WHAT IS THIS MENSAB?
WAIT. HOW MANY CAVES DOES TOHA HEAVY INDUSTRIES HAVE?

WE HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO CONTACT THE OTHER CAVES.

MENSAR'S WE CUT OFF DON'T CAVE B KNOW FROM THE OTHERS.

NO WAY AI DO YOU MEAN THERE ARE 13 MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS?

13 !!!

BUT YOU TWO ARE MESSENGERS, SO YOU CAN DO IT, RIGHT?

HAVE CYBORGS INVADED THE OTHER CAVES?

KILLY, IF WE CAN CONTACT A NORMALLY-FUNCTIONING AI, MAYBE WE CAN FIND SOMEONE WITH THE NET TERMINAL GENE.
REALLY!? THANK YOU!!

LET'S TRY IT.

YEAH...

BUT BEFORE THAT, WE SHOULD HEAL YOUR WOUNDS!
This must be where you request an item.

It's a machine which makes anything one asks.

It's our job to maintain this facility.

I'd like to try.

Wait a minute. It's impossible for you. We'll do it.

Blep. Blep.
BANG

LOOK OUT! GET BACK!

ASH HH

BING

ASH HH
WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU MAKE?

NUTRIENTS AND MATERIALS WHICH MY BODY CAN EASILY ABSORB.

INcredible TECHNOLOGY!

BEFORE COMING HERE MY BODY WENT THROUGH A LOT OF FORCEFUL CHANGES, SO I WAS KIND OF WEAK, BUT THIS HAS CORRECTED THAT.

THank YOU FOR THAT.
OH NO... MENSAB'S COMING HERE!

WHAT?

WE HAVE TO RUN!

SEU!

SEU'S BEEN HURT. HE INTENDS TO HEAL HIMSELF HERE.

WAIT, THERE'S ONE MORE THING I WANT.

CIBO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ARE THERE ANY ROUTES CONNECTING TO THE OTHER CAVES NEARBY?

THERE'S AN ELEVATOR, BUT RIGHT NOW IT'S SHUT DOWN.

THAT WILL DO. TAKE US THERE.
The switch won't work. Will it move 2?
RIGHT NOW THIS ELEVATOR IS MOVING TOWARDS NUMBER 7 CAVE.

SEEMS OKAY.
ACCESS DENIED!
IT'S GOING UP!

WE'LL SOON BE LEAVING THE CAVE.

WHERE IS SHE TAKING US?

WE'VE PASSED WHERE WE GOT ON.
PEOPLE !??
WE'VE GONE BEYOND MENSAB'S MANAGEMENT BOUNDARY.

THEIR POWER SUPPLY'S RUN OUT.

THEY'VE GOTTEN THROUGH THIS CAVE!

IF THIS KEEPS UP, THEY'LL GET TO THE NEXT CAVE SOON!

KILLY, IF WE DON'T GET BACK TO CAVE B, THESE GUYS ARE REALLY GOING TO DIE!
LET'S MEET MENSAB.

LET'S GO BACK.

BLAME! END