The French Paralympic and Sports Committee (CPSF) leads France’s Paralympic team to the Games. Paralympic mangas are a unique opportunity to discover and learn more about sports that are still mostly unknown. And, through an original medium, linking the Tokyo 2020 Olympic and Paralympic Games with those of Paris 2024, along with all Paralympic athletes.

Marie-Amélie Le Fur
President, CPSF

Becoming an Olympic or Paralympic athlete requires total commitment of time, of heart, of intellect and spirit. Athletes who perform at this level are heroes. Join us in these manga books inspired by real life Olympians, and learn what it takes to become the best in the world.

James A. Levine
MD, PhD, Professeur
Fondation Ipsen, President

This new manga trilogy, dedicated to the Paralympic Games, was made possible thanks to the support of France’s Paralympic and Sports Committee, and in collaboration with three French Paralympic athletes, Renaud Clerc (athletics), Sonia Heckel (boccia) and Ryadh Sallem (wheelchair rugby) met with Kat-chan, Reptilian, Kara7. From their collaboration, three original stories were born.
Paralympic Games

Kara7, Kat-chan, Reptilian

With the kind collaboration of
Ryadh Sallem, Renaud Clerc, Sonia Heckel
WARNING!
This book is printed in the Japanese reading direction: from right to left.

Follow the box guide.

Enjoy!
THE TRANSFORMATION

par Kara7

with the kind collaboration of Ryadh Sallem
LET’S COME BACK TO THE SPORTS NEWS. AS YOU KNOW, A FEW MONTHS FROM NOW, OUR ISLAND WILL HOST THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES.

IN THE MEANWhile, WE Invite YOU TO COME AND SUPPORT OUR LOCAL WHEELCHAIR RUGBY TEAM FOR THE SEMI-FINAL THAT WILL BE HELD TOMORROW.

SOME FOOTAGE OF OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDANT, WITH THE ENTRY OF OUR NEW PLAYER, WHO’S BEEN SELECTED FOR THE GAMES, HARO.

A FEW YEARS EARLIER, ON MORIZ ISLAND …
SERIOUS ACCIDENT

Cozia Island, Local competition. Semi-final
SERIOUSLY, I DON'T SEE WHAT'S INTERESTING ABOUT THIS SPORT OR THIS HARO GUY.

THERE'S SO MUCH MORE TO SAY ABOUT THE OLYMPICS.

KARLA MAK, JOURNALIST

YOU'RE WRONG TO THINK THAT WAY!

THE PARALYMPICS ARE JUST AS IMPORTANT.

AND, FOR ME, IT'S ALSO MUCH MORE THAN THAT ...
IT'S NOT A MERE COMPETITION WITH DIFFERENT SPORTS CATEGORIES ...

... OF PEOPLE WHO'VE FOUGHT THEIR WHOLE LIVES TO BECOME ATHLETES.

AND ON THE CONTRARY, THERE IS A LOT TO TELL, VINCE.

YEAH... BUT WHY THIS SPORT IN PARTICULAR, KARLA?
WHAT WE'RE SEEING RIGHT NOW SHOULD ANSWER YOUR QUESTION, RIGHT?

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY IS SUCH A SPECTACULAR SPORT!

AND THE PRESS NEVER TALKS ABOUT IT. THIS NEEDS TO CHANGE!

AND WHY THIS HARO GUY?

IT FULLY SHOWCASES THE PLAYERS' POWER.
BECAUSE HE'S THE PERFECT EMBODIMENT OF THESE PEOPLE WHO FIGHT, WHO MOVE FORWARD DESPITE APPARENTLY INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLES ... ALSO ... 

... I HAVE A PERSONAL REASON ...

... THAT'S EVEN MORE IMPORTANT.

HAVE YOU HEARD?! IT SEEMS THE FIRST CORONAVIRUS CASES HAVE BEEN DETECTED ON THE ISLAND.

REALLY?!
THIS VIRUS SEEMS VERY CONTAGIOUS ...

NO, NOTHING'S BEEN CONFIRMED!

BLA BLA BLA
WELL PLAYED!
GOOD GAME!
I'M A LITTLE NERVOUS NOW. I HOPE EVERYTHING WILL BE OKAY ...
HI. I'M LISTENING.

I'M LOSING MY COMPOSURE … I … WELL …

WHAT IS HAPPENING TO ME?

OK, LET'S GET BACK TO IT!

HELLO, I'M KARLA MAK, JOURNALIST FOR SPORT MAG MAGAZINE.

I WOULD LIKE TO WRITE AN ARTICLE ABOUT YOUR STORY, TELL ME ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY.

WELL, I DON'T HAVE ALL DAY …
NO?!!

... SINCE YOUR ACCIDENT UP TO YOUR JOINING THIS CLUB. AND ...

I'D RATHER WE TALKED ABOUT THIS VICTORY AND THE UPCOMING FINAL.

NO!

UHM... BUT THE READERS WOULD BE GREATLY IMPRESSED BY YOUR TESTIMONY AND YOUR STRUGGLE.
I'M SORRY, BUT I'M NOT INTERESTED!

EITHER WE TALK ABOUT THE COMPETITION, OR YOU'LL HAVE TO FIND SOMEONE ELSE MISS MAK.
GOODBYE!
HER PIECE IS FALLING THROUGH. HA! HA! HA!

WELL, MY LITTLE KARLA, SEEMS LIKE A LOONG SHOT WITH YOUR ATHLETE...

BUT HE’S RIGHT. I’M GOING TO HAVE A HARD TIME...

SO ANNOYING! OH, COME ON! GET OFF MY BACK, VINCE.

ALRIGHT, I HAVE TO GO. I HAVE OLYMPIC ATHLETES TO PHOTOGRAPH.

MISS MAK?!! MY WORDS MUST HAVE UPSET HIM.

GOOD LUCK WITH THIS MESS!
YOU HAVE TO EXCUSE HIM, MISS MAK.

WE HEARD YOUR CONVERSATION ...

AT THE SAME TIME ... THAT WASN'T VERY SMART OF YOU.

YOU COME TO INTERVIEW AN ATHLETE, AND INSTEAD OF HIS PASSION AND ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE, YOU ASK HIM TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE ENTIRELY ...
OF COURSE, IT'S NOT EASY TO BE OUTSIDE THE NORM, BUT PEOPLE NEED TO STOP SEEING PARASPORTS AS A PERPETUAL STRUGGLE.

ALL ATHLETES, DISABLED OR NOT, ARE FIGHTING FOR THE SAME THING... FIRST PLACE, QUITE SIMPLY.

THIS IS WHAT MATTERS.
I MAY HAVE A CHANCE ...

LISTEN, MISS MAK, COME BACK TOMORROW AFTERNOON, DURING PRACTICE ...

IT WOULD BE MY PLEASURE.

... THE ATMOSPHERE WILL BE MORE RELAXED.

... TO MANAGE THIS INTERVIEW.

Karla's building.
MISS MAK!

ALREADY HOME?

YES, MIRA. MY APPOINTMENT WAS SHORTER THAN EXPECTED.

HOW'S MY BROTHER?

STILL NO IMPROVEMENT. YOUR BROTHER STILL DOESN'T SPEAK.

THE EXERCISES DIDN'T YIELD ANY RESULTS.
THANK YOU, MIRA. YOU CAN GO HOME.

I WILL TAKE CARE OF HIM.

HI, TOA, HOW ARE YOU?
HOW WAS YOUR DAY?

YOU KNOW, TODAY, I MET AMAZING ATHLETES.

WHEELCHAIR RUGBY PLAYERS.
THE WAY THESE ATHLETES DO THEIR BEST EVERY DAY …

TOA, IF YOU COULD SEE THEM IN ACTION …

... IN REAL LIFE AS WELL AS ON THE FIELD.

THEY LIVE A NORMAL LIFE!
YOU TOO COULD … HAVE A NORMAL LIFE AGAIN!

YOU TOO COULD …
I WILL MANAGE TO WRITE
THIS ARTICLE FOR YOU.

I WILL FIGHT FOR YOU...

I WILL NOT GIVE UP ON
YOU, LITTLE BROTHER.
The next day, in the afternoon.

The COVID-19 contamination rate on the island is very concerning...

Several countries have put their inhabitants in lockdown...

An emergency government meeting is currently in session...

It's getting more and more serious...
WOW, I NEED TO HURRY UP!

... RADICAL DECISIONS COULD BE MADE ...

Sports club.
I HOPE I'M ON TIME!

PASS THE BALL OVER HERE!

DEFENSE!!!

MISTER HARO?

I REALISE I'VE BEEN INSENSITIVE...
IT'S BECAUSE...

I'M SORRY FOR YESTERDAY. I DIDN'T MEAN TO DISRESPECT YOU.
IT'S TOA, MY YOUNGER BROTHER. HE'S LOST THE USE OF HIS LEGS BECAUSE OF A RARE DISEASE.

AND EVER SINCE, HE'S WITHDRAWN INTO COMPLETE MUTISM.

HE'S BECOME APATHETIC AND LETS HIMSELF GO INTO HIS DEPRESSION.
BEFORE, HE HAD A PASSION FOR RUGBY.

AND TODAY, HIS ONLY PASTIME...

...IS BROWSING THROUGH SPORTS MAGAZINES...

THAT'S WHY I WANT TO SHARE YOUR PAST AND YOUR STORY.

THE STORY OF SOMEONE WHO'S OVERCOME GREAT HARDSHIPS...
AND I'M CONVINCED
THAT, THROUGH THIS
ARTICLE, WE'LL BE ABLE
TO HELP NOT ONLY MY
BROTHER
...

BUT ALSO
COUNTLESS
OTHER PEOPLE.

WOULD YOU
HELP ME?
LISTEN,
MISS KARLA ...

... I'M NOT DOING YOUR ARTICLE.

I'M ONLY INTERESTED IN TALKING ABOUT COMPETITIONS,
PERFORMANCES, THE MAN I AM ...

BUT ...

OH, THANK YOU!!! COME ON SATURDAY, HE WILL BE SO HAPPY.

YOU'RE STAYING MISS MAK? WE CAN CONTINUE OUR CONVERSATION AFTER PRACTICE.

HEY, HARO?!

THEY'RE ALL SO FULL OF ENERGY, IT'S INCREDIBLE.

ALL DONE WITH THE FLIRTING?!
HA! HA! HA!

ALL DONE WITH THE FLIRTING?!
HA! HA! HA!

ALL DONE WITH THE FLIRTING?!
HA! HA! HA!
WHAT A STRANGE DAY...

IT'S INCREDIBLE...

... I HAD A DISTORTED VISION OF PARASPORTS.

SUCH ENTHUSIASM, SUCH CHEERFULNESS!!

IT'S INCREDIBLE...

... I HAD A DISTORTED VISION OF PARASPORTS.

WE ARE NOW INTERRUPTING OUR PROGRAM FOR A SPECIAL NEWS FLASH.
STARTING TOMORROW AT 5PM, THE ISLAND WILL GO INTO LOCKDOWN...

... UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.
I DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN.

IN LOCKDOWN.

I DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN.

IN LOCKDOWN.

I DON'T WANT TO GO THROUGH THAT AGAIN.

IN LOCKDOWN.

IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN... JUST LIKE THESE DAYS, ISOLATED IN THE HOSPITAL.
A few years earlier, in a hospital.

HARO?
ARE YOU AWAKE?

I'M STUCK IN A NIGHTMARE.

ONCE AGAIN, I'M LOST...

HANG IN THERE, HARO. YOU CAN'T GIVE UP.

HI, HARO! HOW ARE YOU?

WILL COACH
HI, COACH. ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

I'M GOOD. HOW'S ISOLATION GOING?

WE'RE GOING TO SCHEDULE A VIDEO CALL WITH THE TEAM TO SEE WHERE WE'RE AT.

I'M NOT GOING TO LIE TO YOU, IT'S NOT EASY.

HI, EVERYONE!

WE ARE ALL EXPERIENCING EXTRAORDINARY TIMES. I HOPE YOU'RE HOLDING OUT MENTALLY.

I WANTED TO GATHER THE TEAM ...

WE'RE GOING TO SCHEDULE A VIDEO CALL WITH THE TEAM TO SEE WHERE WE'RE AT.
As playing partners, but most importantly as friends!

Our next final game! But for now, let’s use this moment to wish Tanya a happy birthday!

We’re going to take advantage of this time to improve our individual performances to prepare for...

Happy birthday, Tanya!

Airports are shut down. Almost all activities are at a standstill. There’s an announcement.
AIRPORTS ARE CLOSED. ALMOST ALL ACTIVITIES ARE STOPPED.

THE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARE CANCELLED.

THAT CAN'T BE TRUE.

HARO, IT'S KARLA.
I HEARD THE ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE NEWS ...

IT'S OVER. I'M RETIRING FROM COMPETITION.

BUT ... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, HARO?!

... IT'S TOO HARD TO HAVE MY DREAMS CRUSHED LIKE THAT ...

IT'S TOO MUCH.

YOU CAN'T UNDERSTAND! I SPENT SEVERAL MONTHS PREPARING PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY FOR THAT ...
HARO, HOW FAR YOU’VE COME IS PROOF THAT YOU’RE NOT A QUITTER.

BEFORE YOUR ACCIDENT, YOU WERE A BOXER.

YOUR WHOLE LIFE, YOU’VE BEEN FIGHTING.

THEN, YOU HAD TO FACE YEARS OF REHABILITATION AT THE HOSPITAL.

AND THAT’S NOT ALL . . .

THIS FIGHTING SPIRIT IS INGRAINED IN YOU.
YOU REINVENTED YOURSELF
IN A WHOLE NEW SPORT,
WHEELCHAIR RUGBY.

YOU HAD TO LEAVE THE ISLAND
WHERE YOU WERE BORN BECAUSE YOU
DIDN'T FIND A CLUB THERE.

YOUR DEDICATION
PAID OFF!

I REMEMBER
AN IMPORTANT
MOMENT, THAT WAS
DECISIVE ... THE
CLASSIFICATION
TESTS ...

REMEMBER THESE
VICTORIES AS
YOUR STRENGTH!
DON'T GIVE
UP, HARO!
Classification process is conducted by medical and training staff of the delegation.

Yes, to ensure fairness of the event.

There are 4 or 5 tests.

Test D: Range of motion in the arms.

Test E: Movement on the field.

... I passed them all, and I got my playing license, so to say.

Test A: Anterior balance.

Test B: Lateral balance.

Test C: Hand dexterity.

Test E: Movement on the field.

There are tests for the wheelchair ...

...
I received my player card*, and participated in my first match.

* A player’s card is a card on which all necessary information is featured, and which the referee consults when checking the chair’s standards.

In a close-knit team, I gradually forgot this unfortunate period.

Matches, victories, here’s what defines me and what makes my strength!!!
COMPETITIONS AND VICTORIES ARE ONLY THE RESULT OF YOUR PAST EFFORTS.

YOUR STORY MAKES YOUR STRENGTH!

YOU'RE WRONG, HARO!

YOUR FAILURES ARE ACTUALLY OBSTACLES YOU'VE OVERCOME.

... YOUR FAILURES ARE ACTUALLY OBSTACLES YOU'VE OVERCOME.

ALL THE THINGS YOU SEE AS ...

WITHOUT THIS PAST YOU'RE SO KEEN TO FORGET, YOU WOULDN'T BE SATISFIED WITH YOUR VICTORIES.
I WISH TO BRING THE STORY OF YOUR PAST TO ALL THOSE WHO NEED IT...

INCLUDING MY BROTHER.

PEOPLE WHO ARE GOING THROUGH THE SAME HARDSHIPS, BUT HAVE GIVEN UP.

THIS ARTICLE IS VERY IMPORTANT TO ME, HARO...
I wish I could see a smile on my brother's face again.
Two months have passed. Lockdown measures have been lifted, the epidemic situation has improved. Little by little, the world is getting out of isolation.

Haro's place.

HELLO, HARO!

HERE'S MY BROTHER, TOA.
HARO?

THESE EYES …

HARO?

CAN YOU HEAR ME?

HARO?

THESE EYES …

THEY REMIND ME …

A few years ago …

HARO?

HARO?

ARE YOU OKAY?

HARO?
WONDERFUL!!!
WE'RE GOING TO DO A GREAT JOB!

YOU KNOW HOW TO CONVINCE PEOPLE, MISS MAK!

KARLA, WE'RE GOING TO WRITE THIS ARTICLE!

THESE WORDS HAVE SUCH AN EFFECT ON ME!!...

LOCAL COMPETITIONS ARE STARTING AGAIN, BUT THIS IS NOT THE CASE FOR BIGGER COMPETITIONS.

A few weeks later.
CONGRATULATIONS KARLA! WE'RE IMPRESSED.

THANK YOU!

THE HARD TIMES WERE WORTH IT, RIGHT, VINCÉ?

YES, THIS ARTICLE ALMOST DIDN'T SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY. I HAD TO CHANGE MY APPROACH. WE TALKED ABOUT THE PAST, BUT MOSTLY ABOUT THE FUTURE.
Haro told me that during his hospital stay, meeting someone who couldn't practice any sport... gave him the motivation to fight, not to stop at what he couldn't do, but to focus on what he could.

Hello, Mary. How is my brother? He ate very well... and handled the exercises very well.
It's the day of the final.

Because of the health situation, the game is played before a limited audience.

SEE HOW IMPRESSIVE IT IS, TOA?!
This sport, besides being spectacular, is also very rich in its composition.

Each team is made up of four players, attackers and defenders, who are categorised following a points-based system depending on their functional abilities.

The players who are the most impaired are called defensive and are assigned between 0.5 and 1.5 points. Offensive players get between 2 and 3.5.

Attacker

Defender

Ball which is also used for volleyball
The player’s classification is certified by the IWRF - the International Wheelchair Rugby Federation - after a consultation with several specialists.

In each team, the sum of all the players' points cannot exceed 8.

The players are paraplegics, triple amputees, suffering from cerebral palsy or degenerative diseases that cause paralysis. Only athletes whose four limbs are affected are eligible to play in competition.
HARO'S TEAM ARE MISSING TWO POINTS TO CLOSE THE GAP, IT'S TIGHT!
IT'S THE END OF THE GAME. HARO'S TEAM LOST FROM TWO POINTS.

THEY Fought WELL, AT LEAST!

WHY ARE YOU SMILING?
TOA, you spoke!

What do you mean?

Why are you smiling when you've lost?

Thanks to your sister, I've realised...
THAT MY WHOLE JOURNEY UP TILL NOW...

... ALL THE OBSTACLES I OVERCAME TO PLAY THIS MATCH ARE PERSONAL VICTORIES, WHICH ARE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN WINNING ACTUAL GAMES.

... BUT DEFEAT IS A LESSON TO BE LEARNT ON THE PATH TO VICTORY.

IT'S TRUE, I LOST...
Now it's your turn to build your first victories.
HOW I WISH I COULD SEE A SMILE ON MY BROTHER'S FACE AGAIN...

THANK YOU, HARO.
WHAT IF WE ALL WENT FOR ICE CREAM TOGETHER?

GO TOGETHER. I WANT TO SEE THE OTHER PLAYERS.

WHAT IF WE ALL WENT FOR ICE CREAM TOGETHER?

BUT... ARE YOU SURE?

CERTAIN!

YOU CAN REST EASY, BIG SISTER.
IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF AND BE HAPPY.
*Transformation* is my second manga. It was an engaging and rewarding experience. And, for all that I have learned, I would like to thank Ryadh Sallem for his dedication to the project, as well as William Ybert, Valérie Delattre, Sophia Azzi and the other players. I would like to thank Céline Colombier-Maffre, the Ipsen Fondation, and her team for this great project. I would also like to thank the French Paralympic and Sports Committee. I thank my family, my friends, my darling Tiago Duarte for his support and help. Finally, my teacher Kaori Yoshikawa. To all readers, I thank you in advance for your interest, and I invite you to find me on my page https://facebook.com/karasept/

- Kara7

I am very happy to have supported this innovative and offbeat project! This manga is a formidable educational vehicle for enabling young people to be more aware of wheelchair rugby, and more generally, of handicapped sports. The combination of art and sports develop a powerful synergy here. The designers’ talent is an amazing added value! Thank you to Fondation Ipsen for making this educational tool accessible by distributing it to as many people as possible...

- Ryadh Sallem

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
Fascinated by manga’s history, its features, and in particular, the originality of animation, she grew an interest in drawing manga. After obtaining her baccalaureate (France’s equivalent of A-Levels), she decided to study at the AAA - École de Manga, thus beginning her adventure. Kara7 has been illustrating ever since, notably on social media (https://fr-fr.facebook.com/karasept/).

**Ryadh Sallem** is a high-level Paralympic athlete, and initiator of humanitarian and associative projects aimed at combating all forms of discrimination. President of CAPSAAA, organizer of the Defestival and of societal and cultural conferences, he is also the initiator of Educapcity, a large urban rally dedicated to 8-14 year olds. He also serves as a consultant to companies and the media, member of CROSIF and APELS, administrator of VIVRE FM, the Gécina Foundation, and Associate Manager of “Séquences Clés Production”... all to promote fraternity and living together in peace.
The Boccia Mountain
by Reptilian
with the kind collaboration of Sonia Heckel
MY MUM WAS WORRIED, BECAUSE ...

COME ON, PASS THE BALL!

AND I MADE THE MISTAKE OF NOT TAKING HER SERIOUSLY.

SHE TALKED TO ME OF "MUSCLE DEGENERATION".

... AS A CHILD, I HAD ALWAYS LOVED MOVING.
SAMARA, ARE YOU OKAY?

WHAT HAPPENED?

WHAT IS ...

MY LEGS ...

SAMARA ?!!

I CAN'T GET UP ANYMORE.
... SINCE THEN, I'VE LOST THE USE OF MY LEGS.

AND I'VE STARTED STUDYING IN A "SEN" SCHOOL.

WHICH MEANS A "SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS" SCHOOL.

BONG!
OH ... 
HE'S SO 
LUCKY!

I'D LOVE 
TO BE ABLE 
TO PLAY 
SPORTS 
LIKE THAT ... 

BUT NO, I HAVE TO 
DO BORING STUFF 
LIKE ... 

EARTH TO 
SAMARA, 
HELLO!

Clap clap!

tch...
WE'RE WAITING FOR YOU SO WE CAN START.

TODAY, WE'RE RESUMING PRACTICE WITH OUR BLOWPIPES!

COME ON, LET'S GO!

THAT'S WHAT I WAS SAYING ...

TCHAK! TCHAK!

SEE?
REALLY, REALLY...

AH ... WHAT A DAY!

I CAN'T WAIT TO BE HOME AT LAST!

THE 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES ARE ALREADY SO CLOSE TO US!

WHO ISN'T EXCITED ABOUT IT?

PFUT.

PFUT.

PFUT.

AAA!!!
OK, KIDS... TODAY,
WE'RE GOING TO TRY OUT A NEW SPORT.
DOES ANYONE KNOW ABOUT BOCCIA?
IT'S MOSTLY LIKE PÉTANQUE, BUT ITALIAN! HAHA!

NO?

YOU ALL KNOW HOW TO PLAY PÉTANQUE, RIGHT?

YES!!!

WHAT'S THIS NEW WEIRD SPORT ABOUT?

GREAT!

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TWO TEAMS, BLUES AND REDS.
THE WINNING TEAM IS THE ONE THAT ROLLS THE BALL CLOSEST...

... TO THE JACK, WHICH IS THE SMALL TARGET BALL, AS YOU KNOW. OK?

READY TO START?
HUM...

NOT BAD, JEAN-PIERRE.

IT'D BE COOL TO HAVE FUN

FOR ONCE IN SPORTS CLASS, BUT ...

IS BOCCIA REALLY DIFFERENT?
Hop.

Meh ...
YOU NEED TO THROW THE BALL, NOT DROP IT!

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

OH, WHAT'S WRONG, SAMARA?

LET ME START AGAIN!

VISH!

YOU NEED TO THROW THE BALL, NOT DROP IT!

GRR! VROUSH!
YOU’LL TRY AGAIN WHEN WE COME BACK TO YOUR TURN.

I REALLY DIDN’T TAKE THIS SERIOUSLY ENOUGH! SO PATHETIC!

I CAN’T DO IT AS WITH OTHER SPORTS.

WELL! FROM NOW ON...
I'M DOING IT PROPERLY.
IT'S ALREADY 3PM ...

LET'S TIDY UP EVERYTHING!

MISS!!! TODAY WAS AWESOME!

ARE WE GOING TO PLAY BOCCIA AGAIN?!!
OF COURSE.

BESIDES, YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD!

REALY? YOU THINK SO?!

HAHA! YES, A TRUE CHAMPION!

YOU KNOW WHAT?

IT BE REALLY COOL IF I COULD BECOME AN ATHLETE WHEN I'M OLDER.

LIKE ... IF THERE WERE OLYMPICS FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME ...

CAN YOU IMAGINE?
WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

THE PARALYMPICS DO EXIST! DIDN'T YOU KNOW THAT?
ARGH ... THIS PANG IN MY HEART ...

I THINK ... NO, ACTUALLY, I KNOW THAT ...
THIS IS THE GOAL I WANT TO REACH WHEN I'M OLDER.

A few years later ...

...
WE WON!

WOOHOO!! YAY!!

CLAP!

WE'LL GET BACK TO IT ON THURSDAY!

WELL DONE EVERYBODY.

YEAH!

ALRIGHT, BYE, I HAVE TO GO. I HAVE AN APPOINTMENT!
WHAT IS IT?

THIS IS NOT A GOOD SIGN...

YOU KNOW, YOUR MYOPATHY IS A DEGENERATIVE DISEASE ...

YES?
UNFORTUNATELY, YOU CAN ONLY LOSE STRENGTH IN YOUR ARMS.

… THANK YOU, SIR. GOODBYE.

DON DON Dzzz...

SAMARA!

BUT YOU PROBABLY ALREADY SUSPECTED THAT.
You have to be the first to taste my new recipe! Remy!

Come on, come before it gets cold.

But seriously, how do you do it? The taste is so balanced!

This is a secret...

Hi hi hi...

But seriously, how do you do it? The taste is so balanced!

Hi hi hi... well, that...
OK ... YES, THANK YOU.

WHAT? REALLY?

WHO WAS IT?

HMM ... HMM ... YEAH.

YES, HELLO?

HUH, HUH ... YEAH

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

WHAT ?!!
I COULD NOT BE HAPPIER ...

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

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.
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.
THIS IS THE TIME...

DUN

DUN

DUN

SAMARA DUVERT!!!

WOOO!!

... TO SHOW WHAT I CAN DO!
1st End: Reds 0, Blues 1

2nd End: Reds 0, Blues 2

Ree...

Ha Ha Ha!
...!!!

3rd END: REDS 1, BLUES 2

POC!

I'M NOT GOING TO LET YOU WIN.

...!!!

GO, SAMARA!!!

OUAiis!
EUROPEAN BOCCIA BC4 CHAMPION...

WOOHOO!

FINAL END: REDS 3, BLUES 1

WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT...

SAMARA DUVERT!

CLAP! CLAP!
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.
AS MY PHYSICAL THERAPIST PREDICTED,

I GREW WEAKER AND WEAKER.

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

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

AND THEN ...
THAT CAN'T BE TRUE...

NO...

Poc.

DON!

COME ON...

MOVE...

Brr Brr
YOU WANT TO QUIT? BUT, WHY?!

NO, BUT ...

THROW IT!

COMES ON!

HOW CAN I CONTINUE IF I CAN'T THROW?
WHY DON'T YOU CHANGE CATEGORIES?

YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IN THIS SITUATION.

LOOK AT ALL THE PLAYERS IN BC3!

NO...

Ah...

YES, BUT ...

WHY DON'T YOU CHANGE CATEGORIES?

THAT WOULD MEAN STARTING OVER FROM SCRATCH ...

AND WHO WOULD BE MY ASSISTANT?
IF YOU WANT ...

WELL ...

... I CAN BE YOUR ASSISTANT!

YOU ...

...
YOU WOULD DO THAT FOR ME?

REALLY?

OF COURSE, SAMARA!

WE...

WE'RE FRIENDS!

AND IT'S BETTER THAN GIVING EVERYTHING UP, ISN'T IT?
YES ... YOU'RE RIGHT.

MY LIMITATIONS Aren't GREATER or HARDER TO OVERCOME,

BUT SIMPLY DIFFERENT!

AND THAT'S WHY ...
I CAN'T COMPARE THEM.

LET ALONE GIVE UP ON MY DREAM.

ESPECIALLY SEEING HOW SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE IN ME.

SHOULD WE START?
INDIVIDUAL BC3 END IN...
SAMARA, ARE YOU ALRIGHT?

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

I'VE BEEN TO MANY COMPETITIONS, THOUGH...
DO YOU THINK, MAYBE... THAT IT'S STILL TOO EARLY TO FACE THE COMPETITION?

NO, DON'T WORRY. WE'VE WORKED HARD TO GET TO THIS POINT.
IT WASN'T EASY,
BUT ONLY HARD WORK AND WILLPOWER...

... CAN BEAR FRUIT.

AND, HONESTLY...

ALRIGHT!
THE END IS STARTING!
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 soon I will get to the Paralympics.

In which Boccia category? It doesn't matter.

Isn't that right, Remy?
DAMN IT!

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

AND I ONLY HAVE TWO LEFT...
DO WHAT YOU CAN.

TAW - TAW

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

HUM...

UFF...

EVEN WITH ENCOURAGING WORDS...
THE WINNERS OF THE INDIVIDUAL BC3 END...

ARE OFFICIALLY THE REDS,

LED BY THE ATHLETE GREGOIRE RODRIGUEZ.
WHAT A GAME !!!

SAMARA...

WE PLAYED WELL TODAY!

BUT, WE’LL DO EVEN BETTER...

... NEXT TIME, RIGHT?
WE SHOULD HAVE TRAINED EVEN MORE.

A LOT MORE.

FROUSSHHH.

LOSING COMPETITIONS...

AND THEN WINNING OTHERS...

THAT'S ALL PART OF IT.
YE...YES, HELLO?

VISH

CHOP

CHOP

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

ARE THEY REALLY GOING TO CALL?

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

BE PATIENT. YOU...

I'LL CALL YOU BACK, OK?! I'M EXPECTING A PHONE CALL.
Y-E-S, IT'S ME!

YE...YES, HELLO?

PARDON?

SO?!!

WAS IT THEM ?!!

AL...ALRIGHT. GREAT!

GOODBYE.
I'VE BEEN SELECTED!
THAT STEP
THAT
SEEMED SO
HIGH...

... IS SO
CLOSE;
NOW.
BUT THIS STEP IS FAR FROM THE LAST ONE I’LL HAVE TO CLIMB.

HURRAH!

BECAUSE LIFE IS A BIT LIKE THAT...
... 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.
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
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.
THE RACE OF A LIFETIME

by Kat-chan

with the kind collaboration of Renaud Clerc
THE ABILITY TO SPEAK IS SUCH A POWERFUL THING.

WORDS CAN JUST AS EASILY TEAR US DOWN AS THEY CAN BUILD US UP.

ON YOUR MARK!

WORDS ARE EVEN MORE IMPACTFUL WHEN THEY ARE BACKED UP BY ACTIONS.

BANG!

AS FOR THE LATTER...

I LEARNED THAT BY WATCHING HIM.
Years earlier...

I WON!

RUNNING REALLY IS YOUR THING, LIAM, ISN'T IT?

AAAARGH, YOU'RE TOO FAST FOR US!

THAT'S PARTLY THANKS TO THIS THING!

WOW! A WRISTBAND SIGNED BY UTAIN BOLS! YOU'RE SO LUCKY!

NOAH'S GOT ONE TOO!

HEHE!
WE'RE BOTH HUGE BOLS FANS! AND WE PROMISED WE WOULD TRAIN HARD...

... TO BECOME A GREAT ATHLETE LIKE HIM.

BWAHAHA!

LIAM, I GET IT...

BUT DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU COULD DO IT, NOAH? YOU CAN BARELY WALK STRAIGHT!

SERIOUSLY?!

OH DEAR, MY BELLY!

HAHA! COME ON, BE REALISTIC.

WITH YOUR CRIPPLED LEG.

SPORT...
IT'S NOT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE.

11.9 SECONDS!

THIS IS GOOD! YOU SEEM READY FOR THE UPCOMING QUALIFIERS.

QUALIFICATION EVENTS FOR THE PARALYMPICS, ONE MORE STEP TOWARDS MY DREAM...
OH, THIS GUY OVER THERE! HIS FACE RINGS A BELL...

AAHHH! GLAD TO BE GOING HOME!

TELL ME ABOUT IT!!!

YOU'RE RIGHT.

I THINK I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE TOO. BUT WHERE?

OH, I GOT IT! IT'S THAT DISABLED KID WHO USED TO HANG OUT WITH LIAM!

SO, HE JOINED AN ATHLETICS CLUB. THE GUY'S GOT MOTIVATION...

NOAH!

UM ...

AAAH! WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN?!!
I'm surprised the club accepted him.

He's a better runner, but he's far from being Olympic-level.

Liam, would you race him? For old times' sake!

Oh, come on! That'll be quick.

Unless you're afraid ...

No, thanks.

Why would you make him run? You already know the result.

It might just teach Noah that this isn't for him!

No, I'm getting tired of you.

So... hungry!

I'm beat!

Training session over! Lots of rest, everyone.

Noah, wait!
REMEMBER US, MAN?

NOT AT ALL.

LOOK BETTER.

YES YOU DO! WE USED TO PLAY TOGETHER OFTEN IN PRIMARY SCHOOL.

WE'RE BOTHERING HIM, LET'S GO.

SERIOUSLY, CAN'T YOU SEE YOU'RE ANNOYING HIM?

YOU REMEMBER, RIGHT? RIGHT?

UM ...
IT'S OKAY!

ARGH! HE REMEMBERS LIAM BUT NOT US!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE! I'M SO HAPPY TO SEE YOU. STILL RUNNING?

UM, ACTUALLY...

HE QUIT!

BUT, AS IT HAPPENS, I WAS JUST SUGGESTING YOU TWO SHOULD RACE EACH OTHER!

OK, I'M IN.

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU...

LET'S RACE!
ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT.

YOU SHOULD DO IT. EVEN NOAH WANTS TO ...

YOU RUN ALL THE WAY TO THOMAS OVER THERE.

I'LL GIVE THE START AND YOU,

ON YOUR MARK!

GET SET ?!

YEAH! COME ON, KIDS!

GO !!!
IT'S OKAY, I DIDN'T START TOO BAD.

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, I STILL HAVE THE ADVANTAGE.

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO DO IT.

THIS FEELING... IT'S BEEN SO LONG!

FOR SOMEONE WHO STOPPED TRAINING, HE IS GOOD.

HOWEVER...

HA HA

STAY STRONG, IT'S ALMOST THE END.

I'M STARTING TO SLOW DOWN...

I'VE LOST MY STAMINA!
HE PASSED ME !!!

OH!

I WASN'T EXPECTING THAT.

NOAH WINS!
WOW … AND I THOUGHT LIAM WAS BOUND TO WIN …

LIAM LOOKS FURIOUS.

I'M HOME!
I KEPT THAT?

IT'S STUPID!

IT'S STUPID! I WASTED THAN HIM.

THIS IS SO UNFAIR! I WAS FASTER THAN HIM.

IT WAS STUPID TO REFUSE TO RESTART THE RACE! I WOULD HAVE WON IF I HADN'T FALLEN.

COME ON, LIAM! LOSING A RACE ISN'T THAT BIG OF A DEAL, THERE WILL BE OTHERS.

IT WAS A SMART IDEA TO STOP. THIS SPORT IS NOT FOR ME.

JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE A DREAM, DOESN'T MEAN IT'S FEASIBLE.

IF IT'S LIKE THAT, I REALLY DON'T SEE WHY I WOULD GO ON TRAINING!
So, Liam ...

Hi, Hi, Hi!

How does it feel to lose a race against a cripple?

Shut up!

Don't bother him. Maybe Liam is a gimp too!!!

You too, shut up!

Shut up!

I'm going to join an athletics club and show you I still have talent.

Come on, don't be mad. You're getting older. Everyone knows how life can be hard on the elderly!

But it's been especially hard on you ...

Just so you can stop taunting me once and for all.

Very well ...
YOU’LL SEE WHO’S CRIPPLED THEN, YOU IDIOTS!

IT’S INCREDIBLE! YOU’RE HERE EVEN WHEN THERE’S NO PRACTICE.

FINAL LAP!

AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, COACH?

I WAS JUST PASSING BY.

NOAH, I APPRECIATE YOUR ENTHUSIASM, BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW ...

YOU SHOULD KNOW ...

THAT OVERWORKED MUSCLES INCREASE THE RISK OF INJURY.

TRAINING TOO MUCH TO IMPROVE CAN GET YOU THE EXACT OPPOSITE RESULT.

I WAS JUST PASSING BY.
I'M LEAVING. DON'T OVERDO IT, OKAY?!

YES, COACH.

I'M STILL GOING TO RUN 15 MORE MINUTES BEFORE I GO.

I'M LEAVING. DON'T OVERDO IT, OKAY?!

GREAT IDEA, JOINING A CLUB ON THE OTHERSIDE OF TOWN!

ON THE PLUS SIDE, I'LL ALREADY BE WARM!

I'M GOING TO BE LATE ON THE FIRST DAY!

NOAH? TRAINING ON HIS OWN?

FOR ALL THESE YEARS, HE'S BEEN TRYING TO REACH BOLS'S LEVEL ...
This coach is a real monster!

He'd better forget it.

Ughhahh ... I'm really going to be late!

A five-minute plank for being a tiny bit late ...

Good, you can get up. We're going to start.

Outch, outch, outch, outch.

Let it be clear ...

... I do not tolerate tardiness to practice.
SO IT WAS WITH PAIN AND SUFFERING THAT I STARTED RUNNING IN A CLUB AGAIN.

I WILL TIME EACH OF YOU, TO GET AN IDEA OF YOUR LEVEL.

IN POSITION!

LETS GO! ROWS OF THREE, FROM HERE TO THERE.

I'M GOING TO GIVE ALL I HAVE.

READY?!

HAAA... I'M ALREADY DEAD!

NEXT EXERCISE!
I'M LAGGING BEHIND!!

12.48s, 13.05s, 13.22s...

GO!

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT. I'M ...
LAST.

... LAST.

LAST.

EVERYONE IS

MUCH BETTER THAN I AM.

DID I ...

... REGRESS THIS MUCH?

TOO SLOW.

HA! HA! HA!

AND BEING LATE EVERY TIME.

AND IT BUGGED ME, NOT BEING THAT LITTLE GENIUS MY FRIENDS IDOLIZED...

I CAN'T DO IT.

I HAVE TO GO!

I'M GOING TO BE LATE.

DAYS WENT BY AND I KEPT TRAINING THREE TIMES A WEEK AFTER CLASS.
I was losing motivation and you could see it. I was getting less invested during practice.

I wasn't supposed to be playing sports right now?

 Aren't you supposed to be playing sports right now?

I was even skipping.

None of your business.

It can't go on like that, Liam.

You're skipping training, you're always late ...

You're skipping training, you're always late ...

Liam, I need to talk to you.

Until one day ...

I don't need people who aren't motivated.

Sorry, but this is your last day with us.

OK.
I FEEL...

SO PATHETIC.

THIS JUST CONFIRMS THIS SPORT ISN'T FOR ME.

HEY, LIAM!

SO PATHETIC.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? DO YOU HAVE TEN MINUTES?
COMING BACK FROM YOUR RUNNING CLUB?

IT'S SO COOL THAT YOU JOINED A CLUB!

ARE YOU STILL TRYING TO GO TO THE OLYMPICS?

NOAH...

WE COULD TRAIN TOGETHER, HUH?

AND I FULLY INTEND ON BECOMING THE ULTIMATE BOLS OF PARASPORTS! HA, HA, HA!

TO THE PARALYMPICS, YES!

IT'S THE EQUIVALENT OF THE OLYMPICS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.
THE CHANCES OF SUCCESS ARE SO SLIM, WHY DO YOU KEEP TRYING?

WELL, IT’S BECAUSE ...

IT’S WHAT WE USED TO SHOUT FROM THE ROOFTOPS, WHEN WE WERE YOUNGER.

YOU KNOW, LIAM ...

BUT WHY HOLD ON TO THAT? WE WERE KIDS, IT DIDN’T MEAN ANYTHING.
I really envied you, as a kid.

You were always surrounded by people, and they admired you.

But me ... no matter what I did ... or said ...

People ignored me, or didn't take me seriously.

They only saw me as a disabled kid, unable to do things.

... People ignored me, or didn't take me seriously.

Wow! You're a fan of Bols too?

I also had one signed!
He's my role model. I'd love to run like him.

Cool, me too!

You like to run? We could become his successors!

But I'm warning you, I'm fast!

You never made fun of me.

And you took me seriously, right from the beginning.

I'd blame myself if I quit everything now.
I SHOULD BE FLATTERED.

NOW ... I FEEL LIKE I'M LETTING HIM DOWN ...

I SHOULD BE FLATTERED.

BUT ...

PFFF ...

I'M RUNNING THIS WEEKEND. THERE'S A COMPETITION AT THE STADIUM.

COME SEE ME IF YOU CAN.

OH! WHILE I'M AT IT ... I'M RUNNING THIS WEEKEND. THERE'S A COMPETITION AT THE STADIUM.

COME SEE ME IF YOU CAN.

YEAH, I'LL DROP BY.

YEAH, DON'T WE HAVE ANYTHING BETTER TO DO?

LIAM, WHY ARE WE GOING TO WATCH THIS RACE? SPORTS FOR THE DISABLED! WHAT A SILLY IDEA.
AT THE SAME TIME, I WONDER HOW THEIR RACES ARE. APART FROM BEING SLOWER...

THERE ISN'T MUCH OF A CROWD, ANYWAY.

COME! LET'S SIT HERE.

IT'S STARTING SOON.

LANE NO.4, BEN ARAL...

LANE NO.3, NOAH BELUR...

LANE NO.6, ERICK LAYMER...

WE HAVE A GOOD VIEW HERE. OH, NOAH'S OVER THERE!
DID YOU SEE WHO WE'RE RUNNING AGAINST?

LOOK NOAH!

PFFF...

HE'S THE FAVOURITE FOR THIS COMPETITION, HE'S GOING TO BE HARD TO BEAT.

ERICK LAYMER.

I KNOW WE'RE IN THE "MILD DISABILITY" CATEGORY.

IT'S TRUE! YOU WOULDN'T GUESS HE'S HEMIPLEGIC.

BUT I DON'T EVEN SEE HIM LIMPING.
IT'S UNFAIR, HE SHOULD RUN IN THE T38 CATEGORY!

AHHH, AT LAST!

ATHLETES, IN POSITION.

COME ON NOAH, FOCUS.
BANG!

OH, OKAY!
TO SAY I WAS
EXPECTING A
ONE-LEGGED
RACE AND A
BUNCH OF
FALLS ...

THEY ARE ALL
BRILLIANT!

I WAS
THINKING
THE SAME.
THIS ERICK LA YMER ...

EVEN WHEN HE'S RUNNING, YOU CAN'T NOTICE ANYTHING.

IT'S GOING TO BE HARD TO WIN.
Um ... Is it just me, or is there something wrong with Noah?

Come on, Noah! The guy's going all out. Go!

My leg hurts.
FIRST: ERICK LAYMER!
SECOND: NOAH BELUR! THIRD: SOPHIE...

AAAH!
MY LEG MUSCLES ARE SO TIGHT.

... IT WAS THIS ONE.

IF THERE EVER WAS ONE RACE I DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE ...

ANYWAY, I'M STILL EXCITED FROM THE RACE.

OH, WHOA! THIS WASN'T BAD, IT WAS GREAT, EVEN!

TOO BAD NOAH LOST, I'LL CHEER HIM ON LOUDER NEXT TIME.

YOU WERE A GOOD AUDIENCE.
YOU TOO, THEY WOULD HAVE ANNIHILATED YOU.

SAME. IF YOU HAD RUN AGAINST THEM, THEY WOULD HAVE CRUSHED YOU.

I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT THERE WOULD BE SO MANY GREAT ATHLETES IN PARASPORTS.

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, BUT I'M EXHAUSTED!
Too bad Noah lost, I'll cheer him on louder next time.

Huh ... despite the results, they're proud of him ...

Why did I quit running, again?

I want ...

I would have won if I hadn't fallen!

If it's like that, I really don't see why I would go on training!

Liam, running really is your thing.
IT'S OVER, COME ON, LET'S GO TO THE CHANGING ROOM!

WHAT IS IT?

COACH, WOULD YOU HAVE A LITTLE TIME FOR ME?

I HAVE A FAVOUR TO ASK.
I'd like to come back to training.

I'm sorry I disturbed the sessions, and I didn't take all this seriously.

But I'm really motivated and I want to rejoin now.

Well...

So please, can you take me back?
ALRIGHT, BUT THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE.
SAME DAYS AND SAME TIMES, FOR PRACTICE.

SEE YOU TOMORROW! I WON'T BE LATE.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

NOW, IT'S MY TURN NOT TO DISAPPOINT HIM!

IT'S GREAT THAT HE ACCEPTED ME BACK!
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THE COMPETITION. BAD LUCK, I WANTED TO TALK TO HIM.

HEY, NOAH ISN'T HERE TODAY?

I'LL COME AGAIN TOMORROW.

I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM SINCE THE COMPETITION. BAD LUCK, I WANTED TO TALK TO HIM.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, YOU'RE REJOINING THE CLUB?
YOU LEFT IT? WHEN?

YEAH ... THE COACH KICKED ME OUT.

SPEAKING OF WHICH ...

... I NEED TO GO; I HAVE TO BE ON TIME.

HA! HA! HA! LOSER!

OK, SEE YOU!

I'M STARTING TO WONDER IF SOMETHING HAPPENED TO HIM.

NOAH STILL ISN'T HERE.
OH! WHAT A SURPRISE! YOU KEPT YOUR WORD!

I TOLD YOU I WAS MOTIVATED.

IT'S GREAT. COME ON, LET'S GO! IN YOUR SPORTS GEAR!

AND WE'RE STARTING WITH A TEN-MINUTE RUN!

SINCE I RETURNED TO THE CLUB, I'VE MADE NEW RESOLUTIONS.
I am doing the exercises correctly. I must admit, I've started to appreciate making more effort.

And I'm careful not to be late.

Wow! Already here!

But I'm worried about something ...

I still haven't seen Noah!
I don't know. I haven't seen him in training for several days.

OK, thanks for the info.

Really?

It's here!

This way...

I believe he lives just down the street.
YES?

DING-A-LING !!!

HELLO, I'M A FRIEND OF NOAH'S. CAN I SEE HIM? IT'S IMPORTANT.

HMM... ALRIGHT. IT'S OPEN.

THANK YOU.

CAN I SEE HIM? IT'S IMPORTANT.

HMM... ALRIGHT. IT'S OPEN.

HIS ROOM IS AT THE END OF THE CORRIDOR.

IT'S NICE TO THINK ABOUT NOAH. HE HASN'T BEEN FEELING VERY GOOD THESE DAYS.

NOAH? IT'S LIAM!

OK.
I'M COMING IN.

NOAH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

AND I'M NOT ABOUT TO GO BACK ...

WHAT ?!

I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AT THE STADIUM FOR SEVERAL DAYS.
I WORKED SO HARD FOR THE LAST RACE … DID YOU SEE THE RESULT?

SO MUCH EFFORT FOR SUCH A PATHETIC OUTCOME … NOT WORTH THE TROUBLE!

TO THINK THAT I WAS PROUD TO WEAR MY BOLS ARMBAND UP TILL NOW …

I WORKED SO HARD FOR THE LAST RACE … DID YOU SEE THE RESULT?

IT'S SO UNFAIR … BUT IT'S NOT LIKE YOU COULD UNDERSTAND.

I LOST BECAUSE THE CATEGORIES WERE NOT RESPECTED …

PHEW …

HA! HA! HA!!!

BWAHA-HAHA!
I GAVE UP FOR THE SAME REASONS.

SORRY, I'M SORRY, BUT YOU SOUND LIKE ME WHEN I QUIT ATHLETICS.

AFTER A FALL THAT COST ME THE VICTORY FIVE METERS FROM THE FINISH LINE.

I WAS THE BEST ONE ON THE TRACK.

AND I HAD TRAINED HARD FOR IT. I FOUND THE RESULTS SO UNFAIR . . .

BUT, SEEING YOU AT THE STADIUM MADE ME REALIZE A FEW THINGS.

. . . THAT IT PUT ME OFF RUNNING. I DIDN'T SEE THE POINT OF INVESTING MYSELF IN IT.
FIRST OF ALL, I LOVE RUNNING. I'M REALLY PASSIONATE ABOUT IT.

... I WOULD HAVE REFRAINED FROM WISHFUL THINKING.

AND I'M THE PARIAH, USELESS TO THIS SOCIETY.

THE FACT IS, I'M A DISABLED PERSON TRYING TO RAISE TO THE LEVEL OF A VALID PERSON.

IF I HAD KNOWN HOW HARD IT CAN BE TO LOOK REALITY IN THE FACE ...

AND WHEN YOU SET YOURSELF A GOAL, YOU HAVE TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACHIEVE IT.

... IF BOLS AND I COME FROM DIFFERENT WORLDS.

HE'S THE ONE EVERYONE ENVIES AND COPIES ...

HOW COULD I EVEN DREAM OF BEING ABLE TO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS?
Out of the two of us, you always had the best chance of reaching our dream.

Oh, dear! I wonder where the combative Noah who beat me went.

Let me tell you...

You think you're useless, light-years away from Bols, but...

...you and Bols have a huge similarity, in my opinion.
YOU ARE BOTH ROLE MODELS.
OF COURSE...
YOU'RE NOT FALINA BOLAR AND YOU'LL NEVER BE.

BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE OTHER DAY, WHEN YOU BEAT ME IN THAT RACE, I'M FULL OF ADMIRATION.

YOU'RE AT A DISADVANTAGE BECAUSE OF YOUR LEGS ...

... AND YET, WITH INTENSIVE TRAINING, YOU WERE MUCH BETTER THAN ME, WHO DOESN'T HAVE ANY DISABILITY.

BUT WHEN I THINK ABOUT THE OTHER DAY, WHEN YOU BEAT ME IN THAT RACE, I'M FULL OF ADMIRATION.
I THINK YOU DON'T REALIZE YOUR OWN STRENGTH.

NOAH, YOU'RE NOT USELESS TO ME.

YOU'RE THE EXAMPLE I WANT TO FOLLOW...

SO, I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO. ... JUST DON'T FORGET ALL OF THAT.
CLACK!

HMMM...

THANK YOU, LIAM.
One month later.

I'm on fire today! Let's cheer Noah on!

Yeah!

You've started to like it, it seems... Ha! Ha!

Yeah, actually! It's amazing!

Phew... did he come?
EVERYTHING HAPPENS TODAY.

OH! HE SAW ME...

AND HE SEEMS TO HAVE FOUND HIS MOTIVATION BACK.
YOU’LL SEE, I’LL TRAIN HARD LIKE THEM, AND CRUSH EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU!

HA! HA! HA!

YEAH, RIGHT...

DON’T LAUGH!

HA! HA! HA!

WORDS … WE START TO LEARN THEM AS CHILDREN.

THEY ARE A POWERFUL TOOL. THEY CAN BE SOFT OR SHARP AS KNIVES.

WE USE THEM TO DO SO MANY THINGS. SHARE KNOWLEDGE, COMFORT, HELP, SUPPORT, OR DESTROY THE PEOPLE AROUND US.

EVERYONE IN POSITION!

BUT WHAT DO WE ACTUALLY DO?

ALL TOO OFTEN, WE PROMISE WE WILL DO THIS OR THAT.

WORDS … WE START TO LEARN THEM AS CHILDREN.
THAT'S IT. THEY'RE ABOUT TO START! I HOPE NOAH WILL QUALIFY FOR THE OLYMPIC GAMES.

ME TOO.

SLIGHT RECTIFICATION ...

... IT'S THE PARALYMPIC GAMES.

THE EQUIVALENT OF THE OLYMPICS FOR DISABLED PEOPLE.

OH, I UNDERSTAND ...
IT'S EASIER SAID THAN DONE.

BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO DON'T USE WORDS LIGHTLY.

AND WHEN THEIR WORDS ARE FOLLOWED BY ACTIONS ...

... THERE'S SOMETHING MAGICAL ABOUT THE IMPACT THEY MAKE, LIKE A DREAM FINALLY COMING TRUE.
Following these difficult months for many of us due to the Covid-19 crisis, I wish the very best to our athletes who have shown unwaivering determination to stay on top despite health restrictions. Completing this manga during this particular year was particularly trying for me, psychologically and physically, but I am still very happy to have been able to participate in this great project. I would like to thank Fondation Ipsen for allowing me to collaborate with them once again, and particularly Céline Colombier-Maffre for her patience and kindness. Renaud Clerc who taught me a lot of things about disabled sports, and where I was able to find my inspiration. My family, and all the people who have always supported me. The AAA school. And thank you to my dear readers.

- Kat-chan

Spread dreams! They will become real.
Share the impossible, it will become achievable.

- Renaud Clerc

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
Kathleen Bausset graduated from AAA-Ecole de Manga, the first manga school in France. She publishes, under the name Kat-chan, online: http://mangakat-chan.eklablog.com.

Passionate about sports, and French champion at the age of 18, Renaud Clerc is defined by four words: resilience, effort, sharing and hard work. A law student, this disabled athlete keeps his eyes forward. At the end of the race, perhaps a medal at the Paralympic Games? And, without a doubt, the beginning of new challenges.