

"Time Shift", Chapter One

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PANEL 1:

We are now in a facility. All of the remaining recruits are sitting cross-legged as Nikki introduces the trial. They are all dressed in karate gi's. Shin stands in the background.

NIKKI
Congratulations, recruits.

NIKKI
Of those of you attempted the obstacle course, and only 24 of you were able to complete it in time. After this we will be taking the top 15 for the next and final round.

PANEL 2:

Closer in on Nikki.

NIKKI
This round is a personal favorite of mine: Hand to hand combat.

NIKKI
Pairings will be made regardless of weight class or gender. If you are out in the field, you will be expected to be able to defeat any enemy.

PANEL 3:

She points at Belle specifically, and Belle kind of jumps back a little.

NIKKI
And ABSOLUTELY, POSITIVELY NO WEAPONS!

PANEL 4:

Nikki is leaning in very close to Belle, looking down at her. Belle is looking up innocently, giving her a peace sign.

BELLE
I don't have any weapons, Sergeant Nikki, honest!

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PANEL 1:

Nikki addresses the group again.

NIKKI
Rounds will be decided by
knockdowns. If you are knocked down
and can't get back up, or wish to
submit at any time, then the round
is over.

NIKKI
Any questions?

PANEL 2:

The entire class falls over as Belle raises her hand
innocently again.

BELLE
Sergeant Nikki?

NIKKI (O.P.)
That's Sergeant Fry, Cadet.

BELLE
Sergeant Fry?

PANEL 3:

Reaction shot of Nikki, looking exasperated and dumbfounded
at Belle.

NIKKI
Yes, Cadet?

BELLE (O.P.)
Are those the complete rules for
the contest?

PANEL 4:

Nikki gets close to Belle again.

NIKKI
No explosives, Belle!

BELLE
That's not what I meant!

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PANEL 1:

Belle looks innocent as she asks her question.

BELLE

I just meant can we use any style,
as long as we don't use weapons or
anything?

PANEL 2:

Nikki relaxes a little.

NIKKI

Oh. Yes, that would be okay.

PANEL 3:

Nikki straightens herself.

NIKKI

Okay then! The first pair will be-

NIKKI

Cadet McCane versus

NIKKI

Cadet Wilder!

PANEL 5:

Cadet McCane stands up. From the back of the class.

PANEL 6:

Belle goes to meet him in the center of the ring. He is HUGE compared to her.

MCCANE

Heh heh heh.

MCCANE

Why not submit now, girly? I
wouldn't want to have to mess a
pretty thing like you up.

BELLE

I have a proposal!

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PANEL 1:

Belle produces a remote control.

BELLE

When I found out that this contest was being held in the hypergravity fighting chamber, I thought maybe we should actually use the gravity generator during the contest.

PANEL 2:

Show a shot of this towering giant of a man, standing over Belle. He is laughing.

MCCANE

Hahahahaha! You think you can beat ME in hypergravity fighting?

BELLE

Well, yeah. That's how I do all of my training. I want to make it fair for you.

PANEL 3:

Nikki interrupts.

NIKKI

This isn't a hypergravity fighting contest!

PANEL 4:

McCane turns to Nikki, confidently. He is rotating his shoulder muscles like he is preparing for the fight. Nikki is in the background looking a bit overwhelmed.

MCCANE

Sergeant Fry, let her turn it on. This should be fun.

NIKKI

R-Really? Are you sure?

MCCANE

Yeah! Let's do it!

PANEL 5:

Belle hits the button.

BELLE
Yeah, you're on!

PANEL 6:

McCane looks confident. Belle looks around confused.

MCCANE
Let's do this!

BELLE
Hmm, doesn't seem to be working.

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PANEL 1:

McCane has spun around - he is charging up an attack!

MCCANE
Never mind that!

MCCANE
GET READY FOR THE ULTIMATE!!

PANEL 2:

McCane is now launching what appears to be a fierce punch.

MCCANE
THUNDER PUNCH!!!

PANEL 3:

(Inset) Show the fist flying through the air.

COMPUTER
Hypergravity level 5 activated.

PANEL 4:

Close on McCane's face.

MCCANE
Level 5-?

PANEL 5:

Same panel, but now McCane is missing. Nikki is revealed (like she was standing behind him judging, but his head had been blocking her until now). She is on her knees, struggling to stay up.

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PANEL 1:

McCane has landed on the floor, chin first, with a hard "WHUMP!". He is knocked out cold. Belle, along with the rest of the group, is on her knees, struggling with the strength of the increased gravity.

NIKKI
C-Cadet? Turn it down!

BELLE
I didn't turn it up! I swear!

COMPUTER
Hypergravity level 7 activated.

PANEL 2:

Belle reaches for her belt, hitting a button on a belt concealed behind her karate belt (which can be of any color, white, yellow, whatever).

PANEL 3:

Belle stands up with ease, and dusts her hands off, explaining. Meanwhile, alarms are going off all over the place (like lights flashing... The atmosphere in the room should definitely change as the computer attempts to warn the room)

BELLE
When I talked to the maintenance techs last night they told me that the gravity generator had been acting up.

PANEL 4:

Reaction shot of the rest of the group. They are aghast.

BELLE
So I brought an anti-gravity belt, just in case. But I wouldn't have used it in the fight, honest.

COMPUTER
Hypergravity level 9 activated.
Warning.

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PANEL 1:

Close in on a couple of recruits. They are pissed!

RANDOM RECRUIT 1
That's... that's cheating!

RANDOM RECRUIT 2
Get her!

PANEL 2:

The entire group "charges" after her, on their knees, crawling through the hypergravity field. Belle isn't looking at them. She's jamming on buttons on the remote.

GROUP
(wearily)
...aaaiiyaaaaah...

BELLE
Yeah, see, the buttons aren't even working.

COMPUTER
Warning! Hypergravity level 11 activated. Warning!

PANEL 3:

Most of the guys/girls have collapsed in pools of sweat. A few are trying to charge on wearily. Belle looks over at Shin, who can't believe what's going on.

RANDOM RECRUIT 3
...chaaaarge...

BELLE
It's weird, huh? I keep pressing down and it keeps going up.

COMPUTER
Warning! Hypergravity level 13 activated. Warning!

PANEL 4:

The last recruit collapses right at her feet. Belle is nudging his head gently with her foot (like when you kick a tire on a car), and looking over at Nikki, who's sporting the same face as Shin did at the end of the obstacle course.

BELLE
So I win, right?

PANEL 5:

We see outside of the dome-shaped facility. It is shaking.

COMPUTER VOICE
(from inside)
Warning! Structural limit exceeded!
Warning!

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PANEL 1:

Nikki looks at Shin. Shin looks kind of scared.

NIKKI
What's going on??

SHIN
Nothing's responding!

PANEL 2:

Belle springs over to Nikki as debris beings to fall.

BELLE
Look out Nikki!

PANEL 3:

Dust fills the panel as the building comes down around them.

PANEL 4:

Belle is on top of Nikki, like if she had her pinned down, so this shot really only needs to be a tight shot of their two heads. Nikki is glaring at Belle.

BELLE
That was close!

PANEL 5:

We pull out. People are buried under the debris, arms/legs splayed like cockroaches.

PANEL 6:

Mikhail is cleaning his glasses back at his camp, looking up over the canopy again. A dust cloud has risen, with birds fleeing the scene. Mikhail has a vein popping in his forehead and has broken the glasses.

MIKHAIL
WILDER!!