

22 - Poe and Rampo

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(Please feel free to edit the speaker names if incomplete or inaccurate. Names are handled on a best-effort basis depending on the info on the source file. Dialogue is left as is.)

SIGN To think the Guild would send me a challenge request.

[00:01] Rampo

To think the Guild would send
me a challenge request.

[00:04] Rampo

This'll stave off my boredom a little.

[00:07] [SONG] Text

To Edogawa Rampo

SIGN Invitation for a Detective Game

[00:07] Yosano

Though I suspect it's a trap.

SIGN Welcome, Rampo-kun

SIGN A is B

SIGN A is not B

SIGN Fill in A and B so that both hold true, and enter the room.

[00:11] Yosano

I guess he wants you to fill in the blanks.

[00:14] Yosano

Not that I have any idea.

[00:19] Rampo

Yosano-san, do you have a pen?

[00:28] Rampo

Are you the mastermind who
thought to challenge me?

SIGN Chief Architect of the Guild E. A. Poe

SIGN Ability: Black Cat in the Rue Morgue

[00:33] Poe

It's been a long time, Rampo-kun.

[00:35] Poe

Were you been able to solve
the riddle at the entrance?

SIGN This sentence is five words. This sentence is not five words.

[00:39] Poe

I'd expect no less from my
worthy opponent, Rampo-kun.

[00:44] Rampo

Now, it's my turn to ask a question.

[00:50] Rampo

Who are you?

[00:51] Poe

You don't remember me?

[00:54] Poe

I joined the Guild just so
that I could challenge you.

[01:00] Poe

I am Poe!

[01:01] Poe

Detective and master of intellect.

[01:04] Poe

You defeated me six years ago.

[01:07] Rampo

Your rant's making me sleepy.

[01:09] Rampo

I'm leaving.

[01:10] Poe

This is a detective game!

[01:12] Poe

Read this detective novel I've prepared for you,
and determine the identity of the serial killer.

[01:19] Rampo

One point docked.

[01:22] Rampo

You wouldn't have become a detective
if you were content with novels.

[01:25] Poe

I expected that reply.

[01:28] Poe

How about, if you win,
I tell you the Guild's weakness?

[01:36] Poe

How to capture the Guild base,
Moby Dick, the floating fortress.

[01:41] Rampo

One point granted.

[01:42] Rampo

But why such a silly challenge?

[01:46] Poe

The Guild's operations are barbaric
and unbearably boring.

[01:50] Poe

The only thing humanity
ought to have interest in

[01:54] Poe

is your gift, Ultra Deduction.

[01:59] Poe

Am I wrong?

[02:00] Rampo

Five points granted.

[02:03] Rampo

I'm game.

[02:06] Poe

The story begins like this:

[02:09] Rampo

One night, once upon a time,

[02:11] Rampo

a band of visitors were trapped
in a mansion due to a snowstorm.

[02:16] Rampo

On the night of their stay,
the protagonist, a private detective,

[02:20] Rampo

is awakened by a strange noise
coming from one of the rooms.

[02:30] Rampo

This is my ability.

[02:33] Rampo

The ability to suck a reader into a novel.

[02:37] Rampo

Welcome to the house of tragedies.

[02:47] Rampo

The protagonist opens the door
with a key only he possesses.

[02:56] Rampo

What he saw there...

[02:59] Poe

A victim.

[03:01] Poe

The two windows were sealed, and no one
could have entered or left the room.

[03:05] Poe

Two doors, and a matching key.

[03:17] Poe

I don't have my glasses.

[03:19] A

Is he dead?

[03:20] Yosano

Stand back.

[03:21] Yosano

I'm a doctor.

[03:23] Yosano

Hang in there.

[03:25] He's not dead?!

Th-The door...

[03:34] Rampo

He said it was a serial killer.

[03:38] Rampo

Which means we need to find the murderer, or we'll be killed, too.

[03:48] Yosano

What a pain in the ass, that ability.

[03:51] Yosano

The corpse and the blood are disgustingly convincing.

[03:54] Yosano

Not to mention my ability,
Thou Shalt Not Die, doesn't work here.

[04:00] Yosano

The victim is the caretaker of this mansion.

[04:03] Yosano

Cause of death is hemorrhagic shock.

[04:05] Yosano

No weapon, no fingerprints.

[04:07] Yosano

Which means...

[04:08] Rampo

It's a textbook impossible murder.

[04:11] Rampo

A locked room with no way out.

[04:12] Rampo

Clearly the victim of a murder.

[04:15] Rampo

How did the killer leave the room?

[04:19] Yosano

You're having a surprisingly hard time with this.

[04:21] Yosano

Aren't you going to do your usual thing?

[04:24] Rampo

I don't have my glasses.

[04:26] Rampo

They were special glasses that the boss gave me.

[04:29] Rampo

I need them to start my special ability.

[04:32] Rampo

Also, your healing ability

wouldn't work on that dying man.

[04:38] Rampo

In other words, in this world,
my Ultra Deduction won't work either.

[04:42] Yosano

So that's how it's going to be.

[04:46] Yosano

*Rampo-san doesn't realize that he's an
ordinary person without any special abilities.*

[04:54] Yosano

Then how about we investigate
carefully and reason our way out?

[04:58] Rampo

Too much work.

[04:59] Rampo

Lame.

[04:59] Rampo

Boring.

[05:00] Rampo

Investigating and making inquiries is the
work of detectives, not *master* detectives.

SIGN Kurosaki

SIGN Convicted of Blackmail

[05:13] A

I didn't kill him.

SIGN Ukai

SIGN Trashy Magazine Reporter

[05:15] B

It wasn't me.

[05:16] B

I swear.

SIGN Reida

SIGN Student

[05:18] C

I didn't kill him.

SIGN Proprietor

SIGN Well-Bred Young Lady, Traveling Alone

[05:20] D

Why am I under suspicion?

[05:24] Yosano

Do you have an alibi for the
time of the murder?

[05:26] A

I was sleeping in my room.

[05:28] B

I was chopping firewood in the kitchen.

[05:32] C

I was looking up the curse of the mansion,
Pluto, the one-eyed cat, in the study.

[05:37] D

Why do I have to explain myself?

[05:39] D

You're just a doctor.

[05:41] D

Who do you think you are?

[05:47] D

I remember now.

[05:48] D

I went to the caretaker's room to see if
I could find some clothes that fit me better.

[05:54] B

Perhaps it was the curse of the one-eyed
cat depicted in the painting in the room?

[05:58] C

This is a trick involving strings.

[06:00] C

The key to the locked room was
inside the victim's clothes.

[06:04] C

The single matching key was
never used until right before.

[06:08] C

The suspect killed the caretaker, took the key,
and locked the room from outside.

[06:16] C

Later, the suspect used a string to return
the key to the pocket under the door.

[06:22] C

He cut the string, collected it,
and disposed of it.

[06:25] C

How's that, detective?

[06:27] Rampo

What are you, stupid?

[06:29] Rampo

No, rhetorical questions are rude.

[06:32] Rampo

You're stupid.

[06:34] Rampo

The key is too thick to fit under the door.

[06:37] Rampo

The corpse was on its back,
and the key was in his hip pocket.

[06:41] Rampo

You could have figured that out right away.

[06:43] C

Th-Then the murderer removed
the iron bars on the window, left the room,

[06:48] C

used tools to return the
iron bars, and escaped.

[06:51] Rampo

Even though it's snowing so hard
outside that you can't even see?

[06:56] Rampo

It wasn't wet near the window.

[07:01] Yosano

You're killing it, Rampo-san.

[07:04] Rampo

No!

[07:09] Rampo

I just...

[07:13] Yosano

You must have had suspicions.

[07:16] Yosano

Your abilities as a detective...

[07:18] Rampo

I'm gifted.

[07:20] Rampo

But my gift has no value in this world.

[07:23] Rampo

It was the boss who gave me those glasses!

[07:26] Rampo

Do you mean to tell me that
the boss is lying to me?

[07:33] Yosano

No.

[07:34] Yosano

You're right, of course.

[07:43] Poe

Not even *you* will ever solve
this mystery, Rampo-kun.

[07:46] Poe

It's a supremely unusual meta-mystery
written specifically for you.

[07:52] Poe

Once you're in the book, it's over.

[07:54] Poe

You'll never figure out the
killer or how they did it.

[07:59] Poe

This isn't a challenge.

[08:01] Poe

This is revenge.

[08:04] Poe

You may have forgotten, but I never will.

[08:07] Poe

That day, when you defeated me in a battle of wits,
I lost all reason to show my face to anyone.

[08:14] Poe

My mind wandered in an endless, dark room.

[08:18] Poe

But I realized I can live on.

[08:23] Poe

If I only had the plentiful glory and
praise you do, I could...

[08:32] Poe

So I will take them from you.

[08:34] Yosano

Even if that means I have to burn you alive.

[08:41] Yosano

This is a serial murder.

[08:44] Yosano

If I deliberately stay in a locked room by myself,
the killer will come to kill me.

[08:49] Yosano

Now, come get me.

[09:04] Rampo

Yosano-san...

[09:06] Yosano

Sorry.

[09:08] Yosano

I messed up.

[09:10] Yosano

I couldn't see the murderer.

[09:13] Rampo

No.

[09:13] Rampo

Don't talk.

[09:14] Yosano

I can't figure it out.

[09:17] Yosano

But it's a piece of cake for the
world's best detective.

[09:23] Yosano

The Armed Detective Agency was established
solely to make use of your gift, after all.

[09:37] Yosano

I'm still grateful that I was invited to the Agency.

[10:00] Poe

One down!

[10:01] Poe

So long as you don't solve the mystery, you'll never return into the real world.

[10:05] Poe

Spend all eternity wandering through my novel world!

[10:16] Rampo

We're back.

[10:17] Poe

I-Impossible.

[10:19] Poe

You couldn't have solved that mystery!

[10:21] Rampo

Well, it was quite stimulating.

[10:23] Rampo

You made only one mistake...

[10:26] Rampo

Challenging me.

[10:28] Poe

Y-You figured out who the killer was?

[10:31] Rampo

Of course.

[10:33] Rampo

The murderer...

[10:37] Rampo

was me.

[10:39] Rampo

The locked room trick had nothing to do with it.

[10:41] Rampo

The protagonist killed the victim, and the author deliberately omitted that part of the narration.

[10:47] Rampo

But the innovation in this gimmick was the mechanism by which

[10:52] Rampo

the murderer vanishes the moment I enter the novel.

[10:55] Rampo

No matter how desperately I search, the murderer no longer exists.

[11:00] Poe

How did you find the truth?

[11:02] Rampo

You went too far with
the locked-room murder.

[11:06] Rampo

It's one thing if you were going
to lay the blame on someone else,

[11:08] Rampo

but the murderer had no reason to
make such an inescapable room.

[11:12] Rampo

So, I figured, the murderer and
the author must be in cahoots.

[11:18] Rampo

The proof was in the glove left under
the brick wall, used for the murder.

[11:25] Rampo

The one the victim pointed
at right before he died.

[11:28] Poe

B-But the second murder...

[11:31] Poe

The murderer had already
vanished by then, had he not?

[11:34] Rampo

That one's even simpler.

[11:36] Rampo

You just used an automatic machine.

[11:39] Rampo

You manipulated the magnetism in the room
and threw a metal object at the victim.

[11:44] Poe

Do you think that's even possible?

[11:47] Rampo

Anything goes.

[11:48] Rampo

That's the second misdirection, after all.

[11:51] Rampo

There were hints everywhere.

[11:54] Rampo

The suspiciously state-of-the-art
medical tools.

[11:57] Rampo

The characters, wearing clothes provided by
the mansion rather than clothes of their own.

[12:02] Rampo

The story is set in 2050.

[12:07] Rampo

The mansion is actually a rest house attached to a massive, tall space elevator.

[12:14] Rampo

As complicated as a detective novel may get,

[12:17] Rampo

once you figure out the author's ulterior motives, you've figured out half of it.

[12:21] Poe

Impossible...

[12:22] Poe

Six years of my life...

[12:25] Rampo

The intellectual devices were much more beautiful than before.

[12:28] Rampo

But I think you've met your match.

[12:30] Poe

What?

[12:31] Poe

You remember your battle against me?

[12:34] Rampo

Why would I forget about a mystery that I solved?

[12:39] Rampo

This takes me back.

[12:42] Rampo

We were here, pitting our minds against each other's.

[12:46] Rampo

It was the only time another detective gave me chills.

[12:50] Rampo

The first and the last.

[12:54] Rampo

I'm looking forward to your next challenge, too.

[12:58] Rampo

I hope you work really hard to come up with something good for me.

[13:05] Poe

I think I'll work really hard.

[13:10] Yosano

We'll need to hold a celebration for you when we get home.

[13:13] Rampo

For what?

[13:14] Yosano

For the day the great detective
learned the truth.

[13:18] Yosano

The day you discover that you aren't gifted,

[13:20] Yosano

but that you use your powers of
observation and deduction to—

[13:22] Rampo

I'm gifted.

[13:24] Yosano

You were laying out all
your reasoning just now.

[13:28] Rampo

I'm gifted.

[13:30] Rampo

I'm not doing any actual detective work.

[13:32] Rampo

I just got lucky this time.

[13:34] Rampo

I mean...

[13:37] Yosano

You mean, what?

[13:40] Rampo

I'd look stupid if I turned
out to be normal now.

[13:48] Rampo

No laughing.

[13:49] Yosano

Fine, fine.

SIGN Episode 22: Part 1: Poe and Rampo

[13:52] Rampo

No "fine, fine" either!

SIGN Episode 22: Part 2: The Whereabouts of the Skyfaring Moby Dick

[13:56] Atsushi

Is it true that we have information
we can use to defeat the Guild?

[14:00] Tanizaki

They're devising a plan inside right now.

[14:06] Dazai

This is some amazing intel, though.

[14:09] Dazai

It's worth its weight in gold.

[14:11] Dazai

How would we make use of this to
take down the Guild at its core?

[14:16] Dazai

Infiltrate with a bomb?

[14:18] Rampo

No good.

[14:19] Rampo

Our communications will give us away,
and we'll get shot down.

[14:24] Dazai

Oh, you're right.

[14:26] Dazai

How about Kenji-kun from the
Gifted Special Operations Division?

[14:28] Rampo

Nope.

[14:29] Rampo

Leads to a stalemate in a ground battle,
and we'll be fighting overtime.

[14:33] Dazai

That's true.

[14:35] Dazai

Atsushi-kun, then?

[14:37] Rampo

It could work, with Light Snow.

[14:40] Dazai

True.

[14:42] Dazai

I'll get right on it.

[14:44] Dazai

Do we end in the mountains?

[14:45] Rampo

At sea.

[14:46] Dazai

Roger.

[14:58] Lucy

Let me go.

[15:00] John

You've got gall, betraying the Guild.

[15:03] John

I wish I had your courage.

[15:06] John

But did you really think the Guild wouldn't
have countermeasures for your powerful ability?

[15:11] Lucy

I knew that much.

[15:14] Lucy

But I had to say I was going to be okay.

[15:17] Lucy

Otherwise he would never have escaped.

[15:20] John

Oh, man.

[15:21] John

It's not easy being the bad guys.

[15:24] John

So, Chief Strategist, what's the plan?

[15:29] Dazai

Hi Ango, how're you?

[15:31] Dazai

I have some good news today.

[15:34] Dazai

We'll treat your injuries at the Agency.

[15:37] Dazai

You'll be as good as new with
Yosano-san's healing ability.

[15:42] Ango

And what do you want in return?

[15:44] Dazai

Well, one of the detectives in the Agency
was captured by the military police.

[15:48] Dazai

We want to save her before our
grand battle with the Guild.

[15:52] Ango

Ah, the killer of 35.

[15:56] Ango

I'm told she's being kept on an unmanned
plane used to quarantine dangerous gifteds.

[16:02] Ango

The Gifted Special Operations Division could indeed
make an extrajudicial plea to grant her immunity.

[16:08] Ango

But only if the girl is truly
a member of the Agency.

[16:16] Atsushi

Kyouka-chan isn't a member of the Agency?

[16:20] Tanizaki

She's not yet, to be exact.

[16:24] Tanizaki

There's an entrance examination you need
to take in order to become a detective.

[16:28] Tanizaki

Unless you pass the test, you aren't
officially accepted as an employee.

[16:33] Tanizaki

Remember there was one for you, too?

[16:39] Ango

Dazai-kun, I accept your offer of treatment

in exchange for my cooperation.

[16:46] Ango

So tell me something.

[16:50] Ango

When the unidentified car rammed into us,

[16:53] Ango

for some reason my airbag was
the only one that didn't deploy.

[16:57] Ango

Might you know the reason?

[17:03] Tanizaki

The entrance exam involves observing
the applicant's behaviors

[17:06] Tanizaki

to determine whether they're
suitable for the Agency.

[17:08] Tanizaki

It's a secret test.

[17:10] Atsushi

*Whenever Kyouka-chan is in danger, she seeks
escape by hurting or doing away with someone.*

[17:17] Atsushi

That may be her nature.

[17:20] Atsushi

*If that's the case, she may
not pass the entrance exam.*

[17:25] Tanizaki

Okay, we're here.

[17:28] Atsushi

The library?

[17:33] Tanizaki

I'm Tanizaki of the Armed Detective Agency.

[17:37] A

We've been waiting for you.

[17:47] A

Please.

[17:55] Tanizaki

The Agency's micro-assault
fighter, the Night Bird.

[17:59] Tanizaki

I'll pilot this and deliver
you to the Moby Dick.

[18:04] Atsushi

A solo infiltration?

[18:07] (Flashback) Dazai

The Guild is planning an
all-out ground attack.

[18:11] (Flashback) Dazai

We'll sneak onto the Moby Dick while it's sparsely staffed, and take control.

[18:16] (Flashback) Atsushi

I'm going to do all that by myself?

[18:19] (Flashback) Dazai

On a solo infiltration,

[18:20] (Flashback) Dazai

a gifted with combat abilities is preferable, due to their ability to work under pressure.

[18:27] (Flashback) Dazai

You've also been held captive aboard the Moby Dick, so you have an idea of its structure.

[18:31] (Flashback) Dazai

Furthermore, even if you do fail, there's a good chance that you'll be captured alive.

[18:37] (Flashback) Dazai

No one is more suited for the job than you.

[18:40] (Flashback) Dazai

Will you do it?

[18:44] (Flashback) A

Turn it down.

[18:45] (Flashback) A

You can't do it.

[18:47] (Flashback) A

You're the runt of the orphanage until the day you die.

[18:51] (Flashback) Atsushi

I've only ever regretted the things I didn't do.

[19:00] (Flashback) Dazai

I'll do it.

[19:03] A

Entering Moby Dick visual range.

[19:06] Tanizaki

Understood.

[19:07] Tanizaki

Here we go, Atsushi-kun.

[19:09] Dazai

Yes.

[19:12] Tanizaki

Ability: Light Snow!

SIGN Ability: Light Snow

[19:20] Tanizaki

The Moby Dick's sensors are disabled for just 130 seconds, while the transport helicopter docks.

[19:27] Tanizaki

We're going to hide ourselves
and close in during that time.

[19:35] A

What? The pilot isn't responding?

[19:38] B

Perhaps some trouble with the communicator.

[19:45] B

What the?

[20:07] Atsushi

Dazai-san, I'm in.

[20:11] Dazai

How does it look inside?

[20:13] Atsushi

There's no one here.

[20:14] Atsushi

Something's wrong.

[20:21] Atsushi

Where is everyone?

[20:24] Herman

Almost everyone evacuated.

[20:27] Herman

Why do you think that might be, kid?

[20:30] Herman

Because it's the end.

[20:32] Herman

Of this war.

[20:34] Atsushi

*Wasn't he the one who
called down the Moby Dick?*

[20:39] Herman

With the next attack, all of the
Guild's enemies will be turned to ash.

[20:44] Herman

Along with Moby Dick.

[20:48] Atsushi

Explain!

[20:49] Herman

I presume you thought you'd attack
while there aren't many people here.

[20:53] Herman

But did you not suspect
that something was off

[20:56] Herman

when the Guild's main forces abandoned
the Moby Dick now, of all times?

[21:02] John

It would be terrible if

we became collateral.

[21:05] John

Stage two of the Yokohama Incineration
Operation: Moby Dick Bomb.

[21:09] John

Once it happens, the city will be annihilated
thanks to the damage from the curse.

[21:16] John

And ground zero...

[21:20] Atsushi

Is where the Agency and the
Mafia headquarters are.

[21:23] Herman

We'll crash into the ground
in less than an hour.

[21:27] Atsushi

If Moby Dick is your special ability,
you should be able to stop its descent.

[21:32] Herman

You are correct that the Moby Dick
is my special ability.

[21:36] Herman

But 70% of its capacity has
been replaced with ordinances.

[21:40] Herman

I no longer have the ability to control it.

[21:44] Atsushi

Did you hear that, Dazai-san?

[21:46] Atsushi

*We need to abort the operation
and retreat immediately.*

[21:49] Dazai

The operation continues as planned.

[21:51] Atsushi

What?

[21:52] Dazai

Take control of the Moby Dick with
your own hands and stop its descent.

[21:57] Dazai

You're the only one on the Moby Dick.

[22:00] Dazai

You're the only one who can do it.

[22:02] Atsushi

You predicted this situation, didn't you?

[22:04] Dazai

As a possibility, yeah.

[22:07] Dazai

*That was part of our
reason for choosing you.*

[22:10] Dazai

Can you do it?

[22:14] Atsushi

What do I need to do
to stop the descent?

[22:17] Herman

You'll have to use the control terminal.

[22:20] Herman

It's in the office on the highest floor.

[22:23] Herman

Though it's well guarded, of course.

[22:28] Atsushi

Thank you.

[22:32] Atsushi

If everyone's evacuated,
why are you still here?

[22:36] Herman

If the Moby Dick is to fall on foreign land and
cause annihilation, I reckon I ought to fall with it.

[22:48] Herman

Moby Dick was a beautiful creature
before its flesh became mechanical.

[22:53] Herman

Just as the Guild was in its past.

[23:02] Dazai

Yes?

[23:03] Mori

How are you, Dazai-kun?

[23:08] Dazai

What do you want, Mori-san?

[23:10] Dazai

*Didn't we establish an agreement with the
Mafia so they wouldn't obstruct our operations?*

[23:16] Mori

About that agreement... I just had a
call from one of the subordinates.

[23:21] Mori

It doesn't look like it'll hold.

[23:28] Atsushi

You...

[23:30] Akutagawa

I've found you, weretiger.

[23:33] Atsushi

Akutagawa!

SIGN Episode 23:

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