

# 7 - The Crouching Start of Vindication!

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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.)

**[00:19] Rin**

Sousuke...

**[00:21] Rin**

We need to hurry, before the bus leaves.

**[00:24] Rin**

We still have day two of  
the tournament tomorrow.

**[00:26] Rin**

We should get back so we  
can go over today's results.

**[00:28] Sousuke**

Right, sorry.

**[00:30] Rin**

What were you looking at?

**[00:33] Sousuke**

Phantoms of the past.

**[00:39] Sousuke**

Or something.

**[02:17] Gou**

That should do it.

**[02:21] Makoto**

Gou-chan!

**[02:23] Gou**

Coming!

***SIGN*** The Crouching Start of Vindication!

**[02:25] Ama-chan**

You all swam at full strength  
today, so you must be hungry.

**[02:28] Rei**

This is quite a selection  
of carb-heavy foods...

**[02:31] Gou**

I made it!

**[02:33] Gou**

Carbs are great when you have

a competition the next day!

**[02:36] Nagisa**

Protein powder again? Is it strawberry flavor?

**[02:39] Gou**

Not today.

**[02:41] Gou**

But if you want to add some on top...

**[02:42] Makoto**

Seriously, don't!

**[02:43] Ama-chan**

All of you are truly amazing!

**[02:46] Ama-chan**

To think, everyone qualified for regionals!

**[02:48] Sasabe**

It's because of my great coaching!

**[02:50] Nagisa**

Huh? But Goro-chan, you've  
been so busy with SC Returns,

**[02:54] ---**

you've hardly shown up at all this year.

**[02:57] Sasabe**

It's the quality of my coaching,  
not the quantity, that counts!

**[03:00] Sasabe**

Though, more than anything, it's your talent  
and hard work that got you here.

**[03:04] Nagisa**

Yep, yep! We can do anything  
we set our minds to!

**[03:08] Rei**

Nagisa-kun, you're letting  
our wins go to your head!

**[03:11] Rei**

But Haruka-senpai, you really  
were outstanding today.

**[03:14] Rei**

Impressive as always!

**[03:16] Haruka**

Not really.

**[03:17] Rei**

No, it truly was impressive!

**[03:19] Rei**

You don't often see a time like that!

**[03:22] Sasabe**

So all that's left is tomorrow's medley relay?

**[03:24] Sasabe**

If you keep up today's momentum,

I bet you'll beat Samezuka again!

**[03:30] Rei**

We're finally going to race Rin-san's team in an official match.

**[03:34] Haruka**

Rei, it'll be okay.

**[03:37] Haruka**

You don't swim a relay alone.  
It takes a team of four.

**[03:41] Haruka**

And with these four,  
we could go as far as we want.

**[03:44] Rei**

Haruka-senpai!

**[03:48] Rei**

Let's go all the way to nationals!

**[03:52] Nagisa**

Nationals, huh?

**[03:53] Makoto**

We might really stand a chance  
of getting to the nationals!

**[03:58] Nagisa**

Yeah!

**[04:00] Gou**

According to the information I have,  
Samezuka's relay team members are...

**[04:04] Gou**

In backstroke, second-year Uozumi Takuya.

**[04:07] Gou**

In breaststroke, second-year Iwashimizu Toru.

**[04:09] Nagisa**

So Ai-chan isn't doing breaststroke...

**[04:11] Gou**

In butterfly, third-year Yamazaki Sousuke.

**[04:14] Gou**

And of course, in freestyle,  
third-year Matsuoka Rin!

**[04:20] Gou**

But the backstroke swimmer, Uozumi,  
didn't do very well in today's individual event.

**[04:25] Gou**

So he may be replaced by their  
team's registered alternate.

**[04:30] Makoto**

Their alternate?

**[04:31] Gou**

I think it's the first-year,

Mikoshiha... Kintarou-kun?

**[04:35] Nagisa**

The Kin-chan who raced in  
the backstroke with Mako-chan!

**[04:38] Rei**

Uh, that's not his name.

**[04:40] Ama-chan**

That's right! It's Urashima-kun!

**[04:42] Rei**

That's not it, either!

**SIGN** First Swimmer

**SIGN** Category

**SIGN** Competitor's Name

**[04:48] Sousuke**

What's wrong? Everyone's waiting for you.

**[04:52] Rin**

I know.

**[04:54] Sousuke**

You can't decide?

**[04:56] Sousuke**

Based on the individual events today,

**[04:58] ---**

it's clear that Mikoshiha's  
a better pick than Uozumi.

**[05:04] Rin**

I know.

**[05:06] Rin**

Uozumi...

**[05:06] Uozumi**

Yes!

**[05:07] Rin**

Momo...

**[05:08] Momo**

Yes!

**[05:09] Rin**

Both of you have equally strong  
feelings about the relay.

**[05:14] ---**

In that respect, neither  
of you surpasses the other.

**[05:16] Rin**

But if we consider the results  
from today's individual events,

**[05:18] ---**

there's only one choice we can  
make for the good of the team.

**[05:22] Rin**

Momo.

**[05:24] Rin**

Do you want to try swimming the relay?

**[05:31] Uozumi**

Momo...

**[05:32] Momo**

Y-Yes?

**[05:33] Uozumi**

I won't tolerate you losing.

**[05:35] ---**

You have to win, for me, too!

**[05:39] Momo**

Right! Leave it to me, Uocchi-senpai!

**[05:42] Uozumi**

Who are you calling Uocchi?

**[05:44] Momo**

Ow, ow, ow, ow!

**[05:45] Uozumi**

You're just a brat!

**[05:46] Momo**

That hurts!

**[05:47] Rin**

For tomorrow's medley relay,

**[05:48] Rin**

Momo, Iwashimizu, Sousuke, and I will compete.

**[05:53] All**

Yeah!

**[05:53] Sousuke**

Right.

**[05:54] Rin**

Okay, that's it for today's meeting.

**[05:56] Rin**

Everyone get plenty of rest  
to be ready for tomorrow.

**[05:59] Rin**

Dismissed.

**[06:00] All**

Yes, sir!

**[06:10] Sousuke**

Outta the way.

**[06:12] Nitori**

S-Sorry...

**[06:26] Nitori**

I've

**[06:28] ---**

been surpassed by a younger member.

**[06:32] Sousuke**

Do you want to swim in the relay that badly?

**[06:35] Nitori**

That's obvious!

**[06:37] Sousuke**

How so?

**[06:39] Nitori**

Well, because...

**[06:41] Nitori**

Rin-senpai is everything I aspire to be.

**[06:45] Nitori**

When I first started swimming,

**[06:47] ---**

I thought a relay was simply  
four swimmers swimming in a row.

**[06:52] Nitori**

But I've come to realize  
it's something else entirely.

**[06:56] Nitori**

For the past year, I've seen firsthand  
how much the relay means to Rin-senpai.

**[07:01] Nitori**

So I wanted to be a part of it, too.

**[07:09] Nitori**

And this summer is the last chance I'll have

**[07:13] Nitori**

to swim with him.

**[07:17] Sousuke**

Who says this summer is the last  
chance you'll have to swim with him?

**[07:21] Sousuke**

If you're serious about swimming,  
you'll swim with him again someday.

**[07:24] Sousuke**

Don't crush your own potential  
before you even try.

**[07:29] Sousuke**

That's probably what Rin would say.

**[07:36] Nitori**

Right.

**[07:40] Nitori**

Okay!

**[07:44] Nitori**

He's already asleep.

**[07:46] Nitori**

You went to bed too early, Momo-kun!

**[07:49] Nitori**

Here I go!

**[07:56] Nitori**

Momotarou! You absolutely have to win and make it to regionals!

**[08:00] Nitori**

Because I'll definitely swim in that one!

**[08:16] Makoto**

Then, see you tomorrow!

**[08:17] ---**

Yep!

**[08:18] Sasabe**

Be sure to get lots of sleep tonight!

**[08:20] Nagisa**

Bye-bye, everyone!

**[08:26] Makoto**

You were amazing today, Haru.

**[08:29] Makoto**

I bet scouts from all over the country will start contacting you.

**[08:37] Makoto**

If you do get scouted, what will you do?

**[08:45] Haruka**

Nothing, probably.

**[08:47] Makoto**

So you'd decline?

**[08:49] Haruka**

It doesn't matter whether they contact me or not.

**[08:54] Haruka**

I swim because I want to.

**[08:59] Haruka**

What?

**[09:00] Makoto**

It's nothing.

**[09:02] Makoto**

Goodnight, Haru.

**[09:21] Rin**

I haven't swum a relay with you in a tournament since back then.

**[09:26] Sousuke**

Yeah...

**[09:31] Rin**

This time, let's win.

**[09:34] Sousuke**

Yeah.

**[09:35] Sousuke**

Since we're doing this, let's win it.

**[09:41] Momo**

Nitori-senpai!

**[09:42] Nitori**

What is it? Forgot something?

**[09:44] Momo**

Um, I...

**[09:45] Momo**

I'm gonna try really hard today!

**[09:49] Momo**

Later!

**[09:52] Announcer**

The men's 400m medley relay will now begin.

**[10:04] Rin**

*But...*

**[10:05] Rin**

*I was saved. By Haru and  
the guys. By my friends.*

**[10:09] Sousuke**

*Even so, I won't acknowledge you.*

**[10:15] Rin**

Whoever wins, there'll be no hard feelings.

**[10:18] Rin**

But whoever wins has to  
win at regionals, too.

**[10:21] Haruka**

I don't need you to tell me that.

**[10:25] Rin**

I let you win yesterday's freestyle,  
but that's not gonna happen today.

**[10:30] Ama-chan**

I know our boys will be okay.

**[10:32] Ama-chan**

I'm sure they'll pull it off.

**[10:34] Ama-chan**

There's a famous saying that goes,

**[10:35] Ama-chan**

"It isn't the strong who win.  
It is the winners who are strong!"

**[10:42] Announcer**

Get set...

**[10:46] Announcer**

On your marks...

**[10:48] Announcer**

Get set...

**[10:51] All**

Go!

**[10:53] Gou**

His reaction time was off!

**[10:55] Ama-chan**

It's okay! Tachibana-kun can make up for it!

**[10:58] Iwashimizu**

You're doing great, Momo!

**[10:59] Uozumi**

He's in the lead and keeping  
the other schools at bay!

**[11:01] Uozumi**

And swim!

**[11:03] Samezuka**

Swim!

**[11:07] Sasabe**

Makoto's catching up!

**[11:13] Makoto**

Go, Nagisa!

**[11:26] Makoto**

Nagisa always extends himself in the  
second half, but it's not working this time!

**[11:33] Gou**

Samezuka's still in the  
lead at the exchange!

**[11:37] Gou**

Rei-kun is swimming his hardest to catch up!

**[11:40] Gou**

But Sousuke-kun is just too fast!

**[11:43] Nitori**

Yamazaki-senpai is gradually  
increasing his lead over the others!

**[11:46] Nitori**

Amazing!

**[12:06] Momo**

Rin-senpai!

**[12:07] Iwashimizu**

Go!

**[12:09] Makoto**

Haru!

**[12:10] Nagisa**

Haru-chan!

**[12:12] Rei**

Rin-san got to the turn first!

**SIGN** 1st Samezuka Academy 2nd Iwatobi High School

**[12:36] Rin**

Yes!

**[12:39] Samezuka**

Awesome! Awesome! Samezuka! Yeah!

**[12:41] Ama-chan**

We lost...

**[12:44] Sasabe**

But at least we made it past the prelims.

**[12:46] ---**

We're through to regionals!

**[12:49] Makoto**

Great job.

**[12:50] Momo**

We got first place, Senpai!

**[12:52] Rin**

Yeah!

**[12:52] Momo**

All right!

**[12:55] Momo**

But why couldn't Nii-chan  
have come to watch us today?!

**[13:00] Rin**

We did it, Sousuke.

**[13:02] Sousuke**

Yeah...

**SIGN** Congrats on Making Regionals, Swim Club!

**[13:11] Nagisa**

They made a real banner for us this year.

**[13:13] Makoto**

Yeah, last year, they just  
reused the judo club's banner.

**[13:17] Nagisa**

But why do I still not feel right?

**[13:20] Rei**

Obviously, it's because we lost to Samezuka!

**[13:24] Rei**

Makoto-senpai, Nagisa-kun,  
don't you feel frustrated about it?

**[13:27] Rei**

I'm immensely frustrated!

**[13:31] Rei**

Even if we're moving on to regionals,  
we lost to Samezuka in the relay!

**[13:40] Haruka**

Let's go to practice.

**[13:42] Nagi/Mako**

Yeah!

**[13:42] Rei**

Right.

**[13:43] Gou**

Take a look at this!

**[13:45] Gou**

Makoto-senpai, Rei-kun, and Nagisa-kun,

**[13:48] ---**

you all qualified for regionals  
in your individual events,

**[13:52] Gou**

but your times just barely made the cut!

**SIGN** 4 Samezuka Academy

**[13:54] Gou**

The top ranks of every event are  
filled with Samezuka swimmers.

**SIGN** 3 Samezuka Academy

**SIGN** 1 Samezuka Academy

**[13:57] Makoto**

I guess in terms of times,  
we still fall short of Samezuka.

**[14:00] Gou**

The only event that we beat them  
in was Haruka-senpai's freestyle.

**[14:05] Gou**

This means that Iwatobi still isn't  
a real match for Samezuka.

**[14:10] Gou**

Everyone, our results from this  
tournament are nothing to be proud of!

**[14:14] Gou**

This means even more intense traini—

**[14:15] Ama-chan**

Big news! We've got big news!

**[14:17] Makoto**

What's the matter, Miss Ama-chan?

**[14:20] Ama-chan**

We just got a call from a scout, for Nanase-kun!

**[14:28] Ama-chan**

He said he saw your 100m freestyle  
the day before yesterday!

**[14:32] Haruka**

Oh, really?

**[14:33] Nagisa**

Haru-chan, that's great!

**[14:35] Ama-chan**

This makes it easier to imagine what  
you'll do after graduation, doesn't it?

**[14:38] Ama-chan**

There's a famous saying that goes,

**[14:40] Ama-chan**

"Tomorrow's wind will blow tomorrow.

**[14:43] ---**

But whether one rides on

that wind or not is up to..."

**[14:48] Makoto**

Haru...

**[14:55] Rei**

What does Haruka-senpai want to do?

**[14:58] Nagisa**

That reminds me.

**[14:59] ---**

All Haru-chan wrote on his career path survey was the word "free."

**[15:02] Rei**

"Free?" What's that supposed to mean?

**[15:04] Rei**

He doesn't mean a part-timer freeloading on society, does he?

**[15:08] Nagisa**

I don't think so.

**[15:10] Rei**

Then, a freelance swimmer?

**[15:12] ---**

I don't think that's it, either.

**[15:15] ---**

Then what is it?

**[15:19] Nagisa**

I don't know exactly.

**[15:21] Nagisa**

But to Haru-chan, "free" means "free."

**[15:25] Rei**

I don't get it.

**[15:29] Rei**

But it does seem very like Haruka-senpai.

**[15:32] Nitori**

I heard the news, Rin-senpai!

**[15:34] Nitori**

About how you were scouted!

**[15:36] ---**

I heard you got a ton of calls!

**[15:38] Nitori**

Congratulations!

**[15:40] Rin**

Yeah, thanks.

**[15:41] Nitori**

Anyone who'd seen that race would certainly contact you.

**[15:45] ---**

It was incredible!

**[15:47] Rin**

If scouts are contacting me,  
they must be contacting Haru, too.

**[15:50] Rin**

I can't lose to him again.

**[15:51] ---**

I'll definitely win next time!

**[15:54] Rin**

That reminds me.

**[15:56] ---**

The university you're going  
to reached out to me, too.

**[15:59] Rin**

It depends on their offer,  
of course, but who knows?

**[16:02] Rin**

We may be swimming on the same  
team even after we graduate!

**[16:06] Sousuke**

Yeah, that'd be nice.

**[16:11] Rin**

Is something wrong?

**[16:13] Sousuke**

Nothing's wrong.

**[16:15] Rin**

Something's been off about  
you since yesterday.

**[16:18] Rin**

During the race, I noticed you  
lost momentum for a second.

**[16:21] Rin**

Are you not feeling well?

**[16:25] Rin**

Why aren't you saying anything? Spit it out!

**[16:28] Nitori**

Rin-senpai! Please don't fight!

**[16:30] Rin**

I know. This isn't a fight.

**[16:33] Rin**

Sousuke...

**[16:36] Rin**

Let's head somewhere else.

**[16:40] Sousuke**

I told you, nothing's wrong.

**[16:44] Rin**

Then let me ask you. Now that you've  
raced the relay, how do you feel?

**[16:48] Rin**

Remember what you told me?

**[16:52] Sousuke**

*I get the sense that if I swam the relay  
with you, I'd understand something.*

**[16:56] Sousuke**

*I don't know myself what that something is...*

**[16:59] Sousuke**

*But I want to try to find it...  
That something...*

**[17:02] Rin**

Did you find it?

**[17:04] Sousuke**

I don't know.

**[17:07] Rin**

What?!

**[17:09] Sousuke**

I said,

**[17:12] ---**

I don't know if I found it!

**[17:19] Rin**

And I know I told you,

**[17:21] Rin**

I wanted to swim a serious relay!

**[17:23] Rin**

And I only wanted people who were  
really serious about it on my team!

**[17:27] Rin**

And now you tell me you "don't know"?

**[17:30] Rin**

Sousuke, are you saying you  
weren't taking it seriously?

**[17:35] Sousuke**

You think swimming with you is something  
I'd ever not take seriously?

**[17:39] Rin**

Then why?

**[17:41] Sousuke**

It's because it's so serious to me

**[17:43] Sousuke**

that I can't just pretend I understand now!

**[17:53] Sousuke**

But there's one thing I do know.

**[17:57] Sousuke**

I want to swim more.

**[18:02] Sousuke**

This isn't enough.

**[18:08] Rin**

Then swim.

**[18:11] Rin**

Swim as much as it takes,  
until you find the answer.

**[18:19] Sousuke**

Right.

**[18:21] Ama-chan**

Another scouting call came in today, but...

**[18:24] Ama-chan**

Nanase-kun wasn't interested, as usual.

**[18:26] Gou**

Quite a few came in for my brother, too.

**[18:29] Gou**

So I'm sure Haruka-senpai will be fine.

**[18:32] Gou**

He'll find his drive soon enough.

**[18:35] Makoto**

I wonder if that's what  
Haru really wants, though.

**[18:37] Gou**

Huh?

**[18:38] Makoto**

Oh, nothing!

**[18:40] Gou**

That reminds me, have you decided what  
to do after graduation, Makoto-senpai?

**[18:45] Makoto**

I haven't decided completely, but I'll  
probably apply for the local university.

**[18:50] Gou**

Oh, really?

**SIGN** Great Luck

**[19:00] Nagisa**

Mako-chan, you got the Great Luck fortune!

**[19:03] Gou**

"The person you wait for will come.  
You will win any competition."

**[19:05] ---**

"If you start a journey,  
all will go your way."

**[19:07] Gou**

"Lucky directions are north and east."

**[19:10] Rei**

What did you get, Haruka-senpai?

**[19:12] Haruka**

I got Great Luck, too.

**[19:13] Rei**

I got Half Luck.

**[19:15] Rei**

They say that there are generally  
fewer Half Luck fortunes

**[19:18] ---**

than Bad Luck ones at any given shrine.

**[19:21] Rei**

So if you look at it in terms of probability,

**[19:23] ---**

you could say pulling one of these  
is even luckier than Great Luck!

**[19:31] Rei**

I guess it's really true that,  
no matter what anyone says,

**[19:34] ---**

I really love the way  
you swim, Haruka-senpai.

**[19:37] Rei**

It has nothing to do with  
theory or calculations.

**[19:38] ---**

It just makes me feel  
something very powerful.

**[19:41] Rei**

It made me want to be able  
to swim that way, too.

**[19:45] Rei**

Freely.

**[19:46] Haruka**

Rei...

**[19:47] Rei**

That's why I think it's fine for  
you to always remain "free."

**[19:52] Rei**

Being free can mean many different things.

**[19:54] Rei**

But I think its truest meaning  
is having a free heart

**[19:58] Rei**

that can't be bound by anything.

**[20:01] Rei**

So no matter what choice you make,

**[20:04] Rei**

as long as you remain who you are,

**[20:08] Rei**

you will forever be free!

**[20:13] Rei**

I'm sorry!

**[20:14] Rei**

I didn't mean to sound patronizing...

**SIGN** Great Luck

**[20:29] Nagisa**

You made this training regimen, Haru-chan?

**[20:31] Haruka**

I just modified Gou's regimen a little bit.

**[20:34] Makoto**

You added relay exchange training?

**[20:37] Rei**

You're saying that perfecting

**[20:39] ---**

our exchange timing could

help make up time we lose

**[20:42] ---**

due to differences in speed, correct?

**[20:44] Haruka**

Yes.

**[20:45] Rei**

With the strong teamwork

the four of us have,

**[20:47] ---**

we could even surpass

Samezuka's current time!

**[20:52] Haruka**

I want to swim with you guys.

**[20:55] Haruka**

Right now, what I want to

do is treasure that feeling.

**[20:59] Rei**

Haruka-senpai!

**[21:01] Rei**

Let's go, the four of us!

**[21:03] Rei**

We'll beat Samezuka next

time, and go to nationals!

**[21:06] Haruka**

Yeah.

**[21:12] Rin**

Hey, where are you going?

**[21:14] Sousuke**

Just stepping out.

**[21:15] Rin**

What about practice?

**[21:17] Sousuke**

Sorry, but will you let me take today off?

**SIGN** Higashinami Station

**[21:28] Gou**

Sousuke-kun?

**[23:11] Rei**

Nagisa-kun, can you translate  
"kiss me" into Japanese?

**[23:14] Nagisa**

Isn't it just "kiss me"?

**[23:16] Rei**

That's what I thought.

**[23:17] Rei**

I overheard Makoto-senpai  
saying "kiss me" just now.

**[23:20] Nagisa**

Huh?! Who did Mako-chan say "kiss me" to?

**[23:22] Rin**

Both of you, your pronunciation  
is horrible! It's "kiss me."

**[23:25] Rei**

Rin-san!

**[23:26] Nagisa**

Next episode, "The Locomotive of a Twist!

**SIGN** The Locomotive of a Twist!

**[23:28] Rei**

Kiss me.

**[23:33] Rin**

Perfect body.

**[23:34] Rei**

Perfect body.

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