

One Piece
Volume 4: Crescent Moon

Version 1.0 (Original release)

Covers and Frontpages

One Piece vol. 4: Crescent Moon

Written and drawn by Eiichiro Oda

Front cover: The brim of Luffy's hat divides his close-up from a scene of Kuro, Jango, Siam and Butch looming under a crescent moon.

Blurb: Usopp's peaceful village is going to be attacked by pirates! Luffy and his crew, who have uncovered the plot, set an ambush on the beach to prevent the invasion. When no pirates show up, it seems the attack was cancelled. But if they're not coming, who's making so much noise from the shore on the other side of the island...?!

Author avatar: photograph of a man smoking, blowing out a cloud in the shape of a skull and crossbones.

Author Intro: I have a dream. Yes, someday I want to draw all over a dog. Can I give it a moustache? Can I make it look like a panda? I keep asking my friends if I can come over and draw on their pets, but no one ever lets me. "Get your own dog to draw on," they say. Why would I do that? I don't want such a weird-looking dog.

Illustration: Luffy, carrying his flag, leads a crew of penguins and a bear.

Recap, page 1 – 2

Recap: The story of **One Piece** volume 1 to volume 4

It is the **Great Pirate Era**. Countless pirates have raised their flags in pursuit of the **treasure** hidden by the legendary **Pirate King**, a man called **Gold Roger**. Among them is a boy called **Luffy**, why was inspired by **Shanks**, the

leader of a pirate crew harboured at his home port. One day, he accidentally ate a **Devil Fruit** the crew had captured. The fruit robbed him of the ability to ever swim again – but granted him an extraordinary body that stretches like rubber.

After Luffy picked a fight with some **bandits**, he was thrown into the sea and attacked by a sea monster, the **Lord of the Coast**. Shanks swooped in to save his life! But it cost him his arm...

Ten years later, and wearing Shanks's old hat, Luffy embarks on his own voyage. His journey to be the King of the Pirates has begun.

After recruiting Zoro and Nami, Luffy stops at a village in search of supplies and a stronger ship. The crew meets the proud liar **Usopp**, and try to ask the wealthiest woman in the village, **Kaya**, for a ship. Her butler, **Klahadore** dashes their hopes and sends them away.

But later Luffy and Usopp see the butler by the coast with a suspicious-looking man. They overhear that Klahadore is actually the infamous pirate, **Captain Kuro**, and is plotting to assassinate Kaya. Now the two of them have to find some way to stop the plan being carried out...

Monkey D Luffy

His dream is to be King of the Pirates! And to meet Shanks again! He's a rubberman.

“Red-Haired” Shanks

Captain of Luffy's favourite crew. He taught Luffy about the dangers of the sea.

Roronoa Zoro

Aims to be the World's Greatest Swordsman! They call him “Pirate Hunter.”

Nami

A thief who targets pirates. She seems to hate them!

Usopp

He lies and bothers the village, but has a good heart.

Kaya

Kuro

Jango

Local boys

Onion

Pepper

Carrot

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Chapter 27, page 1

Title: Chapter 27: Plan

Cover illustration: Zoro spars with a kangaroo, whose child in her pouch holds two additional swords.

Chapter 27, page 2 – 3

In Kaya's room at the mansion, Merry drops off a package.

Merry: Madam!
I have your **special order** from the next town's optician.
Will that be all?

Kaya: Perfect! Thank you.
Sorry for sending you all that way.

Merry: Not at all!

SFX: *Okay*
Okay

Merry: It's a present, after all.
Mr Klahadore will be delighted.

Kaya: I hope so! Tomorrow it will have been exactly three years from the day he arrived.
He's been so very good to me!

In town, Usopp confronts an angry mob that bears down on him with brooms and mops.

Usopp: Everyone listen up!!
The pirates are coming tomorrow!!
They're gonna attack!!!

SFX: *Grr Grr*

The mob charges, and Usopp holds his ground for only a moment before being threatened into a hasty retreat.

Villagers: If we listened every time you *cried pirate...*
...we'd be abandoning the village every damn day!!

Usopp: But this time it's for real!!!

SFX: *Raaah*

Villager: This time you'll get clobbered *for real!!*

Usopp: ...
Yikes!!

Villagers: Damn it!!
He's too quick!!

SFX: *Zoom!!*

Chapter 27, page 4 – 5

By the shore, Nami, Zoro and the kids have found and woken Luffy.

SFX: *Shaaa*

Carrot: No way!!!

Pepper: Killing Miss Kaya?!

Onion: Are they really gonna hit the village?! Come on, straw hat guy!!

Luffy: Uhuh.
That's what they said.
I'm sure!!

Zoro: ...alright. Why start by taking a nap then?

Luffy: I'm not sure. I thought I was at the top of the cliff.

Carrot: So the *butt-ler* really is a baddie!!

Pepper: He always gave me the creeps!!

Onion: And the *hypnotist* is in on it too!!

Nami: Well then... That explains it.
No wonder your captain was sprinting toward the village.
You'll be alright, it's enough advance warning.

There's time to evacuate everyone.
Those pirates'll be too dumb to find you!

Carrot: Oh yeah! She's right! We better get outta here!!

Pepper: Of course!! And pack up our important stuff!!

Onion: ...piggy bank. ...snacks....!! Model ship. What else...?!!

The kids charge off.

Kids: Hurry!!

SFX: *Tmptmptmp*

Luffy: Oh no!!

Zoro: What?

Luffy: We've gotta buy some meat...
...before the butcher runs away!!

SFX: *Aaaaaa*

Chapter 27, page 6 – 7

Outside the mansion grounds, Usopp scouts for a way in. Shortly after, he appears at Kaya's window.

Usopp: *Huff... Huff...*
Huff... Huff...!!

SFX: *Zwip zwip*
Knock knock!!
Knock knock!!

Kaya: Sir Usopp!!
I'm so glad! I thought you'd never come back...

Usopp: Kaya you have to leave!!
They're gonna kill you!!!

Kaya: Huh? What?

Usopp: You've been tricked!!!
Your butler is really a pirate!!!

Kaya: Now... Hold on a minute.
Is this a joke?! You don't mean ***Klahadore...?!***

Usopp: It's no joke. I heard it with my own ears.
He was down at the beach talking it all out with his ***henchman!!***

The man's a pirate in disguise, trying to get your money!!!
He's been posing as a butler for three years just to rob you!!!

Kaya: ...?!!
Sir Usopp, what are you saying...?!

Usopp: His **pirate crew** is going to attack the village tomorrow at dawn...
...and he's going to kill you!!!

Kaya: ...!!

Chapter 27, page 8 – 9

Usopp: That man's a bad guy!!
You need to start running!!!

Kaya: That is enough!!
I've misjudged you, Sir Usopp!!!

Usopp: !
Wha...

The guards at the front gate overhear the escalating conversation.

Guards: Hey, you hear something in the yard?
...
Ack!! It's that damn kid!! He snuck in again!

Kaya: You're using me to get back at Klahadore...!!

Usopp: ?!

Kaya: I know you think he crossed a line...
...with what he said about your father...!! And I agree he went too far...!!
But how can you stand to tell such an awful lie??!
I never thought you'd be so cruel!!
I liked your old stories, the ones that came from your **hopes** and **dreams**.
I had so much fun hearing them.

Usopp: ...!!

Kaya: Those were the lies that I loved!!
So why would you say such a thing now?!! It's horrible, Sir Usopp!!!

Usopp: Hey...!!
No!!

Kaya: You make me sick!!

Usopp: !!
...you don't get it!
I'm not trying to get back at anyone...

Chapter 27, page 10 – 11

Merry bursts into Kaya's room. The gate guards grab Usopp from behind.

Merry: Madam, are you alright?!

Usopp: !

SFX: *Slam!!*

Guard: Don't you worry, we'll see this rat out.

Usopp: Argh!! Let me go! I'm not done talking yet!!

SFX: *Snag!!*

Usopp bites the guard's arm and wriggles free.

Usopp: ...!! Grr!!
Lemme go dammit!!!

Guard: Aaargh!!!

SFX: *Chomp!!*

Kaya: ...?!!

The second guard draws a pistol. Usopp whips out a slingshot.

Guard: Damn brat!!

Usopp: !

SFX: *Swip...*
Fwsh!

Guard: Freeze!!

SFX: *Kerchack!!*
Strrr...

Usopp dives to the side and shoots the guard between the eyes, disabling him.

Usopp: Shut up! You can't stop me!!

SFX: *Snap!!*

Guard: Gah!!!

SFX: *Pow!!*

The first guard draws his own weapon. Usopp turns to aim at him.

Guard: *Bastard!!*

SFX: *Strrrrr...*
Spin

Chapter 27, page 12 – 13

Kaya: *Sir Usopp, please stop!!*

Usopp shoots the guard, knocking him down.

Guard: *Oof!!!*

SFX: *Snap!*
Bam!!

Merry: *Oh no! He's downed both guards...!!*

SFX: *Thump!*
Huff
Huff

Usopp: *Kaya, you gotta believe me!!*
Get out of the village!!!
Run, before the butler gets back!!!

Kaya: *What's wrong with you...?! You're not my Sir Usopp...!!*

The villagers storm through the gates, which the guards left open when they chased Usopp into the grounds.

Villagers: *There he is!!*
He's by the mansion!

Usopp grabs Kaya's arm and tries to pull her through the window.

Usopp: *Crap! The villagers again!!*
Then I'll have to take you by force!

Kaya: *Ow!!*

SFX: *Grab!!*

Kaya: *No! Unhand me!!*

SFX: *Yank Yank*

Usopp: You'll see the truth tomorrow morning!! Right now you just need to get away from here!!!
You gotta believe me!!!

She slaps him, and he drops her arm. The villagers are bearing down on the scene fast.

Usopp: !!

SFX: *Slap!!*

Villagers: You won't get away this time, Usopp!!!

SFX: *Raaaah*

Chapter 27, page 14 – 15

Kaya: The only **bad guy** around here...
...is you, Usopp!!!

Merry draws a gun and aims it through the window.

Merry: Step away from the mistress right now!!!

Usopp: !!

SFX: *Kerchack!!*
Flinch

Kaya: No!!!

Usopp turns and flees. Merry fires a single shot as the youth retreats.

Usopp: ...!!
!!!

SFX: *Kerblam!*
Tmptmptmptmptmp

Kaya: What if you'd hit him!!

Merry: ...but...!! He was hurting you, mistress...

Villagers: Usopp's getting away!!
Come back you bastard!!

SFX: *TmpTmpTmp*

Merry has in fact hit Usopp with a grazing blow to his forearm.

Usopp: Shit...!! My arm!!

SFX: *Drip*
Drip

Usopp: ...!! Why won't anyone believe me...?!!!

Merry: Everyone, he went that way!!
And he's turned violent!!!

Villagers: Violence...?!!
You've gone too far this time, Usopp!!

Usopp: ...!!

SFX: *Raaaaaaah*
TmpTmpTmpTmp

Kaya faints into Merry's arms.

Merry: !
M-madam, get a hold of yourself!!

SFX: *Slump*
Grab

Chapter 27, page 16 – 17

As the sun sets, Usopp walks dejected down the road out of town.

SFX: *Caw*
Caw

Kuro: Jango, tomorrow at dawn...
...have the crew attack the village.

SFX: *Shuff shuff shuff*
Stare...!

Usopp: ...
...!!!
Sob...!!!

The Luffy's crew and the kids, on their way back into town, approach him.

Kids: Hey!! Captain!!!

Usopp: !
...!!

SFX: *Rub rub rub*

Usopp: ...oh hey!! It's you guys!
Gah!!
You!! You're alive!!

Luffy: Alive?
Well, I'm awake.

Pepper: We found him sleeping.
But Captain!! We heard about the pirates!!
We've gotta hurry and warn everyone!!

Usopp: ...warn everyone...!!

Kaya: The only bad guy around here... is you, Usopp!!!

Villagers: Violence??! You've gone too far this time, Usopp!!

SFX: *Throb throb...*

Usopp: Hahahahahaha!!

Carrot: ?

Chapter 27, page 18 – 19

Usopp: C'mon guys, I made it all up like usual!!
I got so mad at that butler...
...that I started lying that he was a pirate!!

SFX: Hahahaha
Don!!

Luffy: Huh?

Crew: ...

Pepper: Whaaaat!! Another lie?!

Carrot: Aw man, I thought something exciting was gonna happen!

Onion: And even you were in on it, straw hat guy!!

Luffy: What?

Carrot: ...actually, I think the captain did it wrong this time.

Usopp: !

Pepper: I feel the same!!

Onion: Me too!
I don't like the butler either...
...but I didn't think the captain would lie just to hurt someone...!

Carrot: Let's go home!

Pepper: Yeah, it's dinner time!

Onion: Wonder what we're having.

Usopp: ...
...

Luffy: ??

Night has fallen. Luffy's crew and Usopp meet under the cliffs by the shore.

SFX: *Shaa*

Usopp: It's all because I'm a liar.
I should've known no one would believe a word I say anymore!!

Nami: What they believe doesn't change the truth.
The pirates really are coming, aren't they?

Usopp: Oh yeah. They're coming alright.
But no one's gonna believe it!!
They all think tomorrow will be just another peaceful day...!!

SFX: *Shaa*

Chapter 27, page 20 – 21

Usopp: So it's up to me to fight off the pirates, right here!!!
I'll turn their scheme into another lie!!!!
On my honour as a liar!!
That's the plan to save my home!!!!

SFX: *Don!!*

Crew: !

Usopp:!! They can shoot my arms...
And they can chase me with brooms....!! But this is still my hometown!!
I love this village!!!
I want to protect everyone in it....!!!
I can't... Can't just sit and watch....!!
...while they all get killed....!!!

Crew: ...

Zoro: You've got a good heart. You sent your crew away so you could fight alone....!!

Luffy: Okay! We'll back you up!

Nami: But first thing's first, all their treasure is ***mine!***

SFX: *Don*

Usopp: Huh...

SBS Corner, page 1

Title: *Question Corner*
We have answers!!

Introduction: Finally, the Q&A section I announced in volume 2 as arrived. Thank you so much for sending in all your questions.

For this section, the reader comment or question will be marked with an R (for Reader), while my responses will be marked with an O (for Oda). I chose some random letters and postcards to answer.

Reader: How old are Luffy, Zoro, Nami and Shanks?

Oda: There were a lot of people asking me about characters' ages. A whole lot. It's probably the most asked question. Currently, Luffy is 17, Zoro is 19 and Nami is 18. We don't know where Shanks is right now, but ten years ago when he was staying at Luffy's hometown he was 27. As for Usopp, he's 17, same as Luffy.

Reader: How come all the bad guys in this series are such weirdos?

Oda: Uh... Weirdos? Well, now that you mention it, they are a bit weird. But I think being weird gives them a sense of mystery. It makes them cooler, right?

Reader: Eiichiro Oda-*sensei*,¹ is it really true you can stretch your arms and legs? They wrote it in Weekly Shonen Jump.²

Oda: Woah! I thought I said that was a secret!

¹ Use of honorifics in the SBS will mostly be maintained, as these are comments from Japanese readers. Exceptions may be made on a case by case basis for jokes or comprehension. The 'sensei' suffix is used to refer to someone like a teacher or a doctor respectfully.

² I can't find any record of whatever the last question of the first SBS is meant to be referencing. It's not one of the author comments released alongside the weekly chapters – none of the ones made before volume 4's release reference stretching or Oda's limbs in any way. It must have been some other interview, editorial, or space to comment that hasn't been digitised or translated.

Chapter 28, page 1

Title: Chapter 28: Crescent Moon

SFX: *Shaa*

Usopp: You guys...
Are really gonna fight alongside me...?!
But... Why...?

Luffy: There's a whole bunch of bad guys, right?

Zoro: You've got "scared" written all over your face.

Usopp: Ha!! You think I'm scared?! You're crazy!! I don't care how outnumbered I am!!!
Don't you get it? I'm ***Captain Usopp***, the ***brave warrior of the sea!!!***

SFX: *Don!!*

Chapter 28, page 2 – 3

Title: Chapter 28: Crescent Moon

Cover illustration: Shanks as a farmer and Luffy, Nami and Zoro as farmhands riding on a cart of produce, as some of the vegetables start to manifest faces and come alive under them.

Chapter 28, page 4 – 5

Usopp's legs start to uncontrollably shake. He pounds his knees with his fists.

Usopp: !
Hey!!

SFX: *Shiver shiver shiver shiver*

Usopp: ...!! Grr...
Stop it!!
Stop it!!

SFX: *Shiver shiver*
Bonk! Bonk!

Usopp: What're you guys looking at?!? I'm about to cack myself 'cos I'm up against ***Captain Kuro's crew!!!*** Is that funny to you?!!
If you're just staying out of pity you can just go!! I don't need you!! Leave!!

Nami: ...

SFX: *Shiver shiver*

Zoro: Does it look like we're laughing?
We're with you because we like you. You've got guts.

Usopp: !

Luffy: I don't risk my life out of pity!

Usopp: !!
You...!! ...!!
...you ...you guys...!! ...!!!

SFX: *Weep!!*

The group examine the narrow path leading up between the cliffs.

Usopp: They'll attack from the beach.
But the only way from there to the village...
...is this hill here.
The rest is steep cliffs!!
As long as we can defend this **one road**, the village is safe.

Luffy: Sounds easy!

Usopp: Easier said than done! It'll depend on what I'm working with...
What can you guys do?

Zoro: Cut.

Luffy: Stretch.

Nami: Steal.

Usopp: Hide.

Straw Hats: You gotta fight!!

SFX: *Gah*

Chapter 28, page 6 – 7

At the mansion. Kuro and Merry seem to be the only servants still up.

Kuro: Where is the mistress?

Merry: Already asleep.
The commotion left her exhausted...

Kuro: ...I cannot believe all that happened while I was in the next town over...
That boy Usopp is a troublemaker.

Merry: Indeed... To go as far as calling **you** a pirate...
It's not even a good lie.

Kuro: ...heh heh.
Of course not...

Kuro notices a small, gift-wrapped box.

Kuro: Oh?
What's this?

Merry: Ah... That.
A gift for you from the mistress.
Because tomorrow it will have been exactly three years from the day you arrived here.
An anniversary, I suppose.

Kuro unwraps his gift. A new pair of glasses in a nice case.

Kuro: ...
An anniversary...

SFX: *Push...*
Rustle...

Merry: Your glasses are always slipping...
...so the mistress had a new pair specially made for you!
She's such a considerate individual...

Kuro: Yes, an anniversary.
Tomorrow... will be a special day indeed.

Merry: Huh?

Kuro lets the glasses fall.

Kuro: There's a **crescent moon** out tonight...
Nights like these awaken something in me...
They make my blood run hot...

SFX: *Drop*

Chapter 28, page 8 – 9

He stomps on his gift, destroying it completely.

SFX: Crunch
Merry: What?!!!
K....! Mr Klahadore?! Why?! That was the mistress's gift to you!!!
!

Kuro: Oh, she has a gift for me.
But it's not this cheap trinket...
It's her entire bloody estate...!!

Merry: ?!
What...?!! **What...?!!**

Kuro: There's no reason to keep up the charade.
In a few short hours, the **accident** will happen.

A set of swords flash through the room. Blood splatters, and Merry lands facedown by the smashed glasses.

Kuro: **Three years** is such a long time to wait...

Merry: !
...!! Run, Mis...

SFX: *Shing*

Merry: ?!!

SFX: *Thud!!*

Chapter 28, page 10 – 11

On the pirate ship.

Pirate: **Captain Jango!!**
It's almost **dawn**!
Wake up!!

SFX: *Knock knock*

Jango moonwalks out of his quarters.

Pirates: Ah, good morning captain.
Good morning.

SFX: *Creak...!*

Jango: You fools, I told you, you absolutely cannot ever say “good morning” ‘til the sun’s up.
The moon hasn’t set, it’s like the middle of the night out here.

Pirates: W-we’re sorry sir!!

SFX: *Shf Shf*
Shf Shf
Shf Shf

Jango: Alright boys!!
Good morning.

SFX: *Don!*

Narration: Acting captain of the ***Black Cat Pirates***³
“One Two” Jango

SFX: *Don!!*
Bam!!

Jango: Set sail!!!

Pirates: Yeeeeah!!!

SFX: *Raaaaah*

Chapter 28, page 12 – 13

At the shore, Luffy’s group stands atop the hill, which has been drenched with slippery liquid.

Usopp: Alright, it’s ready!!
There’s no way they’ll make it up the hill now!!
Not with our ***oil slick plan*** in place!

SFX: *Don*

Usopp: They won’t stand a chance while they’re slipping and sliding around.
We’ll hold the line here no matter what it takes!!

SFX: *Smack*
Yar yar

Nami: Just make sure you don’t fall down yourself.
You wouldn’t last long on the other side with the pirates.

Luffy: Man, this was a great idea.

SFX: *Splash Splash*

Usopp: Of course it was!!! When it comes to ***ideas*** and ***slingshots...***
...I have complete self-confidence!!!

SFX: *Don!!*

The sun peeks over the horizon.

³ “Kuro Neko” in Japanese, literally and easily translating to “Black Cat.”

Zoro: !
It's dawn.
Here they come...

SFX: *Shine!*
Ooooh

Chapter 28, page 14 – 15

The Black Cat Pirates' ship makes landfall. Luffy's crew's two little boats are moored nearby.

Pirates: Landfall!!!

SFX: *Whoooooo*
Don!!

Jango: Let's jam, lads!!
Burn the town and raid the mansion!!!

Pirates: Yeah!!!

Pirate: Captain! There's two strange boats here already.

Jango: Who cares, they're too small to be treasure ships.

Luffy's group stares down at the shore below the hill, which remains quiet and empty.

SFX: *Shaa*

Luffy: It's morning already...
...and they're not here...

Zoro: Maybe they overslept?

Nami: ...

SFX: *Silence*
Kick

Nami: It could be my imagination but...
...I think there's a faint *yarring* coming from the **north** of us...

The pirates disembark in a frenzy.

Pirates: ***Yarr!!!***

SFX: *Oooooo*

At the top of the hill.

Usopp: North?!

SFX: *Flinch!!*

Nami: There's definitely a *yarr!*

Zoro: What's wrong?!

Usopp: Well... There's *another beach* to the *north...!!* No way...

Luffy: Then we're at the *wrong beach!!*

Chapter 28, page 16 – 17

Usopp: But they had their secret meeting here, so I just assumed...!!

Luffy: No time!! They're gonna make it to the village!! Tell me which way it is!!

Usopp: It's about three minutes away going directly north!
The terrain's basically the same as here, so we just have to get there and defend the hill!!

Nami: Oh no!! Our *boats* are at the north shore!!
They're gonna get our treasure!!

SFX: *Don!*

Luffy sprints away.

Luffy: I'll be there in 20 seconds!!!

Usopp: My oil slick plan was all for nothing!!

SFX: *Dash!!!*

Nami: I have to hurry...
!

SFX: *Splash!*

Nami has blundered into the oil slick and struggles to keep her footing.

Zoro: Nami!! What are you doing?

Nami: Aaaaa!
Help, I'm slipping!!

SFX: *Splash Splash Splash Splash Splash!!*

She manages to grab Zoro, and pulls him down into the oil as she climbs past him to escape.

Zoro: What?!

SFX: *Grab!!*

Zoro: Argh!!
Let go, damn it!!

Nami: Oh, sorry!

SFX: *Yank!!*
Splat!!

Nami: !
...!! I'm up!
Thanks Zoro!!

Zoro: !! ...Urrrrgh!!

SFX: *Tmp Tmp Tmp*

Zoro slides all the way to the bottom of the hill.

Zoro: Waaaah!

Nami: Uh...

SFX: *Sliiiide*

Nami: Sorry!
My treasure needs me!!

SFX: *Don*

Chapter 28, page 18 – 19

Nami: I'm sure you'll find a way back up!!

Zoro: ...!!

SFX: *Tmp tmp tmp*
Huff huff

Zoro: I'm gonna kill her!!

SFX: *Fume*

Now Usopp, Luffy and Nami are all running their own ways toward the north shore.

Usopp: I won't let them reach the village!!
...! Man that guy's fast. I can't even see him anymore.

SFX: *Tmp tmp tmp*

Luffy: Gotta go north.
Gotta go north.

SFX: *Dsh dsh dsh dsh*

Nami: If they've touched my treasure they're dead!!

SFX: *Tap tap tap*

The pirates begin advancing up the hill at the north shore.

Pirates: Yaaaar!

SFX: *Raaaah*
Dmdmdm

Pirates: Gyahahahaha!!!
Give no quarter!!!

SFX: *Oooooooh*

A barrage of slingshot bullets sends the pirates tumbling back.

Pirates: !!!
Ouch!!
Argh!
There's someone up the hill!!!

SFX: *Kabambambam!!*

Jango: !! Ain't that...

Usopp: My name is **Captain Usopp!!!** I've been waiting for you bastards!!!
I'm completely ready for battle!!! Retreat now if you value your lives!!!

SFX: *Don!*
Huff huff pant pant pant huff pant huff

Zoro struggles with the oil slick.

Zoro: Bullshit!
How the hell am I meant to climb this?!!!

SFX: *Splash splash splash splash splash*

Luffy has arrived at the edge of town.

Luffy: Huh?!
The village?!
But he said **north**, and I was running in the **coldest direction!!**

SFX: *Huff huff pant pant*

Reader: I have a question for you, Oda-sensei. What do you do with the stuff you get from fans?

Oda: I keep it in my room. All of it. And I read every single one of the letters and postcards I get. They really pump me up. It's thanks to all of them that I'm able to keep being a manga artist. Thank you.

Reader: Was Zoro's family name inspired by the famous pirate Francois l'Ollonais?⁴

Oda: That's correct! I took his name from the infamous Francois l'Ollonais, said to be one of the cruellest and fiercest pirates to sail the Caribbean. Morgan and Alvida also come from the names of real pirates.

Reader: I have a question about Captain Buggy the Clown! Is that Captain Buggy's real hair coming out the corners of his hat, or just decorative tassels? Or maybe it's a wig. I really wanna know! If it's real, then Captain Buggy sure has long hair...

Oda: Yes. A lot of readers asked me about this one, so I'll show you the truth.

Illustration: sketches show Buggy with and without his tricorn hat, demonstrating how he has two long ponytails that come out the corners of the hat.

Buggy: Execution extravaganza!
Hey, gimmie that hat back! Be extravagant about it!
Yes it's my real hair!

Chapter 29, page 1

Title: Chapter 29: Uphill Battle

Cover illustration: Luffy, Nami and Zoro coolly snowboarding.

Chapter 29, page 2 – 3

Usopp stands alone in the way of the pirate hoard.

SFX: *Don!*

Usopp: ...!!

⁴ Due to L and R sounds being pronounced the same in Japanese (and the sound an “ais” ending makes in French), Roronoa and l’Ollonais sound basically the same in Japanese.

Usopp: (W... What the...? I'm the first one here...!!)
(But that guy was way ahead of me...!!)

SFX: *Huff huff*
Thump thump thump
Don

Jango: You're that kid...
...who was ***droppin' eaves*** on our plans yesterday. What are you trying to pull?

SFX: *Whoooooooo...*

Usopp: ...this is your last warning!!! Retreat, while you still can...
...or my ***100 million crewmen*** will destroy you all!!!

SFX: *Dodon!!*

Pirates: ...
That's something a kid'd come up with...

SFX: *Nope nope nope*

Jango: What?!! ***A hundred million?!!***
That's... that's insane!

Pirates: He's obviously lying, Captain!
So fricking naïve...!!

Usopp: Oh no!! Busted!!!

SFX: *Gasp!!*
Shock!!

Pirates: He really thought that'd work too...

Jango: How dare you...
...try to trick me...

Chapter 29, page 4 – 5

Pirate: Shocking find, Captain Jango!!

Jango: What?!! How screwed are we?!!

Pirate: Not screwed at all!!

A pirate walks away from Nami's boat, carrying a bulging sack.

Pirate: There was ***treasure*** on the weird little boats!!
And a whole lot of it! Four... maybe ***five million berries***!!

Jango: What?!!

Usopp: ...f...!!
Five million berries...?! How'd that lot end up with so much money...?!!
...
You've found my *treasure!!!*
But!!! I'll let you keep it!!!

Jango: !

SFX: *Badon!*

Pirates: What?!
We can just have it??!

Usopp: That's right!!!
You can keep my treasure!!! But only if you leave immediately!!!

SFX: *Bam*

Pirates: Hang on...
This lowlife's tryin' to *bribe us...!!*
What kinda *criminals* you think we are??!

Narration: Pirates.

SFX: *Grr grr*

Jango: ...
Are you stupid...?
Of course we're taking the treasure.
But we've *already got it*, why would we leave??!

Usopp: !
(!! ...g... good point!!)

SFX: *Dong!*

Chapter 29, page 6 – 7

Jango swings his pendulum ring.

Jango: When I say "***One, Two, Jango***" you'll get out of the way.
One...

SFX: *Zsh...!*

Jango: ***Two...***

Usopp: !!
(Oh no...! What's he doing with that thing?!)

Jango: *Jang...*

Nami hits Usopp from behind with her staff.

Nami: Don't be stupid!!!

Usopp: !

SFX: *Crack!!*

Pirates: ?!! ...who's this girl now??!
Captain!! Snap out of it, there's more of 'em!!

Jango: !
Huh?

Nami: The treasure on those boats is ***mine!!!***
And you're not getting ***one single berry*** of it!!
Keep it all together, 'cos I'm coming to take it back!!!

SFX: *Don!*

Nami: And who do you think you are, giving away ***my*** treasure?!!

Usopp: Ouch! You coulda just ***said something!!***

Nami: Don't be rude, I saved your life.

Usopp: What?!

Nami: We forgot to mention it, but you can't look at the ***ring*** when that guy's ***counting***.
He's a ***hypnotist!***

Usopp: A... hypno...?!

Jango: !

Chapter 29, page 8 – 9

Nami: Hey? Where's Luffy?
Didn't he leave before all of us?!

Usopp: I dunno.
He might've got lost. Or just ***chickened out...***

Nami: He's lost then.
Unbelievable!! Right when we really need him.

Usopp: Okay... time to fight!!
I'll cover you!!

Nami: What...? Why me?!!
You can't expect me to fight them all myself! I'm weak!!

Usopp: And you think I should do it just 'cos I'm a man?!! I can't even stop my legs from shaking!!
Look!!

SFX: *Shiver shiver shiver shiver*

Nami: Look here! I'll break down and cry!

Usopp: Your eyes are totally dry!

SFX: *Bicker bicker*

Jango: Like we're not even here.

The pirate hoard charges, weapons drawn.

Jango: Cut them down and attack the village, you fools!!!

Pirates: Yaaaaar!!!

SFX: *Ooooooo*

Nami: Here they come!!!

Usopp: ...
Hold on, I got *caltrops*!!⁵

Nami: That's great!! Let me in on that!

SFX: *Rustle rustle*

Pirates: Outta our way!!!

SFX: *Ooooo*

Nami and Usopp hurl their spikes towards the mob.

Nami: Take this!!

Usopp: ***Caltrop hell!!!***

SFX: *Fling!!*

Chapter 29, page 10 – 11

At the other beach, Zoro lies exhausted and oil-covered at the foot of the hill.

⁵ Usopp is specifically throwing "makibishi," which are the Japanese version of a caltrop. But not since they seem to be all but indistinguishable from other global versions, it didn't seem worth trying to make the loanword work.

SFX: *Sliiiiiiide!!*
Thud!!

Zoro: Ugh...
Huff!! Huff...!!
Pant...!! Pant...!!
Damn it, Nami! I'm gonna get her for this...!!

Zoro draws two swords and uses them as picks to anchor his path up through the oil.

SFX: *Shing...*

Zoro: Huff...
It'll take more than oil to stop me...!!

SFX: *Bam!!*

Zoro: Raaaaaaaaaaaa!

SFX: *Thunkthunkthunkthunkthunk!!*

Zoro: Yes! I did it!!!

SFX: *Dash!!*

Zoro: ...!!
Now, where's that **north shore**??!!

Luffy sprints through the woods and arrives at a dead end.

Luffy: Directly north!
Huff!
Huff!
Directly north!

SFX: *Dshdhsdshdsh*

Luffy: ...

SFX: *Bam*
Huff huff huff

Luffy: Which way's north??!!

SFX: *Dashdshdshdsh*
Aaaaaaaaaaaa

Chapter 29, page 12 – 13

At the north shore, caltrops tumble into the charging pirates, injuring their feet and fouling their advance.

SFX: *Tunk tunk tunk...!!*

Pirates: !!
Owww!!
Aaaaargh!!
Yeow!

Nami: Yes!! It's working!!

Usopp fires his slingshot at a pirate mired in the spikes, knocking him out.

Usopp: And the finisher!! ***Lead Star!!!***⁶

SFX: *Snap!!*

Nami: !

Pirate: Oof!!!

SFX: *Blam!*

Pirates: Shit!

SFX: *Thud*

Nami: Not bad!! Keep up the good work!!
I'm gonna take five.
You got this, Captain!

Usopp: Have you even done anything yet??!

SFX: *Smack!*
Jolt!!

Nami: Gasp!!

Usopp: What's wrong??!

SFX: *Oooooo*
Snap!

Nami and Usopp are penned in by their own trap.

Nami: They landed behind us too!!
Sob sob

Usopp: You're kidding!! Come on! Those are ***your*** ones!!

SFX: *Snap!*

A pirate has snuck up on Usopp while he was yelling at Nami, and swings a stone hammer.

⁶ Usopp's attack name is "Namari Boshi" in Japanese, translating literally to "Lead Star."

Pirate: Get the hell...
...outta our way!!!

Usopp: !!

Chapter 29, page 14 – 15

The hammer strikes the back of his head. Usopp falls, blood streaming from his skull.

SFX: *Crack!!*

Usopp: ?!!

Nami: !!!

Usopp:!!!

Pirate: Hah!! Did you kids really think you could stop us?!

Pirates: Get moving, boys. **Captain Kuro**'s waiting!!
Yeah!!

SFX: *Thwump....!!*

Pirate: Huh?

Usopp reaches up from the ground and grabs the pirate's sash. The pirate repeatedly strikes the prone youth in response.

Pirates: Hey...
The hell's this?!!
!

Nami: !

Pirate: Let go of me, shithead!!!

Usopp:!!
...I can't....!! Let you!!!

SFX: *Wham wham wham!!*

Usopp: You can't go up this road....!!! I'll make them all think I lied again!!!
This is gonna be just another boring day for my village!

SFX: *Don!*
Drip drip...

Chapter 29, page 16 – 17

A pirate with a sword leaps at Usopp's back.

Pirate: I'll shut this turd up!!!

Usopp: !

SFX: *Whoosh!!*

Nami leaps in and knocks out the attacker.

Pirate: ?!!

SFX: *Whack!*

Another pirate swings his sword at Nami. She blocks the blade with her staff, but the force of the blow throws her back into the cliff wall. She slides to the ground.

Pirate: Bitch!!!

SFX: *Swsh*

Nami: !!

SFX: *Kachang!!*

Nami: Argh!!!

SFX: *Wham!!*

Nami: Ah... ow...!!!

SFX: *Skrr...*

Usopp: ...you...

Pirate: I'll enjoy finishing these two off...

Jango: Hmph!

Stop wasting time, you fools!!! Get 'em on the way back! You're meant to be attacking ***the village*** right now!!!!

Don't forget! This is ***Captain Kuro's plan!!*** If we mess it up...

Pirates: !

Chapter 29, page 18 – 19

Jango: ...he's gonna kill us all!!!
Get it through your crazy heads!!!!

Pirates: !!!
...!!!

SFX: *Shiver...!!*

The pirates charge, trampling past the fallen Usopp. He tries to grab one but is kicked away.

Pirates: To the village! Hurry!!!

SFX: *Ooooooh*

Usopp: Wait, dammit...!!!!

SFX: *Thumpthumpthumpthumpthump*

Usopp: Stop!!! Not the village!!!

SFX: *Grab*
Thdthdthdthdthd

Pirate: Shut up and stay down!!!

SFX: *Whack!!*

Usopp: !

The pirates reach the top of the hill and charge on into the distance, leaving Usopp bloodied in the dirt.

Pirates: ***Yaaaaar!***

SFX: *Ooooooh*
Tmp tmp
Whud

Usopp: I'm begging you to ***stop!!!***
Please don't kill my village!!!

Suddenly, beaten pirates are raining down around Usopp from the hilltop.

Usopp: !

Chapter 29, page 20 – 21

Pirates: Aaaaaaargh!

Usopp: ?!!

SFX: *Thud thud thud thud*

Usopp: ...

Jango: ?!!

Nami: It's about time.

Pirates: What's going on, Captain Jango...?!!
You didn't say in the plan...!! That they'd be ***this tough!!!***

SFX: *Whoooooooo...!!*

Luffy and Zoro stand triumphant at the top of the hill.

Zoro: Not worth much, were they?

Luffy: Who cares! I'm real mad now!!

SFX: *Don!!*

Zoro: Nami, you bitch!!! How dare you throw me down that hill!!!

SFX: *Don!*

Luffy: Usopp, you jerk!!!
Why didn't you tell me which way's north??!!

SFX: *Don!*

Jango: ...and who are *these* guys...?

SBS Corner, page 3

Reader: How come Luffy never seems nervous or tense?

Oda: Because he's an idiot. Hehehe.

Reader: Luffy's treasure is his straw hat. Is your treasure a straw hat too, Oda-sensei?
If not, tell me what it is!!

Oda: My treasure? There's only one thing it could be...
All my readers!

Reader: Why is Mohji's hair like that?

Oda: He was born that way. Those two spots on his head just grow extra quick. If he left it alone he'd end up looking like a rabbit.

Illustration: sketches showing the growth of Mohji's hair over time.

Caption: *Normal appearance.*

Mohji: *What?*

Caption: *Next stage.*

Mohji: *What're you looking at?*

Caption: *And finally.*

Mohji: *Nothing to see here. Grr!*

Reader: I thought of a new special move for Luffy!
1: He swells up with Gum Gum Balloon.
2: Then he uses Gum Gum Pistol (or Zoro's sword) to puncture himself.
3: Kaboom!! I call it the Gum Gum Bomb!!

Oda: Thank you for sharing. But if Luffy did that... He'd die.

Chapter 30, page 1

Title: Chapter 30: Great!!!

Cover illustration: Giant mechanised versions of Luffy, Zoro and Nami demolish a city while people run for their lives.

Chapter 30, page 2 – 3

Kuro sits alone on the front steps of the mansion. He adjusts his glasses with both hands, still using only the palms.

SFX: *Don!*
Whoooooo
Push push
Don!!

Kuro: They're **late**...
Those imbeciles...
They should know the penalty for derailing my plans...
...but they're **still late**....!!!

SFX: *Whup...!*
Kuro: If they want a reminder of who I am...
...I'll kill them all...!!!

SFX: *Whoooooo*
Trudge trudge trudge

Chapter 30, page 4 – 5

At the north shore.

SFX: *Don!*

Pirates: ...!!

Usopp: Y... You guys are actually really strong...!!

Luffy: Yup!

Nami: You two really cut it close here.
Took you long enough!!

Zoro: !
Everything on that *stupid hill* was *your fault!!*

SFX: *Fume!*

Nami: That was an accident! What do you want from me? Better one of us got out than neither, right?

Zoro: *You* fall next time!!

Luffy: And you!! You can't just say "go north" without saying where north is!!

Usopp: What?! You ran off like you knew!

Luffy: Because I had to get here *fast!!*

Jango: Come on now, boys.
You haven't really been laid low by these kids, have you?

Pirates: ...!!
...n... no sir...!!

SFX: *Stagger*

Chapter 30, page 6 – 7

Luffy: Woah! They're still kicking!
Tough guys!

Jango: Listen. We don't got time to mess around like this.
If they're strong, then we just gotta be *stronger...!!*

Jango faces the wounded pirate hoard and starts swinging his ring.

Jango: So keep your peepers on the ring...!!
When I say "*One, Two, Jango*" you'll get stronger...
...and all your wounds will heal!!
Grow more and more powerful!!

SFX: *Swing swing...*

Luffy: What's he doing?

Usopp: I dunno.

Nami: More hypnotism...!! He's making them **believe** they're stronger!
This is ridiculous!

Zoro: ...

Jango: **One!!**
Two!!

Pirates: ...!

SFX: *Wobble wobble*
stagger stagger

He now pulls his hat down over his eyes to avoid hypnotising himself.

Jango: **Jango!!!**

SFX: *Shf!!*

Nami: !!!
Woah...

The pirates leap back into action with a frenzied vigour.

Pirates: **Yaaaaaaaaar!!!!**

SFX: *Ooooooooo*

Chapter 30, page 8 – 9

Nami: No way!!
They were on their last legs a moment ago!!

One pirate swings his bare fist into the cliff wall. Cracks spread from the point of impact.

Pirate: Rah!!

SFX: *Oooooo*
Whack!
Crackcrack!!

Zoro: What the...

An enormous section of the cliff comes loose and crumbles to the ground.

Pirates: **Yaaaar!!!**

Zoro: ?!!

SFX: *Crashoom!!*

Zoro: He broke the cliff...!!!
What power!!!

Nami: I don't believe it...!! Hypnotism really works like that?!!!

Usopp: That was just **one guy**, and they've got so many...!!!

Jango: Charge!! Tear those brats apart!!!

Pirates: ***Yaaaaar!!!***

Nami helps the wounded Usopp off the battlefield.

Zoro: You two get to the hilltop!!
We'll handle this...!!
Hey, Luffy!!

SFX: *Ooooooh*

Zoro: Luffy?!

Chapter 30, page 10 – 11

Luffy: ***Yeeeeeeeeeah!!!!***

Zoro: You're hypnotised too?!!!

SFX: *Gasp!!*
Aaaaaaa

Jango: Huh...?!

Nami: What... What a complete idiot.
It wasn't even aimed at him...

Usopp: ...

Pirates: **Aaaaaaaaar!**

SFX: *Ooooooo*

Luffy charges at the pirates in a frenzy.

Luffy: ***Yeeeeeah!!!***

Zoro: Wait!! Luffy!!

SFX: *Dash!*

He starts throwing punches rapidly, so fast his arms seem to multiply. A barrage of fists extends out ahead of him and crashes into the hoard.

Luffy: ***Gum Gum...!!!***

SFX: *Wsh wsh wsh wsh wsh*
Ooooooh
Bambambambambambam!!

Pirates: ?!!

Luffy: ***Gatling!!!!***

Chapter 30, page 12 – 13

The whole crew is sent flying back, bruised and bloodied.

Pirates: Aaaaaargh!

SFX: *Crash!!*

Usopp: ?!!
His arms...

Jango: !!!

Luffy barrels forward. The pirates flee for their lives.

Luffy: Raaaaah!

SFX: *Grrrr!!*
Dshdshdshdshdsh

Pirates: Eeeeek!!!

SFX: *Thumpthumpthumpthump*
Dshdshdsh

The pirates dive to either side at the base of the hill. Luffy just runs past them.

Pirates: Oof!!!

Jango: !

SFX: *Whum-sliiiiiid...*
Thmpthmpthmp...

Zoro: ...

Luffy hits the bow of the pirates' ship and wraps his arms around the rising stem of its keel.

Zoro: ?!

SFX: *Smack...!!*

Luffy: Hup!!!

Chapter 30, page 14 – 15

Pirates: ...hey.
What's he doing now...?!

Luffy: Raaaaaaargh!

SFX: *Creak creak creak*

Jango: ...!!!

Nami: Go, Luffy, go!

Usopp: ...?!

With a titanic effort, Luffy rips the stem off the front of the ship, all the way up to its figurehead, which towers over him as he carries it.

Pirates: No way!! He took the **whole freaking stem** off!!! He's gonna destroy the ship!!!

Luffy: Aaaaaa...!!

SFX: *Snaaaaaaaap!*
Crack crack crack...!!

Luffy totters back toward the pirates, still holding the enormous stem upright, brandishing it as a weapon.

Pirates: Uh oh.
Please no!!
yikes!

SFX: *Glare!!*

Pirates: He's gonna kill us!!!
Do something Captain!!!

SFX: *Stomp stomp stomp!*
Grrrrrrrrrrrm

Jango frantically gets his ring moving.

Jango: When I say "**One, Two, Jango**" you'll fall asleep!!
One.

SFX: *Swing!!*

Jango: **Two!!**

Luffy: Raaah!!!

Jango: *Jango!!!*

SFX: *Shf!!*

Chapter 30, page 16 – 17

Luffy falls asleep instantly and loses his footing. The stem topples, squashing Luffy, but also slamming down into the pirates and wreaking destruction.

SFX: *Zzzzzzz!*

Pirates: Watch out!!

SFX: *Whoosh*
Snore

Pirates: Aaaaaaaaargh!!!

SFX: *Kaboom!!*
Snore
Whump...!!
Snore
Snore

Jango: ...

SFX: *Silence*
Huff huff

Jango: The kid's gone and done it now...!!
Screwed up the whole damn plan...!

SFX: *Sweat*

Jango: If **Captain Kuro** saw this...
...he'd kill every last one of us, kids and crew!!!

SFX: *Snore*
Snore

Nami: Alright then. Luffy took care of the crew.

Usopp: But... he got himself squashed too!!

Zoro: Don't worry, he won't die from that.
Go patch up your wounds.

SFX: *Tap tap...*

Chapter 30, page 18 – 19

Nami: !

Voices sound from the deck of the ship.

Siam: Hey **Butch!**⁷ Come look, someone swiped the **figurehead**!!!

Butch: The figurehead?!! How do you take a thing like that?!!

Jango: !

Pirates: D... d... did I just hear...?

It's the ship's guards, the **Meow-pow Brothers**!⁸

Nami: ...?!

Usopp: ...

Zoro: Sounds like there's still **reinforcements** on the ship...

Jango: That's right.
We've still got some fighting strength left...!!!

SFX: *Don!*

Meanwhile, Kuro silently walks the road leading out of the village. Onion watches from a hiding spot.

SFX: *Woooooooo....*
Tap tap tap tap
Clunk clunk...
Push
Ooooooooo
Sneak sneak...!!
Tap tap

Onion: ...
It's the **butt-ler** from the mansion...!!
It's so early... Why's he heading for the beach now?
...?!

⁷ Butch in Japanese is *Buchi*. This can mean “spotted,” which would match with his design, but has previously been both left completely as is and transliterated as *Butchi* by previous versions and Japanese databooks. Researching the name, however, I found the *Tom and Jerry* character Butch Cat, whose name would be written the same as *Buchi* in Japanese. While this is likely not the intended reference, given the ‘spotted’ meaning, I decide to use Butch as the name anyway as Oda is known (according to a 2022 interview) to have taken inspiration from *Tom and Jerry* and other classic cartoons for Luffy’s ridiculous powers.

⁸ The Japanese *Nyanban Brothers* is made up of the noise of a cat (*nyan*) and an explosive onomatopoeia (*Ban*, or *Bang*). This isn’t really a pun or anything so there’s no clever way to substitute it, just a search for the best rhyme. I considered leaving it as is, since *nyan* seems to be fairly easily accepted as a cat noise by English speakers, even without translation notes or contextualisation. In the end, I decided Meow-pow rolled off the tongue best out all the cat noise/explosion combinations I could think of.

SFX: *Don*

SBS Corner, page 4

Reader: How far can Luffy's arm stretch? Please tell me.

Oda: They go pretty far. Right now he can get to about **72 Gum Gums**. But he's been saying lately he wants to try and reach **100 Gum Gums**.

Reader: Nice to meet you, Oda-*sensei*. Thanks to you, I was able to get into high school.

Oda: You're welcome. ...wait, what?

Reader: How do you come up with names for your characters?

Oda: I just... try to think of things that sound good is all. Sometimes I get them from historical pirates' names, but sometimes I don't.

Reader: Why doesn't Luffy ever kill his enemies? Looking back, he didn't kill Mohji. He didn't kill Helmeppo or Captain Morgan either. Well, Zoro killed Morgan anyway, but still. Why?

Oda: Good question. First things first, Captain Morgan is still alive. His former subordinates threw him in jail.

The reason Luffy doesn't kill is this: In this era, people bet their lives on their dreams and beliefs. When Luffy fights, he's fighting his opponents' dreams, and when he beats them, those dreams are shattered. And for these pirates, losing a dream is a pain equal to death. For pirates, victory and defeat are more important than killing or not killing.

Chapter 31, page 1

Title: Chapter 31: The Truth

Cover illustration: Luffy, Nami and Zoro relax on a ship, a treasure pile and a bundle of swords sculpted out of clouds.

Chapter 31, page 2 – 3

At the mansion, Kaya dreams of Usopp wielding a sword and leading a band of pirates. He grabs her violently by the arm.

Usopp: You'll pay for how you treated me!!
Mocking my **pirate blood!!**
I'll kill you!!!

SFX: *Oooooo*

Kaya: Sir Usopp, no!!

Usopp: You're dead!!!

Kaya: Eeeeeek!!

Kaya jolts awake. She's alone in her bedroom.

Kaya: Ah!!!

SFX: *Gasp!!*

Kaya: Huff...
Huff...!!

...

SFX: *Huff...*
Thump thump thump

Kaya: ...!! I don't understand...
Cough...
Cough!
Why would Sir Usopp... act like that...?

She pulls on a coat and ventures from her quarters, wandering the quiet halls of the mansion.

SFX: *Creak...!*

Kaya: Klahadore?

SFX: *Knock knock...*

Kaya: Are you there, Klahadore?

Chapter 31, page 4 – 5

She opens a door and is shocked by the site of Merry, lying in a pool of blood.

Kaya: ?!!!

SFX: *Bam!!*

Kaya: ...!!!
M...
Merry!!!!
Is this a nightmare?!! What happened to you?!!
Open your eyes, Merry!!!
Please, you can't die!!!

Merry, now rolled onto his back, coughs up blood. He tries to stand but falls back down.

Merry: Ugh...!!!
Hack!!!
Cough!
Cough!

Kaya: Merry...!!!

Merry: Huff...
Huff...
...ma...dam... I'm... so glad you're safe...!!

SFX: *Flop...!!*

Kaya: ?!...
...of course I'm safe, Merry. What are you talking about...?!! How did...?

Merry: **Klahadore!!!**

SFX: *Huff huff huff*

Chapter 31, page 6 – 7

Merry: He tried...
...to kill me...!!!

Kaya: ?!!
Wha...?!!

Merry: He's really...

Kuro: And *if*...!! For any reason...!! If anything were to happen to you, Mistress!!
I know your parents would never forgive me...!!!

Kaya: ...impossible!!
It's a lie, right??!

Merry: ...a **pirate**!!!

Kaya: !
Then everything...
...Sir Usopp said yesterday was **the truth**...!!

Merry: Yes...!! Thinking back...
He must have learned it somehow and made a desperate attempt to save us...!!
And yet...
...not a single one of us...
...believed in him!!

Kaya:!!

Usopp: You'll see the truth tomorrow morning!!
Right now you just need to get away from here!!! You gotta believe me!!!

Merry: And to think...!! We were all defending the **villain**...
...while we chased away...
...the **brave young man** who wanted to save our lives...!!!

Kaya:!!

Chapter 31, page 8 – 9

Kaya: And I...!!
What have I done to him...?

SFX: *Drip drip drip*

Merry again struggles to move, eventually managing to sit up against the wall.

Merry: Cough!

Kaya: Merry??!

Merry: Cough!

Kaya: Somone help us!!! Merry's...

Merry: It's no use...!! The whole staff was given personal leave starting yesterday.

Kaya: !
...then ...then I'll...!!

Merry: But you mustn't panic!!

Kaya: !

Merry: He hasn't executed **his plan** yet...!! We can still... approach things calmly and rationally.
Klahadore left the mansion not long ago.
If everything Usopp said was true...
...he must be rendezvousing with his **pirate crew** at the beach.

Kaya: ...

SFX: *Thd...*

Merry: But that means the **whole village** is in danger, not only us.

SFX: *Huff huff*

Merry: If Klahadore wants the money and the estate...
...please let him have them!!
They aren't worth our lives!!

SFX: *Huff huff*

Kaya: I know...!

SFX: *Wipe...!*

Merry: It's not fair... but I think **you** are the only person...
...who can stop Klahadore now!

Chapter 31, page 10 – 11

Merry: Can you do it...?
I know it's a terrible burden...!!

Kaya: I understand.

SFX: *Huff huff*

Kaya: There's no choice...!! I couldn't possibly run away now!!
I'll negotiate with Klahadore...!!

In the village, the kids of the Usopp Pirates meet near the road out of town.

Pepper: What?! The **butt-ler** went to the beach?!
Hey Carrot!! Wake up!!

Carrot: But I'm usually still asleep this early.

Onion: You can't sleep today. This could be really, really bad.
I think the pirates really are going to attack!!
The captain said he was lying, but **that** was the real lie!!

Pepper: I think you're right.

Carrot: Actually, me too! He was acting really weird yesterday.

Kaya makes her way up the road, breathing heavily and visibly struggling.

Onion: Huh?

Carrot: Is that...

SFX: *Shuf shuf*

Kaya: Huff...
Huff...

SFX: *Shuf shuf*

Pepper: Miss Kaya...!!

Carrot: She never goes walking around alone like that...!!

Onion: Something's wrong... Something's definitely wrong!!

Chapter 31, page 12 – 13

At the north shore.

SFX: *Whooooo...*
Snore
Snore

Zoro: What're they bringing out now...?!

Pirate: Hehe...!!
...you... you guys are dead now!

Jango: Get down here!!!
Meow-pow Brothers!!!

On the ship's deck.

Siam: Hey! The captain's calling!

Butch: What?! He's s'posed to be at the village by now.
Is everyone still here?

The two step up to the bow railing and leap off it.

Siam: Look at that, someone beat 'em all up!

Butch: That's no good at all!! We going?

SFX: *Tap tap*

Siam: Of course we're going!!

SFX: *Fwoosh*

Chapter 31, page 14 – 15

The brothers land on either side of Jango.

SFX: *Whud...!!*

Jango: We need a hand here, *brothers*.

Siam: What's the problem, Captain Jango?

Butch: What's up?

Narration: Black Cat Pirates
Ship's guard
*Siam*⁹

Black Cat Pirates
Ship's guard
Butch

SFX: *Dodon!!*

Nami: Who are they?

Usopp: Awesome... They landed from so high up...!!
Like cats!

Zoro: ...!

Jango: Butch, Siam, we gotta boogie up this hill at all costs.
But there's a nasty *roadblock* in our way!! Get rid of it!!

Siam: H... hang on, we can't do that! Can we, Butch?

Butch: No way, that guy looks super tough!!

SFX: *Flinch!!*

Chapter 31, page 16 – 17

Usopp: !
What...!! Weren't these guys gonna be their secret weapon?!

Zoro: Huh?

Nami: ...they're terrified...!!

Siam: Come on, we're just meant to guard the ship.

Butch: Yeah, we don't fight big battles.

Jango: Siam!! Get your arse up that hill!!!

Siam: Huh?! Why me??!

⁹ Though it can also be read from the Japanese as "Sham," I decided Siam was the best handling of this name, in reference to the Siamese breed of cats.

Jango: *Now!!*
Siam: Yes sir, I'm going!!
SFX: *Shiver!!*
Nami: He's starting to cry...!
Why make this wimp fight?! It's almost cruel.

Siam charges up the hill, his arms flailing.

Siam: I'm coming to kill yooooou!!
I'll claw your eyes out!
SFX: *Tmptmptmptmp*
Zoro: ...!!
...what do they expect this guy to do...?!!
SFX: *Tmptmptmptmp*
Zoro: Back off!! I'll cut you down!!
Siam: Do your worst...
SFX: *Shing*
Zoro: ?!!
What the...
SFX: *Slash!!*

Chapter 31, page 18 – 19

Siam swipes with the long claws on his glove. Zoro parries with his sword.

Zoro: !!!
SFX: *Kachang!!*
Zoro: What the...?!!
Siam: Did you think...
...I was just a *pussy...?!!*
That was a good block!!
I guess the cat's out of the bag now!!!
SFX: *Swoosh!!*
Usopp: Wait, you mean... he's not a coward?!!

Nami: !
Zoro?!
Where are your...?!

Two of the three scabbards are gone from Zoro's waist, leaving only the sword in his hand.

Zoro: Wha...
My katana!!

Siam has the two swords on his back.

Siam: You may have some skill...
...but you made the fatal mistake of underestimating **Siam** of the **Meow-pow Brothers**...
Lost something?
Well don't look at me...!!

SFX: *Smirk*

Jango: His trademark.

Butch: **Cat Burglar.**¹⁰

Zoro: ...!!!
(This bastard...)
(...took my katana...!!)

SBS Corner, page 5

Reader: So, *Sensei*, do you like animals? It seems like there's one on every cover page...

Oda: It's true that I've been putting animals on the cover pages. But I'd say I only like animals the normal amount. They're just really fun to draw. I enjoy giving them round, furry shapes and funny features, like pandas with spots that look like bad makeup, or a wombat that could have a wanted poster, or an owl that looks like it just got shot with a BB gun.

Reader: You know the bit on Klahadore's suit that kinda looks like poop? Is it really poop, or is there a deeper meaning...?

Oda: It's poop.

¹⁰ Siam's move Cat Burglar was *Nekobaba*, more accurately "Cat Droppings," in Japanese. Rather than being about the theft, it refers to his feigned innocence over it. This comes from a Japanese term comparing the way cats bury their poop to hiding your crime. There wasn't a succinct way to communicate this in English without losing the cat pun, so I stuck with the cat burglar angle.

Reader: Question. Nami's measurements. I really want to know.

Oda: I can see you're serious. This is vital info. Alright, but I don't actually know. We'll have to go measure her ourselves. Here we go!! Woah!!

Nami: What?! My measurements?

Oda: N-nami! I didn't see you there, Nami... Perfect timing, let's get this over with. Here we...[**Bonk!!**] Oww!!

Nami: If you wanna measure me it's gonna cost you.

Oda: Huh...?! H-how much?
Whaaaaaat?! **That much??!** You think I've got that kind of money?!
...aha! She's distracted!! This is our chance!! (**Bonk!!**) Owwwww!!

Nami: If you don't have the money this conversation's over! Bring your wallet next time! <3 See ya! <3

Oda: ...d-damn it! I failed!! B-but next time! Next time I **will** get her measurements!! Just wait, young man! I'll keep my promise!!

Chapter 32, page 1

Title: Chapter 32: Bad Luck

Cover illustration: Luffy, Zoro and Nami play at Chinese acrobatics. Nami leans back in a chair balanced on the end of a spear held by Zoro. Luffy teeters on one hand on Zoro's head, holding a spear between his toes and carrying a stack of barrels on his head. A serpentine dragon coils through the background.

Chapter 32, page 2 – 3

Nami: That thief got Zoro's swords!!

Usopp: ...

Zoro: Give my katana back...!!

Siam: Give them back?
These can't be yours, you've already got one.
Reminds me though, before we start...
...I should dump...

SFX: *Chak...*

Zoro: ...

Siam flings the two swords away. They clatter toward the bottom of the hill.

Siam: ...the **trash** I picked up...

SFX: *Toss!*

Zoro: !

SFX: *Twitch*
Clang...!! Clang...!!

Chapter 32, page 4 – 5

Siam: That's better.
Light a weight off my shoulders...

SFX: *Lick*

Zoro leaps at Siam and tears through his body with his remaining blade.

Zoro: You should treat...
...my katana with **respect!!**

SFX: *Whoosh!!*

Siam: Ack?!!

SFX: *Slash!!*

Nami: !

Usopp: Holy crap!!!

Jango: !

Butch: ...
My go then...!!

Zoro runs past Siam even before he falls, reaching for his swords.

Zoro: You feral...
Chucking my katana around!!

SFX: *Tmptmptmptmp*

Siam: Did you **really** think you cut me?!

Zoro: ?!!

Chapter 32, page 6 – 7

Siam leaps onto Zoro's back, pushing him to the ground. The midsection of his shirt is torn away, revealing a far thinner torso than his silhouette had suggested.

Siam: Too bad for you...
...I'm as **flexible** as a cat!!¹¹

Zoro: !!

SFX: *Whud!!*

Zoro: ...what the??!

Usopp: Come on man... How hard was he sucking it in??!

Siam: That's right, Butch!! Your go!!!

Butch runs forward and leaps high into the air while Siam keeps Zoro pinned and restrains his arms.

Butch: I'm coming, Siam!!

SFX: *Swsh!!*
Thunk!!

Zoro: Oof!!

Butch: ***Cat Fight!!!***

SFX: *Thumpthumpthump*

Butch: ***Catapult...***

SFX: *Fwoom!!*

Chapter 32, page 8 – 9

Nami: Watch out!!!

Zoro: !!!

Butch descends into a stomping attack that cracks the ground. Zoro wrenches himself to the side, throwing Siam off his back and clearing Butch's landing.

Butch: ...***Stomp!!!!***¹²

¹¹ In Japanese, Siam describes himself as a hunchback, as the word for it (*Nekoze*) is the same as the term for a cat arching its back.

¹² Butch's set of techniques was introduced as "cat kill" in Japanese, while the actual technique he uses here is *Cat the Funjyatta*, literally meaning "Stomp the Cat," a well-known kids' song in Japan. Since this wasn't going to translate in any intelligible way, I just made it a cat pun.

SFX: *Kablam!!!*
Crack crack crack

Zoro: Aargh!!!

Usopp: ?!!
He cracked the earth...!!!

Nami: Amazing!!!

SFX: *Fwump!!*

Zoro: Ugh...!!

SFX: *Swsh...!*

Siam: Dammit!
He slipped out!

SFX: *Whud*

Butch: Hey! Pin him properly, Siam!!

Siam: Sorry, sorry.
I didn't expect so much ***raw strength!!***

Chapter 32, page 10 – 11

Zoro: ...!!
(That was too close...!! Shit. If he gets me with that one...)
(...he'll shatter my bones...!!)

SFX: *Huff huff*

Siam: You won't escape this time.

Butch: No chance.

SFX: *Lick*
Whoooooooooo

Zoro: ***Ittoryu*** isn't my strongest style, but with just one katana...

SFX: *Klack...*

Siam: Let's go, Butch!!

Butch: Get him, Siam!!

The two brothers attack at once, swiping rapidly with their clawed gloves. Zoro frantically parries.

Brothers: ***March of the Pussywillows!!!***

Zoro: !!

SFX: *Shing shing!!*

Siam: ***Scratch, scratch, scratch! Scratch, scratch scratch!***

Butch: ***Scratch, scratch, scratch! Scratch, scratch scratch!***

Zoro: ...!!

SFX: *Ching ching ching!*

Chapter 32, page 12 – 13

Nami: Oh no! Zoro's losing ground!
!
What are you doing?!

Usopp: Even he can't beat 'em both at once. I'm giving him some cover fire!

SFX: *Clang clang clang*

Usopp fires his slingshot into the battle, but Zoro sees the bullet coming and moves into its path, taking the hit on the shoulder.

Usopp: Eat this! ***Lead Star!!***

SFX: *Snap!!*
Ching! Clang!

Zoro: !

SFX: *Slash!*
Ooooooo
Oooo

Zoro: !!!

SFX: *Wham!!*

Usopp: ...!!!
What?!!

Siam: He's open!!!

Zoro: !!

SFX: *Stagger...*
Shing!

Chapter 32, page 14 – 15

Siam and Butch both hit Zoro at once, scouring criss-cross wounds into his chest.

SFX: *Slash!!*
Zoro: Aaaargh!!!
Nami: Whose side are you on?!!!
Usopp: N...no... I didn't...!!
SFX: *Whoosh!!*
Zoro: Shit...
Usopp: It was like...
...he moved **into** my shot...!!
Nami: On purpose...?!
...
Zoro: Usopp, you idiot!!
You **trying** to get killed?!!!
Usopp: !
Nami: Actually, did he just **save** us...?
Usopp: Huh?!
Nami: If you'd actually hit one of them...
...he'd probably've come straight after us instead.
Usopp: !

Zoro is back on his feet and fending off a renewed assault from the brothers.

Siam: *Scratch, scratch!!*
Nami: And what're we meant to do then...?
Usopp: !!
SFX: *Clang!!*
Usopp: Come on man...!!
You don't have time to worry about us...!!
Zoro: (Damn it...)
(If I just had **one more katana**...!!!

Nami: It can't keep going like this...
I'll get him his swords!
He'd be winning for sure if he had all three!

Usopp: !

Nami leaps off the cliff and sprints down the hill.

Usopp: If it's that easy I'll go!!

Nami: Don't be stupid. You're injured, right?!

SFX: *Swip*
Kaclang! Ching!
Swoosh!!

Usopp: Hey!!

Zoro: What is she...?!

SFX: *Tmptmptmptmptmp*

Jango: ...!

SFX: *Tmptmptmptmp*

Nami: They've just gotta reach him!!

Usopp: !
No!!!

Jango darts forward and uses his hypnotism ring, which has a bladed edge, to slash Nami's shoulder. She overshoots the swords and tumbles downhill.

SFX: *Shing!!*

Nami: ?!!

Jango: You can't be doing that, now.

SFX: *Thud*

Nami: Aaaah!

Usopp: You bastard!!!
(Our last hope...!!!)

Chapter 32, page 18 – 19

Jango suddenly startles and begins trembling. The brothers also pause their assault.

Jango: !

SFX: *Jolt!!*

Jango: ...oh...!!
...uh... This is...!! I can explain... Circumstances beyond our control...!!

SFX: *Shiver shiver shiver*

Usopp: !
What...

Siam: ...uh oh...

Zoro: ?

Butch: Ulp...

SFX: *Shiver shiver shiver shiver shiver shiver*

Kuro stands at the top of the hill, adjusting his glasses with his palm.

SFX: *Push...*
Oooooo

Pirates: C-c-captain...
Kuro...!!
...we... we're dead...

SFX: *Shiver shiver shiver shiver*

Usopp: (Not now...!!! This's gotta be the worst possible time!!!)

Kuro: It's now long past the break of dawn...
...and my *plan* still isn't being executed...

SFX: *Whooooooooo*

Kuro: What the hell are you doing?!!!!

SFX: *Doom!*
Snore snore

SBS Corner, page 6

Reader: Queeeeeestion! <3 Why does Zoro always wear that *haramaki*¹³ around his stomach like an old man. Tell me please!

Oda: How rude!! Sit down and listen up!! Okay! Remember this! The *haramaki* is a high fashion, form-fitting, combat-ready accessory worn by Japan's proudest warriors!! Apologise! Dismissed!

¹³ *Harimaki* literally means 'bellyband.'

Reader: I keep seeing this Mikio Itoo guy show up in different manga. One Piece, Butsu Zone and Rurouni Kenshin. None of the others explained it, so could you do it?

I found him in volume 1, page 14, panel 3 (behind the first mate), then on page 16, panel 2 (on the bottle), and volume 2, page 3 (behind Zoro). He's got a wanted poster! So tell me, who is he?

Oda: You found him everywhere, good job! His name's Mikio Itoo, known for his quick draw. He appears as a travelling actor in both *Butsu Zone* (drawn by Hiroyuki Takei, who also drew *Shaman King*) and *Rurouni Kenshin*. But who is he really? Let's just say he's a fellow adventurer of the wilderness who's saved my ass more times than I can count with his sharp shooting. Hopefully he'll reveal himself to you all soon.¹⁴

Illustration: a sketch of Mikio Itoo's wanted poster.

Chapter 33, page 1

Title: Chapter 33: The Silent Man

Cover illustration: Luffy, Zoro and Nami fly biplanes with a gorilla.

Chapter 33, page 2 – 3

Kuro: You aren't about to tell me these **children** held you up...

Usopp: ...

Kuro: What a sorry state the **Black Cat Pirates** are in...
...aren't they?!? Jango!!!

SFX: *Thoom!!*
Twitch!

Jango: !!!!
B-but you said I didn't need to kill the **other kid**...
You **told me** that!!

Kuro: Yes I did, didn't I...?

Usopp: ...!!

¹⁴ Mikio Itoo is a caricature of the manga author Mikio Ito, who Oda had worked with as an assistant. The hope that he would reveal himself soon alluded to Ito's then-upcoming series.

Kuro: And what of it...?!! He shouldn't have mattered.
Any fool would guess he'd try to mount a defence.
What I didn't account for was your **uselessness** in the face of it. Save your excuses.

Siam: !
So... you think we're useless...?!

Butch: ...!! Better watch your words, **Captain Kuro**...

SFX: *Hiss*...

Chapter 33, page 4 – 5

Siam: Maybe you were strong once...

Kuro: Speak your mind.

Jango: No!! Siam, Butch!! Don't try it!!

Siam: ...but that was **three years ago**...!!
We never stopped fighting while you were growing pampered and soft in this village!!

Butch: That's right, we've been raiding towns...
...and sinking lotsa other crews...!!

Usopp: !
A **mutiny**...?!

Nami: ...?

Siam: We're not about to lay down and die...
...just because **your plan** isn't working!!

Butch: You've been an inside cat for **three years**!
No way you can beat the Meow-pow Brothers both at once!!

Pirates: Maybe they got a point...
Even Captain Jango can't beat 'em...
Not both at once anyway...

Kuro stands silent and calmly adjusts his glasses as the brothers lunge at him.

Kuro: ...

SFX: *Push*

Butch: You're not our captain no more!!

Siam: If you're killing us, we'll kill you first!!!

Kuro: !

SFX: *Shing!!*

Chapter 33, page 6 – 7

Kuro vanishes in the blink of an eye. The brothers' claws shred his briefcase, but nothing else.

Brothers: ***Scraaaaatch!!!***

SFX: *Slash!!*

Pirates: !

Kuro is behind the brothers. He's donned clawed gloves, but each of his claws is a full length sword.

Kuro: Just who...
...was killing who?

Brothers: ?!

SFX: *Whoooooooooo...*

Usopp: ...?! When'd he move there...?

Pirates: ...!!
Th-that's his...!! ***Pussyfoot Step!!***

Zoro: What kind of weapon is that?

Nami: ...!!

SFX: *Glance*

The brothers spin to face Kuro, but he's gone again.

SFX: *Swish!!*

Siam: He got past us!!
Huh?

Butch: Uh... Where'd he go?

Kuro appears between the brothers. He drapes his arms over their shoulders.

Kuro: You were right after all.
I **have** gotten soft.

Butch: Eep!!!

Siam: Ack!!!

SFX: *Don!*
Jolt!!
Jolt!!

Chapter 33, page 8 – 9

Kuro: I may not be your captain anymore...
...but I hired you to do a job....!! And I *will* kill you if you can't complete it!!

Butch: So... fast...!!!

Siam: ...!!

SFX: *Ooooooooo*
Shiver shiver
Shiver shiver

Pirate: I never saw **anyone** catch the Meow-pow Brothers...!!

Nami: (...!! Those guys gave Zoro a hard time, even if he *was* a couple of swords short, but he's just toying with them...!!)

Jango: We knew who we were dealing with...

Pirates: !

Jango: The captain's **Pussyfoot Step**...
...lets him move **undetectably**.
You could get **fifty assassins** working together and they'd still never see him coming.
We can't escape his plan.
Not to mention... When I saw him yesterday, I got chills.
That way he adjusts his glasses with his palms was a habit he picked up...
...so his **Cat's Claws** wouldn't scratch his face, and he never dropped it...
...which **proves** he didn't forget how to fight...!!

SFX: *Push*

Pirates: ...!!

SFX: *Gulp...!!*

The tip of one of Kuro's claws presses into Butch's throat, drawing blood.

Butch: !

SFX: *Shunk!!*

Butch: Yeow!!
Ow...

Kuro: As I was saying...
...these three years **have** left me soft...

Siam: !

SFX: *Shiver shiver*

Kuro: You have **five minutes**.
If you can't clean this mess up by then...

Chapter 33, page 10 – 11

Kuro: ...I will kill every last one of you...
...with my own hands.

Pirates: !!!!
I don't wanna diiiiiie!!

SFX: *Shiver shiver*
Tremble

Butch: Five minutes...

Zoro: Ugh...

Usopp: What the hell!! How'd we live with this guy for three whole years...?!!

Jango: Five minutes.
We can do it in five minutes!!

SFX: *Shf...*

Jango: That guy!! If you can just take out **that one guy!!!**
The rest of us cats'll make it up the slope easy!!!

Zoro: !

SFX: *Bam!*

Butch: That's right! We was beating him already a minute ago!!

Siam: He's not so tough!! **Five seconds** is more like it!!!

Chapter 33, page 12 – 13

Nami: Zoro!!

Nami slips past Jango and kicks Zoro's swords towards him.

Zoro: !

Nami: Swords!!
Jango: No!!
SFX: *Thwack!!*
Zoro: Hey, come on...!!
Don't kick my freaking swords...!!
Nami: ...
No "thank you?"
Zoro: Yeah yeah...
SFX: *Chack check!!*
Zoro: (I'm saved...!!)
Thanks!!
SFX: *Clack!*

Siam and Butch lunge at Zoro, who calmly readies his swords.

Siam: *Scraaaaaaaaatch!!*
Butch: No problem!! Having three swords won't make him three times better!!!
SFX: *Whoosh!!*
Zoro: You wouldn't understand the difference between **having three katana...**
...and knowing **Santoryu!**
SFX: *Chomp*
Pirates: Go, Meow-pow Brothers, go!!
Get him in five minutes!!!
SFX: *Ooooooo*
Brothers: *Scraaaaaatch!!!*
Zoro: **Tora...**
SFX: *Shing...!*

Chapter 33, page 14 – 15

With three blades flying, Zoro cuts down both brothers at once.

Zoro: ...**Gari!!!!**¹⁵

¹⁵ *Tora Gari* translates to Tiger Hunt.

Brothers: !!!!
SFX: *Kerslash!!*
Nami: ?!!
Usopp: Woah...
Pirates: ...?!!
SFX: *Thump!!*

Chapter 33, page 16 – 17

Pirates: With...!!! Just one move!!!!
 He got the Meow-pow Brothers with ***just one move!!!***

Zoro points a bloodied sword at Kuro.

Kuro: !
SFX: *Shwing!*
Zoro: Don't worry... It's not gonna take five minutes...
 ...for me to beat you all!
SFX: *Don!!*
 Grin
Kuro: I'd like to see you try.
SFX: *Push*

Butch struggles back to his feet. Siam lies still.

Butch: Huff... Huff... I'll...
 I-I'll... kill him...
SFX: *Drip drip...*
Butch: C-captain!! Captain Jango...
 ...you gotta ***hypnotise me!!***
Kuro: He's still alive. Your claws need sharpening...
Zoro: (All that ***fat*** saved him...)
 ...
 !

Chapter 33, page 18 – 19

Butch has crawled to Jango and been hypnotised into a frenzy, muscles bulging. Even the bleeding of his wound seems to be stemmed.

Butch: *Graaaaah!!!!*

SFX: *Don!*
Rmmmmmbllll

Zoro: *Damn it...!!*
This trick again?!

SFX: *Oooooo*

Zoro: *(This's gonna suck...!! He was already strong enough to crack the earth...)*
(...so how much worse is he now?!!!)

Nami sprints toward the fallen figurehead.

Jango: *Huh?!*

SFX: *Tmptmptmptmp*

Nami: *(Now's my chance!! If I can just wake that idiot up!!)*
(How the hell's he sleeping through all this anyway??!)

Jango throws his ring after Nami.

Jango: *What now, you sneaky bitch??!*
Drop dead!!

SFX: *Whooooosh!!*
Fling!!

Nami: *Everyone's fighting and getting hurt while you're just sleeping!!*

SFX: *Tmptmptmptmptmp*
Snore
Snore

She stomps on Luffy's face, which is sticking out from under the figurehead.

Nami: ***Wake up!!!***

Luffy: *Bwah?!*

SFX: *Stomp!!*

Zoro: *Nami, look out!!!*

Nami turns to see the bladed ring flying straight towards her face.

Nami: *Ah!*

SFX: *Buzzzzzzzzzz!!*

SBS Corner, page 7

Reader: Ei-chan,¹⁶ tell us about yourself! (Is that even your real name?)

Oda: It's my real name. Well, I was born on January 1st, 1975, so I'm a Capricorn. Blood type A. Year of the Rabbit. I like to watch movies and I try my best.

Reader: I have a question, Oda-sensei. When did you decide to become a manga artist? And how did you become one? Please tell me.

Oda: First of all, I decided to become a manga artist when I was four years old, the moment I learned there was such a job as manga artist. I thought it was the kind of job I could do so I wouldn't have to work as a grown-up! I didn't start actually drawing until around 7th or 8th grade. And for how I became an artist from there, lots of doodling! Even now I'm always doodling when I'm thinking about stories.

Reader: This is a pretty out there question, but in volume 1, page 93, panel 4 of *Mizu no Tomodachi Kappaman* by Masaya Tokuhiko, the name Eiichiro Oda shows up. Were you an assistant on that series or something?

Oda: You're a serious fan! Well spotted. I was an assistant there. My assistant history goes from *Midoriyama Police Gang* by Shinobu Kaitani, *Jungle King Taa-chan* and *Kappaman* by Tokuhiko, and finally *Rurouni Kenshin* by Nobuhiro Watsuki. I learned so much from those three senseis and admire them both as manga artists and human beings.¹⁷

Reader: How many Devil Fruits are there, and what other kinds are going to show up?

Oda: If you want to know, you'll have to read the story! But I've heard a rumour there are more than 100 different fruits out there. And that there are a lot of people with Devil Fruit powers waiting in a certain part of the world.

Chapter 34, page 1

Title: Chapter 34: Klahadore the Butler

¹⁶ Using a fragment of Oda's given name and adding the *chan* honorific gives this nickname a cutesy vibe.

¹⁷ This statement was made before Nobuhiro Watsuki was convicted for possession of child pornography.

Cover illustration: Luffy, Zoro and Nami play a variety of instruments with a band of assorted animals.

Chapter 34, page 2 – 3

Nami kicks off from Luffy's face in an attempt to dive for safety, but it doesn't seem like she's going to make it.

Luffy: What the?!!

SFX: *Bam!!*

Jango: I'll split you in two!!!

Nami: Eeeek!

SFX: *Whoooosh!!*

Zoom

Bzzzzzzzz

Usopp: The ring's really... a **chakram**?!!
I thought it was just a pendulum!!

Luffy: What was that for, Nami?!!!

SFX: *Grrr*

Luffy stands up, right into the path of the chakram, which strikes the back of his head.

Luffy: Don't just stomp on my hea...

SFX: *Shunk!!*
Bam!!

Nami: ?!!

Chapter 34, page 4 – 5

He begins to topple, the ring embedded bloodily in his skull.

Luffy: ?!!!

SFX: *Swsh...*

Nami: Luffy!!!

Jango: What...?! He's still alive...!!

Zoro: Was that the **worst**...
or maybe... the **best** time for him to wake up...?!!

Usopp: ...!!

Kuro: That kid...?!!
(But I thought he died when he fell from the cliff...!!!)

Luffy grits his teeth and takes a sudden step forward, catching himself from falling.

SFX: *Clench!!*
Stomp!!

Jango: Impossible!! He's still standing!!!

Pirates: ...
...he...

He wrenches the chakram from his head. Blood sprays in a fountain from the wound.

SFX: *Shuck-splurrrrr...!!!*

Nami: ...!!

Zoro: ...
He'll be fine...

Pirates: ...he...

SFX: *Ruuuuuumbl*

Pirates: ***He...!!!***

SFX: *Uuuuuumbl*

Chapter 34, page 6 – 7

Pirates: He's baaaaaaaack!!!!

Luffy: Ye...
...ooooooooow!!!

SFX: *Dooooon!!*

Pirates: Ah shit...!! It's over!
We'll never beat 'em in five minutes...!!!

SFX: *Gasp!!*

Luffy: That freaking hurt!!!

Nami: It wasn't me!!

Nami sinks to her knees.

Nami: !

SFX: *Slump...*

Luffy: Your shoulder's bleeding.

Nami: I'll be okay...
...but I think I've done all I can. The rest is up to you!

Usopp: ...

Nami: There's too much on the line...
...for us to lose the fight now!!

SFX: *Smile*

Luffy: !

Chapter 34, page 8 – 9

Luffy: Yeah...

Nami: We'll take back my *treasure!!*

Luffy: Hmph!! You can do that.
If it's so important!!

SFX: *Don*
Pump!

Pirates: ...!!

Luffy: Hey...
The evil butler's here...

SFX: Don!!
Shff...

Kuro: You have three minutes...
...until I kill you all.

Pirates: !!
Oh shit... No way...
Even Captain Jango and Butch...

SFX: *Aaaaaaaaaa*

Pirates: ...can't stop them in three minutes...!!!

Jango: Butch! Don't stop to think.
Just kill the guy in the sash!!

Butch: Mmph!

Jango: I'll take care of the kid in the straw hat...!!

Kaya appears behind Kuro.

SFX: *Tmp*

Kuro: !

Chapter 34, page 10 – 11

Kaya: Klahadore!!!
Stop this!!!

Everyone: !!!!

Usopp: Kaya!!
Why... What're you doing here...?!!!

Jango: Hey now!! Ain't that the mistress of the mansion?!!
She's meant to be the ***real target!!***

Pirates: So... we don't gotta reach the village after all...?!

If we kill the girl here...

Luffy: ...

Kuro: What a surprise... Mistress...
What brings you here...?

SFX: *Push...*

Nami: ...

Butch: ?

Chapter 34, page 12 – 13

Kaya: Merry told me everything.

Kuro: ...oh. Was he still alive?
...I thought...
...I'd killed him...

Kaya: !
...?!!
(No...!! This man...)
(Can't possibly be my Klahadore...!!!)

SFX: *Huff...*
Clench!!

Kaya: ...I'm sorry...
...Sir Usopp...!!

Usopp: !

Kaya: It may be too late for apologies...
But I...!! I couldn't stand to believe...!!
That Klahadore could be a pirate!

Usopp: Who cares about that??!
You shouldn't've come here!
I told you to ***run!!!***
They're out to kill you!!!

Kaya: ...!!
But you're here fighting!!!
Despite the horrible way we all treated you!!
Despite the blood on your face!

Usopp: !
It's different for me...!! I'm a ***brave warrior of the...***

Kaya: Klahadore!!! If it's my fortune you want, I'll give it all to you!!!
Take it and leave the village alone!!!

Kuro: ...

Chapter 34, page 14 – 15

Kuro: Not good enough, Mistress... It's not ***only*** the money I want.
I also desire ***peace of mind***.
The three years I spent earning the villagers' trust...
...have made it a comfortable place to settle down.

Villagers: Good morning, Mr Klahadore!

Kuro: Only when I have my peace and your money...
...will I consider this plan a success.

Kaya: ...

Kuro: That is why both the pirate attack on the village...
...and your ***accidental*** death...
...are absolutely necessary.

Kaya: !!

Usopp: Run, Kaya!! He's not gonna listen to you!!!
That's not the butler you knew!!!

Kaya draws a pistol and aims it at Kuro.

SFX: *Click...!!*

Kuro: ...

Usopp: ...

Jango: !

Pirate: A pistol...

Kaya: Leave at once!!!

Kuro: My, my... You've certainly grown up in these past three years...

Kaya: ?!

Chapter 34, page 16 – 17

Kuro: Do you ever look back on our time together?

Kaya: !

Kuro: Even before your parents died and you became bedridden...
...we spent so much time together.

We went *sailing*.

Our trips into town...

I sat with you through your fevers...

We shared our pain and our laughter...

...and I served you tirelessly!

All your girlish flights of fancy...

...I *endured*...

Kaya: !!

Kuro: ...for the sake of *this day*...
...when I could finally kill you!!!

SFX: *Don!!*

Kaya: !!!!

Usopp: You evil...

Kuro: I, who was once the fearsome Captain Kuro...
...lowered myself to bowing and scraping for some spoiled little girl...
...just to stay in her good graces...

Kaya: ...!!!

Kaya, in tears, lets the gun slip from her hands.

Kuro: Can you fathom my humiliation? Day after day...

SFX: *Slip...*

Chapter 34, page 18 – 19

Usopp lunges at Kuro and tries to punch him.

Usopp: Kuuuuuuuro!!!!

Kuro: !

SFX: *Roar*

Kaya: (Sir Usopp...?!!)

Kuro: Dear Usopp...
That reminds me...

Usopp's punch passes through empty air. Kuro appears behind him.

SFX: *Swip...!*

Kuro: I still owe you for that punch...

Usopp: ?!!

SFX: *Swoosh!!*

Kuro: And it's a steep price for such a savage blow...!!!

Luffy's fist flies in out of nowhere and smashes into Kuro's face, knocking him down.

SFX: *Kabam!!*

Kuro: ?!!!

Jango: W-what was that?!!!

SFX: *Thud!!*

Pirates: Captain Kuro's down!!!

Luffy: If you hate getting punched so much...
I'm gonna punch you **a hundred times!!!**

SFX: *Don!*

SBS Corner, page 8

Title: The Future of the SBS

Reader: I made the papercraft Luffy from volume 2 and it turned out super good! I have it on display in my room.

I think you should keep doing those. For example, volume 3 could be Roronoa Zoro, volume 4 could be Nami, and volume 5 could be Usopp. People will keep buying volumes to expand their collection.

Reader: How about a fashion show for Luffy and friends?!! You could have everyone model clothing designs from your readers. How about that?

Reader: How about an advice column from Luffy?

Reader: Make an animal encyclopedia for Gaimon's island.

Reader: You should do some One Piece cross sections, showing how Luffy's body works and what the inside of a ship looks like.

Reader: Please draw Luffy and the crew as cowboys.

Reader: I think it'd be good to have a fanart section in the SBS.

Reader: Can you show early designs for Luffy and the rest like you did for Captain Morgan in volume 1 please?

Oda: As you can see, I've gotten a lot of ideas and requests from readers. Thank you all for writing in. I'll try them out little by little as we go along. Starting out, we're going to have a new corner for fanart, hosted by master artist Usopp, called the *Usopp Gallery Pirates*
And now a word from the man himself!

Usopp: Alright. I'll take you readers' art. But we're gonna have to start small. Oda said it'd be hard to choose which ones to include if too many pics come in. So only do it if you're brave! The prize for the best piece is a trip around the world! Not! You'll actually get an autograph from Oda!! There's no theme, just draw One Piece characters in whatever way you want! The address is at the end of the volume!

Chapter 35, page 1

Title: Chapter 35: New Uphill Battle

Cover story: Buggy, still just hands, feet and a head, desperately paddles a log raft through the sea, pursued by carnivorous fish.

Cover Story: The short-term cover page serial begins!! Buggy's Crew, After the Battle

Chapter 35, page 2 – 3

Luffy cracks his knuckles, staring up from the bottom of the hill. Kuro, prone at the top, has a bloodied lip and cracked glasses.

Pirates: What the hell was that?!!
That kid knocked down Captain Kuro...!!
From all the way down here...?!!!

SFX: *Don!*
Whoooooo...

Kaya: ...!!

SFX: *Ruuuuuumble...*
Crack crack...

Kuro: ...

SFX: *Ruuuuumble*

Pirates: Captain Kuro's gonna be so pissed now...!!
What'll he do to us...?!!

Voices ring out from the forest.

Kids: Attack now!!!

SFX: *Dshdshdsh!!*

Jango: ?!

Kaya: What!

Usopp: Hey!!!

Chapter 35, page 3 – 4

The kids of the Usopp Pirates leap out, wielding a frying pan, a bat and a spade. They pound the head of the fallen Kuro with their weapons again and again.

Carrot: The *Usopp Pirates* are here!!!

Pepper: Die you stupid ***butt-ler!!!***

Onion: Yeah, ***butt-ler!!!***

SFX: *Babam!!*

Usopp: What're you guys doing here...?!!!

Kaya: No, I told you to stay away...!!

Onion: Punish him, punish him!!!

Pepper: Leave our village alone you pirate!!!

Carrot: Take this you bastard!!

SFX: *Bonk! Whack!! Whack!! Bam! Smack!!*

Pirates: Argh! What are you kids ***doing?!!!***

SFX: *Aaaaaaaaaa*

Jango: ...!!!

Usopp: Get away from him!!
Stop!!!

Zoro: What are those brats thinking?

Carrot: Alright! We'll have mercy...

SFX: *Wsh...*

Carrot: ...I knew it!! The captain *was* fighting!!

Pepper: Why'd you lie to us?
That's ***dishonourable!!***

Onion: No, it's just ***dishonest!!!***

Chapter 35, page 6 – 7

Usopp: I don't care what it is!!
You guys've gotta get outta here ***right now!!***
Run away!!

Carrot: We've got your back!! Captain!!

Pepper: Yeah!! We can fight too!!

Onion: Running away would make the Usopp Pirates look like wusses!!

Kuro stands up, looming expressionless behind the kids. He adjusts his glasses with the palm of his hand, even as the shattered glass falls from the frames.

Kids: !

SFX: *Push...*

Crack

Ting ting...

Kids: Waaaaah!!!

Usopp: Run, you idiots!!!

SFX: *Aaaaaaa*

Kuro walks calmly past the kids and approaches Usopp.

Kids: Huh...
H-hang on?
Is he ignoring us...?

SFX: *Tmp Tmp*
Snick...

He kicks Usopp in the gut, then stares down the hill to address Luffy.

SFX: *Whack!!*

Usopp: Oof!!

Kids: Captain!!

SFX: *Thud*

Kuro: You, your attack hurt me...

Luffy: ?!

Kuro: And what a strange move it was.

Chapter 35, page 8 – 9

Kuro: You have the power...
...of a **Devil Fruit**, don't you...?!

SFX: *Don...*

Luffy: Yup! I ate the **Gum Gum Fruit**!
I'm a **rubberman!!!**

Pirates: What?!! A Devil Fruit?!!
I didn't think they were real!!
I knew there was something weird about him!!!

Jango: Alright then, a rubberman.
That explains the stretching arm.
But how can he still stand...
...after copping a chakram to the head?!

Usopp: ...gah...

Kuro: Jango!!!

Jango: Y-yes sir!!

Kuro: I'll handle the boy.
Go deal with Mistress Kaya.
Have her write the will as planned...

SFX: *Bam...!!*

Kuro: ...then kill her.

Kaya: !

Kuro: Additionally... these three insects...
...have annoyed me.

SFX: *Shiver!!*

Jango: You got it.

Chapter 35, page 10 – 11

Zoro holds his sword out, blocking Jango's way up the hill.

Jango: !

Zoro: Stop.
I won't let you...
...get past me.

At Jango's order, Butch leaps back into the fray.

Jango: Butch!!!

Butch: Grrroar!!
Scratch!!!

SFX: *Fwoosh!*

Zoro: ...

Butch jumps high in the air over Zoro.

Butch: *Catapult...*

SFX: *Sproing!*

Zoro: !
Shit!! Not this again!!!

Zoro dodges the impact, but this time the ground doesn't just crack, it shatters, sending chunks of earth flying.

Butch: *Stomp!!!!*

SFX: *Kaboom!!*

Zoro: ?!!!

Chapter 35, page 12 – 13

Fissures run up the side of the cliff and shake sections of it loose over the beaten pirates.

SFX: *Crack crack crack*
Ooooooooooo

Usopp: Woah!!

SFX: *Bump*

Kids: He broke the ground!!!

Zoro: Dammit!! Even worse than the last one!!!

SFX: *Swsh*
Crack crack
Crack

Pirates: Aaaaaargh!!!

SFX: *Crackoom!!*

Kuro stands in front of Kaya as pebbles fly to their location.

Kuro: No sense of self-control...

Kaya: ...!

SFX: *Tmp*
Tmp

Butch swipes at Zoro, throwing him back hard into the cliff wall.

Butch: *Scratch!*

Zoro: !
SFX: Fsh!
Luffy: Wow!!
Who's that guy??!

Zoro: !!
SFX: *Shing!!*
Zoro: ?!!!
SFX: *Thwam!!*

Chapter 35, page 14 – 15

Zoro has blocked Butch's claws with his sword, using two hands to resist his strength, and kicked his foot up into the pirate's face to hold him back.

Butch: ...!!!
Zoro: You already...
...lost to me once...
...so stay...

He kicks Butch away.

Zoro: ...outta my way!!!
Butch: Ack!!!
SFX: *Whack!!*
Usopp: (Damn it...!! My head's spinning, I can't stand up...!! But I gotta stop that guy...!!)

Jango has moved past Zoro and Butch while they were clashing.

Zoro: Shit, he's through...!!
SFX: *Bam!*
Tmp tmp...
Usopp: **Usopp Pirates!!!**
Kids: !
Carrot: Yes, Captain!!
...
SFX: *Glance...*

Carrot: But... We told you... We're not running!!!
Pepper: You're hurt too bad, Captain! We won't leave you!!
Onion: They'll pay for what they did to our captain!!!

Chapter 35, page 16 – 17

Usopp: *Protect Kaya.*
Kids: !
Kaya: ...Sir Usopp...
Usopp: You men get the ***most important*** job of all!!!
Get Kaya away from here safely!!!
Don't let me down!!
That's an order from your captain!!!
Kids: Y...
Yes sir, Captain!!!
SFX: *Jolt!!*

The kids collect Kaya and lead her into the forest. Jango draws two more chakram and spins them on his fingers.

Jango: Fools.
You won't escape me.
SFX: *Tmptmptmp*
Shing...
Zoro: (He knew just what to say...)
(...to get them off the battlefield.)
Pepper: Hurry, Miss Kaya!!
Onion: We know the forest like the backs of our hands!
Kaya: Alright...
Jango: You ain't going nowhere!
SFX: *Spin spin spin*
Spin spin

Chapter 35. page 18 – 19

Usopp shoots Jango in the back from his position on the ground. The hypnotist stumbles and falls, dropping his chakrams.

Usopp: Killer move: ***Lead Star!!!***

Jango: Oof?!!

SFX: *Bam!!*
Thud...

Usopp: Hehehe! Gotcha!

Jango: Ow...!! You little...!!

SFX: *Grind*

Kuro: Jango!! Get up and do your job!!!

Jango: I-I'm going already!!!

SFX: *Tmp!*

The kids and Kaya disappear into the trees. Jango hurries after them.

Kids: This way, Miss Kaya!!

SFX: *Tmp tmptmptmp*

Kuro: They're wasting their time. I know how frail Kaya has become...
She can't outrun Jango!!
Go and save her if you want...

SFX: *Whooooooooo*

Kuro: ...***however...***

SFX: *Don*
Push
...you'll have to reach the top of the hill alive first...!!

SFX: *Don*

Usopp: ...damn it.
They're using ***our*** plan...!!

Luffy/Zoro: Usopp...
...leave it to us!

SFX: *Dodon!*

End line: [4] Crescent Moon (End)

Colouring Corner

Illustration: the cover pages for chapter 28 presented as lineart.

Usopp Gallery Pirates

Title: Usopp Gallery Pirates Submission Guidelines

Text: It's just like Usopp described earlier. Illustrations of whatever One Piece character you like, in whatever way you want.

Just send them in on postcards, but remember that the volumes are printed in black and white, so you'll want to draw something that will still show up well. (Probably avoid drawing in pencil)

We'll print your name with it, so remember to include a penname if you don't want anyone to see the real one.

Don't forget your address either. The best submission gets sent an autograph!

Send to:

Post 119-0163

Tokyo-to, Kanda Post Office, P.O. Box 66

Shueisha, JC One Piece

“SBS!! And Usopp Gallery Pirates”