

# CHAPTER 1

Not quite a big city, and not quite a small town, San Fransokyo had always been a mysterious mix of old and new. On foggy<sup>①</sup> nights, the bright skyscraper lights and the neon<sup>②</sup> of the modern city softened, giving the old Victorian pagodas<sup>③</sup> and forgotten alleyways of the past an inviting glow.

One such night, a young teenage boy named Hiro Hamada was making his way down an old brick alley. He was looking for a place where grown men came to fight.

The boy felt a little nervous when he finally

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旧金山这个说大不大，说小不小的城市，总是给人一种古老与新潮相结合的神秘感。浓雾笼罩的夜里，摩天大楼明亮的灯光和现代城市里柔和的霓虹灯，给维多利亚时期的古老宝塔和被遗忘的古老小巷染上了一层魅惑的光芒。

在这样一个夜晚，一个名叫小宏的十几岁男孩正走进一条砖砌的古老巷子。他在寻找一个成年人相聚格斗的地方。

这个小男孩最终走近了吵闹的人群，他感到有些紧张。围

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① foggy *adj.* 有雾的 ② neon *n.* 霓虹灯 ③ pagoda *n.* (佛)塔

approached a rowdy crowd. Men were jammed around a fighting ring, chanting<sup>①</sup>, “Ya-ma! Ya-ma!”

Mr. Yama, a large, sumo-sized man, strutted<sup>②</sup> into the ring and held up his huge hands in victory. It had been a fight “to the death,” and Mr. Yama’s tricked-out eighteen-inch robot—which had claws for one hand and a spinning saw wheel for the other—had just decapitated<sup>③</sup> the competition. The remains of the defeated robot were unceremoniously tossed onto a pile of other dismembered<sup>④</sup> opponents.

“Who’s next?” Mr. Yama snarled, scanning the crowd. The spectators exchanged money and prepared to place their bets. “Who has the guts to

挤在格斗场四周的人们正反复呼喊：“山哥！山哥！”

山哥是个大个子男人，有着相扑运动员一样的块头。他趾高气扬地走进格斗场，胜利地高举着巨大的双手。刚刚进行完的是场“不死不休”的格斗，山哥的机器人高18英寸，配备精良，一只手装配了个爪子，另一只手安装了个旋转的锯齿轮，它刚刚斩获比赛头筹。被击败的机器人的遗骸，被随意地扔到一堆其他战败的机器人残骸上。

“下一个谁来？”山哥扫视着人群咆哮道。围观者交易着钱财，准备着再下赌注。“谁有种下场挑战我的小山哥？”这群人

① chant v. 反复地说 ② strut v. 趾高气扬地走 ③ decapitate v. 斩首

④ dismembered adj. 被肢解的

step into the ring with Little Yama?” The crowd stared at the big man’s fierce robot and shrank<sup>①</sup> away. Some even hid their bots behind their backs.

Then a voice said, “Can I try?” The crowd parted and everyone stared at Hiro.

Yama’s eyes narrowed. “What’s your name, little boy?”

“It’s Hiro. Hiro Hamada.”

The four-hundred pound man folded his thick arms over his chest. “Go home, Zero. Bot-fighting isn’t for little boys with toy robots. You have to pay to play.”

“Is this enough?” Hiro asked, holding up a wad<sup>②</sup> of bills. Yama smiled and placed Little Yama

盯着大块头男人的凶猛机器人，不断向后退。有些人甚至把他们的机器人藏到了背后。

这时一个声音响起：“我能试试吗？”人群中闪开一条路，所有人的目光都凝聚在小宏身上。

山哥眯起眼：“你叫什么名字，小子？”

“我叫宏，滨田宏。”

这个四百磅重的男人把他的粗胳膊交叉在胸前：“回家吧，菜鸟。机器人格斗可不是陪小孩玩玩具机器人，想格斗你得掏钱。”

小宏举起一把揉皱的钱问道：“这些够吗？”山哥一边笑，

① shrink *v.* 畏缩 ② wad *n.* 一团

back in the ring.

Hiro held up a small, unimpressive twelve-inch robot. He tried to seem confident. He'd learned a long time ago that when you bot-fought in this part of town, you never let them see your fear.

Hiro put Megabot down into the ring. Immediately, the tiny robot toppled<sup>①</sup> over. Yama couldn't hide his smirk<sup>②</sup> as he sat on his mat. Hiro also sat down, his mat across the ring from Yama's. The bettors<sup>③</sup> went crazy. Piles of cash grew higher and higher.

The referee stepped up and lowered an open umbrella between the two. "Two bots enter! One bot leaves!" she shouted. "Fighters ready?"

一边把小山放回了格斗场。

小宏举起一个个头小小、毫无特色的 12 英寸高机器人。他努力让自己看起来自信一点。很久前他就知道，在小城的这一带参加机器人格斗时，千万不能让别人看到自己的恐惧。

小宏把他的超能机器人放到格斗场里。刚入场，他的小机器人就瘫倒在了地上。山哥坐在垫子上忍不住露出得意的笑容。小宏也坐了下来，就坐在山哥对面的垫子上。赌博者疯狂起来。成堆的钞票堆得越来越高。

裁判走近一步，把打开的伞放低至两者之间。“两个机器人入场，

① topple *v.* 推翻 ② smirk *n.* 得意的笑 ③ bettor *n.* 打赌者

Fight!”

Little Yama quickly advanced on Megabot, towering over<sup>①</sup> him. In seconds, he had sliced through Hiro's bot! The crowd cheered.

But without warning, Hiro's seemingly broken bot reassembled. “Megabot, destroy!” Hiro ordered.

Hiro's bot counterattacked<sup>②</sup> with such deadly force, the fight was over in seconds. Little Yama was torn to pieces. Bits of him sparked and jumped all over the ring.

With the click of Hiro's remote control, Megabot gave a cute yet awkward bow. The whole audience was silent.

只有一个可以活着离开！”她喊道，“选手们准备好了吗？开始！”

小山迅速逼近，它远远高出超能机器人，在几秒钟内就把小宏的机器人切成了几段。人群沸腾了。

可就在没有任何预示的情况下，小宏那看似坏掉的机器人重新组合了起来。“超能机器人，灭了它！”小宏下命令道。

小宏的机器人以致命的力量反击，格斗在几秒钟内结束了。小山被撕碎了，碎片四溅，散落在场地内。

随着小宏咔嗒一声的远程遥控，超能机器人可爱又笨拙的鞠了一躬。所有的观众都沉默了。

① tower over 高出……许多 ② counterattack v. 反击

Mr. Yama was stunned<sup>①</sup>. “But ... wha—? How? This is not possible!”

Hiro smiled. “No one likes a sore loser, big guy. But everyone loves a winner!” He held up his bot, and the crowd chanted, “Hi-ro! Hi-ro! Hi-ro!”

“No!” Mr. Yama yelled, and the crowd became silent. “No one can beat Little Yama. You cheated, and I want to know how! Give me that bot.” Several of Mr. Yama’s large associates<sup>②</sup> suddenly moved toward Hiro.

“I can see you’re upset. Here’s what I’m gonna do: I’ll teach you everything I know about high-torque<sup>③</sup> micromotors,” Hiro said as the huge men backed him into a corner. “I charge an hourly

山哥被惊呆了。“可是……什么？怎么回事？这是不可能的！”

小宏笑道：“没有人喜欢恼怒的输家，大块头。但是所有人都喜欢赢家！”他将自己的机器人举起，人群呼喊，“宏！宏！宏！”

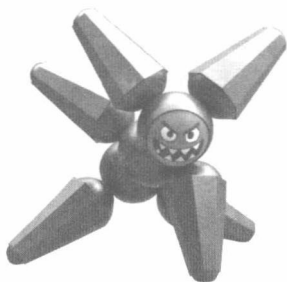
山哥喊道：“不！”人群安静下来。“没人能够打败小山哥。你作弊，我要知道你怎么做到的！把那个机器人给我。”突然几个与山哥一起的大块头向小宏围了过来。

“我知道你很沮丧。现在我要做的是：我会教给你我所知道的一切关于高扭矩微电机的知识”小宏一边说一边被那些大块头逼进了角落。“我每小时收费是很高的，但却很值得一听。你

① stunned *adj.* 惊呆了 ② associate *n.* 伙伴 ③ high-torque 高扭矩

rate—it's pricey, but worth it. Before you know it, you'll be making robots that aren't totally junky<sup>①</sup>. First class is free!” Hiro was really starting to sweat when a scooter<sup>②</sup> came out of nowhere and tore down the alley. It skidded to a stop, knocking Mr. Yama and his goons<sup>③</sup> to the ground.

“Get on!” the rider yelled to Hiro.



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知道以后，就不会做出这种完全垃圾的机器人了。第一节课免费！”小宏真吓得开始出汗，这时，不知道哪里开来的小摩托车飞奔进了巷子，打着滑紧急刹住，把山哥与和他一伙的暴徒们撞倒在地。

“上车！”骑车的人朝小宏喊道。

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① junky *adj.* 质量低劣的 ② scooter *n.* 小型摩托车 ③ goon *n.* 受雇暴徒

## CHAPTER 2

Tadashi Hamada reached back and shoved<sup>①</sup> a helmet on his little brother Hiro's head. He gunned the scooter's engine and took off through the crowd.

It was hard for Tadashi to be patient with his little brother sometimes. He turned and smacked<sup>②</sup> the top of Hiro's helmet. "You graduated high school when you were thirteen, and this is what you're doing? You're wasting that big brain of yours!"

It was well known that both the Hamada

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滨田泰迪转过头，随手在他弟弟小宏的头上胡乱套了一个头盔，然后发动摩托车加大油门冲出了人群。

泰迪有时对他的弟弟很难做到有耐心。他转过头在小宏的头盔上拍了一下：“你十三岁从高中毕业后，就一直做这些？你在浪费你的聪明才智！”

众所周知，滨田兄弟俩都是科技神童，可小宏有些特别，他是个真正的天才。除了制造格斗机器人之外，他在别的方面

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① shove v. 乱塞 ② smack v. 用掌击



brothers were tech prodigies<sup>①</sup>, but Hiro—he was something special. He was a bona fide<sup>②</sup> genius. Not that he did much with his brain other than build fighting bots.

“I’m on a roll, big brother,” Hiro replied, grinning. “There’s no stopping me now.”

Just then, a police car with its red lights flashing pulled up and blocked the end of the alley.

“Oh, no,” Tadashi groaned<sup>③</sup>, realizing they’d been caught up in a gambling raid. It wasn’t long before he and Hiro were headed to jail, along with Yama and everyone else the cops were able to catch.

A short time later, Tadashi sat in his cell, staring across the hall at Hiro. Because of Hiro’s

没怎么动脑筋。

“我手气正好着呢，哥，”小宏笑着回答道，“现在没什么能阻挡我。”

就在这时，一辆警车闪着红灯停在路口，挡住了巷口。

意识到他们因突袭检查赌博而被捕，泰迪叹息道：“哦，不！”很快，他和小宏被送进监狱，山哥以及被警察抓住的其他人，也一同被送了进来。

一会儿之后，泰迪坐在他自己的牢房中，瞪着关在走廊对面的小宏。小宏因为年龄尚小，被关在单间的牢房里。而泰迪

① prodigy *n.* 奇才 ② bona fide 真正的 ③ groan *v.* 叹息

age, he was given his own cell, while Tadashi was locked up with Yama and his goons. Hiro could see that Tadashi was furious<sup>①</sup>.

Finally, a police officer yelled, “Tadashi and Hiro Hamada!” The boys stepped out of their cells and glanced sheepishly<sup>②</sup> at their aunt Cass. She’d come to pick them up, and she looked worried.

“Uh, hi, Aunt Cass,” Tadashi said.

She rushed to embrace them both. “Are you guys okay? Tell me you’re okay!”

“We’re okay,” Hiro said, ducking<sup>③</sup> his head. She twisted both their ears. “Then what were you two knuckleheads thinking?”

It was a long ride home. Aunt Cass started in

却和山哥以及他的同伙关在了一起。小宏看得出泰迪怒火冲天。

最终，一位警官喊道：“滨田泰迪，滨田宏！”男孩们走出各自的牢房，胆怯地瞥向他们的卡斯阿姨。她来接他们了，她看起来很焦虑。

“呃，嗨，卡斯阿姨！”泰迪说道。

她冲过去抱住了他们：“你们没事吧？告诉我你们都还好！”

小宏的脑袋躲闪着说道：“我们很好。”她拧着他俩的耳朵说道：“那你们两个傻瓜是脑子进水了吗？”

车开了很久才到家。卡斯阿姨一坐在方向盘前就开始唠叨

① furious *adj.* 狂怒的 ② sheepishly *adv.* 怯懦地 ③ duck *v.* 躲避

on them as soon as she got behind the wheel. “For ten years, I’ve done the best I could to raise you. Have I been perfect? No.”

Hiro and Tadashi nodded. They had expected her to lecture<sup>①</sup> them, and they knew they deserved it. They hated making her upset.

“Is it like the blind raising the blind? Yes,” she continued as she parked her pickup<sup>②</sup> in front of the café she owned, the Lucky Cat. It was on the first floor of an old Victorian, and they all lived together in the apartment upstairs.

“We’re sorry,” Tadashi said as they got out of the truck.

Hiro knew he had to say something, too. “We

他们：“十年了，我尽我最大的努力把你们拉扯大。我是个完美的家长吗？不是。”

小宏和泰迪点了点头。他们希望阿姨训他们一顿，因为他们知道自己活该。他们不想阿姨难过。

“是不是像瞎子养瞎子？是的。”她一边把她小卡车停在她开的幸运猫咖啡馆前，一边继续唠叨着。这家咖啡馆位于一座维多利亚式旧公寓的一楼，他们都住在这座公寓的楼上。

他们走下卡车时，泰迪说道：“对不起。”

小宏知道他也必须得说点什么。“我们爱你，卡斯阿姨。”

① lecture *v.* 训诫 ② pickup *n.* 小卡车

love you, Aunt Cass.”

Hiro and Tadashi cringed<sup>①</sup> at the closed sign hanging in the window. They knew she'd had to close up to get them out of jail.

“Well, I love you, too!” she grumbled<sup>②</sup> as they entered the café. She grabbed a giant pastry<sup>③</sup> from the counter and took a bite. “Stress eating! Because of you,” she mumbled<sup>④</sup> with her mouth full. Then she walked upstairs to their apartment with her fat cat, Mochi, following her.

Hiro and Tadashi also went upstairs, to the bedroom they shared. Hiro gathered some tools that were scattered on his desk while Tadashi watched.

“I hope you've learned your lesson,” Tadashi

小宏和泰迪局促不安地看到挂在窗户上的停止营业的标识。他们知道阿姨必须提前打烊，才能把他们从监狱里带出来。

他们一边走进咖啡馆，卡斯阿姨一边抱怨道：“好吧，我也爱你们！”她从柜台里抓过一大块糕饼咬了一口。“化压力为食欲！都是因为你们俩。”她吃得满嘴都是，含糊地咕哝着上楼了，后面还跟着她的肥猫毛球。

小宏和泰迪也上了楼，走进他们共同的卧室里。泰迪看着小宏收起原本散落在他桌子上的一些工具。

最后泰迪说道：“但愿你吸取教训了”。

① cringe *v.* 感到局促不安 ② grumble *v.* 抱怨 ③ pastry *n.* 糕饼

④ mumble *v.* 含糊地说

finally said.

“Absolutely,” Hiro said.

“You’ve got your priorities<sup>①</sup> straight?”

“I really do,” Hiro replied, making an adjustment to his robot, then heading for the door.

“Wait. Where are you going?” Tadashi asked. Hiro smiled. “There’s another bot fight across town. If I book it, I can still get there on time.” Tadashi threw up his hands in frustration.

“Seriously? Are you gonna keep hustling bot fights, or are you gonna do something with your life?”

Hiro fidgeted<sup>②</sup> for a second. “What, like go to college like you so people can tell me stuff I already

“当然了！”小宏说。

“你已经知道轻重缓急了？”

“是的。”小宏回答道，调整了一下他的机器人，就径直朝门口走去。

“等等，你去哪里？”泰迪问。小宏笑着说：“在城市的另一边还有一场机器人格斗。现在报名我还能赶得上。”泰迪无奈地摊开双手。

“你说真的？你是想要继续靠机器人格斗来拼命赚钱，还是想做些有益于你人生的事？”

小宏坐立不安了一会儿：“什么，跟你一样去读大学，让

① priority *n.* 优先考虑的事 ② fidget *v.* 坐立不安，动来动去

know?”

Tadashi shook his head. “Unbelievable. What would Mom and Dad say?”

Hiro shrugged<sup>①</sup>. “They wouldn’t say anything. They’re gone.”

The answer hurt. But it made Tadashi realize he was the only person who could steer<sup>②</sup> Hiro in the right direction. “Fine,” he said. “I’ll take you.” “Really?” Hiro said, surprised.

“I can’t stop you from going, but I’m not going to let you go on your own.”

Tadashi rode off with his brother on the back of his scooter. But suddenly, he made a turn.

别人教我一些我已经知道的东西吗？”

泰迪摇了摇头：“难以置信。爸爸妈妈会怎么说？”

小宏耸了耸肩：“他们什么也不会说的，因为他们已经不在人世了。”

这个回答很伤人。却也让泰迪意识到，他是唯一能给小宏指引正确方向的人。“好吧，”他说，“我带你去。”“真的吗？”小宏惊讶地问道。

“反正我也拦不住你，但我也不能让你一个人去。”

泰迪骑着摩托车，后面载着他弟弟。可突然间，车子转了个弯。

① shrug v. 耸肩 ② steer v. 引导

## CHAPTER 3

Hiro looked around as Tadashi drove through the gates of the San Fransokyo Institute of Technology, often called SFIT for short. “What are we doing at your nerd school?” Hiro asked. “Bot fight’s that way.”

“Pit stop,” Tadashi replied as he pulled up to a gleaming steel-and-glass building.

Hiro impatiently followed Tadashi into SFIT’s robotics lab. “Is this gonna take long? Megabot wants to fight!”

“Relax, you big baby. We’ll be in and out,”



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泰迪骑车穿过旧金山理工大学（简称 SFIT）的大门时，小宏向四周看了看。“我们到你们这书呆子学校来干什么？”小宏问道，“机器人格斗赛在那个方向。”

“停车加油！”泰迪一边回答，一边把车停在一座闪着微光的由钢筋和玻璃筑成的大楼前。

小宏很不耐烦地跟着泰迪走进旧金山理工大学的机器人实验室。“在这儿待多久？超能机器人想要去格斗了！”

“放松点，小屁孩。马上就好了。”泰迪一边说一边领小宏

Tadashi said as he led Hiro into the enormous lab.

“Oh, great. I get to see your lab,” Hiro said sarcastically<sup>①</sup>. Out of the corner of his eye, Tadashi saw Hiro’s attitude change. His lab was high-tech heaven. Tadashi smiled.

“Heads up!” said a girl with purple-streaked<sup>②</sup> hair as she whizzed<sup>③</sup> by on a bike. She stopped short and tossed the bike onto a rack. Tadashi walked over to her and smiled.

Hiro couldn’t help himself. He had to touch the bike. “Whoa ... electro-mag suspension<sup>④</sup>,” he said. “Who are you?”

Hiro turned around to look at the girl. “Um, I’m ... Tadashi’s brother.”

走进了一间巨大的实验室。

“哦，好棒。我能看到你的实验室了。”小宏讽刺地说道。泰迪用余光看到，小宏的态度转变了。他的实验室是高科技的天堂。泰迪笑了。

“小心！”一个挑染紫色头发的女孩骑着自行车呼啸而过。她突地停住，把自行车抛上一个架子。泰迪笑着走向她。

小宏忍不住摸了摸那辆自行车。“哇哦……电磁悬浮”，他说道。“你是谁？”

小宏转过头看着那个女孩回答道：“呃，我是……泰迪的弟弟。”

① *sarcastically* *adj.* 讽刺地 ② *streak* *v.* 形成条纹 ③ *whizz* *v.* 嗖嗖掠过

④ *suspension* *n.* 悬浮



“Go Go, this is Hiro.”

Go Go Tomago chewed her gum and nodded. Hiro looked back at her bike. “Never seen electro-mag suspension on a bike before.”

Go Go spun<sup>①</sup> the bike's back wheel. In place of an axle<sup>②</sup>, the wheel was suspended between two magnetic forks. The wheel seemed to float<sup>③</sup> like magic between the magnetic frames.

“Zero resistance<sup>④</sup>,” Go Go told him. “Faster bike. But not fast enough.” Then she took the wheel off and threw it in the trash. “Yet.”

Hiro stared as she fired up<sup>⑤</sup> a 3-D printer on the spot and began to create a new wheel. Then he heard a high-pitched hum coming from the other

“神行御姐，这是小宏。”

神行御姐嚼着口香糖点了点头。小宏回头看着她的自行车。“以前从没见过电磁悬浮用在自行车上。”

神行御姐旋转着自行车的后轮。没有车轴，轮子悬浮在两个磁力叉子之间。轮子像魔法一样悬浮在电磁框架之间。

“零阻力。”神行御姐告诉他，“自行车会更快，但还没达到足够快的地步，”随后她把轮子取下扔进了垃圾桶，“目前为止。”

小宏目不转睛地看着她开启了实验室里的一台3D打印机并开始造另一个新轮子。随后他听到高分贝的嗡嗡声从实验室的

① spin v. 旋转 ② axle n. 车轴 ③ float n. 漂浮 ④ resistance n. 阻力 ⑤ fire up 启动