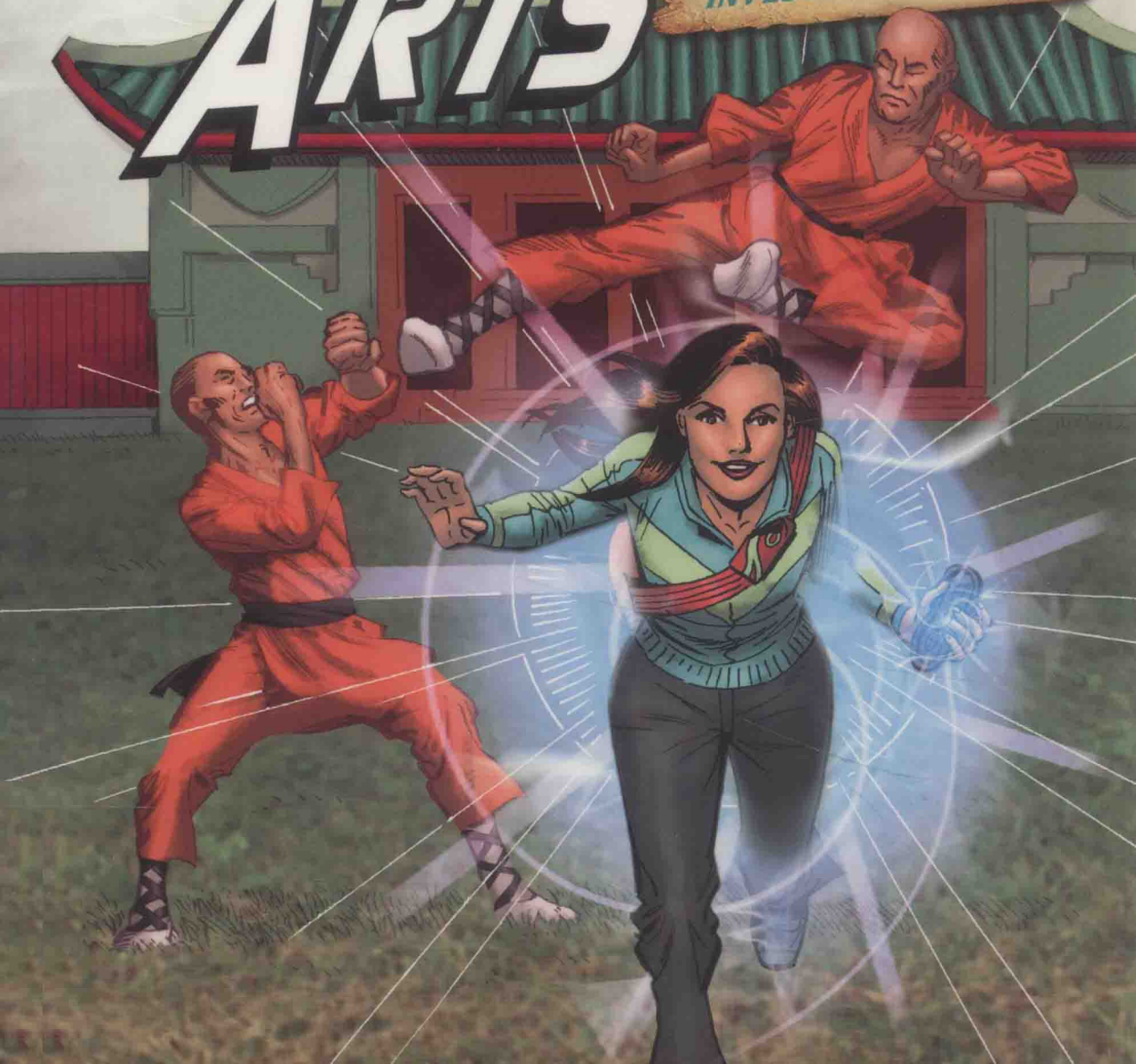
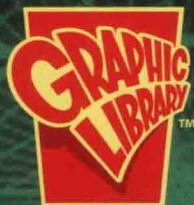




# THE SECRETS OF MARTIAL ARTS

AN *Isabel Soto*  
INVESTIGATION





GRAPHIC EXPEDITIONS

THE *SECRETS* OF

# MARTIAL ARTS

AN *Isabel Soto*  
INVESTIGATION

Christopher Harbo



illustrated by Joe Staton and Al Milgrom







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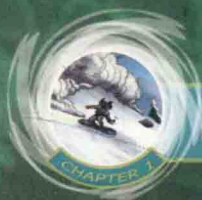
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# CONTENTS



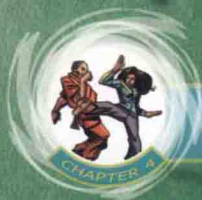
**SLIPPERY SLOPE ----- 4**



**THE SHADOWLESS KICK ----- 6**



**THE WAY OF THE FOOT AND FIST --- 16**



**KUNG FU FIGHTING ----- 22**



**CASTING NO SHADOWS ----- 26**

**MORE ABOUT MARTIAL ARTS AND ISABEL SOTO.....28-29**

**GLOSSARY.....30**

**FIND OUT MORE.....31**

**INDEX.....32**



## CHAPTER 1 SLIPPERY SLOPE

Rocky Mountains, USA, present day



**BZZZT!  
BZZZT!**



Rats! I'm running late for  
my martial arts training!

I'd better hurry.

**ROOO  
AAAR!**



Master Adachi doesn't  
like it when I'm late.



I'll take a portal straight to the training hall.



Oh no! Don't tell me it's off the cliff!

**BEEEP!**

I think I can make it.

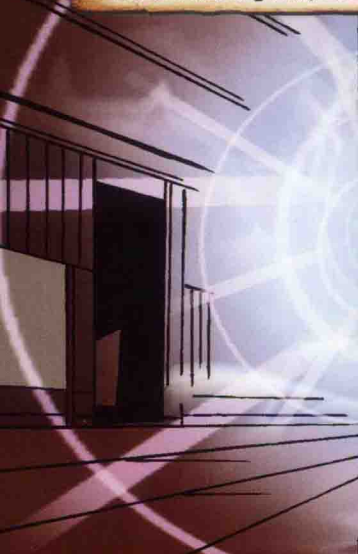


I'm on my way.



## CHAPTER 2 THE SHADOWLESS KICK

Adachi Training Hall, Osaka, Japan, present day



Greetings, Miss Isabel.

**CRASH!**

I see you have ruined another screen.

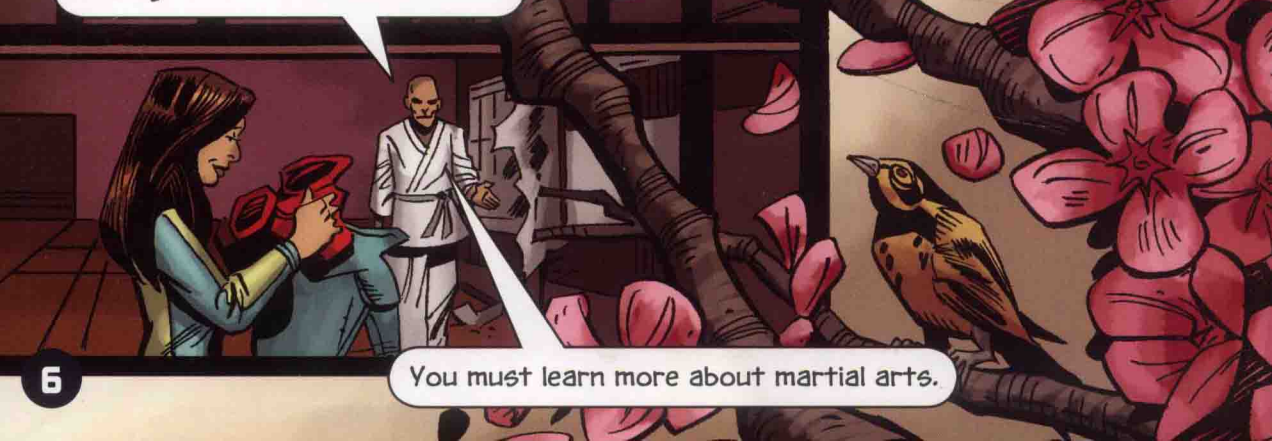
Sorry, Master Adachi.

I'll get changed right away.


Not today. I have an assignment for you.

You have learned basic karate moves.

But you must not view the world through one window alone.

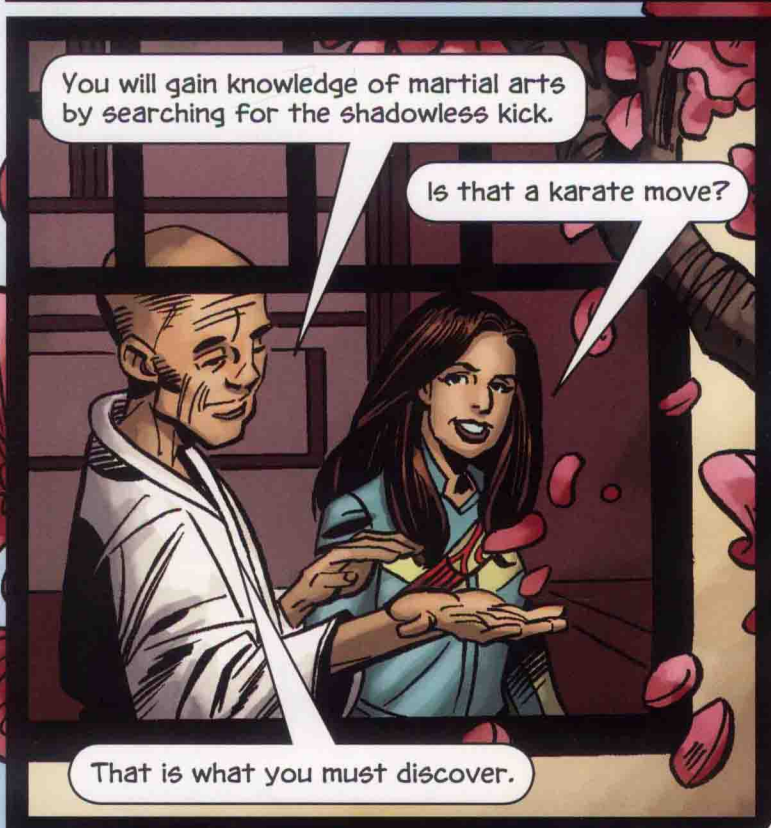


You must learn more about martial arts.



That should be easy.  
Many books have —


Not so fast, Miss Isabel. Your path  
does not run through the library.



You will gain knowledge of martial arts  
by searching for the shadowless kick.

Is that a karate move?

That is what you must discover.



Search for the shadowless kick.  
Your knowledge of martial arts  
will bloom along the way.






Master Adachi says I must find the shadowless kick.

But where should I begin?




OOFPH!


Whoa! What's the rush?



Sorry, Miss. I'm late for my karate lessons.




I get into trouble when I'm late, too.



Speaking of karate, do you know a move called the shadowless kick?




No, but my instructor might. Follow me.




I've been taking lessons from Oda Sensei at this karate dojo for years.

Excuse me. This young man tells me you're the teacher at this training hall.



That is correct. How may I help you?

What can you tell me about karate's history?



It began about 400 years ago as a weaponless form of combat on the island of Okinawa, near Japan.

JAPAN

OKINAWA

In Japanese, karate means "empty hand".

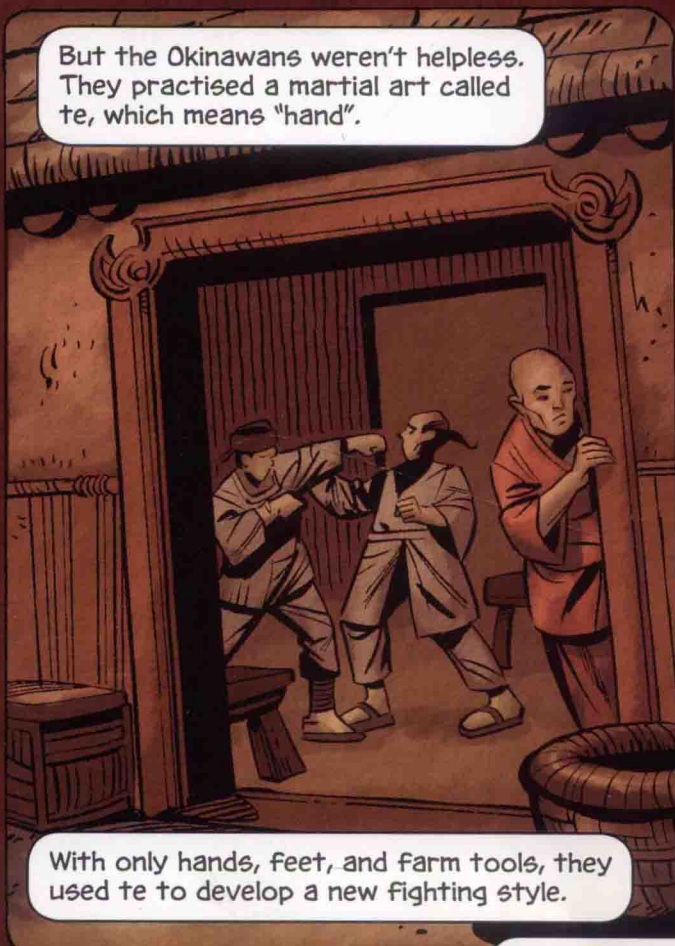


In 1609, Japanese troops invaded Okinawa.



Legends say the Japanese took away the islanders' weapons to prevent rebellion.

But the Okinawans weren't helpless. They practised a martial art called te, which means "hand".



With only hands, feet, and farm tools, they used te to develop a new fighting style.

With it, they could defeat armed enemies . . .



. . . with single, powerful strikes.

**HHIIYAHHH!**

Today power remains a key to karate.



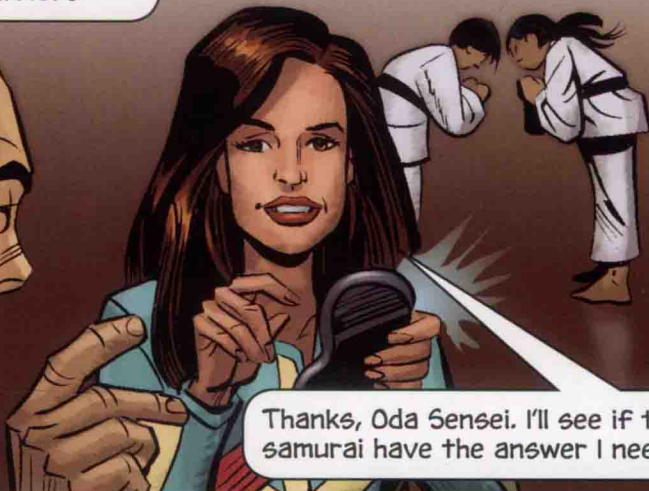
Students use their hands, feet, knees, and elbows to knock down opponents with powerful blows.

That reminds me. Do you know a move called the shadowless kick?



Karate has many kicks, but the shadowless kick isn't one of them.

Perhaps you should look into jujitsu. It was practised by Japan's samurai warriors.



Thanks, Oda Sensei. I'll see if the samurai have the answer I need.



## KARATE KATA

Karate students practise kata as part of their training. A kata is a series of blocks, punches, and kicks against an imaginary attacker. Students work hard to perform kata perfectly. Kata teach students to focus and move their bodies with control.




According to the WISP, the samurai made up Japan's warrior class hundreds of years ago.

Samurai were legendary archers and swordsmen. They were also known for following a strict code of honour.

Perhaps this samurai can tell me about jujitsu.

Excuse me, sir. My name is Isabel. May I join you?

I am Hojo. You may walk with me. But I must warn you. This road is crawling with bandits. We must be alert.



In that case, I'm glad you're a skilled warrior. I've heard the samurai practise jujitsu.

That's true. My jujitsu training started at a very early age.

Am I correct that jujitsu means the "art of flexibility" in Japanese?

Yes. It's a martial art with countermoves for every attack. Jujitsu is full of throws, arm locks, pins, and bone-breaking moves.



## JUDO

Judo wouldn't exist without jujitsu. In 1882, Dr Jigoro Kano set up a school to teach judo, based on the best skills and practices he learned from jujitsu. Today judo is a popular sport worldwide, famous for its powerful throwing and wrestling moves. It has been an Olympic sport since 1964.







HIYAH!

AAAGH!

Well done.



Thanks. My teacher would be proud of that kick.

That reminds me. Does jujitsu have a move called the shadowless kick?

uunnnhh

oowww



Hmmm. I've never heard of it. But it sounds impressive after seeing you kick that bandit.

Then our paths must part, Hojo. Thanks for your help.

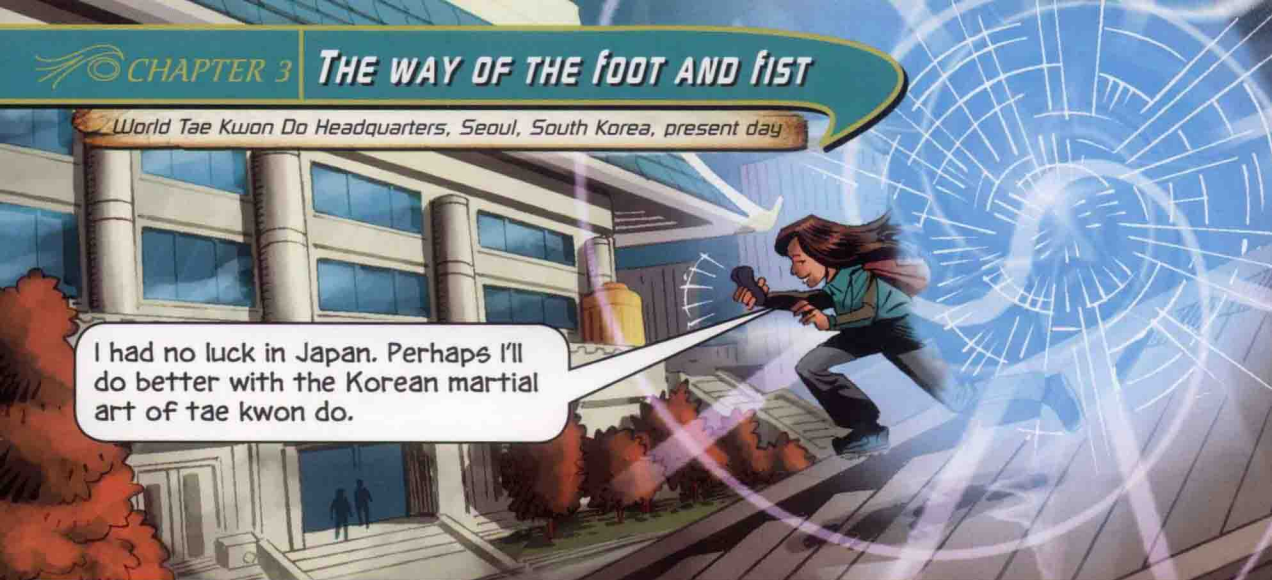


It's time to take my search for the shadowless kick to other parts of Asia.




## CHAPTER 3 THE WAY OF THE FOOT AND FIST

World Tae Kwon Do Headquarters, Seoul, South Korea, present day



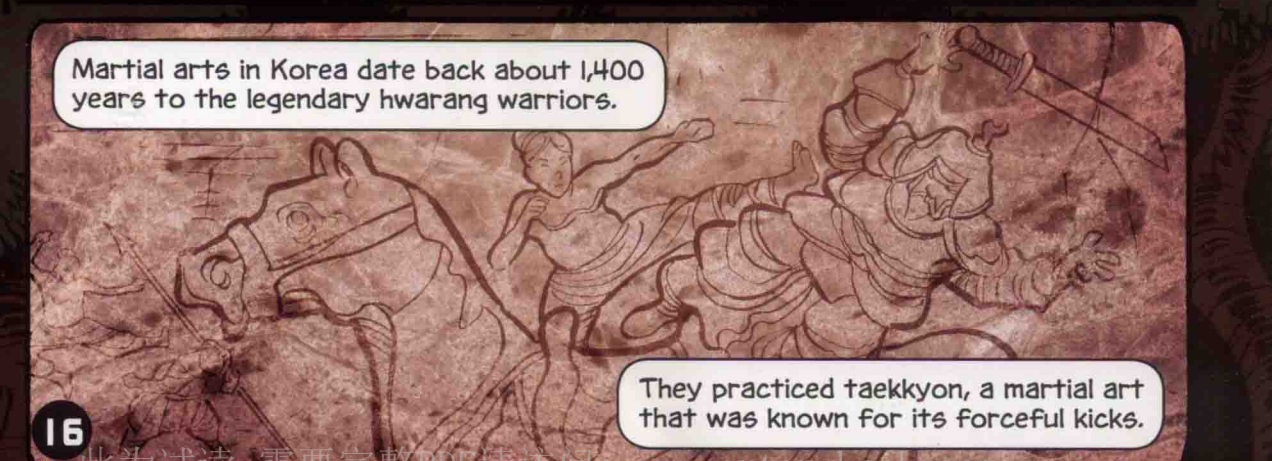
I had no luck in Japan. Perhaps I'll do better with the Korean martial art of tae kwon do.



Can you tell me about the history of tae kwon do?

Certainly. Tae kwon do means "the way of the foot and fist."

Tae kwon do is well known today, but its roots run deep.



Martial arts in Korea date back about 1,400 years to the legendary hwarang warriors.

They practiced taekkyon, a martial art that was known for its forceful kicks.