

MAZEMONOGATARI
NISIOISIN

Magokoro Finisher

Chapter End

Omokage Magokoro

Zaregoto Series



ART: TAKE

001

Omokage Magokoro is Humanity's Final Existence.¹ Whenever she makes her entrance, no matter the story, it's already the end. It doesn't matter if it's a mystery novel, or a fantasy novel, or a biography; in every instance, the curtain will fall. Completely and without distinction.

I've already experienced this fourteen times. Every time I came in contact with someone having a different view of the world, I didn't succeed in building a relationship with that person. Even if I were not myself, or if I were to come in possession of a superior technology, meddling with how something should be and wanting to change the cultural aspects you disagree with is something someone should not be praised for. That is probably not even a cultural issue, but rather a problem related to one's ecosystem. Because my motto can be summarized as "not thinking about something before actually doing

¹ She was supposed to be the successor of Aikawa Jun, who held the title of Humanity's Strongest Contractor herself.

it”, then I was probably the one who caused the disappearance of a bunch of ecosystems.

I overdid it and it’s already too late.

There are secret organizations elaborating theories that the Earth has become an enemy and in which great people have come to believe. But these are theories that no one should talk about. Something along the lines of “don’t intervene, it’s too dangerous”. It’s not about who is superior, or what is good. It’s just plain wrong.

I fundamentally don’t like people who think that we have to kill introduced species or people who call animals harmful when there are too many of them. It’s not about what is good or what is bad. I, myself, want to be killed. I’m one of the harmful animals because I’m a former vampire. People probably see me as an unusual and eccentric person.

Okitegami Kyouko. Aikawa Jun. Chinou Nomi. Doujima Mayumi.

Byouinzaka Kuroneko. Mizukura Risuka. Princess Hitei. Mutou Iori. Hagihara Shiogi. Saijou Tamamo. Yukariki Ichihime.

Chiga Hikari. Chiga Akari. Chiga Teruko.

Niounomiya Izumu, Niounomiya Rizumu.

Aoi Mikoko. Atemiya Muimi. Emoto Tomoe.

Sorakara Kuu. Fudatsuki Rai.²

What did all these people think of me? A savage monster who brings destruction all around himself? Or rather a stranger who is easy to befriend?

Furthermore, because of the glimpses I had of the world of oddities, I managed to confirm some things about me.

For instance, I learned from the way the Blue Savant³ considers jokes to be the center of the world, that arriving to a conclusion is nothing but a miracle. Each time you think you found a conclusion, you have to be extremely careful and fear you’re wrong, without

² All the characters from Nisio Isin’s other series that Araragi met in the previous *Mazemonogatari* arcs.

³ The nickname of Kunagisa Tomo, a blue-haired genius girl who’s one of the protagonists of the *Zaregoto Series*.

exception. But like the immortal body of an oddity, even if you put an end to it, it will keep going. Just look at the state of my body. No further explanation should be needed.

Ending things is difficult.

It's easy to say that dying is easy, but if you think a little bit, it should be obvious that it's the most difficult thing to do. All is well that ends well? In other words, the end is maybe not what is difficult.

It goes without saying.

Omokage Magokoro, the Orange Seed,⁴ the one who ends things miraculously. The successor of Humanity's Strongest Contractor. Member of the Thirteen Stairs, an organization built for the sole purpose of destroying the world.

This splendid personality of hers, visible at all time, having no traces left of her former glory, will without a doubt be the one to bring the end.

⁴ Another one of her titles, given to her because of her orange hair.

002

The fact that, of all things, *I* was the one designated to investigate a strange incident related to the serial killing of serial killers raised a lot of disagreements in my department, as well as a large quantity of discrepancies and a countless number of mistaken ideas. In the first place, having graduated from Manase University, completed the police academy and finished investigating strange rumors in my hometown, Naoetsu Station, for some reason it was decided that I would go abroad, to the United States, at the FBI academy. There were a hundred misunderstandings, a thousand mistaken ideas or probably much more than that, probably about ten thousand or a hundred million. Anyway, I am in the middle of my twenties and still at school...

Was I cursed and forced to graduate again and again from different places? Or rather, was I cursed being given the tasks that the higher-ups didn't want and decided to give to a lower level employee like me? If it's the latter, then this curse probably originated from a childhood friend of mine I met in junior high.

If this keeps going, building a happy life with my girlfriend Senjougahara Hitagi seems out of reach. Nevertheless, I can't get rid

of the shameful impression left by the person who knows everything, Gaen-san. By the way, just before coming to the US, the youngest of my little sisters told me something I didn't understand: "Come on big brother, the way ducks follow their mother in a line is so cute!". The spring break between my second and third year in high school. The spring break where I confronted the iron-blooded, hot-blooded, cold-blooded vampire. I was under the impression that this event dramatically changed my life, but surprisingly, could the one who decided to change it so much be the big sister who knows everything?

Well, maybe we will find another time to speak about this subject. The day I finished my training, I was at a police academy in Virginia (considering my quality as a former vampire, it's quite an inevitable name) and I accepted the request to go to the FBI headquarters in Washington DC.

By the way, manually adding "DC" is probably not to make it sound better, but it's surely to differentiate the city from the state of Washington. Kind of like the difference between Kyoto and Tokyo⁵.

"I am so happy. It's been so long since I had a conversation in Japanese. Anyway, looking at my hairstyle, I⁶ could be considered Japanese I guess."

She said, laughing heartily.

We were inside a room in the headquarters, alone, me and her. And she, Magokoro-chan, laughed.

I, in contrast, for the time being, tried my best doing a Japanese forced smile but it didn't go very well. And then I froze, looking at that aura.

That orange aura.

⁵ Tokyo is the name of the capital, adding 都 (*to*) at the end designates the metropolitan area around the city.

⁶ Magokoro refers to herself using 俺様 (*oresama*) which is a rude and arrogant way to speak of oneself.

Her orange hair was shining, or rather was emitting some kind of light. It was tied in three braids like a shimenawa.⁷ And, although it was not Halloween, she was wearing a maid outfit.

Even if its usage changed over time, a maid outfit is still a maid outfit. No matter how you look at it, it's the type of clothing that has this special connotation. But well, let's accept it as it is. At any rate, this is the United States, the land of freedom. Speaking ill of the clothes of the first person you met, is a mistake in itself and is inelegant as well.

But...

“ER3 System... was it? Or MS-2?⁸ I already know about the FBI or the CIA, but I haven't heard a thing about these two. Magokoro-chan, are you affiliated with them?”

“Nobody never added ‘-chan’ to my name you know, mister the police investigator, Aa-chan.”

And then, she started laughing once again. Even the 600-year-old vampire hidden in my shadow doesn't laugh like that.

Aa-chan?

Nobody never called me like this as far as I remember. It's true that I've been called a pervert but Aa-chan must really be a rare occurrence.

“Well, if I'm being honest, the organization is coming to its end. That's why it's OK if you don't care about them. In any case, I'll still give you an overview about the serial killing of serial killers happening here. People were having trouble with the investigation so they asked me to make it end.”

“...”

People asked Magokoro-chan, a girl still in her teens, to come to the FBI to solve this kind of mystery? She seemed full of confidence talking about the serial killer. No, it was not confidence, she was simply stating facts.

⁷ A sacred rope used in shrines to repel evil spirits.

⁸ In *Zaregoto*, the ER3 System is a research organization located in Houston that gathers the biggest geniuses of the world. MS-2 is a subdivision of ER3.

It was like she was a specialist in making things end. We were sitting one in front of the other and it was like she was trying to show off.

She spoke a fluent Japanese and seemed to possess skills that Japanese people value highly. Furthermore, to make things clear, it was difficult for me to be called a police investigator, I could rather be considered a host.⁹ This time, in order to return to Japan as quickly as possible, it must be better not to show any of my strange aspects to the higher-ups but rather obey the orders I was given.

If I don't, it won't be the case that will be ended but possibly my entire life. I will play a role in what the mass media called "the serial killing of serial killers case".

"Oh, I know about it. This is quite a strange and sensationalist case."

"On the contrary, the reality is much more bizarre. And we should be more precise and not call it the 'serial killing of serial killers case'."

But rather the high-speed killing of serial killers.

Not in a series but at a high speed.

⁹ "Host" here could mean the host of a male host club, or the host of a party or a summit.

003

In Japan, making fun of a dead person is considered to be indiscreet, and even here, in the land of freedom, you can't say anything about someone's death. The case we're interested in is the kind of case where everything looks like it's fabricated, with no sense of reality.

The fact that I was still a trainee (even though my position right now is still fuzzy) doesn't naturally mean that I was not interested in the case, and just hearing the outline of it made it sound very strange.

Well, at the point when I heard that all the fourteen victims were serial killers, it was too late to consider it dark humor. Thinking about these innocent and ordinary citizens, it was really not necessary to add meaningless jokes to an already ugly case.

It's quite an embarrassing story but when I heard the introduction (or rather the scheme) presented by Gaen-san, before coming to the United States, about all the drama that you hear that is happening in foreign countries and what kind of agency the FBI actually is (for a long time, I thought it was an imaginary organization), if you look at the size of the territory of the United States and how vast it is, you can see that the FBI is the only one having the means to investigate such

a wide area. Looking at it from this point of view, it seems not to be an exaggeration to say that the FBI is quite suited to investigating this serial killing of serial killers case.

Indeed, a crime outbreak could happen and quickly extend to all over the country.

Coming from a country composed of islands, there was something that I found difficult to understand: the fact that the crimes were not limited to the North American continent but they kept going even in Hawaii. This made the case not trivial at all.

It was an atrocious case that forced the police to put its perpetrator on a wanted list. A serial killer who killed people in every place and every state. It was this kind of serial killer.

The first serial killer was in Chicago, Illinois.

The second serial killer was in Manhattan, New York.

The third serial killer was in San Francisco, California.

The fourth serial killer was in Denver, Colorado.

The rest goes as follows: the fifth one in Orlando, Florida; the sixth one in Hot Springs, Arkansas; the seventh one in Nashville, Tennessee; the eighth one in Big Island, Hawaii; the ninth one in Dallas, Texas; the tenth one in New Orleans, Louisiana; the eleventh one in Boise, Idaho; the twelfth one in Montgomery, Alabama; the thirteenth one in Milwaukee, Wisconsin; the fourteenth one in Fairbanks, Alaska.

And it keeps going.

Yes, in addition to not being resolved, it's still going. That is why, when journalists write about the murdered persons, it's necessary to add some precisions about the way the victims are counted.

Indeed, this is a "discovery order" rather than a "killing order".

Considering the fact that, if we count Alaska and Hawaii, this country has six time zones, this also made the use of timetables quite difficult. So they decided to use a time that is standard everywhere in the world. The timetable of the discovery of the bodies was quite a mess but the time of deaths were roughly the same.

In this instance, “roughly” means that, from a coroner point of view, not only the murder weapon and the modus operandi were the same, but for all the fourteen victims the time of death was identical-ish.

Identical.

Done in unison.

And we finally arrive to the main issue. From Hawaii in the South, Alaska in the North, New York in the East and until San Francisco in the West.

How is it possible for a single person, the serial killer, to hide himself and kill fourteen persons at roughly the same time?

“Running”

Magokoro-chan said, this time not laughing but with a serious face. Magao-chan.¹⁰

“If you run at full speed, maybe you can make it in time. If you put all your mind into something, then there is nothing you can’t do. That’s something I said to my dear female acolyte one day.”

I don’t know who she’s talking about but she sounds very sarcastic. But I don’t have any proof, it was just a hunch.

“If it was me, then surely I would make it in time.”

“Even if there is approximately four thousand kilo from San Francisco to New York City?”

“Four thousand kilo? So four tons? This seems too much, even for me.”¹¹

“ ... ”

¹⁰ “Serious” is written as 真顔 (*magao*) where the first kanji is the same as in 真心 (*Magokoro*).

¹¹ Here, “kilo” is written as キロ (*kilo*), which can be the abbreviation of either “kilometer” or “kilogram”.

Is she an idiot?

I mentioned that we were in a room in the FBI headquarters but we were actually close to the reception office, in something called the VIP room. It didn't seem to be the type of room used by investigators but I was not the one to judge the VIP quality of the room, being alone with that girl.

I already knew that, in this country, people traditionally used miles instead of kilometers but if this girl is boasting that she can run five thousand miles with four tons on her back, this would yield other types of problems.

I wonder how many pounds four tons correspond to?

“Traversing Canada starting from Alaska, going to the other side of the country and passing through the sea to reach Hawaii, that's impossible.”

“Ah! You're right! Aa-chan, this is really smart you know?”

Can you stop calling me Aa-chan.

But things are starting to fall into place.

Why did the FBI call this girl here for this “unofficial” meeting? She had to be not an idiot, considering that we're talking about the FBI.

The reason I, Araragi Koyomi, was called here is probably because of my Japanese skills, but I wonder why this girl is receiving such a special treatment.

It was probably a different reason than why a newcomer like me, who doesn't understand English at all and who isn't living in the United States, was chosen. I also hope it wasn't because of a selfish reason like “I am nostalgic of hearing people speaking Japanese and I want to hear one even if he can't help in the investigation”.

A special treatment.

“Ah, that’s because I’m the senior of the culprit in this case, in the sense that I’ve also killed serial killers. Although the ones I did in weren’t murderers but murdering demons.”¹²

“Hmm?”

What was that? Did I mishear something?

Did she just confess here, at the FBI headquarters? This girl, is she here to surrender?

“Well, all of this was made possible by Migishita Rurero¹³ and she is kind of crazy. That was a case of legitimate self-defense.”

She said it like it was the most natural thing but I’m not sure if it’s the correct legal term to use in this situation. Well, rather than trying to see if it was a slip of the tongue or not, as a vampire and not a serial killer, this aligns with my value system. Value system, or maybe my view of the world.

It’s not that I can’t be worried about it. But, Migishita Rurero?

The way she said it made it sound like a really great name.

“Thinking that the killer gathered in one place all of the people he wanted to kill and killed them before transporting the dead bodies to their location may be a valid assumption. But unfortunately, the area covered by the bodies is way too vast.”

Vast. An investigation in a vast territory.

It’s strange that after all he did, the culprit didn’t try to repeat it in foreign countries. If dead bodies were to be found in, for example, the Territory of Guam or in Japan (which is an ally of the United States) then it wouldn’t seem so strange. If we look at all the serial killers who are on the wanted list, they all have something in common: strong patriotic feelings and they consider themselves “heroes of justice” who kill to maintain the public order.

¹² The term commonly used to refer to the members of the Zerozaki clan in *Zaregoto*.

¹³ Another member of the Thirteen Stairs.

At the very least, before starting an investigation in the whole country, determining the whereabouts of the criminal should have been the first priority.

But, if this is the kind of serial killer who thinks he can sentence people to death and who kills for his own sense of justice, then clearly he underestimated the history of the human race.

This is not something that can be forgiven.

This is not justice, this is just a crime.

Furthermore, this heinous criminal should have memorized the states where the death penalty doesn't exist and used this information to kill the fourteen victims as well as the persons around them. It's difficult to think that the grudge he is holding makes him express such a righteous indignation. I feel that he is cold and inhumane.

Without passion.

Just like it was all an experiment.

"It's not like there was a lot of time between the discovery of the first and fourteenth bodies. That's why it's difficult to think that he used some kind of trick to move them."

"Well, if he were that easygoing, what about the livor mortis? If he moved them, then surely there would be proofs. Bodies will also start to rot."

"Hmm, didn't we already talk about this specific point?"

I thought that we should appropriately talk about the context of this case but it appears I forgot to ask obvious questions like what was the "murder weapon" and what was the "modus operandi" of the killer. Even though I'm used to going off the rails in strange conversations.

"The murder weapon was a freezer."

"A freezer?"

I thought about cracking a joke but Magokoro-chan looked quite bashful, like she enjoyed it.

So cute.

“Are you saying that the serial killer hit people in the head with the corner of a freezer? That’s terrific. Was he accompanied by someone who killed women and children with maracas?”¹⁴

“He was not.”

I wanted to hear details. No, that’s wrong, I didn’t.

But, I didn’t want to believe that the serial killer smashed a freezer on the heads of all of the fourteen victims. If he really had this strength and were boasting about it, then even though I couldn’t think of him as a “hero of justice”, I would probably respect him.

However, I could only shake thinking about it.

Precisely because of the freezer.

“The culprit used a powerful freezer specifically made for companies, put each one of his victims into it and froze them. And on top of that, he smashed them into pieces.”

This wasn’t an act worthy of a hero or even a human being.

It’s surely because of that reason that the last body to be discovered was the one in Alaska. If someone were to find a frozen dead body in Fairbanks, which is mainly composed of ice, then he would probably think that this was an accident since it’s so common over there. That’s why the news came in late.

On the contrary, in Hawaii, or even in the north of Florida for instance, or in the state of Texas where the headquarters of ER3 are located, when a frozen dead body is discovered, then even if I didn’t see it, it must have been horrible to watch.

This case goes beyond a simple killer attracted to the bizarre.

It may even look like something an oddity would do. It may be possible that I was chosen to come here not because I speak Japanese but precisely because of that. Like they want to build a dedicated section “FBI Monster” to investigate oddity-related cases, but I question the feasibility of such a project.

¹⁴ This is a reference to Zerozaki Magashiki from the *Ningen Series* (which is itself a spin-off of *Zaregoto*). He’s a sound user who plays music (including a pair of black maracas) to control minds and kill people.

“Hmm? Yes, there is one, absolutely. If it weren’t, why would I be here? I mentally prepared myself a long time ago. There’s no other thing to do than ending this brutal and hopeless case as soon as possible and as fast as possible.”

“We shouldn’t talk about speed but rather about height. And I was not speaking about the case.”

I was speaking about a reason to make the world end, Aa-chan.

That’s what Humanity’s Final Orange Existence said.

She was giving an ultimatum.

“Do you know when the world will be coming to its end, Aa-chan? It’s when you see your limits and look at your future.”

That is why, it’s not about you Aa-chan, she said.

005

And now for the epilogue, or rather, the punchline of this story.

Or should I say the punchline of the whole story.

After becoming a working adult and continuing to undergo some training, the memories of my time as a student were still present. But well, by growing old and experiencing new things, I started to see the complexity of our society. The world we live in is complex and full of complicated and mysterious elements.

No matter the case, no matter the incident, no matter how many times I ran out of words, I know that there are stories where I didn't say everything I wanted to say. Not to mention that for riddles and their resolutions, it's impossible to explain them in a few words.

One day Ougi-chan mentioned that the mystery novels that privilege the "resolution" part over the "questioning" part can appropriately be called masterpieces. I didn't understand the reasoning very well, probably because we were speaking about enigmatic stories wrapped in mystery. Nevertheless, it's possible that our world is made up of a lot of different case files.

However, if we were to limit ourselves to the current case, then we can only consider it an exception among exceptions. Magokoro-chan made the impossible possible.

Concerning the murder cases happening in every state of the United States where fourteen people died, without being a police investigator or a famous detective, the Orange Seed stated it like this.

“They were all disseminated from space.”

A few words.

With that, everything was, of course, not finished, but rather, simply by hearing it, the rest of the case lost its interest. It was that kind of shock. A crime whose proportions can be compared to the ones of a whole country. That seemed totally unreasonable but the scale of the resolution totally transcended it.

I see.

And with that, it came to an end.

We can accept that explanation as the resolution for this case, but all the other crimes happening on the surface of the Earth will still remain. One can say that the serial murders weren't restricted to the flat surface of the Earth but were actually three-dimensional. But they were more than three-dimensional, the killer also controlled time.

The high-speed killing case.

Now I understand what Magokoro-chan said previously. I'm talking about the enigmatic “The further something is, the faster you can get to it”.

A highly intelligent person, but lacking in practical skills.

Hearing what she said, we can conclude that the murder scene must also be located in a high place.

Not at high speed, but rather at high altitude.

At high altitude, at a very high altitude.

Much more than four thousand kilometers.

More like ten or twenty times this distance. The serial killer must have found a way to be in a position over the United States and then dropped the bodies from that very same place, in the same direction,

with small changes in angle in order for the bodies to be scattered in every direction. He could even have scattered them more if he had the possibility to aim at specific locations.

It's the same image as when in a movie, a military satellite fires a laser. With small adjustments on the angle of the direction of the laser, without moving, the satellite can target a specific location or even half of the world.

Without moving.

No, in reality, it's moving at high speed. Just like a satellite in geosynchronous orbit, adding the gravitational pull of the Earth and rotation speed, it will keep moving.

Precisely because it's very far.

Even though I said "because it's very far", among the tricks that the I-know-everything class president taught me, I remember it's not completely correct to say that the more time an object is falling, the higher its speed is. In reality, because of the air resistance, the speed doesn't increase that much. That's why in exam questions, it's often written "we will neglect the air resistance in the following".

That explains why when something falls from the stratosphere, even though it falls from a very high point, it doesn't dash onto the surface of the Earth at the speed of light. And yet, just like most meteorites, precisely because of the air resistance, shouldn't the bodies thrown by the serial killer burn out during their fall?

No, it's not that.

They froze.

We assumed that the murder weapon was a company-class freezer where in reality, it was simply space.

It seems the scale of this event is becoming quite huge.

It can look like I'm wrong, saying that the bodies froze, but contrary to what you see in manga and anime, when a human body is thrown out in space, it surprisingly doesn't explode. Instead, it freezes in place.

At the moment a person is thrown out in the vacuum and before dying from suffocation, that person will die from the cold. In an instant.

Instant freeze.

This explains why even though the bodies received quite some frictional heat because of the air resistance, they didn't burn up. Ice doesn't burn, high temperature and low temperature cancel each other.

And then, the bodies fell on the surface, as blocks of ice.

The fact that they were smashed to pieces depended on how soft the surface they landed on was.

Of course, I'm not saying that I know that such kind of events is possible. In fact, there are no traces in official records, and of course no proof from a scientific point of view that such a thing can happen or already happened.

But it's safe to say that, at least it was not the case up until now.

If people were to hear about this new killing technique, then surely, in an instant, it will propagate in every corner of the world. People will start considering it seriously and this "trick" will become a real possibility. And it won't be a lie to say that the world will come to its end.

Just like the heliocentric theory and the theory of evolution, the old world will give its place to a new one.

Seeing your limits and looking at your future.

With today's point of view, the so-called locked-room mysteries which use simple tricks like wires, needles or fingerprints; or the way old vehicles were powered by electricity coming from overhead lines, this all looks cute and nostalgic. Considering the paradigm shift occurring in the crime world that is happening just before our eyes,

openly in public, it goes without saying that I was quite shaken. Nevertheless, I didn't get Magokoro-chan's true motive.¹⁶

The case was indeed solved, but.

But, she didn't say that she didn't make the world end. Just like she was targeting her prey that she had already beaten, she dealt the finishing blow.

“In other words, the culprit is an alien.”

Far from being speechless, she was on the verge of annihilating me.

Having been the first person to die from the shock of hearing the solution of a riddle, Araragi Koyomi will leave his name in the world of mystery novels. Remembered in history. But in fact, some things still remain unclear.

The first one is the fact that all the investigating authorities couldn't ascertain the hideout of someone who killed fourteen persons, the second one being that every person involved locked this case behind closed doors to not leak out that it was related to space and aliens. Furthermore, for every victim, it seems like a precise region was targeted, like the culprit chose, at his own discretion and from outer space, the timezone he wanted the body to fall in. The question remains of why did he focus on the United States while he could have chosen other countries to scatter the bodies to make it even more complicated. At this point, it's still difficult to determine the motive of this serial killer, who possesses a vast knowledge and seems to be blessed by luck. It seems easier to think that this is an alien case of cattle mutilation¹⁷.

Even if he's an alien, a mystery stays a mystery.

That's quite an epic adventure.

Like it was all an experiment. An experiment on humans.

He is the culprit. Or rather not.

¹⁶ Here, “true motive” is written as 真意ちゃん (*shin'ichan*), the first kanji being once again the same as in Magokoro and with the suffix *-chan* added.

¹⁷ Refers to the killing and mutilation of cattle under unusual circumstances that happened and is happening worldwide.

We are the aliens, he probably thought something like that.

If he came to prepare for the invasion of the Earth, why did he choose this specific country, focus on these specific locations? Nobody seems to be able to explain the true reasons behind his ulterior motive. He is part of a civilization, or rather a foreign civilization.

That is something I can fully comprehend.

Looking at it from the other side, we are a foreign civilization to other people, like a totally different universe. The kind of universe where people have smartphones and where the majority of human beings believe in reincarnation.

He seemed to have underestimated the principles and history of mankind. That is the kind of line that can unexpectedly be considered as a declaration of war towards alien species, so if it happens to be the case in the future, I'll complete revoke these words.

During my teens, I naively thought that everything happening to me was due to oddities, but now I seemed to have abandoned this way of thinking. And now that I have abandoned it, what should I do next?

I kept training my self-control, but if I were to thrust myself before the truth that I am afraid of, as an unlicensed narrator without any qualifications, my only choice would be to hold my tongue. The funny and imprudent contacts between different cultures I experienced, they all end here.

They surely end here.

I experienced the sharp judgements of a forgetful detective; I've left the task of fighting a space alien up to a contractor; I showed an example of what not to do to a magical girl who likes to play with people's lives; I lost my temper with a boy from a detective club only composed of handsome boys; I built a relationship with a shut-in woman who wore bloomers; I helped a magical girl who ruled with her blood becoming an adult; I learned the double negative from an inspector-general; I met a cutthroat murderer who kills solely to serve her family; I encountered a fair and square strategist; I had doubts about a maid triplet; I completely changed my opinion about twins who were professional killers; a close friend I made in university kept me away from danger; I helped a hero who was boasting about having an unusual kill-death ratio; I defeated a skillfull playboy; and I resolutely accepted the end.¹⁸ But even though.

For the last line, I have to say a few words. For the final line, I have only a few words to say.

We¹⁹ are stubborn.

¹⁸ Each part of this sentence summarizes a previous *Mazemonogatari* arc, going in order.

¹⁹ Here, the kanji used are 物語 (*monogatari*, “story”) while the furigana that are used to indicate the pronunciation are われわれ (*wareware*, “we”). It can interpreted as “we”, “stories” or even as the “*Monogatari Series*” itself.



M A Z E M O N O G A T A R I

MAGOKORO FINISHER — CHAPTER END

TRANSLATED ALIEN LANGUAGE: NYOREM & POLARIS
ADAPTED IT TO OUR WORLDVIEW: BLUEX
MADE THE NONSENSE MAKE SENSE: THE D3RP
BROUGHT EVERYTHING TO ITS END: MAXDEFOLSCH