

The Einkerbolt Anthology

Meet the nefarious Doctor Einkerbolt as he schemes to defeat Kira and claim the Treasure of South Ward for himself.

Average 1pm General Store Moment

It was 1pm, and Kira was kicking herself for not grabbing lunch sooner. I mean, what was she thinking? She knew this was the busiest time of the day but she was too caught up in coming up with new design concepts that she didn't end up coming earlier. Now she was stuck in a queue with everyone else and their damn grandmother. The old lady smell rolled off Ms. Anafalaxis sardined directly in front.

Kira looked over at the counter. Poor Sam. He had his work cut out for him. If only he could do her shopping first! She already knew how much it cost, she had the coins ready in her pocket. All she bought was just some bread and sandwich fillers...!

The line dragged on... ugh, it was so boring!
If only there was something that could conveniently happen to make it more entertaining!

Kira gazed at the others in the queue.
There was Uncle Ling...
The hunky butcher that sold them the smoked ribs...
Isabelle was here too, a few people up.
But then there was someone else in front of her.
Kira couldn't quite see who. He was a lot shorter than Izzy, and she had to lean all the way around to see any part of him at all.
He walked up to the counter and placed a couple of batteries onto it.
"Hello" spoke the voice she didn't recognise, "can you tell me where the treasure of South Ward is?"
Kira frowned, and listened as Sam spoke to the odd customer.
"No?" Sam's brief, blunt responses should have been enough but the mystery man needed more.
"Excuse me? What do you mean no? Do you know who I am? You will tell me where the treasure of South Ward is!!"
Everyone in the line began to stir. Isabelle looked back and saw Kira, and she nodded back, but Ms. Anafalaxis just wouldn't get out of the way!

Soon the mystery figure turned, revealing big pointy ears and sickly green skin.

"A HALF-ELF LEPER GNOME!!" Isabelle squealed like the perfect damsel in distress. The mystery figure turned to her for a second and replied "No! I'm a Goblin... the most intelligent goblin in Stormwind!"
He pressed a button on the metal harness he wore, and soon a long mechanical arm unfolded and stretched outwards high above him (so, reaching about five feet tall) and snared Sam by the neck before lifting him up.
"I am Doctor Einkerbolt! And the Treasure of South Ward will be mine!!"

The ground under Ms. Anafalaxis shifted quickly to the side, bringing her with it. Soon, a whorl of wind came rushing out and smashed the goblin straight into the wall!

His grip on Sam faltered in that short moment, and he turned his attention to Kira.

"Who are you?" He sneered.

"Someone who's just trying to buy some LUNCH!"

Kira had seen enough.

She didn't bother talking and trying to explain that the treasure didn't actually exist at all. If someone was crazy enough to try breaking into a general store in the middle of the day and assault the cashier, they needed a reality check... and a few broken teeth too!

One whirlwind punch, then another, and another. Kira pushed him against the back wall, all while the rest of the people in the queue stirred and unsettled, trying to find a way out! Sam gasped for breath and hid behind the countertop. The doctor had nowhere else to go and with his back against the wall, Kira's punches did little more to hold him back. He planted his feet and leveraged his mechano arm against her, three fingers around her head, and slammed her into the wooden countertops and smashed her through the shelves.

"Let this be a lesson," Einkerbolt cackled, "that anyone who questions my greatness will be pummelled!"

Kira gagged, spurring out a few words in between impacts. "Don't just stand there. Run, or something!" and soon everyone filed out from the shop, leaving her and the goblin to take this brawl seriously. She'd not been using Earth for fear of making a mess and hurting other people but now she was able to cut loose. Einkerbolt held her in a death grip, slowly choking her, but stomping caused stone to burst out from under the floorboards and squish him against the ceiling. Kira took a breath and pinned him down for as long as she could, until she heard a cry for help.

"Ohhh dearie me it seems I've been stuck under a pile of rubble ohhhhh..." Ms. Anafalaxis was, indeed, caught under a pile of rubble and Kira split her attention off from the aggressor to go save her. For as annoying as she was, the old woman was still an old woman and definitely didn't deserve to have the shopping trips she presumably enjoyed disturbed like this.

Kira vaulted over a broken shelf and lifted up the pieces of shattered wood by hand, eventually helping her free, but turned to find the doctor had somehow managed to squeeze himself out and come back with a vengeance. His robotic arm spun wildly in large wheeling motions, a knife held in its grip.

"Get out of here, lady!" Kira shouted, letting the doddering old woman past and wobbling out the door all the while dodging and weaving and parrying slashes from the mad scientist.

When the coast was clear, Kira shot out a hand of her own from the stone to wrestle with his, and they were caught at a standstill.

"There's no treasure!" Kira spat, not even considering that perhaps just maybe she should have tried this from the start. "It was just some rumour made up by smugglers!"

Dr. Einkerbolt refused to believe it. "No, I know the treasure is real! And the only one worth such riches is an intelligence as grand as mine!"

“Too bad your intelligence isn’t gonna stop you from getting your balls crunched!”

While Dr. Einkerbolt had only one means of attack, Kira had multiple. She kicked out him with quick shots at his groin, and he dodged to the side by shifting his hips either to the left or the right, all while they were still caught in their magi-mechanical armwrestle. She heard the metal groan under the strain of her stonefist, sparks flying from the weaker machine, it could not withstand the strain for long!

“You ready to give up and say sorry yet?” She asked with a grin.

“If there is one thing you must learn... is that I will never, EVER apologise for my genius!” The goblin had planned to find some way to escape and make a run for it, but Kira sealed the deal by ripping his mechanical arm off the harness and ending the fight then and there.

She frowned. “Now. Are you leaving out the front door, or through the express route..?”

He scoffed. “Whatever could the express route be?”

Kira yanked open a hole in the stone ceiling and slingshotted him high and far out from the border of South Wall, causing him to land with a large splash in the canal.

And then, later that evening...

“That girl... that insolent girl! She doesn’t know who I am! She doesn’t know how much I sacrificed to find that treasure!” Dr. Einkerbolt seethed, pacing around his workshop in Midtown just six feet underneath South Ward. “I mean, I have a doctorate after all! But I won’t let her stop me... no one will stop me! I’ll come back again, and again, and again, stronger each time! One day she’ll take me seriously! One day I will prove myself to be the most dangerous, most intelligent individual in the world!

And when I finally have the treasure... they’ll be begging for my mercy.”

He grinned, and immediately set to work on his next even more diabolical invention. For what it was worth, Dr. Einkerbolt was a genius... and he always learned from his mistakes.

He analysed the data, and saw the performance of a single mechanical arm was lacking.

That was what caused him to lose.

Next time... he would be prepared.

South Ward Zone, Act 1

THUD

THUD

THUD!

“KIRA! I’m heading out. Have the shopping done by the time I get back!”

“Urgh! Fine!”

Kira rubbed her head,
She dragged on her jeans,
And tossed on her jacket,
Then tied her laces,

Barely ten in the morning,
Saturdays are meant for lay-ins and chill reading,
Maybe a bit of project work on the side.
Who does this bitch think she is?
Not even a question, no please and thank you?
Fuck her, then! I’m gonna have fun with it.

Kira burst out from her window and sprinted the wrong way to the store.
She doesn’t get to tell me what to do.
But if I go far enough I’ll circle back around to it at some point, yeah?
It’s not like I’m in a rush!

Stairs turned to slides, walls split down the middle to make way,
Sparks flew as she skated down a railing and swerved into main street.

Uncle Ling smelled the aroma of a fresh curry and poured it over rice into a bowl.
He added the cutlets with perfect precision before leaning over the counter to hand it to Tobbin...
“YOINK!”

A gust of wind rushed past, and just as quickly they both had empty hands.

Kira plowed past, holding the bowl and spoon tight.
A dead end was coming up but turning wasn’t an issue,
The paving stone underfoot spun and chose a new direction for her,
But then she barrelled straight towards a crossing!

“Oooooooooohhhhhhhh... dearie... however will I cross this road...”

Ms. Anafalaxis was on one side of the road and Kira stopped dead in her tracks to let her past.

“Good morning Kira... lovely day, isn’t it...”

“Yeah it’s fine I guess.”

It was pretty sunny for a day in winter, but I kinda don’t give a shit about the weather when my shit’s getting cold!

One second passed.

Two seconds passed.

HAS SHE EVEN TAKEN A STEP YET?

“Oooooohhhh my knees are wibbly wobbly this morning ohhh...”

“I’ll help you—” Kira said and just fuckin’ shoved the lady across by moving her like she was sushi on a conveyor belt.

“You good?”

“Thank you Dearie, I...”

Kira was already gone, blasting off like a bullet.

Road’s gonna take longer.

Kira kicked the ground, launched, somersaulted high, kept the lid of her curry shut, covered two streets but fell too fast, she kicked again, made the air solid for a second, front-flipped and landed on the rooftops. She covered three more roads and then found where she wanted.

Finally, I can munch in peace.

A wave of relaxation washed over her, Saturday Morning Bliss reclaimed once again...

The curry was all fucked up inside but isn’t it meant to be mixed in? No biggie.

Bzzzzz...

She opened the curry, grabbed a spoonful. She tried to ignore it.

Bzzzzzzz...

Ignoring didn’t last long.

“Piss off, wasp! It’s December!”

Bzzz....

“ALRIGHT YOU’RE GETTING SMACKED!”

Kira looked up to see propellers instead of wings, a big bulgy ball body instead of a tiny bug, but its stinger was angry and pointed a red laser at her.

>[NUISANCE DETECTED. ELIMINATE.]

Kira shoved the spoon into her mouth.

Can’t go five fuckin’ minutes without someone interrupting me huh?

Can’t a girl even eat a curry in peace?

The laser dot on the Einkerbot’s beam emitter grew brighter.

Her day was getting ruined, whether she wanted it to or not.

South Ward Zone, Act 2

An angry bolt of energy blasted out from the beam on the bot, and all the other b's Kira could think of, but when she backflipped out with the ease of the breeze she balked to realise it had blown her bowl to smithereens.

"My breakfast! Bastard!"

>[TARGET STILL DETECTED AS A NUISANCE. SUMMONING REINFORCEMENTS.]

"No chance!" Kira was continually glad she happened to be an Earth Wielder in a city conveniently built half of concrete and stone, so that she could kick up a spear-point and hurl it into the eye of a machine like she just did.

Sparks flew, steel cracked, bla-bla, every fuckin' robot goes down the same way it's not like she had to describe it!

A swarm of Einkerbots came in, the buzzing made her seal her ears shut.

There were like thirty of them or more, too many to take on at once.

Gotta get moving. When you piss off the nest, you gotta find the queen, right?

More bots flew in, shots firing, singing the corners of the trainers she really shouldn't have worn out if she wanted to avoid them getting fucked up. She bounded rooftops, clearing street-wide gaps in a single jump, but even with her speed the buzzers would keep up with her every step.

Drake loomed in the shadow of a building below.

When it started to rain, it seemed to rain only on him...

He reminisced about his past trauma... the anguish... the pain...

Those dark, and very very deep thoughts, were broken as the rush of wind trailing behind Kira hit him, and then the sight of the Einkerbot Swarm.

"I'm sure she can handle it..." He said to himself... his incredibly depressing tragic backstory definitely had very good reasons for him to not get involved... which isn't relevant right now... but he'd totally want you to ask him about it either way...

Kira skated down a rooftop and kicked a line of shingles out which blasted a few more bots, but it wasn't like that was gonna slow the rest down.

She carved out a ramp from the side of a wall and redirected herself off it, and a few more blew up when they couldn't turn like her and smashed into a pancake shape.

"Haha, that's right you fuckers, get shit on!"

Bzzz....

Kira realised too late her gloating was gonna be her downfall too.

Half of the bots had somehow gotten in front of her, and she hadn't noticed it because she was a dumb little baby and decided to look away from where she was going.

Six lasers hit her all at once, and sent her crashing down through the window of the next building over...

South Ward Zone Boss, Doctor Einkerbolt

Kira flew through the window.

Face? Meet floor.

She had probably the least impressive or awesome badass entrance she could possibly think of.

Thud, thud, thud... SPLORT.

While her brain was still sloshing around in a remarkably vacant skull, her eyes tried to process who the blurry figure was in front of her.

She got colour first; a stinky green.

Then the general shape; he was short and had a big moustache.

Finally, depth perception kicked in. He was right in front...

"So you flew straight into my trap... Kira the Human!"

"It's you..." She mumbled, head still hurting and the burn spots from the laser's fire on her chest hurt pretty bad too. "Professor Tinkerbolt..."

"NO! That's another, far less evil and intelligent engineer from the other end of town..." He held his hands up in villainous triumph, the crack of thunder played from a tape recorder behind him like he had set this moment up explicitly, then brightened the lights for a split second like a flash of lightning.

"I AM... THE NEFARIOUS... DOCTOR EINKERBOLT!"

Kira looked at him blankly. "That was kinda lame not gonna lie."

Einkerbolt ignored that rude and uncalled for comment and spoke with the same betrayal of a wife who just knows her husband is cheating on her and forced his pneumatic arm to pin her down. "You didn't come sooner... I had to drag you here... you disabled my spy drone three weeks ago and didn't come after me right away?"

Kira tried to push herself off the floor, but the Doctor's mechanical arm held her against it.

"I've been kinda busy? There's been the holidays, and like, Rosie's been annoyed with me and we can't really go without her..."

Einkerbolt shed a tear. "Just tell me... just tell me you don't care! Tell me you think I'm a filler villain!"

"No! No, nothing like that, mate, you're great, it's just..."

As soon as his grip loosened, Kira swept herself out of it with a gust of wind, and flung her arm out!

[PILLAR PUNCH]!!

Boo-womp.

Nothing happened.

Einkerbolt held his hands to his mouth, but could not stop the fit of diabolical laughter erupting from his mouth.

"NYEHEHAHAHHAHA!"

You fool, you absolute buffoon!

I studied your abilities... there is no earth for you in this entire room to control, because it is entirely made out of wood and metal! Unless you can wield those too, you have no chance of defeating me."

"I dunno... I've never tried." Kira stopped for a moment to consider it. "Pretty sure in some of the old books Wren tried to get me to read, which by the way I never read so I shouldn't

know this, say wood and metal are classed either as elements on their own or as part of earth."

"Nyeh! I'm tired of you magic users and the inconsistent and poorly established boundaries of your abilities! I'll just have to finish you here and now!"

Einkerbolt had come prepared. Kira was ready to face down one pneumatic arm but in his infinite wisdom he was already two steps ahead of her, and this time had two! Kira audibly gulped, and heard the boss' music begin to play.

"Try pushing me around with your wind now, Kira the Human!"

"You don't need to call me 'the Human', it's reductive!"

Kira started the fight again, this time with her gale punches. The force would be enough to rattle someone's cheeks or make a wig comedically fly off a bald person's scalp but Einkerbolt used his arms to hold himself firmly in place, slowly crawled forwards, and when an opening presented he punched her far away!

Kira smashed into the wall, backed into a corner already, and saw Einkerbolt come in again. She bobbed, weaved, went for the dick, Einkerbolt groaned and hunched over, Kira ran up the wall and flipped off and aimed an axe kick straight at his head but the Einker-arms caught her and flung her away!

Kira wasn't doing too well with this fight, was she?

Just how much did she rely on Earth?

Even with two elements, one was still her main.

One to strike, one to defend.

Wind got her out of dodge for the hits she couldn't block, but it couldn't deal out the punishment.

Kira was on the back foot, Einkerbolt laughed with maniacal glee as he caught her again and again.

"Ever since you kicked my butt, I've planned to get my own back on you!"

Kira had time between dodges and beatings to reply. "It's kinda weird? Like, a man should not be this obsessed with someone!"

"If there's one thing you must learn, Kira the Human, it is that I respect women!"

"By beating them up???" Kira was just as confused as anyone would be, especially from a dude with a moustache like that.

"No, by unleashing my full powerful mind against them!"

Einkerbolt's Einker-arms snatched her, smashed her against the ceiling like she had done to him last time, and then extended all the way out to smash her into the floor.

Kira tried to recover, and groaned as she felt her bones creaking... Tobbin would have his work cut out for him later...

She felt a drip of water land in her eye and grimaced... when she got smashed into the roof, the ceiling pipe bent and started leaking...

Einkerbolt came close to her again and asked. "So... are you ready to submit... and admit my superioriteah?" He added a little emphasis onto that bit at the end because he thought it made him sound more menacing.

"Why... why are you doing this?"

"To get the Treasure of South Ward! Were you even listening to me last time?"

Kira looked sideways. "Not really...?"

"So you interrupt my plans, kick my butt, make me go through all this effort of tracking you down and you're not even paying attention to me?"

"I dunno! It sounds like you're some crazy conspiracy theorist or something! The Treasure of South Ward isn't real, we already looked for it, it turned out it was some cult shit that already got blown up ten years ago. I remember telling you that at least!"

Einkerbolt sneered at her. "You think you found the treasure... I know it's real... and once I dispose of you... I'll finally be free to pursue it!"

The Einker-arm loomed over her, curling its fingers into a fist, winding up for a punch...

"Hey Einkerbolt..." Kira grinned.

"What now...?"

"You reek. When was the last time you took a shower?"

At that moment, Kira held her arms up and yanked the water out from the pipe downwards and flooded the room! Einkerbolt shrank away, feeling the disgusting pipe-water dig all the way into his clothes, and this time when he tried to hit Kira his Einker-arms sparked and crackled and glitched out!

"No... what have you done? My Einker-arms! You can control water? Since when?!"

"Since this whole time, buddy! I just haven't had my training arc for it yet!"

"IMPOSSIBLE! THIS WASN'T FORESHADOWED AT ALL!"

Nothing would stop her from laying the smackdown this time.

[RUSHING WIND SLAP!]

[SLICING AIR SLASH!]

[MASSIVE CYCLONE SWIPE!]

Kira felt the elements stir in her spirit and it was like they told her it was time for the finishing move.

She put her fists up and moved towards Einkerbolt, he stumbled back, throwing his hands out to block them, "nononono stop waitcanwetalkaboutthis?!?"

"YOU HAD YOUR CHANCE!

NOW TAKE THIS!

[ONE MILLION FUCKING PUNCHES!!!]

Maybe it wasn't quite that many, but Kira flung an incredible amount of blows towards Einkerbolt so quickly the force of the first blow hadn't even pushed him away by the second, and the third, and the fourth, and over and over and over again, until finally they all stacked together to blast the bastard out the window!

Kira turned away and stuck her hands in her pockets, and finished him off with a badass one-liner. "Domo arigato..."

Kira finally got back home and slumped on the couch.

Wren was in the kitchen doing the washing up.

"You're back. And sopping wet! Did you get into a fight?"

"Yeah, brawled Einkerbolt again."

"Well that's good. How were the shops?"

Kira's eyes sunk into her head...

"AW, FUCK!"

Einkerbolt floated back to his lair, carried by his flying Einkerbots.
“That Kira... that human... she won’t get away with this... she won’t!
THE TREASURE OF SOUTH WARD WILL BE MINE!
AND I WON’T LET A SINGLE MAGE STAND IN MY WAY!!!”

The Survey

Kira was walking home from work and saw a dude at the side of the road handing out paper to passers-by.
She ignored it and walked past.

“Psst. Hey.”

“HEY!”

He got Kira’s attention by shouting. He was dressed up in this big beige trenchcoat with a massive fedora that shadowed out most of his face, but Kira just assumed it was because today was pretty cold.

“You wanna answer a survey?”

“Couldn’t care less mate.” Kira kept walking.

“WAIT! I’ll pay you a gold if you do.”

Kira stopped mid-step, backpedalled, shuffled, moonwalked back in front of him.

“Give it here.”

She snapped the paper out of his hand and took his clicky pen before writing on the board.

Name: Kira

Surname: ...

Well, Kira didn’t have one. She’d managed to get this far without needing one but was curious about what it would be. Wren’s master was Wren’s mom, technically, adoptive through some transient name properties. And she was Wren’s sister so they’d have the same mom by the same property. Therefore, she’d have the same name. Probably.

Surname: Stonestrike

DoB: 30/10/20

Birthplace: Stormwind

Current Address: 57 Old King Llane’s Ln, South Ward, Old Town

City: Stormwind

Magical Capabilities: (Yes)/No

Are you an Elementalist?: Yes/No

Kira stopped and mumbled. “Pretty specific survey, huh. What’s this for?”

Trenchcoat guy replied. “For uhm... a targeted advertising campaign.”

“Ugh.”

Are you an Elementalist?: (Yes)/No

If Yes, please circle all the elements you are able to control.

Primary: (Earth) (Water) Fire (Air)

Secondary: (Sand) (Mud) Oil (Dust) Metal Lava (Crystal) Bone Ice Vapor Blood Heat

Combustion Smoke Lightning Breath Pressure Sound

Chemical:

It then listed off the entire periodic table, but I’m not writing all that out.

Kira didn't circle any of it because she's a dumbass who doesn't know what it means anyway.

The questions continued to worsen.

Are You All Alone?: (Yes)/No

Would anyone come looking for you if you went missing? Yes/(No)

Are you susceptible to being punched repeatedly in the back of the head? (Yes)/No

The final question should have been telling.

To whom does the Treasure of South Ward belong? Free-Answer question.

Rosie

Kira flipped to check that this shit wasn't double sided, and handed the completed survey over.

"Done."

"Nyeheheh... yes... thank you..."

His creepy little laugh was kinda offputting. "Uh... my gold?"

"Oh, right."

A green hand passed it to her.

Maybe he was just a leper or something? She wasn't about to judge.

Kira took it and whistled on her way home. She should answer surveys more often.

"Nyehehehe..."

NYEHEHEHEHEH

FINALLY!

I HAVE HER RIGHT WHERE I WANT HER!!!

Kira the Stonestrike

"Nyehehe! I finally have you where I want you!"

Kira's route home was interrupted when Einkerbolt landed right in front of her.

This time, he was even more prepared than last time. He didn't just have robot arms... he had a whole robot body, a dome shaped shell of a diabolical green sheen with his evil moustache logo on the front. He piloted this from underneath a glassy viewport, and the mech had his classic pneumatic arms.

He was back!

He was bigger!

He was better!

And he would beat Kira to a pulp!!

"Are you compensating or what?" She shrugged.

"Urggh! How DARE you insult your intellectual superior!" A large robot arm pointed at her as he spat through the speakers. "Kira the Stonestrike, prepare to admit defeat!!"

"What did you call me?"

"... Kira the Stonestrike." Einkerbolt read a piece of paper within his dome. "I did pronounce that right, didn't I?" Einkerbolt was evil, but not so evil as to intentionally mispronounce her name.

"Hey, that's the survey I just completed!"

"Indeed it is, and you fell right into my diabolical trrrrap!"

"It was you all along??"

Kira really should have seen that one coming.

"Yes, and now I know your strengths... and I know your greatest weakness, too! Being punched repeatedly in the back of the head!! LET'S SEE JUST HOW EFFECTIVE IT IS!"

A pneumatic arm slammed into the pavement.

Kira had just managed to jump out of the way in time,

But she seemed to consistently forget Einkerbolt's stratagems.

The other arm snared her in mid-air,

and then he realised that HE had forgotten Kira's cunning!

She reached out for the canal and yanked a wave of water to crash over him and short-circuit his tech just like last time!

But Kira had forgotten that Einkerbolt never makes the same mistake twice.

"**Nyehehe!** After last time, I made sure to properly insulate all my wiring! That's nothing but water off my back now, Kira the Stonestrike!"

Einkerbolt slammed her into the cobblestone, which hurt her more than even into flat concrete.

She began to wonder why exactly there wasn't any guards around ever despite this literally happening at six thirty in the evening but maybe that was a question for another day.

Einkerbolt's robo-fingers gripped her tightly, pushing her against the ground, and he reared his other fist back in preparation to repeatedly punch her in the back of the head...

Einkerbolt pounded the ground for five minutes, maniacally laughing.

"**NYEHEHEHE! NOW HOW DOES IT FEEL!!!**"

Only then, he noticed that there really should have been a bloody smear on his robo arm, but really it was rather dry.

Einkerbolt moved his arms out of the way and noticed a tunnel into the road where he had been punching... Kira had gotten away!

Kira raced through the streets and alleys and broke into Dwarven District to get away from him as fast as she could. She passed by a power substation, leaking pipes creating puddles of oozing oil that her shoes stuck to and she barely got them out. Maybe she could get to Lula, maybe she could pick up that device she was totally meant to carry with her! If only!

Only, she saw Einkerbolt land right in her way again! "FOUND YOU!"

"What is your problem, man? You can't even blame me for beating you up, you're literally asking for it!" Kira shouted.

"And who's doing the beating up of who now, huh?" Einkerbolt threw another punch, but Kira had chosen this location for a reason. Einkerbolt was surrounded on all sides by earth. A massive brick fist erupted from the wall and punched his robot to one side, then to the other. "You think I wasn't prepared?" Einkerbolt grinned. "This is a fortified steel shell, you won't get through it!"

As Einkerbolt advanced, Kira found what he said was true. She couldn't break him, not with her level of strength. She formed a hand from the ground and held him back as long as she could, but his pneumatic einker-arms were breaking through. She had to think quick. What around her could she use. What could save her?

Einkerbolt broke through Kira's defenses and slammed her up against the wall.

"Let's try this again!"

The repeated head-punching was on its way, a pneumatic punch prepared and ready to fly...!

Kira slammed the wall behind her with her fist, and a jetstream of oil came pouring free!

It splashed over Einkerbolt's glass dome, completely blinding him.

It seeped into the gaps in his segmented einker-arms, clogging the joints.

The sticky substance covered his einker-ambulators, his legs, and kept him pinned against the ground!

"NO! IN THE SURVEY, IT SAYS RIGHT HERE, YOU CAN'T CONTROL OIL!"

Kira shrugged. "Did I? Guess I wasn't paying that much attention!"

Once Kira broke free, there wasn't much chance left for Einkerbolt.

They wrestled against each other inside a comically large dust cloud, sounds of honking horns, dropped metal bars, cats screeching and all other sorts of special effects coming from within, until Einkerbolt finally had enough.

He pressed the giant red button on his control panel and ejected himself out of the pilot's seat, shouting at Kira as he flew away.

"This isn't the end! YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, KIRA THE STONESTRIKE! YOU'LL PAYY!!!"

Kira huffed and checked her pocket. Phew, it was still in there.

"Damn. I could get used to him paying me before every fight!"