

Card Academy

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INT. ACADEMY - WATER COURTYARD

The camera pans about the school campus and descriptions are given about the lore and history of the academy and world. Eventually the camera stops at a close up spot in the hallway as two weapons, a rapier on the left and a sword on the right. Clash at the middle. It then pans out as two figures leap back from the exchange.

Ace is on the right with a crimson red and black cropped short sleeved jacket with a silver pauldron on the right shoulder strapped with 2 belts going across his chest, a tight-fitting white shirt, baggy black pants with a several silver chain loops in his left pocket, a crimson/orange/black belt, 1 black fingerless glove with crimson lining on the left and an opposite-colored glove on the right, and white/crimson/black shoes. Queen is on the left with a much more regal combat uniform, in a white/blue lined dress with a large but thin polished steel chestpiece a slightly puffy skirt with a black and gold riveted belt and thin polished steel pauldrons, white and blue lined stockings reaching a little below her skirt, covered by long white and blue lined boots of similar design, elbow-length white/blue/gold trimmed gloves.

Ace has a bleeding cut on his cheek and a very gory gash on his left side, above his hip. Queen has some slightly tattered clothing, but no cuts. Both fighters are panting heavily, Queen masking it in her offensive fencer stance and Ace making no efforts to hide with his large double-edged sword held in a back-hand stance in his right hand resting against the ground, he's panting heavily but with barred teeth and a determined look matching Queen's despite his hazy eyes.

Queen takes the initiative and activates a spell card sending several large blasts of water at Ace at blinding speed. His pants for air turn into a toothy smirk and he dashes seemingly faster than perceived to avoid 3 blasts then runs to his left and activates a fireball spell blowing the 4th water blast into steam. He goes straight from running to dashing into the air through the steam dodging the final water blast aimed to intercept his path. He appears from the steam in front of Queen and in mid-slash as he spins from his left, she counters by ducking beneath the slash in a counter-spin and activating an ice slash spell ripping through Ace, but his body disappears into embers before the, now obvious, clone is engulfed in flames. Queen looks wide-eyed before spinning quickly and going into a defensive stance with her rapier as Ace plants a foot and strikes back-handed into the middle of the rapier, bending

it severely and pushing Queen back before shattering the equip spell entirely and even slicing into her leaving a visible gash on her abdomen. Blood starts to trickle from the cut and stains her clothing for the first time in the fight. She visible grimaces and bares her teeth to brace against the new pain as she has a hand on her wound and another on the ground. She has one knee partially up and the other fully on the ground. Ace's in a similar situation, with one knee on the ground and his left up as he supports himself with his sword in his left hand. The haziness in his eyes has returned and he struggles to keep one eye open as he fakes a smile, sweat and blood dripping from his face.

ACE

(panting) You lowered...your guard...Getting...exhausted?

QUEEN

(grimacing) Lucky shot, is all. If anything I'd say you're the one who's on their last legs. You can't even lift up your sword.

ACE

You can try and hide it all you want...but I can tell you're not standing for a reason.

Ace smirks as Queen's frown deepens. And in spite of her clearly exhausted state she stands pridefully as she fakes a half-smile. At this, the camera pans over to Nova, Ace's sister, in the front row of the crowd. She has a look of pure concern and worry on her face as she holds her hands close to her mouth and talks to herself.

NOVA

(concerned and quiet)
Brother, how did you wind up in this situation?

20 MINUTES EARLIER

INT. ACADEMY HALLWAY - MORNING

Ace and Nova are walking down the hallway of one of the more popular spots for powerful water mages. Ace seems to be actively searching for someone, while Nova has her hands folded and carrying her bag, wondering where they're headed.

NOVA

Brother, where are we going?

ACE
(still searching)
I'm looking for a girl. Apparently
she hangs around here a lot.

NOVA
Oh? (excited) Do you finally have a
girlfriend?!

ACE
(unfazed)
What? No, you said you wanted to
see a true battle between mages and
that's what I intend to show you.

NOVA
Oh, so who is she?

ACE
(smirks) Queen.

Nova instantly stops in her tracks and looks at Ace with
wide eyes.

NOVA
You're going to fight Queen!?

ACE
Yeah, we're the same year yet I've
never fought her, and she's
supposedly the strongest mage in my
class.
(smirks)
Okay, maybe 2nd strongest.

NOVA
Brother, are you sure about this?
I've heard rumors that she has a
reputation of illegal duels.

ACE
(chuckle) 'Illegal duels' are real
mage battles, Nova. No safety wards
or teachers. Just a pure fight.

NOVA
(stern, angry)
You're going to get yourself hurt,
brother!

ACE
(scoffs)
(MORE)

ACE (CONT'D)

Please, Nova, I didn't get to the top of my class by luck, I earned it myself.

NOVA

(sighs and pouts) Fine.

ACE

Stop acting childish, Nova, I'm going to be fine.

Nova glares at her brother who shakes his head and continues to search for Mia.

The courtyard has an open ceiling with water clearly being the main attention point. The majority of the court sits on a large body of water. Some of the major points are the large multi-layered fountain that resides in the middle of the court, a large waterfall on the north wall, several spots where the floor opens up to allow a variety of pools and hot tubs, several gardens, and a large food court that delivers throughout the courtyard. Nova is amazed at the site while Ace looks around and whistles.

ACE

(whistles) Damn, how much did they spend on this place?

NOVA

This is amazing! How come the Fire courtyard doesn't have something like this?

ACE

From what I understand, the Aquarius family donates a lot of money to this school. And as you can probably guess, they're all water mages.

NOVA

Aquarius...Oh yeah! Queen is an Aquarius, a princess in fact.

ACE

(nods)

Mhm, that's part of the reason I want to fight her.

NOVA

Oh, you know. You could swoon her and marry her. That would make us

(MORE)

NOVA (CONT'D)

nobility!

ACE

Uh-huh, yeah, where did you read that?

NOVA

In a japanese novel. The cool, young guy comes in and swoops the rebel princess off her feet and they live happily ever after! Minus a few details in-between of course.

ACE

Ugh, will you keep your trashy shoujo novels to yourself.

NOVA

(catface)

Hehe. I have an entire section for novels like that. They also fit this situation perfectly, Nii-san.

ACE

(blank stare)

...

(returning to normal)

So as I was saying, she should be somewhere around here.

NOVA

Mmh, so how are we gonna find her?

Ace cracks his knuckles and stretches before cupping his hands together and shouting.

ACE

WHICH ONE OF YOU PRUDENT FUCKERS IS QUEEN!

NOVA

Brother!

ACE

(chuckles) What? It got their attention.

Quite a few of the mages groan and what they can only chalk up to Ace's normal obnoxious behavior. A few others are glaring daggers at him, but curiously one girl seems to not care and continues to drink her tea. Ace while chuckling is actually scanning the crowd to find Queen and notices the

girl and smirks.

ACE

Found her. You can stay here, Nova.

NOVA

Brother?

Ace leaves to go towards Queen and the camera stays on Nova. Nova looks on while her brother walks away and after a few moments Echo walks up from behind her to get her attention.

ECHO

Hey, Nova.

NOVA

Oh, Echo. Sorry, I didn't see you.

ECHO

Something wrong?

NOVA

Brother's going to fight Queen,
that's what's wrong!

ECHO

Calm down, Nova, your brother's
always been like this. It's in his
nature to challenge the strong.

NOVA

No, this is different. He used to
just fight to protect us, but now
he's starting fights to prove he's
the best. It's been like that ever
since people started calling him
Ace.

With the mention of Ace, Echo's disposition changes. He looks away replacing his compassionate look with one of haziness.

ECHO

(mumbling) They've both been
different since then.

NOVA

Echo...? Echo!

Echo's head snaps up and he looks at Nova in surprise.

ECHO

Hmm? Oh, sorry. Zoned out a bit there.

NOVA

I know your checking on me, but you sure you're okay?

ECHO

(light chuckle) I'm okay, belie-

In the middle of the conversation a crash is heard and the two quickly look in the direction of it. Ace and Queen are seen, Ace, a look of pure anger on his face, and Queen, with an equal parts annoyed expression. Both are standing and an overthrown table is seen, presumably kicked through by Ace.

ACE

How about you fucking listen when I'm talking to you!

QUEEN

What's the point in listening to a blithering idiot like yourself. I have much better uses of my time.

The camera goes back to Echo and Nova.

ECHO

Oh crap! Come on, Nova.

NOVA

Right.

Echo and Nova rush off to get to the two and the camera goes back to the scene between Ace and Queen.

ACE

You think you're so damn smart, don't you, princess?

QUEEN

Whatever people have to say about me is up to them. It just so happens they're right for once.

ACE

What the hell is that supposed to mean?

QUEEN

I wouldn't expect a hot-headed demon like you to understand.

ACE
(extremely pissed)
And what the fuck is that supposed
to mean!

QUEEN
(smirk) You know exactly what I
mean. I know about your record,
you're an arsonist and a-

Ace lunges forward, reeling a fist back to punch and Queen slightly crouches and puts a hand on her deck when King lands in between the two. She grabs Ace's fist with her left and grabs Queen's arm with her right in one swift motion as she lands, presumably from a jump from the skylight.

KING
Both of you, calm down, now!

Both Ace and Queen flinch at the command from King, but stand their ground. Ace rips his hand from King's grasp and likewise for Queen.

ACE
This is between me and her, King.

QUEEN
I have nothing more to say to you,
Ace. Leave.

ACE
Fuck you! I came here for a fight
and I'm not leaving without one!

KING
Actually, I think that's a great
idea. I know that you both think
you're the best mage here, so why
don't you settle it with a duel?

Queen, still glaring at Ace, after thinking for a moment accepts.

QUEEN
Alright, fine. Though on one
condition.

Everyone looks towards Queen as she gives an evil smile.

QUEEN
No ward.

Gasps and murmurs can be heard from the crowd and Ace just

smiles in response.

ACE
Alright, that's what I wanted
anyway.

KING
Fine then.

King turns around and looks towards the crowd.

KING
No one leaves here until after this
fight is over, is that clear!

Everyone has various looks of fear or acknowledgement after King's command, but everyone agrees. At this point, Echo and Nova have made their way to the front of the crowd.

NOVA
(whispering)
Echo, should we do something?

ECHO
No, it's best to let those two blow
off some steam. I'll step in if it
gets bad, don't worry.

NOVA
Thank you.

Nova gives Echo a smile which he returns and the two look back towards Ace and Queen. At the same time King walks off, taking up position next to Echo and Nova.

ACE
Ready to get your ass handed to
you, princess?

QUEEN
Shut up and fight, I'm tired of
your comments!

ACE
(chuckles)
Alright then, but just so you know.

Ace activates his equip cards as a large fiery rune appears above him and descends over him. His clothing changes and materializes as the rune passes and even his hair takes on a different form as it gets spikier.

ACE
I may kill you.

QUEEN
I'm not worried,

Queen launches 5 cards from an equip deck holder and they shine ice blue in air before enveloping her in an icy water and crystallizing. After a few moments it shatters and Queen is in her combat gear.

QUEEN
you won't even land a hit.

The fight between Ace and Queen starts and the player takes control of one. This initiates a combat tutorial, after a certain point the tutorial will go into a cutscene.

Ace activates a fireball volley card and Queen quickly dashes away from each blast before activating a water arrow card, and launching it in a counter-attack. The two enter an exchange of spells and attacks as the camera switches to King, Echo, and Nova.

Nova's holding her hands up to her mouth anxiously, with her concern on her face, Echo is looking with determination, and King has a blank strategist face as she analyzes the fight.

KING
They seem like total opposites.

ECHO
Trust me, they are.

KING
Oh?

ECHO
I know Ace personally, and I've seen Queen. They're polar opposites.

KING
On the surface, yes. But if you pay attention, they have a lot of the same traits.

Echo looks at her confused as does Nova, and she takes the cue to elaborate.

KING
Look at how they fight.

Echo looks back towards the fighting for awhile then speaks up again.

ECHO

I don't see your point. Ace is a head-on attacker and Queen is pure defense.

KING

(shakes head)

No, not their styles. Look at how they fight.

Echo glances back towards the fight again, but still looks back to King in confusion.

ECHO

I'm sorry, but maybe you could explain what I'm not seeing?

KING

They both seek to attack.

ECHO

Huh? But, Queen's just waiting for Ace to-

Echo's realizes what King's getting at and the realization is evident on his face.

KING

They both want to demolish the other, they just show it in conflicting ways. You can find a lot about a person by how they fight.

NOVA

You must know a lot about fighting Miss King.

KING

It comes with the name.

Echo opens his mouth to say something when Nova gasps.

The camera moves to the fight and Ace is shown triggering an ice rune and is slow to react on the attack, Queen smiles as she slides away from the attack.

ACE

Shit!

Ace quickly backsteps away from the rune as ice shards explode from it. But several pierce him and one leaves a deep gash below his left eye. As he slides back he presses his left hand against the gash while grimacing.

ACE

Damn that hurts!

Queen has a wicked smile on her face in a crouched stance from her slide, and is holding a glowing card in between her fingers.

QUEEN

It's not over yet.

Before Ace can react a glowing rune appears below him and a column of water explodes from the spot entrapping him and cutting off his air. Ace struggles for air and grabs at his throat.

QUEEN

Do you give up?

Ace looks at her with determination as he grabs a card from his deck and soon the water starts to bend and bubble.

QUEEN

Fine then.

Queen grabs her sheathed rapier and dashes forward at a blinding speed, she rips through the water column and more importantly through half of Ace's body as blood erupts from a slice reaching from just above his left hip nearly to the middle of his abdomen. Ace screams in pain as the water column explodes and Queen is seen holding her rapier out as blood drips from it.

QUEEN

(closed eyes) It's over.

Sharp gasps are heard from the crowd as Ace spills a profuse amount of blood on the ground. His eyes are wide and he gasps for breath as he clutches the gory wound. Queen shakes the blood from her rapier as she starts to walk away. Nova has her hands over her mouth her eyes are in a broken shock. Echo is in disbelief at the turn of events and the amount of blood, even King shows some shock at the scene.

NOVA

Brother!

ECHO
(wide-eyed) Holy...
(whips head to King)
King, this fight's over! Help me
take him to the nurse!

King stares at the scene for a bit and her mouth twitches upwards slightly in a smile.

KING
Hold on. It may not be over yet.

ECHO
Are you kidding me!? Look at how
much blood there is, he'll actually
die at this rate!

King gives Echo a serious stare that shuts the younger boy up immediately.

KING
If he passes out I'll stop the
fight and we'll take him to the
nurse, but, as long as he has the
will to stand, I'm not stopping
either of them.

Echo searches for words to say but comes up with nothing and instead walks over to comfort Nova.

NOVA
Echo. He's-

ECHO
Calm down, Nova. I promised I-

ACE
Don't...walk away...from...me.

Echo and Nova look towards the sound and see Ace struggling against his sword to stand and gasping for breath as blood drips from the gash on his face and spills from the wound on his body.

QUEEN
Will you just-

Queen flinches in surprise as she looks at the damage of her attacks.

QUEEN
(quietly) I didn't think I cut that
deep.

Ace gives a half-smile as Queen stares wide-eyed.

ACE

What...didn't think I could get up?

Queen has no response at first but shakes off her shock and replaces it with her serious mask.

QUEEN

You're like a damn cockroach.

Ace continues his smile and a glow begins to seep through the case on his necklace.

ACE

I prefer to be called a phoenix.

A new found strength seems to resonate within Ace and Queen shows a bit of shock. Nova still remains overly concerned at the blood spilling and Echo's concern starts to dissipate and gets replaced with a small smile. King on the other hand seems to be in shock as she sees large fiery phoenix wings extending from his back. Queen also notices this and has an equally shocked expression, soon the wings disappear and Ace drops into a combat stance. Queen shakes off her shocked expression again and goes into her fencer stance.

KING

(mumbles) Phoenix...

ECHO

Hmm?

KING

...Nothing.

Echo shrugs and looks back at the fight.

KING

(thinking)

From Queen's expression, she saw whatever that was. But it seems no one else did, which means...

KING

I get the feeling I'll be seeing your friend more often.

ECHO

Why do you say that?

KING

Just call it a hunch.

The camera switches back to Ace and Queen as the two begin to trade blows again and the screen fades to black, ending Nova's recollection.

INT. ACADEMY - WATER COURTYARD

ECHO

King, I think they both proved
their point. It's time to stop
this.

King remains quiet for a time as she mulls over the idea. After looking at the amount of blood the two are spilling and the scene of their fight she answers.

KING

You're right, I'll stop it.

NOVA

Thank you!

King goes to step forward when Ace starts to speak.

ACE

(gulp) I'm ending this fight, now.

QUEEN

How? You can't even-

KING

Actually, I'm ending this fight!

ACE AND QUEEN

What!?

KING

It's obvious you two are an even
match right now. You should train
and fight again later, but for now
I'm stopping this for your own
safety.

Ace and Queen eye each other in anger and they both pull out cards and activate.

ACE AND QUEEN

(simultaneously)

Fire/Ice Wall!

A large barrier half ice, half fire forms around them cutting off King. King's eyes grow wide and she gets slightly annoyed.

KING

Dammit!

King draws a card and goes to activate it as the camera moves to them to Ace and Queen.

ACE

(chuckles)

I guess we can agree on something.

QUEEN

(smirks) I don't like to leave things half done.

Ace smirks and the two dash towards each other for one final attack. When the two get close Ace plants a foot to the side and charges his elbow forward as Queen spins left for a kick. King activates a rock spell from the outside and destroys the wall just in time to see the exchange. Ace's elbow is buried into Queen's abdomen and is glowing red, while Queen slams a kick into the cut and blood erupts from both of their wounds. Ace's eyes go blank and he collapses and slides along the floor beside Queen. While Queen collapses onto her knees and begins to puke blood. As the two collapse the rest of the wall slowly shimmers away.

KING

Shit!

(spins around to Echo)

Echo, Nova!

Echo and Nova instantly snap their attention away from the scene, their shocked expressions disappearing a bit, and look to King in attention.

KING

I need your help to take these two to the nurse.

King is already moving to grab the two, and Echo and Nova quickly follow. King gets there first and goes to put a hand on Queen.

QUEEN

I...don't need...any-

Queen suddenly starts to puke more blood and clutches her wound even harder. King has a deathly serious face.

KING

Stop being stubborn and sit still!

Queen can't find the energy to rebel and simply sits there clutching her stomach, King looks to Echo and Nova.

KING

You two help her up, I'll get Ace.

King picks up Ace and puts him on her back.

KING

Alright, follow me.

King leads the group towards an exit before she pipes up.

KING

I'm sorry.

NOVA

What?

KING

I let that get out of hand. I didn't think they'd be that determined to finish.

NOVA

(fakes a small smile)

It's not your fault. Brother's always been a bit hard-headed.

KING

(glances towards Nova)

...Yeah.

ECHO

I know you told everyone to stay put, but I find it hard to believe we'll all get away without a reprimand.

KING

(sighs)

You two have nothing to worry about, you weren't involved. However, these two, and likely myself, will...well...let's just say the headmaster isn't very forgiving when it comes to illegal dueling.

ECHO

What do you think he's going to do?

KING

I don't know, but I doubt we're
going to like it.

The group walks for a few moments without speaking when King
speaks up again.

KING

Anyway, we need to get these two to
the nurse first. We'll worry about
consequences later.

ECHO AND NOVA

Right.

The screen slowly fades as the group walks towards the nurse
office.

INT. ACADEMY - CLINIC

Ace and Queen are resting in the clinic beds rigged up with
IVs. Nova, Echo, and King are in the waiting room. Nova's
pacing around the room, Echo is sitting with a look of
concern on his face, and King is resting against the wall
with her arms folded and eyes closed.

ECHO

I'm sure they'll be okay Nova.

Nova continues pacing and pays no attention to Echo's
comment.

KING

No matter what condition they're
in, you can't do anything now.
Tearing yourself up is pointless.

NOVA

I know, but he's my brother!

The nurse walks in holding a clipboard and walks up to the
group. Nova frantically spins around and runs up to her.
Echo looks towards her and gets up from his seat. King turns
her head and opens her eyes.

NOVA

Are they okay?

NURSE

In short, yes. They're stabilized,
and it looks like they'll make a
semi-full recovery.

NOVA

Semi?

NURSE

Yes, you see the cuts and burns from their blades and spells aren't fully healing.

KING

What does that mean?

NURSE

The main wounds are a cut from Ace's hip to abdomen, that isn't even scarring which is rare with our magic. I'd wager that will have to be stitched permanently.

NURSE

And for Queen, there's a third-degree burn from her stomach exiting out her back, as if a flame went through her. There's also been some internal burning, though that will likely heal in about 1-2 weeks.

King frowns after hearing the news of the two and goes into thought. Nova still has concern on her face and after a few moments Echo speaks up.

ECHO

Is it alright if we see them?

NURSE

I don't see why not, follow me.

The group follows the nurse to the room holding Ace and Queen, King being the last to leave.

When they get inside there is another nurse with Ace and Queen writing on a clipboard. The woman turns when the group walks in and nods to the other nurse and walks out of the room. Both Ace and Queen are asleep.

NURSE

We gave them an anaesthetic to put them to sleep while we conducted tests. But they should be waking up soon, if you don't mind waiting you

(MORE)

can stay here.

NOVA

Thank you.

Nova walks over to Ace's bed and sits in a chair next to it. Echo goes to walk over to Nova but then notices King turning around to leave.

ECHO

Where are you going?

KING

I have to meet with the headmaster sooner or later if I'm going to explain this incident.

HEADMASTER

Well then, it's a good thing I'm here.

King's eyes go wide as she notices the headmaster and she spins around to face him.

KING

Headmaster, sir!

HEADMASTER

King, care to explain why the water courtyard is caked with the blood of those two.

King starts to sweat and grimaces as she thinks of an explanation.

KING

There was an argument between them...and well...

HEADMASTER

They turned their wards off and fought, correct?

KING

Well yes, but-

HEADMASTER

King, you do know why I created the wards for every student, yes?

KING

Yes sir, it's for our safety.

HEADMASTER

Exactly, I put your safety first
and foremost. For you are
protectors of the people.

King frowns slightly at the mention of protectors, but masks
it to her former expression, the headmaster doesn't notice.

HEADMASTER

This school was designed to prevent
people from killing each other with
cards. So why is it that two of my
students are currently hospitalized
after nearly bleeding to death!

Both Ace and Queen begin to stir from the shouting and begin
to open their eyes.

KING

Because they turned off their
wards...but-

HEADMASTER

Quiet King! This isn't the first
time you've instigated a fight
between two students.

KING

To be fair sir they were going to
have an illegal duel whether I
stepped in or not.

HEADMASTER

(collects himself)

Yes, Ace and Queen have both proven
that share the same viewpoint of my
rule as you.

By now both Ace and Queen have woken up. Ace yawns and rubs
his left eye, Nova doesn't even notice as her attention is
on King and the Headmaster. Queen starts to move up but
grimaces and grabs her stomach.

HEADMASTER

Oh good, I wanted the two of you
awake for this.

Ace and Queen look at the headmaster and shock appears as
they realize it's him.

QUEEN

Headmaster!

ACE

What are you doing here?

HEADMASTER

I'm here to set an example out of three idiotic students.

QUEEN

Excuse me?

HEADMASTER

All three of you are hereby expelled from this academy!

Everyone looks in complete shock at the unexpected punishment, even Echo and Nova. Ace is the first to speak up.

ACE

Whoa, whoa! Hang on a second. What are you talking about?

HEADMASTER

You heard me, I've let these illegal duels go unpunished for too long. It's time I set an example. All three of you, hand over your decks.

KING

S-Sir, this is, you can't expel us!

HEADMASTER

You've broken my #1 rule on several occasions. I have more than enough reason to expel you.

ACE

But...I'm Ace dammit! I'm the best damn student here!

Queen gives Ace a glare as the Headmaster starts to walk up to the end table where Ace's deck is. As he reaches the table Ace grabs his wrist and glares at him

ACE

There's no way in hell I'll let you take my deck.

The Headmaster rips his hand away from Ace and looks down at him.

HEADMASTER
This deck is property of this
school, it's my right to take it
back whenever I choose.

Echo suddenly interjects and cuts Queen off.

ECHO
Headmaster sir, if I may?

The Headmaster looks at Echo for a second then speaks up.

HEADMASTER
Who are you?

ECHO
Echo, sir. First-year student, Wind
Mage.

HEADMASTER
Ah, yes I remember you now. You got
a perfect score on the entrance
exams, correct?

Ace, Queen, and Nova look at Echo in surprise and King looks
towards him and raises an eyebrow.

ECHO
Yes sir.

HEADMASTER
Alright, you may proceed.

ECHO
Well sir, Ace, King, and Queen are
by far the top students in the
Academy. Expelling them isn't going
to do anyone any favors.

HEADMASTER
(pauses to think)
Really, (pause) I'll tell you what
Echo. I know you're friends with
Ace here, if you give me a good
reason I'll let everyone keep their
decks.

Echo looks surprised for a moment and looks around the room.
Everyone's eyes are on him and he gulps before responding.

ECHO
Well, from what I can tell there's
simply a lack of understanding on
(MORE)

ECHO (CONT'D)

the rules. Maybe a review of the basics is all they need.

The headmaster contemplates on Echo's words and after several moments speaks up.

HEADMASTER

You know, I like that idea Echo.
(smiles)

Alright, nurse. How long until these two will be ready for action?

NURSE

Well normally I'd say they should rest for at least a month. But knowing these two, a week should be all that's necessary.

HEADMASTER

Mmh, in that case King you'll be on leave for 1 week. Next week the 3 of you will be starting school again, as first-years.

Ace, King, and Queen all open their eyes in shock. Ace's face quickly turns to that of anger as well as Queen. King frowns slightly.

ACE

That's bullshit! I've been here for 3 years.

QUEEN

Are you kidding me! I can't be in the same class as a bunch of upstarts!

KING

There has to be another way sir, I've been here even longer than these two. I'll never graduate if I have to start over.

HEADMASTER

You don't have to worry, as long as you prove you understand the rules I'll put you back in your classes at the end of the year. Unless you want to be expelled that's your only option.

The 3 try to think of something else to say but decide

against it and choose to bite back a response instead.

HEADMASTER

Now hand over your decks. So long
as you prove yourself I'll give
them back to you at the end of the
year as well.

Ace looks ready to yell but chooses to bite back a retort
and grabs his deck holder and tosses it to him. The
Headmaster then goes to Queen and King and they both hand
over their decks with anger.

HEADMASTER

Well then, now that that's settled
I'll take my leave. I wish you all
the best of luck.

The Headmaster turns around and walks out of the classroom.
Once the door shuts the tension in the room goes away and
Ace slams a fist down on the end table next to him.

ACE

Agh! This can't be happening.

QUEEN

(flops head on pillow)
After all the work I put in he just
resets my progress like a damn
switch!

King has an annoyed expression, and chooses to remain
silent. Echo looks nervously at the 3 when Nova stands and
speaks up.

NOVA

H-Hey, come on guys. I know you
just lost your decks, but at least
you aren't expelled.

QUEEN

I could care less about being
expelled at this point. Argh! If I
wasn't injured I'd beat that
worthless fool's head in.

ACE

Heh, so you did get hurt from our
exchange.

QUEEN

Tch, I don't see you faring any
(MORE)

QUEEN (CONT'D)

better.

ACE

Whatever, I still won.

QUEEN

How the hell did you win? You passed out.

ACE

That doesn't mean anything. The one who took the least amount of damage is the winner.

NURSE

In that case it's a tie. You both took an equal amount of damage, and you have the scars to prove it.

Queen looks down and puts a hand on her stomach and Ace touches his stitched scar.

ACE

Fine, but next time I will win!

QUEEN

Like hell you will.

Ace and Queen snarl at each other and Nova nervously laughs. The camera switches to Echo as he walks up to King.

KING

Thank you.

ECHO

Huh?

KING

For saving us from getting expelled.

ECHO

(sheepish) Oh, I was just trying to help is all. (serious) Though I could've done better, you guys still got your decks taken away.

KING

Better? Heh, even Jack couldn't have done a better job with words than you.

ECHO
(scratches head)
Well thanks for the compliment.

KING
Mmh, well, it's time for me to
leave.
(turns and looks over
shoulder)
I'll see you later, I'm sure.

ECHO
I'm looking forward to it.

King nods and walks out of the office the nurse following behind her. After a few moments Echo looks at the clock and freaks out a bit, and spins over towards Nova.

ECHO
Uh Nova, when does 3rd period end?

NOVA
Umm...

QUEEN
Noon.

NOVA
(snaps)
That's it.

ECHO
It's 12:30.

Nova blinks a few times before jumping up and running past Echo and grabbing him while shouting.

NOVA
Crap! We're going over equipment
cards today, I'll see you two after
4th period!

Nova rushes through the door, practically dragging Echo behind her. Ace and Queen stare at the door in confusion. Queen sighs and drops her head back pulling out her phone. Ace looks at her with a scowl, she glances towards him then rolls over, away from him, in annoyance. She goes to put in her earbuds in and Ace's face changes to one of annoyance before he grabs his phone to put on his music. This ends the scene and transitions to Nova and Echo as their running to class.

INT. ACADEMY - CLASSROOM/HALLWAY

NOVA

(panting)

Why is this school so freakin' big?

ECHO

(panting)

Well it wouldn't be so bad if we
weren't on the other side of the
school.

Nova and Echo continue running for awhile, a friend of
their's is in the hallway and calls out to them.

FRIEND

Yo Nova, Echo! Over here!

Both Nova and Echo stop their running and walk over to them
with a confused look.

ECHO

What's up Rex?

FRIEND

You guys headed to class?

NOVA

Yeah, speaking of which why are you
here? I thought class started.

FRIEND

(shakes head)

Mm-mh. A lot of people were at the
fight with Ace and Queen so they
just decided to delay everything
for an hour.

Nova exhales deeply and falls to the ground.

NOVA

So we aren't late to our first
class?

FRIEND

Nope.

The friend gets up from the wall and starts to walk away.

FRIEND

Anyway that's all I wanted to say,
you've got another 30 minutes to
kill before we gotta head to class.

Echo and Nova wave goodbye and look at each other.

NOVA

Well, lead the way Echo.

ECHO

Where do we wanna go?

NOVA

No idea.

Echo shrugs and the player takes control of him. The player can go wherever they want in the school as long as they're in class in 30 minutes. Once class starts Echo and Nova take their seats. The classroom is a standard college lecture type room, with many about 5 cascading rows of seats with the teacher's desk being at the bottom in front of a whiteboard. There's some murmuring that can be heard about Ace and Queen's fight, but it dies down once the teacher walks in.

She has a white blouse with a club insignia on her shoulders. Her shirt is a dark green matching the color of her eyes, and she has a dark green bow-tie w/ black heels and dark green or black stockings. She's the head of the teaching department for first-years. She specializes in fundamental training and harbors a special hatred for students who disregard her teachings. Ace and Queen being top on that list. They have a mutual hatred, Ace hates her as he specializes in unorthodox styles and stances that take very little from basic training. That coupled with his hatred for lectures caused an extreme dislike between the two. Queen hates her as she knew all the material covered in her class and mastered it years before she started going to the academy, and found no need to participate in the "worthless" lessons. King was one of her favorites as was Jack as they both took special interest in her class, King's style fully embracing the basics, and Jack being a jack-of-all-trades, they participated in every aspect.

The teacher calls for the attention of the class and the murmurs quiet down.

TEACHER

Attention students! Attention!

TEACHER

Thank you. As you know our schedule's been changed for today as a result of the fight, but our lesson will proceed as normal.

A few groans can be heard, but everyone proceeds to listen.

TEACHER

Come on now, be excited. I'll be giving you all your first set of gear today.

The excitement in the class is evident and there are some questioning looks in the class.

TEACHER

After the lesson I'll let each of you try out 3 types of weapon and armor sets to choose from based on your skills in the entrance exam.

The murmurs in the class pick up again as they exchange ideas on what gear they'll get.

TEACHER

Alright, quiet down and pay attention so we can get through this quickly.

CLASS

Yes ma'am!

TEACHER

Okay, so first things first, everyone take out the blank equipment cards I gave you yesterday.

Everyone takes out the cards and they proceed when she's accounted for them all.

TEACHER

Okay so this,
(pulls out card)
is a storage card. They can hold any non-magical item so long as it has the space to hold it. Also, depending on the type they can be used repeatedly.

TEACHER

They work by imbuing energy into the card to activate it. For example, if I wanted to store this water bottle.

The teacher puts some energy into the card with ease, it

slightly glows, pulsating from the middle out w/ a gold light, she then taps it against the bottle and it gets enveloped in a gold light before bending into the card, after that the glow from the card fades away and an image of a water bottle appears and the description below the image gets updated with the new item.

TEACHER

As you can see the water bottle is now stored in the card, and I want to recall it I simply put my energy back in and summon it out.

She summons out the water bottle and the same effect happens.

TEACHER

Now this is nothing new to any of you, anyone can do this. But what is special are equipment cards. These cards are used to store magical items such as armor and weapons. They require a special kind of energy most people don't possess, your elemental energy.

She then goes into some more in-depth talk about the cards that could be skipped if the player already played that part of the game or beat it.

[PLACEHOLDER FOR FUTURE DIALOUGE]

TEACHER

Any more questions?

The class stays quiet and a few shake their heads.

TEACHER

Alright then, follow me to the training yard. I'll assign you your gear there.

The students all hastily get up, eager to get their gear and follow her out of the class. The camera centers on Nova and Echo as they're leaving.

ECHO

What weapon do you think you're gonna get?

NOVA

Mmh...Brother said I was strongest
(MORE)

NOVA (CONT'D)
with a katana and cloth armor.

SCENE 1. INT. ACADEMY - CLINIC

Ace and Queen are in the school clinic, getting one last checkup before they're cleared to leave. Echo and Nova are sitting in the room, waiting. Ace is sitting on the edge of the bed with his shirt unbuttoned, one of the nurse's is checking his heart rate. Queen is on the other bed, her shirt is pulled up and a nurse is removing the bandages around her stomach. This is the 1st time the player can see either of their scars.

NURSE 1
You have a remarkable recovery rate
Ms.Queen, besides the visual
scaring there aren't any
complications.

The nurse stands and Queen pulls down her shirt. She goes to toss away the bandages as the other nurse pulls the stethoscope out of her ears and straightens up.

NURSE 2
The same goes for you Ace, you're
both clear to leave.
(sympathetic)
Though, how about you two keep up
your wards from now on, okay?

Ace and Queen both look down before speaking up lowly.

ACE AND QUEEN
Alright.

The nurses smile and take their leave. Nova jumps up from her chair as they leave and claps.

NOVA
Great! Since you guys are healthy
we can all walk to class together.

ACE
What class was it? I kinda pissed
when the dean was yelling at us.

QUEEN
Battle Etiquette.

ACE
(stares at Queen)
...You're joking right.

QUEEN

I wish.

ACE

Fuck me,
 (falls back on bed, arms
 out)
 someone just kill me now.

QUEEN

 (smiles)
 Gladly.

ACE

 (growls)
 Look-

Ace goes to move off the bed as he speaks, and Nova quickly steps in between the two.

NOVA

You two have been stuck in here for
 a week, and you're still at each
 other's throats?

ACE AND QUEEN

 (looking at each other)
 You try getting along with that
 witch/monkey!

NOVA

 (deadpan, mumbles)
 Well actually I get along with the
 both of you just fine.

ECHO

What's so bad about this, Battle
 Etiquette, class anyway?

ACE

It is THE most BORING class that
 exists.

ECHO

Oh come on, it can't be that bad.

QUEEN

Ohh, yeah it is.

ECHO

 (thinking)
 Queen's agreeing with Ace? Wow,
 this class really must be boring.

NOVA

Whatever the case, can you two just stop fighting for a little.

(puts her hands together
and looks down)

I've had a really bad day so far,
so I'd appreciate it if you two
could get along. At least until we
get to class.

Ace and Queen look at each other and then Nova and sigh.

ACE

Alright, alright.

(looks at Queen)

...Truce?

QUEEN

...Truce.

Nova smiles and brightens up.

NOVA

Thank you, now come on follow me!

ECHO

Do you even know where we're going?

NOVA

No idea! Now march!

Queen stares in disbelief at Nova, and Ace looks at Queen and shakes his head. Echo cracks a smile and speeds up so he can walk next to her. Ace and Queen follow behind. The camera focuses in on Echo and Nova.

ECHO

(concern)

You're having a bad day?

NOVA

Hmm? Oh, no. I just said that so
they'd stop fighting for a little
while. I do that all the time.

ECHO

Oh...Wait, so you've done that to
me too?

NOVA

Uhh...no?

ECHO
(smiles)
You're such a liar.

Nova gives a toothy smile and giggles and the scene transitions.

SCENE 2: CLASSROOM