Reimu knows something is wrong when she can’t hear the relaxing sound of a beer can cracking open underneath the light of the morning sun. She thinks something is wrong with her hearing, maybe that she was way too close to Marisa when she fired her Master Spark. But when she rings the bell to her shrine as a part of her morning routine, she realizes that it made no sound at all. She rings it again and gently places her finger on the cold brass of the large bell. It’s not making any vibrations at all like it should.

“This isn’t right…” Reimu says before sighing in relief. She can still hear herself talk. That’s good at least. But now isn’t the time to talk to herself, now’s the time to go around Gensokyo and look for evidence for who could be behind this “Missing Sound Incident” as she’s going to call it.

After floating around and talking to various humans and youkai, all of them stating how they find it odd that they can’t hear the sound of cans opening, bells ringing and even their own music, Reimu has no doubt that this is the work of some youkai. Though she can’t recall anyone who’s able to control sound like this.

While Reisen may be able to control the wavelengths of all things, including sound, she’s never shown to be able to control sound to this degree so she can rule her out as a suspect. Besides, what would her motivation be? She lives in the Bamboo Forest of the Lost, she can’t hear much outside sound. It can’t be any of the youkai who play instruments either such as Raiko or the Prismriver sisters, since they’re being affected as well and can’t practice their music. With her list of suspects running thin, so Reimu decides that the next best thing is her tried and true method of shooting first and asking questions later. It’s never failed her in the past, so it won’t fail her now.

She flies past Suika and notices that she’s in a terrible mood. This is odd for the oni, as she’s always one to be carefree of the troubles of life. Reimu flies towards Suika and looks at her inquisitively. “Suika? What’s wrong? Why aren’t you getting wasted?” She asks bluntly.

“Oh Reimu! It’s terrible! All the sound from my sweet sweet tonic is gone! Same with my music and celebrations!” Suika bawls as she hugs Reimu tightly, causing the Hakurei Shrine Maiden to grumble from the unwanted attention.

“What do you mean that the sound from your celebrations is gone?” Reimu asks.

“I mean it as I say! How can I have a party and celebrate being alive when there’s no sound?!” Suika cries before taking a swig from her gourd. Reimu notes how she’s unable to hear the sound of the liquid sloshing around inside the container. “Drinking from this just doesn’t feel the same!”

Reimu starts to get an idea on what may be happening, but she needs to ask a few more questions. “Are any of your oni friends having similar troubles? And what else is it affecting?”

“Yeah! Yuugi told me how the bells to her spa are silent and that the small record player she has to play music is mute as well. Though, other sounds still work just fine. Like my chains!” Suika says as she waves her arms rapidly, causing the metal chains to sing as a result.

“From what you can recall, what else seems to have lost their sound?”

“Uh… oh! The sizzling sound of my pan fried Shishamo! When I was cooking it for breakfast today, it was silent as well! It made me lose my appetite completely! I wouldn’t be surprised that this is the case with other foods too.”

Reimu makes a mental note as it seems to be affecting food as well. She now has a good idea on why the youkai behind this incident is taking the sound from these objects. “Well, I think I have a motive. Whoever is doing this, they’re trying to throw the biggest party ever. Why, I could give less of a shit, but this is affecting people’s lives so I have to find her and make her return the sound to Gensokyo.” Reimu says as she gets ready to leave.

“Oh! That would make sense! But before you go, Reimu, I feel that I should mention something that may help you!” Suika calls out to the miko, who looks back at Suika curiously, waiting for her to talk. “Well, lately a very old Oni who’s ages older than even Kasen has started to become more active in Former Hell. Buying things like crates of saki, beer, food and some party supplies. Though truth be told, I have no idea who this Oni is. I just know that they’re considered to be one of the first Onis to ever exist. So… be careful Reimu.” Suika warns.

Old, buying party supplies and seems to be powerful? Yep, there’s no doubt that this is the person behind the incident. Reimu gives Suika a nod and starts to float up in the air. “To Former Hell it is then. Thank you for the help Suika.” Reimu says before flying off.

“Cheers Reimu! Good luck!” Suika cheers before taking a swig from her gourd. She then bursts into tears as she still can’t hear the sound of her booze. “IT JUST ISN’T THE SAME!!!”

Reimu rolls her eyes at Suika’s ridiculousness and flies towards Former Hell. Once she enters the city, it’s clear that this place was one of the first places affected by this Oni. There’s hardly any sound at all besides the concerned chatter of it’s residents. She needs to resolve this quickly before anything bad happens. As Reimu flies down the city and pass the palace of the Earth Spirits, she feels a disturbance within the boundaries of reality. This disturbance is very loud, almost as if she can hear a party going on from some other dimension. Seems like she found where she needs to be. Reimu smirks and closes her eyes, holding out her gohei before slashing the air, creating a gap in reality. Through the gap, the music is far louder than it was earlier, with the sound of bells, booze and sizzling food echoing throughout the caverns that make up Former Hell. “Gotcha~” Reimu giggles as she flies through the gap, which closes behind her.

Upon flying through, Reimu would find her vision assaulted by bright neon lights. She rubs her eyes as she gets used to their brightness and notes how odd the music sounds. It sounds nothing like the music she’s heard before, using these weird drum beats and string instruments that sound like the danmaku that Yukari often uses. She looks around the room and finds what appears to be a brown haired woman wearing a black leather jacket, a pair of ripped black leggings, a red and black dress, and a tattered red cap that seems to be well loved. The horns and golden chains on this woman clearly indicates that this is the Oni she’s looking for. Despite being an old hag, she dresses up like someone from the outside world. She remembers seeing this style on Sumireko’s glass box thingy. She thinks it was called… Punk Lolita or something? Whatever that means.

Reimu floats towards the Oni, who was sitting ontop of large metal boxes that made a loud booming noise with the beat of the music. The oni cracks open a bottle of beer and downs it in one gulp before smashing the glass on the ground. She notices Reimu standing infront of her and gives a smile, hopping off of the boxes and onto the floor, towering over Reimu. “Yo, how can I help you?” She asks.

“Are you the one that stole the sound from Gensokyo and all of it’s residents?” Reimu asked, wanting to get this done with.

The Oni shows Reimu a toothy grin as she takes pride in what she did. “You bet I did! I need all that sound to be able to throw the best party of remembrance of all time!” She shouts.

“Then by order of me, Reimu Hakurei, I order you to return the sound to the people of Gensokyo and clean up this damn party.” Reimu says as she points her gohei at the woman.

The oni chuckles as she stares at Reimu through her red eyes. “Come on Reimu, why don’t you just relax and party with me. Remember the people we’ve lost and have a party so that we can forget the pains of life! Though, I probably should introduce myself to you, huh? You may call me Kiki Setsuko, the oni of sounds.” Kiki introduces herself, giving Reimu a peace sign as she holds a beer can in front of the shrine maiden.

Reimu smacks the can to the side, albeit a bit hesitantly, as she glares at Kiki. “I don’t want to party! I want to be able to listen to my music while I drink my beer by myself!”

“Wow, you’re quite selfish aren’t you? I thought you were supposed to be kind, caring and always putting Gensokyo first.”

“Well, when you have pieces of shit youkai like you causing an incident every day, you’d end up like me.” Reimu grumbles as her annoyance at this oni increases.

“And who knew you had such a potty mouth! You really are a bitch huh?” Kiki retorts, tightening her fist before throwing a punch at Reimu, who dodged it as fast as it came out. However, the sound of Kiki’s fist flying through the air causes sharp waves of bullets to fly towards Reimu. She didn’t expect this and had a hard time dodging the attack. “Surprised huh? My power allows me to control the very concept of sound. Whether it be increasing it’s pitch, it’s length, it’s volume or even completely removing it all together. It also allows me to steal the sound from objects as you’ve seen yourself.” Kiki explains as she claps her hands together, creating a sound so loud that it could be mistaken as thunder.

From a quick glance, Reimu can see a lightning bolt zipping to her location. She dodges it quickly and performs a beautiful dance between bullets and lightning as she flies towards Kiki, winding up a swing from her gohei before smacking Kiki across the face. The blow causes the oni to get flown back into the metal boxes, breaking them and causing the music to die down slightly as a result. “You’re not the first, and you certainly won’t be the last to have some kind of busted power.” Reimu says as she points her gohei at Kiki. “Truth be told, I just want to get this over with, so I could care less about if I kill you or not.”

Kiki chuckles at Reimu’s threat, not really concerned about her own life. “Well, there’s one thing that you forgot Reimu. My power allows me to silence anything that makes a sound. Do you want to know how I can do that? By making that object immovable, like with the bell at your shrine or even right now with your heart.” Kiki winks as she clutches her fist.

As soon as Kiki clenched her fist, Reimu felt her chest tighten, finding it hard to breathe. She clutches her chest as she starts to choke on the air. Soon Reimu finds herself falling to the floor, gasping desperately for air as she punches her chest to try to restart her heart, only to meet in failure. She lays down on her back as black starts to envelope her vision, her breathing stopping as she lets out a dying gasp.

Kiki watches Reimu struggle with a cruel grin. As she watches Reimu struggle for her life, an unpleasant memory enters her head, causing Kiki’s grin to falter, this sight not being unfamiliar to her. Her eyes shine bright red with rage as these memories flood her mind, before finally she sighs and unclenches her hand. “Yukari would give me something worse than death if I were to kill you.” Kiki sighed as she looked at Reimu.

Reimu suddenly feels her heart beating once more as she can finally breathe again. She takes deep heavy breathes, hungry for the air she was breathing, even if it did smell like grease. She slowly staggers up to her feet, still breathing heavily and pointing her gohei at Kiki. “How… how the hell do you know the old hag?” She asks in between breaths.

“Why wouldn’t I know her? After all, I am one of her best friends~” Kiki winks before shooing Reimu away.

“Hey! Don’t shoo me away! I still have to beat some sense into you!” Reimu shouts, unable to fight back against Kiki’s massive physical strength.

“Yeah yeah, I know. But my party is over anyways, so I’m going to return all the sound I stole back to Gensokyo, okay?” Kiki said, in a hurry as she just wants to be alone for now, the memories still fresh in her mind.

Reimu would find herself pushed out of the gap she made previously and into Former Hell as she looks at Kiki and glares at her. “You better keep your promise. I will find you again and I won’t let you use that same trick on me twice,” Reimu growls.

“I promise. Now, leave me alone you dumb bitch.” Kiki growls, feeling her anger build up within herself yet again.

Reimu rolls her eyes and closes the gap before flying out of Former Hell. “Youkai… I swear… I need to get some of the good stuff at the village. Maybe try some of that Vodka stuff that Rinnosuke’s shop is selling.” Reimu said to herself as she makes her way towards the human village.

When Reimu left, Kiki grits her teeth and stomps her foot on the ground, causing the entirety of the floor within this pocket space to shatter like glass. She lets out a loud scream before falling to her knees, staring blankly at her hands. She balls her hands up into a fist and punches the floor, causing the already shattered floor to break even more.

After taking her rage out on the floor, Kiki stands back up and snaps her fingers, causing all of the sound that she stole to return to it’s original source. Maybe she should go to the human village today and see what’s going on there. That can help distract her mind from what just happened. At least, she hopes it would.