

真・天地無用！ 魍皇鬼外伝

天地無用！ GXP 1

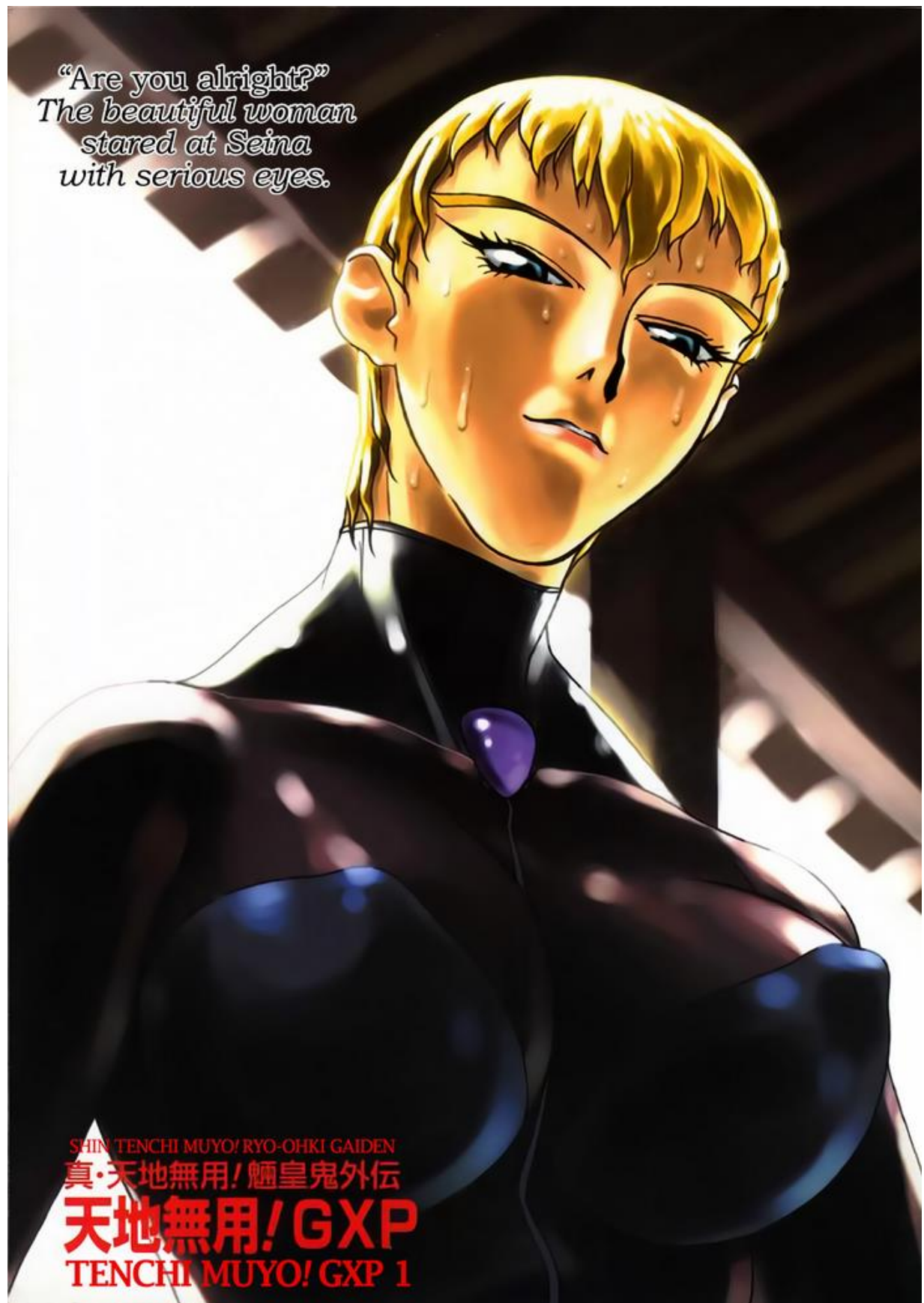
梶島正樹 白根秀樹



富士見ファンタジア文庫

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*"Are you alright?"
The beautiful woman
stared at Seina
with serious eyes.*



SHIN TENCHI MUYO! RYO-OHKI GAIDEN
真・天地無用! 魍皇鬼外伝
天地無用! GXP
TENCHI MUYO! GXP 1



"Allow me to introduce Seina-sama's entertainers for the day."
When Minaho spoke, the four women, who had been waiting in the back,
suddenly moved forward and removed their hoods at the same time.



*Kiriko's face
went red up
to her ears.
As she
looked down,
she realized
that she had
completely
fallen into
Seto's trap...*

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*** * * Translators' note: This chapter is where episode 1 of the show starts if you want to watch and read to compare the differences. * * ***

Chapter One: To the Cosmos

It was an early summer afternoon, the rainy season had just ended, and the intense sunlight was casting jet-black shadows as if to release the exasperation of the day. A huge cumulonimbus cloud was spreading in the endlessly high blue sky.

*** * * Translators' note: OVA 3 also starts during the same rainy season. This is after the time reset. * * ***

Wheels of silver twinkled with the daylight's sparkle as a bicycle sped down a rural road. The afternoon was so hot that after school club activities had been canceled. A boy looking around 15 was pedaling his bicycle with a frantic expression on his face.

"If only Kai had told me sooner." The boy's name was Seina Yamada.

It was damp and hot and the area's heat index was rising. Seina's face was frantically sweating as he increased speed, he was in a hurry.

He left school and headed straight home without taking any detours when he came to a fork in the road. He glanced at the other route for a second before taking the path home. When he got home, he hit his foot on a pillar's corner. He changed his clothes and made a mistake with the buttons, twice. He tripped down the hallway and fell down the stairs, and his bicycle's pedals slipped off like a slap stick Kansai region comedy show. This was ordinary for him. Anyways, he was in a great hurry to leave.

I wonder why he was in such a hurry that he would come straight from school just to come and go like that. Well, the reason was a little bit bad, but he honestly had a good excuse!

His destination was a house in Masaki village which lie just beyond a local mountain pass. It belonged to his classmate Kai who had been his best friend since childhood.

Of course, he was going to see his classmate to borrow porn magazines, at least that's what he said but that was only a pretext, which wasn't really why he was in such a hurry.

The real reason was the object of Seina's yearning, Kai's older sister, Kiriko Masaki was returning home to from her new job.

As Seina began to pedal, the paved road roared. He put on his helmet to hide his unflattering buzz cut, his crew cut was just beginning to grow back.

"My Precious Kiriko-san is returning. I hope she understands this when she sees it..." he was grumbling because he was skin headed from a bad decision. Only two weeks ago his hair began to look like that of a monk in training after it had been fixed.

The details of the story were: One day Seina took a big fall down his house's stairs and severely hurt his head. And well, that was normal. "Owcheeeee," he said as he got up and began rubbing the spot on his head that he had hit, then he fainted. That was rare.

He was quickly packed into an ambulance and taken to the hospital. Luckily, he was completely healthy, he had no scratches on him whatsoever. They ran a complete physical and the results did not show a thing wrong with him. He was instantly discharged from the hospital as one would expect.

Somehow an error was made when transmitting his patient records and no one discovered it. A rookie nurse confused Seina with a patient that required a craniotomy. While he was unconscious, they shaved his head about halfway. He woke up and objected but it was too late to stop them. Roars of laughter came from the doctors as well as the in- and outpatients as he was released.

"It was an accident," the rookie nurse's training partner said. His hair was cut in a wacky style reminiscent of a reverse Mohawk. And that, they had shaved it with a razor, which gave the added bonus of razor scratches.

"Hey, it looks good on you Seina. You have a nicely shaped head." Their praise wasn't bringing him any comfort, and neither was the juice they gave to him.

He was staring at the juice he had received; it was in a cup marked urine analysis. "—by the way, has this been used before."

"What's that, Seina? Can you say that again Ikkyū-san?"

*** * * Translators' note: An anime based on a Zen Buddhist monk. * * ***

The next day at school, Seina was teased by his classmates over his hair. He still had to go to school even though he was hurt, his being hurt was inevitable. If he took a day off, the school would call because of the connotations.

Unlucky occurrences were always guaranteed, he had a tendency toward injury and above all else, this troubled crew cut haired boy was always in trouble's way. He had been continuously in a state of pain for quite a while. They teased him every time it happened.

He ran his hands through his freshly fixed hair, as he rode back home. He pondered his bad luck; this time it was a bit harsh on him. As he thought about it, gravel got in his front wheel which caused his front wheel to lock up causing his bike to flip out of control.

"!?"

He noticed a lot of things while spinning out of control. The ground, the bicycle's handle, the sky, and cabbage growing out of the soil.



Shortly after, Seina's bicycle plunged into the field along the road. "Karakarkara..." went the wheel as it turned. A bunch of cicadas chirped in the distance.

× × ×

Now change scenes to a small store: the store had an old, almost faded sign on it that read Yamada Shop. This grocery and general goods store was also Seina's house.

The residential part's interior design was unpleasant to look at, but the shop part was not as bad. The residential area was upstairs, and it looked like most of it needed repairs. Frankly, the shop part was pretty run down as well.

All the damage was from Seina's misfortune, and it had been fixed and fixed until eventually, all the repairs couldn't be kept up with and so it appeared to be in a state of neglect.

"Are you back now big brother?"

A customer had gotten a set of clothes pins and a can of corned beef, and their purchase had rung up to a total of 390 yen. A young girl with braids bid the customer farewell and looked at her mother who was standing next to her.

"Seina distracted me, so I forgot to include the sales tax in their total," the girl said.

"I'm leaving to go see Kiriko-san now!" Seina said. The little girl unintentionally chortled.

The little girl, who was 3 years younger, was Seina's sister, Yoshiko Yamada. Her mother had named her Yoshiko, which means lucky child, because she wished for her to have better luck than her older brother.

"Kiriko-chan survived you, and now she's come back? Are you really going to go visit her? If you do, give her my condolences." said Yoshiko chortling again.

The store was in a big empty neighborhood without any other convenience stores or supermarkets. Ordinarily this would be a splendid and flourishing business, but Seina made customers avoid the place.

"Really. The only good luck he ever had was meeting Kiriko-chan," said Yoshiko.

"He used it all up," said the Yamada sibling's mother, Kyoko Yamada. She smiled happily while counting the ten-yen coins in the cash register.

"But mom, so far he's only met her. It's a sad thing, isn't it?" Yoshiko said. That made Kyoko smile. "She's a compassionate child, isn't she?" Kyoko declared. That pitiable boy was still struggling to get his mind out of the gutter.

"I'm going to go see Kiriko after this." Since the time he was a troublesome young boy, Seina was looked after by a woman 5 years older than him.

Even though Seina's bad luck also drew the people around him into numerous amounts of trouble, Kiriko never abandoned him. She had always affectionately taken care of him. As far as he was concerned, she was a goddess. However recently, she had left town to find work because the chances of finding a job locally were very small. Because of this she only had the opportunity to come home about once every six months.

To Seina, those half years felt exactly like 1000 years. But it wasn't, it had definitely been six months exactly. One day, two days, a thousand years. The movement of time was a funny thing.

And why was he going to see her for the first time this year? The reason was so he could talk to her, to tell her all the unfortunate things in his life and cry. It would be six months before she came home again, and Seina was on his way to go see her.

The last time he went to see her he had an accident halfway there and despite having only minor injuries he was administered sleeping pills and taken to the hospital. He eventually saw Kiriko, but only for a short while. He had to watch her walk away almost as soon as she got to the hospital. She had gotten an emergency call from work and had to leave in a hurry.

But this time was different, this time he checked both ways at all crosswalks and watched diligently for cars and fell into a ditch... it was kinda funny... Anyways, this time he was going to see her for sure.

He was fine because he fastened his helmet extra tight. It had been a very long time since he had seen her, and he was hoping she would be kind about his hair situation. He had no doubt that she would at least notice it and give him a smile.

"Now to go see Kiriko-san!" He said. He smiled uncontrollably and bravely got back up.

"Hey you, are you alright?" He heard the voice of the old woman who owned the field calling. Seina removed his bike from the field, leaving a hole. He apologized, dusted the dirt off his clothes and politely paid the old woman for the damage before he gallantly straddled his bike.

He had slightly scratched his elbow, but it was no big deal. As far as he was concerned, this amount of injury was nothing. God only knew how many times he had hurt himself on that bike since he got it. Sometimes he would fall into a rice field. Sometimes he would fall into a regular field. Sometimes he'd fall into a river. Every time he did, he usually sprained his knee or ankle or

dislocated his shoulder. It wasn't as though Seina was the least bit careless. One can only wonder what percent of those tumbles were due to his own error. As it stood, it couldn't be said whether this crash was due to bad luck or his own carelessness.

No matter how careful, no matter how cautious, bad luck would hit Seina the second he gave it an opening. That was the only way to put it. If he went swimming, his swim trunks would rip. If he played ping pong, his opponent's ball would skip the net entirely and hit him in the face. If PE Class had taught him anything, it was that it was pointless to try and avoid any volleyball headed towards his face. Etcetera, etcetera. It didn't matter what it was. Any variation of things that could go wrong would go wrong. It had been that way since he was born.

After having suffered through so much misfortune, he found it difficult to consider anything that resulted in something that wasn't a major life-threatening accident to be any more than a minor nuisance. Usually, it was just a minor blooper, but some days it was like the other day when he ended up in the hospital.

"I wonder why me?" He thought back to when he was very young and wondered how many times he had been through these ordeals.

Seina's foot slipped as he put his foot on the pedal and he fell over again. "I wonder why this happens," he said. A few minutes later Seina had arrived at a fork in the road. "Hmm, what should I do?" Seina got off his bike. He thought about the two paths.

The route on the right was flat, but there was a big mountain in the middle, and it would have taken a long time for him to go around it. In contrast, the left route crossed the mountain and was a quarter of the length, but it was an uphill ride.

"Hmm I can't decide. If I want to see Kiriko as soon as possible, I should take the road that crosses the mountain. That is obvious."

But there was a reason for Seina to hesitate to take the left route that crossed the mountain. Rumors wouldn't stop spreading about the route. Some people said they saw shiny flying things followed by sudden thunderous roars. Other people reported sudden localized rain showers. Some people saw strange looking demons. Others reported seeing a ghostly woman flying in the sky. Naturally, there were a parade of stories about strange phenomena on that route.

Ordinarily, it was a dangerous route for Seina. With his luck he would most assuredly encounter one of these phenomena. Of course, because of the rumors people naturally avoided the route. But it could have just been all been stories that parents told their kids to keep them from going down that route and getting lost. At any rate, for now this route seemed off limits.

However, Seina considered it. He looked at the sky. The sun was still going to be out for a long while. There was not a cloud in the sky. It was the quickest way to get to Kiriko.

No, he shouldn't go that way ... but it was to see Kiriko. He felt like he had been put on the spot. Seina had to make a choice.

He got on his bike and went down the mountain path. It was dense with lush trees. "I used to come down here all the time with Tenchi-senpai. I'll be fine," he said. Tenchi was one of the two Masaki boys in town. He lived at the foot of the shrine that was in this mountain. He, Kiriko, and Kai were all relatives. They shared the family name of Masaki. Tenchi, Seina, and Kai all used to play together as children at the shrine around here. Like Kiriko, Tenchi also fell victim to Seina's bad luck, but didn't avoid him because of it. But Seina and Tenchi had grown apart as they grew up. Not because Tenchi wanted to avoid Seina's bad luck, but instead because Seina was much younger than Tenchi and as he got older, he wanted to hang out with kids his own age from school.

"Now that I think of Tenchi, I remember there have been several rumors about him since he left high school. Doesn't he take this route to get back home?" He thought while pedaling hard. "I wonder if I saw him again after all these years if he'd have any stories about seeing anything strange on this route. If people have seen strange things on this route, he's gotta have a few stories," he thought.

He noticed the landscape changed from forest to fields. These were all Tenchi's family's fields. First there was a carrot field, after that was a carrot field, then another carrot field, and another carrot field, and another carrot field, and another carrot field, and another carrot field.

"Why so many carrot fields?" If you were to look around all you would see was carrot fields. "I wonder if he sells them." Seina tilted his head. "There's no one in Tenchi's family who is a farmer."

Just as he thought about asking Tenchi about the matter an unpleasant vibration ran through the rear wheel of the bicycle. The unevenness of the ground suddenly vibrated through Seina's body. It seemed he had a flat tire. "This must be because of the route ... no... With my luck this would have happened either way." Seina grumbled to himself as he opened the small toolbox on the back of his bike.

For him, punctured tires, broken brake wires, and slipped bike chains were a daily occurrence. His repair kit was his way of compensating for that. In the case of a punctured tire all he had to do was find the hole and fuse a rubber patch on it.

Once you got used to it, it wasn't a difficult thing to do. However, he needed water to soak the inner tube so he could find the hole. The nearest place with water was the pond in front of Tenchi's house. Seina stopped his bike at the end of the road and went towards the Masaki house.

"Wow, it's gotten a lot bigger", he muttered as he noticed the house looked different from the last time he saw it. When he played with Tenchi in elementary school it was still just a small one-story house. Even the new gate posts were unusual. There were logs painted in a pattern unfamiliar to Seina. The entrance had changed completely since he was there last.

It wasn't uncommon for people to make extensions to and renovate old country houses. He remembered the tree Tenchi, Kai, and Seina used to climb.

“Good afternoon Tenchi-senpai, it’s me, Seina Yamada!” He called out to the household. No one answered. The front door was open, but there was nothing but a strange aura to be seen. It seemed like no one was home.

“Well, isn't that nice. I can just get some water from this pond.” Seina thought as he headed towards the pond with the vinyl bucket from his bike.

The pond was cold to the touch and its clear mirror like surface reflected the daylight. As he leaned over to fetch some water, waves began to crest out of the center of the pond.

“Huh?” Seina felt uncomfortable as he looked around at the pond. “What's that?” he said. The loud cicadas that had been chirping up till then had abruptly stopped.

[You are in danger, watch out!] Whose voice was he hearing? “Huh!” He looked around him but there was no one. [Take shelter quickly!]

However, the trembling air shook Seina's body, as a thunderous roar called out from above the sky drowning out the voice. “Huh!?” Seina glanced at the sky above the reflection for a moment until a crash struck his whole body to the ground. He groaned.

In an instant, an enormous wave swallowed Seina and dragged him into the middle of the lake. “Ki...Kiriko-saaaaaan!” The impact caused him to lose consciousness.

Seina's unconscious mind floated to the surface, he saw Kiriko's smiling face laughing. “...”

He was unsure how much time had passed before he was discovered and brought back from the intense darkness. He was unable to describe the nice smell or the soft touch of the mouth that had revived him. He wondered who was beside him.

“He's regaining consciousness!” The voice said.

“I wonder whose voice that is.” Seina thought. He hadn't yet begun to function normally. “Where am I?”

He had childhood memories of this place. Seina, Tenchi, and Kai had played in the pond one time, and when Seina nearly drowned, Kiriko had taken care of him. She was very caring. She held him affectionately and gently comforted him.

A vague tongue like object gradually revived his consciousness back to reality. “Oh, that's right. I was trying to get some water when I got dragged into the pond.” He remembered, “Did Kiriko rescue me again?”

He began to look for that faint figure. It was a woman. “Kiriko-sa...” He was wrong.

The girl had short cut blond hair, blue-green eyes, and a plain but beautiful face. Her aura was like a light breeze. Kiriko was entirely different from this gorgeous foreign woman. She looked as though she could be on TV or in magazines.

"... Is this a dream?" asked Seina. He was beginning to, but was not yet able to, recognize the reality of this situation.



"Are you alright", the woman asked?

"Where am I? Is this Tenchi-senpai's place?"

Finally understanding his situation, he looked at the woman who was grasping him. She opened her mouth and breathed a sigh of relief. "Great, you look like you're alright! It looked like you wouldn't wake up, I was worried."

"Th... Thank you. For saving me... sort of..." Seina turned bright red from ear to ear out of embarrassment and bowed to the woman in thanks. The woman breathed another big sigh of relief and began to ramble really fast.

"How unpleasant! I'm sorry. Please excuse me! I've never been somewhere before that didn't have a landing beacon. I didn't know what to do! Ha ha! You're lucky I even landed here at all." She hit Seina in the shoulder in a friendly way.

"... .. I am?" he asked.

Her appearance combined with her ability to talk so fast confused him. She looked like she wouldn't be able to understand him, but she didn't even have an accent.

"I was impatient, so impatient. It really got me sweating, seeing you there floating in that pond. It was so awkward. I panicked and I jumped in and got my clothes all wet. But it turns out you're just one big bundle of scratches. Tenchi must be training you hard, you're covered in fresh wounds." The woman traced the wounds on Seina's body with her fingers.

"!" Seina suddenly felt an electric current through him. The woman plunged her voluptuous breasts into him. He found himself sexually attracted to her smell; a 15-year-old boy can't be expected to keep his composure in a situation like that.

"Is this person an acquaintance of Tenchi-senpai?" He used both his hands to hide the bulge in his groin so she wouldn't notice. But the woman to his left didn't notice anything and kept on talking.

"Ah, but that crash probably didn't cut you up as bad as Ryoko-san, or was it Ayeka-sama that did this? Either way I'd hate to have to spar with either of those two ..." The woman suddenly fell silent and began pondering something.

Cicadas began singing and before you knew it only their chirps and the occasional sound of wind chimes echoed in the silence. "Uuhm..." Seina became unable to endure the silence. He noticed he had been lying on the woman's jacket. "Ex... excuse me I didn't notice!"

Quickly, Seina brushed the dirt off her jacket and offered it to her. "Huh? Oh, don't worry about that." Seina and the woman faced each other the wind blew through her short straw-colored hair, the sweet scent tickled Seina's nose.

"Wha... whawhawhawa... what's the matter?" Puzzled by his sudden reaction, the girl put her face up to Seina's beating chest. Seina stared at the woman, his heartbeat grew faster, and his breathing became rougher.

If Seina were a normal boy, he would probably have had positive expectations about this situation. But Seina, being a bundle of bad luck, had never even been anywhere near a situation like this, especially not with someone who looked like a foreign model. He wasn't about to jump to any conclusions. Sorry if you expected anything else.

"Uh... uhm... sorry, I forgot to introduce myself, my name is..."

"Do you want to apply to enter the GP?" The woman said, leaving Seina confused.

"Uh?" Gee Pee? What is she talking about, what does she mean by entering?

"So, what do you think? If you join the GP, you can learn all kinds of skills and the benefits are great!" The woman stared up and down Seina's body. "I mean it has to be better than being collateral damage whenever those two get in a fight."

"Oh, that! Well, I don't mean to upset you, but I don't know what you're talking about."

"I know what you mean. Here, there's a detailed description inside this pamphlet." The woman withdrew a pamphlet from the document bundle she had under her arm. She stood up and handed it to Seina.

"Wait, I have something else like this ..." Her wrist alarm began beeping. "Not again! It looks like I'm out of time! This is bad. I gotta go soon, can you give this to Tenchi for me?" The woman gave Seina a separate set of documents from her collection.

"Give Tenchi-kun my best regards." The woman turned around and gently saluted.

"Oh, and once you're in the GP don't forget to properly introduce yourself to me. My name is Amane Kaunaq. Don't worry. It will let me know when you join. I'm trying to rack up referral points." The woman gave a wink.

“Uh... hey... wait a second!” Seina was trying to get more information out of her on the subject when without warning there was a roaring sound again. Amane unexpectedly vanished.

Seina left the package addressed to Tenchi on the veranda and went to fetch the vinyl basket that was floating in the pond. The package had a note attached to it. “Tenchi won't mind if I come back later to tell him. I've wasted too much time already meeting Amane to wait for him,” he thought.

“I have to get to Kiriko-san's house as soon as possible!” He got on his bike ready to go to Kiriko's at full speed like a cowboy whipping his horse to go full speed.

“Kiyaaa...” He fell over. “Ouch ouch ouch.”

He dragged his bike down the mountain once more. Soon the Masaki house came into view.

In hindsight it would have been quicker to take the other route. But if he had, some other bad luck would have probably befallen him and given the shorter distance to his goal, it might not have been that much of a loss.

As Seina walked towards the Masaki house he saw a woman's black hair come into view in the distance. She was sweeping the leaves outside and even from a long distance her beauty was noticeable. He called her name, “Kiriko-san.”

Kiriko's eyes slowly raised, and she stared gently at Seina.

“Welcome, Seina-chan. It's been a long time. I'm glad you're alive and well.” Kiriko smiled at Seina without much surprise about Seina's battered frame. All his hardships and bad luck up till then blew away. Her smile lit up the smile in Seina's heart.

“Repair-repair-repair re-re repaiiiiiiiir ~ ♪” Kai hummed out of tune in the garden as he repaired Seina's bicycle.

Kai's repairs on Seina's bike were stunning and put professionals to shame. Kai and Seina had been friends since kindergarten, which was more ten years ago. He was Seina's only real friend. Well, he had other friends. But they kept their distance to avoid his bad luck. Kai was the only one who didn't mind. After all, Kai was a pretty carefree guy.

Because of Kiriko's affectionate kindness, Seina had begun to think of Kiriko as an older sister and he thought of the Masaki's house as his home. It was as if he was a member of the Masaki family.

“It's badly damaged, as always, but if you can break it, I can fix it.” said Kai as he skillfully operated on the bike with a wrench and screwdriver. “Alright! It's done!”

“What's done?” asked Seina.

“Your bike has finally had every original part replaced.”

“No way!?”

"I guess that means I'm this bicycle's original creator now," said Kai as he happily worked on the abused bike.

"Seina-chan come over here. Let me take care of your wounds." Seina heard Kiriko's voice and got a dumb look on his face.

"Y-Yes please." Seina went to the veranda by the garden and sat a short distance from Kiriko. He was embarrassed to sit right next to her. "You're so hard to leave," she said while smiling. Kiriko's long, sleek black hair fluttered in the wind as she closed the distance between her and Seina.

Seina was focused on her movement and facial expressions when he started to think about Amane. He remembered her smile and glossy lips. Seina's face looked melancholy. "What's the matter Seina?" Kiriko had noticed the change in his expression. "Uhm...uh... it's nothing..." he said. Seina tried to block out his thoughts of Amane. He was with Kiriko now and it was disrespectful to her. Also, his feelings for Amane weren't even remotely as strong as his feelings for Kiriko.

Soon Kiriko had stained a roll of gauze with disinfectant and was applying it to Seina's elbow. "Aaaaaaaah," Seina winced as Kiriko disinfected his dirty wounds.

"You can endure it. You're not a little kid anymore, are you?" Kiriko was just as gentle as always. Seina was happy that Kiriko was exactly the same even though he hadn't seen her in so long.

"Oh, you're hurt here too." Kiriko finished applying gauze to Seina's ankles and elbows and moved on to his cheek.

Seina hadn't noticed but, he had probably gotten cut somewhere. He wondered if he had gotten it when he fell on the mountain road. As he thought about it, Kiriko suddenly stopped.

"Huh?" Seina had never seen her so confused. She then smiled in relief. "That's excellent Seina-chan."

"Wha...what?" Kiriko went to apply a bandage to Seina's cheek but put it on his mouth.

"What's this?"

"What's what?"

"There's no need to be shy. Was it good? You're a good boy Seina-chan, just unlucky. And to think I was worried about you."

Kiriko put away the first aid box and stood up. Seina wasn't sure what she was talking about. "Is that really what I think that is? You should really take a look at a mirror." Kiriko said with a chuckle.

Seina looked at a dresser in the corner of the room. As usual half his face was cut but where Kiriko had gone to place the bandage there was the faint outline of lipstick.

“... Wha... What is this?” He yelled while swooning. He suddenly remembered that Amane's soft lips had resuscitated him at Tenchi's place. Seina got goose bumps on his body and his face became flushed. Of all thing things Kiriko could have seen, the number one worst thing would have been something to make her think he had a lover.

Confused, He wiped off his lips and got up to run after Kiriko.

“Uhm, Kiriko-san, this isn't what you think it is. I don't know whose lipstick that was,” he said.

“Don't be embarrassed. Seina-chan. You're getting to be that age, aren't you?” She said.

“Kiriko-san please just give me a moment to explain, there's no relationship. It isn't like that.”

“Is that so?” She giggled, “Is it a girl from class? I'm guessing it's a high school girl from the lipstick.”

“Kiriko-chan!”

“Well, I guess congratulations are in order, the first watermelon of the season has ripened. Give me a little while and I'll cut some for us.” She said, winking. Kiriko went to the kitchen.

“Kiriko-sa...” Seina hung his head in disappointment as Kai came into the room.

“It's pointless, you know. Don't worry, if she asks anyone about it, they will back up your story.”

That's right, certainly Kiriko would believe what other people said.

“So, who's the other woman?”

“If there was another woman you would have heard about it. It was just someone who came by Tenchi's to deliver a package.”

“So, the package came with a kiss?”

“Well, I guess you could say that...” He told Kai about what happened at Tenchi's.

Kai looked at Seina with pity. “... Heh.”

“What's that look for?”

“That sounds like a fairy tale. I guess that makes you sleeping beauty?”

“I'm not lying! Why would I make up something like that?”

“I can't believe it. How could such a good thing happen to you?”

“Give me a break. I got evidence you know. She gave me a brochure.” Suddenly he realized that the brochure he put in his bag was no longer there. Kai wasn't particularly interested in the pamphlet but if he found it, he could have proven his story to Kiriko. It seemed he had put it down outside when his tire punctured. Seina shrugged it off. By the way, at this time he could no

longer remember the voice that called out to him and warned him, it was as if his memory had been erased.

"Anyways, it seems I fell into the pond and drowned."

"Oh, is that so? Then she gave you CPR! Well, I see. If that's the case you're pretty lucky. Well, that's a relief." Kai now seemed to believe him.

He breathed a sigh of relief and giggled a bit.

"What a relief! Well then, you can explain that to my sister! I'm sure she would believe you."

"She's very understanding..."

Kiriko came back in with freshly cut watermelon. This was the moment for Seina to tell Kiriko. Kiriko's watermelon slices were hard to swallow.

"What's that Kiriko?" Seina had noticed that Kiriko had a bandage on her finger. "I'm fine. It's not like it's a big scar or anything... I cut myself on accident. Eat up! This year's watermelon is even better than last years."

"Let's eat!" Suddenly, Kai reached out for a slice of watermelon. "Look Seina!" Kai held his watermelon lengthwise in his left hand as he ate it. He held out a slice for Seina in his right.

"Thanks! Well then... let's eat!"

Seina stared at Kiriko's face while they ate watermelon. He was trying to tell if she was still mad over the lipstick. It seemed there was no way to clear up this misconception at the current time. It would seem his first meeting with Kiriko in a long while would have to end with the subtle sweetness of the first watermelon of the season.

"It was wonderful having you over! Come back anytime," said Kiriko politely as she saw Seina off. Seina looked out at the gloomy path home. The mountains ahead looked dark. The sun had sunk down to the other side of the mountains, it felt so sad as if it were reacting to how Seina felt.

"Give your mother my best regards." She said with a smile and a song. She saw Seina as being like her younger brother and so she was more than happy to have him visit. However, Seina was worried. He was going to have to explain from the beginning to Kiriko about the pamphlet and Amane. Well, he didn't have to, but it would have been too painful waiting another 6 months to tell her.

It had become dusk and so it felt more dangerous and creepier to Seina as he went home. He walked his bike home instead of riding it. His fear of running into strange phenomena on his route was stronger than his love of Kiriko. "... Oh, that's where it went." The bag in which he had put the pamphlet lay in the middle of the road. Fortunately, no one had passed by and taken it. If he had held onto it better before, then he wouldn't have been in this mess. Giving a wry miserable

smile, he picked up the muddy bag and put it in the bicycle's basket before straddling his bicycle again.

"Huh! What was that?" Seina unexpectedly saw a white shadowy figure fly overhead through the gaps in the trees. "What is that!?! ... AAAAAAAAAAA... ...!!!!!!!"

The thing he saw had defiantly been shaped like a person. He had just seen one of the eerie female figures that constituted the strange phenomena people spread rumors about.

"... I didn't see anything... I'm not looking at anything..." He told himself with a scared expression on his face he began to pedal quickly. The white shadowy figure disappeared from above and passed beside Seina.

"I don't see anything, I don't see anything, I don't see anything, I don't see anything, I don't see anything..." Seina peddled quickly through the gloomy mountains while screaming. He had the face on of someone for whom death was coming for.

He pedaled so fast that the paint on his bike that Kai just repainted started coming off after only a few hours. But after a while he had somehow managed to make it back to his house in one piece. He felt dizzy and wandered to the bathroom to put his head over the toilet. But his stomach had been empty since the meal with Kiriko. His family was eating dinner, so he joined them instead.

He looked at the pamphlet he had brought in. It had a logo drawn on the cover that said "GP". It was made of something plastic looking and had glittery writing.

"This thing's pretty elaborately designed." Though he had dropped it on the mountain side it didn't have a single visible bruise. But Seina personally didn't notice those kinds of things.

[...GP! The Brave heroes of outer space! Guardians of peace who fight off the storm of evil!]
[Recruiting young people! For the sake of the galaxy!] [You'll become a member, and become popular with the opposite sex, too!] Read the messily written quotes on the outside.

"What on earth is this thing?" Said Seina instinctively. "This reeks of some sort of advertisement for an amusement park or a movie ... a low budget movie. Amane must have been a marketing campaign promoter. That makes sense, although it doesn't quite explain what she was doing at Tenchi's..." he thought

"What's that?" His younger sister Yoshiko asked, as she leaned forward. She had gotten bored of watching TV.

"It seems to be an advertising brochure of for a movie or theme park attraction."

"Well then, can I take a look at it?"

"No, I Just got it."

His mother Kyoko had just finished her meal and decided to join in on the conversation, “Why does it say GP on it? I've never heard of that before.”

Seina began to flip through the pamphlet. “Well, I don't know what it is, but it looks like a cheap movie.”

“Maybe they're intentionally going for that look. Retro is very in right now.”

Talk like that went on for a while as Seina read the pamphlet, until he suddenly stopped reading. There was a space for writing in one's personal information.

“Please enter the required information on the application to join.”

“What's this?”

“This must be a part of the advertising campaign. We should fill it out.” Yoshiko said in amazement.

They thought maybe it was a sweepstakes to find someone to play an extra in the movie or a sign up for a fan club.

“Oh, how splendid! How would you like to apply? It's not like you have any after school activities that it would get in the way of.”

“How absurd.” Seina thought to himself that maybe if he “joined up” he could be part of advertising this thing and maybe he'd get to see Amane again.

No, wait a moment. Seina also considered that maybe if he participated, they would give him a free movie ticket to see it and then he would have an excuse to invite Kiriko to see it with him.

[Good day, Kiriko-san.]

[Oh Seina! You're inviting me to a movie? I'm so happy!]

[Well, I helped promote it.]

[REALLY! That's great Seina-chan!]

[Ahahaha, quit it, I'm embarrassed!]

Without even noticing, Seina had grabbed a pen while daydreaming and had begun to write in his information. Once he had finished filling it out, he snapped back to reality. He noticed a rather large space in the shape of a palm blinking under the page. He wondered if they had used some kind of special ink.

“What is this? Aren't you going to put your palm on it?”

"Something feels off." The handprint shaped spot blinked as he looked at it. He wasn't sure what to do. An indescribable feeling discouraged him. But behind Seina, Kyoko was looking at the pamphlet and laughing.

"You've got to put your hand on that spot!"

"Hey, wait a second Mom!"

A dog fight broke out as Kyoko grabbed his arm and tried to put his hand on the spot while Seina desperately resisted. Seina may have been a strong young adolescent, but Kyoko was strong from stacking shelves with canned goods and beer all day, so they were pretty evenly matched. Yoshiko cheered on her mother as Seina's fate lay in the balance.

"Don't be afraid Seina!"

"I don't want to!"

"Go Mom! Big brother can't keep this up for much longer!"

"What's the matter? Just do it!" When Kyoko pushed Seina forward, Seina pushed back, and when Seina pushed back, Kyoko pushed him forward again.

"Dad, help me please!" If the two women of the household were conspiring together then he had no choice but to ask for help from the only other man. But his father ignored him and held up a big newspaper in front of him and read it instead. It didn't matter anyways because soon Seina's foot landed on a slippery floor cushion, and he lost his balance slipping headfirst into the pamphlet.

"I win!"

"Wow Mom, you're so strong!"

Seina was looking at the pamphlet disparagingly despite the celebration of the women of the house. His handprint was left vividly on the page. The people around him often threw caution to the wind. It was a part of his bad luck. Seina sighed and went upstairs to his room with the brochure.

Seina wondered about the GP movie. He was sure he was going to have to go to see Kiriko again tomorrow and tell her about it. He wasn't sure how he was going to bring it up, but he had to clear up this misunderstanding he had with her. He didn't want her to think he had someone else.

"I know I can explain it to her somehow." He lay in his bed with his eyes closed and thought up scenarios of how to tell her. However, he didn't have many options. "In the long run I have no choice but to be honest." He considered being honest with her, it wasn't as if he meant to be kissed. "She'll believe me if I told her it was CPR." Kiriko had known everything about him since he was little. He'd never had a misunderstanding with her before and if he lied now, it would just get worse.

"I might have disappointed her." He thought of Kiriko's face and rejoiced. "Unless! ...no... She wouldn't understand..." He thought of Kiriko's face. "Stop it! Stop it! It's just a simple misunderstanding... .."

He feared he would be stuck in a sister brother relationship with her forever. He thought that this could end up being a real problem. Which would be a problem if it were a problem. But he hadn't changed her feelings towards him. He was determined to find an excuse to go to her house tomorrow. That was the only thing on his mind. "Kiriko-san."

Before long he forgot about the Amane thing and the pamphlet thing and the GP thing, Seina thought about Kiriko and fell into a deep sleep.

---Seina was having a dream.

He was riding his bicycle towards Kiriko, and oddly he wasn't falling down. He didn't have a single unfortunate thing happen to him this time and so he made it to Kiriko's house in record time.

"Kiriko-san!" Just like earlier in the day he saw Kiriko sweeping outside

"It was good, wasn't it Seina-chan?"

"Huh?"

"I trust that you can make it back to the other side."

Before he knew it, he was on his way home and Kiriko was fading away.

"Kiriko-san!" An arm grabbed him and was taking him away.

"A... Amane-san!"

"Let's be happy together," Amane said.

"Please leave me alone! Kiriko-san!" He tried to break away from Amane's grip, but it was no use. He was quickly being dragged away from Kiriko.

"Wait a moment! ... Aaaaah!"

He was dragged far away from Kiriko and before he knew it, he saw a masculine figure snuggle up to her. "Kiriko-san, who is that person!" This was an extraordinarily bad nightmare he was having. He had been in love with Kiriko since he was young.

Seina saw many male students try and date Kiriko. "He must be possessed by a demon!" They'd say... of course about Seina. Some even tried to conduct an exorcism on him. Eventually, they all left because of his bad luck.

But now she was so far away from him. She called Tokyo home now and his greatest fear was she would find a lover there.

"Kiriko-san... I..."

"I hope you find happiness." She said as she embraced another man and disappeared.

"Kiriko-saaaaaan!" He imagined Amane smiling, "Well Seina, let's get going as well." Suddenly her usual smiling face became Demonish. "Well then, let's go Seina." Amane came closer. "Amane-san!" Seina got goose bumps all over "Let's go... To the GP!"



The dream ended but Seina kept sleeping. He heard something crunching and then he felt the warmth of someone near him. It was strange but he could feel someone in his bed. Was he still dreaming? He had grown accustomed to the smell and feel of his bed and no longer recognized it. "Well... that was a dream... What a relief..." he thought. He wiped some sweat off his brow as he slowly woke up. It seemed that someone was stroking his hair. That was what was causing him to hear a crunchy sound. "Huh, What? Already?" The hand stopped stroking his hair for a short while only to start back up again. He wondered if maybe his mother or Yoshiko had come in to wake him up.

"Please give me five more minutes." He said as barely opened his eyes, he was in a haze. "Huh?" He sat up quickly. The person petting him wasn't a family member and it wasn't Amane or Kiriko. She was blond with dark skin and beautiful blue eyes. He was at a loss of

words to describe this person and her pleasant smile. She had on an apron and was dressed like a maid or a cook. She had a mop in her other hand. The foreign woman was quite a beauty and was being very intimate with him.

"Good morning!"

"Good morning."

"Oh ho ho." She giggled.

"... .." At that moment he was dumbfounded.

The situation reminded him of the time with Amane. Her presence made him very uncomfortable.

She didn't have any qualities that made him feel uncomfortable, but nevertheless she was a strange woman sitting in his bed. Although it oddly felt natural for her to be there.

"Do I have amnesia or something?" He thought to himself. What was this feeling he was having? He had suffered quite a few accidents in his life, so this feeling wasn't completely foreign. He tried to figure out where he was. As far as he could tell, he wasn't in his bed. His pillow wasn't familiar either. He was no longer sore in the spots where he had been injured before. He also didn't recognize the woman in front of him. Why was she patting his head? Seina looked around. He wasn't in his bedroom anymore. He was in what looked like a hospital.

"What? Why am I in a strange bed? Am I in the hospital?" He turned his head slightly and looked around. The woman was stroking his hair again. He thought he should figure out where he was quickly.

"Uhm... uh..., who are you?" stroke stroke stroke stroke

"Uhm... that..." stroke stroke stroke stroke

It seemed like he was still dreaming. Dreaming!? Seina moved the woman's hand off his head onto the futon, he shut his eyes tightly. 1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8,9,10. He counted in his mind. Hoping he would wake up. "... But nothing changed. He was still there. He still wasn't in his room and the strange woman was smiling at him.

She pinched the right side of his cheek. "...owch."

He looked at that woman, smiling as she pinched the left side of Seina's side of his face... "It hurts."

"Isn't this fun!"

"No... But it is painful." This wasn't a dream. It was reality. For some reason he was in a strange place with a strange woman. Seina was confused.

"Onnainin-san, Seina-chan woke up!" The woman called out.

"Oh! Why didn't you say so!?" A man quietly opened the room's door. He wore a uniform worthy of his appearance.

Onnainin was a strangely timid but serious looking man with narrow eyes. He gave Seina a small salute.

Seina stood up.

"Good morning, Seina Yamada-kun."

"Uhm, about that. Where am I? ...And who the heck are you!?" He asked.

"Huh? Uhm..." Onnainin pondered what he said momentarily. He then fumbled through his documents and pulled out the pamphlet "Is this familiar?"

"It is." Seina's mind vividly recalled what had happened with Amane and Kiriko.

"Then this is your name, birthday, address, and other information on here isn't it?"

"Well, yes..."

"And that's your stamped fingerprint, isn't it?"

"Yes..." It had been forcibly stamped by his mother last night.

"Then congrats. You've enlisted with the GP."

"GP?" Seina said confused. The strange woman chuckled.

Seina grew nervous because the strange woman had gotten up next to him and was stroking his crew cut again. "Uhm, what on earth is the GP?" The man must've meant the GP on the pamphlet.

"Stop asking silly questions."

At any rate, it seemed Seina had been wrangled into some odd circumstances. "Uhm..." Was this some kind of odd marketing gimmick, had he won some kind of contest, or was it just a simple kidnapping? Seina composed himself and was finally able to talk again.

"Uhm, please let my family know about whatever prize I've won. This is the first time since I was born that I've ever won anything. They're probably worried about you suddenly taking me."

"Actually ... your parents consented to let us take you..."

"My parents!?"

"Yes. Your mother said, "It doesn't matter to me as long as I get a new bed! I'm not sure what she meant by that."

"....."

"They recorded a video message for you, do you want to see it?" Onnainin pressed a button on his wrist. A video was projected on a screen on the wall.

In front of the family shop was his father Hokuto, and his mother Kyoko, and Yoshiko was beside them. His father cleared his throat and started talking in an unusual tone of voice. He was not accustomed to recording videos.

"Se... Seina... You're my son. It seems the eldest son of the Yamada home has grown up. I hope you are doing alright."

"Why wouldn't I be alright?" Seina quipped back in his mind.

"Seina, this is your mother." "And this is Yoshiko!" Seina's mouth was left ajar from watching the screen.

"To be honest, we couldn't say too much before but your injuries and doctor bills and such aren't trivial, and Yoshiko will be graduating from Junior High next year." Seina's dad wrapped up his speech abruptly and the camera panned to Yoshiko.

"You see when you're not here we make a lot of sales. You know that. I'm pretty sure you're bad luck. I'm sure you'll be safe wherever you go and well you could say this is a troubling matter. Rumor has it your teachers are hesitant to help you get into high school. It doesn't help that it's not compulsory education, so they don't have to. The GP said they would get you into school and that they would pay for your medical bills. So, you're giving Mom and Dad piece of mind." Yoshiko said as she nonchalantly wiped her tears with a handkerchief. She wasn't actually sad. She was crying tears of joy.

"... What? ... Anyways I hope you're doing alright..."

This angered Seina. Although he was shocked that his teachers were planning to ostracize him from High School, he was even more surprised that the GP had accepted him. Although this felt a bit like he was being thrown to the wolves by his parents. So naturally he was angry.

"Work hard and don't come back home until you've reached greatness. Oh, and forget about your allowance." Said Kyoko as she grinned ear to ear mercilessly revealing her true intentions.

As the video was reaching its end, Seina couldn't help but feel discouraged. Oddly, Onnainin was standing next to Seina crying, the video had deeply moved him to tears.

"Is this a joke!? You can't hold me here against my will. There are laws against human trafficking!" He said angrily to the woman still caressing his head.

"Oh... but didn't you sign the contract?"

"Y-yes I did."

"That pamphlet was a contract, when you filled it out and signed it you legally signed your life away," she said.

"Farewell, Seina!" His father said on the screen. "Seina, goodbye!" Said his mother. "Bye big brother! Your family will miss you!" said Yoshiko. His family smiled together on the screen and then a title card that said the end appeared and the credits began to roll

"What family!?" Seina stood up with anger in his eyes as the screen disappears. "... I'm leaving..."

"... Okay?" He angrily glanced at Onnainin whose eyes were red from crying. "I don't care about the consent agreement! Which way is the train?"

"That would be a bit difficult it's not like there any stations nearby." Said Onnainin looking agitated.

"Then I'll take the bus."

"That won't work either."

"So, we're way out in the countryside?"

"No, we aren't."

"Oh, I see... Oh, uhm... sorry, can I borrow the transportation cost then? I can always pay you back when I get home."

What Seina was saying didn't make sense to Onnainin and perplexed, he looked at the strange woman.

"What do you mean Seina-chan? Do you not know what the GP is?" She asked.

"Uhm no... The GP isn't an amusement park attraction, is it?"

Onnainin looked shocked to hear those words "A- a- a- amusement park?!" Onnainin nodded his head sharply. "I thought it was odd to see Seina-kun's developing civilization's solar system... ..."
Onnainin pressed the button on his wrist again. "Huh?"

Kuiiiiiiiiiiiiin! This made the mechanism above Seina make a loud sound. Instantly, the walls and ceilings became transparent, a huge dome-shaped roof appeared. The dome slowly opened. Scenery burst from that opening. Seina looked up at it. "Woah!" The dark space reflected a myriad of stars. The dome opened and spread out to reveal the dark void of outer space. The Milky Way covered the entire sky. There was no horizon.

The view was clearly different from the Earth. Seina had no choice but to be dumbfounded. Onnainin smiled. Seina was in outer space. He was definitely in outer space.

"G is for Galaxy, P is for Police. The GP is the law enforcement agency of the Galaxy Federation Alliance."

"Galaxy Police...G.P". Until then, Seina had thought that impossible.

*** * * End of episode 1 of the anime. * * ***

Chapter Two: An Important Package

* * * Start of episode two of the anime * * *

A few minutes after he had been told that surprising fact, Onnainin took Seina to see the bridge. As he walked, the strange, beautiful woman followed along petting his head. He had hardly been overcome with this much surprise since was revived from the brink of death, but he was still suspicious.

“... Wow space... There are so many possibilities...?” He thought to himself.

Despite waking up with a foggy mind, Seina had quickly become alert. Thanks to his bad luck he rebounded from the shock of the situation. He had gone to bed and actually woke up on spaceship, he wasn't dreaming.

As one would normally suspect, he thought that this situation reeked of artificiality. Perhaps this spaceship was a set, and they were using special effects. Maybe the outer space he saw was just a CGI projection on a screen. ...After all this is an advertisement for a movie or theme park attraction... Seina convinced himself. That was the most obvious explanation

“It sure is an elaborate advertisement, they even got my family involved. They should have used a little bit more of the money for the actual movie instead.” He said, remembering the retro images on the pamphlet. Maybe it was intended. Even so he wasn't sure why everyone was so committed to this ad campaign; they weren't fooling anybody. He had been awake for 12 minutes and something unlucky hadn't happened to him yet. Even so, he didn't have to get himself further into this situation.

“I'd rather be here than be dreaming that awful dream again.” Seina thought to himself as he changed his doubt into conviction and followed Onnainin. Even though he was being shown to the bridge, he didn't believe him.

“I don't know what you mean... you must be confused. What you're saying is incorrect...” Onnainin scratched his head at Seina's delusion.

“It seems fake. You're acting is cheesy, and you're speaking the same language as me. Even I know there's virtually no possibility that aliens would look like humans and it's even less likely that a society more evolved than us would want to meet us.”

“You can understand me because we injected you with various Nano machines while you slept. As for our appearance, it's something the great prehistoric civilization chose as a part of their galactic seeding plan... about sixty percent of galactic civilizations are humanoids. Besides that, encountering people from developing civilizations like yours happens every now and then...”

“.....”

“Onnainin-chan. It looks like Seina-chan isn't properly comprehending you,” Mitoto, the mysterious woman said as she pointed at Seina. He had been trying desperately to understand what was going on and his mind was freezing up on processing what was going on.

“I'm stumped,” said Onnainin.

“I've asked Mihoshi-chan about this before and she says that usually the easiest way to get members of the Masaki family to understand is by cutting off the artificial gravity.”

“Mitoto-sama. That may be very effective but were in the middle of an expedition. That's dangerous.”

“It's only for a little while, we'll be fine.”

“But...”

The woman named Mitoto's words were gentle and not at all coercive, but Onnainin acted like they were.

“I wonder what kind of relationship these two have...” Seina thought seeing them play their roles in the movie must be interesting to see, although now wasn't the time to think of such things. He had to think about solving the problem at hand first.

“It's inevitable, isn't it?”

“Well, if it gets Seina to believe it faster than I guess its ok.”

“.....Alan, please do it.”

“Roger that,” called out, Alan, a member of the crew as he nimbly operated a nearby panel.

“Uwaaaaa?”

The moment after that, Seina began to lose his balance and fell over. His body shook up and down. He felt like he was being scooped up off his feet. It was one of Seina's special abilities to trip and fall down on nothing. Was that happening again? But he noticed that he didn't immediately hit the ground. Surprisingly, his body floated in the air lightly.

“Wow...Oh...OH!” Seina began to float weightlessly as he babbled gibberish.

He soon grounded himself emotionally, although literally he couldn't sense his feet on the ground. No matter how much he adjusted his stance, he still couldn't seem to find which way was up. There was normally no up or down in space. Being scooped off the ground intuitively removed any preconception he had about this situation; this was really happening. It was like being underwater and it was entirely different from an amusement park ride. The pure weightlessness right in front of him astonished Seina. Onnainin passed by him looking completely unfazed.

“Do you understand now?”

“Uhm, this is... maybe?”

“This is what they call “Zero Gravity”.”

“Zero gravity...!”

He had heard about it a thousand times but what he had heard didn't come close the feeling of actually experiencing it. It was a hundred times better than how it was described. To Seina, this seemed completely real and not artificial at all. It was too realistic; the sensation was overwhelming. He began to panic and checked his body. There were no gimmicks attached to him, no piano wire, nothing. It wasn't outside the possibility of reality that he could simply be free falling, which resembled zero gravity. But he couldn't feel any sort of gravity or artificial movement, and the state of free fall would normally end very quickly. This had gone on way too long for him to be free falling on earth. He considered that it could have been some sort of drug induced hallucination, or some type of hypnotism. It was impossible to tell at the moment.

Nevertheless, “... Is this the real deal?” He wondered? He was suspicious due to his bad luck, but his curiosity soon surpassed his suspicion. Well, he didn't know what to do or how to feel about the possibility of it being fake.

They may have been deceiving him. However, more than anything, Seina desired it to be real as much as he was curious about it. At any rate, that's just how he was, he had to keep suspicious to keep from being fooled and getting hurt emotionally. This situation was positively confusing... in this moment, Seina faintly bore a new desire. To go into space. This setting was perfect for him. He looked at his surroundings while he floated. Seina wanted more than just to float. Mitoto, Onnainin, and anything which not attached to the bridge were floating.

The crew fastened in their seats by seat belts, the ones that weren't flailed about like a kid batting a ball on a string. It looked ridiculous. It amused Seina. He was no longer in denial.

“Then this is... then that means... ... I'm in outer space?” He murmured to himself trying to process the words coming out of his mouth?? “I'm in outer space now! ... Space... Spaaaaaace! The cosmos! I wasn't sure before, but I'm actually in space!”

Anime and manga and sci-fi novels all talked about outer space. But he was there. All around him was the endless universe. There Seina stood, in space... floating.

Space travel by humans wasn't completely impossible. Many companies were working on making private space travel an everyday occurrence. But they were far from reaching that goal. He expected to be an old man before that happened and he never expected to be able to do it. But here he was in outer space.

Kiriko was back in town. He took a weird route to see her. He got a flat tire. He met Amare. He got a pamphlet. He filled it out. His family forced him to put his handprint on the form. Such a huge string of coincidences. ... No, it was fate, and now he was here in space... floating. But why and how didn't matter now to Seina. His high from realizing he was in space wore off. He thought

the whole situation over. Onnainin said that GP stood for Galaxy Police. He hadn't really cared about the subject matter of the pamphlet when he signed it.

If it was a real organization, then its PR department put out some very awkward advertising. But it was better not to question such things. "Recruiting young people? For the sake of the galaxy!" What an unusual phrase to use. Seina remembered absentmindedly looking at the cover and seeing muscular GP officers in tight fitting silver bodysuits silently firing ray guns at slimy squirmy octopus like sci-fi aliens. He felt whoever was in charge of making it should have been fired for having bad taste.

He put finding out whose bad aesthetic that was out of his mind. He considered that going into outer space was good luck for him, but with his bad luck, joining the GP might be dangerous. Unlucky Seina didn't want to get his hopes up about the future. With his luck he would be knocked unconscious and jettisoned out an airlock. It was enough to make his head spin, he was getting dizzy.

"Huh?"

"What's wrong?"

"Something... I feel sick..."

"Ah, that's a zero-gravity sickness. Alan, turn back on the gravity control."

It seemed his dizziness wasn't just in his head. Seina grabbed onto a nearby seat and prepared himself for a gentle landing.

"It's back online." Said the crew member.

Zuuuun! The artificial gravity returned.

Seina's foot was caught on the back of the seat at the moment when gravity him pulled back to the floor.

"Aaaah!"

Staaaaan. Staaaaan. Doooooosh. He heard three noises go off at once.

The sound of Mitoto landing, the sound of Onnainin landing, and the sound of Seina loudly falling on the seat he tried to reserve. "Ow...ow...ow...ouch..."

"Seina-chan, are you alright!" Mitoto rushed over with a worried look on her face

"S... Sorry about that... I'm alright."

"Oh good. You should try to land on something small next time."

"Really? I'm sorry."

Seina put his hand on a nearby panel to use it as leverage as he stood up. Mitoto helped him up and began to rub his hair again. His body felt awful heavy. Though he had only been weightless for a little while, 1G of force on his body, which had just finished getting accustomed to zero gravity, was more than he expected.

“Ah, Seina, are you hurt?”

“I'm fine, I'm used to this.”

He was still dizzy to some extent, but it wasn't that bad. Seina watched Onnainin slowly get up. It was funny to him that the person who moments ago he had assumed was an actor was actually a competent officer of the Galaxy Police. Well, he wasn't really sure if competent was the right word.

“Do you want to go back to your quarters and take a nap? We have about two jumps left before we get to the academy.”

“Academy? What's that?” Seina asked. He heard his Mom mention it earlier, but he wasn't absolutely sure what she had meant.

“Oh, I'm sorry. Did someone forget to explain it to you? That's what we call the Galaxy Academy, it's both an Academy and the largest accumulation of collected academic research in the galaxy, and some call it the brain of the Galaxy Union. Seina-kun, our organizations institution, the GP, directly controls the GP academy and uses it to train new members.”

Seina now understood. He wandered what kind of training the Galaxy Police had to do.

“... even police have to be trained...” Onnainin said to Seina.

It was just like in the movies, but this was reality. It looked like he had to go to some sort of high school, it seemed like there was no way around that. But Seina was more excited by something else Onnainin said? “By the way uh, does a jump possibly look like a warp?” Seina asked excitedly. Warping through outer space? Warping must be necessary if there traveling to different star systems. Even people uninterested in sci-fi know that was simply basic technology in science fiction. Everyone always gets from place to place by traveling at warp speeds. But it was said that that was currently impossible. Seina thought that was amazing. He was so excited to be in space. It was a lot to digest. It was like he was at a buffet, and he was leaving the leftovers.

He had met Onnainin and Mitoto and they were both aliens. He was on an amazing spaceship and that was just a side dish. Warping was the main course. He didn't care what they called it; it was “warping”.

“I'm so excited! I never even thought this was possible!” This feeling was better than going to a carnival.

“I wouldn't say they were the same, but there definitely comparable.”

"Yahoo!" Seina's breathing became heavy. Not only was he in space, but he was also going to warp! All his resentment towards his family disappeared and was replaced with gratitude. "So, when do we warp... oops I mean jump!?"

"Well, it's a long-distance jump and this area of space isn't stable enough for that, so we have to get somewhere that is. It will take a little while." Onnainin answered.

"In the meantime, you should go to your quarters and rest. I'll get you when we're ready to jump."

"Alright!"

He wanted to brag about warping to Kai. Seina skipped through the entrance hatch and down passage to his quarters. "Well then, see ya later!"

The hatch shut with Seina in the middle of it. He looked at Onnainin for help.

"Don't worry, just be more careful."

Seina was so focused on warping that had forgotten all about his bad luck while Mitoto led him down the hall. His pinched face was throbbing.

"Seina-chan, are you ok?"

"Oh... yeah... uhm..., by the way, Mitoto-san are you by any chance the one in charge of the GP?" He asked her, he figured that would make the most sense as to why the crew seemed very eager to do whatever she said.

Mitoto looked more like a maid with her mop and apron on then she did a leader and with her leisurely attitude she didn't seem like much of a galaxy police officer either.

"Who, me? I'm just here to clean."

"Oh... what is there to clean?"

He didn't quite understand, but he guessed every ship did need to be cleaned. There were people living there after all and something's don't change just because you're not on Earth, but it was strange.

"A mop seems very primitive; doesn't this ship have some sort of cleaning robot?"

"This is more fun." Mitoto said, smiling.

"... I see, I see, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, well about that Mitoto." Onnainin said rushing up from the rear to reach Mitoto.

"Cleaning is good... yay cleaning!" He took the mop from Mitoto, and she turned pale

"Uhm... what's wrong...?"

"Please! Don't clean anything until we arrive at the academy." Onnainin said.

"Uhm... why."

Onnainin began to scold Mitoto like a child.

"Because there are people there in charge of cleaning this ship properly and if you clean it now, you will take their job away from them."

"Oh...! I had no idea... I'm sorry."

It seemed there were reasons not to clean frequently. Seina understood why society was so insistent about cleanliness. But it seemed there were exceptions. His bad luck had brought those around him many experiences beyond comprehension. Unable to clean, Mitoto walked sadly, sometimes she stopped to look at something and you could see her mouth quiver as she used every bit of self-control to keep from cleaning.

"What's wrong, are you feeling ok?" Seina asked.

"Over there, over there." She pointed sadly to a corner that was stained slightly. Now that she mentioned it, Seina noticed how dirty this place was.

"Mitoto-san sure loves cleanliness, doesn't she?"

"Corridor three is so dirty..."

"Huh?"

It seemed like Mitoto loved cleaning, but her love was selfishly intentioned. It seemed like she did it not to be philanthropic but out of principal. It seemed like she was that kind of person. Seina felt sorry for the dirt.

"That corridor, that door, that handle..."

In comparison to Seina's light trotting, Mitoto walked sadly as she noticed everything that was dirty and said it aloud.

To go into outer space, to join the Galaxy Police, to experience warping. Seina had been a sci-fi fan since he was a little boy so naturally, he was excited. However, as his excitement for being in space settled, he remembered an important thing. (I won't be able to see Kiriko-san anymore!) He realized his problem from yesterday hadn't been resolved. (No! Now I'll never be able to!)

Since he was in space now, he had no idea when he would see her again. "If that's the case, I'll never clear up that awkward situation!" His face stiffened as he thought about how long that situation might go misunderstood by Kiriko.

"Mitoto-san, would it be possible to go back to Earth for a little while. I forgot something."

"You forgot something?"

“Something important.”

“Then you should call the Earth and have them bring it to you later.”

“Uhm... no it's not a ... Wait, there's a phone!?”

“Yeah. Over there.” Mitoto looked at and pointed to something nearby.

“... Look ... it's a rotary phone.”

There was an old black rotary telephone right in front of Seina. He had been so busy worrying about Kiriko that he hadn't even noticed that he had walked into a Japanese style room. This wasn't what I expected. Where did they find an old phone like this?? Doubts floated in his mind.

“Uhm... is this it?”

“Well, let's see... first you should pick up the receiver.”

That was obvious. Seina didn't want to hear instructions on how to use a phone. He picked up the receiver. “Woah!?” He picked up the receiver and instantly before his eyes a screen appeared.

“You can see the person you're calling on that screen. But they won't be able to see you, they don't have a system for that.”

“Ha!”

He poked the screen that was floating in the air. It was there but it was just a hologram. It was undoubtedly space technology.

“Oh yes, that's right. To reach the Earth's phone system just add 4 9 8 9 to the beginning of the number you want to dial.”

“4 9 8 9. That's a daunting number.”

× × × **BIG GIANT UNSKIPPABLE** Translators' note: I have to step in here. Sorry to break your immersion folks. The kanji for 4989 means being in dire distress; being hard put to it, or the four and eight kinds of suffering which is a Buddhist term for the Suffering of being born and living, aging, getting sick, and dying and all 4 of those plus being separated from the ones you love, encountering things you don't like, not getting what you want, and suffering from existing. Basically, he had to dial a super unlucky number that in Japanese represents every kind of suffering. Also, Tenchi GXP takes place in 1993. That's why he doesn't use a cellphone, or call Kiriko's cellphone, or contemplate emailing her. Very few phones or technology ever show up in Tenchi. Usually when it does, they do simple camera phones which they had back then. Remember, Tenchi's Earth doesn't have widespread broadband. Back to the plot.

× × ×

He was a little worried about that number, but he had to call Kiriko. She was only going to be at her parent's house for a short time. This call might have been his last chance to clear things up with her. He was on a mission, OPERATION KIRIKO-SAN! (She will be so surprised when I explain my mystery lover and the pamphlet. I'm not sure how I'm going to work in the whole going into space and joining the galaxy police though... Perhaps...



[Wow Seina-chan, you really became a GP officer!]

[Yes, Kiriko-san I did. I protect galactic peace and Kiriko-san!]

[How promising! I love you Seina-chan!]

[Oh Kiriko-san?]

In his imagination, the two began to get freaky and then, uhm, well, such things had to wait. ".....things aren't that easy. I don't honestly think she'd have sex with me just because I told her I joined the galaxy police..."

[Seina-chan, let's go to the hospital lumped together!]

"That was a bad punch line..."

For now, clearing up this misconception with Kiriko was his first priority. He was reluctant to even try to experience such things as sex due to his bad luck. He had to take things step by step like a tortoise.

Seina thanked Mitoto for her lesson on using the phone. She left him alone. He put in the number for Earth and the Country Code for Japan and then he started to rotate the dial to input the number to Kiriko's house. It was just like making a long-distance call. After that, he held the receiver as the phone rang for what seemed like forever.

FURiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiing. FURiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiiing.

His heartbeat fast in his chest. The ringer was a bit different then when he dialed from home. "Ki...Ri...Ko...Saaaaaan..."

His call connected.

“... Hello... this is the Masaki residence...” Said Kai’s voice. He thought it was the familiar recording of the family’s answering machine, but he could see it was Kai. Seina wasn’t sure how but even though there was no equipment on the other side he could see a video phone image of the house.

“Hey Kai! It’s me. Seina!

“... ... What the... Seina? Why haven’t you been to school lately? Are you in the hospital again?” Kai threw himself down on his stomach and scratched his butt. It was a shameful display

“You should really clean up your room. Hey, is Kiriko-san there, I was trying to call her.”

“I haven’t seen you in a while. I’m just sitting here all alone in this gloomy house. What are you doing?”

“I’m at school. Hey Kai, last time I checked it was bad manners to scratch your junk in front of company, when is Kiriko getting home?”

“?” Suddenly Kai seemed suspicious and looked around him. “How can you see me?? Where are you looking at me from?? Are you nearby?? If that’s the case” Kai slowly stood up and began opening doors. “Over here!” When he confirmed that no one was there, he moved on to the next spot. “Over here?”

“...Hey Kai!”

“You’re over here!”

“No, I’m not there!”

“Try here!”

“I’m not a ninja Kai, I’m not going to be in the space between the roof and the ceiling” the scope of Kai’s search rapidly devolved to include absurd locations.

“I’m not under the floor Kai.”

“Where aaaaaaare you ~~~~?”

“I bet you’re hiding in my dresser??”

“I’m not in the floor! And there’s no way I’m in your drawer?”

“You’re a sneaky bastard, aren’t you???!!” He looked under a magazine, he reversed his tea table, and he checked behind the TV and checked the phone cord.

He couldn’t tell if Kai was serious or joking at this point. If he was serious then the whole situation was even worse than if he was kidding. Eventually Kai got tired and breathed a big sigh as he gave up and lay down in the middle of the room.

"Where haven't I checked yet?? Where could he be now?" For the time being, he quit his normal pattern of searching and thought a bit. "... If that's the case, he must be there for sure!" Kai dashed out to the living room.

"Good grief... Kai sure is...huh!? What the heck is going on!?"

The picture on the screen began to follow Kai from behind like it was a handheld camera. He wondered how it did that when the phone wasn't in that room.

"Awesoooooome. It's just what you'd expect from outer space."

Kai turned down a hallway. He seemed to be going to the kitchen.

"Uhm... Nice try... but I'm not in the refrigerator." How would he even fit in there in the first place? Sure enough, Kai opened the refrigerator.

"Well then..." But Kai ignored Seina's voice and got a drink. He took the bottle cap off and drank it all in one gulp. "Aaaaaah, refreshing."

Seina was amazed and couldn't think of anything to say. Kai had drunk that whole bottle in one breath and placed the empty bottle gently into the case next to the sink. That kind of thing was unexpected from a guy like Kai.

"Well then, I know where Seina is now. He has to have locked himself in Kiriko's room."

"HUH? If I was in there, I wouldn't still be able to see you.

".....you can still see me?"

"Yes, I can still see you wherever you go."

"So, like a hidden camera?"

"Yeah, but different."

"Quit hiding."

"Do you remember what I said yesterday....." Seina gave him a summary of things: How it had to do with the pamphlet he got from the pretty woman, how he joined the GP after filling it in as a joke, and how he was in space now.

"It's amazing!" Exclaimed Seina.

"... Amazing... uhm... It sure sounds amazing. Are you sure you're not in a mental hospital?" Kai questioned.

"But that's why." Seina tried to explain.

"Well, whatever the big deal is you sound fine." It seemed that further trying to convince Kai was pointless.

"Well, I gotta go, Kiriko-san is calling me, goodbye, talk to ya later."

Seina froze in place. Kai would have had to have been a real idiot to think that he believed him so that outcome made sense. It seemed that Kiriko wasn't home though.

"I don't know what I expected with my bad luck. Even if I told her about it now, I doubt she would even believe me.wait a second...I wonder if she went to my place."

He decided to call his house now. He could see Onnainin's face reflecting on the screen as he dialed 4989 and his home number, "Aaaaaack!!!" Seina screamed.

"Seina! We're about to perform the jump. Please come to the bridge quickly."

Seina thought about how to change Kiriko's mind while he went down the corridor to the bridge. He hadn't even considered being able to call her an option till now, but even if he told her he was in space she might not believe it. Kai's reaction had taught him that much. There was no use in telling someone who thought it was impossible. If he was going to prove it, he would have to understand it himself a little better first. He'd also need evidence. And most of all, he had to be able to tell her without getting clumsy.

"OK. Then I'll wait to call her..., but after I warp... and the jump ends." Kiriko should surely be home by then." Seina told himself as he entered the bridge.

"93, 98 ... Energy generator output has synchronized stably."

"Engine pressurization is increasing smoothly. The internal pressure balance is in good order."

"Space jump program initiated."

"Space jump program has loaded." Two of the operators were calling out to each other.

Seina thought this was so cool. This must've been how they warped.

"Even energy output is at 120 and rising. 130,135,140... ..." around the GP ship space became semitransparent and twisted counterclockwise.

"Amazing! Now this is a warp....."

Seina expected an impact to shake the bridge soon. He got in a seat and fastened the seat belt tight.

"Co-ordinates have been established... .."

"Why isn't everyone else seated? It's dangerous."

"Ahahaha, is that so?" Onnainin laughed as he sat in the captain seat. Mitoto got in the seat next to Seina.

"Program is completely loaded. Hyperspace jump starting in 10, 9... .."

Seina swallowed. He heard the crew counting

“Ready to jump”

Seina closed his eyes and braced himself in fear as he prepared for the first impact a shock that should come soon. “... .. huh??? Wait a second what's going on?” He tried to open his eyes a little. Was there a delay of some sort?

“Jump complete resuming navigation.”

“What!?”

Seina's eyes opened wide, and an astonished cry escaped his mouth? Disappointment filled his mind. Seina had expected several impacts to shake the bridge but not one did. His body didn't shake, he didn't vibrate, and he didn't even have a ringing in his ears. “Uh... uhm... did we jump...?”

“We just finished the first part of the jump. We're traveling through Hyperspace now.”

“Hyperspace?”

He was shocked and a little disappointed. Was this really what it was like to warp? Was all the danger and shaking just make believe?

“It's pretty, isn't it? The light emission is a phenomenon caused by the friction of traveling through hyperspace.”

“Laaaaaaaame”

Seina stared out at space stunned. Well, when you think about it objectively it makes no sense for them to warp all the time if every time they did it they risked their life. It just wasn't practical. Besides that, Seina knew everything in science fiction on Earth was just based on vague theory that was too impractical for them to even know much about. The lights however were very beautiful and fantastic and even though Seina hadn't expected it; it was totally different from the dramatic and exciting lights in science fiction shows. Seina was sure they were warping, but he was still a bit disappointed.

“Were you expecting something else?” Onnainin asked Seina softly, noticing his disappointment.

“Uhm, no, a bunch of colors” (...it was a lame thing to be disappointed by... but... I had so many high expectations for being in space, I kind of expected more from a warp than this). Reality was always unkind to Seina. So, he had reconciled this realization to a degree already.

“Ah, well, we will be there soon, so that's good.”

“Oh... good.”

“We've got incoming. This is urgent. Enable anti-shock defenses.” Seina heard Onnainin say as Seina got up from his seat.

He heard a crew member scream. The room shook from an impact and a roaring sound, similar to dreadful thunder rang out over the bridge causing Seina and the others hair to stand on end. Emergency klaxons blared across the ship

"Uwaaaaaah!"

Plasma colored hyperspace pure white for an instant, like a terrible flash bulb, and Seina flew over his chair and was thrown to the back of the bridge.

"I sense an energy reaction nearby"

"Was it a near miss!?"

Onnainin's face became pale. "Its energy to mass ratio is huge. It seems to be a battleship?"

"Hyperspace navigation can't be maintained! We have to return to normal space."

Soon, the GP ships elegant white hull was left with countless substantially large baked on black marks.

"It's alright. Don't worry. This kind of thing is pretty common." Mitoto said, kindly as she petted Seina's anxious head.

"Ms. Mitoto! There is also a one in hundred billion probability of such a near miss".

"Then you hit the jackpot."

"....." Onnainin lost any urge to talk to Mitoto and turned to issue a directive for the crew.

"What is the status of the hull damage?"

"There is slight damage to our engines, but we can repair it in a couple of hours."

"Our current coordinates put us just north of 6589 by 2483"

".....Is this a particularly pirate prone area? We're lucky that the hull took such little damage." Onnainin sat down at the captain's seat, he was clearly at his wits end.

"Uhm, Pirates.....?" Seina knew what a pirate was but never thought they would be a thing in space. He wondered if they had hook hands and pet parrots on their shoulders.

"Pirates are people who attack our ships and steal our cargo. It's no exaggeration to say that they are the number one enemy of the Galaxy Police. Excuse me, Seina. It seems we made an error in the coordinates of our jump, it was a nearly impossible mistake. The odds must be one in ten thousand."

"Oh, well then, if you say so....." He murmured, knowing he was probably the cause of the mix up. He looked out the window. It didn't matter where he was. Even if Seina was in space, his misfortune did not change with the scenery. He even had an influence on the jump and pirates sounded dangerous. Seina had no choice but to sigh at the matter.

“Of course, both you and Mitoto are on board. You two are the important baggage. We need to make sure you both get to the GP Academy safely.” Onnainin said with a chuckle.

“.....Well, if I can get through this without a major injury, I guess this day is technically still going pretty well

When the gravity had been turned off earlier and then turned back on Seina accidentally hit a button on the panel of the chair he chose to land in. One of the squares was currently red and no one seemed to notice. The button transmitted a hailing signal to the nearby pirate ship it was mostly fuzz but they heard something about important cargo coordinates, and something being shipped to the Galaxy Police.

They were about to give up and normally they would have but this transmission made them change their mind.

“.....Important baggage going to the GP, eh?” Marlon, the elderly captain of the pirate ship muttered.

“The source of the transmission is close by. The identifying signal confirms the ship's a Galaxy Police vessel.”

“Is it a warship?”

“No sir, it seems to just be a transport vessel.”

“Is it a trap?”

“Were in a safe zone. We have nothing to worry about.”

In other words, even if it was a trap, they could get away from it.

“Then let's take a chance.” Marlon laughed.

It seemed foolish for a GP ship to come into a pirate occupied area of space, especially one loaded with important baggage.

“.....It seems fortune is finally smiling upon us... full speed ahead. Target that stupid GP ship at once! Do whatever it takes to get them!” Another captain on another ship cried out. They also intercepted the same transmission as Marlon.

“We must have it! Capture that stupid ship!” said another captain on another ship, and again another..... and another and another, as could be expected in an area overrun by pirates.

Pirates began to move towards the ship like sharks smelling blood, and soon they surrounded Seina from every direction all at once.

Onnainin looked back at Seina. “Seina-kun, I'm sorry but it seems this might take a while, please return to your room and rest a while.”

"Ye...yes." It was his chance to try and call Kiriko. Seina made a mad dash down the hallway away from the bridge. As soon as he was in his Japanese style room, he picked up the receiver and dialed 4989 followed by Kiriko's number.

"Hello this is the Masaki residence."

Kai had picked up the call.

"Huh, Kai?"

"What, are you surprised?"

"I wasn't trying to reach you Kai. Is Kiriko back yet?"

"Huh my older sister? Well, she was home for a while but when I mentioned you, she got all red in the face and ran out"

"To my house!?"

"Yeah. When I told her, you took the day off from school she panicked and rushed over to your house. That was about 20 minutes ago."

He slammed down the receiver. Seina was in a hurry to talk to Kiriko, and so he hung up on Kai and started putting in the number for his home.

"Hurry up!" Seina was always in a hurry it seemed.

One ring, two rings, and soon he saw a picture of the inside of the store and heard Yoshiko's voice.

The store was packed, it was just like Kyoko always said, "When you're not here, business booms."

"Helloooooooo and thank you for calling the Yamada shop."

"Yoshiko, is Kiriko-san there!?"

"Huh, Kiriko-chan?? Uh, uhhhhhm, oh yeah that's right she came over a little while ago to talk to Mom... .. Oh yes sir, that item there is on clearance, it's only 30 yen." She said to a customer who was asking her about a bar of soap.

"Can you hurry up and get Kiriko-chan over here?"

"I have to help our customers."

"I'm begging you, Yoshiko!"

"Wait a minute will ya. Yes, uhm... that will be 340 yen." Yoshiko operated the cash register while holding the phone between her shoulder and her jaw.

"Uhm... Yoshiko... Put Mom or Kiriko-san on the phone already!"

"Mom, Big brothers on the phone for you!"

Yoshiko called out behind her to Seina's mother. But Seina didn't want to talk to his mom, he wanted to talk to Kiriko. His mother came up from the back of the store and answered the phone

"What is it Seina, I'm busy right now."

"I wasn't trying to reach you mom. I was calling to reach Kiriko-san"

"Kiriko-chan?? I just got done talking to her."

"Not again!" His bad luck struck again. He saw the figure of Kiriko about to leave the crowded shop. She looked depressed. Even if Kiriko was the size of his palm, he could still pick her out of a crowd. "There's Kiriko-san??She's just outside the shop! Hurry and go get her?"

"Huh? Oh, Ok I'm on it." Kyoko went outside to get Kiriko.

"Kiriko-Chan? Seina's on the phone for you?" Kiriko's figure disappeared from the entrance.

"Oh, I was too late."

"Go chase her!"

"But I'm so busy. You should just wait a while and call her at her house."

"Do it!"

Not again.....he was used to this? But it was just like the time he went to the hospital all over again. But the doors to the store opened again and in came Kiriko.

"Mrs. Yamada, is that Seina on the line?"

"Oh, what a surprise, it seems you've finally had some good luck. How unusual."

Finally, at last! Kiriko pushed through the crowd to get to the phone. She was 3 steps away, 2 steps away, 1 step away, she picked up the receiver.....

"Hi there Seina-cha~~"

The picture on the screen and the sound on the receiver cut out as the ship shook all over, Seina could see lasers whiz by outside the window.

"!?"

Klaxons reverberated throughout the interior, Seina didn't understand what was going on and screamed at a receiver.

"Hello, Kiriko-chan?? Kiriko-chaaan!?"

"We're sorry but due to top level emergency situations, all communications have been terminated, please try again later." Announced a monotone machine voice.

“What? Top level emergency situations.....” He looked outside again while holding the receiver. He saw a whole lot of ray beams streaking by.

“Are those lasers?” Seina seized as the ship shook from the impact.

“Uwaaaa?” The light of beams lit up Seina’s face as they went by, putting the ship in jeopardy.

“What the...It's just like in the movies.”

Seina forgot that light streaks were deadly as he watched it. “Wha... wawawawhat is this... ...?”

“I- I don’t get what's going on? What are they?”

Seina came to his senses finally after one impacted the ship for a second time. He ran to the bridge. The place was filled with a blend of screaming roars and pandemonium.

Though a near miss is a rare event, there were now tons of pirate ships surrounding them shown on the ship's radar and they were all attacking. There was no helping the situation, even if they woke up the rest of the crew the ship was only a GP transportation ship and not a warship, it didn't stand a chance in combat.

“Hiiiiiiiiiii,” said Onnainin to Seina. He looked like he was barely keeping his composure.

“Are... are you alright Seina-kun. I've seen a lot of things before but this the first time something like this has happened!” Though he was smiling at Seina his twitching face was betraying any sense of cool he was trying to project. Ironically, Seina's face was calm and collected compared to Onnainin's.

“Se... Se... Seina-kun, are you a pirate?? Why aren't you afraid?”

“Ha... I'm used to this kind of thing.”

“Huh?” Onnainin scratched his head dubiously at Seina's comment

Seina was afraid, but regrettably, he was used to being involved in the misfortune of those around him. Seina noticed Mitoto looking warmly at Onnainin and his conversation. Her warm radiant smile made his fear melt away.

“Well then, what should we do? We have to do something.”

“Eh?Oh, yes that's right, isn't it?”

Finally, Seina's calm words seemed to have begun to break Onnainin away from his state of panic. It seemed that Captain Onnainin's calmness made the crew also become calm and soon they reported on the current condition of the ship.

“The ship has taken little damage so far! We have no trouble navigating!”

“64% power remaining! Consumption levels are tolerable.”

The nearest hostile craft is 7500 units away! “

"7500!?....." Onnainin's face stiffened. He sat for a moment thinking silently.

"Shall we surrender?" Mitoto asked point blank.

"That, that's not even an option?? We would be in serious trouble if they find you. You're a member of the Kuramitsu family."

Seina didn't know until later, but the Kuramitsu family was an incredibly wealthy and powerful noble family. So naturally, if they captured them the ransom money could reach astronomical figures. If a pirate knew Mitoto was on board, they would desperately pursue them... But even though he didn't know that at the time, it was still applicable to Mitoto all the same.

"The nearest enemy warship is 6800 units away and closing! We're currently within range to fall into a tractor net!"

"Send all energy to the engine immediately." Mitoto began to give instructions in her soft and comforting voice

"But we're under attack....."

"Even if we fought them, isn't it impossible for us to win with this ship?"

"Tha, That's ri....." It seemed that Mitoto had persuaded Onnainin.

"Ok, then let's run away."

"Y-yes....."

Onnainin couldn't help but follow her orders. Even if one didn't know her status, they could easily see that Mitoto was able to see the situation clearly.

"Prepare for impact with an energy net and strengthen the shield at the bow of the ship!"

"Our shield levels are maximized!"

"Ha... Like I'd submit to the warning shots of a space pirate." Onnainin muttered, not yet understanding her angle.

"There's no helping it. This is the situation we're in....."

"The Galaxy Police exist specifically to eliminate this situation." Said Onnainin.

"But we have no choice but to run away now" Said Mitoto point blank, bringing Onnainin back to cruel reality.

x x x

Meanwhile on the bridge of the other ship lead by Marlon.

The conversations on the bridge of Seina's ship was still being relayed while pirates busily operated control panels.

"The 303rd or 448th lead line has been cut off. Energy... to the engines has been..., what's this captain! The outside communication line is on!?"

"What the!?"

"Oh, then so they've heard everything we've said. That's not good, I hope didn't I say anything strange. Hey, there Mr. Pirate. Well then, we're signing off....."

The transmission finally stopped.

"They seem to have noticed finally. I thought they were dumber than that." An operator in the back reported to Marlon

"The labor shortage is a serious problem everywhere. Prepare the energy net! But don't throw the usual one, just throw one that will slow them down."

"It's being rewritten. We have it programmed for capturing, wounding, and destroying all ships currently."

"Good! We would get our asses handed to us if we injured Mitoto."

"It's reprogrammed. Deploying energy nets."

A member of the crew pressed a red launch button.

x x x

Back on the GP ship:

"Energy reaction up ahead." A network of several crossing red lights floated forward in outer space. It was like a huge net.

"It's an energy net!"

"Evade Quickly!"

Seina stared at the monitor displaying the current situation, a 3d model of a GP ship was floating in the center of the screen it dodged a representation of the energy.

"Evasion successful!"

"Alright!" But Onnainin's face froze suddenly. "Ah.....!"

Surprisingly, a net different from the one they avoided appeared around the ship.

"What the hell...!"

"I'm picking up an energy reaction coming from the rear of the enemy ship! Second-level response is at three! It's coming right for us! Prepare for impact!"

"It's going to hit us in 4,3,2,1, here it comes?" Zhuuuzhuuuvroom. The ship shook a whole lot.

"Uwaaaaaaa!" Seina's face twitched as the impact nearly shook everyone out of their seats.

"Impact confirmed! There are three on the bottom of the ship!"

Seina saw the missiles lodged in the ship bottom reflected on the monitor.

"What is this!?"

"Ugh, it's Rats!" Onnainin belted out in annoyance. Half-spherical robots called rats came flooding into the ship from the open tip of the missiles that had struck them.

"They're invading the inside of our ship. Sensors say there's 6000 of them... no wait, 10000!"

"Activate the traps?" The crew manipulated the panels in a hurry.

Seina watched as the image of countless Rats followed each other down the ship's corridors was projected on the screen. Individually they would be considered cute, but in large groups they were very ominous looking. Soon, innumerable cube blocks also protruded from the walls, ceilings, and the floors in front of the invaders path line. They emitted noises like the cry of cat!

"..... So, it's a game of cat and mouse then?"

Seina stared at the screen in utter amazement, as the rats hit the blocks and were taken inside the cubes and dragged into the walls. It was destroying a whole bunch of them. But it couldn't keep up with the speed of all the rats.

"The rats have broken through shield 5. They're fast, are they a new model!?"

"All rats captured by shield 2 have been eliminated."

"Several rats have gotten through shield 3. There headed towards the bridge?"

"Shield seven activated. We're attempting to round up the ones that got past shields 3 and 5."

"We'll be alright, even if they are new....." Onnainin said trying to convince himself, he looked a little bit blue in the face. Contrary to what he said, the number of rats breaking through the shields seemed to gradually be increasing.

"Do you have version 9.42 of the prediction program?" Asked Mitoto, who had remained silent until then.

"9.42? That's over 3 versions old. Why that one?"

"That version uses a lot less processing power, it's quicker."

At the request of Mitoto, Onnainin changed the version of the program

"Wow! This is fast! All rats behind shield 6 have been captured!"

"It seems she's right; this version focuses more on processing than on looks. All Rats behind shield 1 have been captured." Someone in the crew announced.

The rest of the crew seemed to regain their hope, but Seina was feeling a bit estranged.

"... .. I'm kind of, of... useless..." It was a light complaint, but it annoyed him slightly. Seina felt like a good for nothing who was only good for bringing misfortune to those around him.

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Meanwhile on Marlon's ship, a crew member was reporting the rate of rat elimination to Marlon

"Elimination rate is at 65% 77% 82%! 90%, soon there won't be any more left!"

"That... .. control is impossible unless there using an old version. Make them concentrate on a stoke hold. Let's stop them from moving."

"Understood."

Immediately, a crew member sent remote instructions to the rats that remained.

*** * * Translators' note: a stoke hold is where coal is burnt to generate energy. * * ***

The remaining rats received the order and fused themselves to the wall of the passage.

Back on the GP ship, the blocks moved at high speed and caught a bunch of the rats but unfortunately, the containment ability of the block was limited. One group that it failed to catch fused into one large mouse and detonated a huge explosion destroying a circuit in the wall.

"Damn it. It's taken out conduction circuits 3 and 5!"

"Have they been eliminated yet?"

"Just a little bit more. Shield 5's been completely rebuilt."

"Rat elimination complete ... but we lost several circuits to the stoke hold."

"Our engine output is lowering, were under 100 now."

As one calamity passed, another arose. Seina could feel the ship slowing down. He could see a pirate ship behind them on a monitor. It was only a matter of time before they caught up to them.

Onnainin turned back to look at Mitoto to confirm the situation?

"It's a pretty risky bet but....."

"It will do for now."

Seina didn't understand.

Soon, Onnainin spoke with a determined expression on his face.

"Prepare for a random jump!" The Crew looked at him with twitching faces.

"A random jump!?" From the tone of their screaming voices, one could tell it was an extreme measure.

"With this many pirates? No way."

Mitoto nodded, convincing the crew to obey. It may have been true, but they had no other choice.

"Uhm... What's a random jump?" Seina asked the ever still smiling Mitoto.

"Uhm, well you see, to avoid Mr. Pirate we jump to a bunch of random nonsense co-ordinates. It's sort of like skipping a stone. We'll just sort of weave in and out of hyperspace until we lose them."

"I see... I see..." He didn't understand the concept very well. But those in the crew that did all seemed very uneasy about it. It seemed dangerous.

"Random jump program loading."

"Load complete. Jumping in ten seconds."

The GP ship soon entered a random jump despite Seina's bewilderment.

Short distances, middle distances, extreme short distances, short distances and then middle distances. The ship was changing coordinates on its axis one after the other one after another in accordance with its random jump program. It was different from the jump they performed a short while ago and there was considerable shaking on the bridge.

"Now this is a warp... .."

The hull shook and the crew seemed to be in pain but kept navigating. This was more or less the situation Seina expected. Soon, the shaking settled down.

"Random jump complete! Error levels and hull damage is within the expected range."

"Were we able to shake them off?" The Crew stared at the radar screen.

"We lost th~"- And a luminous point in space appeared followed by a ship.

"!"

The luminous points multiplied to dozens in no time. They didn't lose a single pirate. "W-

Why!?" Onnainin's cry spoke for the feelings of the whole crew.

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"Kekekekek... You do good work. Alright." Marlon the pirate grinned. He seemed very happy, there was a glint in his eye as he ran his finger over a small terminal.

"The ships random jump program has already been fully analyzed. They couldn't escape even if they tried all day." Said Tipster, a man who specialized in jump routes.

"I see, it doesn't matter where they go." Marlon passed a gold coin over to Tipster.

"I get them every time, that's our deal." Tipster handed Marlon a folded piece of paper.

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"I'm sensing a gravity wave! The ripple patterns match. It's them again!" They had just performed another jump only to have the pirate ships find them again.

"Really ... why is this happening!?"

"Maybe they're just analyzing the points where we jump and guessing where we'll jump next."

"Mitoto! Even if they compare and then make a guess this level of accuracy is impossible!"

"Then clearly they must have analyzed our jump program".

"But it's the newest version, it just came out a week ago!" Cries of the captain and the crew rang out. Since the program had been analyzed it was now useless to them.

"Well in that case, we have no choice but to input coordinates manually... ..."

"Umm. We don't have anyone on board who's specialized in doing that."

Mitoto tilted her head. Somehow that didn't seem necessary in this situation. Meanwhile the nearby monitor was showing a pirate ship getting closer to them, and the warning klaxons rang out very loudly all over the bridge. It was clear they were in a big pinch.

Onnainin babbled out some words that were unexpected in this situation. "... It looks like we have to ignore qualifications in order to maintain the safety of the crew. It's clear that if we perform a random jump, they will just find us again and if we fail again, we might not be able to jump again."

"Oh, then we better pick someone to do it who's good at predicting things."

"So, Mitoto... ..."

"You're kidding, right? It would be better to ask Seina, don't you think?" As Mitoto said that both she and Onnainin turned looked at Seina.

"Seina... ... Will you please enter in co-ordinates for us?"

"You want me to do it!?"

"That's right. You're the only one of us who has no training so you'll be able to pick coordinates in a way that isn't distinctly habitual of someone in the GP."

"That may be the case... but couldn't we end up somewhere weird..." All the crew looked upon Seina with reliant eyes.

“Seina, please, you're the only one who can help us?”

“But.....”

“Please?”

“Really... Are you sure?” He had a hunch about how this whole thing would end up but before he could object, he found himself in a control chair. It had a panel for entering coordinates.

“The enemy ship is approaching! It's only 250 units away!”

“Please hurry Seina!”

“Ye-yes.....”

Seina input a random set of numbers and pressed the confirmation key. Soon the ship went into a jump. According to Onnainin this was supposed to get them out of danger. But this was Seina so...

“.....Why.....how did.....” On the bridge of the GP ship, Onnainin was muttering with an opened mouth stupefied expression. Their light of hope was smashed by what was conceivably a worse situation

Seina had imputed three separate coordinates and done three separate jumps and they had just completed the third one. Everyone had thought entrusting Seina with the co-ordinates was a sure thing. He was an amateur, he didn't have any standard GP habits. And they surely would have thrown off a professional like Tipster. And the fact that they had jumped three times should have meant that they had lost them... But... well. The luminous points on the radar screen that showed where the pirates were now spread across an entire sector. They couldn't count the number of ships. It was like they were multiplying. Every time they jumped, they surprisingly ended up dead center in a herd of a new set of pirates. Of course, Seina didn't mean to, and he was just entering whatever random numbers he thought of. But group after group of pirates kept bringing him more unhappiness ... It was the moment that Seina Yamada earned the feared nickname of “Lorelei”.

*** * * Translators' note: Lorelei was a siren who lured sailors to their death. * * ***

“The number of enemy warships is increasing steadily!”

“There's too many, we can't even distinguish one from another anymore!”

“They're all headed this way!”

Seina's resolve wavered at the cry of the crews reports. Mitoto was still smiling though.

“Oh my, things have gotten very crowded.”

“Why... how does such a thing?”

“... .. I'm unlucky...”

Onnainin face twitched as Seina's words reminded him of something from earlier.

“Your mother said something like, “I'm surprised the person who came and got him while he was sleeping wasn't hurt.” In other words ...

“... ..ah yes, well that would be because those sorts of things happen to me... ..” said Seina sorrowfully as he bowed.

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The bridge was dominated by a sorry but lethargic mood. However, the pirate ship chasing them was wrapped in an even stranger atmosphere.

“Shit, there are other pirates after that ship! God damn it, that ship is ours! We must get that “important baggage” by any means necessary.” Marlon grinned. Though the number of rival pirates had multiplied they still had the advantage of being first. It was a matter of honor. Which still meant something among the more senior pirates.

But... .. That was only the old times, with the situation including hundreds of pirate ships running after only one ship there was no way that they could all be honorable. Many pirates who were there were driven into a blind sort of mob mentality.

“Captain! There is something incoming up ahead.”

Marlon looked at the monitor. In an area not far ahead of them a giant pirate ship was exiting hyperspace. The ship was flying the coat of arms of the Shank Guild. It was Radi Shank's ship.

Radi's ship had a special engine that allowed it to spend most of its time in hyperspace, only rarely exposing it. Allowing it to raid ships with ease.

“Ugh, What a greedy coward.....” Marlon's mockery of Radi was a good evaluation of other pirates' feelings towards Radi in general. Radi's ship came so near to the GP ship that it just barely missed it.

Radi's ship had been so close that when Seina plotted a random jump his ship messed up the whole process and got ripped out of hyperspace. He too got caught up in Seina's bad luck.

“Shit. We were sailing normally for so long just to end up in this ruckus. That's just great!” Radi said arrogantly in his captain's seat. He was mostly just mad that he had been dragged into normal space. As he noticed the great number of pirates surrounding him, he began to regain his composure.

“A big shot like me is a top priority target for the GP or Jurai.” He had been in hiding; he was just a coward like Marlon had said.

“What are they all going after, a transport ship?”

“I think it's a bit different father, from what I've heard from the other ship's communications lines it seems to be a GP ship.” Aru who was the eldest son of Radi looked back from an adjutant seat.

“A GP ship? The Galaxy Police, eh? With this many pirates following them... I don't know what they are shipping, but it seems quite fascinating. KUKKEKEKEKE.” Radi's reptile-like smile seemed strangely cunning.

Their ship's location was compromised. And if he ran away here, he didn't know what kind of things they would whisper to other pirates about him. He was a coward, but his high pride didn't permit escaping to sub-space in this situation.

“If you can get to that ship first do it...” (The other pirates would soon regret their malicious gossip.) Radi thought as he issued orders happily to his subordinates. “Short jump ready! Accelerate maximum speed after the jump! That ship is ours!”

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Meanwhile on the GP ship, there was a great commotion.

Seina was struck dumb and didn't notice that the engines had given out from all of the random jumps. They could no longer get away by jumping. Seina raised his hand and asked Onnainin a question nervously. “This is a police ship, right? Doesn't it have weapons?”

“Please don't say such absurdities, Seina! This is just an ordinary transport ship?”

The many pirate ships around them deployed energy nets surrounding them and a few fired warning shots to intimidate them.

“Were reading high level gravity waves. Someone is jumping in from hyperspace.”

“What can it be!” Onnainin shouted, completely at a loss for words.

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Meanwhile on a ship hidden nearby, was Seto Kamiki Jurai, member of the royal family of Jurai. The strongest nation in the galaxy, she commanded the 13th Master Defense Fleet, but the real outstanding strength she commanded was focused in the Seventh Master Defense Fleet, which she handpicked from every fleet to lead a pirate suppression attack force. Seto's ship, the Mikagami, had noticed one GP ship being followed by 400 pirate ships. They were surprised to see such a showy display from that many pirates.

“What the hell is going on.....?” Kanemitsu Hirata, commander-in-chief of the fleet, instinctively murmured. It could be said that this view was strange for him even though he was a seasoned veteran of many wars. He was a hero who many referred to as the “Seto's Sword”.

“That GP vessel. Is it a decoy ship?” Asked Seto's Intelligence Officer, Minaho Masaki, who was on the opposite side of Seto from Kanemitsu. She was known as Seto's Shield and neither she nor Kanemitsu could hold back their surprise.

“.....If that's the case, those scouts must be top rank.” Seto, who would normally be agitated, was struck mute. She was even smiling at the matter. From her body language you could see she agreed, these decoys were excellent.

It wasn't an easy thing to control the pirate population in the vast sectors of the galaxy. Usually, they pulled long cons using spies to gather Intel to perform sting operations. However, it was a strategy that required serious effort and economic power. It was just as nasty a process to arrest and prosecute the pirates. But on this day, Seto attracted so many pirates that they had yet to catch them all. They had been secretly investigating pirates in order to find information on the “Grand Guild” which was a top brass guild and Seina had managed to gather all vessels of the organization at once. All the pirate ships were lured out to this narrow sector and gathered around one point. It was also clear that they had two or three escape routes to take. She determined that this exposure of all these ships was impossible even if she herself had gathered the Intel. The information collection abilities of Seto were no laughing matter. She held over 40+% of the entire military power of Jurai.

If she had only captured 30% of the guild from this trip it would have been a huge success. But currently there were almost 5000 pirate ships grandly marching in front of her. It was a supernatural phenomenon of such magnitude that Seto had trouble even believing it.

“I can't find the first ship we were targeting but the rest of the ships on the list are all here. They're all running after that ship.”

An operator group of lady's-in-waiting comprised of Karen, Gyokuren and Suiren reported on the situation one after another following Hakuren's report from the operator seat.

“I'm reading over 133 different crew signatures outside and that number is growing.”

“From the energy-to-mass ratio and vibration ripples, no doubt most of them are illegally modified pirate ships that have been disguised.”

“It's unusual for this many of them to be exposed like this.”

“There seem to be lots of pirates that don't belong to any of the guilds here as well.” Hakuren said, with an amazed smile. “But I don't understand, why!?”

“It's as if there were a bunch of jewels scattered in a desert” Seto said laughing. “And someone collected them all and put them neatly in front of me.”

“Now what do we do? With all these ships...” Minaho brought her face in close to whisper to Seto.

"I don't want to drag that GP ship into this." As Seto said that Gyokuren cried out, "I'm picking up a Gravity wave! A large warship is jumping! "

"Identify it."

"This... .. It is the first warship we were targeting!"

It was Radi Shank's ship which returned from the short-range jump that it had set to get closer to the GP ship. He was also a leader of the Grand guild, and by the way, he wasn't popular at all.

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Back to Seina:

"A large ship is jumping in from the back!"

Onnainin announced as he realized there was a large outline ahead of them in space. It was evident that a ship of large mass was jumping in close range to them. At the same time, hard to describe vibrations battered the GP ship. They felt brutal and gave one's body an instinctive sense of danger. In other words, it was a desperate situation.

"Evade! EVADE!"

"Evading isn't going to do anything!"

"Do it anyways?!" Onnainin screamed, the form of the large pirate ship was reflected in Seina's widely opened eyes.

The ship heralded the crest of the Shank family and flag of the Grand guild.

The scale of the ship was bigger than anything he had seen so far.

Seina couldn't take his eyes off its excessively prestigious looking appearance. He was utterly amazed. It seemed his bad luck was getting a bit out of hand.

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Another pirate shot off a net to capture the ship and Radi's ship and it was flicked off by the force-field of Radi's ship

"Damn it. I've had it up to here with that coward!" Marlon slammed his fist into his armrest in anger. "I don't care anymore, prepare to shoot that jackass!" He hadn't even cared that Marlon was there first.

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Back on Seto's ship:

"Ahahahaha!" Seto rarely laughed when she was conducting military affairs. But she found watching the pirates fighting with each other... hilarious. She burst out laughing.

It wasn't just Seto laughing. Everyone in the Jurai fleet was laughing.

"I loathe Radi Shank." Seto said as she watched Radi's ship go up in flames as a fellow pirate from the Grand guild attacked them. After laughing for a while Seto stood up. "Prepare to destroy all the ships."

"Yes, Lady Seto."

Minaho could not guess Seto's true intentions. If she wanted to involve the GP ship.....she should have just said so. But with Radi's ship blown up there was now a large gap between the GP ship and the pirates, so she understood.

The distance opened up was large enough for them to fit in.

"Make sure not to miss a single ship!"

"Understood!"

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Marlon's ship again:

"Gehahaha! That's what he gets for getting in the way of my catch." Marlon said, experiencing a slight victory high. They were seized with an impact followed by a glaring light from a spatial warp. A noisy emergency siren resounded through the bridge.

"What is it now? Did we hit some of the debris from Radi's ship?"

"It's something else! We're picking up a high gravity wave energy reaction!"

"Our meters are exploding from the overload!"

"Remove the sensor sensitivity limits!" An explosion shot plasma all over the place.

"We can't, most of our sensors are unresponsive."

"That's impossible ..." A possibility that he didn't want to believe floated on Marlon's mind while he gave directions. "Jump immediately. Get us away from this sector now!"

"Captain! The energy-to-mass ratio, indicates that it's a Juraian Ship!"

"I thought that was the case. We have to hurry up and jump!"

"We can't! The waves from the ship are keeping us from entering hyperspace!"

"Shit, we weren't quick enough!!"

It wasn't only Marlon's ship. All ships in the area where experience amazing spatial distortion and overwhelming noise. The pressure was tremendous. A sweaty crew member turned to Marlon.

"Captain, what is this?!?"

Marlon disappointedly sat in the captain's seat. "Oh well, what can you do?" With many years of experience as a pirate he knew the meaning of this situation and understood well. Soon mixed with the noise, a communication code like the old General Space Code would be communicated to all ships and pirates.

"Sir, we're receiving some kind of high frequency code!"

He didn't need to wait for the operator to announce it. The code's classification was ZZZ. Marlon had experienced that code twice before, and it was the last thing he ever wanted to hear.

"Stop all power reactors right now! Freeze all energy transfer ways! Don't attack or make any evasive actions!"

"But if we do that, we'll lose life support systems!" A young operator looked back at Marlon.

"Shut it down now!! Tell all crew members that if they don't feel like dying, they should put on an S suit right now. Send those orders to all the ships around us and send a message to the Big Da Ruma. Make it quick!"

"On it!" The operator noticed the captain's tense upset expression and executed his order. "It's done! The Da Ruma has ordered all the surrounding ships to stop! What is this?" They looked at Marlon to enlighten them on the answer to this question.

"The ZZZ is a declaration of destruction reflected in water ... A genocide dance of the Demon Princess of Jurai." ZZZ, a Genocide dance. There was nothing pirates feared more.

The ZZZ signal was used to declare that any vessel that kept on resisting would be utterly destroyed by the Mikagami. Even independent ships not involved nearby were held hostage by it. The only way to be saved was to indicate the intention of unconditional surrender immediately. All power reactors and energy transfer had to be frozen. And all attack and withdrawal behaviors had to cease immediately.

When considering the situation and number of pirate ships crowded in a small sector like this, and the destructive power of the royal ship, it was impossible to run away.

Marlon was familiar with the protocol and so was the other more senior captains. They all complied.

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Back to Seto's ship:

“Oh, it seems everyone is being good this time. That's a shame, I kind of like when they don't comply.” Seto smiled as she spoke to Kanemitsu.

“They probably don't want to risk their lives... Well then, is there anything else lady Seto?”

“What about the GP ship?”

“It's safe.” Minaho smiled as she informed Seto.

Almost 5000 pirates had just been captured in one fell swoop. Pirates sank the flagship of Grand guild which they were targeting, and everyone surrendered without causing any trouble. All the crew members who escaped the explosion of Radi's ship had been arrested too. Seto was happy and reasonably so.

“.....But Lady Seto? Before we jump, I must inform you that there is one pirate ship that seems to have escaped us.” The operator, Hakuren, said as she looked back.

“Oh, really?? Do you know its identity?”

“It's Ryoko Balta's ship.”

“Phew~ that idol Pirate's ship? Hahaha. Well then she is just an idol pirate...” Seto laughed happily and looked at the GP warship which had been considerably bullied and was drifting just outside of the window. At any rate, that simple transportation ship must have drawn such a crowd of pirates for a reason. “Well then, why don't we have a little chat with them?”

*** * * End of Episode 2 of the anime * * ***

* * * Start of Episode 3 of the anime * * *

Chapter Three: The Demon Princess

"Oh, it's Mikagami-chan!" Back on the GP ship, Mitoto waved her hands at the ship projected on the screen.

"Mi... Ka... Ga... Mi...?" Seina stared at the hull of this ship. It was his first time seeing a Juraian Royal ship.

The ship looked like it was made out of wood except for the elegant oval capsule structure in the center. How a ship made mostly of wood instantly overthrew all these rows of pirates was beyond Seina. (That ship must be incredibly strong) Seina thought to himself.

A ship with a reflective surface.....Could that be the Demon Princess of Jurai? Onnainin heard Seina's words and looked suddenly surprised, and he wasn't alone in making that expression.



"Hey, it's the Demon Princess."

"The Demon Princess? You mean that Demon Princess?"

"There's no mistaking it."

a wave of the unrest Quickly passed through the operators on the bridge. Surprisingly, the feeling of strain was even more intense than when they were surrounded by pirates. Seina began to worry as well. Had his misfortune struck again?

".....the Demon Princess...who is that?" He asked Onnainin fearfully.

"Uhm... no....." Onnainin dropped into a more serious voice unintentionally in response to Seina's question. "I didn't say that. Please never say that or tell anyone I said that to you. I'm begging you!"

"Is she by any chance a scary person.....?" Seina said also in a lower voice.

"In this galaxy, there is no nation more powerful than the nation of Jurai. Of the Juraian Royal Family, she is the single strongest military power."

"Oh....."

"Ah, well that's one way to put it. But she is a funny lady... Well, at least that's what Ms. Mitoto says about her."

"Oh, is that so?"

"Yes, it is." Onnainin's words gave a dramatically fearful expression, but Mitoto's were relaxed and calm by comparison.

"So, which one is it, for a Demon Princess of Jurai" Seina was quickly reprieved by Onnainin.

"S-Seina? Whatever you do, do not call her the Demon Princess. Her name is Lady Seto of the nation of Jurai."

"Uhm... ok."

"Well then, let's go say hi to her!" Mitoto said taking Seina's hand.

"That sounds an awful lot like intentionally walking into a tiger's den....."

Onnainin looked like he was about to burst into tears. How many times had he made that face that day? "But we have to, they asked for a report on this situation."

"Oh.....?"

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Meanwhile, in an area of space not that far away on Ryoko Balta's ship. "It seems that all our confederates were captured."

"Well then.....?" Ryoko said, listening to the adjunct's report. Her wavy black hair fluttered in the wind as she sat gracefully in her captain's chair. The strange sight she had seen just a short while ago floated on her mind. The bridge was wrapped in a strange feeling.

All her subordinate's voices rang out as they starred enthralled at the GP ship projected on their screens. Everyone on the bridge was excited in the way a fox is when it chases a rabbit.

"Fufufufu.....it seems everyone that was after my prey was rounded up...?" Said Ryoko, who was wrapped up in the whirlpool of excitement even though she normally would have been very calm.

"We're lucky we stopped.....if we hadn't, we'd have been caught in the Demon Princesses Genocide Dance like the rest of the pirates....." Ryoko couldn't help but shudder at the fact. However, she quickly snapped back to her senses and regained her composure.

Earlier she had been eagerly chasing the GP ship, but when she noticed hundreds of ships also chasing it, she got a bad feeling and ordered an emergency jump out of the area and now she was watching as all the other ships had been seized by the 7th Juraian armada.

"Really, that was quite a dangerous situation ... It looks like we just barely made it out of there....." her handsome expression faded a little.

"Captain, please forgive me.....?" The adjutant who usually didn't express his feeling hung his head in sorrowful apology. He was a large man with a calm disposition whom Ryoko and the crew trusted immensely. "I'm supposed to be 2nd in command...I should have noticed."

"I understand. But you have nothing to apologize for..... It was nearly impossible in that state to notice. Even we sent out a signal to the others, they were running after that GP ship like they were in a trance. I doubt we could have snapped them all back to sanity in time."

"We were too for a while."

"Maybe it's a new kind of decoy ship.....?"

"Whatever it was, it was unusual to say the least."

Do you think it's some kind of new weapon that Jurai and the GP academy have developed?"

"There's no way of telling yet." Ryoko said, putting her hand on the monitor that was displaying the GP ship.

".....It seems to me we should check it out for ourselves."

The reflection of the dot representing their ship approaching the GP ship was reflected in Ryoko's eyes.

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Meanwhile a transportation boat had anchored itself on a luminous path from the Mikagami to the GP ship. Onnainin, Mitoto, and Seina were being slow to get to it for some reason. Onnainin was visibly uneasy.

"Oh my, it's so dirty in here!" Mitoto worried.

They had the crew clean it but given the limited amount of time they had to clean it and their lack of proper cleaning equipment it was still pretty dirty. Onnainin naturally was worried.

"You know it's customary for the people on the lower-class ship to go to the higher class ship."

"Oh really?" Seina asked in response to Onnainin's mutterings that didn't calm him down one bit.

"Due to various laws, in an emergency situation like this, someone like Lady Seto has the power to take authority over a fleet that is outside their jurisdiction. In other words, Lady Seto is our boss now. It's a bit unnatural to have our boss come to us, isn't it?"

"I still worry though."

"There's no need to worry about it....." Onnainin said. His body was trembling in nervous fearful weariness.

“Captain, a transport boat from the Mikagami will be arriving shortly.” Onnainin looked up at the ceiling where the voice was being broadcast from. The tension in his face increased.

"I, I, I, I am ok. Everything is fine...just fine....." But from his expression he wasn't ok at all. He looked like a prisoner on death row.

Vooooon!

A heavy scream sounded faintly.

“AAAAAH!” Onnainin overreacted to it.

“Anchoring complete! Is it ok to come aboard?”

“Please wait for j-j-just a moment please.” Onnainin took out a sedative pill and a flask and quickly drank it.

“Well then, permission granted. P-please come in.....”

“Affirmative!”

Doki doki doki doki doki doki. Seina could hear Onnainin's heartbeat through his chest. Doki doki doki doki doki doki

The entrance hatch to the ship opened in what seemed like slow motion. The air was tense.

“He looks like.....someone on the verge of death.” Seina thought out loud looking at Onnainin who was looking at the door opening. His eyes were wide in terror.

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

Doki doki doki

His heart was beating in overdrive.

"Achoo!" Mitoto suddenly sneezed behind them.

"Kiyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!" Onnainin jumped up really high like a cartoon character.

“...Uhm, hello?” The voice of a lady called out from behind the entrance. For a moment they had forgotten that they were supposed to be meeting Seto. Onnainin’s face flushed and turned a deep blue.

“Ex... excuse me?” Onnainin bowed, kneeling on the floor and Seina joined him.

From above his head, he heard a gentle voice.

“Do you need some help? Can anyone explain what went on here?”

Was this the Demon Princess? Mitoto sure seemed glad to see her.

“Oh, Minaho-san!?”

“Mitoto-sama?? I didn't expect to see you here.”

“Oh, is that so?”

The conversation continued over Seina and Onnainin's heads.

“So, then this person isn't Seto.....

The odd woman turned to talk to Seina. “Nice to meet you? I am Minaho Masaki, Seto's Information Officer.”

It wasn't Seto after all.

“Haaaa, This is great.....” Onnainin breathed a great sigh of relief at the fact that it wasn't Seto who had come to visit them. Minaho smiled a little. Seto was well aware of the rumors about her. So, she sent Minaho instead. It was much easier for her to gather accurate information that way.

“Well then... Which one of you gathered all these pirates? Was it you Mitoto?”

Mitoto had the natural gift of chance, and her daughter Mihoshi Kuramitsu had inherited it from her. This strange event's circumstances were more or less consistent with something that could happen to her, so naturally Minaho assumed it was her doing.

“Oh no, it wasn't me. Seina-chan did all the gathering.” She said delighted as she stroked Seina's hair gently.

“Sei...na...? This guy rounded up all those pirates?”

“N-nice to meet you. I am Seina Yamada.”

“Seina... Yamada... ..?”

Minaho, who hadn't recognized him, had a confused look on her face.

“Ms. Masaki. I'll be glad to tell you the full story from my perspective.” Mitoto continued to say. Onnainin also concluded that he should do the same.

First thing they did was state their ID Numbers and Position in the GP and then their role on the ship. Mitoto was on top of things. They had arrived on Earth to find Seina's family. They put Seina onboard, and then they talked about the decisions leading them to be surrounded by pirates. Onnainin reported in as much detail as possible.

× × ×

"I see, well then....." Seto said to Minaho who was delivering a remote report to her on the Mikagami from the bridge of the GP ship. From her expression one could see that she was very interested in what she heard.

"If that's the case... .."

Kanemitsu and Minaho let out a simultaneous ugh.

Kanemitsu who also listened to the message next to Seto got chills from Seto's reaction.

"Another one?"

He had witnessed that expression many times before... .. it meant that a new sacrifice had appeared before Seto and that Minaho and his workload was about to increase

"But I wonder how Seina got into space..." Minaho murmured.

"Oh, are you acquainted?"

"No, of course, I haven't met him directly, rather I know of him from a variety of people. He is a friend of Tenchi's... His luck is rather bad." Minaho gave Seto a supplemental briefing on what she knew about Seina.

"That was quite a lot of details... hmm..." Seto said as she judged what she had heard, instantly a strange expression came upon her face.

"I wonder if this is Lord Yoshio's doing... .." Seto said. She had a look of uneasiness on her face that was unusual for her.

"What's wrong?" Kanemitsu asked, sensing her discomfort.

".....no, It's nothing. All things considered, he managed to pull in quite a considerable number of pirate ships. Well then, I think he is quite lucky, after all it's not every day a pure Earthling gets to go out into space. It's improbable, don't you agree?" Seto said, grinning at Kanemitsu as she stared at Minaho who was displayed in the middle of a screen.

"In that case maybe he didn't encounter me by accident..." She thought to herself. "Anyways? What were you saying?" Considering it a sign, Seto's smile grew even bigger.

"So many things have surprised me today. I never would have expected this to be his doing till Mitoto said she was aboard."

Kanemitsu hastily changed the subject. "Oh, that's right. She should have been at GP headquarters doing janitorial work."

"Oh, was that where Mitoto was supposed to be?" Seto said with a wry smile. She wasn't smiling about Mitoto though. They were desperately trying to change the topic, and Seto wanted to



watch them squirm. (Next thing you know Minaho will probably say “The captain of the GP ship is requesting permission to come aboard.”) She thought to herself.

“Lady Seto, The Captain of the GP ship is requesting permission to come aboard.”

(Well, that didn't take long) Seto predicted his words accurately. “He's requesting to come aboard? well then. Let him.....”

Minaho showed a look of relief on her face upon seeing Seto's expression. If Seto made Seina her plaything, the GP academy wouldn't put up a fight in admitting him, it seemed like his good luck wasn't over. But what Seto said next betrayed Minaho's expectations.

“.....Minaho. I'm putting you in charge of repairs on the GP ship.”

“Huh? Uhm..., but.....”

“That ship just pulled off the largest sweep of

pirates in history. We can't just send it on its way in the condition it's in. Such behavior would bring shame to Jurai Don't you agree?”

If Seto said so, then there was no room to argue about it. “Of course, you are absolutely right.....”

“In the meantime, while we escort that transport ship, please let Ms. Mitoto and the others know that they are guests of Lady Seto Kamiki Jurai and that they will be properly taken care of.”

“Understood.” Minaho said while lowering her head and holding her hands together. “I feel sorry for poor Seina.”

“Hmm...Who should receive our guest.....uhm... yes that will work. Hakuren, Gyokuren, Suiren, and Karen...Send those four.”

Minaho and Kanemitsu looked at each other's face across the screen with matching frowns at Seto's words. She seemed to be up to something.

*** * * Translators' note:**

Proper Noun notes:

Mikagami: alternately read Mizukagami or Water Mirror refers reflection pools commonly found in Japanese gardens.

Amane: the sound of rain fall

Jurai: literally Thunder Tree

Kamiki: Sacred Tree

Kagato: Literally: God Selfish person.

But it's actually the Japanese word for the concept of purusha.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Purusha> Fuku: good luck

Gyokuren (white haired Renza girl): Her name means a precious stone shaped in the form of a Rose of Sharon or a lotus, but the Rose of Sharon is a flower commonly used to symbolize a perfect woman. So, it's probably that. Her name should be interpreted as, precious stone statue of the perfect woman.

Karen: Perfect woman made of fire.

Hakuren (blue haired Renza girl): Haku doesn't mean anything in Japanese it's just a kanji reserved for making names as far as I can tell. But is amber in Japanese and is amber by itself in Chinese. So, Amber Rose of Sharon, or perfect woman made of amber.

Hakubi: The best! A fine example! (Doesn't that figure)?

Katsuhito: Victory benevolent (Ehehe, get it? Because it's not his real name and he had a benevolent victory over Ryoko).

Kamidake: fire beauty ferocious

Kiriko: any cheap translator will tell you her name is fog love/misty love. Fun fact, the first kanji of Kiriko and Amane is kirisame or light drizzle.

Kuramitsu: 9 fine threads of thin silk (more or less. I think?)

Nobuyuki: Fidelity blessing

Ryoko: Caller of the spirit of trees and rocks

Ryoko as in Ryoko Balta: *cough* *cough* *bad American misappropriation accent* Ree yoh ko y'all! (The implication is someone who doesn't understand the connotations of the kanji just named their kid Ryoko because it sounds foreign and exotic. It's like naming your kid sushi because you find the word exotic.

Sasami: Sand sand Beautiful. Lol

Ryo-Ohki: Royal ghost spirits

Seiryō: Quiet dragon

Seto: Strait (like a body of water)

Suiren: Green bamboo screen

Washu: Eagle feathers

Seina: Southwest

Anyways back to where we left off. * * *

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10 minutes later:

As Minaho gave instructions to her subordinates on how to fix the GP ship, Mitoto, Seina, and Onnainin were greeted by a party of 4 entertainers.

"Minaho, what do you think of this?" Using a direct line to Minaho, Kanemitsu spoke directly to her. Not even Seto knew about this line, but nothing escaped her for too long.

"You don't have any objections, do you?"

"... .. You look like my wife." Kanemitsu's wife was with him; she was the Commander of the Seventh fleet (but she was on maternity leave).

"Damn... so that's the end result of Seto's meddling."

"As is typical when she brings one of her stallions close to a mare to test their readiness to mate. Is it really that big of a deal?" Kanemitsu continued to ignore Minaho's joke.

Seto kept a tight knit group of people near her. Even though she was close enough with Minaho to call Minaho her shield. Minaho didn't quite understand her reasoning all the time. But she also knew that many of Seto's actions had hidden meanings.

"It's unmistakably so."

"She can be quite an unpleasant woman, can't she?"

"Haha, well then, that may be. But Lady Seto would never do anything unnecessarily. Maybe there are reasons for sending those four to entertain Seina."

"Heh, well they are girls, and he is young man I wonder what her intentions are."

"I have no doubts about that, this was intentional."

"If I'm not mistaken, those four are just some girls that Lady Seto found somewhere."

"Oh, well it seems that they've finally arrived. Talk to you later, Mr. Kanemitsu, you old fart."

Minaho cut the communication line there. Then she took the four girls who had arrived from the Mikagami and headed to the reception room where Seina was waiting.

"Are... ..they our welcoming party?"

"Yes. These four are here to take care of you."

Seina stared at the four women behind Minaho and studied their appearance. He wasn't sure why, but they all wore a hood covering their heads and the lower half of the face, only leaving the area around the mouth exposed.

"If it's all the same to you I'd like to stay here until the repairs are finished....." Seina tried to find a reason to refuse but there wasn't one.

(Seina ... I understand that you don't want to see Seto, but I cannot afford to say yes. I'm sorry...) Minaho thought. She was feeling a little pleasure in the act of teasing Seina. It seemed she had picked up one of Seto's bad habits. "Well, Seina, it seems that it will take some time to finish all these repairs, but with your luck this isn't exactly the safest place for you to be."

Onnainin, freed from the pressure of meeting Seto, gladly broke his silence and made irresponsible remarks to Seina and Minaho. "Well, it's an invitation so basically, you have to go."

"Do you have to go too Onnainin?"

"Oh, no, I am busy with commanding repairs and other various things!"

Seina expected that response.

At that moment Seina suddenly remembered he had forgotten about Kiriko. Maybe he could use contacting Kiriko as an excuse to keep from going aboard the Mikagami. It would be like killing two birds with one stone. Who would have thought that Kiriko merely existing would be of help to him all the way across the galaxy? Seina happily thanked Kiriko who was far away on Earth.

"Um ... I have a lot of important things I have to talk to someone on Earth about, so about that invitation..."

"Ah, Seina, there is no point in trying that, because we're currently jamming the communications of the pirates in this sector, we cannot communicate over long distances."

"Huh!?" Onnainin's explanation made Seina worry that it would be impossible to reach Kiriko.

"Well, I'm sorry I didn't say anything sooner, but our ship has a special circuit that can be used to call anywhere on the Earth." Minaho informed him.

"Eh?" Seina's heart trembled. It had been a long time since he had last contacted Earth. Twelve hours had already passed since he had woken up. (If I do not hurry, Kiriko will be worried ... and besides). He glanced at Mitoto. Her smile again gave Seina a sense of security. (If I'm with Mitoto, I'll be fine right?)

"So then Seina-chan, shall we go?" That sentence Mitoto uttered was the finishing blow.

"I guess so....." Even though Seina had accomplished what he wanted, he had gotten it by picking the least desirable solution.

"Alright! Oh! Well then, I almost forgot, I'd like to introduce you to your entertainers."

At Minaho's words, the four women who had kept behind her until now came forward in front of Seina. They all removed the hoods at the same time.



"Wow!" Seina muttered in spite of himself.

Each and every one of the four women were beautiful! Not a single one among them was dressed in anything even remotely shabby. He couldn't take his eyes off of them. Well, they were entertainers after all, he thought, so it seems reasonable they would be dressed as such. But he was just a very unlucky person and just a simple earthling, and he had caused a huge uproar. He felt he had done nothing worthwhile to receive such entertainment.

(Oh ... that's right, Seto is the supreme authority of that country ... maybe this is just normal? That's right, they are just ordinary entertainment girls. Rather than finding excessive value in it I should just think of it as natural.) Since Seina had bad luck since when he was young, he was used to underestimating himself and thinking of himself as hated by others. He was just an unlucky guy.

"Well then..." Minaho waited until Seina had settled down to introduce the girls.

"This lady is Hakuren."

"It is a pleasure to meet you Seina." Hakuren gave a respectful bow. She had beautiful light blue colored straight hair and she had a very serious look about her reminiscent of a girl who was the head of a committee.

"This is Karen."

"Thank you very much for all your help." She was petite, with a boyish figure and wheat colored skin and brilliant red hair. Although she was tomboyish, she had a strong feminine charm to her appearance.

"This woman is Suiren."

"Suiren is what they call me. I am not good for much, but please treat me kindly."

"Not good for much.....?"

She looked like a newlywed wife, her emerald green hair was beautiful and of the four women she was the only one who had glasses. But the glasses on her intellectual looking bespectacled face did little to hide her expression that reminded Seina of Mitoto.

"And then the last one is.....huh?" There was no one where Minaho was pointing. "What's this? Wasn't there one more person there just a little while ago?"

"I am Gyokuren." Suddenly he heard a voice from behind his ear and felt two soft lumps on his back.

"Oh, excuse me, I didn't mean to surprise you ..." Gyokuren stared at Seina who nearly jumped out of his skin and smiled. She was a beautiful silver haired woman. Her eyes were impressively decadent and deadly looking. He got the feeling that she was more of the seductive type of woman rather than the romantic type.

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".....shit, he's a nice one."

At that time on the bridge, the operators were looking at the surveillance monitor and watching Seina's situation.

"Jurai's entertainment ... I should have guessed it would be this great. And those four girls are so beautiful too." However, they couldn't exactly say that they wanted to be in his position.

"If you do not enter the tiger's hole, you will not get a baby. However, it is Seto in that tiger hole."

"Don't just give up, Seina you fool."

"Yeah Seina, you fool."

They turned their anger towards Seina, and repeatedly threw curse words at their screens...

Meanwhile Seina was boarding the wooden transport boat to Seto's ship. It had a plain structure with a simple dugout center. He would have hardly thought that something like this would be flying in space.

"Really..... Is this outer space?" He pondered a question he hadn't pondered since he first woke up this morning.

"Seina, we know that your star system is in the early stage of civilization." Hakuren said to Seina who was next to her. She seemed to be the leader of this entertainment team, and for the moment she was in charge of most of the responses.

As he learned later, the other three were watching Mitoto. Well, anyways.

"Early stage civilization?"

"Yes, your people's civilizations have successfully escaped from the gravity zone on manned ships. When interstellar navigation becomes possible, you will have reached the second stage."

"Well now.....I heard your planet recently manned a vessel to its satellite? Wow". The boat was covered with a shield, and it approached the ship called the Mikagami.

"Uhm, is that thing really made out of wood?" He asked as he leaned on the handrail of the ship and stared at the Mikagami.

"Yes. Jurai is a lush star with gigantic kilometer sized trees and that ship is made from one singular continuous piece of wood except for some small exterior decorative pieces."

"There are really trees kilometers in size. On Earth they get to be about a hundred meters or so, but ..."

"Heh, well, you'll only see such big trees on Jurai."

"Really? Uhm? Is that water in the middle of that hoop?"

The main body of the Mikagami had a double ring shape. The liquid that filled it reflected the flickering and shimmering light on its inner ring.

"That's where they get the name Mikagami (water mirror) from No, actually it was decorated after that name."

"It looks like a big pool."

"Yes, you can swim in it."

"What?"

"We sometimes go swimming in it with Seto. How about it Seina, if you like, do you wanna swim in it too? It feels really weird."

"Yes, It certainly feels nice....."

"Do you just swim in the middle of space?" (Some misfortune will strike again if I do something like.) Seina thought to himself as he vaguely smiled while Hakuren told him about it.

"Come now, we will arrive soon, and we will guide you to the guesthouse. Then you can take a break and contact the Earth before Seto greets you."

"Oh.....okay," at the mention of meeting Seto his spine stiffened. "Wh, what is this? ..." Seina, who was accompanied by Hakuren and the others, was guided inside Mikagami. He was overwhelmed by its strange and vibrant internal environment.

The interior of Mikagami contained a space that could be said to be a world of its own. It was a "residential district" of sorts and was unimaginably big compared to the compact outside appearance of the ship. It was not a mechanical sci-fi world, but an area blended with nature.

It wasn't surprising that Seina was surprised.

"I've seen sci-fi movies where the inside of the ship was bigger than the outside, but this much difference is insane ..."

A river flowed, trees grew lushly, and animals roamed. It was an expansive environment. It was like its own entire universe, and it was all inside the ship. But Seina wasn't even really sure about that anymore.

"This is a spherical space of about ten kilometers radius fixed in subspace by the power of Mikagami." Hakuren explained to Seina, whose mouth was gaping half open.

"So, technically speaking, we're not in the Mikagami."

"Ha ha ... It's quite a hard to understand concept, isn't it?"

It was in the ship, but not in the ship. It was very Zen. Seina's brain couldn't keep up. Hakuren gave a more detailed explanation, but of course Seina didn't understand it. He barely understood what they forced him to learn on Earth. (Didn't Ms. Hakuren mention a guest house ...? I hope that wasn't a mistake ...)

Seina looked at the scenery in the residential area once more. He saw the hazy image of mountain ranges in the far distance. The green trees' dazzled in his eyes.

"It feels nice ... The air is so fresh. It's much more comfortable than that GP ship was."

"The humidity and temperature in here, all have been adjusted to achieve the ideal environment for people."

Seina nodded, he felt something nostalgic about the air in the atmosphere. Where had he felt this this? (Oh, that's right. This is just like the air near Tenchi's house) this place reminded him of the area around the Masaki family's shrine.

"Do you like it?"

"Yes, it's amazing ...

"... Isn't it?"

Seina felt something was wrong as he looked back at Hakuren and others in the back.

"Is something wrong?"

Seina had noticed something around him was off when he scratched his head. "Uhm, Mitoto.....?"

"What about Ms. Mitoto?"

At that everyone turned to look at the place where Mitoto should be. "She's not here... .."

"!"

Mitoto who was supposed to be surrounded by the other three girls, was missing. No one had any idea how long she had been gone.

"How foolish of us!"



"Please help me look for her. Gyokuren, go with Seina! Karen, Suiren come with me!" Hakuren turned bright red and took Karen and Suiren and ran off to search for Mitoto. Gyokuren took Seina.

"Uhm, shouldn't we help find her... .."

"Those three and I are ladies in waiting not in searching, and even if she is missing, Mitoto won't be able to leave Mikagami, so don't worry."

"Heh..." Is this unusual? Or is this a routine thing with Mitoto? Seina thought of himself as being pretty special even if it was in a bad way, but it seemed that in this strange place there were very many other strange people.

"This is the guesthouse. Please relax and enjoy yourself." Gyokuren told Seina as they reached a big long house. (... This thing is about the size I remember the Great Buddha

hall of Today being that time I saw it on a school trip.)

*** * * Translators' note: Largest wooden building in the world. Also, this line directly contradicts the notion in book 2 that Seina hasn't ever been out of the city he lives in... Yay early book plot holes.**

Its width is 57.012 meters that's about half the length of a football field or the length of 28 king size beds. The length is about 50.480m or about the length of 25 king sized mattresses. Height 48.742m still about 24 king size mattresses length high... why am I using mattresses? This thing is huge. * * *

The outer wall was covered with ivy and moss, there was a huge tree in the center of the house ... No, it was more like the trees were built as a major pillar and the house was shaped like a round bun. In a little covered booth, there was a familiar black telephone set.

"The phone to contact Earth is over there."

"Excuse me!" Seina practically jumped into the box and started dialing the number he was used to calling by now. Ring ring ... Ring ring ... Ring ring ... Ring ring ... Ring ring ... Beep beep beep

"Is anyone there...??"

Ring ring ... Ring ring ... Ring ring ... Ring ring ... Ring ring ... beep beep beep

He was calling Kiriko's house over and over again.

"I'm stupid, neither Kiriko nor Kai has the money for all these long distance calls ..."

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Meanwhile

Just as Seina was calling the Earth. Seto looked at another person on her communications monitor, smiling a little. However, the image was disturbed due to ultra-sophisticated eavesdropping communication, and only the other person's voice could be heard correctly.

*** * * Translators' note: We all know who it is, ok... sure... I guess since you can't obscure the view in a book that is a way to do it. * * ***

"I see ... well, I understand the circumstances."

"So, will you please repatriate him as soon as possible ..." The communication partner said in a desperate voice.

*** * * Translators' note: Repatriate - a fancy word for deporting someone. Also, around this point I lost my translation work after working really hard on it and so I began writing the translation in a different perspective to make it easier on me. I'm sorry. This only lasts till the end of the 2nd book. After that everything is more directly translated again. * * ***

"Indeed, it is strictly forbidden to contact early stage civilizations with humans, let alone to send one into space, and although it is strictly prohibited by the galaxy law Earth has no such precedent

"Aren't you from Earth?" You could tell there were mixed feelings bouncing around in Seto's words.

"But Lady Seto!"

"Well, thank you."

"But, Seto it's a bit... ..!"

Seto interrupted all communications so she could ignore the other's person's words and she smiled like it was just a pleasant surprise. "Hehehe he ... It is unusual for her to get so riled up."

"Whew She does not play around." Minaho who came back from the GP ship sighed, thinking of the future of the communicating party, and she looked at Kanemitsu with squinting eyes. Kanemitsu opened his mouth without being addressed.

"... .. Lady Seto, should I return him to Earth after all, considering his unique characteristics?" Of course, giving advice to Seto was pointless. "Oh, I don't mean to force it if you don't want me to." Kanemitsu was belly aching to Seto and had been for some time now. (Shit, this shitty old hag is determined to do this Even if I can't force her to do it, I can at least not make it easy for her... ..)

"Oh, is there something you want to say?"

"No....."

After Seto inquired, Kanemitsu metaphorically rolled to expose his belly. Then an operator's voice broke into the conversation, saving what was left of his dignity.

"Lady Seto, Kanemitsu, please excuse me but I have found the identity of the person who recruited Yamada Seina to the GP on Earth. Second Class Detective, Amame Kaunaq."

A profile picture of Amame holding up a (v) peace sign was displayed on the communication screen. Seto figured it made sense that this would be her doing.

"Didn't her parents object to her joining the GP?"

"Ever since she ran away from home, they just let her do whatever she wants. They just want her to settle down and get married as soon as possible." She explained that Amame's parents asked Seto to find Amame a suitor because she comes from a well-to-do family and needed to marry a certain class of man. The first guy she tried was a famous top class chef. But he was chubby, and she grabbed his breasts and squeezed them in front of everyone and asked if he was even a man. She had similarly violent match makings with the others Seto sent to her. Seto showed Kanemitsu

and Minaho the videos. They began to suspect Seto arranged the meetings just to get videos of them to laugh at.

Meanwhile Seina called Kiriko again and got Kai. He said Kiriko got a call from work and had to go. Seina hung up because there was no point in talking to Kai anymore. Gyokuren snuck up really close behind Seina and asked who Kiriko was, startling him.

He noticed that Gyokuren and Amane were like yin and yang to each other. Amane had blond hair like the sun and Gyokuren had grey hair like the moon.

She asked if Kiriko was Seina's lover. He told her she was more like a sister. Gyokuren got a strange look in her eyes. Mitoto showed up beside them and broke the tension between the two. She reminded them they were supposed to go see Seto. Gyokuren contacted the others and told Mitoto to wait there while she took Seina to go see Seto.

Seina wanted Mitoto to come with him so Seto would seem less intimidating. Gyokuren told her she couldn't come because she needed to call her father, Minami. Her family had been worried about her. Mitoto was worried that her father would get angry, so she ran off to the phone booth to call him.

"Oh, that Mitoto" Oh that Mitoto indeed. Gyokuren took Seina by the hand and took him to see Seto.

A few minutes later, Seina's heart was beating violently in front of the gate to the transfer pad that led to Seto. He thought about what Kiriko would tell him in this situation. Imaginary Kiriko cheered him on. Gyokuren said that she could not accompany him any further and sent him ahead of her. She wished him luck.

He stepped through the gate and onto a transport pad. Everything around him turned white and then he was teleported elsewhere. Seto was sitting on a throne in front of him. She welcomed him to the Mikagami. He noticed how beautiful she was and how odd it was for him to meet so many pretty women in such a short time.

"Nice to meet you. I am Kamiki Seto Jurai."

Seina couldn't believe that she was the one people called the Demon Princess. She was completely different from what he expected. He found her gentle and didn't see what all the commotion was about. Kanemitsu who was next to Seto just stared at Seina feeling sorry for him.

Suddenly he felt nostalgic for some reason. He felt like this wasn't the first time he had met Seto. She asked what was bothering him he said it was nothing and introduced himself.

He turned red and bowed profusely. She laughed and said there was no need to get like that. Then she introduced Kanemitsu as the Commander of the 7th Fleet.

She asked him to come with her to explain his story to her. They walked to another transport pad and arrived at different but gigantic residential area, bigger than the one they were at before.

They were very high up and he could see the guest house and a large garden area from where he was. There was a huge tree in the center it looked like the tree was supporting the sky. He had passed by it earlier with Hakuren but had been too close to see what it was.

Seto gave Seina some tea and started off their conversation by thanking him. He asked what she was thanking him for. She told him it was because he was the one who put in the co-ordinates that got the pirates.

That was the first time he had ever been thanked for something good. She explained how hard it was to catch pirates. What he did was essentially a miracle.

“Hey Seina, your bad luck is a tremendous talent if you change your perspective. Surely you'll receive a big welcome when you get to the GP.”

Seina doubted the words in his ear for a moment. Welcome. What a delightful word.

Kanemitsu butted in. “It's hard to say this, but in fact, it is forbidden by galaxy law to send a pure earthling like Seina into space.”

Seto slowly closed her eyes in support of what Kanemitsu had said. “So, we will take responsibility and send you back to the Earth safely and erase your memories.”

This shocked Seina.

“Do you still want to join the GP given the possible dangers?” Seto asked Seina. This was the first time he was needed by people. He decided he didn't want to go home. She supported his decision. He thanked her.

“I will make arrangements so that you can stay. In the meantime, you are welcome aboard my ship.” Seto said.

He stared at her face.

“Is something wrong?”

He told her about how he felt nostalgic when he looked at her. He felt the same thing with Minaho as well.

“Really? Well, maybe you have seen me before, Minaho is Tenchi's aunt, maybe that's why?” She asked if he had put two and two together yet. He had gotten the pamphlet at Tenchi's house after all.

“What!?” he began to remember that Amare had left a recruitment packet for Tenchi. He began to ask questions. “Well, then, is Tenchi Senpai an alien too?”

“He was born and raised on Earth. He sure is a cute one” Seto said. The word alien was a strange one to Seto. He was an alien to her after all... she explained that Sasami and Ayeka were

her grandchildren. This baffled him because Seto looked to him like she could have been Ayeka's sister or Sasami's mother.

Seina tripped on a tree branch and fell on his face.

"Are you ok?" Seto asked. She cleaned off Seina's face with a handkerchief.

"It's fine... I'm used to it."

Seto looked at him seriously for a bit then she burst out laughing. "Good, hahaha." They got up.

Hakuren came to get Seina. She bowed to Seto, then took him away.

Seto told Kanemitsu that Seina reminded him of Yosho when he was young.

Seina was taken back to the guest room and saw Mitoto apologizing profusely on the phone.

Hakuren explained that Mitoto had a special talent that caused her to wind up in weird places. It was a vague explanation to say the least. But Seina, who suffered from misfortune understood it painfully. No matter how strictly guarded Mitoto was, she ended up in places with even the most maximum of security measures in place. It seemed she had come aboard while cleaning at GP headquarters and didn't notice till they had left.

Minami on the other end of the line was angrily yelling at her about how she was supposed to call him whenever she ended up in weird places.

"I'm sorry ... I'm sorry ... I'm sorry ... I'm sorry ... I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. I'm sorry."

"Seina, I was scolded __ ~ ~" she said.

"Yes, I heard."

She grabbed Seina and cried on him as she played with his hair. Hakuren came in and told them that their dinner was ready.

"Oh, yes, but" Seina looked at Hakuren silently begging for help. There was no indication that Mitoto's crying was going to stop anytime soon. Hakuren smiled at him. "Ms. Mitoto, dessert is pudding."

"Pudding?" she instantly bounced back to a happy state.

"Yes, please come to the cafeteria."

Mitoto rushed to the cafeteria. Seina was dumbfounded by the quick change in her disposition.

"Well, Mr. Seina, let's go." Seina took Hakuren's hand as she led him out. "Perhaps you should have started out mentioning pudding," he said as he looked at his shirt that was damp with Mitoto's tears.

"If you hadn't comforted her first, it wouldn't have worked." Hakuren said, "You should change your clothes."

Seina changed and admired the view from the terrace he was on.

At dinner, Seina found that the food was very different from what he was used to at home. Due to his bad luck his family never ate out. He noticed the organic chandelier above. Juraians liked to integrate nature with their appliances. It was a naturally grown luminescent plant. The big tree he had seen earlier was essentially a glorified Christmas tree with built in organic lighting and at night the residential area was lit by similarly related plants that grew in the fields.

Hakuren poured Seina a fruity amber liquid that was delicious and bubbly.

"You can have as much as you want. It's a gift from Seto."

He did not know it at the time, but it was made from the fruit of the Imperial Tree. Usually, it was made into fruit liquor, it was so rare that not even royalty could always get the chance to drink it. They usually sent one to the head of every planet they were friendly with every year as a goodwill gift. In the past, one bottle went to auction, and it had gone for the price of a residential planet. It had no fixed value, but it was at least enough to buy a whole continent. Even though Seina wasn't aware of this the others around him were. The four Seto scouts knew as they watched him drink it.

They brought in his food, and they brought Mitoto's pudding in. Next to Seina, Mitoto was happily poking her pudding with a spoon.

"Wow, I have pudding!" Mitoto continued to be adorable, and thanked Seina for her pudding.

Later Seina wanted to go for a walk, so Hakuren, against his wishes, accompanied him. He was shy about it as he didn't have much experience with walking alone with pretty ladies. She noticed his melancholy expression and offered to let him walk alone. He declined though. He told her he would rather have her show him around the place. They went towards a river. The river appeared wide and very shallow. Up close they could clearly see each stone on the river bottom shining like a jewel, small fish were also swimming.

Downstream, the parents of six-legged animals that resembled horses were drinking water together. Seina said it was very peaceful. He heard something behind him. When he looked behind him, he saw a huge beast's nose. It pushed him into the river. He looked up at it. A pig that looked like a big caterpillar was staring at him.

The water was pretty cold. "Are you OK? Mr. Seina" asked Hakuren who had also fallen into the water next to him. She had gotten pulled in by his luck. He apologized. She apologized for not doing her job of protecting him.

"I'm sorry."

"No, I'm sorry." "No, I'm sorry." "No, I'm sorry." "No, I'm sorry." "No, I'm sorry."

After apologizing in circles for a long time, Seina sighed deeply. Hakuren smiled at Seina who was in bad mood.

"I heard your luck was bad, is it always like this for you?"

"Yes, I'm nothing but a bother to others."

"Well, you're just poorly... .." she froze up mid-sentence like a computer does. He didn't think she was even breathing.

"... .. Um, hello ...?" After what felt like a few minutes Seina tapped Hakuren on her shoulder. He called her name a few times.

"... .. Understood!" Hakuren restarted abruptly. "But I understand, I will protect you forever Seina!"

Seina didn't expect this and so he froze up as well. But after a while the cold night's wind made him sneeze. This brought them back to reality. They went home, Hakuren grabbed his hand and was walking really, really, really fast as she took him there.

"Please slow down!" her rate of walking was inhuman. "Are we back already?" he asked. It was still early. That should have been a long distance, but they had gotten back in under a minute.



"We are undergoing special biometric adjustments." She said while she took off her wet t-shirt and began to dry off Seina.

"I can dry myself off." He shyly turned away, but she didn't stop.

She asked him to hurry up and take off his pants so she could dry them. She put her hands on his belt and he jumped back across the room at a rate comparable to the speed she had been walking a moment ago. He said he would do it himself. She continued to do it anyway because it was her job. He tried to avoid looking at her. He started getting red from embarrassment.

Suiren and Mitoto suddenly appeared next to him. He wasn't sure where they came from but was still embarrassed. He wondered where they came from. They said they had been there for 5 minutes already. Hakuren explained to Seina how that was possible.

Suiren had a thin shadow. She was a girl with little presence. She was a supernaturally stealthy woman. Sometimes people would recognize her but not recognize her as Suiren. Her ability was so great that she could go to any family's family function, and it would take over two hours for someone to realize she wasn't their relative. Even Seto sometimes didn't notice her. She had brought Hakuren a change of clothes.

... It got big! Again, Seina stiffened to surprise... Seina got embarrassed and apologized. They were very shocked ... He heard Karen's voice from afar.

She yelled at them, "What are you doing in here! How long does it take to change clothes!?" They asked what was up with Karen and why she had let Mitoto get away from her. She said that she couldn't keep her in one place on her own. Mitoto went missing again as they talked so they split up again to find her. Karen went north, Hakuren and Suiren disappeared into the dark like ninja's...

Gyokuren was again left with Seina. She escorted him to the guest house so he could take a bath. The guest house bath was a giant hot spring bath way too big for one person to use alone, but Seina found it relaxing. Seina thought he could write a book about all the crazy things he had seen that day.

Gyokuren came in unexpectedly to wash his back. Poor Seina. He didn't know how to deal with this much attention. He got excited again and hid it with a towel. Gyokuren slid in front of him.

"What's the matter?" While Seina was trying to calm down, Gyokuren had invaded his personal space. She grabbed his shoulder. He tried to get away, but she was too strong because of her bio enhancement.

Gyokuren looked straight at Seina and gazed into his eyes like a siren. An awkward sexual tension filled bath scene which ultimately only led to back scrubbing.

*** * * Translators' note: Some scenes are not worth my time to translate in detail this was one of them. It then cuts to a cryptic poem. * * ***

x x x

Mikagami hibernation space, a star in the sky - a dark room.

Mirror · Seto and Seto.

"I heard that you have met him before ... somehow you remember but I do not."

"That is my only unique memory."

"Is that all?"

"Yes, my only only one thing."

"I see, that puts us in a difficult position."

“He was about the same at that age ... I'm happy to meet him again.”

*** * * Translators' note: Did that break the immersion for you? I'm sorry. It did for me too. But it was basically saying that that was mirror-Seto who had met Seina just now and mirror Seto and Seto's memories have begun to desynchronize. Confused? They won't explain it for another 13 novels. * * ***

x x x

The next day the GP ship was repaired and ready to leave. Onnainin thanked Seto. She asked him to deliver Mitoto and Seina safely to the GP and told Seina to do his best.

They headed towards the Galaxy Academy. They jumped off but when they came out of the jump to the academy, their ship's space pirate alert sounded. It had only detected one ship though. They collected data on the ship's identity. It was Ryoko Balta's ship. The crew on the bridge stood up and cheered ecstatically. Everyone made a big ruckus over the news except for Onnainin and Seina who was confused. They sent a message to invite her aboard. Onnainin stood in front of the crew trying to leave the bridge. As a GP ship, they were not allowed to invite a pirate to come aboard. They death stared Onnainin for blocking them.

An hour earlier, Ryoko's ship was watching the GP ship leaving the Mikagami. They wondered what was on board the ship when they received a communication from Seto. She dared them to see what was on board.

Back on the ship an hour later, the crew had tortured Onnainin into letting Ryoko come aboard. The appearance of the bridge had changed completely, and blurry photographs of an out-of-focus black haired space pirate woman were displayed on each and every screen or monitor on the ship, you couldn't even tell what the woman looked like from them, they were too blurry.

It was barely clear enough to tell that it was a woman. But the crewmen didn't care about such things, they were very excited. A small flag with the name of Ryoko and a fan were swung about by a crew member who was calling her name over and over. Seina wondered what was going on.

“Seina, I knew from the beginning, your talent was truly wonderful!” The other crewmen all nodded together.

Seina couldn't remember the other crew member's names besides Onnainin's.

“I am Alan, my thinner counterpart is Barry - and my fat friend is Cohen.”

“What is the captain (Onnainin's) name ...?”

“... I forgot.” The tall operator named Alan tilted his head. They didn't know and they said that since they couldn't recall it didn't matter.

They told Seina that Ryoko had over 1,389 official fan clubs and 10x more unofficial clubs. She was the third most popular idol in all the GP.

Seina pointed out all the blurry pictures. They said there were no clear pictures of her.

“When you are attacked by a space pirate, you rarely live to show the evidence of seeing them.”

“However, the valuable photographs are monopolized by other major fan clubs with the original photos, and they are open to their members only, the membership fee is stupid, and the motivation is impure.”

He showed them a picture and proudly declared it to be a photo of a copy of a copy of a copy, which was more than most clubs had. “There are a lot of pirate fan clubs in the GP and the GP cracks down on them every so often,” one crew member said. “Our relationship is quite delicate. I will skip the details, but there is an implicit rule between us and the Space pirates.” Barry explained that while Ryoko was a pirate she was very delicate and didn't like to hurt anyone. They described her as a beautiful butterfly.

Seina was confused.

The ship's side airlock was completely opened, and they got nearer to her ship. It was apparent that they wanted her inside them.

“Who are we to say no?” asked Ryoko. She thought about her communication with Seto. Seto had called her and told her a secret weapon was on board and encouraged her to go see it. Ryoko was going to go see it anyways but that made her really want to see it.

As she boarded the ship, she came in and found no one aboard. She adjusted her shields. She came to the bridge, and it was dark but she, her adjutant and a few guards were greeted with a surprise greeting as the lights turned on.

A few minutes later:

Ryoko knew about her reputation in the GP but wasn't expecting anything like what she had found. She was feeling very uncomfortable and noticed the odd boy sticking out in the crowd who also clearly felt just as uncomfortable as she did. That made her feel close to him. He noticed Ryoko's eyes, and their eyes accidentally met, the boy bowed down blushing.

(Oh, he's cute) Ryoko thought.

Mitoto broke her line of sight and greeted her. “Ryoko, thank you for coming to see us.”

“Thank you Mitoto!”

Mitoto handed her a bouquet of flowers. They knew each other. Mitoto cleaned her ship once. The rest of the crew did not know it, but it was actually Mitoto who took the one and only picture of Ryoko all her fans coveted.



“... .. Thank you very much for your enthusiastic welcoming. I am looking forward to meeting the captain of this ship.”

Alan introduced himself as acting captain and Barry as the captains’ captain and Cohen as the captains’ captain acting on behalf of the captain. Onnainin was tied up in a box. Ryoko was not amused by this. She didn’t feel like talking to such vulgar people.

“Well then, may I ask whichever is the captain of you three Captains about yesterday...?”

“That was all this guy!”

They pointed to Seina. Ryoko was surprised that he was the one who did that to all her friends.

Seina shrugged his shoulders towards Ryoko with confusion.

*** * * End of episode 3 of the anime * * ***

*** * * Start of Episode 4 of the anime * * ***

Chapter Four: Dirty Mist, Sorrowful Rain

Onnainin announced that they were nearing the Galaxy Academy. A spherical basket formed of rings like multiple silver threads floated in the flood of starlight like fireworks. The GP ship had finally reached the Galaxy Academy after a long detour. It had taken 3 days.

They got word from the docking station that it was full, and they couldn't dock. They had been scheduled to arrive just before Captain Pike's ship, but something in the scheduling system had malfunctioned. Onnainin asked them if there were any other docks available. It seemed there weren't, but it was faster to go from the ship to immigration via linear line anyways. So that's what they did.

All around Seina, the crew had perfect pictures of Ryoko that they were carrying with them. They wanted to get to the Galaxy Academy as soon as possible to show off the pictures like treasure. The average wait time that day to get to immigration was 15 hours. Seina didn't mind, he wanted to go to the GP Academy as soon as possible. He thought about what he had said to Ryoko.

At Ryoko's welcome party, Seina had been standing in front of a surprised Ryoko. "Seina was the one who entered the random jumps that had captured all your friends." Alan told her. She introduced herself to him and he introduced himself to her. She figured that he must have had some sort of special abilities like Mitoto.

She asked Seina to join her as her underling. She felt there were plenty of people more deserving of his powers effects than the pirates. Alan and the others were excited by this, but Seina silently declined. She stepped closer to him and offered to let him be captain of her ship. Seina was again unresponsive towards her offer. The crew men accepted her offer but she hadn't offered it to them, and she advised them to keep silent, she only wanted Seina.

She asked him to be a space pirate and he politely refused. "Were the conditions I offered not good enough for you?"

"No that isn't it. I made a promise to Seto, and besides, I don't think piracy is a good thing. There's no future in it."

"Fine, but the next time we meet, it will be as enemies." And then she left.

After she left, he was staring at the photo they took to commemorate the visit. Seina's ship had already made the final jump to the academy. Her adjutant asked her if she wanted to add Seina to the pirate's enemy database. Ryoko hadn't decided yet. Seina was still inexperienced, and he was from a primitive civilization, so she told the adjutant to give her some time to think about it.

To the adjutant, Ryoko was like a daughter. Her parents had died in an accident, and she was left with him. He brought her up and trained her to be a space pirate captain. But it seemed that in making her a captain he unknowingly took away her ability to express her more feminine feelings.

He hesitated to put Seina in the database when he noticed her subtle unhappy look. As a surrogate parent he only wanted his pseudo daughter's happiness. He told her he wasn't reporting it to the Da Ruma and asked her if that was ok. She said yes and thanked him.

Meanwhile Seina was amazed by the rings of the Galaxy Academy in front of him. He was so close that all he could see was a solid almost completely white wall standing in front of him in outer space. The docking area was 10 times larger than their ship. It was the size of three high rise apartment complexes glued together.

"The outer circumference of the ring we saw earlier is about 360 billion kilometers. It's about the size of your planet's entire solar system." Onnainin told Seina. He couldn't believe this was the Galaxy Academy, it wasn't. It was just the relay station which was something similar to the Academy's customs office. All the people who entered the academy received immigration inspections first.

"... This huge thing is just a registration office...?" Seina asked. The ship's operators announced that they were sensing something jumping out of hyperspace at them. They tried to avoid it, but they couldn't. A ship came out of subspace behind them that was 10 times larger than them. The ship hit them and exploded, Seina blacked out.

He woke in a hospital. That was a very normal thing for him so assumed that he had dreamed the whole ordeal of going into space. He noticed a woman was holding his hand and he thought it was Kiriko but when he looked up it was Amane. He shot up in a panic and noticed that he was clearly in a space hospital. He checked his face for lipstick but there was none.

"I'll give you CPR again if you really want my lipstick on you that badly." She told him.

Seina told her that she should quit being so childish. Amane thought of something very adult for them to do.

She asked him if he wanted to have sex with her.

Seina panicked.

Amane was just kidding with him though, and she made sure to let him know that after watching him panic for a while and she apologized.

"Thank you for coming to check on me, Amane", he said. She was surprised he even remembered her name.

Shortly after the doctors re-examined him, Seina was released from the space hospital. He was taken to a giant rail station by Onnainin, Mitoto, and Amane. They got into the cramped rail car. Amane squished her boobs into him on accident, but probably on purpose. Mitoto noticed Seina's tent. She giggled about how straightforward Seina was. Onnainin was shocked, not because of Seina, but because Seina knew Amane.

He was a big fan of hers like the crew was towards Ryoko. Seina wondered if Amane was similarly famous. Onnainin explained that Amane was the number one model for the Kaunaq fashion line. At least until she retired a year ago and joined the GP. As soon as she had enlisted, applications to join the GP went up by 20%. Because of the increase in recruits Onnainin was promoted to captain. He was surprised that Seina had charmed Ryoko, Seto, and now Amane.

Seina was confused, he wasn't quite sure what the barometer of beauty was in space. Ever since he had gotten to space, all the women he had met were ridiculously pretty.

Onnainin told Seina that the reason he had ended up in the hospital was that a ship of camouflaged pirates was sneaking in. Thanks to Seina, the pirates had been kept from getting into the immigration office. They had been trying to invade the station by camouflaging their ships and raiding the place.

Amane was in charge of the investigation and that's why she had visited him. Seina apologized. They rejected his apology. They considered it a good thing.

Mitoto told them they had to go get Seina's baggage. But it seemed that someone else was going to have to get it at a later time because the replacement ship that Onnainin was given was too small to carry any baggage.



Seina wanted to see the damage and they agreed to show him it, but they made sure to remind him that it was not his fault. They changed the destination of the car.

The GP Ship was damaged worse than it had been damaged when Seto found them. Seina was horrified. He ran into an old man wearing a maintenance crew outfit. It was Mitoto's father, Minami. He introduced himself to Seina shortly after confirming Seina's identity.

Seina recognized Minami's last name but couldn't place where. Seina felt a trembling hand behind him holding onto his shirt. Minami yelled orders to Seina to move to the right with implied urgency. Seina turned around. Mitoto was behind him. She apologized to her father for hiding. He yelled at her over her disappearance for a while.

Seina remembered that he still hadn't called Kiriko. He apologized to Minami and Mitoto

and told them he had to leave. He ran off but a hole in the floor opened up beneath his feet. He fell down to the floor below him.

The math in this situation was simple to guess: (Falling Seina) × (a crash into the control panel directly beneath him) = catastrophe. The GP ship dropped from the crane arm that was holding it over the Nano-machine filled water that was repairing it. The dock where Mitoto and Minami were standing was flooded by a huge tidal wave.

An hour later, Seina and Onnainin were in the rail car again. Seina apologized to Onnainin for causing the ship repair to go astray. His apology was again dismissed by Onnainin. They passed through an area where they could see a huge garden like area all around them through the rail car's windows. It was a space colony in the immigration station. He explained that the rings were a sort of border around the Galaxy Academy which is inside of them. The rings themselves were a sort of coalition state owned by the Galactic Federation and the Galaxy Academy and they acted like the Berlin Wall to keep people out of the Galaxy Academy who shouldn't be there.

There were also facilities related to the Galactic Federation in the rings. The outer rings were the longest structure of the galaxy, so they were also used for shopping and logistics centers. Since it was only necessary to get audited to enter the academy, many people came to the rings to go shopping and sightseeing. It was comparable to going to visit the Great Wall of China.

They arrived at the immigration office. Seina wanted to call Earth. It seemed they had plenty of time, and there was a phone nearby. He had gotten a queue number to see his immigration officer and had plenty of time to wait. The waiting area was a huge park. He couldn't reach Kiriko when he called... He only got her voicemail. Kiriko was the only thing that could put the brakes on his hopes of being in space. To him she was the only thing equivalent to journeying to outer space. His inability to call her was beginning to affect his desire to be there.

When his turn arrived, Onnainin dragged him to the gate to see an inspector. They put his documents down on a transfer plate. Seina was thinking to himself about his promise with Seto. He hadn't been paying attention but when he looked up and he saw the woman behind the partition, he ran to the partition and stared at the inspector as he pressed himself to the glass. It was Kiriko. She was supposed to have been working in Tokyo. He couldn't believe it. He wondered if there was just a person who looked like her in space. Obviously, genetics could only produce so many results. He was having trouble grasping that it was actually Kiriko until she called his name. She asked him if he was ok. She had been worried about him. He asked her what she was doing in such a place. Was she also a special case like him?

She got up from her seat and went up to the barrier door that separated them. What about Tokyo? Why was she in space? Was Kiriko also a special case? Since when? For what reason? How did she get a brochure?

But Kiriko did not reply to Seina's questions at all. When she got up from the operator's seat, she slowly walked forward towards a transparent door that separated her and Seina. Seina ran to her

and bumped into the door and hurt his head. She asked if he was ok from behind the door. He was fine. She asked him to please return to Earth, the universe was far more dangerous than Seina knew. But his mind was made up.

“You know, inspector, there is no defect in his papers, and I think that the issue of where he's from has been overridden by Kamiki Seto Jurai” Onnainin said, but Kiriko was the inspector. It was her decision. She reminded him that this was a personal matter and told Onnainin to fuck off. Onnainin scurried away in fear.

Kiriko told Seina that she was his guardian now and that she would be taking over for Onnainin, whom she dismissed. Onnainin had to obey. He left. She pleaded with Seina some more to return home.

“Kiriko-san, I”

Amane came in and cut him off. Kiriko yelled at Amane for disrupting the immigration process. Amane came in behind Kiriko. She pressed a button on the operator panel.

“There now it's done, you're admitted.” The door separating them opened. Kiriko yelled an angry aaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaagggggghhhh.

Amane was happy. Now she had 200 referral points so she should get a free trip to a luxury GP recreational facility that had was known for its great spas and hot springs.

“I have two tickets you know, you can join me if you like.” Amane told him.

Kiriko got even angrier and yelled at Amane about how Seina's current predicament was all her fault. “What, did you want to press the button yourself that badly? I'll just let you have the next one.”

Tyro Elius, a new entrant to the theater academy came through. Amane left Kiriko to do her job and grabbed Seina's arm and led him out of the inspector's office. Kiriko wanted to go after them but her innate seriousness kept her doing her work duties.

Seina told Amane that he still had to talk to Kiriko. Amane took him through a dense city area. Everyone around him looked at him weirdly. He remembered that Amane was a famous model. That was a very dangerous fact for Seina. He didn't know where Amane's fans were lurking and so he was like a lamb walking in a group of wolves. It was suicidal behavior.

“Let me go, I can walk on my own.” He begged her.

The eyes that stared at him just increased. “Wait!” The Messiah appeared! Kiriko who had finished her duties had followed him. He was saved! Seina was relieved.

After all, it was always Kiriko who helped him. He was glad that even in space this fact hadn't changed, but the stares only doubled. He wasn't saved at all. It seemed that Kiriko had her own

fan club, at least from the voices of men around him swearing grudges. Amane and Kiriko began to argue. More people began watching. Seina tried to calm them down. They fought some more. He told Kiriko that Amane giving him the pamphlet was an honest mistake. She had only done it because he was at Tenchi's. Their fighting still continued. Amane grabbed Seina and pressed her breasts into his shoulders again.

"I've known him since he was little, you don't know the first thing about him."

"I know he is responsible for the largest capture of pirates in history."

"... .. Both of you, please stop!" A voice rang out from an emergency display screen that had popped up in front of them. Amane and Kiriko saluted the old blond woman on the screen.

It was Mikami. She gave them orders to go to see Airi immediately.

Airi's office looked like a greenhouse floating in space. It was the size of two school gyms and the floors, at least. The parts that weren't covered by trees were pure obsidian. This room was certainly amazing to Seina, but not as exciting as the Mikagami was.

"Do you like the scenery here?"

"Oh yes."

"Nice to meet you, Seina Yamada, I am the principal of the GP Academy, Mikami Kuramitsu." She was Minami's sister and Mitoto's aunt. Seina unconsciously straightened his posture upon hearing her last name.

She introduced the woman next to her as Airi Masaki, Chief Executive of the Galaxy Academy. The lady next to her who was introduced as Airi looked like she was in her late twenties. Airi smiled at Seina. * (*she is around 727.)

Seina felt something nostalgic about her smile. The two women asked for Kiriko's opinion on the matter. Kiriko felt that contacting early stage civilizations was forbidden by galaxy law. As an inspector she could not accept violations of the law.

Airi informed her that Seina had gotten a special case exemption from Seto.

They called on Amane to give her opinion.

"Because you were careless and misidentified him, you invited a pure earthling to the GP ... what was the intention of your solicitation?"

"Even if I told you my intention ... uhm, I mean I saw something special in him. I had a feeling."

"That's so irresponsible" yelled Kiriko, Mikami glared at her.

".....Excuse me."

“Besides, he was in “that place”; but, more than that, I felt he had some talent, that would be wasted in that place. I just had a feeling.” Amane said. Airi and Mikami knew that Amane's intuition was sharp, she has a record of never encountering pirates and a 98% shooting accuracy rating without computer assistance. Her intuition was very well regarded for its sharpness.

“Okay ... we understand” Kiriko still complained but Airi told her that they had Seto's permission and even his families so Kiriko's complaints were invalid.

But ultimately it was Seina's decision. He chose space. The matter was settled but Amane was barred from her promotion to first class detective. She was made an instructor at the GP Academy. When she objected, she was given the option to help Mitoto clean instead. She settled on being an instructor.

Then they dealt with Kiriko. They knew about her visit to Seto. After Seina had come to the Mikagami, Kiriko had actually caught up with the 7th defense fleet.

“Minaho!” Kiriko shouted. She looked like she was in a hurry and had run to the repair site of the GP ship. Minaho greeted her. She was there earlier than Minaho had expected. Kiriko asked where Seina was. He was in bed, but Minaho told her to wait a moment. Minaho grabbed Kiriko to keep her from running off and told her it was late and Seina was tired from seeing Seto.

Kiriko understood how Seina could be tired after having an audience with Seto. Kiriko painfully understood, she had no choice but to withdraw silently. Minaho asked her if she would like to talk to Seina in the morning. Repairing the ship would take a while. Kiriko noted how terrible the GP ship looked. Minaho told Kiriko that Seina had captured 489,000 ships. Kiriko turned pale when she heard that number. The situation was the embodiment of her worst nightmares. Seina was only alive by pure coincidence. Minaho told Kiriko that Seina seemed happy to be in space. Kiriko was surprised by this. Seina had wanted to see the stars since he was young. Kiriko seriously considered asking them to erase his memories in his sleep and bringing him back to Earth.

“Given Seina's bad luck, that would be dangerous to do.” Minaho reminded her. She asked Kiriko to help her process the data on the captured pirates. She did and fell asleep while doing it. When she woke up Seina had already left.

She caught up with him when he was docking, and he got hit by a pirate ship. She went to go to the hospital to see him, but she was sent to the wrong one. When she got to the right one, he was already discharged and so on and so on. When she heard he was at immigration, which was where she worked, she messed with the system to get him assigned to her.

Mikami scolded Kiriko for messing with the system like that but she knew that Seina was like a little brother to Kiriko.

“You think of Seina as a child you must protect, and Earth is his cradle. But he is not. It is not Seina who needs the cradle truly... .. It's you.” Mikami told Kiriko. Kiriko shuddered. What Mikami had said was true. She tried to make a rebuttal to Mikami, but she cut her off.

"You will also be giving you resignation, so you can become an instructor like Amane."



"What ...?"

"We need good personnel to help him grow, please help him out."

Kiriko tried to object.

"I will not accept complaints, and I have a message from Seto-sama," Treat him firmly and make him into a man," said Mikami. Kiriko had fallen right into Seto's trap.

*** * * Start of episode 4 of the anime * * ***

The woman before Seina was a Wau, an alien with facial features like a lion.

Seina was surprised, he hadn't met any non-humanoid aliens before.

"I will introduce you, Erma, this is our new student, Seina Yamada." Airi said.

Erma had heard of him and looked at him with interest. It seemed his name had already become familiar in the academy. Erma pointed out that Seina was staring at her strangely. He apologized. She thanked him for the apology and nuzzled his face with her face. He had Deja Vu and felt like this wasn't the first time he had met her. He asked her if they had met before. She apologized for her forwardness. Cheek rubbing was just how the Wau greeted people. She let Seina know that if he wanted to go out for a date with her, she was free anytime. She waved goodbye and left.

"Oh my, what a charmer you are." Airi remarked.

"I feel like I know her from somewhere."

"I thought I would guide you through the Academy, but after all Seina, you should have a young hottie like Erma ..."

"That's not the case Airi, I want you to be my guide" This made Airi happy. She began to guide him. She boasted about how much she knew about the academy and the places in it. Since she was the president of the academy, she could show Seina anywhere she wanted to show him. She was determined to give a month-long hot spot endurance tour to help him with his training. She told him it would be a physical challenge, but she would be able to show him all the famous

spots. It would take hundreds of years to see the whole place though and Airi made it clear that she was more than willing to do it. She told him they could be together forever.

The Seina spacecraft was about to be swallowed by the Airi black hole right when a school official who had been appointed to monitor her from afar decided it was time for him to step in. The official said he needed Airi to sign something and gave Seina a nod.

Mikami had foreseen Airi going a bit boy crazy over Seina. Airi assured Seina she would finish handling the paperwork quickly. Other staff members surrounded Seina to ask him questions. They consisted of a wide variety of races. There were humanoids, Waus and people who were part machine or possibly fully machine and there was even one who was green. They asked him a bunch of questions, but they suddenly stopped and backed away from Seina. A shadow of a man stood in front of Seina. Seina greeted the man. He ignored Seina and lectured him about how earthlings didn't belong at the academy. It was Seiryō Tennen.

Airi threw a file folder at Seiryō's head, it got stuck in his hair at the corner.

"Don't intimidate new students you idiot!"

"Oh Airi, you're looking as pretty as ever." Seiryō said. He told Seina he was looking forward to teaching him and ran off.

Airi explained who Seiryō was and how Tenchi had defeated him. He asked her about Tenchi and how he was involved with all this.

"You know about Jurai ... The planet that Seto-sama lives on. It's the strongest military power in this galaxy."

"I heard that."

"Yes, so, the royal family of Jurai has four houses: the Kamiki family like Seto, the Amaki family, the Tatsuki family, and the Masaki family."

"Masaki ..."

"Seina, have you met Tenchi's grandfather?"

"Yes, I know him well." When Seina was a child, the shrine was like a playground for him.

"He is the son of the Emperor of Jurai, Azusa. Yosho Masaki Jurai, is his real name, but on the Earth, he goes by Katsuhito."

"That old man ...?"

"Tenchi is a direct descendant of Emperor Jurai." Seina had trouble seeing how all that could be connected. He asked how Kiriko was related.

"They are also descendants of Yosho, not only Kiriko and Kai, but all the people who live in that village are more or less descendants of Yosho's."

Seina now understood why people kept referring to him as a pure earthling. Kai's village was very ordinary now, but Seina had heard that it was quite a closed off village before the war. That made sense, everyone had the Masaki surname and were descended from aliens.

The faces of people in the village crossed his mind. All of them are aliens ... Seina was strangely excited for some reason. He asked why Kai hadn't believed him when he said he was in space.

Airi told him that children in that village weren't usually told till they were adults.

"So, Kai doesn't know?"

"I don't know ... Hey ... there are a variety of opinions in the village on how to do it, I enjoy suddenly teaching the truth to them as children and just bringing them into space unexpectedly, weren't you surprised when you got on the spaceship?" Airi said "Either way you should probably avoid telling Kai."

"So then... how are you related to Tenchi?"

"I'm Yosho's wife!" she showed him her wedding ring.



"So, then you're Tenchi's grandma?"

"Don't call me grandma!"

Her face changed to that of a demon. He apologized.

"A word like grandma is unfitting for a young pretty lady like myself, don't you think?" She put her hand around Seina's shoulder. Seina wondered why she was being so sexually aggressive towards him if she had a husband. Seina asked her how Minaho was related to her.

"Oh, that girl, is my daughter. She is a nice girl but she's having a bit of trouble finding someone to marry." She laughed. He laughed.

"Well... It's time to get going."

They went to the Academy's Clothing Bureau. It was a place where they provided and adjusted uniforms and various accessories. Seina tried on a GP uniform.

"Surprisingly ... it's the same as Earth clothes."

The Civilian clothes he had seen so far were designed like those seen on the Earth. He hadn't seen any glossy silver sci-fi space outfits like he had expected. Airi told him that all the outfits had a button that would resize the outfit to fit him.

"That's certainly the technology of the future." Seina exclaimed.

She told him there were clothes that could create a force field around their wearers, and that a few of the outfits could even change their textures, colors and designs with programming, and ones that absorbed sweat.

Seina accidentally touched the adjustment button, his uniform contracted way too tight on him. He called out for Airi, but she didn't notice him. She was signing the receipt for the outfit. He blacked out. He woke up after Airi resuscitated him. He apologized. Airi assured him that what had happened to him had been rumored but never reported. It wasn't something he should have apologized for because now they knew for sure the risk of it happening wasn't zero. She resumed his tour.

Seina asked her if he would be taught by Seiryō tomorrow. She told him he would be fine and that it was ok to be a little late to his classes.

Mikami came up and criticized her for saying something so unprofessional. Airi asked Mikami why she was there. Mikami wanted to know why they hadn't taken him to his dormitory yet. Airi told her they were on their way there.

It was not long before Seina was introduced to the dorm. Airi and he got ready to part ways. Girls were forbidden in the men's dorm. Seina thanked her. She let him know that he wouldn't have his own private room no matter how famous he was. The GP didn't believe in special treatment. He understood. He had actually wanted roommates because he didn't know anything about where he was. Airi told him that tomorrow was the entrance ceremony before she got in a car and drove off. Seina breathed a sigh and smiled. He was happy that space wasn't all that different from Earth.

Yamada Seina, earthling. Earth age: 15 years old. Registration is completed as a freshman of the GP Academy freshmen as of today. His special Feature · Special skill · Special ability · and Weak point, are all the same "bad luck"

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