Chapter 40

Tsudo, Carol and Napp stood in positions that felt incredibly familiar to them. It was merely a day ago that they believed they’d never be playing Synchronize again, or at least not anytime soon. Now they were here and ready to dive into the game.

Across from the Forefront stood a team they had never played before. In the center was Ortin, to his left was Janet and to his right was Ring. Each of them were dressed in one-piece, Synchronization suits. Each of them were studying the rules Tsudo had transferred to their displays.

“Seems like a simple enough game.” Ring said. “Hard to believe Zordo, the man so notorious for his expertise in training, spent his time teaching this.”

“No one said you had to be here, Ring.” Ortin scolded.

“It’s better that he’s here.” Tsudo said. “The game requires three players. Him following us back was the best thing that could’ve happened.”

“Can we just get this over with?” Janet complained. “I don’t even want to be in this game, but if it’ll get the package back down to the room faster, than all the better for me.”

The three adults let their displays fall to their sides.

“Okay, let’s do this.” Ring said.

“I’ve been dying to wipe that smirk off of his face. Napp, be sure to kick the ball as hard as you…”

“No.” Tsudo said.

“No?” Carol repeated.

“We’ll be taking it easy on them.”

Napp and Carol could not believe the words that had just arrived from their captain’s mouth.

“Are you kidding!” Carol screamed. “We’ve never taken it easy on anyone!”

“That’s because we never had to.” Tsudo said, unphased by Carol’s sudden rise in volume. “The guys back in the Education department may have been worse than us, but they were never first timers. These three are.”

“Would you look at that.” Ring said sarcastically. “The trainees of Zordo are being nice enough to give us a handicap. It’s too bad we don’t need one. Just because we’re new. The game is not that hard to get down.”

“As obnoxious as Ring is being, I want to get back to storage as soon as possible.” Janet said “So I would appreciate it if you didn’t prolong the game.”

Ortin simply gave a shrug. He didn’t really want to rush the process, but there’d be no point in prolonging it if his teammates were no longer willing to play.

Tsudo let out a slight sigh.

“Alright, you heard him.”

She pressed the button on her display. As she did a ball with piercing light emerged from seemingly everywhere and floated in front of Tsudo.

“Let’s play.”

With those words, Tsudo sent the ball flying towards her opponents’ side of the court. The ball went to the right of Ring who refused to move. He could see what she was doing. Given the ball’s trajectory, there was no way it was going to hit the goal Ring was guarding. It would ricochet on the back wall and bounce back towards the opponents side. If Ring leaped for it, he would not only miss, but look ridiculous in the process. He knew the best strategy was to stay where he-

Tsudo suddenly clapped her hands once. With that, the Ace activated making the ball go in the opposite direction it was headed. Napp suddenly launched himself forward in front of Tsudo and kicked the sync-ball back in the direction it had came. Once again the ball was headed towards Ring only this time, if he stayed where he was the ball would hit him directly and moved at a threatening speed. Carol clapped her hands twice, activating the second Ace. The ball began moving double the already dangerous speed it was going in.

Without thinking, Ring found himself jumping out of the way. The ball went into the goal directly behind him.

“That’s one to zero.” Napp said.

Carol rushed over to pick him off from the ground.

“Whoo hoo! Teamwork! Yeah!”

“We used both aces, but we got the goal.” Tsudo said. “Good job you guys.”

She looked directly at Ring as he picked himself off the ground.

“My team and I were in this department because we’re the best of the best. If you insist, we’ll take you seriously. I highly suggest you return the favor.”

Dice felt humiliation and anger rising in him. He could see his supposed teammates laughing at him.

“They were trained by Zordo.” Ortin said.

“Yeah, well, we’ll see how far that training will get them.” Dice said.

The match continued for another twenty minutes. Ring decided to no longer take it easy on them. He would humiliate these kids at their own game. Well, he would at least try. No matter what he did, it seemed the experienced team had him beat at every turn. At the end, the score was twenty points to zero.

“And that last point is game.” Napp said.

“Well that was boring.” Carol said. “I thought we’d get a decent match in this department. Any of the groups back home could beat these guys.”

“That was our first time.” Ring said angrily. “One more match.”

Suddenly, there was a tap on the window looking into the room. No one had noticed, but a crowd had gathered outside during the game.

“No way, Dice, you guys lost fair and square. Let another group go.”

Not only were people gathered outside but they had watched, and some were eager to join in. Tsudo could make out the colors of jumpsuits some were wearing.

“No.” Janet said, running out of the room and into the crowd. “No no no no no no no. Guys, if you could line up and tell me exactly what size you are.”

No one seemed to be listening to female as she scurried throughout them.

“We had an audience!?” Carol screamed. “I wish I had known. I would’ve shown off a lot more of what this game can do.”

“I think you guys showed enough.” Ortin laughed. “Thank you.”

“What are you thanking us for?” Napp asked. “We just destroyed you guys.”

“You destroyed Ring. Me, not so much.” Ortin replied. “Without Tsudo, it would’ve taken me ages to figure out what this room was even for. Not only that, but you three helped me show off to everyone what this room is capable of.”

“That’s what we do.” Napp said. “Our captain can’t stand when something’s not being used to its full potential.”

“And she’ll go out of her way to fix anything that’s wrong.” Carol added. “Just wait until she becomes Vatti’s personal protégé.”

Tsudo suddenly lost the comforting smile she had built up. In the midst of everything, she had completely forgotten why she had been trying to distract herself in first place.

“If anyone deserved Zordo’s training, it’s Big O.” Carol continued. “With her in Green, we’ll definitely win this war. Tsudo won’t let us down. Right?”

Tsudo looked down at her bright eyed friend. Carol’s hopeful face… she trusted Tsudo completely. The captain could probably tell her to do anything and she’d listen.

“No, Carol. No I won’t.”

Chapter 40 end

Chapter 41

Tsudo took one last look around. She hadn’t arrived on the scene with much, but she still wanted to make sure she had everything. It might be a while before she returned to this building. Seeing she wasn’t missing anything, the captain turned out the light and left the door unlocked for the next person to take the room.

It was early. Many of the soldiers she usually saw pacing up and down the halls weren’t anywhere to be seen. She guessed they were still sleeping. Did they have any guards here? Another thing she’d have to remember to change once she had influence.

Making her way, to the end of the hall, she saw a face she recognized.

“Ortin. Can’t I go a day without seeing you.” She joked.

“I just wanted to see you off and thank you one more time for helping me with the training room.”

“See me off?”

“Yeah, your departure isn’t exactly a secret. Your friend, Carol-”

Tsudo held her hand up, signaling to the man that he didn’t have to finish that sentence.

“Big O!” Tsudo looked ahead of her to see Napp and Carol. She left Ortin to meet them.

“Napp, Carol. You-“

“There you are.”

The three turned to look down and see Ring coming up the stairs.

“I never got my rematch yesterday. Come on, get your suits on and lets…”

“That’s not going to be possible, Ring.” Tsudo said. “General Vatti is waiting for me to…”

“I know about your special trip with Vatti. The whole base knows. You’re not going anywhere until we get a rematch.”

Napp made a snickering noise.

“Was that a threat?!” Carol said. “Do you know what Tsudo could do to-“

“Carol.” Tsudo interrupted.

Carol wanted to keep going, but she knew better than to do that when Tsudo was against it.

“Listen, Ring, I’ve been ignoring whatever petty problems you have with me and my team because, quite frankly, I have much bigger things to worry about. I’ve spent the last two years improving my skills and once I leave here, I’m going to keep improving them at a rate faster than ever before. If you really want to be better than me, maybe actually trying being better than what you are now.”

Tsudo made