

BUDDYBOOK



THE SECRETS HIDDEN
WITHIN THESE LANDS

CHAPTER 1: Incomprehensible power

It was just another normal day on the Buddyverse. I woke up, looked for some clothes and put them on. I don't know what I wanted to do today, I had it free. I didn't have to work, so I just asked Hanabi if there was something that she wanted to do.

Buddy: Hey Hana?

Hanabi: Yeah?

Buddy: Is there something we can do today?

Hanabi: I mean... You have to work, don't you?

Buddy: No, today mr Cooler closes.

Hanabi: Oh. Then... How about we go and meet the Masked Fools? I did promise you it, didn't I?

I completely forgot about it. That's right, the bet. I came from work and didn't complain once, so Hana has to introduce me to them.

Hanabi: And there he goes again...

Buddy: Sorry... I'll go and meet the masked fools then.

Hanabi: Great!

We came out of our room and walked down to reception. Eris told us that there was someone waiting for us.

Hanabi: Who is it?

Eris: Yelan.

Hanabi: Why?!

Eris: She didn't say anything in specific, she just wanted to meet both of you.

Buddy: I'm not complaining. I'll get to meet more people.

Hanabi: Just... Don't get weirded out by her.

Buddy: What do you mean?

Suddenly, a woman entered. Dark and blue short hair, with apparently expensive clothes. Her main color was a dark-ish blue. I assumed it was that Yelan.

Yelan: Well, who do we have here, if it isn't Hanabi!

Hanabi: Hey Yelan! How are you?

Yelan: Like always, winning money~ I'm guessing this is our new dear buddy, Buddy?

Buddy: Exactly, a pleasure to meet you. *She gave me her hand to shake and I accepted it*

Yelan: You look like a good person! I've been told great things about you, and if Hanabi isn't mad at you, then there's a reason for it!

Hanabi: Hey! I don't get mad at people just because!

Yelan: Oh? Need I remind you of the horse incident~?

Hanabi: That's completely different!

Did Yelan just tell me that...? She barely knows me, and she's judged me very positively. I guess this is what Hana meant...

Yelan: So this is what I was told about... You zone out a lot...

Buddy: Oh, sorry...

Yelan: No need, don't worry! Hanabi, I just wanted to mention that there were some treasure hoarders near the Masked Fools' residence, so I took care of them!

Hanabi: Great! We were headed there right now!

Yelan: I also wanted to meet this famous person we have right over here~!

Is she talking about me? Famous? There's no way!

Hanabi: Well then! Thanks for telling us! See you next time, Yelan!

Yelan: See you both!

Suddenly, we heard the door bust open and saw Ichigo come from there.

Ichigo: MISS BIG ME! *She lunged at Yelan with her arms open, and she caught her.*

Yelan: Oh my~ Hello Mini Me!

Hanabi: Let's get out of here while we can... *We got out of the SPQR*

Buddy: So they are past and future versions of themselves...?

Hanabi: It's a hard relationship... but no. Let's get to the masked fools residence!

We ended up walking for a good few minutes, and we were eventually received by someone who didn't show their face.

Hanabi: Hello Giovanni! How's everything going?

Giovanni: Great miss Hanabi! Bringing a guest I see?

Hanabi: Yup! He's Buddy!

Buddy: That's right.

Giovanni: A guest is always welcome! *He then whispered something to Hanabi, and she whispered him back.*

Buddy: What were you saying...?

Hanabi and Giovanni: Nothing!

Buddy: Sure...

Hanabi: Let's go inside! *Giovanni got out of the way and Hanabi went in first. Then, I followed her.*

Buddy: So this is what the residence looks like...?

I could clearly see a type of disco, a bar, a pool... a beach?! An office?! What is going on?! What do these things have in common?!

Hanabi: The imaginary tree.

Buddy: Wait wha-

It's just like that one time. I fell unconscious, just like back then. But she knows that it does it... Why would she say that? Did she want me to fall unconscious? Does she want to use me or kill me?!

Alexander: Fuck me, I didn't expect you so soon. You're a dick, you know that? Cumming- I mean, coming without saying anything are bad manners.

This man... I know him! He was there when I fell unconscious for the first time! I can't stay here for long! I need to escape!

Alexander: Come on, squirm in terror, yell for help. I want to see you do it.

Buddy: I need to e- I can talk now?!

Alexander: You aren't begging for mercy... *He put a curious face.*

Buddy: Get me out of here! I don't want to be here!

Alexander: That's more like it.

Why is he acting so differently now? He was more... refined. He's just... extremely different.

Alexander: It seems you noticed just now, lol. I'd been manipulating your vision, stupid.

Buddy: My vision?! And how did you know I was seeing you differently?!

Alexander: Uhm... Why should I tell you? You're the one being experimented on here. Why should I give you my so valuable information, you monkey?

I suddenly felt how my ability to speak was stripped once again.

Alexander: Well, it seems I can learn some things from such a useless monkey like you, even if you can't remember your past, a very interesting one at that, I should say... I'll keep on researching you and controlling you for a while. Don't worry, it'll be slow and painful so that you have time to scream for help and try to solve it. Hint: It'll be useless. I just thought I should let you know, since your brain seems to be missing quite a lot of neurons.

All of these words... They caused me rage. He was just being extremely mean and felt superior to me. It was very annoying. I wanted to move, but I couldn't. I wanted to speak, but I couldn't either- Wait! What are those?! I remember it perfectly! My past- Wait, what past?! I don't have a past?!

Alexander: Lol, that reaction was funny. I gave you a taste of your past. Why? Because I felt like seeing your reaction to such a painful past. My condolences... For you being so useless to me in person.

He's just so... I need to kill him! I'll ask help to do so! Hanabi, Ichigo, Cooler, Nero... Whoever it is, I'll ask to kill them! I need to-

CHAPTER 2: See the world with different eyes.

I suddenly woke up. I was surrounded by masked people, and one with half of the mask on, who clearly was Hanabi. I was laying on the floor, with all of them around me.

Hanabi: The dinner just woke up! Damn it!

Member of the masked fools: Were we going to eat them?

Member of the masked fools: I wonder how human meat tastes like...

Hanabi: Fuck me! Anytime~ Wait what?

This was just so different... Why is Hanabi acting like this? I can barely speak words, my body is extremely tired... Hana's personality took a sharp 180. What is going on?!

Hanabi: Hello! Food! *She kept annoyingly touching my face with one hand, in the other a knife.* Well, if they don't answer, that must mean I can eat them!

Buddy: Don't...

Hanabi: DAMN IT!

Buddy: What is going on...? *I barely managed to say some words. I squinted my eyes and tried to move my body, but I still couldn't.*

Hanabi: Wait, and what will you do about it?

Buddy: I'll... Beat you...

Hanabi: Pft- Don't make me laugh! *She got the knife really close to my face.* Actually, now that I think about it... I'm not that hungry anymore. *She threw the knife away, which landed on someone's mask.* Whoopsie~

Member of the masked fools: You can't be serious right?

Member of the masked fools: We'll eat them then!

Hanabi: No! If I don't eat, then no one does!

Buddy: What is going on...?

I then fell asleep once more. He was there, standing, waiting for me.

Alexander: You really are fucking stupid aren't you?

Why is he insulting me all of a sudden...? I can't speak nor move now either... What does he want from me now?

Alexander: Didn't I say I had been manipulating your vision? Do you not even notice what's going on? These are your true "friends". Now, let me see that face of pain of yours.

This is Hana...? No, that's impossible. She isn't like that at all! He's deceiving me! It just can't be true! I don't believe it! If he really has the ability to cloud my vision, he's doing it now!

Alexander: Do you not believe me? Imbecile monkey. Thank god I can still learn from your stupid brain. You'd be dead by now if I couldn't.

The next thing I knew is that I was outside the residence. I wasn't at the front door either, only Hanabi was by my side.

Hanabi: Hey you, you're finally awake. You were trying to come back to your senses, right?

Buddy: You aren't Hana! *I quickly got away from her*

Hanabi: What do you mean?

Buddy: You wanted to eat me!

Hanabi: Oooh that! You just look so tasty!

Buddy: Who the fuck are you?!

Hanabi: You didn't say these things earlier! I always said these kinds of things but you never reacted like this! It's fun!

What's going on!? This can't be happening! I need to... I know! I'll go look for Black Swan! I regained some memories, didn't I? I'll get going right no-

Hanabi: You're leaving already? Aw... You'll have to come to the SPQR eventually!

She's right... I don't like the fact that she's right... I hate it! Why is she acting like that?! She's never been like this! And she said that I never reacted like this?! Because she's never acted like she has today! It all started afte-

It was him, wasn't he... *I crumbled to the ground in the middle of the street.* So it was him... He really did this to me! Why?!

???: Sadness detected. You must be Buddy, aren't you?

A robot approached me. He was completely made out of metal, and on his head was a sort of camera.

???: My name is Spyglass. You seem to need help.

Buddy: Yes please! Hanabi is acting like crazy and I need to find Black Swan!

Spyglass: Define crazy. And Black Swan is in the Garden of Recollection, as always.

Buddy: Okay thanks! *I left the scene.*

I didn't even explain to it what was wrong with Hana-

Spyglass: Your status is not defined. You could be injured. And answer me, what is wrong with Hanabi?

He really caught up to me!

Buddy: I'm okay, and Hanabi said she wanted to eat me!

Spyglass: Nothing out of the ordinary.

Buddy: What do you mean?! She's never acted like this!

Spyglass: She's always been like that, Buddy.

What is going on?! There's no way that it's true... I don't believe that my vision was clouded! I just refuse to believe it!

Somewhere and nowhere at the same time.

Alexander: *Eating popcorn* Lol this is fun. *Munch.*

Back with Buddy.

Buddy: I'll just go and look for some memory balls...

Spyglass: Memory balls?

Buddy: Yes! The balls in which Black Swan stores memories!

Spyglass: That is not the case, Buddy. Memories are stored in ice.

Even that...? I'll have to see it to believe it! *I quickly rushed in the Garden.*

Black Swan: Buddy? Your destiny wasn't to be here... What brings you here?

What?! She can also read destinies!?! Since when?!

Black Swan: Lost in thought, as always.

Buddy: Sorry, a lot of things happened today... Your sister wanted to eat me!

Black Swan: Like if that was unusual. Is that what brought you here?

No... So it is true... I can't let my weakness show, not again.

Buddy: No, I came to look for memories.

Black Swan: Whose?

Buddy: Mine. I think more may have appeared.

Black Swan: That is not the case. I haven't noticed a change.

Buddy: ... Well then. I'll see you soon aga- Wait, would you mind if I saw where the memories are stored?

Black Swan: Sure, you've seen them once, why not again?

I went in with Black Swan. The memories were in fact frozen... Just so much has changed... What is going on...?

Buddy: Thanks, I'll leave now...

I just need to rest, go to the SPQR- Oh, right, Hanabi will be there... Well, there's nothing I can do.

Ichigo: Oh it's Buddy! How are you?

What's that on her forehead... Are those horns?!

Buddy: Ichigo... Since when do you have horns?

Ichigo: What do you mean since when? You've always seen me with them!

Everything's going south... Nothing is like I remember it... He's using me... I bet he is laughing his ass off with that wretched personality of his!

Buddy: Nothing... *Sigh*.

Ichigo: Are you okay, Buddy?

Buddy: Uhm? Yeah, absolutely.

I left her there. I needed to go to my room. And then I'd see her... She has a lot of explaining to do. Well, let's go through the main doo-

Hanabi: You. *Hanabi took my hand and forced me into our room.*

Buddy: *I let myself get dragged.* Eris, if you hear screams of agony, that's me. Help me if that's the case, please.

Eris: Sure...?

She eventually let go of me and we reached our room, where we sat down to talk.

Hanabi: What is wrong with you?!

Buddy: I could ask the same thing!

Hanabi: What do you mean?!

Buddy: You literally tried to eat me!

Hanabi: Like if that was something new!

Buddy: It totally is!

Hanabi: No it isn't! I've told you I wanted to eat you like 4 times already!

Buddy: Then it is true... He did that to me...

Hanabi: He?

Buddy: Alexander.

Hanabi: Ale who?

Buddy: He says he's one with The Imaginary Tree-

Ah... I can't even think of it... Why does this happen? How does my body work?

Alexander: Those faces were fucking amazing.

Ah... Again here, with this... Asshole.

Alexander: Thinking of insulting me? That's the best you can do lol.

Ah, that's right... He can read my thoughts, because of course he can. So if I think about why this happens when I think about the Imaginary Tree, he might tell me... Or not.

Alexander: Did you really think I was as stupid as you? *While I was still unable to move, he attached some sort of device to my head.* I need to dive deeper. Don't worry, this will only hurt a lot.

He activated the machine and it did in fact hurt. My head was going crazy, thoughts being pulled out, some being inserted...

Hanabi: *Really close to me with a knife.* Bon appetit!

Buddy: This is what I mean! *I got her off of me as I could.*

Hanabi: Oh come on! You liked those things!

Buddy: I don't think I'm the Buddy you know...

Hanabi: What are you saying?

Buddy: You are not the Hanabi I know either.

Hanabi: That brain seems very rotted, I barely want to eat it now...

Buddy: *Sigh.* Anyways, I should quit doing stuff for today... Tomorrow is Sunday, I'll enjoy it as much as possible.

Hanabi: Well, did you like the Masked Fools~?

Buddy: They are just as crazy as you are.

Hanabi: Crazy? Me? Please! Respect me a bit! I'm much more than that! And they aren't as crazy as me!

Buddy: Whatever. Just don't eat me while I sleep, Hanabi. *I turned to the other side and tucked in bed.*

Hanabi: Did you just call me Hanabi?

Buddy: I just did. Do you want me to call you Hana?

Hanabi: Do what you want, and I'll definitely eat you while you sleep!

Everything is way too weird... Everything's different... So this is reality, isn't it...?

CHAPTER 3: Unhinged Sunday!

Today's going to be a rough day... I also wonder how my relationship with Hanabi will change... Wait, am I hearing music?

Nero: *Her voice could be heard everywhere, as if she was talking through speakers.* Good morning, Buddies! As you know today's Sunday, and for this Unhinged Sunday we'll be doing something special, umu! You may have noticed that, if you slept in the SPQR, your roommate is different! That is today's Unhinged Sunday, Umu! Enjoy!

Wait, really...? I guess I haven't turned around, I don't even know if I shou-

???: NOOO YOU AREN'T WELT SENSEI!

Buddy: *I turned around and saw a girl with black long hair, covered with a blanket.* No, my name's not Welt. Who are you?

???: My name is Ladygrey! Do you know where Sensei is?

Buddy: Are you not even going to ask me about my name...?

Ladygrey: No! Welt Sensei... ehehehehehe

Buddy: Are you okay...?

Ladygrey: Not without Sensei! I thought that changing roommates would get me with him!

Buddy: Well, at the very least I got Hanabi off of me...

Ladygrey: Hanabi...? It doesn't matter. What's your name?

Buddy: I'm Buddy.

Ladygrey: Oh, the famous one! Help me find Welt sensei!

Buddy: No thank you- *She grabbed my hand and forced me to go with her.* You can't just force someone to go with you, you know? *I set myself free and thought about staying, but then I remembered that this day should be to get to know more people better. Maybe if we find Welt she'll talk to me...*

Ladygrey: Hey you! You! I've been asking you for a minute already! Do you have any idea on where sensei can be?

Buddy: Why would I...?

Ladygrey: Oh, I know! Let's check the Astral Express!

Buddy: The Astral Express...?

Ladygrey: You haven't heard of it!? It's the train of the trailblazer and other people, including Welt sensei... heheheheheheh

Buddy: A train, huh...?

I wonder... Does that train go through the entirety of Rome? But I haven't seen a single track... Don't tell me... Does it not use tracks?

Buddy: Ladygrey... Does the Astral Express use tracks?

Ladygrey: Tracks? Of course not! It can move without them and goes through space! It goes from planet to planet, and I love being on it with Sensei!

Without saying anything else, we went around asking where the Astral Express was parked, if it was here. Then, we met a group of 3 people who seemed to be Ladygrey's friends but... Let's just say that two of them were identical or worse than her... And the other one was acting extremely shy towards me... The only guy started talking to me.

???: Is this "Buddy"?

???: I guess they are...

Buddy: Yes, I am Buddy... May I ask who you are?

KiL: I'm KiL! I'll introduce you to the religion of the Kafkok! ❄️

Leafcaller: I'm Leafcaller, and just so you know, the Luochass is much better! ❄️

???: Can we not have this discussion again...?

Buddy: And who are you and who are you addicted to...?

Random Gacha Addict: M-my name is Random Gacha Addict...

Buddy: So you're addicted to Gacha, whoever that might be...

Random Gacha Addict: No... I-It's Himeko...

Ladygrey: Actually, do you want to come with us? We're going to visit Welt Sensei at the express! So Himeko might be there!

Random Gacha Addict: But more people will be there...

Buddy: Oh, she's extremely shy, I'm guessing.

That Leafcaller and KiL keep arguing about the "Kafkok" and the "Luochass" and which one is better... God damn it, they're kind of weird... I'll just sit down and wait for Ladygrey to finish talking with the other girl, I guess I don't mind meeting more people, but considering they are like this...

Ladygrey: KiL, Leafcaller, we're leaving, stop discussing please! We all know Welt Sensei is the best!

Buddy: We're leaving? Great then. *I stood up, ready to leave.* Are you coming with us? *I looked at Random Gacha.*

Random Gacha Addict: O-Only because Ladygrey wants me to see Himeko...

Ladygrey: You love her, don't you? What's wrong with it?

Random Gacha Addict: The other people...

Buddy and Ladygrey: *Sigh.*

We ended up leaving the other two behind, maybe they went to go visit Luocho and Kafka, whoever those might be... I do wonder how all these people feel about them. I'd honestly feel weirded out. Now that I remember being weirded out by things... It reminds me of Hanabi...

Ladygrey: Why are you so back away?! You're coming with us!

Buddy: Ah, sorry...

Again, lost at thought. I'll make sure to follow them this time. I honestly never thought people like them would exist. I guess they are kind of weird to me, who is new, but to residents of this world, they are normal... Maybe, I'm just guessing. I'd have to get used to this. We eventually saw the train in the distance. It was black with yellow accents, and it was still in place. Ladygrey rushed towards it yelling.

Ladygrey: WELT SENSEEEIII! *A man came out of the express.*

???: Ah, Ladygrey! *He took her in her arms and hugged her.* Ah, Random Gacha, you're here too. And I'm guessing the other person is Buddy.

Buddy: That is me, yes. Are you mr Welt?

Random Gacha Addict: Is Himeko here...?

Welt: Yes, I am Welt, and yes, Himeko is here.

Random Gacha rushed inside the train, and I guess she started looking for Himeko. I decided to go in too, but I wasn't going to look for anyone. I guess I'm just looking, and if someone wants to greet me, then so be it...

???: Smile for the camera! *I heard a voice coming from behind.*

Buddy: What? *I turned around and saw a cute girl. Her hair was light pink, and she was holding a blue camera. Then, it flashed.*

???: I like taking pictures of all the visitors and people I meet!

???: You should introduce yourself to new people March. My name's Dan Heng, it's a pleasure to meet you, Buddy.

Buddy: You already know my name? Well, I guess that you could hear mr Welt out there, and I'm kind of famous.

???: Sorry sorry! My name's March 7th! Take a look at this! *She showed me the picture she had just taken of me.*

Dan Heng: You are definitely somewhat famous. What brings you to the Astral Express?

Buddy: Oh, maybe you heard about this Unhinged Sunday? Well, my roommate for the day is Ladygrey, and I decided to come here with her, since we're supposed to meet more people today.

March: Ah that's incredible! Maybe you want to see some of the adventures we've had? The Trailblazer isn't here today though...

Buddy: I guess seeing some photos would be nice. *She then showed me photos of her and some friends. A gray haired man was in a lot of them, who I assumed was the Trailblazer. A land that*

looked like it was submerged in an eternal winter, a giant cave, a sort of space ship and floating platforms were the scenes I saw.

Buddy: And the Astral Express goes around different planets investigating and fighting people...?

Dan Heng: Not exactly. We go to different locations because of crisis they might be going through, which generally have to do with Stellarons.

March: We aren't the Stellaron hunters though! Those guys are evil!

Suddenly, Ladygrey rushed in the room.

Ladygrey: Where's Gacha Addict?

Dan Heng: She's with Himeko, in another wagon.

Ladygrey: Buddy, tell her we're leaving! *She then slammed the door of the train. I suppose she was cuddling with mr Welt.*

Buddy: Well, see you March, Dan Heng!

Dan Heng and March: See you!

I started going for another wagon, but Dan Heng warned me that I was going in the wrong direction, so I went the other way. I started hearing people talk, who I guessed were Gacha Addict and miss Himeko. I knocked on the door.

???: I think that means you have to leave. *The door opened on its own.* Oh, is this Buddy? A pleasure to meet you, I'm Himeko. Are you here to take Gacha Addict?

Buddy: Yes, Ladygrey told me to.

Random Gacha Addict: Well, see you Himeko!

Himeko: Until next time!

We then both went and left the express. Ladygrey and mr Welt were effectively cuddling with each other. They weren't embarrassed in one bit, and when we came out, Ladygrey looked at us and knew it was time to leave.

Ladygrey: Welt Sensei, you know I'd love to stay here all day, but I can't... I have things to do! I'll visit you tomorrow!

Welt: Just like you always do. Buddy, even if we haven't talked, it's been a pleasure to meet you. I talk for me and Himeko when I say that you're invited to come over to the Astral Express from time to time.

Buddy: Ah... Thanks. I guess I'd meet even more people, so I'll definitely tell you, mr Welt.

Then, we all left. Gacha Addict parted ways soon, and later I did too.

Ladygrey: Aren't you coming to the SPQR?

Buddy: No, I know that if I wake up, she'll be in my room. I don't want that.

Ladygrey: Whatever, you do you.

CHAPTER 4: A mystery to solve.

It's barely 5 pm and the day's been extremely rough... I could barely sleep since I did so in the street. Ichigo and Eris were worried about me, since I had the SPQR but didn't even use it. I just don't want to see Hanabi... At least not right now. I went to work and it was pretty awful. It seems like a lot of people needed coffee today or something... Well, now I just need somewhere to spend time for the day...

???: You're Buddy, aren't you?

I heard a voice coming from behind. I turned around and saw a white haired woman in a black dress- Wait... Did she just change? Now she's black haired with white clothes...

???: The little research does indicate that this is them...

Buddy: What the fuck!? *I was extremely surprised and even took some steps away, it was as if they were two completely different people.*

Siesta: Calm down. We've come to help you. My name is Siesta.

Nagisa: And I'm Nagisa!

Buddy: What is going on?!

Nagisa: Oh right, we should explain this! Because of a bunch of things that need no explanation, we are two people in one body. Just imagine that we change controls on a console!

Buddy: What do you want from me?

Siesta: We've heard some weird things happen with you, correct?

Buddy: How do you even know that...?

Siesta and Nagisa: We're detectives. We need to know everything.

Buddy: That creeps me out... but I'll trust you. I don't think I have any other option anyways... Do you know what happens with me?

Siesta and Nagisa: The Imaginary Tree.

So they do know... Of course, I fell unconscious. Maybe they are killing me out there... I can't know for sure. I wonder what will happen... Did I go to sleep for good? I should've usually either woken up or find Ale-

Alexander: They really think they can find something about me, lol. They're stupid, just like all the humans are. *He started toying around with some chemicals and devices he had.*

Why am I even here in the first place...? He can choose whether to get me here or not... What is his intention right now...?

Alexander: Look, I'm feeling nice. No one will help you, it's that simple. Stop being an asshole and understand it. No one will stop me nor my pursuit of knowledge. Capisci? Or has your brain not developed enough to understand English?

I honestly hate how he treats me... Well, I guess how he treats everyone, but I've only seen him interact with me. Wait... what is he doing? It's that cap device again... I better wake up soon...

Alexander: I know you hate me. A lot of people used to. Let's see... Again, this will also hurt only a lot. I'm sorry... not at all. Wait... *He checked on a screen he had on a table. He seemed actually interested.* This is new...! You are- You really thought I'd say it, didn't you, monkey? I'm not actually sharing this information with you, but I'll definitely use this information in the future. A monkey with such background cannot be trusted.

What does he mean?! Did he actually discover who I am?! That's impossible! And what does he mean by such a background?! If something important had happened, I would know! Wait no, I don't want to wake up! I want to know who I am!

Siesta: As expected, the research did say the truth.

Buddy: What research? What did you do to me?

Nagisa: We just checked that what we investigated about you was true, nothing else.

Siesta: Did you see anything while you were asleep?

Buddy: No, I didn't. *Huh...? I swear I wanted to say that I did... Why can't I even open my mouth now to say it? Is he controlling this?*

Siesta: Certainly weird...

Nagisa: So investigation stops here, right...?

Siesta: For now, it certainly does. *She handed me her contact card.* The next time something weird happens, call us. Your case seems to be important. A normal person doesn't just appear with no memories and starts falling unconscious just cause.

Buddy: You really know everything... Since when have you been investigating me?

Siesta and **Nagisa:** Since you appeared.

Buddy: Huh... That honestly creeps me out...

Siesta: You can ask Eris if we're reliable or not. You're headed for the SPQR right now, correct?

Buddy: Even if I don't want to... Yes. Yes, I am.

Nagisa: Great! Ask her and you'll trust us for sure!

Well... That was extremely weird and uncomfortable. But I think that the most important thing was how I lied. I seriously didn't want to. I'm guessing it was Alexander... Why or how does he have control over my body or actions...? Is it because he's one with... that thing? I can't even think the name of it, I don't want to collapse again... Well, I guess it's time for me to go to the SPQR... Well, actually... *I started checking some things in my bag.* I'll go and see her. Maybe this could be good. Now, where is this place...? Turn to the right... Second one to the left... All straight ahead...

Senti: YATTA! A CLIENT! Welcome welcome! Ah, if it's Buddy! You finally decided to come by Yatta and Co.! YATTA!

Buddy: Yatta... *She stared at me as if she was going to kill me. YATTA!*

Senti: Great! What brings you here, Buddy?

Buddy: I wanted to gift someone something.

Senti: Ah, your boyfriend? Or girlfriend, I don't know what you like!

Buddy: Neither. My roommate.

Senti: Ah... Hanabi? And why do you want to give her something?

Buddy: We had a... heated discussion. I don't think I'm wrong, but maybe if I bring her something she'll forget the discussion more easily.

Senti: Hmm... It's a nice strategy, but to me it seems like you're just trying to have the reason...

Buddy: No, I just don't want to discuss anymore. After all that has happened and how confused she got me... We're still friends.

Senti: Oh, the newbie calling someone their friend! Hmm, let's see what I have over here... *She checked her PC and constantly scrolled up and down. Eventually, she typed something out and showed me the screen.* This is a fish statue! I heard that she likes these goldfish, but I'm not sure.

Buddy: Sure, I'll take it. How much is it?

Senti: 20000 Credits~!

Buddy: *Sigh* That's a lot of money...

Senti: But trust me, it's worth it! It's very big and you can place it on your bedside table! And look at those colors... They are extremely pretty!

Buddy: I guess you are right... I'll take it. *I took out the credits as she went to the back of the shop to look for the statue. After a minute or two, she came back.*

Senti: I'm going to need you to sign this paper, this one and those two over there.

Buddy: What?! Why?! What are all of these papers for?!

Senti: Oh, just some formalities. *She put a pen on my hand and put the tip where I had to sign.*

Buddy: I don't think shops usually do this... *I signed without even looking at the papers.*

Senti: It's been a pleasure to do business with you! *She took the credits and handed me the statue. Then, she took back the papers, making sure that I didn't get to read them.*

Buddy: Well, perfect! It's been a pleasure too Senti! *I left the place.*

Senti: Hehe~ Another item sold at 5 times its price and with no refunds available~

Well, I got this thing now, I guess... I hope she likes it, because if not it might actually have the opposite effect. For now, I think I'll save it in my bag and will ask her if she does like goldfish... For now, I do have to ask Eris about those detectives...

Buddy: Hello Eris!

Eris: Buddy! Where have you been?! I know you didn't sleep here yesterday, which is stupid enough on its own, but it's 8 pm already!

Buddy: Ah, I should've checked my phone, it is quite late. Sorry. I had to work today and had some... Encounters. Say Eris, are these Siesta and Nagisa trustworthy?

Eris: The detectives? Absolutely! Did you meet them?

Buddy: I did. I was extremely weirded out...

Eris: Oh, because there were multiple of them?

Buddy: What?

Eris: Oh it wasn't that? Was it because they were constantly swapping?

Buddy: It was because of the swaps, but can you repeat the other thing you said?

Eris: No need, someone is waiting in your room for you. They told me to not ruin the surprise, and they really want to see you.

Buddy: Huh... That's weird... Ichigo maybe? Or Nero to ask me about my first Unhinged Sunday... Thanks Eris!

Eris: No problem!

I left reception moments after. I do wonder who it may be... I thought of those two because maybe Ichigo is worried about me since I haven't come here for more than twenty four hours straight... It could as well be Nero, maybe she wants to ask about my experience... Hell, maybe it could even be Cooler! Whoever they are, they aren't outside. Then I guess that means Hanabi is inside and let them pass... Well, time for the moment of truth!

Hanabi: Hey! Good evening Buddy! Well, good night at this point...

Buddy: Before you say how much you want to eat me, who wanted to see me?

Hanabi: I don't want to eat you, and it was me.

Buddy: Excuse you?

Hanabi: Yeah, I wanted to maybe excuse myself, even if I don't know what I did wrong. I don't want to have a fight going on with my roommate. I thought acting "normal" around you would make you more comfortable, so that's what I'll do from now on!

Buddy: You came to such a mature conclusion on your own...?

Hanabi: Are you calling me childish?! Well, I guess I do look like a kid from my height, hehe~!

Buddy: No, I'm just surprised. I had the same idea as you. I understand that it might be weird for you to have seen me like that, since you say that I've always accepted it. But I don't think I need to discuss what happened before or after anything. Hana, do you like goldfish?

Hanabi: You called me Hana! And yes, I do! Why?

Buddy: Ah, it came out naturally... And it was because I got you something... *I started rummaging my bag.*

Hanabi: You did? Why? Was it so that I accepted your apology...?

Buddy: Not at all. *I took out the fish statue.* I thought that it'd be easier to reconcile if I brought you something.

Hanabi: FEESH! *She took it without hesitation.* Where did you get this?

Buddy: I got it from Senti.

Hanabi: Oh... Then you probably got scammed.

Buddy: What do you mean?

Hanabi: You didn't sign the papers, right...?

Buddy: Of course I did! I don't think she would've sold me it if I hadn't signed them.

Hanabi: Did you even read what they said!?

Buddy: No...

Hanabi: *Sigh* Well, first of all, they are not responsible of any damage this can inflict, there is no warranty, and you can't refund it!

Buddy: Well, but it's a good product.

Hanabi: A product that probably costed more than twice its original price! Yatta and Co. is good if you know what to buy, it's not for newbies like you!

Buddy: Whatever, everything seems to be solved now. I've had a long day today, I'll go to sleep right now. Good night, Hana.

Hanabi: Good night Buddy!

CHAPTER 5: Hellos and Goodbyes, but not forever.

I woke up the next morning. It seemed like a nice day outside. Also, because Hana didn't want to eat my insides this time... She seems to have changed. I'm still weirded out by everything... The whole Alexander thing, and the fact that two detectives have been investigating me ever since I arrived. But oh well, what can you do. Hana is still sleeping, I do wake up quite early to work by the end of the day. I guess she makes credits in some way from the Masked Fools, but I haven't seen her actually work. I'll just go to work for now.

Cooler: Good morning Buddy! As soon as always, huh?

Buddy: Of course, boss.

Cooler: Quit that type of things, seriously. Thanks to this manner of yours, the other two have started getting here earlier too! Look!

V1: G-G-G-G-G-G

Heizou: This thing broke again... *He hit V1 on the back.*

V1: Good morning, Cooler, Buddy!

Heizou: Good morning.

Cooler: Ready for another day? Today will definitely be lighter than yesterday.

Buddy: What was up with yesterday anyways?

V1: Every 15 days or so we have to FUCKING BALL! and sell a lot of coffee. People here usually take that time to spend all of their coffee.

Heizou: Well, then there's Clorinde, who buys coffee every 4-5 days.

Cooler: Let's not get into the habits of our clients, okay? We have a reputation to keep!

Buddy: Yes, I don't want to lose this job...

Cooler: That's the spirit!

Cooler was right. It was a very calm day. Not many people came to buy coffee. I guess V1's logic does make sense... For now, we'll rest. We've been working for quite a few hours and I'm honestly very hungry-

???: Groo... Hoo...

What was that? I just heard something... But I don't see anyone...

???: Groo... Hoo...

Wait... Is something pulling from my pants? What is this... A bear?

???: *It walked towards the other side of the counter and transformed into a human. The usual, please.*

Buddy: Ah! What was that?!

Kalin: Oh you're new... I'm Kalin, and I can change from a bear form and a human form.

Buddy: *I whispered to the side. Remember, no judging clients. Talking back to Kalin. Then, what's the usual?*

Kalin: Three bags of Nespresso.

Cooler: Oh, the bear's here! *Even if he was in another room, he came to greet Kalin.* Hey hey!

Kalin: Oh, hey Cooler! Do you have any spare hazelnuts?

Cooler: Not today, sorry...

Kalin: Don't worry about it. *In the meantime, I had taken the Nespresso and gave it to him. Then, he paid me the exact amount.*

Buddy: How did you even know it was him?

Cooler: No one else buys Nespresso!

Kalin: Damn right, I'll see you around!

Cooler: Bye!

Huh... I guess there are some clients I don't know, of course, but that was just straight up weird... Wait, what's going on out there...?

???: There, deserved for being Filipino.

???: Behold, the Filipino Ender!

What are those voices?! Maybe I should check... *I went to investigate what was going on and I was in complete shock. I saw the man who had just bought coffee dead on the floor, in a puddle of blood.*

Buddy: COOLER! CALL MR LUOCHA OR SOMEONE!

Cooler: Why? Are you not feeling well?

Buddy: KALIN'S DEAD!

Cooler: Oh, so nothing out of the ordinary.

???: Shut up, you worker. B I D E N B L A S T. *He opened his palm and some energy formed in it, but it whiffed.*

???: Oh come on Alhaitam! You're going to Biden Blast the new one?

???: You're right. H O L L O W P U R P L E. *A small purple ball appeared in the man's palm, but it whiffed again.*

Buddy: What's going on?! Why'd you kill him?!

???: Because he's Filipino! He's used to it and deserves it!

???: Damn right! *They kicked the body.*

Suddenly, Heizou took my shoulders and took me inside the shop. He then whispered at me, trying to make it so that the other two couldn't hear him.

Heizou: Look, you better not get into trouble. Those two are like that, okay?

Buddy: You mean that they kill people?!

Heizou: No, they do those things jokingly. They have fun, and don't hurt anyone... Most of the time... 50% of the time... On average...

Buddy: Okay, I get it... I'll try and start with the right foot.

Heizou: I wouldn't advise on it but go ahead. *I came out and presented myself to those two.*

Buddy: Uhm... Hey, my name's Buddy.

???: Oh wait he's the newbie!

Aatrox: I told you, asshole! *The tall red man hit the other one with the hilt of his sword. I'm Aatrox, the world Ender!*

Buddy: Why the double A...?

Aatrox: It was the memo!

Alhaitam: Shut up, sword! I'm Alhaitam, a scholar.

Aatrox: Yeah, the scholar of hating minorities!

Alhaitam: You talk as if you didn't hate them either!

Buddy: Well... And about the body...?

Alhaitam: The fucker will revive. He always does. When he does the body disappears and so does the bloo- Oh, he just did.

Aatrox: MORE BLOOD TO SPILL!

Alhaitam: Nah, I'm bored. I've had enough for today. *They both left without even saying goodbye. Then, Kalin appeared.*

Kalin: Hey.

Buddy: Are you okay?

Kalin: Yea, it happens all the time. I've died uhm... A minimum of once and a maximum of 3000 times.

Buddy: That doesn't help much... *He too left after taking his Nespresso without saying goodbye.*

Well... That was a weird day. Sure, it wasn't as tough as yesterday, but it was extremely weird. I'll go to the residence for now... Huh...? Eris is not here... Weird. Well, I guess Hana is, like always.

Hanabi: Hey hey! How did work go today?

Buddy: Fine I gue- *Our conversation was cut short by an announcement like the one from the Unhinged Sunday.*

Nero: Hello Buddies! This might have caught you off guard, but we wanted to do an announcement! Unhinged Sunday was used as an excuse to try new pairings in the SPQR, and so we have decided that you will now freely choose your roommates! We don't want any problems, so you will have to talk it with Eris, and all sides have to agree! Have a great rest of the day, buddies!

Buddy: Huh...

Hanabi: That was unexpected... *She looked at me and my thinking face.* Are you planning on changing roommates?

Buddy: Actually, yes. It's not because of you, Hana. We're on good terms now, I just feel like I should try and meet more people.

Hanabi: That's completely fair and understandable. We'll stay friends, and if you ever want to come back to being roommates, I'll gladly accept!

Buddy: Thanks Hana! *We both went to reception and saw that Eris was there. We supposed that she wasn't there before because she was talking with Nero. She was talking with a man with dark hair and a ponytail. He also had something on his right ear.*

???: You came to change partners?

Buddy: Actually, yes.

Captain: Nice to meet you then! I'm the Captain of the Hyperion, but you can call me Captain! Would you like to be with me?

Hey to all the readers! I hope you liked this continuation! All the feedback is appreciated. Just be constructive please! Everything you say about the book will be useful, seriously. I'm taking up this bit of space to tell you that I'm accepting petitions! If you want your character to show up in one of the following books, then you can dm me. I'll be launching 5 chapters each time. I do have quite a lot of people that wanted to be introduced here, but I couldn't fit everyone. If you are one of this people, then don't worry. I already have you. If you didn't contact me, please do. I'll also say that all the characters that contacted me the first time I asked for people will have been included by the third book! This is an example of what you have to tell me:

Name of the character	Franchise	Characteristics
Black Swan	Hoyoverse, Star Rail	Memokeeper of the Garden of Recollection. Mysterious, elegant, loves collecting memories. A Memokeeper of the Garden of Recollection. An indolent, mysterious, and elegant soothsayer. Bears a warm smile and is willing to patiently heed the words of another, and thus uses such means as a pretext to enter "memories" and gain a comprehension over the flow of all information. Feels strongly about collecting unique memories, yet the thoughts that guide her are hard to glean. "Heed another's 'memories' with patience, and all the threads of fate will be yours to tug."

All of this will help me greatly! It's really important that you describe your character. I've only played star rail and Genshin, and genshin not all the way, so there's a lot of characters I don't know well. Even in star rail, I don't usually play character's quests or pay attention to them, so I

probably understand them way worse than you do. That being said, thanks so much for reading!