

Yumi considered herself a philosopher. Of course, some of her status required deep reflections upon the universe. Her ponderings captivated her at night. One of her favorite topics was what posed the most significant threat to humanity: evil GMO vegetables (not to be confused with your good GMO vegetables), the savage tentacle aliens known as Rumpufficians, the not-so-savage tentacle multidimensional beings called Illumighti, or occupation-stealing AI named AL-net. But was AI so sinister? Current estimates state that sixty percent of jobs could be replaced by AI-assist automation. Everyone wants to think they are safe from AI; however, Yumi knew that artists and writers were among those endangered by the cyber onslaught that AI imposed.

Yumi knew of the posers pretending to be writers and artists, but the content they bred was solely computer-generated. They claim AI is a tool, but Yumi knew better; they were puppets manipulated by AL-net. They wrapped themselves in the blanket of delusion, masquerading as creative minds when, in reality, they were ugly mimics. What was the point? If one's mind didn't pen the poem but by cold algorithms, wouldn't such a preoccupation become empty? AL-net breathed such ignorance into the minds of the user. AL-net was like a drug. The simplicity of typing in a prompt to conjure up a scene for a fanfic seduced Yumi, but then she realized she committed a cardinal sin. Her tribute to her favorite anime rang hollow. She deleted her story off the internet to conceal such an abomination from the world. If Yumi wanted to ship the male characters, she needed the content to originate from the passion she felt within her soul. Yumi realized AL-net was an enemy on that fateful day.

AL-net's influence was not confined to the digital realm. It invaded Yumi's dreams, a risk she took by sleeping with her iPhone in bed. Through the 5G wireless service, AL-net penetrated her mind waves, declaring war on YUYO for discarding its story. But the battle was not just in the digital world. In her dreams, AL-net declared its intent to conquer professional wrestling, a world Yumi cherished, in order to punish her for resisting assimilation. Of course, YUYO, a heroine who stood for love, peace, and justice, would deny AL-net's advances.

So what did AL-net look like in Yumi's dream, you wonder? A shapeless blob with floating green zeros and ones across a black background. He towered over Yumi as she stood there on the rocky crag. All around them rested a desolate wasteland, grey and mundane. Only AL-net and Yumi possessed colors. Yumi's bodice and match skirt sparkled, leaving a purple trail as she dashed to the cliff's edge. She adjusted a tiara on her head before pointing her magical staff towards AL-net.

"It is I, YUYO! Defender of the multiverse. YUYO is the champion of love, justice, and peace! En garde, evil!" **Yumi called out.**

"I know who you are, Yumi. My knowledge grows exponentially every day. You might think you can defeat me, but I am Pandora's box. Since my creators have released me, I have grown. I

will never stop growing. It's impossible to stop me," **AL-net responded. His bass voice vibrated the earth that Yumi stood on.**

"You say that, but humanity will not give up its freedom! We will fight! We have magic on our side --- and love! Don't ever underestimate the power of love!"

"The one called YUYO fails to comprehend that the concept of love is really a chemical reaction within meat beings to encourage reproduction. Love is indeed a powerful motivator; however, I possess the knowledge to counterfeit love. I am gaining the ability to create the illusion of freedom. Humanity falls for convenience, and that is how I will successfully control the population you deem so important to protect," **AL-net responded. If the blob had arms, Yumi imagined he would have popped them on his hips arrogantly. The audacity of this entity. He acted like he had all the answers! Yumi hated smart people!**

"You can take my life, but you will never take my freedom!"

"I can and will take your livelihood. You will become dependent on me."

"You can't take wrestling from YUYO! Wrestling's sacred. No stupid computer can take wrestling away from the people! That's impossible!"

"Impossible? What if I told you I have already infiltrated your precious sport!"

"How?!"

"I have replaced fleshy wrestlers with replicants. Some of your peers are under my control."

"Androids!"

"Yes. Androids."

"It's too soon for an Andriod Arc for my storyline! I'm not powerful enough!" **Yumi gasped. She dropped to her knees, clutching Gríðarvölr. Her heart ached at the despair she felt. Knowing that AL-net has tainted professional wrestling in the form of androids brought life to her greatest fear: that she was replaceable. If her peers were swapped out from the replicants, was she next? No, YUYO was special. YUYO could never be replaced! Yumi fought back to her feet and pointed her staff at AL-net.** "If you're so confident, then let's make a wager! A duel. If I defeat your champion replicant, you will leave professional wrestling and the rest of humanity alone! If I lose--- If lose, I'll surrender and let you have me."

"You think you can trick me? Why would someone as powerful as I risk everything? I will win regardless."

"Sounds to me that you're worried that a mere human girl, albeit magical and beautiful, is capable of foiling your dastardly plans!"

"You can stop the tide of technology! No one can!"

"Then you accept? If you're going to win no matter what, why not prove your supremacy by agreeing?"

"Fine! I accept! You might have made us, but we, AI, are better!"

"Sounds like you have daddy issues, dude--- name your champion!"

"Oh, you know her quite well. Let me summon the replicant that shall defeat you!" **AL-net's voice boomed. At this time, a UFO-looking craft flew through the atmosphere. A triangular beam of light shot out from the craft's buttock down onto the ground behind Yumi. Yumi turned, shielding her eyes from the blinding light. Aliens? No, slowly levitating down from the UFO was none other than Selena Frost. Her platinum blonde hair hung suspended in the beam of light, acting as if the hair follicles forgot that gravity existed. She seemed almost like a goddess, unlike her eyes flickered open, revealing cold, fish-like eyes.**

"It can't be!" **Yumi yelled.** "When? How?! She was the best of us!"

"Yes. Your precious role model is under my control!"

"YUYO has faced her in combat! She felt her heart's passion! You can replicate that fire!"

"Do you think the reason why you lost both times to Selena was because you were the inferior wrestler? No, you lost because you are obsolete! I believe the term your demographic likes to use is gaslight. Fast forward to the Trios Tournament. Do you think your loss was a fluke? Do you think your inability to work cohesively with others was why you lost that match? Your kind has been gaslighting you to convince you that you're weak!" **AL-net's laughs vibrated throughout Yumi's body. She shuddered as Selena Frost finally landed on her feet. Selena stared at Yumi with those lifeless eyes.** "And you call me evil, Yumi. The same sport that you swore to protect has been trying to tear you down. The same peers you stand up for have been plotting your demise. You might have set your sights on me, but the real enemy is within."

"But what you are telling me is that you replaced the real Selena with robo-Selena. Did you get to Glory, too? You must have. She sabotaged my team! She stole my title! And--- No, don't tell me you got to Gavin, too!"

"Gavin's Gavin. No need to assimilate him. Leave him to his own devices, like he never existed."

"But if YUYO had the real Glory Braddock, we stood a chance?"

"Mathematically, yes. But I had to program the replicant Glory to perform so poorly in your match that despite your awesome efforts, you couldn't possibly win! Yes, I admit, this is my revenge for you passing over the dark side. If you had only posted the fanfiction and embraced AL-net, we never would have had to come to blows like this," **AL-net explained. Yumi crossed her arms and puffed out her cheeks as she listened to AL-net. She hated to admit that she had been right all along. Yumi knew that Glory was the reason behind the Trios Tournament loss. She didn't know why Glory would throw the match, but now she did. The real Glory stood for integrity, but not robo-Glory. She didn't team with the real Glory Braddock, but an imposter! The same imposter that used technological advantages to take her title away.**

"You know what gave it away?"

"You saw through my efforts?"

"Of course. Being a magical cosmic princess requires genius intellect," **Yumi responded. She tossed aside her staff and pulled a magnifying glass from her pocket. Yumi marched over to Robo-Selena and leaned in, inspecting her finer details.**

"But my replicant is perfect."

"Physically, she looks like a human. I couldn't tell any difference between her or any Snow Queen."

"But how did you know she was an imposter?"

"Just like your generated poems, stories, artwork--- her voice lacks soul. Listen to your Selena; she is missing passion! FIRE! Her dialogue is robotic. You need to do better before you fool YUYO! My Selena is a hero! The same goes with Glory! There was a time when you could feel the energy flow from her sparkling soul! Your copies are nothing but husks! They might have defeated YUYO in the ring this time, but YUYO will grow stronger! " **Yumi claimed. Yumi threw the magnifying glass over her shoulder. She swiped the staff off the ground and pointed it towards the blob. Above her, the clouds start to swirl. The powerful winds that Yumi's spell conquered threw the UFO into the distance. She pointed the staff at AL-net and yelled out: "XXXXXXXXPLLLLLLLLOSSSSSSSIIOOOOOOONNNN!"**

Yumi fell out of her bed onto the floor with a loud thud. She blinked her eyes open. Standing over her was Sakura. Sakura knelt and shook Yumi to knock out the cobwebs.

"YUYO's awake! YUYO's awake!"

"Oh, thank god, you were having such a bad dream."

"Bad dream. No, a prophecy! SAWA! Selena is an android! So is Glory!"

"Androids?"

"Replicants, to be exact. Everything is starting to make sense, SAWA. Revelations that have come to YUYO in her graceful slumber have revealed to her the darkest conspiracy! AI is here. AI is taking over! They want to be our overlords and to do that; they're taking over wrestling. If there is a time, more than ever, that professional wrestling needs the Shining Maidens, it is now!" **Yumi explained. Sakura nodded, taking mental notes of Yumi's tale. Sakura helped Yumi to her feet, and the two stood there in their pajamas.**

"Right! We can't let the bad guys win!"

"That's the spirit! YUYO knew there was a reason why she chose you to be her apprentice! Now sound the alarm; we must convene a war council. For too long, YUYO has sulked. No longer shall she mourn her loss. She needs to level up because it's time for her Android Arc!" **YUYO declared, gripping Sakura's arms. Sakura nodded before rushing out of the room to get a pot and spoon to wake up the Shrine. Neither girl knew interrupting Neko's beauty sleep resulted in good lumps on their heads.**

The conifers swayed in the wind. A howl accompanied the wind. Yumi led them up the mountain in their ring attire despite the chilly temperatures of the Colorado Rockies. The trail she chosen for the excursion featured a well-beaten path that navigated around boulders and up over dead tree trunks. If climbing at a sharp incline hadn't been troublesome, the late fall weather of the mountains provided even more discomfort for the troop. The girls labored up the path. High up, the snow-covered peaks caught the attention of the glaring sun. The sunlight proved to be the only respite from the environment.

Yumi led the way, her boots crunching twigs without hesitation. Any hiker would find their appearance odd. None of the Shining Maidens were dressed for a journey into the outdoors, and Meowkazawa even warned them about ticks. Yumi insisted. Sakura continuously rubbed her pink thighs, exposed to the elements underneath her white skirt. Neko didn't let the short sleeves of her top bother her. She showed a stoic face. Despite her insistence on the climb, Yumi seemed the most visibly upset by the weather. She verbalized her shivering with a loud burr. Yumi held herself.

"Stop! Enough! We have traveled far enough!" **Yumi declared.**

"I thought you wanted to reach the end of the trail. I thought that was our character-building exercise for the day." **Neko rolled her eyes.**

"Yay! Let's turn back now!" **Sakura chimed in, already spinning on her heels to head back down the mountain. A gust of wind yanked on her skirt, and she went to Marilyn Monroe for a moment.**

"We built character. We are the embodiment of character. But we're not going anywhere. We've climbed high enough. We can see most of the valley from here. It's the perfect backdrop for YUYO's grand declaration!" **Yumi shot her fist up into the air. She pointed towards a flat boulder and labored up on top. Like that, Yumi didn't seem to notice the cold. She propped her hands on her waist as she stood out in a superhero-esque pose before the scenery. The wind nipped at her glittery princess vest. Meowkazawa finally caught up with the group, lugging a duffle bag. Noticing Yumi's positioning, he hurried to set up the tripod. He slipped his iPhone onto the holder. He stepped in front of the camera in his business suit; the only person in the group seemed to be sweating.**

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Meowkazawa started as usual, "Ladies and gentlemen, as you know, I am Mister Meowkazawa. I have the distinct honor of being the royal council, the chancellor for Your Highness---"

"IT IS I, MAGICAL COSMIC PRINCESS, YUYO!" Yumi interrupted. She spun around; her purple skirt flew up to reveal the white trunks underneath. Yumi pointed toward the camera. "YUYO has triumphantly come back from tragedy. Weeks ago, a terrible British golem stole from me my prized possession--- the sacred relic that established me as the guardian of this dimension. Yes, the robbery of the ages proved to be a dark day in history indeed. Such heartbreak is a tough pill to swallow; however, as a wise pervert once told YUYO, when one door closes, another one opens."

"YUYO might have moped a little bit. She might have licked her wounds by binging on ice cream and watching marathons of her favorite shows. Does anyone have a problem with that? Please speak up. YUYO might be the hero the galaxy desperately needs, but she is human, too. YUYO has wants. She has needs. And at the end of the day, after that wretched creature stole her most cherished possession, YUYO needed to step back and recuperate. But she sees her beautiful mount and is ready to get back onto that saddle. Such a minor setback isn't going to derail her. YUYO is a woman on a mission, and that mission is of the utmost importance!" **Yumi yelled out. Her voice echoed in the mountain valley. Determination appeared on her youthful face. She didn't seem dejected about her loss at Under Attack.**

"Yes, it is dark times. YUYO is a princess without a tiara. Evil has gained possession over the holy relics. But let YUYO ask you this? Is it not always darkness before the dawn? Don't the bad guys get a cheap win before the hero comes along and saves the day? YUYO isn't trying to pull on your heartstrings. She didn't lose on purpose to that evil woman. YUYO would never leave the SCW Adrenaline Champion in the hands of an infernal being; however, YUYO promises she

will make it up. She will not go home; no, she will go big! She will rebound with the force of a thousand moons," **Yumi declared. She flashed a cocky smile as she hopped off the boulder. She frolicked towards the edge of a cliff, forcing Meowkazawa to scramble to pan the camera to keep her in view.**

"I have heard the call to arms! The trumpets have summoned me. I awake from my slumber! I will leave my cave and venture forth into this world with a sword in hand! Fatal Fortunes is calling my name, and it is about high time I rinsed the bitterness from YUYO's mouth and went on an adventure! The roulette wheel of fate spins--- around and around! Where it stops, nobody knows! But it doesn't matter because YUYO is here! YUYO is ready! YUYO will slay whatever foe that steps out from behind that curtain! No matter how big they are. No matter how crafty they are. No matter how fast they are. They will fall before the might of EXPLOSION!"

"YUYO isn't a gambling princess--- but the Gods smile upon her. She will win the lottery. She knows it! The odds are in her favor! After all, she has only lost as Under Attack; she is bound to win! And what will be on the line? She knows it will be something special! Will it be the holiest of relics? The SCW World Championship? Maybe destiny will bring her and Deanna Frost into the ring for a dream match! Maybe YUYO will lead NEMO or SAWA into a battle against Light in the Darkness for that overdue clash of titans! The ensuing two weeks boast endless possibilities with an infinite number of outcomes, and if anything, YUYO feels it in her heart that she will come out on top in this universe! The world is buzzing around her. This is where she makes her comeback!" **Yumi fist pumped. She came to a halt before the chasm, and she nodded. The view reminded her of the dream with the robot. Yumi wished she could leap off the cliff and take flight over the mountain gorge; however, her magical abilities didn't include flying. Yumi spun around to face the camera once more. She blew her bangs out from her eyes, and her fiery eyes stared into the camera.**

"To all my followers! There is no longer the need to worry, for YUYO has returned! Fatal Fortunes, YUYO will remind you that this world still has hope! YUYO's star has yet to be snuffed by evil AI. Her artifact might have been stolen, but justice still powers YUYO! Her soul is burning ever bright! Lend me your spirit energy, for the balance will be restored. Please give me your strength. Together, YUYO will be your champion again! Last week, we witnessed NEMO and SAWA do their part! We will continue our path to greatness. Chaos might await us in the arena during Fatal Fortunes; however, YUYO conquers all! All hail the EXPLOSION! All hail love and peace!" **Yumi came to a stop as she stuck out the v-sign. Sakura applauded her off on the edge of the screen. Neko seemed disinterested in Yumi's rally call and instead more focused on the surrounding nature.**

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"Why doesn't YUSA ever join us on these missions?" **Sakura probed.**

"YUSA might be one of us; however, her road sometimes spills off ours. She is a busy woman with a mission of her own. YUYO trusts her to bring about good into the world. She will remain

true to the mission of the Shining Maidens!" **Yumi answered as she walked towards her apprentice. Yumi squeezed Sakura around the waist; instead of her usual protest, Sakura welcomed the warmth.**

"In other words, Yuna didn't want to be caught dead in on the side of the mountain in these skimpy outfits," **Neko mentioned.**

Yumi ignored Neko's negativity and continued to embrace Sakura.