

## **At Last, We Meet**

The breeze was gentle and the scarce sunlight speckled through the treetops. The sunshine shimmering on the emerald leaves made them shine like the delicate gems they were. There was a plethora of fresh fruit in the trees for anything, or anyone, to have a banquet.

Various shades of lightly colored flowers carefully decorated the shrubbery as if mother nature sent the few fairies she had left to care for them. The morning dew was still fresh; they shined like diamonds on the flowers and shrubs.

There happened to be a few critters taking in the calm of this part of the forest. A couple of white rabbits were rolling on the grass, bathing in the morning dew to keep their fur pristine. There were a few birds picking at the fruits in the tree, helping themselves to the open buffet.

With everything so tranquil and beautiful, the forest seems to be the perfect place for our magical girls to finally meet. Their gathering should be reflective of the environment, right?

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**(Rika arrives at the meeting place before the other girls. She is surprised that Dinah isn't there waiting for her. Rika takes in the quiet and serenity of the location while she has it.)**

**Rika**

Woowoo!!! This place is amazing! Whenever the sun does peak through the clouds, everyone working in the fields would get mad because it gets hotter.

**(Birds chirp and rabbits rustle in the grass.)**

**Rika**

The sunlight always made me feel calmer. I always wake up feeling anxious about what scary things the day could bring; sometimes, I would even be late to the morning roll call because that feeling is just ... .so heavy and dark that I can't even bear it.

**(Small butterflies fly near Rika, but she dodges them.)**

**Rika**

But when the clouds let sunshine get through, it just makes everything a little less dark. Even if it's only a little, it's enough to keep me going.

**(Rika takes a deep breath as she feels her anxiety begin to melt away in the forest. Suddenly, she hears footsteps fastly approaching. Rika stands up.)**

**Rika**

Wh-who's there?! Don't come any closer!

**(The fast footsteps get even faster and closer, which causes Rika's heart to race and hyperventilate.)**

**Rika**

I-I'm warning you! I can do magic, b-b-but I really would prefer not to....

**(The footsteps stop and, then all Rika could hear is leaves rustling and the slight breeze. Rika feels herself begin to transform out of fear.)**

**Rika**

Whoever you are, just stay back! Please?

**(As Rika feels the magic welling up inside her, Yumi bursts out from the bushes! It scared Rika so much that her transformation halted before Yumi could see it. Rika almost passes out, but Yumi catches her. Rika is extremely flustered by Yumi's entrance.)**

**Yumi**

Hey there, girly! My name's Yumi!

**(Yumi is totally oblivious to what she's done to Yumi.)**

**Rika**

H-hello there, Yuka. M-my n-na-name is Rimi...

**Yumi**

Hahaha! Did you mix our names up? That's hella funny! I like you already!

**(Rika finally comes to and is able to form sentences again.)**

**Rika**

Th-that's nice...um, could you let go of me? I can stand fine on my own now...

**Yumi**

Sure! I'm glad you're not hurt!

**Rika**

Thanks, so um are-

**(Yumi is so excited she could barely contain herself, so fires off a series of questions at Rika. Rika quickly becomes overwhelmed.)**

**Yumi**

You can do magic, too! \*squeals\* You're just like me!

**Rika**

Yeah, I can do ma-

**(Yumi is right in Rika's face. Rika is uncomfortable and starts to get scared of Yumi.)**

**Yumi**

I have to see your transformation! You probably look so adorable! Come on, lemme see, pretty please?

**Rika**

Wait! Dinah said we're not supposed to do that without her!

**(Yumi disregards Rika's concerns, and continues to press her.)**

**Yumi**

Come on! It's not like Dinah's here to know and it's not hurting anybody!  
Please? I wanna see how cute you are!

**Rika**

If Dinah told us to wait then—then she must have a good reason for it.

**(Yumi gets more pushy, and the conversation begins to escalate.)**

**Yumi**

Don't be such a stick in the mud! What's fun about life without taking a few risks?

**Rika**

Maybe that's how you see it, bu-but I've learned that it's not usually worth it ...  
.even with people you trust....

**(Yumi doesn't acknowledge Rika's discomfort, which is very apparent on her face. Yumi pushes more in the hopes of triggering Rika's transformation.)**

**Yumi**

Ughhh! You sound like a frightened, little bunny! Your attitude and the way you talk sounds like mice scampering.

**Rika**

Hey! That's not very nice! Y-you don't—you don't know what I've had to deal with!

**Yumi**

Oh boo-hoo! We've all got our sad songs! What are you gonna do about it, little mouse-y?

**Rika**

O-okay, here I-

**(Sora bursts through the bushes, and grabs Rika. She begins to calm her from revealing her transformed state.)**

**Rika**

H-hey wait?! Who are-

**Sora**

My name is Sora, and you need to calm down. Think about what calms you, then focus on its tranquility.

**(Rika looked up at the fading sunlight. She began to feel the magical surge die down.)**

**Rika**

Even if it's only a little, it's enough to keep me going.

**(With her anxiety vanishing, Rika was able to calm herself. When she turned toward Sora, she couldn't help but smile. Sora returned with a soft smile. She was still fuming at Yumi's actions.)**

**Yumi**

Awww! I was so close to seeing how cute she looked transformed!

**(Sora shot daggers at Yumi for her blatant disregard for Dinah's wishes and antagonizing a fellow teammate.)**

**Sora**

What the hell was that?! I overheard from nearby what your intentions were. You were supposed to be bonding with your teammate, not instigating the crap out of her!

**Yumi**

Oh calm down! I didn't mean any harm. *\*puts on a cutesy voice\** I just wanted to see her transformation and show me a few of her moves, honest.

**Sora**

I don't care if your intentions are harmless! Dinah specifically said that we're not to transform without her around. What if our enemies discovered you two? I believe Dinah knows that we're strongest together.

**Yumi**

Maybe, but I feel like I'm pretty good on my own. Dinah already allowed me to see that much.

**Sora**

She did so for all of us, and you shouldn't have tried to transform aside from that. You didn't, did you?

**Yumi**

Don't worry, I didn't. Not like you'd be a match for me anyway.

**(Sora rolled her eyes. She's finding it very hard to keep her cool, calculated demeanor in face of Yumi's free-spirited, gung-ho nature.)**

**Sora**

That's not the point, but that's good to hear. Just don't pick on Rika, or any of us for that matter, ever again. Doing things like that and throwing caution to the wind is how we'll get killed. You'd do well to remember that.

**Yumi**

All right, all right already! But Rika is gonna have to learn how to defend herself with her powers.

**Rika**

I totally know how to fight....maybe not as well as you, bu-but-

**Sora**

Don't worry about it, Rika. We'll all learn together. I mean after all, we all just kind of woke up with powers.

**Yumi**

Kinda sucks that we had to damn near die to get them, though.

**(Mitsu stealthily appears at the meeting place, giving all the girls a little scare.)**

**Mitsu**

Whatever doesn't kill you makes you stronger, right?

**Yumi, Rika, & Sora**

Whoa! Where did you come from?!

**Mitsu**

Apparently not, if I made all you guys jump like that.

**Rika**

I wasn't scared! Ju-just a little surprised, is all...

**Yumi**

Y-yeah! You'd scare anybody with that kinda ninja stealth! But you didn't scare me

**Sora**

You guys, it's all right to admit that you got scared. Getting surprised is a natural reaction considering we were talking amongst ourselves.

**Mitsu**

That may be so, but it still doesn't make for a decent first impression. Especially, considering we're supposed to save what's left of humanity.

**(The other girls take offense to Mitsu's remarks, so they each defend themselves.)**

**Rika**

Ju-just because we're supposed to be heroines do-doesn't mean that we're not allowed to be ourselves, right?

**Yumi**

Yeah! We have to save people, sure, but that doesn't mean we have to become heartless to do it! This is the first time we've even met, so who are you to judge based on only this?!

**Mitsu**

I only call it like I see it. I can already sense your personality based on your responses, which also doesn't make me hopeful for our mission.

**Sora**

Would you care to share with everyone your powers of discernment? I'm curious to see if you can back up your attitude and responses with credible evidence.

**(Mitsu really doesn't want to take Sora up on her offer, but she feels like needs to back her claim. Mitsu knows she may offend her teammates even more than she already has.)**

**Mitsu**

All right, if you insist. The quiet, little mouse squeaking is afraid to speak up for herself because she's afraid to offend anyone or get punished. Either you were born that way, or something crazy happened that made you like that.

**(Rika looks down at the ground and sighs.)**

**Mitsu**

The loudmouth is probably really strong and brave, but you take unnecessary risks and never once considered taking precautions prior. You also sound kind of pushy and inconsiderate of others feelings, even if their lives are at stake with your actions.

**(Yumi scoffs and gives Mitsu an angry look.)**

**Mitsu**

Miss proper sounding girl, you probably like keeping things orderly and making everyone feel good about themselves. You probably stretch yourself



hella thin trying to care for them and guiding them down the “right” path, when you don’t even know what that is.

**(Sora surprisingly is unamused by Mitsu’s harsh, but true deciphering of her personality. She steers the meeting down a more positive avenue to get things back on track and ease tension.)**

**Sora**

I can’t speak for those two, but you’re absolutely right about me. If there was a textbook definition for me, yours would be next to my name, verbatim.

**Mitsu**

Y-you’re don’t sound mad....why aren’t you mad?

**Sora**

Pardon my harsh language, but we’ve all been through some shit. However, what we’ve been through made us who we are, and that’s what brought us here. Even though we’re all so different and this meeting didn’t quite go as smoothly as planned, we’re all still here.

**Rika**

That’s right! I thought one of us would’ve stormed off by now....

**Yumi**

Kinda glad of this time that it wasn’t me that did the stormin’ this time! We all believe there’s a way to save everyone, and that’s why we all stuck around despite us not really meshin’ all that well.

**Sora**

Right! But all in this together because our mission is bigger than all of us. We have a lot to learn and we’ll face some scary stuff while learning. But...

**(Sora hinted toward Mitsu to finish her sentence, to build a sense of camaraderie. Mitsu despises the cheesy aspect of it, but it warms her just a little, so gives in.)**

**Mitsu**

As long as we stick together, we've got this. And I'll work on myself as best I can for the team.

**Yumi**

Me too! I like you guys, so I'd like to not be the reason we get killed or hurt.

**Rika**

I-I-I want to get stronger, s-so I'm not holding any of us back! I want you guys to be able to count on me!

**Sora**

I've been told that I'm a bit of a mama bear, so please let me know if I become a bit too overbearing.

**Yumi**

Oh, you can definitely count on me for that!

**Mitsu**

I'll let you know, too. I like my space.

**Rika**

Hey! Stop it, you two! It just means Sora likes to make sure people are okay.

**Sora**

Yeah, but it also means I can be kind of scary sometimes. **(Roars at Rika.)**

**Rika**

Aaaah!! Wh-wh-why would you do that?!

**(Everybody begins laughing, but Dinah interjects on the warm moment.)**