
Episode 497 – We're concerned, but not concerned enough to do anything

It was a nice apartment, well-lit, spacious and well furnished. A pair of nice, plush leather couches set the scene, arranged in a neat L-shape, with a small coffee table between them. What dominated the room, however, was the massive flat-screen against one wall, so big as to loom over all else around it. By comparison, the broad windows with views out over a strangely futuristic metropolis and the other doorways leading away to gods alone knew where seemed like afterthoughts.

"I don't know what's the worst part of it," Rebecca commented as she and Tsuneo entered the apartment. "The fact that Rick has made Glen LaBelle's adventures in inventory management so engaging, or the fact that it's infinitely better than Sire Straights ever was."

"He's good like that," Tsuneo admitted. "In a very stupid way."

"I'm glad you're having fun," Rick offered as he and Dan followed them in. "It was a real challenge to craft a story suited to LaBelle's strengths, but I think I pulled it off."

"So what, you're doing a paperclip themed mystery?" Dan asked.

"Exactly," Rick nodded. "Glen is being sucked into a world of intrigue and mystery as he follows a trail of missing stationary to find the truth."

"That's..." Tsuneo paused. "Actually, you know what? That does sound good."

"See?" Rebecca nodded. "Besides, it distracts me from the current fic."

"Something on your mind?" Dan asked.

"I was thinking about how Mathias lines up with the protagonists of every other Build Fighters fic we've had so far," Rebecca noted. "In that not only is he an utterly unlikeable garbage human being, but he's also determined to be as awful as possible to everyone else around him."

"It's a distinct pattern," Tsuneo agreed. "One that keeps repeating itself, and is especially surprising given the actual themes of the series itself and how divorced those characters are from them."

"It says a lot that while he was a paranoid sociopathic bully, Kevin was still strangely less odious than Kale, Mathias and the others," Dan added. "Hell, for all of that, Kevin's relationship with his Dark Spinner was still a lot less creepy than Kale's was with Zabanya."

"Yeah, but you know that Kevin would still be a horrible opponent if he was an actual Gundam Fighter," Rick spoke up. "Like the guy would have built the most boringly Meta build Gundam, starting with something like just taking the Mighty Strike Freedom and painting it teal and purple. And he would be utterly insufferable as a competitor. You know, stomps all over his opponent with the "I Win" disruptor button and then spends forever talking about how he was so much better than them and how his build is superior to everyone too slow to get away"

"As opposed to what?" Tsuneo asked. "I mean, Kale would stomp all over his opponent and be utterly miserable about it."

"No, I think Rick is onto something for once," Rebecca considered. "The idea of friendly competition and fighting for pride and glory rather than just stomping your opponent is something that's really lacking from OCs we've encountered." She nodded her head. "Take Ami 'Firecat' Kamiyama for example."

"Yeah, I can see it now," Tsuneo offered. "She would have the Super Fiery Nyan Nyan Psychotic Break Gundam that would be literally the only thing she would ever talk about."

"What's it made from?" Dan asked.

Tsuneo pondered for a moment before answering. "I think she'd start from the Gaia Gundam, since it's already got a cat-like beast mode, then style it more like a Zoid and add a tail."

"So what does the tail do?" Dan asked.

"Nothing," Tsuneo replied. Dan nodded in agreement, and he continued. "And every fight would consist of her talking about how she's so much better than her opponent and how she deserves to win simply because she's her." He sighed. "You know her Gundam would have its own Instagram account with heavily filtered photos too."

"No arguments there," Dan nodded. "But I can imagine one worse. Can you imagine Jack as a Gundam Fighter? Kid would be completely insufferable at every level. Not only would he have his super gold Akatsuki and make a backpack that's just a giant Katamari of Halo Guns, but you know he'd be awful as a competitor. Like he would have whined at his parents until they allowed him to Gundam Fight, he'd have his friends there backing him and he'd still moan about how he was all alone and so miserable. Not Kale level miserable, of course."

"Nobody's that miserable," Rebecca agreed.

"And of course, you know he'd just creep on the first female competitor he saw while mansplaining Gundam Fights to her," Dan added.

"Related to that," Tsuneo spoke up. "How about Captain Sagara? Once again, we have a guy who does everything for the sake of his own ego and 'winning' rather than any sort of sense of competition or fun or the like."

"And you know what he'd be like as a Gundam Fighter," he continued. "I reckon he'd use his Shin Musha Gundam Sagara Super Deluxe Custom to be as weebie as possible."

"So how's it customised?" Rick asked.

"Knowing his typical level of cultural awareness, he left off the Tanegashima rifle because 'samurai don't use guns' or the like," Rebecca said with a snort of amusement.

Tsuneo nodded and pressed on. "But he wouldn't even build it himself. He'd be the sort of guy who would pay someone else to build his Gundam. Hell, he'd just flaunt his wealth and buy his way to victory and yet expect to be congratulated for it by anyone around him. And we've seen how he acts; he'd just treat his opponents like dirt both in the match and afterwards."

"On the other side of it, can you imagine what Refrigerator Lumpkins would be like as a Gundam Fighter?" Rebecca chuckled. "He'd have a RX-79G Gundam because 08th MS Team is the most 'grounded' and 'realistic' Gundam show. And then all he'd do is paint it in MARPAT camo and make no effort at giving it any sort of personalisation or identity otherwise. But yet, as soon as a woman competitor showed up at the tournament he'd seethe with resentment at the idea that she existed and that she may slight him in some way at some point in the future."

"You know who would put the most effort into their Gundam, and not just in a 'stick more guns on it' kind of a way?" Rick asked. "Brick Hactar. I mean, can you imagine how he'd build his Black X-1 Gundam?"

"Paint me a picture," Tsuneo said.

"Okay. So he starts with the 00 Raiser to use its quantum teleportation. But instead of being a combiner, he's rebuilt the entire kit as an integrated mobile suit that transforms into a flight form. Every part has been hand modified to his loving, exacting specifications. And he's not doing this to win, however. No, he's doing it out of the love of customisation and the process. Black X-1 would be a tiny plastic masterpiece."

"I can see that," Tsuneo considered. "That's pretty amazing."

"However, I think Rick is onto something here," Rebecca considered. "Brick Hactar would do what he did for the love of it. Not to win, not to stomp his opponent and make them cry over the shattered plastic fragments of their dreams, not to stoke his own ego or anything like that. And I think there's one other character who would take the same approach. And that is Lozer."

"Okay, I can see where you're coming from," Dan nodded. "Like, Lozer would have a Forever Gundam which manages to be both retro and meta at the same time. He's painted it to look like the Mystery Machine and given it a Power Glove or some crap like that. And sure, it's covered with sprue scars, the paint is slop and the decals are wonky, but he built it with love. Dammit."

"But here's the thing," Tsuneo spoke up. "Lozer is doing this for the fun of it. He's in this because he likes Gundam Fights. He doesn't want to win, he just wants to enjoy himself and have a blast. And I think that means that Lozer would be able to take out Kael, who is his polar opposite. While Kael is wallowing in his own misery and smug self-superiority, Lozer would come along and destroy him."

"Which given that is Lozer, he'd either do it by accident or through blowing himself up," Rebecca added.

"But, you know what? I think Lozer might be a winner here," Rick said. "He keeps beating people because he's having fun. His opponents only care about winning or stroking their own egos, but not Lozer. He wants to enjoy himself, smash plastic toy robots together and have a good fight. And you know that win or lose, he'd be really cool about it" He shrugged. "Besides, Lozer has no ego to crush."

"I think Lozer could take out anyone short of Brick," Dan offered. "And it wouldn't matter as Brick would pass out drunk and be disqualified for no-showing to the first round."

"It's all very true, and I think you all have good points," Rebecca nodded. "But I know that there's one person who could beat Lozer, and with good reason."

"And that is?" Dan asked, clearly curious.

"Tom Dyron," she explained. "Tom shows up with a basic Barbatos that he slopped together while drinking five minutes before the start of the tournament. It's got sprue scars, it's got wonky stickers and it's got a red hawk sticker on its chest to make it 'his.' But none of that matters, as Tom has unlocked the true meta of Build Fighters; hot-blooded manliness."

"This is true," Tsuneo admitted.

"And that's why Tom wins," Rebecca noted. "He's cool, he likes to fight, he never backs down and he does all the manly things that manly men do. He's the hot-blooded manly protagonist that Evangelion was deconstructing, which makes him perfect for the role. Tom Dyron has the Shining Finger even when his Gundam doesn't have the Shining Finger."

"Dude, pull my Shining Finger," Dan added.

"Good morning everyone," the Voice crashed headlong into the conversation.

"And good morning to you too, Rocky Raccoon," Rick replied

"A Beatles joke?" Dan commented.

"Hey, it's far from the worst one I could make," he shot back.

Dan nodded. "I'll give you that."

"So putting aside the Lonely Hearts Club Band's usual stupidity, what do we have on the pain train for today?" Rebecca asked.

"Actually I think Rocky Racoon is the White Album," Rick interjected.

"Putting that aside," Rebecca repeated with some force, "What do we have today?"

"Well today we have the next two chapters of Shining Jewels of America," the Voice spoke up.

"Thrilling," Tsuneo considered, "I think I'd prefer Rick's Beatles Trivia."

"It's an interesting pair of chapters," the Voice offered. "Full of character development and action."

"I think you're a terrible liar, Voice," Rebecca replied.

"Thanks," the Voice beamed.

"See?" Rebecca shook her head. "Doesn't even listen to us."

"You know, these things could happen in the fic," Rick offered as he took his place on the couch. "In a very bare minimum, skewed and not really kind of a way, admittedly, but it still could happen."

"You're setting a very low bar," Dan considered as he and the others joined him.

"This is probably true," Rick admitted. "But at the same time, look at what we're working with."

"No, I think he has a point there," Rebecca agreed as the big screen turned on, converting the world over to script format.

> Chapter 3: History Revealed, A Warrior's Rebirth!

> Here we are in the next chapter of The Shining Jewels of America!

All [Bored]: Yay

> This chapter is gonna be a big info dump on Mathias and his family, so get ready to take notes,

Tsuneo: Chunky block exposition it is

> cause this is gonna be on the quiz!

Rick: I put all the answers as 'C' so I'm going to at least get 25%.

> Just kidding! ;) regardless, I hope you enjoy, I put a lot of thought into this chapter.

Rick: Mostly about the Philly Fanatic. It's complicated

> Let's dive right in!

Tsuneo: And flee the authour's notes.

> The man and woman, Mathias's parents, led Adrian and Rose to an out-of-the-way staircase and to
> the second floor of the arcade.

Rebecca: The place where they keep all the spare rolls of prize tickets

> The group of four stepped into a living/dining room combo with an
> open kitchen connected. Four doors laid along the walls, one by the stairway, two on the opposite
> wall, and one opposite the two doors. The living room had a low coffee table surrounded by two
> armchairs, a sofa, and a widescreen tv.

Rick: But what sort of TV is it?

Dan: This is a Dire Straights quality intro

> The man gestured for Rose and Adrian to sit in the two
> armchairs while the woman headed to the kitchen to grab snacks and refreshments.

Rebecca: [Rose] This is lovely, but we had plans.

Rick: [Adrian] Yeah, I need to get home.

> The man then sat down in the sofa and accepted the Mug's Root Beer

Dan: Nothing like a good cool glass of product placement

> his wife passed to him before she set down
> a tray of various chip bags and sodas and sat next to him with a glass of water.

Tsuneo: This chapter's going to be a thrill a minute. You can just tell.

> Adrian and Rose
> looked at each other before grabbing a drink, Rose having a Pepsi while Adrian grabbed a Fanta.

Rick: This is the top source of marital strife between them

> Once everybody had a drink, the man leaned forward. "Now then, I believe I should introduce
> myself. I am Michael Winns, former sergeant

Dan: I imagine he was a self-styled general even back in his army days.

> and now arcade owner, and this is my wife Hannah. And you two are?"

Tsuneo: [Michael] I have no idea but I invited you up here anyway.

> "Rose Fayre." "Adrian Brown."

Rebecca: The token girl and vague buddy respectively

> The man leaned back and took a sip of his drink.
> "Well then, Miss Fayre, Mr. Brown, I take it you have questions?"

Tsuneo: Has your son always been this much of an abusive dick or does he just use his dead sister as an excuse?

> Adrian nodded and said "Mathias
> seemed extremely distraught at the destruction of his gunpla, especially the head,

Dan: That Gundam was the closest thing he had to a friend

Rebecca: Past Build Fighters fics suggest this will be the case

> and Alan Hawk
> kept referring to Mathias's sister, but we never knew he had a sister, so I assume he wasn't in close
> contact with her.

Tsuneo: [Rose] Also, we didn't ask because that would mean talking to him.

> So why did he react so badly to those two things?" Michael sighed and took
> another sip. "Now that, Mr. Brown, is where you are mistaken. Mathias loved Ariel. Loved her as
> much as a sibling could."

Rebecca: These are anime fans we're talking about here. You probably want to find a different way to put that

> Michael smiled as if seeing a memory. "You know, my son wasn't always

> how he is. When he was a kid, he was the most cheerful boy you could meet.

Dan: Smash cut to Matthias frolicking through the flowers, Gundam in hand

> He loved gunpla, and so did his sister. In fact, they were the greatest tag team in the state."

Rick: Bearing in mind that state is Florida.

> "Wait, Mathias worked along with someone?"

Rebecca: [Rose] We knew literally nothing about him when we decided to team up.

> Mathias's parents frowned at Rose's question, but they let their annoyance go.

Tsuneo: So either they're aware that their son is a raging asshole and simply excuse his behaviour or they are completely unaware of what he's like. Neither is a good look.

> After all, she never knew Mathias back then. "Yes, he and his sister were unbeatable. They called themselves the 'Blizzard Twins', on account that they piloted a Heavyarms and Sandrock

Rebecca: They were as inseparable as Trowa and Quatre. Also not a good sign.

> painted in arctic camo."

Rick: They were ready for the obligatory Hoth level.

> "Huh, so Mathias used the Heavyarms back then too?" Michael laughed. "Ha! No Miss Rose, the Heavyarms was Ariel's." Adrian frowned.

Tsuneo: [Michael] Now will you shut up and let me finish?

> "If Mathias piloted a Sandrock, which is a close-range gundam, why did he switch to the primarily long-range Heavyarms?"

Rebecca: Because he felt like a change? It's not like he was married to it.

Rick: Well there was, Kale and Zabanya...

> It was now that Hannah spoke up. "It's because of what happened to Ariel."

Dan: A mediocre live-action reboot

> Rose frowned, again feeling that twinge in her heart from Hannah's look of sorrow. "What happened Mrs. Winns?" Tears started to fill Hannah's eyes as she choked out her answer. "She died." Michael patted his wife on the back and rubbed soothing circles between her shoulder blades. "There there honey, it's okay."

Rebecca: I'm just going to retell the story of our tragic loss to a pair of complete strangers

> Rose and Adrian sat awkwardly for a minute

Rick: Both looking like they wanted to be anywhere else

> as Michael calmed his wife down before she got up to refill her glass of water. As she left Michael turned back to the two. "You have to understand my wife was heartbroken when Ariel died.

Tsuneo: He was largely indifferent to it

> It was during the final match of the 7th Annual Gunpla Championship, and I'm sure the two of you remember what happened."

Dan: She choked to death on concession stand nachos.

- > Rose and Adrian shuddered, remembering the chaos
- > that occurred that day on TV. "Well, we were there. My son had begged and pleaded, and
- > eventually we agreed to pay for a trip to see the final match.

Rick: [Michael] I'm still paying it off.

- > Mathias was devastated by that battle, to see gunpla used so horribly,

Rebecca: I forsee his future being full of angry rants on Twitter

- > and then it happened.

Dan: The Fire Nation attacked

- > Those weird crystals started appearing all
- > over the place. Now, I'm military, and the moment things went bad I ushered my family to the
- > nearest exit.

Rebecca: It took years of military experience to use the emergency exit.

- > Unfortunately, Mathias got his foot stuck in one of those crystal growths,

Rick: He died of Tiberium poisoning

- > and we
- > couldn't get to him through the crowd. Ariel, bless her, she ducked and weaved and got to him. She
- > pulled him free and tossed him over to me

Rebecca: [Michael] We used to toss him around all the time. I'm sure it didn't effect his development at all.

- > when another of those crystals grew, right through her stomach."

Tsuneo: So take what was basically a kid's adventure story and add a dead child to it. Nice work there fanfic.

- > Rose choked back a gasp while Adrian narrowed his eyes.

Rick: And, we assume, pushed up his glasses.

- > "And I take it Mathias saw it?" Michael nodded grimly. "He did. It broke him, broke him worse than it
- > did Hannah.

Dan: [Michael] Should have left the ungrateful brat to die.

- > He shut himself in, refused to interact with anyone outside of family, except in gunpla.
- > He kept battling with a grim focus, and he took his sister's gunpla. He started to learn how it worked,

Dan: It took him a while to figure out that it was made out of plastic

- > and he started winning matches like he used to with Ariel. Years later he finally started to open up
- > again, even got a girlfriend."

Tsuneo: I'm imagining she was an incredibly hot model who was totally into Gundam. However, she lived in Canada so nobody has ever heard of her

- > "And then what?" Rose asked. Michael frowned and finished his drink.

Dan: She beat him in a Gundam fight so he dumped her.

> "And then he had a date that ended up causing him to miss our annual visit to Ariel's grave.

Rebecca: You make that into an annual family outing? It's beginning to feel like Mathias is not the only one in this family who needs to move on

> We

> thought it was a sign that he had finally moved on, but it was the exact opposite. We got a call from
> his girlfriend that he dumped her and vanished.

Rebecca: [Michael] She was somewhat relieved.

> We finally found him a day later at Ariel's grave, mumbling 'I'm sorry' over and over.

Rebecca: Having a dead sister is not an excuse for your character being an utter arse

> After that he became what he is now.

Dan: [Rose] A... zombie, right?

Rick: [Michael] No, a dickhead.

Dan: [Rose] Sorry. Wasn't paying attention.

> When we confronted him

> why, he told us that he shut himself because he felt no one could fill the gap Ariel left, and now he
> would make sure no one even tried."

Rebecca: Which is why he takes part of team events, obviously

> A clatter was heard and the three turned to see Hannah had

> dropped her glass, sobbing into her hands. "I ju-just want my b-baby boy b-back."

Tsuneo: Have you tried talking to him?

Rebecca: I imagine the thought has never entered their heads

> Michael rushed over and resumed consoling his wife

Tsuneo: [Michael] Sorry to make you relive your trauma, dear, but these strangers need to know why we let our son treat them badly.

> while Adrian rubbed his chin. "Well, that explains why Mathias

> reacted to Alan's taunts the way he did, but it doesn't explain his reaction to the destruction of his
> gunpla, especially the head."

Dan: It doesn't explain why an obvious troublemaker like Alan hasn't been banned from the place that his family owns

> Michael frowned at the statement. "He probably told you that his

> Heavyarms was completely custom made, right?" At their nods his frown deepened. "He lied.

Tsuneo: It was built by a Gundam sweatshop in Vietnam

> The head was actually from his sister's original Heavyarms, repainted to match the rest of it.

Rebecca: Cool, yep, wears her head like a trophy, sounds perfectly healthy to me.

> He felt so long as he had a piece of Ariel's gunpla with him, she would never be gone."

Rick: So where's the rest of his sister's Gundam?

Dan: You're probably better off not knowing

- > Rose's hands flew to
- > her mouth in shock. "So when Alan crushed the Heavyarms' head-" "He destroyed Mathias's link
- > with Ariel." Adrian finished grimly. Michael nodded.

Dan: Alan is coming off more and more like the good guy here.

- > "Exactly. If I were a betting man, I'd say Mathias is at her grave right now apologizing."

Rebecca: And are you two going to do anything to support him? At all?

Tsuneo: They have important expositing to get on with

Rebecca: Silly me

- > Michael looked at his still sobbing wife and turned to Rose
- > and Adrian. "Could the two of you do me a favor?" Adrian nodded while Rose said "Of course."
- > Michael moved his wife to one of the two adjacent doors and opened it to reveal a bedroom before
- > looking back.

Tsuneo: [Michael] Could you take the garbage out? It's meant to be Mathias' job.

- > "Help Mathias. I don't care how you do it. I just want my son back to normal."

Rebecca: And I really can't be bothered trying myself

- > With his favor asked Michael shut the door, leaving Rose and Adrian to look at each other.

Dan: [Michael] Were going to leave you alone in our home now. Try not to touch anything!

- > Rose and Adrian breathed heavily, having ran to the nearby cemetery, only to bump into Mathias,
- > eyes puffy and red from crying. "So...you doing...better Mathias?" Rose breathed out. Mathias
- > merely muttered a "fine."

Dan: Adequate!

- > before walking away, his bangs hiding his eyes. Rose and Adrian looked at
- > each other before moving to join Mathias.

Tsuneo: [Adrian] Eh, we don't have lives to get back to.

- > Adrian said "Now that you have recovered, we should
- > plan another training session soon.

Rick: You know what would make one of these fics really pop? A Gundam training montage.

- > You will need to build and get used to a new gunpla, and we will
- > assist you in doing so." "I'm not battling." Rose and Adrian froze.

Rebecca: Rose is already planning the celebration

- > "Wait, you're going to prove that
- > arrogant prick right?! Mathias, come on! So you lost one match, so what? You just get up and keep
- > fighting!"

Rick: What would badly digitised Chuck Yeager think?

- > Rose said emphatically, only to shrink back when Mathias turned, a haunted look
- > combined with rage in his eyes. "It wasn't just a match! He destroyed my gunpla, he destroyed the
- > head, he DESTROYED-"

Dan: All monsters?

> "We know what that means to you.

Tsuneo: And really, it could have happened at any time in a regular match.

> I am sorry for the loss of the connection to your sister,

Rebecca: [Rose] I'm not.

Dan: [Adrian] Shhh!

> but that is not a good enough reason to quit battling." Adrian cut in, and

> Mathias's rage shifted to shock. "How do you know about that?!"

Rebecca: Because it was ridiculously obvious?

> He asked, and Adrian pushed his glasses up.

Dan: [Adrian] I need to get these adjusted.

> "Your parents informed us.

Tsuneo: [Rose] Expo-dumped for hours.

> We are here to make sure this does not affect you too badly,

> but it appears we will have to take different methods to help you heal." "Help me heal?!"

Dan: You can't keep casting Cure Light Wounds. It's not working any more.

> Mathias

> shouted incredulously, rage blinding him at what he perceived as a breach of privacy by his parents.

Tsuneo: And he would be right

> How could they tell Rose and Adrian about Ariel?!

Rick: Very, very slowly.

> "You don't even understand! You don't know what

> this feels like, to lose family and then lose them again.

Dan: I mean they might, given how little we know about them.

> One of you is the school rich kid and the other's the music division's golden girl!

Rebecca: Adrian's gotten used to being called the golden girl.

> How could you understand? The two of you haven't lost anything!"

Rebecca: Please ignore being used as his punching bag earlier, both metaphorically and literally

> Mathias was knocked out of his tirade by Rose and Adrian punching him at the same time.

Tsuneo: I'd say that's not going to help, but again, anime fans

> Rose he could understand, but Adrian?! Rose huffed and said "You have no idea of the shit I

> went through.

Dan: [Rose] Putting up with this childish rage monster of a teammate.

> I had to claw my way from the dirt to get where I am, so don't start talking about loss,

Rick: And don't post Loss memes either

> because you at least had something to lose." Adrian merely frowned and said "I may not know loss
> like you or Rose apparently, but I do know the feeling of neglect. I was the second child. Not much
> was expected of me by my family, except as a back up, a just in-case.

Dan: He is really overselling being a younger sibling

Rick: Adrian has just realised his background isn't anywhere near as tragic and is trying to make up for it

> Do not assume you are the only one to have suffered. Many have faced worse."

Rick: [Adrian] When I got a cut on my pinky finger, the only band-aid they had was a Hello Kitty one. The indignity!

> With that said Rose and Adrian walked away, leaving the stunned Mathias behind.

Rebecca: Really helping him there

> Rose and Adrian watched the remains of the Heavyarms Kai Desert recon be cleaned up,

Rick: Separate your Gundams for recycling

> Rose

> having grabbed the remains of the head as soon as they returned. Rose now sat a table with Adrian
> looking at the last remnant of Mathias's gunpla.

Rebecca: [Rose] So, you reckon we can get anything for the scrap?

> "We need to get him back to battling, we don't have the option to find a new teammate.

Dan: A part of me thinks it can't be that hard to find a new teammate, but then I remember that they are in Florida

> Also," Rose grabbed at her hair after setting the head down
> before continuing to say, "I want to keep my promise to his parents,

Rebecca: She is now deeply invested in them for some reason

> but he is being such an ass!
> How are we supposed to help when he won't let anyone in?" Adrian took a sip of water he bought
> and said

Dan: [Adrian] Do we live here now? Do we even have homes to go to?

> "He won't respond to comfort or the like. He has grown used to that coming from his
> confidence or Ariel via proxy through his gunpla.

Tsuneo: His Gundam is a cornerstone of his personality

> What Alan did broke him. Now Mathias is
> searching for something to pull him back that isn't tied to what Alan did, but his own attitude will stop
> him from finding it in people.

Rick: So we help him find it in Bluey merchandise.

> If we are to keep our promise and restore him, we will need to hit hard
> and break his barriers." "But how are we supposed to do that?

Rick: Again, Gundam training montage. It's right there, guys

- > You heard Mr. Winns, he won't let
- > people get close because he is afraid they might replace his sister."

Rebecca: And he apparently has no interest in getting professional help

- > Adrian pushed up his glasses.

Dan: [Adrian] Seriously, they're chafing the bridge of my nose.

- > "And that is why we will hit him with the only person who can get to him, his sister." Rose looked at
- > Adrian confused. "But she's dead." "I have a plan,

Dan: Smash cut to Adrian wearing a dress and a white wig.

- > but we will need to talk to Mathias's parents and enlist help from the AUF."
- > Mathias walked into his parent's arcade the next day, having chosen to roam the town

Rebecca: In Florida? Good luck with that.

Tsuneo: Upside, he probably found at least one place where he can score meth and/or an alligator

- > rather than
- > confront his family or the AUF, only to be trapped in a bear hug by Dolohov.

Tsuneo: [Mathias] Wait... Stop... Crushing... Me...

Rick: [Dolohov] I know.

- > "What the- Dolohov, let
- > me go!" Dolohov manhandled Mathias into the team practice room of 'The Winning Streak' and said
- > "I am sorry major general, but this is for your own good."

Dan: You are going to develop as a human being even if we have to force you to do it

- > Once they entered Mathias could see all
- > the system's but one were pushed to the walls and every member of the AUF that could had
- > surrounded the battle system.

Tsuneo: But they had to pay the Oz cosplayers to be here.

- > By the system was Rose, Adrian, and his parents. Rose was holding two gunpla pouches

Rick: It's a basic fanny pack, but sold with official Gundam branding for a five hundred percent markup

- > and Adrian was tinkering with something at an angle Mathias couldn't see.

Rebecca: It's his glasses, isn't it?

- > As Dolohov walked to the battle system, the crowd had closed up behind them, barring any escape.

Dan: They barred the doors just to be sure

- > Dolohov finally set Mathias down in front of the system

Dan: Dolohov's entering Mathias as his new Gunpla.

- > before stepping back to join his teammates
- > in the crowd. Mathias looked around before glaring at Rose and Adrian. "What's this for?"

Tsuneo: This is the intervention for his crippling Gunpla addiction.

- > I already
- > told you I'm not battling again." Rose tossed one of the gunpla pouches at him and Mathias
- > reflexively caught it. "Open it." Mathias humoured Rose and opened the pouch only to drop it in
- > shock.

Rick: Breaking the delicate model kit inside.

- > Inside was the Sandrock Blizzard, the same gunpla he used to pilot alongside his sister that,
- > until recently, was locked in the display case in his room

Tsuneo: So they broke into his room and stole one of his most prized possessions in order to help him
Rebecca: That seems to be the case

Tsuneo: This does seem to be one of those moments where everybody is the stupidest person in the fic

Rebecca: We do seem to be headed in that direction

- > alongside the Heavyarms Blizzard, Ariel's
- > gunpla, which had a new head that Mathias had swapped the original with.

Rick: In its place was the head from a bootleg My Little Pony. He figured nobody would notice.

- > Mathias gently picked up
- > the pouch and turned to interrogate Rose on how she got it, only to choke upon seeing her pull the
- > Heavyarms Blizzard from her pouch. "I don't care what you think or want,

Tsuneo: Don't worry, he feels the same about you.

- > because I am going to help you. We are going to help you."

Rick: I'm not.

Rebecca: [Rose] Shhh!

- > Rose said, gesturing to everyone around them. "The two of us
- > are gonna battle with these gunpla, right here, right now, and I am going to get through that thick
- > head of yours and snap you out of this self-destructive funk."

Rick: Self-destructive funk was the title of my unpublished Terry Funk biography

- > Mathias merely stared at Rose before looking at the Sandrock Blizzard and said

Dan: [Mathias] You touched my stuff! Eeek, cooties!

- > "Fine. One last match, but after this you don't bother me again. And that goes for the rest of you!"

Tsuneo: He's determined to live out his dream as a resentful shut-in

- > Mathias turned to look at the members of the AUF. "After
- > this match I'm resigning as major general,

Rebecca: Oh no, how will this place survive without its resentful nepo baby?

- > and none of you will change my mind." Mathias turned back to Rose as the battle system activated.

Dan: [Adrian] And you're sure we can't find another teammate?

Rick: [Rose] It's him or the raccoons.

Dan: [Adrian] Tricky.

> "Gunpla Battle combat mode, startup. Model damage level, set to B. Please set your GP Base."
> Mathias set his GP Base and choked when Rose set Ariel's GP Base down, which he recognized by
> the snowflakes along the casing she had painted on.

Tsuneo: Jury was out on whether that counted as a modified base and thus was not tournament legal.

> "Beginning Plavsky particle dispersal. Field 13, tundra.

Rick: Great. Unless this is Domination it's just going to be a long, drawn-out sniper and LRM spam match

> Please set your gunpla" The particles settled to reveal the same windswept snowfield
> Mathias had just fought Alan on. Rose started to reconsider after Mathias started to hyperventilate
> from the memory before she hardened herself.

Tsuneo: She's indifferent to his suffering

> Adrian had hacked the system to choose this field
> for the match specifically due to its connection to both the fight that just occurred between Mathias
> and Alan, and even deeper to the basis of Ariel and Mathias's relationship as the 'Blizzard Twins'.

Rick: I mean, he could have just gone to the map select screen, but that also works

> Rose set the Heavyarms Blizzard onto the battle system

Tsuneo: Since she specialises in a martial arts themed Gundam, I'm sure this will come easily to her.

Dan: Remember, guns solve everything.

Tsuneo: Of course, silly me.

> and Mathias shakily did the same with the
> Sandrock Blizzard before they both grabbed the controls. "Battle start." "Rose Fayre, Heavyarms
> Blizzard, let's kick up a storm!" Mathias choked at hearing Rose use his sister's launch phrase and
> accidentally set his Sandrock flying into the battlefield by accident.

Tsuneo: So their plan is to further traumatise him

Rebecca: In the name of helping him, yes

Tsuneo: Sure, why not?

> Mathias managed to shakily land the Sandrock Blizzard from its unplanned flight, as he had been
> out of practice with it for years.

Rick: He'd spent all his time slumped on the couch eating cheezles off his chest instead.

Dan: Gundam-branded cheezles, of course

Rick: Oh, naturally

> He scanned the area and his radar for Rose as he drew the Sandrock's twin heat shotels.

Tsuneo: Say, how are these two customised?

Rebecca: Indistinctly.

> The system sent out a warning and Mathias leapt back to dodge the
> hail of beam shots from the Heavyarms Blizzard, which had leapt down in a spin with its beam
> gatling shield to ambush him. "Prepare yourself Mathias, because I won't hold back!" Rose yelled.
> Mathias instinctively leapt forward to slice the heat shotels through the Heavyarms Blizzard, but
> hesitated as he remembered what he was fighting,

Tsuneo: He remembered he had an opponent

> giving Rose time to crouch and fling the
> Heavyarms Blizzard's leg out to kick the Sandrock Blizzard into the air.

Rick: We're going to quickly get sick of the word 'blizzard'.

- > She then aimed and fired
- > the beam gatling at the airborne Sandrock Blizzard, and it was only thanks to Mathias gunning the
- > thrusters that he evaded defeat right then and there.

Tsuneo: It's a rare match where I can't decide who I'm cheering for.

Rebecca: I'm cheering against Mathias, if it helps.

Tsuneo: It does.

- > He landed only to dodge the Heavyarms Blizzard's army knife

Dan: She came after him with the corkscrew and tweezers

- > and again swung the heat shotel in his right hand only for it to be knocked
- > aside by the Heavyarms' shield in a pirouette

Rebecca: It's a ballet dancer with gattling guns.

- > while the army knife raked across the Sandrock's
- > chest armor. Mathias leapt back, inwardly shocked. Rose wasn't fighting like normal,

Dan: In as far as she was marginally competent

- > she was fighting like Ariel had!

Tsuneo: Ariel dragged her long-range suit into close combat all the time. She was not very good at this.

- > He didn't know that Rose had spent the rest of yesterday training with Adrian
- > under Michael's watch, being coached on how Ariel used to fight.

Rebecca: Every single part of this is both incredibly creepy and incredibly dumb. Good work there.

- > "Come on Mathias, you can do better than this!"

Dan: He cannot

Snap out of it and fight!" The Heavyarms Blizzard kept spinning

Rick: Yeah, the uh, spinning? That's nice but we've seen it...

- > and launched off
- > the ground, its beam gatling carving a path towards Mathias's gundam through the snow while the
- > shoulder armor opened to fire missiles in a spiral that closed in around the Sandrock Blizzard,
- > cutting off any escape.

Dan: In response, Mathias stared at it like a stunned mullet.

- > Mathias growled and set his gundam into a spin, slicing through the missiles

Tsuneo: Slicing through missiles with a sword doesn't strike me as the smartest plan

Dan: And yet, here we are in this fight

Tsuneo: So very true

- > and hiding within the smoke screen to avoid the beam gatling's shots. The Heavyarms Blizzard
- > landed, only to immediately jump back as the Sandrock Blizzard leapt through the smoke, heat
- > shotels raised to carve the Heavyarms Blizzard apart.

Rebecca: The word 'blizzard' having been used so much now that it's lost all meaning

> "How dare you fight like her with her gunpla!"

> Mathias was completely consumed in rage, and his attacks were completely random.

Rick: He shot at her with roll twice on this table again

> Rose merely

> dodged with grace, like a dancer, in order to evade Mathias's attacks. "Seriously Mathias, this is just
> pathetic.

Rebecca: No argument there.

> You're barely a challenge like this. Did it really just take one blow to the memory of your sis
> to make you lose all your skill?"

Tsuneo: Based on his prior performance, his skill seems to be a purely informed trait

> "Just shut up! I am going to make you pay for doing this to her gunpla!"

Rick: By beating up her Gunpla.

Tsuneo: Sure, this makes perfect sense

> "What, using it for what it was meant for? This gunpla was made to fight, not look pretty!

Dan: [Rose] I mean, I hope so. Just look at the thing.

> Your pain has blinded you to this! What would Ariel say if she saw you like this?"

Rebecca: She'd probably pretend they weren't related

> "I said shut up!"

> Finally the Sandrock Blizzard slowed down as Mathias tired out, and Rose took the opening. The
> Heavyarms Blizzard darted low and both fists launched up in twin uppercuts, knocking the heat
> shotels from the Sandrock's hands before moving into a sweep kick and knocked the Sandrock

Rick: Did he just sweep the leg?

Dan: Yeah. Turns out that Cobra Kai has a Gundam division

Rick: Who knew?

> Blizzard to the ground as the heat shotels stabbed down a short distance away. Mathias moved to
> stand the Sandrock Blizzard up, only for a beam gatling barrel to push it back down.

Tsuneo: I trust in Rose to find a way to lose from here.

> He looked up

> at the com Rose opened and spat out "Finish it then!" Rose stared in determination and said "I'm
> not trying to beat you, I'm trying to help you. Why can't you get that?"

Rebecca: Because you're choosing the worst possible way to do it?

> "Because nobody can! Not

> since then! Not since I lost my sister! And I refuse to let you disrespect her by fighting with her
> gunpla!"

Tsuneo: Remembering that she is literally across the table from him.

> The Sandrock started to push up against the beam gatling, but the Heavyarms pushed it
> back down. "Damn it Mathias! For once just drop the egotistical asshole persona and listen!"

Dan: In one of our fics? Fat chance.

> Mathias froze at Rose's outburst, and to his shock a vision started to form in his sight. "I know you're
> hurting, but you need to let go. You can keep your sister in your heart without forgetting her memory,
> you just have to try.

Rick: If Mathias can't arrogantly crush his problems in a Gundam fight, he's not going to bother.

> Please Mathias/little brother, please, just let go." In mathias's vision, a young
> woman had overlaid his view of Rose. She was petite with long white hair that framed her white
> dress to the knee and made her pale skin seem like it was made of pure snow.

Rebecca: The sad pale girl, a character archetype you never see in anime ever

Tsuneo: Didn't we have one of those in My Way to the Championship?

Rebecca: Funny that

> Red eyes stared into Mathias's with disappointment

Dan: I imagine Mathias gets that a lot

> as Ariel Winns stood in front of him, and then time seemed to stop.

> "S-sis?" Mathias choked out, unsure if this was real.

Dan: Well, time for his full-blown psychotic break.

> Ariel reached out and cupped his cheeks, and

> Mathias leaned into the cool touch. "Little brother, what are you doing? This isn't how a gunpla

> fighter should act. What happened to turn you into this?" Mathias broke down and sobbed

Rick: The assembled Gundam Fighters are beginning to feel really awkward.

Tsuneo: Those Oz cosplayers are wondering if they really have to be here.

> "I'm s-

> sorry. I d-didn't know what to d-do when you died. I-It felt like a p-part of me was ri-ripped out." Ariel

> used her hand to raise Mathias's chin and looked him in the eye. "It's okay, I forgive you.

Rebecca: But since she's dead she wasn't affected by it, which makes it kind of meaningless.

> You were

> hurting, so you lashed out in an attempt to protect yourself, I understand. But it isn't me you should

> apologize to.

Tsuneo: [Ariel] You've been a dick to so many people.

> It's everyone else you need to look to for forgiveness. Make things right little brother, for both of us."

Dan: Your dead sister told you to do something, so there's no arguments

Rick: Thanks for that, dead sister

> Ariel then looked at the frozen crowd around them,

Rick: Mister Freeze had struck again

> her eyes gliding past the

> members of the AUF to settle on their parents and Mathias's teammates.

Tsuneo: Girl and Other Guy

> "You have truly great friends

Tsuneo: They are not.

> if they are willing to do so much to help you.

Rebecca: Yeah, I'm still not sure why they even bother hanging around him

> They deserve the best you can give." At that, something inside Mathias snapped back into place,

Dan: It was a polycap that hadn't gone in right.

> and he stood straighter, something inside him

> slotting back to a place it had been removed from, Ariel by his side.

Tsuneo: [Mathias] I'm going to be a better man with my invisible dead sister by my side.

> "Y-you're right. I need to

> apologize for the shit I pulled, to the AUF, to my teammates, and to mom and dad. But, what about

> my Heavyarms? I completely wrecked it. How will I keep battling?"

Rick: Has he ever thought of building another Gundam?

Dan: He's not very fast on the uptake

> Ariel smiled and placed her hand

> on Mathias's. "Don't worry, Heavyarms was never truly meant to be your gunpla. Its purpose was to

> serve as a transition to your true gunpla."

Rebecca: You're talking about transitions to find your true self. Is there something going on with Mathias that we don't know about?

> Ariel then looked at Rose with a grin and said "Now, I admit she does good at imitating my style,

Dan: Rose stepped out for a smoke five minutes ago.

> but how about you show her how the Blizzard Twins really fought."

Tsuneo: Show her how you both fought together by... fighting alone?

Rebecca: This plan has some flaws in it

> Mathias mirrored the grin as Ariel faded away. "That sounds like a great idea." He

> then turned to glance at the spot Ariel had been before looking back at the battle. "Thank you, sis."

Rebecca: For being a convenient excuse for all my awful behaviour

> He then thrust his control orb forward

Dan: Ooh baby

> as time resumed.

Tsuneo: Gameplay paused for a cutscene, but it's multiplayer so Rose just had to stand there.

> Rose was caught off guard as the

> Sandrocks thrusters went full power, kicking the snow up and knocking her back as Mathias flew up

> into the air. The Sandrocks Blizzard landed next to its heat shotels and picked them up. Mathias then

> launched his gundam forward, skimming the ground with its feet and heat shotels until it looked like

> a snow storm was heading towards Rose.

Rebecca: Rose's reaction time is measured in glacial epochs.

> She raised the Heavyarms Blizzard's army knife

Rick: Instead of, you know, shooting him with all her big guns

Dan: We never said the Blizzard Twins were any good

> and

> shield as the snow storm passed her. Suddenly the snow rushed past revealing the Sandrock

> Blizzard kneeling a distance behind the Heavyarms Blizzard,

Rebecca: You missed you dummy

> its heat shotels held to the side. It then

> stood up and stored the heat shotels as the Heavyarms Blizzard fell, a massive X carved on its

> body and slicing through the power core.

Rebecca: There you go. Rose managed to valiantly snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.

Rick: But Mathias had an emotional breakthrough and stuff.

Rebecca: Watch me care.

> "Battle ended." Mathias stood confident as the battle system shut down and picked up the Sandrock

> Blizzard before sighing. "It's good to be back." Rose and Adrian walked over. "So, you better now?"

> Rose asked, and Mathias let out a laugh.

Rick: [Mathias] I dunno, can I thrash you a few more times and find out.

> "Better than ever! I'm ready to prove Alan's ass wrong!"

Dan: He's willing to concede that the rest of Alan might have a point, but his ass is utterly incorrect.

> "Good, then you may want this." Adrian said as he held out what he had been tinkering with during

> the battle. It was the Heavyarms Kai Desert Recon's head in a tiny plastic case suspended by a

> string. Mathias grabbed it and slipped it around his neck as a necklace.

Tsuneo: There are no words for how dumb this is

Rick: Don't forget disturbing and creepy.

> "Thanks. And guys, I'm, I'm sorry about how I acted." Rose patted Mathias's shoulder and grinned.

Rebecca: [Rose] That's okay. I'll just take it out of your hide later.

> "No problem! I'm just glad

> you're back to how you apparently used to be." Mathias laughed. "I'm so much more than I used to

> be. Now then," Mathias said grinning, "I need to make myself a new gunpla. Can't show up to the

> tournament empty-handed now." Adrian joined Rose in clapping his hand to Mathias's shoulder.

> "Indeed. Luckily the tournament is two days away. That way you can get used to your new gunpla

> as well as perfect our teamwork."

Dan: Plenty of time to build a new Gundam, train with it, rebuild a friendship, practice team tactics and put himself into the right psychological state following a public breakdown that led to him almost abandoning the hobby

> The surrounding members of the AUF cheered at the major general's return to better times

Rebecca: We are all deeply invested in this one guy

> and funneled out while Rose and Adrian took a few steps back, just

> in time for Mrs. Winns to rush at Mathias and pulled him into a hug.

Dan: And to think, they didn't need to make any effort themselves

> Mr. Winns walked over and
> joined the family hug, and Rose and Adrian stepped out to give the family privacy.

Rebecca: [Rose] Do... do we get to go home now?

Dan: [Adrian] I don't know. I feel like I've been here for days.

> Mathias sat at his personal workbench in his room, debating on what his new gunpla would be.

Rick: Pick Karpol. You know you want to.

> "I need a new gunpla, but which one?"

Dan: Didn't you just read the narration?

> Mathias looked at the Sandrock Blizzard standing on the table before him.

Rick: [Mathias] Hmm, what should I do, Sandrock?

Dan: [Gruff] Wreak bloody vengeance for the way they betrayed you.

Rick: [Mathias] You're right, Sandrock.

> "Not the Sandrock. It still works for me, but I've moved on from it.

Rebecca: I'm sorry Sandrock, but I think we should see other Gundams

> The Heavyarms is too ingrained in my combat style to switch back for more than a few fights."

Tsuneo: Remembering that he still has only two days to build and learn this Gundam

> Mathias slid the Sandrock

> back into the display case with the Heavyarms Blizzard. "Still, Ariel said that the Heavyarms was a

> transition to my true gunpla.

Rick: Ariel also said the moon people were coming for her liver, so take that how you will

> So then, what's the next step?"

Rick: A Heavyarms with a funny hat

> Mathias leaned back and stared at his

> shelves. The wall above his workshop table was covered in shelves that held gunplas for the

> protagonists and major antagonists/rivals of every Gundam series so far.

Dan: Except for Shinn Asuka, because screw that guy

> Mathias often stared at those shelves for inspiration.

Tsuneo: What would Amuro Ray do?

Rebecca: Be caught up in a career destroying sex scandal?

Tsuneo: Good point, let's move on

> When he wanted to design a new gunpla, he would look at his shelves

> until one or more gunplas caught his eye.

Rick: Sometimes he made them fight to the death for his amusement

> His free builds that resulted from this method were on the shelf on the wall behind him.

Rebecca: Each one begging for death.

> His eyes lazily drifted along the shelves until they stopped on the

> Gundam Double X. "Hmm, now that could work, but it still feels like something is missing. But
> what?"

Rick: A funny hat. It's right there

> Mathias's eyes continued to search, but their next stop was not on a gunpla, but a picture. It
> was of the entire Winns family outside a stadium,

Dan: Him, mum, dad, dead big sister and their wacky uncle, Ramba Ral.

> the last family picture they took before the disaster
> of the 7th Annual Gunpla Championship finals.

Tsuneo: When the championship was decided by a questionable umpire's call

> Mathias frowned as he remembered that day, the
> horrid fight between the Star Build Strike and Amazing Exia Dark Matter,

Rebecca: The Gundam that makes up ninety percent of the mass of the universe

> as well as the unexpected
> battle against the Ao Bao Qu replica after. Mathias narrowed his eyes as he remembered the
> fighters of that day before they widened. Mathias darted over to his computer and pulled up
> everything he could find on Mao Yasaka during the 7th Annual Gunpla Championship.

Rick: He was a comedic offsider who squinted a lot.

> Finally an image popped up and he set it to fullscreen.

Rebecca: But did he minimize his other windows first? How many tabs did he have open? Don't skimp on the details, fic!

> It was the Crossbone Gundam Maoh, which made its
> debut during the Ao Bao Qu battle. Mathias remembered seeing it fire a satellite cannon shot from
> the skull on its chest.

Rick: No I think he's on to something there. Can't argue with a laser skull

> Mathias looked between the image of the Crossbone Gundam Maoh and his
> Gundam Double X model before his eyes shot open wide.

Dan [Shouting]: X wing look like X skull!

> He immediately grabbed a sketchpad and pencil and began drawing a blueprint.

Tsuneo: [Mathias] There has to be a way I can stick more satellite cannons on this thing.

> After an hour of sketching, Mathias set the pencil down
> and looked at the paper in front of him. "Yes, this feels right. This will be my new gunpla." He moved
> over to the excess plastic pile he had from the plastic trees his gunpla parts came from and grabbed
> some before he moved to a 3-D printer

Rebecca: While a Games Workshop exec just glares in hatred.

> and the computer beside it. "This is gonna be an all-nighter."

Rick: Five minutes later he was face-down on his keyboard, snoring loudly.

> Mathias muttered to himself as he opened a designing program and began creating the shape of
> the custom parts for his new gunpla and sending them to the printer to make.

Tsuneo: He's not using official Gundam parts. You just know that's going to be grounds for disqualification

Dan: Big Gundam completely owns the tournament. They get to make the rules.

> Mathias's mom opened the door to his room to see Mathias slumped over his workbench snoring,

Rick: Well there you go.

> a

> gunpla set before him. The gunpla had the limbs and backpack of the Gundam Double X, but the

> body, head, and weapons were that of the Crossbone Gundam Maoh.

Rick: As well as the legs of a penguin, the arms of Mister Potato Head and a plate of nachos

> The arms and backpack

> weren't attached, and the weapons were unfinished, and these things plus the metal file in his hand

> showed he had fallen asleep while working.

Dan: No part of this is healthy

> Mathias's mom smiled and grabbed the blankets from

> his bed and draped them over him before turning off the lights and closing the door.

Rebecca: Satisfied that he was maybe moving on. Or not. But either way she didn't have to do anything, so she's happy

> So this chapter is short,

Tsuneo: Not in spirit.

> especially given how long last chapter was. Sorry, but not much is meant to

> happen this chapter besides some background exposition for Mathias,

Tsuneo: Chunky block exposition is an acceptable substitute for actual character development

> as well as bits of background for Rose and Adrian,

Tsuneo: I imagine it's all they'll ever get.

> and his reformation from cocky and arrogant asshole to just cocky and arrogant, but kind.

Rebecca: No, he's still an arse

> Now he will just have that underestimating kind exterior that hides a deadly and cunning force.

Rick: Which does not describe him in the slightest.

> Think Gin Ichimaru without the shiftiness, or better yet, Hazama without the Terumi, if

> that makes any sense.

Tsuneo: No, it does not.

> He will still insult people, but now it will only be hateful to enemies that earn

> his ire, otherwise it will just be regular anime banter.

Dan: Because Anime protagonists never, ever engage in toxic behaviour

> Next chapter is gonna be interesting though.

Rebecca: I sincerely doubt that

- > We are getting closer and closer to the tournament. If I don't start it next chapter, it will be in the chapter after next.

Rick: Eh, planning is hard.

- > No marked references, but the single unique gundam here, Mathias's new one,
- > is buildable with HG sets, though the backpack needs the extension piece from the Crossbone
- > Gundam Maoh's backpack to fit, and it's not a tight fit. The name for this gunpla will be revealed
- > next chapter, as well as its performance.

Tsuneo: So his unique custom Gundam that's perfectly suited to his own style is...

Rebecca: A knock-off of another competitor's Gundam.

Tsuneo: Thought so.

- > So, I'll be seeing you guys in the next chapter! JA NE!

- > P.S. Just thought to add this.

Rick: Boxcar Willie is a lizard person

- > The whole bit with Ariel was not a spiritual visit. It was more a
- > hallucination brought on from stress and his current mental state

Dan: That and his spray painting in an unventilated room

- > alongside a buried sense that he
- > wasn't acting as Ariel would want. His mental state at that moment however makes him think it was
- > her ghost. The whole bit of his true gunpla thing is because, subconsciously, he knew he couldn't
- > keep using the Heavyarms and would need to move on, if not for sanity's sake, then to keep up with
- > the other gunpla fighters.

Tsuneo: When you have to resort to footnotes to explain your protagonist's actions then maybe you need to reconsider your narrative

> -----

- > Chapter 4: All Out War, True Teamwork is Shown!
- > Welp, here we come to the end of the first arc of Shining Jewels of America.

Dan: Hooray!

Rick: Out of seventeen planned arcs.

Dan: Boo!

- > I hope you enjoy reading this as much as I enjoyed writing it!

Tsuneo: Clearly the author suffers from severe self-loathing

- > In the depths of space, a great battle was being fought between the Principality of Zeon and Earth
- > Federation Forces.

Dan: Some jerk showed up in a Bearguy and really wrecked the ambience.

- > The wreckage of numerous Zakus, Rick Doms, and GMs floated throughout
- > space between a Musai cruiser and White Base, locked in a zero-G dogfight. In the center of the
- > battlefield were three mobile suits:

Rick: Murphy, LaGowe and Zogok

- > Char's Zaku, the Fullbody Gundam, and the RX-78-2 Gundam.
- > Amuro, the pilot of the RX-78-2, was barely holding his foes off.

Rebecca: All the while conspicuously not speaking a single line

- > Char on his own was a challenge,
- > but this new unknown in an experimental gundam-type mobile suit was an absolute monster!

Dan: It was Ogopogo or maybe the Skunk Ape

- > "Give up Amuro! Surrender the gundam and you and the soldiers of White Base will be treated fairly
- > as our prisoners!" Char yelled over the com links.

Tsuneo: And if you can't trust a masked treacherous backstabber then who?

- > "Yeah, give up already.

Rick: What he said!

- > Otherwise I'll bring your gundam back to Zeon in pieces. Then I'll feel bad
- > for our engineers who will have to clean it out for your remains." the other MS pilot, Alan Hawk,
- > cockily said.

Rebecca: He's like a side story character who has been crudely inserted into a scene

Tsuneo: I'm sure that Jonny Ridden and Shin Matsuraga will be nearby

- > Meanwhile, captain Bright Noa watched as Amuro was slowly overwhelmed by his opponents.

Dan: [Noah] He'll pull through. We wouldn't have much of a show if he didn't.

- > "We don't have a choice. Launch the Tri-X!"

Rick: The Soviet agent who was Bond's love interest in The Spy Who Loved Me?

- > A mobile suit pilot grinned at the order over the intercoms and climbed into his cockpit. "And here I
- > thought I would never hear that order."

Dan: He'd been sitting around in the back of the White Base playing cards with the kids

- > The man started up his own experimental gundam-type mobile suit

Tsuneo: An experimental Gundam which released a few albums in the late seventies and early eighties before fading into obscurity

- > before igniting its back-mounted thrusters. "Mathias Winns, Tri-X Gundam, ready to sortie!"

Dan: Why didn't we launch him in the first place?

- > The Tri-X Gundam leapt out of White Base's hangar, the thrusters launching it at speeds
- > comparable to the linear accelerator on board.

Rebecca: An entirely meaningless measure. Well done here, fic

- > Immediately the twin beam cannons on the Tri-X's
- > backpack folded over to lock onto the shoulder pads and fired off a massive pair of beams that the
- > Fullbody and Zaku had to dodge.

Dan: I mean, they didn't *have* to...

- > The Tri-X floated over next to Amuro and a second com opened,

> Mathias looking at Amuro with a Cheshire grin.

Rick: He's stolen Aich's single character trait.

> "Looks like you could use some help Amuro."

> Char watched with wide eyes while Alan gritted his teeth. "Another gundam!? How!?"

Tsuneo: It's the One Year War. It's basically awash with side-story Gundams by now

> Amuro sighed and grinned. "Yeah. Now, let's finish this, right, Char!"

> "Amuro!"

> Char and Amuro charged towards each other, the Tri-X and Fullbody following suit.

> "I will end you here and now Mathias!"

> "Not on your life Alan!"

> Right before the four mobile suits could collide, a loud ringing tore through the battlefield.

Tsuneo: It's the toad elevation alarm. His self-insertion has gone too far.

> "What the-!" Mathias suddenly launched himself back, tipping his chair and crashing his head to the
> floor. He curled up and clutched the back of his head. "Owwwww."

Rebecca: I will always remember him like this.

> Eventually, Mathias groggily stood

> up to stare at his incomplete gunpla before fumbling for his desk clock, still ringing loudly. "What
> time is it?"

Rebecca: Were you having sex dreams about Full Frontal again?

> Bleary eyes stared at the digital screen. "11:15 huh?" The clock was slowly set down,
> and for a few moments, everything was calm.

Rick: Mathias has achieved nirvana.

> Then Mathias let out a scream.

Rick: Oh wait, never mind. There it goes

> "11:15! Shit, I'm late for class!"

Tsuneo: If you had class why did you set your alarm for 11:15 am?

> With the rapid pace of a panicking student, Mathias stored the various parts of his new
> gunpla and his tools into an expanded gunpla case before changing clothes

Dan: His Gundam is more important than his clothes

Rick: I'm glad he's got his priorities straight

> and rushing out of his room, down the stairs, and out of the 'Winning Streak' gunpla arcade

Tsuneo: So does he have to exit his home through the arcade?

Rick: I stopped thinking about it a long time ago.

> in a mad dash for school, backpack and case in tow.

Rebecca: Ah, stock comedy gags.

> Rose stared at the now complete Tri-X Gundam on the table in the clubhouse,

Dan: [Rose] Seriously? That's what you're going with?

> Adrian fiddling with the battle system and Mathias smoothing out the remaining weapons.

Tsuneo: Didn't he have a class to get to?

Rick: Again, priorities

> "So, this is your new gunpla?"

> "Yep, I call it the Tri-X Gundam.

Tsuneo: Yes, he has no originality at all.

> It is a fusion of the Gundam Double X and the Crossbone Gundam Maoh.

Rebecca: So when two Gundams love each other very much...

> It is fully capable of using its three satellite cannons singularly or in combination.

Dan: He found the biggest gun he could and stuck more of them on.

> The charging system is also altered to allow for more diverse charging.

Dan: It's a plug-in hybrid Gundam

Rick: Does it sometimes catch fire for no reason?

Dan: That's a feature, not a bug

> With it, I can still use the

> cannons without the lunar satellite system by utilizing solar energy, though it is still capable of being

> charged by the satellite system."

Rebecca: So its secret weakness is cloud cover?

> "Wow, that is pretty impressive."

Dan: Really?

Tsuneo: No.

> "It is, but, for some reason, it still feels incomplete. It feels like I'm missing something, but I can't

> imagine what."

Rebecca: The themes of wonder, creativity and following your heart and imagination that the Build Fighters branch of the franchise was based around?

Tsuneo: I mean, besides that.

> "It'll come to you."

Dan: [Mathias] Maybe if I stuck more guns on it...

> Adrian stood up and closed the cover for the battle system's OS. "Indeed. Now, shall we test both

> your gunpla and our teamwork? I just upgraded the AI for the mocks based on our previous fights."

Rick: They still lack basic pathfinding and you can lose them by turning a corner, but it's still an upgrade

> A smirk grew on both Rose and Mathias's faces. "Hell yes."

Tsuneo: So Rose and Mathias have both changed their kits. Does Adrian get an upgrade before the tournament too?

Rebecca: Sorry, who now?

Tsuneo: Never mind.

> The three team members stood before the machine. "Gunpla Battle simulation mode, startup. Model
> damage level, set to C. Please set your GP Base."

Dan: What if I don't want to?

> The three set their GP bases as the Plavsky

> Particles once more formed the battlefield they would train in. "Beginning Plavsky particle dispersal.

> Field 1, Space." An asteroid field took form, a UC-era colony

Rick: A traditional old-fashioned colony, likely supporting a thriving craft industry.

> right at the edge of the field, and a

> sliver of a sun at the 'roof' of the stage. "Please set your Gunpla." The three gunpla were placed on

> the machine, and the battle began.

> "Mathias Winns, Tri-X Gundam, ready to sortie!"

> "Rose Fayre, Burning Gundam Beta, let's fight!"

> "Adrian Brown, Deathscythe EW Variant, launching."

Dan: Kevin, Dark Spinner and Siege, taking off!

Tsuneo: Tom Dyron, EVA Unit 03, let's rock!

Rebecca: Firecat... Um, Firecat! Ripping faces!

Rick: I like Zabanya!

Dan: God damn it, Kael!

> The Deathscythe and Burning Gundam, having engaged hyper mode

Tsuneo: They drank lots of red cordial

> in order to better operate in

> zero G's, darted between the asteroids towards the colony, but the Tri-X seemed to flit between the

> gaps like a hummingbird.

Dan: But not like some stupid ballerina or anything.

> "Haha! This thing reacts like a dream!"

Rebecca: Like that dream where he was in a hot tub with the Black Tri-Stars.

> The Tri-X then darted straight up

> out of the asteroid field and engaged the panels on its limbs and backpack. Sunlight seemed to pool

> around the gundam as the lower pair of back panels began to glow.

Rebecca: But will his Gundam work on a rainy day?

> "And the solar charge system is operating at full capacity!"

Rick: His Gundam has slrpnls

Dan: Slrpnls?

> Immediately after the bottom pair were fully glowing, Mathias closed the

> panels and darted back to fly next to his teammates while opening a com. "The Tri-X is operating at
> peak efficiency, so how about we put your mock upgrades to the test Adrian. By the way, what
> exactly are we fighting?"

Rick: A group of 2d4 Orcs

> Suddenly, the three fighters had to dart to the sides as a purple, lightning covered energy blast tore
> through an asteroid and past them. Turning to look, Mathias felt his blood freeze.

Dan: And then he wet 'em

> Floating in space
> before him were three mobile suits. The center one was white with a gold V-fin, a glowing pink inner
> frame shining through gaps in the armor. It had a massive shield on its left arm, and a beam rifle
> with an energy pack magazine in its right. To its right was a blue and white mobile suit with a
> backpack mounted shield on its left shoulder, detachable bits covering it. A green edged gun was
> held in its right hand, and a flick of its wrist shifted the gun into a sword. Green particles were
> flowing out of an exhaust on its back. And finally, on the white MS's left was the most terrifying of all,
> a rounded white Gundam with a blue and red chest. An oval shield was on its left arm, and the suit
> looked like it had an exaggerated mustache attached.

Rebecca: Fic, you have taken it as a granted that the reader knows what every goddamn Gundam
looks like so far. So why bother taking time out to describe them now?

> "Oh shit, I thought we were fighting upgraded mocks, not three of the more deadly gundams of the
> entire franchise!

Tsuneo: He says, packing three colony destroying weapons.

> What the hell possessed you to set these three against us Adrian?!"

Rebecca: Maybe he just doesn't like you

> Mathias yelled
> as he dodged a second beam blast from the NT-D mode Unicorn Gundam, pulling the bone shaped
> weapons from the Tri-X's hips and returning fire.

Dan: Is one of them a saw?

Rebecca: Don't.

Dan: Because then Bonesaw would –

Rebecca: No.

> "I agree with Mathias,

Rick: For the first time in their lives.

> what the fuck Adrian!?" Rose added as the Qan[T]

Tsuneo: I'm impressed that he can pronounce the square brackets

> darted through her
> machine gun fire and forced her to dodge its sword swings, throwing in punches whenever she had
> the chance, though they were nimbly dodged by her opponent.

> The Deathscythe EW Variant cloaked to avoid the Turn A's energy mace. The Turn A quickly raised
> its shield behind it to block Adrian's de-cloaked energy scythe. "I apologize. I may have gone a bit
> overboard in programming our opponents.

Dan: Adrian is a killer GM

Rick: So... GM (G)?

Dan: I think you're missing the point there.

Rick: GM Sniper? It's quite dangerous at a range.

Dan: No, that's not what I mean

Rick: What about Powered GM? It was a massive upgrade.

Dan: You're really going off the tracks

Rick: Ok so then is it Stark Jeagan? It's technically a GM

Dan: ...wait, did you just sneak a 'is that' on me?

> Thankfully I did not program them to act like their pilots would."

> "That is a shame, I would have loved to battle such icons like Setsuna or Banagher."

Rick: Loran is the best Gundam protagonist. He's a cross-dressing nudist. Beat that.

> Mathias said (1).

Rebecca: Mathias speaks in footnotes.

> "Still, we can't beat them alone, they are too skilled. We need to divide and conquer, and I know

> just how to do it. Rose, Adrian, focus on the Turn A! It's the most dangerous if it gets the chance to

> activate Moonlight Butterfly!" The skull on the Tri-X's chest opened to reveal a miniature satellite

> cannon.

Dan: Wait, it can do that? If only he'd mentioned it four times previously.

> A massive beam of blue energy fired out, forcing the Unicorn and Qan[T] to dodge right

> while the Turn A dodged left. Immediately the Burning Gundam Beta's beam saber pierced the Turn

> A's head while its body was impaled on the Deathscythe's energy scythe. The two quickly

> disengaged as the Turn A exploded.

Tsuneo [Bored]: Wow, these are very dangerous opponents

Rebecca [Bored]: Yes, this fight is gripping

> Immediately the Tri-X opened the panels along its body, gathering energy as it took potshots at the

> Unicorn and Qan[T].

Dan: In a demonstration of the skill of the AI pilots, the two Gundams did nothing in response.

> "Alright, I need time to charge up to full blast in order to overpower the Unicorn.

> I can hold it off long enough to do so, but you two need to take care of the Qan[T]! If you can't

> defeat it, then make sure it can't go Trans-Am, or we are screwed!"

Dan: Kael just glares in anger

> The Tri-X then focused fire purely on the Unicorn, forcing it to forego attack in order to avoid

> destruction. Seeing the opening, the Qan[T] darted forward to destroy the Tri-X. Immediately, the

> Burning Gundam Beta interposed itself between them, glowing with power as it fired off an energy

> blast from its exposed core.

Tsuneo: She can do that?

Rebecca: Eh, sure, why not?

> The Qan[T] dodged, beginning to glow red

Rick: He should put some ointment on that, because it can't be healthy

> as it launched its six GN

> sword bits. The glow immediately died as the Deathscythe EW Variant appeared behind it and

> sliced upwards, severing its backpack, and the twin GN drives stored in the backpack and shield,

> from the Qan[T].

Rick: You put your reactors on your backpack and this will happen.

- > The Qan[T] turned and launched its GN bits towards the Deathscythe EW Variant,
- > but the bits stalled in space as the Burning Gundam Beta's fist erupted from the Qan[T]'s chest.

Rebecca: Rose has always wanted to put her fist through someone's chest.

Tsuneo: You mean, through the chest of someone's Gunpla?

Rebecca: No.

- > The
- > Qan[T] jerked as Rose pulled her gundam's fist out, and both her and Adrian returned to Mathias's
- > side as the Qan[T] detonated.

Dan: Which was good, because the author was getting sick of typing Qan[T].

- > Four of the panels on the Tri-X's backpack were glowing as Adrian
- > and Rose added their ranged weapons to the effort of pinning the Unicorn down. Eventually, the Tri-
- > X became a beacon of light

Rebecca: It turned into Catholic iconography

- > while the Unicorn was unable to escape the the beam barrage it was shielding against.

Tsuneo: The Unicorn has largely just sat there and been a target for the whole fight.

- > Mathias grinned upon noticing the state of his gundam, which was glowing from every panel on it,
- > including the arm and leg mounted panels. "I'm fully charged!

Rick: Does his Gundam use a proprietary charger?

Tsuneo: I imagine that a Gundam-compatible plug costs a fortune

- > Now, let's test this little system I made."

- > The Tri-X locked its backpack mounted beam cannons to its shoulders as the skull on its chest
- > opened once more. Finally, two cords extended from hidden panels on its forearms and connected
- > to its crossbone sword/guns.

Tsuneo: And you can imagine how hard they were to model at 1/144 scale.

- > Immediately, all five beam weapons began glowing blue.

- > "Tri-X satellite cannon system, full burst mode, FIRE!"

- > All five of the Tri-X's beam weapons fired out massive beams that consumed the Unicorn and
- > blinded all three fighters.

Rick: With science!

- > When the light died down, all three bore witness to pure destruction. A
- > wide path was carved through the asteroid belt, and even pierced a hole through the distant colony,

Rebecca: [Rose] We don't have to pay for that, right?

- > and there was absolutely nothing left of any of the three mocks they were fighting.

Tsuneo: Well you effortlessly trashed three of the most powerful Gundams ever. At this point any other challenge is basically meaningless

- > If it were not for

> the damage to the belt and colony, then there would have been no evidence a fight had occurred.

Dan: Apart from the catastrophic damage to the massive space construct, there was no sign that they had ever been there

> The Tri-X closed its charging panels and sheathed its weapons as several vents began releasing steam to cool the gundam after its massive attack.

Dan: How come the battles still going?

Rick: The system's still calculating the property damage

> Rose, Adrian, and Mathias caught their gunplas as the battle system shut down.

> "Battle ended."

> Rose turned to stare at Mathias in shock. "Holy shit. What the fuck was that!"

Rebecca: Mathias' adequacy issues made manifest

> "That, like I said before, was my improved satellite cannon system. I modified it for variable power. I can use one, two, or all three of my satellite cannons depending on the amount of charge my gundam has, and when overwhelming power is needed, I can overclock the system and channel energy through my beam weapons alongside the beam cannons for what I affectionately call full burst mode. Rather powerful, don't you think?"

Tsuneo: Boringly such.

Rebecca: Nothing gets the reader going more than long-winded descriptions of how things work

> "It was rather powerful. Now, how about we start another ma-"

Dan: [Adrian] We just had a Gundam Fight, so before our Gundam Fight let's Gundam Fight.

Rebecca: [Rose] Gundam Fight?

Rick: [Mathias] Gundam Fight Gundam Fight Gundam Fight.

> Adrian was cut off as an exhausted 10-year old girl busted into the clubhouse.

> "Messenger scout Murray, what are you doing here?" At Rose's and Adrian's looks, Mathias elaborated. "The AUF is mainly for teens and adults, but we do allow younger children, especially relatives of our members, on as messengers amongst factions, mainly used during our faction duels and other inter/intra-group activities.

Dan: Nice of her to wait on his block exposition before delivering her urgent message

> Claire Murray here is the younger sister of private Gary Murray, one of the Astray fighters we fought. Now that that has been explained,"

Rick: Now that we've completely killed the pacing

> Mathias turned back to Claire, "what is going on that required the AUF to contact me?"

Rebecca: [Claire] You're in violation of child labour laws.

> "They sent me to tell you to return to the 'Winning Streak' immediately, and that the Zeon High Council has returned."

Tsuneo: Also, why wasn't this a phone call?

Rebecca: What, and rob this small girl of the opportunity to roleplay as a child soldier?

Tsuneo: Well I suppose so

> Mathias's face paled instantly and he rushed out of the clubhouse, Rose and Adrian sharing a look

> before following.

> Mathias burst into the 'Winning Streak' to see a scene he had only experienced once before;

Dan: Two dogs doing it

> a war between gunpla groups.

Tsuneo: Because Gundam fandom is famously tolerant and not prone to tribalism or in-fighting at all

> Every battle system in the arcade was pushed together to generate the

> massive battlefield that included every variant of the fields.

Rick: Ice slurry, methane ocean, abandoned Welsh quarry, former warehouse converted into an overpriced loft apartment... every battlefield

> Two armies of gunpla were fighting, in

> space, in the sky, on the ground, and even underwater. Several had the shooting star symbol of the

> AUF somewhere on them,

Tsuneo: As is required as a part of their club dues.

> but the vast majority had the Zeon symbol.

Dan: They're proud to cosplay as space fascists

> Mathias could also see there

> were clustered areas in the battlefield, and he spotted several of the AUF's best fighters being

> surrounded.

Rick: They got both Lozer and LaBelle

> Dolohov and the Dark Tri-Stars were holed up in a forest that was being destroyed by

> waves of beam fire,

Rebecca: Their enemies clearly have no respect for sustainable forestry

> Alice was slicing through an endless wave of enemies while her teammates provided support,

Dan: Alice? Who the eff is Alice?

> several others were completely surrounded but holding their own, and in the sky,

> locked in a two-on-two battle, were four gunpla Mathias recognized.

Rick: Pestacore, Gastima, MS-Rai and Guncannon Detector

> On the AUF side were Adam and Lilith, the paired gunpla of his parents that were only brought out

> for special AUF events (2).

Dan: They had a Gundam fight at cousin Larry's Bar Mitzvah

> Adam was based on the RX-78NT-1 Gundam "Alex", though it was given

> equipment from several other models. Instead of the standard backpack, it had the wing-styled

> funnel binders of the Hi-Nu Gundam, and several panels along its body opened to reveal the inner

> psycoframe inherent to the Unicorn as it deflected a beam saber with its own and fired a shot from

> its beam magnum, also from the Unicorn.

Tsuneo: Nothing makes a gripping fight scene like the lengthy description of somebody's plastic toy robot

Dan: Boy does it ever

> The Lilith was built from the Gundam Astraea, though like
> the Adam, it was modified. It was equipped with twin shields from the Reborns Gundam as well as
> the GN sword III of the Gundam 00. It's backpack was a modified Raiser unit, a gold color replacing
> the normal blue, with a somewhat bulky box in the place of its cockpit. The purpose of the box was
> revealed when Lilith's left arm was sliced off.

Rick: It contained a box of band-aids

> Hundreds of Karel units flew out and grabbed the
> wayward arm, quickly reattaching it and returning to their container (3).

Tsuneo: Yes, she fit hundreds in there, don't ask how.

> On the side of the Zeon High Council were two gunpla Mathias had hoped not to see again for a
> while. The leader of the Council was piloting a fusion of the Sazabi and Sinanju,

Dan: Its builder had impressively combined two near-identical Gundams

Rick: Cunning

> its twin beam axes
> trying to tear the Lilith to shreds while its twin sets of funnels, doubling the original six of the Sazabi,
> were holding off the funnels and GN fangs of both Adam and Lilith, and facing against the Adam
> was the cloaked form of the Fullbody Gundam.

Tsuneo: Because it wasn't enough about Mathias yet.

> "Alan, it wasn't enough to try and break me, now you are trying to take away what my family worked
> so hard on to make?" Mathias muttered to himself before turning to Adrian and Rose.

Dan: [Mathias] What do you reckon, ditch this place and get wings?

> "Alright, quick
> explanation. The Zeon High Council are nothing more than gunpla-using thugs and criminals

Tsuneo: Just a friendly reminder that this is meant to be a game and people play it because they enjoy it.

> that want the East coast of America under their thumb

Rick: Their Gundam fight based crime syndicate

> before they move on westward.

Dan: Life is peaceful there

> We need to stop them and send them packing.

Tsuneo: It's kind of like challenging a dojo but with plastic model robots, and I don't know if that makes it better or not.

> I'll explain better afterwards.

Rebecca: He's got a lengthy presentation complete with helpful diagrams and charts prepared

> However, if you want to help, you will need to join the AUF to do so, as this is an inter-group conflict.

Rebecca: [Mathias] We'll quickly set up your accounts, get you to sign the waivers, sort out the enrolment fee... It is an emergency, so we can waive the waiting period.

> Here." Mathias tossed them each a
> small sticker of the AUF symbol before putting one on the armor piece of the Tri-X's right forearm.

Rick: [Mathias] I had these ready so I could draft you at a moment's notice.

> "If you want to join, slap that sticker on your gunpla and jump in."

Dan: [Adrian] Nope.

Rebecca: [Rose] I'm good.

> Mathias slapped his GP Base and gunpla down before charging into battle with grim-faced
> determination. Rose thought for a moment before slapping the sticker onto the left front skirt armor
> of the Burning Gundam Beta and launching out next to Mathias, followed right behind by Adrian,
> who had taken the time to neatly place the sticker on his Deathscythe EW Variant's right wing.

Rick: This may be an urgent situation, but there's no excuse for sloppy sticker placement

> The three fighters charged through the enemy, every mobile suit that stood against them falling to
> their onslaught like wheat before a scythe, literally in the case of those defeated by Adrian.

Dan [Bored]: Wow this is thrilling

> Mobile suits from every evil faction of the Gundam multiverse

Tsuneo: Except for the Vagan, because nobody cares

> charged forward, only to be sliced up, pummeled, shot at, and outright obliterated.

Rick: I cannot think of anything more exciting than going to a Gundam fight as a generic mook

> Finally, the three came to a lull in the fighting, and Mathias quickly took charge.

Dan: Good thing he's here, because obviously everyone else here is completely helpless without him.

> "Alright, we are gonna need to free up our best. Adrian," the Tri-X pointed to the slowly deteriorating
> forest, "go assist the Dark Tri-Stars.

Rebecca: [Adrian] Sorry, I thought you said your best.

Dan: [Mathias] They are our best.

Rebecca: [Adrian] We're so screwed

> Rose," the Tri-X then turned to gesture at the veritable mosh pit nearby,

Rebecca: Gundam Mosh Pit sounds like an overpriced Bandai web store exclusive

> "clear a way for Alice and her team. I will go assist my parents."

Tsuneo: Look, you two really don't have any agency in this narrative and have no real lives beyond being accessories to Mathias' story. You might as well accept it now

> His orders given, Mathias
> launched upwards towards the four-way battle, solar panels opening to gather energy. Adrian and
> Rose looked at each other and nodded

Rebecca: [Rose] What do you reckon, just farm kills and leave them hanging?

Dan: [Adrian] Oh, definitely.

> before heading off to their respective targets.

> Mathias stopped the Tri-X just outside the sensor range of the four gundams ahead and checked his

> power supply. Seeing four panels charged, Mathias unfolded the back-mounted satellite cannons
> and fired. The four gundams immediately disengaged to evade the blast,

Rick [Dad]: Son, you almost hit us
Dan [Mathias]: Oh, I know

> but the funnels and GN fangs were all obliterated.

Dan: His mum's going to be so mad...

> Alan quickly opened a com to identify who was piloting this new gundam,

Rebecca: Rather than, say, looking across the table

> only to grin evilly at seeing
> Mathias. "Well, I'm surprised you managed to snap back Mathias! I figured you would still be crying
> over the remnants of your poor little gunpla. Did you move on already? Maybe I was wrong. Maybe
> you're more cold-hearted than I thought."

Dan: [Alan] Maybe you found support from your friends, huh?

> Suddenly, a beam shot erupted from the crossbone
> gunsword the Tri-X just detached from its waist and blasted off the clasp holding the Fullbody's
> cloak, causing it to blow away in the wind. 'I didn't even see that. What kind of gunpla did he make?'
> Alan thought.

Rick: A free sample Blue Frame with some leftover bits of sprue stuck to it and a lashing of glitter paint

> "I'll say this once, give up or I will personally tear you apart." Mathias said in a steely tone, glaring at
> Alan, who merely scoffed at the threat.

> Suddenly, a second com opened, revealing the image of a 23 year old with several facial piercings
> and a spiked blond mohawk.

Rick: Oh no, not Generic Punk!

> He was wearing a white sleeveless shirt with a black overcoat with torn sleeves.

Dan: This guy just hates sleeves

> "You really think you can stand against us a second time?!"

Tsuneo: [Mathias] Well... yes?

> How about you do us a favor, and surrender!

Rick: [Shouting] It would be really considerate of you since I'm asking nicely.

> Maybe I'll let you have a higher rank in the Council's forces than lackey!" The
> figure was Azrael Stevens,

Rebecca: Yes, that's his actual name. Please don't laugh, you'll hurt his feelings

> one of the founders and leader of the Zeon High Council.

Tsuneo: I'm not seeing how the punk theme meshes with the whole Zeon thing.

Rick: Maybe his Zaku has a heat mohawk?

[Pause]

Tsuneo: I didn't even say that one and I'm embarrassed.

> "It's been awhile Azrael.

Dan: How's being substitute Batman going for you?

> Tell me, when was the last time we saw each other? Oh yeah, you and your
> gang were running with your tails between your legs after I reduced your gunpla to swiss cheese."

Tsuneo: Are these guys meant to be intimidating? Because if so, they're failing miserably at it

> Mathias snidely remarked. "We aren't joining you. I thought we made it clear last time.

Rebecca: There were formal merger discussions but they broke down over the issue of creating a shared board and distribution of voting rights

> Guess we just need to hammer the lesson in. However, that's not my job. Mom, dad,"

Rick: His father is going to give you such a stern talking to

> Mathias turned to look at
> the com he opened with his parents, "do you mind handling Azrael, because Alan is mine." he
> finished coldly.

Tsuneo: What is Alan doing here anyway?

Rick: He's Mathias' enemy, he shows up on a 14-

> Michael merely turned and charged forward at Azrael's MS.

Rebecca: Not so much a custom, as what would happen if Jeff Goldblum teleported them together.

> "Give 'em hell son."

> Hannah stared at Mathias before her kind face turned steely. "Show him why one doesn't mess with
> our family."

Dan: You're from Florida. That should be warning enough.

> That said, Hannah joined her husband in combat.

> The Tri-X and Fullbody floated in midair, facing one another. "So you got a new gunpla. Don't think
> that it's gonna make a-" Alan launched his gundam backwards in order to dodge a swipe from the
> beam blade from the Tri-X's weapon, though the gash on the Fullbody's chest showed he hadn't
> dodged fast enough.

Rick: Remember, building a new Gundam makes you a better pilot. Buy more Gundams, kids.

> "Shut up and fight."

> Alan was put on the defensive as the Tri-X let loose a barrage of attacks, the beam blades and
> heated edges of its weapons damaging the Fullbody no matter how quickly it dodged.

Dan: Alan's lost all his power since he's had his introductory fight.

Rick: Its a pretty standard Shonen Antagonist arc

> Finally, the
> Fullbody got enough distance to draw its three beam sabers in a claw like fashion in its right hand

Tsuneo: It was as impractical and uncomfortable as all hell

> and lunged forward, only for the attack to be dodged and the beam sabers sliced in two, before the
> Tri-X shifted its weapon to beam gun mode and blasted the Fullbody's right arm off.

> "Shit!"

> The Fullbody suddenly vibrated before fading away, the upper layer of paint having peeled off to
> form an afterimage.

Dan: And the worst part of it is that little bits of dried paint will be in the carpet for ages

> The Fullbody then reappeared behind the Tri-X. It folded its left hand into a
> spiked fist and engaged the thruster on its left elbow. The arm launched forwards to blow right
> through the Tri-X's chest.

Rebecca: Hopefully taking the rest of the kit with it.

> Moments before impact the Tri-X turned and backhanded the Fullbody's
> arm away and opened the skull mounted on its chest, all six panels on its backpack glowing, the Tri-
> X having been charging its satellite cannons throughout the fight.

Rick: Good thing he remembered to set his satellite cannons to charge overnight

Rebecca: I forgot one time and my satellite cannon ran itself down after a single call

> Alan only had the time to widen
> his eyes before the Fullbody was consumed in the massive energy blast,

Rick: [Mathias] Don't know why I didn't lead with that, really.

> the top two panels losing
> their glow as they folded up to storage mode. Alan scowled and walked away from the battle station

Dan: [Alan] Smell you geeks later.

> as the remnants of the Fullbody fell to the simulated ground below. Mathias watched as Alan left the
> building before flying off to assist some of the other aces in the AUF.

Tsuneo: But he was still dead on the inside

> Unseen by everyone, the invisible Deathscythe EW Variant

Rick: Hang on a moment! Adrian's actually getting his own scene!

Tsuneo: I wonder what he's going to do?

Rick: Adjust his glasses?

Tsuneo: Yeah, probably.

> darted into the forest the Dark Tri-Stars were in and decloaked

Dan: He was immediately taken out by a Zaku I sniper.

> before approaching the three, who were huddled together in their generated
> I-field dome while they came up with a plan to counterattack. Immediately a com opened between
> Dolohov and Adrian.

Rebecca: The other two Tri-Stars were, I don't know, watching cat videos.

> "It is good to see you again Adrian, and good to see you have joined the AUF. I guess I should call
> you comrade now."

Rick [Dolohov]: I say that because I'm Russian. It's my only personality trait. [Pause] My life has no

meaning

- > The other two members of the Dark Tri-Stars jerked at the sudden conversation
- > before opening a com with Adrian.
- > "It is good to see you too Dolohov. Mathias sent me to assist you. Do you have any plans
- > currently?"

Dan: Well he was thinking of going to dinner and maybe a show

- > Dolohov developed a mischievous grin that was soon shared by his teammates. "We had a plan,
- > but I think we have come up with an even better one."

Rebecca: This is going to involve a pile of bird seed. You just know it.

- > One of the members of the Zeon force, specifically a GINN MS user,

Rick: A delightful pink GINN with just a hint of peach and floral notes

- > stopped firing on the forest the
- > Dark Tri-Stars were in. "Man, it's like shooting fish in a barrel! I remember these guys were trouble
- > last time, but now they're a joke!"

Rebecca: Given that they died like morons in their last match, that's really not saying much

- > The fighter next to him, piloting a Barzam, continued shooting.

Rick: Ron, do you ever think our choice of models says something about us as people?

Dan: Nah, I'm just in it for the aesthetic, Hank.

Rick: Me too, Ron. Me too.

- > "It may be easy now, but these guys are top fighters here,

Rebecca: They are not.

- > so don't give them an inch or they'll take a mile." When he got no retort, the
- > Barzam pilot looked over to see the GINN having a hole in its chest

Rick: Huh, when did that happen?

- > before it blew up, launching the Barzam and other mobile suits near it to the ground.

Dan: Maybe don't fight in such close formations when your buddies are made of dynamite.

- > Immediately after, similar explosions began
- > cropping up throughout the Zeon forces. Eventually the Deathscythe EW Variant appeared in an
- > open area of the Zeon forces before drawing its twin beam pistols and began performing a beam
- > shot variant of Reaper's ultimate from Overwatch.

Tsuneo: We take a break from comparing things to Gundam to compare something to something else instead

- > "Shit! Where the hell did this guy come from?!"

Tsuneo: You mean that guy we saw decloak in the Gundam that's known for turning invisible?

- > A GM Quel pilot,

Dan: GM Quel, the epitome of evil amongst GMs.

> who was hiding behind his shield from Adrian's assault, scowled before pulling up
> his rifle and aiming at the Deathscythe EW Variant. "I don't care where he came from! Take him out
> befo-!" The pilot was cut off as his GM was blown up.

Rick: Wait, is your Gundam from an evil faction? We need to know.

Rebecca: I think the real question is how do we measure 'evil' factions. Gundam as a franchise favours blatant 'good guy' and 'bad guy' factions, but there's supposed to be some degree of moral ambiguity along the way, even if it's often not as well presented as it could be

Tsuneo: I suppose you need to establish some sort of sliding scale here. Like, say, put the Zanscar Empire at one end, for pure laughable puppy-kicking evil, and then the Three Ships Alliance at the other

Dan: Right. And I think we have to consider the actual actions here and not any sort of faux moralism either. Like the Vagan being all 'we're genocidal conquerors, but look, cancer orphans'

Rick: Which loops back to my base question; do they have to consider what faction your Gundam comes from when you join them? Or is there a condition of joining that you can only use a Gundam from an evil faction?

Tsuneo: My next question would then be where they draw the line? So for example, is a Zaku always going to be a 'bad guy' suit? Or is it only if you have it painted in Zeon colours with Zeon markings?

Rebecca: Because I don't think that a Zaku painted up like a psychedelic 60s Kombi van would qualify as 'evil'. Or what about if it had Zeon markings but was also customised with a funny hat?

Rick: I think that's a very good question, and, more to the point, far more interesting than the fic

Dan: No arguments there

> The Zeon forces turned to see the Dark Tri-Stars standing at the edge of the forest,

Rick: Oh yeah, we forgot about them.

> one of which was holding up a smoking Raketen bazooka.

> The enemy pilots had only a moment to panic before they were pinned between the Dark Tri-Stars
> and Adrian.

Dan: Say, how many of these Zeon guys are there anyway?

> After a few minutes, the four AUF fighters were standing in the middle of the battlefield,
> destroyed mobile suits surrounding them.

Tsuneo: Thrilling

> "Haha! We showed these Zeon High Council members not to fight with us!" Dolohov then looked at
> Adrian. "Now, we shall go free up more of our allies. Will you join us?"

Dan: What do you think he's been doing for the last five minutes?

> Adrian merely pushed his glasses up. "Of course Dolohov." With that said, the four mobile suits
> launched off in search of more enemies.

> Rose charged right into the horde of enemies and began clearing a path towards Team Nobel,

Rebecca: In her new custom, the MS Snow Plow.

> enemies either reeling back with severe damage from her gundam's devastating punches and kicks,
> or, if they were lucky, reduced to scrap by said attacks.

Rick: They were hurt by her attacks or, if they were lucky, killed by them

> However, all good things must end,

Tsuneo: And this fight as well

> and this one ended with the Burning Gundam Beta being Char Kicked

Rebecca: The kick scored the winning goal and she advanced to the semi-finals

> the remaining distance to Team Nobel

Rick: [Rose] Well gee, thanks for the lift.

Dan: Don't mention it.

> by a red Union Flag.

Tsuneo: An occasionally evil mobile suit.

> The Burning Gundam Beta was

> caught by the Gundam Nobel before it had to deploy its built-in beam shield to protect the two from

> the ranged onslaught pinning the team down, the Nobel Gyan and Nobel Z'Gok forming a triangle

> around the Burning Gundam Beta.

> "It's good to see you again Miss Rose, but I'm afraid you caught us at a bad time!"

Tsuneo: Is there ever a good time with these people.

> Rose immediately raised her gunpla's built in machine guns and opened fire through gaps in the

> beam shield wall, taking down several mobile suits.

Dan: We regret not having names!

> Suddenly, a pair of funnels fired through the

> same gaps and destroyed the machine guns, leaving Rose with only the head vulcans for range.

Rebecca: Gee, wow, if only her kit was built for close combat or something.

> "What the heck was that?!"

Tsuneo: A pair of funnels. Weren't you watching?

> Alice grimaced before launching her beam saber out with her wire mounted arm, only to quickly

> retract it before it hit anything when a RF Zaku

Dan: RF Zaku is what you get when you hit the random button on Zaku models too many times.

> swung its beam hawk down to try and sever the cord.

Rebecca: Notice how it's only Rose and Alice, the two female characters, who are having any problems here while Mathias and Adrian effortlessly crush their opponents

Tsuneo: Funny that

> "We are facing the High Council's Counter Squad. They are a group of skilled fighters that

> work alongside the mooks. They generally pilot mass-produced suits like the rest, but they design

> them better. They are also skilled tacticians who use the troops around them as cannon fodder

Dan: So hang on, you join this evil Gundam club as cannon fodder? Like are there restrictions on what Gundam you can use until you're a made man or something?

Rick: Clearly being an evil Gundam club is serious business

Dan: I can't believe you said that with a straight face

Rick: Me either

> to

> study the enemy's style and secrets before diving in, disabling strengths and exploiting

> weaknesses.

Tsuneo: It's also incredibly wasteful in terms of time and manpower and doesn't work in any kind of sanctioned battle.

> That is why we are still pinned down. They're countering everything we have."

Rebecca: Countering with, um, regular drones, I guess.

> "Well, do you have anything in reserve?"

> "One thing, but it's not guaranteed to get us out, and if it doesn't, we will be sitting ducks."

> "What is it?"

> "Pseudo Trans-Am built through a combination of the EXAM and ZERO systems.

Dan: They're in all caps so they must be important

> Boosts our

> gunpla's capabilities and gives us a much higher combat skill by identifying all sorts of weak spots

> on the enemy,

Rick: [Alice] It also gives us a neat blue glow.

> but greatly wears down the gunpla and gives us a massive headache when it shuts

> down due to all the information it throws in our face."

Rebecca: But since the enemy are simply sitting here and let you talk all about it, then I'm sure it'll be fine

> "Alright, I'll clear out a gap, and you guys use that to plow right through. With luck, we can reach

> another AUF group that has cleared out their area and can strike back fast and hard."

Dan: We're right here, you know

Rick: Yeah, we can hear every word you say

> With that

> said, Rose connected her beam sabers and jumped up into the air before flinging them in a spin,

> thrusters launching her right behind them. The dual ended beam saber, now a beam buzzsaw, cut

> through several enemies on the front line, including the RF Zaku that was caught off guard by the

> unorthodox attack.

Tsuneo: Nobody's ever used a beam sword before!

> The Burning Gundam Beta then dived down so it landed under the still flying

> beam saber and grabbed it,

Dan: [Rose] I went faster than my beam saber because eff you physics.

> splitting it back in two and cutting a large hole in the enemy forces.

> Eventually a Qubeley stepped forward,

Rebecca: Qubeley sounds like the name of an old-timey English guy with a top hat and monocle

> its funnels fanning out and blasting off the Burning Gundam

> Beta's left arm. Rose merely set her Gundam into a low spin kick, launching the falling arm, and its

> ignited beam saber, into the Qubeley.

Dan: Okay, I don't care about the rest of the fic because that was stupid awesome.

> A short dash let her reclaim the beam saber by connecting it to the one in her right hand

Tsuneo: Your plan failed because I have two hands
Rick: Clever!

> and set forth into a dizzying set of twirls to destroy the enemies around her.

Dan: Yep, they really needed that special system to get them out of trouble.

> She was quickly joined by the Nobel team, their mobile suit's visors tinged red and bows
> expanded to reveal vents as they darted around, taking huge chunks of the enemy forces out at
> once. After a couple of minutes

Tsuneo: And ploughing through several battalions' worth of players.

> the quartet burst through the lines, and just in time too, as the Nobel
> mobile suits toppled over as their visors lost their red glow and the bows closed up after releasing a
> final blast of steam.

> "Shit, I hoped that would have lasted longer!" Rose shouted

Dan: That's what her boyfriend said too

> while the Nobel team cradled their heads from their massive headaches

Tsuneo: If this is giving you a headache then maybe Gundam fighting isn't the hobby for you

> before turning to see the remnants of the Zeon high Council's Counter Squad approaching.

Rebecca: You've got to feel great, being the player assigned to be cannon fodder.

> Rose stood between the Nobel team and the High Council's forces in a last stand scenario, only for
> a pair of mobile suits to land in front of her.

Tsuneo: Unfortunately, they were Zudahs so they exploded.

> The first was covered in white armor segments that looked like a blend of cyborg and samurai,

Rick: Or the cover of any given early 90s Cyberpunk TTRPG

> covered with what looked like monoeyes, and silver
> tendrils extended out the back of the head to its waist in a semblance of hair.

Rebecca: Sure it looks cool but they have to spend an hour brushing their Gundam's hair before each match.

> A long sheath was
> attached to its back, which Rose only noticed when the mobile suit, a gundam-style one she
> realized on seeing its twin horn-like v-fin mounted on the featureless helmet

Rick: And its impeccably groomed moustache.

> that formed its face as
> it turned to 'look' at the four and drew its sword, revealing it to be only a hilt before a beam blade
> ignited, turning it into an extended beam katana.

Tsuneo: Its beam sword was like a sword

> The mobile suit next to it was also very interesting

Rebecca: I sincerely doubt that

> as its features from the back were concealed by a yellow cloak with black patterns.

Rick: Yes! Finally the Blacktrons have arrived.

Tsuneo: I don't think it's...

Rick: Just give me this one, okay?

> Its arms were

> wrapped in black coils that suddenly dropped off to form chain whips, green beam energy coiling

> around the chains at

Rick: See? He's even repping Blacktron II

Tsuneo: Okay, fine.

> the end to form snake-shaped hooks.

Rebecca: His hooks were shaped like snakes that were shaped like hooks

> It also turned to look at Rose and the

> Nobel team to reveal a single yellow eye, the rest of its head hidden in the hood of its cloak. The

> two then turned towards the incoming Zeon High Council forces.

Dan: That's okay, silly girls. We'll take it from here.

Rebecca: [Rose] But we just –

Dan: No need to thank us.

> The second mobile suit's chains

> wrapped around the first before they were engulfed in green and black energy. When the light show

> died down, there was only one mobile suit.

Tsuneo: I'd love to see how you build that into a model kit.

> It primarily looked like the first, only its armor and 'hair'

> was bulkier and black with glowing green lining,

Rebecca: It looked like the first Gundam in as far as it didn't

> its hands were now clawed and a tail extended from

> the armor, which had more aesthetic changes. The shoulder pads took on the look of snarling wolf

> heads and its legs became more animalistic,

Tsuneo: They had three toes and strangely placed ankles

> but perhaps the biggest change was its face. Where

> before it was featureless, it now had a mouth of sharp teeth and glowing green eyes, the horns now

> giving off the impression of fox ears.

Rick: When you try so hard to make something look cool that it becomes very dumb

> It raised its beam katana, which turned into a massive black

> and green beam sword that it then swung through the enemy force, slicing a quarter of them into

> pieces.

Tsuneo: Everyone else obligingly stood there and let them.

> The sword shrunk down to a more normal size as it dived in, shredding through the enemy

Dan: We're never going to see these two over-described twerps again, are we?

> (4).

> "I am very thankful they are on our side." Rose said after a pause from watching the carnage.

Rebecca: Because heaven forbid that she do anything herself

> The

> Nobel Gyan managed to turn itself into its back before Alice spoke up, nursing her throbbing forehead.

Tsuneo: Alice is still angry that they won't let her bring hard liquor to the battle system.

> "Yeah, that's Terry and Isaiah for you (5). Out of gunpla, they are always arguing and fighting, but
> throw them into battle and they are unstoppable.

Tsuneo: Informed character is the best character

> They also have a love for that Japanese fighting

> game that was rather popular before gunpla called Blazblue,

Tsuneo: The Guilty Gear you have when you don't have Guilty Gear.

> and their gunplas are direct references to three of the characters, though their names escape me."

Rick: Bob, Larry and other Bob

> "Well, they came at the right time."

Dan: Why? These Zeon guys have been basically dying in droves without any real effort

> Rose then stared down at the Burning Gundam Beta. "After this I

> am going to invest in some ranged capability.

Rebecca: Please ignore the guns that she already has

> So, can you guys move yet?" Rose was answered as

> the Nobel team slowly stood their mobile suits back up.

Rick: [Alice] Somehow my back hurts after that.

> "Excellent, if you can still fight after using that system, let's see if there is anyone we can help out."

Tsuneo: Meanwhile a bunch of Zeon guys just lost to some kids who just showed up with their first ever kits

> With that, Rose set her gundam into flight, the Nobel team following behind.

> Azrael started to sweat as he used his beam axes and shields to deflect the attacks from the Adam

> and Lilith, this pattern having been occurring for the past two minutes,

Dan: [Azrael] Parry, parry, oh parryparryparry, parry some more...

> neither side gaining an edge.

> Suddenly he smirked and lunged forward, his left mounted shield activating a beam blade to impale

> the Lilith,

Tsuneo: [Azrael] I haven't made any progress this way, but this time it'll be different for sure!

> hoping to take it out as its repair Karels kept him from winning earlier during the two-on-

> two fight. Unfortunately for him, he forgot this fight was two-on-one.

Rebecca: Basic situational awareness was his biggest weakness

- > The Adam dove in and sliced the
- > shield, and Azrael's gundam's left arm, in half. Before he could react, the Lilith dove in and removed
- > the right arm before both gundams sliced off the legs, leaving Azrael's gundam a floating body.

Tsuneo: So their plan was to just wait for him to be stupid?

Rick: Hey, it worked.

- > Soon after this, Mathias, Rose, and Adrian joined Mathias's parents in front of Azrael.

- > "So Azrael, ready to admit defeat?" Mathias smirked.

- > "Fuck you!" was Azrael's response.

Tsuneo: Dialogue of the high level I've come to expect from Shining Jewels.

- > (Start playing G Gundam OST-Shining Finger)

Rick: Assuming it wasn't taken down in a copyright strike

- > Mathias's smirk widened. "Very well then, guess we need a show of force." The two energy cables
- > in the Tri-X's arms extended and Mathias slung them over to the Burning Gundam Beta and
- > Deathscythe EW Variant.

Rebecca: [Rose] The hell am I meant to do with this?

- > "Rose, Adrian, mind transferring over some power?"

Dan: Given that he's from Florida, I imagine Mathias is used to siphoning fuel

- > His only answer was the Burning Gundam Beta going into hyper mode

Rebecca: Couldn't do it for her own fight, though.

- > and plugging the cord into its core while the Deathscythe EW Variant attached the cord to itself.

Tsuneo: Hold on, you've got some sort of strange European Gundam. I'll need to use an adaptor

- > The two cords began glowing gold and blue
- > respectively as power transferred from the two gundams to the Tri-X. The cords detached as the Tri-
- > X began glowing a blinding gold

Dan: Except for the bits that chipped and flaked when he cut them off the sprue

- > before it raised its beam swords to the sky, cords reconnecting to them.

Rebecca: Yeah, uh hi. I've got a thing, like, across town. Do I need to be here for this?

- > Immediately the glow died as a massive pillar of Plavsky particles, not the standard beam,
- > erupted from the weapons. All fighting throughout the field stopped as everyone turned to see the
- > massive attack coming from the Tri-X.

Rick: A guy in a Tallgese took the opportunity to shoot him in the back.

- > "Behold the power of my gundam, and of my team!

Rebecca: And by 'team' he means 'the two people who prop him up'

- > This right here is the complete skill and power of

> the three of us gathered into one mighty attack, an attack so powerful it tears the very heavens
> asunder! Get ready Azrael, because here I come! Shining Satellite Sword!"

Dan [Azrael]: Dude, I'm just a floating torso at this point. There's no need to make a big deal over it

> With those words shouted to the heavens, the Tri-X swung the massive pillar towards Azrael. Azrael
> was frozen before an instinctive flight or fight response had him gunning his gundam's thrusters,
> narrowly dodging the attack.

Tsuneo: Couldn't do anything in the minute beforehand it took them to prepare.

> A sadistic smirk formed on his face as a cover on his waist armor
> opened to reveal a high mega cannon.

Rick: Where are you keeping that High Mega Cannon little buddy?

Dan: That's none of your goddamned business

> "Ha, so much for that Mathias! Now die!" However, before
> the cannon could fire, Azrael's gundam began to disintegrate. "Wha-what the fuck?!"

Tsuneo: Somehow he didn't see the giant energy beam coming

> Mathias, Rose, and Adrian smirked at Azrael's panic.

> "You don't quite get it, do you. The Tri-X got more than just energy from my teammates." Mathias
> calmly stated.

> "It also got the hyper mode and sheer power output of the Burning Gundam Beta." Rose continued.

> "But how the fuck did it hit me?! I fucking dodged it!"

Rick: Again, you're just a floating torso. I'm not sure what you thought you were going to do.

> Azrael was then shocked as the pillar of
> particles expanded to reveal part of it going through the entirety of his gundam.

Dan: He somehow hadn't noticed he'd been disintegrated before.

> "As Mathias said, the Tri-X got more than energy from our gundams. From my Deathscythe EW
> Variant, he gained the control necessary to even use the attack, as well as my gundam's cloaking
> ability."

Rick: Yes, he cloaked the massive... beam... saber?

> came Adrian's cold response, light glinting as he pushed his glasses up.

Tsuneo: You know what goes well with a climactic ultimate attack?

Rebecca: More chunky block exposition?

Tsuneo: Exactly

> Azrael panicked as his gundam finished disintegrating and ran from the shop. The remaining
> members of the Zeon High Council looked between them and had their gunplas launch out of the
> stage and to their hands before following their 'fearless leader'.

Dan: Remind me why these guys were a threat?

Rick: They booked for five but there were six people in their group

Dan: The fiends

> (End OST if it isn't already over)

Rick: Hold on, Spotify wants to play me an ad first

> Mathias watched as the last enemy left the arcade before he sagged forward and released a
> massive sigh. "Holy shit I can't believe that actually worked."

Tsuneo: Testing is for losers.

> Rose looked shocked at Mathias's statement. "Wait, you mean you had no idea if that would even
> work?!"

> "Nope!"

Rick: [Mathias] I figured at worst it would just blow up your two kits, so no great loss.

> Rose rushed over and began shaking Mathias by his t-shirt's neckline while Adrian stood quietly to
> the side.

Rick: Hahaha, antics

> "That is quite amazing, your energy transfer system being capable of more than you assumed.

Tsuneo: He did okay that with the other two, didn't he?

Dan: Eh, sure, maybe.

> We

> will have to test the actual limits at a later time. Regardless, I believe you had an explanation for us."

Rebecca: [Rose] Wait, we're still going? I haven't been home in days!

> Mathias pushed Rose away and moved to pick up the only remaining enemy gunpla on the battle
> stations: the Fullbody Gundam.

Tsuneo: The ceremonial desecration of the Gunpla that followed lasted for hours.

> "You're right Adrian. Follow me up to my workshop and I'll give you
> the full story as I know it, as well as your new responsibilities as members of the AUF."

Dan [Mathias]: So first I'm going to ask you to swear a blood oath to never speak a word of what I'm
about to say

Rick [Adrian]: Dude, we just put stickers on our Gundams. We didn't sign up for anything like that

Dan [Mathias]: You put the sticker on your Gundam you get everything that comes with it. [Pause]
Say, have either of you two ever hidden a dead body?

> Mathias walked upstairs to his family's home area, Adrian and Rose following.

Dan: [Rose] Is this going to take long? Can we get some snacks or something?

> Mathias set the Fullbody Gundam on top of his work table before turning to Adrian and Rose, who
> were sitting in his work chair and on his bed respectively, and leaned against his work table. "Alright
> then, allow me to give you the in-depth explanation on the Zeon High Council I promised you before
> that big battle."

Rick: No, no. That's fine. We're good.

> Mathias took a deep breath. "From what I know, the Zeon High Council started as a
> small group of thugs and thieves up in New York.

Rebecca: But then they were priced out of the market

> I don't know exactly what started things, but I do

> know at some point they started a mass forced recruitment drive,

Tsuneo: They forced kids to join their Gundam club by... giving them kits, I guess.

> going up against several gunpla

> groups and battling them and press ganging the losers into their group.

Rick: Join us or die! Can you do no less?

> Their growing influence

> drew more scum like them to their banner, and they moved up towards Maine,

Dan: But were beaten by a cocaine-fuelled Steven King

Rick: In a Gundam fight?

Dan: Sure, let's go with that

> and afterwards they

> headed straight down along the coast. Currently the only areas they don't have an influence in is

> D.C., Georgia, and here. D.C. has some serious police forces, for obvious reasons, and from what I

> heard, Georgia was the first place they had major trouble.

Rebecca: Even after Trump called up Georgia's governor and asked him to 'find' some more Zeon votes

> Apparently they steamrolled most groups they faced through either skill or cheating,

Tsuneo: Just going to take a moment to remind everyone that this is meant to be a game people play for fun.

> but Georgia had a group of four people who called

> themselves the Neo Shuffle Alliance, on account of piloting custom gunpla built by combining the

> Shuffle Alliance gundams with other sets.

Rick: Do we need to know this bit?

> Their top fighter was named Vincent V. Seiei, and yes, he

> does have the same last name as Setsuna.

Rick: Oh, um, okay. I guess we're doing this after all.

> He pilots the 00 Heartful, a Shuffle Heart Gundam with

> the Dual GN Drive system and GN sword bits of the Qan[T], alongside other modifications I

> probably don't know of, and I couldn't find much on his teammates,

Dan: I know his name, his Gundam, the modification it has and its weapons, but I don't know anything about him

> most stuff on the group focused on him. Anyway,

Rick: Um.... Where was I. Lost my train of thought.

> the Zeon High Council weren't having luck against the Neo Shuffle Alliance, so

> they decided to bypass them, head for Florida, and come back for payback when they have better

> fighters.

Tsuneo: And they get better fighters by beating them up, or something, I guess.

> So far, they have a hold everywhere above Orlando,

Rick: And the rest of Florida is controlled by motorcycle riding, drug-dealing ninjas

> but we in the AUF have stopped them from going further.

Tsuneo: So what was the logic here? If they beat you in a Gundam fight then they legally own your arcade?

Rebecca: You know, it's a good thing the author hasn't made it clear as I have no doubt that it would be very, very dumb

> Hopefully they will give up and move on, but I doubt this is the last we will see of them.

Dan: You delivered them an utterly one-sided defeat and effortlessly beat their apparent leaders, so really I don't know what they're meant to do from there.

> Now then, with that explanation out of the way,

Tsuneo: [Mathias] It's time for the in-depth version.

All: NO!

> let's get into what will happen for you guys now that you are part of the AUF."

Rick: [Rose] Oh, we just joined to help out, we're not...

Rebecca: [Mathias] Too late, you're in for life.

> Mathias pushed off his work table and stood before Adrian and

> Rose. "First off, we need to decide on a faction to represent within the AUF. You can join an existing

> faction, or you can represent a new one.

Dan: ...is this a timeshare presentation?

> Since we are a team, how about we start a new one?"

Rebecca: [Rose] Still not sold on this 'team' thing.

> Upon seeing Adrian and Rose nod, Mathias began to think. "Alright, the only faction off the top of

> my head that has no representatives amongst the AUF is Tekkadan.

Rick: The seventies super robot show with an edgy nineties reboot and a cheesy fanservice sequel?

> So, shall we form the AUF branch of Tekkadan?"

Rebecca: Adrian's more of a Londo Bell man himself.

Rick: So he likes really awful faux Mexican food?

Rebecca: Do you do this on purpose?

> Once more, Adrian and Rose nodded.

Tsuneo: Realising that they didn't have any say in it regardless.

> "Excellent! I will be the leader of the faction, given that I'm the highest ranked member,

Rebecca: A rank he only obtained because of his parents. Keep that in mind going forward

> but that really won't be important since there are only three members.

Dan: [Mathias] Naturally, I still get to boss you around.

> With that taken care of, the next order of business is uniforms. Each faction

> has their own official outfits worn during AUF events,

Rick: The Arbour Day Gundam festival is the highpoint of their year

> though you can wear them whenever you like outside of them.

Tsuneo: Little risk of that, I think.

> These outfits generally resemble the uniforms of the faction they represent, though
> you can add your own flair. My mom is friends with the owner of a nearby clothing store, and they
> are our main source for our uniforms.

Rebecca: [Rose] Hang on, your mum is friends with person who makes these uniforms?

Dan: [Mathias] Yep.

Rebecca: [Rose] These uniforms that are mandatory for events at the club your mum runs?

Dan: [Mathias] That's right.

Rebecca: [Rose] No kidding.

> I'll give you the address and you can head there to drop off your own designs when you have them.

Rebecca: Given that they're teenage anime fans, I can only assume that the resultant designs will be black hoodies covered in buckles

> Now then, I'd say this has been an action-packed day, and
> tomorrow is the school tournament, so how about we head home and rest.

Tsuneo: They both left ages ago and Mathias has been talking for himself for the last five minutes

> Besides," Mathias turned to look at the Fullbody Gundam, "I have something to take care of."

Dan: He said, getting out a hammer.

> Adrian and Rose stood up and headed for the door,

Tsuneo: Having been summarily dismissed.

> but Rose hung behind. "Is there something you need Rose?"

Rebecca: Motivation? Character? A reason to hang around this toxic, abusive asshole?

Rick: Besides that, I mean

> "Yeah. Do you have any recommendations on how to upgrade my gunpla? I need some more
> ranged combat."

> "Well, as I said back during our first team battle,

Rick [Mathias]: You're a dumb scrubnuts who will never amount to anything and I don't want to be on a team with you

> the 00 series have excellent balanced designs.

Dan: [Mathias] Hold on, let me just see who's sponsoring me today.

> From your fighting style, I would suggest either the Susanowo or one of Setsuna's. The Exia and 00
> variants are both well built gundams

Tsuneo: In the distance, Kale seethes with resentment. Well, more so then usual

> with a focus for high speed combat like the way you fight, and
> so is the Susanowo, so perhaps a mix build of those would do well for you. Truthfully, I'd suggest
> asking either Alice or Dolohov.

Rick: No, please, don't give them more airtime!

> They are both very good at designing gunpla based on varying styles.

Tsuneo: Yes, they both displayed great imagination and creativity in – I'm sorry, I'm kidding, I just couldn't finish that with a straight face.

> I'm not saying that I'm not,

Dan [Mathias]: I just built an unstoppable overpowered killing machine Gundam in one night while suffering sleep deprivation. I don't know anything.

> but I put in a lot of time and focus into my designs, and if you want
> it ready for the school tournament, you'd be better off asking one of them.

Tsuneo: As their team leader, Mathias absolves himself of all responsibility for aiding them

> And before you point out that the Tri-X was done in less than a day,

Dan: [Mathias] Meth. It is Florida, after all.

> I have various paces. The Tri-X was a spur-of-the-
> moment build, but normally I will spend weeks, even months just on drawing up blueprints, custom
> making the pieces, building the gunpla, coding the various systems, and working out all bugs and
> glitches.

Rebecca: Mathias has no life outside of Gundam fighting, and he's fine with that

> They will get you just as good results in a quicker time. I like to get things just perfect."

Rick: Major diss on Alice and Dolohov there.

> Rose thought it over before nodding. "Alright, I'll talk to Dolohov, then check with Alice. Thanks for
> the advice!" Rose then rushed out of the room to find Dolohov. Mathias sniggered before turning to
> the Fullbody Gundam.

Tsuneo: I'm not sure that we want to know what comes next

> "Now then, you are in much better condition than the others. Let's get you with your brothers."
> Mathias picked up the Fullbody and opened the bottom cupboards to reveal an entire display case.
> The uniqueness of this case was that all the gunpla were in extreme disrepair, some held together
> by glue and wires and others missing parts completely.

Rick: Mathias has a very broad definition of 'technically complete'

> Mathias opened the case and placed the
> Fullbody next to a mixed build of the Exia and Epyon that was heavily damaged, the chest being
> glued together, the left arm held on by some wires, and the entire thing on a stand because the
> lower half was missing. Mathias then closed the case and wiped off the dusty plaque which read
> 'The many gunpla of Alan Hawk'.

Rebecca: Well that's disturbing on many, many levels

> Mathias then closed the cupboard and pulled out his sketchbook,

Tsuneo: A lot of pages have pictures of Alan with the eyes scratched out.

> determined to design a new outfit for his place in the AUF and made before the tournament.
Mathias

> smiled as he began drawing. He always was a fan of Orga Itsuka from IBO.

Rick: Irritable Bowel Obstruction?

> And that's a wrap! This chapter is one I had planned for a while. Like I said at the top, this is the end
> of arc 1 of this story, the Team Formation/Mathias Arc.

Dan: Having skipped the team formation bit.

> Next arc is gonna be the school tournament
> and the opening half of the state competition as well as backstory on Rose.

Rebecca: I can't wait to see Rose spend more time getting beaten up and doing nothing

> Each arc is gonna focus mainly on one member of the group,

Dan: So I guess the third arc will be back to Mathias.

Tsuneo: I thought it would be about Adrian.

[Pause]

Dan: Sorry, who now?

> introducing their story and resolving something about them.

Rebecca: I can't wait for the epic conclusion to Rose's character arc where some guy we've never seen before effortlessly destroys her rival.

> I can't wait to get started, especially the half with the state tournament will feature the full rival team,
> and Rose's rival plays a big part with her.

Tsuneo: Will Rose get any meaningful development in that time?

Rebecca: Depends; does block exposition count as development?

> I won't say anymore because ~spoilers~!

Rick: Stephanie Brown?

Dan: No.

Rick: The Renegade Gobot who turns into a red Lamborghini?

Dan: No!

> I hope you liked the musical suggestion in this chapter.

Tsuneo: I did not.

> I just couldn't help but think of that particular scene from G
> Gundam while writing that segment, and listening to it just gives that extra oomph. I don't think I will
> be doing stuff like that often,

Tsuneo: Thank you.

> but I will make sure that when I do so, the music is perfect for that
> scene, at least in my opinion. Also, I hope some of you were touched at the ending scene.

Rebecca: Seriously creeped out would be a better description.

> While Alan has no care for gunpla outside of victory, Mathias believes gunpla must be cared for.

Tsuneo: Which is why he enters them into plastic toy robot cockfights

> As such,
> whenever Alan abandons the gunpla after losing or drawing in one of his battles against Mathias,

> Mathias will take the gunpla and repair it as best he can to display it as a sort of memorial.

Dan: Like a serial killer keeping trophies, really

> Now then, let's get onto the references.

Rick: Ortensia Whiskers was originally named Sadie in her first appearance.

> (1) This is direct reference to the first episode of Gundam Build Fighters: Battlogue, where Tatsuya
> Yuuki and Allan Adams have their gunpla show off a new feature of the battle systems: AI pilots
> based off the characters of Gundam.

Tsuneo: Nobody was impressed by the AI based off Private Jenkins.

> (2) Yes, Mathias's parents do battle, and they pilot paired gunpla. The Adam and Lilith are named
> after a little unknown bit of trivia.

Dan: Known only by any random guy who watched Evangelion and thought it was deep

> There are some variants of the Bible that have the first humans
> being Adam and Lilith, both made from God. However, Lilith proved unwilling to act subservient to
> Adam and left, and then Eve was made from Adam to act as the lesser sex. Just another example
of
> how the older cultures justified their sexism and misogyny.

Rebecca: Theology by an edgy teenager

> (3) This is done on another trivia from Christianity. Lilith is also sometimes used in media as the
> name for the queen of Succubi, originally dream demons that were turned into sex demons. The
> white and gold backpack with the healing Karels represent Lilith's 'good' human side, while Hannah
> has a second backpack painted black and red to represent the 'evil' demon side of Lilith, and while it
> also has Karels, those ones are built for combat, and pretty much act like piranhas, tearing the
> enemy to shreds. Normally she uses the healing one, but trust me, Hannah has steel in her, I only
> gave you a taste with her comment to Mathias in the big match. Michael would not have married her
> otherwise.

Tsuneo: His mother's entire character is a footnote. That says a lot right there and then.

> (4) I have been on a Blazblue binge,

Rick: And now he's all bloated and gassy

> that is my only justification here. The three gunpla here, in order of appearance, represent
> Hakumen, Terumi, and Susanooh. The third member of that particular team is a GN sword bit
> focused one based on Nu-13. When those three combine it's the Black Beast, made from the
> Plavsky particles, that comes into play.

Dan: Forget Build Fighters' themes of creativity, imagination and building your dreams. We've got
video game references

> (5) For those that don't know what these names reference, look up Swagger vs Bear Glove.
> Hilarious commercials.

Rick: Really?

Dan: No.

> And that's it for the references!

Rebecca: Or you could just assume that your readers are smart enough to figure all of this out for
themselves

Tsuneo: Or better yet, you could create your own ideas and not lean on supposedly clever references for support

Rebecca: I think you're asking a bit much there

> On to the appearing gunpla in this chapter.

Dan: If it ain't Juagg, I don't care.

> None of the newly

> introduced mix gunpla are buildable to my knowledge, but the straight build ones are if they actually

> have sets. Before I head off, let's give a big shoutout to jmasta32 with his OC submission, the first

> one of the story!

Rebecca: Better than creating them yourself.

Tsuneo: Given the characters he created for this fic?

Rebecca: Yeah, okay, good point.

> Yes, Vincent V. Seiei (V is short for Valentine)

Rick: And here was me thinking it was short for Vreeblefretzer

Dan: I like your version better

> and the 00 Heartful are the creations of jmasta32. Sorry J, but he is only a cameo here,

Tsuneo: The term 'overly forced' comes to mind

> but he will be quite the fun character to write out for nationals!

Dan: We can't wait for Mathias to mercilessly grind him into the dust.

> Yes I have plans to go all the way to nationals, but the world tournament will be in a

> sequel story. That's right, I'm planning that far ahead people!

Tsuneo: The fic was cancelled next chapter.

> Granted, I only have an outline for the

> future, but this will be a big story. And don't forget, I'm still accepting OCs,

Rick: Name: Nurdles Womblecrusher

Rebecca: Description: a blurry photo wearing a baseball cap and dark glasses

Tsuneo: Mobile Suit: Fire Wallaby

> this will stay true all the

> way to nationals. After the nationals start, I will be closing OC submissions for Shining Jewels of

> America, and will instead be opening submissions for the sequel.

Dan: This is a very optimistic author

> The Japanese team will of course be Team Try Fighters,

Tsuneo: Because Mathias hasn't gone over canon characters yet.

> so no submission of characters from Japan unless given a justifiable excuse.

> Outside of that, anything goes!

Rick: So if I have a team made up entirely of wombats wearing pork pie hats, the author says its okay

> Welp, that's all I have to say folks, so I'll be seeing you guys in the next chapter! JA NE!

On that final note, the big screen turned off, converting the world over to prose format. "And that was the long string of dropped Scrabble tiles that constitute the second chunk of the Shining Jewels of America," Tsuneo noted. "In which we are indeed in America but there are no actual jewels, shining or otherwise."

"I must admit that I was surprised on many levels by Mathias' parents," Rebecca spoke up. "Both because they are actually aware that Matthias is an aggressively unlikeable piece of snot and also because of their willingness to absolve themselves of any responsibility in doing anything about it."

"Gotta agree there," Dan nodded. "They clearly decided that the best plan was to foster the problem off on a pair of complete strangers rather than try tackling it themselves."

"Thing is, I can see two possible reasons why," Rick considered, "The first is that his parents have genuinely tried seeking professional help for Matthias to try and de-dickify him and make him not awful, but none of that worked."

"Okay, I can see that," Tsuneo admitted. "And what's your second thought?"

"That despite their apparent wealth and influence, his parents are too cheap and lazy to see any sort of professional help," Rick continued.

"...did you just sneak Fic Discussion in there?" Tsuneo asked.

Rick shrugged. "We haven't had it in a long time," he simply admitted.

"But Rick makes a good point," Rebecca nodded. "Because it really does feel like his parents aren't trying. They're aware yes, and they're concerned, but they're not so concerned that they are willing to do something about it themselves."

"The worst part of it is that the character drama is still more engaging than the actual Gundam fights," Tsuneo considered. "Because they're bad on so many levels. They're dry, they're dull, they're drawn out beyond all meaning and also are one-sided squashes that don't add anything to the story."

"They feel more obliged than anything else," Dan offered.

"Definitely," Tsuneo agreed. "You have Gundam fights because it's a Gundam fic and not because there's an actual story reason for them."

"Which is a pretty good summary of this fic, really," Rebecca finished.

"Well, I can see you have a lot to say about the fic," the Voice crashed into the conversation.

"We do," Tsuneo nodded. "None of it is flattering."

"Fantastic," the Voice beamed. "So you'll be so glad to hear that we'll be covering the final part next time."

"I'm glad to hear that there's only one more part of it," Tsuneo considered.

"See? That's the spirit," the Voice agreed without any actual substance.

"You don't listen to a thing we say, do you?" Rebecca asked.

"Good to know," the Voice replied. "I'll see you all then."

"Can't wait," Dan sighed.

"You know what?" Rick spoke up. "We've got a pretty solid line-up of fake Gundam fighters already." He counted off on his fingers. "Ten of them if you include Kale and Mathias. Also if you count Truncator Crumplezone as a person, which is obviously a stretch but there you go."

"It's... definitely something," Tsuneo agreed.

"Right, but you know who else needs considering?" Rick continued. "If we have Kevin then we have to have Isaac and Zephyr for him to crush."

"I can see that you're onto something there," Rebecca nodded. "Zephyr has something like a Rig Contio. You know, looks scary but really is just there to get crushed by the protagonist. And he's really done no work on it beyond maybe giving it what he thinks is a cool paint job."

"Likewise, Isaac has a Unicorn Banshee," Dan suggested. "You know, the sort of thing that is basically the protagonist but with an evil paint job. And again, he's only there to job to Kevin or whoever else shows up."

"You know who would put more effort into his Gundam?" Rick spoke up. "Lynx. I mean it; he'd have a Ghirarga and obviously he'd put an evil kitty face on it and a bunch of guns and stuff. But it'd still be more effort than Isaac or Zeph would put in."

"Lynx strikes me as the sort of competitor who would try to cheat and instead actively make things worse for himself," Dan noted. "Like the Dick Dastardly of Gundam."

"I can see that," Tsuneo concluded. "And Tridosk would be there with a Base Jabbar."

"Why that?" Dan asked.

"So he could literally carry Lynx."

Author's notes:

Vincent V. Seiei was one of the 'please send OCs' who appeared in May Way to the Championship. There's nothing interesting about him otherwise, but I thought that it was worth mentioning.

The biggest problem with this fic is that the Gundam fights are all identical and they are all very dull. They start with long lists of Gundams and what parts they're made from, they drop huge amounts of chunky block exposition and they provide a lot of set-ups that prove to be utterly meaningless in the long run. Now I will say that yes, it is very hard to write a good fight scene and give it some measure of life and energy, and I do appreciate that. But at the same time, it really feels like the fic could have done more with them.

Next time, the inevitable abandoned tournament arc.

Gundam is copyright Bandai

Gundam Build Fighters is copyright Sunrise

Shining Jewels of America written by 8-bit thief

Rebecca Bartley and Rick R. Mortis created by Rick R. (natch)
Tsuneo Tateao and Dan created by Zogster

Questions? Comments? Complaints? Terrible teammates? Email us at [elmerstudios00 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:elmerstudios00@gmail.com) and register your Jeff.

The Elmer Studios Blog
<http://elmerstudios.blogspot.com.au>

Elmer Studios MSTings, commentary, random thoughts and other stuff

Elmer Studios!

<http://www.heavens-feel.com/elmer/>

All of Elmer Studios' MSTings, random DELTA Invasion Episode Generator and other stuff in one spot

> He then thrust his control orb forward