
Episode 245 – The apple, a musical. And by that, we mean the Horrible Secret of Space.

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. The sky was overcast, leaving the world outside with a distinctly dull and grey pallor.

“...the publisher loved it,” came Rick’s voice from the hall outside, moments before the door opened. He and Dan entered, with Rick jotting down notes on a tattered old notebook as they went.

“What did they say?” Dan asked, the eagerness showing in his voice.

“That... Hold on...” Rick paused as he flicked through his notes, then read off from them. “The giant robot cowboy character and situation are so wildly preposterous and unbelievable as to be an automatic hit among sugared-up pre-teens.”

“Well, I am just that awesome,” Dan replied.

“And that wildly unbelievable,” Rebecca shot back. She and Tsuneo followed closely behind the other two.

“Anyways, he likes the pitch. He wants to see some story ideas before he confirms it, but it looks like a winner,” Rick told Dan.

“So what are you going to do now?” Rebecca asked.

“Figure I’ll get some more stories from Dan for the comic,” Rick replied.

“You’re always pumping him for ideas,” Tsuneo mentioned.

“Actually, yeah.” Dan paused for a second and rubbed his chin in thought. “You know what, for all I’ve spun tales of my amazing heroism and bravado, I haven’t really heard much of your adventures.” Unseen behind him, Rebecca mimed ramming a finger down her throat while Tsuneo elbowed her.

“That’s a really good point, you know.” Rick nodded in thought. “Yeah. See, I couldn’t get a comic out about all of it, so I haven’t really thought about telling those stories in a while.”

“How come?” Rebecca asked. “Did the government clamp down on releasing information on the enemy?”

“Huh? Oh, no, I never could get a publisher to bite,” Rick replied.

“Besides, I’m not sure I’d really call it an adventure. There was a war on, you know,” Tsuneo chided Dan.

“Yeah, but we had some fun times too,” Rick said.

“C’mon then, give us one of them,” Dan prompted as he dropped himself onto the couch.

"Look, my favourite was actually an old supply depot of ours," Rick replied. "See, we'd spent a while skirting around enemy patrols to find this place, built into the base of a mesa, except that it had already been taken over! The patrols had been coming out of there in the first place."

Tsuneo picked up from him. "It turns out they were using it as the staging base for the eastern front of their ground campaign. We knew that remnants of our army were assembling nearby, but they had enough troops stationed at this depot to wipe them all out."

"So we had to blow them up," Rick simply surmised.

"Oh, of course!" Dan agreed. "Stuff gotta blow up."

Rick nodded back. "Right! So they sent us two in with a couple of captured enemy units on a good old false flag operation. We were meant to get out a signal, whereupon our group stages a diversionary raid which gives us time to blow their stockpile."

"Except of course, it didn't work, right?" Rebecca asked.

"Naturally," Tsuneo replied. "As it happened, they had a surprise inspection from one of their bigwigs in his huge fancy mech, just as we're stepping in. Now Rick was going with the old busted communicator routine—"

"Classic," Dan added.

"Classic," Rick agreed.

"—but security had been tightened, and they weren't buying it. The VIP takes an interest in our mechs, and it looks like everything's going to fall apart."

Rick took over, almost gushing with enthusiasm. "I do some absolutely epic bluffing to buy us time, and wind up crashing into their maintenance bay. So we've got shut down mechs toppling all over the place and the boss man comes charging in after me. That gave him," he indicated to Tsuneo, "A clean run at their reactor, while I front up to the named bad guy."

"And with all that, you made it out alive?" Rebecca said, almost unable to believe her words.

"Barely," Tsuneo replied. "I give the reactor some time before it blows for us to make our escape, only to get pinned down by enemy fire in the loading dock. I can't advance without being cut down, and I can't hold there or I'll get blown to pieces."

Rick took over once more. "So this lunatic grabs hold of a transport sled and uses it as a shield to bull rush his way right through them!"

"And on the way out, I see that one," Tsuneo nodded over to Rick, "Skating out on a flatbed truck dragging half the commander's unit with him."

"Fortunately our team was there to cover our escape, so we made a clean getaway, complete with a high-ranking prisoner," Rick finished. "Madness, that was."

"That must have been huge!" Dan burst out. "An army of goons, an exploding base and a boss battle to

boot.”

“It was something of a turning point, really,” Tsuneo replied. “After that we met up with the army remnants and got some valuable intel from our prisoner. Without that, we never would have made it to our final assault.”

“Now this I gotta hear about,” Dan said.

“Next time, perhaps,” The New Voice broke in. “But for now, you have another story to attend to.”

“Really, Gosei? This has to be better,” Dan shot back.

“Oh, no doubt,” it replied with a chuckle. “But you have a job to do.”

“Don’t worry about it,” Rick said as they sat. “We’ve got lots more to tell.”

“Unfortunately, it seems the fic does too,” Tsuneo added as the screen turned on, changing everything to script format.

> The Apocalyptic Battle

> Episode 5: Thy Kingdom Come

Rick: In which Superman beats up and imprisons thinly veiled Image characters, and it is awesome.

Rebecca: I thought that was ‘What’s so funny about truth, justice and the American way’.

Rick: No, that was thinly veiled Wildstorm characters. Big difference.

> Tom and Arcane the Angel of Justice flew across the long shores of the red sea

Dan: [Shouting] Why red sea not red?

Rebecca: Getting started early, I see.

> entering the holy land known as jerusalem,

Dan: I didn’t know that Jerusalem was by the Red Sea.

Tsuneo: The outer suburbs sprawl a long way.

> they had flew seven hours ago at top speed, the whole ordeal feeling fishy to Tom

> senses.

Tsuneo: What, the part where they abandoned his friends in the face of danger?

Rick: No, the part where Arcane filed a comprehensive life insurance policy on Tom before they left.

> "Er...Yo Arcane, you got a reason why you're taking me halfway across the world?"

Rick: He’s earning frequent flyer miles while still charging it to his expense account.

> Arcane said nothing as the pair streaked through the evening sky.

Rebecca: This is the best dialogue in the fic so far.

> Arcane slowly tilted his head to his right side slightly, looking over his shoulder to see a confused
> Tom.

Tsuneo: I think that's his natural state.

Rick: I thought that getting excited by nineties video games was his natural state.

Tsuneo: That too.

> "You must learn of your heritage better than this Tom,

Rebecca: Tom's heritage disowned him.

Rick: Even Tom's Uncle?

> you are aware that you are a full blooded Angel,

Tsuneo: ...of course he is. That makes such logical sense to the world.

Rick: Oh-oh. I sense origin story coming.

> one of the shito, the protector of this world along with the weapon."

Dan: Guardian of the sacred blade of the dread beast Zomulgustar.

Tsuneo: This is going to be more Delta Theology, isn't it?

> His voice was low and calm, which sent a small feeling of fear up his spine.

Rebecca: When people don't over-react and turn things into a festival of shouting and threatened violence, Tom gets uneasy.

> Not fear of Arcane,

Rick: But an irrational fear of lemurs [Ding].

> but the fear of knowing nothing to defeat Xeruel,

Dan: He found the console, he switched on god mode, he used the Komani code... Nothing worked!

> being left in the hands of the man that almost destroyed Nerv single handedly.

Tsuneo: Apparently, backstory happened. But we don't need to know about it.

Rebecca: Clearly.

> The pair both trailblazing over the red sea

Rick: Setting fire to obstacles for bonus time and only just making it to the checkpoints.

> and over to Africa said no other words after this until they reached a small desert.

Rebecca: The Sahara, maybe? Biggest desert in the world and all that?

Tsuneo: It might be a different African desert.

Rebecca: Oh yes, because the Kalahari is so small.

> There, Arcane and Tom came to adrupt halt, floating above the ground only three feet.

Rick: [Arcane] Whoops, outta juice. We gotta walk from here.

> "Did you study the bible as a child Dyron?"

Dan [Tom]: Yeah; bible pages make for the best roll-ups. I got so wasted off that stuff.

> "Yeah, until I read how much crap was in it, dumb laws, stupid pricks who got killed...

Rick: Hey, Jesus died for you. Have a little respect for his brotherly love and all.

Dan: Yeah. Respect Jesus or else he'll kick your arse.

Rick: You're damn right he will.

> but yeah, I read the bible..." Tom stopped as his feet touched the ground slowly,

Tsuneo: Tom's terrible at reverse parking.

> leaving several rings of dust onto the desert floor.

Tsuneo: Yes, dust. What one expects to find in a desert.

Rick: It must be scattered all over the floor.

[Tsuneo groans]

> Arcane released a short sigh from his lips as he landed next to Tom,

Rebecca: Of all the potential saviors of all creation, Arcane had to get lumped with this one.

> his hood slowly slipping off of his head, revealing his handsome face.

> "Let me rephrase the question.

Tsuneo [Arcane]: Just how stupid are you?

Dan [Tom]: More than you can imagine.

> Did you read the teachings of the creation of the first man and woman?"

Rick: I skipped to the end. Spoilers and all.

> he said as he began to walk ahead of Tom, his voice firm and upstanding. Tom blinked twice then

> voiced his answer.

Dan: [Shouting] God are red sphere in space!

Tsuneo: Delta theology, folks.

> "Er..yeah, Adam and Eve, the garden of Eden and stuff like that, right?"

Rebecca: You know, the stuff that most people know by the time they're in primary school?

> Tom stood still as he whistled a

> bit, watching the movements of Arcane. "That stuff is like gone, right?"

Rebecca: Like, totally.

> Arcane didn't say anything from his lips, placing his right hand into a pool of reality,

Rick: Gotta check for reality leaks, otherwise you get these horrible pools of it in the corners. They can get nasty if left to stand.

Tsuneo: I think it's the only way we're going to get any reality in this fic.

> the air before him rippling several times. "Right??" Tom's voice began to crack up slightly.

Rebecca: He can't believe this crap, and he wrote it.

> "Arcane God Damn...oooff" Tom had not got to finish his

> own words as a stream of flames burst into his chest,

Tsuneo: Incinerating him in an instant. The end.

Dan: If only.

> sending him reeling across the desert, skidding across the ground.

Rick: Tom's like that. Try to take a corner with any speed and it's skidding all over the place. You pretty much have to fight it through the curves.

> "THOU SHALT NO USE THY LORD'S NAME IN VAIN!!!" a godly-like voice

Rick: Relative of yours? [Rick glances up at the ceiling]

Voice: That would be telling.

> erupted from the mouth of

> the ripple of reality, seemingly being the source of the fire and the voice.

Rick: It's the Metatron, and he's pissed!

> "THOU COMETH UPON HOLY GROUND, STATE THYSELF TO THEE!!!"

Rebecca: And verily, thou shalt maketh the fakey-type Shakespearan talk.

> Arcane's eyes fluttered slightly, blinking as he recalled the voice which came from the ripple of
> reality,

Dan: The voice that you usually only hear when completely high.

> fixing the hood which was now off of his neck.

Rick: [Arcane] Whoops, hold a sec with the divine revelations and stuff... my cloaks on crooked.

> Tom's slowly curled his upper torso into a sitting position as the flames that burst upon him left a
> seering hole in his

Tsuneo: Wait, does Tom have a hole in him now? I think this fic's looking up.

Rebecca: Looks more like there's a half-sentence left hanging.
Tsuneo: Damn it!

> "It is I, Arcane, the fourth of the throne of god, your brother

Rick [Arcane]: Can I borrow five bucks? For old time's sake.

>Gabriel..." the ripple began to expand, growing more wider by the second,

Rebecca: Ignore a leak too long and that'll happen eventually.

> absorbing reality each moment.

Dan: And replacing it with pink truffle sponge.

> A sudden flash of light absorbed both the fallen Tom and Arcane

Rebecca: And some overly curious Meerkats that were nearby.

> as they were surrounded in a light made of the energy of the heavens.

Rick: And this is where they're taken off to be probed by the little green men.

> "Welcome back Arcane, I have not seen you for several centuries...."

Tsuneo: You never call, you never write...

> The masculine figure of an angel

> formed in front of Arcane, wearing a pure white robe made of silk.

Rebecca: It's angelic silk. Take our word on this.

> His body was muscular and well defined, a living giant to those who looked upon him.

Dan: Gabriel immediately asks Tom if he even lifts...

> His height reaching almost towards the sky as his eyes were literally flames.

Rick: Hey, uh, you got a little... you know... in your...

Tsuneo: I think he knows.

Rick: Oh, right.

> His hair were several curls of autumn flew over his shoulders.

Rebecca: Fic, don't try to do metaphorical description. It's not you.

> The being also held a sword,

Tsuneo: Just like, well, everyone else in the fic. I'm surprised Rei didn't have one.

Rick: She does, but she only keeps it for going to Cons.

> a sword of pure flames which were divine in nature

Rebecca: As opposed to all the secular flaming swords out there.

> as the smell of brimstone came from the crimson burst.

Dan: Really? To me it smells like barbecued dog hair.

> "You do not come alone I noticed, you come with Lilin,

Tsuneo [Angel]: Is he your 'plus one'?

> very well, you may enter the garden of eden

Rebecca: Just remember to wipe your feet.

> and sample the fruit of life..."

Rick: And be sure to stop by the craft stand to get some locally produced souvenirs and support the community.

> Arcane simply nodded as Tom removed his rear off the ground, dumbfounded.

Dan: [Shouting] I have hole in gut on fire!

> "Who the hell is he and what the hell is going on man?"

Rick: Hey Dan?

Dan: Yeah, I know. It's like the fic's trying to take my job.

> Tom muttered, scratching his rear as he walked past the Angel with a smug look on his face.

Dan: [Gabriel] Seriously? This is your savior figure?

Rick: [Arcane] Best we got. Might as well just pack up creation and get it over with.

> "Yeah, I'm with Arcane, whatcha gonna do 'bout it? I'll kick

> y'ass!!" he said in a feeble attempt to punk off the Angel.

Tsuneo: Confronted with the almighty and Tom remains the same mouthy idiot. I suppose I should be glad for the consistency or something.

> The garden of Eden was a tropical paradise, the homeplace of

Rebecca: A variety of exotic diseases.

> Adam and Eve before they were cast out of heaven,

Rick: And moved into a housing estate on the bad side of town.

> a lush valley with tall grass, animals which were natural enemies slept by each other

Dan: Like Star Wars and Star Trek fans.

> as a waterfall streamed a river through the valley.

Rebecca: And people leeches free downloads off it.

> Tom said nothing while his head tilted to the direction of Arcane,

Tsuneo: Arcane was pretending to ignore him. Truth is, everything Tom says or does causes him to cringe with embarrassment.

> only to notice that he was

> walking towards the middle of the valley to a tree which almost seemingly reached to the heavens.

Rick: It's your basic symbolic world tree that encompasses all creation, both in this world and the others appropriate to your mythology. You get 'em all the time.

> "Come with me Tom, it is time that you eat of the Tree of Life,

Rebecca: Remember kids, if a strange celestial being that you don't know offers you fruit from the forbidden tree, just say no. Tell your parents or the nearest divine entity instead.

> to open your eyes and know of the truth..."

Rick: About ancient astronauts, crystal skulls, the pyramids, ley lines and the little rings you get around the top of milk bottles.

> His voice trailed off as he raised right hand into the air,

Dan: By the power of Grayskull!

> his palm glowing with a blueish aura, angelic by origin

Tsuneo: Divine aura colour-coded for your convenience.

> as the aura released itself from his hand, taking up a rather large apple from a branch.

Rick: Well it's pretty clear what's going on here. Even I can see it.

Rebecca: Oh good. I'd hate to think there was any ambiguity.

Rick: Yep. An eighties musical is about to break out.

Rebecca: ...do you do this on purpose?

> "The fruit of the tree of life is sacred,

Rick: [Gabriel] Which is why we're giving it to this redneck twit.

> for those who eat of it will know the truth of god, and the destiny of mankind."

Tsuneo: That's not how it works, fic.

Dan: How do you know so much about your Bible trivia anyway. Not to stereotype, but I didn't see you as being the religious type.

Tsuneo: I did a lot of research for that paper I wrote.

> he stopped for a moment as the apple landed into his palm, gazing at it with sheer delight

Rebecca: And now pause on that and instant Twilight cover.

> as Tom timidly paced himself behind Arcane,

Dan: [Tom] With luck, they'll forget that I'm here.

Tsuneo: With luck, we'll forget that he's here.

> each step he took added to his fear, the fear of truth, the

> fear of his morality and the fear of the unknown.

Rick: The fear that somewhere, someone was laughing at his fanfic.

> Soon enough, he was standing next to the Angel of Justice, which held the apple to Tom's chest.

Dan: You know, for all this wonderment about the apple and everything, there's a really basic question that needs to be answered.

Rebecca: And what is that, she asked with no small amount of trepidation?

Dan: Is it red or green?

> "You want me to EAT that? Helllllll no..."

Rick: [Tom] Maybe if you fermented it into a cider first...

> Tom turned his head away from the apple and closes his eyes.

Dan: [Tom] 'cause it might have like... I dunno, worms and stuff.

> Arcane chuckled lightly as he smiled,

Rick: [Arcane] Heh, yeah, he's always like this.

> placing the apple to his lips.

> "What do you have to be afraid of?" he spoke in a sing-song voice,

Tsuneo: An indirect kiss?

> or at least his best imitation, being one of holy background and origin.

Dan: What are-

Rick: You did that.

Dan: I did?

Rick: Yep.

Dan: Even with the 'cheep cheep cheep' bit?

Rick: Uh-huh.

Dan: Well there you go. [Pause] Up for some fake football later?

Rick: Always.

> A thin bead of sweat began to roll down the back of Tom's head as
> he looked at Arcane, his eyes flatlined along with his lips.

> "What? I'm afraid?"

Rebecca: Yes, the only thing Tom Dyron fears is proper nutrition.

> "No, I'm just implying that since you don't want to eat this apple, you must be in fear of something..."

Tsuneo: I'm not sure what's worse how childish this all seems or how effective it is on Tom.

> "IMPLY THIS!!!" Tom grabbed the apple from Arcane and started to chew on it.

Rick: Thrill as Tom Dyron eats an apple in defiance!

> With three bites, he was only left with the core of the apple, which he threw into the valley stream.

Rebecca: It's rarer that you encounter an edible holy relic. Well, at least one that's genuine.

> "See, I told you I ain't no chicken shiitt-yooo..."

Dan: Cut to Tom being beaten up by Biff Tannen.

> Tom began to dizzy, his feet slowly losing strength as he began to fall backwards.

Rick: Arcane promised to catch him while chuckling to Gabriel.

> "This some nice weed...."

Tsuneo: Apples, another introduced invasive pest species.

> Arcane's eyes began to glow with their angelic amber essence
> while Tom blacked out, watching the body with idle care.

Rick: Time to sharpie up his face, pull his pants off and post pictures on the internet.

Rebecca: So every morning for Tom then?

Rick: Pretty much.

> "You must learn the truth Lilin, the key to humanity belongs to you, for that is what you are..."

Dan: There's the plot, folks. Only took us five chapters of grunting and knees to the groin to get there.

> "Where, where am I?" Tom's eyes fluttered open as he found himself in the body of a seven year
> old boy, in a pool of blood, feeling tears roll down the sides of his cheeks.

Rebecca: And this is pretty much every morning for Shinji.

> His body felt a burning pain within his being.

Tsuneo: The eternal torment that is being Tom Dyron.

> The boy slowly tried to get up as it crawled across the wooden floor. His eyes were
> blurry, mainly from the tears in his eyes and the verge of passing out.

Rick: And from crying like, uh... a small boy. Okay, so that one didn't work out.

> [To Be Continued]

Tsuneo: Wait, what? That was a chapter.

Dan: You're upset about that?

Tsuneo: Of course not. I just wish the rest would go that fast.

> Episode Six: Synchro 720%

Rick: Nonsense synch rates? It must be Delta!

Tsuneo: You're really looking forward to this, aren't you?

Rick: An Invador fight? Oh hells yeah.

> [Background Music: Come With Me-Puff Daddy]

Rebecca: It's official. This fic is now so six weeks in mid-1998.

> Steven Hikari, pilot of Evangelion Unit 3

Dan: He got is Evangelion pilots license in the mail. All he had to do was send away a half-dozen cereal box lids, but it was so worth it.

> and lieutenant of Nerv 2 in the weaponry commision.

Rick: The weaponry commission? What does he do, draw guns and swords on Deviantart for anyone who'll pay him?

Rebecca: Say Rick, how is that whole 'commissioned work on DA' thing working out for you anyway?

Rick: I'll never be clean again.

> At the age of 18 years old, he was asked to be a back up pilot for Tom Dyron.

Rebecca: Which is weird, because usually Tom was up his back- [Tsuneo hits her with a cushion]

Tsuneo: Really?

Rebecca: I was bored.

> Today, if he could go back in time to change his mind, he would.

Dan: He would defy all the laws of time and space to make sure he had a different breakfast this morning.

> It was 2018

[They all check their watches]

> and the 20th Angel known as Azeroth

Rick: And the other angels, Sanctuary and Aiur.

> was laying waste to the eva series and their pilots.

Rebecca: So while Tom was off trying to talk smack to the almighty, his friends were fighting and dying in his place. Our hero, folks.

> One fourth of Tokyo was in utter ruin,

Rick: One fourth in mild discomfort, one fourth in spontaneous celebration, and one fourth wondering why it wasn't a quarter.

> nothing left to be salvaged.

Tsuneo: To be fair, this is Tokyo on any given day in any given giant robot anime.

Dan: Leave the Bronx.

> Most of the residents had fled to the underground evacuation ducts of Nerv

Rebecca: 'Underground evacuation ducts' makes it sound like they're in the sewers.

Rick: I think I still have an album by Underground Evacuation Ducts.

> in hopes that they would not be destroyed. Little help did that,

> Azeroth was an angel of intelligence

Dan: He can't be that smart if he's in this fic.

> and his first move was destroying most of the evacuation hostiles,

Rick: So he destroyed the people who were against evacuation? Well, their fault for staying there.

Tsuneo: I'm pretty sure that's not what the fic meant.

Rick: Well what did it mean?

Tsuneo: ...I have no idea.

> making the survivors flee to Nerv, the only refuge they had left.

Tsuneo: While we're at it, is there any reason why he's going after the civilians?

Rick: Any reason why you're still thinking about this thing?

Tsuneo: You know me, I just can't help it.

> Steven

> knew this, and he knew that he had to pilot the eva just to save Tokyo from destruction.

Rebecca: Given that it's a quarter gone already, you might want to get moving already.

> Right now he rests his head in the cockpit of Evangelion Unit Three,

Dan: Poor Steven doesn't even get his own made-up Evangelion.

> whispering to himself, feeling worthless.

Tsuneo: Given all that he's achieved so far? It's a fair self-assessment.

> "Come on you stupid thing....work..." he whispered as his voice slowly began to break up.

Rick: Most of his voice burned up on re-entry, but some chunks landed in Western Australia.

> The last voice he heard was Asuka's scream

Rebecca: Asuka screaming and helpless? It's definitely an Invador fight then.

> before his Eva's battery was ripped apart and core was ruptured. He by

> choice couldn't continue fighting without risking a nuclear effect.

Rebecca: His separate atoms might exchange covalent bonds, and he didn't want that.

> "Status report on 20th Angel?"

Tsuneo: It's fine. Thanks for asking.

> Gendo Ikari spoke slowly to the communication officers below him in Nerv.

Rebecca: Though to be fair, that's how Gendo sees everyone.

> One of them

Rick: I don't know who. Let's call him Bob.

> turned his chair around to face Gendo and shook his head sadly.

> "Commander, Eva-03 and Eva-02 are seriously damaged

Rick: What? We've been missing out on an Invador fight? I feel ripped off!

Tsuneo: You want the fic to be longer?

Rick: Well... no. But if I had the choice between most things in this fic and an Invador fight, I know what I'd go for every time.

> and the 20th Angel is headed towards the second line of defense.."

Rebecca: A row of protesters armed with placards and slogans.

> Gendo nodded, his movements slow but sure, the Angel was headed for Nerv

> and prepared to destroy them all, but why?

Rick: Because NERV was home to the world's last Tim Tam, and they would do anything to have it.

> Lilith was destroyed along with Adam, what could they want from them.

Tsuneo: Careful, fic. Don't question your own plot.

> "Prepare Evangelion Unit-04..."

Dan: Start trimming the parts from the sprues and assembling them.

Rick: Plastic toys are what Evangelion is really about.

Tsuneo: You're missing the point.

Rick: Right. Plastic toys and fetishistic figure models.

Tsuneo: Much better.

> Gendo spoke with confidence, his glasses glaring a bit over the view

> screen. The young communications officer gulped slightly as he checked in the status with Misato

> over a communication link.

Rebecca: Misato had set her status to 'getting all liquored up'.

> He turned around again to face Gendo as he shook his head.

> "Negative sir, primary synchro testing for the Evangelion was not configured by Nikaido yet

Rick: Remind me who that is.

Tsuneo: Nobody we know or care about.

Rick: Gonna have to narrow it down a little.

> and would possibly go berserk on activation...."

Rebecca: EVA-04 is just not a morning person.

Rick: They roused it from its hibernation under a rock in Canada. What did they expect?

> Gendo whispered for a moment as he barked out another question.

Tsuneo: A whispered bark, sure.

> "And the newest model correctly set up for Hikari?"

Rick: Evangelion Unit 05 bis dash M dash U. Mark II. Tropical.

> "Negative, the core is missing along with the configuration data by Yazama,

Dan: Matt kept all his data on the collection of crumpled napkins in his pockets.

> on another note, Yazama was found dead near Unit-03's cage earlier today..."

Rick: Delivered with the gravitas of reporting that the vending machine is out of Crunchie bars.

> Gendo was dumbstruck, was everything going to hell?

Rebecca: And more to the point, why didn't Gendo know that before now?

> Was the Angel going to kill them all simply because something was going absolutely wrong?

Tsuneo: Some days you get nothing but bad breaks. And some days you get mixed blessings.

Rick: Your planet gets invaded, which is bad. But you meet a girl, which is good. But then her parents don't approve of you, which is bad. But then, they survived the alien invasion, which is good.

Tsuneo: So how's the engagement going?

Rick: ...slowly.

> "Magi has been asked what to do in this situation

Rebecca: It suggests getting your affairs in order and prayer to whatever gods you may believe in.

> and it said to send out salvage for Unit-03 for repairs."

> "Make it so then." Gendo spoke emotionlessly as he glanced down at the young officer. "Status
> Report on Evangelions 00 to 01..."

Rick: [Communications Officer Bob] Unit 00 wants to know if it's been recoloured yet.

Dan: [Bob] Unit 01 wants its blanky.

> "On Elevator shafts 17 and 18 sir..." Gendo grinned for he had a plan,

Rebecca: [Gendo] Smother them with the bodies of our dead!

> he wasn't commander of Nerv for nothing.

Dan: Really? I thought he was in charge because he'd been banging Yui.

Tsuneo: Gendo had more qualifications then that, and you know it.

Dan: Right. Banging everyone else probably helped.

> "Reroute both Evangelions directly in front of the Nerv complex, shafts 34 and 36

Rick: Who is the clone who would give his life for his brother clone?

Dan: Shaft 34s and 36!

Rick: You damn right.

> and leave them on

> standby until I say otherwise." several communication officers got to work with the technicians to start

> the rerouting as Gendo looked towards the communication screen,

Dan: [Gendo] What's the matter with this thing? What's all this churning and bubbling? You call that a communications screen?

Rick: [Bob] No sir, we call it 'Mr. Coffee'. Care for some?

> the Angel Azeroth headed towards Nerv. "The 20th Angel..." he thought. "Dyron was right...."

Tsuneo: First time for everything.

> Meanwhile, at Nerv 2,

Rick: Electric boogaloo.

> every single officer was alert of the current status of emergency.

Rebecca: The commander had lost his keys, and they couldn't switch off the alert without them.

> Commander

> Fugisawa lay still in his crimson red chair as he looked down at the Extension of MAGI

Rebecca: Mainly it was used for hosting porn. Lots of porn.

> which had been
> installed in this new Underground Base which was Nerv II. Los Angeles had been chosen for being
> the best place for current resources and place.

Tsuneo: It was a good choice save for it being, you know, underwater and all.

Rick: But couldn't it have survived Second Impact like Deltaverse San Francisco did?

Tsuneo: Sure, let's go with that.

Dan: But what if it got taken out in The Big One too?

Tsuneo: ...do you two really think about this fic that much? Really?

> "Can we activate the mass product models?" asked Fugisawa with absolutely no emotion in his
> voice.

Rick: [Fugisawa] I'm sorry, that read was terrible. Can we retake? What? Keep rolling?

> A young Nerv officer, Jennifer Dawson, new main Eva engineer of Nerv 2,

Rick: Do you think she knows Communications Officer Bob?

Tsuneo: More likely that she's a part of their huge 'not going to explain it' crowd.

Rebecca: A girl in one of these fics? You're probably looking at her entire characterisation right there and then.

> turned her head to face the Commander.

> "Sorry, Commander, they are not operational."

Tsuneo: As the commander, you should probably know this already.

Rick: Turns out the Evangelions were shipped with Japanese umbilical cords and nobody has an adaptor.

> "What of Units 19, 20, 21 and 22?" replied the Commander,

Tsuneo: And what happened to units 14 through 18?

Rick: Well, you've got two options there.

Tsuneo: Hit me.

Rick: Firstly, it's part of the whole fic's nonsense RP 'our little world' backstory that you're never going to find out about like everything else in here.

Tsuneo: Highly likely. What's the other option?

Rick: They actually tell you, and you wish you didn't know.

Tsuneo: And I don't know which would be worse.

> sounding a little bitter and angry now.

Rebecca: It's not the end of the world that bothers him; rather, it's how this screw-up's going to look at his performance review.

> "All Units are fully operational." The officer typed in a few codes into the computer as she looked at
> the read-outs.

Rick: Yup, she now has infinite health and no clipping.

> "We need about thirty minutes to activate them all."

> "Do we have any pilots available?"

Tsuneo: Again, things you should know.

> "Captain Kikuma Yazama is already in the entry plug of Evangelion Unit 19.

Rebecca: He's set up a sleeping bag and a gas stove in there too.

> Matthew Kaiser is ready in Unit 20.

Rick: Are they having a dumb fakey names contest here or something?

> Units 21 and 22 will be operated by the Dummy Plug."

Dan: Dummy Plug; the Evangelion equivalent of spam bots.

> replied Major Dawson quickly as Fugisawa's lips parted in a grin.

> "But, sir, how do you plan on getting the Eva Units to Japan fast enough?"

Tsuneo: They get a very big rubber band and something to stretch it over.

> "Very simple... we will use Captain Ki Yazama's powers to teleport all of our Eva's at Nerv for back
> up."

Tsuneo: Sure. That makes perfect sense.

Rick: Wasn't Ki Yazama the name of Matt's deadbeat dad in Delta Invasion?

Rebecca: You realize what this means, then?

Rick: No.

Rebecca: You're paying far too much attention to this fic.

> Suddenly, a red screen flashed on the main computer's screen. The Red Alert status screen.

Rick: The current Red Alert status was set to 'EA hasn't screwed up this franchise yet'.

> "What the..." yelled out young Jennifer as the video report appeared on the main screen. A tall man
> with pitch black skin in a long trenchcoat

Rebecca: A long paisley trenchcoat. It kind of threw off the image he was going for.

> stood high above the ground which was the cover for the Underground Base Nerv 2.

Rick: He was above the ground that was above the thing that was underground.

Tsuneo: This fic raises awkward description to an art.

> His body was surrounded by an aura of death

Dan: And some really, really bad funk.

> as the screen suddenly flashed from all sides to finally focus in the center,

Tsuneo: Now focus... Find your center... Or at least, the tuning knob...

> reading "BLUE BLOOD PATTERN DETECTED : 22nd Angel of Destruction, Xeruel."

Tsuneo: 'Xeruel attacks' seems to be this fic's thing it does when it can't think of what to do next.

Rick: So what about people turning into super-Sayjins?

Tsuneo: That's its stock response to what it does when it can't think of what to do next.

> "Oh no..." said Captain Dawson as Fugisawa's eyes widened in surprise and fear.

Tsuneo: Surprised that Jennifer had been so swiftly demoted.

> On the screen could be seen Xeruel sending a blast of pure Absolute Terror

Rebecca: Absolute Terror; the new Absolut Vodka mix.

> down at the earth, starting to dig into the

> protective steel of the Nerv layers as the blast began to cut through.

Rick: Dig for victory, darlings!

> "1st Layer has been pierced!!!" yelled another young officer.

Rick: Another one of Bob's fanclub, I assume.

> "Get the Eva's ready to be launched. Skip the safety process and don't bother making sure the

> synchronization between the pilots and the Eva will occur.

Tsuneo: [Fugisawa] Make sure the sensitive and unpredictable technology can go wrong in as many ways as possible.

> We need to buy time!"

Rebecca: So then why not send out the two expendable Dummy Plug Evangelions first while your pilots synch up? That way they'll actually be ready to fight.

> yelled Fugisawa as Captain Dawson nodded in agreement.

Dan: I think this stupid plan is a good idea.

> "What the fuck is going on?!?!?" yelled Ki from inside of his entry plug as he locked his hands

> around the handles in his plug. He heard his Eva being put into its launching paddle.

Dan: Now I don't know what a "launching paddle" is, but it sounds goofy, so I like it.

> "What the hell are they doing?!" screamed Matthew Kaiser

Tsuneo: A completely different Matthew to the one seen earlier in the fic. Take our word on this.

Rick: See, I'm not so sure.

Tsuneo: What do you mean?

Rick: There's this thing I call the 'one Bruce' rule, which is that in a body of work, you try to avoid characters with similar names where at all possible. In a fic with a small cast like this one, having two people with the same name is conspicuous.

Tsuneo: It is rather.

Rick: So what I think has happened here is actually tied in to the fic's origins. Note that one of the writers is called 'Matthew King'. Now given that we already had a character called 'Matt', logic suggests that he was played by King in the RP this fic was based on.

Tsuneo: Seems fair.

Rick: However, he got killed off quickly, so Matt now needs a new character in the fic. Enter the conspicuously named 'Matthew Kaiser' who is here to 'represent' that player in the place of his original character.

Tsuneo: Huh. I guess that makes sense then.

Rick: it would explain a lot.

Tsuneo: Agreed there. [Pause] So no alternate theories about him being a clone or a duplicate from the Negative X dimension or the like?

Rick: Gods no. Why would you think that?

> from inside of Unit 20 as he looked to the

> sides, seeing that Unit 21 and 22 were also ready to be launched. "Oh shit..."

Rebecca: Matt just realized that he was being given the same treatment as an over-glorified RC car.

> "THE 4TH LAYER HAS BEEN HIT!!"

Dan: Oh no! Not the fourth layer! [Pause] What's the fourth layer?

> "Send the Evangelion Units to the Midsection.

Rick: We have an unattractive bulge hanging out over the waistline.

> We need to intercept the Dark Angel."

Rick: Yeah! Take that, you obscure Marvel UK character you!

Dan: Who?

Rick: Dark Angel; Shevaun Haldane. Marvel anti-heroine. Wears a suit of high-tech armour and gets Powers from a microscopic chunk of the cosmos contained within her.

Dan: I have no idea who you're talking about.

Rick: Was originally named Hells' Angel until a lawsuit forced a change.

Dan: Nope. I've got nothing.

Rick: Some people...

> said Fugie as young Jennifer began to count down the Evas' launches.

Rebecca: Jennifer's job is to repeat what the computer just said.

> All four Units were sent up to the 13th Layer as weapons of all sorts lay besides them.

Tsuneo: Including a pair of hook swords, a three-section staff, a flying guillotine and the Mandarin Iron Duck.

> Unit 19 reached down and grabbed a progressive axe

Dan: What if he's got a knife?

Rick: Shut up!

Dan: What if he's got a progressive pointed stick?

> as it held it with both its hands by its chest level.

Dan: And twirled it to the tune of the levan Polka.

> Unit 20 held a long progressive blade in its right hand

Rebecca: Did anyone think to send any of these clowns out with actual guns?

> as Units 21 and 22, piloted by the Dummy Plugs wielded two progressive lances.

Rick: No Progressive Grenades? I feel ripped off.

> "Xeruel has reached the 13th Layer. Contact will soon be made."

> The Dark Angel was seen flying through the hole he had made in the layer with a bomb of pure

> Shadow of Soul.

Rick: Some of the dodgy divine beings will cut their shadow of soul with damnation or even lesser sins. That's why you go to the good, expensive dealers.

> Ki suddenly made his Eva move forward

Tsuneo: Congratulations, you have passed the first lesson in the Amuro Rey school of giant robot piloting.

Rick: I thought the first lesson was having unresolved issues with your father.

Tsuneo: No, that's just the prerequisite for the course.

> as the Axe flew downwards to split Xeruel right down the middle.

Rebecca: Based on how this fic's gone so far and what's happened the last six dozen times someone's done the same thing, I predict this will end well.

> The Dark Angel lay still as he brought his hands upwards, catching the Axe's blade between

> his index and middle fingers.

Rick: Before announcing "That was left handed."

> "HOW THE HELL DID HE DO THAT??!" screamed Ki

Tsuneo: No idea. Mythbusters says it's impossible.

> as Xeruel moved his hands to the side, his small

> fingers ('cause he had the size of a human at that moment)

Tsuneo: Things we probably should have known earlier in the scene, fic.

Rick: This fic needs an editor. True, it needs a lot of other things...

> twisting on the Axe's blade as his amazing strength forced Ki to flinch to the side,

Dan: Two for flinching! [Mimes punching the screen]

> The Dark Angel's eyes flaring red as suddenly,

Rick: Until Cyclops issued him a cease and desist order.

> Matthew sent his Eva's sword out towards Xeruel.

Rebecca: He sent it surface mail, so Xeruel has to wait at least six weeks for delivery.

> The blade was stopped inches way from the Dark Angel,

Rick: Yeah! Nobody should mess with an obscure Marvel UK character!

Tsuneo: You did that already.

Rick: No, that was Shevaun Haldane. I'm talking about the other Dark Angel.

Tsuneo: There were two?

Rick: Oh yeah. The second one was the Herald of Galactus in a short-lived series set in the far future. I'm surprised you've never heard of her.

> the Dark One's aura of death

Rebecca: "Dark one's aura of death"? Was this fic written by a thirteen year old who thinks he's edgy somehow?

> sending it back

Rebecca: Whoops, insufficient postage. Gotta wait another six weeks.

> as Matthew growled, Unit 20 raising an Absolute Terror Field of pure energy.

Dan: As opposed to one made of cheese, I guess.

> Units 21 and 22 began to work in perfect synchro,

Rick: Dummy Plug is multi-boxing to farm resource nodes.

> one of the lances tearing into the aura of death just as Xeruel's fingers broke the Axe in half.

Dan: Stupid cheap Chinese Bootleg Evangelions.

Rebecca: What did you expect? You get what you pay for with those things.

>The lance suddenly cut into The Dark Angel's flesh,

Rebecca: When nipple piercings go horribly wrong.

> splitting him in half waist level as his lower torso fell down to the ground and crashed. Xeruel

> screamed out of pure fury

Rick: I dunno; after being split in half and all I'd imagine there's a little agony in there as well.

> as he threw his arms to the side,

Dan: Ready for the stage dive.

Tsuneo: After being cut in half?

Dan: He'll be lighter to catch.

> his aura growing enormously as all the Eva Units were sent crashing backwards,

Tsuneo: He can do this now. Just take our word on this.

> Xeruel's eyes flaring red as he regenerated,

Rebecca [Bored]: Xeruel instantly recovered from a fatal blow. Wow. I did not see that coming at all.

> his body suddenly appearing above Unit 21's abdominal area,

Rick: I don't want to know about an Evangelion's 'area'.

> his hand tearing into the Eva's armor and reaching for the

> core as Satan's eyes flared again,

Dan: Seriously, dude, get some visine or something for those.

> streams of black energy rushing through his arm and into his hand,

Rick: His hand was responsible for the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand and the start of World War I.

> forming a pitch black sphere as a beam of pure energy

Tsuneo: Dear author. There are adjectives in the world other than 'pure'. Just so you know...

> was released towards the core of the Eva. The beam didn't blow up,

Rebecca: Better call in the bomb squad on that one. Looks like we have a dud chi blast, but you never know when it might go off.

> but instead, formed into a reverse Absolute Terror Field

Rick: The Reverse Absolute Terror Field is a devastating move in Mexican Wrestling.

> around the core, as it crushed it to nothingness in a split second.

Tsuneo: Having displayed this instant kill technique, rather than wiping out the others he will now proceed to fart-arse around for an hour until the author gets bored.

> "Unit 21, annihilated." whispered Officer Dawson

Tsuneo: Speak up! We can't hear you!

> as she saw Xeruel flip backwards

Dan: Damn Ninjas. They get everywhere and they ruin everything.

> and fly out towards Ki's Unit, number 19, but he was stopped by the fist of Eva 20.

Rick: Super Evangelion Ecclesiastical Technique! Punch in the face!

> The Dark Angel was sent crashing back,

Tsuneo: No more jokes about obscure Marvel UK characters?

Rick: Why? Were you expecting one?

> but he quickly charged back at tremendous speed, his body disappearing from sight because of the
> speed,

Rebecca: Wait, did he pull an entirely new attack out of nowhere? I did not expect that at all!

> but when Xeruel reappeared right behind Eva-20,

Dan: He had a tan and some holiday snaps.

> a large hole could be seen in the Unit's abdominal area,

Rebecca: Stings a bit too.

> a large cavity made inside of its core.

Dan: It was shot through the heart, and you're to blame.

Rick: You give badfic a bad name.

> Eva-20's Entry Plug ejected itself as the Unit fell to the floor limp.

Tsuneo: Letting the ragdoll physics take over.

> Eva-19 and 22 growled as they rushed out towards Xeruel, but before they could do anything,

Rebecca: A random and unexpected plot twist occurred! [Pause] Oh, who am I kidding?

> Xeruel had appeared right on Matt's Entry Plug, ripping it apart as he pulled Kaiser out,
> holding him by his skull with his right hand.

Dan: Measuring him for a potential future drinking cup or, at the very least, a novelty candy bowl.

> "Move closer and I kill him." said Xeruel softly.

Tsuneo: [Xeruel] Who am I kidding? I'm going to kill you all anyway.

Dan: Plus, he's so absurdly overpowered he doesn't even need a hostage.

Rick: Yeah... By now he's overwritten to the point of being a plot hole.

> Unit-19 stopped but Eva-22 wouldn't, and slashed towards Xeruel.

Rick: Really? There are women watching.

Dan: He just likes writing his name in the snow, that's all.

> Ki screamed in horror as his Eva jumped forward and tackled Eva-22 to the ground.

Rebecca: High tackle! Yellow card!

> Unit 22 punched Ki's Eva off of it, but the young Shadow-jin came back to the offence.

Tsuneo: Well, this plan went to hell pretty quickly.

Dan: There was a plan?

Tsuneo: Good point. Let's move on.

> Xeruel laughed

> as he kept his hold on Matthew's head, holding him hostage, but suddenly, an aura of energy

> exploded around Kaiser.

Tsuneo [Bored]: He has incredible chi powers too. This is such a shocking development that I didn't see coming at all.

Rick: So at this stage, which Evangelion pilots don't have incredible chi powers?

Rebecca: Looks like just Shinji, Rei and Asuka.

Tsuneo [Bored]: That is also a shocking development that I didn't see coming.

> "What the..." said Xeruel as Matthew's fist impacted with his stomach.

Rick: And he went-

Dan and Rick: FAAAAAAAAART!

Tsuneo: Great. Now you're doing it too?

Dan [Shrugs]: Why not? Better then reading the fic.

> The young man began to pound away at the Dark Angel,

Rebecca: Super incredible chi buttsex!

> sending random kicks and punches at him,

Tsuneo: Flailing like a five year-old having a tantrum.

> his fists making visible wounds into

> the Dark One's body. Xeruel mocked him as the Blade of Sins appeared in his right hand

Rick: He was keeping it up his sleeve all along.

Dan: How does he do that?

Rick: First step is to have really big sleeves.

> and cleaved the young one's right arm off in a clean cut.

Tsuneo: More random dismemberings then the entire Star Wars prequel trilogy!

> "MOTHERFUCKER!!!" yelled Matt

Rebecca: I think that's the most concise summary of the dialogue to date.

> as he bursted out towards Xeruel,

Rick: But did he bust a move?

> only to feel the cold steel of the 10 footed blade cleave through his torso, cutting him in half

Dan: Only to have him come back a decade later as a freaky cyborg working for his twin brother.

Rick: And the best part? That's not the dumbest thing in the Expanded Universe by a long way.

> as the young Eva pilot yelled out in pain,

Rebecca: He was cleaved in half. He's not in pain, he's deader than Myspace.

> coughing blood out into Xeruel's face. The Dark Angel spinned a full circle as the Blade of Sins

> cleaved through Matt's neck,

Dan: [Xeruel] I mean sure, I know I hacked you to bits, but I just need to make sure...

> beheading him as the head of Unit-20's pilot fell to the ground.

Tsuneo: So about that theory you had on Matt here. Still valid?

Rick: Even more so. There will be plenty more Random Dead Matts to come. [Pause] I think I once bought an album by Random Dead Matts.

> "FUCK YOU XERUEL!!!" Ki screamed out of pure rage

Dan: I see that it's not a silent rage.

Rick: Right now, I could go for some easy Chuck Norris jokes. They'd be better then reading this fic.

Dan: So how about Barrens Chat then?

Rick: Barrens Chat is Tolstoy-quality literature compared to this.

Dan: Fair [Pause] Pre or post-Cataclysm?

Rick: Oh, pre-Cataclysm, of course. Modern Barrens Chat lacks the singular wit of its predecessor. Still better then this fic though.

> as he got off of Eva-22 right away, pursuing his assault of the Dark One,

Rick: AKA the stock evil guy with the stock evil names.

> only to punch through the air as Xeruel disappeared in a pentagram of flames.

Rebecca: Why does everything in this fic read like it was lifted from a bad nineties fighting game?

> Unit-19 looked around, as Ki's eyes widened to see Xeruel appearing high above him, his hands

> held high above his head with a large sphere of flames in front of his palms.

Tsuneo: Drawn-out run-on sentence attack! Oh no!

> The Dark Angel threw his arms downwards as he released a beam of pure inferno

Dan: So if you counted every time the word 'pure' was used in this fic, what would you get?

Rick: A migraine.

> down at Eva-19, burning through its armor as the whole Unit was annihilated in a blast of energy.

Rebecca: I'm melting! I'm melting! Oh what a world...

> Unit-22 soon rushed to get Xeruel, but, the Dark Angel was nowhere to be seen.

Rick: Until it was revealed that she was actually Donna Troy.

Tsuneo: I thought you were out of obscure comic character.

Rick: Obscure *Marvel* characters. This one's DC.

> Soon, on the Computer Screens, it could be seen that the Dark One had

> taken control of Eva-22 from its inside.

Dan: The killer is inside the house!

> Xeruel suddenly let his Eva pierce through the Layers of Nerv

Rebecca: Oh, you just let it, did you? Are you the boss of the EVAs now? I think not.

> as the Red Alert began to ring again.

> "EVA-22 IS HEADING OUT TOWARDS US!!!!"

Tsuneo: [Jennifer] Technically it's 'in' towards us since it's returning to home base, but...

> "Launch Self Destruct on the Unit..." spoke Fugisawa softly.

> "I CAN'T!! THE EVA IS REFUSING THE DRIVE D MODE FROM THE INSIDE!"

Rebecca: Did you set your jumpers correctly? Did you hook them up to the IDE controllers? Did you set the master and slave switches?

> Fugisawa stood there, his face pale as pale gets.

Tsuneo: He'd just realised that the sum total of his existence was to be the guy who screws up so that Tom can save the day.

> His eyes could only watch on the screen as he saw

> Evangelion Unit-22 suddenly crash through the roof

Dan: Ooh yeah!

> and land in the control room, as the computer was crushed under its feet.

Rebecca: A very literal system crash.

> The Eva reached to get Fugisawa and grabbed him as Xeruel's eyes flashed with pleasure.

Dan: What else he flashed with pleasure... Well, you don't want to know.

> "Let me give you a little nostalgia...

Rick: Is that even a word?

> do you remember... the 17th Angel Kaworu?"

Rebecca: With the amount of yaoi dojins he's downloaded, you'd assume so.

> said Xeruel as he let

> Eva Unit 22 crush around Fugisawa's body, the head of the Commander falling to the ground in a
> pool of blood

Rick: Plop.

> as the Dark Angel entered a series of code inside of Unit-22.

Tsuneo: A part of me wonders why a divine being of seemingly limitless power would still need to use access codes on a biomechanical construct.

Rick: And then the other part of you realizes that it happens every day, right?

Tsuneo: Strangely enough, no.

Rick: Really? Because that's all I can think.

> "Farewell, Nerv 2..."

Tsuneo: We barely knew of its existence before he showed up to destroy it, but farewell.

> The Dark One's body slowly faded away as all that could now be seen was
> Evangelin Unit 22 self destructing in a pure nuclear explosion,

Rebecca: No quarks, no gluons, no mysterious dark matter. Just pure protons, neutrons and electrons here.

> the reactors inside of Nerv 2 being set off along with it

Tsuneo: In the future, fail-safes will not exist.

> as the explosion of Nerv 2 itself launched an enormous earthquake throughout all of Los
> Angeles, the city crumbling to bits in a few seconds.

Rick: The sole survivors being a rag-tag squad of soldiers, lead by Aaron Eckhart who was wondering how he got roped into this crappy film.

> Somewhere near the Yazama Residence...

Dan: The well-known Yazama residence. So much so that we clearly don't need to know where it actually is.

Rick: I'm gonna bet it's not in LA though.

> Ki was walking limpy, using a wooden stick to hold himself up, blood covering his body.

Rebecca: That's the last time he shortcuts through the slaughterhouse.

> "I... need to.. warn... the... others..."

Tsuneo: I think somebody might have noticed the entire city of Los Angeles blowing up.

Rick: To be fair, it could just mean that the Lakers lost again.

> The young Yazama's body collapsed to the ground in front of the Yazama Residence,

Rick: This happens to them every Friday night.

> a young man quickly rushing out of the 'house'

Dan: The 'building' that they 'lived' in.

> as he looked down at Ki.

Rick: Ma, we got another dead Yazama here!

Rebecca: Just huck it out the back with the rest of them.

> "... Gotta take da kid back in..." he spoke softly as he picked Ki up and onto his shoulder, quickly

> running back into the Residence.

Tsuneo: So fic, care to explain anything there?

Rick: I have two theories.

Tsuneo: ...yes?

Rick: Theory one goes that their 'residence' is actually an abandoned building that the family squats in, meaning that in theory while they live there it isn't actually any sort of proper home and their presence isn't legally recognised. Thus the use of the term 'residence' rather than calling it a house or home.

Tsuneo: Well that made a remarkable amount of sense. So what's the second theory?

Rick: That it's a part of the RP background that this fic was based on and thus we will never get an explanation.

Tsuneo: ...and that also makes sense. Worrying.

> Tokyo-3

> Inside of Evangelion Unit-02's Entry Plug

Dan: House party in progress.

> "I'm alone again..." Asuka spoke to herself within the Evangelion she piloted, hugging herself with

> her own arms. She felt an enormous pain in her body earlier as if her limbs were ripped off.

Rebecca: I'd have thought she'd be used to it by now.

> They were still there to her eyes, but she couldn't feel her legs,

> she couldn't control them or move them.

Rick: So she immediately signed up for Dancing with the Stars. That level of talent, she can't lose.

> "He promised me he wouldn't leave my side...That stupid jerk, I can't trust men at all!"

Rebecca: That's okay, Asuka. Just remember that all the men in this fic are testosterone-poisoned alpha jerks with no sense of responsibility at all and you'll never, ever be disappointed.

> She closed her eyes and began to cry. "Every Angel gets stronger and smarter each time,

Tsuneo: [Asuka] It's like they're not goofy, easily disposed of monsters at all.

> I can't live like this, I feel so stupid, so worthless..."

Dan: Oh, so she's been reading the fic too?

> Meanwhile the Angel started a pace towards the remains of Asuka's evangelion,

Rebecca: To be fair, EVA-02's usual state is wrecked. It's just that she occasionally has moments between them.

Rick: Asuka is to Evangelions what Rick Hunter is to Veritechs and magical flying bicycles.

> it's

> "spikes" made of pure crystal over his body extracted from it's chest and formed into some type of

> pure energy,

Rick: Two 'pures' in one sentence? Now the fic's just being indulgent.

Tsuneo: As opposed to every other time when it's being indulgent, I suppose.

> flowing towards Eva-02's entry plug. The "whip" slowly pulled itself within the plug as it became

> solid again.

Dan: Heeeeere's... Creepy!

> "What...happening to me?" she looked over her gloved fingers as she felt a presence within

> he body, it came quickly to her mind that an angel was trying to invade her, but how?

Tsuneo: At a guess, I'd say that it has something to do with that energy whip thing that's stuck to you.

> It wasn't trying to use her mind,

Rick: Tried that once. Hoo boy, ain't touching that again.

> but her Eva as it came to life again under the Angel's control.

Dan: Asuka just got herself carjacked.

> Eva-02 stood up from it's spot in the ground and began to follow the angel,

Tsuneo: Clearly for it being "wrecked", her Evangelion was still functional enough to walk. Care to give us some actual details next time, fic?

> a silver cord made of energy connected to the back of the plug.

Rick: I get it, it's one of those leads you use to keep your kids under control.

> Asuka was now part of the 20th Angel, and her a part of him.

Rebecca: And they were all one big glorious hole.

Tsuneo: I think you meant 'whole'.

Rebecca: I know what I meant.

> "It's starting it's attack...."

Tsuneo: Really? I thought that was two chapters ago when it actually attacked.

> Gendo ordered out another command, watching the video link of it's aproach.

Dan: Gendo doesn't get very many subscribers to his Youtube channel. It's kind of sad that he watches his own vids to increase his hit count.

> "Use Evas 00-01 to intercept the Angel and quickly." With those words, the Evas and their pilots

Tsuneo: I thought both Shinji and Rei were out of action.

Rick: I guess they got better during all the farting around in other scenes.

Tsuneo: That makes a regrettable amount of sense.

> were shot out of the elevator shafts directly near the Angel.

Rebecca: The express lift has easy access to the terror from beyond.

> Quickly after Gendo made that order, Misato burst into the command centre, short of breath.

Dan: Hastily putting her pants on as she went.

> She had to see the mission herself and give orders to

> the 'children', it was her priority and her job, not to mention her life.

Rick: She'd done a lot of shouting about it, but her efforts to turn into a phoenix were less then successful. Funny as all hell to watch, though.

> "Commander Ikari, permission to take control of the Evangelions..."

Tsuneo: Misato's buyout plan for the Human Instrumentality Project was rather well thought through, but she still needed board approval.

> "Granted..." Gendo nodded twice as Misato strode next to Gendo, looking at the video link.

Dan: Really Gendo? Cats playing keyboard?

Rick: With Gendo, it's either that or porn.

> "I have hope you are aware that your situation thus far in this scenario is not good."

Rebecca: Gendo's giving her control of the battle as a way of shifting the blame.

> "I know..." she whispered her reply to Gendo.

Tsuneo: Also, any reason why she arrived many hours into the battle?

Rick: She was out drinking again.

Tsuneo: Eh, I'll pay it.

> "Shinji, Rei, raise your ATs and intercept the Angel from attacking Nerv!"

Tsuneo: Yes, do the same thing that you always do. That sounds like a plan.

> she barked out her orders so that the evangelion units could pick up her voice and

> follow the command.

Rebecca: Misato? There's a radio for that.

> There was a short amount of silence

Tsuneo: Silence is distributed in carefully measured quantities...

Dan: [Shouting] Why not in this chapter?

Tsuneo: [Sighs] Between that.

> until Shinji Ikari, the second child began to speak timidly.

Rick: Timidly? Clearly it's not the return of Delta-fied Shinji.

Rebecca: Oddly enough, I think the fic's already reached the legally allowed limit of homoeroticism without him.

> "Misato-san,

Dan: Domo arigato, Ms Mistao.

> we have a problem, Asuka is attached to the Angel..."

Tsuneo: There's pictures of them dating all over the gossip mags.

> as Shinji spoke, an image of the Angel was relayed over the video link,

Rebecca: Hey, since when did Angels have Skype?

> showing the 20th Angel, having a link to Evangelion-02 by it's entry plug.

> "I wonder what Tom would do at a time like this?"

Rick: Watch Wrestlemania!

Tsuneo: Form a band!

Dan: Beat up some guy at school!

Rebecca: Order from an Italian restaurant menu!

> "I'd probably smoke a blunt..." Tom's voice echoed within the Evangelion.

Rebecca: This is their inspirational figure, folks.

> Steven's eyes widened as he felt himself smelling something he hadn't smelt for a while.

Rick: He'd been a long time between truly epic meat farts.

> It smelt like him yet he wasn't here,

Rick: And yet the meat fart lingered on.

Tsuneo: I think that's enough of that one.

Rick: I'm sure I could squeeze out a few more.

> it felt like his friend was within his body

Rebecca: A sensation that Steven was well used to. [Tsuneo hits him with a cushion]

> but he wasn't there. Steven slowly went into catonic trance

Dan: Hur hur doggie.

> as the LCL of the evangelion began to flood around his body,

Tsuneo: Sure he was sitting in it already, but... Y'know, flooding anyway.

> he was becoming one with the Evangelion, his soul

> could feel his yearning to be one with his best friend.

Rebecca: Fic? Stop stealing my job.

Tsuneo: I don't know what's worse. At least I can use the cushion on you.

> He felt his body fall apart

Rebecca: You've got to stew the Hikari long enough so the meat just falls off the bones...

> against the LCL as it became a wet substance around his plug suit.

Rick: As opposed to the wet substance in his plug suit pants.

> His mind still conscious of what was happening to him.

Tsuneo: Regrettably, so are we.

> Steven's anger and bloodrage was out for destroying the Angel,

Rick: Say, if he's a super-powered Thingama-jin, why does he need an Evangelion anyway?

Tsuneo: Because that way the writers get another method to prove how powerful their characters are and how much better than the cannon cast they can be.

Rick: Makes sense.

> the 'eyes' of the Evangelion now a
> bright emerald green as it charged into the 20th Angel with all it's weight.

Dan: When in doubt, hit it with something big.

> Within the Evangelion,
> Steven's body had transformed, his eyes glaring emerald as well and his hair standing on end in a
> spiky gold fashion,

Tsuneo: He'd turned into a Super-Sayajin. This would be a startling plot point if he and everyone else in the fic hadn't done it a dozen times each already.

> his synchro was dropping, but Eva didn't have control of him, he wasn't calm or asking for
> help, eva was in his command.

Rick: With the Power Glove, the power is in his hands!

> The LCL around his body became a sticky mass,

Rebecca: That just sounds all kinds of wrong.

> not transforming his body as thought, but merging within his own cells and his plug suit.

Dan: And turning him into jam.

Rick: YuM jaAm!

> "BAKAME, BAKAME, BAKAME!!!"

Tsuneo: Fanboy, fanboy, fanboy!

> he cried out while started to pound on the Angel for hurting his Asuka, the person he promised to
> protect. "YOU HAVE ASUKA!! LET HER GO!!!"

Rick [Gruff]: Give me back my son!

Dan [Gruff]: Get off my plane!

> Steven screamed those words,

Dan: [Shouting] Mine get Asuka not Tom!

Tsuneo: And we were doing so well without...

> his fists making dents into the Angel's almost invincible outer skin.

Tsuneo: The almost invincible outer skin that's been punched, stabbed, cut and impaled a dozen or so times so far.

Rick: For broad values of 'impaled.'

> Meanwhile at Nerv, Magi and the rest of the communication officers were going erratic,

Rebecca: The glitchy NPC AI is one of those things that they keep saying they'll fix, but never do.

Rick: It's a typical Bethesda release.

> not believing with their eyes what was happening before them,

Tsuneo [Bored]: I do not believe my eyes with what is happening before me.

> but not at the fight, but the

Dan: Two dogs doing it.

> synchronization output from Hikari to the Evangelion.

Rebecca: He's gone from improbable percent to ridiculous percent, sir!

> "Seve...Seven...Seven Hundred and Twenty....percent..." Misato stuttered. "That's impossible..."

Tsuneo: It's every fight scene in Delta ever! At once!

> spoke

> those words as turned to a grinning Commander Ikari who just looked at the numerical value of the

> Syncro output.

Rebecca: Realising that they'd actually misplaced a decimal point.

> "Can...we get video and audio check inside the cockpit?" She asked one of the

> communication officers.

Dan: Don't you guys do that anyway?

Rick: They changed channel. It got dull anyway.

> "Positive..." she answered, receiving video feed now.

> The angel's chest was completely destroyed as it fell towards the ground, shrinking from it's 20 story

> height,

Tsuneo: Evil monsters always revert to their original form when they die. That is, if they don't explode.

> it's body changing as the spikes from it's body began to form into one, the creature making it's

> drop to the ground as it shrunk to six feet, the creature was no longer the 'angel'. It was Steven's

> friend, the angel of purity and his oldest friend,

Rick: His dear beloved best friend, Whatshisname, That Guy There.

> dead by the web of Xeruel. The blade of divinity

> which his friend wielded was piked in the earth beside him as he bled along the pavement.

Dan: Anyone gonna scrape that up? No? We're good.

> "Ken...san..."

Rebecca: Steven always did like him better than that Australian surfer guy.

> Steven closed his eyes and blacked out, the pain too great for him and the bloodloss taking its toll.

> The 20th Angel is Dead....

Rick: Nerv resets their 'Time Since Angel Attack' clock.

> Which means one more angel must die before the prophecy will continue...

> Will it be Arcane, or will it be Tom?

Tsuneo: Hint: It's not going to be Tom.

> Or Has Xeruel died along with Ken?

Rick: Or has Ken killed Ken?

At that point the screen went dead, returning the world to prose format.

"There you have it," Tsuneo said almost immediately. "Four chapters of stupid overblown fights, and everything is solved by shouting and punching things."

"You'd be amazed how often that works," Dan commented.

"You forgot a random chapter of Tom talking smack to divine beings," Rick added.

"Of course. And there was..." Tsuneo pause for a second, frowning. "Wait, what actually happened in chapter one?"

"Tom set up his rivalry with Fugisawa and the love triangle between them and Rei," Rebecca replied. "Which as you can see, went miles."

"What with Fugi dying unceremoniously in that last chapter," Rick replied. "Kinda wonder what was the point then."

"Well, there's plenty more fic in which to find out," The Voice told them out of nowhere, its tone notably smug.

"Don't remind us," Tsuneo replied.

"Hey, look on the bright side," Rick said. "After all, we kinda sorta had an Invador alert, right?"

"Only barely," came Tsuneo's response.

"And the bad guy actually got beat," Dan added in.

"No, that was his giant possessed clone body takeover Angel thing," Rebecca replied, trailing off into uncertainty. "Bad dude's still out there killing off random Matts."

"Come to think of it, I've got to wonder why he bothers," Rick said.

"He's the bad guy?" Dan offered.

"No, really. Last time we saw him teleport right into the Eva's cage, right?" Rick asked.

"To kill off his first Matt, to boot," Rebecca added.

"Right," Rick nodded. "And he's there to blow up Nerv, or something, right?"

"Or something' is right. Even Gendo's questioning the fic's plot by this point," Tsuneo said.

"Right," Rick nodded once more. "So... If all that was to cook off Nerv 2's reactor, why doesn't he just teleport to the reactor and set it to blow?"

There was a long, awkward silence as they glanced between each other.

"The authour didn't think of it?" Dan finally offered.

"That doesn't let him show off how awesome his pet villain is?" Tsuneo put forward.

"Plot says so," Rebecca bluntly stated.

"Sadly, that seems like it," Rick finally replied.

"We're thinking about it too much," Tsuneo told them.

"Agreed." Rick stood and added, "Whereas I'd much rather be thinking about my new pitch."

"I wanna hear more of your war stories first," Dan countered as stood.

Tsuneo and Rebecca joined them, with Rebecca adding "I just want more bacon."

"And what do you want, new Voice?" Tsuneo idly asked the air as they left. However, the only reply was a low chuckle.

Author's notes:

Matts are to this fic what Charleses are to Delta Invasion, only far less interesting.

It's clear that the RP that this fic was based on has an elaborate and involved backstory. It's also clear that the fic isn't going to bother informing us of any of it and rather just continue on its merry way. So if you're looking for an explanation for, well, anything, then you're kind of out of luck.

On the other hand, the Matts explain a lot about Delta Invasion. Make of this what you will.

Evangelion created by Gainax

The Apocalyptic Battle created by Tom "Dyron" Chale, Steven Swain and Matthew King

Rebecca Bartley and Rick R. Mortis created by Rick R. (natch)

Tsuneo Tateao and Dan created by Zogster

Questions? Comments? Complaints? Cosmic Horrors? Email us at [elmerstudios00 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:elmerstudios00@gmail.com) and register your Jeff.

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All of Elmer Studios' MSTings, random DELTA Invasion Episode Generator and other stuff in one spot

> "IMPLY THIS!!!" Tom grabbed the apple from Arcane and started to chew on it.