TRT Last Alice Intermission



Usagi: Welcome back~

Usagi: And thank you for going through this long, long trip.

Alice: … I'm back.

Usagi: Oh, what an unhappy face.

Usagi: They safely defeated the final boss, wasn't that a <happy ending>?

Alice: … seems the "Major Alice" game ended without any problems.

Alice: But-

Alice: … I don't understand. Why did Falco say that at the end?

Alice: That wasn't directed at Major Alice. He was clearly talking to me.

Usagi smiles smugly, with an ambiguous expression on her face.

What's that look for?! You're the one that put these Fragments in front of me!

Alice: Or what?! Were you the one that created these?!

Alice: Are you trying to piss me off, to make the forget boredom for a while?!

Usagi: A-Alice-sama, please calm down.

Usagi: Ouch ouch! My neck, it's gonna tear off!

Alice: … hah, haah…

Alice: Hmm… well it's fine.

Alice: It's an unexpected twist. But I suppose it's amusing enough.

A very, very unpleasant ending.

However… I suppose this feeling of annoyance is better than boredom.

I'll accept it for now, as a twisted clownish spice.

Usagi is sitting still, with a smug smile on her face.

Is this some kind of sick joke, or is she trying to make me wrathful?

Looks like this joke of a "best friend" is getting put in the toy box this time…

Usagi: Well well, some more important information showed up this time.

Alice: …that's right, the names of Ibito and Hidaka showed up.

Falco: Why hasn't Ibito finished it yet?

Goro: Because it's too much of a pain.

Violetta: I still have some stuff left too.

Brad: Then, let's meet up at Hidaka-kun's house.

Falco: Agh, my house? Well, fine…

Since Falco is talking to Ibito, Falco cannot be Ibito.

Since Goro is the one answering, it can be assumed that Goro is Ibito.

… I see, I think I get it.

It makes sense that the FPS-fanatic Ibito would be Goro. A game junkie with no manners, but also an excellent soldier.

Then, when asked to gather at Hidaka's house, Falco answered "My house?". Which mean Falco = Hidaka.

This also makes sense, you could feel Hidaka's kind hearted nature through Falco.

Remembering information I already know, the main character group and the supporting character group.

If we connect that with this latest piece of information, we should see the truth behind this strange story…

First of all, "Ibito = Goro". Wait…

…a connection between the main characters and the supporting characters?

In other words, "Hidaka = Iyo = Violetta = Yukari = Keiko = Brad = Noriha = Miya = Goro" and "Ibito = Mikihiko = Falco" are both connected.

"Hidaka = Iyo = Violetta = Yukari = Keiko = Brad = Noriha = Miya = Goro = Ibito = Mikihiko = Falco".

Alice: …hahaha, what the hell, this is a mess.

Usagi: Wow, that really is a long, long connection.

Alice: No commentary from you. Shut up.

Usagi: …

The latest piece of information is connected to Falco, who is at the end of this long connection…

"Falco = Hidaka"…

Alice: …huh…?

Usagi: …hehe, heh... what do you think…?

Alice: What the hell… what a dumb answer.

”Hidaka = Iyo = Violetta = Yukari = Keiko = Brad = Noriha = Miya = Goro = Ibito = Mikihiko = Falco = Hidaka”.

Both the beginning and the ending of the connection have become “Hidaka”.

Does this mean… This was all Hidaka’s one-man show? All of this was part of his delusions?!

Alice: No no, that’s not it. Hidaka is only one of the connection points.

Alice: Let’s see, if we… what if… huh…?!

It’s a ring.

*The chain of characters, both the start and the ending connect… it has become one big circle!”

Alice: But… this doesn’t make any sense.

Alice: In the end one person played twelve different roles? It can’t be!

Alice: None of the twelve roles can even exist! Because everyone can just be a puppet of someone else!

I see, what a novel concept! Quite a twist that there wasn’t anyone here, even though I thought there were 12 different characters!

Way to go, Usagi. Hahahah, how fun!

But wait, that doesn’t explain anything!

Even if you line up a bunch of puppets in a circle, they won’t start moving by themselves, y’know?!”

No one was real, no one! But then, what the hell were those Fragments up until now?!

Alice: Answer me, Usagi!! There’s no one here!!

Alice: Hey Usagi!! Answer me!… can you hear me?!



The cries of the abrazemi cicadas.

… geh… a chorus of voices that have nothing interesting to say.

All that I hear is the soft whirling of the PC’s cooling fan.

… sticky sweat covers my body.

… uncomfortable, and disgusting.

The lights on the room are dim.

Hmm, actually it’s the opposite. …it’s starting to get brighter.

Because the night I adore is over… and the morning is approaching.

The only thing that makes my small body visible, is the bright light from my large dual monitors.

Inside this small room, bare computer parts and wires crawl along the floor, almost like an electronic fortress.

…this, is my world.

My perfect world…

I’m sitting with terrible posture on a chair made up of synthetic leather.

A position in-between sitting and sleeping. …it feels comfortable when you’re playing games, and if you ever feel sleepy you can just fall asleep any time.

It may look messy to other people, but everything’s neatly arranged around me to be reachable with my left and right hands.

And even then, I occasionally try to pull out a book from the middle of a pile, and the whole thing ends up falling to the ground.

But when that happens, I just leave them there. As punishment for pissing me off.

… the cries of the cicadas never stop.

I’m sticky with sweat, everything feel itchy.

When I put a half-empty plastic bottle on my mouth, the contents were lukewarm, thick, and sickeningly sweet.

On a table to the side there was a whole mountain of these bottles, almost looking like bowling pins.

It usually gets warm before I finish drinking it… so I just leave it there as it is and bring back a new, cold bottle.

Because I keep doing this… the number of half-empty bottles keeps increasing…

Who am I?

I must be Mikihiko! Yes, that’s right.

So I’m sure, Keiko and Iyo will appear, to drag me out of this pile of shit I’m stuck under!

Yes, that’s right, I’m Mikihiko!

After all, my grandparents don’t get mad at me for living like this.

Because I was a pitiful child that no one understood! They gave me the empty house next door, and said I could just stay there and relax for a while!

I don't like that "for a while". Since I'm a witch, I value eternity! I'd hate for it to be just "for a while"!

Then grandpa changed his words! He said I could relax as much as I wanted!

My grandpa is much, much richer than Mikihiko's dad!

He owns a bunch of land and mountains! He says he makes a lot of money just from real estate income.

Even this house was given to me by my grandpa! He's really kind. Way different from mom and dad!

Grandma is also very, very kind! She brings me food here every day!!

When I yelled at her that I couldn't leave the computer during meal time because of guild chats or clan battles, she understood my situation!

So I must be Mikihiko! Mikihiko Inaba!!

So, please hurry. Keiko, Iyo, Miya!!

Why aren't you coming?! Aagh, I see, I must not be Mikihiko after all!

Then I must be Ibito. Ibito Amahara!

*Hey, wait, he's just like my character in this game!"

See this game? It's the same one Mikihiko was playing!

It's a stylish, trendy, pop, manga-like online game about living a school life!

In this online world, no one calls me a mere elementary school student!

Here I can live a high school life worthy of me.

This is the school I deserve! This online game school world!

Do you want to see Ibito's stats?

Hey look, check it out, all stats are on 999, pretty cool right?!

Everything's way more fun when you're perfect at everything. Exercising, studying, looks, skills. And most importantly, it fits me perfectly!

It was impossible to represent my genius with the 32 points the game gives you to distribute!

So I messed with some stuff, so that I could get the endless points I deserve!

And people said I "cheated". That's not funny at all, this is what I get for expressing myself!

Then the moderators tried to ban me, I don't get it!!

I wasn't accepted in the real world, so I moved myself to the game world!

Don't you dare deny me my existence, moderators! You're the ones running the world!!

Then I created a virus called ALICE, and destroyed the world!

It came back after two weeks of maintenance, but it felt so good! Aahahah!

Besides, I don't even care that I can't access the official servers anymore.

Because now I'm playing in my very own personal server.

I don't even care that there isn't anyone else except for me! It's refreshing to not have annoying moderators and people reporting me!

Ah, I failed a minigame, damnit! This is so annoying! Whenever this happens, I move my eyes over to the other monitor.

The main menu of a sci-fi FPS game is shown on the screen.

I switch to the controller and see if there are any new levels coming in the next DLC.

I'm more of a fan of the shooty-shooty bang-bang levels, so I hope they make more of those soon.

The levels where you find an enemy spy in Vespio got good reviews by the public, but to me it felt like a tedious memory game, it was annoying !

Instead of spending more than half a year making these garbage levels, you should first finish that new zombie mode, since development has been on hiatus since last year!

I bought the season pass, so do what I fucking say, or I'll ruin your wiki, you pieces of shit!!

When I get tired of Falco, I go back to Mikihiko.

I don't want to suffocate in this room any longer, someone, please save me…!!!

Usagi: Once again, you are sick with boredom.

Alice: Aaaaghhh!

Alice: …Usagi, Usagi.

Alice: The journey through those three Fragments we just went through… I laughed and had fun, I admit, it was pretty good.

Alice: But I need the next Fragment, let's go to the next Fragment quickly…!! Or I'll drown in the sea of nothingness!!

Usagi: There's nothing left, not even one Fragment.

Usagi: All games in that pile were garbage. And you tossed all your manga away after you got tired of reading.

Usagi: Alice-sama has already devoured all of her Fragments.

Alice: Then… let's eat up what's left of the latest Fragments, you and me.

Alice: There was… no one in those three worlds! Tell me what that means.

Usagi: …isn't thinking about this a way to resist the boredom?

Alice: Shut up! Answer me already.

Alice: Ah, I'll give my answer first! It was all my delusions wasn't it?!

Alice: It was all a fantasy created by me after being alone in this dark room for so long, wasn't it?!

Usagi: …

Usagi: No. It's not… even a fantasy.

Usagi: Even delusions are things that need to be created.

Usagi: But Alice-sama, you didn't create any of those.

Usagi: Away from family, school, society, you voluntarily chose to be isolated from everything. And yet you're despairing instead of being satisfied.

Usagi: You wish for someone to save you from the reality you've created yourself.

Alice: Shut Up!!

Usagi: And when you realize that no one will come to save you, and that the only way to escape this Hell is to move by yourself, you refuse to do so.

Usagi: Then you run away from reality, creating your ideal school life in some game.

Alice: I'm not escaping, I'm just going to the next Fragment because I'm bored y'know?!

Alice: I am a witch. Fragments and worlds are just like TV channels to me!

Usagi: That's right. You don't even have the willpower to think hard about a single thing, witch.

Usagi: When it makes you think too hard, you find it annoying, so you immediately throw it away and run to the next Fragment.

Usagi: Even if Gakuen Online cures your boredom, you quickly get impatient if you find something you don't like.

Usagi: After that tantrum, you move to the FPS game on the next monitor.

Alice: Lately, there's been almost no updates! I've already completed all the modes, so it makes me bored very fast.

Usagi: And again, you escape to reality, hoping that someone will come save you from this horrible dead end.

Usagi: A cycle of escapism, filled with fun Fragments.

Usagi: Certainly a strange, but amusing magic you have created, Alice-sama.

Despairing over your reality, you hug your knees, moan and scratch your head.

Every time you realize that the only way to escape is to help yourself, you run to the next Fragment.

You've eaten up so many Fragments. But, now there are no more Fragments to escape to!

The "spice" I proposed is merely some advice to make one Fragment less boring.

For a sad witch, whose motto is "if you're going to escape, do it fast", this cycle of escapism is perfect!

Alice: Are you making fun of me?! Are you joking?!

Alice: Well, how about next time we play a game where I rip you apart?!

Alice: Thank you, my "best friend"! That will certainly cure my boredom for some time!!

An unicycle of escapism, that keeps spinning and spinning.

If it ever stops, it will fall, and you will drown in the sea of nothingness.

Usagi: However, Alice-sama.

Usagi: This is really, truly, the end.

Alice: Ah, yeah, for you!

Usagi: Now, there isn't a single Fragment left to maintain your disease of boredom away anymore.

Usagi: You… ate everything, even the scraps of guts.

Usagi: There's nothing in this room anymore …that'll distract you or cure your boredom.

The remains of the Fragments I used to relieve my boredom… are scattered at my feet.

A first-run, limited edition box of Gakuen Online, and the installation disk of the FPS game are scattered around my feet, being crushed by the wheels of my chair.

Usagi: If… tearing me apart will be your final Fragment …that may be fun too.

Alice: Yes, it will be, you annoying rabbit, my "best friend"!!

Alice: I'll kill you, I'll strangle you!!

I grab my extension cord, create a loop, and tie it to my doorknob.

Then, I pick up my obnoxious "best friend", and wrap the cable around her neck.

Alice: Die, die die, everyone who makes fun of me must die!! Even if they are my "best friend", they should die!!

Alice: Everyone who won't come save me, they should all die.

Alice: …that's my answer, "best friend".

Usagi: A witch that just runs away, can't create anything.

Usagi: All your magic can do, is prolong the time it'll take for you to drown in the rough sea of emptiness.

Alice: I'm going to pull this now.

Alice: I'll pull and pull until your neck gets ripped off, then I'll pull your stuffing out and tear you to pieces!!!

Usagi: …yes, my "best friend". That's the only help I can give you to release yourself from this despair. For you, that pretends to be a witch when you can't create any Fragments.

My face contorted with unimaginable rage, I pulled the rabbit's body using the cable, holding it tightly

The rabbit's neck gets tightened.

But, I'm the one who is feeling suffocated.

…because.

Before I knew it… my neck was also wrapped around a cable.

So me, and Usagi… we both hold each other as we hang ourselves.

Alice: Trying to take me with you…? Ahahahaha, dumbass!! You and I are different existences!!

Alice: You'll remain nothing more than a torn apart stuffed animal!

Usagi: And Alice-sama, you will remain as nothing more than a corpse tied to a doorknob.

Alice: I'm different from you, I'm me!! There's no one else here but me, right?!

Alice: Then I'm the only one that'll remain, only my corpse will remain!!

Usagi: …<bonbonyage>, Alice-sama.

Usagi: Finally, Alice and I… will be free from this hopeless dead end, and we'll be able to embark on a new journey.

Alice: Yeah, I guess you're right!! Then, it seems this is goodbye!

Usagi: Yes, that’s right. Alice-sama.

Usagi: <Bonbonyage>.

Usagi: …may your next life, be a good one.

To Alice, who can decide her next journey with her own hands, …her first, last, and true act of magic.

Alice: <Bonbonyage>, to… to my…

Alice: To this shitty life!!!



”Wait, it’s… Alice-chan?!”

”…!”

As I turn around the corner, I bump into her.

…it’s Keiko Futatsumori.

She saved Mikihiko from being a hikikomori, and made the White Dragon Festival come to life… she’s a hero…

”Huh? Alice Ryuuzaki?”

…

That’s Iyo Hikawa. …when she entered high school, she became a delinquent.

A delinquent who dyes her hair. I don’t want to involve myself with those.

But… that delinquent is undeniably one of the heroes who brought back the White Dragon Festival.

”Alice-chan, do you live around here?”

I used to play with them… when I was little.

They were the older members of our elementary school group, they played with anyone, regardless of age.

Eventually, Mikihiko and his quartet entered high school, and graduated from our group.

I thought that, even though I remember them… that they would’ve forgotten about me.

”Alice-chan, how old are you now?”

I lifted only four fingers.

”I see, in fourth grade.”

”At that age, every day is fun.”

Die.

Don’t judge me based on my age or grade.

I am not Alice Ryuzaki. I am a witch who crosses the Sea of Fragments, ruthlessly eating Fragments and dragging out their guts.

Don’t look down on me. I’m the one that should be looking down on you.

Because information on the countryside spreads fast, I heard… the group of four friends had split up when they went into college.

Keiko fell ill from a heart condition, and Miya was the only one that managed to go to Tokyo. Then Iyo became a delinquent, and Mikihiko dropped out of school and became a shut-in!

Because you all looked down on me. Because you all stopped playing with me. Because you didn't take me with you to see the ruins of the school! I thought "they get what they deserve"!

But after that… a story straight out of a book was created.

Keiko, Iyo, Miya… and even Mikihiko.

He was even interviewed on TV.

This little town went crazy when this local high school group revived that old festival.

And they left me behind.

Just like the ruins again… again.. I was left behind.

I thought you all had given up, like I did, but… you all held hands, got back on your feet, and accomplished amazing things!

However, they didn't save me, I alone was left out…!

This is pathetic, I don't deserve this.
I deserve a more urban, stylish, fun life, like the ones from the pages of a light novel!

Usagi: Come, let's go home, Alice-sama.

Usagi: Don't worry about those guys! Fragments worthy of Alice-sama are waiting for you at home!

Usagi: You have two new games to play! Come on, let's go home!

Usagi: One is an online school game, that creates a reality worthy of Alice-sama~

Usagi: If you get tired of it, play this gritty FPS game, where you can shooty shoot gorilla aliens, using high-tech weapons!

Usagi: If you play one game too much, you'll get bored of it quickly, the secret to enjoying them for a long time is to play only for a little while.

Usagi: That way you don't have to think about anything. You can just empty your head.

You despair about your current situation.

Escape to a game, then escape to the next game.

Then you come to your senses, pray for someone to come save you, and then run away again!

Ah, Mikihiko was saved. That must mean, Keiko and the others are coming to save me too!

Then we'll revive the White Dragon Festival, and we will all become heroes!

"Ah, sorry Alice, we're looking for something. See ya."

Hidaka: You're going, right?

Noriha: I think this is your first and last chance…

Huh?

Yukari: You pretend to be a witch. But you can't create an universe by yourself.

Ibito: I can! I can even smash a meteor by myself!

Hidaka: Ibito, shut up for a second.

Noriha: Alice-chan. Are you sure you want this? Are you really, really sure?!

I don't… I don't think so.

A summer vacation that never ends… is not that fun.

I don't want to face August 31st with disgust again.

It's ridiculous to be an eternal shut-in, afraid of the last day of summer vacation.

Don't fear the end of summer vacation!

For a hikikomori like me, going back to school would be really sudden… I think the best time would be the beginning of the second semester, the end of summer vacation!

Violetta: Don't greet August 31st idly, okay?

Even you guys…

Brad: Make your own choices! If you're confident in what you choose, any choice is correct.

Goro: You're talking real smart, Diapers.

Falco: But don't forget. Never run away from making choices.

Falco: Because choosing passively, is way different than choosing actively.

Yukari: "If you're going to escape, do it fast", that was your motto, right?

Goro: Isn't that nice. Let's go and do that, shall we?!

Violetta: If it's the result of an active choice, I will respect that.

Hidaka: Alice-chan… this time, why don't you make the choice?

Hidaka: No "For some reason", "Before I knew it"…nothing passive like that.

Ibito: If you don't make this choice in time, you'll branch out into a different route!

Brad: Please, don't make this a joke.

Noriha: I already know. I know Alice-chan has already made her choice.

Miya: That's right.

Miya: All that you need is the courage to make a choice!

Mikihiko: Get out of your shell. It'll be fun!! You've seen me do it, right?!

Falco: Ibito's proof of that, too.

Ibito: Nah, I’m lazy, so a calm route would be better.

Goro: Gahahah, really?

Ibito: Yeah, but…

Ibito: It’s boring to be alone… isn’t it?

Mikihiko: Make the choice, Alice.

Miya: If you don’t decide quickly, we’ll abandon you again!

Iyo: There’s no point in forcing her to make a choice.

Keiko: Yeah, that’s right, so, Alice-chan.

Keiko: This time, choose well.

Keiko: By yourself.

I, by myself, …this time… I choose…

Don’t expect someone to come save you.

Don’t ride the unicycle of escapism, switching from one game to another...

I don’t want a world where nothing is made, and where there is no one.

Yes, there’s no one here.

Yet, everyone’s here to support me. That’s my first and last magic trick.

”Alice-chan, how old are you now?”

Alice lifted up only four finger.

”I see, in fourth grade.”

”At that age, every day is fun”

It… wasn’t fun.

Looking down on everyone… trying to be alone… it wasn’t… fun.

Usagi: Well then, Alice-sama.

Usagi: Have a nice trip.

…ah…

”Ah, sorry Alice-chan.”

”We’re looking for something. See ya.”

”B-“

