

The curtains fell. Closing out the night with practiced bravado at the feet of the destined.

Muted reliefs air. Tightly held sighs released in silence.

They wash out over the survivors as their final decree is served.

From across the dash the events played out like a bad dream.

Deafened. Only the ringing disbelief inside her core sounded out.

“No....”

SLAM

MoMo sat silent, absorbing both the thumping impact and slam of DD’s fist

“No way am I doing another lap for this flipped out #@K”

Her internal censor flares out her vocal cords with a bleep. Before another utterance could be made, the screeching cries of burning rubber in blood curdling harmony with the mounting roar of a v33 engine defiantly shout out their final rebuttal.

MoMo and DD barrel straight forward with reckless abandon. Fueled by a bloodlust which threatened to carve out the last remaining beating hearts, leaving behind only crimson tread marks as the final exclamation point to the lives that ended here in roadkill.

Adam, Gil, DAD and Max, along with all 23 boys, they were only afforded a single split second to anguish in horror before being mercilessly wiped out. Dekka clutched the wheel with shut eyes.

SCREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEeEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEECH

They swerve. Deftly missing most of the survivors while the remaining are sent flying from the automobile’s love tap. Foot firmly stomped on the break, Dekka floors the gas and gusts of exhaust fumes, smoke, and even flames billow into the face of the despondent throne sitter.

Dekka holds up a single middle finger out the window to Max as her last goodbye and peels out in an explosive flash of neon pink.

Blackened with soot, Max's emotionless face peers upwards towards an overlay display of the prosit ship.

"Gotta find the exit! Gotta find the exit!"

DD and MoMo's location on the display moves faster and faster till they begin to ping pong back and forth from every which end of the ship. The survivors eyes follow suit, flitting back and forth, nearing a dizzying degree! At one point, DD's location seems to be everywhere at once!

And then... *nowhere at all.*

A chime sounds, punctuating their sudden vanishing.

On the wrist of Gil, he could read the following message:

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU HAVE ACHIEVED ULTIMATE VICTORY. YOUR WORLD WILL CONTINUE ONTO THE NEXT ROUND DUE TO YOUR EFFORTS. YOU MAY RETURN TO YOUR WORLD OR BRING 30 PEOPLE OF YOUR CHOICE AND LIVE OUT THE REST OF TIME ON PROSIT 547 WITH THEM. THIS DECISION MUST BE MADE WITHIN 24 HOURS. YOU WILL RETURN TO THE PARTY HALL IN 60 SECONDS.

Before any reaction could be made. Before the survivors could even mourn. The Earth which brought them Dekka Dynamite and her progenitor Computer, unceremoniously explodes in violent destruction. Perhaps in that moment some of them felt relief. Others dismay. Or heartbreak. Either way, the girl which led them all here to their final destination, *was no more*. Whatever choices they made from here, with such an irreversible conclusion, it was clear the only path forward... was to move on.

A stunted shifting of gears retched

A lurching, irksome stall... emanating out into the very ethos

"F\$%K"

SLAM

"F@&K"

"F*#K"

"F&@K"

Her voice was reduced to a singular long-held BLEEP as her internal censor flares.

"MOVE DAMN IT!"

SLAM

"JUST MOVE"

SLAM

"PLEASE"

SLAM

SLAM

SLAM

Dekka's head falls forward with gravity and slams against the wheel. Yet not even the horn sounds. MoMo had become completely unresponsive. As if she...

Drip

Several tears fall onto the dash. Her seatbelt being the only thing keeping her held up like this...

SLAM

Her fist smears the moisture drops out evenly onto the dash with force

Suddenly the stereo finally sounds on. A call for joy? As it previously proved busted. Only, as if in mocking, [the number which played wasn't even from her playlist.](#)

"Screw this, I'm getting the F@&K out!"

Like a cat held in water, DD claws and lashes desperately at her restraints till freed.

And freed she is, to the mercy of gravity. "WHA-" Dekka falls face-first into the dash and then tumbles out onto a dune of sand as MoMo's door slides open. MoMo herself seemed to have crash landed straight into the dune at a perfect vertical angle. Her grill and hood were firmly implanted into the sand.

"Where the heck even are we?" Dekka rubbed her head and shifted in discomfort at the alien sensation of getting sand in her boots and cleavage.

"Ouch!"

Before she could even register the atmospheric sound of crashing waves, a sharp pinch was felt.

"AH!"

And again

"Yeow!- My hair!"

A flock of territorial fiordland penguins had surrounded Dekka and started ruthlessly pecking and nipping at the neo human anywhere they could. And rightfully so, this is their natural habitat being encroached upon after all.

"Sto-OW!" She likely could have punched them away, but they just looked so garsh darn cute!

"No wait! Give that back!" She breaks her defensive fetal position once one of the cheeky birds pulls the green paper parrot out from her breast pocket.

"Please! It's the only thing I have left of-"

Dekka doubles over in panic as she scrambles towards the paper parrot, but several other penguins have joined in on the bullying and are playing tug of war with the late Captain's crafted companion.

"You flippin' turdy birds! I'll rip you in half if you-"

Dekka snatches the paper parrot back from the penguins, but in that moment notices its ends were fraying into two.

"What is this..."

Peeling back one of the paper parrot's ends... it begins to unfurl, revealing a new fold as each one is undone.

"No way..."

A miracle of origami. The paper parrot unfolded out into a full map.

On its back, along with the parrot's original likeness, a message could be read as follows

"ARR, Lass - If ye be readin' dis here treasure map, then it seems this scurvy old sea dog has finally walked tha plank. Greatest apologies. All is not lost however. Least not ye've found this map. A Captain always takes his greatest treasure along with him to the grave, but if this somehow reaches your hands - I reckon yer good fer it."

"This here treasure map correlates with thar proshit's original design blueprints. Mind ye this is intel I nabbed from that shadowy scallywag Varis. Ye best take it all with a wee grain of salt. However, thar was somethin' which seems like it'd be of mighty interest to ye. An Exit."

"A self respectin' up n' comin' treasure hunter like yerself will be already seekin' it out me thinks. I've circled each landmark. Coursed a proper leyline for ye."

"'Fraid this is all the Captain has left for their best crewmate. Ya learned fast n' well. N' I've no doubts ye will continue on so. Tis a pleasure workin' with ya."

"X marks the spot, Lass. You've got everything you need now."

"And remember"

"Never give up"

"Never surrender"

"Follow your dreams till you can grasp them with your own two hands"

Where a signature would be signed, lays a slanted tear, torn from the Capn's hook

Drip

A teardrop stains the map

"Capn..."

She dried her eyes and puffed up her chest, leaving her wallowing despair packed away in the glovebox.

"I won't let you down!"

"Come on guys! Let's go find that exit!"

The penguins hadn't stopped their assault on Dekka, but with a treasure at stake she could hardly sweat the little things. They follow on after her.

Moaning caverns, windswept valleys, and erupting volcanoes. They were just a few of the dozen landmarks Dekka had to trek past. She did so undeterred, but admittedly much slower without MoMo.

Eventually she finally crosses the finish line of her tropical sojourn, coming exactly to where X marks the spot.

"....."

Only there was nothing there to be found.

Her and the penguins began to dig, but to no success. Beyond being sullied with dirt

"No way could this be wrong... did you guys... mix up one of the landmarks?"

With no answer from the penguins, she had no choice but to backtrack and retry the process all over again.

And again.

Then again....

"This... how is this even possible?? We keep ending up in a different spot!!"

Panic was starting to set in, and daylight was fading

"Past the laughing waterfall... then up the marble quarry..." she repeated the steps to herself. But none of it made any sense with where she'd end up.

Thunder cracks in the distance. The sky darkens as a tropical storm approaches.

"Come on guys, stop waddling behind! We gotta pick up the pace!" She chastised the penguins and started to break into a sprint.

"I'm not lost! I'm not lost! I'm *NOT* lost!" She continues to run while reading the map over and over again. Stressing each fine detail.

Low hanging tree-branches, and overgrown shrubbery, they knick & slap at her as she rushes by. For a race car driver, the girl actually had a decent sprint, but her footwork could use some tuning...

"Wha-" Her boot heel catches on some stray vines and sends her toppling forward down a steep slope.

CRASH

BANG

KAFOOF

The runaway girl smacked herself against several trunks on the way down. She was left battered and disoriented as she cratered into a ditch.

A much louder boom of thunder roars, and in an instant the entire jungle was assaulted with heavy rain.

DD was motionless. Caked in mud. Wallowing in despair.

Soto's treasure map did not survive the fall. Torn to pieces. Dirtied and soaking wet. What final scraps remained bleed their ink away like tears in the rain.

She shook. She shivered.

".....aaaaaaaaahhhhhhaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!!!!!!!!!!!....."

MoMo wasn't the only wreck. Dekka broke down completely, crying her heart out.

"Why?????"

"W-what was all of this... e-even for!!" she sobbed

"Oskar..." they cry

"Nano..." she pleas

"B-benny!..." A final lament

"I killed you all... I... *I killed my very first friend!* Hastar! *Aaaaaaahaaaaaaaaaah...*"

"*I take it back! I'll take it back! I don't wanna be alone anymore!*"

"P-p-please come back!"

"I... *I d-don't know what I'm fighting for!....*"

The penguins slid down the slope and cautiously inspected her, but it seemed even their assaulting pecks could not reach the full blown despairing girl in this crisis state. If neo humans could freeze to death, Dekka didn't seem to care anymore. She'd given up.

Maybe out of pity. Or maybe as a way of asserting dominance. The fiordland penguins pile onto her and keep the girl somewhat sheltered. They smelt awful, and the rain only made it worse. Still, all Dekka did that night was cry.

Thonk, Thonk, Thonk

Heavy hiking boots come to a halt upon the sight of the penguin-covered lass

"You've traveled quite a ways to come here. And it appears you certainly haven't arrived underdressed."

Rise and shine. Several penguins rouse from their roost and DD's head lifts from underneath one to look up at the mysterious stranger.

.....



The mysterious stranger smiles

Dekka didn't recognize the man, *and she certainly didn't know what there was to smile about.* "...Who the heck are you?"

"A wanderer from Beyond the Star Rail"

DD could only raise a wary eyebrow at such an answer "...and what are you doing here?"

"What I've been destined to"

DD couldn't quite put her finger on it but something about this guy ticked her off

"I can only presume you are *the* Dekka Dynamite. *I've been expecting you.* My name is Hovantis. A fellow Rogue." DD's eyes immediately widen alert at this revelation, but she is promptly cut off from the many mounting questions. "Come. There is much to discuss." The mysterious stranger knelt down to offer her a hand, and out of the jungle he led her.

"!!!!"

"MoMo! You're alive!"

Hovantis and Dekka make their way to a quiet beach nestled along a tall cliffside. Twelve alcoves line the cliffside, each one housing slabs of marble stone, each stone marked as gravestones without a date. MoMo was in her human form and looked to be lighting incense for each grave before getting glomped by Dekka in a powerful bear hug.

DD giggled with glee to be reunited with her other half "Who the heck is this, silly?" Dekka looked at the [marble statue of Grug](#) with a bemused smile.

"..." Ever stoic, MoMo set the last lit incense at Grug's grave.

"So uh... *Hoh-van-tis?* Where are we even?... right now? You said some stuff about being Rogue so that means... you ran away too?"

"We're aboard Prosit 13 of course." Hovantis gave his old friend Grug a wry smile before returning his attention to Dekka. "Or rather, *some form of what it could be.*"

"We are in a place that defies laws and logic. Beyond the Star Rail."

"An infinite sequence of pocket dimensions of which I travel. It would seem this world resembling an important part of the past is an object of your creation. I had previously believed it not possible for an interloper to create such a crossroads."

"As for your second inquiry. No. I believe I am currently doing the exact opposite."

Hovantis gave a knowing look to his old friends

"However.... This is no place for such discussion. Shall we go for a drive?"

Dekka blinked and she was already behind the wheel with the pedal floored.

The stereo lights up

"The English countryside. An old friend of mine would likely feel quite at home here"

The iced over streets cause MoMo to skid and lose traction for a moment. Despite the foreign terrain DD seemed to get a handle on things, they picked up speed.

"You said Prosit 13... just how many ships does that creep have anyways?"

Sitting shotgun Hovantis gazed out the window, watching the snow-caked trees and brick hedges wiz by in a flash. "As many as there are stars in the night sky"

"...." The sheer scale of what she was up against started to truly sink in.

"Just how are you doing all of this anyways?"

"I believe you are asking the wrong one here" The mysterious stranger smiled

"Look, can ya cut the cryptic crap? Just what do you want from me? I don't know anything about star roads or whatever the heck this is!"

"I would like to make a proposal. Though you should know your other half has already accepted."

MoMo's dash panel lights up and data displays. Her Personal Motor serial deletes and is replaced with the following ID...

PROSIT 1337

"Wah, wait, what the heck is this?"

"My old friend von Blitz once made an offer to me. To helm a prosit of my own in this destined conquest for 'perfection'. I refrained. Having no interest of course. You and MoMo however. I suppose the existence of such entities has changed my mind."

Hovantis did not hide his admiration of the craft they rode on which he himself deemed a marvel.

"W-wait! So we're... gonna force a bunch of random people into another death game?! Are you actually crazy?!?!" Were it not for the sliding on ice Dekka wouldn't be able to keep her eyes on the road while hearing this.

"Would you prefer to leave them at the mercy of Maximillian and his fleet? Varis-san told me you were a rather competitive racer. 'Perfection'. If that is which von Blitz and his hive seeks. Then reaching said destination first is only a matter of a race." He smiled. "A million more years, and I could find not a more fitting candidate."

Dekka was shocked... "You're definitely flippin' crazy... Perfection? What do you nutjobs even think that is? Trying to go to a place that doesn't exist... that's like... you're tryin' ta tell me to race the sun."

"Hm. A fitting metaphor. Regardless. You and I have been consumed by this race all the same. If you are destined to race eternally, then perhaps that itself is this 'perfection'."

"Dekka-san." He turns his gaze from the window and looks forward at the winding road. "I believe you wish to be in the driver's seat above all else. So that is what I am offering you. You cannot divorce yourself from this fate... *but you can drive it.*"

She was getting choked up at just how frightening this all sounds. Not that she'd tell him that. Despite this she drives faster, sliding into a drift around the next bend.

"...if I'm gonna race, then I better damn win!" She shifts up a gear. "But... What about everyone else? I... left friends behind. I killed some too..."

"And you will be far from the last to do so, I'm afraid."

"!..." she didn't take such a cold reply well

"I was the Vigilante. Forced to play all sides much like yourself. I've never once forgotten that I am allowed to continue walking forth because of those that were sacrificed in my place. I would advise you to do the same. As for the living. So long as they still persist... then I suppose any potential reunion would be a matter of their own choice."

Dekka sulked. "I don't think they'd want to see me... not after what I did."

"That's a rather low estimation for people you would deem friends is it not?"

"...." He had her there.

"Ah, let's pull over here."

MoMo slows to a rolling stop and Hovantis steps out. As soon as the door is slammed shut, they're instantly back on the beach in front of the gravesite.

"Wuh! Hey! Give me more of a warning next time!"

Ignoring her, Hovantis confirms. "The keys to this world have already been assembled. You may leave now." He gestured to MoMo who was back in her human form and standing next to a series of tree logs fashioned into a raft.

"...I'm supposed to ride that thing out of here? Uhh, what about you? Don't you want to hear my answer?"

He shakes his head "It has been quite some time since I've had a chance to speak with old friends." he nods to the graves "I shall remain here for now. When the destined time approaches, I am certain our paths will cross again."

"Where... Do I even go?"

Hovantis smiled. "That is the beauty of a journey. Wherever you wish." "So long as you two do not directly interfere with von Blitz or their fleet, there are no limits."

She was lost in thought till he addressed her once again. "Remember, aim for the sun." he points to the ocean's horizon where the sun was setting. Before Dekka could even get another word out to the mysterious stranger, he had already turned his attention back to the statue of Grug.

".....*Thank you.*" she lightly muttered to herself while watching him, then left

TUNES

Gil's Earth - December 31st, 2023 11:54

"Guuuh...." Takada groaned as he stirred awake from under a mound of liquor bottles and beer cans. "Head's killin' me, damn..." The youth was sporting a hell of a hangover to boot. It took him a moment to fully dig himself out free...

GONG 

The boy's head recoils and his glasses practically crack at the loud gong being struck just beside him.

Gil stood there holding a stick with which he struck it, looking none too impressed by Takada and the mess which was made here. "The last of the year. Consider it an honor as a guest here." He wasn't playing around.

"Gee thanks, Gil, think I'll stick to regular alarm clocks though..."

Two months had already come and gone, and with it, the year was just about done too. Despite only giving the survivors 24 hours to select their 30 tagalongs, Max was surprisingly more lenient with letting them decide if they would stay aboard or become permanent roommates with Gil. Gee like that was a hard choice.

They were currently shackled up at an old temple which towered several stories high, though, from all the littering from the party favors, Gil might have been regretting his not letting Max host the new years party this year..

UNZIP

"Excuse me, Takada, that water there is not a urinal. It is specifically meant for visitors of the temple to purify themselves."

"Oh shit, my bad man! Figured there's gotta be somewhere around here to take a leak!"

Gil was stone faced appalled "No... this is a place of worship."

"Agh man! I'm about to miss the show!"

Gil sympathizes "I understand the band has a portable lavatory of which you could use. Do not dare to think of relieving yourself outside on holy ground."

"Gaaaah I'm dyin'!" Takda rushes for the stairs and shoulders past several other guests. "YO COMIN' THRU!"

"Fuck! Didn't ask him what floor they were playin' on." Takada had no choice but to check every floor and room for some place to take a freakin' leak.

A live band sent echoing booms throughout the temple so all he could do was follow.

"Oh, Takda! Just the boy I wanted to see!" DAD catches him in the hall as he's about to attempt doing the dirty deed right there. "Have I told ya? You remind me very much of a strapping young fellow I once met named Yusef! A real social butterfly! Always looking out for his friends, such a go-getter!" DAD wrapped an embracing arm around Takada tight. He was just drinking some sparkling apple juice, but the atmosphere of the party seems to have him acting a little drunk.

"Ahaha... yeah man!" Two grueling minutes went by as DAD talked his ear off.

Salvation at last! Takada finds a moment to break away and his next stop ends up being the show floor. It was loud, dark, and crowded as hell. If he didn't find the bathroom soon he was about to go on somebody's leg.

"Oh come on! What is this!" A line of ten or more stretched around the porta potty

He winces doing the 'gotta wee' dance. 🤢 Eventually it ends up looking like he's just dancing to the tunes and a cute girl starts to do a number with him. Just Takada's luck, perfect chance to chat a pretty girl up, and he's about to literally explode. He nods along with what she's saying while eyeing the line like a hawk.

At last! The line finally died!

"Haha! Oh hey, well here's my number! Be right back!" Takada nearly throws several dancers out of his way as he books it for the can!

*Shove, Push, Duck! Repeat! Shove, Push, Duck! Repeat! Shove, Push, Duck!
Repeat! Shove, Push, Duck! Repeat! Shove, Push, Duck! Repeat! Shove, Push, Du-*

"Aye back off Takada I'm about to piss myself!" Okamoto practically robbed this man's soul with that swift steal. The porta potty door locks and a groan of relief from inside is let out. "AHhhh!". Takada was lost... the room darkens even more at the final minute. The crowd starts counting down. A mountain of hype was hoisted up by the room. It felt like it was directly pressing down on Takada's bladder...

...10

...9

...8

...7

...6

...5

...4

...3

...2

...1

Happy New Year! The crowd cheers and Adam [lets off a slick bass line](#) with Kuwabara and Murakami following up with the guitar and drums.

Takada's pants get totally soaked as he wets himself right there in the middle of the crowd...

The man simply says '*fuck it we ball*' and starts to dance his ass off 

"I'M SO MIRACLE"

"YOU SO RADICAL"

"READY GO TONIGHT"

Takada thought aloud "Damn, boss got some vocals!"


Coming from behind Murakami, the guest of honor Dekka pops up and sings along

"I'M LIKE DYNOMITE" 

"BUT SOMETIMES HOLD ME TIGHT" 

"OH READY GO TONIGHT!!!!!!" 



They rock the temple to the ground and MoMo pops her doors open and starts burning a donut in the middle of the mosh pit 

Dekka cheers "*Happy new year guys!*"

"Come on! Hop in! We got another game to drive!"

"YOU KNOW WE GOTTA READY GO TONIGHT!!!!!!"

fin

Happy New Year everyone!

See you guys all next time for The Last Earth 3