

-----

Episode 268 – No longer on your way to the championship

-----

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.

“Well, the good news is that they managed to get the workshop back from the woodworking guys,” Rick began as he entered the room. “And now the woodworking guys are using the metalworking shop to cut dies for the block-printing group while the car club gets to have their car space back as long as they don’t try to use the boat ramp, so everyone wins.”

“So we’re good then?” Dan asked as he followed Rick in.

“Weeeeeeeelllll...” He shook his head a bit. “I’m waiting for an answer back from them, as it seems that the Wargaming group want space to work on their battlefield dioramas, which means that the dollhouse furniture group might have to move and...”

“Sorry I asked.”

“What are you two up to?” Tsuneo asked as he stepped in, Rebecca behind him. “Not that I really want to know, but at the same time, I’m worried that I might be collateral damage when it happens.”

“It’s a surprise,” Dan nodded.

“Surprise like ‘you’ll enjoy it’ surprise, or surprise like ‘hold onto the detonator cord for me’ surprise?” Rebecca asked as she dropped down onto the couch, tapping away at her smartphone.

“Probably one, could be the other,” Rick suggested.

“So probably good, might be bad?” Tsuneo asked hopefully.

“Sure, let’s go with that.” Dan shrugged.

“It’s better than the fic, trust me on this,” Rick offered.

“So’s getting my other arm gnawed off,” Rebecca laughed. “So not a good comparison”

“Speaking of, I was thinking about all the random and crappy OCs we have in this fic,” Rick continued.

“And how they’re all, well, more or less the same. They have a fake-sounding Japanese name and use a Gundam which is made up of Gundams and bits of Gundams slapped onto Gundams.”

“Agreed,” Dan nodded. “They’re very samey and bland, almost to the point of being indistinct.”

“You can divide the cast into ‘Kale’s team’ and the amorphous mass that is the contributed characters,” Tsuneo noted. “Raymond’s only distinct because he’s on Kale’s team, not for any actual personality traits or individual features.”

"Right," Rick nodded. "And, well, I think the random characters that we throw in at the end of each chapter are a lot more interesting."

"In a really stupid and random way, but yes," Tsuneo agreed. "They're quite fun, actually."

"And based off that, I figured that we needed a way to capture the essence of those random characters, and be able to create them at will," Rick finished.

"So don't tell me, you made a random roll table for that?" Dan asked. "Like the Random Robin table we use in 'Girl on Fire?'"

"Well, I was going to," Rick shrugged. "But Rebecca made it as an app instead."

She waved her natural hand. "What can I say? I was bored and it seemed like a laugh. I supplied the code, and then Rick just mashed in the words for it." She glanced at Tsuneo. "You're right; he can churn out bad ideas like a machine or something"

"Your creative process is both amazing and terrifying at the same time," Tsuneo admitted.

"It's a talent." Rick nodded.

"So can I give it a try?" Tsuneo asked, Rick nodding and handing over his tablet. "Hm, a big red button that says 'Make my Build Fighters OC.' Easy"

"I had to code a system that even Dan could use," Rebecca smirked.

"Well, that works and... wait a moment!"

Anything Dan might have said was cut off by Tsuneo diplomatically pressing the button. "Well, here we go," he announced. "My OC's name is Reily T. Reily. He's the Minnesota State champion of Kendo Sticks, his favourite Gundam Character is Cancer Kafka, he likes to wear red and white check Gingham dresses and his mobile suit is a Dogzam painted bright yellow with obscenities decaled onto its side."

"Wow." Dan replied, his outrage forgotten. "That's... that's a lot more interesting than anyone in the fic so far. Mind if I have a go?" He took the tablet before anyone could reply, hitting the button. "Ok, well, according to this, my OC's name is Jennifer Girlfriend. She's from Bhutan and likes to eat factory second instant ramen noodles. She was inspired to take part in Gundam Fights by watching Hammer Horror films, and she uses an Over Flag that she customized by pouring condiments onto."

"See, isn't it amazing?" Rick asked as he took his tablet back. "Now, I got Baron Von Undersink, which is actually the secret alias of a disgraced former fighter who was kicked off the Gundam Fight circuit for use of Airfix Spitfire parts. He conceals his identity by wearing boxer shorts on his head, and is only given away by his love of Ecuadorian flue music. He pilots an Asshimar which is painted to look like a giant Oreo cookie."

"I tested the code myself," Rebecca added. "In my test, I got Gonk Asplodo, who joined Gundam Fight to get even with his arch-enemy, Mayor McCheese. He wakes up every morning with a bottle of bottom-shelf gin and then goes to his full-time job digging tunnels under the Korean DMZ. His real passion is Gundam Kits, which he elaborately customizes using industrial metal presses. His preferred kit is a BuCUE which rides around on a Base Jabber."

"Alright," Tsuneo said. "I've got to try this." Rick passed him the tablet, and he pored over the screen for a moment. "Interesting. I've got Carl Bossmonster, the only Gundam Fighter in all of Idaho who made it to the championship by stowing away on a cargo ship. It says here he uses the 'Bossmonster Gundam,'"

which has the body of the Visargo Chest Break, the head of Zeong, the arms of Reborns Gundam, the legs of The O and the Epyon's heat rod."

"Huh... Sounds oddly familiar," Dan said, to which Rick only smirked. "Let me see that."

Tsuneo shrugged and handed it over to Dan. He tapped the screen a couple of times and shrugged. "Guess it's not doing it again."

"So what has it come up with?" Rick asked.

"Well, I've got Rod Johnson Rockford, who it says looks like Trowa Barton with his hair recoloured and a scar added in MS paint. He's a very strapping fellow, who wants to engage other young men in the manly exertions of Gundam Battle-" He was cut off by Rebecca sniggering loudly. "Hey, I'm not making this up. Rick?"

"All randomised," Rick said.

"Alright. Anyways, according to this he prefers to engage in close combat with his black and yellow Adele Titus, and judges opponents on their sportsmanship as long as he wins."

"Mental," Rebecca said. "I love it."

"See, I could write a fic around this," Rick said. "Imagine it, the drama as Rod takes offense at Reily's decals! Jennifer interrogating other fighters, trying to find a weakness in the Bossmonster Gundam as time ticks down to their fateful match. Gonk, inspired out of his exhausted fugue by the haunting noise of Baron Von Undersink's Ecuadorian flute..."

They all stood in silence, imagining the possibilities. A look of horror slowly crossed Tsuneo's face, and seemingly spread to Rebecca and Dan.

"Let's... Not get carried away," was all Tsuneo could manage.

"Good morning all," The Voice began, coming as always out of nowhere.

"And good morning to you-" Rebecca snatched back the tablet and hit the button. "Flex Sweatsock, the greatest Gundam fighter in all of Uzbekistan who is driven by his love of licking paint and his desire to be known by a dramatic alias. When he's not customizing kits, he likes yodeling and goat bothering, hobbies represented in his choice of kit. It's a Gigan that has a really cool hat."

There was a pause.

"How would a Gigan wear a hat?" Rick asked.

"Well, I'm... glad to see that you're getting ready for today's review," the Voice finally managed. "Because today we'll be looking at the final chapters of My Way to the Championship-"

The voice was cut off again by a round of cheers. "No more Trans-Am!" Rick began.

"No more jarring tonal shifts!" Rebecca continued.

"No more boring reader-contributed characters!" Dan added.

"No more Kale!" Tsuneo finished.

"Well, I should warn you that it's not actually a conclusion," The Voice continued. "Rather the fic's been discontinued."

"We're crushed," Tsuneo blatantly lied as he sat on the couch, the others joining him. "Completely crushed."

"So what do you think will happen in this part?" Dan asked as he put his feet up on the table. "Because obviously it won't actually end."

"I'm hoping for lengthy, bland, pace-stumping listings of the parts used by everybody's custom Gundam kits myself," Rick replied.

"Good answer," Dan nodded as the big screen turned on, switching the world over to script format.

> Gun Game

> Author's Notes: That episode 18, seriously pulling Trans-Am out of nowhere?

Rebecca: As opposed to what you do in your fic all the time, right?

> I swear the 00 series gets almost no love

Rick: 00 is the ugly middle child of the Build Fighters family.

Tsuneo: Yeah, it's terrible that they didn't bend over backwards to accommodate you.

> except for the few appearances in the whole anime so far

Rebecca: I'd tell him it wasn't even Trans-Am, but his fragile delusions can't take it. [She grins wickedly]

> (which I feel will be about 25 episodes because it has the feel of 25 episodes).

Dan: That and it was stated from the outset to be twenty-five episodes

Rick: Details!

> Episode 19, cosplay for the win, seriously Nils and Caroline totally don't fit at all together,

Rebecca [Narrator]: I'll write hatefic in which Caroline suffers a messy, painful death. Nothing gets in the way of my ship!

Tsuneo: So who does he ship with Neils?

Rick: Katarra; who else?

> but it's kinda cute.

Dan: In a "pairing up the leftovers" way

> Episode 20, I didn't see that coming

Tsuneo: The bear with a jetpack was a surprise.

> what with the Nemesis chairman,

Rick: Nemesis Chairman who was raised from a pile of dead things and has stalked the world from the shadows for centuries...

> Fellini must've been crazy,

Tsuneo: No, but the bargains on his used cars were.

> SO MUCH DRAMA IN THE EPISODE!

Rebecca: Like, ermigerd the dramahhh!

Tsuneo: Please don't do that.

> Also, I might start writing any battle scenes in third person omniscient

Rick: Hi folks, God here. I'm enjoying these Gundam Fights too.

> meaning get ready to be able to know the fighter's every thought

Rick [Kale]: I \*really\* like Zabanya.

Dan [Darren]: One of these days, I'll make them pay for mocking me. I'll make them all pay.

Rebecca [Kalia] Crush kill maim destroy!

Tsuneo [Raymond]: Who am I and what am I doing in this crappy fanfic?

> (and by extension, anyone of important relevance as well).

Tsuneo: [Narrator] I also might start introducing scene changes, especially when the point of view- I'm just kidding, you rubes don't deserve that.

> Enjoy the chapter!

Tsuneo: [Deadpan] Gee, I cannot guess what's going to happen this chapter.

Rick: Kale and the team fly to the moon where they're inducted into the Secret Cosmo Defenders who protect the Earth from marauding X-ians with their Gundam kits which have been brought to life.

Tsuneo: Wow. I did not guess that.

> Disclaimer: I don't own GBF, it belongs to Sunrise. I also don't own any of the OCs in this chapter; their  
> owners can be found on my page.

Rick: Due to improper copyright notification, Raymond Kens is now in the public domain.

> Gun Game

> Just after Darren left,

Tsuneo: They all burst out in fits of uncontrollable laughter.

> Raymond isolated himself in the workshop working on a new Gunpla.

Dan: Perfecting his warrior robot race, building them one laser gun at a time...

> I swear as if he feels that this Gunpla is his lifeline;

Rick: Building Gundams is the only known treatment for his plot complicating disease. His doctor prescribed to build a new Gudam Kit every day or else he'll die.

Tsuneo: Does his doctor also happen to own a model shop?

Rick: Strangely, yes.

> let me restate that: IT IS HIS LIFELINE.

Rick: Drowning in dreams, throw me your heartline.

> The few times that he chooses to come out

Rebecca: He was dressed only in his bunny slippers and tool belt.

> would be when he needs to get other materials or get food...

Dan: And sometimes it's both. Dude just glued a hot dog to his Gundam.

Tsuneo: The line between genius and sleep deprivation-induced insanity is so slim.

Rick: You're damn right it is.

> I swear he's going to lose it.

Dan: Given his latest design incorporates bunny ears and a fluffy tail, I'd say he lost it a while ago.

> But on the other hand, Darren's match just started. Let's see how he performs on a world level.

Rebecca: It's Darren's big chance to be humiliated at a global level.

> "Please set your GP base."

Rick: Megathrusters are go!

> I swear Darren is getting all jittery from being able to fight at a world-wide contest.

Tsuneo: Actually, that's because you didn't warn him who his opponent was.

Rick: Kale is relishing Darren's fear and anxiety.

> "Beginning Plavsky particle dispersal.

Dan: Please do not lick the Plavsky particles.

> Field 1, Space." Side 6...

Rebecca: Side 6, Melchester 1.

> it's a good place to have a battle.

Tsuneo: Unlike that rat-infested hellhole that is Side 5.

Rick: Side 5 is the Atlantic City of Colony Clusters.

> "Please set your Gunpla." Huh, Heavyarms and a Dark Hound;

Rick: Dark Hound is Lego Pirate Captain's favorite Gundam.

Dan: I would never argue with Lego Pirate Captain.

> not bad opponents,

Tsuneo: Given that they have the inherent drawback of not being Zabanya.

> but they aren't the problem:

Tsuneo: The Heavyarms is piloted by a dedicated Gundam fighter who's poured endless hours into detailing and weathering his model; even though it's a stock design, the kit itself is a true, one-of-a-kind labour of love.

Rick: The Dark Hound on the other hand is piloted by a local Gundam Battle enthusiast who always tries to entertain his audience and opponents. He chose the Dark Hound for today's match because it's International Speak Like A Pirate day. He's also shown up to the battle in a puffy shirt, captain's hat and with a stuffed parrot.

Rebecca: But they don't matter because they're not the designated threat.

> it's Athrun that's a threat.

Rick: Athrun is the greatest threat to America. After bears, that is.

> "Battle start."

> In the middle of the fighters launching,

Tsuneo: Nothing says excitement to me more than replaying the second half of the last chapter as the start of this one.

Rick: It's a second chance to see Darren fail miserably.

> Raymond shouted out "NOW ONTO THE BODY!" Seriously, the  
> body? Just what were you doing these past two hours?

Dan: Fapping off to photos of nineties supermodels. He just got up to Elle McPherson.

> And as if he read my mind,

Rebecca: So, Zabanya then.

> he replied with "MAKING SURE THE CONCEPT WAS RIGHT!"

Rick: Concept-X 6-1-2. He was just on the phone to Syd Mead to check on the design revisions.

Tsuneo: What did Syd say?

Rick: Something about drawing while naked again.

Tsuneo: I am so glad you don't follow his example.

> Yikes, don't just yell like that.

> I continued to watch the battle

Dan: [Kale] Choking on my laughter.

> as Darren and the Dark Hound pilot destroyed each other's rifle.

Rebecca: That's either amazingly accurate or amazingly terrible aim on both their parts.

> The door opened and that meant that

Rick: Room service had arrived.

> Monica and Kaila were back from their shopping trip. "Sorry we're late."

> I replied back "No, it's fine; Darren's battle just started."

Rebecca: She promptly turned and left.

Tsuneo: I have to wonder why they remain friends with her, given that she doesn't respect them at all.

Rebecca: Probably because they're afraid she'll shatter their limbs if they say anything against her.

> Kaila asked the question.

Dan: She'd been shopping for the ring.

> "How's the monkey doing?"

Rick: He's still throwing barrels at the fat plumber

> I stared at her before saying "He's doing fine... he's just winging it... he uh..."

Dan [Kale]: Okay, I can't lie. It's Darren. He's sucking it up big time

> Then we heard an explosion.

Rebecca: Raymond was learning why you never use spray paint in an unventilated room near an open flame.

> I turned around and saw that Darren was fine. "See, he's doing fine."

> Monica pressed the matter further. "You don't seem convinced."

> My eyes were twitching as I came up with my explanation.

Rebecca: About how Lizard Men were conspiring with the Gnomes of Zurich to make sure there were no 00 suits in Build Fighters.

> "He's going back to his original "Just-Go-In Style",

Rick: Darren previously applied that style to several gay bars, a women's locker room and an operating theater.

> despite that Harute isn't the type to go in like he's doing right now...

Tsuneo: Once again, Darren deliberately sabotages himself.

Rebecca: The thing he's best at is being bad.

> but the Saviour has better

> close-range than Harute by enough so that he can go into a comfortable zone.

Dan: I'd say that Darren's well outside his comfort zone by now.

> The thing is..."

Rick: Astronaut Ben Grimm, horribly transformed by cosmic rays into a rocky-skinned creature. But that's not important right now.

> "Battle ended." We all turned our attention to the TV except for Raymond who was working on his

> Gunpla.



Rick: At your fingertips: Gundams.

> The result of the battle was a tie between Darren and Athrun.

Dan: Incensed at the outcome, the crowd rioted and stampeded the arena.

> "I'll be... the monkey just tied with a top contender."

Dan: She was betting he'd be wiped out by the first scrub he met.

> I couldn't help but agree.

Tsuneo: Kale agrees that the TV says that Darren's tied.

> "I think that if anyone who has known Darren for as long as we have,

Rick: Would be asking themselves why.

> they'd say the same thing."

Tsuneo: It's touching the way they support their friend and team-mate.

Rebecca: It's a level of positive reinforcement rarely seen outside of the Death Eaters.

> As the remaining battles went on, I asked Monica about the use of Plavsky particles to power Trans-Am

Dan: She started back at him like he was obviously deranged.

> and she said she would work on it.

Rebecca: Remember, Monica's existence is defined solely by her empowering his fantasies.

> Besides that, I really wanna know who the fighter for the PPSE team is.

Rick: Have you ever noticed that you never see the PPSE team fighter at the same time as Grover?

Dan: Grover? As in the blue Muppet from Sesame Street?

Rick: Yep. You know what that means?

Dan: That Grover hasn't appeared once in this fic so far?

Rick: Exactly!

> "The last battle will be starting. Fighters, please report to the battle floor." Well that was faster than I  
> thought it would be.

Tsuneo: [Kale] I thought we had a lot more recapping to do.

> "Please set your GP base."Hm? A girl?

Rebecca: Don't be silly. Girls can't Gundam Fight.

Tsuneo: Kalia does, and she's a girl.

Rebecca: Please, Kalia is more of a man than the rest of her team put together.

> I swear I gotta stop thinking about cosplay because her uniform

> was the most, weirdest thing I have seen:

Rick: Spray-painted pink army boots, knee-high plaid socks; a grass skirt, a hand-knitted jumper with a picture of Godzilla on it, fingerless gloves she stole from a hobo, Groucho Marx glasses and a propeller beanie.

> it consisted of the same uniform that Meijin Kawaguchi wears  
> with the exception of a pink tie and a mask that Relena wore in the Mars Century 022 (which was the  
> same one worn by Zechs Merquise).

Tsuneo: Costume description. Not like this.

Rick: Mine was better.

Tsuneo: Not going to argue.

> "Battle start." Well according to her launch sequence, she is Shion Makabe

Dan: Did you figure out where you knew that name from?

Rick: I'm not known, but it's escaped me.

> and she uses an Arsenal Phantom Ruby

Rick: So it's a one-of-a-kind car?

Tsuneo: Wait, what?

Rick: The Rolls Royce Phantom Ruby. It was a uniquely-finished Rolls made for sale.

Tsuneo: Huh. Sorry, guess I killed that one.

Rick: 's alright, I didn't have anything else.

> that's probably the most customized Gunpla I have ever seen:

Rebecca: It's kinda funny-looking.

Tsuneo: In what way?

Rebecca: I dunno, just funny-looking.

Tsuneo: Can you be any more specific?

Rebecca: I couldn't say. It wasn't circumcised.

> the frame was small and petite like it was a "real model of a woman",

Rebecca: Remember, girls are only allowed to use Girly-looking suits.

Tsuneo: And SDs.

Rebecca: Of course. How could I forget?

> AGE-FX's head and Build Strike's vulcan pods,

Tsuneo: Wait, she knocked off parts from Sei's custom kit?

Rick: It could be that, since it was last year's winner, it gets a licensed model release based on their custom-built kit.

Tsuneo: That sounds like a logical and reasonable explanation, which is why it didn't come from the fic.

> the torso is (strangely enough) similar to that of the Shinkiro from Code Geass,

Tsuneo: She was immediately disqualified for using non-Gundam parts.

Rebecca: They can slap you with a lifetime ban for that.

> a Calidus Multi-Phase Beam Cannon which is covered by a layer of armor, longer shoulder  
> pads from the Halphas Gundam which has crossed wing binders for some kind of remote weapon (I'd  
> assume),

Dan: Nope, you can't assume too much with them thar remote weapons.

Rick: Ayup, ya never know when a mother bit's gunna sneak up on ya.

> the rear skirt is like that of Sid

Rick: So it's a crotchety old guy who has a rusting rocketship in his back yard and dreams of going into space?

Dan: No, that's Cid Highwind.

Rick: Then it's a disembodied consciousness downloaded into a support drone body?

Dan: That'd be CID from Saints Row.

Rick: So it's a measure of force in internal combustion engines?

Dan: You're talking about Cubic Inches of Displacement, which in a roundabout way, the other two were named for.

Rick: Then it's a Spanish national hero?

Dan: That'd be El Cid, and now you're way off.

Rick: Alright, then it's an old man who digs up mobile suits from artificial mountains.

Dan: That's Sid Munzer from Turn A, who's a reference to Syd Mead. Actually, that makes your second Syd Mead reference so far.

Rick: Wow. Can't really top that.

> and some other stuff I couldn't identify.

Tsuneo: All up it looked like someone had just gone dumpster diving and slapped on bits they found in the leftover parts bin.

> Almost a minute later ,the Full Armor ZZ, Vagan Gear Sid

Rebecca: As opposed to a meat-eating Gear Sid, I presume.

> and the G-Xiphos were all eliminated. "Battle ended."

> "What?"

> "Did you see that Kale?"

Dan: No? Do we have to describe that thing again?

> "Well I know what I saw:

Rick: A guy in a hot dog costume doing hits.

> a massive spanking of low-level fighters."

Tsuneo: The masked ace effortlessly destroyed a squad of nobodies. This shouldn't be surprise to anyone who's ever watched anything Gundam ever.

> Not exactly what Kaila said, but it's the same idea.

Dan: Something about destroying everything they know and love.

> "Well." I started. "It's clear that we need to prepare to fight that thing if necessary."

> It wasn't long until Darren came back.

Rebecca: Well, we've just blown half the chapter on retelling the last chapter. Pacing, folks

> "Guys, did you see... where's Raymond?" We all pointed to the shop. "Is he..."

Tsuneo: Dead? Yes.

> how long has he...?"

Dan: Long enough to go through his pockets.

> I answered "Almost after you left. Just before your match

Rebecca: [Kale] And no, you can't watch.

> he was still working on the concept and was going to start the body."

Tsuneo: Raymond cares more about working on his kit then he does about supporting his teammate.

Rick: Well it is Darren.

Tsuneo: Good point.

> Darren was in a state of confusion already.

Dan: Followed by Definitely Maybe and then perhaps Clichés of the World.

> "But if he works on the... but he... I don't..."

Rebecca: Error, error... does not compute... error!

> Raymond again, as if he read our minds, said

Rick [Raymond]: Pink, with little blue bears.

Tsuneo [Kale]: How did he know?

> "It needs to be perfect in order to fight perfectly."

Rick: But how perfect? Terry Silver approves level perfect? Perfect Gudam level perfect?

> I shrugged and looked at the clock.

> "Speaking of perfect, it's a perfect time to eat dinner guys."

Rebecca: Well that was an ugly and forced transition.

> After dinner which Raymond attended (surprisingly),

Tsuneo: Raymond finds interaction with other humans to be over-rated.

> we stayed up a few more hours before hitting the sack.

Rick [Kale]: So I was thinking we could all watch a movie-

Dan [Darren]: If it's Awakening of the Trailblazer, we've all seen it a dozen times.

Rick [Kale]: Well, what about-

Dan [Darren]: No, we don't want to see your personal favorite fourteen episodes of 00 either.

Rick [Kale]: Well, uh, what about-

Dan [Darren]: Kale, if you even think of putting on your six hour Lockon Stratos tribute music video, I'll get Kalia to break both your legs and snap off your fingers.

Rebecca [Kalia]: I can and will!

> But unfortunately, I couldn't go to sleep,

Tsuneo: He was convinced that the cockroaches under the bed were going to eat him

> so I decided to go into the shop, boot a computer, opened a can of soda

Dan: Popped a bag of Funyuns, cut up a bowl, did some hash...

> (which I shouldn't have at all, but who cares?),

Rick Drinking soda right from the can? You're such a rebel, Kale.

> and took to making a pair of weapon binders for the funnels from the Laguna

Tsuneo: At this point you realise he doesn't actually have a plan or overall design in mind, and is just gluing on random parts as they come to him.

> at the same time while I watched battle videos and sipped on Sprite.

Rebecca: He's multi-tasking while sleep deprived. The outcome should be hilarious

Rick: Wait till he wakes up and finds out he glued his can to his model and that to the floor.

Tsuneo: On the other hand, Zabanya Soda Can was more successful than his previous upgrades.

> As I finished building the binders and put them on Zabanya,

Dan: He'd run out of space, so he wound up attaching them to its skidplate.

> I proceeded to grab the can but what I grabbed was not my Sprite can;

Tsuneo: It was a loaded pistol. Again, sleep deprivation.

> in fact, it felt almost round but it felt like it was covered in a small pad like a...

Dan: Novelty mouse pad with a wrist support.

> please don't tell me that's what I think it is.

Rick: A previously undiscovered species of lemur? [Ding!]

Tsuneo: You're right, that's not what he thought it was.

> I turned around and I was... I'm not sure if I even want to think about that...

Tsuneo: I don't! But I don't get a choice.

> but Monica was blushing from having the previously stated item being touched.

Rick [Kale]: I touched her hat. It was the closest I'd ever been to a real woman.

> I opened my mouth to say something but she again planted a kiss right on me.

Rebecca: Because nothing makes a woman feel romantically inclined more than being accidentally groped.

> I blinked a few times before I took her shoulders and separated ourselves.

Dan: Alright folks, back to your corners until the bell.

> "What are you doing Monica? You should be resting for tomorrow's match."

Tsuneo: She's got a busy day of standing around, doing nothing and only being vaguely acknowledged ahead of her.

Dan: I'd say that Kale should be more worried about his own sleep, but hey! It's not like anything he does will stop him from walking all over his opponents.

> Monica answered as quickly as possible

Rick: Sticking strongly to her rehearsed alibi.

> "I couldn't sleep and I saw the light coming from the workshop

Tsuneo: She thought it was aliens come to probe Darren in his sleep.

> and I saw that you weren't in bed so..."

Rebecca: She decided to strip the room and then skip out without paying.

> I had to pause for a minute there just to process what she said.

Rick: [Kale] Uh... Can you put it... in terms... of 00 mobile suits?

> "So, what's with the kiss this time?"

Dan: Kalia bet her five that she wouldn't.

> She hesitated before saying "While at the mall, I told Kaila about our first kiss and she

Tsuneo: -didn't stop laughing for fifteen minutes.

Rick: Then Kalia drove her head through a wall.

Tsuneo: Of course.

> told me to pursue it."

Dan: But not to go chasing waterfalls.

> Knowing Kaila,

Rebecca: He feared for his life.

> I somehow knew she would tell Monica something like...

Dan: [Kale] How I was allergic to girls.

> but I never thought that

> Monica would just jump the gun like that much less actually follow Kaila's advice.

Rick: Up until this point, he'd been convinced that Monica was actually a species of tree frog.

> "So, what other reason do you have for being in the workshop?"

Dan: She'd accidentally wandered in there looking for the bathroom.

> She shifted uncomfortably in her chair before she answered. "Can you teach me the controls for Gunpla  
> Battle?"

> "... really?"

Tsuneo: [Kale] I mean it's like... After midnight already.

Rebecca: [Monica] Well, I can't sleep and it's that or listening to you drone on about Zabanya.

> I can do that."

> As the battle system booted, I thought about Monica for a bit

Tsuneo: Miracles will never cease.

> and I thought about why she was acting like this.

Rebecca: Because her entire existence is defined by her relationship to you?

> It didn't occur to me that during the state qualifiers back home,

Rick: During the double-elimination tournament for the All Valley Championship.

Dan: Think we'll ever stop with the Karate Kid jokes?

Rick: Naw!

> she might have harbored feelings,

Tsuneo: Nausea, disgust, general unease...

> but I thought about it and argued with myself

Rebecca: Late at night, the rest of the team would see Kale silhouetted in the window, arguing loudly with "Lockon."

> that she couldn't have stayed calm the way she has until she started acting strange.

Rick: Going out at nights, howling at the moon, coming back covered in blood. You know, strange.

> Her learning the controls took almost the entire night

Tsuneo: [Kale] No, no; it's light punch, light punch, forward, light kick, heavy punch.

Rick: [Monica] Then... A tap to knock you out of it.

Tsuneo: [Kale] Yes...

> and when we took a break, she immediately fell asleep.

Tsuneo: Conversely, at this point, Kale must be running purely on sugar.

> I hope that she doesn't remember what happened earlier.

Dan: He copped another feel, just in case.

> After dismissing my worries, I carried her to bed and saw how cute she...

Rebecca: It's touching the way her horrible personal trauma brought you two together.

> I swear to God if I think about things like that it's going to ruin my sanity.

> The following morning, I was still asleep because of...

Rick [Kale]: Stuff!

> anyways,

Rick [Kale]: You know, stuff! And things!

> I got up and noticed everyone but Raymond

Dan: Turns out that not everybody loves Raymond.

> (because he was in the workshop again) and Monica

> (because she was still sleeping, I hope she isn't thinking about anything weird)

Rebecca [Monica]: Giant bunny rabbits... coming to kill us... don't eat me, mister flopsy...

> staring at me.

> "What?" Darren and Kaila were looking at me impishly and I had a brain fart.

Dan: [Kale] I know! It needs more bits!

> "Oh my god, why are you two..."

> Kaila (with that same impish look) said "Oh nothing, but how was your sleep?"

Rick: [Kale] I hardly got a wink in. Someone in this team snores like a-

Rebecca: [Kalia] Excuse me?

Rick: [Kale] No, nothing, I slept like a log!

> "No freaking comment you idiot." I left it at that clean and simple.

Rebecca: She graciously accepted his comment without a word. Later that day, she would viciously attack him with a sledgehammer.

> After waking Monica up,

Dan: A process that eventually involved dry ice and a hedge trimmer.

> we went to the main lobby to see which 3 people we were grouped with

Rick: It was Lord Death Blood Shatter, Princess Prettypants and Miffy Lumpomifferton.



> for the 4 on 4 shooting game when I saw Alice Guide from the other US team.

Tsuneo: Representing the entirety of the United States that's defined as 'Not the bit Kale's from.'

> I must've said "Wouldn't I like to get a piece of her"

Rick: Kale has given up on his pound of flesh.

> out loud because what happened next was beyond me.

Rebecca: They were all subsumed by unknowable, incomprehensible machine intelligences.

Rick: That's definitely beyond him.

> "That sounds weird you know."

Dan: Yeah, well... your face sounds weird!

> "GYAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAH!" I looked for who said that and the only possible person

Rick: A person who could possibly exist, but may not. Like, say, Kim Jong-Un's ex.

> was a kid next

> standing next to me. "Who are you?" The kid was pale and he was kinda thin.

Dan: Here kid, get some food into you, quick.

> I know I saw his hair style somewhere, but I couldn't place...

Tsuneo: On the OC submission form?

> Oh it looks like that Reiji-san's hair style, but I couldn't recognize it

> because it was longer, tied in a pony tail and it was silvery-white with a black streak on the right.

Tsuneo: So not Reiji's hairstyle at all, then.

Rick: Apparently so.

> He was wearing... wow I can't believe I'm thinking about it, but he almost looks like an emo

Rick: So he was a tall flightless bird, covered in short, black, hair-like feathers?

Dan: That's an Emu.

Rick: Yes, but it's also almost like Emo.

Dan: I hate you.

> if it weren't for

> his blue and purple eyes and the contrasting colors of his clothes... a long, black t-shirt with teal lines

> across the chest as if it was from a knife fight (or, again, I can't believe I'm thinking about this, as if he

> cut himself), a white overcoat with black trimmings all over and a black hood. And to top it off, white

> trousers, black shoes with red linings and he wears a silver locket.

Rebecca: All fear the terrifying might of... Scene Kid!

Rick: In a moment he'll be off to sign into his livejournal under a username with a bunch of tildes and dashes on each end.

> I gave another quick up-and-down.

Tsuneo: And burst out laughing at how dumb he looked.

> He didn't answer me until he pointed to something on the board next to my name,

Dan: "Disqualified for excessive cheese."

> Reiji-san & Sei-san, and some other person's name.

Rebecca: It was John Barren. He's a special guest.

> "My name is right there... It's Izuru Hoshikawa." He muttered something else under his breath...

Rick: He said "A smell of petroleum pervades throughout."

> I hope it wasn't something mean or rude.

> Well I couldn't complain. "Well, Izuru-kun, let's do our best!"

> I gave him my hand to shake but he just shrugged it off.

Dan: Wow, tryhard emo kid is tryhard emo. Who knew?

> "I don't trust you right now."

Tsuneo: [Izuru] I mean, come on, we've only just met. Let's get together, have a couple of raspberry sodas and get to know each other. Then we can get down to serious distrust.

> I felt my face pale because I'm a friendly guy and someone just shrugged me off.

Rebecca: It's amazing, Kale. Somebody just treated you like the jerk that you are.

Tsuneo: His mind is blown by the thought.

> Monica gave me some comfort,

Rick: From behind, Monica sighs, hits him with a soft cushion and collects her fee.

> but it wouldn't do much like this... We proceeded to meet up with the others

Rebecca: They had a rendezvous with Raymond, Darren, Kalia and, of course, Rama.

> and I saw Izuru-kun talking with Reiji-san...

Tsuneo: They were discussing the inconsistent and seemingly random use of honorifics in English language fanfics.

> Anyways I saw Iori Sei-san and I proceeded to drag Monica along with me to talk

Rick: I will make you socialize even if it kills us!

> with the builder of the 7th tournament winning team.

> "Iori-san. Iori-san!"

Dan: On reflex, Sei sighs and gets out his autograph pen.

> Said person looked in my direction and greeted me. "Kale-san! It's nice to see you made it!"

> I couldn't help but feel a bit jittery

Rick: [Kale] Ohmigawd, he totally talked to me!

> to meet with probably the best builder in the world.

Tsuneo: I'm genuinely amazed. I thought Sei would be sucking up to Kale big time by now.

Rebecca: Wait until after Kale effortlessly trashes him in the battle.

Tsuneo: Of course.

> "Iori-san, I've wanted to know something:

Rick [Kale]: What's with that stupid little tuft of hair you had when you were a kid? It looks so dumb.

> what's your Gunpla this year?"

Tsuneo: The Star Build Strike With A Few More Bits.

> He hesitated, but the PA system called

Rick: Apparently somebody left an unclaimed Gyan at the registration desk.

Dan: Like anyone would admit that was their kit.

> "We will now begin match 16.

Dan: The Girls On Fire versus the Eremento-Jin.

> Fighters, please report to the stage."

Tsuneo: And the competitors line up for weigh-in...

> I couldn't help but smile. "Well, it looks like our turn to take the stage hm?"

Rick: It's time to get the music, it's time to light the lights...

> He nodded and walked towards Reiji-san. I looked at Monica and nodded to her.

Rebecca: I bet that's the last time she contributes to this chapter.

> "Please set your GP base." As I got to look and see what the fighters were using, I saw an RX-124 TR-

> 6 Woundwort on our side, a GM Cannon II, Perfect Strike, a GM Sniper II

Rick: A Giga-Trouser XL, a Zonk Grunkletorpe, a Troutmongler Mk III and, possibly the most surprising, A 1957 Chevrolet Bel Air.

Dan: Some people take their modeling seriously.

> and, I didn't think that the Renato brothers would be fighting this period,

Rebecca: Or even if they'd made bail.

> a Dynames Full GN Shield. One that was very interesting  
> was Izuru-kun's Gunpla: it was a full-on custom Gunpla that had parts from a multitude of series  
> including the Beginning,

Rick: And remember folks, Beginning G, despite the similarities, is fictional to Build Fighters. This is your continuity on drugs.

> Extreme, 00 and Seed series: it had Extreme Gundam's head and it looks like  
> it has the Build Strike's vulcan pods with the Beginning Gundam's V-fin. That doesn't even begin to  
> cover it: it had parts from Destiny like the Palma Fiocina, Strike Freedom like the Calidus beam cannon  
> and the Xiphias 3 rail guns, Zabanya's GN Missile pods all over the frame, and Infinite Justice's Griffon  
> blades and Beginning 30's beam saber buzz saws;

Tsuneo: It looks like a cat swallowed a bunch of Gundam parts and then hocked them back up.

> to top it off; it had a very custom paint job.

Rick: Metallic purple with bright orange trim, plus some highlights picked out in white gold.

Dan: Pimptacular.

> "Beginning Plavsky particle dispersal. Field 4, Mountain.

Rebecca: I remember this battlefield...

Rick: In the mountains!

> Please set your Gunpla." A snowy environment?

Tsuneo: It could be a desert mountain.

Dan: All mountains have snow. End of argument.

> Perfect for a sniping sortie." Battle start."

> "Izuru Hoshikawa, Proto Arsenal/ B-Ex,

Dan: Unable to perform? Beam saber not lighting up? Take Proto Arsenal/B-Ex!

> breaking through space." So eager.

Rebecca: Sigh, loud, brash and totally brain-dead...

> "Woundwort, taking command!"

Rick: Well he was manipulating Theoden of Rohan, so I suppose he was taking command...

Dan: Ah, that was Grima Wormtongue from Lord of the Rings.

Rick: My mistake. It's the Death Eater who turns into a rat, then.

Dan: No, that's Peter Pettigrew, nicknamed 'Wormtail.'

Rick: So they're putting on a Marilyn Manson song?

Dan: No, that's Wormboy.

Rick: Right, so it's Calvin's elderly school teacher.

Dan: No, that's Miss Wormwood.

Rick: So it's a nuclear reactor in the Ukraine that suffered a catastrophic meltdown.

Dan: No, that's Chernobyl who's name translates as 'Wormwood' and now I know you're doing this on purpose.

Rick: I try.

> "Perfect Strike, launching!"

> "GM Cannon II, I'm launching."

> "GM Sniper II, locking on targets."

Tsuneo: Expendable guy, going out to die.

> The Renato brothers launched next. "Dynamex, going to war."

> "IoriSei/Reiji, Star Build Strike Freedom, going out!"

> After a few seconds of thinking,

Dan: I can hear the gears stripping.

> "We've finally made it" and "Looks like it's our turn", I turned to Monica

> and we gave each other inspirational smiles.

Rick: His said 'I just farted.'

Rebecca: Hers said 'I know.'

> "Zabanya SAGA, Kale Cassel, locked and loaded!"

> As the fighters emerged onto the snowy mountain,

Dan: Is it too much to hope that they get eaten by a Yeti?

> they all proceeded to take cover behind some trees,

Rebecca: Kale hid behind a small shrub. Subtlety is not his strong point.

> inside a crag or whatever was big enough to hide a mobile suit.

Dan: Inside a derelict warehouse covered in graffiti but close enough for you to steal stock from the backlot of the liquor shop.

Rebecca: You'd know about that, Dan.

Dan: And you know – hey!

> As nothing happened for about a minute,

Rick: Then Kale farted again.

> the first shot was fired from the GN rifle of the Dynamex at the Woundwort.

Dan: Oddly enough, he was voted "First to get gunned down by snipers" in his high school yearbook.

> "Ah, we missed the target Mario."

Rick: I'm sure you have no end of Koopa shells to spare

> "Julio, we can always hit them later."

Tsuneo: Make sure they know our names, Rebecca.

Rebecca: I'll be sure to do that, Tsuneo.

> The Woundwort's pilot then called for help.

Dan: Everyone on the mountain blasted him at once. Sucker.

> Kale and Monica were strategizing about what to do

Rebecca [Monica]: I think we should play a long game; stay mobile, avoid contact where possible and use the cover we have to remain undetected. We let the other players get wrapped up in dealing with each other and thin out the field while our bits fly interference and draw out the battle. Then we use our weaponry to pick off the wounded and weakened stragglers.

Dan [Shouting]: I shoot Zabanya gun other guy go bang!

Rebecca [Monica, sighing]: Or we can do that.

> when Reiji charged in and started shooting. "Reiji, think first!"

> "Come on Sei, it's more fun this way!"

Rick: Everything Reiji learned about strategy and tactics came from Leeroy Jenkins.

Dan: At least he has chicken.

> The other fighters on the same team but Izuru couldn't help but sigh in exasperation.

Tsuneo: You'd think they'd be used to it by now.

> The Woundwort's pilot started to talk.

Dan: And bumped up his pay grade. Great going, extra.

> "This is Shu, going in to back up Reiji-san."

Rebecca: And then make sure a tape copy of him is kept at an off-site facility.

> Kale replied with "Okay, go to the left and start firing on the ridge."

Tsuneo: Remind me; when did this become a team battle and why is Kale on Sei's team?

Rebecca: When it became important to make sure his character is on the same tier as the canon ones.

Tsuneo: Of course.

> As Shu did that, the Strike fired its Agni cannon on random places

Rick: It hit an outhouse in Broken Hill, a fruit stand in Leeds and the last unbroken window in all of Detroit.

> to try and flush the remaining Gunpla out.

Dan: I fully expect a pixelated dog to pop up and start laughing at him.

> "Come on, this is a gun game! Come out and start shooting!"

Tsuneo: Or fire randomly and make a target of yourself.

Rebecca: Now the clever thing to do would be to make this obviously useless teammate into bait, and take out the fighters who he draws out.

Dan: Uh, why are you looking at me like that?

> What he didn't realize was that Kale and Monica were ready to start shooting

Tsuneo: This far into the fic, they're not the only ones.

> and had the Perfect Strike in sight.

> "Zabanya SAGA, beginning armed interventions!"

Rebecca: Kale Cassel's policy on third world conflicts left a lot to be desired.

> In two shots, one a warning shot and the next the finishing shot,

Rick: Didn't leave 'em much time to respond there, slappy. Kinda missed the point of the warning shot.

Dan: Warning shots are for wimps.

> the Perfect Strike tried to block with the small shield on its left arm but was

> broken in half

Dan: [Winces] Whoops, tried to make sense of the fight description again.

Rick: Do you need to diagram it?

> before firing one shot at Reiji and Sei.

Tsuneo: And our hero takes somebody out with one shot while everyone looks on in amazement. I'm glad that he's being so modest about it all.

Rick: Just watch. Next he's going to punch through a Gundam like it was made out of pudding.

> "Reiji, use the shield!"

Rebecca: Protect yourself with the thing that you use to protect yourself with.

Rick: Brilliant!

> At his command, the Star Build SF used the shield and although some of the

> fighters could have imagined it, the shot was being absorbed.

Dan: Like a sponge. That soaks up lasers. Look, it's not a terribly good metaphor, okay?

> All the fighters, except Izuru, reacted the same way.

Rick: Dull surprise!

> "Did it just absorb the shot?"

Tsuneo: You know, like his custom kit did all throughout his winning run in the last championship?

> In the sidelines, Mao, Fellini, Nils and others expected this. "Looks like they used the beam generator to  
> their advantage."

> "You said it Mao; instead of a lag in beam absorption, the beam generator is disguised as the regular  
> thing but in reality, it hides the absorb system and people don't know the moment it's too late."

Rick: This has been clumsy exposition theatre.

> "Seriously, Early Genius? You haven't changed a bit."

Tsuneo: I mean, you spent the last year duplicating a theoretically impossible particle, became involved with a somewhat unstable girl who tends towards violent mood swings and of course turned fourteen and are now subject to puberty and all that it brings with it, but you haven't changed a bit.

Rick [Deep]: You think?

> "Mr. Fellini, I would advise you that I have change."

Dan: But no, you can't bum bus fare off me.

> "Whatever, just keep watching."

Tsuneo: Thank you, random canon characters. Our lives have been enriched.

> The GM Sniper II and GM Cannon

Rick: As opposed to the GM Apocryphal and the GM Fanon, of course.

> took a position on a cliff and fired volleys on the Woundwort and the Proto Arsenal.

Dan: Daring them to come out and making 'cheep cheep' noises.

> "Alright, a few more rounds and they can't move!"

Rebecca: Little did he know that they'd already relocated to a brownstone in upper New York.

> How wrong they were because the GM Sniper II was cut in half by a spinning object.

Rick: Colwyn took them out with the Glaive!

> "The beam sabers... they were remote weapons?"

Rebecca: Toolbags with drone toys are a menace.

> The GM Cannon's pilot made a horrible mistake

Dan: He went onto a forum and started a discussion about SEED Destiny.

> to look at the Proto Arsenal

Tsuneo: Mobile Photo Bomb.

> because he wasn't looking up and to the sides;

Dan: Look down! Look up! Look out! It's Mr. Frying Pan!

> the buzz saws flew in and out, like Fangs would,

Rick: Like... the fang of the sun?

Tsuneo: You're determined to force a Dougram reference, aren't you?



Rick: You know it!

> of the GM Cannon.

> "Never underestimate me, because I need to talk to someone."

Rebecca: Never underestimate his non-sequiturs either, apparently.

> With that said, the team of four was looking for the Renato brothers with no luck.

Tsuneo: The Renatos were hiding out in a doomsday bunker in Montana, equipped with a shotgun and all the bottled water they could find.

> Shu asked "Does anyone have a lock on them?"

Rebecca: Monica preemptively slaps Kale before he can answer.

> Before anyone could answer, the Woundwort's head

> was shot off and it fell into the snow before being shot again in the chest.

Dan: And then they pumped a couple of dozen rounds into its chest, just to be sure.

> Wherever the Renato brothers were,

Rick: Hiding out with Wally and Carmen Sandiego, no doubt.

> they laughing and talking amongst themselves "You would never

> notice where we are because of our distance and all this snow cover.

Rebecca: Battle Commentary by Ron Obvious.

Rick: He's partnered with Joe Exposition to do the tournament. They're a great team.

> Julio, three more shots should do it."

> "Roger that Mario."

Dan: And they're all blue shells, too.

> As the Dynames continued to fire,

Dan: Damn Renatos, always camping the spawn points.

Rick: Nerf snipers, I say.

> Sei said "Reiji, discharge!"

Rebecca: There's a bathroom for that, thank you very much.

> Reiji only smirked. Anyone could see that

> Reiji was prepared to fire the Full Burst while pouring a portion of their particle reserves into all the

> weaponry they could use.

Tsuneo: Obviously.

Rick: Clearly anyone could see that, yeah.

> "TAKE THIS!" Everything on the Star Build SF was fired

Rebecca: Beam cannons, railguns, atomic napalm neutralizers, death ray zorchers... Everything!

> in the general direction that the beam came from in hopes to destroy the Dynames.

Dan: Take that, random harmless chunk of landscape!

> "Did it hit?" Nothing happened for a brief second before the SF's left arm and the Zabanya's legs were  
> taken off. "Our Gunpla!"

> Kale scoffed.

Rick [Kale]: Legs are for losers!

> "I just finished changing the legs from Cherudim's back to Zabanya's.

Tsuneo: And that makes all the difference because... they're still shot off?

> Monica, give me a visual so I can shoot those idiots down!"

> "Alright, it's coming up now."

Rick: Monica obviously knew where they are, she was just waiting for him to say 'please.'

> Kale grunted thanks to her

Rebecca: And having marginally acknowledged her existence, he went straight back to ignoring her.

> and prepared to snipe at the Renato brothers. "Where are you SOB's?"

Dan: [Julio] Smack talking about our mother, Mario?

Rick: [Mario] How very droll, Julio.

> What Kale and by extension, the viewers and other fighters were unaware of was that the battle just  
> ended. "Huh? What just happened?"

Tsuneo: Suddenly, the narrative stopped.

> Sei, Reiji, Julio & Mario, and the other fighters plus the viewers didn't know what happened;

Rick: So they all went to look for spoiler pages on the internet.

> all but Izuru

> knew that the battle ended in some mysterious way which leads to the conclusion that he had  
> something to do with it because he was almost in a catatonic state.

Rebecca: So he surmised that he was responsible because he was catatonic but didn't actually know what he'd done or why he collapsed or how they were related.

Tsuneo: I love this fic for its clear and concise narration.

> "The winners of match 16 of the

> second period are Iori Sei & Reiji, Izuru Hoshikawa, Shu Shirokawa and Kale Cassel & Monica Crain."

Tsuneo: Fic discussion! Genuine attempt to build mystery and suggest something unusual at play, or lazy cop-out to ensure that Kale remains undefeated?

Rick: Cop-out.

Dan: Cop-out.

Rebecca: Cop-out.

Tsuneo: And that's it for fic discussion this week.

> When back in the 00 Trailblazer's room,

Dan: Darren returned the favour by refusing to come and support Kale at his match. Kale didn't notice.

> Darren and Kaila both commented "That was weird, one

> second they were going to shoot then the battle ended."

Rebecca: It's almost like the fanfic had no idea what it was doing and just gave up.

> "Really, you think monkey brains?"

Rick: Darren replied to her taunts by hopping up and down on the spot and flinging his poop at her.

> The door opened to show a surprised Kale and Monica.

> "You guys are back!" What was that? Kale was going to shoot...

Rebecca: Since we wasted the start of this chapter summarising the last one, let's waste what remains of this chapter by summarising the conclusion.

> "You guys? Hello, is anyone there?"

Tsuneo: Don't look at me. I gave up hours ago.

> Kale answered first "Hey man, let's just talk... get Raymond too, I don't care how you get him out,

Rick: Tear gas works wonders in situations like this.

> just get him out here."

> Kale: That was the weirdest thing I have experienced ever.

Rick: Weirder then the time you got high from licking a Zabanya kit?

Dan [Kale]: Okay, besides that.

Rick: Or the time that you went to school wearing only your Haro underdoos?

Dan [Kale]: And that too.

Rick: Or the time that your father convinced the city council to build an elaborate network of tunnels under the city with access to everyone's homes without any consultation with the property owners?

Dan [Kale]: You're right. That makes no sense at all.

> Monica: Even weirder than that girl back home?

Tsuneo: The wide-eyed one with the Kansai accent and a love of spicy bread?

> Kaila: Wait, there was a girl back home and you didn't tell me?

Rebecca: I suspect said girl is now not long for this earth.

> Kale: Kaila, it was a long time ago back in Maryland. I don't wanna talk about it.

Rick: Kale comes from Maryland? This is a shocking revelation.

Tsuneo: We now know one thing about his home.

> Raymond: Must finish Gunpla...

Dan [Raymond]: And then eat brains...

> Darren: I think we got him out too late; he wants to go back in.

Rebecca: It's funny because Darren's obsessive-compulsive.

> Kale: Just keep him here for now, we need to talk.

Tsuneo: Plot development! Is exclusively for end-of-chapter funnies, it seems.

> Monica: So Kaila, what do you think about your match?

> Kaila: If it's wrestling, then I got it.

Rick: She'll just get someone to distract the ref then smash her opponent with a chair.

> Monica: Even if it's about to get extreme?

Dan: It'll be so nineties you'll need to wear flannel.

> Kale: Next time, "Extreme Match-up".

> Kaila: Geez, I guess I really didn't think about this huh?

> A/N 2: Still accepting OCs for the time being.

Rick: Name: Kuro Oni Fake-Japanese Wakazashi Jones.

Dan: Gender: Bishie.

Rebecca: Appearance: Like if Levi and Eren had a butt-baby.

Tsuneo: Mobile Suit: Agg.

> Get them in now before it's too late. Changed rating due to some stuff I added.

> Extreme Match-up

Rick: Supreme versus Badrock!

Dan: Yabba-dabba-doom!

> Kaila's match is next and it's a wrestling match:

Dan: Falls count anywhere, no DQ and a pre-plotted screwjob ending.

> that means no range weapons

Rebecca: No beam rifles, no nuclear warheads.

> or any equip-able close range weapons,

Rick: Wait, you're explaining the conditions before the match? Madness!

> just the Gunpla's body and onboard systems.

Tsuneo: And whatever you can hide on your person.

Dan: Beam flick-knives it is.

> But the thing I'm more worried about is what happened in the last period:

Rebecca: The teacher announced a snap test, and Kale flunked big time.

Rick: It turns out that Lockon Stratos was not a classical Greek philosopher, and Haro didn't invent the steam locomotive.

> just as Kale was about to shoot, the battle ended but there was nothing in sight.

Tsuneo: Nothing at all. Everything was just a blank white void.

> Maybe it was a manipulation of Plavsky particles to hit the Renatos' Dynames.

Rick: Maybe meteors did it.

> "Hello Monica, are you tuning in to the conversation right now?"

Dan: Naw, she's listening to pirate internet radio right now.

> "I'm sorry, what was that?" I kinda regretted that

Tsuneo: There's a lot to regret in this fic

> because Kale was going over what needed to be done in an orderly fashion.

Dan: [Kale] Okay, here's the plan. Darren and Kalia create a distraction out back to lure a security guard away from his post. While he's distracted, Monica swipes his ID and uses it to wave Raymond and I in with the safe-cracking gear.

Rick: [Raymond] Um, this is a battle we're planning for, not a heist.

Dan: [Kale] So no daring highway chase in the getaway car?

Rebecca: [Kalia] Still eminently possible.

> "I guess I'll repeat myself... anyways, in order to get Raymond out of the workshop quicker,

Rick: I've gotten a Rottweiler and worked it up so it's mad as hell.

> we're going to help him;

Rebecca: Time for an intervention. Prise the Gundam out of his hands and send him to group therapy.

Tsuneo: What is group therapy for Gundam addicts?

Rebecca: I dunno. Maybe they sit around and play LoL all day.

> also, we've gotta get ready for Kaila's match tomorrow."

Dan: If she loses, you are all so dead.

> Oh, so that's why I was thinking about that thing...

Rick: That and its rocky, orange skin.

> I'm still not ready to face another mystery that may yet show itself.

Tsuneo: So Kalia doesn't get your support and anything that happens to her is on her own head. Got it.

> Time went by quickly as Kale and Darren helped Raymond

Dan: [Raymond] Alright. Kale, I need you to get an HG Unicorn version Zssan kit and post it to Dubai. Darren, you need to take these empty frames to the end of the southmost pier and wait until sunset.

Rick: [Kale] What will that do?

Dan: [Raymond] Get you both out of my way.

> (or attempted to help him)

Rebecca: Given how he basically sabotages himself, I'd imagine any 'help' Darren offers would only make things worse.

> finish the 00 Qan[t] Dash, I helped prepare Kaila for her match; pulling up physical training...

Rick: How does physical training help with a plastic toy robot battle? It'd be like getting in shape to operate Predator drones.

Dan: Maybe they're working under G-Gundam rules.

Rick: That makes sense, so we'll go with that.

> where and how does PPSE get the time to put this stuff in the battle system?

Rebecca: They have an overstaffed, over-paid development team who spend all day playing pinball. Every now and then, they get a dumb idea and throw it in.

Rick: I like that business model. Are they hiring?

> ...and made Kaila go through all of them nonstop.

Rebecca: Cracks started to show by the third round of the "Lubyanka Escape" course.

> She was pretty worn out after that and she just slumped down onto her bed

Tsuneo: Yes, be sure to destroy your teammates health before a physically demanding match.

> and slept like there was no tomorrow.

> Darren just blatantly stated "Lazy bum... why do you get a break? What about us?"

Dan: For emphasis, Darren had his feet up and was drinking a grape soda at the time.

> Kaila did not like that one bit...

Rebecca: So now she's pummelling him in her sleep.

Dan: You mean dreaming about pummelling him?

Rebecca: Nope.

> how did she even hear that? "You know what monkey? I don't like your

> attitude. Plus, you're not the one battling, I'm battling."

> "Well between the two of us, who's the better CQC fighter?"

Dan: If it's Darren, I'm going to laugh for hours.

> "Well, I'm pretty sure that I don't get my Gunpla destroyed almost 5 seconds later."

Rick: Yeah, Kalia usually gets trashed 10 seconds later.

> "Says the person who styles herself after a certain Innovade who committed suicide to save a certain  
> Innovator in a certain 00 OVA!"

Rebecca: Care to translate that clumsy metaphor for the benefit of real people?

> "Says the person who cries himself to sleep everytime his Gunpla gets wrecked!"

> Darren didn't like that too much. "You mother... WHO TOLD YOU THAT!?"

Tsuneo: Given you're sharing a hotel room... Simple deduction, really.

> Kaila liked what she got. "So it's true?"

> "IT AIN'T SO!" Then they got into a huger argument about Allelujah and Tieria

Tsuneo: Any moment, someone's going to compare Tieria to Hitler.

Rick: And then Rob Buckingham's going to shoot them.

Tsuneo: I'm not going to ask.

> (which I had no idea how that started)

Rebecca: [Kale] I mean, I was listening and all, but who cares about them?

> and then something about... I don't wanna think about that.

Dan: [Kale] All the tattoos... Ugh!

> Then it turned into a fist fight.

Rebecca: And then escalated to shooting, then global thermonuclear war.

> Anyways, it went on for about 5 hours

Dan: Keith David and Roddy Piper shake their heads in dismay.

> until Raymond came out of the workshop and announced "THE 00 QAN[T] DASH IS FINISHED!"

Rick: That's amazing! [Pause] What does that mean?

Tsuneo: That Darren just had something that passes for a personality moment

Rick: I'm not following you at all.

> He fell onto the floor

Dan: Crushing his kit beneath his body and destroying days of painstaking labour.

> and he was out like a baby.

Rebecca: Given his plot complicating disease, shouldn't they, you know, check if he's okay? He's been working himself to the bone, driving himself past the point of exhaustion and all that crap.

Tsuneo: That'd require his plot complicating disease to actually be mentioned again. Or, for that matter, for the author to remember it existed.

Rebecca: Silly me.

> Kale came out of the workshop and complained. "It was a bitch to finish,

Dan: No, it'll never be finished.

Tsuneo: Was that a philosophical observation on the futility of the pursuit of perfection?

Dan: What? No, it's just because Darren keeps swiping parts for repairs.

> but it happened." Then he looked at Raymond's unconscious body and asked for help.

Rick: To do what? Hide the body in a dumpster?

> "Can someone help me move him to the bed?" I involuntarily volunteered to help.

Dan: Kalia shoved her forwards.

> He just gave me a smile and I could tell that he wanted me to

> help... at least I think that's what the smile was for.

Rebecca: That looks more 'axe murderer' smile to me.

Dan: How would you know?

Rebecca: I meet some interesting people in my line of work.

> After that was done (talk about a heavy load, he was

> hard to drag across the room much less even pick his arm up),

Tsuneo: Monica has the upper body strength of an octogenerian.

> Kale then carried out an "armed intervention"

Rick: And launched targeted airstrikes on key infrastructure targets.

> on Darren and Kaila's argument and... rendered them... unconscious.

Tsuneo: Look, something happened. Take our word on this.

> Someone remind me to never get on Kale's bad side when he looks like he's in a hangover...

Dan: Yeah, that's everyone with a hangover. Gonna have to be a bit more specific.

> either that or won't deal with anything anymore for the month.

Tsuneo: It's funny because he's physically violent towards his friends.

Rick: Wow, let's hang on here and consider something.

Tsuneo: Sure.

Rick: So Kale's just demonstrated that he's physically violent when angered, much like Kalia.

Tsuneo: Very true.



Rick: And it's been made abundantly clear that neither he nor Kalia give Darren an ounce of respect.

Tsuneo: Kalia's more open about it, but you are correct there.

Rick: And they both think that the best way to customize a Gundam is to keep slapping weapons on it.

Tsuneo: Well yes... So where are you going with this?

Rick: Well, Kalia's name is pretty much a feminine version of his.

Tsuneo: Something I noticed off the bat.

Rick: And Kalia's his 'only female friend.'

Tsuneo: Yes...

Rick: And yet, she doesn't have a life outside of the club. We never see her in any scenes without Kale.

Tsuneo: Very true. Your point?

Rick: This is Gundam Fight Club. Kalia is Tyler Durden.

> "I'm sorry to inconvenience you again Monica,

Rebecca: [Monica] That's okay, I'm not doing... Anything. At all. Ever.

> but can you help me get them to bed?"

> I blinked and was surprised that he manages to stay calm like that after what he just did.

Dan: This just in; Kale's a psychopath.

Rebecca: It's taken you this long to realize that?

> I just smiled and said "Sure. I need to help somewhere other than building."

Rick: [Kale] Wait, aren't you my tactical advisor?

Rebecca: [Monica] ...I am?

> It didn't take as long as with Raymond,

Dan: [Kale] But soon enough he was naked. Monica, fetch the paddle!

> but it was still a while before we got them in bed.

Rebecca: Now pose them together and take photos for the blackmail folder.

> As Kale and I cleaned the mess in the workshop and

> the room where Darren and Kaila had their fist fight

Rick: That's what she told the cops as well.

> (although how it escalated to them using fisticuffs I have no idea),

Rebecca: I think that's Kalia's first step.

> Kale interrupted me for a minute to say something.

> "Listen Monica, I uh, I gotta say something before it gets too awkward between us."

Tsuneo: [Kale] I've been thinking long and hard about how we first met. That first day I saw you... I know, I was rude, but I was startled and I didn't know what to think. But with everything you've done for me since, I know in my heart that I can only reach one conclusion.

Rebecca: [Monica] What's that?

Tsuneo: [Kale] I like Zabanya.

> "I'm listening." I JUST WANNA DENY ANYTHING BAD YOU HAVE TO SAY!

Rick: Monica was auditioning for a job as a newscaster in Pyongyang.

> "Just, not here, so would you... gods why am I so bad at this?

Dan: Because you fail at human interaction.

> ...would you like to... go out... with me... today? As in, right now."

Tsuneo: [Kale] Let's abandon our unconscious friends - one collapsed from exhaustion and two knocked out cold - without medical attention. Nothing could go wrong.

> My mouth fell to the floor as I processed what he just said: he wants... to go on... a date... with me.

Rick: Well I suppose so, since she's the only girl he's ever talked to.

Dan: Um, what about Kalia?

Rick: The \*only\* girl he's ever talked to.

> "I'll take that as a yes."

> I must've been unresponsive for a while

Rick: Six years later!

> because when I tuned back into reality, Kale had already dragged me to the entrance of the mall.

Rebecca: Isn't that called kidnapping?

Dan: Technicalities!

> "Did I miss anything important?"

Tsuneo: There hasn't been a single important thing to miss so far in this fic.

> Kale face-slapped and I guess it must've been important.

Rebecca: Kale poured out his heart and soul to her. Laid bare all his feelings, exposed the very fiber of his being to her. Admittedly, it only took a few seconds...

> "I only asked where you wanted to go."

> I thought a bit before I said "Let's go to the food court."

> "The food court... you're kidding right?"

Tsuneo: Maybe she's hungry.

> I shrugged. "I don't know, it just seems like a nice place for a date."

Rebecca: For very broad values of "nice" and "date". Probably "place" as well.

> Kale muttered "Sure, if you want to be constantly pestered by noise."

Rick: Geez Kale, don't act like doing what your girlfriend wants is such a chore.

> As I led Kale to an open table, I saw another couple pass by with their hands intertwined. I couldn't help  
> but be jealous so when Kale noticed,

Dan: He screeched and made the sign of the cross.

> he took my hand and whistled in another direction. He's so  
> considerate that I can't see why he doesn't have a girlfriend.

Tsuneo: And if you can't see that, then you're clearly a robot from space pretending to be human.

> "So, what did you want to tell me Kale?"

Rick: [Kale] I thought long and hard about your position on the team, and I've decided to trade you to the Cubs for a wooden crate.

> He rubbed his neck for a while. "Well, you know that story about the stalker from home right?"

Rebecca [Monica]: The one that secretly dig tunnels into people's homes?

Tsuneo [Kale]: I mean the one who wasn't my dad.

> "Yeah... I don't see... Oh."

Dan: He's worried you're going to touch his Zabanya inappropriately.

> "Yeah, I don't really trust girls who have a romantic interest in me so... I wanna know what made you  
> fall for me."

Rebecca [Monica]: Well you're the author and you wrote me that way.

> I... I didn't know how to answer that question...

Dan: So she punched him.

Rick: It works in Taiwanese parliament

> I thought what I could've said but I said entirely different things.

Rick [Kale]: I like Zabanya

> "You're loveable Kale: you deeply care for others when it's totally out of your way.

Tsuneo: Wait, who's she describing?

Rick: I think it's bizzaro universe Kale or something. Certainly not him.

> I mean, sure you have your good and bad things, but they're overlookable.

Tsuneo: Care to elaborate on those 'bad things'?

Rebecca: Negative character traits are irrelevant. Kale is perfect and unquestionable in all he does.

> And also, you got me out of my depression which I wouldn't have gotten over if I hadn't met you."

Rick: On the other hand, you seem to be ensuring that Monica never makes it to reporting what happened to the proper authorities, so yeah...

> As soon as those words left my mouth I immediately covered my face.

Tsuneo: She hadn't heard such awkward and unnatural dialogue since... the previous chapter, really.

> "Well... that was an interesting confession. I mean, no one would say that even in normal situations,

Rebecca: No human being would ever say that.

> but I guess there are exceptions."

> "Kale, I..." He was deep in thought, and I could not tell what he was thinking; I mean I was his part...

> I've helped him with Gunpla Battle for a while

Rick: She'd occasionally said something when he remembered she existed. That counts as helping, right?

> and I thought I knew him pretty well to the point of knowing what he was thinking.

Dan [Kale]: Hey Monica, what am I thinking?

Rebecca [Monica]: Pink, with little blue bears.

Dan [Kale]: Amazing!

> "Listen, I just wanna say something."

Rick [Kale]: Something. There, I said it.

> He dragged it out for a while:

Tsuneo: Just like the rest of this chapter.

> him not saying anything had me on the edge of my seat.

Rick: Line?

> "I uh... I wouldn't mind the occasional peck from time to time.

Dan: Kale was immediately attacked by a Birdemic.

> I also wouldn't mind

> anything that isn't extremely intimate and that it's also something both of us can deal with."

> "Thank you Kale!"

Rebecca: And there you have it, proof that the author has never talked to a girl ever.

> I hugged him from across the table and I was involuntarily choking him.

Dan: Sure. 'Involuntarily.'

> "Uh, Monica, that's quite enough."

> "Sorry."

> "GET BACK HERE!" As soon as someone said that, a kid ran past.

> "Izuru!" Then a girl in white ran past.

> "GET BACK HERE WITH THOSE MEAT BUNS!" Then someone in red ran past.

> "Reiji!" Another girl in white ran past.

> "What was that about?"

Tsuneo: Enforced comedy routine.

Rick: Bit Cloud is about to go the other way with a cookie.

> "Beats me."

Dan: Killing the mood 101.

> We stayed out most of the night as we went to a karaoke place and sung wimp ft. Lil' Fang (from FAKY)

> and BACK-ON, Trust You by Yuna Ito, and Hakanakumo Towa no Kanashi by UVERworld,

Rick: Followed by some Peruvian throat music and then finishing off the night with a traditional Gaelic funeral chant.

> went to a Korean restaurant and had fish,

Rebecca: Toured the marina district, capped some rival teams; you know, stuff.

> and had a slow walk back.

> What the bloody hell happened yesterday?

Dan: And why did he wake up wearing only army boots and women's underwear?

> Darren and I had an argument and then Kale put us to sleep

Rick [Kale]: Time for go to bed!

> by using some Vulcan death grip...

Dan: So Darren can infiltrate a Romulan ship.

> I have no idea why that idea came up.

Rebecca: Actually I had no idea at all what was going on. I was hoping that you could explain.

> Seeing as it's the day of the third period, I better get up and kick some ass!

> "So, what happened while the three of us were out?"

Rick: Kale harvested your organs to sell for Gundam parts.

> Kale and Monica said nothing and this led me to believe that something happened between the two of  
> them... Must pursue this.

Dan: And crush every spark of happiness that might exist in their lives.

> "From what they've told me,

Rebecca: The Gundam Battle Tournament is a conspiracy by emigrants of the Moonrace to crush the spirits of 00 fans.

> they've been out all night." Darren you little... "Then when they came back,  
> they fell asleep in each other's arms. Then when they woke up,

Rebecca: They washed and had breakfast.

Tsuneo: The details of their daily minutiae are fascinating.

> Raymond was in the workshop again."

Rick: He figured that if Kale could have a girlfriend, then he would build one of his own.

> Again? He just doesn't know how to take a break.

Rebecca: Darren has a fantastic work ethic for a South Korean student.

> "So, what does that mean Kale and Monica?"

Rebecca: They both need to be tested.

> They didn't look at me at all; they just silently ate breakfast which consisted of some chicken soup.

Rick: Soup. It's food's last chance to be food!

> "Kaila, that question is very ambiguous." Just shut up Darren.

Tsuneo: Darren, never say anything again ever. Please.

> "To answer your ambiguous question,"

Rick: No, Renee Montoya is very open about her sexuality. Nothing ambiguous there at all.

> Kale started "Raymond is actually, willfully I might add, sleeping."

> "Seriously? Our Raymond is sleeping?"

Dan: She's shocked because Raymond has never, ever slept before.

> "Yep and to answer the other half, Monica and I are officially a thing."

Tsuneo: They had to register their official thing-ness with the tournament organisers. They got a certificate and everything.

> "You serious? You and Monica are actually... I KNEW IT WOULD HAPPEN! You owe me ten Darren!"

> "And by extension, I owe Raymond twenty." Sucks to be you sucker.

Rick: Is there anything that Darren cannot fail at?

> Kale, seemingly unaffected by what just transpired,

Tsuneo: [Kale] The minions titter aimlessly around me, but their excitement matters not.

> proceeded to say the agenda for today.

Rick: Oooh, is he going to also read out the minutes of last week's meeting? Because I do not want to miss a moment of that!

> "Okay, Darren is staying with me to keep watch on Raymond

Tsuneo: Raymond's house arrest continues, despite UN protests

> while Monica goes with Kaila today."

> "Are you sure about that? Surely you and Monica want some alone time?"

> Kale just gave me a murderous look. "Look, just follow it for today."

Rick: Kale's authority is beyond questioning!

> As Monica and I left, we started talking. "So, Monica, how was Kale?"

Dan: Bland, a little lumpy and somewhat cold.

Rebecca: Is she talking about Kale or the instant porridge she had for breakfast?

Dan: Zabanya aside, what's the difference?

> "Please Kaila, when Darren said that, it was what he meant; we just fell asleep in each other's arms."

> I gave her an impish look. "Right."

> As we went into the lobby, we gave each other quick hugs

Rick [Kalia]: I know where you sleep.

Dan [Monica]: I will cut you.

> before I went off. As I continued into the lobby, I made it in time for Meijin Kawaguchi's match.

Rick: For his match, he's using a customized Fuunsaki.

Dan: How is it customized?

Rick: Look at his horse. His horse is Amazing.

> "Please set your GP base. Beginning Plavsky

> particle dispersal." Kawaguchi's opponent is using a Gunpla using parts from the Shuffle Alliance,

> Master Gundam and Gundam Spiegel,

Tsuneo: But just their heads, oddly enough.

> in my opinion it's probably the worst Gunpla ever

Rebecca: She posted a lengthy rant on a forum to that effect. She even spelled some of the words right too.

> because even I know that using really mismatching parts is a no-no.

Tsuneo: Says the girl who made her Gundam from a collection of mismatched parts.  
Rick: Details!

> "Field 5, City.Battle start."

> "Meijin Kawaguchi, Amazing Exia, here I come!"

> As the Amazing Exia and the horrible G Gundam

Rick: Horrible Gundam could be a legit Gundam name.

> Gunpla touched down, the horrible Gunpla's fighter started boasting.

Tsuneo: Look, if you're going to have a one-sided squash match then there's no need to waste time and precious text on it. We all know this loser is going to get trashed, no matter what.

Rebecca: Ah yes, but now we have a character using a Gundam that the author likes, so it's vital to talk up how good it is and how much better they are.

Tsuneo: Of course. How could I forget my narrative priorities?

> "Meijin Kawaguchi, you have bad luck facing me here today. My Gunpla is a mix of the  
> best from the G Gundam anime

Dan: So where's the windmill blades or the Viking longboat? What about the Cossack hat? What about the cactus?

> and because of that, your Exia is no match for me!"

Rick: Wait, is he fighting Mojo Jojo?

Dan: You will be beaten by me who is the one who will beat you because I will beat you because I am going to win, and the name of the person who will win by beating you is none other than I, Mojo Jojo.

> Then he continued boasting and boasting

Rebecca: Talking about how great his Gundam was, how it was better than everyone else's Gundam, how their choices sucked, how much he'd customized it and how he'd effortlessly trashed everyone else they'd ever fought.

Tsuneo: I didn't realize he was fighting Kale.

> until Kawaguchi had enough.

Rick: He's sick of all these motherloving filler fights in this motherloving fic.

> "Enough with you.Trans-Am!"

Dan: I'd like to order some breakfast, Trans-Am!

Rick: Certainly, what would you like, Trans-Am!

Dan: I was hoping to have some coffee and some toast, Trans-Am!

Rick: And what did you want on the toast, Trans-Am!

Dan: Cheese; lots of cheese Trans-Am!

Rick: I think that can be arranged, Trans-Am!

> The Exia turned red



Rebecca: And blew steam out its ears.

> and charged at the piece of junk.

> The piece of junk's fighter

Tsuneo: So disposable, his custom model doesn't even get a name.

> charged as well. "Even if you use Trans-Am, it's no match for the speed of my Gunpla!"

Tsuneo: It moves at the speed of suck.

> The Exia moved, contrary to the other person's imagination, faster and then his Gunpla

> started pulling moves on it.

Dan: The Exia bought it a drink, complimented its eyes and its lovely dress... it really pulled moves on it.

> "You, how's this possible?!"

> "All you need to know is you're finished."

Rick: You are already dead.

> Then the Exia tore off the Gunpla's head.

Rick: Damn! It really did go all Shining Finger of the North Star on us!

> "Battle ended."

> Did he seriously... that backpack thing must've increased the Trans-Am's capabilities.

Tsuneo: Or, you know, he's actually good at this.

Dan: But it's Trans-Am, man. If there's one thing I've learned from this fic, it's that Trans-Am is the be-all and end all of Gundam battle; it wins the fight, saves the day, fixes your kit, gets the girl, does your shopping and polishes and details your car.

Rick: What if you don't have a car?

Dan: Well now you do, thanks to Trans-Am.

> Monica's little

> trick could keep up but it wouldn't do much good if that backpack boosts Trans-Am more than I think it  
> would.

Rebecca: Because it's well established in the show that Yuuki is the kind of guy to rely on a cheap boost rather than his own skill.

> The next battle was... my god it's the guy who beat Darren the week before the state  
> tournaments...

Dan: That was Raymond, right?

Rick: No, Raymond's not fighting this round.

Dan: So someone else from their try-outs? Because they said a good few people got past Darren.

Rick: I don't think so, no.

Dan: Still doesn't narrow it down much.

> Bryan Kusuma and his Exia Excalibur.

Dan: Oh, that guy! How could I forget that guy! He was such a memorable character who was so well set up and integrated into the story.

> "Field 1, Space. Battle start."

> "Excalibur, Bryan Kusuma, taking my flight." Kusuma was up against a standard test type Brave... no doubt he's going to win.

Tsuneo: So we'll skip the rest of the fight.

> Oh wait, the Brave is literally running circles around him.

Rick: Maybe if you try fighting him instead?

> "Heh, if you can't catch me, then you can't win!"

Dan: [Bryan] I can if I shoot you.

> Trans-Am!" So reckless just executing Trans-Am unless you have a sure shot of destroying him.

Rick: And here was me thinking that going Trans-Am was an 'I win' button. I have learned something new.

> My point was proven when the Excalibur had the Brave caught by its arms. "How did you?"

> "Your movements are too linear..."

Rebecca: Try moving exponentially instead.

> Even someone who hasn't played Gunpla Battle that long would be able to predict where your trajectory would end up.

Tsuneo: Even though he was good enough to make it to the world championship, he could still be beaten by somebody who had never fought before

Rick: This guy was from the Mongolian bracket of the tournament. There were no other competitors.

Tsuneo: That makes more sense than anything the fic might think of.

> Surrender?"

> "EAT IT!"

Rick: Have some more chicken, have some more pie. It doesn't matter if it's boiled or fried.

> "So be it." The Excalibur morphed the Brave's frame far beyond repair and I swear that he regretted doing that.

Dan: Did a fight just happen?

Tsuneo: I think we suffered a critical narration failure.

> "Battle ended."

> One of the next battles I watched was Julio... hey it's that Gunpla shop guy.

Rick: You know, that guy in that shop.

Dan: Care to be any more specific?

Rick: I don't think he was wearing a hat.

> I didn't think that he was competing in this year's tournament.

Rebecca: [Kalia] I should look at the roster sometime. Maybe it'll help me prepare for a match.

> His Gunpla is an LCF Gundam, which is a mix of the two Unicorn

> Gundams and the GRM Gundam and the 0 Raiser

Tsuneo: Remember how most of the kits in the series were just stock with a splash of colour to make them distinctive and unique and how they didn't need to be Frankensteined messes of mismatched parts?

Rebecca: I do, yeah. And how the competitors fought with the power of their imagination and their love of competition rather than simply building their models to relentlessly crush all competition?

Tsuneo: Funny that. Also remember how most competitors pulled from a wide range of suits, and not just popular ones, but also obscure and esoteric designs?

Rebecca: There's a point to the show, and this fic has missed it entirely.

> (A/N's: can't believe I'm doing an A/N's like this,

All: Then don't!

> but check for the 0 Raiser part of the mix at the end of the chapter and I will add it to the OC Update).

Tsuneo: Folks, this is why you get an editor.

> "Field 7, Ruins.

Rick: They're fighting in rural Victoria.

> Battle start."

> "Julio Rio, LCF Gundam, heading out." Hey, ironic as it is, but he was facing off with a Unicorn

> Banshee.

Tsuneo: When you need a massive author's note to explain it, then you have failed at irony.

> "Sorry, but I'll destroy your Gunpla!" The Banshee's pilot then activated its Destroy Mode

Rick: Amazingly, destroy mode destroys things.

> which caused the other unit to activate its Destroy Mode but it also activated Trans-Am.

Dan: Destroy mode plus Trans-Am? All the glowing!

Rebecca: It looks like a bunch of Tron cosplayers crashed into a disco.

> "What's with your Gunpla?!"

Rebecca: It is made of neon and sparkles.

> "This LCF Gundam, has a Trans-Am and Destroy Mode

Rick: As well as air conditioning, built-in SatNav and extra cupholders.

> to it called Trans-Am Destroyer...

Tsuneo: Wow, really? You couldn't come up with anything better?

Rick: [Julio] Hey, I finished it at 3 in the morning. You try being creative then!

> You've unleashed hell on Earth for yourself."

Rebecca: Look out guys. The dialogue's trying to get all Delta Invasion on us.

> "What're you..." In seconds, the Banshee was in pieces. "What the hell?"

Tsuneo: And another fight is won by people using Trans-Am. Care to be any less transparent?

Rick: I think I'm sensing a pattern here.

Tsuneo: You think?

> "Battle ended." Geez, I'd better think of something to add to Dominions

Tsuneo: Maybe more pop-out Gundams, in case you don't have enough.

> should I have to fight these people.

Dan: Try adding some furry dice and maybe a hula girl doll

> "Field 11, Castle. Battle start."

Rick: The battle will be introduced by a Japanese Michael Jackson impersonator and will involve dodging Giant styrofoam boulders

> "HirroYui,

Dan: Mexican Bootleg Heero Yuh there.

Rick: He pilots a Wang Gundum One.

> Hellstorm Zero, launching." My god, Wing Zero from the Endless Waltz OVA and the Destiny.

Dan: With a twist of lime.

> The battle wouldn't be worth noting

Rebecca: So we didn't. Move along!

> if it weren't for the fact that it finished almost as soon as both fighters passed each other

Tsuneo: You know, it'd help if we'd known who he was fighting before you declared the fight over

Rick: He was fighting John Squash in the Squash Gundam.

> resulting in the Altron being literally torn limb by limb.

Tsuneo: Hey, look at that. The guy he said was certain to win won the match.

Rick: In a one-sided beatdown against a nameless fighter in a stock kit to boot.

Tsuneo: Wow, fancy that.

> "Battle ended."

> "We will now start match 20. Will the fighters please report to the battle floor?" Looks like it's my time to shine (and kick the poor schmuck who I'm fighting in the ass).

Rick: Literally. Kalia isn't a gracious winner.

> Looks like my joy was short-lived because I'm fighting that Yoo-hwa Lee and his new Gunpla, the Skull  
> God Xenon

Tsuneo: Skull God Xenon actually sounds like a crappy eighties anime. You can probably still find the kits in old, run-down hobby stores.

Rick: I heard that the CPM dub of Skull God Xenon is particularly amusingly bad.

> which has the Xenon as the base while it has the God Gundam's chest,

Rebecca: Would that then be the Gundam Arc of the Covenant?

Tsuneo: It contains the Dark History.

> Crossbone X1's

> four boosters, the Shining Bunkers from Xenon, two of the thingies that deploy when the God Gundam  
> enters Super Mode

Rick: You know, those thingies!

> or when it would use those images on each of the X1 boosters. I am in for a whole shitload of trouble.

Dan: Only one thing for it.

Rick: Flee to South America and return for next year's contest with a mask under a mysterious pseudonym?

Dan: I was going to say 'beat up Darren,' but that works too.

> "Beginning Plavsky particle dispersal. Field 2, Desert.

Rebecca: I've often wondered what kind of desert it is. I mean, is it a sandy desert? A rocky one? Cold desert? High-altitude desert? A rain-shadow region of an otherwise fertile area? Former farmland that has succumbed to desertification? Can we have some clarity rather than the generic 'desert' label?

Tsuneo: You're bored, aren't you?

Rebecca: You have no idea.

> Please set your Gunpla." I am dead. "Battle start."

> "Yoo-hwa Lee, Skull God Xenon, fighting with all I have!"

> "Raphael

Rick: -is cool but crude.

> Dominions 3G, Kaila Killian, trailing particles."

Tsuneo: Kalia Killian trailing Particles by two lengths, with Fuunsaki in the lead.

Rebecca: Darren fell at the starting gate and had to be put down.

> The two fighters left and saw each other at least a few miles away (inches really, but they were able to

> close that gap quickly)

Rick: Note: This is a pointless note.

> and they were engaging in, literally, hand-to-hand combat.

Dan: They used their hands for combat.

Tsuneo: They fought with their hands.

> This went on until the SGX went into Super Mode

Tsuneo: I'd say the pilot's bored with the battle already, but it looks like the authour's bored with the battle already too.

> and deployed the images.

Tsuneo: And the icons of the Christ and the relics of the saints.

> "Seriously, you're going to reveal your trump card this early into a battle?"

Rick: He's going to play a Mudkip and you're not going to stop him.

> "What can I say, but it ends right now!"

Dan: He just doesn't want to admit he couldn't beat a slow artillery suit in hand-to-hand with his customised close combat suit.

Rick: His Brood Lord is ashamed of him.

> The SGX charged with all of its fake images at the Dominions 3G.

> Is he crazy?

Rick: The shrink says otherwise.

> Thought the Dominions' pilot. There's no way he can end the battle this quickly.

Tsuneo: The dozen one-sided fights earlier in the chapter say otherwise.

> If I purge the Sera armor,

Rick: Time for a detox diet. I'll make the sludgy green shake.

> I can achieve more speed but then Raphael becomes nothing more than just paper

Rebecca: Do you think you could enter the tournament with a papercraft Gundam?

Tsuneo: Only if it was official Bandai paper.

> and

> I can't do that. If I have the SEMs and Seraphim detach... that wouldn't work because they aren't for  
> this type of battle.

Tsuneo: Or you could use all your remote units and gang up on him five-on-one.

Dan: Much like Kale, Kalia seems to have forgotten what her upgrades do.

> Sorry Monica, Kale, but it looks like I'll have to reveal the teams "Trans-Am".

Tsuneo: Somebody is going to go Trans-Am? I am shocked by this twist.

> "Have you made your prayers yet?!"

> "No, but have you? Because I will do something crazy that will work.

Rebecca: Create an integrated package of a MP3 player and an online store to purchase music for it.

> TRANS-AM!"

> The desired effect for this new version of Trans-Am is more than just the regular increase in  
> performance, but the color of the Trans-Am itself;

Rick: The new, improved minty fresh Trans-Am!

> the Dominions 3G is now purple instead of the regular red.

Tsuneo: It also means that you can charge a premium for it.

> In the side lines, and in the rooms of other teams, they were all wondering how Kaila managed to get  
> her Trans-Am to become a different color.

Rick: Hey, is that Trans-Am purple?

[Pause]

Dan: Check it out, I found a penny!

Rick: Wow! That's totally awesome!

> "Sei, isn't Trans-Am red?"

> "Yes, but Kaila-han is using Plavsky particles to power her Trans-Am."

Tsuneo: Or, she could be using her imagination to make it purple.

Rebecca: You're talking crazy there.

> "Seriously?"

> "Reiji, even I who can sense the Plavsky particle flow, can barely see that Gunpla."

Rick: Guest dialogue by Chris Claremont.

Dan: She can see the particle flow with her eyes, which can also emit deadly beams of kinetic energy.

> "It's safe to assume Reiji and Mao-kun, that because of the use of Plavsky particles to power Trans-Am,  
> it can be used indefinitely and when the Gunpla exits Trans-Am, it's performance does not drastically  
> decrease."

Tsuneo: Yes, I think that's a safe and perfectly reasonable assumption.

Rick: Not leaping to conclusions one bit.

Tsuneo: Gods no.

> As the other fighters, who can tell how the Trans-Am is purple and not red,

Rebecca: Assuming none of them are colour-blind.

> begin to confirm for themselves,

Dan: This just in, red is not purple.

> Kaila and Yoo-hwa's battle rages on.

Rick: And on, and on, and so on and so forth.

> Already both Gunpla are in shambles:

Dan: And lying drunk in a gutter.

> SGX lost all four of the X1 boosters,

Rebecca: Its wallet and its watch.

> the left arm and is barely standing due to the amount of strain put on the legs

Tsuneo: He's put on a lot of weight.

> from Kaila's Trans-Am assault; Dominions 3G lost Seraphim and the two SEMS,

Rick: As in, the dead weight.

> some of the aforementioned Sera armor was slightly cracked in some areas

Dan: It also stubbed its big toe.

> and the left arm armor was completely broken showing Raphael's left arm.

> "You ready to give up yet?"

> "Never, not when my Dominions is still kicking."

Rebecca: This reminds me of one of the great sword fights of cinematic history.

Tsuneo: Don't tell me, Monty Python's Black Knight?

Rebecca: Got it in one.

> "I didn't think that I'd do this, but this Gunpla can do it." The SGX started purging the back part that used  
> to hold the X1 boosters and entered Super Mode again for the second time.

Rick: He can't do that, he's lost the thingies!

Dan: The thingies?

Rick: You know, the thingies that do the thing when he does the thing?

Dan: Oh, those thingies!

> "This hand of mine glows with an awesome power!

Rebecca: He faps that hard. [Tsuneo hits her with a cushion]

> Its burning grip tells me to defeat you!



Dan: It also tells him that Grimace is in league with the Lizard People to steal his socks.

> Take this! My love, my anger and my sorrow!

Rick: My anger, my bitterness and all my petty YouTube comments!

> SHINING BUNKER!" Although no weapons were actually allowed, Yoo-hwa Lee substituted fist  
> for bunker.

Tsuneo: So why not shout out 'shining fist?'

Rick: Stop ruining the moment!

> "GO. TO.HELLLLLLLL!" The SGX charged at the Dominions in hopes of catching it.

Dan: The Roadrunner to his Coyote, if you will.

> Damn it, I have nothing left... There is one thing but I wanted to hold it for after the qualifiers.

Rick: A dirty crotch-kick.

> No choice now."Activating the physical ability system."

Rebecca: Just call your treadmill a treadmill and get on with your daily workout

> Dominions created a GN Field but the field surrounded the  
> right arm and hardened the armor and reinforced the joints.

Tsuneo: What's this? It looks like someone's being spontaneous, using their imagination and trying something new!

Rebecca: In a fic based on Build Fighters? Never!

> "EAT IT LEE!" The Dominions charged as fast as Trans-Am would let it.

Rick: With Smokey hot on his tail, and possibly an orangutan in the passenger seat

> "SHINING BUNKER!"

> "GN FIST!"

> Both Gunpla's attacks clashed and like when the Fenice and Star Build Strike clashed,

Rebecca: But far less Italian and suave.

> an explosion resulted from it.

Rick: All maimed and killed

> "Battle ended."

> "The winner of match 20 is Yoo-hwa Lee of the Lead Shuffle team."

> How did I lose? Thought Kaila. If he hadn't ducked the GN Fist and sacrificed the head,

Tsuneo: Yes, tell us what happened in clunky exposition rather than showing it. I can't think of a better way to conclude this fight.

> I would've won.

Rebecca: That's right, if he didn't beat you, you would have won.

> Kaila left the arena in a horrible mood.

Rick: The resulting carnage was horrific to behold. Many died that day.

> Kaila: DAMN HIM! I'LL GET MY REVENGE!

> 00T: She's pissed.

Dan: Wait, Kaila's commenting on her own mood now?

> Kiba: Get ready "Devil Ray".

Rebecca: Because you're matched up with Steve Irwin.

> Raymond: Next time, "The Blue Swordmaster's Soul".

> Kale: Is he really fighting together with the Samurai Boy?

Rick: A foolish Samurai Gundam!

> The Blue Swordmaster's Soul

> Author's Notes: Episode 25: I guess that the heroes' story ends where it all started,

Rebecca: In a hospital bed.

> with a Gunpla Battle in the forest. Coincidence,

Dan: It's almost like they planned it that way.

> spoilers, but the last two battles of the tournament for the story was a space

> battle that was cancelled due to rare circumstances and a forest battle that was the real one.

Tsuneo: Of course, if you're reading this, you probably know all this already.

> I was looking on the Wikia page

Rick: Gratuitously editing Relena's page to make her look like a shrill harpy who deserves death.

> and apparently units from Gundam 00 Season 2 from within 5 years of this

> episode's airing couldn't be shown due to some agreement with Sunrise and MBS;

Dan: Something about demilitarized zones and no-fly restrictions. I skipped the details.

> the last episode of

> 00 Season 2 was on March 29, 2009 which is 5 years and two days before this episode which allowed

> Yuuki's Exia to be a nod to the Exia Repair.

Rick [Narrator]: I was still sorely disappointed by the lack of Zabanya

> Another interesting I read on the Wikia page

Rebecca: According to the Gundam Wikia, Christopher Walken invented the internet and shot Tupac.

> is that since AGE was co-owned by Sunrise and Level-5,

Tsuneo: Plus a five percent that is controlled by Rupert Murdoch.

> any references for it to be shown in GBF would've been costly.

Dan: But it's okay that there were none, because AGE sucked and caused Gundam to be Ruined Forever.

> So many things I'm writing here but did you guys know that if you look closely,

Tsuneo: [Narrator] Mr Ral looks like Ramba Ral?

All: NO!

> the sky above Arian has the outlines of a colony?

Rick: Arian is one of the colonies that left the solar system and built the Turn X. That's my theory and I'm sticking to it.

> Another thing,

Tsuneo: Your block narration would be a lot shorter if you didn't feel the need to point out things the viewer would have already known.

> I hope it's okay if I kinda invent a story for some of the OCs that were submitted

Rick: [Narrator] While I appreciate your creativity, being an ageless immortal from the dawn of time doesn't quite fit the story.

> or at least, the ones who are debuting as of this chapter or something like that

> because some of them didn't have a story

Rebecca: Or personality or motivation or background or any hint of individual distinctiveness beyond what plastic toy robot they liked.

> (like the majority of the submitted OCs).

Rick: Hey, not my fault if you didn't read Princess PrettyPants' elaborate, four hundred page background.

> Disclaimer: I don't own GBF or borrowed OCs used.

Tsuneo: He doesn't own the movie, just the opening and closing credits and the VHS sleeve.

> It belongs to Sunrise and they belong to their respective owners.

Rick: But Stan Lee still gets all the credit for them.

> The Blue Swordmaster's Soul

> Well that was a horrible battle Kaila.

Dan: You suck. You suck and you fail at life.

> Still, I hope we can count on whoever's fighting next,

Rebecca: And this is when you begin to regret making a team out of Speed Racer villains.

> and I have a feeling it's going to be Raymond.

Tsuneo: The laws of narrative progression say so.

> Did he just sneeze even though he's asleep?

Rick: Maybe it's a symptom of his plot-complicating disease!

Dan: Dude, just give it up.

Rick: Never!

> As the battle ended, Monica came back and she must've taken the leisurely route because

Tsuneo: She came back with postcards from Venice.

> she had no idea what the outcome of the battle was. "Before you go and ask,

Dan: [Kale] Meatloaf.

> Kaila lost."

Rick: And that's why you're fleeing the country under assumed names.

> "But the hard work we put into the Dominions 3G..."

Tsuneo: It's made with their blood, sweat and tears. Quite literally, actually; Darren cut himself on a hobby knife and wouldn't stop crying and bleeding.

> "Look, if anyone fights tomorrow, hope it's us or Raymond."

Rebecca: I'd say that it makes sense for the one who hasn't fought yet to be the next to fight, but then I look at the rules of this contest and realize that I cannot take anything for granted.

> "But Raymond's Gunpla still hasn't been tested yet!"

Tsuneo: You'll need to rely on his raw skill, the strength of his conviction, his talent as a model builder and his sheer imagination then.

Rebecca: They're so screwed.

Tsuneo: Completely.

> "Trust me

Dan: Yeah, I'd sooner trust a deranged, diseased, starving coyote.

> and Raymond... the 00 Qan[t] Dash is a Gunpla that people should fear."

> "Why?"

Rick: Because part of its name is in parenthesis. That makes it deadly.

> "While you and Kaila were gone,"

Rebecca: During your long exile to the gulag.

> Darren poked in "Raymond woke up briefly

Tsuneo: Raymond's day consists of staggering between the bathroom and his bed.

> to explain the workings of the 00 Qan[t] Dash."

Dan: He said something about cats. Lots and lots of cats.

> Then he went on about the Qan[t] Dash's Plavsky particle feature

Rick: I gotta admit, I lost interest well before then.

Dan: While he was talking, I was looking at Lolcats.

> alongside with the new Trans-Am

Rick: The new 1977 Pontiac Firebird.

> (which will make the Qan[t] Dash turn blue as well),

Rebecca: That's not Trans-Am, Raymond. It's oxygen starvation.

Tsuneo: I'm sure he'll eventually realise the difference. Eventually.

> enabling it to become a massive troll

Rick: We're talking 'Complete waste of six minutes and thirty-eight seconds' level troll here.

> (Darren's words) in battle.

> "Are you serious? Is that also why he was so eager to go back into the workshop?"

Dan: That and he's convinced that the orbital mind control lasers can't affect him when he's in there.

> We nodded. "Pretty much."

Tsuneo: Plus, with him in there and Kale doing the exposition, it means we don't need to pay Raymond's creator as much.

> "And if I battle tomorrow, be sure that I get care after." We turned to the source of the familiar voice:

> Raymond.

> "Raymond, are you sure that you should up and about?"

Dan: [Raymond] Well, the doctor said at this stage it wouldn't matter either way...

> "You said it yourself Kale, trust me."

Rick: [Kale] Wait, you mean you like Zabanya too?

> "DAMN THAT KOREAN WEEB!

Rebecca: Hey, Kalia? The kettle called. He's got news for you.

> "I'LL HAVE MY REVENGE!"

Rick: You got Zerg rushed, Kalia. It happens.

> Well, looks like someone's angry.

> "Monica, come with me because we are going to make a new Gunpla!"

Tsuneo: [Kalia] I've analysed my loss, looked at my designs, and figured out what I need to do.

Rebecca: [Monica] My line doesn't matter, so I won't say anything relevant.

Tsuneo: [Kalia] Exactly, I stick more Gundams on my Gundam.

> "Why must it be me?"

Rebecca: Because you are a prop with no life of your own outside of supporting Kale.

> "You're the only who I can rely on right now." Gee thanks for that comment that I'm sure that no one  
> heard.

Tsuneo: Kale's faith in his team is staggering.

Rick: He needs them to succeed so he can live out his fantasy.

> "Hello?" Who would knock on our door?

Dan: This had better not be Tim Curry in a wig.

> "Is Ms. Kaila here?"

> "WHAT DO YOU WANT!?"

Rick: You got any Hygoggs?

Dan: No, we're out of Hygoggs!

Rick: You got any Marihoos?

Dan: No we're out of Marihoos!

Rick: You got any Doven Wulfs?

Dan: No, we're out of Doven Wulfs!

Rick: You got any Bound Docs?

Dan: Hold on, I'll go check.

[Pause]

Dan: No, we're out of Bound Docs!

Rick: Well in that case, what do you have?

Dan: All I've got is this box of a dozen starving, half-crazed Haros.

Rick: Okay, I'll take that.

> "You forgot your GN Drives."

Rick: That's the Gundam equivalent of going to work without your pants

> She opened the door slightly to let his hand in and after she got the GN  
> Drives back, she pushed his hand out and shut the door.

Tsuneo: Thank you for that, pointless intermission.

> "Come with me Monica."

Tsuneo: If you want to live, or something.

Rebecca: Depends; do I get an over-acting Sam Worthington for the deal?

Tsuneo: Sure, why not?

Rebecca: I'm in.

> Monica gave me a pouty look and all I could do was shrug. "Coming in a sec."

> "That reminds me."

> "What is it Darren?"

Dan: [Darren] Why do you hate me?

Rick: [Kale] In a personal or narrative sense?

Dan: [Darren] Never mind...

> "Based on my fight with Athrun, I need a weapon with better reach."

Rick [Darren]: Also, I need to get over my crippling fear of success and stop sabotaging myself and actually start formulating successful ideas on my own.

Dan [Kale]: That's great to hear!

Rick [Darren]: I'm going to be a huge, just like my hero, M. Night Shaymalan.

Dan [Kale]: That explains so much.

> "Where are you going with this?"

> "Simple: GN Sword Rifle with the GN Sword from the Arios Ascalon. That way, I'll have more reach if I  
> want to do close-range combat."

Rebecca: So why not just use a gun?

Tsuneo: I think you just broke Darren's brain.

> "How are you going to implement that into your current amount of weaponry?"

Tsuneo: Just slap more bits on. Works fine for Kale.

> "I'll just replace the sword of the Sword Rifle with Ascalon's GN Sword." Or maybe just make a new  
> Gunpla.

Rick: He has the technology; he can rebuild it. Stronger, faster, better.

> By not wanting to hear what Monica and Kaila were arguing about with Kaila's new Gunpla, and by  
> extension, Darren complaining about them arguing, I just popped in a pair of ear buds and listened to  
> one of the 00 drama CDs.

Tsuneo: Again, Kale's level of support for his team is staggering.

Rebecca: Do you think he's realized that being a team leader actually means, you know, leading?

Rick: I dunno; letting my men do their own thing and not worrying about it worked for me when I was a squad leader in the war.

Tsuneo: Yes, but that's your philosophy for everything.

Rick: Also true!

> "Ahahahahaha! Ore waken kabanchou desu! (I'm THE leader of hoodlums!)" Oh Hallelujah, you'll  
> never be a kenkabanchou.

Dan: At best, he's going to be a Psyduck or a Magikarp.

> After listening to a few tracks, I decided to go and take a walk.

Rebecca: Captain Oates supports this plan.

> After going down the elevator and leaving the building, I thought about where I could go for the walk

Dan: Should he go to the waste dump, or the hog-rendering plant or maybe a pleasant stroll by the Reclaimed industrial wastes?

> when I saw two of the same kids from yesterday.

Rick: Staring at him and slowly chanting nursery rhymes.

> I only heard bits and pieces but as I got closer, I heard more and more.

Rebecca: I suspect this is a vitally expositional conversation, and, as such, it'd be impossible for him to miss a thing.

> "What does the 'Pitiful Angel' want with me?"

> "Please Izuru, I'm not here as the daughter of the President of PPSE." Did she just say daughter of  
> PPSE?

Tsuneo: No, she said the daughter of the president. How can you be the daughter of a company?

Rick: She could be if she's some kind of engineered super Gundam fighter made by PPSE to replace Meijin Kawaguchi, who's become too independent.

Tsuneo: I'd say that's ridiculous, but given the arms race over the competition seen in the actual show, it kinda makes sense.

Rick: Not to mention being an opportunity to duplicate Aila's unique ability.

Tsuneo: Actually, you're right. It's perfectly in-line with the established canon.

Rebecca: And way more interesting than anything the fic will come up with.

Tsuneo: Oh, definitely.

> "Then what are you here as?"

Rick: A body-paint Mudkip cosplayer.

> She stayed silent for a while. Is she going to say something or what?

Dan: Pssst. Line!

> "I'm here as your older sister, little brother."



Rebecca: I foresee a will revision incoming.

> All I did was blink until my eyes widened as I put two and two together.

Dan: [Kale] I know this one from math class... Two and two is... Zabanya!

Rick: Kale in a nutshell, folks.

> The daughter of PPSE's president is the older sister of Izuru Hoshikawa-kun?

Tsuneo: This revelation would be shocking if we knew or cared about the characters in question.

> "Please Makabe-san, I took mother's name to avoid being with father.

Rick: Darth Vader should have pushed harder for visitation rights.

> "Makabe... as in Shion Makabe of PPSE's sponsored team?

Dan: She gets to sign her own licensing deals and gets a cut of the royalties from the tournament.

> Wait, then that means Izuru-kun's real name is Izuru Makabe.

Tsuneo: Yes, siblings often have the same family name. Why is it a shock to you to learn this fact about someone whom you exchanged a couple of words with once?

> "Please stop being so distant from everyone."

Rebecca: Try to be a friendlier and more engaging cool aloof stranger.

> "So you say, but aren't you setting a bad example for me sis?"

Rick: Getting drunk, throwing up on your concierge and posting selfies of it on facebook.

> "Please don't, I just want to reconcile with you."

Tsuneo: And a battle tournament is an ideal place to do it.

> "Reconcile for what? We haven't talked to each other in years,

Rick: Not since that one time in Pogata.

> you obviously don't understand how I feel.

Dan [Tommy Weisseu]: You're tearing me apart, Shion!

> I bet you never even thought about me once." Damn, even if it's like that, take it easy on her.

> "We're done here."

Rick: Izuru goes looking for a mic to drop.

> He left and left my head filled with questions. I mean, holy shit, what just happened there?

Rebecca: A rather badly forced attempt to force character development and a subplot involving two people we've barely seen and have no reason at all to care about?

> "YOU BAKA!"

Rick: She shouted a single Japanese word at him! That means it must be serious.

> Okay, I'm just going to go back into the building and pretend like nothing happened.

Tsuneo: You know, I think I'll use that as my review.

> Yeah, nothing happened at all.

Dan: And that's what he told the cops too

> When I got back into the room, Kaila was a mess from what I assumed was from building her new  
> Gunpla

Tsuneo: Well enough forced attempts at character development. Let's go back to what this fic does best, listing which parts are in everybody's custom Gundam.

Rick: It's what I'm here for.

> that I can see on the table:

Dan: No, Kale, that's the pizza you ordered. I'd have thought that you would be able to tell the difference.  
Rebecca: Sssh, let's see if he tried to enter his next fight with a re-heated slice. It'll be fun.

> a GNY-004B Black Plutone

Rick: Is that anything like a Black-Series Mercedes AMG?

Tsuneo: Sure, let's go with that.

> equipped with one GN Drive

Dan: As well as a Blu-Ray drive and USB ports.

> that (I'll

> probably ask her later) is protected by armor like that of Cherudim SAGA, along with a Mega Beam  
> Cannon (probably GN Drive-equipped as well)

Rebecca: Stick more drives onto things! You don't need to plan it out, just slap 'em wherever you can.

> and the shield with the retractable heat rod

Dan: I'll show you my retractable heat rod, baby.

Rebecca: They can arrest you for that.

> from the Tallgeese III,

Rick: Tallgeese III, rise of the waterfowl.

> I also see the Seravee II backpack (again)

Dan: Again? We had Sevarie II backpack for dinner last night as well!

> which somehow is able to stay on top of the Plutone's head.

Tsuneo: Kalia used a wad of chewed gum to secure it. Her skills as a modeler are... odd.

> For other armaments it's equipped with the standard GN Beam Rifle,

Rebecca: As opposed to a sub-standard beam rifle.

> GN Beam Sabers, shield bits from Cherudim (which I'm actually surprised to see),

Dan: [Kale] I thought Darren scarfed the last one before lunch.

> a pair of M2000GX High-Energy Long-

> Range Beam Cannons (which will probably GN Drive-equipped as well...

Tsuneo: Along with her car, her notebook and her cat, all GN Drive equipped.

> how many high-energy output

> weapons could she equip with GN Drives or condensers even?)

Tsuneo: As many as she can fit onto the one power board before it catches fire.

> and as the name Black Plutone suggests, the Gunpla is painted

Rick: Candy pink with an apple-green trim

> black.

Rick: I was close

> "Hi Kale."

> "Hey Monica. I need to ask,

Dan: [Kale] Where are my pants?

Rebecca: [Kalia] I built them into my new Gunpla.

Dan: [Kale] As long as you stuck GN drives onto them first, that's okay by me.

> are the GN Drives on Kaila's Gunpla going to emit..."

Tsuneo: -hazardous amount of radiation?

Rebecca: By this stage in the conversation they're already all sterile and have so much cancer.

> "Yes, they're true GN Drives

Dan: Use only genuine GN Parts

> and they're going to emit red GN Particles.

Rick: Red particles go faster. Well known fact.

> Also, like the Raphael

> Dominions, the Black Plutone is actually Raphael painted black

Rick: Oh, so it's Archie Comics Raphael then.

Dan: What?

Rick: For a long time in the 90s Archie TMNT comics, Raphael wore a back bodysuit instead of the traditional belt and mask

Dan: I never knew that. Any reason why?

Rick: Not sure. Maybe he just finally realised that he was going around naked and felt suddenly self-conscious.

> with Plutone's armor."

Tsuneo: So after a single battle in which she couldn't use its weapons, Kalia's abandoned the design she spent so long working on to pile parts onto an different kit.

Rebecca: Well, it was overdue. We haven't had a dry list of parts for over a chapter.

> "So what's it going to be called?"

Rebecca: "Help, help, I can't move under all this crap?"

> Then a drunken-like voice responded. "It's going to be called the Raphelone."

Dan: Ding dong ding dong ding dong ding.

Rick: Raphelone!

Dan: Bing bong bing bong bing bong bing.

Rick: Raphelone!

> "So, anyone up for just sleeping?"

Rebecca: Not going to just dose yourself up and run on a combination of caffeine and performance enhancers instead? It's only your vital big match that the whole team is depending on here.

Tsuneo: Do you think they even do drug tests in Gundam battle?

Rick: I bet they test for banned substances, like silly putty and wood paste.

> My god Raymond, way to chime in at the right time.

Dan: Just to reiterate, Raymond, the obsessive workaholic who has been killing himself for several days straight to finish his kit, is the voice of reason.

> So with that, everyone went to sleep except for me;

Rick: He stayed up to work on his manifesto.

> I looked out the window and out into the sea of stars.

Tsuneo: [Kale] I wondered if you could keel-haul a guy on a spaceship, or if that was taking the metaphor too far.

> Maybe a shooting star will appear and make my wish come true.

Rebecca: No, Kale, you and Lockon will never ride off into the sunset together on a pink unicorn.

> "Kale, why don't you just go to sleep for once instead of staying up a while then sleeping?"

Dan: Dude, the girl is inviting you to bed. Don't be an idiot about it.

Rick: I'm not sure if Kale has figured out that girls are a thing.

> "I want to Monica, but something is nagging me so much that I can't sleep."

Tsuneo [Kale]: My mum always spent so much time with my Phys Ed. Teacher, even though I had a note to get out of class. But yet, she had to go and have constant, long meetings with him that I wasn't allowed to attend for some reason...

> "Just don't worry about it and come into bed with me."

Dan: And if he is not out of his seat that second, there's no hope for the man.

> I let my head drop for a second because I still

> can't grasp the concept that Monica and I are now a thing,

Rebecca: Yes Kale, you have a shallow love interest whose entire existence is defined by you. What part of that is so hard to grasp?

> that and my mother would kill if she knew I was sharing a bed with a girl.

Rick: On the other hand, she'd be happy that you were actually talking to one.

Rebecca: She's had serious doubts about you and Darren.

> "Alright fine, I'm coming to you."

Tsuneo: Wow, they're at the bitter, resentful married couple stage already. He's really matured.

> As we lay down next to each other,

Dan: Annnnd.... Dutch Oven!

> I couldn't help but think that a wish could also be the cause for suffering.

Rebecca [Kale]: But that cursed monkey paw wouldn't lie to me, would it?

> Here we are with day four of the qualifying rounds of the 8th Gunpla World Championship. The 4th

> round is a 2vs2 swordsmanship contest.

Dan: That'll be followed by a tag-team steel cage match and then a ladder match.

> I don't know who I'll be facing or who I'll be partnered with,

Rick: You're partnered with Schwartz Bruder against Captain Ash.

> but I know that I have to win.

Rebecca: Because the rest of your team sucks nuts.

Tsuneo: Wouldn't it make for an interesting change if Kale was the one who was defeated and it was up to Kalia or Raymond to actually save them?

Rebecca: It would, which is why the fic isn't going to do it.

> "Alright guys, I'm off."

> "GOOD LUCK RAYMOND!" Good luck indeed.

Rick: Of course it's Raymond's focus chapter; that's why he's had so little airtime.

> As I left the building for the arena, I saw someone in martial arts clothing leaving as well.

Dan: Damn Shotoclones get everywhere.

Tsuneo: They should spray for them.

> He turned around and saw me and headed towards me. "Mister Raymond isn't it?"

Rick: It's spelt 'Raymond', but it's actually pronounced 'Throatwarbler Mangrove.'

> 'Oh, Raymond is fine. Aren't you Nils Nielsen who rediscovered the Plavsky particle?"

Rebecca: No, he's Miles Millson, who invented edible shoe inserts. People confuse them all the time

> "Oh please, I couldn't have done it without Yajima Trading and what was left of PPSE."

Tsuneo: Whatever's left of PPSE, which strangely enough includes a highly-paid president and his well supported family.

Rick: It's the Kodak model of corporate restructuring.

> "Really? That's interesting."

Dan: You liar.

> We talked some more and then we were in the lobby,

Rebecca: [Raymond] And I wondered why one of last-years quarter finalists was talking to an unproven nobody.

> I felt a pressure of pure (somewhat pure)malice.

Rick: It turns out that his malice had been cut with powdered plaster.

> I shook it off as I went to see who would be fighting with me. Oh lucky

> surprise, I'm fighting together with Nils Nielsen

Rebecca: Oh, so they were discussing their kits comparative abilities and their strategy for the upcoming match. Which is why the fic skipped over it without giving us the slightest hint.

> and against some person named Kiba and Noland Mitsuba.

> I went on to the screens and watched an ongoing battle.

Rick: Sharks versus Jets.

> The Unicorn Jaeger had one beam saber drawn in one hand and a beam tomahawk in the other.

Dan: And a beam spear clenched between its teeth.

> The Destiny and 00 Raiser had their swords drawn ready to surround the Jaeger.

Tsuneo: I assume that at some stage we'll be given a reason as to why we're so interested in this battle between nameless, faceless combatants.

Rick: Filler can be interesting too. Hell, sometimes it can be better than the actual plot.

> The Destiny charged while 00 Raiser moved to the side to intercept the Jaeger

Dan: Look out, the Jaeger's trying to steal home.

> but the Jaeger ducked the Destiny's Arondight sword and took the Destiny's head off with a spin slash

Rick [Singing]: Destiny...

Dan [Singing]: He's not half the man he used to be.

Rebecca: Shall we murder them after?

Tsuneo: A good plan.

> with the beam tomahawk and then he slashed down with the beam saber which

> caused the Destiny to explode,

Dan: And thus ended the championship run of Elvis Tiddlington III, three time all-comers English Toothpaste gargling champion and heir to a considerable fortune in unclaimed left socks.

> causing a cloud of dust to appear;

Tsuneo: Do they ever vacuum this battlefield?

> the 00 Raiser, not wanting to wait any longer, proceeded into the dust cloud

Tsuneo: Deliberately limiting his visibility and leaving him easy prey for the opponent waiting in ambush.

> when the Jaeger slashed upwards with the beam saber to dismember the 00 Raiser's arms

Rick: He's taking a 'hands-off' approach to the situation.

> and then slashed downwards with the tomahawk cleaving the 00 Raiser in half.

Rebecca: At least he gets points for style... whoever he is.

> "Battle ended."

Tsuneo: And remember, every one of these chumps fought through even worse chumps to get here.

> "We are going to begin match 7. Would the fighters please report to the floor?" Match 7 is the one that

Dan: Usually has the best blooper reel.

> both Meijin Kawaguchi and Julian Ayers Mackenzie are in. I have to watch this.

Tsuneo: Oh goody, more filler battles barely connected to the plot. I'm thrilled.

> "Please set your GP base. Beginning Plavsky particle dispersal."

Rick: Inserting the intensifier disc, turning the control wheel eighteen degrees to the left...

> Meijin Kawaguchi the Third or rather,

> Yuuki Tatsuya: the third in a line of Meijin Kawaguchi's

Dan: Rich, old money. Related to the Boston Kawaguchis.

> and Julian Ayers Mackenzie, the one who was  
> actually closest to being the third Meijin Kawaguchi.

Rebecca: Only to lose the title in a sudden-death pie-eating contest

> "Field 7, Ruins. Please set your Gunpla." Meijin  
> Kawaguchi is using the Seven Swords armaments on the Amazing Exia, that's got to take dedication to  
> master.

Rick: Dedication... and seven arms.

> "Battle start."

> "Meijin Kawaguchi, Amazing Exia Seven Swords, here I come!"

Tsuneo: The rest don't get call-outs because... [He shrugs]

> Both sets of fighters proceeded to close the gap to engage in sword combat;

Dan: Unless there's a Queen soundtrack involved, I don't want to know about it.

> the AGE-1 Razor, which had its Razor Blades drawn,

Tsuneo: The Razor suit has Razors.

Rebecca: I am shocked by this revelation.

> charged at the F91 Imagine while the AGE-2 Double Blade

Rebecca: Does it have double blades, perchance?

Tsuneo: I think that's a fair assumption.

> charged at the Amazing Exia.

> The Double Blade didn't last long

Rick: You can get a pill for that.

> as Kawaguchi jammed two swords into the pincer-like armaments on

> the Double Blade's shoulders which caused the fighter to toss them.

Dan: He later regretted tossing them out when he saw how much they were worth on the collector's market.

> Then Kawaguchi sliced the legs off and cut the skirt armor that held the beam sabers.

Rick: Then pulled its shirt over its head and gave it a wedgie.

> The AGE-1 Razor was already done for as the F91

> Imagine had done with it as it had with some of its other unfortunate opponents;

Rebecca: Rubbished them on the internet and shopped them into embarrassing photos.

Tsuneo: It's not like the head and torso even match.



> the limbs were torn from the sockets

Rick: While Julian roared like a Wookiee.

> and no other damage was done other than the damage that can be presently seen.

Dan: They did no damage except for the damage they did.

Tsuneo: They only damaged the parts they damaged.

> "Battle ended." As powerful as the both of them are,

Rick: All fear the power of the nameless scrubs!

> Meijin Kawaguchi and Julian Mackenzie are both

> equally matched, despite what happened during the semi-finals last year.

Rebecca: And that embarrassing 'dick-touching' incident.

> "We will now begin match 10.

Rick: Lord Blood Death Shatter and Godmode Destroyer X versus Some Guy and Some Other Guy.

> Will the fighters please report to the floor?"Time to go up there and show the world our Gunpla.

> As expected of our dear Meijin Kawaguchi. But what interests me more is Raymond Kens-kun and the

> 00 Trailblazers:

Tsuneo: Who despite being complete unknowns who have never competed on the world stage before are immediately more fascinating than a prior contestant who is heir to a prestigious tradition.

> since the third day of the qualifiers,

Dan: That was when rain stopped play.

> Kaila Killian-kun has showed us an interesting sight

> which couldn't have originated from her,

Rebecca: Because she is a girl and she sucks

> so Raymond-kun, give us another wonder to behold.

Dan: Wonder boy, what is the secret of your power?

> "I'll say, I'm surprised your brother isn't fighting in this round."

> "The lots are randomized father, you should know that."

> "True, but I like to be surprised even if it shouldn't surprise me Shion."

Rick: This has been disembodied voice exposition theatre.

> As I sat down, my assistant, Izumi, came to me and asked me "Is there anything you need President?"

Dan: [President] Get me a Chihuahua, two large mixing bowls and a tub of ice cream.

> "When it gets exciting,

Tsuneo: No chance of that happening.

> prepare a little surprise for the participants of match 10 would you?"

Rick: So a gorillagram then.

Dan: That's not the sort of surprise they meant.

Rick: Right. A strippergram it is!

> "Of course, I do as you command me."

Rebecca: [Izumi] Stupid uppity knobhead. Why didn't I take that job with the Waynes instead?

> Izumi left and it was high time for match 10 to begin. "Please set your GP base. Beginning Plavsky  
> particle dispersal." What surprises me is that Raymond-kun and Nils-kun will be fighting the 2nd Meijin's  
> brother.

Rick: Ah, so this is Schwartz Bruder then.

Tsuneo: Why do you say that?

Rick: Because the second Meijin was a blatant parody or even deconstruction of early-series Domon and his 'win at all costs' attitude. It doesn't hurt that he even wore the same outfit.

Tsuneo: I guess that makes sense in a very roundabout nonsense way.

Rick: Of course, you know what else this means?

Tsuneo: Do tell he said with some degree of trepidation.

Rick: The first Meijin is Master Asia.

Tsuneo: ...the worst part is that I can't argue with that conclusion.

> "Field 2, Desert. Please set your Gunpla."

> "00 Qan[t] Dash, Raymond Kens, going airborne!"

> "00 Destiny, Kiba, launching!"

> "Nils Nielsen, Sengoku Astray, going out!"

> "Quinn Winner, GundamSandrock, taking them out!"

Tsuneo: Sandrock, the other, other Gundam from Wing. No, the other one.

> The fight begins as a normal one would:

Dan: The calling of names and 'your mum' taunts.

Rick: And then quickly degenerated into mud wrestling.

> with the fighters heading towards each other and clashing swords

> with the 00 Destiny taking on the 00 Qan[t] Dash

Rick: [Whistles] Alright, break it up. Yellow card; too many zeros in the battle.

> while the Sandrock fights the Sengoku Astray.

> "What're you doing going after me?" Raymond, all but knowledgeable at the moment, asked of Kiba.

Dan: [Kiba] Um, you're my enemy. Duh.

> "What do you think, I'm... taking out... the... COMPETITION!"

Rick: I wouldn't have cast Pacino as a Gundam Fighter, but it works.

> With the 00 Destiny's Arondight sword,

> Kiba continued to dish out hits on the 00 Qan[t] Dash's two GN Longswords which caused Raymond to

> keep backing up bit by bit until he was almost to the edge of the battlefield.

Tsuneo: Raymond has never heard of maneuvering before.

> "If this keeps up, then I'll get knocked out." Raymond then selected the "special" Trans-Am.

Rebecca: The one built by John Barren.

> "See if you can catch up to me in this!" Unlike the Trans-Am that Kaila activated the day before,

Rick: It gave off a scent of chocolate and rose petals.

> the 00 Qan[t] Dash turned red like any Trans-Am would.

Dan: It's your average, everyday, common as muck super-move.

> The Qan[t] Dash then got out of the situation it was in

Rick: And the contract it was locked into.

> and proceeded to help Nils Nielsen fight the Sandrock Kai (EW version).

Tsuneo: Thank you, fic. I needed to know exactly what model they were using. My life is enriched by this revelation.

> The Heat Shotels were locked with the Sengoku Astray's katanas so when the Qan[t] Dash arrived,

> Raymond slashed up

Dan: Raymond liked to write his name in the snow.

Rebecca: I was going for a Wing fic joke there, but that'll also work.

> with one GN Longsword which caused the lock to break apart and make the two

> Gunplafall on their backs;

Rick: He used his GN Banana peel. Slapstick fighting is his specialty.

> after doing so, the 00 Destiny had activated its Trans-Am

All: NO!

> and slashed at the Qan[t] Dash when a GN Field created by six GN Sword Bits blocked the attack.

Dan: He countered them with his own GN Sword Kibbles.

> The Sandrock did the

> same - thinking that like the original 00 Qan[t], the Qan[t] Dash only had six GN Sword Bits –

Rick: As one does.

> but was blocked by another GN Field produced by another set of GN Sword Bits.

Rebecca: And for those of you who are tired of Bits, we have more Bits.

> "Nils, do it now!"

Rick: God damn it, just do it!

Dan: Whoah, okay!

> As Nils was about to slash the Sandrock Kai in two, the PA announced "Please get ready for the  
> surprise."

Tsuneo: If you tell them there's a surprise, then there's no surprise.

Rick: Maybe the surprise is that there is no surprise.

Tsuneo: So it's a bait-and-switch surprise then?

Rick: And that's the surprise.

> All the fighters, in confusion, questioned "Surprise?"

> Back in the 00 Trailblazers' room,

Rebecca: Kalia was completely wasted and about to throw their TV into the pool.

> with a busy Kale working on a new design

Tsuneo: The Zabanya With More Bits On It.

> that probably won't be finished until the finals, said to himself

Dan: [Kale] Lockon, is that you?

> "Surprise? If they were going to have a surprise during any of the  
> matches going on right now, they should've announced that earlier than just now."

Tsuneo: See earlier point about it being a surprise.

> Similarly, in the Yajima team room, Athrun [(who would never be forgotten, which would never happen  
> anyways... unlike some characters that will get some action... cough)

Rick: This has been pointless digression theatre.

Dan: On the upside, we now have even less reason to care about Athrun.

Rebecca: His name is the sum total of his being.

> was seen with another Gunpla (which will not see action until someone gets it out there)]

Tsuneo: Get on with it!

Rick: This has been stumping the pacing theatre.

> said about the same thing that Kale had uttered.

Tsuneo: Only in Japanese and with a lot of cultural idioms and inflections that do not translate well.

> "I wouldn't think Yajima Trading would condone this even if it was planned."

Rebecca: Because middle managers never go behind the company's back to pursue their own agendas ever.

> Nils Nielsen, who had just finished thinking,

Rick: He sets aside time in his schedule to simply not think.

> got a call from his "sponsor" Caroline Yajima.

Dan: And by "sponsor," we mean-

Rebecca: Nothing that should be applied to kids.

> "Caroline, what's happening? Why's there an announcement about this surprise now?"

> "I don't know either. It's... what's that?"

Rick: It's a frost-free fridge! [Ding]

> She pointed to the screen

Dan: That's a TV. I thought you'd have known that by now.

> she was watching which Nils took as a sign that something had just come onto the field.

Rick: It's the half-time show. They're just setting up the stage now.

> He turned his head to see what it was and he did not like what he saw,

Rebecca: A supposedly team-based fanfiction which serves only to glorify the authour's original character.

> nor did he recognize what it was. "What is that?"

> The other fighters also commented. "Isn't that/a Neo-Zeong/on top of an Apsalus III?"

Tsuneo: I don't think that's legal in Tasmania.

> Any fighter and builder reacted the same way, i.e. "WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THAT THING!?"

Rick: AND WHY IS EVERYONE SHOUTING IN ALL CAPS?! IT'S VERY ANNOYING AND DISTRACTING!

Dan: Easy there.

Rick: I'M SORRY I COULDN'T HEAR YOU OVER THE SHOUTING.

> Yet, the only people who were calm about this was the person who set up the surprise, his children

Rebecca: The technicians running the battle system.

Dan: The kit builders who had put it together.

Tsuneo: The service personnel who had moved it in there and set it up.

Rick: And the guys they bragged about it to in the break room.

> and the fighters themselves, except for the Sandrock Kai's fighter,

Dan: He wet 'em.

> he was just panicky and rushed the Neo-Zeong/Apsalus III altogether.

Rick: Leeeeroy Jenkins!

> That resulted in the Sandrock Kai getting blasted by the Apsalus III's Mega Particle Cannon.

Rick: Yep, another successful application of the Leeroy Jenkins approach.

> Nils, being the first one to snap out of his faze asked

Dan: [Nils] How is it even riding that thing?

> "Does anyone want to bet that thing has an I-Field,  
> either that or it'll manipulate the Plavsky particles to deflect our blades?"

Tsuneo: I'm not sure what to make of that statement; the fact that it's an in-character conclusion for him to reach, or the very OOC way he said it.

Rebecca: Split the difference and not care?

Tsuneo: Sounds good.

> The next thing that he did was

Dan: -put on a grass skirt and do a hula dance. Not the best strategy, but definitely unexpected.

> send a wave from his katanas. All that did was bounce off the armor and cleaved a hole into the sand.

Tsuneo: So they put a 'surprise' that's immune to their weapons in a limited weapon match. That's not so much an unexpected addition to the match as it is blatantly cheating.

> Raymond, not wanting his hard work to be destroyed,

Rebecca: Which kind of makes me wonder why he entered a contest where his kit could be destroyed anyway.

Rick: Great. Tell him that now and his head will probably explode.

> activated the special Trans-Am which caused Qan[t] Dash to turn blue.

Tsuneo: Raymond's Gundam now has hypothermia.

> "Nils, Kiba, I'll need your help."

> "What do you need Raymond?"

> "As if I'll help you."

Rick: Nice knowing you, poorly described extra! See you next year!

> "We need to destroy the Apsalus III before we take the Neo-Zeong.

Tusneo: [Nils] Why is that?

Rick: [Raymond] I dunno, it just sounded like a cool plan.

> Kiba and I will cover Nils.

Dan: And Nils will cover Abba.

> Nils, you need to get up close and do whatever you have up your sleeves."

Rebecca: Nils, this is no time for your amateur magic act either.

> "Sounds like the best thing to do Raymond."

Dan: In the absence of anything that resembles a plan, let's go with that.

> "As if I'll follow that plan." Kiba activated his Trans-Am and charged straight in.

> "Well, I was never one for plans anyways.

Rebecca: Which is also what he told his parents after he dropped out of high school.

> Let's just go and beat the living hell out of that thing." The

> remaining two fighters charged in "guns blazing" and worked on hacking the Apsalus III to pieces.

Tsuneo: And instantly any sense of tension or menace is flushed straight away. Nice going as always, fic.

> Kiba

> alone got nothing done because he was being held in place due to the Neo-Zeong firing its arms.

Rick: That'll teach him not to do whatever it was he shouldn't have done.

> Raymond hacked at any chinks in the armor of the Apsalus III while Nils moved around to locate the

> best spot to use his Plavsky Fa Jin.

Rebecca: And remember folks; Build Fighters is awesome because it has Giant Robot Dim Mak.

> "This looks bad, maybe I should use that now."

Dan: Strangely enough, that's also what he said during his stand-up act before switching to the off-colour material.

> The GN Sword Bits

> started to go into formation and spin at a low speed which then accelerated until it looked like a blur.

> Raymond then aligned the GN Longswords behind the bits and started to drive them towards the belly

> of the Apsalus III.

Tsuneo: The two bad guys, in the mean time, seem to have done nothing but stand there and let themselves get beaten up.

Rick: They were being operated by Isaac and Zephyr.

> The Qan[t] Dash started to accelerate into a high speed mode and pierced the hull of the Apsalus III.

Dan: [Raymond] Mine is the drill that will pierce the... Randomly appearing... Mobile armours, I guess.

> This went on until it dug further and further to the top and then led to it splitting the Neo-Zeong in half.

Rebecca: Well, I can see that it was worth Raymond spending all that time and energy on building his kit, given that this battle went just like every other one so far.

Tsuneo: Truly it was time well spent.

> "Battle ended."

> As the particles fell back into the battle system, all four battlers, including Raymond as he fell in exhaustion, and the whole audience thought "Battle ended? Wasn't the purpose of this period to..."

Tsuneo: Give each of the team members a solo match in which to show off their skills while developing the team's special secret technique?

Rebecca: And if by that you mean, let Kale hog the spotlight in everyone else's focus chapters, then you're spot on.

> The PA filled in to clarify the confusion that everyone has.

Rick: [Raymond] Hey, does that count as a win? My team's labouring with a loss and a draw already.

> "Due to special circumstances, match 10 has ended with the destruction of the surprise.

Dan: No, we don't have a clue what happened either. Just go with it.

> President Makabe of PPSE would like to see Kiba Patton and Raymond Kens."

Rick: Said in your best 'report to the principal's office' voice.

> The President of PPSE wants to see me?

Rebecca: Time to clear out your desk then

Dan: What if he doesn't work for them?

Rebecca: Then they'll give him a desk so he can clear it out.

> I didn't think that wouldn't happen anytime except for when

> the sponsor of the tournament, in this case sponsors, sees the winner of the tournament.

Rick: He's got non-disclosure forms and liability waivers for them to sign in relation to the 'surprise.'

Tsuneo: Shouldn't he have cleared all that beforehand?

Rick: He's not very good at being an evil corporate honcho.

> When both Kiba and I arrived at the president's room,

Rick: The Oval Office is a lot smaller than I thought it'd be.

> we saw a man in a suit, a girl in a white blouse, and another man in a PPSE uniform.

Rebecca: As well as a fat guy busy bogarting all the snacks on the catering table.

> "Did you want to see us President Makabe?"

> "Yes... in fact, I wanted a long talk with you Raymond-kun.

Dan: [President] Why I singled out a random nobody from a brand new team is anyone's guess.



> But I haven't forgotten about you, Kiba-kun,  
> the 2nd Meijin Kawaguchi's little brother."Kiba is the 2nd Meijin's little brother?

Tsuneo: This has been shoveling the exposition theatre.

> "Please Mr. Makabe, I don't that coming up anywhere."

Rick: This guy has 'embarrassing younger sibling' written all over him.

Rebecca: The Roger Clinton to his Bill.

> "Anyways, I'd like the two of you to personally know one of the members of PPSE's team: my daughter,  
> Shion Makabe."

Tsuneo: Your job is to make sure that daddy's spoilt princess gets everything she wants and a pony too.

> I already made a guess that Shion Makabe was the daughter of the President of PPSE

Rebecca: Their sharing a name might have clued him in.

> when I heard that the President wanted to see us, but I didn't think that she would be this young.

Dan: He was hoping for something that wouldn't get him arrested.

> "Sir, I have an objection to this."

Rick: [President] You don't even know what I'm asking of you.

Dan: [Raymond] Well I'm objecting for the heck of it.

> "What is it then Raymond-kun?"

> "I believe that you shouldn't be forcing your own daughter to be doing this if she doesn't want to do  
> this."

Tsuneo: A girl interested in Gundam fights? Clearly she's not doing it of her own free will.

> "What makes you think I'm being forced to do this?"

> I looked at her before anyone else would've blinked once. "I can feel it, with my own soul.

Rebecca: In his soul, they are already married on the astral plane. He's even dedicated an entire Livejournal to their love.

> My instincts with Gunpla can tell me through the way a person fights

Tsuneo: He can tell everything about a person by the way they fight with plastic toy robots. Next thing he'll measure the shape of her skull to analyse her personality.

> and the way you fight says that you're being forced to do this."

Dan: He's holding her My Little Ponies hostage.

> Right now, I felt my own heart beat in sync with what I said and I could feel her reaction.

Rick: This isn't creepy at all.

Tsuneo: Gods no.

> I could tell that this wouldn't end well.

Rebecca: We're talking 'Stalingrad' levels of not ending well.

> Raymond: She is crazy.

> Kale: Not as crazy as what I found out yesterday.

Dan [Kale]: She said that we'd die together as a way of proving our love while playing with a cigarette lighter.

> Kaila: I hope that I get my revenge against that Korean weeb.

> Monica & Darren: Please stop obsessing over that.

Tsuneo: Yeah, you lost fair and square in a match that favoured his kit and fighting style over yours in every way shape and form.

Rick: Hey Darren, look on the upside. At least she's not trying to kill you this time.

> Reiji, Sei & Aila: At least it's not something that's overwhelming.

> Kale: Next time, Battle Royale!

Tsuneo: In which Takeshi Kitano stares creepily at Monica for ninety minutes.

> Izuru & Shion: FALL!

Rick: And after that, winter is coming.

The main screen turned off, reverting the world to its normal prose format. "And thus passes the glory of the world," Rebecca considered.

"Farewell, May Way," Tsuneo nodded. "You shall not be missed"

"The fic did not so much end, as it came to an abrupt juddering halt," Dan added. "One moment, it's there, the next it's gone like a crappy show that got yanked mid-season and replaced with a rerun"

"And the best part?" Rick asked. "We're not left hanging at all. There is no greater plot, no big mysteries, nothing amazing that we're waiting to find out. We can't be disappointed that there's no resolution to the story because there's no story to resolve"

"Exactly," Rebecca pointed out. "The fic was going nowhere at all. Every chapter amounted to the same thing; Kale fights somebody and trashes them with ease. The only semblance of an ongoing plot was an excuse for ordering those fights"

"And yet, it was singularly lacking in anything else," Tsuneo agreed. "There was none of the sense of fun or whimsy or the like that was so central to making Build Fighters work in the first place."

"No imagination, no feeling of friendly competition, nothing like that," Dan shrugged. "Just endless lists of what bits of what kit and how many GN drives it has."

“Oh, and Trans-Am,” Rick butted in. “Always Trans-Am. Because if you go Trans-Am you win because Trans-Am is awesome so you put some Trans-Am in your Trans-Am so you can Trans-Am. Say it enough times and it sounds funny”

“Trans-Am, Trans-Am, sausage, egg bacon and Trans-Am,” Dan finished. “So how about it, Voice? Ready for the reviews?”

“Actually, this isn’t the last part of the fic up for review,” the Voice replied.

“I thought you said this was the last chunk of fic,” Tsuneo asked.

“This bodes,” Rebecca muttered.

“So what’s left for us, skull?” Rick asked up at the ceiling.

“Well, I’ve put together a compilation of all the character profiles for the fic,” the Voice explained. “And we’ll be looking at that next time.”

“Hoooo boy,” Rebecca exhaled. “That is going to be a whole world of suck”

“You expect it to be bad?” Tsuneo asked. “I mean, bad is a given, but particularly bad?”

She nodded. “Character profiles are rarely good in these sorts of things. I’m expecting massively over-wrought backgrounds full of poorly realized tragedy and the like, not to mention massive essays on how amazingly amazing every one of them is.”

“Speaking from experience?” Dan smirked.

“Oh yes,” She nodded. “This sort of thing is an outgrowth of the Internet RP experience, which basically turns into a contest of one-upmanship for ‘my character is more amazing and sparkly than yours’. Massive amounts of attention-whoring, plenty of butthurt and people who believe that their ‘creativity’ – and I use the word advisedly – is more important than any sense or reason.”

“I can hardly wait,” Tsuneo drawled.

“Hold on-“ Rick commented as he pulled out his phone, tapping away at the screen. “Awesome, the thing I was working on for you guys is ready!”

“And not a moment too soon,” Dan nodded as he stood. “Come on, guys, we’ve got a surprise in store”

Rebecca turned to Tsuneo. “I take it that Rick’s surprises rarely end up well?”

He nodded. “And yet, I’d sooner that than any more of this fic.”

Rebecca stood, along with the others. “That’s all the reasoning I need. So whatever it is, I can take it.”

“That’s the spirit!” Rick grinned. “Trust me, you will not be disappointed!”

“And that’s what I’m afraid of,” Tsuneo finished as the four of them filed out.

-----

Author’s notes:

As of this writing, My Way is officially Abandoned Fic. However, that doesn't mean that we're finished with it just yet. The Character Profile Extravaganza is up next, and trust me, if you thought My Way was bad, you haven't seen anything yet.

Remember when Raymond was the interesting new character who fought the whole team to a standstill and had his mysterious plot complicating disease? No, me either.

Gundam is copyright Bandai

Gundam Build Fighters is copyright Sunrise

My Way to the Championship written by Blitzzurger96

Rebecca Bartley and Rick R. Mortis created by Rick R. (natch)  
Tsuneo Tateo and Dan created by Zogster

Questions? Comments? Complaints? High off paint fumes? Email us at [elmerstudios00 \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:elmerstudios00@gmail.com) and register your Jeff.

The Elmer Studios Blog  
<http://elmerstudios.blogspot.com.au>  
Elmer Studios MSTings, commentary, random thoughts and other stuff

Elmer Studios!  
<http://www.heavens-feel.com/elmer/>  
All of Elmer Studios' MSTings, random DELTA Invasion Episode Generator and other stuff in one spot

-----

> (who would never be forgotten, which would never happen  
> anyways... unlike some characters that will get some action... cough)