

WHAT IS THE MAGICAL GIRL RAISING PROJECT?

- ☆ Intuitive for beginners, but with a deep gameplay system that can satisfy advanced players!
- ★ Collectible cards drawn by famous Illustrators!
- ☆ Deep action game mechanics, move around freely, with a unique combat system!
- ★ 500+ Character classes! 2000+ Customizable items! The possibilities are endless!
- ☆ Best of all, it's Free to Play for *life*!

Welcome to the world of dreams and magic!

This is an RPG where you can become the ultimate Magical Girl! This is the *Magical Girl Raising Project*!

You have been chosen by the *Land of Magic* to become a Guardian of the World! Using your magic abilities, you will be able to crush the forces of darkness and rid the world of evil!

Use your magical powers to fight for peace as a cute and powerful *Magical Girl*!!!

Not only do you have your cool magical powers, but you can also use mascot familiars, earn new costumes, equip a variety of items, and even customize your own catchphrase!

Defeat foes to collect *Magical Candy*! Use candies to level up, shop for new items, and increase your skills in a quest to become the ultimate *Magical Girl*!

The world is always in danger, thus, Magical Girls will always be needed.

So what are you waiting for?

Take the first step, and your dreams will surely come true!

PROLOGUE

That night, Ako Hatoda was in trouble.

After middle school was over, she went straight to her part-time job. After that, it was only a few minutes of walking from her job to the bus stop, and she finally went home.

However, when she got there, she realized that she had lost the key to her front gate.

It was a small key. Finding it would take quite a while, and not to mention it was nighttime. The sun went down faster in autumn, and she wouldn't be able to search for it properly with only the light from the moon and the street lights.

If she just waited for her aunt and uncle to come home, they'd be able to open the gate, but that didn't change the fact that she lost the key. Some stranger could use it, so they'd have to get the key changed.

She didn't want to cause any trouble.

It's been three months since her father had killed her mother.

After that, Ako began to live with her mother's younger brother, her uncle. She had become aware that she was becoming a burden. Her family let her go to the same school she had always gone to, they gave her an allowance, and let her do as she pleased.

She was such a burden.

Just once, she had gone to visit her father, but he turned her away and told her to never come again. Ako wasn't needed, not even by her father.

No one talked to Ako at school.

Everyone at school somehow knew that her father had stabbed her mother to death after an argument, and so made up rumors about her and gawked at her.

Ako was nothing but an undesirable existence, someone just causing problems for others. And so, she thought she'd be better off dead.

A while back, her grandma had told her with a sigh, "You've got a one-track mind, just like your father."

Ako didn't think this was a bad thing, though. It was much better than continuing to be a burden on everyone.

Ako had been slowly collecting what she needed to kill herself. She had been stealing just enough sleeping pills from her insomniac uncle to not get caught, and had been putting them in her desk at school. She was reaching the amount she needed.

But now, she had lost the key.

She wanted to die so she could stop being a burden, and yet she was still causing more problems. Losing the key at a time like this made her hate her careless self even more, and so she feebly crouched down in front of the gate.

To her, that lost key had now become the symbol of everything tormenting her. Ako couldn't think of anything but the key, and from her open eyes tears flowed down.

"Is something wrong?"

That's odd... Ako was here, so it might not have been so odd, but it was still very odd, it was an oddly cute-sounding voice of a girl.

"If something's wrong, you can tell me about it. Like, oh, I don't know... you lost a house key, for example?"

Ako looked up, and what she saw was a girl so beautiful your heart thumped just looking at her.

Skin so white it stood out from the darkness, as though it were transparent. Facial features so perfectly positioned you would think they were actually sculpted by hand. The girl's smile was strangely stiff, the imbalance of her beautiful appearance and her awkward smile making her all the cuter.

However, her outfit was certainly strange.

At first glance, it looked like she was wearing a school uniform, but the outfit's arrangement was too well-made. Close to a cosplay from some sort of anime or manga. Her scarf was bordered with frills, and her pleated skirt had white flower decorations hanging from it.

The insignia looked like it belonged to a school, but it at least wasn't any nearby school. Her knee socks had the same insignia... or so Ako thought, but it looks like they're actually white boots. Her hair was platinum blonde that shined in the moonlight, with a ribbon that was also decorated with many white flower decorations.

Two words first came into Ako's mind

Magical Girl.

Ako was dumbfounded, and before she realized it she had confessed to the girl that she had lost the key. The girl nodded, and said "Wait right there," and then disappeared. Wind was whirled up, and Ako smelled a fruit-like scent.

She's real. A real Magical Girl.

After Ako stood there still dumbfounded for five minutes, the girl returned, breathing heavily.

"Is this it?"

The key she showed Ako was without a doubt the key Ako had lost.

"Be more careful next time, okay?"

The girl then smiled. As though the smile invited her to, Ako gave her thanks to the girl. Their facial features were completely different, but her smile was just like her mother's when she was on good terms with her father. Pleasant, happy, and just looking at it would calm you. It was that kind of smile.

She bowed her head in thanks, and by the time she had raised it the girl was gone.

It really was a Magical Girl.

Ako was happier than ever. She felt a warm feeling near her heart. She no longer wanted to die. Magical Girls were real. Ako was saved.

Ako wondered if she too could become a Magical Girl. If she became a Magical Girl, she could be wanted. Her heart thumped just thinking about it.

Ako wondered if there were people out there who would need her.

CHAPTER 1:

BLACK & WHITE

Due to a large merger four years ago, a coastal city became the largest metropolis in the area: N-City. With a district where fantastical and futuristic buildings were scattered about, with the City Hall at its center, abandoned mountain villages neglected and in ruins, large medical facilities equipped with the latest medical technology, and factories that went bankrupt due to out-of-control management, all living together in this distorted “forcefully merged together city”.

And within N-City, starting around June of last year, there have been sightings of Magical Girls.

There was a knock on the glass of a car that exceeded the speed limit on the highway. When the driver looked to see if it was a stray pebble, he instead saw a smiling witch on a broomstick, “Hey, slow it down a little, would ya?” she warned him.

A child was chasing a ball down the street when suddenly a truck sped up towards him, *he’s not going to make it!* the bystanders thought, when at that moment a knight stood in front of the child, stopping the truck with her bare hands, and walked away without saying a word.

There was someone who had trouble with a persistent stalker, when a girl with dog-like ears on her head, running on all fours, headed straight for the skirt-chaser, carrying him away with her.

“It was a girl whose beauty was out of this world” was the common consensus that everyone had. However, their appearance, clothing, and the situations they were encountered in lacked the sense of cohesion necessary to be a common urban legend.

At first, people laughed them off as delusions, boasts, or just plain nonsense, but the sightings continued, and when a video titled “Two Angels Flying in the Sky Holding Hands” was uploaded to a video sharing site, the rumors spread like wildfire.

“That video’s the real deal”. “No, it’s gotta be made up”. At the office, at school, even online, there were heavy discussions that were happening almost everywhere, and sometimes people who claimed to have been helped by these girls mixed in with them, all contributing to discussing the credibility of these videos and the the existence of these girls.

One person who was helped by these girls had even asked them, “Who are you?” upon which the girls answered “I’m a Magical Girl”. That was when these *Mysterious Girls* became known as *Magical Girls* instead.

Fansites and Research sites popped up one after another, with aggregator sites collecting eyewitness reports and being updated daily. One of the latest sightings seemed to be particularly thrilling.

There had been an apartment within the Red-Light district that was used by the local Mafia. A western gunman styled Magical Girl came rushing in, beating the guards inside, and confiscating the weapons and funds hidden within.

“Hey, do you think this is all real?”

Three Middle School girls were waiting by the bus stop. One of them was showing the screen of her smartphone to her two other friends. On screen was the aggregator site showing the latest Magical Girl sighting information.

“You really love this kinda stuff, do you? It’s obviously not real”

“Huh? But doesn’t this seem kinda real to you?”

“A little *too* real. It’s like whoever wrote this was actually at the scene”

“Yo-Chan, you’re always so quick to deny everything I say. What if someone at the scene actually posted this?”

“I’m denying it cause you sound like an idiot, Sumi. If it was written by someone at the scene, then either the Mafia or the Magical Girl would be the one posting it, and that’s impossible. Besides, aren’t you too old for this?”

“But wouldn’t be cool if it were real? Magical Girls, I mean”

The other girl, who had been silently listening to her friends talking, could no longer keep her mouth shut.

“Yo-Chan, Sumi-Chan, you’re both wrong. Even if Magical Girls were real, then they wouldn’t do anything like that. Magical Girls are heroes who help people in need”

“Thank you very much for your ever idealistic opinions”

“Koyuki, you’re always so *out there*, aren’t you? It’s almost delusional”

Behind the bus stop where the middle school girls were chattering about with their smartphones was a seven-storey building, the Seventh Sankou Building. On the roof was a girl, considering the same problems as those girls below. She wore something close to a Kimono, but her degree of exposure was like that of a swimsuit. She had tall *Geta* slippers and a Shuriken hairpin, it was more like a costume than an outfit, but the only people who would go out dressed like that these days are Magical Girls.

The girl pointed her finger at an article on the aggregator site on her Magical Phone and asked,

“Is this real...?”

The screen changed for a moment. Then, a glow emitted from the heart-shaped screen of her Magical Phone, forming a hard... tile-like rigid spherical object, floating in front of a lakeside backdrop. The image was stereoscopic in nature.

It had an unsettling color scheme, its right half was black, its left half white, and from its spherical body, a single sheet of wings sprouted and fluttered like a butterfly. Every time those wings moved, they scattered sparkling scales everywhere. It had a smile that was drawn as if it were an emoticon, but its face was fixed and didn’t change, and its voice was high like that of a child’s.

Its name was Fav. The so-called Mascot Character.

“Could be fake, Pon. Could be real, Pon”

The sphere did a somersault on the spot, and scattered a large amount of sparkling scales. The girl’s eyes were smeared with them as she glared back at the mascot.

“Calamity Mary would probably do something like that, Pon. She always acts like an outlaw, so she does all kinds of absurd things like this, Pon”

Calamity Mary was a Magical Girl who had laid claim on the Jounan District of N-City as her own territory. Although Magical Girls were ordered to keep watch over their districts and may even call it such names as their *district of responsibility* or even their *home*, it was fitting that she'd call her district her *territory*.

Vulgar, crude, savage, and so forth, her behavior could only be described by these harsh words. Even the Mascot Character struck her down by calling her an outlaw.

"So it is real...?"

"Fav never said anything like that, Pon. If Fav told you every little bit of info about other Magical Girls, weeeell, that makes Fav a tattletale, Pon, and fairies hate tattletales, Pon"

"Then what about this one..."

She swiped her fingers across the screen and went to a different page. Compared to the other Magical Girls, there were far more sightings of a *White Magical Girl*, so much so that the website had dedicated a special section just for her.

"There's way too many sightings of her..."

"Ah, *Snow White's* page, huh? She's the hardest worker, Pon. That's just the tip of the iceberg, Pon. She's done triple the amount of work you see there, all for the good of society and its people, Pon"

Though its wings were that of an organic butterfly, the clearly inorganic black and white sphere flipped two more times before finally landing on a flower.

"Ripple, weren't you looking at that page before, Pon?"

"I was..."

"Do I detect a rivalry brewing, Pon?"

"Not really... I was just thinking how she could work this much"

"Rivalries are good, Pon. It's always great to have everyone competing with each other, Pon"

“Hm...”

The girl... Ripple, took her eyes off of her Magical Phone, closed her dangling legs together, and leapt down from the edge of the roof. She fell about 20 meters below, landing quietly on the ground.

“Why’d you jump all of a sudden, Pon?”

“Something annoying is coming here, thought I’d hide off somewhere...”

“Annoying, Pon?”

Ripple looked above from the chasm between two buildings, and Fav also turned its face towards where Ripple was facing. In the sky, a tiny point gradually became larger, until that point took on a humanoid form, and when Fav noticed just whose form it was seeing, it raised its voice.

“Top Speed!”

A witch riding a broomstick... The Magical Girl *Top Speed*, descended down into the chasm of the buildings, glancing down at Ripple’s face.

“What’s up, Ripple?”

Instead of greeting her back, Ripple clicked her tongue loudly. Top Speed smiled bitterly as a response.

“Still as Tsundere as ever, I see”

“Should’ve hidden faster...”

“C’mon, we’re both Magical Girls. We should be getting along more!”

“Shut it...”

“Anyways”

Once more Ripple clicked her tongue, but Top Speed kept on talking without paying her any mind. One of the many reasons Ripple hated her was because Top Speed walks at her own pace, but it's probably because of that personality that Top Speed doesn't even notice as well.

"You seen this article before?"

Top Speed held out her Magical Phone, on screen was an online news report. The mysterious girls rumored to appear in N-City, better known as *Magical Girls*, have costumes that are near-identical with the items of a popular social game, *Magical Girl Raising Project*.

"People are startin' to notice huh? Ain't this kinda bad?"

"Not a problem, Pon"

"Really?"

"If a Magical Girl was leaking this info, well, that'd go against the *Magical Girl Rules*, and would be a huge problem, but Fav knows that none of you are bad girls, Pon. If a normal person posts news like this, think of it as free advertisement, Pon! We should be grateful, Pon!"

This Mascot Character tends to talk like a salesman. When Ripple had just become a Magical Girl, she had pointed this out to it, but Fav calmly replied that "I'm not so much a salesman as I'm part of Human Resources, Pon"

About two months ago, Kano Sazanami had become a Magical Girl.

She had heard that out of all the players who've played the social game *Magical Girl Raising Project*, 1 out of every 10,000 have become a real Magical Girl, or so the urban legend claims. She knew of these legends, but she didn't really believe in any of them.

From kindergarten to middle school, people have always insulted her for irrational reasons, and she'd always solved her problems by resorting to violence until they cried out and yielded to her, but when she entered high school, a variety of obstacles overcame her, obstacles that were difficult to solve by violence alone.

Her mother had brought what was now the fifth stepfather. He had stroked her butt, something that she repaid with her fists. She then promptly packed her bags and left her home. Kano, who

was now living alone in a small and barren apartment, had to support herself. Thus, she couldn't afford to be fired from her part-time job. She cut down all of her expenses, and she had to graduate from high school for the sake of her future.

In order to relieve the stress she felt in school and work, she needed a hobby to distract herself, and Kano's philosophy was that people who spend money on their hobbies were foolish, and *Magical Girl Raising Project* aligned with that philosophy. Thus, Kano added *Magical Girl Raising Project* to the only two other hobbies she had, browsing Manga and reading at the library.

When a company successfully reduced the price of their smartphone, other companies joined in on the price war. Three years ago, it was announced that smartphones would occupy 90% of the mobile phone industry. After that, shipments of smartphones continued to increase, until they dominated the mobile phone industry.

As smartphones became more popular, the number of social games that targeted smartphones also increased. There were as many supposedly free-to-play social games as there were stars in the sky, but really they were only free at the start of the game, and had a paywall that needed real money if you wanted to actually progress smoothly. The main selling point of *Magical Girl Raising Project* was that it was completely free-to-play. Items in the game could only be obtained via in-game events or in-game currency, meaning everything was obtainable in-game.

Kano had seen some boys talking about the game at school, and while secretly considered them to be quite childish, it did seem interesting enough to at least try out.

She'd designed her Avatar, a player's in-game representation, by herself, and started the game. Once she clears quests that involve rescuing people or defeating enemies, she received and collected Magic Items and Magic Cards, using them to strengthen her character, she can take on even more difficult quests and even more difficult enemies.

Since she constrained herself to only playing for 30 minutes a day, her progress in the game was at a turtle's pace. Still, it was fun to collect cards for her ideal tactics and builds, then combine them to defeat her enemies. There was a built-in balance that connected the struggle she had in the game and the rewards she was given in return that gave her a sense of pleasure. To someone who was inexperienced with gaming like Kano, everything felt refreshing.

On the subject of Magical Girls, Kano wasn't really that interested, but she remembered a time when she had a TV in her house, when she would laugh along with the girls she saw on TV, and she even had a phase when she was into Magical Girls. Kano soaked herself in those memories without hesitation.

She passed on playing with other people and working together, considering them an annoyance and a waste, only focusing on fighting CPU opponents and clearing story mode quests instead, and a week since she started playing, a change had occurred.

As the game's Mascot Character *Fav* floated on-screen, it spoke to her.

"Congratulations, Pon! You've been selected to become a real Magical Girl, Pon!"

She wondered if this was some kind of event as she continued to tap on the skip message button, when suddenly the screen began to glow brightly, and Kano became wrapped in light. Had she noticed it, she would've realized that she's become a Magical Girl.

Kano herself had become her own Magical Girl avatar, *Ripple*.

Kano took a deep breath three times, then looked at her hands, her feet, and finally checked a full-body mirror, and she repeated this about five times. This was clearly not her imagination. She pinched her cheeks, and it hurt, so this was also not a hallucination.

Kano was looking for a rational explanation, she concluded that she was probably tired from work and school. *This is bad*, she thought to herself, as she detransformed right in front of her mirror.



When she tried to transform again, she focused her mind and found herself wrapped in light, but when she wanted to detransform, her transformation simply dissolved. She repeated the transformation and detransformation process many times in front of the mirror, she really *had* become the Magical Girl *Ripple*. Her face and physical features were completely different from that of Kano's. Kano would never dress up in a fancy costume like this. It felt real and vivid, this also didn't seem like either a delusion or a hallucination at all.

She balled up her right hand several times, and tried to strike her left palm with her fist. The sound and shock of the impact made the nearby glass vibrate, and the string holding up the fluorescent light in the room swung left to right. Kano now had long, slender fingers than she did before, its beauty was like that of pure art, and it was also much stronger than meets the eye.

Thump, she kicked the floor lightly. She nearly hit her head on the ceiling. Her landlord would kill her if she'd broken the ceiling boards.

Her physical abilities had been increased. Clearly, it was a strength that far exceeded that of a normal human's.

Looking at her limbs, there were no scratches, scars, or even traces of hair. Not to mention there weren't any flaws or moles at all. It was glossy and soft, but nevertheless had a moisture like that of a fresh fruit.

Even now, she could feel the raging energy inside her body filling her up.

On her collar and sleeves, Kunai and Shuriken were sewn together, and if she were careless, it could probably cause her some major wounds.

So the rumors were true. *Magical Girl Raising Project* was a game that created real Magical Girls.

Once more she glanced at the full-body mirror, and she saw a perfectly arranged face reflected on it. It looked like she was a model, or maybe an artist.

"Hmm..."

Her voice was different. She had a higher-pitched voice.

She tried out several poses in front of her full-body mirror, grinning happily as she did so. She blew a tiny kiss. No matter what she did, it was always in that sort of manner. However, she looked slightly different than what she considered the ideal Magical Girl form, she didn't seem very orthodox at all.

"What's wrong, Pon?"

The Mascot Character on the screen of her phone spoke, and it nearly made her jump, but she managed to contain her surprise. But she couldn't hide the embarrassment of posing in front of a mirror with that grin on her face, so she couldn't do anything about her cheeks turning red.

Kano tried to reply as calmly as possible.

"Who are you...?"

"Fav's Fav, Pon. Shouldn't you know that if you played the game, Pon?"

"That wasn't exactly my question... What do you want...?"

"Fav's here to support girls with the ability to become Magical Girls, Pon. If you have any questions, ask them all away, Pon"

She didn't feel like talking. She clicked her tongue and looked at the mirror. There, no matter where she looked from, a Magical Girl was staring back at her. That fact was unlikely to change anytime soon.

"I heard that I'd have 'beauty that was out of this world', but... is this it...?"

"Humans that have been rescued have some correction adjusted to their eyes, Pon. To them, your beautiful appearance can only be described as 'A beauty that's out of this world', unsatisfied, Pon?"

"Not really..."

Kano's avatar, *Ripple*, had a design that was based on a ninja. Black hair, narrow eyes, thin eyebrows, she added the other parts of her costume, choosing to divide it in two between a Kimono and Swimsuit which she felt suited her costume. When she looked at her outfit overall,

as a Magical Girl outfit, she thought it was quite plain. For a Ninja, she gave herself a conventional red scarf, and a giant shiny iron Shuriken hairpin, other than that, she colored her entire costume in a single black color scheme.

Although the name *Ripple* was an English translation of Kano's last name *Sazanami*, when it comes to applying this in real life, a Japanese look with a Western name can give quite the mismatched impression.

"Can I change my avatar's costume...?"

"It's impossible now, Pon"

"Ah, I see..."

"What's wrong, Pon? Dissatisfied, Pon?"

"Not really..."

Fav continued its explanation. It wants chosen Magical Girls to help people. Although she had no interest in helping people, her beautiful appearance and her extraordinarily high physical abilities, not to mention her Magical Skill that she should be able to use freely *does* seem quite attractive.

More than anything, Kano was quite tired of her daily life.

"Fav will support you to the fullest, Fav has also given you a beautiful Magical Phone as a present, Pon"

"Support... How...?"

"Fav is a friend to all Magical Girls, so if you want to contact them, Fav will let them know, Pon. Also, Fav will answer any questions you have regarding Magical Girls, Pon"

"What even is a Magical Girl in the first place...?"

"Magical Girls are Magical Girls, Pon. Have you never watched TV or anything, Pon?"

"Okay, and what are they exactly...?"

“They’re girls who have been granted magical powers by the Land of Magic in order to help people in need, Pon”

“What are their principles, what are their reasons... What do the Land of Magic want...?”

“Have you never seen TV, Pon?”

“I told you...”

“Well, you already know you’ve become a Magical Girl, Pon. That fact’s never going away, Pon. No matter what you ask and no matter what you say, Ripple, you’re still a Magical Girl, Pon.”

“Right...”

This seems highly suspicious. But still, she’s witnessed an extraordinary phenomenon with her own eyes.

If Kano worked hard, she can get into a good college, but becoming a Magical Girl isn’t something you can do just by working hard. Whether it was good or bad luck, perhaps some amount of talent is involved, and if she refused, a second chance probably won’t be coming back, so for now she should just nod along.

If she did, then she should be able to balance the scales, all according to her calculations.

Kano looked at herself objectively, calmly calculating her profit and loss. As a self-proclaimed realist, she was impressed with how she can take in this abnormal situation without any fear or anger, she wondered if the Mascot Character knew what Kano was thinking.

“People who wouldn’t accept being a Magical Girl wouldn’t be chosen as a Magical Girl in the first place, pon”

If she had thought that this is the time her Magical Girl activities starts, then it probably wouldn’t have done that. She heard that she was scheduled to be given a lecture from senior Magical Girls, Kano became disheartened. Would they be as annoying and irritating as she imagined?

“I thought you said that *you’d* be supporting me, Fav...”

“Fav will help as much as possible, but... Fav is just one person, Fav can’t do everything, Pon.”

Come to think of it, *Magical Girl Raising Project*'s tutorial was also quite excessive and long-winded. Persistently, she was forced to only press buttons endlessly in order to progress, the game was made with the premise that the player was an idiot with no imagination. Kano turned off the Magical Phone she was just given, and clicked her tongue. Its heart-shaped screen made it very hard to see.

Kano was bad at talking with people. To put it bluntly, she was bad with people in general. People always tried to group together, she hated people who think they could become stronger if they just grouped up.

That was the reason she got *Magical Girl Raising Project* in the first place, but who would've thought that even *Magical Girl Raising Project* would now bother her with annoying and irritating human relations too.

When she saw her senior Magical Girl *Top Speed*, her first impression of her was "She looked like an idiot".

A sharp Witch's Hat, Witch's Broom, Witch One-Piece. A typical Witch-Type character, her face was even more western when compared to Ripple. Indeed, this Magical Girl moved her big blue eyes with such busyness, her golden hair was tied up in 2 tufts of 3, hanging away beside her.

The only things that were contrary to a Witch archetype were her long purple cape that reached the ground and the amulet that she wore on her neck. Ripple saw that there were some words embroidered behind that cape that read, 'No Opinions Needed'. The flying broom was flourished with a windshield and bike handles, and muffler and boosters that were over-the-top, "Ah, so she *is* an idiot," thought Ripple, as her assumed rank of Top Speed fell down by 1.

Top Speed, who descended to the rooftop of the Sankou Building, their designated meeting spot, had a full-faced smile as she gave a thumbs up.

"Yo, I'm Top Speed! Nice to meetcha!"

"...Likewise..."

"Wow, you look glum, you eaten yet? Hahaha!"

She uses casual words like 'yo'. She looks stupid. Ripple's rank of Top Speed just decreased further.

Top Speed lightly sat on the building's iron fence. She urged Ripple to sit beside her, but since Ripple didn't really want to sit next to her, *and* didn't want to be looked down on, she decided it was more comfortable to stand leaning on the wall.

Top Speed began her discussion. She talked about what Magical Girls should do, how to use your Magical Skill, how doing good deeds that help people can increase the amount of Magical Candies you have.

"Good deeds...?"

"In-game, you increase your candies by defeating enemies, right? Too bad, but real life doesn't have enemies to beat"

When Ripple saw Top Speed's wise-looking face, she clicked her tongue deep down in her heart.

Other than that, she also taught her about her *Magical Phone*, a device that only Magical Girls can operate. Despite the over-exaggeration that these Magical Phones could only be used by Magical Girls, when Top Speed taught her how to operate it, it was no different than a normal smartphone. The fact that Top Speed acted like it was some special item made Ripple irritated, but Ripple didn't show it on her face. Once again, she clicked her tongue in her heart.

Just as she was shown, she called up her personal page. There, her height, weight, and body size were all written. She was about 3 cm taller than the average male. Kano's body was originally athletic, but when she transformed into Ripple, her height, weight, and physique all turned feminine.

On her *Personality* column, they wrote, "Commits violence to those she dislikes". Despite being aware that it was very accurate, it still made her angry. On her *Magical Skill* column, they wrote "Will always have a 100% chance of hitting the target when throwing Shuriken". Instead of doing it in her heart, this time she actually clicked her tongue.

"Hm? What's up?"

"I only have one Magical Skill..."

Moreover, it was quite a plain one. For a ninja, the ability to throw Shuriken should be an inherent skill, not a special power. What about cloning yourself or throwing fireballs, ninjas have lots of powers like that.

“Magical Girls only get to have one magical power. I know you’ve got loads of powers that you can use in the game, and I *do* think it’s useful but well, we got it rough”

Top Speed’s explanation only made Ripple even more depressed.

There are certain *Magical Girl Rules* that every Magical Girl must follow. ‘One must not reveal their identities to ordinary humans’, and ‘never reveal either the Magical Girl Rules nor your powers to ordinary humans’. If those two rules were ever broken, then you will be disqualified from becoming a Magical Girl.

There was also a weekly chat. It wasn’t mandatory, but if you wanted to have some important contacts, then it’d be best to attend every day.

Some Magical Girls are very sensitive about their territory. Calamity Mary and Jounan District, Ruler and Nishimonzen Town, it was better not to approach those two districts altogether. Calamity Mary was warlike, Ruler was bossy, it’d be annoying to be tangled with either of them.

Sister Nana inadvertently entered Calamity Mary’s territory and was instantly fired upon. It caused quite a stir when the Peaky Angels captured it all in video and posted it. Hearing Top Speed talk about those experiences with such joy made Ripple disheartened.

Finally, Top Speed finished up her many warnings, but when she straddled up to her broomstick and disappeared into the night sky, Ripple clicked her tongue.

“Hey, tell me something...”

“What is it, Pon?”

“Who decides the person in charge of explaining things...?”

“Kinder senior Magical Girls will do it voluntarily, Pon. Top Speed’s explanation took about 3 times longer than usual, but she did teach you courteously, Pon”

She knew that Top Speed's words of caution and her explanations was due to her intrusive sense of kindness, and because she took longer to explain things that weren't even necessary, Ripple made the biggest click of her tongue that she's made for the past several years.

Top Speed's rank changed from 'Senior who's idiotic' to 'An idiot acting like a senior'.

However, even since then, Top Speed would come over to Ripple's place for any number of reasons. Even if she clicked her tongue, or told her directly not to come by, she'd just end it by saying, "Just as Tsundere as ever". Ripple concluded that no matter what she said, none of her words would pass through, it's as if she wasn't even there, but Top Speed still wanted to talk, and after talking, would head straight home. Just the other day, she bought a tupperware box filled with simmered taro. Despite hatefully taking a bite out of it, it was quite delicious.

Kubegahama, a place crowded with tourists in the summer, but in the fall, it becomes very quiet, furthermore, it's rare to see pedestrians after sunset. On a conspicuously large tower placed on a hill, you can get the whole view of the unpopular Kubegahama Beach, and above that tower, two Magical Girls were sitting side by side. One of them was a White Magical Girl with a school uniform, the other was a medieval knight, a long tail sprouting from behind her. The two of them were looking into their Magical Phones, with the Mascot Character Fav, on-screen and talking with them.

Magical Girls love the tops of buildings like this steel tower. These tall, unpopular buildings can be a resting spot to even the most outlandishly dressed Magical Girls. There were only a few Magical Girls who can fly, but even for Magical Girls who can't fly, they had the ability to run on the sides of a building the same way they would run on the ground.

"It's gonna be huuuuuuge trouble if you don't show up at the next chat, Pon!"

"Why?"

"There's an important announcement, Pon"

"I did hear there was a new girl joining us, is it about that?"

"There's a big event accompanying that, Pon"

"What kind of event?"

“You’ll just have to wait and see for that day, Pon”

“Hmm”

Snow White turned off her Magical Phone, she shifted her posture from sitting upright against the steel tower to sitting at a 45 degree angle. She placed her knees on La Pucelle’s knees, making it easy for them to talk with each other.

“Hey hey, Sou-Chan, Sou-Chan. Did you hear just now?”

And so she began speaking.

“I heard”

In contrast to Snow White’s chirpier attitude, La Pucelle’s was melancholic.

“The last chat had very few participants, maybe Fav wants to increase the number of chat participants?”

“A few?”

“Yeah, a few. Yesterday there was only 7 people. You and me, Nemurin, Clamberry, Top Speed, Sister Nana, Winterprison”

“Isn’t that a lot recently”

“That’s totally a few. Can you name even one time all of us have gathered together?”

Participation in the weekly chats is recommended, but that’s only a recommendation. Since it’s not mandatory, the number of participants gradually decreased. Fav had noticed that. Everyone should share their information, Magical Girls should deepen their friendships with each other, that’s what Fav kept insisting, but there were few who actually took them seriously.

Snow White and La Pucelle had a high participation rate. It’s because the two of them loved Magical Girls, they wanted to make use of whatever little time they had to meet any other Magical Girls. Thanks to the chats, they were able to become closer to several other Magical Girls, so at least for those two, the Magical Girl Chat wasn’t something meaningless.

“But hey, that chatroom keeps getting cramped with all the people there, it’s pretty tiring, huh?”

The Magical Girl Chat was held in a virtual space in a room imitating a meeting room, with your own appearance becoming a chibified model avatar of yourself when you entered it.

“Yeah we get squeezed up together, but it’s not really that bad in real life, right?”

“But hey, Sou-Chan”

“Hey now!”

La Pucelle held up her index finger and pointed it towards Snow White. Snow White looked back at the owner of that index finger.

“Don’t call me Sou-Chan when I’m in this form”

“Ah, sorry, Sou-Cha...”

While she was apologizing, she failed once more and repeated it, Snow White tried to hide it off by laughing, La Pucelle laughed along, still extending the finger she was pointing towards her.

To Koyuki Himekawa, Magical Girls were something she’s admired forever.

When she was a child, she enthusiastically watched the *Hiyoko-Chan Series*, where she would watch the cute Hiyoko-Chan’s successes and failures, and from there, she entered the *Star Queen Series* and *Cutie Healer Series*, and was fascinated by the courage of these girls who battle evil.

Her childhood friend, who loved Magical Girls just as she did borrowed old Anime from his relative’s brother, *Mary-San*, *Rikkabelle*, *Miko-Chan*, etc. No matter what the dangers they faced, they never faltered when using their magic to help people. She had declared that in the future, she would become a Magical Girl just like those girls. Her childhood friend envied her, because he was a boy, and so he said that all he could be was a Mage.

Even when people in elementary, middle school, her upperclassmen, and her classmates continued to say how childish Magical Girls are, Koyuki continued to adhere to them. To Koyuki,

Magical Girls weren't just fiction. It had become a part of her core, something that she would never throw away. She knew that if she ever said her dream out loud, to become a Magical Girl and make people happy, that she'd be considered foolish, so she kept it hidden away inside her heart, and despite it being a secret, it's something she'd never throw away.

Koyuki has become a middle school student, and she found *Magical Girl Raising Project*. For a girl who wanted to become a Magical Girl, it was inevitable that she'd find a game where the rumors say that you can actually become a Magical Girl.

She didn't start the game by embracing the hope that she'd become a Magical Girl. *It's probably a lie anyways, being able to become a Magical Girl, right? Maybe the rumors were just rumors, right? But if I did happen to change, that'd be great as well, right? I mean, I'm still interested in the game even if I don't become a Magical Girl, the game's free too, right?* she thought lightly as she started the game, and 28 days after she started the game, Koyuki Himekawa became the Magical Girl *Snow White*.

On the mirror was a figure of the Magical Girl that she had dreamed up when she was younger. It wasn't just something in her imagination either, she's drawn this figure before on paper too. She had a middle school uniform, thanks to the popularity of middle school protagonists at the time, she was completely white, as her name Snow White implies, and around her, white flowers scattered about. Although people have told Koyuki that she had a certain charm to her looks, this was a bit different than that. No one had ever told Koyuki that she was beautiful before, but the Magical Girl in the mirror was beautiful. Her skin was clear white and her eyelashes were long. Although she was different from Koyuki, Koyuki herself didn't feel uncomfortable looking like this.

She didn't think this was a dream, and although this was unrealistic, it felt overwhelmingly real. She screamed out her pleasure, and jumped for joy, before her head slammed into the ceiling and was knocked down into the floor.

She heard a loud surprised noise from her mother, "Are you okay?" said her voice, reaching all the way to Koyuki's room. Cancelling her transformation, she managed to reply with an impossible excuse, "It's nothing, I just fell!". When she returned to a human, she thought it probably was a dream after all, and then she tried to transform one more time.

And the Magical Girl *Snow White* appeared once more.

"I did it... I did it... I did iiiiiiiit!!!!"

“Congratulations, Pon”

“I did it! I did it! I did iiiit! Thank you so much, Fav! I’m looking forward to working together with you!”

That day, Koyuki spent the entire day constantly grinning, making her mother worry that she probably hit her head when she fell down.

At night, when her parents wouldn’t notice, she’d slip out of the house. At the schoolyard where no one would be around at the dead of night, she jumped, bounced, kicked, punched, somersaulted, and backflipped continuously, releasing the increasing power she had inside, confirming what kinds of actions would’ve been impossible for her to do before this. A feeling sprung up, *Ah, I’ve finally become the Magical Girl that I’ve longed for*, she felt, joy and excitement coming over her, not giving her any time to breathe.

She spun around once, and her skirt fluttered accordingly. It’d probably be better if her skirt were a bit longer. It was a little shorter than the skirts that Koyuki was used to wearing. She probably shouldn’t do too many big actions near humans.

“By the way, can I use a Magical Skill?”

“You can refer to your Magical Phone’s personal data for that, Pon”

She turned on her Magical Phone, browsed to her personal data. There, *Snow White’s* information was written.

“Hey, Fav”

“What is it, Pon?”

“I saw the information. ‘Reckless’ and ‘Has a strong sense of justice’ is fine and all, but ‘has delusional habits’?”

“It’s hard for humans to look at themselves objectively, huh, Pon?”

“Is that so, huh...”

In the *Magical Skill* column, she saw ‘Can hear the voices of people in distress’.

It was a perfectly applicable Magical Skill to Koyuki, whose ideal image of a Magical Girl was someone who used their magic for the sake of the world and its people. Koyuki was grateful to the Land of Magic. She thanked them for making her into a Magical Girl. She thanked them for giving her this beautiful Magical Skill.

From that day, Snow White's activities began. She snuck out of her room from the windows at night. She found people who were in distress, and she resolved those people's problems. A middle school girl who dropped her key, a college student whose bicycle was stolen, a salaryman whose being extorted.

Someone who was worried their cheating heart might be exposed, someone wondering if they should confess to someone who may not love him back, someone who was worried if they would get their pension salary, these kinds of problems were ones Snow White couldn't really do anything about, and there were plenty of them as well. She had a Magical Skill to sense anyone in trouble, but since she had no other abilities, she'd have to use her Magical Girl enhanced arm strength, leg strength, vision, and hearing ability, she had no choice but to help out crudely. However, since the amount of people whose problems could be solved by crude methods never runs out, her work has been perpetually busy.

She's only been a Magical Girl for two days, she hasn't even gotten a lecture from a senior Magical Girl, yet Snow White has accumulated Magical Candies in the blink of an eye, the amount of candies stored in her Magical Phone bottled up until it was full.

In her first Magical Girl Chat, she was pleasantly greeted.

The Witch Avatar, Top Speed.

The Nun Avatar, Sister Nana.

The Avatar with the long muffler, Weiss Winterprison.

The Pajama Avatar, Nemurin.

The Avatar wrapped in flowers, The Forest Musician Clamerry.

The Knight Avatar, La Pucelle.

Top Speed told stories of her interesting and strange experiences. Sometimes Sister Nana would chime in and compare with her own experiences herself, Nemurin said "Other people's

experiences are more interesting than mine” she said, listening carefully, Winterprison was silent as she stood by Sister Nana’s side, Clamberry sat on a chair in the corner of the room, playing some BGM.

Just before it ended, La Pucelle spoke to Snow White. Since her own district was next door, she took it upon herself to become Snow White’s mentor. Where should they meet? Could they meet up? Snow White understood. Tomorrow at midnight, they made a promise to meet up at the biggest steel tower in Kubegahama Beach.

Other than the Avatars she saw in the Chatroom, this would be the first time she met face to face with another Magical Girl. She became absent-minded in class, her teacher scolded her three times, her friends were worried. Koyuki, who had become a Magical Girl, had not changed her desire towards Magical Girls. Now, she was able to talk to a Magical Girl, something she had adored. Not as a fan towards their star, but as Magical Girl equals, there was no way her heart couldn’t be throbbing.

Even if she might make mistakes, she couldn’t be late, so she ran up the steel tower towards their meeting spot 10 minutes early, but the person she’d be waiting for was already there.

Magical Girls had night vision, they could see in the darkest night as if it were clear as day.

A lone Knight was standing atop the tower. Her key features were her fortified gloves, breastplate, and shin guards, she carried a 40 cm wide, 1 meter long giant sword sheathed on her back. The sheath had the design of a ferocious roaring dragon. She had hair ornaments that looked like horns, and a decorative dragon-like tail stretching down from behind her waist, probably because she had a dragon motif.

She didn’t just have the unrefined element of a knight, but as a Magical Girl... or in other words, her attractiveness as a woman can be seen through that armor as well. For example, her thighs and breasts, originally supposed to be hidden, now exposed bare. Her hair was arranged so that none were hanging from behind her shoulders, but instead hung from her left and right.

La Pucelle, who was watching the sea, turned towards Snow White upon her arrival. Her expression was awe-inspiring, but also slightly puzzled. Snow White panicked. Maybe it’s because she was late.

“U-Um, Nice to meet you... Well, we already talked before actually, but that was in the chat, so, nice to meet you in real life... Can I say that? Anyway, nice to meet you!”

That wasn't a good greeting at all. That was actually a rather horrible greeting. She knew more than anyone to bow down her head down after that. Snow White glanced slightly at her partner, La Pucelle folded her arms, nodded 2 to 3 times, and with a husky voice, she murmured out the words "I knew it".

"Koyuki?"

This is the first time she met this Magical Girl yet she already called her real name. A question mark popped in Snow White's mind.

"H-How do you know my name?"

"It really is you, Koyuki! It's me, Souta"

"Eh?"

"Souta Kishibe. We went to the same school until two years ago. Don't tell me you forgot already"

"Eh, eh, eh... EEEEEEEH!?"

The reason La Pucelle knew Snow White's identity was simple, Snow White's character design was based on a Magical Girl that Koyuki drew when she was younger, titled 'My Future Dream', and Koyuki's childhood friend Souta, upon seeing that very same Magical Girl she drew being present, and because of the memories of that drawing, immediately thought, "*Could it be?*" upon seeing Snow White's avatar, and when they actually met together, that thought became more firm.

The reason Snow White didn't know La Pucelle's identity was also simple. The bright and energetic soccer boy and the image of a noble knight had no direct connection with each other, and when transformed as a Magical Girl, his physique and appearance, age, physical abilities, although she knew that all those things of their body would change after a transformation, she didn't think that it would change their sex.

The two of them sat side by side at the tower, rekindling their old friendship until dawn.

"So you play *Magical Girl Raising Project* too, Koyuki?"

“Yeah, and then one day Fav came to talk to me, I thought maybe it was some kind of event, then I became a Magical Girl. When’d *you* become a Magical Girl, Sou-Chan?”

“It’s been about a month, but y’know, I didn’t think you’d become a Magical Girl too, Koyuki”

“I’ve always loved Magical Girls, I didn’t think you would too, Sou-Chan”

“Hey, I love Magical Girls too, I just didn’t tell anyone”



Souta spoke. The difference between a girl loving Magical Girls and a boy loving Magical Girls was like heaven and earth. When they entered middle school, girls who loved Magical Girls were treated as weirdos. A boy loving a Magical Girl wouldn't be considered weird, they'd be considered perverts. He had to run all the way to a less-familiar neighboring town's rental shop just to borrow DVDs. He had to hide Magical Girl Manga and Light Novels under his desk, as if he were going through the struggles of some early Japanese Christians.

"I thought you'd forget all about Magical Girls, Sou-Chan, you're always daydreaming about soccer"

Since their districts were different, they went to separate middle schools, but she always saw Souta running early in the morning to his club practice.

"Soccer's fun, but I've got a special place for Magical Girls"

"I wonder if there are others, boy Magical Girls"

"Around the neighborhood, just me. They're rare, even looking at it worldwide, that's what Fav told me"

"So you've really become a girl?"

"When I transformed I completely became a girl. Yep. No doubts"

When he said that, for some reason La Pucelle's cheeks became red as if he was embarrassed.

They promised to cooperate with each other in the future, even when they're alone, they'll never forget the character of a Magical Girl and are careful to never stray from that nature, that was the rules they arranged.

Thus, Snow White and La Pucelle formed a partnership.

Snow White hears the voices of people in distress, whether they're small problems, or large problems, there were no distinctions to Snow White. This was Snow White's Magical Skill. She ran across the city looking for those voices.

And La Pucelle would then help. La Pucelle's Magical Skill wasn't peaceful like Snow White's, it was more suited for the theater of war. He placed himself in the role of a bodyguard, if something happened, he'd protect Snow White so that she'd survive it, but as a Magical Girl, there really wasn't anything that could threaten them.

Magical Girl Chat

Part 1

The purpose of *Magical Girl Raising Project's* chat application is to advocate communication via avatars as if players were in the real world.

Once a week, the Magical Girls would also use *Magical Girl Raising Project's* chat function for this purpose. The chatroom simulating a meeting room opened its doors, and one by one, the Magical Girls began to enter.

- ☆ Clamberry has entered the Land of Magic
- ☆ Magicaloid 44 has entered the Land of Magic
- ☆ Swim Swim has entered the Land of Magic
- ☆ Top Speed has entered the Land of Magic

Magicaloid 44: Greetings

Top Speed: Yo!

Clamberry: ♪

- ☆ Snow White has entered the Land of Magic
- ☆ Tama has entered the Land of Magic
- ☆ Nemurin has entered the Land of Magic

Snow White: Good evening! Nice to see you all!

Swim Swim: Hello

Tama: Arf!

- ☆ Ripple has entered the Land of Magic

Top Speed: Well you're a rare sight

- ☆ La Pucelle has entered the Land of Magic

Nemurin: Hello, hello

Magicaloid 44: Greetings, rare character

☆ Ruler has entered the Land of Magic

La Pucelle: Nice to see you

☆ Calamity Mary has entered the Land of Magic

Ruler: Hello

☆ Sister Nana has entered the Land of Magic

☆ Winterprison has entered the Land of Magic

Sister Nana: Good evening, everyone. It's so great to see you all

Winterprison: Hello

☆ Minael has entered the Land of Magic

☆ Yunael has entered the Land of Magic

Calamity Mary: (This message has been deleted due to offensive language)

Yunael: Hiii!

Minael: Yaaay!

☆ Fav has entered the Land of Magic

The chatroom was filled with Magical Girl avatars.

Sitting on top of a bed, operating her Magical Phone, was the *Forest Musician*, *Clamerry*. Slowly, she lay down, and turned her body around, lying in a face-down position on top of the worn out bedsheets. Her hair, tied with flower clasps bouncing slowly, as she felt it faintly falling on her waist.

If the top of a tall building was the perfect resting spot for a Magical Girl, then an abandoned house in the middle of the mountains was the perfect residence. To a Magical Girl like Clamerry, who had no human lifestyle to speak of, a roof over her head in a place where no one would come looking was ideal. At the peak of Mount Takanami, in an abandoned and under construction resort hotel, Clamerry had taken residence and lived for half a year without anyone noticing.

Fav's insistence that there'd be "an important announcement" also helped, no Magical Girl was planning on sabotaging that week's chat. People like Ripple attended, despite feeling like they had no choice, silent and not uttering a single comment. Still, all of the active Magical Girls in N-City were gathered together. It was the greatest achievement the weekly chats had since its conception, the compact chatroom being filled with avatars.

Top Speed: Oh yeah, we're getting a new girl right?

Fav: That's next week, Pon!

Fav: But today's chat is kind of related to that, though...

Currently, there are 15 active Magical Girls in N-City, and with the addition of this new girl, there will be 16. 16 Magical Girls may just be too much, even for a city as wide as N-City. The mana required for magic depends on the land, and it's also a limited resource. 16 Magical Girls will drain up the mana too fast, and soon, the land's mana source will be depleted.

After explaining their current situation, Fav was quick to make his *important announcement*.

Fav: Now then, the number of Magical Girls we have will be reduced, Pon. We'll half it to eight, Pon.

There was a moment of silence. The Magical Girls understood what Fav was trying to say. Then, a storm of booing, overflowing complaints, and never-ending series of questions and doubts. You could tell how big a rock was from the splash it makes on the water. Large voices and a multitude of colors, the screen was covered in the avatars' speech bubbles. It was doubtful that anyone could see any sign of the narrow chatroom anymore.

Fal bowed down, "Apologies, apologies," he said over and over. The scales that he was dropping seemed to be less than his usual amount, too.

The Magical Girls cursed him, Fav took all of it bluntly. But, no matter how many times they'd swear at him, Fav would just continue to apologize, so eventually, the girls' became exhausted. Their abusive words became questions instead.

Just how is he going to reduce their numbers?

Fav: The Magical Girl chats are held once a week, Pon

Fav: Each week, we can announce the eliminations, Pon. Once person per week, Pon

Fav: Eight weeks for eight Magical Girls, Pon

Fav: And each week, the Magical Girl with the least amount of Magical Candies...

Fav: ...will be eliminated, Pon!

Clamerry already knew what people thought.

Nobody here would say, "Why do we have to do that when you're the one that put us in this situation? I quit being a Magical Girl!"

Everyone here had happily accepted the fact that they're Magical Girls, and thoroughly enjoyed it. People who have gained great strength often aren't willing to let go so easily.

When one has reached their highest peak, only to fall back downwards, the feeling of hopelessness and despair is far too deep and far too great.

Fav: Oh, one more thing

Fav: Starting next week, we'll begin eliminating the Magical Girls with the least amount of candies, Pon

Fav: So gather up as much candies as you can, Pon

Fav: Very, very sorry for all the inconvenience this time, Pon

Fav: Ah, and another thing

Fav: There's an update to your Magical Phones, so please take a look, Pon

Fav: That's all for now, Pon

Fav: See you all next week!

Clamerry logged out from the chat, she turned off the power to her Magical Phone and tossed it near her pillow.

A week after the chat. There were far more eyewitness reports than usual, and the aggregator sites were buzzing with excitement.

A princess chased away a scary dog.

Two angels were flying in the sky, returning someone's balloon, which the person accidentally let go.

A white girl in a school uniform helped push a car that was stuck inside a roadside ditch.

If the Magical Girls tried to expand their activities, then the chances of being seen by humans would also increase. Since they wanted to be one of the remaining 8 Magical Girls, they'd look for any chance to gain even a little more candy than the rest, so they unintentionally raised their exposure, and the aggregator sites predictably filled with activity, increasing their attention.

"Watcha lookin' at, Ripple?"

A voice from overhead called out to Ripple, who was sitting down at the rooftop. Ripple didn't respond, she didn't look towards it, and just silently continued staring at her Magical Phone.

"Ah, the websites, huh? Everyone's workin' hard"

Top Speed descended downwards, and Ripple finally looked towards her.

"Especially Snow White, huh. How much work can one person even do"

Witness reports of this white Magical Girl were extraordinary. Her successes weren't exactly flashy. *"She helped me pick up loose change"* *"She brought me the lunch I forgot at home"* *"She told me my zipper was open"* which were all small mundane everyday problems.

Could helping out with small mundane everyday problems actually be the true path as a Magical Girl? Or maybe she just didn't have what it takes to handle bigger problems? Based on the witness reports on the aggregator sites, it seemed to be the former.

She was pure and righteous Magical Girl, the kind kids would look up to. You could say Ripple was the polar opposite of that, helping people for the sake of collecting Magical Candies. It's not that Ripple didn't *want* to help people, though. Ripple was just too embarrassed to say it. But, maybe if she can declare that she'll help people, and execute it, then that'd also be one of the proper ways to become a righteous Magical Girl too.

"Wow Ripple, you're *really* payin' attention to Snow White a lot. She your rival?"

Ripple clicked her tongue loudly. Her sense of nostalgia had just been washed away.

“I thought your rival was Calamity Mary, no?”

Ripple clicked her tongue again. *Who’s fault do you think that is?*

Calamity Mary came to the top of the Seventh Sankou building rooftop just mere days after Ripple became a Magical Girl. She’d leaped from building to building before she reached Top Speed and Ripple’s meeting spot, and when she landed on the roof, her appearance was the same as the rumors say, the *Gunman Girl*, but she didn’t look Magical Girl-ish at all, though it’s not like Ripple was any better.

Calamity Mary’s request was simple and easy to understand.

“Ripple, was it? Little girl”

Calamity Mary’s appearance was about someone at the age of high school, around their second or third year, and looked a bit more mature compared to Ripple and Top Speed. Her breast and butt were far too big. Ripple’s appearance looked to be as if she were in middle school, so it’s not as if her “little girl” comment was uncalled for. While Ripple felt a slight aggression towards that nickname, that’s what she told herself to justify it. She nodded her head.

Calamity Mary grabbed the tip of her ten-gallon hat with her fingertips.

“I thought I told Fav that I was gonna be the next mentor”

“Ah, about that. I told Fav that if someone livin’ nearby gets selected, I’d get first dibs. Y’know, neighbourly concern and all that”

Ripple’s district was Nakayado, a district famous for being a castle town once. Top Speed’s district was Kitayado just up north, naturally, they’d be next to each other.

“I actually asked him a long time ago, so that’s probably why he talked to me first. I didn’t know you also had a deal with him. Man, sorry for bursting your bubble and all”

“Oh?”

Calamity Mary ignored Top Speed, who was grabbing onto her hat, and bowing down to her, instead continuing to stare at Ripple. Ripple felt uncomfortable with Mary's gaze, and was also frustrated at Top Speed, who continued to bow despite being ignored, Ripple glared back at Calamity Mary.

Calamity Mary pulled out a gun from her holster, and fired it at Ripple. Ripple pulled out the katana on her back to deflect the bullet. Less than tenth of a second had passed in the amount of time those two performed those actions.

Top Speed quickly raised her head.

"What are you two *doing!*?"

"Isn't it obvious? Right, little girl?"

Ripple glared fiercely at the gun on Calamity Mary's right hand. Red smoke rose from the edge of the black barrel. Obviously, it wasn't just some normal handgun. Was it Calamity Mary's Magical Skill? Ripple still felt numbness on the hand that was holding her sword.

Top Speed went between the two, spreading out her hands.

"Nee-San! Please, you know how newbies are, they're always a bit rough around the edges! I'll take care of her later! So please!"

While shouting at Calamity Mary, Top Speed also whispered to Ripple

"You stop right there too! It's dangerous"

Calamity Mary twirled her guns before holstering them back, and Ripple also returned her blade to her sheath. Top Speed breathed a sigh of relief.

"Peace, can we just have peace? We're fellow Magical Girls, after all"

She didn't know what Calamity Mary was thinking. However, even if Mary also agreed with what Top Speed says, she wouldn't put away her weapon just because they were allies. Ripple certainly didn't think Calamity Mary was her ally, and she was sure Calamity Mary thought the same of Ripple.

“Well, I guess that’s true. I’ll talk to Fav myself”

Calamity Mary said only those words, before grabbing the iron fence and jumping over it, but suddenly, she turned around. Ripple’s heart jumped again. Calamity Mary pulled out her gun, muzzle pointed her way. Ripple couldn’t even see her pull out that gun.

Several shots were fired in quick succession, one headed to Top Speed, two towards Ripple. Ripple grabbed the nape of Top Speed’s neck and pulled her to the ground, at the same time pulling out her sword, deflecting the bullets while on her knees. When she threw several small knives back, Calamity Mary was already gone.

“You two...”

Top Speed, who had just been pulled down, got back up while rubbing her face. She held down her nose and forehead as if she was hitting them.

“Why are you so quick to start a fight!? It’s called self-control! *Self-control!*”

“If there’s a fight... I’m not going to stand back...”

“Then pick the right opponent! If you just keep fighting back every single time, then it don’t matter how many lives you’ve got, it won’t ever be enough!”

Ripple clicked her tongue. She was upset, and annoyed.

Top Speed, who did nothing the whole time.

Calamity Mary, who was abnormal altogether, due to her trigger finger.

And although she was strong, she suddenly couldn’t move when a gun was pointed at her. She couldn’t stand, her heartrate was beating fast, sweat poured down her body, if she even relaxed a little bit, she’d cry, but she managed to hold that in.

The impact that her blade had taken was transmitted to her right arm. When she became a Magical Girl, she had felt her physical strength and thought that she could never die, but it turns out she was wrong. Humans couldn’t kill her, accidents or illnesses couldn’t kill her. However, no matter how sturdy or how strong a Magical Girl can hit back, a Magical Girl can hurt other Magical Girls.

And because of that, Ripple was angry. Top Speed was shocked.

“You’re like a raw sword, like I was back then. Ripple, you might get into trouble if I left you alone, and that’d be seriously dangerous.”

Listening to Top Speed talking as she folded her arms, as if she knew her, Ripple once again clicked her tongue.

At 5 PM, the hamburger shop in front of the station was crowded with students every day. All of them freely talking, chattering, and laughing, yet the crowd never became chaotic, it was an everyday thing. The customers and the shopkeepers were used to it.

Amidst the hustle and bustle, three middle school girls were sitting at the window seat by the entrance, talking as normal. One of them pointed at the screen of her smartphone while talking excitedly.

“The witness reports just keep increasing! These Magical Girls are for real!”

“Sumi... You’re still on about these Magical Girls?”

“Look at how many people have seen them, not even *you* can complain, Yo-Chan. They really *do* exist! This is awesome!”

“Nope, I’m *still* going to complain. ‘Cause Magical Girls aren’t real”

“H-hey, why do you think they don’t exist, Yo-Chan?”

“Oh, well said, Koyuki! You’re our resident daydreamer anyways”

“I don’t know. It’s just kind of embarrassing”

“What’s embarrassing about it?”

“What’s wrong, Koyuki? You’re really curious about all this”

“I just wanna know is all”

“Alright, you know in those Anime, when a girl transforms into a Magical Girl, they become naked for just a moment. Isn’t that just shameful or something?”

“That doesn’t happen! Those are just lies!”

“Calm down. It’s just an Anime”

“Exactly! Why are we talking about Anime? This isn’t an Anime, this is happening in real life, with eyewitnesses and everything!”

“Nobody just sprouts wings and fly, or survives getting hit by a dump truck”

“I knew it, you can’t dream at all, Yo-Chan. You might not know how they work, but it’s a lot more fun if you think it’s possible”

“And *you* dream a little too much. Reality is important too”

“I don’t dream a little too much. I know I’m in real life, I just think ‘whoa, that’d be cool if they were real’ when I see these kinds of things. It’s your loss if you wanna live your way, Yo-Chan. The internet’s on fire, there’s so many awesome new info on these Magical Girls. This is my favorite one, the white Magical Girl. She’s so down-to-earth, I’d love it if she comes to help me. She’s really brightens your day”

“...Koyuki, why are you smiling like that?”

“N-No I’m not! I’m not smiling at all!”

One week has passed, despite only being 7 days, it felt like a long time, probably because Clamberry was looking forward to this day.

She understood that the other Magical Girls were being more active than usual by browsing the aggregator sites. None of them wanted to be eliminated. While Clamberry operated her Magical Phone, she logged into the Magical Girl Chat.

Just as last time, the chat had a high attendance rate. There, the name of the Magical Girl with the least amount of Magical Candies was announced. There was no drumroll or spotlight, Nemurin was named without any fanfare, she looked more embarrassed than regretful.

Nemurin had the power of a Magical Girl, and most of these Magical Girls *wanted* to wield their powers, but she'd rather listen to the adventures of others than have ones herself. She was never absent, and was always an open listener to anyone. Clamerry noticed that kind of situation multiple times.

She was immersed in the chats, and deepened her bonds with the other Magical Girls. She wasn't just there for the sake of being there, unlike Clamerry, she always listened and talked to people, and many Magical Girls knew her. Snow White, Top Speed, and Sister Nana were the ones to say farewell to Nemurin.

"I'll be watching over you all from the internet, I'll always support you, so this isn't goodbye!" And after Fav's short "Well, goodbye, Pon!" Nemurin and her pajama avatar disappeared.

There was also an announcement on who had the most Magical Candies. The person who had the highest amount was Snow White, by a huge amount, "Everyone work as hard as Snow White, Pon," Fav said, ending the conversation.

One by one, the Magical Girls left, until there was only Clamerry and Fav remaining. There was a reason Clamerry stayed behind. It's because she had something she wanted to ask Fav in the chatroom.

Clamerry: There's something I'd like to ask you, if that's alright?

Fav: What is it, Pon?

Clamerry: What exactly happens to a Magical Girl when she loses the rights to become a Magical Girl?

Fav: If you don't have the rights to become a Magical Girl, you die, Pon

Clamerry: The Magical Girl dies? Is that figurative?

Fav: It means that your life will end, Pon

He said it quite casually.

Clamerry didn't respond, simply logging out of the chatroom, just like last week, she laid her phone on her bedside.

Even if you didn't attend the chats, you could still browse the logs. Clamerry's exchange with Fav would be seen by all the Magical Girls. The meaning of being eliminated will change drastically. At the same time, the meaning of the game will change too.

Clamerry placed her hands behind her head, laying down on her bed, and stared at the ceiling.