

The Maugis-1 Incident (Part 5): Lost in the Ardennes Forest

Script usage rules

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- Monetization and Paywalling are OK for this script.
- You are allowed to make small changes to the script if you deem it necessary (such as changing a word for the sake of clarity). If you aren't sure if a change would be okay, don't hesitate to ask!
- Please do not change character names or place names in this script.
- Sound effects are necessary to make this script work.
- Please send me a message to let me know that you filled the script! I'd love to hear your work!

Speaker 1 (Kitsune - Kiyoshi):

Just as Hana was about to strike down the human you were attempting to protect, a spatial anomaly interrupted your fight. You no longer find yourself in the facility, but in a forest.

Hana was also subjected to the anomaly, which means she's no longer able to destroy the wards. You sense a lot of presences in the distance. You know they must be the Sergeant's colleagues, on their way to retake the facility. Your job here is done.

You could run away and escape... But you want to find the Sergeant. This forest is not safe. Hana is still out here somewhere. You can't let her find the Sergeant before you do...

Speaker 2 (Tanuki - Hana):

Typical. Just as you were about to strike a fatal blow, some anomaly ruins everything and spits you out in the forest on the surface. Perhaps you should not have wasted so much time talking to Kiyoshi. But where's the fun in being practical?

Sure, the Gashadokuro might not be released today, but you still accomplished other goals. And best of all, you got to see dear little Kiyoshi again. Seeing him protect that human so fiercely reminded you of his late mother Hitomi.

As you wander through the woods, you find that same human desperately running away from a Barghest. It seems like you can still have a little fun before you leave this place...

Listener (Occult Task Force Sergeant):

The strange spatial anomaly that swallowed you up seems to have spit you out in the forest above the facility. You were wounded by the fall, but you are still alive.

You've been limping through the forest for a few minutes now, trying to move in one direction in the hope that you'll encounter the Quick Reaction Force that should be arriving soon to restore order.

Wounded, unarmed, exhausted... You're pushing yourself to your limits. But you have no other choice. Even here on the surface, you sense eyes gazing at you from afar. Death follows. Don't let it catch you.

[MF4A] [Occult] [Human Listener] [Kitsune Speaker] [Tanuki Speaker] [Horror]
[Action] [Sound Effects] [Barghest] [Deceit] [Mimicked Voice] [Impersonation]
[Rescued] [Healed] [Listener gets shot] [Loss of Consciousness] [Mentions of
bleeding] [Part 5] [The Maugis-1 Incident]

Key:

... = listener speaking

(words between brackets) = suggested tone

Sentences written in cursive and underlined = sound effects and actions

The listener finds themselves in the Ardennes forest. For a moment, there is a tranquil atmosphere as the listener hears sounds of nature.

The listener continues limping through the forest, slowly heading into a single direction in hopes of meeting the reinforcements that should be approaching the facility.

Quite suddenly, the atmosphere changes. The forest becomes dead silent. No birds chirp. Nothing makes a sound... As the listener continues to move at a slow pace, they can hear a Barghest sniffing in the distance.

The listener is frightened and attempts to move faster, but their limping makes it difficult...

The Barghest is clearly hunting the listener and approaches, its growling and barking gradually sounding ever closer to the listener.

In their panic, the listener trips over a branch on the ground and falls. Desperately, they continue crawling away.

The Barghest is now close enough to pounce on the listener. It manages to slash the listener with its paw, but before it can do more damage several gunshots are heard and the Barghest collapses on the spot with a loud thud.

The listener turns around to look at their mysterious savior. It turns out to be none other than Kiyoshi...

"Kiyoshi":

(relieved) "Hey. Glad to see you're still alive."

...

"Kiyoshi":

(sincere) "You're welcome."

...

"Kiyoshi":

(confident, proud) "What can I say... I guess it isn't nearly as scary when it hasn't noticed me... And I wasn't about to let it eat you."

...

"Kiyoshi":

(serious, relaxed) "I don't think we'll have to worry about the *Gashadokuro* anymore. That anomaly spit us all out in this forest. Hana's window of opportunity is gone. She'll probably be trying to escape now."

...

"Kiyoshi":

(callous) "Oh? You're tough, right Sergeant? Surely you can handle a few cuts and bruises?"

...

"Kiyoshi":

(callous) "It doesn't look that deep. Just walk it off..."

...

"Kiyoshi":

(sinister) "Aww... You poor thing... Don't worry. You'll stop feeling the pain soon enough."

...

"Kiyoshi":

(foreboding) "I've been thinking about what Hana said back there."

...

"Kiyoshi":

(serious) "No... She sounds crazy, but... She has a point. Your kind has only ever been a thorn in our side."

...

"Kiyoshi":

(condemning) "Your people captured me and locked me in this facility for no other reason than that I existed. What gave them the right?"

...

"Kiyoshi":

(serious, cold) "I'm sorry, Sergeant. I know you disagree with their methods. But you're still one of them. You can't be trusted..."

...

"Kiyoshi":

(cold) "Not all humans are guilty, but you... You're part of a group that targets us. We are enemies. Our little alliance against Hana was one of convenience, nothing more."

...

"Kiyoshi":

(cold, slightly amused) "Oh, that? I just needed someone to show me the way out. Fortunately, you were more gullible than I could have hoped. But now... You're no longer useful to me."

Kiyoshi aims his gun at the listener.

...

"Kiyoshi":

(cold) "Did I? Well... I lied."

...

"Kiyoshi":

(serious, soft) "That's true. I'm not a monster. That's why I'm going to put you out of your misery. It's the least you deserve."

...

"Kiyoshi":

(cold) "Sit still and I'll make it quick."

...

"Kiyoshi":

(cold) "Farewell, Sergeant..."

A moment of silence hangs in the air. Then, quite suddenly, Kiyoshi begins giggling. This then turns into a laughing fit. His laughter makes it sound as if he's simply amused by a harmless prank. The laughter morphs into that of Hana, revealing that it was her all along.

Hana:

(amused) "Oh dearie. The look on your face is priceless. Did you really think Kiyoshi would betray you like that?"

...

Hana:

(amused) "I can see why he let you live. You're quite cute when you're afraid!"

...

Hana:

(sincere) "It's prudent to be wary of Yōkai. But you were right to trust Kiyoshi. He is far too soft to betray someone like you. Like a tender flower on a mountain path, that's what his mother used to say."

...

Hana:

(serious) "Kiyoshi couldn't have saved you from this Barghest even if he wanted to. Childhood trauma, you see."

...

Hana:

(telling a story) "Imagine for a moment. You are a child. Frolicking and playing in the forest around your home. Then humans come to chase you down. They send their dogs to hunt you. There is nobody around to help. So you run and hide, all alone in the woods as the sun goes down. And then, when you finally get home in the middle of the night, nobody is there and nothing but ashes remain..."

...

Hana:

(condescending) "Kiyoshi should hate your kind. And yet, despite having all the reasons in the world to treat you with contempt, he still believes we should protect you. You should be grateful for that. If it weren't for his benevolence, you'd not be alive right now."

...

Hana:

(reassuring, amused) "Oh, come now. There's no fun in that! Besides, Kiyoshi would never forgive me if I hurt you. Rest assured, Sergeant. I won't kill you. Not today..."

...

Hana:

(sincere) "We may not see eye to eye, but he's still like a son to me. I only want what's best for him. In this case, that means letting you live so you have a chance to prove if you're actually worth protecting."

...

Hana:

(serious, disappointed) "I've lived for over 500 years and every century you humans prove just how brutal you can be. When you can't find beings like us to torment, you turn on each other. I desperately tried to find some redeeming qualities in your people, but I failed every time."

...

Hana:

(serious, pity) "Kiyoshi's father was a human, you know? That's why he's blind to the truth. He so desperately wants to build a bridge between us and humanity, but such a feat is impossible. The sooner he realizes this, the sooner he can move on and live a carefree life like Yōkai are supposed to live."

...

Hana:

(amused) "You sound just like him right now. You two would make a really good pair, you know that?"

...

Hana:

(criticism) "You're both too forgiving. Too selfless for your own good. You'd lay down your lives for people who don't even care about you. In other words: you're fools."

...

Hana:

(serious, pity) "When the veil of blissful ignorance is lifted from our eyes, we are given a chance to accept the bitter truth of this world. You and Kiyoshi put the veil back on. You desperately cling to a belief that you can create a just world, if only you experience enough virtuous suffering. But your efforts are a work without end. You will never succeed."

...

Hana:

(amused, mocking) "Is that so? Well, you certainly don't lack conviction. But I don't think you'll be able to do a lot of protecting in your current state."

...

Hana:

(serious) "Here. I'll make it easy for you."

Hana kneels down next to the listener and hands them the pistol.

...

Hana:

(serious) "You want to be a hero, don't you?"

...

Hana:

(serious) "All you have to do is pull the trigger. I'll even stand perfectly still for you."

...

Hana:

(serious) "Come on, hotshot. What are you waiting for? Vanquish the big bad Yōkai and live happily ever after..."

The listener pulls the trigger, but it is revealed that the gun is empty. There is only the click of the trigger.

Hana:

(smug, glee) "Whoops. Looks like it's empty! Silly me... Got your hopes up, didn't I?"

...

Hana:

(smug, incredulous) "You didn't actually expect me to hand you a loaded gun, did you?"

...

Hana laughs, amused by the listener's response.

Hana:

(genuine joy) "Ah, I haven't had this much fun in years..."

...

Hana:

(disappointed) "As much as I have enjoyed our time together, Sergeant, I'm afraid it's time for me to leave. Your meddlesome friends are on their way and I have no interest in engaging with such boring people."

...

Hana:

(sincere, serious) "For Kiyoshi's sake, try not to die. He needs someone he can trust in his life."

Hana leaves and quickly disappears into the forest.

The listener is left alone in silence for a few moments. They are in no shape to move, so they simply stay put.

In the distance, Kiyoshi approaches. He rushes over to the listener's side.

Kiyoshi:

(rushed, concerned) "Sergeant! Sergeant, are you alright?"

Kiyoshi suddenly stops when he notices the Barghest's lifeless body.

Kiyoshi:

(concerned) "What happened here? Did you-"

...

Kiyoshi:

(surprised) "What? She saved you?"

...

Kiyoshi:

(surprised) "Huh? Of course it's me!"

...

Kiyoshi:

(cautious, gentle) "I understand. It's just... How do you want me to prove it's... me?"

...

The listener hears Kiyoshi's voice echoing in their head once again: "Please trust me."

...

Kiyoshi:

(serious) "Hana is a great shapeshifter, but she isn't capable of telepathy like me."

...

Kiyoshi:

(serious, concerned) "You're right to be cautious, but- Wait, are you bleeding?"

...

Kiyoshi:

(determined, concerned) "Sergeant, please... You have to let me help. Even a small wound inflicted by a Barghest can quickly turn lethal."

...

Kiyoshi:

(serious) "I can heal you. It won't even take a minute."

...

Kiyoshi:

(serious) "Yōkai magic is good for a lot of things. It's not just for deceiving people."

...

Kiyoshi:

(serious, attempt to convince) "Hana wouldn't offer to patch you up. She'd rather see you in pain."

...

Kiyoshi:

(assertive, attempt to convince) "I know it's not the answer you want to hear, but you're just going to have to trust me, Sergeant. Like... Like you'd trust a surgeon to cut out a tumor!"

...

Kiyoshi:

(gentle, cautious) "I promise I won't make any sudden movements."

Kiyoshi comes closer to the listener and kneels down next to them.

Kiyoshi:

(serious, cautious) "Okay... It's been a while since I did this, so... bear with me."

Kiyoshi moves his hands over the wound caused by the Barghest, using Yōkai magic to accelerate the listener's regeneration. The deep wound quickly closes, leaving no mark behind.

Kiyoshi:

(kind, concerned) "There. How's that? Does it still hurt?"

...

Kiyoshi:

(relieved) "Good... You're lucky I'm here, you know? Within an hour your heart would have stopped beating."

...

Kiyoshi:

(warning) "Conventional medicine is useless when dealing with a Barghest. It's more like a curse."

...

Kiyoshi:

(serious) "It's a good thing its claw didn't chip off. I'd have had to remove it first."

...

Kiyoshi:

(explanation) "I'm just helping your body regenerate, really. Whatever is stuck inside stays there. You'd still need a surgeon if you got shot or hit by an arrow."

...

Kiyoshi:

(serious) "It's part of the reason why spirits retreated deeper into the wild all over the world. Your weapons became more lethal, so we can't afford to be seen. One mistake could cost us our life."

...

Kiyoshi:

(serious) "Escaping a mob with pitchforks and torches was easy. Even if we got hurt, we could recover fairly quickly. Now, those people are armed with fully-automatic rifles and night-vision goggles..."

...

Kiyoshi:

(hesitant) "She told you about that, did she?"

...

Kiyoshi:

(hesitant, melancholic) "It's true... I was only 10 when I lost Mother and Father. If it weren't for Hana, they'd have ended my life too."

...

Kiyoshi:

(melancholic) "There were a lot of revolts and uprisings around that period, shortly after the Meiji Restoration... Some of the Emperor's people suspected us Yōkai had something to do with it, so they sent a group to investigate."

...

Kiyoshi:

(serious) "They were people like you, Sergeant. Soldiers, priests... All specialized in tracking down and killing Yōkai."

...

Kiyoshi:

(serious, sincere) "I hated your kind for a very long time. I wanted nothing more than to get revenge. But when Hana showed me what revenge really looks like... How easily it can get out of hand... I realized that wasn't what Mother and Father would have wanted."

...

Kiyoshi:

(serious) "Like I said, I let go of that grudge. I may be... callous when it comes to people who have committed some kind of evil, but I have no desire to harm anyone just because they're human."

...

Kiyoshi:

(serious) "Right, your reinforcements... They're almost here. There's a group of 8 people approaching from the north right now. Must be a small recon team..."

...

Kiyoshi:

(determined, serious) "I appreciate your concern, Sergeant. But I'm not leaving."

...

Kiyoshi:

(assertive) "I know it's dangerous, but I've made my choice. I can't keep fighting Hana alone. Not when she's serving Tamamo-no-mae..."

...

Kiyoshi:

(grim) "If Tamamo-no-mae plans to forge an alliance with some of the Fae in Europe, humanity might be in grave danger. I'm sure she'll be trying to reach out to more spirits and entities in other regions of the world too... Your people will want to know of this."

...

Kiyoshi:

(hopeful) "If you vouch for me, I'm sure they'll be willing to hear me out. Who knows, maybe we'll even get to keep working together."

...

Kiyoshi:

(proud, hopeful) "I think we made a pretty good team. We did distract Hana long enough to stop her from releasing the Gashadokuro. That has to count for something."

In the distance, a squad from the Quick Reaction Force approaches cautiously.

Kiyoshi:

(serious) "Looks like your people have arrived. Come on, let's go."

The listener attempts to stand up, but has difficulty standing up. The wounds have healed, but exhaustion has hit.

Kiyoshi:

(caring) "Woah, careful Sergeant. Those wounds might be healed, but you're still suffering from fatigue."

...

Kiyoshi:

(caring) "Here, lean on me."

...

Kiyoshi:

(uneasy) "I sent out a telepathic message to the leader to let them know we're not hostile... Maybe we should wave at them?"

...

Kiyoshi:

(hesitant) "I'd rather not do it the hard way. Controlling an entire group's mind doesn't exactly make me seem friendly..."

...

Kiyoshi:

(impatient, uneasy) "They sure are taking their sweet time. What are they waiting for?"

...

Kiyoshi:

(uneasy, protective) "You're right. I don't like this... We should get you back in cover, Sergeant..."

The listener notices that one of the soldiers is aiming at Kiyoshi.

...

Kiyoshi:

(surprised) "Huh? What are you-"

The listener very suddenly pushes Kiyoshi away, jumping into the path of the bullet. A single precise shot is fired, missing Kiyoshi and hitting the listener. The soldiers briefly cease fire when they realize the listener has been hit.

Kiyoshi:

(shocked) "Sergeant!"

After their very brief pause, the soldiers once more open fire and try to hit Kiyoshi.

Kiyoshi:

(protective) "Shit. Hold on!"

Kiyoshi quickly drags the listener into cover.

Kiyoshi:

(caring, worried) "How bad is it?"

...

Kiyoshi:

(caring) "Alright, we'll just have to get the bullet out later!"

Kiyoshi tries to regenerate the listener's wound with his magic, but to his surprise it is ineffective. The wound remains, almost as if it completely nullifies his healing power...

Kiyoshi:

(alarmed) "Shit... It's not working... Must be silver or cold iron... This is bad... This is really bad... Okay, I need you to apply pressure while I-"

The listener's consciousness starts slowly fading, making it more difficult to hear Kiyoshi.

Kiyoshi:

(calling attention) "Sergeant?"

Kiyoshi:

(panicking) "Wait... No! No, no, no, no. Not like this!"

Kiyoshi:

(panicking) "Come on, Sergeant. Stay with me. You're going to be fine. I promise."

Kiyoshi:

(desperate) "Sergeant?"

The listener's consciousness fades. Their fate now lies in Kiyoshi's hands...