

Mizuki sat upon the porch anxiously waiting for the news. Soon Hebi came out in his new Akronian body to talk to her. He wore the old prison escape jumpsuit he still had from way back when.

"Mizuki... I-I need to talk to you about something..." He cleared his throat. Mizuki sat there in wonder what good news he would have.

"This new appearance of yours... means I must take your sword for now." She stood there shocked and horrified,

"W-What!? W-Why!? I thought you wanted me to have it!" She yelled,

"Yes, but this shows me that I've messed up. I was wrong, I gave you those items prematurely." He pulled the sword out of the holster and took a look at it.

"No! You don't understand! I-I-I'm ready..." Mizuki was on the brink of crying,

"I promise you, you will receive the sword back. You're overreacting about this entire situation." Hebi tried to calm her down.

"N-No! You won't!" Hebi pried the sword from her hands and put into his second holster.

"Stop acting like a child Mizuki. You need to learn sometimes that things aren't what they seem. If I allowed you to keep the sword any longer it could result in disastrous consequences."

Suddenly Mizuki grabbed him,

"Let go of me!" Hebi demanded,

"NO!" Mizuki screamed.

It soon got to the point that he was forced to kick Mizuki.

"Mizuki! Enough!" Hebi hissed at her.

"No... I must have it... it rightfully belongs to me..." Mizuki growled on all fours.

"It does, but right now it's become too dangerous for you to wield. I need the headband also." Hebi untied it and weighed it in his hand.

"You can have the headband... I don't need it... all I need is the sword..." She lashed out at him suddenly and ripped the sword from his grasp.

"Mizuki! You couldn't have let his influence get to you already..." Hebi tried to grab her only for her to slip his grip and begin to transform into her demonic form once more.

"Mizuki! Please! Stop! You're in grave danger if you keep the sword any longer! I worded it the wrong way!" He tried to reason with her.

"No... I will have the power that rightfully belongs to me... you are weak and not worthy to teach me..." Mizuki hopped over the temple gates and ran off.

"*Sigh* I'll be out for a bit! I need to go... get some things!" Hebi slipped on his oni-style mask, grabbed some supplies, and ran off after Mizuki.

"What things exactly? Hebi?" Klinkski walked out only to find the man gone.

Hebi chased after her into the jungles below the mountains the temple sat nestled into and desperately looked for her.

"Mizuki! Mizuki! Come out! I only want to help you!" He called out. A rustling in the bushes filled him with hope only for it to be diminished as a group of Edkrin's soldiers to appear.

"What are you doing here? Quite gutsy of you just to walk out here on your own old man." One

of them commented.

"What is it you want?" Hebi snapped back at them.

"We just caught sight of some strange creature running this way and came to investigate. What about you?" One of the soldiers asked,

"It's not important. I must go." Another soldier grabbed him,

"No, you're coming with us for interrogation." Hebi didn't argue and just followed along.

The four arrived in a camp filled with more of Edkrin's soldiers. A few glared at him with disdain for the mysterious warrior.

"So who are we going to meet?" Hebi asked until he was elbowed in the ribs,

"Quiet. We're meeting him right now." He looked ahead to become disgusted.

"What do we have here?" Edkrin greeted him smugly,

"I'm not telling you anything. You're not laying a finger on Mizuki." He just laughed at the man's tone of voice.

"Oh, you're such a riot sometimes. But I believe that Mizuki is becoming too much of a threat to my plans. So she needs to go, and if I remember something similar happened to you and your girlfriend had to come to your rescue." Hebi jolted forward only to be held back by the Akronian's soldiers.

"I've hit a nerve now, you forced Mizuki into your family because you were all alone. Mizuki is the closest thing you'll ever get to a daughter that can actually make you proud-" He could feel a knee hit him straight in the stomach before he watched Hebi bolt off to get away from the camp as quick as he could. The soldiers prepared to chase him until Edkrin got back up.

"Don't bother. I expected that, I just want to see him unleash this fabled demon form of his." Edkrin snickered before heading back inside his tent.

Hebi continued to run and run until he was certain that he was far away enough from that camp. He collapsed to his knees onto the grass and began pondering.

"Who does Edkrin think he is? Bringing up my daughters like that? He has no right to say that about my little girls. He's just trying to get under my skin, that's all..." Hebi tried to reassure himself about Edkrin's words being lies. As he continued to talk to himself he heard the noise of someone screaming in the distance.

"Mizuki?" He asked himself before running to the location. Instead he found only the two Swampie lovers Loveboat and Daisy. Loveboat wore the remains of various ships that were found in the swamp while Daisy had dirt stuck on her back with grass and daisies growing out of it. The two definitely saw something.

"What happened? What were you screaming about Daisy?" She looked over to see Hebi.

"Oh Hebi! There was this strange red scaled woman that just passed by and nearly attacked us! We were lucky to escape her grasp in time." Daisy explained,

"Do you know where she headed?" Daisy pointed to her left deeper into the jungle.

"Thank you. I'll be sure she doesn't hurt you two." Hebi thanked Daisy before heading into the deeper parts of the jungle.

As he ran in hopes to save Mizuki Hebi couldn't help but take notice that his own body was beginning to change. He became scaliier and more organic. He stopped in his tracks as horns grew out of the sides of his head that curved forward and upwards. His skin color changed to a gunmetal grey and became covered in a series of markings. Hair grew but left a part of it bare where a tattoo with kanji symbols was etched. A braided ponytail fell down to the top of his back. A tail forced its way out of Hebi's body.

"His influence is near..." Hebi looked around for some sign of Mizuki. He was lucky to dodge a sword thrust into his direction. He looked up to see the Sword of the Oni stuck into the tree in front of him, he turned to receive a kick to the face. He quickly avoided a stomp and got up to see Mizuki in a primal state.

"Mizuki. Please listen to me for just a moment. I have a way to help you. It's much easier than what I had in mind but you need to trust me here. You can keep the sword after we're done here. Have you just stood there while I've been talking?" Mizuki didn't elicit a reaction.

"Very well... just stand still." Hebi unsheathed his sword and charged at Mizuki, with expert precision and sleight of hand he cut off a large chunk of Mizuki's hair on the right side.

Infuriated Mizuki attempted to tackle Hebi only to be held into a neck choke and slowly fall unconscious. Hebi laid her down carefully and took out an Akronian barbers for beginners kit and a tattoo kit.

"Now here comes the fun part..." He snickered to himself.

Mizuki found herself in the classroom once again with Hebi.

"Hebi? What do you want?" She asked,

"I wanted to say I'm sorry. I was trying to keep things secret from you that you should've known from the start. And what I said this morning was stupid and I wasn't thinking about what was coming out of my mouth. Also may I ask would you mind if someone cut off one half of your hair leaving you permanently bald on that side?" Mizuki looked at him confused,

"Why do you ask? I would hate that and would kill the person who did that." Mizuki replied,

"Very well. I think you're about to wake up right now. See you in the real world." Hebi waved her goodbye.

"Wait! What are you talking about!?" Mizuki woke up feeling normal. Hebi looked over and smiled happily,

"Glad you're finally awake. You should take your sword back. It's rightfully yours." He tossed it to Mizuki's side. She stood up and stretched out before picking up the sword.

"So may I ask about your question back there?" Her voice sounded a bit muffled. She felt her face to find out there were bandages wrapped around a part of her face and mouth.

"Hebi! I don't need that many bandages!" She told him off ripping them off.

"Great, you took them off. We should get going now. The others at the temple must be worried sick of us." Mizuki walked over to him.

"Not yet, I want to check to see if my entirety is okay." She looked over the pond's edge to see her reflection to reveal what Hebi had done to her. She gasped,

"HEBI!" The entire left side of her head was completely shaved off to make space for a tattoo

which was the kanji symbols for purity and protection that nearly took up the entire space on that half. The other half was beautifully combed and styled with the tips of her hair curving upwards. The right side went down just halfway of her ear. She furiously looked at Hebi.

"That's why I asked the question." He smiled nervously.

The two walked through the jungle,
"So that's why you have that hairstyle, quite simple really." Hebi finished explaining,
"Couldn't you've just put the tattoo somewhere else on my head?" Mizuki asked uncomfortable about her new hairstyle,
"Unfortunately, no. It must be on one part of the scalp, the person who created these objects did his darned best to make sure that he could gain control over the person who wielded the sword." Hebi explained,
"So now there's no use for the headband?" Mizuki asked,
"Its actual use was to protect the user from the sword's influence, but the headband's power has weakened over the years while the sword's power has grown. It's rather mysterious if you ask me. The sword can grant you amazing power, but..." The two heard growling.
"Mizuki! Look out!" She turned with her sword at the ready. She managed to land a hit on a strange creature. The creature had horns like the two but had a more dragon-like face and a hunched body. It charged at the two again. Hebi prepared to attack only to be blindsided by another one of them.
"You okay!?" Mizuki asked,
"Fine." Hebi threw the creature and brushed himself off. Mizuki soon felt a pair of claws grab hold of her.
"Get off of me!" She threw the stranger into a tree. She recognized the person: Magma Rex.
"What are you doing here?" Mizuki asked.

"That's enough." The dog-like monsters stood down and walked away from them. A portal opened up and through it a man wearing an armored set of robes, demonic horns, and an oni styled mask like Hebi's came walking through.

"Magma Rex. What did I say? You are not to attack our friends here." He spoke in a sardonic and mocking manner.

"Yes, master." She got up and walked to his side.

"You need to learn to listen to orders more often." Y-28 said who was on the other side of the man at the time.

"Who are you?" Mizuki asked,

"Who am I you ask? Why I am known by many names, the King of Crazy, The Torment Bringer, an Evil Man's Worst Nightmare, and the Debonair of Mischief. But most know me as Satanis, the God of Chaos!" He introduced himself.

"God of Chaos? Like an actual god?" Mizuki asked,

"I don't think I would mean it any other way." He replied.

"I find that hard to believe." Mizuki said unamused,

"Shut up kid. I realize that you're a skeptic but I'm the real deal." Satanis said,

"Real deal? We all know that deities wouldn't bother coming here. Because they don't want people to know that they exist." Mizuki retorted.

"If I wasn't a deity, then would I be able to do this?" He disappeared and reappeared behind her with a baseball bat in hand and whacked the girl across the back of the head.

"Only a child would..." Mizuki got back up,

"But not a true warrior!" She slashed at him only to miss completely as he teleported away.

"No matter what you do kid, I'm in control and untouchable! You're the child here." Mizuki could feel herself regress into the age of a child.

"Cut it out! Turn me back to normal!" Mizuki demanded,

"If you say so!" With a snap of his finger Mizuki was transformed back into her Akronian self.

"Not funny..." She mumbled.

"Can't you see? I have powers that are beyond even your wildest dreams. All at the tips of my fingers." He wiggled them in emphasis,

"But you are too skeptical and lost in science to see that. So no wonder you were able to fight my influence for that long. Now you're free of my influence but that doesn't mean I can't just kill you and have my deliverer bring it to another worthy host. Isn't that right, Hebi?" He looked over to the quiet man who immediately looked away in shame.

"What do you mean? Leave Hebi out of it!" Mizuki drew her sword once more,

"It was Hebi himself who dragged him into this whole mess. To be free of my grasp. He had to drag someone else to take his place in order to repay his debt. Tell her, Hebi." Satanis ordered,

"I SAID LEAVE HEBI OUT OF THIS!" Mizuki screamed at him,

"No Mizuki... it's true, I gave you this sword in order to be free of my debt to Satanis. I selfishly forced my problems onto you." Hebi choked and held back tears,

"I only wanted to see my family once more. But now I've gone and brought you a lifetime of suffering and strife. It's all my fault." Tears began streaking down his face.

"Hebi, you've failed me once more. But you still have plenty of chances to redeem yourself. You aren't going anywhere anytime soon." Satanis mocked,

"What about the others? Won't they intervene and force you to undo the pain you've brought upon the mortals? Aren't those the rules?" Satanis laughed at Mizuki's statement,

"The rules don't matter to me. Those guys aren't going to see anything over here. Like you said, they don't like coming here often." Satanis reminded her.

"Now, I think we've talked enough here. Hebi, kill this girl and take the sword from her." Hebi stood there unable to move.

"I said kill her. Don't just stand there. You follow orders from me. Remember?" Satanis demanded. Hebi simply turned to her and said:

"Mizuki. Run. Now." She looked at him in disbelief,

"I can't leave you here! Not now!" Hebi didn't listen,

"Mizuki, please! This is for your life! Go!" He pleaded with her. Mizuki turned and ran away from the deity and his soldiers.

"You little punk! Catch her!" Y-28 and Magma Rex pursued the runaway girl.

Mizuki ran deeper into the jungle in hopes to lose the powerful man. Soon a wall was put in front of her.

"Do you think you can simply run from me?" She looked over to see Satanis sitting in a chair reading a book.

"Well, you have another thing coming missy. The other two are coming this way and are going to rip you apart. So if you know what's good for you; just give up the sword to me and we can all let this just blow away. How does that sound?" He got up and held out his hand.

"I will never let you have it. You're nothing but a monster who torments others for his entertainment." He rolled his red eyes.

"Seriously? I'm not blind to that fact, it's not going to change anything." He said walking towards her.

"Don't even bother running. I don't need to do much to catch up to you. I've got you pinned. Now all I have to do is wait for the show begin." He summoned a recliner and bowl of popcorn. He sat down while wearing 3D glasses.

"Man, the special effects and 3D are so nice. I can feel like I'm really in there just waiting for the prey to be caught by her chasers." Mizuki was truly trapped. But she wouldn't let those two get her. They came at Mizuki well prepared for combat as Y-28 aimed a kick straight at Mizuki's head. She dodged it barely but was caught off guard by Magma Rex's claws that slashed across her stomach causing great pain as her searing hot claws touched her flesh. Strangely pintoil leaked out instead of normal blood.

"You're still part Akronian." Satanis simply said between bites of popcorn. Y-28 unleashed a kick to her face. Mizuki stood back up and rushed Y-28 who simply teleported out of her way and elbowed her in the back of the head,

"Satanis told us this would be a much more interesting fight. Obviously he was wrong." He mocked as he stood over Mizuki.

"Let me at her! I want to eat her alive!" Magma Rex excitedly ran circles around the severely wounded girl.

"I think that's enough for now you two. She'll be dying any second now." Satanis got up and applauded the two.

"Now let's grab the sword and get out of here." Satanis said. Mizuki couldn't hear most of it as her vision began fading.

A few moments later she awoke at the feet of Lambara's. She looked up to see his black fur, long hair that barely touched the ground, and his white lamb mask with a silver outline and tear streaks.

"You have fallen in combat. Do you accept your death?" He said with indifference.

"What? No... I won't accept death as long as Satanis has the last laugh... as long as Hebi is under his control..." She got up feeling tired,

"Then I must- did you mention Satanis? Perhaps we can reach an agreement here..." Mizuki looked on confused,

"What do you mean? Who are you anyway?" She asked,

“Who am I? I am the Reaper of Souls, but most call me Shadow. But about my agreement. My job is to hunt down souls and bring them to the realm of judgement to decide who goes where. It’s a rather tiring job, combine this with the fact I’m alone, I’m busy day and night 24/6. But if you were to help me in collecting souls. Dolly and Satanis would stop getting on me about not enough people coming to their realms. This will allow you to avoid death for some time and be allowed to keep Satanis in line. But this will require you to become a black Lambara, or what they call a death hunter, and to train with me. But in the end you will be powerful enough to have Satanis himself fear you. You, will become a deity yourself. I can sense your spirit has the capability of doing so.” The mention of deity and keeping Satanis in line was enough for Mizuki, “Of course. But will this path be hard?” She asked, “Absolutely. Becoming a deity isn’t easy, it requires a lot of work and sacrifice. But it will all be worth it in the end. It’s especially satisfying to see Satanis tremble before you. However, since you accept I will hold my end of the deal. But let us first deal with Satanis.” Shadow took out a vial of dust and threw it over her. She transformed into a black Lambara like him but her body shape was bit chubbier than his and an inch shorter. Along with that she had a bit more fur in certain places like her chest and arms and legs. Her mask was that of a wooden mask carved like a plague doctor’s but the beak was far shorter. She felt the left half of her head now covered in fur with the tattoos now markings on her head. Her hair on the right side now had white tips while her large puff of chest fur was white that ascended into black. “This is better. My name is Mizuki by the way.” She said, “Nice to meet you Mizuki. Now let us go.” Shadow said.

Satanis was observing the body before looking for the sword. “Now that’s over with. Let us get going and bring the sword back to Hebi. He has a lot of work ahead of him and no time to-” The three watched as two Death Hunters appeared before them. Satanis recognized the two immediately. “Satanis! May I have a word with you?” He asked, “You have something that belongs to me.” Mizuki said. Y-28 and Magma Rex recognized her voice and looked on in anger. “Are you back for round 2!?” The two ran at her only to have Shadow step in the way. “You will not treat my new disciple that way.” He stated, “We’ll treat her however we like!” Magma Rex charged at him while Y-28 teleported behind him. Swiftly Shadow blocked the kick from Y-28 before throwing him into Rex. He then proceeded to quickly dispose of them fast jabs and kicks. Y-28 was sent into a tree while Magma Rex was nailed into the ground by Shadow’s stomps. “They were asking for that one...” Satanis said slowly backing away with the sword in hand. Shadow looked over causing Satanis to drop the sword and make a break for it. “There. Now he won’t be bothering you for today. As for his minions...” The two looked over to see them be teleported away. “You may return home for now. We’ll begin training tomorrow. Rest up and allow your wounds to heal. I feel that your friend may also be back there.” He picked up the sword and handed it to

the new Death Hunter,

"I hope to get to know you better soon." He smiled beneath his mask and left Mizuki to get home herself.

Back at the temple Hebi sat there cross-legged as Fritz was being held back by the Klinkski and Ogaron.

"YOU KILLED MY FRIEND! IT'S ALL YOUR FAULT!" She screamed out hysterically. Hebi made it his point to tell everyone what had happened and not keep anymore secrets.

"Fritzi! Calm down! Hebi has apologized and vows to make it up by stopping Satanis!" Ogaron said struggling to keep her back.

"THAT STILL DOESN'T CHANGE THAT MY BEST FRIEND IS DEAD!" Mizuki heard her screaming and came running to the uncle and nephew's aide.

"Fritzi! Please calm down! It's me! I promise!" She said frantically. Fritz could recognize her voice in a heartbeat.

"M-Mizuki..." The two let go of her allowing Fritz to embrace her.

"You're alive! You're actually alive!" She sobbed overjoyed.

"I'm glad to see you alive." He looked away in shame,

"I'm sorry about all this. I plan on making it all up to you." Mizuki laughed,

"It's alright, you've made it all the better. A death hunter known as Shadow came along and offered to train me in order to become powerful enough to be considered a deity." The three looked on in disbelief.

"Why that's amazing. I believe then you need my help. I can help you with advancing your swordsman skills." He said.

"With his help there's no doubt that General Edkrin is going to be regretting his choices." Mizuki said before chuckling. She was ready for anything that Edkrin would throw at her.