

"Pay close attention to your inner self. Spirt? Soul? Heart? It was something along the lines of those." Shadow said as Mizuki stood on one hoof focusing as hard as she could. "Just believe you can do it and it will happen." He continued to talk to her. Mizuki soon felt a little jolt and in an instant she was now on the other side of the tree. "Congratulations! You have just accessed your ability to teleport and open portals." He walked over to her and pat her on the back. "Thanks... how do I summon portals?" Mizuki asked, "You put your hand up and think about the place you want to travel to. Try this and go to your temple." Shadow told her. She lifted up her hand and thought hard about her temple home. Slowly a portal opened up and created a gateway. "Great job! You have now just learned the ability that every deity has in order to traverse the many realms. Hopefully next week I can show you some of the work I do as a death hunter. I would to introduce to some of my friends, but deities don't tend to treat a newcomer with the greatest respect until they prove themselves worthy. And you are far from worthy to begin the tests that will allow you to become a deity full time." Mizuki rolled her eyes. "I know that. I feel like I could already take on the world though. I can't wait for our next lesson." She put her hands together in excitement. "Patience now. I think today is enough for now. I'll see you next week." Shadow opened up a portal and left. Mizuki tried out her portal abilities and teleported back home.

There Guru was checking up on Riveton's current shape and quite closely Fritz might add. She was completely thorough with everything from his ears to the condition of his plastic molded toenails.

"Guru? Is this really necessary?" Fritz asked as she looked on, "She's known to do this with me. She cares very much about my health." Riveton replied. "Everything seems normal. There is nothing wrong with you." Guru said putting away her medical supplies and leaving. "I'm back!" Mizuki called out. Fritz ran over to greet her best friend only to see her to begin her training with Hebi once more. "Not again..." She sadly walked away. Ogaron watched as she plopped down into the couch. "What's wrong? You haven't been your spunky and tough self lately." He said as he sat down next to Fritz. She sighed and took off her helmet revealing her blonde curls. "I haven't been able to spend much time with Fritz. She's become so focused on training and becoming stronger in the past couple of weeks that I think she's forgot about her friend." She answered upset. "I don't think she's forgot, maybe you should talk to her about it." Ogaron suggested, "Do you think that'll work?" Fritz stood up and put her helmet back on, "No, I'll do it. I can talk to Mizuki." She walked out into the courtyard. Out in the courtyard Mizuki and Hebi were practicing stances and poses. Fritz excitedly walked out to talk only to hear this coming from her friend, "I've got to work every day. I need to become a deity as fast as possible to get Satanis off of my

tail and show Edkrin who holds the true power.” She frowned and decided against talking to her friend.

“Then I guess I’ll have to make new friends until then.” She left the temple in search of new people to meet.

Fritzi wandered the jungle to soon run into a swamp.

“I wonder what kind of inhabitants roam this place.” She said trudging through the thick muddy water. As soon as she said that a group of lizard like people jumped down and caught Fritzi off-guard. They looked at each other and nodded in agreement.

“Mizuki’s guardian has arrived.” One of them stated.

“Guardian? What-?” Fritzi was immediately subdued and knocked unconscious. She woke a mere few hours later to find herself in a lab with all kinds of in progress machines and experiments of all kinds.

“You four certainly work fast. Good job apprehending her. Now we can get to work installing the finished program onto her.” A voice complemented the four that attacked her earlier.

“Stand still now. This will tickle a bit.” Fritzi felt a little jolt and then a severe shock. Just like that it was over and she was freed from the tube.

The first thing she noticed she wasn’t wearing her armor and her android body was completely exposed.

“Where are my clothes!?” Fritzi panicked trying to cover herself up.

“Sorry. You’ll get those back later. Just allow my assistant Gigawatt to test a few of your vitals and you’ll get to ask your questions. We’ll let you go home.” Another lizard-like folk walked up to her and scanned a few parts on her.

“All good.” She said backing away.

“Now. Your armor is being upgraded as we speak. I should explain myself here. My name is Dr. Akro and I am a Swampie. A lizardfolk who lives in this swamp. You, my friend, are my experiment. My beloved project.” Fritzi was now straight up confused.

“What the heck are you talking about?” She asked,

“I created you. I made you so that you could protect Mizuki until she reached deity status. You are her guardian angel. Do you really think the labs would create someone with such an old model as you anymore?” Fritzi looked at him offended.

“I’m sorry, I didn’t know that you would be throwing insults at me like that.” She snapped back.

“Don’t get sassy with me. I found you in the swamp neglected as a rejected prototype. So I took you in and repaired you. This program was a last resort for me and to my greatest pleasure, it worked. You Fritzi, are my greatest creation, my child.” Akro hugged her tightly.

“Child? Are you really that proud of creating me? So why did you send me away to those labs?” Fritzi asked,

“Hearing of the new oni.EXE program from Klinkski and Hebi convinced me that you had a bigger calling in life. So I sent you as a guard to defend the lab’s beloved creation against any that would dare do harm to her. It succeeded in flying colors. But now you need an upgrade to

ensure that the more powerful forces out for Mizuki will fall before you.” He took her hand and led her through a tunnel which brought them to a testing room.

“That new code we installed into you has enhanced your abilities tenfold. But first we need to see that we’ve got-” A loud crash interrupted Akro.

“WE’VE GOT INTRUDERS! LET GO OF ME! AKRO, FRITZI! HELP ME!” The immediately rushed to Gigawatt’s voice. There they saw a group of Akronians wearing dark green armor instead of the usual red, wearing armored diving helmets, some which resembled old fashioned diving helmets, and had fog lights, restraining Akro’s lab assistant. One looked over and noticed Akro.

“There’s our target! Detain him!” Another group came in and pushed Fritzi out of the way.

“Hey! Let go of him!” Fritzi grabbed ahold of one of them only to be knocked to the ground. She fell to the ground and suddenly felt the foot of one coming down hard onto her chest.

“I think we found one of the girls Edkrin’s been looking for.” The other two groups left with Akro and Gigawatt in hand followed by a final third group coming in to see what the soldier had found. They observed her and nodded.

“Take her along. We’ll let Edkrin decide what to do with her later.” The sergeant said who wore a submariner hat on top of a diving mask and heavy armor,

“Get... off... of... me!” Fritzi grabbed the soldier’s leg and slammed him into the ground before getting up.

“Don’t just stand there, shoot her!” The two carrying guns immediately opened fire at her. She was riddled with bullets but Fritzi ignored the pain as charged a soldier and put her fist through his chest. The sergeant attacked Fritzi only to graze her cheek cutting it open and revealing her silver shining teeth.

“You won’t take me down that easily.” She disarmed her and broke her neck. Fritzi easily disposed of the soldiers with guns before they had any time to react. The remaining carrying only hunting harpoons retreated for now.

“Who were those guys? Those certainly weren’t the normal looking Akronians.” She looked over to find a notebook on the research of Akronians.

“I need to go after them and rescue my father. First I need to find my armor.” Fritzi said to herself. She looked off to see a few mods and a new suit for her next to the auto repair chamber. The suit itself was blue, a thinner build than her original with no shoulder plates, and more built for going into the water.

“Was he going to...?” Fritzi decided not to think any longer and rushed over to get the mods and suit on.

Fritzi left the lab in her new suit and the new mods which allowed her to swim through waters quickly. The new scaly skin, fins on her wrists and heels along with a large one on her head replacing her hair, webbed hands and feet which were quite lizard like in design, gills, and new tail proved some getting used to, but Fritzi was able to adapt.

“You will let go of me you hunk of metal!” Fritzi turned to see a group of Swampies being attacked by the Akronians. Fritzi this time could see the spotlights located on the side of their diving helmets. She quickly jumped into action and struck one in the back of the head. The

soldiers were quick to react and attempted to retain the control they had before. Fritzi grabbed one of them and threw him straight into a tree. She stood there stunned, *'There's no way I could've thrown him with all that equipment on him. What did Akro do to my body? Whatever it is, I love it!'* Fritzi thought to herself. Soon another Akronian charged Fritzi only to be knocked into by a Swampie.

"You came just in time. We thought we were done for." He picked up his club and smashed it into the downed Akronian breaking it and finally ending him once and for all.

"Your welcome. Let's just focus on the Akronians attacking us and then we'll talk." She grabbed one and slammed her into the ground completely smashing her back. Fritzi tested out her new powers throwing Akronians and smashing them with objects like rocks bigger than herself. Soon the Akronian forces were forced retreat and regroup. Fritzi stretched out in victory as a Swampie walked up to her,

"The name's Jugort. Are you that special project that Akro has been talking about nonstop lately?" He asked,

"I certainly am. Unfortunately..." Her smile faded,

"He was taken away by those guys. I need to find out where they took him." She looked at the ground in sadness,

"Well me and the villagers wish you the best of luck with that. We have to stay back here to defend from anymore attacks from those "Swamp Specialists" as the Akronians call them." Jugort said before diving into the water.

Fritzi took off in a rush as she darted through the water to find her creator. She would soon figure out that was easier said than done as another group of Akronians patrolling the waters. They spotted her and took after the wanted Akronian.

*'Great! Just what I need! Another troop of those swamp specialists on my tail!'* Fritzi furiously thought to herself as she bolted through the humid swampy waters. She turned to check if they were still chasing to see just in time a harpoon being fired at her. She turned around and drove into one of the soldiers like a torpedo knocking the underwater rifle out of his hand before grabbing and throwing him into the vines that grew beneath the surface causing the soldier to become entangled with the plant life. His buddies immediately came to his aid allowing Fritzi to escape their sight.

She continued her search when she soon reached a series of metal boats with groups of Akronian soldiers, both swamp specialists and regular could be seen. Along with them she could spot engineers, mechanics, scientists, and medics busy at work helping with the soldiers and tending to equipment.

"What did I tell him? What did I tell him!? Don't dangle a piece of meat in front of Swampies and tease them with it! They're not primal creatures with simple minds, they have enough advanced thinking that they'll rip you apart for treating them like animals!" She overheard an engineer ranting to himself as he repaired and reinforced the special metal plating. As Fritzi looked over she could see a frame with the armor fitted on it. Soon she jumped back down when she heard a voice,

"Hey! Is my armor fixed yet!?" The Akronian called out,  
"No! Quit asking!" He angrily replied,  
"The damage to this combat suit and combat frame has been quite extensive." He sighed in severe frustration,  
"Was Tank teasing the local wildlife again?" A female entered,  
"You better believe it. And this time the damage to the combat suit is more than just a few scratches and dents." He replied,  
"By the way, what's going on with the doctor? Anything new?" He was talking about Akro,  
"Nope, nothing. We haven't had him for that long but Edkrin plans on getting him out of here as quick as possible. Says we need to get him to a more secure place for interrogation." Fritzi panicked silently to herself,  
*'I need to hurry and save them both! I'll never be able to get them back if Edkrin is able to take them away.'*  
"Boltton! Revette! Tank! I request your presence on the main bridge of my boat right away!" She looked over to see that the three had left.

She hopped over and looked around to see the various tools scattered around and the occasional comic book. Just as she began to go off and explore the other boats,  
"Who are you!?" She was suddenly forced to the ground with her arms behind her back and felt the tip of a gun jammed into the back of her neck.  
"I-I'm n-no-b-body..." Fritzi tried to wriggle free only to have the Akronian's grip tighten on her.  
"Liar! I demand that you tell me now or you will be arrested for trespassing on military property!" Her voice was now deathly serious,  
"F-Fritzi..." She had no other choice but to comply,  
"Full name, and your purpose for boarding this military vessel." She added one,  
"Fritzi Von J-Juniper... and I-I came on h-here to save my c-creator, Dr. Akro!" She was dragged to her feet by the female Akronian and pushed forward,  
"You're going to Edkrin. Move!" She jabbed Fritzi in the spine to go forward.

Outside the two caught the attention of various others who pointed their weapons at the wanted Akronian. As they walked across the different ships and boardwalks created between each ship, Fritzi felt a sense of humiliation; like that this woman was doing this purposely just to demoralize her.  
"Edkrin! We have a visitor for you!" They reached the main ship and watched as a man wearing the Akronian's General armor minus the cape.  
"Who do we have here? Fritzi Von Juniper? You and you're friend have been causing us quite a bit of trouble recently, but now we have one of you in our grips. I'm going to enjoy it as much as possible." He ordered his two soldiers to lead her to a raft and chain her to it.  
"Here's what's going to happen, my soldiers are going to shoot the hell out of you until you're nothing but a mechanical paste. And Dr. Akro is going to get a front row seat to the whole spectacle." Two more dragged Akro out.  
"I won't let you harm my father!" Fritzi screamed,

"Sure you will." Edkrin pushed the raft out to the middle of a circle of boats with readily armed soldiers pointing their weapons at her.

"On my command, you will fire." Fritzi's anger was now at a breaking point as she struggled with the chains to get free. Soon a glow caught her eye along with a message that graced her hate filled mind,

*'Anger will get you nowhere. You must flow like water. This man has the upper hand because of your anger, let it slide and stay determined on saving your creator instead.'* She calmed down, let out on more deep breath and felt the anger melt away and immediately determination took over. She let out a growl as she broke the chains on the raft with no problem.

"Fire! Now!" The group attempted to open fire only to realize the problem of their current arrangement: The boats were low enough that if they were to miss her they could accidentally wind up hitting each other with the crossfire.

"We didn't think that one through, did we?" Edkrin only looked in frustration. Fritzi dove into the water and soon after anybody in a combat suit dove after her.

The waters this time around were the deepest point in the swamp with various fish and sea plant life of all kind inhabiting it. Fritzi looked around to see the soldiers coming after her but she wasn't afraid anymore, her newfound strength and courage told her that it was time to take Edkrin's forces head on. One of them opened fire at her only to be grabbed and kicked with such great force that he was propelled through the water and landed at the base of a tree damaging his combat suit.

"I'm not afraid anymore. Give it everything you got!" She yelled as a battle cry. She charged towards one and ripped her chest plate open like a tin can before ripping out the Akronium core and kicking her out through the other side. One of the soldiers quickly got her to safety while the others continued to pursue Fritzi through the murky waters. Just when they thought they lost her, she reappeared and took out two more. One opened fire and managed get her a few times in the arm but thanks to her armor was able to escape with minor injuries. Soon the soldiers got to the point that the water was not a good place to be fighting Fritzi as she had the advantage and decided to retreat as a result. Edkrin watched as his soldiers jumped up from the water and back onto the boats.

"Cowards! All of you! It's only one girl!" As soon as he said that Fritzi jumped out of the water and confronted him.

"Cowards? You're the one here who relies on his army to get me killed." He pulled out his sword and attempted to strike Fritzi. She responded with a swift dodge followed by disarming him and holding his arm behind his back.

"Here's what's going to happen. You and you're army are going to leave now and leave the Swampies alone for good. Unless you want to come back to Oleria missing an arm and a leg." She threatened him,

"Think about who you're threatening here. The general of the Akronian army and the second-in-command to Oleria, not to mention her very own lover." He laughed in triumph.

"You don't deserve a woman like my mother!" A voice called from the tree. Edkrin looked over to see his very own son in a combat suit and ready to do battle.

"You're supposed to be in jail! Impossible!" Edkrin was silenced by Fritz kneeling him in the back. He winced in pain and fell to his knees.

"Admit what you did to your son." Fritz hissed into his ear,

"Why should I?" He was immediately greeted by a pain in his arm as Fritz bent it out of place for a moment,

"All right! All right! I admit it! I may have gotten my son arrested for being a rebel..." He awkwardly shifted in place,

"And?" Fritz asked,

"And? OW!" Fritz put her hand on his neck and gripped in just the right spot to cause an immense amount of pain,

"And I got him arrested for false reasons! He was innocent from the start!" The soldiers gasped and looked on horrified with their general. Fritz could see whispers of disapproval and looks of severe disgust.

"And I know that you arrested me to avoid anybody finding out your plans of overthrowing Oleria to fulfill your vision of restoring the old Akronian Empire to its former glory." The soldiers had heard enough,

"You do not deserve to be general!" The crowd was now furious with him. Their precious general had lied to them and they weren't going to let slip that easily.

"You will lead us to the death of our entire empire if we allow you to continue being general!" Another yelled.

"Enough!" The crowd immediately silenced at the sound of the voice.

"Oleria! I'm so glad that you've come! These two don't understand what they're talking about-" He was slapped by her,

"Stand up! Now!" Slowly he stood up,

"Edkrin, that little display you put there... well, I don't know what to say about that. Except that you are permanently disbarred from the military, are no longer connected to my family, and are exiled from the Akronian Empire forever." She stripped every ranking off of Edkrin who stood there stunned.

"Now there has to be a mistake-" Edkrin tried to speak up only to cower in fear at the sight of Oleria's glare.

"Now get out of my sight and never let me catch sight of you again. Goodbye." Edkrin was grabbed by her bodyguards and thrown into the water.

"You will all regret this someday! I swear!" He said before swimming away.

"As for right now. Our commanders will lead your factions for right now until we can find another general suitable for the position. You can continue your research, just do not bug the locals here or there will be consequences. That is all." The Swamp Specialists resumed their usual routines. Ogaron hopped onto the boat where Oleria embraced him.

"Son! It's been far too long!" She cried in joy.

"Thank you for revealing Edkrin for who he truly was. The Akronian Empire would've been in grave danger without your help." Oleria bowed in sincerity.

"Don't mention it." She laughed.

Akro ran up to Fritzi and hugged her,  
"I'm so glad that's over." Gigawatt said followed behind,  
"Oh Fritzi, you have the true spirit of a deity. You yourself could become a deity if you want."  
She lit up at those words,  
"Do you think I could the trials required to become a deity if I worked at unlocking my powers?"  
She asked,  
"Perhaps. You do have a head start but you will need to work really hard to prove yourself to be a true deity." He replied,  
"I need to go. It was nice meeting you all. Oleria, good luck with the empire. Akro, I'll be sure to visit you again from time to time." She dove into the water,  
"Tell Mizuki I want to meet her sometime." Oleria called out.

Fritzi swam ashore onto a tree and squealed in excitement,  
"Yes young girl, I can see you as a deity in the future. I can help that dream become a reality."  
She saw a mermaid swim ashore and sit next to her. She was completely blue covered from head to toe in scales but she still had hair in curls that poked out of a shell she wore on top of her head.  
"Who are you?" Fritzi asked,  
"Tsunassa, simple really. But many know me as the Goddess of Water. That's not important though, what's really important is that you can become a deity if you choose so. Your spirit essence led me to you, and seeing you in action provides me with enough reason to help train you in your journey to become a full time deity. If you would like that, just say so." Fritzi looked at her in amazement,  
"I would love that! Of course! It would be a great honor to train under you." Tsunassa giggled,  
"Then I guess it's settled then. I'll meet up with you in three days. You need to rest first." She opened up a portal and jumped through.  
"This is so exciting! I can't wait to tell my friends about this!" She stood up and hopped back into the water to head home.