

Summer Summoning

By Angelus

The summoning room was bathed in the cool blue light of the summoning runes that covered most of the floor. The hum of machinery droned in Angelus' pointed ears as he walked around the outside of the circle, leaning down and inspecting it closely. His dress shoes tapped against the smooth floor with every step, and he hummed with thought as the many glowing markings gleamed in his eyes.

The foxish Master of Chaldea was accompanied by his first Servant, the Shielder, Mash Kyrielight. Her Round Table shield was sitting in the center of the summoning circle, acting as the primary catalyst of Chaldea's summoning system. She watched her Master as he worked. His ears flicked and his tail wiggled and fluffed out. His brow furrowed in thought and walked around until he was standing next to Mash.

"Mhh... Okay, I think I understand the principles behind this." Angelus stood upright and pulled on his suit jacket to straighten it out. He reached into his jacket pocket and pulled out a sealed plastic bag full of sand.

"Uhm, Angelus? What are you planning to do with that?" Mash asked as Angelus opened the bag and poured the sand out over the top of her shield. It filled into the grooves and etchings, and the glow of the summoning circle brightened.

"Just as I thought." Angelus tossed the bag aside and looked over at Mash. "I believe I understand how this works a bit better now, Miss Kyrielight. Given what we're up against, I wanted to try to summon more strong allies to our cause, and our recent summer... misadventure, we'll call it, was filled to the brim with powerful Servants who already like us," he explained.

"Ah, that's true! There was Jeanne, and uhm, the other Jeanne... Ushiwakamaru, Ibaraki, and even Osakabehime. Any one of them would be a great addition to our ranks!" Mash nodded, making her pink hair bounce over her purple eyes.

"Correct. So, I had DaVinci Rayshift us some sand from the remnants of the Luluhawa Singularity to use as an additional catalyst for this next summoning attempt. With any luck, it should draw out the Servants who joined us on vacation." Angelus reached into his other jacket pocket and pulled out a fistful of glittering, rainbow Saint Quartz. The summoning circle briefly flashed, the cool blue light becoming a bright white for just a moment. "Ready?" Angelus moved his free hand and brushed it against Mash's.

"Ready. I will protect you if necessary Master!" Mash took her Master's hand and gave it a gentle squeeze. Ever since the Anastasia summoning incident, Angelus wouldn't enter the summoning room without Mash at his side.

"Thank you Mash. Now, let's see what happens." Angelus tossed the handful of quartz into the summoning circle, and as it passed over the circle's outer ring, it evaporated, and Mash's shield projected a swirling ring and an almost blinding pillar of golden light. Angelus used his free hand to shield his eyes and held onto Mash tighter. He tried to make out the silhouette of the Servant that was forming in the light.

Everything that happened in the next few moments was so fast Angelus couldn't keep up. The summoned Servant leaped at him with a shout before the light had faded, prompting Mash to shove Angelus behind her and take the mysterious Servant head-on. She managed to

body-block the Servant and send them sailing to the other side of the summoning room. They landed on their feet and skidded back across the floor until they touched the wall.

This all happened before Angelus finished stumbling back from Mash's shove, which is why Mash was the first one to identify the Servant that had arrived. "Artoria? W-wait no, you're-!"

"I'm here to right wrongs and triumph over Sabers!" The high-energy voice, the over-the-top manner of speaking; Angelus didn't need to see her to know who it was. "Super Space Defence Force, Mysterious Heroine XX is here for Season 2! Now tell me, do you have any Sabers or Foreigners that need to be killed?" XX was standing on the opposite side of the room, dressed in the same two-piece swimsuit she wore when they all met in Luluhawa. A blue baseball cap kept her messy, golden hair mostly in place, and she gave Angelus and Mash a big grin.

"XX? How are you here? You're not a Servant!" Mash asked, confused.

"Seconded, you're from another universe or... Something, aren't you?" Angelus asked as he finally regained his bearings. He stood a little behind Mash, keeping the demi-Servant between himself and XX.

"The Servant Universe, Servant! Universe!" XX repeated. "Everyone there is a Servant, meaning I can be summoned to anywhere and any place that I want!" She looked at her summoner and her face lit up. "I didn't think I'd see you again so soon, Master and Shield Girl!" She trotted across the room, hopping over the shield still on the floor.

"Eh? But, if you knew it was us, why did you lunge at us like that?" Mash was anxious as XX approached.

"Lunge at you? I would never! I just wanted to give you both a big hug, like this!" XX wrapped both Mash and Angelus in a hug before they could protest, lifting them both off the floor. She squeezed them tight, making Mash wince as Angelus let out a strained gurgle.

"G-good to see... you too XX! But you're going to crush Master Angelus..!" Mash gasped.

"Ah? Right! Humans." XX let them both go. Angelus gasped for air and hunched over, and Mash ran interference while he recovered.

"We're grateful you answered our summons, XX! Angelus was hoping for more strong Servants, and you really showed your strength in Luluhawa." Mash gave a little bow.

"As did you! Without your expert defenses, I may not have been able to find the opening that allowed me to defeat the villainous BB-hotep! But with our teamwork, we were able to put her down like the Foreigner she was! Or, wait, was she a Saber? Hmm." XX lost herself to her thoughts, and the strand of blonde hair that poked out of her cap seemed to wiggle as she tried to recall the singularity.

Angelus caught his breath and greeted XX as she pondered the recent past. "Good to see you again XX. You're not exactly who I was expecting... More because I wasn't certain you could be summoned at all, but we're happy to have you." He held out his hand for a shake.

XX grabbed his hand with both of hers and shook his arm so vigorously that his whole body moved with it. "Happy to be of assistance as long as you can provide a room and free food! I need to make up for all the vacationing I didn't do while I was camping out on that volcano!" She smiled wide and looked into his eyes from under the brim of her hat.

"R-room and f-f-food are free he-e-ere!" Angelus managed to stammer out as he was being shaken. XX let him go as soon as he finished talking. He sighed. She was already wearing him out. He was never much good with high energy people.

"Great! You really are the best, Master! In that case, I'll- Eh?" XX suddenly snapped to attention, and she turned to face the summoning circle. With a flourish, she extended her right arm, and her double-sided lance, Twin-Myniad, manifested in her grasp. "My Saber senses are tingling! Or is it my Foreigner senses? Either way, something is coming, stand back you two!" She brandished her lance, still standing between Mash and Angelus, and the summoning circle.

The glowing etchings sparked erratically, and the sand started to float as though gravity was reversing its effects on every grain. Mash's shield rattled against the floor, and light began to spark from the metal surface. The normally cool light turned a hostile red, and a rainbow pillar of light exploded from the center of the shield, blinding all present.

When the light cleared, SHE was standing there, in a preppy summer outfit, with long purple hair tied into a braid, a white baseball cap, and a bright, fake smile on her face. "Well well, I had a feeling I'd be able to piggyback off that joke to get here, and I was right. Eh-hem..." She cleared her throat. "Coming to you straight from beautiful Luluhawa, it's the BB Channel: Summer Edition!" BB winked at all present, but especially at Angelus, who grimaced at the gesture.

BB barely had time to strike a cute pose before XX pointed Twin-Myniad at her neck. "What are YOU doing here, evil-doer?" she asked, poking BB with the end of her lance.

BB scoffed and pushed Twin-Myniad aside with a finger. "I'm answering Senpai's summon, obviously! You heard what he said about wanting strong Servants, and who could be stronger than your loveable BB-chan?" Her voice was full of confidence, and she finished her sentence by striking a popular idol pose.

"Technically, XX defeated you," Angelus chimed in.

BB's face immediately turned into a frown. "Yeah, with help from a half dozen other B-Tier Servants. Don't you want someone S-Tier like me?"

"I don't even know what that means," Angelus said as he rubbed his forehead with a sigh.

"Psh, typical whales, don't know anything about the metagame." BB rolled her eyes and fiddled with her braid.

"What?"

"Don't worry about it." BB waved off his concern. "Just know that despite SOME people trying to ruin my day," BB side-eyed XX who pointed her lance at BB once more. "I will still be a good kouhai and faithfully serve my Senpai!"

Angelus put his hand on his face and rubbed his temples. "Mash?"

"Yes Master?"

"Am I dreaming or are these two actually here and actually fighting in my actual summoning room?"

"You are very much awake, Sir."

"Great. Okay, XX, put the spear down. BB, stop saying weird things. You are BOTH very welcome and I would love to have your help. Seriously, we are going to need it. But you both have to promise me you can get along, or at least tolerate each other, got it?"

"As long as she doesn't start anything that's fine with me, Senpai," BB said with a huff.

XX let out an exaggerated groan and rolled her eyes. "Oh fiiiineee, I won't take out any of your Foreigners, or Sabers."

Angelus gave her a flat look. "Go on."

"Uuugghhh or BB either. But I'll be watching her!"

"That's fine. XX, head to the cafeteria and have Emiya make you something to eat. BB, you can go to DaVinci's workshop for your room assignment. Can you both handle that?"

"Yes Master!" They both said at once. They shot each other a scowl but left it at that while Angelus was watching.

"Great. Get going." Angelus waited until the door had shut behind them before speaking again. "Well Mash, future headaches aside, I think that was a pretty successful summoning."

Mash lifted her shield from the floor, and once it was firmly in hand, she shifted back into her civilian form, the shield vanishing as her armor was replaced with her usual black shirt, red tie, and white Chaldea jacket. "Assuming BB doesn't attempt to cause any future disasters, her aid will be a huge boost to our forces. As for XX, while her boundless energy makes her difficult to reign in, we could certainly use her to keep BB in check."

Angelus chuckled. "Giving XX somewhere to direct her energy and keeping BB from doing anything too suspect in the process. Once again Mash, you prove invaluable." He quietly brushed his hand against Mash's, and she took hold of him again. They exited the summoning room hand in hand.