

It's really hard to find a good opportunity for either Cecil(ia) or Sae to have a casual conversation. It's why this episode was born.

This specific story existed for over decades even before the concept of the alien arc was conceived. It remained as an independent piece until I decided to stick in here with some modifications.

[Alien arc] [8] [Perpetual] [12329]

Rev 3.1

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Although Cecil was known to be Sae's mentor, the truth was that Cecil never really taught her anything. Still, she never denied that Cecil was her mentor, either.

Cecil and Sae, they had barely met. The number of times they had met could be counted by ten fingers.

However, they shared a common bond. It was an unshakable bond that never needed to be questioned. It was a bond created by a dilemma only they could have.

It was that both of them were immortal and they both had the same dilemma: the desire to die but being denied so.

When Sae was forcefully woken up from her slumber, she immediately knew that much time had passed that there would be no one alive she'd recognize, except for Cecil.

Thus, it was only logical that she paid him a visit while assisting Gallo of Gray mist.

“Hey, dude, good to see you still alive and kicking.”

She casually saluted with a grin at Cecilia who was debugging something on a holographic screen on what seemed like a cruiser bridge. She was alone on the bridge that looked battered. It looked like it required an immediate repair to be fully functional.

For her, it was painfully easy to locate Cecil. She simply tracked down where she felt perpetual darkness. Anyone else would have a hard time grasping the concept of “perpetual darkness”, but for her, it was as easy as pointing at the Sun.

Cecilia paid little attention to Sae's sudden appearance and replied while focusing on whatever she was doing. “Did you wake up to pee?”

“Nah.” Sae shrugged with a smug. “Some kids wanted to see me naked. Damn kids. Too many men are into loli.”

As she casually walked toward Cecilia, she noticed the gender change. “My, when did you change your gender?”

“Can’t keep the same identity after all,” Cecilia replied stoically, still focused on what she was doing on the screen. Her fingers were moving non-stop.

Indeed, an immortal could not keep the same identity forever in order to blend into human society. It was certainly easier for Cecil to simply change into Cecilia unlike Sae whose appearance was too distinct to simply alter one’s identity. For Sae to literally re-brand herself was by vanishing for few generations and reappear later. However, the whole concept didn’t sit down well with herself because she was already too tired from the concept of living.

Therefore, in the end, she chose to seal herself so that, perhaps, one day she might die of age.

“How long has it been?”

“It’s been about three thousand years.”

“And here I am still. Will I ever die?”

Cecilia made a momentary pause before answering her. “Perhaps one day. You certainly won’t die in few thousands of years at least.”

She sagged her shoulders negatively. “That is disappointing.”

Cecilia finally shut down whatever she was doing and turned her attention to Sae who was on the floor and was rolling around out of boredom.

“Now that you’ve woken up, what are you going to do now?”

“I am going to go back to sleeping after I do some favor for some random dude I met.”

“I see.”

“The world has gone hell, it seems. They seem pretty weak though. What’s stopping you from wiping them out? I bet you can wipe them out in an hour.”

“I could, but mankind will be wiped out as well.”

Sae pouted, “So? Seal few and let them begin again. Might be fun to watch them from afar.”

“That is not my method.”

“Grr, fine, whatever.”

“They were waiting to me to die. While they did not get the absolute proof that I died, they waited over three thousands years to ensure that I would not exist. Revealing myself in front of them would make them retreat. I need to come out at the right moment.”

Sae stopped rolling at once, giving a thought at what Cecil had just said, then resuming rolling around.

“So, I take that this whole fuck-up is your doing?”

“Not my doing although I partook in the event.”

It was Project Marat that brought the aliens into this dimension. The project was never Cecil's idea to begin with. However, it would have never succeeded without him.

Sae burst out with a lingering hysterical snicker. Eventually, her laughter stopped and she stopped rolling around all together. Sighing, she stood up slowly and dust off her clothes. There was actually no need to dust off her clothes but it was a habit.

"You reap what you sow, eh."

"Indeed. Though imperfection brings things to do later."

Sae joked, "You are one to say. You plan things in scale of hundreds of years with no primary objective but gazillions of secondary objectives."

In other words, there wasn't exactly "a failure" in her plans. There would be different outcomes but a failure wasn't a possible result.

"You should leave now. Others may be back here at any time."

"Yeah, yeah, I guess I will see you ... around?" Sae walk casually forward and progressively vanished starting from her feet to her head.

Neither of them knew when they'd see each other again. But they'd see each other again on a completely unexpected planet.

It'd be very far into the future... Very far...

- Fin