

Lost Redemption...

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Everything went wrong in Paine's life, from her older sister's death, to her Crimson Squad episode... Everything except him that is... Baralai... Now he's disappeared, and he was all that was left for her. Can she rise to the task and defend all she

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1 - A Day In Besaid

Note: The entire thing is very Evanescence inspired!!!! I'll put recommendations for music later if you on. Oh, and about the warning, that's for MUCH later chapters! Also, "hia" = "yes" in Japanese

Chapter 1

A day in Besaid

Paine, a young girl of only ten skipped down the street, her long sandy brown hair lagged out behind her. Her older sister, nineteen-year-old Sakurako, was further up the trail. She smiled and rolled her eyes at site of her younger sister bounding toward her. Paine and Sakurako were visiting Besaid. Their parents had both died when the girls were young, their father was killed by Sin just after their mother had become pregnant with Paine her mother died during birth leaving Sakurako to raise her sister who she named Paine, in hopes she would never see any. The girls lived in Luca Sakurako was a waitress and struggled to feed them, but they got by. "Paine! Come on! The beach isn't that far!"

Sakurako began running again as they rounded the corner she gasped, the Besaid beach was the most beautiful place she'd ever seen! She had saved up for months to get passes for ships, and it was defiantly worth it! All they had to do was show their passes and they could sail to anywhere for a year! She planed to find a job as a maid on a ship and Paine wanted to be a fiend hunter so she figured with passes they could do both and get to travel all over Spira, believe it or not this was only Paine's first time on Besaid.

Paine was just now rounding the corner at the end of the path toward the beach. She gasped as her auburn eyes scanned to open seascape.

"So... What do you think?" Sakurako inquired looking kind of odd with her violet eyes and black hair that seemed to have a purple tint, on this blue and gold beach, like a lone raven in some in a strange place, but... She wasn't alone; she had her small almost as abnormal looking sister. Despite their looks both girls were beautiful.

"I love it how did you find this place!" Paine jumped up and hugged her sister; she was in full awe of the graceful, raven-like girl.

"It's a secret! Now, shall we swim? Or shall we sit on this beach and die from this heat?" Sakurako laughed and gave her small warrior a gentle push toward the water.

"Let's swim!" Paine began running and splashing into the water. Sakurako cast a small water spell creating a plume of water below Paine lifting her high into the air. Sakurako fought with magic, though fighting in general wasn't a skill of hers, whenever they ran into a fiend Paine insisted on battling it with physical attacks on her own, so Sakurako didn't get much practice.

"Sakurako! Let me down!" Paine giggled, as she bounced up and down on her small bed of water. She loved her sister so much, she worked all day while Paine went to school, and all her work all her life seemed to revolve around making Paine's life perfect. Finally Sakurako lowered Paine into the ocean.

Just then more people began coming onto the beach, the Besaid Aurochs, a local blitzball team. "Hey! I don't know you girls... You not from around here, ya?" a young man -about seventeen-- with orange hair was leading the group, came onto the beach, speaking with his thick Besaid accent he seemed friendly.

"I'm Sakurako and this is..." her words were quickly cut off by the young girl running up the beach full speed.

"I'm Paine! And this is my sister! This is the first time we've been to Besaid! We're from Luca! Actually, Sakurako went to Besaid before I was born but..." Sakurako clapped her hand over Paine's mouth; "Sakurako!" came a muffled yell from Paine.

"That's my sister for you!" Sakurako gave Paine a shove and lifted her hand.

The man began laughing, "I'm Wakka! Captain of the Besaid Aurochs!"

“Your not the captain Wakka!”

“Your just subbing while the captain takes a break!” came the yells from the other players; one gave Wakka a playful smack on the back of the head.

“Close enough, ya!” he defended, “Hey, you girls ever gone to a blitzball game before?”

“Once when Paine was very young...” Sakurako regretted not taking Paine to another game recently.

“I know! You could watch practice, ya! ...If you want to that is...” Wakka smiled.

“Oh that would be wonderful!” Sakurako clasped her hands together, bringing them to the level of her collarbone. The raven girl cocked her head, Wakka seemed to not be able to lift his eyes from her, she smiled, Sakurako worked in a rather scanty restaurant—the only one to take a dropout-- so she was used to it.

“Yeah... Ummm... Oh! This is Yuna!” A small eleven-year-old girl was shoved from the crowd of blitzball players; Wakka bent down toward Paine and whispered, she's the daughter of Lord Braska!” Paine knew who Lord Braska was, he had defeated Sin when she was seven, and everyone hoped his daughter would be equally successful, Sin had just recently turned up again.

“You're Lord Braska's daughter!” Paine's eyes widened, as Yuna nodded. “That's so cool!!!” Yuna looked up at Wakka with a devilish smile.

“Hey, what's that look for!” Wakka asked frowning at Yuna, semi embarrassed.

“Oh nothing!” Yuna giggled and whispered in Paine's ear: “Wakka likes your sister, I can tell!” the two

girls began to giggle more then they ran toward the water.

An awkward silence hung in the air between Wakka and Sakurako, eventually broken by Wakka "So... You been to blitzball games before, you ever think about playin'?"

"Blitzball? No... It dose look like fun though!" Sakurako seemed excited she had always loved water and she admired the players.

"Why don't you try? It's a great game, ya?"

"Hai! I will play! I know the rules already... but there isn't a sphere around here... is there?" Sakurako glanced around, blitzball spheres were large one of them would easily tower above the trees and ruins of Besaid.

"Who needs a sphere when you go the ocean!" Wakka handed Sakurako a small mouthpiece, "If you're not used to holding your breath for a long time you can use this! It extracts the Oxygen from the water so you can breath! ...Or at least that's what I think it dose... Oh well, it doesn't matter! So long as you can play, ya?"

"Hai! Let's go!" Sakurako descended into the water with the rest of the team and they began playing skirmishes, Sakurako wasn't that bad for a beginner, while Paine and Yuna giggled and played.

The afternoon went on, they enjoyed their day until long after dark, when everyone was tired they headed into the village and had a bonfire.

Paine yawned, it was getting late and she was tired, but she didn't want her day to end, not now not ever. "Sakurako, why don't you sing something... please?"

"Me why?" Sakurako was a talented singer, but she only sang to Paine when she was upset.

“Sakurako please! I know you're gonna make me go to bed soon! And you're gonna end up singing some time tonight! Come on!” Paine begged, yawning every few seconds. Yuna, who also had to go to bed soon, echoed her, and she wanted to hear Sakurako sing, she liked to herself because her mother used to sing to her, before she died, killed by Sin.

“Fine, fine, just for you girls.” Sakurako peered down at them her gaze hardened, “You *do* have to go to bed soon after though, got it?”

“Hai!” Paine exclaimed as Yuna nodded her head rapidly.

Sakurako stood up and closed her eyes. She sang Suteki da ne (everyone knows that song! It was the background music in FFX during the Yuna/Tidus love scene... Note: part of the song was cut off in the game!).

Paine kept her eyes closed and moved her head to the music. She didn't know what the words meant, but she knew when the song started it was sad song, of loss maybe, but progressively it became happy, a song of moving on to better things, a song of ultimate redemption... That's what Paine thought anyway, Sakurako sang it to her a lot and when she was sad, even if Sakurako wasn't around to sing it to her, it played in her head, those thoughts of loss and redemption were what always kept her going, and maybe, they always would. Paine let her mind drift until she thought of how Sakurako tried to teach her to sing, her voice was **much** lower than Sakurako's so it was hard, but she liked it all the same. When the song was over everyone clapped but everyone was sad the song had to end, it was so beautiful. Sakurako bowed and shortly after they all dispersed and went to sleep.

--Next day--

Paine yawned, and stretched glancing at the clock, it was 8:56am, Sakurako and her had stayed in Wakka's hut the previous night, Sakurako in the extra bed and Paine on a mat on the floor. The hut was empty and she heard voices outside, when Paine went outside Yuna, who was boasting about how she would be the best summoner ever to the blitzball players, raced toward her.

“Paine, you're up! Why do you have to leave so soon?” Yuna pouted.

“I have to go back to school tomorrow... Where do you go to school?” Paine looked down the knit dress she was wearing and her leather knee-high boots sadly, she adjusted she sword sheathed around her waist, she always carried it in case of fiends.

“I don't! Wakka and Lulu, a girl who lives here too, teach me school stuff, I mostly practice summoning though, I wanna be a summoner, but none of the aeons will answer me yet! Lulu tells me to be patient but I really wanna summon!” Yuna sighed and pointed toward the path to the beach, “Sakurako and Wakka are already at the dock, we'd better hurry!” Yuna and Paine began running toward the beach.

“Hey sleepy head! How long ya been up, huh?” Wakka called from the dock waving his hand.

“Not long. Sakurako, do we *really* have to go now?” Paine leaned on her sister sadly.

“I'm afraid so... If we now, the boat to Luca won't arrive until night... I'm sorry.” Sakurako smiled in attempt to hide her disappointment, she wanted to stay forever, but Paine needed school and she had a job. “Maybe we can come back someday, would that be alright?”

“Hai!” Paine hugged her sister.

“Go get settled into the ship Paine.” Sakurako patted Paine on the head as she waved and went into the ships cabin.

“Well it's a shame you have to go...” Wakka rubbed the back of his neck as he continued, “Poor Yuna here doesn't have any other girls her age on the island, she gets so bored has nothing to do but prey, she wants so badly to be a summoner... But it'd do her some good to have someone her age to play with, ya?”

“Hai... We'll try to come back sometime soon... Thank you for your hospitality Wakka...” Sakurako kissed him on the cheek, he blushed and placed a hand to his cheek.

“Well, I... Uhhh... hope to see you again soon...” Wakka stuttered.

“Hai.” That was the last thing Sakurako said before she got onto the ship. Wakka watched as the ship carrying the small warrior and the raven girl left the small dock.

As soon as the ship had slipped from the horizon, Yuna tugged on Wakka's shirt. “What is it Yuna...?”

“Remember yesterday when I whispered something to Paine, and when I was looking at you like that... I told Paine you like Sakurako... And you do... Why didn't you tell her? Maybe she would have stayed?” Yuna frowned; she looked like she was on the brink of crying because her new friends had to leave.

“I'm sorry Yuna... It's not that simple...” Wakka sighed and hoisted Yuna into the air. “You'll see Paine again... Now come on, let's get back to the village tell Lu about your adventure, ya?”

“Hai!” Yuna giggled.

“You picked that up from Paine, ya?”

“Hai!”

“Come on you! We gotta go.” Wakka put Yuna down, and began walking back toward the village

2 - Chapter 1

For those with the Evanescence CD `Fallen' during the story I recommended a few songs, if you don't have the CD add a .com to the end of Evanescence and click on music, you can find a sample track of the song there.

AntiMortal: First off, thank you so much for reviewing! I've been looking around this site and it's a tough crowd... not many reviews... on fanfiction.net I got five reviews in about 2 days... I really do appreciate it! Anyway, to answer your question, it's Evanescence inspired from the song's lyrics. Example: The song "Hello" fits this chapter quite well... I put notations in every chapter of what songs fit and what song sparked each scene.

Lost Redemption...

Chapter 2

Sakurako picked up her cloths off the shelf in the low-class, scanty, restaurant she worked in, happy she could soon be-rid herself of the tight and skimpy red uniform of waitress at the restaurant. She couldn't believe every other job in town turned her down for not finishing high school! But how could someone expect her too, she had to take care of Paine when she was eight! She turned to crime until she could get a job; she had done a lot of bad things, when she was younger, then when Paine tried to copy her, she stopped, she didn't want her sister to end up the same, and so far she wasn't. But at school, because of her upbringing, the parents of the other kids told them to stay away from Paine, so she was a miss fit, which gave Sakurako reason to worry. More then anything she wanted Paine to go to Besaid and live with Wakka and Yuna, Paine's only friend, and from what Wakka said Yuna too had no other friends. *Maybe I can surprise Paine next weekend and we can go back to Besaid! Yes, she'd be so glad! And I want a chance to meet Lulu, Wakka talked about her a lot, he said she was good with black magic! Maybe she can teach me some, more then the weak spells I know! Paine should learn too, maybe even Yuna! Yuna, poor thing is always preying and practicing with white magic, it would do her some good!* These thoughts brought Sakurako joy; she couldn't wait to tell Paine!

Sakurako left the restaurant, in her own cloths thank the sky, to go pick Paine up from school. She started the short walk to Paine's school; she could already see it in the distance.

“SIN!!!!!!”

“SIN IS HERE!!!” Came the frantic cries of the locals. Sakurako recognized some of the people screaming as parents of the kids from Paine's school, which they were running away from, without their kids! Sakurako ran forward and grabbed one woman by the collar of her shirt.

“What's going on?!” she asked through gritted teeth.

“Sin is here!!!!” the woman screamed.

“Where?!” more and more ear shattering screams were piercing through the air each moment making it very hard to hear.

“At the school!” the woman burst into tears, frightened.

“Are the kids safe?” was Sakurako's last and most important question.

“No!!!” The woman sobbed, she was disgraced that she was too scared to save her child. Sakurako threw the panic-stricken woman to the ground, and began running. She ran as fast as she could until she reached the school. “Paine! Paine, where are you!” She yelled but even at the top of her lungs she was drowned out by the screams of the children. Finally she saw her sister confused standing amidst the crowd of screaming children on the school's black top, Paine began running toward the playground for shelter, from the enormous ball of water above them. Sakurako began running in the direction Paine had gone then she felt a sharp pain in her back she fell turning just in time to see the sinspawn that stuck her. She fell to the ground she felt the taste of blood in her mouth, she began coughing and the blood spilled out onto the gravel that was spread on the ground. She turned over only to be struck again and again. She squinted her violet eyes shut. “PAIN!!!!!!!!!!” she screamed feeling the blood spill out of the open wounds in her body.

Across the playground Paine hear someone scream her name. “Sakurako? Sakurako!” Paine called.

Just then a beam of wood above her head was shot down by one of Sin's lasers. She screamed and felt a the wood swung around and hit her and everything blacked out...

(listen to `hello' here)

Paine woke up and felt a splitting pain (not a pun!) in her head. She stood up and examined herself her skin had been scraped off by the stones and she was covered in blood. Her memory hadn't returned yet. "Sakurako?" she asked her head still spinning far too fast for her to think straight, she felt light-headed like the whole thing was some sick dream. She stumbled across the ground through the wooden structure, she saw dead kids all over the ground. "What's going on...? Where is my sister...?" Paine suddenly saw the broken form of a girl, it seemed vaguely familiar, then around her she what she now recognized as a sinspawn fortunately it was dead... Paine hobbled toward the girl. She knelt at her side and swept her limp black hair from the girl's face. Paine gasped, as her memory began to return, sin, the wood that knocked her unconscious, and the voice that screamed her name, this lifeless girl she saw before her she knew was her sister. Paine's eyes set on the crimson blood still wet but no longer seeping from her sister's wounds. The second her eyes set on the blood, like dust clouds clearing from a path, all tones of brown disappeared from her auburn eyes as they mirrored the color of the blood, they would stay that way for the rest of her life... "This isn't a dream... But Sakurako can't be gone, she must be okay...?" She stared at the now closed eyes, once violet and beautiful, now never to be seen again... "Sakurako? Sakurako, get up! It's me Paine! It's your sister. Everything is okay I'm safe..." Paine's newly scarlet eyes filled with tears. *Has no one told you she's not breathing?* A voice from inside Paine's head asked. *Sakurako is gone... she's dead and there's nothing you can do now... You are alone...* Paine shook her head "Sakurako!" Paine screamed.

From all over Luca the scream could be heard, Paine's anguish spread like a blanket over everything. The sky clouded and rain began to fall, the sky cried for this small girl, and it screamed with its thunder. Paine screamed too meeting the agony that it represented, and beyond.

Hearing her scream a crusader came from inside the school and grabbed her wrist. "Are you okay?" he asked harshly.

"Sakurako..."

“Come on... Looks like you've been traumatized, we better get you back home where you'll be safe.” He pulled Paine up and began yanking her down the street toward the crusader head quarters.

“But my sister...” Paine pleaded she stretched out her hand reaching for her sister but she was small and weak and the crusader could pull her with ease.

“Yep, Sin's toxins can make people go insane... You must have gotten to close... Come on kid!” He grunted as he continued to pull her further and further from Sakurako.

“Sakurako! ...Sakurako!” Paine cried and screamed and once he had gotten her a block from the school, she collapsed. She screamed and fell to her knees. The crusader picked her up, feeling somewhat sorry for the girl, but he knew who she was, she was the misfit girl with a sister who was almost thrown in jail, he didn't feel much remorse for a girl that could just as easily be the same. He acted like she was cursed because of what her sister had done a long time ago.

He threw her in her the door of the crusader head quarters in Mi'ihen. “It's Sakurako's sister, she was attacked by Sin...” he said Paine stayed on all fours on the floor where she had been cast down by the strange crusader, she was shaking violently and had broken out in a cold sweat.

“Oh my goodness!” A woman who was casually leaning against the wall ran to Paine's side. “Shh, shh... It's alright dear, what happened?”

“Manami! Didn't you hear me?! That's Sakurako's sister!” the male crusader exclaimed.

“Yes Hitoshi, I heard you. Can't you put aside you hatred for some minor troublemaker for a moment to help a frightened child?!”

“Mana! Sakurako knifed a man when she was twelve!” he lapsed to her informal name to show her he was serious.

“No Hitoshi! This girl is frightened she was attacked by Sin! I want to help her!” Manami glared at Hitoshi who stormed out of the room muttering something about Sakurako.

“Now dear, what happened?” Manami put a tentative hand on Paine's shoulder.

“Yesterday, S-Sin attacked a-a-and I g-got knocked unconscious and...” Paine began crying again sitting up and leaning into Manami.

“And what?” Manami could hardly keep from crying herself at site of this young girl alone and sobbing.

“Sin killed my sister Sakurako!” Paine sobbed and sobbed no longer aware of passing time. After a while Manami picked her up carried her to a bed.

“Rest now dear, all will be well in the morning.” Manami turned off the light and closed the door, she made herself two mental notes, one to slap Hitoshi and two to let Paine go home in the morning, but Paine had other plans.

(listen to 'my last breath' here)

When she could see it was late at night Paine slipped out of her room and went home. She sat in an open room full of windows the only light in the room was the small candle she had in front of her and the occasional clash of thunder outside. “This is it... My life is rotten enough, this is the end! Sin! If you're out there I hope you can hear this! You took my father before I was born you and then you tormented my mother and sister! So much so that my mother died while giving birth to me! You left a nine year old to raise me! Now you took my only family left! My sister! -Mark my words, I **will** avenge Sakurako's death!- And you left me with no way to get to Besaid, I can't even find my only friends!” Paine's breath grew rapid as she yelled into the night. “I'm not gonna take it anymore! I'm going to join the crusaders and destroy you!” Paine lifted a huge blade that had been owned by her father. She lifted it into the air and sliced her long flowing sandy brown hair so it hung just above her shoulders, and from that day on her hair didn't grow brown, her emotional torment not only turned her eyes the color of Sakurako's blood but

also it her hair grow silver. She spiked it and wore it the same every day after.

Paine completed her education but at a fighting academy near Djose temple, where no one knew her or her sister. She excelled so much there, she graduated at fifteen!

When Paine turned sixteen, she was old enough to join the crusaders, but when she heard about a new force being formed by Maester Kinoc, the Crimson Squad, she opted to join them instead, rumor had it they were being formed to control the crusaders. She applied a week after her birthday, and a letter of acceptance was sent to her home in Djose soon after...

-Chapter 2 Complete-

Lizzard: Wow... Geez... Advice: When you write try to think like you character. More Advice: DON'T write a scene where you're character is disoriented and tired, then try to take a break in the middle... Oof! I tried I almost collapsed I was so tired already then thinking like Paine just before she saw Sakurako... Not a good combo! You'd never believe how hard it is to get all the characters to the precise age so that they don't interfere with the game! What else... Paine is now Paine and not Rikku (she reminded me of Rikku in chapter 1)! And... that was a really intense chapter *rubs the back of her neck* Yes I'm hard on Paine! But next chapter, marks the end of the prologue baby! When Baralai enters the picture... I got plans, but no time line for this story, so don't be surprised if it's long... don't be surprised if it's short either, but I anticipate it will be long! Chow! P.S. I'm the queen of killing original characters! I make them to kill them! (I won't kill Nalah from Trust and Lies though, not now, not ever!)