

A Soul Stealer Captured

By YukinaObsessionist

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During the mysterious return of Bakura, Bakura and Ryou get trapped in Yugi's puzzle! Now they have to fight for their souls and friendship!

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1 - Truce of Relations

A boy with spikey, yellow hair, sighs and grasps a pyramid-shaped puzzle around his neck.

"Hey, Yugi!" A boy with long, albino-colored hair runs up, "Whatcha doing?"

Yugi looks up, "Heya, Bakura!" He smiles and looks alot happier and lets his puzzle hang loosely at his neck.

Ryou smiles back, "Funny running into you, I was just heading to my house, want to come?"

Yugi nods, "Sure, it sounds fun."

Back at Ryou's house *In Ryou's room*

Yugi is sitting on a chair, and Ryou is sitting on his bed. Yugi sits smiling softly, but stays silent, looking deep in thought.

Ryou looks at him sadly, "I'm sorry, Yugi."

Yugi looks up at him surprised, "Huh, why?"

Ryou hesitates, "You miss the Pharoah don't you."

Yugi's smile falters at his lips and then he nods slowly, "Yes."

On a desk near Ryou a golden item with several spikes, and an eye in the middle glows

Ryou jumps up alarmed, "The Millenium Ring hasn't been active for months."

Yugi stands and walks by Ryou and the Millenium Ring, and Yugi's own Millenium Puzzle begins glowing.

Ryou reaches out to grab it and the moment he does, his hair grows sharper, and his eyes darker, then he smiles cruelly, "Well well, Little Yugi, and without the Pharoah."

Yugi seems shocked, "You were banished to the past!"

Bakura smirks, "No, only your precious Pharoah, but don't worry I'll relieve you of your burden, Little Yugi." With that he grabs at Yugi's puzzle and it glows furiously, and then Bakura vanishes."

Yugi whirls around, "Ryou!?"

Meanwhile

Bakura rubs his head, "...What happened?" He looks around and see's a maze of ladders and doors, dimly lit and vast. His eyes fill with recognition, "The puzzle!"

"This is your fault!"

Bakura turns and sees Ryou standing over him looking angry. Bakura stands, "Wonderful, your here too."

Ryou glares, "This is your fault!"

"Is not!"

"Is too!"

"Is not!"

"Is too!"

"Is not!"

Ryou rolls his eyes and Bakura narrows his, Ryou sighs, "Now that we're trapped it doesn't really matter whose fault it is, what matters is getting out."

Ryou extends his hand, "Truce?"

Bakura stares at it, then sighs, shakes his hand, and mutters, "Truce."

Ryou lets go and looks around, "So how do we get out of here."

Bakura turns around slowly, eyeing everything carefully, "We have to find the door to the Pharoah's room."

Ryou looks confused, "The Pharoah is gone."

Bakura shrugs, "His room will always remain, it is his puzzle also, regardless of his presence."

"Well then." Ryou reaches and opens a door and nothing happens, he steps in, "This isn't it." As he turns to walk of the floor suddenly crumbles and Ryou falls, clutching a piece of floor, "Bakura, help me!"

Bakura stares over him for a moment, then turns and walks away.

"Bakura!"

Next Time: Yugi goes to Marik and Ishtar for help to save Bakura and Ryou, but will Ryou be alive to save, or will he fall and remain trapped inside the puzzle for all eternity...

2 - Harsh Kindness

Ryou hangs from the ledge inside the Millennium Puzzle, grip slipping, he swallows hard, and his hand slips, he shuts his eyes and holds his breath.

A hand reaches out and grabs his arms and yanks him up from the hole, casting him on the ground with an agitated grunt of effort.

Ryou pauses and looks up into the frowning face of Bakura, staring down at him, "Y..you saved me?"

Bakura shrugs and turns, walking away, Ryou stands up and follows, "Why did you do that?"

Bakura doesn't answer and keeps walking, seemingly oblivious to the question.

Ryou speeds up and stands in front of Bakura and looks him in the eyes, "Why did you save me?"

Bakura stops midstep and glares at Ryou, "Don't ask stupid questions, just be glad I even bothered to save you at all, I just figured you'd be useful eventually." Bakura steps by Ryou staring ahead.

Ryou stands a moment, thinking over his cold words, then rushes after him, "Thank you."

A flicker of change crosses Bakura's face for a split second then leaves, and he grumbles a reply, "Nothing personal, like I said, so be quiet about it."

Ryou follows thinking hard, *Why would he save me? It doesn't matter though, after everything he's done, just because he saved me, he left me in the first place anyway.*

Bakura pauses, coming to an intersection, he growls out, "Which way?"

Ryou stops and looks around, "How would I know?"

Bakura starts walking right up some stairs muttering under his breath, "Useless....pfft..."

Ryou's eyes scan around trying to plot the place out, but it was futile, an endless maze, then he gets struck with an idea, "What if we called to Yami and Yugi?" "Maybe they'll hear us."

Bakura turns and glares at Ryou then looks ahead, "We don't need their help, and besides why call to Yami?"

Ryou argues, "You said that Yami still had his puzzle."

Bakura turns and glares straight into Ryou's eyes, "It doesn't work that way, and even if it did, the second they had helped us they'd be sending me to the Shadow Realm, and I'm not going back again, not unless it's because I'm sending someone else there."

Ryou stares, "You're the same, I knew it, you deserve to be put in the Shadow Realm."

Bakura rolls his eyes, "Don't flatter yourself, you're making a small thing bigger than it is, I only saved you in case you'd be of use later."

Ryou steps back, "Well, I'm not going to help you, I'm going to find Yugi and you can rot in the Shadow Realm, thief."

Bakura laughs bitterly, "Thief?" "Ha!" "Fine, find them, but I'm not going to the Shadow Realm, and you, you can wander searching."

Ryou stands still watching Bakura cast him an amused glance and walk up the stairs and out of sight, Ryou walks down and goes to another flight of stairs.

Bakura turns, looking at the place he had just exited from and turns away shaking his head and mutters, "Fool."

Ryou draws in a deep breath as it seems to get a little colder, and he looks around, "Nothing but doors."

He walks around eyes raised, the walls of stone looming ominously around him, he shivers.

He passes a door and feels called to it, and he opens it wide.

In another part of the place, Bakura's eyes shift and he mutters, "Hmm?"