

D.N.AРАН

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15-year old Seth is a boy living a difficult life. Average grades, not the most athletic, and the love of his life doesn't love him back. But his life changes when he gets mixed up with Dark Samus, and get corrupted.

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0 - Introduction: The Promise

Introduction

"His heart rate is fading away quickly!"

"Quick! Somebody call an ambulance!"

"Seth! Seth, can you hear me?! Don't die!"

I can feel the tears from her. Don't cry, because it isn't your fault.

"What the hell happened to him?!"

For it is my own fault this happened to me. I'm pathetic, and I can't do anything right.

"Give him some air!"

"Get this boy on the stretcher!"

Yes. Lift me. Lift me into the next life, where I belong.

"Seth, please don't die! I should have moved, because that's why you're dying!"

At least you aren't, Yuufa. Your safety is all that matters to me.

"It's okay, son. You're going to be okay now, because you have the elite paramedics saving you."

You're only wasting your time. But it all happened so fast, what happened?

Ten minutes ago...

"Okay," said the teacher. "I'm handing you your test papers, and on my mark, you will begin."

I didn't do a lot of studying on this test, thought Seth. I never do. He looked at Yuufa, who sat five seats away from him. *At least you studied.*

Seth reached for his pencil, and felt a terrible shock run through his left arm. He looked at the bandaged arm, and sighed. "It's always me who gets hurt, anymore," he said to himself. "Not like anything else can hurt me any worse than what happened today..."

He spoke of the love letter he sent to Yuufa. And it was rejected. He never felt so hurt before. And the words that made the cut permanent were, "We can still be friends, right, Seth?"

"Ok, on my mark," said the teacher. "Three, two, one..."

Let the worst begin, Seth thought.

"Die!" bellowed a voice. Next, the wall exploded, and a dark figure walked out of the smoke. People screamed and gasped at the sight of what appeared out of the thick, dark smoke. The figure appeared to them all as the Dark Samus Aran. "Aran!" it roared. And it began to fire blasts of phazon at the students, and though the shots have missed, the ones that hit had killed them.

Yuufa stood up and stared at it and was petrified. *Why can't I move?! she panicked.*

Seth took a few steps back, and Dark Samus would only step close towards him. He picked up a chair and tossed it at Dark Samus, but it bounced off as if he threw paper at it. Dark Samus grabbed Seth by the throat and choke him to his last breath, and threw him into the wall.

"Aran!" it screamed again. It took a look at Yuufa, and immediately it aimed at her. "Time to take out the Aran!"

Phazon began to appear out of thin air and charged up into a powerful burst of energy. Dark Samus fired the laser at Yuufa, but by the time it reached her, Seth stood in the way.

"Yuufa! Run!" he cried. "Run for your li-"

And the laser struck him dead center. His body began to succumb to the attack, and his body became

unresponsive. Seth screamed loud enough to break glass, if there was any in the area. Soon, inside Seth's body, the Phazon went into his heart. It began to beat uncontrollably, and when the laser was overheated, Seth fell to the ground, and his heart began to slow down. Soon, it was beating slower, and slower, and slower.

Dark Samus had disappeared, and people were rushing in and gathered around Seth. "Is he okay?!" said a student.

Seth's sight began to fade away, and in seconds, he saw darkness.

And then a voice in his head spoke strange words.

You've done a stupid thing, Seth. You've gone and killed yourself for her- for a girl that never felt love for you.

"Yeah? Well, I don't care. That doesn't mean I won't save her!"

You are prepared for the burden that will be holding you down for the rest of your life?

"I've made a promise. I'll stick to it, no matter the cost."

...

.....

.....very well. Enjoy a life of living hell, Aran.

1 - Phaze

Chapter One- Phaze

"His heart rate is returning, sir."

"I see. I'll come back in a few minutes. Explain the situation to him."

"Sir, yes sir!"

Seth opened his eyes, and at first he saw a blinding light, but then the light shut off and a man in a bio suit was standing before him. He looked at his arm, which had an I.V. in it, and his bandaged arm, which was completely markless. Around him was a massive amount of technology, and a few sharp tools on the wall. "YHAAAA!" he screamed.

"Take it easy, boy!" said the man. "You're still recovering!"

"Where the hell am I?!" Seth exclaimed, jumping out of the bed. But as he touched the floor, he collapsed.

"Take it easy, I said," the man repeated. "Half of your body is still unresponsive since the Phazon entered your body. In fact, it's been two months. But don't worry, our quarantine chambers have kept you clean as a whistle, and in a month or you, you'll-"

"TWO MONTHS?! I've been in this place for two months?!" Then Seth paused for a moment, then asked the man what had happened to him.

"Well, the quarantine staff will be notified of the memory failure in this chamber. Anyway, you were attacked by Dark Samus Aran, or DSA. Of all the people actually hit by the blast of Phazon, you were the only survivor."

"Me-? Wait, what about Yuufa?!"

"She's fine, thanks to you. If she was hit, she probably wouldn't have survived. But you shouldn't do that again. Because next time you won't be so lucky. Now, I have one question, and I want an answer. What did DSA say when it faced Yuufa?"

Seth pondered for a moment, but remained silent. "I don't remember. DSA, facing Yuufa..." Then it flashed in his head.

"Aran!" Dark Samus roared as it faced Yuufa.

"Time to die, Aran!" it said, and it unleashed a burst of energy at Yuufa.

"It called her Aran!"

"Aran?" the man shook his head. "That DSA is a little screwed in the hea-"

"What?" asked Seth.

"Oh, no..." the man took a book from the shelf, and flipped through the pages. "Aran, Aran, Aran... There we go! Oh god..."

"What?"

"You aren't going to believe this, but..."

"But what?!"

"Yuufa is in grave danger. She's somehow related to Samus Aran, and DSA believes that she is the only way to get Samus to try and go after it. Seth, I need you to come with me, to see the admiral. I'll explain your condition on the way." He pulled out a hoverchair from the wall, and set it in motion. As soon as Seth climbed into it, it followed the man immediately.

"So," said the man, flipping through the pages of a clipboard. "Seth, age 15, lost your parents to the space pirates, and was attacked by the DSA. Your condition is going to take another month to recover, and by then, your school will be back up, so falling behind will be no problem for you.

"You are the fifth one with a Phazon miracle; like Samus, Gorr, Rundas, and Galdraya, your body self generates Phazon. It's mixing with your blood, and it's pumping itself throughout your body. Though this can be a bad thing later on if we don't purge it, it has many good side effects. For example, your bones are covered by another protective layer, so they can't be broken unless a very strong force acts on it. Your athletics are boosted, as well as your IQ, which has almost recached near Year 10 status."

"That's a good thing?"

"Very good. You're already a year ahead in your work."

"Any bad things?" asked Seth, waiting for the bad news.

"Only if people are scared to go near someone that's living Phazon."

Seth chuckled a little. "No one notices me much anyway." Then the words he spoke made him feel empty inside, and then the words Yuufa said returned to him. *It's like any memory involving Yuufa comes back, but nothing else.* He felt like crap. *But maybe this damn memory could have stayed out...*

"Seth, I'd like to introduce you to the Admiral."

Seth looked up, and was facing a man in white clothing. Though his age made him seem old, he was still pretty young. "Hello, sir," Seth told him. He saluted, but his arm was a little shaky. *I can't believe I'm standing, or sitting, before the greatest man alive!* he thought. *I will definitely remember this!*

"Hello, Seth," said the Admiral. "I see you're making a miraculous recovery after that blast."

"I didn't think I'd make it," he said. "In fact, I actually hoped for death when I was hit."

"Maybe that's why you're recovering so slow. Samus took a blast much like yours, yet in hours, she recovered."

"Samus has a metroid inside her, she's sporting the Varia suit, and she's encountered Phazon many times before."

"True. You are currently in space, on the Galactic Federation ship. Your condition on Earth defeated every veteran doctor around, so you were launched here, where our veteran doctors took care of you. You have another month to wait before we will bring you back home, but we need to explain to you what you will do, while we create a serum to purge your Phazon. Follow me to a room more private. What I'm about to tell you is more classified than Area 51 on Earth."

When she reached the room, the door sealed itself twelve times. *Very classified, then,* thought Seth.

"Okay, listen here. Your Phazon abilities can make you the perfect guardian, which is what you'll be."

"What? Guardian?" asked Seth.

"For Yuufa."

"Yuufa? Why her?" Then Seth remembered the man's words.

Yuufa is in grave danger. She's somehow related to Samus Aran, and DSA believes that she is the only way to get Samus to try and go after it.

"Ok, so give me a more specific explanation about Yuufa than what the man back at the lab gave me."

"I hope you're ready for a long, difficult speech. But with your enhanced mind, you should be more patient." The Admiral cleared his throat. "Yuufa was one day found in a burning building by Samus Aran. Space pirates killed her family, as well as yours. You and her were both ten when this all happened. When an agency tried to take Yuufa, Samus said that this was her daughter, thus sealing her fate. Samus used her money to get Yuufa a good home, where she lived alone, learned all house skills by herself, much like you. But the money used for your house was from a fortune left by your parents.

"DSA has been trying to track Yuufa, to use her as a means of luring Samus in. If DSA was to get a hold

of Yuufa, Samus could die. We've been looking for someone who could be a guardian for Yuufa, but we couldn't find anyone who could survive a blast from DSA. Then you came here. Seth, would you be able to protect Yuufa with your life?"

"Forgive me, Admiral, but why the hell are you asking me that? I've done that already." Seth smiled.

The Admiral grinned. "Of course, how could I forget? Well, then," he handed Seth a badge. "Welcome to the Galactic Federation army. But, keep this hidden, because we don't want this spreading across Earth that we made an underage boy a soldier. Also, take these." He also handed Seth a uniform that the other soldiers wore, a strange looking chip, and a gun the soldiers used.

"The gun fires a blast similar to the power beam. The chip is to be embedded into the gun, and you can press a button that will help you enter a PED state, where you can use your Phazon as a weapon. The uniform is to be used to hide your identity when you are guarding Yuufa. Of course, she will already know it's you, but no one else should know. This stuff was created within the two months you were here. It has two names: Project Phaze, and D.N.A.R.A.N."

"This is incredible!" exclaimed Seth. "I was going to have to wait three years, but already I'm a Galactic Fed!"

"Good luck, soldier."

Seth saluted the Admiral. "I will do my best, and harder!"

"Don't tell me that," said the Admiral with a smile. "Tell that to Yuufa."

2 - As the Bell Rings

Chapter Two- As the Bell Rings

"I'm finally back home," said Seth. "Almost hard to believe, since I've been in a quarantine chamber for the past three months. Well, time to get some real sleep on a real bed."

When he turned the doorknob and enter the room, he couldn't believe his eyes. What he saw before him was a number of gifts, and a banner on the ceiling that read, "Welcome Home, Seth!". It made him glad to be home. But he decided to wait until tomorrow before opening them, because he was ready to crash on his bed.

The next morning, he prepared all of his school belongings, such as his laptop, holoboard and stylus, and his art materials. Then he set off to school. *Time to begin living semi-normally...*

On the bus, people were looking at him, exchanging suprised glances, and whispering to eachother.

"Hey, isn't that Seth?"

"I heard he took a full laser from Dark Samus."

"He's alive?!"

Seth sighed. "Today is going to be full of confusion..." he said to himself.

"Dude, I can't believe you're freakin' alive!" exclaimed Keough, Seth's best friend. "No one takes a hit from Dark Samus and lives to tell the tale! Well, with the exception of Samus Aran, but after all she's been through, it's no surprise she lived through it!"

"It's not that big a deal, Keough," said Seth. "It's not like I'm some kind of legend..."

"Yeah, well just wait 'till the word is spread all across Japan! Everyone will think of you as one!"

"You're going to be the one, aren't you?"

"Who, me? No, don't worry about me and the guys. It's the girls that spread everything."

Seth groaned. "This is a real pain in the neck, Keough..."

Keough grinned. "You did it to save Yuufa. Come on, everyone saw you jump in front of it."

Seth turned red. "Keough, if you say anything, I'll make your life hell, I swear."

"You have my word, buddy," said Keough, now one step farther from Seth. "See you at math class."

And as Keough headed off to talk with his friends, Yuufa and her friends were behind him. Once they found out it was him, all of Yuufa's friends paced faster towards Seth. Yuufa sighed, and so did Seth.

What is with them? they thought at the same time.

Soon the girls walked away when Seth ignored them, and Yuufa walked right beside him now, but not close to him. "Hey, Seth," she said to him.

Seth blushed a little. "Hey, Yuufa," he said.

"Are you feeling better?" she asked him, facing in the other direction.

"Yeah, a lot better, now," he told her.

Come on, Yuufa, she thought. *You can say it to him, it's not like he's going to ignore you, too.* "Hey, Seth?" she asked him, now facing him.

Seth faced her. Her eyes were a clear blue, and it made him blush a little more. "Uh- yeah?" he said.

"Thank you for saving me, Seth," she said. "If it weren't for you, I would not be here."

Seth said nothing for a second. "It's nothing, really. It's not like my life meant anything."

"You shouldn't say that, Seth. Your life is worth a lot. Look at what you do for other people, even if they don't notice it."

Then they both froze, and looked at eachother. But after the bell rang, they looked away, both red. "Well-

we should get going, or we'll be late for class," said Seth.

"Um- okay. See you tomorrow, I guess," she said, and they both headed to class.

"What the hell was that back there, Seth?" he asked himself, in a voice no one heard.

"Why'd you freeze like that, you idiot?" Yuufa asked herself, also in a low voice.

"Okay, this question is for Seth," said the teacher. "By the way, how's your recovery, Seth?"

"Going great, sir," said Seth respectfully.

When did he start saying sir? the teacher wondered. "Good," he said. Now here's your question."

Dude, Seth, thought Keough. *You hate math. You are going to look so bad...*

Isn't math your worst subject, Seth? Yuufa wondered.

"Triangle ABC is an isosceles right angled triangle with $BC = AB = 2$. A circular arc of radius 2 with centre C meets the hypotenuse at D. A circular arc of radius 2 with center a meets the hypotenuse E. What is the area of the shaded region?" asked the teacher. "Come write it on the board for us, please."

"Yes, sir," said Seth. He walked up to the board and picked up a piece of chalk. Then he began writing. His answer was:

Answer -> 1.906 units²

1/4 of circle

$r = 2$

$A = (\pi \cdot r^2)(1/6)$

$1/6 \cdot \pi \cdot 2^2$

$1/3 \pi$

Area of triangle = $1/2 bh$

$= 1/2 \cdot 2 \cdot 2$

$= 2$

$2 - 1/3 \pi =$ one part of shaded area

$= .953 \cdot 2$ <- two equal parts

$= 1.906$ units²

The teacher looked at it, and stared at the answer in astonishment. "That's- correct!"

Seth put the chalk down, and went back to his seat.

Whoa, Seth! Keough exclaimed in his head. *Good job!*

When did he get so good at math? Yuufa wondered.

Then the bell rang for Gym class. Seth made no mistakes on his exercises, though he knew this was Phazon's work. And today's gym class involved Seth's most hated lesson: track.

"Today, we'll be running the one mile track, to test your endurance. Run as much as you can for five minutes. Keough holds the record at four laps. Get in position, you have two minutes before we begin."

Keough was probably the most athletic person in the class. He would win most of the dodgeball games, and he was an incredible soccer player, the second best on the school's team. Seth was only the fifth, and his position was mainly goalie.

The girls were ready on their track, and the boys were ready on theirs. The gym teacher stood on the

position panel at the very top, with the gun that would mark the start. "On your marks..."

"Think you can win, Seth?" asked Keough.

"I know I can," he answered.

"Get set..."

"Don't just run for Yuufa, y'know."

"Just shut up and try to keep up, Keough."

And the teacher fired the gun. Keough dashed at the pop of the gun, while Seth and the others reacted a little slower than him. The same thing for the girls, yet Yuufa gained speed immediately.

Ten seconds into the race, and Seth and Keough were head-to-head, neck-to-neck for the lead, and in a quarter of the track. Yuufa was a little faster.

"Didn't expect you to catch up like this, Seth!" said Keough. "What did you do for the past three months?"

"Can't tell," said Seth. "Secret."

"Sure..." Seth close his eyes and chuckled. "But I bet you'd tell Yuufa."

But when he opened his eyes, Seth was seventeen feet ahead of him. "Wait a second, what the hell?!"

"I told you, Keough!" Seth shouted to him. "Shut up and keep up!"

Thirty seconds left, and Yuufa was a quarter of a mile away from the record break, but then her breath just jmped out of her, and she dropped to the ground, panting. Seth was now three feet ahead of Keough, and ten seconds were left. "I'm gonna break my own record!" said Keough, and he dashed five feet ahead, before he tripped over his own shoe, and slid onto the ground, a few feet from the finish line. Seth gained the lead, crossed the line, and the five minute limit was reached.

The coach blew her whistle. "Ok, that wraps it up for today. Seth now holds the new record, for five laps. See you tomorrow, and as for those on the team, I'll see you at seven."

Darnit, thought Keough. *Did you try to run a marathon or something?*

Wow, thought Yuufa. *Seth has gotten a lot better. Normally, he couldn't finish his fourth lap. And he still looks as if he could run ten laps.*

"Need help, Yuufa?" Seth asked her, and he held out his hand.

"Thanks, Seth," she said. "I'll see you at practice, then?"

"Yeah, and after three months of doing pretty much nothing, I'm ready to play some soccer again."

3 - Surprise

Chapter Three- Surprise

That night after, Seth had another strange confronting the voice in his head.

You truly have no idea of what you'll be facing, do you, DNARAN?

"Like I care. I'll never let anything get close to Yuufa, and with Project Phaze, it will be easier to protect her."

Fool! You're willing to put yor life yet at risk again, only for a girl that feels no love for you?

"I don't care if she doesn't love me, because I still love her. And no matter what, I'll protect her!"

...again with this heroic crap. Seth, when will it go through your thick damned head that she'll never love you?

"Never. And that's going to stay that way."

Okay, let your life be ruined by a relationship that'll never be. You have a game, so you'd better ready.

The next day, the time seemed to pass by during math and gym class. However, the lunch went by slowly, because everytime Seth tried to eat, he couldn't help but notice the people looking at him. He drew in a breath and sighed. *Will they ever grow tired of this? Cause I am...*

"Seth, you slaughtered everyone at the game yesterday!" exclaimed Keough. "Everyone that tried to get the ball past you, you took the ball and launched it downfield! Only real way for them to get by was to pass the ball the other way, and then Yuufa takes them down!"

"It's no big deal," said Seth, though he knew that it was, to Keough, and the whole team.

"Um, excuse me."

Keough and Seth turned around, to see themselves facing a boy their age. He had black hair, and the clothing he wore looked like he just left a formal party. "Do you know where the math class is?" he asked them. He had a british accent in his voice.

"Actually," said Seth, "we were headed that way right now, follow us."

"Ok, thanks. By the way, my name is Yuske."

"I'm Seth."

"I'm Keough," said Keough. "But something's not right about your name. Are you british?"

"Yeah, I am. But my father is of Japanese origin, while my mother is of British. My father named me."

Strange, thought Seth. *He looks like I've known him from before...*

"Class," said the teacher, "we have a new student today. Please welcome Yuske."

"Hello," the class murmured, except for Keough, Yuufa, and Seth, who said nothing.

"Yuske, why don't you sit right there, between Keough and Seth?" said the teacher.

"Yes, sir," said Yuske.

That's two students that call me sir. What is going on? wondered the teacher.

He definetly acts formal, thought Seth.

"Why did the rest of the class act that way?"

"They're always that way towards new students. You get over it in about a week or so," said Seth at lunch.

Yuufa walked away from her friends and sat next to Seth at the lunch table. "Hey, Seth," she said.

"Keough, and-"

"Yuske," he said.

"Oh, right. You're new here. I heard about you once before. Back in the UK, you played defense on their team. You launched the ball into the opposing goal."

"It's no big deal, really," said Yuske.

Seth chuckled. "If word like that gets around, you'll be looked at like I am now."

"What do you mean?"

"Two months ago," said Keough, "our school was attacked by DSA. You know what that is, right? Anyway, only one classroom was attacked, and me, Seth, and Yuufa just happened to be in that classroom."

"Nine were hit, and only one survived, and then claimed to be dead," said Yuske. "At least, that's what the kids at my school in UK said."

"Very wrong," said Seth. "I was the survivor."

"What?!"

"See what I mean?"

Then, five kids walked up to the table Seth, Yuufa, Keough, and Yuske were at. "So, this the new kid?"

"What's it to you?" asked Keough.

"Hey, everyone! It's Yuske, the boy who scores goals from defense!"

Damn... thought Keough. *Kotsu up to his crap again.*

Everyone looked at Yuske suprisingly.

"How'd you know about that?" asked Yuske. "United Kingdom doesn't spread any sports related news out of its own country!"

"BBC radio. You want to start something? Cause I'll bust you up, Yuske."

Yuske stood up. "Try me. I'll take anything and put it in shame."

Kotsu laughed and threw a punch at Yuske. But he grabbed the arm and wrapped it behind Kotsu's back.

He is stubborn, isn't he? wondered Keough.

Before Kotsu could land a kick on Yuske, the school's lockdown alarm went off. Teachers scattered around, gathering their students and finding a place to hide.

"Come on, guys!" exclaimed Yuufa. We have to get there before-

And before she could say anything else, somebody ran her dwon, and knocked her out without noticing. Soon, the whole place was deserted, and Yuufa was alone, and blacked out.

"It's finally time, eh Seth?"

"Yep. Time to live up to that promise."

"I'm telling you, Seth. Stop now before it's too late."

But Seth ignored the voice and armed his arm cannon. *PED, on!*

"Ugh..." moaned Yuufa. "What-what happened? And why is it so dark?"

"Open your eyes."

Yuufa cracked her eyes open, to see not Seth, but D.N.A.R.A.N. "Who are you?"

"Your guardian. Come on, we need to get out of here, before whatever is here shows up." He held out his hand, and Yuufa took it. Though his hands were covered by gloves, Seth could still feel the touch of her hand.

"Don't let it get to your head, Aran. Now get out before-"

Before what?

"Seth, on your left! Rhundas!"

"What?" Seth looked to his left, and large ice stalagmites were hurling towards Yuufa. He grabbed her and pulled her out of the way, and fired three pahzon bursts at the stalagmites. "Show yourself, Rhundas!"

Rhundas did not hold back; he smashed through the floor and grabbed Seth by the throat. The hands were cold enough to give him frostbite, were it not for the armor. "Give us Aran!"

"You want Aran, huh?" asked Seth, charging up a large amount of Phazon. "You can have Aran."

W-What?! Yuufa became terrified.

"Of course, you may not like the Aran you're getting!" And with that, Seth emptied the entire shot into Rhundas's armor. It became quickly unstable, and Rhundas had to release Seth to contain the power from bursting out.

"ARAN!" Rhundas cried. He fired multiple bursts of ice at Seth, but only the helmet was frozen before he escaped.

Struggling, Seth tried to remove the helmet, but he couldn't take it off. He was losing oxygen; he didn't know how much longer he was going to last.

And when he fell to his knees, Yuufa helped take off the helmet.

Seth's hair was a little sparkly from sweat, and when he looked up, smiled, and told her, "thanks," he realized he was Seth, not D.N.AРАН.

"Y-you're-" Yuufa said with an astonished look on her face.

"I warned you, Aran. Now you have a life to lose."

4 - Truth

Chapter 4- Truth

"Y-You're-!"

Seth went speechless. First time on the job, and already Yuufa knows. *Aww, man, not already!* thought Seth.

"You're Seth!" exclaimed Yuufa.

"Not so loud!" whispered Seth. "No one was supposed to know!"

"What are you doing, Seth?! You could've gotten killed by that guy! Don't act so courageous like that again, oka-"

Seth held up his federation badge. "I'm a Fed. I'm supposed to protect you from anything or anyone that attacks you, like Rhundas, the bounty hunter that just attacked us. Listen." He sat down, and so did Yuufa.

"That Phazon attack," said Seth, "was meant for you. DSA, or Dark Samus Aran, was trying to kill you half a year ago."

"Isn't that the hunter that my-"

"Mother, yes, I know. Yeah, and DSA thought that killing you, or capturing you, would have forced Samus to go after it. I didn't know any of this, I was only keeping a promise I made a year ago, and for specific reasons."

Yuufa smiled at Seth. "Come on, Seth. I know why you took that hit. You shouldn't try to hide it."

Seth blushed. "Uh-anyways, now I've made a promise to the Feds, and it's the same promise I made; To protect you, Yuufa.

"But they had to find a way to control the Phazon streaming through my body. This suit can use the Phazon in my body as a weapon. It's pretty much like the Elite Feds, with PDA and the gun and such. But this suit was made partly from materials from the Phazon planet, Phaze. This suit is their Project Phaze, or D.N.A.R.A.N.

"Rhundas was just the start of trouble. Now I know DSA will be sending more at you, and they're going to be stronger. That's why I have to train, to get stronger, to protect you."

Yuufa didn't say anything, but after a few seconds, she smiled again. "You're trying to play the role of a hero, aren't you, Mr. Guardian?" she asked him.

Even though Seth was blushing, he still had a serious look on his face. "No, Yuufa. I'm no hero."

"Samus Aran," said the Admiral in the war room. "Seth's suit has suffered damage. PDA was activated, and the damage affected his suit's temperature. It dropped, so the attacker was definitely Rhundas. Help him out. And if Rhundas is gone, get him and Yuufa out. His armor is still, so that makes me think he could be..."

Samus nodded, and dashed out of the room, headed towards the docking bay.

The ground began to shake again. "Oh no, not again!" said Seth. "Rhundas? No, the ground didn't shake like this. Could it be, is it DSA already?!"

"Aran..."

"What?!" Seth looked around, and DSA's arm cannon was aimed at Yuufa's throat. "Aran."

Yuufa wasn't speaking. But Seth could read her eyes. *Save me...*

Eventually, after ten seconds, Yuufa passed out in fear, and DSA grabbed her arm. "Aran!" "Let... her... go... NOW!" Seth fired a flash of light at DSA.

"I'm reading large amounts of Phazon, Samus!" shouted the Admiral over Samus's COM. "It's Dark Samus! Hurry!"

Without having to be told twice, Samus jerked the wheel forward, and her ship was darting towards Earth as fast as it would allow. "His vital signs are going mad! Hurry up, dammit!"

"Yuufa..."

"W-wha...?"

"Yuufa... Are you okay?"

"S-Seth?" Yuufa opened her eyes, and she faced a terrible sight; Seth's armor was torn in several spots, his gun arm was bleeding, and Seth was looking through half-opened eyes.

"Are you okay, Yuufa?" he asked her.

"I'm fine... But what about you? We need to tend to those wound ver soo-"

She was interrupted by Seth blacking out, and falling down on her. "Seth? Seth?! Seth!" she cried.

Is this the life you want, Aran?

"Why the hell are you calling me Aran? I'm not Yuufa!"

Answer my question. Is this the life you want. Do you want to keep risking your life everyday for this girl? She doesn't love you back, and look what protecting her did to you. Breaking a promise wouldn't hurt, y'know.

"Listen. Maybe you've never loved before. But that doesn't mean you should act like I shouldn't love."

Then Seth never heard from the voice after that.

When Seth woke up, he was at the school's infirmary, and all of his friends were gathered around him.

"What?" he asked, smiling. "You've never seen me in the infirmary? You've missed out a lot, then."

His friends began to laugh, and when Seth looked at Yuufa, her eyes told Seth, "Thank you."

"How you gonna play Defense if you can't even get out of bed, Seth?" asked Keough.

"Hey, don't worry. You got Yuske, and Yuufa."

"Don't be putting me in this," snapped Yuske.

It was getting late, and everyone was leaving the school, the cafeteria was shut down for repairs, and later that day, when everyone left, Yuufa came back and sat next to Seth.

"I thought you left with the others," said Seth.

"No," said Yuufa. "I can't leave my guardian angel behind now, can I?"

Seth turned a bright red. "Angel?!"

"You're gonna find this strange," said Yuufa. "I keep having this dream, how you're on the ground, about to die, and then you have this beautiful white wing. I keep rejecting it, but the dream keeps coming back to me. It makes me wonder if you could be, one of the heroes of our galaxy."

"That's never going to happen," said Seth. "I told you, I'm no hero."

"You shouldn't say that, Seth!" snapped Yuufa. "Look what you've put on the line to save me. Only a hero could do that." Then she yawned. "Well, I'm going to go home, and get some rest. See you tomorrow."

"Goodnight," said Seth, as she closed the door. Then he began to wonder about that dream. *There's no way I could be him*, he thought. *There's absolutely no way I could be the One-Winged Angel.*

5 - Control

Chapter 5- Control

"Admiral," said a scientist. "Take a look at this."

"What is it?" asked the Admiral, looking away from the new troop credentials. "Something important, I hope. I need to finish signing these credentials."

"Very, sir. But there's some bad news. Do you remember that nanobot prototype that was being used for examining people from the inside, but failed horribly due to insufficient power?" asked the scientist.

"Yes. What did you do..." Now the Admiral was looking in the Admiral's direction, and things went silent. The scientist, sweating from tension, handed the admiral the holoboard he was holding. "One of the scientists kind of, uh- slipped the nanobots into the IV of Seth, as this camera shows."

"What?! That was a billion dollar prototype!"

"He theorized that the Phazon could be the power the nanobots required. And here's the good news; it is."

The Admiral glared at the scientist. "Wait, so it does work, with Phazon?"

The scientist nodded. "And if you move on to the results of the examination, you can see what the Phazon is doing, thanks to Seth."

"Glad to see you're doing fine now, Seth," said Yuske. "What the bloody hell happened to you?"

"If I told you," said Seth, "if I *could* tell you, you wouldn't believe me."

"Why can't I know? I bet Yuufa knows, doesn't she?"

"Yuufa witnessed it. I didn't tell her." *She saw more than she needed to see, too,* thought Seth.

"Well, whatever," said Yuske. "I'm heading home. It's almost 5:30, and I'm tired from practice."

"Okay, see ya," said Seth. As Yuske turned around and waved, Seth looked strangely at Yuske. *It's so weird. It's like I've seen him before.*

Seth soon strayed off the path home, and found himself at the park. The cherry blossom trees around him seemed more beautiful than normal. The flowers bloomed vigorously, and the sun began to set; to Seth, there's no other perfect sight than this. *Except of course Yuufa,* he thought, and he blushed a little.

"May you grow to be more beautiful than now," said a voice. When Seth turned around, he couldn't believe his eyes. There Yuufa was, tending to a tree. She was wearing a beautiful white robe, and a sash that flowed in the wind. He went completely scarlet. *I'm not worthy enough for a sight like this,* he thought. *I should be unconscious right now, instead of this.*

And when he said that, something cold and sharp hit him in the neck. It wasn't a knife, for it wasn't a large hit, and when he pulled it out of his neck, it was a dart. "What the hell...?" asked Seth.

Then things began to get blurry, and he was seeing double. Many things happened to him, before he went out cold. His last sight was a helicopter flying above him, and men in biosuits coming down a rope.

"Wh-what?!" exclaimed the Admiral. "What is this!"

The scientist took three steps back, and calmly said, "Those were his Phazon levels after he fought with the DSA sir, that injection was temporary, but it should have lasted longer. Seth is using too much Phazon to where the injection's failure point is reached faster. If we don't double the dosage of the control, or find a serum soon, he could kill himself fast. Very fast."

The Admiral set the clipboard by the credentials. "This is bad. Very bad. Send this message to all

scientists. Double the strength of the control injection, and get more scientists working on the purging serum. Pay is higher now."

"Yes, sir!" The scientist left the room, satisfied.

"And send a team to capture Seth!"

"Ugh," said Seth, opening his eyes. Things were very bright, and it blinded him.

"Keep your eyes closed," said the scientist. "Your eyes are extremely dilated from the sedative we gave you."

Seth then realized he was back in the lab. "What are you guinea pigging me for this time?"

"Your control serum. Unless you want to leave and die in a day. You use too much Phazon for the last serum to control. We had to up the dosage. That's also why your eyes are dilated; a side effect to the injection."

"It's not just Phazon, you know! I was shooting more than Phazon in that battle!"

"Well, that's not our problem. The Phazon is. Well, we've injected it, and now you'll be discharged, and free to go home. It's 8:14 right now."

"8:14?! What have I been doing for two hours in this lab?!"

"Getting your life saved. Go now, the ship is ready."

"This is Gamma Ship 0914, we are ejecting the escort due to turbulence. 3, 2, 1-"

"Wait, EJECT?!" exclaimed Seth. Suddenly, he fell out of the chair, and was headed for a lake below.

"ARE YOU INSANE, YOU MORO-"

Before he could finish, he crashed into the water. Yuufa gasped and turned around when she heard the splash. She thought it was nothing until she saw Seth climbing out of the water, coughing. "Seth!"

Seth looked up to see Yuufa, still in the robe, and he hid his blush by looking down. "Hey, Yuufa. What's wrong?"

"Are you okay? You just fell into the lake."

"I'm fine," said Seth. "What are you doing out so late?" Then he looked around and saw that the trees and flowers were half ruined.

"That helicopter. They shot someone and some guys came out and took the person they shot. They ruined the cherry blossoms and flowers I worked hard on..."

"They shot me with a dart, and took me away for more Phazon crap. I'm sorry, Yuufa. That helicopter was cause of me."

"It's okay," said Yuufa. Then she realized she was still in the robe and sash, and turned red. "You weren't supposed to see me like this, Seth."

"I thought as much. Why do you dress like that?"

Yuufa smiled and looked in the sky. "This dress, was worn once by my mother, when she was 14. She said she used to go to the park and make everything more beautiful than they were before. It's the only thing I remember of my parents."

Seth stood up. "Yeah, well at least you remember. I was knocked out by a space pirate, and now I cannot remember anything."

"I'm sorry about your parents," said Yuufa.

"Same for you," said Seth. He pondered for a moment, and then said, "Yuufa, how about I come here, and you can teach me how to tend to the trees and flowers? It's the least I can do."

Yuufa smiled at Seth. "Sure. I come here at 5:30, every day that we have practice."

"Okay," said Seth. "Can I walk home with you?"

9:30; that was the time Seth got home. He was shivering, and tired. *In three days*, thought Seth, *I get to*

help Yuufa with the damages I've made.

"This isn't some way to be with Yuufa, is it?" asked the voice.

Seth smiled. I was wondering where you were, he said. Goodnight.

6 - Racing Heart

Chapter 6- Racing Heart

Seth didn't get much sleep that night. He tried to, but after his dream, it was impossible to. He kept getting the dream that he was the legendary One-Winged Angel. And it was the same dream. Same place. And DSA and Yuufa were always there.

He splashed water on his face, and looked into the mirror. What he saw was unbelievable, he saw himself- as the One-Winged Angel. "What does this mean?" he asked himself. "Am I really that legend? Or is it just a bad dream..." He lay on his bed, and stared at the ceiling. "Can't I just close my eyes, and make all of this crap go away..."

Then again, I'm finally getting more time with Yuufa because of this. Maybe it's best to keep my eyes open.

"Dude, you look like crap, Seth," said Keough. "How long were you awake last night?"

"All night. I couldn't sleep at all," said Seth. "I keep having this weird dream, and it keeps me from sleeping."

"I bet it involves Yuufa."

Seth turned red. "What the hell do you mean by that?!"

"Meh, never mind I said that."

The park looked a lot better when they passed by. Seth really didn't think it was him. His first day was a mess. "Hey Seth," said Keough. "Did you ever hear about the girl that comes here almost everyday? People at school say that she's an angel that heals the trees and flowers here. Have you seen her before?"

She's an angel, all right. "No, I haven't heard about or seen her," Seth replied, lying.

School was the same today. Seth and Yuske are stared at, math class, english, lunch, history, and gym. But for Seth, today was practice, and after that, he would be tending to the park with Yuufa again. And Yuske wonders why Seth strays off his path home.

"Don't you ever see Seth going to the park after every practice?" asked Yuske at lunch with Keough. Seth was talking to Yuufa at another table.

"No, I haven't. Never," said Keough. "Maybe he's trying to talk to the rumored angel that tends to the park."

"Well, I find it kind of strange that it's only after practice. Hey, today's a practice day, want to see for yourself?" Yuske asked him.

"Wow, Yuske. I didn't think you'd actually spy on a friend." Keough grinned. "Let's do it."

"So many people are talking about 'the angel that tends to the park.' I'm worried someone will try to find out who it is. Then when they do, I'm gonna get so embarrassed..." said Yuufa.

"What's to be embarrassed about?" asked Seth. "Everyone thinks you're an angel."

"Maybe, but who'd want to be friends with someone that wastes their life tending to trees?"

Seth sighed. "I would. Yuske, and probably Keough."

"But still. Would you want to be revealed to the whole school as some tree hugger?"

"Look, don't listen to a thing the school reporters write. Be yourself." Seth shook his head. "Besides, when was the last time someone even cared for those trees? You stepped up and took care of them. That makes you a great person, you know."

Yuufa smiled. "You're right, Seth. I'll see you after practice, then?"

"You know, you're daughter is a real protector, Samus," said her ship's engineer.

Samus looked at the engineer in puzzlement. "You mean your own daughter didn't tell you? Well, technically, half-daughter. Anyway, the park in the town she lives in, the public stopped tending to them. They started dying. But Yuufa, she started caring for them, and they're even more beautiful than when the public was caring for them. Why? We don't know. And we're not spreading the news down to Earth. Only the Federation and Seth know of it. I'd give anything to have a daughter like tha-

Before he could say anything, the engine sparked in his face, and his gloves started to ignite. "Crap! I didn't wear the fireproofs!" exclaimed the engineer. Samus fired an ice beam at him, and now his hands were covered by big blocks of ice.

"Uh, thanks, I guess... Well, the self-repair is up and running. I'm gonna go and thaw my hands now." Samus now wondered why Yuufa never said anything to her about the park. It was probably parents, but that wasn't her business, so she left it alone.

"I got my camera set," said Keough, on top of a roof by the park. "When she comes, we'll wait for Seth, then we'll see what happens next. Yuske?"

Yuske was asleep. "Get up, Yuske! Here she comes!"

Yuske got up and rubbed his eyes. "Well, I wouldn't be asleep if you didn't take forever to mount your camera."

"Hey! Angle is everything! Oh, there she is."

Yuufa walked into the park in her robe, and she was holding a bag of soil. "Picture one..." Keough snapped the first picture. "Now for Seth..."

Seth looked around, and in seconds, he spotted Yuske and Keough. "They're obviously up to no good..." *Better not startle them.* "Hey, Yuufa!" Seth shouted.

Yuufa looked in Seth's direction and waved back. "Yuufa?!" exclaimed Keough. "Yuske, you're writing this down?"

"Yeah, yeah," said Yuske, scribbling down words on his notepad.

"Ready to tend to the flowers today?" asked Yuufa.

"Yeah," said Seth. Then he felt his heart race faster and faster. *What the-? What Keough said to me-dammit! Today is going to be harder!*

"Okay, spread this soil out like this, you see?"

"Yeah," said Seth. He did it, but not like Yuufa.

"No, that's too fast, Seth." She held onto his hand, and slowed it down. "You need to do it slower, like this."

Seth blushed. "Oh, ok, thanks." *Damn! Keough, when you get down from there, you're dead!*

"Oh man, this story is perfect!" exclaimed Keough. "What's next?"

Suddenly, the ground started to rumble. The mount fell on its side, and Yuske fell back on his seat. Something was coming out of the ground, and it didn't sound friendly. "Quick, give me my camera! I got to get a shoot of what's down there!"

A drill shot out of the ground, and a medium-large sized mech jumped out of the ground. Keough got his picture, and he and Yuske sprinted away from the area.

"What the-!" exclaimed Seth. "Is that!"

"Keep an eye out for Rhundas, an ice bounty hunter, Gorr, the mechanized bounty hunter, and Gandrayla, the shape shifting bounty hunter."

"Gorr! Quick, Yuufa. Hide, and I'll take this guy!" Seth beat the center of his chest, and the black power suit built up around his body, the PED came out, and the gun embedded itself into Seth's right arm.

"Master's orders: take the girl Yuufa!" roared Gorr.

"Sorry, but you're leaving this place wrecked and empty handed!" shouted Seth. He ran towards Gorr, firing his gun, but his accuracy was shaky, and he missed half the shots. And Gorr knocked him towards one of the trees Yuufa tended to today. Thankfully, Seth managed to veer to the left of the tree, and smacked into a wall.

"Analyzing: Master's enemy- D.N.AРАН! Orders: Destroy, then return to primary objective. Threat levels: minimal."

"Minimal, am I? Well, I don't want to destroy anything here, so let's take this one to the streets, shall we? Follow me, you obsolete piece of crap!" Seth shouted as he ran into an alley. Gorr followed shortly after.

"Your threat isn't worth bragging about, either!" shouted Seth, dodging all of the missiles. *But his armor is too large to destroy now. I need more weapons. Maybe I should call in Samus to deal with this. That way I can protect Yuufa from any- Yuufa!* "Samus, come get Gorr! He's being marked!" he cried as he threw a beacon on Gorr.

The roar of the ship's engines were getting closer. "See ya. I'm going to let the real deal take ya!" And with that, Seth jumped off the walls onto the roof of a building, and looked for Yuufa.

And Samus reached the alley Gorr was in, and before facing him, tossed a few bombs below to reduce the armor. "Samus Aran: Master's secondary target. Threat Level: Massive. Objective: Forget Aran, destroy Samus!"

"Yuufa!" cried Seth. He ran to where she was hidden, and there she was, shivering in fear. "Yuufa! Are you alright?!"

"Why- why am I wanted by that menace..." sobbed Yuufa.

Seth sighed, and put his arms around her. "It's okay, Yuufa. I'm here. Samus is here. Your friends are here to save you from anything."

"Perfect!" said Keough, snapping a picture of D.N.AРАН and Yuufa. "Now, time to get the hell outta here! I've got plenty of news to fill tomorrow's whole paper!"

The next day, everyone was talking about Yuufa, some people waved at her, and when Seth and she got the paper, they knew why.

The Angel Who Tends to the Trees

The mystery of the angel who tends to the trees of our park is solved, when Keough and Yuske look into the case themselves. This is what Yuske writes:

"I didn't think anyone would actually care about going to the park after the public quit caring about it. Some people actually said they were going to tear down the park for something else. But not anymore; we have an angel who stood up to protect it, and tended to the trees and flowers in the park herself. We have Yuufa, the angel who tends to the trees. I looked into it a little myself, and records of Yuufa say much about her history, and her parents, who everyone knows about. Yuufa's mother was an incredible person, who dressed in a white robe, and used a special soil on the trees and flowers, and they grew magnificently. I don't know what it is, but it sure helps. The once hopeless park began to gain hope when Yuufa stepped up.

Seth is also helping tend to the trees. I found this as a surprise; not offensively. I wouldn't expect him to hang around a park."

-Yuske, typewriter of the story.

"Well, what do you know? It's not an embarrassing story when you have Yuske writing it. Hey, look! One

on D.N.AРАН, too."

D.N.AРАН, the Apprectice of Samus Aran

Yesterday, the park was attacked by Gorr, former bounty hunter of the Galactic Federation. Our sources, Keough and Yuske, don't know why, but the attack wasn't out of random. This is what the Galactic Federation Admiral had to say about it:

"Keough and Yuske, we thank you for this information, first off. Now, to the real information. We know why our park was attacked, but by order of former Admiral, any information linked to the Dark Samus Aran (DSA) is classified. All you must know is that you aren't in any real danger. Only if you involve yourself are you in danger. And, you have two guardians protecting you: Samus Aran and D.N.AРАН, the apprentice to Samus Aran."

-Admiral of Galactic Federation

"Wait, apprentice?" asked Seth. Yuufa couldn't help but giggle a little bit. "I'm no apprentice!"

"Well, it looks like it won't be anything worth embarrassing myself over. No one seems to care that I tend to trees."

"Yeah," said Seth, "I told you. Don't worry about it."

7 - More Than a Friend

Chapter 7- More Than a Friend

Yuufa... How long do I have to hide my feelings for you?

"Seth..."

I'm tired of hiding my emotions. I'm just afraid of what you'll say to me.

"Seth."

I'll wait for the right time. But I have been waiting forever; when is the right time?

"Hey, Seth!"

So God, when is the right time?

"Seth! Look out!"

Seth shook his head and looked ahead, and a soccer ball smacked him in the face, and he fell back onto the ground. "Ow, damn..." groaned Seth.

"Seth, you okay?" asked Yuske. "We called you three times before you responded."

"Yeah," said Seth. "I just spaced out. The ball hasn't come to the defense line in forever." He got up, brushed the dirt off his face, and shook his head. "Damn, who kicked that?"

"I did," said Keough. "How badly did it hurt?"

"Take a look, does it look like it hurt?" asked Seth.

"Meh, you shouldn't have spaced out."

"Why you little-!"

Seth focused throughout the rest of the game. He even launched the ball so hard it almost hit Keough from a far distance. And after practice, like every day, he goes to the park with Yuufa to tend to the trees and flowers. After the first week, he was doing really well with doing his part. But after what Keough said, everytime, he turns red when he's too close to her. And at night, he would stay awake an hour longer, thinking about Yuufa and how and when he's going to tell her his feelings.

Yuufa woke up and sat up straight, breathing heavily. "What-what was that dr-dream...?" she asked herself. "I saw Seth, and he said, he-" she shook her head. "It had to be a dream, yeah. It was- all a-" She sighed. "I need to talk to Seth. How long am I going to keep it in about him..." She looked at her clock. 3:30. *He probably wouldn't be very happy if I woke him, but I need to talk to him.*

Seth splashed some water on his face, and looked up in the mirror. Again, he saw the same figure on his mirror. *Get over it, Seth. You aren't a legend! There's nothing about you worth being a legend, so just forget about it.*

Then he heard footsteps outside approaching his house. He jumped into some clothes, and looked out of his balcony. Yuufa was coming up to his house. *At 3:30 in the morning? What's she doing out here at this time of night?*

He leaned over his balcony more to see her, and his hands slipped. "Crap!" he shouted as he fell into the bushes.

"Seth?" asked Yuufa. She ran up to the bushes, and she saw Seth. "What did you do?"

"I just slipped off my balcony, that's all," said Seth. His vision got used to the darkness, and he realized how close Yuufa was, and turned red.

"Did you land on your face? Your face is all red," said Yuufa.

"Uh- no," said Seth, getting out of the bushes. "I'm just- what are you doing out this late?"

"Well- what are you doing up this late?"

"Uh- well I-"

They both paused for a moment, and at the same time, said, "I need to to talk to you."

Seth turned red, and Yuufa looked away. "Park?" Seth asked Yuufa.

"Yeah."

The park seemed more beautiful at night, with the street lamps beaming down on the trees, and the moonlight reflecting on the lake. "So, what do you want to talk about, Seth?" asked Yuufa.

"There's so much I want to talk about. One thing is the dream you told me about. You know, the one where you saw me as the One-Winged Angel? It's just, I'm getting that dream now, everytime, like you passed it on to me. And I can never get enough sleep at night because of it. What about you?"

Yuufa looked up in the sky, and sighed. "I had this dream tonight, that you told me- that you liked me."

Seth stared at Yuufa in amazement. "What?"

"I know, it sounds weird, but this is just like the One-Winged Angel- I can't figure out if it's a dream or a vision..."

Seth sighed. "No point in hiding it."

"What?"

"It's a vision, because it's true. I do like you, Yuufa."

"Wh-what? You mean- as a friend, right?"

"That, yes, and more. I was waiting so long for the right time to tell you, but God just hasn't given me that time yet; until now, I guess. I was afraid you wouldn't feel the same about me." Seth stood up and turned around. "I think I've said too much. See you, Yuufa."

But as he walked away, Yuufa grabbed his hand. "Wait, Seth " she said. "Maybe you aren't the only one that felt the same way."

</>ADMIRAL: Samus, you should see this</>

</>ADMIRAL has sent you a camera location</>

Samus looked at the camera location, and she saw Seth and Yuufa.

</>SAMUS: Have you been spying on these two</>

</>ADMIRAL: No, I have to keep watch on Seth every second, remember</>

</>SAMUS: End the transmission on your camera</>

</>This does not involve you, so end it</>

</>ADMIRAL: Fine, just this once</>

</>Camera channel 361 transmission: CUT</>

"Yuufa, you really mean what you just said?" asked Seth.

Yuufa nodded. "Does this have anything to do with me being D.N.A.R.A.N?" Seth asked her.

"No," said Yuufa. "You're an incredible person, Seth. Your grades are average, but that doesn't matter. You're not the most athletic, but then again, neither am I. And you're so caring towards your friends, and you're willing to do almost anything for your friends. You've proved your dedication towards your friends when you stood in the way of that laser that was meant for me. You protected me from Rhundas, and Gorr, and no one can ask for more in a friend. But if we feel the same way about each other, then maybe..." She held out her hand.

Seth smiled, and took her hand, and hugged her. "Yuufa..."

"Seth..."

Seth looked up into the sky and smiled. *Thank you, God. Thank you for giving me the chance.*

"So, I'll see you tomorrow?" Seth asked her. "We have a game tomorrow."

Yuufa nodded, waved, and headed home. Seth did the same. But Seth was delayed by seeing Keough taking pictures of the moon, and many other environments. "So we have a real photographer, don't we now, Keough?" Seth asked him.

Keough jumped, saw Seth, and hid his camera. "D-Don't say anything, okay?"

"Sure," said Seth. "I'm in a good mood. Well, see you at the game."

Keough smiled. *So, you finally got your dream become reality, eh?*

10 - The One-Winged Angel

Chapter 10- The Harbinger of Death

"What the hell?" said Seth. "How are you here, Keough, and why are you in fed's armor?"

"You know, you aren't the only one that has a hidden identity as a Fed," said Keough. "Keough, Second Lieutenant, of the Lone Wolves Team."

"I know that you're a Lone Wolf. I'm a Lone Wolf. Yuske's a Lone Wolf, too."

"Wait, Yuske's here too?!"

Yuske walked in, with an arm cannon and federation suit. "I am now. Corporal Yuske."

"Well, well! Looks like we've all been hiding something, haven't we?" asked Keough, grinning. "Wait a second, where'd Seth go?"

Seth was nowhere to be found. He ran off to the bathroom.

"Argh!" growled Seth. "What is this-! Argh!"

Now he was coughing blood, and it was mixing with the Phazon as well. His body was going out of control. He could feel his heart beating powerfully against his chest, and something was about to come out of his back. He began to scream and shout uncontrollably.

"Seth!" shouted Keough. He sprinted towards the bathroom door, but when he tried to open it, it was locked. He pounded against the door. "Seth!"

"What's happening?" Yuufa asked Keough, feeling fear.

"I don't know, but he's not coming out... Seth! Open the damned door!"

Then there was silence in the bathroom, and the door's lock clicked open. The knob turned, and Seth fell out of the room, and he had a white wing tainted in blood. "Seth!" cried Yuufa. "Seth!"

But he didn't respond. "SETH!"

Seth woke up on a bed, with an I.V. in his wrist, and his armor was off, replaced with a white suit. "Ugh, what happened..." he groaned.

"S-Seth..."

"Huh-?" he looked to the left, and he saw Keough, Yuske, and Yuufa, who was crying. "K-Keough? Yuske? Y-Yuufa? What happened?"

"Your heart stopped," said Keough. "You fell out of the bathroom. Looked like a damn murder scene in there."

"And Seth," said Yuske. "You're the One-Winged Angel."

"What?!" Seth looked behind him, and he saw the wing. He froze in place. "I'm- the legendary-One-Winged An-Angel?"

"You were losing too much blood," sobbed Yuufa. "You needed a transfusion..."

"And guess which three were involved in that transfusion?" asked Keough.

"B-But, you three all have blood types different from mine! My antibodies would attack the blood! I could-"

"Your Phazon mixed with the blood the instant the blood transfused had entered, making our blood a whole new blood type, Type P. And when your blood is purged, all the blood will become one blood type, either B or higher."

"But that doesn't matter," said Yuufa, wiping the tears from her eyes. "Are you okay?"

Seth got out of his bed and wrapped his arms around her. "I'm fine, Yuufa. But what matters now is your protection."

"No!" she cried. "Stop saying that! It's not about me!"

"Y-Yuufa..."

"I'm tired of this! You're going to kill yourself over my safety! I don't want to lose you because of me!"

"Yuufa, I was thinking the same thing. I don't want to lose you, and it's mainly my fault that you're targeted. I keep protecting you, and DSA kept sending more and more our way. Yuufa, I love you, and nothing is going to change that, not even my death. But I couldn't get over you dying."

Then the door slid open, and a scientist came in. "Private Seth," he said. "Your presence is required in the Phazon room."

"I'll be there."

When the door slid shut, Yuufa looked into Seth's eyes. "Please, Seth... Don't leave me... I need you to be with me..."

"Yuufa." Seth hugged her again. "I'm not leaving you. No, I need to get used to this wing, if I'm going into battle with it."

"Private Seth," said the scientist. "Your wing has a very special ability. Not only can you fly a short time with it, but since it's combined with the Phazon, it can block all Phazon-based attacks. You basically have one big Phazon shield. So, are you used to controlling the wing?"

"Yes."

"Well, then. I'm going to fire ten blasts of Phazon at you, and you block them with your wing. Ready? Go!"

A gun turret popped out of the ceiling, and fired Phazon lasers at Seth, which were easily blocked by his wing. "Good. You've got a powerful weapon there. Use it wisely in the heat of battle; and use it to protect Yuufa."

"I will," said Seth. "If I don't want a life of living hell, then I'm going to use this wing well."

</>ALL SOLDIERS BOARD DROPSHIPS AND PREPARE FOR LAUNCH</>

"Well, I guess it's time to go, Lone Wolves," said Seth. "Our time to shine has come."

"I've been dying to blast the crap out of space pirates!" roared Keough.

"If we live," said Yuske, "then chances are the whole school's going to know about all of us. Can't you see those headlines already, Keough?"

"Wait," said Yuufa. "I'm coming." She was dressed in a federation suit for females, and she had a paralyze pistol.

"Whoa, hold on, Yuufa!" said Keough. "You don't expect to fight off pirates with a gun that doesn't even kill, do you? You need something like-"

Then she pulled off the top of the gun, and lashed the gun in Keough's hand off. "Not the gun. The whip, maybe. When you have Samus teaching you to use one of these, then you're pretty good."

"Good point," said Keough, taking his gun back. "So, what are our weapons?"

</>ID YUUFUFA: PARALYZE PISTOL/WHIP</>

</>ID YUSKE: PED SNIPER RIFLE</>

</>ID KEOUGH: PED GATLING GUN</>

</>ID SETH: ARM CANNON/WING</>

"Wow," said Keough. "We're going to butcher the pirates!"

"Let's go, everyone," said Seth. "It's time to end the Harbinger of Death; the DSA."

Keough and Yuske quickly boarded the ship, and shut their doors, but before Seth got on, Yuufa

grabbed his hand. "Wait," she said.

"Something wrong, Yuufa?" Seth asked her.

"Yes, Seth," she replied. "I'm afraid, that I might lose you."

"Yuufa... There's nothing to worry about. Even so, I'll still be in your memories, won't I?"

"No, I want you to be more than a memory to me! I want you to-

Before Yuufa could say anything else, Seth kissed her. "Even if I die physically, my spirit will still go on-
in all of my friends."

"Seth."

"Yes?"

Yuufa smiled. "You've been listening to too much war music."

Seth smiled back. "I guess so. But it gets me going."

"Well then," said Yuufa, "let's go, my One-Winged Angel."

12 - My Heart Will Go On

Chapter 12- My Heart Will Go On

"Seth?" said a voice.

Seth was lying on air, in a white area. But he didn't see anyone. "God?" he asked the voice. "Is that you?"

"Look at you, Seth. Your whole life ahead of you, and you waste it away on protecting a girl."

"Were you the voice that wouldn't stop bothering me?" asked Seth.

"No, I wasn't. Ah, wait. Only one angel wing? That cannot do."

"What?"

"Sorry, Seth. Looks like you don't have a place here, yet. How about going back to see your friends?"

The white light faded away, and when Seth woke up, he was on the hard metal floors of the ship, being treated by the scientists. "Aren't you lucky, boy?" the scientist told him. "The purging process was finished in the last few minutes you had to live. And your wing is gone."

"Sounds like you've had a hell of a ride, Seth," said the Admiral.

"Trust me, Admiral. You've got no damn clue of what went on down there."

Goodbye, Seth... Maybe I'll see you in the next life. Can't you see? I can finally see my family again...

"Well, why don't you go see your friends, Seth?"

"Keough? Yuufa?! They're alive?!" Immediately, Seth jumped up, and dashed toward the hangar.

"Seth."

After so long, I've finally filled my page of history in the book of life.

"Seth..."

I've proved myself to the world, to the pirates, and to Yuufa. And now, Yuufa and I are together.

"Seth?"

I've lost a great friend in this war, and I've avenged his soul. Now, he's with his family, and even if I could bring him back, I'd let him be. He's happy now.

"Seth!"

Keough... He's truly a warrior. He acts like one, trains like one, and his tactics on war have made him a hero.

"Seth?!"

Samus... I've kept my promise. Your daughter's safe now. I've done my job, but can I ask you something? I want another mission; to make her happy. I'll leave that decision to you, the mother of an angel.

"Seth!"

"Keough! Yuufa! Samus!" cried Seth as he ran towards his friends. He embraced Yuufa tightly. "I thought I was dead... But God, he said it wasn't my time yet."

"Well, that's a good thing, ain't it?" said Keough. "I'd almost thought you chickened out!"

"Hey, I didn't see you face the DSA alone, and finish the job, did I?"

"It's a great thing- that you're still alive, Seth," said Yuufa.

Seth let go of Yuufa, and looked into her eyes. "Yuufa..." Without hesitation, he kissed her.

Well, Seth, thought Keough. You're a real man, now. You aren't the spineless fool I once knew anymore.

"It's time to go home, now," Seth said as he looked out the window of the ship, and stared at the clear blue Earth.

"Wait a second!" said Keough. "We didnt get our promotions yet!"

Back on Earth, where the ceremony was held, all the people, from school, the park, and the Lone Wolves, were seated at that ceremony.

"Damn!" exclaimed Keough. "So many people!"

"Hey, you're the one that wanted it to be on Earth, Keough," said Seth. "Don't complain."

"Wait, here comes Admiral," said Yuufa.

The Admiral walked on stage, onto the podium, and cleared his throat. "My people," he began, "first off, I want to say I'm sorry for all the trouble that has been caused here. Our research on a planetary forcefield wasn't fast enough, and because of that, Dark Samus Aran attacked Earth, and almost took the life of Seth.

"Just a few days ago, we went to war with the DSA and the space pirates. Though our war was won, there were some things we did lose; we lost Yuske, the soccer legend, who detonated his PED to stop all the Phazon creatures from killing Seth, Keough, and Samus Aran. He will not be forgotten, and his funeral will be held this saturday. But now, he gets to see the family he lost a long time ago.

"And now, without further ado, I present to you, our heroes, Samus Aran, Yuufa, Keough, and Seth." The crowd roared and cheered as Samus, Yuufa, Keough, and Seth walked out onto the stage, and bowed to the crowd.

"Samus Aran," said the Admiral. "For the defeat of Rhundas, Gorr, and Gandrayla, to protect Seth and Yuufa, I present to you, the Guardian Medal." He pinned onto Samus's armor what looked like a shield-shaped platinum medal.

"Yuufa Aran, for bravery, support, and the slaying of the corrupted Ridley, I present to you, the Medal of Honor."

"Damn!" whispered Keough. "That was the kind of medal that they gave in World War II! That award is ancient, and very rare!"

"To Keough Kotsu, for Courage, Will, and sheer dumb luck in your battle with one thousand space pirates, I present to you the Medal of The Slayer. And as for your promotion, you are now a Gunnery Seargent. As you age, your rank will increase, for it would be illegal to give a 14 year old the Admiral rank."

"Ad-Admiral?!" exclaimed Keough.

"And now, for Seth. You have courage, will, and you always focus on your mission. You've slayed Dark Samus Aran, and you have protected your friends, despite what they said to you. For that, I present to you, the highest achieveable medal, the Medal of The Knight."

The crowd roared and cheered for Samus, Keough, Yuufa, and Seth. "Aran! Aran! Aran!" they chanted.

"Well, Keough?" said Seth. "Give them what they came for."

"Yeah!" roared Keough. He picked up his gatling gun, and fired it into the air madly. "Lone Wolves!" he cried. The crowd roared louder.

"So," said Seth after the celebration. "It's all over. Phazon, DSA, D.N.AРАН."

"Maybe it's better that way," said Keough. "Well, I have to train tomorrow. Bye, guys!"

"Goodbye, Keough," said Yuufa and Seth.

"It seems like a dream, where you just close your eyes, and it all goes away, doesn't it, Seth?" asked Yuufa.

"Yeah," said Seth. "But for this dream, I want to keep my eyes open."

And before they could say anything else, it began to snow. "Wow, I didn't know it was December already!"

"Wow!" exclaimed Yuufa. "So beautiful!"

</>YOU HAVE A CHAT REQUEST FROM ID: SAMUS ARAN</>

"Oh, hold on a sec, Yuufa," said Seth. "I gotta speak with someone real quick."

</>SETH: Yes?</>

</>SAMUS: You asked me a question before going to war</>

</>SETH: And...?</>

</>SAMUS: You had better complete this mission, or I will kill you, Seth</>

</>SETH: I promise, Samus.</>

</>END TRANSMISSION</>

Seth smiled, and put away the messenger. "Yuufa, it's almost Christmas, right?"

Yuufa nodded.

"Yuufa, would you like to spend Christmas time with me?" he asked her.

Yuufa looked at him in surprised, smiled at him, and hugged him. "Oh, Seth!"

Seth smiled. "I'm guessing that's a yes?"

The snow got heavier and heavier over time, and they got about four inches of snow three days after they returned to Earth. So this gave Seth time to research something he's been trying to research about a year ago; his father.

"I know I'm going to kick myself later for doing this," said Seth, about to hack the Galactic Federation database, "but I need to know about this. I need to learn about my dad."

</>ENTER PASSWORD</>

</>***</>**

</>ACCESS GRANTED</>

"Okay, search, search name, and Seth," he said. "And what do we have..."

</>Search name: Seth. 3 results found.</>

</>SETH: PRIVATE, ALIVE. LONE WOLVES</>

</>KAI: GUNNERY SEARGANT, M.I.A. SAIKA RENEGADES</>

"Kai? Don't know him... So, let's move on to-"

</>SAIKA: GENERAL, K.I.A. SAIKA RENEGADES</>

"Saika! My dad!" exclaimed Seth. He clicked on the ID, and a large line of code loaded onto the screen. The code then translated to the information that, when Seth read, suprised him greatly.

</>Saika Arashi. Rank: General. Father of Seth Arashi. Achieved Medals: Medal of Honor. Medal

of The Slayer. Medal of The Knight. Killed In Action by Ridley, Leader of the Space Pirates.
Description: Saika Arashi is a dedicated war hero, who in his first battle with Ridley, possessed the legendary One-Winged Angel. His family consisted of him, his wife, whose name is unknown, and his son, Seth Arashi. On December 19, 2069, he and his wife were killed by the space pirates, and his son escaped death by running away. Seth Arashi is unaware of his father, mother, or last name because of amnesia.</>

"Up until now," said the Admiral, who was standing behind Seth.

Seth jumped, shut the computer down, and looked at the Admiral, shaking. "You know we can strip you of your rank, and even have you killed, for hacking into Galactic Federation databases."

"I know," said Seth. "But I needed to know about my father."

"I know," said the Admiral. "That's why I removed the other four locks. Come now, no one can hack the database, without breaking through the first five locks, then taking on the other fifteen advanced locks, and if it were possible to do so, the firewalls would block you. I knew you'd try to learn about your father because I wouldn't say anything, so I cut the database security."

The room went unpleasantly silent, but then the Admiral pulled out a sheet of paper, and handed it to Seth. "You want the rest of the information about your dad, here you go. But you won't like what you'll get."

Seth read it, gasped, and dropped the paper. "But, I-I didn't know that he-"

"I told you," said the Admiral. He reached out to Seth, but Seth knocked his hand back.

"Get the hell away from me!" cried Seth. He pushed the Admiral out of the way, opened the door, and there Yuufa was.

"Seth, are you okay?" she asked him. "You look very shaky."

"I'm sorry, Yuufa," said Seth. He ran past her towards the park.

"I warned him," said the Admiral. "I told him what he would read wouldn't please him."

"You went too far, this time," said Yuufa. Then she ran towards the park to find Seth.

But the park was desolate when Yuufa got there. She climbed up one of the trees, and tried to spot Seth in the park. "Seth!" she cried. "Where are you!"

No response. She tried to get out farther, but when she did, her foot slipped, and she fell off the tree.

Instead of feeling a hard thud, though, Yuufa felt someone's arms holding her. "S-Seth?"

Seth said nothing. Tears were running down his face. "Seth, what did the Admiral show you?"

"The Admiral? That bastard?" asked Seth. He helped Yuufa get on her feet, then sat against a tree. "He told me everything about my father. He was the One-Winged Angel. He was killed. I know of my last name. But he told me too much.

"My dad was too war-bent on killing Ridley after Kai was killed. He took many weapons from the arsenals, and when the Federation tried to stop him, he killed them all, took a ship, and ran bombs through the space pirate planet. Thinking he killed Ridley, he returned home, and space pirates killed many people, my mom, and my dad, and left me alone to die. Were it not for passers-by, I would be dead.

"But why... Why would my dad do this to me? Look at me, now. So many times I almost got killed."

"But look who you have, now," said Yuufa. "If none of this happened to you, would I be here, with you? Would you be a hero? Would you have saved the planet?"

Seth pondered for a moment, then smiled, and said, "You're right. I wouldn't be as happy as I am now."

The funeral for Yuske was very dark, and instead of beautiful snow, it was a furious snowstorm. And the next day, at school, no one would say anything involving Yuske. Everyone was talking about Yuufa, Keough, and Seth. "Keough, let's make a promise," said Seth.

"Hm?"

"Any new student that sits in that chair is a friend of ours. Okay?"

Keough nodded. "Just like what we did with Keough."

"Class," the teacher said. "I'd like you to meet Kiryu Kotsu."

"Hello," the class said.

"Kiryu," said the teacher, "go sit in that chair over there, okay?"

"Okay," said Kiryu nervously. When he sat there, Seth looked at him and smiled. "Hello, Kiryu," he said.

"Um- hey," he said.

"My name is Seth. This is Keough, and this is Yuufa. Nice to meet you." Seth held out his hand, but Kiryu was reluctant to shake it. "What's wrong?" Seth asked Kiryu.

"Nothing. It's just, I'm not used to changing schools. I don't like change, at all."

"Oh, you mean you don't think the people here are friendly?"

Kiryu nodded. Seth just smiled. "It's okay, Kiryu," he said. "This school is full of friendly people, and very few bullies here. Stick with us, and we'll show you around the school."

Kiryu pondered for a moment, smiled, said, "Okay," and shook Seth's hand.

"He's a real nice guy," said Yuufa on the way home. "He's still a little nervous, though."

"He just needs a few days to get used to it," said Seth. "Then he'll be fine."

"Maybe we should show him around the Federation," said Keough. "Maybe, I don't know, put him in the Lone Wolves?"

"Keough," said Seth, "are you trying to make him a Fed?"

"Maybe. We could start him with the Paralyze Pistol. I mean, Yuufa did, and she's really good with it."

Seth shrugged his shoulders. "That's his decision. Well, see ya, Keough."

Christmas approached quickly, and coming Christmas, Yuufa wore her beautiful white robe and flowing sash, and for a strange reason, Seth became the One-Winged Angel again, yet less painfully this time.

"Merry Christmas, Yuufa," said Seth.

"Merry Christmas, Seth," said Yuufa. Seth walked up to Yuufa, and hugged her, and they sat together by a fire.

Seth looked up, smiled, and in his mind, said, *Thank you, God, for making all of this happen to me. I'll make the best of it, and for Samus, I'll stick to my mission, forever.*

Seth looked into Yuufa's clear blue eyes, wrapped his arms around her, and kissed her. "Yuufa. I don't want you to leave my sight, ever."

D.N.A.RAN II: War of the Pirates

After a few months, I will begin writing the sequel to D.N.A.RAN, and for two reasons:

1. I need to finish up Orochi, which I have yet to start on my computer.

2. I need to think out the storyline, who I'm going to use from the first book.

I hope this does not disappoint anyone that reads my stories, but if you like this one, you will surely enjoy my other stories, as well.