Nicococo!!

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DURARARA!! NICONICO SPECIAL EDITION PART 1: NICOCOCO!!
This is a twisted story.
A story about twisted comments.

“We’re going to make a video!”
“We’re aiming for #1 in the daily rankings!” Yumasaki Walker and Karisawa Erika abruptly proclaimed, as they held a video camera and a laptop in their hands.

For these two, such speech and actions probably weren’t too unusual but——

“. . . Eh?”

Celty Sturluson, who had just returned home and had no idea what was going on, stood in front of Walker and Erika and her head tilted in confusion.

To be more accurate, what she tilted was not, in fact, her head, but the helmet resting on top of her body.

Because, for her——

Nothing exists above her neck.

♂♀

Celty Sturluson is not human.
Commonly called a “Dullahan”, she’s a type of faerie from Scotland and Ireland——it is said that if their existence revolves around stopping near the houses of mortals, and warning them of their impending death.

They hold their own head under their arm, and are commonly seen riding a two-wheeled wagon drawn by a headless horse called a cóiste-bodhar, visiting the houses of those who are soon to die. If someone is foolish enough to open their door, they’ll get a bucket full of blood tossed in their face——as a messenger of ill-omens, their stories have been handed down in tradition in Europe, just like that of the banshee.

But that is an old story.

Now, she is living an ordinary life, loving a man named Kishitani Shinra, both as a living urban legend and as a woman.

♂♀

It was on this peaceful day that these two suddenly barged in.
“A video . . . of what?”
“Noooo~ Nowadays, if you’re talking about videos it’s for Niconico, a nico-video!” As if to match Erika’s words, Walker gave a huge smile as she talked.*

* Niconico literally means “smile”
“That’s right! Karisawa-san has been a regular on the site ever since it first went live!”
“Ah, no... I know what Niconico is but... wait, what? Since the original version? But then, Karisawa how old are you...”
“OK, OK! Let’s save that annoying topic for some time in the future!” Clapping her hands together forcibly, Erika quickly changed the subject.
“So, Cel-chan, what kind of video do you want to make? Do you want to make some sort of live reaction Let’s Play of a free game?”
“No, uh, live reaction... There’s no way I could do that.”
“If we use one of those fancy text-to-speech software it should be fine. If it comes down to it, I can also make a really nice silent video too. Just as long as the contents are interesting.”
“Wait, wait, first of all, why do you suddenly want to make a video? And why doesn’t it have to involve me?” At Celty’s rather sensible questions, Erika shook her head sadly.
“Ah crap, you noticed... as I should have expected of Celcchi.”
“I didn’t really notice anything...”
“No it’s just... you know? Honestly I was just being selfish, I’m sorry, I just thought...”
At Erika’s hesitation, Walker turned to explain to Celty.
“What she means to say is, Karisawa-san has a Niconico rival.”
“Rival?”
“First of all, take a look at this video.”
“Wait, stop that Yamacchi! It’s too embarrassing for me to watch!”
Deaf to Erika’s pleas, Walker opened up his laptop and connected to the wireless router, before opening up the Niconico homepage. There, in a video titled “Singing Opera while Cosplaying @ Eternal de Charmant,” Erika, with the top half of her face hidden by a mask and in some sort of anime character cosplay, began to sing opera.
“No, stop it--! I don’t want to hear it~!” Before Erika locked Walker in a full nelson hold in an effort to make him stop, Celty could hear Erika’s singing voice echoing out of the computer speakers.
Although she does not have ears, Celty is clad in a ‘shadow,’ more sensitive than human ears, which allowed her to feel the music. Shaking with deep emotion, she swung her smartphone screen around to face Erika.
“Karisawa... you... you’re that good at singing!”
“Right~ Isn’t it amazing~. Among our fellow anime friends, Karisawa-san is a legend you know?”
“Aaaaagh no, it’s not like that. Ah I’m so embarrassed...” Erika’s face was bright red as she shyly glanced away. It was definitely unusual behavior for her.
“Nevertheless... This ‘Eternal de Charmant’, is that your stage name...?”
“Yup, yup! That’s right! It’s so cool isn’t it!” Seeing Erika’s suddenly brightened face struck a chord of fear into Celty’s heart as she typed out her response.
“Well... it’s nothing to be embarrassed about...” While Celty was lost in her thoughts about Erika, Walker decided to continue his story from before.
“So there’s this rival of Charmant-san called Blizzard la Blizzadia. Of course, she’s also very good at singing, and she cosplays too, so one way or another they’re going to end up being compared…”

“So?”

“Well, one day they got into a nasty tit-for-tat on a Skype chat, and she said “Well I’m really good friends with the famous Let’s Play gamer ●●-san. You don’t have any important friends though do you.” So of course Karisawa-san replied with “I have a lot of super amazing friends!” and then…”

“…And then?” Celty couldn’t quite tie the two things together, so she prompted him to continue.

“Well, after their nasty tit-for-tat, the two of them decided to get their friends to submit movie to Niconico, and have a contest to see which one gets the most mylist bookmarks and likes on their video!”

“I see. Well. That was an extremely stupid story compared to the earlier one about Karisawa’s opera singing.”

Then, a second later, Celty furiously punched something into her smartphone in large, capital letters.

“ARE YOU AN IDIOT!”

Then she quickly typed out another message, before shoving it in Erika and Walker’s faces.

“How on earth did the conversation become a video competition!? Are you some sort of mah-jongg video game NPC? Isn’t that the equivalent of “Oh if that’s the case let’s settle this with a game of mah-jongg”? Do today’s youth go rampaging around so recklessly!? Are you going to become one of those people who illegally uploads DVD bonus footage and the like and then says “Oh well we were just giving it publicity so we’re innocent” or something like that!??” Her shoulders shaking with anger, she furiously typed out another message.

“Anyway, you’ve already decided that your followers will pose as her followers and spread hate, and when their sockpuppet comments are exposed there will be a firestorm of comments on your video, which it will unfairly drive up the number and people will be arguing over the chat or via Niconama and then people who see this will upload their own videos and it will start all over again! Isn’t that what you’re planning! Niconico is a site that’s meant to make people smile!”

“Not at all—, we’re all proper adults, we wouldn’t do that sort of thing.”

“If you were proper adults you wouldn't torture people in the back of your friend’s van!”

“Now, now, let’s put that aside for a moment… I just thought I could make a cool video if I could videotape Celtcchi doing something and came to talk to you about it. I don’t want to cause any trouble.” Karisawa easily dismissed the troubling points Celty made, but rather than going on, Celty just typed out a new message as she regained her composure.
“I didn't want to say it but, the motorcycle police are still hunting me…In the worst case, they'll be able to identify where I live by the background or something from the video and I'll get arrested, and then the headlines all over the social networks would be 【Headless Rider Uploads Her Own Video and Gets Arrested!】. I'd be a laughingstock.”

“Well the motorcycle police looking for you is just a case of you reaping what you sow, so it should be fine right.”

“That’s right. You have done some illegal things, Celcchi—”

“I, I hate hearing that from you but I can't say anything against it….” Knowing they found her weakness, Celty wondered nervously what she should do but then——

“I heard the whole thing.”

The door opened wide, and there stood the owner of the apartment, a back alley doctor named Kishitani Shinra.

“Guess there’s no choice. In order to prove that Celty is a great friend of Karisawa-kun, I guess I’ll have to help.”

“Shinra. Can you even make a movie?”

—Surely he’s not planning on making a movie like “【Surgical Scene】 Inside a Back Alley Doctor’s Medical Treatment”.

As if sensing Celty’s uneasiness, Shinra gave a broad grin as he spoke.

“I’ll just release a small part of the videos I’ve sneakily taken and saved of Celty over the course of ten years! Of course, I naturally have the desire to keep it to myself, but I can’t keep them all…And with Celty’s charm, you’ll easily be able to break one million plays!”

Several minutes later——

After throwing Shinra down and tying him up with her own ‘shadows,’ Celty tiredly wrote another message out for Erika and Walker.

“I got it… I’ll cooperate to the best of my abilities, on the condition you forget everything Shinra just said.”

♂♀

Several hours later

——Or something like that.

After Erika and Walker had gone home, Celty booted up her own laptop.

——I wonder if I was really able to help out with the making of that movie.

She opened up the Niconico homepage and signed in under the username “Setton.”

After all, at one time in the past she had taken her own video and uploaded it. The video was called “【This is pretty】 12 Selections of Great Scenery from a Rooftop! 【Rooftop Movie】”
She had shot a video of the scenery from her favorite rooftop and edited it.

—–It’s been several years since I looked at this… I can’t even laugh at Karisawa’s username since I used at title like that.

—–I wonder if there are any flames like “What a boring movie!” on it now. Filled with anxiety, she carefully opened up the video page and—–

『Views: 12  Comments: 0  Mylist: 2』

—–Oh… Oooooooh…

“What are you looking at, Celty?” A voice came from behind her and made her jump in shock. Looking over her shoulder, Shinra peered at the video screen.

“Eeh, Celty, did you post that video! If you had told me I would have paid 50,000yen to promote it on Niconico.” Shinra’s eyes shone as he looked at the screen.

“Wow! Look at all the comments!” Shinra stared at the large number of comments scrolling from right to left across the screen, saying things like “Extremely pretty” “What a divine view” and “Rooftops are the best, aren’t they.” Shinra smiled and laughed as he spoke, while Celty trembled slightly.

“I guess so, well, it’s really not a big deal.”

“But hey, Celty. All these people who commented, why are they all in black letters?”

“I… I wonder.”

“Also, these black lettered comments, they seem a little different from the ones I’m familiar with.”

“I think it’s just your imagination.” If she were human, Celty would have been covered in a cold sweat by now. Seeing straight through her, Shinra nodded his smiling face slowly.

“You know, Celty, even if you did use your ‘shadows’ to make text run across the screen and make me think you had a lot of comments, I’d still love your video anyway.” Shinra comforted her, as Celty took a solid form again.

“Because I think that strangely timid part of you is actually very cute.”

The black letters on the screen crumpled and warped, as Celty thrust her smartphone out to Shinra.

“On the contrary, you’re actually making me sad so stop saying stuff like that!”

And thus, Celty got caught up in Erika’s video rivalry. The Dollars have vanished, and now, the curtain quietly rises on the story of an Ikebukuro that’s been repainted a new color. This is the ordinary story of the Headless Rider leaving her mark on the world while existing as an urban legend.

To be continued in Nicococo!!x2

* On Niconico, you can pay to support/promote your favorite video