

Cunning Hares: Encased in Submerged Skies

By Tacc: The Aquatic Guy

(Note: This story takes inspiration from the latest Version 3.0+ of the game's story with most characters from the base roster, but bares no major spoilers otherwise.)

Inside of a damp, vacant, broken down and unknown facility somewhere on the sky city of Roscaelifer, two women lay unconscious. The pink haired leader of the Cunning Hares, Nicole Demara. And the former Red Fang gang member, the cat girl thiren Nekomata.

"...uggh..." Nicole begins to wake up first. Slowly, she sits up and notices her blurry surroundings, only to last remember the chase she, Billy Kid, and Nekomata had with an army of mech wearing and jetpack flying Bangboo. Nicole calls out for her friends as her words somehow echo loudly around her. "Wha-! Where are we? Billy!? Neko-"

"Nya'coooooole hehehehe..." She notices Nekomata half awake and in a happy place mentally. Nicole's immediate annoyed face crosses off any concern she just had. With her being the only one properly awake, Nicole surveys the area one more time with clearer vision.

There seems to be a few Bangboo talking and working on panels and walking in mech suits, mostly ignoring the two girls. However her vision seems to still be impaired. That's when Nicole then notices the glass circulated around them. And the silver plating that locked the soles of each of their boots.

"Wait a minute. Are we inside-?" She cuts herself off when she notices that they were inside a giant cylindrical tank. She fruitlessly tries to move her feet in hopes of escape from the trap. Meanwhile Nekomata paws at Nicole's arm playfully.

"Nya. Nya. Nya. Nya," unaware or uncaring of their trapped positions.

Nicole tried to get Nekomata off her, "Nekomata will you stop tha-AHHH!", until the entire tube began to move. The Bangboo controlling the panel had begun hoisting the giant tube upright. With the tube standing, Nicole has no choice but to stand as she wails her arms around to regain her balance. All while Nekomata, casually head dodging a few unintended arm swings from Nicole, simply cat crouches and attempts to groom her face oddly without a care.

"So we finally caught you." An intimidating echoed voice is heard. "Remielle Dan." Nicole looked everywhere to figure out where it came from. "Hey! Let us out of here!," she shouted towards the Bangboo workers and whoever that voice belonged to. She continued to look left and right until a few spotlights shone its beams to a cross armed black Bangboo. Wearing a damaged captain's hat, an eyepatch, a longer than necessary lab coat, and is standing on 2 soap boxes.

???:

"HEY! Down here criminal!"

Nicole:

"Huh? You? I thought all Bangboo just went 'Eh nah.' But you speak our language just fine. Also I'm not this 'Ramielle' person. My name is Nicole Damara! **Ni-cole Dah-mah-rah!**"

???:

"Heh. Say what you want. There is no fooling the great Captain Remudus!"

The Bangboo crew in the room stopped what they were doing to cheer on their captain.

Other Little & Tall Bangboo:

"Nah! (Yeah!)" "Eh nah nah! (You Go Boss!)"

"Nah nah nah! (Let her know!)" "Neh nah. (So cool.)"

Remudus:

"HEY! GET BACK TO WORK!"

All Bangboo:

"NAH! (RIGHT!)"

All the other Bangboo in the room scurry back to working on either the mechs they piloted, ensuring the girls don't escape the tank, or the spotlights shining on Remudus. Nekomata stands to attention like the other Bangboo in salute and speaks up for the first time.

Nekomata:

"N'yah! Hehehehe. EH N'YAH! Hahaha! Ahh...That Bangboo talks like people, Nya'cole."

Nekomata then slumps against Nicole's shoulder, laughing and purring in the high state she's in. Nicole pushes her off.

Nicole:

"Would you get off of me and find a way to get out of here.
Hey you! What did you do to Nekomata?"

Remudus:

"Oh sweet sweet Remielle. You didn't think we'd be prepared for you pet cat as well? Please. I know everything about you."

Despite the real Remielle never owning a cat (or a cat thiren in this case), the Bangboo captain pulls out from under the lab coat a stem of catnip. It does wonders for cats, but highly potent and illegal for cat thirens. Nekomata then pulls a stem from out of her breast pocket, presumably one given by the Bangboo.

Nekomata:

"Psst. I'll share some with you after the show, n'yah.~☆"

Nicole:

"Huh? That's...Hey gimme that!"

Nekomata:

"Nyo! Its mine! NYAAAAH~!"

Nekomata nearly claws Nicole several times before sticking out her tongue and taking another sniff. After that, Nekomata becomes docile and aloof again. Crouching and purring as she rubs her cheek against Nicole's leg as if nothing happened.

Remudus:

"Its no use Remielle."

Nicole:

"For the LAST TIME! I'm not 'Ramielle!'"

Remudus:

"Remielle."

Nicole:

"What the heck's the difference!? *sigh* Look, it seems like your not going to let us go anytime soon. So, what exactly are you planning to do with us?"

At this point Remudus became more smug and smirked (if Bangboo had the lips to do so) at the question asked.

Remudus:

"Heh. Well you do have a sizeable bounty in Roscaelifer. I figured once we took you down, we would become hometown heroes and spend our well earned wealth."

All Bangboo:

"Eh nah! (That's right!)"

Remudus:

"And once we get in contact with Airspace Patrol, we'll carry this tube with you two in it and claim the bounty."

All Bangboo:
"Nah! (Yeah!)"

Remudus:

"Then all of Roscaelifer will know that it was I, the great Captain Remudus, that took you down!"

From that declaration alone, all of the noise and the work in the facility just stopped and turned silent. All the Bangboo stopped working at once. Despite their adoration for their great captain, the looks they directed show that they'd certainly turn on a dime if they didn't get the glory too.

Remudus:

"Uh-...uhh-...b-buh-be-...b-b-because I had help from the best Bangboo around!"

Regaining composure, the spotlight shines bright against the brim of the captain's hat, as Remudus strikes a pose for all to see.

Remudus:

"Captain Remudus & the Bangboo Elite!"

All Bangboo:

"..."

"NAH! (YEAH!)" "EH NAH NAH! (YOU GO BOSS!)"

"NAH NAH NAH! (LET HER KNOW!)" "NEH NAH! (SO COOL!)"

Remudus:
"NOW GET BACK TO WORK!"

All Bangboo:
"NAH! (RIGHT!)"

The other Bangboo return to their duties. Rivets whirring, buttons clicking, mechs moving & transporting. When all of a sudden two quick shrieks could be heard from within the tank. A small singularity rift opened above the two Cunning Hares, dumping a surging deluge of cold water inside at a rapid pace.

The high Nekomata plays with the falling water as Nicole bangs and yells for her release, with the water and the Bangboo's work drowning out her demands. The level of the water already passing up their shins. All while Remudus pauses in shock and watches, before shrugging off the whole matter.

Nicole:
"HEY!" *pffblt* "GET *BANG* US *BANG* OUT!"

Nekomata:
"Weeee! BblBblBblBbl!"

Remudus:
"...Eh, that works too."

Meanwhile, minutes before the rift opened, three of the

remaining Cunning Hares bore witness to what went on. The intelligent construct in his current action hero model, "Starlight" Billy Kid. Hollow expert and former Captain of the Silver Squad, Anby Demara. And N.E.P.S. agent and honorary Hare, the snake thiren Cissia.

The three hid yards away and behind a large piece of rubble, surveying the situation.

Billy:

"Whoa. Would you look at the style of that Bangboo. The setup. The charisma."

Anby:

"Stay focused Bi-...sorry. Stay focused, S Billy."

Cissia:

"That thing? Charisma? Hahahaaa-no. That little guy has about as much rizz as Billy's Starlight Knight collection."

Billy:

"...I'll pretend I didnt hear that."

Just then the Bangboo Captain Ramudus loudly orders the other Bangboo back to work. "Wah-ah!" Cissia shrieked. Luckily it was snuffed out by the collective "Nah's" the dozens of Bangboo shouted. Billy and Anby pull her back and cover her mouth as they quickly hide for cover.

shhky-shky-shky-shky

One Curiousboo:

"Ah?"

They also grab ahold of her snake tail to further the silence.

. . .

Billy:

"...How's it looking Anby?"

Anby pops her head up for a moment to survey the situation at hand. After a few seconds, she makes a mental note of the number of adversaries in the way, mech suits, and potential attack routes. Until, "Hmm?," she noticed the rift crack open inside the tank. The tank began to gush water on top of both Nicole and Nekomata, with their boots still attached to the panel they're planted on.

As the water passes the encapsulated girl's shins, Anby reports back to the remaining Hares.

Anby:

"Not counting the 2 Bangboo mechs outside, there are currently 9 on-foot Bangboo, 5 active Bangboo mechs, and 4 active Bangboo drones. But there's one problem."

As Anby points out, Billy and Cissia see the issue. The filling tank of water that's already reaching Nicole and Nekomata's waists. "Damn, we gotta come up with something quick," Billy stated as he checked his ammo.

"And what? Fight all those crazy mechs piloted by little pudgy murder beans!?", Cissia reminded the two Hares. Anby rebutted. "We can't hurt all of these Bangboo. They too may be trapped here because of the Ghost Bus mystery. Not knowing how to return."

The Ghost Bus of Beckford Street. One of many legends to come from Roscaelifier. The story was that every midnight under a full moon, an aerial bus would make its rounds like normal. But after it flew to its stop to Beckford, it would fly and later disappear into a fog.

Its said that on the other side, a treasure was left by one of its ghosted passengers. With Dennies in her eyes (and mackerels in Nekomata's), Nicole and Nekomata grabbed Billy and decided to investigate.

However one thing lead to another, and while Billy unintentionally escaped by running head first into a surprise crack in the air that was a rift back to Roscaelifier, the girls were caught by the stampede of Bangboo chasing them, lead by Remudus. All leading to the predicament they're in now.

No matter how they would free Nicole and Nekomata, they were going to need to do so quick and with little harm to the Bangboos.

"Argh!" Billy was frustrated. "We can't harm the Bangboo! We can't let our teammates stay kidnapped, let alone drown! What the heck are we suppo-..."

Billy paused. His ocular receivers lit brighter & widened further. During his lowered audio rant, he noticed the spotlights that shone on Remudus when the Bangboo was showboating a few minutes ago. Then he got an idea. An idea so good it was necessary for Billy to power down for just a minute.

Cissia:

"Uhh Billy? The heck are ya doing?"

Billy:

"Don't worry. A Starlight Knight always knows when to make an entrance. Anby. Remember what we worked on two months back?"

Anby:

"Yes. I memorized the moves perfectly with the notes I took."

Billy:

"...wait you took notes? *sniff* Anby Demara! I am so proud-...N-n-nevermind that! We don't have much time! I got an idea. Cissia, can you reach and control the spotlights up top?"

While Billy's plan is quietly being discussed, the tank Nicole and Nekomata are in fills up faster and faster with water, nearly reaching their necks. And Remudus is too busy ordering and overseeing the other Bangboo to pay mind to the soon-to-be drowned captors.

Nicole:

"Dammit! This isn't good. UNPH! These stupid locks!...Nekomata?"

Nekomata was still playfully cat-crouched & submerged, playfully pawing her hands in the water talking to Nicole as if she could hear her and didnt need air.

Nekomata:

🫧Hebly Nyblacoble! I'mbl a cabltfibshb! Nblyabh!🫧

🫧 . . . 🫧
🫧HMMBL!🫧

Nekomata's cheeks immediately filled with the last bit of air she didnt waste. She had finally broke out of her high. Nekomata now recognizes her feet trapped, the small Bangboo army on the other side of the tank, and her chest compressing for her huge need of air. Keeping as much air as she can in her cheeks, she tugs and tries to free her feet. But there's no time left. She stands quickly to break through the surface so to get much needed air, while losing the catnip in her breast pocket in the process.

Nekomata:

G A S P! "NYAH! NICOLE! THE BANGBOO! MY FEET! BILLY!?
WE'RE IN A-"

Nicole:

"Save it! The water's rising!"

And fast. Nekomata had surfaced just in time to breath. However because she was slightly shorter than Nicole, the water reached up to her neck first. Nekomata breathes through her nose in panic as to not accidentally take in any water. But then after one deep inhale, she becomes calm. Relaxed. Because unknown to the two, a piece of catnip floated just by Nekomata's nose. Turning her face of horror and hyperventilation, "Haaah~", slowly into a face of absurdly instant relaxation as the water envelops her.

And now it was Nicole's turn to face the rising water.

Nicole:

"BILLY! Y-YOU GET YOUR BUTT DOWN HERE!"

The water had soon reached her neck. For Nicole, a Cunning Hare always had an exit strategy. But with no exit in site, she grew nervous. *"Billy's not coming?"* Then anxious. *"Anby?"* Sweating. She soon realized their exit strategy will not be.

Nicole:

"I-...I'm..." *G A S P !*

Now both Nicole and Nekomata were submerged. Nicole looked around to see the Bangboo mostly ignore the two and Nekomata not freaking out and in a daze. She banged at the glass over and over to at least get any attention. She got her captor's, the lead Bangboo Remudus.

Remudus:

"HAH! Bang all you want! You're not getting out of there. Once I-...WE! Turn you over to Airspace Patrol, everyone will know the legend of Captain Remudus & His Mighty Crew!"

All Bangboo:

"Nah! (Yeah!)" "Eh nah nah! (You Go Boss!)"
"Eh-nah neh nah? (Weren't we the Bangboo Elite?)"
"Neh nah. (So cool.)"

Nicole:

BANG! 🌊MMBLM! 🌊

Remudus:

"Hmm...now how many bottle caps does this get me?"
C L I C K !
"Huh? What happened to the lights!?"

The spotlights on Remudus suddenly went off. Cissia had slithered her way up and took out (carefully) the two Bangboo drones operating them. Then she redirects the lights and shines it on the new heroes entering the scene-

Billy:

"IT'S SHOWTIME!"

-as a certain theme song plays.

🎵 *playing "starlight_knight_theme(tv edit).m4a"* 🎵

Anby:

"O Evil Darker Than A Black Hole!"

Anby & Billy:

"REJOICE!"

Billy:

"You've Earned The Honor Of Being Scorched By Starlight!"

As theme song goes on, Billy and Anby call out their "Signature Moves" as they endure their transformation sequences into their S(tarlight) forms.

First Anby-

Anby:

"Emerald Slice!" "White Noise!"

-as her dress glisteningly transforms from armored green to slender soldier white and black. Her sneakers into shin-protected boots. Her headphones into a black headband bearing the Silver Squad insignia. And finally she throws up her sword, as the blade flashes then separates to two blades of deadlier shape, jump towards them to catch and pose.

Remudus & All Other Bangboo:

"So coooool!" / "En naah! (So coooool!)"

As enamored as all the Bangboo were, Remudus

remembered they had some criminals to keep detained. So Remudus smacked himself back to attention. *smack* "YOU IDIOTS! PROTECT THE TANK!," he ordered, as all drone & mech piloted Bangboo take formation in front of the part of the tank Billy and Anby are facing.

Then it was Billy's turn-

Billy:

"Dimension Burst!" "Star Crash!"

-as he tosses his jacket in the air, double taps the metallic gold diamond on his chest, and activate his back exhaust ports like jets. The more the ports flare, the more he power's up.

Billy:

"HUUAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA-!!!"

<legs> .:Shin Plating: Formed:. </legs>

<waist> .:Starlight Belt: Formed:. </waist>

<arms> .:Arm Cannon & Blade: Formed:. </arms>

<head> .:Oni Horns: Formed:. </head>

Billy:

"-HAAAAAAAAAAH! TRANSFORM!"

Billy finalized his power up with a leaping somersault (three times somehow), and catches his once flashing red jacket that's now a jet black biker jacket with necessary fur assets.

As the Bangboo protect the tank, the two aerial heroes land next to each other. The final part of their transformations to form being Anby's thin orange scarf and Billy's long wrapping red scarf. Just in time for the song to finish.

All Bangboo:

"Whoa-nah!"

Anby:

"My Silver Blades Will Set Things Right."

Billy:

"May Crimson's Flame Control The Blight."

Anby:

"Let Those Who Worship Evil's Light-"

Billy:

"-Beware The Power-"

Anby & Billy:

"-Of A Starlight Knight!"

🎵 *End Playback* 🎵

As the theme ends, an explosion goes off just behind them. The explosion of a malfunctioned drone that crashed as the ejected Bangboo tumbles and rolls into a wall. However Anby

and Billy were too busy aura farming to notice.

Remudus & The Bangboo:

"YEEEEAH!" "EH-NAH! (WOO-HOO!)"

And the Bangboo crowd went wild. Cheering, "Eh nah"-ing, and applauding the two heroes. Some even virtually crying in awe.

Billy:

"That was AMAZING!"

Anby:

"Billy."

Remudus:

"That was so cool! The flashiness! The transformation! The music!"

Billy:

"Ohh! What about the speech? We worked really hard on that."

Anby:

"Billy."

Remudus:

"Ahh yes the speech! It was immaculate! One of a kind! Inspiring! Truly a..."

"Wait a minute." Remudus suddenly started to remember.

Anby:

"Billy. The rescue, remember?"

"Huh?" With Anby's third cold & calm reminder, Billy did too.

...

Billy & Remudus:

"THEY'RE THE BAD GUYS!"

With the plot back in motion, the small Bangboo army takes stance as well as Billy and Anby (but mostly Billy). Billy then confidently calls out for Cissia to see if she got the girls out of the tank.

Billy:

"Heh! Noble villian. If you think we have to fight you to win, then you're sadly mistaken. Alright Cissia! Come on out!"

Cissia:

...

Remudus & the Bangboo:

...

Anby:

...

Billy:

...

...

Billy:

**whispers* "Its ok Billy. She just didnt hear you in this large, echoy, lab-like facility."*ahem* "ALRIGHT CISSIA! YOU CAN COME ON OUT!"*

Cissia:

...

Remudus & the Bangboo:

...

Anby:

...

Billy:

"...Cissia?"

...

A heavy, awkward silence filled the room. Everyone looked at each other confused. Even Remudus, confused with concern, looked at Billy for answers where all Billy could do is shrug. Until...

scr-scr-scratch* *bang*** *pnnk**

There was noises coming from the tank. Three distinct noises in fact. Admist all the chaos before any of the fighting started, everyone in the room was curious as to what was going on. As all the Bangboo physically split from the middle to show and see what was happening in the tank, its revealed that-

Cissia:

💧Bbblillblyybybby~...💧

-a sad, embarassed and defeated Cissia-

Nicole:

💧YOBLU TWBLO KNBLOCBK IBT OBLFFB ANBLD💧
💧HEBBLPB UBS!!!💧

-an angry beyond reason Nicole, who's noticed the company (a.k.a. Nicole) funded this failed diversion-

Nekomata:

💧MEWBBL MMBBLM!💧

-and the distressed cat (thiren) Nekomata, were all stuck submerged in the partly full tank. Only the water was capped by a second singularity rift they're staying under from as to not get near.

Billy:

"CISSIA!? HOW'D THE HECK YOU GET IN THERE!?"

Nicole, Nekomata & Cissia:

💧MMBBLM!!!💧

Well...

⏮️- REWIND -⏮️

🎵playing "starlight_knight_theme(tv edit).m4a"🎵

Anby:

"O Evil Darker Than A Black Hole!"

Anby & Billy:

"REJOICE!"

As Anby & Billy were going through their distraction, to the genuine awe of almost all Bangboo there, Cissia stealthily made her towards the tank to free the girls. Meanwhile Nicole was still trying to keep her breath and fight out of her foot restraints by doing the one thing she didnt want to do. Leave a product she owned behind. (Boots: 4,500 Denny on discount) While at the same time-

Nekomata:

💧"Hiblbblii Bibbl-💧 *clamp!* 💧-ny'mmbl!?!💧

-making sure Nekomata didn't use more air to be "friendly."
Unclasping her hand from Nekomata's mouth, Nicole reached down to her boots and finally (and easily) got them

off. Revealing her candy color nailed toes in her worn stirrup nylon socks. But time was precious, and her chest was contracting with the little air she had left. Nicole frantically swam to surface before knowing she'd have to swim back down to help free Nekomata.

GASP! Nicole broke the surface and rewarded herself with the air she desperately needed. Treading in the water of the tank, she took a few more than necessary breaths to straighten her bearings. She then noticed Anby & Billy's sparkling showboating for a second before her view was suddenly blocked by Bangboo mechs. With her head cleared she-

Nicole:

"AHH-HA! NEK-OGLGL!"

. . .

GASP! "NEKOMATA! AGAIN!?"

-still had to work against freeing the newly high, trapped & submerged Nekomata. Who had her underwater paws on a new toy, Nicole's open stirrup worn feet.

Nekomata:

🫧Hab! Nyblacoble's liblttlbe toblesibes!🫧

🫧Cooblbtchbie Cooblbtchbie-🫧

Nicole:

"AH-HA! Nekomata **CUT IT OUT!**"

With a swift kick to the head, "Ugh! You'll thank me later," Nicole knocked Nekomata out. *GASP!* She takes a quick long breath and shortly swims under to check on her friend, who is mentally swimming after visions of mackerel. With the outside rescuers theme song finishing, Nicole unbuckles Nekomata's armor boots. As she does this, Nicole's floating pink hair tickles Nekomata's face, slowly waking her in a drowning panic.

Nekomata:

Ny'hmmbl...HMMBL!

With Nekomata's feet finally free, the cat thiren instantly kicks off for the surface, with Nicole following soon after. The two finally surface as they both take in big gulps of air. However...

Nekomata:

"NYAH! I HATE WATER, MEOW!"

Nicole:

"With the way you were acting you coulda fooled me."

Nekomata:

"I am so sorry Nicole! I-I-I wasn't-"

Nicole:

"Save it Nekomata. We're not out of the woods yet."

As the two continue to tread water, Nicole makes a few quick

observations. The singularity rift was still open, but now no more water was pouring out. However behind the rift was the hatch to escape. And Nicole knew that even with a carrot, entering one of these rifts would be too tricky to navigate out of. The theme song was conveniently finishing, and both floating girls were high enough to see Anby and Billy pose in their S(tarlight) forms.

Nekomata:

"Nya! Nicole look! That's them over there! Hey Billy! Anby!"

Nicole:

"...Wait a minute. If those two are the distraction, then who's suppose to rescue us?"

The two look around when suddenly-

. . .

**** C R A C K ! ****

-another rift began to open.

"aaaaaaaaaaaaahhh~"

This crack was much closer to the girl's heads than the rift above. And somehow louder.

"-aaaaaaaaaaaaahhh~"

Nicole:

"We gotta dive."

Nekomata:

"H U H !?"

Nicole:

"Nekomata we can't touch that thing even if we're trapped here! We need to trust in Billy and Anby's plan! NOW DIVE!"

"-aaaaaaAAHHH!"

Nicole & Nekomata:

G A S P!

C R A S H!

As Nicole and Nekomata dive back down for their safety and possible doom, the rift breaks open and a third party drops in to reveal the falling and now submerged Cissia.

 -R E S U M E - 

Anby:

"It seems that during the adjustment process with the spotlights, Cissia fell through a-"

Billy:

"Spotlight. Rift. Fell. Got it."

With Billy providing the cliff notes to what happened to Cissia, we're brought back to the stand-off between S-Billy and S-Anby versus Remudus & his small Bangboo mechanized troupe. All to rescue the damsels in drowning Nicole, Nekomata, and now Cissia, from their water tank doom. All as they try to not surface and be near the second singularity rift while holding what breath they have left.

The two factions stance up against each other, ready to fight.

Billy:

"Alright then. Plan B."

And with the tank still in plain view, due to all of the Bangboo's curiosity, Billy plainly aims his gun at it. Fortunately- MMBL!-the girls inside take notice and sway to the side immediately to stay away from the bullet. Unfortunately...

*** B A N G ! ***

**** F W O O M ! ****

*** P A N G ! ***

Remudus blocks the bullet with the arm of the mech suit he now pilots, giving an evil yet soft chuckle. To make it harder for our heroes, suddenly the rest of the mech worn Bangboo re-blocked the tank. Yet even against a large enough group of enemies, they had to ensure the Bangboo safety. "Oh come on!" Which Billy frustratedly knew wasn't going to be easy.

Anby:

"It seems like they'll need to be taken out."

Billy:

"Right. But we're gonna have to be quick about this." *CLICK!*

With a press of a button on his belt, Billy materializes his motorbike in a flash of reddish-black lightening, spooking some of the Bangboo. This gives the edge to Anby, who rushes to her right and into the first mech she slashes her swords at. All while Billy air somersaults onto the bike, lands and revs his engine to go the other way.

Billy:

"Alright then. Plan C!"

Remudus:

"PROTECT THE ASSET!"

All Battle Ready Bangboo:

"NAAAAAH!" (YEEEEEAH!)

While Billy and Anby fight off the Bangboo, Nicole and the others still struggle in the tank.

Nicole:

💧HMMMBL!?💧 ("ASSET!?")

Nekomata and Cissia try to calm down the enraged Nicole,

who points at the Bangboo with cheeks full of angry air. But suddenly- 🫧KAFBLF!🫧 -Cissia started to choke in the water she's in. There was no way she could hold any air before she fell in, and now Nekomata and Nicole are trying to hold her down. If she surfaced, she could potentially get sucked in by the singularity rift and get sent to somewhere unknown. The rift that's nearly an inch above the water taunts the drowning girls, where all they can do is float and wait in desperation.

Meanwhile Billy and Anby continue to make dents against the Bangboo mechs, but are no way closer to the tank. Anby disables a mech, electricity jutting out as the little Bangboo inside laughably struggles to get it back up. As she dashes towards the tank in her view, she senses and avoids getting body checked by a mech and Bangboo drone pincer attack.

Anby backs off, barely taking notice of Nicole, Nekomata and Cissia's struggle to hold their last seconds of air before her view is blocked again.

Remudus:

"HaHaHaHa! How does it feel? Being utterly handled by 'tiny, defenseless' Bangboo?"

Remudus taunts them as its revealed he's the one that attempted to tackle Anby. She grows slightly frustrated.

Billy:

"Anby! Get on! Plan D!"

The engine growls as Billy rides by Anby. She high jumps before Billy's bike can make its turn, landing in a crouched position behind his seat with a force that nearly topples the vehicle. With control back, Billy revs his engine and picks up speed.

Remudus:

"PR-PROTECT THE TANK, YOU FOOLS!"

Billy:

"DUAL STARLIGHT ASSAULT!"

He rides faster and faster circling the Bangboo mechs that begin to surround the tank. With their chests caving for air, Nicole and Nekomata haptically bang at the tank for Billy and Anby, not realizing in their desperation Cissia starting to drift into unconsciousness. Then their vision gets cut by the opposing mech's body.

Billy focuses his computing power to perform a powerful wheelie attack while Anby grabs tight onto Billy's waist. He lifts the front wheel and pops up the bike, using his speed to spin the bike as well. During this, Anby unsheathed her swords and double one arm tosses them to each side.

Like a mechanical tornado, the bike spins around the Bangboo mechs and storms volleys of bullets. Meanwhile Anby's spinning blades hover alongside the bike, powered by the duo polarity of Anby's electro kinesis and Billy's spinning bike.

Their shots and slashes disabled all the remaining drones, the legs and power batteries of the mech suits, whittling away at the last of their defenses without a shot or blade aimed at a Bangboo.

All the mech suits and drones were down and out. Except the last one standing, Captain Remudus. Who in exhaustion looked ready to surrender.

Remudus:

panting "O...kay. You W-"

One Brave Bangboo:

"Watt-ah! Atta oo-nah! (Come on guys! Lets back up our Captain!)"

All Other Bangboo:

"NAH! (RIGHT!)"

But because of all the cheering, Remudus' surrender was drowned out. Anby and Billy still continued Plan D with guns withdrawn.

Remudus:

"What? WHAT IS HAPPENING!?"

The Bangboo all gathered in front of Remudus' mech. All arms out in an attempt to guard it from attack. Or at least guard the mech's shins.

Remudus:

"I said I-"

The Bangboos:

"ATTA OOO-NAH!" (WE DON'T QUIT!)

In the midst of the confusion, the bike was now out of focus. The revving engine now distant. The Bangboo and Remudus, "Hah?", were all confused. Did they leave their friends high and dry? Did they just quit? Did the Bangboo win?

But with one squint, Remudus noticed the bike returning. The engine roaring louder. Anby somehow at the head of the bike with sword in each hand and Billy confidently still in control. The bike treading faster and faster towards the bowling pin set of Bangboos.

As the bike continues its path, Billy then props himself off the seat. And within meters of one of the Bangboo, he touches ground and lifts the bike up. Twirling the bike to continue the force of the drive until launching himself towards Remudus with a motorcycle above his head.

Billy:

"HAAAAAAAAAAAAAH—!"

Remudus:

"AHH AHH! I QUIT I QUIT I QUIT! DONT HURT ME!"

Billy:

"I'M NOT AIMING AT YOU!"

Those enraged words that echoed did little to convince the no longer stoic Captain Remudus. "UHN-NAAAH!" Remudus shrieks as he in his mech suit dives away from the Bangboo protecting him. The other Bangboo view in shock, as they're left to face a daunting oni-looking intelligent construct wielding a two ton vehicle like a sledgehammer. Billy then swings down the bike in the air like a hammer, missing the Bangboo completely.

But by doing this, he had successfully launched Anby towards the tank. As she approaches the tank with great velocity, in a split second she has to make a precise cut in the middle. Between the air weak Nicole and Nekomata nearly losing consciousness at the bottom, and the unconscious Cissia floating dangerously close to the singularity rift above water.

Within one second. With just one adjustment. The dual-sword wielding Silver Soilder Anby slices the tank in two, barely grazing the tip of Cissia's tail. Anby lands on the other side, and the tank beings to topple. As it falls it simultaneously hits the two open rifts, giving a warbling effect before all dissapating. Leaving the water and Cissia to fall forward. Luckily Anby jumped in to catch Cissia and in a loss of balance break her fall.

On the other side of the sliced tank, Billy clicks his belt to

dematerialize his bike. Nightmarishly approaching the scared and defeated Captain Remudus, who fumbles trying to get out of the still operative mech suit. But Billy didn't wait. He grabbed the black Bangboo so fast that the outfit he wore all fell off.

Billy:

"Alright. I'm only gonna say this once. How the heck do we get out of here?"

Remudus:

"M-m-m-m-m-muh-"

Billy:

"SPEAK!"

Remudus:

"Uhh-nah! Watta neh ahh nah nah!"

Billy:

"HUH!? But not like that! WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED!?"

It turns out that the fear of an assumingly one ton vehicle potentially coming down upon you by a intelligent construct that looks like a yellow eyed mechanical biker demon, had made Remudus factory reset his language programming. He's now a scared little Bangboo that all the other Bangboo watching had lost all respect for.

"Billy!" But then a voice called out from the other side of the

tank. It was a sopping wet Nekomata waving at Billy, whose paw-padded sock feet squished with every step. As a matter of fact, everyone coming back from the drowning terror tank was dripping water and exhausted. Including Anby, whose shouldering a very tired Cissia.

Nicole however was a hasty ball of fire. She speedwalked past the other girls with such ferocity. Barefoot and holding her wet stockings in her right hand.

Billy:

"He-hey Nicole! Its good to see y-AHH!"

Nicole easily pushed off the S-Rank agent. Face to face with her tiny kidnapper, Nicole grabs the incapable Remudus with her burning left hand and begins slapping him with her wet stockings on her right.

Nicole / Remudus:

"I!" / "Ah!" / "TOLD!" / "AH!" / "YOU!" / "Uh!" / "I!" / "Nuh!" /
"WASN'T!" / "Tah!" / "RAMIELLE!" / "Nah!"

Every slap was proven further mentally damaging for the Bangboo. She shakes him as she sadly can't physically choke the information out of him.

Nicole:

"NOW HOW DO WE GET OUT OF HERE!?"

Remudus:

"Enna dah! Watta nuh eh nano dah!"

Nicole paused. She drops Remudus onto the floor as she slowly turns her attack path to Billy, who throws his hands up in immediate defense.

Billy:

"Whoa Boss! Its not like I wanted this either!"

At this point everything was at a stand still. All the Bangboo, the Cunning Hares and Cissia. They were stuck in a lab with no way knowing how to get back.

Nicole:

"Well we can't get out just standing here. We gotta find a way out! Its not like a random fissure is gonna open up and take us to Beckford Street."

C R A C K !

???:

"Next Stop: Beckford Street"

Suddenly a crack in the air appeared, only to open further as the AI bus operator announced the next stop. This was everyone's only chance.

Nekomata:

"Nya! Sweet freedom, meow!"

Nicole:

"...huh. Alright everyone let's go!"

So everyone got-

Remudus & the Bangboo:

"Ehnah eh nah!?" / "Naah!?"

All the Bangboo including Remudus pleaded to Nicole. They wanted to escape back to ever civil Roscaelifer too.

Nicole:

... *siiiiiiigh* "Alright alright! I'm not that heartless. Everyone let's go!"

So everyone got-

Billy:

"Oh wait a minute! Forgot a few. Be right back."

Nicole:

"UGGGGGH!"

As nearly the only one to remember, Billy races back to the exit doors of the facility to remind the still on-guard, unmoved two Bangboo mechs Anby last reported on.

knock knock Curiosity let them open the door to see who was there.

Guardboo #1:

"Ooh nah?" (Hello?)

Billy:

"Oh yes hi. I just wanted to let you know that we defeated your fearless leader and everyone else in order to rescue our kidnapped friends who almost drowned and now by sheer coincidence a rift opened that can lead us back to Roscaelifer and I just wanted to know if you can ditch the suits and join us so we can all get back home?"

The two Guardboo took a moment to absorb all that info and looked back at each other before they could even respond.

Guardboo 1 & 2:

"...dah nah." (Okay.)

Billy then returns to the group inside with two more Bangboo.

Billy:

"Ok boss! These two Bang-

Nicole:

"ALRIGHT! EVERYONE! OUT!"

So everyone got into the singularity rift leading back to Roscaelifer. Finally heading back to civilization.

Everyone (Except Anby):

"AAAAAAAH
HHHHHHHHHH
HHHHHHHHHH
HHHHHHHHHH
HHHHHHHHHH
HHHHHHHHHH
HHHHHHHH~!"

One way or another.

 *The Next Day* 

"Sigrid? Sigirid, come in."

Back at the same facility the Deputy Administrative Director of Airspace Patrol, Sigrid de L'Azure, is investigating on the hike of etheric matter building up in the building. Normally this would be a job for a team of three or four patrolmen, but Lady Lindverne insisted Sigrid check on it solo to "minimize potential casualties," as the Lady would drop in once in a while via speaker.

"Seems a fight took place here...My apologies Lady Lindverne. I am having trouble accessing the application you sent me." Sigrid, nearly aimlessly walking through a facility filled with torn up and discarded Bangboo fitted machinery, continues to mess with her mobile device. "I am still on page 14 of 39 of the Terms & Conditions."

"Sigrid are you serious!?" Lady Lindverne was baffled at what she heard. "Those are just a formality. Just hit accept and move on."

"Now now, Lady Lindverne.," Sigrid explained. "As Deputy Administrative Director, it is my duty to oversee whatever may be deemed important or malcontent. Especially a contract as lengthy as this."

"Okay dad." Lady Lindverne answered crassly.

But to Sigrid, she thought she just told a joke. "Huh. 'D.A.D.' Hurr hurr hnrrg. Good one."

Lindverne sighed. "Alright well at least keep your eyes focused. There were reports of singularity leakages all over the area that you're in. We need to be careful that it doesn't connect back to Roscaelifer in any way."

Within the multiple singularity leakages that happen in the Scamall Hollow, Lady Lindverne's information concluded that whatever took place here had the smallest trace back to Beckford Street.

However, while the investigation things were getting quiet. "Hey Sigrid. Did you find anything?" Too quiet. "Sigrid?" She had confidence in Sigird's abilities, but the silence was still a concern to Lady Lindverne.

"Sigrid? Sigrid come in...Sigird? What's going on!? Sigrid!? Respond!" Lady Linverne was growing more and more concerned, when suddenly their communication turned into a video call.

What was shown on the screen was something blue. Very, very blue. Where the seaweed waves and fish fly, and jellyfish float. The screen then turns to show the armored Sigrid standing in the deep water, and a knocked out shark on the sandy bottom.

👉 Ibl bblelivbe Ibl hablve fbounbld thbe soubllrcbe. 👈

END
